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Nogales police chief says efforts to stop teens at the border won't work

By Jim Lamb
Green Valley News

It would be a daunting task to find and stop teen-agers 18 and under who aren't accompanied by parents or guardians, Kissinger said.

Senate Bill 1064 would allow border counties and municipalities to adopt ordinances to stop unaccompanied teen-agers from entering "The Republic of Mexico."

The Senate bill would grant the border counties and municipalities permission to "prevent entry" but "not otherwise detain the minor."

Kissinger said if the bill passes the Legislature and becomes law, he'd recommend to the mayor and council "not to pursue such an ordinance."

"I understand the purpose of the bill is to curb underage drinking in Mexico, but that

does not specifically address that issue," Kissinger said.

He said occasionally Nogales police will try to intercept underage drinkers as they return to the United States.

Since 2004, the Nogales department has issued more than 400 citations to drinking teenagers as they crossed into the United States.

U.S. agencies on the border can't prevent anyone from leaving the country unless they're wanted by the law.

On any day autos, trucks, buses and tourists, local residents and Mexican citizens on foot swarm into Mexico at the Mariposa and DeConcini gates in Nogales and the Mariposa gate to the West.

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Apparently concerned about underage Americans drinking across the border, the state Legislature wants to stop them from entering Mexico.

That would be virtually impossible, Nogales Police Chief John Kissinger said Thursday.

And he said Senate bill 1064 doesn't really address the issue—stopping underage Americans from drinking in Mexico.

About 15 million persons a year cross through Nogales, Ariz., into Mexico.

That's about 41,000 pedestrian, drivers or passengers a day heading south through the three Nogales ports of entry.

Kolbe TV show features immigration experts

U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe has released another cable TV program, this one dealing with problems illegal immigration from Mexico.

Kolbe, the Republican who represents Southeast Arizona in Washington, D.C., signed up four experts on border and immigration issues for the show.

They are Tamar Jacoby of

the Manhattan Institute, Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies, Frank Sharry of the National Immigration Forum, and Stephan Dinan of the *Washington Times*, the newspaper's border security reporter.

The schedule:

•March 12, 7 a.m., Cox 7.
•March 12, 8:30 a.m., Com-

cast 72, Cox 97.

•March 14, 8 a.m., Comcast 73, Cox 98.

•March 19, 8:30 a.m., Comcast 72, Cox 97.

•March 21, 8 a.m., Comcast 73, Cox 98.

•March 26 8:30 a.m., Comcast 72, Cox 97.

•March 28, 8 a.m., Comcast 73, Cox 98.

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Groundwater Awareness League meeting March 13

The Groundwater Awareness League will be viewing the film "Thirst" on Monday, March 13, at 10 a.m. at the

issues worldwide, particularly the trend toward privatization of resources, particularly in California, Venezuela,

the the depletion of Green Valley's water.

The meeting is free and open to everyone. For information, call N. Ed



PHOTO SUBMITTED

MIKE SANDERS, ADOT, and local bikers take a break on their way to Arivaca. (L to R) Bill Adamson, Mike Sanders, Jim Jordan, and Ralph Edwards.

Local bike group hosts ADOT representative

Members of the GVCCC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee say they were fortunate to have Mike Sanders, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) bicycle/pedestrian coordinator, attend their March meeting.

He reviewed the Arizona Department of Transportation vision statement for bicyclists and pedestrians and presented the group with a copy of the 2002 statewide plan for bicyclist/pedestrian facilities in Arizona.

He indicated that he had seen many changes in the accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians since he came to this position two years ago.

He encouraged the committee to continue to work with local officials and the ADOT District Office to implement improvements for the benefit of alternative transportation users.

On the next day, Sanders joined the local bike group on a road ride to Arivaca so that he could enjoy the area and expe-

rience the enthusiasm of Green Valley bikers.

After a snack at a local restaurant, the 20 bicyclists headed home and logged close to 75 miles for the day.

Other discussion during the meeting included the need to change the name of the group to the "Santa Cruz Valley Bicycle Advocate Committee" in order to reflect the expansion of the group's mission to outside the Green Valley boundaries because of the growing popularity of bicycling.

Al-Anon/Alateen convention to be held in Rio Rico, May 19-21

Al-Anon/Alateen Arizona State convention with AA par-

Resort. The convention will include workshops, Spanish pro-

Registration forms can be found at www.al-anon.org