CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism Thursday, November 5, 2026

FINAL STOP, STATE!

BY AVA MESSERSMITH

On Thursday, October 15th, the cross country team traveled to Grant to run in the district meet, a day which would mark the final race of the year for several runners and the chance for others to qualify for state. The meet had many teams participating with all trying to accomplish one goal, to make it to Kearney the following week. This meet was very challenging with a strong headwind pushing against runners and making it hard to breathe. Despite the wind, the whole team ran very well with some runners improving their time by 40 seconds or more. Top runners Carly Softley, and Agneshka Sankey ran very well with Carly placing 7th and Agneshka placing 11th, punching their ticket to the state meet. Coach Gallegos commented, "Qualifying for state is a prestigious accomplishment that comes from months of commitment, discipline, and perseverance, and it was rewarding to see their hard work pay off. I felt grateful to be part of their journey and to witness the growth, resilience, and determination they demonstrated throughout the season."



Photo by Lanie Soundy

Carly Softley finishes strong at the state cross country meet on Friday, October 23rd.



Photo by Megan Soundy

Cross country state qualifiers Carly Softley and Agneshka Sankey stand beside the decorated school Suburban before traveling to Kearney.

With one last race, the girls were determined to run well and end their season on a high note at the state meet on the Kearney Country Club golf course. Unlike the Perkins county course, the Kearney course has steep hills during the second mile which is the hardest part of the race for most athletes mentally and physically. The long finish is also challenging and some runners had to crawl their way to the finish line. Carly and Agneshka proudly represented the Maywood-Hayes Center cross country team and both of the girls ran very well with Carly placing top in RPAC at 41st with a time of 22:40.9. Agneshka was not far behind in 80th with a time of 23:22.3. When asked what the season meant to her Agneshka said "I am thankful for my family and community who cheers us on, and I am very blessed to have coaches and teammates that know how to have fun, work hard, and make good memories with one another. I was very proud of our girls team for placing runner-up at RPAC." Congratulations to Carly and Agneshka for ending their season successfully at state!

MHC Closes Volleyball Season in Subdistricts

By Harli Cox

The Lady Wolves volleyball team wrapped up their season on Wednesday, October 29th in Maywood during the subdistrict final against the Sutton Mustangs. After winning their first match against South Loop, the Lady Wolves advanced to the second round against Sutton where their season came to an end.

The team started off strong in their first match against the South Loop Bobcats, earning a win in four sets. Junior Jillian Johnson led the team in blocks, having six of the team's eight total blocks. Senior Caylie Softley also finished with 16 kills to help lead the Lady Wolves to the finals.



Photo by Carly Softley

Caylie Softley serves to the opposing South Loop team during the volleyball game on Tuesday, October 27th.



Photo by Carly Softley

Addison Richards and Lanie Soundy go up for a block during their subdistrict game against Sutton on Wednesday, October 28th.

In the final round, the Mustangs won in four sets. MHC won the first set, while the Mustangs took the last three. Sophomore Lanie Soundy reached an exciting milestone during the match earning her 500th career assist while sophomore Chloe Jeffers also contributed with 16 digs.

Although the season ended sooner than the Lady Wolves had hoped, the team finished with a 21-9 record and plenty to be proud of. "This season was such a special ride for our team," commented coach Rachel Peter. "We showed real glimpses of greatness on the court, including big wins against Valentine and DCS, and even when things got tough, we used every game as a chance to learn, grow, and get better together. I'm so proud of how hard this group worked and how much heart they brought every single day." The Lady Wolves had a memorable run and a lot of accomplishments to look back on, and will be excited to bring these things into the season next year.



Photo by Marguerite Gallegos

The freshman class smiles for a photo with the 'boats' they made out of water bottles during a science lab. The activity emphasized working through the steps of the scientific method.



Photo by Monica Dimas
Fourth Graders Celia Softley and Brekkyn Cox smile for a photo in their granny costumes during the Halloween parade.



Photo by Monica Dimas
Kindergardener Gael Castellanos Cruz smiles in his skeleton costume, as he walks through the lineup of high-schoolers in the Halloween parade on Friday, October 30th.



Photo by Monica Dimas
Kyler Rowley gives high fives to high school students in his inflatable dinosaur costume.



Photo by Carly Softley
Sophomore Briana Vapenik puts on her protective gear to feel the intestines of a cow during the Ag Discovery Day in North Platte.



Photo by Monica Dimas
Owen Struss stops to give a quick smile to the camera in his vampire costume before returning to walk the hall in the Halloween costume parade.