



The Sage

Cokeville High School

October 2025



Tailgate Party and Bonfire

At the Tailgate Party, there was face paint, and the streets were covered with spray paint. The bonfire was at first smaller than usual, but then it grew significantly larger. There were a lot of planks in the bonfire, a lot of flames when the bonfire was going, and there was a lot of smoke at the end of the bonfire. There were several types of soup and chili served at the party. People spray-painted their names all over the street. There were all sorts of cheers, and everybody was taking pictures. Also, as the sun went down, everybody gathered to cheer all together and started to yell their hearts out. As it was pitch black, Cokeville chanted "light the C!!" They lit the C, and we all started cheering until the high school football boys came down. We ran over to the bonfire, and the juniors at the bonfire. They threw spears at the fire as some of the students fell on the barbed wire fence. We had done a few cheers, then Ammon Hatch spelled donuts in his cheer. We all started running toward the school. We all made it halfway and just started walking. Then everybody was at the school, ready to lose their voices. Everybody did their class cheers, then the coaches joined in cheering for the football and volleyball players. They made people sit down and watch a video. The other coaches jumped in and yelled and screamed and had fun with everybody. Then people got donuts and apple juice, everybody was sitting down in the halls having fun, talking about what they did with their names and who asked who to wear their jerseys. It was the best night ever. For Homecoming, everyone was wearing orange, black, and white. Being a panther means to be kind and have school spirit, even if it's on the field or at home. We are supposed to be the best we can.

-Nathan Keller

Tailgate Party

The annual tailgate party kicked off right at 7 PM at the city park. Long tables were lined end-to-end and overflowing with food, steaming pots of homemade soup in every flavor imaginable, warm, fluffy rolls stacked high in baskets, and an endless variety of cookies that seemed to disappear as fast as they were set out. The smell alone was enough to make your mouth water.

As darkness settled in, the tradition began to take shape. Everyone gathered along the road, paint cans in hand, ready for the annual spray-painting ritual. Names and bold school spirit soon colored the pavement in chaotic, beautiful graffiti. Laughter and cheers echoed through the night.

Then, just as the energy reached a peak, the news came through, the senior boys had returned from the mountain, triumphant from lighting the iconic "C." A cheer erupted through the crowd as they arrived, and like clockwork, the bonfire roared to life. Flames climbed high into the night sky, casting flickering light across excited faces. The seniors led the crowd in chants until Ammon's voice rang above the noise: "DONUTS!" That was all it took. The entire crowd took off, running as one massive, laughing group toward the high school. The halls echoed with footsteps, shouts, and excited chatter as everyone streamed inside, still riding the high of the bonfire.

And there they were, piles of sugary, sticky donuts waiting like a prize at the finish line, alongside cups of cold apple juice that hit the spot after all the excitement. Sticky fingers, warm hearts, and hoarse voices filled the cafeteria as the crowd circled up one more time, calling out names, urging coaches, teachers, and classmates to join in the middle. The cheering didn't stop, it just kept building, a rolling thunder of school pride that lasted late into the night.

-Paislee Tims





Football

Our boys stayed busy this September with a packed schedule of intense football games, keeping everyone on their feet. The month began with a home game against West Jefferson, where our boys played tough but came up short, 7-0. However, they bounced back the following week with an impressive 22-0 victory in Lyman.

Next came a challenging game at home against Mountain View, which ended in a 33-0 loss. But the team wrapped up the month on a high note with a strong 30-7 win in Pinedale.

The first game of October was the much-anticipated Homecoming matchup. Even though the game didn't end in a win, it was still a night to remember for the whole town. The final score was 28-13, with the team falling just two touchdowns short in a hard-fought game.

With grit and passion on full display every game, our boys are proving that the best is yet to come. There's no doubt they've got what it takes to finish strong.

Be sure to come out and support our team at the upcoming games. Let's fill the stands and show them our Panther spirit!

-Paislee Tims & Presi Pope

Cheer

According to Coach Stace, "CHS has had cheer for many, many years. Cheer started around the 1940s for Cokeville High School". This is Stace Clark's 9th year coaching high school cheer. The cheer team has been focusing on getting their routines ready for state competition. They attended a UCA camp over the summer. They are planning on competing at the UCA Regional competition in December. Then they will compete at our WHSAA State Spirit Competition in January. "For the fall season cheer, there are 6 girls: Hayden Stoor, McCall Murdock, McKenzie Payne, Airica Brook, Paisley Wood, and Briquelle Peck."

A couple of things to add to the team's focus. "They spent a tremendous amount of time getting the town ready for HOCO. They painted paw prints on the streets and hung flags. They are just finished our mini cheer camp, and those little girls performed at halftime of the football game on October 10th".

Cheerleading isn't just about pom poms and chants - it's about confidence, teamwork, friendships, leadership, and bringing energy to the whole school. If you love school spirit and ever wanted to step up, make new friends, and help energize the whole school, now's the time! You don't need experience. They will teach you everything you need to know. You'll learn fun routines, support the other teams, be part of an amazing team, and have a great time doing it!!! Coach Stace says, "I've had several girls wait until their senior year to cheer, and every one of them has told me their only regret is not starting cheer sooner! So even if you aren't 100% sure it's for you, they would love for you to join us and give cheerleading a shot"!

—Josh Keller



Student Spotlight: Cole

Cole has always had a knack for fixing things. You could say he's a great mechanic, especially when it comes to stuff that makes loud noises and smells like oil. In Cole's free time, you'll most likely find Cole up in the mountains or out hunting, preferably somewhere without cell service. People are often surprised to learn he can drive a stick shift, which is basically a superpower these days. Cole's greatest strength? Definitely operating heavy machinery. Give him a bulldozer, and he'll give you a good time.

Now, if he could have dinner with anyone, living or dead, Cole would pick Hitler, but only to try and talk some sense into him *before* things went horribly wrong. (Definitely dinner, not dessert.) His favorite memory is the Graze River Roundup, good times, good people, and probably some questionable decisions involving livestock. As for his biggest challenge? Honestly, just finding the will to go to school. That took more horsepower than any machine he's ever operated.

—Paisley Wood

Faculty spotlight

Mr. Smith

Who's your favorite student?

All the students at Cokeville

What's your favorite class to teach?

High school welding jrs/ seniors

How old are you?

27

What inspired you to start teaching?

I knew how to do lots of different things, so I thought it would be a good opportunity to teach others

What's your favorite memory?

Racing horses with my family

What's the worst thing that has happened while you're teaching?

A student got his thumb stuck in the belt of a car

What do you do in your spare time?

Race horses/ and livestock

What sports did you play in high school?

football/ basketball

Who is your idol?

Baker Mayfield

Who do you look up to?

"My 2 siblings, and my wife, because she puts up with me"

What makes you question your job?

When things break or when students talk when he's talking.

Fun fact: it's only his second year teaching.

—Airica Brook

–Briquelle Peck

Ghost Stories from Our Backyard: Lincoln County's Haunted History

These old Wyoming places never quite let the past go. In ballrooms where dancers once spun, in opera houses where applause once thundered, in abandoned mining towns where fortunes rose and fell — something lingers. Even today, in the hush of night, echoes slip through the walls: footsteps where no one walks, whispers in empty corridors, cold spots that raise goosebumps on your arms. Here are some of the spookiest, with what we do know, and what still seems to linger beyond explanation.

Old Opera House & Stoner Grave, Cokeville

Some of the upperclassmen tell stories about the old opera house, dolls hanging by their necks in the windows, pale faces reflected in the glass. Those who claim to have seen them describe an unsettling feeling, like the dolls were keeping vigil over something long forgotten. The building stands sealed now, its windows dark, but the stories persist among students at CHS.

The cemetery has its own tale. Three years ago, around HOCO, a group of seventh graders ventured out on a full moon night, around 10 or 11 pm, wandering among the gravestones. As moonlight filtered through the trees, they watched the "Stoner" grave begin to glow green, an eerie phosphorescence that stopped them in their tracks.

Whether these stories began as pranks, tricks of light and shadow, or something else entirely, no one can say for certain. But walk past those dark opera house windows or visit the cemetery on a moonlit night, and you might understand why these tales refuse to die.

Colters Lodge, Afton

Just around the bend in Star Valley, Colter's Lodge in Afton carries its own weight of history and whispers. There are persistent rumors and accounts of paranormal activity. Guests and staff say they've seen the ghost of a woman in a blue dress gliding through hallways, heard children's laughter echoing from rooms that should be empty, and encountered the spirit of a male former owner who seems to linger in the halls as if still tending to his property. In 2021, the Wyoming Paranormal Society conducted a two-day investigation, reporting that the basement, the veranda, and a painting of a "gray lady" are among the locations where unusual feelings or apparitions are claimed. Whether these are genuine hauntings or the lodge's old bones settling and creaking, visitors say the feeling of being watched, of not being quite alone, is impossible to shake once the sun goes down.

The Heard (Herd) Opera House, Kemmerer

Further north, where the wind cuts through abandoned main streets, Kemmerer's historic opera house (often spelled Heard or Herd) is slowly being restored by local owners. The opera house's managers host paranormal investigation nights and say that spirits roam old corridors, though accounts tend toward generalities: cold spots that settle on your shoulders like invisible hands, shadow figures that slide along walls, or voices in the dark calling names no one answers. Because much of the interior has been modified or rebuilt over the years, it's hard to separate ghost stories from creaky old wood and drafts whistling through gaps in the walls. Still, those who walk through the silent theater late at night say they feel the presence in empty boxes and seats, as if an invisible audience is still watching performances long after.

**Author's Note: Paranormal claims cannot be scientifically verified, and many "haunted" experiences may have natural explanations, old buildings settle, create drafts, and play tricks on our senses, especially in low light. However, these stories are an important part of Wyoming's cultural heritage, passed down through generations and woven into the identity of these historic places. Whether you believe in ghosts or not, these locations offer a fascinating glimpse into Wyoming's past and the human tendency to find mystery in the unknown.*

—Mrs. Cox



Old Opera House, Cokeville, Wy.



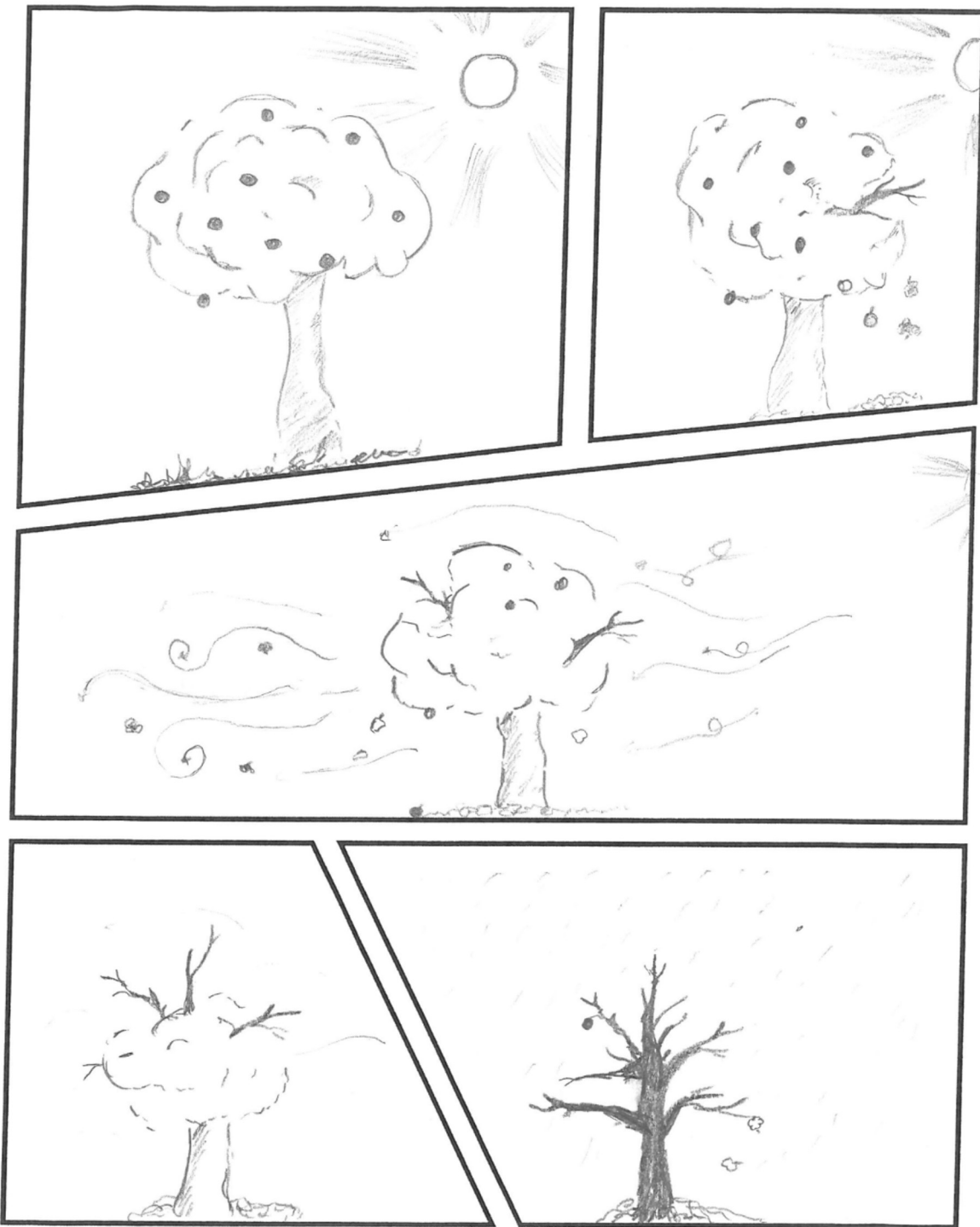
Colters Lodge, Afton, Wy.



Herd Opera House, Kemmerer, Wy.

Kashan

"Moving On"



Upcoming Events

Choir Concert: Oct. 15th @ 7:30

Reading Party: Oct. 16th at CHS (Library)

Motivational Speaker: Kasey McCallister Oct 27th at CHS @ 6:00 PM.