

FRIDAY



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Arizona in a romp
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The wreckage of the Medivac helicopter. In lower foreground, is in a virtually inaccessible area

Risky, dramatic aerial maneuver enables rescue of crash survivor

By Douglas Kneutz

The Arizona Daily Star
FORT GRANT — It is called a "long-line liftoff" and it is no less risky for the faithfurthered.
But the risky and spectacular aerial rescue maneuver turned out to be the best — and perhaps only — way to save the life of the single survivor of a helicopter crash.
The need for a special rescue

technique became apparent yesterday morning, when rescuers spotted paramedic Glenn Velardi signaling for help beside the wreckage of a Medivac helicopter in the Pinaleno Mountains six miles north of here.
The chopper had gone down in steep, snowy, all-but-inaccessible terrain on a flight from Tucson to Safford Wednesday night. Velardi's fellow crew members, pilot Dale

Matthews and flight nurse Susan Ben-Asher Newton, were killed in the crash.
Crew members of helicopters from the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the U.S. Customs Service determined that they couldn't land at the crash site to rescue Velardi because of the steepness of the terrain.
See RESCUE, Page 4A

2 on Medivac copter die; medic survives



Survivor Glenn Velardi is wheeled to a waiting helicopter; at right is rescuer Dr. Richard Carmona

Wreck, subfreezing night in mountains add up to ordeal for copter crew member

By Douglas Kneutz

The Arizona Daily Star
FORT GRANT — Rescuers, resorting to a daring aerial maneuver, yesterday plucked a sole survivor from the wreckage of a helicopter crash that killed two other crew members.
The Tucson-based medical evacuation helicopter had slammed into a steep, snowy mountainside Wednesday night while on a flight to pick up a patient at a Safford hospital.

• The wait for rescuers is a long, cold one for the sole survivor of the crash in the Pinaleno Mountains. Page 5A.

• John Newton, whose wife, Susan, was killed in the crash, said they hadn't even celebrated their first anniversary. Page 5A.

Matthews, 31, and flight nurse Susan Ben-Asher Newton, 26.

Glenn Velardi, who served as paramedic on the French-made Aero-quad 350 helicopter, was rescued yesterday morning after surviving the crash and a subfreezing night in the Pinaleno Mountains that rise to 10,730 feet 120 miles northeast of Tucson.
See CRASH, Page 4A

Airborne searchers spotted Velardi near the wreckage, which they located shortly before 9 a.m. with the help of an emergency locator signal from the downed helicopter.
"He was outside the helicopter, moving around and waving at the searchers," said C.B. Fletcher, spokesman for the Graham County Sheriff's Department.
"It's absolutely amazing that he survived," Fletcher said. "It was freezing up there during the night. We don't know why he wasn't frozen in the cold temperatures and the snow."
Finding the wreckage was only the first step in saving Velardi.
Because of the treacherous terrain, helicopters from the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the U.S. Customs Service were unable to land at the crash site.
See CRASH, Page 4A

Kerrey's exit changes Ariz. caucus picture

By Kim Kellner

The Arizona Daily Star
Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey's withdrawal from the Democratic presidential sweepstakes yesterday left tomorrow's contest in Arizona wide open, party officials said.
Some predicted that big-money banker Jerry Brown may gain the nod.
Martin Baral, Democratic national committee chairman from Arizona, said Kerrey's support in the state

will probably split among the four remaining candidates, with former California Gov. Brown gaining the most, former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas second, and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton third.
Other party officials were less certain. "It is so volatile right now, I don't have a clue as to who will benefit from this," said state Democratic political director Doug Murphy.
Campaign officials said that

Brown, who made a well-received swing through the state Tuesday, could become the spoiler in tomorrow's state caucus.
"What we're seeing is very similar to what developed in Colorado," said Tsongas' state coordinator Paula Price, "a very close race between Clinton, Brown and Tsongas."
Brown, who calls himself an outsider and runs against big-money politics, caused a surprise victory in

WEATHER



Partly cloudy. Today is expected to be partly cloudy, with southwest winds of 10 to 20 mph. Look for a high of 70 to 75, a low of 42 to 47. The warmest spot in Arizona yesterday was Casa Grande where the temperature reached 78. Mount Lemmon, with a low of 23, was the coldest. Details on Page 11A.

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More homeowners than ever appeal their property values

By Joe Burchell

The Arizona Daily Star
Pima County property owners filed a record 14,336 petitions appealing their property values this year — a 42.1 percent increase over last year, county assessor's records show.

But while the number is up from 10,142 petitions last year, office spokesman Rick Lyons said there has been only a small increase in the number of parcels and the value of the property appealed.
This year, more homeowners and small businesses are appealing their property values than ever before, he said. The deadline for filing appeals was last week.

Records show the number of parcels covered by the appeals increased 1.8 percent, from 27,818 last year to 28,886 this year. The value of the property appeals was up 12.1 percent, from \$2.3 billion last year to \$2.7 billion this year.
In past years, large properties and lots of vacant subdivisions — some having hundreds of parcels —

dominated the appeals, Lyons said. This year about a third of the appeals are from homeowners and small businesses, he said.
Lyons said the Assessor's Office is pleased by the shift in who is filing appeals because it means more property owners are taking advantage of relatively informal and inexpensive appeals procedures created to enable individual property owners to appeal their own values.
Appeals are made initially to the Assessor's Office, which sets the value in the first place. If the property owners aren't satisfied with the assessor's decision, they can take their case to a county appeals hearing officer. Further appeals to the State Board of Tax Appeals and the Superior Court require the property owner to hire a lawyer.
"It's the ordinary property owner that the system was created to serve. That's starting to happen and that's great," Lyons said.
A team of 21 hearing officers is

House cringes over plan to list its bad-check artists

WASHINGTON (AP) — A divided House ethics committee, in a move that sent shivers through the ranks of Congress, yesterday proposed publicly identifying 19 current and five former members who repeatedly wrote bad checks at the chamber's bank.
Dissenting Republicans said the names of all 200 current and former members who wrote rubber checks should be released, and they vowed to battle for that position on the House floor next week.
The decision, which was loaded

with election-year implications, still must be approved by the full House before any names are revealed.
Committee members, who have been using coded information and don't know the names of the offending lawmakers, voted 10-4 for the panel's recommendation. It would release account histories and name five former House members in addition to the 19 now serving.
The recommendation set the stage for an extraordinary public debate on a matter of political decency — whether House members

should disclose some, all or none of a list of rubber-check writers.
"The political ramifications of this is absolutely awesome," said Rep. James V. Hansen, R-Ill.
All four committee dissenters were Republicans. The majority plan failed to pass "the small test," one of the sabbath GOP members, Rep. Jim Bunning of Kentucky, said at a news conference.
But committee acting Chairman Matthew McHugh, D-N.Y., said the majority viewed its plan as a "com-