

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MAY 2024

SUMMER VIBES



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
BY ALANA MULLALY
& TAISSA BULLITT

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The staff of *The Summit* is enrolled in an academic media news production course. A main function of *The Summit* is to provide a professional learning experience for students of any major classification who express an interest in journalism 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.**

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Playlist





















Summit Summer

While away the summer hours with these Summit Staff pics.

The Summit - 20 songs, 1 hr 15 min



Title

- 1  **Candy Paint**
Post Malone
- 2  **Agora Hills**
Doja Cat
- 3  **Time of Our Lives**
Pitbull, Ne-Yo
- 4  **Waves - Robin Schulz**
Mr. Probz, Robin Schulz
- 5  **BODYGUARD**
Beyoncé
- 6  **Amber**
311
- 7  **Dope Love**
Gucci Mane
- 8  **Rhyme Dust**
MK, Dom Dolla
- 9  **Passionfruit**
Drake
- 10  **Love**
Lana Del Rey
- 11  **Can I Kick It?**
A Tribe Called Quest
- 12  **Alors on danse**
Stromae
- 13  **The Sea**
Morcheeba
- 14  **Interstate Love Song**
Stone Temple Pilots
- 15  **Back On 74**
Jungle
- 16  **Smooth Sailin'**
Leon Bridges
- 17  **Exotic Talk**
Baby Smoove
- 18  **Yah Mean**
Playboi Carti
- 19  **Midsummer Madness**
88rising, Joji, Rich Brian
- 20  **everything, everywhere**
vaultboy, eaJ

MYA ALEXANDER



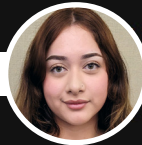
TAISSA BULLITT



JANELLE CARTER



PERLA CRUZ



JACOM CUMMINGS



DOMINIC FERRARI



MIREYA MINER



ALANA MULLALY



ALESSANDRO PABON



NICOLE QUIAMBAO



CHASING SUMMER

We are nearing the end of the semester and it's as if you can taste the summer air. With just one more month of the school year remaining, it's essential to stay focused on your goals and push yourself to succeed. Your dedication and hard work will pave the way for future achievements. As summer approaches, it brings a wealth of opportunities and the promise of unforgettable memories. Seize every moment and embrace life to the fullest.

As this is my last editor's letter for *The Summit*, I would like to leave everyone with a quote by F. Scott Fitzgerald: "And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

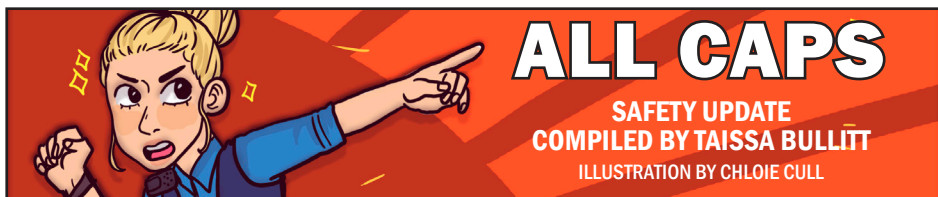
Let Fitzgerald's words remind you to embrace the fresh start summer brings with optimism.



Alana Mullaly
Alana Mullaly, Editor-in-Chief

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



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* since our last issue.

- **April 3:** A deputy responded to a report of a hit and run with no injury. The deputy arrived on scene, where witnesses advised two people were seen running from the scene. The deputy was able to locate the two at a nearby church, and both were arrested along with drug paraphernalia. Neither were students at Grossmont.
- **April 16:** School staff reported a person in the quad appeared to be under the influence and requested a welfare check. The deputy was unable to locate a person matching the description.
- **April 18:** A deputy ticketed a vehicle illegally parked in the handicap space in Lot 3.
- **April 22:** The deputy was notified by custodial staff of a gas leak, but could not locate any leaks. Custodial staff believed it was normal and the odor came from "burping the lines." On the same day, a deputy received reports of people stuck inside an elevator near the quad area. The deputy was able to open the elevator and get all occupants safely out.
- **April 23:** A student collapsed inside Building 36 and hit her head. The student was evaluated by paramedics and the fire department. She was awake and breathing, and was not transported to the hospital.
- **April 24:** The dean of Athletics received a suspicious package containing the names of players on the baseball team. The package had a picture of a tombstone with R.I.P. written on it. Due to the possible threat to students, deputies were called and retrieved the package. The deputies conducted a safety sweep of the baseball and softball field, but nothing suspicious was found. The deputies provided a case number and completed a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR). During the investigation, the deputies identified a parent as the suspect. The subject was contacted and told the deputies it was a prank.

* *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 CALENDER

COMPILED BY MYA ALEXANDER

MAY

10: Financial Aid Friday, 9 -10:30 a.m. (10-172)

12: Mother's Day

14: Pathways to Work Info Session (60-140+ Online)

16: Love on a Leash Pet Therapy, 10-11 a.m. (Library)

21: Food Distribution (Main Quad)

25: Spring Semester Ends

27: Memorial Day

30: Commencement, 9:30 a.m. to noon (SDSU Viejas Arena)

STUDY JAMS

MAY 14-15: Study Jams, Noon-7 p.m. (The Village:70-202)

MAY 16: Math Study Jam, 2-5 p.m. (MESA Center: 36-225)

DANCE (PVAC)

Entrances and Exits, May 9-11, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$

HYDE ART GALLERY (PVAC)

Student Art Exhibition, Through May 22

THEATER (STAGE HOUSE THEATRE)

Our Town, May 16-18, 23-25, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; May 18 and 25, 2-4 p.m. \$

CAREER EVENTS (ONLINE)

MAY 10

10-11 a.m.: Financial Literacy and Budgeting

11 a.m. - noon: Four Ways to Manage Your Debt

MAY 16: Exploring Majors Workshop (12:30-1 p.m.)

MAY 22: Exploring Majors Workshop (1:30-2 p.m.)

MUSIC EVENTS (PVAC)

Grossmont Symphony Orchestra feat.

San Diego Ballet, May 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m., \$

Spring Concert Band, May 21, 7:30-9 p.m., \$

Grossmont Master Chorale, May 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m., \$

Grossmont String Assembly May 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m., \$

Grossmont-Cuyamaca Music Alliance Student Benefit Concert, June 1, 2-4 p.m., \$

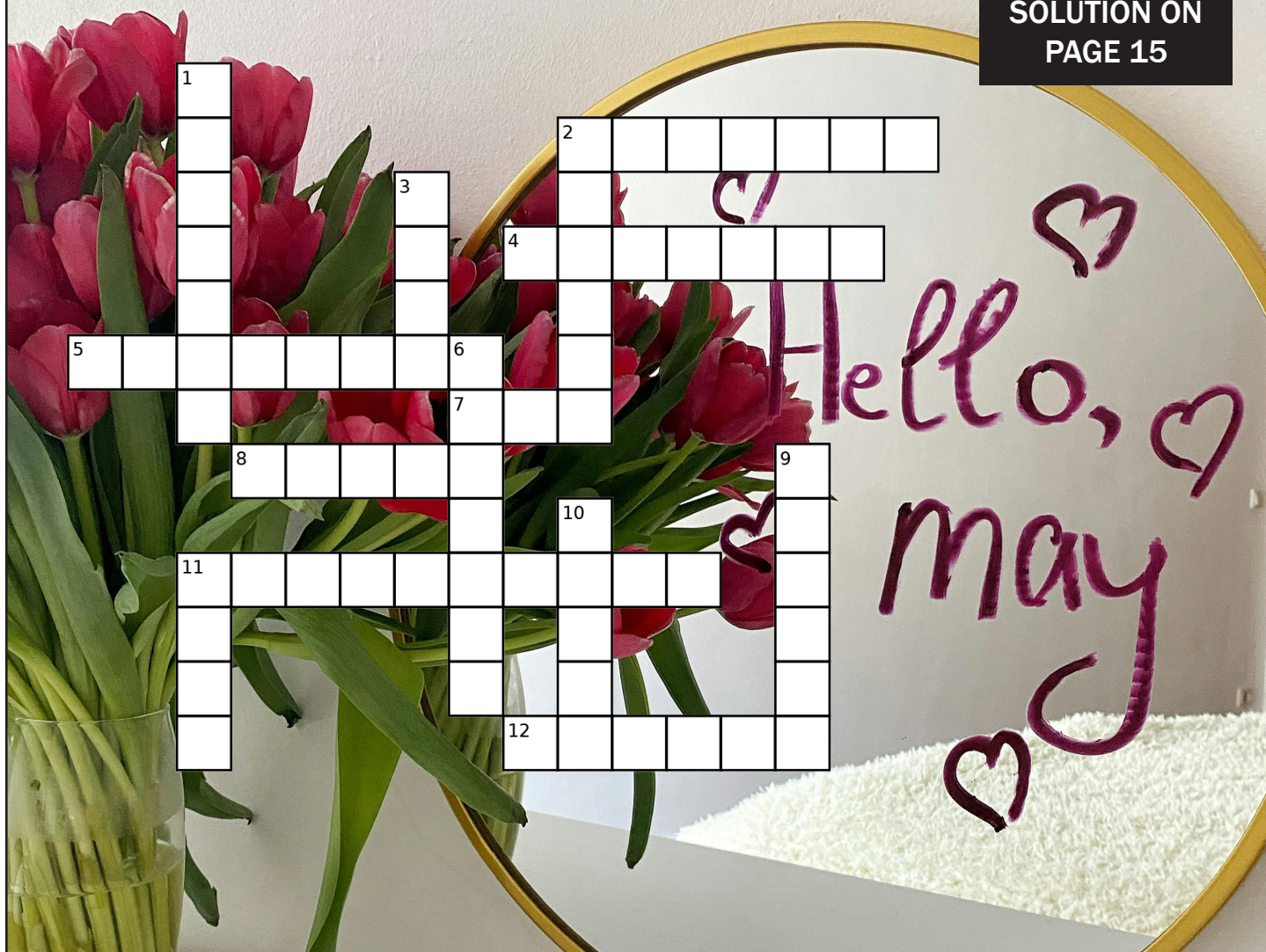
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MAY 14: Occupational Therapy Assistant Previews, 4-5 p.m. (34-251)

MAY 22: Respiratory Therapy Previews, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (34-212)

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

**SOLUTION ON
PAGE 15**



DOWN

1. People honored on May Day.
2. Mistake many busy students will make on Mother's Day.
3. Popular iconography on Memorial Day.
6. May's birthstone.
9. Star sign that begins in April and covers most of May
10. Number in Spanish that corresponds to a well-known celebration.
11. A weather term specific to Southern California, "May ___, June Gloom."

ACROSS

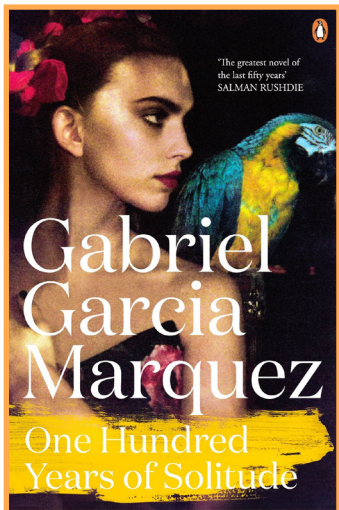
2. The titular heroine in a movie this May is associated with a certain "Manic" Max.
4. In May, six states will hold presidential ___ elections.
5. May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ___ Month.
7. The location of a fundraising fashion gala that usually generates a lot of attention.
8. Robed space monk platitude with a famous soundalike: "May the ___ be with you"
11. Event students both dread and anticipate.
12. Method of travel in a famous Kentucky race.

IMAGE BY NADIA RUSSU

SUMMER READS

STORY AND
DESIGN
BY MIREYA
MINER

Who wouldn't want to kick off summer break with more reading?

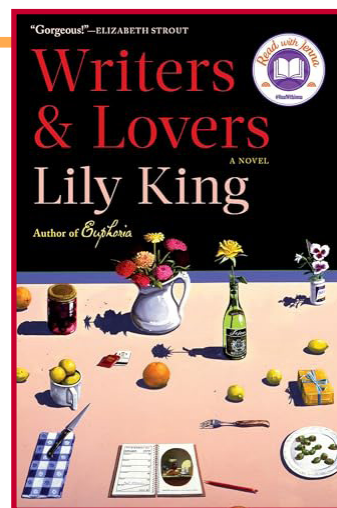


One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez

One Hundred Years of Solitude is a multi-generational novel following the Buendía family in the fictional town of Macondo. With a blend of historical fiction and magical realism, the story traces a hundred years of turbulence with strange scientific endeavors, traveling magicians, war-torn politics and inappropriate relationships. Marquez explores various themes of psychological and geographical solitude, familial relationships and traits passed along, and the way our surroundings shape who we become. This novel can be confusing at times, and it may cause you to question your cultural perceptions, but if you stick with it, you're sure to enjoy this surrealistic journey. Netflix has a series adaptation of the novel coming soon, so for those who prefer to read it before you see it, now is the time.

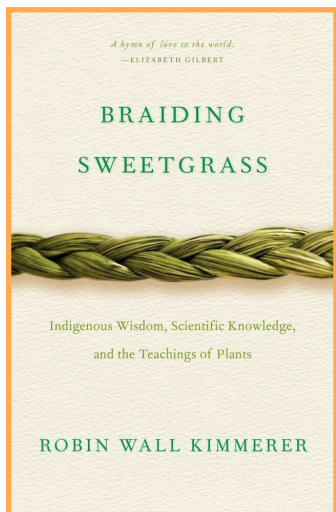
Writers & Lovers by Lily King

Writers & Lovers follows 31-year-old Casey Peabody who is grappling with the sudden loss of her mother and overcoming a recent love affair. We follow her in the summer of 1997 as she moves to Massachusetts on a whim, conflicted about her ambitions and her wishes to pursue them. She finds herself amid a whirlwind relationship, waiting tables at a local restaurant and renting a small, dingy apartment. All the while, she is also trying to finish a novel she's been writing for six years and dealing with all the punches life throws at her. King's novel tells of the difficulty we often face between choosing our passions over our securities and how we attempt to navigate the transitional phases in our lives.



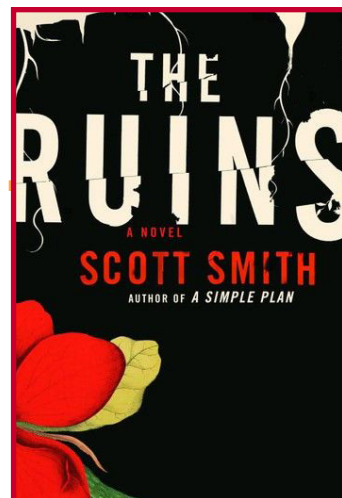
Braiding Sweetgrass Robin Wall Kimmerer

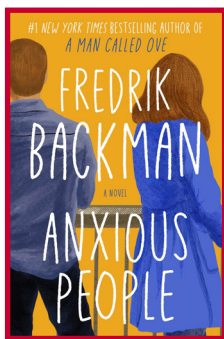
For those who prefer nonfiction, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* presents a series of essays perfect to pick up throughout those long summer hours. Potawatomi Professor and Scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer creates an understanding of our reciprocal relationship with the natural world around us as she provides insightful connections between the plants we eat, grow or use and the nature of human beings. Each essay focuses on a different species as they relate to both Indigenous and Western cultures; Kimmerer makes connections to our philosophies, economies and behaviors. While remaining informative, the book reads like a fairytale, as Kimmerer shares the stories she has been told and the lessons she has learned, both from the plants themselves and the people of her community. *Braiding Sweetgrass* is an insightful read into the ways we connect and relate to the world around us, as well as the lessons we can glean from nature and each other.



The Ruins by Scott Smith

Happy endings aren't everyone's cup of tea— sometimes you want to read something with a little more tension, horror and gore to ring in summer vacation. *The Ruins* is a grueling survival-horror that follows a group of friends as they venture into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. After one of them goes missing, they set out to search for him. After encountering a Mayan village and wandering into some forbidden territory, their previously sun-soaked and easy-going summer vacation takes a sinister turn. Stranded in the wilderness, the group must do whatever they can to survive while a foreboding threat lingers nearby. At times harsh and claustrophobic, and other times slow and suspenseful, *The Ruins* makes your worst vacation stories seem like a dream come true.





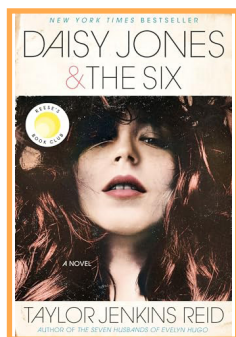
Anxious People Fredrik Backman

A light-hearted, but sometimes emotional, novel, *Anxious People* is a story that follows a bank robbery gone wrong. After the robber fumbles over the job, they find themselves at an apartment viewing across the street. With law enforcement on their tail and feeling desperate, the eight hopeful apartment buyers find themselves held hostage. Despite the tense situation, the hostages find themselves slowly unraveling the story that unfolded, opening up about their hidden truths. *Anxious People* is a relatable and heartfelt novel about the bizarre situations that life throws at us and a reminder to be compassionate to those around us. With an eccentric plot and equally eccentric cast of characters, this novel offers an easy way to unwind after a long semester.

EDITOR'S PICK

Daisy Jones & The Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Daisy Jones and The Six is a historical fiction novel that takes you on an immersive journey of the 1970s rock band culture. The main character, Daisy Jones, and the band, The Six, were signed to the same record label. When they crossed paths, Daisy became an added member, which led to the band's name, Daisy Jones and the Six. The novel gives readers an inside scoop through a series of individual interviews with the group members about their past, their rise to fame and the problems that ensued, leading to the downfall and breakup of the band. If you're looking for a fun page-turner and don't know where to start, *Daisy Jones and the Six* is the right summertime book to get you to jump back into reading. **-JANELLE CARTER**



The Last Unicorn Peter S. Beagle

The Last Unicorn is a fantasy novel that follows a unicorn who believes she is the last of her kind as she sets out to discover the fate of the others. You may remember the animated movie of the same name as a childhood classic, but don't write this off as just a kids' book.

The story offers nothing short of a fantastical and sincere exploration of loneliness and the search for belonging. After two hunters pass through the forest she lives in, which is kept in an eternal springtime state, the unicorn overhears that there are no others of her kind. Accompanied by a nonsensical magician and a strong-willed spinster, the unicorn leaves her safe and wondrous home only to encounter a world infiltrated by a mad king's curse and people who have forgotten her existence. 🦄

MUSIC CALENDAR

As a society we love music—who could deny that? Music makes us feel good and motivates us to get through the day. However, as much as we all love it, it can be hard to keep up with which artists are coming out with new projects, release dates, and when they're going on tour. But have no fear, *The Summit* is here. We're giving you all a list of all the hot, new, upcoming albums and shows coming near you.

SO FAR Album releases this semester:

JAN. 12: 21 Savage, *American Dream*; Kali Uchis, *Orquídeas*; Kid Cudi, *Insano*
FEB. 2: The Last Dinner Party, *Prelude To Ecstasy*
FEB. 9: Kanye West & Ty Dolla \$ign, *Vultures 1*
MARCH 1: ScHoolboy Q, *Blue Lips*; Faye Webster, *Underdressed at the Symphony*
MARCH 8: Ariana Grande, *Eternal Sunshine*
MARCH 15: Kacey Musgraves, *Deeper Well*
MARCH 22: Future & Metro Boomin, *We Don't Trust You*; Tyla, *Tyla*
MARCH 29: Beyoncé, *Cowboy Carter*
APRIL 5: Concrete Boys, *It's Us Vol. 1*
APRIL 12: Future & Metro Boomin, *We Still Don't Trust You*
APRIL 19: Taylor Swift, *The Tortured Poets Department*
MAY 3: Dua Lipa, *Radical Optimism*

UPCOMING Albums with firm release dates:

MAY 10: Kings of Leon, *Can We Please Have Fun*
MAY 17: Billie Eilish, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*; Twenty One Pilots, *CLANCY*; Zayn, *ROOM UNDER THE STAIRS*
MAY 24: RM, *Right Place, Wrong Person*; Wallows, *Model*
MAY 27: Aespa, *Armageddon*
MAY 31: The Marias, *Submarine*
JUNE 7: Charli XCX, *BRAT*
JUNE 14: Normani, *Dopamine*
JULY 12: Cigarettes After Sex, *X's*; Remi Wolf, *Big Ideas*
JULY 19: Glass Animals, *I Love You So F***ing Much*

LIVE Upcoming concerts in San Diego:

MAY 16: Bryson Tiller (Petco Park)
MAY 17: Two Door Cinema Club (Cal Coast Credit Union Theater)
MAY 26: The Kid LAROI (Soma)
MAY 28: Girl in Red (The Sound)
JUNE 10: Vampire Weekend (Cal Coast)
JUNE 12: Madison Beer (Soma)
JUNE 16: D Savage (House of Blues San Diego)
JUNE 18: Noah Kahan (North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre)
JUNE 20-21: Fuerza Regida (Viejas Arena)
JUNE 22: Horizon Music Festival (Waterfront Park) 21+
JUNE 28: Chicano Batman with Lido Pimienta (Cal Coast)
JUNE 30: Blink 182 with Pierce the Veil (Petco)
JULY 6: Cage The Elephant (Viejas)
JULY 10: PVRIS with Pale Waves (The Observatory North Park) 18+
JULY 13: Mxmtown (House of Blues) 18+
JULY 30: Niall Horan (North Island)
AUG. 3: Jhene Aiko (Pechanga Arena San Diego)
AUG. 8: Schoolboy Q (Soma)
AUG. 7: Foo Fighters (Petco)
AUG. 16: Kid Cudi (Pechanga)
AUG. 18-19: The Marias (Cal Coast)
AUG. 30: Suicide Boys (Pechanga)
SEPT. 10: Wallows with Bennee (Cal Coast)
SEPT. 13: Glass Animals with Eye Dress (North Island)
SEPT. 14: Hozier (North Island)

BY JANELLE CARTER

IMAGE BY LAURA STANLEY

BEHIND THE CANVAS:

ART PROFESSOR PROFILES



Get to know faculty members of Grossmont's Art Department.

STORY AND DESIGN
BY JANELLE CARTER

As students walk the halls on campus, they curate their pathways toward success. They have their eyes on the prize and, although the journey isn't linear, they are unique.

However, while looking ahead, students tend to forget that, like themselves, their professors have their own walk of life, and there's little opportunity to learn about how they got to where they are now.

So here's your chance to learn about a few of the art department faculty members at Grossmont.

JENNIFER BENNETT

Jennifer Bennett is the chair of the Arts and Humanities Department. She grew up in Lemon Grove, attended Grossmont College for four years and graduated in 1996. Bennett then transferred to San Diego State University and earned her bachelor's in 1998. She was granted a full ride to attend grad school at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she received a master's of Fine Arts in painting in 2001. While at Bowling Green, she also taught art for five years. Bennett was offered a full-time position at Grossmont in 2006 and since then, she has worked on campus.

"I love it here," said Bennett, who's been teaching here for 19 years. "I love Grossmont. I care a lot about it."

It's a full circle moment for Bennett to work where she first attended college and teach in the classroom where she attended her first art class. She said she plans on staying at Grossmont until she retires. She has been department chair for two years, and is also is part of the Council of Chairs and Coordinators, Enrollment Strategies Committee, Facilities Committee, and Guided Pathways Committee.

Like Grossmont, Bennett's art means a lot to her personally.

"Art is so powerful. Art is intimate. It could be something different for every student in your class," she said. "The way I teach, I'm very open. I don't have very strict rules or guidelines. I'm very open with that because they're all here for different reasons. So, I give them a lot of freedom to create what they want to create."

Bennett taught an art class last summer and reflected on a class project critique. She said she was surprised to see how the students took matters into their own hands of the critique.

"They were so supportive of each other," Bennett said. "It was so funny they were like, 'Can we just talk to each other about it?' They were basically saying, 'You go away,'" she joked. "I was like, 'Oh! You want ME to go away?'" she said with a laugh.

She said she enjoys seeing students being engaged in art and providing feedback to one another. The students help create a supportive and comfortable environment, making her experience as an educator more special.

Bennett emphasized that the art space isn't exclusive and is safe for everyone. She highly encourages students who are aspiring artists to come to campus to study art and implement it into their daily lives.

"Go for it," she said. "Get a sketchbook. Sketch every day. Make it your thing. Take 10 minutes a day and set it aside in the morning and start your day that way if you can. Take a beginner's class...they're not for art majors only."



"Art is so powerful. Art is intimate.
It could be something different
for every student in your class."

—JENNIFER BENNETT



JEFF KAHN

Jeff Kahn is a multifaceted art professor who teaches Digital Drawing and Painting on campus. Kahn is from the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles and dedicates his artistic influence to his early art teacher and mentor, Barbara Brooks.

"I could thank her for almost everything. She was involved in many city-wide contests for poster designs and billboards," Kahn shared. "She had a reputation for developing great students...I was very fortunate to have her."

Based on her guidance, Kahn attended Pierce College in Los Angeles for general education courses. He later transferred to the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, where he received his bachelor's of fine arts in Advertising, Graphic Design and Illustration.

During his educational years, Kahn said he went from being a big fish in a small pond to a small fish in a big pond. He described his experience attending ArtCenter as an extremely competitive environment, yet the school had "incredibly talented artists that were motivated to do their best."

Kahn immediately started working in the field at the Diener Hauser Bates Support Advertising Agency in Los Angeles and a custom aeronautics company in Miami, designing brochures, presentations and illustrations for Eastern Airlines and small agencies such as Chromium Graphics.

He began freelancing in San Diego, and during the 1990s, he began teaching while also operating his own self-taught graphic design business. Kahn has designed logos for companies such as Downy, Purina, Revlon and RoyaltyShare.

Creating art has been a lifelong endeavor for Kahn at such a young age. He said it's a part of who he is and what he does. He recalled a time when he felt stuck and unsatisfied, and this saying, which he put on his wall, helped him gain the clarity he needed to keep moving forward: "Let the colors dance."

Kahn encourages art students to build a supportive community that uplifts one another.

"Find not only like-minded people, but others who you feel safe to share your art with," he said.

"Get a sketchbook. Draw...Draw a lot," Kahn continued with a laugh. "Learn traditional media, digital media and learn how one supports the other. They're both unique and amazing."

PAUL TUROUNET

A photography professor, Paul Turounet has been a full-time faculty member on campus for the past 19 years, and recently completed 24 years of teaching. He grew up in the Bay Area and went to San Jose State University for an undergrad in journalism with a minor in creative writing. He attended grad school from 1993 to 1995 and received his MFA in photography at the Yale School of Art.

Turounet recalled kick-starting his art career from his poetry class and writing about his experience seeing his grandfather diagnosed with cancer. He described his writing as very visual and wanted to figure out how to evoke his emotions in a physical image.

Turounet has traveled throughout Mexico and participated in many exhibitions, such as the 1998 photography exhibition at the Tijuana Cultural Center. This led him to his first teaching job as an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego.

During his early years of teaching, he participated in the USD Guadalajara Summer Program, which ran for six weeks. He went on to teach photography in Mexico for five summers.

"It was the best environment in terms of academia. I taught students from the U.S. and students from Mexico," Turounet said, smiling as he recalled seeing connections students built together in a diverse room.

"I never looked at teaching people to be photographers," he said. "I see my role as using photography to reflect on your own sense of who you are, what you might be interested in, and what you're curious about."

Turounet added that he's maintained connections with some of his students. Although they've found their paths unrelated to photography, it's apparent his teaching has made an impact.

Turounet's curiosity about the world motivates him to play both roles as a photographer and an educator. He said his photography is an act of response to his opinions and his questioning feelings about the environment in which he steps foot.

Turounet said he hopes what students could take away from his classroom is that when they walk away, they will understand that it's valid to have multiple interests. Whether or not it pertains to photography or other mediums, it should be within the student's interest in what they choose to pursue. 🐦



"I see my role as using photography to reflect on your own sense of who you are, what you might be interested in, and what you're curious about."

—PAUL TUROUNET





The theater crew shines a light on setting the stage for *Our Town*.

STORY & DESIGN BY JACOM CUMMINGS

When it comes to a new theater production, many audience members focus on the show's dialogue and the actors who will be performing, but it takes many more people to run a production from start to finish. Grossmont Theatre Department's upcoming performance of the celebrated play *Our Town* is no different, and behind the scenes, crew members and technicians have worked for weeks to create the backdrop of this classic story.

In theater, "technical crew" often refers to the non-performers involved in the production of a show, including set designers, stagehands and flymen, and sound and light operators. These positions allow students who are passionate about theater arts to be deeply involved in shows, without necessarily performing on stage.

To offer some context, *Our Town* focuses on the townspeople of Grover's Corners, a fictional small town in New Hampshire. The story unfolds from 1901 to 1913, focusing on the lives of various characters within. As one might expect, the setting of a play is central to developing a production's "look." James Padiernos, who is working as a set designer and scenic technician for the play, spoke on how the show's time period and geographical location influenced set design.

"As far as my research went, I looked specifically at the New England area around the turn of the century, and found that a very popular build style was the Queen Anne," he said. "I was very excited to hear that because it's a very extravagant way of building, with a lot of different colors, textures and shapes as well."

Even the seasons of certain scenes will influence technical decisions, as explained by Riley Casey, who is working on lighting and sound design for *Our Town*. Casey mentioned choosing a "very light yellow" as a main color to show an outside, summer feel.

One of the challenges involved with lighting is creating dimension, which Casey said can be achieved with the use of "gobos," steel templates of various designs placed in front of lights to project a certain visual shape or dimension, such as a window. This technique was utilized to reinforce story elements of *Our Town*, such as the growing romance between characters George and Emily. Casey said, "The moon plays such a huge role in Emily and George's story, and we have a very beautiful and striking moon gobo."

Both Casey and Padiernos pointed to director Walter Allen Bennett as a guiding force in the production. When speaking on meeting the challenge of understanding the director's vision for *Our Town*, Padiernos praised Bennett's willingness to communicate with the student technicians, with the common goal of finding what works. Casey commented, "He also throughout the process has brought up some pretty crazy ideas, and it has challenged us to come up with solutions and think in new and out-of-the-box ways."

As opening night draws closer, one can see that it takes a village to make *Our Town*. 🐦

Almost everyone has heard the word "networking," but do you really know what it means to network or how to do it?

Networking is about creating connections. It is a chance to connect with people you know or don't. It is the act of building and developing relationships that are professional or personal. Matthew Aragon, the Career Service Projector in a networking workshop, said, "You're [networking] all the time."

Aragon, the director of Sales and Marketing at Embassy Suites by Hilton Hotel, mentioned that he joined a punk rock band before he worked in the hotel business. His sister, who worked for hotels, got him a job on the side in case his music career didn't work out. At first, Aragon was not interested but worked on the side to support his music career. Now, he has worked for many hotels working his way up the business ladder.

Aragon's sister connected him to his future career, ultimately leading him to many more opportunities, such as promotions and even meeting his wife. Every step of his career and personal life is due to networking. "Your network is an exclusive bubble that overlaps with everything in your life," he said.

Networking is more important than one might think and opportunities are just around the corner.

Whether you know it or not, you are networking by creating connections in your everyday routine. Being a regular at a coffee shop, greeting people and even speed-dating can be networking. You are even networking within your family dynamic. Your family might know someone who works or is involved in your future career. Talking and asking questions with your parents, siblings, aunts or uncles, and friends can open you up to a world of opportunities.

Beside networking at home, the best place for networking as a college student is on your school campus. In an email, Work-Based Learning Coordinator Pavel Consuegra said, "Networking while attending Grossmont College can be a valuable way to start building professional connections and exploring career opportunities."

Coming to class and making connections with your professors or prospective students within your major is a way of networking and sets you up for success. Show up and don't be afraid to start conversations. There is never any harm in creating connections.

Navigating the world of networking may seem daunting, but there are steps you can take to excel in it.

First and foremost, the most important thing to do while networking is to be yourself and be authentic. If you are not yourself, then you are not authentic, and that might give the wrong impression to the person you want to build a connection with. Whether you're naturally introverted or extroverted, embracing your authentic self while taking calculated risks is crucial.

Consuegra recommended several steps to help students kickstart their networking journeys. These included attending career development workshops, joining student organizations, participating in networking events, and engaging with faculty and staff. These initiatives aim to empower students by providing opportunities to connect, develop skills and forge meaningful relationships.

"The goal of networking is to expand your professional circle, exchange knowledge and resources, and create opportunities for career growth and development," Consuegra said. Grossmont College offers an ideal environment to initiate networking efforts and cultivate impactful connections that can shape your future. 🐦



PHOTO BY NICOLE ANN QUIAMBAO

TEEN CHEFS LEVEL UP

High school students join Grossmont's culinary program.

BY NICOLE ANN QUIAMBAO

The permanent closure of the Art Institute of California in July 12, 2019, left many students and teachers astonished. This abrupt closure resulted in numerous instructors losing their jobs and several students being unable to finish their degrees, some of which were in the culinary arts.

Despite the closure of the school, which shot down its last campus in Atlanta in September, students still have the opportunity to pursue education in culinary arts at Grossmont College. The school has partnered with Grossmont Union High through an articulation program, where students can skip the introductory class while still having the appropriate preparation.

"What we try to do with high school is form what we call an articulation agreement," said Josephine Rossi, the faculty instructor in culinary arts. "We currently have one with

Grossmont Union High School. What it means is that they can take culinary in their high school. We pair our curriculum with the high school and if they pass the exam that we offer here, they can skip the intro class, CA-169, they would effectively come in a little more advanced."

District representatives and culinary arts teachers are trying to ensure the curricula are aligned and students are adequately prepared to guarantee the highest quality education for students. The articulation can provide valuable skills they may not receive in high school and can benefit students who learn from experienced chefs who have worked in the industry.

"Everything we do here is meant to prepare students for the professional world. All of our equipment is professional-grade equipment," Rossi said. "The pace is rigorous. We replicate the pace that students would need to work at to be successful professionals."

Rossi adds: "We teach a lot of skills beyond just cooking to ready the students professionally, the socialization into a professional kitchen, working efficiently and quickly, and organization and communication skills."

Currently, Grossmont College's Culinary Arts program is trying to negotiate an articulation agreement with another high school, aiming to expand further opportunities for young aspiring chefs. 🐦

If you want to treat yourself or your loved ones to a fine-dining experience, the Culinary Arts students prepare and serve five-course meals at Grossmont College for \$40 per person plus a \$1.50 processing fee.

Culinary Arts hosts the fine dining series on Thursday nights. In the spring, it is called "fine dining"; in the fall, it is referred to as the "banquet hall."

"It is a restaurant-quality, multi-course meal," said Culinary Arts Faculty Josephine "Jojo" Rossi. "We have a fantastic entree that we have been working on. We have a sauce called *bordelaise*, which takes days to make. And then we *sous vide* a flat iron steak."

Rossi explained: "Sous vide is a technique of cooking that tenderizes the cut that isn't necessarily tender. It goes with some seasonal vegetables. We have artichokes. We have some mushrooms, which are king trumpets on the plate. And then we have a green garlic potato gratin and it all gets topped with an herb-y salsa verde."

Tickets, which can be purchased through the website, typically sell out quickly once they become available, so best to buy them as soon as possible.

"Throughout the semester, Culinary Arts provides the school with 12 services of the fine dining series," Rossi said. "This usually starts about three weeks into the semester and it usually ends two weeks before the semester."

If you were not able to secure tickets for this semester, you can attempt to do so again in the upcoming semester. The tickets are accessible through the Grossmont College website under the "Fine Dining Series" section. 🐦

FINE DINING AT GROSSMONT

BY NICOLE ANN QUIAMBAO

FILE PHOTO BY KRIS SARADPORN



| STORY AND PHOTOS BY DOMINIC FERRARI |

The reference compendium for many professional journalists, the AP Stylebook, last updated in 2022, contains a 30-page breakdown of every major sport one can think of. There is not a single utterance of the word “pickleball” in the 612-page 56th edition, the most recent version currently available. Pickleball has arrived in the American zeitgeist suddenly and the sport’s popularity continues to rise.

Almost 50 million Americans have reported playing the sport, which has expanded from humble beginnings only 60 years ago. A fast and social game, pickleball is increasingly the choice of casual activity in the U.S. The sport can even be found in a dedicated class here at Grossmont.

In 1965, three men in Washington state put together a game that could be played on a badminton court when they lacked all the equipment, according to USA Pickleball. The result was a game played with ping-pong paddles and a wiffle ball. Now, the game is played with larger composite paddles and more durable hollow plastic balls or a court made from concrete or asphalt, which are ideal for bouncing the light ball.

For the curious student, Grossmont is offering UC and CSU transferable beginner, intermediate and advanced pickleball courses this fall. The courts at the college can be found painted over one of the existing tennis courts.

Until then, Grossmont student and avid player Richard Schott recommended a few local pickleball courts: La Mesita and Big Rock parks both have courts. For more competition, there is The Hub on Campo Road, which does have a membership fee. All you need is a pickleball paddle and ball, with a quick look at the rules since the game is beginner-friendly.

Pickleball’s player base grew gradually for the first five decades of its existence. In 2021, its popularity exploded and the sport remains the fastest-growing sport in terms of players in the country, for three years running, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association Topline Report.

Schott, who has played the sport frequently for two years, said pickleball is an “easy sport to learn, very difficult to master.” He added that the sport is very cheap to play given the single required piece of equipment.

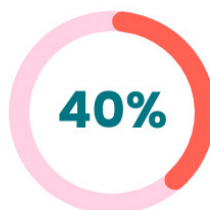
The best thing to do to learn the game is to go out and watch others play and leverage the social aspect of the game. The broader structure of the game is focused on being fast. Games only go to 11 points and each rally sees the server rotate frequently. Games last 15 to 20 minutes and players usually rotate out frequently, which “equates to a lot of social interaction,” Schott said.

Pickleball: The Numbers

Over 48 million Americans have played in the last year



Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country for the third year in a row.



Of people who play once a month or more are 25-34. The average age continues to fall.



Nearly 4 in 10 avid pickleball players are women.



In 2021, players 55 and older were the largest demographic. Now, 72% of players are 18 to 44.

Nearly 14,000 pickleball courts in the US

223.5% growth in players in three years

\$150 million pickleball paddle market



Grossmont College will be offering beginner, intermediate and advanced classes on pickleball in Fall 2024.

INFOGRAPHIC BY DOMINIC FERRARI



BUSY PICKLEBALL COURTS AT LA MESITA PARK NEAR THE COLLEGE.

The popularity of the sport makes sense given the low barrier to entry for casual play, room to advance and be competitive, a very social structure and quick games that allow for the busy player to fit games in a packed schedule. This pitch has been attractive to the roughly 10 million frequent players, according to an Association of Pickleball Players report.

The sport is often associated with older, retired players, but the average age of participants has fallen from over 40 to less than 35 in the last three years. This trend continues as the sport gains popularity and the professional scene expands.

Though pickleball is not dangerous, injuries can happen. Schott, who has had two injuries in his time playing the game, said most come from “pushing yourself too hard.” This also applies to retirees who may not be ready for the amount of movement in the sport. Done right, there is minimal risk.

Pickleball draws many comparisons to tennis, but Schott said the game is “very strategic,” adding, “Tennis is a game of checkers, pickleball is a game of chess.”

He is confident the game will find its way into the Olympics, so it may be time to go out and make some dink shots. 🏓

GRIFFIN ATHLETICS

RECAP

BY ALESSANDRO PABON

With the school year ending, so are a lot of the sports at Grossmont. How did the season go?

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The Griffins fell just one game short of a positive record, finishing their season with nine wins and 10 losses. Even though the season ended with this record, it was a major improvement from the 2023 season, where the Griffins only won one game. The team's strong point is playing better at away games than home ones, which is rare for most other teams. The Griffins went 1-5 at home, 7-4 away and 1-1 at neutral sites. With the team's major improvement from the 2023 to the 2024 season, the Griffins are expected to keep their streak of improvement and bring it into the 2025 season.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

The beach volleyball program has been historically good at Grossmont, and this year proved history true. The Griffin's season ended with 13 wins and 10 losses, which landed the team a spot in the SoCal Team Regionals playoffs. In the playoffs, the Griffins won their first game 3-2 against Santa Barbara, but fell short against

San Diego Mesa 3-1. The Griffins hope to continue their strong team dynamic, winning games and pushing further into the playoffs.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team finished with a 5-7 record as a team, but still had success in the doubles event and the singles event. Chiara Burgin and Sydney McClain were able to win the 2024 Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) doubles championship and qualified for the California Community College Tennis Championships. The Griffins have three doubles teams: Chiara Burgin and Sydney McClain, Jessica Stuman and

Lucille Braunschweig, and Debbie Humphrey and Grace Ellis. All three qualified for the CCC Tennis Championships, with Chiara Burgin and Sydney McClain also qualifying for the singles event. Unfortunately, the players did not win at the CCC Championships, but having that many players qualify shows it was a good season for Women's Tennis.

SOFTBALL

Since Grossmont did not have a softball team in 2023, It was a rebuilding year for the team and they were bound to have a rocky first season back. In its return to the field, the team finished 7-31. Along with the new season, the program welcomed Coach Craig Fuentes, who had his first season coaching at Grossmont this year. As the season went on, the team's improvement gradually showed, and the

Griffins had games in the second half of the season that were only lost by one run. Twelve out of the 13 players on the roster are freshmen, so there will be a lot of returning faces wanting to continue to get better next season. The softball team next year will look to improve and build upon this year.

BASEBALL

The Griffin's baseball team finished their season with a record of 16 wins and 22 losses. The team finished their season strong, winning four out of their last six games and their last game was a 9-0 victory over San Diego Mesa. The Griffins may have got off to a slow start this season, but they battled hard and finished on a high note. Most of the team are freshmen, so expect the team to be better coming back next season with an extra year under their belt. 🏈





Feminine products, like the most commonly used tampons and sanitary pads, are designed to help during menstrual cycles, which is a natural cycle females and people endure monthly. Periods can vary for different people from the flow, focus and cramps. No matter the experience, it is important that women have immediate access to feminine products and can acquire the necessary products for their time of the month.

At Grossmont College, women's free feminine products are available in the campus bathrooms.

Emily Danque, a Grossmont College student, said she believes it acts as a safety net for all females. Knowing the college we attend offers the right products allows students who need these products to have some peace of mind.

Signed into law in October 2021, The Menstrual Equity Act was passed to provide free menstrual products on school campuses. Assembly Bill 367, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.), encouraged all of California's public and private colleges to provide students with free menstrual products in every bathroom on campus grounds.

While the campus's bathrooms give out free supplies, in the past some parts of the school required quarters to be used to obtain the products. Even though it's only 25 cents, it became an inconvenience for some students who didn't carry any change or had the time to scramble for a quarter to put in the machine.

"I only carry quarters when I go to Disneyland," Danque said.

Even though the Menstrual Equity Act is in place and Grossmont doesn't require quarters, students in different schools still have trouble gaining access to free feminine products. Products are not as accessible and they have to pay out-of-pocket.

It is vital to make period essential products available to students so they can attend classes without worries. Many students who use feminine products are now using their voices to be heard and advocating for free period products and equity for all students. Psychology Major Samuel Rendon said: "It's like a water fountain. Everyone needs water, it is a basic need."

Menstrual products are essential to hygiene practices. By having products available at all times, the campus shows it cares about its student's needs and health. ♡

The 2024-2025 Associated Students of Grossmont College elections have ended and the current position holders are preparing to pass the torch. Voting was held online for one day only and closed on April 26.

During the upcoming year, the newly elected officials will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of events, meetings and other activities that benefit both the campus and their fellow students. Current Student Trustee and ASGC President Cesar Nuñez detailed some of his accomplishments during this past year.

"It's a lot of work," Nuñez said. "There's a lot of meetings, a lot of people you have to know and you have to know how to talk [publicly]."

As Student Trustee, a large portion of your responsibility lies in attending the district's monthly Governing Board meetings. Serving as "the district's eyes within the school," these meetings serve as an opportunity to "speak on issues that [students] may be dealing with, or that the school may be dealing with," according to Nuñez.

Student Trustees are also encouraged to participate in the Student Senate of California Community Colleges, which provides connections to other student trustees across the region. This allows for collaboration and conversation on community affairs and events.

The position also provides opportunities to attend various trainings and conferences, which Nuñez said were some of the most "beneficial" aspects of the job. "You get to know a bunch of people," he said. "I know a lot of people who run the college personally."



New student government takes over soon.

BY MIREYA MINER

Trustees also get free parking, which is nothing short of convenient.

While the position of Student Trustee requires time and effort, Nuñez said he finds himself "wearing his president's hat the most."

"That's where I do most of my work," Nuñez said. "I try to be as involved as I can on campus."

The ASGC President is required to attend weekly board meetings, which they are expected to lead and organize. These meetings are in collaboration with other councils of Grossmont's participatory governance. Other councils include the College Council, Budget Committee, Facilities, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee, Professional Development, Staffing Committee, Student Success and Equity Committee, and the Technology Committee. The ASGC president is required to sit on two of these committees; the mandatory college council and another of their choosing.

Alongside these responsibilities, the ASGC president is required to spend 10 hours a week in the student government office, where the majority of the time is spent answering emails. The president serves as a contact point for student issues. However, there can be difficulties when the Student Trustee and ASGC president positions are occupied by the same person. They often cannot interfere with issues students present due to conflicting interests and instead refer them to other faculty members.

"It does kind of suck because I want to go in there and help them, but I can't," Nuñez said.

The ASGC President also has to speak at the convocation ceremony each semester, which requires delivering a speech in front of the staff and faculty. They are also encouraged to participate in the commencement ceremony each year. **[ASGC CONT. ON NEXT PAGE]**

A NEW FACE

Campus welcomes a new VP.

[BY MIREYA MINER]



The search for a new vice president of Administrative Services at Grossmont College has come to an end. Sheree Stopper, who previously served as the chief business officer for the Lemon Grove School District, brings experience in fiscal management, payroll, school safety and more to her new position. Stopper assumed her new position officially April 22.

Stopper holds a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting from Pacific University and a master's in taxation from National University. She has experience in managing multiple funds, performing ongoing initiatives to enhance educational resources and facilities, and accomplishing successful bond campaigns.

The vice president of Administrative Services is a fundamental position responsible for services such as accounting, contract management, facilities maintenance and human resources. At Grossmont, this includes overseeing the bookstore contracts and management, working with a liaison for the district for campus safety, grant reporting and monitoring, and food service advisory and council.

In an email release, Grossmont President Denise Whisenhunt said she is "confident that Ms. Stopper's qualifications and expertise will serve Grossmont College well as we work together to transform the lives of students."

[ASGC CONT. FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

"It can feel tedious at times," Nuñez said. "The hardest part about my position is that there's no handbook. When I first got here, they kind of just introduced me to a bunch of people and were like, 'Okay, go do your job.'"

Despite this, during his time as ASGC president, Nuñez has taken the opportunity to accomplish many other efforts, including working closely with the college council at both Southwestern and San Diego Mesa colleges, gathering research in hopes of proposing a resolution to prevent remedial classes from being cut, involving himself with many of the over 30 clubs currently operating on campus, initiating efforts for a "wellness vending machine" that will offer personal hygiene products and emergency contraceptives on campus, and working with Eje Academies to provide mariachi performances on campus as part of an effort to promote collegiate attendance among young students.

The current term ends May 30. Newly elected board members will maintain their positions from May 31 until May 30 of next year. These new officials are as follows:

- **President:** Kameron Jones
- **Executive Vice President:** Li Tri Vi Huyhn
- **Director of Student Legislation:** Cesar Nuñez
- **Director of Board Affairs:** Julio Hernandez
- **Director of Campus Activities:** Nicole Morgan
- **Board of Directors:** Consuelo Trujillo; Li Vi Tri Huyhn
- **Student Trustee:** TIE - Cesar Nuñez; Kameron Jones (A runoff vote will be held May 13; Voting instructions will be emailed to all enrolled students.)



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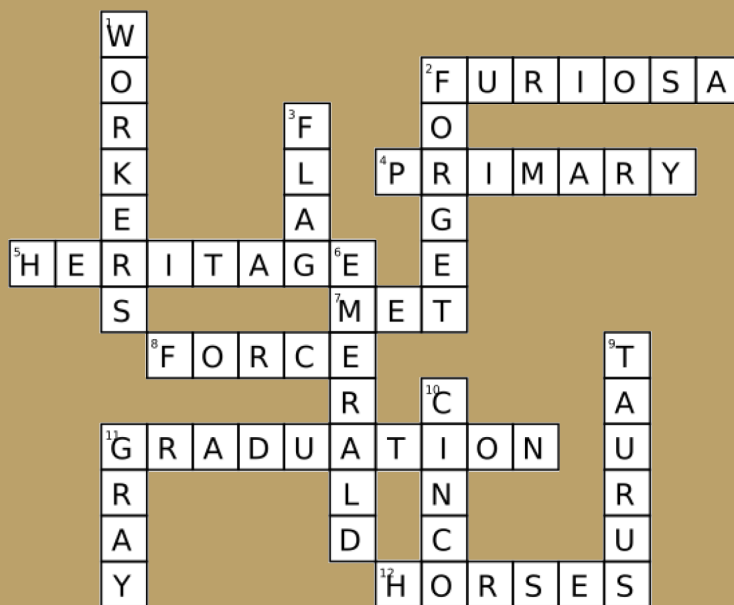


Grossmont Healthcare District's
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BRAIN BOOST SOLUTION

[PUZZLE ON PAGE 5]



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DUNE: PART TWO

| Review by Alessandro Pabon

Dune: Part Two picks up right where part one ends, with Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) getting exiled. Some main themes of this movie, which is directed by Denis Villeneuve, are revenge and destiny—revenge because of what the House Harkonnen did to Paul's family and destiny because many around him believe he is the chosen one. Paul will also reunite with Chani (Zendaya), who has a much larger role in this installment after her smaller part in the first movie sparked some controversy. Chani is a character with many sides. She is strong enough to openly call out Paul for his leadership, but there is also some romantic tension between the two. *Dune: Part Two* ends with Paul's announcement regarding Princess Irulan (Florence Pugh) and his orders to his troops to start a Holy War with all five houses. It is a great setup for *Dune: Part Three*, which will likely be the final movie.



INTERSTELLAR

| Review by Nicole Ann Quiambao

Interstellar is a 2014 science fiction film directed by none other than Christopher Nolan. Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) and a group of astronauts are sent on a quest to find a new habitable planet to save the human race from the dying planet Earth. This film dives deeper into space exploration; the discovery of wormholes and galaxy travels will make the viewers think about time, space and the unknown. Truly a masterpiece with amazing cinematography, the film has phenomenal acting and a touching story. It will move the hearts of viewers as it displays the bond between Cooper and his daughter – despite the physical distance between the two – expressing love, sacrifice and hope.



STAR TREK IV: THE VOYAGE HOME

| Review by Dominic Ferrari

It's the one with the whales. *Star Trek* is sci-fi, but the uninitiated may be unaware that the franchise's long history is marked by experimentation with genre, leading to some huge successes and many bizarre failures. Released in 1986, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* has an ensemble cast including everyone from the original surprise-hit television show from 20 years earlier. This entry in the series plays with a comedic tone and a focus on an environmental message, with the sci-fi taking a back seat. To save the world, the crew must travel back in time to present-day, aka mid-1980s San Francisco. Rather than facing a traditional villain, the heroes must save the world by undoing humanity's mistake: the extinction of the humpback whale. It is the only creature able to communicate with a world-destroying probe threatening 23rd-century Earth. Even given the goofy premise and the lack of big laser fights, the movie nails the ensemble comedy, giving every actor something to do and plenty of great moments. The theme of humanity improving itself, which is present in nearly all *Star Trek* media, is well-supported in the conservationist message that saves the day. While not the most in-your-face sci-fi, the ensemble comedy with a prescient environmental message avoids disappointing sci-fi fans and alienating general audiences by finding a middle ground almost anyone can enjoy.

