

# the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

March 7, 2022



Salinas community members gather for a vigil honoring gun violence victims, including police officer Jorge Alvarado, a 17-year-old whose name was not disclosed, CSUMB student Karina Chavez Vargas and her boyfriend, Jesus Arias Villa.

# Salinas Faith Leaders hold gun violence victim vigil

Story and photos by Bryan Chavez

The Salinas Faith Leaders Group held a vigil at the Salinas Police Department for Jorge Alvarado and other community members who recently died as a result of gun violence on Saturday, March 5.

Alvarado was a Salinas police officer who, according to CBS SF Bay Area, was shot and killed “after pulling over a vehicle driven by Gustavo Matias Morales around 10:45 p.m. Friday on East Market Street in Salinas. Morales allegedly exited his vehicle and fired multiple rounds at Alvarado.”

Other cases of recent shootings in the area include California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) students Karina Chavez Vargas and her boyfriend Jesus Arias Villa who were shot and killed in their car while parked near Closter Park, according to Josh Copitch from KSBW. CSUMB Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Leslie Williams released the following statement last month to students in an email:

“I am deeply saddened to inform you of the loss of a member of our CSUMB family. Karina had just completed the requirements for her Bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology in December and was looking forward to walking at commencement in May. Karina was from Salinas and adored playing with her dog. Concentrating in exercise science, she enjoyed staying fit, eating well, and being outdoors. We offer our deepest condolences to Karina’s family, friends, and loved ones, as well as to those of Jesus Villa.”

Angel Rivero, pastor of East Salinas Methodist Church and member of the Salinas Faith Leaders Group said “We wanted this [vigil] to include those other shootings that have happened in Salinas recently. We had the couple that died at Closter Park and the 17-year-old who was killed near Laurel park.”

The forementioned 17-year-old teenager, whose identity has not been released, who was shot in Laurel Park on Feb. 24 and later died in the hospital two days later according to Sheyanne N. Romero from The Californian.

“We wanted this to be a space that also included them since the vigil [on Wednesday] was geared more specifically towards the officer,” said Rivero. “We wanted this to be a vigil for peace and to address gun violence in the community.”



Community members gathered on March 5 to honor Salinas police officer, Jorge Alvarado. They decorated police cruiser #334 with flowers and other decorations.



Community members and fellow police officers decorate police cruiser #334 in honor of Officer Jorge Alvarado on March 5.

## Cooking with CSUMB

Learn how to make a simple garlic pasta with Jewelia Fletcher.



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## Agribusiness

Rick Falconer talks about seed breeding in the Agribusiness guest speaker series.



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## The Batman review

“The Batman” is a visceral reinvention of the caped crusader.



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# How the studio survives

Story and screenshots by Ferris Crosby

The VPA Visiting Artist Series welcomed Tanya Aguiñiga on Thursday, March 3, to speak on her activism, art, and advice.

Juan Luna-Avin, a lecturer for the VPA department, introduced Tanya Aguiñiga at the start of the event. Avin referenced her website, stating Aguiñiga is an artist, designer, and craftsperson who “works with natural fibers and collaborates with artists and activists to create sculptures, installations, performances, and community-based art projects.”

Her work focuses on the experiences of crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, from Tijuana to San Diego. “She established a community center in Tijuana to bring attention to injustices that the local community faces through art initiatives,” Luna-Avin said.

The focus of the night’s lecture was Aguiñiga’s advice on how to fund significant works of art successfully. She discussed early studio space, merchandise, commissions, residencies, and grants.

Aguiñiga’s first studio was local, located only two blocks from her house, where a lot of early problems solving took place.

“We had a deal with my landlord, but we still didn’t have enough space. We had to work in the hallways. We had to use every bit of space because the studio wasn’t big enough to do large-scale pieces,” said Aguiñiga.

“How do I make it work with furniture design? We can’t do welding; we can’t work with large machinery in the same space as flammable objects,” she said.

After some trial and error and years of working, she found “an all-fem studio, with female-identified folks, LGBTQ folks, [and] nonbinary folks - that’s what was best and happiest for us.”

The studio began working more and more on large-scale fiber works and working on things that affected women-identifying people, such as a large-scale, naturally fibered work of intricate knots exploring postpartum depression.

“The way we were able to hire people, scale-up, and do a lot of what the studio did in the beginning, was because I had an accessories line,” said Aguiñiga. “If the furniture didn’t sell, or if a piece of furniture took five years to sell, I always had smaller things people could buy that would help us make rent.”

Her accessory line developed into clothing, home goods, weavings, and one-off pieces. She sold wholesale to museum stores, design stores, small boutiques, and flash sales.

“I would do fairs, like the International Contemporary Furniture Fair by applying to get into an Alumni booth, applying to get into Furniture Society, any group that would cover the cost of a booth, so it wouldn’t cost me to participate,” she said.

She explained another way to keep customers interested is to create art at these events. “Educate people in the importance of craft by creating items in front of people, so they understand the process - how long it takes to craft items, how special the materials are.”

Commissions are the primary income source for Tanya Aguiñiga’s humanitarian aid.

She advised people to “take jobs, take whatever jobs you can get to get funding for what you want to do.” She featured a few of her previous commissions, including pieces for the Laguna Art Museum, the Ace Hotel, Nike, Disney, The New Children’s Museum, and private residences.

“I do a lot of residencies; some of the residencies are some I have funded myself, some are ones where I applied and gotten in, and some come with stipends.” One of Aguiñiga’s residencies was five weeks in Chiapas - the southern part of Mexico, with the largest concentration of indigenous people in the Americas - working with Mayan women to exchange skills.

“As somebody from Tijuana, we don’t have a vast craft culture because we’re so close to the border, and our city is so new in comparison to the rest of Mexico. When I got my first huge award, I wanted to spend time exploring what Mexican craft was.”

Part of the benefits of residencies is experience working under new conditions, potential pay or prize money, and education in new skills.

The Los Angeles’s “Dwell on Design” exposition was hosted at an expo center directly next to Central City

East and Skid Row. Aguiñiga collaborated with homeless aid advocates and organizations to assist people without housing transition into homes.

Through community interviews, the team learned they needed “art, something warm, a tablecloth that doubled as a gameboard, modular stool, and modular table.” She led workshops throughout LA, teaching people how to knit, crochet, and weave, which allowed her to aid the community at a low cost.

Aguiñiga recommends applying for all awards and grants related to one’s field of work for all VPA students. The United States Artist Fellowship grants \$50,000 unrestricted and allows Aguiñiga to fund equipment and travel through Mexico. She also mentioned Creative Capital, a long-term success model that invests in your artistic future. The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) offers many excellent grants, classes and provides leadership cohorts with other young Latino professionals and artists.

Through all of these channels, AMBOS (Art Made Between Opposite Sides) was founded by Aguiñiga in 2016. The project explores “how we go back and forth constantly, and those of us who go back and forth because we’re either U.S. citizens, have green cards or have visas,” Aguiñiga said. “Because of the stigma of crossing the border and being afraid of getting their green card taken away, most people who cross back and forth do not tell anyone they live on the Mexican side.”

Her first installation involved handing migrants a postcard with two strings attached that said, “these two strings represent the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico, ourselves on either side of the border, and or our mental state while crossing.” Participants would then tie a knot and answer the question: “What are your thoughts when you cross this border?”

This project took three years to finish and spanned the entire U.S.-Mexico border. Every single port of entry between the U.S. and Mexico interviewed 10,000 people. The finished postcards would be tied together and displayed on a billboard in Tijuana so people could “see their interconnectedness, they could see their relationship to community and understand they were not going through this stigmatizing experience alone.”

Aguiñiga has fond memories of her work at the border.

“What was amazing about the border people was that not only was it this symbolic and collaborative making of work, the writing that came back from the postcards was so incredible because it just taught us about the differences between our different cities and our different regions. It was also a total capture in a moment politically what was going on in the U.S. and Mexico.”

Those interested in viewing more of Aguiñiga’s and reading about her activism can find out more on her website: <https://art21.org/about/artist-profiles-for-exhibitions/>



*The Lutrinae* is a weekly campus newspaper covering CSUMB and its neighboring areas. Here at *The Lutrinae*, our goal is not only to educate and inform the public, but to entertain, to spark creativity, to encourage diversity of opinion, and to build a sense of community on campus and with the neighboring cities.

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Tanya Aguiñiga’s commissioned piece for The New Children’s Museum, titled “Texture Forest.”

@the\_lutrinae



## Cooking with CSUMB: quick and easy garlic noodles

Story by Maxwelle Tartaglia  
Illustration by Malia Savella

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and the Basic Needs Initiative program teamed up once again for their monthly Cooking with CSUMB Zoom event on March 3.

Cooking with CSUMB is a live Zoom series, featuring recipes demonstrated by faculty and staff that are targeted at college students for their ease and health.

This month's Cooking With CSUMB was hosted by Basic Needs Coordinator Sabrina Lee and the recipe was demonstrated by Basic Needs Senator Jewelia Fletcher.

Students learned how to make the simple and delicious recipe, garlic noodles.

Fletcher credited this recipe to her and her roommate's longing for a noodle recipe from a restaurant they frequented in their hometown. Fletcher learned how to make it herself while living on campus.

The recipe is extremely simple. Using only six ingredients and only takes under 15 minutes to prepare, it is perfect for the college student with a full schedule.

### The ingredients go as follows:

1 green onion  
1 package of pasta noodles,  
(recommended: knife-shaved  
noodles)  
1 tbsp soy sauce  
1 tbsp oyster sauce  
1 tbsp butter  
3 tbsp garlic

Fletcher emphasizes that an important part of this recipe is how many ways it can be modified to match your preferences. Feel free to add as much or as little garlic as you see fit!

Steps:

1. Boil noodles in a pot of water, (according to instructions on noodles or to preferred taste).
2. Chop green onions finely.
3. After the noodles are boiled, cool under cold water, and set aside.
4. Add butter and garlic to your now empty pasta pot.
5. Saute for a minute then add the noodles back.
6. Stir to unclump the noodles.
7. Add soy sauce and oyster sauce to the noodles. Add more or less to preference.
8. Plate noodles and add green onions on top.

Modifications like frozen vegetables or proteins can be added to increase the vitamins and nutritional value of the meal.

Fletcher recommends topping the dish with chili oil if you enjoy spicier foods!

The next Cooking with CSUMB event will be hosted on April 7. Until then, students can look out for Basic Needs Initiative opportunities such as food-based assistance programs. Learn more at <https://csumb.edu/basicneeds/>



## Rick Falconer discusses seed breeding

Story by Daniel Gallo  
Illustration by Malia Savella

Vegetation expert Rick Falconer joined The Agribusiness Club for another installment of their guest speaker series on March 1.

Falconer is the managing director at Rijk Zwaan, a global vegetable breeding company dedicated to improving the taste of vegetables and seed sustainability.

The industry splits into various divisions, and Falconer calls these sectors the four F-words: food, feed fiber, and fuel.

California has the most extensive presence in the U.S. seed business, with over 500 registered companies holding state seed licenses, a requirement in the highly regulated industry.

Falconer presented the local business branches in Monterey and San Benito counties, outlining each division's employment opportunities and responsibilities.

Seed tech companies condition crops, enhancing planting for farmers, while retail seed distributors sell to growers.

The central coast is a strategic area for breeding, an agriculturally advanced place that provides high-quality production.

While opportunity runs high in the business, numerous challenges exist in farming operations.

Root-knot nematodes pose a severe threat to carrot breeding, but developing resistant traits in crops combats infection, establishing immunity in vegetable varieties.

Falconer shared three images of infection effects on carrots, from deformity to bitter taste. Fighting plant-parasites has been a problem for years.

Root-knot nematode resistance has improved since Falconer arrived in the seed breeding business, and narrowing the development period of conditioned plant varieties remains a priority.

After concluding his industry overview, Falconer proceeded to his business presentation, discussing his work at Rijk Zwaan and the family-owned company's operations.

Falconer and his team are responsible for refining food quality, breeding, producing, and selling vegetable seeds.

Rijk Zwaan covers thousands of different seed varieties and 30 other crop species.

Depending on the crop, it can take up to 12 years to develop a variety, and it's followed by a vetting process of testing success by planting in deliberate market locations.

The number of hungry people is rising and by 2050, the world will require double what the industry produces today with less water, land, and chemicals.

"For the seed industry, we look at this as a challenge," Falconer said. "We can do it, and I think there's optimism."

During the Q&A portion of the event, Agribusiness Club president Miranda Sampson asked if the breeding system was similar to Punnett squares.



Falconer agreed with the comparison and emphasized that the procedure has elements of science and art, to be creative and have an eye for producing new varieties.

Students looking for internships can apply for hands-on farming, marketing, logistics, and warehouse positions offered by Rijk Zwaan.



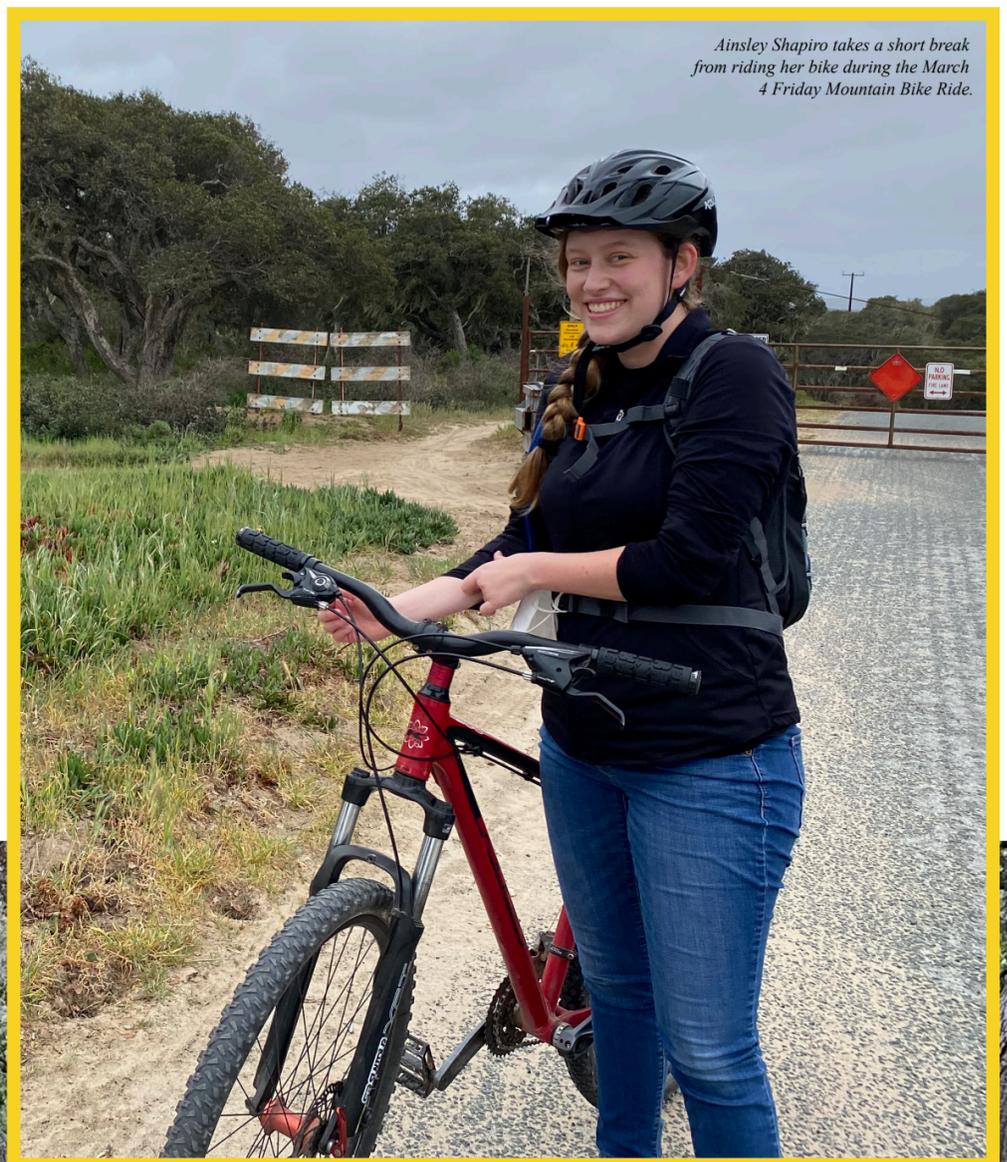
Story and photos by Bryan Chavez

On Friday, March 4, the California State University, Monterey Bay recreation department held a group mountain bike ride. Students who registered for the event on MyRaft had the option to bring their bike and helmet or rent one for free from the Otter Cycle Center, located in the old student center building across from the Otter Student Union.

The ride was led by Otter Cycle Center specialists Carlos Espinosa and Violet Delgado, who took the group to Fort Ord National Monument, located 1.5 miles from campus. Fort Ord contains over 82 miles of different trails, making for various options for rides tailored to the group's ability.

The rides are called "no-drop rides," meaning no rider will ever be left behind in any case, which I experienced firsthand when I slipped off my bike going downhill on some sand and the cycle leaders stopped the group.

The Otter Cycle Center holds events like this weekly, typically on Fridays. The next ride is on March 11 at noon. To register, visit MyRaft before spots fill up. For students who can't make it for the group ride, the Otter Cycle Center also offers free daily bike and helmet rentals to students Monday through Friday.



*Ainsley Shapiro takes a short break from riding her bike during the March 4 Friday Mountain Bike Ride.*



*Ainsley Shapiro and Violet Delgado ride through some trees during the March 4 Friday Mountain Bike Ride.*

# Spooky Marvin and The Familiars

## Artist Highlight

Photos courtesy of Mitchell Marinaro  
Instagram: @spookymarvin

Spooky Marvin (aka Mitchell Marinaro) is a pop artist from San Mateo in the Bay Area. He is a member of a band called The Familiars alongside Ronnie Blaze, The Professor, Grace Exists, and Dara Midnight.

Marinaro expressed that movies influence the band's nature when it comes to their music. "I like films and just generally parts of culture other than music that inspires me. I've always been really into Halloween and spooky stuff and spooky atmospheres. I take a lot of inspiration from ... the aesthetic appreciation, the dramatic nature of those movies, and that kind of culture genre. And of course other musicians and other artists."

However, when it comes to the band's live performances, the songs and feel take on a completely different vibe than what people hear online. They create live renditions of songs written by Marinaro and The Professor in a way that's meant to showcase each members' talent.

"Our inspirations for the live show we take most from Sunday Night Football, the WWE, just big personas, trying to be as entertaining as possible," said Marinaro. "As a fan, when I go to live shows, I just want to have a memorable experience, have a cool time, and see something I have never seen before at a show. Something more of a theatrical performance."

Additionally to the drama of the film and the prominent personalities on television, just about any character with a goofy yet confident personality inspires the feelings of each band member.

"I like Jim Carry in 'The Mask,' and I like pretty much anybody from the WWE," said Marinaro. "The way professional wrestlers go about their personas is hilarious. I love Vince McMahon and John Cena. I like the way all

the characters are in 'Napoleon Dynamite.' It's one of my favorite movies, like Pedro is good. Oh, Uncle Rico! That's one of my favorite characters ever. It's just like this sleazy, goofy character, but [we're] trying to combine that with the gothic nature of what I was talking about earlier."

He continued "When we talked about our personas in the band, we all had guidelines of how we wanted to be: our backstories and how we're perceived in a live stage environment. Spooky Marvin became a Las Vegas vampire combination of sleazy '70s type guy mixed with Dracula."

Growing up in the Bay Area, it was a comfortable setting for him and his friends to hang out and go to punk shows in San Francisco or Berkeley. It showed him and his friends how easy it was to be in a band and play shows.

With Bay Area giants like the band Green Day, he saw how "they just took matters into their own hands, started a band in high school, did their thing so passionately and powerfully and [broke] out from the scene and became something huge and [made] waves. Growing up in this music scene just made me think, 'I need to be a part of this at some point. I don't know how and I don't know what I'll do, but this is a place for me to fit in.'"

Through the culture of their surroundings and influences from media, The Familiars were able to find their voices and ways to express themselves.

"I'm passionate about individualism and self-expression. Everybody's in their head. We perceive a certain world, and art is an amazing way to allow people to see your world," said Marinaro. "I'm not trying to force anyone to do anything, but it's an invitation to enter my world and see things how I see things and enjoy them the way I do."



# Helen Rucker

Illustration by Malia Savella



The Lutrinae would like to congratulate Helen Rucker on the renaming of the Black Student Success Center to the Helen Rucker Center for Black Excellence.

# The Batman takes a new spin on the classic DC vigilante



Story by Daniel Gallo  
Illustration by Malia Savella

“The Batman” is a visceral reinvention of the caped crusader, bringing the popular DC comics character back to his initial roots as the world’s greatest detective.

Director Matt Reeves created the most disturbing Gotham in the franchise’s history, highlighting the deep-rooted corruption and violence that plagues the city’s law enforcement and political institutions.

Robert Pattinson plays a young and vengeful Batman that finds himself in the second year of his crime-fighting mission, trying to solve the murders and clues left by a new serial killer known as The Riddler, played by Paul Dano.

Reeves built a different Bruce Wayne, a reclusive billionaire instead of the vibrant playboy seen in previous incarnations. Batman is his true self, and Pattinson delivers a captivating performance, expressing a range of emotions with his eyes alone.

With the help of lieutenant Commissioner Gordon played by Jeffrey Wright, the Dark Knight attempts to solve a string of connected murders, creating the atmosphere of a psychological crime noir.

Zoë Kravitz brings a comic-accurate portrayal of Catwoman. Selina Kyle looks as if she leapt out of a Frank Miller graphic novel.

The film is a point-of-view-driven story spent behind the eyes of the morally conflicted vigilante. This Batman makes mistakes and grapples with substantial mental trauma.

The stand-out performance is Colin Farrell as the Penguin, stealing scenes with comedic timing and sarcasm.

Composer Michael Giacchino’s score is menacing and hopeful, creating an iconic new Batman theme.

Gotham City feels alive thanks to cinematographer Greig Fraser, and there’s attention to detail in every frame, colorful shots mixed with dark backgrounds.

For superhero fans and those that appreciate cinema, “The Batman” is an engaging adventure from start to finish.

## Upcoming Events

### DIY Cereal Madness

**March 7** Head to the Dining Commons anytime from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a customizable snacking cereal option.

### Mindfulness Monday

**March 7** Join East Campus in a Zoom event from 5 to 6 p.m. to destress and talk about ways to take care of your mental health this midterm season.

### International Womxn’s Day

**March 7** The Otter Cross Cultural Center will be celebrating womxn who have made significant contributions to gender equity, feminist practices and intersectional approaches to their work and activism. They will be holding a panel and Q&A with the hosts of the podcast Asian Boss Girl, starting at 5:30 p.m.

### Time Management and Study Tips Workshop

**March 8** The Center for Student Success will be hosting a workshop to help students improve time management skills and learn new study tips. Head to room 223 of building 506 from 11 a.m. to noon or online from 6 to 7 p.m.

### Guess That Flag!

**March 9** Put your LGBTQIA+ flag knowledge to the test in a Zoom trivia night from 6 to 7 p.m. The first, second and third place winners will win prizes. All participants will receive a small prize.

### “Talking Story” with Dean Barkhoff

**March 9** Join the College of Health Sciences and Human Services on Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to chat about how things are going this semester.

# Elden Ring is the best FromSoftware game to date

## 8-Bit

Story and screenshots by Arianna Nalbach  
Illustration by Malia Savella

“Rise, Tarnished, and be guided by grace to brandish the power of the Elden Ring and become an Elden Lord in the Lands Between.”

The first line of “Elden Ring’s” description, found on the Steam, Xbox and Playstation stores perfectly sets the scene for the game.

Fans of FromSoftware games have been eagerly awaiting “Elden Ring’s” release, ever since it was initially announced at the 2019 E3 convention. “Elden Ring” came out for Xbox, Playstation and PC players on Feb. 25 and fans were eager to finally play the game.

The game can be purchased for \$59.99, or the deluxe edition can be purchased for \$79.99. The deluxe edition comes with a digital artbook and soundtrack.

“Elden Ring” has received nearly flawless ratings across the board, from reviewers to casual players. “Elden Ring” has definitely lived up to the hype created around it for the past three years.

As to be expected from any FromSoftware game, “Elden Ring” has its fair share of challenges and will by no means be an easy game to beat. FromSoftware is maintaining their reputation of producing difficult games, from their most popular titles like “Dark Souls,” “Bloodborne,” and “Sekiro.”

“Elden Ring” has now joined the lineup of memorable games from the studio and is their best title to date. From outstanding visuals, interesting gameplay mechanics and a powerful soundtrack, “Elden Ring” has almost everything you could ask for in a game.

Like many other FromSoftware games, “Elden Ring” accounts for a multitude of different playstyles. There are 10 starting classes, with a mix of different melee, magic, and ranged starting builds. Regardless of starting class, players are able to further customize their character as they figure out how they want to play the game.

Past FromSoftware games have had somewhat clear paths that players should follow, but “Elden Ring” is completely open-world. While the story does still suggest what way you should go to progress in the game, you can spend hours just exploring the area and encountering tons of optional dungeons, bosses and enemies.

“Elden Ring” has also introduced a mount to the game, making traversing the vast open-world environment much easier. In previous FromSoftware games, players had to cross the map on foot, but “Elden Ring” gives you a horse-like creature named Torrent to accompany you on your journeys.

In comparison to other FromSoftware games, progression and scaling also feels a bit slower paced. Players who fully explore the open-world will be rewarded with better upgrades and be better prepared to enter the required boss fights. “Elden Ring” encourages players to explore the environment, versus just rushing from boss to boss.



Another key feature to “Elden Ring,” is the multiplayer aspect. “Elden Ring’s” multiplayer functions similarly to “Dark Souls.” Players can briefly see phantoms of other players running through the area. You can also read messages left from other players, creating a sense of community within the game.

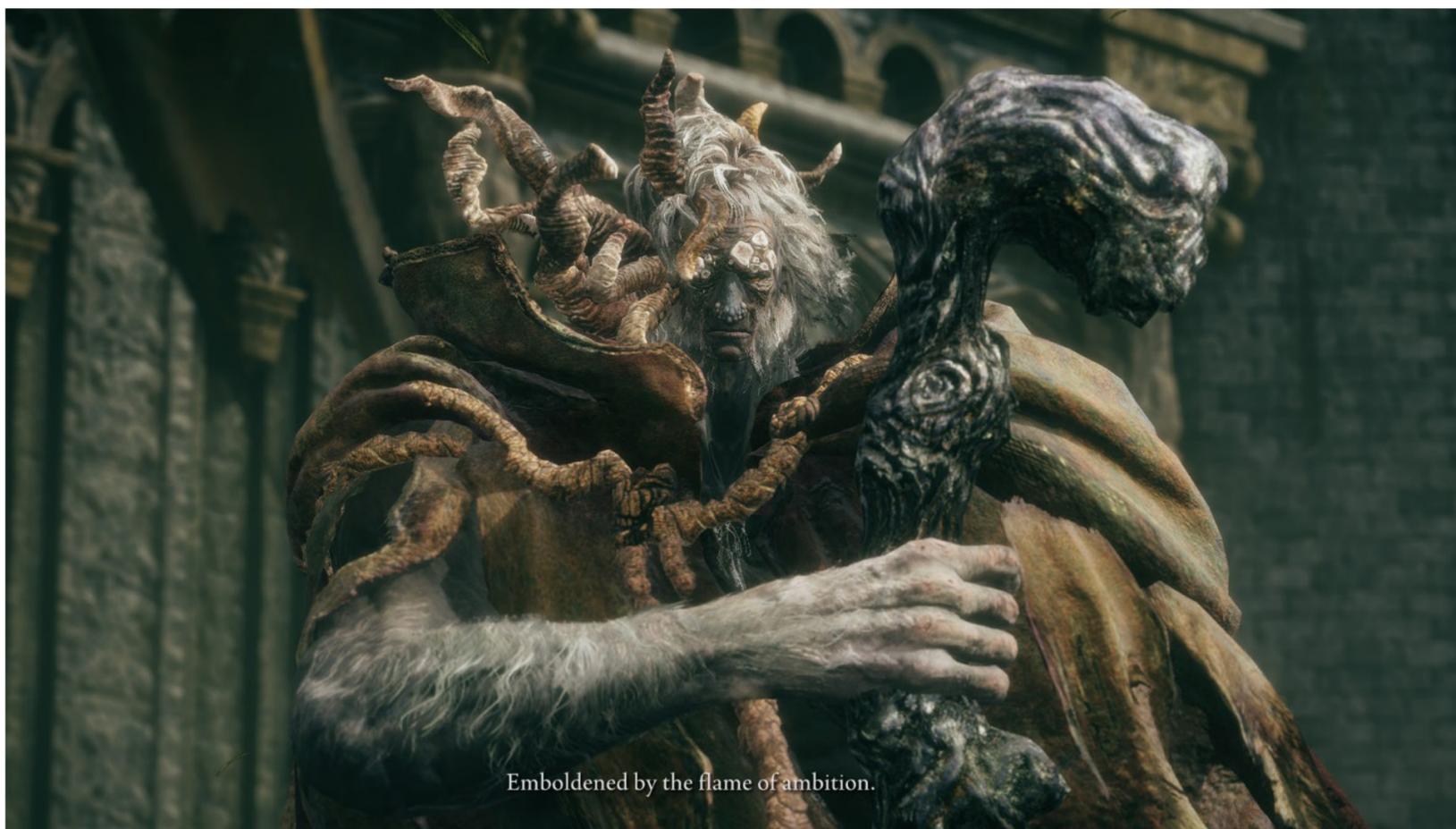
After beating a boss, you can often find messages from other players, celebrating finally beating the boss. You can also find funny messages throughout the map, or hints from other players to help you progress the game.

While you can beat “Elden Ring” single-handedly, the game encourages you to summon players from other worlds to join you for short periods of time in restricted areas of the map. Summoning other players will

(hopefully) make beating bosses, dungeons and difficult enemies easier. When summoning another player as a cooperator, they will stay in your world until one of you dies or if you beat the boss.

Similar to the “Dark Souls” series, “Elden Ring” has a fairly cryptic story for the player to unveil as they progress through the game. It leaves many things vague and up to the player’s interpretation.

“Elden Ring” is definitely worth checking out, as long as you aren’t opposed to a challenge. From unique bosses, a gorgeous environment and a cryptic story, you won’t want to miss out on “Elden Ring.”



Emboldened by the flame of ambition.

# Community vigil Photos by Bryan Chavez



Can you unscramble these ocean-related words to reveal their true meaning?

leawh

hsfi

krsha

enirambus

nihpdol

elgaa

terot

teeanma

ele

tonkpaln

				7				
	7			1	5		3	
	5	2		4				
2		7				1	5	3
	4					2	6	
3							4	
		5		6	1			
						7	1	6
				9	2			

Answers:

4	8	3	6	2	7	5	9	1
6	7	9	8	1	5	4	3	2
1	5	2	3	4	9	6	7	8
2	6	7	9	8	4	1	5	3
5	4	8	1	7	3	2	6	9
3	9	1	2	5	6	8	4	7
8	3	5	7	6	1	9	2	4
9	2	4	5	3	8	7	1	6
7	1	6	4	9	2	3	8	5

Whale, Shark,  
Dolphin, Otter, Eel,  
Fish, Submarine,  
Algae, Manatee,  
Plankton