

**Pagosa Springs High School
&
San Juan Mountain School**

proudly present the

**Class of
2021**



Principal's message



Sean O'Donnell

Graduates of the Class of 2021,

Congratulations and commendation to you on your achievement of graduation from Pagosa Springs High School.

It has been an honor and pleasure to watch each and every one of you grow over these last four years. It seems like just a moment ago when you guys walked into the gymnasium as a starry eyed freshman for our opening assembly. I am sure at that time, graduation seemed so far away. Now here you are officially joining all of the past Pagosa Springs High School graduates as alumni.

As I reflect back on what you have been through this last year, I can't help but think of how many things you were forced to miss out on. Unfortunately, school was stripped down to the bare minimum of teaching and learning. So many of the things that make the senior year of high school special could not happen. Yet, I witnessed your ability to make the most of the situation. You persevered through mask mandates, social distancing, hybrid, remote, and in person learning schedules, required quarantines, and the list could go on.

Though this school year was not what any of us hoped for you, please know it in no way diminishes your future possibilities, or our love for each of you. You are proving to be the strong, resilient young adults those in your lives have supported you in becoming.

I leave you with the Chinese Proverb, "A man who cannot tolerate small misfortunes can never accomplish great things." I know with all my heart, each and every one of you will go on to accomplish great things.

To Your Continued Success,
Sean O'Donnell

Administration Board of Education

<p>Superintendent Assistant Superintendent Pagosa Springs High School Principal Pagosa Springs High School Assistant Principal Pagosa Springs High School Counselor San Juan Mountain School Principal</p>	<p>Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza Laura Mijares Sean O'Donnell Marcie Ham Mark Thompson Stewart Bellina</p>	<p>Bruce Dryburgh, President Robert "Bob" Lynch, Vice President/Treasurer Dana Hayward, Secretary Michael "Mike" Moore, Board Member Tim Taylor, Board Member</p>
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Superintendent's message



Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza

Congratulations Class of 2021!

The year you entered high school was the year of the total solar eclipse, a noteworthy Oscar blunder, when presenters accidentally named the wrong best picture, Apple rolled out the iPhone 10 and Starbucks offered us the unicorn Frappuccino. We didn't wear masks, or think twice about walking into a restaurant for dinner and hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes were in plentiful supply. Yet those memories seem so long ago and frankly, un-noteworthy in light of the past year and a half.

Your junior year of high school was like none any previous class had experienced, as you transitioned to learning at home almost overnight. Spring activities, sports and events didn't happen and schools transitioned into summer without a clear sense of what the following school year would be like. You entered into this senior year with so many aspects of school being up in the air. It would have been easy to use the past year and a half as an excuse not to have reached goals and dreams you set for yourself, and yet you reached further and stretched yourself beyond what many of you thought you were capable of. You have navigated health and safety and still attended most of your senior year in person. You not only played sports, but you excelled and built lasting memories. You were able to plan and dream and host a prom. You got dressed up, took beautiful pictures, had dinner together, laughed and danced. You have dreamed and planned for your future and you will celebrate with your friends and family as you accept your diploma and turn your tassel at your graduation.

While the world has experienced a great many changes over your four years of high school, you have navigated your high school experience, including a pandemic, with vision, determination, compassion, thoughtful reflection and courage. May you take the challenges you had to navigate and overcome and use them to develop strengths that propel you toward your goals. May the determination that you developed throughout the past four years provide you with the confidence that you can take on any challenge that arises. While the past four years may not have been what every student envisions their high school experience to be, I hope you are able to look back on your experience and realize the silver lining in your experience was the strength and resilience you built which has prepared you to successfully take on all of your big dreams.

The Pirate Nation is incredibly proud of you, class of 2021.

Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza
Superintendent



Senior class advisors



Katie Lorenzen
Gold Squad

Seniors of 2021: You. Are. WINNERS! You've made it through 13 years of school--the 13th being one of perseverance that will not soon be forgotten. These 13 Gold Seniors had 3 different advisory teachers in their first 3 years of high school, which was far from ideal. However, they stuck it out, dominated in kickball, and will no doubt go on to do great things! So, wherever you may go, and whatever you may do, do your best, give your all, and always be kind. Also, remember where you came from and those who have helped and will help you along the way! Go to your destiny!!



Sabra Miller
Silver Squad

In the fall of 2017, as freshman, for one of our many door decorating victories, you declared yourself, "Ohana" Family. Family has been what we have indeed grown into. Our little crazy family has seen us through this past year, and you have shown each other unfailing grace and support. Favorite memories of celebrations of victories, small and large, comfort for times of hardship, lots of laughter, a little frustration, and macaroni and cheese will stay with us. As you graduate, and move on with your lives, always remember your family built from strangers, now evermore connected. I am so proud and honored to have been part of your lives throughout high school, and can't wait to see what your future holds.



Kristin Morehouse
Yellow Squad

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Nine young adults stand before you tonight. Four short years ago they were 9th graders fresh from the junior high. Our first year together, I wouldn't allow them to enter our classroom until I could walk in with them because on occasion they would attempt to body surf on the podium or try to be silly with the stapler and tape. Each year they faced harder classes growing in their confidence and in the strength of their friendships. Our awkward years passed and we became a close knit accepting group celebrating our victories together and standing quietly and strongly as we faced our challenges. This last year and a half has been tricky but they have faced it with vigor and resilience, GRIT! Yellow squad seniors will continue to shine outside the doors of Pagosa Springs High School as they move forward continuing to make the world a better place.

*“Education is our passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”*
—Malcolm X



Connie O'Donnell
Black Squad

I have had the pleasure of watching these kids grow and blossom throughout high school. I'm so lucky to have had this group of people in my life and I'm thankful that I got to be a part of their lives as well. They have been so kind to share their stories with me as well as their day to day victories and struggles. I'm looking forward to what the future holds for this group of young and talented graduates. Congratulations to the Team Black Seniors of 2021.



Amanda Schweizer
White Squad

“To love what you do, do what you love. I hope you always follow your heart, wherever your dreams may take you.” - Author Unknown
Witnessing your growth over the past four years into the amazing adults you have become has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career, but you will always be “my kids.” Now FLY & be FREE! Love, Mrs. S



Lance Thorton
Gray Squad

These young men and women have done a great job getting through this year. They were able to persevere through in-person learning, remote learning and even a few quarantines and not only did they survive but they thrived in this year of uncertainty. I only got to know these guys for their senior year but I was amazed at how well that they all got along and worked together to lift each other up throughout the year. I do have to say that I am a little worried for some of the boys in this group as they head to college just because of their favorite game to play in class. Congratulations you guys and good luck with all your plans in the future.

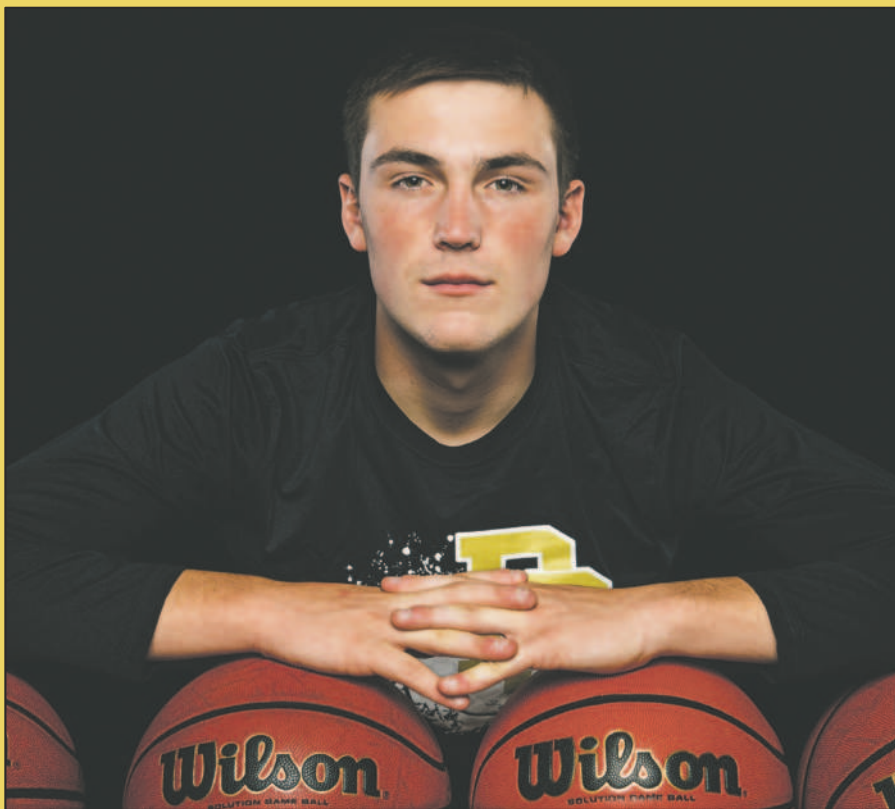
Senior awards



**Outstanding Senior Performing Arts Student
Ella Hemenger**



**Outstanding Senior Visual Arts Student
Nina Smith**



**Male Triple Impact Student Athlete of the Year
Aidan O'Donnell**



**Female Triple Impact Student Athlete of the Year
Adelyn Dozier**



**Female Student of the Year
Ivory Carpenter**



**Male Student of the Year
Cam Hinger**



**Outstanding Senior Male Athlete
Cameron Lucero**



**Outstanding Senior Female Athlete
River Pitcher**

All State Team / Pride Wall Recipients



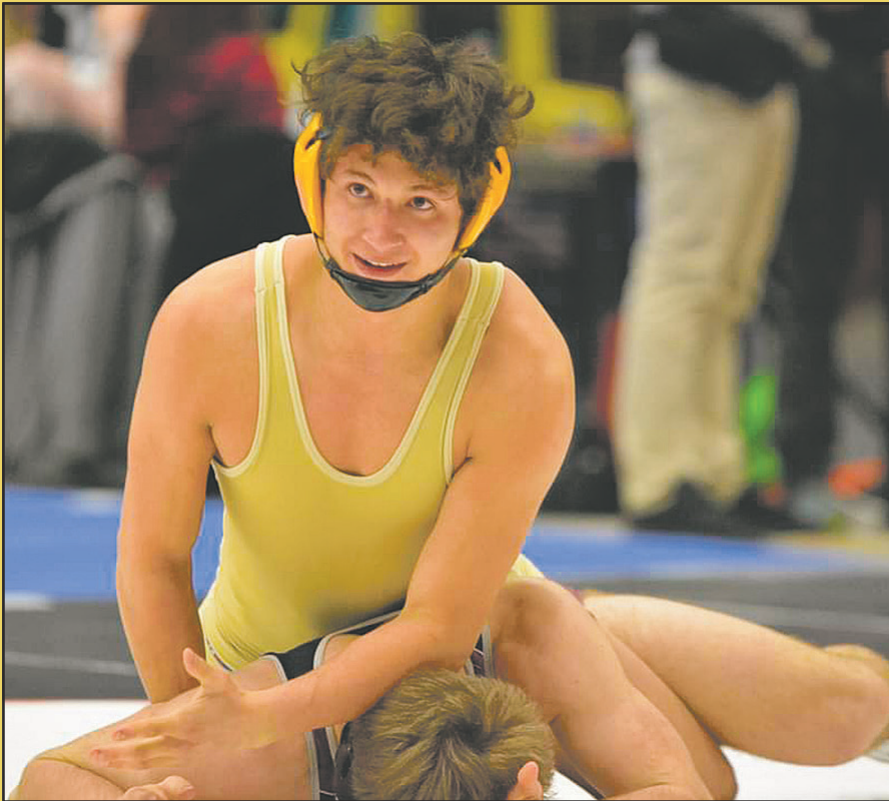
Gabe Heraty — Cross Country



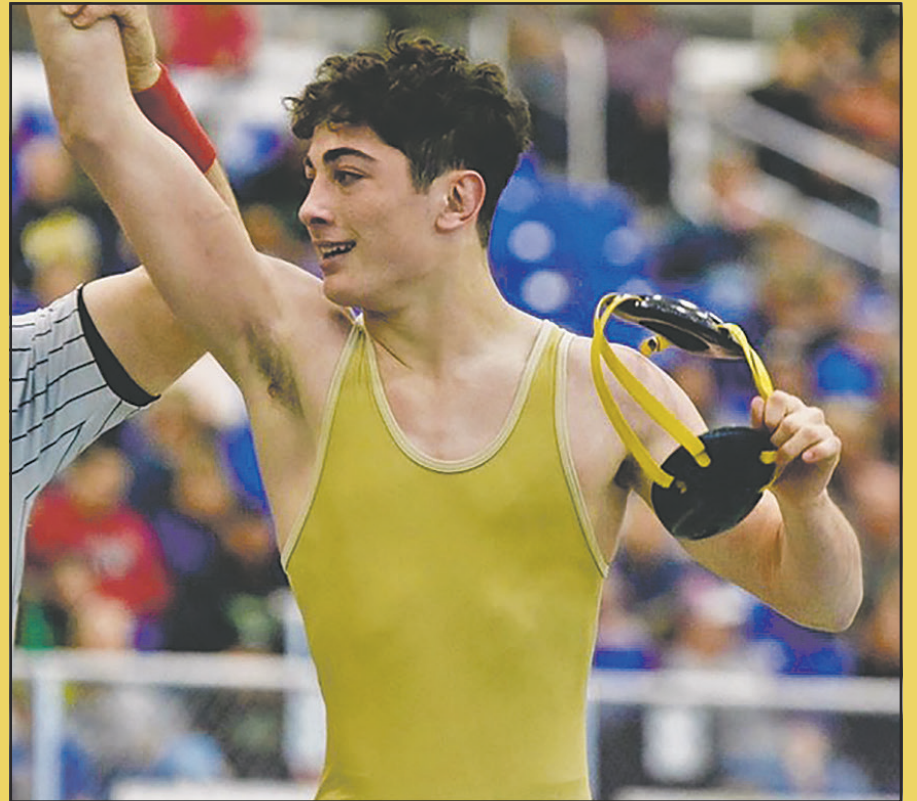
Evan Raymond — Football



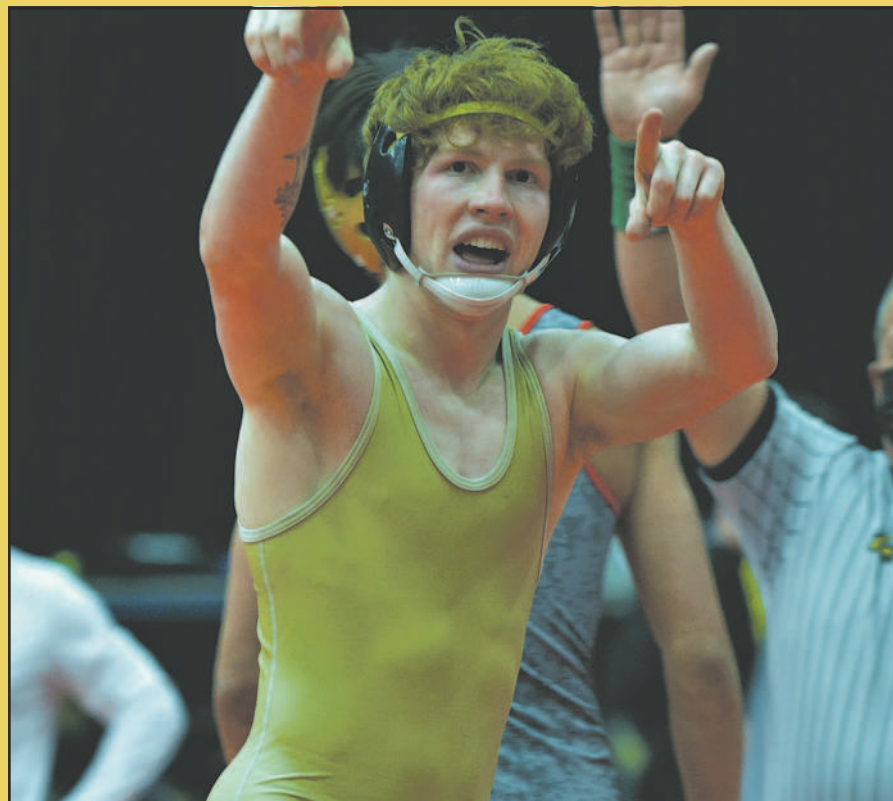
Mitch Lewis — Football & Basketball



Cameron Lucero — Wrestling

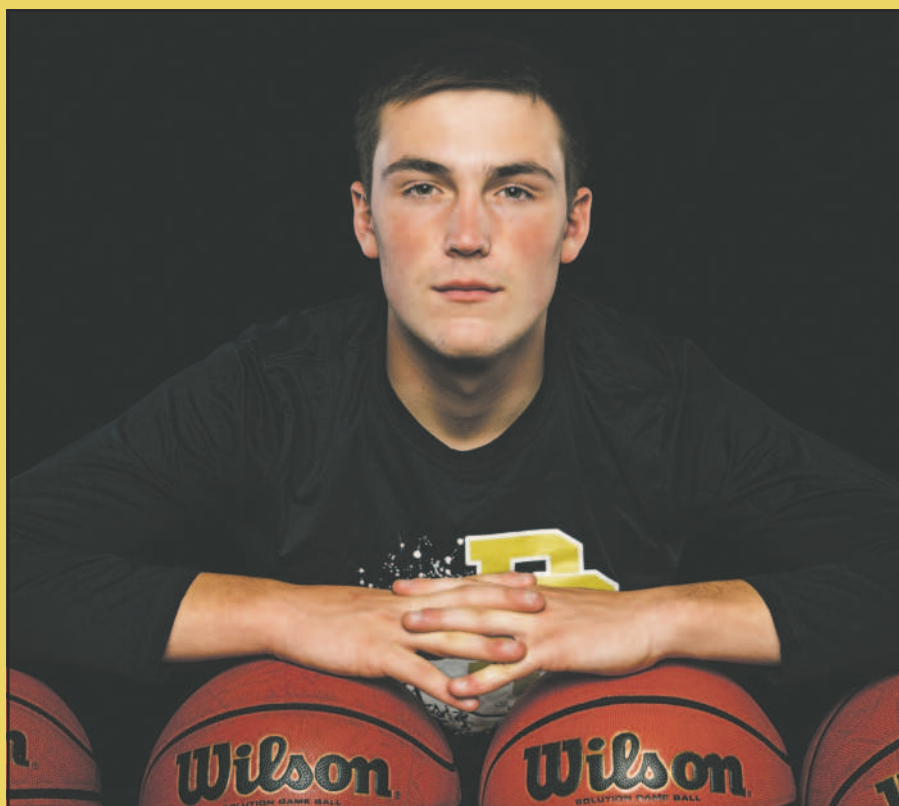


Dylan Tressler — Wrestling & Football



Erik Wyman — Wrestling

12 Sport Athletes



Aidan O'Donnell



Wyatt Zeigler

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

So throw off the bowlines.

Sail away from the safe harbor.

Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore. Dream. Discover."

—Mark Twain





Senior class leadership



**Head Boy
Cam Hinger**



**Head Girl
Maya Nasralla**



**Class President
Kylie Keuning**



**Class Vice President
Ella Blechman**

PSHS Wrestling



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Senior Dylan Tressler stands in second place at the state championship. Tressler took second in the 145-pound weight class.



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Senior Brae Bergdolt receives his third-place honor. Bergdolt took third at 152 pounds.



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Senior Grant Aucoin stands in fifth atop the podium at the state tournament. Aucoin took fifth at 182 pounds.



Photo courtesy Allison Wylie

Senior Erik Wyman stands in third on the state tournament podium. Wyman took third at 120 pounds.

Other podium finishes for the Pirate State Wrestling Championship team include: three-time state champion Cameron Lucero (pictured on next page); Junior Skyler Hill receiving second-place in the 220-pound weight class; and Junior Wil Aucoin taking fourth in the 182-pound category.

2021 State Champs



Photo courtesy Stacey Barker

Coach Dan Janowsky holds the state title trophy alongside his assistants Matthew Teachworth, David Lucero and Chris Tressler. The Pirates claimed their first-ever team state wrestling title in school history.



Photo courtesy Stacey Barker

Making history: Cameron Lucero becomes Pagosa wrestling's first three-time state champion. Lucero poses with his mom, Tawnie Lucero, and his dad, coach David Lucero, holding his third state title plaque. Cameron Lucero took first place in the 3A 160-pound weight class.



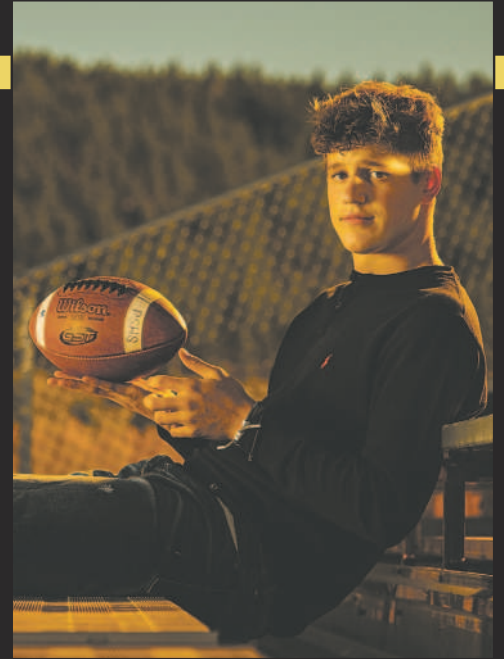
Isaiah Archuleta-Clark

Has plans to work locally.



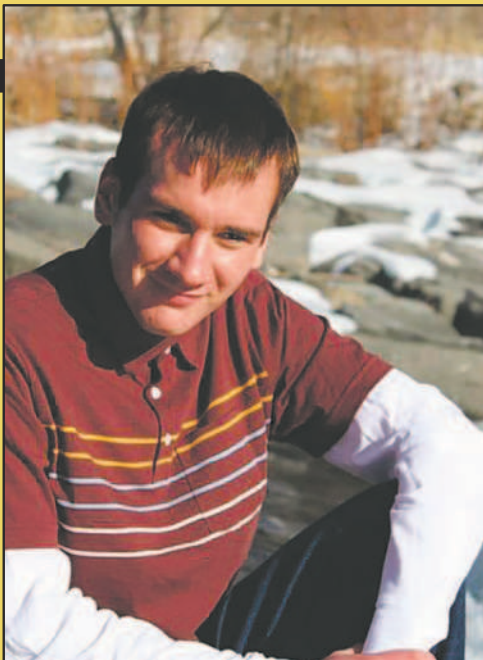
Savannah Atole

Taking a gap year. Working to save money.



Grant Aucoin

Attend University of Northern Colorado and studying Nursing.



Rex Bair

Joining the Navy to become a Dental Hygienist.



Nicole Bartz

Attending Colorado State University to study biology, then go on to veterinary school.



Ella Blechman

Attending Colorado State University, majoring in Political Science.



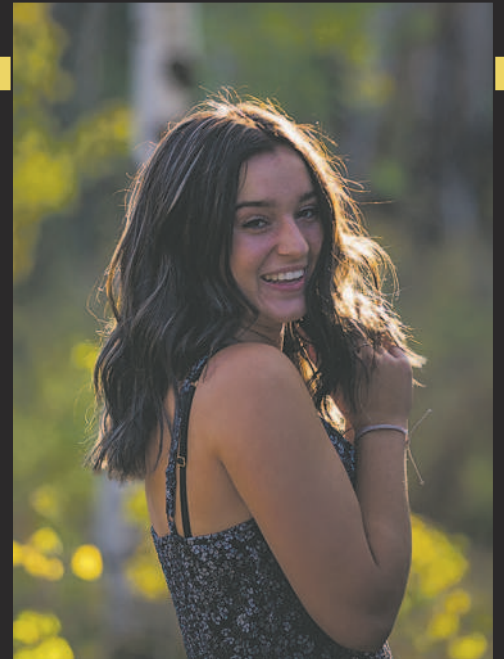
Isaac Bonin

Attending Western State Colorado University
-Studying Business Administration
with an Emphasis in Resort Management
and Energy Management.



Tristin Bowman

Has plans to work at Pagosa Medical Center.



Chloe Bridges

Will be attending college in Fort Collins.



Caden Brock

Pursuing a film degree and apprenticeship.
Plans to take part in film festivals.



Aidan Carnrite

Planning on becoming an apprentice
at Wolf Creek.



Ivory Carpenter

Attending North Carolina State University to
study psychology or nutrition science.



Clayton Cayard

Going to college at Texas Tech-
studying something in the geology field.



Jordan Christopherson

Attending Colorado State University
to study interior design and business.



Kinzee Clifford

Will be attending
Healing Mountain Massage School
in Salt Lake City.



Martin Coba

Attending college at Fort Lewis College for
Computer Engineering.



Rossi Cooke

Taking a gap year to travel
as much as possible.



Bobby Corey

Attend CNM (Central New Mexico) to study
Computer Programming.



Taylor Cotts

Playing baseball at a JC for 2 to 3 years and working towards a degree in exercise science/kinesiology.



Jacob Crandall

Attending Pikes Peak Community College to become a paramedic.



Ameillia Davis

Will be taking a gap year to travel.



Christy DeDios

Attending Gateway Community College in Phoenix, Arizona for Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Plans to obtain a bachelors degree and seek certification from the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.



Darian Dominguez

Attending University of Tampa in Florida, majoring in Biology / Pre-Med.



Adelyn Dozier

Taking a gap year to complete the World Race to backpack through Guatemala, Cambodia, and South Africa and serve for 9 months.



Samaya Dunn de Pulido

Attending Sierra Nevada University near Lake Tahoe, majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies: Art & Sustainability.



Darrion Ellis

Shipping off to boot camp for the Navy.



Kristy Elote

Gap Year to maybe enter the Peace Corps, another service opportunity, or school.



Megan Greenly

Attend Colorado State University to study Arts and Design.



Sasha Hampton

Attending Fort Lewis College to complete prerequisites for a nursing degree.



Cole Harris

Will be attending CCU in Denver.



Gavan Hart

Attending University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.



Jessica Hartley

Attending College in Dallas, Texas.



Ella Hemenger

Attending the University of Northern Colorado to study Elementary Education.



Gabriel Heraty

Attending Arizona State University in Phoenix, majoring in Business.



Cam Hinger

Attending Riverside Flight Academy to become a commercial pilot after firefighting with the US Forest Service during summer.



Lorah Jacobson

Attending Otero Junior College to study early childhood education to become a special education teacher and joining the rodeo team.



Jillian Jolley

Work to save money; interested in real estate.



Nolan Kay

Will be attending CSU in Fort Collins.



Kylie Keuning

Attending Calvin University in Michigan to study Speech Pathology & Audiology.



Peyton Khung

Taking a gap year and moving to Jackson, Wyoming.



Cameron Lewis

Attending Western State Colorado University -Studying Computer Science with a Minor in Film.



Mitchell Lewis

Play Football at The University of Northern Colorado and study Business Finance.



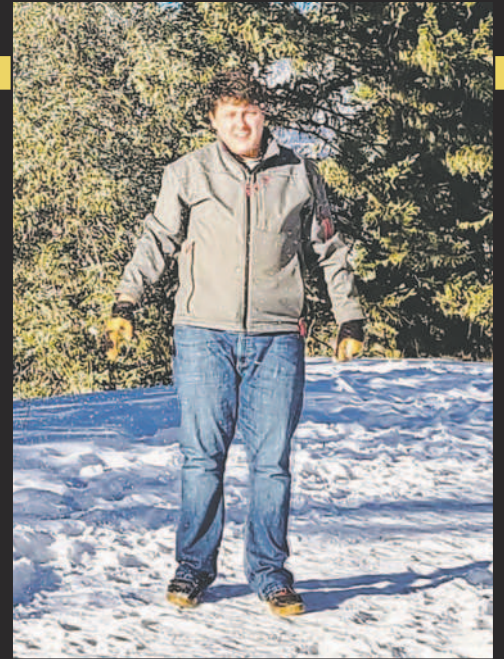
Brianne Linzalone

Attending Westminster College
in Salt Lake City.



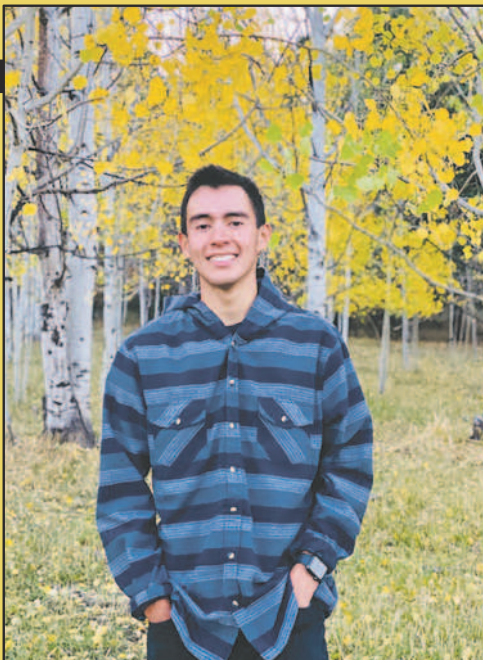
Cameron Lucero

Attending the University of Iowa,
majoring in Business Management.
Will be on the wrestling team.



Austin May

Returning home to Texas to work and save
money for trade school
to become a diesel mechanic.



Dylan Manzanares

Attending University of Colorado, Colorado
Springs, majoring in Cyber Security after
working at Pagosa Springs Golf Course
this summer.



Shade Matteson

Will major in Biology and Nursing with plans to
become an RN and later a Doctor.



Layla McRae

Attending Colorado State University as a dance
major with a minor in business.



Mitchell Meisinger

Working and figuring out what my future holds.



Madeline Metzger

Attend University of Colorado, Colorado Springs to major in Nursing Science.



Gisel Moncada

Taking a gap year to work and save money.



Yasmin Moncada

Gap Year to work and save money.



Edwin Monterroso

Attending Nothumbria University in the UK.



Kristen Montoya

Attending Fort Lewis College to study early childhood education. Plans to travel and attend baking school in the future.



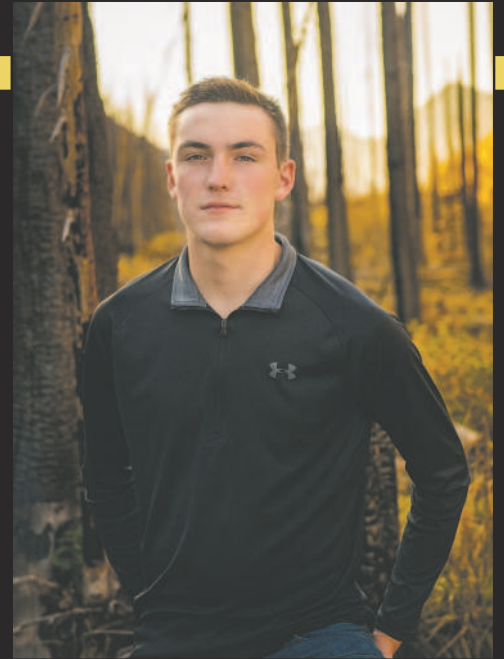
Trevor Moore

Enlisting in the U.S. Air Force as an aviation mechanic.



Maya Nasralla

Attending Sierra Pacific -studying political science and journalism in preparation for law school.



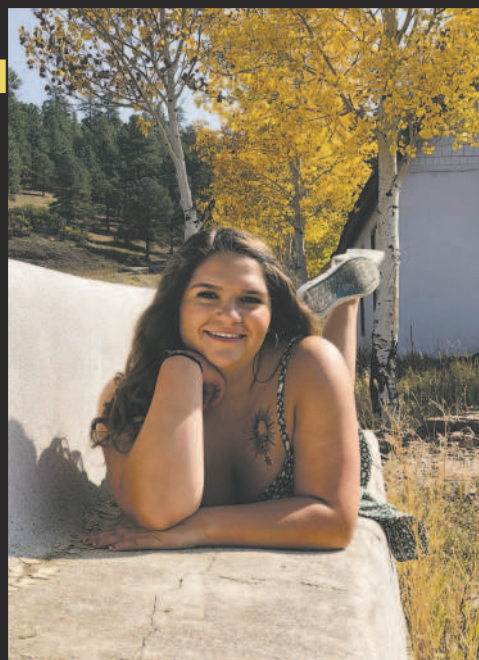
Aidan O'Donnell

Taking a gap year & working full time.



Brigid Parken

Attending Montana State University in Bozeman - Studying Nursing.



MaKayla Perea

Taking online courses from Pikes Peak Community College to study radiology.



Britain Peterson

Completing a 24 month mission, then go into the field of aviation.



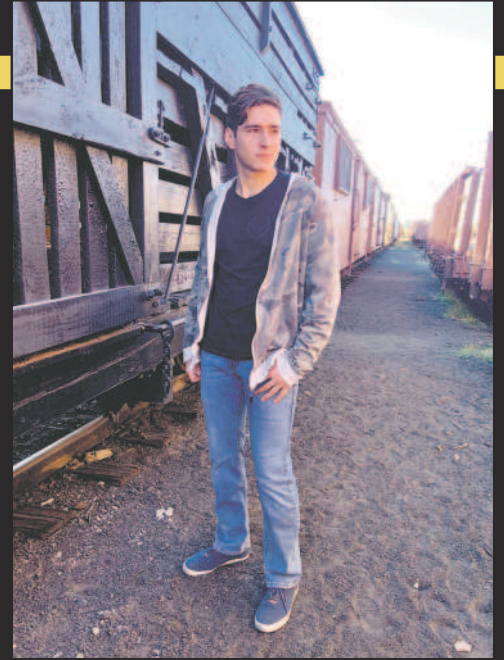
River Pitcher

Attending Chaminade University to study psychology.



Lizbeth Quezada

Attending Front Range Community College.



Elan Ramirez

Attending San Diego Mesa College to study kinesiology.



Evan Raymond

Attending Fort Lewis -studying botany and business and playing football.



Cole Reis

Attending CSU in Fort Collins.



Kelsi Rollins

Attending Northern Arizona University to study Business & Economics, as well as Massage Therapy at Arizona School of Integrative Sciences.



Wyatt Schuchart

Moving to Fort Collins and planning for my future.



Hailey Shult

Attending Colorado State University, majoring in Animal Science with emphasis on Equine Science.



Jacob Smith

Continue working and saving money.



Nina Smith

Attending Colorado State University, majoring in Graphic Design.



Sierra Smith

Attending Northeastern Junior College to study nursing.



Madeline Stewart

Attending Grand Canyon University to study communications to become a public speaker.



Kiera Su

Joining Youth With A Mission.



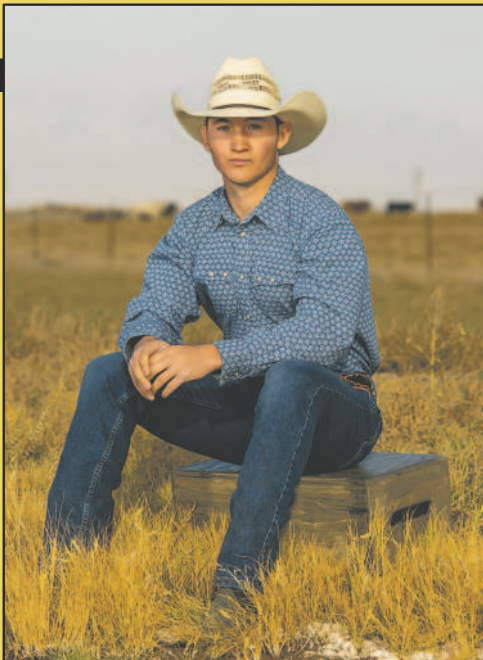
Santiago Talamante

Attending Fort Lewis College
and continuing to work at McDonald's.



Grace Thomas

Working at Two Chicks and a Hippie
to save money.



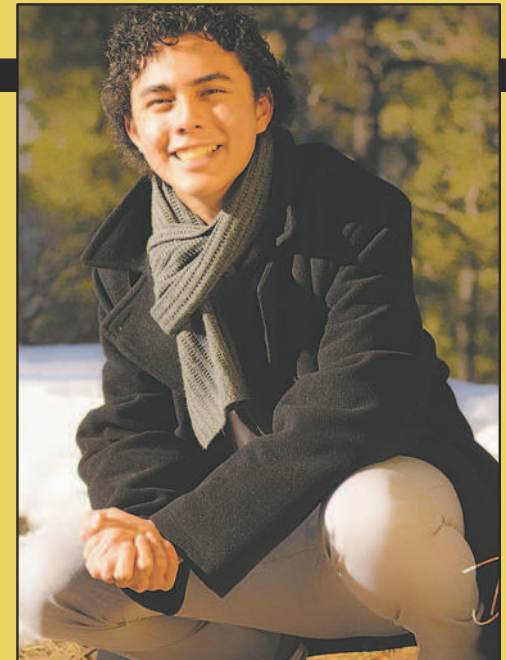
Trevor Torrez

Joining the Union to
Become a Welder or HVAC.



Dylan Tressler

Attending University of Northern Colorado
-studying finance and wrestling.



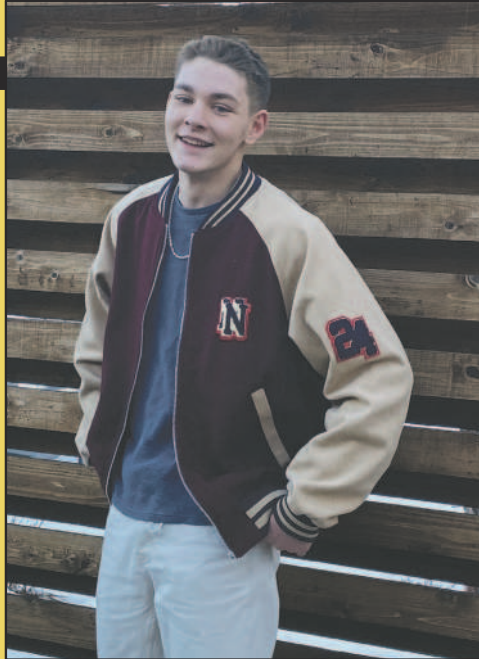
Neo Velarde

Having a gap year to save money with
later plans to possibly study Art in order to do
animations or character design in video games.



Mackenzie Wedemeyer

Taking a gap year to travel.



Noah Weiszbrod

Attending Pueblo Community College Southwest - Bayfield site; Traveling to the Northwest and visit colleges and family after working at The Springs Resort this summer.



Erik Wyman

Moving to Phoenix, Arizona. Working with my Dad in the plumbing business.



Angelina Yeager

Attending Northern Arizona University for a double major in education and psychology, with a minor in Arabic.



Wyatt Zeigler

Attending UCCS in Colorado Springs.

*"Wherever
you go,
go with
all your
heart."*

— Confucius



Principal's message



The class of 2021 at San Juan Mountain School will always be remembered. They will remain in our hearts and minds not only because they weathered the storm of a pandemic during their senior year, but also because they are our first graduates. Ever. We've adopted the term "forefathers" for this group, and it is fitting. Webster's defines a forefather as "a member of the past generations of one's family or people; an ancestor." These seniors are the first members of the family of San Juan Mountain School, or SJMS. They chose the mascot and the colors. They designed our logo and developed our mission statement, behaviors, motto, and pillars. They each have their own personal story which would have kept many in their position from becoming a graduate, but each of these students persevered and made it to the final goal. More importantly, along the way, they created a learning environment for future generations of students which we can all be proud of.

The design and development of an entirely new school is a heavy lift any year, and this year brought with it struggles and bumps that none of us could have anticipated a year ago. Yet I strongly believe our school is better for it. These seniors chose our mascot as the wolf because they felt its strong attachment to its pack, its free spirit, and its strong personality represented them well. I couldn't agree more. To watch our student body bond together despite the requirements to wear masks and remain distant proves they chose their mascot wisely. Their dedication to academics in the midst of so many distractions at home while learning virtually and in a new school demonstrates their intelligence and determination - characteristics also shared by wolves. Each time one of these seniors catches a glimpse of our mascot and logo, they can hold their head high and know they selected a perfect fit to

demonstrate who we are to the world.

Our school will continue to grow next year. We will have a new building, new staff members, and (hopefully) some freedoms not available this past year to begin taking overnight trips together. Our staff, Andy Guinn, Scott White, and Krisha Doocy, have each contributed to our family in tremendous ways. I am impressed by their dedication each day and their willingness to start from scratch to develop a new school, a new lesson for their classes, a new way of educating students, or anything else that is needed. They each have the welfare of students in their hearts at all times. We have all grown together this year, and we can't wait to watch the school continue to grow and evolve to fit the ever-changing needs of our student population.

I count myself lucky each day to go to work and support these students in their own personal journeys, and there are many others who help make this opportunity possible. I would like to thank the Archuleta School District Board of Education for their support and vision. Without their belief in what we could do and commitment to funding, we would surely not be here today. Former superintendent Linda Reed, current superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza, Assistant Superintendent Laura Mijares, and Pagosa Springs High School Principal Sean O'Donnell also deserve our heartfelt thanks for creating a vision of what was needed for our community's students and seeing it through to its realization. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and I believe wholeheartedly that our little village of Pagosa Springs is doing all it can to develop every student into productive, caring, and well-rounded community members.

Stewart Bellina



Lance Boyer

Become certified as a personal fitness trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine.



Caleb Calabaza

Attend San Juan College in New Mexico and study computer science.



Evelyn Cortez

Attend San Juan college in New Mexico and study cosmetology.



Karl Frahm

Study sound design engineering at Arapahoe Community College.



Rheanna Gallegos

After graduation, I will be going to college to study Electrical Engineering.



Jacob Hartley

Take a gap year to save money and explore college options.



Caleb Laverty

Become certified as an
Emergency Medical Technician.



Eloisa Lucero

Attend the Cosmetology School at
Central New Mexico Community College.



Desiray Martin

Attend San Juan College and study counseling.



Sierra Montoya

Attend college and pursue a
bachelor's degree in business.



Asianna Perea

Attending Yavapai College to
study diesel mechanics.



Nicholas Roth

Move to California to help my grandparents,
establish residency, and enroll in college.



Kaitlyn Sandoval

Attend San Juan College to pursue general studies and transfer to Ft. Lewis.



Alicia Smith

Attend Lincoln Technology College and study business.



Kennitha Solis

Attend college at Central New Mexico Community College and study carpentry.



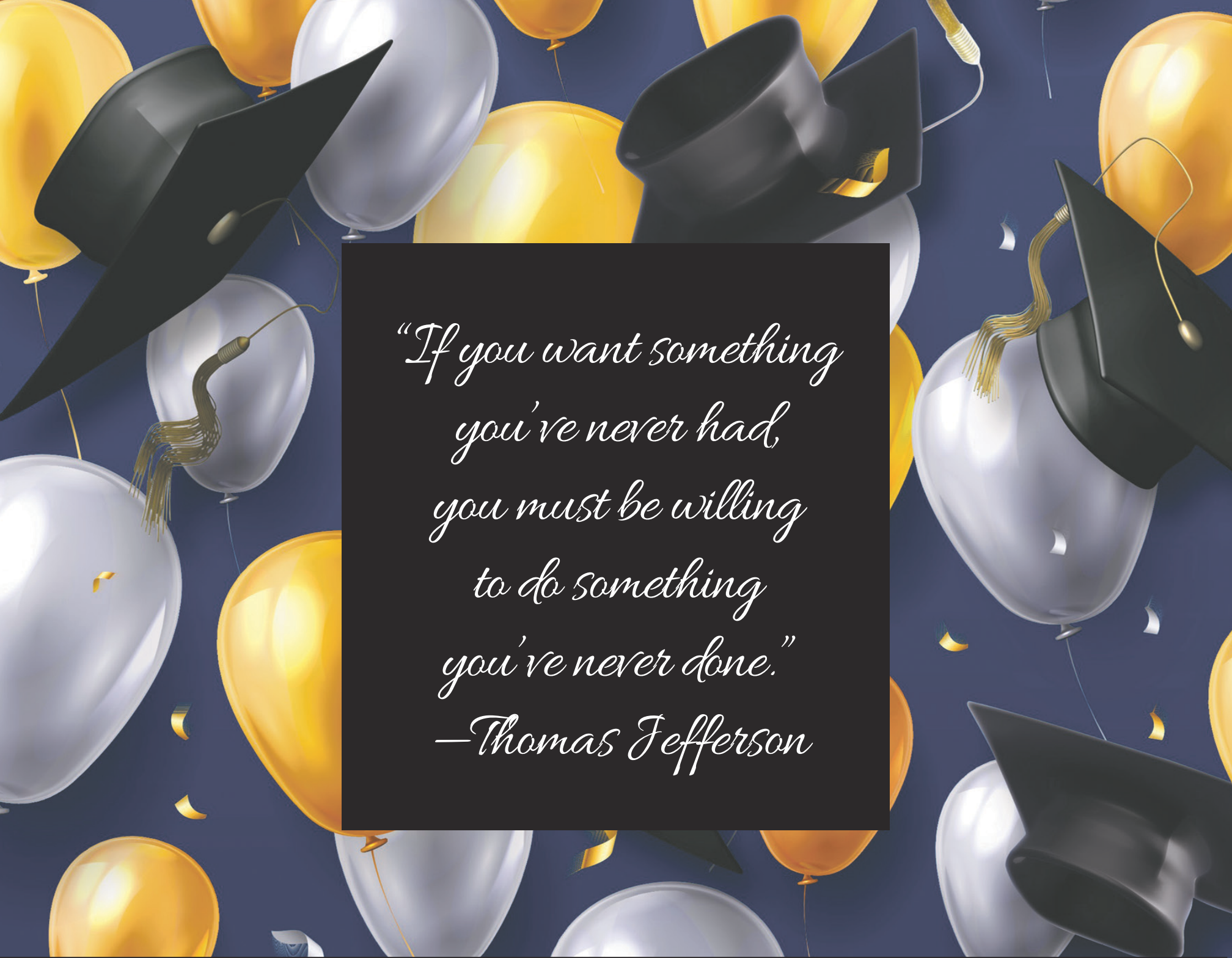
Kellen Wilkison

Take a gap year to save money and explore college options.



“Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.



*"If you want something
you've never had,
you must be willing
to do something
you've never done."
—Thomas Jefferson*

