

Police seek man on multiple warrants

A man who allegedly led law enforcement in a pursuit Friday night through Silver City has current warrants in three counties, including for an armed robbery and kidnapping here just days before the chase.

Grant County Sheriff Raul Villanueva said deputies had

been on the lookout last week for Jesus Pedregon, 29, when a deputy attempted to pull him over at about 9:06 p.m. Friday near 12th and West streets. The driver fled, however.

"The deputy that pursued him had been on the lookout for him because we were made aware of the warrants," Villanueva said.

Initially, the driver led the pursuit west on U.S. 180 toward Cliff, Villanueva said, but then he turned around and headed back to Silver City.

On the highway, the pursuit reached near 100 mph, the sheriff said. Officers with the New Mexico State Police and

the Silver City Police Department joined the chase.

The driver led law enforcement near the La Plata Mobile Manor mobile home park near Harrison Schmitt Elementary School and ended up downtown.

"They ended up losing him downtown," Villanueva said. "He abandoned the vehicle and took off running."

The Silver City Police Department issued a text-message



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JESUS PEDREGON



(Press Staff Photo by Juno Ogle)

R&L Picks Up Hardware

R&L Service Center received two auto service industry awards last Wednesday. Alicia Rector, manager of the NAPA Auto Parts Store, sixth from right, presented the company's Gold NAPA Auto Care certification to R&L for holding the highest level of automotive training, consistent customer experience and being a committed partner with NAPA. R&L is the only shop to receive that certification in Silver City and of only a few in the state, according to Rusty Lewis, not pictured, owner of the service center. Jeremy Osborn, business development specialist with AAA, third from left, presented a certificate for a 97.75 percent customer satisfaction score over the last year. The family business was opened in 1962 by Lewis' grandfather, and Rusty is now passing the torch to his son, Clay, center.

SILVER CITY DAILY PRESS

AND INDEPENDENT

Silver Schools likely to abandon Altamirano fields

By JUNO OGLE
Daily Press Staff

Silver Consolidated Schools is considering moving all of its athletic events to fields at Silver High School and La Plata Middle School, rather than invest money in improving other fields it does not own.

One of the main projects included in the \$24 million bond approved by voters in 2024 is

improvements to the district's athletic fields, which at the time was intended for new artificial turf at the Ben Altamirano Sports Complex.

Superintendent William Hawkins told the Board of Education at its work session Monday night that through conversations with coaches and the administrative team since late last year, it has been determined that the district should instead look at installing new turf on fields at Silver High and La Plata.

The district has leased the 37 acres of state land off the 32nd Street Bypass since 1997 for baseball, softball and soccer, Hawkins said.

"It was solely an exclusive purpose for us to be able to use those fields ... to develop infrastructure for sports games," Hawkins said. "We were responsible for maintaining and protecting the improvements during that time."

The initial lease was \$5,000 a year, increasing by 2022 to \$11,328 per year.

The district entered a joint powers agreement in 1997 with

Silver to hire search firm for next manager

The Silver City Town Council intends to use an outside agency to help hire a new town manager — potentially by the end of the year.

The council discussed the search for a permanent town manager during a special meeting held Tuesday morning, which also included again adjusting the procedure for public celebration permits and considering approval of a celebration permit.

The town manager discussion came after interim

Town Manager Jacqui Olea announced during the Aug. 11 council meeting that she was not interested in having the position permanently.

Olea took the position temporarily after longtime Manager Alex Brown retired at the end of 2025, and had served as assistant town manager and community development director prior to that. She said she would stay on as assistant town manager after a permanent manager is hired.

During Tuesday's meet-

ing, Mayor Simon Wheaton-Smith asked District 3 Councilor Stan Snider to lead off the discussion, as he had previously done some work toward a job description and search. Snider and District 2 Councilor Nick Prince both attended the meeting by telephone.

"Six months ago, I thought the best thing to do was to go ahead and get a search committee from the town residents," Snider said.

He said after doing some

research on executive search firms provided by the New Mexico Municipal League, he now believes hiring such a firm would benefit the town.

"I think an executive search firm can actually give a lot of input," Snider said.

He said he had contacted six firms on the Municipal League's list and gotten calls back from two. The cost to hire either would be about \$25,000, he said.

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