

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MARCH 2022

Lucky to be Back



PHOTO BY DJALMA PAIVA ARMELIN

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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.**

The SUMMIT

A publication of Grossmont College's
Media Communications Department.
Vol. 47 | Issue 1 | March 2022

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PHOTO BY TREVOR SCHELL

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day

FROM THE SUMMIT STAFF

LEFT TO RIGHT: Marc Cordero, Gideon Fogt, Katie Donovan, Liam Klingensmith, Joseph Salcido, Makayla Hoppe, Jacqueline Colombo, Liliana Rankin

Summit Staff: What do you feel lucky about?

I feel lucky for the friends and family I have in my life, as well as sushi. Sushi is also great.

– JACQUELINE COLOMBO

Something I've been feeling lucky about is raffles because I recently won two for some rare sneakers. I sold both pairs of shoes for a grand each and used some of that money to buy a PlayStation 5. Talk about luck! – MARC CORDERO

I feel lucky to be back on campus for classes after spending two years online!

– KATIE DONIVAN



I'm lucky to be able to wake up and use each and every day as another chance to be better than I was the day before.

– GIDEON FOGT

I'm lucky to have found a professional path in life that I enjoy working hard on! – MAKAYLA HOPPE

I'm very lucky to be working for Nike, one of my favorite shoe and clothing companies.

– LIAM KLINGENSMITH

I feel lucky about my morning coffee getting me through the day for success! – LILIANA RANKIN

I feel extremely lucky to be me since it's been an absolute joy going through life as Joseph Salcido. – JOSEPH SALCIDO

BITS OF WISDOM



There is an old Irish proverb that says, “Learning is the desire of the wise.” Whether it’s to earn a degree, discover new skills or learn about an interesting subject, as students of Grossmont, we are all wise for taking the initiative to further our education.

I struggled for many years to find a path for my education, changing schools and majors multiple times before I found my way to Grossmont. It was here that I found friendship from my professors and mentors who helped point me in the right direction.

Following these directions and listening to their advice has led to me working as editor-in-chief of *The Summit*, something I never would have thought for myself five years ago. I am so excited to work with the amazing staff this semester as we bring you Grossmont news and events for Spring 2022.

If you don’t have a clear direction for yourself right now, that’s okay. These last few years have shown us we don’t have to have everything figured out right away. Part of what makes Grossmont great is the ability to try new classes, meet new people and take your time to find what it is you really love. Taking the initiative to learn and expand your worldview is enough to make you wise beyond your years.

Makayla Hoppe

Makayla Hoppe, Editor-in-Chief

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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.



CAMPUS CAL

COMPILED GIDEON FOGT

MARCH 11: Empathy & Self-Awareness Workshop, 10 to 11 a.m. (Zoom)
| Grossmont Symphony Orchestra/
Master Chorale Concert, 7:30 p.m.
(Performing and Visual Arts Center - PVAC)

MARCH 15: *Saving Grace* Art Exhibit
Artist's Talk with Suda House, noon
(Hyde Art Gallery)
Gizmo's Kitchen Food Distribution,
1 to 2 p.m. (Main Quad)

MARCH 16: Pregnancy Support Group,
11 a.m. (Zoom)
| Women in Trades, noon (Zoom)

MARCH 17: Grossmont Concert Band,
7:30 p.m. (PVAC)

MARCH 17-19: *Pride & Prejudice*, 7:30 p.m.
(Stagehouse Theatre)

MARCH 18: Effective Communication
Workshop, 10 to 11 a.m. (Zoom)
| Nature Hike, 1 p.m. (TBD)

MARCH 19: *Pride & Prejudice*, 2 p.m.
(Stagehouse Theatre)

MARCH 22: Artist's Reception with Suda
House, 4 to 7 p.m. (Hyde Art Gallery)

MARCH 23: Refugee Voices Interview
Panel, 1:30 p.m. (Zoom)
| Grossmont Guitar Guild Ensemble,
7:30 p.m. (PVAC)

MARCH 23-26: *Pride & Prejudice*, 7:30 p.m.
(Stagehouse Theatre)

MARCH 24: Exploring Majors Workshop,
10 to 11 a.m. (Zoom)

MARCH 25: Job Search Strategies,
10 to 11 a.m. (Zoom)
| Film Screening of *Girl Rising*,
11:30 a.m. (Zoom)
| Grossmont String Orchestra, 7 p.m. (PVAC)

MARCH 26: *Pride & Prejudice*, 2 p.m.
(Stagehouse Theatre)

MARCH 28 - APRIL 2: Spring Break

APRIL 8: 5 Ways to Manage Your Debt,
11 a.m. to noon (Zoom)
| Grossmont Symphony Orchestra/Master
Chorale Concert, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC)

APRIL 15: Customer Service Workshop, 10
to 11 p.m. (Zoom)
| Developing Emotional Intelligence: Why
and What For?, 11 a.m. to noon (Zoom)
| Next issue of *The Summit* hits newsstands

*Events subject to change; visit grossmont.edu
for login and latest info.

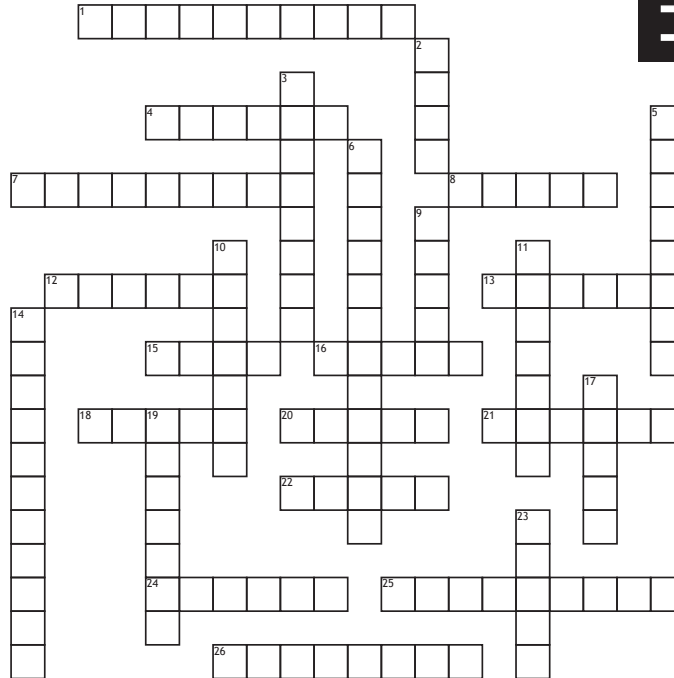
▼ CROSSWORD

Across

1. A mischievous elf in Irish Folklore
4. A branch of the Indo-European languages that was spread widely over Europe in the pre-Christian era.
7. To publicly party
8. The Celtic language of Ireland
12. A plant of the genus Trifolium
13. March in a procession
15. Something likened to the metal in brightness or preciousness
16. A month of a year
18. Resembling the color of growing grass
20. An occasion on which people can assemble for social interaction and entertainment
21. A staple food of Ireland
22. Occurring by chance
24. A story about mythical or supernatural beings or events
25. An inherited pattern of thought or action
26. Another word for 3-leaf clover

Down

2. Invoke upon
3. A humorous verse form of 5 anapestic lines with a rhyme scheme aabba.
5. A special kind of clover
6. Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland
9. Any art that invokes supernatural powers
10. Achieved independence from the UK in 1921
11. An arc of colored light in the sky caused by refraction of the sun's rays by rain
14. The day of the month of St Patrick's day
17. A small being, human in form, playful and having magical powers
19. Highly valued as a gemstone
23. A form of money



BRAIN BOOST



Train your brain with
St. Patrick's Day puzzles.

BY JOSEPH SALCIDO
[SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 15]



WORD SEARCH ▼

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

donneybrook
 shillelagh
 leprechaun
 trifolium
 tradition
 potofgold
 stpatrick
 hibernian
 celebrate
 goodluck
 rainbow
 ireland
 holiday
 emerald
 blarney
 banshee
 bagpipe
 legend
 gaelic
 dublin
 clover
 celtic
 brogue
 snake
 magic
 irish
 green
 luck
 harp
 gold

HOT

It is a relatively universal understanding that when a new law, regulation, ordinance, or policy is adopted, not every person will approve of it. In some cases, it results in tension among the population.

Educational environments are no exception to this reality. The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is now amid such tension regarding its COVID-19 vaccine mandate resolution.

In November 2021, the district's Governing Board approved with a six-to-one vote resolution 21-24, better known as the COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Beyond a goal of protecting the public health of the campus community, the resolution was also drafted to help solve issues stemming from "the displacement and exclusion of many students from communities with inadequate access to resources necessary to succeed in distance education."

However, it appears this exact resolution wound up displacing and excluding many individuals from the campus population.

"It just doesn't make sense," said Administrative Assistant Patty Sparks when asked about the administration's enforcement of the vaccine mandate.

Sparks has worked with the district since 2004 and as of late has been dealing with an ongoing conflict with the employer concerning her unvaccinated status. Sparks emphasized she does not identify herself with the anti-vaccination movement; she said her decision not to get the vaccine came from her faith that she became more involved in after the pandemic had swept through the world. When the vaccines for COVID-19 began rolling out to the public, she said she ended up making her own spiritual and personal decision to not take the shot.

"So I filed a religious exemption and that was granted, but what they didn't grant was my accommodation," Sparks explained. "All my accommodation was to continue as I did last semester (Fall 2021) which was to test, mask and obey all the safety protocols within the CDC."

She is not alone in this experience. A group of close to 20 individuals, including both staff and students claiming to have experienced the same or a similar situation, took to a street-side protest on Feb. 22 to voice their frustrations.

Those present shared experiences mirroring Sparks, describing an exemption with empty accommodations, a fundamental lack of communication, and a feeling of ostracization from the campus.

Michele Clock, the director of Public Information for the Grossmont-Cuyamaca

SHOTS

Friction builds between the district and unvaccinated campus members claiming lack of communication and inconsistencies in the vaccine mandate resolution.

| BY GIDEON FOGT



PROTESTERS GATHER IN FEBRUARY. | PHOTO BY GIDEON FOGT

College District, gave an open reply on behalf of the district regarding this issue in an emailed document that opens with this statement: "Protecting the health and safety of our students and employees is our top priority."

The statement continues: "We contracted with an outside expert to develop a COVID-19 safety plan, in accordance with directives from our Governing Board, as well as local, state and federal agencies."

In the statement, the district also asserted the exemption process and its enforcement is consistent between both staff and students on campus.

"Human Resources and Health and Safety specialists review the requests. Medical requests had to include verification from treating medical providers, and religious requests had to

identify a sincerely held belief."

While this all seemed straightforward, as the accommodation process was explained, it grew more complex.

Individuals with exemptions are reviewed as to whether they can be accommodated on campus using a variety of factors. Specifically, regarding faculty and staff positions, locations and functions of a position are considered. The amount of direct contact with others is primarily examined for the general population.

Which means some exempted students are accommodated by continuing their on-campus studies depending on the subject, while others must go through online classes. Exempted employees are accommodated depending on the requirements of their position; otherwise, they were informed to use their leave time as their accommodation.

Segments of this process can sound a bit vague and unclear, mainly in how the district determines who among the exempted are more at risk than others at potentially contracting and spreading COVID-19. It also does not explain why weekly testing is not a secondary option regardless of an exemption.

The administration points to the CDC and WHO, as well as other federal and state agencies as heavy influences in the process for drafting the vaccine mandate resolution. However, it is worth noting while the CDC, WHO, OSHA, and Cal/OSHA all recommend vaccines as a powerful tool against the spread of COVID-19, they do not explicitly state the enforcement of a strict vaccine mandate is required for a safe workplace to be maintained. All of the aforementioned bodies reference frequent COVID-19 testing as an alternative for those who choose to remain unvaccinated.

The district's choice to use leave time as a form of accommodation has also drawn the ire of these unvaccinated employees.

"That's taking my property," Sparks said, echoing others' sentiments. "I work all year for that paid time away; this is something I have earned and you're forcing me to give that up."

It is not certain how this issue will be resolved. With the number of employees



PATTY SPARKS AND FELLOW PROTESTER DISPLAY SIGNS. | PHOTO BY JOSEPH SALCIDO

"It just doesn't make sense." –Patty Sparks

requesting exemptions being reportedly low – only 88 of 2,417 total employees according to the district's numbers – there is likely little incentive to do much.

This puts people in Sparks' position in a bind. When asked about her options, she replied: "None, they are making me use my vacation time. I have about five weeks of vacation after that unpaid vacation, and on June 30, I start discipline which pretty much means termination."

Some employees have opted for the route of early retirement; others have begun searching for options with other employers they hope have accommodations better suited to their needs.

Although this has not discouraged the members of this group from putting continued pressure on the district to provide them with better information and to change the resolution to allow them back on campus. The common question they seem to ask is: Why can I not return to campus if I am willing to submit to weekly COVID tests and follow other recommended health and safety guidelines such as masking and social distancing?

In Clock's statement, the district maintains it is "focused on educating and communicating with our campus community on COVID-19," by sharing this information through the district's websites, emails and open conversations.

The statement ended with this assurance: "We are constantly monitoring the public health situation."

Both sides are staunch in their positions, and communication between the groups seems unsuccessful. With uncertainty shrouding this affair, it is unclear when or if a solution will be reached soon. ❖

THE TESTING DILEMMA

On-campus COVID-19 testing protects many people, but worries some.

BY LIAM KLINGENSMITH



Within the past two years, students have been off-campus, doing online classes, and working hard while the COVID-19 pandemic has been raging on. Now that students have begun returning to campus, many new questions and problems arise.

Since on-campus classes are back, students and teachers must be vaccinated and wear masks indoors. Some schools even offer free COVID testing.

Some students are worried or unaware of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District's process on testing and the district's COVID precaution requirements.

According to the district's website, testings are open Monday and Wednesday or Monday and Tuesday at the Grossmont and Cuyamaca campuses, respectively.

When students test positive for COVID, they must stay home for at least five days and return to campus when they have tested negative with no symptoms. The COVID tests also have to be completed by a monitored testing site and cannot be done by students themselves.

To ensure all relevant COVID information is public to everyone, there is an additional section on the website with exact COVID cases between students and employees, as well as the testing positivity rate.

With all this information, some students are still concerned other students will be dishonest if they test positive or show up when they feel sick.

"I really don't like the idea that people can just show up whenever they want without having confirmed with anybody that they actually tested positive," said Diego Mendoza, a student at Cuyamaca College. "I've been taking online classes the whole time because I'd rather not risk being exposed; honestly, I just don't trust people when it comes to this stuff."

Mendoza explained more of his concerns about how people who test positive for COVID can still come on campus, knowing they're sick, and spread it to others.

When asked why he is worried when everyone is vaccinated and masked, he said: "I'm just used to being really careful, I guess, nowadays. Especially because of when I've been sick. It's really hit me hard."

On the other hand, many students seem not to be worried or unaware it was an issue. Ben Zieske, a student at Grossmont, agreed with this sentiment: "I don't see the reasoning for being so worried if people test or not, because we have all of these mandates anyways on us. Why bother worrying about testing if we'll all be overly protected anyways?"

Zieske said he felt very strongly about quitting the testing on people, as he said it would be "one less thing that we all have to keep up with."

While masking and testing will still be a prominent topic for a long time to come, strong opinions from both sides will always arise. Fortunately, with the surge of cases waning down, there is a chance for tests to go away for good and a sense of normalcy to come to the campuses once again. ❖

ASL AT HOME

The American Sign Language faculty share their feelings about online teaching and not having classes in person.

STORY, PHOTOS AND LAYOUT BY MARC CORDERO

Wearing face masks became a common practice over the past couple of years due to COVID-19. However, face masks create a considerable obstacle for those who rely on American Sign Language to communicate. Masks hinder the communication of ASL by blocking the facial expressions of users.

Since Grossmont requires masks in a classroom setting, the ASL program continues to only have classes online, despite the campus opening back up.

“Lip reading and seeing the mouth is part of the grammar and the language of ASL,” said Jamie Gould Shatwell, the chair of the ASL department and ASL instructor.

Shatwell, who has been teaching ASL for 13 years, said it’s tough to communicate with students wearing masks. It’s difficult for ASL users to understand one another because a lot of communication comes from the face, not just the hands.

ASL Instructor Shannon Engelhart said learning ASL becomes more complicated for new students trying to learn the language. She said that new students have to adjust from audible learning to visual learning, and wearing masks makes that transition harder.

Jennifer Carmean, another ASL instructor, added that it’s difficult to assess students to see if they’re using the correct grammar when they have a mask on.

The ASL program has been teaching online since 2016, so adjusting to an online

environment isn’t a problem for the department. The issue comes from the lack of human interaction and connection that one would get when using ASL in person.

Carmean said she’s felt disconnected from the faculty due to working online, and Shatwell also values in-person connections.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s an A or D student, to just check in with them to have some human contact,” Shatwell said. “It’s not always about class, school and grades. Sometimes I just want to make a successful connection or check on the situation.”

Shatwell said there were pros and cons to working at home. On the one hand, she said she enjoys the peace of working at home and can take a break to play with her pets before getting back to work. On the other hand, she said she can get burnt out from looking at a screen for long periods.

Another issue plaguing the ASL program is the lack of accommodation for the students who work better in a classroom setting.

When talking about online teaching, Engelhart said, “It’s an option that’s available for the students, to their preference.”

She noted students vary with their learning style and some work better in an in-person setting, while others work better in an online environment. With the ASL program staying online exclusively, the option to learn in person is taken away from students who could benefit from learning in a classroom environment.

Engelhart, however, still has high thoughts towards online teaching. When referring to teaching ASL online, she said, “I see more advantages.”

Engelhart has been teaching ASL online since 2015 and uses prerecorded lectures for her students. Those students then send videos of them using ASL back to be graded.

Engelhart called video lessons the “perfect medium” for teaching ASL because students can rewatch them and go at their own pace, rather than only seeing the lecture once in person.

With in-person classes, Engelhart said she can miss out on giving feedback to students because she can’t get to all of them at once.

However, providing feedback to every student isn’t a problem with online classes. Engelhart said she can give specific attention to each individual’s video submissions and post timestamps with feedback.

Despite this, the ASL staff prioritizes the health and safety of everyone. “As a department, we will continue remotely until masks are no longer required,” Shatwell said.

So, it seems like the ASL program will stay off campus until further notice. 🐦



TRANSFER REFORM: CAN ONE SIZE FIT ALL?

The state passed a new bill intended to streamline the transfer process by adopting one pathway for students looking to head to four-years.

BY KATIE DONIVAN

During the pandemic, many students opted to attend online classes at community colleges instead of paying a much steeper price for the same classes at a university. Due to this, community colleges across the state had a significantly larger number of students who desired to transfer after graduation.

This transfer process can be complex and confusing for many students, so Assembly Bill 928 (AB 928) was written.

"The transfer process has really been back and forth," said Theater Major Lauryn Chapman. "Google has been my best friend."

Chapman added the lack of transfer assistance at Grossmont College made her feel like she was wasting her time.

AB 928 was created to help California Community Colleges (CCC) deal with the complexity of the transfer process by creating the Associate Degree for Transfer Intersegmental Implementation Committee (ADTIIC). It requires students to be on one universal transfer pathway created by all three transfer committees from the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and CCC.

AB928 was written by Democratic Assemblyman Marc Berman who represents the 24th California Assembly District. The bill is sponsored by the Campaign for College Opportunity, which is backed by The Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation and more.

Some Grossmont administration, faculty and students have expressed concerns with how the bill does not solve problems with Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) agreements with CSU and UC. There are others who believe this process is being rushed.

"The 2023 implementation is an aggressive timeline without thinking about the various policies and operational processes that CCCs, CSUs and possibly UCs will have to undergo to prepare properly to respond," Dr. Pearl Lopez, Academic Senate President, said in an email.

In an Informational Forum about AB 928 held on November 29, 2021, the president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC), Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, said the UC and CSU schools do not have to abide by the requests made in the bill.

Along with this, Brill-Wynkoop said only 24% of students transfer from community college to

CSUs and UCs with a degree, making transfer degree pathways the least effective of all transfer methods. Colleges like Grossmont will prepare their students to transfer, but spots at CSU and UC schools are given to out-of-state students instead. Fifty percent of CC students do not have a spot at state schools at all.

"It is important to note that UCs do not currently accept ADTs as pathway for guaranteed admission," Lopez added.

Benjamin Blevins, Grossmont College's Student Trustee on the Governing Board, contributed input on this piece of legislation before it was passed. Blevins is in strong support of the bill and pointed out that AB 928 "is the first step in a four-step process."

Blevins explained how there is a small population of students on an actual ADT pathway at Grossmont. This small sample leads to an increased margin of error and minimizes its validity.

In addition, Blevins said one must consider the possibility students may not use their ADT when applying for transfer schools.

"You fall into four categories when you apply to a CSU," said Blevins. "Group one is regional and ADT students from a community college. You are at the top of the pick."

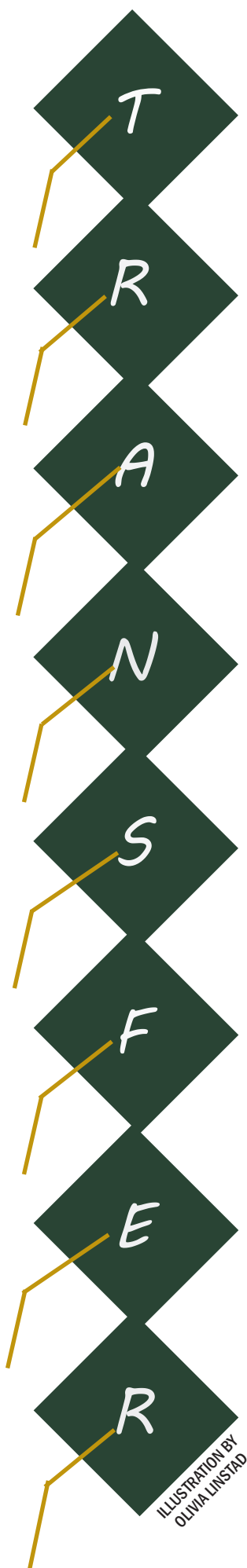
Students are not using their ADT to apply as transfer students because they don't think it is important. Without the ADT, a student falls into group four, the lowest group. Colleges prefer already knowing that the student has completed all the required courses to successfully transfer, and using an ADT to apply provides this information.

In regards to capacity, the ADTIIC will fully tackle those issues head-on once it is implemented. Community colleges are also dealing with this problem themselves through the adoption of new four-year degree programs.

"Grossmont has applied to be able to offer three new baccalaureate degrees," Blevins said. These three programs will free up space at CSUs and UCs and make college more accessible in general.

College in America is changing, and some would say it is for the better. Grossmont College will continue to uphold the same standards of learning whether it offers multiple transfer pathways or just one.

A sentiment echoed throughout those who support and oppose this bill: They must do what is best for the students. 🐦



AWARENESS THROUGH ART

***Saving Grace* comes to the shores of the Hyde Art Gallery.**

STORY, PICTURES AND LAYOUT BY LILIANA RANKIN

Grossmont College's Hyde Gallery is showing *Saving Grace - Photographs of the Seven Sisters of the Pleiades* by Suda House through April 9.

House is a photographer who focuses her work on illustrating womens' beauty and strength, as well as the hardships and struggles they face. She acquired her inspiration from experiencing her struggles as a mother and daughter.

"As a woman, I stand in complete wonder and awe at life itself, and with wide-eyed curiosity, I continue to photograph, to get beneath the surface, to discover what is under our skin, by laying bare the subliminal nature of the feminine, the carnal within us, the unethical of our maternal fate and the vulnerable nature that is within all women," House said on her website.

The *Saving Grace* series is here to spread awareness about climate change, show the issues of plastic debris permeating our planet, both land and sea, and represent the power of women that will change the course of the world. House photographs the seven sisters of the Pleiades participating in different tasks of cleaning and saving the ocean.

When House was asked in an interview what inspired her to make these pieces, she explained, "After I retired in 2015, I did a rough water swim after literally 30 years, and when I got out of the Oceanside pier, I was covered in motor oil from head to toe, and I thought, 'This is wrong.' And that sort of made me think about what can I do in terms of art activism."

House continued: "It became very clear to me that the way to draw people in is not hitting them over the head with something gross, but to draw them in with beauty."

In Greek mythology, the seven sisters of Pleiades were sent away by Zeus to a star cluster over 400 light-years away. They returned to earth, answering the calls and pleas to save their beloved ocean, risking their discovery.

In the exhibit, Electra, one of the seven sisters of Pleiades, is shown riding a whale to the ocean's surface. She is removing an abandoned fishing net from around the whale's body, which is pulling the whale down to the bottom of the sea, potentially causing its death.

"I feel like it's showing the whale that is wrapped

around the debris is trapped," said Grossmont Student Sarah Marcus.

Another one of the sisters, Celano, is photographed on the back of a giant sea turtle. She is attempting to remove a floating white market bag from the mouth of the giant sea turtle. When plastic bags are condemned to the ocean, turtles often mistake them for jellyfish, attempting to consume them.

"This piece specifically made me feel emotional," said Mary Lou Del Toro, a local community member who was viewing the exhibit. "Sea turtles are one of my favorite animals, it's devastating to see this happening to them."

House's process of creating these pieces took many elements putting them together to fit her views, such as models, assistance to make waves on the side, and some Photoshopping.

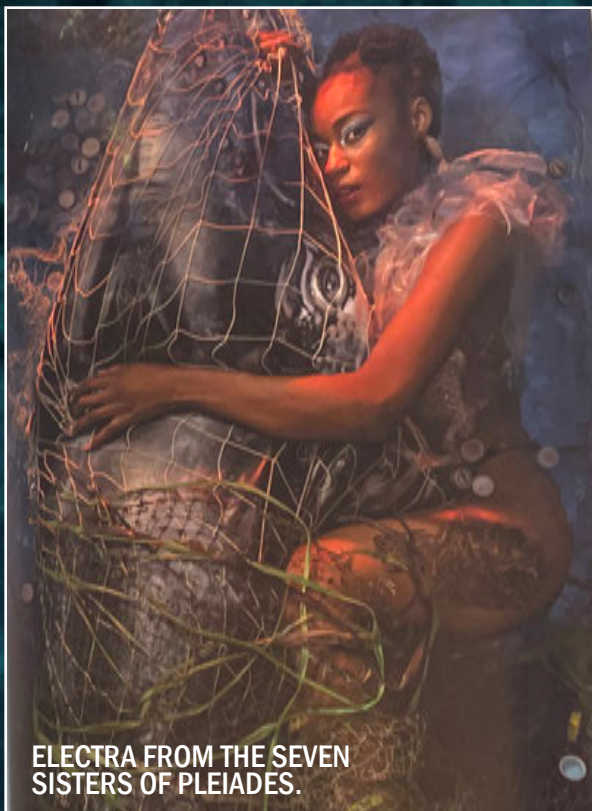
"Back in 1991 and 1992, my former colleague who retired started bringing digital imaging into photography," House explains. "So I got in the back of my mind that I wanted to do big walls of water."

"The tank is plastic like a full bed it sits on the floor," she continued. "It has a clear back, four clear sides, and it's 18 to 24 inches deep. I filled it full of water, built a little environment in it, put a figure in it, and photographed from above."

House has teamed up with Surfrider Foundation San Diego County to fight plastic pollution artfully. The foundation accepts donations from students and the



CELANO FROM THE SEVEN SISTERS OF PLEIADES



ELECTRA FROM THE SEVEN SISTERS OF PLEIADES.

"I feel like it's showing the whale that is wrapped around the debris is trapped."

—Grossmont Student Sarah Marcus

public to support their grassroots efforts to rid San Diego of harmful plastic wastes.

By making a \$100 donation to the Surfrider Foundation, you will receive a special edition print of one of seven sisters photographed by House, although, you will not be able to choose which one you get.

Saving Grace - Photographs of the Seven Sisters of the Pleiades will be up in the Hyde Art Gallery until April 9. House will also be hosting an artist reception on March 22 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. Students participating in in-person classes and staff approved to be on campus are allowed walk-in visitation. Students who are learning remotely, staff who are teaching or operating remotely and the rest of the general public may request an appointment to visit the gallery.

The Hyde Art Gallery is located in the Performing and Visual Arts Center (Building 22). It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 🐦

The Not-So-Subtle Side of Austen

Pride and Prejudice Director Shana Wride discusses the upcoming production at Grossmont.

STORY AND DESIGN BY MAKAYLA HOPPE

Some say that drama is hard, but comedy is harder. It takes a very particular talent and skill to elicit laughter from an audience, and if done incorrectly, falls very flat. But Playwright Kate Hamill is able to take the more subtle and nuanced comedy from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and find the slapstick in it.

The Stagehouse Theatre at Grossmont College will be producing this comedic version of *Pride and Prejudice* during the month of March, and I was happy to interview director Shana Wride about the production. In fact, I had the pleasure of seeing Wride perform in the show at Cygnet Theatre as Mrs. Bennett several years ago. I enjoyed it so much that I saw it multiple times; it made me genuinely laugh out loud. After one of the shows, I complimented an actor on his performance and let him know how good his comedic skills were. "Thank you, I could hear your laughter in the audience," he said. Color me embarrassed.

Wride was wonderful as Mrs. Bennett, with the meddling and match-making antics heightened to 11. "The show at Cygnet was a lot of fun because I was surrounded by some of the funniest people on the plane," Wride said in an email. "We enjoyed each other very much. This is an ensemble piece, and it's essential that everybody that's working on the show is part of a team. And I was surrounded by a great team."

She now is taking on the role of director for the show, something I am very excited to see. It's pretty obvious when a director doesn't understand the show they're involved in, so having a director spend months on the material, having literally memorized it, is very reassuring.

I'm always interested to see which shows Grossmont chooses for their theater students to perform, and this is a unique choice.

"I think Kate Hamill's *Pride and Prejudice* is a perfect show for theater students for a variety of reasons," Wride said. "First of all, as I stated above, it's an ensemble piece so you can have a large group of student actors coming together and learning what it means to be part of an ensemble. Many of the actors also play multiple characters, some of which are outside of their gender, so it's an



IMAGE COURTESY OF THEMORGAN.ORG

**[PRIDE CONT.
ON PAGE 15]**



GRIFFINS ON A MISSION

STORIES AND DESIGN BY JOSEPH SALCIDO | PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROSSMONT ATHLETICS

Ivers and her squad make a run for another state title.

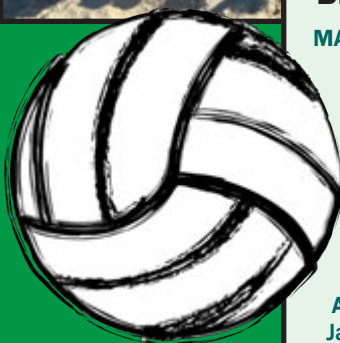
Coach Jamie Ivers is back again, but this time with her beach volleyball team. If anyone knows Ivers' reputation, then they know this team is not to be trifled with. Ivers and her squad are not your average team, and Grossmont has a reputation for volleyball across the board. The Griffins enter every season with a championship mindset.

Ivers almost scored another title before losing the Quarterfinals in December with her indoor team, so it's no question the coach is poised for another title run. Due to COVID-19, beach volleyball was canceled in 2020 and 2021.

The last time Grossmont saw the playing field was back in 2019, when Ivers took the 2019 Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Beach Volleyball Coach of the Year. Grossmont's beach volleyball team is the first program in CCCAA Beach Volleyball history to win the Team State Championship and Pairs State Championships in the same season.

Conference play will begin on March 18 against San Diego Mesa College. While it may be a bit premature, this squad, with the direction and leadership of Ivers, should have no issue sweeping the conference.

With spectators once again attending games, the Griffins could use our support. Even if you are unable to make your way out to a match, you can find any update on the squad through their Instagram page, @ghousevolleyball. They occasionally live-stream the games for those who cannot get enough of these athletes dominating their opponents.



BEACH VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

MARCH 11 vs. SD Christian (10 a.m.)
and Moorpark (noon)

MARCH 18 at Mesa (10 a.m.)*

MARCH 25 vs. Mesa (10 a.m.)*

MARCH 30 vs Mt. San Jacinto (10 a.m.)
and Mt. San Antonio (noon) at Mesa

APRIL 1 vs MiraCosta (9 a.m.) and
Palomar (11 a.m.) at Warm Waters
Beach*

APRIL 8 vs. City (9 a.m.) and Mt. San
Jacinto (11 a.m.)*

APRIL 15 vs Palomar (9 a.m.)* and Mt. San
Jacinto (11 a.m.) at Palomar

APRIL 22 vs City (9 a.m.) and MiraCosta
(11 a.m.) at City*

APRIL 27, 29 - PCAC Individuals*

MAY 3 - State Team Regionals

MAY 6-7 - Pairs Regionals

MAY 12 - State Team Championships

MAY 13-14 - Pairs State Championships

GREEN = home game | * = PCAC competition



WOMEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

MARCH 24 vs. Southwestern (2 p.m.)*

MARCH 25 at Cal State Stanislaus (2 p.m.)

APRIL 7 vs. TBA and Southwestern (TBA)*

APRIL 8 vs. TBA and Southwestern (TBA)*

APRIL 9 vs. TBA (TBA) and Southwestern (noon)*

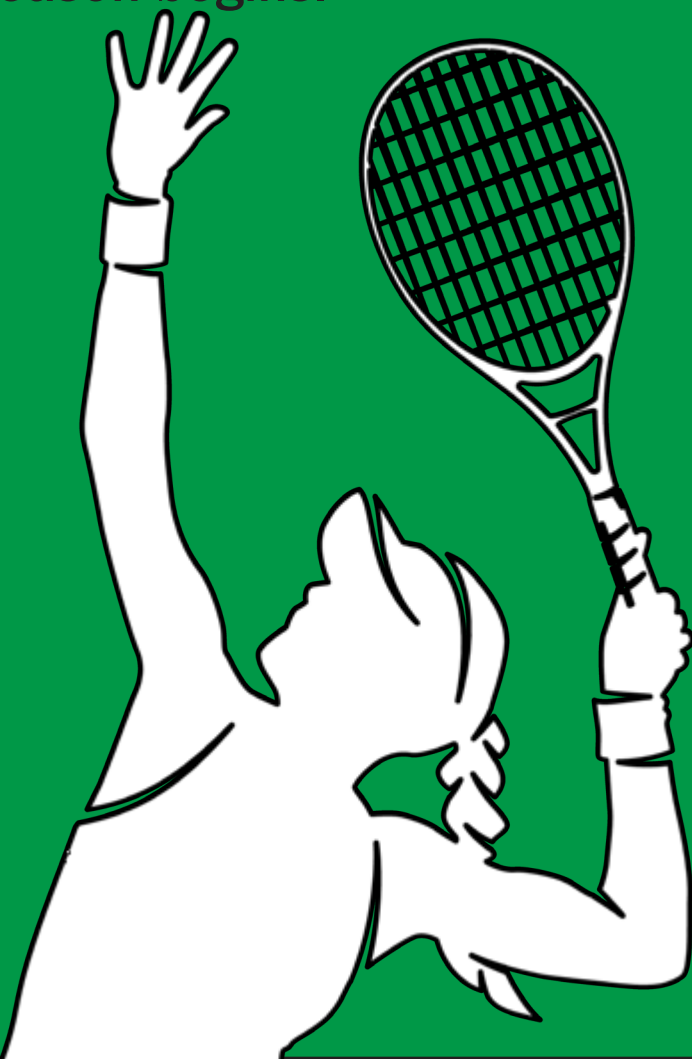
*GREEN = home game | * = PCAC competition*

The women's tennis team has its eyes on the prize as the season begins.

Women's tennis is ready to set the tone this season and is already off to an excellent start, leading the Pacific Coast. With Southwestern trailing behind, the team hopes to extend its lead even further. These women have been setting the standard in sports for Grossmont the past few years, and the former female coach of the year, Megan Haber, looks to continue the success and legacy she has brought to our tennis program.

When asked about the rewards and challenges of coaching, Haber said: "Each year presents an opportunity to work with new athletes. It is very rewarding seeing these young women advance to greater levels, both athletically and academically."

With Assistant Coaches Alexia Mercer, Amanda DiGiovanni and Matthew Worthington at Haber's side, there is nothing this team cannot get done. February has been a success, even with the two losses. Grossmont has set itself in an excellent position coming into March as conference play begins, and the road to the show is all that will be on this team's mind. 🏆



TAKE ME OUT TO THE (GRIFFIN) BALL GAME

It's not so quiet anymore at Griffin field now that baseball season is back on.

STORY AND LAYOUT BY JACQUELINE COLOMBO

For two years now, Grossmont's baseball field has been deserted by fans since the COVID-19 pandemic, which put all sports on pause for a little while. Not this year, as the Griffins are finally back and happy to be competing in front of crowds once more. The team is without a doubt ready and motivated now more than ever. Here is an inside look at the 2022 season so far.

Randy Abshier, head coach of 17 years, offered a quick recap: "2022 season started off good. We were 3-0 to start the season. There were some good teams we played, but then we ran into some clubs at Orange Empire up in Riverside, LA area, which was a little higher caliber, and went on a two-game losing streak against Riverside, competed and bounced back again against Barstow and then lost to Cypress. And now we're 6-5."

A few players standing out so far this season on the pitching side are Kyle Dobyys, Andrew Shirvanian and Jake Sergeant. Hitting-wise, standouts are Skyler Agnew, third baseman, and Sean McGrew, a veteran of the 2020 suspended baseball season.

"I'm liking it so far," Pitcher Dobyys said. "It's my first year so I'm just trying to get used to everything, but it's been going pretty good. We've been playing against some tough teams so we're just getting ready for conference."

Dobyys' goals this season are to win games, keep throwing strikes as a pitcher and be a captain. "When you're pitching, all the eyes are on you, so you're being like a leader and a captain on the field and just trying to maintain that and just win games basically," he said.

It is not uncommon to start a new season motivated. Most athletes will have goals and achievements in mind going into a new season, and Third Baseman Agnew is no exception.

"As a team, I think I want our goal to win a lot more games, try to get to the championship, put another banner out there," Agnew said. "I want us to all stay on our grind, get our pitching dialed in, and our hitting, and I think we'll be fine."

Agnew said many of the players met each other for the first time meeting since the pandemic. It took everyone about a month or two to get to know each other and everyone's names.

Another familiar feeling after coming back from a long break many athletes can relate to is finding room for improvement no matter how good they are playing. First Baseman Zavien Watson talked about his expectations for his first year back.

"Personally, I think I'm doing pretty good, but can get better—not only for me but for my teammates too, because there've been a couple of at-bats where I could've had a pivotal RBI score, but I didn't get it done so, I feel like I can do better," said Watson, who made getting drafted after this year one of his goals of the season.



PHOTO COURTESY
OF RANDY ABSHIER

Abshier mentioned schools and scouts have been showing interest in Watson.

It hasn't been too easy lately, as excited as the team is to be back on the field. Abshier talked about the hurdles they have had to face as a team so far. "We played well; we pitched well at certain times, and it has been exposed on the bullpen side of the house where late in the game ... we struggle to finish," he said. "We struggle to throw strikes late in the game or keep our hit count or teams off the base pads. We've been struggling with that late in the game, so a lot of our loss has been closed until the end of the game where we've lost it."

This year, the Griffins have lost six of their pitchers to scholarships and injuries, but the players will not let that get in the way of their season.

"Honestly, as a team, I think we are much better," Sergeant said. "But in the 2019 year, we just didn't have a couple of the pieces that we needed, and I think this year we have all those guys."

Sergeant added they have a good squad with the right confidence to run in playoffs, they just need to clean a couple of things up, and then they will be able to get there.

After taking a two-year break, it is good to have our baseball team playing while hearing fans cheer again. Welcome back, Griffins! You have been missed. ♪



PHOTO BY
JACQUELINE
COLOMBO

GROSSMONT BRIEFING

Meal for Two By Makayla Hoppe

Grossmont College's Culinary Department is working hard to bring an eclectic spread of dishes to the masses. Throughout the spring semester, the aspiring chefs will be making prepared meals for you to bring home and enjoy.

There are six different menus with specialty items like harissa-braised short ribs, Swiss chard and ricotta crispell, and raspberry frangipane tartelette. The three-course meal for two is \$40 and will be ready to pick up from 5:30 to 6 p.m. in front of Building 10 (Admissions and Records) every Thursday through May 19, with the exception of March 31. 🐦

Counseling Availability By Marc Cordero

For those who need any counseling, you're in luck as Grossmont has shifted its counseling services to offer more availability.

Students are welcome to schedule appointments online or on-campus through the counseling page on the Grossmont College website.

Setting up an appointment is simple: Just go to the counseling page, sign in with your student ID and birth date, and select a time with whichever counselor you choose.

Whether students need academic, transfer or personal counseling, Grossmont will have more appointments ready for their students.

It may still be tricky to book an appointment when registration for the next semester opens up, as many students would want to speak with a counselor. Slots also fill up when transfer acceptances and applications come in. For these types of counseling appointments, it would be wise to schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

Virtual appointments will be through Zoom calls. In-person appointments will take place at the library upstairs.

Grossmont also offers on-campus drop-in counseling meetings at the Counseling Center Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. These meetings will be 10 to 15 minutes long for quick help with academic renewal petitions, assessment placement results, ESL education plans and more.

Students will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear a face-covering during in-person meetings. 🐦

PRIDE [CONT. FROM PAGE 11]

awesome opportunity to stretch your creativity."

The show does indeed feature gender-swapped performances, to an acceptable and wonderful comedic effect. "It's an adaptation that takes great liberty while at the same time honoring the original," Wride added. "It's a very delicate balance. It has been wonderful to work with these talented, courageous, and intelligent students on this wonderfully ridiculous and fabulous play."

When asked about her past experiences with Grossmont, Wride said: "I have never directed for the college, but a long time ago I went here and did a couple of shows. Going to Grossmont was an integral part of my education. I ended up getting my master's at San Diego State University, and I would never have been able to do so if I hadn't started at Grossmont."

Some classic literature, especially Jane Austen, can often be hard to take in. It is a very old-fashioned kind of English and may not always come easily. Seeing a piece of work on stage with visuals allows for stories to be absorbed in

a completely different way.

"This is a modern adaptation of a classical piece, so in many ways, you get the best of both worlds," Wride said. "There might be those purists who aren't quite sure what to do with Kate Hamill's *Pride and Prejudice*, but I say leave your expectations at the door and just have a good time."

Jane Austen is known as one of the most famous female authors of all time, so it is fitting that Grossmont will be producing the show during Women's History Month. It features witty, classic dialogue, some good old-fashioned slapstick, lovable characters (as well as those you love to hate) and a heartwarming ending to tie everything together. This will be a fun show for The Stagehouse Theatre and I cannot wait to see it.

Pride and Prejudice will be playing March 17-19 and 24-26 at 7:30 p.m., with additional performances March 19 and 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available by calling 619-644-7234; discounts are available for students, seniors and the military. 🐦



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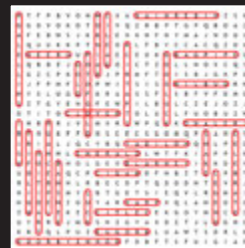
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tues, Thurs

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saturday

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BRAIN
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REEL TALK

These recent releases have made a big splash,
but which live up to the hype?



ENCANTO | Review by Katie Donovan

With an addictive soundtrack, colorful characters and a spellbinding story honoring family relationships, *Encanto*, directed by Byron Howard and co-directed by Charise Castro Smith, has become the most popular animated movie of the year. The story follows Mirabel and the magical Madrigal family as she embarks on a mission to save the family's magical gifts.

The film radiates magical realism by paying homage to Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Rudolfo Anaya and other Latinx writers of the era. Real issues are explored, like breaking family traditions and defying stereotypes. It holds a special place in the hearts of children coming from immigrant families who have felt the stressful responsibility of trying to honor the sacrifices their parents made to give them a better life.

Encanto approaches tough family topics with enough sensitivity and humor that it becomes lighthearted fun for all ages. For a movie that will excite the senses, soothe your inner child, and bring everyone closer by the end, *Encanto* is a beautiful choice. ★★★★★

UNCHARTED | Review by Makayla Hoppe

Riddled with painfully-bland dialogue and questionable CGI, Sony's attempt at an *Uncharted* film is more reminiscent of *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* rather than a successful homage to *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The action-adventure video game franchise holds enough character for screenwriters to create a brand-new origin story, but instead, the film, directed by Ruben Fleischer, gets a loosely strung-together plot with beats and action sequences straight from the games.

Tom Holland's portrayal of Nathan Drake doesn't hold a candle to the original character, to the point where it felt like Sony executives told him to "just play him like you do Peter Parker, because that's what will get people into the theater." Mark Wahlberg's portrayal of Victor "Sully" Sullivan is even worse, with no charisma to make the character likable.

While action-adventure films never need to be completely realistic, the last third of *Uncharted* is a physics-defying action sequence that was laugh-out-loud unbelievable. Throughout the decade of development from Sony, you'd think they would put time, dedication and care into one of their most popular game franchises. ★★☆☆☆



THE BATMAN | Review by Liam Klingensmith

Dark, gritty and extremely noir, *The Batman*, directed by Matt Reeves, has quickly and clearly left its mark on the movie industry as one of the best superhero films ever made. This detective crime thriller is a worthwhile three-hour journey full of Batman solving clues, fighting bad guys and trying to take control of his corrupt Gotham City, all while fighting a new bigger foe. This unique take on Batman feels like a classic comic book come to life on the big screen, and is a very refreshing take on the caped crusader.

Robert Pattinson as Batman was a pleasant surprise that many people did not see coming, mainly judging from his past performances in *Twilight*. His quiet and dominant presence was perfectly balanced out with Zoe Kravitz's sneaky prowess as Catwoman, another welcome addition to make the ideal bat and cat. With other DC newcomers such as Paul Dano as The Riddler, Colin Farrell as The Penguin and Jeffrey Wright as Jim Gordon, every character was able to pull their own weight and make the ideal Batman story.

After a long 10 years without a solo movie about the hero, and recent lackluster performances by other actors, fans will be delighted to see how great this latest installment in the DC slate is. *The Batman* shows the superhero film genre doesn't need to be filled with crossovers, futuristic technology and unrealistic takes to be real cinema. With a possible sequel already on the way to being developed, the future of DC and Batman look very bright. ★★★★★