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Arizona Daily Star

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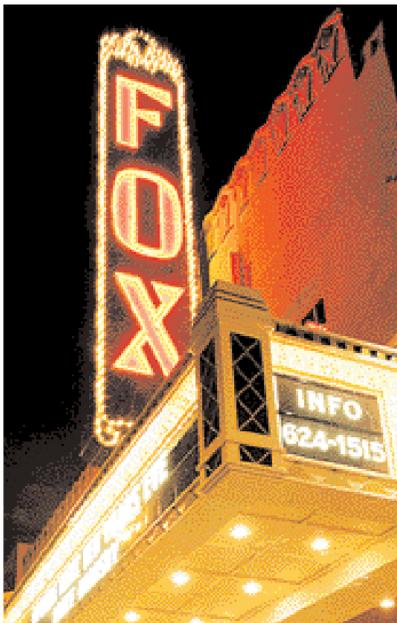
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FINAL

STAR INVESTIGATION: RIO NUEVO AUDIT (PART OF AN ONGOING SERIES)

\$77 million

has been spent on Rio Nuevo, and this is what we have so far ...



JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR 2007



JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR 2007



JAMES GREGG / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

FOX THEATRE

\$11,599,954: The theater is one of the few projects completed with Rio Nuevo money, but it's not open often enough for some critics.

PRESIDIO WALL

\$5,028,696: Includes \$750,000 land purchase and construction cost for re-creating a portion of the Presidio Wall.

WEST SIDE MISSION

\$21,677,834: Includes landfill remediation, infrastructure, design and planning, and purchase of Citizens Auto property.

By Rob O'Dell ARIZONA DAILY STAR

In the nine years since voters approved the Rio Nuevo Downtown redevelopment district, the city has taken in — and spent — more than \$77 million in taxpayer money.

That almost matches the \$80 million voters were told to expect the city to put toward an array of museums, a re-creation of Tuc-

son's birthplace and a Downtown hotel.

But with that much money spent — and just \$28,000 in the bank as of June 1 — none of those jewels of the Rio Nuevo plan is even close to starting construction.

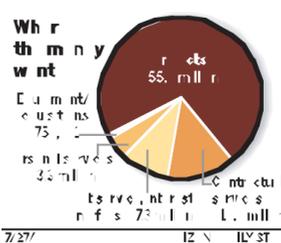
Instead, the money has gone to restore two old movie theaters, re-create a small piece of the adobe Presidio Wall, build infrastruc-

ture for a new Downtown subdivision and plan how to spend even more money.

Fortunately for Rio Nuevo, in 2006 City Manager Mike Hein was able to get the Legislature to ex-

See AUDIT, A6

On StarNet: Find a searchable database of the spending: azstar.net.com/special/rionuevo-dollars.



STAR INVESTIGATION

Grades in Amphi, state tests don't jibe

High marks don't mirror often lower AIMS results

By Jack Gillum and Andrea Rivera ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Students in Amphitheater Public Schools fail classes less often than their colleagues in many Tucson-area districts, but may not deserve their high marks, an Arizona Daily Star investigation found.

While their counterparts around the city fail more often and still are promoted to the next grade, a practice called social promotion, it appears students in Amphi are promoted only when they earn it. But because students still fail state assessment tests as often as counterparts in other districts, experts question if students really earn the grades they receive.

The findings come as Amphi leaders talk publicly of grade inflation and the need for a more unified grading system, as well as how to address social promotion. District officials are mulling options for mandatory summer school and looking at other means of improving student achievement, preventing dropouts and ensuring students meet

DID YOU KNOW

Amphitheater Public Schools District has more than 16,000 students. The district covers 109 square miles and extends from the Pinal County line to Grant Road, and includes parts of northwest Tucson, Oro Valley and Catalina. The district completed its first high school, Amphitheater High School, in 1939. It was the second high school in Tucson. The most recent Amphi school built was Ironwood Ridge High, which opened in 2001.

See AMPHI, A5

On StarNet: Read more about the Star investigation and find a searchable database of schools at azstarnet.com/socialpromotion.

Another child's death on CPS' watch raises new questions

By Josh Brodesky ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Long before 4-year-old Fabian Silva died, his older brother sent a letter to Child Protective Services saying he was scared of Alejandro Romero, his mother's boyfriend, who is now charged with killing Fabian.

But a CPS caseworker told po-

lice she thought Oscar Silva had been coerced to write the letter by his non-custodial father, and left the boys in the home even though two doctors had also reported signs of abuse and the boys' mother told her Romero smoked marijuana daily.

Alejandro Miguel Romero, 25, who had been found guilty of

drug-paraphernalia possession and had been arrested on a previous domestic-violence complaint and a disorderly conduct complaint, was indicted last month on charges of child abuse and manslaughter in connection with Fabian's death Jan. 27 from a blunt-force trauma to the head. Documents obtained by the

Arizona Daily Star don't say whether CPS did a criminal background check on Romero after opening its investigation in October, in response to doctors' concerns about severe bruises to Fabian's groin and penis and elsewhere on his body that appeared to be from abuse. CPS has refused to release Sil-

va's case file, saying a new state law making such files public record will not take effect until September. Agency spokeswoman Liz Barker Alvarez would not comment, citing the pending litigation.

But a combination of police, medical and autopsy reports raise questions about the

agency's handling of another case in which a child under its watch died.

Although Fabian's father and one set of grandparents contacted CPS in the fall, months before Fabian died, there is no evidence investigator Kathryn Kolton for-

See FABIAN, A4

WEATHER, C10

Dolly's ghost lingers on High 93 / Low 74



ALEE NEWSPAPER VOL. 167, NO. 209

COMING UP, DON'T MISS ...

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Advertisement for Los Lonely Boys & Los Lobos at AVA Amphitheater on July 27. Includes logos for AVA Amphitheater and SolCasinos.

STAR INVESTIGATION: RIO NUEVO AUDIT (PART OF AN ONGOING SERIES)

AUDIT

Continued from Page A1

tend the life of the tax increment financing district from 10 to 22 years and up its anticipated haul to \$600 million.

Over the years, as Rio Nuevo's slow progress came under fire from frustrated citizens, city officials were careful to avoid saying specifically how much money the special taxing district had brought in, and where it went.

But in the first public audit of Rio Nuevo, a series of Arizona Daily Star public-records requests was able to pin down those financial details — although it was not information the city gave up easily, as many of the records were incomplete, unorganized and lacking in detail.

The city's lack of progress hasn't gone unnoticed in the Legislature, which is poised to pull the redevelopment district's funding next session to fill expected holes in the state's budget.

"That's definitely possible," said Tucson Republican Rep. Jonathan Paton, who said efforts this year were blocked by Senate President Tim Bee of Tucson, now running for Congress. "I heard it mentioned this session, but they couldn't do it because of Tim Bee. They hate these special taxing districts."

The news that Rio Nuevo has spent \$77 million caught even those who have watched the project closely by surprise.

"I'm flabbergasted," said Republican businessman and Downtown landowner Bruce Ash. "It's incredible they have blown through this money and there's nothing to show for it. Usually I'm not at a loss for words, and I am at a loss for words. It's shocking."

Commercial real estate broker Mike Ebert said disbelief was his first reaction when hearing Rio Nuevo's price tag.

"Where is it, what did (the city) do?" he said. "I have no idea what they spent that money on."

But Mayor Bob Walkup, the city official whose legacy is most closely linked with the project as voters elected him mayor the same year they approved the district, said the money has been wisely spent.

"A lot is going on, and it's all positive," Walkup said. "Everybody is waiting on the arena and convention center hotel. The private sector really wants to see these under way. They are right around the corner."

The \$77 million has accomplished some things. More than \$11.5 million went to refurbish the Fox Theatre, which is open and hosting shows and movies. Nearly \$4.3 million went to re-create a portion of the 18th-century Presidio Wall, which encircled and protected the Spanish fort of Tucson.

Several public/private partnerships have also been done, or appear to be on track. The Rialto Theatre, a former movie house transformed into one of the area's most active concert venues, got \$2.3 million. Another \$5.5 million went to the Mercado commercial and housing project going up on the West Side, and \$735,000 went to refurbish the Martin Luther King Jr. housing project.

But Eric Abrams, a local developer and active Democrat, said that's not much to show for 10 years.

"A movie theater that's not open much, a fake wall and a



A planned science center ballooned into a \$350 million "Rainbow Bridge" that would span I-10 and the Santa Cruz River and hold exhibit space. The city and University of Arizona spent a combined \$15.5 million on the science project, which still might not happen — and the bridge idea is out.

NOT RIO NUEVO

While there has been some building Downtown, most of it is independent of Rio Nuevo, being part of some other government program, privately funded or outside the Rio Nuevo district.

- **Ice House Lofts** — Private development.
- **Historic Train Depot** — Predates Rio Nuevo. Federally funded.
- **Historic Warehouse Arts District** — Barraza-Aviation Parkway and Downtown arts district extension.
- **Fourth Avenue Underpass** — A byproduct of Barraza-Aviation Parkway.
- **New Pennington Street Parking Garage** — A city transportation project.
- **Armory Park del Sol** — Private development.
- **Barrio Viejo Townhomes** — Private development.

bunch of plans that are never going to happen is not much for \$77 million," Abrams said.

Sunny rhetoric amid dark clouds

Walkup is not alone in his optimism. Many city officials, including Hein, Rio Nuevo Director Greg Shelko and some City Council members still say progress is right around the corner.

That case gets harder to make, however, when several of Rio Nuevo's highest profile projects still have no construction timetable after undergoing years of public planning and evolution.

► The arena, proposed as an \$80 million public/private partnership by Walkup five years ago, grew into a \$200 million city undertaking before shrinking back to the \$100 million range. And depending on how the re-creation of Tucson's birthplace and the convention hotel are financed, there may not be enough money to build it.

► The science center started out as a modest replacement for the Flandrau Planetarium, ballooned into a \$350 million Rainbow Bridge, then shrank back down to a \$130 million project. But even at that price it's still in doubt because the city and UA can't agree on how to split the funding, even after spending a combined \$15.5 million on planning.

► Because of the way files are kept, details about spending before 2005 are available only if you already know what you're looking for. Backup receipts for spending since then are on microfiche, and copies provided to the Star were nearly illegible.

Deputy City Manager Mike Letcher said the city followed all proper accounting practices and got the required signatures for each expenditure. "We can get the information folks need," Letcher said. "The question is putting it in a format that's easily understandable."

Rio Nuevo Director Greg Shelko said whenever an expense occurred, someone at the city always knew what it was

for. It's just that someone from the outside — like the Star — has a hard time comprehending the data and getting detailed information. He said the receipts are there even if they aren't easy to find.

Ash, the Republican businessman, said he has been requesting an accounting for Rio Nuevo for years and has heard nothing. "Who was watching this; how does this happen?" Ash said. "It's someone else's money. It's an open checkbook, and they don't want the public to see because there's nothing to show for it."

Progress hype
Criticism of Rio Nuevo's snail's pace is nothing new. The district originally had a 10-year limit on its ability to claim an extra share of state sales taxes. To maximize revenues by waiting for the economy to improve, and buy time to replan what should be built, the city didn't start collecting the tax until 2003.

By then, with impatient citizens clamoring, Walkup called for approval of a \$100 million University of Arizona science center as "the cornerstone project for Rio Nuevo; this is where

we really get things going."

Over the next three years, the project morphed into a \$350 million "Rainbow Bridge" across Interstate 10 that Tucson architect and activist Jody Gibbs called "one of the dumbest projects or suggestions in the history of the city."

Gibbs said the project came to symbolize what a "gigantic boondoggle" Rio Nuevo had become. Despite the false starts, city officials said they hope the public hasn't given up hope.

"We need to get the public to share our belief that yes, it is happening," Councilwoman Nina Trasoff said. "We built the foundation for Rio Nuevo. Not literally, but figuratively we have established the footings for Rio Nuevo with that \$77 million."

But City Hall watcher Gerald Juliani said Rio Nuevo has been about "lots of ambitious talk and no action on almost anything." He says the city has spent "like a drunken sailor" to the tune of more than \$7 million a year, and "they don't have much to show for it."

"It's always just around the corner," Juliani said. "Rio Nuevo has been a bonanza for consultants. There's no bricks and mortar for people to see."

Hein said he understands the public anger, adding the city has consistently "overpromised and underdelivered" by giving overly ambitious timelines and hyping projects that were never going to happen.

But he contends that Rio Nuevo didn't really start in 1999, because there wasn't enough money to build all the projects. Progress should be judged from June 2006, when the Legislature approved the \$600 million, he said.

Although the city has spent the money as it came in thus far, officials are now moving to quickly to sell bonds that would be repaid with future Rio Nuevo taxes, obligating the money before the Legislature can take it back.

Paton said any progress is helpful, but warned the die may have already been cast as far as losing the money is concerned.

"It could help," Paton said. "But it's getting to the point where it's a day late and a dollar short."

► **Contact reporter Rob O'Dell at 573-4346 or rodell@azstarnet.com.**

HOW WE GOT THE STORY

The story began with a Arizona Daily Star public-records request in early May for a detailed accounting of Rio Nuevo revenues and expenses. Getting the records took months and multiple requests because documents provided by the city frequently mixed Rio Nuevo money with other programs, had missing or incomplete data or accounted for money by type of expenditure with no way to track it to a specific project.

Still, the Star has been able to assemble an online database to catalog the spending for readers at azstarnet.com/special/rionuevo-dollars.

It includes total money spent on each project, but lacks a more detailed spending breakdown because the city still hasn't made all the information available. As the city fulfills more of the Star's public-records requests, more detailed information will be added.

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\$77,340,287

Money in as of June 1, 2008

\$54,278,656

Rio Nuevo state sales tax

\$14,577,549

City General Fund loan

\$5,800,000

Fox Theatre bonds

\$1,471,452

Fox Foundation payment

\$319,020

Rent

\$375,725

Interest, property and equipment sales

\$517,885

Miscellaneous (transportation revenues)

\$77,311,372

Money out as of June 1, 2008

\$3,313,291

Personnel services

\$10,469,190

Contractual services

\$7,365,711

Debt service, interest and fees

\$759,441

Equipment and acquisitions

\$28,387

501 S. Sentinel Ave.

\$793,716

Tucson Convention Center box office

\$4,276,789

Presidio stabilization and Heritage Park

\$751,907

Presidio land purchase

\$16,422,950

Mission site/Origins Park

\$3,149,724

Citizen Auto Exchange property purchase

\$2,105,160

Mission Landfill

\$11,599,954

Fox Theatre

\$4,864,198

UA Science Center

\$5,529,653

Mercado at Menlo Park/ Avenida del Convento

\$690,836

Thrifty Block

\$244,217

Railroad greenway improvements

\$735,327

Depot Plaza

\$2,268,283

Rialto Theatre

\$1,448,916

Arena/Civic Plaza

\$88,147

Cultural Plaza

\$338,802

Congress streetscape

\$66,770

Clark Street Bridge

\$28,915

Rio Nuevo fund balance as of June 1

STATUS OF RIO NUEVO PROJECTS

Don Bourn's The Post

Project type: Private, with public help

Original concept: The city bought the Downtown block that included a more than 100-year-old storefront built by pioneer rancher George Pusch from the federal government for \$1 in 2003, planning to demolish the Pusch building and other structures on the block. Developer Don Bourn won a competitive process to buy the site for \$100 and develop it.

What happened: After originally saying it would try to save the Pusch building, the city quickly tore it down in August 2004 over protests from community members, who unsuccessfully sought an injunction to stop the demolition. Bourn changed his plans numerous times over the next three years, proposing a 14-story tower, then changing his project back to his original five-story design, then proposing "condotel" units and then quickly killing that proposal. Bourn said construction would start in April 2007 and then later said July 2007. He told the City Council in March that he would begin construction by May 2008.

Status: Failed unless Bourn can start construction soon. He said he will start any day now, but has said that for years.

Taxpayer bill: \$690,836. More than \$500,000 went toward tearing down the Pusch building and cleaning up the debris.

Downtown Arena

Project type: Public

Original concept: The original plan submitted to voters in 1999 for Rio Nuevo didn't include an arena. It was added in 2003 at the behest of Mayor Bob Walkup. The City Council voted 4-3 in early 2004 to solicit developers to submit proposals to build an arena on the southeast corner of West Congress Street at Interstate 10.

What happened: The City Council selected a Texas-based developer who proposed an arena shaped like the shell of a desert tortoise. While discussing a separate Downtown project in the area, the council unexpectedly voted unanimously to back a \$130 million, 12,500-seat arena shaped like a tortoise in April 2007. In April 2008, the Arizona Daily Star uncovered new cost estimates that pushed the price tag to nearly \$200 million. The council quickly abandoned that plan and is seeking to build a smaller 10,000- or 11,000-seat arena.

Status: In flux. Could still go either way. The city will solicit proposals from at least four arena developers in the coming months.

Taxpayer bill: \$1.45 million for studies and concept plans, including studies on whether to just upgrade the Tucson Convention Center.

Status: In flux and could go either way. The UA wants the city to pay the full cost upfront. The city is willing to cover the full cost, but not in advance. It wants staggered payments.

Taxpayer bill: \$15.56 million. Includes \$4.86 million from Rio Nuevo and \$10.7 million from the University of Arizona.

UA Science Center

Project type: Public

Original concept: A nearly \$100 million science center to replace the current Flandrau Center on the University of Arizona campus was approved by the Arizona Board of Regents and the City Council in 2003. The council committed \$20 million, and the university was to pay much of the estimated \$73 million construction cost.

What happened: The idea somehow ballooned into a \$350 million "Rainbow Bridge" that would span Interstate 10 and the Santa Cruz River and hold exhibit space on the bridge. UA officials hired a highly touted New York architect known for cost overruns and were adamant the city pay the entire cost, which didn't sit well with taxpayers. The city finally said no to the Rainbow Bridge. A \$100 million science center combined with a \$30 million Arizona State Museum is now planned.

Status: Failed. Developers Michael Teufel of Pathway Developments and Humberto S. Lopez of HSL Properties decided to quickly move the highly regarded Downtown restaurant Cafe Poca Cosa to make way for the revitalization of the hotel. Cafe Poca Cosa was given a city subsidy in order to keep the business Downtown. The Santa Rita got bogged down with negotiations with the city because developers didn't want to take responsibility for a public alleyway on the site, but wanted to build over the top of it.

Status: Failed. Teufel walked away from the project in mid-2007 and defaulted on about \$6.5 million in loans and is facing the possibility of losing control of his businesses. Lopez said he now wants to build a 160-room, first-class hotel with a spa, a bar and a music venue. The hotel is vacant and unused except for parking.

Taxpayer bill: \$556,000, including \$500,000 in improvements at Cafe Poca Cosa's new location, and \$56,000 in free rent. Paid out of budget for Pennington Street parking garage.

Santa Rita Hotel

Project type: Private

Original concept: A \$40 million complex proposed in 2004 consisted of a high-end, 66-room boutique hotel, 148 condos, 15,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, and elevated parking.

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Status: Making good progress. Williams & Dame Development is turning the housing project into rentals and building retail along Congress Street for the project called One North Fifth.

Taxpayer bill: \$735,327 in Rio Nuevo funds. Plans also call for Rio Nuevo to spend \$1 million for a public plaza there, \$1 million for street improvements and \$5 million for a parking garage beneath the site.

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\$66
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the Star endorses
PAGE A13

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FINAL

ELECTION 2008

Red, but how long?

Democrats fill ample pockets of blue despite perception
Arizona is solidly Republican; big changes may be looming

By Daniel Scarpinato
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Arizona shows up on all those Electoral College maps as red.

But the color-coding by news networks and major newspapers doesn't tell the full story of a state that is undergoing dramatic demographic changes that portend an election soon when Arizona might be a major battleground — even if it's not this year.

New polling suggests the presidential election is closer here than anyone anticipated.

And political minds on both sides of the partisan divide say that in a future race without an Arizonan on the national ballot, the state could follow the lead of other Western states — like Nevada and Colorado — in being heavily contested.

Population growth, and an influx of both young and Hispanic residents, is shifting the balance of power in the state, pollsters say. From now on, that power is likely to be held by voters calling themselves independent — not Republican or Democrat.

Voters claiming no party account for nearly 28 percent of registered voters in Arizona. Ten years ago, only 14 percent of voters fell in that category.

Some experts, however, say the long-term impact of the current national climate, one that benefits Democrats over Republicans, shouldn't be overstated.

John McCain is still predicted to win here, but with his lead over Barack Obama diminishing greatly in new polling,

See AZ POLITICS, A6



Dark Blue: >10% advantage for Dems; Medium Blue: 5-10% advantage for Dems; Light Blue: <5% advantage for Dems
Light Red: <5% advantage for GOP; Medium Red: 5-10% advantage for GOP; Dark Red: >10% advantage for GOP

STAR INVESTIGATION: \$63 MILLION EXAMINED

Where your Rio Nuevo taxes went

Nine years in, biggest expense is
Clark Street underpass at I-10

By Rob O'Dell
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

They promised buildings — hotels, an aquarium and museums.

Nine years later, Downtown Tucson has two refurbished movie theaters, a re-creation of the Presidio wall and a wider freeway underpass.

A comprehensive Star analysis of the \$63 million in taxpayer dollars paid to outside vendors since voters approved Rio Nuevo in 1999 shows that much of the money has been spent to plan projects that stalled.

It also went to pay for things that while not prohibited, are not what excited voters about Rio Nuevo. That includes paying to sponsor events with loose ties to Downtown development and on public relations to promote Rio Nuevo to an increasingly impatient population.

See RIO NUEVO, A4

SN On StarNet: The Star searched through more than 100,000 records to show for the first time all the money spent by the city's Rio Nuevo fund since voters approved the Downtown redevelopment effort in 1999. Search the database at azstarnet.com/special/riounuevosummary

Asteroid searcher hopes his discoveries won't produce direct impact

By Tom Beal
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Rich Kowalski is a jovial fellow who loves his job but approaches it with a certain sense of dread.

Kowalski doesn't want to be the guy who finds the asteroid headed for Earth that will wipe out our species.

But that's pretty much his job description these days: Watch the skies. Sound the alarm.

"I don't want to be the one, but that is the name of the game," Kowalski says.

This month, Kowalski earned at least a footnote in the astronomy books by becoming the first to spot an asteroid before it crashed into Earth's atmosphere as a meteor — heady stuff for a high school graduate who,

ON THE NET

Watch a time-lapse movie of the night sky above the 60-inch telescope on Mount Lemmon on the night that Rich Kowalski spotted the asteroid. Go to his Web site: www.fullmoonphotography.net/astro.htm

three years ago, was driving tanker trucks.

Kowalski's discovery vaporized over Sudan before dawn on Oct. 7 — less than 24 hours after he spotted it from a 60-inch telescope atop Mount Lemmon.

That was a little asteroid — less than 2 meters long. If he ever finds a big one, say the size

See ASTEROID, A6

Shifting focus of \$700B bailout stirs concern

By John Dunbar
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — First, the \$700 billion rescue for the economy was about buying devalued mortgage-backed securities from tottering banks to unplug frozen credit markets.

Then it was about using \$250 billion of it to buy stakes in banks. The idea was that

banks would use the money to start making loans again.

But reports surfaced that bankers might instead use the money to buy other banks, pay dividends, give employees a raise and executives a bonus, or just sit on it. Insurance companies now want a piece; maybe automakers, too, even though Congress has approved

\$25 billion in low-interest loans for them.

Three weeks after becoming law, and with the first dollar of the \$700 billion yet to go out, officials are just beginning to talk about helping a few strapped homeowners keep the foreclosure wolf from the door.

As the crisis worsens, the government's reaction keeps

changing. Lawmakers in both parties are starting to gripe that the bailout is turning out to be far different from what the Bush administration sold to Congress.

In buying equity stakes in banks, the Treasury has "diverted

See BAILOUT, A6

Many sectors want their piece / A2

WEATHER, C14

Staying warm awhile
High 91 / Low 56



A LEE NEWSPAPER
VOL. 167, NO. 300

COMING UP, DON'T MISS ...

BARGAINS GALORE: Tucson's largest flea market is next week. **MONDAY**

DAY OF THE DEAD: Religious celebration crosses borders and cultures. **NEXT SUNDAY >>**

MCCAIN OR OBAMA?: The Star Editorial Board reveals its choice. **NEXT SUNDAY**

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STAR INVESTIGATION: \$63 MILLION EXAMINED



MLK PARKING GARAGE

Rio Nuevo is spending \$13.6 million to build an underground parking garage behind the former Martin Luther King Jr. housing project on Congress Street. The city needs to sell bonds to get most of the money to finish the project.



CLARK STREET UNDERPASS

Through June 20, 2008, the widening of the Clark Street underpass at Interstate 10 was Rio Nuevo's largest expenditure at \$745 million. Rio Nuevo also paid \$1.55 million to run a TICET shuttle for traffic mitigation there.



CONVENTION CENTER BOX OFFICE

The first project constructed with Rio Nuevo money was the Tucson Convention Center box office, which was finished in 2003. The city paid contractor Richard E. Lampert \$793,716 for the project.

RIO NUEVO

Continued from Page A1

Among spending the Star investigation identified:

- \$4.6 million for the planned Downtown University of Arizona science center, most paid to the university despite a lack of receipts or supporting documents. The city agreed to pay half the UA's bills partly so the university would drop its notion of building a massive Rainbow Bridge over Interstate 10 and the Santa Cruz River.

- \$625,000 to Annapolis, Md.-based Hunter Interests Inc. for a Rio Nuevo master plan that was then discarded.

- Nearly \$1.2 million on public relations to promote Rio Nuevo.

- \$15,000 for a title sponsorship for El Tour Downtown Fiesta.

- Nearly \$9,000 for barricades and security for two annual All Souls Processions.

- Nearly \$6,000 for two plaques to honor U.S. congressmen, one of which has yet to be installed because the development where it was to be posted remains an empty lot.

- \$5,000 to sponsor an Homage to Father Kino art exhibit Downtown.

The Star shared its analysis with 15 people involved in Downtown redevelopment in various ways, as well as government accounting experts.

Some were surprised that several of the Rio Nuevo's biggest-ticket items are invisible to residents eager to see progress Downtown. Among them:

- \$7.45 million to the Arizona Department of Transportation to rebuild the Clark Street underpass at I-10, and another \$1.55 million for traffic mitigation there.

TOP 10 CITY CONTRACTORS ACCORDING TO THE STAR

Contractor	Amount according to Star analysis	Amount according to the city	Projects involved
Ticor Title Agency	\$7,827,507	\$6,825,744	Escrow payments for real estate purchases and construction
Lloyd Construction Co.	\$7,813,911	\$7,845,863	Construction — Tucson Origins Park
Arizona Department of Transportation	\$7,450,000	\$9,000,000	Design/Construction — Clark St. underpass
Burns and Wald-Hopkins	\$6,524,043	\$6,524,043	Consulting/Design — Tucson Origins Park
University of Arizona	\$5,144,369	\$5,081,746	Science Center and various studies
Lawyers Title of Arizona	\$4,953,316	\$4,953,316	Payments for real estate
Desert Archaeology Inc.	\$3,897,387	\$3,084,478	Archaeology — Presidio, West Side
Means Design & Building Corp.	\$2,709,103	\$2,709,103	Construction — Presidio
Innova Environmental Engineering	\$1,245,890	\$1,266,405	Environmental Services — Landfill
Hargreaves Associates	\$1,178,640	\$1,401,768	Consulting — Civic and Cultural Plazas

- \$3.6 million for environmental services to remediate a landfill south of Congress Street on the west side of I-10.

- \$3 million for studies and planning.

- \$2.5 million for consulting. "The thing has so clearly floundered, unfortunately," said architect Bob Vint, a historic preservationist involved in a number of Downtown projects. "It's sobering to see how easily they went through the money. They certainly spent freely in an unfocused way."

But that view isn't shared by Rio Nuevo boosters like Jeff DiGregorio, Rio Nuevo District board member and owner of Downtown's Royal Elizabeth Bed and Breakfast Inn. He said he sees Downtown progressing well, and "absolutely" meeting goals to be right where it should be.

"When I look at progress, I see exactly what I want to see," DiGregorio said. "Half of it has been built or is

in some reasonable state of pre-development."

How much was spent

Because of difficulty tracking expenses through the city's accounting system, the Star analysis includes \$63.4 million in payments to outside vendors but not more than \$10 million in payments between city departments.

Through June 30, the city has spent \$16.4 million for new construction, the paper's analysis shows. That doesn't include \$4.4 million to design five Rio Nuevo structures like a parking garage and the Presidio wall that are under way or completed. Another \$2 million has been spent designing future projects and \$8.5 million for improvements such as widening streets.

The rest of the \$89 million spent on Rio Nuevo through June 30 went for personnel, debt service, equipment and other expenses.

The Rio Nuevo fund is now \$10.2 million in the red because

the district took in only \$78.7 million in revenue through June 30. And Rio Nuevo owes the city's general fund another \$6.8 million that needs to be repaid this year to help bridge the city's budget deficit.

That means Rio Nuevo has \$17 million more in commitments than it has taken in. Jaret Barr, assistant to the city manager, said that money will be repaid through bond sales this year, adding there are backup plans in case it can't sell the bonds. That includes a short-term bank loan or raising money in the commercial paper market.

Community reaction

The Star's analysis elicited reactions ranging from strong statements of support for Rio Nuevo to exasperation at how slowly the effort is progressing.

Several people singled out the \$1.2 million spent on public relations. Infill developer Richard

TOP 10 EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY*

Category	According to the Star	According to the city
Construction	\$16,399,736	\$29,300,856
Improvements	\$8,547,516	\$584,071
Design	\$6,435,498	\$7,740,735
Science Center	\$4,633,054	\$4,633,054
Environmental services	\$3,518,933	\$3,717,013
Archaeology	\$3,473,935	\$3,805,678
Acquisitions	\$3,428,287	\$3,820,912
Restoration	\$3,080,794	\$0
Relocation	\$2,387,252	\$193,081
Consulting	\$2,539,444	\$257,399

*During weeks of negotiation, the city said its accounting system would not break down Rio Nuevo spending by the above categories. After reviewing the Star's analysis, officials relabeled information in the Star's database and provided the numbers listed here as the city totals.

CITY DATA VERSUS ARIZONA DAILY STAR ANALYSIS

On Sept. 4 the Star filed a public-records request asking the city how much Rio Nuevo Downtown redevelopment money had been spent in eight areas through fiscal year 2008. At the same time, the Star was compiling its own database of Rio Nuevo spending.

City officials did not respond to the questions until after the Star made its findings available to them. In some cases the city report and Star findings are very different. That is at least partly because the Star had access only to payments made to outside vendors while the city includes millions in payments made between city departments.

Studwell said the money didn't go to attract developers or businesses Downtown, but instead was used to "cheerlead for themselves" and "convince anyone who's listening that they have done something."

"Why did we have to spend so much on PR?" asked David Tang, a member of the now-defunct Rio Nuevo's Citizens Advisory Committee. "Is it because we wanted to show something was happening?"

Others questioned the \$5,800 for two plaques made to honor U.S. congressmen. The city spent about half that money on a plaque for U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor that was installed at the city's Historic Train Depot, which is not a Rio Nuevo project.

A second plaque was created for then-U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe to be posted on the Thrifty Block, on East Congress Street just east of South Stone Avenue, once a project there is completed. After the city tore down a 100-year-old building there in 2004, the lot remains vacant.

Also singled out for criticism was the \$4.6 million paid to the UA for the science center.

The UA's receipts sometimes contained only an invoice for hundreds of thousands of dollars with no backup material.

Included is \$585,000 in payments to New York-based architect Rafael Viñoly. Bob Smith, the UA's director of facilities, design and construction, said late last week that the UA actually has paid Viñoly \$4.86 million.

Other receipts include the rental of office space in New York City for UA consultants, and \$7,500 that was wired to a Russian company for software development. Smith said the UA intends to submit all its backup receipts to the city. He said the New York office is a small temporary office, and that the Russian contractor has specialized

expertise. Hein said he signed off on the UA receipts: "We made the decision that the UA was paying 50 percent and we wanted to be a good partner."

Tang questioned how the science center went from a joint venture with the city putting up \$20 million, to the city footing the entire \$130 million bill. "It's all on Rio Nuevo's back. It doesn't make any sense," he said.

A fight about numbers

The city objected to categories the Star used to break down Rio Nuevo spending, calling them arbitrary and manipulated.

City Manager Mike Hein said the way the Star categorized payments was not how "industry professionals" would do it. "A journalist is going to categorize expenses different than a finance person," he said.

However, there are no set accounting standards for governments, the state auditor general said.

Charlie Francis, a government accounting expert who helped negotiate Iraq's agreement with the International Monetary Fund, said the Star's analysis goes beyond an audit, but it "does not go beyond what a government body should be receiving annually." Francis, who spent 16 years as a finance director, said city leaders should want such a report regularly.

Hein said new construction was "grossly mischaracterized" in the Star analysis because it didn't take into account money spent on design and construction documents. Instead the Star listed them in the design category.

The Star analysis found that \$16.4 million has been spent on construction; the city says that figure should be \$29.3 million plus another \$7.7 million for de-

Continued on next page

STUDIES AND PLANNING COSTS

Rio Nuevo has been criticized by some residents for spending money on studies, planning and consultants rather than bricks and mortar — construction.

Pictured are some of the studies Rio Nuevo has spent more than \$681,000 on since voters first approved the Downtown redevelopment project in 1999. Among them are several studies on the Tucson Convention Center, a new arena, Downtown infrastructure, historical and cultural museums on the West Side, and Downtown housing.

In addition, the city and the University of Arizona have spent thousands on studies for the \$130 million UA Science Center, which has been redesigned several times, including the university's now-scraped concept for a Rainbow Bridge over the Santa Cruz River.

Through nine years, the city also spent more than \$2.5 million on consulting and nearly \$2.4 million on planning for Rio Nuevo.

Part of the money spent on planning was \$625,000 paid to Annapolis, Md.-based Hunter Interests Inc. for a Rio Nuevo Master Plan in 2001.

The city later discarded that master plan, which had taken about two years to create.



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FINAL

UA takes out decade of frustration on ASU



DAVID SANDERS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Wide receiver Mike Thomas celebrates a 52-yard punt return for a touchdown in the third quarter. The UA rolled to a 31-10 victory.

By Patrick Finley
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Mike Thomas raised the football in the air. The Arizona Wildcats' do-everything wide receiver sprinted a 52-yard punt return toward the north end zone in the third quarter Saturday night.

As if he couldn't contain himself, Thomas

held the football skyward at the 3-yard line.

When Thomas crossed the finish line, the crowd vibrating with cheers, Arizona gained an 18-point lead — and a chance to breathe for the first time all night.

Maybe for the first time in a decade.

As if to remind Arizona fans of their suffering, the Wildcats played like their sorry early-decade selves in the first half.

But a 21-point third quarter sealed a 31-10 win and a Las Vegas Bowl bid — the UA's first postseason trip since 1998.

When Thomas bolted toward the stadium's open end, a sold-out Arizona Stadium crowd finally saw a decade of frustration start to end.

Thomas raised the football in the air. The program rose up with him.

Pac-10 bowl picture

How to get tickets to the Las Vegas Bowl, some clarity on the other four Pac-10 bowl teams and the dates and times of all 34 bowls. **Pages C1, C11**

Hansen: UA football in a better place

You may have forgotten what it feels like to support a winner, but columnist Greg Hansen reminds us it's time to celebrate. **Page C1**

Non-flashy Tuitama gets emotional

One of the best quarterbacks in UA program history, Willie Tuitama let it all out after his final appearance at Arizona Stadium. **Page C6**

Restitution for brutal beating: \$20.80 monthly

By Kim Smith
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Every month, Monte Colvin receives a check for \$20.80 from the Pima County Clerk of the Court's Office.

And every month the same thought crosses through the 67-year-old South Side resident's mind.

"I'll be 150 by the time they pay for it," Colvin said.

The "it" Colvin is talking about: court-ordered restitution.

On New Year's Day 2001, Colvin woke up in the middle of the night when he heard someone starting up the 1960 Chevrolet pickup truck he had spent countless hours restoring.

Colvin, who was recovering from double knee surgery, grabbed his cane and hobbled outside. Two young men were sitting in his truck.

"I told them to get out, to get gone and they came out fighting," Colvin said.

The two culprits, 15 and 18 years old, used Colvin's own steering wheel anti-theft device to beat him unmercifully.

Colvin spent 10 days at St. Mary's Hospital. He suffered fractures to his eye sockets, cheekbones, nose, sinus cavities and upper jaw.

The teens crashed Colvin's truck, landed in prison and were ordered to pay \$22,000 in restitution.

Up until a few years ago, Colvin received his restitution checks sporadically.

Now he gets his \$20.80 check monthly.

Up until four years ago, there was no central system in place to ensure people were being paid court-ordered restitution, said Patti

See RESTITUTION, A4

REVENUE COLLECTED

Money collected by the Pima County clerk of the court's collections unit in FY 2008:

- Criminal cases: **\$6,354,311**
- Civil fees: **\$40,683**
- Jury fees: **\$25,111**
- Spousal maintenance fees: **\$60,978**
- Amount owed by incarcerated people: **\$76,379,477**
- Amount of restitution and fees assessed since the 1970s in criminal cases: **\$212,615,929**
- Amount owed by deceased people: **\$5,148,094**
- Amount owed by deported people: **\$5,357,900**

Source: Pima County clerk of the court

STAR INVESTIGATION

UA outlay for science center near \$13 million

City taxpayers foot big bills for travel, scrapped designs

By Rob O'Dell
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The University of Arizona has spent nearly \$13 million designing a new science center for Rio Nuevo — including notable expenses for travel, meals and architectural designs that have been discarded, according to an investigation by the Arizona Daily Star.

Pitched to voters in 1999 as a \$30 million item, science-center costs ballooned to \$350 million with the proposed addition of a Rainbow Bridge across Interstate 10 before settling back down to about \$130 million in a joint development with the Arizona State Museum.

With the project poised to move ahead with its third and final building design, a database created by the Star gives taxpayers their first detailed look at what's been spent since mid-2004.

Combing through more than 2,700 paper receipts provided by the UA, the Star found:

• \$4.86 million to architect Rafael Viñoly, about two-thirds of which was for the Rainbow Bridge and other designs that were scrapped. Viñoly is still working on a scaled-back science center.

• More than \$355,000 in travel expenses for consultants and personnel, including trips to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Acapulco, Mexico; The Hague, Netherlands; and various locations around Italy. Much of the travel money was spent bringing consultants to Tucson for

See UA CENTER, A5

SN On StarNet: A database of who got the science center funds, and for what, plus a video about our efforts to follow the money is at azstarnet.com/special/sciencecenter

Proposed Pima policy lays down rule for bad behavior off-duty

By Erica Meltzer
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

County employees soon could have to mind their p's and q's — and not just 9 to 5.

Pima County officials developed a change to the employee code of conduct that would penalize potentially embarrassing actions, even when they occur during private hours.

The proposal comes in the wake of complaints about county Legal Defender Isabel Garcia's actions at a July protest against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Garcia walked around holding the head of a piñata in Arpaio's likeness.

County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry found Garcia did not violate any county policies but suggested the county develop a policy for off-duty activities similar to those in place at many other local jurisdictions and private businesses.

The proposed policy addition is: Whether on or off duty, an employee shall conduct himself or herself in a manner that will not bring discredit or embarrassment to the county.

While Huckelberry asked that a policy be developed after the complaints about Garcia became public, he said he would not have handled the case any differently if this rule had been in place.

See CONDUCT, A4

WEATHER, C12
Increasingly cloudy
High 72 / Low 48



A LEE NEWSPAPER
VOL. 167, NO. 342

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UA CENTER

Continued from Page A1

meetings, evidenced by more than \$40,000 spent on plane tickets.

- \$63,000 wired to a Russian bank so a software company called Softomate could develop an Internet Explorer Toolbar add-on. UA officials said they wired the money to Russia because that office does different work than the company's office in Washington state.

- More than \$1 million to outside consultants for exhibit design, although the UA is doing most of the exhibit design itself.

- \$112,000 for state-of-the-art computers, laptops and electronic equipment for the university, including \$7,000 to purchase 12 iPhones. The UA received few bulk discounts on the equipment.

- More than \$250,000 in rent, furniture and installation for a new office in the Unisource Tower, so the university would have a presence Downtown.

- \$173,000 for public relations.
- \$43,000 for local catering and for meals throughout the country, including New York.

- The UA billed city taxpayers nearly \$1.75 million in salaries for university employees who worked on the project.

University defends spending

The university defended the expenses on travel, meals, technology and architecture, saying it pared back spending as much as possible when the city reduced its funding for the science center.

Bob Smith, the UA's director of facilities, design and construction, said the payments to Viñoly are "well within the normal parameters of architectural, engineering and specialty consultant costs" for a complex project such as the science center.

Smith said 75 percent of the meal costs were catering for community meetings or working meetings that contributed to the development of programs, exhibit concepts and design.

He defended the travel spending because he said the university flew many experts to Tucson for their opinions rather than paying them consulting fees. But a Star review of the receipts found that only a handful of the experts fit that description. A vast majority of the travel was for paid consultants or staff members.

"I think we are getting a heck of a deal," Smith said of the travel. "We're getting some of the best minds in the world for the cost of flying them out here."

Of those reimbursed the most for travel, only Columbia University's Peter Eisenberger, a longtime colleague of Flandrau Science Center Director Alexis Faust, directly fit Smith's description. He was reimbursed more than \$52,000 for travel.

"A lot of the concepts we are using came from Peter," Faust said, adding that he spent thousands of hours on the project and never charged a fee.

Much of the international travel, Smith said, was for conferences where the UA made presentations, including one in Rio de Janeiro where he gave a presentation on how to properly engage the community when building a science center.

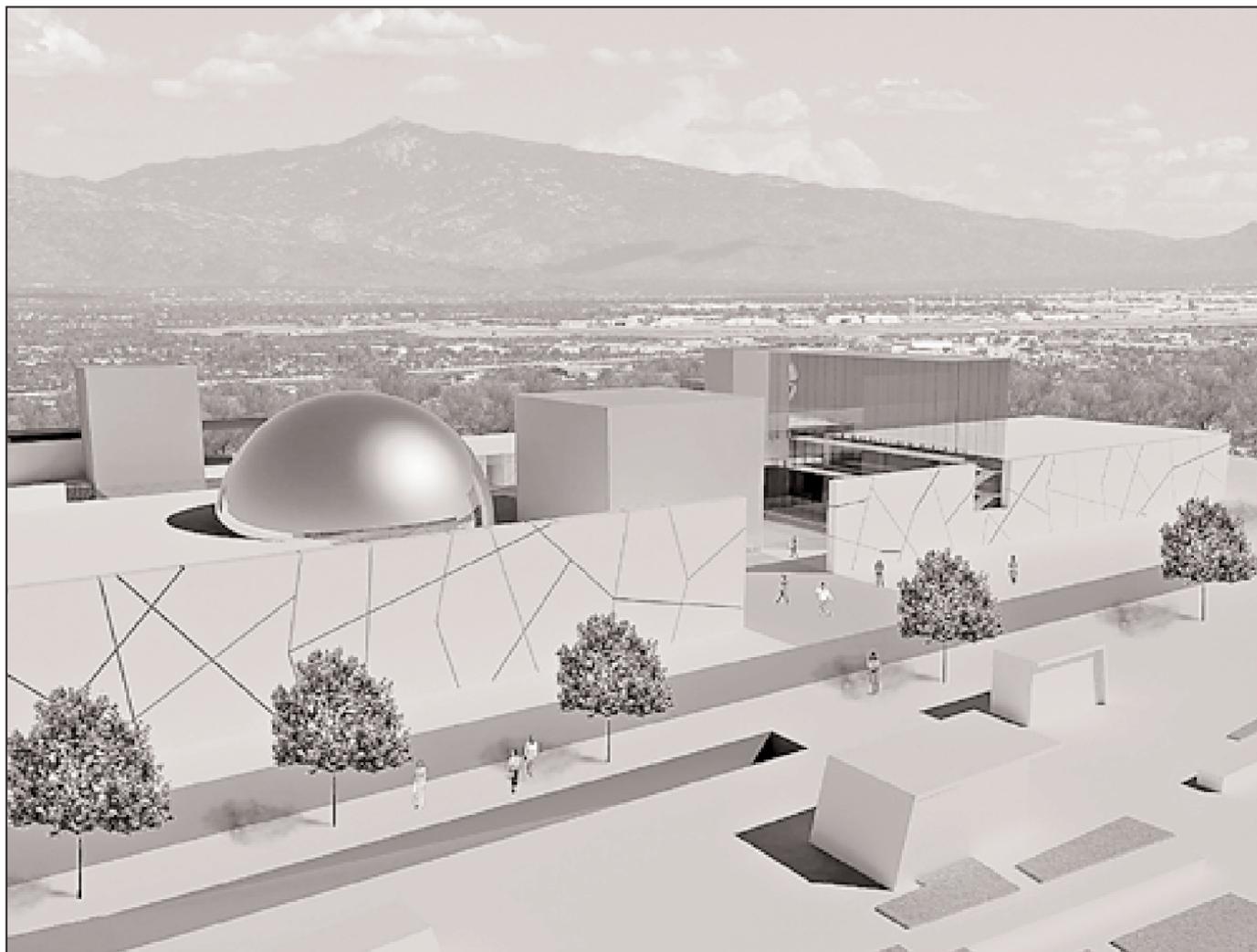
Faust said the iPhones were needed because smartphones will be integral to the experience at the center and they are being used in exhibit prototypes. She said the UA needs many of the laptops for exhibit prototypes as well as community outreach, adding that any furniture or electronic equipment bought will be transferred to the science center at Rio Nuevo when it is built.

The Russian contractor Softomate was selected for its expertise in developing custom toolbars for Internet Explorer and other Web browsers, along with its in-depth knowledge of "spidering" — intelligent Internet searches that add content to a Web site.

Faust said every contractor was "the best in the business or had specialized expertise that made us pick them."

Numbers analyzed

Sheila Grinell, who founded and developed the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix and



This new conceptual design shows the planned UA science center at left, with a planetarium dome; Arizona State Museum at right; and a three-story IMAX theater in a middle plaza.

COURTESY OF RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS

TRAVELOGUE

Rio de Janeiro

- Cost: \$3,500
- Who: Bob Smith and another employee
- For What: Make a presentation at the Science Center World Congress

Acapulco, Mexico

- Cost: \$1,793
- Who: Two people involved with the Eller College of Management
- For What: Americas Conference on Information Systems

The Hague, Netherlands

- Cost: \$1,042
- Who: Peter Eisenberger
- For What: To represent the UA science center at the Institute for Learning Innovation Conference

Various locales in Italy and Europe

- Cost: \$133
- Who: Giovanni Battistini
- For What: Phone charges and airport receipts for various meetings throughout Italy and Europe

Some costs for these trips may have been paid through other University or Arizona department budgets and therefore they do not appear in the Science Center receipts.

wrote a book on how to build a new science center, analyzed the Star's database and said none of the spending strikes her as "outrageous."

Given that the university hired people from New York, she said, "If you are going to work with them, you have to fly them." She said designers Viñoly and Ralph Appelbaum cost a lot.

But Bob Vint, a local architect who is working on preserving the Mission San Xavier del Bac, criticized the time and money spent on the now-discarded Rainbow Bridge version of the science center, saying it was "absurd" that the UA fell for the idea, and that the city and the university need to start learning from their mistakes.

"We fall for these nonsensical, grandiose visions and throw millions of dollars at them. It's just dumb," Vint said.

However, it's not just UA money being spent. As part of the agreement to scrap the



This was architect's vision of the Rainbow Bridge and Flandrau Science Center, viewed at night, looking southeast from northwest. The idea was scrapped as too expensive.

COURTESY OF RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS

THE COSTS

Science Center Spending by Categories, according to paper records provided by the University of Arizona and compiled by the Arizona Daily Star:

- Administration: **\$48,934**
- Advertising: **\$14,037**
- Books/Subscriptions: **\$5,534**
- Computer/Electronic Equipment: **\$112,385**
- Computer/Web Software: **\$109,487**
- Consulting: **\$422,832**
- Copies/Graphics/Printing: **\$35,796**
- Design: **\$6,082,743**
- Exhibits: **\$1,034,476**
- Meals: **\$42,484**
- Professional Services: **\$542,081**
- Public Relations: **\$172,968**
- Rent/Office: **\$321,971**
- Shipping: **\$4,045**
- Supplies: **\$20,931**
- Telecommunications: **\$60,606**
- Travel: **\$355,193**
- UA salaries: **\$3,451,282**
- Unknown/Receipt Illegible: **\$5,894**

TOTAL: \$12,843,678

Rainbow Bridge design, the city agreed to pay half the UA's design cost, meaning city taxpayers split a \$12.8 million expense.

When asked whether the city

SURPRISES

Four Expenses You Might Not Expect:

- \$2,800 paid to put up guests at White Stallion Ranch.
- \$7,700 in cell-phone bills for a New York-based employee, including long distance and roaming charges throughout the world, including Spain and Italy.
- \$4,500 to former City Councilman Fred Ronstadt to re-search public opinion on the Rainbow Bridge.
- \$300 for a plane ticket to a conference in Acapulco, Mexico — the ticket was only \$265, but the university official who approved the reimbursement threw in an extra \$35 because she wrote that she "liked round numbers."

reviewed and approved the expenses, the city released a short statement from City Manager Mike Hein stating: "The city is only following the terms and conditions of the agreement. If the university approves the expenditure and pays for it, then we are obligated to reimburse one-half the amount."

A new beginning

Although university officials showed the Star the new design for the joint science center and Arizona State Museum, Smith said it was two to three weeks premature to make the plan public.

However, late Friday, Faust

e-mailed the design plans to science center "supporters."

The design shows visitors entering from the west, with a large plaza in the middle containing a three-story IMAX theater. The science center with its planetarium dome is to the left and the museum to the right. A dome-shaped telescope is located at the southeast corner of the building.

Smith said the final schematic design will be completed soon, with the more intensive design and engineering work to be completed next year. An optimistic timetable for starting construction is in mid-2009, with the center opening by 2012.

At the same time, staff for the Flandrau is developing exhibits for the science center. The centerpiece is an interface that will allow visitors to swipe either an electronic card or a smartphone at the entrance to the museum and at all exhibits.

Faust said the interface — a program called ZoneBee the UA has spent \$750,000 on — will transfer content from the exhibits to cell phones and home computers and allow visitors to experience the center after they've left. The museum would also create a specialized Web site for visitors and continually update users with new science and Flandrau information.

To help create ZoneBee, the UA hired New York-based employee Giovanni Battistini for nearly \$150,000, and has reimbursed him more than \$78,000 for travel, meals and cell-phone use in the past several years. Faust said Battistini would

make much more in the private sector.

Battistini also has an agreement with the UA to try to develop ZoneBee commercially. The agreement calls for the UA to have a "substantial" investment with Battistini in the product, but the amount is confidential under the terms of the contract.

UA President Robert Shelton said ZoneBee is a good concept with the potential to be engaging for museum visitors.

Shelton said he did not look at the Star's numbers, and delegated the budget and planning for the science center to those under him.

Reactions of support, anger

Tucson City Council members defended the university and its spending.

Councilwoman Regina Romero, who represents the West Side, said the university is the expert, and she has faith in it to "plan, design and deliver" the science center.

Mayor Bob Walkup said the spending amounts "sound about right to me." He said the city will soon conduct an audit to see how the UA has spent the money, even though the city has already paid the UA most of its \$6.4 million share.

Some community members were more critical.

Downtown business owner Margo Susco said she was appalled by what she called the extravagance of the UA's spending: \$16,000 at the Arizona Inn, \$40,000 on plane flights, and meals at some of Tucson's finest establishments.

"As a taxpaying small business owner Downtown, I think it's ridiculous," Susco said. "They are just flagrantly spending. It's just not right."

Developer Richard Studwell said the UA spent money on whatever it thought it needed with no regard to cost.

"This is indicative of Rio Nuevo: It's not run in a business-like fashion," Studwell said, adding there's little appreciation shown for the taxpayer's money. "They fire the football coach if he loses too many games. These guys are spending millions of dollars and nothing is said."

► *Star Director of Administration Renee Weatherless contributed database analysis to this report.*
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TIMELINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

- **June 1998:** Discussions of a possible \$100 million "Sonoran Science Center" museum district on the West Side include a re-located Flandrau Science Center.
- **November 1999:** Prop. 400, diverting \$60 million in state sales taxes for Rio Nuevo, is approved by 62 percent of Tucson voters. The science center is included in the plan.
- **May 2003:** Preliminary drawings by designer Ralph Appelbaum show a cluster of buildings and two pedestrian bridges spanning Interstate 10 and the Santa Cruz River.
- **July 2003:** A UA study says a \$100 million science center can bring in enough money to pay for itself. The city is asked for \$20 million to get construction started by 2006.
- **September 2003:** The Arizona Board of Regents unanimously approves \$73 million for a "world class" science center on the West Side.
- **May 2004:** The UA selects Rafael Viñoly as the architect.
- **August 2005:** Viñoly says his Rainbow Bridge design will cost \$200 million — double what was approved. By December the cost estimate hits \$350 million.
- **May 2006:** The Arizona Legislature approves a \$600 million 12-year extension of the Rio Nuevo special taxing district.
- **July 2006:** City officials refuse to put up more than \$40 million for the Rainbow Bridge.
- **August 2006:** New UA President Robert Shelton drops the Rainbow Bridge plan, citing a lack of money and community consensus.
- **September 2006:** The city agrees to pay half the UA's planning and design costs for the science center, provided the Rainbow Bridge concept is scrapped.
- **May 2007:** The City Council approves a \$100 million Science Center combined with a \$30 million Arizona State Museum, with the city footing the entire bill. The Board of Regents approves it three months later.
- **Dec. 2008:** With the final design almost done, UA officials hope to have the Science Center open by Arizona's state centennial in 2012, if the city can sell \$65 million in bonds to start construction soon.