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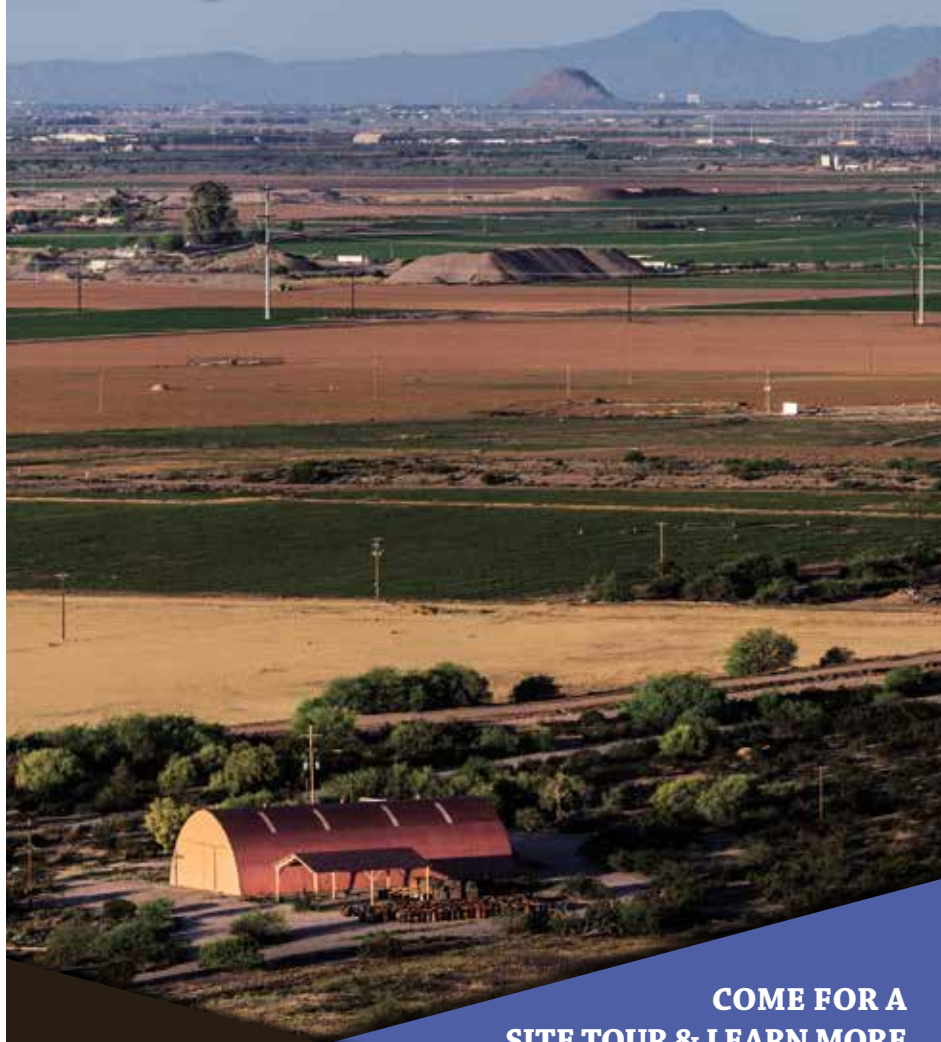
From PBHS STEM Coordinator to Principal Page 6

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New business development breaks ground in Queen Creek

The heart of Queen Creek's Town Center is about to quicken its pace with new shopping, dining and entertainment options. Thompson Thrift recently broke ground on a significant development for the Town Center, 20-acres located at the southeast corner of Rittenhouse Road and Ellsworth Loop Road. Serving as an

economic driver for Queen Creek, the QC District will be anchored by Sprouts Famers Market and HomeGoods.

"The Town Council and I are very excited about this project," said Queen Creek Mayor Gail Barney. "The QC District marks important commercial growth

Continued on page 3



Members of the Queen Creek Town Council and builders Thompson Thrift break ground for the new shopping center at Ellsworth Loop Rd. and Rittenhouse Rd.

Courtney Trumbull | Ledger

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"There are numerous countries in the world where the politicians have seized absolute power and muzzled the press. There is no country in the world where the press has seized absolute power and muzzled the politicians"

David Brinkley

GROUNDBREAKING

Continued from page 2

for Queen Creek, it will increase the Town's sales tax and property tax while providing diverse options for residents and visitors."

The QC District will be built in two phases. Phase I is currently under construction and will encompass 16-acres of retail and dining options including Sprouts, HomeGoods, Starbucks, Red Robin, MOD Pizza, Café Rio, Original ChopShop Co., Menchie's, Pet Planet, Starbucks and Orangetheory Fitness among many others. Phase II will be a 4-acre development slated to include either an entertainment district or high density, upscale multi-family mixed-use residential-retail community which will be developed at a later date.

The 2015 Queen Creek Corporate Strategic Plan identified enhancing opportunities for businesses to be successful as one of the goals to support a quality lifestyle for Queen Creek residents. The QC District will enhance Queen Creek's Town Center and will pave the way for additional growth in the region.

"Thompson Thrift is very excited about the opportunity to partner with Queen Creek to develop such an important and highly visible property in the Town Center. We are fully committed to delivering a first class project that will meet the standards established by the Town and one that

will be a lasting asset for the community," said Ashlee Boyd, Senior Vice President of Thompson Thrift Development.

In 2013, the Town issued a request for proposals for the development of a mixed-use entertainment district on the Town owned 20-acre parcel in the Town Center. Three proposals were received and an extensive evaluation resulted in negotiations with Thompson Thrift. The purchase agreement was approved by Town Council on July 16, 2014 contingent upon an approved Development Agreement and approval of Planned Area Development (PAD). Both items were subsequently approved and the property closed in July 2015.

Thompson Thrift is a full-service development

and construction company dedicated to serving individuals and businesses. With projects located across the United States, Thompson Thrift has expanded from a locally focused real estate company into an integrated, full-service development and construction company. Founded in 1986, Thompson Thrift views each project as a partnership and values excellence, service and leadership. For additional information, visit ThompsonThrift.com.

To stay updated on events and activities in Queen Creek, follow the Town on Facebook.com/QueenCreek or Twitter.com/TOQC_Official. For more information about the Town visit QueenCreek.org.

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IT'S THE WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER



3 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.

3 Blood Drive at Banner Ironwood

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5 Bugs, Bugs & More Bugs at the San Tan Mtn. Park

The world is full of insects. You will find them buzzing from one flower to the next or zipping past your face. Let's face it, bugs are everywhere. While it appears those pesky insects are nothing but a nuisance, they are, in fact, very important to our desert ecosystem. How? Head over to the San Tan Mountain Regional Park on Saturday, Sept. 5, and take a close-up look at what makes "a bug", well, a bug. Meet inside the Nature Center at 6:30 p.m.



6 Nathan Marten Memorial at San Tan Mtn. Park

On Sunday, Sept. 6, honor, remember and celebrate the lives of the fallen military men and women who served in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Stop by the Nathan Martens Arizona Memorial at the San Tan Mountain Regional Park to view the spectacular tribute listing the names of the fallen Arizona military men and women. For more information please visit 1.usa.gov/1hEFC54.



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Mighty Jake receives more than 4,000 cards for 13th birthday

By Andrew Luberd
Southeast Valley Ledger

Jacob Priestley, aka Mighty Jake, celebrated his 13th birthday on Friday, Aug. 28.

Last year Jacob received nearly 200 birthday cards to read while he was in the hospital. With the help of Fox 10 News, a crusade was started to surpass that amount this year.

To date, Mighty Jake has received more than 4,000 birthday cards.

Safe to say, mission accomplished.

As you may recall, Jacob is the now-teenage boy who suffers from Mitochondrial Disease, a terminal disease that affects his organs and cells.

According to the Adventures with Mighty Jake Facebook page, the Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury basketball

team delivered an additional 500 cards on his birthday.

So far, Jacob's most special card came from popular teen-violinist Lindsey Stirling, who is from Gilbert. He's met the teen-sensation performer at least once before.

Mighty Jake's mom, Britney, writes a blog to provide updates and feelings about her son's journey. In a recent post, she wrote that she asked Jacob if he could do anything in the world, what would he choose?

His list included: meeting a you-tuber, meeting Lindsey Stirling again, a trip to Disney World, and going to see the Diamondbacks with the opportunity to meet some players. The latter is one of his favorite things to do, according to his mom.

Britney, who says she tells Jacob he may not get to do everything he wants, wrote on the Facebook page that

Continued on page 5



Mail for Mighty Jake. (Photo from Facebook)

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MIGHTY JAKE

Continued from page 4

Jacob can't travel to Disney World because his medical needs prohibit him from leaving the state.

Still, Jacob says he wants to go outside. But because he is unable to regulate his body temp, Jacob is at an increased risk of heat stroke in Arizona, preventing him from going outside in the Phoenix area.

He can, however, go outside in some of the cooler cities around Arizona, where Britney says she will let him outside "for a while and enjoy nature."

Their plans include visiting a different part of Arizona every weekend, going places Jacob has never been to. Their travels will be posted on the Mighty Jake Facebook page.

A GoFundMe account has been setup to donate money for Jacob's travel expenses. So far \$865 of the \$2,000 goal has been raised.

You can visit the Adventures with Mighty Jake Facebook page at <http://on.fb.me/1JrIFEu> to read more about Mighty Jake and to get a link to the GoFundMe page.

Britney's blog can also be found here: <http://mightyjake.blogspot.com/>.



Mighty Jake Priestley. (Photo from Facebook)

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Dr. Shannon Anderson is the new principal at Poston Butte High School.

Kelli Luberda | Ledger

New Poston Butte principal enjoying different responsibilities

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

In her former role as an Assistant Principal at Poston Butte High School, Dr. Shannon Anderson served as the school's S.T.E.M. coordinator. In that role her focus surrounded a very limited percentage of the student population who were enrolling, or were already enrolled, in the very rigorous program.

Now, in her new position as Poston Butte's principal, she's determined to spend more of her time getting to interact with the entire student body.

"It's been really fun," Dr. Anderson recently told the *Ledger* about her first few weeks in her new job. "The fun part is, in this role, I actually get to spend more time with kids and that's what I'm really enjoying the most."

Students sometimes find it weird that the school's principal is also their lunch companion, but Dr. Anderson is interested in hearing directly from students.

She wants honest, direct feedback from students in addition to real answers to questions she asks about Poston Butte's 23 new teachers, for example.

"It sounds like a lot," Dr. Anderson said about the number of new staff members. "But we grew too, so we added staff and, obviously, we had some teachers leave."

"I want to hear from the kids," she continued. "And so far it's been really positive."

Former Poston Butte Principal Dr. Timothy Richard was widely acclaimed for his implementation of new programs such as Celebration & Remediation during his tenure at the school.

Certainly, Dr. Anderson aims to maintain those programs but believes they may require the occasional adjustment here or there and will look to students to find how and why those programs can be even better.

In order to garner that input from students, one of Dr. Anderson's first orders of business is to create 3 – 4 student advisory boards, which she will meet with on a monthly basis, buy lunch, and talk to them about school functions and programs. She also wants student reaction to changes around the school.

"The things we already have in place that we can improve for students, we're never going to know (until we ask students)," she said. "I get teachers' voices; we get asked those questions all the time. I want to hear from student voices."

An application was created to find a cross-section of students who want to express their opinion and concern regarding what is happening at the school and the decisions that are made.

The application will include a student's GPA and a list of school activities he or she is involved in. Dr. Anderson says she is interested in speaking with students who don't list any school activities to find out if the school is not offering anything that interests them.

"Part of me asking them to fill out an application is going to give me that cross-sectional type of view," Dr. Anderson said. "It's OK if there are students who've had a referral once in a while because it's an opportunity to find out what about the rules are hard sometimes."

Poston Butte's rating as an A+ school by the Arizona Education Foundation is something Dr. Anderson plans to maintain, for sure.

"The A-plus award is a huge award," she said. "One of the things that is great about it is that it is a snapshot of the culture of a school."

The award encompasses more than just academics, it also includes school programs. Additionally, it focuses on the school's culture and what makes students want to be at Poston Butte.

Although an A+ rated school by the AEF, Poston Butte was rated as a "B" school academically when schools were given letter grades, which is no longer the case.

Dr. Anderson wants the school to achieve at an "A" level in that area and believes improving ACT scores, getting more students to enroll in colleges or universities, and more rigor in the classroom are the ways to reach that goal.

"If we can make the claim that 85 percent of our students are passing their classes, but our ACT scores don't show that we have a significant number of students meeting college entrance requirements then there's a gap (present)," she said. "And that's the gap we need to close."

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Queen Creek proves it can run with the 'big dogs'

By Andrew Luberd
Southeast Valley Ledger

Way back in the spring, when Queen Creek head coach Travis Schureman scheduled a game versus seven-time state champion and Division I powerhouse Hamilton, some wondered (including this reporter) where he lost his mind.

There was no doubt the Bulldogs' third-year head coach wanted to measure his team against the best in the state.

"We've always played tough teams, and we will continue to play tough teams and get after it," Schureman said.

But privately, Schureman and the Bulldogs spent the past several months believing they could do more than just "get after it" against Hamilton. Deep down they looked forward to the opportunity to shock the Arizona high school football community by defeating one of state's best and most successful programs.

For more than three quarters last Friday night, the sixth-ranked Bulldogs hung in with the second-ranked Huskies, even

holding a brief 7 – 3 lead midway through the first quarter.

The Bulldogs, who trailed 10 – 7 at the half, kept it that way through much of the third quarter thanks to their defense, which stopped Hamilton on a fourth-down play near the goal line with just over five minutes remaining.

The score remained the same until the last two minutes of the quarter when an interception setup Hamilton deep in Queen Creek territory. The Huskies took advantage, scoring on a 21-yd pass play to increase their lead to 17 – 7.

Hamilton added two more fourth quarter touchdowns, one of them coming after a fumbled punt return by the Bulldogs and another after the Huskies' defense blocked a punt.

Queen Creek sophomore running back Dante Coleman scored a late touchdown on a 2-yard run to close out the scoring in the game.

Even though the Bulldogs didn't come away with a win, the game was much closer than the 31 – 14 final score would indicate.

"Queen Creek is going to bring their lunch and they brought it," Hamilton head coach Steve Belles said after the game. "They're a good football team. We have to tip our hat to them and their going to be there at the end."

"They're one of those teams that if you don't bring it, they're going to, for sure, bring it," Belles added. "They're one of those teams that play physical and you better be ready to play physical with them."

Schureman's postgame comments validate the claim that he didn't schedule Hamilton just to use the game as a measuring stick.

"That's a great football team over there," he said about Hamilton. "They're going to compete in Division I (for a state title) and

for three-and-a-half quarters we were right there with them."

"I was happy with the way we competed," he continued. "I'm not happy with the outcome. That's not who we are; we expect to win football games."

With Hamilton holding an early 3 – 0 lead, the Bulldogs defense gave the offense excellent field position after linebacker Chase Thomas recovered and errant snap on a fake punt attempt by the Huskies.

Senior running back Gavin Danielson capped off the 44-yard drive, scoring on a 7-yard touchdown run. Zach Glaess' PAT was good to give the Bulldogs a 7 – 3 lead with 3:03 remaining in the first quarter.

Queen Creek, perennially one of the

Continued on page 9



The Bulldogs hung in against Division I powerhouse Hamilton in the first meeting between the schools.
Kelli Luberd | Ledger

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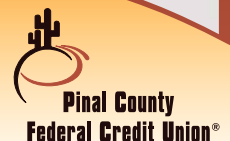
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Local Athletes Take to the Fields, Courts in Fall Sports Action



FOUR CORNERS OF SPORTS

By Andrew Luberda
Southeast Valley Ledger

COMBS

Football – The Coyotes faced a stiff test in their opener, traveling to the far west side of the Valley to take on Estrella Foothills, which was a playoff team a year ago. The Yotes started poorly, trailing 14 – 0 at the end of the first quarter and 21 – 0 at the half.

The Wolves ultimately came away with a 21 – 8 victory. “We made a lot of game-one mistakes,” Combs’ head coach Jesse Hart told the *Ledger*. “We weren’t lining up right and defensively we had two really big breakdowns, which allowed huge runs. We had a costly turnover that led to a touchdown at the end of the first half.”

The Yotes’ defense improved in the second half, playing the way many expected before the season started. This is a deep

and experienced Combs’ team across the board, but make no mistake, its strength is the defense.

“We buckled down when we went into the second half,” Hart said.

The offense, however, remains a work-in-progress. It was held scoreless for three quarters last Friday night before a fourth-quarter rushing touchdown by junior Erick Guerra and a two-point conversion by junior quarterback Skylar Johnson accounted for the Yotes’ only scoring in the game.

Hart is confident the offense can build off the fourth-quarter success during last week’s game.

“There’s nothing that can’t be fixed,” he said. “It’s a matter of us getting back to work this week, making sure we’re getting lined up and working on our blocking schemes.”

Combs hosts cross-San Tan Valley team San Tan Foothills in its home opener on Friday night. After a long road trip last week, the Coyotes are looking forward to playing at home.

“The boys are excited to finally get to play in front of the home crowd,” Hart said. “They get to play in front of their family and friends.”

Kickoff for Friday’s game is scheduled for 7 p.m.

REMINDER: The Combs’s Football Booster Club is organizing the first annual Golf Tournament and Fundraiser Dinner with proceeds benefitting the Coyotes’ football program. The event will take place at Encanterra Country Club on September 5, 2015.

Golf check-in starts at 11 a.m. with tee-off scheduled for 1 p.m.

The cost for the event is \$120 per person, which includes entry into all events, 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, dinner, and various awards.

An awards presentation and dinner will take place immediately after golf at Mallocca @ Encanterra Country Club.

Dinner is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Dinner-only packages starting at \$20 are available for those not interested in the golf tournament.

There will be raffles and a silent auction at the event as well as guest speakers to address those in attendance, including head coach Jesse Hart.

For more information visit the Coyotes’ football website at www.combscoyotesfootball.com.

SAN TAN FOOTHILLS

Football – The third-ranked Sabercats entered last Friday’s game versus top-ranked Joy Christian seeking redemption after the Eagles defeated the Cats in the first-round of the playoffs last year, 42 – 14.

Instead, the Eagles’ 77 – 7 lopsided victory was only a harsh reminder of their dominance against the Cats.

Joy Christian scored 49 unanswered first-half points – 28 in the first quarter and 21 more in the second quarter – before scoring 21 more unanswered points in the third quarter.

Senior Kyle Stanifer scored the Cats only touchdown of the game on a 42-yard reception.

Head coach John Sanders is dealing with a thinner-than-thin roster that can’t afford any injuries, especially to the team’s playmakers. But unfortunately, that’s exactly what happened when Manny Armenta, last week’s star, left the game with an apparent ankle injury.

Despite a short roster, injuries, and a difficult loss, Sanders remains upbeat and optimistic, believing his team will get better as the season progresses.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Coda McLaws

SENIOR – COMBS HIGH SCHOOL

SPORTS: FOOTBALL/TRACK & FIELD

It seems that even with the recent success of the Coyotes’ football program there has been more anticipation for the start of this season among the players, students, and fans than ever before. Why do you believe that’s true?

I transferred to Combs my sophomore year and that’s the same year Coach Hart implemented “CHANGE THE CULTURE.” So that’s all I’ve know

is what a great school and football program they have here at Combs. We have only been getting better, so the players, students, and fans can’t help but expect us to do great things this year. I think everyone is just ready and excited.

You are already recognized as one of the premiere defensive players throughout Arizona, yet you continue to reach another level of play. What drives you to keep getting better and better each year?

Me personally, I think my coaches just drive me to play to the potential that I can reach. They are constantly pushing me to be the athlete that they think I can be. I have been lucky to have great football coaches my whole life. And, of course, my family is my biggest fans and is always giving me the confidence and support I need to be successful on the field.

What are your plans after graduation?

First thing I plan on doing after I graduate is to serve a two year LDS mission. After that I hope to attend college on a football scholarship

because my goal is to become an anesthesiologist and how cool would it be to play football while trying to attain that goal.

Finish this sentence: “My greatest athletic memory so far at Combs High School is...”

Being part of that team that went to the playoffs for the first time.

What is your favorite sports movies and why?

My favorite football movie is called We are Marshall. It’s about a football program that had to be rebuilt. I am thankful to be part of Combs Football that in a way is being rebuilt.

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

The person I would’ve liked to meet is Pat Tillman. When I was younger, I played on a football team here in Queen Creek. My football coach, Marc Moore, taught us how to play football around the standards and life of Pat Tillman. My coach helped me see what kind of person he was and it made me want to be the kind of man he was on and off the field.



Coda McLaws



Queen Creek's Trexton Bloom runs after the catch against Hamilton last Friday night. Kelli Lubberda | Ledger

QUEEN CREEK FOOTBALL

Continued from page 7

state's most prolific rushing offenses, couldn't muster much offense after that scoring drive, totaling only 85 rushing yards in the game with Danielson accounting for 84 of those yards.

As a matter of fact, the Bulldogs finished with less than 200 total yards of offense, which included only 106 passing yards. It was the offense's second-straight underwhelming performance.

"We have to fix some things, obviously,"

Schureman said after the game. "On offense we have to get better."

Queen Creek's defense has carried the team so far, but don't expect that trend to continue. The Bulldogs have a bye this week, a perfect time to get things right before taking on Campo Verde in their home opener on September 11.

"Our defense is playing great," Schureman said. "They're keeping us in games right now, but our offense is going to get there."

FOUR CORNERS

Continued from page 8

The Cats face another difficult road game this week when they travel across town to play Division IV Combs, a playoff team a year ago. Friday's kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

POSTON BUTTE

Football – The Broncos lost their second-straight game of the new season last Friday night, falling to Desert Mountain at home, 28 – 15.

Hopefully, the game was the only loss of the night for Poston Butte, which was playing its first home game of the season. Junior running

back, and last week's Ledger Athlete of the Week, Josh Hatfield left the game in fourth quarter after absorbing a helmet-to-helmet blow and did not return.

Senior Chase Taylor filled in and rushed for almost 85 yards in the game.

Before that though, Hatfield was stellar once again, scoring the Broncos' first touchdown of the game on a 75-yard punt return in the first quarter. He later hauled in a 35-yard reception to setup the Broncos' other score, a one-yard touchdown run by quarterback Shavez Hawkins.

Continued on page 11

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NON-PROFIT

San Tan Valley Substance Abuse Coalition

Providing recovery, education, and prevention resources to those affected by substance abuse and/or mental health disorders.

Find us online at: stvsac.weebly.com
Or for more information, email: stvcoalition@santanvalley.com

NON-PROFIT

Future Forward Foundation

Dedicated to improving the quality of life in the greater Southwest, particularly Pinal County. Time and resources are dedicated 60% toward economic development, 20% in support of other non-profits and 20% in support of culture and the arts.

PO Box 333, Florence AZ 85132
520.313.2134 • futureforward@cox.net

SERVICE ORGANIZATION

San Tan Valley Lions Club

Meetings Are Held:

- 2nd Monday, 7 p.m.
Copper Basin YMCA
28300 Main, STV
- 4th Monday, 8:30 a.m.
Cafe at Sun City
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The Bubbly Hostess Makes Lemon Bread

Lemon Bread Makes 1 loaf

Recipe courtesy of "A Decade of Cooking - The Costco Way"

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
6 tablespoons butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup milk
Grated peel and juice of 1 lemon
1/4 cup chopped walnuts (recipe suggests this or poppy seeds, I chose walnuts)
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar



Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan.

In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar, and eggs together until light and fluffy. Add milk alternating with the flour mixture in 2 parts; mix well. Stir in grated lemon peel and walnuts.

Pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan. Bake for 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let the bread cool in the pan for 5 minutes.

Mix together lemon juice and confectioners' sugar to make a glaze. Remove the bread

from the pan. Pour the glaze over the warm bread (poking holes in the bread first will make it absorb more of the glaze).

With my boys back in school, I thought it would be a nice treat (and of course incentive to get them out of bed) to bake this Lemon Bread. I ran across this recipe in my "A Decade of Cooking - The Costco Way" cookbook - do you have any of these? Costco typically hands out a new cookbook the day after Thanksgiving each year and they are great!

My boys are huge fans of lemon cakes and breads - I couldn't resist - and they LOVED it.

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



THE BUBBLY HOSTESS

By Heather Sneed
Special to the Ledger

FOUR CORNERS

Continued from page 9

Desert Mountain held a 7-0 lead in the second quarter before Hatfield's return pulled the Broncos within in one. With only three seconds remaining in the half, Wolves' quarterback Austin Nuessle launched a 37-yard hail-mary-like throw to the end zone that was hauled in by receiver Donovan Dalton to give the Wolves a 14-6 halftime lead.

The Wolves extended the lead in the third quarter to 21-6 before Hawkins' touchdown in the fourth quarter.

The Broncos' own mistakes proved costly in the game, including two interceptions near the end zone that thwarted excellent scoring chances. They also missed

two extra points.

The Broncos hit the road this week, traveling to Gilbert to face the Tigers, who won their first game of the season against Canyon del Oro. Gilbert is now 1-1 after winning last week's home opener.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.

QUEEN CREEK

Girls' Volleyball - The Bulldogs opened their season on Tuesday by hosting Horizon Honors. New head coach Stefany Pew will lead her team against Chaparral at home (Sept. 3, 6 p.m.) and at Gilbert (Sept. 8, 6 p.m.).

OTHER FOOTBALL SCORES

ALA (Ironwood) - The Warriors came away victorious in their inaugural game, shutting out Skyline Prep, 17-0.

ALA (Queen Creek) - The 10th-ranked Patriots scored a fourth quarter touchdown to earn a come-from-behind victory at Scottsdale Christian Academy, 25-22.

Benjamin Franklin - The Chargers picked up their first win under new head coach Dave Jefferies last Friday night, defeating San Carlos, 34-6. The Chargers scored 28 unanswered points to open a 28-0 lead at the end of the third quarter.



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