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My name is Nancy Bonham and what I am here today to speak on is supported by:

HORSE COUNCIL OF NEVADS WASHOE COUNTY CHAPTER
SILVER KNOWLS SPURS 4H
COMSTOCK ARABIANS
NORTH RENO HORSEMANS ASSOCIATION
HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ASSOCIATION

(I could have put more here but figured this showed where I pulled my support)

We need this amendment to protect the existing open spaces and country lifestyle of the residents of this state. Two years ago a similar bill was presented to you for consideration and the city of Reno said that they had a plan in the works that would keep everyone happy. Not only did they not have an acceptable plan, they have not acted in good faith, the Verdi law suite is a good example. At that time you tabled the purposed bill. We are here today to get this new bill passed for the good of the people of the State of Nevada.

For example, the city of Sparks and Reno have consistently voted in favor of expansion and against good management of our county these past two years. The city of Reno says that they need more money. They have expanded 300% in the recent past. The city of Sparks has expanded 280%. The city of Reno says that in order to get enough tax revenues to support the city they need to annex more. Expanding 300% should have taught them that not only do you gain tax revenue, you also gain expenses. The city is in this state because the land annexed has cost the city more to maintain than the tax revenue gained. Annexing more land isn't going to help the city of Reno solve their financial problems it will only increase them, it is their mismanagement that needs to be fixed before anything else is done. The bill before you will assist all counties in our situation help maintain a balance between city and rural. My husband was born here and the ranch he was raised on is now part of Meadowood Mall and the Airport. When we decided to move ten years ago we checked with the county and found that Golden Valley was set aside for the rural lifestyle. Now that is in jeopardy.

Let me explain a little of what having a rural lifestyle in our county does to support both Reno and Sparks. Livestock and agricultural are the backbone of this state and the country as a whole. I will use horses as an example.

In years of fiscal crises, the direction of the government is to assist in the creation of revenue, misguided Cities and people think that to build more houses will help, this just is not so. The continued use and protection of rural land to generate revenue is a sounder economic and social agenda. The livestock industry is the fifth largest revenue producing industry in the United States and larger here in Nevada

The average horse owner pays between \$2400.00 and \$3600.00 per year to keep a horse at their home. It is considerably more if the animal is kept at a boarding facility. County real property tax is assessed on barns, arenas, stables, fencing, etc., additionally; license and registration fees are paid for pick-up trucks and horse trailers, boarding facilities and training facilities. Local businesses profit form selling riding apparel, tack and feed.

Breeders, trainers, veterinarians and ferrriers are also supported by the horse industry to name just a few.

In the United States the horse industry contributes \$112.1 billion in revenues annually, creating 1.4 million jobs and generates \$1.9 billion in taxes.

Just the owning of personal horses provided a taxable revenue of over \$150,000,000.00 in Washoe County, which includes Reno and Sparks. Add to that all of the horse related activities that take place at the Livestock Events center and you have a huge influx of money into the Cities. Using the figures of The Horse Council of Nevada and others you are looking at an income of over \$300,000,000.00, most of which goes to the Cities in the way of hotel rooms, restraints, entertainment and so on.

It is understood that Cities sometimes need to grow. However consideration needs to be given to all of the citizens in the counties and not allow the cities to tell those in the county that City life is more important than rural life and that we need to change our lifestyle or move to accommodate them. The Regional Planning and the Regional Governing Board have not adequately addressed these situations and never will as the law stands. City and County can live together if they work together, this revision to the law will make that a reality.

In conclusion the owners of existing rural land that is being threatened with annexation feel that the pending changes in land use designations are a "taking of their real property". It is a real concern to these property owners that the removal of the ability to use their property as originally purchased violates both the 5th and the 14th amendment to the United States Constitution. Not only could the Cities be liable for decreases in property values and uses; compensation for these losses would come at the expense of the taxpayer.

Thank You
Nancy Bonham
Horse Council of Nevada
Washoe County Chapter

YEAR OF THE HORSE

Livestock Events Center corrals shows big and small



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Full schedule multi-million dollar boost for economy

By Guy Clifton
 RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Chinese calendar lists this as "The Year of the Goat," but 2003 in Reno might well be called "The Year of the Horse."

Between now and early November, the Reno Livestock Events Center will play host to more than 20 equine-related events that are expected to bring to town several thousand visitors and infuse the region's tourism-dependent economy with millions of dollars.

"It's a very large economic impact on the area," said John House, RLBC general manager.

How large an economic impact has never been studied on a local level, but a researcher at the University of Nevada, Reno is hoping to receive a grant to conduct such a study.

"The U.S. horse industry is the fifth largest in terms of gross domestic product. It has a \$112.5-billion annual impact (nation-wide)," said Al Crellin, a horse specialist at University of Nevada, Reno's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, citing a survey done for the American Horse Council by the Barents Group of Washington, D.C. "The horse industry is a very big industry. Horse ownership covers all stratas of the economy. People in the average to upper average levels of income are the backbone of the horse industry."

Those who take part in competitive horse events — such as

WORDS

What's really happening now is we're starting to get larger shows with more participants and longer stays. Those are the kind of shows we're trying to bring in and keep them coming back year after year."

John House, general manager of the Reno Livestock Events Center

IMPACT

The largest events of the year — The Breeders International, Reno Rodeo and Snaffle Bit Futurity — are expected to pour nearly \$60 million into local coffers.

many of the events being held in Reno this year — are in upper income brackets. The National Cutting Horse Association says the average household income of its members is \$175,405.

In addition the American Horse Council estimates that for every horse at an event, 3.8 people come along with it. That can owners, spouses, riders, drivers, grooms and trainers.

"If you have an event with, say 100 competitors, you could very easily easily have 300 people supporting those activities — or more," Crellin said.

Filling the Livestock Events Center's calendar is everything from next week's American Quarter Horse Association Silver Dollar Circuit show to the Senior National Finals Rodeo in November.

"We are really just opening up our (horse) season now and it will run all the way into November with the senior rodeo," House said. "Our schedule is pretty full. To bring in some of these larger shows, we had to displace some of the smaller business that we had."

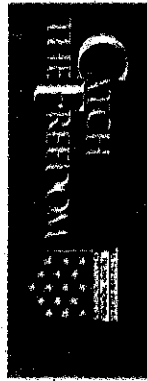
"What's really happening now is we're starting to get larger shows with more participants and longer stays. Those are the kind of shows we're trying to bring in and keep them coming back year after year."

Large shows mean big money for the region. Among the top events coming in the months ahead are:

UPCOMING EQUINE EVENTS

Scheduled for the Reno Livestock Events Center

Date	Event	Participants
March 20-23	AOHA Silver Dollar Circuit	500
April 18-20	USTRC Team Roping	N/A
April 18-20	ACBRA Nevada Classic	300
May 26-June 14	Breeders Invitational	800
June 21-29	Reno Rodeo	1,000
June 23	BFI Team Roping	220
June 24	Reno Rodeo Invitational Team Roping	400
June 26-28	U.S. Team Penning Association	365
July 5-12	Region III Arabians	N/A
July 17-20	Camarillo Classic Barrel Racing	200
July 18-20	Wild Horse & Burro Show	N/A
July 24-27	Regional Mini Horse Show	600
Aug. 16-17	Dressage in the Sierra	N/A
Sept. 4-7	Paint Horse Show	400
Sept. 12-14	ACBRA Barrel Racing National Finals	125
Sept. 24-Oct. 5	World Championship Snaffle Bit Futurity	750
Oct. 8-12	America West 4D Barrel Racing	1,500
Oct. 21-26	ACTRA Team Roping	1,100
Nov. 3-9	Senior National Finals Rodeo	350



See HORSE on G6

Source: RGL research

Reno Gazette-Journal graphic

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BY SUSIE VASQUEZ
Appeal Staff Writer

Got against the Eastern slope of the Sierra in

railroad transportation, furniture and manu-
That's more than motion-picture services,

and generating \$1.9 billion in taxes.

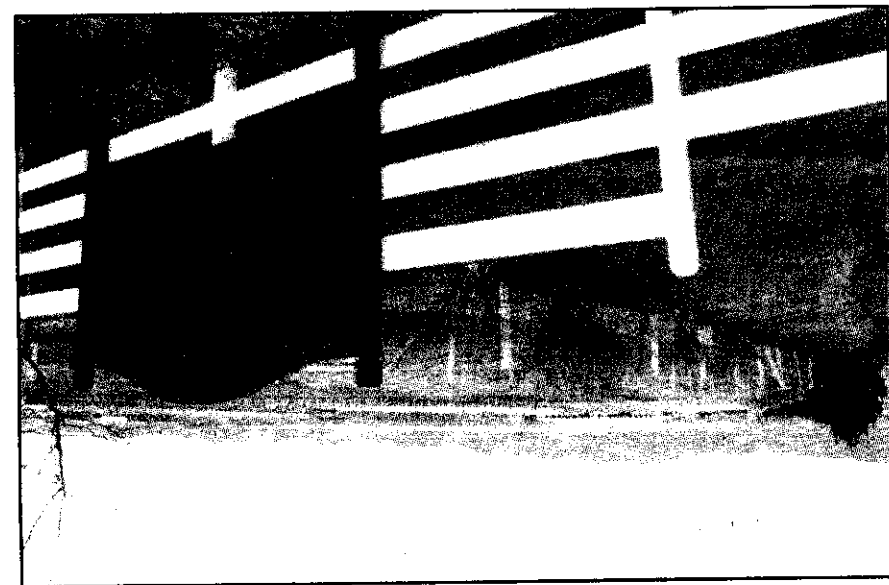
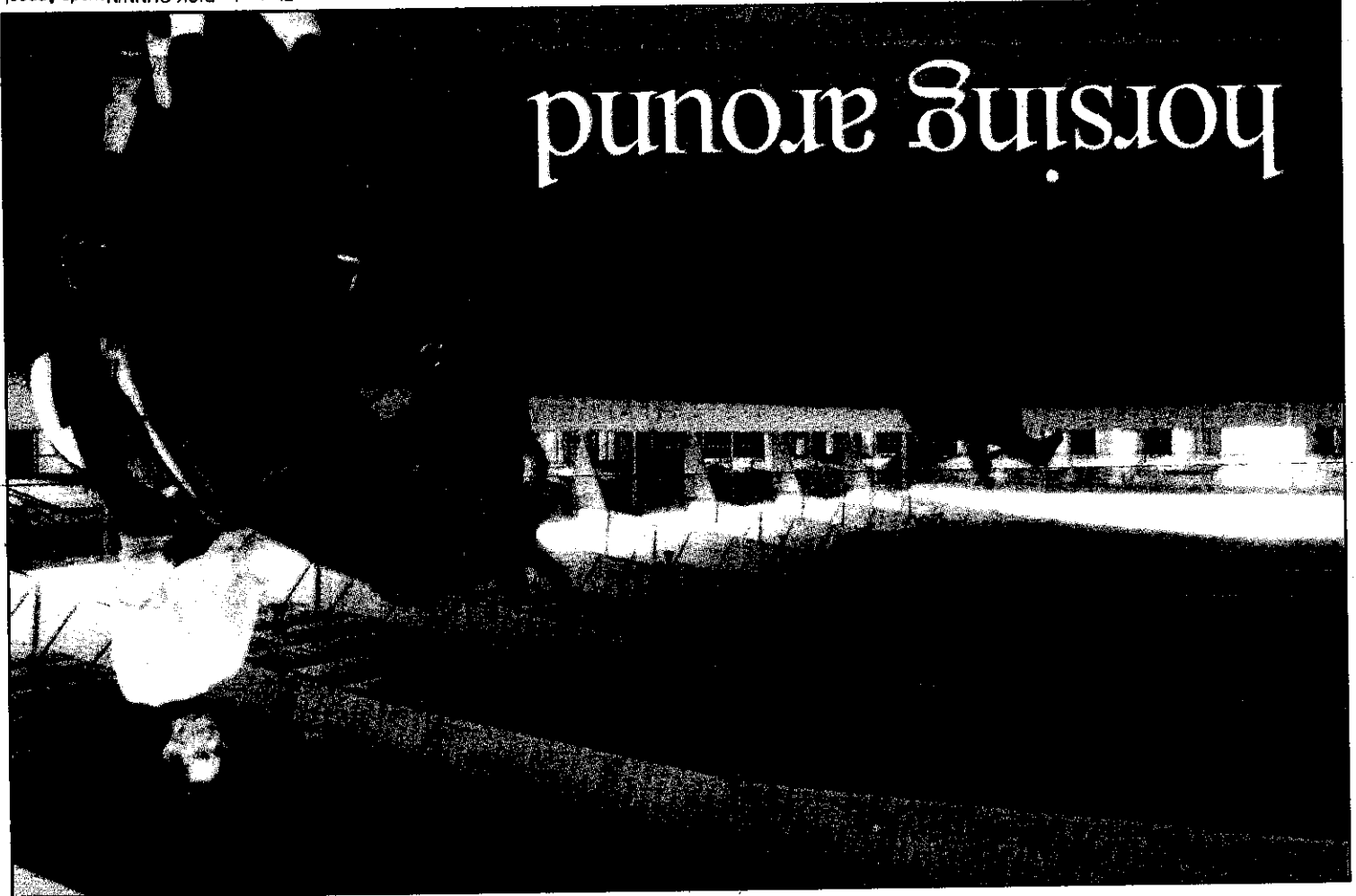
take over.

She said the sport is dominated by women
except at the Olympic level, where the men

Horse industry burgeoning in area valleys

Crystal Main, above, of Carson City, practices dressage at the Franktown Meadows Stables' indoor arena. Behind the mountains Wednesday evening.

Photos by RICK GUNN/Nevada Appeal



More than
just ...

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horsing around

Crystal Main, above, of Carson City, practices dressage at the Franktown Meadows Stables' indoor arena. At top, the entrance to the stables as the sun sinks behind the mountains Wednesday evening.

Photos by RICK GUNN/Nevada Appeal

Horse industry burgeoning in area valleys

BY SUSIE VASQUEZ Appeal Staff Writer

Set against the Eastern slope of the Sierra in Washoe Valley, Franktown Meadows is a business graced with expansive pastures and divided by fences, bridle paths and rows of trees.

Sixty stalls surround the 28,125-square-foot covered arena and on a quiet afternoon last week, three riders walked their horses around the stables, talking quietly among themselves as they moved in wide arcs.

Owner Janice MacLean nursed a cup of tea as she talked of her avocation and business. She said is a labor of love.

"You meet a lot of interesting people, but the horses are the best part. If you're in this business, it's because you love horses," she said.

Training at Franktown is conducted by three experts: Seana Adamson, Lynne Mullins and Bridget Toner.

Figures from the Barents Group in Washington, D. C., indicate the horse industry has a positive affect on the U.S. economy.

The industry, which encompasses everything from breeding and training to race tracks and public sales, contributes \$112.1 billion in revenues annually, creating 1.4 million jobs

and generating \$1.9 billion in taxes.

That's more than motion-picture services, railroad transportation, furniture and manufacturing or tobacco manufacturing industries.

This business and sport is only slight smaller than the apparel and other textile products manufacturing industry and has a direct economic effect of \$2.8 billion in urban areas.

Profitable or not, MacLean said the industry here has grown substantially since she started her stable in 1991 Washoe Valley.

"This has always been horse country because of the cowboys, but English riding started about 15 years ago," said Sally Lifo, Franktown barn manager.

"A lot of people have moved here from California and I think, they brought their business and their money."

Just across the road, Vicki Cliff, owner of Equestrian Training Center, said she's booked solid. She gives lessons to between 50 and 60 riders each week and has an 18-month waiting list for people wanting to bring their horses to her stable.

"In the last 10 to 15 years, it seems like business has really boomed," she said. "I think the population increase has more to do with it, than anything else."

She said the sport is dominated by women except at the Olympic level, where the men take over.

"I've been teaching for 30 years. In that time, I've given lessons to about 10 men," she said. "I've taught kids as young as 4 and women as old as 63, who had never ridden a horse."

A member of the U. S. Dressage Federation and California Dressage Society, Cliff specializes in the 2,000-year-old sport that encourages development of the physical ability of the horse to develop a calm, supple and flexible animal.

"Training is challenging because every horse is different. We need to find out what makes them tick," she said. "It's really nice to be able to teach. I'm not getting rich in this business, but I'm enjoying myself."

Paul Barnes, owner of Barnes Training in Douglas County teaches Western riding. Astride a bay named Hobie, he took some time to talk about the sport and the horses.

"She has a lot of heart. She tries so hard," he said. "Riding a horse like her, is one of the payoffs of this job. It's a challenge, to see how high you can bring that level of communication, between you and your horse."

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