



THE COLT CHRONICLE

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Katelyn Lagnese, Sponsor



Sometime in elementary school, I learned the truth behind Christmas. I realized that Santa wasn't real, and my parents were the ones buying me presents all along. I struggled to find the magic in Christmas for years after this epiphany, and the many holiday seasons after felt dull and lifeless. However, as I'm about to experience my last Christmas living at home, I've chosen to take something more out of this occasion.

Just because there isn't an immortal, jolly man sliding down our chimneys to drop off presents doesn't mean Christmas isn't special. In a world where tragedy happens every day, it's important to try to find happiness. Christmas provides just that. From the joyful music and funny movies to the gift shopping and fights in the snow, Christmas festivities are truly one of a kind. You see distant family for what may be the first time in years. You decorate your home with bright lights and a tree full of memories. You partake in new and old traditions and celebrations, like Secret Santa or a fireworks show. You appreciate all that you have before the clock resets for the new year. Christmas provides an escape from the stresses of life (and the unbearable heat of the summer). It allows you to appreciate the gift of life and see the blessings that have been given to you. Christmas can be magical for a multitude of reasons; you just have to be willing to embrace it.

Letter from the Editor by Alyssa Vassel

Christmas was always my favorite holiday when I was growing up. I was never big on Thanksgiving, so the Christmas countdown started on November 1. I'd watch *Home Alone* and *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* every year by the fireplace with a cup of hot chocolate. I decorated our tree with ornaments that my brother and I made ourselves. I spent weeks crafting and painting the perfect gifts for my parents. I wore ugly Christmas sweaters and pajamas every day. Most importantly, I anxiously waited for Santa to bring me my gifts. Every year, I wrote a letter to the North Pole detailing every item on my wishlist. I kept an Elf on the Shelf, named Danielle, who I was sure would let Santa know how well-behaved I was. I left out milk and cookies on Christmas Eve and would periodically walk around during the night to try to catch St. Nick. When the morning came, I yelled at all of my family members to get up so I could see what Santa brought me. I opened my presents with a wide smile on my face and the certainty that Christmas was the most wonderful time of the year. As I got older, this feeling changed.

So now, I still watch cheesy holiday movies, enjoy festive snacks in a cozy corner, decorate my home with an obscene amount of lights, gather gifts for my friends and family members, wear hideous Christmas clothing, and wake up with a smile on my face on Christmas Day. I hope none of you take this holiday season for granted, and have a very merry Christmas!

All Around Lee by Katelyn Brocato

It's time to gear up for the holiday season! Here are some upcoming events for the month of December:

- Spanish I and II Exams on Thursday, December 7th
- Winter Formal on Saturday, December 9th (The junior high dance is from 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. The high school dance is from 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. You must get wristbands and forms from Reece Spinks. Each wristband is \$20.)

- Exam Review on Monday, December 11 through December 12
- EXAMS on Wednesday, December 13 through December 15
- Christmas Break! Monday, December 18 to Sunday, January 7

The house that donated the most to Initiative Club's Care Station Food Drive is... Orlov! Thank you for your donations and for supporting the Care Station as they prepare for the holiday season, and enjoy your homework passes.

On Tuesday, November 14, 9th grade students visited and played Bingo with residents of Flowers Manor. This activity and outing correlates to a Community Service Unit in 9th grade computer class. Students learned to use digital skills to plan and organize a service project that would benefit their school or community. They collaborated in small groups and organized spreadsheets to plan tasks, assign task owners, track task status, and plan other important information for their project. Each of the five class groups selected a project, completed a spreadsheet, and then created a slideshow to showcase their project ideas to the class. Each group was creative, and their presentations were entertaining to watch. All students then voted on which project they wanted to work on first using a Google Form. Students also designed and created social graphics relevant to their project to share and showcase and thank you notes for the residents.



Holiday Celebrations by Emmie Smith

People can find joy in the holiday season in many different ways. Unique traditions, celebrations, and activities are what make this time of year so special. Here are a few quotes from Lee students and staff on what their favorite part of the holiday season is:

Lucy Beth Anthony: *"Lighting the candles on the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah and doing all the prayers with my family."*

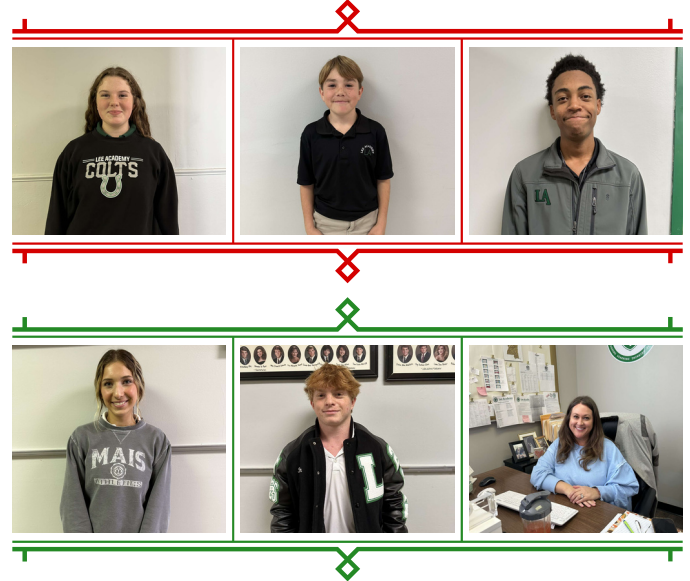
Stanley Dodson: *"My favorite part is eating steak at my grandparents' house while looking at the fish outside."*

Camarian Hudson: *"Eating cookies on Christmas Eve."*

Ella Williamson: *"Watching The Polar Express with my brothers every Christmas Eve."*

Bram Harris: *"Making gingerbread houses."*

Mrs. Kristin Orr: *"Decorating the tree, watching Christmas movies, and going to Christmas Eve mass."*



Colt and Filly Sports by Tatum Young

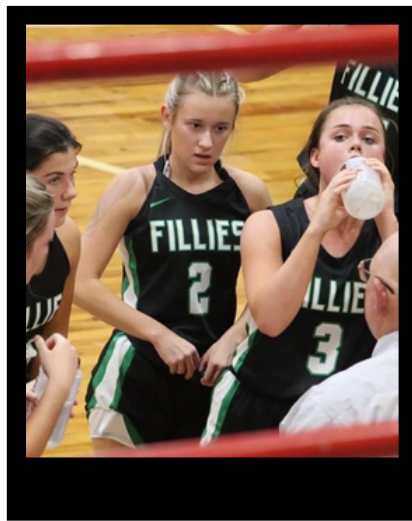
Congratulations to William Walker, Tanner Fava, and Will Moser for being selected to play in the MAIS All-Star game! Coach Johnston was also selected to coach in the All-Star game.

Basketball is in full swing. The high school girls are 6-1, only losing to Delta Academy. All of the teams are working very hard, and we are very proud of them. Their next game is December 5 at home against Indianola, which is a conference game.

The boys soccer team won their first game of the season 2-1 against Pillow Academy on November 13th. Their next game is today versus St. Joe at home.



Pictures by Meredith Whitworth



Senior Spotlights by Kelly Chow



John Oliver

John Oliver has attended Lee since the 7th grade. He scored a 26 on the ACT and is on the Headmaster's List. John's advice for the underclassmen is to keep your grades up and try not to miss school. When asked about his favorite teacher, he said, "My favorite teacher would definitely be

Mr. Natalizio (even though he isn't here anymore) because he showed me how important a good work ethic is in life." He plans to major in Economics.



Luke Eubank

Luke Eubank has attended Lee since the 7th grade. He is on the AB Honor Roll. Luke's advice for the underclassmen is to study and do everything they can to be exempt. When asked about his favorite teacher, he said it "has to be Mrs. Noland because she is so laid back

and nice." His favorite memory is when Warner sniffed Coach Flo's smelling salts and almost cried. He plans to major in Agribusiness/Management.



Kelly Chow

Kelly Chow has attended Lee from K-5 to the 4th grade and from the 7th grade on. She has received Honor Roll awards. Kelly was a favorite show nominee in 9th grade and served on the Homecoming court in the 11th grade. She is a member of the Initiative Club, Crown Club, the

Colt Chronicle Newspaper staff, and the National Honor Society. When asked about her favorite memory at Lee, Kelly said, "My favorite memory is when Alyssa and I went on 'adventures' during P.E. class." She plans to major in Aviation Operations Management at Delta State.



Movies by Hallie Reece Pitts

The month of December really begins the Christmas spirit. During December, I love to watch Christmas movies to get me into the holiday mood. Here is a list of my favorite Christmas movies for you to watch this month!

The Holiday - Dumped and depressed, English rose Iris agrees to swap homes with similarly unlucky in love Californian Amanda for a much-needed break. Iris finds herself in a palatial Hollywood mansion while Amanda navigates the lanes of a picture-perfect English village. Soon enough, both lovelorn ladies bump into local lads perfect for a romantic pick-me-up.

Christmas With The Kranks - Finally alone for the holidays, Luther and Nora Krank plan to eschew the Christmas traditions and take a cruise in the Caribbean instead. This doesn't sit well with their Christmas-obsessed neighbors Vic Frohmeyer and Walt Scheel, who are determined to win the annual "best decorated street" competition, and the Kranks soon find themselves social outcasts because of their lack of Christmas spirit.

The Grinch - In this live-action adaptation of the beloved children's tale by Dr. Seuss, the reclusive green Grinch decides to ruin Christmas for the cheery citizens of Whoville. Reluctantly joined by his hapless dog, Max, the Grinch comes down from his mountaintop home and sneaks into town to swipe everything holiday-related from the Whos. However, the bitter grump finds a hitch in his plans when he encounters the endearing Cindy Lou Who.

The Santa Clause 2 - Scott Calvin has been in the role of Santa for the past eight years, and his loyal elves consider him the best one ever. But the world of the "Merry Old Soul" turns upside down when he's dealt a double whammy of news: Not only has his son, Charlie, landed on this year's naughty list, but Scott discovers that he must marry by Christmas Eve -- just a month away! -- or he will stop being Santa Claus forever.

Home Alone (ALL OF THE HOME ALONES) - When bratty 8-year-old Kevin McCallister acts out the night before a family trip to Paris, his mother (Catherine O'Hara) makes him sleep in the attic. After the McCallisters mistakenly leave for the airport without Kevin, he awakens to an empty house and assumes his wish to have no family has come true. But his excitement sours when he realizes that two con men (Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern) plan to rob the McCallister residence, and that he alone must protect the family home.



POP into 2000's Culture by Morgan Hollowell and Kenzie Cook

Music

Time to talk about two of my favorite things — Christmas and music! Christmas is just a few short weeks away and there are many ways to get in the holiday spirit. You either love it or you hate it, but one main way to celebrate is Christmas music. You of course have the Christmas classics such as “Rockin’ Around The Christmas Tree” by Brenda Lee, “Last Christmas” by Wham!, and “Jingle Bell Rock” by Bobby Helms. You also can listen tunes by the king of Christmas music himself, Michael Bublé; he has many different Christmas songs out. Another option is the Elvis Presley Christmas album if that is more your style. For the more pop music approach, it cannot be a Christmas playlist without “Christmas Tree Farm” by Taylor Swift and “Christmas the Whole Year Round” by Sabrina Carpenter. Go to any streaming platform and search up Christmas music playlists to see what you like!

Celebrity Gossip

Jelly Roll is known for the songs "Save Me" and "Need a Favor," which helped him win the Best New Artist of 2023 CMA Award. As he received his award and gave his exciting speech, his big night ended up with a big oops. Shortly after speaking with The Tennessean at the 57th Annual CMA Awards, the country singer dropped and shattered the award he was handed on stage. Not to worry though, they had generic trophies backstage. Lainey Wilson was the top nominee for the 2023 CMA Awards, with nine nods. Wilson was also the top nominee last year, with six nods. Wilson is the first artist in CMA history to top the nominations list in her first two appearances on the final ballot. She was nominated because of her strong spirit and her dedication to the work of breaking down barriers for her fellow women.

Mental Health by Aila Newton

During the winter holidays, there is a phenomenon called seasonal depression. Seasonal depression is caused by the weather in a way. When the cold air hits your body, it can cause discomfort and just make you want to go back into your bed where it's warm. This can be a very bad habit and cause extended feelings of depression. However, there are many things that you can do during the chilly winter months that you could enjoy and keep warm doing. Watching movies with a warm drink and blankets are a nice way to relax without worry, and it may be even better with friends or family. You can find a good book or do little Christmas crafts to divert your focus. Laying down increases your chances of anxiety and depression. Another way to have fun this winter is by attending Winter Formal! You can have a fun night filled with laughs and dances with your best friends. Regardless, remember to continue to take care of your mental health as the seasons are changing and enjoy this holiday season!

Fashion by Lily Gist

Color on color. If you wear a fun-colored top or bottoms, why immediately pair it with a neutral color like white or black? You're boring, that's why. Common sense tells us, "Oh, I have a pink sweater, that'll go great with my white skirt." True, but why does no one immediately think "Oh, I have a pink sweater, that'll go great with my green pants?" It's okay to wear colors that wouldn't normally go together. Fashion has no rules, and that's why it's fun. I'm not saying you're never allowed to pair a color with white or black, sometimes it just goes better or it's not the occasion. However, that also doesn't mean that you should never try color on color.



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



Christmas
Santa
Holiday
Tree
Ornaments

Presents
Snowflakes
Gingerbread
Merry
Candycane

Reindeer
Toys
Ribbon



HOMEMADEHEATHER.COM

CHRISTMAS CANDY Match Game

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| _____ 1. Cowboy Santa | A. MARSHMALLOWS |
| _____ 2. Star of Bethlehem | B. SOUR PATCH KIDS |
| _____ 3. Mischievous Elves | C. BABY RUTH |
| _____ 4. Christmas Shopping Bill | D. TAKE 5 |
| _____ 5. Santa's Drink of Choice | E. 100 GRAND |
| _____ 6. North Pole | F. STARBURST |
| _____ 7. Reindeer Break | G. CLARK BAR |
| _____ 8. Holiday Happiness | H. MILK DUDS |
| _____ 9. Snowman Poop | I. JOLLY RANCHER |
| _____ 10. Infant Jesus | J. CANDY CANE |
| _____ 11. Shepherd's Staff | K. SNO-CAPS |
| _____ 12. Lots of Gifts | L. ALMOND JOY |
| _____ 13. Santa's Sleigh | M. MOUNDS |
| _____ 14. Christmas Shopping | N. SPREE |
| _____ 15. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation | O. SKYBAR |



Christmas WORD GAME

Make as many words as you can out of the word Christmas!

Example: Hat

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



Nilo
T O Y S

