

CASA GRANDE Dispatch



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HAITI'S HADES



Jorge Cruz/Associated Press
An injured person is seen after the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Tuesday.

500,000 dead by one estimate, many trapped

By JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Azed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers searched collapsed buildings as officials feared the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.



Jorge Cruz/Associated Press
Bodies lie in the rubble along Delmas Road on Wednesday in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

▶▶ The children's bodies piled next to the ruins of their school; frantic doctors wrap bleeding heads in a parking lot; inmates escape a felled prison; a senator is lost in the wrecked parliament; and, as always, looters.

▶▶ When it comes to natural disasters, Haiti seems to have a bull's-eye on it because of a combination of geography, poverty, social ills, slipshod building standards and bad luck.



Ricardo Arduengo/Associated Press
People search for survivors under a collapsed building on Wednesday in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

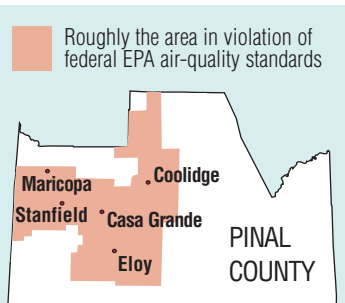
The still below, made from a video, shows a peacekeeper searching for survivors in the rubble of the destroyed MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti) headquarters in Port-au-Prince on Wednesday.



Dozens crowd air-quality meeting

Much of Pinal County found to be in violation of federal EPA standards

By MELISSA ST. AUDE
Staff Writer



When Yvonne Efverlund bought a new house in Maricopa in 2006, she never anticipated the purchase might place her family's health at risk. But when her 6-year-old suffered an asthma attack last December, Efverlund said, there was only one culprit — the dust and fine particulates in the air that make Maricopa one of several Pinal County communities to violate federal air quality standards.

"My son does not have asthma, but he had an asthma attack and is now on medication," Efverlund told the Casa Grande Dispatch. "Poor air quality is a health issue. There are kids here that are getting sick from the air because the particulate levels are

Care to comment?
Those who wish to comment on a plan to improve air quality in parts of Pinal County may do so through Feb. 5. Comments should be sent to: **James Wagner, ADEQ, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007** or by e-mail to **JW3@azdeq.gov**. Those who wish to comment by phone may call **800-234-5677**. ADEQ's Web site is **www.azdeq.gov**.

— Air-quality, Page 14A

Martin seeks governorship

By PAUL DAVENPORT
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — State Treasurer Dean Martin on Wednesday announced his candidacy challenging incumbent Jan Brewer for the Republican nomination for governor.

"There is nothing we need more in Arizona than a leader," said Martin, who could have run instead for a second term as treasurer.

The former state senator from Phoenix said his priorities as governor would include general tax cuts to attract businesses to create jobs, deploying radar and camera equipment along the U.S.-Mexico border

to combat illegal immigration, and instilling more transparency in government.

Martin also said he'd be willing to send National Guard troops to help secure the border if the federal government can't do the job. Any state costs would be offset by savings on immigration-related expenses on criminal justice, health care and welfare.

Asked how he'd tackle the state's budget crisis, Martin said he will offer a plan later but start with a presumption that recently created or expanded programs should be rolled back. The only specific

— Martin, Page 14A

DAYBREAK | SURGICAL TRANSPLANTS New windpipe procedure helps accident victim

By MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON — For more than 2½ years, Linda De Croock lived with constant pain from a car accident that smashed her windpipe.

Today, she has a new one after surgeons implanted the windpipe from a dead man into her arm, where it grew new tissue before being transplanted into her throat.

The way doctors trained her body to accept donor tissue could yield new methods of growing or nurturing organs within patients, experts say.

The technique sounds like science fiction, but De Croock says it has transformed her life. She no

longer takes anti-rejection drugs.

"Life before my transplant was becoming less livable all the time, with continual pain and jabbing and pricking in my throat and windpipe," the 54-year-old Belgian told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

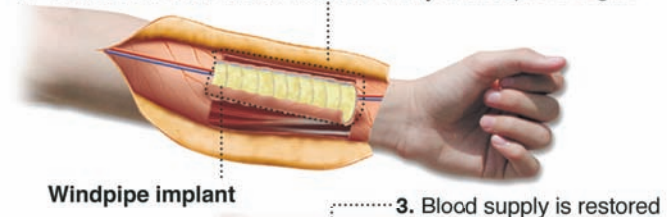
Doctors at Belgium's University Hospital Leuven implanted the donor windpipe in De Croock's arm as a first step in getting her body to accept the organ and to restart its blood supply.

About 10 months later, when enough tissue had grown around it to let her stop taking the drugs, the windpipe was transferred to its

Successful transplant performed

Surgeons in Belgium implanted the windpipe from a dead man into a woman's arm, where it grew new tissue before being transplanted into her throat.

Windpipe transplant
1. Donor's windpipe is wrapped in the recipient's tissue and implanted into her forearm. It is connected to a major artery to re-establish blood flow and allow her body to accept the organ



Windpipe implant
2. About 10 months later, after enough tissue had grown around it, the windpipe is transferred to the throat
3. Blood supply is restored



Images courtesy of University Hospital of K.U.Leuven

Poor attendance linked to poor high school freshman grades

Staff Reports

Barbara Wright, director of curriculum and instruction for the Casa Grande Elementary School District, said 93 percent of the freshmen who entered the Casa Grande Union High School District from CGESD passed their first semester with a D average or better — 75 percent with a C or better.

When she looked at the attendance records of CGESD freshmen who are not passing, she found that poor attendance may be a factor for some — "some having more than

50 absences during the first semester," she told the CGESD board during a meeting Tuesday.

Research shows that several factors affect student success during the freshman year, she said, including a larger, less personal setting, more choices for curricular and extra-curricular activities, diversity in teachers and peers and more competition — suddenly being a little fish in big pond.

By their sophomore year, former CGESD students appear to maintain