

Santa Monica Daily Press

September 23-24, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5 Issue 271

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
2 19 44 45 56
Meganumber: 43
Jackpot: \$12M

Super LOTTO
3 22 24 32 39
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$20M

Fantasy 5
8 15 16 17 37

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 0 5 5
EVENING: 3 2 9

DAILY 5
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:42.55

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Accidents by elderly drivers who police suspect momentarily confused the gas pedal for the brake age; 89, New London, Conn. (plowed through a summer festival crowd, injuring 27, July); age 87, Orlando (slammed into eye doctor's office, July); age 86, Brookfield, Wis. (drove through front doors of a McDonald's, August); age 86, Columbus, Ohio (crashed fatally through the wall of an aquarium supply store, July); age 85, El Monte, Calif. (slammed into a Starbucks patio, injuring 10, July); age 84, Tamarac, Fla. (backed over her landlord, then panicked and drove over him again, then panicked and backed over him again, with one of the drive-overs fatal, July).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 266th day of 2006. There are 99 days left in the year. Autumn arrives at 12:03 a.m. Eastern time.

1806 The Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.

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Playground sparks debate

CONTENTIOUS POINT: Residents argue over children's area in Palisades

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

KEN EDWARDS CENTER — Emotions ran high here Thursday night as neighbors living north of Montana Avenue squared off in a

debate over whether or not to place a children's playground near Inspiration Point in Palisades Park.

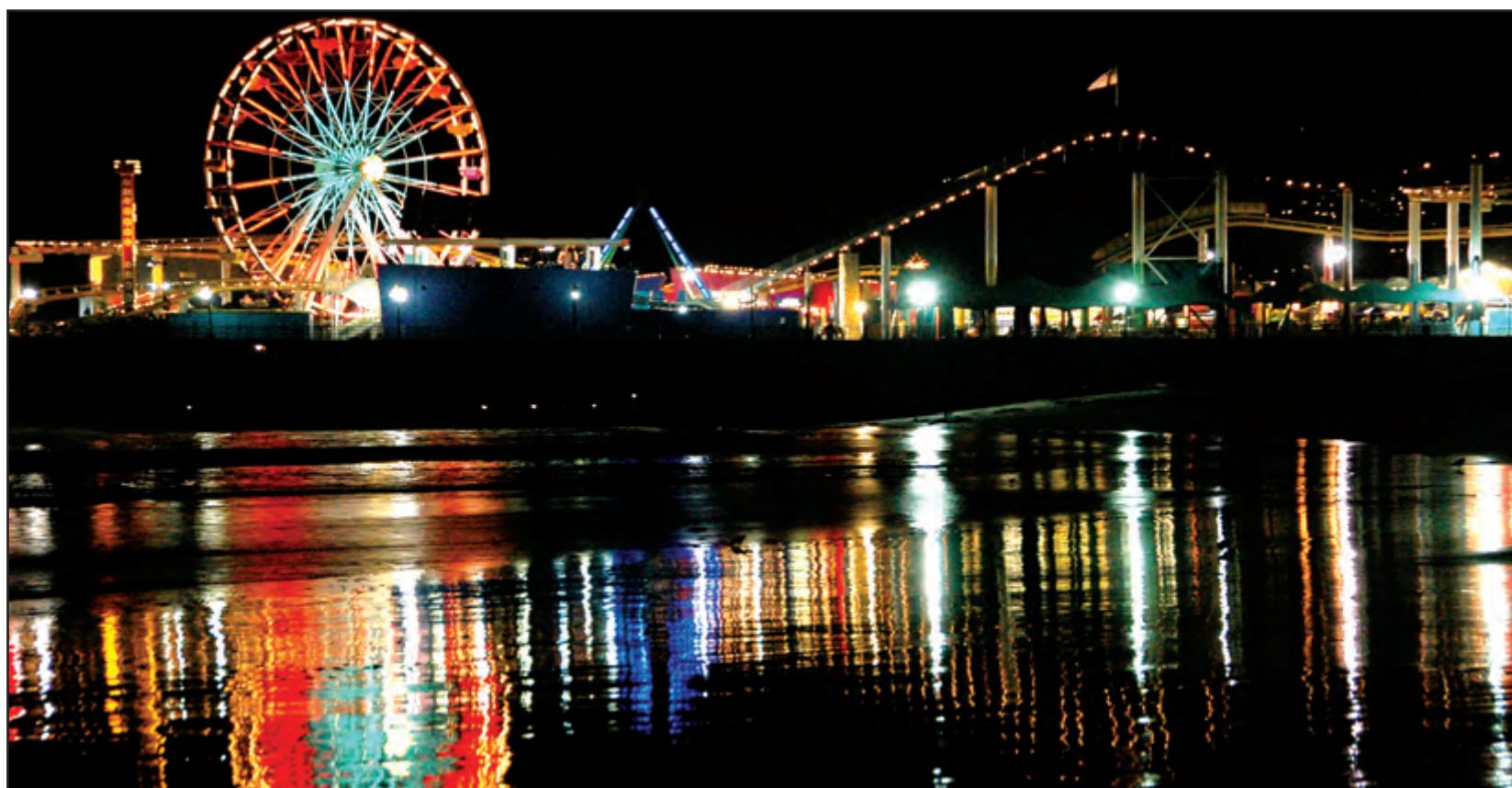
The contentious idea surfaced several months ago when residents with small children complained to the City Council and members of

the Recreation and Parks Commission that there are no playgrounds within walking distance of their homes.

Many said that since they live in condominiums or apartment buildings, playing in the backyard is not an

option for their children. Furthermore, they argued, for a city that prides itself on being environmentally conscious, forcing parents to drive in order to enjoy recreational opportunities is a

See **PLAYGROUND**, page 12



Reflections of Santa Monica

During high tide earlier this week, the reflection of the Pacific Wheel can be seen on the water.

Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

SM local to head LA Homeless Services Authority

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — A Santa Monica attorney on Friday was chosen to head the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, a joint city-county agency that oversees \$60 million in

programs for the down-and-out.

Rebecca Isaacs was selected by a panel of LAHSA commissioners and city and county officials, including Santa Monica's homeless czar and former Los Angeles County supervisor Ed Edelman, who believes Isaacs has the qualifications and the energy to further

regional efforts to end homelessness.

"While I don't think we'll be getting any special treatment being her home town, I think she will want to help us and any city that is doing something to improve how services to the homeless are delivered," said Edelman, who, along with former

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, created LAHSA in 1993. "If the region as a whole does a better job, then Santa Monica doesn't have to bear all of the burden. I think she wants to work with all jurisdictions,

See **ISAACS**, page 14

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Eddie Guerboian

Horoscopes

2

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Pisces, be a duo tonight

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ DYNAMIC ★★★★★ POSITIVE ★★★ AVERAGE ★★ SO-SO ★ DIFFICULT

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You might want to see what is happening before you make any statements or decisions. Others really admire the way you handle a nebulous or touchy issue. Make your life work by understanding others better. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your ability to ride through a hassle helps you make decisions and handle responsibility. You could be more effective if you flow and just complete what you must. Be willing to take a stand. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Allow yourself to think through a solution or do something very different. You will pioneer new turf and life experiences with a smile. Observe what is happening with open eyes and an open mind. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Basics do count, no matter how you approach a situation. A partner could be very vague and somewhat difficult, but this attitude is not intentional. The more positive you remain, the better the results — as you shall see. Tonight: Entertain at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others prove to be a muse or some form of inspiration. Listen to feedback that you get from another source. Others verbally give you great ideas, and quickly at that. You are able to see others through new eyes. Tonight: Speak up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ A new credit card and/or a frivolous mood could get the better of you or your checkbook. Think in terms of greater security and less careless spending. You will want to make better investments, time-wise and financially. Tonight: Fun does cost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Let music, love or a special bond be your inspiration. How you see situations will change radically before your very eyes. Think through a decision with care. Instinctively, you head in the proper direction. Tonight: Whatever you want is a piece of cake.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Sometimes you really might believe that other alternatives will work. Right now you are in the proper space to think and consider. You can be sure there are many different approaches to the same end results. Tonight: Play it low-key.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to think before you leap into action. Others lure you with fun, laughter and what you want. Remember, there is nothing wrong with having a good time; just don't go overboard. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others look to you for advice and direction. You might not be conscious of others' admiration, but it is there. You might want to rethink your choices once you come to terms with your popularity — yes, you. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take a risk, which involves walking down a new path. You will like the end results much more than you expect. Sometimes you need to respond differently. Other times you need to choose novel experiences. Tonight: Open your door and mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ What appears as a novel experience could open the door to a relationship. How you deal with this person could be far different from your usual MO. Share more of your dreams, making them a reality. Tonight: Be a duo.

BORN TODAY Singer, musician Ray Charles (1930), singer Bruce Springsteen (1949)

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BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **September 16, 2006**

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 1

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	F	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	F	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	D	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	B	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 66°

SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)

We should still see a fair amount of southern hemi SW with similar size as Friday: chest high + at south facing breaks, maybe even up to head high at times at standouts. NW wind swell should start to decline with most west facing breaks lowering to around chest high or so.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SOUTHERN HEMI SW 25TH THROUGH 27TH...

SOUTH SWELL DUE ON THE 28TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

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Check out page 4

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The QLine

CLEAN IT UP AND LEAVE IT ALONE

This past week, Q-line asked:

What do you think are the best thing about the beach and what can be improved upon?
Here are your responses:

© "The best things about the beach are the ocean itself and the sand to recline and recreate on. Stop cluttering this very special area up with the so-called artwork and whatever nutty plans the city administration is trying to dream up. Clean up the polluted water and sand, and then leave it alone. It's perfect, or should be, just as it is. Please."

© "Santa Monica is spatial due to four major highways and the 10 freeway offering an easily accessible route to the beach front from east Los Angeles. After sharing parking and packing a lunch, folks can wander around on the pier, the beach front and sit in the sand for free. Such a deal."

© "To improve beaches they should do something about water quality problems, find out the source of all the pollutants and do something about that. Whether it's people dumping chemicals or bums using the alleys as toilets ... The other thing they could do is have more scenery to look at the beach, more women in bikinis or even less. Yeah, that'd be nice, have a topless beach."

© "A beach in itself for people in downtown Los Angeles is very, very good as far as Santa Monica is concerned. If anything is biased it's the community of Los Angeles, I think that the Santa Monica beach is it. What can be improved upon is water quality. As far as run-off from drains that could be treated to improve the quality of the ocean so there are no poor

days for people to swim in. As far as drunken bums or addicted bums, they should have a little bum jail like they do at Disneyland and put them there forever as far as I'm concerned as soon as they sober up. There should be zero tolerance for gangs ... If it's kids from high school just doing something stupid they should just be warned and scared. But if it's gangs, they make it a habit to intimidate and be stupid, they shouldn't be justified. The government of Santa Monica and the City Council should be more concerned with the quality of life here than being progressive."

© "I don't know what the city officials in Santa Monica are racking their brains for about the beach. I think it's absolutely beautiful, and they should just leave it alone. It doesn't need anything to happen to it. It's fine just as it is. It's a beautiful beach area. The lavatories are fine. Everything is great down there. Leave it alone."

© "The best thing about the beach is that between Labor Day and Memorial Day nobody goes down there. A person can find peace and quiet among nature's elements and temporarily ignore the travesty our city has become. Having irreversibly destroyed the town's quality of life, above the cliffs, Santa Monica city planners now have set their sights to enhance the beach. Their solution? More beach programs, more people. Public clubs, hotels, cars and man-made diversions do not enhance the sun, the ocean, the sand and the sky."

A new form of torture



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

President Bush has been at odds lately with some people from his own party regarding what is and what is not OK to do to terrorist suspects while questioning them. He advocates "alternative interrogation practices." He seems to feel that Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, which bars "outrages upon personal dignity" and "humiliating and degrading treatment," ties the hands of American interrogators instead of tying the hands of the person being interrogated.

The president refuses to say what he means by "alternative interrogation practices," but should he be attacked just because he wants to keep a secret?

There seem to be two main issues that those who oppose the president raise: The first is that experts say that torture is ineffective — the guy being tortured generally just says whatever he thinks the torturer wants to hear. The second point is that if we feel we don't have to stick to the wording of the Geneva Conventions, other countries won't feel that they have to abide by those rules either. Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), certainly an expert on torture, feels that this would put future American captives at great risk. Someone even removed the gag from Colin Powell's mouth, and he wrote in a letter to McCain that, "The world is beginning to doubt the moral basis of our fight against terrorism. To redefine Common Article 3 would add to those doubts."

Many of the people who oppose the president's position believe that when he says American questioners should be able to use "alternative interrogation techniques," he means "torture." In fact, the president's latest bill specifically would prohibit torture, so I don't know why people are so suspicious just because the president won't tell us what he means. Has he ever tried to deceive us before?

Maybe he means the captive has to answer the question in the form of a question — like on "Jeopardy." Maybe he means all the questions have to rhyme. Maybe he means the interrogator has to mispronounce "nuclear."

There are countless possibilities as to what he means by "alternative interrogation

practices." It's quite possible that Mr. Bush and his people have some very creative methods in mind, but they just don't want to tip their hand. There are many things besides torture that could break down a captive's resistance and get him or her to talk. For example:

They could take the suspect to the movies and seat him in front of a guy who talks throughout the film. That suspect will soon reveal all he knows if it will shut up the obnoxious talker.

Other ways to make the suspect say, "OK, I give up. I'll tell you everything" include:

■ Having him call a software company for support, and being put on hold and having to hear over and over again that "your call is important to us" until he agrees to confess.

■ Making him drive behind a car whose turn signal is on, but the driver never turns.

■ Putting him in coach on a cross-country flight in between two people who feel a need to tell "funny" stories about their jobs.

■ Having him take a shower, and then turning off the water right when he gets soaped up.

■ Having him watch a great basketball game that was recorded earlier. When the game is tied and is just about to go into overtime, all the interrogator has to do is say that he'll announce who won if the suspect doesn't reveal all he knows.

■ Forcing him to go to a third-grade production of "Rent."

■ Having him show up at a friend's house for a dinner party only to learn once they open the door, that the party is not tonight, but next Saturday night.

So let's not jump to conclusions about President Bush on this issue. Let's not assume that he has something dark and mysterious in mind that anybody concerned with treating people in a humane way would oppose. But I wish they'd get this thing resolved. I don't think I can listen to too many more speeches in which the president declares that anyone who disagrees with him just doesn't understand what's necessary to protect the country. Listening to those speeches has become real torture.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

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GUEST COMMENTARY BY KEITH LOCKITCH

The conservatives' war on birth control

Religious conservatives are increasingly opposing birth control. The Bush administration has shifted funding from sex education endorsing condoms to programs preaching "abstinence only." And Bush F.D.A. appointees spent three years blocking non-prescription use of the "morning after" pill, despite overwhelming evidence of its safety. Shockingly, there has been an increasing number of Christian pharmacists refusing to fill contraceptive prescriptions — in some cases even for ordinary birth control pills for married women. What is behind this disturbing hostility to reproductive freedom?

Religious conservatives insist that their growing opposition to contraception is not the product of some sort of puritan, anti-sex agenda. What they are concerned about, they claim, is irresponsible sexual indulgence. They decry what they see as a culture of mindless promiscuity spawned by the advent of effective and easily available birth control.

But blaming birth control for the irresponsible actions of those who misuse it is like blaming Sudafed for crystal meth addiction. Like any other technology, contraception is a tool that can be used rationally or abused — and used properly it enables people to be more responsible about sex. It is bizarre to crusade against irresponsible sexuality by crusading for the renunciation of responsibility: The conscious, deliberate rejection of rational family planning in favor of reproductive roulette. Clearly, there is something deeper underlying the growing antagonism to birth control.

It is significant that in opposing contraception, conservatives declare that sex must be inextricably tied to reproduction — that it is morally wrong to pursue sexual pleasure while deliberately preventing pregnancy. "To demand sexual pleasure without openness to children is to violate a sacred trust," writes Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. But this implies a certain hostility to sexual pleasure, as such: not its irrational, promiscuous pursuit, but the very act of enjoying sex as something separate from reproduction. What explains such hostility?

Consider that sexual desire is a response to personal values. For a rational person, it is not a desire for mindless, indiscriminate indulgence, but a feeling that results from the embodiment in one's lover of one's highest, most important values. For a couple in a serious, committed, romantic relationship, sex is a celebration of their love — an

expression, in the form of intense physical pleasure, of the joy that each partner derives from the other.

But such joy is a selfish pleasure — a rationally selfish pleasure. It is a pleasure that people pursue for the sake of their own enjoyment and happiness, whether they choose to have children or not. And this, fundamentally, is what religious conservatives have against it.

Virtue, according to Christianity, consists of sacrificing one's desires and goals in the name of fulfilling one's duties to God. Sex, on this premise, is at best a necessary evil — a sinful act, justifiable only by the duty to procreate. To deliberately prevent pregnancy by using birth control is to assert one's right to enjoy sex purely for its own sake — not as a means to procreation, but purely as an end in itself. And this is what conservatives find unacceptable. What they object to is that a couple using birth control is placing their own, personal happiness above obedience to religion. They object to contraception not despite the fact that it removes the fear of unwanted pregnancy, but precisely because it removes that fear.

To proclaim categorically, as Mohler does, that "every marriage must be open to the gift of children" is to demand that a couple sacrifice their own dreams and long-range goals to an alleged duty to "be fruitful and multiply." Even a couple that wants to have children must, on this premise, do so out of submission to divine will — not because they value children as a source of personal joy. The rejection of birth control is the demand that couples surrender the power — crucial to their own happiness in life — of choosing when, or whether, to have children, and instead allow themselves to be reduced, by means of their healthy sexual desires, to the role of stock farm animals, breeding uncontrollably.

Though they claim their intention is not to condemn sexuality as such, but merely its indiscriminate pursuit, religious conservatives are in fact opposed to sexual happiness. They are opposed to the fact that sex is an exalted pleasure that people pursue as an end in itself. Their war on contraception is not a war against the alleged excesses of the "birth control revolution" — it is a declaration of war against the pursuit of happiness.

(Keith Lockitch is a resident fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand, best-selling author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead.")



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Santa Monica Daily Press

Immigration officer corruption cases stacking up

By The Associated Press

In the past 12 months, dozens of U.S. immigration employees have been accused of corruption-related charges. Some cases, drawn from a review of court records and government announcements, and listed by agency:

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

■ David Duque Jr., a Border Patrol agent since the mid-1990s, faces up to 15 years in prison at his November sentencing after pleading guilty to bribery and the unlawful transfer of documents. While being recorded by investigators, Duque sold some 70 identification documents to a source cooperating with law officers — including passports, birth certificates, green cards and Social Security cards. He also took a \$5,000 bribe to allow cocaine through a highway checkpoint in Falfurrias, Texas.

■ Fernando Arango, a Customs officer in Nogales, Ariz., is set for trial in November on bribery and drug charges. Prosecutors allege Arango took \$50,000 to allow a recreational vehicle packed with 440 pounds of cocaine through a border crossing last year. According to court documents, Arango instructed an accomplice to buy an RV and provided details about how to construct a hidden compartment to stow the drugs. He instructed the accomplice to have an elderly couple drive across the border, saying he “controlled” the crossing and that “for \$3,000 per kilogram, he would assure safe passage of the cocaine,” a criminal complaint states.

■ Lizandro Martinez, a Customs officer

for 14 years, faces up to life in prison at his scheduled October sentencing for allowing drugs through his inspection lane at the Progreso International Bridge in Texas. Martinez pleaded guilty to drug trafficking conspiracy and money laundering, admitting that starting in 2002 he allowed vehicles loaded with marijuana into the United States. Temporarily disabling the license plate reader at his lane so there would be no record, Martinez allowed in more than 13,000 pounds of drugs, sometimes in pickup trucks “filled to the top,” according to court documents and testimony. He got \$10,000 per truck. The drug payments allowed him to make some \$750,000 in cash purchases in 2003-2004, investigators said. Despite several suspensions — at least 15 misconduct complaints were filed against him dating back to 1992 — Martinez remained on the payroll until his arrest in 2004.

■ Michael Carlos Gonzalez, an Arizona Border Patrol agent, is scheduled for trial in October on charges of possession with intent to distribute marijuana after allegedly stealing a 23-pound bundle of marijuana following a drug stop. According to court records, an Arizona Department of Public Safety officer stopped a pickup truck with bundles of drugs concealed in the bed. The driver fled, abandoning the truck, and the DPS officer gave chase. Gonzalez then arrived on scene. Video from the DPS officer’s car shows Gonzalez, in Border Patrol uniform, walking to the tailgate, removing a bundle of marijuana, rearranging other bales to fill space left by the missing bundle, putting the drugs in his trunk and driving

away, court records allege.

■ Mario Alvarez and Samuel McClaren, California Border Patrol supervisory agents, are scheduled for sentencing Sept. 29 and face up to 18 years in prison on bribery and tax charges. They admitted taking \$186,240 in bribes from a human smuggling organization to release or facilitate the release of immigrants from custody. Based in El Centro, Calif., they at one point smuggled two illegal immigrants across the border themselves in a government vehicle and released them for cash, according to court documents. In some cases, the agents altered the migrants’ immigration status so they wouldn’t be deported.

■ Oscar Antonio Ortiz, a Border Patrol agent in El Cajon, Calif., was sentenced in July to five years in prison for conspiring to bring at least 100 illegal immigrants into the United States. Ortiz admitted that he and fellow agent Eric Balderas took money to transport illegal migrants north from the international boundary, sometimes in their Border Patrol vehicles. “They would have an arrangement with the smuggling organization: Meet us at ‘x’ point at ‘x’ time. Aliens would run through the fence into the Border Patrol truck. The truck would be driven north,” said federal prosecutor Alana Wong. Balderas faces up to five years at his October sentencing. In an odd twist, the investigation revealed that Ortiz was himself an illegal immigrant. Ortiz applied for the Border Patrol with a fake birth certificate listing Chicago as his birthplace, though it was really Tijuana, Mexico.

■ Mike Gilliland, a Customs employee since 1990, was indicted in June on charges

of taking bribes to allow illegal immigrants through his inspection lane at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry in California. Gilliland is accused of conspiring with two female smugglers to permit passage of caravans of cars, each sometimes packed with 10 or more migrants. According to court documents, wiretaps captured Gilliland making arrangements with the smugglers about what time to cross and which lane to use, using coded language. The smugglers allegedly used their deal with the inspector to promise clients “guaranteed” entry. One arrested driver told agents the smugglers who hired her had “a business arrangement” with an inspector who “has a beard, and is probably 45 years or older,” an affidavit said. Gilliland is 44 years old with a beard, it added. A trial date is pending.

■ Richard Elizalda, a Customs officer since 1996, was charged in June with accepting cash bribes and a 2000 Lexus for allowing carloads of illegal immigrants through his lane at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in San Diego. The investigation began in 2004 after a confidential source informed authorities about a corrupt officer there named “Richard.” The following year, agents intercepted phone calls between Elizalda and a female smuggler in which they discussed Elizalda’s work schedule and, on one occasion, the arrest of one of their drivers — saying how he’d almost made it and what bad luck he’d had, according to court documents. A trial date is pending.

■ Fabian Solis, a Customs officer in Texas, was sentenced in February to three

See **CASES**, page 7

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Trials pending in many cases

CASES, from page 6

years in prison for conspiring to smuggle undocumented migrants for money. Solis permitted smugglers to transport immigrants from staging points in Mexico through his inspection lanes at the Falcon Heights, Roma and Rio Grande international ports of entry between March 2003 and December 2004. Solis charged \$300 a head, and allowed in at least 219, according to court documents. Solis was captured on video accepting bribe money.

■ Juan Alfredo Alvarez, a senior Border Patrol agent stationed in Hebbbronville, Texas, was sentenced in February to 20 years in prison on bribery and drug conspiracy charges. He and his brother, Jose Guadalupe Alvarez, received some \$1.5 million in bribe money from drug traffickers for guaranteeing the safe passage of more than 66,000 pounds of marijuana through Border Patrol checkpoints, prosecutors said. Jose Alvarez, who acted as an intermediary for the smugglers, was sentenced to 17 years.

■ Jorge Reyerros, a supervisory Customs inspector who worked out of Port Elizabeth, N.J., and Newark Liberty International Airport, was sentenced in January to 24 years in prison for conspiring with his brother and Colombian drug traffickers to import cocaine. Trial testimony revealed that 1,100 pounds of cocaine was to be shipped from Ecuador, concealed inside plastic bananas. Reyerros' brother, Juan, was also convicted for acting as a middleman. Another co-defendant, convicted smuggler Hernan "Nacho" Uribe of Medellin, Colombia, testified that Jorge Reyerros' role was to "let the drugs go by."

■ Four Border Patrol agents who worked together at the Sierra Blanca, Texas, checkpoint were sentenced to prison last fall in a scheme to allow drugs and immigrants into the country. Agent Aldo Manuel Erives worked with his brother to smuggle cocaine and 750 illegal migrants through the checkpoint. Erives enlisted fellow agents and coordinated safe passage by calling his cohorts to tell them what vehicles to wave through at what time. One co-defendant, agent Jesus Delgado, told investigators he thought Erives was joking when he first approached Delgado about allowing vehicles to pass without inspection. Erives' brother, Jose Lehi Erives, acted as a middleman, negotiating dates, shipments and payment with smugglers; he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Aldo Erives received 10 1/2 years. Other Border Patrol agents and their sentences were: Robert Espino, eight years; David Garcia, two years; and Delgado, one year.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

■ Santiago Efrain Valle, an agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in El Paso, Texas, was charged in March with trying to extort \$20,000 from an immigration detainee at the El Paso Service Processing Center. Federal agents arrested Valle after he allegedly accepted \$20,000 from undercover officers. According to court documents, Valle agreed to accept the money in exchange for dismissing pending immigration charges against the detainee and also changing his risk classification. If convicted, he faces up to three years in prison.

■ Rafael Francisco Pacheco, an ICE agent in Tampa, Fla., who previously worked as a special agent with the U.S. Customs Service, was sentenced in March to seven years in prison for taking almost \$18,000 in bribes from a drug trafficker. Between December 1999 and June 2001, Pacheco accessed government databases to obtain restricted information about the drug trafficker, Fidencio Estrada, then passed it on to him,

prosecutors said. He also wrote a letter to request visas for Estrada's wife and daughter, falsely claiming that Estrada was assisting the government in criminal investigations.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

■ Robert Schofield, a USCIS district office supervisor in Fairfax, Va., was arrested in June, accused of illegally granting residency and issuing naturalization certificates to more than 100 unqualified immigrants. Qiming Ye, a Chinese citizen, also was charged for allegedly brokering deals between Schofield and Asian immigrants. One unqualified immigrant was granted residency status after meeting Schofield's wife in the Philippines, and then living with Schofield and baby-sitting his stepchild for a year, a court affidavit alleges. When stopped by Customs officials at an airport, the immigrant provided Schofield's name, cell phone and home telephone number from memory, the affidavit said. Passports seized from Ye's residence included green card stamps bearing Schofield's ID, and phone traces showed dozens of calls between Ye and Schofield's home number and his Department of Homeland Security cell phone, the court documents allege. "Numerous" allegations of bribery involving Schofield have been reported in the last decade, an investigator said in an affidavit. A trial date is pending.

■ Phillip Browne, a district adjudication officer for USCIS in Manhattan, was indicted in May on charges of visa fraud and money laundering. Prosecutors contend he conspired with his sister and others to provide hundreds of residency papers, or green cards, in a sham marriage scheme that netted more than \$1 million. The operation allegedly ran for at least 4 1/2 years. According to prosecutors, Browne's sister ran a business that claimed to offer customers financial and legal help. Instead, prosecutors allege, the business provided fraudulent green cards for fees ranging from \$8,000 to \$16,000. Browne's sister allegedly paid U.S. citizens to enter into sham marriages with her clients, or produced phony documentation indicating a marriage to an American had already occurred. Based upon the sham marriages, immigrant clients then submitted green card applications, which were allegedly approved by Browne. In all, 30 people were charged. A trial date is pending.

■ Robert Walton, an immigration employee for 20 years, was sentenced in April to a year in prison for approving citizenship and residency for immigrants who did not meet requirements. Prosecutors alleged that Walton accepted gifts — a diamond earring, a gold and diamond bracelet, and \$5,000 — for approving applications. Walton said in a letter to the judge that the money was a loan and the jewelry pieces were not bribes but thank-you gifts. Walton, who previously worked as a border inspector, intelligence officer and supervisory inspector, said he sought the immigration adjudicator's position because he was "burned out" and wanted a regular Monday-Friday job. He insisted his actions were due to lack of training.

"The job ... had no Standard Operating Procedures, written or verbal," he wrote.

"I worked for my government for 18 years before I was given any direction in ethics," wrote Walton, a church deacon, who added he eventually received a book on the subject.

One person who provided jewelry to Walton was convicted in a separate case of bribing another Detroit-area immigration officer for help in illegally bringing immigrants to America from Lebanon. That officer, Janice Halstead, was sentenced in 2004 to two years in prison for supplying documents that allowed some 130 migrants from Yemen and Lebanon into the country.

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Corruption complicates U.S. border security

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA

AP National Writer

OTAY MESA — Under the glare of the port lights, federal agents watched as the GMC Yukon approached the immigration booth. Two years of legwork — interviewing sources, listening to wiretaps and watching just as they were watching now — had led to this. Aurora Torres, the suspected smuggler, was behind the wheel.

Weeks earlier, agents had heard her on the telephone with her contact.

"Are you going to invite me to the movies tonight?" she asked. "It's going to be four tickets."

"Right at 12," a man responded. "If I can't make it, I'll send you a 9-1-1."

He hadn't made it on that particular day, but tonight everything was going as planned.

Just after 4 a.m., the Yukon eased to a stop at inspection Lane 8 at the Otay Mesa Port of Entry, a byway for travelers heading from Mexico into California. An immigration officer approached. After a brief exchange, the Yukon was admitted into the United States.

Nothing unusual — but for the 11 illegal immigrants sitting inside in plain view.

Torres was arrested. Then agents moved in to take their final suspect into custody.

"Tickets," investigators had concluded, was code for vehicles loaded with undocumented migrants. "Right at 12" was a reference to a work schedule, the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. The clues, they believed, pointed to the secret of Torres' success.

The inspector from Lane 8 was on break when a half-dozen agents approached. "Are you Mike Gilliland?"

He was an ex-Marine with 16 years under his belt at U.S. Customs, but Torres allegedly knew him as something else. Her contact. The one she referred to as "una cosa segura." Translation: A sure thing.

THE IMMIGRATION DILEMMA

A dilemma confronts the nation's immigration work force, one that goes far beyond sealing borders to would-be terrorists, drug smugglers and undocumented migrants, one that is particularly unsettling in a post-Sept. 11 world.

How do you secure the homeland if some of those guarding the gates are dishonest?

Consider: On the California border, at least nine immigration officers have been arrested or sentenced on corruption-related charges in the past 12 months. One of those convicted of smuggling in illegal immigrants turned out to be an illegal immigrant himself, who had used a fake birth certificate to get hired by the Border Patrol.

On the Texas border, at least 10 officers have been charged or sentenced in corruption schemes over the past year, including four Border Patrol agents — all assigned to the same highway checkpoint — who admitted taking money to let both drugs and migrants pass.

The numbers are a snapshot, but the picture is clear. There's no shortage of "sure things" among U.S. immigration workers.

More than 600 criminal probes have been launched this fiscal year of immigration employees nationwide, according to internal affairs investigators at the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Complaints range from smuggling, bribery, extortion and fraud to sexual misconduct, assault and theft of government property. The accused, past and present, manned border crossings, highway checkpoints, airports. Others sat behind desks in

places like Orange County, Calif., and Fairfax, Va., charged with taking bribes to provide naturalization papers or work permits to ineligible applicants.

Though the cases involve only a fraction of the overall immigration work force, some question whether the government is doing enough to root out corruption in the ranks.

"After the next attack, when they find out that an employee was bribed by a terrorist or bribed by a spy, it's going to be too late," said Michael Maxwell, an ex-police chief who headed internal affairs at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the agency that adjudicates visa, naturalization and asylum applications. "In fact, I think it is too late."

In February, Maxwell resigned as director of the USCIS Office of Security and Investigations and sought whistleblower protection after he began complaining to Congress about what he describes as rampant corruption that's going unprobed.

After Maxwell's office was established in 2004, he asked the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general and the Office of Professional Responsibility at Immigration and Customs Enforcement to forward pending inquiries involving USCIS workers.

He wound up with a backlog of 2,771 complaints. One-fifth were criminal allegations, he said, including more than 100 accusations of bribery.

"It's outrageous, absolutely outrageous, how little attention is being focused on this issue when you look at the ramifications on national security," said Maxwell, who informed Congress that complaints included some allegations of employees providing material support to known terrorists or being influenced by foreign intelligence services. While declining to publicly provide details, he cites as one example the case of an Iraqi-born U.S. citizen whose background indicated he'd been trained by "multiple foreign intelligence agencies" but nevertheless was hired by USCIS to review asylum applications. The employee has since resigned.

"Remember, one officer can grant citizenship at the time of his choosing at the place of his choosing to the person of his choosing — with impunity. So if he wants to give Osama bin Laden U.S. citizenship, he can," Maxwell said. "I can't tell you how many times I heard senior management say ... 'Every allegation will be investigated.' Well, guess what, it's not being investigated."

Although the agency disputes that claim, some cases suggest laxness.

Take the case of Robert Schofield, a USCIS district office supervisor in Fairfax, Va., and a federal immigration officer for 30 years. Schofield was arrested in June, accused of illegally granting residency and issuing naturalization certificates to more than 100 unqualified immigrants. A Chinese citizen also was charged for allegedly brokering deals between Schofield and Asian immigrants.

However, over the last 10 years, "numerous" allegations of bribery involving Schofield and immigration applicants have been reported, an agent with the inspector general's office said in a court affidavit. The agent didn't provide specifics, but said Schofield was once demoted for "conduct unbecoming a government employee" and also accused of making \$36,000 in unauthorized purchases on his government-issued credit card.

Schofield has been placed on indefinite suspension without pay, said USCIS spokesman Chris Bentley, who declined fur-

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CORRUPTION, from page 8

ther comment on Schofield's employment history because of the pending criminal case. Schofield's lawyer did not return Associated Press messages seeking comment.

Then there's Lizandro Martinez, a Customs officer who admitted that for 2 1/2 years he took bribes to allow vehicles crammed with marijuana through his inspection lane at the Progreso International Bridge in Texas. Martinez, who owned a half-million-dollar home outfitted with a movie theater, was paid \$10,000 per vehicle. He faces up to life in prison at his scheduled October sentencing.

Martinez had a host of disciplinary problems during his 14-year career, including threatening to retaliate against a police officer who stopped him for speeding, an official with the Office of Professional Responsibility testified during the case. In 1998, inspectors found 1,300 pounds of cocaine in a truck that crossed through Martinez's lane; the driver stated he had been told to use that particular lane.

Investigations brought disciplinary actions: counseling, an oral reprimand, a 14-day suspension. At one point, according to testimony, Martinez was fired but then reinstated after the union stepped in on his behalf. Still another proposed removal was mitigated to a 30-day suspension.

Jim Tomscheck, newly appointed as assistant commissioner for internal affairs at Customs and Border Protection, declined to discuss the Martinez case, although he said legal battles can hinder the dismissal of problem employees who, for whatever reason, were not charged criminally.

He added that managers are examining ways to ensure that those officers are dealt with administratively, and "are removed from the front line ... and can't continue to contaminate the work force."

Part of the problem is a lack of resources.

The Department of Homeland Security's inspector general and the Office of Professional Responsibility at Immigration and Customs Enforcement share responsibility for investigating criminal misconduct among a total of 72,000 immigration employees — with 309 investigators.

"Their plates are constantly full," DHS Inspector General Richard Skinner said of his agents, adding that an average of 15,000 allegations against government employees and contractors pour into the office each year. "No, it is not enough people. ... We have cases that we opened three years ago that we're still pursuing."

Others question whether the investigative structure makes sense. It's not clear, for example, whether Customs and Border Protection has the authority to conduct criminal probes of its own employees, who include Border Patrol agents and front-line Customs officers. The majority of criminal investigations of immigration employees involve CBP workers.

Tomscheck said his agency was in the process of building a small corps of investigators "so that we can stay actively involved in policing our own work force." However, Traci Lembke, acting director of the Office of Professional Responsibility, said those investigators are authorized only to handle administrative — not criminal — issues.

In response, CBP issued the following statement: "We are working with ICE on all of these issues. We all agree how critical this is to the mission of DHS."

THE EYES AND EARS

It's noon. A muggy day at the Otay Mesa port of entry just outside of San Diego. Eleven lanes are clogged as far as the eye can see with cars, motorcycles, SUVs and vans ferrying folks from Tijuana to schools, jobs

and stores in California.

Weaving in and out of the smog jam is a Customs officer, holding a shepherd mix by the leash to sniff out contraband. As cars creep toward the inspection booths, automated scanners register license plates in a computer. Then other Customs officers ask for identification, pop trunks, inspect spare-tire compartments, peer down air vents. If anything seems out of place, vehicles are sent to secondary inspection for a more thorough examination.

This is what port director James Hynes calls "layered screening," every step intended to catch smugglers but also make it more difficult for a corrupt officer to operate under the radar.

"We want lots of eyes and ears out here to layer our capability and be random, flexible and unpredictable. That's our success in the war on drugs. That's our success in alien apprehensions. And that's also our success in maintaining integrity," Hynes said, standing not far from Lane 8, the one Mike Gilliland was working the morning he was arrested.

Hynes and other immigration brass insist corruption is a priority — but combating it is a challenge, because smugglers are aggressive about targeting and luring in officers. They'll post lookouts just across the border and, using binoculars, zero in on inspectors with perceived vulnerabilities.

Are they tired? Lazy? Flirtatious with women?

Greed is an obvious motivator. Migrants paid upward of \$4,000 each to pass through Gilliland's lane at Otay Mesa, investigators said, adding that smugglers use the guarantee of a "sure thing" to demand higher rates. Gilliland's cut was alleged to be \$1,500 a head.

"That adds up. Really, really quickly," said FBI agent Andrew Black, who heads the San Diego Border Corruption Task Force.

In Gilliland's case, with as many as four vehicles coming through a night, each one sometimes packed with 10 people or more, it could have added up to a \$60,000 profit in a single shift — about the equivalent of an entire year's salary as an inspector with Customs and Border Protection.

There are other, more complex, reasons seemingly good agents go bad. In some past cases, corrupt agents conspired with friends or family members. Others cite growing discontent with the job, and the relative ease with which a dirty employee can operate.

"We don't do anything, just clear the way, and we get 300 (dollars) per head," ex-Border Patrol agent Eric Balderas said in a wire-tapped phone call last year. He's awaiting sentencing in a California corruption case.

Balderas admitted conspiring with fellow agent Oscar Ortiz to allow illegal immigrants into the country. Ortiz was sentenced in July to five years in prison for smuggling at least 100 immigrants, at times transporting them in his Border Patrol truck.

A Mexican citizen, Ortiz used a fake U.S. birth certificate to get hired by the Border Patrol, prompting the agency to re-examine its employees' backgrounds. His attorney, Stephen White, said Ortiz was disenchanted with a job akin to "putting a Band-Aid on an open wound."

"A lot of times there's nothing that they can do," White said. "People just come and they can't stop it."

At sentencing, Ortiz told the judge: "I was blind."

Port director Hynes finds such explanations difficult to swallow. What separates a good agent from a bad one is "what integrity you carry when you get up in the morning," he said. "A guy like Gilliland or others? They sold their integrity, and over time we'll get them."

Most border agents "are honest, hard-working and do a fine job," added FBI agent Black. "However, the ones that are corrupt are really in a position to do this country a lot of harm. They don't know who's going through, and they don't know what's going through. That's the danger."

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Small turbines starting to become part of green Denver

BY STEVE RAABE

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Mercury Cafe owner Marilyn Megenity, a self-styled energy activist, drives a biodiesel-fueled car, conserves electricity at her business and voluntarily buys wind power.

But by the end of this month, she expects to have something rarely seen in Denver: two power-generating windmills atop her popular downtown restaurant.

"I'm very concerned about our nation's energy use, and I want to do something about it," Megenity said.

Not yet a trend, not even a fledgling movement, small-scale wind power in urban areas is beginning to grab the attention of a handful of committed energy-efficiency enthusiasts and environmentalists. Last year, 8,400 small wind-powered structures were sold, compared with 4,700 in 2004, according to the American Wind Energy Association.

But don't bother if you're simply looking to save money on your electric bill. Urban and suburban corridors in Colorado generally don't have the strong breezes found in rural areas of the state that would make small wind turbines pencil out.

Ron Lehr, former chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission who now works for the American Wind Energy Association, said metro Denver wind installations suffer from several potential drawbacks: weak winds, height restrictions, neighborhood opposition, lack of rebates and relatively low electric rates.

Xcel Energy's residential electric rate of 8.7 cents per kilowatt-hour is below the national average of 9.8 cents and far lower than some states' averages that hover around 15 cents, where small-scale wind makes more economic sense.

"We're not seeing any explosive growth here (in Colorado)," Lehr said. "It's a small market, but it's a very interesting market."

The smaller wind generators stand anywhere from 12 to 110 feet high, veritable midjets compared with the 262-foot behemoths at the utility-scale Colorado Green wind farm in southeastern Colorado.

They're designed to supply a portion of the power used by a typical home or small business.

Yet power costs are expected to continue rising in coming years, leading green activists to hope that they'll eventually gain financial as well as psychic rewards for installing the small systems.

Zoning restrictions also can make metro windmills problematic.

Megenity got positive feedback from nearby businesses and neighborhood groups

and garnered the necessary approval from Denver's Board of Adjustment for Zoning Appeals. Denver zoning regulations limit the height of wind towers to 60 feet from ground level or 30 feet above the top of a home or building.

She said she hopes that her \$20,000 investment — entailing two 12-foot rooftop-mounted windmills plus six solar-electric panels — will have a five- to 10-year payback. Her contractor, Advanced Energy Systems, is less optimistic, figuring on 25 years before she recovers her costs.

"Payback also has to be a factor for me," Megenity said. "I work hard, and I don't have (financial) reserves."

She financed the system by taking out a loan on her central Denver home.

Like most of the handful of urban and suburban wind systems in existence, the Mercury Cafe's will be connected to the power grid and designed to make the restaurant's electric meter spin backward if it generates more power than the cafe uses.

Another small turbine is scheduled to go up next month in downtown Golden, a plan by orthodontist Chuck Courtad to create a renewable-energy demonstration project incorporating wind power along with solar electric and solar thermal generators.

"I'd like to see my enthusiasm for renewables spread nationwide," Courtad said. "I'd like to have a project that involves youth and families in something that will enhance their futures."

Courtad's 40-foot-high turbine will generate a maximum of 1.8 kilowatts, enough power to run a small residential central air-conditioning system.

Yet the \$10,000 windmill's location in central Golden, about 20 miles west of Denver, will not usually yield the 12 mph winds needed to sustain the turbine's maximum output.

"Wind speed and payback are not big factors for us," Courtad said. "We just want enough wind to demonstrate this for homeowners and small businesses."

Both Courtad's and Megenity's wind systems are manufactured by Flagstaff, Ariz.-based Southwest Windpower.

Andrew Kruse, vice president of business development for the firm, said he shares the idealistic enthusiasm shown by his metro Denver customers.

But he's cautious about endorsing small-wind installations in relatively low-wind areas such as metro Denver.

"We'll be the first ones to tell people if the wind resource doesn't measure up," Kruse said. "But there are a lot of people who want to make the investment because it's something they believe in."

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Mystery surrounds deaths of Coast Guard divers in the Arctic

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Five hundred miles north of Alaska, a group of shipmates from the Coast Guard cutter Healy tossed a football on the blue-and-white, diamond-hard Arctic ice.

Others milled about in the pleasantly cold, brilliant summer day, stretching their legs after a month aboard a rocking, bucking, 420-foot icebreaker.

Lt. Jessica Hill and Boatswain's Mate Steven Duque seized the chance to fit in a training dive and slipped into a patch of open water near the Healy's bow. A support team held ropes attached to the divers, lest they become disoriented under the ice. Several research scientists watched from the deck, waiting for them to resurface.

More than a month later, what happened on the other end of those ropes remains unclear — except that both divers died.

The Coast Guard has started two investigations, relieved the Healy's captain, pulled all diving equipment off the ship for examination, and suspended all polar diving. Nothing has been said about what might have killed Hill, 31, and Duque, 22, on Aug. 17, or when the investigations will conclude.

"We can get no word whatsoever, and that's tough," Hill's father, William Hill Jr., said. "We can't even get the death certificates."

The Healy, commissioned in 1999 and capable of sailing through ice up to 8 feet thick, was in the Arctic as part of a research mission backed by the National Science Foundation. On board were three dozen scientists, led by a group from the University of Texas at Austin, collecting data that would help them map the ocean floor and study the Earth's crust in hopes of gaining a better understanding of earthquakes, tsunamis and plate tectonics.

Hill, the ship's marine science officer and a native of St. Augustine, Fla., was an experienced civilian diver before she joined the Coast Guard about four years ago. Her shipmates described her as a fun-loving officer who enjoyed working with the researchers onboard. During the Healy's trip to the North Pole last year, she posed on the ice in a bikini by a red-and-white-striped pole brought for the occasion.

Duque, whose responsibilities included keeping the Healy's decks in order, operating machinery and driving launch boats, was from Miami. His colleagues said he was exceedingly professional and inspired others to take their jobs seriously.

They had been under water for about 10 minutes, estimated Harm Van Avendonk, a University of Texas geophysics researcher. It was near the end of the two-hour break, and many people had returned to the ship.

"I saw people from the bow looking intently down on the ice, and I sensed immediately that they didn't look relaxed," he said. "It was taking a long time for the divers to reappear."

Steve Stevenoski, a high school teacher from Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., remained on the ice and was videotaping the expansive frozen seascape when he heard shouts from the dive support team, calling for extra hands to man the ropes. He dropped his camera and tried to help.

In a blur, the crew's training took over, several witnesses said.

The divers were pulled up by the ropes. Blankets and stretchers were rushed onto the ice, and EMTs immediately began performing CPR in an attempt to revive them. Soon they were carried to the sick bay onboard,

where they were pronounced dead at 8 p.m., roughly two hours after the accident.

"What I can tell you is this: These people were very well trained. Every time we did something we had to have a safety briefing," Stevenoski said. "There was an accident that was completely unforeseen. What's unusual is we don't know why they died."

Van Avendonk stressed that while about 50 others were playing football on the ice, taking panoramic photos and going for walks, "the people involved in the dive were entirely focused on the dive."

According to Coast Guard protocol, they would have created a "dive profile," detailing who was diving, how far down they were going and how long they would spend at various depths.

Typically such plans are drawn up by a ship's dive officer, though the captain is ultimately responsible for the safety of divers. That could explain why Capt. Douglas Russell, who transferred from a desk job in Washington, D.C., to the Healy in June, was relieved of command less than two weeks after the accident. Vice Adm. Charles D. Wurster, commander of the Coast Guard in the Pacific, said he had lost confidence in Russell.

Before he was relieved, Russell wrote on the ship's Web site that Arctic operations would continue following a four-day stop in Kodiak, Alaska. Instead, the Healy returned to its home port of Seattle under Russell's predecessor, Capt. Daniel K. Oliver.

The only signs of the tragedy during a recent tour of the ship were a grief counseling pamphlet on a table in the scientists' lounge and the locked and empty room where dive equipment was stored. The equipment was shipped to the Navy's dive school in Panama City, Fla., for examination. One investigation is focusing on the root cause in hopes of preventing future accidents; the other is a broader administrative investigation that could result in findings of responsibility.

One investigator, a lieutenant, said Hill and Duque were the first Coast Guard divers to die under water since the 1970s.

The Coast Guard described the dive as routine, but any dive in frigid waters beneath 4-foot-thick ice poses serious dangers. The cold can numb the extremities. Divers typically wear dry suits, which use air to help determine buoyancy. Such suits can balloon during ascents as pressure decreases — if the diver doesn't release the air quickly enough, he or she can shoot toward the surface and crash into the ice.

They also must use equipment that can handle the cold water, such as breathing regulators outfitted with rubberized covers filled with antifreeze.

Hill and Duque had both attended the Navy's dive school, which is required of all Coast Guard divers. William Hill said his daughter resolved to attend the school shortly after joining the Coast Guard, when her crew investigated a sunken German ship that was leaking oil off California.

"She had to stand on the deck while everyone else was going down," he said. "That's when she decided to become a Coast Guard diver. She was only 5-foot-5, and her little short legs had to work like mad to compete with the guys, but she thought she could do anything they could do."

The deaths hit the Healy's crew of 75 hard, said Ensign Stephen Elliott, who was on the ice as part of the dive support team that day. He said he couldn't discuss anything that might be covered by the investigation.

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Opposition: Playground would spoil Palisades Park's ambiance

PLAYGROUND, from page 1

lesson in contradiction.

"Lincoln Park is not an option for me," said Louis Landon, a supporter of a playground at Inspiration Point. "It's more than a mile away, which is like a 20 to 25 minute walk each way. It's certainly not convenient. School play areas are also not an option because they are not open to kids during school hours, which is a time when most kids under 5 would be using them ... I think the sounds of kids playing is pretty great and could serve as inspiration ..."

The parents' call to action prompted City Hall to investigate. Using data and digital mapping, city staff found that families are on the rise in the 90402 and 90403 ZIP codes, with both areas being "drastically underserved" when it comes to open space.

Staff presented their findings to the commission, which requested further research, including potential locations for a playground that would be 1,500 square feet, roughly 1 percent of the park's 26 acres.

Staff recommended two locations, one at Inspiration Point, and the other near the picnic area between Palisades and Alta avenues.

As part of their recommendations, city staff suggested play equipment that would blend in with the natural landscape and be comparable in scale to other features at the park. City staff seemed to be leaning more toward Inspiration Point because of its proximity to restrooms, as well as its somewhat isolated location.

A playground has not been approved and is only an idea being considered by the commission.

Those in support of the playground said children need a safe place to run, jump, slide and interact with others their own age. Currently, kids run wild along long stretches of grass, running into joggers while picking up broken glass or other dangerous objects, parents said.

Those opposed said Palisades Park is a sanctuary where people of all ages can connect with nature, soak in a beautiful sunset and be at peace. One woman called it her "Valium."

Placing a playground near Inspiration Point, or anywhere else, would destroy the ambiance, some residents said.

Some were also concerned about a "slippery slope," envisioning a scenario in which senior citizen groups, dog lovers and others would want a piece of parkland carved out specifically for them.

Residents challenged City Hall to clean up existing parks by removing the homeless, thereby making it safe for children.

"Palisades is a place of tranquility and a place of solitude. When you look around, you see people finding their sanity," said Rich Magram, who was joined by nearly a dozen residents in opposition to a playground. "You see painters, writers, poets. You see people finding balance ... At Palisades Park, parents can introduce their children not to video games and constant amusement, but to something that is almost extinct, which is an appreciation of nature."

"I honestly believe a playground would eradicate and fully rape the magic that exists in such close proximity to the city," Magram added. "I think it would be an abomination, taking away the heart and soul of the city if you put this inappropriate use there."

Architectural historian Ruthann Lehrer, a member of the Landmarks Commission, expressed concern that the playground would somehow damage the integrity of the park as a historic landmark.

"This park is an essential element to Santa Monica ... (with) it's dazzling views of the ocean," Lehrer said. "It is a very rich environment with a number of public monuments, sculptures, artwork and other public facilities ... The entire park has historic value ... It is a very unique place, and I believe the Landmarks Commission will be discussing granting historic status in the near future."

While several members of the Recreation and Parks Commission seemed in favor of a playground at Palisades Park, the body delayed voting for or against the project and instead ordered city staff to convene a joint meeting with the Landmarks Commission to further discuss the issue, as well as devise a strategic plan for the future of the park.

"We do have a shortage of parks in the area," said commissioner Ted Winterer. "I think there is a way to address everyone's concerns and have a playground area with a very small footprint for toddlers under 5 or 6, something like that which respects the history of the park."

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Isaacs joining LAHSA in time of turmoil

ISAACS, from page 1

and she'll have to in order to be successful."

Isaacs will assume control over the highly criticized agency on Nov. 1, LAHSA officials said, at which time she will be faced with the difficult task of redesigning a 10-year plan to end homelessness that was recently found to be inadequate in meeting federal standards. Therefore, the plan must be revised.

Isaacs must also deal with an agency that has come under fire recently after an audit found significant delays in making payments to homeless agencies and the improper co-

mingling of funds. She replaces Mitchell Netburn, who resigned earlier this year in the wake of the audit.

"We are thrilled Rebecca Isaacs will lead this vital agency during this critical time," LAHSA commission chair Rebecca Avila said. "She has the perfect mix of executive management skills, creative vision and policy savvy. Through her leadership, we are very confident that LAHSA will make a tremendous impact on the homeless problem over the course of her tenure."

Following Netburn's resignation, county auditor-controller Tyler McCauley launched

another inquiry into LAHSA earlier this month. The latest focuses on chief financial officer Lorraine Lynch.

The agency's controller, Ferdinand Lang, was fired earlier this month.

Isaacs said she is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

"This is an incredible opportunity to make a difference in the region," Isaacs said in an interview with the Daily Press. "We recognize that homelessness is a crisis and one that must be solved by utilizing regional solutions. I absolutely look forward to working with officials in Santa Monica. I have an incredible interest in what goes on in Santa Monica, not only as the new director of LAHSA, but also as a resident for the last six years."

Isaacs lives in Santa Monica with her partner of 16 years, Vanessa Schwartz, a history professor at USC, and their 11-year-old daughter, Rachel.

Isaacs is the outgoing executive director of the City Law Center, a legal services and housing advocacy agency serving homeless people and low-income clients, many of them on downtown's Skid Row. She is also vice chair of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. She formerly served as a legislative aide and communications director for Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Los Angeles, and a policy director for People for the American Way in Washington, D.C.

Isaacs also served as policy and public affairs director and then interim executive director for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center from 2000-2003.

Councilman Richard Bloom, who has

been at the forefront in the fight to end homelessness, welcomed the appointment of Isaacs, whom he said has a clear understanding of the issues and the needs surrounding homelessness.

"She has very strong administrative skills, and that is extremely important at LAHSA, where there are a lot of employees who are awaiting this new leadership," Bloom said. "I've been beating the drum for the past couple of years on how important it is that we have leadership at LAHSA that understands and fosters an agenda that acknowledges the regional nature of homelessness. That is what LAHSA is all about, so I think a reinvigorated LAHSA is a critical part of moving that agenda forward."

"I have already called her and requested a meeting," Bloom added.

Isaacs said she received Bloom's call and is very interested in meeting with him and others concerned about the more than 88,000 homeless sleeping on the streets every night in Los Angeles County.

A man who deals with the down-and-out on a daily basis is John Maceri, executive director of OPCC, a homeless services provider in Santa Monica. Maceri said he is hopeful Isaacs will be able to help LAHSA recover from recent setbacks and bring other municipalities into the mix.

"I think that her work on Skid Row, essentially ground zero for homelessness, as well as the fact that she is a Santa Monica resident and lives in a community that is impacted by homeless, she has a very good grasp of the issues. That can only help Santa Monica and the efforts we are engaged in."



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Federal agency at center of immigration debate

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — As border woes have become a big issue in politics this year, some politicians in Arizona are blaming a federal agency for failing to cooperate with state and local authorities in helping battle illegal immigration.

The chief criticism is that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement often fails to respond to calls from police to pick up immigrants pulled over in vehicles or found hiding in stash houses, leaving local and state authorities little choice but to cut them loose if they weren't suspected of a crime under Arizona law.

But six police departments in metropolitan Phoenix, a key hub for smuggling illegal immigrants throughout the country, said the agency responsible for immigration enforcement beyond the borderlands responds regularly to requests to pick up immigrants.

"Almost nine out of 10 times, they would come out and assist us and take over the investigation," said Sgt. Chuck Trapani, a police spokesman in Mesa, one of Arizona's largest cities. "They would take over the call. It's fantastic."

In the last few years, Peoria police said, the federal agency always responded to assistance calls, sending a helicopter once to search for immigrants who had scattered when officers arrived.

While the U.S. Border Patrol monitors the southern part of the state, from the border to an area north of Tucson, one of the duties of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, is to target smugglers in metro Phoenix and remove illegal immi-

grants from the country.

Many of Arizona's critics of ICE said the Border Patrol does a better job of responding to calls for help and that the government pays far too little attention to interior enforcement.

ICE said it responded to 430 requests for assistance from state and local agencies in Arizona over a 12-month period ending in July, though it declined to provide figures on the number of times agents didn't respond to requests.

Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, said his officers have gotten poor responses from the federal agency, especially in calls from rural areas.

"You get in the Phoenix area, and especially north of Phoenix, it is literally nonexistent to get a response to pick up a load of (illegal immigrants)," Vanderpool said. However, he said the responses are starting to get better.

Don Engler, a commander for the Payson Police Department, said ICE doesn't respond to calls from Payson, about 90 miles northeast of Phoenix, to pick up immigrants caught during simple traffic stops.

Still, the federal agency has gone to Payson to help police on warrants in drug cases involving illegal immigrants, Engler said.

Asked to reconcile the criticism of state officials about the agency with favorable reviews from some police departments, Gov. Janet Napolitano said, "They are telling me something else."

Napolitano also has said the agency failed to adequately staff its Arizona operation and refused to share information with state

authorities.

Vanderpool said a revolving door of leadership at the federal agency in Arizona has made it difficult for ICE to build relationships with state and local authorities.

ICE spokeswoman Jamie Zuieback said the agency enjoys a good relationship with state and local authorities in Arizona.

"We have specific priorities," said Zuieback. "We have certain responsibilities under the law and will do as much as we possibly can."

The agency also has been criticized for pulling out of a state effort to attack the financial workings of smuggling groups and refusing for two months to take custody of people convicted under an Arizona immigrant smuggling law.

Napolitano and state Attorney General Terry Goddard have touted the financial investigations as essential in making business harder for immigrant smugglers.

State authorities said they have seized \$15 million after they monitored money wiring transfers into Arizona and were given state court permission to target the assets of alleged smugglers.

"Our concern over (the state warrants used in seizing the money) is whether they would stand up in federal court," said Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Russell Ahr, declining to elaborate.

Goddard said state authorities have continued the financial investigations without ICE, but that the federal agency's assistance could aid in detaining witnesses and getting their testimony.

"Their reasons for withdrawing are bogus," Goddard said.

Earlier this month, the federal agency

ended its policy of not picking up immigrants convicted of smuggling under Arizona law, which had also sparked criticism.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said his officers had to drive hundreds of miles to bring about 60 immigrants to Border Patrol offices, even though Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents regularly got to his jail on other cases.

"They don't really seem to care very much," said Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas, a prosecutor who was frustrated at the agency's refusal to pick up the felons. "I'm not quite sure what they do at this point, other than collect a paycheck."

Zuieback said she didn't know the reason for the previous policy, but that recently freed-up resources have brought about the change.

ICE has also trained and authorized 12 state corrections employees to help speed the transfer of immigrants serving time in state prisons to federal custody for deportation.

State officials said the move has saved the state nearly \$3 million in costs that would have been incurred waiting for federal authorities to take custody.

The governor's office said the effort was driven by a key state official and that the federal agency was reluctant to cooperate.

Four ICE agents also serve on a 12-member task force focusing on fraudulent IDs, which are used frequently by illegal immigrants. Federal, state and local authorities taking part in the effort have broken up 17 fake ID operations so this year.

"They have been nothing but wonderful partners," Leesa Berens Morrison, the state official who leads the task force, said of the federal agents.

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Electric engineer chucks gas tank for plug-in power

BY RICHARD RICHTMYER

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — At first glance, Mike Willmon's 1988 Mitsubishi MightyMax looks like any other pickup truck cruising Anchorage's streets.

But instead of the rattling and rumbling sounds that typically go with old pickups, Willmon's rig emits a gentle whir that gradually fades as he eases it to a stop at a traffic light. And there's no sight or smell of exhaust fumes as he waits for it to turn green.

That's because Willmon, an electrical engineer, overhauled the truck, replacing its gasoline engine with an electric motor that runs on batteries.

He's part of a small but growing group of people nationwide who are putting together

vehicles that run on electricity instead of expensive gasoline or diesel fuel. Lately there's been increased interest in "hybrids," which combine gasoline engines with electric motors. But Willmon and his counterparts have chosen to chuck their gas tanks altogether and rely exclusively on plug-in power.

The electric-car movement isn't new. Organized groups have advocated development of the technology for years, many of them motivated by concerns about harm they think emissions from gas-powered cars may be doing to the environment.

Willmon said he got interested for more practical reasons.

"I'm into it to save money," he said. "I'm not a greenie liberal. In fact, I lean more toward the other side."

About a year ago, facing soaring gas prices

and a 20-mile-a-day commute, Willmon said he did some math and figured he'd come out ahead if he invested the time and money to build an electric-powered vehicle.

He sold his 10-year-old Jeep Cherokee for \$6,000, bought the Mitsubishi pickup for \$1,000 and then spent about \$11,000 for the parts needed to convert it to electric, Willmon said.

There are remarkably few parts under the hood, compared with the gasoline-fired engine and its related components like the radiator, alternator, pumps, belts and hoses.

The "Electrabishi," as Willmon has dubbed his rig, needs only the electric motor, a motor controller, a battery charger and a small computer that keeps it all humming.

In the back of the pickup, Willmon built a wooden box that houses the 16 rechargeable,

lead-acid batteries that supply the power. They take about four hours to charge and are good for about 40 miles of driving, Willmon said.

Since he started commuting in the Electrabishi in May, Willmon said his family's electric bill has risen about \$20 a month. That compares with the \$120 it cost to gas up the Jeep each month, he said.

The electric rig does have its drawbacks. It can go only so far before it runs out of juice, and its batteries will wear out and need to be replaced every couple of years, Willmon said.

But the Electrabishi is the Willmon family's second car. His wife, Paula, drives a gas-powered Dodge minivan, which is more suited than a pickup would be for family outings with their two children anyway, Willmon said.

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Glaciers melting faster than previously thought

BY MATT VOLZ

Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU, Alaska — Less than 10 minutes after lifting off from the airport, the helicopter entered the frozen world suspended above Alaska's capital.

Snowcapped mountains rose on either side as the small team of scientists and students peered down at a jagged blue carpet of ice below. The pilot turned up one arm of Mendenhall Glacier only to find the way blocked by a wall of fog. The storm was moving in; the work would have to be done quickly.

Hydrologist Eran Hood used a handheld global positioning system to guide the pilot higher up the ice field on a clearer path. Circling low, the scientists spotted what they were after: A tiny pyramid of wire nearly invisible in the field of white.

In this lonely corner of an ice field larger than Rhode Island, the packed snow crunching under their boots, the group set up shop. They were about to find out just how much this part of the glacier had melted over the summer and how fast it was moving.

Hood and physicist Matt Heavner, his colleague at the University of Alaska Southeast, measured at least 10 feet of ice loss since May there and at two other spots on the glacier.

Rain was beating down on the tourists at the glacier's terminus below. The year's consistently bad weather has been dreary for the visitors, but something of a reprieve for the melting Mendenhall Glacier.

"It's a good summer to be a glacier," Hood said.

There haven't been too many, judging by

the rate at which Southeast Alaska's rivers of ice are melting.

Most of the glaciers stretching from Yakutat Bay to the Stikine Icefield, which goes into northwestern British Columbia, are thinning at twice the rate that was previously estimated, according to a new study co-authored by Hood's mentor, glaciologist Roman Motyka of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Geophysical Institute.

Comparing radar mapping data from a space shuttle mission six years ago with air photos taken between 1948 and 1979, Motyka, UAF colleague Chris Larsen and three other scientists pinpointed the extent of the glaciers' volume change.

They found that 95 percent of Southeast Alaska's glaciers are thinning. Some glacier surface elevations had dropped as much as 2,100 feet since 1948, such as the Muir Glacier in the popular Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

With the more precise data, they figured the rate of thinning was greatly underestimated from the last study done in 2002.

The scientists calculated that an average of nine cubic miles of glacier ice melts each year in the region due to a combination of climate change and glacier dynamics. They say even that may be an understatement of the actual rate of melting.

Mendenhall Glacier is a relatively small river of ice compared to the rest of Southeast Alaska's extensive network, but it stands out. It is Alaska's most visited glacier, drawing 367,000 people to the U.S. Forest Service's visitor center last year.

The glacier is rapidly shrinking up the mountainside — as rapidly as glaciers can, anyway. Visitors who have observed the gla-

cier see the change themselves. Motyka estimated that the glacier's terminus will pull out of Mendenhall Lake entirely within 10 years.

Hikers can trek up the side of the glacier along craggy rock that was under a deep layer of ice just two years ago. They can poke around in ice caves that weren't there at the beginning of the summer — and which will be gone by the season's end.

"We don't want to spend too much time underneath," Hood said in one such cave, as water from the blue roof dripped all around. "These are all pretty ephemeral."

Southeast Alaska's glaciers are very sensitive to climate change because of their large surface areas at low elevations. In Juneau, the winters have been getting warmer and rainier — 6.8 degrees warmer compared to 50 years ago, according to Laurie Craig, a naturalist for the Tongass National Forest.

Those warmer temperatures can disrupt a glacier's surface mass balance, the balance achieved between the melting period of summer and accumulation period of winter.

"Little work has been done to investigate the potential effects of winter warming on the distribution and type of winter precipitation," the authors of the new study wrote.

For many Alaska glaciers at lower elevations, warmer temperatures are causing the equilibrium line that separates the accumulation zone from the melting zone to rise. Yakutat Glacier, for example, has lost nearly all of its accumulation zone.

"This icefield will likely disappear completely under current conditions," the study's authors write.

While climate change causes equilibrium shifts and thinning, it isn't the only reason

Alaska's tidewater glaciers are retreating from lakes and the sea. The retreat may be triggered by warmer temperatures, but then the dynamic cycle of a tidewater glacier takes over.

The speed of the glacier increases, drawing down the ice from above at a faster rate and increasing calving below. In Southeast Alaska, the ice loss at their terminus can cause tidewater glaciers to retreat more than half a mile a year — and that loss can't be directly attributed to climate change, the scientists say.

"Once initiated, these calving losses are largely independent of climate change and can be an order of magnitude greater than ice losses driven solely by climate change," they wrote.

Then there are the anomalies. Five percent of the glaciers studied, such as the Taku in the Juneau Ice Field, are expanding and thickening.

Many of these glaciers extend higher in elevation, giving them a larger zone where snow can accumulate.

Glacier dynamics have the opposite effect with these glaciers. Their accumulation zones are expanding and their melting zones are shrinking. The result is a different kind of imbalance, one that causes the glaciers to advance.

Motyka said scientists will have a better understanding what has happened to the glaciers since the 2000 space shuttle data once new photos taken this summer are analyzed. With the last analysis showing glaciers melting at twice the rate previously thought, he said he expects more of the same.

"Presumably, things have accelerated," he said.



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Mayors gather in Alaska to see global warming effects firsthand

BY DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Portage Glacier, a major Alaska tourist destination near Anchorage's southern edge, has retreated so far it no longer can be seen from a multimillion-dollar visitors center built in 1986.

For the last 12 years, visitors have had to cross a lake to see the ice that looks sky blue on a cloudy day.

This weekend, at a resort a few miles away from the glacier, Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich is hosting municipal leaders from 17 states for a firsthand look at the effects of global warming on the northern landscape.

Mayors will spend three days discussing how they can reduce their cities' contributions to warming and how cities can adjust to changes scientists predict will spread to other states.

"We need to take concrete steps now to make our communities more resilient to climate change, and we have a responsibility to put in place cost-saving, efficient strategies to reduce our emissions," Begich said.

Begich was a skeptic last year when he attended a mayors conference on the same subject hosted by Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, the U.N.-sponsored International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives and actor Robert Redford. But as Begich listened, speaker after speaker noted Alaska as "ground zero" for seeing the effects of warming, he said.

The message clicked with what he has seen in his own community, from the glacier to the bark beetles that have devastated spruce trees in south-central Alaska, making them more susceptible to wildfire.

The Anchorage meeting is billed as the first at a location where climate change is already having an effect.

"Instead of slides and DVDs, they can see some of the effects in Alaska," Begich said.

Nome Mayor Denise Michaels will describe how her city's marine environment has changed. Like other communities on Alaska's northwest coast, Nome is lashed each winter by fierce Bering Sea storms. Warming has meant fewer natural barriers.

"We're noticing the ground's not freezing like it used to," she said.

The city has had to put in place a mitigation plan that includes warning residents when storms hit.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors signed on as a conference sponsor this year.

"Mayors have been leading the way on this issue through local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Tom Cochran, executive director. "This meeting will provide the additional assistance needed to keep cities moving forward as we strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stop global warming."

Begich said mayors can drive national policy through local governments.

As of Sept. 8, 294 mayors representing more than 49.2 million Americans had signed a Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement spearheaded by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and passed by the mayors conference in 2005. The agreement pledges to reduce global warming carbon dioxide pollution in their cities to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

More than 30 mayors from all regions of the country are scheduled to participate in the Anchorage conference. Begich said they have been active in energy or alternative energy issues or simply active in the organization.

They will hear from representatives of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. The organization suggests alternative fuels for municipal vehicle fleets, improved public transportation and energy-efficient light fixtures. It urges countering "urban heat islands" with rooftop gardens and white roofs.

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT FOR 2005 PROGRAM YEAR

City of Santa Monica

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2005 Program Year. The CAPER is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides a status report on how the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME grant funded projects and activities are meeting the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2005-10) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2005. The City is seeking community comments on this report.

Copies of the CAPER are now available to the public for a 15-day community review period ending September 29, 2006. Copies are available at City Hall (Room 212) and on the web at smgov.net, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to Gigi Decavalles-Hughes at the above address by September 29, 2006.

Bonneville charts post-2011 energy course for much of West

BY WILLIAM MCCALL

AP Business Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — At the halfway point between the West Coast energy crisis of 2001 and the next major electricity contract renewal year of 2011, the Bonneville Power Administration is proposing a policy change that could affect rates in the Pacific Northwest for generations.

Northwest hydropower is one of the cheapest energy resources in the nation — about half the current market rate for electricity. Bonneville announced this summer it wants to change the way it charges utilities

for its wholesale power, to keep rates low.

Bonneville proposes to make hydropower a separate resource while charging utilities a different rate for any additional power they want from the federal agency. Currently, utilities pay a blended rate that adds in the cost of developing resources or buying additional power to meet load growth.

In exchange for the low hydropower rate, utilities would take full responsibility for building the power plants or generating the extra electricity needed to meet growing demand past 2011 — instead of the federal government.

Utilities could still rely on the BPA to get

them extra power, but they would have to pay higher “tiered” rates — which Bonneville hopes will provide utilities with more incentive to either find ways to conserve electricity or generate it themselves.

“The thing I find exciting about this is a chance for the Northwest to control its own destiny,” said Bonneville chief Steve Wright.

But the Citizens’ Utility Board of Oregon warns the proposal could raise rates for many residential customers and farmers, especially in Oregon, a state dominated by large investor-owned utilities that already generate some of their own power — unlike small public utilities supplied by Bonneville.

“Bonneville is playing this as a rate decrease,” said Jason Eisdorfer, an attorney for the utility board. “But in general, the trend of this regional dialogue is unmistakably to increase the rates of residential customers of investor-owned utilities.”

Eisdorfer calls the proposal a “significant departure” from the policy laid out by Congress in the Northwest Power Act of 1980.

That law calls for Bonneville to acquire resources for the public, Eisdorfer said. Under the BPA proposal, finding new power sources will be up to the utilities.

Many say that is a step in the right direction.

“We think that the BPA should limit its future role to operating and selling the existing federal Columbia River power system,” said Dave Kvamme, spokesman for PacifiCorp, the Portland-based investor-owned utility that serves six Western states.

The BPA markets hydroelectricity from a system of 31 federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers, and one nuclear plant in Washington state. It amounts to about 40 percent of all the power supplied in the region, along with seasonal exchanges with California.

But that percentage will keep shrinking as demand for power grows because no one expects any more huge dams will ever be built, forcing the region to explore alternatives such as wind turbines, solar power, coal gasification and geothermal energy, while facing steep price increases for the other main alternative, natural-gas-fired generators.

“It does signal a fairly substantial shift,” said Pat Reiten of PNGC Power, a consortium of 15 rural electric cooperatives that serve seven Western states — making it the fourth-largest customer of Bonneville.

“But overall, I think the agency is doing the right thing — both for itself and for its customers — and for the region as a whole,” Reiten said.

What Wright and Bonneville want to avoid is the kind of trap that ensnared the federal power marketing agency during the 2001 crisis. Bonneville prices skyrocketed when customers who had pressured the agency to allow them to buy lower cost electricity on the open market in the late 1990s suddenly returned to the BPA for cheap power when wholesale prices spiked over 400 percent. It drove up prices for everybody by forcing Bonneville to buy extra power on the volatile spot market.

“We don’t want another West Coast energy crisis,” Wright said.

To ensure stability, Bonneville also wants to return to long-term contracts spread over 20 years after the current crop of shorter contracts left over from the energy crisis expire in 2011.

The Bonneville proposal, open to public comment through October, has gotten generally favorable reviews. It will be up to Wright to decide whether to put it into effect, a decision he hopes to reach by January.

“I think the majority of utilities I’m aware of are comfortable with the concept,” said Bob Titus, energy services director for the city of Ellensburg, Wash., which is a member of the Northwest Coalition for Affordable Power.

But the proposal does pose the risk of upsetting the effort to balance rate increases evenly among states — especially Washington and Oregon, because Washington is heavily dominated by dozens of small publicly owned utilities while two large investor-owned utilities cover most of Oregon.

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McCartney's classical work to debut Nov. 3

PAUL MCCARTNEY'S "Ecce Cor Meum (Behold My Heart)," a new classical work for chorus and orchestra, will premiere at Royal Albert Hall on Nov. 3. The concert will feature soprano Kate Royal and the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Orchestra; London

Voices; the boy singers of Magdalen College Choir, Oxford; and the boys of King's College Choir, Cambridge, conducted by Gavin Greenaway — the same cast that appears on the studio recording, to be released Tuesday by EMI Classics. Anthony Smith, president of

Magdalen College from 1998-2005, asked the former Beatle to compose a work celebrating the opening of the college's new concert hall. The first version of "Ecce Cor Meum" was performed with the Magdalen College Choir at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre in November 2001. In a statement Friday,

McCartney, 64, said this early performance taught him a great deal. "Eventually I made it all come together through correcting a lot of misapprehensions — a lot was learned before the Sheldonian performance, but a lot of it was learned afterwards," he said.

"If it had been a Beatles song, I would have known how to do it. But this was a completely different ball game." "Ecce Cor Meum" is McCartney's fourth classical album. His first, "The Liverpool Oratorio," was released in 1991. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Performance canceled over song lyrics

A nightclub has canceled a performance by **BUJU BANTON**, a reggae star whose violent lyrics about gays and lesbians have made him a controversial figure, after receiving complaints from patrons. E-mail messages and phone calls from concerned customers prompted the cancellation of the Oct. 2 show, said

Adam Manacker, general manager of the Highland nightclub and restaurant. "We felt it was the right thing to do after doing some research on the matter," Manacker said. Full refunds will be given. In July, concerts featuring Banton and Beenie Man were canceled in Britain after activists said both artists refused to stop

using anti-gay lyrics. Two of Banton's songs released early in his career, "Batty Rider" and "Boom Bye Bye," glorify the shooting of gay men. Banton's most recent album, "Too Bad," released earlier this month, omits homophobic lyrics. The husky-voiced Banton has been a major star in his native Jamaica since the early 1990s

with brash dancehall music and, more recently, a traditional reggae sound. His career has been stunted in the United States because of his attitude toward gays. Banton was tried and acquitted on charges that he participated in the beating of six gay men by a Jamaica gang in 2004. AP

Tom Petty getting back to his roots

TOM PETTY has come home. "Every corner you turn is some kind of memory," said the 55-year-old rocker, who grew up in Gainesville and hasn't played here in 13 years. Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers' concert at the O'Connell Center on the University of Florida campus

Thursday night sold out in 10 minutes. The long delay between Gainesville concerts was the result of the band's summer tour schedule, Petty said. He said the band decided to expand its tour schedule this year. Guitarist Mike Campbell and

keyboardist Benmont Tench were born and raised in and around Gainesville, and bassist Ron Blair lived in the area for many years. Gainesville Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan presented each band member with a key to the city and proclaimed Sept. 21 as "Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers Day." AP

"It's a lot nicer than the one we got in Chicago," Petty quipped while holding his key. Although he never attended the University of Florida, Petty was once a member of the grounds crew. While working at the school, he planted a tree that is now called the Tom Petty tree. AP

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIE GUIDE

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2:00, 3:00, 4:45, 7:30, 8:00, 10:15, 10:45
Confetti (R)
2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40
Hollywoodland (R)
2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

The Covenant (PG-13)
2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10
Everyone's Hero (G)
2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:30
Gridiron Gang (PG-13)
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30
Invincible (PG)
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00
The Last Kiss (R)
2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20
The Protector (R)
1:40, 3:45, 5:40, 7:40, 9:45

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

Factotum (R)
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
The Illusionist (PG-13)
1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Half Nelson (R)
11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
Little Miss Sunshine (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
Quinceanera (R)
1:55, 7:10
Sherrybaby (NR)
11:30am, 4:30, 9:30
The U.S. vs. John Lennon (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Beerfest (R)
1:30
Crank (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
Haven (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
How to Eat Fried Worms (PG)
12:30, 2:40
Idiocracy (R)
12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)
3:10, 9:30
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13)
4:50, 7:40, 10:10
The Wicker Man (PG-13)
4:20, 7:10, 9:50
World Trade Center (PG-13)
12:20, 6:30

More information email news@smdp.com



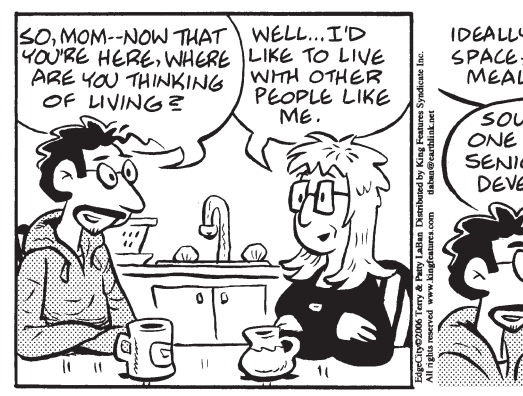
This Is No "Bull"

"If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy"

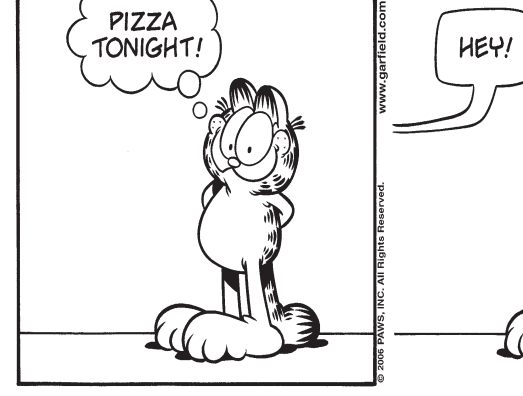
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



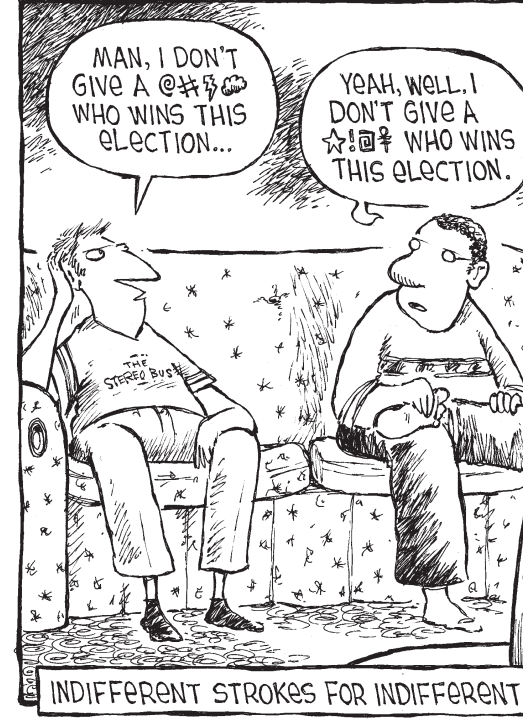
edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Garfield® By Jim Davis



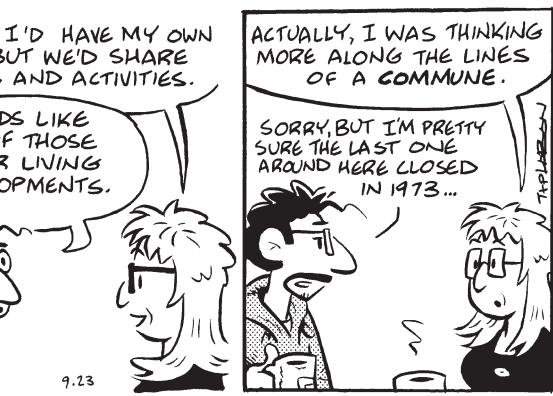
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Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



Emerging from the shower, Harry discovers, to his dismay, that he is DRY CLEAN ONLY.



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 42 Likely
 - 43 Cinch
 - 44 Fellow
- DOWN
- 1 De Niro role of 1987
 - 2 "Seward's Folly"
 - 3 Database option
 - 4 Star in Scorpio
 - 5 "Git!"
 - 6 Cry of insight
 - 7 Dog star
 - 8 Help new freshmen
 - 9 Glossy fabric
 - 25 Ratchet part
 - 28 Easy gait
 - 32 Fundamentally
 - 34 Smelting need
 - 35 Taro dish
 - 36 Ugly sight
 - 38 Pays to play
 - 40 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
 - 41 Handle

L	E	W	D			C	A	W	S	
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	S	U	E	R	S		R	U	E	D
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R	A	C	K	S		D	O	C	K	S
	P	E	S	T			W	H	E	E

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Doles (out)
- 15 "It'll be OK"
- 19 Stratford's river
- 21 Story
- 24 Like many movies
- 25 Half of a rock group
- 26 Makes amends
- 27 Blanch
- 29 Hired
- 30 Straying
- 31 Singer Della
- 33 Man with a moral
- 37 Confident
- 39 Greek vowel

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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COMPUTER TECHNICIAN for Calvary Christian School of Pacific Palisades. The position is 30+ hours per week. \$30,000-\$35,000+benefits. Knowledge of Macs/PCs required. send resume by fax (310.230.9268), e-mail Lglick@calvarychristian.org

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Employment

CUSTOMER SERVICE/ full time- up to \$12.00 per hour. 22 year old telecommunications company specializing in enhanced phone services, hosted PBX and VoIP (Broadband phone service). Located near Pico and Sepulveda. Call 310-281-3079 for recorded details

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FRESH NEW bakery concept seeks enthusiastic, people-oriented staff. Hiring management, bakers, and counter staff. Full and part-time positions. Email resume to enjoyleccupcake@gmail.com or apply in person to 2nd floor food court in Santa Monica Place mall Fri Sept 22 5-8pm and Sat. Sep 23 2-5pm. Contact Doug at (310)925-2943

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INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE POSITIONS TK-5th Grades Calvary Christian School of Pacific Palisades 5 mornings/week, Monday- Friday 4 1/2hours. \$11.40/hour with experience. Please send your resume by fax (310.230.9268), e-mail Lglick@calvarychristian.org

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Employment

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

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PALMS \$875/MO studio/bathroom. Pool, laundry, gated, laundry, stove, A/C, carpets, lg closets,stove,water/trash paid. See pictures,Tour online. We have others. \$10.00 Coupon SMDP2006 www.apartmenthunterz.com 310-276-0881

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5 YEAR/1 ARM	6.0%**
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.875%**
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6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.375%
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*Rates subject to change
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1 Unit	\$417,000
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\$11,988

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White

\$9,988

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BLACK / SILVER

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Maroon

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Must See

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Santa Monica Ford

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SILVER

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Santa Monica Ford

**'05 Crown Vic Ford**

Certified

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Stock #: R588

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\$13,988

Stock #: R565

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5K miles, Yellow

(M1301)

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Only 14K Miles, Columbia Edition,

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(H1298)

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Coupe, Auto, Low Miles, Loaded

(E165370)

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**'02 Toyota 4Runner - 4dr SUV**

Mileage: 99,537

Exterior Color: Burgundy

Stock #: L15623

Price: \$12,995

Lexus Santa Monica Pre-Owned

(800) 406-7782

**'96 Lexus LS 400 - Sedan**

Mileage: 102,464

Exterior Color: Bronze

Stock #: PL15599

\$12,995

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**'04 Nissan Sentra - Sedan**

Mileage: 14,453

Exterior Color: Pewter

Stock #: L15577

\$9,995

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Vehicles for sale**'04 Ford Mustang - Coupe**

Mileage: 36,213

Exterior Color: Black

Stock #: L15646

\$13,995

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**'02 Lexus IS 300 - Sedan**

Mileage: 69,988

Exterior Color: Black

Stock #: L15600

\$18,995

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**'02 Ford Explorer Sport Trac**

Crew Cab Pickup

Mileage: 53,383

Exterior Color: Black

Stock #: L15502

\$10,995

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**'01 Lexus ES 300 4dr - Sedan**

Mileage: 34,790

Exterior Color: Silver

Stock #: L15515

\$16,995

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**'00 BMW 7 Series - Sedan**

Mileage: 68,677

Exterior Color: Orient Blue Met

Stock #: L15643

\$19,995

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**'00 Infiniti I30 - Sedan**

Mileage: 61,712

Exterior Color: Silver

Stock #: L15524

Price: \$12,995

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Mileage: 35, 135
Exterior Color: Green
Stock #: L15514
Price: \$12,995
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'02 A6 \$14,995
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Auto, Alloys, CD
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Very clean, Leather,
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Pearl White
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Vehicles for sale



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6Cyl, SRS, Auto, Full Pwr
Package, MNRF
Vin: 40014705
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Sedan 4D
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6-Cyl. 3.2 Liter, AC, RWD,
Leather, Parking Sensors
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\$37,988
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'05 Infiniti G35 Sedan 4D
V6 3.5 Liter, Automatic, Moon Roof
Stock #: P1460
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'03 Honda Accord EX Coupe 2D
4-Cyl. 2.4L VTEC, Automatic, FWD
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\$17,988
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Leather, Moon Roof, Charcoal
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AC, Dual Front Air Bags
Stock #: P1428
\$29,988
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Vehicles for sale



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V6 3.5 Liter, 6 Speed Manual, RWD
Stock #: P1423
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'04 Ford Mustang GT Convertible
2D, V8 4.6 Liter, 5 Speed Manual,
RWD
Stock #: P1410A
\$19,988
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'02 Infiniti QX4 Sport Utility 4D
V6 3.5 Liter, Automatic, Leather
Stock #: P1458
\$19,988
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Silver, 6 Speed, Climate Control
33385 miles
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SUV
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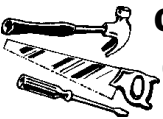
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\$5⁵⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

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Extras (Additional 20 cents/word):

☐ ALL CAPS ☐ bold ☐ italics
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Payment:

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Exp: _____ I 20 _____ Check #: _____

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