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3 workers accused of illegal immigration

### By The Associated Press

BOZEMAN -- Three Mexican immigrants working on a school construction site in Belgrade were jailed in Colorado on Thursday on accusations they entered the country illegally.

David Veruman, 33, Mauricio Medrado, 22, and Cipriano Lopez, 37, have all agreed to be deported without seeing a federal immigration judge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Carl Rusnok said Friday.

No criminal charges have been filed against them.

Belgrade police began investigating the men Tuesday after a pawn shop employee alleged they stole a drywall tool worth \$100, Assistant Police Chief E.J. Clark said.



Police questioned the men Wednesday at the Belgrade Middle School, where they were installing drywall.

The men denied taking the tool, Clark said, but they couldn't provide proper identification and

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documentation. They were jailed in Bozeman at the request of immigration officials.

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It turned out the men did not steal from the pawn shop, but had put the tool back on a different shelf. A store employee later found the tool.

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The general contractor for the Belgrade School District's middle school expansion project is Reiber-Bodell Construction Co. of Missoula, Superintendent Herb Benz said.

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Eric Reiber, owner of the construction company, said Friday that he had hired a subcontractor, Tufly Drywall of Helena, to install the drywall.

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In turn, Tufly Drywall hired its own subcontractor, Jose Escobedo, Reiber said. Escobedo then hired the three men.

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Federal officials will decide if any of the employers will be charged with hiring illegal immigrants, Clark said.

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carla wrote on May 21, 2006 9:00 AM  
 oh why can't you people leave these guys alone its only obvious that they are doing no harm and just trying to make a living to support their self and family

Meanie wrote on May 21, 2006 11:12 AM  
 AAAwwwww. People we are all people.

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Feel sorry for them, give them a illegal job, and what do they do? Steal from the hand that feeds them. awesome. I live in az and see this first hand. I've been to mexico and don't blame them one bit for coming to the U.S. But then they stab you as soon as you turn around.



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