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Diamondbacks force Game 5 vs. Brewers/D1

Today's high: 75°

Details on C6



Two charged with leaving children in car

Young children allegedly left in vehicle at casino for about 45 minutes

BY JAMES GILBERT
SUN STAFF WRITER

A Yuma couple is behind bars after they allegedly left their three small children unattended in their vehicle while they visited a casino.

Nathan and Andrea Baeza are both facing three counts of child

abuse and three counts of endangerment and are being held on \$50,000 bond. They made their initial appearance in Somerton Justice Court before Justice of the Peace Jorge Lozano Wednesday morning.

According to court records, Cocopah police responded to the Cocopah Casino, 15318 S. Avenue



NATHAN BAEZA



ANDREA BAEZA

B, for a call of three small children having been left unattended inside a car for about 45 minutes. Court records indicated that a

security officer at the casino was conducting a routine check of the premises at about 10:30 p.m. when he spotted the car with the children — ages 2, 4 and 6 — left unattended. The children also did not have any food or water.

Security immediately began a search for the parents and found them inside the casino a short time later. They had been inside the casino for about 45 minutes. Cocopah police were also notified and later arrested the couple.

The Baezas are scheduled to

return to court at 11 a.m. Friday for their arraignment, at which time they will be informed if any charges have been filed against them.

If the Baezas do make their bonds, they are required by the court not to have any contact with their children, each other or the casino. Nathan Baeza is also not allowed to possess any dangerous weapons.

James Gilbert can be reached at jgilbert@yumasun.com or 539-6854.

Mesa Del Sol warns of Craigslist scam

Fraudulent postings have been removed

BY DARREN DARONCO
SUN STAFF WRITER

Mesa Del Sol Realty recently discovered some of its homes are being used in a Craigslist scam.

"A couple of weeks ago, I received a call from someone who asked if one of our model homes in the Foothills was for rent because she saw it on Craigslist," said Elizabeth Carpenter, associate broker at Mesa Del Sol Realty. "I told her the house that was listed was one of our model homes and it was only for sale, not for rent. Someone was trying to get that person to send them money in Nigeria in exchange for a rental house that doesn't exist."

The fraudulent listing contained information about the home, photos, address and a brief explanation stating the owner unexpectedly had to travel to Nigeria for missionary work and wanted to rent the house for \$700 with utilities included.

"We had a few people who re-

sponded to the ad," Carpenter said. "But fortunately for them, they contacted us first to verify if they were (legitimate) before sending any money."

Carpenter said they contacted Craigslist to have the ad removed.

"This type of scam happens all the time," said Capt. Eben Bratcher, Yuma County Sheriff's Office spokesman. "It even happened to the house next door to me. The actual owner lives (out of town) and the house was for sale. Somebody posted an ad on Craigslist and a young couple sent some money to a guy through the mail and it turned out to be the same type of scam ... and the couple lost their money."

Bratcher said Craigslist contains multiple scams and is a potentially dangerous place for people to shop. However, there are some commonsense approaches to follow.

"Red flag No. 1 is if you respond to an ad and they tell you they recently had to leave town and they can't meet you to show you the house, but they can mail you a key after you give them a deposit. When that happens, just

SEE SCAM/A5

Carry on



PHOTO BY RANDY HOEFT/YUMA SUN

AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN PEDALS HIS WAY WESTBOUND on 12th Street early Thursday morning, carrying with him two small plastic bags with items inside and one giant trash bag loaded with cans. The larger bag seemingly blocks the man's view but he safely negotiated a turn onto Palm Avenue.



PHOTO BY CRAIG FRY/YUMA SUN

AFTER LARGE SOLIDS AND OTHER MUCK have been removed from the water that flows through the Yuma Desalting Plant, the water begins the next stage of cleaning here at the Solids Contact Reactor. Finer solids are removed here and the water's pH is balanced for the final stage of filtering before being discharged back into the Colorado River.

Reclamation explores recycling of lime sludge

Waste might be converted into 'green' concrete

BY JOYCE LOBECK
SUN STAFF WRITER

Sludge, a waste by-product from the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant, may get put to use in a new "green" concrete mix formulation.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Yuma Area Office is entering into a cooperative research

and development agreement with Envirock Inc. to explore the possibility.

"The company is developing formulations that are being put to work in other places," said Angela Adams, research coordinator for Reclamation's Yuma Area Office.

Under the agreement with Envirock, research will explore whether the sludge from the Yuma Desalting Plant will work in the formulations, Adams said.

Currently, any sludge from the desalting plant as well as the Water Quality Improvement Center

SEE SLUDGE/A5

U.S. House committee OKs bill to waive environmental rules for BP

Critics, including Grijalva, argue intent is to attack existing laws

BY JOSHUA ARMSTRONG
CRONKITE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A House committee approved a bill Wednesday that would waive environmental regulations within 100 miles of any U.S. border.

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, has said his National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act clears up the Border Patrol's "checkerboard access," but environmental groups charge the bill does little to affect border security while risking protected lands and species.

The House Natural Resources Committee passed the bill 26-17.

The measure would allow border agents to build fences, construct roads, set up monitoring equipment and patrol with vehicles on reservations and federal wildlands. It includes the coasts



PHOTO BY MATTHEW TROTTER/CRONKITE NEWS SERVICE

REP. RAUL GRIJALVA, D-District 7, shows his opinion of HR 1505, the bill to waive environmental rules in border areas in the name of border security, in this file photo from June. He charges the bill uses immigration as a cover to weaken environmental protections.

as well as borders with Canada and Mexico.

The Pew Environment Group said that means the Border Patrol would have waivers in places like Long Island and Northern California — far from the Southwest deserts typically associated with immigration and trafficking problems.

"It's horrible; it's unbelievable," said Dan Millis, borderlands campaign organizer for the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon chapter. "Those of us who live on the southern border have seen what these waivers have done, the environmental damage that occurs."

SEE BORDER/A5