

THE Grauer Gazette

No. 27

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

The Grauer School

Coming to America!

By Leyton G.

Visa processing in the United States is the formal procedure by which foreign nationals apply for permission to enter or stay in the country. The system includes two types of visas: immigrant visas (for those seeking permanent residency) and nonimmigrant visas (for temporary travel, work, study, or tourism). Typically, applicants submit a petition, attend a consular interview, undergo background checks, and wait for approvals from agencies such as the State Department and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Since his return to office in 2025, President Donald Trump has implemented a series of measures that significantly altered how visas are processed and the role of immigration policies. One of the most impactful changes has been the indefinite suspension of immigrant visa processing for citizens of 75 countries, a move justified by concerns over public assistance dependency and national

security, which affects nearly 40 percent of the world's nations and restricts many legal avenues to permanent residency.

In addition, the administration has instituted stricter screening and vetting procedures, leading to longer wait times and more rigorous background checks for all visa applicants. Embassies have reduced staffing, which has further slowed processing for document reviews and interviews.



Other policy shifts include the revocation of tens of thousands of previously issued non-immigrant visas for reasons ranging from criminal offenses to increased scrutiny over social media activity and perceived ideological misalignment.

These changes reflect a broader trend toward restrictive immigration policies that aim to reduce overall immigration flows and elevate security and economic criteria for entry. Critics argue these policies have increased backlogs, restricted family reunification, and limited opportunities for students and workers. Supporters say the measures strengthen national security and protect American labor markets. Regardless of perspective, the Trump administration's visa reforms mark a profound shift in how the United States manages their immigration system.

By Isabella M.

Since the shooting of Renne Good in Minneapolis a couple of weeks ago, there have been a series of protests against I.C.E. across the nation. Protestors have taken to the streets across the country, protesting I.C.E. Specifically in Minnesota, there has been an increase in tension between the state and federal governments.



On the 15th of January, President Donald Trump threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act to subdue protests in Minnesota. The Insurrection Act would allow the U.S. President to deploy their military domestically. In response to these threats, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison stated that he would be prepared to "contest it in court." However, there has been no official statements about whether or not the Act will

be put into effect.

On I.C.E. in Minnesota, citizens have also decided to voice their opinions. This last Friday (January 23, 2026), all across Minneapolis local businesses and schools closed for the day to protest I.C.E., with many calling it a day of truth and freedom. A march was led from the U.S. Bank Stadium to the Target Center, gathering an estimated 50,000 people, with signs such as, "I.C.E. out!" In addition to this march, other states/cities (such as LA) have held protests in solidarity with Minnesota, demanding to change I.C.E.'s role in our society.

The following day, there was a second shooting of an American citizen by an I.C.E. agent. Alex Pretti was an ICU nurse at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Minneapolis. There have been multiple videos circulating online, and two differing narratives. In summary of the videos, Alex Pretti was carrying a gun (which he was licensed to carry), and was using his phone to record CBP officers, when he was shoved by I.C.E. agent and was attacked with pepper spray before he was pushed onto the street. His gun is removed from him by another I.C.E. agent. He is then

repeatedly hit and held down by other agents before he is shot ten times in the span of five seconds. There is an ongoing investigation by both federal and local law enforcement.



A concern is being raised: I.C.E. is no longer focusing on their purpose—which is to identify and remove undocumented immigrants and investigate transnational crime (such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, and money laundering). The intention of I.C.E. is to remove undocumented criminals in the U.S., and now this federal program has started to turn on its own people. This is a wake up call. It is time to reform the program so it is working for the people--not against them.

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

Iran Protests

By Sara L.



have taken place in large cities like Tehran, Mashhad, and Isfahan. Protests have also taken place in smaller, more rural cities. People of all different professions participate in expressing their shared anger, ranging from students to business owners. The diversity of protestors emphasize how deeply these issues affect the population, and how much of the population is at their breaking point: Despite having different occupations and being of different ages, they all criticize Iran's government and call for reforms.

In recent months, protests have broken out across Iran as citizens take to the streets to express their anger and frustration with the government. Protests over economic problems, such as inflation and unemployment, have become a widespread movement calling for political change. Many Iranians are struggling to make ends meet and obtain basic necessities such as food. Protestors state that the government is out of touch with the needs of citizens and is failing to address the problems affecting the population. As a result, major protests

The Iranian government has responded by ramping up security measures and using violent means to shut down protests. Human rights groups grow increasingly concerned with the amount of casualties, as well as the number of protesters arrested and the other restrictive measures the government has taken against the citizens. Iranian government officials defend their decision to restrict access to the internet as well as many other forms of communication, stating that the protests are being



caused by foreign countries' influence. Protesters deny this, maintaining that the protests are a culmination of the citizens' own desire for change.

The situation in Iran has risen to international platforms. Foreign governments and global organizations express concern about the Iranian government's treatment of protesters, and call for respect for human rights. Although the outcome of these protests is still uncertain, these demonstrations represent Iranian citizens' desire to be heard and a hope to spark change.

Changes in Vaccinations

By MJ C.

Recently, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, announced some major changes to the nation's vaccine recommendations. These changes are causing strong reactions from scientists, doctors, parents, and public health experts around the country.



Under Kennedy's leadership, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has changed long-standing vaccine recommendations. Instead of recommending certain vaccinations for all children and adults, the CDC is now suggesting some vaccines only be considered through

“shared clinical decision-making” (meaning families and their doctors will decide what's best). This affects vaccines for illnesses such as influenza (the flu), rotavirus, meningococcal disease, and hepatitis A, which are all vaccines that were routinely recommended.

Kennedy says these changes are meant to restore trust in the public health system and align U.S. policies with those of some other countries. Kennedy argues that parents should have more flexibility and more information when making decisions about vaccines. However, on the flip side, many doctors and medical organizations disagree with these new recommendations. For example, the American Academy of Pediatrics has filed lawsuits claiming that these changes were made with no proper scientific review. In addition, they believe that it could put children at risk for very pre-

ventable diseases.



Some major hospitals and pediatricians have already said they plan to continue following the previous vaccine schedules, as they are trusting the longer-established routine from medical experts. As these changes take effect, it is recommended that families work with health professionals to closely watch how the new vaccine changes impact children's health and the overall

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

Highs of the High Seas Treaty

By Sadie S.M.



vene an intergovernmental conference and undertake formal negotiations for a new international legally binding instrument (ILBI or treaty) under the UN Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the conservation and sustainable development of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.” This was the first step in the right direction to create the High Seas Treaty.

In September 2025, the High Seas Treaty finally reached sixty ratifications to implement crucial ocean guidelines in January 2026. The treaty is an international agreement that paves new arrangements for marine protection in open seas. It also implies a series of rules on the sustainable and fair use of the international waters. Overall, it is a milestone for the future of the Earth’s oceans; however, it took longer than a couple of months to be executed.

The idea for a treaty was actually proposed nearly two decades ago, but it did not get formally accepted until December 24, 2017. On that date, the United Nations (UN) adopted Resolution 72/249, “to con-

Since then, five separate UN negotiations have occurred to try to facilitate a positive consensus on the treaty. Three were held before the COVID-19 pandemic; the next two were postponed due to the pandemic. Finally, on March 24, 2023, the world’s governments agreed on what issues to highlight in the finalized treaty. It marked the first significant step for international ocean climate improvements.

The ocean is the largest ecosystem on the Earth; 70% of the planet is covered in ocean water according to NASA. In recent years, research has consistently shown that the oceans are experiencing negative climate change. Temperatures are increasing,



the water is rising, and marine life is dying—humanity has to take action now. That is why when the High Seas Treaty received its final ratification from Morocco in September 2025, climate advocates celebrated. The High Seas Treaty is starting a new wave of hope across the world. It shows not only civilians but leaders of society’s most developed countries, an optimistic perspective. While it is only one thing, it gives many hope that more treaties and agreements are to come. It proves that humanity can truly assist the world in climate recovery and that the future of the largest ecosystem on the planet is bright.

San Diego Expands Affordable Housing

By Zack H.



As housing costs continue to increase across California, San Diego is taking new steps to expand access to affordable housing. In recent months, the city has decided to allocate millions of dollars toward housing initiatives aimed at increasing supply, supporting first-time home buyers, and helping middle-income families remain in Southern California. City representatives report that more than 500 new affordable housing units are currently being

developed, all the way from East Village to cities such as Chula Vista and San Ysidro. Alongside all of this new construction, San Diego is investing in programs that assist first-time buyers with financing and down payments, offering a pathway to ownership for residents who might otherwise be priced out.

Supporters of these initiatives argue that expanding affordable housing strengthens the community as a whole. Stable housing allows families to focus on employment, education, and health, while also helping local businesses retain workers who can afford to live in the area. Thanks to the collaboration between developers, city officials, and certain community organizations, these projects continue moving forward. However, challenges remain. Demand for affordable housing still far exceeds the supply, and many residents face very long wait



lists or rising rents while projects are under construction. Critics also question whether new developments will be built quickly enough to keep up with San Diego’s growing population. Yet, the city’s investment signals progress. As San Diego continues to grow and balance affordability, these housing initiatives represent a step toward giving more residents a realistic chance at stable living, along with a future in the community they call home.

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

GUESS WHO'S BACK??!

By MJ C.

Giant pandas, once listed as endangered, are now classified as vulnerable, showing that conservation efforts truly can make a difference. This progress was made as a result of decades of hard work happening behind the scenes with scientists and captive breeding programs.

One of the largest reasons for pandas' recovery is due to habitat protection! In China, where wild pandas live, the government created large nature reserves as well as protected bamboo forests, which pandas rely on for their food source. To connect the forests, wildlife corridors were created (which are strips of land connecting wildlife populations, usually otherwise separated due to roads or developments).

This allows for pandas to move safely, find mates, and reproduce more easily. As well as the government, local communities have been involved, helping monitor forests and slow down activity that could harm panda habitats.



Another major factor is captive breeding. Pandas are known for having difficulty reproducing, so scientists studied their behavior and health to better their chances. Breeding centers such as the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding use research as well as veterinary care, and constant monitoring to improve birth rates and help improve panda cubs' survival.

While pandas are no longer endangered, they still need protection. Their recovery will show more progress when people work together more consistently. Only then can endangered species be given a second chance!

The Wes Anderson Legacy

By Beatrix M.Y.

Wes Anderson, you may have heard of him in passing, with films ranging from *Fantastic Mr. Fox* to his latest addition to his catalog, *The Phoenixian Scheme*. He is a revolutionary director with a strict style and a devoted fan base, well known for his exuberant creativity. His films are over-the-top, surreal portraits of life, taking realistic emotions and placing them against a backdrop of extreme situations. His style is characterized by vivid colors and patterns, often incorporating elements of collage or claymation into the films to add visual texture.

One of his most well-known films, *The Darjeeling Limited*, was released in 2007, including a very subtle yet recognizable Anderson tag: baggage. Examples of Anderson's love of luggage can be found in *Moonrise Kingdom*, as Suzy lugs around a bright yellow carry-on, to Margo's red Birkin in *The Royal Tenenbaums*, and Zero's near constant delivery of artistic pastry boxes in *The Grand Budapest Hotel*.

However, out of all of these, the 11-piece custom-painted Louis Vuitton set from *The Darjeeling Limited* is the most recognizable. Designed custom for the movie, the set is adorned with a detailed mosaic of various safari animals over a bright orange backdrop, featuring collaborators from Marc Jacobs' and Louis Vuitton's creative teams. The beautiful cases, despite their looks, serve as a burden for the main characters of the film, as they end up having to lug them through half of India after getting kicked off their train. The main characters, three brothers desperately trying to reconnect after their father's death, never really bring up the burden of the luggage, opting instead to live with the inconvenience as it takes up their space and wears them down. This is due to the fact that the luggage is meant to symbolize the

recent death of their father. It isn't something they can just get rid of; they have to live with it, let it push them around, because what else could they do with it?



At the release of the film, Louis Vuitton had a very limited release of the bags that were shown in in the movie, but for their 2026 collection, they did one more limited drop. The bags weren't exact to the film; instead, the print adorned ties, shoes, wallets, and most extravagantly, a \$120,000 picnic trunk, with custom dishes and silverware included. It was a gorgeous, albeit frivolous, callback to the film, which will reach its 20-year anniversary next year. Fans of Wes Anderson and luxury were ecstatic to see the set re-released and this beautiful film being honored oncemore.



ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

Conformity Gate: Schizophrenia or Reality?

By Beatrix M.Y. and Zoe Ba.

Potentially, Netflix's most-awaited season finale, *Stranger Things* Season 5, has been the center of social media attention since its release in November 2025. Despite the large number of views, around 105.7 million during its first few weeks, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the ratings have done poorly in comparison. The finale itself was one of the lowest-rated episodes on IMDb at 7.6/10. In addition, the show's Popcornmeter rating on Rotten Tomatoes was only at a disappointing 53%: the result of over 10,000 responses. Critics believe there are a variety of reasons behind this dip in popularity, one being the writing quality towards the end of the season. For many, it seems as though "the Abyss" simply arose out of nowhere, with no true buildup and little time spent on the concept (aside from the classic elementary style explanation provided by the main characters with inanimate objects). One of the conspiracies circulated by the mass of disappointed fans humorously pokes at Ross Duffer's divorce from his wife during the making of the *Stranger Things* finale. Many speculate that filmmaker Leigh Janiak could have been a ghost writer for the show, and the reason why the quality dips so drastically after she separated from Duffer. With hashtags such as "#Divorce-Gate" spreading across the internet, there is no doubt that the season's numerous plot holes and unfinished side narratives have left many fans unsatisfied.

The origin of "Conformity Gate" began as a popular fan theory that suggested the happy ending shared by the surviving group of friends was merely an illusion orchestrated by Vecna, with many connecting the similarities between the odd color scheme and contradictory comments to what has been seen in Henry's (Vecna's) mind. Now the terminology has swarmed the internet, lodging itself in everyone's mind as the potential solution to the show's rather disappointing ending. It has led many to believe that the origin of the viral trend was actually Netflix attempting to combat the poor rating with the prom-

ise of more content and a more conclusive ending. But what led to this idea instantly sweeping across all platforms?



It was the odd dip in quality that made this season so divisive. Could the audience look past it and see the overarching plot, appreciating the nostalgia? To put it simply, no. Quickly, fans took to social media, pointing out various mistakes and continuity errors often not seen in high-value productions such as *Stranger Things*. The electric lever on the WQSK tower turns from silver to red, graduation gowns are orange instead of green (which was established to be their color in previous seasons), doors are flipped to the wrong side when put side by side with the same set, and characters in the background stare blankly into the camera. Dialogue from main characters is uncharacteristic and sometimes blatantly incorrect—during Will's coming out scene, he claims that his friends love to get "malted milkshakes from Melvald's," despite that being a convenience store. Many of these inconsistencies fans link to Vecna's memories of Hawkins and how he might have created the past version inside his mind. When Henry lived in Hawkins, Melvald's was a diner, and the graduation gowns were green. Many point out that Max should not have been able to graduate due to amount of school she missed while in a coma. But, theoretically, Henry wouldn't know that—he never finished freshman year. Another oddity: in a commercial that is still running for a *Discover/Stranger Things* mashup, Nancy is depicted

flame-throwing a horde of Demogorgons in the Upside Down, but when fans looked through footage, that frame does not exist in the show. Of course, there is a chance this footage had to be cut from Season Five due to time constraints, however fans still jumped to point out the error hidden in plain sight.

Of course, this is all completely circumstantial. Continuity errors, although rare at this magnitude, are completely possible. Theoretically, a general store in the 80's could sell milkshakes, costume design is not bound by graduation gowns, extras are sometimes regular people who might not know how to avoid staring at the camera, and the writers could have easily worked a little movie magic to keep Max graduating with her class.

If *Conformity Gate* is real, it would be one of the best feats in TV history—but even if it isn't, is that really so bad? Sure, the fans would be disappointed, but Netflix has gotten a ton of press with this amount of online circulation. The date fans theorized has already passed us by, but many are still clinging to the idea. An Instagram reel posted a few days ago by Matthew Modine, the actor who plays Dr. Brenner, shows him in costume walking through Hawkins Lab, walking into a room labeled "11," then shutting the door. Many claim that *Conformity Gate* is "back on" and that the date predicted for the final episode was simply incorrect, but it is much more likely that they are actually hinting at a spin-off series directed at Henry/Vecna's character.

As a whole, this season finale was not substandard. It's impossible to make everyone happy, and many viewers were perfectly content with the ending. When compared to trainwrecks like *Game of Thrones*, the finale could be hailed as gold. When put up against powerhouses such as *Gravity Falls*, it dims in comparison. The *Stranger Things* finale was a healthy medium of action and a happy ending, and fans seem to be coming to terms with the reality that the decade-long show is finally over.

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

Why Do We Push Ourselves to the Breaking Point?

By Zoe Br.

Teenagers should get ten hours of sleep. Colleges want to see good grades, involvement with school, multiple long-term extracurriculars, leadership roles, substantial community service hours, and work experience. School starts at 9:00. Wake up at 8:00 or 7:30, or 6:30 if you live far away. Having a social life and hobbies is necessary for happiness and good mental health. Go to office hours. Get your homework done. Be social. Do your best. Push harder. Stay awake late. 10:30. Later. 12:00. “You’re going great!” Do it. Fight it. Just get through it. “You’re so reliable.” Sleep less. 1:30. Work harder. “Who can do this?” I can. Do more. 2:30. Be better. Survive. I just have to survive.



A.M. I got like four and a half.”
“Yeah, I got up at six.”

Nothing about that is healthy. Not for a teenager, not for an adult. Not just physically, but mentally, socially, emotionally. But we do it. For some reason, we do it. We push, and push, and push—and then we break. Or almost break, which is when we let ourselves rest. Or we get sick, because our bodies can’t possibly keep up like this.

Become an adult. Learn about the world. With its horrors, its rules, its complexities. Children are starving, war is raging, people are being oppressed. I have a math test tomorrow. The world is dying, the Arctic is melting, wait... the government did what? I need to finish my English project. Be mature; learn to communicate. Develop, grow, learn to drive. But you’re still a kid. But act like an adult. No, you can’t do that: you’re too young. You can’t be trusted. You’re our future. Change the world... fix the world. But you can’t vote. Come on, you’re almost an adult: you should know better. No, why would we teach you that? Figure it out.

You wonder why seniors get senioritis? Because they have pushed themselves through this system for the past eight years, and it keeps getting worse, and there keeps being more, and they’ve proved that they are capable of doing it, and the help becomes less preventative and becomes

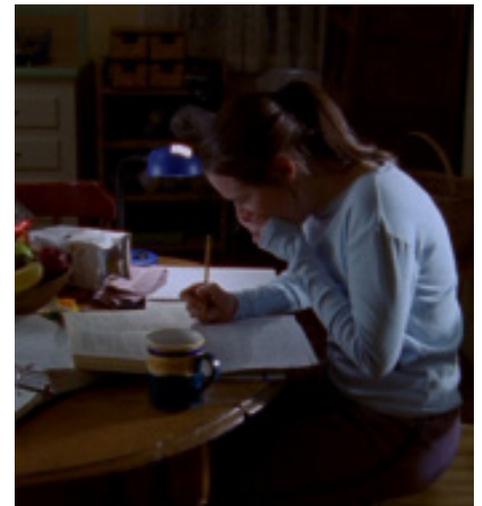
more of a Band-Aid. But there is a tear in their soul, they’ve bared their heart to the system, they are a shell of who they really are, constantly pulling at the parts that are barely connected, so that they can get them to work just a little bit—and a Band-Aid won’t fix that. And a week-long break won’t fit it. And getting accepted to college won’t fix it. Because the energy tank is empty, and they are grabbing at nothing.

Will it get better? Yes, I believe so.

Why do we push ourselves to the breaking point? Because we are taught that we need to. Not overtly, rather subconsciously. No one tells you to overwork yourself—in fact, they tell you the opposite—yet the system keeps turning, and no one has found the button to turn it off.

Why do we push ourselves to the breaking point? Because if I don’t, will I get into college? There are more applicants than spots. Stand out, be the best—or at least be good enough. But what is good enough? Am I good enough? Am I enough? Am I still me?

I’d love to end this positively, but I haven’t gotten out yet. I still spend every day anxious about the next thing I need to do. Pulling from an empty tank, too little sleep, and the dream that what I have put myself through is worth it, for me and for everyone else.



Take it from someone who loves school: the way this system is designed breaks children. It burns them out... at 13—if not younger. It tells them that if they are not doing all of the things, they are less than. It encourages those who give their all to anything they do to involve themselves in everything. And then, just when it gets to be too much, it tells you to protect yourself. As if it isn’t what you need protection from. As if this constant battle to stay above water is a dunk tank that you threw the ball at. Take it from someone who loves everything that they do: this isn’t healthy. The number of conversations I have had this year alone that go:

“I got five hours of sleep last night, again.”
“Ooooo, same. I was working until three

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

The Origin of 67

By Luke W.

Regardless of where you are in the world, there's one sensational term that everyone seems to be using everywhere. Today, people of all ages commonly use the term "6-7," although no one really knows its origin. It was nominated for Word of the Year by Dictionary.com. It originates from the song made "Doot Doot (6-7)" by Skrilla.

The origin of "6-7" lies in the high school basketball player Taylen Kinney. He has a big following on social media for his basketball skills. He has been recruited by the Overtime Elite basketball team and is now committed to the University of Kansas for basketball. In an interview shared by Overtime Elite, he was asked to rate a Starbucks drink. The scale was out of 10. This is where the sensational saying became so popular. He said, "Like a six ... six ... six-seven," making the infamous hand gesture as he said it. This saying became viral on TikTok, where he has over a million followers. Instantly, this song was played over sports clips.



"6-7" gained a face in March of 2025. A video of a young, excited kid was spectating a basketball game. With the "6-7" audio over the video, he made the hand gesture, then screamed "6-7". This clip went viral. Instantly, everyone was seeing this clip on their For You pages. The internet decided they would call this kid Mason. Mason is often referred to as a "ferda" or a "fluffy-haired kid," which are common stereotypes today. Mason has become a meme known as the "6-7 Kid," and almost everyone on social media knows him.

Although no one truly understands

what "6-7" means, it has spread like wildfire. Some schools across the country are having to discipline students who use this term in class. One teacher reported hearing "6-7" seventy-five times during one class period. Restaurants such as In-N-Out have taken out the order number six-seven. It became a trend to go crazy when the number was called.

Others are embracing the trend. Some teachers use the term in a way that makes it relatable to students. Whether it is making a math problem that incorporates the number, using it in a song, or using it as a textbook page, teachers commonly use it. Teachers report that it makes them feel more connected to their students.

"6-7" is a sensational meme that might never go out of style. It has an origin no one truly understands, but everyone says it. It is important to have clarity before using a new slang. In this case, it is harmless. It is safe to say that "6-7" is here to stay. Who knows how long it will be dragged out

Humor... as a Coping Mechanism?

By Zoe Ba.

Humor is often viewed as a form of entertainment. It is found in the movies we watch on television, the books we read at night, and the conversations we participate in during the day. Regardless of the scenario, humor's role is to inflect joy into our day-to-day lives. However, when we redirect our attention toward the younger generations of today's society, it is not uncommon to see humor being used as a "coping mechanism". This is not an entirely new concept: the idea that humor is used to combat sad or uncomfortable emotions has been around for centuries. That being said, the current digital culture has dramatically expanded its influence and normalized the deflecting behavior.

Gen Z grew up in an environment where smartphones and social media were easily accessible, especially as a result of the isolating conditions created by the pandemic. A constant influx of information,



regarding politics and health crises further institutionalized these internet wormholes. Despite this, on the same platforms people ingested their daily news, humorous videos began to rise in popularity. It was no longer merely enjoyable because of its content but rather because of the conditions that promoted the video: creating a community interconnected by the relatability of unfortunate circumstances. By "poking fun" at themselves and their environment, it al-

lows the creator to regain some semblance of control. The usage of humor can also be done to minimize concern from others, making serious situations light-hearted not only for themselves but for those around them. Additionally, humor has the ability to de-taboo serious topics, such as sex, politics, and sports. This brings attention to issues both on a personal and societal level.

Despite its ability to make topics more palatable, this can result in a desensitized community and an avoidant culture, making humor a method to deflect attention. Digital environments, such as social media, tend to amplify emotional stressors and without a clear outlet, it promotes unhealthy emotions. Humor should be used as a method to garner attention on important global issues, however when it comes to participating in serious conversations, it is important that the younger generations learn to appreciate the discomfort.

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

From a Counterculture into High Fashion

By Leyton G.



If you were to go into your closet and look around at the clothes you have, I guarantee you would at least have one item that can be classified as “Streetwear”. However, there was a time not too long ago when streetwear was non-existent, and looked down on. Many debate on how streetwear was pioneered: some say along the coast of Southern California, others say in the streets of New York City. The truth is, they are both right, and the two streetwear style origins are extremely unique.

In the 1970s, Shawn Stussy had a problem. He could not sell the surfboards he was shaping out of Laguna Beach, California. Like every other surfboard shaper ever, Shawn would sign his boards with his signature. However, instead of a plain old cursive signature, he used a graffiti-esque

signature. It was rebellious, informal, and personal. Shawn decided to screen print this logo onto a shirt for when he went to sell his boards at trade shows. Although he barely sold any boards, he did receive many compliments on his shirts, and even had people ask if they could buy them. This was the start to what would be known as Stussy, which is worth around \$165 million dollars today. Stussy is not like a lot of high-end fashion houses; instead of marketing towards wealthy consumers, it was directed towards everyday people who wanted something that was not too expensive, but was also fashionable.



boards and t-shirts in California, there was a new wave of fashion that was spreading like wildfire in the streets of New York City. Much like Stussy, graffiti and urban

culture played a major role in the way street wear in the East Coast was born. It started with track suits, adidas sneakers, and leather jackets. Dressing in this way was not about looking good; it was about commanding respect. Clothes were about one’s identity, and were worn with pride. By the 1990’s, the fashion changed drastically, the track suits and adidas were thrown out and replaced with baggy jeans, timberland boots, and gold chains. Fashion began to be dictated by what rappers were wearing, such as Nas, The Notorious B.I.G, and The Wu-Tang Clan. Although the garments and shoes changed in terms of popularity, the message stayed the same: “One’s fashion is a language of power”.

Fashion has always been a symbol of status and one’s identity, and will continue to evolve. Not many people thought that streetwear would reach the heights that it has today, and many never thought that high-end fashion houses would endorse streetwear to the extent that they have. This is a story about pushing boundaries that have not been pushed before, and streetwear continues to evolve and amaze the world.

Behind the Scenes of Romeo and Juliet

By Zoe Br.

Shakespeare’s tale of romantic tragedy, Romeo and Juliet, is taking a trip to the groovy 1970s for the Grauer Theatre Department’s Winter play. Starring Kian Hinchey (Class of 2028) and Charlotte Johnson (Class of 2027) as the hindered lovers, everything about the play is set to wow. Over three amazing nights, January 29th-31st, the fabulous cast and the amazing team of crew invite the Grauer community to experience the classic play in a whole new way.

The play features Grauer’s most technically ambitious set yet, including a balcony and a turning stage. Headed by Gavin Noguchi (Class of 2026), a team built

the entire set in under a month. Stage decorations were organized and assembled by Gavin, Dharma Chokkar (Class of 2029), Beatrix Monday Yankus (Class of 2026), and Augie Keatinge (Class of 2026). The set is dressed and operated by Billy Beltran (Class of 2026), Quinn Young (Class of 2030), and other tech crew members. The play also included the most extensive lighting rig that a Grauer Production has seen, thanks to the expertise of Bill von Novak.

The story involved many fights, originally written with swords, which have been transcribed into modern streetfighting by Nalani Checa (Class of 2027), the show’s combat choreographer. A live band, consisting

of Oliver Blakespear (Class of 2027), Will Latson-Combs (Class of 2027), Teá Gralnick (Class of 2027), Elsa Cousin (Class of 2027), Madeleine Hong (Class of 2028), and Isaac Langen, accompanies the show, playing classics from the late 20th century.

Putting on The Grauer School’s Romeo and Juliet has been an ambitious challenge for everyone involved. The work has, however, undoubtedly paid off, as the combination of casting, technical elements, and direction has created a fabulous contemporary take on the classic tale of lovers.

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

The Golden Moments of the Golden Globes

By Sadie S.M.

For just over eighty years, the Golden Globes—a premier entertainment awards event—has played a prominent role in the film and television industry. What started as a way to honor annual film achievements has now transformed into a multi-structured film and television awards showcase. The most recent ceremony took place on January 11, 2026, in Beverly Hills, California, and as usual, it sparked extreme interest on media networks. There were many highs and a few lows, but overall, the event was a serious success and a magnificent display of exceptional show business.

First of all, one of the most memorable moments was the reappearance of host Nikki Glaser. The comedian took the stage a year ago to put on an iconic set, and yet again, she amazed the crowd with her hysterical comments and snappy remarks this year. Some references were a little more mouth-widening than others, such as a slashing remark about celebrities in the Jeffrey Epstein files, and others were more lighthearted, like the pun about the Rock with a game of rock, paper, scissors. Overall, Nikki Glaser delivered an outstanding show that captured global attention and conversation.

By Zack H.

Every year, schools nationwide provide an extra day off to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. and his movement. This year, The Grauer School has decided to pause its normal routine and spend an additional day following MLK Jr. Day, to allow students to step outside of the classroom and into the community. While the day off on Monday is in honor of Dr. King's legacy, Tuesday challenges us to live it. By requiring every student to volunteer, Grauer reinforces the important truth that service is not optional; it's essential. Volunteering plays a critical role in strengthening our community. Whether students choose to help at food banks, work on farms, assist young-



er children, or support nonprofit organizations, each act of service addresses real needs. These efforts may seem small on an individual level, but together they create a meaningful impact. More importantly, they remind us that communities thrive when people take responsibility for one another. This day of service also reflects The Grauer School's core values in action. Compassion is at the heart of volunteering; students can learn to recognize struggles outside their own. Accountability is shown through the commitment to show up, contribute with a smile, and take responsibility for making a difference. Perseverance plays a role when service requires hard work, patience,

Lastly, while the night contained joyous remarks and subtle casualties, something small spoke a little louder. Throughout the night, celebrities, including Mark Ruffalo and Ariana Grande, were caught wearing anti-ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) pins reading "Be Good" and "Ice Out." With recent events in Minneapolis and issues across the United States, having prominent figures speak against these instances is even more crucial. Every photo captured told a story of a man, woman, and child harmed by ICE, and it showed society what unity can look like. In all, these tiny pieces of metal painted a bigger picture than ever before—it added a firm political angle and influence to up-per-class individuals.

To close everything out, the 2026 Golden Globes proved to be another annual success. From passionate comedic relief to powerful political messages, the night showcased the true state of the current movie and television scene. It was a lively evening recapping the 2025 media scene, and as everyone moves deeper into 2026, the question of "what is next?" is beginning to surface.

More Than a Day Off

er stepping outside of comfort zones. In many placements, students must problem solve, communicate, and take initiative, which all reinforces self advocacy. Meanwhile, exposure to new environments and social issues encourages intellectual curiosity, prompting students to ask questions about how communities function and how change happens. Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve." The day of service embodies that message. Through making volunteering a shared experience, our school teaches that leadership is not just learned in classrooms, but it's practiced through service and care for others.

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

What's Up With ASB

By Luke W.

Hi all, I just wanted to update the community on upcoming ASB events. ASB is integral in all Grauer events. Next Friday, February 6th, the High School ASB is hosting the first dance of the year: the Valentine's Dance. There will be an open dance floor with Koa and Ella as the DJs, and they have a super fun playlist. There

will also be small food items. Tickets are on sale for \$15 prior to the event, with \$20 at the door.

We also have Valentine Grams on sale. They will be on sale from Feb. 2nd to Feb. 12, costing two dollars a gram. With three grams costing five dollars. In each Valentine's gram, there will be a small note

and a lollipop. They are a fun way to show appreciation to a friend or significant other.

We really hope that everyone shows up and participates! Thank you for your attention and support.

Buy your tickets!

**Valentine's
Dance**

February 6th

7-9pm

Tickets sold during the
weeks of Jan 26th-Feb 5th

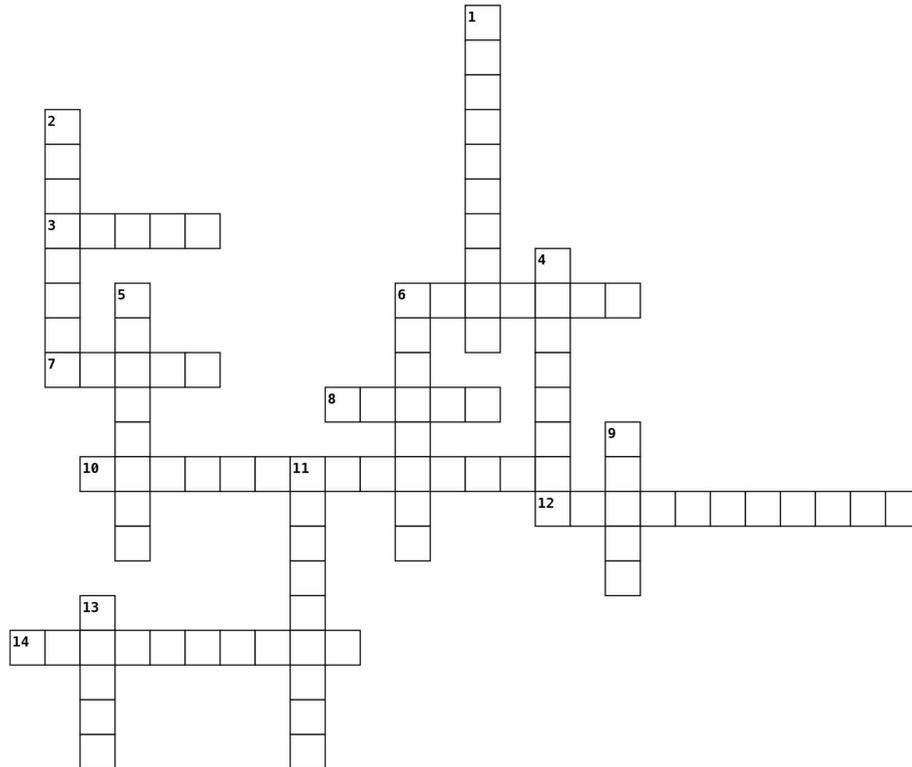
***Semi-formal**

High School Only

**\$15 per person
\$20 at the door**



Stranger Things Crossword



Across

- 3. The number of Eleven's sister
- 6. The space that Eleven enters while in meditation
- 7. Delightful ____
- 8. When Hopper enters the Upside Down
- 10. A popular fan theory concerning the ending of Stranger Things
- 12. Robin's radio nickname
- 14. The military sonic weapon that dampens Eleven's powers

Down

- 1. The creature that is found in the new dimension
- 2. How Will is able to tap into the powers of the upside down
- 4. The DND type of character who Will is most alike
- 5. The space anomaly that is revealed to be the upside-down
- 6. The new dimension introduced in the fifth season
- 9. The ruler of the upside-down
- 11. The man who visits kids to protect them from monsters
- 13. The name of a popular fan ship between two Stranger Things characters

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

The Team



MJ C.
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Zoe Br.
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Beatrix M.Y.
Column Writer, Co-Media Executives



Zoe Ba.
Column Writer, Co-Media Executives



Sara Lu
Column Writer



Leyton G.
Entertainment Editor, Column Writer



Luke W.
Politics Editor, Column Writer



Zack H.
Local Correspondent, Column Writer



Isabella M.
Layout Editor, Column Writer



Sadie S.M.
Website Manager, Column Writer
International Events Editor