

## Local FBLA student places second in Nationals

Page 5

A community publication of [Copperarea.com](http://Copperarea.com)

## OBITUARY

# Lori Lee Simons (Martinson)

Lori Lee Simons (Martinson) died in her home on Aug. 13, 2015 in Gold Canyon, AZ, due to her long battle with brain cancer. She was 56.

Lori was born, July 22, 1959 in Bismarck, ND to E.W. and Ardella Martinson. The family travelled the Western part of the United States and Lori attended schools in Bismarck, North Dakota, Great Bend, Kansas, Fairbanks, Alaska, and graduated from Clover Park High School in Tacoma, Washington. Lori attended Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon and the University of Washington where she graduated with a Bachelor's in Pharmacy. While attending college at the University of Washington, Lori worked at JC Penney at Alderwood Mall and met her future husband Bruce Simons. They shared a special bond over "wide shoes".

Lori was a dedicated mother and wife. She enjoyed baking, gardening, creating glass beads, and spending time with

her family. Her passion for Bible Study Fellowship and her church community translated into her everyday life. Lori was dedicated to Jesus Christ and spreading his love to every person she touched. One of her favorite scriptures was 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 "Be joyful always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Lori lived her life exemplifying this scripture. Her joyous spirit was an example for all she interacted with. Though of few words, when she spoke—everyone listened.

Lori had a great love of dogs. Her special friend Daisy Muggle Puggle shared a love of cookies and snuggling. She has three grand dogs that she spent many hours giving delicate kisses too: Snoop, Lola and Bailey. Long walks and extra yummys were always on the agenda when Lori was with them.

Lori and Bruce had a special bond. They

called each other "peas in a pod." Between road trips, Dairy Queen treats, and cruises, the two of them spent many fantastic days together. Their love for each other translated into so many different aspects of their lives. The memories of Lori's tender heart, warm giggle, and affection will be greatly missed but not forgotten.

Lori had a knack for creating special gifts for her friends and family. She created glass crosses and necklaces for children in Africa (sent through her friend Pat Rees on her mission trip). Everyone in Lori's life looked forward to the holidays. She would create delicious trays of cookies to share with friends and family. There were never any cookies left after the tray was passed around.

Lori is survived by the love of her life and husband, Bruce Simons; her children, Carlina Stahnke and Ross Simons; her parents, E.W. and Ardella Martinson; son-in-law, Chris Stahnke; father and mother-in-law, Gene and Rachel Simons; and a

special aunt, Almora Borner.

Lori was buried in a private ceremony on Aug. 21, 2015. A memorial took place on Aug. 21, 2015, at 10 a.m. at Grace Church in Mesa, AZ. In lieu of flowers, donations were made to Grace Church (8701 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85207) or St. Luke's Lutheran Church (515 S. 312TH St., Federal Way, WA 98003).

Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

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



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# Open house scheduled for Chairwoman Cheryl Chase's San Tan Valley office



FLORENCE - Chairwoman Cheryl Chase would like to invite her constituents to an open house and ribbon cutting for her new office in San Tan Valley.

The open house will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 4 p.m. The office is located at 33622 N. Mountain Vista Blvd.

"I am pleased to be bringing Pinal County services closer to the people in San Tan Valley," Chairwoman Chase said. "For some, it can be difficult to arrange a time to come to Florence. Being in this area will allow people to be closer to their District 2 Supervisor."

## 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.

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## IT'S THE WEEKEND

### AUGUST



### 29 Prickly Pears at San Tan Mountain Regional Park

Get your taste buds ready for an explosion of desert flavors! If you missed the harvest but want to catch the fun then head over to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park as they celebrate the Prickly Pear! A mini-festival of sorts, you'll learn how to pick, process and prepare prickly pears. Jean Groen, the area's Desert Edibles Connoisseur, returns for another spectacular program. Meet inside the Nature Center at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29.



### 29 Full 'Red Moon' Hike at the San Tan Mtn. Park

Hike under the light of the full Red Moon at the San Tan Mountain Regional Park; as the moon rises, it appears reddish through any haze. Hikers will listen for wildlife as they meander the family-friendly 2.2-mile trail. Please wear closed-toed shoes, bring water, and dress comfortably. Flashlights are welcome. Meet at the main trailhead area at 8 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

### 7 Labor Day Grill at the Mill With Music & Food

Join the Queen Creek Olive Mill for its Annual Labor Day Grill at the Mill. The Pit will be serving up grilled gourmet goodies featuring Chicago Style Hot Dogs along with regular Pit menu items. Music by blues band sensation the Rocket 88's. Enjoy the park like atmosphere out in the grove under the olive trees while sitting back and enjoying the music, great food, beer and wine too! Lawn chairs are welcomed. For more information please visit: [bit.ly/1SB8N5S](http://bit.ly/1SB8N5S).



### 19-20 Annual Garlic Festival

Join the Queen Creek Olive Mill in a celebration of everything you love about garlic all at one location! Live music both days, vendor tastings, wine garden, beer tent, nutritionists, cooking demos, garlic products, food trucks, and much more! Learn how to grow and harvest garlic from the best of the best! Queen Creek Olive Mill and the Pit will be serving up some delicious garlic specials! Don't miss this amazing festival! Even Garlic Gelato will be there! Festival is from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. both days! Food Trucks both days - Cousin's Maine Lobster Truck, The Grilled Cheese Truck, Rockstar Hot Dogs, and Queso Good featuring specialty garlic dishes. For more information, visit [www.queencreekolivemill.com](http://www.queencreekolivemill.com).

# QCSEF announces 8th annual Golf Outing

By **Andrew Luberd**  
Southeast Valley Ledger

The Queen Creek Schools Education Foundation (QCSEF) will host its eighth annual golf scramble on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Las Colinas Golf Course, located at 21515 North Village Loop Rd. in Queen Creek. A 7 a.m. shotgun start is scheduled for the event.

The Foundation, according to its Mission Statement, "partners with the community to promote excellence in education and encourages responsible citizenship by financially supporting

growth and learning opportunities for teachers and students within the Queen Creek School District (QCUSD)."

The QCSEF Golf Outing is the major fund raiser that enables the Foundation to award the scholarships and grants to deserving QCUSD students and staff.

Founded in 2005, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports QCUSD students and staff, awarding more than \$60,000 in student scholarships and in excess of \$5,000 in teacher grants throughout the past eight years. Additionally, the QCSEF awarded monthly gift cards to the QCUSD Classified and Certified Employees of the Month.

The 2014 event included 92 golfers and many generous sponsors. The Foundation's goal is to surpass those numbers in 2015.

Registration is currently ongoing with forms available online at [www.qcsef.org](http://www.qcsef.org). Sponsorship and



donation forms are also available online along with other additional information.


Those in need of further communication are encouraged to email questions to [qcgolf@gmail.com](mailto:qcgolf@gmail.com).

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# San Tan's Lewis takes second at FBLA NLC

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Leilani Lewis, a junior at San Tan Foothills High School, finished second in public speaking at the annual Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference, which took place earlier this summer in Chicago, Illinois.

Lewis was one of several members of San Tan's FBLA chapter to compete at the NLC after qualifying at the Arizona SLC in April.

"It taught me a lot about myself," Lewis said about competing on a national stage. "It taught me a lot about my strengths, what I'm capable of, and I'm able to push myself a lot harder than I thought I was."

The San Tan chapter of the FBLA is one of the preeminent organizations in the state, finishing at or the near the top of the SLC in each of the last several years.

Lewis, who called the opportunity to compete in Chicago an "amazing experience," admitted her FBLA organization feels a sense of pride in being recognized as one of, if not the best, in the state. That pride serves as motivation to maintain a level of excellence.

In addition, she believes the support of the other members in the organization



**Leilani Lewis, STFHS FBLA Treasurer, placed second at Nationals earlier this summer in public speaking.**

Andrew Luberda | Ledger

helped her succeed at the highest level of competition.

"We push each other to do our very best, always," Lewis said. "(Just) knowing that we are infamous for our success in FBLA, I hold myself to a higher standard."



**San Tan Foothills FBLA 2015. Leilani Lewis is in the center of the photo.**

Andrew Luberda | Ledger



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# Sports medicine practice a part of local community

By Andrew Luberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Sports & Orthopedic Specialists, a community-based sports and athletic medicine practice, has been helping athletes recover from injuries since 2007.

Dr. Craig H. Weinstein, MD, MPH, who started the practice near Gilbert Mercy Hospital, specializes in shoulder, elbow, and knee injuries.

The world-class training Dr. Weinstein, and those he works with, received has allowed them to treat athletes from adults to adolescents, including many professional athletes.

“Our joy, our passion in the world is bringing that level of care down to the middle school and high school athletes who live, work, and go to schools in the community that we live and work in,” Dr. Weinstein recently told the Ledger.

When Sports & Orthopedic Specialist opened in 2007, it was the only medical practice in the southeast valley that was dedicated exclusively to sports and athletic medicine, a claim that holds true today.

Since that time, Dr. Weinstein has provided treatment to many high school

athletes at different high schools, including Queen Creek High School, a school he’s been associated with since the inception of Sports & Orthopedic Specialists.

“I think we were one of the few games in town, back then,” Dr. Weinstein said. “But I’d like to think over the years, as the medical community has built up in Queen Creek, that we still enjoy a measure of success because we have provided good service to the community.”

His familiarity with Queen Creek, its athletic programs, and the growing community has assisted in developing relationships with patients and their families. He can recall providing treatment to an athlete years ago and now might be providing care for a younger sibling.

Many of the practice’s referrals come from within Queen Creek and San Tan Valley.

“(Families) tend to stay within the community,” he said. “That lets us get to know them on a deeper level.”

A regular at many Queen Creek sporting events, Dr. Weinstein enjoys attending Bulldogs’ games, meeting people, reconnecting with past patients, and

Continued on page 9




Dr. Craig Weinstein, MD, MPH, practices sports medicine at Sports & Orthopedic Specialists.

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# August is National Immunization Awareness Month!

Immunizations are a very important topic. Unfortunately, they have also become a very controversial one for many people. It all started several years ago when an unethical physician published a paper linking vaccines with autism. Since then, there are dozens of real, serious, formal studies that have proven this to be a false statement. Nonetheless, the doubt was seeded in the minds of millions and now we get this and many other concerns arising.

I also get another common concern: but what if my baby gets an allergic reaction to it? Well, you take the same risk every time you give acetaminophen, ibuprofen, new fruits or foods! Others tell me: I do not want to put in my baby all those chemicals – but there are so many chemicals that we expose our babies to on a daily basis – like if someone smokes in the house, or given so many processed foods (just read the ingredients on the labels of cereals, snacks, chips, etc. ).

I am not trying to make anyone feel bad about their decision – I want to make everyone aware of the other side

of those thoughts. I truly want to respect everyone's opinion, and hear the reasons behind everyone's decisions, and believe I should also share my thoughts as a physician and a mother.

Vaccines save lives. Period. One to up to 3 of every 1000 kids who get the measles will die. Does that sound like a small risk? Well, if that 1 is my baby, that is 100% of me! Whooping cough kills 1 of every 100 infants that get it. Every single one of the vaccines that we now recommend is a disease that we feared in the past so much. We do not see these diseases anymore, which is why we do not fear them. But as vaccination rates drop, the risk of them coming back gets higher and higher. I always tell the parents of my patients that decide not to vaccinate to just think of one thing: how would you feel if your child has a severe complication from a disease that could have been prevented?

I have two little ones of my own, and both receive full vaccinations as recommended by the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Physicians are here to help, protect, prevent—we do not want to cause harm. Vaccines prevent illnesses. I respect everyone's opinions regarding this topic, will never deny care to a child or teen who is not vaccinated, but today I want to share my opinion and thoughts, which, as a doctor of medicine, I base on facts. In the end, we all want to do what is best for our kids, so let's keep doing that!

*Dr. Gomez practices medicine at Pediatrics of Queen Creek, PLLC, 22709 S. Ellsworth Rd, Ste F104, Queen Creek, 480-792-9200; Dr.Gomez@bethesdapeds.com; www.BethesdaPeds.com.*



## ALL ABOUT KIDS

By Dr. Emilia Gomez  
Special to the Ledger



Vaccinate your children, Dr. Emilia Gomez urges.

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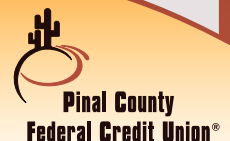
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# Danielson leads Bulldogs to OT victory in opener

By Andrew Lubberda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

Queen Creek senior running back Gavin Danielson rushed for 221 yards and two touchdowns, including the game winner in overtime, to lead the Bulldogs to a 20 – 14 come-from-behind victory at Desert Mountain in the opener for both teams.

Danielson waited patiently for two years to get his opportunity to be “the guy” in the Bulldogs’ rushing attack. His chance finally

came last Friday night and he took full advantage of it, proving he can be as great as the running backs he played behind while waiting his turn.

“All the linemen’s hard work, beginning with spring football, showed up tonight,” Danielson told the *Ledger* after last Friday’s win. “They knew what to do and I told them right before the first play in overtime, ‘we’re winning this thing, (we’re) not losing’ and two plays later we scored.”

For a while it appeared the Bulldogs, a

top-ten team in several preseason rankings, might suffer their first season-opening loss in almost a decade, due in part to a turnover by Danielson.

Queen Creek trailed 14 – 7 in the fourth quarter and appeared to be driving for a game-tying score when Danielson fumbled, thwarting the Bulldogs’ scoring chance.

An interception by senior linebacker Chase Thomas on the Wolves ensuing possession gave the Bulldogs another opportunity to tie the game and this time Danielson delivered, dashing 26-yards for his first touchdown of the season and the game. Zach Glaess’ PAT tied the game at 14 – 14 with 5:46 remaining.

“After that (fumble) I put it behind me,” Danielson said later, refusing to view his score as redemption. “I didn’t care about the fumble; I knew we were still going to win this (game).”

The Bulldogs had a chance to win it in regulation. After forcing a three-and-out, the Bulldogs moved the ball while running the clock down, which setup a potential game-winning field goal attempt. But Glaess’ kick was only inches wide, forcing the game into overtime.

Overtime rules in high school give each team at least one set of four downs to score from the 10-yard line. Overtime continues until one team scores and the other doesn’t. Starting on defense in overtime is widely considered an advantage.

Queen Creek won the coin toss in overtime and elected to go on defense first.

The Bulldogs defense, which was challenged all night by Desert Mountain’s prolific passing attack, bowed its muscles, forcing the Wolves to attempt a field goal, which they missed.

With a chance to win the game with any score, Danielson ran in the game-winning touchdown from 10 yards out on the Bulldogs’ second play from scrimmage.

It was the Bulldogs’ eighth-straight season-opening victory, albeit not the prettiest.

“It’s important we had a game like this early on,” Bulldogs’ head coach Travis Schureman said afterwards. “We kind of found out what the character of our team is.”

The Bulldogs overcame adversity throughout the game, trailing by seven points in the fourth quarter, turning the ball over, and committing a few untimely penalties.

“We did some things that were uncharacteristic,” Schureman said. “But it was good for us to fight back and get through it.”

“We could’ve easily just quit,” he continued. “But our defense came out and had a great turnover, then Gavin scores to tie it.”

Although not their best performance, the Bulldogs had more than a few bright spots in the game, beginning with new quarterback Tyler Bloom’s first touchdown pass of the season.

The senior signal caller connected with receiver Ian Woods on a 43-yard touchdown pass to give the Bulldogs a 7 – 0 lead midway through the second quarter.

“We tried to take what they were giving us,” Schureman said. “I thought we did some good things in the throwing game.”

Desert Mountain immediately answered on its next possession, tying the game on a short touchdown pass from Austin Nuessle to Doug Shapiro.

Queen Creek ended the first half with a field-goal attempt, but it was blocked by the Wolves.

Each team had only one possession in the third quarter, which was dominated by Desert Mountain. The Wolves scored a go-ahead touchdown near the end of the third before the heroics of Danielson and the Bulldogs’ defense during the fourth quarter and overtime.

“To hold that team to 14 points, the defense did a great job,” Schureman said. “(The players) competed and those three plays in overtime, (Desert Mountain) only moved the ball two yards and it was great to see.”

The Bulldogs will play at Division I powerhouse Hamilton on Friday night. The Huskies, perhaps the Bulldogs’ most formidable regular-season opponent, ran roughshod over Ironwood Ridge last Friday, 44 – 7.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.



Zach Glaess (21) boots the opening kickoff against Desert Mountain.



Queen Creek defeated Desert Mountain in overtime last Friday night, 20 - 14.

Kelli Lubberda | Ledger



# Football Season Begins for Two STV Schools

## SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

**Football** – Sophomore Manny Armenta had a huge night in the Cats season-opening victory against North Pointe Prep last Friday, scoring two touchdowns and making several other big plays to lead his team to the 34 – 20 win. Armenta, playing in his first varsity season at San Tan after transferring from Chandler, returned a kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown. He added a 109-yard touchdown after picking up an errant punt snap nine yards deep in his own end zone and running the length of the field for the score. He also added an interception on defense. The game also marked the debut of new Cats' head coach John Sanders, who knows a thing or two about winning games. The Cats will try to avenge last year's playoff loss to Joy Christian on Friday when they travel to Glendale to face the Eagles, who defeated San Tan 42 – 14 in the first round of the state playoffs. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

## POSTON BUTTE

**Football** – Last Friday's game at Tolleson was like two different games in one for the Broncos. Unfortunately, the net result was a third-straight season-opening loss as Tolleson scored 27 unanswered points in the second half to steal a 34 – 28 victory. After trailing 7 – 0, the Broncos scored the game's next 28 points to take a commanding 28 – 7 lead only 2 minutes in to the second half. Junior running back Josh Hatfield scored three touchdowns and quarterback Shavez Hawkins, also a junior, threw a touchdown pass to Carter White to account for the other score. That's when Tolleson turned the tables, scoring the final 27 points in less than a half of play. The Wolverines effectively wore down the Broncos' defense and the Broncos' offense couldn't convert a final scoring near the end of the game. A

turnover with about a minute left in the game cost the Broncos' a chance for a dramatic victory, instead leaving them with a heart-wrenching loss. Poston Butte opens its home season this Friday against Desert Mountain, which lost its own home opener in overtime last week against Queen Creek. Friday's kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

## COMBS

**Football** – The Yotes were among the teams that didn't open its season on Friday. Instead the Yotes hosted Globe in a scrimmage on Thursday and by all accounts the Coyotes' defense is as good as advertised and ready for the season opener this Friday at Estrella Foothills. The Yotes will be going for their third-straight season-opening victory under head coach Jesse Hart but it won't be easy. They're facing a Wolves' team that advanced to the second round of last year's playoffs, where they lost to eventual State Champion River Valley.

Estrella Foothills is one of seven playoff teams from a year ago on the Coyotes' schedule this season. Kickoff for Friday's game is scheduled for 7 p.m.



## FOUR CORNERS OF SPORTS

By Andrew Lubarda  
Southeast Valley Ledger

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# Josh Hatfield

JUNIOR – POSTON BUTTE HIGH SCHOOL

SPORTS: FOOTBALL

**You rushed for more than 100 yards and three touchdowns versus Tolleson in the season opener last Friday night. Did**

**you expect to have the type of performance?**

Coming into this game I didn't know what to expect so early in the season but I knew if my team did their assignments we would all have a big night.

**This is your first season as the Broncos' starting varsity running back. How does it make you feel that you're stepping in right where your brother (Brandon) left off and you're carrying on the Hatfield legacy at that position?**

Coming into this season I knew I had big shoes to fill stepping into my brother's starting position but I plan on picking up right where he left off.

**You have another year until graduation, but when you think about your future, is**

**football a part of it?**

Football is a big part of my life I plan to keep playing as far as my athletic ability will allow me.

**Finish this sentence: "My greatest athletic memory at Poston Butte is..."**

Being at my first varsity football game under the lights alongside my brother.

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

*Remember the Titans* because it shows how much a team can overcome if they work together and not as individuals.

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

I would like to meet Julio Jones. I have followed him since the start of his college career and I love the way he plays the game.



Kaleb McCarn

## SPORTS MEDICINE

Continued from page 6

feeling a part of the school and its teams.

In most cases, when an athlete suffers an injury, it's their goal to return to performing at the highest level and at least equivalent to the level they were at pre-injury. Whatever an athlete's goal might be, Dr. Weinstein shares the same aspiration.

With advances in treatment and care, Dr. Weinstein says it's rare that any injury is truly career-ending.

He admits fixing more than the injury is part of the joy in assisting athletes.

"Part of the joy of sports medicine, for me, is getting to deal with not just a patient, but a student athlete and often the parents," he said. "There is an interaction with the patient, the parents, the team, and the coaches, which includes what that next level may or may not be."

Sports & Orthopedic Specialists is located at 3487 S. Mercy Road in Gilbert. Please visit [www.sosportsmed.com](http://www.sosportsmed.com) for additional information about the practice and its providers.

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# The Bubbly Hostess Throws a Wipeout Birthday Party

Everyone knows the show Wipeout, right? My boys and The Hubby LOVE to watch it every summer. While thinking about plans for my older boy's birthday party - Wipeout came to mind. It was a done deal.

Unfortunately, we learned this summer that Wipeout Season 8 had been canceled - the entire family was quite bummed to hear this news! Wipeout Run is always an option for super die-hard fans - and those willing to take on the challenge! The Bestie is on a team to participate this fall in Southern California - I can't wait to see pictures!

Back to the party - for the past couple of years now, my older boy has really gotten into the party planning process with me. We started with the cake, he loves watching the contestants on The Big Red Balls so a lot of our ideas stemmed from

that, starting with the cake.

We used red ping pong balls that were glued to straws, vanilla creme wafers covered with leftover frosting that I tinted a darker blue made the platform, and Crafted by Kiki on Etsy made the "finish line" #9 sign for me. All designed by my son. He even added the piles of white sprinkles to reflect the mounds of bubbles you see in the Wipeout Water on the show!

For the invitations, we purchased these from M3AndCo on Etsy - then printed and cut them ourselves.

The party was at 11 a.m. so we decided to serve snacks and lunch. He wanted to serve Crockpot Chicken Tacos (recipe can be found on my blog) along with chips, salsa, and guacamole. But for the fun stuff? We decided to use Pretzel Rods to represent the Wipeout "Sweeper Bars"

alongside a platter of Nutella as a "Mud Pit" for dipping. He confirmed that there would be a spoon in the Nutella to ensure we didn't have any "double dipping".

My son designed the obstacle course, drew everything out in a notebook for me, and made the list of supplies we'd need. Some of this was very make-shift but it worked perfectly! You can read more details about the obstacle course and see photos on [www.thebubblyhostess.blogspot.com](http://www.thebubblyhostess.blogspot.com).

For the party favors? That was a slam dunk - red playground balls of course!

Everyone had a great time - my son chose a small trophy for the winner of the competition, and ended up taking home first place himself!

You'll certainly want to visit my blog to see all of the details and images from the party! Also - I love to hear feedback! Please visit my blog at [www.thebubblyhostess.blogspot.com](http://www.thebubblyhostess.blogspot.com).



## THE BUBBLY HOSTESS

By Heather Sneed  
Special to the Ledger

[thebubblyhostess.blogspot.com](http://thebubblyhostess.blogspot.com). You can also follow The Bubbly Hostess on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, and Twitter.



Wipeout Birthday Cake definitely not a wipeout for the birthday boy.

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