

# STEARNS INK



Issue II

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## Prom Ticket Information

Tickets will be available at lunch and in front of the main office after April vacation.



\$15.00 Single

\$25.00 Couple

# PROM 2022

By Isaac Hakes

MILLINOCKET - The Stearns High School Junior class is hosting Prom 2022 on May 14th. This year's theme is Casino Night, and prom is sure to be an evening filled with dancing, dining, and good friends.

High school students from grades 9 - 12 are invited to this spectacular event. The Grand March will take place from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, followed by a traditional prom from 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM.

Stearns Student Council is working tirelessly with a core group of skilled party planners to coordinate an exciting after-party that will take place from 11:00 PM to 2:00 AM.

Prom 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19. Last year's prom required masks and was broadcast via Zoom for family, and friends to observe due to Covid-19 restrictions. This year prom is back to its glory days with all the traditional nuances and prom customs. Family, friends, and community members are welcome to observe the Grand March from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Bring your cameras, and enjoy Lady Luck as she welcomes the grandest march of all!

"Luck never gives; it only lends."

- Swedish Proverb

# STEARNS ONE ACT KIDS WIN AWARDS

By Ghost and Dean Crocco



Lower row left to right: Riley Moors, Olivia Hallett, Katlyn Marcin, Julia Allen, Alyssa Stanley, Dean Crocco, Teagan York, Victoria Blanchette Upper Row left to right: Pedro Nicolau, Abby Sanders, Amelia Morrison, Ashton Walton, Gabby Brackett, Avery Farrington, Nate McLaughlin

Photo by Mike Peterson

MILLINOCKET - This year's Drama Festival took place at the George W. Stearns Junior-Senior High School on March 25th and 26th. The Stearns Drama Program's One-Act, *Orphan Train* placed third at the Drama Festival. The Maine Drama Festival hosts nearly 60 Maine high schools from all over the state each year.

The festival was back in-person after a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions. Stearns students also received **five** *All Festival Cast* awards! These distinguished awards are given to an actor or actress that the judges have deemed exceptional. Seniors Gabby Brackett, Alyssa Stanley, and Amelia Morrison received the impressive *All Festival Cast* award for their performances of *Mattie Wrightman*, *Marlena*, *Mrs. Singer*, and *Mrs. Stokes*. Abigail Sanders was the only Stearns junior to receive the *All Festival Cast* award for her phenomenal performances as *Mrs. Scott* and *Mrs. Tippet*. Lastly, one Sophomore, Dean Crocco, also received this award, for her performance as *Yakob*. The very prestigious Special

Commendation award went to Natalie McEwen for her fantastic work with the show's lighting and exceptional smooth transitions.

The Unified Performing Arts cast and crew are committed and dedicated. They put in endless hours to ensure a successful production. Their time and efforts are appreciated, and the community treasures their shows.

The cast wanted to thank the technical crew and all the adults who helped make the production a success. A great big thank you to the UPA Athletic boosters, parents of students, and of course, costumes designers and directors. The success of the program and shows are a culmination of love, dedication, and perseverance by everyone involved and, of course, the devoted Millinocket community, whose support deserves a standing ovation! Bravo!

# STEARNS HAS ITS OWN CHESS WIZARD!

By Isaac Hakes



MILLINOCKET - The Stearns Chess Club is bursting with chess enthusiasts. Andrew Hallett, an eighth-grade student; is the current undefeated school champion. Andrew has played for several years and is a member of the US Online Chess Club. Andrew is currently seeking a worthy opponent.

Science Times noted that Chess players tend to have to Enhance their reading skills. An oft-cited study in 1991 by Dr. Stuart Margulies suggests that school students who participate in playing chess have a significant increase in their reading performance (2020).

The Stearns Chess Club is looking for community members who would like to play or help instruct novice players. Students from grades 6 - 12 have been playing enthusiastically since September.

Please email Laura Dwyer at [ldwyer@millinocketschools.org](mailto:ldwyer@millinocketschools.org) if you want to be part of the chess action!

The club meets Thursdays from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM in room 202 in the middle school. Can't remember the dates mentioned? No worries, chess also helps improve memory functioning! According to Playing chess, Science Times, "chess can improve memory skills" because of its complex rules that players must remember when making a move. Chess also uses memory recall to avoid previous mistakes or retain the opponent's playing style" (2020). Therefore, good chess players generally have an excellent memory. Don't forget it!

<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/27306/20200915/10-things-playing-chess-brain.htm>



# EDITORIALS

## Millinocket's Bike Infrastructure By Sean Scrooc

The Millinocket Marathon attracts hundreds of tourists every year; why can't better bike infrastructure do the same? Better bike infrastructure would attract a more significant demographic of tourists to Millinocket, and more people would buy from Millinocket businesses. The addition of bike lanes would keep bikers safe, but at what cost? The bike lanes in Millinocket would better segregate bikers and cars and pedestrians. Taxpayers would pay a minimal amount for bike lanes since federal grants could be a way to pay for bike lanes.

Some may argue that Millinocket has good bike infrastructure, with the addition of the Michaud Trail and trails behind Stearns High School. But these trails will not accommodate **most** cyclists to their desired destinations. The Michaud Trail is a good trail for children to either walk or bike to school, but most cyclists are not going to school. There are many examples in Millinocket where cyclists are riding very close to oncoming traffic. Bike lanes would provide a sense of safety while riding. Bike lanes would also appeal to parents that don't feel comfortable allowing their children to ride on busy streets. Better bike infrastructure should be a priority for Millinocket, and bikers should feel safe riding their bikes around town.

## Vaping and Smoking By Anonymous

A silent intruder is lurking in the classrooms of just about every middle and high school in the country. Unfortunately, an alarm system cannot prevent this assault from entering. Surveillance cameras are useless; this villain is already in the building. It lurks in the pockets, clothing, and bags of students. The villain is vaping products, and unfortunately, Stearns is not immune to these new terrorists. The vaping situation is becoming of growing concern. However, what's more concerning is the way the school is handling the case.

One solution is to have students use the bathrooms between classes unless there is an emergency. This allows teachers to monitor the bathrooms better. The problem with this is that some students have Shy Bladder Syndrome or Paruresis. This occurs when a person finds it difficult or impossible to urinate when other people are around (BetterHealth Channel, 2021). When a person does not empty their bladder and holds it for long periods, this can lead to urinary tract infections (UTI).

Some solutions might include checking students' backpacks and purses before school starts, or the school could purchase vape detectors. The bigger problem is why are students vaping? Vaping causes serious health issues and is highly addictive. Some of the side effects of vaping are coughing, dry mouth and throat, shortness of breath, and mouth and throat irritation. All can lead to a collapsed lung or lung cancer. Vaping has caused trouble concentrating, anxiety, panic attacks, depression, trouble sleeping, irritability and frustration, increased appetite, and gaining weight.



# SPRING SPORTS

## YU-GI-Oh Club Members Wanted!



The up-and-coming Yu-Gi-Oh club already has five members! We are constantly looking for more players! Don't know how to play? Don't have cards? No problem! We have members who will happily teach new members how to play and loan them decks. To join, just email Jacob Blanchette at [jblanchette@millinocketschools.org](mailto:jblanchette@millinocketschools.org).



## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL SEASON BEGINS

By Clay Brittin

Credit: Getty Images/iStock photo

MILLINOCKET - On April 14th, 2022, I spoke with Nick Cullen, Stearns high school coach for softball and basketball and the assistant coach for football. Coach Cullen has been the softball coach for ten years at Stearns. He also is the girls' varsity coach for basketball and the assistant coach for the girls' softball team.

The team has had a record of 112 wins and 53 losses. Wow! They also have won 2 Northern Maine Championships in the ten-year span.

The teams play rain or shine as long it is safe for

the girls. They play mostly inside for the first couple of weeks. "I think with some hard work, we could be in the running for Northern Maine Championship this year as well," states Coach Cullen.

Last year Stearns was the runner-up for Northern Maine and had multiple players make the PVC all-star team. This year, one of their all-star basketball players was Alisyn Alley, with her 1000-point mark, following in her sister's footsteps.

GO BLUE!

# WHAT'S NEW AT STEARNS

## FUN FACTS

- 1) The first sewing machine was invented in Boston.
2. Basketball was invented in Springfield, Massachusetts by James Naismith.
- 3) Zippers were invented in 1893 and first used in boots and shoes.

By Fun Fact Haidudeck.com

## SEWING/KNITTING CLUB

By Blake Campbell

MILLINOCKET - Stearns is taking the fashion industry by storm, Sewing buttons and hemming pants like there is no tomorrow. Additionally, knitting needles have also begun to create magical items. The dynamics who instruct the club's novice members are Peggy Daigle and Suzie Kovats. Peggy is a longtime member of the Millinocket community, and Ms. Kovats has recently joined the Stearns staff as the Professor de español.

The club began on March 24th and is already looking to expand its offering to include practical use with sewing machines. The club is asking the community for donations of working sewing machines.

Home Economics once was offered to students as part of a diversified curriculum at Stearns and somehow vanished during Millinocket's economic struggles. That is behind us now, and Stearns is looking to expand its horizons with new club and class offerings one stitch at a time. If you or someone you

know has a sewing machine gathering dust, please email Ms. Dwyer at [ldwyer@millinocketschools.org](mailto:ldwyer@millinocketschools.org) to arrange a drop-off at the school or home pickup. The Stearns Sewing/Knitting Club welcomes community members who would like to join us on Thursdays from 2:00 - 3:00 in the Home Economics room.



Ms. Daigle explaining the in's and out's of sewing. (Photo courtesy Blake Campbell)

# COMMUNITY NEWS



Do you have a story or comment you would like to share with the *Stearns Ink*? The *Stearns Ink* values your opinion! Please email Ms.

Dwyer at [ldwyer@millinocketschools.org](mailto:ldwyer@millinocketschools.org) to share your opinion(s).



## STUDIO ONE

By Mia Lowery

## THE GEM OF MILLINOCKET

Photo <https://studioonedance.wordpress.com/about/>

MILLINOCKET - Studio One Dance and Acrobatics is the dance school run by Sandy Harley located in Millinocket. Studio one teaches children in grades K - 12 including classes such as gymnastics, ballet, jazz, tap, and more. Studio One has a sister school of dance located in Houlton that is also run by Ms. Hartley.

Ms. Hartley also coordinates, instructs and choreographs the dance routines for the Stearns Junior Senior High School's theater programs. Ms. Hartley has been with the Stearns theater program for many years, and has owned studio one since 1986. Ms. Hartley has 30+ years of dance experience.

She has been a guest teacher for other schools such as Robinson Ballet. Also, she has won Outstanding Choreography at the Maine State Vocal Jazz Festival over five times ([studioonedance.wordpress.com/about-sandy-hartley/](https://studioonedance.wordpress.com/about-sandy-hartley/)).

Studio one is for people who are interested in dancing or just want to do something new. There are many different classes for example point class, ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, tumbling, and more. Additional information can be found on their Studio One Facebook page or website.



# WORLD NEWS

## WAR CRIMES

By Anonymous

**Ukraine** - Who wins in war? Death, destruction, civilizations lost, identities destroyed, cultures erased. Nobody wins. The people of Ukraine have been killed and displaced for no other reason than they would like to be free. Freedom is something we take for granted as American citizens.

According to CNN's April 6, 2022, live updates, "the UN agency has recorded 3,776 civilian casualties in Ukraine: 1,563 killed and 2,213 injured in its latest update posted Wednesday"(2022). The report also stated, "in Kyiv, at least 89 people had been killed, including four children, and 167 homes damaged since the beginning of the Russian invasion, Kyiv City State Administration wrote in a statement on a verified Telegram page on Wednesday. Another 398 people, including 20 children, were injured in the war" (Liakos, Egan, Collins, Krebs, Cassidy, Liptak, and Voitovych, 2022). We must ask ourselves, "What about the rules of war?" In their June 28, 2022 discussion, NPR defined "the rules of war as part of the Geneva Convention. They were first established in the 19th century and dictated what could and could not be done during armed conflict. They aim to protect people who are not fighting in the conflict and curb the brutality of war by setting limits on the weapons and tactics employed" (2022).

So why are these established rules so blatantly being disregarded? Scott Paul, the humanitarian policy leader of Oxfam America, a global agency, stated, "It has become glaringly obvious that respect for international humanitarian law is in decline" (2018). This was before the Ukraine war. The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. According to the UN, "it was the first legal document to set out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected"(nd).

The United Nations website states that the UDHR, which turned 70 in 2018, continues to be the foundation of all international human rights law (nd). The "UDHR contains 30 articles established to provide the principles and



[www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/06/28/621112394/the-rules-of-war-are-being-broken-what-exactly-are-they](https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2018/06/28/621112394/the-rules-of-war-are-being-broken-what-exactly-are-they)

building blocks of current and future human rights conventions, treaties, and other legal instruments" (nd). The problem with the UDHR is that enforcing the rules can be difficult. This is mainly due to the distribution of veto power. The five veto-holding permanent members of the Security Council are the U.S., **China**, **Russia**, the U.K., and France must vote unanimously to pursue a "resolution that might call for an investigation, refer a case to a court for trial, threaten sanctions or propose another motion"(Universal Declaration of Human Rights). The fight for human rights lies in the hands of two countries known for their human rights violations so that the atrocities will continue.

([www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights](https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights)).

# THE DARK ROOM

## CHAPTER TWO

By Anonymous

While Nyx and Nova were fighting over who would be the first to devour either the cinnamon roll or cookie, Mrs. Honey walked into the room and watched Nyx and Nova fight over the cookies and cinnamon rolls on the table. She looked at Honey and asked, "You told them that I made the homemade cinnamon rolls and cookies, didn't you? They have a really big sweet tooth, unlike you." Honey smiled and said, "Yeah, I did tell them, but I just wanted to see what they would do this time." Do you remember the last time, when we went camping, and you had made me a three-tier cake for my birthday, I told them to wait, then I said, 'Ready you two? When I say go, run!' "I have never seen Nyx run that fast in her life!" Mrs. Honey laughed and said, "Yeah, it is always a race with those two."

Mrs. Honey and Honey finished talking,. They noticed Nyx and Nova had eaten all the cookies and the cinnamon rolls! Honey was mad, but Mrs. Honey nodded and said, "I can just make more later." The bell rang and breakfast was over. Perfect timing. They had science next; Honey didn't like science. You see Mrs. Luna, the science teacher, was Honey's aunt. She didn't have a problem with her aunt being the science teacher. She loved her aunt, but Mrs. Luna would tease Honey about Nova after class. Nova and Honey weren't dating, but Honey's aunt claims they will take one day. Nyx agrees with her, and Honey doesn't like it, but Honey usually gets over it. As the class went on, Honey started thinking about the normal kind or kinda normal dreams she has been having. She was thinking, "What do my dreams mean?" She asked herself this question daily but still didn't know the answer to this question. The bell rang, which meant it was time for her next class, math. She really didn't do much in math, so she wasn't worried about it. As she was walking out of class, Mrs. Luna asked, "Are you daydreaming about Nova?" Honey yelled out, "NO, OF COURSE NOT!" and walked off. Mrs. Luna waved goodbye happily. She just didn't get it!

After a very boring math class, Honey went to band; it was loud like always. Before she went down the stairs for lunch, she went upstairs to see her mom. Her lunch is always with her mom. This was due to scheduling more than daughterly love; her lunch didn't fit in her bag. As she was going up the stairs, she felt very dizzy and all of a sudden she started to feel cold. Honey didn't know what was happening; everything suddenly went dark. The cold feeling started to go away, but everything was still dark. What is happening to her?



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# Indoor Yard Sale Bake Sale

## Craft Fair



The Stearns National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) will host a craft fair, bake sale, and indoor yard sale on May 7th, 2022, from 11 AM-3 PM in the High School gymnasium.

Students will be making crafts and art for sale. Baked goods will also be available. Additionally, we will be hosting an indoor yard sale, so if you have anything you would like to donate to the yard sale, it would be appreciated.

Yard sale vendors may also purchase a table to sell their items for \$5.00. A percentage of the funds raised will be donated to the people of Ukraine. Please email our adviser **Laura Dwyer** at [ldwyer@millinocketschools.org](mailto:ldwyer@millinocketschools.org) to purchase a table or to receive information for dropping off items by

[ldwyer@millinocketschools.org](mailto:ldwyer@millinocketschools.org)

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