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Arizona Daily Star

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Saguaro thieves fell more than a dozen

Cacti uprooted, camouflaged near Tucson Mtn. Park

By Rob O'Neil
It appears thieves have systematically uprooted more than a dozen saguaros on the West Side, near the boundary of Tucson Mountain Park, where they were left camouflaged in brush until the desert pirates come back for their booty.
Cactus experts said the hardy, spined saguaros have likely been uprooted and covered so thieves can come back in the dead of night to transport them and sell them for profit.
The owner of the property said he would never authorize anyone to remove them, and city officials said no one has been given a permit required under the Native Plant Preservation Ordinance.
Harvesting that number of saguaros for sale without a permit is a felony.
Neighbors found the dozen 4- to 7-foot cacti just off an ATV

SAGUARO CACTUS
Range: Mostly Arizona and northwest Mexico.
Size: Can take 40 years or more to reach 7 feet.
Market value: \$42 a foot retail, \$30 a foot wholesale.
Protection: State permit required to harvest. City permit also required in the city. Harvesting without a permit is a felony if the cactus is valued at more than \$500.
Penalty: First offense, a fine based on the height of the cactus. Second offense includes a fine and 30 to 90 days in jail.

trail south of West 36th Street near the Enchanted Hills Wash. More than a dozen downed cacti lie hidden beneath brush — dead palo verde branches and acorned sycamores.
Some lie adjacent to where they stood, while others look out of place as if they were stashed on the desert floor wait-



The owner of the West Side property says he would never authorize the taking of the saguaros. City officials say no permit was issued.

Don't give tots or babies cold medicines, CDC warns

By Daniel Yeo
ATLANTA — More than 1,300 toddlers and babies wound up in emergency rooms over a two-year period and three died because of bad reactions to cold or cough medicines, federal health officials reported Thursday.
The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned parents not to give common over-the-counter cold remedies to children under 3 years old without consulting a doctor.
The deaths of three infants 6 months or younger in 2005 led to an investigation that showed the children all had high levels of the nasal decongestant pseudo-

ephedrine, up to 14 times the amount recommended for children ages 3 to 12. The study found 1,219 ER cases from 2003 and 2005 involving young children and cold medicine.
The CDC said it's not known how much cold or cough medicine can cause illness or death in children under 3 years old, but there are also approved dosing recommendations by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for that age group.
The American Academy of Pediatrics...
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Citizen-soldiers face longer deployments



Arizona National Guard Sgt. Joel Mann and his wife, Nathalie, face a long separation. He and his unit headed off to Afghanistan earlier this month for a 12-month deployment. Under new Pentagon policies, even longer missions could be ordered.

Active-duty time limits eliminated for Guard, Reserve

By Robert Burns
WASHINGTON — For the first time since President Bush mobilized National Guard and Reserve forces after the Sept. 11 attacks, the Pentagon is abandoning its limit on the time a citizen-soldier can be required to serve on active duty.
Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters Thursday that the change would have been made even if Bush had not ordered an additional 21,000 troops to Iraq, further straining the Army and the Marine Corps.

The Pentagon also announced it is proposing to Congress that the size of the Army be increased by 60,000, to 547,000 and that the Marine Corps, the smallest of the services, grow by 27,000, to 202,000, over the next five years. No cost estimate was provided, but officials said it would be at least several billion dollars.
Until now, the Pentagon's policy on Guard or Reserve call-ups was that members' cumulative time on active duty for the Iraq or Afghan wars could not exceed 24 months. That cumulative limit is now lifted; the remaining limit is on the length of any single mobilization, which may not exceed 36 consecutive months, Pace said.

In other words, a citizen-soldier could be mobilized for a 24-month stretch in Iraq or Afghanistan, then demobilized and allowed to return to civilian life, only to be mobilized a second time for as much as an additional 24 months. In practice, Pace said, the Pentagon intends to limit all future mobilizations to 12 months.
Members of the Guard combat...
See ACTIVE DUTY, A5
More news on the war in Iraq is at astar.net.com/attack

INSIDE MORE IRAQ COVERAGE: What members of Congress are saying about Bush's plan and the latest news from Iraq. Page A5
OPINIONS ON BUSH'S SPEECH: But thoughtful Star's thoughts and opinions from other newsmakers. Pages A8 & A9

State serves up novel DUI penalty: smut talk

By Kim Smith
Drive-drunk. Talk dirty.
The catchy connection was an inadvertent option made available to some DUI offenders this week due to a phone-number foul-up by the state Motor Vehicle Division.
Tucson defense attorney Jim Neust was sitting at his desk Wednesday morning when his secretary started laughing uncontrollably. He asked her why.
She had called a toll-free number provided by the state to arrange for the installation of an ignition interlock system on a client's car, she replied. And the message

at that number invited her to call another 1-800 number for all of the X-rated talk she could handle for just 99 cents a minute.
When Neust called the number provided by the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division, he got the same breathless recording. He told his secretary to just move on to one of the five other companies authorized to install the device, which is designed to prevent people from driving under the influence.
A simple typo was the problem, MVD spokeswoman Cynthia DeMedina said. Someone had typed "1-800" for Alcohol Detection Systems Inc. into a database when it should have been "1-888."
The problem has been around since Oc-

tober, but officials thought they had corrected the number in all of their databases, DeMedina said.
Apparently not.
As a result, an unknown number of callers went out to people convicted of driving under the influence directing them to call the sex-talk line, she said. DeMedina said the problem has now been fixed for real, and anyone checking the MVD's Web site will find the correct number.
"We certainly regret the error that was in place," she said.

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BUSINESS: Let your kid text-message without breaking the family budget. SUNDAY >>
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