



Four Peaks Selects "Athletes Of The Year," see story, page C-2

Time Out



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Calling All QBs

Apache Junction High School will be the host site of the Darin Slack Quarterback Academy on Monday, June 9th (4:00 to 10:00 p.m.) and Tuesday, June 10th (8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for all 7th to 12th grade quarterbacks. Coach Slack may be best known for training LSU quarterback Matt Flynn, the 2008 BCS National Championship Game MVP. For more details, visit the website www.quarterbackacademy.com or check with Coach Rich Milligan at AJHS.

Summer Golf

Looking for some Summer golf specials? Check out the following (and look for their ad in *The News*):

- **Sunland Village East Golf Course**, located at 2250 S. Buttercup (Baseline and Sossaman) offers a nine hole walking rate of only \$8.00 and a special junior golfers rate of just \$5.00 at their 18-hole course which includes a driving range, putting green and restaurant. Call the pro shop at 986-4079 to book a tee time

- **Sunland Springs Village Golf Course**, located at 11061 E. Medina (Baseline just east of Signal Butte) features 27 holes of golf, driving range, putting green and snack shop and is currently offering a nine hole walking rate of \$9.00. Call the pro shop at 984-4209 to make a tee time

- Looking for a slightly cooler place to play a round of golf this Summer? Check out the Stay-And-Play packages being offered all Summer by **Apache Gold Casino and Resort**, located five miles east of Globe on Highway 70. The highly-rated golf course sits at 3,200 elevation and the current Summer Golf Package for \$155 (+ tax) includes golf for two players, an overnight stay in the casino, buffet dinner, golf lunch specials and range balls. To make a reservation, call 1-800-APACHE8 (1-800-272-2438).

Thanks, Seniors!

Check out our special tribute on page C-6 of this edition to some of the AJHS seniors who helped to make the 2007-08 school year a very memorable one for us Prospector fans.

A.J. Little League All Stars Gearing Up For District

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

Apache Junction Little League recently wrapped up its 2008 regular season which means that All Star games in both baseball and softball divisions will be forthcoming.

According to the Arizona District 7 Little League website (www.az7littleleague.org), the first post season action will be the newly instituted District 7 "Majors" Tournament of Champions to be played June 6-11 at Pollack Field, located at Rhodes Junior High School, 1860

South Longmore, in Mesa. The Tournament of Champions is designed to allow the top teams from all of the District 7 leagues the chance to advance to a mini-district tournament before All Star games begin.

The Apache Junction Majors baseball team consisting of 11 and 12-year-olds will play their first TOC game on June 9th at 6:30 p.m. and will take on the winner of a June 6 game between Mesa Western and Mesa Southern.

As for the District 7 Little League All Stars, page C-3



The Minors Division baseball Rock Hounds were recently crowned league and tournament champions in the Apache Junction Little League and team members consisted of (1st row, left to right) Dustin Miles, Cody Norman, Michael Sampson, Christopher Shook, Trevor Kelley, Justin Anderson, Hunter Fonseca, (second row, left to right) Connor Dry, Tyler Bryant, Michael Patten, Shea Casarez and Brian Ranft. The Rock Hounds were coached by (back row, left to right) Coach Wendy Ranft, Manager David Ranft and Coach John Underwood. (submitted photo)

Pritchard, DeBois And Chandler-Gilbert Golf Team Finish 6th At NJCAA National Championships

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

After a rocky start, the Chandler-Gilbert Community College men's golf team, featuring two former Prospector golfers in Billy Pritchard and James DeBois, settled down and played steady golf to finish sixth overall at last week's NJCAA National Championships

played at Palm Valley Golf Club in Goodyear.

Chandler-Gilbert began the tournament in 12th place out of twenty teams after the first of four rounds played May 20 but then bounced back over the next three days to finish in sixth place overall with a combined team score of 1,215, or 63-over-par.

Tyler Junior College edged out Darton Community Col-

lege to win the team title, with Tyler posting a 1,172 score (+20) to the 1,175 (+23) shot by Darton.

Mesa Community College came in third place (1,185) followed by Arkansas-Fort Smith, Mott CC and then Chandler-Gilbert.

Freshman Billy Pritchard of Apache Junction posted

see **Golf**, page C-2

McCullen Picks Up 3rd & 4th Offers

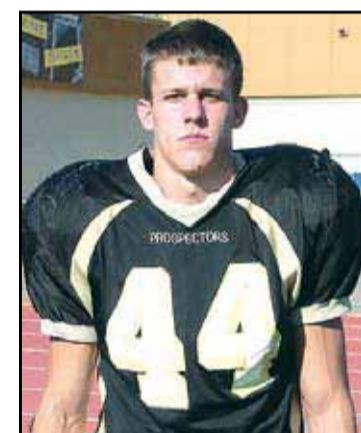
U of Nevada and Air Force the latest

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

Fresh off of helping lead the Apache Junction boys track and field team to the 2008 4A-I State Championship title, AJHS junior Shane McCullen received his third and fourth official college offers for football, the latest coming this past week from the University of Nevada and the Air Force Academy. Previous offers have come from Army and Washington State University and more are expected to arrive for the Prospector junior before his AJHS career is over.

McCullen, who ran second at State in both the 100 and 200 meters, tied for second in high jump and anchored the winning 4x100 relay team, is rapidly becoming one of the highest recruited athletes from AJHS and he still has his senior year of football to go this Fall.

The University of Nevada, located in Reno, has been "bowl eligible" the past three NCAA football seasons, finishing 6-7 in 2007 which included a loss to New Mexico in the New



Junior Shane McCullen

Mexico Bowl, 8-5 in 2006 that included a one-point loss to Miami in the MPC Computers Bowl, and 9-3 in 2005 that included a 39-38 win over Central Florida in the Hawaii Bowl.

The Wolf Pack are coached by Chris Ault, who in twenty-two years as head coach at Nevada, has posted a 185-78-1 overall record and was enshrined into the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame in 2002.

Nevada, which has sent 59 of its players onto professional

see **Offers**, page C-2

A "Darling" Of A Deal

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

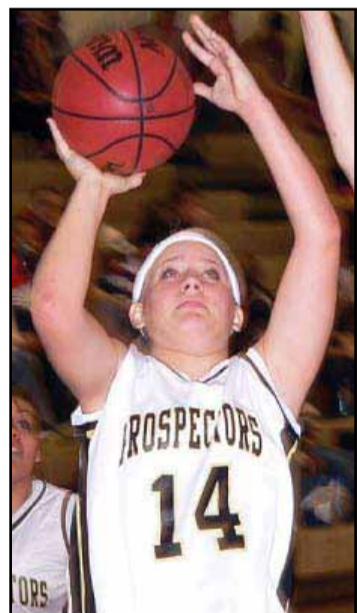
Apache Junction High School senior Chelsea Darling will be heading off to Friends University in Wichita, Kansas next Fall hoping to continue her athletic and academic endeavors. The AJHS senior made it official this past Wednesday, signing her "letter of intent" to accept both a partial athletic

scholarship along with academic financial aide.

Darling will trade in her "black and gold" basketball jersey from AJHS for the red and white jersey of the Friends

University Lady Falcons, a NAIA university and member of the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference.

see **Darling**, page C-3



Apache Junction senior Chelsea Darling (seated middle above and shown to the left during basketball season) signed her "letter of intent" this past week to attend Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, accepting a partial athletic scholarship to go along with academic financial aide. Supporting the Lady Prospector senior at signing day last Wednesday are her parents, Steve (seated left) and Jeannie (seated right) Darling, AJHS girls varsity basketball coach Brock Kearsley (standing left) and AJHS Athletic Director Eric Rodine (standing right).

Some AJHS Fall Sports Schedules Released

Football team opens August 29 versus Sinagua inside NAU's Walkup Dome

By **Chuck Baker**
The News

Tentative schedules for some of the 2008 AJHS Fall sports programs have been released and show the Prospector football team opening up on Friday, August 29 playing Flagstaff Sinagua inside Northern Arizona University's Walkup Dome for the second consecutive year as part of the Arizona Interscholastic Association's Kickoff Classic, a series of four games scheduled for the same day.

playing in the fourth and final game of the day inside the dome, cruised to an easy 55-0 win over Sinagua giving first-year head coach Rich Milligan a victory in his coaching debut.

The Prospectors would go on to post a 6-5 record during their first season in the 4A-I Division and qualified for the post season playoffs, where they lost a first round game to Goodyear Millennium.

The schedule also shows the Prospectors having five home games in 2008 - September

5th versus Avondale Agua Fria, September 19th versus Queen Creek, September 26th versus Scottsdale Chaparral, October 10th versus Phoenix Shadow Mountain and October 24th versus Scottsdale Saguaro.

The schedule also includes six away games including the Kick-off Classic, and adds September 12th at Glendale Raymond Kellis, October 3rd at Glendale Independence, October 17th at Paradise Valley, October 31st at Cave Creek Cactus Shadows, and November 7th at Tempe McClintock.

Other tentative starting dates for AJHS Fall sports include the Lady Prospector volleyball team playing Saturday, August 30 in the Fountain Hills Tournament, and the boys golf team hosting the A.J. Invitational September 2-4. Schedules for girls golf, cross country and swimming have not yet been posted.

To view the schedules, log onto the high school's website at www.ajhs.ajusd.org and click on the "sports" icon.

Summer Softball Schedule For Lady Prospectors

The following schedule is for the 2008 East Valley Varsity Summer Softball Prep League being hosted by the Tempe Parks and Recreation Department. Apache Junction will be one of eight teams in the Summer League and will open on Tuesday, June 3rd playing a 6:30 p.m. game against Tempe Marcos De Niza followed by an 8:15 p.m. game against Phoenix Mountain Pointe at Kiwanis Park, 6005 S. All-American Way (south of US 60 on Mill Avenue). The Lady Prospectors will play ten games in the league followed by a one night tournament on Thursday, June 26.

Date	Day	Opponent	Time
June 3	Tue.	Marcos De Niza	6:30 p.m.
June 3	Tue.	Mountain Pointe	8:15 p.m.
June 5	Thur.	Desert Mountain	6:30 p.m.
June 5	Thur.	Marcos De Niza	8:15 p.m.
June 12	Thur.	Hamilton	6:30 p.m.
June 12	Thur.	Cactus Shadows	8:15 p.m.
June 19	Thur.	Cactus Shadows	6:30 p.m.
June 19	Thur.	Desert Mountain	8:15 p.m.
June 24	Tue.	Saguaro	6:30 p.m.
June 24	Tue.	Mountain Pointe	8:15 p.m.
June 26	Thur.	Tournament/TBA	6:30 p.m.
June 26	Thur.	Tournament/TBA	8:15 p.m.