PUSD PAGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Newsletter

November 2025



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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

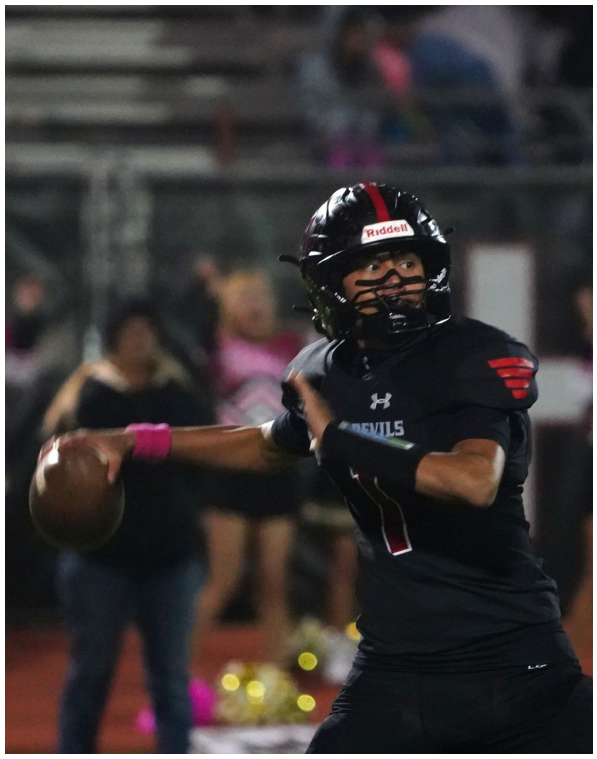
Our schools are passionate about the learning-for-all mission and understand that every student matters. We are responsible and accountable for the education of every student that walks through our doors every day.

Joey Benally Passes for 5,000 Career Yards









Congratulations to Joey Benally, Page High School quarterback and one of the greatest athletes to ever wear a Sand Devils uniform, who passed the 5,000 career passing yards during the game against the Winslow Bulldog. Benally has been the Sand Devils starting quarterback since his sophomore year. Way to go, Joey!!!

PHS Opens Devil's Brew Cafe









During a whirlwind day that included Halloween parades, parties and festivals, various balloon regatta activities and the Fall Musical, Page High School found a spare 15 minutes to hold the Grand Opening of its new Devil's Brew Café.

In front of a gathering of eager high school students, Page High School Principal Leigh Guenther was given the honor of cutting the Grand Opening ribbon.

The café will be operated by Chartwells, PUSD's food and nutrition provider. The café is located under the same roof as the high school lunch room in the room formerly occupied by the print shop. PUSD's maintenance crew spent several weeks during the summer converting the space from print shop to café.

Chartwells (PUSD's food and nutrition provider) held a soft opening for the new café the day before the Grand Opening, inviting VIPs and people who played a role transforming the space from copy shop to café. Those in attendance included Superintendent Bryce Anderson, Board President Des Fowler, the PUSD maintenance crew, and Chloe Lively, Kalyn Nalwood and Sabrina Bryant, who designed the winning logo for the café.

The Café will offer numerous grab-n-go options for students, ranging from candy bars and fruit to personal pizzas and buffalo wings.

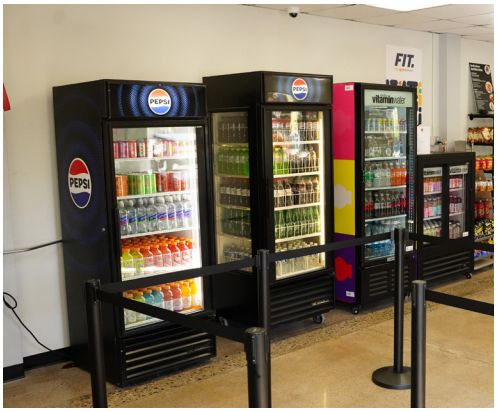
The breakfast bar will feature a pancake and waffle bar, breakfast burritos, bacon and sausage. The lunch bar will have buffalo wings and personal pizza.

Quick grab items will include chips, veggie trays, fruit trays, milk, juice, boba tea, specialty carbonated drinks and water.

The bakery will have cinnamon rolls, muffins, cookies and croissants.









Concert Choir Receives Superior with Distinction



Congratulations to the Page High School Concert Choir!

They went to Regional Festival Wednesday and earned a SUPERIOR with DISTINCTION!

They earned 95/100 from the judges on three pieces. They were then tested on their musician abilities to Sight Sing music in three parts without director help. They earned 48/50 points!

Thank you also to our great piano accompanist, Dawnell Roberts.

Way to go Concert Choir!

Page Jr. High Students Practice Mock Job Interviews







"I was kind of nervous, but I talked myself over it," said Malia Walker, a seventh grader at Page Jr. High School.

The nervousness Walker is referring to was the day she had to do a mock job interview as part of her Career Exploration class.

"We did this last year too, so I knew what to expect this year and it just didn't make me very nervous this time," Walker said.

That is exactly one of the outcomes Walker's Career Exploration teacher was hoping for.

The Career Exploration class is taught by Charlene Hunt for Page Jr. High School 7th and 8th graders. Her class tackles practical career and college readiness skills such as how to prepare a job application and resume, how to apply for a job, schedule a job interview, look and act professional, etc.

One of the things Mrs. Hunt wanted her students to experience is what it's like to interview for a job.

To make the experience feel as real as possible, Mrs. Hunt invited owners and leaders from Page businesses to conduct the interviews. Business owners and executives from Antelope Point Marina, Red Heritage, Banner Health, and representatives from the National Park Service were more than happy to help.

For a student transitioning from school world to the real world can be an unfamiliar, sometimes daunting experience. Especially if the world and experiences they are navigating are in a new city without people and norms to fall back on.

"I wanted them to experience what it was like to meet somebody new and sit in front of somebody new rather than a teacher they probably already know and are comfortable with," explained Mrs. Hunt.

Students have to show up to the interview prepared, as if it was a real job interview. They have to dress professionally, they have to have their resume with them (Most students carried a resume they had created, but contained fictional jobs). Student Support Services also helped out, providing professional dress – including shoes, pants, shirts and ties – for any student who might not have proper interview attire at home.

"I have to say the students looked pretty sharp going into their first interview," said Mrs. Hunt.

The interviewers scored the students on their professional appearance and hygiene, poise, first impression, greeting, body language, preparedness and listening actively.

"Basically, the same things you'd expect to be rated on during a real job interview," said Mrs. Hunt.

"For a lot of our students, interacting with a stranger can be hard for them," said Mrs. Hunt.

For Walker, the mock job interview was very helpful.

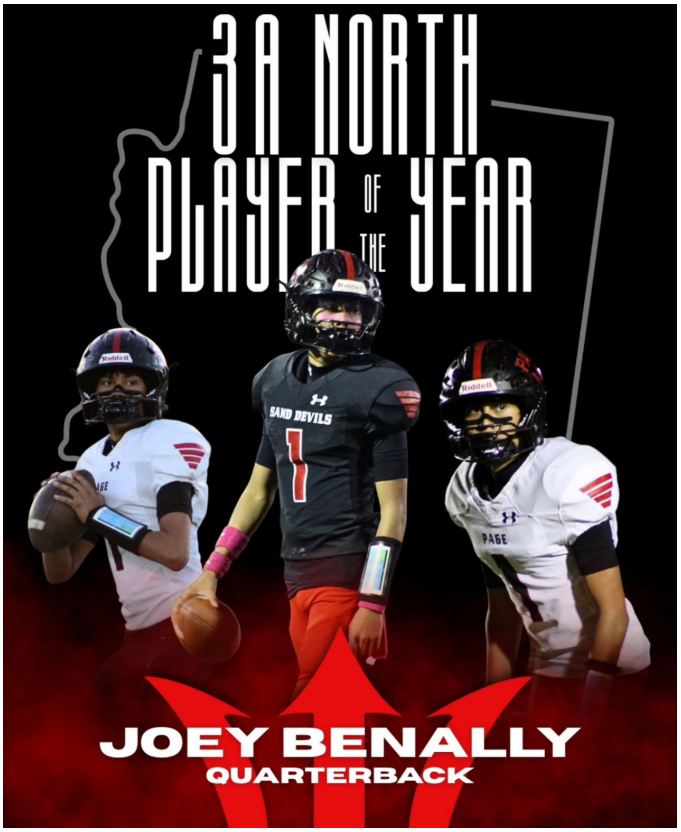
"It was super helpful because it prepares you for the real thing," she said. "I want to get a job when I'm 14 so I can save up for college. When I start going to job interviews now, I'll be ready."

See INTERVIEW pg. 19

Sand Devils Football Players, Coach Bring Home Top Honors









Graphics by Meredith Halvorsen

Photos From 2025 Balloon Regatta



















Photos from Halloween & Fall Festival


















Crayon
Crayon






ELEMENTARY
PAGE
SCHOO

Lynda Nolan, Lynette Nunez Write Fall Musical











This year's fall musical was quite possibly the most ambitious production Page High School has ever tried. The level of ambition bordered on crazy, quite honestly.

The crazy, ambitious plan was the idea of Lynda Nolan, who wanted to write a musical from scratch – including the script, dialogue, and 16 original songs – block it, rehearse it, and present it in just 10 weeks.

Against gigantic odds, she went for it. And, backed by her talented students and sisters, she succeeded brilliantly!

Lynda Nolan is Page High School's choir teacher. She also produces and directs Page High School's annual fall musical.

The play is based on a novel by Marissa Meyer, by the same title. Heartless tells the backstory of The Queen of Hearts from "Alice in Wonderland." Just like "Wicked" tells the backstory of the Wicked Witch of the West."

Lynda read the book last January.

"It just stuck with me," she said. "Everything about it; the story, the writing. I was already looking for a musical to do this year, and nothing was hitting. I kept coming back to Heartless. I really wanted to perform it as this year's musical but I'd have to create a script for it, and write the music for it.

"Originally, I thought I could pull in other popular songs, but as I got into it, I knew we'd have to write some original







songs for it because we were going to need some songs specific to this story."

By then it was June. If she was going to move forward with it, she'd have to move fast. Nolan called her twin sister, Lynette Nunez, and asked if she'd compose three original songs for the play. Lynette agreed to do it.

"She is fantastic at composing," said Lynda. "She is the one person who could do it, and do it that quickly."

Once Lynette was on board and the sisters were committed to adapting the book into a musical, Lynda contacted the author of Heartless, Marissa Meyers, and got permission to adapt the book. Once she had the author's permission and blessing, Lynda gave her full commitment to adapting "Heartless" for the stage. It was the equivalent of sprinting a marathon.

"In June I wrote the script, and Lynette started writing the music," Lynda recalls. "It's been intense!"

In adapting the book for the stage, Lynda kept some of its key lines, but also made some changes and additions of her own. For the play, she added a narrator to help move the story forward at a pace needed to keep the play from going to long.

"It stays pretty dang close to the story of the book," said Lynda.

When Lynette finished writing the first song, she sent it to another one of her sisters, Jennifer Jarrett. After listening to it, Jennifer told Lynette that she had to write all the songs and all the music for the play.

"The first song I heard captured my attention immediately," said Jennifer. "She started by writing the very first song of the show called `Through the Looking Glass'. The melodies and word-painting allow the listener to imagine the characters immediately.

"Her first song made me want to hear more. I immedi-





ately was sold and told her she had to write all the music for the musical. No other writer was going to match her creative mind and ability. And she did not disappoint. Every song she wrote for the music has become a beautiful piece of work."

Lynette took her sister's advice and wrote 16 songs for the musical.

Writing music and lyrics for 16 songs was going to be a very time-consuming project for Lynette. In addition to the songs, the musical was going to underscoring and orchestral parts too. Jennifer was happy to jump in and help, writing much of the underscoring and orchestral parts.

The music was written for the piano, and when Lynette or Jennifer finished a song or underscoring it was then sent to a fourth sister, Dawnell Robertson, so she could begin practicing it. Dawnell has worked closely with Lynda as the accompanist for all of Lynda's musicals.

Lynette has been writing music in various forms for more than two decades. She has written songs for her and her sisters to perform, she's written choral music for some of Arizona State University's choirs, and she's written Orchestra with Voices of Christmas.

"When Lynda asked me to write this musical, I knew that it was going to be something new but I knew I could do it because of previous experiences," Lynette said. "So the whole process is pretty naturally."

Once Lynette sat down at the piano and got started, it didn't take her very long write the song written with the melody, lyrics and chord progressions.

"What takes a little longer is all the accompaniment I have to write out while at the piano by hand, then putting it into the computer system," she said.

When Lynette completed writing a song she would send the vocal with the chord progressions to the performers to start practicing, while she continued working on the accompaniment. When that was complete, she sent the final accompaniment.

"The singers would finally get to hear what the song is going to actually sound like with the piano," said Lynette.

This is Lynda's tenth time directing the high school musical for Page High School, and she knows that tweaks and changes are normal. But this year is different. Because this year she and her twin sister wrote the play themselves. All the scenes, all the lines, all the blocking, all the stage directions, all the music and all the lyrics.

One of the biggest challenges was condensing the play into a standard running time of two to two and a half hours. The sisters deleted and condensed scenes after the dress rehearsal with just four days remaining till opening night. Another scene was cut just the day before curtain call. Lynda estimates she has cut more than 40 minutes from the original version of the play.

"This year's show has definitely been a new experience because of starting from scratch," said Lynda. She followed her statement with a deep sigh as she recalls all the extra steps creating a musical from scratch has required.

"In most musicals we perform, the writers have already worked out the kinks and shortened it to the proper length," says Lynda. "But we are figuring all that out in real time while we're rehearsing the show. The kids have been so flexible with it, and happy. I say, `Just go with me, guys,' and they do."

With lines being cut and scenes being rearranged, being part of the creative process has meant extra time and work from the students. But it's also meant seeing first-hand the process of crafting a play from scratch, something only graduate level theater students get to experience. For the most part, the actors have really liked the extra involvement and being a living, breathing part of the writing process. It has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the in-





ner workings of how a musical is created, edited, polished and presented. Even when a new change to the play may be inconvenient, they still appreciate the educational journey that it is.

"It is really cool to have the opportunity to be part of the creative process," said Sienna Wertz, who plays the main female role of Catherine Pinkerton. "It's a work in progress, and it has been very cool to watch it all come together."

People sometimes compare such situations to seeing how the sausage gets made. This is the right metaphor, but wrong analogy for this particular situation. Because theater isn't sausage. Theater is expression through song, lyric, dance, movement, soliloquy and dialogue. It is emotion writ large, and asides written with subtlety. Theater can be plot cloaked in mystery, and the slow lifting of seven veils. Watching in real-time as life was breathed into words and notes on a page, wasn't getting look behind the wall at the sausage factory; this was standing at Monet's elbow while he paints.

Page High School sophomore Karcyn Mangum – who plays Alice and Lady Margaret – loved watching the play grow, shapeshift and finally settle into its final form.

"I think it's really cool Lynda was able to write this from her perspective, with her sister writing music with us in mind," Mangum said.

Mangum hopes the musical goes on to be wildly successful and get performed on stages all across America,

"I hope Lynda and Lynette are able to get this out there and hopefully it's successful," Mangum added. "I would feel amazing knowing I got to play a role helping shape the play and make that happen."

Writing the script, the dialogue, the blocking, stage directions, music and lyrics – all from scratch, and in less than two months – was going to be an immense challenge. But the Kidman sisters were ready for such a challenge; it was something they had been preparing for their entire lives. Writing and performing music, treading a stage and commanding a spotlight is the realm where the Kidman sisters shined brightest.

"We started singing when we were very young," said Lynda. "My mom had us singing everywhere as a trio."

The trio was Lynda, Lynette and Jennifer. Their first paying gig was when Lynda and Lynette were 14 years old. Even then, the sisters wrote their own songs, with original music and lyrics and they continued touring and performing throughout high school and into their college years.

"We just kept on doing it," said Lynda. "When we put out CDs, and we sang all over Arizona at festivals and conventions. And then we got married and had kids and careers."

But the love for music and performing never left, and it has been very exciting and fulfilling working together again to create a new musical.

Having directed and produced numerous plays, Lynda, Lynette, Jen and Dawnell recognize a good play or musical when they see one. And they recognize that they have just written an amazing play themselves.

And they want to take it to the next level.

That will mean getting the play in front of next-level producers. The kind who could help them get out on stages across America. That would mean copywriting and publishing the music, the libretto, the script, the practice tracks, background music and other components of the play.

Moving "Heartless" to the next level will require additional tweaking and polishing, as well as input from the Marissa Meyer, the author of the book the play is adapted from.

"It's fun to think about trying to go to the next step with this because of how this project has blossomed," said Lynda. "We're like, `Whoa, we have something really, really great here.'"

Photos from Homecoming 2025
















Page Middle School
NAIC
2025
CO-ED
SOCCER
CHAMPIONS

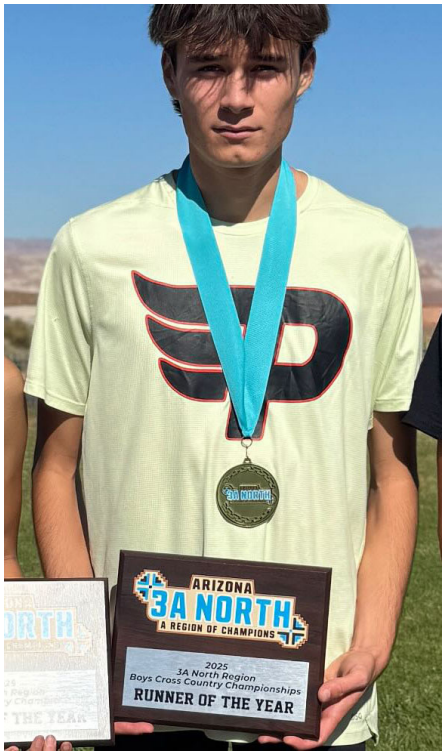

SALIEGO
24
EMMONS
25
Mighty Mites
TALKER
55
YAZZIE TALKER
55
2





Boys Cross Country Team DIII Champs, 3A North Region Champions!







Congratulations to Page High School Boys Cross Country Team who brought hme the 3A North Region title on Oct. 24. Head Coach Tim Martin was also named 3A North Region Coach of the Year. Symond Martin was named 3A North Male Runner of the Year. A few weeks later the team followed that by becoming DIII Section Champs on Nov. 5.

Way to go!

Sand Devils Football Team 3A North Champions



The Sand Devils brought home the 3A North Championship October 23 after defeating Chinle 48-0. It also happened to be the team's Homecoming game.

In addition, Head Coach Ty Bennett was named 3A North Head Coach of the Year, quarterback Joey was named 3A North Player of the Year, Hunter Billah was named 3A North Defensive Player of the Year and Lorin John was named 3A North Offensive Player of the Year.

The Sand Devils simply dominated the field this year. They finished 8-3 overall, 5-0 in region. At their highest point in the season they were on a seven game win streak and in those seven games outscored their opponents 357 to 13, allowing just two touchdowns against them.

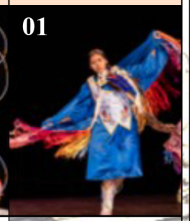
They were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, losing to Pusch Ridge Christian Academy 42-14.

Great job guys!!!



PAGE USD AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Nílch'ihts'ózí / November 2025

Dimóo SUNDAY	Dimóo Biiskání MONDAY	Dimóo dóó Naakijį́ Nida'anish TUESDAY	Dimóo dóó Tágíjį́ Nida'anish WEDNESDAY	Dimóo dóó Dį́'íjį́ Nida'anish THURSDAY	Nida'iiníish FRIDAY	Dimóo Yázhí SATURDAY
						01 
02	03 *Rock Your Mocc's Day* 	*04 Clan T-Shirt Day* *Hair Bun Day* 	05 *Jewelry Day* 	06 *Traditional Dress Up Day* 	07	08
09	10 *Rock Your Mocc's Day* 	11 *NO SCHOOL* *Veteran's Day* *Siláoltsoí bá hodílzin*	12 *Turquoise Day* 	13 *Traditional Dress Up Day* 	14	15
16	17 *Rock Your Mocc's Day* 	18 *Indigenous Graphic Shirt Day* *Hair Bun Day* 	19 *Tradish Day* 	*20 AIH Day* *AIHM-AMCCD Assembly* *Traditional Dress Up Day* *Page USD Pageant*	21	22
23	24 *NO SCHOOL*	25 *NO SCHOOL*	26 *NO SCHOOL*	27 *NO SCHOOL* *Thanksgiving* *Késhmish Yázhí*	28	29
30						

2025 American Indian Heritage Month "Annual Multicultural Celebration Day" (AIHM-AMCCD) *provides an opportunity to commemorate the rich and diverse American Indians' cultures, traditions, heritages, histories, and acknowledge their important contributions to our society. Join us and celebrate this important day."*

104 Statute 391- Public Law 101-343: *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assemble that the month of November 1990 is designated as "National American Indian Heritage Month", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon Federal, State, and local governments, interested groups and organizations, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS



INTERVIEW from pg. 4

"It helped me know what I need to prepare for when I do a real job interview someday," said eighth grader, Emmarae Bigthumb. "At least now I'll know what to expect." It was her first time doing the mock job interview.

Part of the class was debriefing the experiencer afterward and talking about what emotions they had, what parts of it went right and what parts they could improve on.

In the days that followed, Mrs. Hunt received feedback from her students and the people who had conducted the interviews. She was happy with how it turned out.

"I cannot say enough how hard our students worked to prepare for this event," said Mrs. Hunt. "This was a meaningful opportunity for them to sharpen their professional skills and take a step toward their future careers."

Mrs. Hunt wants to familiarize her students with real parts of having a job. With that in mind, one of the things she has her students do it clock in at the beginning of the class and clock out at the end.

"I'm trying to give them as much real-life experience as possible here," she said. "That way when they do find employment it will be easy for them to transition and they have an idea what to expect."

OCTOBER

Students of the Month



Nedezha James
Page Preschool



Troy McBride
Page Early Childhood Learning Center



Rhian Black
Page Elementary



Malia Walker
PHS Jr. High



Owen Penrod
PHS Sr. High



William Rodgers
Manson Mesa High School

Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month

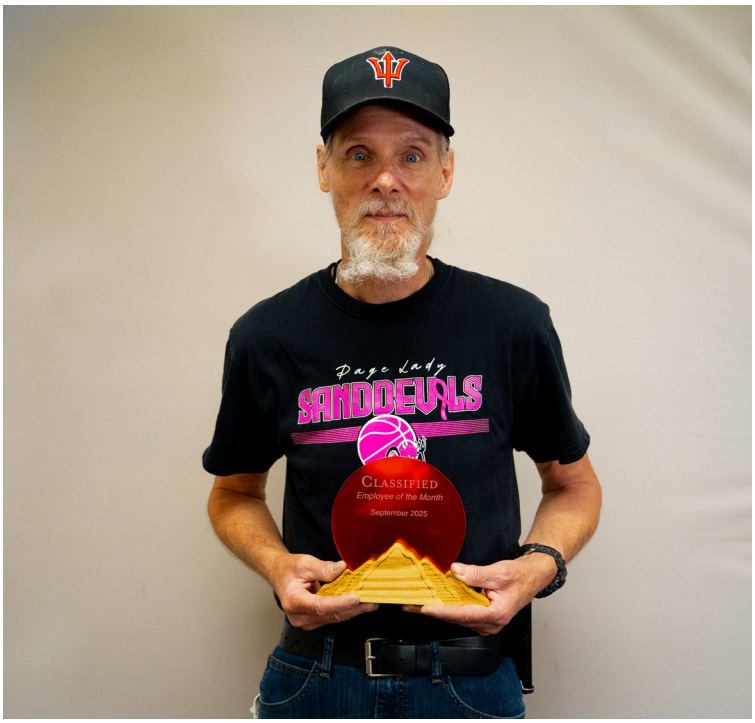
October 2025



Minhau Liu

Classified Employee of the Month

October 2025



Bill Tresh