

The

# SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MARCH 2017





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 4 Lucky Charms

Check out these good-luck charms from across the globe.

## 6 Will Gamers Flip the Switch?

Or is it lights out for Nintendo?

## 8 Over the Fence

Grossmont's baseball team looks for a repeat championship season and more.

## 10 Beach Volleyball

The women's volleyball team continues its winning streak.

## 10 Almost Perfect

Rachel Everett pitches a no-hitter.

## 11 Coloring the School

Public art is making its way to Grossmont.

## 12 A Hard Rock Life

A Grossmont professor documents the rise and fall of rock stars in his new film.

## 13 Use Your Words

Grossmont hosts the first Region 10 Poetry Slam Festival and Competition.

## 14 Grossmont Briefing

International Club, Health Updates and ASGC Elections.

## 16 Summit Staff

What's your good luck charm?

The staff of *The Summit* is enrolled in an academic media news production course. A main function of *The Summit* is to provide a professional learning experience for students of any major classification who express an interest in journalism. To serve this function, *The Summit* is entirely student-run. Student editors are responsible for all editorial decisions, content and editing. The instructor/ adviser is available for training, guidance and advice, but has no control over the content or editing of the newspaper. Prior review is not exercised. These guidelines have been established to protect the First Amendment freedoms guaranteed to the student press, as well as a guarantee of valuable learning experience in all aspects of newspaper management for the students. Please direct all inquiries, comments and letters to the editor to [summit@gcccd.edu](mailto:summit@gcccd.edu).



# The SUMMIT

A publication of Grossmont College's  
Media Communications Department.  
Vol. 43 | Issue 6 | March 2017

### SUMMIT STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Alyssa Blackhurst

**Deputy Editor**  
Symon Goro

**Senior Staff Writers**  
Kyle Cascante, Kristelle Villa

**Staff Writers**  
Marsella Alvarez, Vinny Lavalsiti

**Adviser**  
Jeanette Calo

### GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

8800 Grossmont College Drive  
El Cajon, CA 92020  
619-644-7454 | [grossmont.edu](http://grossmont.edu)

**Governing Board Members**  
Elena Adams, Greg Barr, Bill Garrett,  
Edwin Hiel, Debbie Justeson

**Student Members**  
Sebastian Caparelli, Evan Esparza

**Chancellor :** Cindy Miles, Ph.D.  
**President:** Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Ed.D.

Contact us at  
[summit@gcccd.edu](mailto:summit@gcccd.edu)



@gcs Summit\_



/gcs Summit



VISIT US ONLINE  
[GCSUMMIT.COM](http://GCSUMMIT.COM)

# GO SET A WATCH-DOG

The Fourth Estate is not the enemy.

AN OPINION PIECE BY MARSELLA ALVAREZ

Since the very conception of our nation, one of the most important freedoms we enjoy as Americans is the freedom of speech— specifically, the freedom to examine and judge our government, its actions, and how these actions affect us all as citizens. We are also free to publicize our findings without fear of vengeful persecution or censorship.

It is our very First Amendment for a reason. Our founding fathers saw the critical importance in maintaining a government that answers to its people, not the other way around. They installed the Second Amendment, the right to bears arms, in order to ensure that this nation's inhabitants could defend their freedom of expression.

Journalists today build their careers protecting this sacred liberty. They dedicate their lives to uncovering truth and interpreting facts for a public with an attention span that shrinks by the hour, but they continue to do so in the hopes of cultivating an informed public that can hold its leadership accountable.

The media is often hailed as the Fourth Estate – the fourth unofficial branch of government – for this very reason. Without journalism and all its forms, much of the nation would be unaware of the various administrative efforts our government undertakes.

This country is a sprawling expanse. Most of its occupants live too far from the capital to effectively perform checks and balances on all three branches of government. As a result, news stations, newspapers, online news services and the people they employ do this for us.

“Without journalists and the news, or any other type of media, I probably would not know much about what the government does, which is crazy because they literally make huge decisions that directly affect my life,” said Cody Wilson, a student in his third year at Grossmont College.

Wilson's sentiment is one echoed in many of the younger generations today. Millennials today have more access to information and news on their smartphones than their grandparents did in an entire lifetime. One would assume that this would make it easier for people to stay informed about political issues, but because of the many distractions modern technology affords today, politics does not seem to be at the forefront of many college students' minds.

In a social experiment video created last year by a political student group (PoliTech) at Texas Tech University, the group can be seen asking students some very basic questions about U.S. history and politics.

“Who won the Civil War?” was the first question, and out of the various students that attempted to answer, only one answered correctly. The same thing occurred for the question, “Who is the vice-president?”, who at the time was Vice President Joe Biden. But when asked some questions related to pop culture, the results were very different. “Who is Brad Pitt married to?” was met with all correct answers. As was

**The media is often hailed as the Fourth Estate – the fourth unofficial branch of government – for this very reason. Without journalism and all its forms, much of the nation would be unaware of the various administrative efforts our government undertakes.**

“What show is Snooki on?”

When a large part of college students – students who, presumably, have already received an elementary, middle and high school education in order to attend – cannot correctly answer who holds the second-highest office in the country, it disheartens many voters whose voices need to be heard, but who opt out in disappointment. They question the effectiveness of the media itself and ponder the point of voting if most people don't even know who won the Civil War.

But please, consider the alternative: Countries where media is tightly monitored or completely controlled – for example, China, North Korea, and even, in historical examples like Nazi Germany – share one thing in common. The authorities in these countries use their control on media itself to change and form public opinion, a process that would normally be reversed in a democratic society.

The biggest thing keeping us separate from a totalitarian government at this point is the very freedom our founding fathers knowingly put in place since the birth of our country. Our constitutional right to freely express and publish our opinions is the very thing that keeps us free enough to do so. Without the journalistic efforts of reporters and their colleagues and the liberties they enjoy as Americans, we would run the risk of living in a world where public opinion is not formed by the public, but that is instead formed by the agenda pushed by the people in positions of power we elected them into. Which, for any democratic society, is a very slippery slope.



©WATCHDOG.ORG



# LUCKY CHARMS

Story by **Vinny Lavalenti**  
Design by **Batoul Rubaie**

Check out these good-luck charms from across the globe.

**A**round the world, people in vast regions identify different objects, actions, numbers and traditions as good luck charms.

With St. Patrick's Day coming up, people all over the United States will be going from pub to pub, wearing green for good luck in hopes of not getting pinched. Pinched by who? Not your friends, but leprechauns!

Legend has it that leprechauns would go around and pinch everyone, but not people wearing green because they weren't able to see the color on humans. The idea that wearing green would make you invisible from the Irish fairy creatures was adopted by the American culture in the 1700s.

However, wearing green isn't the only good luck charm that people will be celebrating on March 17. St. Patrick's Day is just one example of good luck being observed around the world. For example, millions of people, in different countries across the globe, consider the color red to be good luck. Let's take a look at some others.

## UNITED STATES

Don't be mistaken: The four-leaf clover has nothing to do with St. Patrick's Day or the Irish. The idea originated in the Americas. Each leaf was thought to symbolize hope, faith, love and luck.

Also common in the America is the horseshoe, which is considered lucky for a number of reasons. When you attach it to a wall, you must use seven nails, because seven symbolizes the completion and perfection of things that are both physical and spiritual.

In English-speaking countries like the U.S., carrying a rabbit's foot close to your waist is considered good luck. In his biography, President Theodore Roosevelt mentions that legendary boxer, John L. Sullivan, gave him a gold-mounted rabbit's foot. Roosevelt would carry the foot for most of his tenure in the Oval Office.



RABBIT'S FOOT



MANEKI-NEKO

BUDDHA STATUE

CHINESE LANTERN

## ASIA

The Chinese are especially big believers in good luck charms. It is thought that hanging red lanterns outside at festivals or big parties will bring happiness, vitality and wealth.

As far as lucky numbers go, the U.S., has seven, but China has eight. The number eight in Chinese is pronounced "ba," which is awfully similar to another word used when referring to making a fortune: "fa."

Also drawing its meaning from similar pronunciation are bats. Bats in Chinese culture represent longevity and happiness. This nocturnal animal symbolizes wealth because the word bat, "fook" has the same pronunciation as "prosperity."

In The Land of the Rising Sun, Japan, many have *maneki-neko* figurines, ceramic cats that make a commonly misinterpreted

waving gesture with their paw. These little felines are actually calling for you to greet them, and are said to bring good luck.

According to JapanTalk.com, people follow a tradition called *Ehomaki*, which stands for "lucky direction sushi roll." The tradition requires eating a whole, uncut sushi roll in silence while facing a lucky direction that changes every year.

Also, if you see a spider in the morning in Japan, you better not kill it! In Japanese folktales, spiders are considered to be very auspicious.

If you are in a desperate need of getting an "A" on your next exam, eat some sticky food. In Korea, sticky foods are said to bring knowledge and make that knowledge "stick" in your head better.

And of course, rub Buddha's belly! Tradition holds that doing so will bring prosperity and good luck.

## AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Ancient Egyptians worshiped a number of amulets and statues that are said to bring good fortune as well. The “ankh” is the Egyptian cross, and stands for eternal life. Many hieroglyphs in Egyptian temples show the king being offered the ankh symbol.

The sphinx in Ancient Egypt is a mythological creature with the body of a lion, but the head of a human. It is said to protect people against all evil.

Originating in West Africa, *gris-gris* is said to protect the wearers from bad luck, according to TheMystics.com. *Gris-gris* is a voodoo amulet that consists of a Qur’an inscribed cloth bag and ritualistic objects worn around the neck.

StarsandStripes.com states that to bring good luck to a new business in Iraq, shop owners slaughter a sheep, cover their hands in blood and put hand prints on the building.

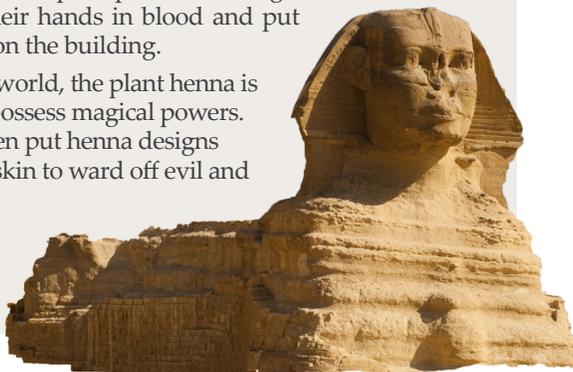
In the Arab world, the plant henna is thought to possess magical powers. Many women put henna designs on their skin to ward off evil and promote fertility.



HENNA

ANKH

SPHINX



GRIS-GRIS

## LATIN AMERICA

Brazilians attach a *carranca*, a doll-like piece, to the front of their river boat to erase negative spirits that may attack the boat.

A Colombian New Year consists of a variety of good luck traditions, but one may catch your eye, 123newyear.com reports. According to some beliefs, wearing yellow underwear will ensure a vast amount of wealth and prosperity in the coming year. Is that not good enough for you? Well, wear the underwear backward, and it will bring twice the amount of good fortune!

The most dreaded day of the year is on the 13 and no, it’s not on a Friday. In Spanish-speaking cultures, the equivalent of our Friday the 13th is Tuesday the 13th, or *Martes Trece*, a day that brings great misfortune.

Although soccer is the most popular sport in Latin America, there are a few exceptions. Baseball is the dominant sport in the Dominican Republic. Some Dominican parents will hang a baseball glove above their baby’s crib in hopes that he will blossom into a great *béisbol* player.

It goes to show that people can always find something good in some of the most strange or everyday objects.

## EUROPE

In Greece, bread has biblical meaning and is said to be a gift from a deity. And if there are scraps, they must be given to animals. It’s considered sinful for bread to go unconsumed and end up in the garbage.

According to RealCorfu.com, on New Year’s Eve in some parts of Greece, people take pomegranates to friends’ houses and smash them, so the home will have good luck the upcoming year. In a Greek home, there will also most likely be a cactus, since cacti are said to ward off the “evil eye.”

Italian folklore includes the curse of the evil eye, which is a curse cast through a stare of contempt or jealousy. How do you protect yourself? The *cimaruta* and the *cornicello* are amulets that are made to defend from this curse. The *cimaruta* is a silver amulet usually worn or hung above a baby’s crib, while the *cornicello* resembles a chili pepper, except it’s silver or gold (see right).

In Ireland, kissing the Blarney Stone is a popular tradition. The tradition of kissing the Blarney Stone, a stone in a castle in Ireland, has been around for several centuries, and is supposed to give powers of eloquence and persuasiveness to the kisser.

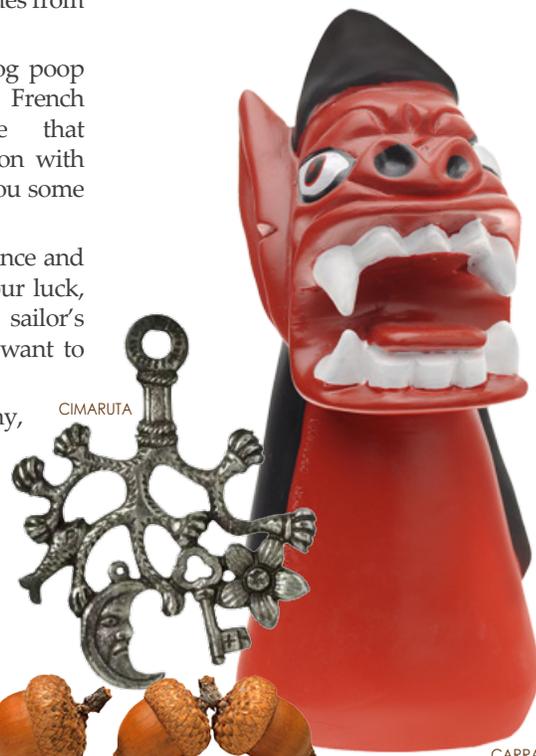
Just across the North Sea and about 1,500 miles away in Norway, people pay homage to the acorn and its home, the oak tree, according to ThorTrains.com. The

Vikings related oak trees with a superhero, who is the god that created thunder and lightning with his anvil and hammer. You may have heard him—Thor! A special oak tree attracted lightning, and legend has it that Thor felt the tree was sacred to him. So in dark and gloomy thunderstorms, citizens of Norway put acorns on their windowsills to protect their homes from lightning.

Surprisingly, stepping in dog poop can be a good thing! In French culture, many believe that stepping in dog defecation with your left foot can bring you some good luck.

If you find yourself in France and you’re a little down on your luck, try rubbing the top of a sailor’s beret. However, you might want to give a heads up first.

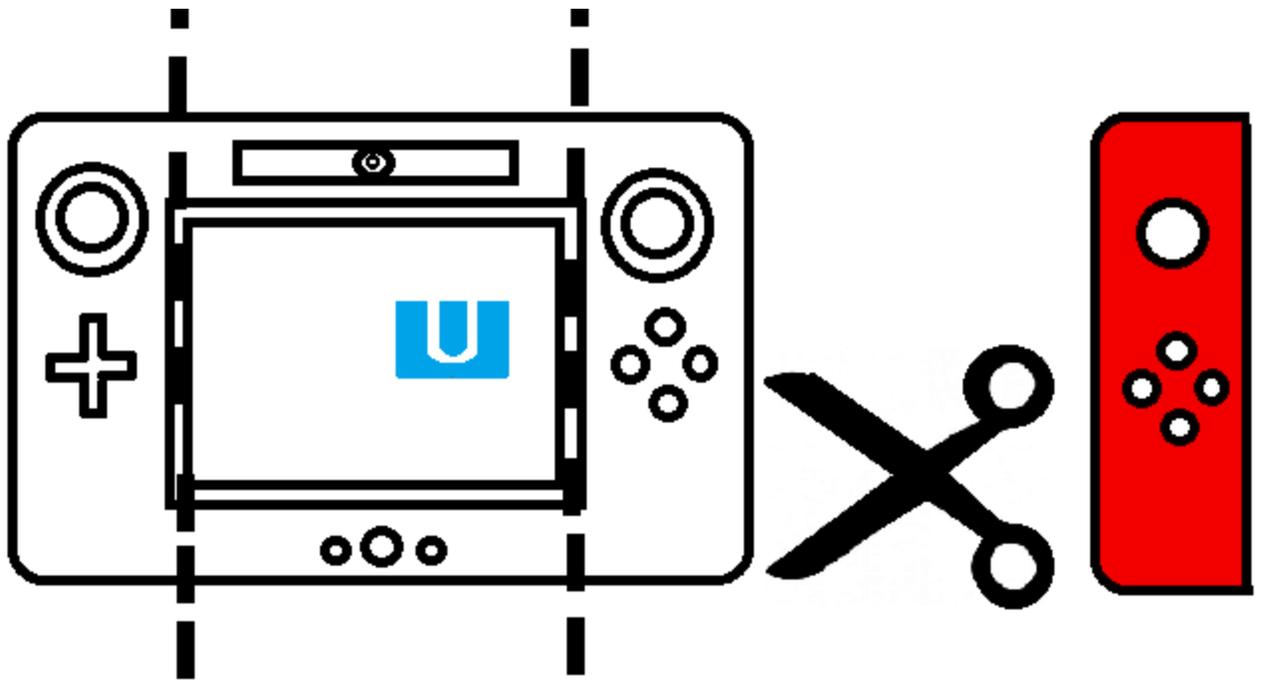
Hopefully when you’re in Germany, Czech Republic, Poland and other Eastern European countries, you will have your favorite buttoned-up coat on. It’s considered good luck to rub one of your buttons if you see a chimney sweeper at work, Goethe.de advises. But if you’re a bride in Britain, you’d be even luckier to see a chimney sweeper on your wedding day.



CIMARUTA

ACORNS

CARRANCA



## WILL GAMERS FLIP THE SWITCH?



On March 3, Nintendo released the Switch, its seventh video game console. As a self-labeled “hybrid” gaming console, the Switch features a main unit, which can be inserted into a docking station to connect to a TV, or can be removed to function similar to a more personal, tablet computer. This will grant the device the power of a home gaming-system, but feature the mobility of a handheld device— something a lot of its competitors can’t do.

Many fans felt the previous console, the “Wii U,” lacked third-party support, with developers choosing to flock to Xbox and PlayStation instead. To prove otherwise, Nintendo released a list on their website, which includes all publishers who plan on showing the Switch their support. It includes virtually every top developer currently in the industry.

On Friday morning, bright and early, Grossmont Student Isaac Warriner waited in line for his copy of *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*. The game is the 19th release in the main *The Legend of Zelda* series, and one of the Switch’s launch titles.

Though Warriner had stayed up

late picking up his Switch, he was undaunted by the task: “I know I’m not alone in this, but *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* was the first game I ever played. This series has a special meaning to me, so the newest game is something I have to play day of release.”

Though Warriner was completely enraptured by his Switch, he found room to speak about the console’s highlights the following day.

“The console does what it’s marketed to do without fail,” Warriner said. “Being able to plug it into the docking station and take it out is both seamless and fantastic. It is definitely the most convenient console I’ve ever owned.”

“The biggest drawback, for me, is the console battery life,” he continued. “The only way to charge the Joy-Cons (joystick controllers) is by attaching it to the console, which means the only way to play while charging controllers is in hand-held mode. You can’t charge the console in stand mode, because the charging socket is on the bottom.”

Warriner was particularly fond of the HD Rumble, which he called “revolutionary.” This is Nintendo’s new party trick—being able to feel specific sensations

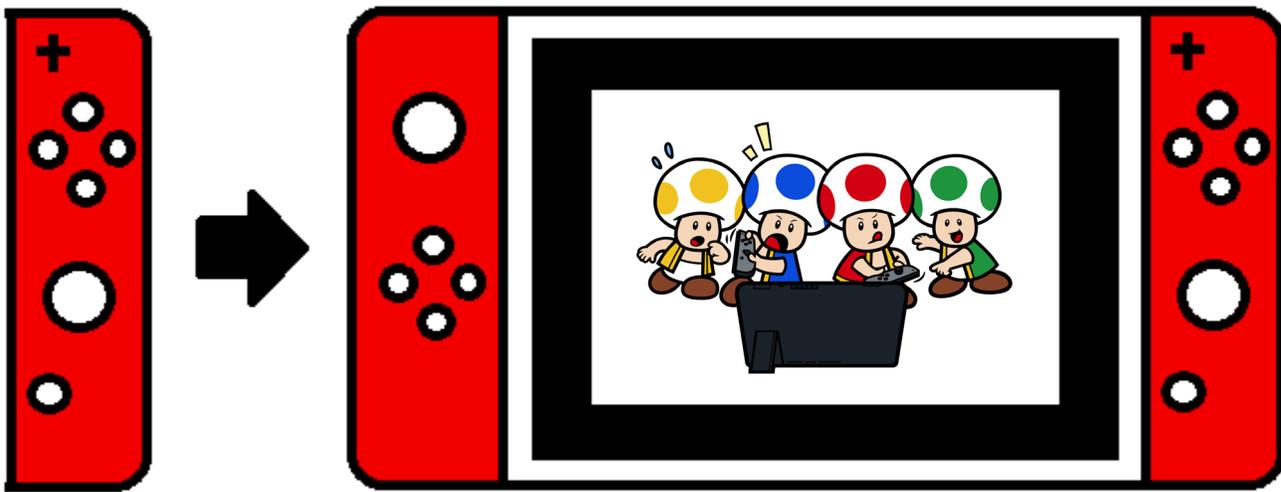


ILLUSTRATION BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST. NINTENDO CHARACTER ARTWORK COURTESY OF STUDIOPEP.

# Or is it lights out for Nintendo?

BY ALYSSA BLACKHURST

through the Joy-Con controller.

Nintendo's Yoshiaki Koizumi had previously introduced the feature during a launch party back in January. To illustrate the technology, Koizumi held the Joy-Con controller while an animated cup played on screen. As ice cubes fell into the virtual glass, Koizumi said the HD Rumble's subtle feedback allowed him to feel each cube drop, as well as the liquid rising. It also has a "motion IR camera" which can track position and movement, knowing what kind of gestures you're making as well as your position from the controller.

Student Rhys Baxter was more critical of the new console, and said he would save his money until Nintendo made additional changes.

"They're doing a bunch of things I disagree with to cut the price," Baxter explained. "For example, I've been told the screen they're using is made of plastic rather than gorilla glass, or the kind of glass phones and tablets use. Because of that, the dock you can put it in can supposedly scratch the screen if you aren't careful. Screen protectors don't stay on because of the heat it generates, and there's limited storage. You also can't transfer your data if you buy another Switch."

Baxter continued: "Normally I

wouldn't be pointing out these things, but one of the selling points is how mobile it is. I don't want to be worried when I take it out of my house, and I don't want to have to carry around multiple game cards or SD cards with me places. And I know it's a silly thing to be mad about, but they went and made friend codes the way you add other users again."

A "friend code" is a unique, 12-digit code generated for users to play with friends online. Though the previous console, the "Wii U," opted to instead add people via their Nintendo user-names, the Nintendo Switch hasn't made a full step backward. If a Nintendo ID has been previously linked, for games such as *Mittomo*, *Super Mario Run* or *Fire Emblem*, your friends will show up under the suggested tab.

Baxter also criticized the "limited launch titles": "The new *Legend of Zelda* caught my eye, of course. But you could just go ahead and purchase it for their previous console, the Wii U, so what's the point?"

The Nintendo Switch, with 32 GB of memory, currently retails at \$299. This does not include games; there are a total of 12 games available for purchase, with prices ranging from \$50 to \$60.



# OVER TH

Griffins look for a repeat championship season and more.

STORY BY VINNY LAVALSITI | PHOTOS BY HAL SUMMERS

**R**andy Abshier, 2016 Coach of the Year, and the Griffin baseball team takes a 7-5-1 record heading into game two of their three-game series against San Bernardino. With the help of Justen Burkey, who is sporting a team-leading .348 batting average, and Griffin ace, Donavon McCrystal, Abshier expects to win the championship, repeating last year's success.

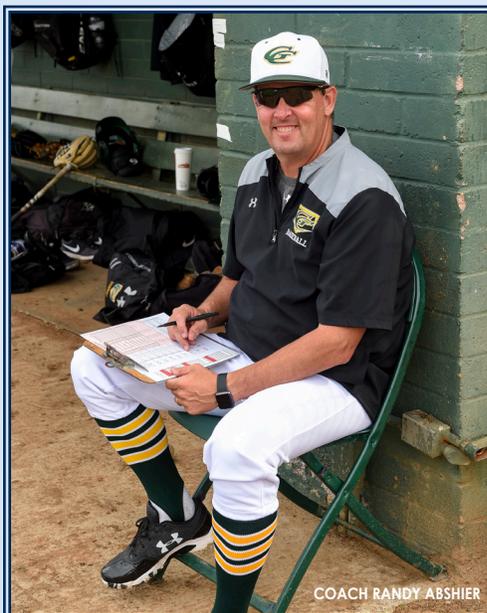
Although the accolades of winning coach of the year and a 200 victory career are important to Abshier in his 17-year coaching tenure at Grossmont, he said that's not what he takes the most pride in: "What gives me the most satisfaction at Grossmont is seeing my student-athletes move on to the next level. It's not about my win-loss record at all.

"People would say, 'Congrats on your 200th victory,'" he continued. "The first thing I'd say is that it's not about me. The student does the work to get out of here. They just make me look good."

Along the way, Abshier learned a lot while under former Grossmont College baseball guru, Ed Olsen. Olsen retired from Grossmont at the age of 71 with a 516-373-7 record, which put him as one of the top-10 winning coaches in community college history.

"Olsen used his knowledge as a baseball historian as a means of motivation to get his message across," Abshier said.

Abshier went on to describe a beautiful aspect of community college: "Here, we give people second chances and show them the steps they need to get to four-year universities.



COACH RANDY ABSHIER

"Ninety-seven percent of my ball players at this program receive some sort of financial help to play baseball at the next level. When colleges hear my players go to Grossmont College, they know what they're getting," he explained, applauding Grossmont's academics.

In Abshier's coaching career, he's assisted in preparing 22 professional baseball careers, and has seen one of his former baseball players, Sean O'Sullivan, blossom into a major-leaguer.

This coming season appears to be a promising one for the Griffin's ball club: "We're bringing a lot of the guys back from last year who bring the winning tradition with them. Those sophomores and the leadership they have is one of our biggest strengths."

Plus, Abshier said the freshmen have stepped up: "By season's end our goal should be to win a consecutive championship despite losing some players to big time four-year programs," he said.

One of those players the team lost last year to the University of Nevada Las Vegas was Alan Strong, who just won Mountain West Conference Pitcher of the Week, after pitching in a 6-1 win over Cal State Fullerton, the number-seven team in the country.

However, so far this season Abshier and his team have had some troubles with weather, as the rain has not been kind to them.

"We call ourselves road warriors," Abshier said with a laugh. "We've been ran off the field due to all this rain lately, and that's tied our hands behind our back in preparing for this year."

Despite the weather inconveniences, people



# E F F E N C E

shouldn't read too much into the team's record. Most of its losses have come in tight, one-run games that could've gone either way.

For continued success, "it all starts on the mound," Abshier said.

"What's key to our success is a strong pitching staff and a solid bullpen," he explained. "In high school, it's innings one through seven, but in college, it's seven through nine, and that's where games are won and lost."

A member of Abshier's strong starting rotation is sophomore ace Donavan McCrystal. Last season, McCrystal bolstered an 11-1 record, with his only loss coming in the final game of the year, and he also led the state in a lot of pitching categories. McCrystal has received a scholarship to play at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and will be attending UNLV next year.

McCrystal shared the same expectations as his coach: "Last year we were so close to going to Fresno, so that's got to be on our to-do list along with winning another conference championship."

When asked how they'll accomplish their goal, McCrystal said: "This year, our coaches did a good job in mentally preparing us... been a little rough, but we've won two in a row, and I think we are going to keep this winning streak from here on out.

"But it's not just on the field where I've developed," McCrystal added. "In the classroom, Grossmont has helped me in becoming a better person."

With his 93 mph fastball, McCrystal said his personal goal is to pick up right where

[ BASEBALL CONT. ON PAGE 16 ]



MICHAEL DIFFLEY



JUSTEN BURKEY



DONAVAN MCCRYSTAL



JUSTEN BURKEY AND DONOVAN MCCRYSTAL





# BEACH VOLLEYBALL

The women's volleyball team continues its winning streak.

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY KRISTELLE VILLA**

The women's volleyball team is on a four-game winning streak, going strong with a 4-0-1 record in the current season. The team's first game took place on Saturday, Feb. 15 and the season will end on May 7. They went 5-0 against San Diego City College, Benedictine University at Mesa College, SDSU Club and Riverside College, and tied 2-2 against Cypress College.



**ABOVE:** CHRISTINA BARRAMEDA SLIDES TO SAVE THE BALL WHILE KHALIA JORDAN GETS READY TO GIVE SUPPORT. **RIGHT AND BELOW:** KHALIA JORDAN DEFENDS G-HOUSE.



# ALMOST PERFECT Rachel Everett pitches a no-hitter. BY VINNY LAVALSITI

Sophomore Pitcher Rachel Everett tossed a no-hitter at Desert College on Friday.

Everett, leading Grossmont (4-4) with a 2.25 ERA, earned her third win of the year by facing only 16 batters. Everett would have pitched a perfect game if it weren't for her lone walk allowed to the first batter of the game. She ended the game throwing three strikeouts in only five innings, helping her team to the 9-0 win.

Reece Presley, who plays first base, hit two doubles and three runners in to score on the day, and provided a great deal of help to Everett.

Everett, who hails from Bonita Vista High School, has pitched for 37.1 innings, and is also getting it done at the plate with a .304 batting average on the young season.

The Griffins' next home games are against Palomar on March 15 and City on March 22. Both games are at 3 p.m.



© GROSSMONT ATHLETICS

# Closing The SCHOOL

PUBLIC ART IS MAKING ITS WAY TO GROSSMONT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KRISTELLE VILLA  
 DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY REGINA RUBAIE

Old yellow boxes dot the campus. They've housed *The Summit* for years, but have grown old and a bit grungy. Since they were replaced by new news boxes in 2015, they have stood by, neglected and unused.

Instead of throwing the old *Summit* boxes away, students have begun to repaint them. One has been turned into a robot, and can be found near Building 27. There are also a few lockers by the art buildings painted with murals, one of them being an image of famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

The art department plans on continuing projects like this with the public art class that is held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. However, it is not just the old newspaper boxes they wish to paint.

The public art class plans on taking up quite a few projects around campus this semester. Some of those include painting the rest of the newspaper boxes, painting the utility boxes and making murals on canvas, which can be hung up and moved around. There is a mural already being planned for the music building.

They are even going to work on projects outside of campus. For example, a

store owner in Old Town has expressed interest in getting a mural painted on the exterior of her store.

Professor Jennifer Bennett explained the goals of the class: "Public art class aims to teach the students the whole process— what is the context of the art, thinking about what would be appropriate for the location, audience and what would be relevant."

Working in teams, students will also "learn the whole process, create proposals, come up with an idea (and) sketch out what it would look like."

These skills are important for art projects, big and small, and will help students meet the requirements needed for future careers in an artistic field.

Giselle Serrano is an animation major, and one of the students that is taking the public art class.

"I grew up with the influences of Chicano Park, lived around Chicano Park, and always loved their art work," she said, when asked why she had chosen to take the public art class.

Serrano said she loves how the murals express her culture, and address social injustices that are happening in the community: "Everybody comes together to make something for people to

enjoy and look at."

She also said painting and drawing are her outlets to express herself, so she is looking forward to all the projects the public art class is planning. She doesn't have just one that she is looking forward to the most.

The class plans on having a community art day on campus on Tuesday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., where they will paint additional yellow news boxes in the main quad. This allows students and faculty to view the process of public art, as the kiosks will be transformed. They are working with the Grossmont Gives Back community program, and will be receiving donations from Blick, a local art supply store.



PAINTED BY JAKE GUANCI



# A HARD ROCK LIFE

A Grossmont professor documents the rise and fall of rock stars in his new film. | BY SYMON GORO

Most of you probably get a specific picture in your head when you hear the phrase “rock star.” Those legendary musicians up on stage, surrounded by blaring lights. A sea of pyrotechnics, flashy outfits, and long, billowy hair. Occasionally, one may say a prayer to whatever deity they might worship before diving off stage in the hopes that we will catch them and not watch them slam into the ground.

It’s hard to imagine these individuals as anything else, but what was life really like for these people? Grossmont English professor and filmmaker Raul Sandelin’s new documentary *Throttle the Sun* answers that question.

Last year, Sandelin talked about his previous documentary, *Ticket to Write: The Golden Age of Rock Music Journalism*, a film that examined rock journalism of the era, including Grossmont alumnus and influential journalist Lester Bangs. *Throttle the Sun* focuses more on the lives of the musicians themselves, and why the term “rock star” has become synonymous with heroes or extremely talented individuals.

The documentary chronicles the stories of members of various bands including Def Lepperd, 38 Special, Dio, Dokken and many more, as well as people such as Pamela Des Barres. Des Barres was a writer and “super-groupie” who befriended many of these rock stars.

The sources detail the beginning of their careers, rises to prominence and challenges along the way, but they discuss some of the less glamorous aspects as well, including hundreds of miles of travel a day, debauchery and even death. One interviewee in a preview mentions a drummer who went home with two women one night.

“They ended up killing him,” he said in the interview. “I think they stabbed him over 60 times.”

Sandelin said in an email that the film goes behind the scenes to see the real life of a rock star: “To be honest, we have some stories that might be too raunchy to include in the film, but other than that, the most poignant story is about a kid (a musician) who jumps out of his fourth-story practice studio ‘thinking he could fly.’ Much of the graphic imagery in *Throttle the Sun* focuses on Icarus, the mythological kid who tried to fly too close to the sun, until his wings melt and he fell to his death. So sometimes reality is stranger than fiction.”

Sandelin said the documentary is part of his desire to explore aspects of post-war America that haven’t been explored yet.

“Following World War II, the Baby Boomers were born, and when they came of age in the 1960s, they changed the world forever. Much of that change was done through music and the stories about the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix are well told,” Sandelin explained. “However, there are still stories to uncover. For instance, before my film *Ticket to Write*, no one had done a documentary about the music magazines of the 60s and 70s: Rolling Stone, Creem, Hit Parader, Circus, etc. *Ticket to Write* really was the first.

“Likewise, no one has dissected the rock star,” Sandelin continued. “We’ve seen and listened to many, but we still haven’t fully analyzed the phenomenon. So the new film *Throttle the Sun* seeks to do that.”

Screening for the film will begin at the end of March, and Sandelin said he wants to put together a small focus group at Grossmont as well. Date and times are still to be announced. If you’re are interested in participating or learning more, then you can contact him at [raul.sandelin@gcccd.edu](mailto:raul.sandelin@gcccd.edu) or [raulsandelinfilms@gmail.com](mailto:raulsandelinfilms@gmail.com), as well as on Facebook and LinkedIn.



**“Much of the graphic imagery in *Throttle the Sun* focuses on Icarus, the mythological kid who tried to fly too close to the sun, until his wings melt and he fell to his death. So sometimes reality is stranger than fiction.”**

—Raul Sandelin



# USE YOUR WORDS

## Grossmont hosts the first Region 10 Poetry Slam Festival and Competition.

BY MARSELLA ALVAREZ | PHOTO BY DANIEL ZARAGOZA

**O**n Feb. 23, the Grossmont Umoja Program, along with Grossmont Communications Professor Roxanne Tuscany and Counselor James Canady, hosted the First Region 10 Poetry Slam Festival and Competition between the Grossmont, City, Southwestern, Mesa and MiraCosta college campuses.

The Umoja Program is a group dedicated to ensuring that African-American students and students of African descent can complete their intended certificate, associate degree or successful transfer to a four-year university. It is a program open to all students, though as a whole it concentrates on the college experiences of African and African-American students.

The program brought in three educators to assist in judging the competition. First is a member of both the Grossmont and Southwestern College faculty,

Furaha Saba. Saba is a communications professor at both campuses and is also the author of "These Stories Saved My Life." Also helping judge the event was Rachel "The Doc" Hastings, a professor at Southwestern College who teaches for the Communications and Social Sciences department, in addition to being a poet and playwright. Lastly, Don Love, a counselor and student services coordinator at both Southwestern and MiraCosta colleges, was the third judge for the poetry competition.

The theme for the competition was black issues and education, for which the contestants were given four minutes each to read their poem. The judges deducted one point from their score if a student went 15 seconds over their allocated time, with the highest score being a total of 10 points.

Though this competition was open to students from all San Diego community college campuses, there were only students from Grossmont and Southwestern present. The Grossmont team consisted of Ali Majed Aldhalimi, Trillianne Johnson and Jataun Gilbert, who presented his poetry first. The Southwestern team included Carver Bedeau, Peter Padilla and Akil Adisa, who was unable to attend the event.

There were several students from Southwestern College in attendance in order to show support for their campus team, though the biggest student turnout was naturally Grossmont students and staff. With all the encouragement from his fellow students, it is no wonder that competitor Ali Majed Aldhalimi won the competition, with the Grossmont team winning the competition as a whole.



L TO R: TRILLIANNE JOHNSON, XAVIER DANIELS, ROXANNE TUSCANY, ALI MAJED ALDHALIMI, SOUTHWESTERN STUDENT, JATAUN GILBERT AND JAMES CANADY.



## MEET AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

BY KRISTELLE VILLA

International student Eriko Ogawa, who comes from Yokohama, Japan, has been at Grossmont for two semesters.

Ogawa is currently finishing her general education, because part of the criteria of the program she's in is to finish her general studies first. Then, should she choose to go back to Japan to finish school, she can. While Ogawa does not know what she wants her major to be yet, she knows where she wants to be.

"After I graduate, I want to go to a university. I want to stay here," she said, adding that once she was done with school she also wanted to find a job in the United States and continue to live here.

Ogawa said she decided to be an international student, not just for education, but also to experience and learn about a new culture: "Graduating high school then going to a university is not really interesting. I wanted to study more English, and looked for a university in Japan, but none were good for me, and coming here, I can study another country's culture."

An adventurous spirit, Ogawa said that in her free time, she likes to hike or visit different hamburger restaurants with her friends. Although she said she has not visited many hamburger restaurants yet, so far her favorite is from the restaurant Islands.

Her advice to other international students is, "Don't be afraid." She also said to speak as much English as possible, and not to worry about making mistakes when speaking English.

[ BASEBALL CONT. FROM PAGE 8 ]

he left off, having another undefeated regular season by working even harder for his teammates. Leading the team with a 2.83 ERA over 29 innings, he said there's times "when I'll have two strikes on somebody, and I'll release the ball and already know it's a strike before it hits the catcher's mitt."

On the other side of the ball is sophomore third baseman Justen Burkey, who has been tearing the cover off the ball as of late. Early morning on March 3, Burkey broke out his finest pen and signed a letter of intent to play for Clark University in Iowa after receiving a scholarship.

Burkey drives from Valley Center to Grossmont to help Abshier's program and don the Griffin jersey. Having committed no fielding errors this season, Burkey takes pride in his defensive prowess at the "hot corner," or third base.

Burkey said he gained his inspiration for playing the sport from his dad who passed away when he was young. He's been carrying on his father's love for baseball, and is confident about the remainder of the season.

"If we can click like last year's team that ended the regular season on a 13-game win streak, we probably won't lose another game," he said.

"Last year we were only two games away from going to Fresno and we beat ourselves by committing too many errors."

For the remainder of the year, Burkey said he'll go up and compete during every at-bat and help his team in the field work toward a victory.

Grossmont's baseball team has set the bar high in terms of expectations and has plans to reach them at the state championship in Fresno, California, in May. The next home game for Coach Abshier and company is against Southwestern on Friday, March 10, at noon.



## GET A PEER MENTOR

Utilizing peer mentoring is a tremendous way to **help your college career.**

You will be matched with students leaders who can **help make your college experience a successful one.**

Connect with a peer mentor by texting **81010** with the message **@viarapida** (wait for response and then follow instructions).

For more information, visit <http://goog.gl/JgXfL0> or scan the QR code below.





## FEELING HEALTHY?

Grossmont celebrating health and its nursing program.

This year marks the 50-year anniversary of Grossmont's nursing program. To celebrate, the campus is having an open house on Saturday, March 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Health Sciences Complex.

The event will feature guest speaker and president of the California Board of Registered Nursing, Michael Deangelo Jackson at 2 p.m. There will also be classroom tours, viewing interactive simulation labs and an opportunity to connect with current and former students and faculty, college, community and healthcare partners.

On Wednesday, March 15, Grossmont is also hosting its Health & Wellness Fair in the main quad. The free event is sponsored by Student Health Services. Highlights include fitness challenges, yoga classes, a self-defense demonstration and stress reduction ideas, as well as tips on relationship safety.

—SYMON GORO

## INTERNATIONAL CLUB SCHEDULE

COMPILED BY KRISTELLE VILLA

This semester, International Club is having some exciting field trips and days to sit back, relax and enjoy some coffee with other club members.

### FIELD TRIPS

#### Bonfire

Friday, March 24  
1 to 9 p.m.  
South Mission Beach

#### Prom Party

Saturday, April 15  
Griffin Center

#### Bus Trips to Julian

Saturday, April 1 and 9  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

#### Movie Night

Friday, May 5  
5 to 9 p.m.  
Building 26, Room 220

#### Beach Cleanup

Saturday, May 13  
9 to 11 a.m.  
Ocean Beach Pier

#### Grad Party

Friday, May 19  
3 to 9 p.m.  
South Mission Beach

### COFFEE BREAKS

Wednesdays  
March 15  
April 5  
April 19  
May 24  
2 to 5 p.m.  
Building 21, Room 235



ASGC  
ELECTIONS  
APRIL 4-5

## WE NEED YOU

The Associated Students of Grossmont College and Grossmont College Student Trustee election will be held April 4 and 5. Applications for students interested in running for office are currently being accepted.

Applying offers students a chance to gain leadership experience and learn how to represent their constituents. It will also give members a chance to make changes and improvement to Grossmont.

Student leaders will get to learn the inner workings of the college and the district, and represent about 1,000 students. Earning a position in the ASGC will also add to skills that can be put on a resume.

Board meetings will be held every Thursday, from 8 to 9:20 a.m. in the ASGC Board Room. Applications are available at the Office of Student Affairs (60-204).

—KRISTELLE VILLA


Ride together.



Monthly TRANSIT PASS




Exclusive student discount.  
Unlimited rides all month long.

---

\$57.60 | On sale at the Activities Window *(Cash Only)*

sdmts.com/college  
Current, valid college student picture ID required.  
No replacements for lost, voided or stolen stickers.






# WHAT'S YOUR GOOD LUCK CHARM?

BY SUMMIT STAFF



**Marsella Alvarez**

My good luck charm is an actual charm of a donut that I got as a Christmas present from a friend. I attached it to my backpack and rubbed it before a test as a joke to another friend — and got an A. Now I keep it on there and rub it before every test or exam I take.



**Alyssa Blackhurst**

On special occasions or outings, I will wear the ring-necklace that character Nathan Drake has in the video game series *Uncharted*. "Sic Parvis Magna" is engraved in the ring, which means "greatness from small beginnings" in Latin.



**Kyle Cascante**

Whatever camera I have on me tends to be my good luck charm due to the confidence shooting photographs gives me.



**Symon Goro**

The closest thing I have to a good luck charm is probably a key-chain of one of my favorite fighting game characters, Cerebella, because it's cute and puts a smile on my face.



**Vinny Lavalsiti**

Everyday at school I bring my great grandfather's old golf tees with me or I will carry his onyx ring. My dad gave them to me my senior year of high school and on big test days or anytime I'm need of some good luck, I will put the tees in my pocket and wear his Italian onyx ring.



**Kristelle Villa**

My good luck charm is a coexist necklace I have, I wear it when I am stressed or worried about a test or big assignment. When I wear the necklace and fidget with it, it helps to calm me down and focus, which then helps me do well on the test or assignment.