

Crow seeks \$1.4 billion so schools can boost economy

Business, A10



The Spurs will target the Suns



physically and emotionally

Sports, B1



DOLLY BACK IN ACTION

Steamboat floats Canyon Lake visitors again

Arts & Life, A13



# EAST VALLEY Tribune

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## How the budget would be balanced

- Take \$487 million from the state's "rainy day" fund, leaving approximately \$200 million
- Delay \$272 million of payments due to schools in June until the following fiscal year in July
- Divert \$300 million sitting in other special funds
- Reduce funding for Maricopa County road projects by \$42 million to pay instead for Department of Public Safety officers' salaries
- Require the three state universities to collectively reduce their budgets by \$14.7 million
- Eliminate \$10.5 million for

- design of the joint UA/ASU medical campus in Phoenix
- Reduce building renewal funds for schools
- Move funding for new state Veteran Home in Tucson back one year
- Shift about \$7 million in increased costs for long-term care patients to Maricopa and Pima counties
- Scrap funding for a new program to help teach math and science
- Lump sum reductions from appropriations to various state agencies

## Lawmakers, Napolitano agree on strategy to balance budget

By HOWARD FISCHER  
CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

State lawmakers agreed late Thursday on a combination of raiding the state's bank, budget cuts and short-term borrowing to finally bring the current

state budget into balance.

The deal, which got the blessing of Gov. Janet Napolitano, essentially employs all of the least complicated methods of bringing expenses into line with revenue. At this point, estimates are the budget is \$1.2

billion in the red. The situation could get worse if tax collections between now and June 30 continue to defy expectations.

This package fills that gap largely by taking \$487 million

SEE BUDGET • PAGE A2

EVTRIB.COM: For the latest developments from the budget-balancing vote, visit our Web site.

## 60-SECOND TRIB



### Pope meets with victims of abuse

Pope Benedict XVI meets for the first time with U.S. victims abused by priests, offering them his support. **Nation & World, AA1**

### A.J. chief search

Next week, Apache Junction residents can get their first look at the remaining finalists for the city's top law enforcement post. **Local, A3**

### Police substation

Grand opening ceremonies are planned Saturday for the Chandler Heights Police Substation at Lindsay and Chandler Heights roads. **Local, A3**

### Gilbert teen killed

Dozens of Williams Field High Schools students gather at the site of a horrific crash that claims the life of a classmate and leaves another three clinging to life. **Local, A4**

### Mesa cleanup

Southeast Mesa residents meet to plan neighborhood improvements in City Council District 6, which spans east from Val Vista Drive and south from Broadway Road. **Local, A5**

### Jobless rate steady

Arizona's and the Valley's unemployment rates remained unchanged last month. **Business, A10**

### McCain support

Growing numbers of people like what they see in John McCain, vaulting the Republican presidential candidate into a tie with the two Democratic contenders, just a few months since the GOP faced a steep disadvantage, according to a poll. **Politics, AA1**

## VOICES



**BILLYE JILL PAULSON:** Mesa-based Heart Judo traveled to Las Vegas

on April 5 to compete in the Silver State Championships and came home with several top-five finishes. **Sports, B6**

• "How about a license plate that says 'God is imaginary'? Why do these wingnuts keep trying to force their sky-fairy down our throats? Doesn't the government have something better to do?" a Venter asks. **Opinion, A16**

Arts & Life, A13  
Business, A10  
Comics, C17  
Horoscope, C16  
Lottery, A2  
Nation & World, AA1  
Obituaries, A17  
Opinion, A16 - A17  
Puzzles, C2, 16, 18, 20  
Television, C16



High 87  
Low 55

Details, B10

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## Board OKs revision of project near Las Sendas

East Mesa residents voice concerns on height of mid-rise, other issues

By SONU MUNSHI  
TRIBUNE

The developer of an east Mesa property slated for development just outside the upscale Las Sendas community came one step closer to bringing his plan to fruition — but not without a fight.

Despite vehement protests from Las Sendas residents about site plans for the 51-acre parcel, the Mesa Planning and Zoning Board voted unanimously in favor of recommending the revised plans Thursday night.

That's a far cry from the last time the proposal went up for a vote. The board had rejected the previous plan on grounds that it didn't follow the original Las Sendas master plan to appease resi-

SEE CONCERNS • PAGE A2

## Texas testimony: Girls may have had kids at 13

TRIBUNE WIRE SERVICES

**SAN ANGELO, TEXAS** • A child welfare worker says numerous women at a polygamist church ranch in Texas may have had children when they were as young as 13.

**DETAILS, AA1**

The testimony came Thursday night during a chaotic court hearing to determine the custody of the 416 children swept up in a raid on the ranch two weeks ago. The state claims the children were physically and sexually abused.

Child welfare investigator Angie Voss also says at least five girls who are younger than 18 are pregnant or have children.

They are part of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Members deny children were abused and say the state is persecuting them for their faith.

The hearing descended into a near farce with hundreds of lawyers in two packed buildings shouting objections and the judge struggling to maintain order.

At issue was an attempt by the state of Texas to strip the parents of custody and place the children in foster homes because of evidence they were being physically and sexually abused by the Mormon splinter group suspected of forcing underage girls into marriage with older men.

## Mesa's 'Biggest Loser' happy to 'join the party again'



**LOSERS ARE WINNERS:** "The Biggest Loser" Season 5 Winner Ali Vincent, left, of Mesa, with her mother, Bette-Sue Burkland, at the reality show's finale Tuesday. Vincent and Burkland were partners at the start of the show.

## Winner of reality show busy with photo shoots, TV appearances

By KELLY WILSON  
TRIBUNE

Mesa's Ali Vincent has been on a nonstop ride since she became the first woman to win "The Biggest Loser."

Since the show's finale Tuesday, she's appeared on the "Today" show and will film "Ellen" after she finishes a photo shoot for In Touch magazine, where she called from the set. Her "Got Milk?" ad, featuring a flexing and beaming Vincent, appears in People magazine's issue that hit stands today.

"I think that this body is a direct

### Trainer visits East Valley

Bob Harper, one of the trainers on "The Biggest Loser," will promote his new weight-loss book, "Are You Ready!" (Broadway, \$22.95), 6 p.m. today at Changing Hands Bookstore, 6428 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe. Information: (480) 730-0205 or [changinghands.com](http://changinghands.com).

example of how I feel on the inside," Vincent said. "I'm proud and I'm happy and I feel beautiful and strong and confident. I forgot what it felt like and it feels good!"

Vincent and her mother, Bette Sue Burkland, were eliminated dur-

ing the fourth week of the couples edition, but Ali was brought back midseason during a surprise twist.

While Burkland slimmed down from 261 pounds to 186 pounds, losing more than 28 percent of her weight, Vincent went from 234 pounds to 122 pounds, shedding 47.86 percent of her body weight.

"I was so heavy physically and emotionally. No wonder I wasn't having all that I wanted in my life," Vincent said. "I really took a look at it so I could change my life, and that's what I've done. I've really

SEE LOSER • PAGE A2

EVTRIB.COM: Watch a video of behind-the-scenes footage of Ali Vincent shooting her "Got Milk?" ad.