

Stunning finish

Last-second basket foils Wildcats **SPORTS**



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
Palo Verde girls too much for Sahuarita

SPORTS



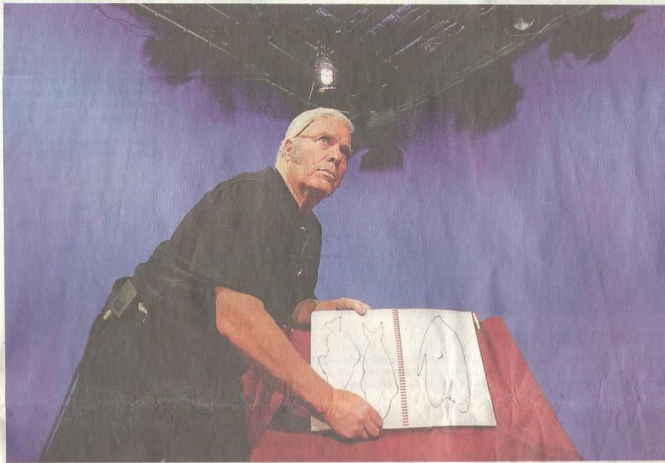
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FINAL

Access Tucson: Cuts may mean 'lights out'



Jeff Coleman gets a shot ready while filming his show, "Captain Jeff's Learnin' Place" at Access Tucson. In theory, Access Tucson could stay alive, but Executive Director Sam Behrend says the next budget year will be even worse than this one. As many as 14 employees would need to seek work elsewhere, he said.

Budget crisis seems likely to claim city's public-service TV

By Rob O'Dell
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Access Tucson, where local groups and average Joes turn their television ideas into reality, could soon face its final episode because of outside agency cuts approved by the City Council this week.

Executive Director Sam Behrend said the 60 percent cuts to funding could mean there's nothing Access Tucson is to receive, because the station has already gotten 50 per-

cent of its \$760,000 for the year. That would mean shutting down Access Tucson until June 30, the start of the next fiscal year — or more likely for good.

"It's lights out for us, period," Behrend said. "We'd close down forever."

Although Access Tucson could theoretically stay open, Behrend said the next budget year will be even worse than this year.

In addition, Behrend said many

of Access Tucson's 14 members would need to seek work elsewhere because they couldn't work for five more without pay. The station operation already for a month in June 2010. Tucson will lose "the ability to speak freely about religion, cultural things," Behrend said, adding clients "would lose if I don't see anywhere else

Jobs picture looks bleak for this year, stats suggest

85,000 positions lost in Dec. even though rate holds at 10%

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Brace for a year of stubbornly high unemployment. Grippled by uncertainty over the economic recovery, employers chopped 85,000 jobs last month, and difficulty finding work helped chase more than half a million people out of the job market.

The unemployment rate held steady at 10 percent. It did not creep higher only because so many people stopped looking for work and are technically not counted as unemployed.

But the jobless rate is likely to rise in coming months as more people see signs of an improving economy and start looking for work again. Some

See **JOBLESS, A10**

Arpaio is target of US probe, says Maricopa official

By Jacques Billand
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — The self-proclaimed "toughest sheriff in America" and his office are the subject of a federal investigation focused on allegations that they blatantly abused their power, including



Joe Arpaio has battled county officials in a nationally recent years. **ARPAIO, A10**

Rules on campaign money

That could spell new era of special-interest attack ads

By David D. Kirkpatrick
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Even before a landmark Supreme Court ruling on campaign finance law that is expected within days, a series of other court decisions is reshaping the political battlefield by freeing corporations, unions and other interest groups from many of the re-

strictions on their advertising about issues and candidates. Legal experts and political operatives say the loosening rules roll campaign-spending regulations back to the years before Watergate. The end of decades-old restrictions could unleash a torrent of negative advertisements, help cash-poor Republicans in a pivotal year, and pressure President Obama to bring in more money for his party.

If the Supreme Court, as widely expected, rules against core elements of the existing

limits, Democrats say they try to enact new laws to restate the restrictions in time for the midterm elections in November. And advocates of stricter campaign-finance laws say they hope the developments will prod the president to fulfill a campaign promise to update the presidential campaign-finance system, even though it would diminish his edge as incumbent.

Many legal experts say they expect the court to use its imminent ruling, in the case of Citizens United v. Federal Elec-



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DESERT ICE SKATING

Julian Garcia, 2, skates for the first time on the Arctic Pass skating rink at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort & Spa. The rink, made of plastic and coated with oil and glycerine, is open to resort guests and the public Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It will close Feb. 14.

first large-scale application of previous court decisions that have all but stripped away those restrictions. Though the opinions have not challenged the

See **CAMPAIGNS, A10**



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COMING SUNDAY

Fighting City Hall: Why some local business owners are upset with city government.



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