

THE SAGE

Cokeville High School

December 2023

Basketball

The first weekend of basketball games kicked off with a bang. The girls had their first game on Thursday, December 7, in Lyman. They played Manilla well and won. This quote from Jack Dayton sums up the game: "It was a close game till the fourth quarter, but the girls were in better shape and pulled it out in the end." The next day, the boys played Kemmerer. JV played first. I asked Quintan Bird his opinion about the JV game, and he said, "It wasn't pretty, but we made it happen. It was a beat down." Our JV beat Kemmerer's JV by more than 20 points. The varsity was next, and Jack Dayton had this to say about the game: "It was pretty trash. At least my personal play. It was our first game, and it looked like it, for sure." The game started out close, but heading into the second quarter, you could feel something was different. Kemmerer scored 29 points in that quarter, putting them up by six at halftime. The boys would pull it out in the end, holding them to under 25 points in the second half and coming out with a win.

The next day, the girls and boys had two games. The boys played Wind River at the same time the girls played Lyman. Both boys JV and varsity would beat Wind River by 20 plus points, even with Drake and Blaze Plowman being gone for the day. The girls, on the other hand, would have a close game till the end of the fourth, where they got a good lead to pull the game out.

The next games were the boys vs Uintah, a 4A Utah school. The JV kept it close until halftime, with the game being within five; however, the second half was a different story. The boys got down 15 or so and lost in the end. The varsity game was similar to the Kemmerer game, with a poor first half: They fell down nine points at halftime. They pulled it within three at the end of the third. It was a battle all the way, but even with a lead with less than two minutes left in the game, the boys would take their first loss of the season to Uintah. The girls played Wind River next. With the lead at halftime, they took control of the game and won by seven in the end. So overall, the basketball teams played well, winning most of the games over the first weekend. What a great way to start the season. Go Coke!!!

-Dash Nate

Winter Sports Begin!



Wrestling

The first wrestling meets of the season are finally here, and after a few long weeks of practice we have made it to the 2023-24 wrestling season.

Our first dual was in Grace, Idaho, which we sadly lost, but I believe it was a good learning experience for all the freshmen who wrestled their first high school matches. The score would have been closer, but we don't have many lighter weights or heavy weights; therefore, we had to forfeit a lot of matches to the Grizzlies. The matches we did wrestle, however, were very competitive, and the wins we got were well earned.

In the days following Grace, we wrestled at the Braves Brawl in Star Valley. This meet is a really challenging one for our team for a couple of reasons: First, we are not the biggest team, so we don't have a full roster; and second, we are a very young team and don't have as much experience as some of the competition. We didn't do very well against the 3A teams, which were Star Valley, Shelly, Logan, Thunder Ridge, Sugar Salem, Skyview, and Teton. We did win two duals against Teton and Logan, but we lost the rest of our duals during the two days we were there.

While the varsity team wrestled in the main gym, a JV tournament was taking place in the auxiliary gym. Our JV wrestlers performed well, and everyone on the team had the chance to wrestle some good matches.

On Saturday, December 16, the team went to Kemmerer for the Joe Aimone Invite. This meet is always a long one to sit through. We did a round robin-style tournament, so all wrestlers were separated into their weight classes at either A, B, or C class, which meant varsity, JV and then extra JV, if needed. The teams attending were Kemmerer, Wind River, Star Valley JV, Jackson JV, Evanston JV, Mountain View, Lyman, Wyoming Indian, Bear Lake, Green River, and Rich. We started around 10:30 a.m., and we finished wrestling around 7:30 p.m. Everyone got at least five matches, and some even wrestled six. This meet was all on Track Wrestling, if you want to see results of the invite.

After Christmas break, we'll come back strong with a dual against Rich on January 4, and then we'll also wrestle the Vernal tournament on January 5-6. We have a busy schedule ahead of us, but it is a fun one as well. Go Panthers!!

-Clay Teichert



Christmas: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

It's the most wonderful time of the year. The snow is on the ground, and we are getting ready for the biggest break we get during the school year. What time of year is it? It is CHRISTMAS!!!!

Christmas is the time of year to remember the birth of Jesus, give presents, receive gifts, and also time to get with the family and have a swell time. The name *Christmas* comes from the Romans. Remembering that Christ was born is where the *Christ* part comes from, and *mas* comes from a mass service. A mass service is where Christians come together and remember how Christ died and then came to life. They joined the two words, and they came up with the word Christmas.

Some of the things that people think about Christmas are obviously the presents they will receive. Whether it is a lame candy bar from your sibling or a Lamborghini from your parents (the chance of that happening is 0.01%), presents bring joy and happiness to the people opening them. The average amount spent for Christmas each year is \$1,205 dollars per household. There are about 123.6 million households in the United States, so the cost we spend each year is around \$148.938 billion dollars.

Another thing we think of when we think about Christmas is Santa Claus and his elves. The legend of Santa Claus came from a monk named St. Nicholas, who was born in

260 AD. Nicholas gave to the poor and the less fortunate every year. His parents were very wealthy, and they gave Nicholas most of their estate and money when they died. Nicholas naturally gave most of it to the poor and the needy. By the time of the Renaissance, Nick was one of the most famous saints to live in Europe. Nicholas died on December 6, but people didn't let what he did die. Parents and others gave their children presents, and the tradition kept going in Europe. When people started to immigrate to the United States, they brought the tradition of St. Nicholas with them. The name St. Nicholas soon became Santa Claus, because of his nickname Sinterklaas. Around 1820 to 1840, stores started to feature Christmas shopping, and then different Santas started to come to the stores and have the kids tell them what they wanted for Christmas.

With Santa Claus, you can't forget about his elves that build all the toys for all the kids around the earth. Christmas elves were not heard of or seen until the mid-1800s. They first appeared in a poem where Santa Claus is described as a jolly elf. Then one of the illustrators of the poem described elves as Santa's helpers. Now it is nearly impossible to think of Santa Claus without his elves helping him with toys.

Another big part of Santa is the reindeer that pull his sleigh. The reindeer also came into the picture of Santa Claus, in the poem "Twas the

Night Before Christmas." The eight reindeer were described as pulling a sleigh and flying through the air. The names of the reindeer were introduced in the same poem as Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Biltzen. Then they added another reindeer, the most famous reindeer of all: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Rudolph was brought into the picture by Robert May. He was put in charge of making a Christmas story about an animal. That same year, Robert's wife contracted cancer and passed away, leaving Robert to raise their daughter alone. His daughter really loved deer, so Robert decided to make this story about a reindeer that had a bright shiny nose. This story, Robert thought, would be a symbol of happier times ahead and always having a light at the end of the tunnel. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* came out for the public on Christmas 1939. It sold 2.4 million copies, but they had to stop production because of wartime restrictions on paper. When the paper resumed in 1946, it sold even more copies than in 1939.

As you can see, because of the presents, the kindness, and all of the wonderful legends we have, Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year.

—Justin Moyes

The Annual Christmas Concert

Mr. Burgoyne is a very passionate teacher who loves music. This month he led all of our school's music groups in a very successful Christmas concert. Interestingly, many schools these days are removing band concerts from the agendas, because there is less time to prepare for them. Although this is not the case in Cokeville, Mr. Burgoyne said that, if it were, he would have insisted upon it because he simply loves this music so much.

The concert opened with the show choir group, Celebration, singing "Joy to the World." After Celebration opened the concert, we then heard from the bands. The junior high band played "Frosty the Snowman," "Low Voice on the Housetop," and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." The high school band played "Let It Snow," "Sleigh Ride," and "Rejoice the Season."

The comments about the band's performance at the concert were very positive overall. Many parents and community members expressed how much the bands have improved, recognizing all the work that has been put in by our humble director, Mr. Burgoyne, who would probably tell you something like, "I didn't do anything, I'm just the mean old guy who tells you to practice." Mr. Burgoyne also has expressed how, while he is grateful for the progress we have made, he is still focused on making us even better and better every rehearsal.

After the band, we got to hear from the junior high and high school choirs. The junior high choir sang "Jing Jing Jingle Bells," "Angels We Have Heard On High," and "We Three Kings." After this enjoyable performance, the high school sang "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "Away in a Manger."



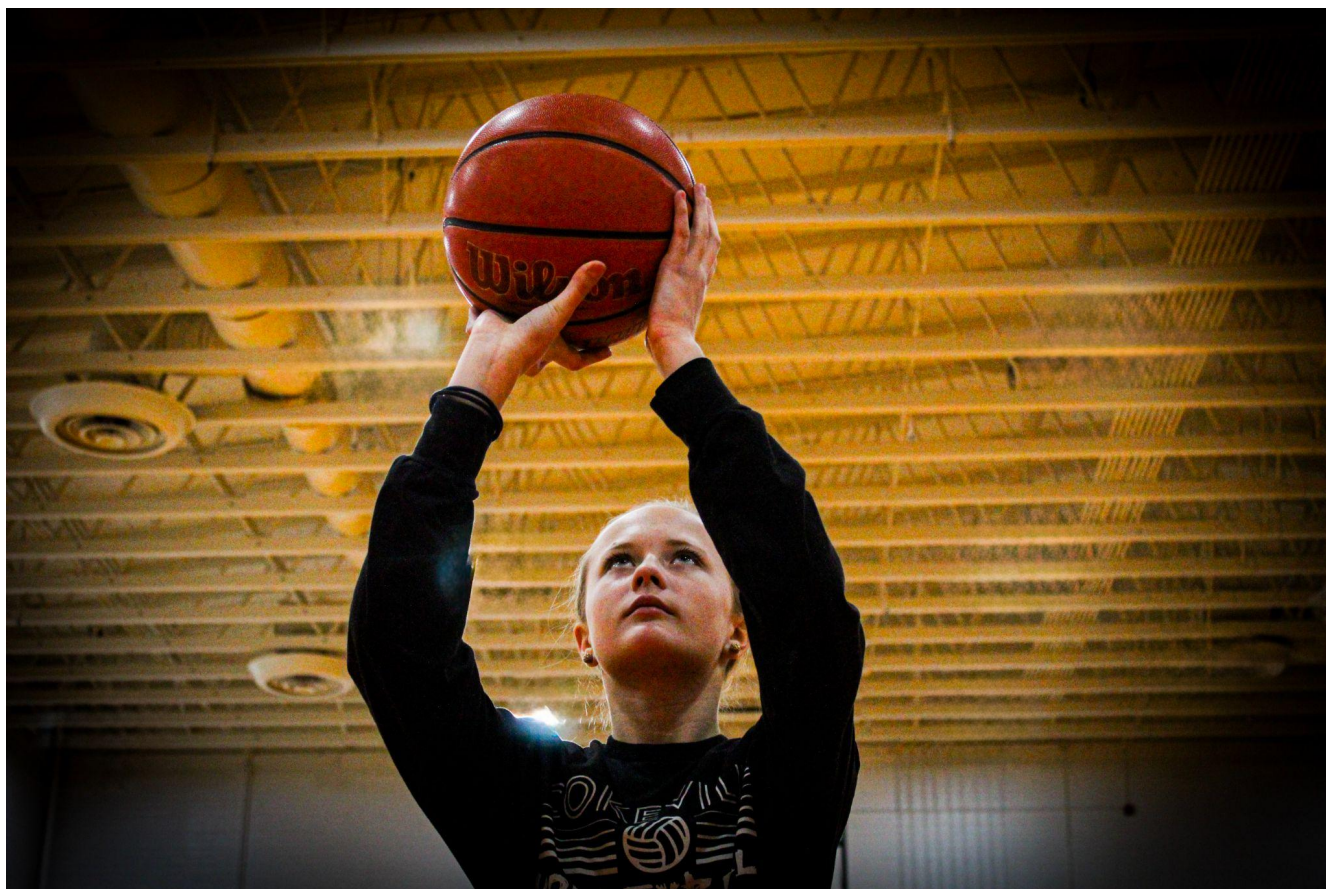
Following the main choirs, we had some more special performances. Celebration performed "Winter Wonderland" as a whole group. After that, each half of Celebration did their own special song. The boys went first and sang "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The girls then sang "Mary Did You Know."

After Celebration's concert, as tradition, all Celebration members and its alumni sang "Carol of the Bells." This was a special part of the concert, as it was Celebration's 40th anniversary. This tradition has been going since Celebration began and is such a special thing to watch. Mr. Burgoyne also announced that Celebration will be doing something special for the spring concert to

celebrate this 40-year anniversary.

As one last treat, all the choirs combined to perform "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Celebration sang the first few lines, and then all the choirs joined in for the latter half of the song. The choirs filled the stage, and some members were even in the aisles next to the audience. This "grand finale" was a very fun and memorable way to end the historic concert. Overall, this year's Christmas concert, our first of (hopefully) many concerts with Mr. Burgoyne as our director, was a huge success.

—Evan Dietz



Student Spotlight: Kynleigh Davis

For the student spotlight I was stumped; I really did not know who to pick. So I thought of interviewing someone who is nice to everybody, and Kynleigh Davis popped into my mind. Kynleigh is a nice girl who is gluten intolerant, so she likes anything that is safe for her to eat. She likes a chocolate toffee candy bar called Heath, as well as drinking virgin piña coladas. Her favorite holidays are Christmas and Easter. She also plays basketball and volleyball, but she prefers basketball.

Kynleigh is a sweet girl and likes spending time with family and friends, although she is no ordinary girl: She likes riding horses and fishing, as well as traveling. She has been to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Mexico, and Guatemala. Her favorite animal is the wolf, and she plans to get a mini

Aussiedoodle when she is older. Her favorite subject in school is art. Her hobbies are reading, drawing, riding horses, and snowboarding. She owns a xena cat, a bonster/fancy cat, and a horse named Sequoia. She likes the spring because her birthday is in it, and it is not always hot. She also likes the springtime rain. She likes winter as well, because it's not too hot and she can snowboard.

Kynleigh is a great student at our school, she is nice and a great example to other students. Kynleigh might be someone you don't know very well, so I hope this article has helped you learn more about her and her hobbies. Kynleigh is someone we should all get to know better.

–Kacen Milsted

Christmas List!

I went around CHS and asked some students what they wanted for Christmas. Here is what they said:

- Kacen – A PlayStation
- Evan – Peace on earth, good will to men
- Kylee – UGG slippers
- Ronald – New shoes
- Layla – A new boyfriend
- Amelia – Oil paints
- Dash – AirPods
- Quintan – A new car
- Clay – A race car
- Blaze – A new indoor basketball
- Isaac – All I want for Christmas is you
- Justin – All I want for Christmas is a Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle
- Micah – Snow
- Jack – Golf clubs
- Flint – Beard trimmer
- Mason – I don't know
- Mr. B – A pogo stick
- Kashton – New shoes
- Mr. Tims – A pogo stick and a loving, caring daughter
- Wyatt – A new hair line
- Wylie – A speed yo-yo
- Mr. Thomas – A new house

–Justin Moyes



Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Thomas

Mr. Thomas seems to have always been a part of the community, but he was actually born and raised in Northern California. He was born in Sacramento, California, in 1974. He grew up on a kiwi farm in the countryside outside of Sacramento. He spent his childhood helping out on the farm and getting into “quite a bit of trouble.” Once his primary teacher dragged him out of class by both his ears because he was “being naughty, and [he] punched his friend in the guts.”

In high school, Thomas kept being a little rebellious, playing bass in his band Pinnacle, which performed a lot of “heavy metal stuff.” When asked about it he said, “Oh yeah, my band was legit.” The band performed from 1989–92 at school dances, talent shows, assemblies, and even had concerts of their own. He was an avid rock fan and went to many concerts. One of his favorite concerts was Van Halen back-to-back nights in Sacramento. He even caught Eddie Van Halen’s guitar pick. Thomas also saw Guns N’ Roses, which was “just amazing.” He often drove his dad’s totally sweet 1974 Dodge Charger, getting into trouble for peeling out. His brother also had his share of automobile adventures, winning a drag race in a Porsche out on the orchard roads. Thomas and his friends “used to toilet paper people’s houses all the time.” When he wasn’t getting into trouble, he was working in agriculture, because “that’s all there was; it was a farming community.” Thomas played basketball at his high school, which was a small high school for California, but would have been about 4A in Wyoming. Unsurprisingly, his favorite subject was history. His favorite book was *The Godfather*, a book written in 1969 about a fictional mafia family in New York.

Thomas had a girlfriend for a little while, who lived in a town “about the equivalent of Montpelier away.” He said, “I really liked her, but then I dumped her because it was hunting season. She hated my guts after that.” He didn’t want to “let her down; it was very serious.” The deer took priority. One of these seasons, during Thomas’s senior year, he went on a hunting trip to Wyoming. He killed a buck up our very own Pine Creek and fell in love with the area. From then on he “tried to find a way to get to Wyoming, mainly Cokeville.”

After high school, he went to Rick’s College for a year before being called to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to Utica, New York. Once he returned, he attended BYU Provo. His brother told him to take a history class from this one professor, Dr. Fred Gowans, who would later become his mentor. The class



inspired him to change his major from what he knew, agricultural business, to something he loved, history. After finishing his undergraduate degree, he married Julia in 1999. His dad wanted Thomas to take over his insurance business, so they moved out to California. After a year, he decided “it wasn’t for me.” He then went to graduate school to become a history professor, but at the last minute he switched to secondary education: “I just felt like I did better with younger kids.” He loves teaching, because it’s something new every day, and he loves “having relationships with kids.” After various teaching jobs, he landed himself in his paradise, Cokeville, Wyoming, where he is living out his American Dream.

He is proud of raising six kids. Thomas doesn’t have a favorite child, but the easiest is Rachel. All three of his older boys were “rambunctious,” but “Matt is the most destructive. He destroyed his face, he destroyed a car, he destroyed the house.”

He is also proud of his students and his job. “Some of my proudest moments have been watching my former students succeed, or having them come back; just to see a kid that goes out and does something pretty amazing, because that takes a lot of courage.” He sees their potential and loves watching them grow up and seeing what kind of person they become. When asked about his favorite student, Thomas said, “that’s almost impossible. I’ve had a lot.” Many of his former students have become his close friends. He still keeps in touch with his students in Alaska, his first teaching job almost twenty years ago.

Thomas has many funny teaching stories, unsurprisingly, but one of his

favorites happened during his second year teaching here. Hadley Harmon and Landon Cornia made a trail mix with Ex-lax disguised as chocolate chips. Something had happened and they were trying to get revenge on Gunner Gay by feeding him the poisoned trail mix. Thomas confiscated the concoction, and they were horrified. Thomas said, “I will never forget they looked at me with the most terror.” He ate the whole thing, not knowing the laxative was in it, and he went home sick that afternoon, not suspecting foul play. “It took them ten years to confess they had poisoned me. They were committed to making someone poop their pants, and it ended up being me.” He was asked about other stories, and he replied, “There have been a lot of funny moments in D.C.” Landon Cornia tripped into a 6ft 5in scary looking black guy. Landon looked like “he thought he was going to die.” Students would also chase squirrels outside of the White House. “You can’t take the Cokeville out of kids here.” Another comical incident happened on the Potomac River cruise outside of Mt. Vermont. “They had all-you-could-drink pop, and I had drank so much Diet Pepsi I couldn’t take it anymore, and I had this full cup of it, but I was so sick of it I couldn’t drink anymore. I went to throw it overboard, and there was a bottom deck, and I drilled Holly Grandy, Olivia Teichert, and Lauren Hoffman all over. And then I hid and tried to say it was someone else—I tried to hide. And then they figured it out; they were so mad.”

Thomas definitely keeps it interesting and keeps his students entertained, showing that he loves his job

–Amelia Richardson

Movie Review: Home Alone



The movie *Home Alone* starring Macaulay Culkin was released November 10, 1990. I'm sure almost everyone born since 1990 has seen this movie. It is a Christmas movie classic. In the movie *Home Alone*, Kevin McCallister is the youngest of five siblings. He feels very picked on, and after causing a big family disruption, his mom takes him up to the attic, where he is banished to stay the night. At this time he tells his mom, "I wish I never see any of you jerks again," when talking about his family. Kevin's mother warns him that what he says might come true because it is Christmas time.

In the morning Kevin's family is panicking and scrambling because they slept through their alarms and they are going to miss their flight. With all of their anxiety and panic, Kevin's family forget all about him, and they board their flight without even realizing Kevin is gone. When Kevin wakes up, he searches the house because no one is there. At first he is just confused, but then he realizes and says, "I made my family disappear." Kevin then celebrates by running through the house yelling, "I'm free!" and, "Yahoo!" He then starts to break some of the rules his mother made, like eating junk food and watching naughty TV shows.

In the meantime, Kevin's family finds out that he is missing. His mother is frantic, and she immediately reports to the police, but unfortunately for Kevin's mom, the holiday season is too crazy and the soonest she can fly home is Christmas day. So Kevin's

mom decides she'll try to get home another way, she'll hitchhike her way home.

Kevin quickly finds out that he can't just have fun—he has to take some responsibility and clean his laundry and go shopping. He is surprisingly productive for an 8-year-old kid, and he manages just fine. But then the real problem arises. Marv and Harry (the wet bandits) decide that Kevin's neighborhood is a perfect place to sneak in and steal from the houses because all of the houses have been abandoned for Christmas. Everyone is on vacation, except for Kevin. So he is all alone to protect not only his house, but his entire neighborhood. He figures out that these two burglars are trying to rob his house when he is watching TV. Luckily for Kevin and his quick thinking, he pauses and plays the TV to sound like he is not alone. This scares off the two bandits for a time, but they realize after stalking Kevin that he truly is "Home Alone." They come back to inspect Kevin's house before the final robbery, and while outside Kevin overhears them saying what their plans are and when they are going to try to break in. So 8-year-old Kevin booby traps the house in an attempt to keep the burglars out.

Kevin sets up trap after trap; some of the traps he sets up include ice on the stairs, scorching hot door handles, sticky walkways, nails on the ground, and a tarantula. He sets the traps expertly, and the two bandits hit almost every single one. The bandits get pretty hurt, but this just angers them so much

that they set off after Kevin and forget all about robbing the house. Kevin barely escapes them: Using a spider as a diversion, he takes a zip line away from them, but unfortunately they cut him off and catch him. Just as it seems the two bandits have caught Kevin once and for all, Old Man Marley saves Kevin. Old Man Marley was thought to be a killer, so Kevin was amazed to see Old Man Marley save him.

The two bandits are caught by the police, with the help of Kevin and Old Man Marley, and Kevin is left alone for the rest of the night on Christmas Eve. When Kevin wakes up, he's hoping to see his family there, and he tells Santa that all he wants for Christmas is for his family to get back home. Almost immediately after this, his mother walks in the door and they have a special Christmas moment. Kevin asks where the rest of the family is, and his mother said, they'll be here in a few days; I hitchhiked home. Then ironically the rest of his family walks in, because their flights finally arrived to come back home. Kevin gets his wish, and his whole family is home for Christmas with him.

This is a great movie that I personally watch every single year for Christmas. It is not only funny, but it has a very happy ending. It is a great movie for anyone who is looking to get into the Christmas spirit. *Home Alone* is a classic.

-Jack Dayton