

**East High School Alumni Foundation**

# THE GOLDEN EAGLE FLYER

***Tradition • Excellence • Scholarship • Image • Heritage • Support***



VOL. 14, NO. 1 | SPRING 2023

## President's Message

Looking back and moving forward. Let us take a moment to reflect on nearly 64 years of academic and athletic excellence at East High School and what promises to be a future half-century of achievement. Many of our readers fall into the past 60 years and we have different memories of our experiences sitting in East classrooms, performing in the auditorium, or representing East in different competitions. Some may remember fondly a favorite teacher, one who encouraged, challenged, or just pushed us to reach our potential. We may relive catching the pass or sinking a free throw that won the game or the proud accomplishment of being awarded first chair in the band. Still others may recall that fateful time walking into East on their first day, sitting outside of the Principal/Assistant Principal's office waiting for a lecture or even worse, or the anxiety of waiting to learn whether or not they passed a class required for graduation. A number of us have nothing but great memories of our years at East while still others can't put their memories of East behind them fast enough. Wherever you fall in this spectrum of experiences, East High School has had an impact on your lives (and the lives of an estimated 16,000+ East Eagles) and helped make you the person you are today.

Memories and opportunities were threatened to be taken away from future Eagles when, in late 2018, the school district released its Facility Master Plan and East was placed on the possible closure list due to its aging and failing infrastructure. Not willing to become a footnote in Pueblo's history, the Eagle Empire made their feelings known about the potential for East's closure through its presence in townhall and stakeholder meetings, rallies and presentations at school board meetings, letters to the editor and guest editorials in the Pueblo Chieftain, television news features, and in numerous conversations with family and friends. We lobbied strongly for the four high school bond option (which ensured new buildings for East and Centennial) being considered by the school board, participated on a bond steering committee, walked city precincts, and saw the success of our efforts when a \$218 million bond was passed in November 2019. Through sheer perseverance and the might of the Eagle Empire, we will have a new, state of the art, building open in August 2023. At this time, and on behalf of future East Eagles, I wish to convey unending gratitude and thanks to East Alumni, Boosters, Students and Staff, and friends for believing in East.

Our combined efforts of the last 4 ½ years are soon to be realized and with the new building come new hopes and dreams for future generations of Eagles..

**Gene Wilcoxson**

*Class of 1969 – Foundation President*

## East High School Alumni Foundation

*President*  
Gene Wilcoxson

*Vice President*  
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*Secretary*  
Annette Suazo

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### Mission Statement

Provide a means for  
East High School Alumni  
to assure the school  
continues to be a  
vital force in the community!

### Goals

- Perpetuate the EHS traditions of pride and excellence
- Recognize excellence in student extracurricular activities and alumni achievement
- Provide scholarship support for graduating seniors
- Enhance the image of EHS in the community
- Maintain and preserve a collection of EHS memorabilia in the Heritage Hall
- Raise funds to support the school's programs and activities

*This newsletter was  
written and paid for by the  
East High School Alumni Association.*

**Newsletter designed  
and printed by**



## Principal's Message

The Eagles are excited to wish you all a happy spring and we hope this edition of the newsletter finds you well. It has been a tremendously bittersweet experience to prepare for the end of year activities for the final time in East High School as it stands on 9 MacNeil Road. Many of us here will be taking in our Prom and Prom Assembly, Senior Awards Ceremony, and Passing of the Torch event with a bit more of a feeling of nostalgia, knowing it will all look different in our brand new, state of the art building on Constitution Hill. With the keys set to be delivered at the beginning of May and a Ribbon Cutting set for May 15th, it goes without saying that excitement and anticipation is abound at The Eagle Empire.



Though we are eager to get into our new digs, we are still focused on finishing off our time in the original school in a strong fashion. Organizations, activities, and athletics continue to make East proud with a multitude of honors and recognitions. This was highlighted in mid-February as our wrestlers embodied the toughness of Pueblo and East by claiming back-to-back state titles. With spring activities in full swing, we are looking forward to more accolades for our fine students, with the culmination being the commencement ceremony for the class of 2023. They are a special class that will be the last group to graduate from the original building.

The massive undertaking of moving a building that has stood for nearly 65 years has begun. Teachers are boxing items and Alums are busy ensuring that precious relics and traditional pieces are preserved and transported to their new home. The task is daunting, but all worth it, knowing that East High School will be in existence for many years to come. I can't thank the folks that have already stepped up to aid in the effort enough. As I stated this time last year, our side of town is about ready to open a facility that will serve as a beacon, and we are thrilled to show you all just how special it is. On that day, like every other day...it will be a great day to be an Eagle!

**Andy Clementi**  
*East HS Principal*

# Activities and Athletics Update

Back to Back!!!!  
The East High School Wrestling Team under the direction of **Coach Pat Laughlin** brought home to the Eagle Empire their second consecutive state wrestling title Saturday, February 18. In the past six years, the Eagles have won three team titles, 2 runner-up finishes and a 5th place. To add to their



outstanding resume, both Coach Laughlin and Senior **Weston Dalton** earned CHSAA's 4A Coach of the year and most outstanding wrestler honors. Weston is a 3-time state champion and will take his 4th in the nation ranking to Nebraska to continue his wrestling career. This year's team showed grit and a never give up attitude as they battled through the "Blood Rounds" to help East seal the championship. Seniors **LJ Herberger** (2nd), **Tatum Rivera** (5th), **Sebastian Freeman** (3rd), **Sully DeHerrera** (3rd), **Daniel Duarte**, and **Daniel Badillo** are certainly leaving behind a legacy. It goes without saying that the Empire will continue to be a force to reckon with in years to come!

The young Eagle basketball teams showed growth and gained valuable experience going into the off-season. With **Coach Carlos Lopez** having an entire off-season to work with the girl's program, they will be in the mix next year. The leadership of Senior **Grace Helzer** will be missed, but the freshman class got plenty of playing time and will be able to show the South-Central League who the Lady Eagles are! The new gym has brought excitement for everyone, but especially for the teams that will call the new gymnasium their home. The boys' basketball team has begun their off-season workouts and have a young nucleus of Juniors to step up on the hardwood. It is now time for **Izaiah Trujillo**, **Jayden Padilla**, and **Jaden Garcia** to prove their leadership capabilities.

Girl's swim is on the rebuild as the numbers were too low to host a team. Even without a pool next year, the Eagles could host a team from another district pool.

Go Eagles and the athletics future is bright!!

## DECA

**Devin Klock** won the title of District 9 State Representative. **Alex Apodaca** and **Erika Cordova** earned 2nd place with their Chapter of Excellence Project. Pueblo East High School earned plaques for most money donated to the Ember Alliance in District 9 and MOST MONEY DONATED IN THE STATE! Our students are very proud of this achievement coming from a small school. **Skylar Clark** and **Kayla Valdez** earned a plaque, flag, and pennant for their Chapter Campaigns in promotion and community service. All of these students have qualified to attend the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida at the end of April. Way to go representing the Eagles!

## Instrumental Music

Jazz Ensemble I competed at the Mile High Jazz Festival held at Metro State University. The band earned a Superior Rating, which is the highest score you can earn. In addition, three students (**Jack Valenzuela Fuerte**, **Serena Sharon**, and **Isabel Venegas**) earned outstanding

*continued on page 4*

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### The Model A

Being selected to the All State Choir is the top honor a student can achieve in the state.

All City Choir is an auditioned group for vocal music students within Public County 5.

Top of the Nation is an honor choir competition held at Adams State University in Alamosa.

Congratulations to these outstanding performers and Mr. Watson!

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### THE FUTURE OF THE FUTURE



## WHERE IS HE NOW?

# Paul Marshall – Class of 1976

Paul Marshall graduated from East High School in 1976, subsequently earning a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering at Rice University, and an M.S. degree in Engineering Management at George Washington University.

Paul is currently Assistant Program Manager of NASA's Orion Program at the Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, TX.

He has served at NASA since 1980, beginning his career at JSC working engineering analysis and testing of Space Shuttle life support and space suit systems. He went to work at NASA Headquarters in 1989 supporting the Space Station Freedom Program Office and later served as a technical advisor to the NASA Chief Financial Officer conducting integrated program assessments across the NASA enterprises.

Marshall returned to the Johnson Space Center in 1996 in the International Space Station Program office working a variety of program integration, systems engineering and business process integration assignments. In 2005, Paul was named Assistant Program Manager for Orion at the Johnson Space Center. In his current assignment, he leads the planning and implementation of the Orion Program's long-term production & operations transition, oversees Orion production for Artemis-3, integrates overall program affordability and sustainability strategies within Orion, and other general Program Management duties for Orion.

Orion is NASA's deep space next generation spaceship designed to operate with other exploration elements to return astronauts to the moon and on to Mars as part of NASA's new Artemis space exploration missions, the successors to the historic Apollo missions. Late last year, on the first integrated test mission, Artemis I, an uncrewed Orion ventured 1.4 million miles to orbit the moon, including reaching farther from Earth than any prior spacecraft designed for human exploration. Orion successfully splashed down to Earth in December 50 years to the day after the Apollo 17 spacecraft landing on the lunar surface in 1972, the last human mission to the moon. The successful mission paves the way for manned deep space exploration flights in the Orion spaceship beginning with Artemis II.

Paul included in the Orion spacecraft that flew Artemis I an item of historical interest to East High School and plans to present it to East this year.

Paul was awarded NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal in 2014 and inducted into the Golden Eagle Hall of Fame in 2017.

Paul resides in Houston, Texas, with his wife Mary Anne Marshall who together have raised two children, Scott and Lydia. He holds a private pilot's license and enjoys woodworking, golf, and snow skiing and hopes to return to Colorado once he is done at NASA.

Learn more about Orion at: <https://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems/orion>



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## Reunions

The East High Class of 1973 will be celebrating their 50-year reunion this summer. A mixer will be held on Friday, July 21, at the CSU-Pueblo field house. A tour of the new East building has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, July 22. A dinner at Brues Alehouse on Saturday night, July 22, is the final planned event for the reunion.

Reservations will be due by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Costs are still pending. Please contact either **Vivian** at 719-251-0761, **Fred** at 719-250-5399, or the "East High Class of 73" Facebook group for further details, and **Vivian** or **Fred** to make your reservation.

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# Golden Eagle Hall Of Fame 2023

On April 20, 2023, the newest members of the Golden Eagle Hall of Fame will be formally inducted at the East High School Auditorium. The ceremony starts at 10:13 a.m. and will be followed by a reception in the East Media Center. Joining the Hall of Fame are **Kathy Schleifer**, East Class of 1971, brothers **Bob** and **Fred Caligaris**, Class of 1972 and 1973 respectively, and **Capt. Neva R. Fuentes, DNP, USN**, Class of 1994. There will also be a dinner at the Pueblo Country Club, 3200 8th Avenue, that evening to which all are invited. The dinner is an informal way to share the honor with our inductees and enjoy the day's events.

Following her graduation from East High, **Kathy Schleifer** attended CSU-Ft. Collins where she graduated with a BSc in Occupational Therapy and later attended the University of Florida where she earned a MS in Pediatric Occupational Therapy (OT). Both degrees were obtained Magna Cum Laude. Her career saw Kathy working in school and hospital systems, and included time as department head at National Jewish Hospital in Denver. In the early 1990s, she opened her first private practice while also working as a home health therapist. After returning to Pueblo, Kathy continued with home health OT and private practice, later opening the Pueblo Pediatric Therapy Center which focuses on improving the lives and functional abilities of special needs children. In addition to serving special needs populations, the Pueblo Pediatric Therapy Center hosts OT and OT assistant students from colleges and universities across the nation, as well as Pueblo Family Medicine resident doctors, in clinical rotations. Kathy has been recognized by professional organizations for her contributions to the field of Occupational Therapy.

**Bob and Fred Caligaris** have donated countless hours recognizing East athletic team excellence and providing support to the Alumni Foundation. Their service to East and involvement with the East Alumni Foundation began when the Foundation was established in 2003. They were involved with the purchase and repainting of mobile sign trailers which were used to recognize student achievement, prepping and trim painting Class tiles that are displayed in the Heritage Hall, the fabrication and painting all state championship picture frames that hang in the Mel Spence gym, and, with great pride, stripping down and repainting the Cannon each time the Cannon comes returns to East.

After high school, **Capt. Neva R. Fuentes, DNP, USN** attended CSU-Pueblo where she obtained a BS in Nursing. She then completed Masters' degrees in Communication and Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University, National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College, and Education at the University of Rhode Island, all of which included an emphasis in Leadership. In 2022, she went on to complete a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Boise State University and was promoted to Captain. Board Certified in Nursing Professional Development, Neva has more than 26 years working in healthcare with the most recent 19 years as a U.S. Navy Nurse Corp officer. In the Navy, she has held positions as Master Training Specialist, Instructor, and School Director. As the Specialty Leader for the Navy's Nurse Educators and Education & Training Specialists, Neva strategically manages community manning, endorses and promotes continuing education opportunities, and ensures operational readiness.

We invite all members of the public, but especially our fellow East High graduates to join us on **April 20** for both the morning induction ceremonies and the evening dinner. Please contact Ms. **Yolanda Gallo at East High School** for information and reservations regarding the ceremony and dinner. Yolanda can be reached at 719-549-7224. **Dinner reservations MUST be made no later than Thursday, April 13.** You may pay ahead of time or at the door. Please, cash or checks (\$55 per person) only for the dinner reservation. We cannot accept credit cards.

Membership in the East High School Golden Eagle Hall of Fame is limited in number. While we receive far more nominations than the number of members admitted into the Hall of Fame, we appreciate each and every nomination, and we hold those nominations for future consideration. It is a high honor to be admitted to the Hall of Fame.

# Manufacturing and Engineering



Career and Technical Education is alive and well at East High School. Students learn real life skills at East in the Manufacturing and Engineering program. **Principal Andy Clementi** was able to convince **Mr. Pat Laughlin** to come out of retirement in order to keep this popular and necessary program available.

In the classroom, Manufacturing and Engineering students learn about the latest Manufacturing Technology used in different industries, Principles of Manufacturing and about Machining Fab and Metal. In the manufacturing room, students learn to cut metal and wood safely. They weld using their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) of leather gloves, safety glasses and welder's helmet. They learn how to use power tools and welding and sheet metal equipment. They create and even paint their final products.



Students can earn Pueblo Community College (PCC) credit for the Computer Aided Drafting Course that is co-taught by Mr. Laughlin and **Joel Sturtevant** from PCC.

The excitement comes in the creating and testing of their real-life creations. Does the welded metal box hold water? If not, lesson learned are applied and time is provided to rework that box, then retest until it is right. Many manufacturing businesses need workers who have experience working with tools and equipment, safely and proficiently. Mr. Laughlin keeps that experience available to our East High students.

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## Packing Up

Recently, have you moved, helped a family member move, or packed a daughter or son off to college? If so, isn't the dread of packing up replaced with the wonderful feeling that accompanies the boxes as they are heading out of the door to their new destination? Imagine how everyone at East High must feel as years of school supplies and equipment, textbooks and records, athletic gear, band equipment, kitchen pots and pans, and just about everything else in the existing building gets transferred to the new building.

East High will use the last week (Tue, May 30 to Thu, June 1) of the school year to pack up the classrooms and offices. If you would like to assist East with this effort, please contact **Yolanda Gallo** (719-549-7224) by Wednesday, May 24 and let her know what days and times you are able to help and she will put you on the schedule.

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## East Ribbon Cutting and School Tours

Construction of the new building is now expected to be completed in late April. School District No. 60 has scheduled a ribbon cutting for the new East at 12 noon on Monday, May 15. Please join us for this celebration. Tours of the new building will take place following the ribbon cutting. The last tour is scheduled for 2 p.m.

In addition to tours of the new school on May 15, tours of the old building have been scheduled for Saturday, May 20. Tours for students and graduates of the:

- 1960s and 1970s will take place at 10 a.m.
- 1980s and 1990s will take place at 12 noon
- 2000s and beyond will take place at 2 p.m.



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# PUEBLO EAST HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI 2022 DONATION DRIVE

## New Building Equipment and Artwork Fundraiser

As we approach the finish line with the construction of the new East High School, we continue to look to East Alumni and Friends for opportunities to support the school and student scholarships through gifts of time and financial support. Last year, we initiated a New Building Equipment and Artwork Fundraiser donation drive to provide for 1) new classroom equipment and supplies, 2) support to various academic, activities, and athletic programs, and 3) save or replicate where possible East's historic artwork and icons that did not directly benefit from the new building project.

We are pleased to tell you that through your generous donations, many of which were directed toward specific projects, we have been able to make an impact on numerous programs at East. Scholarships in the amount of \$13,000 were awarded last spring and we anticipate increasing the amount to \$20,000 this year. Last fall, the Alumni Foundation purchased at a cost of nearly \$9,400 an enclosed 8 ½ ft x 11 ft trailer for use by the instrumental music program in transporting instruments, equipment, and props to sporting events and music performances. As this newsletter is being written, Pueblo School District 60 is in the process of purchasing a video scoreboard valued at more than \$102,000 for the new competition gym at East. Beyond its use for sporting events, the video capabilities of this system will play a major role in school assemblies, meetings, and performances. This purchase would not have been possible without your financial assistance!

We continue discussions with East, the school district, and building contractors on what artwork, icons, trophies, and memorabilia can be saved and where they can be placed in or on the new building. Space in the new building is limited and we must consider the next 50 graduating classes expected to pass through the halls of East High School. Some items, such as state championship team medallions, photos, and trophies, will make the move immediately. We plan to take down our beloved Tuffy, mounted on the auditorium wall above the main entrance to the school, have it repainted, and then placed on the new building in a location yet to be determined. Many mounted display cases will also be removed and relocated. Recently, a professional photographer took pictures of wall-mounted artwork to at least capture our important images. Local businesses may be able to take those images and create large wall/window "wraps" similar to what we see on storefronts or vehicles. Yet another option we are exploring is the use of high-resolution 3D scanners to capture physical images of artwork, trophies, plaques, etc., and create a virtual museum of these artifacts. The time the school and the Alumni Foundation have to plan the move and decide what will go where in the new building will necessitate at least short-term storage of many items.

As we continue our donation appeal in support of the new building and student scholarships, we want to acknowledge recent contributions of \$14,000 from four East families that ensured sufficient funds were in place to purchase the new gymnasium video scoreboard. These contributions were in addition to a \$50,000 memorial from the family of a fallen Eagle classmate. This donation provided several years ago, was specifically designated to support athletics in the new building. The donors approved the contribution of the funds toward the video scoreboard.

Moving ever closer to occupying the new building, please consider financially supporting East High School and its efforts to develop leaders in business and industry, politics, the arts and sciences, and athletics. East is well poised to build on more than 60 years of traditions and excellence in the classroom and in competition on and off the field.

Please mail your donation (payable to the Pueblo East High Alumni Foundation) using the following form and include your **name, address, phone number, email address, and graduating class**, to the East High Alumni Foundation, 9 MacNeil Rd. (before June 5) or 1521 Constitution Rd. (after June 5), Pueblo, CO 81001. Donations can also be made using the PayPal account on the Foundation website at [www.puebloeastfoundation.org](http://www.puebloeastfoundation.org) where you can click on the Donate tab and follow the provided directions. Donations are tax-deductible!



# Donation Form

**I want to help my East High School with  
new equipment and saving our art and icons!**

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$25  
☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please ensure my donation is used to support:

<input type="radio"/> Math, Science, and Technology	<input type="radio"/> Exceptional Student Services (ESS)	<input type="radio"/> Career and Technical Education
<input type="radio"/> Activities such as DECA, FBLA, Speech & Debate, FCCLA, Drama	<input type="radio"/> Instrumental and Vocal Music, Art	<input type="radio"/> Academic programs including Language Arts and Social Studies
<input type="radio"/> Athletics	<input type="radio"/> JROTC	<input type="radio"/> Artwork and East Icons
<input type="radio"/> Other (please identify) _____		

*Please mail this form and your check or money order payable to:*  
**East High School Alumni Foundation**, 9 MacNeil Rd, Pueblo, CO 81001  
or use PayPal

PayPal is on the Foundation website at [www.puebloeastfoundation.org](http://www.puebloeastfoundation.org).  
Click on the PayPal tab and follow directions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I AM SUPPORTING THE GRADUATION CLASS OF \_\_\_\_\_ WITH MY DONATION!

Questions/comments: [info@puebloeastfoundation.org](mailto:info@puebloeastfoundation.org) or (719) 549-7224, or provide in the space below.

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PUEBLO SCHOOL DISTRICT 60  
EAST HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI FOUNDATION  
9 MACNEIL RD  
PUEBLO CO 81001

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newsletter  
was written  
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