

Eagle Times

Volume 31, Number 1 October 2023

Bonny Eagle High School

Standish, Maine 04084

New principal all about action School renews its ban on cell phones in class



Mr. Ted Finn has hit the ground running at BEHS.

Staff Photo by Boston Nobile

By Emma Darsaoui
and Giovanna Esposito

Mr. Ted Finn, the new principal at Bonny Eagle High School, has an office filled with memorabilia: pictures of his family, a photo of the Battleship Missouri (on which he served), the Vietnam War Memorial, the emblem of the U.S. Marine Corps, and himself in uniform.

Not surprisingly, he brings a mission-driven focus to his new role as BEHS principal. As Sue Sydnor, one of our as-

sistant principals, noted, while Mr. Finn does take time on process, "he is all about action."

Before entering his teaching career, Mr. Finn served our country in the Marines for four years, rising to the rank of corporal. After completing his service, he attended the University of Maine, Farmington before going on to earn his Masters at the University Of Southern Maine.

Mr. Finn brings years of teaching and administrative experience to his new role. He

taught social studies in Bingham and then at Auburn Middle School in Auburn, where he taught English as well. He then moved on to Livermore Falls where he taught social studies before becoming an athletic director and assistant principal. He then moved to Wiscasset where he entered his first principal position.

Despite his long commute, Mr. Finn has enjoyed the transition to Bonny Eagle and was pleasantly surprised by "how welcoming the school community has been with very friendly students."

He and MSAD6 Superintendent Clay Gleason, who had positive things to say about Mr. Finn, are learning to work together on various initiatives.

Mr. Finn has high hopes for the school year. He is planning to focus on improving the school climate, implementing the new master schedule for next year, and addressing hallway behavior.

While there are things that he has to work on, Mr. Finn says, "We're moving in the right direction."



Mr. Williams says the crackdown on cell phone use during class time is working.

Staff photo

By Kaleb Knowles
and Aliza White

Bonny Eagle has cracked down with a stricter cell phone policy this school year, which compels students to put away their phones during instructional time.

Teachers may confiscate cell phones from students who violate this rule. So far the feedback from teachers and administrators has been positive.

"The policy is not 'new' as much as it is now just being fully enforced," said Mrs. Selena Leavitt, interim Bonny Eagle assistant principal.

If a student does not comply, the school has authority to take the phone away for the day. As stated in the student handbook: "Student cellphones and other personal electronic devices must be silent and out-of-sight during instructional time. Cell phones may be used during lunches and between classes. Teachers may confiscate cell phones from students who violate this rule."

The policy is meant to keep students in the classroom focusing on their work instead of their cell phones. With Bonny Eagle trying to improve test scores and classroom involvement, the school cited research that suggests cell phone use can negatively affect grades.

"Social media has been a huge problem in and out of the classrooms," Mrs. Leavitt said. "We

know we are not taking away access to social media in school entirely, but hoping to limit the use of it in the classroom."

Mrs. Leavitt also hopes that the reduction of cell phone use in school will lead to less bullying online. A lot of bullying that goes on in high school is online, via social media or messenger. Limiting this in school will relieve students of stress so that they will be able to focus on their school work.

Mrs. Leavitt said this policy was brought up and encouraged by the teachers. They are the ones that are in the classrooms with students every day. They are the ones who can see what makes the students interested in learning and how the students learn. Most teachers in Bonny Eagle agree that the cell phone policy will benefit students.

Mr. Ryan Williams is one of many teachers who welcomed the stricter enforcement of the policy. Results in his classes, so far, have been mixed, he says.

"I have had success but also struggled with the strict cell phone policy," Mr. Williams said.

In class Mr. Williams tells his students that class has begun and to put their phones away. If students do not put their cell phones away, they risk losing their device for the rest of class.

The policy sets guidelines

Cell phones cont. on page 3

Homecoming Court 2023



Left to right, students chosen for the Homecoming Court at the annual dance were: Back row: Brandt Abbott, Adam Harmon, Lucas Drinkwater, Brady Willett, Connor Krunkkala, Lucas LaForest, and Kyle Blaney. Front row: Emily Winslow, Gia Jalbert, and Abbey Laney. Please turn to page 6 for our story about this year's Homecoming weekend.

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Eagle Times staff

Editor

Boston Nobile

Reporters

Sophie Bevans
Abigail Cormier
Maggie Cook
Emma Darsaoui
Giovanna Esposito
Natalie Garland
Allie Horr
Brenna Johnson
Kaleb Knowles
Hope Michaud
Parker Moore
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Wesley Pinkham
Xochitl Pope
Gavin Saucier
Kianna Shaw
Sarah Thompson
Aliza White

Teacher Advisors

Ms. Joanne Lannin
Mr. Daniel Murphy

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The purpose of the *Eagle Times* is to:

a.) Present the news, as it pertains to the student body, in a non-biased and tasteful fashion,
b.) Provide a forum, wherein ideas and options, concepts and concerns may be freely and openly discussed,

c.) Provide the student body, faculty, and administration with a circulated medium in which letters, notices of recognition, and other submissions may be published.

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Bonny Eagle High School
700 Saco Road
Standish, ME 04084

Fun ways to spend free time this fall

By Natalie Garland

After a very hot summer filled with hanging out with your friends or family, going places or just staying home and sleeping in, it's nice to cool things down with the seasons changing. Fall is a pretty busy time for most people: school starting up again, sport teams taking the field, and students worrying about grades. But what should you do with your free time during this time of year? Here are some things to do before the snow flies.

Carve pumpkins! One of the most common fall activities is carving pumpkins. It is a fun activity to do with friends and family or even by yourself. Save the pumpkin seeds to bake and enjoy as a tasty autumn snack. There has also been a trend going on called the "pumpkin trend" where people carve pumpkins and put them on their heads for pictures with their friends or loved ones.

Sweater weather! Liven up your closet with autumn clothes. One of my favorite parts of fall is changing my wardrobe up with stylish comfy cozy clothes. Sweaters, boots, jackets, vests, and long sleeve shirts are super cute pieces to wear and stay warm with during this chilly season.

Try new recipes! Baking new recipes with or without friends or family



Natalie Garland's own boo-berry pies.



Carving pumpkins is a fun family activity. Staff photo

is still a wonderful way to spend your free time. Pies, cakes, and pastries are delicious ways to experiment with your baking skills. When planning hangouts with friends or just hanging with your family, baking creates a great bonding time between others while giving you a tasty treat when you're done. My favorite recipe for this time of year is Boo-berry pies: little blueberry pies shaped like ghosts. Here's a step by step guide!

1. Cut ghost shapes out of pie crust.
2. Get blueberry pie filling and put some on the bottom crust cutout.
3. Take the top crust cutout and cut two holes for eyes and an open mouth.
4. Next, wet your finger and outline the bottom crust to help it stick to the top.
5. Then place the top crust piece and press the bottom and top crust pieces together.

6. Take a fork on the outline of the crust and then brush egg wash over the top.
7. Finally bake in the oven at 400 degrees for 10-15 minutes.
8. Taste and try your own boo-berry pies.

Speaking of treats, enjoy your tasty treats with the next activity.

Movies! Enjoy a Halloween/horror movie this season. Watching Halloween movies or even horror movies can provide a fun time, day or night. I think we all enjoy a good scare here and there, but even if you don't like horror movies you can still enjoy Halloween-themed movies, like *A Nightmare before Christmas* and *Coraline*.

Now go enjoy your autumn months while we have them. Snow is coming!

A dark side to celebrating Halloween

By Xochitl Pope

As Halloween approaches, many families start to purchase costumes, candy and decorations. But what happens to these items when Halloween is over?

The amount of trash that Americans produce from Halloween makes it one of the most wasteful holidays celebrating every year.

While some may think of Halloween as a fun event to dress up and decorate for, these costumes and decorations tend to be made out of plastic and are likely to end up in landfills in the days following Halloween.

Halloween is known to be the second most wasteful holiday in the country and this is mainly due to all the trash that is produced. This can include anything from candy wrap-

pers to scary masks and lawn ornaments to Halloween costumes, all of which tend to contain some amount of plastic that is harmful towards the environment.

The way in which many costumes are produced is harmful for the environment because the main companies that make these costumes use polyester-based materials, or plastic, as the main product.

About 83% of costumes are non-recyclable and cheaply made, meaning they will probably only be worn once and then end up in a landfill with the other 7 million costumes that are dumped there each year.

Believe it or not, pumpkins are also a big contributor to landfills, causing 450 million kilograms of waste each year, and scientists have found them to produce methane as they decompose.

In a study conducted by an environmental group, it was found that just this one holiday generates roughly 2,000 tons of waste a year. The environment can't support this amount of trash for just this one holiday and there need to be more widespread, more sustainable options for celebrating Halloween.

Although this may seem overwhelming and depressing to think about—especially as you get ready to celebrate such a fun holiday—there are alternative ways to cel-

brate Halloween that are more eco friendly and leave less of an impact on the earth.

For example, instead of throwing away your pumpkins after Halloween, you could compost them, which is a great way to fertilize your garden and prevent as much food waste from ending up in landfills. Another way that helps to keep so much



A simple, but spooky costume from an old bedsheet. CC by 2.0 license.

Creepyhalloweenimages.com

waste out of trash cans is by making your own Halloween costumes and decorations. By turning old bed sheets into ghosts or cardboard boxes into robots, you are recycling unused items and turning them into costumes that are more environmentally friendly and creative than buying a cheaply-made costume from a store.

This can not only be a more environmentally conscious choice, but can also be a great way to get in the festive spirit and spend time with friends and family.



A cardboard box and lots of old parts lying around the garage make a great robot costume.

Photo by Marie-Claire Camp
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School water passes tests

By Sophie Bevans

After a full year of not being able to drink from the water fountains, students and teachers can finally fill their water bottles or take a sip from the fountains again.

Every year, schools around the state are required to test for lead and other contaminants in their water. Last year, MSAD6 schools tested positive for Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) also known as “forever chemicals” in their water, a toxic and harmful chemical. The state requires PFAS levels in drinking water to be below 20 parts per trillion (ppt). Bonny Eagle Middle School tested the highest with 626 ppt. Bonny Eagle High School tested with 55.7 ppt. Over the summer, BEHS added a new filtration system, allowing for drinkable water once again.

PFAS chemicals are found almost everywhere, from food to water, and even cleaning supplies. They are called “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in either the body or in the environment. It takes nearly four years for PFAS to fully leave a person's body, according to the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

It may take a long time for PFAS to



Parker Moore and Gavin Saucier are free to fill up at the water fountain. Staff photo

affect the human body, but when they do, the consequences can become dire. Over time, PFAS in the bloodstream can redirect the immune system, causing it not to respond to invading bacteria effectively. Other side effects include higher cholesterol levels, changes in thyroid function, increased liver and kidney weight, along with certain cancers among others.

No direct correlation between student health and the PFAS levels has been discovered, according to Mr. Richard Hession, Bonny Eagle health and physical education instructor.

“BE may not have had a problem health-wise, but there were other side effects. Many students didn’t have a water bottle, so we had to provide them

Water cont, on page 5

Alarm system is “worth it”

By Maggie Cook, Hope Michaud, and Allie Horr,

Bonny Eagle installed a new alarm system at the start of the school year to prevent students from leaving or entering any door except those by the main office. When a door is opened, a loud alarm goes off. Teachers can get through the doors only by swiping their IDs. While administrators praise the new system, some students object to the loss of freedom and to the noise the alarms make when they go off.

Mr. Theodore Finn, principal of Bonny Eagle High School, said the major reason for these alarms was to create a safer environment within the school. He said that a couple of other schools where he taught had looked into installing an alarm system but found it too costly.

“I think the students have been doing well so far with the new system,” he said. “You can’t put a price tag on safety.”

Since the alarms have been installed, however, some students feel like the school environment is prison-like. Mr. Finn addressed this and said, “Bottom line, it’s not intended to create a prison-like environment, but rather a safer environment.”

Some students were also concerned that the noise from the alarms would be distracting during class. Mr. Finn made



Sheriff Richard Bradbury has seen improvements since alarms were installed. Staff photo

the remark that “he heard a chicken screaming-like noise” early one morning, but that was one of the only times he had heard it this year. He said, “... as we finish our third week of school, it has gone off very rarely and the days that it did were early release days, but the system couldn’t have known that.”

Mr. Finn also added that “it is just an adjustment that we will have to get used to.”

Two additional reasons for installing the alarms were to improve attendance and reduce tardiness, and Mr. Finn believes it has helped in that regard.

“Students know that there are consequences for being late, and I think this has definitely encouraged students to be on time,” he said.

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Seniors encountering changes to the college application process

By Sarah Tompson

College application deadlines are a looming concern for many Bonny Eagle seniors. While recent changes to the application process simplify some steps, these changes can also add to the stress.

According to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), beginning this fall all contributors will need a Federal Student Aid ID in order to fill out any of the forms online. FAFSA recommends that contributors get these IDs early.

All contributors will also have to consent to their federal tax information being transferred to the student’s FAFSA via the IRS. Without consent the Student Aid index, which replaces expected family contribution, will not be calculated. The student will also not be eligible for federal student aid.

A student can list up to 20 colleges on

the online FAFSA form, but only 10 on the FAFSA PDF.

More students will also be eligible for the Pell Grant, according to Ms. Lynn Brown, Bonny Eagle’s Director of College and Career placement. The Pell Grant is money given by the federal government to students in financial need, as determined by a family’s adjusted gross income (AGI). President Joe Biden signed a bill last year increasing the maximum students can receive by \$500, raising the maximum Pell Grant to \$7,395. The grant application will now be open by December 1, instead of the previous October 1. Ms. Brown assures students that the process will be streamlined.

On a very positive note for many students, tuition for community colleges in Maine will continue to be free for Maine high school graduates, at least for those who graduate in 2024 and 2025.

For many, standardized testing is difficult and stressful. Previously most students would take the SAT or ACT and submit the scores to colleges. Now, according to Forbes Magazine, 80% of US colleges either do not require standardized tests or make submitting scores optional.

According to senior counselor Coach Pal Covie, colleges are doing a “holistic review” where they look at each student as a whole instead of basing decisions entirely on test scores.

Many students see this as a positive step. Bonny Eagle senior Jace Anastacio explained, “I have never taken the SAT, but I know that a bunch of people who do [poorly] on it just retake the test. I think it’s unfair for colleges to determine a standardized test score on it if [a student] can retake it a bunch of times to get the best score possible. I don’t

like the concept of it at all to determine if [a student] should get into this college or not.”

Declan Lynch, another senior, took the SAT last year. Scores weren’t required at the college he is now looking into. However, scholarships are awarded at many schools based on the SAT score.

Last June the Supreme Court voted to end Affirmative Action nationwide. According to National Public Radio, the case Students For Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College (2023), the decision “effectively ended race-conscious admission programs at colleges and universities across the country.” It isn’t clear how this decision might affect this year’s graduates. Many colleges are now figuring out how to comply with the law while still maintaining a diverse student body.

Cell phones continued from page one

to help teachers carry out enforcement, but different teachers have different ways of teaching and enforcing the rule. Some teachers are stricter about the use of cell phones while others will allow students to take them out after their work has been completed.

Mr. Williams has noticed more students finishing assignments in his classes with the rule in place. He hopes that this trend will continue in his classes. One of the biggest challenges that he has noticed is when students don’t have a charged iPad.

“If the iPads are not charged, it can be more difficult,” Mr Williams said.

Senior Addyson Thibodeau has to deal with the cell phone policy in the classroom every day. She also gives the

cell phone policy mixed reviews,

She believes that the cell phone policy has helped her and other students stay more focused during study hall periods, but there is no real impact in the classroom due to the fact most students stay on task during class time.

“I do believe that the cell phone policy has helped me become more engaged in my study hall, but for the other classes, it has not made an impact,” Addy said. “The cell phone rule is different but in the past years, it has always been common sense to put my phone away when a teacher is speaking,” she explains. “The only thing that is different is the study hall.”

Bonny Eagle isn’t the only school trying to address cell phone usage, which

“The cell phone rule is different but in the past years, it has always been common sense to put my phone away when a teacher is speaking.”

Senior Addyson Thibodeau

administrators describe as a large and growing problem. Other large school districts, such as Lewiston and Westbrook, have implemented stricter policies.

Studies show an average teenager spends approximately eight hours and 39 minutes on their cell phones a day. Compared to the two hours that are recommended, this is a big jump.

The administration and teachers believe that they have created a smart and fair solution to the problem by still allowing students their phones at lunch and between classes, but keeping them off of their phones during work time. The hope is to help raise GPA and test scores.

Bonny Eagle newcomers fitting right in

Her goal is helping her students reach their goals

By Sophie Bevans

Ms. Elizabeth Tharpe is Bonny Eagle High School's new Jobs For Maine Graduates (JMG) teacher.



Ms. Elizabeth Tharpe. Staff photo

JMG is a program that helps students discover who they want to be after high school. Ms. Tharpe chose to teach JMG since it is based on helping students find success and who they are, something she has focused on throughout her career in education. She wants to help students learn who they want to be and help them achieve their goals during their high school career.

"JMG is their guide, to be a source of academic professionalism in a work-driven world," she explains. "We help students find who they want to be. You may go into high school thinking you want to be a writer and come out of JMG finding you actually want to (be an) engineer."

Before working at Bonny Eagle, Ms. Tharpe was at Bonny Eagle Middle School as a Title 1 services teacher, someone who provides students with additional help.

Before that, she worked at Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) as a First Year Integration professor, which provides guidance on how to be a suc-

cessful college student. She was also an assistant housing director at SMCC.

As Ms. Tharpe advanced in her career, she realized new students were facing many challenges, and she wanted a way to help prepare them for life after high school.

"I realized while working in higher-ed many students were coming in and facing hurdles and challenges," she says. "I saw an opportunity at Bonny Eagle Middle School, and then here at the high school to really help students before they enter that secondary education or career."

When she isn't teaching, Ms. Tharpe likes to go horseback riding. In fact, she's a competitive horseback rider. She also loves to read and go on hikes.

Although it is intimidating at first being in a new school, Ms. Tharpe said that she has found Bonny Eagle to be a very welcoming place.

"Everyone is very helpful. I like how we say 'BE together.' It really does feel like we are all in this together."

Following his heart led to love of history

By Sarah Tompson

Mr. Aaron Thomas had not always planned on being a history teacher. When he was a senior in high school, his girlfriend at the time was going to attend Acadia University in Nova Scotia.



Mr. Aaron Thomas. Staff photo

Not knowing anything about the college, he applied and was accepted. This worked out because now his high school sweetheart is his wife of seven years and he has found a career that suits him.

While at Acadia, he was required to take a U.S. history class. He came out of that experience with a new view about U.S. history. He discovered how learning about a country's history can really be an eye opener. It's an opportunity to learn new things.

"I think it's really important to take a deeper, critical look at your country if you ever want to change it," he said.

Mr. Thomas has been teaching for six years, three at Saco Valley High School and two years at Cape Elizabeth High School. Thomas, a 2012 graduate of Bonny Eagle, saw the opening at his alma mater and felt that it was where he needed to be. He says Bonny Eagle's values align with his and how he wants to teach.

"I've always felt a strong connection to Bonny Eagle. I always kinda felt that

Scot pride."

Thomas and his wife have a two-year-old daughter. Mr. Allen Thomas, the music teacher at Bonny Eagle, is his father. He grew up in Buxton, but lived in Augusta for his wife's job. They moved back to southern Maine once he saw the opening for Bonny Eagle.

Mr. Thomas developed his philosophy as a teacher from his own high school experiences. Everyone knows that one kid in the back of the class who doesn't talk much, he explains. They are focused and get things done, just trying to survive school. According to Mr. Thomas, that was exactly what he was like as a student in high school.

"I feel for students that act like that," he says. "That's the kind of group of kids I like working with most. They are pretty intelligent but they don't want to work.... I think I can help them because I can connect with them."

Ms. Hu hopes to help students understand Chinese culture

By Kaleb Knowles and Aliza White

New Mandarin teacher Ms. Sherri Hu has a goal to expand the studies of culture at Bonny Eagle High School.

Originally from China, she immigrated here more than 15 years ago. She went to Central University in China for Journalism where she earned her Bachelor's degree. When she moved to the United States, she earned her Masters in education at the University of Southern Maine.

In China Ms. Hu wrote for a newspaper company before moving to the United States to study education and culture. Previously, she taught at RSU 56 in Rumford.

Ms. Hu is fluent in both Mandarin and English, and her job at Bonny Eagle is to pass on her knowledge of the language and her culture to students.

Mandarin is an extremely difficult language to both learn and teach. Mandarin is spoken in mainland China and Taiwan. Ms. Hu is ready to take on the challenge of teaching students language and culture. Specifically, she is determined to motivate students to learn Mandarin and test their abilities.

Ms. Hu's future goal for Bonny Eagle is to expand the languages that are learned but also through her cultural class she wants to be able to make a connection with her students. In her cultural



Ms. Hu holds Pao Pao, a prop in her Mandarin class. Staff photo

class, students learn about different cultures in the world and about different beliefs and ways that people around the world live.

She wants to expand her students' knowledge of different cultures around the world as well. "I want to encourage students to study a foreign language beyond high school," she says.

Ms. Hu believes that studying and learning another language beyond high school is extremely helpful with future jobs.

Ms. Young enjoys being in charge

By Allie Horr

Ms. Caitlyn Young is the new teacher for functional academics at Bonny Eagle. She is starting off strong at our school, and said, "I really enjoy working at Bonny Eagle. The staff are really nice and helpful."

It is not easy being a new teacher, but Ms. Young says she loves it anyway. She particularly enjoys the aspect of running the classes the way she wants, but it's a lot of work.

Planning out lessons, grading papers, and keeping the students interested in the topic can be a challenge.

Although this is her first year teaching a subject, this is not her first year at Bonny Eagle. She worked for four years as a special education tech before becoming a functional academics teacher.

Ms. Young went to high school at Thornton Academy in Saco, an experience she describes as mostly positive.

"I had classes I enjoyed and classes I didn't like, but that's how most high schools feel," she said.

During her time at Thornton Academy she was interested in sports and played field hockey from 7th to 11th grade along with running indoor and outdoor track. Ms. Young ran the 800m and did long jump, triple jump and high jump.

Her functional academics class is a special education class where students learn certain skills they will use in real-life situations.



Ms. Young spends a lot of time planning her lessons. Lifetouch photo

"We work on math skills like money, budgeting, checkbooks, as well as getting them prepared for college," she explained.

When she's not in school Ms. Young spends time with her husband, daughter, and dog. Her daughter is involved in sports, just like her mother was.

"My daughter does karate and plays flag football, so she keeps us busy," Ms. Young said.

Ms. Young also enjoys listening to music, reading, four-wheeling, and shopping.

Even while teaching, Ms. Young is still going to school. "I am also still taking some college classes, so I have homework to do."

Instructional coach has a passion for working with teachers



Ms. Strong.

Staff photo

By Brenna Johnson and Natalie Garland

Ms. Susan Strong is the new instructional coach at Bonny Eagle High School. She started working here two years ago. However, last year she was a literacy specialist.

Ms. Strong was born in Maryland and spent a lot of her growing-up years in Virginia. She came to Maine in the summer, mostly for the beaches.

As an adult she trained to be a literacy specialist and a coach. She earned her Masters degree in literacy and worked at middle schools for several years before moving up to the high school as a literacy specialist.

"I've known I've always wanted to work with teachers," said Mrs. Strong. "I think

teachers are the coolest people and I love helping them, and learning from them, and so, that's what made me choose my job."

Ms. Strong's job is to look at certain ideas teachers have for lesson plans and to provide support to them. She says that the experience has been fun, especially with the new courses that have been added this year.

Working well with others is a big part of Ms. Strong's job. Hearing about lessons and creative ideas from her peers has been a really interesting part of this new job. She is excited with the lessons that teachers create because not only does it get them excited, it also gets her very excited.

Last year at BEHS, Ms. Strong's role as a literacy coach

allowed her to be around other teachers less than she would've liked, which just makes her more grateful for her new job as an instructional coach.

She enjoyed the role of a literacy coach even though her experience as an instructional coach has been fun and interesting to learn from the teacher's perspective.

Coming to a new school was scary at first for her. But after she saw how well everyone got along and how everyone welcomed her, she knew she made the right choice.

"People were helping me out whenever I needed, and even inviting me to eat lunch with them. They're just nice and friendly, as well as easy to talk to," said Ms. Strong.

She did admit that her big-

gest adjustment was the early start. School started a little over an hour later at her last school. It was a little surprising to start driving in the morning while it was still dark. Since then, she has gotten used to it and now enjoys the delightful early drive to school.

Despite the earlier start, Ms. Strong says she chose Bonny Eagle because she was fascinated with the staff and how much they seemed to really like each other, making her feel like this was a good place to be. One of Ms. Strong's favorite things about the job was "getting to know the other teachers."

She says the teachers are all so hard working and she enjoys being surrounded by so many people who put their all into their jobs. She's very happy to work with both students and teachers and proud to be a part of Bonny Eagle.

Students like chillin' with Mrs. Chamberland

By Parker Moore and Gavin Saucier:

Although not a classroom teacher, Mrs. Krista Chamberland is a very important piece to the puzzle at BEHS. Despite its challenges, she finds her job as a special education resource teacher enjoyable.

Mrs. Chamberland grew up in Windham, graduating from Windham High School. According to her, this is where her passion originated for working in special education. She struggled in certain aspects of school and wanted to help children in the same subjects she struggled in.

A resident of Buxton for the last 20 years, she has worked at multiple schools in the Bonny Eagle district, including H.B.Emery and Steep Falls Elementary schools (she split time between the two), Bonny Eagle Middle School—where she has spent the most of her time—and now Bonny Eagle High School.

While she loved her job at the middle school, she had always been interested in the high school and enjoyed helping kids earn credits and graduate.

She started college studying accounting because she always loved and was interested in the numbers aspect of it. However, accounting got boring for her after a while, so she decided to do something else that she liked: becoming a teacher.

Now she spends most of her day in Room 121, the Bonny Eagle High



Mrs. Chamberland gave up accounting for the chance to help students.

Staff photo

School resource room, helping out wherever the students need her.

Outside of school hours Mrs. Chamberland enjoys the outdoors, particularly hiking and gardening.

She has two sons, both of whom are Bonny Eagle graduates. The oldest is 20 years old and a junior at Hudson University. He is studying physical therapy and playing soccer with the school.

Her other son is 18 and is at Southern Maine Community College learning the processes of how to be an electrician.

Mrs. Chamberland is ultimately a happy mother and wife who is passionate about her job helping kids in special education.

Pointing students in the right direction

By Kianna Shaw

Most teachers at Bonny Eagle high school have a fresh start when they start teaching: new coworkers, new students, and a new environment. This was not the case for Mr. Collin Sawyer, the school's new Compass teacher.

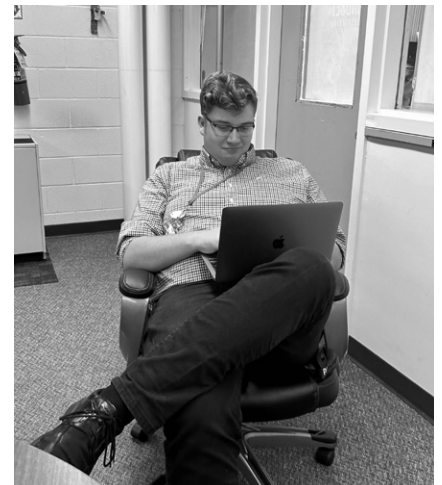
Mr. Sawyer graduated from Bonny Eagle High School in 2017. He then attended and graduated from the University of Southern Maine.

While this is his first year as a teacher, he is no stranger to being behind a Bonny Eagle teacher's desk. Last year he completed his student teaching with Mr. Jake Sawyer. And, in fact, his mother is a long time teacher at the high school as well.

Mr. Sawyer's role in Compass is to create a welcoming and safe space for students, so that they can complete their school work while learning at their own pace. Mr. Sawyer likes teaching and loves learning so Compass is a great way for Mr. Sawyer to exercise that.

Mr. Sawyer always enjoyed going to school but since 2017 he says a lot has changed.

Mr. Sawyer recalls his favorite class was Science Island in 2014 to



Mr. Sawyer helps students find their way.

Staff photo

2017. He says students learned how to survive if they were stranded on an island.

Mr. Sawyer liked English with Mr. Brooks Clark, a former teacher. He didn't like math but learned to adapt and likes it now.

Another change is the increased diversity at the high school. Because Maine is a very popular place for people to move to, we've seen so many more cultures.

Mr. Sawyer says he's "glad more people are moving into the district (because) culture and race diversity is huge right now, and unfortunately for so long, Bonny Eagle has been missing out on a lot of things."

Water continued from page three

with cups," Mr. Hession said. "It got to the point where there were no more cups and it was hard to get them....it is important for students to stay hydrated, especially while in the gym. The school was able to provide enough water, but it was hard for students to drink at times because of not having cups."

While students were home for the summer, the school was working hard to fix the PFAS problem by installing a new filtration system. This system is made up of six filter vessels that contain resin media. They extract PFAS out of the water as it comes out of the well.

It isn't clear where the PFAS came from, but there are a few theories. Mr. Thibodeau, MSAD6 facilities director said,

"The Maine Drinking Water Program (MEDWP) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) continue to do their research. The chemical could have come from a number of sources since PFAS came into existence in the 1950s," he explained. "We do know that fertilizers were used when constructing our athletic facilities that may have contained PFAS, but we do not know for certain since that material was never tested."

Mr. Thibodeau went on to say that Bonny Eagle's high school and middle school sit at the low spot of multiple watersheds to Bonny Eagle Pond and the Saco River.

"So, the contaminant could have come from anywhere upstream of the

Bonny Eagle campus. MEDEP has concluded that the source can not be pinpointed," he said.

Students who may have been anxious about whether or not the water will be contaminated again do not need to worry. MSAD6 prioritizes students' and teachers' health and checks the filters on a regular basis, Mr. Thibodeau said.

"MSAD6 is required to take quarterly samples of the water at a specific location downstream of the new filters," Mr. Thibodeau explained. "The samples are tested in a laboratory and results are sent back. If the results are above the 20ppt, as outlined by MEDWP, then the media in the filters must be changed. The system is installed to allow us to maintain

PFAS-free water in the school while the media is changed to new media."

Bonny Eagle students and staff are grateful to have a new filtration system and the ability to fill their bottles or drink from the water fountains whenever they please.

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Bonny Eagle Athletic Hall of Fame inducts three new members

By Kaleb Knowles

Bonny Eagle High School welcomed three former athletes into the Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming weekend. The three are Zach Dubiel from the Class of 2015, Anita Dixon, who graduated in 2004, and Tanner McClure, a 2017 graduate.

Athletes are elected to the Hall of Fame by a committee that includes such notables as Mike Morong, Bob Bourget, Jan Corliss, Lyndie Kelley, Bonnie Denico, Scott Regan, Kevin Cooper and Eric Curtis.

The names and faces of the athletes become part of the parade of plaques located along the wall near the locker rooms and band room where students enter for school every day.

Dubiel was a two-sport athlete who was a game changer in football and in basketball. On the basketball court he was a four-year varsity letterman and scored over 250 points in his four years. On the football field he won the Dave Allen Award as the Southern Maine Athletic Association (SMAA) Player of the Year, as well as being a two-time First Team All-SMAA Defensive Back. He made the Portland Press Herald All-State team, and was a participant in the annual Lobster Bowl. Zach won the John R. Schmidlin award for his class A work as well. He was a team captain on the 2013 State Championship football team, capping a great athletic career at Bonny Eagle.

Anita Dixon was a three-sport athlete for Bonny Eagle. Graduating in



Above, Tanner McClure on the ice. At right are Parker Gammon, who introduced Zach Dubiel's mother, Kerry Rogers Oates; Tanner McClure, and Anita Dixon. They are holding the plaques that were awarded to the three new inductees to the Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 22.

Photos courtesy of the BEHS athletic dept.



2004, she played soccer, basketball, and softball. A star in all three sports, she was exceptional at softball, winning the BEHS Most Valuable Player award in 2004. That same year she made SMAA First Team for softball. She proved her commitment to the sport by taking home the Most Dedicated Award. She showed her star power at the plate by winning Slugger of the Year for her team with a .452 average. Although she was an all around superstar on the softball field, she was also an SMAA Honorable Men-

tion for her soccer team in 2003.

The third athlete inducted into the Bonny Eagle Hall of Fame was Tanner McClure. Tanner played ice hockey and lacrosse for the Scots. At the end of his four years at Bonny Eagle from 2013 to 2017, Tanner made the 100-point club for hockey, scoring 62 goals and 70 assists. He was an SMAA All Conference 1st Team Forward and was the team MVP in 2016. McClure made the Class A all star game after a 50-point senior season in just 18 games. While dominat-

ing the ice and the lacrosse field, off the field he was also dominating the classroom. He was named to the SMAA academic team as well.

The induction took place on the Friday night of Homecoming. A small ceremony was held for the athletes at half-time of the football game. This included the athletes walking out on the field and being applauded by the fans watching the game. Both Tanner McClure and Anita Dixon were in attendance, Zach Dubiel's mother accepted on his behalf.

Homecoming was a hit in the halls and on the fields

By Calleigh Polchies & Wesley Pinkham

This year's Homecoming on Friday, Sept. 22, and Saturday, Sept. 23, was something special. For the first time in years, all of our sports teams played at home. Contests occurred close to the school and at roughly the same time, making it easy for fans to watch multiple games.

Planning all these events was no easy task. However, Game Supervisor and Science Department Chairperson Scott Regan felt the effort was worthwhile, noting Mr. Eric Curtis and he wanted to "Make something that everyone [could] take part in, in a day or two."

Homecoming commenced successfully, with the football team rolling to a 36-0 victory over the Scarborough Red Storm on Friday night.

Festivities started up again the next day with the first of many other home games, including girls volleyball, field hockey and boys and girls soccer games. Varsity volleyball took a win against Thornton. Boys varsity soccer was also successful, earning a 1-0 victory against Sanford. Despite a hard fought match, the girls varsity soccer lost to Falmouth.

During the games and throughout the day, food trucks provided tasty treats for the teams, coaches and parents. The El Rodeo, Kona Ice, Fahie Fair Foods, B&D Roadside Grill and Sook Thai were the food trucks this year. About 15 to 25% of profits from the food trucks went towards the soccer and field hockey teams. The profits from the raffles went to support football, field hockey, soccer, and volleyball booster programs. The booster programs and parents had a big part in supervising and running

the parking lot area including the food trucks and raffles.

Jenna McCurdy, the school's athletic trainer, and other faculty members put in a great deal of work towards making sure everything was perfect. The facility crew was at the school at 6:00 a.m., mowing, painting and preparing the fields for the games, along with cleaning up anything left over from the Friday night football game.

Mr. Curtis organized the games to all be close to the school so it was easy for parents and other students to watch and support multiple games. It also helped Ms. McCurdy who had to go from game to game providing medical assistance.

The week leading up to Homecoming was also full of fun themes. While many students and staff impressed with appropriate dress, Ken and Barbie vs. Oppenheimer Day was perhaps the most colorful and popular.

Homecoming ended with a well-attended, semi-formal dance from 7-10 p.m. in the high school gym.



Ms. Pinkham and Mr. Williams got into the spirit of Spirit Week.



The BEHS band entertained during the pep rally.

Staff photos

Tim Burton classic stands test of time

By Abigail Cormier

In 1993, the holiday classic Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* made its theater debut and quickly became a popular staple for movie watchers during this time of year.

The movie combines Burton's well-known expressionism and Walt Disney's whimsical animation to bridge together America's two favorite holidays, Halloween and Christmas.

This fall, the film is making its triumphant return to theaters to celebrate its 30th anniversary. This relaunch occurs from Oct. 20 to 30, but the movie is available on numerous streaming services, such as Disney +.

The movie follows the misadventures of "Jack Skellington," the pumpkin king of Halloween town, as he discovers Christmas town. The movie follows Jack's inner turmoil as he questions his purpose in such a vast and diverse world.

Jack's malicious mindset leads him to devise a plan to kidnap Santa Claus. This, however, does not go according to plan, and Jack is given a new lease on life.

The lasting message of this film shows the importance of kindness and one's ability to change despite their upbringing and values.

This film proves its classic movie reputation thanks to its many colorful characters and comedic yet deep plot points scattered throughout.

I would definitely recommend giving it a watch while the Halloween season is still around—or any time the spirit moves you.

Hulu whodunnit combines comedy and crime-solving



Selena Gomez at an American Music Awards ceremony in 2019. Photo by Cosmopolitan UK, CC by 3.0 license.

By Boston Noble

The comedy mystery series *Only Murders In The Building* has again proven to be a hit whodunnit fit for almost any audience.

This brilliant mix of crime and comedy released its first season on Hulu in August, 2021 to great success with an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Comedy Series, and a nomination for the Golden Globes for Best Television Series. One year later, season two and, recently, season three also came along and maintained its good reviews. Rotten Tomatoes has consistently given the show a 90+ rating.

Each season consists of 10 jam-packed episodes in which the main characters team up to figure out who the murderer is. The three protagonists and crime solvers are Steve Martin, Martin

Short, and Selena Gomez. Martin plays Charles Haden-Savage, a semi-retired actor who was the star of a 1990's crime drama. Martin Short is Oliver Putnam, a failing director whose only wish is to create a successful play like he used to. Selena Gomez plays Mabel Mora, a struggling young artist with a gift for putting clues together.

All three live at the Arconia apartment building in New York City where they become friends through their shared love of Cinda Canning's (Tina Fey) "All is NOT OK in Oklahoma" murder podcast. When a murder occurs in their building, they are motivated to find out who killed Tim Kono, the quiet childhood friend of Mabel, and to create a podcast that documents their efforts.

With season three having come to

an end Oct. 3, the killer of famed actor Glen Benroy (Paul Rudd) was finally found and brought to justice after what could be considered the most complicated case to solve in the show's past. After figuring out the killer, we are left with a sorrowful ending by revealing who our next victim will be in season four.

The three seasons have featured some well-known guest stars, such as Sting, Tina Fey, and Nathan Lane. Lane won an Emmy for his guest appearance. A new character, Loretta Dirkin, also joined the cast and is played by the American Treasure herself, Meryl Streep.

This unique show definitely deserves a watch and you may find yourself considering the tiny clues and details if you choose to solve the murder along with Charles, Oliver and Mabel.

Acclaimed director has another hit with *Barbie*

By Xochitl Pope

Greta Gerwig's new movie, *Barbie*, came out in July and still has people talking about it due to the feminist ideas and messages that many connected with. This movie has well-known actors in the leading roles: Margot Robbie as Barbie and Ryan Gosling as Ken, two actors very fit for these roles.

Gerwig is known for her directing style in movies such as *Little Women* and *Lady Bird*, all highly acclaimed films, so this movie was no disappointment. While a lot of the concepts found within the movie aren't new or different from what feminists have been promoting for decades, it was the comedic and ironic aspects to the film that really caught people's attention.

The movie focuses on "stereotypical" Barbie and how her life changes after she wakes up one day and things aren't as perfect as they normally are in *Barbieland*. This-

causes her and Ken to venture into the real world to solve the problem. However, once they get there, they soon realize that the real world is not what they were expecting, especially for Ken. He discovers that this world is run by something called the Patriarchy, which he brings back to *Barbieland*, causing an uprising among the other Kens.

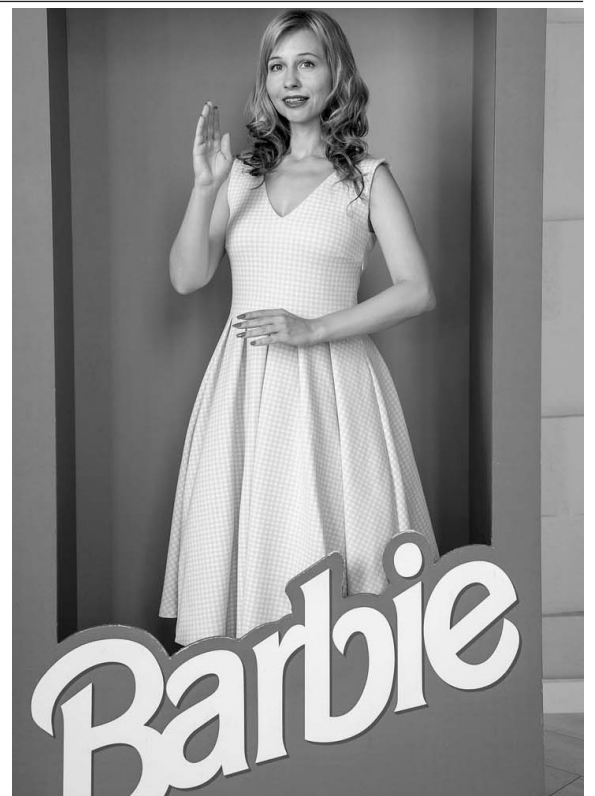
As this revolution plays out among the Barbies and Kens, the Barbies have to find a way to trick the Kens into releasing their hold on *Barbieland*. They have to fight the patriarchal norms that the Kens have established in what they now call *Kendom*.

The plot of the movie may seem rather childish and not very interesting for older generations, but the way that Gerwig writes the script and develops the characters helps people empathize with women from all over the world and has made a lot of people feel heard when it comes

to women's rights issues. A part that stood out to me was the ending because of how emotional it was and how it tended to leave the viewer with a deeper appreciation for the film. This was mainly due to the flawless performance by Margot Robbie, who portrayed Barbie with such a passion and respect for what the character represented that she left many in the audience with tears in their eyes.

The purpose of the movie was to show audiences the struggles that women face day-to-day and to then compare that with the idyllic and often unrealistic image of womanhood that little girls are socialized to believe in as they grow up.

By contrasting these two worlds, Gerwig shows how keeping a part of oneself in this innocent and sometimes naive state can bring happiness and a sort of relief in a world that to some feels out to get them. COMING SOON TO HBO MAX. RATED: PG-13.



Some movie-goers dressed the part as they cheered for Barbie. Photo courtesy of Photosforclass.com

Almost, Maine is almost ready

By Brenna Johnson

Bonny Eagle High School's Drama Club is back with its upcoming fall play. After some consideration, directors and Drama Club officers chose *Almost, Maine* as the first play of the season.

Mr. Joshua Conley, who teaches chemistry at BEHS, will direct *Almost, Maine*. This is Mr. Conley's first time directing a full-length play at BEHS. Last spring, he had a part in directing the two one-act plays: *After Happily* and *Tracks*. He is super excited about revisiting the world of *Almost, Maine*, as he did this same play in 2013 when he was a student at BEHS.

Almost, Maine is set in northern Maine and contains multiple short stories in which the characters go through different scenarios of love. Mr. Conley is looking forward to being able to show how these characters go through these real-life scenarios. He says that *Almost, Maine* "encapsulates what it's like to be in love and accurately portrays what living in northern Maine is like."

Almost, Maine will open on Friday Nov. 10, at 7:00 p.m. There will be two shows on Saturday, Nov. 11; the first



Two of the characters go over their lines with Mr. Conley at a recent rehearsal. Staff photo

will be at 2 p.m. and the second at 7 p.m. Declan Lynch, a senior at BEHS, will be playing Phil in *Almost, Maine*. This will be Declan's 10th play at Bonny Eagle High School.

"The play is all about love," Declan says. "It contains multiple stories about the differences between good love, bad love, toxic love, and sad love. I think people should attend because it shows different stories of how people experience love differently."

Lucy Burke, also a senior at the high school, is in charge of stage management. Lucy joined the drama club originally in her sophomore year and eventu-

ally "fell" into being a techy. Later on she decided that being a part of the tech crew was something she enjoyed more.

Lucy says she is mostly looking forward to "the things we plan to do behind the scenes. Out of everything, the lighting effects are something to really look forward to."

With the multiple short stories, different lighting effects are needed, which gives the tech crew more space to experiment. The plan is to try new things to spice up the play a little bit.

The cast, which includes 20 students, is looking forward to how *Almost, Maine* plays out!

Alarm continued from page 3

Sheriff Richard Bradbury, the resource officer at Bonny Eagle High School, agreed that another reason for installing the alarms was because of kids skipping class. Over the years the number of students skipping class has gone up drastically. Students leave during lunch to go to Lowe's Variety Store or to sit in their cars. This is not allowed, as students are supposed to go to the cafeteria or MPR room for lunch.

"Now that we have them up and running, kids are not going off to Lowes whenever they want," he said. "At lunch there used to be dozens of kids in the parking lot and now there is no one out there. So I think it's helped out a lot."

While most students feel safe at Bonny Eagle, the alarm system should also reassure students and parents that no intruder will go unnoticed.

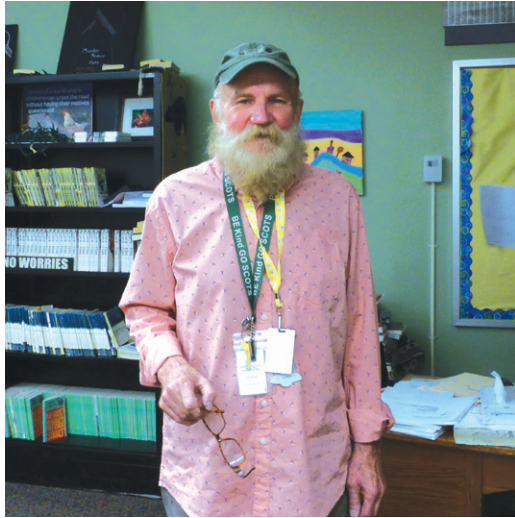
"As soon as the alarms go off the cameras take a picture of the person." The picture would be used to catch the person and question them." Mr. Finn says. "I need you guys to know you are safe and you are secure. I just need kids and staff to do their part to help."

We Ask BE

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What was your best Halloween costume?



"Mr. Cooper"
Mr. Geanangel



"Bob Ross and a happy little tree."
Mrs. Otis



"The Grinch."
Rebecca Tardiff



"A bunny"
Sammi Habeeb



*"Someone riding
an ostrich."*
Mr. Newcomb



*"Allegedly a
cheerleader."*
Mr. Leavitt



Photos and reporting
by Mr. Murphy's
Journalism class

"Off to the Pumpkin Patch"
Hailey Merrifield
Mya Shephard
Sophia Bridges
Payton Cavallaro