



Time Out



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St. George Golf Tourney

The 2nd annual student-scholarship fund benefit golf tournament will be on Wednesday, March 14 at Apache Creek Golf Club (see article on page A-10 of this edition).

Current sponsors of the event are as follows: Gold – Eddie Valdez of Valdez & Sons Construction, Sons of the American Legion, Steve Leach Signs, and The Hometown News; Silver – Lost Dutchman Aerie #3850 F.O.E.; Bronze – Brian Kabit and the Kabit Family of Frontier Ace Hardware.

If you would like to join the growing list of sponsors of this great fund-raising event, please contact either Christine 480-982-2929 or Rene 602-206-2286. You can also sign up to play in the tournament or purchase tickets for the popular "Golf Balls From Heaven Ball Drop."

Mark your calendar now for Wednesday, March 14. Get involved! It's a great event.

Super 'Senior Night' Of AJHS Soccer

By Chuck Baker
The News

With the Prospectors beating Globe 9-0 and the Lady Prospectors pitching a 6-0 shut-out, I can't imagine a better "Senior Night" of soccer for AJHS this past Wednesday at Davis Field. Of course, had Apache Junction senior Breanna Milkey put her penalty kick in the net with time running out in the girls match, that would have been a perfect ending to a great night of AJHS soccer. Instead, Milkey's shot, one of four on the night for her, was, like the other three, turned away by the Globe keeper.

The Prospectors were up first, and led by a three-goal "hat trick" from Alex Barraza, and two goals each from Ricardo Martinez and senior Jesse Gonzalez, Apache Junction rolled over the Tigers. Alex Perez and Marlon Figueroa scored the other AJHS goals.

The Prospector defense was just as stellar as the offense. Credit defenders Andrew Gyenize, a senior, and Daniel Hernandez and Eduardo Celaya, along with keeper Sergio Gamez for the shutout.

The Prospectors other see **Seniors**, page A-14



The Prospectors four seniors are (l-r) Jesse Gonzalez, Jose Medina, Andres Juarez and Andrew Gyenize



The Lady Prospector senior players, with Coach Norm Hoefer in the middle, are (left-to-right) Mickelle Stepp, Deysey Angel, Caitlin Kessler, Kailin Knox, Lauren Brownlee and Breanna Milkey

Lady Prospectors Take 2 Of 3

By Chuck Baker
The News

Despite having an impressive overall record of 13-5 entering last week's basketball games, the Lady Prospectors were desperately seeking a win over a high-ranking opponent to bolster their power points and playoff hopes. In hosting Phoenix Arcadia this past Thursday, they got the chance. But as fate would have it, they had to take on second-ranked Arcadia minus their top player and leading scorer, Lindsey Streibich.

Streibich injured a finger in Tuesday's 37-20 victory over Scottsdale Coronado. She had scored seven points in the opening quarter before the injury and did not return

and also sat out Thursday's showdown with Arcadia.

To make matters worse, the team's second leading scorer, guard Jade Yost, was hit with three personal fouls in



Varsity basketball player Marissa Stinnett puts up a runner in last Thursday's game against Arcadia

the first 3:24 of the opening quarter, one of those fouls erroneously charged against her.

Without Streibich, and with Yost playing sparingly the

rest of the first half, the Lady Prospectors couldn't mount much of an offensive attack and trailed the Lady Dons 27-10 at intermission.

Despite hanging tough in the second half, Apache Junction couldn't overcome the slow first two quarters and dropped a 48-27 decision.

Janae Avelar came off the see **Hoops**, page A-14

Prospectors Let One Slip Away Against Coronado

By Chuck Baker
The News

Victories have been hard to come by on the basketball court for the Prospector varsity squad this season and even an eleven point lead with a little over six minutes to go in the fourth quarter isn't safe as they found out the hard way this past Tuesday at home versus Scottsdale Coronado.

The Dons, trailing 57-46, with 6:25 left on the clock, rallied for a 65-63 victory, closing out the final six-plus minutes with a 19-6 run.

The Coronado rally spoiled a terrific effort by Apache Junction's Matt Neger, who posted a double-double in a losing effort, scoring 17 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. The Prospectors also got 14 points and three steals from James Castaneda, 10 points and six boards from Zac O'Malley, six points, three rebounds and three steals from Trevor White, six points from Jon McCune, five points from Richie Pagels, two points and four boards from Chris Downey, two points from Devante West and a free throw from Emilio Couchee.

Coronado went 15-for-26 from the charity stripe, while Apache Junction was just

AJHS Girls Basketball to Play 'Home' Game at US Airways Center

By Brian Killgore
AJUSD/Special Report



Apache Junction High School girls basketball games vs. Queen Creek on January 28th may be listed as home games, but 'home' that afternoon will look a little different for the Lady Prospectors who will take on the Lady Bulldogs at US Airways Center in Downtown Phoenix.

Freshman and Junior Varsity teams from each school will square off at 12:00pm and play one half each before the varsity squads take the court at 1:30pm for an official game that will count in the standings. All school district employees and families from both schools are welcome to attend the games free of charge. While moving from a school gymnasium to an NBA arena might be intimidating, AJHS varsity coach Brock Kearsley says the team is ready for the challenge.

"It will be a different experience playing in a building with 17,000 seats, but the team is looking forward to it," Kearsley said. "I am excited they get this opportunity to get a little taste of playing basketball at its highest level and being on the same court where many of their favorites from the NBA and WNBA have played – it will be a fun day."

Following their games, the Lady Prospectors will remain in Phoenix for dinner and attend the Suns-Memphis Grizzlies game that evening.

AZ Karate Champ

Patrick Allison

Patrick Allison (a 7th grader at Cactus Canyon Junior High) just competed and took 1st Place in Kumite (sparring) at the Arizona State Karate Alliance state championship on January 14th, 2012 in the 12-13 intermediate division. Patrick has qualified and will be competing at the 2012 United States Karate Alliance National Tournament in Albuquerque, New Mexico in March. Patrick is a member of Renegade Kenpo Karate instructed by Sensei Pete Rodriguez and offered through the Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department (480-983-2181.)



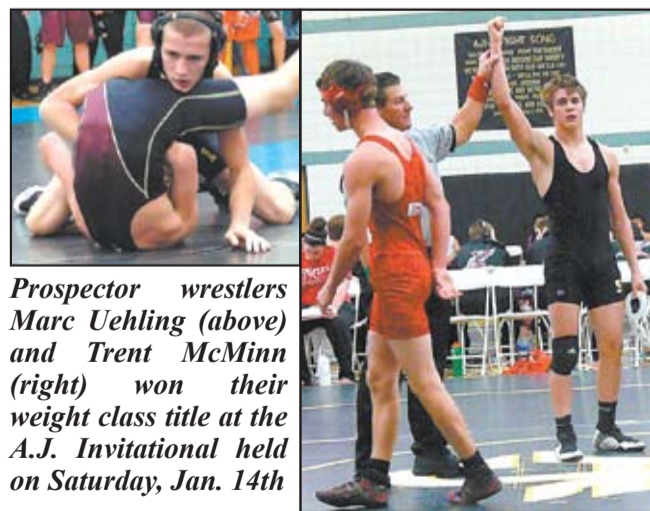
Wrestlers Uehling, McMinn Crowned AJ Invite Champs

By Chuck Baker
The News

Apache Junction wrestlers Marc Uehling and Trent McMinn captured their weight class titles at the A.J. Invitational held on Saturday, January 14. Uehling won the 128-pound weight class when he pinned his Skyline opponent in the finals of the mini-individual tournament while McMinn won the 140-pound weight class title with a close, 3-2 decision over his opponent from Campo Verde.

The top four wrestlers out of eight teams and in each of the fourteen weight classes advanced to the mini-tournament on Saturday. Apache Junction's Branden Edwards ended up as the runner-up in the 108-pound weight class. Edwards lost 6-0 against his Desert Ridge foe in the finals.

McMinn remains unbeaten on the season at both 140 and



Prospector wrestlers Marc Uehling (above) and Trent McMinn (right) won their weight class title at the A.J. Invitational held on Saturday, Jan. 14th

147 pounds at 15-0. Uehling has just three losses this season with 17 wins while Edwards is 12-5 overall.

In the team competition on Friday, the Prospectors finished seventh out of the eight teams. Campo Verde took first place, Desert Ridge was second, Skyline was third, followed by Tempe, Combs, Agua Fria, A.J. and Coronado.

Also this past week, Apache

Junction took on Queen Creek and Fountain Hills in regular season matches, losing 42-32 against Fountain Hills, and falling 55-21 to Queen Creek.

Edwards, Danny Frederick (132 pounds, 14-6 overall) and McMinn won both of their matches, while Uehling and Sean Lambert (160 pounds, 14-7 overall) split

see **AJHS**, page A-10



Apache Junction's Zac O'Malley (#34, white jersey) puts up a running hook shot in last week's game against Coronado

7-for-12, an eight-point edge for the Dons.

Also last week, Apache Junction dropped a 77-64 decision at home to Queen Creek on Friday. The Bulldogs made seven-of-nine three-pointers in the opening quarter and put up thirty points. They led in the first half by as many as 26 but the Prospectors never quit playing catch-up the rest of the way, getting as close as eleven in the second half.

Castaneda scored 19 points, Pagels tossed in 18, Neger scored 10, O'Malley added eight points, Downey scored three points and had five re-

bounds, West added a bucket and five boards, and White and McCune also scored two points.

The Prospectors, now 5-15 overall on the season, all five wins coming in two separate tournaments, play two road games this week, at Combs on Thursday, January 26, and at Canyon State on Friday, January 27. On Thursday, the AJHS freshmen team plays at 4:00 p.m., followed by the junior varsity at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity at 7:00 p.m. On Friday, only the junior varsity and varsity will play,

see **B-Ball**, page A-11