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SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877 · SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2002 ★★

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Cast your ballot in the Star's annual movie poll
Page D1

Worrying time
Hansen: OT loss proves Cats are still a work in progress
Sports

Desegregation

Millions, 24 years, few gains in TUSD

By Hipolito R. Corella and Sarah Garrecht Gassen
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Taxpayers have poured $338 million into TUSD's desegregation budget over the past decade, but there's no clear progress in improving schools' racial balance, student achievement or educational opportunities for minority children.

Tucson Unified School District is under strong pressure from the Arizona Legislature to show results.

But the district can't say it has met its own goals.

TUSD has been under a federal court order to desegregate since 1978. Thirty-four of its 104 schools are under the order or similar requirements from the U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights. The order affects almost 23,000 students, or 37 percent of the district's total enrollment.

Two bills would freeze funding
PAGE A15

There are volumes of data on TUSD student test scores, suspension rates by ethnicity, special programs schools offer, racial composition of schools, money spent on staff development, and enrollment in advanced placement courses.

None of that can answer the question: Is it working?

SEE TUSD / A15

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Weather

TODAY'S FORECAST
More clouds but pleasant
High 71 / **Low** 43
Saturday: High 75 / Low 37
For complete weather information, see the Weather Report page on back of Sports.
www.azstarnet.com/weather

On StarNet
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SN
Find Tucson's premier entertainment guide online at **www.azstarnet.com/caliente/**

A PULITZER NEWSPAPER
Vol. 163, No. 27

The jewel of Tucson tourism

Photos by Renee Sauer / Staff

Kellie Menard *sets up a table bearing rocks from all over the world. The 17 public gem and mineral shows — with staggered openings — start Thursday and run through Feb. 17.*

IT'S BUSINESSES' TIME TO SPARKLE

By Joannine Relly
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A rush of gem and mineral enthusiasts from around the globe will descend on Tucson this week in an anticipated three-week burst of spending across the city.

Taxi drivers, restaurateurs, hoteliers and shop owners are hustling to prepare for the visitors, who in the past have come from 45 states and 21 countries to the annual Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase.

The 17 public gem and mineral shows — with staggered openings — start Thursday and run through Feb. 17. Some trade-only shows already are gearing up.

As thousands of international dealers and buyers arrive in Tucson — many with expensive tastes and fat wallets — Chef Janos Wilder will add foie gras, truffles and lobster to the menu at Janos, 3770 E. Sunrise Drive.

Cabbie Nan Harris will become a virtual Chamber of Commerce booster as she hands out tourism brochures from her taxi.

Restaurateur Suzana Dávila will welcome diners who reserved tables at her Cafe Poca Cosa, 88 E. Broadway, up to a year in advance.

Some entrepreneurs are looking to the shows this year to kick-start the tourist season, which has only sputtered so far for some businesses.

In the past, the carnival-like atmosphere has at-

SEE SPARKLE / A12

Christina Sterrenburg, left, *John Hauck, Kellie Menard and Jessica Brockhuis sort out stacks of boxes.*

MORE COVERAGE

COMING MONDAY
A two-page poster with information about the gem shows in Monday's Accent / E1

On StarNet
For expanded coverage of the gem shows, including maps, video footage and schedules, visit **www.azstarnet.com/gemshow**

Stones at show are tied to terror

But Tanzanite dealers deny Wall Street Journal report

By David Wichner
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Sales of an African gemstone to be featured at the upcoming 2002 Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase have been linked in news reports to the al-Qaida terrorist network.

One of the reported links came through a former Tucsonan who worked for Osama bin Laden.

But industry officials preparing for the Tucson gem show — one of the biggest in the world — say the reports by The Wall Street Journal are false and are hurting the trade.

Gem-industry officials are planning a "tanzanite summit" in Tucson to counter a retail backlash caused by the allegations of terrorist links.

The Journal reported in November that Islamic extremists loyal to bin Laden were buying tanzanite stones from miners and middlemen, smuggling them out of Tanzania to free-trade havens such as Dubai and Hong Kong. The newspaper quoted local miners and government officials.

Last week, the Journal reported that a diary of a personal secretary to bin Laden reveals that al-Qaida may have been using the popular blue gemstone to help finance its operations as early as 1995.

The newspaper cited a day planner confiscated by the FBI from Wadih el Hage, convicted of conspiracy and sentenced to life in prison last year in the 1998

SEE TANZANITE / A12

About tanzanite

- **Discovered in 1967,** a rare version of a mineral called zoisite, which is calcium-aluminum silicate.
- **Mined only in northeastern Tanzania,** the gem is usually brown when discovered and heated at low temperature to bring out purple and blue colors. Gems are cut from raw minerals.

Gem's market

- **The United States is the major market** for the gem, accounting for about 60 per-cent of Tanzania's production.
- **Princess Diana** wore a tanzanite necklace.
- **The movie "Titanic"** featured the gem in the "Heart of the Ocean" necklace worn by actress Kate Winslet.

Jon Levario / Staff

Bush prepares to address economy in State of Union

By Ron Fournier
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush will stand before Congress on Tuesday with his popularity at historically high levels, his performance as a wartime commander in chief softening what analysts say are Americans' concerns about the weak economy.

But his advisers fear the grace period won't last — that voters will eventually grow impatient with Bush — unless he builds on his success in Afghanistan with a State of the Union address that offers a bold blueprint for the next stage of his presidency.

They say Bush will use Tuesday's prime-time address to:

- Outline the post-Afghanistan phase of the war against terrorism. Warning that America's enemies infest every corner of the globe, he will promise to do "whatever it takes" to win the war, according to a summary of the address given to key Republicans.
- Reassure the public that Washington is doing everything possible to prevent a terrorist strike.
- Promise more jobs and a fattened domestic agenda. With the Enron bankruptcy becoming a political problem, Bush intends to promote pension protections and more financial disclosures by companies. Aides debated whether the Enron scandal also merited a presidential slap at corporate irresponsibility.
- Unveil plans to tap the burst of community spirit inspired by the Sept. 11 attacks. He is expected to propose more money for the national service program started by President Clinton and seek an expansion of neighborhood watch programs.

"We'll work to create jobs

SEE BUSH / A12

Political Paradox: *Bush's popularity may not mean victories at home.*
www.azstarnet.com/attack

The Associated Press

President Bush wants to keep his support base *by implementing and maintaining strong domestic and economic policies.*

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