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The Cougar Chronicle

The Student Newspaper of Haddam-Killingworth High School

Student Equity Advisory Board Hosts Town Meetings

By Christopher Saunders-Roberts

HK students took part in a "Town Meeting" on Apr. 9 in which they were audience members of the student-led assembly. The Student Equity Advisory board, composed of students of different grades and backgrounds, led this meeting as an introduction to the group and to give insight to the things we've seen and experienced around our school.

The format included three sessions, one per grade, with the board presenting stories and taking questions that engaged the audience. Topics discussed included racism, sexism, and the bystander effect, amidst reasons and rationale for why we must improve our school community in this way.

Students were given blue and yellow cards, and asked a series of questions, each one arguably harder than the last. The yellow cards were to agree with a statement and the blue were to disagree. Across all grade levels, there was an abundance of people holding up their yellow cards, meaning many agreed that they've been witness to slurs, hate speech, and spontaneous bigotry. There were also a few people in the audience who spoke and shared their connections to the topics discussed, letting their peers and board members know that an event like this was needed. At the end, students signed their cards as a personal pledge to improve the school culture.

More than 30 people signed up out of the three classes to continue this work. Next steps for the group include building a mural with all cards that were signed, a potential segment in the morning announcements, in addition to weekly motivationals, and branching out the core group to create leaders of specific tasks and missions. As the school year reaches its end, the club looks for people to do their best to maintain respect – which they'll be doing as well – as they map out the things they can do next school year.



Declan Moriarty, Chistopher Sanders-Roberts, Aria Cummings, Payton Rich, and Catherine Nyugen facilitate the Town Meetings on Apr. 9.

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Students Travel to France During Spring Break

By Reagan Aronson

Thirty-two HK students traveled to France over April vacation chaperoned by five teachers and led by French teacher Madame Christine Kehrley. The group spent nine days touring three different regions, learning about historical monuments, and eating traditional French cuisine.

Students who had taken a minimum year of French in the high school had the opportunity to travel on this trip, but the majority of the group currently still takes various levels of the class.

Students currently taking French classes were able to transfer what they've learned in class to real experiences whether it was ordering food, buying souvenirs, or even talking to the tour guides.



Keira Sel-Albert, Ava Loughlin, Maddie Catalano, Sara Pierce, Claire Link, and Olivia Macaluso.

"Speaking French in France really helped me immerse myself in the culture and appreciate what I have learned in class," said junior Nola Minickene.

The tour started off in Paris bringing HK students to visit Montmartre, the Luxembourg Garden, the Eiffel Tower, and Versailles and its garden. Continuing into the Loire Valley, students saw various castles and cathedrals, quickly stopping in Brittany and then moving onto the Normandy memorials, beaches, and bunkers.

Various times throughout the trip students were given free time to shop, get lunch, visit museums and cathedrals in dedicated areas of a street. Bakeries were a fan favorite among the group where croissants, pain au chocolates, and other delights were served.

"I had at least two croissants every day," said junior Emma Giaccone. "They were that good."

Students traveled back to Paris to see the famous art museum, the Louvre, on the last day. The group's tour guide, Cyrielle, tasked students with three activities while in the museum: One, to find a piece of art and imitate the image portrayed; two, to find a piece of art created by a female artist; and three, to find a piece of art that could be considered ugly.

The architecture was far from ugly, according to junior Eli Hamann-Shay, who said, "They were some of the coolest and prettiest buildings I've ever seen."

Three Veteran Teachers Anticipate Retirement

By Meghan Walsh

HK staff retiring this year include Dr. Corey Borzain, Ms. Kelly Ryan, and Mr. Barth Keck. Dr. Borzain taught Spanish and French for 36 years – 26 years at the high school and 10 years at a middle school and an elementary school. Ms. Ryan has taught math for 40 years as a teacher, including in other districts such as Hamden. Mr. Keck has taught English for 34 years.

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After retirement, Dr. Borzain plans to take a "little break" and do some biking with her husband. She also loves to garden and would like to work with new teachers as a "coach."

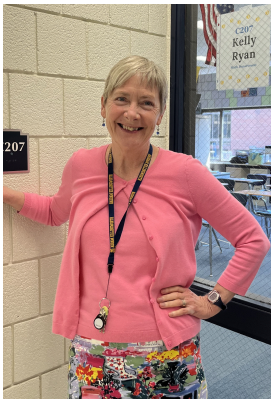


Ms. Ryan plans to take a trip next year with her husband to Turkey, Greece, Ireland, and the 2026 Olympics in Milan. She is most excited about the Olympics trip because attending the winter Olympic games has been on her bucket list for decades. She also plans to use free time for hiking, running, ice skating, and attending yoga classes. She added that she "of course" hopes to enjoy more time with family, friends, and books.

Mr. Keck plans to continue as an assistant football coach at HK and will also be teaching two classes in freshman composition at Middlesex Community College.

Junior Stephanie Coleman, commenting on Mr. Keck's retirement, said, "It is sad. Mr. Keck is funny, and I do not know how I am going to go on without him saying 'Are you done yet?'."

Sophomore Claire Anderson is also sad about Ms. Ryan: "She is a challenging teacher, but she is very kind. She holds her students to a high standard to complete work and have good behavior in class."



Senior Ayiana Maikowski said she will miss Dr. Borzain. "Hopefully, she will be happy in retirement."

Principal's Secretary Joins Staff in Main Office

By Emma Castiglioni

Over April break, HK welcomed a new member to the staff, Ms. Bonnie Mahon, the new principal's secretary. Ms. Mahon is very kind, approachable, and always there to lend a hand. She works in the office to the left of the main desk. She is "very happy and excited" to be joining the school, and she looks forward to forming relationships with more of her staff and students.

Ms. Mahon has worked secretarial jobs for years, beginning as a gym receptionist. She studied geography and psychology at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). This is her second stint as a public school secretary, formerly working at Strong Middle School in Durham. One key difference she observed between Strong and HK is how HK, as a high school, has more mature students who make better decisions. She said how each job of hers has been an "addition" or "segue" into her next.



She enjoys reading, doing makeup (she always shows up to school with fabulous eye makeup!), and dogs. She has two dogs at home and loves walking them and cuddling with them. She also enjoys browsing flea markets in her free time, stressing the value and importance of human connection and interaction. She has many plants at her desk, gifts from colleagues and others.

Ms. Mahon is excited to make her transition to HK, enjoying the students' sense of humor. When asked about her favorite part of working in a school like HK, she said, "It is probably seeing the growth of a student – watching them walk through the doors as a freshman and leave as a senior." She looks

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forward to creating more connections between herself and the students and staff, which is one element of growth she emphasized. She stresses perseverance, to "just keep going" and that "you will come out ahead," no matter the struggle and challenges.

Former HK Athlete Makes Hard Work Pay Off

By Tim Hickman

This year's NFL draft, like every year, includes hundreds of college prospects waiting to hear their name be called, but within those hundreds of prospects, there is one unlike the rest.

Thomas Perry, a four-year varsity lineman who played at HK from 2017-2020, didn't go to a big school, choosing Middlebury College, a private liberal arts college in Vermont. That choice allowed Perry to play while pursuing his academic goals. He graduated with a 3.92 GPA as molecular biology/biochemistry double major.



Perry "killed it" on and off the field, achieving a plethora of achievements which included Walter Camp and AFCA Division 3 All American in his senior year. As HK Assistant Coach Mr. Keck said in an interview with NBC Connecticut, "You told him once and he would do it the rest of the season. That's the type of player he was."

This all led to Perry being invited to the East-West Shrine Bowl, where the top players in the nation go head to head to boost their draft stock. Perry was the only D-3 player invited.

Thomas' dominating performance in the Shrine Bowl put him on the NFL's radar, but when draft weekend came around, he did not hear his name called. Nonetheless, he did end up getting an invite to the min-camps of both the Baltimore Ravens and Pittsburgh Steelers, which could earn him a roster spot.

Pope Francis Leaves Legacy of Kindness

By Jeffrey Schull



Pope Francis died on Apr. 21 at the Vatican Casa Santa Marta. The cause of death was a stroke and heart failure. Pope Francis had recently suffered from a severe respiratory infection that later developed into pneumonia in both lungs. His last words were, "Thank you for bringing me back to the square [at the Vatican]."

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, or Pope Francis, was born on Dec. 17, 1936, in Flores, Buenos Aires, Argentina. He earned a chemical technician diploma at his high school and entered the Jesuit novitiate in March of 1958. Following his entrance into the Jesuits, he taught literature and psychology at Jesuit high schools in the mid-1960s, and he was ordained a priest on Dec. 13, 1969.

In 1973, he was appointed superior of the Jesuit province of Argentina. In 1992, Pope John Paul II named him an auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires. He was then promoted to coadjutor archbishop in 1997 and became head of the archdiocese in 1998; St. John Paul named him to the College of Cardinals a few years later.

In 2013, Bergoglio was elected Pope at the age of 76 to take over for Pope Benedict XVI, and was named Pope Francis. Pope Francis

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named an international panel of cardinals, including Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston, as an advisory panel for the church governance. Eight months after taking office, Pope Francis published his apostolic exhortation, "The Joy Of the Gospel," a detailed vision of his program for his papacy and his vision for the church, particularly the Church's outreach to the poor and marginalized.

College Student Creates Mental Health Challenge

By Olivia Stephens

The USC Speak Your Mind Challenge was created to raise money and awareness for mental health, to remind people that they are not alone, and to lessen the stigma that surrounds these conversations. Students and college students are participating in this challenge through social media platforms, as many nominate their friends and family to help support.



This challenge is a wonderful opportunity to show student and community engagement, and it is important to recognize because you never know what someone is going through, and more importantly, how difficult it might be for them to open up about it. Many struggle to open up to improve their mental health, but this challenge helps support people to remind them that some uncomfortable conversations about mental health are common and normal.

Wade Jefferson, a third-year services management student at the University of Southern California, started this challenge after he lost many friends to suicide during college. Colleges nationwide adopted the challenge, which is now being adopted by high school students. The challenge may have started small, but he has now raised over $200,000 for mental health advocacy.

There are no formal "sign-ups" for this fundraiser. If a friend nominates you, go to the link "support.activeminds.org" and then post a video of yourself dumping ice-cold water on your head, and if you can, tag your friends that you would like to nominate.

OPINIONS

To Rebuild or Remodel? *That* Is the Question

By Eleanor Barry

The HK school community recently has been involved in many conversations and questions regarding remodeling or rebuilding the school. Many of the questions include the cost, the reason for a new school, and what would be kept from the current building.

The cost of a new school depends on many things. Mainly, it would depend on how much new construction happens. Although there are many things that do need to be rebuilt, there are also things in the school that we are very fortunate to have such as the pool and the tech-ed area.

According to Emily Baerlein, HK counselor, we have a very well-built and large tech-ed area that not many schools have. Along with this, we also have a pool, which again, not many schools have. Overall, the cost would depend on what parts of the school would be kept and what they would need to rebuild.

There are many reasons why a new school needs to be built. First, the former middle school portion was built in 1954, and the high school portion was built in 1974. Due to its age, there are inevitable problems. Along with advanced age, there are many areas that need to be updated. First and foremost, many areas are not handicap-accessible. This includes the

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bathrooms and the main office.

Another feature that can be improved is the "partition walls" that separate the classrooms. These walls are very thin and do not block sounds between classrooms. Originally, these were a good idea if the classrooms needed to be put together to make one big room by moving these walls. However, now they are never used and are basically useless.

Another problem with constructing a new school would be the distractions and sounds that would come with building a new structure. Ms. Baerlein said she attended a high school where they were building a new school and noted how the sounds of the construction would be distracting during classes.

Overall, while there are many good reasons to build a new school, there are also many obstacles and costs that would come along with new construction. Whatever option is ultimately chosen, here's hoping the disruptions to education will be minimal.

Local News Outlets Are Now More Vital Than Ever

By Aubrey Chadwick

In a time dominated by global headlines and top news, the importance of local news often goes unnoticed. Yet, it remains a key to informing and influencing communities, as local news outlets provide essential coverage of city council meetings, school board decisions, and community events, thus offering light into the issues that directly impact people's lives. This coverage provides transparency and accountability, empowering citizens to join effectively in their communities.

One of the biggest arguments for local news is its ability to bring people together in their immediate surroundings. Ms. Topa-Finberg, broadcast teacher at HK, emphasizes this point: "The morning news is important because it sets the tone for the day and creates a shared experience across our school community. Beyond starting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, we provide students with timely, relevant information – whether it's school announcements, national headlines, or topics that directly impact their lives. It's a space where youth can see themselves reflected, where issues that matter to them are acknowledged, and where student voices help shape the conversation. It fosters awareness, responsibility, and connection – values that are essential both inside and outside the classroom."



The loss of local news outlets – a situation currently happening as people increasingly turn to social media for their news – is a threat to our communities. Without hard-working local reporters, important stories may go untold, and the voices of residents may be silenced.

Life in America: No Longer Like Winning the Lottery

By Chloe Oboma

Growing up, we're told that America is a land of opportunity. But that cradle of hope now rocks on fractured foundations of what we claim is to be the "dream." Living in America no longer feels like winning the lottery. It feels like a world of uncertainty that can't be escaped.

When children are born in America, they are now faced with our nation's faults. Our health-care system is among the most expensive in the world, and millions remain uninsured or under-cared for. Education, the great equalizer, is now a battleground of ideological and political warfare where students, crumbling infrastructure, and underpaid teachers are under-appreciated.

Our political system is more polarized than ever before. Voters seemingly only have tunnel vision and will only listen to their algorithm-fueled confirmation bias. Even truth itself is crippling right before our very own

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fingertips as the digital world is fueled by disinformation and misinformation. It is clear that the social contract was written by a group of powerful individuals who declared the societal norm, leaving no room for Americans to make their own social contract.

The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming a defining feature of our economy. Many U.S. citizens have to work two jobs to stay afloat. Why is it that the world's so-called greatest nation is crippling at its very core? America is built upon people wanting a better life, working hard for it, and then achieving that goal. This system lacks accountability at the expense of someone else's freedoms.



The state America is in is not something we should offer to future generations. They are left with a boiling planet, mass shootings, increased suicide rates, inflation, online misinformation, the inability to think critically, polarized politics, extremism in echo chambers, mistrust of institutions, and even more natural disasters. Mind you, that list included only 10 struggles out of the many this nation is currently facing.

We are being warned. If we do not take action to reverse the mistakes made by our leaders, we are doomed. We are steering towards a decline; however, we have not fully reached it yet. There is still time to create a change. It is up to us, the students, to demand better. If we don't take action now, future generations will enter a burning fire, and they will need a lot more than a bucket of water and a fire hydrant to take care of it. The future of America could go two ways: one in which Americans take action and create a change, or one where we continue down the path of disaster.

FEATURES

Notable Celebrities Who Have Left Us Recently

By Emily Masterson

The world has lost many notable celebrities in the past several months, among them actor Val Kilmer, who passed as a result of pneumonia in April. Kilmer was known for his roles as Batman in *Batman Forever,* Jim Morrison in *The Doors,* Doc Holiday in *Tombstone,* Tom Kanansky in *Top Gun*, and many more. The actor received the Humanitarian Award and Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role in *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang.*



In February 2025, actor Gene Hackman died as a result of heart disease, complicated by Alzheimer's and kidney disease. Hackman was best known for his roles as Lex Luthor in *Superman: The Movie,* Jimmy “Popeye” Doyle in *The French Connection,* Buck Barrow in *Bonnie and Clyde,* and several other action films. He won the Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for *The French Connection,* the Academy Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for *Unforgiven, and the* BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for *The French Connection* and *The Poseidon Adventure.*



On Feb. 24, American singer and pianist Roberta Flack died as a result of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). ALS is a disease that weakens the muscles and impacts physical function. Flack was best known for her songs "Killing Me Softly," "Tonight I Celebrate My Love," and "Born to Love." She received a Grammy Award for Record of the

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Year, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, a Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance, and a Grammy Award for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals.

On Mar. 21, American professional boxer and businessman George Foreman passed. Foreman is a two-time heavyweight champion. He won an Olympic gold medal in Mexico City in 1968, starred in his own movies (*Foreman* in 2017 and *Big George Foreman* in 2023), and was an entrepreneur, creating the successful "George Foreman Grill." The big man also founded the *George Foreman Youth Center* and served as a church minister in Houston.

Jorts: Summer Fashion Making a Comeback

By Adriana Garoppolo

If you've walked through the halls lately, you've probably noticed a major fashion shift: jorts are the new fashion trend. Once seen as outdated, jean shorts – *aka* "jorts" – have made a bold return among high school students. From distressed and baggy to high-waisted or low-waisted and cuffed, today's jorts are all about style and attitude. What started as a few daring outfits has turned into a full-blown trend. Jorts are now a go-to for students looking to blend comfort with just the right amount of style. Paired with sneakers, hoodies, crop-tops or even baggy T-shirts, jorts have officially earned their place in the school style spotlight.



HK sophomore Timothy Hickman said, "Jorts are kinda weird looking, to be honest."

Senior Javon Rodriguez thinks otherwise: "Wear what you like."

Despite the differences, jorts are definitely a fashion trend.



Weighing in on this new style were the two seniors nominated "Best Dressed."

Said senior Adriana Garoppolo: "I think jorts are cool. I think as a girl the way I would style them with a baby tee, low rise jorts, my hair in a slick back spikey-bun, along with a pair of sneakers that tie the outfit together. Altogether, if the outfit is paired right, anyone can pull off jorts."

Added Julia Bermingham: "My thoughts are that jorts are an example of a micro trend that became popular because of influencers and social media. They're not necessarily something I'd consider timeless. However, I think in general men can still get away with jorts in the summer. But, the only women who can pull them off really, are the ones who really embody the style or pair it with the best accessory of all: confidence."

So whether you're rocking thrifted jorts or cutting up your old jeans at home, there's no doubt jorts are the trend for the warm weather.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

New Pizza Restaurant in Higganum Hits the Spot

By Andrew Crayton

A brand-new pizza restaurant has just opened its doors near school. The Rooted Lounge, located just a few miles away in Higganum Center, is already raising heads with its delicious slices, friendly service, and student-friendly prices.

Owned by the Evans family, the restaurant prides itself on making fresh pizzas

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from classic cheese and pepperoni to gourmet options like tomato basil. Also, the restaurant offers my personal favorite, sausage pepper and onion. Rooted Lounge offers something for everyone by also providing a bar for adults.

Rooted Lounge employee Jacob Lamarre said, “We have special pizza for special customers, and we’re always open to feedback on new toppings and flavors.”

Many students have already visited and shared their experiences. Senior Joe Slane said, “The pizza is amazing! The crust is crispy, and the toppings are so fresh. It’s my new favorite lunch spot.”

The Rooted Lounge also offers a cozy dine-in area, takeout, and delivery options. For those looking for a quick bite after school or a fun place to hang out with friends with its wide variety of games and activities, this new pizza spot is sure to become a favorite.

Coyote Blue: Don't Be Fooled by Appearances

By Cole Newman

Before coming to this establishment, I did not know what it was. A decent distance past Higganum Center on Route 154, Coyote Blue sits right next to the road. The building's outside is relatively bland, but it's surreal – almost like the restaurant is larger on the inside. This Tex-Mex cafe has unreal decorations and looks almost like it's out of a movie. We were given a table almost immediately after entering the restaurant.

The menu choices were diverse, offering a large number of choices. I was served water and tortilla chips with salsa before ordering. I ordered a quesadilla appetizer and didn't have a long wait before receiving my food. Overall, the quesadilla was very good, while the tortilla was a little dry. The cheese was creamy and greasy, yet really flavorful. On the side of the plate, it was garnished with lettuce and tomatoes with a scoop of sour cream on the top. I had four small slices of the quesadilla, and only finished two at the restaurant since I had lunch earlier in the day.

Additionally, the leftovers on the quesadilla seemed better, only because the tortilla became less dry due to the heat and moisture of the cheese settling in. My mom ordered the "Rio Bravo Chili con Carne," which was served with a cactus-shaped cornbread piece. Overall, the food was great, easily a solid seven out of 10.



The service was great and fast, the whole team was very friendly and it seemed like there was an established community there. The other customers were very talkative and the restaurant was relatively full. The waiters offered frequent refills for water, much faster than most restaurants. The payment for my order was quick and easy. Coyote Blue Tex-Mex Cafe is definitely a solid choice for anyone wanting this style of food.

SPORTS

Fans Expect Exciting 2025 NASCAR Cup Series Season

By Jonathan Saraceno

The 2024 NASCAR Cup Series season was full of excitement, like the closest finish ever, when Kyle Larson won Kansas by one-one thousandth of a second over Chris Buescher. The season attracted countless new viewers, and NASCAR fans have said on social media that

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the 2024 season was perhaps one of the greatest seasons of recent times, and much of the same is expected out of the 2025 season.

This year, the Cup Series has seen driver and team changes, rule changes, and the addition of new tracks on the schedule.

On top of new competitors, eleven drivers have a new ride for the 2025 season. At the 2024 season's end, four-car team Stewart-Haas Racing shut down and was rebranded as a single-car team called Haas Factory Team, with 2023 NASCAR Xfinity Series champion Cole Custer driving the team's 41 car.

The 2025 season has new tracks on the schedule. For the first time since 1971, the NASCAR Cup Series went to Bowman-Gray Stadium, located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for the 2025 Clash, a non-points paying exhibition race. This race was dominated and won by NASCAR's most popular driver, Chase Elliott, from Hendrick Motorsports. The race had a great turnout of viewers, and fans were thrilled by the race.

In 2025, the NASCAR Cup Series will implement crucial rule changes, which fans have already been pleased with. The Damaged Vehicle Policy, (DVP), has been an issue to fans for years, and the DVP is finally getting a revamp. Prior to the 2025 season, if a car was towed to the garage, or if it wasn't fixed on pit road within seven minutes, that car would be out of the race, sparking frustration from fans and teams. Starting in 2025, if a car goes to the garage, the team can take however long it may take to fix it, if possible, and the car can get back out on the track, causing less of a point detriment to teams if the car were to not finish the race due to a simple issue.

This year's practice and qualifying format will also see changes. Instead of two practice groups with three qualifying sessions, there will still be two practice groups, but most tracks will only have one qualifying session, where the fastest of that single round will win the pole. Similar to Formula 1, NASCAR has introduced the "Xfinity Fastest Lap," which is awarded to the driver with the fastest lap of the race. If awarded, the driver holding the fastest lap will be awarded one playoff point that can be used to the ten race playoffs at the end of the season.

The 2025 season officially began on Feb. 16 at the 67th running of the Daytona 500, which had a sold-out crowd for the tenth consecutive year. This race had many attractions for fans, including a pre-race Pitbull concert, on-site presentations and activities, and also having president Donald Trump in attendance, who rode in the presidential limousine, "The Beast," around the track before the race.

Track Finishing Another Successful Campaign

By Paul Birkmeyer

The HK boys' track team shared the 2025 Shoreline Conference title with Cromwell, while the girls finished third.

Top performers for the boys included Eli Hamann Shay, who finished second in the 400m and. For the girls, Charlotte Behnke finished second in the 3200m and third in the 1600m.

The boys' and girls' teams started their season off with a bang. On Apr. 22, the team won their first dual meet of the season against East-Hampton and North Branford.



The meet began with the boys' and girls 4x800 relay. The boys took first place with a relay team consisting of Cash Smigel, Matt Lara, Trey Downing, and Evan Bernadino. The girls 4x800 relay team consisted of Emilia Schweitzer, Grace Mitchell, Keira Sehl-Albert, and Julia Downing.

Standout performances came from across the board at the meet. In the sprints, Samuel Greenwood dominated the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.8 seconds, while Eli Hamann-Shay led the field in the 400. Alex Fredricksen took first in the 1600 meter, while

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Trey Downing finished strong in the 3200 meter.

Field events also saw key contributions. Jackson Bottaro threw 131 '10 " in the javelin, a personal record for the first-season athlete. Koen Thomen excelled in the long jump with an effort of 18 feet, 7 inches.

Spring Sports Roundup: Cougar Teams Triumphant

By Chronicle Staff

Editor's Note: At press time, teams were competing in Shoreline Conference tournaments.

Baseball

The HK baseball team finished with a regular season record of 12-8. The team advanced to the semi-finals of Shorelines.

Highlights of the season included wins over East Hampton (9-0, May 8), East Granby (12-1, Apr. 22), and Portland (13-1, Apr. 16).

Golf

Highlights of the HK golf season include defeating Lyme-Old Lyme by a total score of 187-189 on Apr. 11, winning against Morgan, 196-199, on Apr. 24, and defeating Valley on May 2, 2025, 172-176.

Girls' Lacrosse

The HK girls' lacrosse team finished the regular season strong, finishing at 9-7. After facing challenging games from the start, the team secured a spot in the Shoreline tournament as the #3 seed.



On top of that, senior captain Seanna Ruimerman scored her 100th career goal, playing a vital role in helping carry the team.

Boys' Tennis

The HK boys' tennis team had one of its best season in years, finishing with a regular season record of 15-3.

The list of wins include matches over Morgan (5-2), East Hampton (6-1), Cromwell (7-0), Platt Tech (5-1), Westbrook (5-1), Coginchaug (6-0), Old Lyme (5-2), Valley Regional (7-0), Old Lyme (5-2), Old Saybrook (7-0), Suffield (5-2), and Westbrook (7-0).

Girls' Tennis

The HK girls' tennis team pushed through a challenging season, finishing strong with three consecutive wins over East Hampton, Portland, and Coginchaug to finish at 6-10.

Boys' Lacrosse

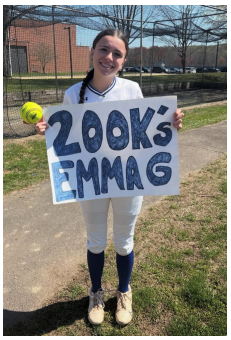
The HK boys' lacrosse team lost its first game of the season to Old Sabrook and never lost again in the regular season, finishing with a record of 15-1.

Highlights of the season included many accomplishments. HK completed another running clock game, beating North Haven 17-1. Another admirable game for the boys was their revenge victory against Old Saybrook, 14-4. In addition, junior Spencer Savoy scored his 100th career goal as a junior.

Softball

The HK softball team finished a dominant regular season with a record of 14-3.

Highlights of the season included a win over Coginchaug 9-0 on Apr. 24. Pitcher Emma Giaccone earned her fourth win of the season with the shutout, allowing four hits while striking out seven. During the game, the offense was led by Hannah Reilly, who had a three-for-three game, with a walk and two runs, an RBI, and three stolen bases.



On May 8, the girls picked up two wins at East Hampton. Due to recent rain, the girls had to play a doubleheader to make up one game. In the first game, the Cougars won 6-4. Grace Natanzon had a two-run triple, Emma Giaccone struck out nine batters, and Grace LaConte had a two-run RBI. Later in the evening, the team won, 14-0. In the first inning, they scored nine runs with help from Grace LaConte with three hits and Liv LaTorre with two.

Junior Giaccone had a stellar season on the mound, pitching several no-hitters and reaching 200 career strikeouts.

Where Will HK Seniors Go from Here?



The Cougar Chronicle presents its annual list of HK grads and their plans following high school:

Kaley Arbona - Quinnipiac University
Summer Barton - SCSU
Jayani Bennett - Wentworth Inst. of Tech.
Lindsay Blade - MCC/Quinnipiac
Sarah Bradley - UConn
Trinity Bystrek - U.S. Coast Guard
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Timothy Cavrell - SCSU
Jack Cozean - Assumption University
Trevor Dixon - SCSU
Alisya Dorman - Utica University
Claire Eighmy - U. of Richmond
Chris Frasco - Keene State College
Adriana Garoppolo - Univ. of New Haven
Skylar Hale - Middlesex CC
Bella Infante - Springfield College
Joey Jacobs - College
Mitchell Kelsey - UConn
Grace LaConte - UConn
Matthew Lara - Springfield College
Ariana LaViola - TIGI Hairdressing Acad.
Bryce Leiberman - Johns Hopkins U.
Hunter Leslie - University of New Haven
Clare Link - UConn
Zach Lloyd - UConn
Elias Lowrey - Lehigh University
Thomas Lundgren - HVAC school
Sonya Luneau - UMass-Amherst
Makayla Mancarella - ECSU
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Ava Mazzotta - Lafayette College
Jake McKenzie - Florida Inst. of Tech.
Saige Merwin - CCSU
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Amelia Petersen - BYU
Sarah Pierce - WCSU
Hannah Pranulis - work
Margaret Robinson - Springfield College
Seanna Ruimerman - U. of Mary Washington
Mathias Schweitzer - RPI
Maddie Seward - Whitman College
Abby Sirignano - UConn
Chase Smalley - Work
Jackson Smith - U of Florida
Caiomhe Sweeney - Nova Southeastern U.
Jeff Thebeau - Northeastern U
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Gabrielle Williams - RIT
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