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Water, water
everywhere

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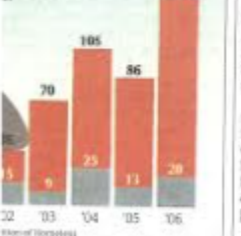
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■ Tornado kills five
at Alabama high
school; two others
die, 35 hospitalized
in state, 3A

Enterprise,
Ala.: Military
helicopters
evacuate
from high school.



Chip Foose overhaulin' mainstream designs

His cars are So Cal cool,
and now he's
bringing his
vision to
Ford



By Marco R. della Cava
USA TODAY

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. — Chip Foose recently bought his wife, Lynne, a new Mercedes S-Class sedan, an elegant asphalt-gobbler with a snarling engine and TV screens in each headrest.

The car's new owner promptly blanched. "She protested," says Foose, 43. "But I said, 'let's buy it now, while we can afford it.'"

Prudent. But let's face it: Foose hitting the financial straits is about as likely as the Model T making a comeback.

The Southern California car designer is the Michelangelo of the hot-rod world, where his prize-winning creations, which can take upward of six years to build by hand, typically cost their owners more than \$1 million.

He's also a TV personality (his Learning Channel car makeover-series, Overhaulin', has wrapped, and he's in talks for a new reality show on Discovery), product pitchman (Mothers car wax, among other



By Dave Macdonald, USA TODAY
"He's all about the cars": When Chip Foose gets to drawing, good things happen. Above, his sketch for a '56 Chevy Nomad.

garage staples) and designer for hire (from snowboard graphics to a new Detroit casino).

And now Foose is coming to a Ford dealership near you. The struggling manufacturer hopes to re-date some of his So Cal cool by unveiling a Foose-ified vehicle — almost certainly an F-150 truck — at the New York International Automobile Show in April. Due in showrooms early next year, it's the first in a series of models whose exteriors and interiors will be subjected to the designer's mod sensibilities — a gift of five rein that few in-house designers ever enjoy.

Cover story

"Years from now, Chip's cars will be seen as some of the great works of our era," says collector and friend Jay Leno. "I go to my garage and I can't tell my Lexus from an Infiniti. But with Chip, you get original thinking. There's no ego in it, either. He's all about the cars."

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

U.S. Marshals official accused of misspending security funds

Justice Dept.: \$4.3M used inappropriately

By Matt Kelley
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Marshals Service official misspent \$4.3 million meant for courthouse security and witness protection to pay for fitness centers and firing ranges at federal buildings, a Justice Department investigation found.

The Office of Management and Budget repeatedly told David Barnes not to use construction money on exercise and training facilities, citing agency policy and appropriations laws that restricted the money for improved prisoner security, the report said.

Barnes, who oversees courthouse space for the agency, concealed the spending from his superiors and directed \$2.6 million in construction money for fitness centers and firing ranges at 20 federal courthouses from 2000 to 2005, according to a copy of the 41-page report obtained by USA TODAY.

The agency has not acted on the report, which it received last April.

Barnes also used nearly \$900,000 budgeted for witness protection to build a firing range in the Miami federal courthouse, and he used nearly \$400,000 in construction money to hire fitness center staff and clerical workers at the Marshals Service headquarters, where Barnes works, the investigation found. Some workers were friends or relatives of Barnes and his subordinates and were unqualified for the jobs, the report said.

Barnes' lawyer, Charles Printz, said his client had the

Where did the money go?

- \$1,028,847 Build and/or renovate fitness centers and firing ranges
 - \$448,517 Firing range lead-removal and cleaning services
 - \$440,000 Administrative fees paid to General Services Administration
 - \$384,764 Fitness center and office staff at Marshals Service headquarters
- Source: U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General

Courthouse spending
■ Oversight concerns, 9A

authority to spend construction money on firing ranges and fitness centers. Printz said the investigation was spurred by disgruntled employees and he expected his client to be cleared.

"No inmates were misappropriated," Printz said in an e-mail response.

Barnes remains on the job, pending an administrative review. He could be fired, suspended or cleared.

Marshals spokesman Michael Kallstad and Paul Martin of the Inspector General's office declined to comment.

Printz referred questions to Kevin Linskey, the former staff director of the Senate panel controlling Justice Department spending. Linskey said Congress gave the agency leeway to spend its construction money, including for fitness centers and firing ranges.

In the report, the Justice Department said construction money was supposed to be for "prisoner holding space" in courthouses. In 2001, a congressional committee warned security must be tightened "before a tragedy occurs."

The report also found Barnes:

- Wasted \$440,000 by bypassing Marshals Service officials and paying for contractors and construction through the General Services Administration. Printz said those contracts were legal.
- Violated ethics rules by having subordinates do work for him around his home and by forming a subpool company used by contractors he hired. Ethics rules ban managers from receiving gifts from their employees, the report said. It also found that the subpool company, which he initially failed to disclose, was a conflict of interest. Printz said the workers are longtime friends of Barnes and that the subpool arrangement did not violate ethics rules.

More colleges banning smoking

Trend now reaching bigger universities

By Emily Bazar
USA TODAY

Colleges are snuffing out smoking everywhere on campus, even in outdoor light-up spots such as main quads and sidewalks.

At least 43 campuses from California to New Jersey have gone smoke-free, a trend that is accelerating, according to Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. Most have been community colleges and commuter schools, but more large universities with student housing are debating campus-wide bans, says the group's Bronson Ford.

"We want our institution to make a statement about doing the right things when it comes to good health," says Chuck Kupchella, president of the 13,000-student University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He intends to transform UND into a tobacco-free zone. "Smokers still will have rights, but just not on our campus."

Nearly 31% of full-time college students smoke, compared with about 25% of the overall population, according to the federal government's 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Students form lifelong habits in college, so reducing their exposure to cigarettes may have a lasting effect, says Betty Foy of the American College Health Association. "If you're not allowed to smoke on campus, if you can't buy tobacco products on campus, it will definitely deter some students from smoking," she says.

At Indiana University in Bloomington, some students are opposing a proposal to make all eight IU campuses smoke-free. Two have been since August.

Last month, the Indiana Daily Student called the proposal an "infringement on personal liberties," especially for students in dorms. Smoking already is prohibited inside and 30 feet around dorms, says IU spokesman Susan Williams. A full ban could bar students from smoking in dorm parking lots.

"I can vote for president of the United States. I can go to war," says sophomore Alex Wukner, 19, who smokes about a pack a day. "But I can't necessarily smoke a cigarette because they're afraid I'll make a bad choice."

At UND, Kupchella has won support from staff and faculty groups. Last Sunday, the student government voted for his plan. "It seems like it's the right way to go," student body president Nathan Martin-Gale says.

Youngstown State University in Ohio implemented a policy in December that allows smoking only in surface parking lots and on sidewalks adjacent to roads.

There have been violators, but the school is focused more on informing people than enforcing the policy, says spokesman Ron Cole. "We're not going to have the smoking police out there harassing students and employees," he says.

At the University of Iowa, a committee of staff, faculty and students recommended in November that the campus go smoke-free as early as July 2009.

Susan Johnson, an associate provost, says the 30,000-student school is preparing for an intense debate. "Our goal here is not to coerce individuals to give up smoking," she says. "Our goal is reduce the amount of secondhand smoke everybody is exposed to."



"Smokers still will have rights, but just not on our campus."

— Chuck Kupchella, president, University of North Dakota