

Twice-weekly watering request denied

Water managers vote 6-2 to deny bid by Jupiter Island, Hobe Sound

BY GABRIEL MARGASAK
gabriel.margasak@scripps.com

WEST PALM BEACH — Jupiter Island and Hobe Sound residents will remain on once-weekly watering rules for now after state

water managers again denied them extra landscape irrigation days amid record dry times.

With serious dissent from its Martin and St. Lucie County representative, governing board members of the South Florida Water Management District voted 6-2 Thursday to deny a request to water twice weekly from the utility, serving more than 22,000 residents in south Martin County.

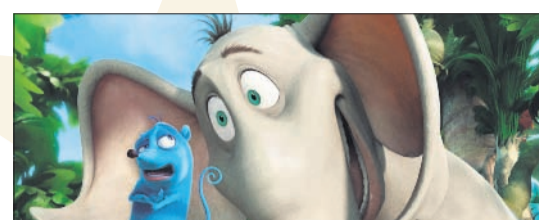
The vote signaled the district's commitment

to its water conservation message and refusal to bend to the growing outcry from utility directors and businesses calling for lesser restrictions.

Managers of the South Martin Regional Utility, owned by Jupiter Island, argued they had enough rain and water to last through this dry season. They also argued they had already

See **WATERING**, page A10

WHAT'S HOT?

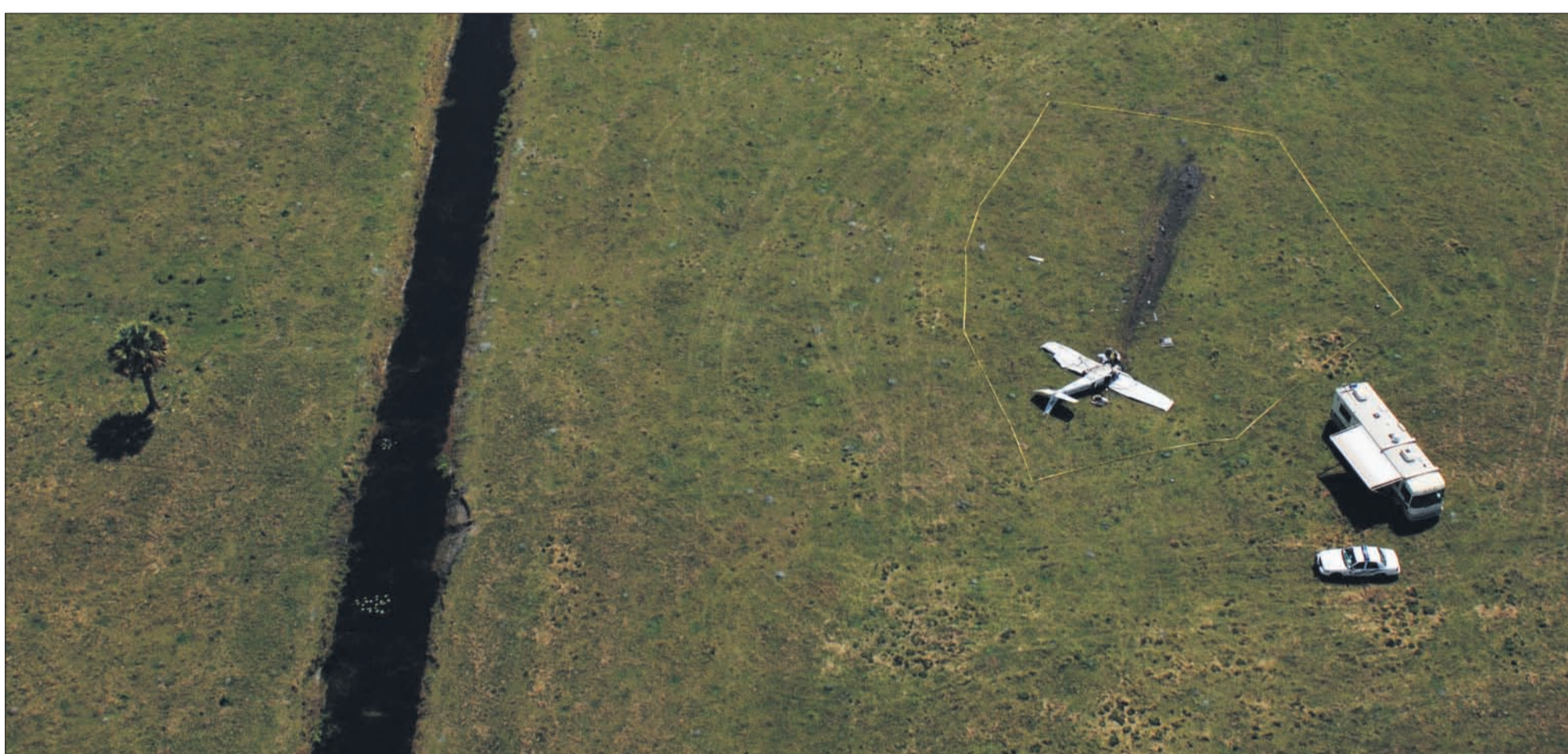


"Horton Hears a Who!" opens today.

The best TV, movies, DVDs and music. **WEEKEND, D1**

CRASH 'ABSOLUTELY TRAGIC'

4 people on their final flight of FAU study die when small plane goes down in Martin



DEBORAH SILVER • deborah.silver@scripps.com

Four people died after this Cessna 172 Skyhawk plane owned by a Lantana flight school crashed Thursday morning in western Martin County, the third deadly crash involving aircraft from Kemper Aviation since October, according to sheriff's and company officials and reports. **TCPALM.COM:** Videos and photos of the Thursday morning crash.

A man identified by the Martin County Sheriff's Office as one of the aircraft's owners, right, breaks down as sheriff's investigators and Martin County Fire and Rescue personnel work the crash scene.



ERIC HASERT
Staff

BY MEGAN V. WINSLOW
megan.winslow@scripps.com

MARTIN COUNTY — It was supposed to be the scientists' last flight to complete a study on migratory water birds in the Everglades.

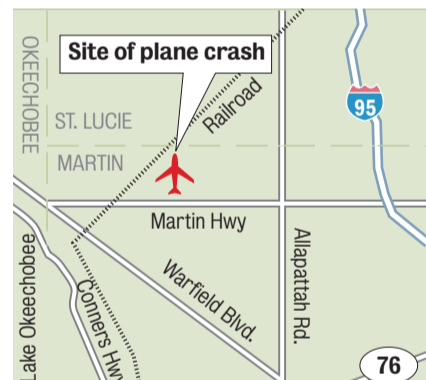
Instead, the early Thursday morning trip of two Florida Atlantic University students, one university employee and their pilot ended abruptly when the Cessna 172 Skyhawk plane crashed in a cow pasture in rural western Martin County, instantly killing all onboard.

It was the third deadly crash by a plane from Lantana-based Kemper Aviation since October. The company, already under federal scrutiny, faces further inspection after Thursday's crash.

"It's absolutely tragic," said Rebecca Stank, 33, a biology graduate student who works in the same lab of some of the victims.

Among those killed was Gareth Akerman, 36, the son of a former political party head in Nova Scotia, a Canadian newspaper reported. Akerman, of Halifax, was an ornithologist.

See **CRASH**, page A11



7 a.m.: Cessna takes off from Kemper Aviation at Lantana airport with the pilot and two passengers.

Sometime after 7 a.m.: Plane leaves Okeechobee airport after picking up a third passenger.

8:23 a.m.: Plane crashes in western Martin County.

9:02 a.m.: Witness makes 911 call.

SCOTT LUXOR • Staff

INSIDE ON A11

THE VICTIMS: Gareth Akerman, Damion Marx, Phil Heidemann and Jeff Rozelle.

KEMPER AVIATION: A look at the company's crash record, dating back to 1993.

THE STUDY: Tracking wading bird colonies.

Mail-in state primary is 'closer to no than yes'

Florida Democratic Party will make up its mind by Monday

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Democrats on Thursday proposed a vote-by-mail presidential primary to solve the high-stakes delegate dispute while acknowledging the plan's chances are slim. They have been struggling to come up with an alternative to ensure their delegates are seated at the national convention this summer after the party punished them for voting early. **PRIMARY, A10**

4.1M

Florida Democrats would be mailed ballots in state primary do-over

\$12M

Estimated maximum cost of mail-in Democratic primary

Boys caught trying to rob police station

Suspects, 12 and 14, in Port St. Lucie immediately were handcuffed at gunpoint by officers Wednesday

BY WILL GREENLEE
will.greenlee@scripps.com

PORT ST. LUCIE — A spectacular case of poor criminal planning played out late Wednesday afternoon inside the western regional police station.

A couple of boys, ages 12 and 14, tried to rob two employees behind a protective window, demanding cash, before being handcuffed at gunpoint by about a half dozen officers.

"They were either very brazen or very dumb, but I think the latter," Officer Robert Vega, police spokesman, said Thursday.

The incident happened at about 4:30 p.m. at the Rosser Boulevard station after the boys, one dressed in blue and the other red, walked through the glass doors. The 12-year-old approached the records counter and then proceeded to another, where he picked up a phone to talk to a service aide behind a protective

window, demanding her money.

"Not only did he pick up the phone and say, 'Put your hands up and give me your money,' he had his hand in his jacket insinuating that he had a gun," Vega said.

The boys each face an attempted armed robbery charge.

Although only the 12-year-old demanded money, the other boy also is being charged in connection with the incident because he "knew what was going to happen," Vega said.

"He was a willing participant in the entire event," Vega said.

The 14-year-old also faces a violation of probation charge.



CONTACT US

Have a story idea?.....223-4743
Delivery problem?.....221-4160
Classified.....(877) 247-2407

INDEX

Advice.....D12
Business.....B13
The Buzz.....A2

Classified.....E1
Comics.....D14
Election.....A3
The Lineup.....C2
Local.....B1
Lottery.....A2
Movies.....D10
Obituaries.....B4
Opinion.....A6
Puzzles.....D11
The Record.....B2
Space Watch.....B2
Sports.....C1
Television.....D11
Today.....D1
Weather.....C8

CRASH VICTIMS IDENTIFIED

Gareth Akerman, 36, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, an ornithologist working at FAU and son of Jeremy Akerman, who led the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party from 1968 to 1980.
Damion Marx, 35, an FAU student working on his Ph.D. in integrative biology who was writing his dissertation on wading birds in Lake Okeechobee. He is survived by his wife, who he married in 2006.
Phil Heidemann, 43, a master's student at FAU from Boca Raton. He was assisting Marx on Thursday. He graduated from Grinnell College in Iowa with a bachelor's in economics.
Jeff Rozelle, 36, of Boynton Beach, the pilot and manager of Kemper Aviation, which operated the airplane out of Lantana. Rozelle is survived by a wife and two young children.

CRASH
FROM PAGE A1

thologist and son of Jeremy Akerman, who led the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party from 1968 to 1980, according to a report on The Chronicle Herald's Web site.
 Also killed Thursday were Damion Marx, 35, a student working on his Ph.D. in integrative biology; Phil Heidemann, 43, a master's student at FAU from Boca Raton; and pilot Jeff Rozelle, 36, the manager of Kemper Aviation.

Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder said the plane may have lost power. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.
 The fixed-wing, single-engine plane was made in 1999 and is registered to the Rohan Corp., a company doing business as Kemper Aviation, according to corporate records.
 Asked if the company would come under any scrutiny after its planes have been involved in three fatal crashes since October, FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen issued this statement: "The Federal Aviation Administration recently conducted an inspection of Rohan Aviation maintenance and operations. The FAA is reviewing the results of that inspection. Until the review is complete, the FAA cannot disclose the results of the inspection, nor can we determine if enforcement action will result."

Robert Breiling, who works as an independent aviation accident analyst in Boca Raton, said he suspects the crash may have been caused by flying less than 50 mph at a low altitude to watch birds. The weight from four people may have also been a contributing factor.

"You've got a pretty heavy airplane for that size," said Breiling, a former Navy and Pan Am pilot. "The hotter it is, the less dense the air and less lift a plan has." However, an experienced pilot such as Rozelle should have sensed a stall and picked up speed, Breiling said.

Eight lives have been lost in the three fatal crashes involving planes from the Kemper flight school. A badly injured survivor of a December crash, Chandrashekhar Godghate, a student pilot, sued Kemper and other companies, alleging the airplane had structural defects and performance limitations. Kemper, according to the suit, should have known

that if any of the aircraft's parts malfunctioned or failed it would cause harm to the passengers. Of the company's 13 registered aircraft, all but three were manufactured prior to 1980, records show.

Kemper officials at the company's Palm Beach County office declined to comment on Thursday.
 Kemper markets directly in India and has a section on its Web site geared to appeal to Indian students. As a result, it has become one of the most popular flight schools in South Florida for Indian students.

The plane Thursday took off from the Lantana airport about 7 a.m. and picked up one of the passengers in Okeechobee around 8 a.m. The crash occurred at 8:23 a.m. in Martin County Ranches, 25801 S. Martin Hwy. The sky was blue, with hardly a cloud in the sky.

Three men building fences in the developing subdivision said they noticed the plane flying low but did not worry because some of the property owners land their aircraft in fields or on the main road, Southwest Hunter Drive.

Victor Reza Jr. said he looked up from attaching a trailer to a truck and saw the plane float over the pasture between Hannah's Path and Jockey's Run.

When the 21-year-old Stuart resident looked up again seconds later, the plane had disappeared below the pines and palms in the distance.

"We didn't hear it crash," he said. "We didn't hear nothing. There was no smoke."

The plane hit nose first, flipped over and came to rest upside down, said Stephen Leighton, Martin County Sheriff's detective.

At a news conference, FAU President Frank Brogan said the FAU students were part of a research program that required flights three days a month from January to June for 10 years. They were three years into the study and Thursday's flight was meant to be their last trip.

"The sadness that only a handful of us feel right now will grow proportionally over the next 24, 48 hours," Brogan said. "And we're going to, as a university, as we always do, pull together and determine what we can do to provide comfort to the families, to the friends, to the faculty, who knew these good people best of all."

Marx, a Boca Raton resident, received his bachelor's degree from the Department of Biology at the University of

SOUTH FLORIDA WADING BIRD STUDY

Damion Marx and the other passengers from FAU were working on a piece of the South Florida Wading Bird Study.
 FAU, the University of Florida, the South Florida Water Management District and several other agencies have been collectively monitoring wading birds, such as herons and ibises, in the Everglades and surrounding areas since 2005. The group has specifically been keeping track of how well the birds are reproducing and their responses to Everglades restoration efforts, according to the Web site for the University of Florida's Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.
 The FAU lab run by Assistant Professor Dale E. Gawlik was concentrating on the size of wading bird colonies around Lake Okeechobee.
 Gawlik and Marx co-wrote the FAU portion of reports on the study in 2006 and 2007.

Oregon in 1997 and his masters degree from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at Texas A&M University in 2003.

He wrote on a FAU Web site he was bitten by the "birding bug" while at his first job with the National Audubon Society. He was writing his dissertation on wading birds in Lake Okeechobee.

He is survived by a wife, Luli Marx, an associate professor at Palm Beach Community College, who he married in 2006.

An instructor at Palm Beach Flight Training school at Lantana Airport, Lou Shanley, said Rozelle was on vacation and returned to make the

doomed flight on Thursday. He said the Boynton Beach resident was an experienced pilot with thousands of in-flight hours who flew Lear jets out of a Fort Lauderdale airport.

"He gave it all up to fly locally so he could be with his family and business," he said. "He was an excellent pilot and highly rated. I don't know what could have made that plane go down."

Staff reporters Jeremy Ashton, Geoff Oldfather, Lamaur Stencil and Jim Turner, staff researcher Karen Bayha, the Sun-Sentinel and WPTV Ch. 5 contributed to this report.

KEMPER/ROHAN CRASH RECORD

Dec. 3, 1993: Christopher Chapman, 23, a flight instructor with Kemper Aviation, and passenger Courtney Hillman of Pompano Beach were on their first date and were returning to Lantana from Boca Raton when their plane crashed in 25 feet of water off Delray Beach. Chapman swam to safety. Hillman's body was found a day later. The NTSB determined the pilot failed to maintain altitude while maneuvering causing him to become spatially disoriented.

April 27, 2003: Abraham Person, 78, escaped serious injury when he crashed a rented Cessna 172 from Kemper Aviation into a tree while attempting to land. The NTSB ruled that the pilot's use of excessive airspeed and the improper touchdown point caused the crash.

Sept. 18, 2006: A Cessna 152 operated by a student pilot experienced a hard landing at Lantana airport. According to the FAA inspector there was no indication of any flight control or system malfunction.

Aug. 23, 2007: A Cessna 152 operated by Rohan Aviation crashed in a field of tall grass. The pilot, 21, was on her first solo cross-country flight. The FAA inspector noted that the right side fuel tank was empty. The left side fuel tank had about "two inches" of fuel.

Oct. 27, 2007: A Kemper Aviation flight student, Arjun Chhikara, 18, and his instructor Anders Selberg, 46, of Port St. Lucie were killed when their 1980 Piper plane crashed on a golf course near Boynton Beach. A third passenger was critically injured. The pilots reported they were unable to hold altitude due to an unspecified engine problem. Witnesses described the engine as "sputtering."

Dec. 8, 2007: Student pilot Cleon Alvares, 25, of Mumbai, India, was flying solo in a 1977 Cessna trainer registered to Rohan when it collided with a twin-engine Piper flown by Harry Duckworth, 56, of Waverly, Pa. Both men were killed. The accident occurred in a busy flight training area over the Everglades near the Broward-Palm Beach county line.

NTSB crash reports, Associated Press and Sun-Sentinel archives

Treasure Coast Interiors inc



STUART
 1000 NW Federal Hwy(US1) • 772-692-2311
 Just North of the Roosevelt Bridge
 Sale held pursuant to the Martin County
Going Out Of Business Sale #15374,
 granted the 28th day of February 2008



VERO BEACH
 8505 20th Street • 772-978-1664
 I-95 exit 147, 1 mile East of I-95 on Hwy 60
 (20th St) on the South side of the road
 Sale held pursuant to the Indian River County
Going Out Of Business Sale #195,
 granted the 29th day of February 2008



MELBOURNE
 2705 N Harbor City Blvd(US1) • 321-254-4025
 Just 1 1/2 miles North of Eau Gallie Blvd.
 Sale held pursuant to the Brevard County
Going Out Of Business Sale #2008-01,
 granted the 29th day of February 2008

FINAL PHASE
NOTHING STAYS - TIME'S RUNNING OUT!

FRI 10-8 • SAT 10-8 • SUN 12-6 • MON 10-8

THE FINAL PUSH IS ON!

CLOSING OUR DOORS FOREVER!

WE MUST SELL OUT TO THE BARE WALLS!

IT'S A TOTAL LIQUIDATION! PRICES ARE BEING SACRIFICED!
HURRY IN BEFORE ALL THE BARGAINS ARE GONE!

FAMOUS NAME MATTRESS SETS
 TWIN SIZE 2pc \$297
 Store Closing Price
 FULL SIZE 2pc \$397
 Store Closing Price
 QUEEN SIZE 2pc \$497
 Store Closing Price
 (Not Ethan Allen Product)

FIRST TIME EVER! 40% OFF
 All Orderest and All Ethan Allen MATTRESS SETS by Kingsdown

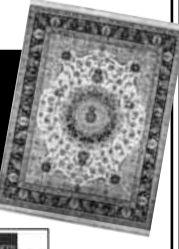
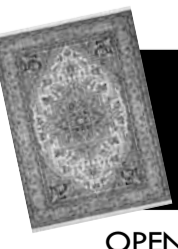
1.8 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ETHAN ALLEN FURNITURE MUST BE LIQUIDATED!
PLUS...MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF KINCAID LIVING ROOMS, HOWARD MILLER GRANDFATHER CLOCKS, VIEWPOINT LEATHER & OTHER FAMOUS BRAND NAME HOME FURNISHINGS
MUST BE SOLD NOW! INCLUDING RECLINERS, SLEEP-SOFAS, DINING ROOMS, BEDROOMS, DINETTES, CURIO CABINETS, SECTIONALS AND HOME OFFICE FURNITURE.

FIRST TIME EVER! 35% OFF
 All Howard Miller Grandfather Clocks & All Ethan Allen Furniture Floor Samples

FIRST TIME EVER! 40% OFF
 All Ethan Allen and other Brand Name Accessories

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

65% off TREMENDOUS SAVINGS ON A HUGE SELECTION OF HANDMADE ORIENTAL RUGS!



OPEN: DAILY 10am to 8pm • SAT 10am to 8pm • SUN 12noon to 6pm
 Cash, MasterCard, Visa, American Express and approved Checks accepted.

*Discounts are off original prices which may or may not have resulted in prior sales. Interim discounts may have been taken. Ask for details about our additional discount. All items subject to prior sale. Quantities limited. No refunds, no returns and no cancellations. ALL SALES FINAL Pictures are for illustration purposes only. Not responsible for typographical errors. See stores for details.

AIR DUCT CLEANING
SAFE, UNIQUE CLEANING PROCESS
 HELPS REMOVE:
 • Dirt, Dust, Soot
 • Mold Spores
 • Pollen
 • Bacteria
 • Dust Mites
 • Mildew
 • Animal Dander
IMPROVES ENERGY EFFICIENCY
VACUVENT
800-664-5322

solar products
 Save Money and Help the Environment
 Free Clean Energy from the Sun

SOLAR HOT WATER is the **smartest and easiest** way to lower your electric bill and help the environment. Your hot water tank is the second biggest user of electricity in your home. With a solar hot water system the savings add up quickly. **State of FL \$500 rebate and 30% Federal Tax Credit.**

SOLAR POOL HEATING Use your pool year round or extend your season. Heliocol is the **World's #1 selling solar pool panel.** The panels are **maintenance free** and will withstand hurricane force winds of over 140 mph.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS 3M Authorized Dealer
 Serving the Treasure Coast since 1979 Window Film Products

CALL TODAY ST. LUCIE INDIAN RIVER MARTIN
 STATE CERTIFIED 464-2663 562-8999 288-0442
 CVC056637 solarenergysystems.com © 2007 solar energy systems