

The Tacoma Ledger

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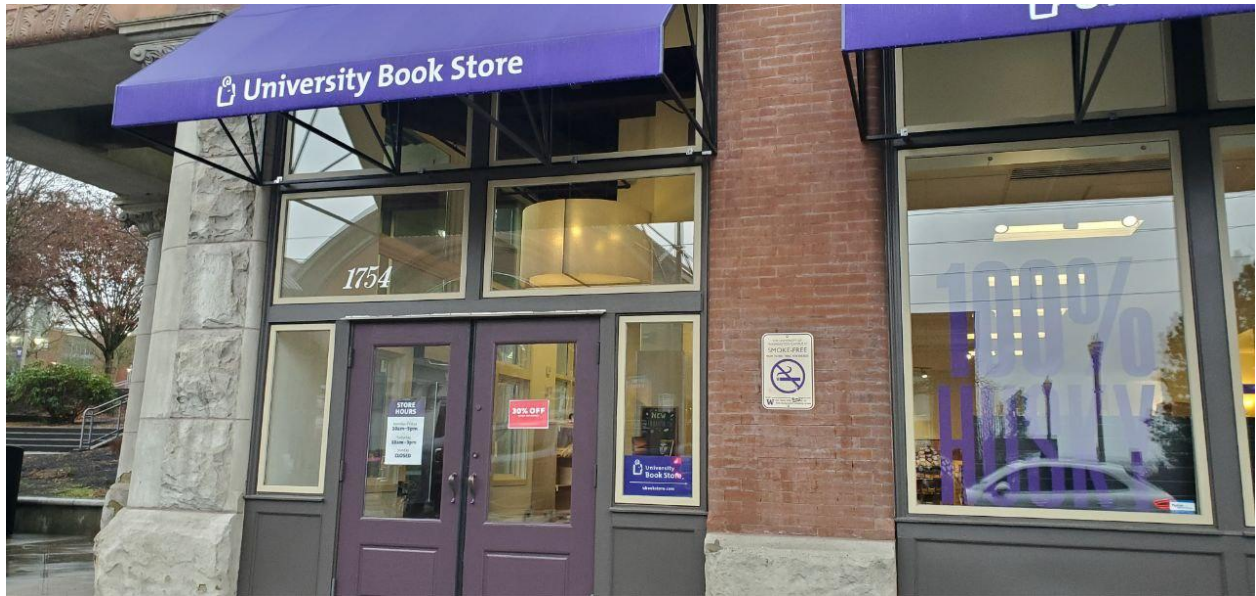
By Alexa Christie

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News

The University Book Store set to close its doors



*IMAGE: Image of the University Book Store
Photo by Destiny Valencia*

The UWT University Book Store is among the many retailers who have closed its doors and left on Pac Ave.

by Destiny Valencia

The University Book Store at UWT on Pacific Avenue will close its doors next week, January 13. The University Book Store, which has been in operation since 1990, was one of the first retail tenants of UWT when it became a permanent campus back in 1997.

In a schoolwide email from Chancellor Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, Lange notes the difficulties that have come with the ever-changing retail market announcing the hard decision to close the University Book Store location.

The University Book Store, which closed its Bothell location earlier this year, will move to an online format and a location for students to pick up their books and supplies ordered online will be announced in the near future.

Workers at The University Book Store are not employed by the University of Washington, but some employees have been offered positions to fill at the Seattle location.

Trevor Peterson, the Chief Operating Officer for the Book Store noted that there were five employees of The University Book Store, one of these employees being full-time and the others part-time workers who are also students. Peterson stated that the full-time employee will work at the Seattle location and part-time workers will not as it did not make sense for them to commute to Seattle for part-time work.

Pacific Avenue, which has seen many store closures and moves in the past few years due to rent increases, lack of shoppers, and a variety of other factors, will be including The University Book Store to its roster of businesses that could not thrive or survive. At this time, it is not clear if a rent increase was a reason for The University Book Store closure.

A representative for UWT overseeing retail spaces was contacted regarding The University Book Store closures as well as other retail spaces but at the time of publication has not responded.

Until The University Book Store closes its doors, students are encouraged to order online and receive free shipping with a coupon code the school has offered.

Femmes of STEM



IMAGE: Femmes of STEM president, Paris Piper, and vice president, Andrea Gonzelez, present to UWT students at an event on campus.

Photo by UWT Femmes of STEM instagram page

Creating inclusive spaces for women and femme-presenting individuals who are studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

by Katie Scott

Femmes of STEM is one of UWT's newly registered student organizations. Their goal is to support women and femme-presenting individuals who are studying science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Founder and President Paris Piper, a biomedical major with a minor in sociology, created Femmes of STEM to provide a safe space for women, femmes and minorities to build a community together within STEM fields.

“We wanted a space where people with similar majors, similar classes could meet up and study. We also wanted it to be a safe space. These fields tend to be white-cis-het-dominated. We wanted an inclusionary space where people can come in and say ‘Hey, I was in class and I feel like this was a microaggression.’ Or ‘I feel like this was a sexist remark,’ and be able to talk about it,” Piper said.

White-cis-het is a term referring to individuals who are white, cisgender, or identifying with the gender they are assigned at birth, and heterosexual.

A microaggression is an indirect action that causes harm, and is targeted towards a member or members of a marginalized community.

Femmes of STEM values femme representation in STEM fields and works to normalize female representation within the community. One of their areas of focus is connecting with local schools and community organizations to provide STEM-related experiences for youth to be inspired to pursue STEM studies.

“My mother is a nurse. So, seeing her work was solidifying that there are people who look like me who can do this,” said Piper, recalling her own experience of seeing herself represented in the biomedical field early in her life.

Club meetings offer an array of experiences from fun activity-based meetings, to laid-back group chats, to more focused agendas of community and campus outreach and social justice. For the upcoming quarter, Femmes of STEM have plans in the works to celebrate Women's History Month, as well as other opportunities to get involved with the club. Students can learn more and find out where events are happening by following the club's Instagram page [@uwt.femmesofstem](#)

Membership is open to any UWT student who is looking to support and center women and femme-presenting individuals in STEM studies. Meetings are held every other week from 12:30-1:10 p.m. in JOY 207. Members must attend at least one meeting a month to stay in active standing.

To learn more and to join this club, visit their Instagram page [@uwt.femmesofstem](#), check out their LinkTree [@femmesofstem](#) or email them at femmesofstem@uw.edu

Femmes of STEM officers:

Paris Piper – President

Andrea Gonzelez - Vice President

Rylee Evanger – Secretary

Sophia Degregory – Treasurer

Jude Isabella Rapusas – Social Media Coordinator

Mia Beaver – Outreach and Events Coordinator

Dr. Saumya Sankaran – Faculty Advisor

Opinion

Strategic tips for grocery shopping in a recession



*IMAGE: Grocery prices have risen dramatically and a lot of us are struggling to keep up.
Photo by Dany Kurniawan via Pexels*

With food prices rising rapidly, everyone is trying to pinch their grocery pennies where they can.
by Ruth Ogden

As most people know, we are headed into a recession. Technically speaking, a recession is when there are two consecutive quarters of negative Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For us people on the bottom, this means that there will be fewer lucrative jobs and consumer products cost more. We are already seeing the effects - food costs have skyrocketed dramatically since this time last year and are unlikely to fall anytime soon. For many people who were already living on the margin, balancing a grocery budget now feels nearly impossible. As two college students, my partner and I work hard to make sure we are eating nutritiously while staying frugal. Here are a few tips to consider when headed out to the store.

First, change where you shop.

The price of a given product varies greatly depending on where it's sold. Proctor's Metropolitan Market charges \$5.19 for a half gallon carton of DairyGold milk, but right across the street at the Proctor District Safeway, a whole gallon of DairyGold milk is \$4.99. The same chain of stores may even have price variations between them - I've noticed that the Hilltop and Pearl Street Safeway stores are significantly cheaper than the Proctor district store. Different chains have different pricing models, as well - Fred Meyer is cheaper than Safeway, and Walmart is cheaper than Fred Meyer. However, the best deals you'll find on affordable food are at budget and outlet stores. My two personal favorites are the 6th Ave Grocery Outlet, which has many gluten-free and vegan options, and Valley Liquidation on Pacific Ave, which is the best for cheap fresh produce.

Choose generic brands over name brands

Name brands very rarely offer something that the generic brand doesn't. Most of the time, the extra cost comes from packaging and the branding, not the quality itself. This is especially true for things like canned veggies and pasta. Often, these food items come from the same source and can even be packaged in the same facility! Saving 20 cents on an item may not seem like much at first, but those savings compound quickly over time.

Consider lowering your animal product consumption.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of eggs has risen 43% since last year and the cost of chicken has risen 17%. When thinking about your protein intake, consider more cost-effective options like dried beans, lentils, and split peas. These protein-packed legumes have the added bonus of being shelf-stable, meaning that you aren't rushing to finish them before they expire. Just remember to soak them the day before you cook them!

Reduce your food waste all around.

Knowing how to cook is a major part of conserving money in your food budget. Save your bacon fat for later, turn your stale bread ends into breadcrumbs and boil down your veggie scraps into broth. Have leftover nights, prioritize nutrition over aesthetics, and keep track of what will expire when. The less food that ends up in the decomposition bin, the less food you have to buy at the store. This is also a good environmental practice: The US Department of Agriculture reports that 30-40% of the US food supply ends up in the trash!

Finally, don't eliminate anything that YOU really don't want to do without.

I pride myself on being financially pragmatic. However, some corners are worth cutting, and some aren't. In my household, the economic demand for Tim's Jalapeno Potato Chips is completely inelastic - regardless of how much they cost, they will be sorely missed if they are not purchased. If the name brand Kraft Dinner or the Lucky Charms are your true comfort foods, don't cut them out completely. Build your favorites into your budget, rather than shopping how you *think* you should. A budget is unsustainable if you can't stick to it, and feeling deprived of basic creature comforts is the fastest way to end up splurging when you can't afford to.

Overall, things are going to get tougher before they get better. If you're in college right now, you're likely going to graduate into a recession job-market and all that entails. This is how we keep our food budget below \$50 a week for two people, but your mileage may vary. Tailoring your grocery budget to fit your income is a lifelong skill and the best time to start practicing it is now.

'A Court of Thorns and Roses'

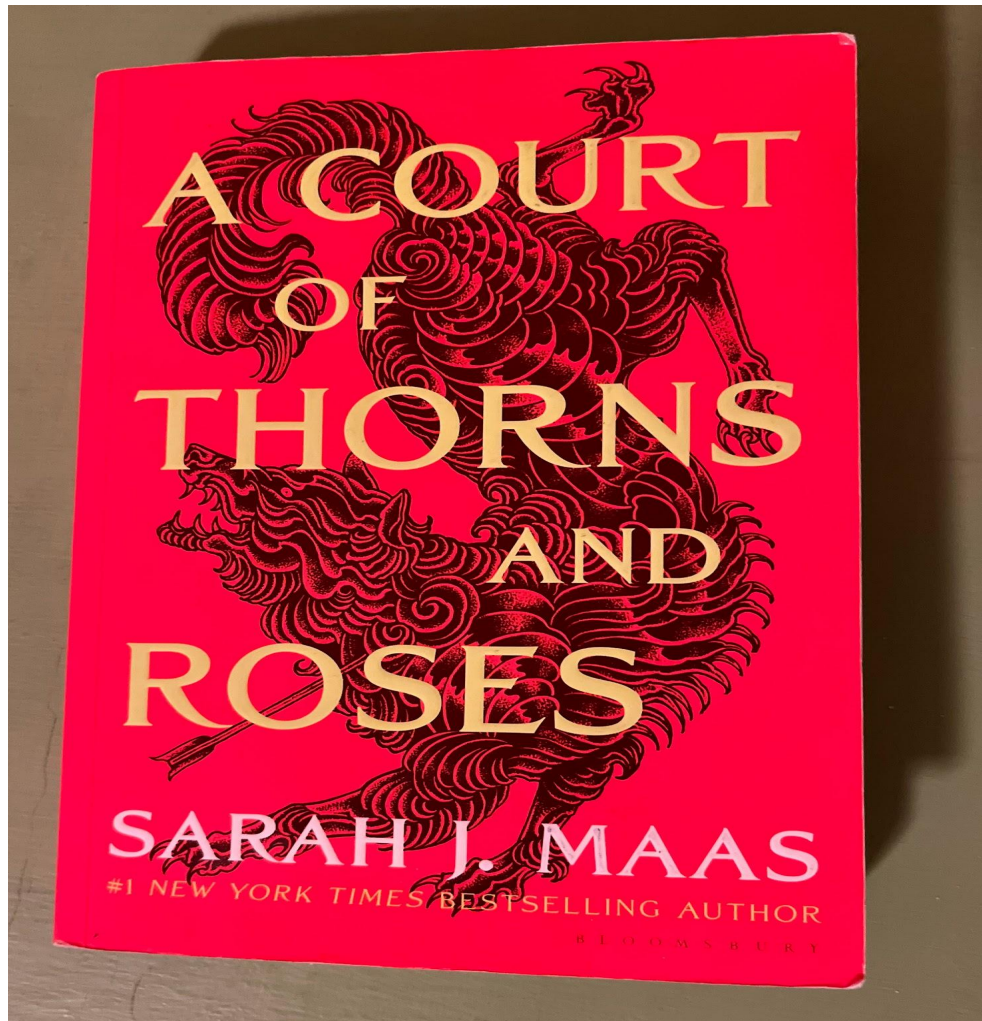


IMAGE: The cover for "A Court of Thorns and Roses."

Photo by Celia Williams

A review of the captivating fantasy series by Sarah J. Maas.

By Celia Williams

"A Court of Thorns and Roses" by Sarah J. Maas is a romantic fantasy series that's perfect for your next winter read. It explores magic and feminism, as the main character navigates her life. With five books in the series currently, there is plenty of material.

We begin by meeting Feyre, a mortal girl with keen survival skills when she kills a wolf while on a hunt one winter day. The wolf turns out to have been a faerie from the magical realm of Pyrrhian, and she then has to pay for her crimes. This one choice sets off a wild chain of events for her and everything changes. She must find herself in this new world and new purpose in life.

While trying to find her place in a new and unfamiliar world, Feyre learns a lot about herself and the history of the world she thought she knew. There are secrets and truths that not only change her but reveal horrible plans for the mortal world. She faces many trials as she attempts to hold onto what she loves dearly and with her sister's and father's lives in jeopardy, Feyre goes to great lengths to protect them.

With a magical world that has been separated from the mortal world for centuries and the journey one girl goes on to save the world she once knew, this series is even more captivating with each chapter you read. Tensions are high and war is on the cusp. Feyre learns there are a lot of choices to be made in life and some stay with you forever.

Maas does a great job creating a world of her own that is filled with magical creatures and secrets. She has a unique array of creatures and cultures within the story that is developed well and leaves the reader entranced. All of this leaves the reader to imagine a world that is different from any before. Every chapter leaves you begging for more. Overall, I'd give this series a 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Arts & Entertainment

‘Avatar: The Way of Water’ has a predictable plot but stunning visuals



*IMAGE: “Avatar: The Way of Water” Poster
Photo by 20th Century Studios*

The long-awaited follow-up to 2009’s “Avatar” is here— and it seems James Cameron has pulled it off once again.

by Emilia Bell

In 2009, audiences were in awe of “Avatar”’s groundbreaking CGI and use of performance capture. Now in 2022, with the second installment things are no different. Director James Cameron’s (also known for “Titanic” and “The Terminator”) ambitious film series is in full swing now, and seems unlikely to falter despite some criticisms.

“Avatar: The Way of Water” returns to the moon Pandora and its blue alien inhabitants. Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) and his partner Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) have four children while all living happily on Pandora, but when the mercenaries who threatened Pandora and the Na’vi in the first film return for vengeance, their peaceful life is upturned. Sully and his family must then abandon their home and turn to an ocean clan for help.

The “Avatar” films are an experience and a spectacle. There is nothing quite like sitting in a theater and viewing one of the films for the first time. Cameron’s dedication to the films and the care put into the CGI is apparent, and every frame of the film is an artful masterpiece. If one decides to see the film in the theaters in IMAX and/or 3D, some scenes might be disorienting, so viewer discretion is advised. Once the film has a home release, this should not be an issue.

The plot itself leaves much to be desired. Cameron’s full-force approach to action set pieces makes this complaint fade to the background. Many seeds are planted for future installments, so this film on its own leaves a lot of threads untouched. Once the third installment is announced, viewers will hopefully gain some clarity on those loose ends.

While the plot is improved in terms of originality from the first film, it is still not particularly inventive. The dialogue was often awkward, but aside from the clumsy narration in the beginning, it becomes easy to ignore. The details in the ocean creatures are incredible, and the characters’ interactions are believable and drive the story. The highlights come with new animal species and new characters who bring a youthful touch to the series. Every sequence in the ocean is breathtaking and the introduction of an intelligent whale species provides more emotional depth to the film with their relationship to the main characters and the world.

Zoe Saldana is incredible in her role as Neytiri, and it is a shame she isn’t more prominent in this film compared to the first. Sam Worthington, still struggling with an American accent, does well reprising his role, bringing new layers to Jake Sully as a character. The children put in impressive performances that add more stakes to the film. Kate Winslet and Cliff Curtis are a welcome addition to the cast as the leaders of the ocean clan.

The film has already brought on many negative opinions. Some even argue this film and the first film have ignorant undertones when it comes to the allegories, citing similarities to other white savior stories like “Dances With Wolves.” It seems clear that those who disliked the first film will probably not like this sequel, and those who enjoyed the first film will probably like the new one. One thing is generally decided on: The special effects are wonderful and making the ocean a setting creates an engaging viewing experience. All in all, the film was personally enjoyable to watch and that is the most important thing. Though “Avatar” is known for its visuals, the first film is often brushed aside in terms of longevity and influence. Whether or not this film will endure in pop culture is something only time can tell.

“Avatar: The Way of Water” is currently playing in theaters.

4 / 5 Stars

'Art Battle' is taking over Freighthouse Square this January!



*IMAGE: Art Battle Tacoma – Jan 14, 2023
Photo by @artbattletacoma via Instagram*

For all art lovers and those with a keen eye, this event is for you.

by Kiarra Blakely-Russell

Welcome back students and a happy new year, the winter quarter has finally begun. We hope your holidays were just as exciting as this event will be. For all the art lovers and students interested in seeing a battle as intense as a joust, the yearly “Art Battle” will be returning January 14 in Tacoma at Rainer Room—Freighthouse Square.

“Art Battle” is a live and competitive painting battle where groups of artists have 20 minutes to take their blank canvases and transform it into whatever their imagination creates. As they battle the clock, they will have bidders surrounding them, and voters discussing in a high-stress but fun event. The artwork will be available for silent audience after the shows.

Sean Bono, the first of the co-founders, created Art Battle events in New York in 2001 and has worked 20 years to advance the idea of live art competition. The second co-founder, Simon Plashkes, launched the “Art Battle” tournaments in Toronto, and also works with “Art Battle” communities around the world who help celebrate their artistic talent. The last co-founder, Chris Pemberton, the Tournament Commissioner but is now on artistic sabbatical; was responsible for many shows that balanced competition and community.

“Art Battle” is described by The New York Post, “Like Iron Chef, but with Paint!”

As someone who attended this event in 2020, I'd describe it as a very high-energy, vibrant and colorful dynamic. Where many people from different groups come together to see about 12 artists, or more, given that this has three rounds for each group of people. I was able to interview an artist that year, who said her nerves were what made this exciting; As did her paintings, which showed her talent and why she competed.

It is expected with battles like these all across the world, to be crowded, and packed into buildings. This year they decided to move this battle into a bigger building rather than their choices for past events; at the ALMA Mater, which they didn't predict overcrowding; organizers chose Freighthouse Square, which is a better alternative.

"Art Battle" will be held one day only, on January 14 at Freighthouse Square. Tickets run for \$15 for the early bird, \$17 for general admission, and \$20 plus tax at the door. All other information can be found at Artbattle.com. We hope you enjoyed your holidays and happy 2023!