



Sydney Burton
Of Four Peaks
Elementary
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**Meet Elroy**  
**The Elk,**  
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*Time Out*



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**Hold The Presses**

For the first time in the 11 years I've been covering the State Wrestling Championships, the Arizona Interscholastic Association decided to not allow the media onto the arena floor surface to take photos. Last Friday at Jobing.com Arena in Glendale, those with official AIA press passes were positioned inside the Phoenix Coyotes bench area which was fine if an AJHS wrestler was competing on mat No. 4, which I think happened twice throughout the day and only after my camera battery had died.

For all other mats (there were 12 in all), you had to climb up and down the arena stairs, over seats and try and work your way to the closest available open chair. Needless to say, when the day's events were over, I wasn't walking very well and both my back and sciatic nerve were throbbing.

Shortly after arriving back in Apache Junction and briefly recharging my camera battery, I headed over to Imagine Prep @ Apache Junction to watch the Panthers tournament basketball game against Heritage Academy and stood for most of the game with the camera around the neck and clipboard in my hand.

So forgive me if I'm not moving too quickly this week. It was a tough Friday for me. I just hope I recover enough for my Thursday golf outing this week just in case I happened to be pitted against Grumpy Old John, because I won't get any sympathy from him.

**Meet The Imagine Prep Panthers**

**By Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

Playing just their first season of basketball and fielding a team of only freshmen and sophomore players, the Imagine Prep @ Apache Junction Panthers not only posted a respectable 9-11 record during the regular season, they took it one paw further by winning their first-ever playoff game, beating the Heritage Academy Heroes 75-68 last Friday night in the first round of the Arizona Charter Athletic Association tournament.

Imagine Prep @ Apache Junction is one of 14 schools owned and operated in Arizona by Imagine Schools Inc. and one of only two high schools in the state, the other located in Surprise. Imagine Prep @ Apache Junction opened its doors for the first time in August of 2008 with a freshmen and sophomore

**LD Marathon Tops 2,500 Participants**

No new running records; 191 runners from Apache Jct., Gold Canyon

**By Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

The eighth running of the Lost Dutchman Marathon on Sunday, February 15, drew more than 2,500 participants setting a new attendance mark but none of the five events, marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 8K and 2-mile Fun Run/Walk saw new record times established.

In the main event, the 26.2-mile marathon that started at Peralta Trailhead, winding through the streets of Gold Canyon before ending up at Prospector Park in Apache Junction,

Blue Benadum from Malibu, Calif., won the men's race with a time of 2:42.14 while Mary Hanna of Maple Valley, Wash., won the women's race with a time of 3:17.19.

LD Marathon records are 2:30.57 for men set back in 2004 by Wilson Kagiri Gatiha of Kenya and 3:04.43 set last year by Tracy Thelen of Colorado Springs, Colo.

The top local marathoner were Lawrence Wharton of Gold Canyon with a personal best time of 3:38.47, good for 55th place overall in the men's race. No runners from Gold Canyon or



Winners of the 2009 Lost Dutchman Marathon held Sunday, February 15, were Blue Benadum (above, left) from Malibu, Calif., in the men's race and Mary Hanna (above, right) of Maple Valley, Wash. The 2009 event drew a record 2,500-plus participants.

Apache Junction competed in the women's marathon, although several runners from Mesa did participate. There were a total of 369 finishers in the marathon event.

In the 13.1 mile half-marathon event, Josh Terwood, 25, of Flagstaff was the top male runner with a time of 1:16.36 and Ivana Jourdan of Phoenix was the top female runner with her time of 1:30.17.

The top local half-marathoners were Nicholas Cross of Apache Junction with a time of 1:35.20, good for 26th overall, and Julie Ann Dimmery of Apache Junction with

her personal best time of 1:46.05, which landed her 33rd overall. Cross was a former track and field and cross country runner at Apache Junction High School and finished 22nd overall in 2008 with a time of 1:33.26. Dimmery, also the top local female half-marathoner in 2008, ran a time of 1:55.34 a year ago and placed 71st overall. A whopping 911 runners finished the half-marathon event this year, including 468 women.

Jon Boll, 18, of Mesa won the men's 10K race with a time of 34:11 while Rachael Butler, 26, took first overall in the women's

race with a time of 39:40. The top local runners in the 10K included Rudy Garcia, 53, from Gold Canyon, who ran 30th overall with a time of 45:53 and Sabine Krieger, 35, from Apache Junction, who ran 15th overall with a time of 48:57. The 10K event drew a total of 537 finishers.

In the 8K race, Billy Orman, 16, of Tuba City, Ariz., was first in the men's race with a time of 27:15 and Lara Ray, 39, of Camarillo, Calif., ran first in the women's race with a time of 31:39.

Andrew Frost, 17, of see **LDM**, page C-3



Darlene Dusek of Apache Junction, 61 years young, competes in the 8K race during the eighth running of the Lost Dutchman Marathon on February 15

**4A-I State Wrestling Championships**

**By Chuck Baker**  
*The News*

Apache Junction's hopes of landing a fourth consecutive state champ was pinned to four wrestlers after the first day of the 4A-I Arizona State Wrestling Championships.

Competing this past Friday at Jobing.com Arena in Glendale, junior Chase Converse (119 pounds), senior Taylor Hamlin (189 pounds), junior Brandon Dudley (215 pounds) and junior Cy Maughmer (275 pounds) all won their first and second round matches to advance to the semifinals of their respective weight divisions.

Unfortunately we won't know until next week's edition if the streak remains alive. The results from last Saturday's second and final day of competition at Job-



Prospector junior Chase Converse (on top) is wrestling against a Peoria Liberty foe at last Friday's 4A-I State Championships held at Jobing.com Arena in Glendale. Converse won his first two matches to advance to last Saturday's semifinals.

ing.com Arena were not available when *The News* went to press.

Of the four, perhaps the most impressive was Converse. Seeded No. 13 in the 16-wrestler bracket despite a very respectable 29-12 overall record on the sea-

son, Converse defeated the No. 4 seed, Tyler Espita of Peoria Liberty, quite handily in the first round with a 10-0 shutout and then knocked off the No. 5 seed, Jesse Corral of Tucson Pueblo, by a 12-6 score in the second round.

was to go up against the No. 1 seed, Apollo Ford of Glendale Cactus, in the Saturday semifinals.

Hamlin was the No. 6 seed in the 189-pound division and defeated his first round opponent, Cody Tracy (No. 11 seed) of Lake Havasu, via a pin and then, after leading No. 3 seed Clark Kinne of Cienega 5-2 after two periods in his second round match, needed to score a two-point take-down in overtime to pull off an exciting 9-7 victory.

Hamlin was scheduled to wrestle the No. 2 seed, James Lain of Prescott, in his semifinal match on Saturday. Maughmer, like Hamlin, was the No. 6 seed in the 275-pound division and won his first round

match with a 12-6 score in the second round.

Brandon got a scare in the first round from No. 13-seed Cody York of Cienega and was able to hold on for a 5-4 victory. In the second round against the No. 5 seed, David Catalano from Oro Valley Canyon Del Oro, Dudley earned a two-point take-down with just 25 seconds remaining in the third and final period and pulled off a straight consecutive 5-4 win to advance to his semifinals.

Brandon, who's season record improved to 43-6 overall with the two wins,

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high school class. The school is currently enrolling 11th grade students for the Fall of 2009 and its first graduating class will be in 2012.

The high school, located at 1453 W. 16th Ave., in

Apache Junction, hosted the tournament game this past Friday and led by a balanced attack on offense, advanced to the second round of the 28-team tournament.

After going just 1-for-6

from three-point range in the first half, Panthers sophomore guard Jacob Ayers caught fire in the second half, knocking down 5-of-9 from long range and finished the tournament game with a game-high 22 points.

Forward Dylan O'Hagan posted a double-double

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Imagine Prep's Dylan O'Hagan (far left) tries a difficult under-handed shot in last Friday's Charter League playoff game while his teammate Justin McCallum (#32) looks on. O'Hagan scored 20 points in the game and Imagine Prep defeated Heritage Academy 75-68 to move on to the second round of the tournament.

(at right, top and bottom) The Imagine Prep cheerleaders, Ashelynn Ashworth (captain), Liezl "La La" Roldan (co-captain), Stephanie Dershem, Christina Carey, Ashley O'Leary, Kaity Athoff and Sabrina Brantley post for a photo before last Friday's Charter League tournament game and then perform a routine during halftime of the basketball game. Substitute cheerleaders include Taylor Sampson-Ober and Larissa Gossman.

