

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

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## New places to grow

By NATALIE KELLER

When Julie Beckstead, a biology professor at Gonzaga University, was interviewing for jobs in the early 2000s, she was only interested in universities with greenhouses. When she came to GU, the university's greenhouse was under construction.

"There are questions that you can really only answer very effectively in a greenhouse," Beckstead said. "It just opens so many possibilities for students to take advantage of."

The Hughes Hall Greenhouse is now over 20 years old, and Beckstead said that while it has been a beneficial learning environment for students, the facility also has some shortcomings. However, a mid-2024 donation from a GU alum — one of Beckstead's former students — will fund improvements for the space.

"I am so appreciative for the donor," Beckstead said. "[The improvements] will open up even more flexibility."

Brian Connolly is a biology lab coordinator and instructor who has managed the greenhouse for the last three years. He said as many as 400 students use the greenhouse each year by taking classes and conducting independent projects.

"You're in charge of a living thing when you're in this space," Connolly said. "It's not just as simple as putting a seed in a pot. It takes a little bit more."

The greenhouse consists of two rooms: the "grow room" and the "work room." The grow room houses cuttings of trees and shrubs, grasses, succulents, cacti, carnivorous plants and orchids, and the work room stores supplies. While Connolly said the greenhouse's size and operations are comparable to those at other universities similar to GU, he said he saw room for improvement.

"You've got to continually maintain a resource to get high quality output from that space in terms of experience and



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo\_b00th

**SEE GREEN PAGE 3** Gonzaga University's greenhouse is home to a variety of plants and fosters an appreciation for botany.



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedmedia

Students discuss their thoughts and feelings following Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20.

## Conversations through change

By MIA STILLMAN

Gonzaga University students and faculty gathered to discuss their feelings following President Donald Trump's inauguration at a conversational event in the John J. Hemmingson Center on Jan. 22.

The event, titled "Courageous Conversations," was a collaboration with the Gonzaga Student Body Association and the Payne Center for Leadership Development and had 14 attendees, including undergraduate students and faculty members. The attendees took up three tables, each engaging in their own conversation. Ayaka Dohi, director of the

leadership center and a professor in GU's Comprehensive Leadership Program, kicked off the event by discussing community values. She said she was aiming to encourage respectful and open conversations at the tables and emphasized the importance of active listening.

"We are not here to persuade or win," Dohi said.

After Dohi's introduction, a short series of questions regarding attendees' thoughts and feelings toward the inauguration initiated the conversations.

Junior and GSBA Director of Advocacy Megan Brooks helped

organize the event. Brooks said she wanted to provide students with a place to share their feelings after the inauguration.

"I wanted to create a safe space with mature conversations for people to be able to talk about this," Brooks said. "I know that some people don't have that."

Brooks also organized an on-campus presidential debate watch party in September, which she said inspired this event. This is the second election-related event that she has helped lead through GSBA.

Adam Bartholomew, a religious

**SEE CHANGE PAGE 2**

## Stay in Spokane?

### Study Abroad programs get canceled due to low enrollment

By SIENA CHADWICK

Low enrollment rates in upcoming study abroad programs have led to the cancellation of numerous trips by the Study Abroad Office.

Scheduled to take place during the summer term, short-term, faculty-led study abroad programs span between one to five weeks in length and provide students the opportunity to satisfy core and major requirements. The Center of Global Engagement has hosted around 17 short-term programs in the last three years.

According to Christina Isabelli, the associate provost for global engagement, the success of these programs transforms students' experiences abroad.

"Study abroad programs are a direct and powerful integrative educational experience that foster global engagement and provide opportunities to develop intercultural competence," Isabelli said. "They give students an opportunity to interact and learn from different cultures, build cross-cultural relationships and gain perspectives that they might not get on campus."

Stashia Kaiel, assistant director of study abroad, said cancellations of programming occasionally arise due to factors like summer internships and jobs, conflicting dates of the program, course mismatches and costs.

"While the study abroad team works actively with the faculty leaders to keep the cost down, recent student withdrawals have cited financial issues in the final determination to withdraw from a program or not enroll," Kaiel said.

Katuska Kohut, the associate director of study abroad, said the office is continuing to work closely with these programs to ensure that program costs, travel periods and academic offerings are in alignment with student interests.

"The study abroad team is close to implementing a scholarship structure that may help with program cost barriers," Kohut said.

Danielle Knutson, a first-year student at GU, was directly impacted by the cancellations, which altered her

**SEE STUDY PAGE 3**

## Smoke has serious health effects

By HOLLY FIJOLEK

Since wildfires have become a seasonal reality for those living in the Western U.S., thousands have had to deal with their environmental and physical disturbance.

In Washington, over 300,000 acres of land were burned from wildfires in 2024, according to the state's Department of Natural Resources.

Health is a concern for those in close proximity to these burns, said Kelli Hawkins, the division director of public information and government affairs for the Spokane Regional Health District. She noted symptoms such as coughing, trouble breathing and mental distress.

"Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, even someone who is healthy, if there is enough smoke in the air," Hawkins said.

Sensitive groups with pre-existing health conditions are considered at higher risk during fires, but smoke affects all people, said Lisa Woodward, communications and outreach manager for Spokane Regional Clean Air

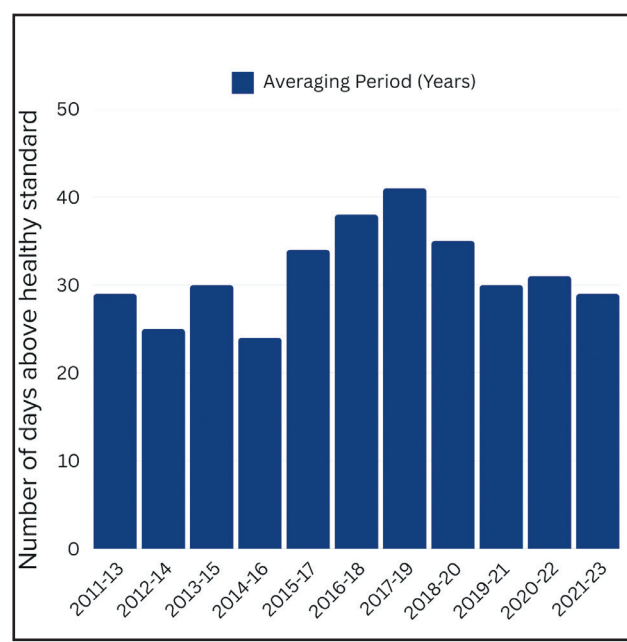
Agency.

"I think there's a perception that if you don't have pre-existing conditions or if you're not young or elderly, that you don't have to be concerned about being out in the smoke," Woodward said. "But there's still a lot of unknowns in terms of long-term cumulative effects on smoke exposure with your lungs."

Hawkins said studies have pointed to exacerbated asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, increased risk for respiratory infection and reduction in lung function as long-term results of prolonged exposure.

One reason for these symptoms is the release of particulate matter 2.5 from wood combustion. Woodward said these small particulates are a mix of the hundreds of different chemicals that form when wood combusts.

"There's a lot of sources of PM 2.5, but wildfire smoke is one big source during the summer months," Woodward said. "These particles can be inhaled deep into the lungs,



DATA COURTESY OF SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY

**SEE SMOKE PAGE 3** Spokane County particulate matter 2.5 24-hour design value

### INDEX

News.....1-3  
Opinion.....4  
Arts & Entertainment.....5-7  
Sports..... 8-10

### OPINION

Trump's controversial cabinet picks create confusion and chaos.

**PAGE 4**

### A&E

Women-owned businesses thrive in Spokane.

**PAGE 7**

### SPORTS

Gonzaga women's tennis swings into 2025 spring campaign.

**PAGE 9**



# Snapshot into MLK Jr. Celebrations



Community rally and march honors MLK's legacy



On Jan. 20, GU and the Spokane community marched to remember Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

## Jadrian Tarver presents: Soul music therapy

**"I want to specifically talk about music and how music is used to heal, and how you can use your body to heal."**

Jadrian Tarver, GU professor



Tarver presented on the ability of music to heal the body at the GU booth.



Messages of social justice, love and hope took over the rally.



University Ministry's Black Liturgies event to reflect on the legacy of King through spirituality.

**"[King's] fight is essentially the same fight that we're doing now with society."**

Aaliyah Lewis, GU student

## University Ministry hosts Black Liturgies

## CHANGE

Continued from Page 1

studies adjunct professor and Episcopal priest, also participated in the conversation. Bartholomew said he teaches a social justice focused course and is planning to keep the feelings of students in mind when approaching it.

"I teach a course that's designed to give people hope and encouragement," Bartholomew said. "I wanted to gain a better understanding of how students are feeling right now. I really need to do a lot of listening here."

Throughout the conversations, a general theme of anxiety and frustration

**"**

**We are not here to persuade or to win.**

Ayaka Dohi, Payne Center for Leadership Development

was shared between attendees. Phillip Tyler, GU's associate director of Campus Security and Public Safety, expressed his worries for the future.

"I am nervous — not so much for myself, but for our students, who we are here to protect," Tyler said.

Tyler also reflected on a quote from Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. that he said he falls back on during hard times.

"Dr. King said, 'We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope,'" Tyler said. "I think for me, what that means is, I still want to be in communication with those who have different ideological beliefs, but I also

have to ground myself in my own safety, boundaries and my own mental wellness."

Reflecting on the event, Brooks said she was happy with the number of attendees and engaging conversations that took place.

"I thought only two people would come, but I was really excited with the turnout," Brooks said. "I hope this event connected people, made them feel heard and that they were able to take away new perspectives."

Mia Stillman is a staff writer.





Gonzaga University's Vietnamese Student Association hosted a collaborative cultural club event last school year. JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @famedmedia

## VSU set to host Lunar New Year

By GIANNA MOSCA

For the first time since the club's establishment in 2022, Gonzaga University's Vietnamese Student Association is hosting a Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration.

The celebration, titled "Echoes of Tết: The Road Home," will be held in the John J. Hemmingson Center ballroom on Saturday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Anh Ha, the club's president, said members have worked since November to organize the event, securing food vendors, performers and decorations.

"Not a lot of people know about our club," Ha said. "People really don't know what to expect, but we put a lot of effort into it."

Tet, or the first day of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, falls on the first day of the first month in the lunar calendar. This year's holiday started on Wednesday, signifying a time for family, honoring ancestors and praying for good fortune and prosperity in the coming year.

Tu Vu, the club's head of public relations, said the holiday is considered the most important by

many in Vietnam.

"It is all about celebration and uniting together," Vu said. "I want people to see that we have a Vietnamese community here."

Celebrations typically last several days, with each day often holding a special meaning that varies depending on the region and family.

Ha said the event will include three activity booths for participants to enjoy, including food, a scavenger hunt and games.

Connecting with Spokane's Vietnamese community, the club will serve authentic, homemade dishes from local Vietnamese businesses.

"For a lot of Vietnamese students, you really miss homecooked meals, so this is a great way to get authentic food," Ha said.

The event will begin with a buffet-style pho featuring different broths and toppings, followed by bánh mì charcuterie to enjoy during the performances and conclude with traditional Vietnamese rice cakes. A variety of Vietnamese drinks will also be served.

The performances, Vu said, will include plays, cultural fashion shows and dances both in traditional and

modern forms.

Another holiday tradition included in the event is the exchange of bao lì xì, which are decorated red envelopes with traditional Vietnamese script and patterns with money inside.

Ha said the purpose is to wish good luck and happiness to friends and family. Ha also mentioned that "lì xì" translates to "lucky money" in English.

"It is a signature thing that should be noted about our events," Vu said.

The bao lì xì, food and activities are all meant to help keep traditions alive for Vietnamese students far away from home during the holiday.

"Because I am in another country, it is hard to feel the vibe of Lunar New Year because it is just so big and vibrant at home, so I just want to create something that can feel like home again at GU," Ha said.

If you would like to delve into the world of authentic Vietnamese culture, each ticket to "Echoes of Tết: The Road Home" is \$15, and can be purchased online through a link on the club's Instagram.

Gianna Mosca is a contributor.

## GREEN

Continued from Page 1

student work," Connolly said.

The instructor helped submit a proposal to University Advancement in fall 2023 to acquire money for renovations. In 2024, GU alum Steve Hastings and wife Heather Hastings made a donation to fund some improvements, although Connolly said he could not disclose how much money the couple gave.

The donation will fund three main improvements in the greenhouse, Connolly said. First, the current high-wattage, high-voltage sodium bulbs will be replaced with LED lights, which are already being used in the John J. Hemmingson Center greenhouse. This change, Connolly said, will improve the university's sustainability.

"The lighting, in particular, is just a very charismatic example of how the renovations will be more consistent with GU's mission," Connolly said.

Additionally, Connolly said there will be a better heating system to keep all of the greenhouse at a consistent temperature. A centralized control system will be installed to manage variables such as temperature and water. Students will be able to access such information via the cloud, which Connolly said is an important job skill.

"It's about just giving them a competent familiarity before it really matters: when you're deriving a paycheck from the success of your work," Connolly said.

Connolly also said the improvements will make the greenhouse "research grade" because its variables will be more controllable.

"[Students] can come in here with confidence and say, 'I know that I'm not going to lose half my plants to uneven heating or a 105-degree day in Spokane,'" Connolly said. "The research capacity really increases markedly with this upgrade."

Connolly said the university is obtaining quotes from prospective companies that could conduct the renovations. No date for the project's completion has been set.

Connolly said the greenhouse has more to offer than classes and research. For the past two years, faculty members in the biology department donated vegetable starts from the greenhouse to Our Place, a local nonprofit organization that provides food, clothing and hygiene items to community members. In spring 2024, the group donated over 1,000 plants in two months.

"This is a community-centered university, and I think that this an expression of that," Connolly said. "I see many examples of how Gonzaga is not separate, but a part of Spokane, and this is one small way, frankly, that biology can help with that story."

Meanwhile, in Beckstead's new plant propagation and restoration course, students will be growing native plants for community partners to help with restoration efforts. Some will also be given away to faculty and students.

"We don't see plants, as humans," Beckstead said. "We don't understand plants. And yet, imagine human life without plants. We would not be here."

Connolly said he hopes faculty from other disciplines will consider ways the greenhouse could become part of their teaching. Additionally, he said he wants to partner with GU offices to incorporate plants into their programming.

"It doesn't have to be just about science," Connolly said. "It can be about people and plants."

Natalie Keller is the managing editor.

## SMOKE

Continued from Page 1

where they can scar and damage delicate lung tissue, and they also are so small that they can enter the bloodstream."

Local clean air agencies like Spokane's share monitoring data during fires, Woodward said. This information is then available on apps and websites, which can be used to assess the conditions outdoors.

Wildfires can also impact the water in forested watersheds, according to Kyle Shimabuku, professor of civil engineering at GU.

Shimabuku said the resulting compounds can enter the aquatic systems of an area, and the destruction of vegetation can make it easier for chemicals to mobilize within a landscape.

"What you're primarily concerned about is the first flush event, which is the first major storm event that flushes off the burned residual material," Shimabuku said. "But you still do see effects years after, and it depends on lots of different factors."

Shimabuku said mandates to shut off water for several days or longer after a burn event are common because of large changes in the water treatment process that are necessary to remove new particles.

Water providers' websites will offer up-to-date information on the current recommendations after a wildfire. Alongside physical observation of water color, taste and smell at home, Shimabuku said preparation for the long term can

include updating at-home water filtration.

"Things even as simple as a Brita filter should be able to help remove certain chemical contaminants," Shimabuku said.

Along with paying attention to public notices and recommendations for water during a fire, Woodward said limiting outdoor air exposure is one of the most important actions people can take for their health.

Woodward said this can look like turning off fresh air intake on household air conditioners and vehicles, closing doors and windows and purchasing an air purifier. It is also possible to turn a box fan into a filter.

In addition, Hawkins said wearing an N95 mask outdoors and reducing smoke-producing activities like lighting candles or cooking can reduce health risks.

If a home becomes unsafe, Hawkins recommends staying with friends or family, going to a public clean air center or seeking relief from the smoke in another public location.

Hawkins said that through collaborations between the health district and other Spokane organizations, resources are available on their website and at events to give people immediate actions to protect themselves and those they care about.

"We do as much outreach and education as we can before 'smoke season' to help our community be prepared," Hawkins said.

Holly Fijolek is a staff writer.

## STUDY

Continued from Page 1

plans to study in London this summer.

"I chose to apply for the program because I wanted to get my Christianity course out of the way and get more immersed and see different places," Knutson said. "What better place to do that than London?"

Knutson said she was saddened when the office informed her at the end of January that the program had been cut.

"We already had applied and went through the whole application process

and met with the coordinators," Knutson said. "It felt like it was confirmed, and then it was just taken away."

Kohut said the department tries its best to be transparent with students by emphasizing that no program is ever guaranteed.

"In a way, developing the ability to pivot, whether that's navigating the challenges of a canceled program or embracing unexpected opportunities of a different program, is a critical skill that will serve students well abroad," Kohut said.

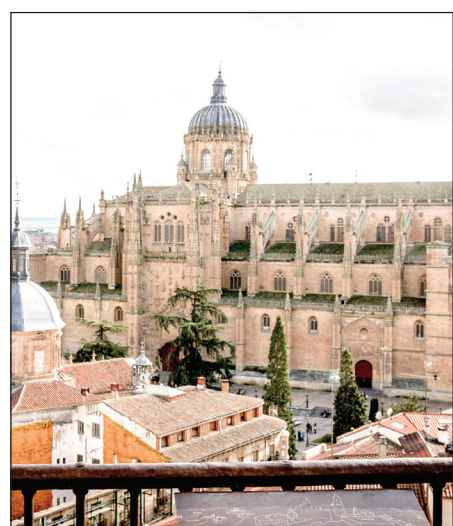
Colin Stapleton, applications coordinator and general study abroad adviser, said that the deadlines for program cancellations are sometimes delayed in hopes of last-minute signups.

"Short-term, faculty-led programs that are canceled may be reoffered in the future, depending on the faculty leaders," Stapleton said.

Isabelli said that cancellations of study abroad programs bring about challenges along with new opportunities.

"While the cancellation of some summer study abroad programs may seem at odds with Gonzaga's mission of global engagement and intercultural competence at first glance, it could be part of a broader strategy to ensure *cura apostolica* ('care for the institution'), and that resources are used in ways that promote long-term sustainability and equity," Isabelli said.

Siena Chadwick is a staff writer.



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

Madrid, Spain, is one of many Study Abroad destinations offered at GU.

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# It's time to walk back "The Run"

If you've ever sprinted down Bulldog Alley at a quarter past noon — or been knocked over by someone who was — then you're probably familiar with "The Run."

The Run is what the Gonzaga University Kennel Club calls its race to determine pre-game tenting order for GU basketball. At 12:15 p.m. on a given day, the club posts a location on X where students can pick up their tenting assignment, AKA their place in line. The sooner you get there, the farther ahead your group will be in the line of tents and the closer you'll sit to the court.

Though it may be tradition, this sprint-based system unjustly advantages a select few. So, I think it's time for the Kennel Club and GU to design a new seating system that supports all student fans.

First and foremost, running across our expansive, paved campus is not accessible to everyone. How is a student with a mobility aid supposed to compete? Why is it that the most physically fit fans should be rewarded? As someone with muscle and joint issues, I find it frustrating that in our system, enjoying a game up close relies so much on my health.

Additionally, not all students are available for an in-person tent claim. Some students — like myself — work during the day. Using a remote or hybrid process may help minimize the time conflicts GU students face. After all, aiding students in balancing their personal lives with professional commitments exemplifies GU's favorite term: *cura personalis*.

This issue is also amplified by the group dynamics of tenting; since only one student needs to claim a tent assignment for their whole crew (always groups of six), those with more availability will spread their



BY RUBY GROSS

members across campus, hoping that at least one will be close to the pick-up spot. The more people you have to run, the better — now that advantage of free time can be multiplied sixfold.

Beyond this, I think students should be able to tent as individuals. Guaranteeing our front row to tenting groups makes it unreasonably difficult to go to games alone and find a good seat.

And even if you would prefer to tent in a group, it can be difficult to assemble that crew if you didn't create it during your first year. I would love for the Kennel Club to host ongoing tenting socials, where new fans could find the perfect group — be it for the first game they can, or the last of their senior season.

As I see it, getting the best seats in the Kennel today requires having a social network, a wealth of free time and — most bizarrely — the physical ability to run across campus at a moment's notice. Evaluating the flaws in our system made me wonder: how do other power programs arrange their front rows? Are there any better systems upon which we could model

our own? It looks like there are several attractive options.

According to a 2025 story by its campus newspaper, Duke University uses a quizzing system to determine its tenting order, asking students about team stats and history to secure a top spot. I love this idea because it rewards the fans most dedicated to learning about the program — not the ones with the fastest legs. Incentivizing learning about our teams is also beneficial to the university itself. What is more useful to a program than a knowledgeable fan base ready to advertise its legacy to friends, family and the local community?

Another method for picking tent orders is a lottery, which is what the University of Kansas uses, according to a 2024 report. At UCLA and Auburn, students simply line up and begin camping, first come, first served. Don't get me wrong, I am proud to be a Zag, and there are flaws in these methods, but each of these opponents' systems seems more equitable than our own.

Though nothing will be perfect, I think it's well worth it to start dismantling our seating process and re-pitch those tents of tradition. In my opinion, to support GU basketball, all you need is a love of the team. But to be supported by GU basketball (i.e. to be broadcasted as a front-row fan), you need money, time, connections and unrestricted physical mobility. Overall, the more willing GU is to address inequities in its tenting system, the prouder I'll be to say that I'm a Gonzaga basketball fan.

*Ruby Gross is a staff writer.*

# Cracking open Trump's cabinet of calamity

President Donald Trump's 22 nominations for White House cabinet positions have been the subject of recent controversy, questioning and detailed examination. The results of this scrutiny have left me disturbed and horrified. After Trump's nominees continue to be questioned in their respective hearings, I began to feel increasingly uneasy about the emerging pattern of evading questions and wasting time rambling.

Pamela Bondi, Trump's choice for attorney general, would head the Department of Justice and advise Trump on all legal matters. Bondi is a well-known Trump loyalist who served on his defense during his impeachment trial.

During Bondi's questioning in her Senate hearing, she deflected multiple questions, specifically those regarding her intention to pardon incarcerated participants in the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Throughout her hearing, Bondi refused to acknowledge Biden's victory in the 2020 election. Additionally, Bondi has made hostile comments toward people who have prosecuted Trump, bringing into question her ability to run the department as a separate entity from the White House. If confirmed, Bondi will add bias to a position that should be grounded in the law. As a result, I'm concerned that the department will be weaponized.

Another controversial figure is Pete Hegseth, who was confirmed on Friday. Despite three Republican senators voting "no," leading to a 50-50 tie, Vice President JD Vance's tie-breaking vote confirmed Hegseth as defense secretary, meaning he will oversee the U.S. military.

Hegseth leaves much to be desired on two accounts: character and competence. On numerous occasions



BY LILY PEARSE

during his senate hearing, Hegseth was called out about his heavy abuse of alcohol. Hegseth, despite proclaiming to be a devout Christian, has undergone three divorces due to his infidelity. He admitted to cheating on his first wife with the second, then cheated on the second with his third, who he impregnated while still married to the second.

Additionally, it was revealed that Hegseth paid a \$50,000 settlement to a woman who accused him of sexual assault. Sen. Tim Kaine pressed him on his extensive history of affairs and sexual misconduct. It seems clear that Hegseth is a product of America's desensitization to the concept of having men in office with serious allegations of sexual wrongdoing.

Hegseth was also criticized for his inability to manage finances as evidenced by his removal from Concerned Veterans for America and Vets for Freedom, two veteran nonprofits he ran into the ground. He also was grilled,

especially by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, on his public statements regarding women's ability to serve in the military. The whole hearing raised serious doubts about the capabilities of a man who can't manage charitable organizations and who doubts the ability of women to serve in the military.

Robert Kennedy Jr., who became a well-known figure after his presidential campaign, has been nominated to run the Department of Health and Human Services. I raised my eyebrow in disbelief at this nomination as he is an ardent anti-vaxxer. Seventy-seven Nobel Prize winners wrote to the Senate urging it to not confirm Kennedy, believing him to pose a dangerous threat to American health and safety. In tandem with Trump's executive order to pull out of the World Health Organization, this nomination is frightening.

I have had a pit in my stomach watching the cabinet process continue alongside the sweeping executive orders to roll back diversity, equity and inclusion programs, deport undocumented immigrants en masse, pardon 1,500 violent rioters, withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement and more. I am terrified by the lack of credentials and morals in our country's highest positions, especially as global and domestic tensions continue to rise.

Given the complex situation in our federal government, everyone should keep an eye out for cabinet confirmations and stay informed. The White House website is an excellent resource for tracking appointments and executive orders.

*Lily Pearse is a digital editor.*

## The Gonzaga Bulletin

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# Has the celebration of life convinced us that death isn't sad?

We all know the scene. A crowd of grim people gathered in black, their gazes shifting downward while the casket shuffles down the aisle of a stuffy, dark church. It's a situation nobody wants to be in.

It's true, funerals seem antiquated, uncomfortable and worst of all, deeply sad. The person lying in the casket will never again see spring colors or share a laugh with their loved ones. Meanwhile, those in attendance, held hostage by the solemn atmosphere, are confronted with the reality that an identical fate is inevitably headed their way.

Taking all this into consideration, one can see why family and friends are increasingly opting out of the traditional funeral for a more cheerful "celebration of life." These celebrations often find guests wearing the decedent's favorite color or the jersey of their beloved sports team. Oftentimes, we are reminded that the departed had a great sense of humor and wouldn't want their loved ones to feel sad about their death.

During this more "optimistic" gathering, friends and family swap memories of the deceased around tables filled with their favorite foods and "raise a glass" to the end of a well-lived life. This celebration of life is often less complicated to plan, less costly and can be carried out with less difficult emotion, not to mention avoiding the "hassle" of having a body present. A recent survey by the Funeral and Memorial



BY ALEX HERNANDEZ

Information Council observed that 65% of Americans prefer this celebration to a traditional funerals.

But has the "celebration of life" convinced us that death isn't sad?

As my life would have it, I've been to more funerals in my 19 years than most will attend in an entire lifetime. I've gathered to mourn the dead whom I have loved, as well as those I never knew. Those with whom I've gathered shared their grief and mourning in vastly different ways.

Anger, weeping, laughter, irreverence to religious tradition, the list goes on. The point is, they wrestled. By choosing to stay seated in the pew of a funeral home or church, they allowed grief, anxiety and emotional discomfort to enter into their lives, whether outwardly expressed or not.

For better or worse, death comes for us all. The grief and the pain associated with death and loss are well-noted as the worst parts of human experience, and I argue that

the "celebration of life" does not prevent this affliction, but only defers it, like a credit card accumulating debt. The only way to limit our "grief debt" is to intentionally and ritualistically set aside a time and place for the community to converge and confront death — together.

To contend with death is to grow in life, personally and spiritually. As a first-hand witness, I've marveled at estranged family members talking and cooperating in the same room for the first time in decades, bonded together by their shared experiences of mourning. Similarly, I've listened to remarkable and beautiful stories eulogizing great men and women that could only be fully appreciated in the context of great loss.

Marcus Aurelius wisely observed that the walls we build around us to keep out sadness also keep out joy. Guided by these words, I ask, have our "celebrations of life" aimed to scrub death's bitterness from our minds and tongues? If so, what are the implications of a society that considers one of our most universal experiences, sorrow at death, something to avoid altogether?

*Alex Hernandez is the opinion editor.*





SAMUEL RAINS IG: @samuel.rains

The gallery, which showcases artists from the Colville tribe, is open until March 1 and is located at 628 N Monroe St.

## Terrain Gallery highlights Colville tribe

By EMILY NIEMANN

With an emphasis on Plateau culture and people's own connectivity, the "Collective Strands of Spirit" exhibit on display at the Terrain Gallery highlights the artistic voices of Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

After the success of Joe Feddersen's "Earth, Water, Sky" exhibit at the Museum of Arts and Culture last year, Feddersen worked with other Colville artists to put together an exhibit at the Terrain Gallery. Britt Rynearson, one of the featured artists and a key event planner for the show, said Feddersen wanted young artists in the tribe to be similarly recognized.

"He reached out to me and asked me to get a group of Colville artists together to have some sort of parallel show that could bring some of those museum people or art buyers to see other Colville artists," Rynearson said.

Rynearson said the artists came together through previously established

connections and filled the entire space at the Terrain Gallery. The show features a variety of mediums, including sterling silver, gouache and colored pencil pieces, brush work, blown glass, digital, textiles and beads.

Rynearson's piece is called "Story Circle" and features two hanging sculptures consisting of about 200 wire circles, each filled with small beads.

"One of the sculptures is in desaturated colors — silvers and blacks — and the other one is more in earth hues," Rynearson said. "The concept is that each little bead is a memory of something that we've experienced, and then each circle is a story we tell ourselves or we've created for ourselves about those experiences. For me, it was a real reflection on my own experiences and the stories I create that make me who I am."

The show features only new art, with all of the pieces created within the last five years for "Collective Strands of Spirit" specifically.

Rynearson said she created her piece with the show's theme in mind.

"I probably spent 80 hours on my piece, but a lot of it was me staying up all night working on it. I hadn't done that stuff in a long time," Rynearson said. "It was a little bit of a crazy 'college art days' kind of a project."

According to the gallery's website, the show is intended to highlight the diversity of work among Colville artists and honor individual voices. Rynearson said that the show helps shine a light on the work that adds to the conversation by artists of the Colville tribe, an Indigenous group that may not be at the forefront of Washington's Indigenous art scene. Rynearson also said the Colville reservation represents 12 different tribes.

"We really wanted the show to be a conversation between ourselves, like our work talking to each other and really highlighting all of our different voices as Plateau people," Rynearson said.

One of these other voices is Ryan

Feddersen, Joe Feddersen's youngest daughter who is an established public work artist. One of her first public art pieces was in Spokane and is called "900\* Horses," a temporary piece that memorialized the horses murdered by white settlers during the establishment of the city.

"All of the artists are Colville tribal members, and all of our work is relating to these themes about Plateau storytelling and about the animal people, the land and place and our histories, and yet they all look different," Ryan Feddersen said.

Ryan Feddersen's piece is called "Coyote Tries Again," and features nine gouache works on paper.

"The series of nine coyotes are displayed being hung up to dry, and they are a sequence where Coyote gets thrown into the river, he wakes up and pulls himself back out again," Ryan Feddersen said.

Her piece is the beginning of an ongoing project, and Feddersen said that she used Coyote and his character within Plateau lore as an icon to describe a larger idea.

"Before beginning his adventures, I wanted to start with a symbolic reminder that failures are inevitable and that it's necessary to get back up and keep going," Ryan Feddersen said.

Ryan Feddersen said she wanted visitors to see that her piece was about resilience and the importance of learning from failure.

"This piece in particular is about Plateau lore and the trickster coyote and how that continues to apply," Ryan Feddersen said. "We're looking at a lesson from Coyote in this exercise and how that is a lesson we need to carry on today."

Both Rynearson and Ryan Feddersen's pieces emphasize the power of individual perspective and reflection. Rynearson said that while her piece relates to her own experiences, she also hopes visitors can see their own stories in her piece as well.

"You want your piece to be significant to other people and you want other people to find meaning in it, but you can only do that if you put meaning in it yourself," Rynearson said. "You have to start making meaning with your own stories and then hope that other people can find that same resonance."

Rynearson and Ryan Feddersen's pieces will be on display through March 1 at the Terrain Gallery, along with all of the other Colville artists featured.

Emily Niemann is a news editor.

## "Art U.S.A." provides glimpse into the past

By MATTINGLY KREIDER

A window into American history has opened at Gonzaga University's Jundt Art Museum. The exhibition, "Art U.S.A.: One Hundred Works On Paper, 1925-1950," presents more than 100 works of art spanning prints, drawings and paintings that exhibit a narrative of the United States during the years including the Great Depression and World War II.

The same way it took years for the U.S. to recover from the Depression, the gallery did not develop overnight. Museum Coordinator Paul Manoguerra and his team worked for years to create the exhibit.

"Several of the works of art in the exhibition are from the founding gift to the collection by the Bolker family, even before the Jundt Art Museum existed," Manoguerra said. "We've been working specifically on the exhibition for about six or seven years."

This preparation captures the complexities of American life during a difficult time through the eyes of its artists, Manoguerra said.

"The overall gallery means to tell one story — using 100 visual and biographical anecdotes — about the cultural history of the United States during the 1930s and 1940s," Manoguerra said. "Each object and artist biography presents an important single narrative as part of that larger history."

Many pieces in the gallery were products of federally funded art programs that came out of the New Deal.

During the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs aimed to tackle unemployment and economic instability. Among these initiatives were the Works Progress Administration and the Federal Art Project, an effort to support the arts.

Manoguerra said that "Art U.S.A." offers a museum-quality experience often found only in major metropolitan areas.

"This is an exhibition of a type you would find in campus at Gonzaga in Spokane, organized by Gonzaga's



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo\_b00th

The prints featured at the gallery were created through federal programs for art under the New Deal.

own museum using its own collection."

For GU students, the exhibit provides a unique opportunity to connect with their country's past.

Manoguerra said that visitors can approach the exhibit in different ways and that it explores how "art reflects and shapes cultural identity."

"A Gonzaga student should have an interest in the history of the country they live in, and the exhibition conveys part of that 20th century history," Manoguerra said.

Patrons of the exhibit have already found personal connections with the pieces on display. Eli Sevenich, a seasoned printmaker, shared her thoughts on Emil Ganso's "At the Beach [Summer (No. 2)]." The print and Ganso's biography in the gallery states that nine different colors were used and six different stencils were layered to show a beach scene of women.

"I have done a lot of printmaking in my life," Sevenich said. "It is nice to see it incorporated here. I really liked the swimmer one. The colors were nice, and the technique used was something I haven't seen much of before."

Others were in awe of how many people attended the open house on Friday. Attendee Katherine Maccall said she not only enjoyed walking around to absorb everything the museum had to offer, but was also grateful to see the support from the community.

"When I saw how full the room was, I was pleasantly surprised," Maccall said. "This is a more fun history lesson than anything I've sat in on before. More people have got

to come down and see this."

This sentiment captures the exhibit's broader mission of creating a dialogue between the past and present by showcasing works from a diverse array of artists.

"I am proud of the numbers of immigrants, children of immigrants, women, Westerners and artists of color in our version of an exhibition on this topic," Manoguerra said.

A feature of the exhibit is the auxiliary display of Fletcher Martin's original and controversial design for the Kellogg, Idaho, post office mural. The loan from the Smithsonian American Art Museum is an example of federally commissioned art.

"Art U.S.A." is a tribute to the enduring power of creativity to capture the human experience, whether viewed as a cohesive whole or piece by piece. Manoguerra said his hope is that the exhibit leaves a lasting impression.

"An appreciation for this era in American art history, the resilience of the artists and the role of the federal government — that's what I hope patrons take away," Manoguerra said.

"Art U.S.A." will run through May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., six days a week. The gallery is closed on Sundays.

Mattingly Kreider is a contributor.

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LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo\_booth

Located in the South Perry District and surrounded by restaurants, Wishing Tree Books has many literary offerings.

# Support small with bookstore crawl

COMMENTARY  
By MACKENZIE ESTEP

When there's a desire for a new book, Barnes and Noble is usually the first thought. However, in order to embrace the full book-buying experience, locally owned bookstores might be the way to go. Spokane locals are in luck, as there are plenty of local gems to choose from. Whether you're looking for a space to buy your next favorite series, sip a cup of coffee while you browse or find your next cozy spot to study, Spokane has abundant bookstores for you to choose from.

**Auntie's Bookstore**  
(402 W Main Ave.)

Out of the local bookstore options that can treat the book-shopping itch, the biggest and most obvious

is Auntie's Bookstore. Located right on Main Street in downtown Spokane, Auntie's has a wide selection of books, including a large children's section. Along with its books, it also hosts many author's events and sells other merchandise such as puzzles and games.

**Wishing Tree Books**  
(1410 E 11th Ave.)

Continuing with the specialization in children's books, Wishing Tree Books has a storybook charm to enhance the shopping experience. Located in Spokane's historic South Perry District, the store has many amenities that make it a warm and enjoyable experience, featuring several built-in reading nooks in its standalone house structure. The bright blue exterior is sure to invoke a comforting home-like feeling while exploring the store's extensive book inventory.

**Jupiter's Eye Book Cafe**  
(411 W 1st Ave.)

A combination of book browsing and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee fills the quaint building of Jupiter's Eye Book Cafe. Along with coffee, its cafe has several house-made pastries and snacks to choose from and enjoy while looking for the perfect book. Found near the University District, this bookstore-cafe combination draws in students and creatives alike. Its selection includes popular contemporary titles and more obscure and unique books, which adds to the cozy atmosphere.

**2nd Look Books**  
(2829 E 29th Ave.)

For a more thrifty or sustainable option, 2nd Look Books is a perfect affordable choice of bookstore. The store is packed wall-to-wall with secondhand, pre-loved books, making the prices a little easier on your wallet. The genres carried in 2nd Look Books are vast, with options for any type of reader. For those with an abundance of unused books laying around the house, take those gently used books in to exchange for trade-in store credit. This makes the shopping experience even more accessible and unique for customers.

**Corner Door Fountain and Books**  
(3301 N Argonne Rd.)

Located in a historic building, Corner Door Fountain and Books blends vintage fountain soda with book shopping. While there is a slightly smaller selection of books compared to the other stores on this list, the old-fashioned milkshakes and classic soda floats make up for it. Corner Door allows customers to enjoy a handmade drink while looking for a new story to engulf themselves in, all while diving into the history of Spokane that's showcased in the building's infrastructure.

**Page 42 Bookstore**  
(3010 N Crestline St.)

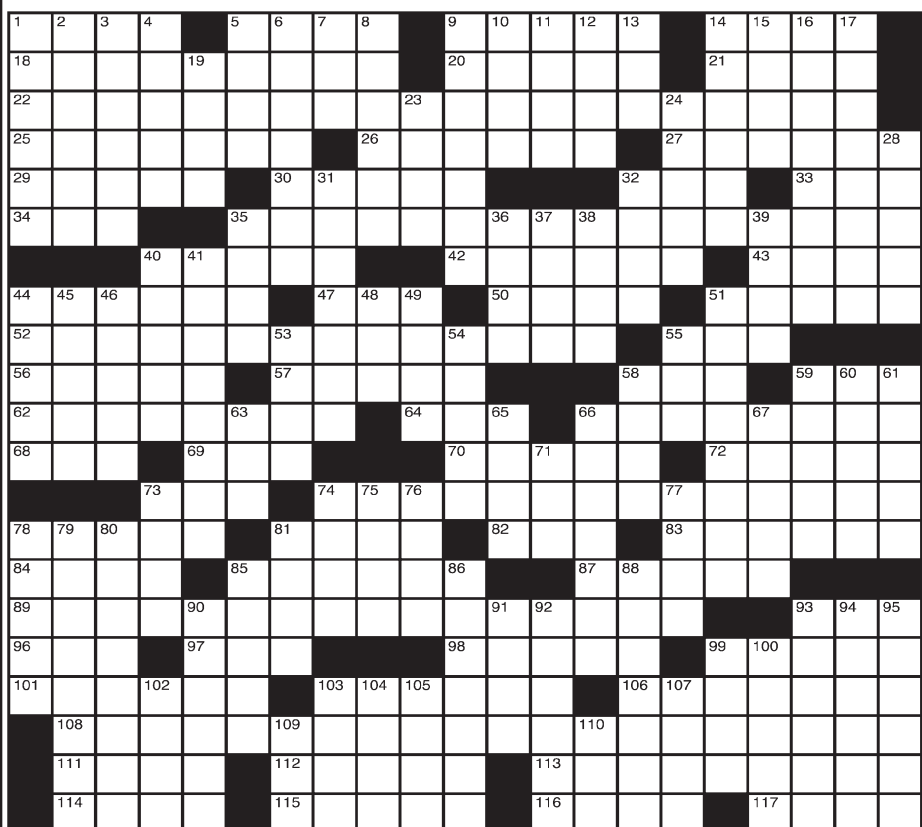
Getting its name from the page number in Douglas Adams' "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," where the ultimate question of life is answered, Page 42 is another great stop for book shoppers in Spokane. Its inventory is filled with carefully selected titles that include literary fiction, popular contemporary books and books by local authors. Along with its large selection, the store also holds monthly book clubs and frequent live readings by authors to create a space for Spokane's literary community. The minimalist design of this store continues its commitment to promoting local talent and community among its customers.

With options like these, shopping for books can be more than just simply the act of buying a book. Each of these shops brings a unique experience to the shopper, making it not just an errand but a full enjoyable book experience for local Spokane readers.

Mackenzie Estep is a staff writer.

## Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol



- IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING**  
By Jill Singer
- ACROSS**
- 1 Go from ice to water
  - 5 Penn State rival
  - 9 Church topper
  - 14 Not stick around
  - 18 Old short film
  - 20 Like an escaped balloon
  - 21 "Free Willy" mammal
  - 22 "It's so cold my fingers are going numb"
  - 25 Conceptualism debate starter
  - 26 Cursed
  - 27 Cattle markers
  - 29 Polar bear platforms
  - 30 Piano key wood, traditionally
  - 32 Laugh half
  - 33 Langley org.
  - 34 Craving
  - 35 "I love my new down comforter"
  - 40 Period of time
  - 42 Reely annoyos
  - 43 Creep
  - 44 Escort
  - 47 Beats by \_\_
  - 50 Collapsible shelter
  - 51 Tangy salad herb
  - 52 "You should have seen that game-winning throw"
  - 55 S.F. and L.A. locale
  - 56 Crème de la crème
  - 57 \_\_ silence
  - 58 Soak (up)
  - 59 Starts of some logic problems
  - 62 \_\_ photography: still-life genre
  - 64 Business letters
  - 66 Wine grape variety
  - 68 Texter's apology
  - 69 Like sashimi
  - 70 Ann \_\_, Michigan
  - 72 Dye used in mehndi
  - 73 Josh
  - 74 "I only carry one if there's more than a 50% chance of rain"
  - 78 Big shot
  - 81 Court entry
  - 82 Jimmy Eat World genre
  - 83 Rings around pupils
  - 84 " \_\_ be great!"
  - 85 Part of the largest ethnic minority in the U.S.
  - 87 Very thin
  - 89 "Granite is best because it's heat-resistant and easy to clean"
  - 93 Half of hexa-
  - 96 WSW reversal
  - 97 Urban scourge
  - 98 Composer
  - 99 Maurice
  - 99 Gray-faced
  - 101 Some field day races
  - 103 Peppermint \_\_
  - 106 Sticks
  - 108 "Eve and I really wanted that apple"
  - 111 "Got that, boss"
  - 112 Brother's wife or wife's brother
  - 113 Transfers legally
  - 114 Cincinnati players
  - 115 Feestoon
  - 116 Cookie one might twist to open
  - 117 Robin's home
- DOWN**
- 1 Alter
  - 2 Maroon
  - 3 Roman military group
  - 4 Overused
  - 5 Comice or Seckel
  - 6 Tattler's refrain
  - 7 Private eye
  - 8 Trampled
  - 9 Siberian dog breed
  - 10 Reddish purple hue
  - 11 "La Brea" actress
  - 12 Microchip
  - 13 "You know the rest," briefly
  - 14 Buddha's meditation spot
  - 15 Oratorio solo
  - 16 Words following a loss
  - 17 Positions to stick after vaults
  - 19 Airport pickup figs.
  - 23 One living a life of prayer
  - 24 Offers some bad advice?
  - 28 Quenches
  - 31 Part of an Uncle Fester costume
  - 32 Stop
  - 35 "Where have you \_\_?"
  - 36 Spot for un bérêt
  - 37 Cartoon reindeer
  - 38 Eyelash treatment
  - 39 Reagle who was a special guest on a crossword episode of "The Simpsons"
  - 40 Natural fiber in rugs and rope
  - 41 Steakhouse selection
  - 44 Quarrels
  - 45 Saudi Arabia neighbor
  - 46 Important date
  - 48 Towel holder
  - 49 Wakim of "SNL"
  - 51 Meeting point of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
  - 53 "Oh, \_\_ up!"
  - 54 Wisdom tooth, e.g.
  - 55 Kernel holder
  - 58 "Love Song" singer
  - 59 Civil rights leader
  - 60 Ideal yard feature for pet owners
  - 61 Legal postponements
  - 63 Small amount
  - 65 Indigenous Canadians
  - 66 City on the Rhine
  - 67 Got going again, as a gas lamp
  - 71 Anti-racism gp.
  - 73 66-Down, in German
  - 74 Cosmetics chain with beauty salons
  - 75 Golda of Israel
  - 76 Sound of a slamming door
  - 77 Name of 12 popes
  - 78 More sympathetic
  - 79 Right, as a wrong
  - 80 Transit option to Boston's Logan Airport
  - 81 Hair band?
  - 85 "It's the \_\_ I can do"
  - 86 Play in which the Stage Manager is a character
  - 88 On the loose
  - 90 Secret meetings
  - 91 Common street name
  - 92 "Nevertheless ..."
  - 93 Not just survive
  - 94 Actor Keanu
  - 95 Magazine addition
  - 99 Exclamations of understanding
  - 100 Determined to have
  - 102 Like the Namib
  - 103 Await settlement
  - 104 Folk singer Guthrie
  - 105 Peter the Great or Nicholas II
  - 107 Spy film starring Sean Connery
  - 109 Actress Zadora
  - 110 Affectation

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

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

Solution to Last Week's puzzle

1/19/25

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

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# Page 42 provides recycled reads

By HOLLY FIJOLEK

When walking through the doors of Page 42 Bookstore, customers are embraced with the comforting smell and sight of well-loved books lining the shelves.

Located in the Bemiss neighborhood, the local women-owned shop obtains the majority of its books from local donations, making it an affordable place to grab one's next read. Page 42 co-owners Emily Peterson and Alicia McCann are working toward their goal of making literature more accessible for the greater Spokane community.

Peterson said the store's trade-in program that exchanges store credit for donations is popular among customers and allows donors a chance to grab new books, games or movies as recognition of their support.

"Anybody can come up with a bag of books from their living room, and if you get enough books, it can be enough credit to buy some books in the store," Peterson said.

Page 42 also never throws away any items that are donated. Peterson said the store aims to find new homes for donations rather than sending them to the landfill.

"The community is very enthusiastic about the fact that we don't throw books away," Peterson said. "People entrust us with their books [which are things] you don't want to roll around in the Goodwill bins but need to find a new home that isn't your house."

McCann said this trust provides a constant supply of books that even their regular shoppers can't help but peek through when they stop in.

"[People] often say they wanted to come and see what's in here today, but they're not going to buy anything," McCann said. "But oftentimes they'll find some treasures that they feel the need to bring home."

To manage the large influx of donated items, Page 42 holds events like its 25-cent book sales in the summer and its free book fair in January. Peterson said she estimates that anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000 books are rehomed during these events.

These large sales are open to the public and feature booths with local vendors alongside the literature. Both Peterson and McCann said they look forward to hosting these events each year due to the large turnout they typically see.

"The [free book fair] is the biggest party that we throw all year long," Peterson said. "I'm really excited to make it happen this year."

Peterson said she believes reading gives people the opportunity to escape reality through the fantasy of fiction or education of nonfiction. She said that Page 42 is her way to make this opportunity to explore different subjects or worlds possible for many people.

"I believe that books are a powerful, life-changing force, and that it can be difficult for people in lower-income situations to have good access to the books that might be life-changing for them," Peterson said. "So our mission is to make sure that books are accessible to people of all income levels, and to build a community around the accessible literature that we provide."

Some ways the used bookstore works to build a community of readers is by gamifying reading. The store hosts events like adult reading programs with prizes, such as tattoos and growlers of beer, and summer programs for children, where participants read up to 9,000 hours.

"It's not my goal to convince someone who's not interested in reading to read," Peterson said. "It's my goal to give the person who's curious about it every opportunity to explore."

Readers can also expand on their literary interests by renting the store for private events. McCann said this time can be used for something as simple as shopping the store uninterrupted or for larger events including date nights, birthday parties and school field trips.

McCann said the store has also dipped into more intimate events, such as the time the space was used for a proposal and a wedding. For the pair who got engaged in the store, Peterson said it was a special and thoughtful moment.

"He reached out to us because we are her happy place," Peterson said. "So we helped him set up a banner, and when she came in, he right away asked, 'Will you marry me?'"

As for the wedding, Page 42 was able to save the day for some book lovers who were rained out of their outdoor venue. According to Peterson, the couple said their love for the store and the immense amount of time they spent in it made the bookshelf-lined space their choice for a special indoor venue to hold the ceremony.

"It was so fun, and their vows were so



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @flamedmedia

Page 42 Bookstore offers affordable access to books at 3010 N Crestline St.

beautiful," Peterson said. "Everybody in the store was just holding their breath with their hands to their mouth, trying not to cry."

For Peterson, Page 42 is a space that encourages people to explore literature and leaves them with lasting memories.

"We're able to provide a source for people to sell their goods and make their dreams come true," Peterson said. "At the same time, we're doing what we love and making our dreams come true."

McCann said working closely with her best friend to own the book store they dreamed of when they were children and seeing it leave positive impacts on others is the best part of the job.

"I get to do what I love with my best friend every day — that in itself is pretty gratifying," McCann said. "But then when you couple that with the fact that I get to

see how much joy this space can bring to people, it's really special."

Holly Fijolek is a staff writer.



RACHAEL HALEY IG: @rhaleyphoto

Zsa Zsa Seebeck's new store promotes an environmentally friendly lifestyle.

# Sauvage Zsa promotes European sips and sustainable goods

By SEAMUS MCCARTHY

With wines, clothing and food, Sauvage Zsa sits on the corner of Railroad Alley and Monroe Avenue, having just celebrated its grand opening in December. The owner, Zsa Zsa Seebeck, described her store as a one-stop shop for customers who want an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Seebeck said her goal was to disrupt the traditional system of fast fashion and help people embrace more sustainable and people-oriented options.

"I work with minority-owned small businesses as partners, and I work specifically with people who I could have mutually beneficial relationships with," Seebeck said. "My niche is minority-owned small businesses, and I have over 80 small businesses represented in the store."

Seebeck said that she was inspired to start her business because of her travels across the world.

"I lived in Aspen (Colorado) for two years and I was inspired by the luxury market there," Seebeck said. "But I was also inspired by what I wasn't seeing in stores, or what I wanted to see in department stores. I kind of got a little burnt out by fast fashion — I wanted to see more small businesses."

Seebeck said she decided to bring her travels and experiences into her business.

"What I wanted to create was a place where someone feels comfortable to come in and shop, drink, eat and then

to walk out feeling like they're benefiting the Earth and their own well-being," Seebeck said.

Also factoring into Seebeck's business are her three engineering degrees. Seebeck said her training as an engineer significantly impacted the implementation of Sauvage Zsa.

"I used systematic engineering to create this business," Seebeck said. "What I mean by that is I had a master planning process, I have a budget and I have a schedule."

Seebeck said that she integrated her engineering skills into the construction of her store space, having taken steps to reduce the store's environmental footprint.

"I worked with my real estate agent to help negotiate tenant improvements into my lease contract," Seebeck said. "Before I signed the lease of this space, you would walk in and the walls would be painted with a kind of toxic latex paint, all the windows were covered up and there was not natural daylight. There were halogen bulbs for light, which are not eco-friendly at all."

Instead, Seebeck had the walls repainted with a nontoxic paint and replaced all the lights with LED lamps. Seebeck described the aesthetic of the area as an old world European building, with wooden rafters and stone facing on most walls.

Seebeck said a vital part of her business model is corporate social responsibility, where businesses focus on the consumer and the environment rather than trying to maximize profits.

In order to fulfill her goal of corporate social

responsibility, Seebeck works with a growing number of small businesses to provide clothing, food and wines.

"I started in April, and in April, I had maybe 10 small business partners," Seebeck said. "I use many different filters through my corporate social responsibility plan to help guide and build my relationships."

In addition to trying to fit her partnerships through the lens of corporate social responsibility, Seebeck said that she tries to meet business owners in person. For example, in December, Seebeck flew out to meet several of her business partners in the fashion districts of Los Angeles.

"I went and actually met the business owners and then looked in person and felt the clothes and got to see them," Seebeck said.

Ben Seebeck, Zsa Zsa Seebeck's husband and a sommelier, handles purchasing the wines, which he said are also ethically sourced, oftentimes from the European Union.

"The majority of all our brands are certified organic, certified biodynamic," Ben Seebeck said. "We're pretty fortunate in that regard, because a lot of wines aren't made that way, especially in the United States."

He said most European wines don't use as many pesticides as American wines. According to the Institute of Food Technologists, both the United States and European Union have the maximum toxicity levels allowed in wine. Still, Ben Seebeck said it was comparatively simple to obtain eco-friendly wine as opposed to eco-friendly clothing.

Zsa Zsa Seebeck said that her biggest constraint in creating her business was time and the fact that she had very little help.

"I had to manage the construction aspect of the store while also procuring all of the products and applying for permitting," Zsa Zsa Seebeck said. "All from the time I signed my lease in October to my store's grand opening in December."

Zsa Zsa Seebeck said she hopes that the store will take off soon and that her work will pay off.

"I don't have any financial backers — it's just me," Zsa Zsa Seebeck said. "It's an investment and it's a huge risk."

Despite that, Zsa Zsa Seebeck said that she wasn't willing to have a typical corporate financing structure. Instead, she hopes to eventually structure her business like a co-op.

"When you go public, it focuses more on the financial stakeholders, not the people who are buying your tangible goods," Zsa Zsa Seebeck said.

Zsa Zsa Seebeck said she hopes her business will be able to host at least 32 community-centered events a year, starting on the first Friday in February with an art walk. Zsa Zsa Seebeck said her strategy was to provide a broad range of services and then see which ones were more successful and helpful for the community.

Seamus McCarthy is a staff writer.



# WBB teams to receive NCAA tourney payouts

By KYLE SWEENEY

On Jan. 15, a deal was finalized to the sound of raucous applause at the NCAA's convention in Nashville, Tennessee. In a unanimous vote, the NCAA decided to pay Division I women's basketball March Madness teams, establishing a historical new pay structure that rewards women's sports.

The NCAA Board of Governors unanimously approved the proposal back in August, but the plan is officially in place and ready to be implemented for the 2025-26 season.

"This is a historic day for women's sports, women's basketball and the NCAA," said NCAA President Charlie Baker. "We have made investing in women's sports a priority, and today's vote means our members have the opportunity to do even more on campus to promote and support female athletes. I can't wait to see all the incredible things they do."

Starting in 2025, tournament teams will be a part of a \$15 million prize pool, representing 26% of the women's basketball revenue deal, valued at around \$65 million. This is "roughly 10 times more than in the contract that ends this year," according to an ESPN report. By 2028, the women's prize pool is expected to increase to \$25 million, which will represent 41% of the media deal, correlating to a higher percentage of the revenue deal returning to the schools.

The money will be given out to schools through "performance units" that are distributed in the same manner as the men's tournament. A "unit" refers to a set amount of money based on the size of the prize pool amount that is awarded to schools. Each unit is worth the same amount of money, and the further a team advances in March Madness, the more units a school receives.

Units are distributed to the team's conference, and each conference decides how the money is divided between the schools. For every team that each of the 32 conferences sends to a tournament, that team will earn one unit for their conference. For example, the Mountain West Conference had one team in the 2024 NCAA women's tourney: the University of Las Vegas. The Atlantic Coast Conference sent eight teams to the tourney, so the Mountain West would earn one unit, and the ACC would earn eight. As teams advance further, they earn more units for their conferences.

"This continues our fight to lift women's basketball to historic levels," South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley told the Associated Press. "I appreciate the decision by the Kaplan Hecker and Fink law firm to ... [identify] a key issue holding women's basketball back from capitalizing on the historic viewership and quality of the product on the court."

The 2024 women's National Championship game between Caitlin Clark's Iowa squad and Staley's undefeated South Carolina drew record attendance and an average of 18.7 million viewers on TV, outperforming the men's National Championship by nearly four million viewers.



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

The recent NCAA ruling on payouts for women's basketball programs will benefit tournament teams such as GU.

That marked the first time in history that the women's game had more views than the men's game, and the women's championship was the most-watched basketball game since 2019, regardless of gender and the level of play.

Along with Clark and her infamous rivalry with former Louisiana State University standout Angel Reese, women's college superstars like USC's Juju Watkins and UConn's Paige Bueckers continue to draw millions of viewers, growing the sport's popularity and becoming trailblazers for women's sports and its recent unprecedented growth.

"I think that's huge, just for women's hoop, continuing to capitalize on what we've brought to the sport and what we do for just sport in general and entertainment," Bueckers said in a press conference.

When schools receive the money, they reinvest it back into athletics. Schools use the money for scholarships for athletes, increased coaching salaries, training facilities, ballparks and arenas among other uses.

"Like the men's basketball fund, the women's basketball funds are unrestricted, meaning conferences and institutions can choose how we want to invest these extra

“

**This continues our fight to lift women's basketball to historic levels.**

*Dawn Staley, South Carolina women's basketball head coach*

dollars," said Julie Roe Lach, the commissioner of the Horizon League.

Along with new antitrust settlements that compensate student-athletes dating back to 2016 and the ever-changing landscape of improved Name, Image and Likeness opportunities, college athletes and institutions are being financially rewarded. The new plan has the backing of many important figures in women's college basketball, with payouts rewarding women's basketball on its biggest stage.

"It was historic, it was monumental," said Lynn Holzman, NCAA vice president for women's basketball. "There's tons of adjectives we can use around that. Personally also, it was somewhat emotional because it's been a really long road."

The upcoming Women's March Madness tournament will begin with the selection show on March 16, and the Final Four will begin on April 4 in Tampa, Florida. Spokane will be a regional host, meaning it will host Sweet 16 and Elite Eight games as part of the tournament.

*Kyle Sweeney is a staff writer.*

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# GU tennis swings into new season

## Women's team ready for WCC after 'successful' fall

By KYLE SWEENEY

As the calendar turns over into a new year, a new season is on the horizon for the Gonzaga University women's tennis team.

The season for head coach Natalie Pluskota-Hamberg, her third at GU, began this month and has kicked off with a winning start for the Zags.

GU is 2-1 for the season after 5-2 home wins against Michigan State and Eastern Washington University, although it fell to Boise State in a 7-0 road loss.

Pluskota-Hamberg's Zags look to build on an 8-14 record last season, which included a 2-6 clip in West Coast Conference play.

Prior to the spring season, the Zags competed in five fall tournaments across the country, including in New Hampshire, California, Oregon, Nevada and close to home in Spokane. Although these tournaments do not count toward the regular season record for the Bulldogs, many positives came from competing at a high level in the fall.

"We grinded a lot. We played multiple good teams

“

**The [fall] tournaments went really well. All my matches were super competitive.**

*Emily Robertson, GU sophomore*

in good tournaments," said Norhan Hesham, a graduate senior player. "Overall, I would consider it a successful preseason for our actual season this spring."

Hesham, a transfer from Saint Louis, Missouri, is one of two newcomers on the GU squad along with incoming freshman Safien Boulonois.

Tiegan Aitken, Kianna Oda and Caroline Wernli all departed the program after graduating, presenting new

singles and doubles opportunities to six returners in addition to the two transfers: Hesham and Boulonois.

Emily Robertson returns at the No. 1 singles position, with the sophomore finishing 16-15 last season as GU's leading player. As a freshman, Robertson was named second team All-WCC singles and honorable mention All-WCC in doubles, as she was the only player on last year's team to keep a positive winning percentage in both singles and doubles.

"Hopefully I'll be able to flip it around and come out on top more than I did last season," Robertson said. "Because every match is really tight. Just taking the successes I had last year and putting it to this year will help me."

Last season, the No. 2 singles spot was held by the graduated Oda, leaving the position up in the air for the spring season. Sophomores Ella Nielsen and Rose Hayes each competed in singles two matches last season, and junior Lia Espinal and redshirt sophomore Brooke Bittner competed in singles matches last season as well.

After three matches of Hayes taking the top spot behind Robertson, the redshirt sophomore plays a crucial role this season after missing a large chunk of last season due to an injury.

Robertson and Nielsen return as GU's most successful doubles pair from last season, finishing 10-5 (4-2 WCC). Espinal, Nielsen and Bittner competed together as well, and Hayes won her only match with the graduated Aitken. Sophomore Savannah Johnson finished 1-1 in her doubles matches last season with Wernli.

In all three matches of the season so far, Robertson and Boulonois have been the top duo. The two have gone 1-1 in finished matches this season, having been defeated 5-4 by Michigan State before beating their Eastern Washington opponents 6-2.

Coach Pluskota-Hamberg is tasked with finding the right combinations and pairings as the season continues, but Robertson said she isn't worried about her coach finding the right fits.

"I played with a couple of my teammates and the pairings worked out super well. We have a lot of options going into the spring," Robertson said. "The [fall] tournaments went really well. All my matches were super competitive."

Through the first two games, Norhan, Nielsen and Bittner all stayed undefeated in singles before all seven starters fell against Boise.

The Zags will compete in 18 more matches this spring and begin conference play against Washington State on March 22, beginning a six-match gauntlet against WCC opponents Saint Mary's, Pacific, Loyola Marymount, Santa Clara and Portland.

GU will conclude regular season play on April 19 against Portland, followed by WCC tournament play shortly after. The 2025 NCAA Division I Women's Tennis Championships are held from May 15-18 this year in Waco, Texas.



LUCY BOOTH IG: @photo\_b00th

Women's tennis is undefeated at home after having defeated Michigan State (5-2) and Eastern Washington (5-2).

Kyle Sweeney is a staff writer.

## Young men's team prepares to grow

By BROOKS COLEMAN

Gonzaga University men's tennis has continued to find success under head coach D.J. Gurule in the past four years. Coming over to the men's side after a successful 19-year tenure with GU's women's team, Gurule boasts an 18-6 overall record in 2021 and exceptional home records in his past two seasons.

But it's pretty safe to say that none of his rosters thus far have ever looked quite like this.

With just two upperclassmen — neither of whom are seniors — and four freshmen, GU has undergone a youth movement of sorts over the offseason. The Zags also brought in San Francisco transfer Giovanni Branchetti, meaning that just three of eight players returned from last season.

Despite the roster's relative lack of experience playing with each other, Gurule said the team has bonded rapidly.

"I've kind of correlated them to brothers," Gurule said. "They'll get after each other, they'll pick on each other a little bit, but in the end, they really battle for each other."

During the fall season, one doubles team stood out on GU's roster: freshmen Jay Fairclough and Branchetti. Despite never having played together before, Fairclough and Branchetti immediately established themselves as a formidable duo to win the Aggie Invitational in September and going on an eight-match win streak.

"I think they just mix really well — Jay has a big serve, and Giovanni's just a beast at the net," Gurule said. "So I think they're understanding each other and they're committed to what they're trying to do, [which] is to be aggressive and be dominant on that side."

Fairclough and Branchetti continued the streak in the Zags' opening matches against Eastern Washington University last weekend, cruising to a pair of victories over the Eagles' top doubles teams.

For Fairclough, the roster's youth and the amount of turnover has helped ease his transition to college athletics from his hometown of Perth, Australia.

"We've all been kind of thrown into this environment together, and I think it's helped," Fairclough said. "I can kind of lean on them sometimes when I'm struggling, [and] they can do the same with me."

Fairclough isn't the only international freshman on the roster. He's joined by London native Kai-Luca Ampaw, who competes as the Zags' No. 2 singles player. Ampaw also makes up half of GU's No. 2 doubles tandem alongside Diego Herrera.

"[Ampaw] has really grown from the fall to the spring — he's an unbelievable athlete, and just strikes the ball like nobody else," Gurule said. "He's really bought into what we're asking him to do."

GU's roster has a heavy international focus, with six of eight players hailing from outside the United States. In addition to Ampaw and Fairclough, the Zags feature three international upperclassmen, including one transfer in Branchetti. Gurule credits GU's prestige as an athletic institution for his ability to recruit.

"The Gonzaga name carries such weight, and so when we call recruits, they know who we are," Gurule said. "They went through the time to come here and see what we're about and understand, because we really don't fake it — it's who we are. So they want to buy into something that's bigger than themselves. It's a lot like what our university believes in."

One of GU's most important recruiting pickups in the offseason was five-star prospect Nicholas Reeves, who was the top-ranked prospect in Washington as a high schooler. Reeves kicked off his spring season with an ideal start against EWU, winning both of his singles matches and picking up a victory in doubles as well.

"We knew, coming here in January, that he was one of the better players in the country, and he showed it today," Gurule said of Reeves after his matches against EWU. "He's a beast, and he's going to be a big piece for us."

GU's strong team culture is another major draw for recruits. During interviews, players stressed the importance of staying committed and striving to connect with each other, regardless of cultural backgrounds or language barriers.

"We're all from different countries, besides me and Nicholas [Reeves], but being able to come together from different backgrounds is really important to us," said junior Gus Krauel. "Accepting each other's backgrounds is a key part of that."

This familial aspect in the locker room has caused Gurule to take note of a unique dynamic between his players. Rather than



JOSHUA GARCIA IG: @llamedmedia

No. 1 doubles duo Giovanni Branchetti and Jay Fairclough won 6-1 over EWU at home.

identifying a single player as a leader or standout voice, he said all of his players make an active effort to make their voices heard and take feedback from each other.

"We've kind of made this deal [where] you can't just be a bystander," Gurule said. "So you can't not give your opinion, you can't not be involved, you can't just sit on the sidelines and see what happens. Everyone has been committed, so they all take it upon themselves to be really involved."

The WCC looks to be one of the premier men's tennis conferences in the country this season — highlighted by Pepperdine and San Diego, which brought in the first and second-ranked mid-major recruiting classes over the summer. However, Gurule said he believes his squad has the potential to hang with the conference's best.

"I think we can compete with anybody," Gurule said. "They're just going to come out, [and] whoever they're going to play against, they're gonna battle."

GU's season started with wins against EWU (0-2) at home on Jan. 18, as the Zags (2-0) swept the Eagles 4-0 in both matches to put their overall record at 2-0. Another 4-0 win at Seattle University cemented a trio of wins before the team fell 7-0 to Washington in Seattle.

Branchetti and Fairclough continued the undefeated season in doubles until the UW loss as well and now hold a record of 3-1.

After a tough test on the road showed growing pains for the program, a weekend at home against Montana State (0-3) and Nevada (2-1) set up the squad to have a bounce-back performance before traveling to California to face UC Santa Barbara (3-1) and Cal Poly (1-0).

The road stretches for the team will likely be telling of the team's growth. In the last two seasons, GU has gone 12-3 at home but has struggled away from the Stevens Center. The 3-17 record on the road will be especially difficult for a roster of underclassmen to overcome, but with the confidence of Gurule instilled in the unit, it'll be an interesting statement if they can take down solid programs in Santa Barbara and Cal Poly.

The conference season for GU will begin on March 23 against Portland in The Stevens Center. Last year, the Pilots dominated the Zags 7-0.

Brooks Coleman is a copy editor.





ISABELLA WOLFSON

GU men's basketball wing Michael Ajayi will have one more year of eligibility due a recent NCAA ruling.

# Junior college transfers set to gain extra eligibility

COMMENTARY  
By CAM MCCANN

A recent NCAA ruling will allow former junior college athletes who transferred to Division I schools to retain an additional year of eligibility, extending the careers of many collegiate athletes, including some Gonzaga University players.

In 2022, current GU men's basketball wing Michael Ajayi played for Pierce College. In that lone season, he was named the Northwest Athletic Conference West Region's Most Valuable Player, leading the team in points and rebounds with averages of 20.4 and 11.3, respectively.

A court case involving former junior collegiate athlete Diego Pavia changed what this year of basketball means for Ajayi. Pavia, a quarterback at Vanderbilt University, won an appeal in a court case that granted him another year of NCAA availability.

It should be noted that Pavia's class was also granted an extra year to compete thanks to the troubles the COVID-19 pandemic gave NCAA athletes. Pavia and his lawyers claimed the NCAA violated antitrust laws regarding rules and regulations for junior college athletes who transferred to Division I programs.

"A junior college season shouldn't be the equivalent of an NCAA season when the junior college season has no meaningful opportunities to earn from Name, Image and Likeness and no

television exposure," said Ryan Downton, Pavia's attorney, to ESPN. "They take other athletes [who are playing somewhere outside of high school] and don't hold those seasons against them."

This claim and following court case has assured that all junior college transfers will be granted an extra year of eligibility. The NCAA released a statement on this development in interviews with ESPN and Yahoo Sports.

"Altering the enforcement of rules overwhelmingly supported by NCAA member schools makes a shifting environment even more unsettled," the statement said. "The NCAA is making changes to deliver more benefits to student-athletes, but a patchwork of state laws and court opinions make clear that partnering with Congress is essential to provide stability for the future of all college."

With the current state of NIL and the transfer portal, athletes have begun to prioritize monetization when selecting a college. For years, a scholarship paired with the glory behind secondary athletics was considered enough of a reward, but athletes have moved the goal posts.

If one's brand is enough to bring in boatloads of money to a college campus, there should be some fair compensation that goes along with that. It would be unfair of the school to be the only one that benefits from athletes gaining notoriety.

However, it seems this has gone from giving an inch to taking a mile. We no

longer see top-level athletes staying at the same school because there are always greener pastures. The glory of being at a university and fighting for it as if it were your own has been lost.

But this isn't about NIL or the transfer portal. While junior college athletes getting another year of eligibility would go hand-in-hand with these topics, it's not the meat and potatoes of what this changes.

Oftentimes, junior colleges are willing to take athletes that don't meet the academic standard of DI programs. If an athlete struggles at staying present both on the field and in the classroom, they have a good way to learn how to balance both correctly by attending junior college.

For players like Ajayi, it's beyond impressive to have gone from junior colleges such as Pierce College to GU, all in the name of athletics. To have such a rise, one would certainly search for the best way to capitalize. Ajayi is one such athlete, having returned to college after placing his name into the NBA draft process.

All in all, junior college is not the same as DI athletics, and so there is certainly a logical path that Pavia seems to be blazing for athletes to not lose a year of eligibility playing at this level. At the same time, this just means that players straight out of high school will have to contend with older, more experienced veterans rather than the usual cast of anyone between 18 and 23 years old.

As the lines start to become more solidified on what this means for all NCAA athletes, keep an eye out for how this affects the game as a whole, not just each individual athlete's story.

Cam McCann is a sports editor. Follow him on X: @CamMcCann253

## GU SPORTS CALENDAR

- Thursday, Jan. 30
  - » Women's basketball vs. San Diego, 6 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 31
  - » Track and field at UW Invitational (men's only), Seattle, Washington, all-day
  - » Women's tennis at New Mexico State, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 2 p.m.
  - » Men's tennis vs. Montana State, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 1
  - » Track and field at Inland Northwest Invitational, Spokane, Washington, all-day
  - » Women's basketball vs. Pacific, 2 p.m.
  - » Men's basketball at Saint Mary's, Moraga, California, 8 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 2
  - » Men's tennis vs. Nevada, 10 a.m.
  - » Women's tennis at New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 6
  - » Men's basketball vs. Loyola Marymount, 6 p.m.
  - » Track and field at Riverfront Invitational & Multis, Spokane, Washington, all-day
  - » Women's basketball at Saint Mary's, Moraga, California, 6:30 p.m.

\*Home games in bold\*



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