

WEATHER
Partly cloudy

HIGH 83
LOW 53
Page B10

Michigan 31
Ohio St. 23
Florida 35
Florida St. 24



SPORTS Suns beat Lakers, 114-113
Fiesta Bowl
poised to host
title game



Northwestern
headed
to Rose Bowl

FINAL EDITION

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FINAL CHASER

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FUTURE ON THE LINE

REWIRING THE VALLEY

Revolution in communications market



Satellite dishes like this one used by Cox Communications in Mesa gather TV signals and route them through a fiber-optic network.

By David Wichner
Staff writer

Ron Lenahan doesn't own a computer, a pager or other high-tech devices and says he doesn't need them. But the retired Air Force chief master sergeant and Mesa resident wouldn't mind saving some money on his phone bill, if regulators open the state to competitive phone service. "I'll probably jump on that," he said. Tempe resident Stephen Cas, meanwhile, is eager to try video telephones when they become widely available. "I'll probably be one of the first to own one," said Cas, an assembler for Intel Corp. And new competition can't arrive too soon for some customers of US West, which has been plagued by complaints about poor service and delays in hooking up new service. "They're just way behind, and they need some good, stiff competition," said Frank Pidgeon, who earlier this

year waited two months for US West to connect the phone at his new home in Mesa. All consumers in their own way have a stake in the historic changes that are dramatically reshaping the telecommunications industry, as Congress and state regulators move to open up the telephone markets to new competition. Like other metropolitan markets around the nation, the Valley literally is being rewired. The existing phone monopolies and would-be competitors are raising microwave towers and laying fiber-optic cable in a scramble to build high-tech communications networks. With these changes will come new choices for consumers — choice of service providers and choices from a menu of dazzling, new, high-tech services. Your cable-TV company may become your local phone company — and vice versa. Familiar old names, such as AT&T, may show up at your door hawking packages of local and long-distance phone service, as well as online computer access. Your electric utility may even get into the act, perhaps someday adding a phone bill to your monthly power bill.

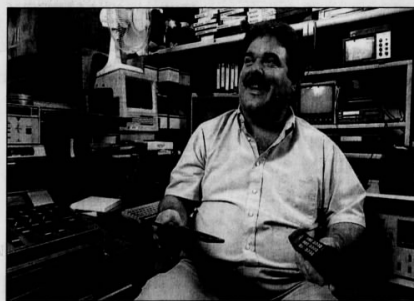
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High-tech changes to quicken

By Kerry Fahr-Snyder
Staff writer

So you think you're a regular cybernaut, a real techno big shot, king of the wired world. You've got a Pentium, a laptop, a cell phone, voice mail, a pager and a home page on the Internet. Just wait. That's nothing. A technological wave is about to knock you from your throne, reducing you to nothing more than a Stone Age peasant. "I think there will be a lot of changes. I'm just not sure where it's going," said Keith Jennings, a media specialist with Arizona State University who's scrambling to keep up with technology. The changes — in the way you work, play and live — will be dramatic. In the not-so-distant future, you will:

- Own just one phone, and one phone number, that will be billed like a regular home phone, a cellular phone and a more expensive global phone.
- Order movies and television programs delivered directly to your television over a high-speed wire.
- Receive up to 500 television channels beamed from a satellite to your living room.
- See and talk to friends and relatives over the Internet using a



Technophiles like Keith Jennings know electronics. He owns three computers, two VCRs, two laptops and a camcorder and carries a cellular phone and electronic notebook.

RELATED STORIES

SURVEY: Given a choice, Valley plays it safe on phone service. A14.

IRIDIUM: Motorola's costly project will link globe by phone. A15.

computer equipped with a camera and microphone.

- Navigate your car with a computerized system based on the same technology that the military designed to target foreign enemies.
- Send and receive information with a wireless, hand-held computer.
- Shop and pay bills on the Internet without leaving home.
- Work from home by linking to your office on a dedicated line.

At the most basic level, the changes will stem from nothing more than ones and zeros. This digital language is at the heart of every modern electronic device, from personal computers to electronic facsimiles that automatically turn on by sensing an object below.

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Could Bosnia be another Somalia?

Lessons apply to U.S. mission

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the U.S. military prepares to enter Bosnia-Herzegovina in its biggest, most complex peacekeeping operation ever, memories of disastrous missions of the recent past are stirred, starting with Somalia. There are some parallels, the most obvious being that again the U.S. military is stepping into a civil war with a long, cruel history. Bosnia is less chaotic than Somalia, where anarchy was the rule, but civil tensions are high. The weakest link in the shaky structure of peace that has been negotiated for Bosnia may well be the projected presence of 20,000 or so American troops.

CLINTON: President previews Monday's plan for peace. A5.

The American public and the Congress have previously demonstrated a lack of willingness to stay the course when body bags start coming home, as they inevitably will from Bosnia. Thus, there is a built-in incentive for any faction that wants to undermine the agreement to attack American troops. Every faction in Bosnia has been made aware of this by the protracted debate within the United States over the wisdom of putting American soldiers in harm's way. If an impressive number of Americans can be killed in a firefight, or a truck bombing, then pressures to get the troops out could become intense. An American pullout would, of

—See SOMALIA, page A6

Students in poll feel safe at school

News, kids' tales create bad image

By Karina Bland
Staff writer

Listen to the nightly news, and you'll be bolstering your kid's lunch box. Stories about students shot on their way to class, stabbings in the hallway and beatings in the bathroom paint local schools as no safer than the most brutal city street. But it turns out that the school playground isn't a war zone. Granted, kids get beat up or shaken down for their lunch money occasionally. There's the rare drive-by shooting after the last bell. Some schools, and some areas, are more troubled than others. But, overall, the hysteria about how violent schools are really isn't warranted, according to the Arizona Poll, a survey of children, ages 12 to 18, commissioned by *The Arizona Republic* and *The Phoenix Gazette*. Kids in public and private schools said they're not scared, that it's not as dangerous as the media, politicians or even students portray it. "It's just a fun for people to say how

WATCHFUL EYE: Police keep tabs on students. Page A22.

PEER PRESSURE: Kids corral school conflicts before they're out of control. Page A23.

—See STUDENTS, page A22

Tight Irish vote OKs divorce

50.2% of tally opens new era

By Shawn Pogatchnik
Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Defying the wishes of their church as never before, Irish voters decided to legalize divorce, but only by a very narrow margin. The first count Saturday was so close — 50.2 percent in favor of amending the constitution to 49.8 percent opposed — that Ireland's chief election official ordered an immediate recount. The results of that count showed a slightly higher "yes" vote. The margin was only 9,118 votes out of the more than 1.62 million cast in Friday's referendum, making it the closest vote in Irish history. Tarnest was put at 61 percent. Ireland was the only country in the Western world to constitutionally ban divorce, and lifting the prohibition marks the country's sharpest break with its Roman Catholic traditions. The amendment was to take effect immediately, allowing divorces for couples who have been separated for at least four of the previous five years and can show "no reasonable prospect of a reconciliation." The government already has approved a host of related laws defining the rights of separated spouses, children and property.

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PNI opens ramp to information highway

Arizona Central is quick, easy

By David Hoyer
Staff writer

Close down Interstate 10. We don't need I-17 or I-40, either. From now on, Arizona is linked to the world over a different sort of highway. It's called Arizona Central. Beginning today, the Grand Canyon State's ramp to the information superhighway opens for business, bringing news, sports, entertainment and advertising from the Southwest to anyone picking a home computer and modem. Arizona Central, operated by Phoenix Newspapers Inc., is the newest hot spot on America Online, whose 4 million customers have made it the largest commercial online service on Earth, bigger than CompuServe and Prodigy combined.

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ARIZONA

See how easy it is to navigate Arizona Central online.

How to use the new service

By David Hoyer
Staff writer

When America Online opened its doors in 1985, few people knew what it meant to "go online." Today, millions of people across the United States link their home computers with America Online and other "doorways" to cyberspace every day. They trade electronic mail, shop, play games, do research, check sports scores or the latest stock quotes or just hang out. Beginning today, America Online will host Arizona Central (keyword: Arizona Central), Phoenix Newspapers Inc.'s electronic headquarters for news and information about the Southwest. So how do you join the fun? First, you'll need a home computer, whether an

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