The Cougar Chronicle

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HK Players Perform 'Beauty and the Beast'

By Samantha Pach

With only two months to stage and perform the show, the HK Players performed an amazing weekend of shows for their first live audience show in two years when they staged “Beauty and the Beast” on May 6-7.

Ryan Thompson took on the role of student-director and brought the show to life. Payton Kasperzyk (Belle) and Tyson Glazier (Beast) shined on stage as the story followed “a tale as old as time.”



From left: Micheal Vaughn, Maddie Keithan, Samantha Pach, Pooja Badami, and Ava Loughlin.

We meet the people of Belle’s provincial town and laugh at the antics of Lefou (Jackie Flaherty) and Gaston (Jake McGoey), while enjoying the heartwarming relationship between Belle and her father Maurice (Charles Petrie). The amazing ensemble rounded out the scenes in the town and tavern with their great singing and dancing.

As Belle began her stay in the enchanted castle, we met the tightly wound Cogsworth (Maddie Keithan), humorous Lumiere (Michael Vaughn), loving Mrs. Potts (Ava Loughlin) and her adorable son Chip (Kasha Topa-Jones), larger than life Wardrobe (Samantha Pach), and lovesick Babette (Pooja Badami). As the flatware told jokes and did tricks, the audience was once again wooed and awed by the amazing ensemble.

"Not only was the cast amazing, but the student pit and crew were, as well."

Not only was the cast amazing, but the student pit and crew were, as well. With flawless page flips and set changes, the show was able to come to life with the help of the entire team’s endless dedication.

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Opinion:

Is Connecticut Really As Bad As Some Say?

By Alex Lara

"This state stinks – I wish I lived somewhere else" is a sentiment often expressed by students. Are there valid reasons for this disparagement of our home state, or is this just a case of the grass being greener?

Among the top complaints raised by disgruntled Nutmeggers is that this state is small and boring. It is undeniably true our state is small by area (3rd smallest of 50). Still, our pride can be somewhat preserved knowing we are larger than our neighbor Rhode Island.

On the topic of geography, it has often been said that Connecticut is a desirable location, being more or less equidistant from NYC and Boston. However, proximity to attractions outside of the state could strengthen the case that there is nothing to do here.

Are there attractions in the state worth seeing? Connecticut is ranked 43 out of 50 in terms of entertainment and 42nd in attracting tourists from out of state. A number of key attractions come to mind like Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun, or sports like UCONN women's basketball. There are also a good number of smaller scale attractions like museums and parks. Regardless, more attractions come to mind beyond our state's borders.

The weather is an irritation for some, whether it's too hot in the summer, too cold in the winter, or constantly flip-flopping between two extremes in the transitional months. The comparatively constant, warm climate of Southern states are often envied, but some still enjoy the variation and beauty of the changing New England seasons.

Lastly, taxes are a perennial nuisance. True, Connecticut ranks 49th out of 50 in terms of the severity of state taxes. However, we supposedly benefit from this with better public services, as well as enviable health care and law enforcement, reflected by a low crime rate.

What are Connecticut's strengths? We certainly have a fair degree of natural beauty, what with the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, and 139 state parks in the 14th most forested state in the country. There is also undeniable historical character to Connecticut as one of the 13 original colonies. It cannot be forgotten that one of the stripes and one of the stars on the flag represent Connecticut. That said, many couldn't care less about our state's history, even if the Connecticut Compromise was instrumental in creating the Constitution. If the polls are to be believed, Connecticut is the 10th happiest state with a quality of life in the upper half of the 50 states.

Is Connecticut the best state? Probably not. But it is surely far from the worst, and many of the alleged problems are exaggerated.

"Everywhere in the US stinks right now," says one HK student. "But if you had to live somewhere, Connecticut is a good bet. We are a safe state with good pay, better services, good state parks, and other public areas."

Clearly, there is still ample reason to be a proud, or at least content, Nutmegger.

Cougars Excel during Spring Sports Season

By Keslie Piela

HK athletes have completed a successful spring season. Here are the highlights:

Track

The boys' and girl's track teams kept up their legacy this season with undefeated records. The girls ended with a 5-0 record and the boys ended with a 4-0 record. This makes four

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consecutive undefeated seasons for the boys and two for the girls. Both track teams capped off their perfect season with a Shoreline Championship on May 25.

At the state Class M meet on June 2, the girls finished 7th and the boys 8th. Top finishers for the girls included Jess Timothy (2nd in long jump and 5th in high jump) and Isabel Berardino (4th in the 3200 run). Top finishers for the boys were Caleb Freeman (4th in 3200 run), Matt Lara, Andrew Hedges, Alex Lara, and Freeman (3rd in 8x400 relay), Cooper Howes (3rd in pole vault), Orion Inkel (2nd in triple jump), and Aidan Law (4th in long jump).

Softball

The softball team had a strong regular season, ending with a 19-3 overall record and a top Shoreline record of 14-2. The team won its first Shoreline tournament game over East Hampton, 13-3, but fell short of a championship, losing to eventual champ North Branford, 5-0.

The softball team earned a first-round bye and defeated Wilcox Tech, 20-4 in the second round of the state tournament. In the quarterfinals, the team lost to Oxford, 7-0.

Baseball

The baseball team had a strong season this spring, finishing with a 13-7 record, yet one more winning season for Coach Mark Brookes, who has suffered only one losing season since starting the baseball program in 1977.

The team entered the state tournament as a 13-seed and defeated Bullard-Havens, 15-0, but lost to Joel Barlow, 4-1, in the second round.

Boys' Lacrosse

The boys' lacrosse team had a dominant season with a 12-3 overall record and a 10-2 Shoreline record. They solidified their spot in the Shoreline championship with a 10-6 victory over Valley in the semi-finals and beat Morgan, 7-6, in a comeback victory in the championship game at Indian River Complex on May 26.

The boys began the Class S state tournament on June 1 as the No. 8 seed and beat Tolland, 7-1. In the second round, the boys defeated Waterford , 9-6, to advance to the semi-finals where they lost to Weston, 16-4.

Girls' Lacrosse

While the girls' lacrosse team did not have a championship run, they still had a much-improved season compared to recent years. The team finished the regular season with a 7-9 overall record and a 5-7 Shoreline mark. The girls finished fourth in the conference, earning a spot in the tournament where they lost to eventual champion Old Saybrook, 16-3. This was the first Shoreline tournament appearance for the girls in nine years.

The team also earned a play-in spot in the Class S state tournament and beat Montville, 8-7, May 28 to advance to the first round of states where Old Saybrook beat them, 17-7.

Girls' Tennis

The girls' tennis team finished with an 0-14 and did not earn a spot in the tournaments. While their season is over, they did have a fun and competitive year.

Boys' Tennis

The boys' tennis team enjoyed a more successful season as compared to the recent past, compiling a 4-8 record this season.

Golf

The boys' golf team finished the season with a 4-6-1 record, qualifying the Cougars for a spot in the Shoreline tournament. The boys finished 4th overall in the tourney and qualified for the state Division II tourney.

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Where Will HK Seniors Go from Here?



Nikki Ackerman – Middlesex CC
Norie Allen – Liberty University
Adam Alonz – Eastern Connecticut
Evan Baird – Clarkson University
Gabe Barile – Western New England
Wesley Baucom – Virginia Tech
Duncan Beauchamp – undecided
Alyssa Bredefield – UConn
Caleb Bump – Middlesex CC
Megan Butler – Keene State
Tori Carlson – URI
Eve Ceplenski – Eastern Connecticut
Sydney Cheverier – Work
Declan Christopher – Keene State
Hadley Commerford – UConn
Bryce Connelly – Wentworth
Andrew Conti – WPI
Ly-Linh Criscuolo – UConn
Kayla Davis – UMaine
Ava DiMatteo – U of New Hampshire
Ryan Duncanson – Clemson
Jackie Flaherty – UConn
Andrew Fleig – George Washington
Madison Fontanella – UConn
Caleb Freeman – Allegheny College
Nick Glynn – UHart
A.J. Grasso – work
Sierra Hajek – Florida Gulf Coast
Andrew Hedges – Central Connecticut
Samantha Height – Middlesex CC
Julian Houde – Eastern Connecticut
Cooper Howes – U.S. Marine Corps
Yumiko Imai – Brown University
Trevor Izzo – UConn
Lucas Kamoen – Western New England
Madeline Keithan – Connecticut College
Tobias Ketchedjian – Southern Florida
Charles Koepke – Central Connecticut
Josh Kulak – undecided
Caitlin Lamy – UConn
Madison LaTouche – Middlesex CC
Aidan Law – Keene State
Emma Lopez – Central Connecticut
Riley Mack – UConn
Melissa Manley – U of New Haven
Kyle Mazzotta – George Washington
Walker McCarthy – Middlesex CC
Shea McNamara – Plymouth State
Kathryn McQueeney – Middlesex CC
Joe Mercier – Bryant
Sean Mercier – Wentworth
Greyson Merola – Norwich U
Brianna Minervino – Quinnipiac
Matthew Mucciacciaro – Full Sail U
Kameron Narducci – Temple
Jacob Nelson – U.S. Coast Guard
Preston Nelson – Middlesex CC
Jaden Newman – U of New Haven
Grayson Norman – URI
Christ Pastore – Aerotech Engineering
Corey Phipps – Middlesex CC
Rhianna Phipps – URI
Matteo Piacenti – UMass
Laura Rauscher – Middlesex CC
Leevard Reddy – undecided
Carly Rettberg – Dean College
Libby Riggs – Bowdoin College
Tyler Robinson – Keene State
David Schuster – Wentworth
Charlotte Selmer – U of New Hampshire
Hayden Smith – RIT
Audrey Snyder – Lehigh
Emily Sorrentino – Endicott
Leah Sosnowski – American U
Joseph Spell-Ryan – undecided
Scarlett Strom – WPI
Ryan Strick – undecided
Kylie Studzinski – U of Delaware
Olivia Swanson – RIT
Ava Tassmer – U of Vermont
Ryan Thompson – Laguna College of Art/Design
Jess Timothy – Keene State
Savannah Torello – Farmingdale State
Sophia Torello – Plymouth State
Elanna Tousignant – UConn
Isabella Virgulto – URI
Shelby Welsch – Mississippi State U
Alexis Wetteman – Southern Connecticut
Olivia Wetteman – Eastern Connecticut
Ben Williams – Dartmouth College
Ethan Wright – Middlesex CC
Sam Young – U of Utah