

The

# SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MARCH 2023

*In Bloom*



IMAGE BY TIM MOSSHOLDER

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 The Front Stuff**  
Editor's letter, safety update, campus calendar and Brain Boost.
- 6 Earned, Not Given**  
Women continue to push forward and break the barriers to equal rights.
- 7 Spring Break**  
Have fun and stay safe during your week off.
- 8 Welcome On Board**  
New faculty members join Grossmont's full-time team.
- 9 Under Construction**  
Campus building projects slowed down by COVID impacts.
- 10 Swimmers Left Out To Dry**  
Problems with Grossmont's pool force aquatic sports off campus.
- 11 Building Toward Greatness**  
After a tough season of adjustments, Grossmont's men's basketball team is hungry to improve next year.
- 12 Manny "Money" Machado**  
The Padres offer new long-term contract with star.
- 13 A Tale Of Two Theaters**  
Sister theaters provide options for Grossmont's performing arts.
- 13 At Home**  
The Hyde Gallery exhibits impressive art close to home.
- 14 Clay Expression**  
The Art Department and the International Club combine for a ceramics workshop.
- 15 Griffin Athletics Schedule**  
Check out a game or match and support our home team.
- 16 Reel Talk: Escape Reality**  
Take a break from real life with these films.



IMAGE BY DAVID MCELWEE

# The SUMMIT

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## NEW GROWTH

A new year brings new changes, opportunities and challenges. From these challenges come new growth, and no season reminds us of that better than spring.

As *The Summit's* new editor-in-chief, I am excited to take on both a new opportunity and challenge. While the semester progresses, I have no doubt my time in this position will provide me with exponential growth as a writer, an editor and human.

By the time summer arrives, I believe all of us will have changed significantly from the moment of this issue's publication. When the spring storms clear, leading to presummer's blossom, we can see that no matter how chaotic and gloomy the world around us seems, it will make way for something amazing to bloom.

Gideon Fogt, Editor-in-Chief

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

We are very concerned with the quality of our journalism. If you spot a factual error, please contact us at [summit@gcccd.edu](mailto:summit@gcccd.edu).

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



GROSSMONT'S CAMPUS AND PARKING SERVICES TEAM, A.K.A. CAPS, HANDLE CAMPUS SAFETY CONCERNS ALONG WITH A SHERIFF'S DEPUTY FROM THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

**G**rossmont Colleges Campus and Parking Services (CAPS), is here to ensure your safety while on campus. In February, the campus crime log\* had a few reoccurring incidents of note. It also serves as a reminder of services students and faculty can access.

## VEHICLE TROUBLES

- **Feb. 6:** Deputies investigated a hit-and-run incident in an unknown location on campus. The reporting party was uncooperative with CAPS and the deputy.
- **Feb. 9:** A hit-and-run collision occurred on the first-floor parking structure. The investigation is ongoing.
- **Feb. 13:** A collision occurred at an unspecified location on campus. Both parties involved requested assistance with information exchange.
- **Feb 21:** Deputies investigated and assisted both parties involved in an information exchange in Parking Lot 3.

## SAFETY

- **Feb. 13:** Deputies checked for a suspicious person at Building 70. The subject, who was gone on arrival, was possibly following a female student. Extra patrol was requested by the student. It is unclear whether the male subject was a student.

## CAPS SERVICES

Campus and parking services are here to provide aid to faculty and students who might be in need of the following services.

- **Safety Escorts:** Arrangements for escorts can be made for your campus destination. According to the CAPS website, to request a safety escort, you can call its office at 619-644-7654. When calling, please specify if you need a Deputy Sheriff to be present. Note that the CAPS office cannot accommodate disability escorts, so please contact the ARC office at 619-644-7112 for this service.
- **Vehicle Battery Jumps and Unlocks:** This complimentary service must be requested by the owner of the vehicle, who must have a picture ID and fill out a Request for Motorist Assistance Waiver of Liability Form. To request assistance call 619-644-7654.
- **Lost and Found:** If an item has been lost on campus, the lost and found can be located in Building 57. After 90 days, unclaimed property is donated to numerous charities.

\* 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 kept allowing the public to view the most recent information.

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

**24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT**

Further help is also available on campus at the Health and Wellness Center, where you can schedule an appointment in-person or virtually with one of Grossmont's dedicated therapists. **BY GIDEON FOGT**

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health or in deep crisis, do not hesitate: Help is available. Call or text 988 to be connected to the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline today. You can also go to [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) to learn more.

# CAMPUS CALENDAR

COMPILED BY GIDEON FOGT

**MARCH 10:** Privacy and Your Digital Footprint Workshop, 10 to 11 a.m. (60-140) | Effective Communication Workshop, 11 a.m. to noon (60-140) | Grossmont Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale ft. San Diego Ballet, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC)

**MARCH 11:** Open House, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Grossmont College)

**MARCH 14:** Women in Non-Traditional Careers Panel, 10 to 11 a.m. (60-140/ Zoom) | Love on a Leash Pet Therapy, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. (Main Quad)

**MARCH 18:** Contemporary Jazz Master Class with Natalia Hill, 10 to 11:30 a.m. (24-71)

**MARCH 21:** Opening reception for *Climate Reckoning*, 4-6 p.m. (Hyde Gallery)

**MARCH 22:** Opening reception for *What I Wanted To Tell You Is This*, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (PVAC)

**MARCH 23-24:** *An Evening of One Acts*, 7:30 p.m. (Stagehouse Theatre)

**MARCH 25:** *An Evening of One Acts*, 2 and 7:30 p.m. (Stagehouse Theatre)

**MARCH 27 - APRIL 1:** Spring Break

**APRIL 5:** Grossmont College Concert and University of San Diego Band, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC)

**APRIL 10:** Jazz and Afro-Cuban Ensembles, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC)

**APRIL 14:** Next issue of *The Summit* hits newsstands

\*Events subject to change; visit [grossmont.edu](https://grossmont.edu) for online meeting logins and latest info.





## Remember groundbreaking women in this month's Women's History Month puzzle.

BY JOSEPH SALCIDO

**SOLUTION  
ON  
PAGE 15**

### ACROSS

2. Rashida Tlaib is the first Somali-American to be elected to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Sharice Davids and Deb Haaland are the first \_\_\_\_\_ American women elected to Congress.
8. Jeannette \_\_\_\_\_ was the first women to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.
12. Ilhan Omar is the first \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Congresswoman.
13. The first woman to be printed on a circulating United States \_\_\_\_\_ was Susan B. Anthony.
17. Elizabeth Blackwell was the first women to graduate from \_\_\_\_\_ school.
18. Sally Ride became the first American woman in \_\_\_\_\_ as a crew member on Space Shuttle Challenger STS-7.
19. The first women to become a U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ of State was Madeleine Albright.
20. Susan B. Anthony successfully helped fight for women to earn the right to \_\_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. Michelle Obama was the first African-American \_\_\_\_\_ lady.
3. Sandra Day O'Connor was the first female member of the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Court.
4. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is now the \_\_\_\_\_ women ever elected to Congress.

5. The first women to cross the English \_\_\_\_\_ was Gertrude Ederle.
7. Amelia Earhart became the first women to fly solo across the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Sharice Davids is the first openly LGBT \_\_\_\_\_ of Congress.
14. Jane Addams was the first women from the U.S. to win the Nobel \_\_\_\_\_ Prize.
15. Jahana Hayes was Connecticut's first Black women \_\_\_\_\_ to Congress.
16. Janet Reno was the first female attorney \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States.



IMAGE BY NICOLE BERRO





# EARNED, NOT GIVEN

Women continue to push forward  
and break the barriers to equal rights.

STORY BY DANI UCMAN

**T**his month we are celebrating Women's History Month.

But throughout history, women have not been seen as equal to men. It wasn't until June 4, 1919, that the suffragettes finally won the long battle for women's right to vote.

It was frowned upon when women would try to work. The only jobs they were expected to have were taking care of the house and the children. Not all women wanted this as their future, but getting jobs outside the house took a lot of work for them to achieve.

Only in World War II were women appreciated for taking over jobs the men couldn't do while they were away at war. This led to an influx of women working in factories, creating baseball leagues and engaging in multiple other activities that showed their support for the war effort.

A perfect example is the movie *A League of Their Own*, which centers around female baseball teams created in 1943. This was also when "Rosie the Riveter," the star of a campaign aimed at recruiting female workers for defense industries. Rosie served as a form of encouragement for women in the factory workforce and eventually became an icon.

When the men returned from war, the women were expected to go back to

being housewives. But everyone knows that once you get a taste of something new, it takes time to return to the old way. Women who had jobs and loved it didn't necessarily want to return to domestic chores, and they pushed for more women in the workplace.

"Women's History Month means a lot to me," said Michelle Chapman, a student at Grossmont College. "It is something that I feel is important because so much has happened in the centuries of women going from not having any rights to getting more rights. That is something that should grow with every decade. I know my grandma's rights are entirely different than what we have now." Chapman mentioned Mindy Kaling, an actress and producer, as an example of an inspiring woman.

"She has taken many chances (which) is hard in the world, even if people do not love everything she does," Chapman said. "I see this with *Velma*. She wanted to change the Scooby-Doo franchise, and that's precisely what she did, which is so important. Because she is letting a new generation of women see Velma as them."

In the new live-action version of *The Little Mermaid* Disney is releasing in May, another important decision was made to help empower women.

Casting Ariel was based on talent, not appearances, with Halle Bailey chosen to portray the main character. This gives a whole generation of girls an iconic Disney princess who may look like them.

Dannie Golding, a senior at Helix High School who will soon be a freshman at Grossmont, said her favorite historical female is Amelia Earhart.

"She was the first female aviator to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, and I do not want to become a pilot or ever fly a plane," Golding said. "I admire her because she never let anyone or anything stop her from setting records and fulfilling her dreams."

When questioned about the playing field for men versus women, Golding said: "The playing field is much harder for a female politician than a male. Male politicians are usually respected more and have help from male politicians that came before them, which is something female politicians don't normally have. America has yet to have a female president, and it is 2023."

Women's History Month not only celebrates women for their strength and achievements but also recognizes their sacrifices. A lot of changes have been made over the years but the battle for women's rights is still not over. 🦋



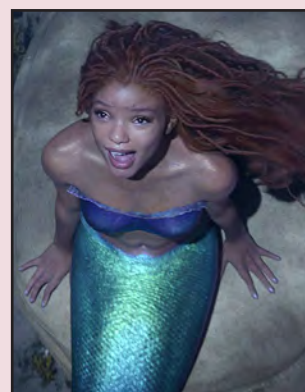
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# Springing Into Fun

No matter your break plans, keep it light.

BY SYDNI KOERNER

According to hundreds of coming-of-age movies, traveling during spring break is a must-do for college students. Some are spending a week partying on a beach, getting a tan and flirting with the cute surfer whose name they won't remember. Others are spending the week on a road trip with friends or significant others getting lost in nature.

Then you have the realistic majority, who are spending the academic vacation working and covering life's responsibilities.

Spring break is supposed to be a time for yourself, a time to do what you want to do without having to worry about school. A moment to breathe and have some fun, no matter if it is from home or out on an adventure.

"I am going to Las Vegas for my 21st (birthday). Some of my friends, my brother and my cousin are all flying out there that Tuesday and coming home that Friday," said Grossmont Student Jason Gutierrez. "People say it is more wild on the weekends, but I figured why not go out for the week? After all, the hotel rooms and events are hundreds of dollars cheaper during the week than on the weekend."

For spring break, you don't always have to travel across the world doing extravagant activities and buying expensive items. You can keep it nearby and still have the time of your life, just like student Jocelyn Pacheco is planning on doing.

"For spring break I am going to Disneyland. I'm a Magic Key holder, so I do go a lot, but I'm looking forward to going to my favorite place with my boyfriend this time," Pacheco said. "I also will be going to Arizona to visit my boyfriend since we are long-distance."

If you are looking for some other local ideas in San Diego for break, SD Nightlife is hosting a Club Tour on March 31, taking patrons dancing all night through downtown. If you want something to help you relax and focus, SDYN is hosting a Spring Renewal on March 26 where you can get into some yoga and helpful breathing exercises to get in touch with your own energy. If you decide you just want to have a good time in the sun and vibe, you can go to the San Diego Beach Party on March 26 at West Mission Beach. This event will be hosted by Seven Seas Sports and Entertainment and is an all-day event.

Whatever you decide to do for spring break, you can always make it fun. No matter what though, be safe and live life to the fullest. 🌊



IMAGE BY ROBERTO NICKSON



## SPRING BREAK SAFETY

BY LINDSAY ELIAS

Spring break is the most exciting part of March for many college students. Whether it be a vacation or a staycation, having fun shouldn't be the only priority. Safety comes hand in hand with having a memorable time.

**Travel in groups.** It is better to go out or travel in trusted groups to avoid potentially dangerous situations that could occur more often if you're alone. Remain within the eyesight of your friends and never leave with a stranger. Travel buddies provide instant help from a familiar face to dependable protection.

**Make sure to carry sunblock.** Soaking up the sun? Help to prevent any bad sunburns and protect your skin from potential skin cancer risks at the same time. Hydration is also very important to avoid potential heat exhaustion. Drink plenty of water and use shaded areas to fend off headaches, fatigue and dizziness.

**Keep your drinks in sight.** While being at a bar or club can easily cause distractions, it is important to keep an eye on your beverage. Keeping your drink close to you can help prevent having it spiked. For even more security, don't accept a drink from a stranger and watch carefully as your drink is being poured.

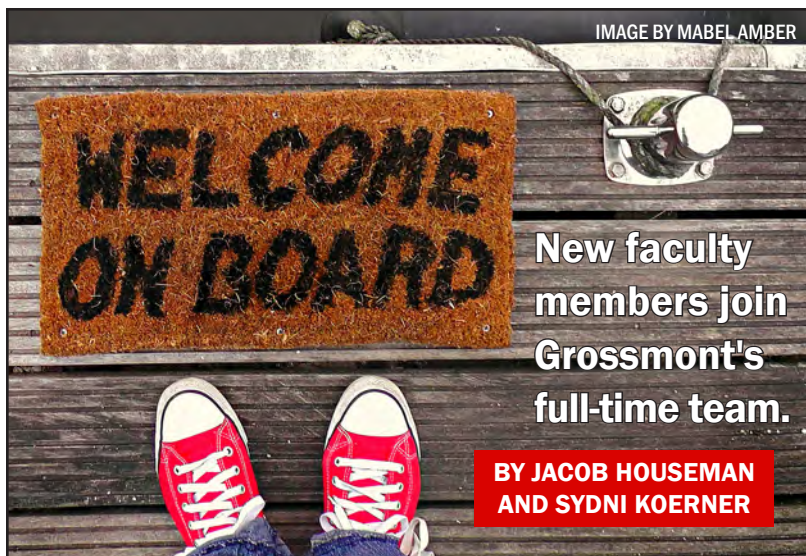
**Drive safely.** Inevitably there comes a time when all good things must come to an end, so make sure to practice safe driving. If no designated driver is appointed, try other means of transportation. Perhaps a friend or family member will be willing to provide a ride, or you can always use a taxi or ride-sharing app like Uber or Lyft.

**Use ride-sharing apps carefully.** Apps like Uber or Lyft also come with their own set of risks. It is extremely important to check that you're getting in the correct car before continuing your trip. You can do this by making sure the license plate, car model and photo match up with the one on the driver's profile. Try to share your ETA with someone you can rely on, this can also be done through the app. Both Uber and Lyft websites state the app has a 911 feature within it, by clicking the button you will be connected to a 911 dispatcher and your trip details are automatically shared with them as well.

**Think about tomorrow.** Consuming too much alcohol can be a nightmare the next day. Although the best way to prevent a hangover is moderation or no alcohol at all, there are a few things that can be done to ease the pain. Antacids should be kept handy if you plan out your drinking the night before, they work as a good form of reducing nausea. Hydration is always important, but especially during and after a day of drinking. If possible, avoid the sun as heat and harsh light will only make a hangover worse. Check out below for some Grossmont student's personal hangover remedies:

- **Nathaniel Tiapula:** "Two Alka-Seltzer Plus to balance the stomach, one bottle of Sprite for digestion, one gallon of water, spicy ramen mainly for the broth and carbs."
- **Daniela Sanchez:** "Hydration and rest are the only two things I need. I usually just sleep in as long as I can and try to drink Gatorade."
- **Liliana Lomeli:** "Menudo/ pozole and lots of Pedialyte!" 🌊





BY JACOB HOUSEMAN  
AND SYDNI KOERNER

**E**very year we return to campus, it is always a new experience for someone, whether it is someone's first day as a student or as a new faculty member.

At some point, we all know what it feels like to be new somewhere. Going in, not knowing anyone and being shy and uneasy about what to expect. Being new to a school can be nerve-racking. So let's get to know new faculty members this semester.



**Debbie Rose**, our new Respiratory Therapy instructor, was previously the Respiratory Director at San Joaquin Valley College. Rose is currently working with her classes on campus Tuesday through Thursday.

"I like it here so far," she said. "There is a lot of support and resources. I also met a lot of the nurses and leadership and everyone really works as a team."

Rose added she felt "honored and blessed" to be able to be involved with Grossmont College for the next chapter in her career. (Her birthday also happens to be March

14, so wish her a happy birthday if you see her!)

**Valentine Altamero** is a full-time professor in the biology department teaching Anatomy and Physiology. Prior to joining us at Grossmont, she was a visiting professor at a private local university in Fort Worth, Texas.

When she was looking for a more permanent move in her career, Altamero said she "always wanted to live by the ocean, and so I saw this job opening and saw it as an opportunity for change."

When it comes to Grossmont, her two classes are mainly in-person. "The people are amazing," Altamero said. "The faculty has been so helpful and supportive with getting started. The students are great, I



love their inquisitiveness in class. They are very interactive, opposed to teaching like a silent class."

**Romeo Madrid** is the new assistant director and clinical placement coordinator for the nursing department. He said via email that he decided to work here because his professional goal was to work as a nurse educator and "serve in a community college that highly supports diversity and inclusion."



Prior to Grossmont, Madrid spent more than three decades in the nursing field. After some time as a nurse clinician, he said he fell in love with pediatric critical care nursing, and that he also enjoys passing on what he's learned to students from the experience he's gained throughout his career.

"This helps our students gain an insight about their career path, and it inspires me to see them appreciate and even follow the career journey I took," he said.

When asked about his experience at Grossmont so far, Madrid called it "fulfilling," adding, "I have already been involved in a multitude of department activities, I learn a lot of new things every day, and I get to meet great co-workers and students."



**Kaiya Rainbolt** is now a full-time professor after previously working here for four years. Previous to Grossmont, she was an adjunct instructor at Miramar College and San Diego State University. Rainbolt now teaches Sculpture I, II and 3D Design classes.

When asked what she likes most about teaching sculpture, Rainbolt said via email, that it was "the fact that you are not only imparting knowledge about the discipline but also helping students to build confidence in their abilities as makers and to understand that the most important voice in their work will always be their own."

Rainbolt said she loves interacting with students and helping them with their artistic goals. "The students here are amazing and a pleasure to work with and my experience with the faculty and staff has been very positive," she said. "Grossmont College is the perfect fit for me!"

So if you see any of our new faculty members around campus, make sure to stop and say hi. Any friendly smile or wave could make them feel more welcome. 🐦



**S**everal new construction projects, some funded by HEERF, have been recently announced to begin soon here on campus. HEERF stands for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, and it is meant to go toward projects related to handling COVID-19.

The first example of this is called WAPS, which is meant to increase the range of the school's WiFi outdoors. The focus is on the main gathering areas for students such as the courtyards outside of the 200 and 300s buildings. As a district-wide project, it will be done at Cuyamaca College too.

Another HEERF project is installing touchless access doors. "It's going to be just like Griffin Center in Building 60 where you walk up to the door and it automatically opens for you," said Loren Holmquist, director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations. These doors will be put in common areas and restrooms.

Some objects related to plumbing will also be receiving the same treatment. Not only will faucets and toilets become touchless, but water filling stations as well. There will also be duct cleaning done at night.

A project unrelated to HEERF is the deconstruction of Buildings 21, 25 and 26. A new singular two-story building will be made in its place about where 21 is now which will be used for theater and music. "So that's an exciting one because we've been wanting...to do the 200s area for a long time," Holmquist said.

And finally, a smaller project being done for students is an ATM that will be located in Griffin Center. 🐦



# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## Campus building projects slow from COVID impacts.

STORY & PHOTOS  
BY JACOB HOUSEMAN



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, students at Grossmont College have been gradually returning to campus from online learning. This has left some students curious about the purpose of the construction and how it impacts them.

There is currently work being done on two major projects. One is to reconstruct the roads and the other is to make a new building that will be used for math and earth science.

The road construction is a newer project that began in December. It has six phases of asphalt replacement and two for striping. Phases one through four and six are currently complete but phase five will have to wait due to the expended budget caused by change orders.

“The change orders had to do with what they call material condition and what that means in layman’s terms is when they took the asphalt off down to dirt and of course, it’s raining so the dirt part of it is soaked in water and you can’t put asphalt over it,” explained Loren Holmquist, director of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations.

Due to this, workers had to dig deeper and wait for everything to dry. It was also discovered that soil conditions on campus are not very conducive. “So what that did is we had to spend more money on changeovers which is fixing the issues as they came about and because of that, that expended our budget,” Holmquist said.

The construction of Building 36 has been in progress for about two years and is approximately four months behind schedule, but is catching up. One reason for this is the lack of workers caused by COVID. “Contractors and union workers don’t have enough workers, so there’s not enough workers to be on the construction site to do the construction work in the time-frame it was allotted,” Holmquist said.

Another cause of delays is the cost of materials which has “skyrocketed ever since COVID hit,” according to Holmquist. Materials have also had problems with lead-time, which is how long it takes for materials to arrive. They have been delayed anywhere from a week to two years in some instances.

Despite these issues and delays, the building is expected to be finished somewhere between the summer and fall of this year. “I love construction, I always love seeing construction completed,” Holmquist said. “Building 36 is going to be exciting.”

One of the next projects is going to be a renovation of Buildings 51 and 55 so that they will connect to the chiller plant in Building 71. “It cools water and then sends that cold water to each building, and then when it gets to the building it goes to a piece of equipment...called an air handler,” Holmquist said. “It converts the cold water into cold air.”

This project is planned to begin in August and will help with energy costs and sustainability.

There will also be some modifications to Buildings 52, 53 and 54 with new wall paint, base molding and chair railing. This is expected to happen in July.

In the summer, Building 55’s computer labs are going to be relocated to Building 70. There will also be items related to mathematics and tutoring transferred from 70 to 55.

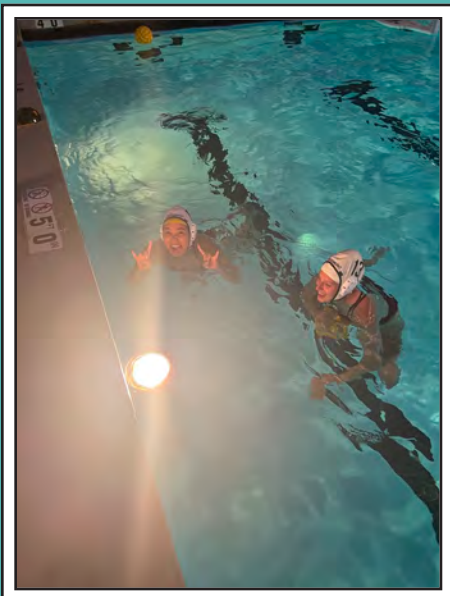
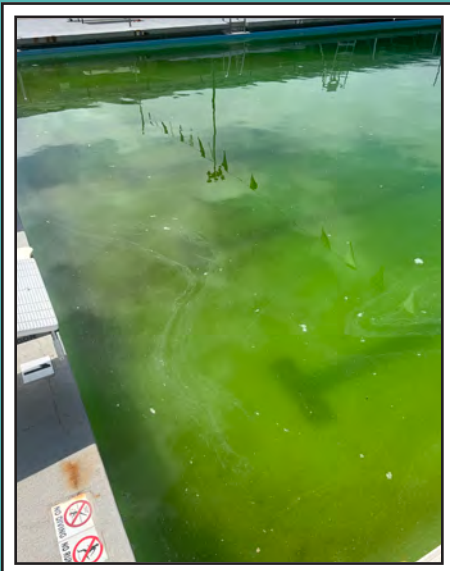
Renovation is expected to begin on buildings 51 and 55 around February of next year and finished by September 2025.

A potential future project is on-campus housing for students which would be located in the dirt lot next to lot 4A. “That does not mean it’s going to happen but it’s a plan that’s submitted to the state,” Holmquist said. 🐦

# SWIMMERS LEFT OUT TO DRY

Problems with Grossmont's pool force aquatics off campus.

STORY BY ANDREW BREITENBACH | PHOTOS BY LARRY LARSEN



**B**oth Grossmont's Swim and Dive team and the Water Polo team have been forced to train off-campus this season due to issues with the school pool water turning green.

The pool on campus has several problems, ranging from malfunctioning pumps to crumbling concrete, which has made it unsafe for the teams to continue training in it. Public training facilities have been rented out to become the new home of Grossmont aquatics until further notice.

"It's a 60-year-old pool that has had issues for the last 30 years," said Larry Larsen, head coach of Grossmont aquatics.

The Swim and Dive team is currently renting four lanes at the Salvation Army Joan Kroc Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with swim meets on Fridays. Grossmont's campus and the Joan Kroc Center are only seven miles apart but they are separated by the busy Interstate 8 freeway, which is often clogged by routine traffic.

"The student-athletes are now asked to work out at the Joan Kroc Center at poor times in terms of their academics when they need to

**In addition to the green water, the concrete has begun to break off around the pool, the pumps don't work and the lights randomly float to the surface.**

be in class," Larsen said. "They have to be in 12 units to be on the swim team. So they're asked to take away their prime time for academics to be here swimming off-campus, driving here."

The morning session of practice on Tuesday, Feb. 21, was supposed to have at least 10 to 15 student-athletes training, but only had three due to the logistics of travel and classes.

Unfortunately, renting pool time is often difficult, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. was the best time the team could reserve.

"There's no end in sight," Larsen said, adding that they are doubtful they will return to campus this season or any in the near future.

Although the Grossmont pool is smaller and older than the Joan Kroc Center, coaches and swimmers want to return to their home training ground on the Grossmont campus as soon as possible. Its location provides the student-athletes with a much closer training facility which is important when attending classes.

"At Grossmont, it was more like a little club you know," said Assistant





Swim Coach and Grossmont Alumni Carlos Lazarr. “It was our little thing, everyone was there, everybody knew each other there, and after practice, we’d mess around. It was fun. It was ours.”

The campus pool most likely won’t open in its current state, and off-site training is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The team is hopeful to one day receive the funding for a new facility here on campus.

Swimmers and divers arrived this season expecting to swim on campus, but were soon met with a green-colored pool that wasn’t fit for swimming.

“Last season we had a pool at Grossmont and we trained all season there,” Lazarr said. “Then at some point between now and last April, I don’t know exactly what happened but I came back and the pool was green and I was like, OK, we’re not swimming in that.”

In addition to the green water, the concrete has begun to break off around the pool, the pumps don’t work and the lights randomly float to the surface.

Off-campus training has presented several challenges for the team such as scheduling pool time, commuting to different locations after class and working around other paying customers of the facility. Student-athletes also don’t have immediate access to a weight room or academic advisors when away from campus. 🐦



## BUILDING TOWARD GREATNESS

**After a tough season of adjustments, Griffins are hungry to improve next year.**

**STORY BY GIDEON FOGT | PHOTOS BY P.J. PANEBIANCO**

**A**fter 27 games and an 11-16 record, the Grossmont College men’s basketball team finds itself back to the grindstone as offseason workouts ensue. While the outside eye may find their past season to be rather underwhelming, there is more to these Griffins than the wins and losses show.

Scratching the surface you see a team gritting through injuries, lacking size and learning an entirely new system. Most people seeing that could now begin to understand the obstacles the team had to overcome throughout the year.

“We ended up starting slow and kind of found our groove; Christmas break gave us a little bump in the road,” Head Coach Doug Weber said. “We tried something new this year, the way we played, the style we played was completely different than years past.”

With a severe lack of size – no one on the team was listed over 6 feet 5 inches – it is true that the team needed to adopt a new fast-paced, small-ball system. The new 5-in-5-out scheme made strong use of the team’s speed and shooting capabilities, subbing in a fresh five-man lineup every 40 seconds to keep offense and defense energized and aggressive.

“As a shooter, I think it was really good to have the green light,” said Brandon Tully, guard and the team’s leading scorer. “For them to say, ‘Oh, we want you to shoot, we want you to put up shots,’ it feels good

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]



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against the conference to put up shots I feel I can make.”

Tully and his fellow Griffins certainly put up plenty of shots, leading the state in both team field goal and three-point shot attempts within this new system, as well as ranking top 10 in team three-point shots made. Despite their furious offensive shooting, the team struggled to light it up consistently until the latter half of the season.

“It was a transition for all of us as players on the team, and we eventually adapted to it,” said Guard Samuel Stewart IV, who is a first-team all-conference player. “That’s really what it was at the end of the four-game win streak, we really all just came together as a team and adapted to what coach wanted us to do.”

Stewart is not incorrect in his assessment; when looking at the last six games the Griffins played in February, their record was 4-2 ending the season on a winning streak against conference opponents. That can build momentum for a developing team into next year and shows real buy-in to a completely unfamiliar system from all of the players.



“Once we got it, not figured out total, but like, OK, this is how we’re supposed to do it we finished off the second half of conference (games) pretty well,” Weber said.

The Griffins still have plenty of ways to go before they reach the higher levels of play they want to accomplish. While the team led the state in field goal and three-point shot attempts, it still failed to capitalize on a lot of those shots with team field goal and three-point percentage at 37% and 27% respectively. They also led the state in offensive rebounds as well as total rebounds, but interior defense still remained a significant problem with both coach and players agreeing their unit gave up way too many easy shots and layups at the rim.

All of these issues can be worked on though, and with a new season roughly half a year away the team has plenty of time to improve, as well as hopefully recruit some woefully needed size. These Griffins have also already built a selfless foundation revolving around teamwork and improving together as a unit with credit going to Weber and the rest of the coaching staff for building the culture. Both Stewart and Tully fervently credited teammates and the coaching staff for their own individual success this season. They also both expressed team-oriented goals in their hopes and expectations for next season.

“With the guys we have returning I feel like we all have great chemistry playing together already, and I think the best part about all of us is we’re gonna be able to help each other find our shots and get into rhythm,” Tully said. “We hope to have an improved record next year and hopefully compete for the conference.”

Stewart added: “Definitely making playoffs, definitely winning league first. At least top four in league. The games where we went to conference and played these teams for the first time we would lose badly, then we would play them again it seemed like we would play different and lose by like just one or two points. These teams were beatable.”

Having momentum on their side coupled with the selfless buy-in and chemistry from the returning members of the team, the Griffins will be hard at work with Coach Weber to achieve their greatness. 🐦

## MANNY “MONEY”



## MACHADO

The Padres offer  
new long-term  
contract with star.

BY ANDREW BREITENBACH

**S**an Diego Padres Star Third Baseman Manny Machado agreed on an 11-year, \$350 million contract with the team. His new deal keeps him in San Diego through the 2033 season.

Between his two contracts, the Padres have committed a total of \$470 million over 15 years to Machado. He originally signed a 10-year, \$300 million contract in 2019 but planned to opt out of his deal following the 2023 season. Machado is 30 years old and will be 41 when his new contract expires.

Machado set a deadline of mid-February to reach a new agreement, but negotiations continued into the beginning of spring training. The new deal is the fourth largest contract in baseball history, ranking only behind Mike Trout’s \$426.5 million, Mookie Betts’ \$365 million and Aaron Judge’s \$360 million.

In his first four years with the Padres, Machado has been runner-up for the 2022 National League Most Valuable Player Award, a two-time all-star and winner of the 2020 National League Silver Slugger Award. He has also been in the top six of National League RBI leaders in three of the last four seasons.

“He’s putting in work for the team and contributing you know, a good team player, so why not keep him?” Grossmont Student Dylan Alagar said.

Keeping Machado in San Diego is also very beneficial for the community, as he is involved with local charities and gives back to people all across San Diego and Tijuana.

“He means a lot. I live down in Chula Vista, and there’s a mural there for him,” Grossmont Student Esteban Vargas said. “He not only does stuff for San Diego but he also does charitable work for people in Tijuana.”

Machado has always been a controversial player due to his attitude, which has often been labeled arrogant. The fans of baseball are often split between liking or hating him. He has shown relaxed efforts

[PADRES, CONT. ON PAGE 14]





# A TALE OF TWO THEATERS



Sister theaters provide options for Grossmont's performing arts.

BY DANI UCMAN



**T**he Performing and Visual Arts Center (PVAC) is the new theater building on the Grossmont College campus.

Built before the pandemic hit, its very first show was supposed to be staged in 2020. But when the world shut down due to COVID-19, that would never occur.

Now it is 2023 and people want to know what the PVAC is used for, especially with the Stagehouse Theatre doing more of the shows and performances since coming back from the pandemic.

Since the Stagehouse Theatre is the most actively used venue between the two, it can be confusing to understand the difference between them and why the PVAC was constructed. To answer that, Theatre Arts Department Co-Chair Craig Everett provided some detailed context to the situation.

"The Stagehouse Theatre began in 1967 and underwent a major remodel in 1995," he explained. "The PVAC came out of a 14-year gestation period, giving birth to a building right as the pandemic turned the world off in 2020."

The construction of the East County Performing Arts Center, also called ECPAC or Theater East,

affected planned construction on campus.

When the theater was built in El Cajon in the early 1970s, "the campus was left without a large format performance venue," Everett said. "Originally, there was supposed to be a 1,200-seat theater next to Building 21. Theatre East put the kibosh on that."

The deed to Theatre East was handed to the city of El Cajon, which put the potential for a new large performance facility "back on the radar," Everett said.

"Then a miracle occurred," he added. "The voters of East County approved a bond measure, and everything went perfectly well after that, give or take everything that didn't go perfectly well."

According to Everett, the Stagehouse is used Monday

through Saturday, days and nights, for classes, rehearsals and performances during the school year. The PVAC is used weekly, Wednesday through Saturday, for rehearsals and performances by on-campus groups. On Mondays and Tuesdays, it is often getting reset for whatever is next.

Some students like Jesamyn Golding have expressed enjoyment over having the presence of both arts centers at the college.

"I like having both theaters on campus," Golding said. "Though I have only ever been in the Stagehouse Theatre, I would love to get the opportunity to see something take place in the new PVAC."

Golding continued: "I am not surprised to hear that the theaters work together. I am a part of theater in the community, and many community theaters help each other. So, to see how our two campus theaters work together like a small theater family."

Hopefully, moving forward students will get more opportunities to understand the history and purpose of Grossmont's new arts center and how much both theaters help to strengthen the college's performing arts program. 🐦



## AT HOME

The Hyde Gallery exhibits impressive art close to home.

BY DANI UCMAN

**L**ocated in the Performance & Visual Arts Center on Grossmont's campus.

The art gallery is finally reopened after being closed due to the pandemic. Its first exhibit this semester was the "Fragile Earth" experience.

The show was an expedition of ceramic art and drawings from Jeff Irwin, a retired Grossmont professor. The exhibit, which ran through March 2, showed how the artist transcends the limitations of ceramics and pictures to open the world up to different beautiful pieces of art.

Irwin's exhibit highlighted irreconcilable dualities about

the items' material quality and intellectual make-up while reacting to the often problematic stewardship humans have taken over the natural world. It gave viewers a new idea of how the world, or precisely how humanity, has impacted these creatures and the animals around us.

"I enjoyed the art gallery," Former Grossmont Student Ryan Morrison said of his visit. "I don't usually see nor go to it, but I decided to try it out this time as an overall opening and enlightening experience. I'm not an artist nor try to be, but seeing what other people can create out of their minds was very inspirational."

Morrison continued: "Though I am no longer a student on this campus, I would love to come back to see what other people can bring to the community. It's exciting if you genuinely think about how your neighbor or person passing you on the street could be perceiving the world and their

[HYDE, CONT. ON PAGE 14]



STORY AND PHOTOS BY JACOB HOUSEMAN

**T**he Art Department worked with the International Club to host a ceramics workshop Feb. 24. At the event, students were tutored on how to make a pinch pot and were allowed to use their own creativity to experiment with the clay.

After the workshop, Art Professor Jennifer Bennett, department chair for the Visual Arts and Humanities Department, said the students were so engaged they didn't even wait for instructions before getting to work.

"They just kind of got their hands on the clay and started making stuff and you know, made all kinds of things," Bennett said. "Way beyond the pinch pot which would have just been a little tiny bowl. So I think it went well."

Students added their own attachments to the outside of their pots such as handles and decorative shapes. "You know, a pinch pot is like you pinch to make your bowl and that's it," Bennett said. "Adding things is a...whole other lesson"

When asked what she would have done differently, Bennett said that she would have given them less clay and shown an

example of a pinch pot both finished and unfinished. She also would have waited to give students clay so they could be taught before they started working on their own.

"So they came in and they were excited to try something new and they just really went for it and once you get that clay in your hand and you start moving it around it has this like really good mental health effect," Bennett said.

The students also painted their fired pots and canvases in another workshop on March 10. For those interested in pottery or other mediums of art like this one, several classes are being offered over the summer that are both hands-on and online including art appreciation, 2D design, ceramics, digital art, humanities and photography.

There is also the possibility of a digital art workshop in the near future. "I already reached out to our digital art instructor because we have a really nice digital art lab in Building 20," Bennett said, "and I think that the digital art is so contemporary that a workshop there would be a lot of fun." 🐦



## PADRES

[CONT. FROM PAGE 12]

and a careless demeanor at times while still performing at a high level. Collectively, Padre fans agree his production is top tier, but not everyone thinks he's worth what he's making.

"I think he got too much," Grossmont's Sports Information Coordinator Chris Davis said via email. "What is stopping him from in another five years pulling the same thing and asking for more money? The market will certainly have changed by then."

Machado's new deal could also affect other future Padre contracts like outfielder Juan Soto. His contract expires after the 2024 season, and he is expected to ask for even more money. The organization will have to decide if they can afford to keep him.

"Should Soto command the money that everyone thinks he is going to command, it might be too much for the Padres to be able to handle," Davis said.

The Padres also recently signed shortstop Xander Bogaerts for 11 years, \$280 million and re-signed starting pitcher Yu Darvish to a six-year, \$108-million extension, proving the team's willingness to spend. Machado will round out the top of the Padres' lineup which also includes Bogaerts, Soto and Fernando Tatis Jr. 🐦

## HYDE

[CONT. FROM PAGE 13]

interpretation of everyday life. I also encourage more students to go and visit the art gallery in their spare time."

Grossmont Art Major Chris Stegall said: "I love the art gallery on campus. I cannot visit many art galleries around town, so having this here is very nice. Also, they have a wide variety of art showcases. I feel I can get even more education in this art gallery."

The next exhibit in the Patterson Window Display will be *What I Wanted To Tell You is This...*, a memorial exhibition of poetry & collage by Jade Solan, a Grossmont Communications instructor who died last year. The exhibit will run from March 20 to April 21, with an opening reception March 22 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the PVAC lobby.

*Climate Reckoning* will run in the main exhibit space from March 20 to April 25. In collaboration with the Feminist Image Group (FIG), this exhibit will feature 26 artists' reactions to the problematic stewardship humanity holds over the natural environment. An opening reception will be held March 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the gallery.

The Hyde Gallery is free and open to the public Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [hydeartgallery.com](http://hydeartgallery.com). 🐦



## GRIFFIN ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Check out a game or match\*  
and support our home team.

COMPILED BY ANDREW BREITENBACH

### BASEBALL

#### MARCH

- 11 at Palomar (2 p.m.)
- 14 vs. Palomar (2 p.m.)
- 16 vs. Southwestern (2 p.m.)
- 18 at Southwestern (1 p.m.)
- 21 at Imperial Valley (2 p.m.)
- 23 vs. Imperial Valley (2 p.m.)
- 28 at Mesa (2 p.m.)
- 30 vs. Mesa (2 p.m.)

#### APRIL

- 1 at Mesa (1 p.m.)
- 4 at City (2 p.m.)
- 6 vs. City (2 p.m.)
- 7 at City (2 p.m.)
- 11 vs. Palomar (2 p.m.)
- 13 at Palomar (2 p.m.)

### SWIM AND DIVE

#### MARCH

- 10-11, Cuesta Invitational
- 17, PCAC Invitational Meet  
2 at Palomar (noon)
- 24, PCAC Invitational Meet  
3 at Southwestern (noon)

#### APRIL

- 7, Riverside Invitational
- 14, SoCal Diving  
Championship
- 15, SoCal Diving  
Championship

### MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

#### MARCH

- 15 vs. Palomar (6 p.m.)
- 17 vs. Miramar (6 p.m.)
- 22 vs. Mesa (6 p.m.)
- 24 at Palomar (6 p.m.)
- 29 at Miramar (6 p.m.)

#### APRIL

- 5 at Mesa (6 p.m.)
- 7 vs. Palomar (6 p.m.)
- 12 vs. Miramar (6 p.m.)
- 14 at Mesa (6 p.m.)

### WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL

#### MARCH

- 10 vs. San Diego Christian  
at Mesa (10 a.m.)
- 10 vs. Mt. San Antonio  
at Mesa (10 a.m.)
- 16 vs. Nebraska (10 a.m.)
- 16 vs. Hope International  
(10 a.m.)
- 17 vs. MiraCosta (9 a.m.)
- 17 vs. City (9 a.m.)
- 24 vs. Mesa at Miramar  
(9 a.m.)
- 24 at Miramar (9 a.m.)
- 31 vs. Palomar at Mt. San  
Jacinto (9 a.m.)
- 31 at Mt. San Jacinto  
(9 a.m.)

#### APRIL

- 7 vs. Miramar at Palomar  
(9 a.m.)
- 7 vs. Mt. San Jacinto at  
Palomar (9 a.m.)
- 14 at MiraCosta at Warm  
Water Beach (9 a.m.)
- 14 vs. Palomar at Warm  
Water Beach (9 a.m.)

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

#### MARCH

- 13 vs. Glendale (noon)
- 14 at City (2 p.m.)
- 16 at Imperial Valley  
(2 p.m.)
- 22 vs. LA Mission (2 p.m.)
- 23 at Orange Coast (2 p.m.)
- 30 vs. Southwestern (2 p.m.)

#### APRIL

- 6-8, PCAC Championships  
at Grossmont

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



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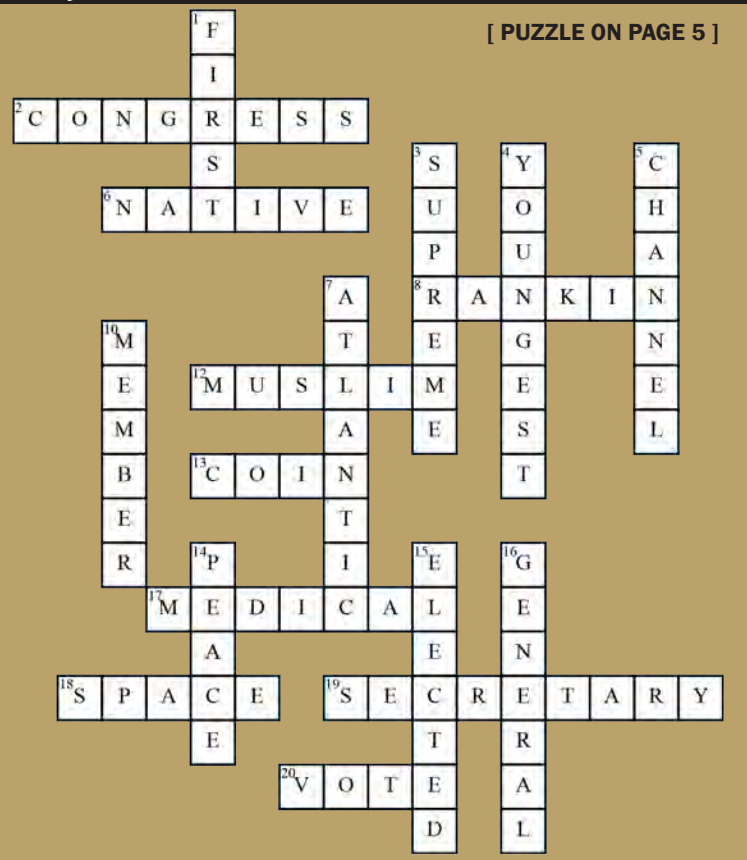
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## BRAIN BOOST SOLUTION

[ PUZZLE ON PAGE 5 ]



LISTEN LIVE  
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# REEL TALK | ESCAPE REALITY

Take a break from real life with these films.



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## ANT-MAN AND THE WASP: QUANTUMANIA

| Review by Sydni Koerner

*Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*, directed by Peyton Reed, is the newest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In this film, Avenger Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) is fighting to escape the quantum realm while taking down the terrifying new evil, Kang the Conqueror (Jonathan Majors). Sucked into the quantum realm with no idea how to escape, Ant-Man and his family make new friends, learn new information and face the fight of their lives against the all-powerful Kang. Throughout the movie, there is action, drama, intensity and humor. Although this movie did have those great moments, it also did have a lot of cringe-worthy and forgettable ones. While it could have been done better, I am excited to see how events from this movie contribute to the upcoming movies in the MCU.



## TOTAL RECALL

Review by Andrew Breitenbach |

Released in 1990, *Total Recall*, directed by Paul Verhoeven, is a classic action movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sharon Stone and Michael Ironside. In the year 2084, a man named Douglas Quaid (Schwarzenegger) visits a futuristic memory implant company called Recall seeking to add a false memory to his brain—a top-secret mission to Mars he's been dreaming of every night. During the procedure, Quaid frantically awakens and thinks he's a secret agent whose cover is being blown. His mission develops from there, and it's up to the viewer to decide whether Quaid is actually a secret agent or if the false memory was injected. As the story evolves, friends and family turn on him, causing him to question his own reality. The action and visuals hold up well for a 33-year-old movie. Overall, the plot is very thought-provoking compared to other action movies of its time, and it may be Schwarzenegger's best role ever. This film is a great choice for people who enjoy classic science fiction or older action movies.



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## PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH

| Review by Jacob Houseman

*Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*, directed by Joel Crawford and Januel Mercado, is an animated adventure film produced by DreamWorks that acts as a sequel to the 2011 film *Puss in Boots*. Starring Antonio Banderas, the movie follows a swashbuckling cat named Puss in Boots as he tries to regain his confidence as an adventurer and hero by trying to find the Last Wish that will restore his nine lives. In the film, he travels to an otherworldly place called the Dark Forest, where the Last Wish resides. Despite being a sequel and spin-off to the Shrek series of movies, this film stands on its own while managing to balance content that can be enjoyed by both kids and adults. The themes of the movie were surprisingly mature, dealing with ideas such as fear of death, anxiety and morality. All of these themes are depicted in very human ways despite being in a fantasy world of fairytale characters, who were also reinterpreted in very creative ways. Doing all of this without talking down to the audience or becoming too serious is challenging to do in a family film, but *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* manages to do this and more with its impressive writing and colorful animation.

