



Images taken by Mrs. Cox

A Fresh Start at CHS

Going back to school at Cokeville High School is always an exciting time. After a long summer break, it feels good to see friends, teachers, and familiar faces again. The first few days can be a little stressful because everyone is getting used to new classes, schedules, and responsibilities, but they are also a chance to start fresh.

One of the things most enjoyed about returning to school is seeing friends. During the summer, everyone can be busy with vacations, work, sports, or spending time with family. When school starts again, we have the opportunity to catch up and make new memories together. The small-school environment at Cokeville makes it easier to know many of the students and teachers, which creates a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Starting a new school year also means setting new goals. Work hard in classes, turn in assignments on time, and improve in areas where we struggled last year. We also want to participate in school activities and support classmates whenever we can. School is not only about getting good grades; it is also about learning how to be responsible, work with others, and prepare for the future.

Here's to another year at Cokeville High School. Another chance to make great memories and friends. Let's use the many opportunities in Cokeville to have a great year.

- Keegan Haderlie

SBO Kicks Off the School Year with Welcome Back Activities

The first week back at Cokeville High School was about more than new schedules, new classes, and getting used to the alarm clock again. CHS Student Body Officers (SBO) Jackson Willis, Bodee Vierig, Nephi Cook, Cooper Bird, and Logan Halls helped welcome middle and high school students back by organizing activities throughout the first week of school.

The activities gave students a chance to get out of the classroom, spend time with their classmates, and start the new school year with a little friendly competition. The SBO also provided treats to go along with each day's activities, adding another reason for students to look forward to the events.

The fun kicked off Monday, August 24, during second hour with Tug of War, Cross Net, and 9 Square. On Tuesday, students competed in a Dodgeball Tournament during fifth hour.

Wednesday included the annual Welcome Back Assembly and handbook review during sixth and seventh hours. Students also participated in a Kahoot! to add a little competition and fun to the assembly.

The week wrapped up Thursday during eighth hour with water activities and Capture the Flag, giving students one more opportunity to enjoy time together before settling into the regular school routine.

Between the games, competitions, treats, and time spent together, the SBO helped make the transition back to school a little more exciting. Jackson, Bodee, Nephi, Cooper, and Logan put time and effort into planning a week that encouraged students to reconnect after summer break and start the 2026–2027 school year on a positive note.

Thank you to the SBO for helping welcome the Panthers back to CHS!

–Editorial Staff



- Photo taken by CHS Cheer Coaches

Summer Days, Lasting Memories

Summer is one of the best times of the year because there are so many things to do. During the summer, people get a break from school and have more time to relax, have fun, and spend time with family and friends. Everyone spends their summer differently, but there are usually many fun memories to make.

For some people, summer is filled with sports and activities. Basketball practice can take up a lot of time, but it is also a great way to stay active and get better at the game. Practices can be tiring, but playing with teammates and seeing yourself improve makes it worth it. Other people might spend their summer swimming, playing outside, or hanging out with friends.

Going on vacation is another fun part of summer. Families might travel to different places, visit relatives, or go somewhere they have never been before. Vacations are a good chance to take a break from everyday life and make memories together. Even if someone does not go on a big vacation, they can still have fun by going to the pool, having cookouts, going camping, or just spending time outside.

Summer is different for everyone, but that is what makes it special. Some people have busy summers while others spend most of their time relaxing. Whether you are practicing basketball, going on vacation, hanging out with friends, or spending time with family, summer is a time to enjoy yourself and make memories before school starts again.

- Macady Nelson

Fall Flicks: Movies Made for Sweater Weather

As the weather gets cooler and the leaves begin to change colors, it is clear that fall is here. Fall is one of the best seasons of the year because of the cozy atmosphere, colorful leaves, and fun activities. One of the best ways to enjoy the season is by watching a good fall movie.

There are many movies that are perfect for a chilly fall afternoon or a relaxing night at home. One classic fall movie is *Hocus Pocus*, which is a fun choice for people who enjoy Halloween and magic. Another great movie is *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, which combines the spooky feeling of Halloween with the excitement of Christmas.

For people looking for something less spooky, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is a great fall movie. Its warm colors, autumn setting, and funny story make it perfect for the season. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is also a popular choice because of its cozy school setting, magical atmosphere, and fall scenery.

Fall is a season full of warm drinks, changing leaves, and cozy nights. Whether you like funny, spooky, or magical movies, there is a perfect fall movie for everyone.

- MJ Nate



Image created with ChatGPT

For the Love of Fall

Fall, also known as autumn, is one of the four seasons of the year. It comes after summer and before winter. In the Northern Hemisphere, fall usually begins in September and ends in December. n

During fall, the weather becomes cooler, the days become shorter, and the nights become longer.

One of the most noticeable changes during fall is the color of the leaves. Many trees change from green to yellow, orange, red, and brown. The leaves change color because trees produce less chlorophyll when there is less sunlight and the temperatures become colder. Eventually, the leaves fall from the trees and cover the ground. Fall is also an important season for farmers because it is harvest time. Many crops, fruits, and vegetables are collected during this season. Apples, pumpkins, corn, squash, and other foods are commonly harvested in the fall. People often visit farms and orchards to pick apples, choose pumpkins, or explore corn mazes.

There are many fun activities and celebrations during fall. Halloween takes place in October, and Thanksgiving is celebrated in November in the United States. Schools and communities may also have fall festivals, hayrides, bonfires, and seasonal parties. People often enjoy warm drinks, baked goods, and wearing cozy sweaters as the weather gets colder.

Overall, fall is a beautiful season filled with changes and traditions. The colorful leaves, cooler weather, harvests, and fun activities make fall a special time of year. It is a season that brings people together while preparing nature and communities for winter.

- Kora Petersen



Image taken by Kora Petersen

CHS Sports



Image provided by Stace Clark

“[We] are proving that a small team can do great things.”

—Briquette Peck

Fall Cheer

The summer has come to an end, which marks the start of fall sports and school!! The cheer season has started; this team is also known as your school's biggest supporters. A lot of the other students don't realize how much the cheer team helps out around the school. The first “event” the cheer team has is hospitality!! For the volleyball tournament, which is August 28th through August 29th. The girls get up bright and early in the morning to prepare food and run the concession stand for the whole volleyball tournament. The girls' first game that they cheer at this year is a home game on the 1st with Star Valley. For every game, the girls prepare a half time dance to perform for everyone, which keeps the game entertaining. The team keeps getting smaller and smaller, but they thrive with school spirit!!! The team for this fall season is Kora Peterson, Briquette Peck, Paisley Wood, and McKenzie Payne. The coaches are Stace Clark and Stephanie Nate. This is Kora's first year doing cheer, and she says she “likes it” and that “it's fun.” Her favorite part is the hip hop dance. She's most excited for state cheer. Next, I interviewed Briquette Peck about how she feels about cheer this year. She said, “They are proving that a small team can do great things.” Briquette says they're really looking forward to the games, and since they “have gotten used to a small number, they know how to make it work.” People don't realize cheer is a hard sport, and they appreciate when students join in the cheers to make the school spirit extra loud. Don't be afraid to be loud and be you!!!

- Airica Brook

CHS Football

On the first of September, the football team had their first game. They won 45-0.

Kooper Hansell said, “They could have done better, but they still won, so it was good.” They played against Star Valley JV. Cokeville High School put together a dominant performance on the football field, defeating the Star Valley High School junior varsity team 45–0. From the opening kickoff, Cokeville controlled the game on both sides of the ball and never allowed Star Valley to find a rhythm.

Cokeville's offense came out with confidence, moving the football effectively and consistently finding ways to put points on the scoreboard. The Panthers' combination of strong running, timely passing, and physical blocking allowed them to maintain control of the game. Each scoring drive added to Cokeville's momentum and put more pressure on the Star Valley defense.

While the offense provided plenty of highlights, Cokeville's defense was just as impressive. The Panthers kept Star Valley out of the end zone for the entire game, making stops when needed and limiting the opposing offense's ability to sustain drives. Strong tackling, disciplined play, and good communication helped Cokeville preserve the shutout.

As the game continued, Cokeville's depth and overall team effort became increasingly evident. Players throughout the lineup contributed, giving the team valuable experience while maintaining the intensity and focus established early in the contest. The 45-point performance demonstrated the team's ability to execute its game plan and play as a complete unit.

By the final whistle, Cokeville had earned a convincing 45–0 victory. The win was a strong showing for the Panthers and reflected the effort put in during practices and preparation. More importantly, the game gave Cokeville an opportunity to build confidence, develop younger players, and continue improving as the season moves forward.

With a balanced offense and a defense that refused to surrender a point, Cokeville showed that it can be a difficult opponent when playing with energy, discipline, and teamwork. The 45–0 victory provided plenty of momentum and gave the Panthers another positive step forward on the football field.

- Keegan Haderlie



- Photo taken by Mrs. Cox

CHS Sports

CHS Football



Michigan fans fill the stands at Michigan Stadium during a game against BYU.

Photo by Ken Lund/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0.

Going into the game against West Jefferson from Idaho, I knew it was going to be a tough game from the beginning; both teams played hard, and the game stayed close. At halftime, the score was tied 7–7, and we knew we had a good chance to win.

Coming out of halftime, things started to change. West Jefferson scored a couple of times, and suddenly they had a 21–7 lead with about seven minutes left in the fourth quarter. Being down by two touchdowns that late could have made us lose our confidence, but we didn't give up. We knew we still had time to make a comeback.

We started moving the ball down the field and eventually scored, making it 21–14. We kept fighting and got another opportunity to score. When we scored again, the score was 21–20. From where I was on the offensive line, I could feel the energy change. We had just come back from being down 21–7, and now we were one point away from tying the game.

Instead of kicking the extra point, we decided to go for two and try to take the lead. We lined up knowing that this could be the play that decided the game. We gave it everything we had, but unfortunately, we didn't get into the end zone.

Losing 21–20 was tough, especially after fighting our way back. Even though we didn't win, I was proud of our team. I got to see everyone keep fighting when things weren't going our way. We never quit, and that's what I'll remember most about the game.

- Kooper Hansell

College Football

Saturdays in the fall mean more than football for millions of college football fans across the country. Tailgates transform empty parking lots into bustling meeting areas full of food and games. Rivalries so heated people get enraged by the very name of schools other than their own, and tradition so deep it unites not just students, but also alumni, and entire communities.

Rivalries in college football often mean more than just the game itself. Many rivalries have been played for more than 100 years, creating deep traditions, intense competition, and a strong will to win. Some of the most famous rivalries in college football include Michigan vs. Ohio State, Texas vs. Oklahoma, Alabama vs. Auburn, and Utah vs. BYU.

One of the most talked-about games this year was the matchup between Western Michigan and the Michigan Wolverines. Michigan is a nationally ranked, high-level Division I FBS program, while Western Michigan is a smaller FBS school from the Mid-American Conference. Michigan was ahead by one point at halftime, but Western Michigan made two field goals to go up points. Michigan had the ball with little time left and had to resort to a hail mary. The first hail mary was too long and thrown out of bounds so everybody thought the game was over. The refs put one second back on the clock and Michigan was able to connect on the hail mary and win the game.

College football appeals to millions of fans because it is deeply rooted in tradition, community, and school pride. For years, players have stepped onto the field hoping to make a name for themselves and leave behind a legacy that will be remembered long after their playing days are over. From tailgates and rivalries to unforgettable moments on the field, college football brings people together in a way that few other sports can. That combination of tradition, competition, and the opportunity to create lasting memories is what makes college football so special and why it continues to be so highly celebrated by fans across the country.

- Joey Thomas

“College football brings people together in a way that few other sports can.”

- Joey Thomas

Special Interest

Student Spotlight: Airica Brook

This week’s student spotlight shines on Airica, a fun, outgoing, and hardworking student with plenty of personality! Airica is someone who knows how to enjoy life, have a good time, and keep busy with the things she loves.

If you know Airica, you probably know that her favorite color is pink. From clothes to accessories, pink is definitely her color! When it comes to drinks, there is one clear winner: Dr Pepper. Whether she is hanging out with friends or taking a break from a busy day, you can probably find a Dr Pepper nearby.

Outside of school, Airica enjoys taking dance classes. Dancing gives her a chance to have fun, be creative, and express herself. She also has a unique favorite class at school: welding. While welding might not be everyone’s first choice, Airica enjoys learning hands-on skills and getting to work with different tools and materials. Airica is also a big fan of Snapchat. She loves staying connected with her friends, sharing moments, and keeping up with what everyone else is doing. Social media is definitely one of the ways Airica likes to stay in touch.

When she isn’t at school, Airica works at The Buckle in Cokeville, Wyoming. Having a job while going to school takes responsibility and dedication, and Airica is gaining valuable work experience along the way.

Now for the fun fact: Airica is a bad driver! Hopefully, she is getting better behind the wheel - but maybe everyone should keep an eye out when she is driving!

Airica’s birthday is May 27, 2010, making her a spring birthday girl. Between dance, welding, work, friends, and plenty of Dr Pepper, Airica definitely keeps life interesting. We are excited to spotlight Airica and celebrate what makes her one-of-a-kind!

- Shane Nate



Photo taken by Aricia Brook



Photo taken by Bell Photographers

Community Spotlight: Tonya Hatch

Students at Cokeville may know her as one of the paraprofessionals helping around the school, but there is more to her than what students see during the school day. She has worked at either Cokeville Elementary or Cokeville High School since 2012, when her youngest son started school. Before working here, she had a very different career and now enjoys traveling whenever she gets the chance.

What did you do before you became a paraprofessional? “I became a cosmetologist after high school and did hair for a few years until I got married. After we had kids, I stayed home with them until our youngest son, Ammon, went to school.”

What was your favorite subject in school? What was your least favorite subject? “My favorite subject in school was always math. I love numbers and always have numbers going through my head. My least favorite subject was definitely English. I would think I learned a rule for English and then there are always things that didn’t apply to that rule. I always felt like English was a guessing game.”

What do you enjoy doing when you’re not at school? “I love to vacation and plan out vacations. I love to see different places around the world, and find the best deals to get there. (We once found round trip flights from Denver to Florida for \$48!) We are currently planning a trip to Switzerland, Italy, Greece, and Turkey for next summer.”

If you could go back and give your middle-school or high-school self one piece of advice, what would it be? “Be involved in activities! Time goes by so fast, and you don’t want to look back at your high school years and wish that you had been more involved. I look back at high school now, and wish that I had been involved in our high school play, or had tried track.”

What is one of the funniest or most memorable moments you’ve had at school? “I love it when we can laugh at ourselves! One great example of this was Mr. Thomas. Several years ago, he hit some ice on his bike and did all he could to save himself from falling, but it didn’t work out very well for him. They soon discovered that there was video of this on the school cameras. He became very famous that day, as everyone watched the film of Mr. Thomas on the ice! Mr. Thomas was a good sport and laughed along with everyone else.”

From doing hair to planning trips around the world, there are a lot of things students might not know about the people they see at school every day. She also has some good advice for students: get involved and enjoy the opportunities you have while you are in high school.

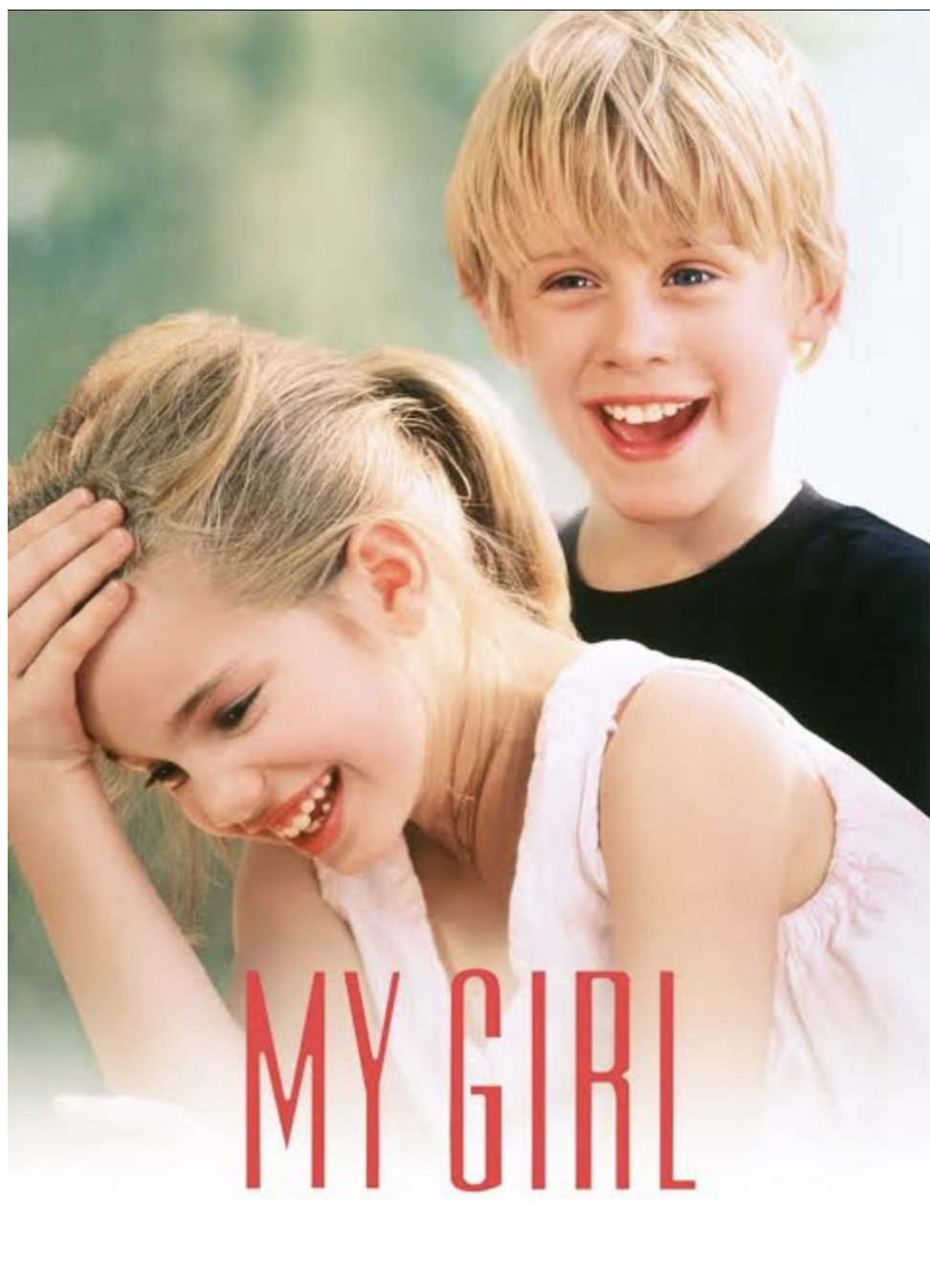
- Editorial Board

Entertainment & Review

Movie Review: *My Girl*

The movie I chose to review is titled *My Girl*. *My Girl* was released in 1991 and directed by Howard Zieff. The main character is a young girl named Vada Sultenfuss, played by Anna Chlumsky. The other main characters are Thomas J. Sennett, played by Macaulay Culkin; Harry Sultenfuss, played by Dan Aykroyd; and Shelly DeVoto, played by Jamie Lee Curtis. The movie follows Vada and Thomas as they spend the summer together and experience friendship, family changes, and growing up. Vada and Thomas are portrayed as 11 to 12-year-olds who are best friends. Vada's mother sadly passed away before the timeline of when this movie began. She lives in the Sultenfuss Funeral Home with her father and grandmother. The movie introduces a new woman who hints at being a future love interest for her father. So, as the movie progresses, so does the relationship between Vada's father and this woman. Vada now has to learn how to deal with her father's love and care for this new woman working in the funeral home, as well as loss. She has to learn how to deal with her mother's death as well as more tragedies later on in the story. It is a heart-wrenching movie for sure. It is so sad, but it has a great plot and storyline. Overall, I would recommend it, especially if you're looking for a sad movie.

- MJ Nate



Book Review: *The Summer I Turned Pretty*

The Summer I Turned Pretty is a book and a movie series about a girl named Isabelle. Her nickname that everyone calls her is Belly.

Laurel's best friend is Susannah Fischer. They have been best friends since college.

Susannah owns the house, and she has two boys named Conrad and Jeremiah. Susannah had cancer before the book, and it was really hard for her.

Belly is in a complicated love triangle while she figures out who she is. She goes to her mom's best friend's summer house every summer and has had a crush on Conrad for a long time. Belly's older brother's name is Steven, and their mom's name is Laurel. Her best friend is a blonde girl named Taylor.

Steven is best friends with Jeremiah and Conrad. He is Belly's older brother. He is kind of in a love triangle for a little while.

Jeremiah and Belly are best friends for a while, but then he starts having feelings for her. He gets in a few fights with Conrad over the summers. He is also a lifeguard.

Conrad used to play football because his dad forced him to, but after his dad left, he quit football. He has a few different girlfriends over the summers.

Belly and Steven have known the Fisher's for their whole lives. It is an exciting and romantic book. They go to parties a lot, and then they start college. I would recommend this book.

- Kora Peterson

School News

CHS Library News!

The most checked-out book: The Selection by Kiera Cass. This month, we do not have a genre of the month. We have 3 display shelves, which are Mrs. Pauni and Miss Call's picks, the first book in a series, and new releases. Any books read off of these shelves will give you double pages to go towards the reading party goal! We just started the reading party incentive, so we do not have any top readers for the month yet.

Activities

1. The reading party started on August 31 and will run until we reach our goal. All books and pages read during this time will count towards earning a class reading party.
2. The reading party will be a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt with reach stations and activities. Students will rotate through each station, completing fun challenges, puzzles, and Halloween-themed tasks while working with their peers.
3. Each week, anyone who tests and passes with 75% or better will get a small treat. This is a way to celebrate their hard work and encourage everyone to keep reading and taking a test.
4. The foot traffic game will be a guess the genre, where kids can come in every day and guess which genre is being described. Clues about mystery books will be posted, and students will write down their guesses. Anyone who gets it right will get a small prize the next day when they come back.

The more we read, the closer we get to having our Halloween party!! Let's work together and encourage each other, and have fun with reading. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Mrs. Pauni or Ms. Call!

-Ariadne Ornelas-Rascon

Auditorium Upgrades Coming This October

Cokeville High School is looking forward to some exciting upgrades to the auditorium this October. New LED lights, a new light board, and new rigging for the curtains are expected to be installed beginning in early October.

The auditorium will likely be closed from October 5 through October 19 while the work is completed. As with any construction project, those dates may change if unexpected issues arise during installation.

Several activities that normally use the auditorium, including a concert, cheer practice, and the high school musical reveal, will be temporarily relocated during the project.

We appreciate the patience and flexibility of our students, staff, families, and community as these much-needed improvements are completed. The upgrades are a significant investment in the auditorium and will help enhance school programs and performances for years to come.

- Editorial Staff

Panthers, Share Your Summer With Us!

Summer may be over, but we know our Panthers made plenty of memories while school was out! The Panther Press and CHS Yearbook staff are asking families and community members to help us capture some of those moments by sharing photos of CHS students participating in summer activities.

We are especially looking for pictures from county and state fair, 4-H activities, rodeos, livestock shows, camps, competitions, community events, summer jobs, family adventures, and other activities our students were involved in over the break. Whether they were showing an animal, competing in the arena, working on a 4-H project, attending a camp, or representing our community somewhere else, we would love to see it!

These photos give us an opportunity to highlight parts of our students' lives that we do not always get to see during the school day. They also help us tell a more complete story of what it means to be a Panther and recognize the many talents, interests, and accomplishments of our students outside of school.

When submitting photos, please include the names of the students pictured and a short description of the activity or event. If you know the date or location, please include that information as well.

We appreciate our families and community members helping us document these memories. Your photos may be featured in an upcoming edition of *The Panther Press* or in this year's CHS Yearbook.

Help us make sure our students' summer accomplishments and adventures are part of the story!

- Editorial Staff

Other Upcoming Events

September 17

| CES & CHS Picture Day

September 23

| CHS Choices Matter Assembly, 12:45–2:15 p.m.

September 28–October 2

| CHS Homecoming Week

October 5

| CES PTO Meeting, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

October 8

| CES & CHS Reunification Practice

October 13

| CHS Music Concert, 7:30 p.m.

October 14

| CHS Musical Reveal, 3:30 p.m.