

Attached photo info:

-Governor Bill Richardson speaking at Ruidoso Downs. Ruidoso Downs' owner R.D. Hubbard in background.

-Governor Bill Richardson shakes hands with R.D. Hubbard, thanking him for the track's quick return to racing

-R.D. Hubbard speaking, thanking the track employees for the track's quick return to racing

Photos by Ty Wyant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richardson Visits Ruidoso
Announces Area Relief Funds

RUIDOSO DOWNS, New Mexico (August 9, 2008) – New Mexico governor Bill Richardson visited Ruidoso Downs on Saturday afternoon to announce nearly \$4 million in grants for area flood relief and commend Ruidoso Downs on the track's quick return to racing after the July 27 flood.

“This great track is one of the cornerstones for tourism in our state,” Richardson said. “[Ruidoso Downs' owner] R.D. Hubbard opened this track at his own expense with no flood insurance.

“Hubbard is a champion of economic development here in Lincoln County. He needs to be commended.”

Ruidoso Downs received considerable flood damage to the racing surface, jockey's quarters and tote board. Horses were able to train on the track five days after the

Sunday flood and racing resumed on Saturday afternoon. Only three racing days were lost.

“They pulled off a miracle I didn’t think they could,” two-time All American Futurity winning trainer Carl Draper said of the Ruidoso Downs’ track renovation. “Hubbard opened up his check book and said, ‘Fix it.’ They saved the All American Futurity and derby. My thanks to all of the work force and management because this is my livelihood.”

After Richardson spoke to the Ruidoso Downs’ crowd, Hubbard thanked Richardson and his Ruidoso Downs’ employees.

“I would like to thank all the track personnel,” Hubbard said. “They jumped right in Sunday evening and started removing flood debris. Monday morning they began putting the track back together.

“The governor has been a great supporter of Lincoln County, Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs. He’s made the money available to us and we’re going to get this town rebuilt.”