

# Local News

Ron Yoxey competes in the Chicken Village run.



**STEVE HENSON**  
Managing Editor

## Work long hours ... or study?

"Buffet? Is good?" I turned around last week to see a very scary looking fellow behind me in the buffet line at Main Street Station in Las Vegas. He was 5-10, maybe 240 and very muscular, with a shaved head and an accent like one of the kidnapers in the "Taken" movies. However, he was smiling.

"Yes, it's very good," I told him. "One of my favorites."

"Good. Am hungry! Just done working."

"Where do you work?" I asked, as the line inched forward.

"Brooklyn. But I drive truck. I drive this time from Minnesota to Las Vegas. Tomorrow, I take fish up on the Strip to big casino."

"How long have you been doing this?"

"I come to Brooklyn seven years ago from Ukraine and I drive for seven years. Good job. Love America. Have wonderful apartment (he showed me a photo on his camera phone; it would be a dump to most of us, but he was very proud) and am married and have three girls, eight months to 13 years old (he showed me a photo of his family, and unlike the apartment, they were adorable)."

"How is it that you came to America?"

"To live good. To work hard. To make money for my family. And I love it! The different foods and different people. The police do not constantly bother you. You can say what you want. So much freedom. A great country. We proud to be Americans."

"So you've become citizens?"

"No, just my youngest daughter. She born here."

"Why haven't you become a citizen?" I asked in a non-confrontational tone.

"I want to. Very bad. Am proud to live here; want to be official American. But I work two jobs, sometimes 70, 80 hours a week. I am so tired and busy. I do not read English good. Still learning to speak in English. I need help so I can study. I will do it someday, but I cannot now. I have to pay bills. Work for my family. But I will. I come here to be American."

"Well, since you're from New York, you probably know that Donald Trump would send you back to Ukraine, unless he decided you were one of the 'good ones.'"

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**ABOVE: Rocky Khosla gets into the spirit of the inaugural Chicken Village run up Santa Fe Avenue hill on Saturday. The race was part of the Bojon Town Frolic in the Eilers neighborhood.**

**RIGHT: Lena Rose Johnson, 4, launches a slinky down a ramp during the slinky race of the Bojon Town Frolic.**



COMMUNITY

## Coming together

Proud neighborhood gathers for fun, scholarships, chickens

BY RYAN SEVERANCE  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

For a neighborhood that's been stressed out dealing with environmental issues for the past several years, Saturday represented a fun distraction and an opportunity for the community to come together and bond.

The Pueblo Eilers neighborhood — which has also been endearingly known as Old Bojon Town for years — was put on the National Priorities List of Superfund sites last year to have areas of lead and arsenic contamination cleaned up in the community. In 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment completed a site assessment that found elevated levels of lead and arsenic in residential soils and large slag piles in the vicinity of the former Colorado Smelter site.

On Saturday morning though, residents put those worries aside for a while and had themselves a blast as the inaugural Bojon Town Frolic was held.

The event was a festival that acted as a fundraiser for the new Bojon Town Wish List scholarship fund which will be used to grant wishes to children from St. Mary Catholic Parish and Bojon Town children, according to event organizers.

"This neighborhood has been experiencing a lot of things that most neighborhoods don't," said Pam Kocman, Eilers Heights Neighborhood Association in Old Bojon Town president. "The EPA, you know, now we're a Superfund site and before that (Interstate 25) the plans were to come through and take 52 of our homes, so over the years it's become difficult for us and a little stressful and so what this is trying to do something positive and fun for the neighborhood and have us think about something other than these humongous issues that are facing us, because that tends to overwhelm us. So this is a chance for us to come together as a neighborhood and just have fun."

The festival featured a wide array of fun activities including a treasure hunt, a cake spin, slinky races, face painting, live entertainment and delicious food and beverages.

At 9 a.m. before the festival got underway, a group of people participated in a chicken run up the sidewalk of the long and steep Santa Fe Avenue hill that begins near the Santa Fe bridge and ends near the Do Drop Inn.

Participants ran up the hill three times with rubber chickens in their hand as they timed themselves, trying to match the time they predicted beforehand that the run would take them to do.

Why the rubber chickens?

SEE BOJONS, 2B

POLITICS

## Business owner seeks D60 board seat

She says companies won't come to a town lacking good schools



Inge Burbank

BY GAYLE PEREZ  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

A local small business owner said concerns about how Pueblo City Schools (D60)'s performance will affect future business has led her to seek a seat on the school board in November.

"I have been concerned about District 60 schools for some time,"

said Inge Burbank, who operates J&J Coins and Vintage.

"I know that schools need to be fixed and we need to raise test scores, but my concern is that businesses won't come to Pueblo. Businesses want well-qualified graduates and good schools to send their kids to," said Burbank.

Burbank said if elected

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to the board, "examining and discussing strategies to raise our test scores from failing status is something I will place at immediate top priority."

Burbank, 51, announced this week that she is seeking one of the three at-large seats up

for election in November.

The seats are held by Kathy DeNiro, Mike Colucci and Rose Holloway. Colucci is the only board member seeking re-election. DeNiro is term-limited and Holloway said she will not run for a second term.

Burbank said in ad-

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