

State news of national interest

The Associated Press

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EAST

BALTIMORE (AP)  Members of the Board of Fire Commissioners have been receiving stipends for more than 12 years after the city charter was changed to end the payments. The city Finance Department uncovered the error this month. The city has been paying the board president \$4,200 per year and board members \$3,600 annually. City officials say there's been no talk about seeking repayment.

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)  Immigrants make up 28 percent of the state's work force, account for nearly a quarter of all earnings, and represent a fifth of business owners, the Eagleton Institute Program on Immigration and Democracy said. Its report found immigrants account for 20 percent of the state's population, but make up a higher percentage of the work force because more are of working age.

SOUTH

BEAUFORT, S.C. (AP)  The Marine Corps Air Station says the Blue Angels will return in 2009, two years after a Navy pilot died there in a fiery crash. The station said the Navy's elite aerial demonstration team will perform in free public events May 16 and 17. Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Davis died in April 2007 when he crashed his F/A 18 Hornet in a residential area near the base.

HERNANDO, Miss. (AP)  State Sen. Doug Davis has introduced a bill to make it illegal to sell babies. If approved, the law would set penalties of up to 10 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines. A Yalobusha County woman tried to sell a baby for \$2,000 a vehicle in August. Because there was no law against it, authorities were only able to charge her with neglect.

MIDWEST

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)  Ohio State University said it would offer additional financial aid to students dealing with increased economic hardships. The nation's largest university was transferring \$1 million from its rainy day fund to provide more emergency student loans, officials said.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)  Locked burglar bars trapped a 93-year-old woman in a burning house where she died, authorities said. A firefighter was on her front porch, fighting to remove the bars in heavy smoke, and she was trying to unlock them from the inside, when a fireball engulfed them, Deputy Fire Chief Cecil Clay said. The firefighter, who was wearing a protective suit, had burns to his face and ears, but was not seriously injured, Clay said.

WEST

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)  Municipal officials have toppled plans for another incarnation of "Snowzilla," a giant snowman built in the front yard of Billy Powers for the last three years. The snowman  16 feet tall in 2005 and larger in succeeding years  drew crowds and that clogged nearby streets. City officials deemed Snowzilla a public nuisance and safety hazard. Powers says he doesn't plan to rebuild the snowman.

CHEHALIS, Wash. (AP)  The Transportation Department is testing a road deicer made up of wastewater from cheesemaking, mixed with molasses and calcium chloride. The wastewater called whey is salty, the molasses helps bind it to the road, and the calcium chloride increases melting. Authorities say it's cheaper and less corrosive than salt.

Correction:

Notes: