



# Communications, news Web sites overburdened

By Jonathan Sidener  
The Arizona Republic

Across the nation, news Web sites slowed to a crawl under an unprecedented load Tuesday.

In New York and Washington, D.C., relentless demand rendered cellphones nearly useless.

A similar load made long-distance lines to and from the two East Coast cities hard to come by.

Tuesday's terrorist attacks pushed the nation's telecommunications networks to the

limits as anxious friends and families tried to make long-distance contact and as many in the stunned nation searched the Internet for information. First, of course, they turned to television, but the demand for Internet reports was huge.

"Without question, it was the highest traffic ever," Washingtonpost.com spokesman Don Marshall said of visitors to the newspaper's Web site. The site's previous high came on the day after the November election, when 10 million pages were viewed. "This could be double that, but I don't want to guess."

Long-distance carriers AT&T, MCI WorldCom and Sprint each reported spikes in calls to and from Washington and New York. Qwest, which also provides long distance in New York and Washington, said it did not experience noticeable problems.

During the spikes, many callers were unable to immediately get a long-distance line because the companies filtered the number of calls they allowed through.

From latimes.com to cnn.com, national news Web sites bent under the flood of readers. The Web sites began

removing graphics to reduce the load on the servers. Some pulled ads to make room for the news. MSNBC.com, for example, reduced its home page to a "Day of Terror" logo, links to five stories and a note, "You're seeing this page because MSNBC is experiencing high site traffic."

Search engine Google posted an unprecedented note to visitors advising them to turn to television or radio because "many online news services are not available."

News Web site officials nationwide said the heavy load

was challenging but that it points to the integration of digital news into Americans' lives.

"An event of this magnitude shows how important a role the Internet can play in delivering news and information," said Leon Levitt, executive vice president for digital media at *The Arizona Republic*. "News sites across the country, including ours, managed to quickly pull together words and video in a way that lends not only immediacy, but also perspective."

The heavy Internet traffic showed one young technology,

instant messaging, is catching on as a mainstream communications tool. The three leading providers of instant messaging services, America Online, Yahoo! and Microsoft Network, all reported spikes in instant-messaging services.

At latimes.com, operations manager Dan Hontz said midday spikes in traffic clearly show that workers use the Internet for daytime information.

Reach the reporter at jon.sidener@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-8169.

## Closings/cancellations

Events were canceled and businesses were closed throughout Arizona on Tuesday. Most expect to resume regular schedules today, however. How things stand this morning:

■ **Aida** resumes tonight at Gammage Auditorium, Tempe. To redeem ticket from canceled Tuesday show, call (480) 965-3434.

■ **Fiesta Patria**, scheduled for Saturday in Mesa, canceled. Commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month to be rescheduled. Details: (480) 644-2242.

■ **Canceled:** Arizona Science Center's Wednesday evening program, "The Doctor is In." Details: (602) 716-2000.

■ **Arizona Public Service Co.** customer service offices expected to reopen today.

■ **Harkins Theatres** canceled Tuesday night movies. Regular lineup expected to resume today.

■ **Classes at Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, University of Phoenix, Phoenix College and Chandler/Gilbert Community College** continue.

■ **Decision expected today** on this weekend's Phoenix Irish Festival in downtown Phoenix. For the latest, call (602) 819-8700.

■ **Arizona Center, Arrowhead Mall, Scottsdale Fashion Square, Metrocenter Mall, Superstition Springs Mall, Paradise Valley Mall** expected to reopen today.

■ **Har Zion Congregation and Jewish Community Center preschools**, both in Scottsdale, closed indefinitely.

■ **Grand Canyon National Park:** helicopter flights grounded, trails open to hikers, mule trips ongoing, some restrictions on one-day float trips. For latest information, call (928) 638-7922 or (928) 638-7923

■ **Glen Canyon National Recreation Area:** Carl Hayden Visitors Center closed, tours of dam canceled, tunnel used to access river for float trips closed. Details: (928) 608-6200.

■ **EcoFest** on schedule for Friday and Saturday in Sedona. Will be used as fund-raiser for American Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders.

■ **Glendale City Council** canceled Tuesday's meeting. Items scheduled for action will be carried over to the Sept. 25 meeting.

■ **"Public Records, Public Meetings: How Open Are They?"** rescheduled for today at Channel 15 (KNXV), Phoenix. The workshop scheduled for next Wednesday at Tucson Newspapers Inc., will still be held on that day and location.



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Parking in parts of downtown Phoenix was restricted Tuesday, as officials started clearing out cars soon after these parking meters at Fourth and Jefferson streets were covered.

# East Coast tragedies felt throughout Valley

Chuck and Allison Blanchard faced the possibility Tuesday that some of their friends at the Pentagon had been killed.

The Phoenix couple had worked at the Pentagon, both not far from where a hijacked airliner slammed into the building.

"We know a lot of people in that area," said Chuck, a former Arizona state senator who served for 18 months as general counsel of the Army. He left Washington in January with the change of administrations.

Allison worked at the Pentagon in drug-enforcement efforts until moving to anti-drug duties at the White House, Chuck said.

"I'm glad I wasn't there, but on the other hand, if I was there I might be able to do something constructive instead of just sitting here and worrying," Chuck said.

The Arizona Department of Health Services is warning all hospitals, emergency rooms and doctors offices to be on the alert for any unusual disease patterns in case of a bioterrorism attack. The alert is precautionary only.

Routine precautions were taken Tuesday at Grand Canyon National Park, according to Kari Wier, an information officer for the National Park Service.

"All facilities at Grand Canyon National Park will remain open, with the exception of the one-day float trips that leave from Lees Ferry," she said.

She said that to the best of her knowledge, the Grand Canyon has never been closed for security reasons.

Officials at Phoenix Children's Hospital and Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center issued a memo Tuesday urging doctors to postpone elective surgeries until the national situation stabilizes.

Specifically, the hospitals warned of:

■ **Delays in medications and other supplies** due to the interruption of airline flight schedules.

■ **A halt in the delivery of pharmaceuticals** needed for medical imaging services.

■ **A shortage of blood products** needed for transfusions.

■ **A shortage of hospital beds**, with the facilities operating at near-capacity. Doctors are encouraged to discharge patients as quickly as possible and to consider postponing elective admissions.

## NOTEBOOK

■ **Tighter hospital security** to limit the number of doors for entry into the medical center.

■ In Flagstaff, about 150 people gathered in downtown's Wheeler Park at noon for a prayer vigil for the victims.

They recited the Lord's Prayer and sang *Kumbaya* and various other songs of peace.

"Bombs and violence will not improve the world," said Andy Bessler, the event's organizer. "Maybe peace will start in this circle. Maybe we can change the world."

Flagstaff Mayor Joe Donaldson said a citywide meeting would be held at Northern Arizona University on Tuesday night. Donaldson urged Flagstaff residents to turn on their porch lights and automobile lights through Sunday and wear white ribbons and white clothing as an appeal for peace.

■ Members of the Navajo Nation were worried Tuesday until they heard that Navajo President Kelsey Begaye was safe.

Begaye, along with his staff and several Tribal Council delegates, was in Washington, D.C., to meet with administration officials about Native American policy. They were only blocks from the attack.

Begaye called tribal headquarters in Window Rock in the late morning to notify that all were safe. After the call, tribal workers were given the rest of the day off.

■ Luke Air Force Base had two F-16 jet fighters patrolling the skies above the Valley on Tuesday night.

Lt. Col. Douglas Lefforge, chief of public affairs for Luke, said Air Force headquarters directed the base to take a "defensive posture" above the area in order to calm the public.

Because Luke is a training facility, Lafforge said, the F-16 Fighting Falcons, which are used strictly for training, had to be configured for the patrol flights.

"As far as I know, we will fly a continual patrol over Phoenix on a rotational basis," Lafforge said.

■ Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Mesa, spent several tense hours Tuesday awaiting word on the whereabouts of his wife, Cheryl, who boarded a flight earlier in the morning from

Washington, bound for Los Angeles.

The destination of her flight was the same as the two hijacked planes that crashed into the World Trade Center.

About noon, four hours after the flight had left Washington, the congressman got a call from his wife, whose flight was forced to land in Wichita, Kan.

"It was a long couple of hours," said Flake, who had evacuated his office earlier in the day.

■ The sixth-grade class at Phoenix Country Day School in Paradise Valley got caught in San Francisco on a field trip Tuesday. With no idea of when the no-flight ban would be lifted, Headmaster Galen Brewster decided to bus the children home.

About 60 students will return on two chartered coaches sent from Phoenix on Tuesday. Brewster also has posted a letter to parents about his decision and an article to help children deal with the tragedy on the school's Web site at www.pcds.org.

"We have been in touch with them and talking with them," he said. "What we understand is our students are calm, but like everyone in America, they're really concerned."

■ The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation restricted activities at Lake Powell on Tuesday as a precautionary measure, said spokesman Barry Wirth from the Bureau's regional offices in Salt Lake City.

"There's so much uncertainty now that it's just the prudent thing to do," he said, adding that essential personnel, such as power plant operators, are still in place. But until they have a better idea of what's going on nationally, officials were restricting public access to major dams in the region.

Char Obergh, spokeswoman for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, said the park closed the Carl Hayden Visitor Center early Tuesday and canceled tours of the dam. They also closed the access tunnel used to transport tourists to the base of the dam for float trips to Lees Ferry on the Colorado River.

Wirth said he didn't know how long the restrictions would last.

"Until the intelligence community and law enforcement officials get a better handle on the situation," he said, "we can't speak to that."

Compiled by the Republic staff.

# TV, radio stations quickly grab news

By Michael Clancy  
The Arizona Republic

On a day unlike any other, Phoenix media dropped regular programming and advertising to focus on the attacks on New York and Washington.

Many stations, including the major TV outlets, continued with national coverage through the day. Others, mostly FM music outlets, returned to a semblance of normal programming by midmorning.

But nothing was normal. Joe Bonadonna, programmer at KDKB-FM (93.3) said his station would remain "low-key until life resumes some kind of normalcy."

KDKB and other radio stations spent the day taking phone calls from listeners between restrained songs. Most advertised blood-bank locations, fund-raisers for victims and church services.

Cable News Network was broadcast on several Valley TV stations, including Channel 3 (KTVK), and at least eight radio stations. Those stations, owned by Clear Channel Broadcasting, simulcast a feed from news-talk sister station KFYI-AM (550) until about 10:30 a.m.

KFYI programmer Laurie Cantillo said the entire staff

was on duty, including talk host Bob Mohan, whose status at the station had been unclear. He joined fellow hosts Charles Goyette and Barry Young in an afternoon discussion.

KTAR simulcast its coverage on its FM stations, KKFR-FM (92.3) and KKL-FM (98.7) all day.

A CBS feed ran on two of three stations owned by the network, KZON-FM (101.5) and KMLE-FM (107.9). KOOL-FM (94.5) joined after fixing technical problems.

KUPD-FM (97.9) carried a news feed early. Its sister stations, KDKB-FM (93.3) and KSLX-FM (100.7), had its regular hosts attempting to keep up with the news. Neither has a news service.

Howard Stern on the Edge—KEDJ-FM (106.3) and KDDJ-FM (100.3)—dropped his usual mayhem "and dealt very seriously" with the situation, station manager Michael Mallace said. Mallace, meanwhile, got permission to carry Channel 3's CNN audio as well as its Mas cable channel's Spanish feed on the Edge and his Spanish station.

"We're just trying to do the right thing," he said.

Contact the reporter at mike.clancy@arizonarepublic.com or at (602) 444-8550.

# Sports is shuttered on 'a sad, sad day'

Staff and wire reports

Sports came to a standstill Tuesday in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, with Major League Baseball postponing a full schedule of regular-season games for the first time since D-Day in 1944.

The daily grind of professional and college practices halted, as athletes and their coaches tried to come to grips with the tragedy.

Ballparks were empty, race tracks were dark, and sports television networks dropped highlight films and replayed scenes of the day's devastation.

The PGA Tour canceled Thursday's starts of the World Golf Championship and two other tournaments.

Commissioner Tim Finchem said the American Express Championship in St. Louis, featuring Tiger Woods and top players from tours around the world, will begin Friday with 36 holes.

"This is a sad, sad day in America," Woods said.

The NCAA said conferences and schools have the authority to determine whether to play college football games this weekend as well as hold other events. The Pac-10 Conference postponed all of its conference games this weekend, including Arizona State's game Saturday at UCLA.

Aside from work stoppages, it was the first time since the Allied invasion of France that baseball wiped out a whole day of regular-season play, including the Diamondbacks' game against the Colorado Rockies at Bank One Ballpark.

"In the interest of security and out of a sense of deep mourning for the national tragedy that has occurred today, all Major League Baseball games for today have been canceled," baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said.



Jack Kurtz/The Arizona Republic

**Friday's Front Row at Bank One Ballpark was closed in the wake of the East Coast terrorist attacks Tuesday.**

The NFL was mulling whether to postpone this weekend's schedule.

"Regarding Sunday's games, we will make no decision today," league spokesman Joe Browne said Tuesday. "We'll gather information and speak to several parties within the next 24 to 48 hours."

The Arizona Cardinals are scheduled to play at the Washington Redskins on Sunday.

The Coyotes canceled a team barbecue scheduled for Tuesday night at the Grayhawk golf course but will open training camp as scheduled at 9 a.m. today at the Alltel Ice Den in Scottsdale.

NHL preseason games, including the Coyotes' opener at home Saturday against the Vancouver Canucks, are scheduled to begin this weekend. Teams were awaiting word from NHL regarding possible postponements or cancellations.