

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter April 2023

www.pageud.org



Ty Bennett Wants to be the Best Coach He Can Be	1
3 CTE Students Bring Home Awards from Competition	2
2 PHS Music Students Selected for All State	3
PHS Concert Choir Receives Superior at State Choir	4
Photos from Lake View's March Musical	5
DVI Raises Money for Kids Heart Challenge	6
Mobile Planetarium Big Hit at Lake View	8
Jade Reid Breaks PHS Record in 3200	9
Employees of the Month	10
Announcements	11
Students of the Month	12

Vision

A community of learners who direct our collective actions and resources toward the unique learning needs of every child in order for all students to become college and career ready and successful in a global society.

Motto

Collectively Committed to Every Student, Every Day, Every Minute.



Mission

Our schools are passionate about the learning-for-all mission and understand that every student matters. We are responsible and accountable for the education of every student that walks through our doors every day.

Bennett Strives to be Best Coach for His Players



It's a gray, overcast day at the Sand Devils baseball diamond. Low-hanging clouds obscure the top of the Vermilion Cliffs. It rains for a while; it stops for a while. The field is damp, but not soggy.

Coach Bennett's baseball team is fresh off big double-header wins against Ganado and the team is feeling confident. They have a bounce in their step. They're in a good mood.

It's a Tuesday. The team should be in Kayenta playing Monument Valley, but the game was postponed due to snowy, rainy weather. Coach Bennett wants to take advantage of his team's good spirits and a free practice day and do some team-building exercises.

Coach Bennett divides his team into two smaller teams, who then compete with each in various drills. The set of drills incorporate batting, fielding, baserunning, fitness and mental challenges. The challenges are fast paced and occur back-to-back to keep the team's mental and physical level moving at a high level.

"Because the game against Monument Valley got cancelled this week, we have a ten-day break between games," said Coach Bennett. "Today's practice was designed to help us work better as a team, and to keep our competitive fire burning."

This is Bennett's second season as head coach. He served as an assistant coach in the 2021 season. He was head coach of the JV team in 2020, but coached only a few games that

year before the season – and everything else – ended when Covid arrived and the shutdown began. The season before that, in 2019, Bennett worked with the team as a volunteer.

Bennett also works as PUSD's Safety and Security Coordinator. He was hired in December 2022.

Born and raised in Page, Bennett grew up playing little league baseball, in the years when the sport was extremely popular in Page. In those days, Page had around 15 little league baseball teams.

"We had so many teams in Page back then that we didn't need to travel to other towns to play games," Bennett remembers.

During his high school years, he also played baseball for the Sand Devils all but his senior year. "I did track my senior year because my girlfriend was in track, and she wanted me to do track."

He laughs when he thinks about that now.

Growing up, Bennett enjoyed playing baseball a great deal, but it was never a main concern.

"Baseball wasn't always huge for me," Bennett said. "It wasn't my main priority. In high school I was into football."

Bennett gained a deeper appreciation for baseball only after graduating from high school.

"My interest in baseball really took off after I started

3 CTE Students Bring Home Awards from Culinary Arts Competition



Miriam Lassen, a sophomore at Page High School, took first place at the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competition held earlier this week. She wasn't the only PHS student who returned home with hardware. Ethan Myers and Aaron Haynie each took third place in their heats competing in the Star Event.

Lassen, Myers and Haynie are all students of Page High School's Culinary Arts class, taught by Chef Wyatt Swinton.

The FCCLA competition took place in Tucson last Monday thru Wednesday. Maddy Crane, who teaches first grade at Lake View, also traveled with the team as a chaperone.

At the FCCLA competition, students can compete in a number of Culinary Arts categories. Lassen took first place in the Mise en Place category, which is a French term for "everything in place." In this competition, a student has 30 minutes to cut and chop various vegetables, in their proper forms and arrange them for presentation.

The guidelines include chopping eight ounces of mire poix (carrots, onions, celery), peeling, seeding and dicing tomatoes, slice six mushrooms, julienne half a bell pepper, chiffonade basil, mince parsley and garlic. The competitors are judged on finishing cutting the amount of food in the allotted time, proper cutting techniques and presentation of the finished product.

Lassen began practicing her knife skills two months ago, and Chef Swinton noticed how good she was getting. He

encouraged her to attend the FCCLA competition.

"I said, 'Hey, you're a sophomore. Let's go to the [FCCLA] with no expectations,'" said Chef Swinton. "Let's experience the conference as a whole, and next year you'll be ready. You'll have a leg up on the everyone else, because you'll know what the competition is like."

Having seen her develop her knife skills for the last two months, Swinton was confident Lassen could finish in the top ten, but even he was a little surprised she took first place.

"She did an excellent job," he said. "This is a huge deal. We've never had a state champion in the culinary arts before."

Haynie and Myers each brought home the bronze in their individual heats in the Star Event. Students competing in the Star Event pan sear a chicken breast with green herb sauce, roasted potatoes, and sautéed broccolini.

2 PHS Music Students Selected for All-State



Two Page High school music students, James Nolan and Timothy Snell, qualified for the All-State Ensembles this year. Nolan is a tenor in choir, and Snell plays tuba in band. This is Nolan's second time being accepted into All-State, and the first time for Snell.

The two PHS students will attend the All-State Festival April 13-15 at Arizona State University. Though the two students will attend the same event, their performances will be separate.

Because of Covid disruptions, this is the first time in four years that Arizona has held its All-State performance.

Nolan is very deserving of this honor, said Mikayla Forbes, Nolan's choir teacher.

"James works hard. He's been practicing since the beginning of the school year," said Forbes. "He also takes private lessons and practices endlessly in order to be prepared for the auditions, and the auditions are not easy by any means."

Snell is a second-generation tuba player. Both of his parents played the tuba in high school and college. He was a member of the Western International Band Clinic, and first

chair sousa for the marching band. Snell, a senior, will be sixth chair. He would have qualified for All-State his freshman year, but the event was cancelled because Covid hit, said David Johnson, Page High School Band Director.

"Timothy is very dedicated to this," said Johnson. "Timothy is our top brass student. He is an absolutely incredibly dedicated student and has been a huge asset to the program. We're going to be sorry to see him go."

It's a long process qualifying for All-State Choir. The first step in the process is auditioning for Regional Choir, and being accepted, which the students did in January. Page High School was one of eight regional schools to compete. Only those students accepted into Regional Choir are eligible to audition for All-State Choir.

Nolan was one of 400 people trying out for All-State Tenor. One hundred people from each xx qualify for All-State with 25 people from each voice part: 25 sopranos, 25 altos, 25 tenors and 25 basses. Nolan was first chair in the regional choir, and 27th chair in the All-State Choir.

PHS Concert Choir Receives Superior at State Choir Festival



The Page High School Concert Choir attended the State Choir Festival at the end of March where they earned a Superior rating for their performance. The only score higher is Superior with Distinction.

“This group has been working hard to make sure the music is very clean and exactly how we wanted it to sound,” said choir teacher, Mikayla Forbes. “They really stepped up their game. They really put forth the effort to make sure they reached the level they wanted to.”

Forbes said some of the students were surprised they scored as they did. “I told them to accept it and celebrate it,” Forbes said. “We talked about it more in class when we got back. I read off all the comments that were on the score sheet. They were so excited and proud about it, and they should be. They did an amazing job. It was very rewarding

for me to see, too.”

The State Choir Festival was held in Gilbert, Ariz.

The choir began practicing the music they performed at the State Choir Festival in January.

At the festival the choir performs for an adjudicator who judges the choir’s performance based on certain rubrics.

The Page High School Concert Choir also attended the Fall Festival, where they earned an Excellent with Distinction. To earn a “With Distinction” the choir has to score a one on sight reading.

Members of the Page High School concert Choir are Leah Andrews, Kira Bolger, Solbi Chung, Kendra Clutter, Toby Giffen, Takara Kawano, James Nolan, Reed Nolan, Ketona Reed, Jordan Robertson, Samuel Robertson, Melanie Torres, Janeen Williams.

Photos from Lake View's March Musical



Desert View Students Raise \$11k for Kids Heart Challenge



It's Desert View tradition. Raise money for the Kids Heart Challenge, then douse your teacher with slime or a slap a pie in their face.

Desert View students raised \$11,224.18, a new school record. Desert View students raised \$9668 last year.

The money raised during Kids Heart Challenge goes to the American Heart Association. In return, Desert View receives sports equipment for the school's P.E. department, and every kids who participates gets a gift for their involvement.

The goal of \$11,000 was set by a representative from the American Heart Association. Rachael West, who organizes the annual event, remembers thinking it was a very ambitious goal.

On the day of the Kids Heart Challenge, the students do a variety of jumping exercises, such as jumping rope, hoop jumping, hula hoops, mini-tramps and other aerobic activities.

The school had three students who raised a large amount of money. Harmony Bigman raised \$1,107, Abigail Pahi raised \$872 and Chloe Martin raised \$839.

As an added incentive, Desert View admins and teachers told their students that if they reached their goal of raising \$11,000 they could slap a pie in the face of their teacher or even the school principal.

Whatever their motivation, the students achieved the ambitious goal and on the Friday afternoon before Spring Break, students, teacher and admins gathered outside to be

“pied.”

The school did something similar last year. For last year's extra motivation, the students got to pour slime on their teachers and/or spray them with silly string.

Such activities are great for strengthening the student to student, and student to teacher bonds.

“It's a great community builder,” said Desert View Principal, Mary Stahl. “It breaks down the walls between teacher and student and allows a bond to grow. That fostering of community helps our students, and our school, in a lot of ways.”

Every student in the class that raised the most money got to pie their teacher. That was Chuck Serventi's class. Serventi ended up getting close to 30 pies in the face.

Chuck Serventi, Jodian Brown, Sam Wright, Tito Hoover, Mary Stahl, Wendy Gilbert, Stoney Gjermunson and Seth Laughter all volunteered to get pied.

Some of the teachers and admins ended getting pied numerous times. Every student who participated in the Kids Heart Challenge got to pie a teacher or admin, which was more than half of the student body.



Mobile Planetarium is Big Hit at Lake View



Last Friday, students at Lake View Primary walked through a black door and entered the uni-verse, where planets and entire galaxies were just a few feet over their heads.

It was the second time in two years that Southern Utah University's physics department brought its mobile planetarium to the Lake View Campus. It also provided an expert to operate the star projector and provide interp to the students gathered inside.

The mobile planetarium is an inflatable dome about 25 feet in diameter. It can fit 20 to 25 people at a time. Lake View set it up in their gym. The interior of the dome is completely dark, except for light provided by a star projector at the center of the room.

The planetarium was the idea of Lake View first grade teacher Maddy Crane. When Crane was student in elementary school, she got to visit a mobile planetarium with the rest of her class and it really sparked an interest in space, science and natural history.

"It was definitely one of the things I remembered enjoying as a kid from elementary school," Crane said. "I looked forward to it every year, and it really stuck in my mind."

Lake View curriculum includes units that focus on space and earth. Crane thought letting the students examine

space, constellations, planets and galaxies up close would help them more easily visualize some of the concepts from the curriculum, a lot of which can be vague and abstract when students are first introduced to them.

Crane remembers her visits to a mobile planetarium as a kid really helped her visualize how a group of stars formed a constellation.

All of the first grade classes and three second grade classes were able to have a turn in the planetarium. Each class spent 30 minutes inside the planetarium. Hunter Castleton, an intern at SUU's physics department, took them on a tour of the universe.

"We have a huge initiative at Lake View right now to get science, technology and math involved in everything we do, and our benchmark curriculum does make it easy; it kind of makes that bridge for us," Crane said. "It's cool when kids learn about something in class that we can delve deeper into. They are always interested, they always have a ton of questions. Just being able to let kids be kids and ask those questions, and having the time to answer them is kind of a luxury these days. With the planetarium, they have a chance to ask their broader questions and use their inquiry skills."

After school hours, the planetarium was opened to Lake View teachers, staff and their families. "We do a lot of stuff for our parents with our parent-community outreach programs, but we don't always do things for our staff and their kids. This was way to say thank you to them, and let them have a fun night with their family," said Crane.

In addition to helping the Lake View students grasp new concepts that may be hard to understand, Crane hopes the experience will also spark in the students a deeper interest in science, and STEM.

learning the strategy of the game. In high school it was just a game. I only needed to know my position and that was enough for me. But once I started understanding the strategy of it all, that made it much more intriguing.”

Bennett says he approaches a baseball game like it’s a chess match, in a lot of ways.

“You have to think several moves ahead, and you have to be smart with every move you make,” he said. “Sometimes one good play can save the game, and sometimes one bad play can ruin the game.”

The more Bennett learns about baseball, the more he realizes what a cerebral sport it is.

“It’s mental, mental, mental,” he said. “You have to be mentally strong to be successful in baseball.”

Bennett says part of his strategy for building a winning team has been improving his own, and his player’s, mental part of the game. He credits the increased emphasis on the mental part of the game to the Sand Devils successful season last year.

“I think that’s the main reason we went from a zero-win season in 2021, to a season where we had only two regular season losses last year, won region, and made the playoffs in 2022,” Bennett said.

The team’s goal is to win state, and Coach Bennett is optimistic about their chances. He has a very talented team this year. Seven of his nine starters are seniors.

“All of my seniors are great batters, fielders and have high baseball IQs,” he said. “I would pick them at their individual positions over any player in our region.”

Bennett is joined by assistant coaches Dakota Richardson, Gregg Martinez, Cody Sanderson, Clint McCormick, Denton Siebrecht and Tim Bennett, who is Ty’s father.

Halfway through his second year as head coach, Bennett is loving it.

“I love it! Even the stressful parts,” he said. “I stress over games a lot. Especially region games. I get a knot in my stomach before every game, especially against hard teams, when I know we have to play a perfect game to win.”

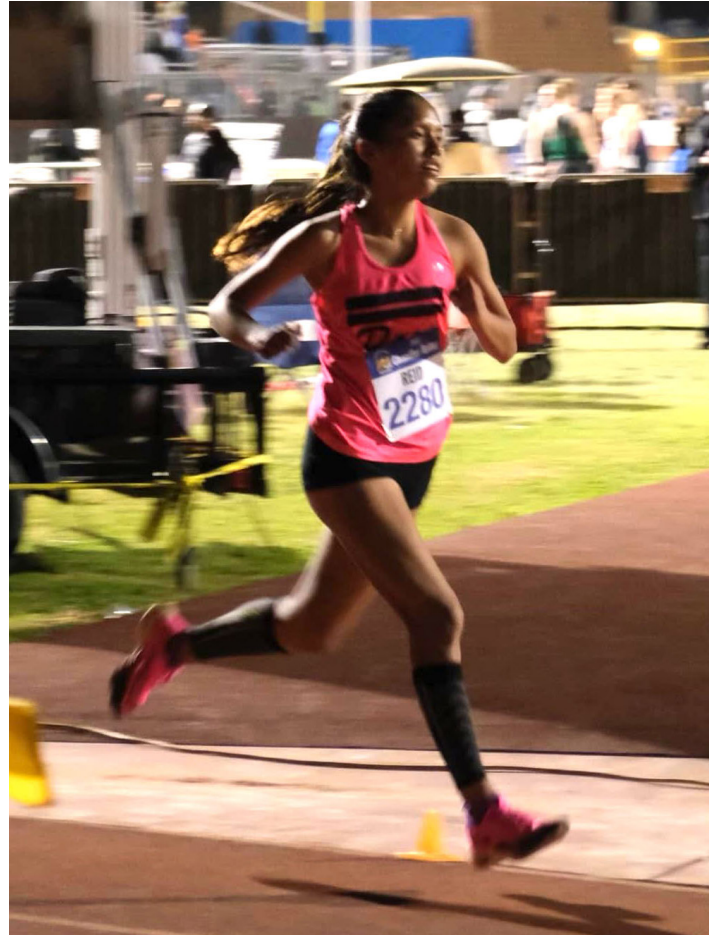
Bennett wants to be the best coach he can be for his players. “They put so much into it. They’re dedicated. They want to win state this year. I don’t want to be the thing that holds us back.”

Bennett started filming the games and reviewing them afterward.

“Sometimes I get mad at myself for some of the decisions I made, but overall it’s good. I’m teaching myself where to make changes.”

After being hired as head coach, the first person Ty turned to was his father. “I said, ‘I need some help. I don’t

Jade Reid Breaks Record in 3200M



Jade Reid has new Page High School record in the 3200M with a time of 11:20.20. She broke Kristel Redhair’s record from 1997 of 11:27.0. Jade was 13th place in the elite field at Chandler Invitational Friday.

know what I just got myself into.” Coach Bennett said.

His father was more than happy to help, and join his son on the diamond.

“I’m constantly looking to my dad for answers and solutions,” Coach Bennett said. “His role is to step in when I’m struggling, and second-guessing myself. He always knows what to do or say in situations when I’m not sure of the best move.”

Coach Bennett is married to Braedyn Bennett, who works at PUSD’s Physical Therapist. They have two sons, Brooks and Nolan.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

**Certified Employee of the Month
February 2023**



Lauren Viers

**Classified Employee of the Month
February 2023**



Heather Saavedra



Announcements



PUSD Summer Programming is now open for sign ups on our website.



Sign up ends May 1st

To learn more and to sign up, go to pageud.org/summerprogramming



FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Naomi Curley
Lake View Primary



Harmony Bigman
Desert View Intermediate



Armelius Bigman
Page Middle School



Justice Joseph
Page High School

FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Bradly Brown
Manson Mesa High School



Brenda Austin
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Lloyd Dimbatt
Page Preschool