



## Roping brothers score big

Page 11



A community publication of Copperarea.com



# Hambly NJHS hosts food drive



## The Copper Basin News

USPS 132-320

*Publisher*..... James Carnes  
*General Manager*..... Michael Carnes  
*Managing Editor*..... Jennifer Carnes  
*Copy Editor*..... Arletta Sloan  
*Reporter*..... Mila Besich  
*Reporter*..... Nathaniel A. Lopez  
*Reporter/Photographer*..... Lauren Carnes

Email:

jenniferc@MinerSunBasin.com  
 cbnsun@MinerSunBasin.com  
 michaelc@MinerSunBasin.com

[www.copperarea.com](http://www.copperarea.com)

Find us at [Facebook.com/CopperArea](https://www.facebook.com/CopperArea)

Follow us at [twitter.com/CopperAreaCom](https://twitter.com/CopperAreaCom)

Published each Wednesday at 46 Hayden Avenue, Hayden, Arizona by Copper Area News Publishers. Business office is located at 366 Alden Rd., P.O. Box 579, Kearny, AZ 85137. Subscription rate in advance: \$35.50 per year or \$31.50 for 6 months in Gila or Pinal Counties; \$40.50 per year or \$36.50 for 6 months elsewhere in the U.S. Change of address should be sent to the publishers at P.O. Box 579, Kearny, AZ 85137.

**Member:** Arizona Newspaper Association

Second class postage is paid at Hayden, Arizona. Postmaster: Address changes to Copper Basin News, P.O. Box 579, Kearny, AZ 85137.

**Telephone (520) 363-5554 • Fax (520) 363-9663**

*"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

**Leonor Hambly K-8 NJHS held a food drive the first two week of December. Students collected 264 cans of food and donated to Town of Hayden Senior Citizens for distribution. Thank you to all who participated!**

## Santa visits Hayden Public Library



**Just before Christmas, Santa dropped by for a visit and was greeted by two youngsters, Love Bejarano, who is three years old, and Stevie Madrid, who is four. Santa rode in on a Hayden Fire Department truck.**

## COPPER CORRIDOR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Superior Farmer's Market

Superior Farm-to-Fantastic Farmer's Market will be open October through May at the Food Court on Main St. from about 10 a.m. to about 1 p.m. on Saturdays providing fresh produce, baked goods, desert items, art and gift items. Updates and more info are on our Facebook page.

## JANUARY

### Hayden Library Events

Hayden Library's Schedule for January includes Storytime from 11 a.m. - noon on all Mondays except the 20th when the library is closed; Age Friendly Movement from 4 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on every Tuesday and Wednesday, except on the 1st when the library is closed and a few special events. On Tuesday, Jan 28 Cooking Class will be from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Sample a healthy meal that is easy to make! On Thursdays, Jan 9 and 16 Glass Catchers will be held from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Join in and get crafty! On Fridays, Jan 10 and 24 STEAM Forensic for Teens will be held from 11 a.m. - noon. Investigate and solve the crime! This series for Teens 13+, will be broken up into 4 sessions total. Registration is required, including a parent's signature. The class will be limited to 10 students. Parents can call for more details. Also on Friday Jan. 10 the Teen Advisory Board Meeting will be held from noon- 2 p.m. and on the 24, the Lego Build Day will be held from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Call the Hayden Public Library at 928-200-2997 ASAP to register for Forensic for Teens or for more information. The library is located at 219 W. Fifth Ave., Hayden.

### 3 Superior Senior Center's First Friday Social

Superior Senior First Friday Special will be held from 10 a.m. - noon on Jan. 3 for DIY, laughs, lunch and gift bag-having fun. A \$10 donation is appreciated. Any questions or comments, please contact Connie at 602-703-8858.



### 11 Pinal County to Host Pet Vaccine Clinic

Pinal County Animal Care and Control will host a pet vaccine clinic in Kearny on Jan. 11, 2025, 8-10 a.m. at the Pioneer Park Ramada on Emory Rd.



# Aravaipa brothers score big in World Series of Team Roping

By Nichole M. Aranda  
Copper Area News

Brothers Steven and John Henry Gaona, a Fast Back Ropes Roping Team, recently

scored second place in the #13.5 Finale in the Ariat World Series of Team Roping, at South Point Arena in Las Vegas.

The brothers began competing in rodeo events as kids. Steven was the header of

the team. John was the Heeler.

Steven says this event has been the highlight of his career.

"It's pretty special when you get to work with your brother," he said.

Steven went on to state that the next day he won fifth place in the #12.5 competition as well, as part of another team.

Steven is known for winning second place in the Collegiate Nationals in 2016. John Henry was named Resistol Rookie

of the Year in 2021.

The team began roping together in the past few years. Usually, John is the header and Steven is the heeler, but for this event they decided to switch ends, which paid off. They went 29.62 on four heads (steer) to win just over \$160,000.

Steven states they are using a portion of their winnings to purchase new horses and entry fees for other events. Their next planned event is the Tucson Rodeo in February 2025.



Steven and John Henry Gaona at the Ariat World Series of Team Roping.



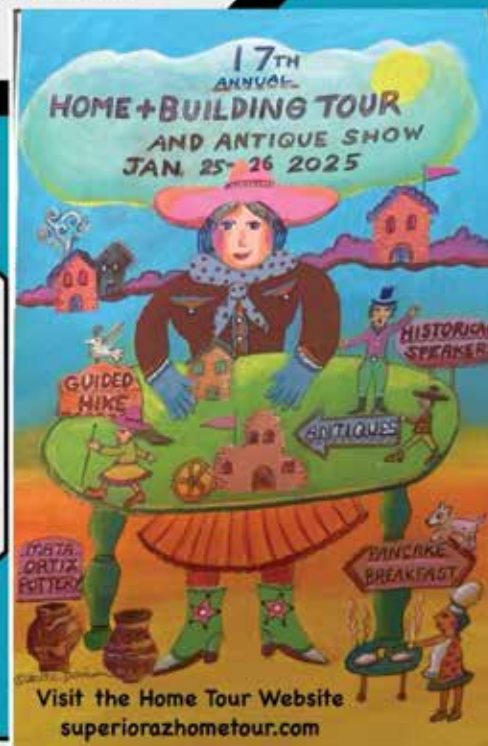
Steven and John Henry Gaona work together to bring down a steer.

SHOP LOCAL. BUY LOCAL. SUPPORT LOCAL.

## Superior 17th Annual Home & Antique Show

January  
25 & 26  
2025

17th  
ANNUAL  
HOME + BUILDING TOUR  
AND ANTIQUE SHOW  
JAN. 25-26 2025



Visit the Home Tour Website  
[superiorazhometour.com](http://superiorazhometour.com)

Get your tickets at  
[superiorazhometour.com](http://superiorazhometour.com)

Art work by  
Chuck Davidson





Hayden football team, coaches and cheerleaders parade through Hayden and Winkelman celebrating the team's back-to-back championships. Nathaniel Lopez | CANP

## Hayden's championship football team celebrated Friday

By Nathaniel A. Lopez  
Copper Area News

The 2024 Hayden football team got their long overdue, but well-deserved Championship Parade around town last Friday. Assisted by the Hayden-Winkelman Fire Department and Police, the football team, spirit line and coaches showed off their back-to-back state championship trophies. Following the parade, the team and supportive

community members gathered in the high school lobby to send off the seniors.

Athletic Director Lydia Martinez introduced the coaching staff and team. She also praised the team for their hard work, and the fact that they made Lobo history.

"First of all, I want to thank the fans, parents of the kids, on away games especially, you guys made us feel like we were at home," said Head coach John Estrada. "Our support this year was

unbelievable, and that was good because these kids worked their butts off starting in May of last year. Over the summer, we have a weekend program. These guys really put the work in over the summer, lifting weights. We did passing league out in St. David; we dominated. Our line dominated down there, and as you can see during the season we dominated overall. Back-to-back state champs! That has never happened, so congratulations to you boys and congratulations to the

parents."

The Lobos were honored during the Rate Bowl on Dec. 26, and were invited to participate in the Fiesta Bowl Parade. Following the coach's speech, the senior players signed off. Those seniors signing off from Lobo football were Jr Fong, JJ Manriquez, Paul Gather, Oscar Rodriguez, Matthew Armenta and Jordan Rodriguez.

Congratulations, gentlemen! It was an amazing season!



Seniors on the 2024 Hayden Championship Football Team were honored after the parade. Those seniors are: Jr Fong, JJ Manriquez, Paul Gather, Oscar Rodriguez, Matthew Armenta and Jordan Rodriguez. Nathaniel Lopez | CANP



Hayden Head Coach John Estrada addressed the student, football team and parents at the special ceremony after the parade Friday. 'Our support this year was unbelievable,' Estrada said. Nathaniel Lopez | CANP