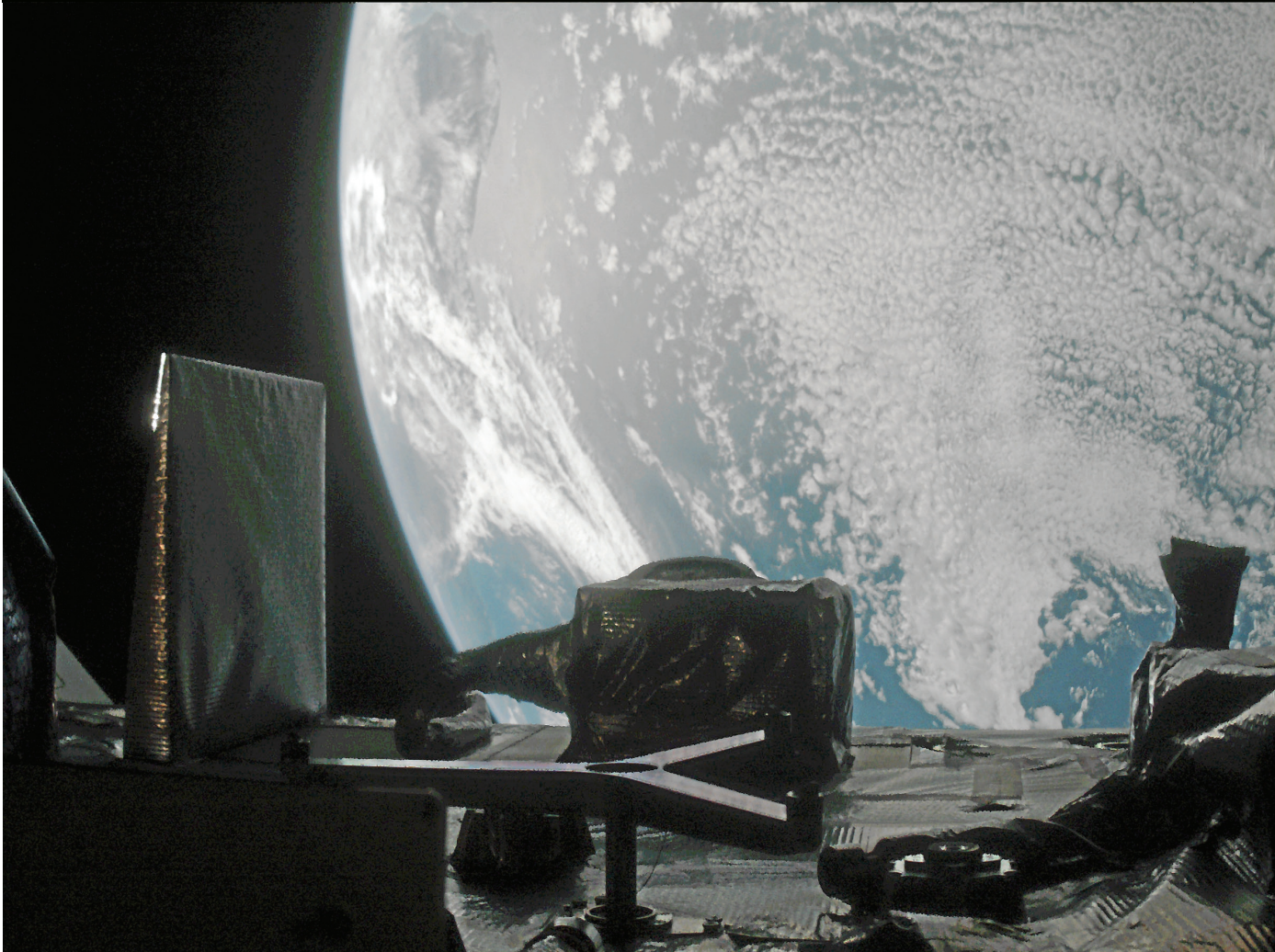




OSIRIS SURVIVES FOR NEW ROLE



NASA/GODDARD/UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA/LOCKHEED MARTIN

The StowCam on the Tucson-born OSIRIS-APEX spacecraft was designed to visually verify the safe storage of asteroid samples collected during the first part of robotic probe's mission. But the camera is also good for taking "selfies" above the Earth, as evidenced by this shot from Sept. 23.

Sun's heat, earthly budget politics can't stop space probe

HENRY BREAN
Arizona Daily Star

Her baby couldn't make it home for the holidays, but at least Dani Mendoza DellaGiustina had some out-of-this-world snapshots to keep herself warm.

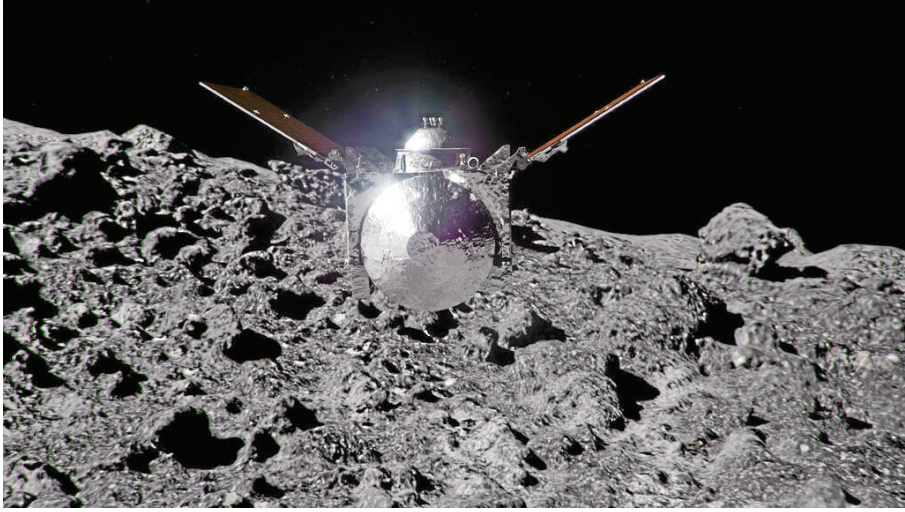
DellaGiustina is principal investigator for NASA's OSIRIS-APEX spacecraft, which is currently cruising through the inner solar system en route to a rendezvous with the asteroid Apophis in 2029.

This year was a busy one for the robotic

space probe: In May alone, it survived its third close encounter with the sun and the temporary cancellation of its funding by the Trump administration. Then in late September, with its budget partially restored, the spacecraft used its University of Arizona-designed cameras to collect pictures of Earth — including a couple of selfies — as it swung by at a distance of about 2,100 miles.

DellaGiustina's favorite is the photo

Please see **OSIRIS**, Page A4



NASA'S GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER CONCEPTUAL IMAGE LAB

A NASA animation shows the spacecraft now known as OSIRIS-APEX as it prepares to use its thrusters to stir the surface of asteroid Apophis in a maneuver scheduled for September of 2030.

Times Square to feature patriotic crystal ball

SUSAN HAIGH
Associated Press

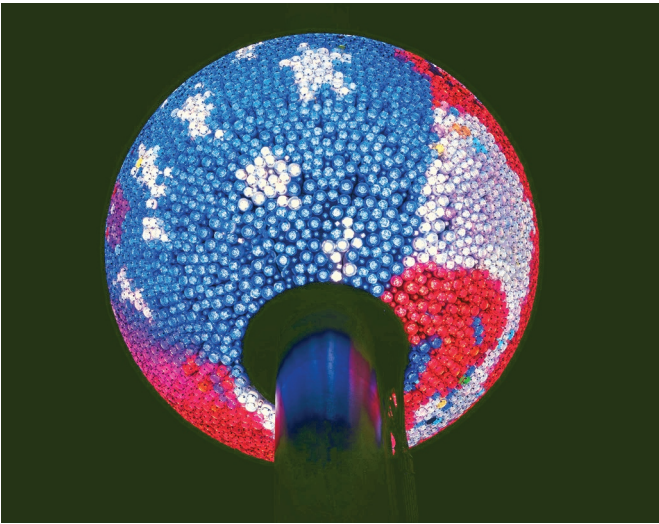
After the crystal ball drops on New Year's Eve in New York City, it will rise again, sparkling in red, white and blue to usher in 2026 and kick off months of celebrations for the nation's upcoming 250th birthday.

The patriotic touches at this year's Times Square gathering, including a second confetti drop, will offer an early glimpse of what's ahead: hundreds of events and programs, big and small, planned nationwide to

mark the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

"I'm telling you right now, whatever you're imagining, it's going to be much more than that," said America250 Chair Rosie Rios, who oversees the bipartisan commission created by Congress in 2016 to organize the semiquincentennial anniversary. "It's going to be one for the ages, the most inspirational celebration this country and maybe the world

Please see **PATRIOTIC**, Page A5



DAMON HAIMOFF, AMERICA250

This undated image shows the New Year's Eve ball designed for the U.S.'s 250th year.

Renewed push to honor Bolles

HOWARD FISCHER
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — It will be 50 years this coming June since Arizona Republic reporter Don Bolles was killed in a car bombing linked to an investigation he was doing.

And Rep. Selina Bliss says she thinks the timing may finally be right to line up the votes — and overcome some opposition from a few within her own Republican Party — to allow a memorial to him to be placed across the street from the Capitol in Wes Bolin Plaza.

It isn't a question of money.

HB 2079 sponsored by the Prescott lawmaker says any funds for its construction have to be privately raised. And that's been the financial case now for the entire time since the idea was first proposed in 2023 by Phoenix Democratic Rep. Jennifer Longdon and Republican Sen. T.J. Shope from Coolidge.

Prior efforts have run up against Sen. Jake Hoffman, the Queen Creek Republican, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. Though Hoffman has never explained his opposition, he has used his position to block memorial plans.

And Senate President Warren Petersen has chosen in the past not to exercise his ability to have the proposal sidestep Hoffman's committee.

Bliss, a Prescott Republican, picked up the cause after Longdon left the Legislature. She said she thinks maybe this is the year, particularly since prior efforts by her and others have produced more than enough bipartisan support to get the necessary votes.



Bolles

Please see **BOLLES**, Page A2

Disability rights lawyers face budget cuts

Trump has proposed slashing funding by more than half

TONY LEYS
KFF Health News

The Trump administration is trying to slash access to lawyers who defend the rights of Americans with disabilities, advocates say.

Most of the lawyers work either for the Department of Justice or for disability rights agencies that Congress set up in every state decades ago. Many of the Justice Department lawyers quit in 2025 after being reassigned to other duties, their supporters say. And Trump budget officials proposed deep cuts to federal grants supporting the state-based legal groups.

Federal laws and court decisions say people with disabilities may attend school, work jobs and go to restaurants, movie theaters and other public places, and they can file legal challenges when those rights are denied.

The federally funded attorneys quietly work to ensure the U.S. lives up to promises made by the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws, said Alison Barkoff, a health law professor at George Washington University.

The attorneys' goals include ensuring that people with disabilities have the services they need to live in their own homes, instead of having to move into nursing homes or other types of institutions, Barkoff said.

The state-based disability rights groups are known as "protection and advocacy" organizations. Most of them are nonprofit groups.

Congress approved the federally

Please see **DISABILITY**, Page A3

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