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Page man arrested in choking death of girlfriend

By Lawrence Baker
Lake Powell Chronicle

The Page area saw its second homicide involving domestic violence in less than a month when a 26-year-old woman was allegedly strangled by her boyfriend June 5.

Page police responded to a call at the West View apartment complex on Grandview Street in Page Ariz., where they found Reben Pahi standing outside the apartment he shared with Maggie Bizardie and their two children, according to the police report.

Pahi, 33, made the 9-1-1 call himself at 11:23 p.m.

When officers arrived, he told them he had choked her to death.

Bizardie wasn't dead, however, according to police. Life-saving attempts on the scene, at Page Hospital and finally at Flagstaff Medical Center were unsuccessful. She was pronounced dead at FMC.

Pahi was arrested and booked into the Coconino County jail on second-degree homicide charges.

Pahi offered no resistance when officers arrived on the scene. Police Captain Ray Varner credited the 9-1-1 dispatcher with

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Brian Corbett shooting shells on the main firing line in an unidentified photo provided by Mike Kreidel.

Plans for Fourth of July celebration moving forward

The Page/Lake Powell fireworks display, already the largest of its kind in northern Arizona, has grown a little bigger, with this year's show to feature 1,766 individual firework shells that range in size from one-and-a-half inches to 8 inches, according to former Page resident Mike Kreidel, head pyrotechnician for Fireworks Productions of Arizona and AZ Pyro.

The show, scheduled to begin 9 p.m. July 4, will again take place over the Lake Powell National Golf Course.

This year's 20-minute show will include new products and additional "basins," which are multi-shot lower-level fireworks that produce shaped effects in fast sequences. Because of lower-level effects, some of the best viewing areas will be north of the launch site, which is on the rim just below the 13th hole. Those areas include the golf course and clubhouse, Denny's restaurant, Scenic View Dr. off Hwy 89, or anywhere with a direct view of the

launch site. The display will be visible from all over the city and for boaters on the south end of Lake Powell.

Now living in Prescott Valley, Kreidel has been in charge of the Page show for the past eight years. He has more than 25 years in the fireworks industry and also shot the dis-

This year's show to feature 1766 individual firework shells

plays for Powellpalooza, among other shows around the state.

Assistant pyrotechnicians Ryan Hertz (Chicago), Brian Corbett (Flagstaff) and Louie Lehman (Page) are involved with the show each year, which also requires a local crew of more than 20 people, according to Kreidel. "Many of the local crew donate their time year

after year, and they are really the ones that make it all happen," he added.

July 4 parade, celebration

The Page/Lake Powell Chamber of Commerce has spaces available for vendors during its annual July 4th celebration, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Page City Park.

The event starts with a parade down Lake Powell Blvd., followed by activities in the park. The vendor fee is \$25. Electricity is provided but vendors must provide their own extension cords if needed. Food vendors must have a Temporary Food Service License from the Coconino County Department of Environmental Health.

For a vendor application or information on how to make a donation, visit PageChamber.org or call 928-645-2741.

Those interested in participating in the parade must fill out an application form which is also available on the website. Participation in



Mayor Bill Diak (center) leads the walk of cancer survivors.

Lawrence Baker/Lake Powell Chronicle

Relay for Life raises money and honors cancer survivors

Relay for Life of Page held its annual event this past weekend at the Page High School football field. The event kicked off at 6 p.m. on June 9 and participants took turns walking the track until 6 a.m. the next morning. The community came out in full force with 12 teams and several individual walkers.

To get the event underway the survivors took an initial lap with their families and loved ones.

The night was full of themed laps and many activities to keep the event alive throughout the night until the final celebration lap.



School board ponders putting tax increase back on the ballot

By Lawrence Baker
Lake Powell Chronicle

With budgets tightening across the nation in almost every area of society and election season looming in the air, Page Unified School District is looking at ways to increase funding for education in the years to come.

The issue at hand is placing a 15 percent override on the ballot for November's general election.

The prospective tax measure would generate about \$2.1 million annually for the school district beginning with the 2013-14 fiscal year, according to an estimate by the district's business manager Lana Berry.

A resident with an average priced home which was estimated to be around \$142,260 would pay an additional \$174 per year in taxes for the override, she said. The tax bill for the average commercial property valued at \$423,060 would show to be approximately \$1,033 annually.

The majority of the tax will fall on the shoulders of larger commercial entities, leaving owners of residential property in Page paying around 14 percent of the total tax.

The board is expected to decide at its June 26 meeting whether to place the issue on the ballot.

Voters rejected the district's request for a 15 percent override in last November's election, leading to a dozen teaching positions being terminated or left unfilled and partial closings of the Cultural Arts Building and Page High School pool. There also were cuts to supplies, ser-

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