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David McKee with the city of Flagstaff's stormwater management department stands above the Rio de Flag waterway. The city of Flagstaff is in the midst of a project to restore the river's historic watershed.



Emery Cowan/Arizona Daily Sun

Restoring the Rio

A 3-mile stretch of the ephemeral stream through industrial east Flagstaff is set for a cleanup and a new trail

EMERY COWAN

Sun Staff Reporter

After it winds through Flagstaff, squeezing between homes, under roads and through culverts, the Rio de Flag ends up on the eastern edge of the city.

Here, boulders decorated with ancient petroglyphs rest in the shadows of construction trucks, and wildlife tracks

appear just feet from a Cemex building materials work yard.

Here, the industrial uses that have been pushed to the city's edge run up against, and tumble into, a rare ribbon of riparian habitat.

"A lot of this area was taken for granted

See **RIO**, A7

Hanging in the balance

Hundreds of Arizona same-sex unions could be affected as the U.S. Supreme Court revisits gay marriage bans

KRISTEN HWANG

Cronkite News

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of Arizona couples have taken the plunge since the state's ban on same-sex marriage was lifted in October, but their unions could be thrown up in the air as the Supreme Court revisits the question Tuesday.

The same nine justices who overturned a federal ban on same-sex marriage in 2013 will consider whether state bans are constitutional and whether states that do not allow such marriages must recognize those performed in other states.

It was that 2013 ruling that sparked a string of lower courts to overturn state same-sex marriage bans, including the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which ruled in October that states in the circuit — including Arizona — could not prohibit such marriages.

See **MARRIAGE**, A6

Rescuers struggle to recover the dead

In quake-hit Nepal, the lack of heavy equipment adds to the misery of survivors

TODD PITMAN

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — For hours after Nepal was shaken by one of the most intense earthquakes here in nearly a century, 12-year-old Neha Chumda screamed for help.

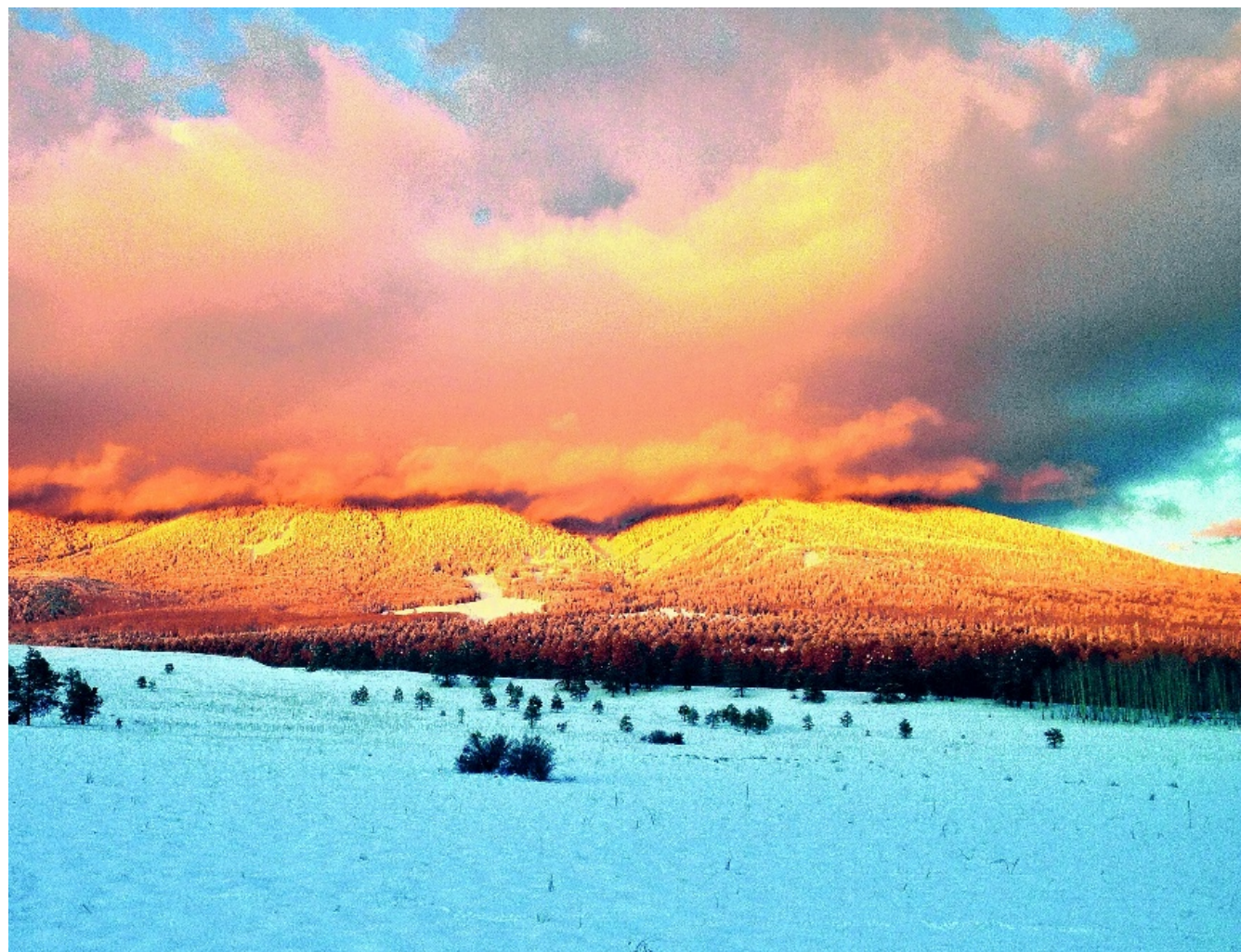
She had been inside her family's four-story villa in Kathmandu when the tremor struck unexpectedly Saturday. And in the life-or-death seconds that followed — when her home swayed at its walls began cracking apart — she and 11 members of her family rushed to get outside.

They all made it — except Neha, who was pinned in a room between the second and third floors, which had collapsed onto of each other.

"She was crying for so long, we tried to help her," Transport Minister Tek Bahadur Garung said of the girl, who is the daughter of one of his cousins.

See **NEPAL**, A6

SNOWSTORM SUNSET



Adam Doiron

NAU forestry student Adam Doiron grabbed a stunning photo of the sunset on Flagstaff's snowy mountains Sunday evening.

Spring storm wallops Peaks

Up to 18 inches on the mountain and an inch of rain in Flagstaff puts off fire season for another week

SUZANNE ADAMS-OCKRASSA

Sun Staff Reporter

The San Francisco Peaks got walloped with snow this weekend. Arizona Snowbowl reported around 14 to 18 inches on the mountain over the weekend.

INSIDE

More weather info in a new location: **Page A2**

Unfortunately for ski and snowboard fans, Arizona Snowbowl closed earlier this month and its summer scenic chairlift operations don't open until Memorial Day weekend.

According to the National Weather Service, the storm came through in a series of waves starting Friday evening and lasting through Sunday.

See **STORM**, A6

SNOW AND RAIN TOTALS

Snow

- Bellemont 5.5 inches
- Pulliam Airport 0.05 inches
- Forest Lakes and Parks 3 inches
- Williams 2 inches
- Pine Top 2 inches

Rain

- Pulliam Airport 1.06 inches
- Winslow 0.29 inches
- Bellemont 1.39 inches

Getting too hot? Blame it on warming

Study: Global warming causes 75 percent of very hot days

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — If you find yourself sweating out a day that is monstrously hot, chances are you can blame humanity. A new report links three out of four such days to man's effects on climate.

And as climate change worsens around mid-century, that percentage of extremely hot days being caused by man-made greenhouse gases will push

past 95 percent, according to the new study published Monday in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Humans have not had as great an effect on heavy downpours, though. The Swiss scientists who did the study calculated that 18 percent of extreme rain events are caused by global warming. But if the world warms another two degrees Fahrenheit — expected to happen around mid-century — about 39 percent of the downpours would be attributed to humanity's influence, according to the study. That influence

comes from greenhouse gases, mostly carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

"This new study helps get the actual probability or odds of human influence," said University of Arizona climate scientist Jonathan Overpeck, who wasn't part of the research. "This is key: If you don't like hot temperature extremes that we're getting, you now know how you can reduce the odds of such events by reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

See **WARMING**, A6

High: **64** Low: **38**
5-day forecast — **A2**

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