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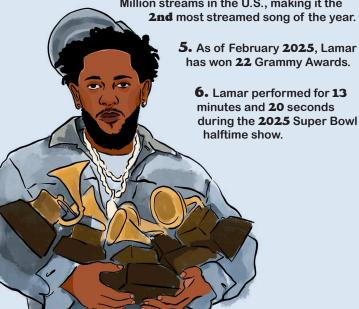
KENDRICK LAMAR

1. Kendrick Lamar was born on June 17, 1987.

2. He was signed to Top Dawg Entertainment in 2005.

3. Lamar's debut studio album, Section.80, was met with critical acclaim.

4. In 2024, his single "Not Like Us," accumulated 823.5 Million streams in the U.S., making it the



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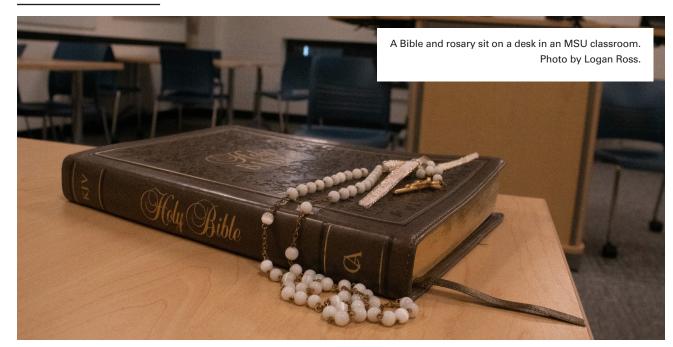
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Failed Ten Commandments bill's constitutionality in question

BY HARLEY ROBERTSON



A bill introduced in the Montana state legislature that would require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in every public school classroom — designated Senate Bill 114 (SB114) — failed to pass in the State Senate last Wednesday, Feb. 5.

SB114's failure comes at the heels of many similar bills mandating the display of the Ten Commandments in schools being introduced nationwide. Georgia and North Dakota are among the states that considered bills requiring the Ten Commandments be displayed in public schools introduced to their legislatures. Kentucky and Ohio also introduced similar bills that could lead to schools posting the Ten Commandments, according to NBC News.

Last year, a law dictating that the Ten Commandments be displayed in Louisiana public classrooms was struck down by a federal judge as unconstitutional. According to the Associated Press, state officials in Louisiana claim that they can mandate the posting of the Ten Commandments because of its historical significance. Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick also vowed to push similar legislation forward in Texas' 2025 legislative session, according to a post on X from June 2024.

This push to require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in public schools comes after a recent trend of decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS). According to Montana Deputy Public Defender Annie DeWolf, the trend in the SCOTUS's decisions has shown that they will be "more relaxed regarding certain religious beliefs."

The 2022 SCOTUS case Kennedy v. Bremerton School District changed how the SCOTUS looks at cases concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the Constitution, according to DeWolf. The Establishment Clause is one of two provisions of the First Amendment concerning religion. It specifically prohibits the government from the "establishment" of a religion, according to the U.S. Constitution.

The SCOTUS previously used the *Lemon test* — a legal precedent set forth by the SCOTUS in the 1971 case Lemon v. Kurtzman — when determining if a law violated the First Amendment, according to the U.S. Federal Courts website. This test established criteria to determine if the law or government action violates the Establishment Clause.

However, during Kennedy v. Bremerton, the Court instead relied on interpreting the Establishment Clause through "reference to historical practices and understandings." The Court said decisions regarding the Clause should accord with history and reflect the understanding of the founding fathers, according to the Court's majority opinion in the case.

The author of Texas' proposed Ten Commandments bill, Phil King, said the bill would stand up to scrutiny in the SCOTUS following the decision in Kennedy v. Bremerton, according to a Feb. 11 article from NBC News. According to DeWolf, issues arise surrounding the compulsory nature of the bill.

"If passed, the law will almost certainly be challenged as a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment," said MSU business law professor Owen Borum. According to him, the SCOTUS has historically evaluated legislatures based on whether or not they endorse a religion. "[It] would likely be invalidated as an improper endorsement of Christianity," Borum said.

Borum explained that predicting SCOTUS decisions is more complicated than looking at past decisions. "The [SCOTUS] has recently shown that it is more open to religious activity in the public sphere, particularly by Christians," he said.

"The motive is clear: to promote their religious perspective to the children of Montana — which is understandable," Borum said. He went on to explain that not everyone in Montana is Christian, so the bill does not apply equally to everyone. "The Constitution directs that all be treated alike," Borum said.

SB114 and similar bills from other states have been met with opposition from organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). ACLU Montana's website states that SB114 is "blatantly unconstitutional and fundamentally at odds with the founding principles of our country" and that, if passed, the bill would waste taxpayer money after the courts strike it down.

MSU student Jovany Castillo said that he recognizes the importance of religion regarding U.S. history and the nation's founding, but ultimately sees a distinction between public schooling and religious education as he grew up with religious education outside of public school.

"It's a really tricky question," Castillo said when asked if he would support the bill. "Because when it comes to other kids with different religions, they might feel out of place. So, at the end of the day, I feel like there should be a separation," he said.

To find out more about the bill and its status in the Montana Legislature, visit bills.legmt.gov.

HRDC offers food security, transportation resources and more

BY MAYA HOLMES

Located beneath the Bridgers in northeast Bozeman is an organization that provides a variety of resources to the Gallatin Valley. "Anyone who is in crisis, regardless of what that crisis is, is always welcome to walk through our doors," said the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) Resource Development Director Kristin Hamburg

The HRDC is a private, non-profit community action agency dedicated to addressing the needs of communities in southwest Montana. The organization was established as one of nine HRDCs across Montana and serves Gallatin, Park and Madison Counties. "[The] HRDC is an investment in the future and the strength of our community," said the HRDC Communications Director Vanessa Palmer.

"Our task from the federal government is to identify the community's most pressing needs and then develop ways to meet those needs," Palmer said. "We work to combat poverty and offset the high cost of living for our neighbors in southwest Montana."

Palmer explained that the HRDC collaborates with local governments, coalitions and nonprofits to maximize its impact. According to her, the partnerships help establish its credibility as a nonprofit leader. "The city partners [with] us and gives us some funding to operate the Warming Center. It's a small amount when you look at the entire budget. However, they trust us to do that," Palmer said.

Hamburg explained that the HRDC's programming alleviates hunger through nutrition work, provides

"Anyone who is in crisis, regardless of what that crisis is, is always welcome to walk through our doors."

HRDC Resource Development Director Kristin Hamburg

preschool education to the community, offers energy assistance, transportation programs and emergency shelters as well as numerous housing initiatives. "[The] HRDC is an investment in the future and the strength of our community. We offer over 50 different programs and opportunities," she said.

The HRDC has programs that address topics from food assistance to emergency shelter. Its food assistance initiatives include the Gallatin County Food Bank, the Big Sky Food Bank and the Three Forks Food Bank.

"We have a lot of food and nutrition support — we have a pay-what-you-can restaurant, as well as so many other services," Palmer said.

Additionally, the HRDC's housing programs provide emergency seasonal shelter at warming centers in Bozeman and Livingston, providing public facilities with heating and plumbing to anyone in need, according to the agency's website.

The centers operate at night when it's coldest and intermittently during the day during the coldest times of year, according to Palmer. "We would like to be able to have a 24/7 shelter, but unfortunately we just don't have the funding to support the staff requirements to be open all day, every day," she said.

Palmer explained that the HRDC also

addresses transportation needs through its operation of the Streamline bus service, launched in 2006 in partnership with the City of Bozeman and Gallatin County.

Housing is another area in which the HRDC offers support. "Community development looks like creating neighborhoods and housing developments that are affordable for those who live and work in our community," Palmer said. The Big Sky Community Housing Trust (BSCHT) is one organization working to accomplish this, according to Palmer. The BSCHT aims to make affordable housing more readily available, according to its website.

"We know that housing is in need in our community, so we have a team of incredible individuals who work diligently to provide opportunities to preserve affordable housing in our area and create affordable housing," Hamburg said.

Funding for the HRDC's initiatives comes from a combination of federal and state grants, as well as local donations. "There are so many needs that we want to meet, and we don't always have the resources to meet all of them," Palmer said. "By giving the HRDC general donations, we can allocate those funds to whatever resources need the most support at that time."

"One of our biggest challenges is funding. The number of people needing to access our services continues to increase," Hamburg said. "Every time we see an increase in need we also need to see an increase in financial support to help assist our programs."

"Our overnight shelter really depends on a volunteer force," Palmer said. "Volunteers pass out food, provide morning coffee and ensure that guests are taken care of while they're in the Warming Center"

Palmer wants people to know that the HRDC is there to support the community. "By looking at our website, you can get an idea of the various services we offer," Palmer said. She explained that, even if the HRDC does not have the specific services community members require, case managers can connect them to outside-of-agency resources.

"When a customer comes in in [a] crisis and they meet our staff, our staff meets them halfway and we form a relationship. Really amazing things can happen," Hamburg said.

For a comprehensive list of resources the HRDC offers, visit its website at *thehrdc.org*.



06/NEWS Thursday, February 13, 2025

Gallatin County offers resources for domestic violence survivors

BY KERRIANNE KIMBRELL

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence fact sheet from 2020, 37.2 percent of Montanan women and 34.6 percent of Montanan men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes. To address this, there are resources available in Gallatin County and on MSU's campus to assist survivors of abuse.

Haven is a Bozeman-based domestic violence refuge established in 1979. According to Haven's website, the organization provides confidential support, counseling, legal advocacy and a safe place to stay for anyone impacted by any type of domestic violence.

"[Haven] takes a holistic approach in meeting the survivor where they are, helping them identify what are their greatest needs and then getting them connected with those resources," said Haven's Executive Director Erica Coyle. "It's been one of the greatest privileges of my life — getting to work with survivors and witnessing their strength."

According to Coyle, Haven makes community engagement efforts to empower survivors and educate the general populace. This includes events like yoga classes, prevention programming and partnering with organizations like Youth Dynamics — which provides family-focused behavioral and mental health treatment to kids — to model healthy relationships to high schoolers, Coyle said.

Haven has conducted focus groups with survivors. "The number one barrier to access services was the stigma and isolation that they felt," Coyle said. She said that the broader community needs to challenge the stigma of what a survivor looks like.

In May 2023, Haven unveiled their new publicfacing location, the Barnard Center. "It's our job to reduce barriers, so let's see how we can do that with the design of the new facility," Coyle said.

MSU students also have access to on-campus resources if they find themself experiencing any type of domestic violence.

MSU's Campus Civil Rights (CCR) office opened at the beginning of the fall semester in the Swingle Building. The location offers resources to any individual on campus experiencing protected-class discrimination of harassment, as well as interpersonal violence, according to its website.

"[CCR] is here to help and support anybody that's dealing with discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment — including interpersonal violence," CCR Case Manager Jessica Feltner explained to the Exponent in Sept. 2024 when the office opened.

The MSU Women's Center, located in the Strand Union Building, is another office students can access if they need support or referral to resources. "This is a great venue for educational programs and resource information and referrals," said Betsy Danforth, the longtime director of the Women's Center.

According to Danforth, the Women's Center has collaborated with Haven in the past, co-sponsoring a program to educate people on what gun violence looks like in a domestic violence situation. "There are a lot of people on this campus who are here to help, and there are many different avenues for students to approach struggles that they're having," Danforth said.

Students in need of psychological support can access MSU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) office, located in the Student Wellness Center. According to the organization's website, it aims to provide students with counseling opportunities, information on outreach and prevention and various types of community consultations.

"10-12 percent of the student population comes to counseling, and we do have a bump compared to last year," said CPS Assistant Director of Outreach and Prevention Laura Thum. Thum, a licensed psychologist, runs the Empower to Heal group alongside her colleagues. The group offers confidential counseling for female-identifying students who have been impacted by any form of sexual or relational violence.

When asked about off-campus collaboration with organizations like Haven, Thum explained that CPS

uses them as a resource and mentions the organization to students who may need their services. "Hopefully [students] come to us first, because we're all trained to do that trauma work or we can help them find those off-campus resources best suited to them," she said.

"I would encourage students to check out our website and call if you have any questions," Thum said. "I just want students to know we're here for them."

Other resources in the Gallatin County area include the Bozeman Help Center (BHC) and the Abuse Support and Prevention Education Network (ASPEN). The BHC offers a 24-hour crisis hotline and walk-in crisis services, as well as sexual assault counseling, according to its website. ASPEN is a Livingston-based organization that provides support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking as well as educational resources, according to its website.

For more information on MSU's CPS, go to https://www.montana.edu/counseling/.

MSU's CCR is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. To access possible resources, head to its website at https://www.montana.edu/education/menu/resources/msu ccr.html.

To access Haven's resources, visit *havenmt.org*. To learn more about ASPEN, go to *https://www.aspenmt.org*.

To access more information about the BHC, check out https://www.bozemanhelpcenter.org/.



How on-campus yoga opens up the body and the mind

BY ALEXIS CARDENAS

At the Student Wellness Center (SWC), yoga class offers more than just physical flexibility. It's a chance to reset your mind, body and spirit, all while finding peace in the present moment.

Yoga is one of six all-inclusive group fitness classes offered at the SWC. Signing up is a simple two-step process: find the group fitness sign-up page on the MSU website and choose a time slot that works best for you.

Jenna Templeton, a junior kinesiology student, teaches yoga at the SWC on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Templeton began her personal yoga journey in June of 2022. Two months later, she began working towards a yoga certification, allowing her to lead yoga courses. By the fall of 2024, she started teaching her own classes on campus.

According to Templeton, yoga allows her to feel more present from moment to moment. "When I started practicing yoga, I never found myself forgetting, like, did I forget to lock my car? I just feel like I'm always in my body, I remember things better, I'm just so much more present in my everyday life," she

Though Templeton's class revolves around yoga, it also has a meditative aspect. While yoga brings physical challenges for her students, meditation brings on a new set of obstacles.

"We're always moving and constantly going in our everyday lives — to be able to sit there and not move is sometimes really uncomfortable for people to do," she said. "Just overcoming the feeling of just sitting with yourself and your thoughts is one of the biggest challenges of meditation and breath-

Kelly Knight, an associate professor and trauma researcher at MSU, began her own mindfulness journey through meditation and shares Templeton's beliefs regarding its potential benefits. "I think the very first thing I noticed was the rest I could experience. I just felt deep rest," she said. "It gave me a lot of insight. I started to gain a better sense of how to move forward with what I wanted my goals and life to be."

Knight, who has published several works focusing on mindfulness, explained its connection to yoga and meditation. "For me, mindfulness is paying attention on purpose,"

"Don't be afraid to challenge yourself on the mat. I promise that everyone else is too busy thinking about themselves to notice if you fall out of a balancing posture or anything"

SWC yoga instructor Jenna Templeton

she said. "Yoga and meditation, those two things are a practice of mindfulness, and there's lots of ways to do that, to feel that."

Knight emphasized the value of having a personalized approach to mindfulness. "Everyone's nervous system has the potential to be a little different, and we want to be mindful of that and take that into account," she said.

"The thing about mindfulness is that everything can be a mindfulness practice. We can exercise mindfully. We can eat mindfully. We can socialize mindfully. A lot of students probably unintentionally experience mindfulness when they ski or snowboard."

For Mira Corum, a frequent attendee of Templeton's classes, yoga is important for her mindfulness journey. "I have a pretty stressful

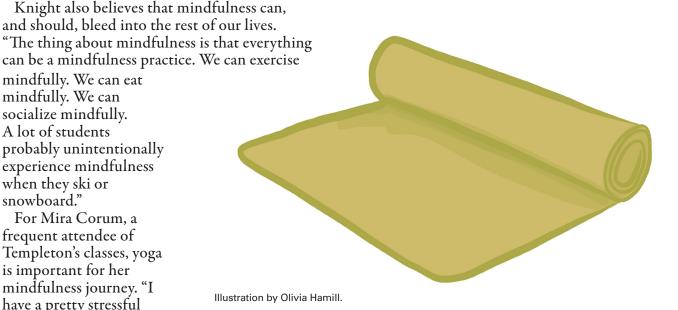
schedule. Yoga is what centers me and keeps me doing something active when I don't have time for other things. I think yoga is really fun and relaxing and it's a great way to balance my schedule," she said. "I would say that yoga is a big part of my success and transition into

Additionally, former track athlete Damien Nelson shared that, although he experienced an initial discomfort in his practice, he found yoga unexpectedly beneficial. "At first, it was very uncomfortable, just because being a male and doing yoga — that's not something I ever intended to do in my life. But, I think it's nice just to let your thoughts kind of flow in a relaxed setting and just ground yourself and let everything go," he said.

For students who may feel inspired but hesitant to join a class, Templeton encouraged everyone to participate. "Yoga is for everyone. Don't be afraid to challenge yourself on the mat. I promise that everyone else is too busy thinking about themselves to notice if you fall out of a balancing posture or anything. It's a really welcoming environment, and I promise you won't regret it," she said.

To find out more about all the group fitness classes offered at the SWC, visit https:// mycampusrec.montana.edu/Program?classificatio nId=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000026002.

Yoga is offered every day of the week except Sundays and is held in the Mind Body Suite.



08 / FEATURE Thursday, February 13, 2025

RAIL JAM HOSTS SMALL SLOPES AND HIGH HOPES

By Kendall Becker

The cold weather was no hindrance to the hundreds of students and community members who gathered under bright stadium lights last Saturday night to watch the fourth annual Rail Jam competition. Lining the barrier fences and covering the hillside above the Dobbie Lambert fields on campus, an electric crowd fueled competitors through the four-hour event while a DJ kept attendees' spirits high through the breaks.

Rail Jam — hosted by the Associated Students of MSU (ASMSU) — is a skiing and snowboarding rail competition held annually on campus since 2022, according to ASMSU Events Chair Conner Poore. Applications for

the competition were open to anyone, though the event only accepted 46 competitors due to time constraints. These competitors competed across four divisions: Men's and Women's Skiing and Snowboarding, according to Poore.

The competition was split into preliminary and final rounds, in which competitors had 25 minutes to do laps using three different rails on the course. According to Poore, judging criteria was based on the USA ski and snowboard rubric. The top three finishers in each category went home with cash prizes of \$1,000 for first place, \$400 for second and \$100 for third.

The competition was live-streamed courtesy of Montana PBS, and consisted of 18 men's and women's snowboarding competitors and 28 men's and women's skiing competitors. The first-place finishers in each category were Milo Graffin for Men's Snowboarding, Jayva Jordan for Women's Snowboarding, Marea Adams in Women's Skiing and Jack McManus in Men's Skiing.

"It was awesome," Graffin said. "I was so hyped. You never really know what

other people are doing, you're just focused on yourself and the Rail Jam. I'm proud of how I did in finals."

Graffin — who has been snowboarding for eight years — originally applied to the competition as an excuse to visit his sister, a current MSU student.

Growing up, Graffin's grandparents lived next to a local ski hill in Wisconsin, where his sister first taught him to snowboard.

"It was pretty surreal, I wasn't really expecting to win," said McManus, who is currently a University of Utah student and drove up from Salt Lake City after hearing about the event on social media. "My main goal was to just have fun, I

made a focus to try to land as many tricks as I could and diversify them."

"It was super exciting," said Jordan, who has competed in previous Rail Jams. "I didn't know how much the prize money was, so that was kind of a shock."

Though the event was held on campus, competitors traveled from as far as Madison, Wisconsin to be involved. Best friends Adams and Flynn Kabisch — who took first and second place, respectively, in the Women's Ski division — drove up together from Salt Lake City on Saturday morning to compete after watching friends do so in past years.

Both Adams and Kabisch commented

on the overall community and positivity of the event. "There were all these girls from all over and it was just a really good presence and energy," Adams said. She added that she was happy to see the level of competition and the progression of the sport for women.

"I loved how much of a spectacle it was," said Kabisch, who managed to secure a second-place finish in Women's Ski despite riding with a broken wrist. "We just

"I LOVED HOW MUCH OF A
SPECTACLE IT WAS. WE JUST
SHOWED UP AND WANTED TO
HAVE FUN."

-Flynn Kabisch, second-place winner in the Women's Ski division

Thursday, February 13, 2025 FEATURE / 09



showed up and wanted to have fun."

While the competition was the main event, there were other activities for attendees who were not competing, according to Poore. Local DJs kept the crowd entertained during breaks and announcer Jack Feick — a prominent figure in the park skiing community and the emcee for the 2024 Rail Jam — provided live commentary. "This year especially we tried to get a lot of community partners like Eagle Mount, Bridger Ski Foundation and Bridger Bowl," Poore said.

Planning for the 2025 Rail Jam began as soon as the previous year's competition ended, Poore said. The process included contacting community partners and sifting through applications to find competitors. "It takes a whole team, but it's a lot of fun and we all love doing it," Poore said.

The atmosphere Saturday night made the event memorable, especially for competitors — both old and new. "It was just good vibes," said Graffin, noting the size of the crowd and the DJ as main contributors to the excitement.

"The production was honestly the best I've seen in a Rail Jam," McManus said. "My favorite part was just the energy that was there, the amount of people [made it] electric."

"It was very different with all the people there watching," added Kaiser Pellman, a freshman at Gallatin High School and the second-place finisher in the Men's Snowboard division. Though the competition was similar to what he's done in the past, he said the crowd's energy provided a new experience.

"One of my favorite parts is meeting new people and riding with new people that you normally wouldn't," Jordan said, mentioning that she enjoyed talking with the other competitors at the top of the hill about the tricks they were planning to try throughout the night.

For Olaia Connelly — who finished second in the Women's Snowboard division — the 2025 Rail Jam was her first competition. "I thought I was gonna be really nervous but I wasn't. My goal was just to put down the tricks that I know I can do," she said. "My favorite part was just getting to shred with some really awesome ladies."

Many of the participants emphasized their enjoyment of the competition and the community surrounding the Rail Jam, as well as their intention to apply again in the future. "The environment was very different, having everyone watching and cheering for you," Pellman said.

the park skiing community and the emcee for the 2024 Rail Jam — provided live commentary. "This year especially we tried to get a lot of community partners like Eagle Mount, Bridger Ski Foundation and Bridger Bowl," Poore said.

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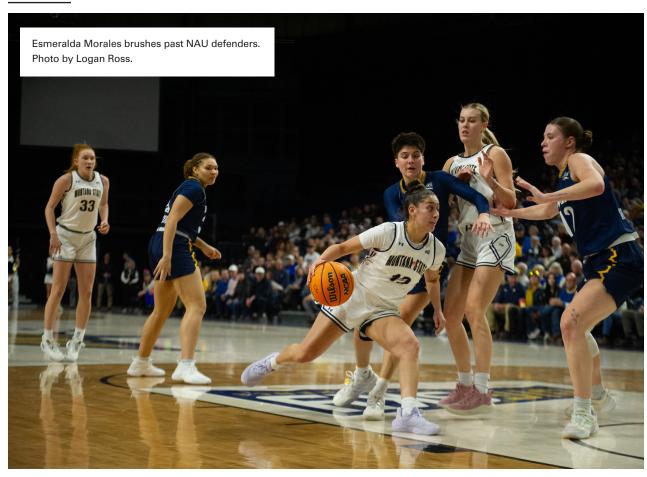
For Adams, taking first alongside her best friend was the perfect ending. "You never go in expecting you're gonna win," she said. "You're kind of just in the moment."

To watch how students shredded at the 2025 Rail Jam, head to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j58PjoPVr7M.

10/SPORTS Thursday, February 13, 2025

Big win over NAU solidifies 'Cats BSC lead

BY JOSH RUIZ



The Bobcats took down the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Lumberjacks Thursday in a matchup of the top two women's basketball teams in the Big Sky Conference (BSC).

MSU (22-2 overall, 12-0 Big Sky), led by senior Esmeralda Morales (25 points, 5-11 from the 3PT line) and freshman Taylee Chirrick (15 points, 10 rebounds), picked up a 73-66 win to build a two-game lead over NAU in the BSC. The Bobcats entered the matchup sitting at the top of the conference standings and riding a 13-game win streak. They had also previously defeated NAU (19-6, 10-2 Big Sky) this season in Flagstaff, Arizona, 87-81.

The game was a defensive stalemate early on, with the score just 7-6 with 4:47 left in the first quarter. NAU used a 14-0 scoring run to build its largest lead of the game at 13 points. The quarter ended 22-14 in favor of the Lumberjacks and MSU was searching for answers.

"Rebound the ball," MSU Women's Basketball Head Coach Tricia Binford said when asked what her message was to the team after falling behind early in the game. "We were giving them twice the amount of possessions by getting second opportunities and we just had to clean up the glass. That was the main focus — just clean up the glass and get [the] stops that we could."

MSU heard their coach and closed the gap, taking the lead with 1:37 left in the second quarter thanks to back-to-back threes made by Morales. The Bobcats would go into halftime with a mere 33-32 lead, but Morales had flipped the game's momentum in the Bobcat's favor.

"[Having] an MVP kid like Esme [Morales], who can hit it from anywhere and take over a game, it was just a kind of a special moment to kind of engage with the crowd and feed off the

crowd," Binford said.

The Bobcats turned that momentum into a 15-0 scoring run to open the second half while also erasing the Lumberjacks' early 17-7 advantage on the glass from the

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first quarter. The team dominated the rest of the game as they led for the entirety of the second half and kept NAU in check. MSU utilized several different lineup combinations to do this and ultimately the team's depth was too much for the Lumberjacks.

"We kind of rotate different mixes, different lineups and sometimes that speed kind of gets that spark," Binford said. "You get the Taylee Chirricks of the world, the Natalie [Pictons], and the Addison [Harrises] coming off the bench and sometimes they're getting a couple of hustle plays or steals and kind of getting momentum."

Thursday's game marked the Bobcats' 14th victory in a row. Coupled with their 65-44 victory over the University of Northern Colorado two days later on Saturday, Feb. 8 the team has achieved a season-best 15-game win streak.

The Bobcats are looking to stay hot as they prepare for the Big Sky Tournament next month, where the winner will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Women's March Madness tournament. The team will be tested on the road when they play at Weber State University on Thursday, Feb. 13 and at Idaho State University on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Notwithstanding the team's success offensively, Binford pointed out how the team's defensive mindset allows them to consistently win games.

"Our identity is definitely on the defensive end," Binford said. "We love to get stops, but we love to kind of rush teams and try to create some mistakes and turnovers so we can get out and run with our depth and maximize the depth of our bench."

To watch the Bobcats in action, learn more about the team or buy tickets online, visit the program's website at https://msubobcats.com/sports/womens-basketball.



CULTURE

MSU Science Night returns for entire Bozeman community

BY CLARE GENOVESE

The walls of the SUB ballrooms rang with laughter and excitement as MSU Science Night (MSUSN) welcomed an evening crowd on Thursday, Feb. 6. There, kids were engrossed by the different science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities and experiences, while parents helped their children with crafts at circular tables in the center of the room.

The event is put on by Academic Technology and Outreach (ATO), a division of the Office of Academic Affairs and Provost.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine, MSUSN was a yearly tradition that was open to school groups and the general Bozeman community, according to Outreach Specialist for the ATO Jamie Cornish.

After public areas began to reopen in 2022, MSUSN started back up for school groups, but not for members of the general public. This year, for the first time since 2020, the whole Bozeman community was once again welcome to attend MSUSN.

According to Cornish, these events help educate and build a bridge between MSU and

"I just think it's really important — especially in young kids — to just spark amazement in science and more importantly to show representation in science."

- P.h.D Candidate Balyn Muffley

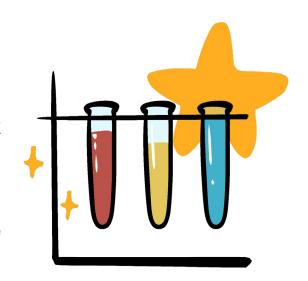


Illustration by Lela Haslup.

the greater Bozeman community. "I think this event is really important because it's a great way for [the] town to come together [and] for the university to showcase its amazing research to local people," she said.

Cornish also explained what a unique opportunity it was for the community. "It's really a great way to talk to students and researchers and find out what they're doing and where your

tax [dollars] are going [and] the kind of opportunities you can get at MSU," Cornish said

The event was primarily run by graduate and undergraduate science students. Behind one of the student-run booths on Thursday night stood Balyn Muffley, a graduate student getting her P.h.D in chemistry. Her booth was interactive, having the attendees disperse food coloring around a plate of milk with just one dot of dish soap, demonstrating the effects of surface tension on liquid.

"I really, really value STEM outreach, I've been involved with it for many years," Muffley said. "I just think it's really important — especially in young kids — to just spark amazement in science and more importantly to show representation in science."

Brent and Callie Harberts are the parents of a fourth grader who attended on Friday night. "Our son actually called me after school asking to come, and we like that it exposes him to the sciences," Callie said.

The Harberts expressed interest in having their son attend more events like this. "We are always watching for these types of events, it's cool to expose him to campus too, because this is where he wants to go," Brent said.

According to Cornish, the event also fostered joy and excitement within both visitors and the people presenting their research. She said that this energy is important when it comes to fostering a love of STEM.

"It's neat to watch the public come in here and come to life [and to hear,] oh, I love dinosaurs, I love space. They can come in and really get hands-on information and talk and share. It's just a very joyous, enriching activity," Cornish said.

MSUSN will be back next February with both a midday session for students and a night session for the Bozeman community.

To keep up to date with more events held by the MSU's Academic Technology and Outreach office, visit https://ato.montana.edu/.



12/CULTURE
Thursday, February 13, 2025

Bozeman's kink community breaks away from preconceived notions

BY SOFIA BEERS

Please be advised that the following article contains sexual themes that may not be suitable for all audiences. The content includes discussions of sexual acts, intimate relationships and adult themes. Additionally, everyone quoted in this story will be identified by either only their first names or stage names in the interest of anonymity. Reader discretion is advised.

Many people would be shocked to walk into a room and see a person willingly locked in a cage and suspended just above the floor, but at Bozeman's annual Fetish Ball (FB) this past Saturday, it was nothing out of the ordinary. Participants and performers were dressed in everything from lingerie, to animal wear to suits and gowns. People were leashed, gagged and collared — each of them tied up in the allure of the event.

On Feb. 8, the 7th annual FB packed the second floor of Main Street's Eagle Ballroom from 7:30 p.m. to the early hours of the morning with music, dancing, performances and kink demonstrations — a showcase of specific kink or fetish activities, such as teaching safe bondage techniques. There were more than 250 people in attendance from

across the region, but the event was primarily a fundraiser for the Bozeman Help Center (BHC) and a celebration of individuality that had nothing to do with sexual acts, according to event organizers.

The BHC is a Montana organization that offers a 24-hour crisis hotline, resources for survivors of sexual assault, crisis counseling and community education in 13 counties across the state, according to its website.

Ultimately, the 2025 FB raised more than \$5,000 for the BHC Help Center and featured performances from "Starlite Pole Studio" and local performers "Austine Moonshadow," "BlueKD," "DevilMayCare" and drag king "Rex Pistols."

Prior to the ball, the event organizers sat down with the Exponent to discuss misconceptions about their event, BDSM — bondage and discipline, dominance and submission and sadomasochism — and the fetish community.

"Just in general, people think BDSM is synonymous with sex," said "Ropemantic." "All across the board, you see this everywhere. And they're sexy, they're hot as hell and they are fun to mix with sex. But it's not at all a requirement. The act itself, there's nothing sexual about it. You are just being restricted in your movement," they said.

> "[BDSM is] almost just a sensation. I'm mostly asexual, but I run the local BDSM group," said Blue, another organizer.

The organizers spoke of fetish and kink as a form of expression and connection rather than as something inherently sexual. According to them, the event usually draws expressions from the swinger — a person who engages in group sex or the swapping of sexual partners — community, the BDSM community and many from the queer community.

During the event, Queer Bozeman Board Chair Jason spoke about the importance of an event like the FB for many in the queer community given the current political climate.

"I think that right now there's so much fear and people opposed to this type of space," he said. "But having safe spaces where queer folks can come together, where allied communities can come together. That's how we get through periods like this."

There has been discourse in online spaces and within the LBGTQIA+ community about the inclusion of kink and BDSM in pride parades, according to Them, an online magazine that focuses on LGBTQIA+ culture and politics.

"I've got to be honest, I feel like we're risking a lot tonight," said FB volunteer Mikhal. "There's a lot of people here who fall into the categories that this government does not want. In fact, this entire event falls under that."

The same day he took office, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14168, which mandates that government organizations recognize only two sexes, male and female, according to the White House. According to NBC News, this Order creates complications for non-binary and transgender people — who have previously changed their gender identification — from obtaining or renewing passports.

Despite current sociopolitical events, the FB organizers aimed to create a celebration of the identities that many in the federal government have been working to erase from common verbiage.

"This is who we are. We're everywhere, even small-town little Montana. It's just a place to express that a little bit and be yourself. Some executive order isn't going to change who we are, so we're here," "Ropemantic" said, emphasizing the significance of this event to the Bozeman community.

Event organizers, volunteers, sponsors and attendees repeatedly remarked on the inclusive nature of the event and the importance of coming together as a community to celebrate in times of unpredictability.

Billy McWilliams — a sponsor of the event and owner of local adult boutique Erotique — explained why he has his business sponsor the event. "I do it because there's not enough joy in the world," McWilliams said. "If you have an opportunity to support that, why wouldn't you?"

To get involved with the FB, follow its Instagram, @BozemanFetishBall.

MSU PD Unclaimed Property List



The Montana State University Police Department posts an ongoing list of unclaimed property that we have in our possession. The property is listed in the link below as "MSUPDUnclaimed Property." Per Montana State University Resolution Number 601, if the property remains unclaimed for a period of three (3) months from the date of initial posting, it will be destroyed, returned to the finder, donated, converted to law enforcement use, or sold at public auction, the property or the value of the property is not redeemable by the owner or another person entitled to possession. To check the MSU PD Unclaimed Property List, go to: https://www.montana.edu/police/found-property.html.



If you are missing property and you suspect any of the property on these lists may be yours, please get in touch with us at foundproperty@montana.edu or by calling (406) 994-2121.

Bozeman's artisans find home at Nourish the Heart Market

BY TATIANA MEANS

This past Saturday, Bozeman yoga studio Your Yoga transformed its usual scene of stretching hamstrings and meditative silence into a bustling marketplace. Instead of yoga mats, rows of tables displayed hand-made crafts and goods. This fourth annual Nourish the Heart Market (NHM) continues its tradition of promoting local vendors.

NMH is an initiative launched by local business owner Lauren Woods. Woods owns a local clay studio and shop called Inner Alchemy. She is also a pottery teacher at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture. Her shop in downtown Bozeman features her own ceramics as well as the work of her students, whom she rents her studio out to.

Woods moved to Montana over a decade ago, where she noticed a lack of markets for local and handcrafted art and goods. That's when she began the NHM.

"I think our market's special," Woods said. "I really try and focus on taking care of the vendors so they have a good experience, and that then transfers onto the customers."

She explained that the market intends to help unestablished businesses gain footing in Bozeman by offering a venue that is both affordable and supportive.

"I've gone to a lot of markets where they're kind of like, here's your spot, bye! Which is understandable, but not very reciprocal," Woods said. At her markets, she usually partners with local businesses to buy the vendors lunch. Last year, she catered Sapphire Spoon and this year she offered the vendors lunch from Five on Black.

Marie Bruce, the owner of Petstylin — an animal bandana business — said she knows how hard it can be to start a business on your own. "When I first started I thought no one's going to like it, or it's not going to be good," she said. "Then I started selling locally and got really excited."

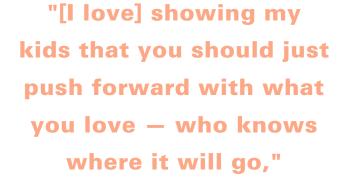
Bruce explained that having her own business has empowered her as well as her family. "[I love] showing my kids that you should just push forward with what you love — who knows where it will go," she said.

Emily Gonzales — a mixed-medium painter and illustrator — described a similar journey. "I knew that [art] was my purpose in life, but it took more energy to get started — showing my face and being present and seen," she said.

This is Gonzales' second year with this market and she's been a vendor for multiple other local markets, including the Bozeman MADE fair and the Gallatin Valley Farmers' Market.

Gonzales took a moment to appreciate Woods' effort to include younger businesses. "[Woods] is the hostess [with] the most-est, she takes care of us so well," Gonzales said.

Gonzales also encouraged anyone who's on



Owner of Petstylin Marie Bruce

the fence about starting their own business to give it a shot. "Trust the journey and enjoy it. It's going to suck sometimes and it's going to be great sometimes, but it's worth it," she said.

The NHM isn't exclusive to business owners, though. Sylvie Skibicki, a sophomore studying studio art at MSU and yoga instructor at Your Yoga, had a table at the market which displayed an assortment of ceramic dishes. She said that she doesn't have a business and her booth is mostly for fun.

"I don't have a name for this yet, maybe Sylvie's something," Skibicki said. "My plan is to run a pottery studio-slash-yoga studio after school [is] over though."

Sharing a table with Skibicki was fellow Your Yoga instructor and MSU adjunct professor Paige Hanger. Hanger owns a greeting card business called Peepsie Designs. "I kind of just draw funny things on my couch and then made it a business," Hanger said.

"I think that it's been such an intense time lately," Hanger said. "So it's just really nice to just see everybody and be in a place where people just love life and support it."

Hanger isn't alone in that feeling. Woods explained that after every NHM she gets plenty of requests for another one. "For [the customers], I really wanted a mixed variety of makers and creators. I wanted to just be able to provide a wide array where people felt comfortable selling their stuff and trying something new," she said.

The next NHM is expected to take place in February next year. To keep up to date with Woods, follow @inner.alchemy.shop on Instagram. Gonzales can be found @raven.sun_wolf.moon, Bruce @petstylin and Hanger @peepsie.designs.



OPINION

Where to Catch Zzzs on Campus

BY NATHAN MAYVILLE

As we struggle to make it to midterms, it is imperative to remain rested and relaxed. Perhaps no way is better than the nap, a small micro-sleep that provides that trickle of energy so often necessary to remain functional. Of course, the act of napping comes with a number of logistical questions. Where am I to nap? Is it allowed? For how long?

Indeed, these lingering doubts may influence students not to nap at all.

There are many considerations at play when one feels the urge to nap on campus. The location must, of course, be comfortable — at least for a short while — and provide some level of peace. This second point seems to be the most pressing: the location must be interruption-free, both by people and the environment.

There are, as far as I can see, three types of interruptions that may befall a prospective campus napper. Two involve people and one involves environments. The latter is simple enough — one simply cannot be interrupted constantly by raucous laughter, clanging symbols or cold blasts of wind and be expected to nap.

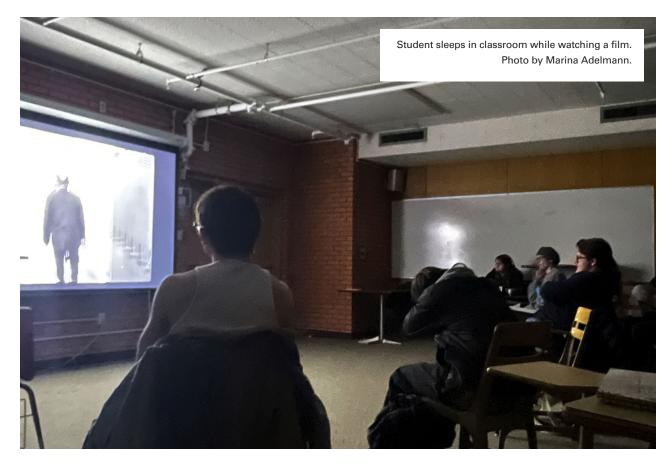
The other two are somewhat more complicated and involve what I call Nap Interrupters (NIs). NIs come in two forms, Angry (ANIs) and Compassionate (CNIs). ANIs may accost one as they nap, flapping their arms buffoonishly and shouting things like, "You aren't allowed to sleep in my office." Despite their violent and unpleasant nature, ANIs still allow nappers to keep their dignity, as all they need to do is stand up, straighten their coat and say "good day."

CNIs, on the other hand, wake nappers under the false pretense of wanting to know if they are okay, and then have the nerve to act offended when the napper kindly asks them to kick rocks. All of this is simply to press the point that naps are not always as straightforward as they may seem.

In that vein, through a combination of reflection and interviews, I have dedicated myself to find out

"I go to the bookstore every morning and I buy three Red Bulls."

Xander Danenhouer



where the best napping spots are on campus. Haley Marshall, a finance and criminology major, said her favorite nap spot was the Leigh Lounge. With its tall, cushioned chairs and the occasional pianist, the Leigh Lounge does seem like an obvious choice, but I confess to have never felt the comfort, peace and security necessary for a high-quality repose. Additionally, the ability for anyone to walk through the Lounge at any time indicates that well-meaning CNIs may disturb the potential nap as it is in progress.

Eli Erickson, a writing major, said he was partial to the Procrastinator Theater. However, a successful nap there would of course depend upon one being able to sleep through "Nosferatu," "Moana" or any other number of films, so I remain unconvinced. Additionally, if the Procrastinator Theater is showing a film someone is passionate about, they may transform into an ANI upon seeing you napping.

I confess that I am partial to the Library's third floor, in the chairs circling the fountain. This has several clear advantages as a nap locus. First, the room is tranquil, and the fountain provides a whimsical overtone to the whole affair. Second, the chairs are comfortable and one can put one's feet up. Finally, since the room is on the third floor, there are

no cold gusts of wind and the chances of CNIs and ANIs interfering with your rest is much lower.

I am not alone in this opinion. Zachary Bean, a professor in the English department, told me that if he was looking for a spot, it would probably be in the library too.

Unfortunately however, some students seem not to nap at all. When asked where her favorite nap spot on campus was, Andrea Cubberley — who is pursuing her Masters of Science Education said, "I literally wake up, six shots of espresso down the hatch. I don't sleep. That's the response of a grad student with two jobs."

This sentiment was echoed by writing major Xander Danenhouer. "I go to the bookstore every morning and I buy three Red Bulls," he said. "I drink one in my first class, one between classes and one in my second class and then I go home."

Regardless of where the napping occurs, we ought to all agree that taking time to rest and relax is vitally important as we enter into the middle of the semester. I firmly believe that this over-caffeination of MSU students cannot stand. Don't allow coffee and Red Bulls to fuel you until you crash and burn — instead, find a good spot and take a nap.

Editors' Valentine's Day Essentials

BY MARQUART DOTY

Whether you're alone, with friends or with your bae, a good plan and the right items will prove vital to your success this Valentine's Day. In my quest to set the vibe right — and hopefully figure out what to get my Valentine — I asked my fellow editors what their Valentine's Day essentials are.

Amanda Fulton, Editor-in-Chief:

A Valentine's Day essential for me is my phone so I can call my friends and family to tell them I love them! I think Valentine's Day is a great time of year to celebrate all kinds of love. Reaching out and connecting with others in an intentional way is a wonderful way to do that. Statistically, the most flowers people will get in their life is at their funeral, so why wait to tell someone how much they mean to you?

Gus Yeager, Managing Editor:

Interstellar. One of the most heartbreaking movies of all time.

"Love is the one thing we're capable of perceiving that transcends dimensions of time and space."

Olivia Hamill and Lela Haslup, Graphic Designers:

Our Valentine's Day essential is Instagram. We like to stay up to date with all the happenings of the couples that post on their stories and stalk them all, too.

Kelly Hammaren, Photo Editor:

For me, a Valentine's Day essential is the movie "10 Things I Hate about you!" It's recently become a new tradition with me, my mom and my sisters. We all bake cookies and watch the movie together with my dog! (My dad typically gets us all chocolates as well). This will be my first Valentine's day without this tradition, so I am hoping to FaceTime them!

Will Malizia, Sports Editor:

For me it is Talenti raspberry sorbet. Not only is it my favorite treat, but it's also a shared love between me and my girlfriend. Through thick and thin, we've always ended our Friday nights curled up watching a movie with some delicious raspberry sorbet.

Connor McLean, News Editor:

A Valentine essential for me is a happy stuffed animal that is holding a heart. As a kid when you were handing out Valentines, you knew the person that gave you a little loving stuffed animal was actually obsessed with you. Valentine's Day is the one day where it is not just acceptable, but encouraged to obsess over someone you barely know. If you give me a puppy holding a heart, I'll know you're obsessed — and that's what the day is all about.

Marquart Doty, Opinion Editor:

My essential is a book called "The End of the Affair." I picked it up at Country Bookshelf with our Editor-in-Chief Amanda a few weeks ago. I do have a Valentine, but anyone who knows me knows the real love of my life is dark psychological fiction. Plus, it's under 200 pages, so I can read it all in one day and still have time for a date.

Molly Houser, Culture Editor:

For me, a Valentine's Day essential is remembering that this holiday has become less about expressions of love and more about the global issue of overconsumption. Of course, most holidays call for gift-giving, but I think there is something inherently wrong with the idea of obligatory consumerism. Real love is not determined by shiny objects or romantic gifts, it can look like hard conversations, patience and connection. So, maybe this Valentine's Day, provide the people in your life with something irreplaceable: your time and energy.

Molly has a great point. Don't fall for hyper-capitalism, but do use your favorite books, movies, snacks and apps to make this Valentine's Day the best, most lovefilled it can be.

FEB. 13 FEB. 19 Want your event featured here? Email event info to us at *ExponentEntertainment@* montana.edu one week in advance.

VALENTINE'S DAY MOVIE NIGHT — PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

DISC @ 5:30 - 7 P.M.

Join us in the DISC for a Valentine's Day movie night making valentines and watching "Pride and Prejudice!"

VALENTINE'S DAY MINI PHOTO SESSION FERGUSON FARM @ 5 - 8 P.M.

Capture sweet moments with your loved ones in a cozy and festive setting. Our professional photographers will ensure you get the perfect shot to cherish forever. \$40 per 10 minute session.

WOMEN'S ADVENTURE FILM TOUR THE EMERSON @ 6 - 8 P.M.

Get ready for an adrenaline-fueled showcase of courage and triumph that will ignite your spirit. Don't miss this unforgettable adventure! Tickets are \$16.

KISHI BASHI AND THE BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

WILLSON AUDITORIUM @ 2:30 P.M.

Internationally celebrated singer, multiinstrumentalist and songwriter Kishi Bashi returns to Bozeman for a two-week residency as the Bozeman Symphony's inaugural Artist-in-Residence. This concert is perfect for families, couples or singles looking to fall in love with sweeping melodies and enchanting music.

COSPLAY TEA PARTY STEEP MOUNTAIN @ 2 P.M.

Come in your costumes and have tea, play a board game and learn about cosplay. Not required to dress up.

NONFICTION WRITING GROUP BOZEMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY @ 5:30 P.M.

Hobby writers are welcome to share your work with other writers, critique content and develop your ability. This Writer's Group is devoted strictly to nonfiction. Attendance is required to participate. Publication or professional level writing is not required.

THE SHORT STRAW LAST BEST COMEDY @ 8 P.M.

A variety show where three men bring out their friends to perform standup, improv and sketch comedy to distract them from confronting the heat death of the universe. Each show centers around a loose theme that writers and performers try to distract themselves from.



PUZZIES

Brought to you by the MSU

exponent

8. Sent an online msq.

11. Inauguration Day vow 12. German industrial district

19. Civilian clothes, for a soldier

27. "Holding Out for " (1984 Bonnie

28. Former Decemberists violinist Haden

30. In a delicate and ghostly manner

31. "Gone with the Wind" heroine

9. " on TV"

13. Additionally

26. Kestrel's claw

29. Our species (abbr.)

38. Chess piece (abbr.)

48. "Friends" or "Cheers"

54. How one might run

60. Large-scale exhibition

Seethe

Slice

55. Extend across

56. Friendly nation

57. Comp. key

62. Some amount

59. Lover's

43. '90s UN secretary-general

50. "It was $___!$ " (the show was a

53. Fort Worth's neighbor, informally

32. Unschooled in 35. Paint variety

40. More vivid

Boutros-_

success)

52. "Toodles!"

45. TV room

24. Tantrum 25. Celerity

Tyler hit)

10. Stylish

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CODE: #23D7DE3A

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- 14. Prevaricator
- 15. Muslim clerics
- 17. "You've Got a Friend _____" ("Toy
- 18. Artisans who work with certain
- precious metals
- 20. Pre-adult
- 21. Charlemagne domain (abbr.)
- 22. Game played with no card lower than
- 23. Tender-hearted soul
- 25. Playboy nickname
- 26. Strategem
- 28. Mythological lineup
- 33. "Feels so good!"
- __ from the Crypt"
- 36. 1972 song: "Where ____ Love"

- 39. Singer LaBelle
- 41. Bandleader Artie
- 42. Circular seal
- 44. Hot concept
- 46. Period
- 47. Edinburgh is on it
- 49. Claw
- 51. ___-les-Bains
- 52. Common or horse follower
- 53. Black rock
- 57. Part of a millennium (abbr.)
- 58. Masculine
- 61. Entails
- 63. "Jeopardy!" host Trebek 64. Objective
- 65. Deli choice 66. Cuff
- 67. Fashionable initials
- 68. Helium balloon materia

Dandiest

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Annual	Froth	Press	Trains
Bales	Gloss	Print	Treat
Binder	Green	Reach	Uncle
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How are you planning to spend Valentine's Day?

Posting up (on gang)

Deleting all the evidence on my phone and letting them look through it as a gift

Studying Future lyrics

Sending my mom Instagram reels

Explaining to my mom that no, I don't have a Valentine this year

Crashing out over fluid mechanics

In a bathtub full of Chick-Fil-A sauce

Manufacturing an argument so I can say I'm returning the gifts 1 (never actually) bought

In a ditch with a tin of Zyns clutched in my fist

Cosmic pizza binge sesh

In the bottom of a bottle (a ketchup bottle)

Thinking about my parents divorce

Saving Kodak Black

Making contact with Eldritch gods

> Tall Tales & TIDBITS

Champ, will you be my valentine?

