

CANINES SNIFF OUT CANCER

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'STAR WARS'

Memories fly as trilogy comes out on DVD / Accent, Page E3

SATISFIED? MONEY MAY BE WHY

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Arizona Daily Star

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Kerry urged to retain Ariz. ads

By Joe Burchell
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Arizona Democratic leaders say presidential candidate John Kerry's decision to pull his television advertising here doesn't mean he's giving up on the state.

In fact, with two new polls showing the gap closing between Kerry and President Bush, Democrats believe cancellation of television ads that were scheduled to start Oct. 5

will actually just be a delay of a week or so.

On Wednesday, Democratic Congressmen Raul Grijalva and Ed Pastor are supposed to meet with Kerry campaign officials to press for restoration of the Arizona television campaign.

Grijalva, who is campaigning as much for the defeat of Proposition 200 as for his own re-election, said a strong Kerry media presence in

Arizona is critical, not only to Kerry's bid to win the state, but to a number of Democratic candidates and issues.

The Kerry campaign announced Wednesday it was canceling television ads scheduled to start running on Oct. 5 in Arizona, Missouri, Louisiana and Arkansas after campaign advisors concluded he wasn't doing well enough in

SEE ADS / A9



34 at MVD charged in fake-ID case

False licenses, other cards sold, indictments say

By Eric Swedlund and Barrett Marson
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A three-year undercover investigation into widespread corruption at Arizona Motor Vehicle Division offices resulted in the indictments of 34 people suspected of making and selling fraudulent driver's licenses, authorities said.

In one of the largest public corruption cases in state history, MVD employees have for years been accepting bribes of up to \$3,500 for unlawfully providing state identification cards

and driver's licenses, according to indictments released Thursday.

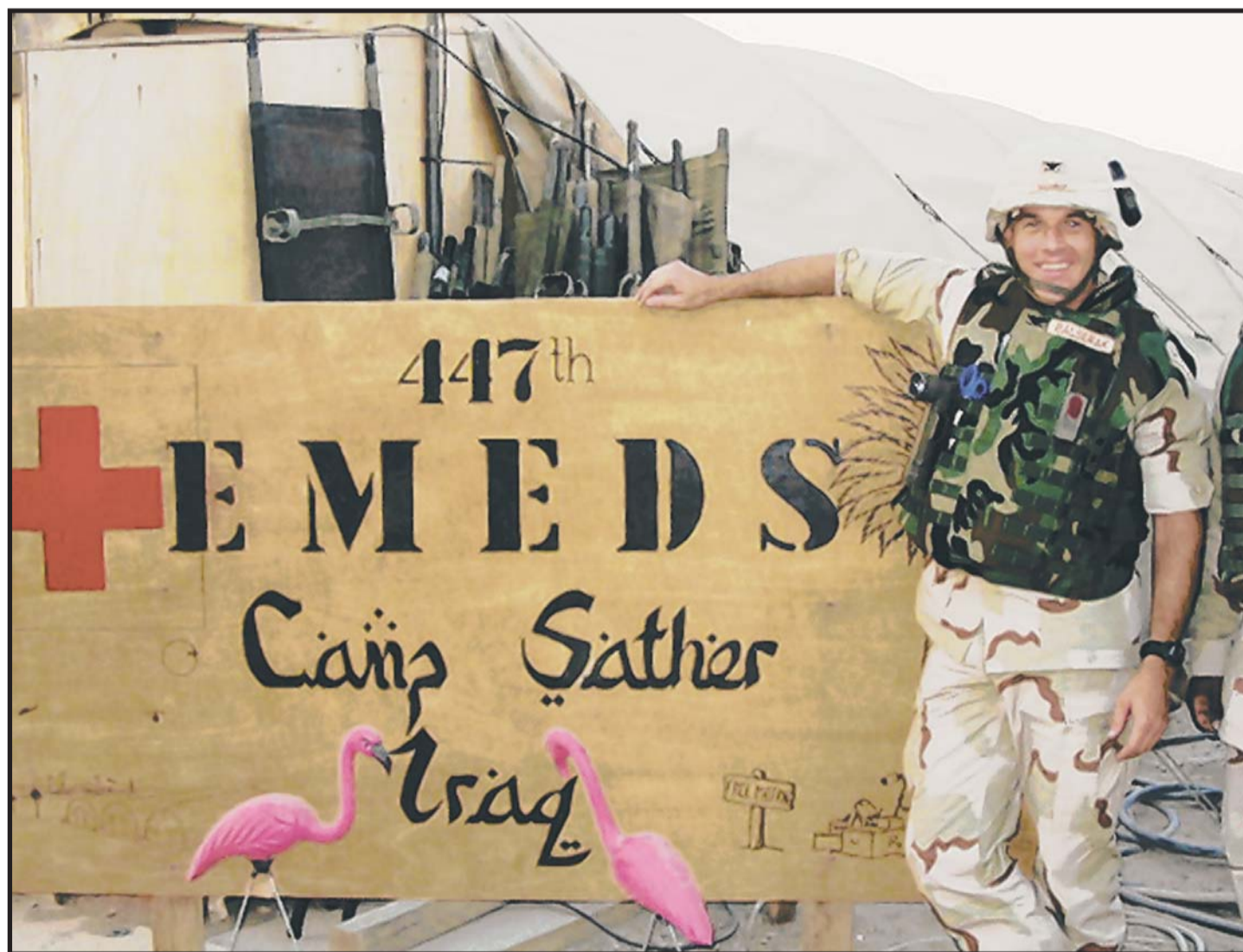
Among those indicted are 26 current and former employees of 10 MVD offices in Southern Arizona and the Phoenix area and eight others suspected of brokering the sale of fake state-issued ID cards. The 94 pages of indictments also contain several charges of conspiracy. All but two Phoenix-area suspects were arrested Thursday.

"These fraudulent documents would permit individuals to travel from Arizona to Washington nonstop. They could be used to open a fraudulent bank account. They could be used to buy a weapon," said Jennifer

SEE FAKE IDS / A9

Look for slower MVD lines / A9

LOCAL DOCS IN IRAQ



Courtesy of James Balsarak

TMC chief of surgery Dr. James Balsarak arrived at Camp Sather in Baghdad last week. He's due to return home in mid-November.

2 Tucson surgeons sign up to aid GIs

By Carla McClain
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Leaving behind a thriving career, a young family and a safe and comfortable life, the chief of surgery at Tucson Medical Center — Dr. James Balsarak — has thrown himself smack into harm's way, in the middle of the Iraq war.

Admitting some have called him nuts while others react with awe, he tries to explain why he is now, by choice, in the most dangerous place on the planet for an American.

"I think of the young men and women who could have made it home but didn't because they lacked a skilled surgeon to care for them in the field. ... If I could help just one injured serviceman or woman come home safely, then this mission is accomplished," said Balsarak, 40, in an e-mail this week from Baghdad Interna-

tional Airport.

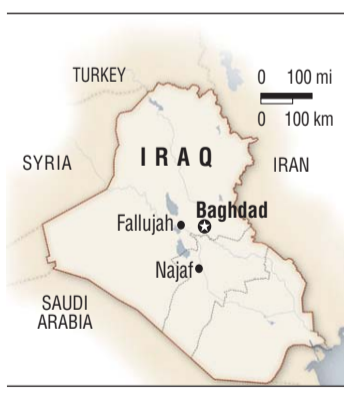
It is there, in a hot, dusty, scorpion-infested tent city at the heart of a violent, embattled country that Balsarak now lives and works on soldiers wounded in combat, sometimes flying out on medical evacuation and search-and-rescue missions. At all times, he must wear body armor and a Kevlar helmet — to chow, chapel and the latrines. Rocket and mortar fire put him to troubled sleep.

It is a very long way from the impeccably scrubbed hallways, peaceful, flowered patios and state-of-the-art operating rooms of Tucson Medical Center.

"I had to pronounce (the deaths of) two U.S. Army soldiers two nights ago," he wrote on Monday, only a week after he arrived in Iraq.

SEE DOCS IN IRAQ / A9

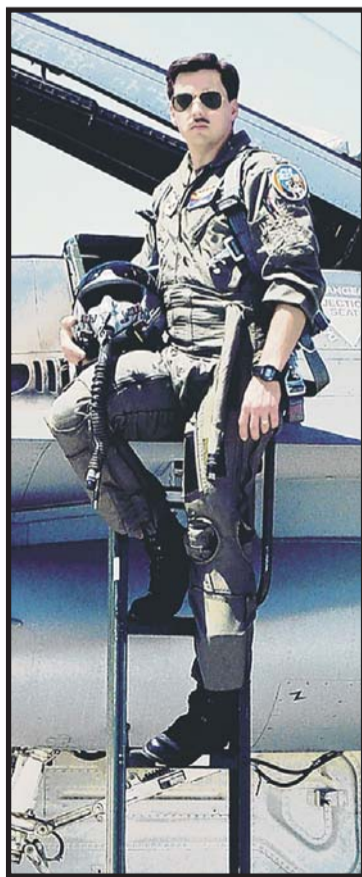
More Iraq coverage / A11, A14



AP

"I had to pronounce (the deaths of) two U.S. Army soldiers two night ago. ... War isn't hell — it's a lot worse than that."

Dr. James Balsarak, TMC's chief of surgery, writing from Camp Sather, Iraq



Courtesy of Eric Kendle

Dr. Eric Kendle, with his F-16 Falcon at the Arizona Air National Guard, is splitting a four-month tour in Iraq with Balsarak.

House, Senate pass tax-cut extension

By Edmund L. Andrews
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Congress easily passed legislation Thursday that would extend expiring provisions of last year's tax cuts for families as well as about 20 business tax cuts, at a cost of about \$146 billion over 10 years.

Even though Democrats protested that the tax cuts would worsen the federal deficit and should be paid for with spending cuts or other tax in-

creases, party leaders gave their members free rein to vote for the bill rather than incur the wrath of voters just a few weeks before Election Day.

Without action, the three provisions affecting an estimated 94 million Americans would expire at the end of this year. The legislation keeps the per-child tax credit at \$1,000, retains an expanded 10 percent income bracket that affects virtually all

SEE TAX CUTS / A5

COMING SUNDAY

KEEP YOUR CAR SAFE

Auto theft in Arizona decreased last year, but it's on the rise in Tucson again. Learn what you can do to protect your vehicle.

IN TODAY'S STAR

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Weather

TODAY'S FORECAST

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High 93 / Low 64

Thursday: High 90 / Low 56

For complete weather information, see the Weather Report page on back of Sports.
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