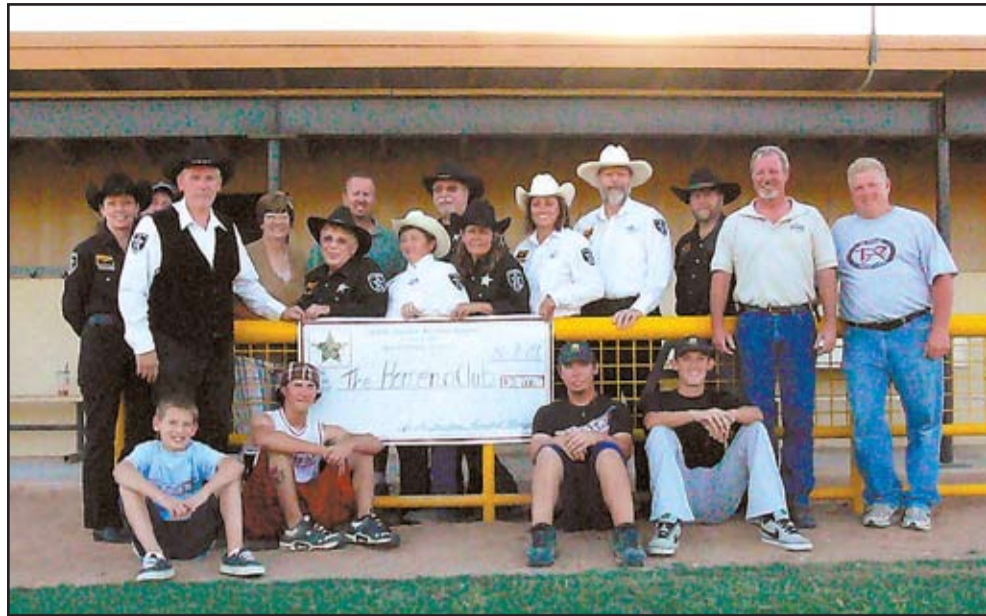




AJHS Homerun Club Scores



The Homerun Club for the Apache Junction High School baseball program scored in a big way last Thursday as they were the recipient of not one, but two checks from local organizations. Above and left, members of the A.J. Mounted Rangers presented a check to the Homerun Club in the amount of \$2,000, funds that will go towards the expenses of the recent dugout remodeling projects at the AJHS varsity field. Above and right, Jon Gentile (in dark suit), vice-president of the Optimist Club of Apache Junction, presented Homerun Club representative Kevin Garratt (to the right of Gentile) with a check in the amount of \$300 that will go toward the purchase of catcher's equipment. Representing the A.J. Mounted Rangers in the photo above and left are Captain Rich Sterba (in dark vest and white shirt just left of the big check) and Mounted Rangers Linda Umlah, Carol Halpin, Nicki Quirk, J.C. Ponio, Mike Quirk, John Ponio, Mike Mills and Lucy Sterba. Representing the AJHS Homerun Club in both photos above are Garratt, Alex Caruana, Jon Howard, Mae Stothart and Tom Tyson. Representing members of AJHS baseball were players (sitting, left to right) Trenton Tyson, Mike Caruana, Cole Garratt and Tyler Tyson. The pictures were taken just in front of the home team dugout at the AJHS varsity field. The A.J. Mounted Rangers are a peace-keeping group of volunteers that raise money through local events and fund-raisers, then donate that money back to local youth and local organizations that assist youth. The A.J. Mounted Rangers are in partnership with the Lost Dutchman Days Rodeo each year where you will spot them in black Ranger uniforms and cool cowboy and cowgirl hats. While riding horseback on the back of quad-runners, the A.J. Mounted Rangers participate in parades, monitor events for safety, help locate missing children, find lost vehicles, all while making people smile. The A.J. Mounted Rangers also challenge YOU, the citizens of our valuable community, to donate to a local charitable organization, noting "You Can Make A Difference!"



Region

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a throw of 97-07, senior Alexis Crothers, who finished third right behind McClincy in discus with a toss of 96-01, and junior Zane Morgan, who ran third overall in the finals of the 800 meters with a new AJHS school record time of 1:58.80.

The 4A-I State Championships will be held this Wednesday, May 13 and this Saturday, May 16 at Mesa Community College. Field events will begin at 3:15 p.m. both days with running events starting up at 5:00 p.m. The AJHS boys are the defending 4A-I State Champions after capturing the school's first ever team title in track and field a year ago at MCC.

As of press time, there was still a possibility that some of the fourth place finishers at the region meet could land one of the few at-large quali-

fying spots for this week's State Championships.

That would mean that sophomore Cy Maughmer, who placed fourth in shot put with a personal best throw of 47-01, junior Diana Woodruff, who ran fourth overall in the 1600 meters with a new AJHS school record time of 5:38.83, junior Montanna Scott, fourth in the 3200 meters with a new school record time of 12:35.98, McClincy in shot put, fourth with a toss of 29-11, and Fernando in discus, fourth with a throw of 130-07, had an outside chance of getting to the State Championships.

The meeting to finalize the 4A-I State Track and Field competitors was held on Sunday and results were not available when *The News* went to press.

Coming up with a fifth place finish at the region meet were the AJHS boys 4x100 meter relay team of David

Fernando, Harrison Pomeroy, Tanner Morgan and Bryan Steward, who combined for a time of 44:31, the girls 4x800 meter relay team of Mayra Castaneda, Scott, Lauren Smith and Woodruff, who combined for a new AJHS school record time of 10:39.13, and Ryan Golden in the 400 meters, where he posted a time of 52:89.

Sixth place finishers included the boys 4x800 meter relay squad of Colt Grandstaff, Armando Zuniga, Andrew Frost and Morgan, who ran a combined time of 8:30.63.

Two seventh place finishers included Grandstaff in high jump with a leap of 5-06, and Melissa Reid in girls pole vault with a jump of 7-06, tying the AJHS school record in that event.

Rounding out top ten finishes for AJHS athletes were Melissa Hernandez, who was eighth in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 18:41, Frost, who was ninth in boys high jump with a leap of 5-06, Steward, who ran ninth in the 100 meters with a time of 11:84, Scott, who ran tenth in the 1600 meters with her time of 5:56.50, Al' Lexus White, who ran tenth overall in the girls 100 meters with a time of 13:83, and Crothers in shot put with her throw of 22-07.

There will still be a few races to be run late Friday evening at Shadow Mountain High School including the girls 800 meters, the boys 3200 meters, and the boys and girls 4x400 meter relays. Although results were not yet available when *The News* went to press, it was not expected that any AJHS runner or relay squad would qualify for State based on their preliminary times.

You can get all of the final Desert Sky Region Meet results as well as preliminary heat sheets and field event heat sheets and schedules for this week's 4A-I State Championships on the website www.arizonatrack.com.

Time Out

continued from page B-1

their employees live and work right here in the community. Of course, they failed to mention that the owners of the paper are from Dover, Delaware who purchased the old *Sentinel*, which is how they came to be.

Funny, but I thought hometown meant born and raised in. The *Independent* calling itself the hometown newspaper is a lot like Toyota calling themselves American because they do employ some U.S. citizens.

Hot dogs, apple pie and Toyota? Don't be fooled. Buying a Ford or Chevrolet would do a lot more to help out the U.S. economy than buying a Toyota would. And buying an ad from *The News* would do a lot more to help out the local economies than an ad with the *Independent* would.

If the *Independent* is "the hometown newspaper" despite being from Dover," than *The News*, born and raised on July 1, 1997 in Apache Junc-

tion, must be "the hometown newspaper."

score of 38-0, I thought the Chaparral folks acted with class in their lopsided win. The players continued to play hard, didn't pile on even more runs, never made a mockery of the game, and their coaches even had words of encouragement for the AJHS players.

Class Act

Just a quick note and kudos to the Scottsdale Chaparral baseball coaches, players and fans. In winning last Tuesday's game over AJHS by the

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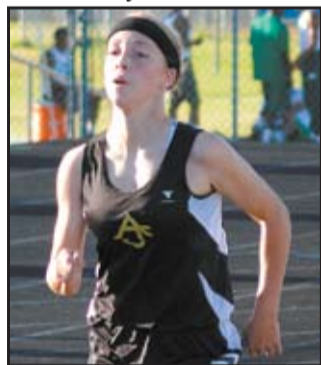
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(at right) Diana Woodruff is on her way to running a new school record in the 1600 meters last Friday evening in the finals of the Desert Sky Region Track and Field Meet. Woodruff finished 4th overall with a time of 5:38.83.



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