

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MAY 2023

A vibrant sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection across the dark water. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds tinged with orange and red. Waves are breaking in the foreground, their white foam contrasting with the dark water.

Into the Sunset

ILLUSTRATION BY KORDI VAHLE

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The SUMMIT

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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: LINDSAY ELIAS,
GIDEON FOGT, JACOB HOUSEMAN,
ANDREW BREITENBACH, DANI UCMAN.
NOT PICTURED: SYDNI KOERNER

DESIGN BY
JOHN KYLE
ANGCAO

WHAT ARE YOUR SUMMER PLANS?



ANDREW BREITENBACH

This summer, I will be down at La Jolla Shores guiding kayak tours for Everyday California. I plan to do a lot of hiking in Mission Trails and swimming in pools. I also like going out to the Eastern Sierra Nevada to swim in the rivers and lakes.

LINDSAY ELIAS

Most of my summer, if not all, will be spent in San Diego. I tend to avoid the heat, so I will more than likely be doing my usual routine.

GIDEON FOGT

This summer, I plan on enjoying the sunshine and good weather. I want to get into better shape and maybe even get back into some sports.

JACOB HOUSEMAN

I plan on going to Niagara Falls over the summer. I planned on going several years back, but I wasn't able to because of COVID and now I have the opportunity again. I might also visit some nearby states like Vermont and New Hampshire.

SYDNI KOERNER

My summer plans are going to be to just enjoy as much time outside as possible. I plan to spend my days when I am not working at the beach, hiking or by the pool. I also am planning on making time for a road trip up California with my boyfriend.

DANI UCMAN

My summer plans are to spend a lot of my time working. Then on the weekends, I will spend time with my family.

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@gccd.edu.**

UNDER PRESSURE

The end of the semester is fast approaching, and many people are either studying for finals, making summer plans, balancing home and work, having an existential crisis, or some combination of the mix.

The hectic day-to-day is certainly top of the to-do list, but taking care of your body and mind should never be neglected. Make sure to get plenty of rest, and maybe even get into the habit of taking a midday nap. Keep yourself hydrated and don't ever put off a meal.

Most importantly, remember that we are all human and we can't do everything at once. The tense atmosphere of finals season may be heating up, but that is just more of a reason to stay loose and keep cool.

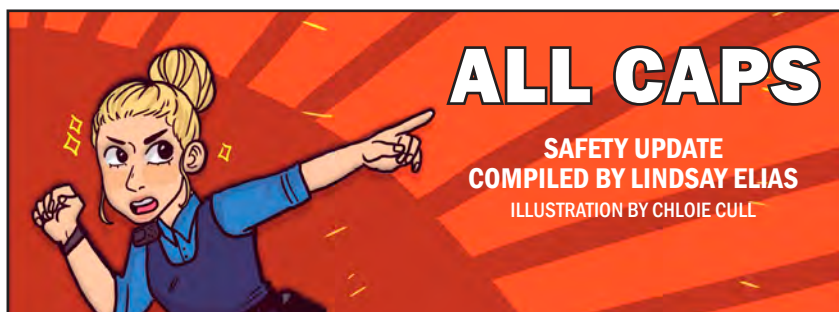


Gideon Fogt

Gideon Fogt, Editor-in-Chief

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



Grossmont's Campus and Parking Services team, a.k.a. CAPS, handle campus safety concerns along with a sheriff's deputy from the San Diego County Sheriff's Office.

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

- **April 15:** Deputy investigated a report of vehicle burglary that occurred about a decade ago at an unknown location. The reporting party claimed to be in a mental hospital and was not making sense.
- **April 20:** A non-injury collision was investigated by the campus deputy in Parking Lot 1.
- **April 24:** The deputy checked Parking Lot 7 after receiving a report of a disturbance argument. Students involved in the verbal argument were not located.
- **April 27:** The deputy investigated a report of a suspicious male in the parking structure taking pictures of the reporting party's vehicle and acting strange. No one was found in the area.

* 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.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

COMPILED BY GIDEON FOGT

MAY 12: Music Major Recital, 2 p.m. (PVAC)

MAY 15-31: Student Art Exhibition
(Hyde Art Gallery)

MAY 16: Jazz and Vocal Jazz Ensembles,
7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$

MAY 17: AANHPI Heritage Family College
Night, 5:30 p.m. (Main Quad)

MAY 18: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
7:30 p.m. (Stagehouse Theatre) \$

MAY 19: Grossmont Symphony Orchestra
featuring Violinist Ondrej Lewit,
7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$
| *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 7:30 p.m.
(Stagehouse Theatre) \$

MAY 20: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
2 and 7:30 p.m. (Stagehouse Theatre) \$

MAY 23: Student Art Exhibition reception,
4 p.m. (Hyde Art Gallery)
| *Spring Concert* with Conductor Russ
Sperling, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$

MAY 25: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
7:30 p.m. (Stagehouse Theatre) \$

MAY 26: Mental Health in the AAPI
Community, 2 p.m. (Zoom)
| Grossmont Master Chorale,
7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$
| *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
7:30 p.m. (Stagehouse Theatre) \$

MAY 27: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*,
7:30 p.m. (Stagehouse Theatre) \$

MAY 29: Memorial Day

MAY 30: Grossmont String Ensemble and
North Coast Strings, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$

MAY 30 - JUNE 25: Finals Week

JUNE 1: *Jazz Up Your Finals* Griffin
Community Concert, 7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$

JUNE 7: Commencement, 9:30 a.m.
(SDSU Mission Viejas Arena)

*Events subject to change; visit grossmont.edu for online meeting logins and latest info. | \$ Indicates admission cost



Soak up the sun and prep for vacay with this summery crossword.

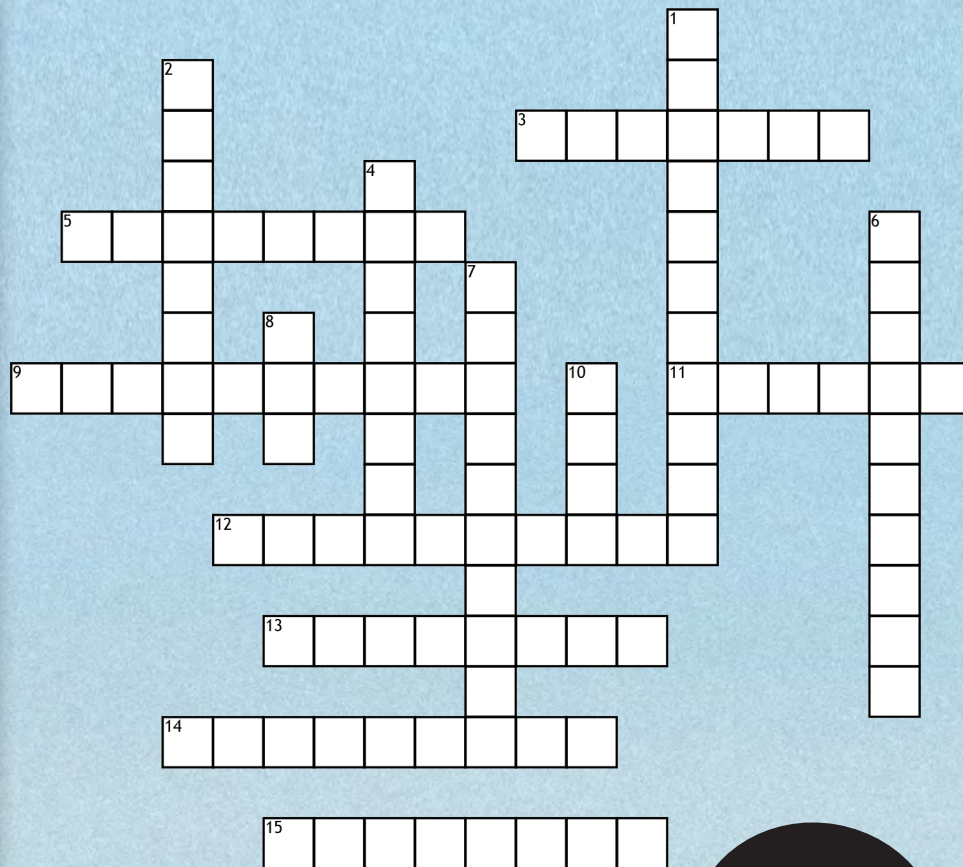
BY JOSEPH SALCIDO

ACROSS

3. On-the-water activity
5. Holiday away family or friends
9. Opposite of being stressed out
11. Sport with a kick
12. Don't forget to wear your _____ when going in a boat.
13. Pack up the car to go on a _____.
14. Sun protection
15. Summer activity to stay cool

DOWN

1. A pocket of gases that surround planets like Earth
2. Don't forget to pack your _____ for the beach.
2. Served in a cone
4. Delicious treat to keep cool
6. Green and red fruit to eat at a picnic
7. Build it in the sand
8. Laying out in the sun makes you _____.
10. Green area to play



**SOLUTION
ON
PAGE 19**



IMAGE BY NUBIA NAVARRO

W

ith the semester nearing its end, the summer is closing in for Grossmont College. Some students have even made plans already for summer vacation despite upcoming finals.

Parinya (Anna) Chanvannaya is having her mother visit this month. When graduation is over, she said plans to go back with her mother to Laos to surprise her friends.

"My mom's planning to open like a new cafe and one of my friends, high school friends, is working with my mom right now, and I will not tell anyone that I'm going back," she said.

Her mom is going to call her high school friends and best friends over to try the cafe's new menu. "It's going to be free and stuff so they're definitely going to come," Chanvannaya said. "I will be dressed up like crazy and fancy and then I'm going to be like, 'Guys, I'm here! Surprise!'"

For other students, she recommends going to Laos as well as Thailand. "A lot of people like to come to visit Laos and then they go to Thailand and then somewhere else," Chanvannaya said. More specifically, she recommends going to Bangkok, which is the capital city of Thailand, though she warns that it's hot in these countries.

"Enjoy your summer," Chanvannaya said. "I'm definitely going to enjoy seeing my friends' reaction because they have no idea that I'm going there because they only know that my mom is coming."



Summer Trips

The approach of summer has students planning getaways.

Another Grossmont student with summer plans is Alyssa Young, who is flying to Hawaii for a week despite having summer classes. "My dad has some business to do there but other than that we're going to just be hanging out at the beach, hiking and relaxing," Young said in an email.

She noted she's been to Hawaii several times in the past, but this time her dad had her come along so they could have a family trip. "I like how peaceful it is there and it's a great place to escape," Young said.

Though she recommended going to the state, she warns that it can be expensive, particularly for college students. "Flights can get pretty expensive so I recommend mini road-trips that can be more realistic," Young said. "To either Los Angeles, Arizona, or even drive all the way up to Northern California."

A student who is also going on a plane flight to another state for the summer is Hunter Mellinger, who is traveling to South Carolina to see his girlfriend despite him not being a fan of flying. "She just moved into a new house so I'll probably be checking that out a lot," Mellinger said. "Go get some ice cream and go hiking. You know, the usual."

He also plans on going on a road-trip to West Virginia in September so he can see the Mothman Festival. "It seems like a fun little thing to do because me and my friends play a game called 'Fallout' which happens to have a Mothman in it," Mellinger said. "So I think it'd be fun to go for my birthday since the festival happens to land directly on my birthday this year."

Mothman is a cryptid from the town of Point Pleasant that is important to the history and legacy of the town.

"It's just kind of a cheesy little way to get tourists to come to the town and... they have Mothman pizza," Mellinger said. "They have a Mothman statue, they have Mothman games and prizes, and then people go out into the woods and look for Mothman at night. So it should be fun and hopefully safe."

Jenna Andrews also has plans for the summer, despite taking classes at the same time. She said she plans on renting a hotel room and going to Disneyland with her family to celebrate Father's Day. "We're pretty Disney people, we go pretty often," Andrews said. "So it's really fun."

She also recommended students go to Mexico for summer vacation, specifically Puerto Vallarta which is a town on the west coast of the country.

Whether it's Mexico, Laos or a day trip to Disneyland, dreaming of summer vacation can help students get through the last bit of the semester. ✨

STORY BY JACOB HOUSEMAN
DESIGN BY KEVIN RACZ

Clubs In SPRING

The recent Spring Festival showed students what on-campus clubs offer.

STORY BY JACOB HOUSEMAN | DESIGN BY RACHEL BEVIS

Clubs associated with the Inter-Club Council hosted the Spring Festival in the main quad May 3 with the goals of raising funds and outreach to recruit students for the upcoming summer and fall semesters.

According to Heriberto Vasquez, director of Student Development, the festival was held a little later than initially planned to allow clubs more time to charter for the semester and attend the event. It also aligned with the kick-off event for Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, hosted by the Asian & Pacific Islander (API) Committee.

"So overall, planning was ensuring that we have canopies, tables, doing the facilities request, communicating with the student clubs back and forth via email and in person, and communicating with ASGC to ensure that they were ready to be present and support our student clubs," Vasquez said.

At the festival, students could participate in different activities to learn what all the clubs at Grossmont are about.

"It's really interactive," Student Amanda Martinez said. "So they try to...make games, or like little showcases so that people are interested in their clubs but also...try to have people who want to join in something that's...related to those clubs. That's really nice."

Expectations were exceeded, with close to 200 students coming to the festival throughout the day.

"I think the highlight was really seeing the student leaders promote themselves and promote their missions of their clubs and enact those," Vasquez said. "You had very creative ways in which they were showcasing themselves."

Examples of this creativity were the Science Club's demonstrations.

"I really liked the one for like the...science one where they're like setting off some potassium and sugar," Martinez said. "Kind of making like little firework type of deal. It's really nice."

With over 20 clubs attending, there was a lot for students to look at.

"I liked the diversity, like there's a lot of different cultures and people that I've been seeing," Student Bijou Laguna said.

Another aspect being offered at the event was a clothing drive which was done by the Associated Students of Grossmont College.

"They've been collecting clothes throughout the semester," Vasquez said. "They've had about four clothing giveaways. This was the last one of the year."

The number of students attending was tracked using the clothing drive, and it was considered by Vasquez to be "very successful".

"It's really cool that they have the clothing drive for people...if they need clothes for free," Student Ashley Cheatham said.

The API Committee offered food representative of their cultures and provided through Dr. Marsha Gable, the vice president of Student Services.

*Scan to view
event photos on
our website!*



One of the biggest contributions was from the UMOJA Club, which brought in around 25 students. "It's a club that is focused – not exclusively, but focused on – African American students, a population of which I am involved," said Jason Bell, Grossmont student and member of the club. "Come meet the people, meet the director, you will come away in a better mood and motivated. It's just a great club to be a part of."

Many students who passed through the event appeared to be interested in the clubs on display. "I really like these events to like see different things that are being showcased," Martinez said. "It's nice to see... the students coming together and...talking about things they're passionate about."

In the future, Vasquez said there are hopes for more activities that weren't possible before due to COVID, like sumo wrestling and competition in human hamster balls, as well as a similar fall festival to reach out to new students early in the semester.

"So we are just hoping that we can ramp up events like this in the fall and continue having really fun festivals," Vasquez said. ♡



pride-full

June is a month set aside to celebrate love in all its forms.

BY DANI UCMAN | IMAGES COURTESY OF DANI LEANDRA GUINN

June is when the LGBTQIA+ communities celebrate Pride. Typically referred to as Pride Month, there is a lot of history to the celebration and events to acknowledge this community.

Pride festivities take many forms across the globe, from parades to parties to demonstrations to proms. After 50 years, Pride celebrations have become so diverse that anyone can find a way to celebrate, whether it's the raucous jubilation of the NYC Pride March, community forums at the LGBT Center in San Francisco or the massive crowds attending WorldPride in a different city every two years.

With that in mind, let's take a deep dive into Pride, investigating its history, worldwide celebrations and future.

HISTORY

Since the beginning of the contemporary LGBTQ+ liberation movement in the 1970s, hundreds of Pride celebrations have popped up in cities throughout the globe, each uniquely local and typically linked in some way to the seminal Stonewall Riots in June.

The Stonewall Riots were not the first time LGBTQ+ individuals demonstrated against police harassment; before Stonewall, there was a disturbance in Los Angeles at Cooper Do-Nuts and another in San Francisco at Compton's Cafeteria.

But the most well-known is the Stonewall, which began with a police raid in Greenwich Village in New York City. Cops raided the Stonewall Inn, detaining and pushing people into waiting for police trucks.

However, the surrounding crowd became restless and agitated. The spectators were ultimately incited by an unknown party into fighting back, pelting the officers with objects until they were forced to flee. After the initial riots, intense street clashes persisted for many nights between police and infuriated residents.

Following the Stonewall Riots, organizers hoped to capitalize on the resistance spirit. The next year, they planned a march to Central Park under the banner of "Gay Pride" in response to the general feeling of humiliation the community felt from law enforcement's treatment. That march along Christopher Street quickly spread to other cities, with many more people participating throughout the 1970s until Pride became the festival it is today.

community

A way to celebrate Pride is to go out and talk with somebody in the community and try to understand the difficulties many face and what Pride means to them.

"Pride month is important because it's an opportunity to celebrate LGBTQ voices and support the culture and LGBTQ rights. It's a chance



ABOVE: GUINN CELEBRATES PRIDE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN *HEATHERS THE MUSICAL*.

OPPOSITE: (TOP) GUINN CELEBRATES PRIDE WITH HER PARTNER. (BOTTOM) GUINN SHOPS FOR PRIDE ITEMS.

**"It's a chance for communities to
COME TOGETHER
and truly celebrate."
-Dani Leandra Guinn**

for communities to come together and truly celebrate,” Grossmont Alum Dani Leandra Guinn said.

Pride Month means something different for everyone in the community. For Grossmont Alum James Miller it’s about being accepting of all lifestyles.

“Pride Month is important because it shows how much people fought for their rights, but it also gets into the history of the discrimination that many people in the community have felt throughout the years,” they said. “I think that’s important to remember when looking at Pride Month and all the events that are going on, there was a time when us being our true selves was not okay. And even nowadays, there are places where we’re not allowed to be ourselves, and I think many people forget that we’re still fighting for so many of our rights.”

Pride is an opportunity to love and be loved, letting voices be heard and letting others know they are enough as they are.

“Pride Month is significant for visibility and to educate/spread awareness,” said Grossmont Student Lynn Davis. “History and even political views today show that the LGBTQ+ community has been targeted negatively. Pride Month allows change.”

Wanting to be unapologetically yourself is something many people can understand.

Miller said, “Pride to me is a way to show others they are loved no matter how others treat them. because when you’re a part of this community, you get to pick your own family who will love and uplift you no matter what.”

A family that loves and cares about a person can change a life, and many members of the LGBTQ+ community feel pressure from family members who may be critical of their true identity.

There are many ways to celebrate during Pride, and going to parades is a common practice in the community. Both Guinn and Davis said such local festivals are their methods of celebration. Others, like Miller, might take a more unique approach to observing Pride Month.

“During Pride Month, I like to be with my family but also to spend time educating people on the community and the legislation that is trying to be passed against our community,” they said.

CELEBRATION

With lots of ways for individuals to celebrate and uplift the LGBTQ+ community, here are just a few ways to do that.

- **Learn more about gender and sexuality.** Learn about the L’s, the G’s, and the B’s. The T’s, the Q’s, and everyone else in the alphabet squad.
- **Read works by LGBTQ+ authors.** Purchase queer studies resources directly from the source, or appreciate some fantastic novels with LGBTQ+ characters.
- **Educate yourself on the history.** Though Stonewall was a significant trigger, LGBTQ+ history did not begin there. Try to learn about the history of LGBTQ+ people before Stonewall.
- **Speak to elected leaders to protect and support trans and queer youth.** It’s been an increasingly polarizing year regarding legislation for LGBTQ+ youth in America, and you can contribute to groups that help them.
- **Attend events year-round.** Going to drag shows at bars or restaurants helps support drag performers and people in the community even more.
- **Be an ally.** Even individuals not identifying as LGBTQ+ can celebrate and help by being an ally to pride issues. The more people helping the community, the more people can make a change. ♡



“History and even political views today show that the LGBTQ+ community has been targeted negatively.

**PRIDE MONTH
ALLOWS CHANGE.”**

-Lynn Davis



GUNS IN SCHOOLS

**College students are no strangers
to the rampant gun violence plaguing America.**

CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME



**BY SYDNI
KOERNER**

CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS - CRIME

School is a place we all know. We all spend a good majority of our lives at this place. We learn, we grow, we meet people and we mold into who we are. It is supposed to be a safe place, until it is not.

Not even halfway through the year 2023, and there have already been 14 school shootings. Twenty-four people have lost their lives at the hands of a firearm, all while simply spending another day at school.

Here in America, as sad as it is to say, hearing about school shootings isn't an uncommon occurrence. We hear about them more frequently than we ever should. Every year, there seems to be an absurd amount of school shootings, and it is only getting higher and higher. According to EducationWeek, in 2018 there were 24 school shootings, and last year

that number skyrocketed to 54 school shootings in 2022.

All the time, we have to hear all the new stories in the media about school shootings. We open the news and hear the numbers of how many children have been murdered and what kind of weapon has been used.

to NBCNews, McRae had no affiliation with the school.

“This broke me,” Grossmont Student Imani Garcia said. “I think about being one of those students sitting inside a classroom waiting to find out if I am going to make it through the night alive. I could never even

“We go to school to grow and to learn.

How dare someone take that experience away from us."

–Imani Garcia

On Feb. 13, 43-year-old Anthony Dwayne McRae was responsible for the loss of three lives of college students at Michigan State University. McRae took to two different locations throughout MSU, taking three lives before taking his own life. According

imagine being in that situation. We go to school to grow and to learn. How dare someone take that experience away from us.”

The Michigan State shooting really took the outside world by storm, as college students were actively posting

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

on social media from their hiding spots, unsure if they were going to make it through the night. The MSU shooting shocked the nation, but it wasn't long before another shooting became the next big story in the media.

On March 28, six people were murdered in a school shooting, three of them being young children. NBCNews stated that at the private Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, a former student came into the school with a plan to attack the students and staff of this school. The 28-year-old shooter made their way by taking six lives before facing a confrontation with the police, which ended in their own fatality.

ENOUGH.

"I can't even fathom going into a school campus wondering if I was going to make it home to my parents," said Robert White, a 72-year-old Grossmont alum. "Back then, we never had to worry about if someone with an assault rifle was going to burst into my classroom."

White continued: "The thought of someone coming in to disrupt kids just trying to learn, just to create violence and ruin lives, that makes no sense to me. It breaks my heart to have seen the country take such a fall. When I was a kid, there was almost no violence like this."

This nation has seen so many of these stories, and we only continue to see more. If more lives of the upcoming generations are to be saved, then something must be done. 🐦

NARCAN^{ON}CAMPUS

Students can access this life-saving spray for free.

STORY BY LINDSAY ELIAS | DESIGN BY JORGE GERARDO ENRIQUEZ

**3
STEPS**

Peel



Place



Press



Grossmont College's Student Health and Wellness Center continues to provide students with access to Narcan. Narcan is the brand name for Naloxone, a nasal spray meant to reverse an opioid overdose. The nasal spray is free to all students at Grossmont and can be obtained at the center.

Campus Nurse Elaine Adlam noted along with the issuance of Narcan, a 5 to 10-minute education session must be given. The session is to ensure students are aware of how to administer the product. "To my knowledge, it hasn't been used at all on campus," Adlam said. "I've also done a training with Campus and Parking Services people because they obviously check bathrooms. They haven't reported anything to me, and I haven't had any students come back."

Students are allowed to carry and use Narcan on campus and can also take it home for personal use. "Use it at home if you have a family member or anybody like that that needs to have Narcan as well," Adlam said.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse webpage, opioid-involved deaths rose from 21,089 in 2010 to 47,600 in 2017 and remained steady throughout 2019. The numbers increased to 68,630 reported deaths in 2020 and 80,411 in 2021.

"I didn't know Narcan was available to us at all," Grossmont Student Daisy Chavez said. "I personally would not use it, but it doesn't hurt to have in case of an emergency."

Adlam said there currently aren't any on-campus programs for alcohol or substance abuse due to a lack of participants. Instead, all students are referred to Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.

If you are ever in a situation where you suspect an individual has overdosed on opioids, Adlam advised calling 911 immediately, then proceeding to check the individual's pulse. If there is a pulse, then perform rescue breathing; otherwise, start doing CPR. She also advised administering the Narcan as soon as possible as it works within 20 to 30 seconds.

If medics have not yet arrived and the individual has woken up, it is important to roll them on their left side in the recovery position while giving them space at the same time.

As a reminder, this resource along with multiple others can be found at the Student Health and Wellness Center located inside the Student Center (60-130). 🐦

**SAVE
LIVES**





Mental Health Awareness

Care starts with breaking down stigma and finding local resources.

STORY BY LINDSAY ELIAS | DESIGN BY AUTUMN SLY

Mental health awareness begins with becoming familiar with the resources available.

Grossmont College offers many such resources to its students through events, activities or groups.

"The state has a lot more webinars going on that we are encouraging people to go to," Campus Nurse Elaine Adlam said.

One of the webinars is trauma-informed communication practices. The various webinars can be accessed through California Community Colleges' webpage, cccco.edu.

In addition, students can join support groups such as an in-person single mother support group. The group will meet weekly through May 30 on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the ASGC Board Room (60-207).

Apart from the support group, there have also been meditation, yoga and stress classes offered.

"We also have mental health in math," Adlam said. "Mental health counselors are going in for the first 15 minutes. They do a meditation or they do something to help with test anxiety or just math anxiety."

Mental Health Awareness Month

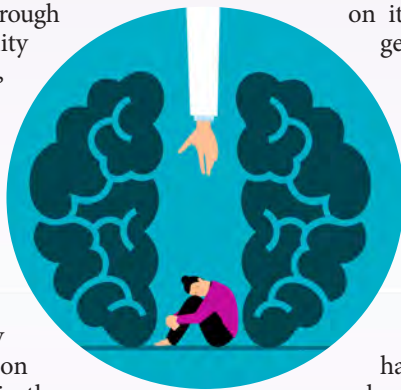
also serves as an opportunity to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness. Encouraging individuals to prioritize their mental health and seek help if needed can be difficult due to stigma.

Normalizing mental health could create a more supportive and inclusive society. The Health and Wellness Center on campus is continuing to grow its efforts to reach more students.

"There's a lot of stuff going on it's just how do you get students to know and feel comfortable enough to come and see us," Adlam said. "So many people come from families where mental health is looked down upon; they might have a friend group where mental health is looked down upon."

Grossmont Student Avidan Delgado said: "If I needed to, I would find it intimidating to step foot in there, but maybe that's just me. But at the same time, if it would be beneficial to me then I shouldn't be ashamed."

Understanding and educating yourself on mental health can go a long way in supporting those around you. 🐦



Why don't students participate in campus activities?

BY JACOB HOUSEMAN

Student participation in on-campus activities has been low for some time at Grossmont College, and the problems surrounding it have become worse due to COVID-19. Part of this seems to be from online learning lowering in-person attendance, but also from a lack of information being given to students.

When asked if he thought there were problems with student engagement, Bryan Lam, club advisor for International Club, said: "I think that's very hard to answer because everyone's got a different reason for why that is...Some people could be concerned about whether they're, you know, safe at those places or not. Or they're just busy because of the high inflation, so people need to work, so they're not on campus, and that's what's taking up most of their time."

Students trying to pay for rent, gas, food and other necessities might have a higher priority on work than school so they don't stay on campus for events, join clubs or participate in student government. "If that's the case, people are working and doing school, they're really tired and they can't go to an event," Lam said.

Another potential cause is infrastructure because there's a lack of students and staff on campus. "There's a student coordinator at Grossmont College, but because of COVID most of their role has been kind of assisting with basic needs," Heriberto Vasquez, director of Student Development, said. "So Gizmo's Kitchen and the food resource fairs and all of that is what they're focused on."

This and a lack of staffing in facilities have led to trouble setting up events. "The other thing that I noticed in terms of engagement is that because we don't have custodial staff during the day, we can't even set up canopies or, you know, tables," Vasquez explained.

Despite this, events have still been able to be prepared, like the recent club-hosted Spring Festival on May 3. "We see these events in the main quad all the time, they're getting set up," Lam said. "So I don't think that is particularly the issue about engagement."

[ENGAGE, CONT. ON PAGE 18]

THE FAN EXPERIENCE

Sitting through a Grossmont football game can be tough.

BY ANDREW BREITENBACH

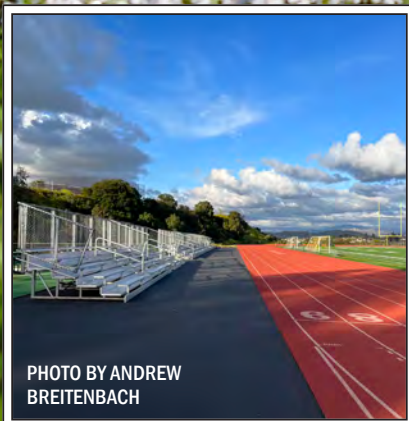


PHOTO BY ANDREW BREITENBACH

The Grossmont football field bleachers could use an upgrade.

The seating situation consists of small, metal bleachers along one sideline that can seat, “about 150 to 200 seats total,” Grossmont’s Sports Information Coordinator Chris Davis said.

High schools in the area are able to offer more seating for fans than Grossmont College.

In addition to the lack of seating, both teams’ fan bases sitting together presents another problem. Football is known for being an aggressive sport with passionate supporters. Putting all these fiery spectators in the same seats together is a recipe for conflict.

“When there’s visiting team fans and home team fans all put in the same stands, don’t you think there might be problems? Safety issues. It’s very problematic and unfunctional,” Grossmont Head Football Coach Michael Jordan said.

Some spectators who attend the games even bring their own chairs out of preference. The seating on the bleachers isn’t very comfortable and many prefer to spread out with their lawn chairs when possible.

“Most football home games, you have the bleachers that are about three-quarters full, yet you still have folks that don’t want to sit in the bleachers so they bring their own chairs,” Davis said.

While Grossmont’s football program makes the best out of its bleacher situation, other schools in Southern California play at enormous stadiums that cost millions of dollars. Grossmont’s

stadium is one of the least accommodating in the Southern California Football Association.

“They all have beautiful facilities,” Jordan said. “Southwestern got theirs first, and it’s like the best one in Southern California. Then Mesa redid theirs, Palomar is just building a new one now, Mt. San Jacinto just moved to their Menifee campus, which is brand-new.”

If Grossmont College were to make a similar change, it would need to raise millions of dollars of funding. There have been unofficial discussions surrounding the topic, but the money has never materialized for a new Griffin grandstand.

Other schools paid large amounts for their stadium makeovers. “San Jacinto College in Menifee is finishing up and will open this upcoming football season with their brand new facility that will come in right around three to three and a half million dollars,” said Davis.

For Grossmont to accomplish this type of construction project it would require immense support from the alumni and admin. The Griffin football program has wanted better seating for years, but nothing has changed.

While the seating for spectators isn’t state-of-the-art, the field itself is. Grossmont’s administration proved its willingness to spend on athletics back in 2019 when the field’s playing surface was upgraded with temperature-regulated Coolplay turf and a new scoreboard and field-goal posts were added. A seating revamp would be one of the finishing touches on the facility. 🦅

GRIFFIN ATHLETICS SCHEDULE*

COMPILED BY ANDREW BREITENBACH

BASEBALL

MAY 12 SoCal Super Regionals, Game 1 (Home)
13 SoCal Super Regionals, Game 2 (Away)
19 SoCal Sectionals, Game 1 (Home)
20 SoCal Sectionals, Game 2 (Away)
21 SoCal Sectionals, Game 3 I.N. (Home)
26-29 CCCAA State Championships in Fresno

WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL

MAY 11 Team State Championships
at West Valley College
12-13 Pairs State Championships
at West Valley College

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



STARTING FROM THE GROUND UP

Softball is returning to Grossmont College after three years without a team.

The COVID-19 pandemic disbanded the program in 2020, but new Head Coach Craig Fuentes aims to restart the Griffin squad.

The first official season is set for Spring 2024, but the team will begin training this summer and fall.

Fuentes was hired in early February and has already begun the process of recruiting his players. The coach said he has “met about half” of the players for next season. As for the rest of the team, Fuentes plans to recruit more by attending high school and travel ball games across San Diego County.

“I say half, but that’s a loose term because it’s depending on how many players I have,” Fuentes said. “But I have been able to recruit a good majority of a team thus far.”

He was also clear about the mentality of his program and what its main focus will be throughout its rebirth. “Building high-character individuals, making sure we are students before we are athletes,” he said. “Obviously winning a few games will help, but we’re going to really focus on our mental approach and ensure that we are thinking positively.”

The players who are already on the team and committed to the 2024 season are excited about the return of softball to Grossmont.

“I’m extremely thrilled that softball is returning here on campus. I’ve been looking forward to this moment for a while, and I’m glad to see it finally come,” Grossmont Student and Softball Player Ashtyn Niemiec said in an email. “When I heard about its return, I immediately went on the Grossmont website and tried to find whatever information I could.”

The Griffins softball team created a social media account in late March to help people keep up with their team. You can follow them at on Instagram @GC.Griffin.SB and also look for updates posted on the Grossmont Athletics Twitter account, @gcghouse.

Both the coaches and players are actively helping revive this program. Staying positive, giving max effort and doing things the right way are a few of the morals that Griffins softball has adopted.

“For my first Griffins softball season, my goals would start with helping build a solid foundation for this team, and all the teams that come after,” Niemiec said. “That starts with teamwork, then learning, and above all, hard work.”

This summer, softball plans to meet as an official class where Fuentes and the players can discuss softball-related topics closely. Student-athletes and coaches will meet eight times before the fall. The physical training on the field will pick up in the fall. 🐦

Grossmont’s softball program is being revived after a three-years.

BY ANDREW BREITENBACH



SUPERCROSS

BY LINDSAY ELIAS

Supercross is making its way through the states. The stadium dirt bike racing sport visited San Diego earlier in round three of the competition, and the attention surrounding the Supercross season continues to grow.

Let's do a quick recap of where Supercross stands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

There is no doubt the weather this year has had a major impact on both the courses and the racers from the very beginning. Round 2 of the season had to be postponed in Oakland due to severe weather conditions. It was rescheduled for a later day once the flooding in the area had cleared.

The New Jersey race had similar weather conditions but was not canceled. After an hour-and-a-half rainstorm delay, and several falls from riders and dirt bikes getting stuck, Justin Barcia took the muddy win for the 450SX Class.

INJURIES

Austin Forkner, 250SX rider, had a rough start to the season. In the first round, he collided with two other riders, sending him to a hard fall. As a result, Forkner sustained a broken bone in his hand along with several knee-related injuries. He confirmed he would be out for the rest of the season.

Adam Cianciarulo is no stranger when it comes to injuries on the track. During the 2022 season, he sat out for the majority of the races after a knee injury in round three at Petco Park. This year he was forced to miss the Daytona and Arlington races to let his wrist heal from an injury that occurred during press day. Shortly after those races, Cianciarulo had to sit out the remainder of Round 14 in New Jersey after a crash in Q2. He was out on concussion protocol.

Cianciarulo was on the opposite end during the Nashville race when he ran into Cooper Webb after

Webb had already crashed. The incident happened in Lap 1 of Heat 1. Webb released a statement where he confirmed he sustained a concussion. He will be out for the remaining two races of the season.

PODIUMS

In 250SX class, Rookie rider Haiden Deegan made his Supercross debut this year and has already had three podium wins. He currently sits in third place behind brothers Hunter and Jett Lawrence. Although there are still two races remaining, Hunter Lawrence has already secured the 2023 Eastern Regional 250SX Class Championship. Jett Lawrence won the exact same title the previous year but is now looking forward to winning the 2023 Western Regional 250SX Class Championship.

In 450SX battle for first place, fan favorites Eli Tomac and Ken Roczen continue to hold positions in the top five with Eli Tomac in the lead. With the end of the championship nearing, Chase Sexton holds the second-place position giving him an opportunity to take home the championship for the Honda team.

Roczen, who is in fourth place, no longer has to worry about third-place rider Webb, who is out of the championship due to his incident in Nashville. Despite having potential career-ending injuries in the previous years Roczen is still going strong with his fifth podium of the year. The support from his fan base does not go unnoticed.

"I go to these events to keep my boyfriend company," Grossmont Student Kristina Laudato said. "All I know is his favorite is Roczen and that he always gets cheered on the most."

The 2023 Supercross Championship Final will take place in Salt Lake City on May 23. The final can be seen on CNBC or through Peacock. 🦅



LEFT: NEW JERSEY 450SX PODIUM WINNERS ELI TOMAC, JUSTIN BARCIA AND KEN ROCZEN. RIGHT: THE LAWRENCE BROTHERS. IMAGES COURTESY OF FELD MOTOR SPORTS, INC.



It is that time of the football offseason again when fans and franchises alike sit in anticipation of the new season. The draft has just come and gone, and fans are getting acquainted with their team's new rookies, wondering who could be a superstar of the future, a grand disappointment or something in between.

The NFL Draft is an event that occurs in the National Football League every year in spring. All 32 teams are given a chance to bring young, talented players into their clubs on rookie contracts, which, relative to standard contracts, are much less expensive.

There are 259 picks, give or take a few compensatory picks depending on the year, through seven rounds. Each pick represents one player and each of the 32 NFL clubs are given a pick for each round, unless the team has traded the rights for that pick to another team.

The way picks are given out is based on how a team has performed, wins and losses, throughout a season. If you were the worst team in the NFL you get the number-one pick for each round, if you were the Super Bowl winner, you get the 32nd pick for each round.

These picks represent promise, youth and talent, potential keys to success for these sports clubs and their fans. For the players themselves, it represents their greatest opportunity at success in the professional leagues.

PRE-DRAFT HOPES

In the months and days leading up to draft night, franchises are scouting the young talent at pro-days and at the NFL Combine, a week-long showcase in February, to see who can fill some holes on their team.

Meanwhile, fans are keeping a close eye on players and team needs themselves, anxiously waiting for week one of the new season.

“Hopefully we get some more (help) on defense,” said Anthony Adams, Grossmont student and Las Vegas Raiders fan.

Adams said he wanted his favorite team to pursue University of Kentucky Quarterback Will Levis with the seventh pick to build around for the future. Levis was also a point of interest for a lot of football media analysts; Mel Kiper Jr. of ESPN had him as the fourth pick in the draft and the third quarterback picked overall.

Top 10 picks are not everything in the draft, however, and neither are quarterbacks, even though they attract the most attention. Later picks gives teams who performed at a high level a chance to reload on young talent and potentially cover any weaknesses going into the new season.

Take teams like the Super Bowl runner-up Philadelphia Eagles, or teams that fell during the playoffs such as the Dallas Cowboys or Cincinnati Bengals. Though

most had enough success to make a run in the postseason, they lacked talent in specific areas of their team that limited their ability to beat more well-rounded opponents.

“Honestly, I just kinda hope that the Bengals get some help on the O-line. They need to protect Burrow,” Grossmont Student Services Specialist Garret Peregud said. “Just give (Joe) Burrow some help, he really needs it. We need that extra piece that will take us to actually win the Super Bowl.”

Between the manic pre-draft hype machine and the sobering post-draft reality is American football culture at its rawest, experiencing the highs and lows in pursuit of a Lombardi trophy.

POST-DRAFT TAKEAWAYS

Another draft, another Philly special: Just a year removed from the jaw-dropping draft day trade for star Wide Receiver Arthur Jauan “A.J.” Brown, the Philadelphia Eagles pull off another surprise move in the first round. Trading their pick at number 10 and a fourth-round pick in 2024 to the Chicago Bears in exchange for pick nine, the Eagles selected University of Georgia Defensive Tackle Jalen Carter.

Carter was regarded by many analysts and scouts as the best player of the entire class.

[DRAFT, CONT. ON PAGE 18]

FIRST ROUND PICKS

1. Bryce Young QB - Carolina Panthers
2. C.J. Stroud QB - Houston Texans
3. Will Anderson Jr. EDGE - Houston Texans
4. Anthony Richardson QB - Indianapolis Colts
5. Devon Witherspoon CB - Seattle Seahawks
6. Paris Johnson Jr. OT - Arizona Cardinals
7. Tyree Wilson EDGE - Las Vegas Raiders
8. Bijan Robinson RB - Atlanta Falcons
9. Jalen Carter DT - Philadelphia Eagles
10. Darnell Wright OT - Chicago Bears
11. Peter Skoronski OT - Tennessee Titans
12. Jahmyr Gibbs RB - Detroit Lions
13. Lukas Van Ness LB - Green Bay Packers
14. Broderick Jones OT - Pittsburgh Steelers
15. Will McDonald IV EDGE - New York Jets
16. Emmanuel Forbes CB - Washington Commanders
17. Christian Gonzalez CB - New England Patriots
18. Jack Campbell LB - Detroit Lions
19. Calijah Kancey DT - Tampa Bay Buccaneers
20. Jaxon Smith-Njigba WR - Seattle Seahawks
21. Quentin Johnston WR - Los Angeles Chargers
22. Zay Flowers WR - Baltimore Ravens
23. Jordan Addison WR - Minnesota Vikings
24. Deonte Banks CB - New York Giants
25. Dalton Kincaid TE - Buffalo Bills
26. Mazi Smith DT - Dallas Cowboys
27. Anton Harrison OT - Jacksonville Jaguars
28. Myles Murphy EDGE - Cincinnati Bengals
29. Bryan Bresee DT - New Orleans Saints
30. Nolan Smith EDGE - Philadelphia Eagles
31. Felix Anudike-Uzomah EDGE - Kansas City Chiefs

TURNING THE PAGE

JAMES GUNN LEAVES MARVEL TO JOIN DC STUDIOS.

BY ANDREW BREITENBACH



Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 arriving in theaters May 5 marked the end of one era and the beginning of another for Director James Gunn.

Gunn, who is best known for *Guardians of the Galaxy*, a popular installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, is leaving Marvel Studios to become the creative head of DC Studios, Marvel's arch-rival.

The well-received director has already worked with DC Studios in the past. He created the movie *Suicide Squad* in 2021 and the television show *Peacemaker* in 2022. After the success of both projects, DC hired Gunn to oversee creative direction in November 2022.

Although the *Guardians of the Galaxy* movies are extremely popular, many superhero movie fans still want their story to end. In total, the *Guardians* have appeared in seven different Marvel projects since their live-action premiere in 2014.

"I'm totally fine with this being the last *Guardians*," Grossmont's Learning Assistance Center Supervisor Niko Crumpton said. "I think that team has had a good

run. Gunn has built those characters as much as useful for the narrative."

DC Studios has a bright future with Gunn steering its ship. He released his official plan for DC, which included five movies and five television series, in late January. The slate's first movie is called *Superman: Legacy* and is scheduled for July 2025. Other



notable projects in the works are *The Brave and the Bold*, *Lanterns* and *Swamp Thing*.

"I think a lot of his TV shows look more promising than the movies, but a few movies did stick out, like the *Superman* movie," Grossmont Student Hunter Mellinger said. "I think (it) will be pretty good and the new *Batman* because those are

always good characters."

While DC continues to struggle and produce low-rated movies, Marvel Studios has had a ton of success. Superhero moviegoers are anticipating Gunn can bring stability to the struggling studio.

"I'm excited for James Gunn to bring some vision to the DC films because it seems like they've been lacking a singular direction," Crumpton said. "I'm hoping that his experience working with Marvel and Kevin Feige will give him good insight into how to guide all the series going forward, make sure they are interconnected and that they build on each other."

Not all fans are convinced DC has turned it around completely. Some are still skeptical it can make good movies and shows.

"It has some interesting stuff," Mellinger said. "I don't know if a lot of it is going to hit, but I think for the most part it will do pretty good."

Gunn aims to revamp the under-performing movie studio and compete with his former employer. If all goes well, fans will benefit greatly from the two studios competing. 🐦

ASGC RESULTS ARE IN

BY GIDEON FOGT



Grossmont has a fresh new student government in the works.

Polls were open from midnight to midnight, April 25-26, for students to elect new or incumbent members of the Associated Students of Grossmont College (ASGC) and the Student Trustee.

The ASGC is the participatory governing group on campus that represents all Grossmont College students. They are the student government of the school, with their own set of bylaws and a constitution to which they strictly adhere.

Beyond representing the interests of Grossmont's student body, the ASGC also has the responsibilities of chartering clubs, fundraising, facilitating the inter-club council, planning student events and appointing representatives to committees.

The Student Trustee, on the other hand, is a separate role from the ASGC. The trustee is the student representative to the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Board of Trustees. The position holds a vote on governing matters the board has jurisdiction over, allowing them to weigh in on legislative decisions.

The ASGC and the trustee will often hold a close relationship and work together to meet the interests of the students they represent. The Student Trustee has even been referred to as an "ex-officio" (nonvoting) member to the ASGC, but beyond this title and sharing a constituency, the similarities between the two largely halt.

Every year in the spring both the ASGC and Student Trustee hold elections to either reelect current members to their roles or elect new individuals to the role. After votes are tabulated, the election winners are announced. The representative-elects assume their full positions in the fall semester. 🐦

ASGC ELECTION RESULTS

Student Trustee - Cesar D. Nuñez
 President - Cesar D. Nuñez
 Executive Vice President - Christian Thornton
 Vice President of Finance - [Vacant]
 Director of Board Affairs - Gian Cortez
 Director of Campus Activities - Renzo Tayag
 Director of Student Legislation - Alshareef Dekheel
 Director of Publicity - Asuka Mogi
 Director of Web Development - [Vacant]
 General Board Director: Madeleine Winchester

ENGAGE [CONT. FROM PAGE 12]

A possible cause is also a lack of communication. "I think there's maybe a miscommunication between what the students want and what the school is giving as well," Vasquez said.

He said he noticed students used to be more present on campus but now leave early, which may be due to students having other priorities like work.

Some students seem to agree communication is one of the biggest issues keeping them from going on campus to participate. "I'd say one of the major causes is probably just not knowing or caring about it," Student Hunter Mellinger said. "There should be certain classes that maybe could push clubs if they're supportive of them... Just as another way of advertising. Which I guess just goes down to the main root: they're not advertising at all."

Something else that may be keeping students off campus is hybrid learning, being both on campus and online. "I mean even my ASGC students, they come in to do hours and then they have a class and then they have to go back home to do another class because it's hybrid," Vasquez said.

Although student participation was a problem before COVID, it seems to have made the issue worse. "I don't want to blame COVID but it's... one singular thing that has had a chain reaction on many other things and I think all of that combined has equaled less engagement," Lam said. "And I think we have also encroached on a new territory where everything is through Zoom now, everything is virtual."

There are other possible causes for the decrease in student participation, but there are also a lot of ideas for how the situation can be improved. One is to provide more support to create clubs like making a handbook, training video or Canvas class that shows how to start out and get through the paperwork process.

Another idea is to focus on barriers keeping students from coming to campus and assisting them with it. "If transportation's an issue, is there something that we can all work together to kind of get transportation?" Lam said. "Can we make it low-cost or free? There are things that people can do."

An idea from a student is to do more to communicate with their peers by talking to them in club-related classes. "If you're in a public speaking class and someone's in... a debate club you should be standing outside the... communications class when it gets out... holding something and be like hey, we're doing a debate club," Mellinger said.

From the perspective of an online student, Ryan McElligott recommended having more information on the college's website or having a location on Canvas to see what events are happening and what clubs are doing on campus. "To make me interested in certain things, I'd have to know about it," McElligott said. "Cause I really don't know about anything."

Like the number of potential causes and room for improvement, there are many opportunities available on campus for students of which students may not be aware. Some of these include being a representative for students,

which you can try to join by contacting ASGC.

"I have a task force that... I need students on for the music and theater building," Loren Holmquist, director of facilities, said. "And I need a student like right now for that." Holmquist added it would be optimal to have someone associated with theater or music classes for the position.

Some ASGC positions weren't even voted on this semester, like the vice president of finance who helps finance club events and general board members who would assist in creating events.

"Post COVID, the amount of people, even online, voting for ASGC elections has decreased," Vasquez said. "So the amount of people running for ASGC also decreased."

For students interested in clubs, there's information on the college's website for active clubs. Though much of the information on the school website is dated and some of the club info doesn't have updated meeting times, most of them have contact info for their advisors you can talk to for more information. 🐦

DRAFT [CONT. FROM PAGE 16]

However, off-the-field legal issues stemming from a fatal car crash involving a teammate and staffer clouded his prospects, likely causing him to fall from the top five.

The Eagles also shored up their defense even further with their other first-round selection at pick 30, bringing outside linebacker and Carter teammate Nolan Smith to the franchise.

Houston attempting early takeoff: Holding the second pick in the draft and in desperate need of higher caliber quarterback play, the Houston Texans predictably drafted their future starting passer in The Ohio State University Player Coleridge Bernard "C. J." Stroud. What was unexpected was them immediately following that up by trading a bevy of later picks to the Arizona Cardinals to select University of Alabama Edge Rusher Will Anderson Jr.

Picking Anderson, a top-ranked pass rusher, and Stroud, a top-ranked pass thrower, shows the organization is trying to set the centerpieces for both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball in one draft. The move can be considered risky, especially if one or both prospects fails to meet expectations. It could also quickly vault the Texans back into postseason play during both players' rookie contracts.

Levis's great fall: One of the bigger surprises of the draft was Levis falling out of the first round despite being considered a sure-fire day-one pick. He was selected at pick 33 by the Tennessee Titans. This could be chalked up to some of the concerns listed in scouting reports about the Kentucky quarterback.

Although at 6'4 and roughly 230 pounds, Levis possess a strong, athletic "football body" he uses to make tough physical plays, there are concerns regarding his longevity if he continues to take risks throwing his body into high levels of contact. After finishing his last collegiate season with a touchdown to interception ratio of 19 to 10, there was also some apprehension Levis may have some turnover issues. To his credit, Levis was learning an entirely new offensive scheme from a coordinator who would soon be fired after the season concluded. 🐦



BY ANDREW BREITENBACH

Griffin's Speech and Debate Team has had a successful spring semester.

Students Adrian Guzman, Will Harris, Athena Kendzor, Nima Toussi and Van Wheelan traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to participate in the International Forensics Association Tournament, March 8 to 15. They were accompanied by Coaches Roxanne Tuscany and Michael McHan.

In Japan, Grossmont placed eighth in Overall Sweepstakes against a total of 28 colleges and universities. They ranked above schools like Vanderbilt University, Point Loma University, and San Diego Mesa College.

Harris individually placed second in Impromptu Speaking and fourth in Program Oral Interpretation, while Guzman placed fifth in Extemporaneous Speaking. Kendzor was a finalist in the Impromptu Speaking category, as well as sharing the Bronze Award in International Public Debate with Harris.

That same group then traveled to the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament in Bethesda, Maryland, April 9 to 15. The Griffins went on to win a Bronze Sweepstakes Award in the category of Individual Events.

In addition, Tuscany was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, and students Harris and Guzman also took home the gold in various categories. The team won a total of 11 different accolades in the Maryland tournament. 🐉

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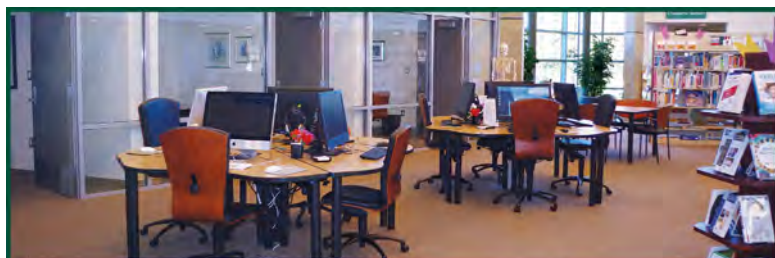
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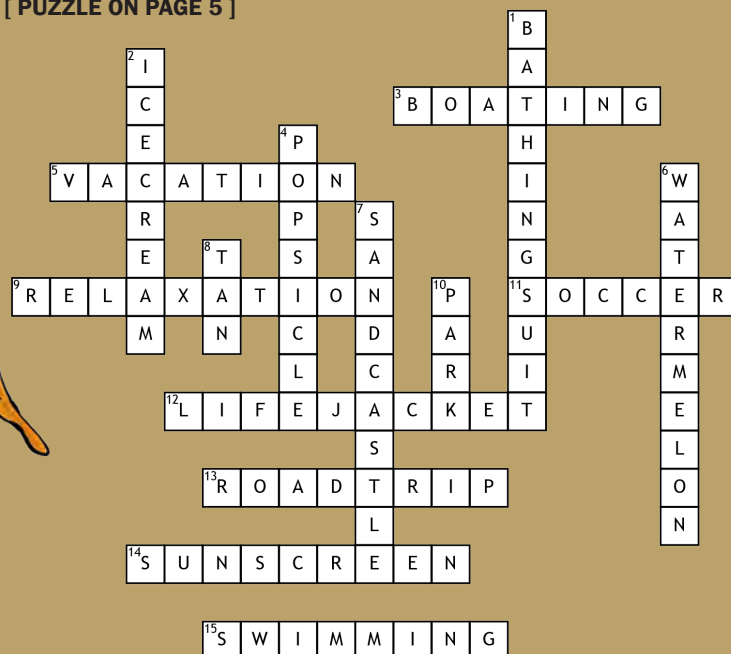


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BRAIN BOOST SOLUTION

[PUZZLE ON PAGE 5]



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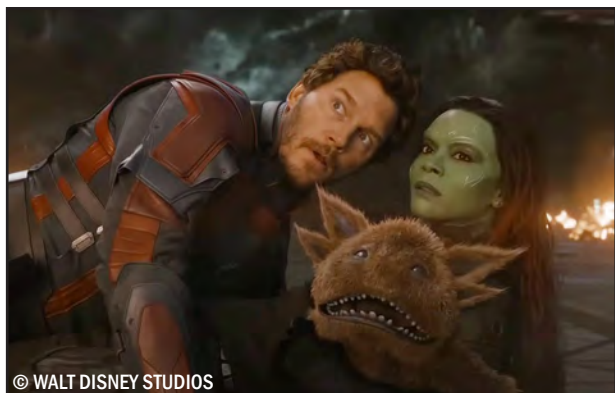
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REEL TALK

ANNND...
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Nothing says summer like a big action flick.



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3

| Review by Sydni Koerner

Guardians of the Galaxy, Volume 3 is the newest movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It is the brilliant conclusion to the adventures of the Guardians of the Galaxy, starring Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista and others. The film also captures a new character, Adam Warlock, following the orders of the villain, High Evolutionary, who is trying to get vengeance and take the life of Rocket the Raccoon. The Guardians have to come together to get the missing information that could save Rocket's life from the actions of Warlock and High Evolutionary. This movie is the epic finale of the Guardians of the Galaxy and their adventures in the MCU. It's comedic, action-packed, emotional and heartwarming- the perfect way to bring the amazing tales of the Guardians to an end.



JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4

| Review by Jacob Houseman

Starring Keanu Reeves and directed by Chad Stahelski, *John Wick: Chapter 4* is about the title character traveling across the world to places such as Paris and Berlin as he tries to earn his freedom from the High Table. Though the story and action start off a bit weak when compared to the earlier movies in the series, it progressively improves as the film goes on with some of the best fight scenes in the series. It also has many stunning visuals throughout that make it obvious they put a lot of effort into the filmmaking process. It was strange though how little John Wick had to do most of the movie, to the point it didn't feel like he was the main character until closer to the end. Despite this, the movie introduces several new characters who help steal the show like Donnie Yen as the blind assassin Caine, and Shamier Anderson as a tracker known only as Nobody. The movie had a lot of Western themes in it without feeling too out of place. It also manages to make a satisfying, though seemingly controversial, conclusion to the John Wick series of movies, although it wouldn't be surprising if they make another several sequels anyway. *John Wick: Chapter 4* might not be the perfect John Wick movie some were hoping for, but it is a fitting end with great characters, action scenes and visuals that are sure to impress.



GUY RITCHIE'S THE COVENANT

| Review by Gideon Fogt

This is the second movie by director Guy Ritchie in 2023, following heist film *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre*. *The Covenant* follows American Sergeant John Kinley, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, and Afghan Translator Ahmed, played by Dar Salim. The beginning of the film follows the two rugged individuals as Ahmed works to rescue Kinley after he is severely wounded in combat operations. As Ahmed traverses the Afghani terrain, navigating through both the environment and its people and dragging Kinley along the way, the two grow a lifetime bond together. This is where the film's true strength comes into play; not the dizzying action sequences you traditionally see in war films, but the development and relationship between its two main protagonists. This is shown even more as the film progresses to the next act, where Kinley returns to Afghanistan to try and extract Ahmed before the United States completes its withdrawal from the country. Like Ahmed had done for him many years prior, Kinley is now trying to rescue Ahmed from retaliation by the Taliban. Overall, the film is a great character story that masks as a war flick; while you will see some of the standard tropes in combat movies that is not where the real story lies.

