

outword



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homes and gardens

annual special issue



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See Our Living LGBTQ+ Timeline on ISSUU
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Equality California Responds to Attack on California's LGBTQ+ Student Protections

Equality California, the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, issued the following statement from Executive Director Tony Hoang in response to the Trump Administration's investigation into California's protections for LGBTQ+ students against forced outing policies:

"Instead of addressing the slumping economy or rising cost of healthcare, Donald Trump and his administration are continuing to waste taxpayer dollars attacking LGBTQ+ youth. This time, they are wasting Department of Education resources – from the very agency they've vowed to dismantle – by launching a politically motivated investigation into California for protecting LGBTQ+ students, especially transgender and nonbinary students, from being forcibly outed, regardless of the student's safety.

California's laws don't keep parents in the dark—they simply prevent extremist school boards from passing policies that target transgender youth and intrude into the parent-child relationship. LGBTQ+ youth and their families deserve to have sensitive conversations on their own terms and

in a way that ensures students feel safe and supported at school.

That's why Equality California proudly supported and partnered with the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus to pass the SAFETY Act last year. This legislation strengthened protections against the forced outing of LGBTQ+ students in schools, provides critical support and resources to help parents and families work toward acceptance on their own terms and ensures educators are protected from retaliation when they create safe, inclusive learning environments.

Now, the Trump Administration is threatening to withhold critical federal education funding—including over \$2 billion annually meant to help students from low-income families and \$1.3 billion for students with disabilities—just to punish California for upholding

the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ youth. It is shameful that they would rather see families struggle and students with disabilities go without resources than uphold the basic rights of students.

We will continue to stand with LGBTQ+ youth, their families, and their teachers— and we won't back down."

Equality California is the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization. We bring the voices of LGBTQ+ people and allies to institutions of power in California and across the United States, striving to create a world that is healthy, just, and fully equal for all LGBTQ+ people. We advance civil rights and social justice by inspiring, advocating, and mobilizing through an inclusive movement that works tirelessly on behalf of those we serve.

www.eqca.org

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Attorney General Bonta Issues Statement on President Trump’s Troubling Attacks on the Rule of Law and U.S. Constitution

California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued the following statement in response to President Trump’s troubling attacks on the rule of law and U.S. Constitution:

“More than two centuries ago, our founding fathers established three co-equal branches of government; each branch designed to act as a check on the others and curb the misuse of power by those in higher office. Today, that foundational tenet of American democracy is being stress-tested.

The Trump Administration has repeatedly attempted to exercise authority it does not have – authority that belongs to Congress or the states – and in doing so, violated clear legal requirements set forth in the law and in the U.S. Constitution. These actions have required the co-equal judicial branch to order the Trump Administration to follow the law. At times, the Trump Administration has acted in contravention of those court orders.

These actions are both unlawful and dangerous. Our constitutional democracy rests upon a legal system in which attorneys dutifully represent their clients, facts and law are presented to judges, and after careful consideration, those judges issue orders that must be followed.

Attacks to undermine due process, discredit or intimidate our independent judiciary, undercut state sovereignty, or seek retribution against those who dare exercise their First Amendment right to take positions different from – or in opposition to – the President are either unlawful, inconsistent with the foundational principles of our American legal system, or both.

President Trump’s demands for the co-equal judiciary to capitulate to the executive branch are not normal. His decree threatening sanctions and retaliation against attorneys and law firms he dislikes is not normal. These actions threaten the very foundations of our democracy, legal system, and the rule of law.

We must continue to speak up and push back when our democratic norms are violated, our legal system undermined, and our laws broken. We must hold the President and his Administration accountable to the Constitution they swore to uphold. As California Attorney General, I promise I will.”

Administration Moves to Gut the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiated mass layoffs under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., aiming to cut 10,000 jobs, including 2,400 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Among the hardest-hit areas is the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy.

This move comes as part of a broader restructuring plan to consolidate several health agencies—including the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)—into a newly created body: the Administration for a Healthy America (AHA).

The AHA is set to oversee programs in Primary Care, Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health, Environmental Health, HIV/AIDS, and Workforce Development, supported by the U.S. Surgeon General and a new Policy team. Despite the reorganization being framed as an effort to streamline services and better serve low-income Americans, health advocates are raising serious alarms.

According to the HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute, entire CDC offices dedicated to HIV prevention—covering public health communications, behavioral surveillance, capacity building, and non-laboratory research—were dismantled. High-profile public health leaders such as Dr. Jonathan Mermin and Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo have been reassigned to the Indian Health Service, signaling a potential loss of leadership and expertise in HIV prevention efforts.

Carl Schmid, Executive Director of the HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute, warned that the loss of decades of institutional knowledge will severely hinder the nation’s ability to prevent new HIV infections and could increase healthcare costs in the long term. The future of critical initiatives, including the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and the Ending the HIV Epidemic plan launched under President Trump, now hangs in uncertainty.

In response, over 500 HIV advocates are organizing a rally on Capitol Hill to protest the cuts and meet with lawmakers. Meanwhile, Democratic governors and attorneys general from 23 states and Washington, D.C., have filed a lawsuit seeking to block the layoffs and funding reductions. Critics argue the sweeping cuts and agency consolidations will reverse progress in combating the HIV epidemic, disrupt mental health and substance abuse programs, and further burden an already strained healthcare system.

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A photograph of a Black man with a beard and a yellow cardigan, looking upwards with a hopeful expression. A hand is resting on his shoulder, symbolizing support. The background shows a building with green siding.

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#IAm Campaign Launches to Amplify and Protect Trans and Gender-Expansive Voices

On March 31, 2025, the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with *Outword Magazine*, proudly launched the #IAm Campaign—a bold declaration of solidarity, resilience, and collective resistance in support of the transgender and gender-expansive (TGX) community. The campaign invites submissions through May 5, 2025, and aims to create a powerful platform for TGX voices and allies to be seen, heard, and celebrated.

OUR STORIES. OUR VOICES.

#IAM

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
MAY 5TH, 2025**







In the face of increasing national attacks on trans lives—including harmful legislation, restricted access to medical care, and systemic violence—the #IAm Campaign emerges as a necessary and urgent call to action. The organizers emphasize that the campaign is not just a statement, but a movement fueled by love, outrage, protection, and hope.

“Silence is complicity, and silence is deadly,” the campaign declares. With this guiding principle, #IAm offers TGX individuals and allies a space to share their stories, identities, and messages of support. Through written submissions, photos, and videos, participants can contribute to a growing archive that affirms the existence and humanity of those often pushed to society’s margins.

Particular attention is given to the safety and privacy of participants, especially those under 18 or living in unsupportive or unsafe environments. Submissions can be anonymous, and identifying information is not required. “Your safety is our priority,” the campaign affirms, reinforcing its commitment to creating a safe and inclusive space.

At the heart of the campaign is a promise to amplify, not expose. All messages will be handled with care and confidentiality. The

campaign culminates in the release of a powerful collective video—a “love letter” to the TGX community—just before the start of Pride Month in June. This video will include the voices and words of participants, growing into an ever-evolving archive of visibility and solidarity.

The campaign is especially mindful of those bearing the brunt of systemic harm, including Black trans women, trans people of color, disabled and chronically ill TGX individuals, people living with HIV/AIDS, undocumented community members, and those navigating poverty. It seeks to uplift and center these voices while uniting a broader community in resistance and support.

“#IAm is not just a response—it is a heartbeat, a mirror, a movement, and a refusal to disappear,” the campaign proclaims. It is a testament to a community that chooses to turn toward one another with compassion, courage, and commitment.

As Pride Month approaches, the #IAm Campaign offers a meaningful way for individuals and communities to stand together and say: We see you. We honor you. We are with you.

For more information or to participate, visit rainbowchamber.com or contact the organizers at info@rainbowchamber.com.

How Multicultural Voters Are Reacting

As Trump’s second term nears its 100-day mark, My Code’s Intelligence Center is releasing the results of a comprehensive new poll that captures how multicultural voters are reacting to the administration’s early moves—including policy rollouts, economic messaging, and key leadership figures.

This survey includes responses from more than 3,200 voters across AANHPI, Black, Hispanic, LGBTQIA+, and women segments—and it reveals major undercurrents shaping political interpretation, trust, and turnout.

Here are a few of the key takeaways:

Approval ratings for Trump (36%) and JD Vance (31%) remain weak among multicultural voters. But it’s Elon Musk who draws the sharpest reaction: nearly 7 in 10 view him as a national security threat—especially younger voters and multicultural women.

Although tariffs are a centerpiece of the Trump administration’s economic agenda, understanding of what tariffs actually are—and how they impact everyday life—is alarmingly low. Nearly one-third (32%) of multicultural voters couldn’t define the term. Tariffs are often framed as a tool to “protect American jobs,” but voters across the board report anxiety over rising costs for groceries, rent, and basic goods—many of which are directly affected by tariffs. Despite this, only a small share make the connection, revealing a critical communications gap that cuts across party lines and leaves space for manipulation and misinformation.

DOGE—the new Department of Government Efficiency—is another flashpoint, with over half of multicultural respondents unable to define it. While intended as a bold rebranding of federal streamlining, it’s more commonly seen as an abstract or confusing bureaucracy, especially among younger and Democratic-leaning voters. The vacuum of clarity around this initiative is becoming a breeding ground for misinformation.

Immigration is already hitting home: 36% of multicultural voters say they know someone impacted by Trump’s immigration policies. That number jumps to 43% for Hispanic voters and 45% for LGBTQIA+ voters—signaling that these policies aren’t hypothetical. They’re deeply personal and politically galvanizing.

Despite these challenges, voter interest is high. Multicultural Americans are engaged—but they’re navigating high levels of confusion, misalignment between political rhetoric and lived experience, and a digital ecosystem filled with conflicting narratives.

The full report can be read at: mycodemedia.com

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SCAN ME



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Sacramento Pride is Coming!

We are excited and ready for the vibrant celebration that is Sacramento Pride. This year, on June 14th and 15th, we're ready to paint the town rainbow once more, filling our streets with joy, solidarity, and the unwavering spirit of our beautiful LGBTQ+ community.

But this year, we're not just celebrating our past and present; we're planting seeds for a more sustainable future. We're returning with renewed vigor to our sustainability program, ensuring that as we celebrate our diversity, we also honor our planet.

You might recall the recent Capital Public Radio article highlighting the growing importance of sustainable events in our region. We at Sacramento Pride have taken that message to heart. We understand that our celebration must reflect the values of our community, and that includes a deep commitment to environmental responsibility. We're dedicated to reducing our carbon footprint, minimizing waste, and creating a Pride that not only celebrates our identity but also protects the world we share.

This year, we're implementing key initiatives to make our celebration greener:

- Waste Reduction: We're working with vendors to minimize single-use plastics and promote reusable alternatives. Expect to see more recycling and

- composting stations throughout the festival grounds.
 - Sustainable Sourcing: We're prioritizing vendors who utilize locally sourced, sustainable products.
 - Carbon Offsetting: We're exploring options to offset the carbon emissions associated with the event, from transportation to energy consumption.
 - Education and Awareness: We'll be providing educational resources and workshops on sustainable practices, empowering our community to make eco-conscious choices.
- Beyond our commitment to sustainability, Sacramento Pride 2024 is packed with opportunities for you to get involved and be a part of this incredible celebration:
- Volunteer Registration is Open! We need your passion and energy to make this Pride a success. From setting up the festival grounds to assisting with logistics, volunteering is a fantastic way



- to connect with your community and contribute to a meaningful cause. Sign up today and be a vital part of the Pride team!
- Vendor Registration is Open! Showcase your unique products, services, and community resources to thousands of attendees. Whether you're a local artist, a small business owner, or a community organization, Pride is the perfect platform to connect with our vibrant audience. Secure your spot now and be part of the Pride marketplace!
- March Registration is Open! Join us in the iconic Sacramento Pride March, a powerful display of unity and visibility. Walk alongside your friends, family, and allies as we take to the streets to celebrate our identity and advocate for equality. Register your group or individual participation today and be a part of this historic moment.
- June 14th & 15th: Mark your calendars! These are the dates for our main events.

Get ready for a weekend filled with live music, captivating performances, inspiring speakers, and a whole lot of love. We're crafting an unforgettable experience that celebrates the diversity and resilience of our LGBTQ+ community.

To find out all the information regarding volunteer registration, vendor registration, march registration, and event information, please visit our website at sacramentopride.org.

This year, Sacramento Pride is more than just a celebration; it's a commitment. A commitment to our community, a commitment to our planet, and a commitment to creating a brighter, more inclusive future for all. We invite you to join us in making this Pride the most impactful and sustainable one yet.


Let's paint the town rainbow, plant a greener future, and celebrate the beautiful diversity that makes Sacramento so special. We can't wait to see you there!

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Pollen and Pollinators

resource: 1440

Pollinators such as bees, birds, and bats play a vital role in global food production and biodiversity. Scientists estimate that roughly one-third of the food humans consume depends on the work of these creatures, which help plants reproduce by transporting pollen.

As pollinators travel from flower to flower seeking nectar, they inadvertently carry pollen grains—plant reproductive material—from the male parts (stamens) of one flower to the female parts (pistils) of another, allowing fertilization to occur. This symbiotic process ensures plant reproduction and supports the production of fruits, nuts, and vegetables like tomatoes, almonds, and blueberries.

Over 80% of flowering plants rely on animal pollinators and have evolved vibrant colors, enticing fragrances, and sugary nectar to attract them. Pollinators have likewise adapted to specific plants. Bumblebees use vibrations to release pollen from certain flowers, while hummingbirds' long beaks allow them to feed from tubular blooms. In contrast, a small group of plants, such as dandelions, rely on wind rather than animals to spread their lightweight pollen grains.

Despite their importance, pollinator populations are in rapid decline. Approximately 40% of invertebrate and 16% of vertebrate pollinators are threatened with extinction. Major causes include habitat destruction due to agriculture and urban development, pesticide use, and climate change. These losses pose a serious risk to global food security, given that 35% of crops depend on pollinators. Beyond ecological consequences, this decline could have severe human health impacts: even a modest drop in pollinator-related crop production could lead to hundreds of thousands of deaths annually due to malnutrition and lack of key nutrients.

Honeybees, though not native to North America, have become essential to U.S. agriculture, contributing more than \$15 billion annually. As wild bee numbers decreased, commercial beekeeping filled the gap, with honeybees being bred, imported, and trucked across the country to pollinate crops. However, beginning in the mid-2000s, honeybee populations also began to decline due to a mysterious phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder. The causes remain uncertain, but suspected factors include pesticides, disease, and stress from intensive management. The crisis sparked widespread concern and numerous pollinator protection initiatives.

Some critics argue that honeybees, largely maintained through human intervention, have received disproportionate attention compared to wild pollinators, many of which remain severely threatened. In fact, some wild bee populations in North America have declined by up to 96% over the past two decades.

Efforts to support pollinator populations include both grassroots and institutional actions. Individuals are encouraged to plant native species in gardens and choose organic foods to reduce pesticide demand. On a larger scale, solar energy companies are exploring dual-purpose land use by planting native flowers beneath solar panels. This strategy not only restores pollinator habitats but may also reduce facility maintenance costs by cutting the need for mowing and herbicides.

These innovative solutions suggest that collaboration between agriculture, conservation, and renewable energy sectors could help reverse pollinator declines—safeguarding both food supplies and ecosystems for future generations.



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Check Out Tri Counties Bank Small Business Empowerment Program

Tri Counties Bank says, “We’re California’s local bank – we’re the locals down the street, no matter where your street might be.” Established in 1975 by a group of farmers and businessmen in Chico, California, the bank now has more than 75 locations.

Outword had the opportunity to catch up with Scott Robertson, Senior Vice President and Head of Community Banking, to ask about some of their programs and how they serve our local and very diverse communities.

Outword: Tell us about the new program for small businesses that helps them during these challenging times.

Scott: We are always looking for ways to serve our community. Since we are a community bank, we can be more flexible. We’re conservative, yet creative. We actually launched our Small Business Empowerment Program last fall, and it has helped us understand that access to capital is a need for many small, minority-owned businesses. Minority-, women-, veteran-, and LGBTQ-owned enterprises needed us to create more flexible underwriting—so we did. Oftentimes, traditional bank criteria require many years in business. With this program, we reduced that requirement to just 12 months. Many of our customers are startups.

Outword: Is there a deadline to apply, and how has the program worked so far?
Scott: The program launched as a pilot last October, and there is no end date at this time. So far, we’ve funded \$1.4 million in credit, with the average loan ranging between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Most community banks are quite small—under \$2 billion in assets. Tri Counties Bank has \$10 billion in assets, making us large enough to offer programs like this as an alternative to big banks. Our customers have their banker’s cell phone number and a direct relationship with their banker.



tri counties bank

Outword: What types of businesses are typically in need of capital, and what is the ideal client?

Scott: The business must be at least 51% owned by a minority, woman, veteran, or LGBTQ+ individual. Business owners need to self-attest. Eligible businesses must have annual revenue under \$1 million, a presence in California for at least 12 months, and be located within Tri Counties Bank’s footprint.

Outword: How can the money be used, and are there any restrictions?
Scott: There are three products in this program:
Business Line of Credit – Up to \$50,000, useful for covering expenses such as new vendor contracts.
Credit Card – Up to \$25,000 in short-term working capital, great for travel expenses or immediate needs.
Secured Loan – Up to \$75,000 to purchase equipment essential to operating the business (think vehicle, refrigerator, etc. for catering companies or restaurants).
All loans are subject to credit approval and program requirements.

Outword: We know you and your staff are actively involved in the communities you serve. Can you tell us more?

Scott: Tri Counties Bank is celebrating our 50th anniversary, and we proudly recognize our staff through our Champions of the Quarter program. We encourage our team and give them the permission and freedom to be the very best version of themselves. Our staff volunteers in the community, and Tri Counties proudly recognizes and celebrates that engagement. As California’s local bank, Tri Counties Bank prioritizes serving clients with local bankers and local decision-making—backed by corporate philanthropy, community engagement, employee volunteerism, and investments. Recognized by various publications as a Top Workplace and Best Bank, Tri Counties Bank recruits and retains diverse and talented team members. Tri Counties Bank is a member of the local Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and the 2024 winner of their Corporate Advocate of the Year award.

To learn more about Tri Counties Bank and this program:
www.tcbk.com
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Throwing Shade – How Trees Help Lower Temperatures In Urban Areas

by Tammy Sons

Trees add value to houses and provide beauty for humans to look at. However, trees are more than just attractive. Research in recent years has identified many benefits of trees in urban areas.

Functions Of Urban Trees

In addition to increasing home values by up to 15%, urban trees make cities more livable.

Trees can reduce the urban heat island by providing shade. A tree-lined street is 20-30 degrees cooler than one without trees. In addition, trees lose water vapor from the pores on their leaves or needles to humidify the air.

Trees filter the air. In addition to producing oxygen, trees absorb volatile pollutants. Their leaves and trunk filter small particles out of the air as well. A mature tree can sequester 350 lbs. of carbon dioxide a year.

Trees can help mitigate floods caused by hardscapes like roads, driveways, and sidewalks. A mature tree uses about 5,000 gallons of water a year, which would otherwise flow into stormwater drains, flooding them in heavy rains.

When trees are placed correctly around a home, they can reduce the energy needed to cool it in the summer by 30%. Deciduous trees can be planted on the southern sides of homes to shade them in the summer. During the winter, the leaves on deciduous trees have fallen so they do not intercept the

weak winter sun. Evergreen trees can be planted on the northern side of structures to provide a wind break and a screen.

Fruit and nut trees provide food for humans and wildlife. They can be planted on city streets to improve the food available to people in food deserts.

Urban trees represent crucial food and habitat for insects, birds, and small mammals. Without them, urban areas would be bare of life. Trees can also serve as a bridge between habitats for birds.

People living near trees and other plants are healthier and happier. People who can see trees and other plants have lower blood pressure than those without access to green spaces.

A 2013 study found increased deaths from heart and respiratory illnesses in the 15 states where the emerald ash borer has killed the ash trees in the urban forest.

Urban Challenges for Trees

Trees planted in cities have an average lifespan of 20-30 years. For comparison, a white oak tree can live 600 years in the country, and red maples can live 75-150 years there. Urban trees must tolerate pollution, lack of space for roots, and pressure from diseases and pests.



click image for website

In addition, urban trees are often planted where a city planner thinks they should go, without regard to sunlight, water, soil, and climate. Trees can't thrive without having their basic needs met.

Improving the Health of Urban Trees
Trees have the exact requirements in the city and the country. Before planting a tree, check what type of sunlight it needs, the amount of water required, how large it gets, and what kind of soil and soil pH it needs. Plant the right tree in the right place.

Trees that are planted by inexperienced planters are often put into the ground too deeply. The tree's root ball should be planted at the same level as the tree was growing before being harvested. Planting the tree too deep means its roots struggle to get the needed air. Ensure that the root flare – where the top root comes out of the trunk, is level with the top of the soil.

When you dig a hole for a tree, dig it two and a half times bigger than the rootball. Fill it with the soil you removed from the hole. If you fill the hole with amended soil such as potting, compost, or some other rich soil, the roots grow in a circle instead of spreading out. This eventually girdles the tree. Do not put fertilizer in the hole. It burns the small feeder roots that absorb most water and air. The tree may die. Even if it lives, the tree will struggle to get the water it needs, stunting it.

Urban trees must be properly pruned to stay healthy and avoid falling limbs. Never top a tree or cut off the branches and leave a stub. This is very bad for the tree. Prune trees to open up the canopy and improve air circulation. Remove damaged or diseased branches and water sprouts. Do

not cut off more than one-third of the tree a season unless it is an emergency.

Trees need to be mulched. However, the mulch should not touch the tree. Leave a three-to-six-inch space between the tree and the first bits of mulch. The mulch should look like a bagel, not a volcano around the trunk. To provide the best outcome, use hardwood mulch to a depth of three inches. The mulch should extend to the edge of the canopy. If that is not possible, extend it as far as possible. Mulch keeps the soil cooler and moist, making the soil more hospitable for the tree. A layer of mulch around the tree also protects it from being hit by a mower or string trimmer, both significant sources of tree injury.

Make sure you space trees for their mature size. Don't plant the tree too close to buildings or sewer lines. The roots will damage hardscapes as they try to expand. Do not plant a tree over 20 feet tall under power lines at maturity.

Choosing Trees for Urban Areas

The exact species of tree that will do best in your landscape varies by where you live. Native species of trees will be best able to adapt to living in urban environments. For example, sweetgum, redbud, and river birch are good choices, depending on the habitat you have in your landscape. Your extension agent can give you a list of trees that do well in your area.

Tammy Sons, an experienced garden writer and plant expert with over 30 years of experience, shares her gardening expertise. She offers helpful advice and care tips specifically for native plants. She is the founder and CEO at TN Nursery: <https://www.tnnursery.net>



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Enjoy The Beauty Of Your Outdoor Space

by Michael Sestak

We spend significant time and money landscaping our yards, planting gardens, and building beautiful outdoor spaces, yet are left with very little time to sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. As soon as the sun sets, we head back inside. But what if I told you there was a way to spend more time in your yard? The solution is simple: adding landscape lighting to your yard gives you more hours of the day (and night) to enjoy the beauty of your outdoor space. And what's more, outdoor lighting offers an array of other benefits for you and your home.



An outdoor lighting system can extend your living space by making your outdoor spaces usable long after dark, giving you more time to enjoy them. Well-designed professional landscape lighting system can turn your ordinary backyard into an oasis – an ideal place to relax, enjoy a meal, entertain guests, or simply spend quality time with your family. Create the ambience you want whether you are going for lively or serene feel, outdoor lighting can accomplish that and help you create inviting spaces you can live in from your early morning coffee to your evening entertainment.

Transform your exterior space by highlighting special features like fountains, ponds, flower gardens, patios, pergolas and especially your favorite trees! Whatever is special to you about your home or yard, make it stand out with landscape lighting. Use sculptural lights to create mood lighting or incorporate lighting that matches the theme of your decor. Lighting is available in a variety of shapes and sizes, making it easy to enhance your home's look.

Regardless of the size or style of your home, landscape lighting can highlight its best attributes, adding dimension, space, and dynamic form. When it comes time to sell, this will be especially important – a well-lit home is more attractive to potential buyers. According to the National Association of Home Builders, 90% of potential home buyers rated outdoor lighting as either “desirable” or “essential”. Incorporating high demand features like this into your home increases its value and makes it more likely to sell when the time comes.

They say, “don’t judge a book by its cover”, but when it comes to home shopping, most buyers do just that. If your home doesn’t look great on the outside, many potential buyers won’t even consider taking a closer look. But even if you’re not selling, curb appeal is important: highlighting the exterior beauty of your home with landscape lighting gives it a warm, inviting appeal that will draw your family and friends in and make them feel instantly welcome.

Use landscape lighting to guide guests along paths, walkways, and driveways, or to light up stairs or uneven areas to help reduce the risk of guests slipping and falling on your property. Install lighting around patios, decks, outdoor seating areas and water features for additional safety. Landscape lighting can also be a good deterrent to thieves. A well-lit home attracts the attention of neighbors and passersby, making it more likely they would catch a potential burglar in action. It also gives you and your guests a better view when you arrive at night, allowing you to feel safer walking up to your home

If you’re considering adding landscape lighting to your home or yard, I can help. Serving the Sacramento region for over 25 years, Sestak Lighting Design has the skills and experience needed to do the job right. Call today to bring a new light to your home and garden. 916-769-6909.



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Country Garden Spring Refresh

words and photographs by John Nicolaus, Landscape Architect

Considering a Spring garden refresh? How about a pollinator-friendly, low-maintenance cottage garden? Here are some great ideas for a sustainable and drought-tolerant backyard masterpiece, perfect for Northern California.

A Blooming, Buzzing Haven

Imagine stepping into a garden teeming with butterflies, ladybugs, hummingbirds, bounding with flowers and vegetables, all thriving with minimal effort and water. A spring refresh planned with pollinators, perennials, and sustainability in mind can transform your outdoor space into a beautiful but practical retreat. Consider these ideas for a thriving, low-maintenance cottage garden in Northern California.

Pollinator-Friendly Perennials

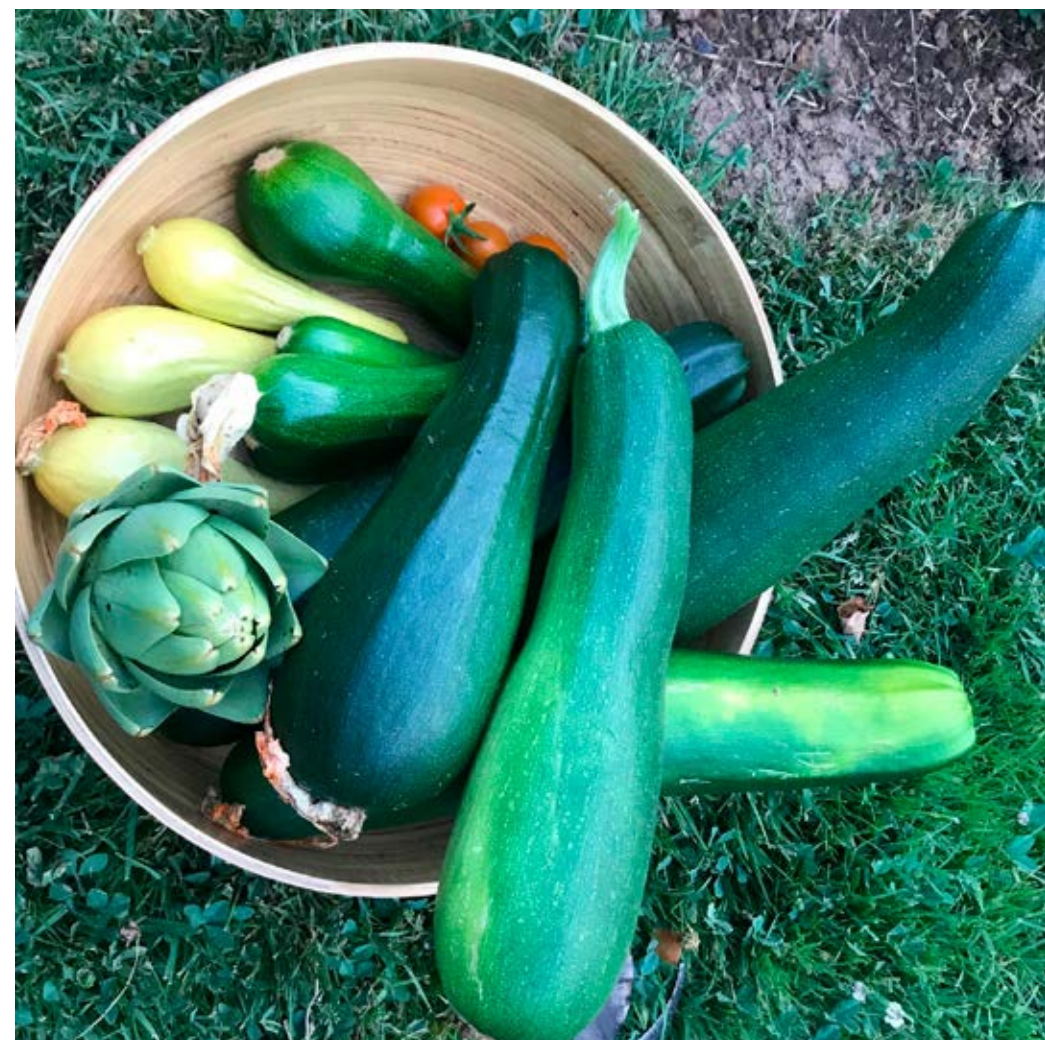
Native and drought-tolerant perennials provide long-lasting beauty while supporting pollinators like bees and butterflies. Consider planting:

- California poppies – California's state flower thrives with little water. Plant from seeds for maximum economy and longevity. When flowers fade, pull out the plants and shake seed pods off so they germinate next year!
- Lavender – Fragrant, bee-friendly, ornamental. There are English and French varieties, with different foliage and flowers, but each will last several years in the garden. Fragrant flowers make great air fresheners or a nice add to your sock drawer.
- Salvias – These beauties attract hummingbirds and require minimal care. Cut these back (almost to the ground) in late winter; they're reliable performers in-ground or in pots.
- Yarrow – Hardy, super drought-resistant flowers in pink, yellow and white that are tough as iron and keep coming back in ever spreading clumps.

Vegetables for an Abundant Harvest

Mix vegetables and perennials together, putting taller plants behind shorter ones, thinking about making the vegetables easy to reach without stepping on your perennials. Choose heat-tolerant, easy-care crops that thrive in Northern California such as:

- Tomatoes – Cherry and heirloom varieties flourish in Northern California's sun. Heirlooms aren't prolific producers, but are pretty in dishes. Plant old standards like Better Boy, Ace and Sweet 100's for quantity.
- Peppers – Bell and chili peppers thrive with consistent watering and mulch. Mix green and red varieties for tabletop interest in summer dishes.
- Herbs – Rosemary, thyme, basil and oregano are drought-resistant and attract beneficial insects. Think pesto and homemade pasta sauce.
- Zucchini – Prolific producers that benefit and attract pollinators. Lots of different shapes, sizes and varieties are available.



Water-Wise and Low-Maintenance Strategies

- Creating a sustainable, drought-tolerant cottage garden is easy! Consider these simple ways to conserve water and reduce maintenance:
- Mulching – Use wood chips, straw, or compost to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds. Don't use lawn clippings unless you intend to be vigilant about weed control.
- Drip irrigation – Minimizes water waste by applying water directly to root zones. Drip systems are essentially like erector sets and anyone can successfully build one. Just don't plan on a 'forever' solution as they all need seasonal maintenance.
- Native plants – Adapted to local conditions, they require less water and care than non-natives. Cottage garden faves include Matilija Poppy, Rockrose, and Penstemon. Give them space, as many can get quite large.

That Cottage Garden Look

Cottage gardens have a layered, natural aesthetic. Achieve this look with:

- A mix of flowering perennials and edibles for a lush, functional landscape.
- Curved planter areas lined with drought-tolerant ground covers like creeping thyme or rosemary. Think 'sensuous S-curve' and don't be too rigid.

Bringing It All Together

With thoughtful plant choices and sustainable practices, your garden can become a low-maintenance haven for pollinators and people. Embrace a garden that's both beautiful and resilient—where nature thrives effortlessly, and you reap the rewards of edibles and cut flowers.

To purchase California natives in Sacramento, check out the nursery at Sacramento Valley Conservancy, sacvalleyconservancy.org.

Tips to Get Started:

- Start small: First timers might consider large pots or small garden beds.
- Plant in layers: Use taller flowers in the back, medium plants in the middle, and low-growing varieties at the front.
- Incorporate natural elements: Stone pathways, wooden trellises, and birdbaths enhance both aesthetics and habitat value. Birds and insects really love birdbaths! Just remember to keep filled once you commit to having one!

By embracing these principles, you'll create a garden that not only looks stunning but also supports local ecosystems while saving time and resources. Happy gardening!



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April 5, 2025 Peaceful Protest Pics

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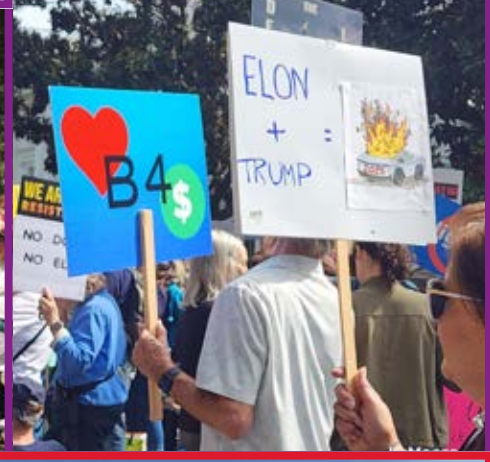
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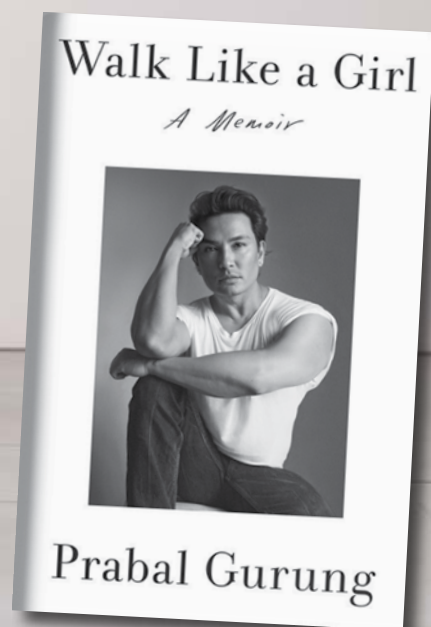
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“Walk Like A Girl” Set For Release

You can pre-order the delicious new memoir “Walk Like A Girl” by acclaimed fashionista Prabal Gurung, which will be released during AAPI Heritage Month this May and just in time for Pride Month in June. The popular designer takes you backstage for an inside look at his fabulous life and career so far.



Gurung was born in 1974, in Singapore, to Nepali parents and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal. He is a co-founder of the House of Slay and now lives in New York City, where he completed his studies at the Parsons School of Design.

Gurung interned with Donna Karan and worked at Bill Blass for five years before launching his own label, PRABAL GURUNG, during New York Fashion Week in 2009. His many celebrity fans include Michelle Obama, Kamala Harris, Kate Middleton, Oprah Winfrey, Sarah Jessica Parker, Anne Hathaway, and Demi Moore.

Gurung endured homophobic bullying as a child in Nepal, and the designer also shares how he overcame the racism that sometimes threatened his career. “Walk Like A Girl” has already been praised as “a fearless exploration of the challenges and triumphs of a life lived in the spotlight. Prabal Gurung’s memoir is a powerful reminder that even in the face of adversity, one can rise above and become an inspiration to others.”





“The Friend” Is Fantastic Plus, Three More Movies

by Chris Narloch

There are so many great series streaming these days that I don’t know how anyone gets anything done. Couch potatoes can choose between new episodes of “The Last of Us,” “The Handmaid’s Tale,” “Yellowjackets,” “The Righteous Gemstones,” “Severance,” “The Studio,” “The White Lotus” and many, many more.

It’s all so overwhelming that I find myself retreating to filmgoing, which is less of a time suck. Here are my latest movie reviews.

The Friend

Naomi Watts and Bill Murray star in this sweet, funny new film about a New York City writer (Watts) who inherits an enormous Great Dane named Apollo, after her best friend and mentor (Murray) dies unexpectedly.

The film is a very moving story about human friendship and how our four-legged friends can help us survive grief. Watts is perfect, as is Murray — who tones down his usual wackiness — and the dog is so frigging cute that I wanted to adopt him. “The Friend” opened at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on April 4. Don’t miss it.

Hoosiers

If you have never had the pleasure of seeing the late, great Gene Hackman on the big screen, now is your chance, as “Hoosiers” returns to the Crest Theatre for one night only, the evening of April 18.

Hackman stars as a coach with a checkered past who teams up with the town drunk (Dennis Hopper) to train a high school basketball team that becomes a top contender for the state championship. This 1986 classic is an example of how to pull off a great sports movie, thanks to a strong script and a superb cast.

Holland

Is there a harder working American actress in movies today than Nicole Kidman? She is the best kind of workaholic, cranking out film after film, with limited series in between. Not everything hits the bullseye, but even when the finished project isn’t great, her own work is almost always fascinating, and that is the case with this very strange movie set in Holland, Michigan.

Kidman plays Nancy, a teacher in her small midwestern town who suspects her husband is leading a double life. She teams up with Dave, a friendly fellow teacher (played by the also great Gael Garcia Bernal) to uncover the truth. The performances are not the problem here — it’s the wonky script and uneven direction.

Fans of Kidman and Bernal (and bizarro movies) might get a kick out of “Holland” which is now available to stream on Amazon Prime Video. All others need not apply.

Sacramento

It would suck if a movie named after our fair city sucked. Luckily, that is not the case with “Sacramento,” a good amount of which was filmed here. The delicious new dramedy features such local landmarks as Gunther’s ice cream shop, the Old Sac waterfront and Tower Bridge, the Ziggurat building, and more.

Michael Angarano (who also directed the film and cowrote the screenplay) and Michael Cera star as friends with a love-hate relationship who embark on a roadtrip to California’s capital city, ostensibly to honor the late father of Angarano’s character. You can bet there are twists and turns, and watching the two friends bicker is one of the movie’s many pleasures.

Both of the main characters are hilariously self-involved man-children who are afraid of fatherhood, and Maya Erskine, and especially Kristen Stewart, are terrific as the moms. “Sacramento” is scheduled to open at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on April 11.



The Friend



Hoosiers



Holland



Sacramento



Sac Zoo's Baby Giraffe Gets A Name

Those of you who voted for “Sumi” chose correctly, and that is now the official name of the Sac Zoo’s new baby Masai giraffe, after the zoo held a naming contest that also allowed the public to donate and raise funds for Sumi’s mother, Amirah, and the other giraffes at the zoo.

Born on March 1, the baby giraffe’s name was inspired by sumac browse, a favorite snack of Sumi’s mother during her pregnancy. The name is a playful nod to the sumac tree, and it also honors the role that the local community plays in supporting the zoo’s giraffes through its browse donation program. The donations help provide fresh, nutritious browse for the giraffe herd, enriching their diet and environment and will also contribute to a new shade structure for the giraffes.



Now a little over a month old, Sumi is already becoming a familiar face in the giraffe yard, where she spends her days exploring alongside the rest of the herd. Masai giraffes can be as tall as 6 feet at birth, and although she is already a big girl, Sumi is still very much a baby. Guests can most easily see her at zoo opening, when she enjoys exploring the outdoors before retreating to the giraffe barn for a rest.

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California State Fair Announces Winners of the 2025 Commercial Cheese Competition

The California State Fair announced the winners of the 2025 Commercial Cheese Competition, recognizing excellence in cheesemaking from across the state. This year's competition showcased cheeses crafted by both small artisan producers and large-scale cheese production companies. A panel of 12 judges, led by Head Judge Phillip Tong, evaluated 113 entries based on appearance, aroma, texture, and taste.

Best of Show – Cow's Milk:

Marin French Cheese Co. – Golden Gate
Marin French Cheese Co. took home the prestigious Best of Show award for cow's milk cheese with their Golden Gate washed rind cheese. This triple crème cheese is a part

of their new California Originals line, developed for the evolved tastes of the modern cheese lover. Inspired by the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, this cheese undergoes a 14-day aging process where it is hand-washed with brine, allowing coastal cultures to flourish.

"We know how many wonderful cheeses are made here in California, so this is an accomplishment that makes us especially proud," said Bonnie Kaufman, Brand Manager. "Golden Gate is a true taste of terroir, inspired by the iconic bridge that leads you to Marin County and reliant on our salty coastal air for its color and flavor. Winning this award for a cheese that celebrates California is a fitting and rewarding honor."

With a deep, savory flavor, pungent aroma, and gooey texture, Golden Gate is an ideal choice for cheese boards and pairing with bold flavors.

Best of Show – Other Milk Type:

Pennyroyal Farm – Boont Corners Reserve
Pennyroyal Farm secured the Best of Show award for other milk types with Boont Corners Reserve, made from fresh, raw goat's milk. Inspired by traditional French mountain cheeses, this cheese is crafted during the summer months when the milk is lower in fat, allowing it to age beautifully for up to 12 months. The result is a firm-textured cheese with a complex, sweet, and nutty flavor, ideal for grating. The cheese is named after "The Corners," the historic site of Boonville, near Pennyroyal Farm. This is the third Best in Show win for Boont Corners Reserve at the CA State Fair over the last 10 years.

"I take it as a sign that we have been able to maintain a consistently high-quality cheese over the years, which is a reflection of and validation of not only of the recipe, but our staff, our animals, and our practices both on the dairy and in the creamery," said Erika McKenzie-Chapter, Cheesemaker. "My 7-year-old is going to ask if she can 'keep this one'. She adores the two previous Golden Bears we have earned with this cheese. She even tells me she wants to create her own recipe so she can enter and win, so this award is already encouraging a future generation of cheesemakers."

2025 Best of California Award Winners

Cow's Milk Cheese

Cultured Cheese: Stepladder Creamery – Spicy Fromage Blanc
Soft Cheese: Sierra Nevada Cheese – Gina Marie Fresh Farmer Cheese
Semi-Soft Cheese: Marin French Cheese Co. – Golden Gate
Semi-Hard Cheese: Joseph Farms – Special Reserve Extra Sharp Cheddar
Hard Cheese: Point Reyes Farmstead – Point Reyes Gouda

Other Milk Type Cheese

Cultured Cheese: Stepladder Creamery – Chevre
Soft Cheese: Sierra Nevada Cheese – Bella Capra Goat Chevre
Semi-Soft Cheese: Pennyroyal Farms – Fratty Corners
Semi-Hard Cheese: Pennyroyal Farms – Boont Corners 2 Month
Hard Cheese: Pennyroyal Farms – Boont Corners Reserve

The competition's judges, composed of cheese merchants, writers, promoters, and educators, assessed entries across multiple divisions and classes, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation process.

For a complete list of the award-winning cheeses, visit Calexpostatefair.com.



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For 30 years, Outword Magazine has been a trusted voice in the LGBTQ+ community, fostering a loyal and engaged readership. Available in both print and online, it celebrates diversity and inclusion through its content and active involvement in local events and initiatives. Widely distributed, the magazine ensures visibility and accessibility across the region and beyond, serving as a go-to resource for community events, advocacy, and local businesses. A recent survey of readers highlights their active lifestyle, revealing they dine out an average of 12 times a month.

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Local Museums Participate in Photography Month Sacramento

Many Sacramento area museums are participating in Photography Month Sacramento in April 2025. Photography Month Sacramento is a collaborative, grassroots event led by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center with support by many involved partners that include the City of Sacramento, Inside Publications, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Office of Phil Serna (District 1), and www.Sacramento365.com.

California Museum is presenting a groundbreaking traveling exhibition through May 4 titled *Our War Too: Women in Service* that honors the nearly 350,000 American women who answered the call to serve their country during World War II. Made up of unique and colorful artifacts from The National WWII Museum's collection, the exhibit explores the efforts, struggles, and accomplishments of these servicewomen, the impacts of which extend into the present day. More information is [available here](#).

Crocker Art Museum is excited to present "Fauxcents and Fotos" on Thursday evening, April 3, when Museum docents team up with comedian "fauxcents" to lead humorous tours of the Crocker's permanent collection and the exhibition *Frames of Mind: The Ramer Photography Collection*. On display through May 4, the limited-time exhibit offers a unique glimpse into the eyes of psychiatrist Dr. Barry Ramer and his wife Lois in the mid-1970s. The collection of international photographs is diverse in subject matter and

united by shared interest in human psychology and cultural inequities. The exhibition celebrates the Ramers' most recent gift of photography to the Crocker and commemorates the 50th anniversary of their collecting. Free with museum admission, more information is [available here](#).

Sacramento Children's Museum is offering a fun pop-up activity in celebration of Photography Month Sacramento. Attendees can learn how polaroid photos work, and try their hands at taking polaroid photos every Wednesday in April at 10:15 a.m. This activity is free with admission, no registration required. Plus, a full calendar is available under the 'Programs' tab at www.sackids.org.

Sacramento History Museum invites the community to discover the story of Locke, Sacramento's last rural Chinese town, through a limited-time photography exhibition with photos by highly esteemed local photographer Michael Dunlavey that will remain on display through April 20.



Crocker Art Museum
click image for website

Located in the Sacramento Delta, the town of Locke stands as a unique time capsule for a once vibrant Chinese-American community. For more, visit www.SacHistoryMuseum.org.

SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity (MOSAC) encourages the community to visit, explore, snap, and share images of the captivating exhibits that are just waiting to be captured, such as the Neuroscience Art Exhibit across from the Health Connections Exhibit, where curious visitors can learn about the fascinating intersection of the brain and creativity, exploring how art and neuroscience come together to unlock new ways of thinking and experiencing the world. Interested visitors are encouraged to tag

photos with @SMUD_MOSAC to possibly be featured on their social channels. For more, visit www.visitMOSAC.org.

More information about these and other Photography Month Sacramento activations are available at www.photomonthsacramento.org/events. And, for more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and X @SacMuseums or visit the user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org. Those interested can also sign up for emails to learn more about Sacramento Area Museums via the website at www.sacmuseums.org.



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Do Not Miss Collidoscope at Crocker Plus, What's New at Manetti Shrem?

by Chris Narloch

You have until early May to check out two essential local art exhibitions, one at Manetti Shrem in Davis and the other at Sacramento's own Crocker Art Museum. Read on for details.



Manetti Shrem

I continue to plug this wonderful free museum on the edge of the UC Davis campus, where you can easily see all of the museum's current exhibitions in less than an hour, including "Ruby Neri: Taking the Deep Dive," the first solo exhibition of the artist's work.

An established voice in contemporary ceramics, Neri sculpts brightly colored personal motifs and uninhibited female nudes – playing with familiar forms and monumental scale to challenge our expectations.

You can see "Ruby Neri: Taking the Deep Dive" through May 5, 2025. For more information about all of the museum's offerings, please visit: manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu



Crocker Art Museum

You have until this May 4 to experience the fabulous mixed media art of two brilliant brothers, Einar and Jamex de la Torre, a sibling team of glass artists who were born in Guadalajara, Mexico.

"Collidoscope: de la Torre Brothers Retro-Perspective" offers a thematic history of the pair's artistic journey that includes 42 fantastic works highlighting the artists' decidedly distinctive style, blending vibrant elements such as blown-glass sculpture, installation art, and, more recently, 3D-like lenticular imagery.

The de la Torre Brothers are currently scheduled to visit the Crocker for an Artist Talk on the afternoon of Saturday, May 3, to discuss their colorful, elaborate, and eye-popping art.

"Collidoscope" is a nationally traveling exhibition organized by The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum (The Cheech) and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Latino.

This is blown glass like you've never seen it before, and if you're anything like me, you will be blown away. For more information, go to: crockerart.org

sat April 12th

HOT GOGOS

10 PM

MAN CANDY

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Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

The air is filled with the scent of fresh blossoms—for those of us who can smell it through allergies. And the world feels renewed after winter's chill—except when the temps still dip into the 50s after reaching the 80s. It's a season of growth, new beginnings, and some awesome events! For those of you who celebrate Easter remember to fill those baskets with the good chocolate! The queer Easter bunny does not skimp, even in times like these.



April 10

The 1997 cult classic *Starship Troopers* returns to the big screen on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. at Crest Sacramento, 1013 K St. Set in a fascist, militaristic future, the film follows humanity's war against giant alien bugs. Don't miss this action-packed sci-fi spectacle on the big screen. Crestsacramento.com

The Get Out & Go RV Show rolls into town April 10–13, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., offering a chance to explore nearly 200 new and pre-owned RVs and adventure vans. Featuring top brands like Tiffin, Jayco, and Winnebago, the event includes free admission and parking, trade-in options, and financing opportunities. Calexpostatefair.com



April 11

Join us on Friday, April 11 at Outword's monthly happy hour at Badlands, 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. Badlandssac.com

Harlow's and Sapphic Factory present Sapphic Factory: Queer Joy Party on Friday, April 11, at 8:30 p.m. at The Starlet Room, 2708 J St. Open to ages 18 and up, this vibrant event celebrates queer joy with music, dancing, and community in an inclusive space. Sapphicfactory.com



April 12

Meet adoptable rabbits and enjoy a children's book reading at Bunnies N Books on Saturday, April 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Wild Sisters Book Co., 3960 60th St. Held on the second Saturday of every month, this family-friendly event offers a fun way to connect with lovable bunnies and great stories. Onlysunshinesanctuary.org

April 15

OutLoud Sports kicks off its Sacramento Community Volleyball League on Tuesday, April 15, at Capital Sports Center, 5209 Luce Ave., McClellan Park. Running weekly from 6 to 9 p.m., the nine-week, 6v6 league features rally scoring and best-of-three matches. Join the fun, compete, and celebrate community through the love of volleyball! Outloudsports.com

Connect and grow your network at the upcoming Networking Mixer on Tuesday, April 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Good Luck Lounge (Ace of Spades), 1421 R St. Enjoy meaningful conversations and expand your professional circle. Admission is free for members and \$10 for non-members. Don't miss this opportunity to meet local professionals and build valuable connections! Rainbowchamber.com



April 18

Our Planet Live: Frozen Worlds comes to the Harris Center in Folsom on Friday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. Emmy-winning producer Sophie Lanfear presents this Netflix documentary series exploring the Arctic's fragile ecosystems and the impact of climate change on polar wildlife. Student tickets available. Harriscenter.net.

May 1

The annual Northwest Leather Celebration (NWLC) invites the leather and kink community to Sacramento, from May 1-4 for a weekend packed with education, contests, and connection. NWLC hosts the Northwest Master Slave, Northwest Bootblack, and Northwest Person of Leather contests, alongside workshops, parties, and community-building events. Attendees can look forward to an inclusive, spirited celebration. NorthwestLeatherCelebration.com



Thru April 27

Sutter Street Theatre presents the classic musical *Guys and Dolls* through April 27 at 717 Sutter St., Folsom. With performances Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 4:30 p.m., this PG-rated production brings romance, comedy, and high-stakes gambling to life in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City. Sutterstreettheatre.com

*Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share?
Feel free to send them to matthewburlingame@gmail.com.*

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Activating Taste Buds (ATB) submitted by Fred Palmer

Octopus Perú is a seafood “cevichería” in downtown Sac, offering a menu inspired by Peruvian flavors. Located at 980 9th Street, Suite 170, the restaurant features fresh ceviches, oysters, and other local seafood. As part of the Ernesto Delgado Hospitality Group, Octopus Perú is a sister restaurant to Octopus Baja, with each establishment highlighting seafood influenced by culinary traditions from Japan to Peru, then to Baja, and finally to Mexico. The dishes I tried were extremely fresh, with outstanding flavors. The service was top-drawer, and the ambiance was comfortable and very inviting. I hear that Ernie sometimes makes the rounds, checking to ensure everyone is well taken care of, he stopped by my table to tell me the history of some of the dishes I was enjoying. My first visit was great—I’m sure I’ll be going back, often. *(click images to visit their web site)*



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The Peruvian Octopus
\$21.00
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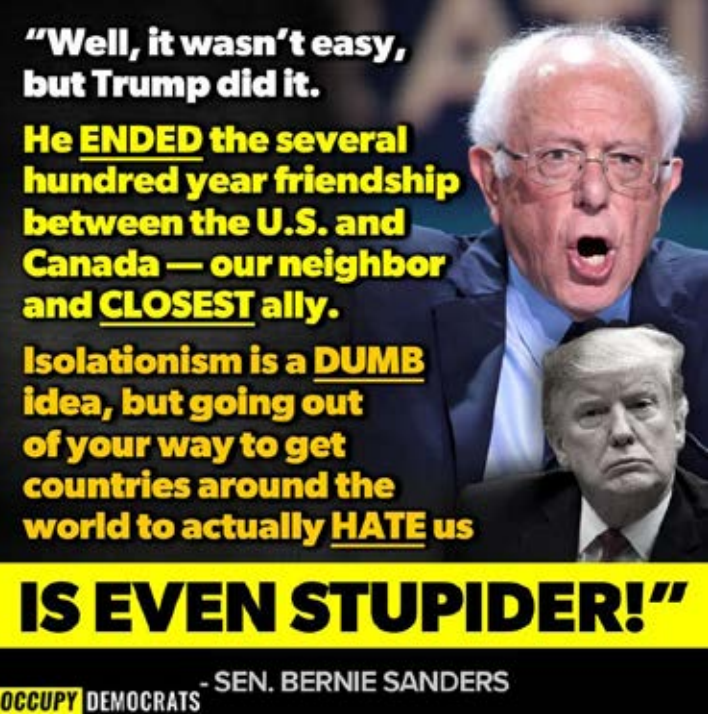
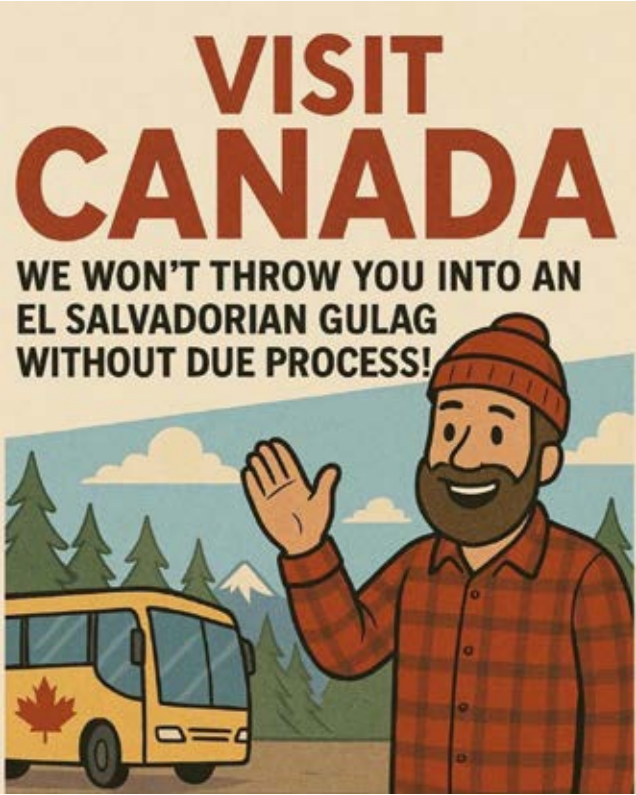
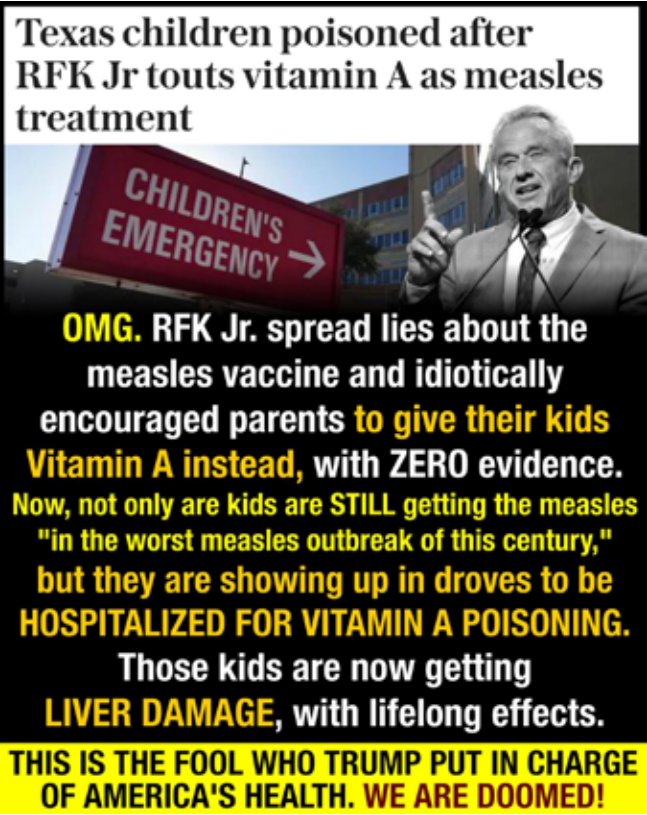
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You don't get to lecture nations that take care of their people when yours lets them die in medical debt.

@RepJasmine

So Speaker Johnson threw a tantrum today and canceled votes for the rest of the week because he couldn't wrangle enough support to block new parents from voting in Congress. I guess when you don't get your way, you just shut it down and send everyone home? The American people didn't elect us to pout.



Newsweek

3 in 4 Scientists Want to Leave US Over Trump Changes: Poll

Published Mar 18, 2025 at 10:42 PM EDT

Updated Mar 28, 2025 at 10:13 PM EDT

"THREE OUT OF FOUR U.S. scientists are considering leaving the country. America is on the verge of a BRAIN DRAIN — one that will cost lives, discoveries, and our global edge!"

- DR. CATHARINE YOUNG

Former Biden White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Advisor

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Actual footage of me when someone is offended by my sailors mouth & big personality.






Trump went all in.

Elon Musk went all in. He said western civilization would END if Crawford won. He handed out million-dollar checks to buy votes. Charlie Kirk and all the podcasters went all in. The whole MAGA machine got behind Brad Schimel. Republicans dumped \$53 million in spending in order to buy Schimel's victory.

But Democratic-backed Susan Crawford won EASILY.

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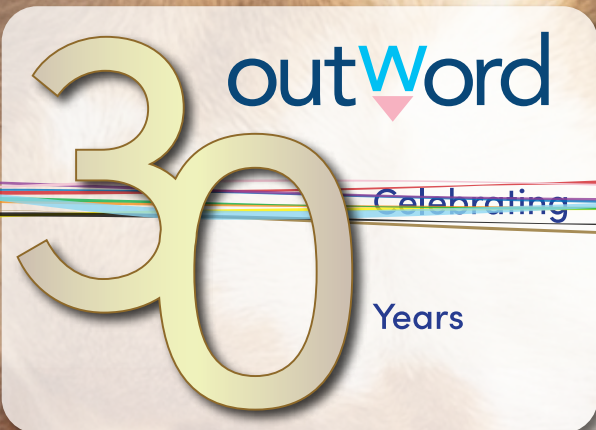
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Building Community as Mr. Bolt Leather 2025

Colin Gallagher is not one to shy away from a challenge. Whether it's leading a team, organizing an event, or advocating for a cause, he brings passion, zeal, and a deep commitment to building connections. Now, as Mr. Bolt Leather 2025, he is channeling that energy into strengthening Sacramento's leather community and increasing its visibility on the national and international stage.

Colin's journey to this title began just two years ago when he moved to Sacramento with his boyfriend Paul. They were quickly embraced by the local community and felt an immediate sense of belonging. In return, he ran for Mr. Bolt Leather to give back to the people who had welcomed him so warmly.

One of Colin's key goals as Mr. Bolt Leather is to increase the visibility of Sacramento's leather community, both within the city and beyond. Too often, he has encountered people who share an interest in leather but don't engage locally. Instead, they travel to other cities, unaware that Sacramento has a thriving leather culture of its own. Others are simply too shy to ask questions or don't know how to get involved. Colin is determined to change that by fostering education, inclusivity, and a greater sense of community.

To this end, he has started hosting periodic gatherings where members can socialize outside of a bar setting while also discussing important issues. These spaces provide opportunities for newcomers and veterans alike to connect, learn, and engage in meaningful conversations. Since the presidential election, these gatherings have become particularly vital in keeping the community strong and united.



Mr. Bolt Leather, Colin Gallagher

Colin describes himself as a "geek who can speak." A lifelong LEGO enthusiast and self-professed nerd, he enjoys collecting and building intricate sets. He also collects antique computers with an Apple Lisa being the pride of his collection. Growing up partially overseas, Colin developed a deep appreciation for cultural history and the importance of context in bridging communities. This perspective informs his approach to leadership and advocacy within the leather world, where he seeks to create spaces that honor tradition while also welcoming newcomers.

His enthusiasm extends beyond the leather scene. As a board member of the NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC), Colin is working hard to double ridership and fundraising efforts. With uncertainty around federal funding, supporting local organizations is more critical than ever. Every dollar raised through NCAC stays in Northern California, directly benefiting those affected by HIV/AIDS.

Colin is setting his sights on making history. If he succeeds in advancing to the Top 20 at International Mr. Leather (IML) in May in Chicago, he will be the first Mr. Bolt Leather to do so since 2009.

Colin's title is not just about personal achievement—it's about amplifying the voices of Sacramento's leather community and ensuring it thrives for years to come. But true progress doesn't happen alone. The strength of Sacramento's leather community comes from the people who show up, support one another, and create a culture of camaraderie and belonging. As the community continues to grow, so does its impact. Sacramento's leather culture is finding its voice, proving that no matter where you are, there's a place for everyone.



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'Bad Romance?' Festival Billboard Promotes STD Testing

Starting March 31st, travelers driving westbound on I-10 leaving Indio, California will see a music festival-themed billboard from AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) with the words, "Bad Romance?" and the URL freeSTDcheck.org, pointing to free, nonjudgmental sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing services. The billboard coincides with the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival that spans two weekends in April (4/11 - 4/13 and 4/18 -4/20). The artwork will be up through April 27, 2025.

In 2024, festival officials contacted AHF and demanded the nonprofit healthcare organization remove its "Catch More than Vibes?" billboard which featured the same URL. AHF refused. "We hope there are no bad romances during this year's festival weekends, and we hope everyone who chooses to partner up practices safer sex," said Michael Weinstein, AHF president and cofounder. "But if anyone does need STD testing services, we want people to know ours are easily located, nonjudgmental, and free."

AHF provides free STD testing and treatment at 44 Wellness Centers in 14 states nationwide, plus Washington, DC. Five of those Wellness Centers are in California.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "over 2.4 million cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia were diagnosed and reported" in 2023. California ranks 21st in reported cases of chlamydia, 17th in reported cases of gonorrhea, 21st in reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis, and 13th in cases of congenital syphilis.



Billboard is on the I-10 outside of Indio, CA.

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In this 12-26-24 issue we have a look back at the 23 issues that came out during 2024. If you see anything you missed, or want to take a second look at, remember that they are all available online, for free, either as PDFs or online flip versions hosted by ISSUU.
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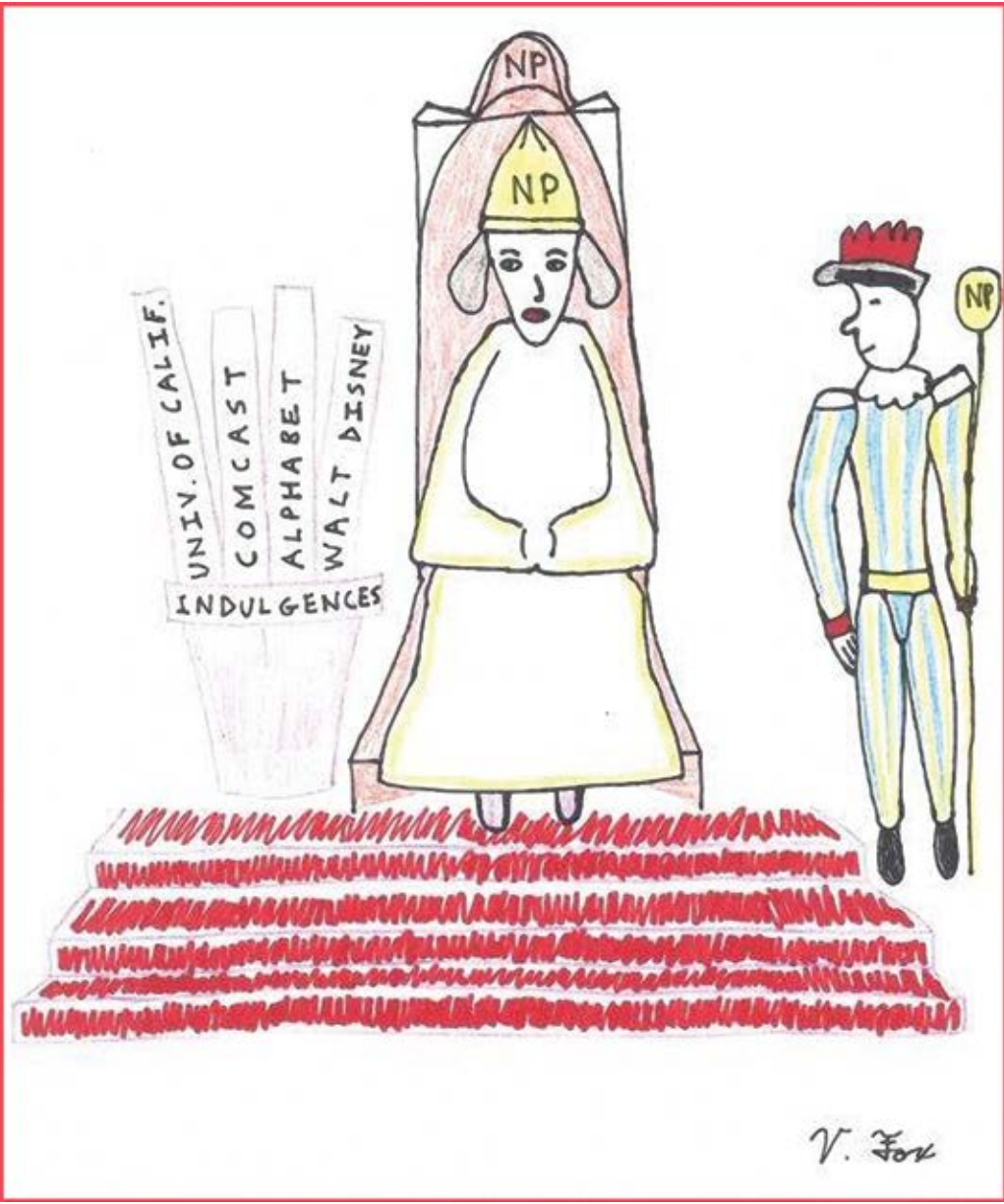
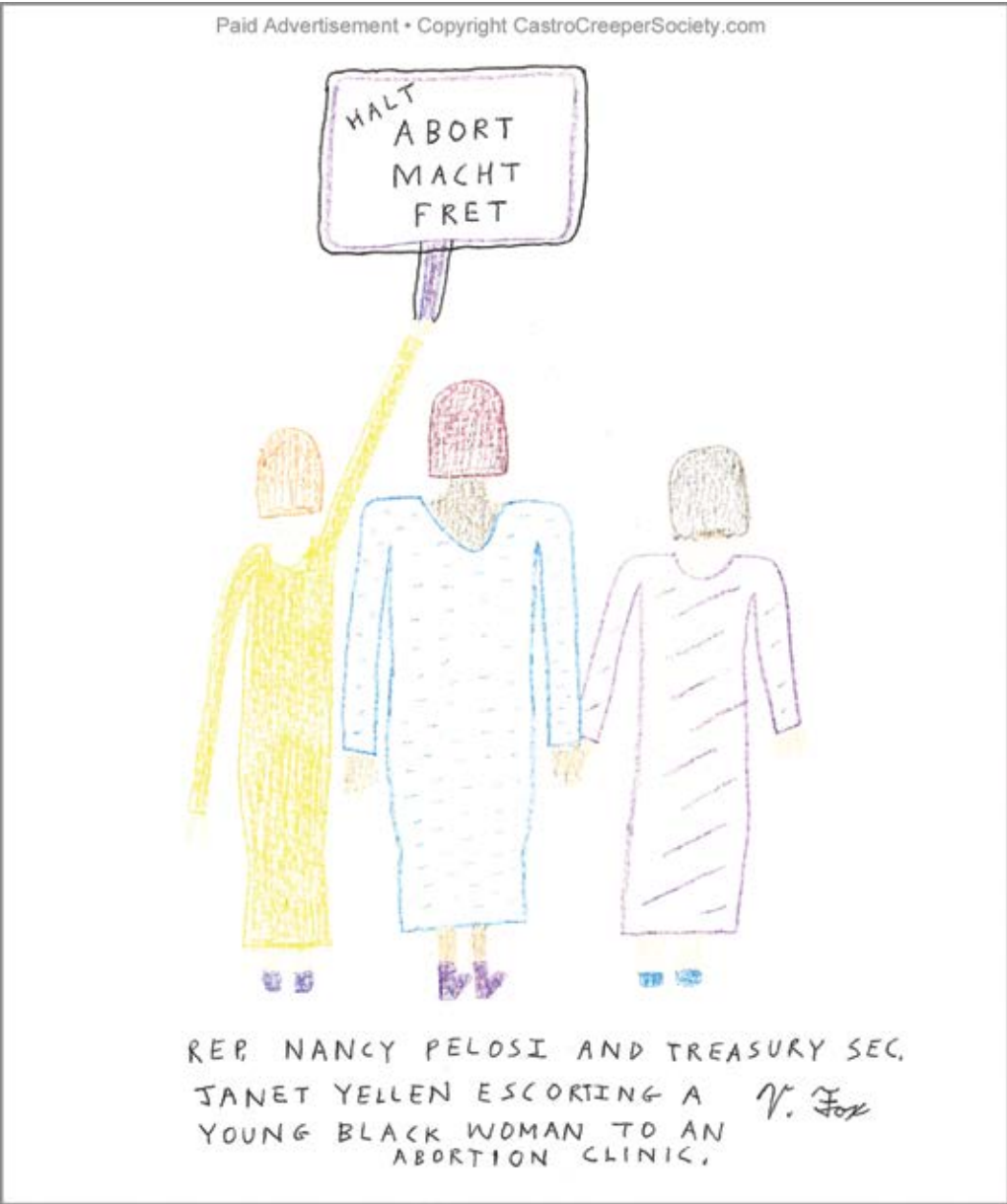
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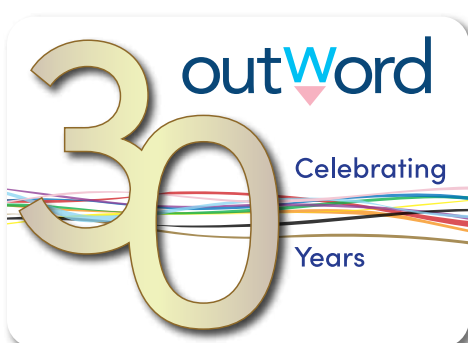
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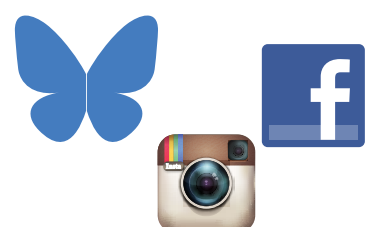
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