



# The Hellgate Lance



## Hellgate's FRC Plays Role in Missoula's Housing Crisis

Page 7

## Hellgate Preps for Winter



Page 10

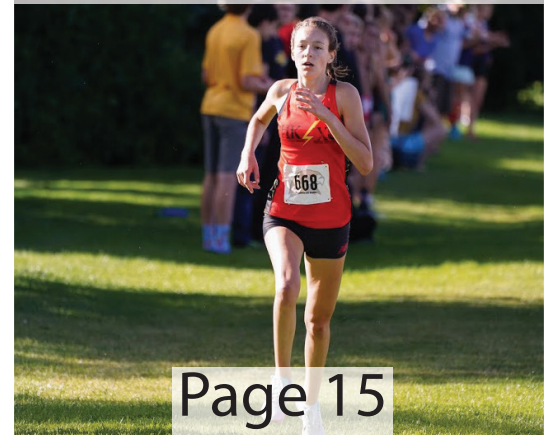
December 16, 2019

## Frozen 2 Review



Page 14

## Sage Brooks Runs at XC Nationals



Page 15

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Editor-in-Chief  
Luke O'Connell

Reporters

Oliver Beck

Daniel Blackwell

Ali Caudle

Sophia Geranios

Solomon Kenworthy

Josey MacDonald

Hailey Oien

Liam Queneau

Maggie Vann

Audrey Warren

Gabi Wilson

Adviser

Jill Derryberry

Publisher

Judson Miller

The Lance is an award-winning, school-sponsored student publication of Hellgate High School. The Lance has been publishing since 1964. Ad rates are available upon request. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the entire paper, its advisers or Hellgate High School.

# Instagram Removes 'Likes' Feature

Maggie Vann  
Reporter

In May of 2019, Instagram began hiding 'like' counts in various countries; including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand; and as of Nov. 10, the US. Although there are mixed feelings about this update, especially from teens, it is designed to remove Instagram's role in depression and anxiety. Globally, 300 million people are affected by depression and anxiety, according to the World Health Association.

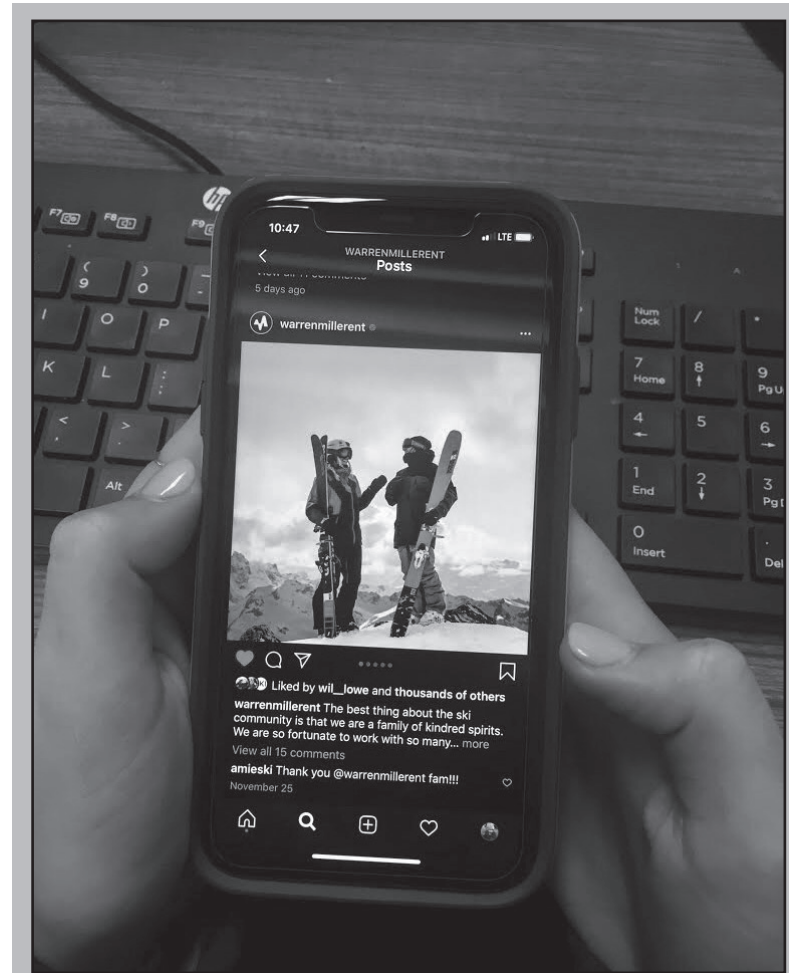
The new Instagram update is designed to make the app less pressurized, in hopes of allowing people to express their true selves, without worrying about how many likes their friends are getting. Almost everyone is guilty of comparing themselves to their peers, so this new update is designed to improve the Instagram experience.

For influencers on the app, a huge concern has arisen. Gone are the 131 million likes that used to be shown on Selena Gomez's page, and gone is the ability to see Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's huge fan base. According to a study done by HypeAuditor, the amount of likes influencers receive on "the norm" has decreased by about 15%. This is hurting Instagram's business overall, due to the fact that Instagram's influencers make up a huge part of the app, however, the head of Instagram, Adam Mosseri, said, "We will make decisions that hurt the business if they help people's well-being and health."

The intent of Instagram being "less pressurized" gives teenagers mixed feelings about the update. Some say they want the old Instagram back. One teen, Alexis Von Doerten, said, "If we don't get [likes] back, I am never hitting up the new Instagram." This thought is shared by many other teenagers because they worked on building up their fan base, only to find they can't show it off.

Some teenagers, however, find that it doesn't make a huge difference in their Instagram experience. Amelia Fogarty, sophomore at Hellgate, said, "Personally, I don't find it that big of a deal." She said that the idea of getting rid of the 'like counts' to ward off depression and anxiety comes from a good place, "But the basis of those problems comes from comparisons between yourself and others; and that will happen no matter what form." Many other teens agree with Fogarty, and say that it doesn't affect their Instagram experience.

As Instagram removes likes, Facebook is considering jumping aboard the same ship. In fact, they began testing the change, similarly to Instagram, in other countries. Their goal is to also make the platform less pressurized and more photo-quality based.



A view of Instagram's new no 'like' update.  
Photo by Maggie Vann.

A "like-less" Instagram is hoped to boost self esteem among individuals. However, these likes are often what keep users coming back for more, due to the fact that small amounts of dopamine are released with each like. Without being able to view likes, Instagram may take a beating, but there is no doubt that it is leaving people in a better state of mind.

Overall, this new update will take some getting used to, but it is better for individuals in the long run. Instagram's CEO Kevin Systrom said that he wants people to go out and live their lives. Although this might hurt the app's business, thousands of people feel more comfortable on the platform now that the change is being implemented. The update will draw people's eyes from the amount of likes their peers receive to the quality of the photo and overall make the Instagram experience more pleasant.

# Radio Host Argues that 'Boomer' is Comparable to the N-Word

Luke O'Connell  
Editor-in-Chief

In response to the rise in popularity of the phrase 'OK Boomer' among young people, WHAM radio host Bob Lonsberry tweeted, "'Boomer' is the n-word of ageism. Being hip and flip does not make bigotry ok, nor is a derisive epithet acceptable because it is new," on Nov. 4, 2019.

Stemming from the phrase 'Baby Boomer,' 'OK Boomer' was popularized based off of the idea that older generations caused many social issues of the 2000s, like the 2008 economic collapse, climate change inaction, and high college tuition rates. The phrase has become very divisive, adding to the already ever-present divide between the old and the young.

Throughout 2019, the phrase has grown popular on multiple media platforms, including Tik Tok and Instagram, and going off of that, major media platforms like radio shows and newspapers have discussed the issue, which is where Lonsberry comes into the spotlight.

As a reporter on NewsRadio WHAM 1180, which Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity also work for, Bob Lonsberry frequently hosts right wing news shows. He discusses controversial topics in stories like "Kaepernick Can Kiss My Ass" and "'Impeachment Inquiry' is a Media Stunt." He also served time in the U.S. Army, worked as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and wrote for the Rochester Times-Union.

Lonsberry has a history of controversial statements, and in 2003 was let go from his current radio station due to racist remarks. In the radio station's

town of origin, Rochester, New York, an orangutan had escaped the zoo, and Lonsberry commented about the event on air, stating, "A monkey's loose up at the zoo again - and he's running for county executive." This remark was clearly directed at the Black mayor of Rochester, William A. Johnson Jr., who was running for county executive at the time. Though Lonsberry was let go for his remarks, he was brought back after sensitivity training.

Additionally, Lonsberry has commented on Barack Obama's presidency, creating controversial "FUBO" and "NOBO" apparel lines, which, respectively, stand for "F\*\*\* U Barack Obama" and "No Barack Obama."

All sorts of people chimed in regarding the recent controversial tweet,

**"'Boomer' is the n-word of ageism. Being hip and flip does not make bigotry ok, nor is a derisive epithet acceptable because it is new."**

**-Bob Lonsberry, Nov. 4, 2019**

including both The Late Show host Stephen Colbert and Dictionary.com.

Colbert called the tweet "grade-A casual racism" on his talk show, and Dictionary.com responded to the tweet itself, stating that "'Boomer' is an informal noun referring to a person born during a baby boom, especially one born in the U.S. between 1946 and 1965. The n-word is one of the most offensive words in the English language."

On the other hand, many came out in support of Lonsberry, including Myrna Birth, the Senior Vice President of AARP (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons). In response to the rise in the usage of 'OK Boomer,' Birth stated, "OK, Millennials. But we're the people that actually have the money," in an interview with Axios. Since then,

AARP has apologized for the statement, and Birth has received plenty of backlash online.

The meme has reached both teachers and students at Hellgate, who have been using the term in a variety of ways. Hellgate junior Coral Scoles argued that the phrase is funny, but needs clarification. "I think it's just a meme, and we shouldn't take it so seriously. We should also establish who the boomers are." She raised questions like, "Are the Boomers just the actual generation? Are we possibly referring to our parents as well?"

Hellgate English teacher Rhian Clark responded to the Lonsberry tweet and Birth quote, "To me, those two quotes demonstrate the exact generational frustration with Baby

Boomers -- that this group is out of touch, focused on their own perspectives, and belittling of the perspectives of others."

She went on to question the

two, "In regards to Lonsberry and Birth, there have been criticisms and stereotyping of Millennials for years now, so why is this new criticism of Baby Boomers suddenly bringing up concerns of ageism?"

Sophomore Ashley Young said, "I don't think (Lonsberry) should compare that to the N-word. I think that ('OK Boomer') would affect relationships between generations...but it's also a joke that people take too far."

As the 'OK Boomer' trend continues, more people are sure to use it. "Only time will tell if 'OK Boomer' is just a trend or has long-term effects on intergenerational relationships.... Maybe 'OK Boomer' trending is the reminder that some of us are frustrated and we want to be heard about our frustration," said Clark.

## Letter to the Editor

Karen Buley, Librarian

I've never been within earshot of "OK Boomer." Since I'd seen the catchphrase though, and became a teenager the day Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, I agreed to an interview. My answers ranged from calling the response a badge of honor (I like being a Baby Boomer) to spinning words about Boomers' wisdom that might not be valued until later. When Luke asked for an example of the latter, my "can I get back to you?" was the wisest thing I said.

Internet sleuthing taught me that I, along with many other boomers, misunderstood the battle cry. "OK Boomer" was more than my impression of a humorous eye roll or a "whatev" coupled with a nod to one's age. I don't find the term offensive, but I did take offense at Bob Lonsberry's ephemeral tweet. Dictionary.com's response was spot on.

I stand with your generation, and others, as we seek to protect our Mother Earth, preserve our democracy, and ensure equity for all. According to Kate Hoepke, Executive Director of San Francisco Village, "Gen Z and Millennials have every right to be angry. Boomers need to get mad as hell again. And we all need to channel that anger away from Internet memes into collective action."

In 2016, my older son, Eric (a 2006 HHS grad), taught me that "calling people in" is more effective at facilitating change than is calling them out. So, instead of responding to anyone that holds outdated ideas or is resistant to change with "OK Boomer" (no matter their age, as I learned in my reading), I propose a new hashtag: #LetsTalkAboutThisBoom.

Start conversations. Help us learn. And continue your passionate quest to make this world a better place. You and millennials give me hope for the future!

P. S. That example I needed to contemplate: I envision some of you might one day acknowledge "Yeah, social media and video games were not the best use of my time back then..."

# What to Know About Impeachment

Josey MacDonald  
Reporter

Lately the news has been filled with updates on the current impeachment inquiry into the Trump administration.

If you've gotten lost in the constant headlines, here is a quick summary, with some basic things to know about what's going on, who's involved, and why.

## Why is there an impeachment inquiry?

The inquiry was initiated after an anonymous intelligence official voiced concerns about a phone call that occurred in July, between President Trump and President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine. Trump allegedly withheld \$250 million of military aid prior to the call, which had been ordered to help Ukraine combat Russian aggression. He then suggested that Zelensky should investigate Joe Biden and his son Hunter. Trump has been accused of encouraging a foreign country to interfere in domestic elections, and abusing his power in order to pressure a foreign leader for favors.

## Why is Ukraine involved?

Ukraine has been at war with Russia since 2014, when the Crimean Peninsula was annexed to Russia in a controversial referendum, and violence broke out between the Ukrainian military and separatist forces (backed by Russia). The war has reached a stalemate, but regular fighting still occurs, and Ukraine's military is heavily reliant on U.S. aid.

The Obama administration's policy supported Ukraine, but pressured them to pass reforms ending corruption. As Vice President, Biden had a significant role in pressuring Ukraine to fire prosecutor-general Viktor Shokin, who was a large part of the corruption. After Shokin was fired, he complained that it had been because Joe wanted to protect the position his son held on the board of Burisma, a Ukrainian oil and natural gas company that Shokin claimed he had been investigating. At the time, most members of Congress supported Biden's decision and there was not much controversy.

## What does the Constitution say about impeachment?

Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution states that the President "shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." What constitutes a 'high crime' or a 'misdemeanor' is not defined by the Constitution, and is left for the House to interpret. Impeachment doesn't require evidence of a crime, it only requires people to feel that the President has violated his oath of office.

## How does the impeachment process work?

First, the House of Representatives must vote to impeach. Members can introduce a resolution proposing impeachment, or the House can introduce a resolution that begins proceedings by authorizing an inquiry, which is usually conducted by the House Intelligence Committee. Only a majority of votes are needed for this to begin. After the inquiry is completed, the House drafts articles of impeachment, and votes on whether or not to officially charge the President. If they do, the case moves to the Senate, which acts like a court and has the ultimate say in whether or not to remove the President from office. A two-thirds majority is required for this to happen.

## What is happening now and what happens next?

The House Intelligence Committee recently wrapped up the inquiry, in which 12 witnesses testified, and voted to pass its findings to the House Judiciary Committee. In the 300 page report, the committee concluded that Trump abused his power by pressuring Ukraine to interfere in the 2020 election, and that this endangered national security.

The House Judiciary Committee is currently in the process of formal impeachment hearings. Three legal scholars, invited by Democrats, have stated Trump's actions are impeachable. One scholar, invited by Republicans, has argued that there is not sufficient evidence. The committee has heard from lawyers for both Democrats and Republicans on findings from the inquiry.

On Dec. 10, Democrats unveiled two articles of impeachment against Trump: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The Judiciary Committee will vote on each article separately later in the week, and if they are approved they will move to a vote by the full House. It's likely the articles will be approved by the House, as Democrats have the majority, but there is a much slimmer chance that they will go through the Republican-controlled Senate. No Republican members of Congress have said that they are in favor of impeachment.

## What is the overall American response?

Americans remain divided. A poll from NPR and PBS NewsHour found that 45% of Americans are in support of removing Trump from office, while 44% are not. Yet 70% of Americans have agreed that it is "unacceptable for a president to ask a foreign leader to investigate a political opponent." Americans are more split on whether they support impeachment than whether or not they believe Trump's actions were wrong.



# Tesla Releases New Cybertruck

Oliver Beck  
Reporter

The Cybertruck has arrived, and it's like nothing you have seen

before. Tesla CEO Elon Musk revealed the long-awaited electric pickup truck at the company's Design Studio in Hawthorne, California, just outside Los Angeles. The Cybertruck has been a hot topic all over social media, and it has been the victim of countless memes as a result of the triangle shaped design.

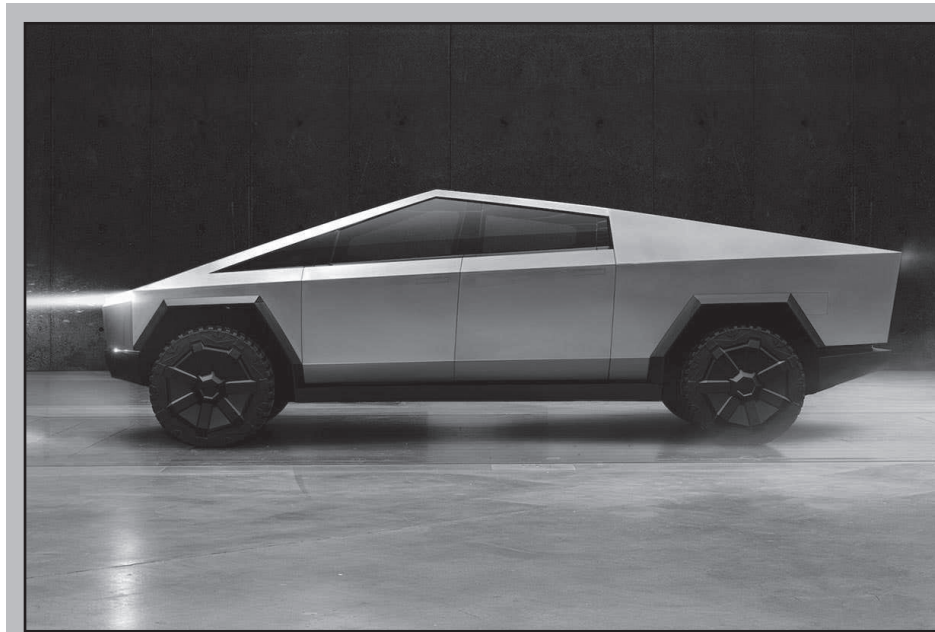
Musk has made striking claims about the truck's capabilities. Among them, he has said that the Cybertruck would be more capable, in terms of towing and hauling, than a Ford F-150, and perform better as a sports car than a Porsche 911.

According to a CNN article, the most expensive version of the truck, the Tri Motor All-Wheel-Drive, will be able to carry 3,500 pounds, tow up to 14,000 pounds, and go from zero to sixty miles-per-hour in 2.9 seconds. It will also be able to drive up to 500 miles on a full charge, and base models will have a range of 250 miles, according to the Tesla website. Those stats prove that it holds its weight in a competition with both of the vehicles that Musk listed.

The Cybertruck's starting price, at \$39,000, is merely \$10,000 more than a base model of the 2020 Ford F-150, so it would compete well with some of the most well-known trucks in the industry. When it comes

to sports cars, an F-150 Lariat Super Cab, for instance, starts at about \$44,000.

Prices for the top end Tri Motor AWD version of the Cybertruck start at \$69,900. Buyers will also be able to choose Tesla's "self-driving" option for \$7,000. (The truck should be able to drive itself once the software for that becomes available.) There are several other models that are equipped and ready for self-drive. The one thing holding



Tesla's new Cybertruck. Photo courtesy of Tesla.

it back from activation is that Tesla is still working on testing, since there are many liabilities involved with the cars driving themselves.

Many theories have been released that the Tesla truck would be a publicity stunt for Tesla, as memes about it spread all across the internet. Many also think that smashing the windows in with steel balls added to the publicity as a whole. While the Cybertruck's exterior is quite unconven-

tional, and unlike anything that the world has seen before, it is still a powerhouse with combined speed and torque.

Tesla's new electric truck won't be without some stiff competition, though, as it's going up against the two American market leaders in full-size trucks. Ford is developing its own electric F-series truck, while General Motors, which makes Chevrolet and GMC pickups, also has its own electric pickups in the works. On Thursday, GM CEO Mary Barra said the automaker expects to begin selling its electric pickup in the fall of 2021.

Pickup truck design hasn't changed significantly in over a hundred years, since the days of the Ford Model T. Add to that the fact that truck owners tend to be brand loyal, and Musk and company faced a formidable challenge; to make any significant impact on the pickup truck market, they had to come up with something different.

Musk and his team of designers rebuilt the generic pickup truck from the ground up. Once again, no one had ever seen this type of design outside of video games, and to add to the video game theme, the exterior is bullet proof to up to 9mm bullets.

While the Cybertruck may be unconventional, what they were able to make going off the beaten path, and simultaneously maintaining impressive stats with the capabilities of the truck, is very impressive.

# Student Government Update

Maggie Vann  
Reporter

Student Government is an essential part of Hellgate, and their projects vary from large to small based on student suggestions and things that can be improved on around Hellgate.

One of the complaints from students is how low quality some of the water fountains are and accordingly, Ms. Henthorn and the student body is working on it. Currently, they have 2 extra water fountains which they can exchange for the older ones. They want to replace the warmer water fountains and less sanitary ones.

For a larger project, Student Government would like to fix up the girl's locker room. They want to make them nicer, but it's a Title 1 issue, which means it's bigger than student government. However, they are working on doing what they can to make the locker rooms more pleasant. Last year, Student Government's larger project was placing TVs in the commons. These TVs give information on dates and upcoming events. Student Government is working on their "larger project" currently.

A couple smaller projects are also being worked on. One is putting air fresheners in the bathrooms. This was suppose to occur right after Thanksgiving break, in hopes of improving the Hellgate bathroom experience. Student Government also developed a new MBI video on recycling, that came out Wednesday December 11.



Student body President and Vice President Wes Salonen and Abe Johnson. Photo courtesy of @hsstudentgov\_ on Instagram.



Senior class President and Vice President Isabella Adams and Sierra Tai-Brownlee. Photo courtesy of @hsstudentgov\_ on Instagram.



Sophomore Class President and Vice President Griffin Kinch and Brogan Callaghan. Photo courtesy of @hsstudentgov\_ on Instagram.

Say What?!

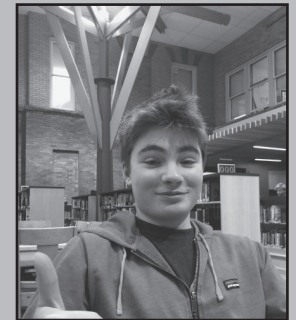
## What is the purpose of Student Government?



Lydia Barrow- Sophomore  
"I think Student Gov. should tell more people about what it is and the benefits of it."



Dre McGee- Sophomore  
"I think Student Government is for students in it to help out and make a difference around the school."



Ian Curtis- Senior  
"I think the purpose of Student Government is to give students the misconception that they have an impact on what happens at this school."



# Hellgate's Family Resource Center Tackles Missoula's Affordable Housing Crisis

Ali Caudle  
Reporter

With every passing year, living in Missoula becomes more expensive. Housing prices are one

of the biggest culprits, with Missoula home values going up 5.8% over the past year. Currently, the median home value in Missoula is \$308,800, and online real estate company Zillow predicts they will rise 3.7% in the next year, to around \$320,000.

Stephanie Schilling recently moved to Missoula, and in October 2019 she purchased her first home, a 2-bed and 1-bath located in the Northside. Schilling purchased the 600 square foot house for \$198k. She is grateful, because even as a two-income household, any more and it would have been unaffordable.

"It was affordable, but with a big caveat of affordable for Missoula. The prices for houses are ridiculous here," Schilling said.

Zillow rates the market temperature in Missoula as "very hot." The market temperature is a value based on the number of days it takes for a house to sell, and the percentage of the list price that houses will ultimately sell for. In 2018, the average house sold for 98.6% of the list price. That percentage is higher than the number right before the 2008 recession, during the housing bubble.

Missoula is experiencing a housing crisis, not because of a shortage of houses, but because of a shortage of affordable housing. The majority of people in Missoula could not afford to purchase a home in Missoula right now. This is creating deeper problems within the community, including a higher population of homeless people. At any given point, there are around 300 homeless people in Missoula.

Hellgate High School's Family Resource Coordinator and school social worker, Tracy Ledyard, explained how the housing crisis in Missoula affects her job. "For families that are low income, housing in Missoula, or not having housing in Missoula, is probably the biggest issue," she said.

Half of her job involves dealing with these families and helping them. Ledyard said, "We probably have about 31 students right now that would qualify as homeless, and so that's up a little bit from this time last year. At the end of last year, we probably had about 70, so if we're only a quarter of the way through the year and we're already at 31, if we stay on that trajectory we're going to surpass it."

Besides housing costs, families also need to pay for other basic expenses. A living wage is the hourly pay needed in any given location for a single adult working full time with no children to afford the essential expenses. These expenses include food, health care, housing, transportation, necessities such as bathroom supplies, and taxes. The most recent estimate of the living wage in Missoula placed it at \$11.38.

"[These families] have to prioritize where their spending goes, and all of their needs probably aren't taken care of each month, because they have to kind of pick and choose, and that's where I feel like the family resource room can be helpful, because it can help them with some of their expenses," she said. Besides general living expenses, the average Montanan spends 25-30% of their income on housing. For families on lower incomes, they simply don't have money to devote to housing costs.

Buying a home in Missoula is expensive, but renting is also extremely costly. The average rent for an apartment in Missoula, as

of October 2019, was \$871, a 2.76% increase from last year, when the average rent was \$847. One bedroom apartments rent for an average of \$799 a month, and two bedroom apartments average a monthly rent of \$932.

Schilling said, "Renting in Missoula was a terrible experience for us. We had a really hard time finding anything. Everything was horribly expensive and poorly maintained."

When both purchasing a home and renting are out of the picture, it puts an extra burden on families to find affordable housing.

As a school district, it isn't possible to provide housing for all of the students. Ledyard said, "The community is very aware of the housing shortage and issue with homelessness... As a school, we can't really help house families, or pay for electricity bills, but plenty of nonprofits around Missoula provide those services... Our job is connecting them to the resources [we offer] and all the resources that are available in the community already... The biggest thing that I would say we do here at the school is try to take away any extra barriers for kids that are in transition to be in school."

In Missoula, as a result of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, every school has a Families In Transition (or FIT) Coordinator. Schools that receive Title 1 grants also have a family resource center. Title 1 grants are from the federal government to schools based on enrollment and their percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch, in order to help schools support students in need.

Hellgate has a family resource center because the school used to receive Title 1 funding. Although Hellgate no longer receives Title 1 grants, Ledyard has worked with the school to ensure the Family Resource Center remains open. Ledyard said, "We've just continued to stock this center, all with donations or donated funds, because it's what a lot of families need."

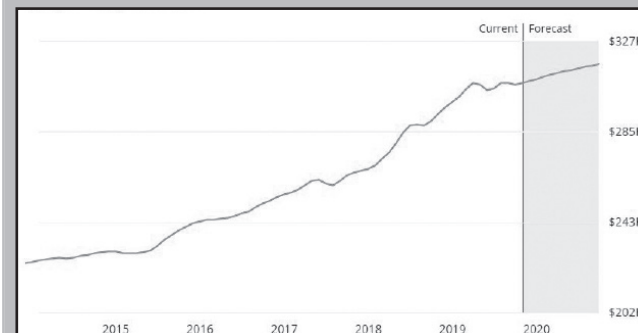
The Family Resource Center provides support in many different ways. "We have an account with Sparkle Laundry, so if families need to go do laundry we help with that. We have a food pantry upstairs. We have extra clothes. We have kind of joined forces with the church and they have provided free haircuts. We have some funds available for kids who want to participate in activities or athletics but can't afford the fees... and we can help with transportation for some families that are struggling with housing security issues," said Ledyard.

The median household income in Missoula is \$41,968 a year. For comparison, the median household income for the US is \$53,482. The rate of pay in Missoula is not increasing fast enough to support the rapidly rising cost of living. As living in Missoula becomes more expensive, and less feasible, the city dynamics change. Schilling said, "[The rising cost] scares me. How are we going to have a vibrant, diverse, interesting city if only the rich and very rich can live here? Anyone else will just have to live further outside of Missoula."

The more expensive it becomes to live in Missoula, the more difficult it becomes for families in transition to break out of the cycle. Ledyard described it best when she said, "The whole definition of families in transition is that they're just always in transition, there isn't any rhyme or reason." The best thing we can do is to support them.



Tracy Ledyard is Hellgate's Family Resource Coordinator. Photo by Ali Caudle.



Missoula's median home value has risen to \$308,000, as of December 2019, and is predicted to rise another 3.7% in the next year. Online real estate company Zillow determines these numbers through their "Home Value Index" for any given city. Graphic courtesy of Zillow.



The Family Resource Room is stocked with everything a student might need, from clothing, to shoes, to snacks, to notebooks and pens and bathroom supplies. Photo by Ali Caudle.

# Hellgate's Winter

Audrey Warren a

We know that clothing is a necessity for life, especially in winter, because it's freezing. Us Missoulians get the delight of living in an area where when it's winter here, you're going to be cold, and you're going to need to wear the warmest of the warm clothing out there. Of course, function over fashion, but is that really a true statement? We think that Hellgate has some pretty good fashionistas, and think they might have some tips for us when it comes to looking good and staying warm throughout the winter! We decided to ask the Hellgate fashionistas what the top clothing items are for winter 2019-2020, asking one boy and one girl from each grade what their favorite winter clothing item is.

Piper Pfister and Brennan Dumont, both seniors at Hellgate, said that shoes are their winter go to, specifically warm ones. Piper said that Uggs are her favorite. "They aren't the most stylish, but they keep your feet warm, and they are practically a blanket for your feet." This is probably the best explanation for Uggs because of the thick comfiness. Ugg boots come in many different sizes and styles, along with a variety of colors, the most recognizable of which is the classic brown boot with white fur on the inside.. Another one of Uggs' benefits is that they always keep your feet toasty, some would say it's the best part about them!

However, Brennan expressed that white shoes are not the way to go, given the ground is white due to the snow, and is sometimes dirty. "You couldn't see your feet, and that would be weird." He would prefer to wear darker shoes. He didn't say that warm shoes were important, but as long as the shoes aren't white, they're the perfect shoes for winter. Aside from shoes, Brennan likes a classic pair of jeans "of all colors." He's not terribly picky when it comes to what type, as long as they do the job.



Kaylee staying warm and trendy with her jean jacket. Photo by Kaylee Rammell.



Liam McMahon rockin' his Patagonia jacket. Photo by Audrey Warren.



Piper Pfister keeping her feet warm. Photo by Libby Paffhausen.



Ian Finch keeping his head nice and warm. Photo by Audrey Warren.

Ian Finch, who is also a sophomore, said that he likes "the layer look." Along with his layers on top, he likes to wear jeans or sweats on the bottom. "Shorts can be a little cold," but are still acceptable when you're feeling the mood. Along with that, Finch has to "admit that I do like a nice beanie to keep my head nice and toasty." Ian caves when he knows the beanie is an option. They are warm, and are one of the least ugly hats out there.



# Clothing Trends

and Gabi Wilson



Phoenix Marshall enjoying the sun in her vest. Photo by Phoenix Marshall.



Perry Paffhausen staying warm with her down jacket. Photo by Audrey Warren.

Perry Paffhausen, sophomore, said that she likes “Patagonia down coats and fleeces.” They are comfy, stylish, and they keep you incredibly warm! There are many different styles and colors of Patagonia, too. Whether it’s the same style coat, but in different colors, or if it’s the same, everyone seems to have some form of Patagonia. Patagonia has a lifetime warranty, so if your item breaks, simply send it back and get a refund, exchange it, or get the item repaired.

Connor Dick didn’t pause at all when he replied that he likes the “relaxed sweatpant with puffy coat and a sweatshirt underneath look.” Boys tend to like this look at Hellgate. Unlike Brennan, Connor thinks that white shoes are the way to go. “Boom, your feet [are] gone,” Connor said. Connor said that he thinks that shorts are not the most ideal clothing ideas for winter, however he really does love himself a good quality pair when appropriate.

Phoenix Marshall says her favorite item to wear in the winter is “a down vest.” This classic, comfy coat is perfect to stay warm and fashionable. However, you might just want your core to stay warm, or even your arms get too hot and just need your insides to stay nice and toasty when you are outside in the freezing weather. Vests have recently been making a big comeback. Most brands tend to carry vests, and they are all great to warm you up. Patagonia and North Face are the most hyped vest at the moment, but other brands will satisfy your needs as well.

Liam McMahon and Kaylee Rammell, both juniors at Hellgate, said they like jackets. “Really anything warm, and as long as the color and style isn’t ugly, it’s automatically a yes for me,” Liam said. He was pretty vague, not specifying a brand. He didn’t seem to care what brand it would be, as long as its doing the job and keeping him warm.

Liam would prefer a jacket color of dark blue, black, and light or dark grey, and would hate to have to wear a brown colored jacket, as he finds it unflattering. Kaylee said that she likes a good old fashion jean jacket to go with any outfit, as it goes with sweats, jeans, leggings and even skirts. Jean jackets will fit any look you decide to wear, especially if you want to “dress up” your look even a tad. It looks nicely over sweatshirts, or even a nice dress. Jean jackets are the go to for any outfit.

After reading this, hopefully, you feel like you’re able to come to Hellgate feeling like one of the most stylish people here. You can now stay warm and look good while doing all your daily activities. Once you begin rockin’ these styles, you will be looking like the best of the best at Hellgate. Thanks to all the fashionistas at Hellgate who gave us their helpful advice, now all of Hellgate can look their absolute best and stay warm.



Connor Dick staying warm in his sweats. Photo by Audrey Warren.



## How Hellgate Prepares for Winter

Sophia Geranios  
Reporter

Winter in Missoula is approaching quickly. Montana is known for its frigid and long winter months, and the

inhabitants for their love of all snow sports and cold weather activities. Living in the north comes with its advantages and disadvantages, and no matter which side winter falls on for you, you must prepare accordingly.

The students at Hellgate have many different ways of getting ready for the oncoming winter season, whether it's decorating for Christmas, getting out your winter clothes, preseason skiing, or keeping in shape for cross country.

From winter sports to simply putting snow tires on your car, everyone has their own way of getting ready for winter. Alex Upton, a Christmas fanatic, has many ways of preparing for her favorite holiday season. One of her traditions is making a Christmas bucket list. On Upton's list she has various events, crafts, and activities.

One of her most treasured traditions to get into the Christmas spirit is the Nine Mile Christmas fair which Upton described as a 'blast' and has faithfully attended for five consecutive years. Once she's checked that off her list, she's on to her next tradition: Christmas movies. Upton stated that each year "I take everything off my Netflix list, and replace it all with Christmas movies," enthusiastically adding, "Frosty is a classic!". These holiday preparations aren't just for people in the Upton home, Alex makes sure to include her cats by hanging their stockings above the fireplace each year.

Another Hellgate junior, Miles Colescott, has been running cross country for three years. While the XC season technically ends Nov. 16 with cross regionals, training does not take a

pause for bad weather. In the time between cross country and track, the runners of Hellgate continue to practice outside. In regards to training and preparations, Colescott said "We still will run workouts and maintain a high mileage so our track season will be successful." The team continues to run outside until the temperature reaches below 15 degrees, when they will switch their practice inside. Colescott said that the cold air and early sunset can make offseason running difficult, but the cross country team persists through winter.

On the other side of the spectrum are skiers. These athletes wait all year for snow, most nearby ski areas open in December, although many avid skiers in Missoula begin their preseason preparations weeks in advance. Wren Filardi, an ex-ski racer, says to get ready for the hills to open, she would partake in activities like conditioning, dry land training, and team bonding. Filardi has been skiing since she was 4, and looks forward to the snow every year. Once the ski areas open, she goes "Both days every weekend that Snowbowl is open, and then as many early and late season days as I can." Skiers like Filardi mentally prepare for their time to enjoy the winter weather all year long.

Magnolia Hilvert's favorite part of preparing for winter is her annual 25 days of Sockmas. Hilvert began this tradition in 2018, and hopes to continue it for years to come. Wearing festive winter or Christmas themed socks starting Dec. 1 and lasting everyday until the 25th, she strolls her way into this season with style. Black Friday shopping is the opportunity to get her new socks for the season at great prices. Hilvert gets many compliments about her socks from students as well as teachers. Hilvert said this holiday tradition "Adds something fun and festive to everyday!"

There are many ways Missoulians and specifically Hellgate students prepare for winter, but no matter what, it's on its way, so get ready!



The intersection of Gerald Ave. and Eddy Ave. after an early Missoula dusting. Photo by Sophia Geranios.

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## Bare Bait Dance Company Inspires Missoula

Gabi Wilson  
Reporter

Bare Bait Dance Company is a dance company here in Mis-

soula. They perform several dances throughout the year, their most recent being “Here Be Dragons.” They will be performing three dances total this year, and the other two will be performed in January and April. Bare Bait Dance has been “alive” since 2011, and the founder and artistic director’s name is Joy French.

Three people here at Hellgate High School are company apprentices in Bare Bait Dance. These talented dancers are Bella Campbell, Liana Dillon, and Audrey Kurz. The dancers take classes at Ballet Arts Academy, some at the UM, and participate in Bare Bait Dance. They are all so very talented with what they do, and they inspire people to dance based on how passionate they are with it.

Audrey Kurz is a sophomore here at Hellgate. She has been dancing since she was about 6, and has been on the Hellgate Dance Team since her freshman year. She takes ballet, conditioning, pointe, and jazz at Ballet Arts Academy. She has been dancing with Ballet Arts Academy for several years, and Bare Bait Dance for two. She continues to dance because it is simply, “her thing”. You could say that Kurz loves to dance. “I love the people, and the athleticism, and the art in general,” Audrey said.

Bella Campbell started dancing with Bare Bait last year. This is Bella’s first year at Hellgate High School, as a senior. She started dancing modern at the age of 7 years old. “It’s my passion, and I pursue it to be my purpose,” she replied when asked why she continues with dance. Bella practices ballet at Ballet Arts Academy, and takes modern and jazz dance classes at the UM. Her favorite style of dance is modern, because “it feels the best to perform due to my upbringing in that type of movement.” Campbell is incredibly grateful to be in Bare Bait, because it “has taught me more about my movement in the past two years than all of my training before now. In the environment



Bella Campbell and Audrey Kurz attempt challenging new positions and movements. Photo courtesy of Bella Campbell.

of a professional company, you’re upheld to a new level, reaching the artistic choreographers bar is the motivator because that is your job: to dance.” Campbell “couldn’t be happier to be apart of such an incredible group of movers.”

Liana Dillon is a senior at Hellgate and loves dance. She has been dancing since she was 8 years old, and “immediately fell in love with [it].” “Dance is a form of self expression, and it allows me to be completely myself,” Liana said. Liana loves being in Bare Bait because it has been a new and challenging thing for her. “Here Be Dragons’ went really well. It’s hard to know how an audience will respond to a show when you’ve been so immersed in it for months,” she said. Bare Bait has been a wonderful experience for her so far. Liana has a passion for dance just like Audrey and Bella. “If I’m lucky enough to have found my passion this young, it must be worth going after”.

“Bare Bait is on a roll, snowballing to incorporate more for the pre-professional program, and welcoming new ideas for creative purposes, as well as raising the bar on modern technique,” Bella Campbell described. Bare Bait is heading in an inspiring direction, as we can

all see. They show us new movement at every show, and you never want to turn your eyes away from their performance. “BBD explores the limits of modern dance, and I get to do things I would never do choreography-wise,” Audrey Kurz said about Bare Bait. Thank you to everyone in Bare Bait, and especially to Joy French for the fantastic entertainment. “I think my favorite part about being in Bare Bait is being surrounded by so many talented, real-world professional dancers,” said Dillon, who is very inspired, like all of us, by Bare Bait Dance.



## “The Secret Lies with Charlotte”: Why the World Needs National Treasure 3

Solomon Kenworthy  
Reporter

15 years ago, the stars aligned, world peace was achieved, and Mark Wahlberg never stopped producing music. An event that can only be rivaled with the President's speech from 1996's Independence Day. It was an aspiration to the film industry. An aspiration that is more crucial now than ever. Why? Because on Nov. 19, 2004, Disney's National Treasure was released into theaters.

Nowadays, Hollywood is filled with over budgeted, terribly produced films designed for nothing more than financial and political gain. For example Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom, and Transformers: The Last Knight. These films not only fit into the categories I previously mentioned, but they all seem to think they're the most important films in existence.

So, how do we fix this problem? What needs to be done in order to fix the over bloated film market? The answer, was the basis 243 years ago for our very own Declaration of Independence. Explained beautifully by Nicolas Cage's character, Benjamin Gates, "...If there's something wrong, those that have the ability to take action, have the responsibility to take action." Which is why the world needs it. The world needs National Treasure 3.

Much like the Freemasons, National Treasure is a part of a secret organization, except in this case, the organization is one made up of films that are self aware. Within the first 40 minutes, Gates steals the Declaration of Independence. Movies do not do this! An action scene as big as this would normally be the climax of a film, instead of the inciting incident.

Few films have even attempted this structure, a contemporary to National Treasure would be Avengers: Endgame,

when the main villain is killed within first 15 minutes of the film, which went on to become the highest grossing film of all time.

To put this rarity into greater perspective, imagine if in The Empire Strikes Back, the inciting incident was Darth Vader telling Luke he's his father. How does National Treasure get away with this? Simple, to quote the clue felt behind by the Founding Fathers that drove Gate's passion, "The secret lies with Charlotte."

Several elements make National Treasure memorable, and the plot is a major factor. Gates steals the Declaration because there's an invisible map on the back of it, that leads to Freemason treasure. In it's sequel, Book of Secrets, Gates must prove his ancestor wasn't involved with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. To do this, he (obviously) kidnaps the President of the United States, which leads him to discover El Dorado underneath Mount Rushmore. Please go back and read that sentence out loud because you'll sound insane. Don't worry, with context this makes perfect sense.

Book of Secrets' existence itself is evidence of the franchise's self awareness. Many sequels, such as Rocky V and Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, disappointed fans because

they went against what the series was, whereas Book of Secrets stayed true to what the original stood for.

Now, the argument could be made that a sequel is the last thing Hollywood needs. Let me briefly explain why that statement is incorrect. In my eyes there are two main points that prove this wrong. First being that the reason people enjoy sequels such as Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation or Toy Story 3 is because they were good films first, sequels second. Movies don't have to be a new original idea to be good.

Second, from what I can tell, the average movie goer seems to have forgotten that the definition of an analytically well made film isn't how well a filmmaker can shove a political agenda down the audience's throat, but how well a filmmaker can create a memorable story and characters that move the audience emotionally, whether its a sequel or not.

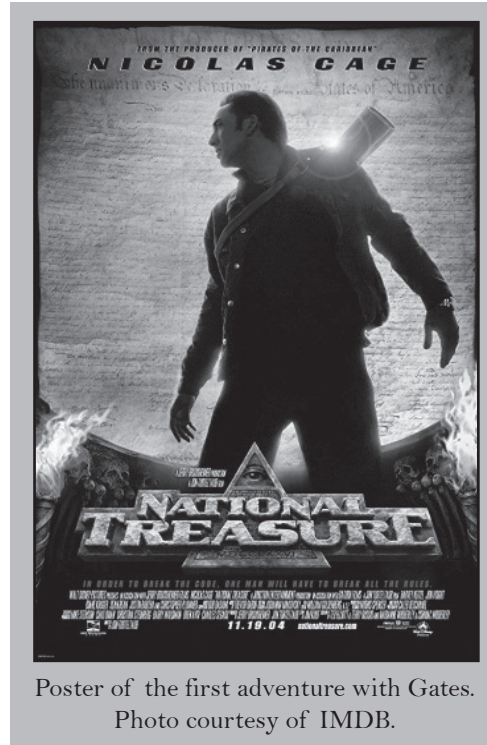
Take a moment to think about why you love your favorite movie. If you're unsure, maybe my explanation of why a movie doesn't resonate with me might help. Both Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom and Transformers: The Last Knight include actions scenes of grandeur, well-known actors, and high budgets, but I feel these movies are a step beyond useless.

Both films are excellent examples that just because the three elements I mentioned are together, doesn't mean they'll work. You can't throw a tire, engine, and a steering wheel on the ground and suddenly have a working car. Just like a car, films have to not only include several elements, but have to make sure they can peacefully coexist.

A wonderful example of a film that fails at connecting crucial elements behind filmmaking is Star Wars: The Force Awakens. It was intentionally created to spawn more films. Not to further an overall story, but to fill Scrooge McDuck's swimming pool of gold. Aside from the cinematography and visuals, it has nothing to offer, and unfortunately, those aspects are diminished by poorly written characters we don't care for. It unnecessarily adds politics to a story about Bigfoot and Indiana Jones in space. The main character of Rey, is a perfect example of both bad screenwriting and politics.

I previously wrote about this topic and in that paper I said, "Rey knows everything, even about ships she's never been on, and can use the force just as well as Luke could over the course of three, 2 hour long movies, in about 5 minutes, and can win a lightsaber duel against a Sith who had years of training, again, in about 5 minutes." This statement still holds true.

For being a film series about political members of history, the National Treasure films have zero politics in them. They're not masterpieces but they were clearly forged with care and passion. Would a third adventure with Benjamin Gates and company single-handedly save the film industry? No, but I believe that it may be enough to remind screenwriters, producers, and directors how to make films instead of products.



Poster of the first adventure with Gates.  
Photo courtesy of IMDB.



# The Weeknd Drops Two Singles, “Heartless” and “Blinding Lights”

Daniel Blackwell  
Reporter

“Heartless” is a new track which was released on Nov 27 by the RnB pop singer The Weeknd.

The song is the lead single off his new album titled ‘Chapter 6’ which doesn’t have a release date yet. His last full length album, ‘Starboy’, was released in 2016 to mixed reviews.

“Heartless” is a traditional feeling pop song, with trap production by Metro Boomin. The song has an unnecessarily long runtime of three minutes and forty seven seconds.

This song is too long, and the runtime makes it feel a bit boring. The Weeknd’s singing feels really overbearing, and the production is all over the place. The reverb

on The Weeknd’s voice feels obnoxious and unnecessary, and the actual vocal melody is really repetitive and unenjoyable.

The production is pretty high quality, but it feels out of place in some points. The beat mostly fits the song. This song feels like if the hook from a trap song was stretched into a full length track.

Another issue with the song is the lack of variation in the Weeknd’s vocal performance. A lot of the song happens in one register, and with the same inflection, which makes it feel really repetitive and boring. The one part of the song that differs its vocal inflection is the bridge, which is done well.

The lyrics are okay. They aren’t super generic and there’s some clever wordplay during some parts of the track.

This track gets a 5.5 out of 10 from me for it’s pretty alright production, but it lacks an interesting vocal performance.

“Blinding Lights” is another new track released by The Weeknd. It was released two days after “Heartless,” on Nov 29, 2019.

“Blinding lights” is not good at all. The beat is literally the beat from “Take on Me” by A-ha, which isn’t a bad song, it’s just that it’s style has just been overplayed at this point, as “Take on Me” was released in 1985.

The production also feels like “Take on Me” and other ‘80s pop songs, with its heavy synth focus and basic drum pattern. “Blinding Lights” really just feels like a pop hit from the ‘80s, and the ‘80s sound at this point is really cliché and overdone in society.

Apart from the production, the lyrics are pretty cringe-worthy and generic pop vocals, with lines such as “Sin City’s cold and empty (Oh)-No one’s around to judge me (Oh).”

This track gets a 3 out of 10 for its boring production and lyrics. The song is uninspired and feels like a soulless ‘80s track.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## Mavi Goes Lo-fi on ‘Let the Sun Talk’

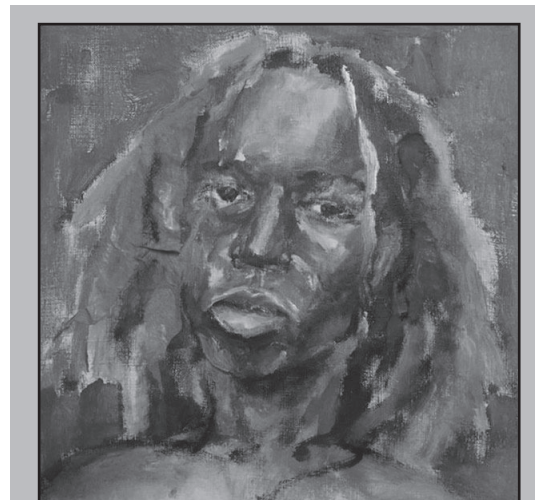
Daniel Blackwell  
Reporter

“Let the Sun Talk” is a Lo-fi sample heavy hip hop album by Mavi. The album consists of incredible lyrical intricacy, with great sampled Lo-fi beats. The album feels like what I would imagine Earl Sweatshirt to sound like if his music was happy. The similar sound is from mostly the Lo-fi beats, and Mavi’s deep, Earl-esque voice. This isn’t to say the songs are unenjoyable, just to say that it feels like an Earl album. In fact, the eight song on the album, “Sense,” is produced by Earl Sweatshirt. The album loosely follows the theme of Black life and identity in modern society, with some songs delving into progressive and feminist ideas.

Some examples of Mavi’s incredible lyricism are “Let the sun talk in love with light aubade bathing me- Administration meant for saving me act like they hating me- Stumbled into worlds of vacancy, I stayed, to say the least.” All these lines have a nice complex rhyme scheme, with interesting word choice. Examples of the interesting diction is the use of ‘aubade.’ The definition of aubade is a morning song or a song or poem of lovers parting at dawn. The use of aubade

when talking about the sun gives the unique idea of the sun being Mavi’s lover, and perhaps something about them leaving at dawn.

Mavi’s production is another interesting part of the album. Like I said earlier, the album feels a lot like an Earl Sweatshirt record, but with a happier feeling happier sounding samples. The happy feeling is created



‘Let the Sun Talk’ album cover.

through the samples being stretched less than a lot of Earl’s, therefore the loops are shorter, which adds to more of a sense of happiness through simplicity over Earl’s long dragged out depressed feeling samples.

The album is progressive, with the main example of progressivism being in the song “Self Love.” The lyrics, “we ain’t free until she free too-And tell my sisters: we ain’t free until they free too” and “#MeToo”. Mavi’s support of the #MeToo movement is a great message to spread through rap. Often in rap, women can be objectified and treated badly, an example of this can be seen in the Trippie Redd song “Snake Skin”, “Bad bitch and her ass is obtuse, but that stomach is acute, uh.” This lyric objectifies women by viewing them as only sexual things to be seen for pleasure. A clear refute of the message helps the objectification of women stop and helps rap culture comfortably spread through a female demographic.

Mavi’s ‘Let the Sun Talk’ is a very solid Lo-fi rap album. Whether it be the great Lo-fi production or the very solid and insightful lyrics, the album is all around very listenable and enjoyable. This album gets a solid 7.5 out of 10 from me, as I feel like the songs could be a little longer, and the sound can be a little inconsistent at some points.

## Frozen 2 Freezes the Audience During Opening Weekend

Hailey Oien  
Reporter

ever. The movie that no one really knew what to expect from came out on Nov. 22. Frozen 2 sold an estimated 34.7 million dollars in tickets in a two-day span, nearly doubling what the original made. It is an hour and 43 minutes long but we all know that if you go to the theater you can just round it up to two hours because of previews. Frozen 2 is the perfect evening movie you can curl up in a fuzzy blanket with a nice cup of hot chocolate and enjoy.

Sisters Anna and Elsa are joined by their friends Olaf, Kristoff, and Sven on a far away journey. I love how you feel like you are going on the adventure with the characters in the movie. It had me on the edge of my seat the whole time. Anna turned around at one point, and everyone in the theater said, "No! Go back!" When something funny happened, you heard everyone laughing, and same for when something bad or sad happened you could hear the gasps of people or the impossible silence of focus from everyone. I personally like the new plot better because we got to know a lot more about the characters. A lot of the unknown was solved in Frozen 2.

In Frozen 2, the characters act more mature than in Frozen. In this sequel, Anna and Elsa reconnect and spend almost every minute together; they try and never leave each others sides. Frozen 2 is a movie that the whole family can go to and enjoy. For the young ones, they will be attracted most likely by the Queen Elsa and Princess Anna, or Olaf the most adorable snowman.

In the original Frozen, Anna and Elsa's parents died, and Elsa became the Queen of Arendelle. In Frozen 2, she is still the Queen, and Anna is still the princess, but Anna and Kristoff

Try not to melt away, because Frozen 2 is here, and better than

are dating! When everyone's on their adventure, they run into some old friends of their parents. These particular friends

were the ones who raised the girls' parents. We figured out that the two parents came from two very different kinds of places. When they met, they knew it was meant to be.

Who doesn't love a talking goofball snowman? Olaf definitely plays a big role of just tying everything together in both of the movies. He is also a heart warmer who loves to give out warm hugs. Olaf is there from the beginning and brings some much positivity to the movie.

For the teenage, group they can get a kick out of all the funny little jokes made throughout the movie, as well as just enjoy the movie. For the parents of the group they will like it because the kiddos are all contained and happy. Parents might also be drawn to Frozen 2 because they are curious how they continued Frozen into Frozen 2.

I would give this movie a four out of five stars only because in order to fully grasp what you just watched you have to watch it a second time. But who doesn't love an excuse to watch a magical movie again. Overall I would most definitely recommend watching Frozen 2! You get to sing along with the movie, go on adventures, laugh, and try not to cry during this magical movie.



Photo courtesy of Flickr.

Glacier

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# Sage Brooks Attends Nike XC Nationals

Liam Queneau  
Reporter

After facing a season riddled with injuries, Sage Brooks still managed to come out on top. Brooks, a junior, and one of the fastest girls on Hellgate's Cross Country team, had to deal with multiple injuries over the course of her season, including a strained MCL from a backcountry skiing crash three weeks before Montana's state meet. "I tried to pretend everything was fine (after the crash) because I was freaking out, but then I found out it was an MCL sprain. I started running three days after that, which was a bad idea, because it started affecting my other leg, too."

Brooks started running in sixth grade, on her middle school track team, at Missoula

International School. "It wasn't actually training, we just did a lap around the school and that was it," she says with a laugh. "I hated it and I was extremely slow." Brooks then quit running until the summer before her freshman year, when she participated in a couple of Hellgate's summer running practices, and still didn't really enjoy the sport. It wasn't until the season started that she really started enjoying cross country, happy that she knew some people that she could run with.

Though she started off slow, Brooks made a point to, in each race, run with a teammate faster than her. By doing this, she was able to increase her speed, and quickly became one of the faster runners on the girls' JV team. At the end of the regular season, Brooks chose to continue running, so that she could participate in Nike Cross Country Regionals, in Boise, Idaho. It was in that race that she took seventh place overall, close with teammate Abby Kendrick. After that race, Brooks said, Hellgate XC head coach Anders Brooker came up to them both and said that "we were the future of the team."

Though she didn't participate in running that winter, Brooks joined the track team in the spring of her sophomore year. Running long distance events, Brooks says that at first, "[she] was not very great, but then after running for a while, [she] started to get really good at the mile." It was toward her last month of the track season that Anders pulled Brooks aside and began training her at a higher level, having her run harder and faster than she had ever done before. "That's when I started to realize that I could actually be good at running."

Looking back on why she started running, Brooks said that she started because "I sucked at pretty much all other sports, and I knew

my dad had been a super good runner in college, so I thought I would try it out and see how it went." She originally hated running, then began to like it in her freshman and sophomore years, and really started to love it this year. Last year, her season was hampered by dual knee injuries, making her unable to participate in some races.

When asked about her future with running, Brooks says that she wants to pursue the sport into college, even talking to some coaches about joining a team. However, Brooks' other passion is skiing, a sport that most coaches "don't let you do." "I'll definitely end up running, but I'll probably end up running for a team in which I could be running for a better team," Brooks said.

Talking about her upcoming run at Nike Nationals, in Portland, Oregon, Brooks said, "I just hope I can finish the race... It's frustrating because I haven't run for three weeks and now I have to go to this meet." Brooks qualified for the meet by placing ninth at Nike Cross Regionals, with a time of 17:50.9, a personal record. When asked about next season, Brooks said that she feels really good about their team, and she's excited for the incoming freshmen to be a part of the team.

Brooks ran on Dec. 7 at Nike Cross Country Nationals, finishing 99th overall out of 201 runners, with a time of 19:23.1. Her teammates, Ignatius Fitzgerald and Abby Kendrick ran the same day at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California, at the Foot Locker West Regionals. Fitzgerald took sixth overall with a time of 14:55.1, and Kendrick took ninth overall with a time of 17:10.8. Both qualified for Foot Locker Nationals, December 14th in San Diego, California.



Sage Brooks at the Montana State XC meet.  
Photo courtesy of Paul Queneau.

# Guess The Student!

Maggie Vann and Hailey Oien  
Reporters



You can find this Hellgate junior skiing the big Montana slopes.



This varsity soccer player can be found in his outside back position on the field.



This curly haired fellow enjoys lounging with his two pups.

## Think you know who it is?



Make sure you're following @hellgatelance on Instagram and DM us your answer there. If you guess correctly, you could be the "Guess the Student" of the next issue!