

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

50¢

azcentral.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2008

TODAY'S QUICK READ

YOUR WORLD

Gordon-recall signatures due

A group that wants to toss Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon out of office for his so-called weakness in fighting illegal immigration plans to turn in recall-petition signatures today at the City Clerk's Office. To force a recall vote, American Citizens United needs to turn in the valid signatures of 23,751 registered Phoenix voters. To date, no one has stepped forward to run against Gordon in a possible election, which would be held March 10. **B1**



Nation & World

Mice cells transformed: The achievement is a big step toward the goal of growing replacement tissues and it suggests that doctors someday may be able to use a patient's own cells to treat disease or injury. **A3**

Flights grounded by glitch: Routine work on a computer system delays hundreds of U.S. flights and thousands of passengers and shows how vulnerable the country's aging air-traffic-control system is. **A12**

Valley & State

Airport security check-in eased: Sky Harbor introduces three "self-select" lanes in the hope they may get passengers through security checkpoints 30 percent faster. **B1**

Today's editorial: Sandra Dowling is guilty of being a pol who has made questionable decisions. But not of any serious crimes. **B4**

Today's letter to the editor: Instead of John McCain and his hammer, we need leaders with a variety of foreign-policy tools. We need Barack Obama and Joe Biden. **B4**

Sports

Synchronized stumble: The D-Backs fail to lose any ground to the Dodgers despite being swept by San Diego. As Arizona's losing streak reaches four, LA's swoon hits six. **C1**

Business

Mortgages Ltd. plan hits wrinkle: Investor rights could complicate efforts by the bankrupt lender to secure funding for its stalled Centerpoint condo project in Tempe. **D1**

Thriffs lose big: Stung by mounting home-loan defaults, U.S. thriffs lost \$5.4 billion in the second quarter — their second-largest quarterly loss in an April-June period. **D3**

YOUR LIFE

Helping folks make ends meet

Cash for those in need: The economically strapped find a friend in Modest Needs, a Web-based charity that may cut a check so folks can pay to fix the car, the air-conditioner or a broken pipe. **Arizona Living, E1**

Weather

Chance of rain: Humid afternoon. High 101. Low 82. **B8**

Index

Astrology	E6	Outdoors	C8
Comics	E4, 5	Opinions	B4, 5
Dear Abby	E6	Puzzles	E4, 5
Golf	C9-11	Sports TV	C2
Innovators	D4	Television	E5
Lottery	B2	Valley 101	B8
Obituaries	B6, 7	Weather	B8

Classified: Looking for a great deal? Find it inside Republic Classified, **C1**, behind the Cars section.

Want to save time as well as money on your groceries? Pay your newspaper subscription monthly by credit card on our Easy Pay program and we'll give you a \$10 Safeway gift card. Go to epfg.azcentral.com.



A Gannett Newspaper: 119th year, No. 102. Copyright 2008, The Arizona Republic

RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE | DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Biden, Bill Clinton blast GOP

Democrats seal Obama's historic nomination

By Dan Nowicki
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

DENVER — Top Democrats pushed back hard Wednesday against Republican attacks on Barack Obama's lack of foreign-policy experience, arguing he already has proved he has better judgment on the Iraq war than GOP foe John McCain and President Bush.

Vice-presidential candidate Joe Biden, former President Clinton and past White House contender John Kerry gave prime-time boosts to Obama's

commander-in-chief credentials after the freshman senator from Illinois officially became the first African-American nominated for president by a major U.S. political party.

At the urging of Hillary Clinton, who finished second in this year's primaries, delegates at the Democratic National Convention tapped Obama by voice vote rather than the traditional state-by-state roll call.

Hours later, Biden, a longtime sen-

See **CONVENTION** Page A16



PAUL J. RICHARDS/GETTY IMAGES
Presidential nominee Barack Obama (right) and running mate Joe Biden greet the crowd.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Analysis: Obama faces special challenges for his acceptance speech tonight. **A17**

McCain dilemma: Choice of Biden as Obama's running mate complicates McCain's VP selection. **A18**

Hassles with air travel, gas costs may usher in NEW RAILROAD ERA



NICHOLAS KAMM/GETTY IMAGES

Travelers board the high-speed Acela Express train heading for New York and Boston from Union Station in Washington, D.C. Amtrak had 2.75 million passengers in July, 14 percent higher than a year earlier.

Ariz., other states consider intercity, commuter lines

By Glen Creno
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Passenger rail is showing signs of life around the country and here in Arizona.

High gas prices, the increasing costs of flying, airline consolidation and road congestion have travelers taking a second look at intercity rail: high-speed passenger service that moves people between distant cities.

Amtrak is racking up record ridership across the nation and in Arizona. States and cities across the country are studying new rail projects. And Arizona and 21 other states have filed proposals to get a cut of \$30 million in federal money for such projects.

Rail service has long been considered a transportation alternative in Arizona. Studies have been under way on both intercity rail and commuter rail. Intercity rail would connect Phoenix and Tucson, and commuter rail would connect outlying ci-

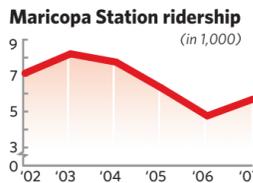
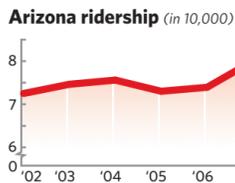


PETER VAN DYKE/SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

Amtrak runs the Southwest Chief, connecting Los Angeles and Chicago and hitting such Arizona cities as Flagstaff and Kingman.

Arizona Amtrak passengers

The number of people boarding or exiting Amtrak trains in Arizona and at the station closest to Phoenix:



Source: Amtrak

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

See **TRAINS** Page A14

U.S. to turn once-bloody province over to Iraq

By Robert Burns
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Conditions in the west Iraqi province of Anbar, where a brutal insurgency once ruled, have improved so dramatically that the United States is handing over responsibility for security in the Sunni stronghold to Iraq within days. Troops freed up in Iraq could shift to Afghanistan.

"There aren't a whole heck of a lot of bad guys there left to fight," Gen. James Conway, the Marine Corps' top uniformed officer, said Wednesday.

A ceremony marking the Anbar turnover is expected to be held Monday, several U.S. and Iraqi officials said. Each spoke on condition of anonymity because the Iraqi government has not yet announced it. Anbar would be the 10th of Iraq's 18 provinces to be re-

See **IRAQ** Page A5

New Orleans nervously eyes storm Gustav

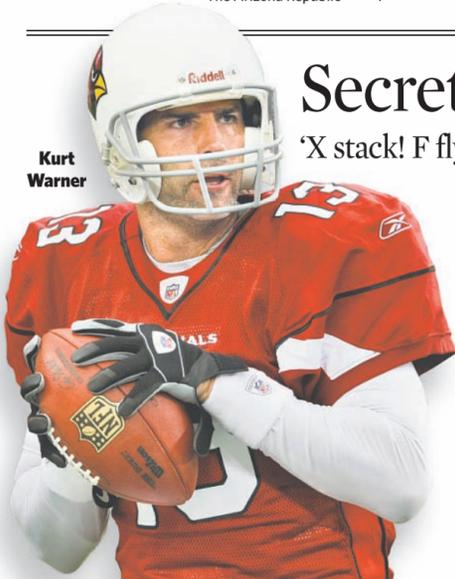
By Michael Kunzelman and Tamara Lush
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — On the eve of Hurricane Katrina's third anniversary, a nervous New Orleans watched Wednesday as another storm threatened to test everything the city has rebuilt, and officials made preliminary plans to evacuate people, pets and hospitals in an attempt to avoid a Katrina-style chaos.

Forecasters warned that Gustav could grow into a dangerous Category 3 hurricane in the next several days and hit somewhere along a swath of the Gulf Coast from the Florida Panhandle to Texas — with New Orleans smack in the middle.

See **HURRICANE** Page A6

Economic hit: Storm threatens U.S. oil operations, may raise gas prices. **D1**



Secret language of quarterbacks

'X stack! F fly!' Mystifying NFL playbooks are a challenge to tackle

By Bob McManaman
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

"Zero flat! X stack! F fly! Fake toss 39! X reverse pass right! ... On three! Break!"

It's a completely different language, a confounding and disjointed barrage of nearly unspeakable babble. And if you visited the Arizona Cardinals' training camp in Flagstaff, you heard plenty of this strange gibberish being barked out loud by your favorite quarterback.

"Some of the names they come up with for these plays we run are just bizarre and bewildering," Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner said. "They make sense to us once we digest it all,

NFL season

Cardinals play Denver at home in their preseason finale at 7 p.m. Friday.
■ Breaking down a Cardinals call. **A20**
■ The No. 3 quarterback. **Sports, C1**
■ Warner gets Friday start. **Sports, C6**

but I mean, it's like aliens talking to each other or something."

Shouting out the complicated, funny-sounding instructions is one thing, but remembering all of them out of a 400-plus-page playbook is something entirely different.

See **FOOTBALL** Page A20

DRIVE AWAY WITH

\$10 OFF

Jiffy Lube Signature Service Oil Change®

With coupon only. Not valid with any other offer. Valid at all Phoenix Metro Valley Locations. Up to 5 quarts 10W/30, 5/30 or 5/20 weight. Most Cars. One coupon per visit. Offer valid until 9/30/08.

Call for Hours of Operation or visit our Website: jiffylube.arizona.com

57 Valley Locations • nearest location call: 1.888.99.jiffy