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Arizona Daily Star

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Billionaire drug lord 'El Chapo' in cuffs

Expert: Takedown far from 'a dagger' to Sinaloa Cartel

By Alicia A. Caldwell

and Katherine Corcoran

AZSTARNET.COM

MEXICO — The world's most-wanted drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, arrived at the Mexican City airport early Saturday and was being

taken directly to prison, said Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam.

A massive operation that involved a team of agents from the western Mexican state of Sinaloa between Feb. 13 and 17 netted Guzman, who was in the Mexican marines at the Mier Marina condominium along the waterfront in the resort city of Mazatlan.

In earlier stages of the

manhunt, the main lieutenant of Guzman's partner, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, was killed in December in a federal police raid on Puerto Vallarta, Sonora. Authorities identified Guzman's location from information provided by a man who was arrested in recent weeks, law officials said.

On Saturday, Guzman appeared in a Mexican court in handcuffs and had a mustache and a full head of dark hair as he was held at the neck and escorted by masked marines.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto announced the arrest on his Twitter account Saturday afternoon.

Guzman, 50, was found with an iron chain around his waist, which was arrested in recent weeks, law officials said. One official, who was not authorized to be quoted by name, said one official not authorized to be quoted by name, said that the U.S. Drug

See CARTEL, A6



Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman is held at the neck by Mexican marines. U.S. agents assisted in the capture.

Ride 'em, Junior Rodeo cowboys



Looking a bit like their adult counterparts, Junior Rodeo steer riders Jake Dunham, 11, left, of Tucson and Marcus Olivares, 20, of Willcox strapped on their chaps before the fifth performance Saturday at La Fiesta de los Vaqueros at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds, 4823 S. Sixth Ave.

The Star's Jon Gold talks dirt with rodeo clown Justin Rummel / B7

SN

On StarNet

Take in some of the best moments from the 89th annual La Fiesta de los Vaqueros Tucson Rodeo at azstar.net/gallery

Bitcoins starting to click with Tucsonans

Virtual currency gaining acceptance despite some bumps

By Kathleen Allen

AZSTARNET.COM

Also: Dreyer's Chaffin sees a revolution ahead.

A Bitcoin revolution.

"We're seeing a lot of acceptance," says Dreyer's Chaffin, manager of Tucson's Chaffin's Family Restaurant, which recently began accepting the cryptocurrency.

"It's been a new, cutting edge, but it makes a lot of sense."

Bitcoins have been a hot topic recently — from money-laundering accusations to a volatile market to a possible coming-of-age moment in the digital currency's 10-year history.

But those problems can't deter Dreyer's Chaffin's and other Tucsonans who are here to stay.

"I believe that by the end of the year, we will be surprised to see how many people will know what it is and accept it," said P.J. Dixon, who uses bitcoins

whenever they are accepted, has invested in the virtual money, and has a business, Bitcoin Consulting, to help set up small businesses to accept bitcoins.

One of those businesses is Cartel Coffee Lab, a coffee shop restaurant that has been accepting bitcoins since last year.

At this point, the coffee shop restaurant has invested in the virtual money, and has a business, Bitcoin Consulting, to help set up small businesses to accept bitcoins.

"For me to see any benefit, I think it'll take five years," he said.

Though he does not yet use bitcoins himself, he thinks bitcoins will be the future of money and likes jumping on to new possibilities early in the game.

"At the end of the day, our bitcoins will be converted into dollars."

That's the goal to avoid, he says. "That's the risk of the bitcoins, which fluctuates wildly from day to day."

And there's, of course, the downside.

"It's a double-edged sword."

See BITCOIN, A4

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