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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

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

taken directly to prison, said Attorney General Jesus Marillo Kuri. A massive operation that unfolded through the western Mexican state of Sinaloa between Feb. 13 and 17 netted Guzman, who was captured at 6:40 a.m. by Mexican marines at the Miramar condominium along the waterfront in the resort city of Mazatlan, officials said. In earlier stages of the

manhunt, the main lieutenant of Guzman's partner, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, was killed in December in a four-hour gun battle in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora. Authorities identified Guzman's location from information provided by cartel members who were arrested in recent weeks, law officials said. On Saturday, Guzman appeared in a white shirt and dark pants and had a mustache and

a full head of dark hair as he was held at the neck and escorted by marines. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto confirmed the arrest on his Twitter account Saturday afternoon. Guzman, 50, was found with an unidentified woman, said one official not authorized to be quoted by name, asking that the U.S. Drug



EDUARDO VERGARA / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is held at the neck by Mexican marines. U.S. agents assisted in the capture.

See CARTEL, A6

## Ride 'em, Junior Rodeo cowboys



Looking a bit like their adult counterparts, Junior Rodeo star riders Jake Durham, 11, left, of Tucson and Marcus O'Connell, 13, of Wilcox strapped on their chaps before the 81th 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 Rufford / B7

On StarNet: Take in some of the best moments from the 81st annual La Fiesta de los Vaqueros Tucson Rodeo at [azstarnet.com/gallery](http://azstarnet.com/gallery)

## Arizona is urged to desalt seawater

Thirsty state will need new drinking sources

By Tony Davis

ARIZONA should start now to make sure our kids and grandkids will be drinking desalinated seawater — and other new water supplies — to avoid a crisis, a state agency urges.

The other future sources of drinking water for Arizonans should include treated wastewater, desalinated brackish groundwater and rain caused by cloud seeding, the Department of Water Resources says in a new report.

Otherwise, a water shortage looms as soon as 25 years from now as our population grows, the officials say.

"Desalination is something tangible. It's being done elsewhere in the world, and while pulling it off will be a very complicated thing, we thought it was more politically feasible than importing supplies from far away such as the Columbia or Missouri rivers," said Michael Leary, the department's interim director.

But desalination is controversial because of its high cost — likely in the billions of dollars — energy use and environmental impacts.

Before investing too much in one water-supply alternative, the state needs an objective analysis by experts who don't have a clear stake in the outcome, says Wendell Kline, a University of Arizona desalination expert.

"Desalination of seawater is certainly a technologically feasible option, but is not yet demonstrated to be the most practical, economic or politically viable option," he said.

Turn to Page A11 to see how desalination would work and what it might mean to you.

## Bitcoins starting to click with Tucsonans

Virtual currency gaining acceptance despite some bumps

By Kathleen Allen

Alex Dery-Chaffin, owner of a new restaurant, is ahead.

A bitcoin revolution.

"We are on the verge of a massive change," says Dery-Chaffin, manager of Tucson's Chaffin's Family Restaurant, which recently began accepting the cryptocurrency.

"It's brand 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 computer-programming flaw that has left the world's largest bitcoin exchange spluttering.

But those problems can't deter Dery-Chaffin and other Tucsonans who are sure bitcoins are here to stay.

"I believe that by the end of the year you will be surprised at 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 retail businesses to use bitcoins.

One of those businesses is Cartel Coffee Lab in downtown Tucson.

At this point, the coffee shop/restaurant has one or two transactions a day with bitcoins, but

Jason Silberberg, founder of the Tucson-based Cartel, sees a future in the cryptocurrency, which allows him to cut out the fees banks and credit-card companies charge.

"For me to use any benefit, I think it'll take five years," he said. Though he does not yet use bitcoins himself, he thinks cryptocurrency has a future, and he likes jumping on to new possibilities early in the game.

"There's no risk to us," he said. "At the end of the day, our bitcoins will be converted into dollars."

That allows him to avoid the volatility of the bitcoin's value, which fluctuates wildly from day to day.

And then, of course, there's this: "I appreciate the subversive attitude," he said. "It tends to push

See BITCOIN, A4

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