

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | HOLIDAY 2024



*Happy
Holidays*



*from
The Summit!*

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SUMMIT STAFF



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: SAUL RUIZ, ANNET CARDONA, NATHALY ESTREMERERA, AARON LUNA AND A.J. FIUME.

STARTING FRESH:

What's your New Year's resolution?

ANNET CARDONA

My New Year's resolution is to travel as much as I did this year and to make more memories.

NATHALY ESTREMERERA

My New Year's resolution is to build my portfolio, volunteer and make more friends.

A.J. FIUME

Mine is to score two points in my upcoming tournament in Colorado for sled hockey In January.

AARON LUNA

My New Year's resolution is to hopefully lose more weight and gain a bigger following on Griffin Radio.

SAUL RUIZ

Mine is to build on my hobbies and portfolio, and to adopt healthier habits.

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.**

CHANGE YOUR WORLD

My fellow Griffins, This issue marks an important point in our academic year. Not only will this be the final of the fall semester, but it will also signal the halfway point, as many of us will be signing up for classes for the spring semester. The Blue's Musician B.B. King once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world," and we should use that weapon to better our community. On that note, I am putting out an open call for all who can to enroll in *The Summit* for the spring semester. We would all love to hear more from others here on campus. I look forward to hearing from all who join the staff come next February.

I'm Aaron Luna, You stay classy, Grossmont College!



Aaron Luna, 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.

ALL CAPS
SAFETY UPDATE
COMPILED BY SAUL RUIZ
ILLUSTRATION BY CHLOIE CULL

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 July.

- **Oct. 16:** Deputies were dispatched to the scene of a two-vehicle collision. No one was injured but one vehicle was disabled, which blocked the road and held up traffic.
- **Oct. 16:** Deputies responded to a drunken driver driving around campus.
- **Oct. 17:** Deputies responded to reports of an assault on a Grossmont faculty member.
- **Oct. 24:** Responses were made to a conflict over a vehicle blocking another. The reporting party provided the wrong location, and when located, it was determined no crime had occurred.

* *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 SUMMIT STAFF

NOVEMBER

- 8:** Financial Aid office closure | Resume Writing workshop, 11 a.m. to noon (60-140)
- 9:** Last day to drop with a "W"
- 11:** Veterans Day - Campus Closed
- 12:** Spring Registration
- 13:** Blood Drive, (Main Quad)
- 19:** Vaccine Clinic, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Main Quad)

DECEMBER

- 3:** Confidential HIV Testing, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Health & Wellness Patio)
- 4:** Vaccine Clinic, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Main Quad)

MUSIC EVENTS (7:30 P.M., PVAC, \$)

- NOV. 8:** Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale
- NOV. 9:** New City Sinfonia in Concert
- NOV. 12:** Jazz Ensemble
- DEC. 2:** Afro-Cuban Ensemble
- DEC. 3:** Grossmont String Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble
- DEC. 5:** Cadence Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- DEC. 10:** Jazz and Jazz Vocal Ensembles
- DEC. 18, 19:** Grossmont Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale: "Nutcracker Redux" (Featuring San Diego Ballet)

DANCE (PVAC, \$)

Breaking Boundaries, Nov. 20-22, 7:30 p.m.

THEATER (STAGE HOUSE THEATRE, \$)

Just Like Us, Nov. 21-23, Dec. 5-7, 7:30-9 p.m.; Nov. 23 and Dec. 7, 2-4 p.m.

CAREER CENTER EVENTS

- NOV. 9:** Pathways to Work Info Session, 11 a.m. to noon (Online or 60-140)
- NOV. 14:** Protecting and Managing Your Online Data, 2 to 3 p.m. (41-117)
- NOV. 21:** Discover Job Quality, 2 to 3 p.m. (41-117)
- NOV. 22:** Entrepreneurial Mindset- Deep Dive, 11 a.m. to noon (60-140)
- DEC. 3:** Exploring Majors Workshop, 11 a.m. to noon (Online)

CULINARY SERIES

- NOV. 13:** Luncheon Series, noon to 1 p.m. (60-173) \$
- NOV. 14, 21:** CA Comfort Food Dining Series, 5:15 to 7 p.m. (60-173) \$

SPORTS HOME GAMES

- FOOTBALL:** Nov. 9 vs. Mt. San Jacinto (1 p.m.)
- WOMEN'S SOFTBALL:** Nov. 9 vs. Mt. San Jacinto (1 p.m.)
- WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** Nov. 8 at Cuyamaca (6 p.m.), Nov. 13 vs. City (6 p.m.)
- MEN'S BASKETBALL:** Nov. 15 vs. El Camino (6 p.m.), Nov. 22 vs. Compton (7 p.m.), Dec. 13 vs. Desert (3 p.m.), Dec. 18 vs City (7 p.m.), Dec. 28 vs. LA City (3 p.m.)
- WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** Nov. 22 vs. Cuesta (5 p.m.)

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



This month, hunt for the holidays.

PUZZLE BY ANNET CARDONA

COJYHHPRHUZKCBRHRDVBHARKLRNPUUQ
 LPPLBYWYVLBSGNNWSGVPZZEQXSGDSW
 OOJQVHCXWLNITHTREEKINGSRQFWUGRZ
 POKAHAQPMCMZCNSYHXBMYUEYNHQBW
 NMWVINXELKAVFUOEIRKQWRYUCWMHAY
 NRAOEIVNYVDYWVNFNKLUVMPPOZSUEV
 RYNJENMMLGFVLFVFWWIPHTWNRIVNSN
 DZZFNBGCPAQAUAUWGDXEZICITNZXDBG
 LSAWWTYHDZQSEUUCHRISTMASUWIPNB
 JXAHQUZLUXZLDBGZTAABFDHHCACFBXA
 LXJBZRAPHCUYZFKITHCSOOJDOGIYPD
 JVUPKKKNQQCAWANNKAOTDZTPBAAQZ
 NCEDVELLVQQMLYMULGZNVOGNIJEEEXE
 FBZOJYMOWCOFOZJPQOEVKALTAAPVUDK
 NBDPVENYOXGJRMXTXNQUYRMSFEUSYPHL
 NTCNCENYLCBBOIKCGMYSBTGJYYBUZD
 DYDJGKUNKQMISTLETOEKRRLICNKRZR
 VXS PENWJHAMOXMBZRZDXRREZVXSXXM
 CGDGOXTRTYHYNMDFENAFYRRAQIDYND
 NJTKWYXZLCFWWOORMWDKDFFDLNEAD
 JMOLNBIKVCDJMOTIJXYMIMNCWHAGTR
 PAAYA JZVHNZJZVHEFCUIHQXVRHAEBB
 PWHHNMAYAKKPAPZNAZWI BYLZEXEAFG
 LUXADZXKNLLRTIGDHXWPSPQSJRMQSC
 GPTQYSTRUNPYZNSHLUPBZORUUUECV
 QXHEXHYEKAWKEFNULSNEWYEARSXHZK
 OBIMPETEKCOJLAKZRUCKRQGSXHMZWD
 QTUESVOAAIJWDOWBTHDGOFITBIXPOH
 WHRTVPUYHZRXPTHZZAUVHNONACNILE
 NDYSHFTYFJGCWVJMFHDCADYEHDNCJF

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

- CHRISTMAS
- CORNUCOPIA
- FRIENDS
- GINGERBREAD
- HANUKKAH
- KWANZAA
- JOY
- MISTLETOE
- NEW YEARS
- THANKSGIVING
- THREE KINGS
- TURKEY

**SOLUTION
ON NEXT
PAGE**



EAST BOUND & DOWN WITH THE HOLIDAYS

How do East County students celebrate the holidays?

The end-of-year holidays are approaching, and for Grossmont students, this means many holiday events and celebrations within the cities and on campus. Many events take place across Santee, El Cajon and La Mesa, providing ways for the folk in East County to enjoy the upcoming holiday season and get into spirit. Additionally, some students are opting to celebrate the coming winter and end of 2024 in traditional and familiar ways.

Beginning Nov. 22, Santee will be holding its **holiday lighting** event from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. It's a family event with activities including photo opportunities, face painting and sledding. Those who can't make it can also attend Santee's **"Selfies with Santa"** on Dec. 5 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., where families have the opportunity to meet and take a photo with Santa at Santee's Trolley Square.

Students like Manuel Castleberry may opt to simply spend time with their family over the holidays and imminent break.

"Nowadays, it's not common for your family to gather up all together, it's really hard to do that nowadays, especially with everyone being so

busy," Castleberry said. "So to have those moments, especially on Christmas it's just really nice."

Many others may also choose to take to spend time at home, making memories with their families.

Students and families in El Cajon may be pleased to find the annual **"Winter Wonderland"** celebration, taking place Dec. 7 from 2 to 6 p.m. in Wells Park. Among the activities are photo ops with Santa and Mrs. Claus, costumed actors and train rides for little ones. This is also a free entry event children and parents alike can enjoy.

Timothy Deal is among students who do not usually spend the holidays at home. "We go to vacation, I go to my grandma's house in Florida," he said, "and then Thanksgiving we usually go to Hawaii."

For those staying local, the city of La Mesa will be holding its traditional **"Holiday In The Village"** on Dec. 14 from noon to 9 p.m. Another free event that lasts all day, this notably features live music, crafts, photo opportunities and a kids' play area.

Plenty of upcoming holiday events celebrating the end of the year are open to the public and people in San Diego. So get out there and get into the holiday spirit soon! 🦋

BY SAUL RUIZ



PHOTO BY ALEKSANDR UNIKOVSKY

Pumpkin Pie

1 Cup	White Whole Wheat Flour
1/4 TSP	Baking Powder
3 TBP	Cold Unsalted Butter
3 TBS	Canola Oil
2 TBS	Orange Juice/Optional
2-4 TBS	Ice Water
1/4 TSP	Salt



Large Eggs/Seperated	2
Milk	2/3 Cup
Pumpkin Puree	15 oz
Ground Ginger	1 TSP
Cloves	1/2 TSP
Ground Cinnamon	3/4 TSP
Salt	1/2 TSP
Sugar	1/2 Cup

DESIGN BY KAI HARRIS
RECIPE BY WHOLE GRAINS COUNCIL

Pie Crust

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Mix dry ingredients in large bowl.
2. Cut butter in small cubes and mix into dry ingredients until dough is crumbly, then add canola oil.
3. A little at a time, sprinkle orange juice and ice water over dough and mix lightly by hand until dough hangs together.
4. Dampen counter-top and place large sheet of wax paper on it. Put dough on paper, press it slightly, cover with another sheet of wax paper, and roll out until it's big enough for an 8- to 9-inch pie pan.
5. Peel off top sheet of wax paper. Flip dough over, using remaining wax paper to guide it into pan, then remove remaining wax paper.
6. Turn any overlapping bits of dough under the edges, and crimp with fingers to make nice edge.
7. Use fork to poke holes in bottom of crust to prevent puffing. Bake for 10 minutes until crust turns golden brown.

Pumpkin Filling

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F and cover edge of crust with tin foil.
2. Separate eggs, with yolks going into large bowl and whites into mixer bowl.
3. Combine sugar and spices (last five ingredients) together in small bowl.
4. Beat egg whites until soft peaks form.
5. Combine milk and pumpkin with egg yolks, then add sugar-spice mix and mix well.
6. Fold in egg whites by turning over spoonfuls, as gently as possible, so fluffiness of egg white isn't lost.
7. Pour into pie shell and bake for about 40 minutes, until a knife comes out clean.
8. Serve as is or with a dollop of whipped cream.

Bozho (Hello)
November is Native American Heritage Month.

Fish Gigo
Bird Pneshi
Otter Gdedé
Bear Mko
Snake Bébamodét

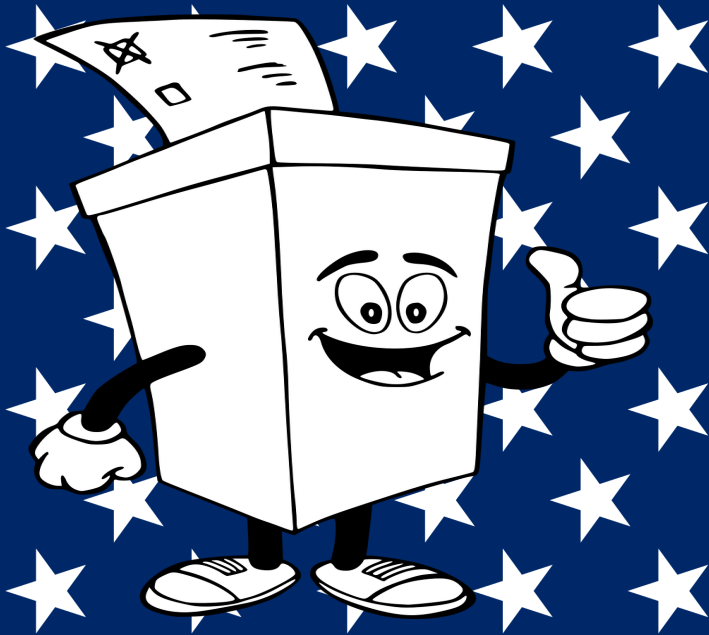
Let's learn some Potawatomi words.

BY REBECCA TOWLE

BRAIN BOOST SOLUTION

CO JYHHPRHUZKCBRRHRDVHARKLRNPUIUQ
 LPPLBYWYVLBSGNNWSGVPZZEQXSGDSW
 OOJQVHCXWLNITHTREEKINGSRQFWUGRZ
 POKAHAQPMCMZCNSYHXBMNYUEYNHQBW
 NMWVIXELKAVFUOEIRKWRUYUCWMHAY
 NRAOEIVNYVDYVWVFFNKLUVMPQZSUEV
 RYNJENMMLGFVLFVFWIIPHTWNRIVNSN
 DZZFNBGCPAQAUAUWGDDEXICITNZXDBG
 LSAWWTYHDZQSEUUCHRISTMASUWIPNB
 JXAHQUZLUXZLDBGZTAABFDHHC AFBXA
 LXJBZRAPHCUYZFKITHC SOOJDOGIYPD
 JVUPKKKNQOCAWANNKAOTDZTPBAAOZ
 NCEDVELLVQOMLYMULGZNVOGNIJEEEX
 FBZJOYMWOCFOZJPOOEKALTA PVUDK
 NBDPVNYOXGJRMXTXNQYRMSFEUSYPHL
 NTCNCENYLCBBOIKCGMYSBTGIYBUZD
 DYDJGKUNKQMITSTLETOBKRRRLCNKRZR
 VXS PENWJHAMOXMBZRZDXRREZVXSXMX
 CGDGOXTRTYHYNMDFENAFYRRAQIDYND
 NTKWYXZLCLFWNMORMWDKDFFODLNEAD
 JMO LNB I K V C D J M O T I J X Y M I M N C W H A G T R
 P A A Y A J Z V H N Z J Z V H E F C U I H Q X V R H A E B B
 P W H H N M A Y A K K P A P Z N A Z W I B Y L Z E X E A F G
 L U X A D Z X K N L L R T I G D H X W P S Q S J R M Q S C
 G P T Q Y S T R U N P Y Z N Z S H L U P B Z O R U U E C V
 Q X H E X H Y E K A W K E F N U L S N E W Y E A R S X H Z K
 O B I M P E T Y K C O J L A K Z R U C K R Q G S H X M Z W D
 Q T U E S V O A A I J W D O W B T H D G O F I T B I X P O H
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 N D Y S H F T Y F J G C W V J M F H D C A D Y E H D N C J F

[PUZZLE ON PAGE 5]



FOUR MORE YEARS

Our students' views on the 2024 presidential election.

LAYOUT AND STORY BY AARON LUNA

It's that time of year again, a tradition we must do every four years.

It's the presidential election cycle, and the students here on Grossmont's campus were quite concerned for the future as the days counted down.

"From what I have experienced in other election cycles, even though I don't agree with all of the policies of the Harris campaign, she is the best candidate for me," said Annaya Bueno, a former educator with a background in history.

In spite of this decision, Bueno said she thinks that there may be issues on both sides.

"I can definitely still see where the country is going to feel very divided," she said. "I can see where there's potential for backlash in both camps. Whether or not Trump is elected or Kamala is elected, I think that there is great potential for a lot of upheaval."

Zachary Braunwarth is another student who was also planning to vote for Harris. Like Bueno, he said he was wary of the change of power.

"I think if she wins the election, there will be some civil turmoil across the nation, but I believe it will be settled

before the inauguration, hopefully without military intervention," he said.

Reese Smith is different, however. A member of Gen-Z, she joined the two percent of registered voters who were still undecided, though her reasons were her own: "So maybe I do want to vote, but I'm just like, kind of unsure, like, I just don't want to do the wrong thing, you know, I want to make sure it's right for me. I feel like it's just going to be very, like, separated. I don't, I don't know, like, I don't, I don't think it'll even matter who wins."

While Smith did not plan to vote in this year's election, the same cannot be said for this generation as a whole. According to a recent article by news outlet The Hill, more than 41 million Gen Z voters were eligible to vote in this year's election, all of which is coming on the heels of a steady increase in voter turnout in the last two generations over the previous election cycles.

The anxiety over presidential elections is understandable, as Smith reminds us of the election cycle from almost a decade years ago.

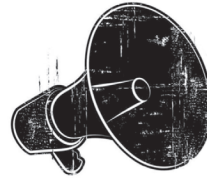
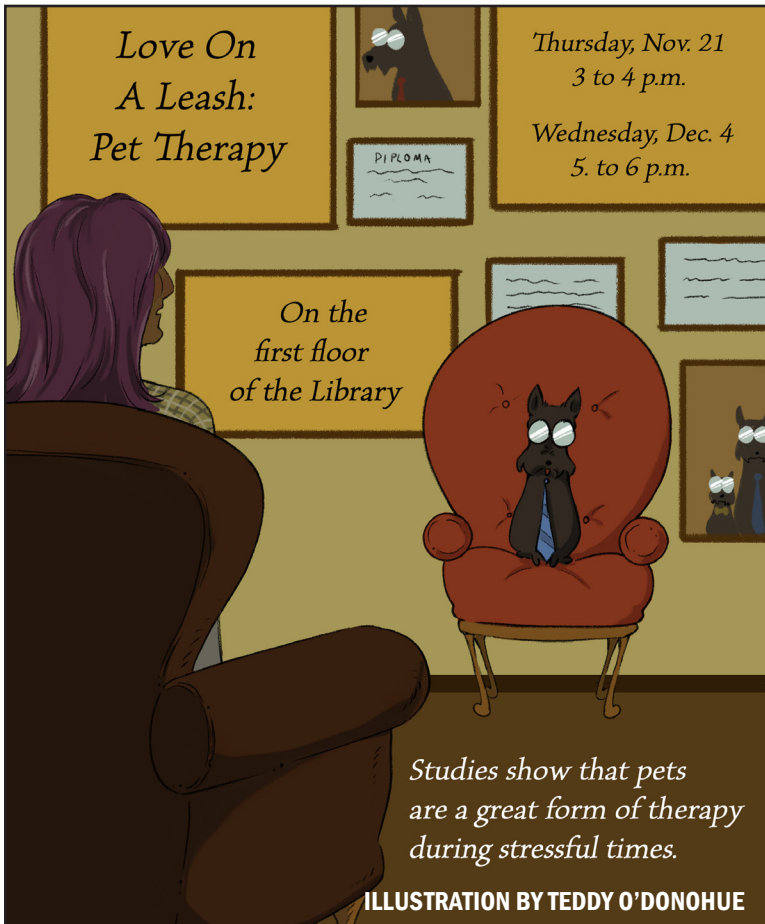
"I feel like there's still gonna be just a

really big divide, like, in the country," she said. "And, like, I was in like, fifth grade when Trump was elected in 2016. I remember like, little kids talking about, like, 'Go, Trump.' Like, I just think that there's just gonna be a lot of nonsense spread around either way, because I don't think we shouldn't go after the person necessarily, but go after their policies."

All of this comes on the heels of Trump's claims earlier this summer, where he warned there will be a "bloodbath" if he does not win the election. He's also stated that his voters will not have to vote anymore if he wins, as he and his allies have already been expected to contest the results.

It's a fear that Bueno was quick to recall: "We saw what happened during the storming of the Capitol (on January 6, 2021), and how there wasn't a peaceful transfer of power. I could see that happening again, which is very unfortunate to think of, but I'm just hoping that the process is much more peaceful than it was before."

When this issue went to print, Donald Trump won the presidential election. His inauguration is scheduled for Jan. 20. 🐦



**EXTRA!
EXTRA!**

More info on the Financial Aid situation trickles in, but not to students.
BY SAUL RUIZ

Students still may not be informed about the situation with federal aid reimbursement, while the college attempts to calculate needed aid and adjust to newer federal requirements regarding the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

In an Oct. 4 informational memo sent to Grossmont faculty, Dr. Joan Ahrens, the senior dean of College Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, and Agustin Albarran, the interim vice present of Academic Affairs, explained adjustments in response to new guidelines received during a Federal Financial Aid Program Review.

Because a student's financial aid depends on when they enroll in a class – and if they withdraw from it – the changes address the activity of students at the college. For example, if a student is not officially enrolled in a class prior to census deadline, which is the official day the college notes the semester's enrollment, they will not receive financial aid for that class.

Similarly, if a student withdraws from a course, they need to “immediately” return any financial aid they received for that class; however, the college is “ultimately liable for any unreturned funds,” according to the memo.

To mitigate this issue, the memo asks faculty to “complete an submit their census rosters by the stated due date,” adding that “not doing so is detrimental to students” because “it negatively impacts their financial aid status.”

Faculty are also expected to keep their course attendance up to date throughout the semester and to drop students who no longer attend class. According to the memo, if a student fails a class or stops attending, the Financial Aid Office must recalculate that student's financial aid and request money back. Because of this, faculty will now be asked to keep track of these students' LDA, or “last date of academic activity.” The memo expects this process will begin automatically next term, when implementation of a new software system will enables automatic collection.

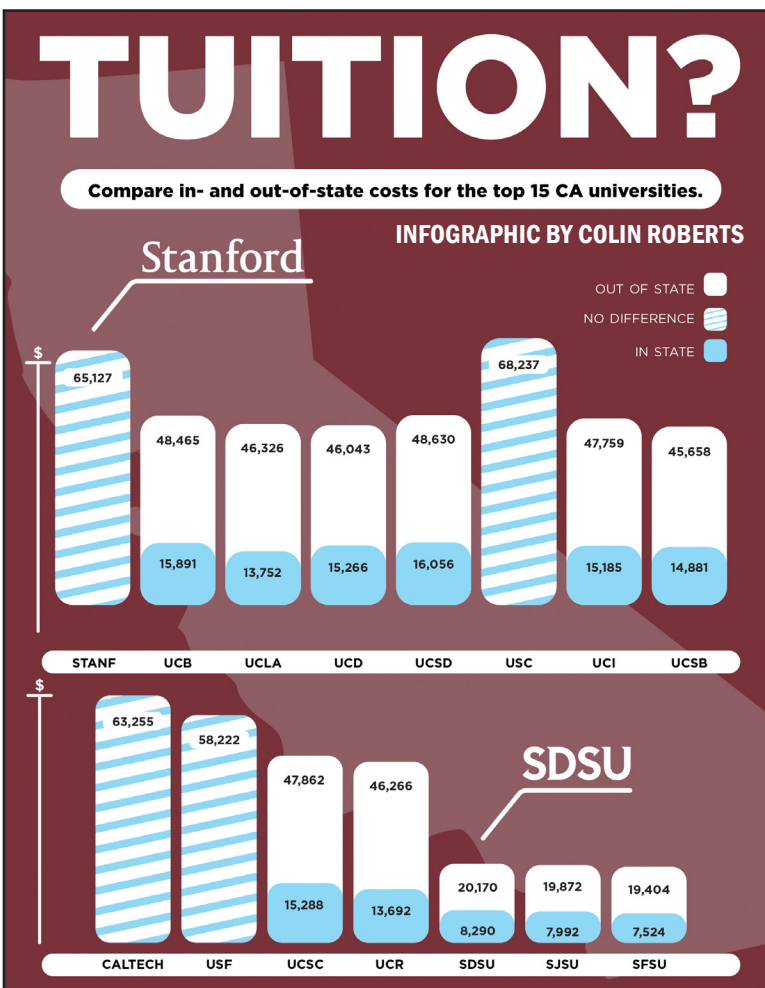
Until then, faculty members will collect the LDA manually for students who fail or stop attending at the time that fall grades are due. In this current semester, Grossmont faculty members have verified the LDA of thousands of students through excel spreadsheets, going as far back as 2022.

These changes have also affected Cuyamaca College. The oddity with reimbursement this semester may be caused by the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District's attempts to adjust to these new federal requirements.

And while it's looking like this will continue to affect students though the end of the Fall 2024 semester, communicating this to students seems to be another story.

Cashier Melissa Murphey, who has also been approached by confused students asking about their financial aid, said, “If they do [ask], I would send them to Financial Aid.”

Hopefully, some announcement or explanation is offered to students soon. 🐾





Grossmont College aquatics teams have been struggling with not having access to a pool on-campus that can be used for their games and practices.

This has been an inconvenience for some athletes who have to drive to an off-campus location to attend their practices. Griffin athletes have commented that it is unfair they do not have an on-campus pool, while other community colleges like Southwestern get four pools and a nice aquatics building to enjoy.

Meanwhile, Grossmont's pool is not safe to get into because it looks like a swamp. Starting with the moldy green water that is home to fish trying to take away the mosquito problem, the pool is ultimately very fragile and could collapse if the water is taken out due to the damage done by the undrained water sitting and concrete crumbling apart.

Aquatics Coach Larry Larsen said, "The pool has been condemned for over two years."

There are extensive issues that make the pool unsafe for swimming. It has been in terrible condition for years, and there is no probability of the pool being fixed for future aquatics athletes.

The teams practice at The Salvation Army Kroc Center, a temporary location where they are given an area to practice during assigned times. The limited number of lanes and time to practice can be inconvenient; teams can't get an extra set of laps in because once their time is up, the lanes become open to the members of the Kroc Center.

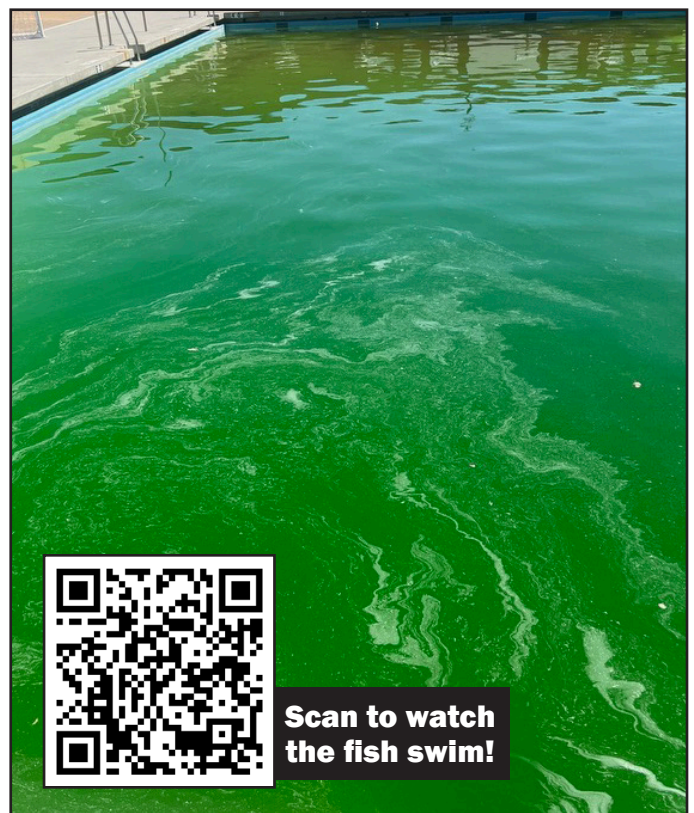
This is an issue for all aquatics athletes, especially the ones who come from far away and don't live in San Diego. They have to drive from campus to practice, dealing with traffic or finding a way to get there if they don't have a car to transport themselves easily.

"Student-athletes must have cars to get off-campus practice," Larsen said. "Gas prices are high and difficult for them to afford."

This has been difficult for some athletes because they have classes on campus and have to rush to get to their practice off-campus. This is unlike the other on-campus teams that can attend their practices and games on campus and enjoy their private space without worrying about driving to another location.

Another disadvantage the aquatics teams face is not having their athletic trainers near if needed. "There is poor access to athletic trainers and academic advisors because we are off-campus," Larsen said.

The teams also only have limited locations where they can host their "home" games. Grossmont's aquatics teams should be able to have a pool where the school supporters can go and cheer them. For now, the teams will have to just see what time brings them and hope future aquatics athletes get what they deserve. 🐟



BY NIA MCCLEAN

Did you know about the:



Program

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BLD-70 The Village * Contact: umoja.gscs@gmail.com
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 We have 21 anatomical models to view!

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 We have Wifi, computers, copier, and quiet study rooms to assist GCC students in your studies

We are a public library featuring:

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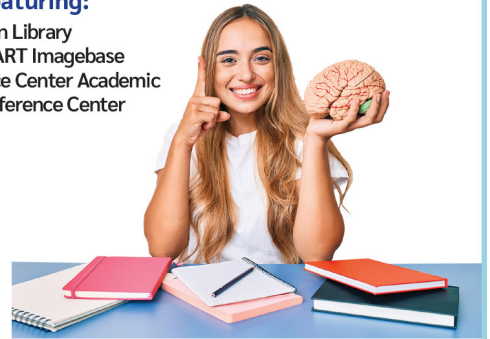
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GROSSMONT STUDENTS

What are you listening to?

BY IRENEO ALCONES ALFARO III

I surveyed 34 Grossmont students on their current musical tastes. Here are some songs and artists they recommended.

ROCK: *Keep the Faith* (Fade), *Warning* (Incubus), *Rock you like a Hurricane* (Scorpions), *Suffocate* (Knocked Loose), *Ghost* (Betsieann!!) and Pink Floyd.

HIP-HOP/ RAP: *On a Sunday Afternoon* (A Lighter Shade of Brown), *Bed Peace* (Jhene Aiko), *The Real Slim Shady* (Eminem), *Till Further Notice* (Travis Scott) and Kendrick Lamar: *M.A.A.D City*, *Love*, *Meet the Grahams* and *Not Like Us*.

R&B: *Magician* (Lexie Liu), *Until the End of Time* (Justin Timberlake), *Found* (Tems) and Lauryn Hill.

INDIE: *Dream Sweet in Sea Major* (Miracle Musical), *Little by Little* (The Marias), *Live Well* (Palace), and *The Shade* (Rex County Orange).



REEL TALK

1980s
CHEER

Tired of the same old holiday movies?
Head back to the '80s for some unconventional choices.



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GHOSTBUSTERS II

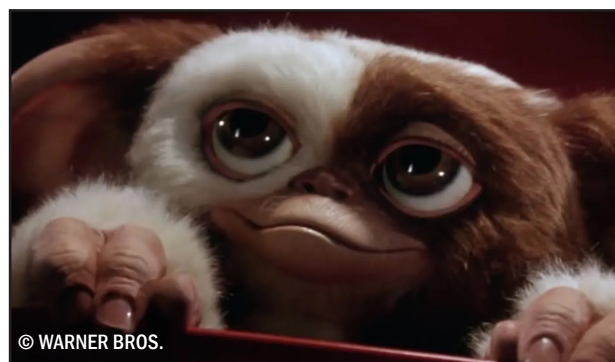
| Review by Aaron Luna

A sequel to one of the biggest films of the 1980s, *Ghostbusters II* does a decent job at bringing back the charm of the first film while introducing new characters and concepts that expand the series' mythos. Set five years after the first film, the Ghostbusters have been ordered to disband by the city of New York. But, when a painting of Vigo the Carpathian comes to life and starts to amass an army of ghosts through mood-sensing slime, it's up to the ghost-catchers to stop Vigo. Peter MacNicol is easily the standout performer as Janosz Poha, a new character who is the boss of Sigourney Weaver's returning character, Dana Barrett, and who gets possessed by Vigo to do his bidding. In addition, the returning cast of Dan Akroyd, Bill Murray, Harold Ramis and Ernie Hudson give it their all with their new tools like the slime cannons. While the film may not seem like a holiday movie at first, Vigo's plot for world domination to commence with the new year, and the overall tone of peace and unity solidifies it as one. This is a good film to watch if you want a change in your holiday movie viewing, but just remember; If there's something strange in your house, well... you know who to call.

GREMLINS

| Review by Saul Ruiz

Is this a Christmas movie? Or a horror movie? That's what I found myself asking when first came across this film, and I have since decided it is simply a holiday movie. Though still a little confused by the midnight rule – do not feed a Mogwai after the stroke of midnight – I found it to be an entertaining film nonetheless. I find it fascinating how this movie became such a pop culture phenomenon for the time; Don't get me wrong the gremlins themselves make for a fun and humorous viewing. But *Gremlins*, frankly, did not stand out to me as a movie; it was good, above average, but it may not be something I revisit.



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TRADING PLACES

| Review by A.J. Fiume

Trading Places is a 1983 film starring Dan Akroyd, who plays Louis Winthrop, III, a very wealthy man employed by one of the biggest stock brokerage firms in Philadelphia run by the Duke brothers, played by Don Ameche and Ralph Bellamy. The movie begins with Billy Ray Valentine (Eddie Murphy) being arrested by police for panhandling. While driving to work, the Duke brothers devise a bet that Louis must switch places and bank accounts with Billy Ray to see what will first break the affluent broker-having to grind his way through the streets of Philadelphia or have Billy Ray spend all the money in his possession? This film will have you laughing from scene one to the very end. But why is it a great holiday movie? Not only is it a good laugh, but it also has a message that teaches you not to judge a book by its cover, to have empathy and to work together to achieve what you want in life. It's great to watch together, huddled by the fireplace on a cold Christmas morning.

