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SPORTS, C1

CHILDHOOD HOBBIES

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FOOD & DRINK, FD1

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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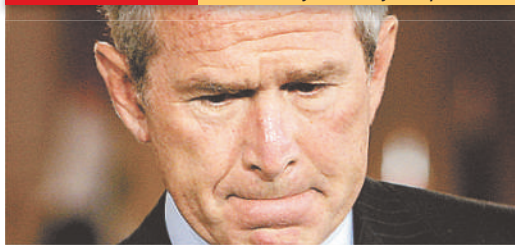
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

Today's quick read

YOUR WORLD A summary of today's top stories.



RON EDMONDS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bush takes responsibility for Katrina relief failures

President Bush for the first time takes responsibility for federal government mistakes in dealing with Hurricane Katrina and suggests the calamity raised broader questions about the government's ability to handle natural disasters and terror attacks. **A4**

Charges filed in nursing-home deaths: Thirty-four patients died during the flooding unleashed by Hurricane Katrina. **A4**

Nation & World

Baghdad suicide bombing kills at least 73: A driver detonates his vehicle near a crowd of day laborers who had assembled before going to work on nearby construction sites. The massive toll includes more than 160 wounded. **A3**

Valley & State

Superior Court judge rules in favor of landowners: Thirteen property owners don't have to fork over their land to make way for a \$200 million Tempe shopping mall. **B1**

Today's editorial: Arizonans showed enormous heart as they donated to hurricane relief. Now we have to keep the compassion pumping. **B8**

Today's letter to the editor: When the chips are down, we need to be constantly reminded that "America's Toughest Sheriff" is on the job. **B8**

Sports

Coyotes hit the ice: It's Day 1 of hockey season, officially, as the Coyotes begin practice at Glendale Arena under first-year coach Wayne Gretzky. **C1**

Business

America West shareholders OK merger: US Airways and AmWest have just one more hurdle to clear this week to begin the countdown to their combined operations. **D1**

Northwest, Delta bankruptcy filings expected: Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines are reportedly both preparing to seek bankruptcy protection as soon as today. **D1**

GAS PRICES Pump watch. **B1**

Average price per gallon for regular gasoline in Phoenix, according to AAA Arizona:

Tuesday:	Month ago:	Year ago:
\$3.05	\$2.50	\$1.93

To find the cheapest gas, see www.phoenixgasprices.com.

YOUR LIFE A guide to help you through the day.

It's not appropriate to take a date to a strip club: But *The Full Monty*, playing at the Orpheum Theatre through Tuesday, offers you the next best thing. Based on the British movie, it's about a group of unemployed blue-collar workers who earn extra money by performing a striptease. The theater is at 203 W. Adams St. in Phoenix. (602) 262-7272. **Arizona Living, E5**

Volunteering

Help fight osteoporosis: Up to half of all women will get an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime. Bone Builders is a community program aimed at helping women of all ages learn to reduce their risks of developing osteoporosis. Volunteers are needed to teach classes, help at health fairs and perform other tasks. **Arizona Living, E1**

Weather

Mostly sunny: The dry air continues today. High 97. Low 73. **B10**

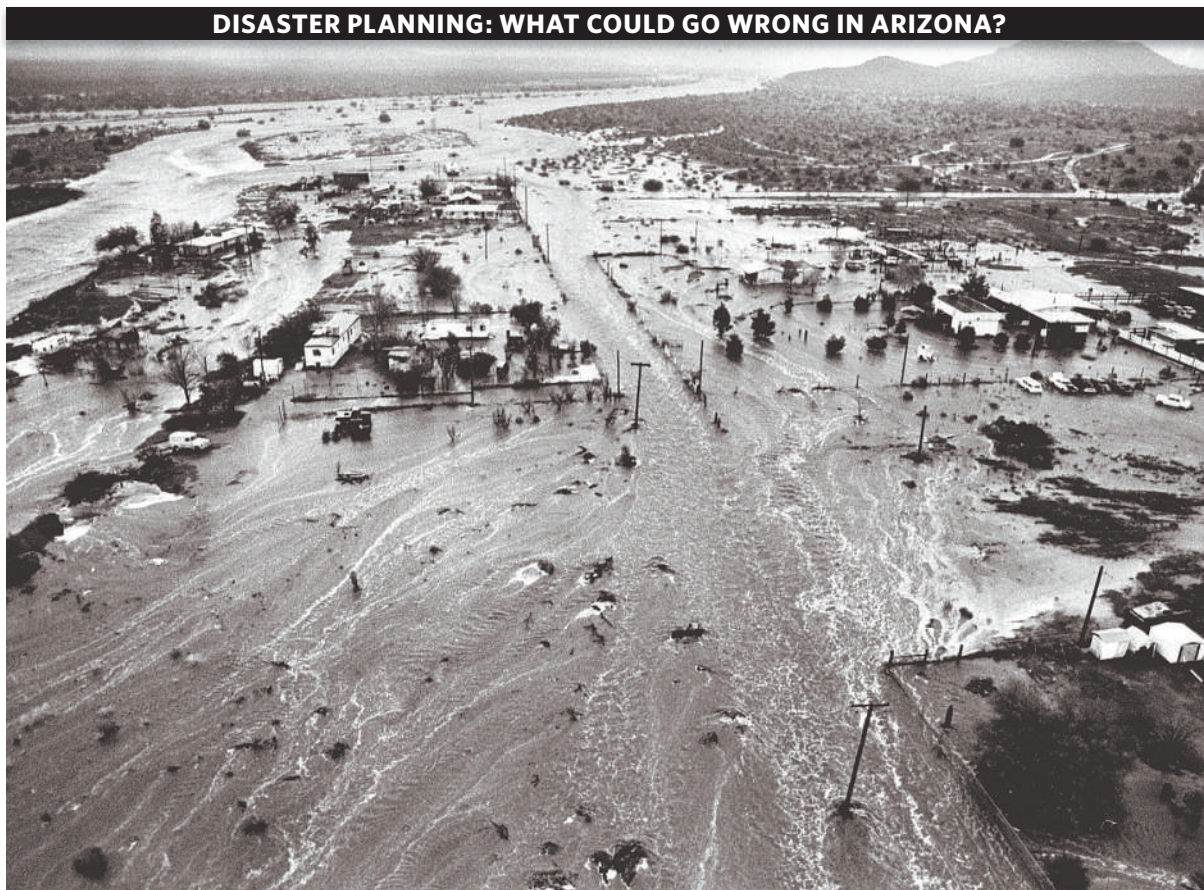
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Classified: Looking for a great deal? Find it inside Republic Classified, **CL1**, behind the **Arizona Living** section.



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DISASTER PLANNING: WHAT COULD GO WRONG IN ARIZONA?

TIM KOORS/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

MASSIVE FLOODING

SCENARIO: A dam breaks, causing massive flooding in metropolitan Phoenix. In 1980, rural residents northwest of Phoenix had to be evacuated when the Agua Fria River flooded.

State preparing for the worst

Katrina a 'wake-up call' for officials to polish plan

By Chip Scutari
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

azcentral.com

A broken dam sending torrents of water into metropolitan Phoenix or an earthquake dispatching thousands of refugees from California are among the threats Arizona leaders will consider next week as they begin reviewing the state's emergency plans. Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano called for the action in the wake of the catastrophic effects and the bureaucratic bungling of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Napolitano, who called the disaster "a gigantic wake-up call" for Arizona, will direct her disaster response team to revise, modern-

Find a Hurricane Katrina slide show plus the latest news at news.azcentral.com. Go to preparingaz.azcentral.com for information from the American Red Cross and other agencies on how to prepare for a disaster.

ize, condense and simplify Arizona's cumbersome 464-page emergency plan.

After watching the catastrophe and confusion unfold in New Orleans, she wants to be ready for what many fear could be the nation's next great disaster: a California earthquake that forces hundreds of thousands into Arizona seeking

shelter and food. The review also will address such challenges as access to transportation and the evacuation of nursing homes should a disaster strike Arizona.

Since Napolitano took office in 2003, Arizona has been preparing for bioterrorism attacks, terrorist espionage and other homeland security-type disasters. But the nightmare of Katrina, added to the catastrophe of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, has state officials confronting an assortment of logistical challenges:

■ Four years after the 9/11 attacks, Arizona's terrorism response system remains stymied

See **DISASTER PLAN** Page A16

FOREST FIRES

JACK KURTZ/
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

SCENARIO: Wildland forest fires force massive evacuations and other logistical problems across Arizona. In 2002, the "Rodeo-Chediski" fire forced about 90,000 people to leave their homes.

PALO VERDE

JOSHUA TRUJILLO/
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

SCENARIO: An explosion at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station challenges the Valley's approach to a mass evacuation. Fears of terrorist attacks on nuclear plants increased after Sept. 11, 2001.

EARTHQUAKE

DAVE YODER/
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SCENARIO: A California earthquake sends hundreds of thousands to Arizona, scrambling for shelter. In January 1994, a 6.6-magnitude earthquake devastated the San Fernando Valley, killing dozens.

For Arizona, Mexican port promises new opportunity

By Chris Hawley
REPUBLIC MEXICO CITY BUREAU

GUAYMAS, Mexico — Early each morning, as the sun is still spreading golden light over the Gulf of California, the grizzled men of the Guaymas Stevedores Union crowd into a run-down building near the wharves to hear the bad news.

There are no ships today, union secretary Manuel Gutiérrez tells

the group of about 60 men. Only 12 dock workers are needed this morning, mostly for sweeping the empty piers or maintaining the vacant warehouses.

"Years ago, we used to have five ships loading up here and four more waiting to get in," dock worker Arturo García Bolívar said as the union members trickled out one recent morning. "But now,

See **GUAYMAS** Page A14



CHRIS HAWLEY/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Arizona State University students Gerardo Treviño (left) and Omar Ahumada tour the port of Guaymas, Sonora. They are part of an ASU team that is studying the feasibility of sending Arizona's exports through the Guaymas port.

ANALYSIS

Nominee keeps his cool, even on abortion

By Ron Fournier
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Perhaps the smoothest politician in the Senate hearing room, John Roberts cast himself Tuesday



John Roberts

as a humble, fair-minded jurist with views just nimble enough to please anybody, from the abortion rights soccer mom to the staunchest red-state con-

servative. But there should be no mistake about his ideology. Roberts is deeply conservative. Period.

His performance before the Senate Judiciary Committee suggests that Democrats, with only 44 of the Senate's 100 votes, stand little chance of keeping Roberts out of the chief justice's seat, where he could help shape the nation's course for a generation or more.

"It's like pitching to Ken Griffey," said Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., using a baseball metaphor to praise Roberts' political skills.

Right out of the batter's box

See **HEARING** Page A12

Scams stalk first-time home buyers

By Pat Flannery
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Arizona's hot housing market and hypercompetitive lending practices are breeding scams that are victimizing eager but unsophisticated new home buyers.

Consumers face a host of potential pitfalls, the most common of which are predatory sales and lending practices in which complex or misleading transactions end up costing far more than represented.

Outright forgery of sales and loan documents is also becoming more common. The Arizona Department of Real Estate recently traced a number of deals in which consumers who didn't qualify for loans nonetheless received them after identity documents and credit histories were falsified.

The fallout for the victims can be disastrous. Many face financial hardships or foreclo-

See **HOUSING** Page A13

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