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# Fiery plane crash kills Abruzzo, 5 others 

Cessna develops engine trouble after takeoff

By Kristie Jones and
United Press International
Six Albuquerque residents, including businessman and balloonist Ben Abruzzo Sr., died Monday in a plane crash north of the Los Angeles Boulevard exit on I-25, Besides Abruzzo, 54, the dead include his wife, Pat Abruzzo, 52, Barbara Quant, 55, Bev Mullin, 47, Cynthia Miller, 50 , and Marcia Martin, 54 , Albuqerque police said. There were no survivors

APD spokesman Sgt. Roy Manfredi said Abruzzo's twin-engine Cessna 421 was en route to Aspen, Colo.,
from Albuquerque at about $9: 45 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. Monday. The from Albuquerque at about $9: 4 \mathrm{a}$ a.m, Monday. The ble and hit a group of trees in an effort to return to the airport, Manfredi said.
The women had planned a week-long ski trip to Aspen, and Abruzzo had planned to fly them there then return to Albuquerque.

The plane dragged a wingtip across the southbound lane of the freeway where it caught fire and went across highway, Manfredi said. highway, Manfredi said.
partment, said he inspector for the state Highway Desaw the plane strike the trees.
"It was about 50 feet above the ground, and it hit the trees," Card said. "I saw the plane drag a wing across the southbound lane, and it caught fire. Then it hit the northbound lane and sheared off the landing gear, and
the whole plane was on fire. If tumbled into the field and burned, so we went down there as quick as we could. I tried to radio my station, but I could hardly make the words come out. There wasn't anything we could do."
Already wealthy from his business interests developed over a quarter century, Abruzzo won world recognition for making the first trans-Atlantic balloon flight with fellow Albuquerque balloonists Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman.

Their helium balloon, Double Eagle II, lifted off from Presque Isle, Maine, Aug. 11, 1978, and landed 137 hours and 3,120 miles later in a barley field just utside Evreux, France.
Abruzzo then tumed his attention to the west, cap-
taining the first trans-Pacific balloon crossing with teammates Newman, Ron Clark of Albuquerque and Japanese restaurant owner Rocky Aoki.

In that record-setting flight, the Double Eagle $V$ took off from Nagashima, Japan. It landed in northern Cali formia Nov. 12, 1982, having been aloft 84 hours and 31 minutes and having traveled 5,768 miles.
erformed best in tense situations. "I don't know what


Firemen douse the wreckage of Ben Abruzzo's plane behind the six dead.
panic is,"' he said. "That has no meaning for me. I don't understand it. I don't know what fear is; I don't understand that either.'
He and Anderson had drifted apart after their electrifying trans-Atlantic flight, and Anderson and his co-
pilot, Don Ida of to pilot, Don Ida of Longmont, Colo., were killed in Anderson, Abruzzo and state Sen. Tom Rutherford were also pioneers of the Albuquerque Intemational Balloon Fiesta, an annual event begun in the early 1970s that attracts hundreds of balloonists from around the world every October
"I am obviously shocked and very sad," Rutherford said when informed at the state Capitol that Abruzzo had been killed.
"Both of them had quite a spirit of adventure," Rutherford said of the Abruzzos. "They were really thing going on. I guess all us of want to live a full and happy life, and I think the Abruzzos did that, so I'm happy for them," he said.
Gov. Toney Anaya expressed his condolences to the victims' families. The Abruzzos had four children. "Ben was a courageous pioneer who brought great United States," Anaya said. "He was an ageressive and continued on page 5

## Abruzzo contributed cash, goodwill to UNV゙ causes

Athough not a University of New Mexico alumnus, Ben Abruzzo contributed much to the. University in both donations of cash and general goodwill.
According to the UNM Alumni Association, Abruzzo was a "big donor." Paul Vickers, associate director for the UNM Foundation, said Abruzzo's support was important, particularly to he athietics department and the presidential-scholarship program." Vickers said Abruzzo also supported women's track and field aind, "of course, the ski team.'
George Brooks, conch of the UNM ski team; said Abruzzo was "one of the businessmen whose support is an integral part of the ski prognam.
ceam is very close to the A a junior) sking for us," Brooks said, "the Us."
Abnuzro was a "Golden Lobo Scholarship Donor." The designation is used for those members of the Lobo Club who donate $\$ 5,000$ or more to Univernity athetics.
"I was really thiocled and suddened to hear it," said Athletic Drector John Bridgers. They (Abruzzo and fellow pilot Maxie Aros to Univertiy intercollegine athletics."
Brideste confinued, "It's Egreat loss not only to the University but also to the city; stite and even the country. You don't find people like 'him every day.'

## Finance Committee tables day-care aid

By Harrison Fletcher
SANTA FE-The state Senate Finance Committee Monday "tabled without predjudice a bill that
would have provided day-care funding for graduate students.
The bill, sponsored by Sen Tom Rutherford, D-Bern., sought a $\$ 176,000$ state appropriation for the


Human Services Department to fund graduate day-care services for approximately 120 students The bill
The bill seeks to reinstate graduTitle XX day-care funding program last year. Hooker, president of the Gohn Hooker, president of the University of New Mexico, said the results were what he had expected. "They (the finance committee tions," he said, "until House Bill 2 is worked out,"
House Bill 2 is the vehicle that the state uses to fund various agencies continued on page 3

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By United Press International


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 By Aan H. Popo












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