

Retiree voted teacher of year

TEACHER, from Page 1

memorable school she taught at.

"There were 29 second grades at the school," Berringer said. "Not 29 second graders, 29 second grades with about 32 kids a class. It was big."

She has a few favorite memories from Goodland, too. She said one day she noticed there was a red puddle underneath a lunch box. She asked her first grade class if anybody's thermos was leaking Kool-aid. Nobody answered. She asked if anybody had dropped a lunchbox on the way to school. No one answered. Finally, she told everyone who brought a lunch to school to come over to the boxes.

"One little boy ran up to his box, opened it, and said 'Oh no, my popsicle!'" Berringer said. "I bent

down to him and asked quietly, 'Did you pack your own lunch today?' He looked up and said 'No, my dad did.'"

Berringer says she has enough stories to fill a book, and her sisters have been urging her to do just that. While she isn't sure about a book, she does plan on becoming a substitute teacher.

"I love the kids, and I am going to miss them," Berringer said. "This way I can stay in contact with the kids and some of the teachers. It will keep me from missing them."

Berringer's sister said their family came to Goodland in 1926 and started a farm southwest of town. The farm is run by a nephew today.

"The roots run real deep," Troutt said. "It is kind of fitting that she would retire as teacher of the year in a town she loves so much."



Jan Berringer, a teacher who retired from Central Elementary School this year, was named the Goodland Wal-Mart's teacher of the year Tuesday. Store manager Brad Koza and Support Manager Dolly Irvin congratulated her and gave her \$500 to be used by the school.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Leader wants India, Pakistan to work together around the world

INTERNATIONAL

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee called on Pakistan today to jointly monitor their disputed Kashmir border, in a major step forward that could pull the nuclear-armed rivals back from the brink of war.

Vajpayee said India and Pakistan should work together to patrol the border and verify Islamic militants were no longer crossing into Indian-controlled Kashmir to launch attacks against Indian security forces and Kashmiris.

"Joint patrolling can be held by India and Pakistan," Vajpayee told a news conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan, which was shown live on Indian television. "It is not practical to allow a third country to see whether infiltration is taking place and it is also not needed."

Vajpayee was referring to reports that Britain and the United States have offered to help monitor the Line of Control that divides the Himalayan province between the South Asian neighbors.

Officials in Pakistan said they wanted to see a full text of the Indian Prime Minister's statement before making any comment.

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday, however, that India "should not be the accuser and the judge" of movement on the Line of Control. He suggested monitoring by the United States or United Nations.

NATIONAL

NEW YORK (AP) — Ten people,

including singer Wyclef Jean, were arrested as thousands of teachers and students turned out for a rally to hear hip-hop stars and politicians denounce proposed cuts in New York City school funding.

All those arrested during Tuesday's rally near City Hall were charged with disorderly conduct, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said. One person was also charged with assaulting an officer.

The rally, which police say attracted some 20,000 school children, was organized by the United Federation of Teachers and the Hip Hop Summit Action Network, a group organized by rap impresario Russell Simmons.

Jean, a former member of the Fugees, was arrested for disorderly conduct after he attempted to perform. The event's permit barred performances. Entertainers including Alicia Keys, Erykah Badu, Jay-Z and Sean "P. Diddy" Combs told the crowd that Mayor Michael Bloomberg's budget cuts are unfair to students.

"You've got a mayor who's a billionaire who wants to take the opportunity away from you to become the same kind of person," rapper Chuck D. told the crowd.

Bloomberg has said budget cuts are necessary to bridge the city's \$5 billion budget deficit.

NEW YORK (AP) — In a crackdown on one of New York's oldest Mafia clans, federal prosecutors

charged the Gambino family of trying to extend its power into old haunts: Hollywood and the city's waterfront.

Seventeen alleged members of the Gambino crime family, including two brothers of former head John Gotti, were arrested Tuesday and charged with such offenses as shaking down a longshoremen's union and trying to extort money from tough-guy movie star Steven Seagal.

The 68-count federal indictment includes charges of racketeering, extortion, money laundering and witness tampering.

Prosecutors in Brooklyn said that convictions in the case would deal a crushing blow to Mafia infiltration of unions and businesses along New York City's waterfront.

"When it comes to the waterfront, the greedy grip of organized crime knows no bounds," said U.S. Attorney Alan Vinegrad, whose office will prosecute the case.

Those charged included Peter Gotti, identified as the Gambino family's current boss and brother of the imprisoned Dapper Don. Another Gotti brother, Richard V. Gotti, and a nephew, Richard G. Gotti, also were charged.

CANON CITY, Colo. (AP) — Dozens of families headed back into the charred foothills to search for remnants of their lives after a 4,400-acre wildfire destroyed more than 80 homes.

Fire officials began allowing the residents into the area after cooler weather and scattered rain helped slow the fire.

Hundreds of families were evacuated when the fire broke out in dry timber and brush west about 110 miles southwest of Denver. Besides the homes, the blaze destroyed a general store and several other structures.

The fire broke out in a foothills area where modest homes and mobile houses are scattered on small lots among stands of fir and pine. Homeowners are a mix of full- and part-time residents.

Elsewhere in Colorado, a 3,000-acre wildfire in Las Animas County, bordering New Mexico, had damaged at least one home and forced the evacuation of 11 ranches and three other homes near Trinidad.

In California, weather began drying out and heating up Tuesday as firefighters battled seven wildfires burning on more than 10,000 acres of brush and forest land.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Faced with tens of thousands of documents and more coming in every day, leaders of a congressional inquiry into the Sept. 11 attacks say they are dealing with much more information than they anticipated.

But they said they didn't want that to delay their inquiry.

"We can do this while the war on terrorism is going on because if we don't, we think the mistakes of the past will be revisited," said Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala.

Haley emphasizing his roots in campaign

ROOTS, from Page 1

His father, George Haley, was the first black elected to the state Senate in 1964. A Republican, the elder Haley went on to serve in the administration of five presidents and was the ambassador to the Republic of Gambia under President Clinton.

Haley said he would move quickly with election reform, citing problems in the 2000 presidential election in Florida. He said that election had reaffirmed many voters' belief that their vote didn't count.

"This office should be the cradle of democracy," said Haley. "It is important that whether it's one vote or 10,000 that everyone is counted."

Election reforms proposed in Congress could signal the end for paper ballots and hand-counting of election results. Those methods would be replaced with touch-screen computers

and other electronic devices capable of directly counting votes.

Besides election reform, the secretary's office is preparing to implement digital signatures which will allow Kansans to conduct business with the state online.

That project is not expected to be finished until next year.

Republicans have held the secretary of state office for 51 years. The only Democrat to hold it was Larry Ryan of Manhattan — who many say won because he had the same last name as his Republican predecessor Frank Ryan.

Thornburgh, 39, a native of Burlingame, announced Monday he was seeking a third term. He has worked in the secretary of state's office for 19 years, starting in the mail room while in college.

He took over after Gov. Bill Graves was elected to his first of two terms as governor.

Middle East issues mix up primary race

By the Associated Press

The Middle East conflict emerged in the unlikelyst of places, tangling up a Democratic House primary in a mostly rural, majority-black Alabama district where a former prosecutor forced Democratic Rep. Earl Hilliard into a runoff.

Elsewhere in Tuesday's primaries, challengers to New Jersey Democratic Sen. Robert Torricelli and Alabama Democratic Gov. Don Siegelman vowed to make ethics — or the incumbents' alleged lapses — the message.

Towering political figures in two states won easy victories. South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow swept past former GOP Sen. Larry Pressler for a House bid; Bill Richardson, former energy secretary, won the Democratic nomination for New Mexico's open governor's seat.

Voters in seven states chose candidates in the busiest primary day of the 2002 election season, setting the stage for governors' contests and congressional races that could decide control of the Senate and House.



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