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*Time Out*



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**'Twas, Once Again**

'Twas the week of Christmas,  
When all through the city,  
Golf partners Yippee and the  
Chuckster were feeling all giddy.

Not a creature was stirring  
Not even a mouse.  
Even that hacker John was  
Awfully quiet - what a louse.

The stockings were hung  
By the chimney with care,  
Except for Grumpy Old John's,  
Which, Santa was gonna leave bare.

Grumpy old John was nestled  
All snug in his bed,  
While visions of Yippee and the  
Chuckster danced in his head.

And me in my MSU kerchief and  
Ma in her green & white cap,  
Had just settled down after a  
Relaxing Spartan X-mas rap.

When out on the lawn  
There arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed, but first  
Had to empty my bladder.

Away to the window  
I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutter, caught  
My breath, almost crashed.

The moon on the breast  
Of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of midday  
To objects below.

When, what to my wondering  
Eyes should be appear,  
Grumpy Old John in a sleigh and  
Driven by eight reindeer.

He's a little old driver,  
But not too lively or quick,  
Used to be the best putter in A.J.,  
Now, a hacker carrying sticks.

More rapid than eagles,  
His courses they came,  
And he whistled and shouted  
And called them by name.

"Now Hux! Now Rod! Now  
Chris, Ralph and Moe.  
I'm tired of losing to Yippee and  
The Chuckster, paying out dough.

On, Bob! On, Dr. Bill! On Keith!  
On Gary and Thor!  
Seems like all I do now  
Is hit the ball, then yell Fore!

Then up to roof-top  
The courses they flew,  
With a sleigh full of toys,  
And Grumpy Old John too.

And then, in a twinkling,  
I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing  
Of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head  
And was turning around,  
Down the chimney Grumpy Old  
John came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur - never  
One for the latest golf fashion,  
His clothes were tarnished from  
Errant shots and dessert mashin'.

He had a very broad face  
And a little old belly,  
That shook with each golf swing  
Like a bowl full of jelly.

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**Aulik, Karbo Named All-Tournament**

Also at the Payson Tourney,  
Cranmer wins 3-point contest

By **Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

The Lady Prospector varsity basketball team was well represented at the Payson Invitational Tournament played December 12 and 13. The AJHS girls went 2-2 during the two-day tournament and Lady Prospectors Sierra Aulik and Katie Karbo were both selected to the All-Tournament team while teammate Sara Cranmer won the three-point shooting contest.

Apache Junction's two tournament losses came against some tough competition. The AJHS girls, playing against Glendale Apollo for the second time in four days, fared much better in Payson with their 38-32 loss.

Apollo had been averaging 68 points a game this season and back on December 9 in A.J., handed the Lady

Prospectors a 64-40 defeat on their home court. In that win, Apollo scored 23 of their 64 points at the foul line while attempting 34 free throws.

"The Apollo game was close," AJHS coach Brock Kearsley said via e-mail. "We played well but just came up short. I am proud of our girl's defense in this game. We held them to 38 points."

"The first time we played Apollo, we committed a lot of fouls," Kearsley added. "Our focus in the tournament was to move our feet, play better defense and force teams to shoot from the outside. We only committed 10 fouls this time around. I was pleased with our effort."

The team's second tournament loss was by a score of 42-33 to Scottsdale Desert Mountain, a team currently ranked No. 10 in the 5A division power points.



At the December 12-13 Payson basketball Tournament, Apache Junction's Sierra Aulik (left) and Katie Karbo (middle) were chosen to the All-Tournament team while Lady Prospector Sara Cranmer (right) won the 3-point shooting contest.



The two tournament wins were a 53-15 blow-out over San Tan and a 40-24 victory over Scottsdale Horizon.

In the loss to Apollo, Jessica Iniguez scored 10 points to lead Apache Junction. Aulik added 7 points, Emily McGann scored 6, Karbo netted 4, Kylie Bocskey had 3 points and Katasha Braaten added a bucket.

In the loss to Desert

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(above) AJHS varsity player Emily McGann puts up a tough jump shot against three Cactus Shadows defenders

**AJHS Marksmanship Team Heads Back To 'State'**

By **Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

The NJROTC Marksmanship team from Apache Junction High School will be heading back to the AIA State Championships for the fourth consecutive year

after finishing runner-up in the North-South Pellet League with a 10-1 overall record.

Apache Junction and Phoenix Sunnyslope both ended up with 10-1 records in the final Pellet League standings out of

twelve competing schools and Apache Junction defeated Sunnyslope in their final match to qualify for State based on total points. Last year, the AJHS squad finished first overall during

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Members of the NJROTC varsity marksmanship team from AJHS that finished 10-1 in the North-South Pellet League, thereby earning their fourth consecutive trip to the AIA State Championships, includes Austin Kennedy, C.J. Zanella, Jordan Carter and David Teroock and the team is coached by Senior Chief Instructor Dave Patti. Members of the first-place junior varsity marksmanship team that went 11-0 in the Pellet League includes members Abraham Martinez and Kris Smith.

**J.V. Soccer Teams In Action**

By **Danielle Lowe and Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

The Apache Junction junior varsity soccer teams hosted Cave Creek Cactus Shadows last Monday at Davis Field during a steady drizzle of rain with the boys falling by a score of 6-1 and the girls falling by the score of 7-0.

The AJHS boys trailed just 2-0 at halftime and Francisco Ruiz scored for Apache Junction just a minute and thirty-four seconds into the second half to close to within 2-1. But after that, it was all Cactus Shadows. For Ruiz, it was his second goal in two games for the Prospector junior varsity



Lady Prospector junior varsity soccer player Jayde Martinez (#9) dribbles the ball down field while teammate Lauren Brownlee (right and front) trails in last Monday's match against Cactus Shadows.

team. AJHS varsity and junior varsity teams are now off for the holiday break and won't return to action until

January of 2009. The varsity teams are scheduled to play at Queen Creek on

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**Elks Hoop Shoot**

By **Gay Hayward**  
*Special Report*

On Saturday, December 13, Elks Lodge 2349 hosted the Local Hoop Shoot contest with 93 boys and girls participating in three separate age categories in both a boys and girls division.

In the 8-9 age division for boys, first place went to Trey Weech while Zachary Tunstill came in second place. In the girls 8-9 age division, Sidney Burton won top honors while Breanna Conklin came in second.

In the 10-11 age division for boys, the first place winner was Andrew Gotzon and Clayten McCarthy finished second. In the girls 10-11 age division, Katelyn Reid was the winner with Danielle Otero coming in second.

In the boys 12-13 age division, Anthony Madruga took first place with Zach O'Malley finishing as the

runner-up. In the girls 12-13 age division, Carly Reid took first place and Janae Avelar came in second.

The first place winners in each division are now eligible to advance to the Eastern Arizona District Competition that will be held on January 17, 2009, in Miami, Ariz. Winners there would advance to the Elks Hoop Shoot State Finals held in February in Apache Junction.

Arizona champions move on to regional competition held 4each year in Las Vegas, Nev., and regional champs advance to the National Hoop Shoot Competition held each year in Springfield, Mass., also home of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Nationally, more than three million students participate each year in the Elks Hoop Shoot contest. Spectators are more than welcome to watch any of the competitions.



8- and 9-year-old Elks Hoop Shoot trophy winners included (front row, left to right) Breanna Conklin, Sydney Burton, Trey Weech and Zachary Tunstill. Also pictured are Elks member Bob Phillips (back left) and Coach Gay Hayward. (submitted photo)



10 and 11-year-old Elks Hoop Shoot trophy winners were (left to right holding trophies) Danielle Otero, Katelyn Reid, Andrew Gotzon and Clayten McCarthy. Coach Gay Hayward is far left and Elks member Bob Phillips is in the back. (submitted photo)

12- and 13-year-old winners on page B-4