

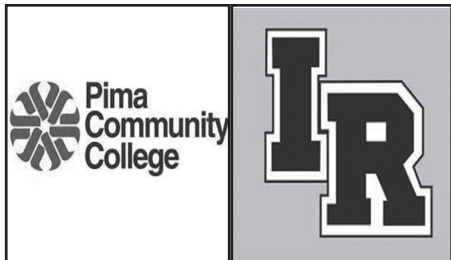
IRON QUILL

IRONWOOD RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL | ORO VALLEY, AZ

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DECEMBER 2019

Dual Enrollment for future students



Starting in the 2020-21 school year, Pima Community College and Ironwood Ridge will offer dual enrollment opportunities for students.

Naseem Rezaei
Editor / Reporter

There are many ways students can save money when before they begin college. Financial aid (FAFSA), scholarships, and testing well on AP tests are several ways to save money.

Dual Enrollment is another way. "Dual enrollment is a way for students to earn high school credit and college credit in one class," said Principal Matt Munger.

Ironwood Ridge and Pima

Community College have entered in a partnership that will allow students who complete select classes to receive both high school credit and college credit for the course.

This will be available beginning with the 2020-21 school year.

Juniors, seniors, and a limited number of sophomores can take these classes on Ironwood's campus and earn college credit through Pima.

While IRHS already offers some dual enrollment in CTE, this is a significant expansion.

Ironwood will also be the first to offer a nursing program.

"I so passionately believe in bridging the gap between high school and college," said English teacher Katie Anderson.

Currently, students can take classes at the college level and receive both college and high school credit for the course, but the burden of the cost of the class is on the student.

When classes are offered through the dual enrollment program, students will be able to take college classes for

free on Ironwood's campus. The classes will be taught by Ironwood teachers.

Currently, 12-credits (or four courses) costs approximately \$8,400 at ASU. All classes through Pima will be free of charge for all students.

Students studying under this program can potentially earn an associate's degree while simultaneously earning high school credit.

"I think it is a great idea, but I hope that it doesn't add to the overall pressure that students have," said Social Studies teacher Anne Fitzsimmons.

Credits earned with the program will be transferable to the state universities (U of A, ASU, NAU) and Grand Canyon University.

On Nov. 13, an open house allowed future and current Nighthawks to learn more information about AP classes, other programs, and dual enrollment.

Future juniors and seniors will have the option to choose classes through dual enrollment when applying for classes in January.

Thirty-four classes will be proposed for dual enrollment.



Photo by Mary Dickson

Members of the theater program performed *Curtains* Nov. 7-9. There were two performances on Nov. 9 that included a matinee with an alternate cast.

Curtains takes center stage

Abby Maurer
Reporter

Deceit, love triangles, plot twists, and a show that must go on. What could go wrong?

Filled with lights and laughter, *Curtains* really rocked the audience, as many left with a smile.

"This was my first time going to an Ironwood play after moving from Illinois, and I didn't really know what to expect. I have to say, I was thoroughly impressed," said senior Kaitlyn Stanbary.

Drama teacher and the play's director, Mary Dickson, described the play as a *Whodunnit?* musical.

The play is about the production of the play itself, and show business.

In the beginning of the play, the main character of their production is killed. No one minds, and everyone moves on until a detective arrives and cracks the case open to solve the crime.

While solving the murder mystery, more deaths follow and questions fill the minds of the "show people" who are the people in the production.

Homicide detective, Frank Cioffi, played by senior Jackson Huffman, arrives to figure out who the killer is, but in the process, helps fix the show and finds his passion for performing.

The show is loud and bright, and the costumes are covered in sparkles.

"Frank is a big nerd for theater; super hyper, but a great cop. He's a weirdo," said Huffman.

The cast and tech crew began working on the play the second week of school in August.

Working on the choreography and the process of it all was Dickson's favorite part of the play, such as the song *That Way* in the musical.

Curtains brought out the characters in the actors themselves and were chosen specifically for the actors and actresses who played them.

"No one could play a different role...they all just fit," said Huffman.

Senior Amanda Trester played the role of Carmen Bernstein, co-producer of the play and a bitter woman overall.

"I loved playing Carmen because she is completely different than I am. The way she moved and acted...she was just so snazzy," said Trester.

Curtains was the first musical production of this school year. *MacBeth* will be performed Jan. 30-31, and the Broadway Showcase will be Mar. 5-7.

Cell tower to be installed at school

Ryan Hollington
Reporter

The roof of the fine arts building is undergoing construction.

A Verizon cell tower is being installed on the roof. This will provide better service to those who have Verizon as their carrier.

Verizon has a contract with the Amphitheater School District to use this campus as a location.

CDO will likely get a Verizon cell tower in their football stadium as well.

Brent Spencer, assistant principal, said the date of completion is expected to be by the end of January. The tower will provide 4g and eventually 5g data to Verizon users.

"There will be a noticeable difference for sure," said Spencer.

Spencer also stated that the cell tower will be resourceful to students. This means doing research or playing Kahoot will be easier and faster.

The cell tower will not only improve service around campus, but it will also improve service for much of Northwest

Tucson. Because the fine arts building is the tallest location in this area, it was the logical location for the tower.

Cell towers have positive effects, but there is a possible health risk.

The long term risks are cancer and cardiovascular disease. This is a result of the radiofrequency waves produced by cell towers, which is a type of radiation. Because of this, some are wary of a cell tower.

One's health is at risk when being exposed to radiofrequency waves.

The public exposure to these waves is very minimal. Although the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has set regulations for the levels that are safe, some areas may have higher levels than others.

According to the American Cancer Society, there may be a small increase in health risks. It has been concluded that the waves produced by cell towers have low radiation compared to gamma rays, x-rays, and ultraviolet light, which means there is no guarantee of a decline in health.

The benefit of a cell tower is better

service. This can be useful in a variety of situations, including reception in the classroom for academic games and research.



Photo by Jordan Good

The highest point of the fine arts building, pictured above, is where the Verizon cell tower will be put in.

Athletes sign college letters of commitment



Photo by Bonny Lundy

LEFT TO RIGHT: Lux Butler, Mackenzie Kester, Kianna Swingle, Andre Vigil-German, Jarrod Johnson, Carmen Cordova, Maddie Judge, Shelby Thompson, Allie Skaggs, and Devyn Netz.

The National Letter of Intent Signing Day took place on Nov. 13 in the Auditorium. It was a morning of celebrating accomplishments of student-athletes who earned athletics scholarships.

The Softball signees included: Carmen Cordova (University of St. Mary's), Shelby Thompson (UC San Diego), Maddie Judge (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University), Devyn Netz (U of A), and Allie Skaggs (U of A).

"I'm super excited to be going to the U of A and to be able to play in front of my family," said Skaggs.

Mackenzie Kester signed to Humboldt State University for swimming, Lux Butler signed to Western Oregon University for Soccer, and Jarrod Johnson signed to Troy University for Golf.

"I set my goals very high," said Johnson. "I just know that if I reach my potential, I'll reach all the goals I've set for myself."

In Volleyball, Andrea Vigil-German signed to Pima Community College and Kianna Swingle signed to Chaminade University of Honolulu.

From the Editor



Naseem Rezaei
Editor in Chief

As we reach the end of the semester, we have much to be thankful for: our family, our friends, and our teachers.

Our teachers you ask?

Yes. Our teachers.

Teachers are the core of any school; they're there every day from dusk 'til dawn with one sole purpose: to teach us.

I've noticed that teachers get a bad rep.

Whether we feel like they don't update grades frequently enough, pay too close attention to our attendance, refuse to let us eat our Nico's breakfast burrito in class, or just refuse to let us sneak in a game of cup pong, or other imessage games, our teachers have our backs and are here for us.

While they are just *one* of your teachers, you are one of their over 100 students they see every day.

Most of them make us feel like we are their top priority.

How do they do this?

Simple: they are always available for us. How can we return this favor?

We should go into tutoring if we are struggling.

While it may seem difficult to learn in a classroom filled with sometimes noisy students, sometimes it's easier to learn when it's one to one.

If you have problems with your grades, talk with your teacher early in the semester to address it, rather than bombarding them during the week before finals asking them to fix it.

Don't get mad if they can't; grades take time to improve.

These people take time out of their own time to teach us and are willing to get to know us.

We should respect them which means cleaning up after ourselves and just putting forth our best in their class.

Teachers are the backbone of society.

When you see them, think of the long hours they pull to get all of your quizzes in, the countless hours of tutoring they do to make sure that you understand something, and the stressful beginning of the year as they tried to remember your name and the names of everyone else in their classes.

As we embark on finals, remember your teachers and all they put into us and our success, and the time they spend grading assignments.

Our teachers care.

Tis the season. Give your teachers a hug, say thank you, and give them a gift.

Happy Holidays, Nighthawks.

Girl's golf team takes first at state

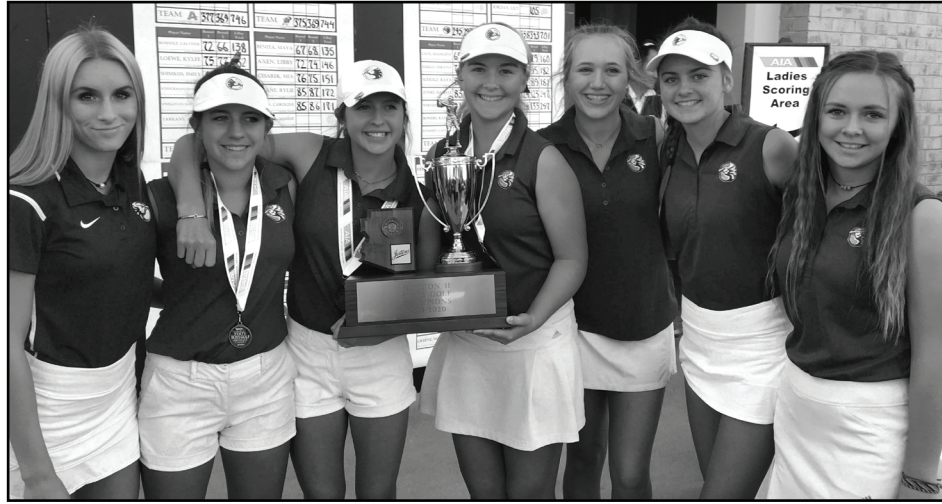


Photo by Andy Morales of All Sports Tucson

The girls' golf team won the 2019 State Championship.

Left to Right: Ashley Engler, Hannah Ports, Raina Ports, Zoe Newell, Celia Schrecker, Makenna Brown, and Kaylee Jewkes. Last year's girls' golf team placed third at State.

Ian van der Merwe
Reporter

Fall sports has come to an end.

The **girls' golf** team are the state champions. They earned a first place win for a season filled with hard work and dedication.

The **boys' golf** finished no. 11 in the state competition.

The **swim** team took home many awards. Carter Dooling, sophomore, placed second in the 100 Breaststroke and seventh in the 200IM.

Braden Hess, sophomore, placed eighth in the 500 Free and ninth in the 200 Free.

Isaac Baesler, sophomore, placed seventh in the 100 Fly. Anna Bai, senior, placed fourteenth in the 100 Breast and Makenzie Kester, senior, placed second in the 100 Breast.

The **girls' swim** team placed no. 13 in the 200 Medley Relay.

The **football** team lost in the first round of state to Casteel High School, 41-14, ending their season with a 5-6 overall record.

The **girls' volleyball** team lost in the first round of State to Notre Dame Prep, 3-1. They finished the season with a 26-13 record.

The **cross country** team competed at State but didn't place in the top twenty.

Police Beat

Jordan Good / Abby Maurer
Editor / Reporter

Nov. 14

A student was caught passing alcohol in class. When caught, the student threatened self-harm and was transferred for evaluation.

Nov. 18

A student was sick and transferred to the hospital.

Nov. 21

Two students were brought to the nurses office. One fell and hit her head and was transferred to the hospital. The other was arrested for consumption of alcohol. The student was cited and released to parents.

Nov. 21

A 911 call came from a classroom,

a response team arrived later at the school. No suspicion or criminal activity noted.

Nov. 22

A hit and run occurred in the student parking lot when the student's vehicle was backed in to by another vehicle. No suspects.

Nov. 22

A male student broke his arm during P.E. He was transported to the hospital.

Dec. 2

A car accident occurred during lunch in front of the school. A student ran into the back of another vehicle. The at-fault student was cited and released.

Dec. 6

A student was spoken to about poor driving habits in the Casas Church parking lot. No citations at this time.

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Policy Statement

Published six times a year, the student newspaper of Ironwood Ridge High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its contents.

Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board and not necessarily that of administration.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows.

Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name on request. The paper also reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity.

All the letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper.

Opinions in letters do not necessarily represent those of the staff, nor should an opinion expressed in a public forum, be constructed as the opinion or policy of the administration, unless so attributed.

All letters should be delivered to the Journalism mailbox in the administration building.

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Veterans honored at yearly assembly

Sarah Kolman
Beginning Staff

Veteran's Day is about honoring and remembering those who have served our country.

Ted Maxwell, keynote speaker at the Veteran's Day Assembly held by the Veteran's Heritage Project (VHP) club, stressed this importance during his speech.

The audience was encouraged to thank veterans and listen to the stories they were brave enough to share.

Veteran's Day was first called Armistice Day, but the name was changed by President Eisenhower in 1954.

It began as a celebration of the first anniversary of World War I ending.

In 1938, 19 years after the holiday originated, it became a national holiday.

Today people celebrate all veterans every year on Nov. 11, regardless of the day it falls on. Unlike Memorial Day, Veteran's Day is to celebrate and honor all veterans, regardless of whether they are alive or if they served in a war.

"Some returned with scars and injuries; some returned with invisible scars and fears," Maxwell told his audience.

Maxwell served for 34 years, logged over 4300 flying hours in an F-16, and is the current CEO and president of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council. He joined the Air Force Academy when he was 18-years-old.

Maxwell delivered an inspiring speech on Nov. 8. He said the reason people choose military paths is to belong to something, and he urged the audience to find "that" club or organization in their own lives.

The assembly, organized by VHP club sponsor Nicole Blanchard, also included recognition for veterans in the audience, announcements about faculty who have served, and the presentation of two awards.

The beginning featured an introduction about Veteran's Day's history as well as general



Maxwell

information about the assembly, presented by Alina Joseph, club president.

This was followed with a performance of the national anthem by Ironwood's a cappella choir.

Reverend James Briney, who has been in attendance and spoken at this assembly for the past nine years, recongized award winners.

Social Studies teacher Lori Gipson was awarded the Excellent Educator award. Senior Emily Pickard was presented the Student Integrity Essay award by former Oro Valley Mayor Satish Hiremath.

VHP is a nonprofit organization founded in Arizona in 2004 and was created to motivate and inspire students. Thirty schools have a VHP club.

Since the project's beginning, over 850 students have interviewed 2,085 veterans to publish their stories in an annual copy of *Since You Asked*, a book written by club members yearly. The book is also published each year in the Library of Congress.

The VHP mission is to honor veterans and connect students with those who have served our country. The students and veterans are united though their stories.

In recorded interviews, veterans share their stories with students who then write articles about each veteran for *Since You Asked*. There have been 15 published volumes of the book so far, and student authors have a 100% graduation rate.

VHP also awards scholarships to students involved. They have awarded \$113,000 in scholarship money, and the organization won the 2018 Citizen Honors Award and the Friend of Humanities award in 2017.

The after-school club includes children from eighth grade through college.

Maxwell said, "You [can] hate the war, but still honor the warrior."



Photo courtesy of @irhsbands on Instagram
On Nov. 10, the IRHS Vanguard placed third in the Grand Championship of their 2A Division at Mesa Community College. On Nov. 9, the band also placed fifth in the State Championship which took place at Mountain Pointe High School.

Vanguard works hard, earns honors, enjoys the ride

Naseem Rezaei
Editor in Chief

Honors well deserved.

Band and Percussion won third place in the Grand Championship of their 2A Division at Mesa Community College on Nov. 10.

The group also won the Percussion Caption, an award for the highest score in the percussion category.

"In band, it's not just a personal win; it's a group win," said sophomore SeirraMay Hill. "I couldn't imagine high school without band."

The requirements for competing in the Grand Championship was placing fifth or higher the day before at the State Championship which took place at Mountain Pointe High School on Nov. 9.

Last year, the school won fifth place at state Championships despite not having a Grand Championships.

"Winning third felt amazing. It was so great to see all of our hard work pay off," said junior and drum major Emiline Seegmiller.

Prepare for final exams

Aubrey Pettit
Editor / Reporter

Winter break is so close, you can almost taste it.

The only thing standing in between us and liberation is final exams. As we countdown the days until break, let's countdown ways to get through finals.

4 Ways to Prepare

It's crucial to pay attention in class and maintain focus since teachers are going over concepts that will be on the finals.

Habits of cramming are ultimately ineffective. The best way to study is to spread it out over multiple days.

You've probably heard this a million times, but eating a good breakfast the day of a test is so important.

Moving around can also be very helpful. Getting your blood flowing in any way can improve your focus and ability to do well.

If you're the type of person to study with music playing, make a playlist specifically for finals. If you prefer a quiet setting, just find a space that you can do your best in.

3 Negatives to Avoid

Important dates creep up on you, and you don't even realize it until it's too late; this is what causes ultimate cram sessions too.

Your mindset is also a huge factor in your success. Keeping negative thoughts at bay and focusing on the good things is crucial.

Those midnight study sessions have to come to an end. To do the best you can, you need the most sleep you can get.

2 Habits to Maintain during Finals

Do the problems you know first. Skip the hard ones, and come back to them later.

1 Thing to do Post Finals

Celebrate!



Photo courtesy of the Amphitheater School District
Chef Jean Gowen gets fifth grade students excited about culinary arts and all her program has to offer.

Future Nighthawks visit campus

Abby Maurer
Reporter

Fifth Graders from Wilson, Coronado, and other surrounding schools visited the Ironwood campus on Oct. 25 to get a taste of what high school has to offer.

Members of StuGo gave a tour of the campus and its various programs to the elementary students.

At the tour's conclusion, the future Nighthawks had the opportunity to try on a cap and gown. Their picture was taken so they could see themselves as a high school graduate.

Ironwood is projected to lose approximately 100 students because of open enrollment.

"Even though we would love to have the students at our school, we want them to be happy and do what's best for them," said Matt Munger, principal.

This was an opportunity for the fifth graders to become acquainted with the campus, its programs, and meet current and future students.

Knowing more people is one way to make a big a big environment feel small.

Students spent day cleaning campus



Photo courtesy Mackenzie Kester
Students and volunteers gathered outside of the campus garden after spending the morning beautifying the campus.

Aubrey Pettitt
Editor / Reporter

For the second year in a row, Ironwood Ridge held a community-wide campus clean up day.

Volunteers gathered together on Nov. 23, from 8 a.m.-noon, with the goals of cleaning up the campus.

"We got through all of our projects that we were hoping to, and it seemed really successful. We had more than 100 students and community members show up to help," said Mackenzie Kester, senior.

Kester is the project manager and leader.

Volunteers planted native plants and finished painting planters to make the campus more inviting.

They also took a few planters out and put in a gazebo and shed.

They moved a table and chair into the garden that *JTED Construction* made for specifically for garden use.

The greenhouse was made into an educational structure.

Renovations to the pond were also part of the school's clean up effort.

Several clubs collaborated in their efforts for this day.

Ironwood's *Key Club* worked with *Ben's Bells* to paint kindness coins, and *Ironwood Cares for Kids* worked with *Beads of Courage* to package beads for kids in hospitals.

The *Lift You Up Club* wrote appreciative notes to staff members at IRHS, and the cheerleaders helped pick up trash in front of the school.

"It was really great," said Kester.



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Holiday Celebrations

Aubrey Pettitt
Editor / Reporter

Christmas

As one of the most widely-known holidays, Christmas is celebrated in many different ways all over the world. When we think of Christmas, we think of visits from Santa Claus, dreamy landscapes covered in snow and big, green trees with a shiny star on top. However, in Australia, Christmas takes place during their summer, where it's popular to go camping or to the beach over their holiday.

Hanukkah

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabean Revolt. Even though there was only enough untainted oil to keep the menorah's candles burning for a single day, the flames continued to burn for eight nights, which they considered to be a miracle. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah celebrations revolve around the menorah. Typically, blessings are recited and traditional Hanukkah foods, such as latkes or sufganiyot, are fried in oil to enjoy. Other Hanukkah customs include playing with dreidels and exchanging gifts.



Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration of life from Dec. 26 - Jan. 1. Dr. Maulana Karenga introduced the festival in 1966 to the United States as a ritual to welcome the first harvests to the home.



People honor their ancestry by exchanging presents and enjoying a large feast with loved ones. Those celebrating will often decorate their houses with fruits, a black, red and green flag, and a "Kinara" which is a candle holder that holds seven candles.

Boxing Day

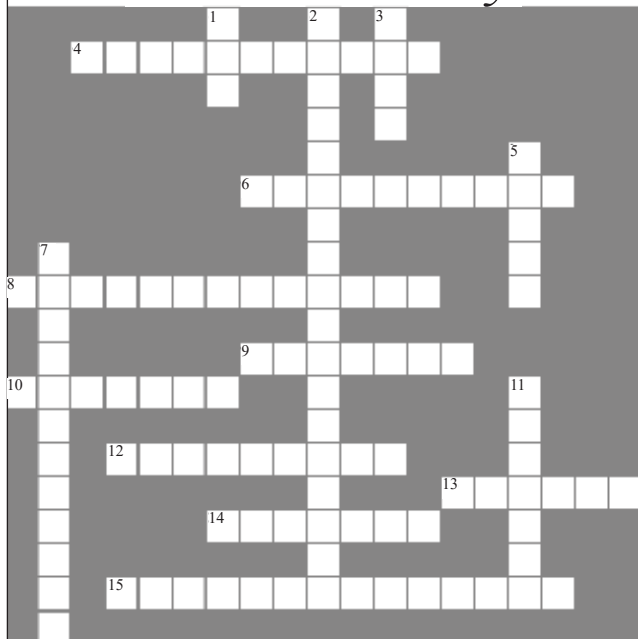
This holiday originated in the United Kingdom during the Middle Ages, "Boxing Day" takes place on Dec. 26, and was traditionally a day off for servants.

It was the day when they received a 'Christmas Box' from the master. The servants would also go home on Boxing Day to give 'Christmas Boxes' to their families. In England, soccer matches and horse races often take place on Boxing Day. The Irish refer to the holiday as St. Stephen's Day.

Omisoka

Omisoka, New Year's Eve, is considered an important day in Japanese tradition. To prepare, people purify their homes by cleaning from top to bottom. This is called "osoji." They also have a feast with friends and family. At midnight, temples strike their bells 108 times, once for each earthly desire believed to cause suffering.

Here Come the Holidays



Created by Chloe Nelson, Reporter

Word Bank

Baby Its Cold Outside, Boughs of Holly, Chinese New Year, Dreidel, Grandma, Jesus, Kwanzaa, Milk, Mistletoe, Nutcracker, Polar Express, Rudolph, Star of David, Tinsel, You

Across

- 4. The name of the Star in the Jewish Religion (3 Words) 6. The name of the Christmas-themed ballet 8. You Deck the Halls with this (3 Words) 9. The bullied reindeer who pulls the sleigh 10. Who got run over by a reindeer? 12. "Meet me under the ____" 13. Decoration originally made from real silver 14. A spinning top with four sides; a game played on Hanukkah. 15. Holiday celebrated on January 25 (3 Words)

Down

- 1. "All I Want for Christmas is ____" 2. The Christmas awkward song between a male and a female (4 Words) 3. A beverage left out for Santa on Christmas Eve 5. Who was born on Christmas Day? 7. A Christmas movie watched in elementary schools this time of year (2 Words) 11. Holiday created by Maulana Karenga

For puzzle answers, look on pg. 5 below "Dear Iris"

Top gifts for any budget this season

Adly Marshall
Reporter

VIDEO GAMES

Of course most teens have an obsession with games and could always need some new ones. (Sold for around \$49.00 depending on game system)

GOVEE DREAMCOLOR LED STRIP LIGHTS
These lights are trendy and compatible with any smartphone. (Sold for \$49.99)

WILDFLOWER PHONE CASE
Wildflower offers cute and aesthetic cases for iPhone users. Not only do they look good, but they also provide protection. (Sold for \$35)

JBL WATERPROOF SPEAKER
A waterproof speaker allows people to listen to music in the shower, by the pool, or in their rooms. (Sold for \$39.95)

PURA VIDA BRACELETS

Pura Vida donates a big percentage of their income from their adorable jewelry to different charities.

BRANDY MELVILLE CLOTHES
Brandy Melville might be one of the most popular clothing brands of 2019. (Shirts start at \$18)

MARIO BADESCU
Mario Badescu is a great skincare brand, and many of their products are sold at an affordable price. (Prices start at \$7.00)

LUSH COSMETICS
Bath bombs, soaps, lotions, and more. LUSH has some of the most high quality products you can buy, and it fits the aesthetic of most teenagers. (Prices start at \$8.95)

Dear Iris: Family advice needed ASAP

Dear Iris,

With the holidays right around the corner, I couldn't feel further away from my family.

I feel like I can't talk to them about anything anymore, and nothing I do seems to be enough.

We're going to be stuck together for nearly the entire break, and honestly, I'm dreading it.

I don't want to feel awkward for the entire two week break. I'm looking forward to having a break from school because I exhausted, and I don't want to dread my vacation. Help!

Sincerely,
Isolated and Unhappy

Dear Isolated and Unhappy,

High School is hard, and family isn't an exception. While it may seem unfavorable to be stuck with your family for the next few weeks, the upcoming break is the perfect opportunity to rekindle the relationship you want with them.

Use this time to be open and honest with them as to how you feel. You can't expect to get anywhere without opening up and putting forth effort. Even if it doesn't happen right away, it will get better. Everything takes time.

Sincerely,
Iris

Humor Me: Holiday breaking, entering

Naseem Rezaei
Editor / Reporter

Ahh, Christmas time. Time to wrap presents, wear fuzzy slippers and sweaters, drink hot cocoa, and... have a guy break into your house to give to you gifts? I'm sorry, WHAT?

Oh, it's Santa? Then it's okay. But haven't you ever thought it really suspicious that an old guy breaks into your house if he can't stuff himself down the chimney? You know what's weird? Without sending a letter to him, he knows what you want.

But if you were naughty during the year, he gives you coal. Why?

To make things even more curious, he 'elves' who work for him day and night throughout the year to make presents for kids. How did this agreement come about? Does he give them Christmas off? Can

they quit their job? Santa is a cruel man.

Think about poor Mrs. Claus. She's been devoted to this guy for God-knows-how-long, but he always leaves her on Christmas. Why? Oh yeah...to break into little kids' houses and give them presents. Or coal. What's the deal?

Since we're asking the questions, what about the Easter Bunny? Why isn't anyone creeped out by him? He is a human-sized bunny that gives out chocolate eggs to children.

Don't even get me started on the tooth fairy. She is one creepy person. This little fairy has one big obsession with teeth and is willing to swap cash for teeth. What does she do with the teeth that she collects? Nevermind. I don't actually want to know.

Everyone is so obsessed with the idea of giving gifts that we forget the one present that we all truly need: a home security system.

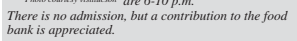


Adly Marshall
Reporter

Phoenix Zoo Lights
Featuring a three-story-high Christmas tree, 4D theater, lakeside music-in-motion shows, photos with Santa, a nightly snowfall, and festive food, the Phoenix Zoo is the place to be. \$17.95-23.95 Nov-Jan. 19; Nightly 5:30-10:30 p.m.



Winterhaven Festival of Lights
The Winterhaven neighborhood is lit up with elaborate holiday displays annually. Walk through Dec. 28; the drive through night is Dec. 29; hours are 6-10 p.m. There is no admission, but a contribution to the food bank is appreciated.



4th Avenue Street Fair
More than 300 vendors set up shop to sell unique items. Enjoy music and food while browsing. No admission fee; the fair Dec. 13-15, 10 a.m.-dusk.

Christmas Concert at San Xavier
A one-of-a-kind Christmas concert featuring the city's best local choral groups performing at the historic Tucson mission. Ticket prices start at \$100; shows run now through Dec. 12; show-times vary; 1950 W. San Xavier Rd, Tucson, Ariz.



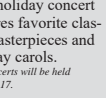
Holiday Nights at Tohono Chul
Evenings features live music, holiday treats, and shopping at the gift shop and art gallery. Non-member tickets \$16; runs Dec. 13-14, 20-21 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Wee Winter Wonderland at Mini Time Machine Museum
Miniatures from the permanent collection are decorated to represent holidays around the world and throughout time. Located at the museum; cost is part of the regular admission; currently running through Jan. 5.



A Southwest Nutcracker
The original Nutcracker story but with a desert twist on the traditional ballet, featuring the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. Showtimes are Dec. 14-15, at the Tucson Convention Center Music Hall. Ticket prices start at \$23.

Magic of Christmas - Tucson Symphony Orchestra Holiday Special
This holiday concert features favorite classic masterpieces and holiday carols. The concerts will be held Dec. 16-17.



2019 Recap: The Year in Pictures

Chloe Nelson
Reporter



SCHOOL EARNS "B"
In February, Ironwood earned a "B" after a state appeal was granted. This was an important appeal because the higher grade could lead to an increase in funding and scholarships. It would also look better for students on college entrance opportunities.



JUULING EPIDEMIC
Vaping became the hot and dangerous trend for many teenagers this year, and restrooms were the popular place to vape. The consequences for getting caught was a five-day suspension. Illness and death related to vaping were in the news, and new laws are being put in place.



YELLOW BOAT
The play *Yellow Boat* hit the stage last March. The characters and ensemble created a beautiful story through colors and a dramatic story line. The story was about Benjamin, a child who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. The play was a touching look into his life.



SOFTBALL WINS
On May 13, the softball team beat Centennial High School at Arizona State University, 5-2. This win gave the softball team its fifth state title. The team ended the season through hard and cooperative teamwork. With the group's determination they took home another win.



INDOOR PERCUSSION
Last May, the Indoor Percussion and Drumline took second place at State. The Drumline performance expressed modern art and earned the impressive score of 84.15. They used the resources given to them to create a story and fill the room with emotion.



PROJECT GRAD
In September, it was reported that the last high school experience for seniors, known as Project Grad, was in jeopardy due to a serious lack of volunteers. This year seems to be safe for the much anticipated event, but volunteers are needed for it to continue on as a tradition.



MERGE
Ironwood Ridge and CDO high school seniors and friends created the band "Merge." The band gets its name from the different styles of music that the members enjoy. The band frequently plays gigs around town with audiences of up to 400 people.

Ready for the season under direction of new coach



Photo by Margie Cross

The varsity basketball team (Left-Right): Makayla Holthaus, senior; Keelie George, junior; Madeline Berkey, freshman; Madison Morey, senior; Alicia Beikes, senior; Amy Senkerik, freshman; Kyla Ruiz, senior; Madeline Cesar, sophomore; Leah Anderson, senior; Kayte Heese, senior; and Molly Stephens, junior.

Abby Maurer
Reporter

This season of basketball is starting with a new varsity coach, Daron Cross.

Cross has been coaching basketball

for 29 years, since 1990.

Cross is excited to lead the varsity basketball girls this season and has hopes of competing at regionals and state tournaments in the future.

"We have a great opportunity to

compete for regional champions and play at state," said Cross.

The players are excited for the new coach.

"Having Coach Cross step in as our new coach has created a totally different atmosphere in the program. I'm so glad I get to spend my senior year being coached by him," said senior Makayla Holthaus.

Holthaus was named Player of the Game during the Dec. 6 game against Rincon. The team lost the game with a score of 60-63.

Leah Anderson, senior, was named Girls Basketball Player of the Game the previous day at the CDO game.

The Nighthawks won that game on Dec. 5 with a score of 70-49.

The team also won their game against Casa Grande, 51-33, but then lost against Cibola, 41-42.

"I can't wait to have a good season, and I feel like we're going to be solid," said junior Keelie George.

Kimberlin takes the lead for boys' basketball team

Jordan Good
Editor / Reporter

If you build it, they will come. That is the motto of the new Varsity Basketball Coach Jon Kimberlin.



Kimberlin

Kimberlin joined the Nighthawk family this season in hopes of restoring pride to both the school and the program as a whole with an uptempo and high energy style of play.

He has over 20 years of coaching experience on both a high school and international level.

Kimberlin has coached at CDO (2001-12), Pima College (2013-14), and most recently, spent four seasons as the assistant director of coaching and player development of the UBA of India (2014-18).

"The fact that I can look someone in the eyes and say I have personally coached and trained the best Indian Basketball players in the world is really amazing to me," said Kimberlin.

Growing up playing basketball, Kimberlin got into the coaching aspect of the game when his daughters decided to play.

"I've always loved the game of basketball," said Kimberlin.

His goals for the season are ambitious, as he plans on returning the basketball program to the glory days.

Kimberlin grew up in Southern California, in Camarillo. He coaches alongside his son-in-law, Sean Partridge, and daughter, Weslyn Partridge, who manages the team's social media accounts with the help of the booster club.

Boys' basketball team welcomes new coach, has strong start

Jordan Good
Editor / Reporter

The boy's varsity basketball team began the season strong with a new leader.

Jon Kimberlin, internationally recognized figure in the basketball community, is the new varsity coach this season.

"This season is going to be a whole lot of fun," said Kimberlin.

The team's goals are to improve everyday and promote school support for the team as much as possible.

"This season, our goal is to make playoffs which is something we haven't done in over a decade. We

have the talent to make the playoffs this year, which is all you can ask for," said Ben Felix, senior.

The season began with a scrimmage at Walden Grove High School.

The team then played the Salpointe Tip Off Classic Nov. 25-27 where they defeated Sahuarita, 68-37, and Desert View, 58-55, but lost to Salpointe, 75-62.

The Nighthawks won third place at the Salpointe Tip-Off Classic, and senior Ryan Drescher, forward, was named the All-Tournament Player.

"Basketball this year is going great," said forward Ryan Drescher, senior.

"We are constantly work-

ing hard under Coach Kimberlin, and I can't wait to see where he will take us this season."

On Dec. 5, Ironwood took home yet another win of the season, this time at CDO, 67-47.

Continuing their streak, the team defeated Rincon at an away game, 64-53.

Kimberlin and his daughter, Weslyn Partridge, along with her husband and assistant coach, Sean Partridge are collectively working toward the progression and success of both the team and program as a whole.

"We want to take it to a whole other level," said Kimberlin.



Photos by Weslyn Partridge

TOP (Left to Right) Ben Felix and James Pruitt (seniors) and Trevin Vanoni (junior) are friends on and off the court.

BOTTOM: The varsity team poses with their coaches and Kimberlin's grandchildren.

Wrestlers look forward to strong season with skilled athletes

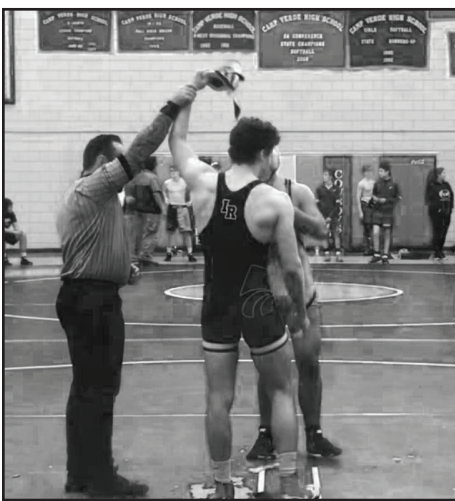


Photo courtesy Kiki Garcia

Senior Avery Parker takes first place at the Nate Johnson Memorial Tournament. This tournament was held at Red Mountain High School on Sunday, Dec. 8.

Ryan Hollington
Reporter

The wrestling team is set to begin their season.

Joe Kline is entering his fourth season as the varsity coach and is preparing his players for this season.

Kline said his team is working very hard because hard work is important and will improve the skills of each player.

"The team is looking good, tough, and competitive," said Kline.

Kline enjoys coaching the team and working with the athletes.

Building relationships with the athletes is another part of coaching that he is fond of.

"I like watching them grow as athletes as well as men," said Kline.



Photo courtesy Kiki Garcia

Left to Right: Coach Joe Kline, Jose Beltran, Avery Parker, Tyler Rokop, and Luca Moili, seniors, hold the first place trophy they earned at the Nate Johnson Memorial Tournament.

Jose Beltran and Tyler Rokop, both seniors, took second place in state competition last year in their weight divisions. They hope to improve their final results this year.

"I want to enjoy my last year with my teammates and have fun with it," said Beltran.

Beltran has been wrestling for 11 years. He hopes to become an Olympic athlete and travel the world.

Brent Ward and Ethan DeSilva are juniors and have been on the team for three years. Ward has seven total years of experience and DeSilva has six years.

They are both hoping for the team to place first in state as well as individually.

DeSilva said that he likes to compete and to go to tournaments with



Photo courtesy Kiki Garcia

Santana Gomez, senior, squares off with his opponent. He is looking to pin him so he can claim victory. Gomez is an experienced wrestler who has wrestled all four years at IRHS.

teammates.

The tournaments are where the athletes will face much of their opponents during the season.

Their first tournament will be the Flowing Wells Invitational on Jan. 17.

They will also attend the Officer Brad Jones Pack Invitational on Jan. 24.

Both Mountain View and Sunnyside have strong competition for the Nighthawks.

Kline says he has many good memories coaching, among them was a win against Mountain View.

"We beat Mountain View at home and that was an upset," said Kline.

With the season just beginning, the wrestlers are looking to continually improve both individually as athletes and as a team overall.

Girls basketball team excited for new season, coach

Abby Maurer
Reporter



Cross

Daron Cross is the new varsity coach for the girls basketball program.

He started coaching in 1990 and has been coaching for 29 years.

Cross was born in Oklahoma and moved to Tucson for the air force in 1986.

He has been coaching boys basketball for years and is excited to take a break and coach girls again.

"It will be great to coach girls after coaching boys for so long," said Cross.

He has coached at Cienega, Flowing Wells, and Tucson High. When he heard Ironwood was in need of a coach, he was excited to apply.

"I am excited to be a part of this program, and [I am] excited about how good the program really is," said Cross, who admits another reason he wanted to coach at Ironwood is because his wife Margie was already an assistant coach for the team.

Cross is excited for the girls to compete, and playing at state is one of his goals this season. He is also excited to see how the girls play together on the court.

Before coaching basketball, Cross coached girl's middle school track for 10 years, from 1990 to 2000, at Booth Fickett Junior High School.

He has a 17-year-old son and has been married for a little over two years.

Cross considers his involvement in the program a "great opportunity."

Boys take to the field with hopes of a winning season

Chloe Nelson
Reporter

This year's soccer season started with Salpointe's Brandon Bean Invitational.

In the first game, the boys beat Vista Grande 4-0.

"We beat Vista Grande comfortably," said Senior Captain Mason Whitaker.

The boys went on to lose to Sahuaro and Tucson High but look forward to playing competitively this season.

"We have a new formation, and we are trying to figure it out," said senior Xander Rouille, striker.

The regular season started Dec. 10 when the Nighthawks played Tucson High.

The team is working more cooperatively as a group.

"We've learned to adapt to who we have on the team this year," said Zander Ryan, junior captain.

The start of a new season is always difficult, but the team is improving steadily.

"We lost some significant pieces of the team and are working around it," said Varsity Coach Erik Wolf.



Mason Whitaker
Senior
Striker

My Mantra

The inability to achieve perfection is no excuse to not strive for it.

Soccer Goals

To make playoffs honestly.

Favorite Memory

Beating Cholla during sophomore year.

Started Playing Soccer

I started playing when I was six-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play for school and FC Tucson.



Zach Knipe
Senior
Striker

My Mantra

Work hard for what you want and what you believe in.

Soccer Goals

To make playoffs.

Favorite Memory

Hanging with the boys, staying at a hotel with the team, and doing well in a tournament.

Started Playing Soccer

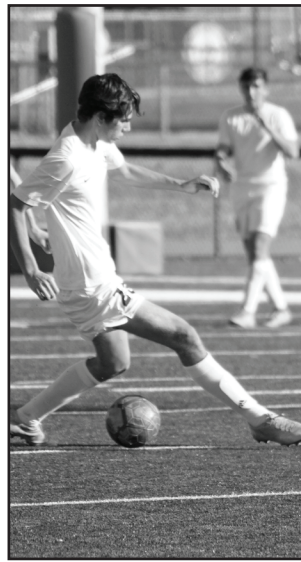
I started playing five years ago.

Soccer Teams

I just play for Ironwood.

Learned from Soccer

A good lesson I've learned is that communication is very important.



Xander Rouille
Senior
Striker

My Mantra

You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take.

Soccer Goals

To not only grow as a player, but also as a person.

Favorite Memory

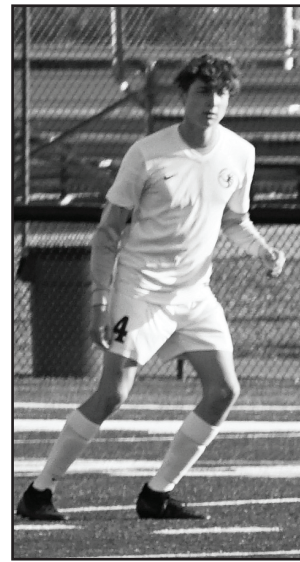
The bus rides to and from the games with all my friends.

Started Playing Soccer

At age four.

Learned from Soccer

I've learned how to work with teammates on a collaborative effort to reach a common goal, gained integrity, and learned what hard work and determination really means.



Josh Rulney
Senior
Left Wing

My Mantra

Team work makes the dream work.

Soccer Goals

To score a lot more goals.

Favorite Memory

Scoring the game winner at Poston Butte.

Started Playing Soccer

When I was six-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play for Ironwood and FC Tucson.



Tony Valenzuela
Senior
Mid-Field

My Mantra

Perfection comes through failure.

Soccer Goals

To play international soccer.

Favorite memory

Playing soccer.

Started Playing Soccer

I started playing soccer when I was six-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play for school and for club.

Girls soccer team focuses on improving, going to State

Chloe Nelson
Reporter

The girl's soccer team takes a strong start to the season despite losing 12 seniors from last year, including six starters.

Varsity Coach Sean Watkins is pleased with how his players are improving this year.

"Senior Mia Welch has improved dramatically from last year and could quite possibly lead us in goals," said Watkins.

He is looking forward to competition this season.

"We are going to keep improving throughout the year and make a deep run into the state tournament," said Watkins.

Watkins said this year's goalie, junior Kelli Suckell, continues to be one of the top goal keepers in the state.

He also said the players who have moved up to varsity from last year's JV team have improved.

The only team this season is a varsity team which has really come together in a short amount of time.



Shana Brown
Senior
Center Back

My Mantra

Team work makes the dream work.

Soccer Goals

To always work my hardest and put it all out on the field.

Favorite Memory

Trips to QT with Mia and Allie after practices.

Started Playing Soccer

I started playing when I was three or four-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play for school and FC Tucson OV.



Mia Welch
Senior
Forward

My Mantra

You're here for a good time, not a long time.

Soccer Goals

Break the three-year curse at semifinals.

Favorite Memory

Our team sleepovers.

Started Playing Soccer

I started playing 14 years ago, when I was three-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play for school and for FC Tucson OV.



Katie Jeffers
Senior
Forward

My Mantra

Hard work pays off.

Soccer Goals

To play college soccer.

Favorite Memory

Winning Brandon Bean [tournament] last year.

Started Playing Soccer

I started playing when I was four-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play for Ironwood and for FC Tucson.



Erin Dickey
Senior
Wing Back/Outside Defender

My Mantra

Fake it 'til you make it.

Soccer Goals

My biggest goal would be to make it to the next level and play in college.

Favorite Memory

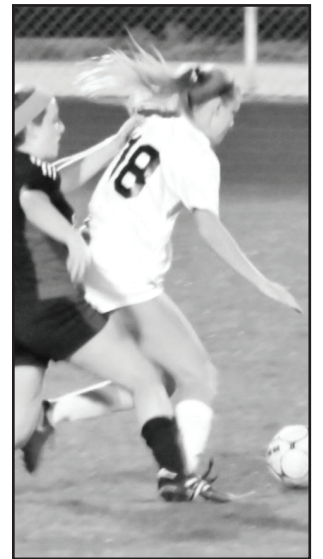
When my team and I pulled an all-nighter before the marathon.

Started Playing Soccer

I started playing when I was six-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play on RSL Club and Ironwood.



Lux Butler
Senior
Outside Defender

My Mantra

You're stronger than you know.

Soccer Goals

I want to continue playing as long as I can.

Favorite Memory

My favorite memory is all the tournaments with my best friends.

Started Playing Soccer

I started playing when I was four-years-old.

Soccer Teams

I play for club with Real Salt Lake (RSL)

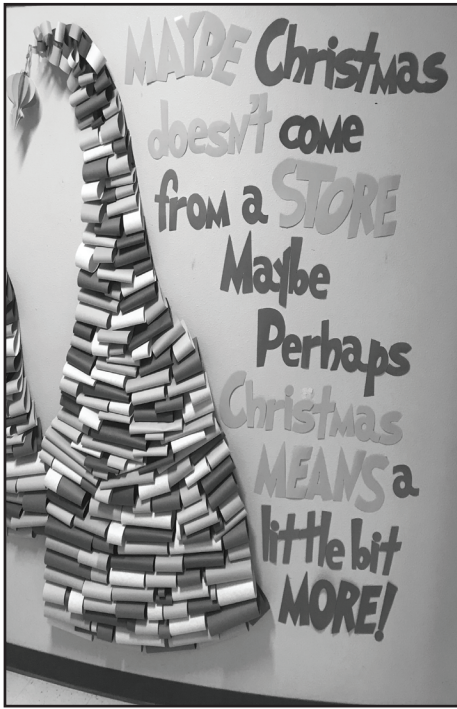


Photo by Ian van der Merwe

LEFT: The library staff constructed a Christmas tree to decorate a wall of the library, and next to it is a quote from *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. RIGHT: Reading electronic books from the library's Overdrive program is a great way to enjoy an afternoon by a cozy fire.

Library undergoes facelift

Ian van der Merwe
Reporter

The library is changing, and for the better.

Librarian Tami Gordon and the library staff have been working on many different ways to make the school's library feel more welcoming, inviting, and interactive for students.

"When I noticed that kids were not coming into the library, I wanted to find a way to make it have more of a home feel and have students come in," said Starr Trent, Library Clerk.

The staff began the renovation of the library at the beginning of the school year and continued to do so mostly all out of pocket, with few supplies provided by the school.

The library staff has received lots of positive feedback from both students and teachers about the attractive new displays.

"Everyone loves it because it feels homey and inviting," said Trent. "Everyone says no other library looks like this. It's really special."

Additional plans for this upcoming Christmas season include a Christmas selfie station, Christmas book tree, and the continuation of the decorating of the walls.

"I love all the changes the library has done to make the library more of a relaxing environment, said Rhett Pellman, sophomore.

Additionally, many new books will be hitting the shelves this Christmas season.

Students give back to the community

Ian van der Merwe
Reporter

Students and teachers are coming together to organize multiple drives this holiday season.

From toy drives to coloring book drives, Ironwood Ridge is a giving school that wants to make a change in the community this holiday season.

The Ironwood Ridge Cares for Kids club is collecting toys, stocking stuffers, and movies to be donated to the children at Diamond's Children's Hospital.

They will collect new items through Dec. 18 under the direction of sponsor Katie Anderson, English teacher.

Donations can be dropped off in any English classroom or in Anderson's room, A255.

"Nothing in the world makes

me more excited than giving these kids presents for the holidays," said Anderson.

Students interested in this club can stop by A255 during Wednesday conference periods for club meetings.

Chemistry teacher Danita Heller is hosting a drive with all of her chemistry classes that ends Dec. 13. Heller is collecting new coloring books and crayons for the students at Keeling Elementary K-5 School in the Amphi District.

Her goal is to collect 200 coloring books and 200 boxes of crayons.

"Any time you can help someone of any kind, there is a benefit for everyone involved," said Heller.

"I remember when I went to the store. I felt happy knowing the coloring books and crayons would go somewhere where it was needed," said senior Gabbie Figueroa.

Heller also collects peanut butter in this spring. For further information, stop by A233.

When Key Club members and their sponsor Marty Wenzel, special education teacher, heard about kids not being able to afford books at an elementary school in southern Arizona, they decided to team up with the Be Kind Club at CDO and do a book drive.

"I was really happy to be able to give these kids books," said Wenzel.

From Oct. 15-Nov. 15, Key Club received 300 donated books.

With the donated books, members compiled book bags with books and bookmarks to give to children.

While StuGo did not have a formal food drive this year, they coordinated a blood drive that ran Nov. 13-14.



Photo by Marty Wenzel

Students in Key Club make signs to advertise the book drive. Ironwood Ridge and CDO students collaborated and organized the drive to benefit children in the community.

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