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SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877 • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

TUCSON BOY, 14, DIES IN ELECTROCUTION ACCIDENT

Tucson/Region

CHOW DOWN, ARIZONA

Wildcats eat big to keep their game

Fast Break section

\$39M could be 'Kino Health Campus' lifeline

By Jane Erikson
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Nearly nine years after county officials went public with their notion of a "Kino Health Campus," a \$39 million bond question could turn their vision into a reality.

In June 1996, County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry asked the Board of Supervisors to OK a plan to relocate many of the county's public health services to the unimproved land surrounding Kino Community Hospital, 3000 E. Ajo Way.

The plan included clinic and research space for University of Arizona doctors, who also would be able to train more new doctors at the South Side hospital.

The idea faded. But it will be brought up again on May 18 when voters will be asked to approve a \$39 million bond proposal to fund a variety of county projects, including open lands, purchasing better police communications and improved parks and sewers.

A \$39 million public health clinic and administration building and a \$12 million psychiatric hospital are included in the proposal, along with a \$3 million clinic for low-income Tucsonans that would replace an old clinic building next to Interstate 19 downtown.

"We're about nine years late, but we're getting there," Huckelberry said.

SEE KINO • A11

Fed chief: Benefits must be reduced

Says nation won't be able to afford Social Security

By Martin Crotzinger
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Wednesday that the country can't afford the Social Security retirement benefits promised to baby boomers and target Congress to trim them.

He said that unless Congress acts, soaring budget deficits from out-of-control entitlement programs could lead to a "very debilitating" rise in interest rates in coming years.

Democratic presidential candidates denounced his proposals, and President Bush and other Republicans sought to distance themselves from the Republican Greenspan.

The central bank chairman also repeated his view that Bush's tax cuts should be made permanent to bolster economic growth. He said the estimated \$1 trillion cost should be paid for, preferably, with spending cuts so the deficit would not be worsened.

As for specifics on trimming Social Security, Greenspan told the House Budget Committee that one possibility would be to switch to an alternative measure of inflation for annual cost-of-living

Greenspan says tax cuts should be permanent.

SEE GREENSPAN • A12

Building costs skyrocketing

Timothy Hoffman of Great Road Lumber checks in oriental strand board, a substitute for plywood, that costs \$52,000 a carload, up from \$32,000 last year.

SEE COSTS • A11

China, Iraq using up steel, lumber

Demand for construction materials in Asia could inflate home prices in Tucson

By Becky Palfreck
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Building booms thousands of miles away could push up the price of new homes in Tucson.

China and Iraq are using up much of the world's construction materials, causing prices here and across the world to skyrocket — in Tucson, by as much as 30 percent for steel products and 20 percent for lumber in the past six weeks.

As China shifts from an agricultural economy to an industrial power, it is using a third of the world's steel supply. China is keeping all of the steel it produces and importing some from the United States, leaving less available here.

And the U.S. military brought up roughly 15 percent of the nation's lumber supply for temporary troop housing and civilian rebuilding projects in Iraq. Domestic problems also have played a part, including fires that shut down lumber mills and slowed the production of a steel hypodermic.

All this comes at a time when demand for new homes remains strong, fueled nationally by still-low interest rates and locally by continued growth. The combined factors could inflate local new home prices, as builders pass along the higher costs to consumers.

"The outlook is pretty bad — it's not only pricing but availability," said Brian Robbins, manager of ATCO Building Materials in Tucson. "Ultimately, the result is higher home prices."

SEE COSTS • A11

Rodeo memories span generations

By Diane Luber
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Thousands of people have watched or been in more than 75 annual Tucson rodeos and rodeo parades.

That's a lot of memories.

Tucsonan Rodman Palmer and Louise Enley of Patagonia were 9 when they watched the first Tucson rodeo, in 1925, in a field southeast of East Grant Road and North Campbell Avenue.

Cars pulled up around the rodeo grounds and parked.

"You watched it from your car," Enley, 88, said.

Live parade coverage: The Tucson Rodeo Parade is back in town for the 76th year. Join KGIN 9 and StarNet for a live radio special 9-11 a.m. today. The live online stream will begin at about 6:45 a.m. at www.azstarnet.com/az/rodeo.

"I will remember sitting on the border of the vehicle," said Palmer, 88. "There were no bleachers."

Other Arizona Daily Star readers who shared their rodeo memories this month remember when the parade was a downtown affair. Break-

fast was served in the Pioneer Hotel on Stone Avenue. People watched from sidewalks, hotel and office windows and even rooftops.

When Western movies and TV shows were popular, their stars were stars of the rodeo parade. Gary Cooper rode in the 1930s; Gene Autry in 1946. William Boyd, who played Hopalong Cassidy in movies and on TV, and Wilcox cowboy Rex Allen rode in the '50s.

The parade moved to the South Side in 1961, where the rodeo has been since 1953. Westerns have

SEE MEMORIES • A11

At a glance

- What: La Fiesta de los Vaqueros parade
- When: Through Sunday
- Where: Intersection of East Ajo Way and South Park Avenue
- For more info: 254-0200

At a glance

- What: La Fiesta de los Vaqueros
- When: Through Sunday
- Where: Tucson Rodeo Grounds, 3021 S. 10th Ave., corner of Irvington Road and South Avenue
- Tickets: 1-800-233-0100

Weather

TODAY'S FORECAST: Partly cloudy. High 72 / Low 47.

Weekend: High 69 / Low 38.

For complete weather information, see the Weather Report page on back of Sports.

www.azstarnet.com/weather

LOOKING FRIDAY

HOT METAL

► Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich talks about the reformed heavy-metal heroes in Caliente.

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