

Business

ARIZONA DAILY STAR • SERVING TUCSON SINCE 1877



Friday
March 12, 2004

SECTION

MARKETS

March 11, 2004



Industry
News & Notes

TUCSON

► Tucson-based **Raytheon Missile Systems** has been awarded a \$5.9 million U.S. Navy contract option to provide 10 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile Air Intercept Missile-120 C7 missiles and associated airborne instrumentation units. The work is to be completed by September 2006.

► **Lippow/Eastside Research Center LLC** bought the new **Carondelet Medical Mall**, a full-service medical facility at 10222 E. Rita Road, for about \$2.6 million. Company executives **Larry and Laura Lippow**, based in the San Francisco Bay area, are University of Arizona alums. **Bassett Hayden and Ray** will manage the building, Carondelet spokeswoman Jan Howard said.

There are two other tenants at the mall: an insurance agency and a tanning salon.

Mervyn's, Field's may be sold

By **Tracie Rozhon**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ending years of speculation, the Target Corp. said that it might jettison both its department store divisions: Mervyn's, with 266 stores, and Marshall Field's, the much-talked-about Midwest chain, led by a glittering, recently renovated Chicago flagship.

Target said Wednesday that it had hired the investment bank Goldman,

Sachs to provide "alternatives," industry argot that usually means a buyer.

In a recorded announcement, Douglas A. Scovanner, Target's chief financial officer, said the book values of Mervyn's and Marshall Field's were about \$1.8 billion each.

Several analysts and industry experts predicted that the two biggest department store chains — May Department Stores, which owns Robinsons-

May, and Federated, the parent of Macy's and Bloomingdale's — would fall over themselves bidding, especially for Marshall Field's.

"There's going to be a world-class bidding war," said Gilbert W. Harrison, chairman of Financo, a New York investment banking firm.

Executives for May and Federated could not be reached for comment.

Bill Dreher, a senior retail analyst

with Deutsche Bank, said Target had decided to pull the plug on its department stores — but not its 1,249 core Target discount stores — because the time was ripe to sell. Since Christmas, the department stores appear to have recovered some of the momentum they had lost in the last five years. Throughout 2003, the chains reported bleak

SEE TARGET / D5



Device turns man into super strider

► Developed by the **Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory** at the University of California, Berkeley, the BLEEX (Berkeley Lower Extremities Exoskeleton) gives humans the ability to traverse longer distances with more weight, carry more weight period and move with more speed over long distances.

CARRYING THE WEIGHT

► In lab experiments, testers walked around in the 100-pound exoskeleton plus a 70-pound backpack and felt as if they were carrying just **5 pounds**. Eventually, the device could help rescuers haul heavy equipment up high-rise buildings or turn tired troops into

Richard Ducote



Taxes fund big array of jobs here

Your tax dollars at work. That remains an important theme of the

the mall: an insurance agency and a tanning salon.

► The Arizona Cancer Center's Patient Assistance Fund will receive 10 percent of the proceeds from Saturday's grand opening of the new **Bebe** women's clothing store at **La Encantada**.

The opening will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at the store, 2905 E. Skyline Drive.

The Arizona Cancer Center is a University of Arizona Center of Excellence and a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center focusing on cancer prevention, treatment, research and community education.



On StarNet: Follow the building blocks of Rio Nuevo, the city's public-private effort to revitalize Downtown. www.azstamet.com/specialreports

NATIONAL

► After a two-day blackout that brought the wrath of satellite television viewers by the thousands, **EchoStar Communications Corp.** and **Viacom Inc.** reached a deal that restored several popular channels such as MTV, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon to the Dish Network.

EchoStar dropped Viacom channels early Tuesday in a dispute over fees, affecting up to 9 million Dish satellite television viewers in Tucson and nationwide.

► America's shoppers showed more energy in February and boosted sales at the nation's retailers by 0.6 percent, a hopeful sign for healthy economic growth in the current quarter.

The increase reported by the **Commerce Department** came after sales rose by a revised 0.2 percent gain in January, typically a slow month for retailers.

► The seven-day average yield on money market mutual funds fell in the week that ended Tuesday to 0.51 percent from 0.52 percent the previous week, said Mon-



The Associated Press

device can help rescuers haul heavy equipment up high-rise buildings or turn tired troops into striding super soldiers.

MECHANICAL NERVES

- The **exoskeleton** of the BLEEX consists of a pair of mechanical metal leg braces that include a power unit and a backpack-like frame for hauling.
- More than **40 sensors and hydraulic mechanisms** constantly calculate how to distribute the weight being borne and create a minimal load for the wearer.

ARMY BOOTS, EXTENDED

- The BLEEX's braces are attached to a **modified pair of Army boots** and are also connected, although less rigidly, to the user's legs.

BLEEX IN ACTION

- Video of the BLEEX in action shows a man with his machine, marching about, scored by the sound of grinding motors. The next step is making the power source quieter and stronger and miniaturizing components. See it at: www.me.berkeley.edu/hel/bleex.htm

BEHIND THE PROJECT

- BLEEX is funded by the **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency**, or DARPA, the Pentagon research and development arm.

POWER WALKING

With exoskeleton, long marches, big loads less daunting

By Michelle Locke
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY, Calif. — Move over Bionic Man and make room for BLEEX — the Berkeley Lower Extremi-

tic legs designed to turn an ordinary human into a super strider.

Ultimately intended to help people like soldiers or firefighters carry heavy loads for long distances, these boots are made for marching.

"The design of this exoskeleton really benefits from human intellect and the strength of the machine," says Homayoon Kazerooni, who directs the Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory at the University of California-Berkeley.

no push button to drive the device," says Kazerooni, a professor of mechanical engineering.

"The pilot becomes an integral part of the exoskeleton."

What it won't do is turn you into a Borg, the gadget-happy gladiators of "Star Trek" fame.

"The exoskeleton is not going to magically transform people into killing machines," says Kazerooni, known to his students as Professor

Your tax dollars at work. That remains an important theme of the Star 200 directory of Southern Arizona's major employers.

The 24th annual edition of the venerable list comes out in Sunday's paper.

I've had a sneak preview of the 48-page tabloid.

The largest employer in Southern Arizona is an hour's drive out of Tucson. It has been the No. 1 employer on the Star 200 nearly every year since the directory debuted in 1981.

I don't want to take any thunder away from Sunday's unveiling of the new list, but here's a hint: No. 1 wears Army green.

This year, a private-sector employer — far and away the payroll leader, bar none — takes the No. 2 spot away from the state's leading research institution.

Tax dollars fund dozens of major employers in the Star 200 listing — federal, state, municipal and educational enterprises.

SEE DUCOTE / D5

COMING SUNDAY

TUCSON'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS

► Find out who tops this year's Star 200 list. Look for the special section inside Sunday's Arizona Daily Star.



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The 30-day average yield held at 0.52 percent, according to Money Fund Report.

The seven-day compounded yield fell to 0.51 percent from 0.52 percent the previous week, and the 30-day compounded yield held at 0.52 percent, Money Fund Report said.

► The average rate this week on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages was 5.41 percent, mortgage giant **Fredie Mac** said. This week's rate was down from 5.59 percent last week and marked the lowest rate since the week ending July 4, when rates averaged 5.40 percent.

For 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, a popular option for refinancing, rates declined to 4.69 percent this week from 4.88 percent last week.

► *National briefs compiled from wire reports.*

► *Send notices for Tucson Industry News & Notes to Business, Arizona Daily Star, P.O. Box 26807, Tucson, AZ 85726; by fax to 573-4144; or by e-mail to business@azstarnet.com.*

The Associated Press

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With exoskeleton, long marches, big loads less daunting

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LARGEST EMPLOYERS

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BUSINESS PROFILE / GETTING STARTED

Father's death led Tucsonan to new beginning

By Jane Erikson
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Nearly three years have passed since Leslie Inzunza left a prominent marketing and communications job in Phoenix to be with her dying father in Tucson.

Interrupting her career to spend more time with her father, who died in February 2003, was "the best decision I ever made," Inzunza says. It may have led to her best career move, as well.

Inzunza graduated from the University of Arizona eight years ago with a double major in journalism and communication. Her employment history includes interning at KVOA and working with the UA Prevention Center, writing grant proposals and publicity materials to

recruit women for a breast cancer research project.

She then landed the job she says defined her career: directing marketing and development for Valle del Sol — Valley of the Sun, a Phoenix nonprofit that helps families deal with the threat and incidence of child abuse. She held the job for three years.

"It was the first time I used my Spanish-language skills professionally. I was dealing with a Latino population and much of my work was communicating in Spanish," Inzunza says. "And Luz Sarmina-Gutiérrez, the CEO of Valle del Sol, was a strong role model. She was a tremendous influence. She just as-



Max Becherer / Staff

Leslie Inzunza is solidly grounded in her new business of public relations and marketing, with a focus on artists.

Profile

Name: Leslie M. Inzunza
Title: CEO, Inzunza International, 398-7898
Age: 32

Friday Business Profiles focus on the people who make Tucson businesses run — those who are in charge, keep a business running, are just starting out or hire workers.

SEE PROFILE / D5