



# PISD UPDATE

MAY 3, 2022



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## CALENDAR

**Tuesday, May 3, 6:00**

Special Board Meeting

**Wednesday, May 4, 3:00**

Baseball: State at Santa Rosa

**May 6-7**

Track: State Meet, Albuquerque

**Thursday, May 12, 4:30**

Spring Carnival

**Friday, May 13**

Extended Learning Day

Elementary Field Day

**Tuesday, May 17**

Regular Board Meeting

**Thursday, May 19, 6:00**

5th grade promotion

**Saturday, May 21**

Graduation

**Monday, May 23, 6:00**

Pre-K Graduation

## FIRE EVACUATION INFO: JICARITA GYM

The PISD Jicarita Gym is an evacuation site for the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fires. To help with donations or volunteering, please see this document for all relevant and updated information:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/12n-Y00\\_xFGLa91Z-kc2N5NN7uYYdi5Rk0vJudS18Ge0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12n-Y00_xFGLa91Z-kc2N5NN7uYYdi5Rk0vJudS18Ge0/edit?usp=sharing)

## CONTACT INFO

If you would like to volunteer for the Peñasco evacuation site, please contact Melissa Sandoval 575-779-3057 or Annette Sanchez 575-770-9042.

## FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Money can be donated to Mora residents through this valid fundraiser: <https://fundly.com/calf-canyon-hermits-peak-fire-relief-efforts>



### HAPPY TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!

Thank you so much to our teachers for their hard work and compassion! This year has been--and continues to be--unprecedented in the ways it has challenged our teachers, yet they have found creative ways to serve our students. We appreciate all they do!



### IMPORTANT ELEMENTARY DATES

Prek K graduation: May 23rd, 6:00-7:30,  
5th grade promotion: May 19th, 6:00-7:30

Both events will be held in the Elementary Commons.

### SUMMER CAMP SIGN UP      SUMMER CAMP JOBS

The Peñasco Summer Camp is now open for registration to all students currently enrolled in K-7 (or students who intend to enroll in K-8 next year). The camp will be held June 6-23, 9:00-3:00, on campus. Find the registration link here:  
<https://forms.gle/jvmpxkw9iGFIDdsQA>

PISD is hiring staff to help with summer camp. If interested, fill out this application:  
<https://www.penascoisd.com/page/non-certified-application>.

Contact Michael Noll for more information: 575-779-1466,  
[mnoll@penascoisd.com](mailto:mnoll@penascoisd.com).

### PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP

PISD hopes to once again partner with the state to offer a paid summer internship program for students entering grades 9-12. We are compiling a list of interested students so that we will be ready once the program is announced.

If your student is interested, please contact Michael Noll: 575-779-1466,  
[mnoll@penascoisd.com](mailto:mnoll@penascoisd.com).



## BASEBALL TEAM HEADED TO STATE!

Congrats to our Panthers! Peñasco will take on #5 Santa Rosa on Wednesday, 3:00 pm. Go Panthers!



## TRACK ATHLETES HEAD TO STATE MEET

The Track and Field team will travel to the State Meet on Friday and Saturday in Albuquerque. 20 PISD athletes qualified for state! Go Panthers!

## BOARD MEETING INFO

Find the agenda and login info for the May 3 Special Board Meeting here:  
[https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/as-set/uploaded\\_file/973/Penasco\\_ISD/2050486/AGENDA\\_May\\_3\\_2022-Special\\_Board\\_Meeting\\_docx\\_1.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/as-set/uploaded_file/973/Penasco_ISD/2050486/AGENDA_May_3_2022-Special_Board_Meeting_docx_1.pdf)

## GET ONE-ON-ONE HELP WITH BILLS AND MORE

PISD has partnered with the SPOT in Peñasco to provide one-on-one help with forms, bills, and other needs. SPOT hours: Mondays 10-5, Wednesdays 10-6, and Fridays 10-5, Contact info: (575)425-1677, [spot@mascomunidad.org](mailto:spot@mascomunidad.org).



## ENVIROTHON TEAMS PLACE AT STATE

Peñasco High School sent two Envirothon teams to state under the direction of coach Mercella Cordova.

### **Camo Renegades:**

- Team Captain: Matthew Romero: Aquatics Expert
- Juan Arellano: Forestry Expert
- Jerome Medina: Wildlife Expert
- Jayleni Medina: Soils Expert
- Daniel Abeyta: Special Topic Expert

### **Place: 4th Overall**

- 3rd-Forestry
- 3rd-Soils
- 4th-Wildlife
- 4th-Special Topic
- 5th-Oral Presentation
- 6th-Aquatics





**Ranch'd Up:**

- Team Captain: Alicia Abeyta: Aquatics/Soils Expert
- Enrique Gonzales: Wildlife/Forestry Expert
- Rowan Hennelly: Special Topic Expert

**Place: 7th Overall**

- 3rd-Special Topic
- 4th-Forestry
- 6th-Soils
- 6th-Oral Presentations
- 8th-Wildlife
- 8th-Aquatics

**SCHOOL BREAKFAST/LUNCH DURING THE SUMMER****2022 SUMMER SEAMLESS OPTION****FREE TO CHILDREN 1-18 YEARS OF AGE**June 6<sup>th</sup> - July 21<sup>st</sup>

Monday-Thursday

**CLOSED July 4, 2022****Serving Times & Sites****BREAKFAST****PEÑASCO SCHOOLS CAFETERIA 9:00 A.M – 9:30 A.M June 6<sup>th</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</sup>****Lunch****PEÑASCO SCHOOLS CAFETERIA 11:00 A.M - 12:30 P.M****PICURIS PUEBLO 11:30 A.M - 12:30 P.M****OJO SARCO COMMUNITY CENTER 11:30 A.M - 12:30 P.M****CHAMISAL SENIOR CENTER 11:30 A.M - 12:30 P.M****QUESTIONS? CONTACT SHIELA RODRIGUEZ @ 575-587-2502 ex 2107 or [srodriguez@penascoisd.com](mailto:srodriguez@penascoisd.com)**

# SCHOOL LUNCH: NEXT SCHOOL YEAR



## National School Lunch/Breakfast Program School Year 2022-2023

The **Peñasco Independent School District** announced today it will operate the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the **[2022-2023]** school year.

Schools qualifying to operate CEP serve breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This new approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

For additional information please contact the following person:

**Shiela Rodriguez 575-587-2502 ex 2107 or [srodriguez@penascoisd.com](mailto:srodriguez@penascoisd.com)**

Sincerely,

***Shiela Rodriguez***

**Food Service Manager**

### **Non-discrimination Statement:**

*In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.*

*Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.*

*To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:  
(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;  
(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*





## **Certified Positions**

Secondary Spanish Teacher

- [https://www.nmreap.net/job\\_postings/18215/NM01/NM01#.YP8x-uhKi70](https://www.nmreap.net/job_postings/18215/NM01/NM01#.YP8x-uhKi70)

Secondary Vocational Teacher

- [https://www.nmreap.net/job\\_postings/20343/NM01/NM01#.YYKpO2DMK70](https://www.nmreap.net/job_postings/20343/NM01/NM01#.YYKpO2DMK70)

Elementary School Counselor/Elementary School Supervisor

- [https://www.nmreap.net/job\\_postings/19757/NM01/NM01#.YkJEx-fMK70](https://www.nmreap.net/job_postings/19757/NM01/NM01#.YkJEx-fMK70)

## **Non-Certified Positions**

Apply online.

- Afterschool Counselor
- Maintenance/Bus Driver
- Educator Fellowship Educational Assistants (3 Vacancies)
- SFA Reading Tutors (2 Vacancies)
- Boys Varsity Basketball Coach
- Boys 4th & 5th Grade Elementary Basketball Coach
- Girls 4th & 5th Grade Elementary Basketball Coach
- Community Historian - Tiwa Language
- Substitute Cooks: Pay \$12/hr.
- Substitute Teachers: Starting pay \$12/hr. [agarcia@penascoisd.com](mailto:agarcia@penascoisd.com)
- Substitute Custodians: Pay \$12/hr.
- Substitute Bus Drivers

Find the certified position application here:

<https://www.penascoisd.com/page/certified-employment-application>

Find the non-certified position application here:

<https://www.penascoisd.com/page/non-certified-application>

For questions, email Amy Garcia at [agarcia@penascoisd.com](mailto:agarcia@penascoisd.com).

## **COMMUNITY YARD WORK JOB**

Bobbie Mascarenas in El Valle is seeking a student to mow/trim her yard over the summer. She will pay a total of \$500 for the summer from May to Sept. Paid every other week for mowing and trimming. If interested, call (505-310-1428).





## A "NORMAL" SCHOOL YEAR

*By Alicia Abeyta and Kalista Duran*

After two years of being online and distancing ourselves from others, Peñasco students were finally able to be back in a somewhat normal school environment. Towards the beginning of the year students who were vaccinated had the option of wearing a mask or not. That same day, this rule changed as students were told that mask mandates are still required. Throughout the school year we've seen many changes regarding mask requirements and schedules. 8th Grader Rochelle Lopez, Freshman Enrique Gonzales, and Senior Daniel Abeyta all agree that they all learned more this year than the past 2 years due to online learning. Students would often get distracted and lose the motivation to complete the school work.

Enrique Gonzales claimed that he would slack off due to the long due date/late policy of assignments, which made him more lazy. But now that we are back in person and back with the 2-day late policy, which is making him go back to how it was before and not slack off as much. Most students faced hard challenges throughout the year such as switching to a new Algebra 1 class from the last semester or just an overall schedule change.

Rochelle Lopez was asked what she liked most about the school year so far and what changes she would like to see. She said "One thing that I enjoy about school so far is that our staff is preparing the middle school to be ready for high school next year and years to follow. Although I enjoy these things I would like to see a heating and cooling system in the school because this year they have failed sometimes and it has been cold. I would also like to see home made food in the cafeteria because this packaged food is not healthy for children."

Students' mindsets were completely changed due to the pandemic. Senior Daniel Abeyta said that he still tried to do good in school but had begun to start focusing on other things such as hobbies as he had started getting tired of it. He had a lot of free time which led to being even more prone towards procrastination, which almost hurt him on multiple occasions over the past few years. When asked about what could have been different, he responded, "I would have to say that the prospect of graduation is probably the hardest challenge I've faced this year. There's just so much that goes into it between dealing with making sure your grades and other things are in order, dealing with classmates acting like idiots while trying to agree on important decisions, and finally just thinking about what comes after it all. It's just kinda overwhelming in a sense." Many students might have the same reason as Daniel as to who/what made this year more memorable. He responded, "I would say that my friends are what have made this a more memorable year. After hardly seeing each other for the better part of two

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## A "NORMAL" SCHOOL YEAR CONTINUED

years, because of the pandemic, we've finally been able to hang out and make up for that lost time. I think we've hung out more this year than we had done even before the pandemic. This year would have definitely been boring without them."

Not only the students struggled this year, but the teachers as well. Middle School Science teacher Jessica Esquibel says the students learned more this school year compared to the last two years, but unfortunately students have not learned as much as before the pandemic, and she hopes next school year we can get back to instruction pre-pandemic time. This year was different compared to others because students and teachers were required to wear masks until February. Students and staff are dealing with a lot more stress and anxiety today than they were before the pandemic. Teachers were also required to teach online and in person without notice. After asking what she is looking forward to next year she responded with, "I am looking forward to a normal school year from beginning to end, fingers crossed. No more remote teaching/learning, I prefer to have all students in their seats learning."

High School ELA teacher Stephanie Noll says that this year was much better academically for the majority of students. In person learning is much better and she noticed a lot that students have a hard time paying attention for long periods of time and are easily distracted. But it's gotten better throughout the year. When asked about what she thinks could've been different this year she responded, "Since we started school everything was somewhat normal but the students were not the same and we could've done more to understand that."

I think all teachers, not just Ms.Noll, could agree that one thing to look forward to next year is a school year where covid isn't such a big part of the students' school life.

This year has been the most challenging year for both students and teachers. Even with all the bumps throughout this year, we are grateful to even have had a complete school year in person. Hopefully we are able to have a school year without the worries of COVID.



# PEÑASCO COMMUNITY REACHES OUT TO THOSE IMPACTED BY THE FIRES

*By Kaitlyn Romero, Lyrik Montoya, Jared Lujan, Jerome Espinoza, Kalista Duran, Alicia Abeyta*

On April 6, 2022 the Hermit's Peak fire started due to a prescribed burn that lost control. Sources say that the fire is also still under investigation. The location of the fire was Ocate off of Highway 120 Canada Bonita. The status of the fire has changed a lot due to unpredictable wind and drought. On April 19, 2022 the Calf Canyon fire started in Santa Fe National Forest in Gallinas. As of right now the Calf Canyon fire is still under investigation. At first the Hermit's Peak was at 95% contained, and the Calf Canyon fire was at 0% containment. That was until April 23, 2022 when both of the fires combined and made one immense fire. As of May 2, 2022, the fire is 20 percent contained.

Currently the two main counties affected by this fire are Mora and San Miguel. Mandatory evacuations are set in place for these counties and the towns within them. They are following the READY, SET, GO! evacuation order, and currently Mora county is in the "Go" status, which means mandatory evacuation. San Miguel county is also in the "Go" status. The weather has played a large role in the increase in acres that this fire has burnt including wind changes and the lack of precipitation. So far, over 145,000 acres have burned. With winds reaching up to 35 miles/hour it continues to raise concern for firefighters and the public.

Peñasco has become the main evacuation site for those leaving Mora County. Volunteers have staffed the Jicarita gym which is full of cots, food, and personal hygiene necessities. Jenny Torres, an evacuee from Cleveland, left Mora on Sunday, April 24. "We were here for four days," Torres says. On April 28, she and her husband Barney returned home and then had to come back to Peñasco on May 1st, though Barney stayed behind to feed and check on his livestock. Torres has appreciated all the love and comfort volunteers have offered. "Being here is a home away from home. Everyone has been very serviceable."

If you would like to volunteer your time or donate any goods, please first check the Peñasco Independent School District Facebook site for the most up to date information.





## PEÑASCO PROM 2022: STRESSFUL BUT WORTHWHILE IN THE LONG RUN

*By Jared Lujan and Jerome Espinoza*

The junior class has worked hard this year to fundraise and organize this year's prom. The class started with only six hundred dollars in their account and wasn't able to fundraise for almost a year and a half because of the pandemic. With the help of Mr. Duran and Mr. Sandoval, Treasurer Jared Lujan shares that they raised approximately \$2400 this year through the Halloween carnival, Valentine grams, concessions, and shamrock floats. At times it was difficult to raise money, get supplies to fundraise, and work together as a class. However, the prom is happening on May 14th and will take place at the Peñasco Community Center from 8 PM-11 PM.

The juniors tried to contact Sipapu Ski Resort and the Sagebrush Inn about holding prom at either of those places; however, they weren't able to reserve these locations on time. The prom tickets will cost \$30 for a couple and \$15 for a single. With concerns and rumors about low attendance, juniors and seniors took a survey as to whether or not there should be a prom. The results were in, and the majority of students still wanted prom. Class vice-president Adam Archuleta shared that it is a traditional event, and students are going to make the best of it. At prom, he hopes to hear good music and have everyone enjoy themselves. Jared Lujan adds that he hopes that prom goes great and that people have a splendid time.

When asked about prom, class sponsor Mr. Sandoval says, "I think that the junior class and the executive officers have done a great deal of fundraising and planning to make this prom memorable for both those in the junior class and those in the senior class." Sandoval added: "I expect this to be a learning situation in part because this is the first year that proms have been hosted after Covid, so there have been a few years of wasted fundraising; however, I believe that by working together this prom will be great, and it will show everybody what you can do."

# SENIOR SIGNING DAY!

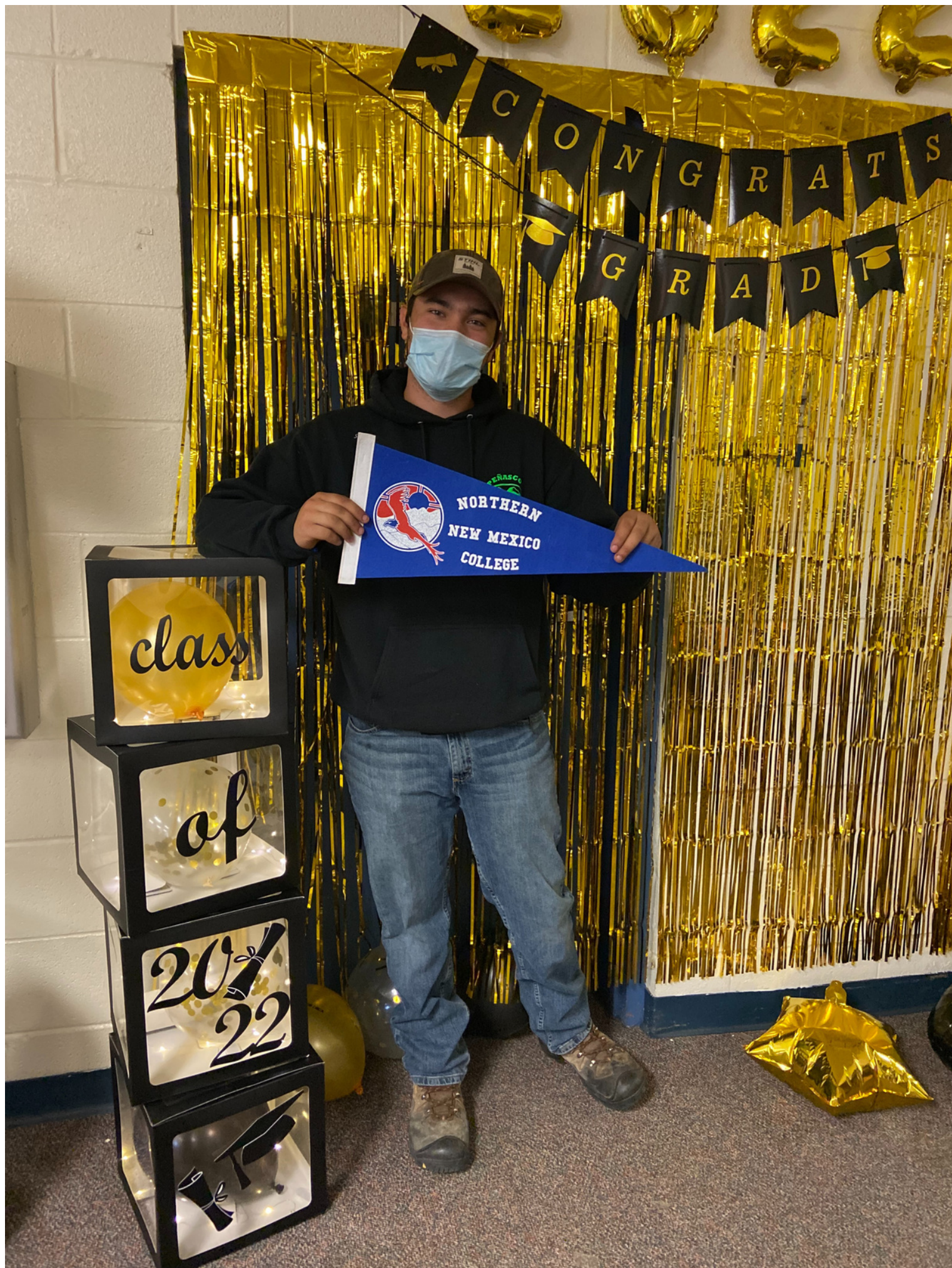
The PISD eniors participated in Senior Signing Day, announcing their college and career destinations for next year!

The event was sponsored by the New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation and included an online presentation by Secretary of Education Kurt Steinhaus and speakers from the Associated Builders and Contractors, Kirtland Air Force Base, and more. Students were served Frito pie and cake! Thank you to senior sponsors Mercella Cordova and Mandy Montoya, AVID teacher Anelisia Pena, and counselor Pauline Laumbach for organizing the event.

Congratulations to these seniors. We are so excited for your future and what you will achieve!





























2022

CONGRATULATIONS GRAD

