

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MARCH 2026



Campus MADNESS

DRONE PHOTO BY LOGAN MURPHY

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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 print outlet. 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 news management for the students. **Please direct all inquiries, comments and letters to the editor to summit@gcccd.edu.**

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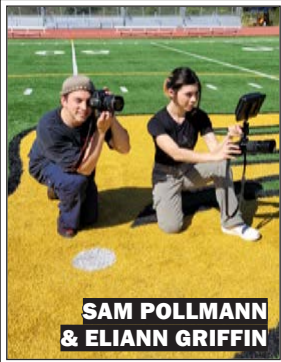
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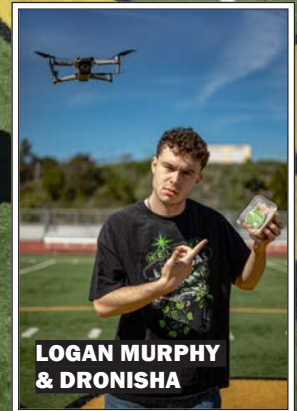
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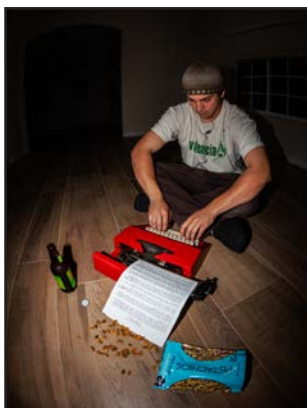
RIANNA ROMASOC & ASHLEY HARGROVE

**STAFF PHOTOS BY
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**DRONE SHOT BY
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GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Sam Pollmann
Sam Pollmann, Editor-in-Chief

Greetings, Griffins! I hope the start of your semester and 2026 has been good. Perhaps you are already taking root in this college community. Maybe you have encountered roadblocks, switched your major or had to weigh your priorities off-campus.

Whatever the case may be, I hope that you can take away a positive life experience this semester. The thing that I love most about Grossmont is that there are people here who really want you to feel fulfilled. In a world that is constantly bidding for our attention and time, start listening to the people who ask you, "What do *you* want to do today?"

For many of us, we came here to find out what's possible, not what others think we should do. After all, we were the ones who woke up and came to class. This semester, whether it's your first or your last, find out what's possible with your drive, your creativity and your passion, not anybody else's expectations. Show this campus why *you* belong!

CAMPUS CALENDAR* COMPILED BY TEAGAN SAUNDERS

MARCH

- 18:** STEM Midterm Study Jam, 2 to 5 p.m. (MESA Center, 36-225)
- 28:** P/NP Deadline for First 8-week Session

MARCH 30 – APRIL 3: SPRING BREAK

APRIL

- 6:** Second 8-Week Session Begins
- 8:** Test Anxiety Workshop, 1 to 2 p.m. (Online) *RSVP required*
- 12:** San Diego County "College Band Day," 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park)
- 16:** Financial Aid Workshop, 9:30 to 11 a.m. (10-172)

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- MARCH 18:** Open Mic led by SD Poet Laureate Poala Capo-Garcia, 2 to 4 p.m. (Griffin Gate)
- MARCH 24:** FemmeVoices in STEM, 2 p.m. (MESA Center, 36-225)
- MARCH 25:** Paint & Sip – Female Icons, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Griffin Gate) *Advanced Registration Required*

STAGEHOUSE THEATRE

Urinetown

- MARCH 19-21, 26-28,** 7:30 p.m. \$
- MARCH 21 & 28,** 2 p.m. \$

MUSIC*

*All events at 7:30 p.m. in PVAC unless otherwise noted

- MARCH 13:** Grossmont Symphony Orchestra \$
- MARCH 26:** Jazz Combos (26-220) \$
- APRIL 6:** Afro Cuban Ensemble \$
- APRIL 9 & 16:** Performance Studies Spring Recitals 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- APRIL 14:** Jazz Ensemble \$

CAREER CENTER (60-140)

- MARCH 13:** Entrepreneurial Mindset, 11 a.m. to noon | Unlock your Leadership Potential, noon to 1 p.m.
- MARCH 20:** Empath & Self-Awareness, 11 a.m. to noon | Social & Diversity Awareness, noon to 1 p.m.
- MARCH 27:** Digital Fluency/LinkedIn, 11 a.m. to noon | Customer Service, noon to 1 p.m.
- APRIL 7:** Pathways to Work: Info Session, 1 to 2 p.m.
- APRIL 9:** Exploring Majors Workshop, 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

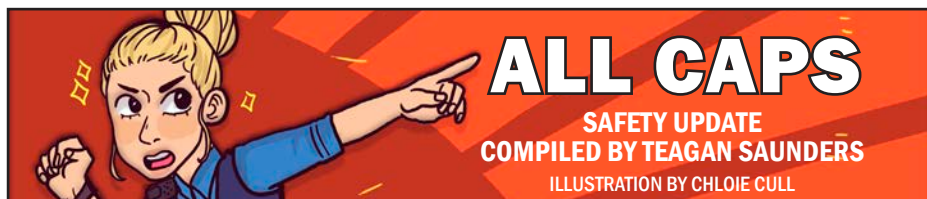
CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

NOV. C&C

Page 13 Corrections & Clarification: In a brief about bus passes, we wrote that certain rural routes were prohibited. However, Assistant College Cashier Melissa Murphy clarified that bus passes can be used for all routes except for the premium route. In addition, the premium route is not "prohibited" with the bus pass, it just costs more. Murphy also clarified that the MTS sets pass prices, not the district, and that semester-length passes are only sold for the first few months. On the same page, in the story "Making Waves," we incorrectly said Makiko Maemoto competed in the "World Aquatics Master Championships." The official name for the competition is the "World Aquatics Masters Championships."

Page 16 Correction: In our "Reel Talk" segment on holiday movies, we incorrectly spelled the name of the actress who plays Mary Lamb in *The Holdovers*. The correct spelling is Da'Vine Joy Randolph.



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:

- Nov. 29:** Deputies responding to a report of burglary in the women's locker room found an unknown man in the shower area with an electric bike. Several locks were cut off lockers, and items were strewn about.
- Dec. 2:** A report about smoke coming from a vehicle led to an unrelated female being found unconscious in her car, possibly having a diabetic emergency. Medics transported her to the hospital.
- Dec. 3:** A student worker reported someone asking odd questions and entering an employee-only area to look for a microwave. The deputy couldn't find the individual.
- Dec. 12:** Admissions received an anonymous email alleging criminal conduct.
- Feb. 19:** Sometime between Feb. 13 and 19, someone entered building 41 and stole items from a locked office.

*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.

SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 15

CROSSWORD: MARCH MIX

Whether it comes in like a lion or a lamb, this month always brings a quirky spring blend.

DOWN

1. March 17 holiday
4. Colorful arch in the sky
6. City where Formula 1 season starts

ACROSS

2. Time moves forward one hour
3. Mathematical March 14
5. March alliteration: March _____
7. _____ Women's Day, celebrated world-wide
8. Major League Baseball (MLB) _____ Day
9. _____ History Month
10. Host city for the Paralympics
11. Main color of St. Patrick's Day

WORD SEARCH:

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE ACADEMY

March brings the 98th Academy Awards ceremony. Can you find these previous Oscar winners for best picture?

AMADEUS	GODFATHER
AMERICAN BEAUTY	GREEN BOOK
ANORA	KING'S SPEECH
ARGO	MOONLIGHT
BEN-HUR	OPPENHEIMER
BRAVEHEART	PARASITE
CODA	SPOTLIGHT
FORREST GUMP	TITANIC
GLADIATOR	

I X T E A E Z P K I N G S S P E E C H R
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GRILL-SHAPED HOLE

College leaders try new on-campus food options after previous vendor leaves.

STORY BY LOGAN MURPHY AND SAM POLLMANN

If you are a hungry student looking to grab a bite to eat at the Griffin Center before class this semester, you may be surprised to find that the Griffin Grill is no longer there. Large deficits from running the grill since its opening in November 2023 led the college to part with the vendor, Genuine Foods, in search of cheaper, more accessible food options for students.

According to Grossmont Interim President Dr. Pamela Luster, the vendor had struggled to keep up with labor and food costs, even trying to offset its losses by offering catering services. Though there were plenty of hungry students on campus, the volume wasn't enough to keep the grill in business.

Luster said the school had to shell out as much as \$150,000 some semesters to subsidize operating costs and keep the grill on campus. Meetings over the summer made it clear that there was no way to continue the vendor's contract with the school.

"I couldn't keep throwing money at something that was running us a deficit," Luster said. "You could take that \$150,000 and feed everybody."

To compensate for the loss of a dedicated eatery, Luster and campus leaders have hired food trucks to serve on campus. Currently, trucks are on campus Tuesday through Thursday, but Luster said this could change as the school evaluates the days with the most student traffic.

The food truck service, run by Curbside Bites, features a wide range of vendor options from burgers and hot dogs to sushi and Caribbean food.

The vendors are on a rotating schedule visible at curbsidebites.com/grossmont-college. The website can also be accessed through Grossmont's website and displays the vendors for each day they are on campus.

Another option available to students this semester is the Farmer's Fridge vending machines, which serve wraps, sandwiches and other fresh food. Luster said not only are the food options cheaper than the food trucks, but free food from the machines is also available to qualifying students through Gizmo's Kitchen.

Perhaps the biggest news for food accessibility going into the semester is the revival of the Java Market. The new Griffin Grind will be operated by Lemon Grove Coffee, offering food and drink options from its established menu.

Though new vendors on campus may provide food to students who



ILLUSTRATION BY CAT AIRY

can afford it, other students may be left with limited options, especially those who relied on meal vouchers to obtain food at the Griffin Grill.

Luster said she hopes the expanded Gizmo's Kitchen, which is replacing the Griffin Grill, will accommodate students with varying needs without making them rely on a vendor that might charge higher prices than some fast-food restaurants.

Gizmo's Kitchen provides food, clothing and other basic necessities to Grossmont students. Previously located in a small room on the second floor of the Griffin Center, Luster said relocation to the former grill spot will provide the facilities and space necessary for additional services, including more items for students.

There are also plans to use the expanded Gizmo's Kitchen to include more affordable meal options. Luster said the college is looking to partner with Everytable, a food vendor known for its scratch-made and health-conscious meals.

Luster said "the dream" is to have Everytable set up a storefront in the Griffin Grill and allow students with EBT to use their credit to buy food for themselves and their families.

"It's a ways away, likely, but now that we're in that space, the capacity issue is gone," she said.

ASGC President Lu Tri "Vi" Huynh has been working closely with Luster to advocate for students' needs during this transitional period. Having been involved with Gizmo's Kitchen and providing students with basic needs, he said dialogue has been vital to helping students understand the benefits of the change.

In response to criticism about the loss of the grill, Huynh said, "We're gonna make your food free, actually free, and we're gonna try and find some replacements."

While the new Gizmo's Kitchen has already benefited many, some students are less than thrilled about the "replacements."

One student, Ahmed Abdelrahman, who frequented the former Griffin Grill, said: "I really did enjoy that. It's kind of sad that it's gone."

He said his main grievances are the lack of old food options he was familiar with and the price of the food trucks that replaced them.

"Fifteen bucks for a meal," Abdelrahman said. "I mean, it makes sense, but also, I think people don't want to pay \$15 every day for a hot meal."

Despite some student frustration, Luster said the current strategy is to evaluate as many options as possible and use feedback to determine the most effective way to serve them.

"We're going to keep seeing how people like it...or don't like, and, you know, do our best," she said. 🐦



IMAGE BY LOGAN MURPHY



PHOTO BY SAM POLLMANN



BY OSCAR ALCON & ASHLEY HARGROVE

ILLUSTRATION
BY MARIA TATE

A lot goes on in the sports world in March, including the World Baseball Classic, the start of the Formula 1 season, the Paralympics, UFC bouts and MLB's Opening Day. There is no shortage of action, but one event captures nearly everyone's attention: The NCAA March Madness tournament. Sixty-eight teams compete to be college basketball's best. Bars and restaurants have special events and sometimes have designated schools for fans to come cheer for as they watch the game.

The NCAA March Madness tournament will start March 17 with the First Four at Dayton, Ohio, and it will end April 6 at Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium for the National Championship.

THE MESA

6164 El Cajon Blvd. San Diego | mesabargrill.com

The Mesa is one of the newer spots in La Mesa. Opening this past December, it has already become a favorite for college students. The bar has 11 TVs, daily specials, and a 10% discount for all college students with an ID.

Every Thursday is big college night featuring beer pong tournaments and a DJ starting at 9 p.m. On the weekends, the crowd shifts with brunch running from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., then 21+ during the night. The bar also hosts trivia every other Tuesday, karaoke on Wednesdays and musically-themed nights, like R&B Sundays and EDM Saturdays. The Mesa is also known for its UFC fight nights, which attract a lot of students. Definitely check them out on Instagram at [@themesasd_](https://www.instagram.com/themesasd_).

DIRTY BIRDS

6499 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego; dirtybirdsbarandgrill.com

Dirty Birds is the classic wings and sports hangout spot, especially when SDSU is playing. The place gets packed fast, and most of the screens are always on basketball. With a total of 40 TVs, 26 inside and four outside, this is the place to catch every second of every game.

The menu is a huge addition to the spot's vibe, especially the wings. It offers 43 flavors, with the Dirty Ranch and Garlic Parm flavors being fan favorites. Dirty Birds has happy hour deals and different specials every day.

Even though it is a college favorite, the crowd is pretty diverse. You will see some families and older regulars all watching together. The staff has a friendly vibe, and the sound is always on for big games, making it feel more like a watch party than a restaurant. It is loud and packed—just the kind of place where people actually cheer on their teams.

Dirty Birds has the most "college vibe," but it is still a great spot for anyone who wants a fun, high-energy place to watch the games

BUFFALO WILD WINGS

254 Town Center Pkwy., Santee; buffalowildwings.com

Buffalo Wild Wings is the most family-friendly option, but it still pulls in a lot of high school and college students on game days. With around 70 to 75 screens inside, plus another 10 to 15 outside, it can show up to 10 games at once. This makes BWW one of the easiest places to keep [MADNESS, CONT. ON PAGE 15]

FLAG FRENZY

Grossmont launches one of the nation's fastest-growing sports.

BY ASHLEY
HARGROVE
& OSCAR
ALCON

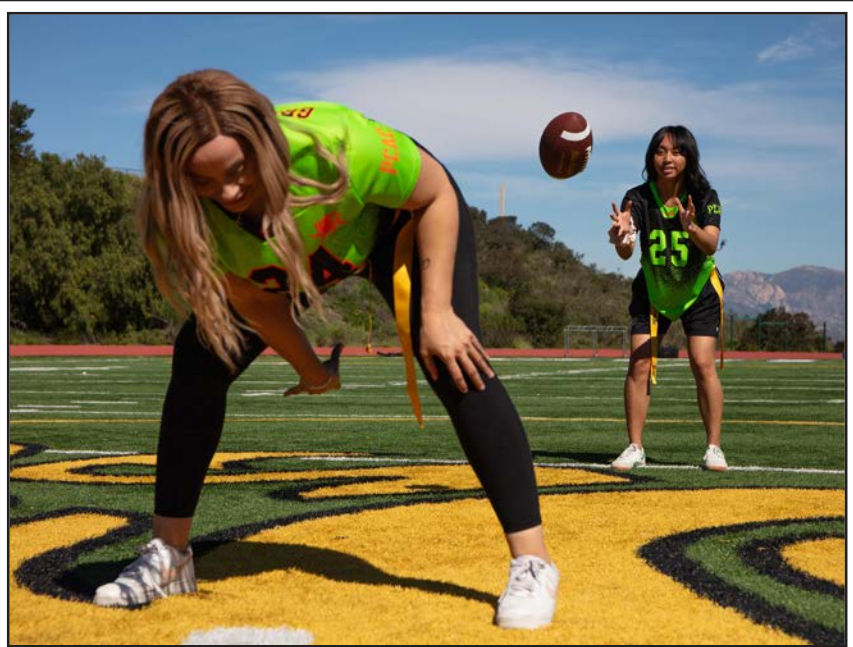


ILLUSTRATION BY MACK WOODARD

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAM POLLMANN

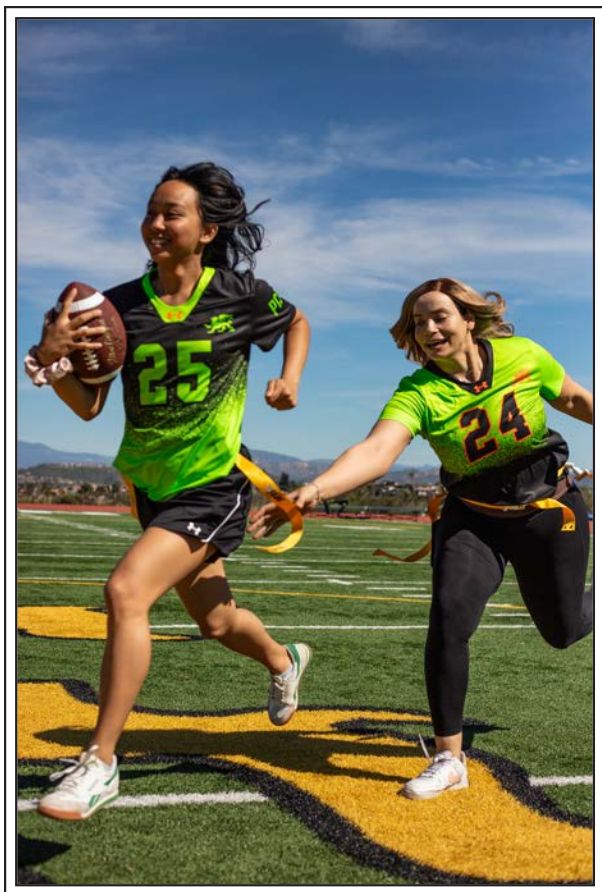


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAM POLLMANN

The new women's flag football team at Grossmont College is already showing promise in its first few match-ups, as players build chemistry, learn the game and bring attention to one of the fastest-growing sports in the country.

The program, led by Head Coach Eboni Chambers, launched this season and has quickly begun attracting interest from students on campus. Chambers—a former Team USA athlete with coaching experience that includes time with the Cleveland Browns, New York Jets and Washington Commanders—said the early focus has been on growth and building a strong team culture.

“The biggest strength right now is resiliency and poise,” Chambers said. “Even when things are happening in the game, the girls are still finding ways to make plays and collaborating with each other.”

That teamwork showed up all over the field. Slot Receiver Kharizma Bailey-Felix had several big catches and said she's proud of how far the team has come. “We've improved so much,” she said.

On defense, Edilawit Kifle has stepped into the rusher role as a first-time flag football player. She said the support from the coaching staff and players has made all the difference.

“Coach teaches us the game and all the terminology,” Kifle said. “And in our group chat, we hype each other up before every game.”

The team has already had its share of highlight moments, including a 65-yard touchdown in Game 1 from high school dual-enrollment student Kaila-Mei Nelson, who spun the ball and hit the “scuba” in celebration.

Chambers said the team's early games are just the beginning of what the program organizers hope to build. “Our goal is to get better every week and build the culture,” she said.

Interest in the program continues to grow as more students learn about the opportunity to join. Chambers said new recruits are reaching out each week, and students can still get involved even later in the season through practices and summer workouts.

“Football is for everyone,” Chambers said. “There's a position for everyone. If you're ready to compete, learn and be part of Grossmont's culture, we encourage you to reach out.” 🦋

MARCH 7 LET IT FLY SCRIMMAGE

PHOTOS BY OSCAR ALCON





GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM | PHOTO BY STEPHEN HARVEY

"If you watch a good tennis match, you'll be hooked."
-Coach Meg

GIVE TENNIS A CHANCE

One point can change a match. A crowd can change everything.

STORY BY ELIJAH WEAVER
DESIGN BY SABINA ABBAS

During weekdays, when most students on campus are heading to class, studying or leaving campus, intense competition is unfolding just moments away. Shoes squeak against the court as balls slice off racket faces. Players hold their breath between serves, anticipating their opponent's next move. Every rally builds tension. No point unearned.

And yet too often, very few are there to witness.

The women's tennis team is one of the most dedicated and competitive programs on campus, but its efforts remain unsung. Led by Megan Lowery Haber, better known as "Coach Meg," the team competes weekly from January to March, with hopes of a playoff push into April. Matches are free to watch, the courts are here on campus, and the level of competition is elite.

What's missing isn't effort—it's a crowd.

"It just would make it more exciting having people there supporting us, keeping the energy high," Sophomore Presley Chateau said.

Cheering in tennis isn't just background noise; it's energy and momentum. The sport doesn't have a marching band or packed bleachers, and that's what makes each voice matter. When matches come down to the wire, support from the sidelines can be the difference.

"It's kind of like chess in a way," Sophomore Sydney Wimbley said.

It may look simple, just a ball going back and forth over

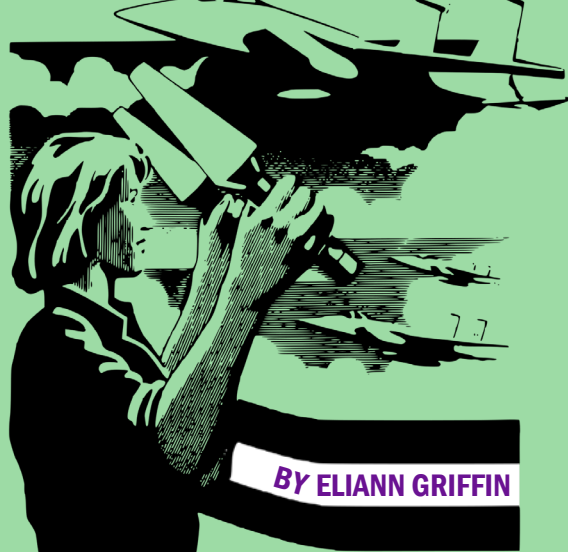
a net. But if you stop and watch even for just a few minutes, you'll see that simple is the last word to describe it. Tennis is stamina wrapped in strategy. It's footwork, angles, timing and mental toughness packed into a rally.

While tennis is one of the most-watched sports worldwide, its popularity is not mirrored in the U.S., particularly with college-age students. While it may seem repetitive to a casual viewer, it's admired by longtime followers for its complexity and technical nuance.

Don't believe it? You can watch for yourself "during the week at 2 o'clock," Haber said. Upcoming home matches include March 17 against Desert and March 19 vs. San Diego City College, both at 2 p.m. The schedule can be viewed at grossmontgriffins.com/sports/wten, and additional updates will be posted on the @ghousetennis Instagram.

For anyone who's never watched tennis before, Haber has simple advice: "Give it a shot. If you watch a good tennis match, you'll be hooked." 🎾

WOMEN'S History MONTH



© PIXABAY

Leaders come to campus to honor the past and empower the future.

March 1 marked the beginning of Women's History Month, a federally recognized celebration of women's accomplishments throughout history, and brings recognition to the women of today. The 2026 National Women's History Month theme is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future."

Women's History Month started not as a month but as a day, Women's Day, which is observed on March 8.

Here in the U.S., the socialist party first observed National

Women's Day in 1909. The first Women's Day celebrations in Europe were in 1911, with Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland all observing the holiday. The specific day came later and was attributed to the women in Russia who led a strike in 1917 to end World War I during the Russian Revolution.

In 1975, the United Nations recognized International Women's Day globally. Barack Obama declared March to be recognized nationally as Women's History Month during his presidency in 2011, exactly 100 years after the first international celebration of Women's Day back in 1911.

Traditionally, Women's History Month is represented by the colors purple, green and white. Purple is chosen to represent women and gender equality. It symbolizes dignity, honor, justice and visionary thinking. Green represents growth and new beginnings, while white signifies freedom, equality and truth.

Grossmont College kicked off Women's History Month by featuring a panel of four women entrepreneurs who shared their experiences as women in business leadership positions. The event, titled "Women in Entrepreneurship: Turning Vision Into Action," was hosted by the Career Technical Education Workforce Development team.

The panel discussed topics such as risk-taking, lifelong learning and how to make connections in the industry. The panel demonstrated direction for areas where women tend to struggle in pursuing jobs, such as in self-advocacy, encouraging women in business to take every opportunity, and remembering to negotiate when applicable, such as for better pay.

When asked during an interview why it was important to highlight women entrepreneurs during Women's History Month, Panelist Karina Villaseñor — vice president of Operations for Flipstide LLC, Real Estate Investment & Construction — said: "It shows women are capable. We are capable of holding the same titles that males do."

Grossmont is featuring several events in honor of Women's History Month. The next is an "Open Mic" on March 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Griffin Gate. It includes a half-hour featured reading and writing with San Diego Poet Laureate Paola Capo-Garcia.

On March 24, a "FemmeVoices in STEM" panel is being held at 2 p.m. in the Mesa Center (36-225). It will feature women in STEM who transferred from community colleges to universities.

Finally, on March 25, the college is hosting "Paint & Sip - Female Icons" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students will be able to paint a paint-by-number kit of a female icon and enjoy light refreshments. Advanced registration is required for this event; scan this QR code to register.

Kelly Twichel, another panelist for "Women in Entrepreneurship" and the founder and CEO of Access Trax Social Impact/Accessibility Innovation, said, "Events like this can help people who feel like they are held back based on the identity that they are born with or choose."



PERIOD POLICY

Why don't all countries offer menstrual leave?

BY ELYSE WAINSCOTT



Menstrual leave allows employees to take time off from work when they experience painful menstruation. Some individuals may experience nausea, migraines, dizziness and intense cramps, which can make it hard to work.

Only seven out of 195 countries in the world have policies allowing individuals to take menstrual leave for painful periods: Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Zambia, Italy and Spain.

According to Free Periods Canada, a non-profit organization, the benefits of menstrual leave can reduce stress levels, improve well-being and productivity, and eliminate stigma regarding menstruation.

Even after taking pain-relieving medication, symptoms can continue to make everyday activities such as work difficult, which makes access to menstrual leave important for individuals. Sick leave can be used for painful menstruation; however, some employers may require a doctor's note, and the amount of sick leave an employee gets may be limited.

Menstrual leave helps acknowledge that when an individual is menstruating, it can be physically strenuous to work, and that time off from work can be necessary. Women's History Month is a great time for more employers and countries to consider making policies that offer this benefit.

CLUB

Although the number may have dropped, student clubs continue to

Whether students are diving for balls in the newly formed Dodgeball Club or building community through the International Club, student organizations remain a key part of campus life at Grossmont College. Still, some wonder whether overall participation in clubs is growing or fading.

DODGEBALL CLUB

One example of a new activity is the Dodgeball Club, where students meet to foster a sense of belonging, inclusivity and community. This semester, Gavin Winchester and Rose Carolino said they founded the club to build a community that transcends dodgeball.

Winchester, the club's president, said he wanted to bring dodgeball to Grossmont because it is "an activity where everyone could feel included." He added that dodgeball is the kind of sport that can bring both athletes and beginners together.

The Dodgeball Club plans to host weekly games on Tuesdays in the gym and eventually event nights, such as professor-versus-student matches.

Winchester said he wants students to know that anyone is welcome, regardless of their physical ability. Whether you like dodgeball or not, he said, "You can totally just come see what we're about."

"I started this club because, you know, in middle school, when we were playing dodgeball for PE, I was picked last," Winchester said. "And it didn't feel good to not be included. So, I want to make this dodgeball club very inclusive. I want everyone to be welcome. I want everyone to feel like they matter to a team."

Winchester said he encourages people to come and watch the games and to ask questions if students express interest in the club. The club's Instagram is @grossmontgriffindodgeballclub.

Carolino, the club's vice president, said she was inspired by professors such as June Yang and Jane Nolan, who previously competed in dodgeball tournaments, to revive dodgeball culture on campus. Carolino said the club allows students to have fun, be active around campus without joining a sport, and blow off some steam.

Another goal of the Dodgeball Club is to promote safety, which is why Carolino said

the club will be using soft-foam dodgeballs for teams of six. In addition to promoting good sportsmanship, game rules prevent headshots for safety. She said in the future, the club might award prizes of either medals or gift cards.

As she looks forward to growing the club, Carolino said she is excited to play dodgeball, reunite with friends and make new ones. She said a reason she loves dodgeball is "people can get creative with their throws like baseball." Carolino said she also hopes to have a friendly rivalry game night between Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges to promote student pride.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Not only did Carolino want to establish a Dodgeball Club with Winchester, but she has also joined other campus clubs. She said joining other clubs such as the SOJI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Club, API (Asian Pacific Islander) Club and the International Club has allowed her to feel "at home, away from home."

The International Club is known as Grossmont's largest social hangout club.

"I joined the International Club to meet new people and explore different cultures," Carolino said.

Bryan Lam, an International Student Specialist and advocate for the International Club, said this club is for everyone. Even if you are an American, Lam said, "We are part of the international community."

Lam said it's good for everyone to learn about American culture and traditions, but also important for Americans to learn about what else is around the world. Though many people may not leave San Diego, "if you have somewhere else from around the world here, you get to hear their perspectives and how they do it," he said.

Lam said the International Club has been a part of Grossmont for about 30 years. He said it has hosted holiday parties, trips to UCLA and UC Irvine, and visiting San Diego's "crown jewels" such as local beaches and hikes.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JUKE MCGOWAN |
BACKGROUND BY GUNNAR GREY (PIXABAY)

SPOTLIGHT

BY RIANNA ROMASOC

provide spaces for competition, culture and connection at Grossmont.

Carolino said her favorite trips from the International Club were going to UC Irvine and the San Diego Zoo in Fall 2024. She said she met two international students who spoke French, one from Africa and another from Canada, and they helped her with her French homework. Through this club, she said she made close friends and learned different cultural perspectives.

According to Lam, the club is more than just “learning more about the world.”

“It’s about learning more about themselves,” he said. “You know, that’s why you go to school, right? So you can kind of grow as an individual, to get skills and knowledge that you didn’t have previously.”

This semester, the club has leadership opportunities available. If you are interested in participating in the International Club or becoming a club officer, Lam said you can speak to him in the International Office (10-161).

RISE OR DECLINE?

Some say clubs are on a decline for various reasons. Winchester said, “It’s kind of hard to make a club.”

He said, “It was a long process to get [dodgeball] club made,” expressing that he had difficulty getting the right members to volunteer and complete the waiting period for club approval.

“Probably all the red tape is causing a decline,” Winchester added.

“There’s not really that many clubs right now that exist that people are interested in,” he said, adding that’s why he thought co-founding a Dodgeball Club was a good start.

Lu Tri Vi Huynh, the president of ASGC, said the total number of clubs has gone from around 33 last academic year to around 22 this year. He said that students simply don’t always have time for clubs, noting that about one-third of Grossmont students are over 20 years old with responsibilities beyond school.

“A lot of our students experienced hardships, more than four-year-college students,” Huynh said. “We experience housing insecurity, food insecurity, and those would affect you and your participation in the campus life environment. You would spend more time working outside just to afford a living.”

Lam said another factor is that Grossmont is not back to its pre-COVID levels of socialization. He said, “It feels a little bit quieter than you would expect a college campus to be,” and many classes are now being offered online compared to before the pandemic. All in all, there are just not as many people on campus as before, he said.

On the other hand, Rochelle Weiser, administrative office assistant for Student Affairs, said clubs are on the rise. Weiser said students coming out of high school are

more engaged with clubs compared to those who didn’t have an associated student body or sports.

CLUB BENEFITS

Winchester said the benefits of starting a club are that you get to create an environment of your interest and build a sense of community.

“There’s friendships to be made,” Winchester said.

Carolino said joining clubs is a great way to meet new people, and it helps you stand out. She said creating community shows there is a different side to two-year college, aside from academics.

“You know, it shows that community college can also be fun as well. Just because we’re not a university or as fun as high school, it doesn’t mean we’re not as fun,” Carolino said.

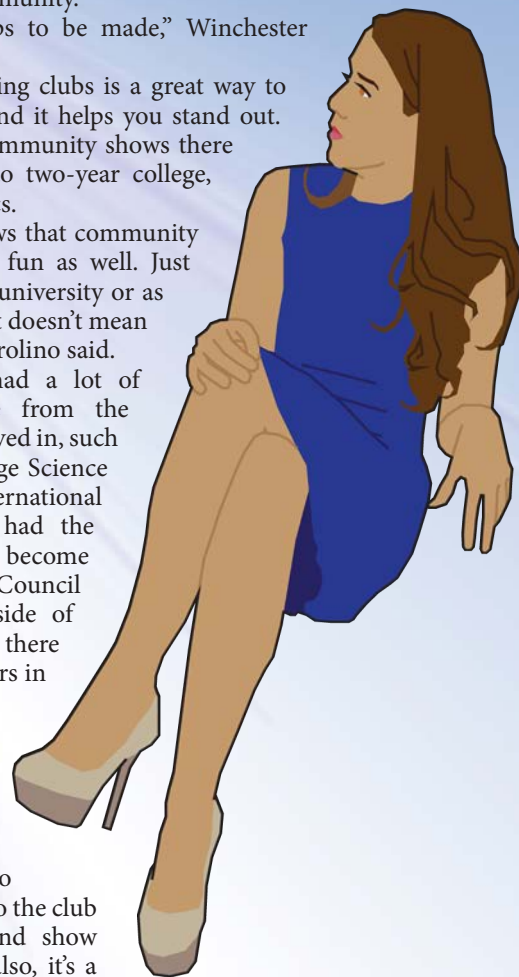
Huynh said he had a lot of positive experience from the clubs he’s been involved in, such as Grossmont College Science Club and International Club. He said he had the opportunity to become an Inter-Club Council representative. Outside of having fun, he said there are many great factors in joining clubs.

“The club was how I developed my communication skills,” Huynh said. “I get to articulate my ideas to the club and share them, and show myself more. And also, it’s a great way to connect, to make real connections.”

Lam said students can have the opportunity to know how to organize events, setting an agenda and keeping minutes.

“There are a lot of things about how to work with people from different cultures and different languages,” he said. “It’s a very important soft skill, as they call them, in a career center that they can learn by being part of a club, any club on campus, really.”

A community always starts with an individual. Your appearance, participation or daily choices can inspire others and gradually shape the culture around you. 🐦



URINE GOOD COMPANY WITH *URINETOWN*

It's a privilege to have this musical at the Stagehouse Theatre.

STORY & PHOTO BY TEAGAN SAUNDERS



CAST MEMBERS REHEARSE FOR OPENING DAY.

**"ONCE YOU LET IT IN,
IT'S GOING TO BE THE
BEST TIME."**

-KAYLEE KLOBERDANZ

**ILLUSTRATION
BY MARK WOODARD**

Starting the spring semester on a bold note, the Stagehouse Theatre presents a shocking title, *Urinetown*.

A show that graced Broadway in 2001 and earned three Tony Awards, the original was written and directed by Greg Kotis, with Mark Hollmann as the composer.

After experiencing the "pay-to-pee" toilets in Europe, Kotis created a cult classic that still sparks conversation to this day. He uses this satirical comedy to touch on capitalism, bureaucracy and many other political issues.

"It's so interesting," said Melissa Glasgow, the choreographer and co-director who is helping put on the college production this spring. "The show was written over two decades ago, but it still is very relevant."

Urinetown takes place in a dystopian city. A 20-year drought has left the city with a severe water shortage, leading the government to enforce a ban on private toilets. Our protagonist, Bobby Strong, played by Kaia Bugler, leads the revolution against the Urine Good Company. Ultimately, Bobby faces off against the head of the company, Caldwell B. Cladwell, played by Cameron Avendano.

"It's a show that makes you laugh and think at the same time," Glasgow said. "I would definitely come and check it out. It's gonna be a fun, crazy time for sure."

Glasgow mentioned that the musical's hard-hitting topics had sparked thoughtful conversations among the cast, not just about the show, but also about current issues in modern society. "It's great to see young people having conversations about that," Glasgow said.

According to Glasgow, the cast had open discussions that improved the interpretation of the show's message. As opening night drew near, the cast members were in full swing at rehearsal.

Ensemble member Starr Love, said the cast has good chemistry. "It makes a really fun and accepting environment," Love said.

Returning Actor Kaylee Klobberdanz said she's excited for her eighth show here. "Everything is so grounded," Klobberdanz said, adding that the show will make you laugh and cringe in a good way.

"Once you let it in, it's going to be the best time," Klobberdanz said.

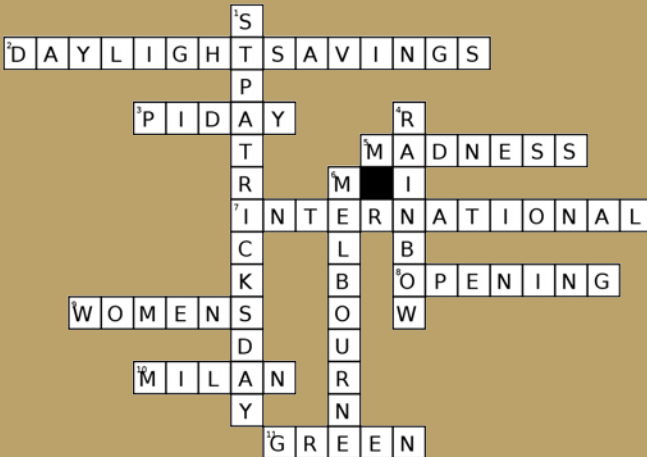
Urinetown will run at Stagehouse Theatre on March 19 to 21 and March 26 to 28. All performances are at 7:30 p.m., with additional 2 p.m. matinee showings on March 21 and 28. Tickets can be purchased in advance at gcccd.universitytickets.com or in person at the box office. 🐦



BRAIN BOOST SOLUTIONS

[PUZZLES FROM PAGE 5]

CROSSWORD: MARCH MIX



WORD SEARCH: I'D LIKE TO THANK THE ACADEMY



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MADNESS [CONT. FROM PAGE 7]

up with the entire bracket.

The deals are a big reason to pay a visit as well. The restaurant offers a halftime "drill menu" during big games, which features \$2 domestic pints, \$4 appetizers and coupons handed out throughout the night. Their "ultimate sampler" is one of the most popular items during tournament season.

Also, fans who show up in jerseys usually get priority seating. Another awesome feature is that sports betting is available to customers, drawing in a mix of older fans and younger adults. The crowd is exciting, making it a good option for families or anyone who wants to watch multiple games at once.

Buffalo Wild Wings ends up being a great choice if you want a big-screen experience without the college-bar energy. It is easy to get into and is built for people who want to watch as much basketball as possible in one place.

The NCAA March Madness tournament will start March 17 with the First Four at Dayton, Ohio, and it will end April 6 at Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium for the National Championship. 🐉

GRIFFIN RADIO

We're your **student-run** streaming radio station at Grossmont College!

Every day, we broadcast contemporary and independent music, news, sports and specialty shows **hosted by broadcasting students.**

LISTEN LIVE ON TUNEIN



REEL TALK | PICTURE PERFECT

Explore some of the Oscars' Best Picture nominees.



ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

Review by Oscar Alcon

“¡Viva la Revolución!” *One Battle After Another* follows Bob Ferguson (Leonardo DiCaprio), a former member of a revolutionary group called the French 75, who, 16 years after going into hiding, must return to action to save his daughter, Willa (Chase Infiniti), from Colonel Steven J. Lockjaw (Sean Penn). This film was nominated for 12 awards, including Best Actor for DiCaprio, Best Director for Paul Thomas Anderson, Best Supporting Actor for Benicio del Toro and Penn. In my opinion, Infiniti is amazing, and Penn truly steals the movie with his performance. *One Battle After Another* ended up being my favorite of the year; in fact, I loved it so much that I decided to go back and watch it a second time in theaters.

HAMNET

Review by Teagan Saunders

Exploring the topic of grief, *Hamnet* demonstrates the effects through Agnes Shakespeare (Jessie Buckley) and her husband William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal). The two characters depict different ways of handling the loss of their child. The husband chooses to move on after deciding to live for those still in his life, while the wife chooses to stay still and ruminate on a time no longer attainable. The intentional framing of every scene made the audience feel as though they could glance into the private lives shown on screen. When William Shakespeare asks, “Will you be brave?” you are compelled to believe you would be. *Hamnet* was nominated eight times for Academy Awards, including Best Actress in a Leading Role for Buckley and Best Director for Chloé Zhao.



FRANKENSTEIN

Review by Sam Pollmann

Based on Mary Shelley's classic tale, Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein* represents a beautiful interpretation of the pop culture continuum surrounding “the Creature.” The film was told in two parts, with the first exploring Dr. Victor Frankenstein's (Oscar Isaac) obsession with reanimating corpses in an effort to “cure” death. His story follows the aftermath of his success and his subsequent anger. The second part is dedicated to “the Creature” (Jacob Elordi), who was left for dead in Victor's rage. The creature wanders out into the wilderness to find purpose, but ultimately returns to his creator to ask for a companion. Much of this film's criticism focuses on the creature not being true to the source material. As someone who hasn't read the original novel, I understood the story as a beautiful tragedy, making me wish it were longer than two-and-a-half hours. *Frankenstein* was nominated for nine Oscars, including Best Supporting Actor for Elordi.



SINNERS

Review by Logan Murphy

Sinners, an action-horror movie, follows twin, World-War-I-veteran brothers (both played by Michael B. Jordan) who return to their hometown to open a juke joint after serving and bootlegging together. However, they find themselves facing vampires attempting to con their way in during the grand opening and bring everyone into their undead army. Some of the main themes of this movie are the power of music and its ability to unite, especially in the 1930s, for Black Americans. The vampires symbolize the racial violence Black communities faced at the time. This film received 16 Academy Award nominations, including Best Actor for Jordan, Best Visual Effects for the grotesque vampire-related wounds, and Best Director to Ryan Coogler for orchestrating it all. 🦋

