

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | MAY 2026



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY OSCAR ALCON & SAM POLLMANN

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CLOCKWISE FROM BACK LEFT: RIANNA ROMASOC, OSCAR ALCON, CALEB STOREY, SAM POLLMANN, TEAGAN SAUNDERS, LOGAN MURPHY, ELIJAH WEAVER, ELIANN GRIFFIN, ALINA SIMONS, ELYSE WAINSCOTT, JAZMINE JONES, ASHLEY HARGROVE.

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.**

TEAGAN SAUNDERS: I would take a road trip with my friends! I don't really care about the destination, but it'd be really cool to visit each state and get a souvenir mug or something silly.

ALINA SIMONS: Sky's the limit, then I would pack my scuba suit and head into a submarine so I could find the lost City of Atlantis to hopefully make friends with mermaids or at least meet Aquaman. I know some people fear the vastness of the ocean, but I find it beautiful; it would be awesome to explore it.

CALEB STOREY: I would like to go to Hawaii with all of my friends and family. We would go to the beach every day and play a lot of basketball.

ELYSE WAINSCOTT: I would travel to different places in Mexico. I would also want to visit different countries in Latin America and Europe. On top of my travel plans, I would love to lay on the beach every day and do nothing but read and eat fruit. One more thing I would love to do in the summer is spend every day with my partner.

ELIJAH WEAVER: I would do a whole lot of traveling and play a lot of basketball with my friends. Some places I'd visit are China, New Hampshire, Norway and Camden, New Jersey. I'd also go to the James' household and rebound for Bronny so he can perfect his craft for the next NBA season. I'd toss Bron some alley-oops too.

If you could do ANYTHING for the summer, what would it be?

OSCAR ALCON: I'd go to Los Angeles and get a ticket for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and root for the United States. ¡Vamos Estados Unidos!

ELIANN GRIFFIN: To be honest, I'm already going to be living my dream this summer with my friends from out of state and country coming to visit. I guess my only additional wish would be for the trip to last longer.

ASHLEY HARGROVE: I'd fully commit to my Hot Girl Summer era in solidarity with Megan Thee Stallion. I'm talking sunglasses on, vibes up, and slightly too confident all summer long. Ah!

JAZMINE JONES: I would like to go to the Maldives for the summer. I just want to take a long, slow vacation free of fast-moving societal activities. When I say relax, I mean *relax*; I'm talking sitting in the cabana overlooking the sparkly, clear

water, coconut drink in hand—the whole nine yards. Unfortunately, I don't have the money, but I hope to make it happen someday.

LOGAN MURPHY: I turn 21 this summer, so I get access to a whole lot more options than I had in the last one. I already have a Vegas trip planned so that should satisfy my SLIGHT itch for drinking and gambling. Aside from that, I'll just try to have a chill summer going to the beach and trying to get a nice tan.

SAM POLLMANN: I think I need my summer to last a year. I would probably go to Sumatra for the first six months to escape reality and discover the meaning of life while surfing. I guess after I'd come back home, finally clean my car, and then open up my at-home darkroom again.

RIANNA ROMASOC: I would like to go to heaven and stay there forever. However, my plan B would be to go to South Korea. Then I would go to the Philippines and Arizona to visit family.



POLLMANN STANDING BY THE AWARDS HE WON WHILE AT THE SUMMIT.

This will be my final letter to our lovely readers. In my time as a gossiping major (journalist) here at Grossmont, one sentiment has emerged from the hearts of students, past and present: This campus is home.

I have had the chance to connect with the incredibly hardworking ecosystem of educators, mentors, leaders and advocates who support the foundation of this community. From Inglewood to Descanso, many make long trips to take part, and they all understand “it takes a village” to produce the next batch of athletes, engineers and nurses.

There have been many times—after an insightful lecture, a really good interview, or a memorable conversation

with another student—when I have driven home and just smiled because I know I am in the right place, talking to the right people. This campus has so much to offer, and in my absence, I hope it remains a welcoming and supportive place for its students.

I will leave you with something I wrote in my notes the night before my first day at Grossmont. It continues to inspire my work to this day: “Keep the mind open. Do it for the love of learning and getting better every day. Finishing today is the next step toward your goal.”

Samuel Pollmann

Sam Pollmann, Editor-in-Chief

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.

APRIL C&C

Page 13 Correction: In a story about health fees, we reported that accident injury insurance covers “all medical expenses for on-campus accidents.” While it covers many such expenses, the insurance does not cover all.

Page 21 Clarification: In a story about academic support options on campus, we said that students “rent equipment” from the Anatomy Learning Center. To clarify, students borrow equipment for anatomy study using their student ID cards. Additionally, we said there are computers available in the anatomy lab, but they do not work.

Page 22 Clarification: In a story about the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, we wrote that Dr. Lynn Neault said that colleges in a district don’t make decisions. To clarify, institutions within multi-college districts have decision-making authority, with final approval resting with the districts’ governing boards.



LOOKING FOR
ALL CAPS?

CHECK OUT PAGE 19!



CAMPUS CALENDAR*

COMPILED BY ELYSE WAINSCOTT

MAY

- 14: Americans and the Holocaust:**
The Church Struggle and American Response to Nazism, 10 a.m.
(Griffin Gate)
| Grossmont Jazz Combos, 7:30 p.m.
(PVAC) \$
- 15: Developing Emotional Intelligence,**
11 a.m. to noon (Career Center, 60-140)
| Critical Thinking/ Problem Solving,
noon to 1 p.m. (Career Center)
| Performance Studies Advanced and Graduating Students Recital,
7:30 p.m. (PVAC)
- 14 - 16, 21 - 23: Antigone,** 7:30 p.m.
(Stagehouse Theatre) \$
- 16, 23: Antigone,** 2 p.m.
(Stagehouse Theatre) \$
- 18: First Year Experience (FYE) Fun with Photocards,** 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
(Griffin Center)
| Afro Cuban Ensemble, 7:30 p.m.
(PVAC) \$
- 19: Study Jam,** 2 to 5 p.m. (Griffin Center)
- 20: STEM Finals Study Jam,** 2 to 5 p.m.
(MESA Center, 36-225)
- 21: Spring Concert presented by the Grossmont College Concert Band,**
7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$
- 22: Grossmont Master Chorale + FUMCSD Chamber Choir,** 7:30 p.m.
(PVAC) \$
- 25: Memorial Day** (Campus Closed)
- 26: Speech & Debate Showcase,**
7 p.m. (26-220)
- 27: Grossmont Classical Guitar Ensemble,**
7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$
- 28: Latine Graduate Celebration,**
5 p.m. (Main Quad)
- 29: The Three Faces of Mozart presented by Grossmont Symphony Orchestra,**
7:30 p.m. (PVAC) \$

JUNE

- 1: 4th Annual Asian Pacific Islander Graduation,** 5 p.m. (Main Quad)
| P/NP Deadline
| Spring Semester Ends
- 2: Lavender Graduation,** 5 to 7 p.m.
(Building 36 Terrace)
- 4: 65th Annual Commencement Ceremony,** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (SDSU Viejas Arena)

*Events subject to change;
visit grossmont.edu for latest info.
\$ Indicates admission cost

CROSSWORD: SUMMER MODE

Soak up the sun with this crossword puzzle.

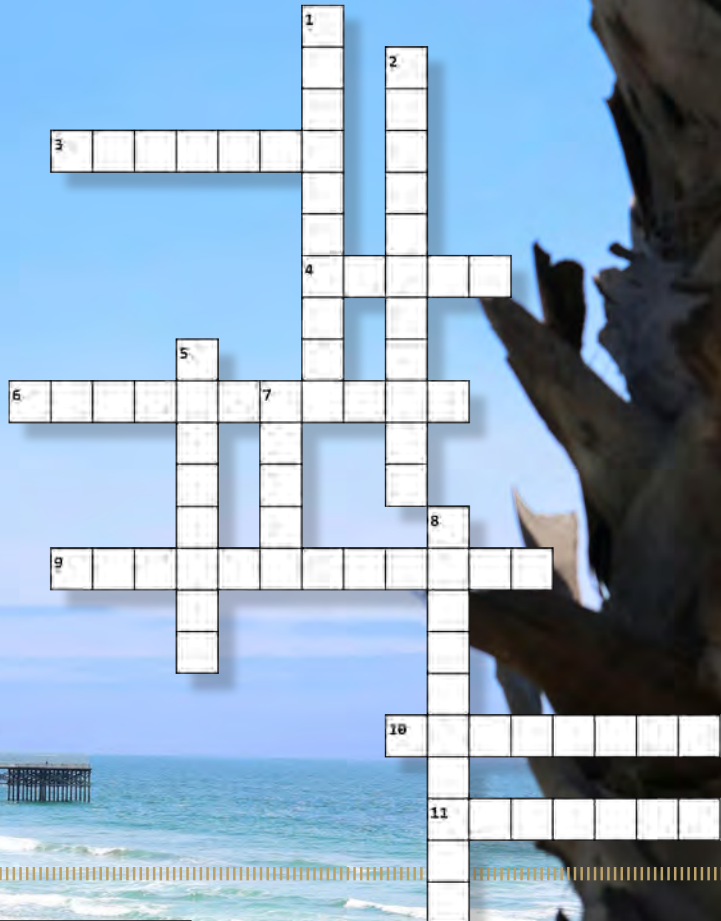
BY ELIJAH WEAVER

ACROSS

3. Where the ocean meets the sky
4. Exam at the end of semester
6. Time off from school until August
9. Freedom holiday in United States
10. National monument in Point Loma
11. Hang ten

DOWN

1. Roller coasters and animals in Del Mar
2. Amusement park at Mission Beach
5. Ocean-oriented theme park with live shows
7. Where to surf and make sandcastles
8. Protects eyes from sunlight



Z P V G S G S S U I K J F M B R L J X J T Z I M C L D A T T
T E H U E I J R V P I T N N M D M A K W V A V V R R E A R U
L H B Y O R B Z M V Y P N I L Q C N U R U G U A Y U V I X J
E A Z D L L M E P N A Z K I G F I C Z O G D I Y W N T H Y P
Q X M D F L L A B M B P S M U Z N W Z Z R V M V D O P W M S
Q F S W W R K A N E A E B I J X Q M N G E O V L D E D B S M
X T E B X X A E U Y X U F X R S S I X G C F G F B R A Z I L
W R K K P U Z N F Z Y Z W E A O O I H I C G S L H P S I T L
C I Y D P N L M C L G T I A B Z H U C B R R Y I F O Q F R X
M S R T W I X D X E X T D K D G A P T O O S C R J Q A G P F
O E Q A K T J N G D N T L F Y N Q S V H C A N A D A S B Y E
U F A R N E Q P L C L O V L L R T Y L I A W B Q E A H P W A
S P V N P D W P A X H Q V D L M E G I Q U F J B V H K J K K
V C E R F S G N E T H E R L A N D S T Q A P R T U B I I W H
F O N J D T X C Y I F T P Q A T A R I L O N R I B N P A I G
W J G N E A H X B X A T I E W R E R G W L R P G C I M Y Z J
T X L T E T Y V M Z V J F J B I R P X H N S J Q D A X I J A
Q W A O M E K A A P E K X T X P H G J J E B W S P P N S E P
M F N Q A S J G R M A E Q R A J T Y P O R T U G A L W Q J A
V Z D J E D A P K G E H N H V M H K C F K I E C J H L D W N
H P A R A G U A Y B E N F S K U C W O Y Y C P V C K A T J D
O M T I C B A R Y R G N J Y V L T A L Q I A Q R S U V N V O
W K N K S Q D M M L N E T U C V D L O J M F U D X Y H G O F
V A R W B P X S X P O Y M I N G Y E M X H N L S M K T H B D
X L P S C L A V C B R G O B N W J S B R G L M C T T Z C I A
H J Q G F J S I F W W D E D U A C O I N K K F G O R S H E V
Z A V B B N N J N Q A I P V I X Y H A R T U Y V L Q A Q H D
N Z L A P Y V B O M Y Z A H V F Q Q P W I L J U W E L O Q
T F I D V O B C M I M R N M E X I C O Z B N S W C D F Y I P
R V H U P R J S O V X J M I Q V R P V T K X E D X L Z Y Y A

WORD SEARCH: GLOBAL MATCHUP

Explore the nations competing in the 2026 World Cup tournament.

BY OSCAR ALCON

ARGENTINA	MEXICO
AUSTRALIA	NETHERLANDS
BRAZIL	NORWAY
CANADA	PARAGUAY
COLOMBIA	PORTUGAL
ENGLAND	QATAR
FRANCE	SOUTH AFRICA
GERMANY	SPAIN
IRAN	UNITED STATES
IRAQ	URUGUAY
JAPAN	WALES

SAN DIEGO'S SUMMER SHINES



MOONLIGHT STATE BEACH. PHOTO BY ALINA SIMONS.

Events across the county highlight the start of the season.

STORY BY OSCAR ALCON | DESIGN BY ALINA SIMONS

June 1 will be Grossmont College's last day of the spring semester, and many will be on summer break until Aug. 24, when the fall semester begins. Whether you're a fan of the beach or massive conventions, there's a lot to do in the city this summer.

One of the biggest events of the summer is the San Diego County Fair, which opens on June 10 and runs through July 5. This year's theme, "Once Upon A Fair," inspires attendees to live out their "happily ever after" while enjoying performances from Nelly, Chicago, Marshmello, Good Charlotte, Demi Lovato and more.

For people interested in live music, the Julian Town Square Music Festival will be free to the public on June 6 from noon to 6:30 p.m.. It features country and folk music, local food vendors and craft goods.

In the sports world, the FIFA World Cup will take over the United States, Mexico and Canada, running from June 11 to July 19. Fit Social at Belmont Park, Piazza della Famiglia in Little Italy and Southwestern College in Chula Vista will be hosting watch parties for fans.

San Diego FC and the San Diego Wave FC will be taking a season break during the tournament. The Wave will resume its season on the Fourth of July against Gotham FC, and San Diego FC will resume its season on the road against Colorado Rapids July 22.

For sports fans uninterested in the tournament, the Padres will be playing their games at Petco Park.

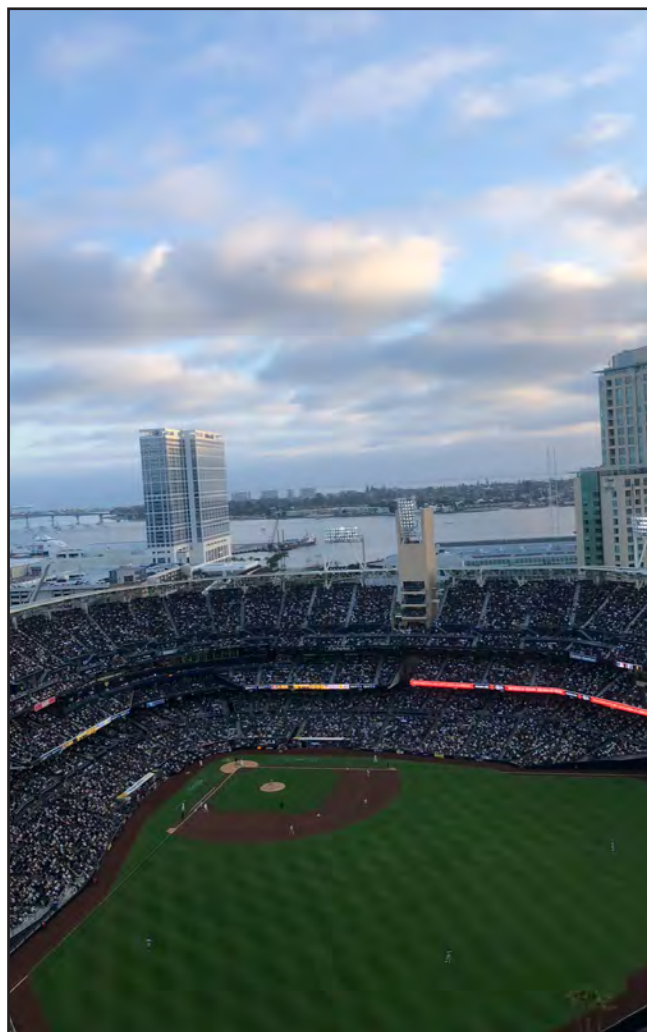
Grossmont student Philicia Tonangoye said: "Padres games in Petco Park are always a fun time, no matter what, whether it's the food, drinks, the atmosphere, or the game. It's always an amazing time."

America will be celebrating its 250th anniversary on July 4. The annual Big Bay Boom, the biggest fireworks show on the West Coast, will take place at 9 p.m. Fireworks will shoot off simultaneously from four different locations.

For people who don't want to deal with the traffic in Seaport Village, fireworks will also be happening in Santee, La Jolla, Coronado, Imperial Beach and many other areas in the San Diego region.

First-year Grossmont student Ana Vavilov said she goes to Shelter Island every Fourth of July. "I love going to Shelter Island to go watch the fireworks and have a fun time with family and friends," Vavilov said.

For students looking to take classes over the summer, Grossmont's eight-



PETCO PARK. PHOTO BY ELIANN GRIFFIN.

week session begins on June 8 and concludes on July 30.

The biggest summer event, attracting over a quarter of a million people to the Gaslamp Quarter and Convention Center area, is Comic-Con. The five-day event starts on July 22 with a Preview Night and ends on July 26. Even for attendees without admission, there are usually giveaways, exhibits and plenty of opportunities to take pictures with cosplayers in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Whether it's attending sporting events, going to a music festival or going to the beach, students have many opportunities to have a memorable summer with friends or family.

For more information on summer events, visit sandiego.org.



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR.
PHOTO BY OSCAR ALCON.



BY ASHLEY HARGROVE AND ELIJAH WEAVER

**The community looks forward to Memorial Day traditions,
and we look back at the history of the holiday.**

Memorial Day was widely recognized for the first time on May 30, 1868, to honor the sacrifices soldiers made during the Civil War. It was originally called Decoration Day, named after the tradition of using flowers and flags to decorate soldiers' graves. These traditions still endure, with decorated graves found at memorial sites throughout the U.S. to commemorate military lives lost.

Looking to participate? Many events are happening in San Diego. Whether you're trying to learn more about Memorial Day and honor those who served, or just want some good old family fun, there's something for you.

★★★★ THE WEEKEND ★★★★★

SATURDAY: Santee Street Fair & Craft Beer Festival

The Santee Street Fair is one of East County's biggest community events, drawing more than 30,000 people every year. It's essentially a giant one-day block party with more than 300 vendor booths, live music, a full kids zone and a Craft Beer Festival featuring local and regional breweries.

The Santee Chamber of Commerce puts it on each year to highlight local businesses and bring the community together. If you're looking for something family-friendly and super local, this is the spot.

The fair runs May 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more info, visit santeestreetfair.com.

SUNDAY: Vista Strawberry Festival

North County gets in on the fun, too, with the Vista Strawberry Festival. It's one of the area's most popular traditions— a full day of strawberry-themed treats, vendors, entertainment and activities for all ages. The event takes place over downtown Vista and brings in thousands of people ready to celebrate the season and support local shops. If you love street fairs or just want something sweet, this one's a must.

Events run all day on May 24. For more info, visit vistastrawberryfest.com.

★★★★ ON MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY ★★★★★

USS Midway Memorial Day Wreath-Laying Ceremony

USS Midway Flight Deck

The USS Midway hosts its annual wreath-laying ceremony at 9 a.m. to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. The event is open to the public, but attendees must be on board by 9:20 a.m. to enter free. The ceremony will also stream on Facebook Live for anyone watching from home.

At 3 p.m., the ship will join the National Moment of Remembrance with a minute of silence to honor fallen service members.

There will also be performances are included with general admission to the museum and run throughout the day on the flight deck:

- **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Arizona Band**, 11 a.m.
- **Bonita Vista High School's Music Machine**, 1:15 p.m.
- **Desert Valley Winds Ensemble**, 12:15 and 2:15 p.m. For more info, visit midway.org/event/legacy-week-2026.

For more info, visit midway.org/event/legacy-week-2026.

Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day Celebration

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

Fort Rosecrans hosts one of San Diego's largest and longest-running Memorial Day ceremonies, starting at 10 a.m. this year.

Veterans' groups and community organizations have led services here for more than a century. The cemetery itself is a historic landmark, with roots dating back to the mid-1800s and the early military history of California. The ceremony is a powerful way to honor those who served and reflect on the meaning of the day.

The event starts at 10 a.m. For more info, visit fortrosecransmemorialday.com.

★ FROM STREET FAIRS TO CEREMONIES, MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN SAN DIEGO HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. ★

FROM CREDITS TO COMMENCEMENT



From applications to caps and gowns, graduates prepare for the big day. STORY & DESIGN BY ALINA SIMONS

This spring, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District will say goodbye to a large group of graduating students, many of whom will transfer to four-year universities.

In preparation for the graduation ceremonies at San Diego State University's Viejas Arena, which will be held on June 3 for Cuyamaca and June 4 for Grossmont, students and faculty alike have been reflecting on the past and focusing on the excitement of what's to come.

While the process has not been entirely smooth for studio arts major Allyssa Pelicano, she said she is still looking forward to this grand occasion. "I was stressed a lot," she admitted.

Pelicano had initially met with a counselor last semester to discuss her readiness to graduate. Unfortunately, she had been misguided, and Pelicano was instructed to take another science class, even though she had already finished and passed that general education requirement.

While out of the country with family for the first few weeks of the spring semester, Pelicano was unable to access Self Service and register properly.

When she returned from her trip, the college system required her to file a petition to register for the science class, yet she was denied even after following all the steps.

"I ended up going back to another counselor," Pelicano said. "But turns out I was actually done with my classes." With all her courses completed, Pelicano was able to apply and be permitted to graduate.

When asked why she values going up to walk with her cap and gown, she said, "It feels like an absolute achievement in life."

Sarah Moore, the coordinator for the Transfer Center at Grossmont College, said walking at graduation is meaningful because, "It shows completion."

She continued: "There's a lot of blood, sweat and tears that have gone in over the years of studying, and it's important to celebrate."

Leanna Roman is a double major pursuing both social work and psychology. She said the transfer process was "rocky."

Roman said she struggled with the vagueness

of the update emails and was unaware of the location for the commencement ceremonies until the first week of May. Additionally, challenges arose because of her major change.

While navigating the GE checklist, Roman said the sheets provided by the Counseling Center helped her to plan her coursework more effectively. "They helped me so much," she said.

Moore said she loves to work with students at the Transfer Center. The center hosts events and workshops that connect students with universities and expose them to additional support opportunities.

The transfer fairs held on campus can also be a great way to support students through the transfer process. Students who participated in the spring fair won gift packages; others can

The tuition for immediate acceptance from high school to a state university was too high, so Roman said she chose the transfer path. For Pelicano, she said SDSU remains a daunting financial burden, so she will take a gap year to focus on other life goals.

Pelicano said she hopes to continue developing her web comic and other projects. She also plans to continue a full-time job at Viejas Casino, since last semester's part-time schedule was not ideal for her with school.

For those looking to transfer soon, Moore advised getting in touch with counselors who are aware of the universities a student is interested in and checking the unit requirements for each individual university. She encouraged students to ask questions and get involved.

"Enjoy the process. You won't necessarily be repeating it again. So, enjoy the journey there and then."

— SARAH MOORE

get another chance when the fair comes again in the fall.

Moore said "the Spring Fair can be a good strategy for students who are kind of preparing for fall application season."

Roman said she has taken advantage of campus resources and was impressed by the ease of access.

"The counselors here are just very supportive," she said. "I believe that one of them had given me connections to a big social work person over at CSU once I transferred."

Roman said she hopes to transfer to SDSU and wants to do summer classes there.

"I'm kind of sad that I'm leaving, because that is a really great community," she said. "SDSU is gigantic and scary, but I am super excited to go to a state university."

Returning to Grossmont College as a counselor is one of Roman's future goals. With her experience and queer identity, Roman said she would like to stay local to assist others in her community.

"Enjoy the process," Moore added. "You won't necessarily be repeating it again. So, enjoy the journey there and then."

Roman said her advice to transfer students is to minimize the fear of uncertainty by using online tools like assist.org to plan classes. "If you need any help, the mental health services are here for you," she said.

For many students, Grossmont has been a source of community, but it is also a launchpad for long-term educational and career goals.

To pick up transfer recognition cords, Cuyamaca's Transfer Achievement Celebration will be held on May 18 in the Performing Arts Center. Grossmont's Transfer Achievement Celebration is a multi-day event running from May 26 to May 29 in the Transfer Center.

Graduation attire is available for purchase at the official bookstores on both campuses. Additional information can be found on the college's websites.

For more details on Grossmont's graduation, visit grossmont.edu/commencement. 🐦



VI HUYNH (SECOND FROM LEFT) STANDS WITH ASGC LEADERS IN FRONT OF THE U.S. CAPITOL. PHOTO BY BRANDY WILSON.

BIDDING FAREWELL

The current ASGC president and student trustee reflects on his time at Grossmont.

BY SAM POLLMANN

ASGC President Vi Huynh will be departing Grossmont College at the end of the Spring 2026 semester to continue his studies at San Jose State.

After two years at Grossmont, with the past year leading ASGC and serving as Student Trustee on the district's Governing Board, Huynh said he will be transferring to San Jose next semester to study computer science.

Huynh said he has appreciated being in a community college setting where he can engage with his community and get the most out of his education.

"One thing I'm really gonna miss is how awesome the professors are here," Huynh said. "The professors are here

to teach, so they're not here to do a lot of research, so you get a professor that really cares about the students."

After the ASGC elections held at the end of April, former ASGC Director of Student Legislation Joseph Anthony Cruz was elected to be the next ASGC President and Student Trustee, filling Huynh's absence.

Huynh said Cruz is a "very passionate person," and that ASGC will be an "experienced board" next semester as a result of its returning members.



TO READ THE FULL STORY, SCAN THIS QR CODE OR VISIT [GCSUMMIT.COM](https://gcsu.mmit.com).

A NEW VOICE ON THE COURT



Women's volleyball builds momentum under new leadership.

BY ASHLEY HARGROVE

Grossmont College's women's volleyball program is entering a new chapter for the second time in a year, with the hiring of head coach Kara Barkdoll Coy who brings both local ties and a wide range of experience to the role.

Coy, originally from Portland, Oregon, first came to San Diego as a college athlete. She played at Cal State San Marcos, where she was part of the school's very first volleyball team. She said the experience helped shape her understanding of what it takes to build a program from the ground up.

She began coaching club volleyball before moving up to the college level. Her coaching path included time as a graduate assistant at Concordia Irvine, where she also earned a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration. Coy later worked at San Diego State University as director of operations, gaining valuable experience behind the scenes of a Division I program.

Coy said she came to realize her passion was not in administration.

"Being behind a desk 9 to 5... was not the lifestyle for me," she said. "I truly missed volleyball and being around the student athletes."

Her path to Grossmont came through a long-time connection with Jamie Ivers, a former Grossmont volleyball coach, who encouraged her to apply when the position opened. Coy said she was eager for the opportunity, especially because it allowed her to stay in San Diego, where she has built her life.

Now in charge of the program, Coy is putting her focus on the team's future rather than the past. "My goal for the program this year is to be

competitive," Coy said. "It would be great to win championships, but it starts with the people you have."

Coy said one of her top priorities is getting to know her players, understanding their strengths and helping them improve. With several weeks before the season begins, she said she is especially looking forward to the training period, which will give her more time to work with the team.

"We're going to have six weeks of training... to get everyone on the same page," she said.

Looking ahead, Coy's goals go beyond immediate success. She wants to create a program that prepares athletes for the next level, both on and off the court. A key part of her vision is helping players transfer to four-year schools while continuing their volleyball careers.

Coy said she hopes to build a reputation where college recruiters look to Grossmont for experienced, well-trained athletes. She believes

junior college programs play a key role in preparing players for higher levels of competition.

With a roster including returning players and new recruits, Coy said she understands the challenges ahead. Still, she remains focused on creating a competitive and supportive team culture. "I'm excited to get everyone on the same page and really grind it out," she said.

Coy's future goals are clear: Build a competitive team, develop strong athletes and compete for championships. With a clear vision and strong background, Coy is ready to lead the team into its next era. 🏐



FROM FIRST PITCH



From walk-off wins to tough losses, the Griffins battled through every inning this season.

STORY, PHOTOS, & DESIGN BY OSCAR ALCON

Grossmont College's baseball team led an exciting campaign this season. From winning after scoring 30 runs to coming back to win in 10 innings after being down by six runs, the team knew how to play small ball and score runs against its opponents.

The Griffins finished with an overall record of 27-17, placing second in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference standings with a 17-8 record in conference play. In the final game of the season, Grossmont lost 15-1 to Palomar College.

In their last series of the season against Palomar, the Griffins won one out of the three-game series. They went on a roll in their last home game, hitting four home runs from Druw Frost, Logan Aguilar, Owen Rodgers and Anthony Thomas.

Altogether, the Griffins scored 404 runs compared to the 390 runs they scored the previous season.

The Griffins also clinched a spot in the round-robin tournament, where they beat the Cuesta Cougars 8-7 in their first game to advance to a three-game series against the Allan Hancock Bulldogs.

In their first game against the Cougars, Rodgers hit a two-run single in the bottom of the ninth inning to win the game. Against the Bulldogs, however, the Griffins lost two games out of three.

Outfielder Justin Heffler, who is in his first year playing with Grossmont after playing a season at St. Mary's College, said he has enjoyed his time playing for the Griffins. "My experience was really fun, it's pretty close to home, so it felt like I was playing with friends," he said.





Heffler added that he's planning to continue his career at the University of San Diego Toreros.

Aguilar said he was grateful for the opportunity Grossmont gave him.

"In high school, I only had 70 at-bats in two years, and I've been very grateful that I was able to have this second opportunity with the Griffins."

He said he's planning to continue his baseball life at Penn State University with the Nittany Lions.

Heffler said time spent on the road bonding with his teammates left him with lasting memories.

"The bus trips after a win were my favorite moments of this season," he said. "We were always in a good mood and playing 'Mafia' on the PlayStation."

Head Coach Randy Abshier also serves as third base coach when the Griffins are up to bat. His assistant coach, Robert Aguirre, helps ensure the team stays focused on the path to winning.

While Grossmont's baseball team had an eventful season, the goal for next year remains the same: Win the conference title for the first time since 2017. 🐾





CIERRA DEVRIES IS ONE OF TWO COUNSELORS FOR THE NEW PRIDE CENTER.

| PHOTO BY ELYSE WAINSCOTT

All are welcome at the campus's new Pride Center for LGBTQIA+ students.

STORY BY ELYSE WAINSCOTT | DESIGN BY OSCAR ALCON

The long-awaited Pride Center has finally opened on campus. It aims to provide services and a safe space for LGBTQIA+ students at Grossmont.

The center is located in The Village, Building 70, Room 225. Two counselors, Francheska Morataya and Cierra DeVries, offer academic and personal career counseling. Morataya is there on Mondays and Wednesdays, and DeVries is there on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"I really just want to get students more connected to the campus, build a community," DeVries said.

DeVries said she hopes to start a book club in the fall, as the Pride Center also has a library with books about the LGBTQIA+ community. They plan to get more books for the library, and are open to donations. Students can recommend books for the library using the book recommendation form on the Grossmont Pride Center Canvas Shell.

The Canvas shell provides information on the Pride Center's events, the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) club,

and campus and community resources. Students can use their Canvas account to enroll in the shell at any time. To enroll, students can scan the QR code.

Additionally, students looking to book an appointment with a counselor can go through the Pride Center Canvas shell, ask their counselor from general counseling, get the link from the SOGI club or stop by the Pride Center directly.

Students are welcome to suggest any ideas or requests to the Pride Center that they feel would help their community.

"I want this to be a collaborative space and want to work with the

campus community, students, faculty classified alike," DeVries said.

The Pride Center also offers safe zone training and workshops. Safe zone training helps create safe spaces on campus by educating faculty members and students on issues the LGBTQIA+ community faces.

"We want to make people more aware of the issues faced by the community," DeVries said.

Dr. June Yang, professor and co-advisor of the SOGI club, said, "It [the Pride Center] offers a safe space that is open during prime hours where students can go and get assistance if they need it."

Yang, along with other faculty members, has been pushing for the Pride Center for at least a year now. "I'm so proud that we have a Pride Center," Yang said.

While the Pride Center has been open for about two months, counselors are actively seeking to provide even more services for LGBTQIA+ students. "We are working on getting a dedicated mental health counselor for the community," DeVries said.

DeVries added, "We're also starting to offer gender affirming clothing, so like binders, tucking underwear, that kind of stuff, for students who can't afford it or it's not safe at home."

The Pride Center is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. As of now, it is closed on Fridays.

Morataya is available on Mondays and Wednesdays, and DeVries on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"We are just really excited to be here," DeVries said.

To stay updated about events and resources, you can follow the Pride Center on Instagram at @gc_pridecenter or join the Canvas shell. 🐦



Pride Center Canvas Shell

← SCAN TO ENROLL IN THE COURSE!

A FAIR TO REMEMBER



The annual health fair connected students' health, self-care and community support.

STORY & PHOTO BY CALEB STORY | DESIGN BY ELIJAH WEAVER

Just weeks before Mental Health Awareness Month began, students were able to meet in the main quad on April 15 for an interactive Health and Wellness Fair. It included free contraceptive and drug testing resources, a variety of both physical and mental health-related booths, a scavenger hunt and a sound bath.

Hosted by Grossmont's Health and Wellness Center, the event ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with about 250 students attending. Organizers offered a variety of services ranging from interactive activities to drug prevention resources.

The fair featured a wide range of vendors, including numerous different local healthcare organizations and community groups. Booths were lined with brochures on important topics including preventive care, mental wellness and reproductive health. Representatives from organizations like Family Health Centers of San Diego, Neighborhood Healthcare and the San Diego Black Nurses Association shared important information about low-cost services, screenings and community programs.

Students were also allowed access to many practical health resources. Fentanyl test strips and Narcan nasal spray were available to all students, including instructions on how and when to use them. Nearby booths were offering drink spike test kits and safety resources, highlighting a broader effort to address student safety both on and off campus.

"The fair was a great success and was more than an event to get free items," campus Health Services Supervisor Subhawana Pradhananga said. "We want students to not only leave with free items, but with the knowledge they can actually use in their daily lives."

The fair also put an emphasis on mental wellness. "Relaxation kits, stress-relief activities

and wellness information were popular among students," said Dianne Abdullah Smith, the college's lead health specialist.

The fair also included an interactive scavenger hunt with the chance to win free items. It was designed like a map to encourage students to visit different booths, increasing engagement and exposing students to a variety of resources they may not know about. Students who completed the hunt received free food, which was sponsored by CalFresh. A spin-the-wheel station was also a big hit among students, offering instant rewards and free prizes.

Organizers said the timing of the event was intentional, serving as a lead-in to Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Nationally

registered nurse at Grossmont. "Mental health resources can make the difference in a student graduating."

Many booths around the quad offered informational materials that reinforced that message. Pamphlets on healthy relationships, sexually transmitted infection prevention and body positivity sat alongside guides to managing stress and recognizing signs of depression or anxiety.

A booth for the Grossmont Health & Wellness Library showcased upcoming wellness events, including workshops and screenings hosted by the Grossmont Healthcare District's library. These events further the conversation beyond a single day, offering continuing education and support for students throughout the semester.

"Mental Health resources can make the difference in a student graduating."

— ELAINE ADLAM

observed, Mental Health Awareness Month aims to reduce stigma around mental health, promote education on anxiety and depression, and encourage anyone to seek support. On college campuses, many students are stressed from juggling academics, work and personal responsibilities, and academic pressure. The need and availability for mental health resources can be critical for many students.

The Health and Wellness Center provides free services to enrolled students, including mental health counseling, basic medical care and referrals to outside providers. Events like the fair are designed to increase awareness of those offerings.

"Sometimes students don't realize help is available here on campus," said Elaine Adlam,

The fair's approachable atmosphere played a This sense of community is crucial to Mental Health Awareness Month, which will encourage open and comfortable conversations. National campaigns often focus on reducing stereotypical stigma and reminding anyone that they should not be afraid to ask for help.

As May continues, the momentum from the fair is expected to carry into many events on campus, including outreach campaigns and educational programming in relation to Mental Health Awareness Month. The fair's success suggests that when the information is available and engaging, students are more willing to take that first step toward improving their physical and mental health. ♡

to the introductory class in order to meet the major requirements.

While spending time developing new lab activities that would not fit into his existing classes, Blanco said the apparent need for an aerospace course at the community college level was a perfect opportunity to create a hands-on experience for curious students.

Despite all the excitement surrounding the class, getting it approved through the proper channels at Grossmont did not happen without criticism.

During the district meeting in which the course was approved, Cuyamaca College representatives expressed concerns about curriculum alignment with Grossmont and long-term content maintenance, even requesting the board not approve the class.

"We're gonna start splitting the enrollment between two colleges, lowering our efficiency, [and] lowering our alignment," said Kenan Murray, co-chair of the Engineering & Physical Sciences Department at Cuyamaca.

While boasting a dedicated engineering department full of classes articulated for transfer to SDSU, Cuyamaca does not currently offer an equivalent to this new class.

With the lack of a dedicated engineering program at Grossmont, students looking to



BLANCO DELIVERS HIS SABBATICAL REPORT AT THE APRIL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING.

transfer will be sent to Cuyamaca or another institution that offers the required courses.

For this reason, Blanco said the class will be "indirectly supporting Cuyamaca's amazing engineering program."

Blanco said the class has something to offer to anyone with an interest, aerospace major or not. "If in doubt, this is one case where you

should just give it a try," he said. "You're going to be amongst a group of people who just love aerospace, and we're all going to come together as a learning community."

As of now, a full-semester PSC-123-1030 in Fall 2026 is available for students to enroll on Self-Service. It will be held on Thursdays from 2 to 3:50 p.m. 📅

FUTURE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Grossmont College is always evolving, and it's not about to stop.

BY LOGAN MURPHY

Grossmont College has seen ongoing campus construction for the past several years, but some of the wait to see what's been built comes to an end this fall.

Since early 2024, a construction site right by the Griffin Center has been in development, dispersing the classes that were taught there into portable classrooms on campus. However, two of the classroom buildings are expected to be finished this summer.

Grossmont College's Interim President Pam Luster provided some insight on the progress

of the construction. "Building's 51 and 55 are currently under construction, and they are nearing substantial completion," she said. "They should be done mid June-ish."

The celebration doesn't just end with the buildings' finished construction, but instead extends to the fact that they will be ready to be used for classes in the fall semester. "Right now we're looking at how to repopulate the building," Luster said. "We are working right now on which classes go back in there."

Having the two buildings accessible and ready to be used is exciting, but the plans for this area go even further.

In between the parking structure and the soon to be accessible buildings 51 and 55, lies three buildings. There are plans to replace these with one building in a similar style to building 36, Grossmont's most recently finished construction.

"We are going to build a new building that will replace 52, 53, and 54," Luster said. "And we're hoping that we can use the footprint that was used for building 36, which is our science and math science building."

Having more space for academics will give students more opportunities for success, but new athletic department plans also anticipate even more opportunities for Grossmont students.

Building 43, the indoor gym, has plans to receive a facelift too. "We're doing some modifications to the gym, so we will be working over the next year or so," Luster said.

"We'd be adding air conditioning, replacing the bleachers so that we'd have new actual seated bleachers instead of those fun benches we all enjoy sitting on," she explained. "Resurfacing the floor or making sure all of the markings are correct for basketball, volleyball, (and) all the sports that we have in there."

The locker room spaces are also looking at getting some modernization, without a complete tear-down and rebuilding. Some

[STORY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]



ONGOING CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION. PHOTO BY LOGAN MURPHY.

plans include repainting to bring more life to the space. “We definitely want to give it a good refresh, so that’ll happen over the next year or so,” Luster said.

On the topic of campus athletics, many are curious about the future of our pool, and the short answer is that it will remain drained and inaccessible for the foreseeable future.

The current size of the pool is not up to regulation for aquatic sports to be hosted in. It should be noted though, a future plan exists to potentially extend the pool into the space where the beach volleyball courts are, but that requires district funding and bond approval that hasn’t yet been obtained.

The plans for Grossmont’s future are not just limited to new buildings and facilities though, but also frequent maintenance and care being given to issues like the plumbing that runs under the school.

“Our biggest need is the stuff you can’t see,” Luster explained. “It’s roofs, it’s water pressure, it’s blowouts that we’re having in the soil on the hills behind us here just because of erosion and different kinds of things.”

Even as the semester comes to an end, students may see some of those issues being addressed and corrected, starting with guard rails installed all the way back in 1963 being replaced on days when the campus isn’t as busy.

Additionally, as the hot, fire risky months approach, shepherds



AERIAL VIEW OF GROSSMONT'S POOL. DRONE PHOTO BY LOGAN MURPHY.

and their goats are being brought in to have the dry vegetation around the campus eaten to create a 30-foot space between the campus and dry vegetation. The times of day that they will be able to be seen is not confirmed, but students may be able to see the goats hard at work in the next few weeks, according to Luster. 🐐



The speech and debate team will showcase award-winning performances. | BY ELIANN GRIFFIN

It has been a standout semester for Grossmont’s Speech and Debate team, with students placing as semi-finalists in an international competition in Athens, Greece, and earning gold at a national tournament in Bethesda, Maryland.

On May 26, the team will host a showcase featuring award-winning performances from national and international competitions open to Grossmont students. The event will take place in the 26-220 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Various curated debate pieces, speeches and impromptu performances that have earned the team recognition during the highest levels of competition this semester will be presented at the event.

For the first time in 16 years, the team won both a Silver Sweepstakes Award for Debate and a Bronze Sweepstakes Award for “Overall Competition” based on the team’s collective success across events.

“Every day, I get to watch students find their voice, and this year, the forensics team made Grossmont incredibly proud,” Speech and Debate Coach Andrew Jassick said in an email. “They didn’t just improve; they leveled up and raised the bar.”

The event is a chance for the campus to get

a glimpse at what goes on behind the scenes.

“This showcase isn’t just a performance. It’s the result of months of growth and the belief in the seemingly impossible,” Jassick said. “You’re not just seeing speeches and debates. You’re seeing confidence built, skills sharpened, and students becoming something that this school and the world truly need.”

For the team, the event is an opportunity to demonstrate the personal transformation that has resulted from their participation.

Sophia Lepari is a third-year pre-nursing major who will be graduating this semester. She returned to the team after a one-year absence following her first year. Lepari said forensics made her realize she can face challenges like nursing school.

“It’s possible, and I didn’t think I was able to do that,” Lepari said. “Like I didn’t have the confidence, and I think I do now.”

Most recently, Lepari won gold and bronze awards National Phi Rho Pi tournament in Bethesda. Lepari was also a semi-finalist for IPDA Debate and Persuasive Speaking at the International Forensics Association Speech and Debate tournament held in Athens. During her time in Greece, she also received a seventh-place Speaker Award out of 63 competitors.

A third-year computer science major, William Schares, who has been on the team for two years, said the showcase will be an opportunity to show the campus the range of skills required for speech and debate.

Schares said, “It teaches you to develop your voice, how to listen to other people’s voices, and ultimately the ability to take the ideas you have and share them with the world.”

He added that it is important because it provides a platform for a diverse community of speakers: “The thing to see is that people’s voices are very different. Voices of all kinds are important to give a space for, it doesn’t matter who you are or where you’re from.”

According to Schares, there are many misconceptions about speech and debate.

“There’s this expectation in speech and debate where people are sort of giving these really long wordy speeches,” he said. “It’s not quite as academic as people might think it is.”

Schares said one way to know for sure, is to come to the showcase.

“The clearest sign I think you might have of whether or not you’d be interested in this sort of thing is actually seeing the events that we’re working on,” he said.

Many students said they started just as curious audience members, unaware of their potential. Speech and debate provided an opportunity not only to develop skills as a speaker, but to grow as a person, experience one-on-one training, develop friendships and travel the world.

“From San Diego to LA, and Greece to Washington DC, the Grossmont Speech and Debate team has represented with pride every step of the way,” Jassick said. “I cannot possibly begin to describe how proud I am of all of them. Go Griffins!” 🐾

NEW CLUBS ON THE BLOCK

Although the semester is ending, several clubs have been chartered. Some are being revived while others are new additions. Here's a closer look at what they're all about. | BY RIANNA ROMASOC



RHYTHM CULTURAL DANCE CLUB PRESIDENT POSING.
| IMAGE BY JOSHUA BENJAMIN

RHYTHM CULTURAL DANCE CLUB

The Rhythm Cultural Dance Club is a brand-new organization, launching for the first time this semester. The club aims to educate, study, perform and celebrate dance styles rooted in Black and African traditions.

Club President Joshua Benjamin said many people learn popular dance moves without understanding their cultural or historical origins. Through the club, he hopes to teach the Black and African roots behind styles such as hip-hop, jazz funk, tap, voguing and street dance, including popping, locking and breaking.

"People are like, 'Oh, this is fun,'" Benjamin said. "It's fun, but do you know where it originated from? Do you understand why they're dancing and how they're dancing?"

The purpose of the club, Benjamin said, is not just to have fun, but to educate people so they can truly respect the art form. He pointed to voguing as an example often misunderstood in mainstream culture. While some associate it with Madonna's "Vogue," he emphasized its deeper roots and meaning. He said the dance is rooted in African and Egyptian movement traditions and carries cultural and spiritual significance beyond mere entertainment.

Benjamin said he also wants to create a community where underrepresented students feel seen, respected and included.

"I want to leave something more cultural where students, especially people of color, feel they have a place to be themselves," he said.

Freshman Riley James said she joined the club despite having no prior dance experience. At the first meeting, she learned choreography to songs like Beyoncé's "Cozy" and Madonna's "Vogue."

"I've never danced before, and I'm not good at it, but I wanted to try it out," James said. "It's really fun, and anyone can join if they're open to learning."

The club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the UMOJA office in the Village (second floor of Tech Mall) or contact advisor Niko Crumpton at niko.crumpton@gcccd.edu.

FUTURE BROADCASTERS OF AMERICA CLUB

You might have seen the Future Broadcasters of America Club before in the quad. They're back on campus with the passion to foster community on campus through music and radio.

President Phos Allen said the club allows students to build broadcasting skills in preparation for entering the field, as well as to give other students an opportunity to explore broadcasting, even if they aren't pursuing it as their major.

"Have you ever seen *Pitch Perfect*? Do you know what Becca does in the radio station? That's like what we do," Allen said.

The club learns audio production hands on. Allen said there is a lot of support for anyone without experience and plenty of students with knowledge to share. There's a range of skills to learn, from using Pro Tools, a digital audio workstation, to learning how to set up mics and operate the DJ board.

Will Burke, a club member, said there is always room for new ideas, such as sharing music, artist reviews and podcasts: "You get to learn new skills like podcasting, and I think some of the fun is being able to teach that—particularly podcasting, teaching



PHOS ALLEN AT GRIFFIN RADIO STATION.
| IMAGE BY DOMINIC FIONDA

people, giving people a chance to be on air, to have their own personalities and invite their own guests."

Looking ahead, the members want to build connections with other campus clubs. Since the radio station regularly features guests on its podcasts, Burke said he sees potential for collaborations.

"Together we all grow," Burke said.

The club meets monthly on the second and fourth Thursdays in 20-210. To learn more, contact the club's advisor, Dr. Evan Wirig, at evan.wirig@gcccd.edu.



BIBLE STUDY BREAK. | IMAGE COURTESY OF TRUTH BIBLE STUDY CLUB

TRUTH BIBLE STUDY CLUB

If you have heard of the TRUTH Bible Study Club, it may be because of its presence across San Diego, with chapters established at San Diego State University, UC San Diego and Mesa College. It is a nonprofit student organization focused on Bible study and applying it to everyday life.

Oscar Montano, a club member, explained that TRUTH is an acronym for "Taking Real Understanding to Heart."

"We want students to know the truths of the Bible," Montano said, adding that they "focus on the teachings strictly based on what Jesus taught 2,000 years ago."

According to Montano, the Bible holds

a truth that is "very different from what is being taught nowadays." The club, which is non-denominational, is open to Christians and to those who are simply curious about the Bible.

As of now, the club hosts walk-in group Bible studies and individual Bible studies, but future plans include introducing community-service campaigns, Bible seminars and exhibition walk-throughs.

Weekly walk-in Bible studies are held Tuesdays at noon and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. For more info on the club, contact its ICC Club Representative Brian Truong at 2briantruong2@gmail.com. 🐦

HOT TAKES.

Are these takes
piping hot or dead cold?

Scan the QR code
to see what other
people think!



The Chargers left—and San Diego got better. || BY OSCAR ALCON

On January 12, 2017, Chargers Owner Dean Spanos shocked the city of San Diego and the NFL world with his announcement the Chargers would relocate to Los Angeles for the 2017 season, ending a 55-year stint in the city. Thousands of fans headed to the practice facility to burn and destroy all their jerseys, shirts and memorabilia. I personally believe it was one of the greatest days this city has ever seen.

When the Chargers left, it seemed to help the city in the long run. City officials no longer worried about funding a new stadium for a team that really didn't deserve it. I mean, yes, Qualcomm Stadium was super-old and one of the worst stadiums in the NFL at the time. But if they wanted a new one, the Bolts should have delivered a Super Bowl title to the city.

San Diego isn't like Green Bay, Pittsburgh or Minneapolis, where the NFL is the city's number-one sport. One of the cons of the Chargers was seeing all the away fans, like the Raiders, come to San Diego and be even louder than the home fans.



PHOTO BY HARPER J. COLE (CREATIVE COMMONS)

This isn't the '90s: LeBron James is the GOAT. || BY ELIJAH WEAVER



© ERIK WILLIAMS-IMAGN IMAGES

Throughout NBA history, there has been a plethora of otherworldly talent to step onto the court. But there are only two players who have been crowned the "greatest of all time": Michael Jordan and LeBron James. The influence Jordan has had and continues to have on the sport, on- and off-court, is unmatched and can't go uncredited. But, with that aside, here's why James is the GOAT.

Rings shouldn't hold as much weight in this conversation as they do. Don't get me wrong, winning six championships like Jordan did is monumental, but you're only as good as your team. If an individual could make as much of a difference in a championship as the online discourse makes it seem, Paul George would've gotten a ring with the Indiana Pacers, James Harden would've gotten a ring with the Houston Rockets, and James would've gotten another ring with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2018.

What it comes down to is individualism and longevity, which to me is James all day. While LeBron has all the records, he's played longer. So, without stat watching, the only thing separating them is the eye test. James brings a lot more to the table in that category. He is raw athleticism, utter dominance and true leadership, and overall has it all. Whatever Jordan did in his playing days, James can do better... other than having a super-team of Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman. Did I mention he's 41?



© PEXELS

Sipping sparkling water doesn't make you better than a diet soda drinker. || BY LOGAN MURPHY

Many people seem to think drinking diet soda is just as bad as regular, and weaning yourself off diet soda with sweetened sparkling water is a healthy alternative to both. But I disagree.

If you look at the ingredients in a bottle of Clear American sparkling water from Walmart and compare them to a can of Sprite Zero, they're almost identical, both using aspartame as an artificial sweetener. Of course, there are differences within other sodas, like Coke Zero, which contains caffeine and artificial coloring, but is that where we draw the line between one being bad and the other good for you?

Sparkling Ice's water contains dyes in most of its flavors; it uses sucralose as a sweetener in its main line of products. Some believe that aspartame causes more cancer than sucralose, but the risk for both is astronomical unless you drink crazy amounts daily. What I'm getting at is that I don't think one is either better or worse for you if you want to have

some from time to time. With that in mind, I do know that brands like Bubly and LaCroix use no sweeteners and could be considered healthier, but those drinks are hardly a contender for my beverage of choice. No hate to anyone who prefers one or the other, but when I hike to the top of the mountain and crack open a Diet Baja Blast, don't think any differently of me than you would if I were drinking some sparkling water. 🐦

Mer-May dismay. || BY ALINA SIMONS

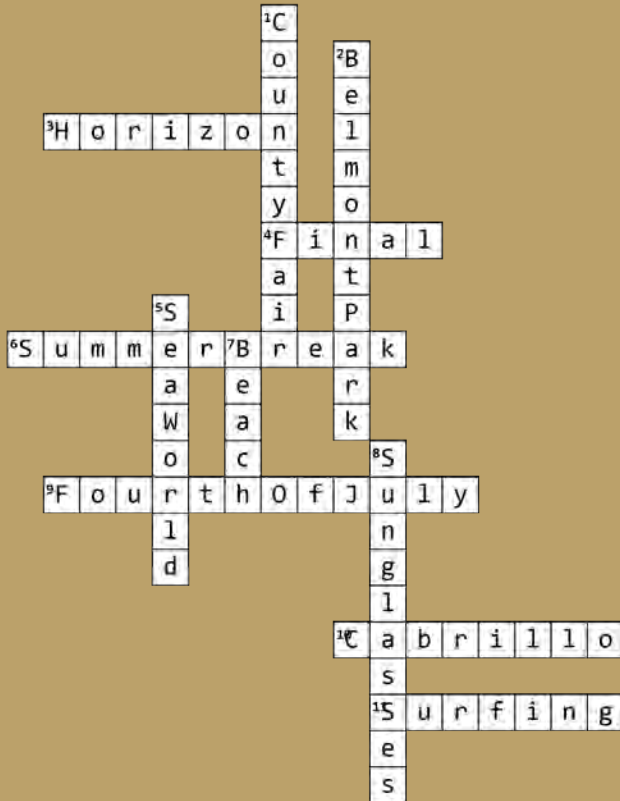




BRAIN BOOST SOLUTIONS

[PUZZLES FROM PAGE 5]

CROSSWORD: SUMMER MODE



WORD SEARCH: GLOBAL MATCHUP



**Seeking a new study space?
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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.

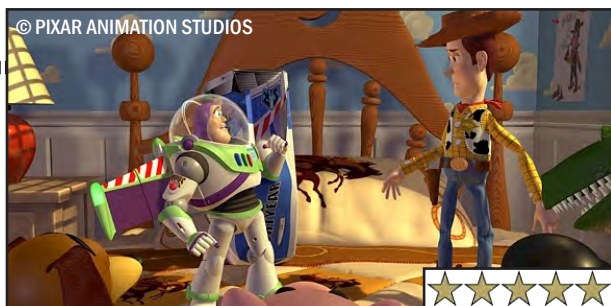
Grossmont's Campus and Parking Services team, also known as CAPS, is dedicated to ensuring safety among all students and faculty at the college. These events on campus were among those noted on the crime log* since our last issue:

- **April 16:** A student who passed out while walking to the nurse's office was given medical aid and transported to the hospital.
- **April 18:** A transient person was seen in the Building 50 construction site, the person was given a trespass warning and escorted off campus.
- **April 21:** A student reported their vehicle was hit while they were in class, but no witnesses or surveillance cameras were present.
- **April 22:** A man was passed out at the entrance to campus. The fire department responded and transported him to the hospital.
- **April 30:** The Sheriff's Explosive Detection Canine unit conducted a sweep of the library and PVAC in preparation of scheduled events corresponding with the *Americans and the Holocaust* exhibit.

* 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.

REEL TALK | ANI-MAY-TION

From comic book worlds to colorful classics, animation takes center stage.



TOY STORY

Review by Oscar Alcon

"To infinity and beyond!" Pixar's *Toy Story* tells a tale about what happens to toys when their owners aren't around. The 1995 movie follows Woody (Tom Hanks), who gets jealous when his owner, Andy (John Morris), is gifted a brand new popular toy, Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen). This movie features many memorable characters and scenes, including the famous Pizza Planet truck, which appears as an Easter egg in nearly every Pixar movie. I highly recommend this movie, and watching it will make you want to explore Pixar's films. Plus, it will prepare you for the release of *Toy Story 5* in late June.

REGULAR SHOW

Review by Elijah Weaver

Cartoon Network's *Regular Show* follows best friends Mordecai (J. G. Quintel), a blue jay and Rigby (William Salyers), a raccoon. The show is accompanied by side characters Benson, Pops, Muscle Man (all voiced by Sam Marin) and Skips (Mark Hamill). Mordecai and Rigby work as groundskeepers at a park for their boss, Benson, but are extremely lazy and don't let anything get in the way of having fun. While the concept may sound boring or straightforward, each episode quickly evolves into something otherworldly. Episode two, "Just Set Up The Chairs," begins exactly as it sounds. Mordecai and Rigby are given the simple task of setting up chairs for a party, which leads to them getting distracted and releasing the "Destroyer of Worlds" from an old arcade machine. *Regular Show* is an amazing TV series that I definitely recommend. While there isn't a grandiose message conveyed, it's a great watch you can pick up any time and have a laugh. And in the words of Pops, "Jolly good show."



THE LION KING

Review by Caleb Storey

The Lion King is a classic animated film that includes a mix of emotion and adventure. It follows Simba (Jonathan Taylor Thomas, Matthew Broderick), a young lion who is in line to become the next king. After the sudden death of his father, for which he is blamed by his uncle Scar (Jeremy Irons), Simba decides to run away and struggles to find his place in the world. He grows older and ultimately has to decide if he will become the leader he was always meant to be. The combination of voice acting and animation does a fantastic job at bringing the characters to life. The soundtrack also plays a significant role in the film, with songs like "Hakuna Matata" and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." Overall, *The Lion King* is a strong movie due to its storytelling, emotional impact and authentic characters. It's an enjoyable movie for all ages, and remains one of the most iconic animated films.

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

Review by Alina Simons

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse follows Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), a young man who discovers he is one of many Spider-Men across the multiverse. Joined by Spider-Men stranded in his dimension, he must defeat Kingpin (Liev Schreiber) and return everyone safely home. A second installment was released in 2023, with a third hopefully arriving in 2027. As 3D animation became increasingly repetitive, *Into the Spider-Verse* swooped in to redefine and revive the genre. This 2018 trailblazer set a new standard for animated films, inspiring many that followed with its ambitious visual style. Breaking away from Pixar's "bean mouth" look and Disney's googly-eyed princesses, the film blends 2D and 3D into a striking comic book aesthetic. Its graphic art details pay homage to the source material, while colorful landscapes, standout character designs, strong vocal performances and an unforgettable soundtrack make it nearly impossible to look away. The film also tells a compelling story with a heartfelt message that stays with audiences, regardless of age or comic book knowledge.

