

**FRIDAY**

**Parade has long history**  
Old-timer takes a look back  
STARLIGHT, 6D

**Dow races by 7,000**  
Fastest 1,000-point rise ever ..... 6B

**Thomas-Davis Union**  
Non-physician workers OK it ..... 6B

**Valentines, listen up!**  
Music to woo your sweetheart ..... 16D

**Valentine surprise**  
Star offers readers a special bouquet  
Accent, 1E

# The Arizona Daily Star

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## Stadium financing decision expected today

**By Hippolito R. Corella**  
The Arizona Daily Star

The Board of Supervisors will decide this morning whether to accept a sole bid to finance \$34.5 million for the Kino Veterans Memorial Sports Park, using the county jail as collateral.

Meanwhile, an artist's rendering of the stadium was released yesterday.

Helmuth, Obata & Kassam Inc., a St. Louis-based architectural firm, designed a two-level structure, with the field and

many of the stadium's 11,000 seats below ground level.

The firm also designed the Colorado Rockies' Coors Field in Denver and the Cleveland Indians' Jacobs Field.

The Tucson facility will be the spring training home for the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Chicago White Sox starting next February. The 1998 season is the Diamondbacks' inaugural season.

A ground-breaking ceremony is planned for 10:30 a.m. today at the stadium site, on East Ajo Way just west of Kino

Colorado Rockies players are drifting into training camp ahead of schedule and the team seems eager in its race for the pennant. **Page 1C.**

Community Hospital.

At a special board meeting scheduled for an hour before the ceremony, supervisors are expected to approve a 15-year financial arrangement with the sole bidder — First Trust of Arizona — to fund the stadium complex.

After making an initial installment of \$2.7 million in July 1998, the county will pay about about \$3.5 million a year until 2012.

Another \$1 million will be needed yearly for operating and maintenance expenses.

County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry said based on the bid, the county's total payments would be \$1.6 million less than he projected in a financing report last month.

In his report, Huckelberry said build-

ing the baseball complex would cost \$10 million more than originally estimated.

Some supervisors were concerned the county would have to turn to taxpayers to cover the additional costs.

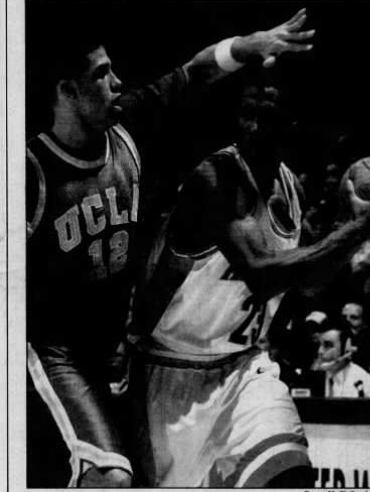
So, earlier this week, the board approved a new 0.5-cent per night tax on RV rental space to raise more revenues for the complex.

The board expects the RV space tax to generate \$800,000 to \$1.2 million a year.

Most of the money for the baseball complex will be used to pay for the stadium.

**See STADIUM, Page 4A**

## Stunned at McKale



Michael Dickerson is guarded closely by UCLA's Toby Batley. Dickerson broke free for 21 points, but it wasn't enough in Arizona's 88-84 loss. Sports, Page 1C.

## Travelers, shippers scurry as American strike looms

**Staff and wire reports**

As a strike by American Airlines pilots looked more and more likely yesterday, travel agents, shippers and even the Postal Service were sent scrambling.

Airline officials took a skeptical view of a compromise offer from the pilots' union, the Allied Pilots Association, as tonight's strike deadline approached.

President Clinton urged both sides to "reach out to one another" and settle their differences.

Clinton, at a news conference yesterday afternoon, gave no indication whether he would exercise emergency powers to prevent pilots from striking at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow. He was urged to do so by the airline's chief executive officer, Robert Crandall, and by many and some members of Congress from areas that would be particularly affected.

Although negotiations were scheduled to continue, both sides were preparing for a walkout.

So were customers.

Maggie Hildreth, an agent with Tucson's Best Vacay Travel, said she has received "a whole lot of calls" from travelers with seats on American flights leaving tomorrow or Sunday.

"There is a lot of panic and I don't blame them," she said.

"The best advice I could give them is to have their travel agent call American or to call American directly. They need to make sure that the airline knows how to get in touch with them so that they can be re-accommodated or re-booked. Other airlines will try to help out however they can."

American is offering full refunds and travel vouchers if it is struck.

**See AMERICAN, Page 4A**

**Travelers' advisory**

What passengers scheduled to fly on American Airlines can do if pilots walk out tomorrow.

**American** Call American reservations at (800) 433-7300 for help.

**Airlines** rebooking flights or go to a local American ticket office. If you buy a ticket on another airline without consulting American, the company will probably NOT reimburse you.

**American** If you hold frequent-flyer or consolidator tickets on American, check carrier's probably will not accept them during the strike.

**American** American should re-credit the frequent-flyer points.

**American** If you hold an advance ticket on American, book a refundable ticket on another airline. If your American flight takes off, cash the refundable ticket.

**American** If you hold an electronic ticket on American, American will convert it to a conventional paper ticket. Electronic tickets cannot be endorsed to another carrier.

**American** Leave enough time between connecting flights to allow for delays.

**American** SOURCE: AP

Flight Director: Tribune/QUIN TIAN

## Airline pilots' strike would idle about 1,200 workers here

**Staff and wire reports**

If the pilots at American Airlines go on strike tonight, about 1,200 workers at American's reservations center here could be furloughed by Wednesday.

A range of other employees would be affected nationwide.

The union's deadline is 10 p.m. Tucson time.

"Our reservations center will be open around the clock for the first four days," according to reservation sales division manager

Frank Campagna. The reservation center normally operates from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.

"All employees will be working for the first week because of the call volume. After that, we've advised our employees that they may be put on emergency (standby) leave until further notice."

"There's a lot of worry there's going to be a strike, absolutely," said Kelley Hall, a sales representative in Tucson. "I'd say that."

**See WORKERS, Page 4A**

## Schools, businesses join to help youths find careers

**By Sara Hammond**  
The Arizona Daily Star

Five Tucson high schools and four major employers are embarking on a program to help local youths choose and train for a technical career that will pay them a living wage.

The "Academy Without Walls" is designed for students who are not college-bound.

It is intended to help prepare them for a career with a local company in one of three industry clusters — software, telecommunications and aerospace — with two years of high school training and another two years at community college.

The program will begin this fall at Amphitheater, Catalina, Flowing Wells, Pueblo and Sunnyside high schools.

Companies planning to offer internships, co-op jobs, job shadowing, mentoring and training are US West Communications, Hughes

## Public flocks to gem show

**Jewels, rocks, fossils draw eyes of all ages**

**By Kristan Cook**  
The Arizona Daily Star

At the good old days.

William Larson remembers way back when he used to peddle rocks at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show and make a killing.

"I've been selling since I was 3," William recalled yesterday. "I made a lot more then. The old people thought I was cute, so they would buy more. Old people think it's cute when kids sell things."

But now that William has reached the ripe old age of 11, he relies more on his salesmanship than his cuteness.

Although he was still twirling in the hat yesterday by flashing a smile worthy of a toothpaste commercial.

"This is what I want to do when I grow up."

**See GEM, Page 14A**

The Arizona Daily Star

Sam Nations, a Highland Free School pupil, buys a stone at the show.

## Election funds from China to be probed

**Scraps-Howard News Service**

WASHINGTON — President Clinton yesterday called for an investigation into whether China sought to funnel funds into last year's presidential campaign.

Senate Governmental Committee aides said they were already following several leads and allegations that China worked through Indonesia's Lippo Group to influence U.S. politics, and sought further information about the conglomerate's political activities in a blizzard of subpoenas issued yesterday. Although based in Jakarta, Lippo has major investments in China.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that sensitive intelligence intercepts show the Chinese Embassy in Washington was used for planning contributions to the DNC, but Clinton said at his press conference the newspaper account was the first he knew of such activities.

"Obviously it would be a very serious matter for the United States if any country were to attempt to funnel funds to one of our candidates."

**See CAMPAIGN, Page 14A**

**INDEX**

Account ..... 14E  
 Budget ..... 2E  
 Classified ..... 35D  
 Comics ..... 4E  
 Comment ..... 16A  
 Crosswords ..... 1A  
 Dear Abby ..... 6E  
 Horoscope ..... 2E  
 Money ..... 420E  
 Movie times ..... 10D  
 News ..... 3E  
 Obituaries ..... 14A  
 Sports ..... 130E  
 Wheel ..... 138E