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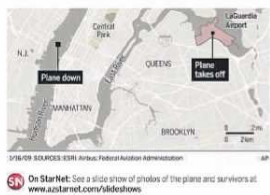
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'Brace for impact because we're going down'

Jeff Kolodjy
of Newark, Conn., relating
what the plane's captain said
after both engines were knocked out.



Passengers in an inflatable raft move away from the US Airways aircraft that went down Thursday in the Hudson River in New York. A paramedic said a woman had two broken legs, but there were no other major injuries.



All 155 survive as airliner plunges into Hudson

By David B. Grasso and Maria Fustini
NEW YORK — As the plane descended over New York City, its engines crippled, people ran through the aisle and bowed their heads to pray. One woman sent a text message to her husband: "My plane is crashing." Passengers were instructed to brace for impact.
Then the pilot of US Airways Flight 1549 brought it down safely — floated it, one man said — into the frigid Hudson River. One survivor said the impact felt like little more than a rear-end car collision.
All 155 people on board survived, plucked to safety by a small fleet of Coast Guard vessels and commuter ferries that converged on the crash site within minutes. A paramedic said a woman had two broken legs, but there were no other major injuries.
"We had a miracle on 14th Street" Gov. David Paterson said. "I believe now we have had a miracle on the Hudson."
The plane, which had left LaGuardia Airport for Charlotte, N.C., on a flight that ultimately lasted only five minutes, was disabled when it collided with a flock of birds.
The pilot reported the strike and told air traffic controllers he needed to return to LaGuardia, said Doug Church, a spokesman for the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.
Pilot Chesley B. Sullenberger III landed as hero.
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Education takes big hit in GOP plan to balance state budget

By Daniel Scarpello
PHOENIX — State aid for K-12 education could be cut by about \$900 million and Arizona's three universities could lose more than \$300 million between now and 2010 under options presented Thursday by Republican lawmakers who will be negotiating the state budget.
In addition to the \$90 million hit Arizona's three universities have already endured this year, the budget appropriations chairman in the House and Senate identified \$314 million that could be cut from the universities over the next 18 months, as the state also faces a potential \$3 billion deficit next year.
If that amount were actually proposed and passed, it would constitute a roughly 30 percent cut to the university system's state aid — but the actual overall reduction would be smaller since the state's universities receive about \$900 million in tuition revenue.
Still, the figures had the University of Arizona's top brass accusing lawmakers of "talking about absolutely devastating cuts to the most powerful economic engine in our state."
There's also \$103 million in primary and secondary education money that could be cut this year, according to the proposal.
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