

VALENTINE'S DAY: AROUND THE WORLD BY: BRIANNA ARIAS

The season of love is finally here! Valentine's Day is celebrated all over the world in many unique ways. Around the world, different cultures add their touches, making Valentine's Day a blend of many traditions. The United States and Canada both celebrate with the gesture of gift-giving with items such as flowers. chocolates, cards, and romantic dinners. At the same time, children usually exchange cards and candies at school with their peers. Japan celebrates a little differently, since women give different chocolates depending on their relationship with the person: "giri-choco" which is given to friends, and "home-choco" which would usually be given to a romantic partner. A month later on "White Day" (March 14th), men would treat their romantic partner to an extraordinary gift. South Korea also celebrates similarly to Japan. In Finland and Estonia, they believe Valentine's Day should be more focused on celebrating friendships, rather than romantic relationships, so they call February 14th "Friends Day." In South Africa, women pin the names of their crushes on their sleeves. In Ghana, February 14th is "National Chocolate Day." There are so many more countries that celebrate uniquely, however, those are just a few. Valentine's Day can be celebrated in any formromantically or platonically. Happy Valentine's Day!









SPRING MUSICAL: THE ADDAMS FAMILY BY: LUCIANA GOMEZ

This April JDHS is presenting their spring musical: The Addams Family! To this day, it is a very popular production, as it has been made into multiple adaptations, however, its first appearance was when Charles Addams made it into a cartoon in 1938. Fascinatingly enough, none of the characters in the cartoon are referred to as what we know them now: this was all decided later on when it became more popular. Charles was inspired by his childhood in Westfield, New Jersey, where the architecture is known for its Victorian style. Creepy and gothiclooking mansions were a common sight, which is greatly reflected in the structure of the family's house. His interests also influenced the style the Addams family had; he had always been fond of cemeteries and felt a pull towards the topic of death. More specifically, he had a love for the macabre and anything that could be related to horror films/literature. The family portrays these themes, which were so fascinating to Charles, through their home and characteristics. The family was a way for him to mock traditional American values by contradicting them with the bizarreness of the Addams family. You can see the musical on April 4th, 5th, and 6th, and although tickets are not for sale yet, information will be available in March. If you are looking for something "playful, but dark, fun, but serious" and a musical that has "fun and interesting choreography," as described by a cast member, check out the show!









VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS ON A BUDGET BY GIANNA MANDERICHIO

As Valentine's Day approaches, teens feel the pressure to find the perfect gifts for their partners on a budget. Though this may seem hard for most people, there are ways to find cheap gifts that your partner will still love.

The most common gift, which has been rising in popularity on TikTok, has been themed baskets. Included in these baskets commonly are personal self-care items and electronics such as Octobuddies. These magnetic phone case adhesives come in a variety of colors that can match your partner's case and stick to any surface. These can be found on Amazon for only around \$15. Continuing with the basket theme is a Tree Hut Scrub. Knowing your partner's signature scent is key to finding the perfect smell, whether it be vanilla or cotton candy. Tree Hut Scrubs are priced at \$10 and can be found at Target or Ulta. Pairing the scrub with a matching scented candle can make the perfect gift, which can be found for under \$5 at Marshalls, TJ Maxx, or your local Dollar Tree! To top it all off, add your partner's favorite candies to fill the extra space in the bucket.

For more of a simple approach, the classic teddy bear and flowers could be just as nice! The most popular teddy bears are Jellycats, which can be under \$25. With hundreds of options, this plush will be sure to make anyone happy. The website even makes it extra easy with already categorized plushies, such as Valentine's Day editions, sports editions, etc. If your partner is more sentimental, also popular on TikTok are crochet flowers. These flowers can last a lifetime rather than real ones that die after a couple of weeks. A bouquet on Amazon prices from \$7 to \$28.

More male-geared gifts are harder to find, especially if your partner says they don't want anything. If you are creative, something like a scrapbook or photo album can warm your partner's heart. Adding your favorite memories, photos, and personal jokes together can be a great memento that your partner won't want to get rid of. Of course, adding some classic chocolates and food would make any person love their gift! A gift card to their favorite fast-food restaurant or store will surely win them over.

While some think it's difficult to find a cheap gift that their partner will love, it's quite simple to do. Knowing your partner and showing you care can be the greatest gift of all! Jumping into Valentine's Day doesn't have to be filled with stress and anxiety, as long as you put in the effort this year!











CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES: A DEVASTATING START TO THE NEW YEAR BY: LILA CARROLL



On January 7th, a disastrous wildfire swept through Southern California, destroying thousands of structures. These wildfires were carried through Los Angeles County with the help of the Santa Ana winds which have had horrible effects on the area. The fires have caused a mass destruction of homes, land, and communities in just a little less than a week.

In a recent interview with both of my aunts from Santa Monica, I have gotten insight from two individuals who are currently experiencing the fires firsthand.

When asked to describe the fires, Molly Fast, 46-yearold, who has lived in Santa Monica for more than 20 years stated, "I actually saw the flames from my street maybe 40 minutes after the fire started. But I just assumed, incorrectly obviously, that it was going to be like every other wildfire and it would be put out and be a non-event. I had no idea that I was witnessing the very beginning of one of the most destructive fires in California history." Fast lives around two blocks from Palisades Park, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean. Seeing flames this close to her home for the first time since she has lived in Santa Monica was a scare. Katie Corridan, 46-vearold, also from Santa Monica, rides her bike along the PCH, (Pacific Coast Highway) every weekend. She enjoys the view of Malibu in the distance, and to her left, the beach-front houses overlooking the Pacific Ocean. However, due to the destruction left over from the fires, things are looking drastically different.

The PCH has been closed from Santa Monica to Malibu, allowing only emergency vehicles to pass through. Corridan says, "...it's very jarring to see the ocean from the road because normally it's all blocked from the houses along that side of PCH." Corridan is not usually exposed to the clear view of the ocean when biking. The fires have had a significant impact on the Malibu houses on the beach. Many businesses within the LA County area have taken initiative to help support those who have lost their homes, buildings, and land. Molly and Katie picked out toys and supplies to support the children who are dealing with the devastating effects. There are many other organizations joining together to help assist everyone struggling to recover.







THE VALENTINE'S DAY MENU AT DUNKIN BY: KARLY POLANCO

As Valentine's Day rolls around, the menu of some of our favorite chain restaurants are changing, including Dunkin. This year's drink menu includes the Lava Cake Iced Signature Latte, the Raspberry Lava Cake Iced Coffee, the Brown Sugar Iced Coffee, and the White Hazelnut Bark Iced Coffee. So far, the most popular drink on the internet is the Raspberry Lava Cake Iced coffee. Out of all of these new flavors, I'm most excited for the Lava Cake Iced Signature Latte.

The donuts are one of the most long awaited items on the Valentine's Day menu. This year's Valentine's donuts are the brownie batter specialty donut, the cupid's choice specialty donut, and the Valentine's sprinkle munchkins donut hole treats. I have seen countless reviews raving over the brownie batter specialty donut, so I am most excited to try that donut, and the cupid's choice specialty donut.

As someone who regularly buys from Dunkin, I am so excited to try these new menu items, before they run out, and everyone else who enjoys Dunkin should, as well.









VALENTINE'S DAY TREATS BY: BRIANA POLANCO

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and whether you are doing a girls' night in – Galentine's, or have fun plans with your significant other, this list of Valentine's Day Treats will be sure to make an appearance during date night, girls' night or even for yourself, because self- love is equally as important! <3

1. Chocolate Covered Strawberries

A classic staple even for every Valentine's Day. You can never go wrong with giving or even getting chocolate covered strawberries on Valentine's Day. It's a simple treat to make, and if you are not a crafty enough person to be making them on your own, a bunch of shops sell them, regardless! So make sure to get them on time before the holiday rush, because it's a very popular gift during this holiday. And if you plan to make them, get those strawberries and melting chocolate– either way, they are a simple, but adored gift this season!

2. Dunkin Donuts Valentine's Box

This one is a bit unique, but I remember distinctly around Valentine's Day, my grandma would allow us to choose donuts from Dunkin's Valentine's collection, and share the cutest donuts ever with my household. So, choosing a 6 count box and the newest donuts such as the Brownie Batter Donut (my personal favorite), Cupid's Choice Donut, and the very limited Love Bug Donut, and filling the box with other donuts that could be your special someone's favorite, it would be a cute surprise and sweet treat that will last for days; unless you finish the full box in one day...something I would do...

3. Chick-Fil-A Heart Shaped Boxes

Not a sweets fan? Not a problem! Chick-Fil-A offers heartshaped trays with two options: their Chick-fil-A Nuggets and Chick-n-Minis. They both come in the iconic heart shaped trays that we usually receive chocolates in, but even betterchicken nuggets. On the pricier side for 12-18 dollars, it's a great option for a loved one, friend, or even yourself to enjoy on Valentine's Day!

Hope these simple, but equally effective treats will be a great reminder that Valentine's Day is to fuel love, including a love for good treats! Enjoy these with yourself or those around you, and have a Happy Valentine's Day!









A COMPLETE UNKNOWN: REVIEW BY: TALULAH WHELAN

I had no expectations walking into A Complete Unknown, the Bob Dylan biopic, centered around the 'Dylan goes electric' moment that marked a tonal shift in folk music. I knew who Dylan was and a few songs I had heard my father play through the walls of my house, but I was in no way an expert on the enigmatic folk star. In fact, the greatest draw for me was not the film's content at all, but its leading man, Timothee Chalamet. Like half the planet, I am a huge fan of Timothee Chalamet himself, but also the actor's consistently quality body of work: Ladybird, Little Women, and French Dispatch alike, Having worked with such film giants as Wes Anderson and Greta Gerwig, Chalamet could certainly handle the heft of this new role, but could he handle the backlash? More importantly, could he separate the criticism of his casting from the project as a whole? Was he too pretty? Too Hollywood elite to play an off center artist who found success in spite of the mainstream? These were the questions the other demographic drawn to the movie were stuck on, the die hard Dylan fans.

In short, A Complete Unknown was everything I love about movies. The plot was compelling, the characters interesting and complex. I wanted to visit the underground establishment where Dylan first became enamored with Joan Baez, to be a part of the crowd at the Newport Folk Festival. It is clear that Chalamet delivered the performance of a lifetime, not an impersonation, but a truthful portrayal of one of the most seminal artists of the 20th century. Not surprising, considering he inhabited the role for five years as a result of writers strikes and the pandemic. Truthfully, I don't care how accurate the biopic was, because it was great storytelling and for even the most unsatisfied Dylan fan I would pose the question: wasn't it at least worth it to hang out with your hero for two and a half hours?







a Searchlight Pictures production based on Dylan Goes Electricit by Eliah Wald Range Media Partners: Veritas Entertainment Group: The Picture Company, Tumpike

CRUMBL: REVIEW BY: OLIVIA WHITKEN

The latest food fad in American teens seem to be "Crumbl", a recent cookie chain that has been featured in the media in numerous lights, whether it be TikTok Mukbangs, or their popular Instagram account. I was surprised to discover that their cookie boxes are quite expensive, marked at \$24.99 for a pack of six. Is it really worth the money? My friend and I bought a few flavors that appeared on Crumbl's weekly menu to put it to the test...

Chocolate Chunk: 10/10

This Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chunk cookie is Crumbl's most classic–a recurring flavor for most weeks–and for good reason! This cookie was crunchy on the outside and gooey on the inside, with a perfect dash of sea salt sprinkled on top. The warm cookie gives a cozy feel, and I could never get bored of this one!

Galaxy Brownie: 9/10

This cookie is a take on the nostalgic "cosmic brownie" from your childhood. It is a chocolate based cookie, tasting exactly like a brownie, topped with chocolate icing and colorful sprinkles. I loved how this cookie was still warm, fresh out of the box, which tasted like homemade brownies.

Blueberry Muffin: 7/10

The base of the cookie was light, filled with whole blueberries, topped with a sweet blueberry glaze, and muffin streusel to top it off. It had a nice texture, and blueberry flavor, though it definitely tasted a bit artificial, and I feel like it would have been better if they put more blueberries and less flavoring. The bits that did have the blueberry were amazing because the sour blueberry flavor mixed perfectly with the sweetness of the cookie. It was an overall good cookie, tasting much like a blueberry muffin.









Snickerdoodle: 10/10 This was my favorite cookie, although many would describe it as "basic." This warm snickerdoodle was perfectly spiced with cinnamon and sugar around the outside, and the inside was soft and chewy. I love this cookie because it tastes like a homemade snickerdoodle that my grandma makes, maybe even better...shh don't tell her that!

Salted Caramel Cheesecake: 10/10 This wasn't Crumbl's usual cookie; it was a cute chilled cheesecake dessert. I love cheesecake, so obviously this was a delicious dessert. It had a graham cracker crust on the bottom and was drizzled with caramel, turning out to be the perfect sweet treat to cure my craving!

Overall, all of the cookies I reviewed were delicious and unique, and are worth the high price, especially for the big size of each cookie they give you. I will definitely be returning to taste another weekly menu, but maybe not so soon because the cookies are so big!







BEYOND THE BLEACHERS: FUN AND AFFORDABLE DATE IDEAS BY: LAURA PALHANO

As February comes upon us, so does the infamous holiday filled with pink hearts, chocolates, and red roses—Valentine's Day. And every year, some partner out there doom-scrolls on their Google feed, searching for somewhere to bring their partner. Not too expensive, not too cheap, no super bright lighting, nor so dark you can't see anything. Searching for the perfect place is difficult, *especially* on a popular holiday that's known for romantic surprises— a lot is on the line. That's why in this article, we'll show some cute spots, fun ideas, and new areas that you can go with your partner, or even just hang out with your friends!

\$=Least Expensive → \$\$\$= Most expensive

Coffee Shop Dates

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Oh, the coffee shops. The setting for classic rom-coms, college romances, and just grabbing a cup of coffee. Even in the town of Springfield, Halo Roasters is a perfect place to hang out with your significant other or friends to grab some good food and talk. Halo Roasters is not only nearby, but it's budget-friendly for everyone to enjoy. So walk in, grab a cup of coffee, and chat away on Valentine's Day!

Cooking Class Dates

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Not much of a talker? No problem! Cooking classes are a fun and easy idea to interact with others while having a take-home bite to eat, and a recipe to use later. There's something about a shared learning experience that helps ease some tension. There's also a positive atmosphere that can give a fun, original, and engaging activity for everyone to try!

Picnics in Parks \$

A classic, I know... I know. But just because something is old, doesn't mean it's not good! And who said we can't incorporate new ideas into a picnic date? Remaining a staple in the dating world for years, a picnic in the park is a total movie scene for a date. In cold or warm weather, there are various vendors in the streets. walking paths, and benches to sit on and talk–what is more perfect than that?! Picnics can also be perfect for warmer weather, where you can lay a blanket down, play some card games, and chat the day away. It is also a more affordable option since most, if not all, parks are free and accessible to everyone.

Try some of these quick ideas out with friends, family, or your Valentine!





KENDRICK LAMAR AND SUPERBOWL LIX BY: LAURA PALHANO





Ladies and Gentlemen, This is Kendrick Lamar.

This L.A. native has had a very successful music career from his first song "Youngest Head – In Charge" to "Bad Blood" with Taylor Swift, putting his name on the charts, Kendrick Lamar has had a lasting impact on the Hip Hop and Rap industry. Following the footsteps of the infamous fellow Compton native, Dr. Dre., Mr.Lamar found himself in guite the situation in mid 2024 last year while getting in a heated battle with Drake on diss tracks. All of this beef led to the song "They Not Like Us" being released on May 4 2024, just hours after Drake's diss track "Family Matters." Kendrick's song became a massive hit and garnered over 12.8 million streams on the first day alone. After going #1 on the hot hits 100 Billboard chart, Lamar got the call to be asked to play at the Super Bowl halftime show. On September 8th, 2024 Apple Music released a video of Kendrick Lamar announcing he was going to be performing at Super Bowl LIX.

The world was buzzing; speculations on what songs he was going to perform, what the choreography was going to look like, and most of all... was he going to bring out a friend? After Kendick's new surprise album, *GNX*, and the announcement of his tour, the pieces began to click together...SZA! That's right, after a quick teasing by the NFL, it was shown that SZA might be performing alongside the grammy winning artist. As the days get closer and closer to the Superbowl, the question remains: what is Mr.Lamar going to do for the halftime performance?



UPCOMING CARS FOR 2025 BY: MOHAMMED SABRI

As the automotive industry continues to develop electronic and hybrid capabilities for vehicles, many consumers are seeking to modernize technologically, as old vehicles start to become unreliable, expensive to repair, and some less valuable to keep. Starting with the Audi Q5, the car was revealed back in September of 2024 releasing in mid -late 2025 with a price of somewhere in the \$60K - \$80K range. The Q5 will include a new exterior design, large touchscreens, driving assistance features, and a newer map navigation system. The car will also run at 362 horsepower, feature all-wheel drive, have a 3.0 liter V6 engine, and 7 wheel clutch automatic.

Subaru is releasing the Crosstrek Hybrid in the fall of 2025 with a price range from \$25K -\$30K. The hybrid will be run by a Subaru's standard 2.5 liter engine and 1.1 kilowatt-hour battery for the car's electronic capabilities. Features include driving assistance, emergency stops, if a driver does not react to warnings or hazards, all-wheel drive, and performance up to 195 horsepower.

The Toyota 4Runner is expected to release in winter of 2025 with a price range of \$40K to \$60K. The off-road vehicle will come with the option of 2 or 4-wheel drive, a sport version with 280 horsepower, and 2-wheel drive, or a sport premium with 330 horsepower, and 4-wheel drive. Both come with 8 speed transmissions.

At number 4, we have the Lincoln Navigator, now showcasing its more futuristic design exterior and a luxurious interior. The car's performance contains a Twin Turbo V6 engine, 4-wheel drive, and 10 speed auto transmission. Driving assistance is a new feature allowing for hands free driving on roads or highways. The car also has an entertainment system for passengers to watch films or even play games. The Navigator is expected to release in the Spring, at a price range from \$90K to \$100K.

Lastly, Cadillac is releasing the Vistiq in Summer of 2025 at a price range of \$80K to \$120K. The car features driver assistance, 102 kilowatt-hour battery for it's electronic capabilities, 615 power, seating adjustments for more cargo space, all-wheel drive, 33 inch LED displays that come integrated with Google software, and massaging seats that include ventilation and heating.

While prices for automotive vehicles are very high for middle and lower income Americans, 2025 is only a base year of what many drivers should expect. New features like electronic and hybrid capabilities, driver assistance, luxurious interiors, and many more are what will become mainstream in the future of the automotive industry, with investments aiming towards electric vehicles, as gas powered vehicles will become obsolete, once the supply of oil becomes dangerously scarce.







TOP 5 CELEBRITY COUPLES TO CELEBRATE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY BY: BELLA SILVA

Valentine's Day is here, and love is in the air! Whether you're in a relationship or just admiring from afar, celebrity couples are always giving us relationship goals. Here's a look at the top five celebrity couples that are keeping the love alive in 2025:

1. Beyoncé and Jay-Z

After nearly 15 years together, Beyoncé and Jay-Z continue to be the ultimate power couple! Their shared business ventures, family life, and never ending support for each other make them a top example of lasting love in Hollywood. Their bond only seems to grow stronger, with their shared history of success and personal growth. (Can't forget to thank Beyoncé)

2. Zendaya and Tom Holland

From co-stars to partners, Zendaya and Tom Holland's relationship is the epitome of sweetness. The duo keeps their romance mostly private, but their subtle red carpet appearances and loving interactions show just how grounded they are. Whether they're traveling together or supporting each other's projects, they are our favorite down-to-earth duo. And their recent engagement is all the talk right now! We can't wait to see where this couple ends up!

3. Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas have quickly become one of Hollywood's most beloved couples. The couple, who wed in 2018, continue to capture hearts with their public displays of affection and their shared commitment to philanthropy. Their adorable family moments and chemistry prove that private couples can totally survive in Hollywood! And Nick Jonas never fails to show that he's a total 'sucker' for his wife.

4. Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively

Known for their witty banter and sense of humor, Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively have one of the most adored relationships in Hollywood. Married since 2012, they share a playful and supportive partnership that resonates with fans. Their relationship thrives on laughter, genuine affection, and their shared love of family. This couple has been under heavy fire recently, so the popularity of this couple might 'end with' this article.

5. Kourtney Kardashian and Travis Barker

Kourtney Kardashian and Travis Barker's love story is full of passion and bold public gestures. From their whirlwind romance, to their unforgettable wedding in 2022, they've made it clear that love is their number one priority. Their shared appreciation for music, family, and each other's quirks has made them a standout couple in the celebrity world.

This Valentine's Day, these couples remind us that love is worth celebrating, no matter how public or private it may be. Whether it's the quiet moments or the grand gestures, they prove that true love knows no bounds!













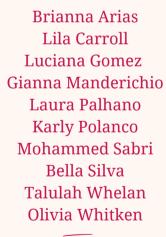
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