

THE SAGE

Cokeville High School

January 2024



Snowcoming!

Despite the wacky weather we've had, it's finally beginning to look a lot like Christmas, a month too late. The snow came just in time for Snowcoming, CHS's winter formal dance. A wintertime version of the homecoming dance has not happened in quite some time. But upon request from many students, our student body president, Bryli Groll, worked hard to make a winter-time dance happen. The most difficult part of the planning was finding a day to hold the dance. The winter sports schedule and other activities made finding a free night almost impossible. Eventually it was settled to have the dance on one of the few free Thursdays.

Even though there were no sports games as the main event, as with Homecoming, the school did other activities for Snowcoming.

Along with the dance, there was a white-out day, where students dressed in all white for the snowy season. The students also attended an activity assembly with a whipped cream food challenge. A student from each grade, and a teacher, competed to find 10 gummy worms buried in whipped cream, using only their faces. By the end, participants were plastered in whipped cream, looking like they had just been white-washed with snow. The dance that evening was the main event, but because of sporting events the next day, attendance was low.

The dance took place in the high school commons and the area was lit up with colorful projections of snow, nailing the winter wonderland ambiance. As per the usual, Madi and EJ Pauni dee-jayed. The routine dance songs were played, and line dance

music offered a good way to get people up and dancing. The Cotton-Eyed Joe was played, according to tradition, and the Cupid Shuffle was a familiar tune many could dance to. Students set their phones in the old water fountain so they could flail about without worrying about their phones. At one point, students were grabbing phones from the bowl and taking selfies and silly pictures with random phones.

Because of low attendance, song requests were more easily accepted, especially toward the end as numbers dwindled. One of these requests was the theme song from Bluey, a hit cartoon show that everyone knew. Despite the low numbers, many of the students enjoyed their dance-filled wintry Thursday night.

—Amelia Richardson



Junior Hudson Himmerich donating blood.

NHS Blood Drive

The National Honor Society blood drive has come to town once again. On Thursday, January 11, the NHS hosted a blood drive at Cokeville High School. This was a fundraiser of sorts for the NHS foundation. The goal of the NHS blood drive was to gather blood for people in need of replenishing after surgeries, to replace blood lost in a car accident, or something along those lines. If you did donate blood, you know it's going to a good cause. It's saving lives.

In other words, the National Honor Society is a great foundation and deserves more attention for the good that they do. NHS is a school organization that helps people in need and is supported by students and adults alike. Members donate things like their own blood; they also devote their time to community service to help not only an individual

person but also communities as a whole.

NHS members can also apply for scholarships, such as the National Honor Society Scholarship, which can make it possible for them to attend their favorite schools.

NHS is an organization for high school students, but it benefits everyone from elementary, junior high and high school to middle-aged adults and senior citizens.

In my opinion, NHS is the best organization for helping people at a local level. With blood drives and community service, they are making our world a better place for a better and cleaner tomorrow. They want the best for future generations to come and they need your help, so if you want to help people and get a scholarship while doing it, then you should probably think about joining the CHS chapter of the National Honor Society.

–Clay Teichert



Student Spotlight: Reagan

For the student spotlight this month, I had to pick someone extraordinary. Someone special. Her name is Reagan Teichert.

Her favorite time of year is summer, and she loves to be outside and enjoy nature. She likes to camp and go on long hikes, but only if there is a pretty view at the end. She also likes to hang out with friends and family. She loves to do super big puzzles like 1,000 to 10,000 pieces. She is a very, very big shopper. She likes to shop for clothing items, mainly pants and shirts that make her eyes pop. She likes blue because it makes her look better than she already does. She is also a big traveler. Some of her favorite places to travel to are the beach or any really warm places.

Reagan's favorite food and drink items include: Kit Kats, Reeses, and Twix, but it usually varies between the three. Her favorite drink is Dr. Pepper. She is also always down for a pizza.

Her favorite animals are squirrels and snakes. She absolutely despises spiders, and quite frankly I don't blame Reagan for that.

She is also a famous Tik Toker. Her most famous Tik Tok has 116.4k views and 12.7k likes.

Reagan is a great student at our school; she is someone that everyone knows pretty well, but if you don't know her, I recommend you get to know her better.

–Kacen Milsted



Basketball Season Update

This basketball season has been going very well for both Cokeville basketball teams. The girls had a very successful pre-season; they demolished every team they played. They have only lost one game to the Rich Rebels. Entering conference play, they are extremely confident they will perform well.

The girls played Grace on the 23rd. Grace is one of the best girls teams in Idaho; they have been beating teams by forty or more for most of the season. Their girls team does not have many girls who play volleyball; rather, they play basketball all year round. The Cokeville girls had a very good start against them, partly because of how well Brooke Bell was playing. She made a lot of good plays but tragically hurt her knee very badly and was out for the rest of the game. The girls kept playing well but ended up losing 54 to 30. This was a really hard-fought game, a tough loss for the girls. They are looking to bounce back, though, against Saratoga this Friday.

On to the boys basketball team. They have had a good and challenging pre-season, achieving the best record Cokeville has had in the pre-season for a while (8-3).

The boys had their first conference game against Farson. In the first half, their shooting was horrendous: They only scored 9 points, going into halftime, with the score being 25 to 9. Due to a good rally at halftime, they came out swinging. They cut the lead to 10 at the beginning of the fourth quarter. Being down 10 at Farson is often the end of many teams; however the boys came back and won by 3 due to some clutch free throws by Ammon Hatch. The scoring was distributed very evenly throughout the team, and everyone contributed to the win.

On the 23rd, the boys played Grace. The Grace team was a lot like Farson, having big players and a really strong post game. However, this time the boys started out a lot better, and it

went back and forth until halftime, where it was tied 26 to 26. The second half is usually when the boys start to separate from other teams, and this time was no different. The boys started to pull away from Grace due to scoring a lot of free throws. Over in Idaho there are only two refs, and they basically let them have a wrestling match for the game. In Wyoming, however, the refs call a lot more, and it is a much cleaner game. When they were getting a lot of fouls called, they got really frustrated, and they received two technical fouls and then got an intentional foul when a player took Justin Moyes's legs out from under him and he hit the deck hard. Luckily he was okay and was able to return to the game. Everyone had a great game and played together. The leading scorers were Justin Moyes with 24, Kalob Haderlie with 13, and Kayson Walker with 12. This was a very fun game to watch, because it was the first home game, and it lived up to the hype. The boys also play Saratoga on the 26th and are hoping to put a whopping to them.

–Justin Moyes



Wrestling Update

The month of January is when high school wrestling really kicks off. We have had a bunch of duals and tournaments, and a ton of good matches this far into the season. We have had three home duals, one with Rich, Big Piney, and Lyman. We have also gone to a couple of big tournaments, like the Vernal Tournament and the Lander Valley Tournament as well. With our team being a young one, we have placed well at these tournaments and scored decently in our duals.

Our duals have gone pretty well, considering that we have to forfeit a lot of light and really heavy weight brackets like 106, 120, 126, 215, and 285. But we still win some of them regardless. We have had three duals at home. We have won and lost some, but the team has performed quite well for the home crowd. We were planning to go to Green River, but we had to cancel because of bad weather and road conditions. It was somewhat frustrating, but most of the team just

went skiing to fill the void. We have one more dual this month, and it is in Mountain View on January 3. I believe that it's going to be a good match-up, but I think we will win that dual.

We have attended a few good tournaments thus far in the year, and we've done well at the two we have already attended this month. At the Tournament of Champions in Vernal, Utah, Micah Petersen won the 157 weight bracket, Ryder Pope went undefeated in the second chance tournament at 175, Flint Linford won first place in the JV tournament at 132, and Kashton Walker and Clay Teichert took second place in the JV at 150 and 144. The other tournament we went to was the Lander Valley Tournament in Lander, Wyoming. The team didn't wrestle the best, with a few kids getting beat out on the first day, but Micah Petersen took first place with an impressive score of 14-0 in the finals.

We have one last tournament this month, which is the Ron Thon in Riverton, Wyoming. This is the biggest tournament that Cokeville Wrestling attends. This tournament consists of almost all 2A, 3A, and 4A teams in the state. The Ron Thon is one of the toughest tournaments in all of Wyoming, but hopefully we can make it there safely and wrestle well against those new opponents.

The Cokeville wrestlers have been performing fairly well despite the fact that we are a very young team, with 9 out of the 18 wrestlers on the team being freshmen, and with our forfeiting five weight classes a dual. I believe we have a bunch of wrestlers that have the potential to win state titles, but we need to put in the work so we can finish the year strong. All in all, January has been a good month for Cokeville wrestling.

–Clay Teichert

Faculty Spotlight: Mrs Pope

Lynne Pope is an exceptional individual who has been serving as the Cokeville High School secretary for over 20 years. As a secretary, she is responsible for various tasks, including answering phone calls, maintaining student records, and managing the front desk. However, Lynne is more than just a secretary. She is a kind-hearted person who has touched the lives of many students and staff members in the school.

One of the things that Lynne loves is the color sky blue. This color is her favorite, and it's not hard to see why. Sky blue is a calming and soothing color that reflects Lynne's gentle and kind personality. She is a person who always has a smile on her face and a positive attitude towards most things.

Apart from her love for sky blue, Lynne is also known for her meatloaf recipe. She takes great pride in her cooking skills and loves to share her delicious meals with others. Her meatloaf is her favorite.

When it comes to sports, Lynne is a big fan of softball. She loves watching the game and cheering for her favorite teams. On the other hand, she doesn't care much for hockey. Lynne's favorite part of her day is when the kids come through and say hello. She has no favorite student, but Ryder would say it's him, according to Lynne.

Lynne's favorite subject in school was English. She enjoys reading LDS romance novels and watching Hallmark movies. However, she doesn't read as much as she would like to.

One of the funny incidents Lynne shared from her time on the job was when Ethan Bird walked into the office and threw up all over the desk. While it was a messy situation, Lynne handled it with grace and humor.

Lynne's dream car is a Buick Enclave. She said she loved that car and would get another in a heartbeat. Her favorite drink is red cream soda. She loves living in Cokeville, primarily because of the people, the community is close-knit and supportive.



While Lynne has had some scary moments on the job, the scariest incident was when there was a total lockdown across the state due to a fake bomb threat, and she was not in the office at the time. However, Lynne takes all the challenges in stride and remains committed to her job, especially after this situation.

When asked about her dream vacation, Lynne said that she would love to go to Hawaii. It's also her favorite place to live. However, Lynne is happy with her current job and said that it's a good time. She loves being a high school secretary and has been doing it for over 20 years.

Lynne's favorite hobby is being a great grandma and taking care of her grandkids. She is a loving and caring grandmother who enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. She is always ready to help them out with most things or take them out for some fun activities.

In conclusion, Lynne Pope is a remarkable person who has made a significant impact on the lives of many students and staff members in Cokeville High School. Her love for sky blue, meatloaf, and softball is just a small part of what makes her unique. Lynne's positive attitude toward life, her humor, and her dedication to her job are an inspiration to all who know her. She is a valuable member of the school community, and her contributions will always be remembered.

–Dash Nate

New Year's Resolutions

The year 2024 has just started, and with the new year comes New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions are usually goals or challenges to accomplish, or even just new ways to live your life to the fullest. Almost half of the adults in the world make resolutions, but not very many people know who started this trend.

The first people who celebrated the new year and started the tradition of making New Year's resolutions were the Babylonians. Over 4000 years ago, they started a twelve-day celebration called Akitu. They would celebrate the new year and make resolutions to their Gods. While the Babylonians made resolutions, they were a lot different from the ones we make today.

The most common resolution that the Babylonians had was pledging loyalty to their Gods. Nowadays, the most common New Year's resolutions (48%) include some way to improve their fitness. Other popular resolutions include improving finances (38%), improving mental health (36%), and losing weight (34%). These goals are a lot different from the Babylonians, but all goals have a main focus: improving one's life.

One thing I would recommend is writing down your New Year's resolutions. There are a few reasons a person should write down their goals, one being so you don't forget them. It is also easier to track how you're doing if you write them down, but the main reason you should write down your goals instead of just making them is backed by research: People who write down their goals are 42% more likely to accomplish them, versus someone who just makes them. Another study shows that only 1% of people write down their goals. So if you not only make a New Year's resolution but you write it down as well, you are in the top .0001% of people when it comes to resolutions.

New Year's resolutions are very popular, and now you know how to boost your chances of accomplishing them.

–Jack Dayton



CHS Starts a New Semester

With a new year comes a new semester, and this new semester means a lot for students who are in high school. For some students switching semesters represents the end of their first semester in high school and for some it represents the beginning of the last semester of high school. Either way, the new semester is an exciting time and there are a lot of things to look forward to.

This semester there are a lot of activities that will be having big events like the state tournaments. We will be able to see how our teams' seasons that have been really good this year come to an end. Boys and girls basketball will have their state tournaments, which are sure to be entertaining; it will also be exciting to see how individuals on the wrestling team do and how the team as

a whole performs. There will be the pops concert, which is always very enjoyable, and our first festival performance with Mr. Burgoyne as our director. The Celebration choir group will also be having a special extra performance to celebrate their 40 years of success. Art students will also be able to show off their art at state art and be recognized for all the work and effort that goes into it. This semester we will also have the track and field season.

The school will have some very enjoyable events put on this semester. We will have some dances, like Snowcoming and prom in the spring. It will be the seniors last prom, and the juniors will have their chance to be in the spotlight for it. One of the biggest events this semester will be graduation, after which seniors will move on to whatever their next step is.

A new semester also means a blank slate. If your first semester wasn't what you had hoped in regard to academics, you have a new chance this semester. You can get on top of your schoolwork and not have your grades hindered by things that may have happened in the past. Now is the perfect time to set new goals for how you want to end this school year.

In the end, there are a lot of important things that will be happening this semester, which should be very exciting. Many activities will be wrapping up, and it will be entertaining to watch and see what happens. Looking forward to this semester, it should be a fun one that hopefully we all enjoy. Not only that, but this new semester is a great time to make goals and progress academically.

–Evan Dietz



College Football Playoffs

It's the most wonderful time of the year. It was the College Football Playoff this past couple weeks, and this year there were some great games.

It all started with the semifinal games between Michigan and Alabama, and Washington vs Texas. Michigan played Alabama in the Pasadena Rose Bowl. This was a very exciting game with a lot of great defense but also a ton of great offensive plays. Regulation ended with the score being tied 20 to 20 and Michigan got the ball first. In two plays they went 25 yards and got a touchdown. This was made possible by the amazing blocking up front and then Blake Corum destroying people as he ran the ball into the endzone. Blake Corum seriously was a man amongst boys in this overtime drive. Alabama got the ball and drove down to the 4 yard line but faced a fourth and four to put the game into a second overtime. The snap was bad and Jalen Milroe was tackled at the line of scrimmage. The Wolverines won that game.

After this game, Washington played Texas. This game was back and forth but

then Washington made a couple big throwing plays to go up. Texas almost made an incredible comeback, but they were stopped as time expired, and they ended up losing 37 to 31. Michael Penix had an amazing game as the Huskies quarterback and ended with 430 passing yards, throwing for 2 touchdowns and no interceptions. Rome Odunze had 125 receiving yards and all of the Husky receivers had a great receiving game. This put Washington into the Championship game against Michigan.

Washington played Michigan on January 8. There were 72,808 people in the stadium in Houston, Texas. The game started by Michigan busting out two big runs for touchdowns by Donovan Edwards. Washington could only respond with a field goal and the score after the first quarter was 14 to 3. In the beginning of the second, Michigan got another field goal, and Washington was able to get a touchdown right before time expired, going into halftime and losing 17 to 10. The first play of the second half, Michael Penix got stepped on by his own lineman

and threw an interception. This is when the defenses of both teams started to take over this game. Michigan only got a field goal, even though they had great field position. Washington also scored a field goal, and this would be their last score of the night. Michigan ended up scoring two touchdowns in the fourth. They put Washington away 34 to 13. Washington's quarterback Michael Penix did not seem like himself in this game. He was hit really hard a few times and was in pain for the majority of this game. His throws were not very accurate, and he was one of the most accurate quarterbacks in the NCAA this year. If this game would have happened again, there could have been a very different outcome. Both of these teams had a great season, and now we can only wish both programs the best of luck for next year. The college football playoffs were very exciting, as usual, and we cannot wait for more college football next year.

—Justin Moyes

Movie Review: The Boys in The Boat



The *Boys in the Boat* movie was recently released on Christmas Day 2023. It is a cinematic adaptation of the critically acclaimed book by Daniel James Brown. The movie brings to life the remarkable true story of the University of Washington's rowing team as they rise from junior varsity to competing for the gold in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Directed by George Clooney, this film successfully captures the essence of the original story while offering a visually stunning and emotionally charged cinematic experience.

The movie's narrative centers around Joe Rantz, played by up and coming actor Callum Turner. Rantz's personal journey is both heartwarming and inspiring, as he overcomes adversity and finds solace and purpose in the world of competitive rowing. The film deftly explores the themes of resilience, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence, making it a compelling watch for audiences of all ages.

One of the standout aspects of *The Boys in the Boat* is its attention to historical detail. The production team went to great lengths to recreate the atmosphere of the 1930s, from the costumes to the set design. The result is a visually authentic representation of the era, which immerses the audience in the challenges and triumphs faced by the characters. One of my favorite details that accomplishes this are the holes worn in the young men's boots, which Rantz covers with folded newspapers. The cinematography, in particular, deserves praise for its ability to capture the rowing,

with sweeping shots of the boats gliding across the water and close-ups that convey the physical and emotional strain on the rowers.

The cast delivers stellar performances, with each actor embodying their characters well. The chemistry among the ensemble cast is apparent, especially in the scenes depicting the camaraderie and friendship forged among the rowers. The lead actor's (Callum Turner) portrayal of Joe Rantz is particularly noteworthy, because Turner navigates the character's complex emotional journey with authenticity and skill. The supporting cast, including the coaches and family members, adds layers to the narrative, contributing to the overall depth of the storytelling.

The film's pacing is well-executed, allowing the audience to become fully invested in the characters' individual stories while maintaining tension and momentum throughout the rowing sequences. The rowing scenes themselves are a visual feast, expertly choreographed to convey the synchronization and precision required in the sport. These sequences are not only thrilling to watch but also serve as a metaphor for the challenges faced by the characters on their journey to the Olympics.

The Boys in the Boat also succeeds in exploring the broader socio-political context of the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The film does not shy away from addressing the political climate of the time, touching on the rising tensions in Europe and the Nazi regime's exploitation of the Games for propaganda purposes. The sight of a

group of boys from Washington entering Nazi Germany, and Hitler's reaction while overseeing the event, was surreal. This adds depth to the narrative, emphasizing the significance of the rowers' achievements in the face of global uncertainty.

While the film excels in many areas, some viewers may find certain elements predictable or overdone. The underdog sports story has been a staple of cinema for decades, and *The Boys in the Boat* follows the archetype well, arguably sticking too closely to the cliché. However, what sets this movie apart is the authenticity with which it tells this familiar tale, making it resonate on a personal and emotional level; many youth can see themselves in the characters as well as relate to the struggles of a young athlete.

In conclusion, *The Boys in the Boat* is a captivating film that skillfully translates the power of the original book to the big screen. Its stellar cast, attention to historical detail, and expertly crafted rowing sequences make it a compelling watch for both fans of the book and newcomers to the story. The film's exploration of themes such as resilience, friendship, and the pursuit of excellence elevates it beyond a simple sports drama, making it a worthy addition to the genre. Overall, *The Boys in the Boat* is a triumph of storytelling and visual artistry that will leave a lasting impression on its audience.

—Amelia Richardson