



# THE PEÑASCO POST

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26



@penascoisd

575-587-2502

[penascoisd.com](http://penascoisd.com)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Bond Community Meetings**

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**Eclipse Event**

**Literacy Night**

**Staff and Student Shout Outs**

**Meet the Staff- Coach Pie**

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## CALENDAR

**10/28: XC at Santa Rosa**

**10/30: Halloween  
Carnival, 5:30-8, MS  
Gym**

**10/31: VB@ McCurdy  
11/1: Bond  
Information Meeting,  
6PM, Jicarita Gym**

**11/7: Election Day**

The newsletter, now called The Peñasco Post, is a publication of the Peñasco High School journalism class. Please share any story ideas, calendar events or staff/student shout outs to [snoll@penascoisd.com](mailto:snoll@penascoisd.com).



Peñasco  
Community!!

GET OUT & VOTE!

November  
7th

**GO Bond**

- **Safety**
  - **Security**
  - **Opportunities**
- A Better Future**

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Questions?  
[penascoisd.com](http://penascoisd.com)

**Peñasco School District General Bond**  
**Written By Matias Vigil and Xavier Noll**

The Peñasco School District has the opportunity to rebuild facilities for its students, staff, and community through the 2023 General Obligation Bond Election on November 7, 2023. By remodeling and rebuilding the Peñasco schools' campus, we can provide a safe, healthy, comfortable, and supportive environment for our students and staff where they can reach the learning objectives that are crucial for the individual's and community's success.

In support of the bond, the school plans to demolish and replace structures including the elementary, middle, and high school, the multipurpose building, and other attached structures. This will not include the Jicarita or Vocational building. The structures will be downsized to fit enrollment and will occur in phases in order to continue providing a focused environment for students to learn in. It is estimated that the rebuilding of the campus will cost around \$35 million, where the community first provides \$2.5 million through the bond. For every \$1 we raise in property taxes the state will give us \$14 in return. That means that the state is providing 13X the taxpayers' investments!

The bond will allow the Peñasco School District to meet safety and health standards and will upgrade our learning environment to create new and better programs to serve our students and community. Currently, our elementary school is ranked #3 worst in the state for building condition and the high school and middle school are ranked #11 and #32 worst out of about 800 schools statewide. While efforts are being made to continue putting "bandaids" on our facilities, many of the buildings and utilities have reached the end of their lifespan, presenting quality and safety concerns for our students and staff.

At community bond election meetings, Kathryn Vigil, bond committee member and parent of three Peñasco Schools students, shares concerns about the condition of the school facilities. She says "Right now because of the old condition of the buildings, I am hearing from teachers and students that there are risks to health and safety because of extreme hot and cold temperatures, exposure to mold and poor air ventilation, outdated lighting, and inadequate fire suppression systems like sprinklers." These concerns are very true, and often students and staff share their complaints about comfort or quality issues that are affecting their learning. On October 17th, our sophomore class took the PSAT but were faced with extremely cold temperatures in the room they were testing. The students complained about the comfort, but being restricted to time, many of the peers either focused on the test or minimized their effort in attempts to be more comfortable. While staff tried to provide portable heaters and jackets to the students, the unreliable heating system made this a struggle for those who were taking the mandatory test for graduation. Laura Lee Martinez, a parent of several Peñasco Schools students has also shared her concerns about what will happen to the community if the bond does not pass saying "If we don't have a sustainable school, people will have to find other resources for their kids or eventually leave, and in the end that hurts our community."

For information on taxes or additional information visit the school website at [www.penascoisd.com](http://www.penascoisd.com). The last community bond meeting will be on November 1st at the Jicarita Gym. Please Go Out And Vote On November 7th!!!

## **Cafeteria Staff Receives New Uniforms**

**By Rosalinda Romero**

In mid-September, the cafeteria staff received new uniforms to help employees feel a part of the same team and help promote a better work environment. They have also seen that the new uniform brightens the work space, and adding the school logo to the uniforms brings more school spirit. Each cafeteria staff member has multiple uniforms. The staff said that the process was pretty simple for the purchase of the new uniforms. What took the longest was having the school logo added. The cafeteria workers are grateful for the opportunity to have the new uniforms. "I really like them," Joleen Romero says. "I don't ruin my own clothes. They're nice!"



**Julia Romero, Robert Sanchez, and Joleen Romero pose in their new uniforms.**



# HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

On Monday, October 30th, Penasco Independent schools will be hosting a Halloween carnival at the middle school gym from 5:30-8pm there will be many activities and some will be free.

The food will be pizza, cotton candy, the activities that will be there are pie toss, face painting, pumpkin painting, pumpkin mini golf, and a haunted house, cakewalk, and trunk or treat.

All the activities were organized by Mr. Noll's leadership class as an assignment to prepare for the Halloween Carnival so they helped come up with the Ticket pricing.

## TICKETS



1 \$ PER TICKET

The leadership class was able to come up with many ideas when it came to helping out with the teachers and their booths, but the main thing they did was come up with the flyers for the Halloween Carnival to hang around the school. Alongside with the leadership class Mr. Bustos, the high school and middle school principal, helped the class with setting up and preparing for the carnival, and he says he is very excited to be able to join us in the Halloween Carnival since it's his first year here. Mr. Noll says: "I am excited for the carnival. Every year we do this, the students line up, they have a great time, and everyone leaves happy".



# Red Ribbon



## Red Ribbon Event Encourages Students to Live Drug Free

Written by: Gage Pacheco

Photographs by: Fabiana Pacheco and Zaydrian Cordova

On Monday, October 16th, the National Guard came to the Peñasco Independent School District to raise drug awareness. They set up on the track and had many different stations for students. A pledge with all the students also took place at the beginning of the event with the main idea being staying drug free.



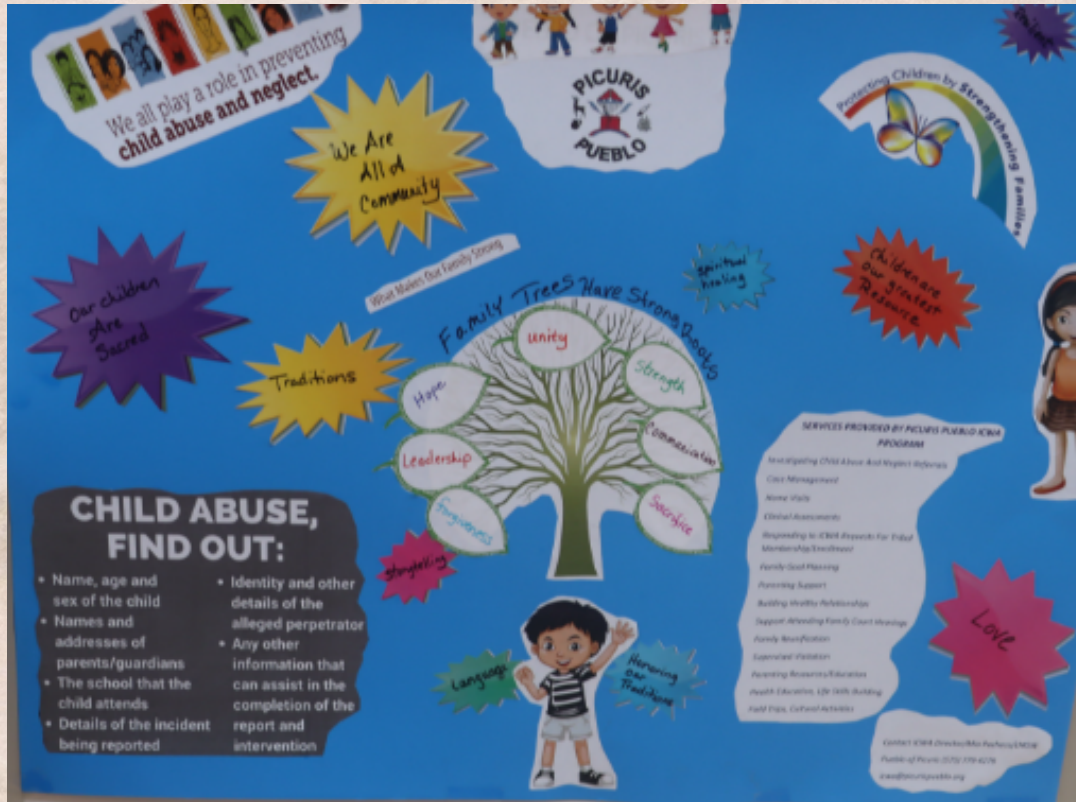
The stations included a helicopter viewing, hand painting, corn hole, and a drunken goggle pedal kart race; all the students were given a chance to participate in each activity for the duration of the event which lasted from 9:30am to 12:20pm.



# HEALTH FAIR



Youth Heartline  
Colfax, Taos, & Union Counties  
Programs



SPONSORS:  
AMANDA BISSELL



AMANDA BISSELL IS A MEMBER PICURIS-PENASCO COMMUNITY COALITION, ONE OF THE OLDEST HEALTH COUNCILS IN THE STATE OF NM. THE COUNCIL IS SPONSORING A FREE "HARVEST OF HEALTH FAIR". AMANDA BISSELL HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE FAIR FOR 24 YEARS, WORKING AS A COORDINATOR TO SET UP THE FAIR FOR ALL OF US TO ENJOY.

## ABOUT THE HEALTH FAIR

On October 21, 2023, a health fair was held at the Picuris Pueblo gymnasium. The health fair provided information and preventative screenings and vaccines to our rural and frontier communities. The health fair has been a continuous fall event for many years and has been a celebration, bringing people together.

### BENEFITS TO A HEALTH FAIR

THE OVERALL BENEFIT IS PROVIDING PREVENTATIVE CARE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH AND PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE. THE HEALTH FAIR PROVIDES A FORUM IN OUR COMMUNITY FOR PROVIDERS TO SHARE WHAT THEIR SERVICES ARE AND FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ACCESS AND LEARN ABOUT AREA RESOURCES. THIS YEAR THE HEALTH FAIR IS GIVING FREE FLU AND COVID VACCINATIONS



## **School Board Election**

### **By Kaileb Atencio**

**On November 7th, 2023, the School Board Election will be held at the Peñasco Community Center. The community will be asked to pick two new school board members to replace Dorothy Lopez Sherman and Carlos Abeyta. There are four candidates running for the two positions. The candidates with the two highest votes will be our new school board members. The four candidates are: Alice MacAuley, Caroline Grant, Ernest Lucero, and Jason Gonzales.**

**On October 23, 2023, there was an online School Board Forum with the school board. One current school board member, Amanda Bissell, asked questions to the candidates. Most of the candidates are running to help the kids Peñasco and to use their own voice in the school board. One of the questions that was asked in this meeting was, "How can the school board of Peñasco improve its image in the community?"**

**The four candidates all had great responses to the question. Ernest Lucero said, "The school board needs to be more active in the community and more town halls." He also says that there hasn't been much attendance at the board meetings unless there is an issue at the school. He also stated that there should be at least two members from the school board to attend meetings and listen to concerns. Alice MacAuley says that the school board should be seen more around town and have more community involvement. Caroline Grant wants to knock on peoples doors and just want to hear what others say and visit the community. In a post on Puro Peñasco where he introduced himself, Jason Gonzalez stated: "I believe in empowering our students with healthy lifestyles, strategies for success, and pride in their culture to help them thrive in the challenges of today's world. It is imperative that we instill in them the dignity and resilience that have been passed to us through the generations, and that we provide them the tools they need to succeed."**

**A strong school board is important for a strong school! Let your voice be heard and get out and vote on November 7!**



# NASA COMES TO PICURIS FOR THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

ON OCTOBER 14, THE PICURIS PUEBLO  
JOINED PART WITH NASA IN HOSTING A  
PUBLIC SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING STATION  
WITH SOME SPECIAL TELESCOPES CALLED  
THE H-ALPHA SOLAR TELESCOPE



ONE OF OUR YEARBOOK/JOURNALISM TEACHERS  
MS.ALESSANDRA OGREN WAS THERE TO TAKE  
SOME PICTURES OF FAMILIES WITH THEIR KIDS  
LOOKING IN THE TELESCOPE AT THE SOLAR  
ECLIPSE AND HAVING A GREAT TIME

ONE NASA WORKER SAYS:

THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME COLLABORATION WITH THE  
PICURIS PUEBLO AND WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING TRUST  
FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND WE ARE HAPPY TO  
CELEBRATE THE PUEBLO AND THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF LITERACY NIGHT, YOU'RE LIVING UNDER A ROCK

BY WALTER TRUJILLO

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MICHELLE ESQUIBEL

ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT HOSTED LITERACY NIGHT AT THE PEÑASCO COMMONS AREA IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL .THE INTENTION OF THIS WAS TO ENCOURAGE KIDS TO READ MORE AND BRING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO LEARN AND EXPERIENCE READING AND MATH ACTIVITIES, ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY, AND HAVE FUN.THERE WAS AN ATTENDANCE OF 196 PEOPLE WHO ALL HAD A BLAST.THEY BEGAN THE EVENING WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER AMY FRANKLIN PRESENTING ABOUT SOCIAL EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE FOR PARENTS, WHILE OUR STUDENTS PLAYED BINGO. WE HAD MANY READING AND MATH ACTIVITIES, A PHOTO BOOTH, BOOK FAIR, HOT DOGS, CHILI DOGS, COOKIES, AND DRINKS. WE HAD THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO HELPED SERVE THE FOOD: DEMARCUS LOPEZ, DYLAN LOPEZ, AND ANTHONY NARANJO.THIS IS THE SECOND YEAR OF OUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARIAN LULU ARGUELLO HOSTING THIS EVENT WITH THE HELP OF A BUNCH OF OUR STAFF, INCLUDING MICHELLE ESQUIBEL AND KATHERINE DURAN.THIS YEAR IT WAS A BIG SUCCESS AND WILL BE HOSTED AGAIN IN APRIL OF 2024. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT AND SUPPORTED THIS FUN AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT!





NURTURING  
CENTER STAFF

ALESSANDRA  
OGREN

CHRIS DURAN

AFTERSCHOOL STAFF:  
ANITA MACAULEY,  
ALLEGRA MONTOYA,  
GWENDOLYN  
NARANJO, DEANA  
SANCHEZ, AND  
ALBERTINA VASQUEZ.

FABIAN LOPEZ  
(NEW ELEMENTARY  
AFTERSCHOOL  
COORDINATOR)

STAFF N  
STUDENT  
SHOUT OUTS

# GET TO KNOW

## Coach Pie

### Hobbies/Interests

She has a few hobbies/interests, She likes to bake, go hunting, crocheting, running, or to be outside. In her free time, she likes to go for rides to the mountains (especially now that the leaves are changing), and spend time with her daughter and family.

### What is Coach Pie's role in working here at Peñasco Schools?

Coach Pie's title at the Peñasco schools is being the PE, Health and Fitness teacher. In these classes, she helps students develop a better understanding of the importance of exercise and healthy nutrition.

### What made Coach Pie start working here?

Her reason for wanting to work here is to give back to her community. She graduated from Peñasco in 2015 with a class of about 32 students (not all students graduated her senior year). When she was in school, they had a higher enrollment and student athletes. Her hope in working here is to help encourage students to want to come to school here and to be more active in athletics and extracurricular activities.

### What is Coach Pie liking so far about this school year?

She enjoys getting to know all her students and other students that she doesn't have. She remembers a lot of our current students when they were in elementary in her sister's class or when she coached a few of them. It's exciting for her to see how much they have changed and who they are as individuals. She also states that it's nice working with her past teachers and some student athletes she competed with and grew up watching when she was younger. "It's nice to see how much they have accomplished and being able to see them in a different light", Coach Pie shares.

### What is Coach Pie looking forward to this school year?

Coach Pie is looking forward to growing her experience as an educator. Her experience is mostly working with elementary students. "This is my first year working with the older students, so it's a little bit of a change for me", Coach Pie states. Her hope is to develop a PE/ Health & Fitness program that students look forward to being in. She is excited to see what this school year brings and to also be teaching back in her hometown.



**Picuris Goes to New York**  
**By Rosalinda Romero**

On October 8th through the 11th, Picuris was invited by the Metropolitan Museum of Art to perform their Sheep Dance. There were 10 people from Picuris in attendance. Picuris was also invited last year and hopes to be invited again in the future.

When asked what the experience of being in New York was like, Mr. Richardson said “Everybody ignored everybody, and it was kind of weird because in New Mexico everybody says hi to each other. New York was busy and expensive. I took a ferry trip and ate tons of food. We also went to Chinatown which was a great time. Times Square is really busy, and they have a lot of street performers there. The rats were big. The subway was fun, but every street looked the same.” Sophomore Justin Pyne also went on the trip and shared that it was a great experience for him as well.



## Coach Gurule and Ms. Rendon Work Together With Students on a Mental Health Project

### By Fabiana Pacheco

During quarter one, Ms. Rendon and Coach Gurule worked together on a mental health project for the students. In Coach Gurule's classroom, she worked with her 8th grade health class, and Ms. Rendon worked with her Financial Literacy class. Coach Gurule said that her 8th grade health class wanted to choose to write a proposal to either the principal, school counselor, or superintendent of our schools on ways to better support the students who are struggling with either anxiety, depression suicide, etc. What made her do this project is because the 8th grade health class feels like the staff members and school don't understand what students go through, and she wanted to show them that they do care. She also said that she wanted to show them or help them to become more aware that everyone is struggling with something whether it is something small or huge.

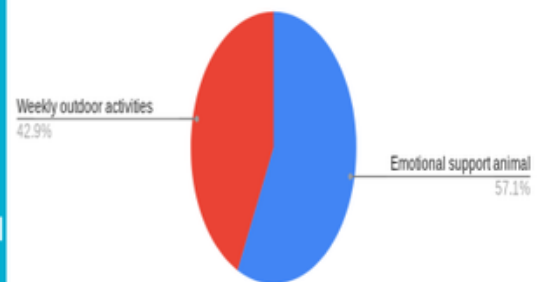
The outcomes of this project were that the students not only trusted Coach Gurule but told her what was going on with their lives. It also gave the students a better understanding of other people's emotions to where they think before assuming something is going on. By doing this assignment she thinks it gives a better understanding on the importance of talking to someone when someone in their life comes to them with a serious issue. The results of the wellness survey given to 6-12 graders were analyzed by Ms. Rendon's financial literacy class and put together in a presentation. This project helped students and the community consider what mental health needs our students have.

## 6th Grade Results

For the third question—"what additional resources does the school have to offer" 42.9% chose weekly outdoor activities and 57.1% chose an emotional support animal.

While the fourth question "When you think about interactions with friends or family, when was the last time that you feel like someone asked how you were? Like, really asked how you were honestly doing?" 14.3% chose I can't remember, 28.6% chose in the past month, and 57.1% chose in the past week.

What additional resources can the school offer?



When you think about interactions with friends or family, when was the last time that you feel like someone asked how you were? Like, really asked how you were honestly doing?



An example from Ms. Rendon's class. Students analyzed the wellness survey and created graphs to represent the data.