

The River Hawk Review

March
2023

Skowhegan Area High School's Best News Source

Volume 2
Issue 3

Levi Nichols

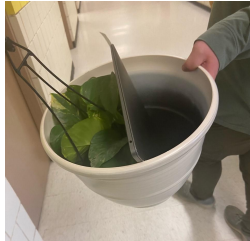
The Ten Craziest "Backpacks" During March Madness

This year our "bring anything but a backpack" day has resulted in some crazy and exciting ideas. As an example before the list, I put my pizza box backpack as a cooldown before we got to the really crazy stuff. Nobody can stop me from a bit of self-representation.



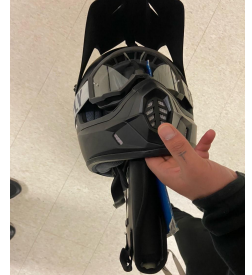
Anyways, at number ten we have a car glove box. I'm not entirely sure where he got this idea, or how he managed to get the glove box. The only reason this sits in tenth place is because of the sheer insanity of the other backpacks.

Coming in at number nine is this plant pot with the plant still in it. Bringing a plant pot as a backpack is crazy enough, But leaving the plant inside is the detail that pushed this one over the edge.



Strolling to eighth place is this lime green stroller. I am in love with the way this person put their stuff in this "bag". Not only are there books in the back, but they strapped one in the front like it was their little pride and joy.

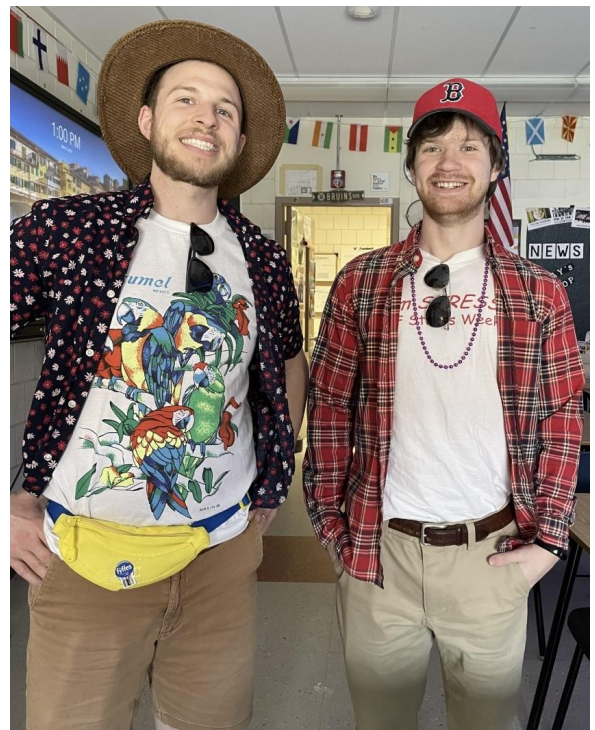
Crashing into seventh is someone's dirt bike helmet. I have absolutely no idea how they managed to keep their stuff from falling out of this, but it seems to be working out just fine for them. You can even see this person's computer case sticking out from the bottom!



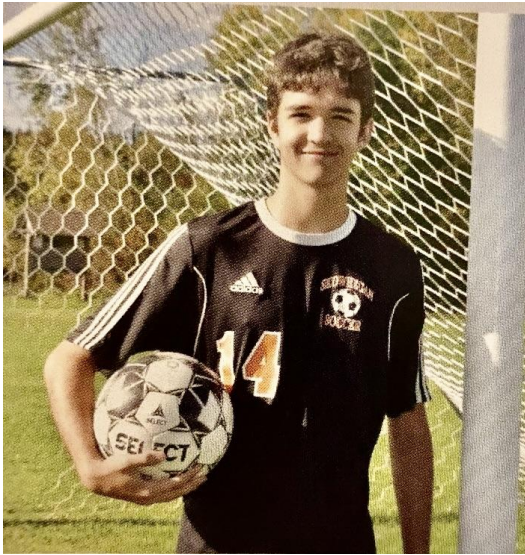
Here at number six, we have this beautiful metal cart. This is one of the most functional devices on the list. Notebooks are on the bottom, the computer is in the middle, and other stuff is on top. Maybe in some distant future kids will use these instead!

Continued on Page 2

Mr. Michaud and Mr. Day dressed for Tourist Tuesday during March Madness.



Acknowledging Anton



“There are some cool trees, and some nice animals. Other than that you guys don't really have anything else.” This was Anton's on the spot description of our little community of Skowhegan.

Anton is one out of our five foreign exchange students, and he originates from Spain. Anton described Spain to me as “ It has more culture, and it's like Italy.” This very much flattered Mattia, our Italian exchange student. Anton is staying with his family in Cornville, and I bet he thinks Skowhegan is better than Cornville.

Next I asked him if he was going to do any sports or clubs. “ I want to ski” was his response, and he is fulfilling that wish by being on the Ski team. He also let me know that at his school, they do not have any clubs like the ones we have here.

Speaking of school, “Having two lunches would improve your school.” This is what Anton believed would help our school the most. The other exchange students agreed.

Then he was asked what the most surprising thing he had seen in the community was. His response was “ How much candy is in the stores.” That response was not something I was expecting.

Lastly I asked Anton why he wanted to be a foreign exchange student and come to America. He said “Mostly because my sister came here to discover a new culture, and get more material. Anton was the first foreign exchange student that I have met that had a sibling visit as well. Please wish Anton luck as he finishes out the ski season.

Craziest “Backpacks” Continued

Halfway through at five lays this RC car. I'm not entirely sure this counts, but I just had to include this wacky little thing. I can't describe the joy you get watching this thing zoom around with a laptop case on top of it.



At fourth place rolls in this wheelbarrow. Even though this person still has their backpack with them, it is impressive. I'm surprised they were able to maneuver this hunk of metal around all the other people trying to get to class. It surely was the biggest “bag”.



In third place proudly stands this man and his old PC case. I love the way he attached a strap to it, then just rested it on his hip. Just like the PC, I'm willing to bet that wearing this would make you run much slower.



This mini-sink floats into second place. I can't even imagine how annoying it would be to carry around this lump of porcelain all day. However, I do see the value in doing so: it's hilarious. This sink is well deserving of its second-place spot, what a strange idea.

To end the list, I give you first place: an entire ottoman. Whoever brought in this crazy cushion must have been a mad genius. Not only does it open up to put all of your stuff inside, but it also doubles as a nice seat.



And with that comfy conclusion, this list is over. Thanks to SAHS for allowing this spectacle to take place! It is certainly the funniest March Madness event at our school! Hopefully next year we get some even crazier ideas.

Levi Nichols

Avatar: Way of Water Review



Avatar: Way of Water is one of the greatest movies of 2022. It is a fun experience that is easily watchable despite its length. All three hours of the movie feel needed. While having some small issues, I have no doubt that this movie will be heavily rewarded.

The animation in this movie has to be the most realistic in any movie ever made without exaggeration. The water physics are phenomenal, well above anything that has come before. You can see each individual bead of water gleaming off the na'vi's skin. In some scenes, it is hard to believe that this movie isn't live-action.

The sound design is also phenomenal. The sea is full of sound and life, and this movie captured it perfectly. In every scene, you can hear everything around the characters, yet they manage to still let you focus in on the main dialogue. The music is in the same style as the first movie, which certainly isn't a bad thing. I would say it has a more tropical tinge to it.

World building is one of Avatar's strong suits. Their creature design is unparalleled, and the way they interact helps you visualize Pandora's entire ecosystem. Everything flows together so well, and all the new creatures introduced fit in perfectly. Nothing felt out of place.

The biggest flaw of this movie is its predictability. From the beginning, I knew about 75% of what was going to happen, but the film does make up for it with interesting characters.

One character who bugs me is Spider. He is certainly not a bad character, but they introduce him as Colonel Miles' son, who was the main villain from the last movie. There was no mention of Spider in the original, so he feels thrown in. They expect you to read their comic to understand where he came from. I also was a bit annoyed that they just use the same villain in a different body. Luckily, they made up for this by giving the two an interesting dynamic.

Avatar: Way of Water has 10/10 visuals, 10/10 sound design, 10/10 world-building, and a 6/10 story. You should definitely give this movie a watch when you have a spare three hours. It will fly by in no time.

Twyla Wagg

Practicum Pals

What is a practicum student? "Someone who is learning to be a teacher and doesn't have all the tools yet. We have mentor teachers to guide us." This was said by Mr. Michaud's practicum student Mr. Day. Mr. Day has been teaching classes along with and for Mr. Michaud.

His favorite part about teaching has been meeting all of the students. He said, "Just two years ago I was in the same situation, and I want to help you all as much as I can." The next question was "What does any average day look like for you?" "I get up at 5:30 and come here. I'll either be observing him, co-teaching, or teaching on my own. Then I leave here unless there is a meeting or Board Game Club. The last question was for Mr. Michaud. I asked him what his opinion on Mr. Day was. His response was "Mr. Day has been a great asset to the classroom and has created great relationships with the students. He has brought in a new perspective in education, and I'm excited for what his future holds and I'm glad he's here learning."

Next was Mr. Main's practicum student, Mr. Brann. A practicum student in his eyes is basically mirroring someone teaching, and you get a good feel for if it is something you want to do. Next I asked how teaching his classes went. "It was good but hard because it was at the beginning of the semester. Interactions were a little tough, but I was happy with how I presented it."

Mr. Brann was inspired to be a teacher because he was already helpful towards his classmates, and thought he would pursue it.

Continued on Next Page

Practicum Pals Continued

An average day for Mr. Brann, in his words is “I sit in the back of the classroom and I grade homework, and I might help people if they have issues.

We’re very lucky to have both of these practicum students at SAHS and we hope this experience will help them achieve their goals.



Mr. Day on the left, Mr. Brann on the right.



This edition of *The River Hawk Review* is brought to you by:

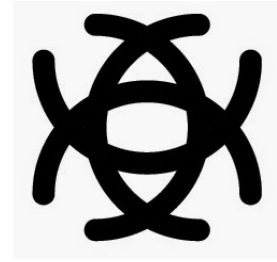
Josh Bloom
Nikki Haywood
Cailyn McKechnie
Levi Nichols
Twyla Wagg
& Jamie Weeks

For more information, see Mr. LaFlamme in the media center or Mr. Smith in O6.

Josh Bloom

A Tale of Shadows

Chapter Three: The Stalker of Dreams



(Italic text inside apostrophes means internal thoughts)

Present time

Skamos woke up with terror in his eyes while breathing heavily, like he had the worst nightmare that ever existed... oh, wait- he did!

‘What the- oh. I’m back. That was a crazy nightmare! It-It was just a dream... Right?’ He thought desperately, rubbing his head and scratching at his hair, feeling the base of his devilish horns.

“Kin... Heh, it probably was just a dream, there’s no way that the mysterious hooded guy in our party is a gold dragonborn named ‘Kin’, that he was the guy from that dastardly tale.” Sighing, he grabbed his spell-book/journal, and the rest of his adventuring gear, and went outside of his tent to be blinded by the ridiculously reflective scales of Hailstorm.

“AGH!” Skamos yelled out, causing Hailstorm to gaze over at Skamos, as well as causing what sounded like a catastrophe in Stone’s tent, like weapons falling, glass breaking, and a frustrated groan from inside.

Right after that, Stone appeared from inside the tent, pushing one side of the tent’s fabric up, looking furious.

“SKAMOS! Why do you have to wake us up EVERY morning by SCREAMING!?” Stone’s strong voice echoed through the clearing, drawing the attention of something... different.

In the shadows of one of the trees at the edge of the clearing, two glowing gray, ringed oval-like eyes gaze at the campsite.

Continued on Next Page

One day earlier

Candles were lit in a dark room, smoke rising from them, and behind the candles on the mat was an elderly Monk in the monastery, Meditating.

A knock was heard, which snapped the monk out of his meditative state.

'Who might be at the door? A visitor? A Teacher? Ah, maybe my next student? Unlikely, but not impossible.' he snapped his fingers and the sound of a door opening was heard. Followed a couple seconds later by footsteps coming up the stairs.

"Grandmaster? I was told to meet you?" The Master opened his eyes—er, eye. The visitor was a short, shadow-like creature, with eyes that had large Sunshine-yellow pupils, with a reddish-orange ring around them, like an iris, and also had a black sclera, as most Shadowfell monsters do, and an upside-down teardrop shape above the iris-like part of the eye, the same color as his pupil. His eyes are the most interesting and unique thing to note.

"What is your name, Shadow?" The elderly monk asked curiously.

"M-Me? ... N-Nightshade, Grandmaster" he responded, quite terrified, either from the grandmaster's bone-shaking voice, the sudden appearance of his glowing blue eye, or both.

'Nightshade? Hmm.'

"I go by many names, my real name is Nightbringer, but you will refer to me as Sensei, or Master." Nightbringer rose slowly into the air, the smoke of the candles wavering as he did so.

Shade's eyes widened slowly, now seeing the frightening silhouette of his master. Nightbringer snapped his claw-like fingers, and the candles went out, then the torches on the walls (that Shade didn't know were there) flickered with orange sparks, then blazed to life with a radiant silver-blue, lighting up the room, revealing a fighting dojo. The one who appeared before Shade looked the same as the design on the door.

Now that Shade could see him clearly, he got some more detailed information about him, he looked like he had white flames on his face, hiding his entire head, except for the left side of his face/head, where a single light blue eye is, he could have another on the other side, but that side was covered by his white hair, he didn't seem to have a mouth, but it's difficult to tell with his completely pitch black skin.

He had two arms, which each had four pointed claws, one acting as a thumb.



(Image created via AI generation, accurate changes in traits of character image listed previously.)

Now that Shade could see him clearly, he got some more detailed information about him, he looked like he had white flames on his face, hiding his entire head, except for the left side of his face/head, where a single light blue eye is, he could have another on the other side, but that side was covered by his white hair, he didn't seem to have a mouth, but it's difficult to tell with his completely pitch black skin. He had two arms, which each had four pointed claws, one acting as a thumb.

"I'm your Teacher now, so show me what you can do!" Nightbringer commanded, Shade's wispy hands clenched into fists as he grinned. He raised his fist and nodded. Shade turned to a target, creating a sphere of Emerald-colored energy in his hand and firing it with precision, to a Steel target, breaking it to pieces, (Which earned a surprised, interested look from Nightbringer, which was a rare occurrence in all the years he has been the master).

Then he dashed to a dummy, and destroyed it with a quick punch to the chest.

'Not bad, but I wonder how he'd do in a moment of intense pressure' Nightbringer nodded and snapped his fingers, when he did so, ten soldiers covered with reinforced skyfire armor walked into the room, prepared to attack (For demonstration purposes, of course).

Continued on Next Page

*'Geez, this is a lot! No more holding back, I need to pull out **All The Stops!**'* Shade discharged energy as he enhanced his form, turning his smoke-like hair and the back of his fists light green or white, along with adding a Reddish-Orange lightning bolt shape stretching from the teardrop and stretching out from his eyes like fire-er, lightning.

He then proceeded to avoid, parry, and strike the soldiers, showing power, while also taking care to not cause severe, or life-threatening injuries, 10 became 6, then 4, then none.

Now finished with his test of strength, he turns to Nightbringer, colors turning back to his normal coloration, eyes closed, and bows to the master. When he opened his eyes again, he was met with a small round of applause from Nightbringer.

“Such a remarkable display of strength, skill, and technique, possibly the best I have ever witnessed. You’ve caught my interest, I would be proud to call you my student.” Nightbringer floated down to Shade while still a few feet above him, one hand on his chest, and bowed to Shade, he bowed back, and Nightbringer’s face turned serious....

To be continued.....

Nikki Haywood

A Day in the Life of a Student Janitor

Hello, fellow students. Today I'm going to give you a glimpse into my life as a student janitor.



Now, you might think that being a janitor should be easy, but it isn't. I start off my day just like any other completely normal high school student, I get dressed, eat breakfast, and ride a bus. I go through four periods a day just like everyone else... but right around 2:30 my life goes from normal and turns into work.

From clock-in to clock-out I'm cleaning bathrooms, sweeping floors, and taking out trash. From 2:30 - 4:00 doesn't seem like a long shift, but in my place of work it's the most tiring part of my day. I get paid just over minimum wage, which is enough to pay for my expenses. My parents are trying to teach me responsibilities so that as an adult I will be prepared to handle my money better when I'm on my own.

Every week I write up a budget and I calculate my expenses to pay my “bills.” I've been working for RSU MSAD 54 since the summer of 2022 and in that time I've learned the proper way to clean bathrooms, which cleaning supplies are for cleaning and which ones just disinfect.

Last summer when I started I was scraping gum off the bottoms of desks, getting trash from the summer school classes, and waxing and mopping floors. The best part of being a janitor is that I get to be my own boss and do work at my own pace. The worst part of being a janitor is the amount of trash I have to clean up and in the time I have to work it is very hard to get everything done.

I have brought it up many times to other members of my janitorial team that it would be easier to clean things like the bathrooms, hallways, stairs, and carpets if each class had a student or students who took the trash out, and swept the classroom floor. Sweeping the classroom floor's would also be alot easier if the students put their chairs up at the end of the day. When the chairs are down, it crowds up the classroom and makes it harder to sweep.

My favorite part of being a janitor is that I get to see from a perspective that I wouldn't have seen before starting this job. Before I was a janitor, I didn't care if I left food on my table at lunch or crumbs on the floor. Since becoming a janitor, I think it has made me more respectful towards making sure I don't leave a mess and that I clean up after myself.

If I was to have a message for students it would be to make sure you pick up all your trash at lunch and wipe your feet when you enter the school. It would make it so much easier for the janitors to make sure the school is clean.

Our school is short on janitorial staff and if you would like to get a few extra bucks in your pocket you can always apply by going to the office and talking to Mr. Mochamer. We would really appreciate anyone willing to work as we are really short staffed and there is always stuff we can't get done.

Levi Nichols

How to Spread Misinformation



The art of spreading misinformation is a very hard art to master. It took me twenty years of vigorous training to reach the point I'm at. But do not fret, because with this paper you can learn to misinform like the masters in less than a day! Just make sure you follow this guide word for word.

The first big rule to follow when spreading misinformation is to avoid social media. Platforms like Facebook and Twitter have many people that can easily tell if you are a liar or not. Most people online are extremely good at critical thinking, making the internet the worst possible place to spread false information. The only reliable way to spread fake news on the internet is to run pop-up advertisements on random websites. Everyone blindly follows the words of these sacred weapons of the misinformers community.

The next thing to do is a bit strange but follow closely because this is the most important rule. Very scientific studies show that the more money you give to your school's newspaper organization the better you get at spreading any lies your heart desires. If you never donate money, you might as well just give up. The only thing that gets close to donating is just straight up joining your school's newspaper club. That just might work as good compensation.



Cailyn McKechnie

Maine Drama Festival

Students from 9 schools all over central Maine gathered at Skowhegan Area High School on the lovely evening of March 11th, 2023 to participate in the Maine Drama Festival. The 9 schools that participated in the section of the Maine Drama Festival that we hosted were Mt. Blue High School, Carrabec High School, Leavitt Area High School, Winslow High School, Lawrence High School, Spruce Mountain High School, Monmouth Academy, Madison Area Memorial High School, and of course, Skowhegan Area High School.

However the Maine Drama Festival has over 70 schools participating from all over the state of Maine, this adds up to more than 1,300 students. There were 7 events that each had a winner. The winners of each event will compete at a state event at either Williamson Performing Arts Center at Lawrence high school for Class A participants or Ellsworth High for Class B participants. These events will be happening later this month.

The winner of each state event will perform their play at the New England Drama Festival in Rockport at Camden Hills Regional High School In April.

The winner of the event we held at our school was Skowhegan ourselves! The students that won the performance for Skowhegan were:

- Charlie Staples as Pete and Lendall
- Jaxon Longyear as Jimmy and Steve
- Marquis Kent as Ginette
- Leah Xie as Waitress and Marvalyn
- Olivia Huff as Sandrine
- Carolyn Snowman as Gayle
- And Crew- Olivia Grant, Emily Seymour, John Robinson, Gwyneth Turgeon, Makaya Molley, Nick Roderick



Poetry

Parents

What do parents know that we don't
People would like to think they know everything
However, they don't

Some parents do,
Some parents are amazing
To live with such is luxury

But,
When parents abuse their right
They are not parents

They are regular people
People that aren't blood to anyone
They are strangers

Strangers among the sidewalks
Walking and
Drifting to their distorted goal in life

They are hardly people at all
It is only the true
Tender parents
That make everything in this world to be pure
They are the luminescent beings in this world that make
Everyone's day better

Jerks

A blonde hair girl

With blue eyes sits and
Talks
In a classroom of goons

Her speech is of a slur
She is not drunk
Nor does she have a lisp

She is a strong sophomore
But doesn't know it

She talks and it is a reminder
Of my experiences
When I was in Read 180

In consulting English,
In third grade and told I was not smart

People think you are dumb
When you aren't
People think that you below average
When you aren't

People are all smart
Just some
Have no greater experience than
What others might have

I want to cry
And hold her
Tell her she is smart enough to be
Better

To show everyone that
It doesn't take a genius to read.

My Dreams

Once a starry night,
While I lay in bed,
My dreams,
Flow through my head,
Like the blossoming of
Flowers
Dreams of the waves
And trees
That flow with rich royal green
And shades of blue
That break through my skin
That
Find my feet towards the backboard
Of my bed
My head down at the edge
And am told to wait
For the perfect wave
To Watch every bird with clear observation
To enjoy the moment and
Enjoy the dream that flows through like the
River within the valley

Riddles

#1

I'm something that most people
fear
Yet you cannot see me.
For once you do, I disappear.
What could I be?

#2

I'm one piece of what creates all
I'm always negative
And I make the light in your
house
What am I?

#3

I'm not able to be fixed
I cannot exist
And everyone tries to change me.
What am I?

Cipher hunt

There is a secret hidden in the
strange text below. Can you
decode it?

WGpFbkQ5ZDRkWGs9Yz9vam
FoZC90dmoubGliYWJ2Zi5kZG
QvLzp6d2Fhbw==

Hint: 64=>(Salad dressing) Shift
7=> Backwards

TV Show Trivia

- Q: What does Michael Scott eat for lunch on The Office that makes him fall asleep?
A: A whole chicken pot pie.
- Q: What is Dorothy Zbornak's job on The Golden Girls?
A: A Substitute Teacher.
- Q: South Park takes place in which state?
A: Colorado
- Q: What current TV show is the longest-running live-action primetime show ever?
A: Law & Order: SVU
- Q: On The Big Bang Theory, Penny is a waitress at which restaurant?
A: Cheesecake Factory
- Q: George Costanza appears in every Seinfeld episode except which one?
A: The Pen
- Q: What man served a single year as the mayor of Cincinnati in 1977, fourteen years before the debut of his namesake television show?
A: Jerry Springer
- Q: Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany are the two stars of what television miniseries that debuted on Disney+ in 2021 and is considered the first flagship TV show for Marvel Studios?
A: Wandavision