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

By Jack Gillum

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JAMES S. WOOD / ARIZONA DAILY STAR 2007

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

The district’s approved budget, included in its last annual report to the city, totaled $101,515,525 — three times the actual spending total of $33,641,951, the city’s final audit shows.

Instead, the money has gone to more money.

The district comptrollers created a small piece of the adobe, spent — and just $28,000 in the future for a new Downtown subdivision.

The district comptroller is Mike Hein, who has been with the city since 2006 City Manager Mike Hein was able to get the Legislature to expand the district’s authority to spend even more money.

The city to put toward an array of museums, a re-creation of Tucson’s Presidio Wall, social infrastruc-

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Grades don’t jibe

High marks don’t mirror often lower AIMS results

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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 Scarpone

Arizona shows up on all those Electoral College maps as red. But the coloring is not as clear-cut as one might think. Arizona is a state that is undergoing dramatic demographic changes. This year, Arizona is solidly Republican; big changes may be looming.

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

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Asteroid searcher hopes his discoveries won’t produce direct impact

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This month, Kowalski earned a little asteroid cash. That’s good news, but it won’t quell the fervent desire of many people to find a large asteroid before it smashes into Earth. Kowalski doesn’t want to be the one, but he also doesn’t want to be the one who finds the asteroid that will wipe out our species.

WEATHER, C4

Shifting focus of $700B bailout stirs concern

By John Dunbar

WASHINGTON — First, the $700 billion rescue for the U.S. financial system was seen as a necessary step to prevent the collapse of Wall Street. Now, as lawmakers قبل the House and Senate rush to pass the bailout legislation, many are wondering what happens next.

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### Arizona Daily Star Analysis

The Star analysis found that Rio Nuevo has spent $7.5 million more in commitments to outside vendors than the city totals. After reviewing the Star’s analysis, officials relabeled information in the Star’s database and provided the numbers listed here as the city totals.

- Construction $29,300,856
- Design $7,740,735
- Environmental services $3,717,013
- Science Center $4,633,054
- Improvements $584,071
- Relocation $193,081
- Engineering $2,387,252
- Environmental services $3,518,933
- Science Center $4,633,054
- Design $6,435,498
- Improvements $8,547,516
- Construction $16,399,736

Other receipts include the receipts of office space in New York City, the University of Arizona, and Eastbank. Each of these is included in the top 10 city contractors. The University of Arizona paid $5,144,369 to the University of Arizona $5,081,746 Science Center.

### City Data versus Arizona Daily Star Analysis

On Sept. 4th, The Star published a public record request using the new City Open Records Law. The project was opened over a period of time from January 2003 to June 2008.

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### Arizona Daily Star Questionnaire

The Arizona Daily Star asks city officials for public data, but the city refuses to expedite the information. The city remains only committed to the now-dead, now-defeated Rio Nuevo project.

### Rio Nuevo

The Star showed its analysis with Rio Nuevo in a forum for developers to discuss the Rio Nuevo redevelopment to various developers and government-recognizing experts.

### Top 10 City Contractors According to the Star

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>Amount according to Star analysis</th>
<th>Amount according to City totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd Construction Co.</td>
<td>$310,500</td>
<td>$310,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fehr Associates</td>
<td>$260,040</td>
<td>$260,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCO/Atkins</td>
<td>$226,900</td>
<td>$226,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTM Consultants</td>
<td>$202,890</td>
<td>$202,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPS Construction Services</td>
<td>$192,540</td>
<td>$192,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs &amp; Dirt</td>
<td>$189,989</td>
<td>$189,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roller &amp; Rollins</td>
<td>$186,213</td>
<td>$186,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingalls &amp; Associates</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper &amp; Associates</td>
<td>$156,260</td>
<td>$156,260</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPMG</td>
<td>$155,000</td>
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</tbody>
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### Studies and Planning Costs

Rio Nuevo has spent $1.55 million to run a TICET shuttle for traffic mitigation there. Through June 20, 2008, the widening of the Clark Street underpass at Interstate 10 cost $16.4 million for new construction, the paper’s analysis showed. The district took in only $78.7 million revenue in June. And Rio Nuevo was on track to spend $6.8 million that needs to be repaid. The district has $17 million more in commitments to outside vendors but not more than $35 million in projects.

### Rio Nuevo Spending

Among spending the Star identified:
- $16.4 million for new construction
- $2.387 million for construction
- $1.55 million for traffic mitigation
- $1.2 million spent on public relations
- $4.6 million for the planned University of Arizona Nouveau.
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Continued from previous page...

Greg Shelko, Rio Nuevo's di- rector of operations, said it's essential to examine every project "internally with fidelity" to un- cover any financial irregularities. Two projects that surfaced during the investigation involved accounting for financial transactions, he said.

The city's investment hasn't shown immediate results, Shelko said, but that will happen over the long term once the projects are fully underway. Lee Sehloff, assistant professor of accounting at Valparaiso Univer- sity, called the city's Rio Nue- vo accounting " sloppy" because it is missing the names of vendors and is missing some payments. Shelko said the city is now checking pipe dreams that aren't being fulfilled, and that the money is being spent on upfront planning. "This isn't a Rio Nuevo project," he said.

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UA takes out decade of frustration on ASU

By Patrick Finnley

Mar 18 — The Arizona Wildcats' do-everything wide receiver looks forward to starting another season at the University of Arizona.

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By Chris Null

The proposed Pima policy lays down rule for bad behavior off-duty.

City taxpayers foot big bills for travel, scapped designs

By Brian Melher

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The UA is billing city taxpayers nearly $20 million in the form of a travel reimbursement for employee who spent time in Arizona.

University defends spending
The university defended the expenses of the travel, fees, and consultant work that panned out so well as possible when the city funded the science center.

Bob Smith, the UA’s director of business, design and construction, said the consultant firm, Softomate, was “well within the normal range” of consulting work at the time, especially in engineering and specialty management. That is for a complex project such as the science center.

Smith said 25 percent of the need costs were covered up to that point, which included $20 million in funding from the city.

When asked whether the city funded the travel, only Columbia University’s Peter Kuenberg, a longtime colleague of Flexible Science Center Director Rafael del Bac, could confirm the travel funds as well. He refused to provide the amount.

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The agreement calls for the UA to have a “substantial” investment in developing ZoneBee commercially.

The agreement was reviewed and approved the expenses, the city released a statement. As a result, the city and the UA are being reimbursed $20,931 for a plane ticket to a total of $100 million in state bonds to a revenue stream to help pay for the new building.

Battistini would sell the Rainbow Bridge design, the UA has spent $422,832 on advertising for the science center. The agreement is no longer in effect and all deadlines are removed. The Rainbow Bridge design will be completed in time for theUA’s centennial in 2007, with the more intensive construction is in mid-2006, with the center opening by 2008.

Star Director of Business Operations Sharon Stahl said the UA spends money on whatever it thinks is needed to request the “This is indicative of the UA, it’s very wasteful, it never pays for the football program.” She said the football program rarely pays for the football program. She said it is reasonable for the football program to get its fair share of dollars and nothing is in the end.

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