

Santa Monica Daily Press

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15, 18, 10, 5, 30

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8, 6, 4

Evening picks: 7, 1, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold

Race Time: 1:48.24



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Adding to the Disney-fanatic adults who have appeared in News of the Weird is George Reiger of Bethlehem, Pa., who has now been tattooed with Disney-related images 1,600 times, adding about one per week. Reiger said he spends \$50,000 a year on his Disney habit, owns 19,000 items of memorabilia, and has fitted his house with Disney touches. In February, Reuters news service asked his opinion of chairman Michael Eisner and of potential Disney owner Comcast Corp., both of which Reiger denounced as indifferent to the original Disney magic. "A lot of people ask me," Reiger said, "if I got (a tattoo of Eisner), where would I put it?"



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm just a thug drinkin' hard liquor, this ghetto life has got me catchin' up to God quicker."

— Tupac Shakur



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John Wood/Daily Press

Susanne Warner, 75, of Mar Vista, and Carl Schimmer, 84, of Venice, get busy on the dance floor at the 27th annual Seniors' Prom on Saturday.

Seniors cut the rug at prom

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN — Some came by limousine and wore tuxedos. Others came by bus, sporting aloha shirts, even Mardi Gras garb.

In all, nearly 1,000 senior citizens gathered at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on Saturday afternoon to eat, dance and celebrate the 27th annual Seniors' Prom.

The free event was hosted by City Hall in conjunction with its counterparts in Culver City, Torrance and Beverly Hills, said organizer and city worker Anita Ybarra. It attracted seniors from throughout the westside.

During a break in songs by the Melody Masters, an 18-piece orchestra that played the event, Herb Rosen, 82, of Culver City, said he planned to meet three girls at the prom.

"My wife passed away six months ago," he said after a waltz with Ann Warren, 82, of Culver City. "I love dancing, so I'm back out."

City workers steering clear of chopping block

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Now halfway through the slashing phase of next year's budget, city officials will soon have to grapple with what to cut without seriously affecting the services that the public relies upon.

This will be the third consecutive year of budget deficits within City Hall — totaling \$28 million. City Hall in 2002 faced an \$8 million shortfall, and was able to cut \$2.2 million in operating costs and \$6.6 million in capital improvement projects. In 2003, City Hall plugged a \$16 million shortfall by cutting expenses and increasing revenues. Thirty-one positions were eliminated within City Hall as part of the cuts.

"It hurt, when people left (positions) that weren't filled and won't be," said City Hall spokeswoman Judy Rambeau, adding that there's been a hiring freeze city-wide since 2002, as well as a hold on all cost of living increases for office supplies and expenses in every department. "After a while, you have to look at all of this together."

See BUDGET, page 6

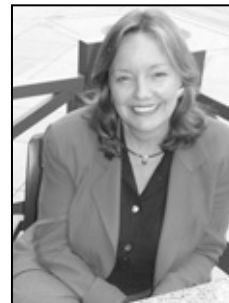
Community Profiles

Community profiles is a weekly series that appears each Monday and delves into the people who live, work and play in Santa Monica.

Kelly Hayes-Raitt readies for the run

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer



Even before she reached her teens, Kelly Hayes-Raitt knew politics was for her.

The Buffalo-born daughter of a school teacher and a drug counselor campaigned for Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) in her 1972 bid for the presidential nomination.

Chisholm lost, but Hayes-Raitt went on to work as an organizer, fundraiser and spokesman on dozens of other political campaigns, landing in Santa Monica 20

See PROFILES, page 7

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Be practical today, as those around you can only absorb so much so fast. You might need to re-explain where you are coming from at a later date. You'll adjust your plans as the result of upcoming news. Tonight: Do your own thing.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Easy does it. You aren't going to change anyone's mind right now. Give up networking, and focus on what you can do without someone else's help. Take your time with an investment. In fact, postpone decisions for now. Tonight: Get as much rest as possible.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Aim high and mobilize those who work with you or agree with you. Your ability to pull white rabbits out of black hats delights many, including you. Don't lose focus of the long-term goal. You might need to remind others of this as well. Tonight: Surrounded by a crowd.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Assuming responsibility might not be as easy as you would like. You might need to update a decision or revamp the process at work. Others could agree at first, but hold on to your hat the next few days. Nothing is as easy as it seems. Tonight: Work as late as need be.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Stretch your mind and learn to think in different ways. Though you often come up with new ideas, you can become even more dynamic if you remove restrictions around your thinking. Believe in solutions. All you need to do is find them. Tonight: Spontaneity works.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You work best with others individually. Perhaps too much confusion surrounds long-term desires or problem-solving. Revise your thinking once you understand where someone is coming from. Express your dynamic ways. Tonight: A cozy night for two.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out. Your job will be to respond positively or negatively, which you can and will do. Laugh along with others. Keep a situation light rather than getting bogged down in it. Ask questions that might lead to a solution. Tonight: Out.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Dig into work, but understand that some matters might be best postponed until tomorrow. Realize what you want and expect from co-workers. If they aren't meeting your expectations, you might need to rethink what you expect or have a talk. Tonight: Find a stress-buster.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You could reverse your thinking. Add more fun, creativity and perspective to your work. Investigate what could happen if you toss a problem out to others. Brainstorming comes up with a myriad of solutions. You certainly can find one that works! Tonight: Pretend it isn't Monday.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You could see an investment or domestic situation one way while someone else sees it a different way. Toss all the choices, ideas and solutions on the table. You discover that together with others you'll find suitable solutions. Don't say an automatic no. Investigate and maybe find an expert. Take your time. Tonight: Relax and let go of problems.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You tend to move in new directions and see your goals differently as of now. Review what might be happening within a key group of friends. You might want to go your separate ways. This feeling could change, given time. Discussions prove to be key. Pick up the telephone, please. Tonight: Have a chat over dinner.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Pressure hits financially and professionally. You can meet the demands whether you are the boss or an employee. Your dynamic thinking needs to be expressed carefully, as someone could take offense to it. This person wishes he or she thought of it first. Tonight: Dinner out.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wells Fargo donates thousands to district

By Daily Press staff

Wells Fargo Bank donated more than \$8,500 to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, which will be placed in the Equity Fund to support an equitable education for all of the district's students.

The funds will be used on direct classroom expenses, including teaching materials and school supplies, according to Wells Fargo officials.

Acknowledging the challenging budget shortages in California's public schools, Shelley Benson, market president for Wells Fargo, said, "Wells Fargo's commitment to supporting our local schools in this difficult time is as strong as ever."

Wells Fargo introduced the Team Up For Our Schools program, which donated to local school districts up to \$20 for each new checking account opened during the summer.

The \$8,680 contribution represents the donations generated by the Wells Fargo stores in the area encompassing the Santa Monica-Malibu school district.

"Everyone benefits when students receive an outstanding education," said SMMUSD Superintendent John Deasy. "We are very grateful to Wells Fargo for their generosity which allows our District to provide the exemplary educational opportunities our students and their families need and deserve."

Contributions to the SMMUSD Equity Fund may be made by contacting the superintendent's office — located at 1651 16th Street in Santa Monica, by calling (310) 450-8338 or visiting www.smmusd.org.

Film critic Turan gets festive

By Daily Press staff

Renowned Los Angeles Times film critic Kenneth Turan will give a free lecture on the impact of film festivals on the worldwide motion picture industry.

"From Sundance to Sarajevo" will be held Friday, March 26 at Santa Monica College at 7 p.m. in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Seating is a first-come, first-serve basis.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the SMC Associates, a private organization that funds speakers and special programs on campus, and the University of California Press Associates — which provides support to the University of California Press.

The lecture's title comes from Turan's book of the same name that was recently published by UC Press.

Turan is also a film critic for National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" and the director of the Los Angeles Times Book Prizes. He has been a staff writer for the Washington Post and TV Guide and the Times' book review editor.

Turan also teaches film reviewing and non-fiction writing at USC and is on the board of directors of the National Yiddish Book Center.

A graduate of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, he is the co-author of "Call Me Anna: The Autobiography of Patty Duke."

For information, call (310) 434-4303.

SMC jazzes it up in April

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present a lineup of concerts next month.

The concerts — all of which will be held in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. — will include:

■ Thursday, April 1 at 11:15 a.m. and Saturday, April 3 at 8 p.m.: The music department's celebration of Schubert continues, with a focus on the famous composer's chamber music on April 1 and his orchestral music, including Rosamunde, on April 3. (Free)

■ Friday, April 2 at 7 and 9 p.m. Jazz: Pete Magadini Quintet. (Tickets are \$10)

■ Sunday, April 4 at 4 p.m.: SMC Jazz Band with Keith Fiddmont conducting. (Tickets are \$10)

■ Tuesday, April 20 at 11:15 a.m.: Duo Guitar Recital featuring Paul Mayer and Jeffrey Goodman. (Free)

■ Sunday, April 25 at 4 p.m.: SMC Concert Band, with Kevin McKeown conducting. (Tickets are \$8)

■ Friday, April 30 at 7 and 9 p.m. Jazz: Jon Mayer Quartet. (Tickets are \$10)

For tickets and information, call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.

surf report

Look for 2-3 ft., knee- to chest-high sets, occasionally 4 ft. and fair conditions.

On Monday morning, a NW wind swell should build with waist- to occasional chest-high surf. Those waves will slowly back down on Tuesday.

Winds are generally light in the morning over the next couple of days.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

61°

	LOW TIDES		HIGH TIDES	
	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	11:21 AM	N/A	2:33 AM	N/A
SUNDAY	12:11 PM	11:06 PM	4:04 AM	7:42 PM
MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
THURSDAY	1:17 AM	2:16 PM	7:18 AM	8:40 PM
FRIDAY	1:45 AM	2:37 PM	7:50 AM	9:00 PM

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LETTERS

Santa Monica bites

Editor:

I was amazed to see the ill-informed stuff that (Chamber of Commerce President) Kathy Dodson wrote about Santa Monica. To brag about the city, she must have come from a place in Texas with under 100 residents. I notice she does not live in this pig pen that Santa Monica has become. When my friends and myself read those words of wisdom, we could not stop laughing. It's just hordes of people walking up and down Third Street with nothing better to do, and then rushing to eat in the fast-food places in Santa Monica Place or listening to the lousy musicians who are just a plain annoyance to sensible people. As far as I am concerned, Santa Monica is out of control, this caused by the Bay District Corp. and people like Dodson.

The rental situation is unbelievable with the rents sky high and, if the truth be known, Santa Monica is nothing but an ugly, dirty, little hick town, and I'm referring to this downtown area where, unfortunately, I am stuck for the present. The Bay Cities Corp. won't even permit a drug store or supermarket to open up on Third Street. Plus, Target stores tried to open up, but instead they are permitting 152 "luxury" apartments to be built, citing there would be a traffic problem. No, that wasn't it at all, they felt it would take business away from these so-called "upscale, flagship" stores on Third.

I'm writing as I know you like certain views from your readers and as I have lived here for many years. It breaks my heart that so much greed and lies have taken over this city. Local residents need some peace and quiet when they need to use Third Street. It never happens all year-round, and it is particularly awful on the weekends.

R.E. Brezic
Santa Monica

College is such a waste

Editor:

When I was a boy, the images of college I got from movies and such was students hanging out at the malt shop drinking root beer, plotting silly pranks, and worrying about tests, the big game and so on. When I first heard about the Electoral College picking the president, I wondered why a bunch of college kids got to do that.

Based on the job George W. Bush has done so far, it seems the Electoral College was drinking something a lot stronger than root beer. FDR's four election victories spurred an amendment to the Constitution limiting the president to two terms. Our current president should spur another amendment, this time abolishing the Electoral College, electing the president by the vote of the people.

Mike Kirwan
Venice



HIP TO BE SQUARE

By Caroline Bodkin

Last weekend I was walking with a friend through my neighborhood and we approached a woman, likely in her late seventies, who walked with a hand shielding her hair and a half-smile. When we neared her, she slowed to speak to us.

"This wind," she said, "Isn't this always the way? I just got my hair done and here he is, undoing it!"

I smiled at her, and my more gregarious friend picked up the conversation, offering, "Oh, I know. It's always that way! A suede jacket never fails to bring rain!"

The woman smiled, paused, considered us for a moment and said, "Okay, then. Thank you for listening." Then, to herself, "Good. I've had a good conversation

today," and she let out a self-conscious laugh. My heart, at this point, nearly broke.

This woman was lonely. She's lived a full, long life and yet arrived there on that day feeling lonely enough to crave and seek out conversation with strangers.

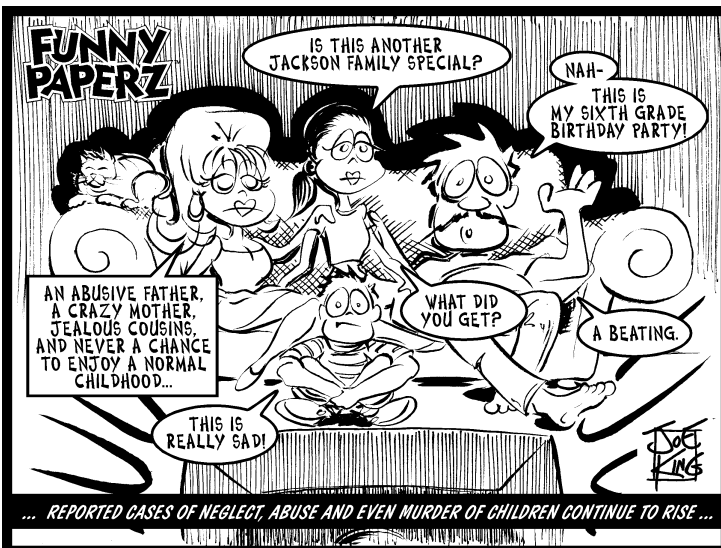
I believe people need people.

When I was 19 I struggled with the question, "What does it mean to be alone?" I had just started dating this guy who I really liked and he really liked me, but I was feeling very lonely at the time, scared of getting involved, getting hurt, etc. So I decided I needed some time alone to figure things out.

I believe people need people, but I also think periods of solitude are necessary.

So over our week-long February break, I took a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, by myself with the sole purpose of being alone. If I was lonely, I wanted to be alone to confront that.

What happened? My first night at the High Street Hostel I found myself going for a beer with a group of girls who'd come over from Ireland for the weekend. The next day, I befriended one South African and one Brit and when we three



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Santa Monica Daily Press

Air apparent: Connecting with others is a breeze

went out that night, we ran into my school's lacrosse team who'd come up for the night from London, where they were playing in a tournament. I had no idea they'd be there. One of my best friends played on the team and so he and I met the next morning for a walk and breakfast.

The world was telling me in no uncertain terms: You are not alone.

I did spend a lot of time by myself that week, after the lacrosse team left and once I got the hang of leaving the hostel unnoticed. But the truth is you can feel quite alone in a room full of familiar people, or totally connected even when you leave the country in search of isolation. That trip showed me that if you think you're alone, you are assuming your connections with people are a one-way street, that there's no one out there who's missing you. And that's just not possible.

Thinking of the woman on the street no longer makes me sad. I now think she's come to terms with our inherent need for people and sees it as a given, like our need for air or food. Of course, people need people, and she was missing people, so she sought us out for a minute. This is not sad, it is beautiful and strong. Sad would

be the day when we stop seeking each other out, and stop making ourselves available to those who seek us.

By the time I returned from my trip to Scotland, I'd concluded that people are never alone. We're just not. Even those moments when you're all by yourself, and you think, "If I were to have an accident, right here, right now, if I were to slip in the shower, it'd be days until anyone noticed. No one would know. I am alone..." You're wrong. You probably have people thinking about you you'd never guess were doing so — old friends, family, the person who checked you out at the grocery store and remembered your smile, or one of the girls you stopped on the street last week to commiserate about the wind ... they might all have you in mind.

Somebody out there cares, even if it's someone you have yet to meet.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in Los Angeles and wonders daily if she'll miss her calling. You can e-mail her at hightobesquarebybodkin@yahoo.com)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

OPINION



Missing



FOR AMALIE STRAUSS
DEREN PHELAN

Beneath a mottled and broken bark,
a fine line of sap forks up
from a savaged heart.

Dark pools of blood
circle her center.
A history of jasmine
tangles her hair,
And she stares up
from the bottom of the world.
What she has seen she cannot say.

I would speak for her if I could,
But the same knot
that stopped her breath
now encircles my throat.
The same dark hand
seizes my song.

And only one word remains
again and again ...

Remember
Remember

FOR MY MOTHER

The house is dark.
It is smaller than I remember.
My sister is in the kitchen
feasting on the remains of my father.

I slip into my mother's bedroom.
She is lying on the bed,
a tiny glow
tossed like a rag
on crumpled bedclothes.
"I am going to need you,"
she had told me
many years ago.

I gather her up in my arms,
my Only One,
who suffered so
to give me life.
"It is time to go," I tell her.
"It is past time to go."

I steal her heartbeat
to bring her into the light.

It is so very late,
And the darkness
wants to eat us alive.

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Depriving man of self-esteem is a sin worth lamenting

As "The Passion of the Christ" plays to near-record crowds, numerous critics and moviegoers report the film to be a transforming experience. Although many find themselves forced to turn away from the violence on screen, they say the blood-soaked depiction of Jesus' crucifixion has an important purpose. We must be reminded of the enormous sacrifice that Christ has made for all of us.

In responding this way to the film, the audience is getting the message those responsible for the film intended. Jim Caviezel, the actor who plays Jesus, explains: "We're all culpable in the death of Christ. My sins put him up there. Yours did. That's what this story is about." When Diane Sawyer asked the film's director and co-writer, Mel Gibson, who killed Jesus, he replied, "The big answer is, we all did. I'll be the first in the culpability stakes here." And as if to leave no doubt that this is his considered view, Gibson's only on-screen appearance in the film is in the form of the hands that drive the nails into Jesus' body.

It is frightening that so evil a message could receive so welcome a reception.

When charges of anti-Semitism, denied by the producers, surrounded the film before its opening, there was outrage from many circles. But when the principals behind the film tell us openly that its

message is that not only Jews, but all men are implicated in the death of Jesus, the voices of moral outrage fall silent (In what follows I leave aside the question of how successfully the film conveys its intended message).

So, let us ask some questions no one is asking. Why is it immoral to ascribe guilt to all Jews, but not immoral to ascribe guilt to all mankind? How can anyone know, without first considering our specific choices and actions, that you or I are guilty? How can you or I be responsible for the death of a man killed some 2,000 years ago?

To make any sense of the accusation, one must recognize that one is here dealing with, albeit in a more sophisticated form, the same collectivist mentality as the racist's. For the anti-Semite, to be Jewish is to be evil. For the devout Christian, to be human is to be evil.

The denunciation of man as a creature befouled by, in the words of St. Augustine, a "radical canker in the mind and will," infuses the Christian tradition. Every essential attribute and virtue of man is attacked.

To possess an inquisitive mind, a mind eager to explore the world and gain knowledge, is to commit the first sin.

Remember the story of Eve?

To painstakingly study nature and unlock her laws, thereby paving the way for man's mastery of his world, is to court imprisonment and torture. Ask Galileo or a scientist studying human cloning. To concern oneself with producing the wealth and material goods life requires, is to invite condemnations of "greed" and "materialism." Read Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." To cherish the pleasures that the earth and one's own

body afford, including one's sexual capacity, is to be denounced as "selfish" and even depraved. Consult the Puritans or the 1968 papal encyclical "Humanae Vitae". To

take pride in one's curiosity, in one's growing knowledge of the world, in one's successful actions in it, in the resulting joy and pleasure these bring — this is branded by all as the height of sin.

On this anti-man approach, to remain alive is to sin. To fully purge oneself, one must die. Only such an account of man can begin to explain the charge of collective guilt for the death of Christ, whose undeserved suffering at man's vicious hands is, somehow, supposed to help alleviate our innately "sinful" nature.

If the anti-Semitic view of the Jewish

race as inherently corrupt is irrational and evil, how much more irrational and evil is this view of the human race?

Will "The Passion" itself play a major role in spreading this conception of man's nature? Of course not. But the audiences and acclaim the film is enjoying speak to just how prevalent this conception has already become. If there is an idea behind the film worth opposing, it is this, its intended message. Teach man to regard himself as a loathsome, despicable being, and he becomes ripe for any mystical dictator, who will wield the whip that is supposed to make man atone for his "transgressions." Deprive man of self-esteem, teach him to spit in his face, and one paves the way for another Dark Ages.

But to oppose this conception of human nature, one must first come to understand that man — man at his best, man the rational, productive, selfish achiever — is a noble being.

(Onkar Ghat, Ph.D. in philosophy, is a resident fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org) in Irvine, Calif. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead. Send reactions to reaction@aynrand.org)

Guest Commentary

By Onkar Ghat

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LOCAL

Shortfall gets slimmer

BUDGET, from page 1

This year, City Hall faces a \$4 million deficit. Officials have a pretty good handle on how to make up the difference — shave \$2 million in operating costs within various departments at City Hall and take \$2 million out of the capital improvement projects budget. Nineteen positions within City Hall have been identified that could be eliminated if more cuts need to be made, Rambeau said.

"Year after year of cutting, it starts to make an impact," said City Finance Director Steve Stark.

The City Council held a public hearing in January during the mid-term review of the budget, which was laid out by Stark. Council members gave a general list of their priorities — with most saying vital services like police and fire had to remain at current levels — and sent staffers to work on how to close the gap.

Department heads last week submitted their proposed budgets to City Manager Susan McCarthy, who gave them a target figure to obtain based on the council's direction. She will then review them, tweak where necessary and prepare a proposed budget for the council to examine in full in May. The council will then hold a series of public work study sessions and pass a final budget by July.

CITY HALL GETS CREATIVE

Cutting the capital improvement projects budget this year took a bit of what financial wizards call "creative financing." In essence, City Hall will spend \$6.6 million to overhaul the Santa Monica Pier in order to save money. Sound confusing? It is, said Stark.

As the fiscal year for 2002-2003 ended, City Hall found itself with \$5.7 million in savings through complicated budget adjustments. The city changed auditors and the new firm found \$2.3 million in savings by modifying some investment income from accrual accounting to cash-basis accounting. Other adjustments accounted for \$3.4 million.

"It's a timing issue," Stark said. "On the books, it created additional revenue."

The difference of the pier project's cost of \$6.6 million from the \$5.7 million in savings, which accounts for \$1.9 million, will be taken out of this year's capital improvement projects fund. And for the next four years, the \$2 million annually budgeted for the pier won't be needed, thus shaving the budgeted \$12 million toward capital improvements to \$10 million.

The good news for City Hall is that its projected shortfalls continue downward. For 2005-2006, it's predicted to be a \$1.6 million deficit, Stark said. And despite that City Hall budgets conservatively and operates on a five-year forecast conducted by a slew of economists, Santa Monica's economic future depends in part on what happens with the state budget. Municipalities rely on revenue from the state in the form of local property tax revenue and contributions to the Redevelopment Agency, which was created to rebuild the city after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. It also relies on revenue from the vehicle license fees.

"At the end of the year, the state will be in a better position but an optimistic budget doesn't change their future because deficits will continue to go up," Stark said, adding the state budget still will have record shortfalls well into the billions of dollars for the next several years.

IT'S A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

Council members generally accepted the budget review in January and directed staff on what their preferences were for maintaining services, increasing programs and possible additional revenue streams.

Most council members agreed a slight increase in the local bed tax on hotel rooms could be administered since Santa Monica is below other nearby cities. However, it should remain lower than the competition, officials said.

"Perhaps we should position ourselves away from cities like the marina," said Councilman Bob Holbrook.

If the tax was increased, it would have to be voter-approved, possibly this November. Some council members also said they'd be in favor of a "transportation impact fee" for developers and a sales tax hike. All of the council members would like to see more money go toward schools, but without a new revenue stream, more than the annual \$3 million City Hall already gives to the local school district would be difficult to find.

The council also agreed that the after-school playground hours which were cut last year to help close the \$16 million shortfall should be brought back to normal levels. That was decided upon after dozens of parents lobbied the council at the February meeting to hire more staff to man the playgrounds.

"We're happy to do it but we have to do it in the confines of a balanced budget," said Mayor Richard Bloom.

Beyond the standard quality-of-life issues that the council supports like education, public transit and affordable housing, Bloom said he wants to focus on community health issues and developing programs that focus on crises like widespread obesity.

For Councilman Herb Katz, he'd like to see money put toward an under-staffed planning department and a focus on addressing car dealerships' concerns that they say make life difficult to do business here.

"I think it should be prioritized," he said, adding City Hall's policies have not made it a business friendly environment for dealerships. "They provide sales tax to the city."

Whatever happens with the budget, most councilmembers agree police and fire can't be cut.

"I cannot compromise public safety," Holbrook said. "I will not support reductions in those areas."

Councilwoman Pam O'Connor agreed. "You have to have a safe home, a safe city and safe streets," she said. "The core of municipal services has to remain."

She warned that if more staff is added to the planning department as Katz suggested, there are still many uncertainties to the budget.

"Over two-thirds of the general fund goes to salaries and employees so we should be careful about adding staff," O'Connor said.

Councilman Mike Feinstein said he'd like to prioritize more parking downtown — as would Councilman Ken Genser — as well as developing new movie theaters on or near the Third Street Promenade.

No doubt there will be difficult choices to make in the upcoming months for the council.

"With the federal, state and county governments slashing support, the city must step in on behalf of those Santa Monicans most in need," said Councilman Kevin McKeown. "Scarce resources will have to be focused on programs that most affect residents' lives. We must commit to maintaining the level of service for children, seniors and others who depend on local government the most."

LOCAL



Community Profiles

PROFILES, from page 1

years ago.

The 42-year-old resident of Ocean Park has taken two trips through Iraq in the last 13 months, meeting with people affected by the war. And she was recently named a "Woman of the Year" by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women for her work on women's issues.

Hayes-Raitt never finished college. She dropped out before finishing a degree in politics at George Washington University because the modest wage she earned as a full-time campaigner didn't pay the tuition bills. Her parents, who divorced when Hayes-Raitt was a young girl, also didn't have the money to pay for her college. Hayes-Raitt's mother was married and divorced a total of three times.

"Father's Day is a very big deal for me," she said. "I buy my cards in triplicate."

Among other things, Hayes-Raitt now serves as spokeswoman for a group of faculty and students at Santa Monica College that are protesting the board of trustees over academic programs cut in the face of a deep state budget deficit. She also is working on a campaign to fund emergency rooms through a surcharge on telephone lines — and she plans to run for a seat on the state assembly in 2006.

"I think I've had it in the back of my mind for a while, but what really prompted it was 9-11," said Hayes-Raitt in an interview last week. "I just felt like I wanted to do more and give more back."

The Daily Press recently caught up with Hayes-Raitt and asked for her trade secrets.

You've worked on an array of different campaigns — from presidential hopefuls to state ballot measures and local causes. What's your batting average?

"You know, I get asked that all the time and I don't take on a campaign because it feels like it's going to win. I take on a campaign because it's the right thing to do."

"I've been up against multi-million-dollar interests like insurance companies and other special interests and have won some and have lost some. But I've been proud of every single fight and I would do any one of them again."

What are your trade secrets? How do you get your message across to a diverse and often pre-occupied audience?

"The first thing I do is just look for the real, honest core of what the issue is all about. People respond to honesty, they respond to simplicity and they respond to human stories. I look at what I'd be interested in reading. You know, if I were sitting at home and seeing this story in the news or seeing it on TV, would I be interested in it? And I try my best to touch people."

"The issues I worked on, (are) issues that are really, truly, life-and-death for the people that are involved in them."

"For example, when I was working with families who had bought homes that hadn't been built properly. It was a shattering experience for them — their children were sick, they were losing their life savings. These were concrete

problems. So that's what I prefer to talk about, it's the true impact that public policy has on real people."

Does one campaign stick out as most memorable?

"I had a couple. A couple that I'm real proud of."

"The Homesafe Campaign, from 1999 to 2001, is one. We were up against powerful insurance companies for the building industry who wanted to restrict homeowners' legal rights and yet I was talking with families who, literally, their children would wake at night with their pajama tops covered in blood from nosebleed reactions they had to toxic mold that was the result of bad construction."

"This was a very, very hard campaign and I was joined by homeowners from throughout the state. And we not only got legislation passed to protect homeowners, but to make the system work better, cheaper and faster so they could get their homes fixed."

"And the bonus was that I was able to help pass legislation that makes California the first state in the country to set health standards for toxic mold."

What about one campaign that was a public relations nightmare?

"Always the current campaign I'm working on feels like the PR nightmare, but somehow I work my way out of it ..."

"I have had some tough challenges. But I'd have to say a really tough one was when I was spokesperson against the Ron Unz Initiative that virtually eliminated bilingual education in California."

What was difficult about it?

"There was just sort of an urban myth that school children are just able to absorb languages — and so there were many people who felt that children should just be dropped into English immersion classes to learn other subjects like science and history and physics."

How did you first get involved in politics?

"My mother was very active politically, on social issues. She was very active in protesting for civil rights. I actually got involved in my first campaign when I was about 12. It was for Shirley Chisholm's campaign for president. I heard her speak at Fredonia State University and I was so inspired by her. Her campaign slogan was 'Catalyst for Change' and I decided at that moment that that's what I wanted to be when I grew up — a catalyst for change."

You were recently named "Woman of the Year" by the LA County Commission for Women. Why — and what was that experience like?

"I was initially nominated in the education category for the public speaking that I've been doing about Iraq and the women of Iraq, but I was actually given an award in their media category to recognize the public relations work that I've done for women and the various campaigns that I've worked on."

"I was also very excited to be in the company of some really outstanding fellow awardees. You know, it's interesting, you just do your job, live your life and you never know if anyone really notices. It was quite an honor for me to

See PROFILES, page 8

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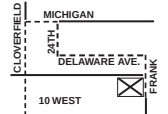


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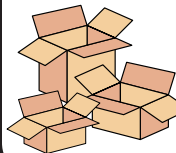
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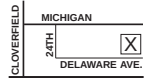
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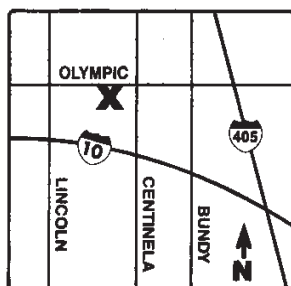
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LOCAL



PROFILES, from page 7

be recognized."

Why do you plan to run for a seat on the State Assembly in 2006?

"I'm interested in running for the Assembly in 2006 after Fran Pavley is termed out because I really feel that I have more to offer."

"I've learned a great deal in the 25 years I've had doing community organizing and public relations — how to build consensus and creatively solve problems, and really fight for people whose voices aren't being heard in Sacramento. So I'd like to bring that experience to Sacramento and have it really work for people in our district."

How did you end up in Santa Monica?

"I was working for a Ralph Nader organization that was setting up community organizing programs around the country and I came to California in '82 — San Francisco to set up a fundraising program for the California League of Conservation Voters."

"That was so successful that the league decided to expand its effort to

Los Angeles and they brought me back to D.C. the following year. So I had a temp assignment here in LA for four months and just ended up staying ...

"The first year I was here, I moved nine times in 11 months ...

"Quite frankly, I wouldn't have stayed in Los Angeles if I hadn't ended up in Santa Monica. The minute I stepped foot in Santa Monica I knew I was home."

Why? What exactly do you like about Santa Monica?

"The beach, the sense of community, the weather — it still doesn't snow here. The people are great. I love the small town feel of Santa Monica. And that's really what drew me here, that's what keeps me here."

If you could change one thing about Santa Monica, what would it be?

"Traffic."

What about politically — if you could change one thing about the state of politics in Santa Monica?

"I'd give the City Council more authority. I'd have a full-time, professional, paid City Council. I think our city deserves that now, and I think our City Council works extremely hard with the limited time and personal resources they have."

Kelly Hayes-Raitt

Hayes-Raitt has been involved in campaigns involving everything from the Living Wage in Santa Monica to working for a Republican "with a Green bent" in New York. She plans to run for a seat on the state assembly in 2006.

Salary: \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year. "But last year was a terrible year, I ended up in debt. So I guess zero to 60," added Hayes-Raitt.

Residence: Seventh Street bungalow in Ocean Park.

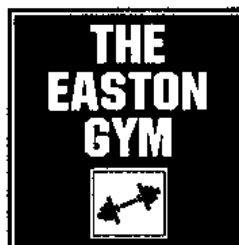
Family: Single. Hayes-Raitt is the oldest (and only living) of three children. Her little sister was born with down syndrome and died after seven weeks. Her little brother committed suicide at 24.

Hobbies: Scuba diving and traveling.

Background: Served on dozens of political campaigns, mostly as a fundraiser or spokeswoman.

Education: After graduating from Fredonia High School in New York, Hayes-Raitt won a scholarship to study journalism and writing at Syracuse University. She opted instead to study politics at George Washington University, but left before completing her degree.

DID YOU KNOW?: In 1995, blue replaced tan in the standard package of M&M candies. Blue was the overwhelming choice in a vote taken by Mars, Inc. The runner-up colors were purple and pink.



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NATIONAL



Boys' alcohol-related deaths raise a red flag

BY SUSAN GALLAGHER

Associated Press Writer

RONAN, Mont. — When 11-year-olds Frankie Nicolai III and Justin Benoist turned up dead in a snowy field after guzzling huge amounts of vodka, it fell on Lake County Sheriff Bill Barron to retrieve the boys' frozen bodies.

For Barron, the unpleasant task was compounded by a too-similar incident just three months earlier when Justin's older brother, 14-year-old Tyler Benoist, was found drunk and dead in a burned trailer on another part of the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Tyler died of smoke inhalation. His kid brother, with a blood-alcohol level of 0.20 percent, died of alcohol poisoning and hypothermia. Frankie, whose body was in the field about 100 yards from Justin's, died of alcohol poisoning, his blood-alcohol level a lethal 0.50 percent — more than six times the level defining drunken driving in Montana.

The deaths, two in this community of 2,800 and the other a few miles away in Pablo, have people searching for explanations. The seemingly senseless loss of the three young American Indians also has intensified the spotlight on alcohol abuse in Indian Country.

The alcohol-related death rate for Indians is about seven times the U.S. rate for all races combined, according to the federal Indian Health Service. But residents, educators and law enforcement authorities say the deaths of Justin and Frankie cannot be blamed on any one thing — and especially not on a stereotype of Indian life.

"It was a breakdown of everything — the families, the school, the community," customer Heather Davies said as some coffee regulars gathered at the New Moon Cafe in Polson, the county seat on the southern shore of Flathead Lake, north of Ronan.

Underage drinking is a problem throughout society, said Steve Wing, a policy analyst for the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in Rockville, Md.

"Some parents just don't realize how dangerous it can be," Wing said.

In Montana, a statewide survey of seventh- and eighth-graders last year by the state Office of Public Instruction found 15 percent said they had been binge drinking in the previous month. Sixty-one percent

"There is a drinking culture that goes with our cowboy mentality. Someday it has to change. I don't know how many tragedies it's going to take."

DUANE GRIMES
Montana state senator

said they'd had a drink at some time in their lives.

Next month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Scholastic publishing company will send packets of information to school kids across the nation, intended to discourage them from drinking. The packets are designed for fifth-graders, children a year younger than Justin and Frankie.

"The age of initiation, the first drink, has been going steadily down. It's now around 11 or 12 years old and girls are pretty much the same as boys," said Richard Yeast, director of an underage drinking project run by the American Medical Association and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

In Montana, state Sen. Duane Grimes believes the rate of underage drinking has a lot to do with how adults in the state view alcohol.

"There is a drinking culture that goes with our cowboy mentality," said Grimes, who served as chairman of a special committee on substance abuse in Montana, a state that ranks fourth in juvenile drinking. "Someday it has to change. I don't know how many tragedies it's going to take."

In Helena, nearly 200 miles from Ronan, middle school science teacher Tony Smith recognized the boys' deaths as something he needed to address with his eighth-graders, nearly all of them white.

Smith set aside his usual lesson plan to talk — again — to the class about what alcohol does to the chemistry of the human body.

"I tell them there are choices in life, and you have to be educated about these things," he said.

He also talked about the double tragedies in the Benoist family, telling his students, "Here are parents who buried two of their sons in a matter of months."

Hundreds of mourners attended the

boys' funeral in a simple community hall just off the highway that takes travelers through the sprawling natural beauty of northwestern Montana's Flathead Valley. Glacier National Park and the popular ski town of Whitefish are only a short drive north beyond Flathead Lake and the shadow of the Mission Mountains, past well-pruned family cherry orchards and outside the reservation boundaries.

The reservation, home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, is a mix of haves and have-nots. More than half of the population is non-Indian, and some towns within the reservation, such as Polson, seem vibrant. Main Street is busy, tourists are plentiful during the summer and lakefront homes carry hefty prices.

The unemployment rate in Lake County, two-thirds of which is within reservation boundaries, is far less than the rates of other Montana counties that lie within reservations.

But Lake County's unemployment rate still is above the state average, and usually among the highest of the most populous counties in the state. At Ronan Middle School, where Frankie and Justin were sixth-graders, 55 percent of the children qualify for lunch free or at reduced prices through a government program. The state figure is 34 percent.

Barron said he finds underage drinking a constant problem, but one he knows is an issue for law enforcement and social services officials throughout Montana.

Compounding it are parents who sometimes make light of juvenile drinking. Barron recalls one mother's response when her young son was taken home after being caught drunk.

"The mom whacks him upside the head and says, 'What have I told you about drinking on school nights?'" Barron said.

Officials here and elsewhere in Montana also say some parents take a soft

view of juvenile drinking when they consider the perils of drugs such as methamphetamine. The parental reaction: "Thank God it's not meth."

"There is no question meth is more addictive and will consume a life quickly," said Grimes. "But part of the meth problem is a lax attitude toward alcohol."

Besides the alcohol issue, there has been a public outcry over the time — three days — between when Justin and Frankie skipped Friday afternoon classes at school and the discovery of their bodies in the field.

Tribal police said Justin's mother reported him missing on Thursday, Feb. 26. But he showed up for school the next morning, stayed until about 1:25 p.m. and was not reported missing again before his body was found March 1, police said. Frankie's father called authorities and reported his disappearance the night of Feb. 27.

Parents of Frankie and Justin have not spoken publicly about the deaths and efforts to reach them by telephone were unsuccessful.

Barron, who described both 11-year-old boys as slight for their age, is investigating whether an adult supplied the liquor that poisoned them.

Salish-Kootenai tribal officials issued a statement saying they planned a full internal investigation of the tragedies, but did not return repeated calls seeking further information.

"We assume they are making the interventions that are (necessary)," said Dr. Kathleen Masis, acting chief medical officer at the Indian Health Service's area office in Billings. Masis said the agency has not been asked to assist in the investigation by the tribal government, which receives IHS money to operate health services.

Like schools around the country, the one that enrolled Frankie and Justin has a program designed to discourage use of alcohol. Ronan Middle School Principal George Heaton said after the deaths that the staff would look at revising the instruction in a way that "drives the story home more, arising from this."

A tribal flag hangs inside the school's entryway, where 53 percent of the students are American Indians. For Heaton, the entire student body is the focus when he talks about drinking.

"Alcohol is an issue for all young people," he said.

Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

The Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy is seeking donations. Situated in a courtyard garden visible to the community, the fountain will be a respite for those seeking faith, peace and hope amongst the challenges of the world.

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NATIONAL

Border snowbirds enjoy low-cost health services

BY MARK SHAFFER

PHOENIX — Barbara Sommerfeldt smiled as she limbered up in the late-morning sun at the annual downtown Yuma Lettuce Days. She was getting ready for the first of three square dances for the day.

Sommerfeldt, a 69-year-old winter resident from Lethbridge, Alberta, says she feels so good when she's in Yuma that she seldom takes part in one of the most popular snowbird activities: crossing the border to get health care and medicine in the tiny Mexican town of Algodones.

The two cities thrive on winter visitors. Yuma doubles in size to more than 160,000. Algodones counts 15,000 crossings daily.

"A lot of people come here to winter just because the cost of medicine across the border offsets the cost of being here," said Ken Rosevear, director of the Yuma Chamber of Commerce.

In the once sleepy farming village of Algodones, the streets are now bustling with elders. Tourism Director Carlos Rodriguez Maganez, who is also a local federal police officer, laughs and jokes with his friends near the border crossing.

There are 150 dentists, 25 eye doctors and general practitioners and a dozen pharmacies packed into eight square blocks in this otherwise unremarkable town of 10,000. Locals refer to it as the "dental capital of Mexico," Rodriguez said, moving a finger across his teeth for emphasis.

"Gringos" are so popular here that town merchants give away free food and drink during a welcoming festival in November. There's also a spring party in mid-March with more freebies for the snowbirds before they head home for the summer.

There's good reason for the generosity. Business owners take in \$150 million annually from snowbirds. That translates into upward of \$2 million a day during the heart of winter, when tourists pour into medical offices to see dentists and optometrists who charge about half that of their U.S. counterparts. And, the medicine costs only a fraction of what it does 10 miles away in Yuma.

"All these people just go crazy buying things," resident Guadalupe Mercado said, proudly displaying a can full of dollars he had collected in donations for a drug- and alcohol-treatment center. "You can't raise this much money for treating people with problems anywhere else in Mexico."

And all that money is making some very wealthy medical practitioners.

Like Bernardo Magana Padilla, a dentist and longtime date farmer who is adding four stories to his once-modest office for retail stores, restaurants and bars.

Magana and his assistants keep his six chairs full of clients and, on this day, Magana yanks all of an elderly woman's teeth with breathtaking speed.

"All these people just go crazy buying things. You can't raise this much money for treating people with problems anywhere else in Mexico."

— **GUADALUPE MERCADO**
Algodones resident

"We're fast, we give good service and it costs about half of what it does in the United States," Magana said. "Why wouldn't people leave here with a smile on their face?"

Dr. Noe Zamudio certainly is in good spirits. He owns four pharmacies, including Farmacia Algodon, which advertises its specials on a scrawled sign out front: 500 milligrams of penicillin for \$3.85, 1 percent cortisone cream for \$2.99. Oh yeah, and a carton of Marlboros for \$15.99.

People like Gene Negaard of Bullhead City know a good deal when they see one. Negaard says he makes the 250-mile trip to Algodones every two weeks to buy medications as asthmas inhalers.

"If I had to buy all this stuff in Arizona, I'd probably just go broke and die," Negaard said.

Anker Rasmussen of Hillsboro, Ore., who winters throughout western Arizona, also said his frequent visits south of the border have been highly rewarding.

"I've had a doctor down here a number of years who has given me shots to help my aches and pains. It's definitely better coming here than dealing with all the medical issues in the states," Rasmussen said.

Back in Yuma, Rosevear, the chamber director, sees continued good health for both cities.

Snowbirds contribute about \$450 million to the local economy.

Still, the number of winter visitors decreased last year, to an estimated 75,000, compared with 90,000 in 2002, said Dunbar Norton, who owns a Yuma consulting firm.

Norton has been observing this seasonal influx for years. In the late 1970s, he said, the average age of snowbirds coming to the Yuma area was about 60. Now, it's nearly 70.

Despite last year's apparent drop in visitors, Rosevear expects this year's numbers to be back up to 90,000.

Rosevear points to the expansion of RV parks on the other side of Telegraph Pass, east of Yuma.

For a long time, developers feared moving that far out. But one guy took a chance and opened a park alongside Interstate 8 in the town of Wellton, 30 miles to the east.

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Migrants keep close watch on immigration proposals

BY MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA DEL VALLE, Mexico — Proposals for U.S. migrant worker reforms may decide the fate of half-deserted Mexican villages like Santa Ana, where almost all the able-bodied men have gone to the United States.

As the town with the highest per capita migration rate in Mexico — just under half of its households have at least one family member working in the United States — Santa Ana could be repopulated, or left even more empty, depending on how, or if, U.S. rules are changed.

That goes for hundreds of similar villages across Mexico. About 10 percent of the country's population has already gone north, and an additional 20 percent say they would consider doing so if they could get visas.

Undocumented migrants who once traveled back and forth to their hometowns have increasingly been staying in the United States because of increased border security since the Sept. 11 attacks. The result is divided families, desolate towns and half-finished houses started by migrants who hoped to return one day but never came back.

But the migrant workers of Santa Ana could return, at least on the weekends or holidays, under President Bush's proposal to allow temporary work visas.

"I want my parents to come home," says 6-year-old Cynthia Gonzalez, who has lived with her grandmother since her parents left to work in California four years ago. "They told me they would, that they'd come back to be with me."

When the headmaster asks students at Cynthia's school how many have parents or other relatives in the United States, more than half of her nervous, giggling first-grade classmates step forward.

Mexican migrants work all over the United States, from big cities in the West to small towns in Georgia. They usually follow friends and relatives to a certain city

and work in the same industry. Often, the local migrant smuggler — there is usually one in every migrant town — determines where people end up.

Bush's proposal has drawn criticism from people opposed to encouraging migrant workers.

And there are those who want to make it even easier for migrants, proposing to give migrant workers legal residency in the United States and the right to take their families north with them.

That could wind up emptying Santa Ana and other Mexican towns almost entirely.

"It would be good for them to get legal residency up there, but Santa Ana could wind up losing a lot of its residents," says Primo Aquino, 35, while weaving one of the town's intricate carpets.

Aquino says he is practically the only male in his age group who hasn't left Santa Ana, a Zapotec Indian town of 1,200 people in the brown hills east of Oaxaca city.

Village elders are already having a hard time finding enough able-bodied men to fill traditional posts in Santa Ana.

"Just us old men are left here," says the deputy mayor, Roman Bautista, 62. "We'd like our people to return, especially our children."

The town operates on an ancient Indian shared-labor system, in which almost every service — administration, police, government — is filled by rotating volunteers.

The Zapotec language also is in danger from the steady encroachment of English as a second tongue after Spanish.

Teacher Eleazar Pedro Santiago says that elsewhere in the mountains of Oaxaca state, he's seen several "ghost towns" with just a few old people and farm animals.

"We're becoming a town of only women," says Catalina Bautista, 42, whose two sons are in the United States. "Maybe we should start exporting the females, too."

Bush's program would allow migrants to work at least three years in the United States, enough time, he says, to

save up money to start small businesses back in their hometowns.

But the migrant-owned bakeries or groceries that already dot Santa Ana have few customers.

"Everybody has the same idea — to earn money up there and start a business back here," says Aquino, the weaver. "What they don't think about is: What are they going to sell and who are they going to sell to?"

Most residents agree things can't go on as they are. The dual existence the town has led since the 1960s — one foot here, one foot in the north — has not been good for Santa Ana.

"Many of the people came back corrupted by the U.S. lifestyle," Aquino says. "They import all these fantasies from up north: the good life, total freedom, not having to answer to anyone."

The habits of U.S. inner cities have already begun to invade. Boys greet each other with a street gang-style handshake, drugs are a problem, and graffiti has begun to appear on the town's adobe walls.

Many say the town's salvation doesn't involve the United States at all.

"What we need here are more job opportunities, so people won't have to go," says Abelardo Gonzalez, the school director. "Now, there's just farm work, and that's only when there's rain."

Even at 75, Grand Teton leaves tourists and locals alike in awe

BY REBECCA HUNTINGTON

Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Wyo. — Rod Newcomb first came to appreciate the Teton Range while working as a dishwasher at the Square G Ranch near Jenny Lake in 1953.

"I wondered if I could climb them," the longtime mountaineer recalled.

A flatlander from the Chesapeake Bay area, Joan Anzelmo got her first glimpse of the jagged Teton skyline in 1980, while driving from Washington, D.C., to a new job in Yellowstone National Park.

"I came over Togwotee Pass — didn't have a clue what I was about to see," said Anzelmo, who now is the Grand Teton National Park spokeswoman. Upon seeing the Tetons, she said, "I certainly didn't let go of them with my eyes after that."

John Turner has watched the changing seasons wash across the glacier-carved gorges for as long as he can remember. But the 36-year-old, who grew up and still lives on a dude ranch in the shadow of the Tetons, never tires of the view.

"I don't care how many times you see them," Turner said. "If it's a beautiful sunrise or sunset, it takes your breath away."

Just as glaciers sculpted the granite peaks, the beauty left in their wake continually shapes the lives of Jackson Hole residents and millions of visitors who each year pass through Grand Teton, which marks its 75th birthday on Thursday.

"I think the best thing that ever happened was the formation of Grand Teton National Park," said Turner, whose family runs Triangle X Ranch. "I have no doubt that if some people, with some foresight, had not made an effort to protect (the mountains), you would probably see golden arches on top of them."

The idea of extending national park status to the Teton Range surfaced not long after designation of the world's first national park, Yellowstone, in 1872.

As early as 1897, Col. S.B.M. Young, Yellowstone's acting superintendent, proposed expanding Yellowstone's boundaries south to encompass portions of

northern Jackson Hole. The proposal drew little interest from Congress or the Interior Department.

Then in 1916, the Interior Department created the National Park Service. Its director, Stephen Mather, and his assistant, Horace Albright, resurrected the idea of Yellowstone expansion in a 1917 report. Their paper deemed adding Jackson Lake, the headwaters of the Snake River and part of the Tetons to Yellowstone "one of seven urgent needs facing the Park Service."

Mather and Albright began working with Wyoming's congressional delegation to make that happen. Congressman Frank Mondell offered a bill in 1918, and a year later the House unanimously approved a revised version. However, the bill died in the Senate after Idaho Sen. John Nugent worried that expanding Yellowstone would trump sheep grazing.

Sheep ranchers weren't alone in their opposition. Ranchers worried about losing grazing privileges. Forest Service employees feared losing management authority. Dude ranchers opposed improved roads, new hotels and competition from concessioners.

Those anti-park attitudes caught Albright, by now Yellowstone's superintendent, off guard when he visited Jackson in 1919. He was "practically run out of town" when he tried to promote his vision of a grander Yellowstone, according to park accounts.

But opposition to park protection began to soften after proposals to dam outlets of Jenny Lake and Emma Matilda and Two Ocean Lakes surfaced later that year. The proposals alarmed Jackson business owners, who began to view park designation as the only salvation from development and resource damage.

"This landscape was on the brink of being massively exploited," Anzelmo said. "Thanks to some wonderful philanthropists and local conservationists the landscape was saved."

On July 26, 1923, locals met with Albright to discuss park protection. They devised a plan to use private money to purchase land and create a national recreation area or reserve to protect the valley's "old West" character. But they still opposed a "national park" because they wanted to keep traditional hunting, grazing and dude-ranching.

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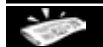
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

In the name of the father: Clooney stumps for dad

By The Associated Press

■ **FORT MITCHELL, Ky.** — Actor George Clooney helped raise about \$140,000 over the weekend at private fund-raisers for his father's congressional campaign.

Nick Clooney, a longtime Cincinnati television personality, is the lone Democratic candidate for the 4th District seat of retiring U.S. Rep. Ken Lucas.

George Clooney spoke briefly at two events in northern Kentucky, but stayed away from making political statements. Instead, he talked about his father and how he wanted to help him with the election.

"It's great having my son come in to help," Nick Clooney said. "It's family. When my son and my daughter show up and help me, it means a lot and it shows me this is more than just politics. We still matter to one another."

About 150 people paid \$250 each to mingle with the actor at The Oriental Wok, a restaurant in Fort Mitchell. In another fund-raiser, about 100 people paid \$1,000 each to see the actor at a private home.

■ **BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Joel Siegel, entertainment editor for the television show "Good Morning America," received the Gilda Radner Courage Award on Saturday from the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation.

Siegel, 60, was credited with offering hope to others through his public battle with colon and lung cancer.

Siegel said he seems to be OK now, but he recently recorded a public service announcement saying that an earlier colonoscopy would have spared him three surgeries, radiation treatments and chemotherapy.

Siegel wrote about his experiences in a 2002 book, "Lessons for Dylan," which contains reflections on his life for his young son.

"I'm not sure whether it was the cancer or having the child at 55, but those are really two life-changing events," Siegel said Saturday.

Quoting Radner, the late comedian and cancer victim whom Siegel considered a friend, he added, "One of the things cancer does is it helps you set your priorities. If it weren't for the downside, everybody would want to have it."

■ **AUGUSTA, Ga.** — Prince Andrew is making his way stateside to watch the Master's tournament.

Andrew arrives in Augusta on April 5 for the Augusta National golf tournament, according to the calendar posted by Queen Elizabeth's press secretary.

The golf course is named for Augusta of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg, an 18th century relative of Andrew, the Duke of York, and mother of King George III.

Andrew, who is captain of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, will also attend a reception designed to promote U.S.-British trade, said former Augusta Mayor Charles DeVaney.

"I think everyone should think of it as a great honor for our city," DeVaney said.

■ **SPARTANBURG, S.C.** — Queen Noor of Jordan made stops at a neonatal intensive care unit and a cancer center over the weekend.

The queen was in town as the featured guest for a gala held by the Society of 1921, which raises funds for the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. The society was honoring people who donated \$1,000 or more last year.

During her stop at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Queen Noor held three-pound Brooklyn Pace. The infant and her fraternal twin Kelsey were born premature 10 days ago.

"How often do you get your baby held by a queen," said Ricky Pace, the twins' father. "The photos will look great in scrapbooks."

Queen Noor, who was married to the late King Hussein, said she tries to clear up misconceptions about Arabs and Muslims through her role as a global humanitarian.

Although the queen has made fewer public appearances in recent years, she continues to work for human rights for women and children and the reduction of land mines in Third World countries.

"I'm taking (Jordan's) national issues to the global stage," she said.

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