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& TECH
ISSUE**



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Granting Pardon for Certain Violations of Article 125 under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

In a landmark move towards rectifying historical injustices faced by LGBTQI+ service members, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. has issued a proclamation granting full, complete, and unconditional pardons to those convicted of unaggravated offenses under former Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). This article, which governed consensual, private conduct between adults, was effective from May 31, 1951, until its repeal on December 26, 2013. This proclamation acknowledges the significant progress made towards equality for LGBTQI+ Americans, particularly in the military, while also recognizing the enduring impact of past injustices.

For decades, thousands of LGBTQI+ service members faced discrimination, discharge, and court-martial simply due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Despite their courage and dedication, these individuals were forced out of the military, leaving lasting scars on their lives and careers. President Biden's proclamation is a significant step towards healing these wounds and ensuring that every member of the U.S. military feels safe, respected, and valued.

The proclamation applies to consensual, private conduct between individuals aged 18 and older that occurred between May 31, 1951, and December 26, 2013. It excludes cases involving aggravating factors such as coercion, conduct with military recruits or trainees by individuals in positions of special trust, fraternization, or conduct with the spouse of another military member. These exclusions ensure that the pardon focuses on non-coercive, consensual relationships that were unfairly criminalized under the outdated statute.

To facilitate the pardon process, the



President Biden

Military Departments (Army, Navy, or Air Force) and the Department of Homeland Security (for the Coast Guard), in collaboration with the Department of Justice, will publicize application procedures for certificates of pardon. Veterans seeking a pardon must submit an application to the appropriate Military Department or the Department of Homeland Security. If the relevant Department determines that the applicant meets the criteria, they will forward the determination to the Attorney General, who will then issue a certificate of pardon. This process also includes guidance on applying for an upgrade of military discharge, encouraging veterans to seek the

appropriate corrections to their service records.

While this proclamation specifically addresses convictions under Article 125, President Biden's administration is committed to considering pardons for other LGBTQI+ individuals who faced convictions due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The policy aims to expeditiously review and resolve these cases, further demonstrating the administration's dedication to equality and justice.

President Biden's proclamation is a crucial step in addressing the historical injustices faced by LGBTQI+ service members. By granting pardons for consensual, private conduct and facilitating the process for upgrading military discharges, the administration is working to restore dignity and honor to those who served our nation under unfair and discriminatory policies. This action not only corrects past wrongs but also reinforces the commitment to maintaining a military force that respects and values every individual, ensuring that progress towards equality continues.

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The Queer Equity Institute Announces Trans Refuge Project

staff writer

Amid increasing dangers for transgender individuals, the Queer Equity Institute (QEI) has launched the Trans Refuge Project, aimed at measuring the safety of trans people in various states and equipping them with educational resources and tools to counteract hostile actions.

Transgender people face a pervasive threat landscape, exacerbated by hate speech, discriminatory laws, and a lack of intervention from politicians and law enforcement. This dangerous environment has led to numerous high-profile deaths, including that of teenager Nex Benedict in February. In response to such violence and dehumanization, QEI's new initiative seeks to provide a tangible assessment of safety and offer support to the trans community.

The Trans Refuge Project is an innovative resource that compiles data on both protective legislation and harmful bills affecting transgender individuals. By analyzing this information, the project establishes a baseline for the relative safety and security of the trans community in different states. This resource will also direct individuals to tools and support systems to safeguard themselves. QEI aims to leverage these insights to advocate for trans and queer rights at all governmental levels.

The centerpiece of the project, the Trans Refuge Map, marks a significant step in these efforts. The map serves as a comprehensive guide, highlighting states' safety levels and guiding users to relevant protective resources.

"This is a dangerous time for trans people across America. There is a well-funded, nationally coordinated movement to dehumanize trans people across America," said Leigh Finke, Executive Director of the Queer Equity Institute and the first openly trans elected member of the Minnesota State Legislature. "This hateful movement has created an environment where anti-transgender politicians have been allowed to pass hateful legislation. Often, acts of

violence and even murder go unpunished if our community does not bear the burden of immediately and forcibly bringing public attention to those cases. The Trans Refuge Project is an effort for everyone concerned with the safety and humanity of the trans community to fill the protection gap that is being created by the failure of politicians and others to fight against these acts of hate."

Initially, the Trans Refuge Project focuses on the Midwest, including Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In these states, QEI is utilizing collected data and engaging allies to raise awareness and create safe spaces for the trans community. Additionally, the project extends outreach to other states, spotlighting safety and access gaps and pointing individuals to helpful resources.

In Minnesota, Rep. Finke spearheaded the nation's strongest trans refuge bill, passed in 2023 and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz. Provisions from this bill are serving as a model for identifying opportunities in other states.

Coming soon, the Trans Refuge Project will unveil more partnerships and initiatives to unite communities in support of trans safety and security. For more information visit: <https://queerequityinstitute.org/>

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the [California State Library](#) in partnership with the [California Department of Social Services](#) and the [California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs](#) as part of the [Stop the Hate](#) program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to [CA vs Hate](#).

California's DUI Numbers Reveal It Is Among The States With The Highest Arrest Rates

Experts at pre-settlement legal funding company High Rise Legal Funding analyzed the most up-to-date FBI arrest offense count data to reveal the states with the most DUI arrests. The total number of DUI arrests made in each state between January and December 2022 was analyzed and then measured against population to ensure a fair comparison and reveal the number of arrests per 100,000 people in each state.

Rank	State	Total DUIs	DUIs per 100,000 Population
States with the most DUI arrests			
1	Alaska	3,227	726.13
2	South Dakota	5,965	718.53
3	Pennsylvania	30,134	576.28
4	North Dakota	4,451	571.18
5	Wyoming	2,215	487.96
6	California	98,084	479.61
7	New York	21,583	470.44

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Little Activisms

by Judy Saint

Don't You Dare Put That on my Car!

I love vehicles. I'm known for that. I want a home with 17 garages and 14 aero-hangars! Once I bought 4 vehicles in 4 days – my record. I've had vans, sedans, sports cars, motorcycles with and without sidecars, sail and motor boats, trail scooters, electric bicycle, my own airplane, and even roller skates. I keep complaining to my wife that I have not yet owned a submarine, but I haven't found any for sale yet.

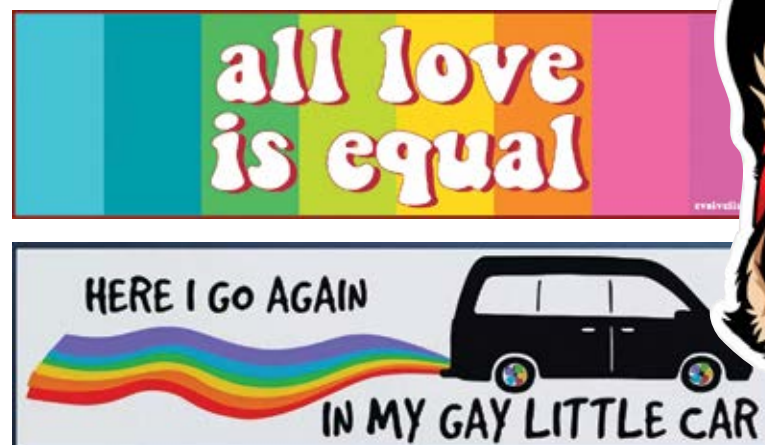
I take much pride in my vehicles. So, you can imagine how much I hate it when a business slaps one of their gooey stickers on my car! A repair shop once put an 18" long oil spreadsheet sticker on my custom chrome air cover in my Corvette. Mystery Spot put an unsolicited bumper sticker on my parked car. And CarMax puts their advertising on every car I purchase through them. I want to yell, "Stop it! If anyone is going to ruin my chrome and paint it will be me!" – and to be clear, it won't be me, either. Not gonna happen.

That said, I want to give a fist bump for the occasional bumper sticker. I know; why ruin a beautiful piece of mechanical genius, power, and design, but a single bumper message can help a good cause. Whether funny, aggressive, inclusive, pretty, cultural, an inside joke, or just a cute image, they do send a message. They can make people stop and think. That's invaluable.

And, just one, right? Too many = too weird. If you plaster a dozen stickers on your car, you're just seen as a fanatic who probably falls for anything and doesn't wash his socks. So, just one at a time, right?

That's today's suggested "little activism" for you to consider. Go for it. Display your message. But not the sticky option! NEVER the sticky option! ... Let me explain.

Use a magnet backing. That way you can take it off when visiting "those" relatives. You can swap it out once in a while for variety. And you can take it off through the car wash. No commitment, no damage.



Check what you can get:

- \$6 for one magnet backing to transform your own sticker: <https://www.amazon.com/Magnetic-Sheets-Bumper-Sticker-Backing/dp/B0178KWH0U>
- 4"x12" magnetic sheet you can cut to any shape. Print your dog's head, maybe a heart or other symbol, then cut it as desired. Unique shapes get more attention on the road. <https://www.amazon.com/Cut-Size-Bumper-Sticker-Magnetizer/dp/B01LYGOXU2?th=1>
- Create-Your-Own Design and message. You know you want to. :-). Here is a link for that: <https://www.buildasign.com/magnetic-bumper-stickers>
- EvolveFish.com bumper stickers give you the choice of sticky or magnet backing when you order. The rainbow graphic "All Love Is Equal" is one of many available at EvolveFish. https://www.evolvefish.com/All-Love-is-Equal-Bumper-Sticker-11-x-3_p_2844.html

If you speak out with a bumper message, you are metaphorically and literally paving the way for others behind you. If you speak up, you help others speak up, too. Thanks in advance. It takes all of us.

Off topic, but cool: Outword readers – Did you see that a group is raising funds for an LGBTQ+ Center in Placer County? (The Sac Gay Men's Chorus just donated to the cause. Nice move, guys - we love you!) Read more about the need and donate: <https://placerlgbtqcenter.org/the-center/> Thanks.

Little Activisms encourages readers to consider small changes we can make to help social causes, and to feel good about ourselves for taking small risks. Judy Saint is President of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation and author of The Pleasant Atheist Adult Coloring Book available on Amazon. She and her wife live in Roseville, CA.



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Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Of Commerce Appoints New Executive Committee Members

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at large has elected new Executive Committee members for the next term. Positions include Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, whose terms will run July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome such a dedicated team to serve on this year's Board with a wealth of experience and knowledge," said Fred Palmer (He/Him/His), Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. "We are proud to have this knowledgeable group of individuals representing our business community and contributing to the success of the Greater Sacramento region. Our different backgrounds and experiences will allow us to create strategic pathways for the Rainbow Chamber to elevate our community and provide inclusive and educational events."

The Board congratulates **Samuel N. Jones** (He/Him/His), Executive Director of University Housing Services at California State University, Sacramento, who will renew his role as Chair.

"I have been part of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber for a number of years and currently ended my second year as Chair. I am extremely excited to continue this role for another year and to work on an amazing Executive Committee. Being part of this leadership team is important and we do

Chamber of Commerce," said Sara Hanson, Vice Chair of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. "I am committed to working with the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and our members to showcase their businesses within the dynamic Sacramento LGBTQ+ community and assist members with accessing the knowledge and resources needed to see more local businesses thrive and grow."

Additionally, **Gerardo Cabral** (He/Him/His), Community Relations Manager at ABC10, was elected as incoming Treasurer. He succeeds Alexandra Michel (She/They), Head of ODHB Production at Opendoor, who served as Board Treasurer since 2022.

"I am thrilled to accept the treasurer position for the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Executive Team," said Gerardo Cabral, incoming Treasurer. "I am excited to contribute my financial expertise and support the organization's mission in promoting LGBTQ+ businesses in our community"

We also welcome **Peter Nurenberg Jr.** (He/Him/His), Payroll & Benefits Specialist at

New incoming exec committee members



Gerardo Cabral

good work. I get to give back to such an amazing Chamber and be part of elevating, educating, and supporting the LGBTQ+ community," said Samuel N Jones, Chair of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. "I don't see this as a job, it is a call to be part of the solution. We have many obstacles ahead of us in this country and being able to lead the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber for another year will give me the chance to continue supporting and ensure our voices are heard."

Sara Hanson (She/Her/Hers), Associate Director of Marketing, Broadway Sacramento, will renew her role as Vice Chair.

"I am thrilled to recommit to my role as Vice Chair of the Sacramento Rainbow



Peter Nurenberg Jr.

Safe Credit Union, as incoming Secretary. He succeeds Austin Cooper (He/Him/His), of Grounded Real Estate, who served as Board Secretary since 2022.

"I am deeply honored and excited to join the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce as Secretary. I eagerly anticipate learning, growing, and contributing to this incredible organization, as we strive to create more opportunities and achievements together," said Peter Nurenberg Jr.

The elected committee members will serve a one-year term and lead the Chamber in its strategic initiatives to serve the Sacramento Region's LGBTQ+ business community.

For more information about the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, visit rainbowchamber.com/board-members.

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“Breaking the Rainbow Ceiling: How LGBTQ+ People Can Thrive and Succeed at Work” by Layla McCay

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

You can see the CEO’s office from the outside of your workplace. You’ve actually been in that office, so you know what it looks like inside, too. Big, expansive desk. Cushy, expensive chair. Ankle-deep carpet. The CEO got there through regular means over the course of his career – something you’d like to do, too. But as you know, and as in the new book, “Breaking the Rainbow Ceiling” by Layla McCay, you’ll have to take a different path.

Of all the thousands of board seats and C-suite occupiers in American businesses, only a very tiny number – less than one percent – are occupied by people who identify as LGBTQ+. In London, says McCay, no one on the Financial Times Stock Exchange identifies as such. Just six of the world’s leaders, past or current, have come out as LGBTQ+.

The reasons for this are many, from discomfort to a sense of a lack of safety or just plain mistrust. Employees often don’t talk about it and employers can’t or don’t ask, which can lead to a lot of issues that cis, heterosexual employees don’t have to think about.

LGBTQ+ employees make less money than their straight co-workers. They experience discrimination ranging from sexual violence on one end, to microaggressions on the other. Discrimination can be found in educational settings, and networking events, in a lack of mentorship, and the feeling that one needs to “code-switch.” Even an overseas job offer can be complicated by identifying as LGBTQ+.

And yet, says McCoy, there are benefits to coming out, including a sense of authenticity, and feeling as if a load has been removed from one’s shoulders.

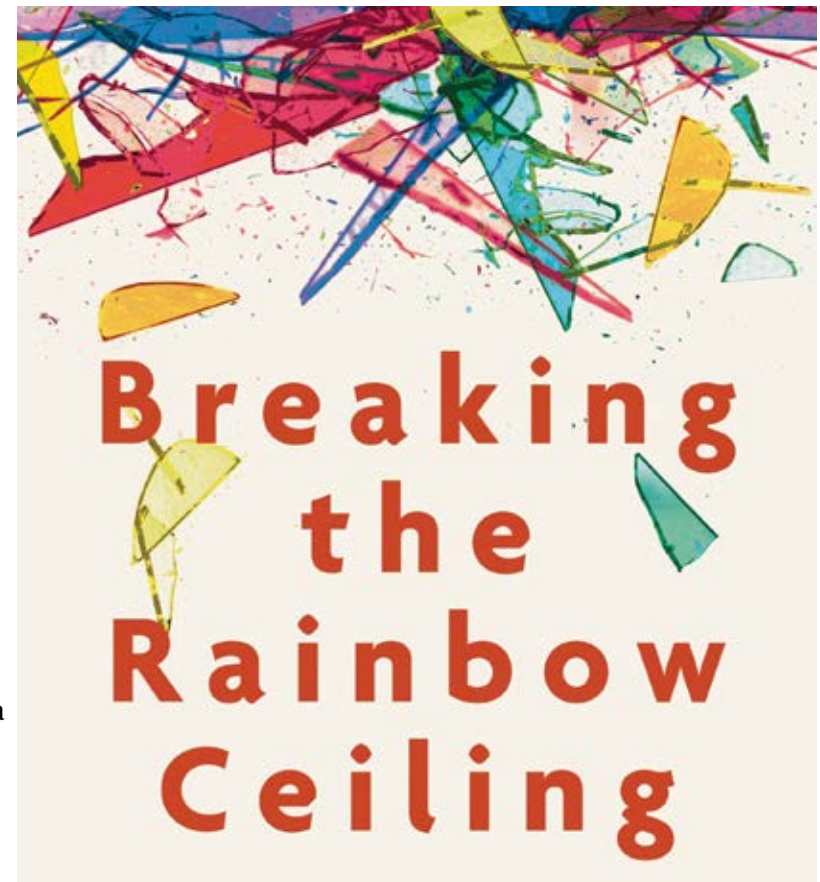
If you are an employer, McCoy says, there are things you can do to help. Include LGBTQ+ people in your diversity programs at work. Insist on it for recruitment. Make sure your employees feel safe to be themselves. Make all policies inclusive, all the time., from the start. Doing so benefits your business. It helps your employees.

“It’s good for society.”

Pretty common sense stuff, no? Yeah, it is; most of what you’ll read inside “Breaking the Rainbow Ceiling” is, in fact, very commonsensical. Moreover, if you’re gay, lesbian, bi, trans, or queer, you won’t find one new or radical thing in this book.

And yet, inside all the nothing-new, readers will generally find things they’ll appreciate at least seeing underscored. The statistics, for instance, that author Layla McCay offers would be helpful to cite when asking for a raise. It’s beneficial, for instance, to be reminded why you may want to come out at work or not. The advice on being and finding a mentor is gold. These things are presented through interviews from business leaders around the world, and readers will find comfort and wisdom in that. You’ll just have to wade through a lot of things you already know to get it, that’s all.

Is it worth it? That depends on your situation. You may find nothing in “Breaking the Rainbow Ceiling,” or it may help you raise the roof.



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Supreme Court Delivers Anti-Democracy Win to Trump in Immunity Case by Chris Walker

Following 123 days of delay in the pre-trial stage of the case regarding former President Donald Trump's attempt to overturn his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden, the U.S. Supreme Court has issued a ruling on Trump's claims of absolute immunity, granting him a huge win and creating an unprecedented burden for prosecutors.

The Court found that a president is presumed to have immunity for acts that fall within their office's authority, and should have wide leverage to argue that their actions as president were consistent with those protections. While the Court stated that such standards wouldn't apply to non-official acts, the ruling gives tremendous leeway for future presidents to facilitate illegal actions without criminal consequence, so long as they're done using constitutionally granted tools within the executive branch.

The ruling will undoubtedly give Trump the benefit of the doubt in his case relating to the attack on the U.S. Capitol building and his campaign's attempts to overturn Electoral College votes using a slate of fake electors in numerous states. Prosecutors will have a greater burden to prove in the case that Trump's actions were in no way related to his duties as president.

Per Chief Justice John Roberts, who authored the majority opinion:

The system of separated powers designed by the Framers has always demanded an energetic, independent Executive. The President therefore may not be prosecuted for exercising his core constitutional powers, and he is entitled, at a minimum, to a presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts.

"The President enjoys no immunity for his unofficial acts, and not everything the President does is official. The President is not above the law," Roberts added. "But Congress may not criminalize the President's conduct in carrying out the responsibilities of the Executive Branch under the Constitution. And the system of separated powers designed by the Framers has always demanded an energetic, independent Executive."

"The President therefore may not be prosecuted for exercising his core constitutional powers, and he is entitled, at a minimum, to a presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts," Roberts went on.

Roberts attempted to defend the conservative bloc's ruling by citing George Washington, quoting his concerns, in his outgoing speech as a departing president, of a "frightful despotism" of "alternate domination of one faction over another." Roberts claimed that Washington's fears could materialize without recognized immunity for presidents utilizing their executive branch powers.

However, it's hard to imagine how the outcome described by the first president would be prevented by granting future presidents expansive and never-before-seen protections after they leave office. Indeed, in public statements over the past year, Trump has promised "revenge" against his adversaries if he's elected in November, which he would be able to pursue without criminal consequence under the standard created on Monday.

The ruling will force the case to return to the district court level, where prosecutors can still pursue charges. They must convince Judge Tanya Chutkan, who initially sided with the Justice Department's arguments, that Trump's actions on January 6, 2021 – and his attempt to use a slate of fake electors to upend the Electoral College – fell outside of his presidential duties.

The decision was made along partisan lines, with the six conservative justices siding with the opinion. All three liberal bloc members dissented, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor authoring their

views. "Today's decision to grant former Presidents criminal immunity reshapes the institution of the Presidency," Sotomayor wrote. "It makes a mockery of the principle, foundational to our Constitution and system of Government, that no man is above the law."

The dissenting justice added: The Court now confronts a question it has never had to answer in the Nation's history: Whether a former President enjoys immunity from federal criminal prosecution. The majority thinks he should, and so it invents an atextual, ahistorical, and unjustifiable immunity that puts the President above the law.

Sotomayor condemned the Court's conservative bloc for essentially stating that a president cannot be prosecuted if they're using their constitutionally granted powers.

"Whether described as presumptive or absolute, under the majority's rule, a President's use of any official power for any purpose, even the most corrupt, is immune from prosecution. That is just as bad as it sounds, and it is baseless," Sotomayor said.

"The main takeaway of today's decision is that all of a President's official acts, defined without regard to motive or intent, are entitled to immunity," Sotomayor added. Quoting precedent established by the conservative justices in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, she went on, "This official-acts immunity has 'no firm grounding in constitutional text, history, or precedent.'"

Sotomayor also took issue with Roberts's claims that the conservatives' ruling was backed by history, noting that several U.S. founders were opposed to granting such expansive powers to the president. Citing papers written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and others, Sotomayor stated:

This historical evidence reinforces that, from the very beginning, the presumption in this Nation has always been that no man is free to flout the criminal law. The majority fails to recognize or grapple with the lack of historical evidence for its new immunity. With nothing on its side of the ledger, the most the majority can do is claim that the historical evidence is a wash.

Sotomayor concluded her dissent by adding, "Never in the history of our Republic has a President had reason to believe that he would be immune from criminal prosecution if he used the trappings of his office to violate the criminal law. Moving forward, however, all former Presidents will be cloaked in such immunity."

"If the occupant of that office misuses official power for personal gain, the criminal law that the rest of us must abide will not provide a backstop. With fear for our democracy, I dissent," Sotomayor wrote.

Legal experts on social media agreed with Sotomayor's dire warnings about the conservative bloc's opinion.

"The Supreme Court just fundamentally altered the structure and nature of democracy in America. It awards the president the measure of power and immunity that is much, much closer to a king or emperor than an elected official," said Slate senior writer Mark Joseph Stern.

"Welp, that's all folks. The President is immune from prosecution so long as he says he committed crimes as part of his 'official' duties," said The Nation's Elie Mystal. "So ends the part of the American experience where our leaders were

bound by the rule of law. Thanks for playing."

The Supreme Court originally stalled the case in February, agreeing at that time to hear an appeal from Trump's lawyers over claims that his "presidential immunity" should have protected him from being charged in the first place. That argument rested on the dubious premise that Trump had been acting in his capacity as president during the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, and that his attempt to usurp the Electoral College process through the use of fake electors was somehow a legitimate part of his job as then-head of the executive branch.

The Supreme Court did not rule on Monday whether Trump's actions were official. But their decision will return the case to the lower court, where those arguments will be made. Even if the lower court determines that the former president wasn't acting in an official capacity when he ordered the mob of his loyalists (some of whom he knew were armed) to the Capitol, Trump can appeal the ruling to the High Court, which will have the final say on whether or not his actions were official.

Special counsel Jack Smith and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have charged Trump with four counts relating to his actions leading to, and on, January 6. Specifically, those charges are:

- Conspiracy to defraud the United States;
- Conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding;
- Obstruction of and attempt to obstruct an official proceeding; and

Conspiracy against rights, alleging that Trump's actions sought to disenfranchise voters across the country.

On January 6, 2021, Congress was set to certify the election results when they were interrupted by a mob of Trump loyalists descending upon the Capitol building. In subsequent interviews regarding charges against the rioters, more than 200 of the rioters themselves said that they believed that Trump had asked them to attack Congress.

Earlier in the day, Trump had given an incendiary speech to the crowd, peddling false claims that the election had been stolen and encouraging his loyalists not to accept the results of the race.

"We will never give up. We will never concede, it doesn't happen. You don't concede when there's theft involved," Trump said in his January 6 "Stop the Steal" speech near the White House, adding to his followers that they would "never take back our country with weakness."

For hours after the raid on the Capitol began, Trump did nothing to stop the attack, sending out the occasional tweet on Twitter but refusing to outright call off the mob. During this time, Trump was gleefully watching the events unfold on television, according to statements by his former

staffers.

The attack resulted in scores of injuries, many of them serious, and a handful of deaths, including that of a Trump supporter who was shot by Capitol Police, and four officers who have died by suicide following the melee.

The charges Trump faces also relate to his campaign's attempt to influence the Electoral College, by coordinating, at several state capitols across the country, slates of fake electors, who signed on to documents asserting that theirs were the rightful votes. In some cases, these individuals have asserted that the Trump campaign had tricked them into doing so.

The plan was to have these electors' votes transported to Washington D.C. in order for them to be counted alongside the legitimate ones. By doing so, then-Vice President Mike Pence could, according to the plan by Trump's lawyers, decide which votes to count, or failing that, announce that the confusion regarding two sets of ballots from a single state would render neither one valid for the time being.

The scheme came remarkably close to succeeding, with Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin), who represented one of the states where fake electors' votes were collected, attempting to coordinate a way for Pence's office to collect them.

Pence ultimately refused to go along with the plan, and counted only the legitimate slate of electors, resulting in Biden's win. Multiple times throughout the day, however, Republican lawmakers sought to disrupt the vote by challenging states' electors, only to fail each time.

In the midst of this process, Trump loyalists who had heard his speech earlier that day breached the building, forcing an evacuation of lawmakers and the disruption of the count. The counting process resumed later on and was finalized early the next morning.

Author Jeff Sharlet said that the Supreme Court's ruling is just as dangerous for democracy as Trump's attempts to usurp the election.

"Slow. Motion. Coup. Today is as much of a blow to democracy – on you and me and everyone – as the violent assault of January 6," he wrote on X.

"What Donald Trump and the @GOP failed to achieve on January 6, they finally achieved through the federal courts," political observer and Democratic strategist Max Burns said.

Chris Walker is a news writer at Truthout, and is based out of Madison, Wisconsin. Focusing on both national and local topics since the early 2000s, he has produced thousands of articles analyzing the issues of the day and their impact on the American people. He can be found on most social media platforms under the handle @thatchriswalker.

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Late-Breaking Prides!

words and photos by Chris Allan

Despite the triple-digit heat, both Redding and Chico held colorful, upbeat Pride festivals last month on Saturday, June 22.

Though similar in population size, Redding is in much more conservative Shasta County. However, as the city has grown, locals say it has become younger and more accepting. Their Pride celebration has grown to include numerous events during the week, capped off with a large downtown festival that featured street

performers and over 70 booths. The city's gay bar The Vault offered cuties with "Daddy" fans serving up cocktails next to the rainbow stage, and the event spread out over several blocks in the newly revitalized, pedestrian-friendly Market Street Promenade.

Meanwhile in Chico, the largest city in

Butte County, the youthful, chill university vibe extended under the leafy canopy of its Stonewall Chico Pride festival. Held in tree-lined City Plaza, the event drew attendees of all ages, some of whom enjoyed the cooling fountain, while vendors sold unique clothing and jewelry items. Events Coordinator Ari Culbertson

noted that local bars along with the drag and burlesque community helped the area get through COVID, and Pride has now made a serious comeback. The plaza celebration was the culmination of a week of events that included a teen dance and very popular *Dungeons and Dragons* game.



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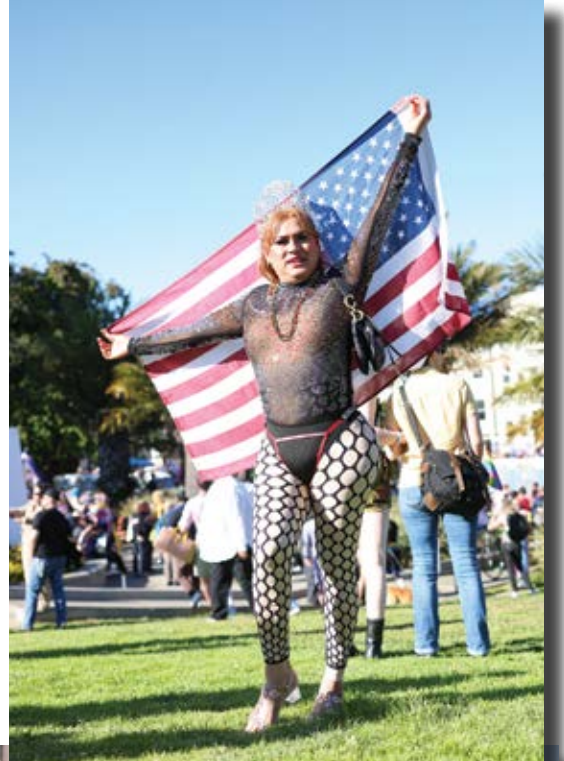


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Out & About

A Day in the Park San Francisco Pride 2024

photos by Kayla Davis





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Go Ahead, Apple, Take My Money *by Ron Tackitt*

So, I just bought another Apple Watch. It's a Series 9, and my old watch was a Series 6. Did I need a new watch? Was my old one broken? No. But, Amazon did temporarily drop the price \$100, so I figured, why not update my watch? Notice I didn't say upgrade.



The reality is that the 9 is an upgrade from my old 6. It's just not a huge upgrade. It is ever so slightly larger, and it has a noticeably improved processor inside, so it actually does feel newer and faster.

The larger screen is easier to read, especially when text messages come in, and using voice command to answer those texts works much better and faster. The larger size does not require a different size watch band, so the ones I already have work just fine. Thank you, Apple for not obsoleting all of my old accessories.

As is typical these days, the watch comes with a charger cable/pad but it does not come with the little white charger power supply. With this Apple has changed the connector to a newer USB-C standard plug. I don't mind that they did, but now it means I will eventually need to buy a new charger (wall wart) but for now, I will just use the one I have and change it out for each device as needed.

The other reason I updated my watch was to, hopefully, get a more efficient machine that doesn't use up the battery so quickly. My old watch lasted for more than a day, but not much more. So, on that front, this new watch actually is an improvement, but I haven't had it long enough to know just how big of one it is.

Since my old watch was in perfect condition, I will, of course, sell it and recoup some of the money spent on the new one. So, while it was not necessary, I'm happy with my new update. It looks great with a bright orange, fake Ultra band on it too. This Series 9 should last me for three years or so, and I'm happy with that.

Interesting note, the price I got the new watch for was temporary. I checked before writing this and it had gone up \$30.

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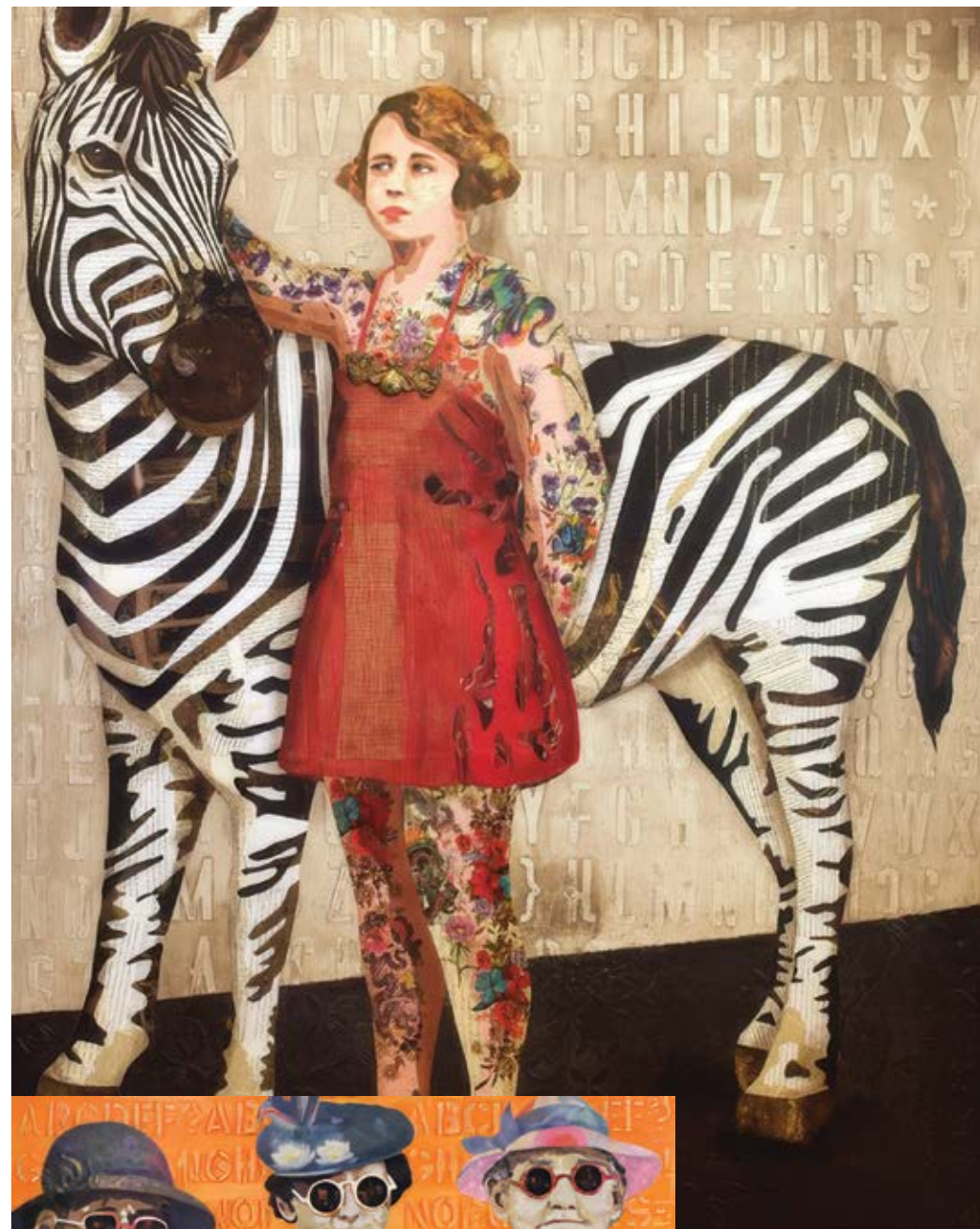
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“Glue, Paper, Scissors” at ARTHOUSE Gallery

ARTHOUSE Gallery is proud to present “Glue, Paper, Scissors,” a collection from the curious and whimsical work of Northern California-based artist Kerri Warner.



“Glue, Paper, Scissors,” a combination of contemporary design with found and/or repurposed objects, is primarily produced with mixed media and collage. In these pieces, we find pages from books, wrapping paper, found objects and antique hardware.

Warner’s pictures tell rich and vibrant stories using texture and detail, and each composition combines elements inspired by everyday moments,

executed with a touch of whimsy.

Kerri Warner’s work has been shown in galleries across the nation and is included in the corporate collections of Blue Moon Brewing Company, Hard Rock International and UC Davis Children’s Hospital.

The exhibition will run July 11 through August 5 at ARTHOUSE Gallery, 1021 R Street, in downtown Sacramento. An opening reception and opportunity to meet the artist will be held on Saturday, July 13, from 5-8 p.m. in the gallery.

To learn more about Kerri Warner, visit her website: www.kerriwarner.com or find her on Instagram at @kerri_artist



My Little, Analog-Electric SUV *words and photos by Ron Tackitt*



That sounds a little cryptic, but one of the things I really love about my fully electric Volvo XC 40 is that it looks and works very much like a standard new car. Not everything runs off of a computer screen in the center of the dash. There are buttons and a gear selector knob located in the center console, just like the old days. Volvo makes this model with all three types of propulsion, fully combustion engine, Hybrid and fully electric, which is what I have. I call it my Tree Frog, because of the sage green paint color.

I like the “old school” feel of the interior. When Tesla’s first came out, I thought the lack of any traditional appointments was cool. Very sleek, very modern. But that design philosophy also saves money. Less parts to buy. However, since everything is run by the computer, the software has to be top notch.

Of course, there is still a lot of stuff that my center screen is responsible for, and while it works, I can’t help but wish some things worked better. I really wish that the heater/AC controls were not on the touch screen. Too many times trying to lower the fan speed can take several more taps that it should, and that takes your attention away from driving. Not horrible, but not great. You can, however, control the fan speed via voice commands, you just need to know what exactly to say.

My other main gripe with the operating system is that it actively works against Apple CarPlay wireless adapters. You can use a USB-C cord and plug in your phone, sure, but who wants to take their phone out of your pocket and dangle it in the center console? Not me. Especially since I was able to do wireless in my last two cars. It felt like the old days of having to get up and walk across the room to change the channel on the television. After trying four different adapters, I finally found an adapter that

works most of the time. And when it doesn’t, just unplugging it and then plugging it back in usually wakes it up.

So having told you about my main disappointments, I have to now say that this is one of the very best cars I have ever owned, or driven, for that matter.

The compact size is perfect for me. Four people and some luggage are not a problem. Ernie (my dog) loves how much room is in back with the rear seats folded flat. And its size allows me to park it in my very narrow garage, without scraping the door frame on the way in.

The front seats are a work of art. They look great, but they are possibly the most comfortable car seats I’ve ever sat in. I am looking forward to taking my Tree Frog on a long trip to see how hours in them pan out. Volvo has chosen to use no real leather in this car, which is not usually the case in a vehicle at this price point. But, the fake leather cover on the steering wheel and the fake suede on the seats, all have a high quality feel and should last for a very long time.

Then there is electric motor, well actually, there are two in this version. So, I have all four wheels driven all the time. But what I also have is a small unassuming SUV that is

so fast it can blow the doors off of most of the cars on the road. I have found that this takes most other drivers by surprise, and many of them, feel the need to prove themselves after being passed by a mom-mobile. It’s a process, but I am learning to pick my drag races carefully. The rest of the time this Volvo drives just like what you would expect. The controls have good feel to them. The materials used all around the cabin feel nice and things work like you would expect them to. With the sunroof and windows closed, the interior of the car is very quiet, just a slight whirl from the motors, and the sound of the tires rolling. It’s very relaxing.

This vehicle has two driving modes. Regular and One Pedal Drive. Using the first, the car behaves like any other. Accelerator pedal to go, brake pedal to stop, and letting off the accelerator pedal allows the car to coast. Just like a gas engine car. One Pedal Drive (OPD) is different and takes some practice and plenty of getting used to. As the name suggests, you only use the accelerator pedal, but it reads the amount of pressure your foot is applying and moves the car accordingly. If pull your foot completely off the pedal, the car will quickly come to a complete stop. I drive using OPD most of the time, but I like using Regular mode for freeway driving, where coasting, without hitting your brakes can be a good thing. (And yes, using OPD, when you slow down, the brake lights do come on to let the person behind you know you are slowing.)

This little SUV is so simple to live with. The learning curve is small for an electric, but you will need to learn about charging an electric car. I charge at home, mostly. Volvo supplies a charging cable that makes it

possible to use a dryer’s outlet to charge overnight. I start the charge at 9 pm and it finishes around 6 am. While that charge is not free, using SMUD’s app I have figured out that each charge costs me about eight or nine dollars. Far less than the \$70 to fill the tank of my last gas powered car. If you need to, or just want to, you can use any number of commercial high-speed chargers that are sprinkled around town. I have used Electrify America’s stations, and I can fill from 25 percent to 80 percent in about 30 minutes. It’s baffling, but EA’s charging station never have the same speed twice. They have said they are working on their reliability and they are adding new stations all the time.

I love my little Tree Frog Volvo and for the type of driving I do, mostly around town, it is close to perfect. It can go all over town on a charge without worry, but I do have to plan ahead when I need to travel longer distances. That means I have to remember to plug it in the night before, or plan on a thirty-minute stop to fast charge. On a complete charge, this Volvo will go for 200+ miles - about the same as I was getting in my gas car per fill up. so, if your job takes you to the Bay Area and back each day, this is not the car for you. However, the technology is ever-improving. More and more charging stations are popping up and advances in battery capacity are getting closer by the day.

The Volvo XC 40 is not an inexpensive car. But the Volvo dealer here in town had an amazing lease deal and a large discount on top of that. At the end of the lease, I will probably turn the car in and look at what three-year newer technology is offering. Until then, I am amazingly satisfied with my little green Tree Frog.

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New Horror Movies at the Multiplex Plus, Greta Gerwig on the Big Screen

by Chris Narloch

After you're done devouring new episodes of "The Bear" (and lusting over Jeremy Allen White), you can check out these movies now playing or coming soon to the big screen in Sacramento.



MaXXXine

My favorite horror movie franchise isn't "Halloween" or "Scream" or "A Nightmare on Elm Street" - it's the terrific trilogy of films from horror master Ti West that began in 2022 with "X" and then "Pearl" and concludes this year with the just-released "MaXXXine," which is the weakest of the three films. The new movie follows the lone survivor from "X" who is now a star in adult films circa 1980s Hollywood.

The marvelous Mia Goth, who has starred or co-starred in all three movies in the trilogy, again hits it out of the park dramatically, with a gutsy performance as an actress who will do anything - and I mean anything - to be famous. Goth is well-supported this time out by Kevin Bacon, Bobby Cannavale, and Giancarlo Esposito, but don't say I didn't warn you that the R-rated "MaXXXine" is very violent. In wide theatrical release.



Greta Gerwig stars in "Frances Ha."

Movies Off the Wall

Celebrate our hometown heroine Greta Gerwig with Movies Off the Wall, the Crocker Art Museum's summer film series screened in the outdoor courtyard against the Teel Family Pavilion's iconic architecture.

On Thursday evening, July 18, you can relax under the stars and enjoy a larger-than-life screening of Noah Baumbach's 2012 black-and-white dramedy "Frances Ha," which stars Gerwig in her breakout starring acting role. Arrive early to grab your seat and a bite to eat while grooving to film-inspired music with DJ Spice.

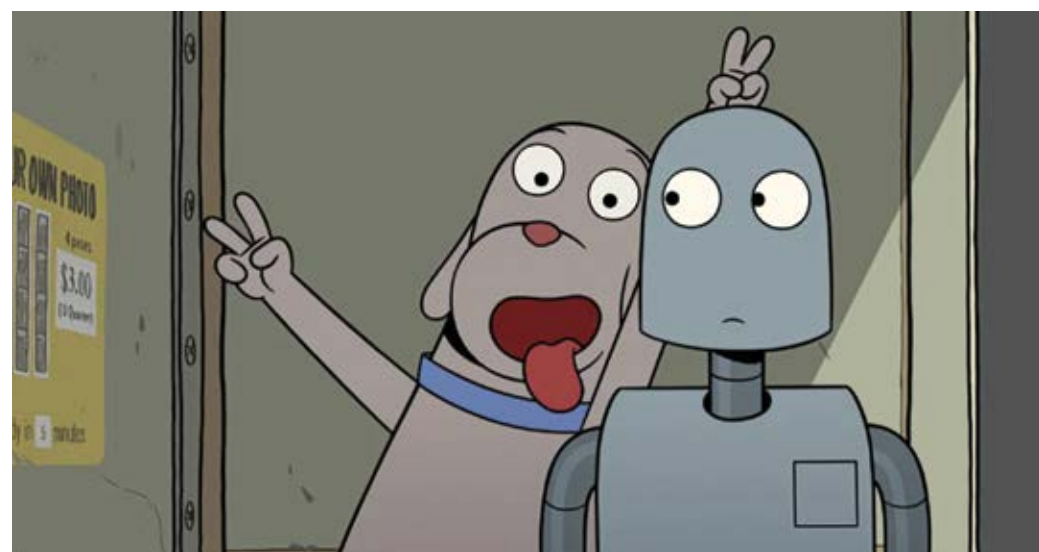
Doors open at 7 p.m., and the film starts at sundown. On Thursday evening, August 15, the Crocker will screen Gerwig's breakout film as a director, the Sacramento-set "Lady Bird," starring Saoirse Ronan. To purchase tickets, visit: www.crockerart.org/events



A Quiet Place: Day One

In this prequel to "A Quiet Place," Lupita Nyong'o gives another standout performance that is almost as good as her previous work in another horror movie, Jordan Peele's "Us." The actress's expressive eyes and facial features register fear beautifully, and she has a cute cat and a cute guy to act opposite in this solid but not classic thriller.

The actress's character has cancer at the start of the film, and so "Day One" is somewhat darker and sadder than the prior films, but director Michael Sarnoski does a first-rate job taking over the reins from John Krasinski, who did such good work helming "A Quiet Place" 1 and 2. In wide theatrical release.



Robot Dreams

Although it ultimately lost to Hayao Miyazaki's "The Boy and the Heron," this charming film received a well-deserved Oscar nomination this year in the Best Animated Feature category. Based on a graphic novel, "Robot Dreams" depicts a human-free world populated by animals and their robot companions.

The film is also dialogue-free, although you will have no trouble following the sweet story of Dog, a lonely Manhattanite who decides to build a robot companion for himself. The two friends eventually become separated but long to be reunited. If you're lucky, the movie will still be playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre when you read this.

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Once again we would like to thank those that have become sponsors of Outword Magazine! Your contribution will help us keep the lights on and the closet doors wide open. Here are a list of our Sponsors at the level they participated, so far. We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.

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CapStage, Music Circus & "Purlie Victorious" by Chris Narloch

There is an embarrassment of riches on local stages this month, including two classic musicals courtesy of Broadway At Music Circus.

1964's "Fiddler on the Roof" is up first, July 9 -14, followed by a newer classic, 1993's "Sunset Boulevard," which performs July 23 - 28 at Sacramento's UC Davis Health Pavilion. Please visit: www.broadwaysacramento.com

In other thrilling theatre news, fans of Leslie Odom, Jr. ("Hamilton") can see his return to Broadway in "Purlie Victorious" if they have the PBS App or visit: <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf>

The Emmy-winning performing arts series Great Performances presents "Purlie Victorious: A Non-Confederate Romp Through the Cotton Patch" as part of its Broadway's Best lineup. The play won the 2024 Tony Award for "Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Role in a Play" for Kara Young's role as Lutiebelle Gussie May Jenkins.

The revival of Ossie Davis' groundbreaking 1961 play also received 2024 Tony Award nominations for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Play (Leslie Odom, Jr.), Best Direction of a Play (Kenny Leon), Best Costume Design of a Play (Emilio Sosa), and Best Scenic Design of a Play (Derek McLane). Don't miss it!

Finally, I recently saw the latest Capital Stage production here in Sacramento and filed this review.



The cast of "Now Circa Then" at Capital Stage

Now Circa Then

Unfortunately, Capital Stage's current season, which began with a bang thanks to the theatre's superb staging of the great Lynn Nottage play "Clyde's," ends with a whimper courtesy of Carly Mensch's "Now Circa Then."

The play isn't bad, but it lacks the edge and insight I have come to expect from the folks at Capital Stage, who aren't afraid to tackle tricky, complex material.

Luckily, "Now Circa Then" has been cleanly directed by Jeffrey Lo and is well-performed by Nicole Anne Salle and especially Hunter Hoffman, but the work itself is a somewhat simplistic romantic drama about two very different people whose "office romance" may or may not pan out.

Ms. Salle and Mr. Hoffman play two young historical reenactors at a museum who bring to life the story of an immigrant couple on New York's Lower East Side, circa 1890. Predictably, the pair find themselves in their roles, and sparks fly, even though Hoffman's character is a dedicated history buff while Salle's is just cashing a paycheck.

Honestly, I was more interested in the historical characters than the modern ones, although I don't think that is what the playwright intended. If you already have tickets to the play, I wouldn't skip it, but if not, I wouldn't be in any hurry to buy them.

"Now Circa Then" plays through July 21. For more information, go to <https://capstage.org>

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Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

Events? In this weather? For those who have recovered from a month of pride events and have the fortitude to brave the triple digit temps, I have some amazing fun for you below! As for the rest of you, "House of Dragons" is getting good.

Get cool with your beverage of choice at *Outword's* monthly happy hour at 2003 K St. for a dose of Liquid Therapy! Everyone is welcome to enjoy the fun from 5:30-7 p.m., with chances to win prizes and enjoy drink specials. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones. For details check out *Outword's* FaceBook events page.

Join the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce for an evening of networking fun at the Sacramento Children's Museum, 2701 Prospect Park Dr. in Rancho Cordova. The August Networking Mixer will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 6 p.m. Be sure to register online for this exciting event. Rainbowchamber.com

ArtMix: Lei, Thursday, July 11, 6-9 p.m. at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Escape the Sacramento sun at this fun-filled evening with live performances, Djed music, festive food and drinks, and art activities. Enjoy tropical cocktails, colorful flowers, and steel drums. Wear your best beachwear and join the paradise. For ages 18+. Crockerart.org

UC Davis Health Pavilion will host "Sunset Boulevard" from July 23-28. Based on the acclaimed Billy Wilder film, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award-winning musical takes the audience on a noir-esque journey to Hollywood's glamorous past. This Broadway at Music Circus premiere tells the story of a young screenwriter entangled in a faded silent film star's quest for a return to stardom. Broadwaysacramento.com

Outside Lands has announced this year's programming for the much-beloved dance space "Dolores." The space celebrates queer and trans communities with the joy and vibrancy that the Bay Area is known for. "Dolores" will return to the Polo Field at the festival grounds this August 9-11 and honor the rich history of queer arts, events and activism in San Francisco and beyond. 3-Day and Single Day GA tickets are still available exclusively at www.sfoutsidelands.com

Love Horror Events presents "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" on Saturday, July 20, at 8:30 p.m. This 18+ event will be held at the Historic Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd. Join host Bob Roberts for the adventure of Brad and Janet as they encounter Dr. Frank N. Furter's wild and eccentric mansion. LoveHorrorEvents.com

Legendary singers Jewel and Melissa Etheridge will perform live at Hard Rock Live Sacramento, located at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 3317 Forty Mile Rd, Marysville. The concert is set for Friday, July 19, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to see two iconic artists share the stage. Hrhcac.com

Experience the ultimate summer vibes at Soul Fest Summer Sundays Music Series, presented by Soul Graffiti at Waterfront Park, next to the Ferris wheel. Enjoy live music from soulful singer-songwriters, hip-hop, funk, folk, and reggae every Sunday through Aug. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This pet-friendly event promises good vibes and unforgettable memories. Sougraffiti.info



"Fiddler on the Roof" will run from July 9-14 at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. Experience Tevye's poignant struggle between tradition and love for his daughters in this beloved Broadway musical. Enjoy timeless songs like "Tradition," "Matchmaker," and "If I Were A Rich Man." Don't miss this heartwarming and humorous classic! BroadwaySacramento.com

Are you ready to embrace your authentic self? Join the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's Coming Out Support Group, held every Thursday in-person from 6-7 p.m. at our Lavender Heights Midtown location, 1015 20th St. Saccenter.org

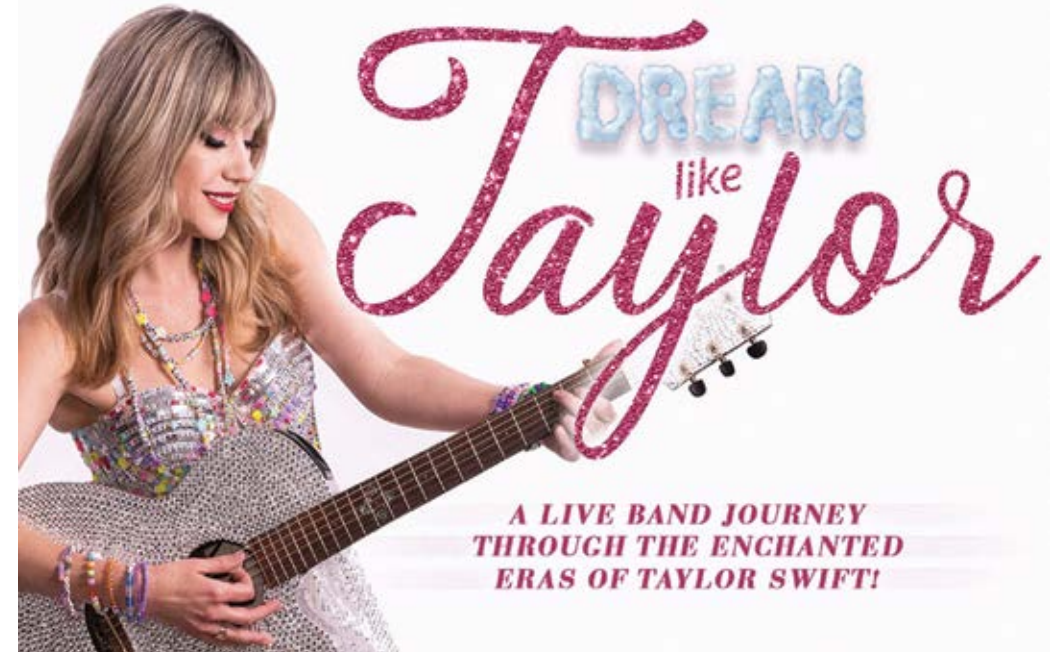
Erin Mahoney is stepping down from the role of president of the Lavender Library. They will still be helping to run the monthly Queer Writers Salon on every fourth Wednesday, and enjoying having more time for events. Thank you to Erin for their service to the community.



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A Taylor Tribute in Sac

You know you've made it when someone creates a tribute band in your honor (not that we needed any more proof that Taylor Swift has made it). If you couldn't score tickets to Swift's Eras Tour, *Outword* has you covered with a new Tay-Tay tribute show coming soon to Sacramento.



"Dream Like Taylor" is a live band journey through the enchanted eras of Taylor Swift. With her distinct style, legendary catalog of music, and a stage presence like no other, it's easy to see why Swift is one of the most successful and influential artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

This tribute, created by Cassie B and developed at UC San Diego, features all of Taylor's top hits, including 'Shake It Off', 'Blank Space', 'Love Story', and many more. Join Cassie B in her wildest dream, celebrating the music of Taylor Swift.

"Dream Like Taylor" will perform at Roseville's Goldfield Trading Post on Saturday evening, July 20. The show is "all ages" and begins at 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit <https://goldfieldtradingpost.com>

SF Mime Troupe set for Davis

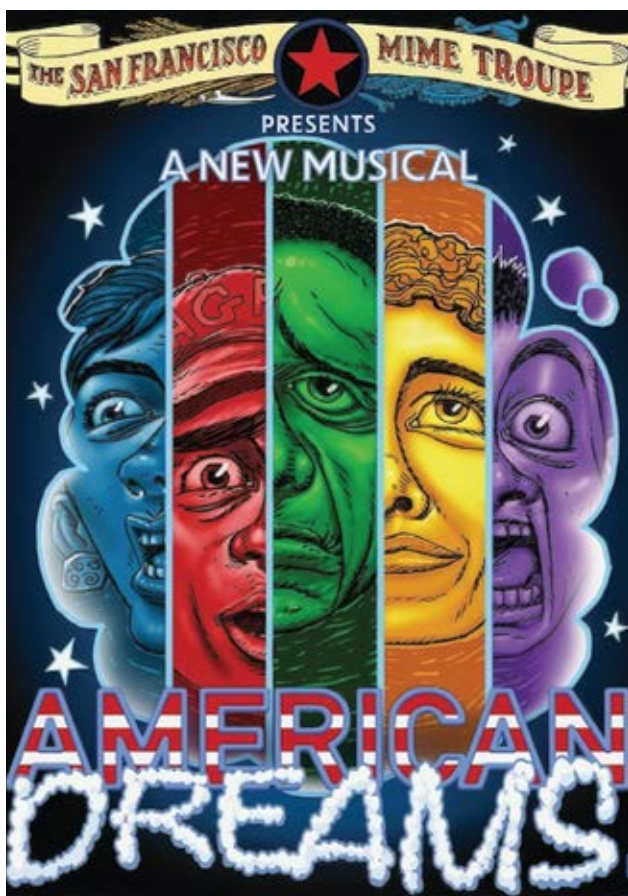
A mime troupe that talks and sings? Well, yes indeed. The San Francisco Mime Troupe takes the term "mime" back to its classical and original definition: "The exaggeration of daily life in story and song."

You can experience SF Mime Troupe's unique brand of theatre this month when the members bring their latest musical, "American Dreams," to Davis for one night only.

The American Dream. It used to mean a job, a house, a car, a spouse, 2.5 kids, and a dog. But what does it mean now? For some it is a good tide raising all boats, while for others it is a tsunami that destroys everything.

For some it means unity, for others it is dissolution. A handshake or a gun. One citizen's dream has become another's nightmare, and those who fan the flames of the differences will gladly profit while democracy burns.

A four-person cast along with the SFMT band present "American Dreams" this July 25 at Davis High School. Curtain time is 7 p.m. and tickets are free, although donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, visit: www.sfmt.org



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UPCOMING EVENTS

July

- 7/9-7/14 Broadway Sacramento - *Fiddler on the Roof* ✨
- 7/11 Drag Queen Bingo at Mango's @ 7
- 7/12 Outwards Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands @ 5:30 ✨
- 7/12-14 Pride in the Vines with Teneral Cellars
- 7/12-28 California State Fair
- 7/16 Rainbow Chamber Networking Mixer - Insperity
- 7/18 Dinner at River City Brewing Co. with PrimeTimers @ 5:30
- 7/23-28 Broadway Sacramento - *Sunset Blvd.*
- 7/27 The Big GAY Picnic with PrimeTimers ✨

August

- 8/1 Drag Queen Bingo at Mango's @ 7PM
- 8/9 Outwards Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands @ 5:30
- 8/15 Harris Center - *The Spinners*
- 8/20 Rainbow Chamber's Monthly Networking Mixer - Childrens Museum
- 8/20-9/1 Broadway Sacramento - *Jersey Boys*

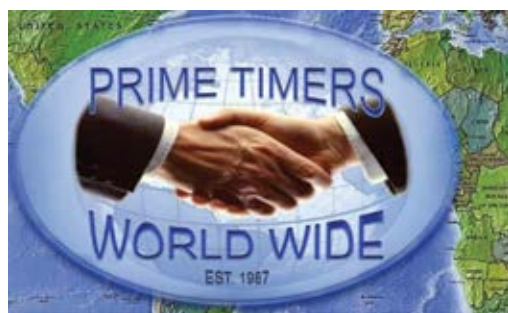
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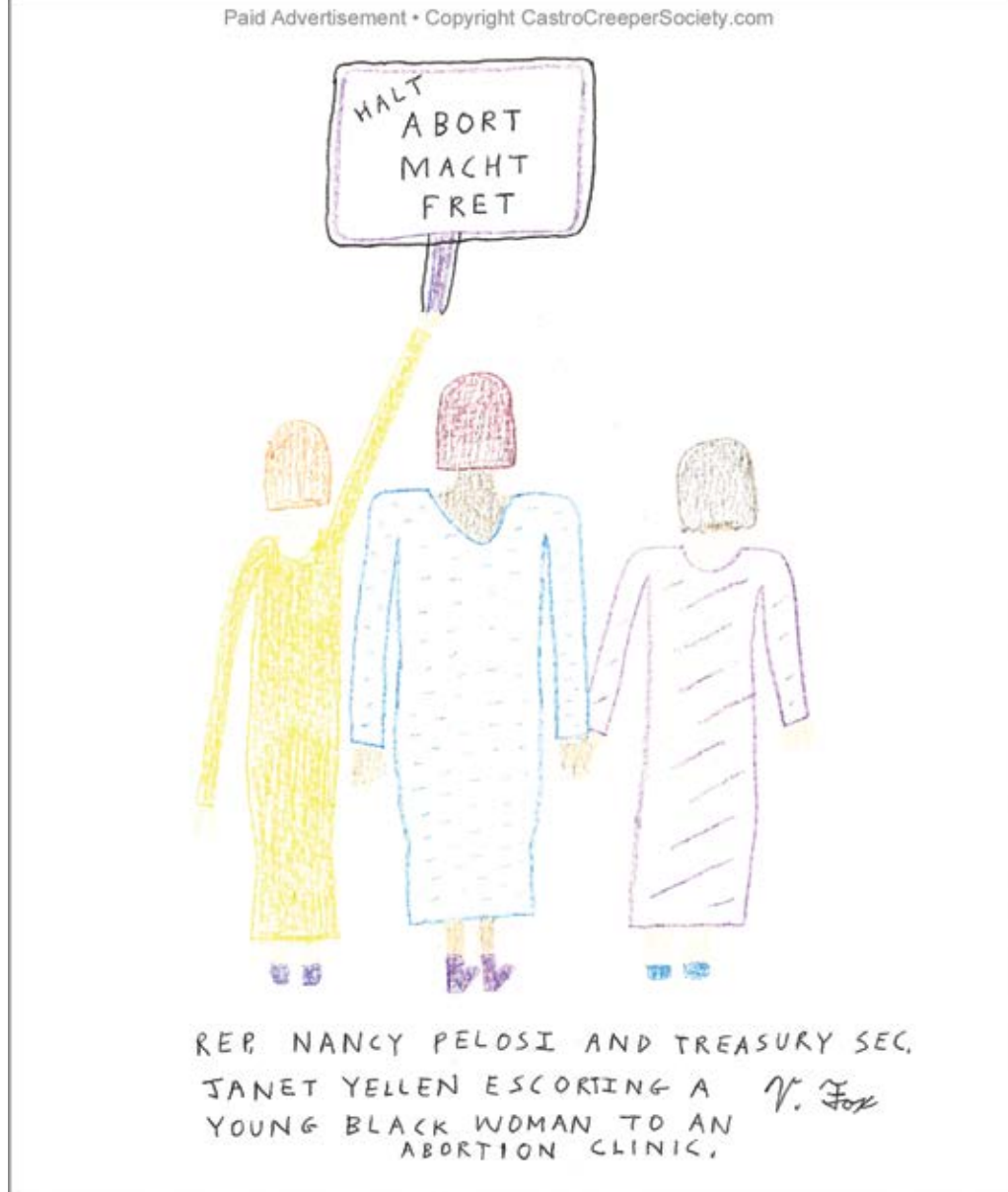
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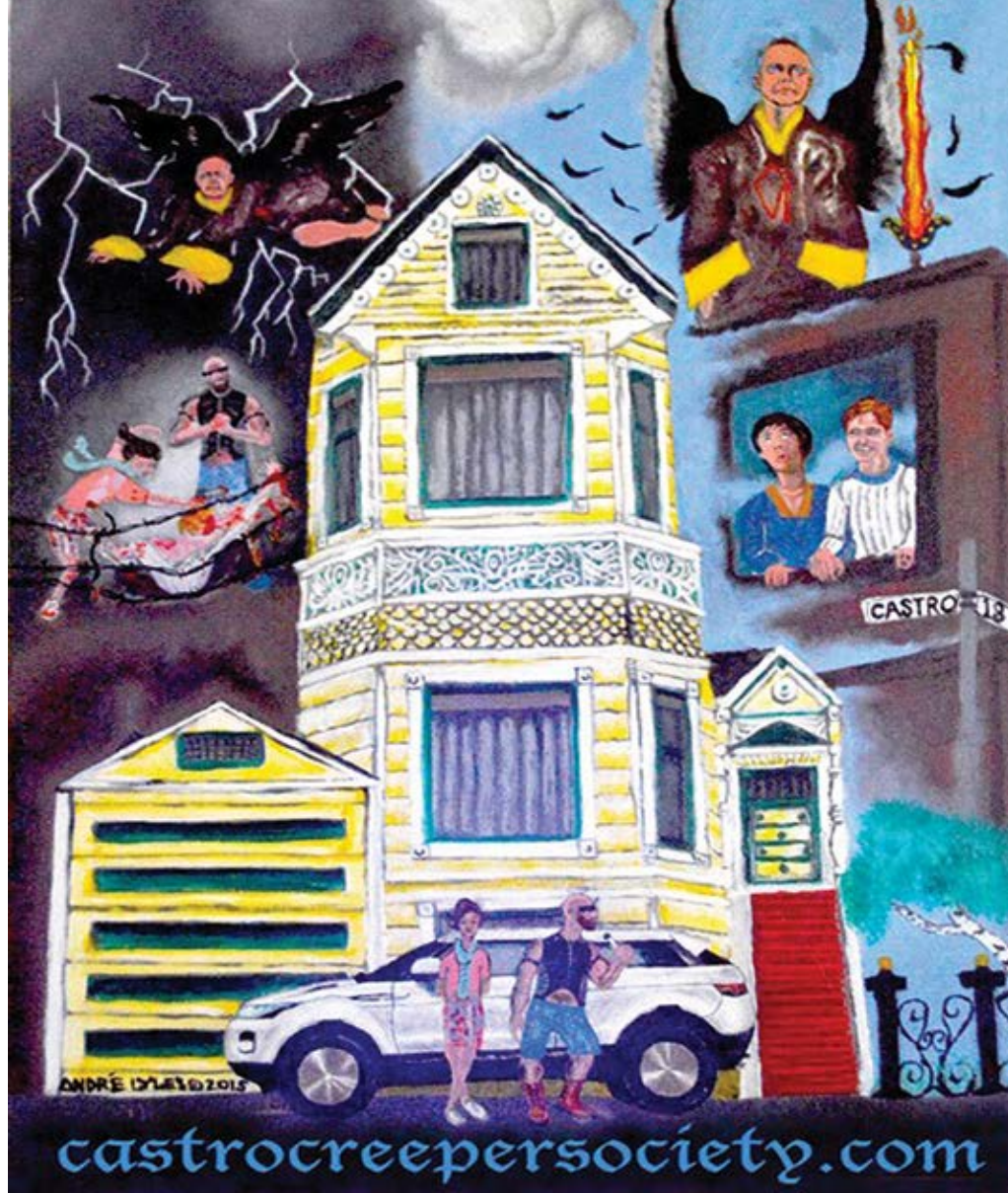
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