

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | DECEMBER 2019



*In With
the New*

ILLUSTRATION BY KARINA KILBER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 The Front Stuff**
Editorial, corrections, crime log, campus calendar and Brain Boost.
- 6 Finals Week**
For those feeling stressed out, here are some tips to help prepare for your upcoming tests.
- 7 Christmas Controversy Continues**
The debate over the legitimacy of the "war on Christmas" continues.
- 8 *Non-Appetit?***
The Griffin Grill is gradually becoming a less-popular option among Grossmont students. Here's why.
- 9 Erica Olmos**
This Career Services program coordinator can help you find a job.
- 10 Without Further Adieu, the New PVAC... Almost**
After three years of construction, the new Performing and Visual Arts Center was unveiled for the Dance Department's fall concert.
- 11 Retirement: A Kathy Meyer Story**
After 31 years, the Dance Department chair extends her retirement to spring to watch her department return home to Grossmont.
- 13 Student Art Show**
Hyde Gallery closes up the year with its semesterly student show.
- 13 A Grossmont Tragedy**
Eurydice brings tear-jerker to Stagehouse Theatre.
- 14 Sustainability for a Brighter Future**
Global warming, climate change, mass waste, overpopulation, pollution, wildlife extinction, deforestation and more dire issues contribute to today's environmental woes.
- 17 Briefs**
Speech and Debate, Optional Practical Training, Home Hoops and puzzle solutions.
- 18 Volleyball Dominates**
The Griffins tip off the playoffs with a 3-0 victory at G-House.
- 19 Reel Talk: Sidekicks**
Let's take a look at a few strong supporting performances that stole the show.
- 20 December: Every Day's a Holiday**



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10



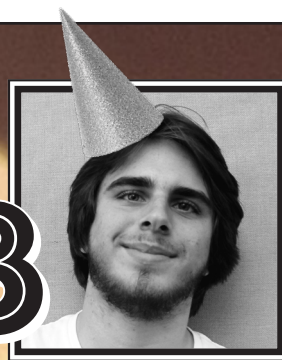
Beginning in the new year, I plan on at least reading 10 books before July hits; hopefully I read even more before 2020 ends. – **MATISSE SANCHEZ**

9



I'm going sideline my jargon and make no more than nine sports analogies per day. – **SHARISS COHEE**

8



I plan to watch eight movies a week to expand my film exposure, and to stop getting eight shots of espresso over ice and switch to only eight Nitros a week. – **DONOVAN HOLLAND**

7



For 2020, I will save up my money to buy a Mickey Mantle #7 jersey. – **AUSTIN PEREGUD**

6



Starting in 2020, I resolve to prioritize I work on six duties a day. Either that being in school or out of school. – **SARA ROTT**

5



In 2020, I resolve to procrastinate no more than five times... I am no doubt going to break this resolution. – **ANDREW FINLEY**

4



I resolve not to giggle at silly things no less than four times every waking hour; however, I am allowed to exceed this as needed. – **SANDI WESTRAND**

3



I will drink less than three coffees a day, eat Taco Bell less than three times a week, and watch less than three episodes on Netflix a day. – **JASMINE OSUNA**

2



Starting this year, I will do exercises twice a week to get rid of my belly fat, thigh fat, face fat, neck fat, and any other kinds of fat! – **AMMIE PHAN**

1



To kickoff 2020, I am going to finish one (just one!) screenplay. Ironically this was also my resolution last year. – **ANTONIO CHAMBERLAIN**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

– FROM THE SUMMIT STAFF

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.



THANKS FOR READING

With commencement of the semester as well as the calendar year, the essence of change is evident in the fall air. While change in life is necessary, that's not to say it's not bittersweet and slightly terrifying.

The stories in this issue of *The Summit* are full of beautiful new beginnings, as well as promising goodbyes, reflecting as well the transitions of the contributors creating the issue. After three semesters of proudly serving as editor-in-chief of *The Summit*, I'm grateful and saddened that my time as editor has come to its conclusion.

The experiences, relationships and learning I gained from this tremendous opportunity will forever be cherished. *The Summit* has not only been a class, but has become a part of my identity and holds a family and team bond for which I am ever so grateful. Being a part of *The Summit* has not only taught me vital lessons of journalism, such as dreaded deadlines, but life as well; especially in communicating with people and sincerely listening to their words.

I am especially grateful to have had the privilege to learn from *Summit* advisor Jeanette Calo as a guide and mentor over the last year and a half. Her hard work, dedication and overall compassion have not only allowed myself to grow in my journalism skills, but as an overall individual.

Thank you for reading, *Summit* friends and fellow Griffins!

Shariisse Cohee
Shariisse Cohee, Editor-in-Chief

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS: November Issue

Page 13: Several errors were identified in our feature story on the restrooms at Grossmont College:

- *The Summit* cannot confirm a conversation attributed to Kelly White occurred. Therefore, we cannot stand behind several quotations ascribed to White and regret they were printed.
- One of the quotations inaccurately attributed to White contained several factual errors. Grossmont College does not have "janitors"; it has custodial and maintenance workers of various levels of seniority. The quotation incorrectly said Grossmont has three custodians during the day and 30 custodians for overnight shifts. According to Loren Holmquist, director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations at Grossmont, from Monday to Friday, there are no custodians on campus between 6:30 a.m. and noon. One custodian comes on campus from noon to 8:30 p.m., and three between 4 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. in Building 10, the Child Development Center and district services. Between 10 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., there are 18 custodians on campus. There are no custodians on campus on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Holmquist clarified that Grossmont is short 12 custodians "per state calculations"; he said he has requested 12 new positions. Two will be coming in for the new Performing and Visual Arts Center; the rest of the positions will "be determined at a later time."
- Kenneth Roberge's title was incorrect; he is a custodian.
- A quote attributed to Colleen Parsons was misidentified. The correct attribution was Juliette Harrington, a health services specialist, who was providing temporary staff support in Campus Facilities and Operations.
- An image of the restrooms was incorrectly labeled. The image labeled "Building 31" was actually taken in a restroom in Building 30.

Page 15: The name of a Grossmont nurse was misspelled. The correct spelling is Elaine Adlam.

Page 17: The name of the basketball coach was misspelled. The correct spelling is Karen Caires.

At *The Summit*, we are very concerned with the quality of our journalism. If you spot a factual error, please contact us at summit@gcccd.edu.



Grossmont's Campus and Parking Services team, also known as CAPS, is dedicated to ensuring safety among all students and faculty at the college. These events on campus were among those noted on the crime log* for the month of October.

- **Hit-and-Run:** Four hit-and-runs were reported on Grossmont campus.
- **Assault:** Deputies responded to a report of battery involving two students; the investigation is ongoing.
- **Theft:** One possible cell phone theft occurred.
- **Disturbances:** Deputies responded to a suicidal student investigation, and a follow-up on the student also took place. Deputies also responded to an argument at the football field, another at Building 53, a disturbance at Building 24 and another disturbance outside Building 51. One disturbance occurred also in the parking structure, where a non-student was arrested on domestic violence charges.
- **Vandalism:** One vehicle was vandalized in November.
- **Suspicious Persons:** One suspicious person was reported in the library. Deputies gave the person a warning.
- **Threats:** Deputies investigated a "discharge of firearm" radio call, which was revealed to be the construction crew using power tools.

* *The Clery Act* is a federal statute requiring colleges participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information. A daily crime log is posted every Friday to Grossmont's website, allowing the public to view the most recent information.

CAMPUS CAL

COMPILED BY ANDREW FINLEY

DEC. 6-8: Grossmont Invitational: Men's Basketball (Main Gym)

DEC. 8: Grossmont Guitar Ensemble, 1 to 3 p.m. (26-220)

DEC. 9: Fall Reading Series: New Voices Reading, 7 to 8:15 p.m. (Griffin Gate)

DEC. 10: Governing Board Meeting, 5:15 to 8 p.m. (Griffin Gate)

DEC. 10-16: Final Exams

DEC. 16: END OF SEMESTER

DEC. 17: Basic Needs Fair, 10 to 2 p.m. (Main Quad)

DEC. 17-19: 32nd Annual Grossmont College Tournament: Women's Basketball (Main Gym)

DEC. 24 - JAN. 1: Campus Closed

JAN. 2: Intersession Begins

JAN. 3: Men's Basketball vs. Miramar, 6 p.m. (Main Gym)

JAN. 27: Spring Semester Begins

FEB. 7: Next Issue of *The Summit* hits newsstands

* Subject to change; visit grossmont.edu for latest info.

HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH

BY AUSTIN PEREGUD

C O O K I E S Q U S
A H P W O T R G P V
N O R T H P O L E G
D F E I V F D V G N
Y G S A S V A S G E
C U E V A T I I I W
A S N Q N B M P F Y
N V T E T S S A T E
E L S X A I T V S A
R E I N D E E R G R

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

• COOKIES • PRESENTS • REINDEER
• CANDY CANE • SANTA • GIFTS
• NORTH POLE • CHRISTMAS • NEW YEAR

[SOLUTION ON PAGE 17]

BRAIN BOOST

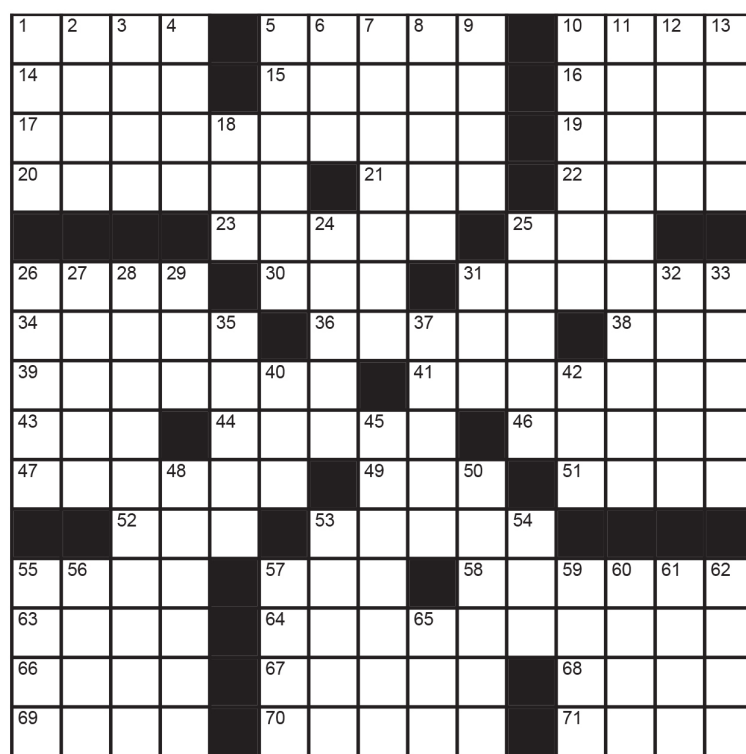
CEREBRAL MATTERS: Train your brain with puzzles.

[SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 17]

▼ CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Cronies
- 5 Manacles
- 10 Surrounded by
- 14 Auth. unknown
- 15 Lagoon surrounder
- 16 Without a doubt
- 17 Restaurant type
- 19 "Quit it!"
- 20 Chiang Kai-shek's capital
- 21 Conclude
- 22 Family member
- 23 Apprehensive feeling
- 25 Itinerary word
- 26 Liquefy
- 30 Miner's load
- 31 Worked the land
- 34 First-stringers
- 36 Auspices
- 38 Swelter
- 39 Tribal V.I.P.'s
- 41 Bon vivant
- 43 Lend a hand
- 44 Chicken
- 46 Copier need
- 47 Polar sight
- 49 Toupee, slangily
- 51 Chances
- 52 Greek consonant
- 53 Assail
- 55 Model
- 57 Implore
- 58 Prove wrong
- 63 Distress signal
- 64 Indian Ocean arm
- 66 Poker holding
- 67 Andrea Doria's domain
- 68 Broadcasts



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- 69 Nile reptiles
- 70 Bar seat
- 71 Covet

Down

- 1 Actor's goal
- 2 Dwarf buffalo
- 3 French novelist Pierre
- 4 Cut short
- 5 Vegas attraction
- 6 Shoshonean
- 7 Divine
- 8 City near Detroit
- 9 Husky burden
- 10 Tear into
- 11 Investment choice
- 12 Pressing need?
- 13 Cabinet div.
- 18 Vacation locale, with "the"
- 24 Comprehend
- 25 Call upon
- 26 Kenyan tribesman
- 27 Body of values
- 28 General's forte
- 29 Flat hat
- 31 Tout's offering
- 32 Guessed wrong
- 33 Fabric workers
- 35 Brazilian palm, coco de ____
- 37 Taxonomic group
- 40 Forty winks
- 42 Bill and ____
- 45 Sauce ingredient
- 48 Toast word
- 50 Agreeable
- 53 Special Forces cap
- 54 Kind of party
- 55 Sobriquet for Haydn
- 56 Wood sorrels
- 57 Captures
- 59 Nibble away
- 60 Java is in it
- 61 Beach bird
- 62 Bridge position
- 65 Ghost's cry

TRIVIA: ODDS AND ENDS ▼

1. What is the longest running television game show?
(a) Jeopardy (b) Price is Right (c) Wheel of Fortune
2. What Disneyland ride has a basketball court hidden inside?
(a) Space Mountain (b) It's a Small World (c) Matterhorn
3. What U.S. president paid off the entire national debt?
(a) Andrew Jackson (b) Calvin Coolidge (c) James Monroe
4. What NFL quarterback has been to the most Super Bowls?
(a) Joe Montana (b) John Elway (c) Tom Brady
5. Approximately how many Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941?
(a) 125 (b) 360 (c) 230
6. The first ticker tape parade celebrated what?
(a) Lindbergh's transatlantic flight (b) Statue of Liberty dedication (c) NY Yankees World Series win
7. Who organized the Boston Tea Party in 1773?
(a) Paul Revere (b) Patrick Henry (c) Samuel Adams
8. Coulrophobia is an extreme fear of what?
(a) Clowns (b) Snow (c) Clocks
9. When was the Socialist Party of America founded?
(a) 1923 (b) 1901 (c) 1936
10. What U.S. president banned Christmas trees in the White House?
(a) Theodore Roosevelt (b) Ulysses S. Grant (c) James Polk

FINALS WEEK

STORY, IMAGES AND LAYOUT BY AUSTIN PEREGUD

As the semester comes to an end, students are left with one final quest: surviving finals week. Dec. 10-16 is finals at Grossmont College so be prepared for hard-to-find parking spots as well as traffic coming in and out of the school. To find out what day and time your finals are, students can check in their syllabi or visit grossmont.edu. For many, if not all students, this is a very stressful time of the year. All of the hard work that has built up over the semester, may come down to the final week.



For those who are feeling stressed out, here are some tips from other students as well as school services provided to help prepare for your upcoming tests.

TIP #1

PLAN AHEAD/ MAKE A SCHEDULE

Planning ahead of what to prepare for the upcoming finals week is one of the best ways to keep yourself organized. Keeping a planner is a great tool to have.

TIP #4

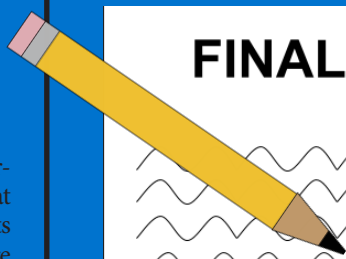
TAKE A LOT OF BREAKS

It is going to be difficult and overwhelming to memorize everything all at once. Taking breaks in between subjects could help you recharge and relax before finals week.

TIP #2

GET ENOUGH REST AND SLEEP

Getting rest and at least eight hours of sleep helps students, mentally and physically, perform better on tests. Plus, taking a break in between studying is a good way to clear your mind so you're not overwhelming yourself.



FINALS

TIP #3

HAVE A GOOD BREAKFAST

According to WebMD.com, having a well-balanced breakfast is good for your health and it helps with better memory and concentration when you are taking your test.

TIP #5

MAKE UP PRACTICE TESTS

Take your notes and create a few tests out of them, it can sharpen your mind and keep you ready to go for finals. 📖

NEW CHANCELLOR

Dr. Lynn Neault has been selected to be the chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

The Governing Board unanimously selected Neault, who was previously the vice chancellor of Student Services at the San Diego Community College District. She will begin her new position in January.

Neault's contract will be presented to the board in the December Governing Board meeting. This contract determines how long she will stay on as chancellor before the board has to renew her contract in order for her to stay on.

Neault has praised the district's work toward inclusion, citing Grossmont's intent to hire a new full-time professor of African-American Studies and Grossmont College President Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh's leadership in diversity hiring.

—JASMINE OSUNA



THEATER AUDITIONS

Grossmont College's Theatre Department will be holding joint auditions for their upcoming spring productions of *Clybourne Park* and *Golden Boy*. These auditions are open to all students, regardless of acting experience or having previously taken acting courses at Grossmont.

The auditions will begin Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. in the week prior to the start of the spring semester.

In order to audition, students must also schedule an appointment time as well by calling 619-644-7234. Actors must prepare a one-minute dramatic monologue to perform in front of the directors of the respective productions.

Clybourne Park, directed by Jeannette Thomas, follows two separate families in two different time periods, and out of two different races. The story juggles themes of the past issues of redlining and the more modern-day phase of gentrification. *Golden Boy*, which will be directed by Brian Rickel, follows a musician-turned-prizefighter whose newfound money and fame can't heal the despair in his heart.

Rehearsals for *Clybourne Park* will begin in late January and run until mid-March, and rehearsals for *Golden Boy* will begin in mid-March 2020 and run through early May.

For more details regarding auditions and productions, stop by the box office in Building 22A. —ANTONIO CHAMBERLAIN



ILLUSTRATION BY
AMMIE PHAN

Christmas Controversy Continues

STORY AND LAYOUT
BY JASMINE OSUNA

The debate over the legitimacy of the “war on Christmas” continues.

When Donald Trump spoke at the Values Voters Summit in October 2017, he said, “We’re getting near that beautiful Christmas season that people don’t talk about anymore. They don’t use the word ‘Christmas’ cause it’s not politically correct. You go department stores and they’ll say, ‘Happy New Year,’ or

antagonism toward the holiday.” Former Fox anchor Bill O’Reilly then further popularized the “War on Christmas” in our modern culture. He used his platform to tell the public a war is being waged against Christmas. The assailants were liberals who were attempting to oppress Christian Americans. O’Reilly would list the “nice” stores who used “Merry Christmas” in their advertisements and the “naughty” stores who didn’t. While O’Reilly is no longer on Fox News due to several sexual assault allegations, the news company continues to cover this story.

Christianity in America, many focusing on Christmas. These pamphlets, along with other anti-Semitic pamphlets, were collected under the title, “The International Jew: The World’s Foremost Problem.”

Ford complained of Christmas cards not making clear the holiday was about the birth of Jesus, the removal of mentioning Jesus during Christmas activities and department stores for secularizing Christmas. Since he believed Jewish people were secretly behind everything he held discontent for, he blamed them for what he saw as problems. This is the thesis of this collection.

While those who now promote the idea of the “war on Christmas” are not being blatantly anti-Semitic as Ford, their argument that Christmas is being attacked by ‘others’ bares a troubling resemblance to Ford’s arguments.✎

“It’s a fictional narrative.”

-CARLOS CONTRERAS

they’ll say other things, and it’ll be red, they have it painted, but they don’t say, well guess what? We’re saying, ‘Merry Christmas’ again.”

After Trump won the election but before his inauguration, he promised supporters in Cedar Rapids, Michigan, department stores would start saying “Merry Christmas” again. It has become a holiday tradition for Trump to bring up the concept of the “war on Christmas.”

“I think its an attempt to communicate with the Fox News audience, the right of center sector of the United States that feel that this is part of a culture war that some people may resent that fact that America has always been a diverse country, and when one says, ‘Happy holidays,’ for example, it’s a sentiment of ... acknowledging Christmas and in some ways acknowledging there are other holidays like Hanukkah,” said Carlos Contreras, a Grossmont history professor. “The whole idea that there is some concerted effort to muscle the Christianity part of the way we celebrate Christmas; I think it’s a fictional narrative, I think it’s intended to gin up the base because there is no ‘war on Christmas.”

According to Dan Cassino, a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University who spoke to *The New York Times* in 2016, Fox News promoted a 2005 book that “alleged liberal

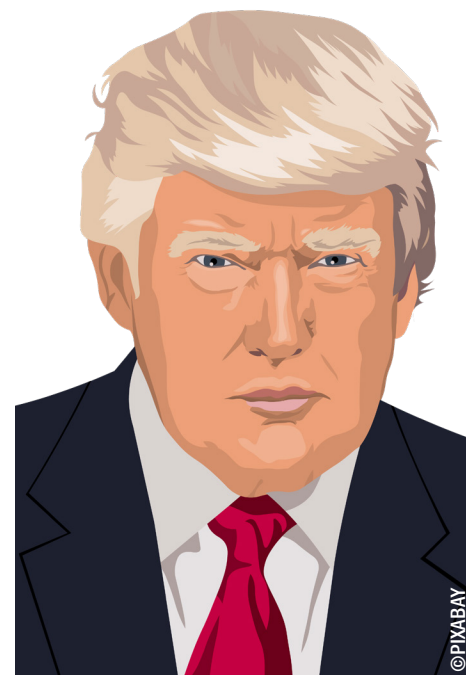
In 2017, Fox News hosted panelist Vince Coglianese, the editorial director for *The Daily Caller*, to discuss if Trump is winning the “war on Christmas.” Coglianese said: “Stop taking Christ out of Christmas. I mean, really, the whole holiday season really revolves around December 25th, Christ’s birthday. And people like to be reminded of that and when they hear Donald Trump say, ‘Merry Christmas.’

“It really is not about necessarily about just the “war on Christmas,” Coglianese continued. “It’s about the war on Christianity. They’d like to make sure Christianity continues to be a dominant force in America, because you know it has been since our founding.”

The news channel also has a history for critiquing Starbucks for not putting “Merry Christmas” or Christian iconography on their cup. They began this year’s coverage of Starbucks’ holiday cups on their website in early November.

“I think [Starbucks’ holiday cups are] fine because there’s some people that are in different religions,” said Christina Rogers, a Christian student at Grossmont, “It’s just a neutral color.”

In the 1920s, Henry Ford wrote many pamphlets that accused American Jews of engaging in a conspiracy to abolish



NON APPETIT?

The Griffin Grill is gradually becoming a less-popular option among Grossmont students. Here's why.

STORY AND PHOTO BY DONOVAN HOLLAND
LAYOUT BY KARINA KILBER

In many ways, Grossmont College's campus works like its own miniature city. While not as large as SDSU or USD, Grossmont makes up for this by running like a well-oiled machine. Like most cities, Grossmont has its residents and leaders, peacekeepers and legislators—the students, professors, sheriff's deputies and deans.

The students make up most of the population, and the staff, like workers in a city, all have their own area of expertise. Grossmont also contains an array of buildings, which all work together to play their part in keeping the city running. Each building on campus plays a part in offering something valuable to students, which makes the Griffin Grill's existence at its current state something of a paradox.

As far as community college food options go, Griffin Grill has one job, and it's pretty simple. Being the only eatery on campus, the grill should be able to provide basic sustenance to students at a reasonable price, while following the most rudimentary of health codes. This is due to the simple fact that Grossmont Community College is exactly that: A community college.

Though we as students don't require fine dining, we prefer that the food made available to us here on campus, be cooked and appetizing. Also, Grossmont has a discounted tuition cost from a conventional university—wouldn't it make sense for the food to be discounted as well?

Grossmont College's Griffin Grill essentially falls short of greatness in these categories.

Firstly, the conditions of the food are rather grim. The pre-made food, such as the chicken tenders, pizza, french fries and the pasta-bowls are made pretty much after someone takes a food item, which is every so often. This being the case, specially requesting the food be made fresh would undoubtedly be the better way to go.

However, the food normally simply sits under heat lamps for seemingly hours on end until someone decides to snag one of the items.

That breakfast burrito you just scarfed down? It has probably been sitting under a heat lamp for quite a bit, but when one hasn't eaten all day and has a measly 10 minutes between classes, these unsavory food conditions become less and less concerning to a famished student. Sure, Griffin Grill might utilize quality ingredients, but the end result sits out so long, it might as well be a side dish left out to spoil in the sun at a birthday party.

Several students who frequent Griffin Gate, the building that houses the grill, shared their concerns.

"The texture of the food looks kind of stale, and it collects this smell the longer it sits under the heat lamp," said Thomas Shordon, Grossmont student and patron of the grill. "I like to hang around Griffin



Gate in the time between classes, but the smell just makes me feel sick as soon as I stroll in."

If the unremarkable quality of the final product was justified with an unremarkable price tag, that would be one thing. An average meal at Griffin Grill will set a hardworking student back about \$6, and that's for the previously-mentioned lamp-heated meals.

A freshly made sandwich, an arguably better product according to some students, will cost upward of \$7. Sure, that may also be the average price of hot food across SDSU, but there are significant differences.

SDSU's cafeteria houses reputable fast food names such as Subway, Panda Express, Rubio's and Starbucks, which many people see as a step up in terms of taste and reputation.

Community college is the most reasonable option for fixed income students, but being faced with expensive food every day is bound to cause unnecessary stress and alienation for less-fortunate students. However, it is worth mentioning the staff at Griffin Grill will give a 10% discount to campus personnel as long as a staff ID is shown.

It's well-known college students lack time for much besides work and school. With this in mind, it's incredibly destructive to a student's health and well-being for the only food option in close proximity to be charging twice what they should be for a meal.

"I've been coming to Grossmont for over four years," Student Savannah O'Toole said. "The food has risen in price so much over the time I've been

"The texture of the food looks kind of stale, and it collects this smell the longer it sits under the heat lamp."

—Thomas Shordon

attending that I can't afford to eat it anymore. Grossmont needs to cater to low-income students and accommodate them. The whole point of having a grill on campus should be to make food accessible."

The average student most likely doesn't have a free 20 minutes between classes to drive over to Taco Bell or Jack-In-The-Box for more affordable options—and the average student doesn't want to give up their hard-earned parking space on campus. Students are still frequenting the Griffin Grill, due to one thing: supply and demand. Griffin Grill is the only place on all of the Grossmont College campus to get a hot meal. With this in mind, why are the prices set at these lofty numbers?

"The way the structure works is that Sodexo is the [GRILL CONT. ON PAGE 16]



ERICA OLMOS

"I match your skills and your personalities with what employers are looking for."
STORY, PHOTO AND LAYOUT BY AMMIE PHAN

During my first semester at Grossmont College, I came to the Career Center hoping to find a job on campus. I provided my information, built a resume, came home and waited for any calls regarding an employment interview. A year later, a colleague asked me: "Have you seen Erica in the Career Center? She helped me with the mock interview, so I can have this job."

Erica? Mock interview? I had not heard about this before. Later on, I met more colleagues coming from different countries, yet they all had one thing in common: They all knew Erica.

"Who is she?" I wondered. So, I decided to meet Erica to find out what is special about her.

A person who loves helping people.

Erica Olmos, Career Services program coordinator and a part of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development, came on board to the Career Center in early 2017.

Filling many different positions, from director for the Miss Mexican-American Pageant in her hometown in central California to where she is now, Olmos has learned at a very young age how to work with people from different backgrounds, ages or cultures.

"I've done a little bit of everything, but it's always involving people. I absolutely love to help people," Olmos said.

"I very much enjoy conducting workshops, being in front of a group. My greatest, most ultimate goal, or reward – I should say – is to see my students realizing their dreams and reaching their educational goals," she continued.

When receiving student phone calls or emails telling her that they got the job, Olmos admitted that it is like a "validation" for her work. "That is just the most gratifying feeling ever," she said. "It's when I do get my students calling and telling me 'Oh my God, thanks to your tips, I got that job interview,' or, 'Oh my God, I'm so happy that we conducted the mock interview.'"

At Grossmont College, Olmos conducts many workshops at the Career Center, and has been conducting about 90% of the 21st century skills workshops for fall 2019, focusing mainly on preparing students for interviews, building a resume and customer service.

A helpful resource for international student workers.

Since 2017, Olmos has conducted many mock interviews – an emulation of a job interview used for training purposes – for students, including international ones.

"Here in the Career Center, I'm the only one that conducts mock interviews," she said, adding that resumes need to go through first-time review by career ambassadors.

"The second resume review comes to me,"

Olmos continued, "those I could either conduct a meeting with them in person, over email or over the phone."

Carolina Lazzarotto, a student working at the International Counseling Office, described her experience with Olmos before she was hired for her current job: "She made sure that I understood everything she said; [she] also pointed out my strong and weak points."

Nhi Nguyen, a student worker at Admissions and Records, said she was looking for someone who could help her with the mock interview after getting an interview notification from Admissions. "Because Vietnamese interview style is different than American style, so I wondered if there is any mock interview I can do. Then, when I went to a workshop, I heard about Erica," she said.

Nguyen added that she still remembers one detail Olmos told her regarding preparing before the interview: "You have to even clean up your car in case somebody might see it and it will affect their impression about you."

By meeting Olmos, students can have a chance to improve their resumes to meet American standards. Bryan Lam, international student specialist, has many student workers in the International Counseling Office. "International students might not fully understand what is required for them to get a job in the United States," he said.

"Resumes are like fashion trends, so we have to stay up-to-date with what employers are currently working for," Olmos said.

Eunjung Kim, a student worker from South Korea, said she learned how to write an effective resume in American style thanks to coming to Olmos' workshop, pointing out, "It's an important first step to prepare your work."

Lam said, "I have sent numerous students to meet with Erica, and she has done an amazing job preparing those students for the world of work in the United States."

"Having personally been on interview committees to those that have gone through Erica's mock interview, I know first-hand how well prepared those students are," he continued, adding that the students who have done the mock interview usually provide thoughtful answers and are well-structured.

A "matchmaker."

"I'm a matchmaker," Olmos said. "I match your skills and your personalities with what employers are looking for."

She said she tells her employers that she "always sends quality, not quantity," so that she has a list of repeating customers and employers for years.

"There's no science behind it. You do your homework and do it well, that's all you have to do," she added.

She said she always tells students when they get the jobs that she is the one providing tools to them, and it's up to them to make it happen to build their confidence in what they do.

"I had a local IT company that hired two of our Grossmont students in IT, and about three weeks ago they emailed me saying, 'I'm ready for another one, give me a fantastic one like the first two,' and I said, 'I got the candidate for you,'" Olmos said, revealing that the student she recommended got an interview and was offered an internship a week later.

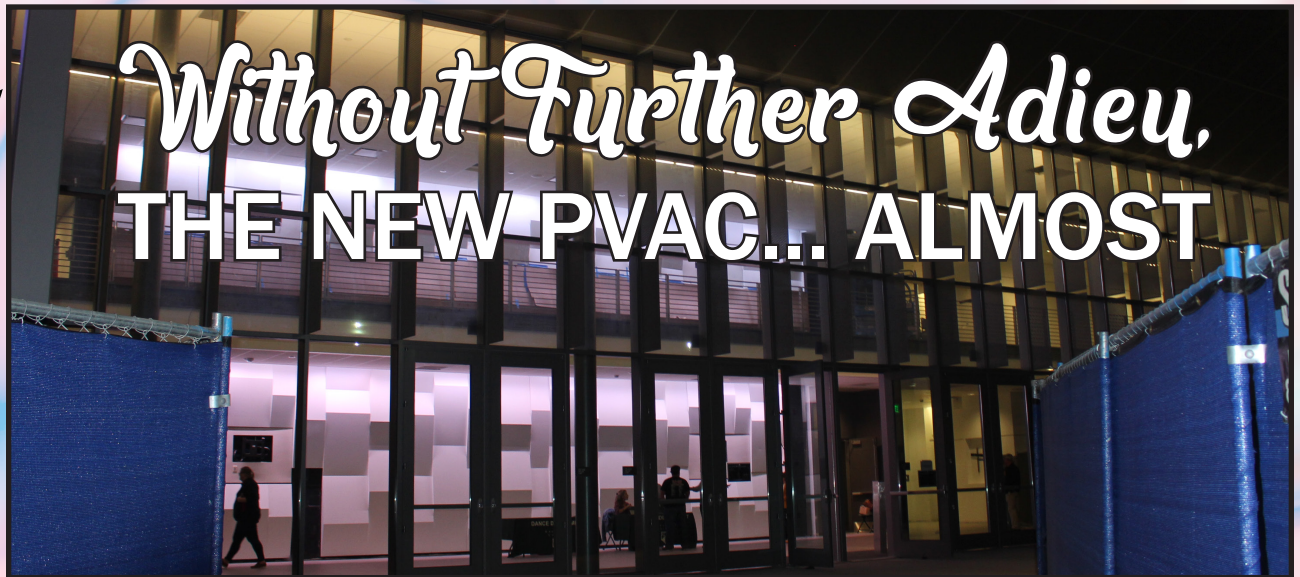
Since Olmos has been at Grossmont, she sees an average of three students a week, equivalently around 50 students per semester. For the Griffin Works Internship program, Olmos has placed 70% of the students in paid internships in the one year that she has chaired the program.

Olmos said her dream one day is that the workshops in the Career Center would be mandatory for every student who comes to Grossmont. She said she believes that would make students better qualified candidates and more prepared, and the students "will have better ideas about what their career path should look like."

Someone you should meet.

This semester is coming to an end, and many students are ready to graduate and start looking for a job, especially for international students.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is one of the options after graduation for them. "They are in a [OLMOS CONT. ON PAGE 16]



Without Further Adieu, THE NEW PVAC... ALMOST

STORY, PHOTOS AND LAYOUT BY SHARISSE COHEE

After three years of construction, the new Performing and Visual Arts Center was unveiled for the Dance Department's fall concert, appropriately titled *Breaking Boundaries*.

Since construction began December 2017, the enormous land-mass north of Parking Lot 1 – the one that has impeded pathways and disrupted parking, and is constantly flooded with jack-hammering – is now site to a transformed Performing and Visual Arts Center (PVAC). The complex will hold a plethora of amenities, including an impressive performance theater able to seat 390 patrons, as well as house the new Hyde Gallery.

While this massive, 38,680-square-foot structure was originally slated for completion earlier this semester, unfavorable weather conditions and the discovery of unforeseen underground material contributed to the postponement, which is now marked for spring 2020.

When one possesses the passion of a dancer though, there is no missing your mark, and no matter rain, shine, Bobcat bulldozers or cranes, the show must go on. That, and the fact that the Dance Department's fall November concert series, *Breaking Boundaries*, had already been booked in the new PVAC when slated completion was previously set for this semester. The Dance Department's home away from home had been the Ray and Joan Kroc Center in La Mesa for the last eight years, and while the Kroc Center played hospitable to the department, there were still fees involved when renting the establishment.

Unfortunately, when it became more and more evident that construction was behind deadline for the concert's opening night, it was already too late to attempt to book the Kroc Center. Instead of taking a bow, members of the Dance Department did

what they know how to do best: Just dance.

They just danced on the new Marley-floored stage, as the PVAC held a soft-opening Nov. 14-16, featuring four dance performances in the almost-ready theater. The department broke boundaries figuratively, by way of dance, and literally, by being the first to breakdown the blue construction fence and perform in the new facility.



The lobby of the almost-ready Performing and Visual Arts Center during opening night of *Breaking Boundaries*.

"I love this new facility. It's still being developed but, like the lighting when you see it coming from Grossmont College going into the lot, you're like, 'What is this magical building?' It's just so radiant and it's so there," Rainer Martinez, former Grossmont student and Dance major said.

Martinez currently studies dance at SDSU and was in attendance for the sold-out opening night of *Breaking Boundaries*. "The Dance Department is here at Grossmont College and were doing really big

things and especially with this new facility, you're just going to see dance everywhere," he said.

The in-and-out fading of pink, purple and blue pastel lights illuminated throughout the lobby and roof of the two-story complex and were pleasantly visible through the glass paneled walls surrounding the perimeter of the structure. The pattern of lights matched identically to those that shine from the tall tower of Griffin Gate, which those of us whom have taken night classes might recognize, creating a sense of cohesiveness throughout the campus. [PVAC CONT. ON PAGE 12]



Kathy Meyer embraces Grossmont Dance Alumna Anjanette Maraya-Ramney.

RETIREMENT

A KATHY MEYER STORY



After 31 years, Dance Department Chair Kathy Meyer extends her retirement to spring to watch her department return home to Grossmont.

STORY AND PHOTO BY SARA ROTT

Kathy Meyer has been working at Grossmont for 31 years, doing everything she can to make the Dance Department thrive. Meyer is scheduled to retire in the spring of 2020; she has extended her stay due to the building of the new theater.

"That was a huge motivator for me to stay because I wanted to be in there for at least one student concert, and then next semester will be the faculty concert and that will be the last one, before I kind of pass on the reigns to someone else," Meyer said.

Before she stepped onto the Grossmont campus, Meyer was working, teaching and dancing in the LA/Orange County area. When she went through a divorce and with two small children, she needed to find stability in her life. Her love of San Diego brought her to find work at Grossmont.

"I was a little hesitant because I was coming up just dancing and kind of teaching at a higher level," Meyer said, referring to when she taught at Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Long Beach.

"I noticed that Grossmont was an environment where the students were eager to learn," she continued.

Meyer got the job of full-time dance instructor in August 1989. "I became chair, actually when I was interviewed," Meyer said.

She served as chair from 1991 to 2013, then served as co-chair with dance instructor and faculty, David Mullen and resumed her position in 2017.

From then on, the department expanded; it is twice the size it was compared to when Meyer started, adding more classes and concerts.

"She's a partner," Mullen said. "We've been working side by side and co-administering the department. I've learned a ton from Kathy and she's been a really huge influence."

In her many years of teaching dance classes, she observed students were getting injured and there was no proper care for dancers. In 2000, Meyer took a sabbatical and got Pilates-certified to teach the class at Grossmont.

Dance requires physical conditioning as well as technical classes—for example, somatics, a term that's given to dance awareness courses or dance injury prevention courses.

"They need theory like dance history, dance appreciation, and then they also need somatics," Meyer said.

Adding a Pilates class to her busy schedule, Meyer is constantly on her toes, not only teaching, but also choreographing, mentoring and managing the department. Despite her busy

schedule, she has held steady to expand the department and make it what it is today.

"I am busy, but you know what? That's innate to dancers; if you're going to be a dancer, either instructor of dance or professional dancer, you have a busy schedule," Meyer explained. "You have a long day, but it's usually something you love," she continued.

Meyer's love for watching students perform and grow has been a factor since the beginning. Putting semester shows together with co-director Mullen and mentoring dancers through rehearsals to the final show has been her legacy.

"I will miss her decision-making and her point of view, in which I've come to agree with quite a bit," Mullen said.

Since 2011, the fall and spring concerts have been off-campus at The Joan Kroc Center. The center has always been accommodating to the Grossmont dancers, but this year the department is departing.

"Every time we went over, we felt like they wanted us to be there," Meyer said. "It is sad to leave them, but on the other hand, those friendships are not going to be broken; we'll still keep them going."

The bittersweet farewell from The Joan Kroc Center leads to a new era of Grossmont, with the opening of the Performing and Visual Arts Center (PVAC).

"I'm excited that we can do more things on campus because we have that theater," Meyer explained, mentioning

the choreography class actually performing in the theater.

Meyer said she is also excited for the collaboration between departments, including Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts and Humanities. Besides the usual spring and fall concerts, Meyer said she looks forward to adding another concert for alumni, inviting them back to show what they've done since their days at Grossmont.

"We have so many of our students that have gone on, that are dancing professionally, have their own studios or are a part of dance companies," Meyer said.

"I just want to wish her all the best on her next endeavor," said Anjanette Maraya-Ramney, an alumna student who has learned from Meyer and still keeps in touch. "Just thank her for all of the many years of commitment to this dance department," she continued.

A soft opening of the PVAC took place Nov. 14 when the Dance Department put on its annual [MEYER CONT. ON PAGE 12]





PVAC [CONT. FROM PAGE 10]

During the soft-opening, construction-tape surrounded the west-side of the lobby where the new Hyde Gallery will be located. The performance theater, situated on the first story of the complex, was still in the process of construction, as 228 out of the 390 seats were available for patrons to use. The upper-level and side-balcony seating were not yet available, but the balcony venues appeared as if the seats there will offer quite an intimate and breathtaking view of the grand stage.

Heriberto Vasquez, outreach coordinator for Grossmont, was in attendance for opening night. He commented about the facility after the performance: "It was great, I was in there for an hour and a half and it felt like I was chilling at my house. It was really amazing," Vasquez said. "The building is incredible, it's actually very spacious and the seats are very comfortable. The show itself was amazing."

While the seating remained spacious for most audience members, after the performance there was mention from various patrons that the theater became a bit "stuffy," and many were seen fanning their faces with programs. This perhaps can be attributed to the lack of a completed air-conditioning system.

The dancers shared the same sentiment regarding the spaciousness of the grand stage. "Compared to the facility we were at before, the backstage is so much more efficient and easier to do the background changes," dancer Serena Tate said after performing on opening night. "Because we would have to go behind a curtain and we were worried about touching the curtain, but now we can just run and book it so that way we can make it in time for our other parts."

Tate's fellow dancer Fabi Garcia shared her enthusiasm for the new space. "The stage is definitely bigger and the audience is a lot closer, but then there's still a big level that we're like looking down to the audience, but it's a lot closer so it feels more intimate when they're responding."

She continued: "It feels a lot more rewarding. And the space is really beautiful, so it's really nice to be the first performance here."



Sneak peek of the location the new Hyde Gallery will call home.

Both dancers shared their relief in no longer having to commute to the Kroc Center for performances.

The soft-opening proved to be a success as the Nov. 14 Thursday night performance of *Breaking Boundaries* played host to a sold-out crowd of 228 patrons. The following performances shared in the glory as the Nov. 15 Friday night show brought in 149 audience members. The final Nov. 16 performances displayed a Saturday matinee with 121 in attendance followed by a show that very same night, housing 135.

After the concert series, Dance Department Chair Kathy Meyer explained the process of being a part of opening a new facility.

Meyer said in an email: "There were a number of challenges that we faced in terms of the stage floor completion, the installation of the Marley floor for the first time, installation of the lights and audio for the concert in time to meet the tech rehearsals."

She continued: "But, the bottom line is that we all pulled together to make the concerts and well as our High School Dance Day a success. We are grateful that all went well without any major issues, but are looking forward to when the PVAC is completely finished to allow for the use of the ticket booth, concessions, upper balcony and elevator to be fully functioning for our dancers and our patrons." 🐦

MEYER [CONT. FROM PAGE 11]

Breaking Boundaries show. The theater is nearly complete, and it was still doable for an introduction to what is soon to come. When the doors opened, the large room that had 228 available seats filled up quickly. The hour and a half performance was choreographed by students for students.

Meyer and Mullen welcomed the sold-out crowd with open arms as they briefed the audience of what they'd be seeing. From start to finish, students moved their bodies in various ways around the large stage, from lifts to stunts to jumps, the performance had a "wow" factor. The dancers put all their effort on stage, and it was visible. The show had many different styles: Hip-Hop, contemporary and others, some placed together movingly.

Each routine flowed into the next and each told a story. There were many unforgettable moments, "In an unlikely event," had

everyone silent as it displayed the intense portrayal of a school shooting. When the lights dimmed and went dark, you could hear the room take a breath.

Others like "Hey Classio, Sober Up!" was a hilarious routine where dancers messed up on purpose. Laughter could be heard in the room as dancers pranced around stage recklessly. Altogether, the show was enjoyable and beautiful in many ways.

"I just look forward to seeing what she does next," Maraya-Ramney said of Meyer.

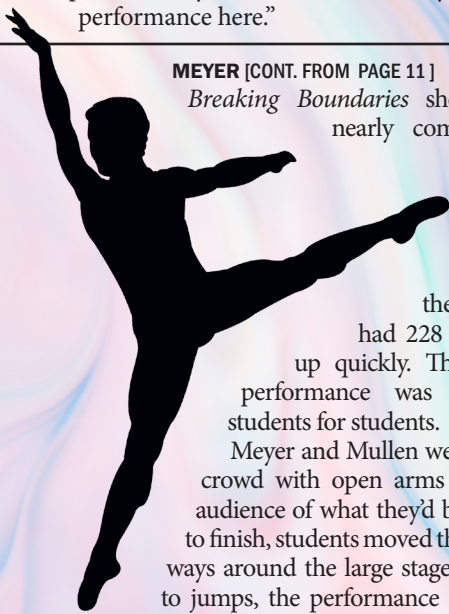
Meyer's retirement will not last long as she plans to return to Grossmont to continue teaching a Pilates class.

"I'll just come back and teach those two Pilates classes, just so I have my toe in, that way I'm here a little bit," Meyer said.

In her days when she's not working, Meyer said she looks forward to spending time with family, volunteering and traveling.

For all the years Meyer has been here, she has done so much not only for her department, but also for her students. Meyer continues to show her love and passion. On behalf of *The Summit*, we'd like to wish her luck in her next endeavor.

Mullen will take the reigns as the new chair after Spring 2020. "That's a little nerve-racking; it's going to be a lot of work," Mullen said. "I'm excited and I hope that I can do the department justice and continue to grow the program." 🐦



HYDE GALLERY STUDENT ART SHOW

Hyde Gallery closes up the year with its student art show.

STORY, PHOTOS AND LAYOUT
BY MATISSE SANCHEZ

We're nearing the end of the semester, and the Hyde Gallery finally opened up its doors for its regular student art show from Nov. 18 to Dec. 6.

Due to the delay on the new Performing and Visual Arts Center, the art show was hosted in Building 25. It contained various styles of art such as ceramics, photography, jewelry, paintings and digital media. Various pieces of artwork were available for sale.

"Everyone sees art differently; no one interprets something the same. We may all have different thoughts, feelings and interpretations about a piece of art." —Brenda Romero

Art can be expressed in many different ways; here on campus we can see students express themselves through words, their own bodies and in the art portrayed on paper. As seen at this semester's student exhibition, the images, paintings and creations exhibited throughout the gallery showed depth and personality in each piece of art.

When you entered the gallery, your eyes rested on one of the most recognizable figures portrayed in an oil painting. Inspired by one of this year's most highly anticipated movies, *The Joker* by Jarol Valdez portrayed a different view than what some of us saw in theaters.

"It was intense, to be honest, because personally when I saw the painting, he [the Joker] seemed out

of place," Student Brenda Romero said. "Which is the beauty of it too because it looks like it's portraying hurt and what seems like longing when you look at his eyes."

"Everyone sees art differently; no one interprets something the same," Romero continued. "We may all have different thoughts, feelings and interpretations about a piece of art."

It wasn't just the paintings that caught our eyes; so did the various pieces of ceramics presented

throughout the gallery. One of the figures that was interesting was a ceramic labeled *Shipwreck* by Aimee Rinderknecht.

At first glance, you noticed the ship has been split into two alongside what seems to be a rocky mountain. But as you observe it more, you notice an angel that is hidden and coming up from the top of the ceramic. Its beautiful layout can be described as almost fictional and vivid with the decorations surrounding it.

Sculptures, aside from paintings, can convey several messages to a viewer. These two or three-dimensional works of art can convey many meaningful thoughts, feelings and ideas in this new world. 🐦



ABOVE: *The Joker* oil painting by Jarol Valdez. BELOW: *Shipwreck* clay sculpture by Aimee Rinderknecht.

EURYDICE BRINGS TEAR-JERKER TO STAGEHOUSE

| A REVIEW BY ANDREW FINLEY |

Eurydice was performed at the Stagehouse Theatre as the Theatre Department's November production. The Sarah Ruhl tragedy borrowed tales from ancient Greece that exemplify the power of death, love and family.

The plot of the story, which seemed to take place in a 20th century town in Europe, was about two lovers who get married; on that same night, the wife, named Eurydice, dies tragically, entering the underworld where she found her father.

The father breaks many rules of the

underworld to make his daughter comfortable, while the widower, named Orpheus, does everything he can to find the love of his life. Orpheus ends up in the underworld, where he finds Eurydice and is shocked to discover she isn't returning to the normal world in order to stay with her father. However, when Eurydice goes to her father to tell him she was staying, she finds him dead in the water in the underworld. That's pretty much how the play ended; there was more to it, but it was confusing—and that's the one aspect to criticize about this production: the strange plot.

The story was absolutely beautiful for people who knew the origins of the play, but people who came in seeing this play "blind" may left confused with why the set had ancient Greek columns. It also was confusing why Eurydice ended up in the underworld, which was pretty much hell, and why her dad was down there as well. There's no real explanation to why they ended up in such a bad place after they died. The entire plot before the underworld was even introduced was just Eurydice and Orpheus in love and getting married. There seemed to be [PLAY CONT. ON PAGE 16]

Sustainability For A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Global warming, climate change, mass waste, overpopulation, pollution, wildlife extinction, deforestation and more dire issues contribute to the environmental woes of today.

STORY BY SANDI WESTRAND | LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY KARINA KILBER

Sustainability can be defined as the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance. Sounds like a great concept doesn't it? It will require a massive effort to marshal sufficient resources for education and compliance from all— but meanwhile, you can practice sustainability, one small step at a time.

LITTER

Littering is not only unsightly but is also costly to clean up and is considered a major impediment for climate control. Confection and food wrappers, pieces of cellophane and foil, cigarette butts, beverage containers, paper scraps, discarded furniture and home goods, and more all contribute to the growing problem. When it rains, it becomes a sodden mess that gets swept down drains, contributing to flooding and eventually ending up in the ocean, adding to pollution and harming sea life.

Have you ever had one of those single-use plastic bags flying across the freeway plaster against your windshield and obscure your vision? These flimsy culprits were banned from use in grocery stores, pharmacies and corner markets in California in 2016. The ordinance was intended to reduce the use of these bags to control waste management and to have consumers switch to reusable bags. So when shopping, BYOBs (bring your own bags) or you can purchase sturdier reusable plastic bags at the store.

Disposable straws were targeted in 2019, and restrictions will be placed on plastic lids in 2020. Those plastic pieces strewn carelessly about the streets and shores will disintegrate into tiny fragments of microplastics that will remain in the environment for thousands of years.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THREE Rs

"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is a familiar slogan, especially in our "green" modern

society. The international Mobius loop symbol signifying efforts to reduce and contain wastage also illustrates a long historical struggle that continues today.

Athens was the first society recorded, in 500 B.C., to establish a municipal dump in the western world. Laws dictated all garbage must be disposed of one mile from the city walls at the disposer's responsibility and effort. Today's tasks are much simpler because we can simply wheel the trash bins to the curb for pickup service, and we really don't need to care about what happens to it after that.

Or should we? The irregular bumps along west U.S. Route 52 between the Convoy Street exit and the Interstate 15 split are from the shifting layers of buried San Diego refuse from the previous dumps and landfills in the area, now buried in soil and covered with asphalt.

Many societies contributed to the concerted efforts made now to reduce or re-purpose waste products. For example, Japan was the first nation to recycle and re-pulp waste to produce new paper in 1031.

America refined this process in 1690, producing paper from recycled cotton and linen rags. When the country proclaimed independence from British rule, Americans were required to recycle goods as the access to the majority of their supplies were also cut-off.

Sporadic but concentrated efforts were continued in the following decades until the introduction of the recycle symbol in the late 1960s awakened an awareness of the problem of increasing waste accumulation and disposal problems. The effects on the environment inspired the initial effort for municipalities to become more involved in recycling disposed goods.

The proclamation of the first Earth Day in 1970 garnered national attention to the burgeoning problem of increased population, advancement in manufacturing

technologies and more waste requiring disposal. Earth Day is now practiced globally by almost 200 countries every April 22.

Simultaneously, Americans were introduced to and induced into the idea of single-use items that increased the burden of disposal. Terms like throw-away, grab and toss, and disposal society became familiar slogans to encourage the trend to quick disposal— and not always into the trash bins. The volume of fast food establishments and convenience enterprises soared along with single-use plastic bags, straws and other plastic debris.

Throughout the 1970s and 80s, federal mandates enforced the closing of open dumps and created standards for landfills, incinerators and hazardous waste disposal and containment. Recycling containers became a familiar sight, and curbside pick-up of disposal recycles was initiated.

The 1990s introduced improved methods of collection and management of waste products, including biological materials. By 2000, the EPA had confirmed the relationship between waste and global warming. The agency initiated stricter regulations for waste containment and improved techniques to control disposal practices.

The past decade has seen the recycling of consumer electronics that increases yearly. Import bans and stricter regulations mandated for hazardous materials have been initiated, and technologists continue to improve efficacy for waste disposal and clean-up of polluted areas.

GETTING INVOLVED

The initial step to practice sustainability starts with individual awareness and concern for the environment and what one can do to decrease the impact of carbon footprints. Here's some ideas how you can help to sustain the beauty of this planet.

First, voice and display your concern. Next, use those trash and recycling



REMEMBER THE THREE Rs: REDUCE • RECYCLE • REUSE

receptacles for you and your group's litter. None around or a long way off? Pack it up with the rest of your stuff to dispose of later. Take a final look, even that little strip of cellophane or candy wrapper will stick around long after you leave.

Finally, think about the items you casually toss into the garbage— can they be recycled or re-purposed to reuse in your home? Separate your trash and recyclable items and cash in on the CRV fees you pay for beverage containers.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Numerous organizations throughout the region strive to maintain our multifaceted environment. Annual events are scheduled in which volunteer participants gather and collate discarded items for disposal. You can participate in a clean-up at a beach, park, wetland or river/creek bed in any area of the county throughout the year. Many events are scheduled for post-holiday celebrations and after heavy rains and flooding. Grossmont's own International Club students gathered in September to participate in a beach clean-up to demonstrate their collective concern for our environment.

Make a conscious effort wherever you are to practice and enforce these habits to reduce the amount of waste you create. Emulate what know and set an example, while striving to stimulate others interest.

AT GROSSMONT

According to its website, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District formed a Sustainability Committee as part of its commitment to environmental control. Sustainability specialists overlook the program to plan and implement changes. The committee issues a monthly publication called "Sustainable Focus" to inform staff and students of the district's progress and practical tips to use on- and off-campus. Jeff Paris is the district sustainability specialist who manages the programs for both campuses from District Facilities Operations.

Awareness of the effects of global warming and the actions needed to maintain the environment is also a responsibility of all Grossmont students and staff. There are numerous trash and blue recycling receptacles placed strategically throughout the campus. Since litter is a rare sight on our campus, it appears students and staff work to keep it clean. Way to go!

Several students voiced opinions regarding the current state of the environment. All agreed the campus was well-maintained and they used the appropriate receptacles for disposal. No one was aware the district has a Sustainability Committee and programs in place on both campuses.

Student Addol Sanchez expressed concern about modern society's environmental impact: "It's been getting worse, especially nowadays and something needs to be done right now."

Sanchez and his friends agreed they used the right receptacles when able, but often found mixed trash and recycling items in both containers on- and off-campus.

A small group of students who wished to remain anonymous voiced their opinions about several important issues that concerned them. Some were frustrated by some people's inability to distinguish between recycling and garbage containers at home and publicly.

"The world needs to get its act together to stop this," voiced one in a disgusted tone.

Another student expressed their frustration with waste management: "I try real hard to recycle when I can but where I work, they get all these things wrapped in plastic and it all just goes into the trash, not recycling."

Although modern society appears to be receptive and active in reducing carbon footprints and enforcing stricter regulations to conserve our environment, it is obvious that additional efforts must be taken immediately. More education and training, resources and monetary support, plus stricter enforcement of and increased regulations to contain and control the massive amount of waste generated, are urgently required. However, the most important and elementary step is for every individual to adapt to a greener lifestyle the best they can. ♡

GRIFFIN GOLD

On the weekend of Nov. 22-24, Grossmont's speech and debate team hosted and participated in the annual Griffin Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament on campus. Grossmont College was joined by 21 other different colleges and universities this past weekend.

Congratulations to Andrew Jassick for placing first in the poetry category and being a finalist in dramatic interpretation. Great work to Catherine Teixeira for placing second in the open division debate and Jameer Pritchard for placing second in the novice oral interpretation. Lastly, congratulations to Nick Durham for placing third in the novice impromptu speaking. —MATISSE SANCHEZ



The Speech & Debate team hosts tournament and takes home metals.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Andrew Jassick, Nick Durham, and Jameer Pritchard, and Catherine Teixeira pose with their awards. Photos courtesy of Speech & Debate Team.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: ARE YOU DOWN WITH THE O.P.T.?

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is temporary employment directly related to an international student's major area of study. Eligible students can apply to receive up to 12 months of OPT employment authorization before or after completing their academic studies. However, pre-completion OPT will be deducted from the available periods of post-completion OPT.

The jobs must be directly related to students' majors. Designated STEM majors may apply for a 24-month STEM OPT extension. Depending on what students

will be working, OPT employment can be full-time or part-time.

There will be some notices that students must consider carefully in the process of application. The form for OPT application is Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization with USCIS. There is a \$410 filing fee. The typical time from submission to approval by USCIS is 90 days, so it is recommended if international students plan on graduating and doing OPT, they should plan it ahead of time. Students may apply up to 90 days prior to before completing a full academic year and up to

60 days after program completion.

Students may begin their OPT only after their Form I-765 is approved and they receive their Employment Authorization Document (EAD). For more information about OPT, students can go to uscis.gov/opt.

Grossmont international students who want to apply for OPT need to attend an OPT workshop or make an appointment with counselors before submitting their application. To RSVP to the workshop, call 619-644-7841 or visit the International Students Office in Building 10.

—AMMIE PHAN

GRILL

[CONT. FROM PAGE 8]

food service provider for Griffin Grill, and they're an independent contractor," said Bill McGreevy, interim vice president of Administrative Services at Grossmont. "The GCCCD signs a contract with (Sodexo) to provide food services for both colleges [Grossmont and Cuyamaca]. My understanding is that Sodexo sets their prices based on what they see regionally, based on the producer price index. The college does not set their prices; Sodexo does."

To look further into the pricing, and how Sodexo works, Suzanne Place, the Sodexo general manager, offered some helpful clarification:

"We are actually the lowest-priced in the area, and try to keep it as low as possible," Place said. "Unfortunately, our food costs have gone up triple. Even still, we have held onto the prices that we can, so that we don't put that on to (the students) and make our prices higher than they are now."

"We do not intend to overcharge anyone. Our purpose is to be here for the students," Place continued. "Our prices are very in line with the food costs and with what's going on in the world."

Knowing now the company operating Griffin Grill is doing what they can to keep their prices reasonable, perhaps a value menu of some kind or a student meal card would be a helpful step in the right direction to ensure every customer can be taken care of.

If not, Griffin Grill may find their only remaining customers to be the more fortunate students at Grossmont—the students who have the luxury to know where their next hot meal will come from. 🐦

OLMOS

[CONT. FROM PAGE 9]

tough spot because they need it," Olmos said.

Thus, for those who need to increase their chances to get an interview call from employers, it's time to see Olmos and the Career Center team.

"The team at the Career Center and student employment services put out a large list of workshops that everyone can attend and gain the skills necessary to be successful in a work environment," Lam said.

"I'll be here; I'm not going anywhere," Olmos added, so the students can find somebody they can count on.

So, are you ready to meet Erica Olmos? 🐦

PLAY

[CONT. FROM PAGE 13]

no real reason why these people went to the underworld in the first place.

Despite having a tricky plot, the performances by the actors in this play were phenomenal from beginning to end. The chemistry between everyone who acted in that play was on point. It was refreshing. You really felt as though Eurydice and Orpheus were truly in love; their connection felt straight out of a Disney princess movie.

In the underworld were stones that spoke to Eurydice. They were pretty much the enforcers of the underworld, telling Eurydice how the underworld worked and what her expectations down there were. The seven actors wore gray tight shirts and leggings, along with a colorful wrap, of orange, purple and teal, which made the outfits pop. Their roles didn't seem very big, but the stones were actually on the stage for the majority of the play, so even when the stones weren't involved

in the scene, they still had to act.

When the spotlight was on the stones, they did not disappoint. They often had lines where they all said the same line in unison, and their timing and pitch was always perfect. The stones also added additional noises as they were on the set. When rain was falling, stone actors would rapidly tap their finger tips against what they could to create the effects of rain drops falling around them.

"Being a stone is harder than you think it would be, but it was so much fun," said Lauryn Chapman, who played one of the stones. "I pretty much got to watch the whole show every night because the stones were on stage almost the whole time."

Not to be shadowed by the remarkable acting, the set that the play was acted on was absolutely beautiful. The painted floor that the audience was asked to walk around added so much depth to the stage, and the pier that was built so strategically that it was used for so many different scenes and was more than just a pier. These, along with the lighting, brought a very diverse set that felt as if the play could have taken place anywhere.

The set wasn't just appealing to the audience. Many of the actors really enjoyed it as well. "The sound and lighting combined gave the show its own distinct flare," said Ryan Yerger, the actor who played Orpheus. "Those aspects gave the underworld a weird yet really intriguing aesthetic that I enjoyed."

Grossmont's production of the tragedy *Eurydice* was a sophisticated tale about love that lasts beyond the grave. The chemistry and performances from the actors, as well as the beautifully crafted set, made for a stunning performance, even if the plot was a bit confusing to some audience members.

For info on upcoming productions at the Stagehouse Theatre, visit the Theatre Department's page on grossmont.edu. 🐦

HOME HOOPS



Grossmont's b-ball programs look to finish the year with Ws.

BY ANTONIO CHAMBERLAIN

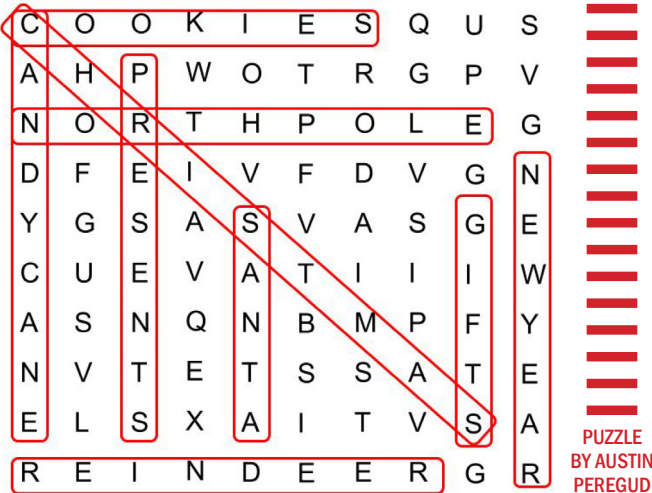
The Grossmont College men's and women's basketball programs have gotten off to a slow start to kick off the 2019-20 season. Both teams have tipped off their seasons 0-8 and their losses have been by wide margins.

The men's team is averaging 67.4 points per game while the women are posting 44.9 points per game according to grossmontgriffins.com.

This December, Grossmont will be hosting two tournaments as the basketball programs seek their first wins of the season. The "Grossmont Invitational," held Dec. 5 to 7, is a four-school men's tournament that includes our Griffins, in addition to LA Southwest, Moorpark and Palo Verde Colleges. Each of these schools will match-up with one another in round-robin fashion.

The "32nd annual Grossmont College Tournament" will take place two weeks later, from Dec. 17 to 19, for our women's basketball team. Grossmont will host three other schools to be determined in round-robin fashion. For more info, visit grossmontgriffins.com. 🐾

HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH



PUZZLE BY AUSTIN PEREGUD



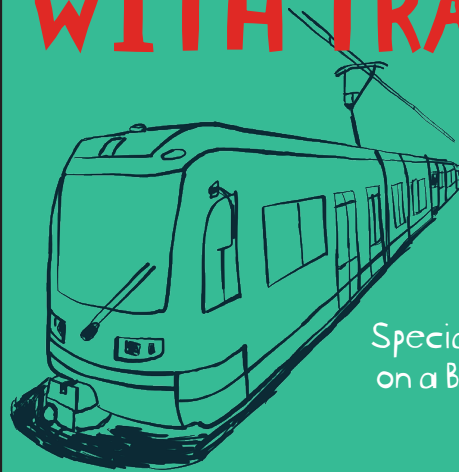
SOLUTIONS

1. b 6. b
2. c 7. c
3. a 8. a
4. c 9. b
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VOLLEYBALL DOMINATES

The Griffins tip off the playoffs with a 3-0 victory at G-House.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANDREW FINLEY | LAYOUT BY SHARISSE COHEE

The women's volleyball team at Grossmont College had a dominant regular season. Although they didn't go undefeated, they are regarded as one of the top teams in the state and have the statistics to back it up.

The Griffins won 24 of their 27 matches, 16 of which the other team failed to win a single set. They outmatched their opponents week in and week out, winning 75 of their 93 total sets. That's a win percentage of just over 80% on sets alone.

Simply put, our women's volleyball team is once again among one of the best Volleyball teams in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC), and they showed everyone why at G-House Nov. 26.

The fourth-ranked Griffins started their playoff run by taking on the Golden West Rustlers, who went 15-8 on their season.

With both teams sporting black and gold uniforms, the first set started off as a back-and-forth match, with neither team able to maintain any momentum or gain a decent lead. Golden West went on a small roll and found themselves up 14-9 on the Griffins—until Grossmont put up 10 unanswered points, snagging a 19-14 lead. Golden West tried to crawl back, but momentum was on the Griffin's side, as Grossmont took the first set 25-16.

The momentum the Griffins found in their first set carried over in the second, as the dominance of Shaney Lipscomb, Carly Gonzalez and Haley Morton gave Grossmont a quick eight points before Golden West finally picked up their first point. The Rustlers tried to catch up, but failed to keep the score gap lower than six points. Once the score went up 11-5, the Griffins became unleashed again, as Naomi Talisa Leilua, Brooklyn Anderson and Gonzalez scored 10 of the next 12 points, making the score 19-8. That was as close as the Rustlers would get at that point, as the Griffins took their opponents to the cleaners with a 25-13 final at the end of the second set.

With two sets won, the Griffins just had to win one more to move onto the next round of the playoffs. This set also began as a back-and-forth contest, with each team scoring two points a piece. Natalie Seol and Lipscomb worked to widen the gap, but Golden West wasn't ready to quit. Grossmont continued to hold a slight lead for the majority of the set, with their highest lead being five points, as they lead the Rustlers 17-12. However, that lead was short-lived, as Golden West found itself



Shaney Lipscomb spikes the ball for the Griffins.

in the lead thanks to some Griffin mistakes.

Despite Golden West giving Grossmont a run for its money, the home team was victorious on the set, allowing the Griffins to shut out the Rustlers 3-0.

The win allowed the Griffins to move on to the next round of the Southern Section Regional Playoffs. The Griffins sounded eager to add to their dominant legacy.

"It was definitely good to start out strong," Lipscomb said. "We did a lot of good things that we were working on and saw a lot of things that we need to work on, and we were able to do that without losing."

Not only were the Griffins able to get a dominant win, but they were able to get it on their home court: their beloved G-House. The quality win came just in time to start off the Thanksgiving holiday on a high note, not just in front of other students and friends, but in front of distant loved ones as well.

"My whole family was here," Lipscomb said. "It was really cool to play in front of them."

Lipscomb wasn't the only one with family in attendance. Several other players were ecstatic to put up a dominant win in front of friends and relatives.

"My brother just came from Arizona for the Thanksgiving weekend," Seol said. "The timing just played out perfectly, and it really helped a lot."

The family support just added wood to the fire the Griffins ignited during the regular season, as players continued to light up the score sheet. Lipscomb ended up leading the Griffins in points, with 22.5 on the night, followed by Gonzalez with 12, Anderson with 9.5, and Talisa Leilua and Seol with nine points of their own. This even production and versatility of players throughout the entire team is something the Griffins want their opponents to know and fear moving forward.

"Take it as a warning," Seol said as a message to opposing teams. "We're pretty tough. Even if we start out rough, we know how to fix mistakes and accomplish anything we set our minds to."

The Griffins moved on to play the Bakersfield Renegades that following Saturday at the G-House. After losing the first set, Grossmont would end up handling the Renegades, winning the next three sets, cementing their spot in the CCCAA State Tournament at Southwestern College Dec. 6, as the Griffins continue to build an elite legacy across Southern California. 🦁



Natalie Seol warming up prior to the Griffins' first playoff game against Golden West.

REEL TALK SIDEKICKS

BY DONOVAN HOLLAND

Let's take a look at a few strong supporting performances that stole the show.



CHLOË GRACE MORETZ, HIT GIRL | *Kick-Ass Films*

In an action blockbuster franchise with such big names as Mark Strong, Nicholas Cage, and Jim Carrey, the one who ends up rising above her male co-stars is Hit Girl, played by a teenage Moretz. She is essentially the foul-mouthed Robin to the Batman-esque, vigilante Big Daddy (Nicholas Cage), and plays the role with her own brand of bloodthirsty, childlike glee.

This performance showed-off how great of an actress Moretz could be, which guaranteed her work in Hollywood even to this day. She truly made the character of Hit Girl her own, sparking conversation for sequels involving her as the lead, as well as several spin-off films. With her portrayal of Hit Girl, Moretz turns in a performance that's somewhere between John Wick and Juno MacGuff, a combination for the ages if ever there was one.

CHRISTOPH WALTZ, KING SHULTZ | *Django Unchained*

Inglourious Basterds, Quentin Tarantino's epic retelling of WWII coming to a halt, was the first movie that put Waltz on the U.S. film scene. He was amazing as the villainous Col. Hans Landa, and even won an Oscar for best supporting actor. However, it was difficult for many to see Waltz playing anything except a refined villain. Then came *Django Unchained*, Tarantino's take on a Spaghetti Western, and the second time the two worked together. This time, Waltz went against typecast and was anything but villainous as he portrayed King Shultz, a precocious con-man with a heart of gold.

As a mentor to the titular Django (Jamie Foxx), Shultz teaches Django the ropes of bounty hunting before helping Django rescue his wife Broomhilda (Kerry Washington) from a Southern plantation. Waltz's performance provides many of the nearly three-hour film's most satisfying moments, whether it be with a witty line of dialogue or sending a bullet searing through a Klansman's torso. Being such a well-written character, Shultz is played beautifully by Waltz with the perfect combination of flamboyance, charm and nobility. It's no wonder this role landed Waltz his second Oscar.



ROBIN WILLIAMS, DR. SEAN MAGUIRE | *Good Will Hunting*

Williams will always be a national treasure. He gave us so many great performances over the decades, ranging from side-splittingly hilarious, to melancholic, to uplifting and inspirational and everything in between. Williams' portrayal of Dr. Sean Maguire, the therapist working with Will Hunting (Matt Damon), was possibly his best. Whenever Williams is in a scene during the film, we go through almost every sort of emotion we knew we could feel, and a couple we didn't. Granted, Damon's Hunting is a tough nut to crack, but Sean is unrelenting in his attempts to connect with Will and show him he need not go through his life constantly building barriers.

Williams gives it his all in this role, making the character of Maguire his very own. He has beautiful chemistry with Damon, and gives us such a real, touching performance of a man who has had his share of love and loss. Williams ad-libbed a decent chunk of his lines in the film, and his performance really is something special. He masterfully constructed his poignant and thought-provoking dialogue in a way that makes one forget that he's acting, making the portrayal that much more humanizing. Rest in Peace, Robin.

ARNIE GRAPE, LEONARDO DICAPRIO | *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*

Leonardo DiCaprio is known today as one of the most acclaimed actors working today. His good looks and charm coupled with his absolutely remarkable acting talent land him role after role, leading to award nomination after nomination. DiCaprio even took home the Oscar for best actor in 2016 for his work in the gritty historical drama *The Revenant*. All things considered, DiCaprio's work today primarily consists of being classy and handsome, or delivering a tightly-scripted monologue.

If those traits aren't in his character of Arnie in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, then why was DiCaprio's performance as an autistic teenager so praised? Maybe this is due to the fact that at only 19 years old, DiCaprio managed to capture the essence of being a teen struggling with autism and garner both empathy and enthrallment for his character, all while keeping up with Johnny Depp. DiCaprio's portrayal, while being incredibly heartwarming and endearing, also skillfully throws humor into the mix without insulting the stressful condition of ASD. DiCaprio truly has range. 🐾



Every Day's a Holiday

December wraps up the year with sweets and sweaters.

COMPILED BY SARA ROTT | LAYOUT BY SARA ROTT

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1  World AIDS Day | 2 National Mutt Day | 3 National Disability Day | 4 National Cookie Day | 5 National Ninja Day | 6 St. Nicholas Day | 7 Pearl Harbor Day |
| 8 National Brownie Day | 9  National Llama Day | 10 Nobel Prize Day | 11 International Mountain Day | 12 National Poinsettia Day | 13 National Cocoa Day | 14 National Monkey Day |
| 15 Wear Your Pearls Day | 16 Boston Tea Party Day | 17 National Maple Syrup Day | 18 Bake Cookies Day | 19 National Emo Day | 20 National Ugly Sweater Day | 21  Winter Solstice |
| 22 National Short Person Day | 23 National Roots Day | 24 Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Boxing Day | 27 National Fruitcake Day | 28 National Call a Friend Day |
| 29 National Finish your "To-Do" List Day | 30 National Bacon Day | 31  NEW YEAR'S EVE | | |  DEC. 18 | |

See you next year!