# PUSD PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



www.pageud.org

Notes from Regular School Board meeting Nov. 9th	1
Notes from Special School Board meeting Nov. 30th	2
Meet Interim Superintendent, Bryce C. Anderson	3
PHS Senior, Ryan Thomas, Gets a Jump Start on College	4
Celeste Claw is New Head Coach for Lady Sand Devils	5
"Beauty & the Beast" Delivers Magical Evening	6
A Chat with Gracie Martinez	8
Runnin' Devils Finish 2nd at State Tournament	9
Desert View Students Perform "Singing Flag"	10
Middle School STUCO attends leadership conference	12
FLS students enjoy Balloon Regatta activities	14
Employees of the Month	15
Students of the Month	16
Announcements	17

## 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.



Notes from Regular Board Meeting: Nov. 9, 2021

Page Unified School Board members convened for its Regular Board Meeting Nov. 9, 2021. Board President, Desiree Fowler, and Board Members, Sandra Kidman, Dee McKerry and Charles Weiss were present.

During Tuesday night's meeting, the Board approved the resignation of, and settlement with, former Superintendent, Larry Wallen.

The Board also approved the appointment of Bryce C. Anderson, to act as Interim Superintendent. Mr. Anderson will begin his appointment on Nov. 29, 2021. His appointment will end as determined by the governing board.

After completing a 60-day review period of E-Dynamic Learning Services, the Board passed and adopted the use of E-Dynamic Learning Services for Manson Mesa High School. Manson Mesa High School will begin using the service immediately.

The board approved an agreement with Canyon Walls to be used for services related to student events and field trips.

Board Member, Sandra Kidman, recognized the Students of the Month. The Students of the Month are: Khajani Smith; Lake View Primary Korey Bigthumb; Desert View Intermediate Kayle Fieldsted; Page Middle School Aevory Scott; Page High School Jubilye Yellow; Manson Mesa High School Kalynn Denatsosie; Sage & Sand Virtual Academy

Board Member, Dee McKerry, recognized the Employees of the Month. The Certified Employee of the Month is Stephanie Hansen. The Classified Employee of the Month is Mikayla Yellowhair.

The Board also convened for three executive sessions.

#### **GOVERNING BOARD**

Desiree Fowler	Sandra Kidman	Dee McKerry	Charles Weiss
President	Member	Member	Member
	Page Unified S 500 South Page, AZ	*	



Dec. 1, 2021

Notes from Special School Board Meeting Nov. 30, 2021

Page Unified School Board members convened for a special school board meeting on Nov. 30th, 2021. Board President Desiree Fowler, and Board Members Sandra Kidman, Dee McKerry and Charles Weiss were present. Desiree Fowler conducted the meeting.

During the meeting, the Board approved the resignation of Ernie Rivers, Athletic and Activities Director.

The Board also approved a contract revision for Interim Superintendent Bryce C. Anderson. The revision allowed for Mr. Anderson to begin his employment on Nov. 17th, instead of Nov. 29th.

The Board approved the hiring of Tim Richards for the position of Director of Opportunity and Achievement. Mr. Richards will oversee professional development, curriculum and instruction, and work with the Student Achievement Teachers. Mr. Richards will begin his employment with PUSD Dec. 6, 2021.

The Board approved an agreement to allow the Director of Talent Management, Lynne Hoffman, to work virtually beginning Jan. 3, 2022, until a new Director of Talent Management is hired.

<b>GOVERNING BOARD</b>							
<b>Desiree Fowler</b> President	Sandra Kidman Member	Dee McKerry Member	Charles Weiss Member				
	Page Unified S						
	500 South 1	Navajo Dr.					
	Page, AZ	2 86040					

## Meet Interim Superintendent Bryce C. Anderson



Page Unified School District's Governing Board hired Bryce C. Anderson to serve as the District's Interim Superintendent while it searches for a permanent superintendent. Supt. Anderson began his role on Nov. 17. Supt. Anderson brings three decades of teaching and school administration experience to the position. Anderson most recently served as Superintendent for Kayenta Unified School District, a position he held for four years. He has a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision from Arizona State University, a Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership from the University of North Dakota, a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from Minnesota State University. Anderson began his career as a high school social studies teacher, and also coached girls basketball and boys swimming. After that he transitioned into a master program and continued his education career in administration. He has served as an Assistant Principal for six years at two different high schools, and Principal for eleven years, first at Agua Fria High School in Avondale, AZ, then at Sandra Day O'Connor High School in Phoenix, AZ. Following his time at Sandra Day O'Connor High School, Supt. Anderson spent two years as an Assistant Superintendent at Higley Unified School District in Gilbert, AZ,

prior to his four years as Superintendent at the Kayenta Unified School District.

While acting as PUSD's Interim Superintendent, Anderson will deal with the day-to-day operations of the school district. He will consult closely with the Governing Board on decisions that will have long-term impacts on the district, schools, teachers and students.

One of Supt. Anderson's main goals with the District will be working with the Governing Board to attract a high-quality, long-term superintendent. The ideal candidate will bring with them a set of skills and experience that will benefit the school district, and the community.

"To help facilitate that, one of my objectives is to establish an environment and culture at PUSD that the Superintendent candidates will find appealing," Supt. Anderson said. "I want to help put the District on a trajectory for success, and to provide the next Superintendent with a list of ideas, suggestions and information that will help him or her transition into an effective role when they take over here." Supt. Anderson will work to bring the district to a place that's better than he found it when he arrived. Supt. Anderson sees himself as the man who will clear the path of obstacles so the next Superintendent can hit the ground running

"My hope is to provide support to our teachers, to our support staff and to our administrators," Supt. Anderson said. "I want to be somebody who listens and makes decisions that are in the best interest of our students, and impacting in appositive way our student outcomes."

The way the superintendent search process will work is the position will be advertised. When the advertisement closes, there will be a screening process to evaluate the candidates to narrow them down to a group of finalists. The final group of candidates will be interviewed by the board. The Board will also receive input from the community regarding the Superintendent candidates. Supt. Anderson says he will stay in his position for as long as it takes for PUSD to find a qualified Superintendent. "I'm at the disposal of the board," he said. "I am here to serve, and do whatever I can to support the District, support the Governing Board and the important work of educating students."

## Page High School Student, Ryan Thomas, gets jump start on college with CCC

She wants to be a surgeon.

To that end, Page resident Ryan Thomas, 18, is doing her best, through Coconino Community College, to get as many college credits out of the way before she ever leaves Page High School.

"I've always been focused on helping people and giving back to them," Thomas said.

High school students in Coconino County have three options if they are interested in receiving college credits. Dual Enrollment students take college-level courses at a significantly reduced cost at their high schools. Concurrent Enrollment students take college-level courses at regular tuition costs at one of CCC's campuses.

Finally, Coconino Association for Vocations, Industry and Technology (CAVIAT) students take college level, vocational-based courses, leading to an industry or CCC certification, at no cost to the student, at one of CCC's campuses.

Thomas began taking CCC's Dual Enrollment courses at PHS when she was a junior. Now, as a senior, she takes Concurrent Enrollment courses through CCC online. She will have 32 college credits by the end of the year. Additionally, she's already received a certificate as a Nursing Assistant after completing 40 hours of clinical work. "I wanted to be in those higher-level classes," said Thomas, who is also the Senior Class President at PHS. "I knew I'd be able to do it and my parents encouraged me a lot."

Choosing CCC, which was close to home, was her choice beyond cost savings to get a head start on college.

"It's a great opportunity for kids who don't necessarily want to go to a bigger college," Thomas said. "They faculty and staff were supportive to help me meet my goals and the credits will transfer."

After her graduation from PHS in May, she said her next step on the journey will be to choose a college close



to home – either Dixie State University or Southern Utah University.

"It'll be easier," she said. "Family support will be close." Smiling, she added, "It makes my parents feel better, too, that I'm close to home."

Although she loves the Page area, she wants to explore and travel a bit after high school.

"But this town is a great town," Thomas said. "And I feel I'll make my way back here eventually."

She's currently interested in being a pediatric surgeon because she loves children.

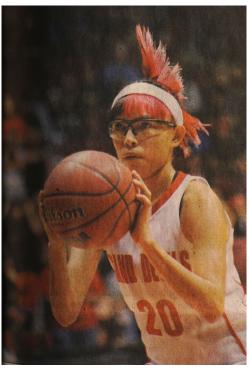
"But once I get into that world ... that's when I'll really decide what my path is," she said.

*This story and photo were contributed by Larry Hendricks, Public Relations for Coconino Community College.* 

## Former Sand Devils playmaker returns to the court

## CELESTE CLAW is Lady Sand Devils New Head Coach





Coach Claw as a player during the 2012 championship game.

Sand Devils fans had their first opportunity to see the Lady Sand Devils' new coach in action last week when Page hosts the Holiday Classic.

Celeste Claw inherits one of the most successful high school basketball teams in Arizona history. During the five years that Ryan Whitehorse served as head coach, the Lady Sand Devils had a 84 percent winning record and played in the 3A North championship game every year, and won the championship three of those five years. Prior to Coach Whitehorse, the team was coached by Justin Smith and Aaron Anderson, the architects credited with building the Lady Sand Devils' ongoing winning dynasty. Smith and Anderson led the Lady Sand Devils to its first state championship title in 2012. Smith added a second state championship 2015.

Though this is Coach Claw's first time coaching, she brings with her an impressive basketball resume. When she was in high school, she played varsity for the Lady Sand Devils all but her freshman year. She was the starting point guard for the Sand Devils her sophomore, junior and senior years, and in that position she played a key role leading her team to the state championship title in 2012; the championship that began the Lady Sand Devils legacy of winning that continues today. It's fair to say Coach Claw is inheriting a team with a legacy of winning she helped establish when she was a player for the team a decade ago.

During her high school career, Claw was named a Navajo Times All Star Player of the Year 2012, and All American 2012.

Coach Claw grew up in LeChee, Ariz., and attended school at PUSD schools. After graduating from Page High School,

## Fall Musical of "Beauty & the Beast" **Delivers Magical Evening**





Actors with the Page High School Musical delivered a beautiful performance of Beauty and the Beast during this year's fall musical.

Actors typically have three months to prepare for a musical, but this year, that preparation time was trimmed to two months. Whether it was lines, songs or choreographed dance numbers, the cast showed no indication they weren't fully prepared.

Lead actors Zoe Tate as Belle, James Nolan as the Beast, and Jordan Robertson as Gaston all delivered crowd-pleasing performances.

The musical was directed by Lynda Nolan, who also arranged the choreography. Elise Donoho choreographed the Dance for Gaston. Dawnell Robertson 6 was the Music Director, and Assistant to the Director.

















### PHS STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT, GRACIE MARTINEZ, LEADS WITH COMPASSION

Gracie Martinez is Page High School's Student Body President and has been one of its cheerleaders since she was in seventh grade.

When you learn that Gracie Martinez is the Student Body President for Page High School, you'll think, "Yeah, that sounds right." And when you hear that Gracie Martinez was a cheerleader at Page High School, you'll think, "Yeah, that sounds right."

Martinez possesses the qualities that make her excel at what she chooses to do, whether she's leading a group in her role as student body president, or cheering on others in her role as a cheerleader.

"Gracie is one of the most genuine people I've ever encountered," said Megan Moore. Moore works closely with Martinez in her role as Page High Sschool's Student Council Advisor.

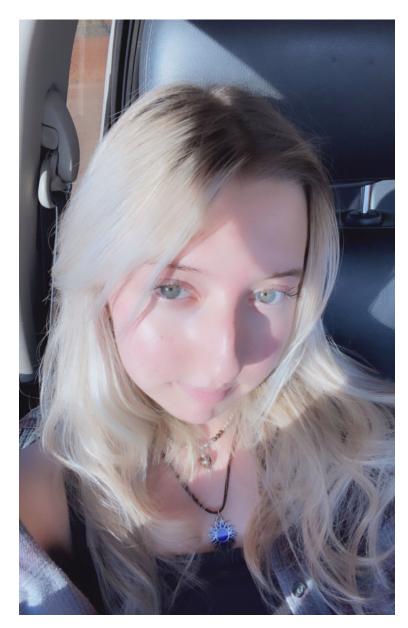
"She really just wants to help people and make a difference in our school, both students and teachers. She will not leave my classroom unless she comes to me, and asks me if I need anything from her, or is there any way she can help me. And she means it. She wants to help. I bet if you talk to any one of her teachers, she probably makes a point every day to talk to them and thank them. She's just very genuine that way."

That is just who Gracie is, Moore said. "She's not helping out because she's the Student Body President, she's doing it because she's Gracie. But I think the position of Student Body President has elevated her to make her even more generous, kind and caring."

Martinez is a senior at Page High School. This is the first year in six years she hasn't been a cheerleader. Due to unusual circumstances, Martinez has been a varsity cheerleader for Page High School since she was in seventh grade.

"I had a unique opportunity with cheerleading," Martinez said. "When I was in seventh grade, the high school cheer coaches came to the middle school cheerleading squad and asked if any of the middle school students would join the high school cheer squad, because there were not enough students to make a varsity squad. I did varsity high school cheer, from my seventh grade year all the way until COVID changed everything."

8



Martinez chose not to do cheer this year so she could focus on student council and her AP classes. "This was not an easy choice," said Martinez. "I had to decide on an extracurricular activity I already knew I loved or a role with a lot of responsibility. I know myself, and I was nervous, but knew I would love to make the school more conscientious of social acceptance, communication, and under-

## Runnin' Devils Finish 2nd at State



Page High School's boys cross-country team placed second at the 3A state championship meet Saturday.

Salpointe Catholic High School took first place, with 46 points, the Sand Devils had 126 points and Shadow Mountain finished third with 162 points. The meet was held in Cave Creek, Ariz.

Colton Yazzie, had the best finish of the Page runners, coming in 16th place with a time of 17:17.80. Runnin' Devils Cody Slim, placed 24th, Tanner Dugi placed 25th, Hunter Jensen placed 35th, Gavyn Begay placed 49th, Joshua Sandoval placed 64th, and Elijah Reed Placed 81st.

For the Page Girls Runnin' Devils, one runner, Jade Reid, qualified to run at the state championship meet. She placed ninth at the competition with a time of 20:30.50. "I think the guys ran well," said cross country assistant coach Tim Martin. "We could have done better, but the team that won was amazing. They were a whole different level than us. They packed four runners in the top ten. For us, Cody Slim ran well, Tanner [Dugi] ran well, and Hunter [Jensen] ran well, I thought."

Coach Martin described the Runnin' Devils season as a roller coaster. "They were running good early and then they started having injuries, sicknesses and boys staying out to quarantine for Covid," said Coach Martin. "But I think they ended on a high note."

Next year, the Runnin' Devils will lose five seniors, but will gain four quality freshmen runners, all of whom competed well at the eighth grade level this year, and brought home the NAIC championship for Page Middle School.



## Desert View Music Students Perform Singing Flag





On Veterans Day, Desert View Students performed a rendition of a "singing flag" as a tribute to veterans everywhere. The performance was arranged and directed by Desert View music teacher, Joshua Brink. All 488 of Desert View's students, third through fifth grade, took part in the event.

In day prior to the performance, students were assigned to wear a red, white or blue shirt, in accordance to the spot they were assigned to stand. With the students wearing their shirts and standing in their assigned spots, the formation formed an American Flag.

The students sang the National Anthem. The event also included special performances Page Middle School music teacher, Alex Moore, who played Taps on his trumpet, and two Desert View students, Janelle Tisi and Peyton Joe, who recited the Pledge of Allegiance in Navajo.

The Singing Flag performance checked several boxes for Mr. Brink's music students. "I think it's really important for our students to understand what Veterans Day is, and why we celebrate it, said Brink. "And being that Veterans Day is in November, which is also Native American Heritage Month, it also gave us the opportunity to talk about Navajo Code Talkers and the important role they played for America."

Another reason for doing the Singing Flag was to start introducing the students to community involvement, said Brink.

"One of my first principals talked about the Hidden Curriculum, which is all the other stuff we teach that is also important," said Brink, "everything from



Janelle Tisi and Peyton Joe

the proper way to talk to an adult, how to talk to other students, to how to be a part of a community and how to show appreciation for those who serve, and be empathetic and caring."

Another reason for doing it, was to return to normal school life, something that didn't happen too often last year, due to remote learning and few opportunities to gather in person.

"We have a lot of veterans in our town and a lot of our students have family and friends who have served, or who are serving, in the military. We just wanted to do something to say Thank You to them," said Brink.



#### CLAW from pg. 5

the talented point guard shot her basketball career to the next level, first playing for Chandler-Gilbert Community College, and finishing her college career with BYU-Hawaii, where she introduced the Seasiders to their first taste of Rez-ball.

BYU-Hawaii belongs to the Pac-West conference, and they described her style of play as a "fast-paced, run-andgun, full-court-press style of game."

Spend a few minutes digging into Coach Claw's history and you'll soon find that those who know her, describe her as a "playmaker."

They specifically described Coach Claw gamesmanship style as "a pure point guard, who looks to pass first and shoot second."

"Don't blink. That blur going by is, Celeste Claw, the quickest player in the conference," said a PacWest reporter, reporting on Claw's playing style for the Seasiders. Coach Claw says she is very aware of the big shoes she has to fill as she takes over as the Lady Sand Devils head coach, and adds she is receiving a lot of support from the community, and other coaches. Coach Claw says she has reached out to almost all of her former coaches – including Justin Smith and Aaron Anderson – getting advice on various coaching subjects. She says she and former coach Ryan Whitehorse have talked a lot in the weeks leading up to the beginning of the season.

After graduating from BYU-Hawaii with a degree in exercise and sports science, Claw moved back to Arizona and started working as a performance specialist for EXOS, a prominent fitness company in the Valley. She led people in warm ups as an intern before becoming a full-time member a few months later.

A year later, she became a performance coach for the Blue Cross-Blue Shield Association and held the position for the next two years.



Coach Claw says she is looking for "heart and hustle" from her players. "I'm looking for passion from my players," she said. "When I see that passion, and see the kids hustling and running out, it's a lot more fun to coach them, and it's a lot more fun basketball to watch. Our defensive end is where we're focusing right now. That's what Page is known for, the Sand Devils Defense. I'll make sure my players are efficient at that and good things will come."

Coach Claw says she hopes to bring her point guard mentality to her coaching style: Look for the most-effective way to assist her on-court playmakers, and trust that they'll finish.

Coach Claw's assistant coaches are Ambrose Henderson, Carlos Begay, Jordan Tsosie, Malarie Williams and Squeak Reid.

## Middle School Student Council attends leadership conference



Page Middle School Student Council. Back row: John Keisling, Desmond Goldtooth, Reed Nolan, Allie Hansen, Alyssa Zimmer, Addison Brazzel, Mason Yazzie, Kendra Tarket. Front row: Isabelle Manning, Emily Hawker, McKenzie Hansen, Emma Mallavia, Ny'Asia Walsh, Ashley Neztsosie.

It was a big day for Page Middle School's student council students, when they attended the Arizona Association of Junior High Student Councils Leadership Conference last month.

Kendra Tarket, Student Council Advisor, said the goal of attending the conference was to have the students learn leadership skills, and get fresh ideas how they can be more involved with their school and community. The conference was a great success. The student council achieved those goals and more, said Tarket.

"I think it's important to learn leadership skills because affective leadership impacts everyone in our school, said Addison Brazell, Student Council President.

The one-day conference was held at the Mesa Convention Center, and was attended by students from about 20 other Arizona schools. Last year's Leadership Conference was canceled due to Covid.

The workshops at the conference were focused around the Five Pillars of Student Council, which are Diversity, Academic Achievement, Leadership, School Spirit and Community Involvement. In addition to the leadership workshops, the conference included collaboration and idea-sharing sessions with leaders from other schools. Brazell said the collaboration and idea-sharing sessions were one of the most productive parts of the conference. Page Middle School's student council returned to Page with a lot of new ideas. At the conference, Page Middle School's student council gave a presentation on diversity and the affects it has on their school.

All the student council students are in 8th grade. Under

normal circumstances, members of the student council would have been selected during an election, but "normal circumstances" were few last year. Instead, members of this year's middle school student council were chosen by Page Middle School Assistant Principal, Teresa Robbins. The student council members were chosen because they were honors students and because they had previously demonstrated leadership ability, said Tarket. Tarket said her student council students have done an amazing job, stepping into their leadership positions and growing into their roles. "Our students are working hard to address the Five Pillars of Student Council," said Tarket. "This group is motivated. Despite the fact that they didn't choose to be leaders, they are really going above and beyond getting things organized. They have been very flexible and willing to learn, and willing to take on big challenges."

When Allysa Zimmer was asked to serve on the Student Council, she stepped forward and accepted the challenge. "I said, `I'm all in.' I like student council and I'm glad I'm in it." One of the student council's Community Outreach projects was organizing a canned food drive. The group collected 647 cans, and delivered them to the Circle of Page food pantry.

Kendra Tarket is also going above and beyond the call of duty. She was informed the first day of school that she was going to be the Student Council Advisor.

One of the big things the students are learning as they go – call it on-the-job-training — is the importance of communication.

"The other students tell us their ideas or concerns and we pass them forward to our teachers and the principal," said Brazell. "And it goes the other way too. The Principal or Vice Principal often give us information that they want us to share out to the rest of the student body."

Page Middle School's Student Council Members are: Addison Brazell, President; John Keisling, Vice President; Isabella Manning, Secretary; Emily Hawker, Treasurer; Reed Nolan,Historian; Allie Hansen, Alyssa Zimmer, Colin Cliburn, Desmond Goldtooth, Makenzie Hansen, Emma Mallavia, Asley Neztsosie, Mason Yazzie and Ny'Asia

#### MARTINEZ from pg. 8

standing. I choose to take on a new and more challenging role, student body president."

Gracie is well-known to her peers for being a cheerleader in real life too, encouraging others to give it their best, give it another try, or keep their chin up if they're having a rough day.

"Any time she sees an opportunity to make someone feel better, she'll take it," says Moore. "People recognize her as their boost of confidence, their supporter and their go-to person. I think part of that is in her capacity as student body president, and some of that is because she's a genuinely caring person."

Martinez has several priorities she's focused on in her capacity as Student Body President.

"Some things I hope to accomplish in this position would be increasing school spirit, making the high school feel more like a community, shining light on mental health, being a safe place for the students, and giving students more opportunities to be understood, and accepted, even though we are all different," Martinez said.

"The reason I chose to be Student Body President was because I feel like I have a lot of valuable insights and new ideas that can benefit the school before I move on to my next big adventure. I have a drive and feel motivated to make a real difference for students just like myself. I hope that I am a positive role model and that being kind, changes someone's day."

Martinez plans to attend a four-year college after graduation, but hasn't yet decided what school she'd like to attend.

"I have always gravitated to leadership roles naturally," said Martinez. "This is why I am taking time deciding my next major step in life. I will choose the best opportunity. I have an idea of my course of study. I am thinking of getting a degree in Public Administration and a minor in Chemistry. These degrees will set me up for a career in leadership. Her parents are Gregg and Jessica Martinez. "They are the reason I am where I am today," Martinez said. "They motivate me to become the best version of myself I can be. Without their guidance, love, and support I wouldn't be as certain about my future. I grew up with a lot of adversity and they showed me how to walk through it with grace." With the additional stresses students are feeling this year, Gracie Martinez's caring style of leadership are just what Page High School needs this year, Moore said.

"She works so hard to make high school an enjoyable experience for everyone," said Moore. "She thinks of others beside herself, and she wants to make sure they know they're welcome."

## **Functional Life Skills Students Enjoy Balloon Regatta Fun**







students enjoyed a fun day launching paper balloons as part of the Balloon Regatta's Community Outreach program.

by Alissa Jones, a Physical Therapist with the district, who joined with Robin Bull-

ard, who conducts the Community Outreach division with the Lake Powell Balloon Regatta.

Using a specially-constructed propane stove, Bullard and Jones filled paper balloons with hot air, escaping from the chimney of the propane stove. When the paper balllons are filled with hot air, they lift off into the sky.

As part of the fun, the students would then track and chase down the balloon when they drifted back to the ground.

PUSD has 12 students, grades 4-8, in its Functional Life Skills classes, some of whom have mobility and sensory challenges, which can make it difficult to participate in some of the schools' larger, school-wide activities.

"It was very considerate of the Balloon Regatta to do this for our students," said Jones. "It's always great when the students back get out of the classroom and break up their routine, especially when it's something we can do outside."

# EMPLOYEES of the MONTH

#### Certified Employee of the Month

October 2021

# <complex-block>

**Stephanie Hansen** 

#### Classified Employee of the Month

October 2021



#### Mikaila Yellowhair

## STUDENTS Of the MONTH



Khajani Smith Lake View Primary







Kayle Fieldsted Page Middle School



Aevory Scott Page High School



Jubilye Yellow Manson Mesa High School



Kalynn Denatsosie Sage & Sand Virtual Academy

# Announcements



#### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT Using GoFan for Page High School Games



Game times listed on GoFan are NOT always the correct times. To see correct times, visit the calendar on Page High School's website.

- PUSD teachers and staff get in free with their school ID.
  - This does NOT include this weekend's Boys Holiday Classic.

Varsity games played that day.

You can use your GoFan account to purchase tickets for home and away games.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE ADDED TO THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT

> STEVEN LAW PR COORDINATOR

slaw@pageud.org