

Honoring our Lutrinae graduates



PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

Maxfield English and Keira Silver Contributing Writers

Each semester, we say goodbye to members of the Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) campus, and with their graduation, the loss is felt. We here at the Lutrinae feel this as well as we bid farewell to some of our veteran staff members who have made major contributions to the newsroom.

Journalism can be scary to approach as a newcomer, but the apparent confidence our graduating members have brought to the Lutrinae newsroom makes it easy to enter. They were leaders.



Chris Hamilton - Staff Writer

Hamilton first joined the Lutrinae looking to gain additional writing experience in the field of journalism. As a global studies major with a minor in journalism, he found the principles of the field to apply to the learning curriculum of his major. “I felt like it was very abstract, but dealt with ideas that I was really interested in,” Hamilton said.

One of his favorite pieces from his time on the Lutrinae is his article on sustainability practices on campus. Hamilton notes that this story took him two months to research and write, as he detailed the bureaucracy of the CSUs and CSUMB that halted many sustainability measures.

Hamilton’s plans after graduation include applying for several opportunities beyond CSUMB. He hopes to perhaps secure a reporting job at the Monterey Herald or apply to grad school and study global studies or geography. He included that he plans on working seasonal jobs in the Yosemite area while he keeps applying for jobs in the news industry.

Keira and I are new additions to the staff, but my experience specifically started with Hamilton. I had been very nervous to come to a Lutrinae meeting, but after attending I had the chance to work with Hamilton on my first story.

The experience was outside of my comfort zone, but he made it very simple to work through, providing clear direction about the writing as well as what we needed to do at the event. It seemed like he knew what to do and how to respond to people professionally.

On that first assignment, the speaker of the event was an award-winning author, but Hamilton had been able to not only find him quickly but also ensure we would have an interview before the author could leave.

One thing that stood out that Chris told us was to “be on foot, on campus, talk to people, ‘what are you worried about?’”



Andrea Valadez - Editor-in-Chief (2023-2024)

Back in the fall of 2022, Valadez took a class called Intro to Journalism with the Lutrinae’s current advisor, Dave Kel-

logg. With an extensive passion for reading and writing, Valadez soon discovered that journalism was a powerful “vessel” for sharing stories. “It felt really beautiful to me,” Valadez said. With encouragement from Kellogg, she joined the Lutrinae and fell in love with the field of journalism.

Valadez first started with the campus newspaper when the entire staff consisted of about five or six members. Today the Lutrinae has about 20 staff members and contributing writers. After writing for the paper, she became the editor-in-chief in 2023.

Valadez currently works as a part-time reporter for the Monterey Herald, the county’s daily newspaper. She will join the staff full-time after her graduation this semester. Later on, her plans include being a reporter at a larger newspaper such as The New York Times or pursuing grad school in a few years.

She would love to be a political correspondent, as her interest in politics has developed with current events. “I care a lot about the information people get from politics, especially nowadays,” she said.

As the former editor-in-chief of the Lutrinae, Valadez would also like to explore the career path of editing. “I just really loved seeing writers progress and being able to help people develop their craft,” she said.



Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez - Staff Writer

Oscar Daniel Jimenez Iniguez’s interest in journalism had started with his love of football, but that interest quickly evolved with further experience. He was also in Kellogg’s class with Valadez and was later recruited by then-Lutrinae editors Arianna Nalbach and Hayley Graham in the fall of 2022. His passion for journalism was piqued after realizing “it was beautiful... [getting] to tell people’s stories, being a vessel.”

Jimenez’s plans have been inspired by the blue vest reporters of past wars, from tours in Vietnam to the more modern conflicts of Ukraine. Following their footsteps, Jimenez was taken by farmers’ struggles in the Korean Demilitarized Zone while studying abroad in South Korea. He was recently accepted to Yonsei University. He will travel to Seoul, where he will attend a program he describes as “the Harvard of Korea.”

Jimenez’s reporting work started with the Monterey Bay campus, beginning with campus events and turning into pieces such as introspection on the Colombian-Venezuelan border. His passion for uplifting community voices was shown in his articles, seen recently when he contributed to a response article after the presidential election, or when Jimenez wrote an article with Hamilton on the Time, Place, and Manner protest guidelines introduced across college campuses in the fall.

The article provided the do’s and don’ts of peaceful protest on campus. The election article brought in voices from many clubs across the campus that could be impacted due to the outcome of the 2024 election.

Above all, Jimenez cares, not just about the campus, or

the Lutrinae, but about people. If you were to attend one of the past news budget meetings for the Lutrinae, there was a good chance you would have heard Jimenez make the whole room laugh. As he once said, “The world is yours.”



Maxwelle Tartaglia - Staff Writer

Computer science major Maxwelle Tartaglia first joined the Lutrinae hoping to continue her writing skills. As a journalism minor, she wanted to extend her writing skills to the end of her computer science degree. “[I] wanted to ensure that by the end of my academic career, I still knew how to write,” she said.

Tartaglia has been with the Lutrinae for three years. During this time, she has created many wonderful memories and wrote several articles, including her popular section on monthly horoscopes. She saw this horoscope section as an outlet besides event reporting.

“I started writing horoscopes after I noticed that the staff writer before me who used to do it had graduated,” Tartaglia shared. “I have always been interested in astrology as a hobby and think it is just a silly way to express yourself and have fun.”

As a staff writer, she has enjoyed the opportunities and flexibility the role has provided. “I attended a lot of useful informational [events] and workshops that contributed toward my own professional development,” she said. Her favorite articles that she has written for the paper include her review columns, her article on the play “Clue” by The Performing Otters, and event coverage from Basic Needs events.

Because her busy schedule kept her from attending many meetings in person, Tartaglia appreciated getting to meet the rest of the Lutrinae staff during team events. Her favorite memory from her time on the paper was the Escape Room adventure to commemorate the end of the year.

“I do not typically get the chance to interact with the team in person, so it was a very fun experience to get to know everyone while also trying to solve puzzles and escape,” she shared.

Tartaglia’s plans after her upcoming graduation include exploring various career paths in writing or the tech industry. She is considering attending graduate school to further enhance her skills for future employers. “I hope to combine my love for writing and creativity with my technical skills to be happy with whatever career I can find,” she said.

Tartaglia credits the Lutrinae for her growth as a writer and as an outlet for connecting to the CSUMB community. She would like to thank the Lutrinae’s readers for letting the staff share their stories and continuing to be devoted readers of the paper. “I want to take this opportunity to thank the Lutrinae for being such an incredible part of my college experience,” she shared.

Congratulations to all of our graduates! We will miss you all, but we wish you the best of luck in your futures.

Resident advisors reflect

With housing at max capacity this semester, resident advisors have had to face new challenges.



‘Wicked’ movie review

Are you defying gravity? Read Francine and Hayley’s review of this musical movie.



December Horoscopes

Read your horoscope for the month of December!



Beginning the holiday season with the second annual Winter Night Market

Chris Hamilton
Staff Writer

With festive music, steaming hot cocoa and plenty of shoppers ready to buy, it appeared that the holiday season had finally begun at the second annual Winter Night Market, on Thursday, Dec. 5.

The market, located in Cal State Monterey Bay’s (CSUMB) Otter Student Union Ballroom, had 127 attendees registered, but in reality, there were likely over 200 in attendance, as passersby stopped in to have a look.

Of the roughly 40 small vendors set up in the ballroom, one could find an immense variety of handicrafts, art pieces and sweet treats available for purchase.

The Winter Night Market, “was a really big hit last year, which is why we brought it back—and it’s doing just as well,” said Amber Dimassimo, of Associated Students which partnered with CSUMB’s Institute for Innovation and Economic Development (IIED), Student Engagement & Leadership Development and the Entrepreneurship Club to make the event happen.

While the Night Market also drew small businesses from the surrounding community, a large portion of the vendors were students, like first-year biology major Alicia Daniels, founder of “Alicia’s Crochet.” It was Daniels’ first time selling crochet crafts at a school event.

“Everyone’s really nice and friendly...happy to be in the holiday season,” said Daniels, after selling a crochet beanie to one shopper.

Indeed this was a major goal of the event – to inspire and elevate aspiring student entrepreneurs at CSUMB – according to Rosalyn Sandoval, assistant professor of entrepreneurship and management.

“It’s hard to be a business,” Sandoval said. To help reduce some of the entry barriers for new business owners, the Winter Night Market allowed vendors to sell without business licenses or take a cut of their earnings.

“It’s a really great experience for [student vendors],” Sandoval said.

Fifth-year visual public art major, Tristan Bochum, who



PHOTO BY ELLIOT ROWE

was selling prints, comics and tote bags, described the Night Market as both “very relaxed and very professional.”

“I think it’s a great opportunity for students to actually dip their toes into the sort of professional market aspect,” Bochum said.

This wide variety of vendors and products sold at the Night Market seemed to be appreciated by shoppers in attendance, like third-year psychology major Amaye Munoz, who described it as, “very diverse, accepting and creative.”

“I bought a bunch of freeze-dried snacks and this cinnamon and churro glazed waffle...[the Night Market] is great, it’s very vibrant and there’re a lot more shops than the farmers market,” said first-year marine science major Damien Velasquez.

As Velasquez said this, the student ensemble performing mellow holiday tunes took a break, and was replaced by a lone guitarist’s acoustic, instrumental rendition of Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit.”

All of the musicians performing at the Night Market were students from the Music Production and Artist Development class, and similar to the aspiring entrepreneurs, used the event as an easy way to share their craft with their peers in a welcoming environment.

“It’s student-driven. It’s their art, their arrangements, their ideas center stage and that’s what makes it special,” said Jeffery Jones, instructor of the class.

“It’s definitely a supportive community,” said third-year music major, Brandon James, who was on piano and vocals. Indeed, for musicians, entrepreneurs and shoppers alike, this supportive environment seemed to be a common theme.

For MaryJo Zenk of IIED, who was involved in finding the vendors, the apparent success of Thursday’s event followed a simple formula: “One, you’re supporting local vendors. Two you’re able to start your holiday shopping. And three, you’re bringing people together to start the holiday season.”

CSUMB hosts Eggs After Dark



PHOTO BY MADDIE HONOMICHL

Keira Silver
Contributing Writer

As a way to help students relax before finals, Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) hosted its Eggs After Dark event last week, offering free breakfast, games, raffles and more.

The event occurs at the end of every semester as a kickoff to finals season. This semester’s theme was Under the Sea, and the event was given the subtitle “Monte’s Underwater Rager.” During the event, students participated in giveaways, a pancake-flipping contest and music from a live DJ. The event was organized by the Student Housing and Residential Life Programming and Involvement Board (SHRL).

Katherine Caballero, a third-year psychology major and student assistant for the SHRL, is the event lead, and it is her third semester participating in Eggs After Dark. “It’s just to remember that even though finals might be a little bit stressful, we still have a community around us,” she said. “It’s really fun.”

According to Caballero, there have been successful partnerships with on-campus departments. She believes this always instills the same community aspect on campus.

“We had a lot more involvement with Otter Kitchens, as well as other departments here on campus,” she said. “I really like that, and I really love how every year it’s a little bit different.”

Caballero and the SHRL Programming Board enjoy receiving student advice and feedback on Eggs After Dark. Suggestions for this particular event can be sent to shrl-programming@csumb.edu.

“We try to get student advice on what they want to see on the menu, what types of themes they want to have, what giveaways they want to see,” Caballero said.

Joshelyn Martin, assistant director for Programming and Engagement in student housing, has helped with this event since last fall and has seen it evolve.

According to Martin, the event has been held for 20 years and has become increasingly immersive with each theme. Decorations and volunteer outfits now align with the theme, and organizers hope to extend the concept to the menu in the future. “I think that as we go forward, the menu will hopefully reflect more of that theme so that it feels very special to what the vibe might be,” Martin said. “I am also more hopeful that more students know about it.”

Martin also recognizes the partnerships that have formed from organizing the event. Various departments and organizations on campus are trying to make the event more accessible for commuter students and to help Eggs After Dark grow in size.

The event saw its largest post-pandemic turnout this semester, with 650 students attending. Before COVID-19, attendance ranged from 700 to 750 students. Martin believes Eggs After Dark remains one of the most popular events on campus.

According to Martin, the event was organized by a team of dedicated staff. Many of them start their days at 8 a.m. and stay throughout the evening. “I am very appreciative of all of the campus partners (and) staff that have volunteered for this event,” she shared. “I hope students recognize that time and effort.”

the Lutrinae

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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The *Lutrinae* serves two purposes: It is a training ground for students who wish to develop journalism skills and build their resume, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. The *Lutrinae* Editorial team will determine what to print and reserves the right to edit for libel, space, or clarity.

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Resident advisors at CSUMB reflect on a semester at full capacity

Layna Hughes
Contributing Writer

In response to the influx of applications this semester, Cal State Monterey Bay (CSUMB) extended its enrollment limit, admitting more students than it had in seven years.

With the incoming class being larger than usual, student housing reached maximum capacity, creating new challenges for resident advisors (RAs) across campus.

Sophia Angelo, a fourth year in the teaching credential program, has been an RA at CSUMB for three years. As a self-proclaimed “veteran” of North Quad housing, she’s faced many firsts this semester.

“I’ve had the most residents I’ve ever had,” Angelo said. “I had a freshman this year. I’ve never had a freshman resident before, ever. All my residents have been sophomores or juniors.”

With housing being full, many residents were placed in unconventional housing. A handful of students were assigned to East Campus’ Schoonover Parks I and II, housing usually reserved for CSUMB employees.

New requirements for roommate agreements, a contract of non-negotiables created at the beginning of the semester by roommates, were also created by Student Housing and Residential Life in response to housing being full.

“We had to have the agreements in person with each room,” said Angelo. “The room had to have a roommate agreement, or they got written up. That’s brand new—we’ve never had that before.”

While these agreements added to RAs’ workload, first-year RA Riley Siruno, a third-year liberal studies major, believes they were critical.

“Having housing at maximum capacity emphasized the importance of roommate agreements and roommate mediation,” Siruno said. “It was really important for RAs to create detailed roommate agreements with residents and their roommates at the beginning of the semester.”

Prioritizing roommate agreements was done by student housing to try and solve problems before they began. . However, first-year RA Ian Buchanan, a second-year environmental science major, noted that more residents inevitably led to more disputes, especially in freshman housing.

“There has been an increase in roommate conflicts, which translates into angry parents—which isn’t always my favorite,” Buchanan said. “I would credit this toward there being more residents, meaning higher chances of roommate conflicts, especially in these tiny dorms.”

The full-capacity housing also made it more difficult for students to transfer rooms. According to Angelo, the necessary process for a room change is typically that a conflict occurs, a mediation is held with an RA present during which adjustments are made to their roommate agreement and if the new rules are broken a supervisor is contacted about a room change.

However, with there being little space left over due to more student residents, gaining approval for room changes has been harder.

“This year it’s been worse, honestly,” Angelo said, “In the years before we’d go through all the steps, they’d request a room change and they’d get it, but this year it’s been worse because of how active it is.”

Although room changes have been harder to grant this semester, some were deemed necessary. “There have been a few extreme roommate conflicts that resulted in immediate room switches because of safety hazards,” Buchanan said.



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

What is your holiday tradition?



Hayley Matto
Contributing Writer



Hadley Joedicke

Third-year humanities and communications major

“My holiday tradition with my mom’s side of the family is that we make 20 different types of cookies, and engorge on every single one. But since moving to California from Missouri, I haven’t gotten to visit [them] every year. My dad and I usually travel somewhere in California to find snow and go skiing!”



Michael Evans

Third-year humanities and communications major

“As kids, on Christmas Eve my siblings and all my cousins would each take a turn reading a page from the children’s book ‘The Night Before Christmas.’ My grandma would provide gingerbread houses for all 12 of us to build! On Christmas morning all of us kids would lay out our blankets and set up our designated gift opening spot before painfully each taking turns one at a time opening our presents. As adults we now all take turns every year cooking the same dinner of French onion soup on Christmas Eve, giving tasting notes to the newest attemptee each year.”



Daniella Morales Garcia

Third-year humanities and communications major

“My favorite holiday tradition is decorating for Christmas with my family. My favorite part is always decorating the tree!”

Holding space for ‘Wicked’



SCREENSHOTS PROVIDED BY HAYLEY MATTO

Francine Pamplona and Hayley Matto
Staff and Contributing Writer

Few adaptations capture the heart of a beloved musical while elevating its story for the big screen, but “Wicked” achieves just that. Based on the 2003 stage production that remains a theater classic, director Jon M. Chu delivers an enchanting blend of song, story and spectacle. This film is a must-watch for both die-hard fans and newcomers.

Even as a musical theater lover, I (Francine) somehow missed out on the “Wicked” phenomenon – until now. Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo bring such depth and complexity to Glinda and Elphaba, moving audiences to tears with their character growth and friendship development. Grande impresses her fanbase and skeptical “Wicked” lovers with a captivating performance, reflecting her life-long dedication to her childhood dream of playing Glinda. Meanwhile, Erivo brought her characteristic power and nuance to Elphaba, adding an extra layer of awe with her ability to perform flying stunts while singing live in the air.

Following the “beautifully tragic” upbringing of Elphaba Thropp, a wickedly green girl who is ostracized by her family and society throughout her life, ends up being roommates with Galinda Upland at school. The audience is taken along the journey of watching the two develop their friendship, all while the government of Oz is up to no good removing animals from society. Elphaba and Glinda follow what they assume is the path to helping the animals and meeting the Wizard. However, nothing is as it seems, the magic of the Wizard is more of a facade than fantastic. In this discovery, we get to see how Elphaba becomes what fans of “The Wizard of Oz” know her as, the Wicked Witch of the West, and how Glinda becomes the Good Witch of the North.

Beyond the impressive performances, the costuming deserves its own spotlight. Glinda’s wardrobe is a fairytale dream – pink dresses and glimmering accessories perfectly reflect her bubbly personality. On the other hand, Elphaba’s costumes evolve with her character, moving from

modest dresses to striking, witchy silhouettes that mirror her journey toward self-acceptance and confidence. Every stitch tells a story, from the polished uniforms of Shiz University to the rich vibrancy of Emerald City attire.

The musical numbers are nothing short of mesmerizing. Whether it’s the joyous exploration of Emerald City in “One Short Day” or the emotional weight of the ballroom scene during the ebbs and flows of “Dancing Through Life,” each number feels like its own small masterpiece that you need to watch every moving part of. The flashy choreography combined with the live singing showcases an extraordinary level of pure talent that keeps audiences completely in awe.

Hayley here, and I couldn’t agree more with Francine! This film does a wonderful job of not re-imagining, but evolving the 2003 Broadway rendition into an expertly crafted storytelling experience. Chu made incredible decisions in recreating the world of Oz, by using practical stage effects and very limited CGI movie magic, keeping the authenticity of a Broadway production alive.

While simultaneously paying homage to the original Wizard of Oz film, Chu captures this subtly in ways like the film’s saturation and coloring. He mimics the original Wizard of Oz saturation and lighting in order to maintain the feeling that the audience is in the same universe as the beloved original tale. All creative choices were made to pay respect and consideration to both stories that came before this one. Something that for me, a major theater lover, tips this movie over the top. This is a feat many re-tellings aren’t capable of doing successfully for die-hard fans.

Speaking of the die-hard fans, this film is full of Easter eggs! Without issuing a spoiler, I highly encourage you to keep a keen eye out for all the turns of phrase, poses, and not-so-subtle object placements. Everything done in this film is done with some serious intention!

For the music enthusiasts, please revel in the melodies that find their way seamlessly weaving from the original



“Wizard of Oz” to ‘Wicked’ on Broadway, and now to the big screen. Grande’s and Erivo’s vocals both impressively embody Glinda and Elphaba making the characters their own, yet somehow familiar to the beloved versions that came before them. Grande all but ditched the popstar style for this performance, truly becoming this generation’s Glinda.

With that, we “rejoiceify” in giving this movie a five out of five rating, our highest of the semester! A perfect way to conclude the fall semester, with our only complaint being that we must wait until next fall to see part two.

Bringing heat to the dead of winter: ‘GNX’ by Kendrick Lamar



Sean Tubo
Staff Writer

If “GNX” had been released in May, it would have been the sound of the summer. But two weeks after its late-November debut, it’s bringing the same heat to the dead of winter.

Kendrick Lamar already captured the popular consciousness this summer during his beef with fellow rapper Drake. In many ways, “GNX” feels like a continuation of the bold, confrontational energy found in tracks like “Not Like Us” and “euphoria.”

The album’s tone is clear in “man at the garden,” where Lamar takes on a sincere and genuinely reflectful tone only to conclude, unapologetically, that he does deserve it all – a refrain repeated throughout the track.

Between the Spanish samples and references to the Dodgers, the album is clearly inspired by his home city of Los Angeles, and while more cultured writers could trace the artistic influence of each song directly, the overall effect is clear.

It’s full of absolute bangers.

“squabble up” and “tv off” lead the charge, claiming the No. 1 and 2 spots on the Billboard charts as of writing. Like “Not Like Us,” they demand radio play with punchy, fun beats that are impossible not to get excited about. When Lamar screams “mustard” (referring to popular



SCREENSHOT PROVIDED BY SEAN TUBO

producer DJ Mustard) during the beat switch on “tv off,” it’s not just a transition— it’s a battle cry.

But those aren’t the only standouts. Tracks like “peeka-bo,” “gnx,” “hey now” and “luther” all hold their own as smooth, confident tracks. Any one of them could dominate the charts as a single. Having so many hits packed into one album feels almost unfair.

There is, however, a trade-off. “GNX” is not nearly as artistically or narratively complex as some of Lamar’s earlier projects. While his last album, Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers, faced criticism for not having enough radio-friendly hits, “GNX” feels like a direct rebuttal to that critique.

Kendrick does touch on his story-telling abilities for a few tracks. The opener, “wacc’d out murals,” is probably the timeliest song on the album, addressing everything from the aftermath of his beef with Drake to COVID-19 and Project 2025. It skirts the line between energetic and politically charged, making it a tone-setter for the rest of the album.

The standout for me, though, is the Tupac-inspired track “reincarnated.” Here, Lamar traces his own spiritual evolution through the lives of previous Black icons, framing himself as a fallen angel akin to Lucifer before ending in a confrontation and a conversation with God.

It’s bold and experimental in a way that is both entirely expected from Lamar and no less impressive for it. Which of course doesn’t make it any less listenable. It’s the song I’ve found myself coming back to most over my many listens, enjoying peeling back new layers each time.

“GNX” is focused and direct in a way that feels welcome right now, almost slapping you in the face with its message. This is not a hard album to understand. What it is, is an album you can play wherever you want and not stop smiling for the next 40 minutes. Sometimes, that’s more than enough.

Rejuvenation after a finals slog: Rosine’s

Local Finds



PHOTOS BY MAXFIELD ENGLISH

Maxfield English
Contributing Writer

With finals season intensifying, students often find themselves facing the most difficult portion of the semester. For those in need of a break, Rosine’s, a family-style American and Italian restaurant in Monterey, may provide much-needed relaxation.

Rosine’s has been family-owned and operated since 1980, delivering quality service and food for 44 years. In an industry known for its challenges, Rosine’s enduring success speaks volumes about its consistent excellence. Namely, the attention to detail within their restaurant, which had begun decorating recently for the holiday season and was kept clean throughout.

The dining area is both inviting and thoughtfully designed. A raised balcony on one side provides cozy booth seating for intimate occasions, while the central floor caters to larger groups, often filled with families enjoying hearty meals and lively conversation. Music from nearby Alvarado Street occasionally drifts through the open French windows leading to Rosine’s outside seating, adding to the relaxed ambiance.

While it may vary depending on when you go, or the size of your party, the service during my most recent visit was stellar. I was seated immediately, my order taken promptly and my first and second courses arrived within minutes. While an empty restaurant may speak to a lack of appeal, during my meal it seemed not to be the case. After I was seated, the restaurant filled with patrons, primarily middle-aged couples enjoying a weekend treat. This was very in line with the experience, people came for the ability to share a hearty meal in a space filled with energy.

Under the Culcasi name, they have received acclaim from various sources, including the Monterey Herald and the renowned Guy Fieri. The latter featured the restaurant on his show “Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives,” where he praised their minestrone, stating it was “without question, one of



the craziest minestrone I’ve ever seen.” Among the many visits I’ve taken, some with family, and some with friends, the minestrone has always been a highlight on the menu.

One course pairing that worked exceptionally well was the minestrone with the fettuccine alfredo. Rosine’s uses a delightfully rich and thick alfredo sauce that the minestrone cuts through in the best way possible. The fettuccine noodles were cooked to al dente and were wonderful texture-wise.

Another difficulty would be the price. While the portions are generous, and it isn’t exceedingly expensive, a full meal and dessert came out to just under \$50 and didn’t account for their entree menu, which can raise the price. After sampling this menu, it was certainly delicious, but items start at \$21 and can cost more. This can be hard to justify given the

budget many college students are operating on.

Contrary to the high prices of the dinner menu, Rosine’s dessert is almost underpriced relative to the size of its portions, paired with the impressive quality it delivers. Their dessert selection is extensive, but my personal favorite has to be their take on chocolate black forest cake, which they usually price at \$10 a slice. It has a creamy chocolate ganache filling and goes well with the maraschino cherries the cake was topped with. This price is well worth it, as the portions are large and their pastries are simply delicious.

If your relaxation requires leaving Rosine’s however, outside is the beautiful Alvarado Street, which hosts many interesting shops, museums, and people to experience. As one patron I spoke with stated enthusiastically, “This is more than a restaurant to me, it’s a tradition.”

Time Log

Serenity Mosqueda
Student Submission

Will my love be warm again?
The passion once had with sobbing from us
From the loss of a love so bright

Does a fire burn brighter with two logs?
Or does it simply leave all in ashes, the spark unable to warm
both at once

Was I even cold?
Or was I fearing the coming winter, unfamiliar with how to
adapt
Ultimately throwing all to flame, my memories smoking with it

Will you ever burn again?
I cannot see a fire without your smile branding my brain
A mark that reminds me of the consequences of arson

Will I know how to sustain a fire in my lifetime?
Or will I continue smelling of oak
An ash trail left behind for all to see



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

Breakfast in Tuscany

Addison Ryne
Photo of the Week Winner

Shakshouka, breakfast potatoes and mimosas made with love



Photo of the Week

Looking to showcase your photography? Enter our ongoing photo contest throughout Volume 8 for a chance to have your work featured in our weekly issues. Check out our Instagram [@thelutrinae](#) for more details!





Small Business Gift Guide



Support your local business and artists
this holiday season!



**Siren
Records**

Vinyl, CDs, Cassettes & Posters

527 Ramona Ave, Monterey
Open everyday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Plants, Decor & Gifts

1098 Del Monte Ave, Monterey
Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(closed on Tues)



**Dirty Girl
Plant Co.**



**Book
Works**

Books, Cards, Puzzles, Games & Gifts

667 Lighthouse Ave, Pacific Grove
Open everyday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mugs, Jewelry, Decor & Ornaments

550 Lighthouse Ave A, Monterey
Open Fri & Thurs 2 to 6 p.m.
Sat noon to 6 p.m.



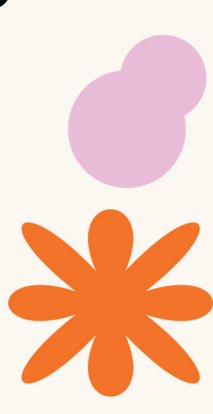
**Casey
Starks
Studios**



**Studio
171**

Art, Decor, Clothes, Jewelry & Stickers

171 Forest Ave, Pacific Grove
Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(closed on Tues)



December Horoscopes

Maxwelle Tartaglia
Staff Writer



ILLUSTRATION BY ZOE KAPP

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Aries! This month brings a change of pace for you. Known for your quick and energetic nature, you might find yourself embracing a slower beat, allowing you the chance to revisit and refine personal and professional goals. Around the middle of the month, take the opportunity to shift your focus toward relationships and creative pursuits. The rewards of your hard work in self-reflection will become evident by the end of the month.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)

Leo, this December is about finding balance! Your typical fire can be manipulated to fuel your creative passions, but make sure to balance it with introspection and connection during this time. Early on, you may feel pulled to revisit past efforts or relationships. Try to do your best to avoid these urges as they are spontaneous and irrational. By practicing self-control, near the full moon at the midpoint of the month, your clarity will begin to return.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Sagittarius, this December pushed you to explore fresh ideas while clearing lingering doubts from the past year. Early in the month, challenges may slow you down, but they're opportunities in disguise, helping you recalibrate. After resting, you may find yourself filled with momentum to pursue personal ambitions, namely within your career field.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

This December will push you to revisit any unfinished business you may have left behind recently. You may be nervous to hear that this December is a time for seemingly burdensome emotional growth. Just try to focus on letting go of anything that is not currently serving you and you will find the period of self-reflection to have been worth it. Consider focusing on financial matters nearing the end of the month as practical solutions and long-term success appear to be on your horizon.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

This December, Virgo, you are encouraged to focus on finding a balance between your personal life and professional life. Recognize areas in your life where you may feel burnt out and take the time to rest. Allow yourself to take part in hobbies that you have not touched in recent times.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

This is a productive month for you, Capricorn. In terms of both self-growth and professional development. December invites you to engage with introspection, beginning with a focus on tying up loose ends and revisiting past priorities. You may feel a surge of confidence nearing the end of the month, use this energy to step into a leadership stance and advance yourself professionally.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

This month offers you a mix of reflection and new opportunities, Gemini! Consider using this time to revisit past ideas and relationships with a whole new perspective. You may feel frustrated at the beginning of this month as your communication skills could feel weaker than usual. Do not fret as they should return around mid-month with a renewed energy that will carry you to the end of the month.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Libra, this December your scales tip between reflection and action. Early in the month, focus on resolving past issues and reassessing your goals, as this will pave the way for greater insight and stability. Mid-month brings fresh energy and the chance to embrace new ideas, creative pursuits, and meaningful connections. As the year ends, shift your attention to home and family, creating a foundation of harmony and stability for the year ahead.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19)

Aquarius! December invites you to take advantage of your quirky personality and revel in both your introspective and social side. The start of the month encourages connecting with groups or revisiting friendships, uncovering surprising opportunities in shared projects. Mid-month, you may feel particularly emotional and reminiscent, so take this opportunity to resolve any unconfronted tensions.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

December encourages Cancer to reflect on the past year, reorganize priorities, and prepare for a fresh start. Challenges in work, finances, or relationships may arise, but they offer opportunities to slow down, reassess, and uncover hidden strengths. Mid-month brings emotional clarity and a reminder to balance your responsibilities with self-care and downtime. As the year closes, you are looking to the future, focusing on building deeper connections and setting intentions for better relationships and personal growth with the upcoming year.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Scorpio! Now is the time to focus on transforming daily routines and reassessing long-term goals with patience and precision. Around the time of the full moon in the middle of the month, you may find yourself experiencing an emotional clarity that encourages you to strengthen your bonds with loved ones and lean into supportive communities.

Pisces (Feb. 20 - March 20)

This month is a time filled with opportunities for you, Pisces. December offers you an array of chances for growth, especially in your major goals and relationships. Career-wise, you may find yourself revisiting old projects or refining past efforts, with surprising results that strengthen your confidence and open doors to new possibilities. Socially, you may feel a renewed connection with your community, as friendships and collaborations play a key role in your personal growth.

Upcoming Events

Monday, Dec. 9

Join Project Rebound in making holiday cards for youth in Juvenile Hall. The event is a partnership between the center and Hartnell College’s Rising Scholars program. All supplies will be provided. Head to Dunes Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to make a card.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

El Centro invites you to Fiesta Navideña, a cultural Christmas tradition. Food and drinks will be provided. The event is from 11 a.m. to noon in Building 12.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

The Otter Cross Cultural Center is hosting a screeningeventof“AbbottElementary”topromote radical rest and consuming intersectional media. The watch party will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 301 in the Otter Student Union. Treats will be provided.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

The Film Club is hosting a watch party and discussion of “The Bear” from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the CAHSS Building, Room 1401. They will show the Christmas episode, “Fishes” and discuss it with a Cal State Monterey Bay Alumni who worked on the show.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Join the Film Club for a Short Film Festival to watch student-made short films from the Fall semester and past semesters. The festival starts at 7 p.m. in CAHSS 1401.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Associated Students and the International Club are hosting Trivia Night from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Otter Express. All participants play and the winners will receive prizes.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Destress with the Makerspace and join them for a LEGO night. Building starts at 7 p.m.

Puzzles

SUDOKU

In order to complete this Sudoku puzzle, you must fill in the square so that each row and column contain the numbers 1 - 9, with no repetitions within the 9x9 grid and outlined 3x3 grid.

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these winter-related words?

hto ahcotcoel

wmnsoan

nfwokleas

irpemptpenp

mdcebre

trspesne

eiclci

dtaronitsi

grdiargneeb

cei ktsagin

ANSWERS:

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

Hot chocolate, snowflake,
December, icicle,
gingerbread, snowman,
peppermint, presents,
traditions, ice skating

