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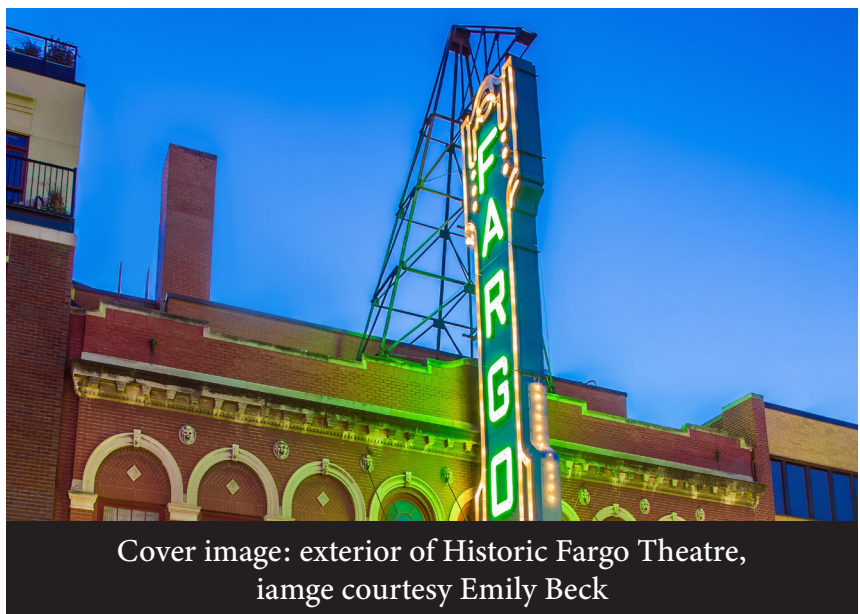
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JANUARY 2022

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THE MOVIE PALACE PANIC

The main screening room of the Fargo Theatre

Image courtesy Emily Beck,
Executive Director Fargo Theatre

By Carter Phillips

Much has been said of the decline of the movie theaters being a victim of streaming services like the video rental stores which in my lifetime have become obsolete.

Although almost extinct, video stores have something that streaming service can never have: a tangible display of films and actual people inhabiting the library.

Instead of an algorithm recommending films, an employee may assist in finding a film for you.

Maybe it's simply the satisfaction of seeing spines on my shelf or being able to hold a case in my hands, feel its weight, admire its artwork, see myself through the reflection on disc. After all, cinema is just a camera looking back at us. It comes full circle.

Streaming Services are not all bad; however, they are a threat to movie theaters just as they were to the video rental store a decade ago.

With films being dropped on some streaming services the day of theater release, people can watch movies at the comfort of they're own home. This is a massive problem for the many people who work at the cinemas.

The cinephile's worry of movie theater longevity is not new. During the beginning of television, there was a drastic drop in cinema attendance. It was even more extreme than what the streaming services have been causing.

Streamings Services are also tiring because so many popular and important films are spread throughout multiple companies, and to have what feels like complete access, you must sacrifice money only to lose more films when contracts are ended.

With a dvd, blu-ray or 4K UHD disc, you can watch a film without the possibility of buffering, sudden drops in image quality, and never worry about loosing it to a contract subsiding.



Most importantly, you watch films that you are interested in. You seek them out. You don't have an algorithm seek films out to please you.

The Movie Theater is an even grander experience. They are built to have satisfactory viewings. Many are lavish or state of the art. They all have a universal, comfortable appeal by design.

Something unique about movie theaters that even my dearest discs don't have is a massive screen

and the communal experience.

Rowdy crowds are an issue, but for myself, I've had more positive experiences with the audience than negative ones.

Despite having to listen to a crying baby during the 45th anniversary showing of Jaws or listen to elders argue about who is supposed to sit where during the third act of News of the World, it's hard to compare to the two hours (and more) of awe

when I saw the latest Dune adaption.

It's also great to rewatch the Hitchcock classic, *Rear Window* at the Fargo Theater with a live but respectful audience around me and my friend as we laughing at the wit, gasped at the suspense, and went silent when captivated. It's like watching the film when it was brand new.

An important factor is that money leads to what films Hollywood prioritizes. If people don't spend

any money on watching a film they are interested in, it sends a message that those movies are not a worthwhile investment, because at the end of the day, they aren't.

I don't think movie theaters are going anywhere. I think that the true issue is what the effect of streaming services has on the types of films being released.

Most people aren't aware that the film industry used to make a lot of money on home video releases, so much that they could make they're money back on box office failures.

Because of that they could take more risks.

Nowadays the only risks being made are from art-house or art-house adjacent companies like: A24 and XYZ pictures.

These companies are smaller and have less obligations. To call them small is an understatement, however, because they still have productions that cost a lot of money and often have such people attached to them as Nicolas Cage and Greta Gerwig.

Meanwhile some filmmakers have completely abandoned working with the film industry and have started a new wave of cellphone cinema that they have called The Folk Film Movement.

This is nothing new. People make films spending little to no money and post them on the internet for free.

Nowadays though filmmakers like Joel Haver for example, seem to be making a profit off this because they have gotten such a big following.

Because they have almost no restrictions besides money and censorship, they are allowed to be as creative as they want.

Those filmmakers are on the fringe, still obscure, but is it possible that someday they will be a big threat to the film industry?

This is to say that all the threats are still far from effecting mainstream cinemas. It's the smaller, older theaters on the edge of town that are being threatened.

As much as anyone enjoys watching a film at their own home, I think there is a certain loneliness to it. Solitude is only cozy for a while. Eventually it turns to imprisonment. With the pandemic seeming to be less of a threat, people are starting to get more comfortable leaving their homes more often.

Does this mean that a new attendance wave for theaters is on the way? It's hard to know.

It's possible that soon the only people going to movie theaters are going to be film lovers.

If so, the auditorium would be filled with less distractions.

I had correspondents with Fargo Theatres Executive Director Emily Beck who wrote, "Screen size, cutting-edge audio, and delicious popcorn all make a cinema visit special, but it is the audience — the collective cathartic experience — that is absolutely unique. I felt it recently at a screening of the new Spider-Man flick. The audience cheered when a certain character appeared and it felt exhilarating and exciting."



Later she explained, "We will continue to work hard to give our guests the best independent, international, and classic programming available."

Continuing, Beck wrote, "We've recently upped our concessions offerings to include specialty beverages and new candies. Our marketing frequently highlights the entire experience of going out downtown and all that has to offer," and concluded on a hopeful note: "Since our reopening, we've heard from countless guests that they missed the Fargo Theatre and the experience of seeing a movie on the big screen. While there are challenges ahead, we remain optimistic that there will always be an audience eager for a night at the movies."

The exterior of the Fargo Theatre
Image courtesy Emily Beck,
Executive Director Fargo Theatre

SHEYENNE STUDENTS CLOSE IN ON NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

By Keona Munowenyu

In early September it was announced by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) that our fellow students here at Sheyenne High School: Henry Christiansen, Krishna Kamalakannan, and Grace Widjaja were selected to be National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

Approximately 1.5 million high school students enter the program each year. But only 16,000 people are chosen to be semifinalists in this difficult competition.

If our fellow Sheyenne students move forward to the finalist round they will be notified in February and be one of some 15,000 Semifinalists that have advanced to the Finalist standing. Following this important date is May 11, 2022 when the National Merit \$2500 Scholarship Winners are officially announced.

Other than this scholarship's high competition count, what makes this scholarship so special in particular is what these students had to do to even be remotely considered for this great honor.

"The mission of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)," according to their website, "is to recognize and

honor the academically talented students of the United States. According to their website of the 1.5 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores (calculated by doubling the sum of the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math Test scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program."

Luck has little to do with how these students are selected. All winners of Merit Scholarship awards (Merit Scholar designees) are chosen from the Finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. Plenty of information is evaluated by the NMSC including but not limited to the high school official's written recommendation and the Finalist's own essay.

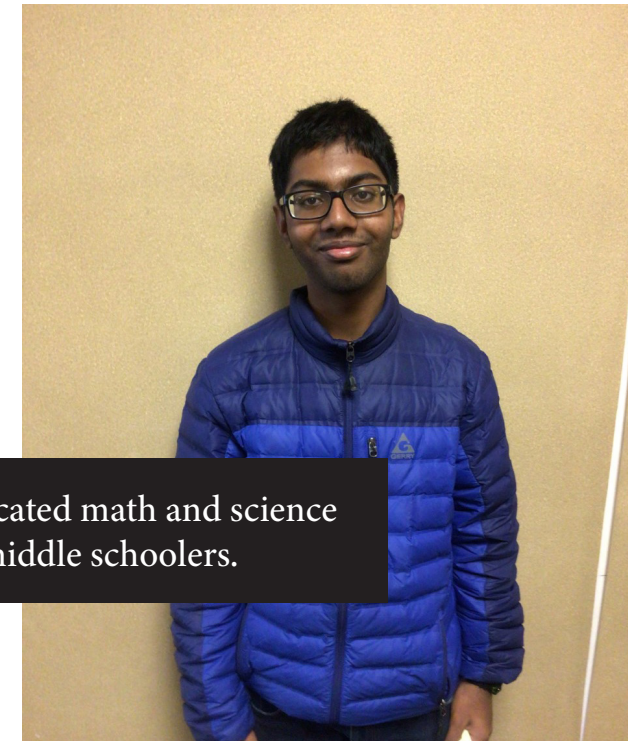
The enduring goals of the NMSC's scholarship programs are to promote a wider and deeper respect for learning in general and for exceptionally talented individuals in particular.

To shine a spotlight on brilliant students and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence at all levels of education.

To stimulate increased support from individuals and organizations that wish to sponsor scholarships for outstanding



Grace helps people accomplish their goals as president of the Student Council and Speech Team captain.



Krishna is a dedicated math and science tutor for middle schoolers.



In theatre Henry has led set projects, bonding activities, and underclassmen.

scholastic talent.

Goals that are illuminated by their careful process of choosing the proper recipients for this prestigious award.

For those of you who are juniors and younger here at Sheyenne High School and are remotely interested in this scholarship the semifinalists themselves have words of wisdom to offer.

Henry Christiansen recommends being well prepared for the PSAT because the test itself is very difficult without proper preparation. Since this is one of the major elements that the NMSC looks for when choosing its winners it's very important this is covered.

It's said best by Grace Widjaja that you should "Study. Please. Not just for the test, but also study the scholarship and the timeline, what are the different aspects, what else would they require after you qualify, etc."

Krishna Kamalakannan reports he first got to know of this scholarship "around September or October 2020, when registration for the PSAT began." So if you are currently a sophomore here at Sheyenne High School I advise you to be proactive and prepare for this scholarship ahead of time.

MIDWESTERN WINTER DEVASTATES YET INVIGORATES

By Logan Staska

On WorldPopulationReview.com it states that North Dakota is the second coldest state in the United States.

Fargo has a .1-degree average making it the 4th coldest city in the United States and the third coldest city in the state with number 1 being Fairbanks Alaska, 2 being Grand Forks, and 3rd being Williston North Dakota.

Many people become devastated when winter comes around and they rightfully should be. Driving is treacherous and walking from your car is a misery. All the negatives of the winter make it hard to see what there is to look forward to during the winter.

However, there is a lot of activities during the winter, inside and outside, to make it as fun as summer.

FargoMoorhead.org has an abundance of activities listed on their website to make sure that you're not inactive this winter.

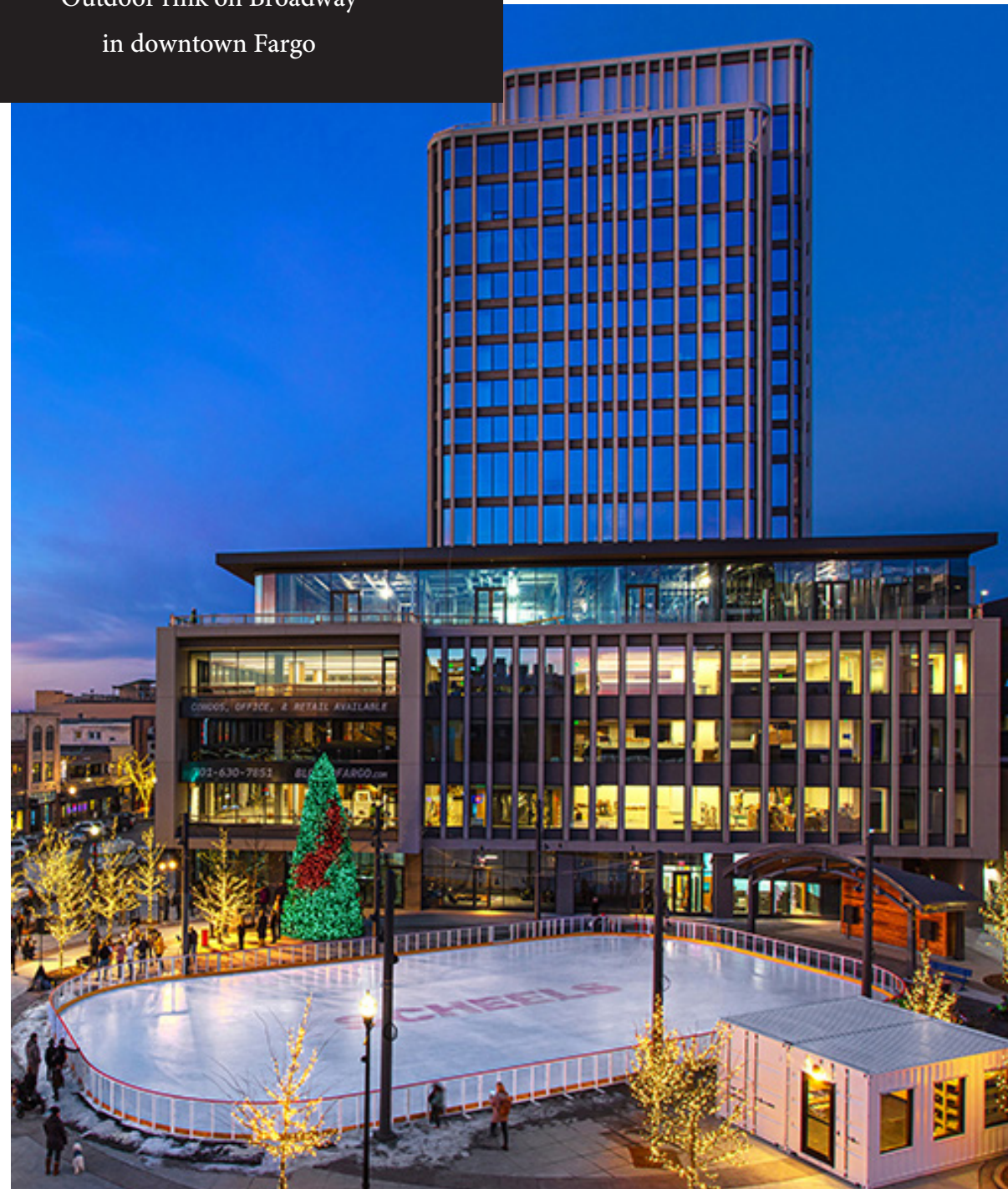
One of the places to head for relaxing and fun winter activities is Edgewood Golf Course. Edgewood makes sure to keep people busy in the summer, but unlike many other golf courses, they open their grounds for people in the winter.

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are two things that they offer during the wintertime. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are both fun and relaxing ways to relieve you of boredom this winter.

Along with being fun, doing these activities also burn 420-1000 calories an hour. Edgewood Golf Course has rentals for skis and snowshoes.

Edgewood Golf Course has trails for both activities along the river and through the woods so along

Outdoor rink on Broadway
in downtown Fargo



with having a fun and relaxing workout, you will have a great view.

But if you want to ditch the snowshoes and skis, Buffalo State Park and Lindenwood Park both have amazing winter hiking trails. The cold won't bother you when you are walking through a winter wonderland.

Ice is a North Dakotans worst nemesis, making us slip walking outside and slide while we drive. But ice can also be one of the ways we can enjoy the wintertime.

FargoMoorhead.org says that they "Have over 30 ice rinks scattered around the Fargo-Moorhead area."

One of the more famous spots to go ice skating is at The Lights on Sheyenne Street. The Lights keep us busy in the summer with concerts and just having a spot to hang at.

But they have the same mission during winter with their giant ice rink.

Another way ice blesses us this winter is with the Fargo Force. Fargo Force is a local hockey team. You can see them at the Scheels Arena.

With Fargo being very flat, that doesn't mean we don't have any hills to sled on. One of the best ways to spend the wintertime is zipping downhill.

The best spot to sled is in Mickelson Park where you can also rent sleds there. If you want a fun and exciting way to spend a winter day with your family sledding is the way to go.

Fargo isn't the only place with fun winter activities. Detroit Lakes is jam-packed with fun outdoor winter activities.

Detroit Lakes is most famous for being a regular in most people's summer. However, Detroit Lakes has ways to stay popping in wintertime.

Snowboarder shredding snow-splattered slopes during the winter



Detroit lakes is most famous for its ski, snowboard, and tubing resort, Detroit Mountain.

Detroit Mountain has 21 trails for dissimilar skill capabilities, from bunny hill to steep trails and trick trails in favor for snowboarders, but skiers can go on it to. If you get cold or need a brake the lounge is great spot.

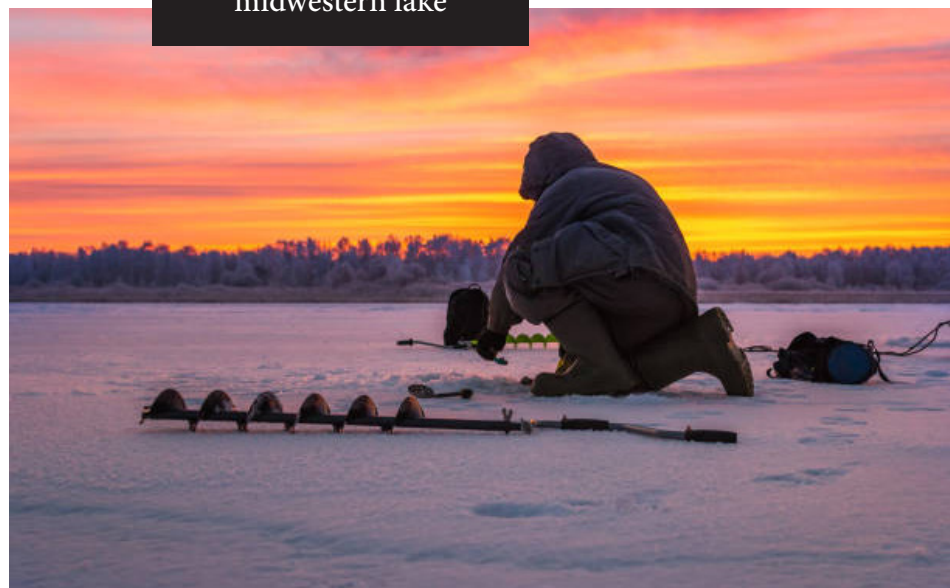
It has a full bar and a cafeteria with amazing food.

The lift ticket and rental it is going to be 75.16 dollars, 3pm to close, its reduced to 65.49 dollars. If you have your own gear, you are then welcomed to bring it. You would still have to get a lift ticket 46.17 dollars and if you get there at 3pm or after its reduced to 36.50.

Detroit Mountain is one of the main reasons that people merge to Detroit Lakes during the winter. But there are many more options.

Detroit Lakes has over 250 miles of Snowmobile trails scattered all around. Bring your own or go to one of Detroit lakes many snowmobile rentals. Detroit Lakes is a very exciting

Ice fisher patrolling ice-hole for fish on frozen midwestern lake



Snow-mobilers cruising through chilled midwestern forest



place, but it can also be relaxing.

One of the most relaxing winter activities is ice fishing.

Detroit Lakes has more than 400 lakes within 25 miles of the city of Detroit Lakes.

One of the more famous things to come out of Detroit lakes is the Polar Fest.

Polar Fest is a two-week festival in Detroit Lakes filled with outdoor and indoor winter activities. Its most famously known for the Ice Palace Lighting.

The frozen sculpture magnets people into Detroit Lakes just to see the colorful lights light up the ice castle.

Even though Fargo and the whole Midwest seems to become a frozen waste land in the wintertime. Just remember that there are still many things you can do to enjoy the wintertime as if it was summer.



Polar-Fest ice palace lighting the polarized Detroit Lakes sky

Sheyenne's Super Staff: Mrs. Ott

By Hailey Boehme

Mrs. Ott is an AP European History and United States History teacher at Sheyenne High School.

For her own education, she attended Century High School in Bismarck, UND for her Bachelors Degree, and Walden University for her Masters Degree.

Mrs. Ott says she is happy that she is a teacher but if she had to choose a different profession, she would want to be a dental hygienist.

Her happiness with teaching shined through as she explained one of her favorite memories, "During my first year of teaching a student did an impression of me teaching and he was just spot on. We all had a really good laugh."

That is the exact type of person Mrs. Ott is. She not only teaches history, but also is a great example of the importance of being able to laugh at yourself and have a good time.

Students find her classroom to be a great environment to not



The Ott family (left to right)
Helen, Mrs. Ott, Vince, Mr. Ott

only push themselves but also be thankful for where they are at in the present.

Her love for her job is visible in her lectures, too. When commenting on teaching US History she said, "I really enjoy teaching US History. Our nation has evolved so much over a short period of time and I like to teach about the successes and failures of that evolution."

Another thing that Mrs. Ott appreciates is how her courses' subjects can get controversial, allowing for students to speak up

about their ideas and opinions in a safe place.

Teaching about the 1960s including the Cold War, Vietnam War, and Civil Rights Movements are especially fun for her.

As for her other ideas of fun, Mrs. Ott describes her hobbies as "general". In her free time she likes to spend time with her kids, exercise, read, watch Duke University men's basketball, or turn on some "terrible" reality tv.

SUPERGIRL SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS

By Catlyn Anderson

Kara Zor-El came to Earth when she was 12 years old, because her home planet Krypton was destroyed. While on route to Earth, Kara's pod was

knocked into the Phantom Zone.

After getting to Earth, Kara was adopted by the Danvers family. Kara hides her powers, because the world already had Superman. She had to reveal her powers when her sister was in danger.

After Kara saves the plane that her sister Alex was on she became Supergirl. To maintain her secret identity Kara worked for Cat Co. Worldwide Media. Cat Co. was the media platform who named her Supergirl.

Supergirl and Superman are cousins. Kara

teams up with several other DC heroes to save the multiverse. Supergirl is part of the DC Arrowverse that is on the CW. You can stream all of the Arrowverse shows on Netflix or HBO Max.



Melissa Benoist featured as the series Supergirl

ARTIST Spotlight

Featuring Sheyenne High School's Student Artists



All images courtesy Kariana Thom



Facial Features

Sketch

Colored pencil on sketch paper

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Karianna Thom is a sophomore at Sheyenne High School and is attending their second year of art classes.

Currently, they are working with Adobe Illustrator and learning about the world of typography.

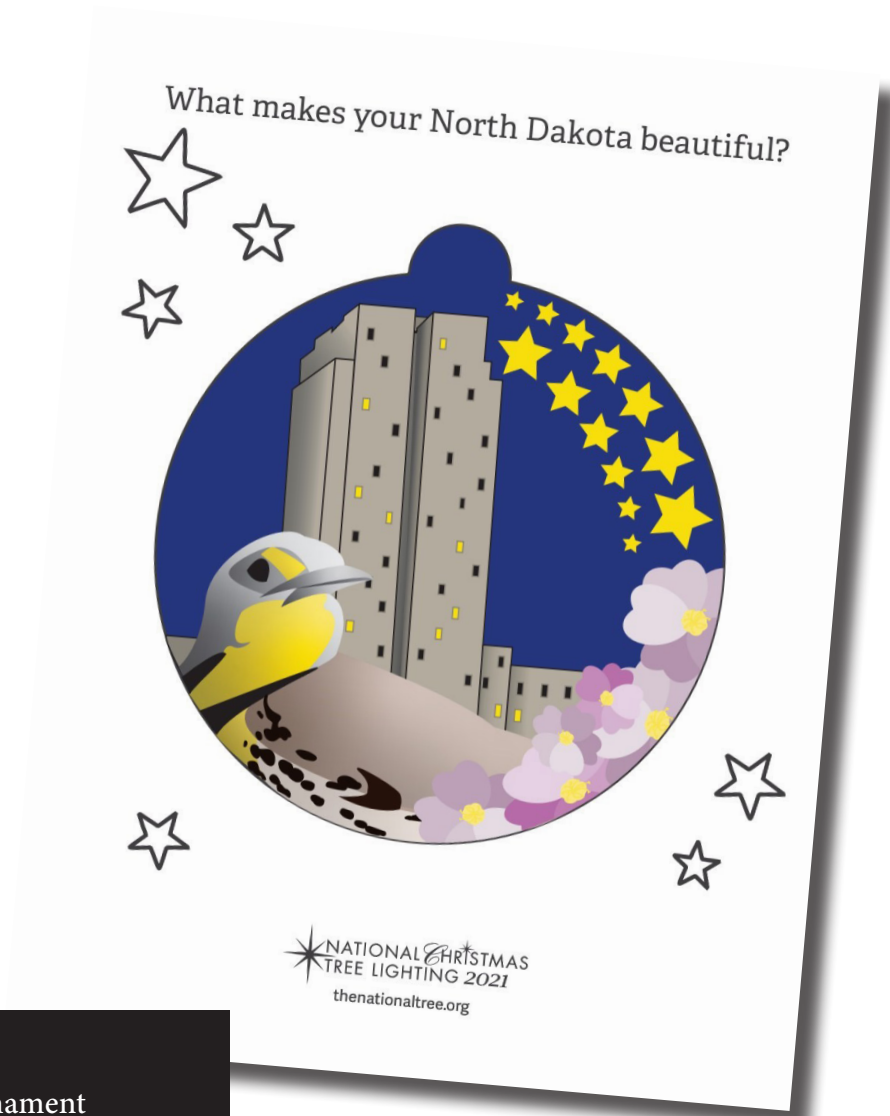
They enjoy listening to music while working on projects whether it be for school or just a personal project at home.

Karianna Thom

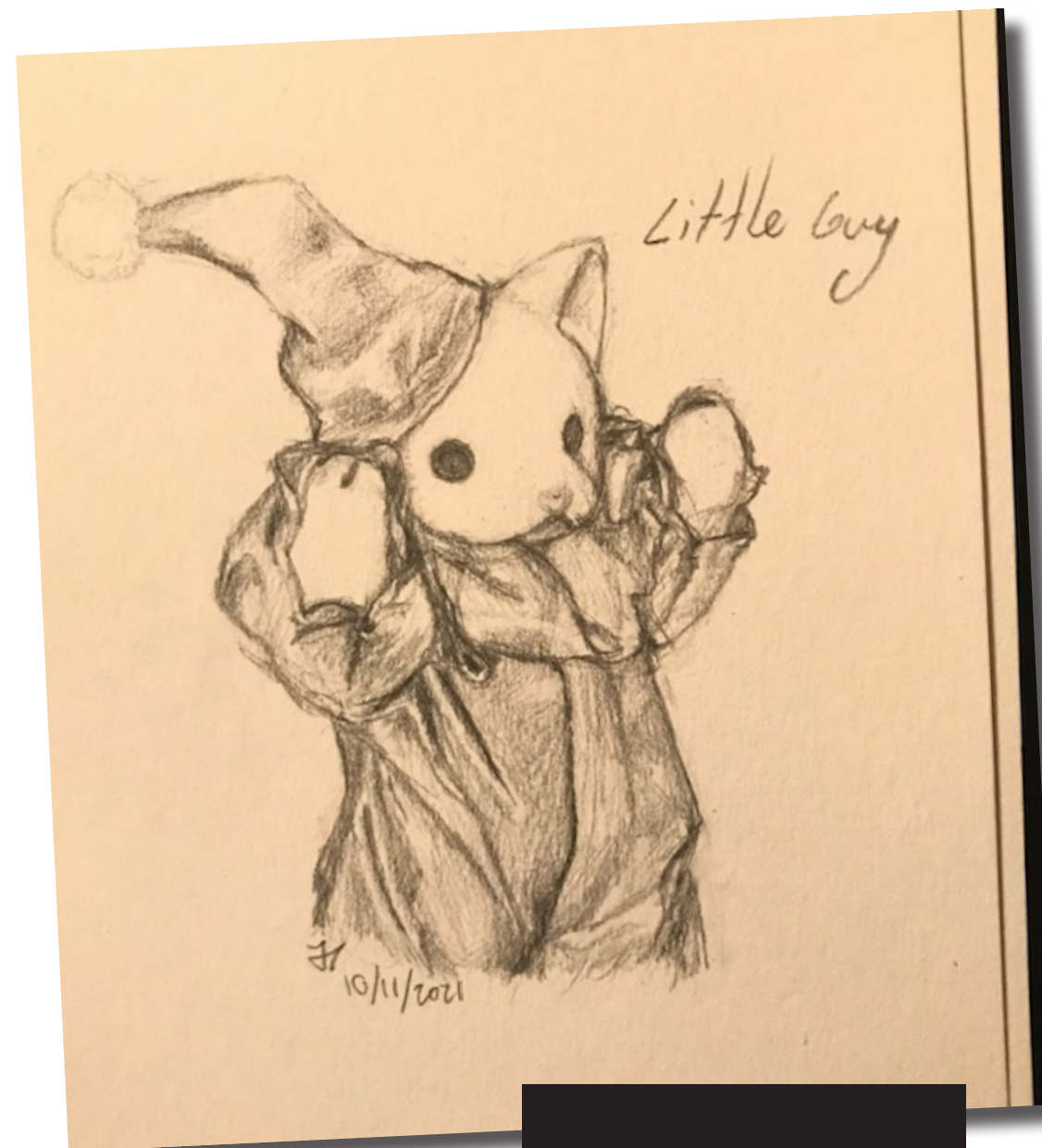
Chiaroscuro
Charcoal on toned paper



ND Ornament
Adobe Illustrator



Clown Cat
Graphite on sketch paper



Karriana Thom

Books of the Past to Read in the New Year



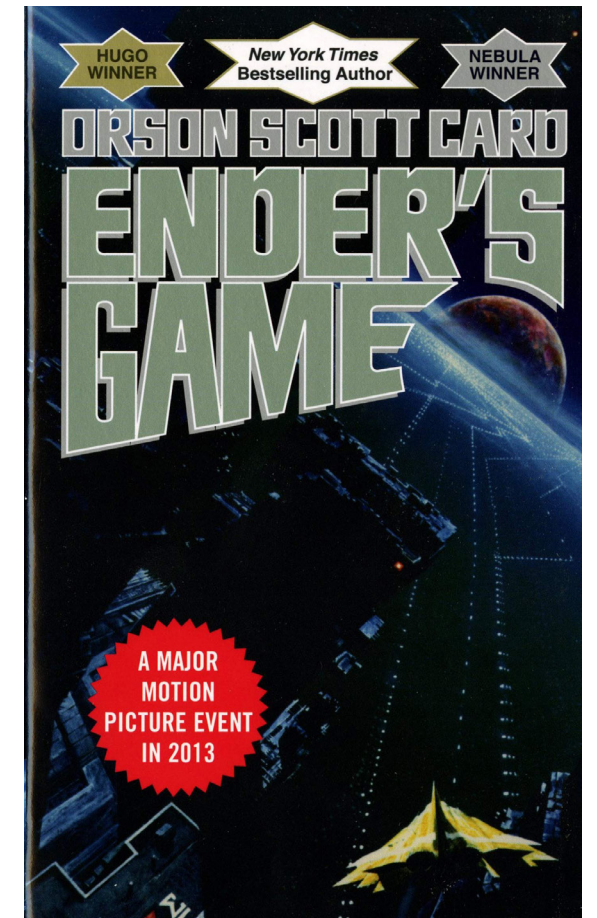
Picture from the 2013 Ender's Game film

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

In this gripping Sci-Fi book aliens called “buggers” have attacked Earth twice. To protect the planet the government recruits children, training them to be military geniuses in preparation for the final war. At the start of this novel the life of sixteen-year-old Andrew “Ender” Wiggin is changed when he is taken away from the home he knows and sent to battle school in space.

Through this story Ender is challenged both mentally and physically, pushing himself farther than ever before. Taking powerful and unique ways to earn victories, he is quickly picked out as a talented child. The quick wit and fast pace of this story makes it a difficult book to put down, and the perfect read for people of any age.

If you are sensitive to animal abuse, blood, or manipulation proceed with caution.



By Lauren Johnson

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

If you are in search of a masterfully crafted historical fiction, young adult novel, then this book just might be the one for you.

To many's surprise the narrator of this story is Death. No, not the unsympathetic Grim Reaper, but rather a kinder, and gentler Death who has a philosophical and, in a way, beautiful view on life. Although narrated by Death, this book is not just about that. It follows the life of Liesel Meminger, a young German girl during World War Two, who was taken from her home because her mother could not take care of her. While this book is historical fiction, it opens the readers eyes to the realization that many people in Germany during the Second World War were victims as well, and not as evil as they are made out to be.

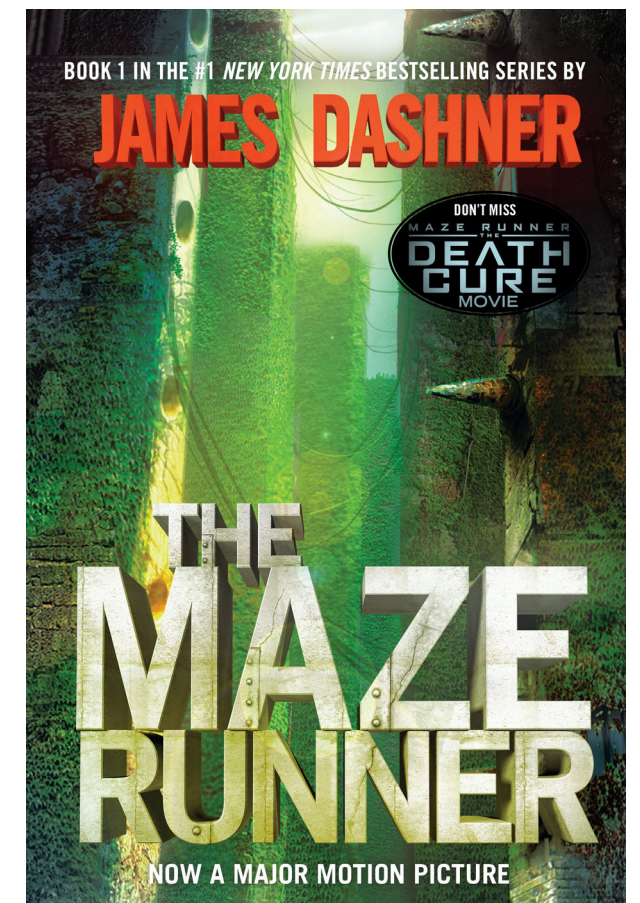
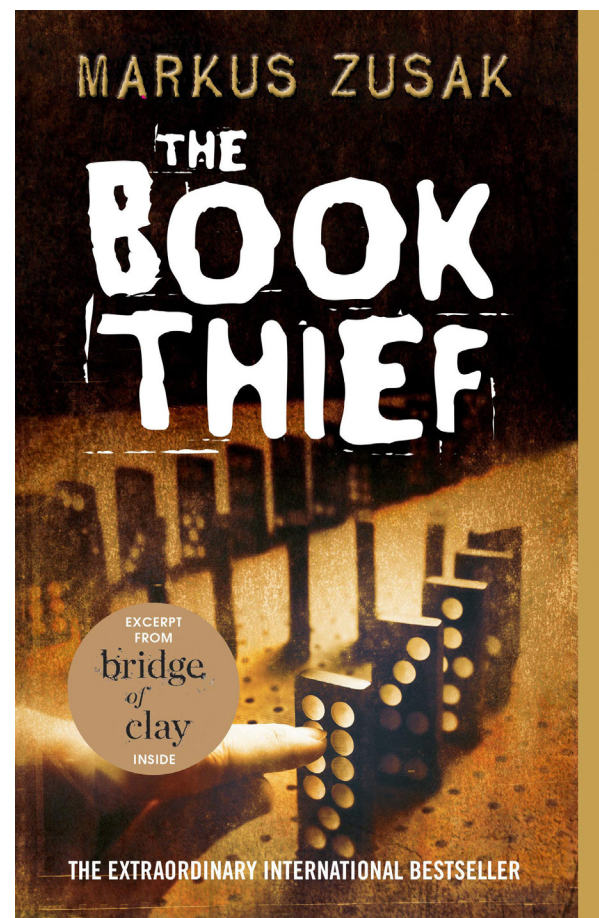
If you are sensitive to death, depression, murder, physical abuse, suicide, violence, war, and the Holocaust proceed with caution.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

With post-apocalyptic books taking over the shelves it becomes more difficult to find an enjoyable read. The Maze Runner is a very well-known series in the dystopian genre, that draws readers in until the very last line.

In the first book the protagonist, Thomas, awakes with no memory of his past. The location of the story is in an unknown place with creatures, a deadly maze, and no way out. Everything changes when an ominous message is sent up to them. With a new cliffhanger on every chapter, readers will have a tough time putting this book down.

If you are sensitive to death, hallucinations, murder, needles, poison, or violence proceed with caution.





By Jacob Fisher - Mustang Post

Growing up in the Halo “Dark Ages” - defined by lackluster titles after a messy studio change - I played what was out, primarily Halo: Reach and Halo 5, known to be the most divisive Halos in the franchise. I never got to know what this series truly meant to longtime fans of the classic trilogy, now well into adulthood.

However, with the Halo Infinite multiplayer released on Halo’s 20th anniversary, and the campaign now out, I now understand what classic fans loved about those mysterious rings and the heroes who came along with them.

Halo Infinite feels authentically Halo despite me never growing up with the original trilogy. It makes you feel nostalgic, joyful, and – most importantly - hopeful for the future of one of the most legendary game franchises of all time. Prepare to drop into Zeta Halo.



Halo Infinite is being described as a spiritual reboot to the series, a reaction to the removal of the classic Halo formula in Reach, 4, and 5. Halo, to many of the classic fans, was supposed to be about a fantastic story, a beautiful but clean art style, a focused cast, and a sandbox-first approach, where what you found on the battlefield could help determine your success.

Halo Infinite fulfills this fantastically. This entry has some of the best ensembles in Halo history, featuring a new villain-

ous faction.

These villains – the Banished – stray noticeably from the cultish Covenant and the lackluster Forerunners. They are a group of rebels, betrayed by their Covenant leaders, and willing to be ruthless to win. Luckily, you, as the legendary Master Chief, are willing to play the same games for the sake of humanity.

Waking up six months after humanity lost – something revealed how throughout the main story and collectibles – the Master Chief must uncover the se-

crets of the mysterious Zeta Halo while fighting powerful foes both new, old, and unexpected.

One of the first people you will meet in Infinite will be Sierra 216, better known as “The Pilot.” This Marine, completely separated from his people as he drifts in space, finds the Master Chief after the destruction of one of the most important mother-ships in humanity’s hands.

Replacing the now corrupted (and now war mongering!) Cortana, your earlier AI model, comes the mysterious clone AI

One point of contention for the last two Halos has been the art style, one that long-time fans say is more futuristic than military-sci-fi. 343 Industries, the new developers of Halo, have listened to this feedback in spades.

Both the newest Halo ring and the Master Chief experience the most noticeable uplifts in art style and graphical fidelity. With Halo Infinite being open world, Zeta Halo now has a chance to shine even brighter than any Halo that came before, with a world that does not feel unnecessary big, but catered to a fun run-and-gun experience.

Zeta Halo graphically feels straight out of Combat Evolved, with threatening mountains, grassy plains, and a noticeably real feeling environment as birds chirp throughout a day and night cycle.

Walking on this new ring feels therapeutic, like a walk in a (alien infested) park. Most importantly, the graphics are no longer cluttered, and although still great looking, they keep the classic feel that made Halo CE so



The gorgeous Zeta Halo features many things to discover, such as these Ring artifacts - collectibles scattered across the map

memorable - a big inspiration for Halo Infinite.

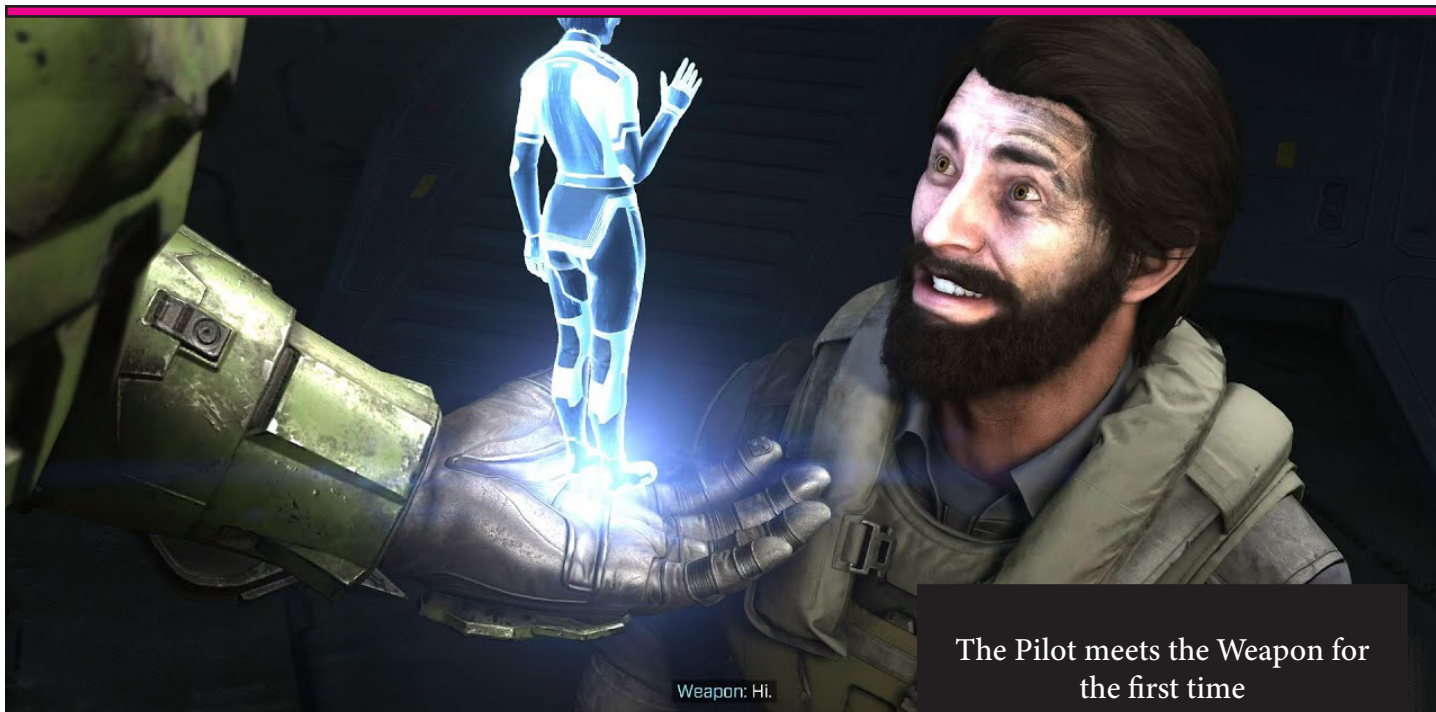
However, the outdoors is only one part of the ring. There are practically two other “biomes” - that of the Banished interiors and Forerunner structures.

The Banished interiors will be one of the first locations you will visit. Being made by a hyper-efficient military force, Banished décor is as brutal as their militaristic reputation. Lights are red. Steel is rugged. And everything looks like it wants to kill you.

Further, the Forerunner architecture is the best in the series, and clearly the set piece moment of the art department. Swaying away from 343 Industries reimagining of the Forerunner architecture, they return to what made the Bungie Forerunning great: an overwhelming sense of both simplicity and mysterious technology lining these futuristic environments.

It is the truly jaw-dropping art direction that Infinite needed for screenshot fodder.

Likewise, Master Chief might be the best looking Chief in the series. This is a Spartan that looks strong, confident, and like the walking tank these super soldiers should be. Halo 4 had an especially weak looking Chief, one that does not exactly scream the savior of humanity, so it’s nice to see our favorite hero back with a vengeance.



The Pilot meets the Weapon for the first time

model codenamed “The Weapon.” Her story is laden with mystery, with much of it being uncovered throughout the campaign, with her learning about the Banished and the mysteries of Zeta Halo along with you.

You, as the Master Chief, are often the last hope for the galaxy. Humanity has rested on your

shoulders more than once. But, in Halo: Infinite, the cracks start to show. Chief realizes just how human he is, despite his heroic legacy.

This main trio, with the stress of the Pilot, the confusion of the Weapon, and Master Chief’s need to be a hero makes a fantastic cast, and their interac-

tions make perfect sense within the grounds of storytelling and the Halo universe. These are characters you will care about and grow attached to, something that many earlier Halos do not deliver.



A notable area within the Forerunner “biome” of Halo Infinite, looking as imposing as ever

Halo Infinite also features a complete return to form in the musical department. The original trilogy was renowned for their excellent musical direction – something that Halo 4 and 5 did not replicate.

Yet, from the music teasers last year, to the final release on December 8, I have been exceptionally pleased by the musical direction of Infinite. The risk of having three composers, with one being from the musically

excellent Ori series, clearly paid off.

However, despite Infinite being an undoubtedly excellent experience for the art style, it is not the blockbusting graphical fidelity you should be finding in a Halo title.

I feel that 343 Industries have not fully answered from the graphically disastrous 2020 Infinite showcase. I still have disappointment, whether that be for the lack of different biomes

on the overworld, or actual malice towards the environments not feeling complete.

At the end of the day, the game does look great, but perhaps not up to my wild expectations for a next-gen title. But for what it is worth, this is truly Halo: Combat Evolved reborn.

play as Master Chief) but the gameplay, although competitively viable, was far from what fans wanted.

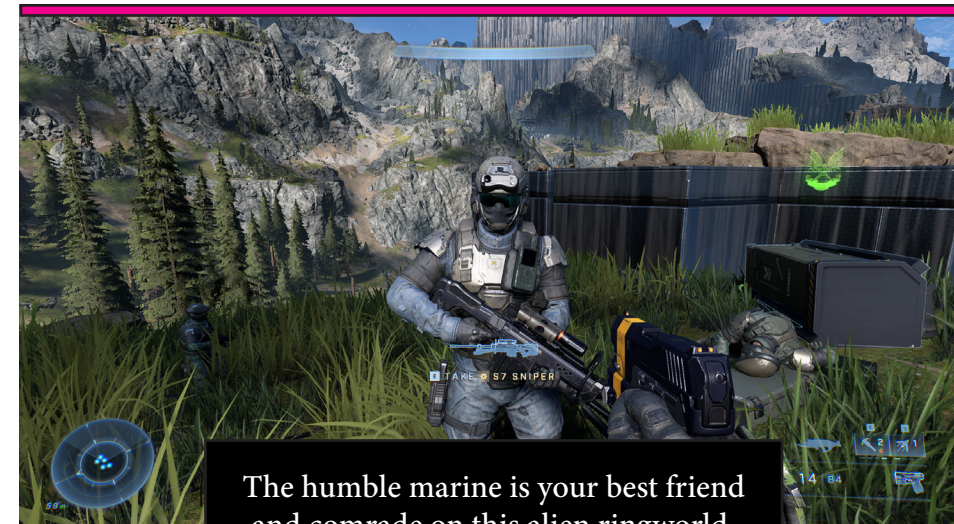
Luckily, Infinite's campaign is an absolute joy to play. The gunplay for almost all weapons is fantastic, feeling modernized but still identifiably Halo with the ability to melee, throw grenades, and shoot at almost any time. You will be rewarded for using all three intelligently.

This calls back to the classic design of Halo firefights, and it could not be appreciated more. A critical element of this working in a modern Halo, however, has been the Grappleshot.

This player ability allows you to sling yourself around the environment, picking up weapons, throwable explosives, and even slinging right into other enemies to secure a quick smack to the nose to end an encounter. This ability is the cohesive glue to Halo Infinite's combat loop, requiring you to think to escape battles or start one yourself. Fans of Titanfall should be pleased.

This gameplay is an utter return to form that the series needed. No matter what activity you are doing on Infinite's open world – whether that be freeing Marines or capturing Banished-controlled outposts – you will feel enthralled to be taking part in Halo's iconic combat dance, now better than ever.

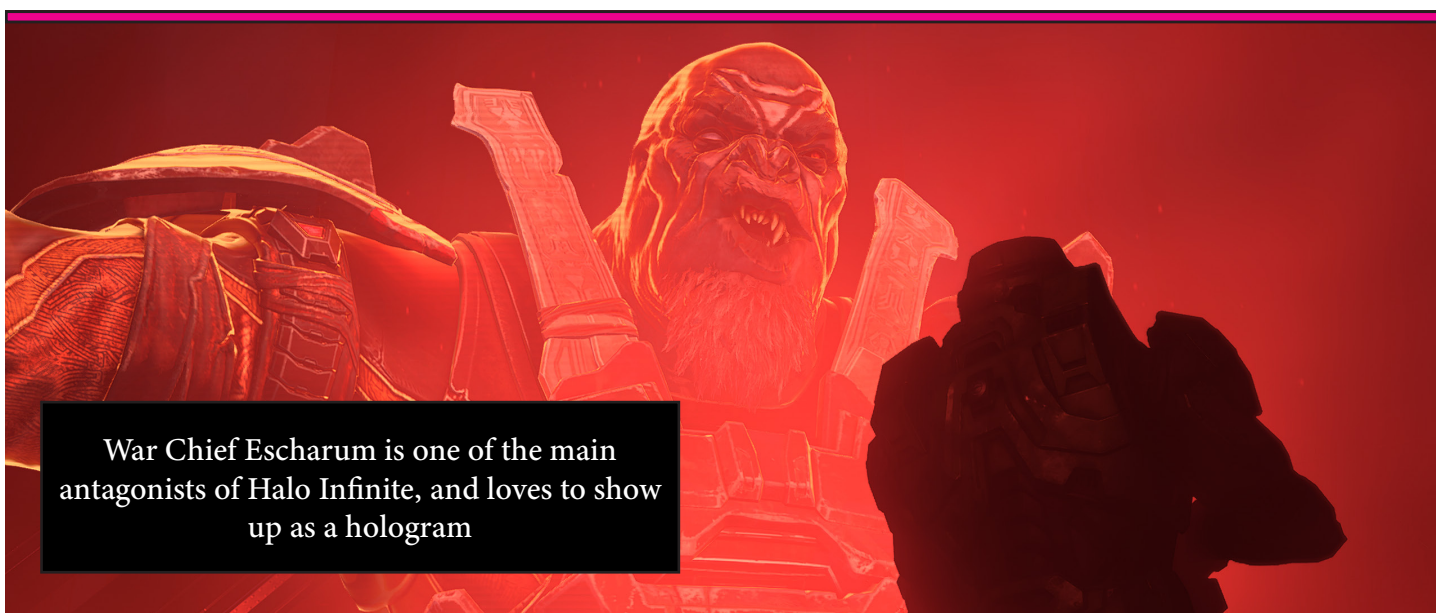
Exploration, a key element of your time on Zeta Halo, is also handsomely respected. A staple of the Halo series has always been collectibles. Infinite turns this up to 11.



The humble marine is your best friend and comrade on this alien ringworld. Like you, they love to shoot their way out.



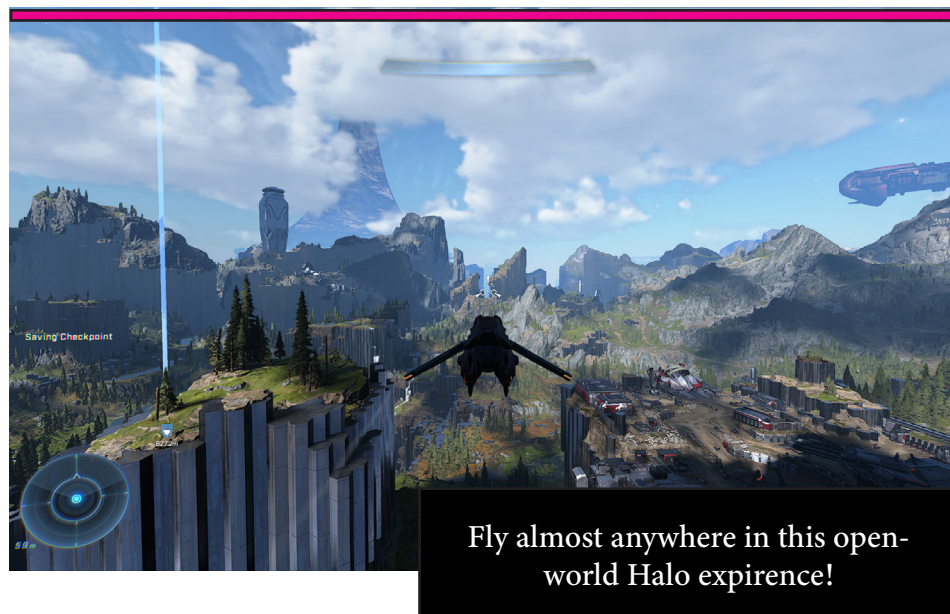
Another ring artifact. Once scanned, you get an audiolog from a mysterious superintendent who once ran Zeta Halo.



War Chief Escharum is one of the main antagonists of Halo Infinite, and loves to show up as a hologram

Likewise, Halo Infinite feels like what Doom 2016 was for the Doom franchise, especially in gameplay. Infinite is a title that respects Halo's history yet iterates (and perfects!) itself for today's audience – whether you be a classic or modern fan.

Fans found controversy within the last three Halo titles' campaigns, and especially the last 343 Industries entry, Halo 5. This game was a disaster of a campaign. Not only did the story fall massively short (there are only a few missions where you



Fly almost anywhere in this open-world Halo experience!

There must be at least a hundred things to collect across this ring world, and none of them feel tedious or necessary. With thanks to the Grappleshot, you can go practically anywhere, explore as you choose, and find fun easter eggs all over the landscape.

Likewise, with almost all the weapons being excellent (looking at you, Disrupter!), this might be the best Halo gameplay

that we've had for an exceptionally long time. Everything comes together, and nothing feels wasted. This is Halo at its' sandbox peak.

VERDICT

There are still some things that Infinite could improve in the future. As mentioned, the Ring looks especially repetitive, with only a few areas that I thought were showcase worthy.

Performance on PC has been especially atrocious, with heavy stuttering in Infinite's open world and what seems like 30 FPS face animations against a game that should be running 100 FPS+. This feels almost unacceptable for a game that is supposed to be cross-platform.

Likewise, the worst culprit of all has been a lack of campaign co-op for a game that seems meant for it. So many moments would be better with a friend,

like loading up four Razorbacks with Marines for a raiding party at a Banished base. At the end of the day, this hurts just because of how good Infinite is.

Infinite had to be many things to a fanbase that encompasses twenty years with dozens of subcommunities. Some people love to mess around in the Halo sandbox. Some people are lore fanatics. And some people just want to relax and play the game. That is a hard balance to strike.

However, Halo Infinite's campaign will please nearly everyone with a story, gameplay, and aesthetic that balances both the new and the old. 343 Industries has truly done a fantastic

job at creating a game that can be dramatic, sad, funny, joyful, but most importantly, fun, at all the right moments.

Despite a few criticisms, this was a rare single-player game that really hooked me and did not let go without overstaying its welcome. In a current market that is rife with delays and broken launches, it is great to see one of the most anticipated games of the last few years stick the landing to revive one of gaming's most important franchises.

Halo Infinite drops in this holiday with a 8.5/10 score.



MUSTANGS STAMPEDE TO STATE

By Jaxson Miller

Another volleyball season has come to an end, and it was a great one for West Fargo Sheyenne.

Middle hitter Cally Tungseth had good things to say about the season, "I think the season went really great. My favorite part was watching everyone get better throughout the season."

Tungseth concluded her sophomore season this year. She will be a huge factor in the next couple of years for the Mustangs.

Tungseth was one of the few sophomores on the team and contributed by getting a lot of blocks and

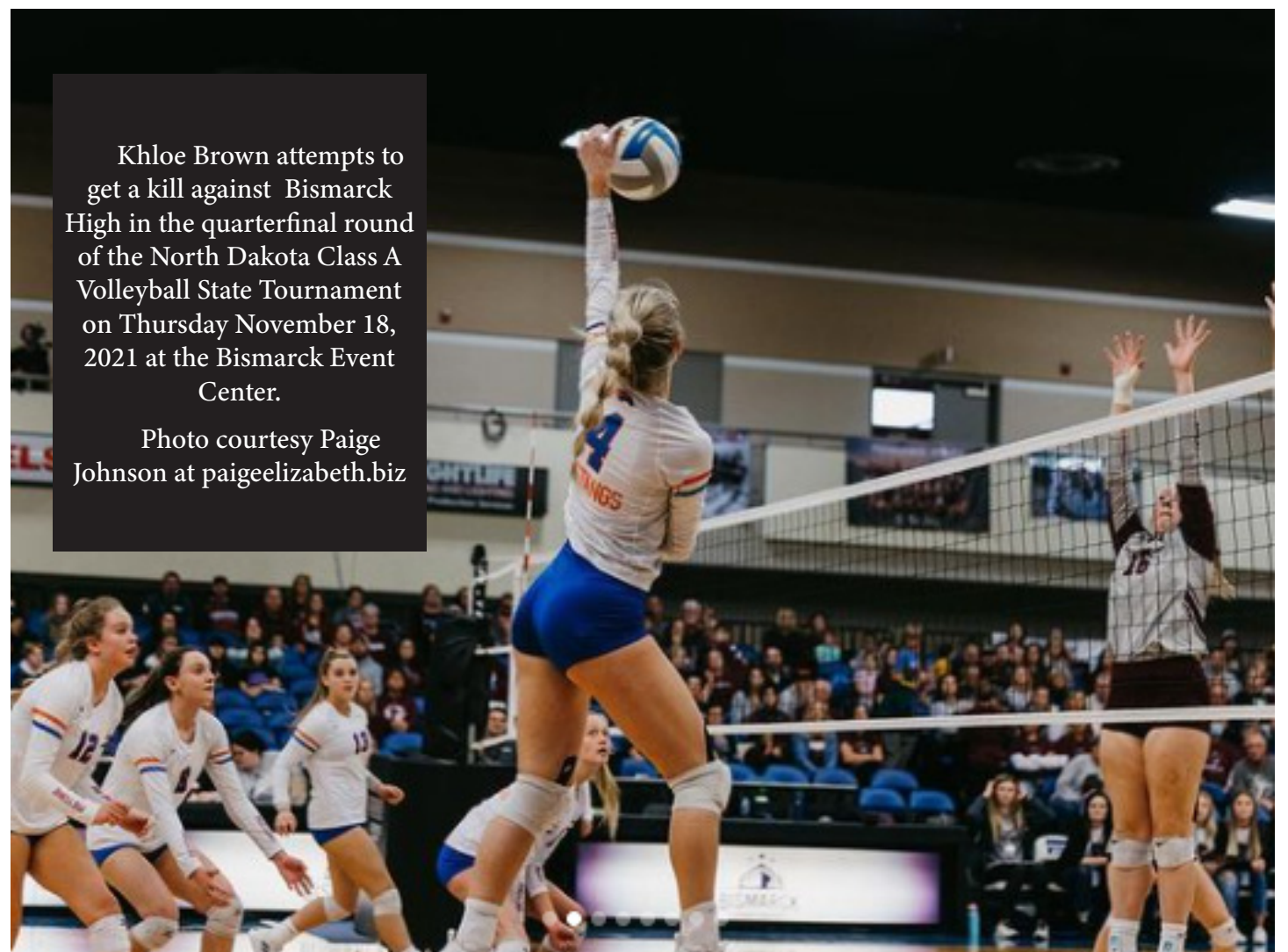
kills at middle hitter.

Sheyenne finished 27-10 overall and as the consolation champions (fifth place) at the 2021 North Dakota Class A Volleyball State Tournament.

The Mustangs were swept by Bismarck High in the first round (25-22, 25-17, 25-21) before sweeping Bismarck St. Mary's (25-13, 25-19, 25-18) and beating Bismarck Legacy in four sets (25-19, 21-25, 25-13, 25-15) in the consolation bracket.

It was a bright year and a bright finish for West Fargo Sheyenne. This was the Mustangs' fourth straight trip to the state tournament.

Sheyenne has yet to reach the state championship. Their four trips to the state tournament in-



Khloe Brown attempts to get a kill against Bismarck High in the quarterfinal round of the North Dakota Class A Volleyball State Tournament on Thursday November 18, 2021 at the Bismarck Event Center.

Photo courtesy Paige Johnson at paigeelizabeth.biz



Brooke Johnson (#12) sets the ball for middle hitter Khloe Brown during their state tournament quarterfinal match against Bismarck High on Thursday November 18, 2021 at the Bismarck Event Center

Photo courtesy Paige Johnson at paigeelizabeth.biz

MUSTANGS STAMPEDE TO STATE

clude a fifth place finish in 2018, a third place finish in 2019, a seventh place finish in 2020, and another fifth place finish in 2021.

“A big goal for everyone next year is to do something big at state,” Tungseth said. “We will have so much potential to do huge things and I can’t wait to be apart of it when it happens!”

The Mustangs were looking good all-season long and were one of the favorites coming out of the Eastern Dakota Conference. Sheyenne held the top spot until the middle of the regular season.

The Mustangs swept the Fargo North Spartans in the first round of the EDC tournament before falling to the West Fargo Packers in the semifinal round.

Sheyenne then punched their fourth straight ticket to the state tournament as they avenged their late regular season loss to Fargo South in the state qualifier game.

It was an all-around team for Sheyenne in 2021 and the Mustangs had hardly any weak spots.

Most of the time up front, it was Cally Tungseth, Khloe Brown, Vivienne Heidt, and Lexus Terhark. Reagan Bogenreif and Kailee Waasdorp were some of the best outside hitters in the state.

Both of them were selected ALL-EDC team and Waasdorp was selected to All-State second team. Bogenreif was selected for All-Tourney team for West Fargo Sheyenne.

Mia Engel, Lydia Stevenson, Kennedy Colter, Brooke Johnson, Kira Karnopp, and Kallie Dodds played in the back row.

Engel and Stevenson had a lot of digs that came in huge moments throughout the 2021 campaign. Brooke Johnson and Kennedy Colter were some of the top servers and had minimal serving errors.

It was a solid finish for Vivienne Heidt, Lydia Stevenson, and Kira Karnopp. They concluded their volleyball high school careers.

Sophomore Mia Engel, who plays defensive specialist, spoke about the team chemistry and how Heidt, Stevenson, and Karnopp were great leaders,

“I am very grateful for the experience I was given this season and I couldn’t have asked for better teammates and a better coaching staff.”

The Mustangs came out hot, winning 14 of their first 17 games. It seemed like the Mustangs were nearly unstoppable.

West Fargo High and Shanley gained momentum at the right time. Shanley swept Sheyenne at home, in a two-point matchup, back on Saturday, October 2.

Sheyenne got revenge against Shanley, by winning 2-1 at the Fargo Invite, the following weekend.

West Fargo High and Shanley played each other in the EDC championship and in the state tournament third place game. West Fargo High won both.

West Fargo Sheyenne has achieved a lot of goals year-by-year as a program, but the Mustangs have yet to be the last team standing.

Head coach Leah Newton, who won the 2021 EDC Coach of the Year award, has led the Mustangs to a brilliant 97-40 record since 2018. The program has been looking bright for the past four years and that success will likely continue.

Most of the team will be playing a lot of club volleyball to keep their skills sharp for next year along with a lot of lifting to get stronger.

West Fargo Sheyenne will have a large senior class for the 2022 season, which will be an advantage in terms of experience.

Cally Tungseth talked about what the team needs to improve on to be even better next year, “the team needs to work on consistency and not playing at a lower level just because the team we’re playing isn’t as good. I think what’ll fix this is a more competitive mindset.”

Down the stretch, the Mustangs lost four of their last eight games, which included Fargo Davies and Fargo South, who were well-rounded and solid programs in 2021.

Fargo Davies dethroned Bismarck Century back in the 2019 state championship, which gave the Eagles their first state title.

Bismarck Century reached the state title game for the 11th consecutive season in 2021, and won their 9th state title in program history.

This title also marks their sixth title in the last seven years.

It’s going to be an interesting next couple of seasons for North Dakota Class A volleyball. Both sides of the state will remain loaded in talent.

It’s going to take a lot of hard work and skill for the Mustangs to capture their first state title.

If West Fargo Sheyenne plays hard and doesn’t sleep on any other team, they are going to be a team in the running for the years to come.

One thing is certain, the Mustangs are a team that can not be underestimated.



Cally Tungseth (far right) celebrates with Khloe Brown, Brooke Johnson, Vivienne Heidt, Kallie Dodds (far left), and Lydia Stevenson (libero) after getting a kill against Bismarck High during the state tournament at the Bismarck Event Center on Thursday November 18, 2021

Photo courtesy Paige Johnson at paigeelizabeth.biz

WINTER SEASON'S IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH



By Brooke Markworth

The winter months are full of happiness and joy as people start looking forward to the new year. With so many reasons to delight in the snow and indulge in warm hot chocolate and cookies, winter brings some sadness to many lives.

During the winter, many people experience Seasonal Affective Disorder, otherwise known as winter or seasonal depression. The disorder is caused by a Vitamin D deficiency in your body. People who

have seasonal depression lack exposure to sunlight or are sensitive to it.

Some symptoms of seasonal depression are fatigue, hopelessness, loss of energy, difficulty concentrating, oversleeping, and loss of interest in doing things that used to be enjoyable.

Although there's not much to prevent Seasonal Affective Disorder there are some treatments to help lessen the symptoms. One example is phototherapy, a medical treatment involving natural or artificial light to improve a health condition. In

this case, phototherapy mimics the natural sunlight and causes a change in the brain chemicals that are linked to your mood. Medications such as Wellbutrin XL and Aplenzin may help the symptoms over time. At Sheyenne High School, the staff and administrators are well aware of seasonal depression and its symptoms. The counselors especially are apprehensive about the sensitive topic.

Mrs. Krystal Haugen, a counselor at Sheyenne stated "There are so many factors that can contribute to a student struggling with mental health; genetics, school stress, past trauma, social media, family issues, etc."

When asked about ways to cope with stress, the counselors at Sheyenne High School explained that there are both positive and negative ways to cope with stress and depression. Some positive ways would be exercise, art, music, and mindfulness. Anything harmful such as drugs, alcohol, not talking about it, and distancing yourself would fall under the negative outcomes of stress.

Along with talking about the issue, the counseling office tries their best to advertise depression as well as other mental health disorders. In May 2022, you will find many posters

and items around the school giving information on the topic and other sources students may need to get help.

Mrs. Haugen said "The best thing you can do if you know someone who is struggling is to stand up for them and be a good human in general. When in doubt, tell an adult you trust to help. Seizetheawkward.org is a great resource that offers help!"

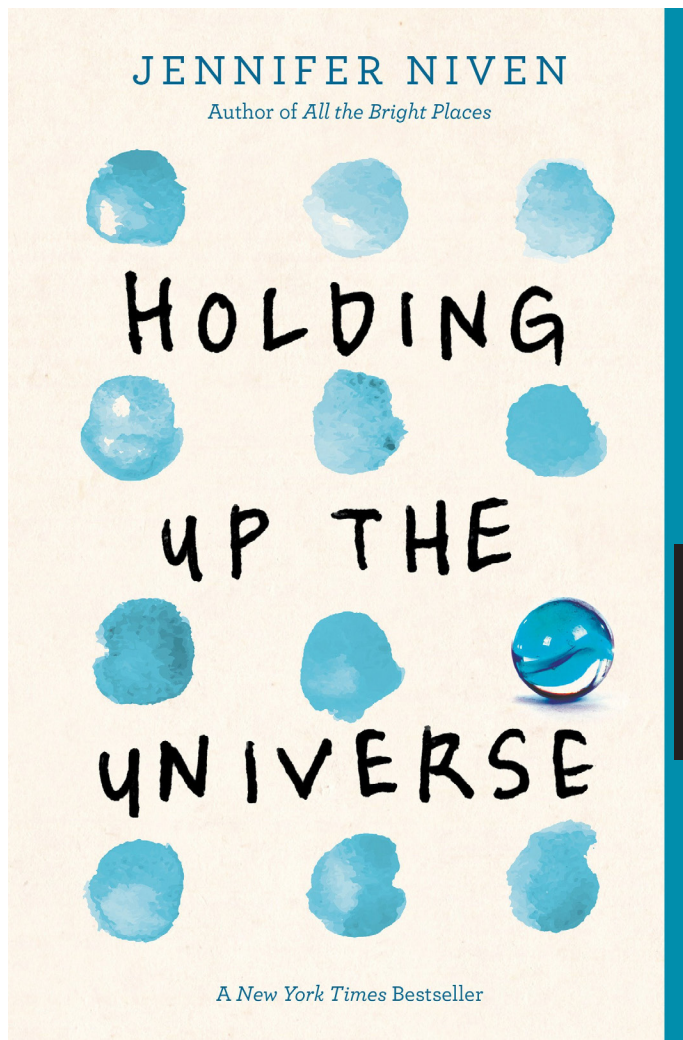
With the winter months staying for awhile, it's important to recognize the symptoms and get help if needed!



Romance Novels #lonely

By Hailey Boehme

Romance novels are scattered throughout library shelves everywhere, but where should you even begin? These coming-of-age novels are the perfect place to start.



"Everyone in my life is a stranger, and that includes me."
-Jennifer Niven, *Holding Up the Universe*

Author of *All the Bright Places*, Jennifer Niven, later published a book called *Holding Up the Universe*.

Holding Up the Universe is written from both Jack's perspective, a popular kid with a secret, and Libby, who has been homeschooled since she developed a binge eating disorder to cope with her mother's death.

When Libby finds the courage to go back to public school, she finds herself tangled up in an incident with Jack. Their two worlds collide creating an understanding between the two of them that doesn't make sense to anyone else.

The characters seem to come alive in this book, allowing you to empathize for them and the mental struggles they face.

The book will have you laughing and even tearing up at some points.

Throughout the novel, Jennifer Niven provides a unique perspective on fat shaming, bullying, living with secret, and love.

I recommend this book to anyone who needs the message to love yourself as you are, because no matter what you look like or where you've been in the past, you deserve it.

My favorite part of the book was the monologue at the end, it pulls the whole thing together into a wonderful romance and sets it apart for other books I've read.

"I'm not who they think I am. Or, maybe I'm exactly who they think I am, but I no longer want to be."

-Tamara Ireland Stone, *Every Last Word*

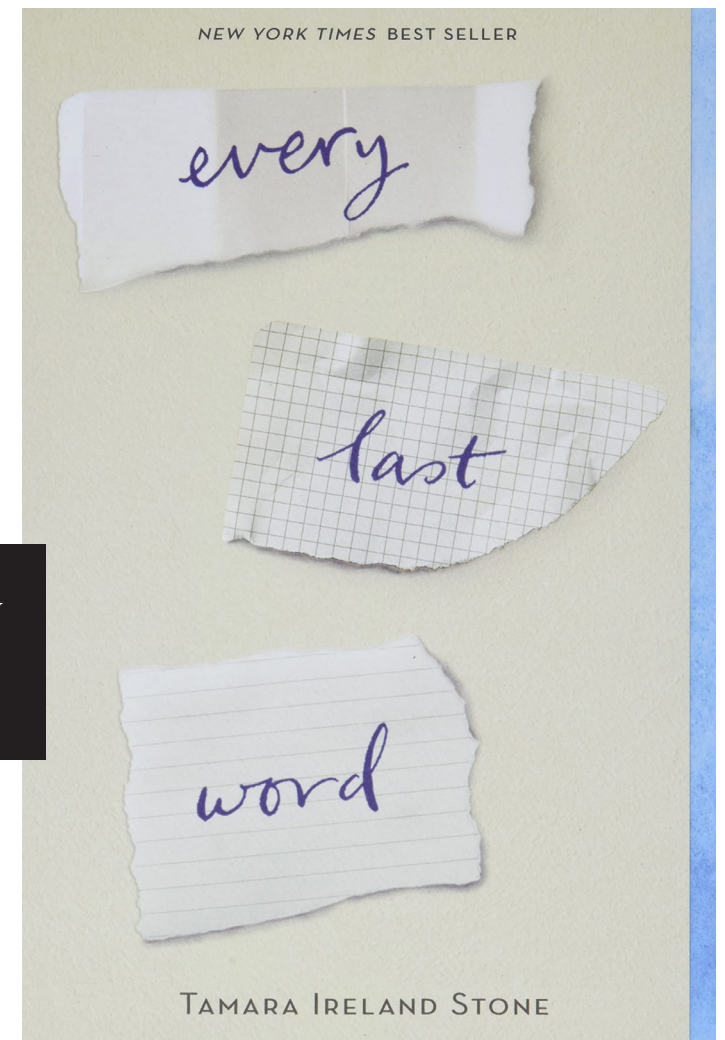
Every Last Word by Tamara Ireland Stone is a well written book about OCD, high school friendships, love, and forgiveness.

The protagonist, Samantha (Sam) McAllister, is part of the popular group at school. Though she has been best friends with the group since they were little girls, she feels that she does not fit in anymore.

As a result, Sam works hard to hide her obsessive compulsions and attempts to navigate away from her previous circle.

In doing so, she meets a girl named Caroline who introduces her to a secret poetry club at the school. This opens doors to a part of Sam that she never knew existed.

It also allows her to eventually break free from the everyday toxicity she was experiencing, howev-



er, her past is still evident in her new life.

Sam seeks forgiveness and yearns to belong somewhere.

From a mental health perspective, it has a potentially triggering yet refreshing view on therapy, medication, and healthy family support.

The way the loose ends are tied up by the end made this book one of my all-time favorites. When a friend asks what they should read next, this is my go-to recommendation.

THE MUSTANG P O S T



ARTIST
Spotlight
Keviana Thom