

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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SEASON FOR SHARING A legacy of caring for 20 years

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME | 5:45 P.M. TODAY; TV: ESPN

## GRAHAM BACKING UP BIG TALK

"I think perception is reality, and we start the perception today that we're going to build a championship program. We're going to win Pac-12 championships, we are going to win Rose Bowl championships and, ultimately, the national championship."

— Todd Graham, Dec. 14, 2011

Those words spilled out of the Arizona State football coach's mouth at his introductory news conference two years ago. Eyes rolled.

**paola boivin**  
on asu football



Reporters yawned. They sounded like typical new-hire hyperbole in an atmosphere already highly charged with cynicism thanks to Graham's sloppy exit from Pittsburgh.

Yet here he is, one win away from the conference title, another from a

Rose Bowl crown. A victory over Stanford tonight at Sun Devil Stadium would guarantee ASU a trip to Pasadena.

"This is the biggest game I've had in my career," Graham said. "This is what I've worked my whole life for."

From day one, Graham appreciated what a Rose Bowl invitation would mean to the program and fans.

The first person he spoke to after

See **BOIVIN**, Page A8



### SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

A souvenir section on the Pac-12 title game, with a breakdown of the matchup, team stats, player profiles and much more.

### ONLINE

Get Live Chat coverage and game analysis today at [sundevils.azcentral.com](http://sundevils.azcentral.com).



## BUT IT'S A DRY FORECAST

Franco Macagno of Italy photographs his girlfriend, Sara Cantamessa, at Lake Powell. The water level at the lake is down more than 100 feet from its high mark. That distance can be seen by the white chalk marks on the opposite canyon wall. MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

### Outlook for 2014: Severity may lessen, but drought will persist

By **Brandon Loomis**  
The Republic | azcentral.com

Arizona isn't likely to see any respite next year from the drought that has gripped the state for almost 15 years, though summer monsoon storms and a freakish November drenching set the region up nicely to store a healthy water supply, federal forecasters said Friday.

Meteorologists, who typically look to the oceans when predicting long-term weather patterns, say the water currents in the Pacific Ocean indicate good odds that this winter will be slightly drier than the norm.

With neither a wet El Niño nor a dry La Niña phase developing, National Weather Service drought specialist

**14** years since Arizona entered a prolonged period of persistent drought conditions.

**45** percent — the current capacity level of Lake Powell, a major reservoir for Arizona.

Mark O'Malley said to expect more of a "Nada" — a winter of neutral influences from midocean temperatures.

Another ocean factor, though, appears to point to a slightly warmer and dry winter for the Southwest, which has been in some stage of drought in all but a few years since 1999.

Cool surface temperatures along the North American and Asian coasts indicate that a long-term ocean climate shift known as Pacific Decadal Oscilla-

tion isn't about to occur, leaving in place the kind of conditions that brought on the current drought.

"There's probably a better-than-average chance that (weather) will be drier than normal across the Southwest," the Phoenix-based forecaster said.

But nothing in the models suggests anything worse than what the region has experienced in recent years, and so-called "neutral" ocean years can be unpredictable.

"It only takes one or two storms to really make a winter for us," O'Malley said. "We found that out in November."

Last month, most of the state got its usual monthly rain total in just one

See **WATER**, Page A11

## ID breach may cost MCCCDC \$14 mil

2.4 mil people affected at Maricopa Colleges

By **Mary Beth Fallor**  
The Republic | azcentral.com

A massive data breach at Maricopa Community Colleges was a result of staff errors in the information technology department, and the estimated cost of fixing the problem and aiding victims could rise as high as \$14 million.

An official with the Maricopa County Community College District said an outside consultant had determined that the April data breach, in which personal information of current and former students and employees may have been exposed, was due to substandard performance of IT workers.

"When Maricopa investigated the system, we found vulnerabilities that resulted from employee conduct that did not meet Maricopa's standards and expectations," college district spokesman Tom Gariepy said.

See **BREACH**, Page A11

## Markets climb as jobless rate falls to a 5-year low

U.S. employers added 203,000 jobs in November, a fourth straight month of solid job growth that pushed the unemployment rate down to a five-year low of 7.0 percent from 7.3 percent in October.

Consistently solid hiring figures suggest the economy may be accelerating, and stock markets responded positively to the improving numbers.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 198.69 points, or 1.3 percent, to 16,020.20 on Friday, ending a five-day losing streak.

**Business**, B6

### NATION & WORLD

#### South Africa mourns its hero

Millions of South Africans pause through the day to mourn former President Nelson Mandela, their beloved "Madiba." Across the nation, they pray, sing and celebrate his remarkable life, which helped end apartheid and brought freedom. **A4**

**Remembering Pearl Harbor:** Survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor volunteer at the USS Arizona Memorial and share with visitors stories of the day that brought America into WWII. **A4**

### VALLEY & STATE

#### Group works to light up holiday

Becky Hewitt, director of the Arizona Twirling Athletes, a non-profit youth group, puts finishing touches on the team's float for tonight's APS Electric Light Parade in Phoenix. It's the 18th year that the group has participated in the parade. **B1**



ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC



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