

Shared by Chris Talbott:

Sharing what our daughter-in-law Serena posted on the teahouse's Facebook page in response to the bomb threat Friday evening. There was another one in which Serena's name was mentioned. So the FBI and Bozeman police are on it. I think she and Mariah are composing today an Op-Ed for the Bozeman Chronicle. Hoping for a safe Pride month for them and all queer folks in May and June.

Chris

Steep Mountain Tea

As a queer-owned business, Steep Mountain Teahouse strives to provide an inclusive and safe space for people who don't always feel welcome or accepted in all public spaces. This hateful act will not stop us from continuing to provide such a space. Our beloved Teahouse will continue to be a gathering place for community from all walks of life and we aim to connect people through conversation over a pot of tea. While we are grateful that there was no physical harm caused by this threat, it damages our collective sense of safety in the Bozeman community. The LGBTQ+ community bears the brunt of the rising number of threats like these and we are disproportionately affected by hate crimes in Montana and nationally.

We would like to call upon our community, our allies, supporters to come together and show your support downtown and at Bozeman Pride 2024, May 27th - June 2nd. Reach out to your loved ones that may be feeling threatened and unsupported and reassure them that you love them, accept them and care about them. Vote for leaders who unequivocally support human rights for all Montanans.

While we're grateful that there was no physical harm caused by this threat, it is still damaging to the Bozeman community. Whether it's the use of law enforcement resources, making staff and patrons fearful and uncomfortable or simply causing traffic inconveniences, this senseless and hateful act affects us all.

Because of what happened, in order to protect and nurture the emotional wellbeing of our staff, we have decided to close Saturday and Sunday. We plan to reopen Monday morning and appreciate the community's support moving forward together.

Cheers,
Serena