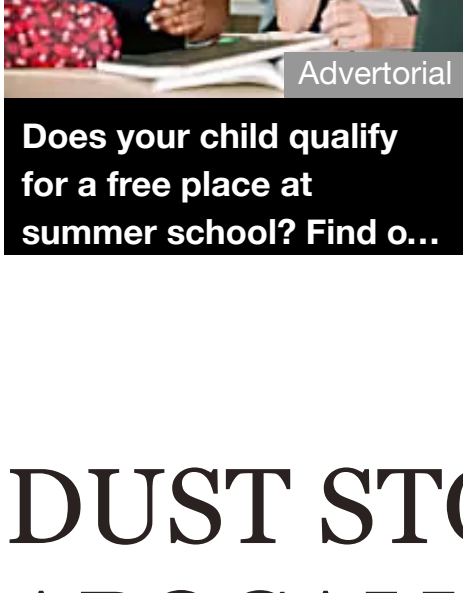
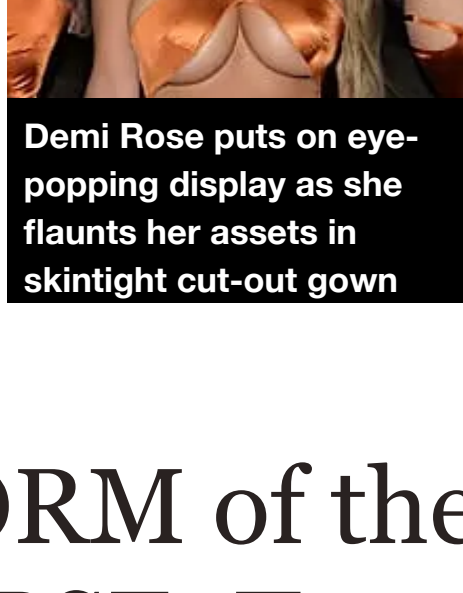


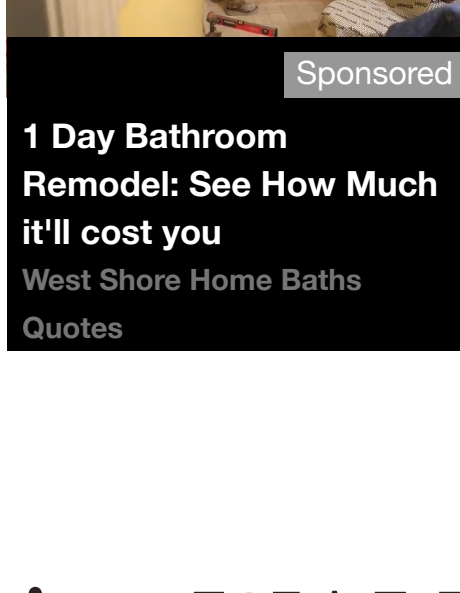
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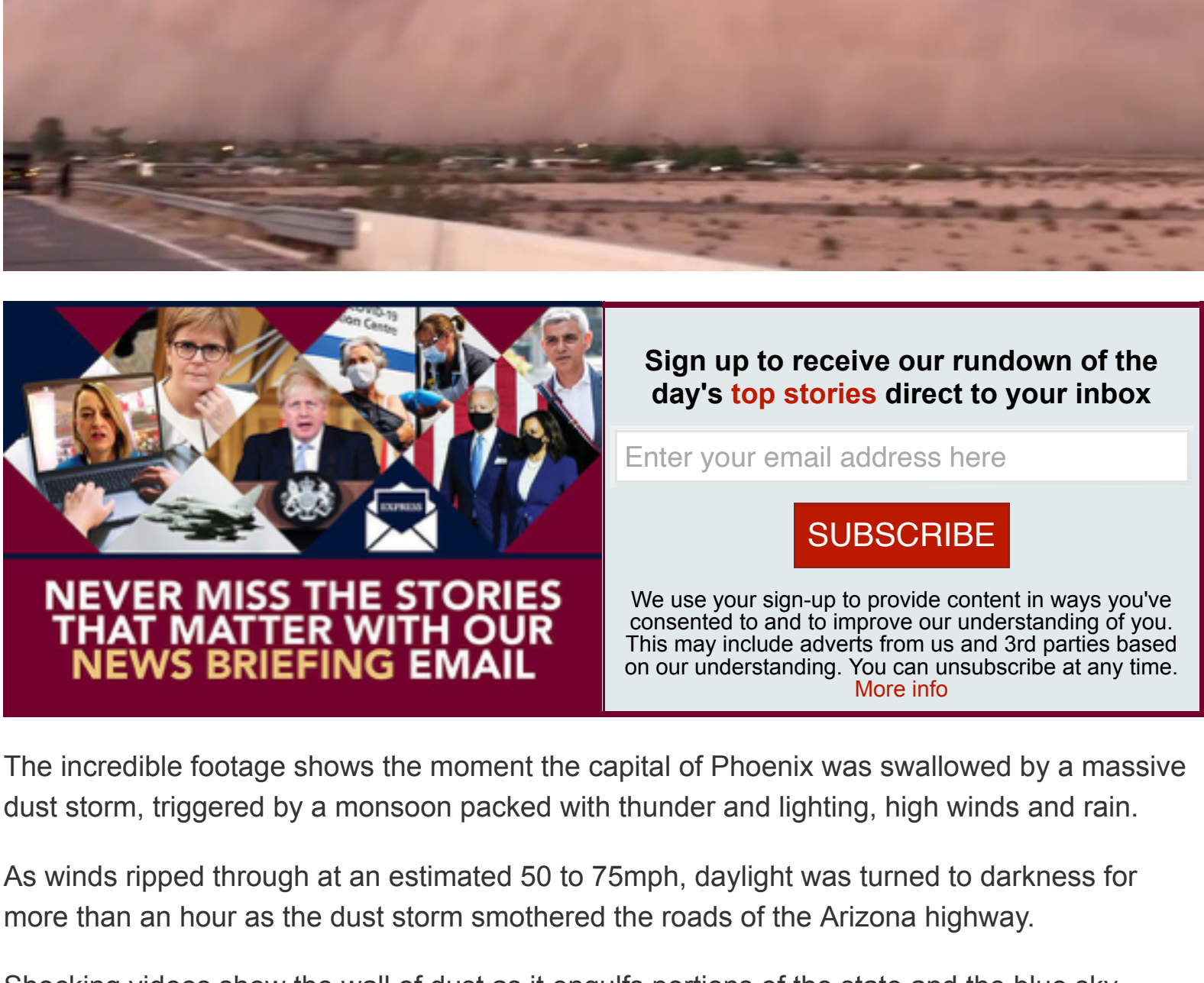
DUST STORM of the APOCALYPSE: Towering WALL of dust smothers Phoenix in monster monsoon

A TOWERING apocalyptic wall of dust has been captured barreling though the Arizona desert after the US state was slammed by a monster monsoon.

By REBECCA PERRING

PUBLISHED: 09:37, Thu, Jul 12, 2018 | UPDATED: 09:54, Thu, Jul 12, 2018

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INCREDIBLE dust storm forms in Arizona desert

The incredible footage shows the moment the capital of Phoenix was swallowed by a massive dust storm, triggered by a monsoon packed with thunder and lightning, high winds and rain.

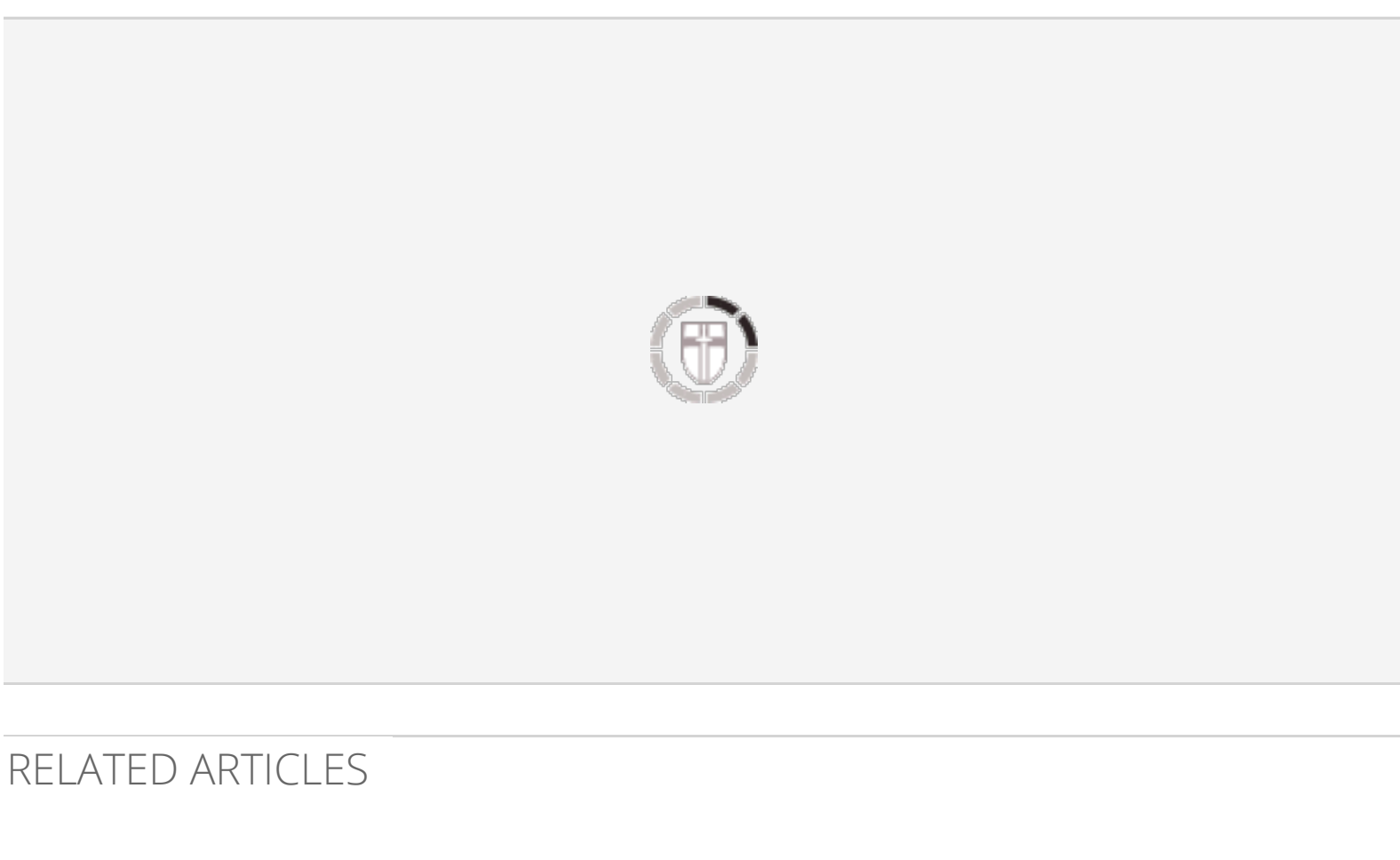
As winds ripped through at an estimated 50 to 75mph, daylight was turned to darkness for more than an hour as the dust storm smothered the roads of the Arizona highway.

Shocking videos show the wall of dust as it engulfs portions of the state and the blue sky quickly turns to orange as it is turned into darkness.

Professional storm chaser Mike Oblinski, who filmed the footage, said: "The dust storm was so bad everyone stopped driving on the road.

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"It was intense and pretty dangerous."

The US National Weather Service said the thick wall of dust had reduced visibility to less than 400 metres.

And officials were forced to issue several warnings of "near-zero visibility" and "life-threatening travel".

The dust storms are known as Haboobs and take place as a result of outflow winds from strong thunderstorms.

Phoenix was slammed by a second monster monsoon storm on Monday, which grounded flights and damaged property across the state.

Chief meteorologist for 3TV, Royal Norman, said it was one of the biggest storms of the season.

He added: "I think this dust storm is going to push through the entire Valley."

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