

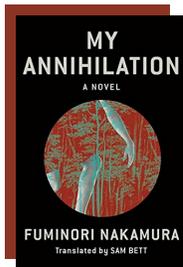


# the ORLA newsletter.

MAY 2022

# READ AND BLOOM





## MY ANNIHILATION

FUMINORI NAKAMURA  
TRANSLATED BY SAM BETT

"Nakamura, an award-winning noir and crime writer, has delved into the deepest parts of human consciousness and darkness with *My Annihilation*. I originally picked up this title because of a line on

the back of the book, which reads, 'What transforms a person into a killer? Could it be something as small as a suggestion?' Having always been fascinated with killers and true crime, I had to know what this story was about. The book begins with an unnamed protagonist who has been seemingly implicated in a serious crime. Several questions are consistently left unanswered and the narrator becomes increasingly unreliable and scatterbrained. What unravels in the following pages will make your brain hurt and have you jumping back and forth through the story to make sense of what is going on. The ending of this quick read was so twisted that it took me months to even write this book review! I highly recommend this if you love crime and mystery, but want something a bit different." -- *Natalie Cubbon, Oil Region Library Association*



YOUNG ADULT

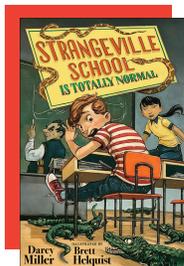
## THE KINDER POISON / THE CRUELEST MERCY

NATALIE MAE

"The Kinder Poison Duology (soon to be Trilogy due to all the hype from readers!) written by Natalie Mae was a fast-paced, delightful fantasy fiction series. Fans of Holly Black and Victoria Aveyard should click 'want to read' on their Goodreads wishlist now! Zahru can't help but crave a more exhilarating life. It's not that there's anything wrong with the life she currently lives - she loves helping her father in the stable, loves the misadventures of her and her best friend, but she's never left her village & has never seen the palace. Not to worry though, that's all about to change. However, I don't think becoming the human sacrifice in a monarchical race for the throne was what she had in mind... A witty, strong, charismatic protagonist with a side of triangular princely love and a nice splash of magical abilities, what more could you ask for from a YA fantasy fiction?" -- *Daidre Green, Oil City and Franklin Libraries*



JUVENILE



## STRANGEVILLE SCHOOL IS TOTALLY NORMAL

DARCY MILLER, ILLUSTRATED BY BRETT HELQUIST

"Harvey Hill's first day at Strangerville Middle School is anything but normal. There is definitely something going on at this school, but at least all the odd happenings keep the attention off Harvey, who has a secret to hide. This story covers just one day at the school, and Harvey encounters a giant rat named Cuddles, a Meat Loaf of Darkness, and a supply closet with a grudge. There are announcements from the vice principal throughout the book to keep the reader updated on school news of the day (ranging from piranhas in the water fountains to pythons loose in the school to the librarian, who threatens to release the hounds if overdue books are not returned), and these provide laugh-out-loud moments. When Stella Cho, first chair flugelhorn, newspaper reporter, and Harvey's guide, goes missing, Harvey must save his new friend and decide whether or not to expose his secret. I laughed several times throughout this story. It's reminiscent of *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* with all of the oddities that are seen as normal for the school. Fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and other funny middle-grade books will find a lot to enjoy here." -- *Annie Welsh, Oil Region Library Association*

# Franklin Public Library to Hold Remake Learning Days Event

The Franklin Public Library would like to invite children and teens, ages 8-18, to join us for Remake Learning Days with a Space Rescue Mission! Participants will use our Turing Tumble computer boards to solve up to 60 logic puzzles. The participants will build these mechanical computers by placing bits, ramps, crossovers, interceptors, gears, and gear bits onto the computer board in a way that leads the different colored marbles down the board to solve the puzzle. Each puzzle solved gets Alia, the space engineer, closer to rescue from a forgotten planet!

The event will be held on Saturday, May 21st, from 11:00AM until 2:00PM. Please call (814) 432-5062 or stop in to the Franklin Public Library to register. We will have several 1-hour time slots available to choose from! This event is available to be worked in pairs or individually. No age requirements are in place for pairs & siblings may work with other siblings!



## Franklin Service Hours Change, Upcoming Temporary Closure

Monday & Friday service hours have changed at the Franklin Public Library. Additionally, Oil Region Libraries have been gradually making the switch to RFID (radio-frequency identification) technology this year. This switch will enable both staff & patrons to complete the check-out & check-in process more quickly, efficiently & accurately. We'll also be offering updated self-checkout options for a more individualized experience. In order to implement the new technology as efficiently as possible, the Franklin Public Library will be temporarily closed from **May 23rd - May 30th**. We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause & appreciate your understanding.

## FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE HOURS

MONDAY	12:00PM - 5:00PM
TUESDAY	10:00AM - 6:00PM
WEDNESDAY	10:00AM - 6:00PM
THURSDAY	10:00AM - 6:00PM
FRIDAY	12:00PM - 5:00PM
SATURDAY	10:00AM - 3:00PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED



## RFID Conversion Near Completion, New Self-Checkout at Oil City Library

Since beginning the tagging process early this year, the Oil City Library has nearly finished converting the entire circulating collection to RFID technology. This has enabled us to introduce a new, touchscreen self-checkout system - one that can check out an entire stack of books at a time! Simply scan your library card, place your books on the black pad and watch them instantly check out to your account. You can even renew titles on your account using the new system! This change allows for a quicker and more efficient check-out process, as well as a more individualized experience for our patrons. Give it a try next time you visit!

# ORLA TEEN POETRY CONTEST

During the month of April, National Poetry Month, teens were asked to submit original poetry for the ORLA Teen Poetry Contest. The 1st Place winner & Runner-Up were chosen earlier this month. We received so many great submissions - so we decided to display ALL of them in the Oil City Library. Stop in soon to see them! Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to all who participated!

i'll always reply with "Fine"

1ST  
PLACE

a definition of Fine  
adjective: delicate and precise  
that of a thin, thin line  
something so concise

concise, just one word  
but i repeat it every day  
it's a summary you've preferred  
this word is easy, a simple display

display, let's try this again  
my definition of Fine  
i answer, they ask when  
how are you feeling? how was the day of mine?

i answer numbly, although i'm not sure  
could it be, perhaps, behind this word, i'm hiding  
something more?

## *The Cycle of Time*

RUNNER  
UP

### **Beginning Anew**

The stars hum and sing sonorously for the ruler and her companion is born.  
Even the absentminded nebulae shower the new queen with memories of the past,  
Pledging their allegiance, keeping in accordance with their ancestors.  
While even the most indifferent of planet dwellers spot the extraordinary celebrations in the sky.

The leaves murmur and giggle excitedly for the zephyr bears good news.  
Spring is here and with it, the crying and bleating of newborns, especially a celestial one.  
Time trickles slowly, turning into a creek, then into a roaring river  
As the young grow old, then the old turn to dirt, giving back to the universes.

With time, all must end.

### **The Devourer**

Fear not, though my jaws reek of death and my mane stench of deceased souls  
For I extinguish life quickly and in, what is the word? A humane manner.  
Respect me, though millions disappear because of me.  
For I am a force stronger than nature and to none I bow except Time.

Eons I slumber and eons I eat, swallowing delicacies of infants,  
whether they be green, tender spring sprouts or the violet, dusty beginnings of stars.  
Ancient galactic rulings razed, noble lineages lost, and universes consumed.  
The queen's domain remains neither more nor her consort bear.

Hush now, for this is the way of life and simply the price we pay, this we knew.  
Everything must have an end and I am the harbinger.  
Eventually, I shall devour the lives of everything and then,  
Eventually, I shall give my life to the honorable. Time for this cycle to renew.

THE 1ST PLACE  
WINNER RECEIVED  
THIS CUTE  
EDGAR ALLAN  
POE FUNKO POP!

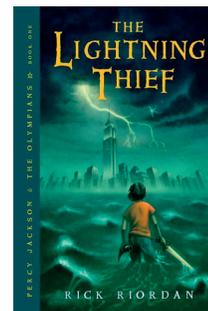
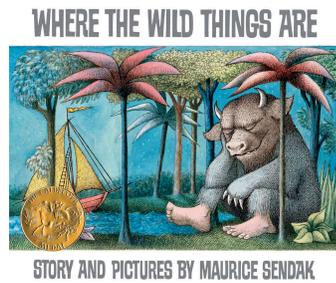
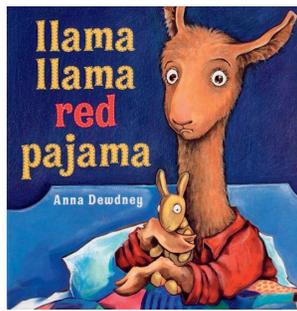
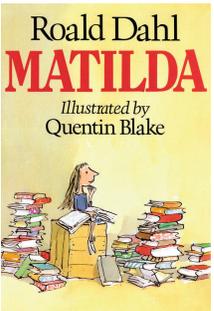
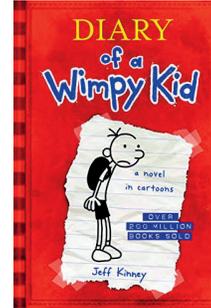
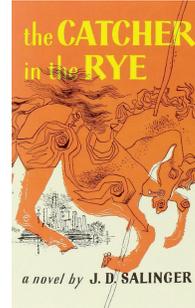
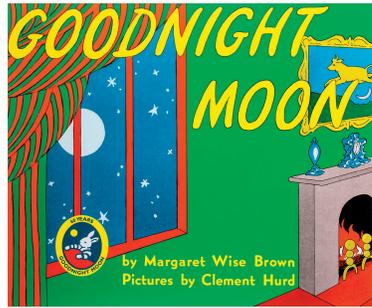
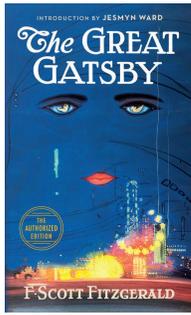
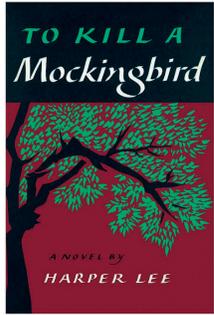


# Paint the Steps

Local artist Marcy Hall will soon be giving the outdoor steps at the Oil City Library a new look. Last month, we asked for your help deciding which books deserve to be featured. We received over 600 votes!



Here are the long-awaited results:



Thanks for Voting!

**DON'T SEE YOUR PICKS?** Don't worry, we hope to paint the Front Street steps too!

## Upcoming Workshops



**COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP**  
OIL CITY LIBRARY  
10AM - 11AM  
FREE



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OIL CITY LIBRARY  
10AM - 11AM  
FREE

Join us at the Oil City Library on Monday, May 9th at 10AM for a Computer Basics Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! Almost all workplaces require some computer skills. Learn to confidently navigate your way through basic systems, including the desktop environment, internet searching, emailing, and Microsoft word. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Oil City Library or by calling (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!

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# Cooperstown Library Sees Exterior Building Improvements

The Cooperstown Public Library has seen a facelift around our building! With the hard work of Shirley and Spence Peters, Rick Armbrurger, Kay Hannold, Mike Heines and his friend (also Mike), we have replaced the gravel around the library to help keep the weeds down and the building looking nice. Thank you for all of your hard work and thank you to Cooperstown Sand and Gravel for the rock!

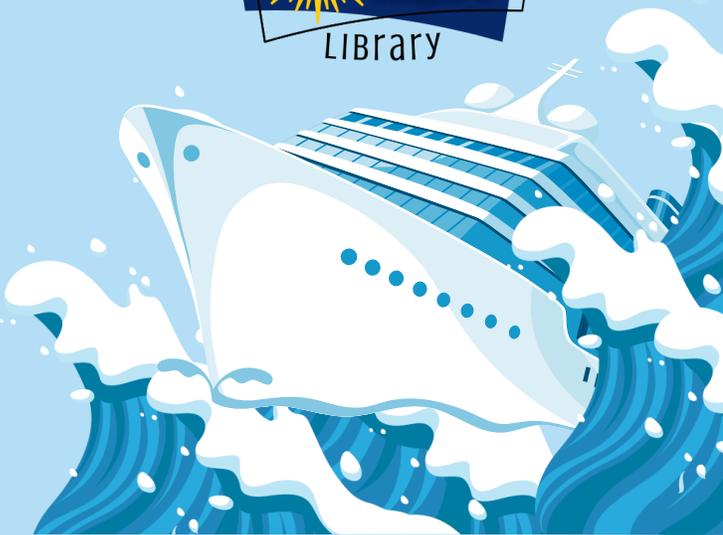
We also recently got our siding and roofing cleaned by Wet Hose Professional Power Wash. Thank you to the gentlemen at Wet Hose for cleaning our building - we really appreciate it!



## S.O.S. SAVE OUR SUMMER

Join us for 6 weeks of mystery, clues, and prizes for ages 5 and up! Attend in house programs OR take home activities!

BEGINNING JUNE 20  
AT ALL LOCATIONS



# FLOWER BASKET SALE

## May Fundraiser at the Cooperstown Library

The Cooperstown Public Library is partnering with The Woods in Cooperstown for a flower basket sale. Patrons can purchase a coupon for \$25 to use at The Woods to get a 10-inch flower basket. The sale runs through the whole month of May. These make great gifts!



# ORLA Sees Outstanding Support for Inaugural Fundraiser

In the absence of Week of Giving, we invited you to continue your generous support during National Library Week, April 3-9. Seven years ago, ORLA was founded with a dream of uniting all three Venango County libraries to offer and preserve quality services across our region. ORLA sought to continue enhancing cooperation, creativity and generous community spirit through our first-ever Founders Fund.

During National Library Week, we had a goal of raising \$14,000. We are so thankful to announce that together we raised over \$20,000! Special thanks goes to the ORLA Board of Directors, ORLA Committee members and the Oil City and Franklin Library Friends groups for providing a \$6,000 match fund. To all who donated, thank you for your unending support!



## Employees to Graduate, Participate in Leadership Venango Program

This month, Natalie Cubbon, Projects Coordinator for ORLA, will graduate from the Venango Leadership Class of 2022. According to the Venango Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Venango is a nine-month program designed to identify, educate, involve and motivate individuals who desire to become more effective leaders. Natalie is the 4th ORLA employee to successfully complete and graduate from Leadership Venango. Dan Flaherty, Executive Director; Annie Welsh, Youth Services Coordinator; and Zoe Oakes, Franklin Branch Manager, are Leadership Venango alumni. Amanda Barker, Cooperstown Branch Manager, will be participating in the Venango Leadership Class of 2023. Visit <https://venangochamber.org/leadership-connections/leadership-venango/> to learn more or apply to be in the next class!



Leadership Venango Class of 2022. Photo courtesy of the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Franklin Friends Hold Picnic Basket Raffle

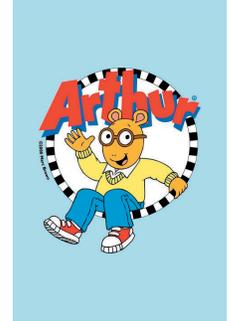
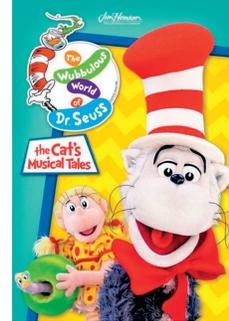
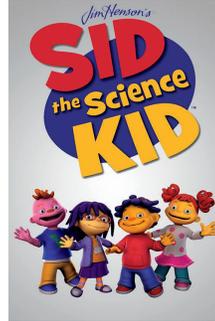
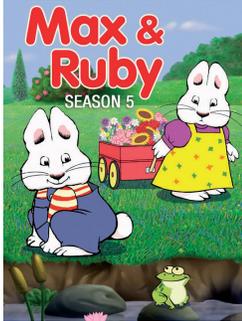
The Friends of the Franklin Public Library are selling raffle tickets for a basket full of picnic goodies this month! Stop in to the Franklin Public Library to get your tickets today. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and all proceeds benefit the Franklin Public Library. Thank you in advance for your support!



# FEATURED DIGITAL RESOURCES

Available at [www.oilregionlibraries.org](http://www.oilregionlibraries.org)

Watch & Learn with **kanopy kids**



Stream these & more for free with your library card.



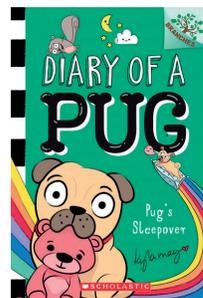
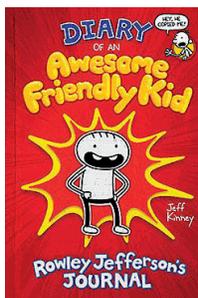
## FEATURED LIBRARY EQUIPMENT

### SAIL AWAY BOARD GAME

It's a strategy game of business and danger on the high seas! You're on an island loading your ships with resources—then it's time to launch. Head out into Caribbean waters but watch out for Pirates! You have three objectives: to gain as many resources as you can, to launch as many ships as you can, and to acquire as many coins as you can. Check out Sail Away today for FREE with your library card!



**COMICS CORNER**  
a collection on Libby



Read & listen for free with your library card.



2 Central Ave.  
Oil City, PA 16301  
(814) 678-3072



421 12th St.  
Franklin, PA 16323  
(814) 432-5062



182 N. Main St.  
Cooperstown, PA 16317  
(814) 374-4605

