December 2024 Vol. 34, No. 3

The Cougar Chronicle

The Student Newspaper of Haddam-Killingworth High School

Broadcast and Journalism Students Visit NBC-CT

By Myra Cortes

HK journalism and broadcast students ventured to NBC and Telemundo's studio in West Hartford on Nov. 15 to learn more about the news behind-the-scenes and get an inside look at a professional TV studio.



NBC Connecticut's anchor Kevin Nathan discusses TV news with HK's Reagan Aronson.

The trip started with a tour of the building, which led to small discussion rooms, where students got to talk with the head of human resources and gain insight into different jobs within the studio and the world of news.

Afterwards, students met with Taylor Kinzler, the lifestyle reporter, for a Q&A. Students asked questions on how they could get into the field and about Taylor's journey to where she is now. Getting first-hand experience and the opportunity to talk to Ms. Kinzler offered many insights.

Many students expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the trip. Chloe Oboma said, "It was a really good opportunity for me especially because I'm planning on working in journalism. It was fun to be with my friends and I was glad I could go."

Other students said they loved the experience of the real world and, of course, the trip to McDonald's afterwards.

HKTV Prepares for 36th Annual Holiday Telethon

By Reagan Aronson

The annual HK Holiday telethon will take place Friday, Dec. 20, from 8 to 11 a.m. This year's show is benefiting HK Youth and Family Services and the community events, support programs, youth development, and other programs that they offer. The non-profit organization needs donations to continue their work within the community and build their program.

HKTV students have been hard at work since the start of October planning and preparing for the live event, interviewing, filming, editing, and scripting to make the show run as smoothly as possible. This year's producer is Molly O'Neal who will be directing the three hours of the broadcast. Hosting the show this year will be Lindsay Blade, Joey Jacobs, Tristen Edwards, Myra Cortes, Hazel Doyle, and Gabby Lopez.

Segments to look forward to include youth development with horses, meeting the crew, holiday music reviews, and more. Live entertainment will also be broadcast throughout the show from elementary school choirs to

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)
individual high school talent. In the past, students have performed songs, dance routines, and more.



Throughout the show, donations of $25 or more will join other donors in the fish bowl. Businesses from around the area have donated prizes that will be given out to a lucky handful of names pulled live during the day.

The event will run live on Comcast channel 18, Frontier channel 6090, and online at Holidayshow.rsd17.org.

Clubs Off to Successful Start This School Year

Emma Castiglioni

HK clubs and extracurricular activities have conducted many successful activities over the course of the year so far.

The HK Math League has had a very successful year, participating in five meets, three varsity and two JV. The JV team has placed first for both meets, scoring much higher than other schools. Their latest meet was on Dec. 12 at RHAM. Varsity earned second place in their last meet about three weeks ago.

The Environmental Club works with the community to help improve the environment and the Earth. They've recently been putting up stickers on windows around the building to prevent birds from flying into windows. They plan to have a promotion for an eco-friendly Christmas during the Holiday Show. They are also teaming up with the Killingworth Land Trust to find new places for bat boxes. The club is also working on establishing more recycling bins throughout the school for items such as markers and athletic shoes.

The Student Council is on to their next project after organizing Homecoming, hosting a Secret Santa on the day of the Holiday Show. People who signed up have already been assigned. People who are receiving presents will be given these presents by Santa.

Restaurant Review: Sally's Apizza of New Haven

By Jacob Lamarre & Andrew Crayton

Sally's Apizza is a family-owned pizza restaurant in New Haven. Sally's has been celebrated as one of the best pizza places in the country for multiple decades. Known for its thin crust, delicious tomato sauce, and iconic char, its reputation makes it a must-visit spot for all pizza lovers.

Andrew and I went to Sally's during rush hour on a Tuesday night. We had trouble parking but no trouble getting a table, which surprised us.

Once we were seated, we could not help but notice the great atmosphere. There were old-fashioned tables, pictures on the walls, and classical music playing in the background. We had great service from our waiter Pat. He took the time to give us a complete rundown of the menu.



The menu at Sally's is very simple, focusing on the thin crust pizza with a variety of toppings to choose from. After some brainstorming, Andrew and I ultimately decided to order the classic cheese pizza. While the crust was thin and had a perfect char, it seemed that

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)
the tomato sauce and cheese didn't give us the much-talked-about flavor that we had anticipated. The balance of the flavors didn't taste right. Andrew even stated that, "The pizza was so expensive and I like my cheese drippy!"

Overall, Sally's gives you a good experience but I didn't see why it had so much hype. A medium 15-inch plain cheese pizza costs $24.50 before tax and a tip. If you were to add soda and an appetizer, the bill will run around $50 for an average-tasting pizza that I could have finished by myself. We believe that there are other pizza places in New Haven that are better quality and more affordable.

Putting aside the history and ambiance of Sally's Apizza, our opinion is that it is not a good place to go if you want tasty, affordable pizza. We do think it's worth a visit for those who want to explore New Haven's pizza legacy. However, from our experience, the flavor didn't live up to the hype. It's a much-talked-about spot for pizza enthusiasts but fell short for us.

America Features Many Cultural Holiday Traditions

By Emma Castiglioni

The United States is a diverse country that celebrates many different cultures and their holidays. Some of these most notable holidays include Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. It is likely that many people you know celebrate each holiday.

In the United States, Christmas is the most widely celebrated holiday, along with many other cultural celebrations. Christmas in America follows the customs of countries like France, United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, and Mexico.

Many people attend church on Christmas day as a celebration of the birth of Jesus. However, it has evolved into a decorative holiday. To kids, Christmas is the night when Santa Claus comes. This infamous holiday consists of people getting together with their families, decorating a Christmas tree, making cookies, and receiving gifts. This holiday is some people's most favorite day of the year.

The first recorded Christmas tree lot selling trees in the United States was in New York in 1851. Christmas carols are also very popular during the holiday season, featuring songs like "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Let it Snow," "Deck the Halls," and many more. American families also decorate their house with colorful lights and gather around the fireplace to exchange gifts.

Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday, celebrates the historic day when the Jews rebelled against their king, Antiochus IV, regaining control of Jerusalem and rededicating the Temple.



However, during their rebuilding of the Temple, they only had enough oil to burn the candle for one day. Unexpectedly, the candle burned for eight days, creating the iconic tradition.

Hanukkah is known as the "festival of lights" and comes from the Hebrew word meaning "to dedicate." There are eight candles on the menorah, and a candle is lit each day of Hanukkah. Each candlestick is called a "Hanukiah," which represents one day of the miracle that occurred.

Hanukkah in America consists of many fun games, hymns, rituals, and toys. Families play a game using a dreidel, a cube-shaped dice that consists of one Hebrew letter on each side. Participants take turns spinning the dreidel, and the letter it lands on determines whether you win or lose the game. Many foods are also made during this cultural holiday, such as latkes (potato pancakes) and donuts.

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday celebrated in the United States. The

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)
word Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza," referring to the first fruits and harvest festivals in Africa. During Kwanzaa, families gather to remember the history of Africa.

Kwanzaa lasts one week, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. Similar to Hanukkah, each night a candle is lit. A *karina* holds these seven candles: three red candles, three green candles, and a black candle in between. These candles represent the Pan-African flag. On each day, a different principle is honored: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith). On the sixth day of Kwanzaa, a meal called Karamu occurs. This meal can contain any dish, including fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, red velvet cake, and more.

What Are HK Families Doing Over the Break?

By Eleanor Barry

Nearing the end of the year, many people celebrate the holidays in their own way with their own special traditions. These traditions can include traveling, hanging out or seeing friends and relatives, eating different foods, and festive decorations. The holidays are a time to enjoy company with your family and celebrate however you please.

After interviewing several students, it is evident that while some have many of the same traditions, there are also many things people do differently. There is a variety of food people eat around the holidays.

Freshmen Emma Castiglioni and Julian Maresca have a tradition where they have a big dinner with most of their family from many different states and towns, and part of their dinner is a ham. Castiglioni has her own tradition with family where they make different types of food such as monkey bread and anginetti cookies.

Some people also have foods they hold close to their heart because of a tradition that has been around for many years. Ms. Maude Bing, Spanish teacher, has a special breakfast that consists of cream, strawberries, and shredded wheat. This Christmas breakfast has been in her family for over 100 years.

Along with the foods, many people have differences in where they go or who visits them. Some host a big Christmas dinner and have their family come to them, while others travel out of town or state to be with their extended families. Ms. Kate Mayer, while staying in Connecticut, hangs out with her family from different areas. However, for the new year she visits her friend's cabin and goes skiing.

Calling All HK Artists!

By Miss Zagata

The Cougar Chronicle is looking for student talent. If you are an artist, we want your work to be featured in an upcoming edition of *The Cougar Chronicle.*

The following will be accepted: drawings, paintings, sculptures, ceramics, metal- and woodwork, and photography.

Scan the QR code below, and it will take you to a Google Form to complete and to upload your art or a picture of your art. We look forward to showcasing awesome HK talent!

The Cougar Chronicle

The H-K High School Student Newspaper
Higganum, CT 06441
Advisors: Mr. Keck and Mr. Kish