

"A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are built for."
- John A. Shedd

Breaking Beacon



Volume 24 / Beacon High School / March 2026

BHS Strikes ICE

By Kayla Selander and Marisah George

On one brisk and brutally cold January afternoon, students at Beacon High School organized a walkout protesting ICE. Over 230 students banded together to express their discontent with ICE's presence in their hometown. Of those, 150 marched outside into the frigid air, continuing their peaceful protest all the way down to the stoplight in front of City Hall.

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Scholastic Art Awards

Ceremony At SUNY New Paltz

By Zenia Haris

The annual 2026 Scholastics Art Awards was held at SUNY New Paltz on February 6th, inviting students from schools all around the Hudson Valley region. The ceremony was another success for Beacon High School, with

20 Gold and 20 Silver Key awards for individual pieces, along with Silver Key awards for two senior portfolios. All artwork that won awards were displayed in the Fine Arts Rotunda at SUNY New Paltz along with refreshments. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to put their art out there! Still keep an eye out, though— works that have earned Gold Key Awards at the regional

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Beyond the Window

A Teacher's Vision of a Cleaner Community

By Kayla Selander

Take a look out the window. Beyond the swaying trees and the bright blue sky, look closer to the ground. Keep looking ... yes, right there. A piece of litter. It's hard to miss once you actually stop to look, isn't it?

There is an underrecognized crisis of consumer waste gripping our country. According to the Environment America Research and Policy Center, Americans throw out approximately 4.9 pounds of trash per person every day, and 62% of that waste ends up in landfills or is burned in incinerators.

Our hyperconsumer society encourages the careless, immediate disposal of goods.

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What's Happening In Beacon?

<p>All Wednesdays</p> <hr/> <p>Inauguration of the Gilmore-Morris Ping Pong Table in the Pickleball Club in the BHS Cafeteria</p> <hr/> <p>March 3</p> <p>Music in Our Schools Secondary Instrumental Concert in the BHS Theater</p> <hr/> <p>March 5</p> <p>Music in Our Schools Secondary Choral Concert in the BHS Theater</p> <hr/> <p>March 6</p> <p>NHS-sponsored Lip Sync Battle in the BHS Theater at 6 pm</p>	<p>March 12th</p> <p>Southern Dutchess College Fair in the BHS Gymnasium</p> <hr/> <p>March 26</p> <p>Band, Chorus, Beacon Players trip to Broadway NYC</p> <hr/> <p>March 27</p> <p>Lights On Friday Night Event in the BHS Cafeteria at 5 pm</p> <hr/> <p>March 27</p> <p>Hudson Valley Construction Career Day Field Trip (Grades 10 - 12) at the Rockland Community College's Field House</p>
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Art Awards

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level advance to national judging. Those winners are then reviewed by creative professionals in New

York City for the chance to receive National Gold or Silver Medals, scholarships, and other opportunities. Winners will be announced on March 25th. Good luck to all Gold Key winners!



Mira Miller (Silver Key)



Taylor Kelliher (Silver Key)



Shannon Colandrea (Gold Key)

The Sound of No Music

The Mystery Behind Spotify's Disappearance From Our School

By Marisah George

Like most people in school, I opened my computer to listen to music and received a nasty shock to find Spotify was blocked. Listening to music was my crucial way, along with so many others, to get through study halls, lunch, or boring classes. Seeing it was blocked naturally begged the question, "Why?" With the help of Principal Dwyer and the director of technology Mrs. DeFonce, the mystery to its blockage has been revealed.

So why? First, we have to define the CIPA. The Children's Internet Protection Act, the CIPA is a law that works to "address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet", according to the FCC. This is what dictates what sites are not blocked; they must be in compliance with the act and shield minors from inappropriate and potentially harmful content. According to Principal Dwyer, "Spotify is not CIPA-compliant" and therefore had to be blocked to follow the law. Due

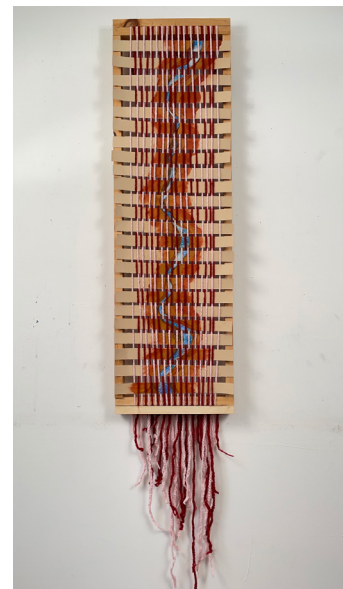
to this, the school is obligated to follow the law and strip chrome-books of Spotify.

The possibility for an unblock is slim. "Unless the law changes or Spotify becomes CIPA-compliant, it cannot be unblocked", shared Principal Dwyer. As both Spotify and Youtube Music are banned, people who rely on music for concentration or a distraction in study halls are left in silence. Principal Dwyer acknowledges this, saying "people learn in different ways and that music can be helpful" but the blockage was "not a rule that we put in place ourselves in the BCSD."

Unfortunately, the IT department is "not aware of any other music services" that are in compliance with CIPA. However, there are ways to listen to music without online streaming services. Principal Dwyer noted that some students have used "non-internet-enabled devices such as MP3 players." In this way, students can create and download playlists onto MP3 players that are separate from the internet, allowing for music barred on chromebooks. While Spotify being banned is an inconvenience, it is unfortunately beyond the control of our school. However, through other means, the sound of music has not been completely eradicated.



Alina Joseph (Gold Key)



Nora Marshall (Silver Key)

BHS Strikes ICE

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However, this walkout hadn't been planned for days or weeks prior; it was put into effect the night before. Utilizing mass text chains and Instagram, the message was spread to the entire school, all within a few hours. Despite facing parental opposition and educational consequences for truancy, they refused to let their voices go unheard.

Breaking Beacon spoke with three students about their experience participating in the walkout.

Oren Kelleher, Samiha Golden, and Evangeline Santise are students who contributed heavily to setting the protest in motion.

Thoughts from Students:

Oren Kelleher:

"I'm a co-president of SCE as of today. The protest that happened on Friday, January 30th, at Beacon High School, called BHS Strikes ICE.

There are so many people in Beacon with big dreams for what they want to do, politically, get out there, and involve themselves in their local governments, and they don't really have access to resources for that. They are stuck with these tests that they need to work on. They're stuck with family members who don't support them in their political beliefs. And this kind of, this fought back against it.

I think that organizations like Students for Civic Engagement are taking off after that idea, and just in general, we're starting to see more students care about politics, too, with what's happening. I think that Beacon High School is headed in the direction of student engagement."

Samihah Golden:

"Seeing what they're doing around the country and that they're taking people just based on race, which is racist, illegal, and unconstitutional...I don't know how people can see a five-year-old boy get taken and not feel

that something is wrong [and be convinced] that something needs to be changed...It's illegal, and it's terrifying, and just watching it happen feels like the last thing that anyone should be doing right.

There are a lot of parallels to [past tragedies], and I don't want to be like [people] in the history books that did nothing.

I think a lot of the time we feel so powerless, and it's easy to feel that way when it feels like so much of what we do doesn't actually have an impact...but students have had huge impacts in the past. Students are some of the people who have had the biggest impact on [this country] through protests. The bill that everyone's trying to stop from getting passed actually didn't get passed. And so there can be a difference made if enough people actually commit. "

Evangeline Santise:

"The protest was a success. Two hundred and fifty students with vast differences came together to unite against the unjustness we are facing with less than twenty-four hours' notice, so I think the way it turned out speaks for itself.

Student activism is often overlooked, as many of us believe and are told that our voices are not important enough to be heard, but that idea is incorrect... The people in power are making decisions for our country that they will not even live to see.

We are the ones who will have to live with the consequences of our leaders' ignorance, and if we don't fight against what is wrong now, there won't be anything left to save when we are finally deemed mature enough to have a say in our own lives. We as students don't have time to spare before we start advocating for change and student activism in our school...to show what we are standing for and what we are capable of as young people."



Pets Of Beacon

By Hazel Schein

Spud is a friendly dog looking to be adopted at Animal Rescue Foundation-NY. He is a young puppy who is only three months old. He is a boxer/mixed breed and currently weighs 20 lb. You might be able to find him enjoying fresh air on a nice walk, taking in the world around him. He is often observed to be affectionate and gentle. He enjoys hanging out with other dogs and loves to snuggle into his blankets. Spud's goofy, playful personality attracts a warm vibe to everyone who meets him.



Marty Supreme Review

By Gabrielle Khalil

Marty Supreme is a film loosely based on the life of professional table tennis player Marty Reisman. Timothée Chalamet plays the main character, Marty Bauser, a Jewish New Yorker who wants to make it big in the world of 1950s table tennis.

Chalamet's performance is strong, truly capturing Marty's egotistical and narcissistic nature. Throughout the film, Marty rarely cares about those around him unless he needs them and sees them as a means to success. Chalamet sells this portrayal, maintaining subtle, smug microexpressions and a slightly condescending tone — not so much that the character becomes cartoonish, but just enough to

convey Marty's arrogance.

However, his co-stars do not deliver performances as strong — not necessarily because it is beyond their ability, but because their characters are neglected. Gwyneth Paltrow's and Odessa A'zion's talents, especially, are put to waste, as they serve primarily as extensions of Marty's sexual and monetary desires.

Unfortunately, director Josh Safdie fails to show why a story like Marty's needs to be told. While watching the film, it feels as though the audience is meant to root for him despite his less-than-likable qualities, but it is difficult to do so. Nothing he does redeems his selfish and inconsiderate actions, yet everyone around him blindly feeds his ego. One opponent, the relatively minor character Béla Kletzki, proves to be the

honorable man Marty believes himself to be, which only makes Marty seem like an even worse person.

The most frustrating part of the film is the casting of Kevin O'Leary as pen magnate Milton Rockwell. O'Leary essentially plays himself: a greedy, self-absorbed businessman. He delivers the line, "I was born in 1601. I'm a vampire. I've met a lot of Marty Mausers over the centuries," which feels painfully cringeworthy — both because of the lazy writing, reminiscent of preteen Twilight fan fiction, and because of O'Leary's awkward delivery. He attempts to appear intimidating but instead comes across as foolish.

Combined with the many abandoned subplots and the addition of 1980s music to a film set in the 1950s, Marty Supreme ultimately feels overrated and falls far short of expectations.

Beyond the Window

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Joanna Driscoll, Beacon High School teacher, has envisioned a better world where the community comes together to combat society's tendency to ignore environmental consequences. She has proposed a momentous vision to move this forward: Pick A Place.

"It's a simple idea," Driscoll explains. "Pick a place that you care about — it could be your condo parking lot or the corner of Madame Brett Park —

and commit to being its steward. You're literally picking a place and then picking it up."

Driscoll notes that visible litter serves as "silent permission" for others to continue discarding trash. By maintaining a "pristine" environment, stewards can set a psychological deterrent against pollution.

Pick a Place is not a formal membership; it is a call to action meant to inspire the stewards of the Earth to help protect it. Driscoll further encourages the community by stating, "It is just get the idea out, and then wherever you want to decide to take care

of, just own it. No one is going to stop you. No one is going to say, 'Hey, why are you picking up garbage at Madame Brett?' 'Why are you picking up garbage on the mountain?' No one will stop you from doing that, so you can just go out and grab a bag." Be the change the Earth needs; it can only heal if we stand together as a community.

"It's kind of like vacuuming a dirty carpet, right? When you're all done, you really get to see the results of your labor, because the before and after is profound, the difference is profound."

Did You Know?

By Nadeen Ahmed

- Mrs. Alvarez-Moore once got on stage with The Beach Boys and John Stamos (Uncle Jesse).

- Mrs. Montross was on the rifle line for color guard. She performed with the marching band at the Meadows Stadium and stood on the 50 yard line.



Birthday Shoutout

By Zenia Haris

One of BHS's best art and photography teacher's birthday falls on Pi Day (3/14)! Make sure to wish Mr. Lyon a happy birthday!



Breaking Beacon

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The Oscars

By Christa George

The nominations for the 98th Academy Awards, also known as The Oscars, have been released! For those who don't know, the Oscars are an annual award show ceremony to recognize achievements in the film industry. Millions of people around the world tune in to see if their favorite movie or actor will win. With the Oscars just around the corner, here are some of the extraordinary films that have broken records and are on their way to winning a multitude of awards.

Ryan Coogler's film, *Sinners*, is leading the nominations with a record-breaking 16 nominations. Among those nominations are Best Picture, Original Screenplay, Best Lead Actor, Best Supporting Actress, and more. Chasing *Sinners*, with a total of 13 nominations, is Paul Thomas An-

derson's *One Battle After Another*. Trailing close behind are *Marty Supreme*, *Frankenstein*, and *Sentimental Value*, all with 9 nominations.

Since the nominations were announced, many people have expressed outrage that several outstanding films entered the 2026 Oscars without receiving any nominations. Among those viewed as unfairly overlooked are Paul Mescal for best supporting actor in *Hamnet*, Miles Canton for best supporting actor in *Sinners*, and Chase Ininiti for best actress in *One Battle After Another*. *Wicked: For Good* also enters this year's Academy Awards with zero nominations, including in costume design and production design, categories the franchise won last year. Another notable snub was Jesse Plemons for his performance in *Bugonia*. Plemons' wife, Kirsten Dunst, voiced her support after the omission, calling his performance "one of the greatest of all time."

If you are interested in seeing which films win, the 98th Academy Awards will be held on March 15th at 7 pm. We wish good luck to all actors and filmmakers involved in this event and hope your favorite movie leaves with its very own Oscar!



Dr. BHS

Dear Dr. BHS,

I literally have "no free time." My outside responsibilities have been increasing, giving me little time to put meaningful effort into my homework and assignments. I'm also very involved with extracurricular activities and other outside life stuff, mainly our school's drama department which takes up almost all my day. I usually get home around 8:45pm. I know I shouldn't complain too much but it's so draining and I don't know what to do. Help a brother out!

From,
Robloxlover361

Dear Robloxlover361,

You have a lot on your plate but I'm confident that you'll be able to fit in some "me time" for yourself. I would recommend trying to complete the majority of your work during classes and always preparing for the next day the day before. If you are feeling overwhelmed, don't be afraid to put yourself first and take a day off. You got this Robloxlover361!

Best Regards,
Dr.BHS

Comic Strip

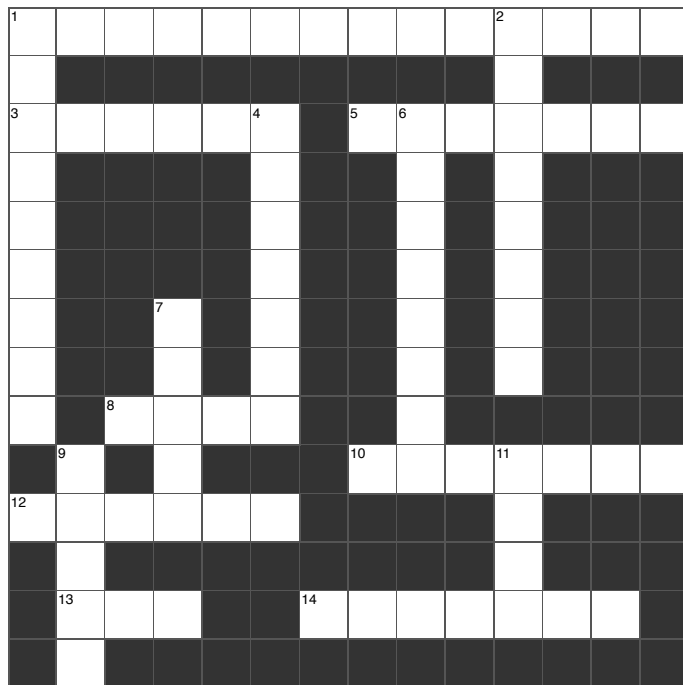
By Jayme Fuentes



Puzzle Page

By Kayla Selander

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9		3		4	2			
3			9			6	5	
	9	6		5	8			
7		8	2	3	6			1
	7	1			9			2
						8	1	7
			8		7			6



ACROSS

DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Watergate but a more Stranger Thing | 1 Michael Che's desk-mate and Scarlett Johansson's better half |
| 3 Profession held by Daredevil's daytime guise | 2 Emerald band performing along Bad Bunny for Super Bowl LX |
| 5 Palindrome used by F1 drivers | 4 Serial killer donning a crimson name in "The Mentalist" |
| 8 Wolfhard appearing on SNL's Snackhomiez | 6 Styles's Billboard topping new single |
| 10 Alter persona adopted by Batman's second sidekick | 7 Title held by the martyr who gave us Valentine's Day |
| 12 President declaring March as Women's History Month | 9 McFly or ping pong star |
| 13 Cruise, Hardy, Ford, to name a few | 11 Doctor Jekyll's unwanted neighbor |
| 14 Blood thirsty 2025 film claiming "most nominated" title at the Oscars | |

NOLAN	MAC	SCORE	BACK
BIND	MATCH	AGO	SPIELBERG
YEARS	FAME	TARANTINO	FIGHT
GERWIG	FACE	FOUR	POCKET

Books That Aren't Actually Books
FACE, MAC, MATCH, POCKET
Words Without The Second Letter L
BACK, BIND, FAME, FIGHT

Premier Directors
GERWIG, NOLAN, SPIELBERG, TARANTINO
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
AGO, FOUR, SCORE, YEARS