

PUSD

PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter February 2022

www.pageud.org



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On the Cover

Sofia Cambridge against Tuba City, Jan. 27, 2022

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.



Jan. 12, 2022

Notes from Regular Board Meeting: Jan. 11, 2022

Page Unified School Board members convened for its Regular Board Meeting Jan. 11, 2022. Board President, Desiree Fowler, and Board Members, Sandra Kidman, Dee McKerry, Charles Weiss and Mike Mangum were present.

During the meeting, newly sworn-in Board Member, Mike Mangum, was welcomed to his new position by the other board members and Supt. Dr. Bryce C. Anderson.

Board member, Sandra Kidman, recognized PUSD’s Employees of the Month. The Certified Employee of the Month was Jody Talbot. The Classified Employee of the Month was Natalie Kawano.

Board President, Des Fowler, and the Principals from each school, recognized PUSD’s Students of the Month. They are:

- Pre-school: Autumn Frank
- Lake View Primary: Kyle Lewis
- Desert View Intermediate: Courtney Griswold
- Page Middle School: Eli Lyons
- Page High School: Ethan Myers
- Manson Mesa High School: Deangeline Doctor
- Sage & Sand Virtual Academy: Sean Medina

During the meeting, Desiree Fowler was elected Board President, and Sandra Kidman was elected Board Clerk.

Board Members approved Alyssa Covington as Qualified Evaluator for the District.

Supt. Dr. Bryce C. Anderson presented an update to the Board, and those present, regarding the status of the Superintendent search.

GOVERNING BOARD

Desiree Fowler
President

Sandra Kidman
Clerk

Dee McKerry
Member

Charles Weiss
Member

Mike Mangum
Member

Superintendent
Dr. Bryce C. Anderson

Page Unified School District
500 South Navajo Dr.
Page, AZ 86040

Mike Mangum Sworn-In as New School Board Member

Mike Mangum was sworn in Jan. 10, 2022 as a board member for the Page Unified School District. The swearing-in happened via Zoom call with Mangum in the District office on one end of the call and Cheryl Mango-Paget, Coconino County Superintendent of Schools, conducting the swearing-in on the other end of the Zoom call from her office in Flagstaff.

Mangum has been a resident of Page for nearly nine years. He and his wife, Jessica Mangum, have three kids. Two of their kids attend PUSD schools, and their youngest child will attend in the coming years when it reaches school age.

“I just wanted to support the community and school district,” he said. “I saw a need for parent involvement and I was looking for ways I could help. When the opening came up on the school board I saw that as my opportunity.

“I want to help bring change and betterment to the district, the schools and the staff,” he said after the swearing in ceremony.

Mangum grew up in St. George Utah. He works for PUE as lineman/sub-technician, something he’s done for nine years.

Mangum first moved to Page when a good job opportunity presented itself, and I liked that it was close to home.

“Now that we’ve lived here, and made a home here, grown here we’ve really come to love the community, and the easy access to the lake and the outdoors.

When he has free time, Mangum likes to take his family to the mountain, the lake and travel.



Mike Mangum

PUSD has had a vacancy in its school board since October, following the resignation of School Board President, Bob Candelaria.

Mangum appreciates the opportunity to join the school board.

“I just want to tell the community, Thanks for the support, and I hope I can do what needs to be done to help improve the school district.”

READY for TAKE-OFF!



Eve Kirchner sets her sights on aviation school & beyond.

Eve Kirchner still remembers the first time she flew in an airplane. She was 13-years-old and she and her family took a trip from Page to California to visit her grandma. The first leg of the trip was aboard an airplane traveling from Page to Las Vegas. The second leg of the flight was aboard a large passenger jet that took her from Las Vega to California.

“I loved being in the air, and I had this joy I’ve never felt before right when we took off,” Kirchner recalls. “I loved being above the clouds, and looking down on the top of them. And when the clouds left, I loved seeing the patterns on the ground, and the way the scenery looked from that high above it.”

That flight was a life-altering event for her. She thought about that flight and the experience of flying for months and years to come. “I kept think about how amazing it was. Just thinking about it would put a smile on my face. I couldn’t wait to do it again.”

Kirchner also has a passion for traveling, and hopes to visit numerous countries, cities and far-flung destinations throughout her life.

“I fell in love with traveling, and I already loved flying, so being a pilot is the perfect way to kill two birds with one stone,” she said. “I thought, I might as well make this my career if I love it that much.”

Kirchner, the daughter of Steve Kirchner and Christine Johnson, graduates from Page High School this May, and she recently learned that she has been accepted into Southern Utah University’s aviation program., with the goal of becoming a pilot. She can hardly wait to begin. For Kirchner, there is a feeling (to put it in aviation terms) that she’s positioned at the head of a runway, with engines humming, propellers spinning, all systems go, just waiting for the control tower to say, You are cleared for take-off.

Southern Utah University’s aviation program is a four-year baccalaureate program. When Kirchner completes the program she’ll receive a bachelor’s degree in Aviation Science, and her fixed-wing commercial pilots license, with instrument certification and private certification.

Kirchner’s tour of SUU’s Aviation program included a ride in one of the program’s airplanes. She even got to pilot the plane during a portion of the flight. The experience confirmed her decision to become a pilot, and strengthened her conviction.

“The pilot program at SUU blew my mind,” she said. “Right when I got in that plane, I knew this is the career I belong in.”

After she earns her pilot license, Kirchner says she plans to begin her career as a commercial pilot, then move her way up to private piloting. Kirchner loves Page, but when it’s time to begin her career she wants to spread her wings wide.

“I’m not sure where I’m going to live, but I want to live somewhere not close to Page,” she said.

Kirchner is one of Page High School’s stand-out students. She has a 3.9 GPA, and competes in the 100M and 200m during track season.

Eve has several character traits that will help her be successful and go far in life, said Praveen Dubey, Kirchner’s AP Calculus teacher.

“She is very smart, always happy and willing to work hard,” said Dubey. “But, she’s not just smart, smart, but socially smart too.”

In addition to strong academic skill sets, Kirchner also possesses has an advanced sense of humor, and a heightened level of social awareness that few people have, said Dubey.



Looking back, Kirchner views Page as the runway that prepared her for a bright future. Kirchner at the controls of an airplane at SUU’s aviation program.

5 PUSD Teachers Earn Advanced Degrees

Lauren Viers

Reading Intervention, Lake View

When did you receive your degree?

August 2021

What is your degree?

Master of Science Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Reading Specialist Licensure

What is your bachelor's degree?

Elementary Education

From what university did you receive your masters degree?

University of Kansas

How long have you been working on your masters degree?

Two years

How long have you taught at PUSD?

I have taught at PUSD for 4.5 years.



David Johnson

Music, Page High School

When did you receive your degree?

October 31, 2020

What is your degree?

Master of Arts Education - Administration and Supervision

What is your bachelor's degree?

Bachelor of Music - Instrumental Music Education

From what university did you receive your masters degree?

University of Phoenix

How long have you been working on your masters degree?

18 months.

How long have you taught at PUSD?

This is my 5th year at PUSD



Megan Cordova

English, Page High School

When did you receive your degree?

June 2021

What is your degree?

Master of Curriculum and Instruction

What is your bachelor's degree?

English Education

From what university did you receive your masters degree?

Western Governors University

How long have you been working on your masters degree?

Two years

How long have you taught at PUSD?

I have taught at PUSD for six years.



Shania Valentine

English, Page High School

When did you receive your degree?

December 2021

What is your degree?

Master of Arts in Indigenous Education

What is your bachelor's degree?

English Education

From what university did you receive your masters degree?

Arizona State University

How long have you been working on your masters degree?

Two years

How long have you taught at PUSD?

This is my fourth year at PHS



Natasha Tresh
Math, Page Middle School

When did you receive your degree?

August 2021

What is your degree?

Master of STEM for Secondary Education

What is your bachelor's degree?

Communications

From what university did you receive your masters degree?

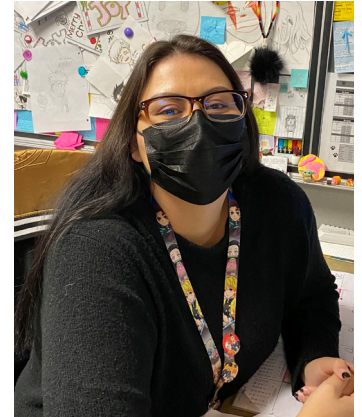
Grand Canyon University

How long have you been working on your masters degree?

Two years

How long have you taught at PUSD?

I have taught at PUSD for 5 years. Two years as a tutor, three years as a long-term sub.



8 PHS Students Selected for Honors Ensemble

In late January, eight Page High School students learned they had been selected as members of the Northwest Region of Arizona Music Educators Association Honors Ensemble.

The eight PHS students will join other top choir and orchestra students from northwest Arizona and represent Page in performance ensembles that will be held in Flagstaff Feb. 19.

The students traveled to Flagstaff in mid-January where they auditioned. They are Kaya Dickson (first violin, orchestra), Olivia Boughman and Whitney Smith (second violin, orchestra), Hannah Fowler and Valentina Tsosie (viola), James Nolan (second chair tenor), Jordan Robertson (fifth chair tenor), Reese Tappan (alto choir).

“This is a big honor,” said Page High School music teacher, David Johnson. “It takes a lot of time and dedication to reach this level.”

The students receive the audition material in September. “They practice and practice the audition piece the entire semester to get ready for it. They spend extra time after school, they work with me and Mikayla



Valentina Tsosie, Hannah Fowler, Whitney Smith, Olivia Boughman (back row), Reese Tappan, James Nolan and Jordan Robertson (front row). Kaya Dickson, not pictured.

Forbes to prepare, because it is fiercely competitive. These kids are the best of the best in our area.”

Volunteers Make Sand Devil Classic a Big Success

Every January, for the last 15 or so years, Tyanna Specht cashes in a few of her vacation days. But she doesn't go on vacation; she gets to work. Specht is one of about numerous volunteers who put in long hours to help make the Sand Devil Classic the pride and success it has become.

The Sand Devils Classic is one of Page's biggest, busiest events of the year, with hundreds of wrestlers and dozens of coaches traveling from five different states to compete in one of the top wrestling tournaments of the season.

The event has happened every year since 1991, with two exceptions: it didn't occur last year because of Covid-19 closures, and a few years ago due to a blizzard that swept over the southwest closing multiple roads and making travel to Page impractical.

After three decades in operation, it has developed a reputation throughout Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada of being one of the top-notch, most-competitive tournaments of the season. And because of that, it draws the most talented wrestling teams from a five state region.

"We attract some of the toughest teams," said Sand Devils Head Wrestling Coach Keisling, "and the level of competition is very high. And because it comes just a few weeks before the state tournament, it gives us a preview of who might medal at state. This event is very important to wrestling community."

Every year, 25 to 30 teams participate in the Sand Devil Classic. Each team brings 12 to 15 wrestlers, three coaches, a bus driver and a team manager. Having more than 500 visitors flood into Page during the slowest part of the tourism season is a big shot in the arm to the local economy. "This tournament has a huge impact on Page's economy,"

said Coach Keisling. "All those people need a hotel room. All those people go out to eat, and a lot of them buy souvenirs to take home. And a lot of teams take a little extra time to visit some of our attractions, and they go back to their communities and tell their friends and family what a great place this is."

The Sand Devil Classic was founded by Jesse Cheff in 1991. Cheff now lives in northwest Montana, near Missoula. He has plans to move back to Page this May. He still follows Sand Devils wrestling via Facebook. Cheff founded the Sand Devil Classic his first year as wrestling head coach. Prior to that he'd been an assistant coach for 14 or 15 years under John Tkalcevic.

"All the years John and I coached together, we traveled to a lot of schools, but there were still a lot of

schools with amazing wrestling programs we didn't get to wrestle against," said Cheff during a phone call last week. "The main reason I wanted to start our own tournament was so we could invite some of those top-notch teams. We wanted to showcase our wrestlers, our wrestling program and our great facilities and show them that we were as competitive as any."

Cheff invited seven teams the first year of the Classic, from Utah, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico, a tradition that continues today.

"It was a complicated deal that first year," said Cheff. "It took a lot of legwork, a lot of phone calls getting it started. But it went great, and continued to get better. After the third year, it took off. We got a lot of positive comments. After that any school with a good wrestling program called us, asking to be invited."

Coach Keisling now oversees the Sand Devil Classic and during the course of the event, he can be seen pacing like



Dante Gracia, Christian Frnklin, Tyanna Specht, Kyran Keisling and Pam Penrod-Budd keeping the behind-the-scenes operations running smoothly.



Sand Devils wrestling coaches Tanner Mansker, Steve Smith, Matt Penrod and Kyran Keisling.



Volunteers hang welcome and informational posters at the Sand Devil Classic.

an elephant in a cage as he checks in with his coaches, his wrestler, the volunteers, the sponsors, the fans and the other teams.

“I was reminded this weekend why this matters, why so many people work so hard to put this on,” he said. “I saw one of the wrestlers who had just lost a match crying in the hallway and I was reminded that this is important to them. They put in a lot too, and it hurts to lose. And there are also all the kids who make it to the top of the podium and I see how happy and proud they are. It’s important to us, because it’s important to them.”

While the wrestlers are battling it out in the two gyms, another big competition is occurring behind the scenes in the Hospitality Room, one of the greatest points of pride for the Sand Devils Classic. Every school that hosts a wrestling match has a Hospitality Room, and all them try to outdo the others. Page’s Hospitality Room takes up two rooms located between the main gym and the pool gym. It’s a place where coaches, referees, staff and volunteers can rest and relax.

And eat.

Power strips are plugged into every electrical outlet and from the power strips, a ganglia of cords extend to dozens of crock pots, and warming pans. When one crockpot, pan or dish of food is finished, it’s taken away and another put in its place. During the course of the two-day tournament, parents, grandparents and other family members are seen carrying in trays, pot, pans and boxes of food. Breakfast items are served in the morning, lunch items served during the mid-day, and dinner items served in the afternoon. The dishes included main courses, side items and vegetables, and a large variety of drinks and desserts.

“Everyone eats like kings in the Hospitality Room,” said Coach Keisling, “and that’s all thanks to the generosity of our families.”

All the food is made by volunteers, most of them moms,

sisters, aunts and grandparents of the wrestlers. Most of the Hospitality Room volunteers and food providers came into Page’s wrestling community when their sons or daughters wrestled at the middle school and high school.

A great many of the volunteers began volunteering at the Sand Devil Classic when their sons and/or daughters joined Page’s wrestling community. Such was the case with Specht, who received some additional coaxing from her friend Georgie Mowbray. At the time, Mowbray ran the Hospitality Room, something she began when her own son began wrestling.

“I remember asking Georgie if there was anything I could do to help, and she told me to bring some food for the Hospitality Room,” Specht recalls. “She told me, ‘I don’t care what you make, but make a lot of it.’”

It wasn’t long after that that Specht took over the Hospitality Room, and she’s been doing it ever since. She starts making the phone calls to volunteers and sponsors about two months before the tournament. “This simply wouldn’t happen without the parents and the sponsors,” Specht said. “The parents make ALL of the food, and our sponsors are the backbone of the hospitality room.”

This year, Specht is joined in the Hospitality Room by two of her kids, Dante Gracia and Christian Franklin, who quietly go about restocking food, keeping the space clean and washing dishes in a camp-style dishwashing area set up in the breezeway outside the gym, not far from the roar of a packed gym shouting for wrestlers competing on four mats at the same time.

“This place is kind of like a reverse-mullet,” says Dante. “Party in the front, business in the back.”

Four of Specht’s kids – Logan, Sean, Dante and Hayden Gracia – went through Page’s wrestling program, beginning as Dust Devils under the guidance of Keisling

Photos from the 31st Annual Sand Devil Classic





PHS Navajo Navajo Language Classes Invited to Perform at Window Rock



Councilmen Paul Begay and Daniel Tso, PUSD Board President, Des Fowler, Navajo Language Teacher Carlos Begay and 24 PUSD students in front of the Navajo Nation Council Building.

Twenty-four students from Page High School traveled to Window Rock in late-January after being invited to participate in the Navajo Nation Council's Winter Session.

The students were all Dinè students in the high school's Navajo Government, and Navajo Language classes, taught by Carlos Begay.

The students are: Jameson Chee, Keanu Chewing, Caleb Lee, Jayden Secody, Emmanuel Manygoats, Tyler Tsoisie, Bryce Williams, Raegan Ellis, Christina Chief, Amari Smiley, Raquel, Rivard, Amya Begay, Tehya Black, Sienna Harvey, Sieane Long, Shi'Shon Bisoie, Ilove Endischee, Jaddah Whitehair, Acacia Williams, Kaya Dickson, Kathleen Kewanyama, Brianna Smallcanyon, Heaven Robertson and Arianna Jenkins.

The Navajo Delegation invited the students to sing two traditional Navajo as part of the Navajo Nation Council's Winter Session. The students – dressed in traditional Navajo clothing – stood in front of the Navajo Nation Council Chamber building where they sang the Mountain Song and the Journey Song. The performance they shared reverberated across the Navajo Reservation, as photos and videos of the students were shared across Facebook.

In addition to singing the Mountain Song and the Journey

Song, the students sang a special song for Council Delegate, Eugenia-Charles Newton to give her encouragement and strength for the difficult work she had ahead of her that day.

"We were gathered, ready to sing," Carlos Begay explained. "She saw us, and asked if it was possible to have the students sing a song for her to help her and to give her guidance."

Mr. Begay had his students sing the Leadership Song for her.

One of the students there that day was Shi'Shon Bitsoie, a Navajo Language 3 student, who remembers that Councilwoman Charles-Newton looked troubled that day. Bitsoie said it was an honor to sing for her.

"She advocates for women," Shi'Shon Bitsoie, "and that was very moving for me, and very moving for the other girls. It almost made me cry. I think it helped her, because at the time, she was at her lowest because of the other council delegates."

The song for Councilwoman Charles-Newton indeed helped her a lot. Later that day, she posted to Facebook the impact the song and its energy had on her.

"I have to share the most beautiful thing that happened this morning," she wrote. "Day 3 of Council and I was walking into Council, praying under my breath for strength, when I was stopped by a grandma who wore the same jacket

as me. We talked and just as I was ready to walk into Council a young girl came up and asked, 'Are you Eugenia?'

"I responded, yes.

"She asked if I could speak to her friends so I made my way to their circle. I met some beautiful young ladies and handsome young men and Mr. Begay, the Navajo Government and Language teacher with Page High School.

"We took photos and then suddenly, they surrounded me in a circle. They started singing a song for me. FOR ME! It was so beautiful. I cried. Our young children sang in unison. For me! It was the most beautiful moment and I was humbled by these young women and men. While in the circle I saw our young girls wearing their traditional attire. I saw the young men standing in the back like young warriors protecting us all, us women!

"I stood with my hands out taking in this blessing while the sun shined through. When they got done singing they shared the story about the mountain that took the responsibility of being a leader amongst other leaders. I was told, 'our mountains are strong and cannot be brought down. You are our mountain! And then, one young lady says, 'keep fighting for us!'

"I have been blessed with strength. I got what was needed at the time I needed it the most.

Thank you to the young women and men who blessed me this morning. I look forward to my visit to Page High School."

Receiving that invitation to sing at the Winter Session was a bit of a journey of its own.

Last semester, Mr. Begay taught the students of his Navajo Language classes some traditional Dinè songs as part of the class, and the class performed the songs at the high school's Choir Concert last October. The performances had a strong effect on many members of the audience that night.

A few weeks after that, comments from Larry Wallen, who was PUSD's superintendent at the time, caused an uproar that flared through the district, and the Page and LeChee communities.

Members of the LeChee Chapter wanted to know what impact that was having at the school district and how it was affecting the students. The LeChee Chapter Council reached out to Mr. Begay and invited him to inform the LeChee community at the Chapter meeting. Mr. Begay suggested they invite the students, since it was they who were most affected.

PUSD Board President, Des Fowler, saw it as an excellent opportunity that would allow the students to see firsthand, and participate in, the political process.

As part of the meeting, the PUSD students were asked to sing one of the traditional Navajo songs that they had sung during the choir concert a few weeks earlier. Navajo



Councilwoman Eugenia Charles-Newton hugs a PUSD student after the students sing the Leadership Song for her.

Council Delegate, Daniel Tso, was in attendance that night and was touched by the performance, and he invited them to perform the songs during the Winter Session.

The students said they were honored to be invited to participate in such an important event.

"It was a big opportunity for all of us, something new and out of the box" said Shi'son Bitsoie. "It was a really good experience."

"The trip was a really great experience," said Heather Robertson, a student in Navajo Language 3. "I felt honored that what we did was shared with the whole Navajo Nation. I felt proud to be a part of it."

In addition to singing at the Winter Session, Mr. Begay also arranged for his students to visit the Council Chambers, the Navajo Zoological Park and the Navajo Nation Museum, during their time in Window Rock.

For some of the high school students, one of the most enlightening parts of the trip was seeing the impact that personal involvement can have in legislative decision-making. It inspired some of them to get more involved.

"I want to do more," said Caleb Lee, a student in Mr. Begay's Navajo 4 class. "I want to share our culture out into the world. That's one of my biggest goals to do. Doing stuff like this makes me feel like I'm getting closer to that. It made me want to go bigger."

PUSD School Board President, Desiree Fowler, also traveled with the group to Window Rock, and was happy to see the positive results that came from the trip.

"This was a great opportunity to give our students a voice to advocate for themselves, for our school, for Navajo government, Navajo language and to learn firsthand the government system and the way it works," said Fowler.

Taking part in the Winter Session was a great honor for

the students, but many of them said just going on a field trip, that wasn't sports related, was great fun, and educational. And something they'd like to do more of.

"It was fun to go on a trip that didn't involve sports, because we usually don't take field trips," said Acacia Williams, a Navajo 4 student.

And that got some of the students thinking. After seeing first-hand the influence that an individual and a group can have on their leaders, some of the students are considering petitioning PUSD leaders for more non-sports-related field trips.

Mr. Begay said the trip to Window Rock was "beyond successful."

"It didn't only benefit the students, but ended up having a powerful benefit that spread across the whole Navajo Nation," Mr. Begay said. "For the students, it was good for their emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being. They made all these connections with that trip. And that this invitation came from the office of the President is a high honor, and to present the songs for all 24 members of the council, what more could you ask for?"

Not only was the experience beneficial to the PUSD students, but hearing the students sing the traditional songs also had a powerful influence to the greater Navajo community, as photos and video of the performance were shared across Facebook.

"I have gotten a lot of feedback from this," said Mr. Begay. "People I haven't heard from in 20 years have been reaching out to me thanking me for this. Their voices reached our leaders and into homes all across the Reservation."

"I've heard from people who have told me, 'We needed



Councilwoman Eugenia Charles-Newton with Carlos Begay.

this. We needed to be reminded that as a people we are still strong, and that the old ways still matter."

"We, as a people, have been denigrated, assimilated and nearly obliterated, but we are still here. The singing that day felt like an awakening and an enlightenment."

To show their appreciation for their involvement, Councilmen Paul Begay and Daniel Tso presented Mr. Begay with a Navajo Nation flag to hang in his classroom.

WINGS from pg. 3

Dubey is also good friends and neighbors with Kirchner's parents, and has known them a long time. He describes them as generous, kind and engaged in the community.

"I've known Christine (Kirchner's mom) since she was working at the elementary school, and I know her dad quite well too," said Dubey. "Sometimes when I need help, I call him, because I know he'll be right over and help me with whatever I need. Both parents are willing to help other people. Eve has those same qualities. If she's in a position to help, she will. It's pretty plain to see that she learned that from her parents."

But Kirchner has had to navigate through a good deal of turbulence during the last two Covid years. One of the big disappointments Kirchner experienced the last year has been the closure of Page's ballet studio and classes. Kirchner has been a dancer with Jan Kocjan's ballet school since

she was four-years-old and was just a year shy of earning her Royal Academy of Dance certification.

"Ballet was a huge part of my life," Kirchner said. "I was pretty disappointed that I wasn't able to finish my training with Jan and earn my Royal Academy of Dance certification, but I'm going to try to get that final year done during college and get that certification."

Every pilot needs a good runway from which to takeoff. For Kirchner, that runway is Page.

"I do, in fact, really love Page," Kirchner said. "I think it was a good place to grow up and I couldn't see myself growing up anywhere as special as here. I will miss Page. It's the only place I've ever really known, so leaving here is definitely going to be an adjustment. I am looking forward to leaving the nest and starting fresh, but I will miss this small town I grew up in."

Board Members Receive Boardsmanship Award

PUSD Board members (from left), Mike Mangum, Desiree Fowler, Delores McKerry, Sandra Kidman, and Charles Weiss accept the Total Board Boardsmanship Award on behalf of Page Unified School District.

In December, the Arizona School Board Association recognized the Page Unified School Board with its Total Board Boardsmanship Award, for commitment to board development and continuing-education attainment in 2021. The award recognized the efforts and contributions of PUSD School Board President, Robert Candelaria, and Board Members, Sandra Kidman, Desiree Fowler, Delores McKerry and Charles Weiss.



CLASSIC from pg. 7

and Penrod and all went on to win state champion, or runner-up titles when they were in high school. Logan was state runner up in 2008. Sean was state champion his sophomore and junior years, and state runner up his freshman and senior years. Dante was state runner up his senior year, and Hayden was state champion his junior year. Specht's youngest daughter, Christian Franklin, took state last year as a member of Winter Guard.

In its 31 years in existence, the Sand Devil Classic has earned a reputation for excellence, and has a fan base that spreads five states wide. One of those fans is Dallas Lowry, head wrestling coach for Canyon View High School in Cedar City, Utah. He's been coming to the Classic for 15 years, and he's always impressed by how efficiently the tournament runs, and how welcoming it is to him and his team.

"We look forward to this every year," he said. "I love everything about it: From the way it's organized and run, and the Hospitality Room is one of the best.

The Canyon View wrestling team has a Sand Devil Classic tradition of its own. Every year, during the Saturday break, the teams goes to the Dam Overlook and takes a team picture.

Another area where the Sand Devil Classic shines, and prides itself, is its awards. Each year, the Classic gives out the Quinn Keith Award and the Cujo Award. The Quinn Keith Award is given to a wrestler who loses their first match of the tournament, but remains undefeated thereafter and goes on to stand on the podium. It's named after former Sand Devils wrestler Quinn Keith, who went on

to become a Marine, and lost his life fighting in Fullijah during the Iraq war. The award is given out by his mother and brother, Shannon and Skylar Keith.

The Classic's second big award is the Albert "Cujo" Yazzie Award, which is given to the tournament's outstanding 98 pound wrestler. The award is named after Albert "Cujo" Yazzie who was an outstanding Sand Devils wrestler. He was the 3A State Runner-Up in 1984, and State Champion in 1985, 1986 and 1987. Yazzie passed away in 2003.

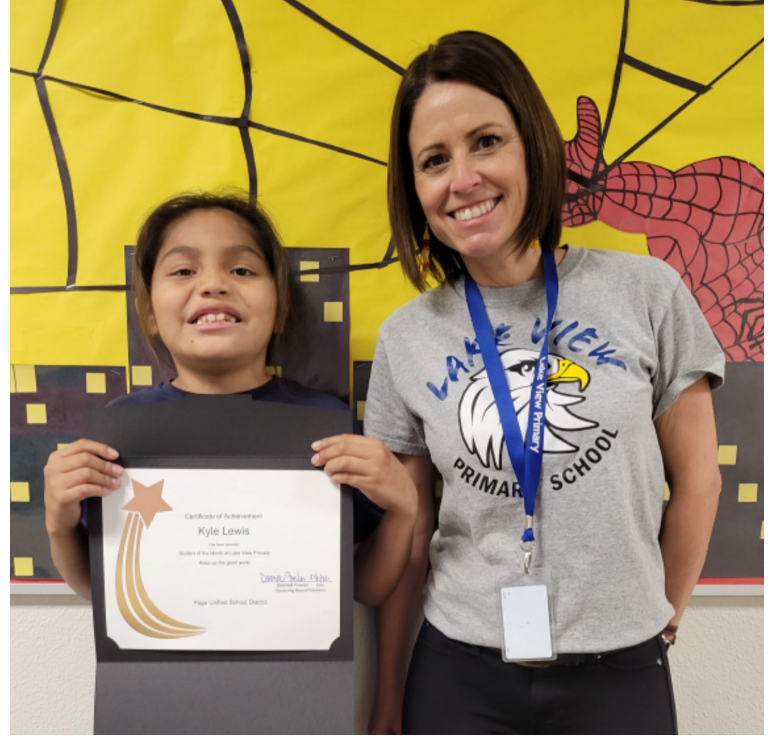
It's late Saturday afternoon. In the gym, the trophies have been handed out, the mats have been rolled up, the tables have been taken down. Weary wrestlers are boarding buses that will take them back to Utah, New Mexico and Colorado. In the Hospitality Room, Tyanna Specht and her crew are packing up crock pots and coolers, carrying away pizza boxes and bags of garbage.

Specht's children have all graduated. She no longer has any kids left in the wrestling program. So why does she keep volunteering? Why does she take a week off work and sacrifice vacation days to help with the Sand Devil Classic? "I do it out of love for our community," she said. "I do it out of love for Kyran [Keisling] and Matt [Penrod] and all they do for the kids in the wrestling program. I know it has given so much to my own children. It has made them who they are, and I'm very proud of who they are. Kyran and Matt were always there for my kids, so as long as Kyran and Matt keep doing the program, I'll be here for them."

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Autumn Frank
Preschool
w/ Marilee Osterink & Tracy Frank



Kyle Lewis
Lake View Primary
w/ Principal, Nancy Warner



Courtney Griswold
Desert View Intermediate

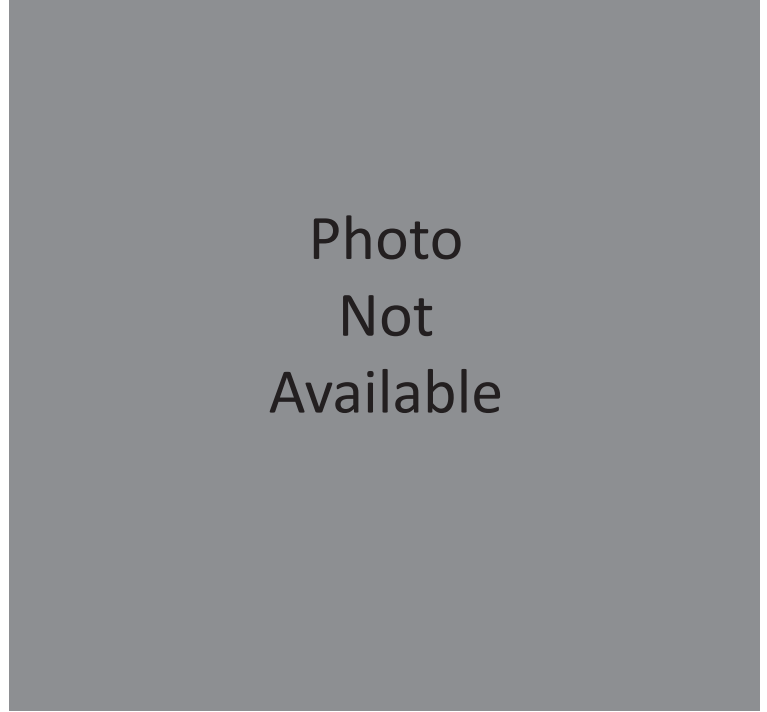


Eli Lyons
Page Middle School

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Ethan Myers
Page High School



Deangelina Doctor
Manson Mesa High School



Sean Medina
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Certified Employee of the Month
December 2021



Jody Talbot

Classified Employee of the Month
December 2021



Natalie Kawano

NOW HIRING FOOD SERVICE WORKER



Chartwells Contracted
Service Provider



Job Summary: Prepares, presents and serves food as needed.

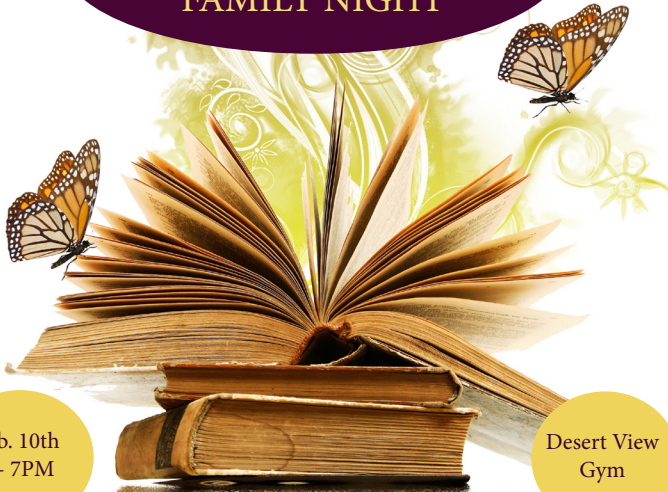
Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Performs prep work such as washing, peeling, cutting and seeding fruits and vegetables.
- Weighs and measures designated ingredients.
- Carries pans, kettles and trays of food to and from work stations, stove and refrigerator in accordance with safety standards.
- Stores food in designated areas following wrapping, dating, food safety and rotation procedures.
- Cleans work areas, equipment and utensils.
- Distributes supplies, utensils and portable equipment.
- Utilizes approved food recipes and production standards to ensure proper quality, serving temperatures and standard portion control.
- Serves customers in a friendly, efficient manner following outlined steps of service.
- Resolves customer concerns and relays relevant information to supervisor.
- Ensures compliance with company service standards and inventory and cash control procedures.
- Assures compliance with all sanitation and safety requirements.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Contact

Jarod K. Mohr | PH. 928-608-4102 | Cell 928-660-8157

DESERT VIEW FAMILY NIGHT



Feb. 10th
5 - 7PM

Desert View
Gym

This year's Family Night is focused on literacy.

Games | Book Give-Aways

Presentations About Move On When Reading for Parents of 3rd Graders

Make-and-Take Items to Promote Literacy at Home

For Desert View Students & Their Parents



PAGE HIGH SCHOOL WINTER FESTIVAL & INCOMING FRESHMEN & PARENT NIGHT

PHS MAIN GYM & POOL GYM
FRIDAY, FEB. 11TH 5-7PM

FOR ALL CURRENT PHS STUDENTS
& INCOMING 9TH GRADE STUDENTS
& THEIR PARENTS

GAMES, PRIZES, FOOD
INFORMATION ABOUT CLASS OFFERINGS,
CLUBS & ATHLETICS



SEE YOU THERE!

HELP PUSD STUDENTS

by giving to the Arizona Tax Credit

INDIVIDUALS CAN GIVE UP TO \$200

MARRIED COUPLES CAN GIVE UP TO \$400

IT'S 100% DEDUCTIBLE!!!

You can find a list of eligible clubs and organizations
at pageud.org

Thanks!