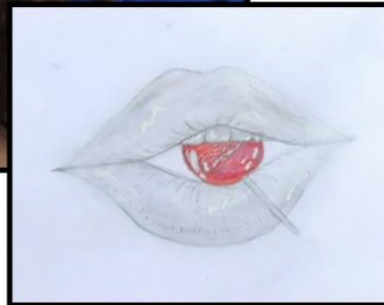


The Paradise Center Presents

Emmie Tucker

Plains Jr. High School

Spotlight on the Arts – November 2023



Interviewed by Karen Thorson,

“Spotlight on the Arts” by The Paradise Center honors and encourages students in the arts by highlighting their talent and acknowledging the support they receive through their schools and teachers.

Morgan Schwier is a 17-year-old student at Noxon School. She is in the 11th grade and studies art with

Ms. Jessica Novack, who encourages her to expand what many adults refer to as “her natural talent.” Schwier is relatively new to formal art instruction, aside from elementary school experiences. Now in high school, her amazing talent is expanding to new horizons, new mediums, new opportunities.

Art class offers her exposure to painting (watercolor, acrylics, and watercolor), sculpture and ceramics. Laughingly, she says the more formal surroundings of art class “force” her to explore new ways of creative expression and overshadow her tendency toward procrastination. Encouragement comes from her parents and her sister, who has often involved Schwier in helping her with crafts.

Schwier’s artwork often focuses on single objects. Her attention to detail and use of shading puts those objects into a message for viewers. The giraffe accompanying this article is a prime example. The image is not just a depiction of a physical form, it embodies gentleness, calmness, quiet power, and majestic

demeanor that make the giraffe relatable as a living thing with unique characteristics.

Viewer comments or critiques are welcomed by Schweir who admits to being a perfectionist. She feels that critiques help her move closer to achieving precision in her work. She recalls an experience in elementary school when she tried to recreate a piece done by Picasso. She felt the work she created fell short of what she wanted to show. Probably any school student would fall short, but for her the experience was a memorable disappointment. On a more satisfying note, a “gargoyle” sculpture she created was given “Juror’s Choice” and awarded 1st Place in the school’s Art Showcase.

Regarding the future, Schweir is looking forward to second level instruction and experimentation with painting, ceramics, and sculpture – and painting a mural for outdoor display at Noxon School. For others interested in art, she would encourage them to try, but she includes a mild warning that frustration may be part of their artistic journey.