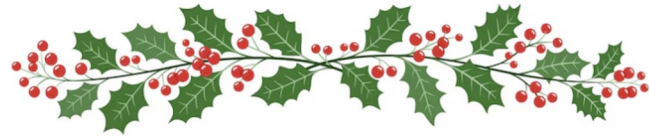




Photo created with ChatGPT



Christmas Edition

Welcome! This month, our writers dive headfirst into the season with everything from the great *real vs. fake* tree debate to the surprising religious roots of fir trees. We explore the science behind why giving gifts feels so good, highlight holiday traditions borrowed from cultures around the world, and even tackle the controversial question: is *Elf on the Shelf* creative fun or just plain creepy? You'll also find a play-by-play on the annual battle of untangling Christmas lights - arguably a full-contact sport - and a look at the local legend known as "Wade's house," a display that has evolved into a meme all its own. Settle in, get festive, and enjoy this spirited collection of CHS holiday stories.

Real vs. Artificial Christmas Trees

Every year people argue about whether real Christmas trees or artificial ones are better, and honestly, I think artificial trees make more sense for a lot of people. Real trees used to be the only option. Like a few decades ago, everyone just went out and bought an actual pine or fir tree because that was literally the only choice. But in the 1930s, a toilet-brush company called the Addis Brush Company made the first artificial tree from brush bristles, and that basically became the start of the fake trees we have now.

The Pros and Cons of Artificial Trees

A huge reason people pick artificial trees is guilt. They don't like the idea of cutting down a brand-new tree every year, and honestly, I kind of get that. But there are other reasons too, like convenience, cost, and what people think is better for the environment. Right now, with how expensive everything is, it's actually nice to have something you only buy once instead of spending money every single Christmas. Plus artificial trees don't drop needles everywhere, don't need watering, and you don't have to haul them home from a tree farm. Some experts say artificial trees are bad for the environment because they're made from PVC and metal, and PVC doesn't biodegrade. That part isn't great, and they can't be recycled either. But I feel like if you keep your artificial tree for a long time - like many years - it kind of evens out. Most families keep their artificial tree for way longer than one year, and if you compare one tree lasting maybe a decade to cutting down a new real one every single year, the artificial one starts looking a lot better. Also, even though most artificial trees come from China, they only have to be shipped once every year you use them, while real trees have to be transported fresh every year.

The Pros and Cons of Real Trees

Real trees do have their good sides. About 33 million are sold each year in North America, and around 93 percent of them get recycled. When they're "treecycled," they can be used for mulch, trails, playgrounds, or helping protect beaches and wildlife. Plus Christmas tree farms absorb a lot of CO₂, and they plant new seedlings every year so they keep it renewable. A lot of people also say real trees help the economy since the industry employs more than 100,000 people.

But real trees aren't perfect either. Since they're farmed like regular crops, many farms use pesticides and fertilizers, which is definitely not environmentally friendly. And if you live somewhere where pine trees don't grow naturally, your tree has to travel hundreds of miles just to get to you. That kind of transportation adds up, especially if everyone buys a new one every year. Even though it's less distance than artificial trees travel, it still happens *every single Christmas*, not just once.

Conclusion

In the end, both types have upsides and downsides, but I honestly think artificial trees make more sense for a lot of people. They're cheaper in the long run, easier to take care of, and you only need one for many years. Even though they're made of plastic, using one tree for a long time can balance out the environmental concerns, especially compared to cutting down and shipping a real tree every year. Real trees do help the environment while they grow, but with all the chemicals used on some farms and how often you have to replace them, artificial trees still feel like the more convenient and practical choice. Overall, I think artificial trees are just a better fit for most families today.

Legend of the Christmas Tree

Christmas trees have been around for about 176 years, but when exactly did they come to be? Decorating a tree is a popular activity among 94 million households around the world. This number represents 75 percent of households that decorated trees in 2021. Although the Christmas tree is a beautiful decoration, it also has deeper meanings.

The evergreen tree represents the eternal life of Jesus Christ, the reason we celebrate Christmas. In the New Testament, John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The Christmas tree is shaped like a triangle, and in a way it resembles an arrow pointing toward Heaven. The lights on the tree represent Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Light the World is a program led by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that encourages people to share the Light of Christ. The ornaments and presents represent the gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh that the wise men brought to Jesus when he was young. They also symbolize the gifts Christ has given us.

The tradition of using tinsel to decorate Christmas trees goes back to 17th-century Germany. The first tinsel was made from real silver, hammered into thin strands to reflect the light of candles on the tree. The first ornaments hung on Christmas trees were edible items such as apples, nuts,

and gingerbread cookies in the 16th century. The apples represented the forbidden fruit from the Garden of Eden. Thomas Edison's associate, Edward H. Johnson, invented the first electric Christmas tree lights in 1882. Before that, trees were lit with candles, which was a unique but very dangerous practice.

The Christmas tree tradition, as we know it today, started in Germany in the 16th century, when Christians began bringing evergreen trees into their homes during the Christmas season. The first recorded use of a decorated Christmas tree is believed to have been in Latvia in 1510, where a tree was decorated and then burned in celebration. Another early record comes from Strasbourg, now part of France, in 1605, where trees were decorated with paper roses, apples, and wafers. The tradition became more popular and widespread in the 18th and 19th centuries, thanks to German immigrants and figures like Prince Albert, who introduced it to Britain when he married Queen Victoria.

Christmas trees have been around for a long time. They have a rich history of decorations and symbolize many important aspects of Christ's birth.

- Briquette Peck



Photo created with ChatGPT

Elf On The Shelf (Creepy Or Creative)

Is the Elf on the Shelf tradition a sign of magical holiday spirit, or is he a creepy little spectator watching your every move like a tiny festive security camera? Talking about traditions can always be controversial, especially when the tradition is a worldwide one. There are many benefits to the Elf on the Shelf, but there are also some things that can go wrong even with a smiling toy in a pointy hat.

To begin with, let's talk about the side effects of this tradition. First, the issue of behavioral incentives... Some kids may start acting out of fear of punishment or because they want a reward, instead of understanding right from wrong. Basically, the elf becomes a seasonal manager monitoring their performance "Please improve your behavior by December 24th for a better annual bonus." Moreover, this tradition can bring a sense of anxiety and feeling overwatched. Some kids might feel like they're living in a holiday-themed reality show: *Elf Big Brother Edition*. It can also create a sense of shame for totally normal actions, and kids may feel like they have no privacy since the elf's entire job is, well... to stare.

Another point to consider is the good traits that can come from this tradition. For example, the elf helps kids foster creativity. This tradition boosts imagination and creative thinking, which is a great trait to have especially when you need to think outside the box in tough situations or when you need creative excuses about why the elf "forgot" to move last night). It also adds magic to the holiday season and encourages kids to wonder and ask questions sometimes *a lot* of questions parents weren't prepared for.

In the end, this tradition really depends on how you perceive it. While some families see it as something that could promote negative behaviors, others see it as a chance to teach their kids imagination, creativity, and to make the holidays feel magical. Whether the elf is a delightful holiday visitor or a slightly suspicious stuffed informant is completely up to your family.

- Paisley Wood

Why Untangling Christmas Lights Should Be a Sport

Decorating for Christmas is a blast, but when it comes to untangling lights... talk about breaking into a sweat! It always seems like no matter how hard you try to roll them the year before, they always end up tangled up. This sport requires some solid strategy and problem-solving skills. Sometimes you gotta warm up, squat, stretch, twist. The lifting, pulling, and stretching - hoping you don't break a light. Everyone has struggled with untangling Christmas lights, so why not make it a universal experience while untangling them and give everyone a good laugh. If you think that all that sounds tough, the real struggle is keeping your patience and staying calm while untangling the lights. Maintaining patience while under stress is a real challenge. And imagine untangling all those lights just to plug them in and they don't work. I recommend taking some calming ashwagandha to keep calm while working on this sport. Loosen those wrists and stretch those fingers. I recommend using the "gentle giggle shuffle" or the trusty "yank and pray" maneuvers. Sometimes you need to trash talk the lights; for example, "You think you can defeat me? I've put together IKEA furniture." Don't forget your safety goggles, some extra lights, and a water bottle for hydration. No matter how tangled those lights are, it's always less stressful than holiday shopping.

- Airica Brook



Photo created with ChatGPT



Photos taken from [Evanston, Wyoming Community Page](#) on Facebook



Wade's House

What started as one man's attempt to decorate his home for the holidays has turned into one of the most talked-about issues in town. "Wade's Lights," the bright and colorful display created by local resident Wade Spivey, has drawn both praise and complaints from the community.

Spivey installed flashing, programmable lights along the trim of his house. While he meant for them to be festive, many residents say the lights are so bright that they can see the glow across the neighborhood, even late at night. Some neighbors have reported trouble sleeping, and others say the lights ruin the area's natural dark skies.

However, not everyone is upset. Many locals think the display is funny, creative, or just harmless fun. On social media, people have turned the situation into a meme, comparing the house to scenes from holiday movies or calling it a "beacon" that can be spotted from far away. Supporters even created "#WadesLights" merchandise to raise money for charity.

The controversy has also started bigger conversations about what homeowners should or shouldn't be allowed to do with their outdoor lighting. Some residents argue that bright displays take away from the quiet, dark nights that Wyoming is known for. Others believe that as long as the lights are safe, people should be able to decorate how they want.

The situation became so well known that Spivey was even named Grand Marshal of Evanston's annual holiday parade. Although the community remains divided, "Wade's Lights" has become a unique symbol of how quickly local issues can spread online and how something small can bring a whole town into the spotlight.

Whether people love it or hate it, one thing is certain: Wade's Lights have made this holiday season in Evanston unforgettable.

- Joshua Keller

Ranking the Most Unhinged Christmas Traditions From Around the World

Every family has at least one bizarre holiday tradition. Grandma's questionable fruitcake, the cousin who insists on reenacting *Home Alone*, or the dog that gets more presents than most children. But as strange as our customs may feel, they're nothing compared to some of the wonderfully unhinged traditions from around the world. This season, we're taking a global tour of the weirdest holiday practices humans have come up with - some charming, some chaotic, all unforgettable.

Let's start in Iceland, where families warn children about the Yule Cat, a giant, man-eating feline said to devour anyone who doesn't receive new clothes before Christmas. The message? Don't procrastinate laundry, or you might get eaten. A bold motivational strategy.

Meanwhile, in Austria, families tell stories of Krampus, a horned creature who accompanies St. Nicholas not to deliver presents, but to scare misbehaving kids into good behavior. Think of Krampus as the original "student behavior intervention." Positive reinforcement? Optional.

Jumping to Japan, Christmas dinner often means one thing: KFC. Thanks to a wildly successful 1970s marketing campaign, millions of families line up for buckets of fried chicken each December 25th. It's such a big deal that some people reserve meals months in advance. Forget ham, pass the drumsticks.

And in Catalonia, Spain, the season isn't complete without the Tió de Nadal, a smiling wooden log that "poops" presents when children hit it with sticks and sing a special song. Yes, you read that correctly. It's festive, it's bizarre, and somehow, it works.

These traditions might seem strange from the outside, but that's the magic of the holiday season: every culture has its own way of celebrating, no matter how chaotic, hilarious, or downright unhinged it might look. Maybe it's a reminder that the holidays don't need to be picture-perfect - they just need to be yours.

- The Editorial Board, CHS



What Your Favorite Christmas Movie Says About You

Everyone has a favorite Christmas movie, often the one they insist on watching every single year, even if everyone else in the family is begging for something new. But have you ever considered what your seasonal movie choice says about your personality? This year, we decided to decode the holiday lineup, and the results might hit a little too close to home.

If your go-to film is *Home Alone*, you're probably resourceful, independent, and maybe a little too good at improvising solutions to chaos. You likely keep your room messy "on purpose," because you would definitely know exactly where to find supplies for homemade booby traps.

Fans of *Elf* tend to be the optimists. The people who actually enjoy decorating hallways and who think sparkly lights count as a personality trait. You're probably the friend who says, "Let's make hot cocoa!" at 10 p.m. on a school night.

If *The Grinch* (any version) tops your list, chances are you appreciate sarcasm, dislike forced cheer, and identify strongly with characters who need "five minutes to wallow in self-pity." You're not anti-Christmas - you



just prefer celebrating at your own pace, preferably with snacks.

Those who swear by *The Nightmare Before Christmas* thrive on creativity, aesthetic control, and playlists that contain equal parts holiday songs and emo throwbacks. You've likely debated whether the movie counts as a Halloween or Christmas film, and you're willing to argue about it.

If your favorite Christmas comfort movie is *The Santa Clause* (the Tim Allen classic), you're probably the kind of person who enjoys a mix of dry humor, nostalgia, and unexpected magic. You appreciate stories where ordinary people accidentally stumble into responsibility and somehow figure it out along the way. You also believe fine print is dangerous, and deep down, you think a cup of hot cocoa really could fix most problems if it came from the North Pole.

And if your favorite is *A Christmas Story*, you're probably a nostalgic soul who quotes movies at random and believes that chaos is just part of the charm of family gatherings.

In the end, your favorite Christmas movie doesn't just reveal your holiday mood, it offers a tiny snapshot of who you are the rest of the year, too. And honestly, that's what makes traditions worth keeping.

- The Editorial Board, CHS



Community Spotlights

Student Spotlight

For this month's student spotlight I picked Myles Dayton. He's the kind of person who makes the whole school laugh just by being himself. He's always joking around and keeping things entertaining. Being around him in class is like throwing Cajun seasoning on some bland food; everything just gets way more exciting.

Myles is in 9th grade and honestly makes class a lot more fun. His favorite subject is lunch because "you get to eat food." He participates in wrestling and football, and when he's not doing that he's probably hanging out with friends or outside doing something like dirt biking, snowmobiling, riding horses, or roping, basically anything that gets him moving or in trouble.

Myles' favorite book is *Michael Vey*, his favorite movie is *The Grinch*, although the movie he could watch over and over without getting sick of is *The Notebook*. He also likes *Bluey* and the song "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue" by Toby Keith. His favorite food is steak, his favorite drink is lemonade, and his go-to snack is Little Bites muffins. If he could travel anywhere he would go to Alaska, although his favorite holiday is Christmas and his favorite season is fall.

Myles is a go-with-the-flow kind of person. He likes working in groups so he doesn't end up doing all the work himself. He really likes comedy, especially his own; it always makes him laugh. If he could have any superpower it would be time travel, and he would go to "Jurassic Park," the Jurassic time period. His favorite weather is snow because it's good for skiing. His dream job for a day would be one that makes a lot of money without doing much. His celebrity crush is Sabrina Carpenter.

Overall, Myles is funny, adventurous, and someone who keeps school more interesting for everyone around him. He's the kind of person who makes even a boring day feel a little less boring and a lot more alive, and honestly, school wouldn't be the same without him.



Photo taken by Paisley Wood



Artist Spotlight: McKoy & Kora

Congratulations to our comic winners!

McKoy, we went searching for the meaning of life... but it all just came full circle. And, Kora, a pause so long it needed a ladder. We appreciate your artistic talent!

By: McKoy





Photos by Mrs. Cox

Leadership Spotlight: Rachel Thomas

As student body president, Rachel Thomas plays a vital role in shaping the student experience at CHS. From organizing school events to managing day-to-day responsibilities, this leadership position requires dedication, creativity, and strong time management skills. In this interview, Rachel shares insights into the daily demands of the role, the motivations behind running for office, and the personal qualities that help navigate the challenges of balancing student leadership with academic responsibilities.

Rachel's interview:

1. What responsibilities do you handle most often as student body president?

I mainly take care of and restock the vending machine. When anyone's money gets stuck I have to go take care of that. I also take care of the weekly winners for our drawing. I also take care of getting our school parties and activities approved so that our student body can have fun whether it's around holidays or big games.

2. What motivated you to run for this leadership position in the first place?

In previous years I was freshman and junior class president. So already having done something similar to student body president, I was used to the hard work required to be student body president. I've always been involved in the school in multiple ways, so I just thought it'd be fun to go for the big one.

3. How would you describe your leadership style when working with students and staff?

I try to be fun and not too bossy. I just try to go along with everybody else's ideas. Just try to get ideas from a lot of different people so that the students can have more fun during the school year.

4. What part of your role do you find the most rewarding, and why?

Probably when something we planned is successful like a party or game, and we get a lot of positive comments back. Similar to what happened to the haunted house where we got compliments like "That was so fun" and such. It just makes me feel accomplished and happy with our work. Especially since that haunted house took forever.

5. How do you balance your schoolwork with the demands of being student body president?

I end up having a lot of posters to take home to paint at my house. I just try to find good times to work on student council stuff because I do still have classes. It's also nice that I have a designated student council hour, that allows me extra time to make posters and such. Otherwise I would not have a lot of time for everything.

6. What personal qualities do you think help you succeed in this position?

I think being able to say I want to do something and being able to do it, and follow through with it. But also being able to have great time management so that I can get what needs to be done, done, so that I don't get overwhelmed.

7. What is one challenge you've faced in this role, and how did you approach it?

It's definitely finding time to finish decorating and setting things up. For example it took me a week for the halloween spook alley, and two days to decorate for christmas. It's just difficult being able to find the time to accomplish what I want. Sometimes I have to stay after classes or miss classes because I'm working so hard on these projects. Once I had to stay at the school until 8:30 pm just decorating and putting the finishing touches on the spook alley. It's hard to accomplish everything I need to do when I don't have the time sometimes.

8. What's something about your personality that people might be surprised to learn?

I would like to go to BYU and be a cougar. Most people wouldn't know that about me that I also love to read. In fact my favorite book is Harry potter and the chamber of secrets.

As Rachel's responses reveal, being student body president involves far more than most students realize—from late nights decorating for events to carefully managing time between leadership duties and coursework. Rachel's commitment to creating memorable experiences for fellow students, combined with a collaborative leadership style and strong follow-through, demonstrates the dedication required to succeed in this demanding role. The reward comes not from recognition, but from seeing classmates enjoy the events and activities that take so much behind-the-scenes effort to bring to life.

Staff Spotlight: Mr. Linford

This month's Staff Spotlight features someone students see just about everywhere—on the field, in the wrestling room, and in English and Spanish classrooms. Mr. Linford shared a look at what his days are really like, what he enjoys teaching, and why he connects so well with students.

Mr. Linford's Interview:

1. What does a typical day look like for you as a teacher, and which part of that day stands out the most?

My day starts at 5:30 am when I wake up to come in to help any wrestlers that are in the room. I head back home at 6:30 in order to be back in here by 7:15. I have English classes the first four periods of the day and then Spanish classes in the afternoon. I enjoy all my classes, but right now I am really enjoying my Spanish 1 class. After school I can be found on the field coaching football or in the wrestling room coaching wrestling. I typically get home around 6:30.

2. How has teaching changed since you first started, and what adjustments have you had to make along the way?

Teaching hasn't changed much, the kids are still kids, technology is more prevalent, but I'm pretty old school. I have gotten better at my job along the way. I like to learn new things and new ways of doing things. My classes change a bit every year. Getting kids to read has become harder with the prevalence of technology.

3. What's one lesson or activity you enjoy teaching the most, and why does it resonate with you?

I have my pet projects that I really enjoy. The WWII books with the juniors, Harry Potter with the seniors, Bucket List essays with the seniors, What is the perfect...with the freshmen. The Culture Code with the Sophomores are some of my favorites.

4. Can you describe a time when a student really surprised or impressed you, and how that moment affected you as a teacher?

I am surprised pretty much every day by students. I enjoy all of them.

5. What personal qualities do you think help you the most in the classroom, and how did you develop them?

I get along well with students and really actually do like them.

6. What do you like to do outside of school, and how do those hobbies influence your life as a teacher?

I do lots of things outside of school, sports, hunting, horses, work out. Pretty much what most teenage boys do in Cokeville. That's probably why I get along with them.

7. Who has been a major influence on your personality or teaching style, and what did you learn from them?

I've been doing this for so long, I really don't know who has influenced me as a teacher. As a coach, it would be Coach Teichert and Coach Dayton and Coach Nate.

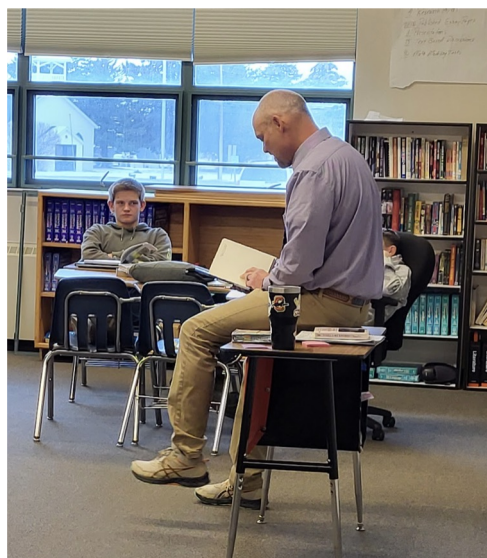
8. How do you want students to remember you, both as a person and as a teacher?

That they enjoyed my classes, they learned a lot, had a good time, they can enjoy a good book and that I loved them and teaching them.

Whether he's coaching, teaching, or encouraging students to pick up a good book, Mr. Linford brings consistency, care, and a genuine love of working with kids. It's clear that what matters most to him is that students learn, feel supported, and have a great experience along the way.



Photos taken by Mrs. Cox



Sports

Jr. High Girls Basketball

"Great teams become great ones when the members trust each other enough to surrender the *me* for the *we*." – Phil Jackson. This quote perfectly captures the spirit and character our team has shown throughout the season. Even though our roster is small and we often compete against larger programs, the girls have proven that trust, communication, and unselfish play can be more powerful than size. Each game this season has shown how committed they are to playing as a unit, and how that commitment affects their performance on the court.

Our first game set the tone for the season. Facing one of our rival schools, Kemmer, the girls came ready to compete. Their determination and teamwork were evident from the start, but it was the final quarter that truly demonstrated their ability to rely on one another. With strong defense, quick transitions, and excellent communication, they pulled ahead and defeated Kemmer 23–18. This victory immediately grabbed the attention of people watching, who could see how in sync the players were, even this early in the season.

The second game, against Farson–Eden, only strengthened that impression. From the opening tip-off, the girls controlled the game's pace. Their willingness to make the extra pass, support each other on defense, and stay focused helped them secure a confident 36–25 win. The teamwork on display made it clear that their success was no accident - it came from trust and effort.

Our third game, a close matchup against Mountain View, showed the team's resilience. Even when the score tightened, the girls stuck together and communicated effectively, earning a hard-fought 30–27 victory.

Finally, in our game against Limon, the girls played with the same heart and attitude, even though the final score was not in our favor. Limon won 28–22, but the loss did not take away from the progress and unity our team has demonstrated.

Every game this season reflects Phil Jackson's message: when players choose teamwork over individual glory, they create something stronger than any single player. Our team continues to prove that greatness comes from trust, effort, and the willingness to put the *we* before the *me*.

- Paisley Wood



Photos taken by Mrs. Cox



Wrestling

The Cokeville wrestling programs have shown strong performances this season at both the junior high and high school levels. The high school team, coached by Sullivan Teichert, has competed fiercely in regular season duals and invitionals. Notable wins include a 43-24 victory over Mountain View and a 40-12 win against Grace, Idaho. At the 2025 Wyoming State Wrestling Championships, Cokeville placed fourth in the Class 2A team standings, demonstrating the depth and skill of the squad throughout the season.

Meanwhile, the junior high program, led by coaches Mike Thompson and Mark Tims, continues to develop the next generation of wrestlers. The JH team has a roster full of eager competitors who are gaining valuable experience in early-season meets and building the foundation for future success.

Both programs emphasize hard work, sportsmanship, and growth on and off the mat. With strong coaching, dedicated athletes, and solid results, Cokeville wrestling is poised to continue its tradition of excellence through the rest of the season and into future state competitions.

- The Editorial Board, CHS



Photos taken by Mrs. Cox

School News

Concert & Art Show

At the Christmas and *All That Jazz* Concert (2025), the school showed off a wide variety of jazz, mixing full jazz pieces with jazz-style Christmas music that made the whole performance feel energetic and festive. Before the main concert started, small ensembles played prelude music, giving those groups a chance to shine on their own.

The Junior High Choir sang fun Christmas songs like *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer* and *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*, which brought a lighthearted and entertaining vibe to the night. The Mixed Choir added *Caroling*, *Caroling* and *Angels We Have Heard on High* to the program. They even began in the aisles with *Caroling, Caroling*, surrounding the audience with music before heading to the stage.

After that, the Celebration Choir took over with *Carol of the Bells*—even inviting Celebration alumni to join them on stage. The Celebration Choir also performed *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Frosty the Snowman*. All of the performances were high-quality and really fun to watch.

The concert also featured an art showcase, giving students the chance to display their artwork alongside the music and making the whole night feel creative and full.

- Nathan Keller

Editor's Note: Thank You for Your Voice

Change is a conversation, and at Cokeville High School, we are grateful to have a community that speaks with thoughtfulness, care, and pride. When we reached out for feedback on the potential evolution of our student newspaper's name, we hoped to hear from readers, alumni, families, and longtime residents. We did.

Your responses reminded us that tradition and innovation are not opposing forces, they are partners. Some of you shared memories of reading *The Sage*, reflecting on how it has chronicled the achievements, stories, and spirit of our school over the years. Others offered creative suggestions for a name that might better capture the energy and

identity of Cokeville High School today. Every message, every idea, and every thoughtful consideration affirmed the connection between our students and the broader community.

After reviewing your insights and holding a school-wide vote, our students have chosen a name that embodies both pride and spirit: *The Panther Press*. This name celebrates our mascot, a symbol of strength, unity, and resilience that resonates throughout our school's hallways, athletic fields, and classrooms. It acknowledges the past while looking boldly toward the future, ensuring that our publication continues to serve as a vibrant voice for the students who create it and the community that supports it.

We are thankful for the dialogue, the encouragement, and the engagement we received. Change is never a solitary act - it is strengthened by the people who care enough to participate, to share ideas, and to shape the outcome. Your feedback reminded us why Cokeville is more than a town; it is a community of voices, stories, and traditions that matter.

As *The Panther Press* begins its next chapter, we carry forward the lessons of listening, collaboration, and pride that your involvement has reinforced. Thank you for helping us honor our history, embrace our present, and envision a future that celebrates the spirit of Cokeville High School in every issue we publish.

- The Editorial Board, CHS



Special Interest

CHS Yearbook Seeks Community Photo Donations

The CHS yearbook staff is reaching out to our community for help in making this year's edition more comprehensive and representative of student life. As we expand our coverage to include new sections, we're hoping families and friends can contribute photographs that capture the full range of activities our students participate in throughout the year.

New Sections Need Your Photos

This year, we're adding dedicated pages for:

- Hunting
- Winter Sports
- 4-H (and possibly Rodeo)



Photos created by ChatGPT

These activities are an important part of many students' lives, and we want to ensure they're properly represented in the yearbook. However, many of these moments happen outside of school hours, making it difficult for our staff to photograph every event. Additionally, we're looking for great up-close action shots from games throughout the season, especially from state championship competitions. If you captured that perfect moment of intensity, celebration, or athletic achievement, we'd love to include it.

How You Can Help

If you have a loved one at CHS (student, teacher, or support staff) and you have photos of them participating in hunting, winter sports, or 4-H activities, we would be grateful for your donation. High-quality digital photos that show students in action, celebrating achievements, or working with their projects would be ideal.

Photos can be emailed directly to Mrs. Cox at hattie.cox@lcsd2.org. Please include the names of students pictured and a brief description of the activity or event.

Your contributions will help us create a yearbook that truly reflects the diverse talents and interests of our CHS community. Thank you for helping us tell the complete story of this school year.

Community News Welcome

The yearbook staff and newspaper staff are one and the same: the same dedicated students bringing you this paper each week are also working to document the school year in our yearbook. We rely on community input to ensure we don't miss important stories, especially upcoming events. If you know of a newsworthy event on the horizon, whether it's a community achievement, special program, student accomplishment, or anything else you'd like to see covered, please reach out! We want to capture all the moments that make our school and community special.