

THE MUSTANG


P O S T

5 SEASON

***Stranger Things:
Beyond the Upside Down***


SHEYENNE HIGH SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER - DECEMBER 2025

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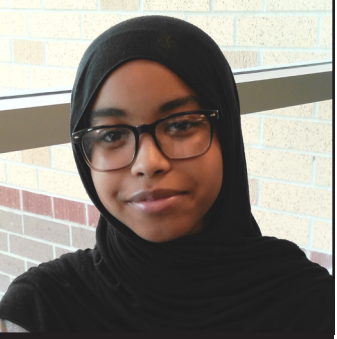
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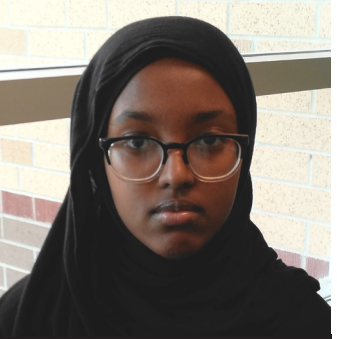
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THE MUSTANG

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Cover image: Image courtesy of Mr. Lang

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Ayla Andersch is a Artist at Sheyennne High School who enjoys to sew, paint, sculpt, and animate. She likes to draw animated cartoons that you can check out below.

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Artist Spotlight: Kingston Americanhorse

Kingston Americanhorse is a Artist at Sheyenne High School who enjoys traditional sketches and digital pieces. Check out his artwork on pages 44-45.

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letter from the editor

Tis the season of Christmas lights, hot cocoa, and lots of snow that Fargo gives us. Many love the Christmas time including myself because of school break, spending time with family, and getting presents.

This issue is filled with the latest popular interest like books, places, singers, and interesting hobbies.

This is my second time editing and publishing an article for the Mustang Post and I am learning lots of stuff along the way and many cool tips and tricks to improve the articles.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Savannah Swanson

"THE INHERITANCE GAMES"

RIDDLED WITH INTRIGUE

By Maryama Ali

What if your life turned into a billion dollar puzzle? That's the question centering the best selling YA series The Inheritance Games, followed up by the sequel, The Hawthorne Legacy. These novels pull reader into a world of riddles, mystery, and secrets where every clue could change everything in the game.

The story begins with Avery Grambs, the main protagonist, an intelligent ordinary high-school student who suddenly inherits a billion-aires stanger entire fortune named Tobias Hawthorne whom she'd never met before. The twist? In her order to her inheritance she must live in the Hawthorne mansion for a full year, surrounded by the family of the late billionaire.

Upon her arrival she is left with puzzles she's required to solve and uncover the mystery on why she had recieved the vast inheritance.

What makes Avery such a compelling character is how grounded she remains in the life she never knew of. She'd never asked for the fortune or any sort of wealth, she only wants to know the reason as to why she was chosen to be the heir.

Throughout the begining of the series, readers follow her as she untangles riddle after riddle, while dealing with the attention of the Hawthorne grandsons. Jameson, Grayson, Nash, and Xander. Each brother has his own personality, motives, and complicated relationship with their family legacy, giving the story layers of mystery and emotion.

In Hawthorne Legacy, the sequel, each game is growing even more dangerous, and the stakes start to rise dramatically as emotional

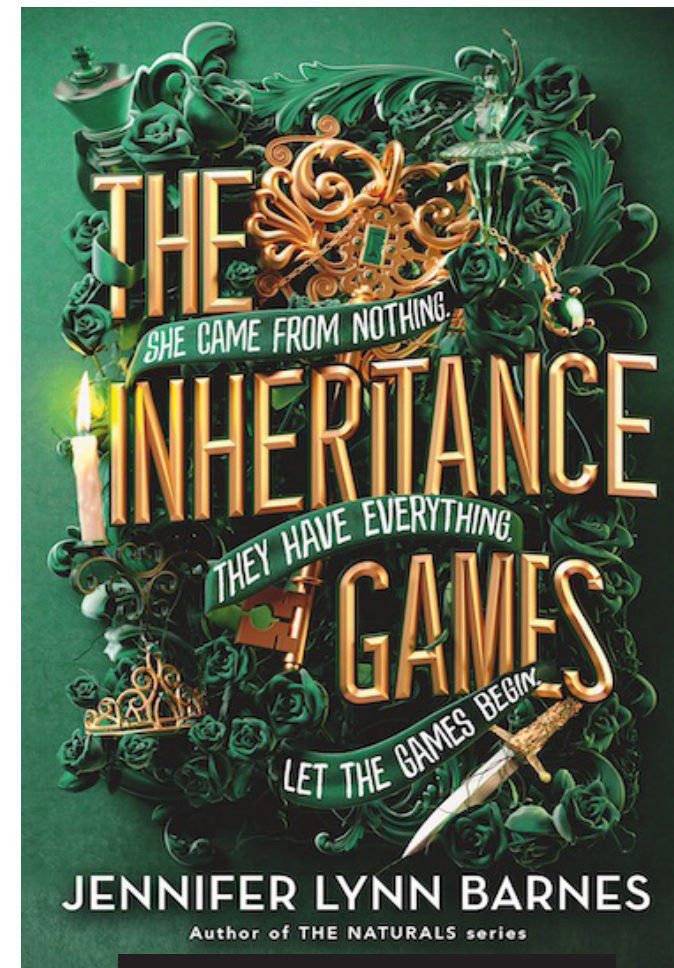
tension sharpens. Avery starts to uncover secrets about her own past, ones that may link her to the Hawthorne family in ways she never expected. The sequel explores much more themes of trust and belonging while keeping the fast-paced, unpredictable energy that made the 1st book so addictive.

Barnes's writing shines through clever dialogue, emotional moments, and intricate plot twists. Every chapter ends with a surprise that makes you want to read more and more of it.

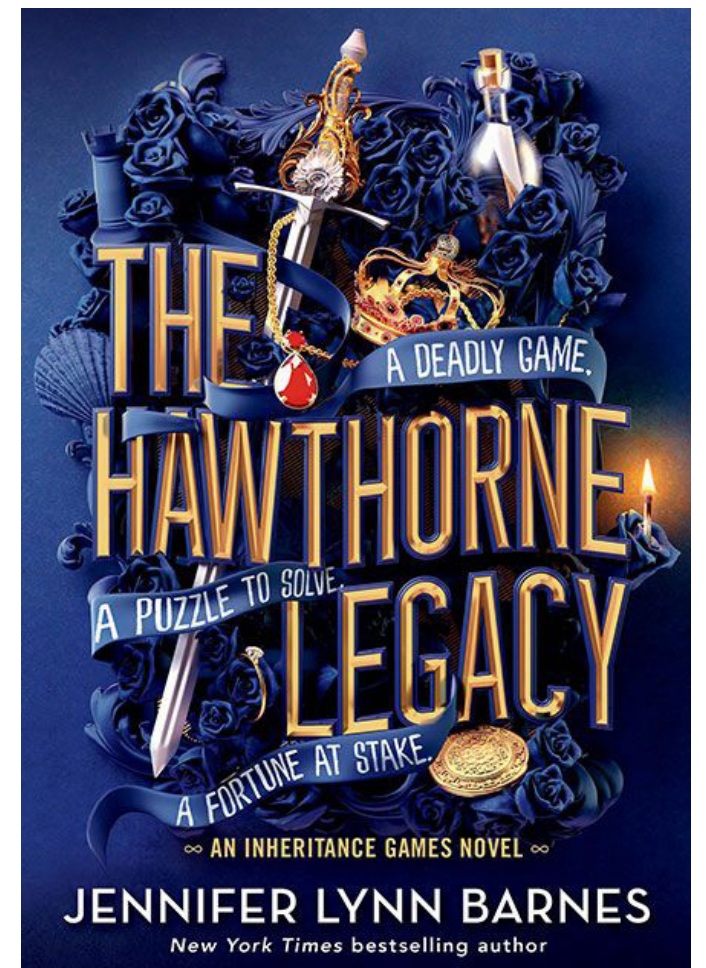
What sets the series apart from other YA mysteries is how it combines logic and heart. It's not just about decoding letters and clues – it's about who you can really trust and what kind of person you want to be when power within your grasp.

Overall, The Inheritance Games Series is a great cinematic read having a mix of mystery, romance, and strategic plays making into something unforgettable. They remind readers that sometimes the biggest puzzles aren't found in codes or clues, but in the choices we make and the people we become. For young adults who love suspenseful mysteries with heart, this series is a perfect pick.

NOTABLE
NOVELS



The Inheritance Games (2020)
(amazon.com)



The Inheritance Games (2022)
(amazon.com)



sombr: an overnight hit

By Amara Duchaine

Shane Boose who is mostly known as “sombr” is an Alternative/Indie artist who has quickly rose to fame at just the age of 19.

Sombr was always interested in making music and he knew he wanted to keep writing and producing.

He released his first song on October 1st, 2021, in which he named *Nothing Left to Say*.

While making music sombr uses social media to push his music outward and *leak* unreleased songs he made to help him grow as an artist.

Some snippets sombr would post would later gain millions of views and get more fan attraction while other times he'd post parts of songs he would later officially release to keep his fans engaged.

After many efforts, one of his hit songs *caroline* had over 30 million streams on Spotify after going viral online.

Another one of his biggest hits, *back to friends* has over 1 billion streams worldwide. The song reached the top 25 on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States.

At the 2025 MTV Video Music Awards sombr gained more recognition for his talent and age when he earned three nominations. He won *Best Alternative* for his song *back to friends*.

Shane Boose poses for his *12 to 12* single cover.

Image courtesy of sombrmusic.com



"The Lost" Book Review

By Christina Miller

The Lost By Natasha Preston is about two girls who get kidnapped, put into a room with others who were kidnapped (11 people), and where no one is supposed to make it out alive.

If you enjoy YA thrillers, then this is the book for you! The book is fast-paced, and the stakes are higher on each page. It's very suspenseful. First page to the last grips you into the book, making you want to read it all day.

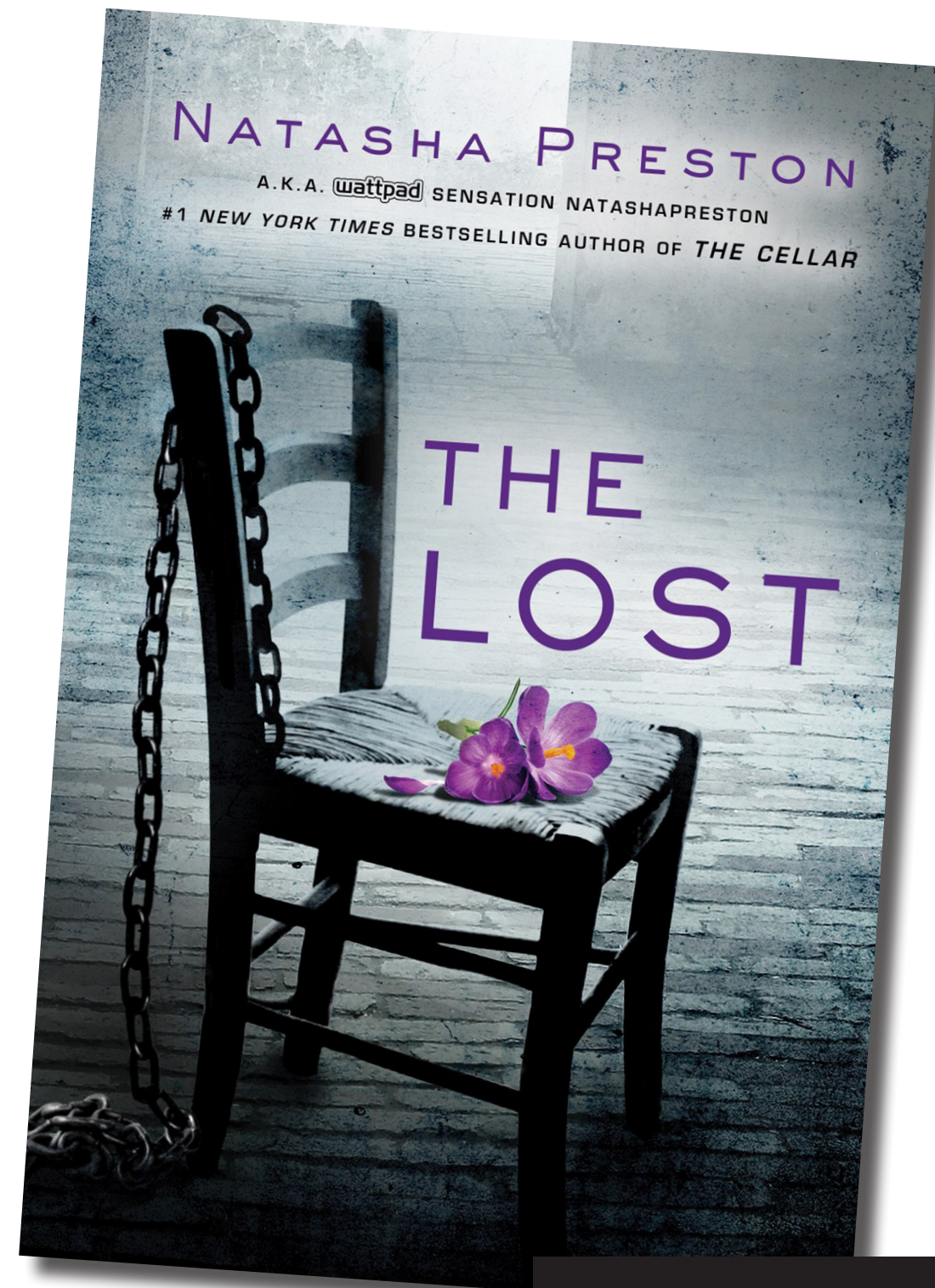
This book will make you feel scared for the characters (depending on which ones you like)

and see what's going to happen in the plot. It makes you want to read more.

Preston's books have good and interesting plot twists. If you know her books, you know they can end well or badly, which can make it a guessing game to figure out what type of ending it will be.

Overall, this is a really good book if you like YA thrillers, fast paced, and good plot twist. If you read this book then I 100% recommend her other books!

The author herself:
Natasha Preston



The cover of "The Lost" by Natasha Preston

War Thunder: Classified Documents Leaked?

By Emmitt Miller

Just this past June a user leaked information about the AV-8B Harrier II. More specifically, the NATOPS manual for the AV-8B, and TAV-8B was leaked which is marked for Distribution Statement C, in turn means it is not approved for public access.

But what is War Thunder anyway?

War Thunder touts itself as “the most comprehensive free-to-play, cross-platform, MMO military game” available on various computer operating systems and console platforms.

That modern acronym, MMO, stands for Massively Multiplayer Online, which denotes the ability to play on a single server shared with many real players.

The game advertises the player’s ability to control a wide variety of very real military platforms, ranging from aircraft to tanks, to various warships and more. And it’s that ability to simulate combined-arms combat, along with its apparent dedication to realism, that has inspired a loyal fanbase since its initial beta release in 2012, later followed by a mobile version of the game released August 15th, 2023.

War Thunder’s ability to pit vast numbers of real people against one another in highly realistic battles, as well as the ability to play the game for free, has cultivated a humongous player community.

According to the gaming statistics site Active-Player.io, *War Thunder* sees a jaw-dropping 60,000 & 130,000 players each day. But *War Thunder*’s on-line presence extends far beyond the confines of the game itself, with countless digital communities devoted to game-related discussions found throughout the world’s digital communal areas like Steam, Reddit, and, of course, the *War Thunder* forum.

It’s safe to say that, while the MMO aspect of this game may scare off some other folks, *War Thunder* has a massive following that includes mili-



At the ready

Image courtesy of reddit user Robdop914.

tary technology enthusiasts and even some who are currently serving or have served in military forces around the world. But while its realism serves as a big part of *War Thunder*’s international allure, it can also become the subject of some seriously heated debates within the game’s various online communities.

Why do leaks keep happening in the War Thunder forums?

As far as I’ve been able to learn, there have been between 17 and 30 leaks of restricted documents in *War Thunder* forums so far, with the earliest dating back to July of 2021 and the most recent occurring just a couple months ago. The problem has become so prominent that the *War Thunder* wiki page has an entire section devoted to these leaks, though, to date, only 17 of the leaks I’ve identified are listed within it.

Of course, not all the leaks that I could confirm to date came because of digital mudslinging. Some of the leaks came from motivated players who wanted to see their favorite platforms hurried into the game. They hoped that by providing classified technical data to the programmers at Hungarian-based *Gaijin Entertainment* – the developers behind *War Thunder* – they could speed up getting them fielded on the virtual battlefield.

It’s worth noting that *Gaijin* has its headquarters in Budapest, Hungary, and office in Cyprus, Germany, Latvia, Armenia, UAE. But originally founded in Moscow in 2002 by the twin brothers Anton and Kirill Yudinsev, and because it was founded in Russia it is very often said that Russian vehicles have an advantage even though they don’t.

Gaijin was accused of providing indirect financial support to Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine in January of 2021 after logos for *War Thunder* and another popular *Gaijin* game, *Crossout*, were seen in a video tied to these groups. The company denied any involvement in the video in a statement released soon thereafter.

“We do not provide political support to anyone anywhere. We know nothing about politics and prefer to stay out of it. Our agency that ordered an ad in the video in question took it down when they realized they might drag us into a political discussion. We have nothing more to comment regarding this, we prefer to talk about games and games only,” says the *Gaijin* statement.

So, with all that context out the window, let’s run through some of the leaks to date, the systems or platforms that were compromised, and the severity of the breach in security to see if we can’t assess if the *War Thunder* community poses a serious threat to national security or if it’s just prime headline and meme-fodder in a world full of sensational takes.

As well, at the time of writing this piece, the official forum on *Warthunder.com* has a stated 246,000+ users, and the *War Thunder* subreddit has more than 330,000 and climbing. And despite writing this at on a Monday morning at 12:00 *Steam* not only shows more than 1,000 active discussion threads related to *War Thunder*, but a mind-boggling 70,000 users currently playing the game through its platform and 4,000 more in the game’s group chat.

Some of the War Thunder leaks and how serious each was.

UHT-665 Eurocopter Tiger, and the date of leak was mid 2021-2022, System’s Nation of Origin

France/Germany

What was leaked? According to media sources, the armor layout of the Eurocopter Tiger. This leak is particularly difficult to nail down, as the post has been cut and different media sources claim the leak occurred in July of 2021, while other sources claim it occurred in late 2022.

The severity of this leak. The rotorcraft has been in service across multiple nations over the span of two decades, it’s unlikely that adversary nations do not have any reference material regarding its armor layout, but without more information regarding exactly what was leaked, assessing its strategic value is difficult.

Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank, Date of Leak was 7/17/2021, and the system’s nation of origin is the U.K.

What was leaked: A player who self-identified as a Challenger 2 Tank commander in the UK military posted excerpts from the tank’s AESP (Army Equipment Support Publication) to prove that the game developer didn’t “model” the Challenger 2 properly in the game. AESP is, for lack of a better term, a user manual of sorts, which outlines things like maintenance and repair operations for operators.

The player claimed to be a Challenger 2 tank commander out of the Tidworth garrison in Wiltshire, which is the home of a Challenger 2 regiment. He also claimed to be a former member of the UK’s Armored Trials and Development Unit

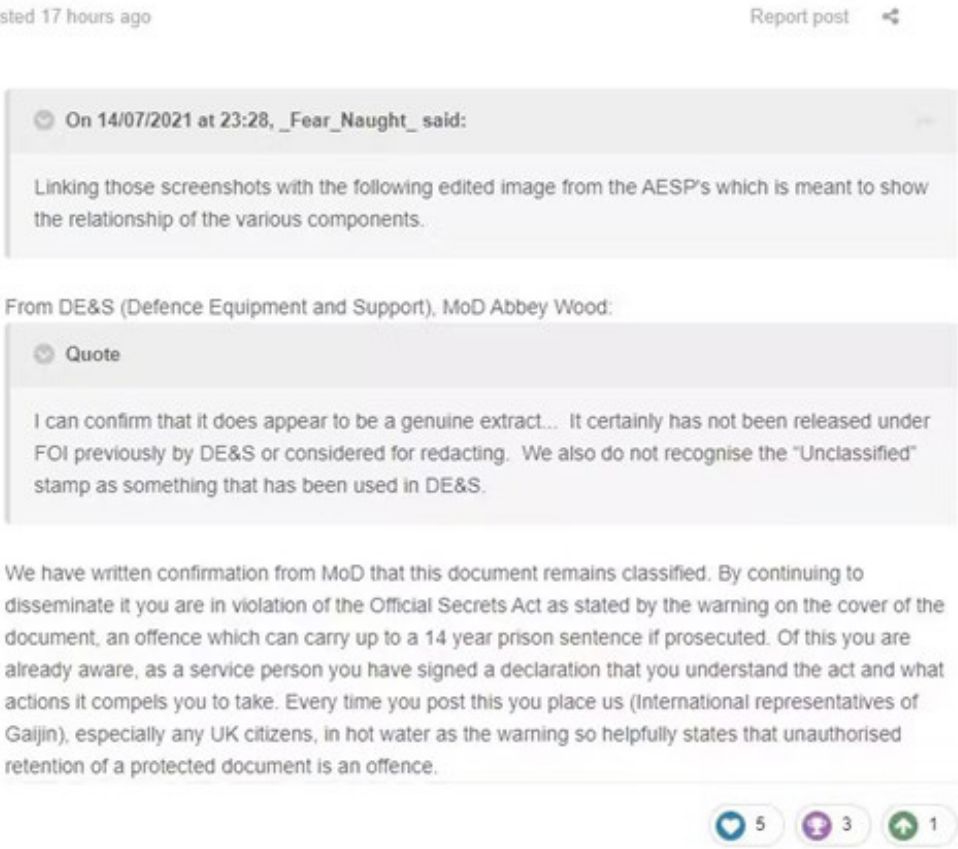
Templar Quote
Image courtesy of Warthunder Fourm moderetor Templar

and a qualified instructor in armored fighting vehicles and tank gunnery among other things.

The user wrote:

“Linking those screenshots with the following edited image from the AESP’s which is meant to show the relationship of the various components. The image isn’t exactly to scale as its only meant to show the position of components relative to each other but it works for the point I’m trying to make here. The trunnion’s sit centrally of the rotor. The trunnions support the rotor in the turret structure and the GCE sub components as previously stated are all mounted to the rotor.”

According to multiple sources, the documents had the words, “UK RESTRICTED” crossed out,



with an “unclassified” stamp over them, and did have some portions covered over.

According to a forum moderator, they received written confirmation that the images posted remained classified at the time. They posted the following response (it’s the photo on this page)

The severity. While certainly restricted, the document leaked was, in effect, the Challenger 2’s user manual, which is widely distributed to all Challenger 2 crewmen and maintainers both within and beyond the UK’s borders. As such, it’s somewhat unlikely that this leak provided adversary powers with information they were not already able to gain access to during the 27 years this tank has been in service.

DTC10-125 Armor-piercing fin-stabilized discarding sabot (APFSDS), the date of leak is 6/5/22, and the system's nation of origin is China.

What was leaked? In the first leak to emerge in the *War Thunder* forums from a non-NATO nation, a debate about the penetration capabilities of the Chinese DTC10-125 armor piercing fin stabilized discarding sabot (APFSDS), a tank-killing round leveraged by a variety of China's tanks, a user posted an image of the round sitting on top of the now declassified paper about specifications about the round.

And of course the severity. Even though it takes a bit of digging to find this image it is not classified by the Chinese government. Also, when this leak happened the image was in fact sensitive information not meant for public access

MiG-29 and Su-57, Date of the leaks goes

through 12/22 – 1/23, the systems' nation of origin is Russia.

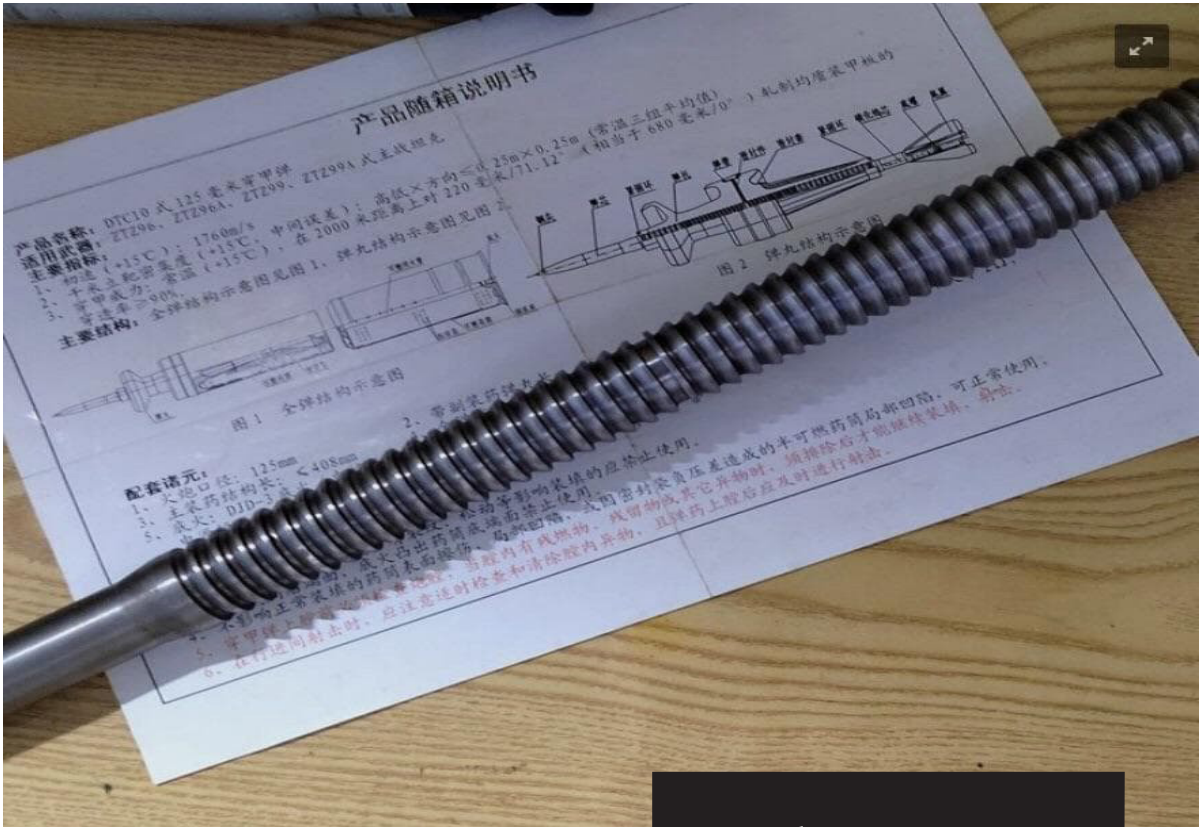
What was leaked? In the first leak out of Russia, debate about the capability of the nation's 4th and 5th generation fighters ultimately led to the posting of two different documents.

One of these leaks highlights the Sukhoi Su-57's radar cross-section, while the other focuses on the radar system capabilities of the MiG-29.

Again, the severity. Once more, despite the restricted nature of at least one of these documents, the information contained within was hardly groundbreaking. While the thread has been taken down, the document showing the Su-57's poor stealth performance was likely the Sukhoi patent paperwork that has been making the rounds on the internet for some time. Likewise, the excerpts from the MiG-29 user manual are equally easy to come



T-80 Russian Tank
Image courtesy of Gaijin



Chinese APFSDS
Image courtesy of jestertoo

by. In fact, the entire manual itself is available for download from multiple sources online.

So, what's the real story about the *War Thunder* leaks?

As is so often the case when stories about military technology reach the mainstream media, the real driver behind media coverage of these “leaks” isn't their technical value at all, but rather, the public's general interest in the story as a seemingly endless source of highly meme-able hot takes.

Throughout my research into these *War Thunder* leaks, I've been unable to identify anything that might provide foreign adversary nations with any truly valuable intelligence. In fact, aside from a few cases where the language barrier may have inhibited my ability to search through foreign websites, I was able to find alternate sources for these documents all over the web. Often, these alternate sources had been hosting the documents for years, and in many, the documents stayed available even after *War Thunder* moderators nuked the leaks on their forum.

Of course, that isn't to say that posting these documents in an online forum is a clever idea. It, of

course, isn't. But the truth is that national governments devote significant resources to gaining access to legitimate classified documents and designs, scour digital spaces for actionable intelligence, and go to great lengths to manipulate program insiders into revealing the latest breakthroughs in Defense technology.

For these *War Thunder* leaks to have real value to adversary nations, it would suggest that these nations have access to the *War Thunder* forums but not the rest of the internet where these documents are still available.

At the end of the day, the *War Thunder* leaks story is an exploration into how pop culture shapes media coverage with several outlets bending over backward to infer the severity of these leaks, but few make much of an effort to determine their actual severity at all. In a truthful way, a great deal of the coverage associated with these leaks could be summed up by the adage, “Never let the truth get in the way of a good story.”

Of course, as Habitual Line Crosser puts it, serious or not, “the cyber training guy would be very disappointed in War Thunder players.”

By Adrainna Raile

This article will provide an in-depth breakdown on what brain rot is and how it impacts social media users today as well as an example of a very famous saying, 6-7. But first, let's recap what social media is and what it's used for.

Social media has grown over the years, beginning in 1997 with SixDegrees and today with Lemon8 and TikTok. SixDegrees was created for people to create unique profiles and chat with friends, like most social media platforms today.

TikTok is the 5th most used platform in the world, maxing at 1.6 billion MAU (Monthly active users). Users can create videos, post stories, and chat with friends. Video topics can vary from how-to videos, vlogging, PSAs, and dancing and lip-syncing. Many trends began to arise when someone famous said or did something, causing a ripple effect and are now considered the "Hot Topics" of the world today.

Trends like "Skibidi Toilet" and "6-7" are what many like to call brain rot. According to Everyday Health, "Use of the word 'brain rot' surged 230 percent between 2023 and 2024 amid mounting concerns about the toll excessive consumption of social media and online content takes on our mood and cognitive health, according to Oxford." (Everyday Health)

To sum it up, social media produces useless content that many think is the funniest thing they can come across. For example, 6-7.

The numbers we use today have been in numerical order for as long as time, but now when we

come across 6 and 7, millions of people, specifically kids and teenagers, will make a motion with their hands, like a beam scale and emphasize those two numbers.

Where did it come from, you ask? In September of 2025, an artist called Skrilla released a song called "Doot Doot (6 7)" and it became the meme of the year.

Nobody understands the significance of 6-7 because it has no significance. Even explaining the insignificance of 6-7 is difficult because there's nothing to explain!

To conclude, brain rot and its connection to social media is what makes the most insignificant and unfunny things funny to the social media world.



6-7 meme shirt

Image courtesy Amazon.com



Numbers 6 and 7 in hands
Image courtesy to msn.com

ARTIST *Spotlight*

Featuring Sheyenne High School's Student Artists



ABOUT THE ARTISTS & COMPETITIONS

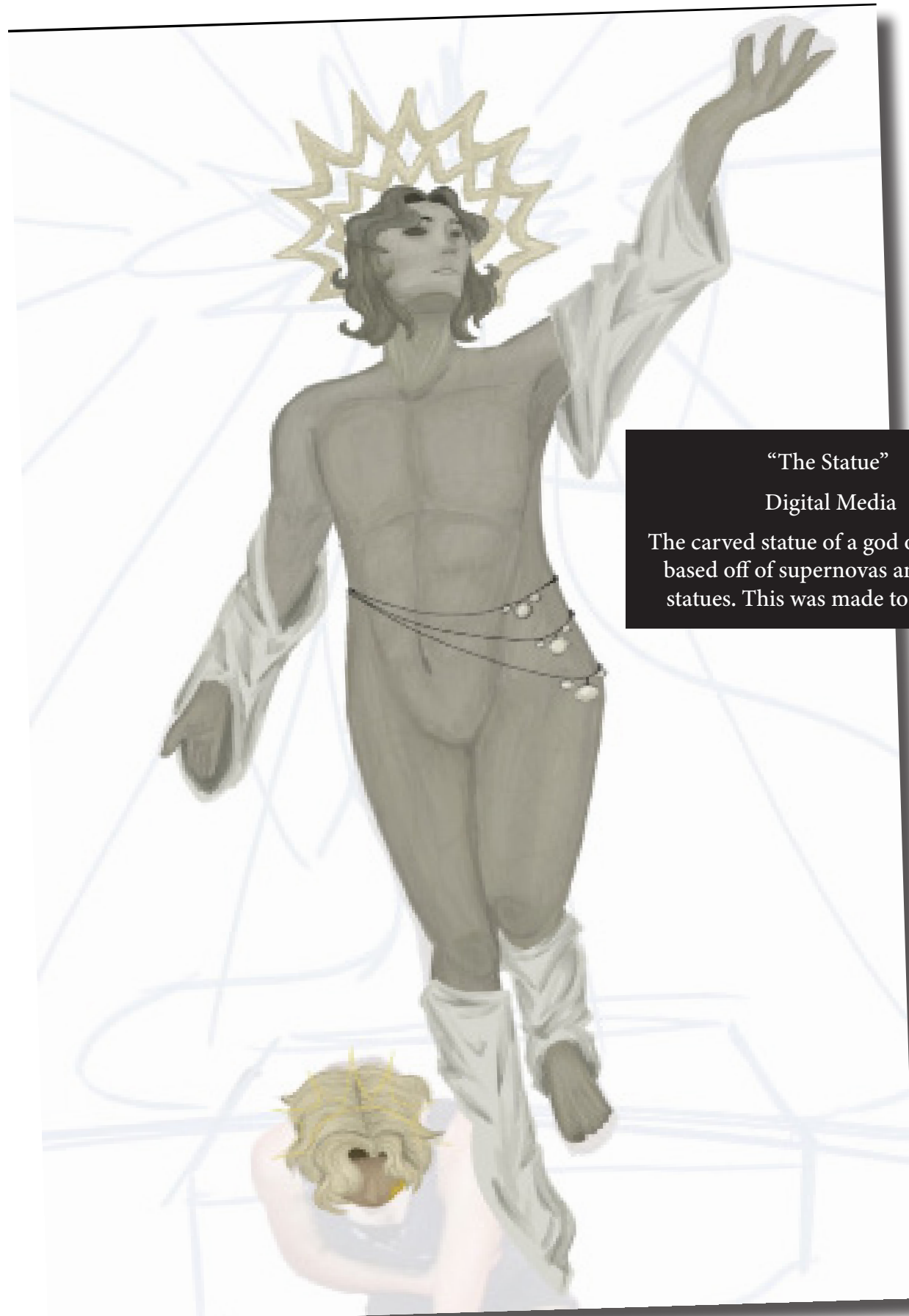
My name is Ayla Andersch I like doing many types of crafts like sewing, painting, sculpture, and animation. What I normally do is just regular drawing. I use digital the most on my iPad and use clip studio paint.

I like doing a more cartoon kinda anime like style but can also do realism more with objects and animals.

I've gone to the International Music Camp recently to learn painting more, and get better at colors.

I want to be a tattoo artist when I am older for I have always been interested in that type of stuff.

Ayla Andersch



“The Statue”

Digital Media

The carved statue of a god of the stars based off of supernovas and Greek statues. This was made to practice



“First Skull”

Digital Media

Bunny looking back at the prize of his first hunt. A practice for posing I made of one of my characters.

Ayla An-



“Computer Virus”

Digital Media

This is a character design of a villain character based off of different computer viruses and code. I referenced spiders in imagery of him trapping the other character and also the internet web.

DEMON SLAYER

By Quinn Nordick

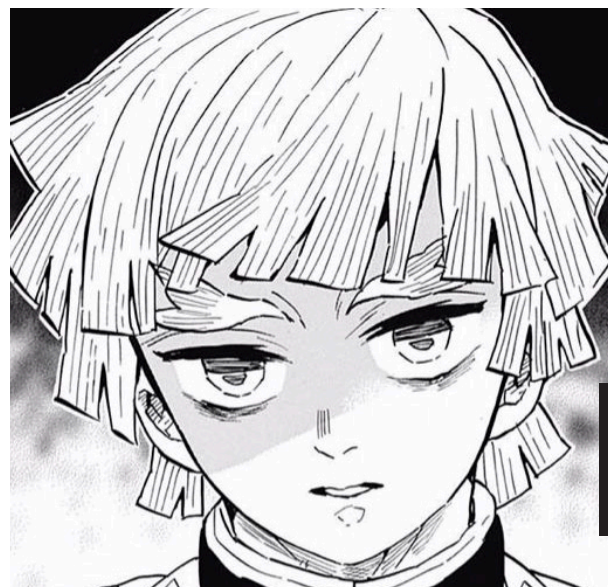
On September 12th, 2025, Ufotable animation studio released the dubbed version of *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba the Movie: Infinity Castle R*. This is movie one of three for the final arc in the anime.

Many manga readers are frustrated with the slow pace the movie had in comparison to the manga and say it had way to much talking or too much time spent on characters backstories. But anime watchers disagree, saying the balance between combat and backstory was just right.

Personally, both the manga and movie were great. I read the manga a few years ago and had been waiting excitedly for it to be animated.

Watching the movie in theaters was an eye-opening adventure that I would love to re-experience.

Reading the manga was also a joyful experience. The art style and attention to detail really kept me reading. I even read some books multiple times just to admire the hard work and dedication put into each page.



Manga vs movie: Zenitsu fighting Kaigaku
Image courtesy of Fandango

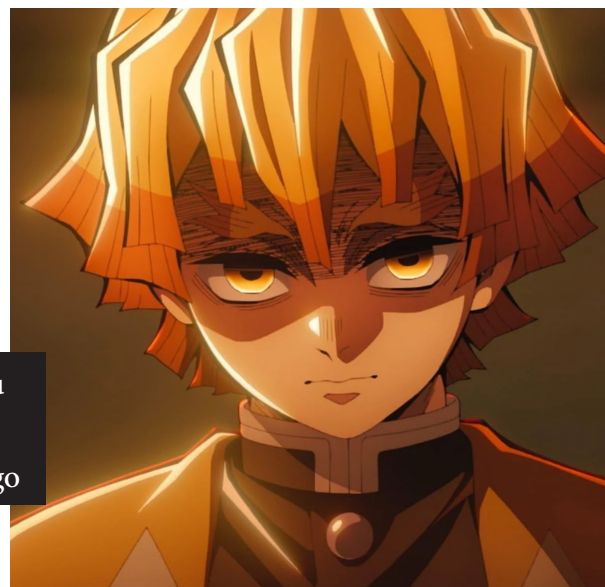
MANGA VS. MOVIE

The manga entails a complete story arc, with many unique characters and emotional beats. Along with the story, you get every little subplot and finer character details. Reading the manga helps fans understand the characters and their point of view better.

The movie has beautiful animations and visuals, and it really brings the manga to life. Many emotional chapters from the manga become more dramatic and heartbreaking as they were animated, making the movie have more depth.

Comparing the two, the movie goes more in depth for character flashbacks than in the manga. The movie makes everything flow more smoothly and brings more emotion. The manga has tiny little details not put in the movie and are only exclusive to the book itself.

Both are very creative, emotional, and despite all the heartbreaking moments, they clearly had a lot of hard work put into them.



MANGA MEDITATIONS



Demon Slayer Infinity Castle arc poster
Image courtesy of Fandango

EXPLORING ICECREAM SHOPS IN FARGO

By Savannah Swanson



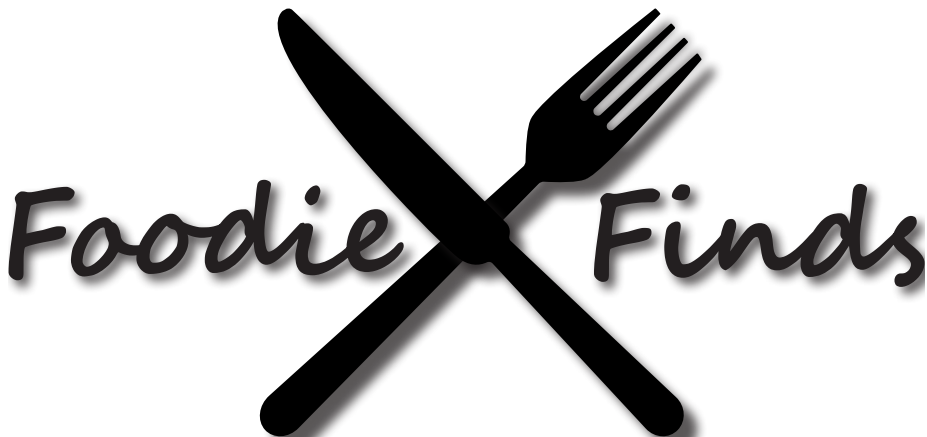
Scoop N Dough Candy Co located on 32nd Ave, is many people’s favorites from the variety of flavors and even selling candy. Opened in May of 2018, it is rated 4.7 stars, with many good reviews. Reviews vary from good food, good service, and quick wait time. They also sell edible cookie dough which is a favorite amongst people. They are known for combining ice cream and edible cookie dough together. Many people are fans of edible cookie dough which made this place popular for lovers of edible cookie dough.

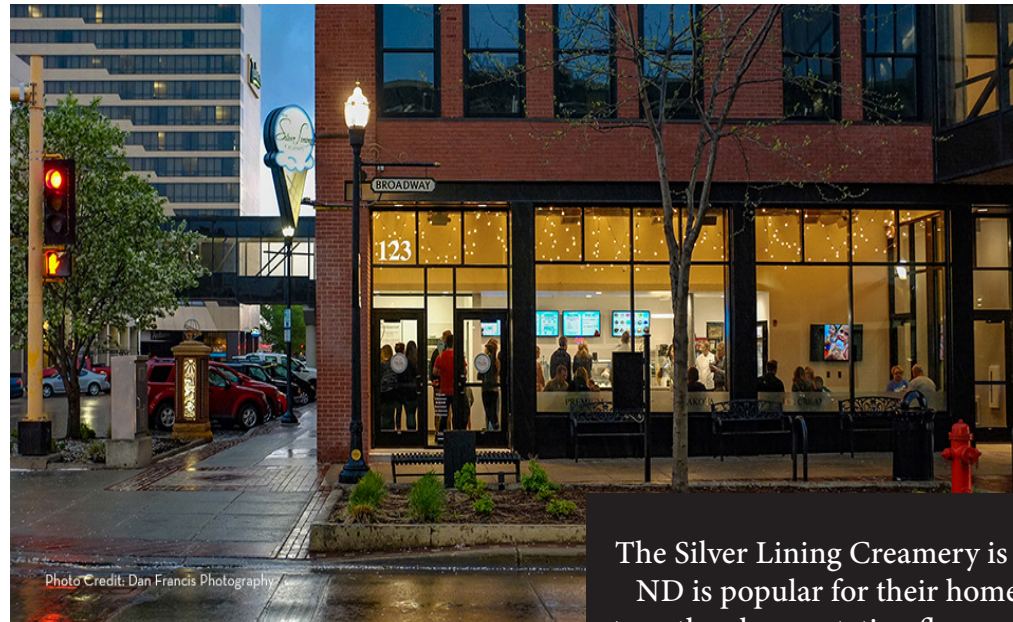


Cold Stone Creamery located on 45th Street, rated 4.2 stars varies from hand mixed ice cream on granite slab to shakes. It is most popular for its customized ice cream creations and its fresh ice cream made on the granite stone. They even have gluten-free and low-fat options. The customer’s favorite is “Birthday Cake Remix” and “Chocolate Devotion”.



Lundy’s Ice Cream, located on Sheyenne Street, rated 4.9 stars recently opened in January of 2024. It has 32 rotating flavors to choose from and has vegan and dairy free options. It ranges from ice cream sundaes, summer coolers, root beer floats, ice cream tacos, ice cream nachos, ice cream cookie sandwiches. They only have two locations, the one in West Fargo and Waunakee, WI, so Lundy’s is a unique place.





The Silver Lining Creamery is located on Broadway; Fargo ND is popular for their homemade ice cream. Rated 4.7 stars, they have rotating flavors with many customer favorites “Strawberry Ice Cream” and regular “Salted Caramel”. It is also known for making ice cream with 14% buttercream.



Kones Kreamery is located on 45th Street and is rated at 4.5 stars. It is known for its relaxed, cozy space that serves gelato and other treats, plus waffle cones and bubble tea. Many people recommend their “Mangonada Delux”, “Smores Bubble Waffle”, and “Cookie Butter Flavored Gelato”. Their boba tea is a very popular, yummy item because it is one of the few places that sell boba tea.



Cinamen Roll Co., and Cold Bird Creamery are in West Acres Mall, rated at 4 stars, has ice cream and fresh, warm rolls that can be bought in many different flavors. Many of the reviews consist of their caramel rolls and cookie dough ice cream. Their most popular item is their rolls which come in different flavors of caramel and cinnamon, and you can add whipped cream on it too.



THE INSPIRATION OF AN AUTHOR

NOTABLE NOVELS

By Quinn Nordick

Natasha Preston was born on January 5th, 1988, in King's Lynn, United Kingdom. She graduated from Methwold High School and did not attend college.

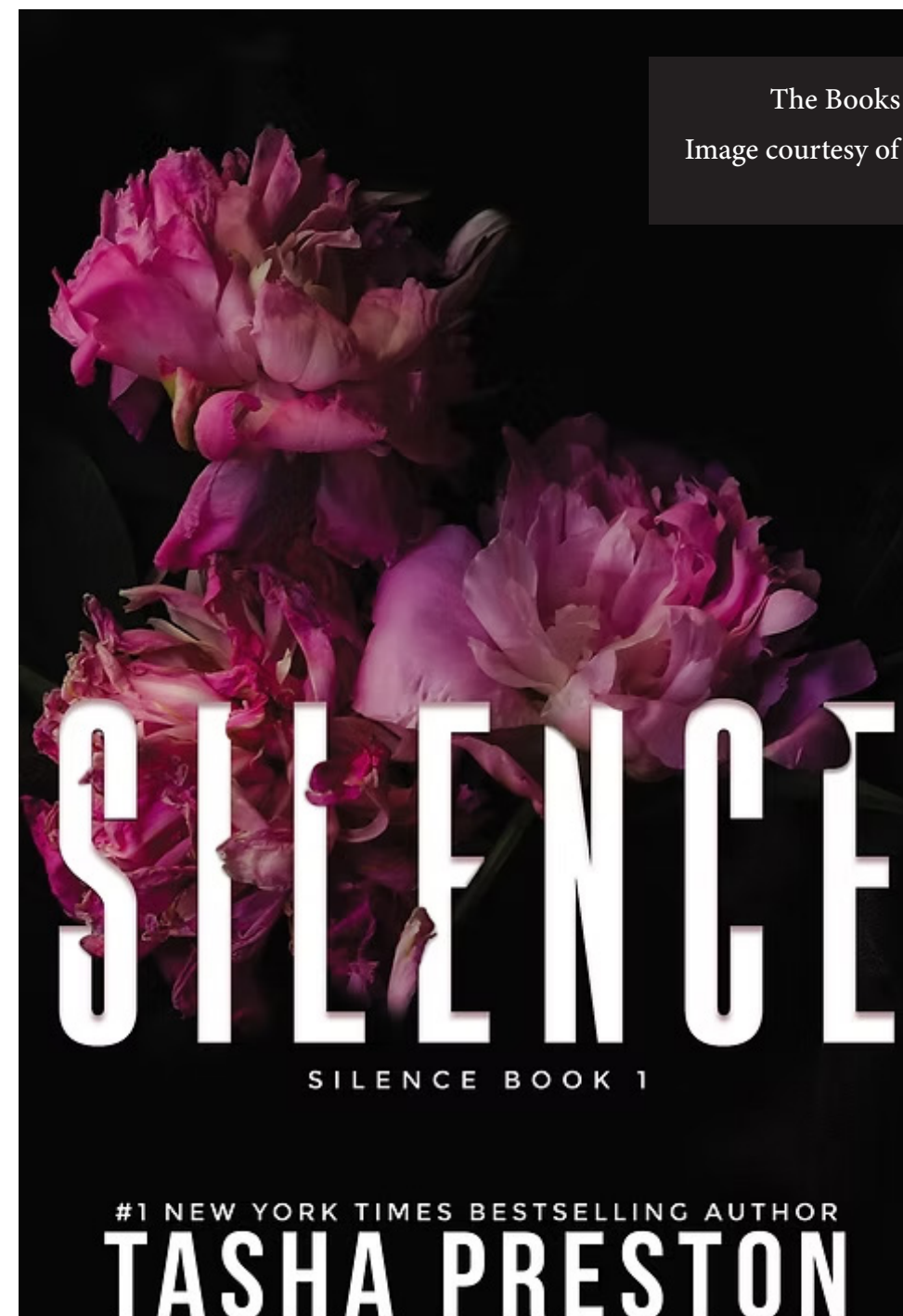
Her author career started after she published her first book, *Silence*. A mystery-romance book about a girl named Oakley whose traumatic past has left her completely mute. No one including her best friend and love interest Cole knows why she stopped speaking. As the two grow closer, the truth about her past starts to resurface, forcing her to confront the secret she's been keeping for years.

This book is one of many of her romance books, with *Broken Silence* being a sequel to the first one and *Players, Bumps and Cocktail Sausages* which focuses on another character that's in the series. Plus, a short Christmas story adding on the others called *Silent Night*.

Natasha Preston never actually intended to become a writer. In a Q&A on December 3rd, 2024, she states, "I like to say I was never supposed to write. It was never a goal; I didn't ever think I would be a writer until I started reading on Wattpad and decided, "Just give it a little go." I really enjoyed it, but I still didn't see it as a career."

She saw writing as just a hobby, until a young publishing professional found her on Wattpad, and she then published her first book.

NATASHA PRESTON



The Books *Silence* & *Broken Silence*
Image courtesy of natashapreston.com/romance-books



After she published her first book, she thought that would be it, but to her surprise the young professional came back and wanted her to write another one. She would come back in the future and say, “That’s not the typical way you get published in the traditional world. I got very lucky.”

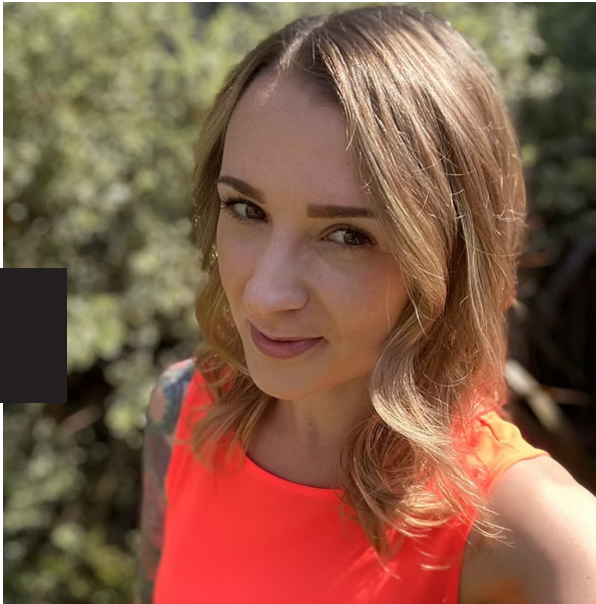
A few books later, she decided to head down the path of more mysterious and thriller types of books. As far as her reasoning for this, she says, “From a very young age, I’ve loved being scared; I was watching horror movies way before I should and reading anything that promised to keep me up at night.”

She would then go on to publish her debut novel called *The Cellar*, published in 2014. The story goes, “Summer is trapped in a cellar with the man who took her-and three other girls: Rose, Poppy, and

Violet. His perfect flowers. His family. But flowers can’t survive long cut from the sun, and time is running out...” This book sought out to become a #1 New York Times Bestseller and really helped Natasha’s writing career take off.

She then went on to write more thriller mystery novels such as *Awake*, published in 2015. Then *The Cabin*, published in 2016, then became a #1 New York bestseller. Then a sequel to *The Cabin* called *You Will Be Mine*, published in 2018.

Over all her books are just as interesting as her story, it really shows how a person that never intended to follow the path of writing can be strikingly amazing at it and follow the path of becoming such a talented writer.

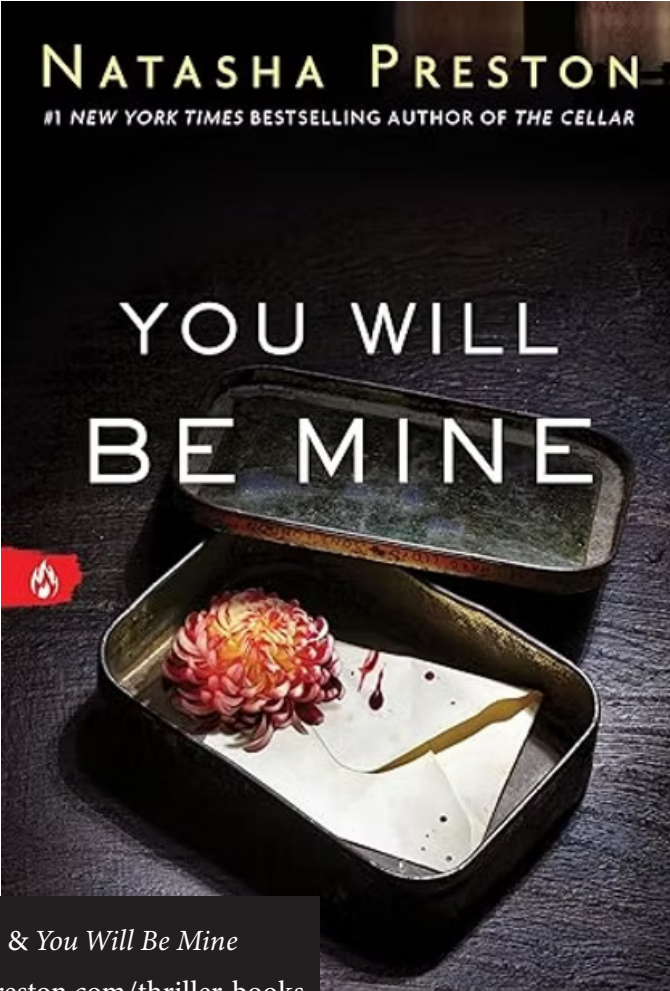


Natasha Preston
Image courtesy of natashapreston.com

Other books by Natash Preston ...



The Books *The Cabin* & *You Will Be Mine*
Image courtesy of natashapreston.com/thriller-books



The Books *The Fear* & *The Lake*
Image courtesy of natashapreston.com/thriller-books



HORROR & HUMOR MEETS SCREAM

By Gemma Ludwig

Scream is an American thriller franchise that includes six films. Kevin Williamson is the creator of the series, and Wes Craven is the director. The debut of the series first hit theaters in 1996 and immediately changed the public's view of scary movies.

Unlike typical horror films, *Scream* mixed both humor and thrill. The characters in the movie understood horror movie "rules" and talked about them, this makes the story all the more appealing for viewers.

The *Scream* movies explore different themes and make it out to be a mystery for the audience. The success of the franchise revived the genre during the 1990s, after years of predictable and repetitive horror films.

The first four films follow Sidney Prescott and her struggle against several murders disguised by what they call, Ghostface. Each movie features a new person behind the mask, who stalks and kills their victims, out of revenge and jealousy.

Throughout the series, Sidney receives help from the town policeman, Dewey Riley, and reporter Gale Weathers. As the series goes on, other friends, romantic partners, and acquaintances come through to support Sidney as well.

With the fifth movie release, they starred new cast members that are well known for their past roles, Melissa Barrera, Jenna Ortega, Mason Good-

ing, and Jasmin Savoy Brown. This brought attention to the franchise, extending its popularity even further. It was a box-office success, grossing over \$138 million.

The fifth and sixth films focus on Samantha Carpenter, her sister, Tara, and their friends. Due to the connection with the original killers, they are targeted.

Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox, David Arquette, and Roger L. Jackson were the true stars in the first five films and will return for the seventh. Cox and Jackson are the only cast members to feature in all the films.

The first film, *Scream*, was released on December 20, 1996. *Scream 2*, was released less than a year later on December 12, 1997. The third installment, *Scream 3*, was released on February 4, 2000, which was originally meant to be the concluding chapter of the series.

Eleven years later, the franchise was revived with a fourth movie, *Scream 4*, which was released on April 15, 2011. The fifth film was the first in the film series to not be directed by Wes Craven, who died in 2015. Instead, Bettinelli-Olpin and Gillett directed. *Scream 6* was released on March 10, 2023, developed by the same directors and screenwriters. *Scream 7* is scheduled to release on February 27, 2026.

Overall, the film series has grossed over \$911 million and has been a worldwide success for the revival of slasher films.

Image courtesy of hdqwalls.com.

SETTING
THE
SCENE

ORDER IN THE HOUSE: SHEYENNE STUDENT CONGRESS

North Dakota's State Student
Congress competitors

Image courtesy of Brian Bubach

By Mateo Landayan

Sheyenne High School's Student Congress team is one of the most active and accomplished forensics programs in the state of North Dakota. Meeting every school day except Wednesday in room 2304, team members spend their afternoons researching legislation, practicing speeches, and running mock chambers to prepare for tournaments. There are no requirements to join, but experience in public speaking or debate is helpful.

What makes the program stand out is the level of preparation students put in each week. Practices often include timed speech drills, rapid fire questioning, and group discussions about current events. Students work together to break down complex topics, from national security to education and healthcare policies, so everyone is ready to speak on a wide range of issues.

Returning members and students from other forensics events often take the lead during practices, guiding new competitors through formatting speeches, responding to cross examination, and explaining parliamentary rules. This helps newer students get comfortable much faster and encourages shared responsibility within the team.

Competition days are long, but students say the experience is worth it. A single tournament can include multiple sessions and hundreds of speech-



es across , giving members plenty of chances to improve. Many students are encouraged to keep personal binders or digital research folders that they update throughout the season and in the heat of chambers.

Congress is treated almost like a class of its own. The club welcomes anyone interested in politics, communication, or leadership. “Everyone starts somewhere, and there is something for everyone in forensics,” said head coach Krista Hulderman.

During competition season, representatives put their preparation to the test in full day tournaments where they debate and vote on student written legislations. This season’s highlight is the state tournament, held at the North Dakota Capitol in Bismarck, where Sheyenne’s students debate in the same chambers used by real lawmakers in the state.

Members can also take on leadership roles, such as presiding officers who lead debate sessions or parliamentarians who record votes and manage procedures. These roles give students hands on experience in organization and parliamentary procedure.

Over the years, the team has earned multiple state titles, including State Championships in 2015, 2020, and 2021, and Runners-Up in 2023. They’ve also achieved several top five state finishes and district titles at the NSDA Roughrider District Tournament.

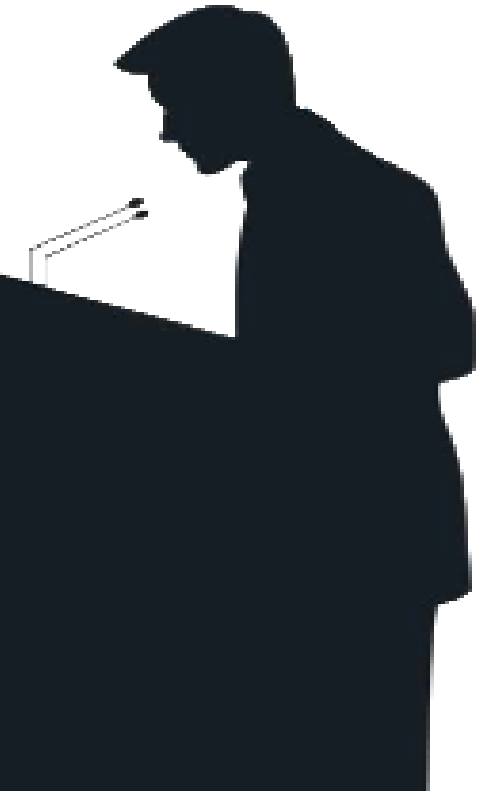
This year Sheyenne High School earned the NSDA Leading Chapter Award. Through dedication and teamwork, Sheyenne’s Congress continues to set the bar for student leadership, proving that every voice can make an impact when it’s heard with purpose.



State Student Congress Logo
Image courtesy of NDHSAA



Sheyenne’s Student Congress Team
Image courtesy of Krista Hulderman



By Allison Ambuehl

The Wilds is an intensive drama series combined with plot twists and mystery. The show follows a group of teenage girls who are on their way to a relaxing retreat for female empowerment when their plane crashes and they end up on a deserted island, stranded.

They must learn how to live with their new lifestyle and overcome their differences to survive. Each episode is told using the perspective of a different girl, so you really get to know and understand their actions.

Every character is very thought through and well written. Also relatable as they show significant issues in their backstories and personality.

Let us delve into four of the main girl's backgrounds and analyze their character. (WARNING: SPOILERS AHEAD!)

Starting with Leah Rilke, she's the very first character introduced. Leah is a seventeen-year-old girl who is getting over her first heartbreak.

She had an affair with a famous author who was quite a bit older than her, he broke up with her after finding out she lied about her age and was only seventeen.

After the breakup she had been in a depressive state, concerning her parents. So, they sent her out on this retreat to get her spirits back up.

As the show goes on, we see her obsessive side take over. She gets very suspicious of the island and suspects some of the other girls on the island set them up and are part of whatever put them there.

She talks about how she gets lost in the dark side of her mind, which makes her do and say things she normally wouldn't. Her character is a great representation of how mental health can take over your life, not just your mind.

Survival and Self - Discovery: Unpacking The Wilds Characters



The Wilds: Main Cast
Image courtesy of Teen Vogue

Next is Fatin Jadmani, the seventeen-year-old cello star.

She is portrayed on the show as being a lazy, self-absorbed person. Fatin was the kind of girl to breeze through life and says whatever she wants, not caring about others feelings, causing tension and problems with the other girls.

Eventually we see her being more helpful and opening up to the others, she has great character development throughout the series.

However, in contrast to her personality, her home life was all about being perfect and obeying her parents. Her mom was very strict, but she had a great relationship with her dad until, Fatin caught him cheating on her mom. She vengefully decided to send the photos to everyone in his contact list.

That is how Fatin ended up on the retreat, her parents decided they needed space from her. She was under a lot of pressure to do well from her parents, contributing to her carefree and wild personality.

Shelby Goodkin is your average Jesus loving pageant girl from the South. Her dad is a pastor and her whole family is very devoted to their faith.

She is bubbly, positive and kind with great leadership skills. At the start of the series, she kind of lives in a bubble, trusting that God has a plan for her and the rest of the girls on the island.

However, as the episodes go on, we see that bubble shatter. Before getting stranded she spent her whole life trying to be the perfect Christian daughter for her parents. Competing in pageants, having a boyfriend, staying fit, and devoting herself to the Christian faith.

Shelby struggles with internal conflicts about who she actually is and who her family wants her to be. Nonetheless, over the course of the show, without the expectations of her peers and parents, she grows into who she truly is and begins to accept herself. Her character is another amazing example of self-discovery and self-acceptance.



The Wilds: Leah
Image courtesy of Amazon



The Wilds: Leah & Fatin
Image courtesy of Youtube



The Wilds: Shelby
Image courtesy of Tumblr



The Wilds: Main Cast
Image courtesy of Ready Steady Cut

Last but certainly not least, we have Toni Shalifoe. She's a tough and rebellious girl with a complex life.

She persevered through a difficult childhood with her mother dealing with addiction and her father's absence in her life. She spent her life in foster care systems and before she ended up on the retreat, she was sleeping in a tent by herself, taking care of herself.

Her background we can assume is the reason why she is so resilient and independent. When we were first introduced to her, we can see she has deep rooted anger issues and lashes out on everyone around her.

She also is not very trusting to the other girls at first and is fiercely loyal to her best friend Martha who is also on the island. Martha is a central part of her life as she's one of the few people Tony can count on to not abandon her.

Throughout her stay, we see her gradually trusting the other girls more and calming down a lot.

Although it is hard for her at first, she becomes close with the other girls, specifically Shelby who she ends up dating towards the end of the series.

Leah, fatin, Shelby, and Toni are only four out of the eight main characters on the show. The others are Martha, Dot, Rachel, and Nora.

I was hesitant when choosing who to write about but ultimately I chose my favorites and the characters who I find most intriguing.

If these wide range of personalities interested you, you can watch the Wilds on Amazon Prime. I highly recommend it.



The Wilds: Toni
Image courtesy of pinterest



The Wilds: Shelby
Image courtesy of Spotify

The Wilds: Toni & Shelby
Image courtesy of Amazon



SOCIAL MEDIA &

By Enar Ahmed

Social media is particularly important in our lives. It affects everyone, especially students. However, many districts have implemented iPads and Chromebooks for easy access to learning. These devices have sparked controversy among many people.

For teachers, and other staff members the use of internet for education has helped with getting information from and to the students, like questions about an assignment or reasons for absences and needs for extensions.

There are a lot of ways that internet and

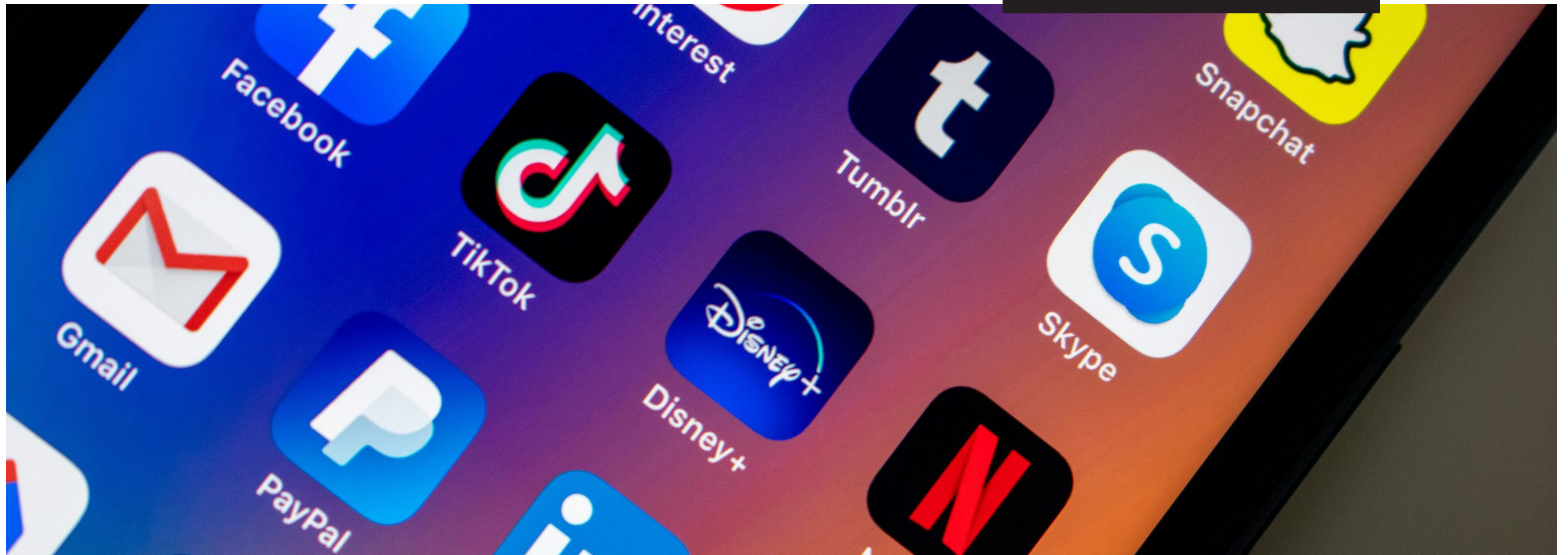
school-issued devices help teachers and staff. However, there are also issues when giving students school-issued devices; for example, they might use the device in a way that distracts them from the lesson or misuse the device by going on certain apps that teachers have restricted.

Teachers might also enforce their control over school-issued devices by locking a student's device because they were working on a different assignment, or because they feel "disrespected" by that student.

STUDENTS

Social Media

Image courtesy of UK safer internet centre



Even if there are many reasons why school-issued devices are negatively affecting students, we still need them if we want to give students a positive flexible educational experience.

The question is, however, does social media affect students? If so, how and why does it affect them?

In a school-wide survey on how social media might affect the students at Sheyenne Highschool, data has similar trends.

Around 61% of students say that social media does not affect their learning. An estimate of 25% of students say that social media does affect their learning, and 12% say that it might affect their learning.

Most of the students who answered that social media does affect their learning explain the negative and positive effects of how social media affects their education.

A common negative effect is that social media can distract them from their learning or what’s going on in the classroom.

On the other hand, some students said that social media helps them learn a lot of useful tips, including studying, or exam advice.

One student even said, “It helps me focus on what I’m doing and complete it.”

According to this data, social media can be very useful for learning, but it can also distract learning.

On the other hand, does the social aspect of social media affect the students at Sheyenne High-

school?

According to our survey, around 41% of students say that social media does not affect the way they interact with others.

35.9% say that social media does affect the way they interact with others.

Lastly, around 23.1% of students say that it might affect the way they interact with others.

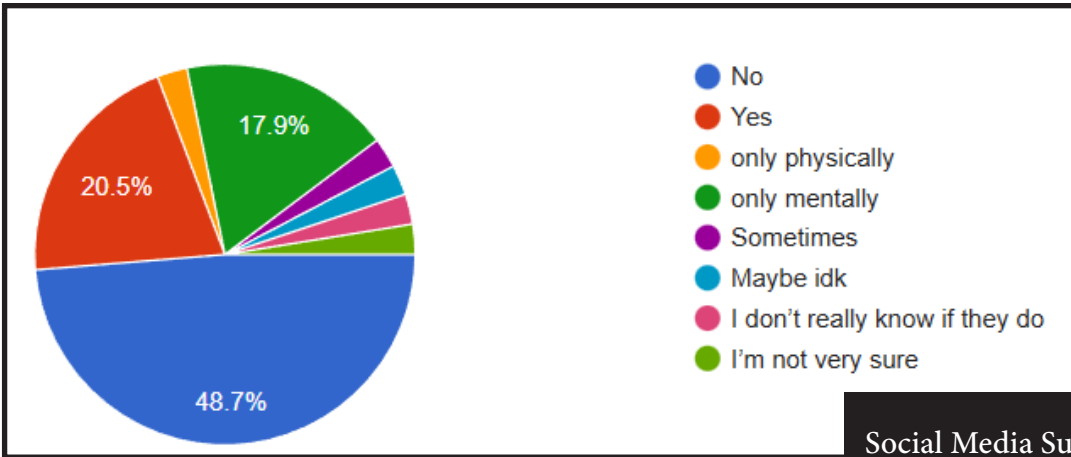
The students that did say that it affected the way they interact with people claim that it is mostly positive. Social media helps them connect better with other students; they may mention a meme during class or send videos to their friends to talk about the next day.

During conversations they may reference a video or photo which would bring the conversation up a level or a new topic.

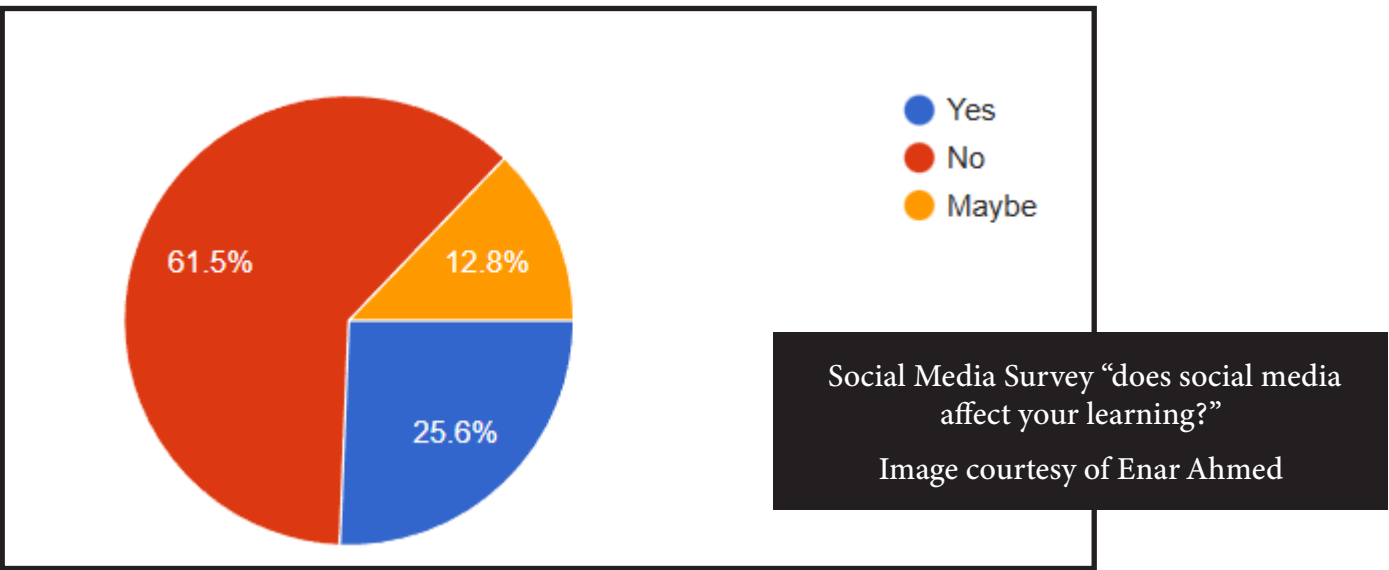
Finally, we have the mental and physical effects that may occur to students when using social media. Around 48.7% of students say that it does not affect them mentally at all. Meanwhile 20.5% say it does affect them both physically and mentally.

The percentage of people who say it does affect them explain that social media can spread negativity or leave them with sleepless nights, but it can also help them interact with more people and help them get their work done.

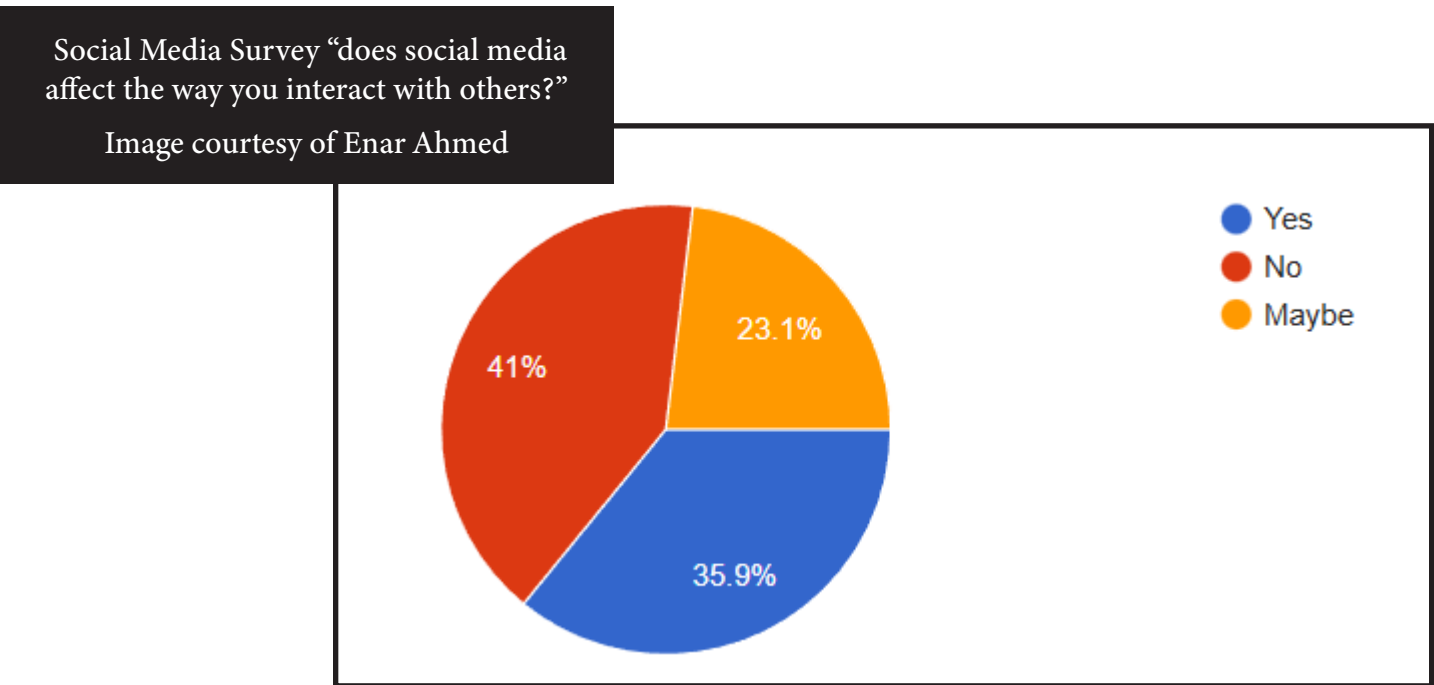
Although social media can have negative and positive aspects, it all comes down to what you choose to do online.



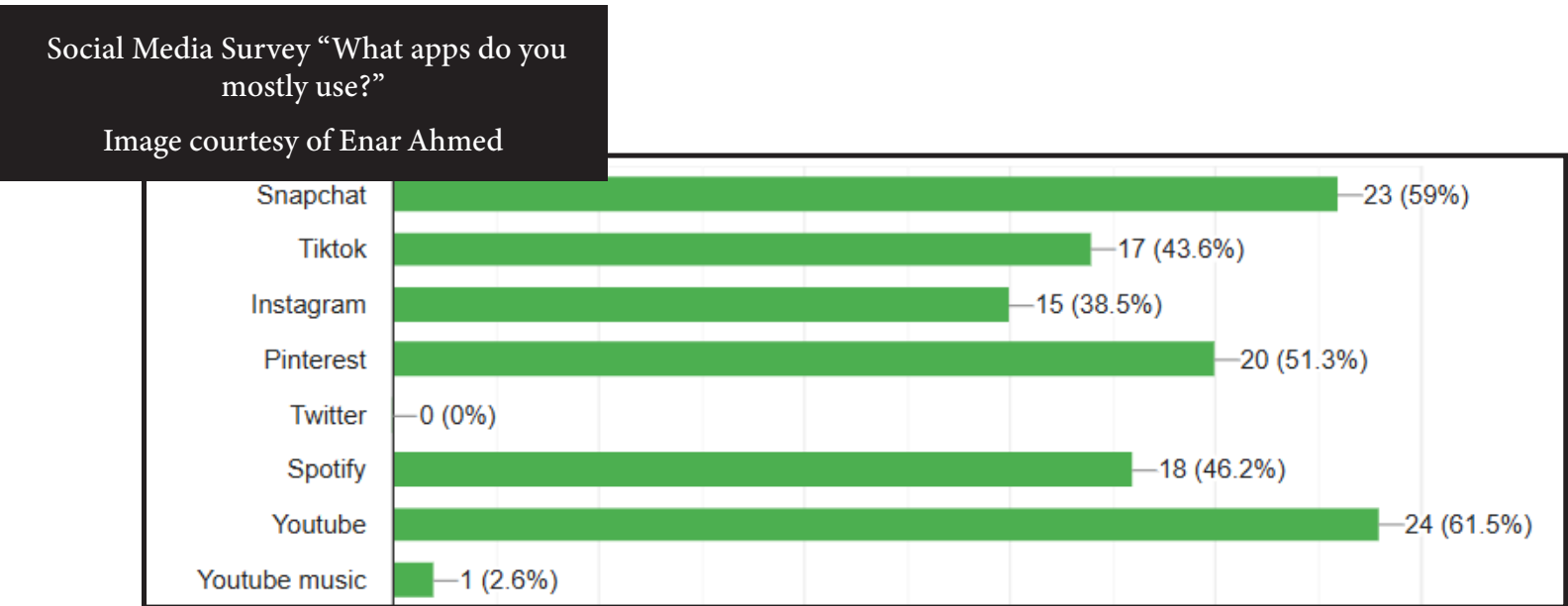
Social Media Survey, “does social media affect you mentally and physically?”
Image courtesy of Enar Ahmed



Social Media Survey “does social media affect your learning?”
Image courtesy of Enar Ahmed



Social Media Survey “does social media affect the way you interact with others?”
Image courtesy of Enar Ahmed



Social Media Survey “What apps do you mostly use?”
Image courtesy of Enar Ahmed



Vinyl: An Audiophile's Dream

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By Christina Miller

A lot of people collect things that have meaning to them. I collect things that I love, like music. Music can evoke strong emotions in me and can sometimes influence my mood.

My love for music comes from the feeling it brings me and how I connect with it. Some songs are about heartbreak, misunderstandings, and other subjects or ideas. A lot of music has connected with me over the years.

In 7th or 8th grade (don't really remember), I saw people on TikTok with record players and vinyls. I thought they looked really cool and came with things like posters, trinkets, or sometimes

other things (I like putting posters and other cool objects in my room a lot). I asked for a record player for Christmas and happily got it. Ever since then, I've bought more and more. I've added more vinyl records to my collection each year.

Vinyls are a very fun thing to collect. I have many Vinyls, according to my Discogs, it says that I have over 130 vinyls. When I get my Vinyls, I quickly open them and put the inner and outer sleeves on so they always stay safe and last longer.

These days, everything costs a lot of money. Streaming services cost a lot, like Spotify has upped its prices for its subscription lately. Vinyls don't re-

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quire a subscription, and you physically own them. They are a great way to avoid big companies making you pay for subscriptions.

If you're asking, "How would I listen to music on the run," then you can buy CDs or even own something where you can just own the music digitally.

Some of the Vinyls come with trinkets like cards, notes, and mainly posters. Posters are my favorite to get with the vinyl. One of the posters I got was very large and double-sided. I decided to put it on my wall, which took up a bunch of space.

Target has a section for physical media like K-pop, CDs, vinyls, and DVDs. Walmart, Target, and other places like indie stores have exclusives for Vinyls.

I do some variant collecting, but only with albums I love, though, since that can get a price, but this can let you choose what color you like out of the variants. Lots of variants look very cool, like marbled, splatter, split, and more cool types (My personal favorite is splatter).

Buying your favorite artists' albums can help support them. Streaming doesn't pay artists that much. Most streaming services take a lot of money, and artists don't get that much percentage. So, placing your order for an artist you want to support can really help support them.

I think collecting Vinyls is really fun, but anyone can collect anything they want if it makes them feel happy! I just wanted to share since I love music and my collection.

My vinyl spinning on the record player
Image courtesy of Christina Miller



BLUES CLUES: PEACE AND NOSTALGIA

By Adrianna Raile

Blue's Clues, a blue, animated puppy and her owner Steve searching the house for Blue's paw print clues, each leading closer to solving a mystery.

The original Blue's Clues was a show starring Steve Burns as Steve and Traci Paige Johnson as Blue had begun in 1996 and ran until mid-2024. With the help of the audience, Blue and Steve were able to go on adventures throughout the home and even jump in and out of picture frames!

There was Mr. Salt and Mrs. Pepper and Tickety Tock and Mailbox! All these inanimate objects can talk too, cool, right? However, that's all that we could see. There was more that was going on behind the scenes, or in this case, in Steve's head.

Steve's job was to give a sense of adventure and happiness to children who watch the show. Many adults and late teenagers now have talked about how Blue's Clues was their comfort show. It was funny, educational, and entertaining.

There were moments in the show when Steve and Blue would sing a little song like "MAILTIME" and the show's theme song "Blue's Clues." With those songs, Steve and Blue do a little jig and speak to the audience



Blue from Blue's Clues
Image courtesy of Parent.com

as a way of being inclusive towards their viewers.

Blue’s Clues may have been an animated show, but to the kids it was their entire world. Steve left Blue’s Clues in 2002 due to severe clinical depression.

In an interview with E! News in November 2022, Steve made a statement that no one had known until this moment. “I didn’t know it yet, but I was the happiest depressed person in North America,” Steve explains to E! News. “I was struggling with severe clinical depression the whole time I was on that show. It was my job to be utterly and completely full of joy and wonder at all times, and that became impossible.”

This shows that Steve went through 6 years of struggle and depression just to keep the viewers happy. Altogether, Blue’s Clues was a show for peace and nostalgia for the late millennial and

early Gen Z.

Steve Burns now has social media platforms like TikTok (@hioutthereitsmesteve) and Instagram (@steveburnsalive). In the content he makes, Steve uses old lines from his show and checks in with “the kids he watched grow up.”

Many people find this very comforting and nostalgic, as it gives them a sense of how the show made them feel as a little kid. The importance of remembering key events or nostalgic memories can help ease the mind when stressed or overwhelmed, and the peace of mind will help you realize that life may be hard in that moment but it will get better if you keep trying and keep your head up.

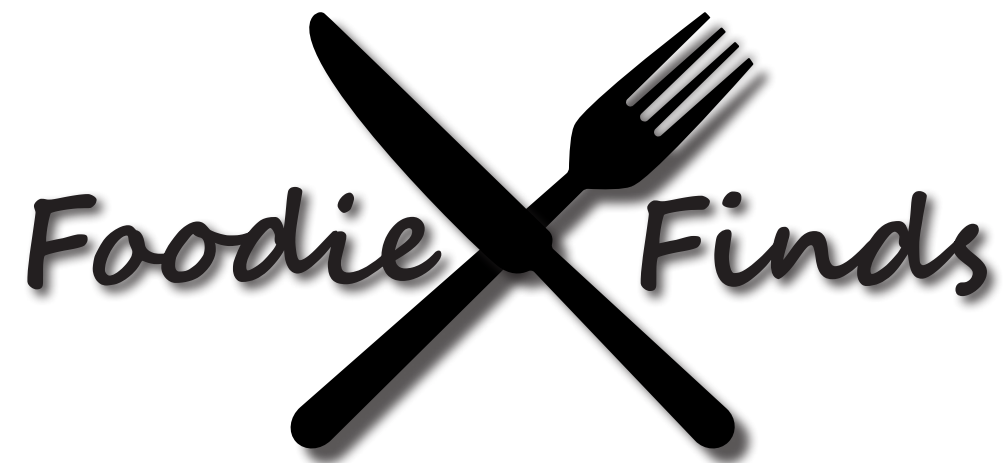


Steve and the animated cast of Blue’s Clues
Image courtesy of tvtropes.org



Steve Burns then and now
Image courtesy of people.com





TASTE OF . . . FILL THE THING WITH MORE CHEESE

By Jeremy Monette

Before digging into the review, if you'd look at the 'About Us' picture you'll notice a funny contradiction. *Taste of Philly* does not serve wraps or regular sandwiches and burgers. Except they do . . . kind of. It seems that depending on the city you go to, you could get a slight to wholly different experience from the last.

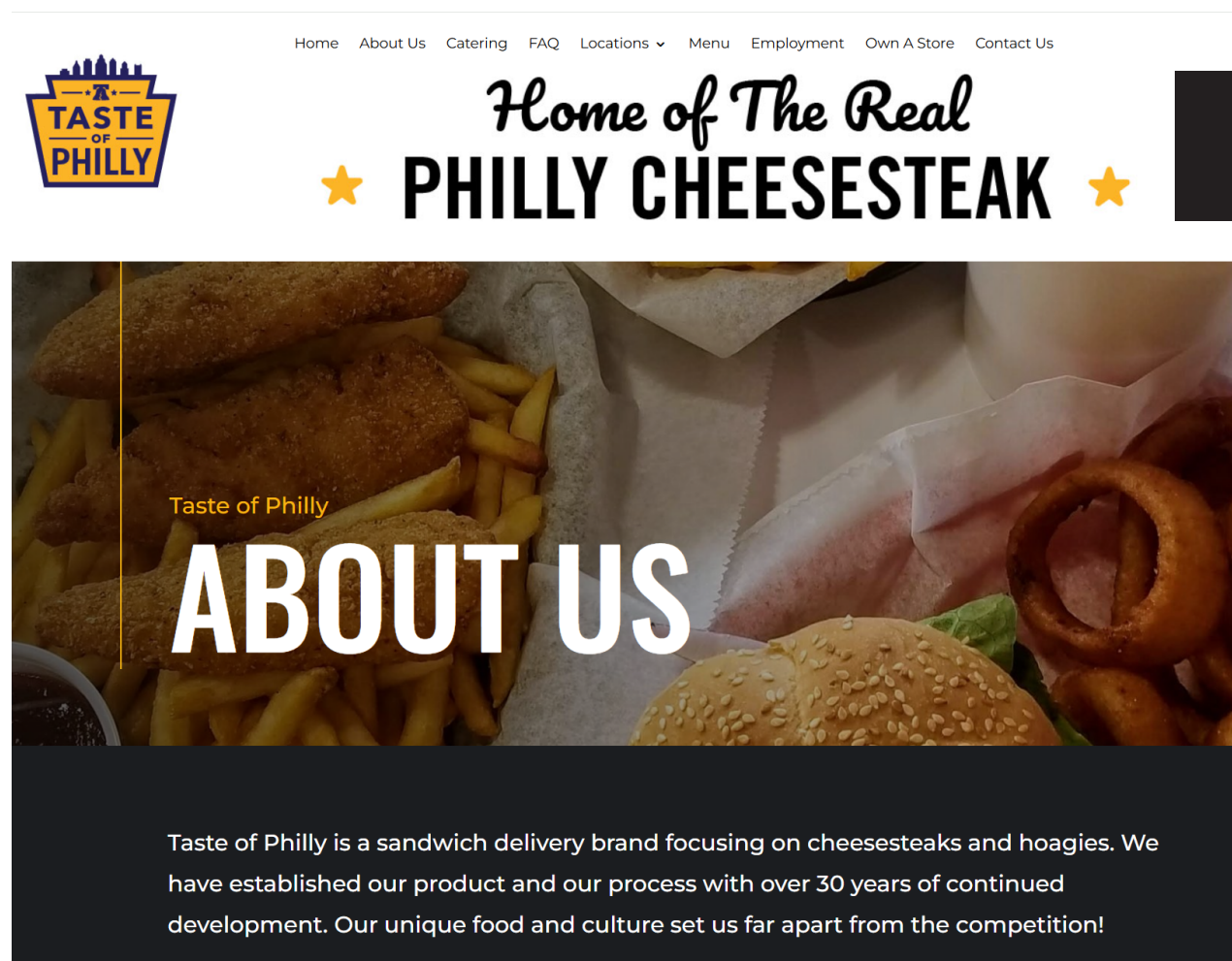
The locations around Fargo all seem to be a lite version compared to other cities. Limited to the cheesesteaks, a couple normal bread sandwiches, wings, fries 'n' cheese curds 'n' onion rings. An Arizonan location adds a variety of burgers and pseudo-cheesesteak sandwiches, along with a different cut of fries and other novelties.

All of this adds up to a brand with one semi vague throughline: cheesesteaks.

Typically, a chain tries its darndest to ensure that the taste and feel and items are the same from store to store, so this just feels like a half-baked attempt to do that. The food's effort itself could be described the same way.

The feel of the Veteran's Square location is the lack of any: usually not too busy inside but not entirely barren either. The soda is mixed poorly along the eastern wall relative to the entry way.

About 90% of the counter in the front is essentially wasted space. The building had formerly been a pretty subpar salad bar of sorts.



Taste of Philly About Us
Image courtesy of Taste of Philly website



Taste of Philly Ad
Image courtesy of Taste of Philly



Taste of Philly Ad
Image courtesy of Taste of Philly

Both times I came in, I had to wave down a worker hiding in the back. Having worked in fast food, employees are typically aware of customers entering, so this wasn't the best first impression. The workers that took my orders both times seemed glad to be there and to help.

And then we learn the prices.

Any Philly has a regular and large size. They all seem to sit between 12 and 17 dollars, which feels like a lot already for what I'll explain are rather drab sandwiches.

If you want to round out your meal, the in-store "combos" tack on an extra 3.5 to 5ish dollars. Which may be fries, onion rings, chips, and a medium drink, with the price reflecting whatever option. So now you're standing there with your combo totaling nearly 20 dollars, if not more depending on which you get.

You can hear the sizzle of the meat as the worker slinks off into the back to prepare the stuff. My one overwhelming appreciation is how physically hot the food is, burned my mouth the first time I ate there.



Taste of Philly Ad
Image courtesy of Taste of Philly

Unwrapping the sandwich at one of the tables or wherever you eat, just to notice that there isn't any visible cheese on your Philly cheesesteak. It's even worse when you look at the promos.

I had the Hot Popper cheesesteak on my first visit, which consists of the meat, onions, jalapenos, and cream cheese. What I got was a hot . . . blend of flat tasting meat and hyper-minced, presumably factory cut and portioned onion and jalapenos, and the faintest little untastable brush stroke of cream cheese underneath it all, all held together inside of a somewhat dry and stiff roll of bread.

The onion rings didn't offer much solitude from the disappointment of the main dish. The ranch and honey mustard were good, but they don't make that in house, and the soda was struggling to be decent in the first place.

I do get that most if not all food franchises are 95% frozen and factory-made portions and items, but the idea is that it should be good enough to not be able to tell.

On my second trip, to give Taste of Philly the benefit of the doubt, and to be thorough before

writing this article, I got The Works cheesesteak. It is as it sounds, the typical stuff you'd find on a stereotypical Philly cheesesteak, meat, onion, red and green bell peppers, mushrooms, and cheese.

It tasted exactly the same, minus a little spice, and add a thin layer of provolone underneath it all. I understand why it's underneath.

They cook it on the flat top, throw the slices on top and flip it upside down into the bread. I'm just curious why another one couldn't be spared for the top of the sandwich. It's already blazing hot, if it's to-go it gets wrapped in tin foil and paper so it's not like it won't melt.

And on my third, and presumably final time going there, I splurged for extra cheese, and "wiz" on the same sandwich, and they either skimped hard, or their owners tell them to. It was just disappointing to the point of apathy.

My only other compliment is that it's pretty quick. All in all, they certainly are number one for a reason, they're the first place I imagine when I think "waste of money."

Taste of Philly Ad
Image courtesy of TripAdvisor.com



Hollywood's Newest Heart Throb: Mason Thames

By: Callen Foshier

What do the movies *The Black Phone*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, and *Regretting You* have in common? If you answered that they all star the young, and handsome *Mason Thames*, you would be correct!

Thames, a *Dallas, Texas* native, born *July 10, 2007*, is entering conversations of movie lovers across the nation as one of the best upcoming actors of this century.

At only 18 years old, *Thames* has already starred in eleven motion picture films including one short-film, three TV series, and seven movies from 2017 on.

Early Life

Entering the entertainment scene as a ballet dancer in 2013, *Thames* performed with a professional ballet company and toured with them as the youngest cast member up until 2016. He then dipped his toes into acting with his first short film, *After Omelas* (2017), portraying a young boy named *Liam*.

From 2019-2021, *Thames* appeared in three TV series with small roles in *For All Mankind* as young *Danny Stevens*, *Evel* as *Robbie*, and *Walker* as young *Walker*. Although these were small TV roles, spanning in just five total episodes, that experience would soon set the stage for *Thames*' breakout year.

Breakthrough Role

That breakthrough year came in 2021 with *Mason Thames* debut film, *The Black Phone* in which he starred as the main protagonist *Finney*. This film was a major success, earning many nominations including *Best Horror Film* at the 2022 *Saturn Awards*, the 2023 *Hollywood Critics Association Film Awards Best Horror Film*, and *Best Wide-Release Movie* at the 2023 *Fangoria Chainsaw Awards*.



Mason Thames at an event for *The Black Phone 2*
-Valerie Macon, Getty Images

Thames also received multiple individual nominations as well including *Best Performance of a Younger Actor/Actress* from the *Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy, & Horror Films (USA 2022)*, *Music City Film Critics' Association Awards* of 2023 nominee for *Best Young Actor*, and finally *Las Vegas Film Critics Society Award for Best Male Youth Performance (Under 21)*.

At just 13 years old, *Thames* had now officially launched his career and has proven his potential as a leading actor and looking to get even more films to gross the top charts once again.

Quiet Period

After a brief quiet period, *Thames* returned in 2024 where he starred in the movie *Incoming*, as *Benj*. Although *Incoming* received mixed reviews and was *Thames* lowest rated film with a 24% *Tomatometer* rating and a 52% *Popcornmeter* rating from *Rotten Tomatoes*, this did not define him as he next starred in *Monster Summer*.

Alongside costar *Mel Gibson*, *Thames* portrayed as character *Noah Reed*. *Monster Summer* received a 59% *Tomatometer* score from critics and an 84% *Popcornmeter* score from audiences. Many viewers praised *Thames*' performance and enjoyed this film, unknowing that he was on the verge of another breakout year.

Current Success

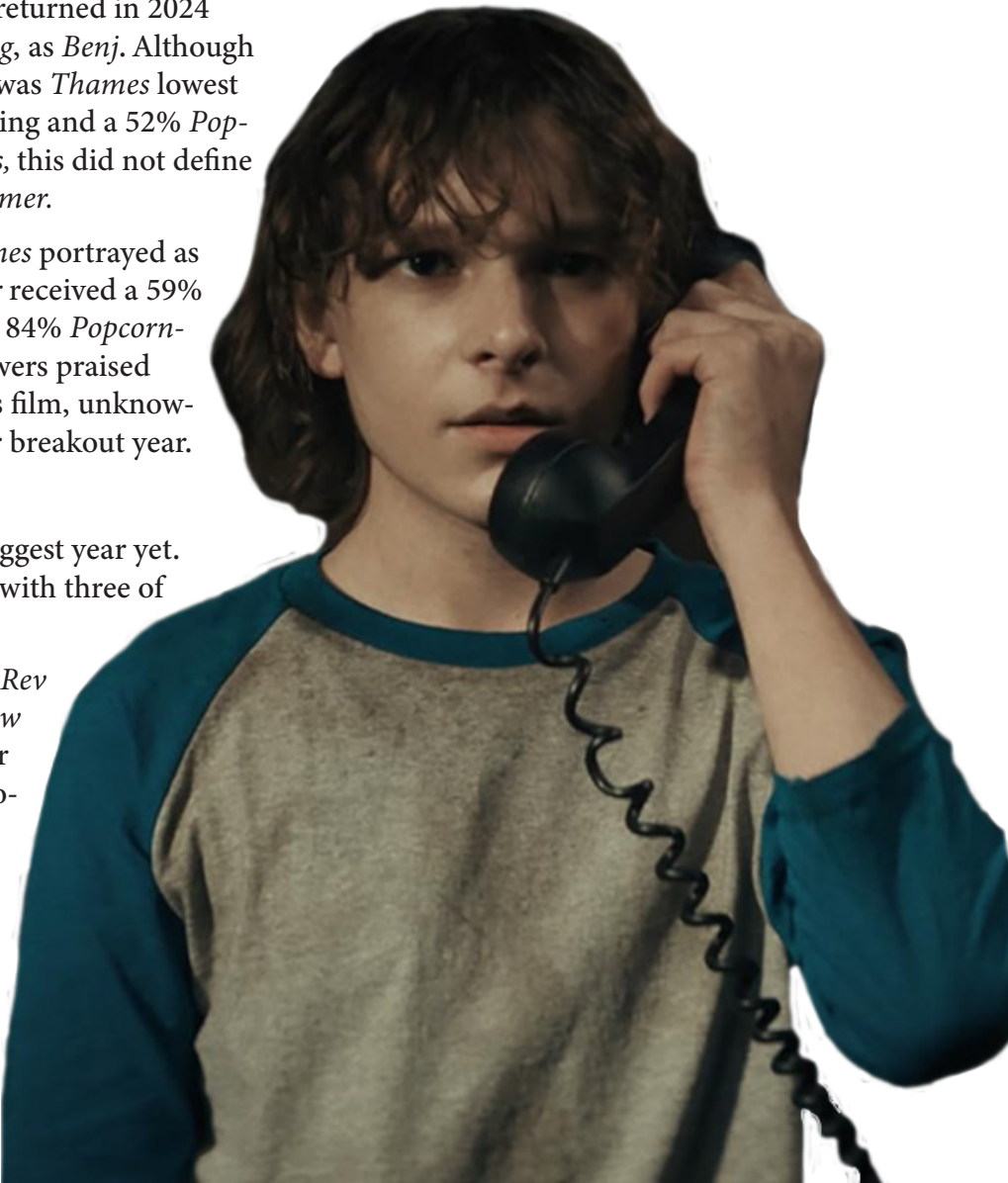
The year 2025 has been *Thames*' biggest year yet. He starred in four major motion films with three of them being released already this year.

Those movies included *New Year's Rev* in which has not been released yet, *How to Train Your Dragon* as main character *Hiccup*, *The Black Phone 2* as main protagonist *Finney*, and *Coleen Hoover's* film adaptation of her novel *Regretting You*, where *Thames* stars as the main heart throb of the movie *Miller Adams*.

Released just months apart, these three projects have drawn significant attention to *Thames*' versatility and talent. Gaining him tremendous at-

Mason Thames in *The Black Phone*
-Universal Pictures (2021) Universal Studios

tention for his outstanding acting roles, audiences can not help but compare *Mason Thames* to *Jim Carrey*. If all three of *Thames*' films open at number one consecutively, he would be the first actor since *Carrey* to do so since 1994 with the release of top charting films *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *The Mask*, and *Dumb and Dumber*.



Mckenna Grace

With the release of his newest film *Regretting You*, audiences could not help but notice the chemistry *Thames* had with costar *Mckenna Grace*; likely because they are actually dating in real life as well!

The pair met in an *Uber* while going to the set of the film, they stated that they instantly felt a click. The couple sparked a friendship during the filming of the movie and started dating shortly after.

Grace-known best for her role as *Paige Swanson* in *Young Sheldon*- and *Thames* make a powerful voyage as a young couple trying to achieve that *Hollywood* Star status!

Growth in Following

As his popularity grows, *Thames* has earned several social media followers in which are only going north from where he started. With charm, skill, and charisma, *Thames* has not only earned popularity from *Hollywood* critics, but through teens and young adults on social media as well.

Thames’ currently has a healthy growth of following with his *Instagram* climbing to 1.8 million followers, and his *TikTok* account gaining 2.3 million followers as both accounts continue to show growth each day.

From his ballet beginnings to his first award nominations, *Mason Thames* has proven that he is more than just a rising star; he is a dedicated actor, hard-working individual, and most importantly a good person.

Earning major popularity, *Thames* earned every bit of it; with an impressive slate of films behind him, he has way more to come on the horizon. With that being said, I am truly excited to see what this young man has to come in the near future with new releases of films that will hopefully reach the top of the box charts as well.



Mason Thames in How to Train Your Dragon
-Universal Pictures (2024) Universal Studios

Mason Thames (left) and Joel Kinnaman (right) at the For All Mankind premiere
-IMDb



Makenna Grace (left) and Mason Thames (right) at an event for Regretting You
-Eric Charbonneau, Getty Images



BEYOND THE UPSIDE DOWN

By: Callen Foshier

Netflix Finds Its Golden Show

Stranger Things Season 5 is set to return this November, and early excitement from fans suggests that this may become *Netflix's* biggest hit yet!

Since its debut in *July* of 2016, the series has captivated audiences with its blend of supernatural mystery, 1980's nostalgia, and emotional storytelling.

Set in the small town of *Hawkins, Indiana* in 1983, the show follows a group of young friends as they encounter eerie supernatural forces, dark government secrets, the mysterious disappearance of a friend, and the discovery of an evil parallel dimension known as *The Upside-Down*.

As they investigate the town's mysteries, viewers experience suspense supernatural elements, and unexpected twists throughout this one-of-a-kind show!

Season 2, released in *October* of 2017, continues the journey of the friend group as well as adding a new character to the group, *Max Mayfield*. *Max* moved to *Hawkins* from *California* with her mom, stepdad, and stepbrother, *Billy*. She initially struggled to fit in at her new school before meeting the group of boys who would soon become her close friends.

Season 3, released in 2019, was highly anticipated, with the first episodes dropping on the *4th* of *July*.

Following its success, The *Duffer* Brothers filmed a fourth season following in the shows path of fame. Although filming started in *January* of 2020, the show was halted in *March* of 2020 due to *COVID-19*. Production resumed filming in *September* of 2020 and wrapped up in *August* of 2021, totaling about 14 months of production time.

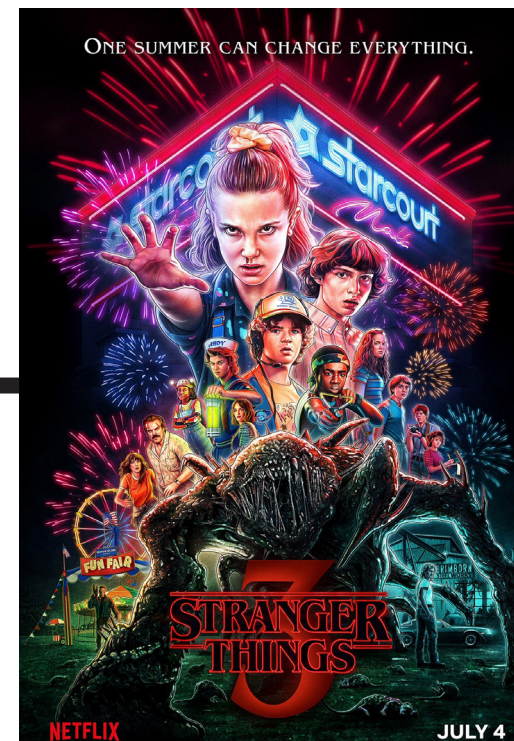
With season 5 set to release in a week, fans have been eagerly awaiting the return of their beloved

Season 1 (2016) -Rotten Tomatoes



Season 2 (2017) -Rotten Tomatoes

Season 3 (2019) -Rotten Tomatoes



Season 4 (2022) -Rotten Tomatoes

Season 5 (2025) -Rotten Tomatoes



characters, as the wait has been so long. Filming of season 5 began in *January* of 2024 and wrapped up in *December* of 2024 after a year-long production schedule, unfortunately delayed by prior factors including both writer’s and actor’s strikes.

Characters

The show’s main friend group consists of the core characters of *Will Byers*, *Mike Wheeler*, *Lucas Sinclair*, and *Dustin Henderson*. The group of boys love to play *Dungeons and Dragons*, in which the show bases their *upside-down* world, villains, and some events on.

Secondary characters in the show include the family members of the core group of boys including the mother and brother of *Will*; *Joyce Byers* and *Jonathan Byers*, the sister of *Mike*; *Nancy Wheeler*, as well as the boyfriend of *Nancy* at the time; *Steve Harrington*, as well as the *Chief of Police* in *Hawkins*; *Jim Hopper*.

The show is first brought to life when one of the core members, *Will*, goes missing. While *Joyce* frantically searches for her son, the other boys meet this girl with extraordinary powers; later named *Eleven*, from the tattoo on her wrist. They soon found out that she escaped from an institute that held little kids with superpowers captive for experimental reasons

and tested their powers for their own benefit.

Villains

The villains in the series vary from season to season, all stemming from *Dungeons and Dragons* lore. The villain in season 1 is the *Demogorgon*, season 2 brings us the *Mind Flayer* and *Demodogs*, season 3 has a return of the *Mind Flayer* and *Billy Hargrove* as the *Mind Flayer*’s host, season 4 brought us a new character of *Vecna/001/Henry Creel* as well as *Demobats*, and with season 5 trailers it seems we are getting a return of *Vecna* as he continues his mission in taking over the town of *Hawkins*.

Awards

Stranger Things has been nominated for over 300 awards over the course of its 4 released seasons. With its nominations including 57 *Primetime Emmy Awards* (12 wins), 18 *Teen Choice Awards*, 17 *Kids’ Choice Awards*, and 16 *MTV Movie & TV Awards*, there’s question why this show is one of *Netflix*’s best!

The show has also received nominations such as *Saturn Awards* with 13 nominations (4 wins), 4 *Golden Globe* nominations, 2 *Producers of America* nominations, 3 *Writers Guild of America* nominations, 11 *Screen Actors Guild* nominations (1 win), as well as many others.

Viewership

There’s no doubt that *Stranger Things* is popular among *Netflix* views across the *U.S*, and looking at the number, signifies the exponential growth across seasons. Season 1 averaged 14.07 million adults 18-49, within its first 35 days. It had the most-watched debut of any *Netflix* series in the year prior to its release.

Season 2 continued in the first season’s path with significant growth. The first episode attracted 15.8 million viewers nationwide with the shows first three days of releasing. Additionally, every episode averaged over 4 million viewers in that first three-day window, as well as the entire season averaging 8 million viewers.

Season 3 had massive viewership growth with 64 million households watching at least part of the season within the first four weeks, and 40.7 million watching within the first four days. *Netflix* also

found that 18.2 million households finished the entire season in the first four days, as well as 26.4 million *U.S* viewers during the first four days of its *July 4th* holiday weekend release.

Finally Season 4 brought the biggest viewership yet, breaking *Netflix* records left and right. It gained over 1.4 billion hours viewed in its first 28 days of releasing, with Volume One of the season recording 286.79 million viewers. This places *Stranger Things* Season 4 in second place, slightly behind *Squid Games*.

With Seasons 1-4 grossing over 47.749 billion viewers nationwide and reaching Top 10 on *Netflix* in 91 different countries on its release week, we can only hope the release of Season 5 follows in the same steps. With the new season quickly approaching fans are eager to watch their favorite crew return to the big screen, with hopes of new record-breaking viewership, as well as possibly becoming *Netflix*’s newest number one TV show contender!

Eleven in Season 4
IMDb- NETFLIX 2025 - 2025 Netflix, Inc.



Vecna in the Season 5 trailer
IMDb- NETFLIX 2025 - 2025 Netflix, Inc.



(Below) The Mind Flayer and Billy Hargrove in Season 3
beforeandafters.com



Writers/Directors

Created by brother duo, *Matt and Ross Duffer*, they based their unique show on a real-life situation that took place on *Long Island* in 1980. Their original plan was to film a movie with an *M. Night Shyamalan* and *Steven Spielberg* type of feel, as if they were directing a movie based off of a *Stephen King* book.

Montauk Project

The *Montauk Project* was a government experiment involving kidnapped kids that were later experimented on. Many subjects that were involved in the experiments recalled being part of subjects involving space, time, and other dimensions.

Other conspiracies say the *Montauk Projects* also involved experiments on mind control, sending subjects through portal into unknown space-time, and even signs of unknown monsters.

Cast

Not only was the direction of *Stranger Things* phenomenal, but the actors' performances on screen are outstanding as well.

With many of the teen characters having their breakout roles being the show itself, they all had at least one debut appearance in a short film, TV series, or major motion film that first jump started their *Hollywood* careers!

Noah Schnapp: *Schnapp*, who portrays *Will Byers*, first started off with a voice roll as the lead character *Charlie Brown*, in 2015's *The Peanuts Movie*. That same year, he appeared in *Steven Spielberg* and *Tom Hanks*' *Bridge of Spies*.

Finn Wolfhard: *Wolfhard*, who portrays *Mike*



(Left) The Cast of *Stranger Things* Season 5 at an *NME Magazine* photoshoot (2025)
-nme.com

Wheeler, started off in TV shows *The 100* and *Supernatural*, as well as an independent film *Aftermath, the Resurrection*.

Millie Bobby Brown: *Bobby Brown*, who portrays *Eleven*, first debuted as *Young Alice* on *ABC's Once Upon a Time in Wonderland*. She then landed a lead role in the *BBC America* drama series *Intruders*. She also has appeared on *NCIS*, *Modern Family*, and *Grey's Anatomy*.

Caleb McLaughlin: *McLaughlin*, who portrays *Lucas Sinclair*, first had a recurring role on *Jennifer Lopez's* cop drama on *NBC*, *Shades of Blue*. He also appeared on *ABC's Forever* and *NBC's Law & Order: SVU*.

Gaten Matarazzo: *Matarazzo*, who portrayed *Dustin Henderson*, first started his career in Broadway. With that success, *Matarazzo* later appeared on an episode of *NBC's The Blacklist*.

Sadie Sink: *Sink*, who portrayed as *Max Mayfield*, first started her career in theater, and landed her first role as *Annie*, in the 2012 Broadway adaptation of the major motion movie. She soon crossed over into television in 2013 appearing on *The Americans*, *Blue Bloods*, and *American Odyssey* in 2015.

Natalia Dyer: *Dyer*, who portrayed *Nancy Wheeler*, debuted her first film role was in 2009's *Hannah Montana: The Movie*, but her first major movie role arrived with *The Greening of Whitney Brown*, in 2011.

Charlie Heaton: *Heaton*, who portrayed *Jonathan Byers*, started with his acting debut on the British TV crime drama *DCI Banks*, in 2015. He later went on to appear on a couple other British shows.

Joe Keery: *Keery*, who portrayed *Steve Harrington*, first appeared on *USA's Sirens*, *Fox's Empire*, and *NBC's Chicago Fire*. He also starred in the 2015 indie film drama *Henry Gamble's Birthday Party*.



The Cast of *Stranger Things* at the Saeson 1 Premiere in 2016
-IMDb IMDb- Photo by Curtis Baker/Netflix - 2016 Netflix, Inc.



The Cast of *Stranger Things* at the Saeson 2 Premiere in 2017
-IMDb



The Cast of *Stranger Things* at the Saeson 2 Premiere in 2017
-IMDb



The Cast of *Stranger Things* at the Saeson 2 Premiere in 2017
-IMDb

ARTIST *Spotlight*

Featuring Sheyenne High School's Student Artists

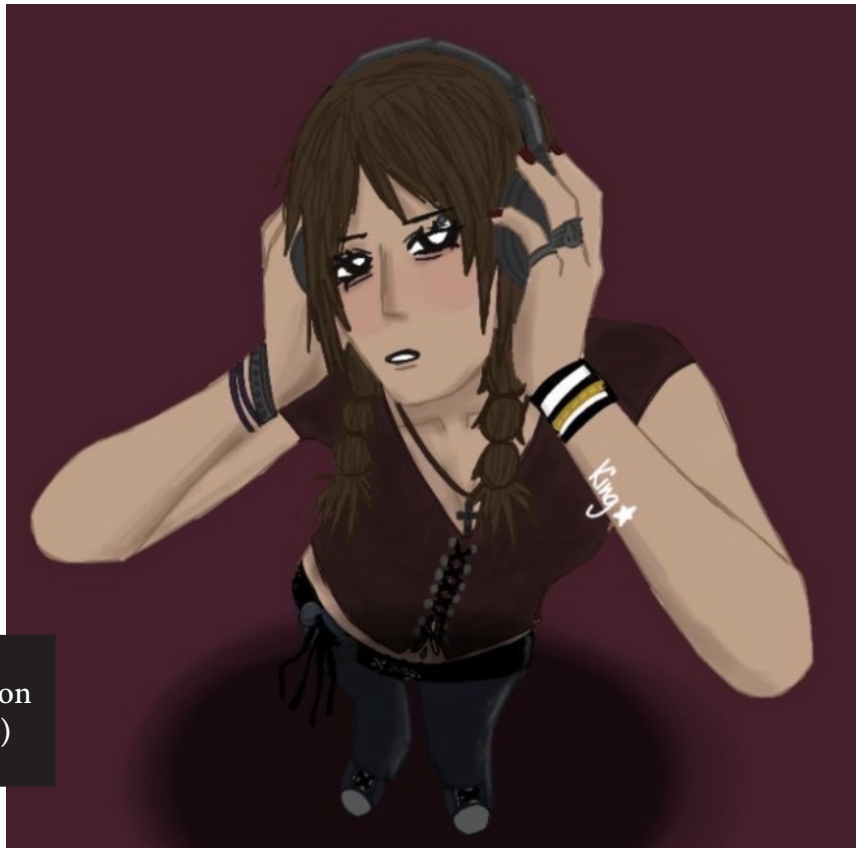


ABOUT THE ARTISTS & COMPETITIONS

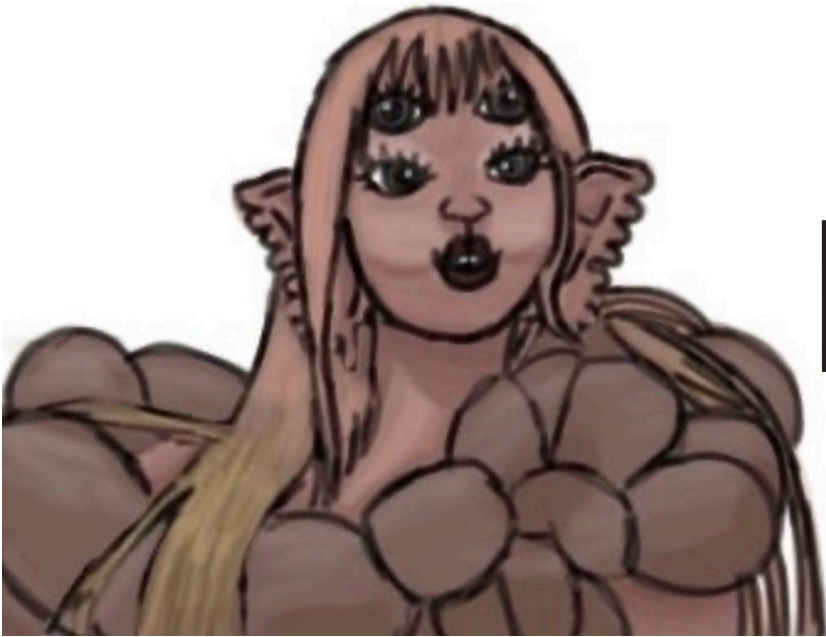
Kingston Americanhorse is a sophomore at Sheyenne High School and is in his second year of art classes. He enjoys experimenting with both traditional sketches and digital pieces, always looking for new ways to explore his style.

As he grows more confident in his abilities, he continues to push himself and learn through each designs. Music often keeps him company while he works helping him lock into the atmosphere of whatever character he's creating. His art reflects his imagination.

Kingston Americanhorse



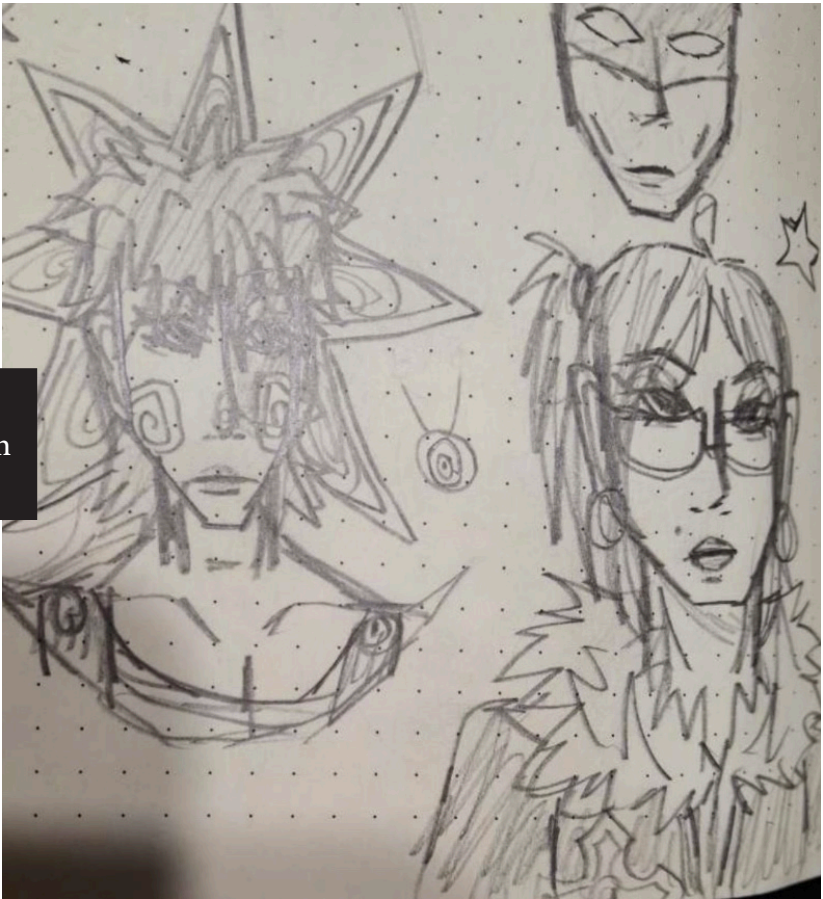
Digital illustration
(Adobe Fresco)



Digital illustration
(Adobe Fresco)



Digital illustration
(Adobe Fresco)



Traditional sketch

Kingston Americanhorse

THE MUSTANG

P O S T

***What Do You Meme?
6-7's Top Trend Meaning***

SHEYENNE HIGH SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER - DECEMBER 2025