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Combs, San Tan Foothills under the Friday Night lights Pages 6 & 7



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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

BITUARY

Crocker Brigham Clegg, MD

Crocker Brigham Clegg, MD, 91, passed away Sept. 5, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Florida.

His early education was at the Francis W. Parker School in Chicago, IL. He attended Wesleyan University and following the war, University of Louisville School of Medicine.

He served in World War II in the United States Navy as a First Lieutenant in the Pacific Theater.

His internship was served at Indianapolis General and Surgical Residency at the VA Hospital in Louisville, KY. He practiced medicine in Elizabethtown, KY and St. Petersburg,

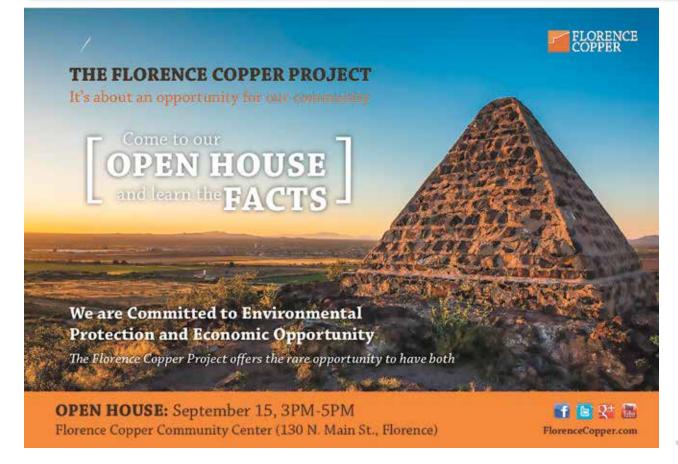
Dr. Clegg was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Jean Karnes Clegg, and daughter, Janet Clegg Kerstner.

He leaves behind sons, Crocker Brigham Clegg II (Beverly) and William Gifford Clegg III (Francine); cousin, Jane Brigham of Westfield, IN; one granddaughter, four grandsons, two step-grandsons and nine greatgrandchildren.

Services will be held at Our Lady of Good Hope Old Roman Catholic Church, Pinellas Park, FL.

Obituaries are published free of charge in the Southeast Valley Ledger. If you have an obituary you would like us to print, please email it to info@SEVLedger.com or submit it online at www.SEVLedger.com.

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



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Asarco's Ray Mine near Kearny.

Slump in global economy forces layoffs in copper industry

By Mila Besich-Lira Copper Area News

Sept. 1, the first day of the last quarter of 2015, Copper is selling at \$2.31 a pound and 381 mine workers are looking for a new job.

Late last month, both ASARCO and Freeport McMoRan made announcements that they would lay off workers and reduce production at their operations in the Copper Corridor. The recent crumbling of the stock market in China has reduced the prices for commodities like copper and oil. This has left most investors worried and the trickle down effect of the slump in China has affected the main industry of the Copper Corridor.

ASARCO plans to shut down the concentrator at Hayden indefinitely and will reduce its stripping and leaching output. This reduction

affected 211 jobs at the Ray Pit and Hayden operations. Freeport McMoRan will reduce its production and is expected to lay off 170 from Miami pit operations. The rod plant and smelter will not be affected by the reduction as this time.

It is unknown if the majority of those laid off were from the Copper Corridor area or if they were workers from the metropolitan areas.

Following the announcements of the lay offs, Ray Unified School district announced that anyone with students at RUSD affected by the lay offs should go to the cafeteria to apply for the free and reduced lunch program. Pinal County and the Department of Economic Security have many resources to help those who may be looking for assistance during this time.

- pinalcountyaz.gov
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IT'S THE WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER

10 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.

10 School Consolidation Informational Night

Join the Superintendents of Florence and Coolidge School Districts as they give an informational presentation on the proposed consolidation of San Tan Heights, Mountain Vista and San Tan Foothills into the Florence District. Following the presentation there will be a Q & A on the proposed district consolidation. This meeting will be at the San Tan Foothills Media Center beginning at 6 p.m. San Tan Foothills High School is located at 1255 W Silverdale Rd, San Tan Valley.



12 Movie in San Tan Mtn. Regional Park

National Geographic presents *Volcanoes*. Join vulcanologists as they take you on a dangerous quest to Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines and Japan's Mount Unzen. Volcanic events turn night into day, releasing smoke, ash, and spewing lava. Join us inside the Nature Center at noon for a first-hand look at the destructive natural force of volcanoes! Ages 8 & up. Some scenes may not be appropriate for younger children.



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.



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! 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, visitgueencreekolivemill.com.

J.O. Combs District finds innovative methods to address substitute teacher shortage

By John Hernandez Southeast Valley Ledger

School districts throughout the state of Arizona have found themselves in a bit of a quandary. There are not enough qualified teachers to fill vacant positions.

The shortage has had another consequence. It has left districts scrambling to find substitute teachers to fill in when the teachers they do have fall ill or are unable to teach.

J.O. Combs Unified School District has found a rather unique approach to the situation. They're recruiting qualified individuals from the community itself and are teaching them how to substitute.

Superintendent Dr. Gayle Blanchard had heard about a substitute training program developed by the Gadsden Elementary School District. After consulting with staff from the Gadsden District and reviewing the program, the J.O.

The City of Show Low hub of the beautiful White Mountains in Northeastern Arizona, is seeking motivated and community oriented individuals to fill the following position openings:

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Comb's staff created a training program that would meet the needs of the district.

The creation of the training program was a partnership between a number of district staff including academic coaches, principals, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Patty Rogers, and District Professional Development Specialist Debbie Sant.

"We developed this training to identify competent and qualified individuals to substitute in our district," said Sant. "This training also invites more community members to become active participants in our schools."

The three-day training program provides information about district policies and procedures, reading and math strategies, classroom management, and advice on working with elementary and secondary students as well as special needs students. Participants learn about the development

Continued on page 11



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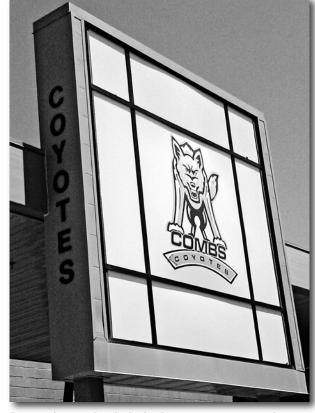
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Cheryl Chase opens new office in San Tan Valley





Pinal County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Cheryl Chase last week officially opened her new office in the San Tan Valley. Other members of the board as well as officials from the San Tan Valley Chamber of Commerce were on hand to mark the occasion. 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."

Courtney Trumbull | Ledger

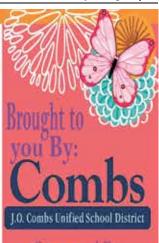


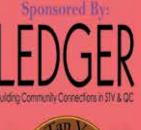
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Guerra, Coyotes dominate in lopsided

By Andrew Luberda Southeast Valley Ledger

Combs' junior running back Erick Guerra scored four touchdowns and the Yotes' defense returned to form in a 52 o lopsided victory against cross-San Tan Valley foe San Tan Foothills last Friday night.

Both teams entered the game coming off disappointing losses a week ago, but it was the Yotes who were able to take out a week's worth of frustration in their home

"We came out focused," Combs head coach Jesse Hart said after the game. "The entire week we were focused. Losing is a tough thing to do and it leaves a bad taste in your mouth all week. But the boys had a great week of practice; probably the best we've had. They came out fired up and they played well."

Guerra and Jake Green combined for 243 of the Coyotes' 365 rushing yards in the game and five touchdowns, including four in the first half.

Green setup the first touchdown of the game, scampering 62 yards on the Yotes opening possession before Guerra capped off the drive with his first touchdown of the game on a seven-yard run.

The Yotes' defense increased the lead to 8 – o with a safety on San Tan's ensuing possession and the ambush was about to start from there.

Combs returned to the free kick 50 yards to the Cats 25-yard line and a few plays later, quarterback Ethan Hunt rushed seven-yards for his first of two rushing touchdowns in the game. A 2-pt PAT made it 16 – o barely midway through the first quarter.

An interception by Sheldon Pearson setup the Yotes' next score, a 10-yard touchdown run by Guerra, his second of the game.

Fide Quirarte's interception gave Combs' another scoring opportunity and they capitalized again. This time on a 20-yard touchdown pass from Hunt to Andres

At the end of the first quarter the Yotes led the Sabercats, 28 - 0.

Second quarter touchdown runs by Green, Hunt, and Guerra increased the Coyotes lead to 46 - o at the half.

"Coach Miller put in a great game plan," Hart said about his team's offensive performance. "He had a couple of new things this week but, again, the boys knew they needed to step up and offensively we

"We really hit the ground running," Hunt added. "We knew we had to pick it up and we did it."

It was dreadful first half for the Cats, who had less than 25 players in uniform, were out-numbered and out-manned. They were also without perhaps their best player - sophomore Manny Armenta who was sidelined with an injury.

Guerra added his fourth touchdown of the game on the Yotes' opening possession of the third quarter to account for the only scoring in the second half.

He finished with 127 rushing yards on 23

"I couldn't have done without the offensive line," Guerra said, "The quarterback got me the ball and the line made sure no one blew through so that's why I was able to get in the end zone."

As impressive as the offense was, the Coyotes' defense was equally impressive and bounced back in a big way after a surprisingly poor effort last week against Estrella Foothills.

"Giving up two big plays like we did last week - that's embarrassing to our defense," Hart said. "They don't ever want that to happen again. I expect our defense to come out and dominate every single week."

The Coyotes will look to make it two wins in-a-row when they host Pusch Ridge Christian Academy this Friday. The Sabercats travel to face fourthranked American Leadership Academy-Queen Creek Friday.

For both games, kickoff is at 7 p.m.

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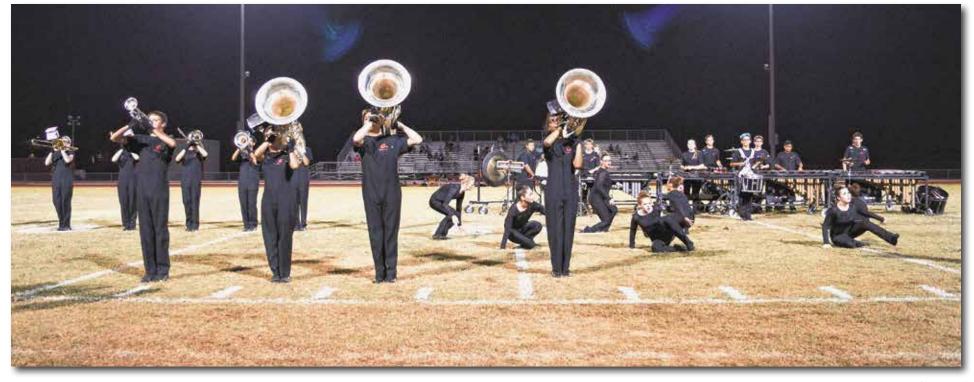
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victory; Combs hosts San Tan Foothills



Battle of San Tan Valley - STFHS (Gray) vs. Combs (Black).

Kelli Luberda | Ledger



Volleyball, Football Action at Local High Schools

POSTON BUTTE

Football – The Broncos lost their third-straight game last Friday night after being shutout at Gilbert, 31 – 0. The Broncos were playing without perhaps their best player in Josh Hatfield, who left the game two weeks ago versus Desert Mountain after a helmet-to-helmet hit. With Broncos on a bye this week, Hatfield has a chance to fully recover and return for the Broncos next game on Sept. 18 when they host Sunnyside. Kickoff for that game is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Volleyball – The Broncos won their season opening match last Wednesday, defeating Cholla, 3 – 0 (25 – 9, 25 – 12, 25 – 15). Senior outside hitter Alexis Marciniak led the Broncos with 15 kills in the match. Senior Hannah Bueler added seven kills and served up six of the Broncos' 14 aces in the match. She also led the Broncos with five blocks. Junior Keri Young led the team with nine digs while sophomore Brie Cathcart had a matchhigh 13 assists. Upcoming schedule: at Show Low (9/10) and at Florence (9/15). Both matches are scheduled for 6 p.m.

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QUEEN CREEK

Volleyball – The Bulldogs dropped their first two matches of the season last week, losing 3-2 against both Horizon Honors (22-25, 25-16, 26-24, 21-25, 17-19) and Chaparral (25-21, 20-25, 28-26, 21-25, 15-7). Despite the losses firstyear head coach Stefany Pew is more than pleased with her team's performances in its first Division I contests.

"We have been waiting to see how we compete with these big schools who are Division 1 veterans," Pew told the *Ledger* in an email. "It's nice to know we belong here in this division. It's always risky to move up a division and be the "underdogs", but after last (week's) matches, I'm confident this is where we are meant to be. It's going to be a great season."

Freshman Kate Grimmer was named Player of the Game after leading the Bulldogs with 14 kills and 19 digs against Horizon Honors. She tied with Kat



FOUR CORNERS OF SPORTS

By Andrew Luberda Southeast Valley Ledger

McCullogh for the most aces in the match with three. Sophomore Serena Caspersen led the team with four blocks while sophomore Kenadee Coplen had a matchhigh 20 assists. Upcoming schedule: at Mesa (9/10), 6 p.m.

Continued on page 9



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SASO musicians present highlights from Oaxaca Opera Festival on Sept. 15

TUCSON, AZ – Twenty-five musicians from the Tucson-based Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra returned recently from Oaxaca, Mexico, where they performed in the Oaxaca Opera Festival for the third consecutive year.

The full orchestra will perform highlights of the festival on **Sept.** 15 in a special Mexican Independence Day concert featuring vocalists from the festival and Mariachi Sol Azteca. **Sponsored by the Mexican Consulate in Tucson and the Instituto Cultural Mexicano de Tucson, the concert is free at 7 p.m. at the Fox Tucson Theatre, 17 W. Congress, Tucson.**

The SASO musicians, together with several players from Oaxaca and one from Brazil, made up the Festival Orchestra. They were joined by about 100 singers in four performances of operas and operatic arias.

SASO Music Director Linus Lerner is artistic director of the festival and co-founder with Maribel Sanchez of Oaxaca, general director. An internationally known vocal coach, Lerner auditioned and coached the singers who came from many parts of Mexico, plus Brazil and Italy. They were attracted by the opportunity of expert training and to perform opera with a live orchestra in the historic Teatro Macedonia Alcala, which opened in 1909. Lerner said. "The Teatro Alcala resembles a mix of Carnegie Hall of New York and Teatro La Scala of Milan." Oaxaca is about 300 miles southeast of Mexico City.

The first two editions of the festival, in 2013 and 2014, featured concert performances of arias from many composers including Mozart, Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet and Puccini.

This year, the format of the festival was expanded to include fully staged performances of two operas – Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" and Mozart's "Le nozze di Figaro" (The Marriage of Figaro) – plus two concerts featuring a diverse range of opera arias. Both operas were sung in the original Italian, with surtitles in Spanish projected above the stage. In the Marriage of Figaro, an actor gave humorous commentary in Spanish at several points during the opera, making sure the audience followed the many twists and turns of the plot.

All four concerts were presented at no charge. This was possible because of generous contributions from Tucson supporters Dorothy Vanek, Irving Olson and Tim Secomb, as well as contributors in Oaxaca. The SASO musicians donated their services and the singers paid a small fee to participate.

Secomb, principal viola and personnel manager of SASO who has played in all three Opera Festivals in Oaxaca, said, "Before every event, crowds of concertgoers stretched down the street from the theatre. The performances were given to capacity crowds and some people had to be turned away. Some farmers from surrounding villages were in the audience. Many had never experienced a classical opera performance before. Every performance received a warm and enthusiastic reception from the audience."

Oaxaca has been officially designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is an important cultural center in Mexico. Speaking to the audiences, Lerner proposed that Oaxaca should also become a

FOUR CORNERS

Continued from page 8

COMBS

Volleyball – Coyotes defeated North Pointe Prep in their season opener last Thursday, 3-0 (25-22, 25-10, 25-14). Upcoming schedule: at Gilbert Classical Academy (9/10) and at Chandler Prep (9/15). Both matches are scheduled for 6 p.m.

center for opera in Mexico, a suggestion that obviously pleased the concertgoers.

Secomb said, "Both operas that we performed are masterpieces in their own ways. Gianni Schicchi has a single act and lasts just over an hour. It tells the story of a group of conniving relatives who pretend to grieve after an old man's death – but who are really just after a piece of his wealth. It is full of dark humor. Puccini's music is rich and colorful, vividly painting the moods and actions of the opera. Mozart was a genius as a composer, and that genius is particularly evident in his operas. The Marriage of Figaro is a wonderful piece of entertainment, as fresh and original as when it was written. The plot could be a modern soap opera, loaded with

comedy and innuendo, yet with sensitive depictions of the main characters."

"An opera festival has a lot of moving parts. The musicians worked hard to get to Oaxaca and prepare our parts for all the performances. But many others worked equally hard, including the singers, vocal coaches, accompanists, stage directors and action coaches, surtitle presenters, lighting and scenery designers," he said.

"Lerner provided amazing vision and leadership to make it all happen – and worked even harder than all the rest of us. With the foundation we've laid and the donors and audiences we've attracted, this festival really does have a great future."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Claudia Wilson

SOPHOMORE – QUEEN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS: VOLLEYBALL

Without getting into all of the details, we know there is a lot to balance in your life right now, including your dad's health, school, volleyball, and your own battle with Osgood-Schlatter disease and the pain it causes in your knees. How have you been able to balance all of it and even excel in school and on the volleyball court despite all that is currently going on?

The love I have for my family and the support we share as well as my positive outlook on life helps me keep a balance in my life. All the support and love is helping me get through this and is keeping me strong. I know my dad would want me to be strong, so I'm doing it for him, my myself, my family, and friends.

Give us a little background of your volleyball playing career. When you did you start playing and what about the sport makes you continue?

I've been playing club volleyball for 4 years. The last three years I've played for Club One. I started out as a setter. I grew taller so I moved to the middle position and then recently moved to an outside hitter. I have played many of the positions

and love knowing more and more about volleyball. I have a deep love for the sport. Volleyball will always be a part of my life.

What are you most looking forward to during your next three years at QCHS?

I'm looking forward to our varsity volleyball team getting stronger throughout the years. I'm also looking forward to just having fun because we're only in high school once so I want to make it memorable.

Finish this sentence: "My greatest athletic memory at QCHS is..."

Making varsity volleyball as a freshman. It was really nerve racking going in because the coaches don't know you yet because you are a freshman. It was a relief and really motivating for me to get better and fight to get playing time on varsity.

What is your favorite sports movie and why?

My favorite sports movie is "The Blind Side" because this shows how much strength someone can have coming from such a bad life and how a sport can change that life. One can learn life lessons through sports at any age. This movie really inspires me to try my best and keep fighting because something good will soon come around.

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

One person I would really like to meet is Kerri Walsh Jennings. I would like to meet her because she is such a role model in life and in sand volleyball.



Claudia Wilson

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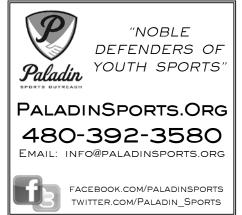
San Tan Valley Lions Club

Meetings Are Held:

- 2nd Monday, 7 p.m. Copper Basin YMCA 28300 Main, STV
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and they were delicious. You can
find the recipe on my blog at www.
thebubblyhostess.blogspot.com.

During one of our weekend visits this summer to our cabin, we had plans to make all kinds of different concoctions. However, we stopped after just one. One try and it was perfect. I had to give all of the credit to the margarita mix. We did come up with another recipe – but I'll keep that to myself for now, stay tuned for a second variety.

This can easily be multiplied out to make a pitcher's worth – which I probably should have done in the first place. I couldn't keep up with the rate of



THE BUBBLY HOSTESS

By Heather Sneed Special to the Ledger

consumption!

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.

SUBSTITUTES

Continued from page 4

of students at various ages and training is provided that gives substitute teachers the knowledge, skills and understanding to engage every child in learning while providing a safe classroom.

The first training was held July 14-16 and there were nine participants including current substitute teachers and those who were interested in pursuing emergency substitute teaching in the district. The district will continue to offer training for current substitute teachers and for those candidates that want to receive emergency substitute teacher certification.

To become an emergency substitute teacher, you must first contact Debbie Sant and schedule an appointment. At the appointment, the applicant will be interviewed and complete a short proficiency exam. The applicant will be asked to bring a copy of their resume plus three letters of recommendation. If the applicant is successful on the exam and interview, they will receive an invitation to participate in the district's three-day training program. This is mandatory for anyone wanting to become an emergency substitute teacher.

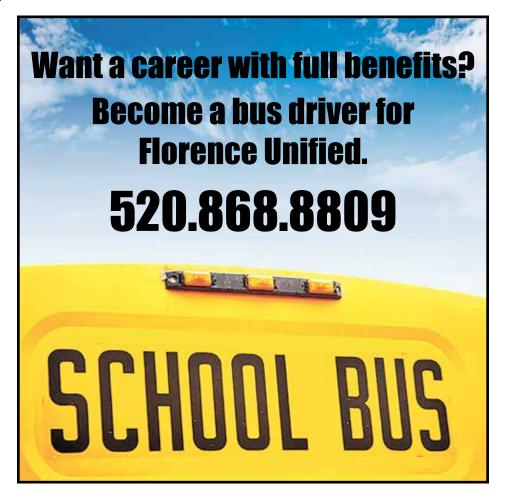
The next steps to be taken by the applicant are to submit an application to J.O. Combs Unified School District and provide an

IVP fingerprint clearance card through the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Once the fingerprint card is on file and references have been checked, the applicant accompanied by a staff member will spend one day in an elementary school and one day at the middle or high school. After this final step, the applicant will receive a signature from Dr. Rogers approving them as an emergency substitute teacher for J.O. Combs. The certification document is then filed with the Arizona Department of Education.

Due to the successful start of the program and the training in July, J.O. Combs will be offering two additional trainings in the upcoming year. Trainings are scheduled Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1, 2015 and Jan. 5, 6 and 7, 2016. Both sessions will be held from 3:30 – 8 p.m. It is mandatory for an individual seeking an emergency substitute teacher certificate to attend one of these three-day trainings. The district is encouraging all substitutes including those already certified to take part in the training to enhance their professional growth.

If you are interested in becoming an emergency substitute teacher or in taking the training, contact Debbie Sant, Professional Development Specialist, at (480) 987-5300 or email: dsant@jocombs.org.



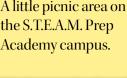


S.T.E.A.M. Prep Academy

Pre-School & Child Care



A little picnic area on





Another shaded playground area on the S.T.E.A.M. Prep Academy campus.



The Treehouse



OPEN HOUSE & RIBBON CUTTING

Saturday, September 19th, 9 a.m.-noon **Special Visitors: The Minions!!** will be on hand for photos and play!



Outdoor play area where children can learn enginnering by building things out of these foam pieces.



Each room is designed with shelving units like this. Each child is assigned their own cubby.

