

Local News

HEALTH

West student facing another challenge

High school, community rally to help family with funds

BY GAYLE PEREZ
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Seventeen-year-old Aaron Cortese and his family have been through a lot during his short life.

There have been countless surgeries, medical procedures and setbacks related to Aaron's diagnosis of Arnold Chiara Malformation, a spinal cord defect.

Most recently, Aaron's scoliosis (curvature of the spine) has worsened to the point that his spine has started pressing on his lungs and his heart, making it difficult to breathe and causing pain, according to Aaron's father, Dave Cortese.

Aaron, a junior at Pueblo West High School, has not been able to attend classes this fall due to his condition and is being home-

schooled.

The only remedy for Aaron would be a potentially life-threatening, 12-hour surgery to insert a metal rod in his spine.

While the Cortese family contemplates whether to pursue the surgery, Aaron's classmates and teachers at Pueblo West High School want to help the family with ongoing medical expenses and needs for the Cortese family.

On Saturday, the Pueblo West High School community will gather for a fundraising spaghetti dinner from noon to 5 p.m. at Cat's Pourhouse, 147 S. Tiffany Drive in Pueblo West.

Cost of the dinner is \$10. At 6 p.m., a live band is scheduled to play and a \$5 donation will be accepted for that event.

"This is our way of



Aaron Cortese

pitching in and helping out Aaron and his family," said Tamera Jackson, who has worked with Aaron as a paraprofessional since he was in elementary school.

Jackson and Pueblo West physical education teacher Michelle Blackford are organizing the event.

Jackson said the money



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/FILE

Pueblo West High School swimmer Aaron Cortese (left) smiles as he gets encouraging words from girls swim team member Bari Agnes last April.

raised at the dinner will go to Aaron's parents, Dave and Billie Jean Cortese to help with medical expenses.

Dave Cortese said he is

grateful for the outpouring of support from the Pueblo West community, and in particular, the high school.

"We can't believe all the generosity," Cortese

said. "We want to thank everybody for putting the benefit together and for those who have been so supportive."

SEE CORTESE, 8A

ICY BITE



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/CHRIS MCLEAN

Zebulon Woelfle, 4, takes a taste of new-fallen snow that greeted Puebloans and others in the region Wednesday. Winter arrived a bit early this week with a few inches of snow and record-breaking bitter cold temperatures.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Health choices to open Saturday

Time frame for buying, changing 2015 state insurance plans continues through Feb. 15

BY GAYLE PEREZ
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

More on the web
CHIEFTAIN.COM/HEALTH

As the first year of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act nears its end, it's time for individuals to begin shopping for health insurance coverage for 2015.

The open enrollment for health insurance begins Saturday and runs through Feb. 15. However, individuals who want coverage by Jan. 1 must be registered by Dec. 15.

Individuals who do not register for insurance by Feb. 15 will have to wait a year to get coverage unless they have a major life change such as getting married, having a child or losing a job.

The open enrollment period is for individuals who do not have insurance or those who have individual health insurance.

Individuals can shop for and purchase insurance plans or change an existing plan through Healthcare.gov or the state's insurance marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado.

The marketplace is the health insurance exchange used to connect individuals to insurance plans.

This year, there were 148,000 individuals who purchased insurance from the marketplace in 2014.

Connect for Health Colorado announced Wednesday its new, updated and improved enrollment site.

Current and potential customers will be able to compare policies, research eligibility for tax credits and choose their enrollment.

"We want to encourage consumers to comparison shop

for policies that meet their needs and their own particular circumstances," said Gary Drews, interim chief executive director officer for Connect for Health.

"Monthly premiums, benefits and the financial assistance available to consumers who qualify can change each year."

Drews said this year, there are some new, less expensive choices available in many regions.

"We are urging Coloradans to be smart consumers and compare their options before renewing their current plan or enrolling in a new one."

Other improvements made to the website include a virtual assistant to help customers through the process, a medication look-up which allows customers to compare prescription coverage and an enhanced provider directory to help customers see if their doctor is in the network of the health plans they are comparing.

There also is information available online to determine whether an individual may qualify for Medicaid and will direct them to the Colorado Department of Human Services website to enroll for coverage there.

Individuals who do not get insurance under the Affordable Care Act face a penalty. That penalty is \$325 for each adult not insured or 2 percent of your yearly income, whichever is greater.

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SAMPLING PLAN

EPA asking to test yards, homes

2,600 letters sent to Eilers residents, owners

BY PETER ROPER
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Roughly 2,600 letters have gone out to Eilers neighborhood residents and property owners asking permission for federal contractors to test yards and inside their homes for lead, arsenic and other toxic metals.

Environmental Protection Agency officials said they've already gotten the

go-ahead from 290 property owners to test yards and 216 also want inside their homes tested.

The letters went to property owners in a half-mile radius around the site of the old Colorado Smelter, which was located between Interstate 25 and Benedict Park on Mesa Avenue in the old South Side neighborhood.

EPA and state health officials believe the lead and

Why should we give our permission for testing if the city won't?

PAM KOCHMAN
EILER HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

arsenic found in earlier soil tests came from the

long-demolished American Smelting and Refining Co., or ASARCO smelter, which was shut down nearly 100 years ago but left a slag heap of contaminated dirt and material as its legacy.

EPA is listing the Eilers area on the federal Superfund list for cleanup, but they are in the initial phase of identifying the extent of the lead and arsenic prob-

SEE EPA, 8A



CHIEFTAIN ILLUSTRATION

CRIME BEAT

Guns among burglar's haul

BY RYAN SEVERANCE
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

A burglar reportedly stole nearly \$9,000 worth of items, which included two handguns, plus about \$1,500 in cash Tuesday from a home on the 1200 block of Elm Street.

Josh Ivers told police he left his home around 9:30 a.m. and returned at 3 p.m. to find his back door wide open, according to a police report.

Ivers said the suspect broke the rear window of the home near the back door, unlocked the door and made his way inside.

There were a number of items that were reported stolen from the residence including a television, a laptop,

an iPad, two iPhones, two digital cameras, two handguns, a toolbox, an Apple TV device and prescription medication.

Close to \$1,500 in cash also was taken from the house, according to the police report.

Ivers said he didn't have any suspect information but suspects someone he knew was involved in the burglary.

No arrests have been made in the case.

Stolen vehicle

A man reported his 2001 GMC Yukon XL was stolen from in front of his home on the 800 block of Box Elder Street sometime between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

Carl Buck told police he parked the white Yukon in front of the residence at 3 p.m. on Tuesday and when he returned to it at around 8:30 a.m. Wednesday it was gone.

The vehicle is worth an estimated \$7,000.

There is no suspect information at this time.

Arrests

Christopher Lee Garcia, 38, address not specified, was arrested Monday on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, second-degree assault and menacing. He was being held at Pueblo County jail without bail pending a court appearance.

Lloyd Lee Gibson, 61, of the 1600 block of West 24th Street, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of second-degree burglary. He was being held at jail in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

Tara Dawn Noah, 29, of the 200 block of East Hahns Peak Avenue in Pueblo West, was arrested Tuesday on an identity theft warrant. She was being held at jail in lieu of \$5,000 bail.

John A. Kruse, 46, address not specified, was arrested Tuesday on a sexual assault warrant. He was being held at jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

ryans@chieftain.com
Pueblo Crime Stoppers, 542-STOP. Remember, your call is anonymous.

FUNERAL NOTICES



Roselawn Funeral Home
(719) 542-2934
Cemetery & Crematory
1706 Roselawn Road, Pueblo CO 81006
www.roselawnpueblo.com

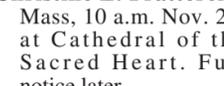
Richard Allen Ridgway, 70, of Pueblo, lost his battle with cancer on Nov. 10, 2014.

Preceded in death by daughter, Karen Ridgway; and father, Stanley Ridgway. Survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, Darren (Ona), Damian (Andrea) and Justin; grandchildren, Kyle, Austin, Sean and Grai; mother, Flora; sister, Maureen (Bill); and brother, Keith. Memorial Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, at St. Joseph Church in Blende. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to a cancer society of your choice.



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Henrietta Ann Herrera-Reveteriano, 42, of Pueblo, Nov. 12, 2014. Notice to run Sunday.



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1317 North Main • 542-1552
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Christine L. Fratterelli, Mass, 10 a.m. Nov. 22, at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Full notice later.

Cynthia M. Runfola, 62. Among her survivors, her daughter, Tammy (Greg) Dalton of Pueblo. Service, 1 p.m. Saturday, Christian Growth Center, 1906 E. Hudson.

FUNERAL NOTICES

Gary Lee Johnson, 66, born March 16, 1948, in Omaha, Neb.; passed away Nov. 8, 2014, in Parker, Colo. Service, 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, at Horan & McConaty (funeral home), 5303 E. County Line Road (west of Holly Street), Centennial, CO 80122, 303-221-0030. Full notice to follow.



Pueblo West Funeral Home & Crematory Inc.
381 S. Joe Martinez Blvd. - 547-5100
Pueblo West, CO 81007

Durell S. Kline




Durell S. Kline, 84, of Pueblo West, passed away with family by his side on Nov. 10, 2014. Durell is survived by wife, Vickie; sons, Michael (Vivian) and Erik; grandson, Dietrich; granddaughter, Deidra; great-granddaughter, Athena; extended family and friends in Colorado and Pennsylvania. Farewell eulogy with military honors and taps by the Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team, 4 p.m. Friday, Liberty Point.



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PUEBLO • COLORADO SPRINGS

Patsy Sue Ewing, 82, slipped away peacefully Nov. 10, 2014. Funeral service, 11 a.m. Saturday in the Sanctuary of Bethlehem Baptist Church, 1044 Spruce St. Complete notice later.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM
Esther Jimenez
11/13/1921 9/4/2014



Mom,
God took you home to celebrate your birthday. Happy 93rd birthday. We miss you deeply.

Your Family
THANKSGIVING
Thanks to God and Jesus for answering my prayers.
R.S.

COMMUNITY HONORS

PCC to expand President's Circle

Supporter Mary Jane Voelker and Kane foundation to be honored

BY ANTHONY A. MESTAS
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The Pueblo Community College Foundation is scheduled to induct a longtime school supporter and the Kane Family Foundation into its distinguished President's Circle Friday during a ceremony at PCC.

The foundation is scheduled to host its 16th annual Donor Appreciation Dinner in PCC's Fortino Ballroom beginning with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and the induction program.

PCC supporter Mary Jane Voelker and the Kane foundation will be honored at the event.

The honorees will be presented with a crystal eagle, which recognizes

More on the web »
[CHIEFTAIN.COM/NEWS/EDUCATION](http://chieftain.com/news/education)

the spirit they have demonstrated through their substantial support in time and money to the foundation.

Each year, the foundation hosts the dinner to express gratitude to its generous contributors.

School officials said Voelker has been a huge supporter of PCC's Hospitality Studies and Culinary Arts Department with her financial contributions in the areas of scholarship, equipment, culinary competitions and travel experiences.

They provided utility services and kitchen equipment that greatly improved learning in the



Mary Jane Voelker

advanced cooking classes. This past summer, they also enabled culinary and tourism program students to take an invaluable summer study tour of the San Francisco area, where they had tremendous learning experiences.

School officials said Warden and Andy Kane have demonstrated their strong belief that education is the key to lifelong independence by awarding scholarships to thousands of Colorado students.

Since 2008, the foundation has provided scholarships to PCC students who intend to transfer upon graduation by paying full tuition until they earn a bachelor's degree.

Since its founding, the PCC Foundation has awarded \$3.7 million in scholarships and \$1.57 million in college program support.

More information about the Donor Appreciation Dinner is available at 549-3314 or Bianca.Flores@pueblocc.edu. anthonym@chieftain.com

TRAFFIC

Man hurt in I-25 crash

BY JON POMPIA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

One man was seriously injured in a two-vehicle crash just after midnight Wednesday 10 miles north of Pueblo.

According to the Colorado State Patrol, John Quillen, 36, of Bristol, was transported to Parkview Medical Center with life-threatening injuries.

On Interstate 25, a 2002 Chevrolet Camaro driven by Quillen was traveling south when he lost control. The vehicle went off the left side of the road and began to rotate clockwise. The Camaro continued northbound across the center median and into the southbound lane, where it collided with the left front of a 2007 International pulling a trailer.

After impact, the Camaro traveled back southbound into the center median, coming to rest on its wheels. The International continued south and went off the left side of the road, coming to rest on its wheels. Quillen was unrestrained at the time of the accident. The driver of the International, Nicholas Summer, 26, of Alamosa, was restrained. He was transported to Parkview and treated for minor injuries.

Exceeding a safe speed and inadequate tires were the contributing factors to the crash, the patrol said. jpompia@chieftain.com

COMMUNITY LECTURES

Expert on Aztec calendar to speak

BY JEFF TUCKER
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Puebloans looking for information on an ancient Mesoamerican calendar will get a couple of chances to do so, beginning at 3 p.m. today.

The Mayan calendar became a subject of widespread curiosity in 2012, after some interpretations claimed it con-

tained a doomsday date. Other experts debunked the theory and the world continued on after Dec. 21, 2012.

Now folks will have the chance to learn a little bit about the calendar of the Aztecs.

Mazatzin Aztekyolocalli is set to speak this afternoon at the InfoZone News Museum at the

Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, and again at 5 p.m. Friday in the basement of the Occhiato University Center at the Colorado State University-Pueblo campus.

Aztekyolocalli is an expert on the Aztec calendar and is making his first tour of Colorado this month, talking to people about it and trying to

answer questions.

Part of Aztekyolocalli's philosophy is "mending the sacred hoop," which involves bringing people of all ethnicities, races and creeds together, said Ed Sandoval, one of the people helping bring Aztekyolocalli here.

Both events are free to the public. jtucker@chieftain.com

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS
Boughton — born to Jenna Kreutzer and Matthew Boughton, Pueblo West, a daughter, Nov. 10 at Parkview Medical Center.
Duzan — Born to Kayla French and William Duzan, Pueblo, a son, Nov. 10 at Parkview Medical Center.
Hubert — Born to Nicole Medina and Robyn Hubert, Pueblo, a daughter, Nov. 9 at Parkview Medical Center.
Monett — Born to Jessica and Ryan Monett Sr., Pueblo, a son, Nov. 8 at Parkview Medical

Center.
Nosko — Born to Wesley and Michael Nosko, Pueblo West, a daughter, Nov. 10 at Parkview Medical Center.
Schwieh — Born to Kathryn and Eric Schwieh, Pueblo, a daughter, Nov. 10, at St Mary-Corwin Medical Center.

DEATHS
PUEBLO
Nov. 12
Herrera-Reveteriano — Henrietta Ann Herrera-Reveteriano, 42. Romero.

Nov. 10
Ridgway — Richard Allen Ridgway, 70. Roselawn.

Nov. 7
Runfola — Cynthia Marie Runfola, 62. Montgomery & Steward.

LA JUNTA
Torrez — Dexter Pearl Torrez, 83, La Junta, Nov. 4. Peacock-Larsen, La Junta.

Znidarsich — June Marie Znidarsich, 88, La Junta, Nov. 4. Peacock-Larsen, La Junta.

PARKER
Johnson — Gary Lee

Johnson, 66, Parker, formerly of Pueblo, Nov. 8. Horan & McConaty, Centennial.

PUEBLO WEST
Kline — Durell S. Kline, 84, Pueblo West, Nov. 10. Pueblo West Funeral Home, Pueblo West.

SAN LUIS
Jaquez — Elva T. Jaquez, 97, San Luis, Nov. 11. Romero, Alamosa.

SAN JOSE, CALIF.
Luevano — Josephine Luevano, 69, San Jose, Calif., formerly of Boone, Nov. 8. Neptune Society, San Jose.

CORTESE/ from page 7A

Cortese said the money will be used to help with medical expenses and to purchase a new wheelchair lift for his truck and a camper shell to keep the wheelchair covered when it is in the truck.

In addition to the benefit dinner, an account has been set up for the Cortese family at Sunwest Credit Union.

Tickets for the dinner are available at the school or by contacting Jackson at 242-4691, Blackford at 406-9299 or at the door. gperez@chieftain.com

EPA/ from page 7A

lem — which is why they are doing soil and interior testing.

Getting City Council to ask for the Superfund listing took two contentious years as some Eilers property owners resisted, arguing it would be a stigma that would kill property values and taint the neighborhood.

Listing supporters, including the Pueblo County commissioners, said that stigma already exists and having EPA clean up the neighborhood is the best answer.

There is a citizens advisory group that works with EPA and state health

officials on the cleanup issues.

At a meeting Wednesday, several Eilers residents on the committee challenged the EPA on whether Pueblo city officials were giving contractors access to test the soil on city property in the area, such as alleys and in Benedict Park.

"Why should we give our permission for testing if the city won't?" Pam Kocman of the Eiler Heights Neighborhood Association asked EPA officials Wednesday.

City Manager Sam Azad wasn't at the meeting but said City Council wants to

review the EPA sampling plan before giving permission to let contractors do testing. Council has hired the law firm of Silver & Debrosky PC to represent the city in any Superfund matters. The resolution to hire the law firm said the intent was to keep the city from being charged any of the cleanup costs.

Sabrina Forrest, EPA's manager for the Eilers cleanup, said she hoped the initial testing would be underway this winter and it would likely be followed by a second and third round to hone in on the exact extent of the project site.

There was debate about EPA sampling methods Wednesday. A cleanup firm, Pacific Western Technologies, has been hired by EPA to do the work.

EPA wants to test the interiors of houses for lead exposure although Superfund cleanups do not include dealing with lead paint. Indoor testing helps determine the source of outdoor contamination, they said.

State health officials said they can help residents remediate any lead paint problems in old houses. proper@chieftain.com