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Fall activities abound to get out of the Valley heat Pages 4, 6 & 7

Photo by Trish Gunther Van Housen Courtesy Boyce Thompson Arboretum



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In support of the Florence Copper Project

I had the pleasure of taking the Florence Copper Mine Tour last Friday, Sept. 4, 2015. I highly recommend this tour to everyone, especially anyone with concerns about this project.

I have been in the mining business for 41 years. Eighteen years underground and 23 years in surface mining, with the last 20 years in management. I started as a laborer back in 1973 with Magma Copper Company in Superior and worked for most of the bigger mining companies at one time or another. I am currently the CEO of Black Diamond Exploration, Inc., President of Silver Sevens Exploration and owner of Safety Miners, LLC, an MSHA/OSHA Training School located in Superior, AZ.

I am here to testify that the Florence Copper Project, located in Florence, Arizona, is an extremely well planned mining project with excellent management, environmental commitment, best safety practices and a real commitment to the community that

goes above and beyond normal mining requirements.

This is not your typical mining operation. It will have no open pit, no huge mining machinery, no waste dumps, no tailings piles, no smelter, no mill and no great impact on the land.

This project is the most environmentally friendly mining project that I have seen in my lifetime and it does not take a rocket scientist to understand that the domestic/agricultural water tables will not be affected by this process.

I am extremely impressed with the project, especially the management team, and I am in favor of this mining project. It would be wonderful if more mining projects could be mined in this manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
/s/ Ron Murphy
Mining Safety Professional, ISMSP
Premier Building Group

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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

Back to School Food Safety

FLORENCE - With our children going back to school over the past month, a lot of parents and caregivers are thinking about the best ways to provide a healthy lunch for school children. The Pinal County Public Health Services District would like to remind everyone to follow some simple food safety guidelines to help keep your family safe from food-borne illness.

Keep Cold Foods Cold

Be sure that you have a plan to keep your children's lunch cool. Long hours in backpacks without temperature control provide a lot of opportunity for bacteria to multiply in food. If you are preparing sandwiches or similar items with perishable foods such as lunch meat, be sure to use an insulated lunchbox with a baggie full of ice or an appropriate reusable cooler to help keep your child's lunch cold and safe. One great alternative is to use a frozen water bottle, this not only helps keep foods cold, but it also provides some refreshment at lunch time!

Wash Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits and vegetables provide a great healthy

choice in your child's lunch. Be sure that you rinse any fruits or vegetables under running water prior to packing the lunch.

Do Not Carry Over Leftovers

We all know that kids sometimes do not eat their entire lunch. Avoid the temptation to take that turkey sandwich from today and re-use it in lunch tomorrow. After a full day sitting in a backpack or a

locker, even with a lunch cooler, that sandwich may not be safe. Make a fresh lunch daily!

If In Doubt, Throw it Out!

This is a great rule of thumb to help keep food safe. Ever wonder if that week old leftover is still good enough to eat? Well, if it is questionable, err on the side of caution. This simple rule can really come in handy to help keep your

Continued on page 8

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IT'S THE WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER

17 Florence Copper Coffee Club to Meet

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.



19 All About Scorpions and Scavenger Hunt

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 San Tan Mountain Regional Park's Nature Center at 6:30 pm. 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.



19 S.T.E.A.M. Preschool Grand Opening

Florence Unified School District's S.T.E.A.M. Prep Academy Pre-School is having an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. until noon at the school. There will also be Minions for kids to play with and much more. The school is located at 29895 N. Desert Willow Blvd., San Tan Valley. For more information, please call (480) 987-5382 or go online to FUSDAZ.com.



26 Queen Creek Relay for Life

Queen Creek Relay for Life, raising awareness and money about cancer, will be held Sept. 26 from 6 p.m. - 6 a.m. at the Queen Creek High School. For more information please visit bit.ly/1NncBX1.

26 Queen Creek Founder's Day Festival

Celebrate the QC at a FREE, family-friendly community event in Founder's Park from 5-9 p.m.! Take part in competitions, enjoy great food, music and entertainment, and fun! For more information please visit bit.ly/1KigV9p.

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! Even Garlic Gelato will be there! The 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, visitqueenoliveoilmill.com.

New programs, popular events fill October weekends at Oracle State Park

Summer's over. The high desert of Oracle is a great nearby getaway from the heat of the Valley. A full schedule of events, programs and hikes is on the calendar at Oracle State Park Center for Environmental Education.

An interactive talk on Arizona black bears on Oct. 11 and an Oct. 17 astro-photography program for beginners are brand new, while old favorites—a birding weekend Oct. 24-25 and an Oct. 18 workshop for making blank stab-bound journals—return.

On Oct. 10, a live-music afternoon social followed by a star party with telescopes begins at 4 p.m. The Gullywashers of Tucson will perform. At sundown, visitors can watch the stars through telescopes provided by Tucson Amateur Astronomers Assn., Saddlebrooke Stargazers Club, and the International Dark Sky Assn.

Complete Oracle State Park event information is always posted on the state parks website: www.azStateParks.com

[com/Parks/ORAC](http://www.azStateParks.com/Parks/ORAC).

The park is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Most programs are free with park admission of \$7 per car at the main gate on Mt. Lemmon Rd. in Oracle, but reservations are requested by calling Jennifer Rinio, ranger, at the park office at 520-896-2425.

Docent-led tours of the Kannally Ranch House, the multi-level Mediterranean-Revival style house built in 1929 which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are scheduled on Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. and on Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. Park visitors can tour the ranch house at their leisure any time the park is open. An exhibit of impressionistic-style cowboy paintings by self-taught artist Lee Kannally remains on display. The park, at a comfortable elevation of 4,500 feet, has 15 miles of hiking trails, including a section of the National Scenic Arizona Trail, and numerous day-use picnic areas as well as vista

patios at the ranch house.

Other upcoming highlights

- Oct. 4: Phenology program and optional trail walk explores seasonal changes in local plants and animals, especially their relationship with weather and climate. Begins 1 p.m.; reservation preferred.
- Oct. 10: Introduction to digital imaging of wildlife and

Continued on page 7



Kannally Ranch House at Oracle State Park is a multi-level Mediterranean-Revival style house built in 1929 listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Public Notice

COMBINED NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION ALL-MAIL BALLOT ELECTION

Coolidge Unified School District No. 21 ("CUSD") and Florence Unified School District No. 1 ("FUSD") will conduct ALL-MAIL BALLOT Special Elections to be held on November 3, 2015. **No polling places will be provided for these elections.**

PURPOSE OF ELECTIONS: The purpose of the elections is to permit the qualified electors of CUSD and FUSD to vote on authorizing the boundary change removing the CUSD-San Tan Valley Area (described below) from CUSD and consolidating it with FUSD. The territory proposed to be consolidated/de-attached is referred to as the "CUSD-San Tan Valley Area" with the following approximate boundary lines:

NORTH Pinal-Maricopa County Line (Empire Road)
WEST Gila River Indian Community (approximately Bell Road not including GRIC)
SOUTH Arizona Farms Road
EAST Gary Road

WHO CAN VOTE: In order to vote in these elections, you must be eighteen years of age or older, live within either school district, and be registered to vote at least 29 days prior to the elections (Arizona Revised Statutes § 16-121, as amended). You may register to vote by contacting Pinal County Voter Registration for a Voter Registration form or register on-line at the EZ Voter Registration page: <https://service.azsona.com/webapp/evoter> to complete a form electronically. Registration forms are also available at Pinal County Voter Registration located at 31 North Pinal Street, Building E, Florence, Arizona.

VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSURES: October 5, 2015.

WHEN WILL BALLOTS BE MAILED: The Pinal County Elections Department will send a ballot to each registered elector approximately three weeks prior to Election Day, by first class mail.

WHERE TO RETURN BALLOT: Voters may return voted ballots to Pinal County via U.S. mail, or by dropping it off at the Pinal County Recorder's Office, 31 North Pinal Street, Building E, Florence, Arizona 85132.

DEADLINE TO RETURN BALLOT: Returned ballots MUST be received by Pinal County by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day (November 3, 2015).

WHERE TO GET A REPLACEMENT BALLOT IF NEEDED: If voters misplace their ballot, do not receive a ballot, or spoil their ballot in any way, voters may call (520) 866-7564 or go to the Pinal County Recorder's Office located at: 31 North Pinal Street, Building E, Florence, Arizona 85132 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **The Pinal County Elections Office located at 188 South Main Street, Coolidge, Arizona 85128 and the Pinal County Recorder's Office located at 31 North Pinal Street, Building E, Florence, Arizona 85132 will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day only.**

IF YOU ARE NOT AT HOME DURING THE ELECTION: If voters know that they will be out of town during the election season they may notify Pinal County in writing that they wish their mail ballot to be sent to a different address. Voting materials will not be automatically forwarded to a different address from that listed on your voter registration.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: It is important for Pinal County Voter Registration and Elections Departments to have your **CURRENT** information on file. If you change your name or your residential address within Pinal County, you must re-register to vote at least 29 days prior to the election.

To Obtain Further Information, Please Contact:

Coolidge Unified School District Office

450 N. Arizona Boulevard,
Coolidge, Arizona 85128,
(520) 723-2040

Hours: Monday to Thursday 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Florence Unified School District Office

1000 S. Main Street
Florence Arizona 85132
(520) 866-3500

Hours: Monday to Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Public Notice

Public Notice

Public Notice

AVISO COMBINADO DE UNA ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL ELECCIÓN DE BOLETA ENVIADA POR CORREO

El Coolidge Unified School District No. 21 ("CUSD") y Florence Unified School District No. 1 ("FUSD") administrarán Elecciones Especiales de BOLETA ENVIADA POR CORREO que se celebrará el 3 de noviembre de 2015. **No se proporcionarán centros de votación para estas elecciones.**

PROPOSITO DE LAS ELECCIONES: El propósito de las elecciones es de permitir a los electores capacitados de CUSD y FUSD votar sobre autorizando el cambio del limite que remueve el Área de CUSD-San Tan Valley (descrito abajo) de CUSD y consolidarlo con FUSD. El territorio propuesto a ser consolidado/separado se refiere a como el "Área de CUSD-San Tan Valley" con los siguientes aproximados límites territoriales:

NORTE – Límite del Condado Pinal-Maricopa (Empire Road)
OESTE – Comunidad de los Indios Gila River (aproximadamente Bell Road no incluye GRIC)
SUR – Arizona Farms Road
ESTE – Gary Road

QUIÉN PUEDE VOTAR: Para poder votar en estas elecciones, uno tiene que tener dieciocho años de edad o más, vivir dentro de cualquier distrito escolar, y estar inscrito para votar a lo menos de 29 días antes de las elecciones (Estatutos Revisados de Arizona 16-121, como enmendados). Uno se puede inscribir para votar al comunicarse con el Registro de Votantes del Condado Pinal para un formulario de Inscripción Como Votante o inscribirse para votar en línea en la página EZ Voter Registration: <https://service.azsona.com/webapp/evoter> para completar un formulario electrónicamente. Los formularios de inscripción también están disponibles del Registro de Votantes del Condado Pinal ubicado al 31 N. Pinal Street Bldg. E, Florence, Arizona.

INSCRIPCIÓN DE VOTANTES CIERRA: 5 de octubre de 2015

¿CUÁNDO SE ENVIARÁN LAS BOLETAS POR CORREO? El Departamento de Elecciones del Condado Pinal le enviará una boleta a cada elector inscrito para votar aproximadamente tres semanas antes del Día de la Elección, por correo de primera clase.

¿A DÓNDE REGRESO LA BOLETA? Los votantes pueden regresar las boletas votadas al Condado Pinal por correo de los EE.UU., o entregarlas en la Oficina de la Registradora del Condado Pinal 31 N Pinal Street Bldg. E, Florence.

FECHA TOPE PARA REGRESAR LAS BOLETAS: Las boletas que se regresan SE TIENEN que recibir por el Condado Pinal para las 7:00 p.m. el Día de la Elección (3 de noviembre de 2015).

DÓNDE OBTENER UNA BOLETA DE REEMPLAZO SI NECESARIO: Si los votantes pierden su boleta, o no reciben una boleta, o la hecha a perder de cualquier manera, los votantes pueden llamar al 520-866-7564 o acudir a la Oficina de la Registradora del Condado Pinal ubicada al: 31 N Pinal Street Bldg. E, Florence, Arizona 85132 de las 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. La Oficina de Elecciones del Condado Pinal ubicada al 188 S Main St, Coolidge, Arizona 85128 y la Oficina de la Registradora del Condado Pinal ubicada al 31 N Pinal Street, Bldg. E, Florence, Arizona 85132 estarán abiertas de las 6 a.m. a 7 p.m. solamente el Día de la Elección.

SI NO ESTÁ EN CASA DURANTE LA ELECCIÓN: Si los votantes saben que van a estar ausentes del pueblo durante la temporada de la elección le pueden avisar al Condado Pinal por escrito que desean que su boleta se envíe a una dirección diferente. Los materiales de votación no se pueden hacer seguir automáticamente a una dirección diferente de la que aparece en registro como votante.

CAMBIO DE DIRECCIÓN: Es importante que el Registro de Votantes del Condado Pinal y los Departamentos de Elecciones tengan su información **ACTUAL** en sus registros. Si ha cambiado su nombre o su dirección residencial dentro del Condado Pinal, tiene que inscribirse para votar de nuevo a lo menos de 29 días antes de la elección.

Para Obtener Información Adicional, Favor de Llamar:

Oficina de Coolidge Unified School District

450 N Arizona Boulevard
Coolidge, AZ 85128
Teléfono (520) 723-2040

Horas: lunes hasta jueves 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Oficina de Florence Unified School District

1000 S Main St
Florence, AZ 85132
Teléfono (520) 866-3500

Horas: lunes hasta viernes 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Cemetery Memories of the Lost Mine with the Iron Door

I needed a photograph of a grave in the Oracle cemetery. Not just any grave but the grave of an old time prospector, a man named James McAvoy, who had come to Arizona from Ireland, all because of a legend he had heard of a lost mine, the mine with the iron door. Over centuries, many men have come to Arizona from all across the world to look for the lost mine. James McAvoy came to Arizona because of stories he had heard as a child in Dublin. I take pictures of the tombstone with the inscription "Prospector and Friend."

A truck pulls into the cemetery with "Joe Cool" Snoopy license plates. An older man gets out of the car and begins to walk the steep hills of the Oracle cemetery. The Oracle cemetery is one of my favorite in the state. Well decorated and interesting graves are scattered in a disorderly fashion across the rugged hillsides. The graves are well attended with flowers, statuary, and personal items. The gravesite of James McAvoy is no exception, with plastic flowers surrounding the tombstone. It is nice to know that this Irishman so far from home still has friends here. The man walks by and watches me take some photos.

"I knew James McAvoy," the man says. "He was a nice man. He lived in a cave." The legend of the mine with the iron door dates back to when the Jesuit missionaries were exploring the northernmost reaches of New Spain's frontier. The missionaries established a church at the base of mountains they named Santa Catalina de Cuitabagu. Santa Catalina



EVERY MAN'S MUSINGS

By Gary Every
Special to the Ledger

because the mountains were discovered on the feast day for Saint Catalina and Cuitabagu for the "fierce" people who already lived there and had previously named the place "Cuitabagu" or, "Spring where the mesquite beans grow." The Jesuits established a rich gold mine in the mountains, rumored to be in the vicinity of the Canada del Oro or "Canyon of Gold" with the local natives providing labor. Then one day the King of Spain expelled the Jesuit order from the New World and replaced the friars with Franciscans. As the Jesuits left they sealed off their rich mine with an iron door.

This is how the story appeared in print in the *Arizona Weekly Star* of Feb. 4, 1880.

Continued on page 9



Marking the grave of an old prospector.



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Arboretum in Superior says 'Bye Bye Buzzards!' Saturday, Sept. 19

Superior - Boyce Thompson Arboretum (BTA) celebrates the transition of seasons, from the fiery days of summer to the cooler days of autumn during the month of September, which brings the Autumnal Equinox. This is a special time when the day and night are nearly balanced in length, observed by the ancient Greeks, Australian Aborigines, and many other cultures throughout history.

September hours are still 6 a.m. - 3 p.m. The annual Bye-Bye Buzzards seasonal send-off to the migratory Turkey Vultures, which summer in Arizona is included with admission of \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-12, and, of course, free to BTA Annual Members and A State Parks pass-holders.

Arrive between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. on Saturday to view the famous flock of Turkey Vultures perched on the cliffs before they depart to spend their day

circling the skies. World-traveled ASU Professor, Dave Pearson, returns by popular demand as the guest 'Vultureologist' to talk about the big black birds, answering questions and sharing his appreciation for the soaring scavengers, until the vultures take to the skies.

Dr. Pearson and others will guide bird walks through the gardens at 8:30 a.m. From 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. volunteer wildlife rehabbers from Fallen Feathers Wildlife Rehab will have a popular living exhibit of raptors and reptiles set up near the Smith Building, so kids and adults alike can have closeup views of a real, live Turkey Vulture along with hawks and owls.

Read more about Arboretum nature walks and special events at ag.arizona.edu/bta; check out daily photos and connect with staff, volunteers and thousands of fans at [facebook.com/boycethompsonarboretum](https://www.facebook.com/boycethompsonarboretum).



Photo by Trish Gunther Van Housen Courtesy Boyce Thompson Arboretum



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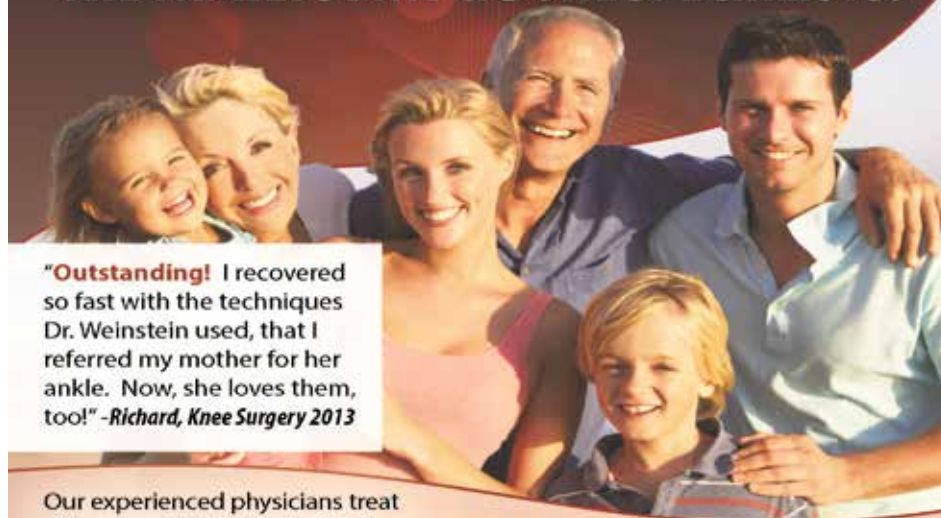
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It's fall and time for 'Art in the Olive Grove'

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a day of Fine Art, Entertainment, and Wine Tasting in the park-like setting of the Queen Creek Olive Mill & Restaurant.

The Olive Mill is located at 25062 S. Meridian Rd. in Queen Creek (off Combs Rd).

Visitors will have the opportunity to view and purchase Fine Art from over 25 members of the Artists of the Superstitions displaying their painting, glass fusion, photography, jewelry, woodworking and gourd creations.

The Artists of the Superstitions is a juried art group of award winning artists from Gold Canyon and was formed in 2007.

AOTS sponsors five fine art shows every year, including the popular Studio Art Tour each November.

The Queen Creek Olive Mill has local finely crafted olive oil for sale in their gift shop plus, coffee, pizza and sandwiches. You can take a tour of the Olive Mill for a fee. Join us for a beautiful fall day in a beautiful location.

Admission to the show is FREE to the public.

For more information, please contact the following:

- Olive Mill: 480-888-9290
- Email: artists.superstitions@gmail.com
- Website: www.artistsofthesuperstitions.com



Photo by John Marino Courtesy Artists of the Superstitions

ORACLE STATE PARK

Continued from page 4

landscapes workshop includes how to set up a wildlife camera and comparisons of digital equipment. Begins 10 a.m.; reservation required.

• Oct. 14: Six-mile guided hike along the Wildlife Corridor, Arizona Trail, and Manzanita Trail begins at 8 a.m.

Reservation required.

• Oct. 31: Pinal open space and trails presentation by Nature Conservancy speaker.

For information about all 28 Arizona State Parks, the Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Programs, and the State Historic

Preservation Office, call 800-285-3703. Campsite reservations can be made online at AZStateParks.com or by calling the reservation call center at 520-586-2283. Follow AZStateParks on Twitter and Facebook.

To visit Oracle State Park, take Hwy. 79

south to Oracle Junction. Turn left on Hwy. 77 and drive north/east to Oracle. Turn right on American Ave. (look for the sign). Follow American Ave. through town. Turn right on Mt. Lemmon Hwy. Oracle State Park will be on the left. Look for the park sign.

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Local Teams Continue Competing in Fall Sports

POSTON BUTTE

Girls' Volleyball – The Broncos improved to 3 – 0 on the season after wins last week versus Rio Rico and Show Low. Alexis Marciniak and Kayla Wieserman led the Broncos to a straight-set victory (25-18, 25-10, and 25-11) in their home opener against the Hawks last Tuesday with eight kills each. Senior Hannah Bueler added six kills in the match. Marciniak also served up 10 aces in 20 attempts. Bueler finished with five aces in 11 attempts. The senior duo combined for 15 of the Broncos' 25 aces in the match. Bueler and Wieserman each had four blocks while Keri Young, Marisa Gray, and Morgan Allen tied for the team lead with 10 digs each against Rio Rico. Upcoming schedule: September 17 vs. Valley Christian, September

22 at Apache Junction, and September 23 vs. Williams Field. All matches are scheduled for 6 p.m.

Football – The Broncos, who had a bye last week, will look to end a three-game losing streak when they host Sunnyside this Friday. The 10th-ranked Blue Devils (2 – 1) knocked off previously top-ranked Marana Mountain View last week, 46 – 20. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

COMBS

Football – The Coyotes were unable to sustain the momentum from a 52 – 0 win against San Tan Foothills two weeks ago in last Friday's game versus Pusch Ridge Christian Academy,

falling behind 19 – 0 at halftime to the Lions before ultimately losing, 45 – 13. The Yotes trailed 31 – 0 when Ethan Hunt scored his first of two rushing touchdowns in the game. The senior quarterback finished with 59 yards rushing but was only 3-for-11 passing for 30 yards. Junior running back Erick Guerra led the Yotes in rushing for the third-straight game, running for 89 yards on 13 carries. Special Teams Player of the Game Josh Espinoza totaled 83 all-purpose yards, including 47 on kickoff returns. Defensive Player of the Game Sheldon Pearson led the Yotes' with 14 tackles. It doesn't get any easier for the Coyotes' this Friday when they travel to 10th-ranked Payson, which improved to 3 – 0 after a 42 – 0 win against Coolidge last week. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Girls' Volleyball – The Lady Coyotes dropped both matches last week after a starting their season the week before with a victory against North Pointe Prep. They lost to Arizona Lutheran Academy (3 – 2) and Gilbert Classical Academy (3 – 1). In a five-set home loss to ALA (16-25, 25-21, 18-25, 26-24, 12-15) last Tuesday, junior Lauren Gunnels led the team with 10 kills. Landry Armstrong and Cydnee Colpaert added 7 kills each. Colpaert also led at the service line with eight aces in 22 attempts. Senior Nikki Ruiz led the Yotes with nine digs against ALA. Upcoming schedule: September 17 at Gilbert Christian (6 p.m.), September 18 at Estrella Foothills Wolves Classic Invitational (check for game times), and September 22 vs. San Tan Foothills (5 p.m.).

QUEEN CREEK

Football – The sixth-ranked Bulldogs finally opened their home season last week and did it in fine fashion with a 32 – 10 victory against Campo Verde. The Bulldogs' defense turned in another superb effort, limiting the Coyotes to only three points until a very late touchdown in the closing minutes of the game. Senior quarterback Kaleb Honea was 16-of-31 for 222 yards and two touchdowns in his first varsity start. Running back Gavin Danielson rushed for 130 yards to lead Queen Creek's rushing attack while junior Jace Koester ran for 73 yards and



FOUR CORNERS OF SPORTS

By Andrew Luberdia
Southeast Valley Ledger

a touchdown. Zane Whiting had 7 receptions for 134 yards and two touchdowns. The Bulldogs were as balanced as can be, passing for 222 yards and rushing for 222 yards, in the win. Junior linebacker Sam Oram led the Bulldogs with eight tackles. Danielson had an interception and Oram, Zach Glaess, and Blake Miller each had a fumble recovery with Miller returning his for a touchdown. Queen Creek faces a big test this Friday when they travel to fifth-ranked Williams Field, which has won two-straight against the Bulldogs. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

Football – Fourth-ranked American Leadership Academy was the most recent team to score 50 or more points against the severely under-manned Sabercats in a 55 – 0 shutout last Friday night. The Cats have allowed 50 or more points in each of their last three games, all losses. Not only are the Cats playing with perhaps the smallest varsity roster outside Division VI (8-man), they are without their best player both offensively and defensively in Manny Armenta. After playing three consecutive road games, the Cats finally play again at home this Friday versus Tanque Verde, which is 1 – 3 after a 50 – 0 loss at home to Paradise Honors. The Hawks have issues of their own after being outscored 97 – 0 in their last two games. Something has to give this week. Friday's kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

FOOD SAFETY

Continued from page 3

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Continued on page 9

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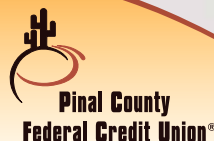
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PROSPECTOR

Continued from page 5

“The principal gold mines were situated in these mountains and there was a place called Nueva Mia Ciudad, having a monster church with a number of golden bells that were used to summon the laborers from the fields and mines, and a short distance from the city, which was situated on a plateau was a mine of such fabulous richness that the miners used to cut gold out with a ‘hatcheta’. At the time of the Franciscans acquiring supremacy, the Jesuits fled, leaving the city destitute of population; before their flight they placed an iron door on the mine and secured it in such a manner that it would require a considerable time to unfasten it. There were only two entrances to this city and they also were closed and all traces were obliterated so as to throw the Franciscans off the road to this Nueva Mia City.”

A massive earthquake in the 1800s led many to believe that the iron door had been buried and hidden beneath a landslide. Word spread across the world about the fabulous wealth of the lost mine. Others beside McAvoy came from Europe, men such as Joe Charoleau from Switzerland for whom Charoleau’s Gap is named. Charoleau had already squandered the family fortune looking for lost conquistador gold in Guatemala before arriving in Oracle where he ran a sawmill, which he mostly used to fund expeditions looking for the lost mine with the iron door.

The man in the cemetery introduces himself to me as Joe Sanchez, someone who has lived in Oracle for many decades. He smiles and tells that he used to work on the road that winds through Charoleau’s Gap.

Author Harold Bell Wright was not looking for a mine at all that fateful evening in 1925 when he was sitting at the bar of the Oracle Inn and a German prospector came walking in. The prospector came in with a rather large gold nugget and told Wright that he believed

he had discovered the lost mine with the iron door. The prospector revealed the legend but would not whisper a word about the location of his discovery. Wright wrote a bestselling novel titled “The Lost Mine with The Iron Door” and discovered gold of a different kind.

The most famous prospector to come searching for the lost Spanish mine was William Cody better known as Buffalo Bill. Buffalo Bill set up at the High Jinks Mine and nearby Campo Bonito. I remember one beautiful spring day when I was hiking in Campo Bonito and discovered an old arraster where they had once crushed rocks to remove the ore before shipping the ore for processing. Near the arraster was a small tin which once held muscle salve. I imagine that after a day’s labor crushing ore and grinding rocks one would need muscle salve. I found both halves of the tin, battered and beaten, white with blue paint and writing. The label identified the brand as Cloverine muscle salve but the interesting stuff was in the fine print. The can dated to 1914, years when Buffalo Bill was actively mining in Oracle but more important the can originated from Cody, Wyoming - the town founded by and named after Bill Cody.

Joe Sanchez points across the cemetery, “James McAvoy’s partner, Henry Appel, is buried over there beside the grave of his sister.”

Joe tells me a story. “I used to hike all over these mountain when I was young and my parents used to warn me that ‘If you keep walking by yourself eventually you will find the devil.’ I was walking one day by myself out near the CDO when suddenly in the middle of the wilderness I began to hear music, beautiful music. I stopped dead in my tracks certain that I was about to meet the devil. The beautiful piano continued playing and I looked around but the devil never appeared. Instead I dared a peek up and over the edge of the arroyo where I saw a tiny shack perched on the edge of the canyon. There was Mrs. Appel playing the piano.”

I asked. “Was she any good?”

“She was very good.” Joe said. “She practiced all the time, there was nothing else to do in the middle of the wilderness.”

Joe Sanchez sighed and said, “I will never forget one thing that James McAvoy said to me. He said, ‘I have found fortunes and I have lost fortunes but the one thing I really treasure are my experiences and I am taking those with me to the grave.’”

As I take my photos of James McAvoy’s tombstone I am glad that this old Irish prospector so far from home left behind enough friends and memories so that people still living in Oracle care enough to tend and decorate his grave.

Editor’s Note: Gary Every is a columnist who writes for the Ledger’s sister newspapers, Pinal Nugget and Oracle Towne Crier. We thought our Ledger readers would enjoy this story about a nearby landmark.

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FOOD SAFETY

Continued from page 8

child sick. Many infections are easy to pass around and children are particularly vulnerable. Director of Public Health Tom Schryer states, “If your child is ill keep them home from school. It’s best for both your child and the school if they stay away from others while sick and get the extra care they might need. If necessary take your child to see a doctor.”

For more information on Pinal County’s food safety program, please visit the Pinal County Environmental Health Services webpage at <http://pinalcountyaz.gov/ehs>, or call 866-287-0209.

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The Bubbly Hostess Visits Jerome, AZ

First and foremost, I'm excited to announce the launch of the new site for my blog! It has an entirely new look and feel – you'll want to make sure you check it out at www.bubblyhostess.com. I'd also like to thank all of you for following me for the past 3+ years, to Gretchen Wakeman Photography for capturing updated images of me, and to my cousin Matt Gillespie over at www.msgdsn.com for designing my logo and helping launch the new site.

Now, back to business! Have you been to Jerome, AZ? It's pretty cool! We were in Prescott over Labor Day Weekend and decided to take a day trip over to Jerome. It's small, but there are tons of cute shops, restaurants, a winery, and the road to get there through Mingus Mountain has some gorgeous views!

We had our boys and our beloved dog with us so we decided to stop at the Gold King Mine and Ghost Town first. You'll enter through the gift shop and pay a small fee to wander through the "ghost town" – you can even purchase a bag of feed for the chickens and goats that live on the property. You'll see lots of rustic machinery, cars, trucks, old buildings, even the entrance to the mine that once was. This is a living museum that is cared for by Don Robertson.

It's open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas and they are located one mile north of Jerome – go past the Fire Station and you'll run right into it! For more details you can visit their site at www.goldkingmineghosttown.com

For lunch, we headed back into town to search for the perfect lunch spot. Because

we had our little Cavalier with us, we needed to find a restaurant with a patio. We walked past Grapes Restaurant and Bar – there was one open table on the patio calling our name. Everything on the menu looked delicious; it took us a little time to decide.

Grapes doesn't have a kids menu, but they do offer the pasta dishes in smaller sizes as well as slider sized sandwiches on their menu. My boys both decided to create their own bowl of pasta with spaghetti, butter, and shrimp. The little one said it was the best shrimp he had ever eaten – although excited he was happy, I didn't know how I felt about that since I serve them shrimp all of the time! The Hubby enjoyed the Sonoma Chicken Salad Sandwich and I chose the Salad & 2 Mini Sandwiches Combo. The House Salad paired with a Turkey Cranberry Cheese Cream slider and a Salami, Pesto, and Provolone slider were perfect!

To check out their menu and to learn more about Grapes, you can visit their website at www.grapesjerome.com.

We'll definitely be back to Jerome to



THE BUBBLY HOSTESS

By Heather Sneed
Special to the Ledger

explore the small quaint town even further – I hope you have the opportunity to do the same!

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



Gold King Mine and Ghost Town in Jerome, AZ. Heather Sneed | Bubbly Hostess

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