



Students, from left, Kallie Moorhouse, Sarah Meyer, Taylor Rodriguez, Colby Ashurst, Aaron Castro, Elizabeth Summers, Isabelle Enyert and Barry De Lulio paint the “P” on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025. (Courtesy photo)

PHS students repaint the Badger Mountain ‘P’

By ABIGAIL CELAYA
The Daily Courier

Prescott High School students have been painting the giant 70-foot “P” on Prescott’s Badger Mountain for over 100 years. This year, a group of students from the high school’s JROTC program upheld the tradition. The painting of the “P” began in 1922 as a way for

students to show their school pride. Ever since, it has been visible to those traveling through Prescott and those hiking the Badger Mountain trail. It started with seniors, and since then, many different groups have been tasked with painting the mountain. The P is painted every two to three years. The Over the Hill Gang volunteer group and the Recreation Services

Department have helped in recent years. The last time JROTC painted the “P” was in 2017. This year, they did it again. Despite the threat of rain, conditions cleared. On Saturday, Aug. 23, Major Barry Lee Lulio, a senior aerospace instructor, Senior Master Sergeant Erik Appeldoorn, aerospace instructor, and seven ROTC students hiked up to

the top of the “P.” It took them three hours and 75 gallons of paint to brighten up the iconic landmark. Kallie Moorhouse, Sarah Meyer, Taylor Rodriguez, Colby Ashurst, Aaron Castro, Elizabeth Summers, and Isabelle Enyert all took part in this year’s painting. See STUDENTS, page 11

Prescott man sentenced to 16 years for kidnapping, sexual assault

A Prescott man convicted of kidnapping and sexual assault was sentenced to 16 years in prison Friday, Aug. 22.

Last fall, Brett David Ellis had reportedly bound and sexually assaulted the victim and inflicted other injuries. The victim reportedly convinced Ellis to loosen the tape on one of her hands, allowing her to escape and report the incident to the Prescott Police Department.

A jury found Ellis, 35, guilty of two counts of sexual assault, one count of kidnapping and one count of aggravated assault in July.

“I hope the lengthy sentence imposed in this case sends a strong message that crimes of this nature will not be tolerated in Yavapai County,” Yavapai County Attorney Dennis McGrane said. “Sexual assault is a horrific crime. I encourage anyone who has been the victim of such a crime to promptly report it so that the perpetrator can be brought to justice before anyone else can be victimized.”

In addition to his 16-year sentence, Ellis is required to register as a sex offender, and will serve seven years of probation following his release.

Information provided by Yavapai County Attorney’s Office.



Ellis

CDBG program, Prescott CARES offer nonprofit support, rent assistance to community

By PARKER JONES
The Daily Courier

The Prescott CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed the city’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program annual report at a meeting Aug. 20. The city receives an annual allocation of CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Federal requirements dictate that the city must publish a performance evaluation report for each program year. Grants through this program are intended to address local community development needs, including housing rehabilitation, public facility improvements, essential services for seniors and disabled residents, emergency shelter support and economic development activities. The CDBG



program is now in its 21st year in Prescott. All CDBG-funded activities must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income households, which in Prescott includes those earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income. CDBG Coordinator Michael McInnes presented the “Program Year 2024 Consolidated

See CDBG, page 5



(People Who Care/Courtesy)

HIV progress threatened by budget cuts

Northland Cares tightens its belt to continue to deliver holistic care for patients with HIV

By GILLIAN ‘GUS’ ANDREWS
The Daily Courier

Dr. Sam Downing didn’t recognize the name of the patient on his sign-in sheet, but he recognized his voice from the radio. It was 1989. The patient had HIV, the disease which causes AIDS. As the sole doctor in Prescott trained to treat patients with that diagnosis, Downing was the only one willing to accept him as a patient. Many health professionals were frightened to. At the time, many did not know how HIV spread. And it was believed to be a death sentence.

It was also considered shameful, and associated with homosexuality. So the patient, a public figure, had put down a false name so nobody working in the clinic would know it was him. Dr. Downing went on to be the physician at Prescott’s first HIV clinic. That clinic became part of Northland Cares, now the leading AIDS service organization in Northern Arizona, with a mobile treatment unit and offices in Prescott Valley and Cottonwood. Much has changed since then: treatments, misconceptions, and what doctors know about HIV. Treatments have effectively turned HIV into a chronic disease. As a result, “people don’t know that HIV is still here,” said Johnny Martinez, Northland Cares’s executive director. His clinic still helps patients across northern Arizona stick to their medication regimens, ensuring they don’t

transmit HIV to their partners, babies, medical professionals, or others. It also educates groups from seniors to college students about HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) on the rise in Yavapai County. “Uncertainty at the state level” due to federal funding cuts recently eliminated \$450,000, or 20% of Northland Cares’s budget, Martinez said, leading the organization to reduce its hours and offerings, and even keep the lights off to save money. PUBLIC HEALTH, MISUNDERSTOOD “What we do is public health,” said Martinez. “That’s what our goal is: a healthier community.” These diseases affect the entire community, Martinez said. Recent years See NORTHLAND, page 11



Executive Director Johnny Martinez stands by the door of one of the Northland Cares clinic rooms, lit only by natural light while it is not in use. (Gillian “Gus” Andrews/Courier)

Today's weather

High 77° | Low 61°

Weather, Page 2

Inside Today's Courier

Local3

Opinions.....4

Obituaries.....5

Comics.....6

Features.....7

Sports.....8

Classfieds.....9

Courier Cooks 12

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