



## How will the Cardinals handle their growing injury crisis?

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# ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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### SAME-SEX MARRIAGE RULING

## New ruling opens door for gay marriage in Arizona

### 9th Circuit decision in Idaho, Nev. cases applies to Arizona

PAT SHANNAHAN/THE REPUBLIC

Suzanne Cummins (left) and Holly Mitchell are among the seven couples who challenged Arizona's marriage laws in January as part of the first of two lawsuits still pending in U.S. District Court. They said they were excited about the recent rulings on same-sex marriage.

### For state's gay couples who've longed to get married, that day is almost here

ALIA BEARD RAU AND YVONNE WINGETT SANCHEZ  
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

Arizona same-sex couples could begin marrying in a matter of days after a federal appeals court struck down marriage restrictions in Idaho and Nevada on Tuesday.

Arizona is now among 35 states that either do — or will soon — allow same-sex couples to marry.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled the Idaho and Nevada bans violate couples' rights to equal protection under the 14th Amendment. Arizona is part of the San Francisco-based

### More online

Read the complete ruling as well as previous stories about the same-sex marriage issue in Arizona at [politics.azcentral.com](http://politics.azcentral.com).

circuit, so the court's ruling will apply to this state as well.

"This makes a huge difference for our family," said Melanie Puskar-Blakely, 32, of Glendale. "It means our home — our native state where we were born and raised — respects us as individuals. Finally."

She and her partner, Tonya Blakely,

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### From the ruling

"There is no empirical support for the idea that legalizing same-sex marriage would harm — or indeed, affect — opposite-sex marriages or relationships. It would seem that allowing couples who want to marry so badly that they have endured years of litigation to win the right to do so would reaffirm the state's endorsement, without reservation, of spousal and parental commitment."

## State budget outlook is grim

### Forecast calls for billion-dollar deficit by 2016 fiscal year

MARY JO PITZL  
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

The state could run a budget deficit this year of more than a half-billion dollars, and things only look worse the following year, as Arizona's sluggish economy produces lower-than-expected tax revenue.

Revenue projections provided Tuesday to the Legislature's Finance Advisory Committee show the state will end this budget year with a \$520 million deficit and up to \$1 billion deficit in the coming fiscal 2016.

The projections "can be summed up in two words: reality check," said Rep. John Kavanagh, R-Fountain Hills and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "We are in for an extremely rough year."

"I think we're going to have to pull out the old tool kit."

That includes mostly budget cuts, he said, as tax increases are off the table.

Those figures reflect an increase in funding for the K-12 school system, as the state Supreme Court has ruled is re-

See **DEFICIT**, Page A10

### GOVERNOR'S RACE

## Where they stand on social issues

### Ducey and DuVal mirror their parties' platforms

While Republican Doug Ducey and Democrat Fred DuVal hold positions on abortion and marriage that reflect their party's long-held platforms, the starkest contrast between the two candidates for governor is on the controversial right-to-refuse-service bill, SB 1062.

Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed the bill last session, but it is expected to come back again in some form and will be just one of the wide-ranging slate of social issues, including abortion and same-sex marriage, that Arizona's next governor will have to contend with when he takes office in January.

**Where they stand:** Find out where each candidate has staked his position on the key social issues. **Page A14**

## State opens long-sought trade office in Mexico's capital

RONALD J. HANSEN  
THE REPUBLIC • AZCENTRAL.COM

MEXICO CITY — Rebooting commercial ties older than Arizona, the state formally reopened a trade office in Mexico on Tuesday in an effort to grow business by billions of dollars.

Government officials from Arizona

and Mexico agreed that the state's outreach is timely and likely will help small- and medium-size businesses on both sides of the border find opportunities to reach new markets.

"While this office represents the future, it is important to remember it also reaffirms the longstanding commitment to trade and economic-develop-

ment efforts here in Mexico," said Sandra Watson, president and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority, the agency that opened the office.

"We are just scratching the surface of our potential partnership with Mexico."

See **TRADE**, Page A27

### BUSINESS



Sen. John McCain (right) travels more than 1,000 feet underground to talk with miners and show his support for the Resolution Copper project near Superior. **A19**

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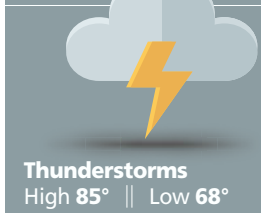
**Air-tanker crash:** An air tanker fighting a fire near Yosemite National Park crashes, with the pilot's condition unknown. **A13**

**Raped teacher sues:** A teacher stabbed and raped in an Arizona prison is suing the Department of Corrections, saying she was left alone with a violent sex offender. **A15**

### USA TODAY

**Lethal drug making:** Compounding pharmacies struggle with safety. **B1**

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High 85° || Low 68°

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