

The Business Journal

phoenix.bizjournals.com

PHOENIX

FEBRUARY 17, 2006 \$2.00

Business Pulse

Web poll topic:
Innovation Arizona fund, Page 47

NEWS

DEVELOPING STORIES

Trammell Crow, MainSpring Capital ride into Casa Grande, Page 3
Engle Homes zeroes in on Central Avenue, Page 3

ON TARGET

Mega-retailer deal a 'Boon' for Tempe toymaker, Page 3

NEW PLAYBOOK

Suns veteran hopes to build on ASU sports MBA program, Page 3

MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE

New fund stays away from firms that do business in terrorist regions, Page 4

POLITICAL MUSCLE

Phoenix auto dealer spearheads opposition to city bond issue, Page 6

HERE COMES THE JUDGE

Attorneys battle with conservatives over appointments, Page 7

DEPARTMENTS

BIZ EDGE 24

CALENDAR 39

COMMENT 47

FOCUS:

WORK FORCE

DEVELOPMENT 9

HIGH-END

HOMES 40

LEADS! 42

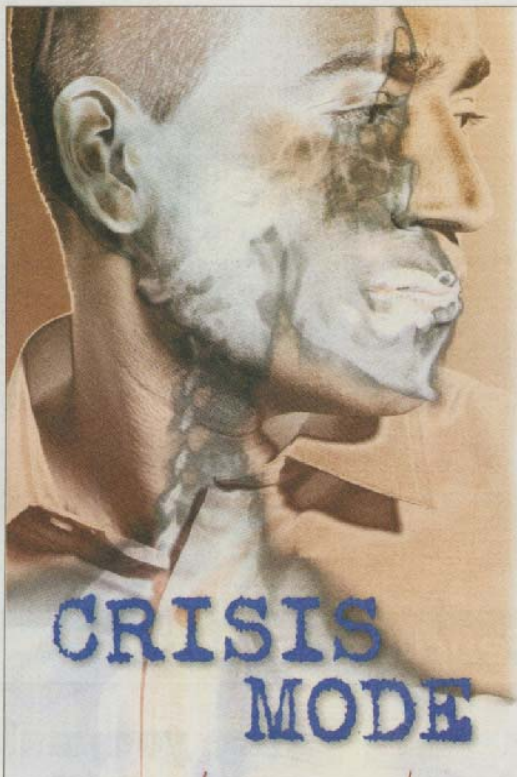
OPINION 46

PEOPLE ON

THE MOVE 30

TECHNOLOGY 19

TOOL KIT 25



Meth taking toll on businesses, state

Editor's note: In light of Arizona's first state conference on methamphetamine use held earlier this week, The Business Journal is taking a close look at the impact meth has on the business community. The first in this multipart series includes the story lineup below. In our upcoming coverage, we delve into the enormous pressure meth use has placed on hospitals; uncover the significant costs and environmental nightmares created by meth lab cleanup; and look at which industries are hit hardest by this growing epidemic.

BY MIKE SUNNUCKS
msunnucks@bizjournals.com

Crystal meth is a serious problem for Arizona employers who find themselves on the frontlines of the latest drug war.

The illegal methamphetamine trade is linked to increased property crimes, shoplifting rings and identity theft. Businesses also are seeing lost productivity, increased insurance costs and diminished worker performance.

Law enforcement and state officials — including Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas — say crystal meth is a leading cause of criminal behavior in Arizona, some of which directly impacts Valley businesses.

Meth addicts often bankroll their habits via credit card fraud, forgeries, commercial burglaries and robberies, and shoplifting cold medicines and other products used to cook the addictive

See **CRIME**, Page 33



Inside:

Employee drug testing cuts through usage stereotypes, Page 9

Meth use, ID theft run hand in hand, Page 9

How employers can help, Page 10

Legislators, governor step up fight against meth, Page 12

Small-business impact may be bigger than expected, Page 13

\$47,500

What a meth user costs his or her employer annually

83 percent

U.S. hospitals reporting that most meth patients are uninsured

No. 1

Arizona's rank among states in identity theft complaints per capita

86 percent

Increase in meth use among U.S. workers over the past five years

Businesswomen courted by Napolitano, Republicans

BY MIKE SUNNUCKS
msunnucks@bizjournals.com

Professional and business women were key to Janet Napolitano's narrow victory in the 2002 governor's race, so this time around she is launching a major outreach to that constituency in her re-election efforts.

Republicans hope to cut into Napolitano's business outreach by highlighting their support of, and her opposition to, income and property tax cuts and by focusing on areas where Arizona continues to score low, such as education and crime.



Donna Davis

See **OUTREACH**, Page 32

Phoenix group claims delays, red tape put projects at risk

BY MIKE PADGETT
mpadgett@bizjournals.com

More vertical development in central Phoenix and less red tape for contractors are key goals of a business group calling for a public-private organization to help accelerate work on a variety of downtown projects.

To eliminate delays in devel-

opment, city hall and the business community must have the same goals, which is why the Phoenix Community Alliance is recommending a streamlining of redevelopment paperwork, an alliance spokesman said.

The proposal was sent to city hall because "we've all got to

See **ALLIANCE**, Page 34

The List

Employee leasing firms (PEOs), Page 14

Permanent placement companies, Page 16

Temporary help services, Page 18

PROFILE:

Booker T. Evans, shareholder, attorney Greenberg Traurig LLP, Page 28



THE VALLEY'S SOURCE FOR
BREAKING BUSINESS NEWS

phoenix.bizjournals.com





**Mark
Pribish**

Merchants Information Solutions provides case-workers to handle the process of identity theft recovery for victims. It also offers credit report monitoring and alerts, insurance reimbursement up to \$25,000 and an education program.

Mark Pribish, director of identity theft management services for the Phoenix firm, said it can take more than a year to settle an identity theft case.

Identity theft costs the average victim nearly \$4,000, he said, and 16 percent of victims have to pay all associated costs.

Some Phoenix grocery stores, banks and drug stores soon will begin testing a new shredding machine, dubbed ShredStation, to help stem the problem for customers.

For a \$5 fee, users can deposit floppy disks, credit cards and other materials in the 4-foot-tall metal box. Users then can check a Web site to see when their materials were destroyed.