

I Z O N A

# Family Sun

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## 3 students to a class

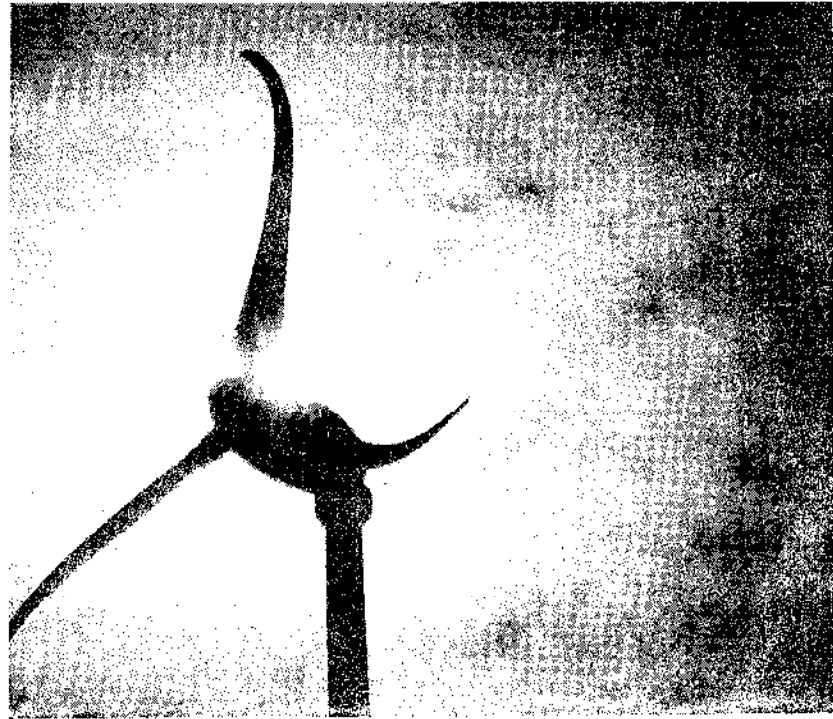
projected such ratios as 25 students to a class, as many as 30 students per special education teacher, and ratios of up to 38 names at Flagstaff

by decisions were made, but decisions like these and others emerged from a board work session Tuesday to discuss potential budget cutbacks and their implications. The legislature has not yet decided on

education funding for the next school year. Nor is it clear how federal stimulus money for general K-12 education will be distributed in Arizona to help fill a \$3 billion state budget gap. FUSD officials say a worst-case cut is 15 percent of operating funds, although they expect the final reduction to come in at around 5 percent.

About 75 people filled the meeting room, many of them students in marching band. See **FUSD**, A6

## Change on horizon



## Girl lied, charges dropped

Accused initially of kidnapping, raping and drugging a 14-year-old girl, Fred L. Campbell and Corey D. Beckham have the charges dismissed by prosecutors.

By **LARRY HENDRICKS**  
Assistant City Editor

County prosecutors have dismissed rape and kidnapping charges against two men who were accused of taking a 14-year-old girl at gunpoint and drugging her.

The reason why, according to the defense, is because the alleged victim made up the whole story to stay out of trouble.

Corey D. Beckham, 26, was in Coconino County Superior Court Wednesday morning to plead guilty to lesser drug charges. He had originally been indicted on counts of sexual assault, sexual conduct with a minor and kidnapping of a minor in connection with an Aug. 8, 2008 incident at an eastside home.

According to initial police accounts, the alleged victim and her brother told investigators that they had been abducted by Beckham and Fred L. Campbell, 23, at gunpoint, forced to take drugs and alcohol, and then the

est rates on some federal loans and place others on income-based repayment plans.

President Obama's bud-

Most young-adult debt profiles haven't yet reached horror-story status. In fact, young people's overall indebtedness as a

says.

**THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY**

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**CHARGES**

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girl was raped repeatedly.

The alleged victim and her brother told police they were able to get away at some point and wound up at a nearby motel to request help.

County Attorney David Rozema said, "After receiving new information, in the interests of justice we decided to not pursue the sex misconduct charges against Mr. Beckham. The remaining drug charges were resolved on their own merits through an appropriate guilty plea."

He would not comment further.

But during Beckham's sentencing on the drug charge Wednesday, his attorney Lee Phillips, explained to Judge Dan Slayton that the girl who made the accusation had done so to avoid responsibility for staying out late and getting drunk.

After further investigation, Phillips discovered an 18-year-old girl had also been at the home at the time of the alleged rape. The girl said that she had consensual sex with Beckham and that the 14-year-old girl regularly misrepresents her age to other people. She also stated the alleged victim was at the home on her own volition, drank alcohol on her own volition and had sex with Campbell. Beckham, according to DNA evidence, never had sexual intercourse with the alleged victim, Phillips said.

Additionally, cell phone photographs taken at the home at the time of the alleged rape clearly show the alleged victim

was there and drinking alcohol of her own free will.

While serving a search warrant, police found about 3 pounds of marijuana at the home and 72 "hits" of Ecstasy.

Beckhum pleaded guilty to one count of attempted possession of marijuana for sale Thursday and Slayton sentenced him to 2 1/2 years in prison because Beckham had been on probation for two prior felony convictions at the time of his last arrest.

His co-defendant, Campbell, pleaded guilty to one count of sexual conduct with a minor and was sentenced to 1 year and nine months in prison. He also had a prior felony conviction. Campbell argued that the sex had been consensual and he did not know the alleged victim was underage.

After Beckham's sentencing, Phillips said. "It's tragic there are no consequences to this child who lied."

Her actions affected the lives of two people and their families, Phillips said.

Additionally, it may have harmed the process of bringing true child rapists and molesters to justice because it could make prosecutors less likely to file charges in valid cases of child rape, he added.

But, ultimately, the true victims are hurt by the actions of the girl who lied.

"When someone like this abuses that whole victims' process, it does a disservice to the true victims out there on these types of cases," Phillips said.

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**FUSD**

from Page A1

uniform jackets or matching ensemble T-shirts.

Superintendent Kevin Brown. "(State Superintendent of Schools) Tom Horne came out last week, (saying) 'think about 2 per- the other day

stant principal, said they looked at every program and department, from counselors to core and elective academics.

classes and as we have it said. "What about doing sharing the