

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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TODAY'S QUICK READ

YOUR WORLD



EMILIO MORENATTI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mideast tensions high

Just hours before Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (right, with Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni) arrived for talks, Israel complicates U.S. peace efforts by declaring the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip an "enemy entity." **A5**

Iran adds to tensions in the Middle East, saying it has drawn up plans to bomb Israel if the Jewish state should attack. Tensions in the region have heated with an Israeli airstrike on Syria and calls from the West for sanctions against Iran. **A5**

Nation & World

Town braces for rallies: What started as a show of support for six Black students accused of attacking a White student evolves into a series of rallies that could bring 40,000 people to a town of 3,500. **A7**

Valley & State

Phoenix OKs texting ban: Phoenix police today can begin pulling over motorists who are seen sending text messages while driving. The Phoenix City Council votes to impose fines of up to \$250 for the practice. There is a warning period until Oct. 19. **B1**

Today's editorial: The mayor of Sin City lashes out at a *New York Times* columnist for unveiling the exploitation of the city's prostitution industry. We can hope his city will reject that view, but the contamination of society is a product of what all of us are willing to accept. **B4**

Sports

Relievers deliver for Diamondbacks: The D-Backs hang on to edge San Francisco 6-4 in front of more than 42,000 fans at Chase Field. Arizona enters its final regular-season home series holding a one-game division lead over the San Diego Padres. **C1**

Business

Southwest modifies its 'cattle call': Southwest Airlines announces that it will switch to a more orderly system this fall. Passengers will still board in groups, but numbers on their boarding passes will reserve their place in line. See how it will work. **D1**

YOUR LIFE

Fashion

Cool clothes for warm weather: In school, in stores and in fashion magazines, fall is in full swing. The images of boots and sweaters are everywhere. What can we make of fall fashions when we're still in flip-flop weather? Try some fall fashions that will work for now and later. **Arizona Living, E1**

Weather

High clouds: Breezes from the south. High 97. Low 74. **B8**

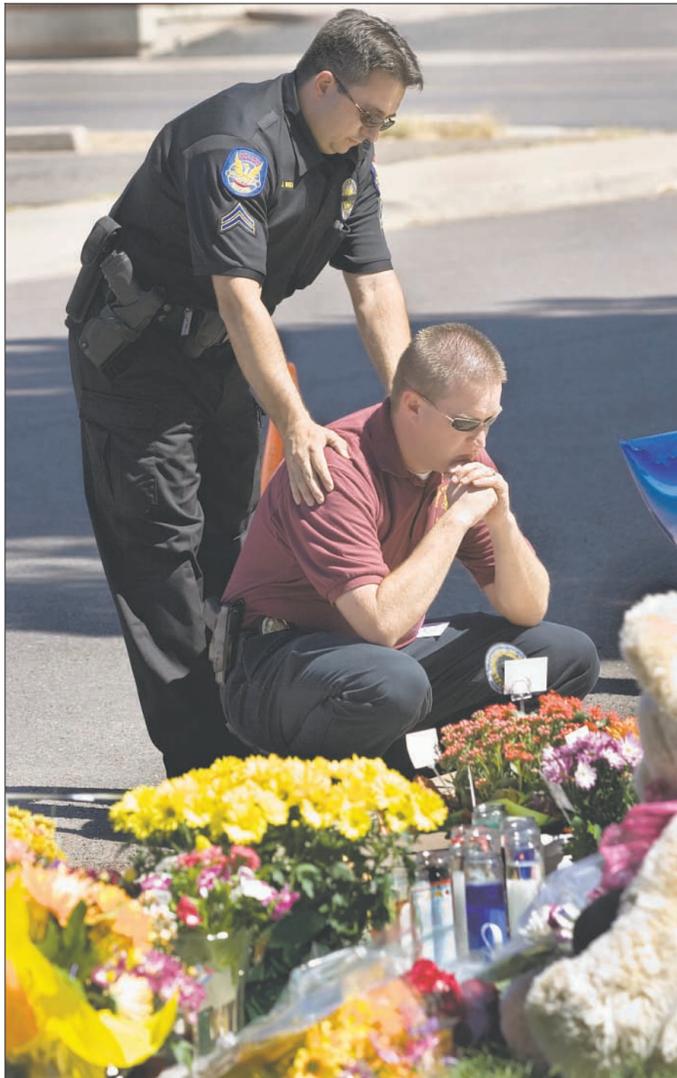
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Classified: Looking for a great deal? Find it inside *Republic Classified*, **CL1**, behind the **Arizona Living** section.

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Mourning, outrage day after bloodshed



TOM TINGLE/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Phoenix police Officer Jeff Benza comforts a police detective, who wished to not be identified, on Wednesday afternoon at 24th Street and Pinchot Avenue.

Slain officer was known for his heroism

By Judi Villa
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Phoenix police Officer Nick Erfle knew a single round from an AK-47 assault rifle would rip right through his bulletproof vest.

But the gunman he was chasing more than a year ago had just pulled into an elementary school as parents and buses dropped off children.

Instead of waiting for backup or pulling behind the suspect to shield himself, Erfle

placed himself squarely between the AK-47 and the schoolyard full of children.

That's just the kind of officer he was.

"He put himself right in direct fire," said Sgt. Phil Roberts, who once supervised Erfle. "Nick really was truly one of those officers that was an exception. He loved his job, and he went out there every day to catch bad guys."

Erfle, 33, an eight-year vet-

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Nick Erfle

■ A memorial fund is set up to help the slain officer's family. **A9**

After deportation, shooter was caught, freed again

By Judi Villa, Michael Kiefer, Carol Sowers and Michael Clancy
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Erik Jovani Martinez should have been in prison and not jaywalking the day he gunned down Phoenix police Officer Nick Erfle.

But despite a lengthy criminal history and a deportation, Martinez remained free, even after he was arrested again in the Valley just two months after he had been forced to leave

the country in 2006.

Scottsdale police say they didn't know Martinez, 22, was an illegal immigrant or that he had been deported when they arrested him in May 2006 for grabbing his girlfriend's arm twice during a quarrel.

Martinez was deported in March 2006 after a felony conviction for theft.

Had Scottsdale police known, Martinez should have been jailed and should have

See KILLER Page A8



Erik Jovani Martinez

Napolitano acts to close budget gap

Plan would tap rainy-day fund

By Matthew Benson and Mary Jo Pitzl
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



Janet Napolitano

Responding to growing concerns about the slowing Arizona economy, Gov. Janet Napolitano on Wednesday unveiled a plan to close an estimated \$600 million state budget shortfall.

It calls for \$100 million in immediate spending cuts through imposing a hiring freeze on non-essential state employees, restricting travel and eliminating most overtime.

She hopes to avoid deeper cuts by pulling \$200 million from the state's \$700 million rainy-day fund. The last and potentially most contentious piece of her plan would use financing, rather than cash, to

pay for \$300 million in school construction.

That would allow the state to spread payments over the coming decades, lessening the burden on this year's budget.

Cuts would be targeted, with protection for K-12 and higher education along with children's programs and services. Napolitano called the plan "the best way to manage our way through this shortfall."

But the plan sets up a showdown between the Democratic governor and GOP-led Legis-

See BUDGET Page A6

Dems lose new bout over troops in Iraq

McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — In another defeat for Democrats trying to change President Bush's Iraq policy, the Senate on Wednesday blocked legislation requiring that members of the active-duty military must spend at least as much time in the United States as they've spent in Iraq or Afghanistan before they can be sent back to the war zones again.

Democrats plan several more bills in the next few weeks to try to speed troop withdrawals, but the one on "dwell time" was considered their best chance to get the 60 votes needed under Senate

Bravery in Iraq

■ Survivors coping with comrades' sacrifices. **A4**

rules to shut off debate. It fell four votes short: 56-44. Arizona Republicans Jon Kyl and John McCain voted against the legislation.

American soldiers generally now are deployed to Iraq for 15 months and get 12 months back in the United States, which includes time away from home spent training for their next missions.

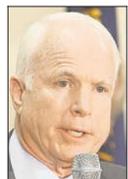
Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., a decorated Vietnam veteran, proposed the amendment.

McCain vs. Thompson: Differences are subtle

By Mike Madden and Ryan Konig
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

They're rivals for the White House now, but during eight years in the Senate together, Republican presidential hopefuls Fred Thompson and John McCain were close allies.

An *Arizona Republic* analysis of Senate votes found that Thompson and McCain were on the same side in 83 percent of the approximately 2,500 roll-call votes taken from 1995 to 2003, when Thompson represented Tennessee. They have cast votes the same way on many hot-button issues in



John McCain



Fred Thompson

the 2008 GOP campaign so far, including authorization of the Iraq war and on immigration and border-security proposals.

Both men trail former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani in national polls of GOP voters.

See COMPARISON Page A10

Could be worse: Phoenix is No. 15 for bad traffic

By Glen Creno
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Let's face it. Traffic in metropolitan Phoenix can be excruciating.

But take comfort in this: It's not the worst in the country. The area didn't even crack the top 10 urban areas with the worst traffic, though we were close.

Metropolitan Phoenix ranked No. 15, with drivers spending an extra 48 hours behind the wheel because of traffic, according to a study of 2005 traffic figures in U.S. cities by the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University. Roadway congestion is increasing nationwide, ac-



CHRISTINE KEITH/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

That's the brakes

■ How the Valley's 2005 rush-hour commutes compare with 2000 and the national average. **A12**

Traffic flow slows during rush hour heading west near 12th Street on Loop 202 in Phoenix. Road congestion is increasing nationwide, according to a 2005 study.

See CONGESTION Page A12

Nine performances left!

THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE

by Martin McDonagh

MONTY PYTHON MEETS QUENTIN TARANTINO.

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- The New York Times

"ALMOST FATALLY HILARIOUS"

- Talkin' Broadway

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