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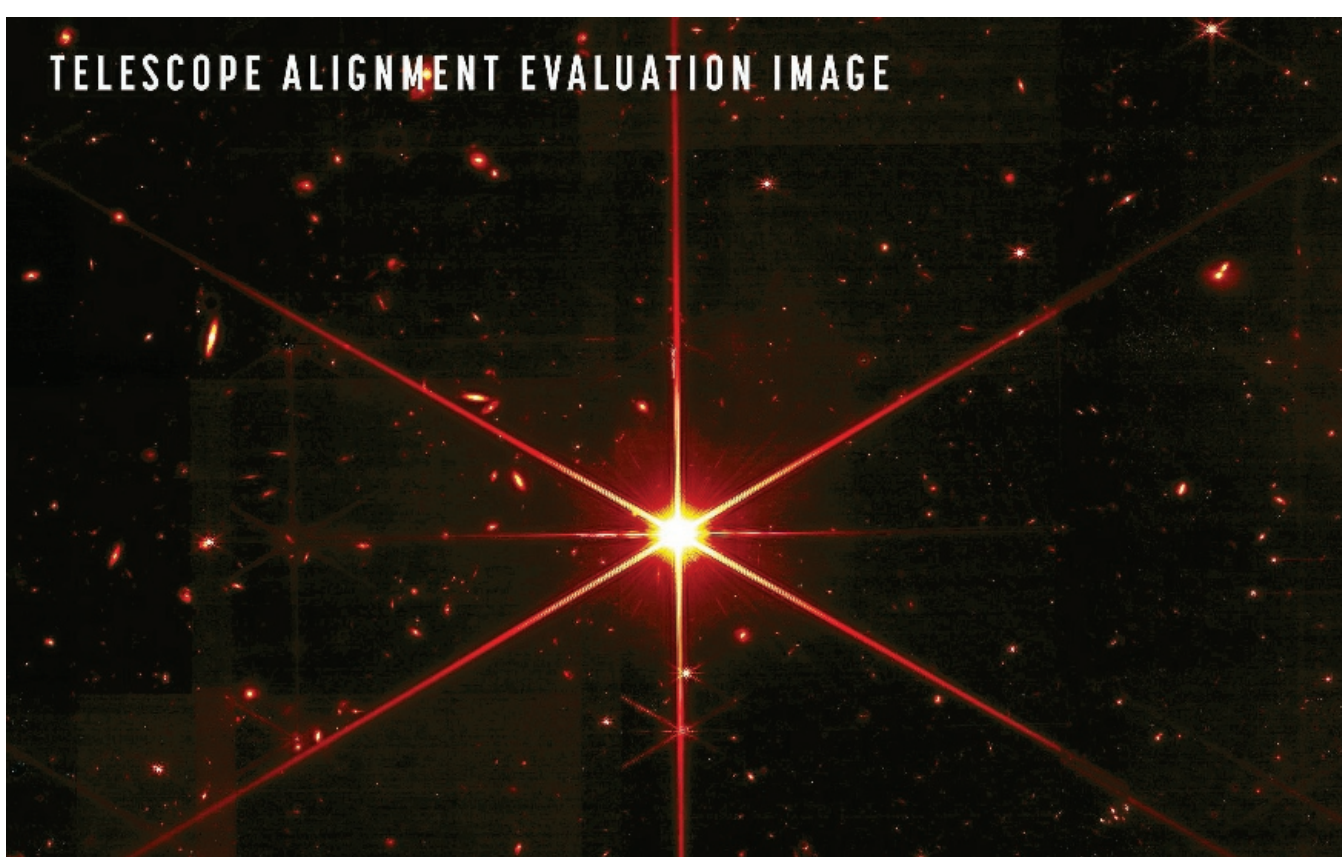
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# Arizona Daily Star

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 | [tucson.com](http://tucson.com)



NASA

On March 11, the James Webb Space Telescope (Webb) team completed the stage of mirror alignment known as "fine phasing." Although there are months to go before Webb ultimately delivers its new view of the cosmos, achieving this milestone means the team is confident that Webb's first-of-its-kind optical system is working as well as possible.

## UA camera aids space telescope

**KATHRYN PALMER**  
Arizona Daily Star

A highly sensitive optical device called the Near Infrared Camera, which University of Arizona scientists developed and now manage, has allowed the James Webb Space Telescope to capture its first focused image of a single star.

"More than 20 years ago, the Webb team set out to build the most powerful telescope that anyone has ever put in space and came up with an audacious optical design to meet demanding science goals," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington, D.C., said at a news conference Wednesday.

"Today, we can say that design is going to deliver."

The Webb telescope, which NASA first launched Dec. 25, 2021, has a 21-foot-4-inch primary mirror, which is composed of 18 hexagonal, gold-plated, beryllium mirror segments. All of those mirror segments had to be folded up to launch into space. When the telescope first arrived in outer space, those mirrors had to unfold and were not yet aligned, so they produced 18 images of the same star.

The NIRCAM (that's the shorthand name for the UA-developed camera) helped to align the mirrors to first produce one image of an out-of-focus star. The image released Wednesday shows

a single image of a fully focused star, as well as the galaxies and stars behind it. The image provides confirmation that the telescope is capable of meeting — and exceeding — the expectations its designers had for it.

"In addition to enabling the incredible science that Webb will achieve,

Please see **TELESCOPE**, Page A2



**VIEW:** To see a historical photo gallery of Kitt Peak National Observatory over the years, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and tap the link.

**NEWSVU**

## Lawmakers could sidestep referendum

**HOWARD FISCHER**  
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — Key Arizona Republican lawmakers and Gov. Doug Ducey are moving to undermine the scheduled public vote on last year's \$1.9 billion tax cut.

That is not officially the goal of a planned special legislative session. Instead, it is to replace that package with an even bigger tax cut and have whatever new tax plan is enacted take effect even sooner than previously expected.

The goal, however, is the same: a flat tax rate.

And that means the most

wealthy, by virtue of paying the highest taxes, would get the biggest relief.

But in order to enact a new plan, legislators would first need to repeal the 2021 measure.

That's the one that foes managed to collect more than 215,000 signatures last year to hold up enactment until this November's election, when voters would get to decide whether to ratify or reject the plan.

If lawmakers repeal that 2021 measure, however, there is nothing left to send to the ballot for voters to consider

— even if it is replaced with a similar proposal.

David Lujan, a key player in referring last year's measure to voters, said the whole reason for the move to repeal the 2021 plan, kill the November vote and reenact a different one is "because lawmakers know these tax cuts are wildly unpopular with voters."

Sen. Martin Quezada, D-Glendale, was more direct about the new GOP proposal and how it would undermine the referendum.

"This is basically a governmental middle finger to the voters of Arizona from Gov.

Doug Ducey and the Arizona Republican Party," Quezada said.

There's nothing sinister about the move, even if it would make the referendum drive go away, said C.J. Karamargin, a Ducey spokesman. It's just making the 2021 plan better, he said.

"If you have an opportunity to improve it, why not seize that opportunity?" he asked. And Karamargin said nothing precludes the same people who referred the prior plan to the ballot from once

Please see **LAWMAKERS**, Page A2

**NCAA EXTRA**

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 | SECTION C

First-year coach, lightning fast approach have Cats back on top

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■ **Inside:** Gear up for the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments with our 20-page guide. **SECTION C**

## Onslaught continues; Zelenskyy makes plea to America

**ANDREA ROSA**  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces destroyed a theater in Mariupol where hundreds of people were sheltering Wednesday and rained fire on other cities, Ukrainian authorities said, even as the two sides projected optimism over efforts to negotiate an end to the fighting.

The airstrike ripped apart the center of the once-elegant building, where hundreds of civilians had been living since their homes had been destroyed in the fighting, Ukraine's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Many people were buried in the rubble, officials said, though there was no immediate word on how many had been killed or injured. Satellite imagery from Monday showed the word "children" written in large white letters in Russian in front of and behind the building, the Maxar space technology company said.

"Another horrendous war crime in Mariupol," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter, calling the bombing a "massive Russian attack."

The Russian defense ministry denied bombing the theater or anywhere else in Mariupol on Wednesday.

In Kyiv, residents huddled in homes and shelters amid a citywide curfew that runs until Thursday morning, as Russian troops shelled areas in and around the city, including

Please see **ONSLAUGHT**, Page A2

### Move to Tucson

How one worker inspired a company's relocation. **Sunday.**



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# MINERALS

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