

# The Tacoma Ledger

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## News

The ribbon has been cut at Milgard Hall as UWT celebrates its near completion



*IMAGE: The ribbon was cut on the new Milgard Hall building on the UWT campus on November 10.*

*Photo by Destiny Valencia*

**On November 10, individuals gathered for a small ribbon cutting ceremony regarding Milgard Hall.**

By Destiny Valencia

On November 10, University of Washington community members, faculty and students gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the long-awaited Milgard Hall.

Milgard Hall, which is a part of the Milgard School of Business, will combine the school of business with the growing school of technology and engineering. A 55,000 square foot, three-story building, Milgard Hall will feature a variety of labs dedicated to robotics, civil engineering, combustion and energy labs, concrete labs and many study spaces for students.

Milgard Hall, which began its construction in July 2021, uses sustainably sourced timber for its construction and is expected to be open for classes in the winter quarter of 2023. Milgard Hall is one of the few new buildings UWT has constructed, with most previous buildings on campus being old buildings or warehouses that were already present when the school opened permanently in 1997.

The ribbon cutting ceremony began at 4 p.m. with remarks thanking individuals who donated or helped with the construction of Milgard Hall. The event was emceed by the Chair of Faculty Assembly, Menaka Abraham and ASUWT President Jai'Shon Berry. Speakers included President of University of Washington, Ana Mari Cauce, UWT Chancellor Sheila Edwards Lange, Connie McCloud the Culture Director of the Puyallup Tribe, Speaker of the House (Washington) Laurie Jinkins and more.

“This is a big day, and this is a big deal,” President Cauce said, “Milgard Hall is going to be a catalyst for innovation and discovery here at the University of Washington Tacoma and is also a really powerful symbol for how our university can create and accelerate change for the public good.”

Following President Cauce’s remarks was a land acknowledgement by Connie McCloud and a performance by Puyallup tribal members.

“Our young people too will come here to learn, and our young people too will come to give back to the community to share,” McCloud said.

Following the program, a ribbon cutting was held with members of the Board of Regents, University of Washington President Ana Mari Cauce, Chancellor Sheila Edwards Lange, state representatives, Mayor Victoria Woodards, Connie McCloud and other tribal representatives cut the ceremonial ribbon.

After the program, individuals were encouraged to take a self-tour of the new building and look at the open classrooms that were ready for viewing. Some rooms such as the robotics room or hydraulics room were not available to tour as these rooms were still receiving the finishing touches such as exterior and interior fixtures or the installation of new furniture and equipment.

Milgard Hall, while still being finished, will have a variety of cool and innovative features. The building will feature a “Building from the Forests” exhibit which will look at Tacoma timber history along with a permanent land acknowledgement and a commuter shower.

A financial wellness and market lab is expected to open in the building in the spring of 2023 where students will learn financial literacy skills and can get hands-on experience with Bloomberg terminals, a stock ticker and other investment equipment.

Students can expect Milgard Hall to open for classes in January 2023.

## **Razor scooters have arrived at UWT**



*IMAGE: UWT sign on Pacific avenue marks the downtown parking zone for Razor e-scooters.*

*Photo by Alexa Christie*

## **UWT, the city of Tacoma and Razor USA have teamed up to bring Razor Share e-scooters to the UWT campus.**

By Katie Scott

On Wednesday, November 9, Razor Share e-scooters officially launched as an on-campus option for quick commuting between UWT buildings. Razor Share e-scooters are community use scooters, available to rent for short trips within city limits.

For UWT students, scooters can be found at the designated parking zones located in front of the University Y, on Pacific Avenue near the UWT bookstore, in front of The Rock Wood Fired Pizza and on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the crossroads of Broadway Street and Pacific Avenue.

To start scootering, riders need to download the Razor mobility app. After creating a rider profile and submitting documentation to confirm they are 18 years of age or older, riders can use the app to begin locating scooters.

After locating an available scooter, the app will show the scooter's location, battery life, and estimated distance from the rider's current location. Once riders arrive at the scooter location, they will scan the QR code, located on the scooter's handlebars, to connect that scooter with their rider profile. Then it's time to scoot-scoot!

According to Mike Tirey, Tacoma Operations Manager for Razor USA, trips typically range from 1-4 miles. The cost to ride is \$1 to unlock the scooter, and \$.39 per minute, making the average ride cost around \$4-\$6.

For riders who qualify, Razor USA offers the option of an affordability program. Anyone enrolled in programs such as free/reduced lunch, snap benefits, TANF or any other state or national subsidy program will qualify for the affordability program. Razor USA reports, though there is no specific list of qualifying programs/benefits, any document that shows participation in an assistance program is usually enough to qualify a rider.

Tirey explains, “Most people will send a photo of their EBT or SNAP card, or a government letter that talks about their benefits. We have also accepted electric bills if they already have low-income assistance on it. If we receive anything else that suggests they are enrolled in a financial assistance program, we'll confirm it to the best of our ability and often grant that person with the affordability program pricing.”

Once qualified for the program, riders will pay \$.50 to unlock a scooter and \$.15 per minute, plus tax and an additional city fee.

The Razor mobility app states there is sometimes a \$10 preauthorization hold placed on a rider's card. This hold is to cover any instances where unauthorized or underfunded credit or debit transactions may occur. Razor USA says holds are implemented occasionally, and begin at the start of a ride.

After the ride has completed, the Razor app reports the \$10 hold will be lifted, though they warn it could take up to 24 hours for the funds to return to your account, depending upon when your bank releases them back to you.

Once the rider is finished with their scooter, they can park it on any sidewalk, out of the path of foot traffic, or in a designated parking zone as listed above.

“We encourage riders to not ride on sidewalks whenever possible, as bike lanes and low traffic streets are the safest. We encourage safe riding and for riders to be mindful of pedestrians,” Tirey said.

“Pedestrians have the right of way on all sidewalks. If pedestrians are present, please walk the scooter past them or find a way to scoot by on the street.”

Though UWT will start out with two corrals, Razor says there will be daily deployment and rebalancing of scooters at the UWT parking zones.

Tirey shares that the goal of Razor USA is to ensure students have easy access to sustainable, reliable transportation,” Tirey said.

To apply for the affordability program, visit:

<https://www.razor.com/share/affordability-program/> and follow the prompts to submit your documents.

Razor USA encourages riders to wear a helmet and follow all street and transportation laws.

## **Food made accessible for students**



*IMAGE: The pantry serves to feed students with basic nutrition and hygiene products as well as making holiday feasts accessible.*

*Photo by Alexa Christie*

**Food insecurity is a reality many Washingtonians face, directly impacting college students nationwide, making the holidays a challenge.**  
By Leslie Cruz

For many, Thanksgiving is a holiday of feasting with dishes ranging from turkey to mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie, but for some, it is a holiday when hunger strikes.

As reported by Feeding America, 638,210 people are facing hunger in Washington State alone, with 29% of college students facing food insecurity nationwide.

The impact of food insecurity on college students is detrimental to their health and overall academic performance. According to the Health Affairs Organization, students facing food insecurity are more likely to have lower

GPAs as well as a diminishing ability to focus and perform in class, while making them more likely to suffer from stress and depression.

In response, many universities including UWT have built pantries on campus to alleviate students from hunger and allow food security.

Students now have access to free food, perishable items as well as hygiene products. With open availability to shop in-person once a week with a limit of 20 items, students can fulfill their dietary restrictions such as halal, kosher, lactose-free, vegan and gluten free.

“We’re (the pantry) not planning anything for Thanksgiving, but will be holding a food drive during winter,” said Erin Cousins, Program Support Supervisor of the Center for Equity and Inclusion.

The winter food drive will be an open campus donation drive, anyone is welcome to donate perishable and nonperishable items. A list created by the pantry will also be posted with specific donation requests.

“Students can look up food banks in their area, there’s also Huskies Care for food resources,” said Cousins.

To further diminish food security during the holidays, local food banks are available to students and their families. Emergency assistance is also available to all students. Whether students need financial support, food, or housing, students can fill out a form and receive immediate help.

Pantry Location: Dougan 104 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For students looking for local food banks:

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>

To apply for emergency assistance: <https://apps.tacoma.uw.edu/emergency-assistance-portal/application-core/protected/>

# Opinion

Low Income Housing on Hosmer is a NIMBY housing crisis ‘solution’



*IMAGE: Motel rooms don't require a good credit score or a down deposit.  
Photo by Jason via Pixabay*

## **Converting hotels to low-income does not increase the number of available rental units in Tacoma.**

By Ruth Ogden

The housing crisis is a hot conversation topic in Tacoma and for good reason. Tacoma does not have enough affordable housing - the median apartment rental price here for a one-bedroom is \$1,642, not including utilities and fees. This, combined with the Tacoma City Council decision banning all camping within ten blocks of temporary housing creates a no-win scenario for low-income housing for insecure Tacoma residents. Creating affordable housing units seems to be the obvious solution for this issue.

In October, another investment group filed the permits necessary to convert a motel on Hosmer Street into low-income housing. According to the permit, there will be over 100 rental units priced at about \$1,000 a month. This development will fill a needed niche.

Few would disagree that Tacoma needs more low-income housing. However, converting motels to apartments doesn't fix the housing crisis, nor does it address rising rent prices or supply additional low-income housing. In fact, changing a hotel to an apartment doesn't even increase the number of available rental units in Tacoma. What this is actually doing is converting low-barrier, low-income housing into high-barrier, low-income housing.

Using the Hosmer Motel 6 as an example, one room costs an average of \$80 to \$100 a night. Multiply that by 30, you spend about \$3000 a month. In contrast, the proposed apartments would run around \$1000 a month - three times less than a hotel. However, for some Tacoma residents hotels are the only resource available to them. Hotels don't require a good credit score or previous rental history and don't discriminate based on eviction history. Not to mention, saving up a down deposit takes time. If the weather is below freezing, people need shelter that very night.

Hotels are an immediate solution, whereas low-income housing is a long-term solution. We need both - we can't take one and turn it into another.

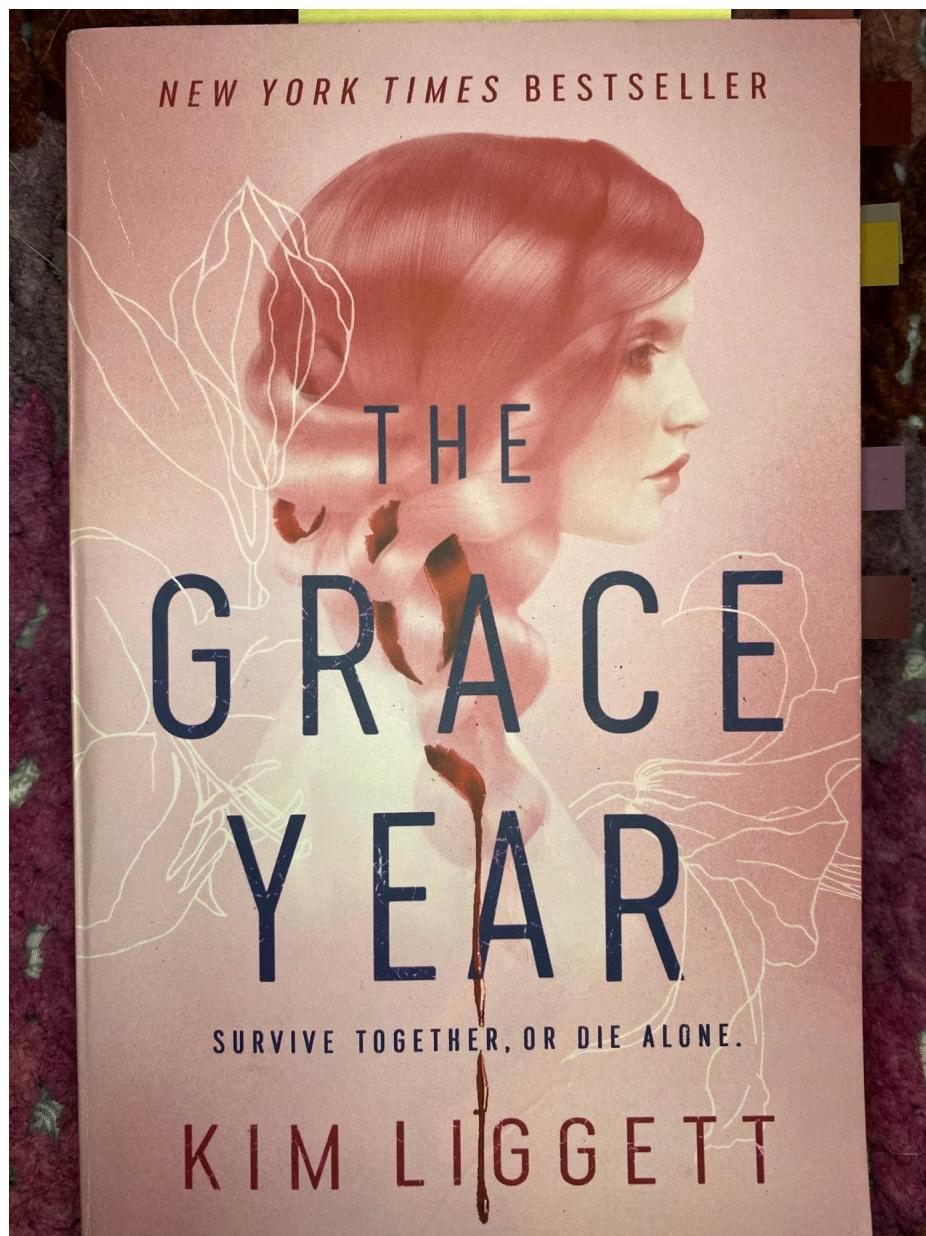
Tacoma should also consider whether this is the best location for low-income housing. People who need low-income housing often lack resources that other community members take for granted, namely, a working vehicle. The Hosmer area has a reputation for high violent crime rates and is not a family-friendly neighborhood - the sidewalks are not kept up, there are few parks or public recreation areas, and bus stops are placed far apart. Hosmer area residents are already neglected, and increasing the number of vulnerable residents in this area will stretch an already overtaxed system.

The neglect of the Hosmer Street area is a direct byproduct of the Not In My Backyard(NIMBY) mindset. To have a NIMBY mindset is to support the construction of facilities and resources... as long as it's not near where you would have to deal with it. Many Tacoma residents support the creation of temporary housing and low-income rentals, but oppose construction in their own neighborhood.

Instead of the Hosmer area, it would be more logical to place a low-income housing development in a wealthier neighborhood such as the Proctor District or Stadium District. These areas have the infrastructure and resources that low-income residents need - a good bus system, high-quality public schools, public parks, and safe walkable streets.

By placing low-income housing in a high-need neighborhood, Tacoma is keeping the housing crisis out of sight of wealthier residents. This is not a long-term solution or a way to provide relief for our unhoused community - Tacoma is keeping one street deeply impoverished as a way to keep it out of others.

## **‘The Grace Year’**



*IMAGE: Book cover photo.*

*Photo by Celia Williams*

**A story about societal norms and feminism.**

By Celia Williams

“The Grace Year” was a wild read from start to finish. I couldn’t put it down for two days. This story is all about cults, societal pressures, and one’s own femininity. Much like “The Giver” by Lois Lowry, there are strict rules and beliefs in the secluded town of Garner County.

In the town of Garner County, the girls that are of the age of sixteen are sent to an island for their grace year. This is due to the belief that women are magical beings, both seductive and manipulative to get their way.

Throughout the main character's grace year, Tierney James, she uncovers many secrets about her family, Garner County, and the grace year itself.

Kim Liggett takes us on a journey of discovery during Tierney's grace year. We get a lot of new information through every twist and turn in the book.

After getting to the camp that would be their home for the next year, the girls begin establishing order. Tierney also divulges that she doesn't fully believe that the women of Garner County were truly magical, so she has a hard time reasoning with the other girls who did. This causes a lot of conflict, as they all have different ideas of what the best way to approach things would be and what is actually true. Tierney, having been taught a lot about surviving in the wild, also has a different idea for what would be necessary for survival.

Tierney, much like the female leads that we all know and love, is very strong-willed. Throughout the entire grace year she doesn't waver. She fights everyday to survive, and then later fights to dismantle the patriarchy within Garner County.

This story was a very refreshing take on the classic dystopian facist regime that aims to control everything within their grasp. Similar to "The Giver," "The Grace Year" shows a world where individuality and unlawfulness is not tolerated. Women are viewed as second class, nothing more than a human incubator. It highlights the treatment and oppression of women in today's world with double standards and gender norms.

I think that this is also a great book to aid the understanding of the reason behind a lot of people having issues with religion, whether that be because of personal religious trauma or seeing what has been done to others within the churches. During her grace year Tierney learns a lot about Garner County and the people that live there. She has to decide her beliefs for herself after everything that she has been brought up with is revealed to not be the norm outside of Garner County. This is very much like the relationship between people who grew up in a religious upbringing and later leave the organization or religion.

Overall, I found “The Grace Year” to be a great read that exposes a lot of the real-world issues women are facing and have faced throughout history. From the blatant sexist ideology that was normalized within the community of Garner County to the physical trauma and abuse the women faced, it is not too far from the truth of the world we live in.

I would give this read a 4.5 out of 5 stars.

## Arts & Entertainment

The Tacoma sound: from forgotten vocalists to Seaweed



*IMAGE: Seaweed  
Photo via Spotify*

## We aren't just grunge! By Josephine Trueblood

Tacoma music goes a lot further than “Louie Louie.” From groundbreaking ‘60s surf and garage rock to ‘90s punk and alternative, the last sixty years of

Tacoma music have been plentiful, gritty and made a mark on music history. Learn about Tacoma's best deep cuts and the history behind them.

#### Gail Harris: "So Much / Be My Baby" (1961)

Performing with The Wailers as young as 13, Gail Harris was a Tacoma singer who exemplified the soulful and powerful vocal style of the early '60s. Her solo career produced a handful of singles, including the 1961 upbeat track "So Much," which features her signature howl, and the wistful "Be My Baby." With credits on The Fabulous Wailers "At The Castle," one of their renowned live albums recorded at the local Spanish Castle Ballroom, Harris deserves more credit for her contributions to the success of the famed garage band.

#### Jonah's Whale: "Why / Feelin' Loose" (1972)

Released on Valane Records in Seattle, this groovy 45 has everything: the heartfelt, soaring harmonies of "Why" and the catchy, danceable funk hit "Feelin' Loose." As one of Tacoma's only funk bands, Jonah's Whale was active for over 25 years, from 1971 to 1997. With a talented and diverse lineup, many members of the Whale remain fixtures of the Tacoma scene, like guitarist Michael Stubblefield and drummer Bill Barner.

#### Neko Case: "Furnace Room Lullaby" (2000)

A uniquely Tacoma album, Neko Case's "Furnace Room Lullaby" is full of scenery only Tacoma natives will recognize. "South Tacoma Way" is both haunting and serene, epitomizing the five-mile stretch of old neon signs we all know and love, while "Thrice All American" is more celebratory, defending the gritty and empty nature of the city. However, often overlooked on this album is "Bought and Sold," a song with raw vocals and perfect alt-country guitar tones. Case grew up in Tacoma and often references the city, even in her later works. Fun Fact: iconic Tacoma band, Girl Trouble, has a song called "Neko Loves Rock 'N' Roll."

#### The Fuckers: "Block Party" (1992)

Rumored to be Seaweed in disguise, the four ski-masked members only released two singles, "Block Party" and "QuickCash / Coming Home (Crashing The Crackhouse)." With likely the most entertaining liner notes

you'll ever read, including a shout out to the recently-closed Hilltop Pawn, The Fuckers are classic Tacoma punk.

### Seaweed: "Spanaway" (1995)

Seaweed's fourth album, "Spanaway," is full of catchy and edgy songs with excellent vocals. The Tacoma band is known for their unique and influential sound that combines elements of alt-rock, punk and early pop-punk. "Start With" is one of those timeless, great songs that will be stuck in your head for weeks, but "Magic Mountainman" is the deep cut that will have you singing along with the guitar line. Surprisingly, PNW drummers Matt Cameron of Soundgarden and Barrett Martin of Screaming Trees played on each of these unforgettable tracks.

Little Bill and The Bluenotes: "I Love An Angel / Bye Bye Baby" (1959)  
With the classic '50s rhythm & blues dancehall sound, Little Bill and The Bluenotes are a time capsule for Tacoma in a different era. Produced by Bonnie Guitar, their single "I Love An Angel" is a sweet teen ballad, undoubtedly the perfect slow dance number, while "Bye Bye Baby" has more swing to it, with rather fiery lyrics for the time. While Little Bill later rebranded as Bill Engelhart and continued to release solo work, two members of The Bluenotes, Buck Ormsby and Rockin' Robin Roberts, went on to found The Wailers.

No Tacoma music history account would be complete without the big three: The Sonics, The Wailers and The Ventures. All dominating the Tacoma scene in the early 1960s, each have impressive and extensive discographies. Deep cut favorites include The Wailers' alias project, The Breakers, along with The Ventures' endless early singles and The Sonics' lovably-weird collaboration Christmas singles with The Wailers, "Don't Believe in Christmas / Christmas Spirit?"

**'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' is touching but messy**



*IMAGE: “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” theatrical release poster  
Photo by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures*

**While it is a beautiful tribute to Chadwick Boseman, much of the plot needed work and an over reliance on CGI bogged the film down.**  
by Emilia Bell

When Chadwick Boseman tragically passed away in 2020, a question was raised about how the sequel to the hugely popular 2018 Marvel film “Black Panther” would proceed. Director Ryan Coogler thankfully did not opt to recast or CGI the character, and instead chose to respectfully open the sequel with the character dying off-screen. This could have been detrimental to the film, as it is with many whose main actors die, but it brought an emotional depth.

The film follows Princess Shuri as she grieves her brother’s passing as well as trying to protect her country from greedy nations who want vibranium (a super-strong metal commonly discussed in the Marvel universe – Captain America’s shield, for instance). When a mysterious man from an underwater world threatens her and her people, she is torn on how to proceed.

Letitia Wright competently stepped into the lead role as Shuri and Angela Bassett was, as usual, impactful in her performance as the queen. Danai Gurira was tough but added humor to the film. Winston Duke as M’Baku was enjoyable to watch, and had a larger role in the film.

A new character played by Tenoch Huerta felt different and unique, aside from some technical aspects that could have been improved upon. The character spends a lot of time in the water as well as flying, and it seems Marvel has still not nailed how to make underwater or flying sequences look realistic.

There were several entertaining action sequences in the film, but unfortunately many of them were too dimly lit to properly see. The CGI just wasn’t up to par, as has been the case with most Marvel projects lately, which was disappointing to see. There were many instances of slow-motion in fight scenes, which started off interesting and visually stunning, but became unimpressive as the movie went on and the magic had worn off.

The editing was often confusing, with scenes ending abruptly, which could not be saved by a muddled and bloated plot. Oftentimes, it felt as though scenes dragged on for too long and gave no helpful information to the audience.

A new character, Riri Williams (played by Dominique Thorne), was not given enough time to shine, but other subplots lasted too long. The antagonist was not quite compelling, as the film chose to go the anti-hero route, and the true villain (mainly the U.S. government) was not present enough to be sufficiently intimidating.

“Wakanda Forever” expands on the richness of fictional cultures beautifully, especially in the beginning of the film with a Wakandan funeral for T’Challa. It also introduces a new group of people who live underwater. There isn’t a lot of time devoted for the viewer to learn about them, with most time spent on the antagonist, but they are descended from Mayan peoples and speak the language. The audience gets to see a taste of this with some beautiful underwater caves and fun costume design. One character even has a hammerhead shark skull as their headpiece.

The costumes were incredibly detailed and impressive, as is to be expected, with Queen Ramonda’s standing out in particular. These elements all add texture to the film and provide visual interest to the audience.

The film took some risks in terms of Marvel’s usual style, but it did not break out of the overdone tropes Marvel is known for—it was still full of quips, too many computer-generated sequences, and jumbled fight scenes. In light of Boseman’s untimely death, the film does manage to pull it off, and overall is heartfelt and fun to watch despite its flaws.

3.5 / 5 stars

## **The musical ‘Rock of Ages’ is almost underway**



*IMAGE: A flyer advertising the musical “Rock of Ages.”  
Photo by UWT Arts Department*

**UWT’s first musical collaboration with Tacoma Little Theatre.**  
by Angelo Alegre

“Rock of Ages” is the first official musical that UWT will present, so what is it about and when will it happen?

First off, musicals are a type of theatrical performance that incorporates music, and typically dance, to tell a story.

Dr. Weingarden is an instructor at the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, and is organizing this event.

She explains “Rock of Ages” as a “jukebox musical,” in which they will use existing songs to tell a story. In this specific musical production, the music will primarily be from the ‘80s.

“Rock of Ages” is not the first musical that went into production at UWT. Right before COVID, the UWT Theatre was also preparing for their musical, “Next to Normal.”

Dr. Weingarden said it was a “chamber musical” – which she explains to “not have a lot of choreography, and it is much more about telling the story.”

“Next to Normal” was supposed to be held on campus but now two years later, they have increased their ambitions with “Rock of Ages,” and will be collaborating with Tacoma Little Theatre.

The UWT Theatre will be holding auditions for the musical from December 4 to December 7, all with different time slots. More information will be available on the UWT Theatre Facebook page regarding the times auditions will be held. Anyone from any department of education can participate and you can actually earn credits by doing so. Not only will being a performer earn you credits, but helping with backstage production can as well. If you plan on only participating backstage, you will have to be present during specific rehearsals, which will be held in CP 007 beginning on January 3, when students come back from winter break. This also means that you must be present on not just some, but all showtimes.

You also do not need any experience whatsoever to try out, both onstage and off-stage. It is as Dr. Weingarden explains, “The only way to get the experience is to do it.”

Even if you might not end up with a big role, seeing your contribution to the bigger project will give you more than just an experience, but joy as well.

Once production and rehearsals are all done, the musical “Rock of Ages” will hold their performances at Tacoma Little Theatre from March 3 until March 23.

If you are thinking of trying out for either onstage performance or backstage help, here are some words of encouragement from Dr. Weingarden, “It is hard work. It is work I think is very enjoyable, and the reward is immense.”

## **Huskies in the Hallway**

Question of the week: How do you feel about Christmas music and decorations after Halloween?  
Love it or hate it?



Allie Patten – Major Communications Senior – She/her

Answer: I'm on board, I think I need the spirit sometimes. November's rough so I'll take what I can get and play the Christmas music.



Danica Sterud Miller – Associate professor of American Indian studies) – She/her

Answer: I start listening to Christmas music usually about mid-October, but once November 1<sup>st</sup> happens, I can do it without shame.



Christian Grata – Computer Science Sophomore – He/Him

Answer: Honestly, I am kind of impartial, but I have one friend who is super into Christmas music so whenever I'm around her she is playing it all the time.



Nico Robiniol – Major Informational Technology Senior – He/Him

Answer: I abhor it to be honest because it's not even Thanksgiving yet and I think it's too premature to be celebrating a holiday without even going through the holidays before that.



Liliana Paredez – IAS Sophomore – She/Her

Answer: I love Christmas music all year long. My husband hates it, but I'm a 'Christmas music in July' type of person. I'll take it any month of the year!