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**SIERRA VISTA**  
**HERALD**

MONDAY MAY 16, 2016 — \$1.00



**HALF A CENTURY** IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY  
 MONEY, A10

NEWS AT WWW.SVHERALD.COM

**Poised to collect unwanted greyhounds**

Reaction follows legislation to end dog racing in Arizona

BY DANA COLE  
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SIERRA VISTA — Gov. Doug Ducey signed two pieces of legislation that will prohibit live dog racing in Arizona, effective the end of 2016.

“Greyhound racing has run its course in Arizona,” Ducey said in a statement Friday. “It’s heartening that these beautiful greyhounds will soon be off the track and in loving homes.”

The proposals prohibit and repeal the financing of greyhound racing, but allow Arizona’s only remaining dog track — Tucson Greyhound Park — to collect money through televised horse racing for at least two years.

Although dog racing can continue through the end of 2016, Tucson Greyhound Park has been granted approval from the Arizona Racing Commission to stop racing by

**RELATED:**  
 Arizona gets on a ‘good’ list, A4

See GREYHOUNDS, Page A8

**Stamping out hunger**



PHOTOS BY MARK LEVY@SVHERALD.COM

Volunteers at the Sierra Vista St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank help to separate food donated by local residents and collected by postal workers during Saturday’s annual Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

**Local food bank gets major boost from letter carrier drive**

BY ANDREW PAXTON  
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When summer hits and schools let out, kids start spending a lot more time around the house. That also means children from low-income families are eating many more meals at home instead of partaking in free or reduced breakfasts and lunches at school. Not all families are able to keep up with that added demand, and they often turn to their local food banks for help.

With the extra strain on food banks in mind, the National Association of Letter Carriers sponsors an annual food drive, complete with social media hashtag, #stampouthunger.

For nearly a quarter-century, letter carriers have been collecting millions of pounds of food every year to donate to local foodbanks in what is called the largest one-day food drive in the world, with postal workers in more than 10,000 cities in all 50 states and Washington D.C. participating in the event.

Last week, local letter carriers distributed thousands of bags to customers to fill with food to be collected during their routes on Saturday.

“This event helps us get through the summer, when we see our demand go up,” said Stan Garner of

the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. “This really helps us out a lot.”

He said the food bank provides goods to anyone in need.

“If they come to us and ask for help, we give it to them.”

Garner was quick to point out that the food drive would be impossible without the letter carriers raising awareness of hunger in the community and collecting the food.

See HUNGER, Page A8

Anyone who missed the Stamp Out Hunger campaign but wants to donate can drop items of at St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, located 614 Bartow Drive, Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. Anyone in need of food can also visit during the same hours.

Postal worker Heather Howard unloads food from her delivery truck Saturday at the Fry Boulevard post office in Sierra Vista. Howard is participating in the 24th annual Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which is a national endeavor.



**A fevered pitch to the very end**

Debate on Prop. 123 shows why question is a contentious issue

BY ERIC PETERMANN  
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Eboney McKinney may have thought she faced a challenging situation teaching fifth-graders at Village Meadows Elementary School in Sierra Vista.

That was until she sat down with the “Bisbee for Bernie” committee on Saturday and faced avid opponents of Proposition 123, one of two ballot initiatives that voters will decide in tomorrow’s election.

McKinney has been a teacher for eight years and she represents most of her fellow professionals from Southern Arizona as the Region 12 Director for the

See PROP 123, Page A6

AMANDA BAILLIE-FOR THE HERALD/REVIEW

**Outgoing finance director Lois Klein, seated, will leave Cochise County after achieving perfect audits two years running. Also pictured is David Raber, Administrator over Financial and Technological Services and Director of Information Technology, and Carol Schneider, Deputy Finance Director.**



**County’s audit comes up clean**

Finance dept. applauded for low risk rating

BY AMANDA BAILLIE  
 For the Herald/Review

After a two-decade career at Cochise County, finance director Lois Klein can certainly claim to be going out on a high.

Her department has just ended its annual audit without a single finding for the second year running — an achievement virtually unheard of in government.

“It’s the first time for the County ever that it’s hap-

pened,” said Klein, who recently retired, but is acting as a part-time consultant until her replacement is found. “There is only one other county in Arizona that has achieved this, and that’s Yuma.”

While the County’s clean audit may not be a huge deal for the average citizen, it does in fact have consequences for local residents.

“It will save taxpayer dollars,” explained Klein. “When you have an audit with no findings the cost of the audit is halved. Because

See AUDIT, Page A6

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 10 – number of Finance Department staff
- 20 – number of years Finance Director Lois Klein has worked at Cochise County
- 200 – number of separate funds managed by the department
- 866 – number of payroll checks issued every two weeks
- 81,454,005 – amount in dollars of the 2015-16 General Fund
- 186,365,548 – amount in dollars of the 2015-16 total budget

This paper is published for valued subscriber Carmen Dominguez of Tombstone and the rest of Cochise County.



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WEATHER

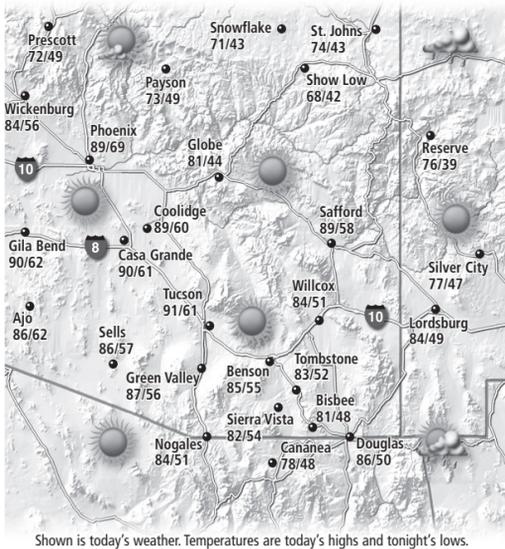


5-DAY FORECAST FOR SIERRA VISTA

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY
Pleasant with plenty of sunshine	Clear	Sunny to partly cloudy and nice
High 82° RealFeel: 85°	Low 54° RealFeel: 53°	79° 53° RealFeel: 84°/54°
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny	Plenty of sun	Plenty of sun
80° 53° RealFeel: 85°/54°	81° 56° RealFeel: 89°/56°	86° 56° RealFeel: 89°/55°

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure, and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

REGIONAL WEATHER



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

Sierra Vista through 6 p.m. yesterday. (Readings from Sierra Vista Fire Dept.)

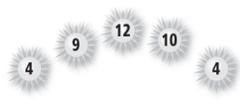
Precipitation (in inches)

24 hours through 6 p.m. yest.	0.00"
Rainfall past seven days	0.00"
24-hour rainfall last year	Trace
Total rainfall year to date	1.99"
Total rainfall last year to date	2.93"
Normal rainfall year to date	2.78"
Diff. from normal y-t-d	-0.79"
Diff. from normal last y-t-d	+0.15"

Temperature:

High	86°
Low	67°

UV INDEX TODAY



8am 10am Noon 2pm 4pm  
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme

SUN AND MOON

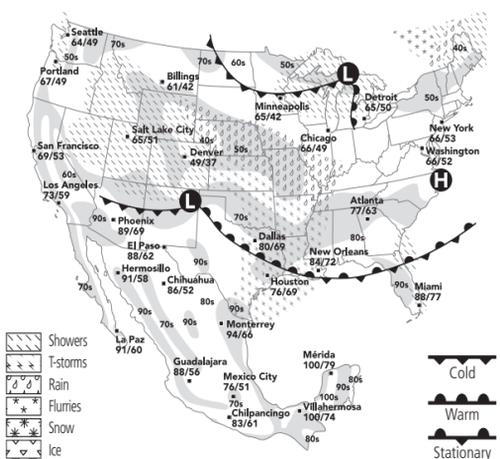
Sunrise today	5:24 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:12 p.m.
Full	May 21
Last	May 29
New	June 4
First	June 12

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

ARIZONA CITIES

City	Today			Tue.			City	Today			Tue.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Casa Grande	90	61	s	88	62	s	Phoenix	89	69	s	88	69	s
Flagstaff	61	36	t	56	35	t	Prescott	72	49	s	65	46	t
Globe	81	44	s	79	42	s	Safford	89	58	s	87	56	s
Grand Canyon	66	34	pc	60	36	t	Sedona	74	52	pc	69	51	t
Green Valley	87	56	s	85	56	s	Show Low	68	42	pc	62	40	t
Holbrook	76	46	pc	70	42	t	Superior	82	53	s	81	53	pc
Kingman	81	56	s	74	54	t	Tombstone	83	52	s	81	52	s
L. Havasu City	93	70	s	88	66	t	Tucson	91	61	s	88	61	s
Mesa	87	66	s	87	65	s	Window Rock	68	38	c	64	41	t
Nogales	84	51	s	82	49	s	Yuma	91	67	s	90	68	s

U.S. / MEXICO WEATHER TODAY



Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today			Tue.			City	Today			Tue.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	75	53	c	69	48	t	Las Vegas	87	67	s	81	65	pc
Anchorage	63	49	s	59	47	t	Little Rock	67	62	r	78	58	t
Atlanta	77	63	c	84	64	t	Los Angeles	73	59	pc	73	58	pc
Atlanta City	63	49	s	61	49	r	Miami	88	77	sh	86	77	t
Austin	80	69	t	82	66	t	Milwaukee	66	43	pc	65	41	pc
Baltimore	64	49	s	58	50	r	Minneapolis	65	42	pc	65	45	s
Billings	61	42	pc	68	45	pc	Nashville	70	55	r	78	55	t
Bismarck	69	37	pc	70	41	s	New Orleans	84	72	t	83	73	pc
Boston	63	50	s	67	52	pc	New York City	66	53	s	66	51	r
Charleston, SC	79	67	pc	84	68	t	Oklahoma City	74	62	c	68	50	t
Charleston, WV	64	46	pc	59	47	r	Omaha	58	43	r	68	44	pc
Charlotte, NC	71	57	c	76	62	t	Orlando	90	71	t	87	70	t
Cheyenne	43	33	r	46	35	sh	Philadelphia	66	51	s	60	51	r
Chicago	66	49	pc	59	41	pc	Pittsburgh	64	47	s	60	45	r
Cincinnati	61	46	pc	56	46	r	Portland, ME	56	41	c	65	42	pc
Cleveland	65	50	s	62	46	r	Portland, OR	67	49	pc	77	51	pc
Dallas	80	69	t	83	62	t	Reno	69	47	pc	75	50	s
Dayton	62	46	pc	57	44	r	Sacramento	88	59	s	92	59	s
Denver	49	37	r	48	38	sh	St. Louis	60	50	r	61	49	r
Des Moines	62	45	r	68	45	pc	Salt Lake City	65	51	t	67	52	pc
Detroit	65	50	s	61	42	c	San Antonio	81	71	t	84	68	t
El Paso	88	62	s	84	60	t	San Diego	69	63	pc	70	62	pc
Helena	60	39	c	69	43	pc	San Francisco	69	53	pc	76	55	pc
Honolulu	87	75	s	86	74	pc	San Juan, PR	86	76	pc	87	77	sh
Houston	76	69	t	83	68	t	Santa Fe	70	42	c	64	41	pc
Indianapolis	61	47	pc	58	46	r	Seattle	64	49	pc	72	52	pc
Jacksonville	86	68	pc	85	68	t	Tampa	90	75	pc	87	75	t
Kansas City	55	47	r	60	45	sh	Washington, DC	66	52	s	59	53	r

WORLD CITIES

City	Today			Tue.			City	Today			Tue.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Acapulco	89	79	t	89	78	t	Mexico City	76	51	t	78	53	t
Athens	78	61	s	78	61	s	Moscow	54	46	sh	63	52	c
Baghdad	109	81	pc	111	80	pc	Nassau	88	76	pc	88	76	sh
Beijing	86	51	s	90	58	pc	New Delhi	112	78	s	112	77	pc
Berlin	59	42	pc	57	44	c	Paris	62	44	c	66	50	pc
Cairo	102	73	s	94	67	c	Rio de Janeiro	86	71	c	78	69	c
Dhahran	103	74	s	103	80	c	Rome	70	55	s	69	53	pc
Hong Kong	82	72	pc	82	77	c	Seoul	69	50	pc	76	52	s
Istanbul	75	60	s	67	58	pc	Singapore	90	80	c	90	81	pc
Jerusalem	94	68	pc	82	59	pc	Sydney	76	59	s	81	54	s
Kabul	83	50	s	86	54	pc	Taipei	72	66	r	74	70	c
Kuwait City	113	84	s	110	79	s	Tokyo	73	65	pc	70	61	r
London	63	45	pc	67	52	pc	Toronto	58	38	c	58	38	c
Madrid	72	48	s	74	51	pc	Vancouver	63	49	c	65	51	c

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, F-c

PROP 123: Something needs to be done to fix public education

FROM PAGE A1

Arizona Education Association. She was invited by the committee to speak in favor of Prop. 123, a statewide referendum put on the Tuesday, May 17, ballot by Gov. Doug Ducey and the State Legislature to settle a \$1.3 billion lawsuit brought by Arizona school boards and other public education interests.

Voters will be asked whether to approve changing the state Constitution to allow increasing payments from the State Land Trust, potentially providing \$3.5 billion for education over the next 10 years.

Saturday, committee members were outspoken in their opposition to Prop. 123, referring to the initiative as "blackmail" by the governor and legislature, and a distraction from the state's obligation to live up to Prop. 301, adopted by Arizona voters in 2000. Provisions of that initiative structured payments to public education through 2020, allocating money raised by a 1-cent statewide sales tax.

Despite voter approval of Prop. 301, state legislators ignored provisions of the law in 2008 and allocated the school funds to other government operations and tax incentives for businesses. School boards in Arizona filed a lawsuit that reached the State Supreme Court in 2014, which did find the State Legislature had violated the law. Lawmakers have not made the payment, in spite of the court ruling.

In January, Gov. Ducey proposed a legislative solution to the legal dispute, outlining a plan to increase how much money is allocated from the State Land Trust over the next 10 years to fund education, if

**EBONEY MCKINNEY SAID THE QUESTION IS REALLY ABOUT FINANCE, AND HOW LITTLE THAT PUBLIC EDUCATION TEACHERS GET PAID.**

the lawsuit is withdrawn. To implement the plan, a majority of Arizona voters will need to vote "yes" on the Prop. 123 ballot question on Tuesday.

But McKinney appeared to be the only supporter of the initiative among members of the "Bernie to Bisbee" committee, which is headed by Tami Birch and includes active members of the Mule Mountain Democrats, including Cochise County Recorder Christine Rhodes.

"I think it's a lie that's being used to cover up something illegal," said committee member Alice Hamers

McKinney said the question is really about finance, and how little that public education teachers get paid. After eight years in the classroom, with a bachelor's of education degree, McKinney said her \$31,000 annual salary is below what comparably experienced professionals earn.

"It's really about how do we keep the people we need to offer the best education?" McKinney said.

She said Prop. 123 is the "best bet" for public schools to get more funding for the next 10 years. While nothing is guaranteed when it comes to education funding and the State Legislature, McKinney said the ballot question is being supported by lawmakers and public school officials, including the AEA.

Charlet LePerd reminded people that Prop. 123 is a legal settlement.

"Why would we settle for less than something that was voted in by the people as law?" LePerd said.

She said if the ballot initiative is approved, it opens the door for lawmakers to sell off state land and take it away from future generations.

"We're talking about my grandchildren" LaPerd said.

She said the current state budget has enough money available in reserve funds to meet the obligation of the first year of the governor's education funding plan, without pulling from the State Land Trust.

"The state has the money" LePerd said.

She said educators should unite and call for a special session of the State Legislature, to compel lawmakers to use the reserve funds, and voters should deny Prop. 123.

MaryFrancis Clinton noted that the information pamphlet sent to registered voters, with pro and con arguments on the two May 17 ballot questions, showed that Prop. 123 had a 2-inch explanation of what the State Legislature will do, and a 19-inch explanation of what lawmakers won't do. She said she opposed the proposition because the "long term damage is greater than the immediate return."

McKinney said the future of education isn't all "gloom and doom," but something needs to be done now to start fixing Arizona's problems with public education. She warned that a "no" vote on Tuesday may send a message to lawmakers that state voters do not support public education.

"Unfortunately, it's beginning to look like it's going to come down to public educators who will be the ones to vote this in," McKinney said.

AUDIT: New financial director will have a healthy foundation to build on

FROM PAGE A1

we are rated as low risk, fewer programs need to be audited.

"It also allows us to secure better interest rates and financial terms, should we ever need to borrow any funds. It's like having a high credit score."

A dedicated team and a lot of hard work has allowed the Finance Department to achieve its perfect audit score, Klein believes.

"I've worked really closely with my team and we've worked really hard to get here. There has been a lot of hard work and training," she said, adding the auditors now "fight over who will be on our audit."

The primary role of the Finance Department is to support the Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, County and Judicial Departments, as well as the public.

The team manages a total of 200 separate funds, which includes everything from the \$81.4 million general fund, to accounts amounting to just a few hundred dollars, such as the St. David Water District. The County's current annual total budget is \$186.3 million.

Just 10 people make up the department, which places it at the same staffing level as in 1997.

Right now, the County is going through its annual budgeting process, which needs to be completed by the end of June.

Each department submits its requests for additional funding, called decision packages, which are then reviewed by the Board of Supervisors for approval, or denial.

It is the job of the budget team to provide the Board with recommendations, as well as to make forecasts on larger general revenue sources.

"We provide the data to the policy makers so they can understand the bigger picture," ex-

plained David Raber, Administrator over Financial and Technological Services and Director of Information Technology. "Lois has worked hard for the 12 years she has been the finance director to improve our processes and to develop the staff."

The knowledge and experience of the finance team has helped the County to better face budgeting challenges, including the management of its Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) liability.

The County has a projected liability of more than \$28 million, which it has to pay into the PSPRS in the future to meet the pension needs of its current public safety personnel. Government entities across the country are also in the same position.

"We have that booked as a long-term liability, as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and you'll find that is the case across the nation," Klein said.

During fiscal year 2014-15, the County paid an additional \$2 million into the PSPRS fund as a cost savings strategy.

Efficiencies such as these have allowed the County to reach an enviable position of zero bonded debt.

While the County currently owes \$1.2 million on a capital lease used to purchase new communications equipment, Klein said it is due to be paid off in September this year.

The state-of-the-art microwave and radio technology was believed critical to public safety and will significantly improve the ability of the emergency services to provide more efficient and speedy coverage across the region.

Arizona law caps local government spending limits and, even though the County had the money to buy the equipment, it may have taken it over the allowable threshold. The County

therefore had no alternative but to take out a capital lease, Klein said. When the capital lease for that equipment is paid off, Cochise County will be one of only two counties in the state to be debt free — the other is Coconino.

That current status means the new financial director — interviews are currently being held with candidates from within and outside of Arizona — has a healthy foundation to build upon.

But the department is not without its challenges.

In the past decade, mandates and regulations imposed by federal and state lawmakers have required a significant increase in accounting labor, with no additional funding, Klein said.

"Our staffing levels are the same as in 1997 but obviously we're doing more with less. We are working additional hours on a daily basis to meet all the requirements," she said. "We have also been losing population which means the tax base decreases. But we are trying to find new ways to automate and improve things."

Raber added, "We have to be creative and we are figuring out more ways to leverage technology so that we can free up more time."

In spite of some hurdles along the way, Klein says she is proud of what has been achieved and the dedication of the staff, citing a time when the automated payroll system crashed in 2008, leaving the team to manually input all of the data for the then 1,200 employees before hand delivering their checks the same day.

"It's been a wonderful ride," she said. "I've loved working for the County and I've loved the staff. It's the reason I'm back here to help. I'm especially proud of what we achieved with the audit. What a way to go."

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