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Tuite lands new job despite scandals

Tuite resigned in 2021 after multiple scandals erupted in Athletics Department

By Alessio Cavalca
MANAGING EDITOR



ERNIE GONZALEZ | THE SPEAR ARCHIVES

Then-Athletics Director Marie Tuite watches the San Jose State football team ahead of its game against the Utah State Aggies on Sept. 23, 2017, at CEFCU Stadium. Tuite's employment at Southern Utah University was announced on Monday.

Marie Tuite, the former San Jose State athletics director who resigned in light of the Scott Shaw sexual abuse scandal in August 2021, will be the new deputy athletics director for external relations at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, starting in the position on Wednesday.

SUU Athletics Director Doug Knuth said the SUU athletics department is thrilled to bring Tuite to the university, in a Monday SUU Athletics news release.

"Marie has incredible knowledge, skills, and abilities in athletic administration and leadership," said Knuth in the release. "She is well respected throughout Division [1] athletics and has earned great support from coaches, athletes, and university administrators who have worked directly with her over the years."

However, during her tenure at SJSU, Tuite was named in three wrongful termination and retaliation lawsuits as a consequence of the sexual abuse scandal involving SJSU athletics, according to a Monday article by the East Bay Times.

In one of those cases, she was accused of bullying the SJSU women's swimming and diving head coach Sage Hopkins, who reported sexual misconduct from Scott Shaw, former SJSU director of sports medicine, according to the East Bay Times article.

The FBI formally charged Shaw with sexually assaulting student-athletes, according to a March 15, 2022 Spartan Daily article.

Hopkins, who sent a 300-page dossier to the Mountain West Conference and NCAA officials in 2019 reporting Shaw's sexual misconduct claims, also detailed claims of retaliation by Tuite against him according to an April 17, 2020 article by USA Today.

The reports led the way to an external investigation requested by former SJSU President Mary Papazian in December 2019, according to an April 15, 2021 campuswide email.

Then Interim President Steve Perez released a campuswide email on Dec. 1, 2022, informing students and faculty about the Department of Justice investigation regarding the sexual misconduct within the SJSU athletics department.

"SJSU failed to properly respond to an SJSU Athletic Department employee's subsequent reports between

TUITE | Page 5

Car fire smokes out West Garage

By Carolyn Brown
PRODUCTION EDITOR

A red Ford Mustang caught fire on the fourth floor of the San Jose State West Parking Garage, around 9:20 a.m.

The fire was extinguished by 9:50 a.m., according to an AlertSJSU message sent out to students.

No one was injured in the fire, according to the same message.

Three cars were damaged and the owners were contacted, according to University Police Department Capt. Frank Belcastro in an email interview.

According to Belcastro, the fire appeared to have been electrical in nature, not arson.

Belcastro said students asleep in a nearby car were alerted and assisted to evacuate.

Psychology junior Michelle Murillo Cortez and a friend were asleep in her car on the fourth floor in the West Garage when the fire started.

"I took action [by] waking up my friend," she said during an email interview. "So we [could] evacuate the building as soon as possible."

Cortez said two police officers helped her and her friend evacuate the garage.

"To be completely honest, I'm glad they were there," she said. "It was difficult to see and breathe due to the smoke."

Not everyone had as dramatic of an evacuation.

"Cops showed up first, blocked everyone in, asked everyone to walk out on foot," said child and development junior Zain Farkouh. "Before I left the glass exploded. That's why they were yelling at everyone to leave."

Farkouh said her car was parked about four cars away from the Mustang.

"There was no one in the car," she said. "It just started smoking, and then – it's like a convertible car – so it caught on fire pretty quickly."

By 10:30 a.m., cars were allowed to exit the garage and floors one through three were reopened to the public.

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Alina Ta contributed to this article.



ALINA TA | SPARTAN DAILY

Smoke from a car fire billows out of the West Garage on Tuesday morning. No injuries were reported.



Tuite's hiring is an affront to victims

Actions need to have consequences, and in some cases, those consequences need to last longer than two years.

On Monday, disgraced former San Jose State Athletics director Marie Tuite was hired as new deputy athletics director for external relations at Southern Utah University.

This is the woman who did not pay attention to her employees' reports. The woman who kept her head down when notified about the sexual abuse of her student athletes.

This is the woman who enabled an alleged sex offender.

The woman who betrayed those student athletes she should have been protecting.

This is the woman who was named in three wrongful termination and retaliation lawsuits. In one of those cases, Tuite was accused of bullying Sage Hopkins, SJSU's women's swimming and diving coach, who brought to light Scott Shaw's sexual abuse and misconduct towards student athletes.

Shaw is accused of fondling at least 14 SJSU student athletes when he worked here. He faces federal charges because of the allegations.

The university ultimately settled these cases, but the repercussions don't seem to follow Tuite considering the position she just accepted.

As journalists, our job is to bring forth the truth and hold those in power accountable. Hopefully, to make sure people like Tuite cannot continue in their respective positions.

But what happens when the systems in place continue to uplift those who abuse their position and the power they wield? Even when the truth is brought to light?

How could she have ignored their pain?

And how can we continue to ignore their pain?

Victims deserve to be heard; they deserve to be believed. By all accounts, Tuite did neither of those things.

So why the hell was she hired by a Division 1 college, allowing her to potentially start up the abuse again?

After years of scandals and lawsuits, how was she able to continue to be in the business she loved without skipping a beat?

After years of scandals and lawsuits, how is she still being praised and lauded by so many in the SJSU community?

Dick Vermeil, legendary NFL head football coach.

Don Kassing, President of SJSU from 2004 to 2008.

Cindy Lazares, SJSU alum and current owner of Lazares Companies.

Les Francis, SJSU alum, former SJSU Tower Foundation Board of Directors and SJSU Outstanding Alumnus Award winner.

Those are the four SJSU alumni who couldn't be more pleased to give glowing praise to her new employer after Tuite got the job at Southern Utah. Four alumni who would rather stick their neck out for a person who turned her back on sexual abuse of her student-athletes rather than the student-athletes themselves.

> Allowing Tuite into another position of power is a spit in the face of everyone who was hurt by her actions.

Shame on all four of you.

We found it ironic that a person with Tuite's track record was able to get an opportunity so soon. Her hiring is just another example of how broken our society is.

When a white woman with a track record like this is able to get another job after all the things she's done, it speaks volumes to where we're at as a society. Meanwhile, qualified candidates of color are denied time and time again while having to go the extra mile to even be in the conversation.

Let's face it, Tuite's white privilege gave her another chance. A chance that 99% of people who were in her position would never see again.

It's sick.

It's disgusting.

Allowing Tuite into another position of power is a spit in the face of everyone who was hurt by her actions.

Southern Utah and those SJSU cowards who endorsed Tuite should be ashamed for picking a sex abuse-enabling bully to be anywhere near an athletic department.

Nathan Canilao
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Report: Sources link Miles to Cal

By Nathan Canilao
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



NICK ZAMORA | SPARTAN DAILY ARCHIVES

SJSU head coach Tim Miles instructs the Spartans during a preseason practice in October 2022.

In the midst of San Jose State men's basketball's best season since 2011, the mastermind behind it all might be on the way out the door.

According to a report from ESPN sources on Thursday, SJSU head coach Tim Miles is in the mix for a head coaching job at the University of California, Berkeley.

According to the report, Miles along with University of California, Santa Barbara head coach Joe Pasternack are at the top of the list for the Golden Bears.

Cal is in the middle of one of its worst seasons in over 100 years as they have won just three games under current head coach Mark Fox.

The same report from ESPN said Fox's tenure at Cal will likely end after this season, meaning the Golden Bears will be in the hunt for a new head coach in the immediate future.

Miles said he has denied contact with any other university and said he is focused on finishing the season with the Spartans.

"I've had no contact with any other program and I am completely focused on our team," Miles said after SJSU's win over Colorado State on Tuesday night.

One of the big keys to Miles staying in San Jose in the coming year will be if SJSU will be able to provide more investments into the basketball program.

Miles said he wants to see improvement in aspects such as facilities and travel, according to a Monday San Francisco Chronicle article.

Unlike other Division I programs in the Bay Area, such as Cal and Stanford, SJSU has to work around a limited budget.

According to the Sacramento Bee public salaries database, Miles made $343,383 after taxes in 2022.

Fox signed a five-year contract with Cal that was worth $8.25 million, according to a 2019 Stadium article.

His take home pay in 2021 was just over $1.6 million, according to the Sacramento Bee database.

The basketball program at SJSU doesn't have the luxuries that other Division I programs have, which Miles is pushing for.

The Spartans don't have their own practice facility and they have to use the Provident Credit Union Event Center throughout the year to hold practices.

When the Event Center has other teams practising in it, the team has to reroute to Yoshihiro Uchida Hall, where they shoot hoops in the multipurpose room.

The team also does not have a private plane, which means they have to fly commercial flights to away games, or in some cases, bus to nearby locations.

SJSU players Omari Moore and Alvaro Cardenas are having their best seasons under Miles.

> **In the college coaching business I've had six, eight coaching jobs. You're either coming or going. If you're not doing well enough, they want to fire you, and if you start winning, everybody thinks you're leaving.**
>
> **Tim Miles**
> men's basketball head coach

Moore, who was named Mountain West Player of the Week on Monday, has been playing at an All-Conference level. The shooting guard from Pasadena is averaging 17.1 points, 4.8 assists and 4.6 rebounds per game thus far.

Moore said he doesn't pay much attention to the rumors, but acknowledged that they are caused by the team's positive performance on the court.

"We don't really pay too much money to that," Moore said after SJSU's win over Colorado State on Tuesday night. "When you're doing well, [rumors] are gonna come up for players as well as coaches."

Others within the athletic department have voiced their support for Miles to stay at SJSU.

"We want Tim here for a long time," SJSU athletic director Jeff Konya said to the San Francisco Chronicle on Monday. "And I

COACH | Page 5

Spartans win final home game on Senior Night

By Mat Bejarano
STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State men's basketball team won its final home game of the season 63-46 against Colorado State University on Tuesday night, at Provident Credit Union Event Center.

The Spartans celebrated their seniors that included shooting guard Omari Moore, forward Sage Tolbert III and forward Kellen King.

SPARTANS	63
RAMS	46

Sophomore point guard Alvaro Cardenas led SJSU with 16 points and 5 assists. Moore recorded 14 points, and sophomore forward Trey Anderson had 13 points.

Moore struggled in the first half, scoring just 6 points while shooting 2 of 10 from the field.

Cardenas kept the Spartans afloat as he scored 11 points in the first half alone.

SJSU went on a 7-0 run with five minutes remaining in the first half to take a five-point lead going into intermission.

Defensively the Spartans held Colorado State to 9 of 26 shooting from the field at the half shooting from the field and 3 of 11 from behind the arc.

The Spartans had a good defensive half, recording 5 blocks and 6 steals, including 2 steals from Cardenas and 2 steals from Moore.

At halftime, SJSU led 27-22.

Despite the shaky first half, Moore hit his stride in the second half as he scored 8 of his 14 points in the final 20 minutes of the game.

At the 14 minute mark of the second half, the Rams cut the Spartans' lead to three on a Jalen Lake 3-pointer.

From there, the Spartans closed the game on a 28-14 to cruise to a big win on senior night.

Moore said it was important to win on his senior night and that his coaches were telling him it's a night he'd never forget.

"Nobody wants to lose on your senior night," Moore said. "It was really important for us to go out here and get a dub, and even bigger than senior night, these last two games are huge for us in seating for this tournament."

Anderson said this game is vital to continuing the team spirit down the final stretch of the season.

"We stay together through the ups and downs, we struggled together, we've won tough games together," Anderson said.



ENRIQUE GUTIERREZ-SEVILLA | SPARTAN DAILY

Sophomore point guard Alvaro Cardenas brings the ball up the court during Tuesday's game against Colorado State.

"We know these two games are huge for us to continue to keep building our season."

The 63 points the Spartans put up tied a season low for points scored in a win, but helped propel them to a 12-3 home record.

"That was a big thing for these guys to establish an excellent home court advantage," SJSU head coach Tim Miles said. "I think that's a measure of these guys' commitment and who they are and what they stand for."

Miles said he will miss all the seniors and gave credit to Omari Moore for his play thus far.

"Omari is a guy that is going to be one of the greatest players that San Jose State has ever seen and will ever see," Miles said. "I'm grateful to have coached him, I love coaching him and to watch him go out and win like that tonight and the crowd all stand up and cheer for this team was really cool to watch."

SJSU's regular season finale is scheduled for Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Clune Arena in Air Force Academy, Colorado as the Spartans are scheduled to face Air Force. SJSU defeated Air Force earlier this season 85-52 on Jan. 24.



CAROLYN BROWN | SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU community talks about Title IX

Some on SJSU campus do not trust the Title IX Office due to slow response times, past incidents.

By Alina Ta
STAFF WRITER

The Title IX and Gender Equity Office has a long and difficult road to regaining trust from San Jose State's community.

In 2021, SJSU agreed to a $1.6 million settlement after the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division found that SJSU failed to respond adequately to reports of sexual harassment and sexual assault within the athletic department, according to a Sept. 21, 2021 news release from the Department of Justice.

The department also reported SJSU's Title IX Office had been ineffective in responding to reports of sexual harassment and similar crimes, according to the same release.

> [Survivors] need support in a lot of different ways. And if we're asking survivors to come forward and tell their stories, we cannot do that in good conscience unless we're willing to provide them with the support they need.
>
> **Soma de Bourbon**
> assistant professor
> sociology and interdisciplinary social sciences

SJSU hired Peter Lim, to take over as SJSU's Interim Deputy Title IX Coordinator, on July 1, 2021, according to an email sent on May 22, 2022, by SJSU's then Interim President, Steve Perez.

A year later, Lim was appointed as SJSU's Interim Title IX and Gender Equity Officer.

Lim said Title IX is a federal non-discrimination law that prohibits schools and institutions that receive federal financial assistance from discriminating against others based on sex or gender.

He said the Title IX Office is responsible for responding and investigating complaints which report any form of discrimination based on sex or gender.

Lim said the process includes investigating reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and similar acts.

He said he and his colleagues have been taking steps to rebuild and improve SJSU's Title IX Office.

"There's tremendous work that still needs to be done," Lim said. "Because we still have a lot of work to do to rebuild that trust or even engender that trust among students and faculty."

Some SJSU faculty members still do not trust the Title IX Office.

"I had to stop telling students to go to [the] Title IX [office]," said Soma de Bourbon, assistant professor in sociology and interdisciplinary social sciences.

De Bourbon said she is not an expert in Title IX, but she noticed the Title IX Office has been having issues since she was hired at SJSU 11 years ago.

She said she used to refer students to the Title IX Office, but stopped after numerous students described their experiences with the office as traumatizing.

"They felt that it was more harmful to go," said de Bourbon.

De Bourbon said she does not trust the Title IX Office because it appears to be the "[human resources] of the university."

"You're actually trying to file a complaint, but the university wants to handle it internally," she said.

Lim said he and some of his other colleagues are not employed by the university, but the Title IX Office does have two internal investigators who conduct investigations when complaints are reported.

Despite knowing the Title IX is making changes, de Bourbon said she still doesn't think the university takes victim's reports seriously.

"If I was sexually assaulted on campus, I would not have gone through Title IX myself," said de Bourbon.

TITLE IX | Page 5

New Title IX regulation provides new protections to transgender and non-binary students.

By Dominique Huber
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights introduced new Title IX regulations.

Department officials issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which was announced in June 2022 and is in its final stages of review, where public comments on the proposed changes are considered before finalization.

Peter Lim, interim Title IX and Gender Equity Officer at San Jose State University, said the regulations will likely be finalized in May 2023.

According to the department's Federal Register Notices and Regulations webpage, a Title IX Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is meant to notify the public of any new regulations that will add clarifications or changes to existing policies. It also includes specifications on procedures and requirements for schools' responses to sexual harassment and sexual violence.

Lim said the goal of the Department of Education in implementing these new regulations will be "to remove barriers [. . .] to promote education programs or activities and to respond adequately to sex and gender based discrimination and harassment."

> Pronouns are not an optional thing to use or not use in a classroom. Some faculty like to hide behind academic freedom and it's like, 'No, that's not how it works,' [. . .] you are required by law to respect their gender identity in the state of California.
>
> **Bonnie Sugiyama**
> SJSU PRIDE Center and Gender Equity Center director

Lim said some of the most significant changes to Title IX proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking are prohibiting of all forms of sex discrimination as well as an updated definition of sex-based harassment with guidelines for how to combat it.

A summary of the proposed changes was released on June 23, 2022 and stated that, "the current regulations cover sexual harassment but do not address other forms of sex-based harassment," such as harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The updated definition of sex-based harassment is listed in the summary document and would include sexual harassment, with the additions of "harassment based on sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity."

The new regulations will feature bolstered protections for transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

Lim said instances of sex-based harassment like those included in the new definition are rarely reported at SJSU.

"I don't think that's because we're not experiencing, as a campus, discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression," Lim said. "People aren't reporting to our office which means, for me, that we need to do more work to inform individuals that this is a safe place to share reports."

Lim said the staff at the Title IX office has implemented multiple practices in an attempt to increase their presence in the campus community and make themselves more approachable.

Two such practices are tabling at campus events and increasing the number of live Title IX training sessions.

According to one report on the Title IX office's presence on campus, data showed that fall 2021 saw six live trainings and zero tabling events.

The same report showed that one year later, these numbers increased, with the Title IX office tabling five times throughout the fall semester and hosting 42 live events.

Lim said another way he and his team

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TITLE IX

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De Bourbon said she now refers her students to other resources outside of the university who are able to respond to their complaints faster.

De Bourbon said she had a student who was experiencing domestic violence at home and needed a housing voucher to move out.

She said when her student went to the Title IX Office, the staff could not give her a housing voucher unless she maxed out on her loans.

De Bourbon said her student had to go to another organization outside of SJSU to receive temporary housing, access to a support group and extra legal assistance.

"[Survivors] need support in a lot of different ways," said de Bourbon. "And if we're asking survivors to come forward and tell their stories, we cannot do that in good conscience unless we're willing to provide them with the support they need."

Jamie, a faculty member on campus who identifies as transgender, said the Title IX Office is still not doing an adequate job to support victims who file a complaint.

Jamie requested to not use their real name because of fear of retaliation.

Jamie said they reached out to the Title IX Office in March 2022 to file a report after the chairman in their department made transphobic comments toward them.

After reporting to the Title IX Office, Jamie said the staff put them through numerous back and forth email conversations for five months without any direct results.

They said it took months for the Title IX Office to make an in person appointment with them and file an official report.

After five months of emailing, Jamie said the Title IX Office referred them to another department on campus to address their concerns.

"I still do not have any resolution to this problem," said Jamie.

Jamie said they still have not received an email or any more support from the Title IX Office, or any other departments on campus.

After their experience, Jamie said the Title IX Office lacked three important factors: clarity, swiftness and compassion.

"It felt like I was just another file in a system that they had to manage rather than a person with an actual ongoing complaint and problem that needed resolution and still needs resolution," they said.

Lim said that the Title IX Office has been expanding its resources to shorten its response times and to respond to complaints more adequately.

He said the Title IX Office just expanded its staff from two employees, filling seven major positions.

"Regardless of how strong those employees are, or how hard they work, it is impossible for two people to support the needs of 36,000 students and 4,000 employees," said Lim.

According to an email sent on Feb. 15 by Lisa Millora, the vice president for Strategy and Institutional Affairs and chief of staff, office of the president & interim vice president for University Advancement and CEO of the Tower Foundation, the Title IX Office is currently searching for a new Title IX Gender Equity Officer.

To aid the search, Millora said the Title IX Office is scheduled to have a speaking forum on March 14 and March 16 in the Student Union to give students the chance to express their concerns and their expectations for the Title IX Office and the new Title IX Gender Equity Officer.

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TRANS EQUITY

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have worked to make their services more accessible is by redesigning the Title IX and Gender Equity Office website.

Currently, the first links users see when navigating the site include ways for victims of harassment or discrimination to get help and information on the office's confidentiality policy.

"We need to appreciate that when people experience harm, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, the first place they may go is to our website – that they may not be ready to have an in-person conversation," Lim said.

The regulations proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking are not the only efforts towards trans and gender-nonconforming visibility and representation at SJSU.

Bonnie Sugiyama, SJSU PRIDE Center and Gender Equity Center director, said two important practices are that of allowing graduating students to put their chosen names on their diplomas and allowing students to update their preferred names in the MySJSU system.

The latter practice is one that Gwynevere Pham, a transgender student at SJSU, said she has taken advantage of.

Pham ensured that her chosen name, which she recently made her legal name, would be used on roll sheets and other school documents.

Pham, an electrical engineering junior, said she has appreciated the options SJSU offers to trans students to avoid their deadnames and she has felt generally safe and comfortable as a trans student on campus.

A deadname is a transgender person's birth name with which they no longer identify after transitioning, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary.

"I do like the options that you have," Pham said. "If you haven't legally transitioned yet then you will have your deadname in the records but there's ways to circumvent that."

Pham said the PRIDE Center provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ students to spend time, access resources and feel another source of welcoming energy on campus.

While Pham's experience has been largely positive, she and Sugiyama each said there are always ways for SJSU to improve.

Sugiyama, who said their preferred pronouns are they/she, said they wished the school did a better job of enforcing the use of students' preferred pronouns and chosen names.

"Pronouns are not an optional thing to use or not use in a classroom," Sugiyama said. "Some faculty like to hide behind academic freedom and it's like, 'No, that's not how it works,' [. . .] you are required by law to respect their gender identity in the state of California."

Students are able to enter their preferred pronouns in their MySJSU accounts, but there are no regulations requiring professors or other faculty and staff to learn or use these pronouns.

"I have one professor that I wouldn't say that he's doing it out of malice but [. . .] he kinda just goes around misgendering me," Pham said. "It's fine, I'm going to leave that to he's misinformed or something."

Any trans or gender-nonconforming students who feel they may have experienced sex-based discrimination or harassment can go to the Title IX and Gender Equity Office website for instructions on report or otherwise access resources.

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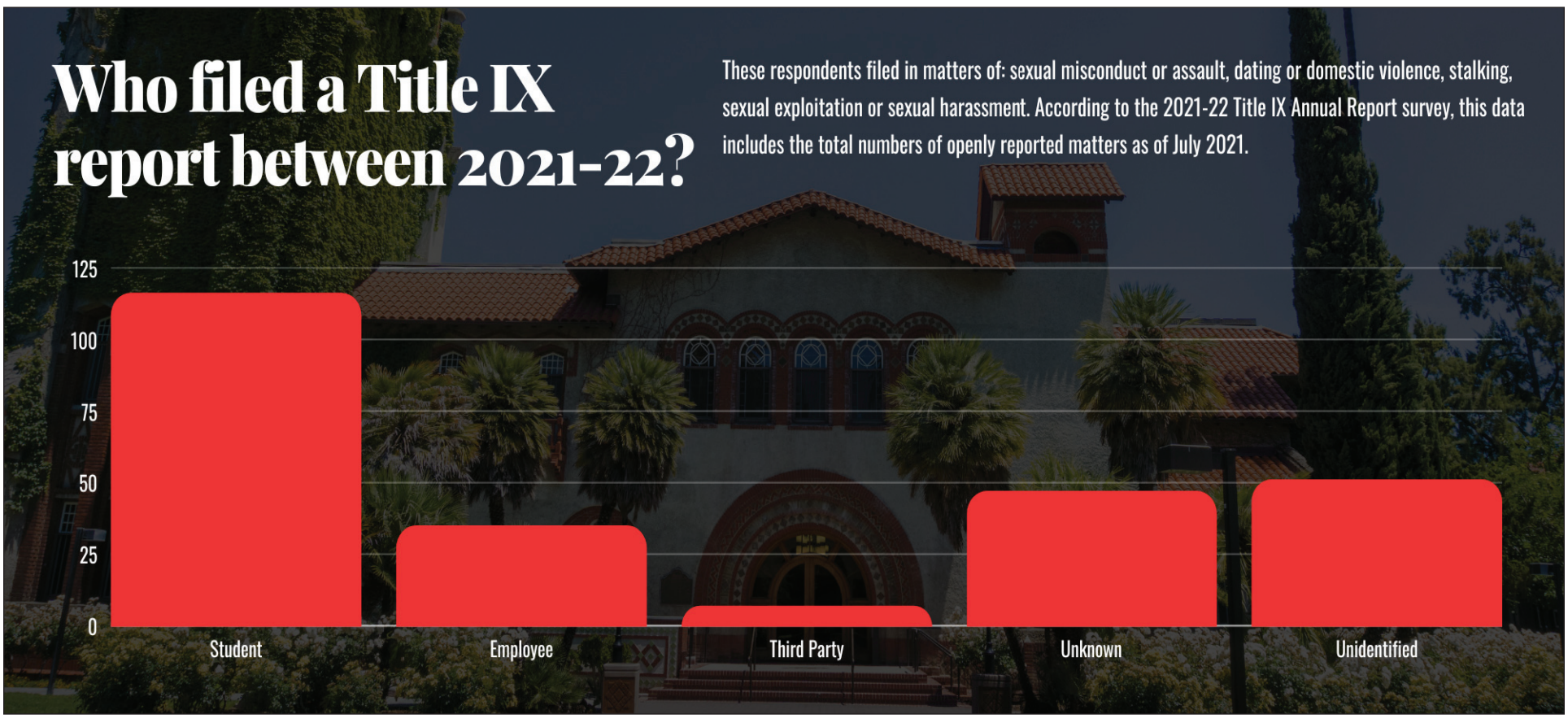

INFOGRAPHIC BY BRYANNA BARTLETT

TUITE

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2010 and 2018 that the 2009-2010 investigation was inadequate," Perez wrote in the email.

Despite the controversies and the retaliation lawsuits, Tuite obtained a leadership position at a Division 1 university.

"SUU is aware of the situation at San Jose State and based on a thorough review, reference checks and standard hiring protocols, the university is confident welcoming Marie to Thunderbird Athletics," Knuth said in a Monday Sportico article, a news website for the sports industry.

Michelle Smith McDonald, SJSU senior director of media relations, said in an email sent to the Spartan Daily she is unaware of any contact with SJSU's University Personnel department regarding Tuite's hiring.

The Spartan Daily reached out to the SJSU athletic department for a statement about Tuite's hiring on Tuesday, but did not receive a response.

Several people who worked with Tuite at SJSU throughout the years praised her work and leadership.

Former SJSU President Don Kassing congratulated SUU President Mindy Benson and Knuth for hiring Tuite, according to the SUU Athletics press release.

"I worked with Marie on several campus initiatives and was impressed with her priority of building relationships with faculty and staff. She's a student-centered administrator who had an incredibly positive impact on SJSU. SUU got a good one," Kassing said.

Smith McDonald also said Tuite's hiring did not interfere with any investigations at SJSU.

"There are no current investigations. There is a system-wide assessment of CSU campuses taking place through the Chancellor's office," said Smith McDonald in the email. "We expect the results of that assessment and recommendations later this spring."

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COACH

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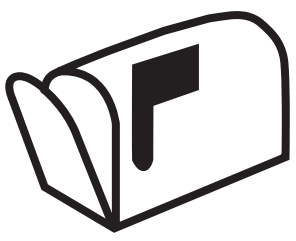
his success at SJSU, his name could pop up in a variety of Power Five jobs this spring.

With the success the Spartans have had this season, the Spartans and Miles have become a national story, which has not happened at SJSU for a long time.

Miles said the rumors around him leaving are part of the business of college basketball and that his focus, at the moment, is on making SJSU a winning program.

"In the college coaching business I've had six, eight coaching jobs. You're either coming or going. If you're not doing well enough, they want to fire you, and if you start winning, everybody thinks you're leaving," Miles said. "That's just the nature of the business. I ignore it. It's noise. It's loud. I really care about these guys. I really care about this program. I want to build a winner."

Follow Nathan Canilao on Twitter @nathancanilao



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Black women break boundaries



BRANDON NICOLAS | SPARTAN DAILY

From left to right, panelists Be'Anka Ashaolu, Regina Harris and Andrea Lacey speak at the Celebrating Black Women in Entrepreneurship event in the student union on Tuesday.

By Christine Tran
STAFF WRITER

Celebrating Black Women in Entrepreneurship was a collaboration event hosted by Women in Business on Tuesday at the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center.

Women in Business at SJSU is a pre-professional organization established in 2016, with the goal of breaking the glass ceiling and the boundaries existing in the business world.

Their mission is to empower, enable and educate their members to become future leaders of society.

The Chavez Community Action Center focuses on engaging students with their community through civic engagement opportunities that deepen educational experience. They also focus on social justice and activism in local communities.

There were three panelists that spoke at the event: Be'Anka Ashaolu, Regina Harris and Andrea Lacy.

Ashaolu is the chief marketing officer and co-founder of Nirvana Soul with her sister Jeronica Macey.

They have been in business since September 2020, when they opened their first location in Downtown San Jose.

They have since expanded to Cupertino and plan to open their third location at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library this summer.

Ashaolu said her identity as a black woman is completely celebrated and validated with Nirvana Soul.

"I don't want to have to code switch between spaces [because] I think everyone should be as authentic as they can be," Ashaolu said. "The best way to approach your life, no matter what space that you're in, is to lean towards spaces that you're celebrated and not just tolerated."

The second panelist was Harris, the creator of Prideful Patchez, a company that designs culturally inspired patches.

Before opening her own business, Harris sold patches on Facebook Live because she was not able to work as a street vendor during the coronavirus pandemic.

Currently, the patches can be found in 27 HBCU bookstores.

"My business is focused toward the African American community. We have been embraced very well because people have never seen the patches we created before," Harris said. "We take education, cultural events and we create patches to send messages out."

Harris said her identity as a black woman has negatively impacted her line of work.

She said when she first started the business online, her team received hateful messages because of their "Black is Beautiful" and "Black Pride" designs.

"That almost discouraged me from continuing because it was very frightening for me at first. Then, I realized I need to move forward with this because there's somebody out there saying that Black [people] are not beautiful and we shouldn't be prideful," Harris said.

Harris said she donates patches to different nonprofit organizations like Real Oakland, which helps students with video production.

The last panelist, Andrea Lacy, is the founder and CEO of Luv's Brownies.

Lacy, who attended SJSU herself, was diagnosed with dyslexia after failing the same math class five times, according to a Good Morning America video.

Lacy said her dyslexia was a blessing in disguise because she doubled the chocolate in a batch of brownies made for a friend.

This friend of hers went on to feature Lacy's business on the homepage of Cisco.

Lacy said she found out she was adopted later in life and she actually has two identities: Black and Cuban.

"I was raised by a black family but I use Cuban influences from my heritage by playing Celia Cruz in our truck and her song "La Vida Es Un Carnaval" is also the jingle in our app," Lacy said.

Ashaolu said Nirvana Soul serves as inspiration for the community just by seeing that something like this is possible.

"We had multiple artists come through and create murals for our shop. There's so much talent in San Jose, and the vast majority of them being women and people of color," Ashaolu said. "At this point, over 55 artists have exhibited their works at our shops."

Lacy said she never imagined herself working in a dessert truck and actually wanted to work for Hewlett Packard, or HP, since high school.

"I never really thought I'd be baking brownies. When you pay for a premium product, you want it to look presentable," Lacy said. "I care about every dessert that goes out that pickup window, and I want that person who's receiving it to feel like they got a gift. My driving force for my business is I love making people happy."

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Experts weigh in on transit planning committees

By Brandon Nicolas
STAFF WRITER



RAINIER DE FORT-MENARES | SPARTAN DAILY

Passengers wait to board Caltrain as it sits stopped at the San Carlos Caltrain Station on Tuesday afternoon.

The fourth and final installment of San Jose State's Mineta Transportation Institute's webinar series highlighted the short film "Voices of Impact," an oral history project focused on identifying how planning practices have impacted communities of color.

Miguel Angel Vazquez, President of California Planning Roundtable and event speaker, is one of the first urban planners hired by a public health department in the nation.

His role is to strengthen the integration of planning and health through collaborations with non-traditional partners.

Urban planners develop programs for land use that help create communities, adjust to population growth and replace or repurpose infrastructure.

Founded in 1981, the California Planning Roundtable "advances planning practice and influences policy through innovation and leadership to create healthy, prosperous and equitable communities," according to its website.

Partnering with the Mineta Transportation Institute, the California Planning Roundtable crafted the short film to give voice to people impacted, raise public awareness and suggest how planning professionals and policy makers can change their practices in response.

"We began this project as a result of the racial unrest that was happening soon after the pandemic – starting with the killing of George Floyd and others – at the hands of police," Vazquez said.

He said some of the aspects they wanted to explore with the film included how community members are affected by systemic discrimination and land planning, and how communities can use planning as a tool to mitigate and prevent gentrification.

He said he and his team were looking for stories in communities of color that can help planning organizations understand how their rule affects said communities.

The film features the stories of six people who have been impacted by housing and land use policies enacted by federal, state and local governments. The film also shared solutions to improve the quality of life for communities who have suffered from those policies.

In the webinar, Vazquez shared the process of how the film project was initially developed and transformed over the course of a year.

He said his team developed guidelines regarding who the team will interview, film strategy and how the collection of stories will come together.

The team avoided the use of jargon, interviewed individuals in a quiet area, gave the interviewees a script of questions to be transparent and shared the protocols the team wanted to adhere to.

"The purpose of our guidelines was, from the get-go, to make sure we developed this film to [be] educational in nature," Vazquez said.

Vazquez interviewed two subjects for the project, a different interaction from his usual meetings with community members.

"It gave me a very focused charge on what I wanted to learn," Vazquez said. "I just listened."

Maria Cortez currently serves as the community outreach assistant City Heights Community Development Corporation in San Diego.

City Heights Community Development Corporation "works to enhance the quality of life for residents in community heights by creating and sustaining quality affordable housing and livable neighborhoods and by fostering economic self-sufficiency," according to its website.

"We, the community, are not bad and don't have anything against the developers," Cortez said. "It's just that sometimes, developers don't see the same visions that we have."

Vazquez and the "Voices of Impact" project hopes to bridge the gap between developers and communities.

"I'd like to take this moment to invite the developers to come out to the community," Cortez said. "Invite the community to these [meetings so] that you can see how we can work with you because this is the community that we live in – you guys work for the community, but you don't live in the community."

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Let's put a stop to victim blaming



Christine Tran
STAFF WRITER

As if experiencing sexual assault wasn't traumatizing enough, victims also have to deal with backlash from their friends, family members and social media.

I would love to paint a picture for those of you who immediately protect the celebrities or public figures who are accused of sexual assault and not the victims who are brave enough to step forward.

Imagine someone punches you in the face and you are severely bruised. Your eye is swelling up, you're bleeding and your pain level is through the roof.

Remember that feeling and imagine telling your best friend what happened.

You have known your best friend for years, a decade even. You confide in them with anything that happens in your life. Now, imagine the audacity they have to ask you, "But did you deserve it?"

The point I'm trying to make is that no one deserves it.

However, there are people who actually believe victims of sexual assault can prevent it from happening to them, including by wearing looser clothing. This is called victim blaming.

According to the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, victim blaming is defined as someone implying a person who experienced assault is a result of something they did as a way to shift blame.

> **Victim blaming negatively affects the sexual justice movement because statistically, we know things like sexual and domestic violence are prevalent in all areas and ages of life.**
>
> **Bianca Hernandez**
> women, gender and sexuality lecturer

Bianca Hernandez, a lecturer in the Women, Gender and Sexuality Department at SJSU and a sexual assault counselor at a local rape crisis center, said we should all be survivor centered.

"Victim blaming negatively affects the sexual justice movement because statistically, we know things like sexual and domestic violence are prevalent in all areas and ages of life," Hernandez said. "It reinforces the issue of sexual violence and causes more harm to survivors."

This can also discourage sexual assault victims to step forward for a long time and when they finally do, they are labeled as attention seekers or liars.

For example, the stars of 1968's "Romeo and Juliet," directed by Franco Zeffirelli, filed a lawsuit in January against Paramount Studios for releasing scenes showing them nude, according to a Jan. 4 CNN article.

Lead actors Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting alleged that Zeffirelli promised they would be able to wear nude undergarments during the bedroom scene and that no nudity would be shown in the final production.

But when the cameras started rolling, Zeffirelli told the stars - who were 15 and 16 at the time - they had to shoot the scene naked.

Hussey and Whiting are now in their 70s and seek $500 million for the job opportunities they lost out on and the distress they endured following the release of the film.

This makes perfect sense, right?

They were just naive kids then and trusted their director to keep his word and protect them. But now that they are older, they realized they were exploited.

However, some say the co-stars are just trying to defame their director who passed away in 2019 since he cannot confirm or deny these allegations.

With a survivor centered mindset, as Hernandez mentioned, we should consider that they finally feel safe to vocalize their exploitation. It's been decades since the film was produced and to this, I say so what?

Their experience on set is still valid. Just because it was 1968 doesn't mean Hussey and Whiting deserved to be filmed in nudity without their permission for the rest of the world's entertainment. Sexual exploitation, especially regarding children, is never okay no matter what decade it is.

Hernandez said she has seen hurtful messages sent to victims like, "You shouldn't have been out alone that late" or even re-distributing images of a victim without their permission, which can be revenge porn or child sexual abuse material.

"We should respect survivors' choices and decisions even if they might not align with our decisions. Victims [or survivors] should be treated with compassion and supported at all stages of a difficult situation," Hernandez said.

It doesn't matter when a victim goes forward with their story – now, years later or never. We should believe them and help them in whatever way they need.

It is never the fault of victims of sexual assault no matter the circumstances. As a society, we need to shift away from victim blaming and place blame on the person who chose to inflict harm instead.

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GRAPHIC BY JILLIAN DARNELL



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ABOUT

The Spartan Daily prides itself on being the San Jose State community's top news source. New issues are published every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily.
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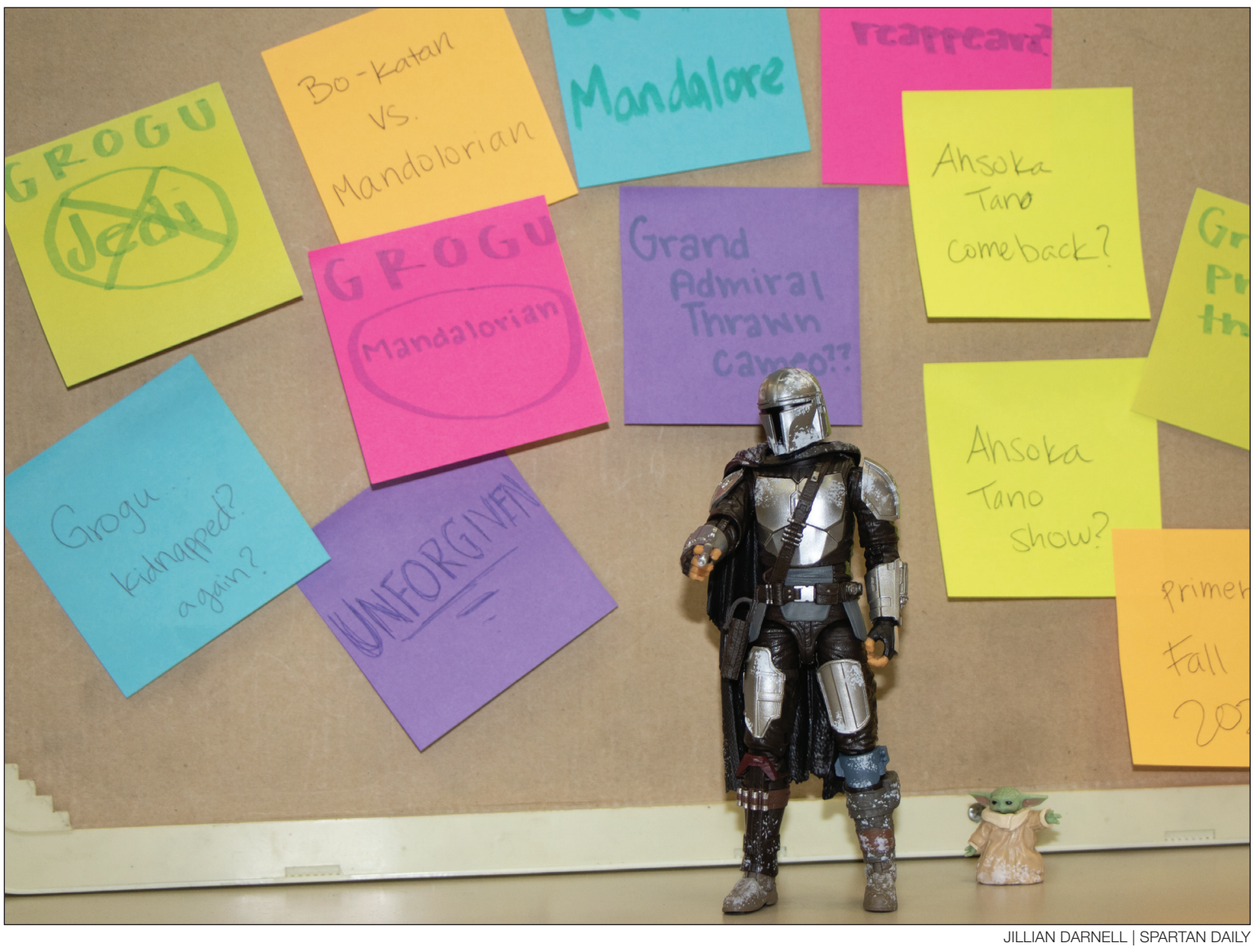
PREDICTIONS

Get ready for Mandalorian Season 3

By Oscar Frias-Rivera
STAFF WRITER



JILLIAN DARNELL | SPARTAN DAILY

The new season of "Star Wars" spin-off "The Mandalorian" on Disney+ is in a galaxy near us again and I have never been more excited.

Chilean-American actor Pedro Pascal reprises his role as the Mandalorian, or "Mando," and his little green friend Grogu is also coming back to destroy everything he can get his hands on.

Now if you didn't catch "The Book of Boba Fett," another TV spin off from "The Mandalorian," then good luck knowing what's going on in the new season.

At the end of season two, we got to see Mando, or Din Djarin, which is his official name, remove his helmet to say goodbye to Grogu after Luke Skywalker came to take him away as his padawan to Skywalker's Jedi Temple to learn the Force.

A padawan is an apprentice jedi in the "Star Wars" universe, according to StarWars.com.

Spoiler alert, in the "Boba Fett" spin-off, Djarin reunites with the main characters of the series to help Boba Fett fight enemies on Jabba's territory with a promise to see Grogu.

In episode six of "Boba Fett," Djarin had doubts while visiting Luke's temple.

The audience got to see another cameo of "Star Wars" character Ahsoka Tano, played by actress Rosario Dawson, where she convinces Mando to leave and allow Grogu to train with Luke.

However during Boba Fett's final battle, Grogu comes back and saves Mando from being defeated by Jabba's crew. They reunite as Grogu decides to be by Mando's side instead of continuing his training with Luke.

Mando and Boba Fett killed all the enemies, including Cad Bane, a bounty hunter/mercenary, and saved the territory from Jabba.

Season three will pick up where they left off on "The Book of Boba Fett", after they flew away on Mando's ship to find another planet, while also running from everyone trying to get their hands on Grogu.

In the trailer Disney+ released, we see that they are heading back to Mandalore so Djarin can be forgiven for breaking the most important tradition of the Mandalorian religion and in removing his helmet.

At this point, we are bound to see more Mandalorians in the "Star Wars" universe and if they are willing to forgive him for breaking this sacred rule.

We will also witness how well Grogu has control of the Force now because he was trained by Luke.

Some fans may be eager to see if Grogu will be abducted again and if the Mandalorians will forgive or turn on Djarin for disobeying the one sacred rule.

We also don't know if any other main characters will be returning this season such as Moff Gideon, Boba Fett, and even Luke Skywalker.

There is also the concern of the conflict between Mando and Bo-Katan over their battle of the darksaber.

Disney is doing what it did last season by not revealing too much to the viewers.

This season should be filled with lots of surprises as "The Mandalorian" has become extremely popular among Disney and "Star Wars" fans.

"The Mandalorian" has become one of my favorite shows to come out recently.

This season will have eight chapters for the next two months.

I will be staying up as usual when the episodes release every Wednesday night at midnight.

Avoid social media at all costs when an episode drops as it is filled with spoilers.

I have very high expectations for this show as no season so far has been disappointing.

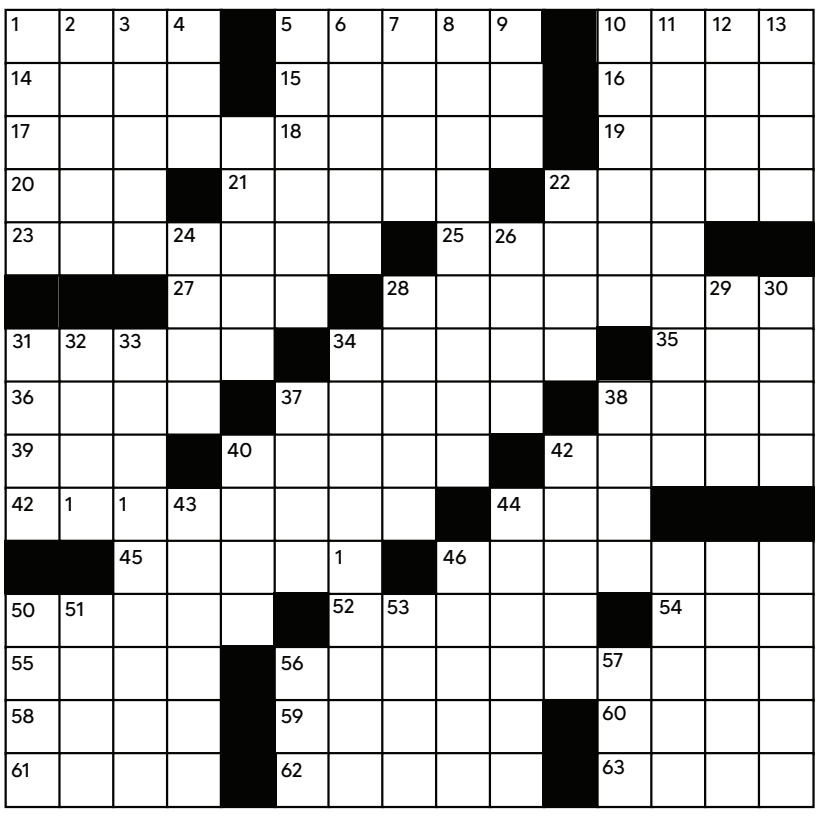
The character of Mando saved "The Book of Boba Fett" from being a failure and I'm sure the new season will be fantastic.

"The Mandalorian" is scheduled to release its first episode on Disney+ today.

Follow Oscar Frias-Rivera on Twitter @oscar_frias408

CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1. Pay attention
5. Not second
10. Tent-pitching place
14. Against
15. A city in Nebraska
16. Follow orders
17. Food dryer
19. Close
20. An uncle
21. Keen
22. Flair
23. Medical needle
25. Coronet
27. Falsehood
28. Union
31. A group on concubines
34. Cool down
35. Director's cry
36. Genus of gorse
37. Board game
38. Of higher order
39. Diety
40. Levitate
41. Adjust again
42. Coastal region
44. Hurried on foot
45. Tally
46. Laic
50. Complete
52. Rent
54. Sash
55. Greek goddess of discord
56. Belonging to the past
58. Dispatched
59. Not outer
60. Speed competition
61. Clothing
62. Cast out
63. Large northern deer

DOWN
1. Hell
2. Foe
3. Aromatic solvent
4. Do It Yourself
5. Scrounge (for food)
6. Picture
7. Assess
8. A small group of applicants
9. Driveway surface
10. Against
11. Suspensions
12. Lunch or dinner
13. Combustible pile
18. Jeans material
22. Travel on water by wind
24. Holly
26. Misfortunes
28. Coming up
29. Adorable
30. French for "State"
31. Embraces
32. Balm ingredient
33. Editing
34. Chuckling
37. Extended family
38. List of choices
40. Highly offensive
41. Formula 1 driver
43. Brags
44. Holiday destination
46. Satisfies
47. Neighborhood
48. By surprise
49. Angers
50. Exam
51. Black-and-white cookie
53. Slave
56. Hasten
57. Anger

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

JOKIN' AROUND

"How did the barber win the race?"

"He knew a shortcut."

SOLUTIONS 2.28.23

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

L	I	S	P	S	■	G	R	A	D	■	P	A	L	E
I	S	L	E	T	■	R	A	N	I	■	A	D	A	R
E	L	A	T	E	■	A	N	T	S	■	R	O	B	S
N	E	W	S	M	O	N	G	E	R	■	T	R	E	E
■	■	■	■	M	A	D	■	■	O	R	I	E	L	■
P	E	P	P	E	R	■	C	U	B	I	C	■	■	■
I	D	L	E	D	■	I	R	R	E	G	U	L	A	R
T	E	A	R	■	C	O	I	N	S	■	L	O	B	E
A	N	T	I	D	O	T	E	S	■	B	A	G	E	L
■	■	■	L	U	N	A	R	■	R	A	R	E	L	Y
■	W	R	O	N	G	■	■	C	O	P	■	■	■	■
L	I	E	U	■	E	X	P	L	E	T	I	V	E	S
A	R	C	S	■	A	X	L	E	■	I	D	E	A	L
V	E	A	L	■	L	I	A	R	■	S	E	N	S	E
E	S	P	Y	■	S	I	N	K	■	M	A	T	E	D

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