

RIVER HAWK REVIEW

Skowhegan Area High School’s Best News Source

Erick Cunliffe

War in Europe Hits Home

If you haven’t had the opportunity to meet Oleksii, he is an exchange student from Ukraine. I’ve known Oleksii for a while now, and I have to say he is an amazing person. He is sociable, jolly, honest, and above all else, an amazing friend. So, when I heard Russia was invading Oleksii’s homeland Ukraine I felt sick, and at the time, I was pretty angry. After hearing this, I felt compelled to talk to Oleksii about the situation, and he started to tell me about the atrocities Russia had committed against Ukraine.

He told me that the Russians had killed many civilians which is quite literally a war crime. Beyond that, look at the news. Russians are bombing tons of buildings across Ukraine for no reason. In fact, the Russians bombed a Holocaust memorial, an oil facility when bombed cut off heat to many people, and they also bombed a major tv tower not allowing anybody to know what’s going on. My question is - Why are the Russians doing this? When I asked Oleksii this question, he didn't really know why, but he did believe that Russia would not stop with Ukraine, and they would continue to take other countries. When I heard this, I was terrified because most of the countries surrounding Russia are NATO allies which means there’s a possibility of another World War if Russia attempts to invade another country.



Marquis Kent

Skowhegan Girls Make History!

Girls Basketball Wins First-Ever State Championship

Skowhegan basketball girls make history winning State champions for the first time ever. The score was 60-46. We interviewed Jaycie Christopher about the game and things leading up to the game.

Q: How did it feel when you won?

A: It was one of the best feelings ever to be able to accomplish something that has never been done, it’s a dream come true.

Q: Did you feel pressured at all?

A: The pressure was throughout the whole season. Being an undefeated team, every team wanted to beat us. We just had to trust each other and work hard.

Q: How much work did it take to get to this point?

A: We had 2-3 hour practices every day. Some of us girls would also stay after practice and shoot around, but all the sprints and everything it took was worth it.

Q: What goals as a team did you have to get to that point?

A: From the start of the season, we had talked about getting better every day so then we would have something special by the end of the season.

Q: Is there anything you want people to know?

A: There's so much but one thing is that we were very superstitious. I'm not sure if it had any value but one thing we did was we had to eat the same thing before every game, we also kept a penny we found because we thought it was good luck. Everyone had a big role and no one could do it alone. Our coach, Mike LeBlanc said “It takes everyone.”

Clearly, they all worked hard for what they wanted. The team made history and we as a school and town are proud of them.

Even with all of the bad events going on in Ukraine there is still hope, and as Oleksii said, “Ukraine is not going down without a fight.”

Ironically enough, this statement seems to be very accurate because the Ukrainians have so far stood strong against the Russians. Oleksii told me the Ukrainians had a report on the total number of deaths due to the war, and only a little over 4,000 Ukrainians had died, but over 11,000 Russians had died. I truly find this shocking, but the most surprising part is that Russia can’t even admit that they have lost this many soldiers. Oleksii added that they actually are burning the bodies of the dead soldiers to make it look like they have had fewer casualties.

As I continued to talk with Oleksii, he told me a story about his grandparents in the Soviet Union. His grandfather owned a piece of land about the size of Norridgewock, and the government decided that they wanted the land, but his grandfather wasn’t going to give it up. One day they sent people to go kill his grandfather and take the land. Afterwards his grandmother was forced to walk long distances to work. I believe most Ukrainians realize why it is a terrible idea to rejoin Russia, and I think that is one of the main reasons for their large amounts of patriotism.



Editorial

“She says... He says....”

Cailyn

Cell phones should be visible in class

I believe that students should be able to have their phones out in class, although I don't think students should be using their phones in class. Currently most teachers require you to put your phone in your backpack as soon as the bell rings. I understand where they are coming from and that phones have the potential to become distractions.

However, there could be some benefits to having phones on desks in class. For instance, if students have their phones out in class, the teachers can keep an eye on them. This would allow them to make sure the students aren't playing games under the desk or texting their friends when the teacher is talking. This can be convenient for students as well because they can also keep an eye on their own phones. This allows them to make sure their phones don't get stolen or broken in their bags.

Not only that but it also is useful if students get important notifications, like if their coach messages them saying practice is canceled, or their parents text them to come home on the bus and not attend any after school activities.

Another benefit would be being able to use your phone calculator in math or look up a word in reading. Obviously, students would be asked to put their phones away for tests and quizzes to prevent cheating. I must say I think having phones out in class would have the potential to benefit everyone.

Erick

Cell phones should be put away in class

I understand that phones are useful necessities, but in school they are not necessary. In my opinion, if phones were allowed to be used in school, they would become a distraction. Studies have shown that having phones in school creates a higher risk of distraction and decreases test scores. This is clearly bad because test scores are useful indicators for teachers who need to gauge the improvement of students. If they see that the overall test scores of the school are decreasing, of course, this indicates a problem. Beyond the fact that phones cause problems in school, they are also not needed in emergency situations, because the school will always notify you if there is an issue at home. You may say that phones should be allowed in school for that same reason they allow you to become notified of the problem, but they simply are not needed. The issue is not with phones allowing you to be notified, it is with the fact that using your phone for a good cause oftentimes leads you astray into a bad cause.

Something that Cailyn said from her article was keeping phones out on the desk would be a good idea because it allows teachers to keep an eye on the students' phones. I would disagree with this statement because seeing your phone lying out in the open would most likely trigger your instinct to check your phone and respond to the message. This whole process would continue until it became a habit which would hinder your ability to study effectively and might eventually lead your grade into a failing state. Cailyn also mentions that phones can be useful for getting notifications from coaches, but as I said previously the school will most likely notify you if a practice or game is canceled. That is why I personally believe phones should not be allowed in school.

Newspaper Staff

The River Hawk Review is brought to you by:

Twyla Wagg, Erick Cunliffe, Jamie Weeks, Marquis Kent, and Cailyn McKecknie.



The River Hawk Review needs you!

For more information, see Mr. LaFlamme in the library, or Mr. Smith in Orange 6.

Editorial

Jamie Weeks

Is Snapchat Worth it?



These days, there are many different ways of communication. The most popular one is probably texting. Because texting is so popular, there are many different apps you can use, each of them offering their own special features. These features can be controversial, causing some people to choose one app over others. One such app is Snapchat, which is very popular among our students. I however, do not understand why Snapchat is so popular. In this article, I will be explaining why I think Snapchat is not worth it. I will be comparing Snapchat to Discord, Instagram, and “Messages” (the default messaging app on your phone). There are other popular messaging apps, such as Facebook Messenger, and Whatsapp, but I will not be focusing on them in this article.

Keep it Simple

I feel like Snapchat is trying to be too many things at once. The app is like a mixture of your camera, Instagram, Tik Tok, and Google Maps. Oh, and you can text too. I wish Snapchat would just keep it simple - take pictures, send them to your friends, and text people. Now you could say that Instagram does this too. Looking at other peoples’ posts AND texting? I would argue though that Instagram’s messenger is fairly basic and doesn’t take away from its main purpose. I think Discord does a good job of keeping it simple, since all you do is text, whether it is with one or more people. Depending on what type of phone you have, “Messages” can do different things, but for the most part, texting is their main function.

Sharing

I think it is annoying how much information Snapchat shares with other people - information such as taking a screenshot or saving a snap. If I want to take a screenshot of something someone said, they don’t need to know about it. This always ends up changing the conversation when I have to explain to someone why I took a screenshot. Basically, other texting apps do not have this feature, probably because it serves little purpose.

There is something that Snapchat does that most other texting apps do not do. Both Snapchat and iMessage have read and typing indicators. These can be useful to people so they know what the person is doing or what they have done.

Conclusion

Whether you prefer snapping people or just texting them, different texting apps offer different solutions. I personally think snapchat is annoying, but a lot of people do like it Which one do you prefer?

Clubs and Activities

Bored? Board games!



Did you like playing board games when you were little, but now don't want to talk about your checkered past? Sign up for Board Game Club and reConnect *four* yourself. The club meets on Thursdays in Mr. Michaud's room. We are always doing something different. For example, last week club members played a very large game of *Apples to Apples*. We keep learning new games, too. The newest games we enjoyed are a card version of *Oregon Trail*, and a color game called *Hues and Cues*. Anybody is welcome to join this club. You could be an expert or new to board games. If you have a game that you like, bring it on in, or create your own game like some members are doing. After you pass go, shuffle on down to Mr. Michaud's room, and win some board games. Don't be *Sorry* though.

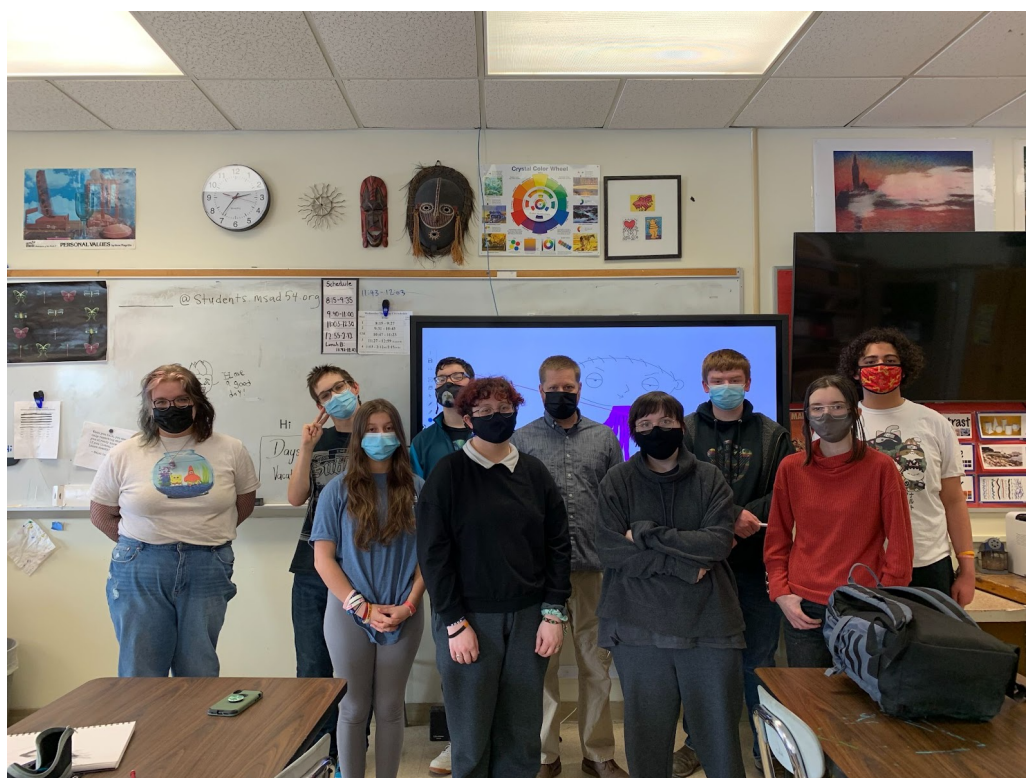
Art Club

The Art Club is a place where students can channel their creativity without judgment. Mr. Charland is the head of the art club, and he always encourages everyone when they make art. He helps people explore new things or get better at the things they know they enjoy.

He also aids people by providing a plethora of art supplies for students to use like paints, markers, pencils, digital options and more. This allows students to experiment with new art mediums and practice their skills with supplies new to them, or supplies they are experienced with.

Art Club is a safe place where students can forget their troubles and can escape from these stressful times. Art is considered a stress reliever activity and art club allows students to partake in making art without worry. Sometimes students don't get a chance to do things they love at home because of cost, or time restraints. Art club allows students to do anything art related they would like.

Art Club is an amazing place and a wonderful opportunity. If you are thinking about joining, it's hosted on Wednesdays, from 2:15 to 3:30 in W3! Have questions? Feel free to email or see Mr. Charland at mcharland@msad54.org or in W3!



(Happy Art Club Students on a Recent Wednesday Afternoon.)

Poetry Corner

Marquis Kent The Game

The cleats in the ground
The cheering and encouragement from the team
On the field running in what feels like the last minute of your life
Rain falling all around you just waiting
The ball comes to you and you kick it to your team mate
Mud in the air and on you
Hoping they get the goal
You watch and stay aware

Finally they go for the kick and get it
Cheers everywhere
The team celebrating we won
The feeling of that will never leave.

Sam Philpot Finding Atman

The self is one
That must be destroyed
In all of us
The self is our cage
It traps us
Keeps us from finding
The inner light
But when the self is gone
Will Atman shine bright?
The answer will never be told.

The wall is gone
It is no longer held
Between us
The wall was us all
It trapped us
Kept us from finding

The inner light
But now I know
The fools were right
The self is now gone.

Many try to transcend
Into something more than you
Try to find happiness
Within the truth
But now I know
What it all means
It is up to us
To set our soul free.

Sam Philpot Everything Flows

The flowers, they grow
And the stars, they glow
Soon you'll know
Everything flows.

The eyes, they see
And the birds, are free
Soon you'll see
All is within me.

The machines, they sew
And the time, it goes
Soon you'll know
Everything flows.

The skies, they be
The flies, they need
Soon you'll feed
The spirit within thee.

The skies, they snow
The lies, they show
Soon you'll know
Everything flows.



Recycling

Have you seen the new recycling stations?

Recycle all your recyclables!

Mr. McFadden

HONEY BEES-NESS

Freezy Bees

People, it's winter! What happens to the honeybees in our hives? Do they hibernate? Aren't they cold blooded? Doesn't that mean they'll freeze? Do they make antifreeze like frogs?

Wow. Lots of questions. Luckily, I have the answers. Honeybees are the only insects around here that DON'T hibernate. So, what happens to them in the winter? Well, they hang out in the hive and wait for spring. Do they freeze? No. Do they make antifreeze? No. Instead, they huddle together into a cluster, detach their flight muscles from their wings, and vibrate them wicked fast. The friction from the vibrations generates heat. By doing this in a cluster, they are able to heat the hive so much so that the center of the cluster can reach a temperature of 95 degrees Fahrenheit! Cows heat barns in the winter with their farts, and bees heat hives in the winter with friction. Amazing. It takes a lot of energy to do this. The cluster moves around the hive consuming over 2 pounds of honey per week throughout the winter to power the furnace that is them. That's about \$20 per week...a little cheaper than oil, ha?

Do you know the saying don't poop where you eat? Bees follow this rule. The problem is that if they leave the cluster in the winter to poop outside, on most days they'll freeze to death. Therefore, they need to hold their bowels until a warm enough day in the winter arises...about 40 degrees Fahrenheit. When the temperature is just right, they will pile out of the hive and take a cleansing flight. This is the fancy way of saying that they take a massive bathroom break outside. The result is a giant orange mess outside of the hive. Gross. But also, pretty awesome.

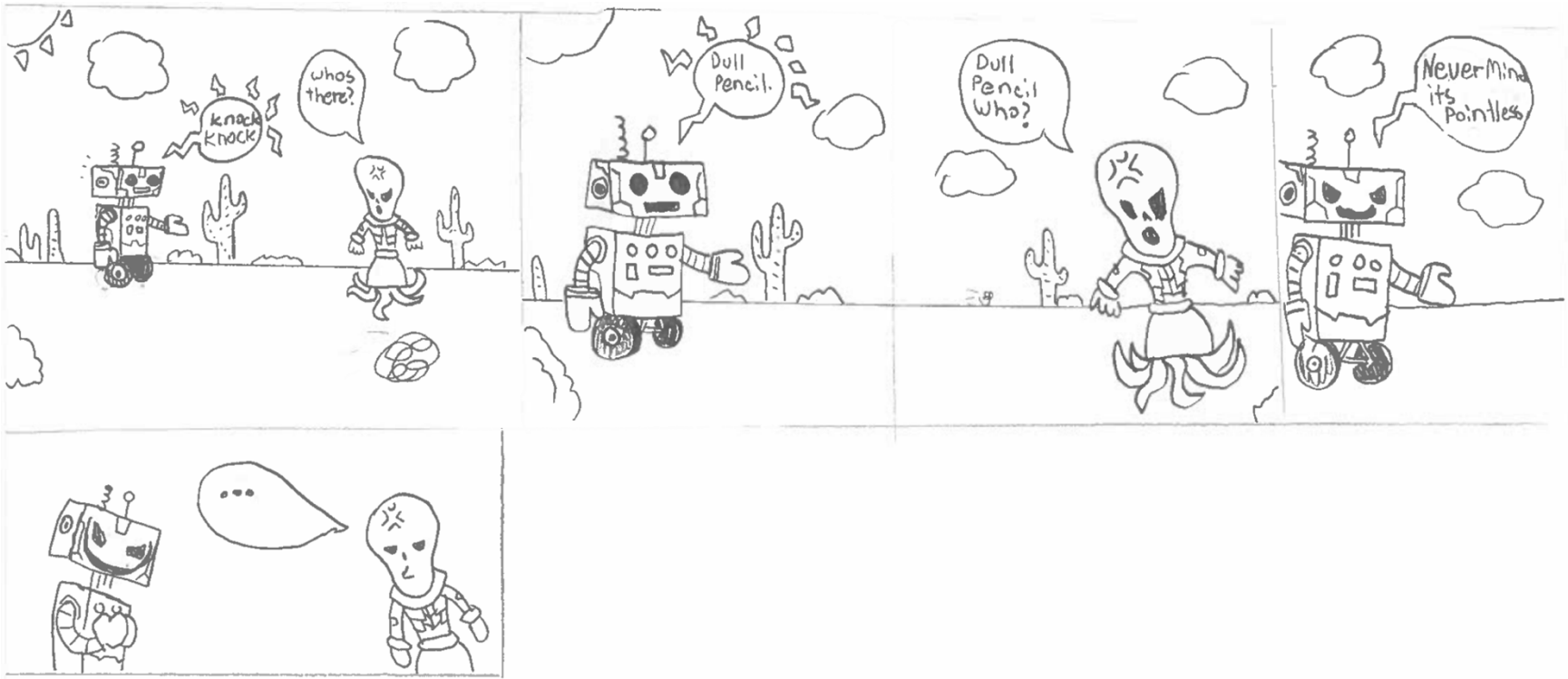


Bee poop in front of a hive.
Photo taken by Mr. McFadden
on 3 Feb. 2022.

The Funnies



ROBOT HUMOR



Exchange Students

Twyla Wagg

THE SPIN ON SPAIN

Why would two teenage boys travel over 3000 miles from Spain to a town no one outside of Maine has ever heard of? I really have no idea myself!

These boys are Unai Maldonado and Marcelo Mumbauer. They both came to America for similar but different reasons. Each of the boys wanted to “see how Americans learned differently,” but unlike Marcelo, Unai said, “I wanted to improve my English, and my brother told me that the high schools here were like in the movies.”

They both participated in school activities and were proud members of our soccer team. The boys put a lot of effort into helping the team.

They are staying in Norridgewock. Marcelo thought the town was very quiet and felt very welcome in it. Unai mentioned that in his country they need to use keys for almost everything, so he had to get used to the safer space. Each of these boys agree that America or our small community in general has too many fast-food places. Marcelo made a comment saying that he saw some intoxicated people at one of our local fast-food restaurants and got a good laugh out of it. These boys are very kind people, so don’t be afraid to go and talk to them or ask them questions about their experiences.



Unai Maldonado



Marcelo Mumbauer

OLEKSII



Oleksii Sverbyvus is one of our exchange students who just wants to experience a real Mainers' life. Oleksii is very dedicated to learning why people in Maine enjoy certain things, or activities. For example, he didn’t understand the big deal of seeing an eagle until he saw his first one. He said," I understand why people love seeing them. The bird is so beautiful, and I was shocked by how it looked." He also really wants to see a whale, but that is kind of hard because you can’t just look around and find a whale!

Oleksii has some ideas that he thinks could improve our school. For example, he said, “You guys should make geography classes harder, but keep doing hands-on activities. Also, you should get better food for lunch, like less packaged food.” Speaking about food, he mentioned that “there are too many fastfood places, and it is hard to adapt. Back at home we eat a lot of home grown and organic foods.”

Then he and I started talking about how he feels about the people here. “Everybody is so kind and would help with things I don't understand. For example, explaining what CSI is, or helping me find my way to class.”

Lastly Oleksii said, “I plan on coming back, and I’m going to miss my friends, teachers, and the environment.”

AHMED and TIANA

How can two different people from different countries be alike? Our very own exchange students, Ahmed Ibrahim and Tiana Milosevska, are from two very different places, but have some of the same opinions. Ahmed is from Egypt and Tiana is from Germany. They are so different, they are from different continents! These students agree that our school is filled with very welcoming, and different people. Tiana said, “I have felt very welcomed by everyone in my classes.” Ahmed said “I felt very accepted by all of the sports teams that I participated in.” These students are very nice and open people who are happy to answer any questions you might have.



Tiana Milosevska



Ahmed Ibrahim

NECROLOGY

Twyla Wagg

BYE-BYE BETTY

On December 31, 2021, America’s very own Golden Girl passed away at the age of ninety-nine. She was just a couple weeks away from her 100th birthday. Betty always was a positive soul and brought smiles to people of all generations. She always had room in her heart for love and met the person she would share her heart with in 1962. She met Allen Ludden, who was her co-star, and fell in love with him while acting in the Lakewood theater in Madison, Maine. Betty starred in many television shows, but she is mostly known as Rose Nyland from The Golden Girls. Betty will never die in our hearts or in our memories.

