

# SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



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## Analyst: Bills rising due to overpriced renewables

By GARANCE BURKE and JASON DEAREN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Dozens of renewable energy plants being built to meet California's tough global warming laws, including a major Spanish-owned solar plant in the Mojave Desert, are so overpriced they will increase consumers' energy bills for decades, according to the independent watchdog arm of the state's utility regulator.

California's 2006 landmark climate law has driven demand for solar and wind power and spurred renewable energy development both in-state and in neighboring states. The law seeks to reduce California's release of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by 2020, and the state has set goals to have one-third of its electricity derived from renewable sources by then.

The push for renewable energy has created huge financial incentives for utilities — including both federal loan guarantees and state subsidies — and power companies have rushed to sew up power generation contracts needed to meet California's new, tough standards.

The California Public Utilities Commission on Thursday approved a request to build the Abengoa solar thermal project in the vast expanses of the Mojave, despite one commissioner's objections that the project was at least \$1.25 billion over market price. When completed, the plant would generate enough power for about 54,000 homes.

Yet the commission's internal consumer advocacy unit, the

Please see **RENEWABLE** on **A13**

## Military ball honors all who served



MIKE ELIASON / NEWS-PRESS

During Saturday's Pierre Claeysens Military Ball, Peter Bie reads the words from a video message left by Navy SEAL Master Chief Petty Officer Louis Langlais to his family. Master Chief Langlais was among 30 Americans killed Aug. 6 when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. The photo on the screen is of Master Chief Langlais' widow, Anya Langlais, and their two sons.

### Special attention given to WWII, late SEAL

By KATHRYN WATSON  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Patriotism rang loud and clear as

the medley of service songs resounded from the Grand Ballroom of Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort Saturday evening, mingled with claps and

cheers of gratitude and pride.

About 700 retired and active military personnel and their loved ones gathered for the 16th annual Pierre

Claeysens Military Ball, themed "the Greatest Generation."

Veteran Silvio Di Loreto accepted the Greatest Generation Award on behalf of his comrades.

Please see **BALL** on **A9**

## Wisconsin governor speaks to student conference

By BEN SMITHWICK  
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

The second day of Young America's Foundation's West Coast Leadership Conference came to an end with a speech about leadership by a governor who knows all too well about making tough choices.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker addressed a group of about 150 conservative college students at a luncheon held at the Rancho del Cielo, President Ronald Reagan's home for nearly 25 years.

The governor said that he was inspired to enter public service because of Mr. Reagan's "incredible leadership."

As a participant in the American Legion's Badger Boys State program, he had the opportunity to meet Mr. Reagan in 1985.

Mr. Walker said that the president's policy positions helped shape his own.

"If we did things more like Reagan, we could go back to economic recovery."

Mr. Walker, who won Wisconsin's gubernatorial race last November, received national media attention earlier this year after proposing a budget repair bill requiring public employees to make larger contributions to their health care plans and retirement pensions. The bill also eliminated certain collective bargaining rights for government workers.

The bill, which passed and was signed into law, ignited weeks of protests by union supporters in Madison.

Acknowledging that the bill was an alternative to raising taxes, Mr. Walker said that it was necessary to address his state's budget deficit. He said that collective bargaining is nothing more than an "expensive entitlement" and that the bill was required to prevent layoffs.

Like New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Mr. Walker was criticized by teachers' unions that he said are responsible for making teachers believe they are under attack.

But the governor said he has great respect for teachers and is pleased about the trend toward merit-based pay compensation in Wisconsin school districts.

In addition to backlash from public employee unions and state Democratic leaders, the governor's decision was indirectly criticized by President Obama, who called on governors not to degenerate or vilify their public work forces after the bill was proposed.

After releasing a statement

Please see **WALKER** on **A14**



MIKE ELIASON / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Dennis Bland, a Marine Corps veteran, panhandles in the 600 block of State Street.

## Veterans Day painful for some homeless vets

By NIKKI GREY  
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

On the sidewalks lining State Street, juxtaposed against the shops and smiling tourists, linger the homeless, many of whom are veterans.

Their feelings about Veterans Day vary. Some say they are happy the public celebrates their service and others say veterans need to be celebrated every day, not just for the holiday.

Veterans who are homeless say they are unique because of how their experiences in war have affected them.

The holiday brings back painful memories that some don't want to face, said Ken Williams, a homeless outreach social worker for Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services, who spoke to the News-Press only for himself.

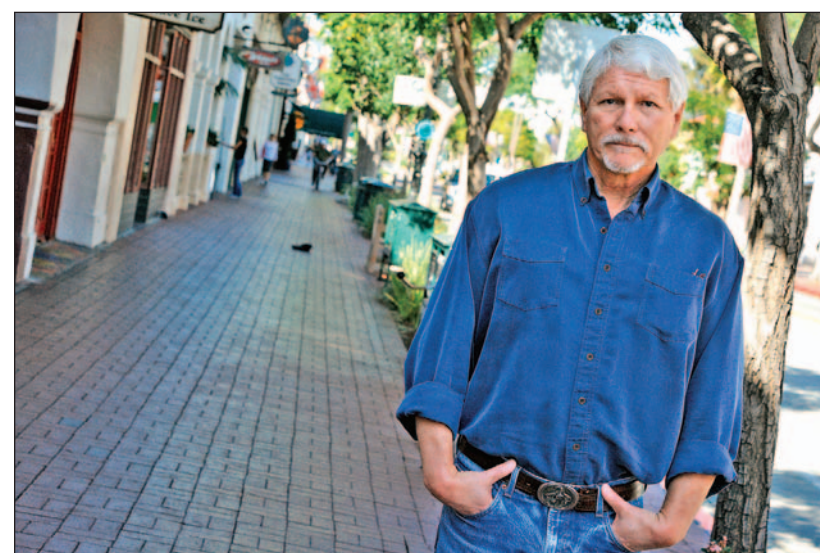
Mr. Williams walks State Street every morning at around 7 a.m., assessing the needs of the local homeless population and offering services and guidance.

He has known many of Santa Barbara's homeless for more than 20 years, and said it's not difficult for him to spot a veteran.

"You get a feel for the streets," Mr. Williams said.

Veterans differ from the rest of the homeless population because they are eligible for benefits and entitlements, said Imelda Loza, associate executive director at Casa Esperanza, a local homeless shelter.

But their physical and mental conditions, which often keep them out of the workforce in general, also can impede them from seeking benefits, she said.



Social worker Ken Williams, who regularly reaches out to the homeless along State Street, says veterans are easy to spot.

"Veterans that we assist often have post-traumatic stress disorder, drug or alcohol addiction, low self-esteem and despair," Ms. Loza said. "They don't have the wherewithal or the ability to pursue those benefits and entitlements that they've earned."

Ms. Loza said Casa can help them through that process, but that's only if they want the help.

Bryan Pennington, a former Marine who served in Iraq from 1990 to 1994, said he has chosen to get "creative" because Santa Barbara doesn't have affordable housing.

Mr. Pennington, 45, lives in a camper, or, as he calls it, a multipurpose vehicle.

His experiences in combat have shaped his life, inflicting him with anxiety, depression and

post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Happiness is a state of mind and if your mind is occupied with fear and depression, there's no room for happiness," he said.

Certain smells, he said, bring back memories of decaying flesh, which often impede his day-to-day life.

For such reasons, Mr. Pennington said, finding a place to live is not always a primary concern for homeless veterans.

"That's an extra struggle that we have to overcome," he said. "Sometimes the mind shuts down and housing is kind of like a second thought."

Mr. Pennington hopes Veterans Day reminds people about the sacrifices veterans have made for their freedom.

"It's a day of recognition and

Please see **HOMELESS** on **A12**

# SUNDAY

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REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES ADDRESS FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES IN DEBATE

LIFE / D1

NEW MOVIE KEEPS ACTOR IN MEDICAL MOLD

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**SILVERHORN**

# Keynote speaker: Fallen SEAL 'a super hero'

**■ BALL**  
Continued from Page A1

Of particular focus Saturday night was Navy SEAL Master Chief Petty Officer Louis Langlais, who was 44 when his helicopter was shot down by Taliban militants on Aug. 6, the single deadliest day for American forces in the decade of war on terrorism. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Aug. 26.

"This guy was not just a hero, this guy was a super hero," said Michael Argo, the keynote speaker and U.S. Navy captain who recently retired this year after 30 years of service.

Anya Langlais, widow of Master Chief Langlais, was among the most honored guests Saturday evening.

The words of a video he left to his wife and boys, Gabe, 9, and Jack, 7, just in case anything happened to him overseas, were read to the crowd by Peter Bie. In the video, Master Chief Langlais expressed his love for his family over and over again.

"I love you so much. I know I keep saying that," he said to his boys in the video.

The Lou Langlais Memorial Fund has been established in his name to support his two sons.

Officers and crew of the USS Milius, in port at Santa Barbara until Tuesday, also were lauded. The destroyer's commanding officer, Cmdr. Nicholie Bufkin, was given special recognition.

"Is this a Navy night or what?" organizer and retired naval officer John Blankenship said as dozens of officers stood for the Navy anthem.

Aside from those specifically honored, many heroes were seated at the tables inside the Grand Ballroom Saturday night.

One of them was Cpl. Jason Nelson. When he was 6 feet, 4 inches and a slight 140 pounds in high school, the bookish Jason Nelson didn't exactly exude the classic military appearance.

But now, as a 32-year-old corporal in the U.S. Army Reserve, 425th Civil Affairs Battalion, he is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan — after eight years of service already.

After four years in the Marine Corps and four years in the reserves, he enlisted for a six-year term with the Army Reserves in March. Now, the engaged Santa Barbara hero is preparing for a challenging year abroad in Afghanistan.

"By volunteering to go back in, a lot of people are asking, 'Why would you do that?'" he said in an interview with



MIKE ELIASON / NEWS-PRESS

Above, Michael Argo holds up a sign about Osama Bin Laden at Saturday's Pierre Claeysens Military Ball. At right, Mr. Argo, retired Navy captain and SEAL, challenged the crowd to do 20 pushups.



the News-Press.

For Cpl. Nelson, who met his wife-to-be Chloe James earlier this year, the answer is pretty straightforward: He wants to help his fellow soldiers, especially the younger ones.

"The reality of it is, when you're in the service you think of the people around you," he said.

The significance of his decision began to sink in when he went to the processing center to sign up for another term. The captain pulled him aside from the rest of the young recruits and swore him in separately. Finally, it registered, he said.

"It kind of made me feel good," he said. "It made me feel proud. We really are in the greatest country on Earth."

Growing up in New York with a military family (his father was an Army captain), physical challenges and other demands most people would shrink from weren't foreign to him. Discipline was a part of life.

"My father is a great man, but he did have a bit of military discipline towards this kid."

Cpl. Nelson's intention was to go into the Army originally. At 17, he went to see the Army recruiter. But the recruiter happened to be running late. Bored, he decided to strike up a conversation with a U.S. Marine Corps representative. Within 20 minutes, he was signed up for the Marine Corps. And, on his 18th birthday, he shipped out for Parris Island, S.C.

In the Marine Corps he served with one of the quick-strike military options, able to essentially take on any military in the world, he said. He was deployed to places all over the world, including Thailand, Japan and the Persian Gulf.

Now, as a civil affairs specialist, he acts as a liaison and advisor, building community relations.

The overflowing support from the Santa Barbara community towards its military personnel — one example of which was Saturday night's ball, Cpl. Nelson said — has always been apparent, he said.

"I just think it's wonderful."

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Army and Navy covers sit in the check-in area during Saturday's ball.

# Oakland receives hundreds of 'Occupy' complaints

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND — Oakland police say they have received nearly 790 complaints from around the world about officers' actions during a tear-gas fueled clash with anti-Wall Street protestors last month.

Oakland became a rallying point for demonstrators when an Iraq War veteran was injured on Oct. 25 as officers raided the encampment with tear gas and bean bag projectiles, arresting 85 people.

Police said on Saturday in response to an inquiry from The Associated Press that more than half the complaints came from people who were not on scene. Police say 12 of the complaints came from people who were there that day. They're still checking on the whereabouts of another 331 people who filed complaints.

## ENJOY A THANKSGIVING WEEKEND WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS AT HYATT SANTA BARBARA.

Celebrate Thanksgiving at Hyatt Santa Barbara November 24, 2011, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Put Hyatt on the menu this Thanksgiving. Enjoy our prix fixe menu featuring a cranberry & sweet potato salad or pumpkin & caramelized pear bisque, entrée choices of roasted turkey or hand-carved prime rib and to top it off an assorted dessert station. Unlimited Champagne and mimosas are also included. Let the Hyatt Santa Barbara family take great care of your family on this special day. For reservations, call 805 730 1111. Visit [santabarbara.hyatt.com](http://santabarbara.hyatt.com). Hyatt. You're More Than Welcome.

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Dinner prices valid November 24, 2011 at Hyatt Santa Barbara and Bistro Eleven Eleven. Reservations are recommended by calling 805 730 1111. Available from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; \$45.00 per person, \$35.00 for seniors 62 and older, \$15.00 for children 5 to 12 and free for children 4 and under. Price includes prix fixe menu, non-alcoholic beverages and unlimited champagne and mimosas. Tax and gratuity is not included. Other restrictions may apply, call for details. Hyatt reserves the right to alter or withdraw this program at any time without notice. HYATT, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts® and Hyatt Santa Barbara, designs and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation. ©2011 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

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