PUSD Page Unified School District

District Newsletter

March 2026



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PHS Choir Students Excel at Regionals



Eight Page High School choir students competed in the Northwest Regional Choir last weekend with very impressive results.

From left to right: Kylie Robertson, 3rd chair soprano; Emmalynn Wischmann, 12th chair soprano; Karcyn Mangum, 1st, Cambria Caskey, alternate alto; Mylee Metz, 7th chair soprano; Val Robertson, 18th chair tenor; Samuel Robertson, 2nd chair tenor; Reed Nolan, 4th chair tenor.

Way to go!

FLS Students Doing Big Things









It was one of the most fun, most memorable days the Functional Life Skills students have had in a while. The group got to take a trip to The Bowl. When they arrived, they found that The Bowl had reserved three lanes just for them. In addition to bowling, the students got to enjoy pizza, French fries and soft drinks.

In addition to the recent bowling trip to The Bowl, they also took a field trip to Pipe Springs last school year.

"Our social studies program was about National Parks and being able to visit one in person was much better than just reading about it," said Casterline.

The field trips and outings are possible because of donations from the Page's Elks Club. The Page Elks Club recently donated $4,094 to the Architect Student Activities Club.

The Functional Life Skills (FLS) class is for Page High School students grades nine through twelve. FLS is a specialized learning environment on the Page High School campus where students with exceptionalities (such as blindness or down syndrome) focus on academics and the practical skills they need to thrive beyond graduation. The classroom blends academics with hands-on, real-world instruction. The goals of the Functional Life Skills class is to teach its students to be as independent as possible, to develop social skills and to be good citizens and community members.

"When our FLS kids leave school, we want them to be able to take care of themselves," said Judith Casterline, FLS teacher.

Eleven students are in the functional life skills class.

Learning to be independent may be different things to different people. Some students are learning how to wash dishes and vacuum the floor. Some students in the class are learning how to overcome their shyness and say "Hello" to people they meet. Some students are learning how to do their laundry, some are learning to cook and prepare meals for themselves.





The FLS classroom has a built-in kitchen for students learning how to cook, it has its own laundry facilities for those learning to do laundry. To get experience, the FLS kids do laundry for Page High School's culinary arts class, for Coach Bubba's wrestling team and for Student Support Services. The FLS students also assist the cafeteria each morning by cleaning tables, and stocking items in the coffee shop.

"Students in the Functional Living Skills class are truly coming into their own this year," said Penni Case, Director of Exceptional Student Services, which oversees the FLS program. "We are constantly exploring new opportunities to help our students continue growing their functional, social, and vocational skills."

The FLS program took it to a new level this school year when they launched the Architect Student Activities Club, a group dedicated to helping students "design" themselves into stronger, more confident individuals by serving and supporting our school community. One of the components of the Architect Student Activities Club is to do more activities in public, with more interactions with the real world.

"Our kids don't have the same opportunities to do extra-curricular activities so we create our own," said Casterline.





The fun continued for the FLS kids in March. On March 3, the group took a field trip to the Big Water Visitor Center. There they got to take part in a mock dinosaur fossil excavation. They "dug up" the fossils, brushed them off and made a cast of them. A ranger gave the students interp about dinosuars and what was happening to the planet and the climate at the time of the dinosaurs.

"The kids absolutely loved it," said Casterline.

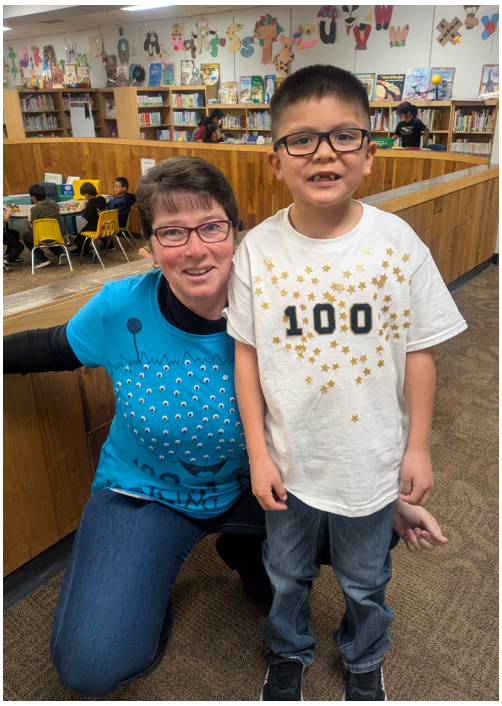
One of those students is Tyler Hatathli. He had a great time at the visitor center. His favorite part was helping dig up the fossils.

"I loved it," he said. "I hope we get to do more things like that."

PECLC Celebrates 100 Days of School with Creative Shirts











Page Early Childhood Learning Center celebrated the 100th day of school by having students and staff wear design their own fun shirt for that day. The only requirement is that their shirt had do have 100 items attached to it, such as stickers and buttons.

"It was a fun way to celebrate a big milestone in the school year," said PECLC Principal, Brian Henderson. "It's also a great way for our kids to learn number sense in a real-world application."

PHS Musicans Stand Out at Festival







At February's Regional Music Festival, four Page High School musician's stood out. Lucynda Byrom (top left) was 3rd Chair Trumpet in District Orchestra. David Daawavendewa (top middle) was 3rd Chair Euphonium in District Band. Tyla Begay (top right) was 4th chair violin in orchestra , and Arianna Stevens (bottom right) was 5th chair on the String Bass in Orchestra.

Awesome job everyone!



Group of 8th Graders Volunteer at LeChee Chapter House









Stephanie Hansen Ramos' 8th grade Learning Strategies class took a field trip to the Lechee Chapter earlier this week to help the Chapter House workers prep and distribute food boxes.

It was an excellent experience for the student and what they got out of it exceeded Mrs. Hansen Ramos' expectations. The students were helpful, happy to be there and took pride in the work they accomplished.

"Watching the students' confidence build in under an hour was a highlight," said Mrs. Hansen Ramos. "They moved from following adult direction to visualizing the goal, ultimately taking ownership of problem-solving alongside their peers. They also practiced vital communication skills by engaging with the community, primarily assisting older residents in receiving their food boxes."

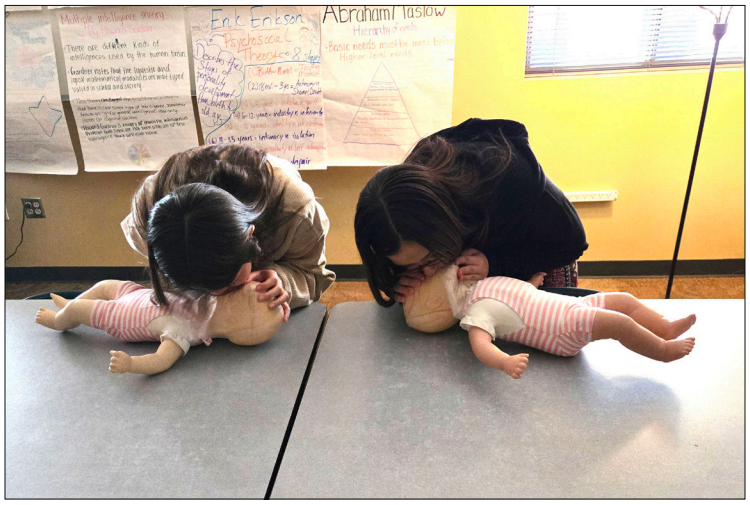
The Learning Strategies class supports a student's individual goals, developing academic skills, organizational skills, help them complete work in all seven of their classes.

"Another element we want to support is their community participation," said Mrs. Hansen Ramos. "When this opportunity for community service came up we knew it could be a great fit for what we want to do."

The students took a school bus from Page High School to the LeChee Chapter House where they met a truck from St. Mary's Food Bank which delivers the food. The food that St. Mary's delivers is in groups of food, such as crates of oranges and boxes of chicken. The high school students gathered food

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PHS Students Get CPR, 1st Aid Certified









Thirty Page High School students are certified in CPR and First-Aid after completing a multi-week course as part their Early Childhood Education course.

Early Childhood Education is taught by Christine Johnson as part of Page High School's CTE program. The class, HeartSaver Pediatric First-Aid CPR AED, teaches CPR methods for adults, children and infants. Johnson teaches the class to her first year Early Childhood Education students every year.

In the class, students learned CPR and First-Aid, including clearing an obstructed airway on a choking victim, and various bandaging and tourniquet techniques for bleeding victims. They also learned how to use Narcan and Epi-pens, and an AED and on infants, children and adults.

The course also taught the students how to clear a scene (making sure the area is safe to operate), how to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), head and spine stabilization, how to place a victim in the recovery position and techniques to help a drowning victim.

Most of the certification classes took place on-line, with

See CPR pg. 15

Page Instrumental Music Students Earn High Honors at State Solo & Ensemble Festival



Students from Page High School and Page Jr. High School delivered one of the strongest showings at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival in Flagstaff last month.

The festival is the only middle school Solo & Ensemble event held statewide in Arizona, and Page Middle School Orchestra and Page High School Band each brought more soloists than any other middle school music program present.

One of the central goals of the Page orchestra program is to help students grow into confident, capable musicians, not just as members of a group, but as individuals who can stand on their own and perform with independence, said Spencer Kimball, orchestra director for Page High School and Page Middle School.

"In orchestra, it is easy for students to blend into a section and rely on others," Kimball said. "While ensemble playing is important, lasting musical growth happens when students develop the ability to play independently. For that reason, we place a strong emphasis on preparing students to perform solos, demonstrations, and individual parts with confidence. Over time, this approach produces students who are not hesitant or uncertain, but who understand their instrument, trust their preparation, and contribute meaningfully to the entire ensemble."

Achieving that level comes from observing many outstanding music educators and adopting the practices that consistently help students succeed.

"Great teachers across the country emphasize individual accountability, solo development, and steady exposure to performance situations," Kimball said. "We apply those same principles at Page, because they work.

"When students develop these skills early, they form the foundation of a strong high school orchestra. A successful large ensemble is built from students who already possess individual confidence and ability. These students become the core of a group capable of performing challenging music, representing their school well at festivals, and continuing their musical growth at a higher level."

Events like Solo & Ensemble are not only about ratings. They help students develop independence, preparation habits, and confidence that cannot be learned by ensemble playing alone. These experiences strengthen both the individual student and the orchestra as a whole.



"A strong orchestra is built from students who are willing and able to perform independently," Kimball said. "Over time, this creates an ensemble where students support one another, perform with confidence, and represent their school and community with pride."

The following students received Superior Ratings, the highest rating awarded.

Page High School
Tyla Begay, violin. Tyla is now eligible to advance to the State Solo & Ensemble Festival.
Page Middle School Orchestra
Baylee Nez, violin; Saelynn Tisi, violin; Feneilya Smith; violin.

The following students received Excellent Ratings, which reflect strong preparation and musical growth.

Christopher Sloan, Bailee Chee, Oliver Spencer, Brianna Joe (Excellent+), April Homer, Inigo Hermosilla, Zoey Robbins.

The following students received Good ratings, which demonstrates solid preparation and performance growth.

Jolesha Johnson – Viola
Adam Blacksmith – Viola
Taylor Begay – Viola
Kalyn Begaye
Delilah Davis
Alyxandrea Pugh
Lucius Begody – Cello
Ruby Halona
High School Good Ratings
Violin Trio:
Peyton Joe
Kasaille Stevens
Dante Barlow
Arianna Stevens – String Bass

In addition, Page High School Band student Ivy Nez earned a Superior rating on flute.

Lady Sand Devils are 3A Champs!

Trece Tsingine is MVP.



PHOENIX, Ariz. – For the second time in three years the Page Lady Sand Devils are 3A State Champions after defeating the Window Rock Fighting Scouts 32 to 30 in a battle that went down to final second. The Lady Sand Devils were runners-up in last year's championship game, and they were champions two years ago. This is the ninth state championship for the Lady Sand Devils.

Page and Window Rock are 3A North region rivals. Saturday's game was the third time the teams have played each other this season. In the first meeting Page beat Window Rock 45 to 44. In the second meeting Window Rock beat Page 42 to 36. Fans from Page and Window Rock, who packed Veteran's Memorial Coliseum for Saturday's showdown, knew the championship game would be a nail-biter. They were not disappointed. The game saw six lead changes and five ties.

Neither team ever led by more than five points. There were no big scoring runs, there were no big, dazzling plays. There was no particular player who stood out or made an oversized contribution. The game was a masterpiece painted in a thousand small strokes, with a multitude of artists each adding her own contribution to the finished work.

Window Rock jumped out to an early 5-0 lead, but Page hit a field goal and a 3-pointer to tie the game. Window Rock retook the lead after hitting one of two free throws a few plays later. Window Rock then maintained their lead – albeit a narrow one – until late in the second quarter. The Fighting Scouts were up ten to nine, when Page's Issianna Brown hit a 3-pointer which gave the Sand Devils a twelve to ten lead. It was the first time in the game the Sand Devils held the lead. From that point on, the lead ticked back and forth, steady as a metronome. Page led 16 to 15 at halftime. By the end of the third quarter the score was tied again, 26-26.

With 1:06 remaining in the game, the Fighting Scouts held a 29 to 28 lead. Page's Tayla Franklin drove into the paint and sent up a floater from six feet out. The shot bounced in, giving Page a one-point advantage. The Sand Devils got a defensive stop and the rebound and hustled the ball back down the court. On Page's next possession, the ball again found itself in the hands of Tayla Franklin, who again drove to the hiip and put up a shot. This time her shot bounced off the rim and out, but she was fouled in the process. She hit one of her two free throws. Page was









ahead by two points with less than a minute to play.

On the opposite end of the court, a Window Rock player was fouled in the act of shooting and had a chance to tie the game at the free throw line. She hit her second of two free throws. Page maintained a one-point lead with 9.6 seconds remaining in the game.

The Window Rock players stayed at their end of the court to pressure the inbound pass and try to steal the ball or cause a turnover. Page knew the importance of not committing a turnover. Page lost a game in the regular season while in a similar situation. They were leading by one point with the final seconds ticking away when they threw an errant pass which the opposing team stole and then scored.

With less than ten seconds remaining, the inbound pass made it into the hands of Tayla Franklin who got it downcourt and into the hands of Sarah Dodson, who was quickly fouled. At the free throw line, Dodson hit the first of two free throws giving the Page a two-point lead. Window Rock rebounded the missed second free throw with 8.3 seconds remaining in the game. They charged downcourt for one last shot but turned the ball over before they could get off a shot. The game clock expired. The final score read Page 32, Window Rock 30. The Sand Devils bench rushed onto the court to celebrate their second championship in two years.

The Lady Sand Devils hoisted the strophy, cut the net and took the photos.

Sand Devils Trece Tsingine, a junior, was voted game MVP!

After the game, Lady Sand Devils Head Coach Celeste









"Boka" Claw was beaming with pride for her team and her program.

"I can only speak highly about what this team is capable of, and to be able to show it right now was incredible, just incredible," she said.

The Lady Sand Devils had to overcome a few extra obstacles this year. The biggest one was being without a home court. The floor of the main gym suffered water damage just weeks before the basketball season was set to start. The water damage was extensive enough that the entire floor had to be ripped out and replaced. The new floor was finished in time for the Lady Sand Devils to play two post-season games on their home court.

Despite the extra challenges, Coach Claw saw her team steadily improve as the season progressed and she had great confidence in her team going into Saturday's championship game.

"I believed in everyone. I believed everyone could hit those free throws; I believed everyone could execute and win the game.

"Most importantly – and one of the biggest factors this year – is this team had the heart. They wanted it, and they got it. Today's game was a battle, but it has been a battle all season. To end the season smiling right now is the best thing ever."

Wrestler Connor Peterson is State Runner-Up

He has placed at State 4 times.





Page High School's Wrestling Wall of Fame doesn't look like much. It's just a collection of white boards mounted to the wall of the high school wrestling room. There is a white board that lists all of Page High School's state champions, another one for the runners-up, another for the third and fourth place finishers, one for the fifth and sixth place finishers and another one for the consolation champions.

But, as humble as it is, every wrestler who has come through Page High School wants their name on it. Getting your name on the Wall of Fame isn't easy. Many amazing wrestlers have passed through the Page's wrestling program without getting their name on it. The only way to get your name on the Wall of Fame is to place at the state championships; one of the top six in your weight class.

Getting your name on it once is an astounding accomplishment. Only a handful of wrestlers have their names on it twice. Even fewer names appear three times. Only two wrestlers in the history of Sand Devil wrestling have their names on the Wall of Fame four times. One is Sean Gracia (2007-2010), and the other is Connor Peterson.

Peterson was runner-up at this year's state championship. He was champion last year. He was runner-up two years ago (his sophomore year), and he placed fourth his freshman year.

Connor Peterson is simply one of the greatest wrestlers to come through Page High School's wrestling program. He is famous throughout the 3A for his mind-blowing technical abilities.

"Connor is probably the most technical wrestler I've seen in my career," said Page High School head wrestling coach Leland Billie.

Going into this year's state championship, Peterson was gunning to be champion again. Coming away with runner-up was unsatisfying.

"Yeah, I was pretty disappointed," he said. "I wasn't too bummed out though. I came into the tournament with a messed-up ankle and wasn't wrestling at a hundred percent."

Just two weeks into the season, Peterson suffered a significant injury when his ankle ligament got torn off the bone, as well as some damaged cartilage. The injury was painful, but if Peterson pushed his ankle too hard he ran the risk that the ligament would tear all the way off the bone.

Few wrestlers can touch Peterson's technical skills, but the is experienced enough to know that his technical skills may not be enough to win him another state title. He was concerned about his endurance.

"My ankle injury set me back to where I couldn't work as hard as I wanted to," Peterson said. "I couldn't practice with the intensity that I needed to, to get my body ready. I didn't have a lot of self-confidence going into the championship as I needed, for that reason. Most wrestlers have around 50 matches a year, but I only had nine matches this year. Having a lot of tough matches during the year definitely make you a better wrestler and prepare you for the harder matches to come."

Because of his injury – and to prevent it from worsening – Peterson didn't do the full workouts during practice. But he

still wanted to contribute as much as possible. So, he took on a new role: Helping younger wrestlers with their technique.

"He was phenomenal in the wrestling room helping the younger kids this year," said Coach Billie. "He was just taking kids under his arm and helping them. It was like having another coach in the room. Whatever the team needed he helped us out."

The one-on-one coaching from Peterson to the younger wrestlers extended beyond the training room.

"He would meet with wrestlers after their matches and show them ways they could improve, he watched film with them and just coach them up. That was done without me asking him to do it. He did it naturally."

After high school, Peterson plans to continue wrestling at a two-year college while he gets his Associate's Degree, then move on to a large college to get his Bachelor's Degree. He wants to get his degree in Business Management or Marketing.



Outside of school he enjoys repairing cars and motorcycles that no longer run and rebuilding them so they can be driven again.

Whatever comes next for Connor Peterson, his name will live on forever on the Page High School Wrestling's Wall of Fame.

HELPING from pg. 6

items from each box and sorted them into individual family-portion boxes. Once the boxes have been sorted and prepared the LeChee Chapter House will distribute the boxes to families.



One of the students who helped with the food distribution project was Damian Rogers, who said it felt great being involved in a great cause.

"Yeah, it was fun," he said. "It was fun hanging out with my friends while helping people out."

Rogers says he would love to help out with the food organization and distribution project again in the future.

"It was very helpful having the help from the kids," said Christina Gamble, LeChee Chapter's Office Specialist. It is one of Gamble's responsibilities to distribute the St. Mary's food delivery each month.

"They were the first volunteers to arrive that day and they started right in and boxed all the items we had that day. It would have have been a much longer and much slower process without their help. We were able to start our distribution an hour thanks to them."

The following 8th graders participated: Lucas Fowler, Celene Anderson, Dallin Mountain, Kailyn Begaye, WonKneeKia Devinney, Damian Rogers, Baylee Nez and Lane Goldtooth.

Employees of the Month

Certified Employee of the Month
January 2025



Marianne DeLos Santos

Classified Employee of the Month
January 2025



Fred Kellar

CPR from pg. 7

an additional day for hands-on CPR and first-aid training. The hands-on training included doing chest compressions and rescue breathing on dummies. They also had to demonstrate different bandaging and tourniquet techniques.

The students are now qualified and certified to use CPR and First-Aid in real-life situations.

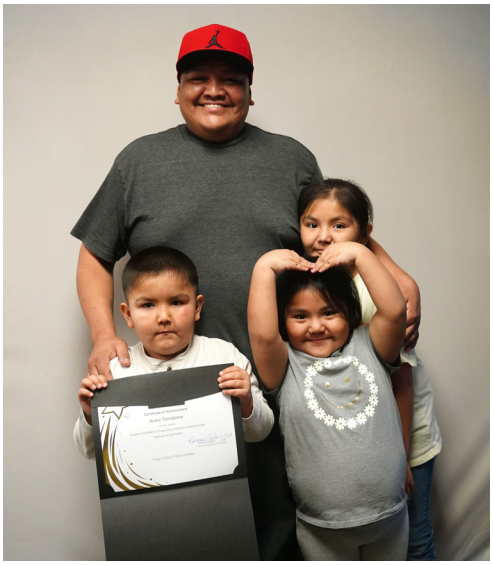
Johnson received her certification through a CPR course at Coconino Community College offered by the Flagstaff Fire Department. Mrs. Johnson's level of certification allows her to teach the CPR, First-Aid course.

January Students of the Month



Kyrie Yazzie

Page Preschool



Avery Tsinnijinnie

Page Early Childhood Learning Center



Arya Richardson

Page Elementary



Taylor Boone

Page Jr. High School



Lance Singer

Page High School



JoShaun Joe

Manson Mesa High School