Special Issue! Outword's 31st Anniversary Issue

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outWord

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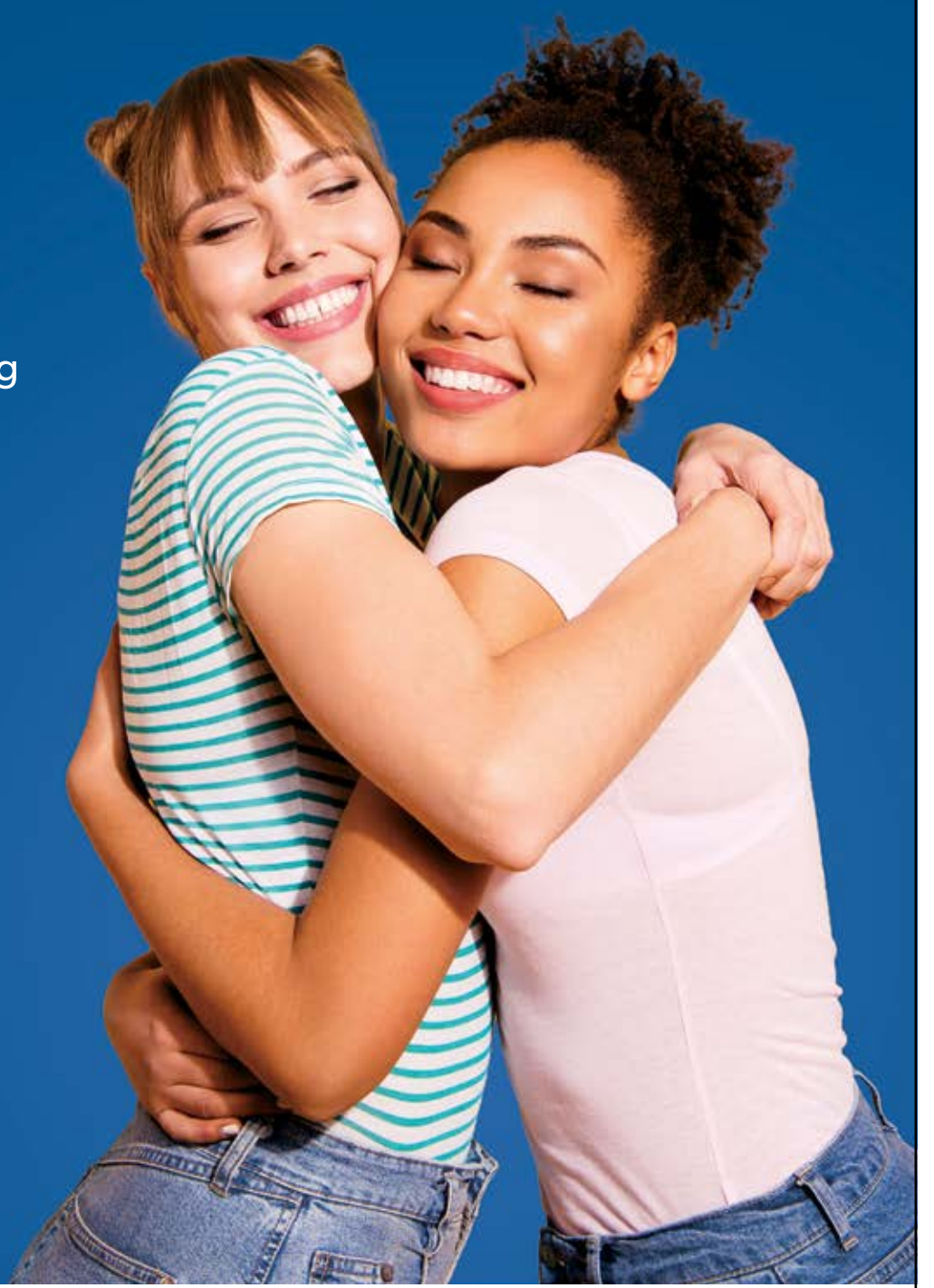

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Sacramento Rainbow Festival

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California Brewers Festival

Wow! 31 Years

by Ron Tackitt

Every year when Outword's anniversary rolls around, we find ourselves searching for a new way to talk about it. We could talk about community. About visibility. About gathering together and supporting one another. We could remind everyone how important LGBTQ+ media is, especially at a time when attacks on our lives, and our rights continue to make headlines.

And all of that would be true.

But after 31 years, we've said those things before. More than once.

So, this year, maybe the thing worth celebrating is something much simpler:

We're still here.

When Outword published its first issue in 1995, the world was a very different place. There was no Facebook, no Google, no iPhone and certainly no TikTok. Most of us weren't carrying a device in our pocket capable of taking a photograph, shooting a movie, reading a newspaper and ordering dinner — sometimes all at once.

Marriage equality seemed impossibly far away. Ellen hadn't come out yet. Will & Grace hadn't aired. RuPaul was famous, but becoming a household name and hosting one of television's most successful reality franchises? Who could have predicted that?

Sacramento was different, too. Bars, restaurants, businesses and gathering places have come and gone. Organizations have grown and evolved. Generations have arrived, found their voices and changed what it means to be LGBTQ+.

Outword changed along with them.

Through all of that, somehow, another issue kept coming.

That may be the part of this anniversary that means the most to us. We didn't sit down 31 years ago and decide to become a Sacramento institution. We just kept putting out the next issue.

Then the next one.

And the next one.

There have been thousands of stories, photographs and advertisements. Hundreds of covers. Pride celebrations, elections, victories, setbacks, weddings, protests, fundraisers, happy hours and more deadlines than we care to remember.

Along the way, advertisers became friends. Readers became friends. Contributors became part of the Outword family.

Thirty-one years also means we've been here long enough to experience loss. We've watched beloved members of our community pass away, and we've said goodbye to friends, family members (including four-legged ones), colleagues and people whose names and faces once regularly filled these pages. Some losses were expected; others stopped us in our tracks. Their absence is part of our history, too. We remember them, we miss them, and we're grateful that Outword gave us the opportunity to share at least a small part of their lives.

And through celebrations and losses, victories and some very late production nights, another issue kept coming.

The media world hasn't exactly made surviving easy, either. Newspapers, alternative press, weekly magazines, especially LGBTQ+, have disappeared. That leaves us as one of the longest running LGBTQ+ publications in the United States. Advertising has changed dramatically. Social media arrived and rewrote the rules almost overnight. Yet there is still something special about creating an issue of Outword, sending it out into the world and knowing that people are going to pull it up on a screen and see a little bit of themselves and their community reflected back.

Maybe that's why we're still doing it.

Thirty-one isn't one of the glamorous anniversaries. There's no silver, gold or diamond associated with it. Apparently, you only get those for surviving marriage.

For surviving 31 years of independent LGBTQ+ publishing, we think you should at least get a cocktail.

So, we'll raise one to everyone who has been part of Outword over these 31 years — our readers, advertisers, writers, photographers, friends and the wonderfully eclectic LGBTQ+ community we get to call home.

Thank you for keeping us around.

Now, if you'll excuse us, we have issue number 799 to get out.

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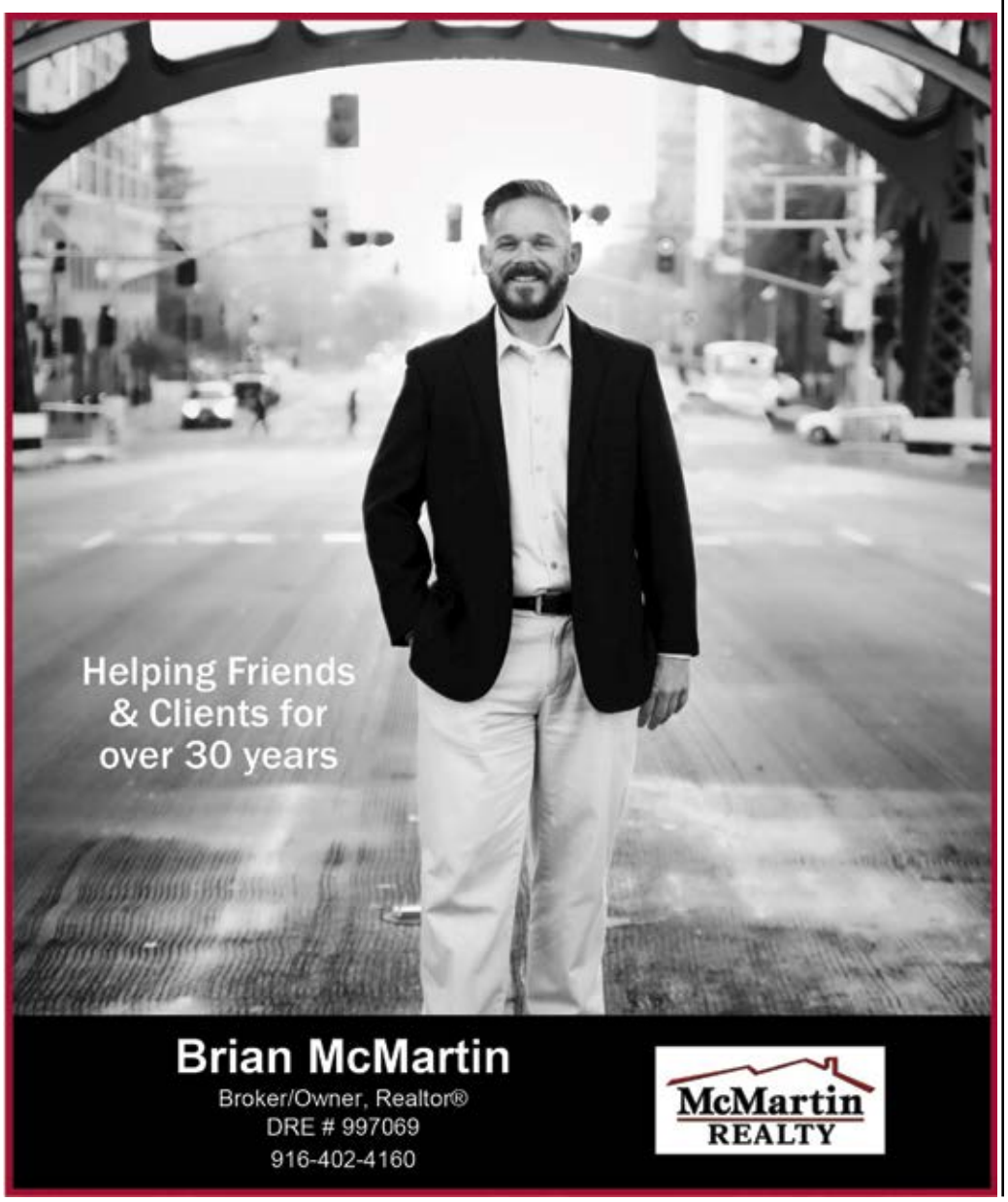

California Senate Approved Sen. Wiener's SB934

resource: Sen. Wiener press release

California lawmakers have approved legislation aimed at strengthening the state's protections against conversion therapy, sending Sen. Scott Wiener's SB 934 to Gov. Gavin Newsom for consideration.

The California Senate approved the measure on a 27-9 vote. Newsom has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto the bill.

SB 934 comes amid renewed legal uncertainty surrounding state restrictions on conversion therapy following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling earlier this year involving the First Amendment and counseling practices. Supporters say the decision could leave California's existing law vulnerable to legal challenges.

California became the first state in the nation to prohibit licensed mental health professionals from attempting to change the sexual orientation of minors when it enacted SB 1172 in 2012. More than two dozen states have since adopted similar protections.

Conversion therapy refers to practices intended to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Major medical and mental health organizations have rejected the practice as ineffective and potentially harmful. Research has also linked exposure to conversion practices with increased risks of depression and suicidal thoughts among LGBTQ+ people.

"Like every child, LGBTQ youth deserve to know there is nothing wrong or broken about them," Wiener said following the Senate vote. He described conversion therapy as a discredited practice and said California intends to continue protecting young LGBTQ+ people despite the changing legal landscape.

SB 934 is designed to revise California law in response to the Supreme Court's First Amendment guidance while maintaining restrictions on conversion therapy performed by licensed professionals.

The legislation is sponsored by Equality California, Lambda Legal, the National Center for LGBTQ Rights, the California LGBTQ Legislative Caucus, The Trevor Project and TransFamily Support Services.

If signed by Newsom, SB 934 would reinforce California's long-standing position that licensed professionals should not attempt to change a young person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sacramento FrontRunners proudly presented a $5,000 donation to the Sacramento LGBT Community Center from proceeds of the 2026 Sacramento Pride 5K. Hundreds of runners, walkers, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters came together to make this year's event possible. For FrontRunners, the Pride 5K is about more than running. It's about bringing people together, celebrating Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community, and giving back to a community in which we're proud to play a part.

NorCal AIDS Cycle Awards $160,000 to 13 Local Beneficiaries

courtesy of NorCal AIDS Cycle

On Saturday, August 15th, supporters, cyclists, and community partners gathered at Bear & Crown in Old Sacramento for the annual NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC) Check Distribution Celebration.

The event marked the culmination of months of fundraising efforts, with NCAC officially awarding $160,000 to 13 local beneficiary organizations. The funds—raised through the relentless dedication of riders, crew members, donors, and sponsors—will directly bolster critical HIV/AIDS care, support services, and advocacy programs across Northern California.

"The funds from NorCal AIDS Cycle are unrestricted, meaning they fill the gap between what restricted grants pay for and what the real needs are for clients trying to remain in care and virally suppressed," said Jake Bradley-Rowe, CEO of Sunburst Projects. "They are the difference between having to say 'No' and getting to say 'Yes' to client requests for support." Receiving $23,000, Sunburst Projects was the largest of the event's beneficiaries.

Attendees spent the evening reflecting on the cycle's collective impact, honoring those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and looking ahead to the upcoming NCAC 2027 season.

For these long-time participants, the celebration is more than just the end of a fundraising season—it marks another year of riding alongside a community that has truly become family over miles of shared effort. Seeing these checks delivered turns months of training into tangible impact, proving that their collective dedication continues to change lives.

photo courtesy of NCAC

> *"The funds from NorCal AIDS Cycle are unrestricted, meaning they fill the gap between what restricted grants pay for and what the real needs are for clients trying to remain in care and virally suppressed. They are the difference between having to say No and getting to say Yes to client request for support. For example, we have purchased a set of tires for a client, who needed their car to get to work to pay for their rent which keeps them stably housed. Federal grants are restricted from paying for tires but the need for tires directly impact a client's HIV health care. Without NorCal AIDS Cycle, there would be lots of No's!" – Jake Bradley-Rowe, CEO, Sunburst Projects*

The final leg of the four-day ride culminates at the steps of the State Capitol, where lead cyclists carry memory wheels adorned with personal notes and names of loved ones to whom the journey is dedicated.

This year's finish was especially poignant for returning rider Doug McCalla. Reaching the steps, he looked down at his memory wheel and discovered a note written years ago by his late mother. "My mom has always watched over me when I rode my bike to raise money for HIV/AIDS," McCalla said, "and she still is."

Interested in learning more about our beneficiaries, sponsors, NCAC's history, or how to get involved? Visit NorCalAIDSCycle.org for details, including sign-ups for the upcoming Pumpkin Pedal (October 31, 2026) and next year's ride (May 13–16, 2027).

2026 NCAC Beneficiaries

Catholic AIDS Ministry – $6,000
Gender Health Center – $11,000
Golden Rule Services – $16,000
Harm Reduction Services – $16,000
Healing Waters – $16,000
Nevada County Public Health (HIV Testing Program) – $7,000
SANE – $16,000
Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation – $20,000
Sierra Hope – $10,000
Sunburst Projects – $23,000
UC Davis Children's Hospital Infectious Disease – $5,000
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Yuba Harm Reduction Collective – $5,000

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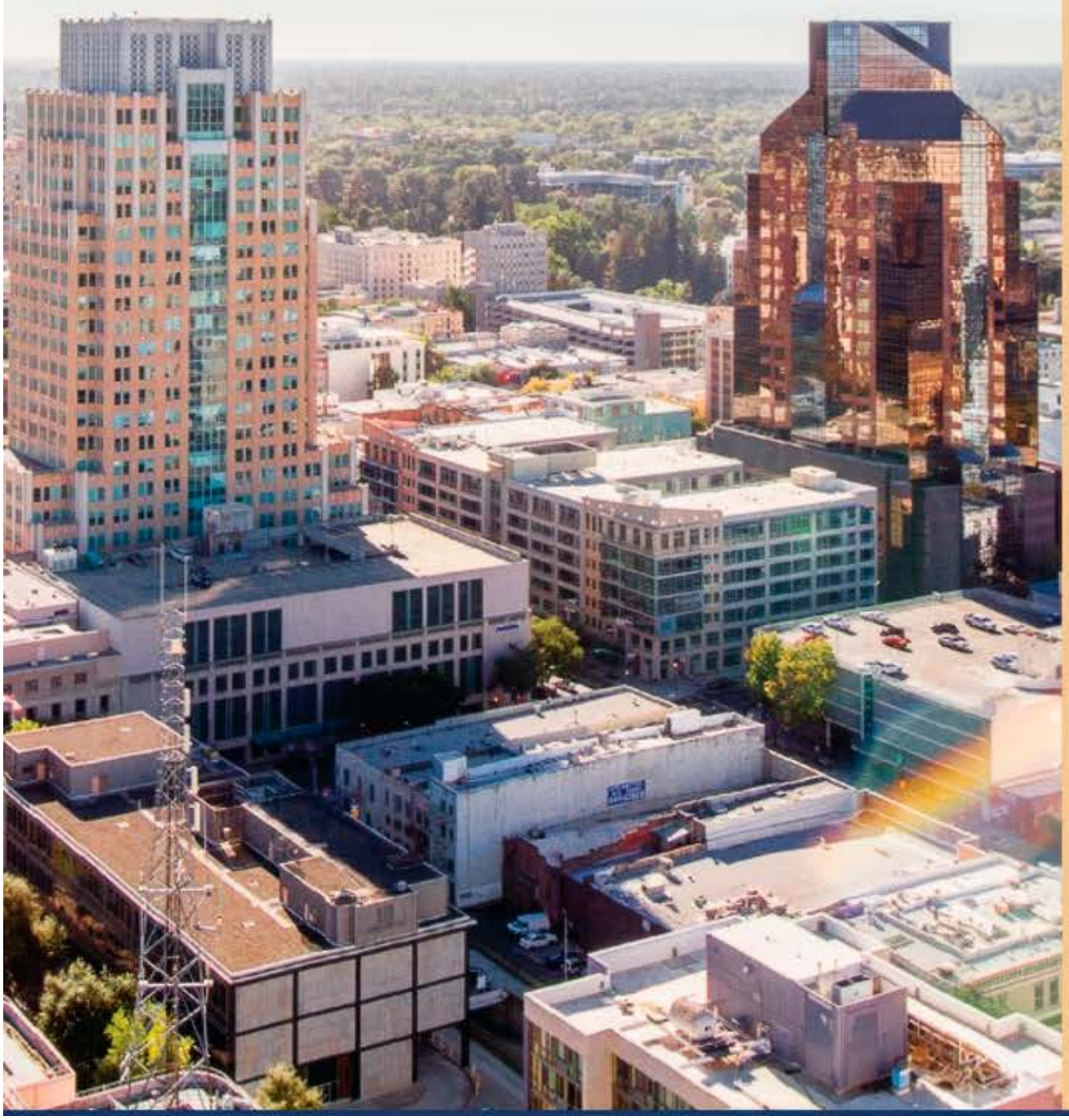

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CA LGBTQ Caucus Pushes Back on Trans Health Care Rule

resource: California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus press release

The California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus is calling for additional state protections after the Trump Administration finalized a rule barring federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program funding for gender-affirming health care for transgender youth.

In a statement, caucus members criticized the rule for interfering with medical decisions they say should remain between patients, families and health care providers. They also warned that the funding restriction could have an especially significant impact on lower-income families who rely on Medicaid and CHIP.

"Transgender youth deserve the same access to health care as every other young person," the caucus said. "Decisions about health care should be made by patients, their parents, and their doctors – not politicians."

California has already approved a $26 million investment intended to stabilize and expand the state's gender-affirming care network. Funding will support providers, workforce recruitment and retention, clinic infrastructure, malpractice insurance and providers taking on patients who have lost access to care elsewhere.

However, lawmakers were unable to secure an additional $1 million they had sought to create a state-only Medi-Cal coverage and billing pathway for gender-affirming care.

The LGBTQ Caucus says the new federal rule makes that proposal more urgent. Such a pathway could allow California to continue covering care for transgender residents without relying on restricted federal Medicaid funding.

Caucus members say they plan to work with legislative colleagues and the Newsom Administration to secure the state-only pathway before the end of the 2026 legislative session.

Bonta Defends Transgender Health Guidelines in FTC Fight

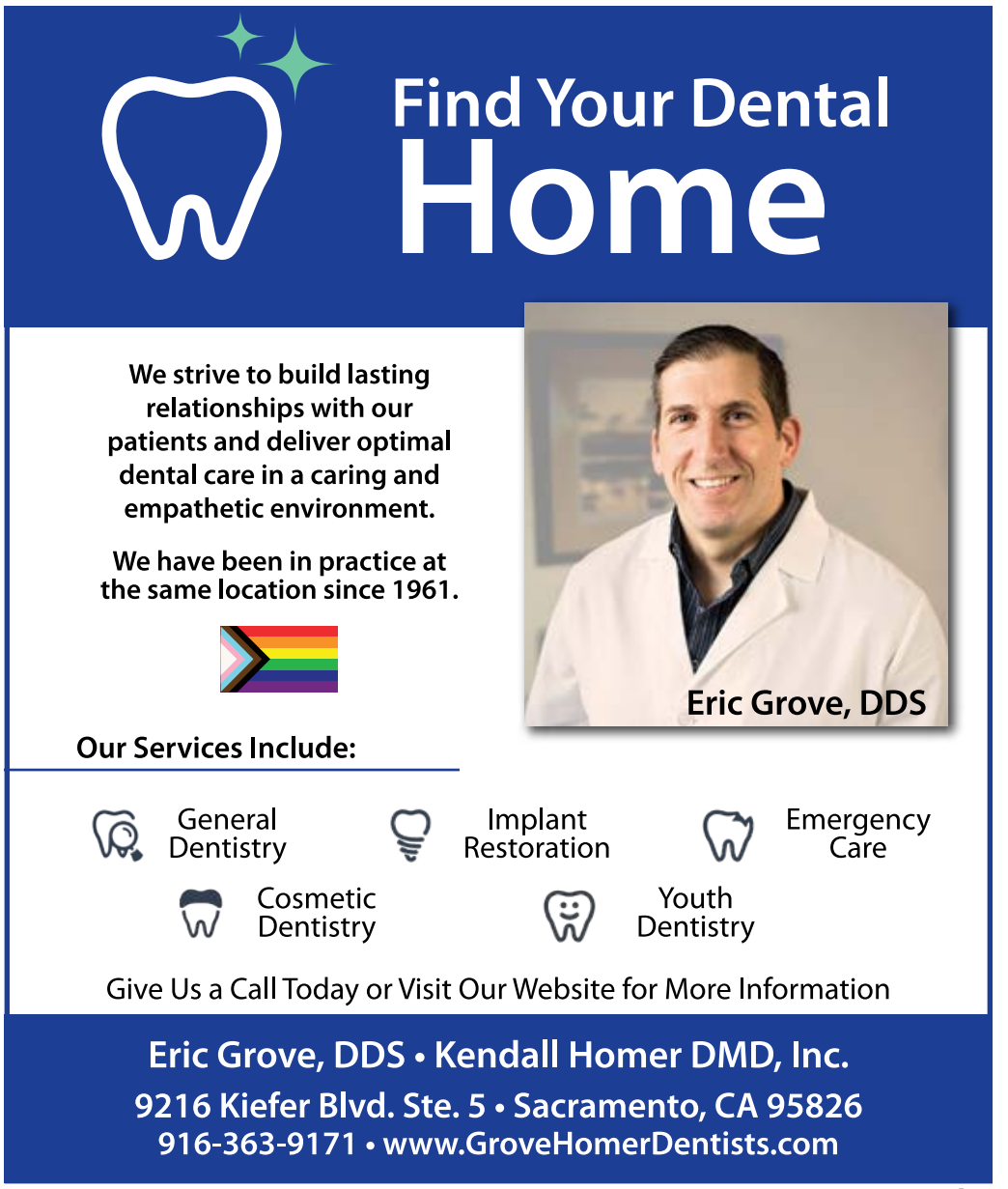
California Attorney General Rob Bonta has joined a coalition of 18 attorneys general opposing a Federal Trade Commission lawsuit targeting healthcare guidance issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

In an amicus brief, Bonta and the coalition argue that the FTC's action threatens states' authority to regulate the practice of medicine and could have broader consequences for the development of healthcare guidelines across multiple medical fields.

The dispute began in January, when the FTC issued a civil investigative demand seeking extensive documentation related to WPATH's current Standards of Care for transgender patients. WPATH challenged the demand, and in June a federal court in Washington, D.C., granted a preliminary injunction blocking the FTC from enforcing it.

The FTC subsequently filed suit against WPATH in federal court in Texas, alleging that the organization's guidance is deceptive to consumers and medical providers. WPATH filed a motion to dismiss the case on July 28.

Bonta and the other attorneys general are urging the court to grant that motion. Their brief argues that the FTC's case intrudes on states' constitutional authority to establish healthcare policies and could discourage medical organizations from developing professional guidelines well beyond transgender healthcare.



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LGBTQ+ Swimmers Race at Summer Nationals

words and image by Chris Allan

For five days, more than 1,400 swimmers took over North Natomas Aquatic Complex for the U.S. Masters Swimming Long Course National Championship. Triple-digit heat tested everyone from teens to grandparents. National and world records fell, adult children yelled "Go Dad!" from the bleachers, and there were enough Speedos on deck to make casual observers look twice. Yet threaded through the joyful competition was a smaller story: swimmers connected to International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA+) and what it means to belong to a team.

Nick Barajas, a gay man, has captained the Sacramento Masters (SACMA) since the team moved to North Natomas in 2022. With roughly 170 swimmers, SACMA isn't a dedicated queer club, but it is a member of IGLA+. "It's a very mixed club, "said Nick, "We just treat each other with love and respect."

SACMA swimmer Carrie Smith competes in the Women's 100m Breaststroke

Nick has felt this love personally, as he notes he's swum through surgeries and the recent loss of his mother. "This swim meet is helping me go through all of this," he said, crediting his team's support for getting him back in the water. The club is a place, he explains, where you can just come as you are. "We're here with open arms."

That same openness brought Carrie Smith back poolside after 25 years.. Smith, 50, swam through college and then stopped until a friend introduced her to SACMA two years ago. This spring she even flew to Greensboro, North Carolina for the short course nationals as the only SACMA swimmer in the field.

Her partner, however, doesn't swim, she said, laughing. "She tried it out for a little bit, but it didn't last long." She noted: "We have a lot of queer people on this team… but I don't think people look at sexuality here at all. You're a swimmer. You're part of the family."

SACMA's story, though, is only one thread of IGLA+'s presence at Nationals. A handful of dedicated queer clubs also sent swimmers to Sacramento this year: San Francisco's Tsunami Masters, West Hollywood Aquatics, Different Strokes San Diego, and the Long Beach Grunions among them. Unlike SACMA, these teams were built explicitly as queer spaces from the start, part of a lineage that traces back to the inaugural 1982 Gay Games in San Francisco. They then expanded rapidly under the IGLA+ framework as clubs sought official sanctioning and safe training environments during the HIV/AIDS-crisis era of widespread homophobia.

Pieter Derdeyn, 32, who swims for the queer-affiliated Tsunamis, offered a different angle on being part of a swim team. Growing up in St. Louis, he swam competitively and continued through his sophomore year at Pomona College. He used the sport partly to pass while he was still closeted.

"It was a way for me to fit in with a lot of the other guys who were swimming," he said.

Pieter didn't return to the sport seriously until he found West Hollywood Aquatics. He noted that being merely accepted on a team is different from being on one that centers and celebrates a queer identity. "It was a way for me to exercise myself as a gay person," he said, "and feel total belonging." He swam a personal best in the 100-freestyle this week for the Tsunamis, a second faster than his time at the Valencia Gay Games this summer.

Today, like all sports, swimming is grappling with gender-related eligibility rules. U.S. Masters Swimming's (USMS) current policy allows members to compete in their chosen gender category, but restricts official recognition of records, top honors and rankings to a swimmer's sex assigned at birth, a rule USMS has tied to compliance with new jurisdictional laws.

But in Natomas, the politics and the history were just the backdrop. The real story was on the deck: grandparents and twenty-somethings sharing a cool-down lane, a son cheering on his father, and a wide, well-loved family of dedicated athletes.

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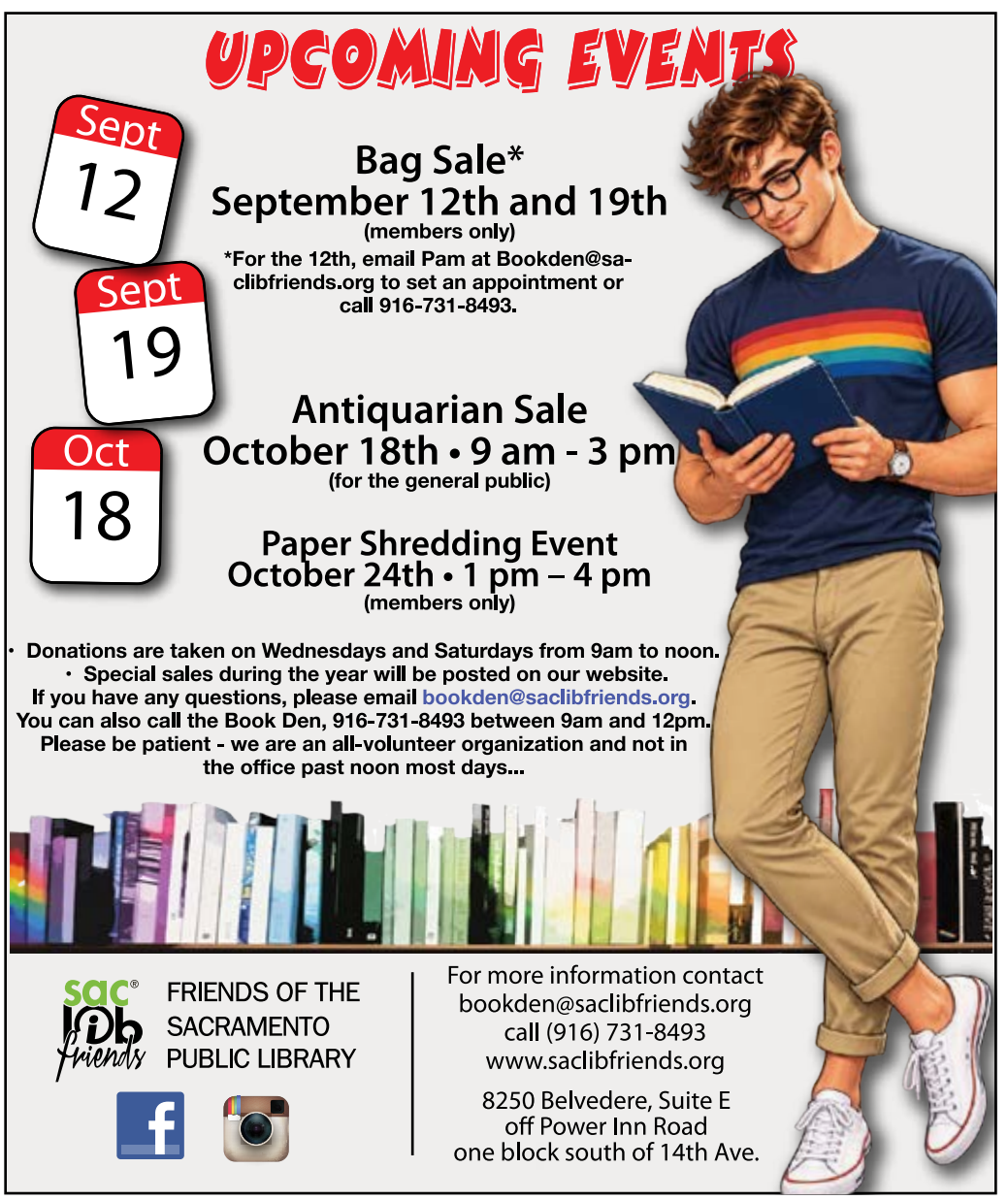

Mindy's Kitchen Hosts a Second Salad Soiree

Mindy's Kitchen of California (Mindy's Kitchen) is proud to host our 2nd annual salad soiree, in partnership with Naturals Night Out and Ever After Wine on Sunday, September 6th, 2026 from 12p-6pm. Mindy's Kitchen launched in January 2023, after the founder (Melissa Muganzo – pictured below) struggled to find food options that supported her 12+ year battle with uterine fibroids.

Melissa Muganzo, CEO, Siena LaPlume, CCIE, Ling Luc, CMO

Throughout the founder's uterine tumor healing journey, she noticed her body pains and symptoms lightened or worsened depending on her food consumption. She noticed that when she consumed dairy or poultry, her pains were more extensive than when she consumed plant-based foods or seafood(s). Upon searching for medical advice and remedies, she consulted with a naturopathic medical practitioner who diagnosed her with a dairy and synthetic sugar food allergy that she later realized exacerbated her symptoms. Her symptoms ranged anywhere from chronic migraines, back pains, and acne to heavy extended menstruation (Menorrhagia and Oligomenorrhea) that would last up to 6 months per cycle.

Finally, in 2012, after years of failed doctor's visits, trying various birth controls and requesting proactive surgeries, she decided to heed the naturopathic practitioner's advice and give a plant-based diet a try for 90 days. During her 90-day vegan cleanse, she noticed her symptoms reduced by 90% including her period cycles culminating at 3 days without cervical pain.

This experience led her to become plant-based full-time (2016) to which this shift led to her experiencing much wanted results. While her symptoms remained reduced by 90%, she noticed that in trying to find ways to eat and enjoy food, she realized how challenging it was to find plant-based and allergen-friendly foods while on-the-go. As a media producer and actress, she found that she would have to plan her food schedule like she planned her work schedule to ensure food options were available to her throughout the day.

This became challenging depending on work location, time of day, and price. While build-your-own options were becoming readily available via delivery apps or in sit down restaurants, there weren't any plant-based or allergen-friendly options available with strong shelf life inside standard grocery stores or high traffic event venues (arenas, universities, hospitals/clinics). She also came to realize that she wasn't alone in the struggle for food accessibility. Upon sharing her story with others, thousands of women, or as she would later recognize the term "womb-holders", began to share their own struggles about miscarriage, fibroids, uterine cancers, endometriosis and other uterine health diseases.

This led Melissa to take matters into her own hands and executive produce a documentary about her journey with uterine tumors and take it on tour nationally entitled "The Big Hysto: A Black Womb Revolution" 2022, currently available on YouTube, Roku TV+, and Apple TV+.

Once Melissa completed her tour, she announced the launch of Mindy's Kitchen of California and took the brand on a year long food tour to learn her customer base and gain community buy-in. In doing so, she won awards for her innovative menu and foundational company values rooted in environmental and food justice and equity and gained sponsorship with brands like the American Cancer Society.

As of today, Mindy's Kitchen is celebrating its 3rd year in business and strong community partnerships with California State University Sacramento College of Business, Alchemist Kitchen Incubator Program (AKIP), Naturals Night Out , Sistah Soul Brunch and Mixer, and the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. They are proud to collaborate with Ever After Wine, located in Elk Grove, California, to host their annual soiree that celebrates health, wellness, luxury, and community.

The upcoming event is free of change and open to all who love wine and fine dining. To learn more about Mindy's Kitchen of California, join their salad squad, and learn about their upcoming locations and events by visiting www.mindyskitchen.com. You can also follow them on Instagram at mindyskitchen_CA or LinkedIn at Mindy's Kitchen of California.

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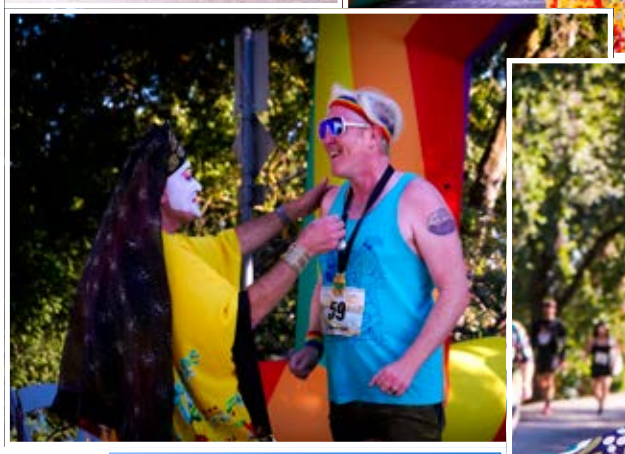
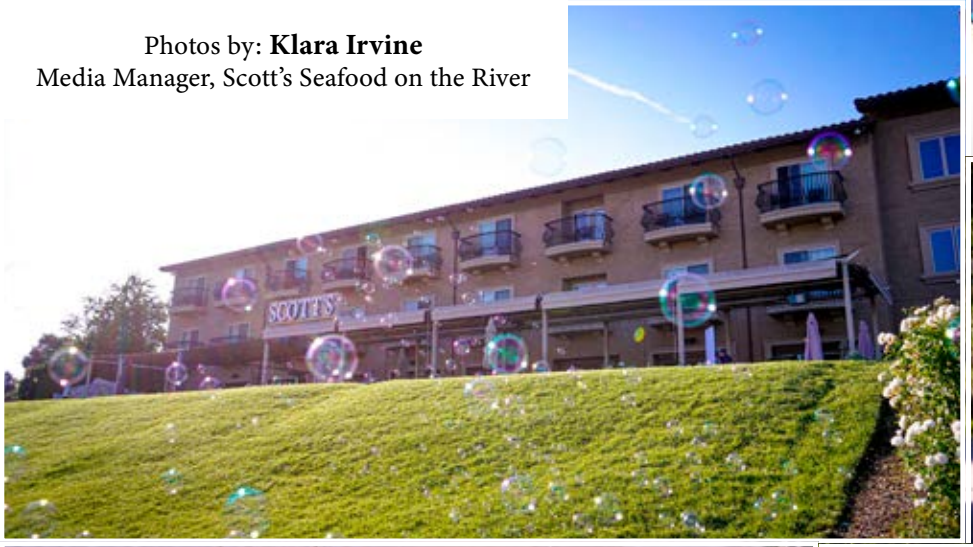
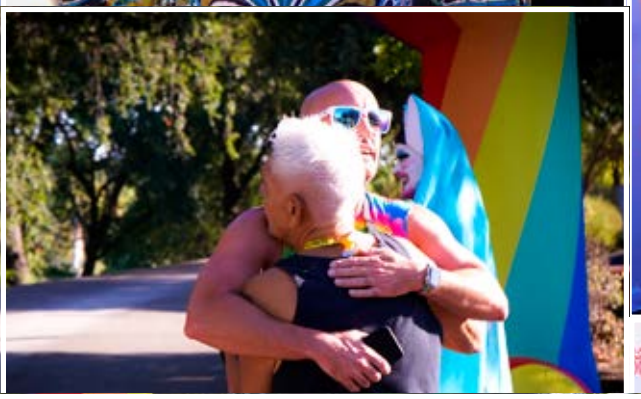


Photos by: **Klara Irvine**
Media Manager, Scott's Seafood on the River





Out & About

What happens when you mix a 5K, fabulous costumes, brunch and a whole lot of community? Dashin' Down the Delta! The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber hosted a fun run that took over the Sacramento Riverfront with runners, walkers and plenty of personality.

Whether you ran it, walked it or strutted your way to the finish line, the morning was packed with laughs, great energy and even better company. A huge thank you to *Scott's Seafood on the River*, our sponsors, volunteers and everyone who made year one such a blast. We're already counting down to next year!

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Dashin' Down the Delta
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Rainbow Festival Turns Back the Beat with Retro Rainbow

Sacramento's Rainbow Festival is turning back the clock this Labor Day weekend – and apparently somebody found the good mixtapes.

The lovely ladies of Klymaxx. Photo courtesy of klymaxx.com

Retro Rainbow takes over Lavender Heights on Sunday, September 6, bringing a decidedly '80s-flavored party to 20th and K streets. And if names like Klymaxx and the Mary Jane Girls immediately transport you to a dance floor, a cassette boom box or perhaps an unfortunate encounter with shoulder pads, this year's festival's got your number.

Klymaxx, the groundbreaking all-female band behind "Meeting in the Ladies Room," "The Men All Pause" and the slow-dance staple "I Miss You," is among this year's headliners. Also taking the stage will be the Original Mary Jane Girls featuring Maxi & Cheri, bringing along memories of Rick James-fueled hits including "In My House" and "All Night Long."

And then there's our cover star, Kevin Aviance.

The legendary DJ, performer and nightlife icon brings a very different chapter of dance-floor history to Retro Rainbow. A fixture of New York's queer club scene, Aviance became known for his music, striking performances and gloriously unapologetic presence. His appearance in Sacramento seems particularly appropriate for a festival that has always understood there is something powerful about LGBTQ+ people simply gathering together and having a damn good time. Watch for him on the main stage throughout the event.

Kandia Orchestra and additional performers round out a day that also includes food, drinks, vendors and plenty of opportunities to wander around and run into everyone you know, and those you would like to get to know better...

Another reason the "retro" theme works well this year - Sacramento Rainbow Festival has some history of its own.

The Labor Day weekend tradition stretches back more than four decades. Growing from its roots in Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community into one of the city's longest-running queer celebrations. Along the way, the nonprofit festival has also given back, distributing more than $1 million to charitable organizations over the years.

That history makes Retro Rainbow more than an excuse to revisit some very good music and perhaps some very questionable fashion choices (picture "Miami Vice" and Dynasty"). Literally, generations of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community have gathered, danced, flirted, celebrated - and occasionally misbehaved, in front of these street corners, feeling safe and joyous to do so. This year, we do it again.

So come for "Meeting in the Ladies Room." Stay for "In My House." Dance with Kevin Aviance. And somewhere in between, raise a glass to more than four decades of Sacramento LGBTQ+ folks bustin' a move of their own. And dont' slap me, cause I'm not in the mood.

Sacramento Rainbow Festival: Retro Rainbow
Sunday, September 6, 2026
Lavender Heights – 20th & K Streets
sacrainbowfest.org

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RETRO RAINBOW

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6TH

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20TH AND K STREETS, SACRAMENTO
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TICKETS AND INFO: WWW.SACRAINBOWFEST.ORG

Buster Keaton's "The General" To Screen

Fans of classic films – and especially fans of silent movies – will not want to miss Buster Keaton's undisputed classic from 1926, "The General," which screens this September 19 in Orinda, courtesy of the SF Silent Film Festival.

The Orinda Theatre will celebrate the centennial of "The General" with musical accompaniment by Timothy Brock, conducting his original score which will be performed by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Orchestra.

Keaton's film consistently makes film lovers' Best Of lists, including Sight & Sound's 100 Greatest Films of All Time. Roger Ebert called "The General" Keaton's masterpiece – and this from a critic who revered all of Keaton's work.

In an age when special effects were in their infancy, and a stunt required actually doing on the screen what you appeared to be doing, Keaton was fearlessly athletic. He had a house collapse around him, he swung over a waterfall to rescue a woman he loved, and he fell from trains – and always in character with a solemn expression that earned him the nickname "Stone Face."

General admission for this rare screening of "The General" with live musical accompaniment is $30, and tickets can be purchased at https://silentfilm.org/event/buster-keatons-the-general

Has Sam Smith Gone Country?

by Chris Narloch

Sam Smith just released his fifth studio album, "Hazel Eyes," and it's a lovely love letter to his new home in New York City, as well as a terrific tribute to queer joy and passion.

In his latest video, for the song "Constant Companion," Sam is feeling his oats and making out with a handsome, dark-haired man in the Spanish desert. He also sports some impressive facial hair.

The song is very romantic, and the video is steamy, with a country vibe that finds Mr. Smith opining on a hunky lover's charms while dressed in thigh-high black boots and a sexy, white get-up.

The singer appears to be channeling the queer outlaw country style of Orville Peck in the video, but the pared-down production and hushed vocals on the track are nearly acoustic, and the dozen songs on the record are in various pop styles.

Mr. Smith is obviously very much in love, and he is newly engaged to fashion designer Christian Cowan who, not surprisingly, has hazel eyes.

In the bio for the new album, Sam expresses his opinion that "In the world we're living in right now, singing about queer love with complete honesty and directness feels very important."

The singer's millions of fans can join me in saying "Amen to that!"

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Time: 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Venue: Memorial Auditorium
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Goodbye Dolly Parton.
You were completely and unconditionally loved and the missing-you will be something we all will feel deeply. Your kindness, understanding and generosity were unmatched over the years, and you always were a beacon of hope for others to follow. Thank you for everything you have done for our community, but more importantly for the whole world. We will always love you.

Image from Shutterstock.com

Scorsese & Miller Back On The Big Screen

by Chris Narloch

Filmgoers have flocked to theaters this summer to see a slate of successful blockbusters ("The Odyssey" and "Spider-Man"), indie horror hits ("Obsession" and "Backrooms") and animated movies ("Toy Story 5" and "Minions & Monsters") that, collectively, have resuscitated the domestic box office, which is great news for those of us who cherish the big screen experience.

There is also another promising trend at the movies, and that is audiences showing up for classic films brought back to the big screen for film fans who remember them fondly or have never seen them at all.

Our local Tower and Crest cinemas have been presenting older titles for a while now, and they will screen a couple movies this September by two of the finest directors in film history.

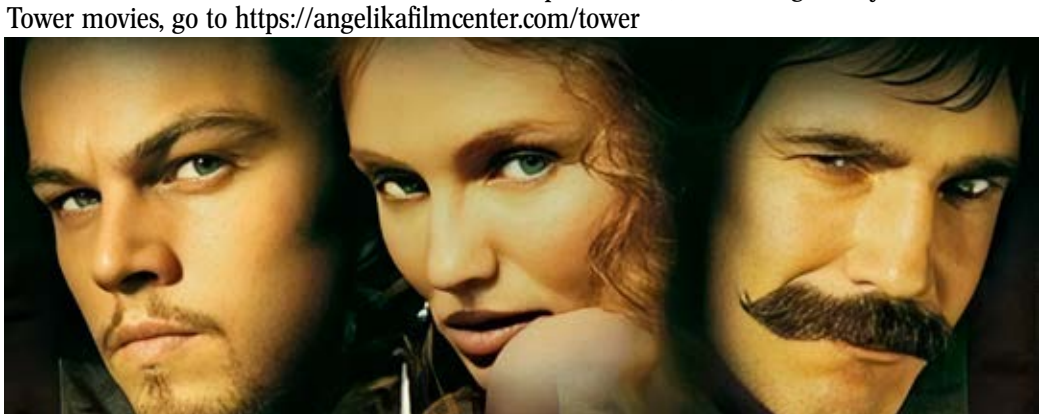
Mad Max: Fury Road

It has been widely reported that this movie's grueling shoot in the Namib Desert was a nightmare, especially for costars Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron, who did not get along. None of that matters now, however, because the finished film is one of the finest American action flicks ever made. (Many critics put "Fury Road" at the top of that list, and I would tend to agree.)

Action movie "magician" George Miller employed mostly practical effects in "Fury Road," and that realism only increases the tension in an apocalyptic thriller about a lone drifter named Max (Hardy) who teams up with a rebel warrior named Furiosa (Theron) to deliver the captive "wives" of a tyrannical cult leader to safety.

A brutal, ball-busting action flick with a feminist core is a beautiful (and very rare) thing to behold, but director Miller somehow managed to top his own previous Mad Max classics, "Mad Max" and "The Road Warrior." (His third film with Mel Gibson, "Beyond Thunderdome," was not as artistically successful.)

The visceral, kinetic thrills of "Fury Road" were made for the big screen, and the movie is scheduled at Sacramento's Tower Theatre this September 14, for one night only. For more Tower movies, go to https://angelikafilmcenter.com/tower



Gangs of New York

While not my favorite Martin Scorcese film, "Gangs of New York" is well worth seeing just for its killer cast, which includes Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio, Liam Neeson, John C. Reilly, Brendan Gleeson, Jim Broadbent, and Henry Thomas.

The movie follows DiCaprio's character, a young Irish immigrant recently released from prison, who returns to the Five Points neighborhood seeking revenge against his father's killer (played by Day-Lewis).

"Gang of New York" is a classy, violent, epic period piece with a towering performance by Day-Lewis and superb production design that recreated over a mile of mid-nineteenth century New York, at the large Cinecitta Studio in Rome.

"Gangs of New York" will screen the evening of September 11, 2026, at Sacramento's Crest Theater. For more Crest titles, please visit *https://cresttheater.com/*

Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Happy anniversary to Outword! For decades, Outword has proudly served as a spotlight for Sacramento's vibrant LGBTQ community, celebrating the people, organizations, artists, businesses and events that make our region shine. It's an honor to continue that tradition with another edition of Out & About. This month brings plenty of reasons to gather, laugh and celebrate—and we need it! So grab your calendar, your friends and enjoy the last bit of this year's summer months.

Aug. 27

Kick back with cold drinks and live music at An Evening With Kelly Rogers and Gwen McMillin on Thursday, Aug. 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. at SacYard Community Tap House, 1725 33rd St. Enjoy an easygoing summer evening with local music, delicious food and plenty of refreshing beverages. Admission is free, and the outdoor venue welcomes all ages, families and four-legged friends.

Aug. 29

Discover a weekend of magic, mindfulness and community at the Sacramento Goddess Festival on Aug. 29-30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H St. Explore workshops, readings, live entertainment, artisans and holistic vendors in a welcoming celebration of spirituality and empowerment. SacramentoGoddessFestival.com

Lend a hand to neighbors in need on Sunday, Aug. 30 from noon to 2 p.m. when Gratitude In Motion distributes food and clothing to unhoused people throughout Sacramento. Volunteers will meet at McDonald's, 200 Richards Blvd., before traveling to nearby encampments. Donations of food, water and clothing—especially men's and winter clothing—are welcome. Come help provide necessities, kindness and connection to some of Sacramento's most vulnerable residents. Gratitudeinmotion.com

Aug. 30

Get ready for a generational showdown when "OK, Boomer!" A Night of Comedy for Every Generation hits Punch Line Sacramento, 2100 Arden Way, Suite 225, on Sunday, Aug. 30 at 6:30 p.m. From Baby Boomers to Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z, no generation is safe when comedians take aim at the habits, quirks and cultural differences that keep us laughing—and arguing. PunchLineSac.com

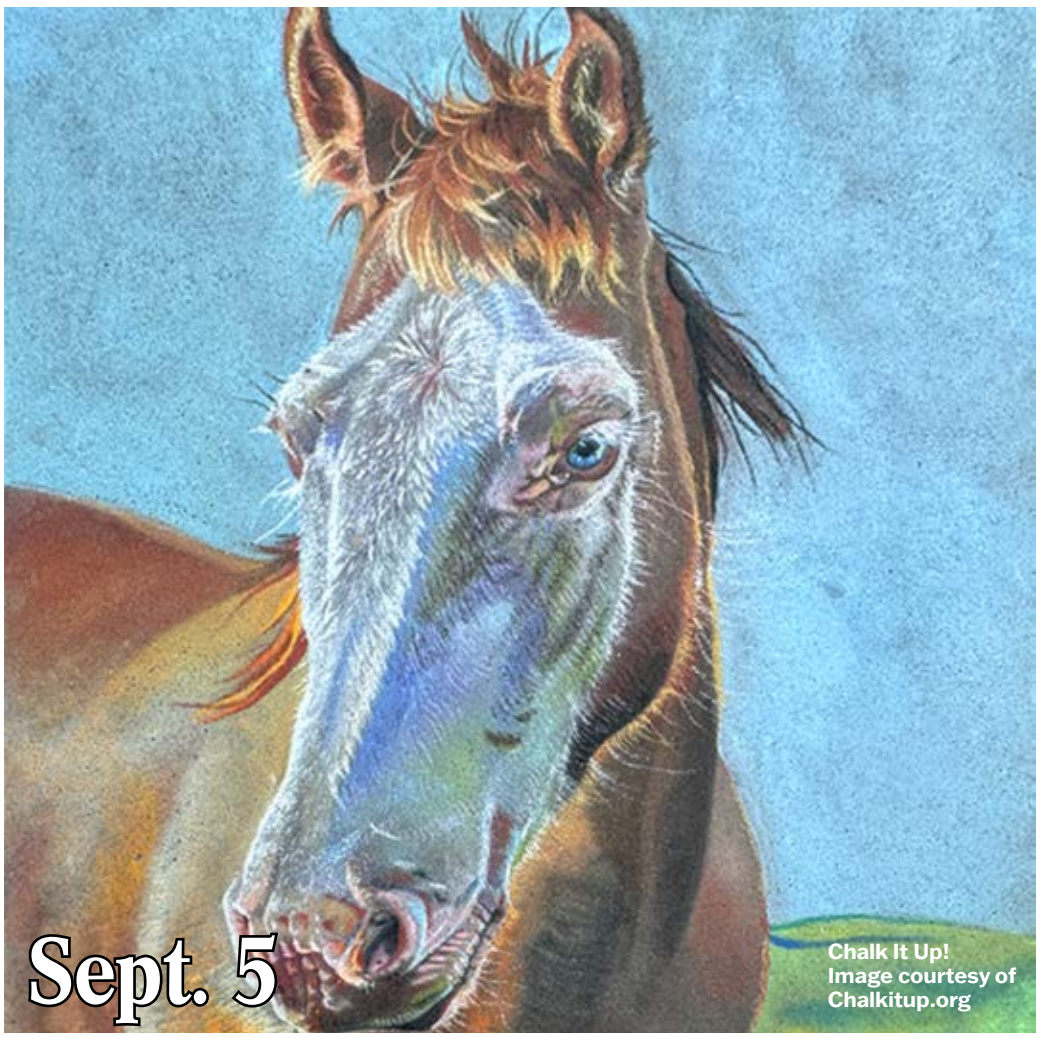
Sept. 4

Turn up the rhythm this Labor Day weekend at the Hot Jazz Jubilee, Sept. 4-7 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way. The four-day festival brings musicians from across the country together for New Orleans jazz, swing, zydeco, Western swing, blues, rock 'n' roll and R&B—all under one roof. Come ready to listen, dance and celebrate America's musical traditions. HotJazzJubilee.com

Celebrate anime, fandom and all things pop culture when SacAnime takes over the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, 1400 J St., Sept. 4-6. Sacramento's longtime fan convention packs the weekend with celebrity guests, live programming, contests, concerts, art, vendors and plenty of opportunities to show off your cosplay. SacAnime.com

Jen Taylor, Appearing At SacAnime - Sept. 4

Sept. 5



Chalk It Up! Image courtesy of Chalkitup.org

The 36th annual Chalk It Up! Chalk Art & Music Festival returns to Fremont Park, 1515 Q St., Saturday, Sept. 5, through Monday, Sept. 7, over Labor Day weekend. This free, three-day celebration showcases local artists of all ages while supporting arts education and equitable access through Chalk It Up To Sacramento programs. Chalkitup.org

Sept. 6

Sing along to the music of the Piano Man when Billy Nation: A Tribute to Billy Joel comes to Roseville Music in the Park on Sunday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. at Royer Park, 130 Park Drive. The acclaimed tribute recreates the energy, music and storytelling of Billy Joel in his prime. Bring chairs and blankets and enjoy this free, family-friendly concert under the stars. Rosevillemusicinthepark.com

Sept. 9

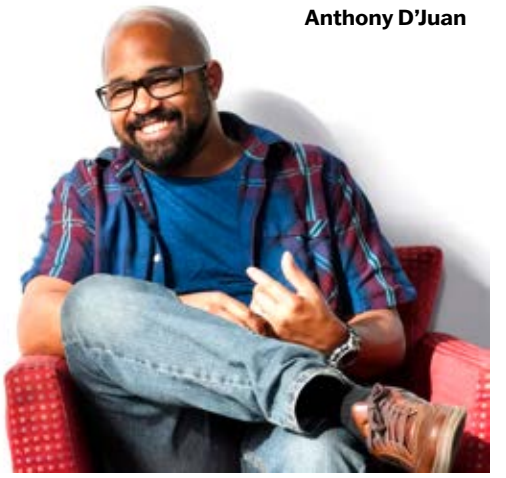
Catch genre-bending singer, songwriter and actor Dominic Fike when he brings his Comedy Tragedy Parody tour to Channel 24, 1800 24th St., on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 8 p.m. Known for effortlessly mixing alternative rock, pop, hip-hop and indie sounds, Fike brings his distinctive style and infectious energy to Sacramento for a night showcasing one of contemporary music's most unpredictable performers. Channel24Sac.com

Ongoing

You can't stop the beat when Hairspray bursts onto the stage at the UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. thru August 30. The Tony Award-winning musical follows irrepressible Tracy Turnblad as she dances her way onto television and fights for integration in 1960s Baltimore. BroadwaySacramento.com

Upcoming

Anthony D'Juan



Experience an intimate story of family, identity and generational bonds when Us & the Rest of 'Em runs Sept. 11-27 at Celebration Arts, 2727 B St. Written and directed by Anthony D'Juan, the play follows a close-knit family through several pivotal days, seen partly through the eyes of a perceptive 12-year-old navigating the complicated space between childhood and adulthood. CelebrationArts.net

Do you have your tickets yet? Laugh along with comedy icon Kathy Griffin when her New Face, New Tour arrives at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. The two-time Emmy and Grammy Award winner is known for her fearless storytelling, razor-sharp wit and unapologetic takes on pop culture, politics and celebrity life. Expect an evening of bold, uncensored comedy from one of stand-up's most recognizable voices. CrestTheater.com

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

Around the World in 130 Minutes

by Chris Narloch

A tight and talented comic ensemble is currently cracking up audiences at Sacramento's B Street Theatre, so much so that the play ("Around the World in 80 Days") has already been extended for another week of performances.

The cast of "Around the World in 80 Days"

This is a return engagement of a hit B Street show that even traveled to India in 2014, and because much of the play's appeal involves physical comedy, sight gags, and innumerable costume changes, I can imagine it being a hit almost anywhere, in any language.

The six-person cast must have rehearsed the play like crazy, as it utilizes a large turntable in the center of the stage that requires absolute precision from the cast and crew, who never missed a beat (as far as I could tell).

The classic story by Jules Verne has been adapted by playwright Mark Brown, and it works remarkably well on stage, as Verne's hero, Phileas Fogg, races against time – by train, boat, elephant, and more – to win an outrageous bet.

To say that B Street's production is fast-paced is an understatement, and the cast is first-rate: Tara Sissom was born to clown around as Fogg's devoted French valet; Meher Mistry gives a heartfelt performance as Fogg's potential love interest; Arusi Santi and Greg Alexander have a field day with their costume changes, playing more characters than you can shake a stick at; and handsome Hunter Hoffman anchors the show as the stoic and heroic main character, who does get to briefly bust out with a bit of "New York, New York" at one point.

Credit stage manager Colleen Lacy and director Lyndsay Burch for keeping this terrific play spinning like a top, and mention must also be made of John Lamb, who has his hands full providing perfectly timed Foley sound effects all throughout the show.

"Around the World in 80 Days" will perform at The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre, through September 13, 2026. For more information, and to purchase tickets, please visit: *bstreettheatre.org*

Advance Tickets Going Fast for Annual Historic Home Tour

words by Traci Rockerfeller Cusack

With Preservation Sacramento's 50th Annual Historic Home Tour just weeks away – on Sunday, September 20, 2026 – advance tickets are going fast but are still available. The tour's mission is to highlight historically significant architecture of some of Sacramento's most noteworthy historic homes and buildings.

"The Innocent House."
Photo courtesy of Preservation Sacramento

The 2026 Historic Home Tour will showcase six historic properties associated with the Old & New Washington School Historic Districts. Located in the heart of Sacramento's central city and bounded by C, H, 12th, and 19th Streets, this neighborhood is one of Sacramento's oldest residential neighborhoods. The 2026 tour will highlight the neighborhood's longtime and celebrated history with the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), an internationally recognized collective of artists and activists that originated in Sacramento in the late 1960s. Easily walkable and bikeable, the tour is focused in a compact area between D, G, 14th, and 19th Streets.

Advance tickets to Preservation Sacramento's 50th Annual Historic Home Tour are available via this *link;* for more information about the tour, please *visitpreservationsacramento.org/hometour*.

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Keep a sharp eye out — and keep that camera or phone close by. Outword's annual Pet Photo Contest will be here before you know it!

Remember, we're not just looking for a cute pet… we're looking for a great photograph. Think pose, lighting, clarity and composition. Sometimes the perfect shot happens in a split second — a goofy grin, a dramatic stretch, or that one look straight into the camera when you least expect it.

So start snapping now. Your furry, feathered or scaled superstar may already be ready for their close-up.

Ernie on the Patio
July, 2015
Taken with iPhone 6

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www.outwordmagazine.com

Centerfold

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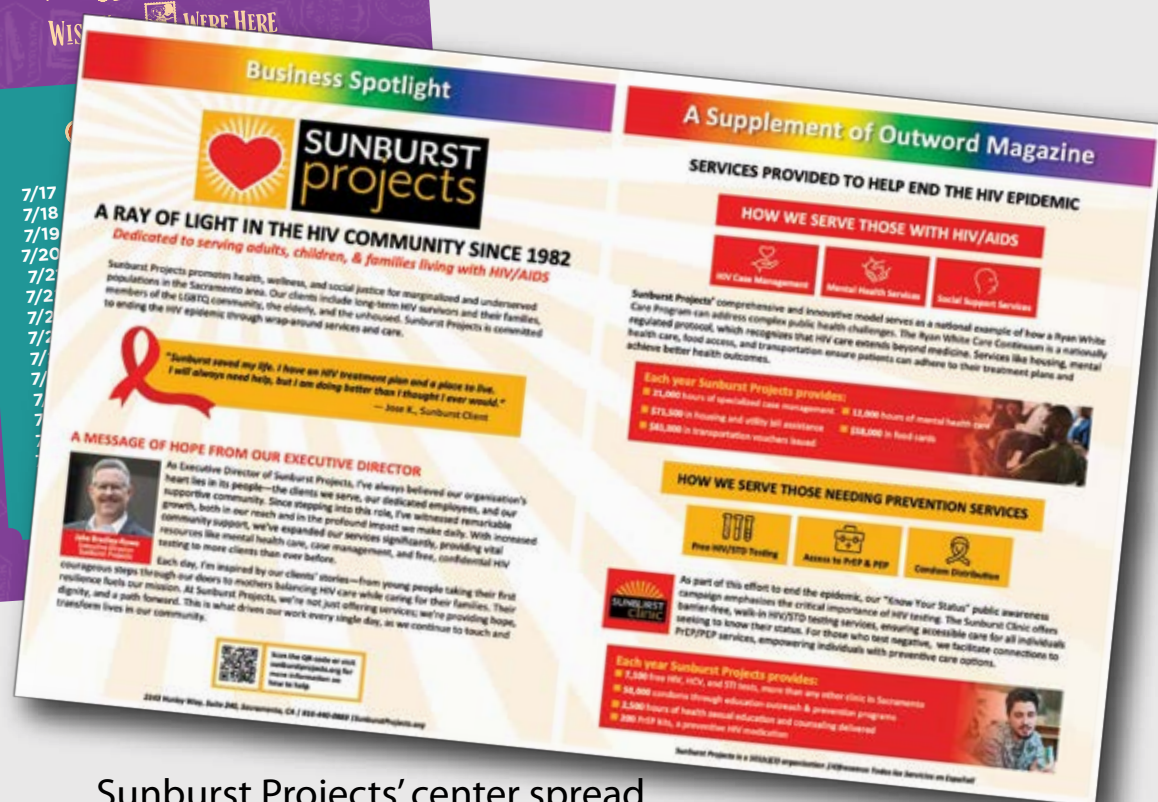
Centerfold

CA State Fair's two-page spread



Sunburst Projects' center spread

Ernie already has that covered.
We're talking about a gorgeous two-page spread in an upcoming issue of Outword, the perfect place to showcase your business, introduce your staff, share your story, or promote whatever deserves the spotlight.
It's bold, memorable, and surprisingly affordable.
Go ahead... make a splash. Keep your clothes on.

Call Fred today for pricing and to schedule your own centerfold.
Also, if you need design help, we can lend a hand with that too!

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Hello Summer!
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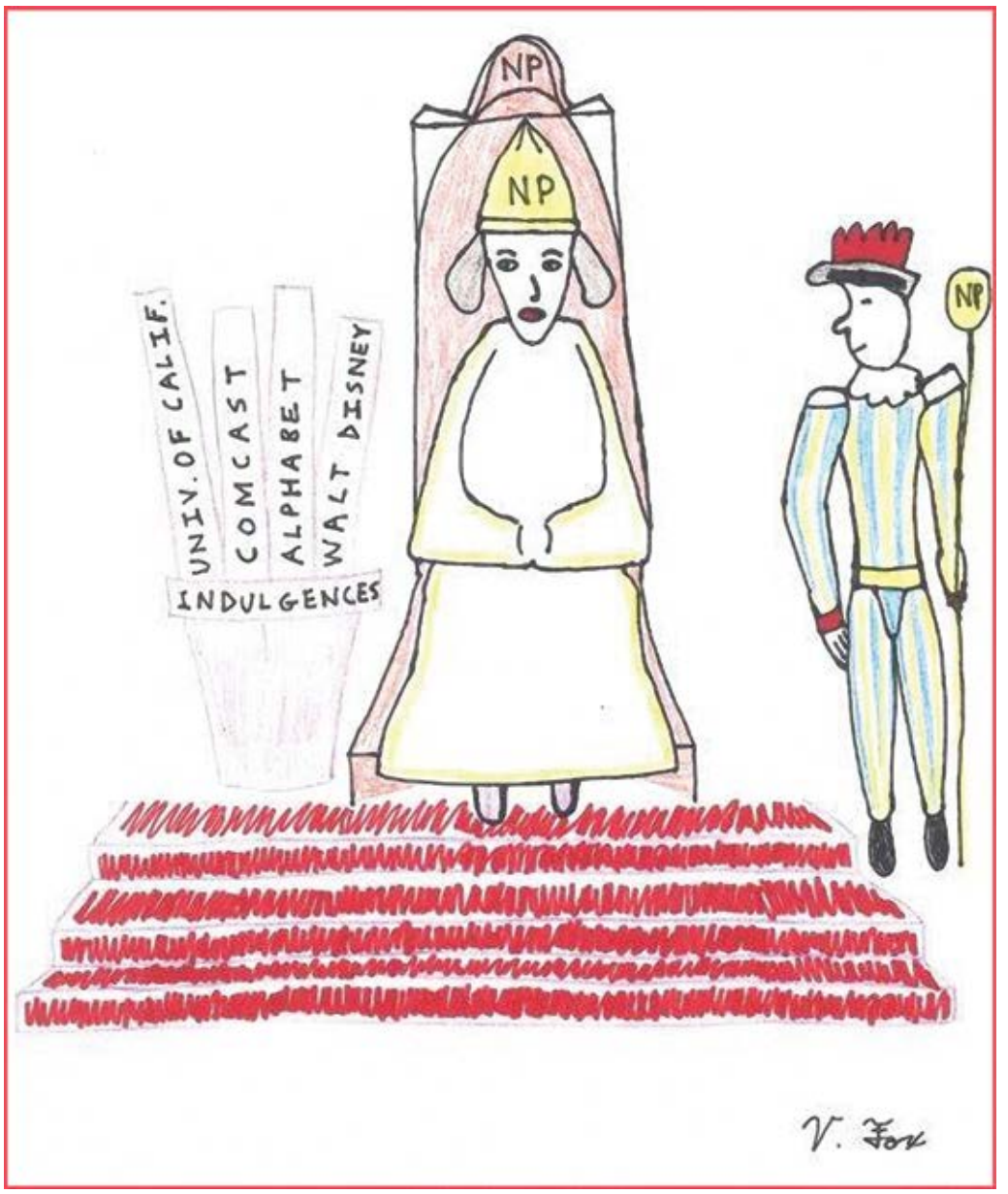

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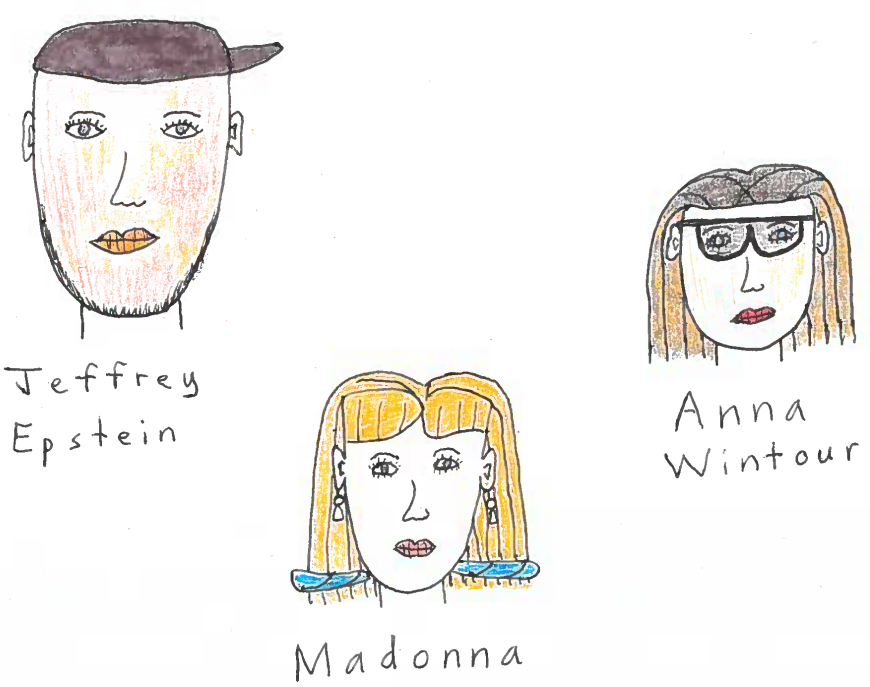

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The Word is out.

Activating Taste Buds

by Jules the Mixologist

The Vodka Press: Easy, Breezy & Bubbly

Sometimes the best cocktail is the one that doesn't require a chemistry degree, six obscure ingredients and a sprig of something you'll never use again. Enter the Vodka Press—crisp, fizzy and just boozy enough to remind you that happy hour has officially begun.

The "press" traditionally combines equal parts club soda and lemon-lime soda, giving you bubbles and sweetness without turning the drink into liquid candy. Add vodka, plenty of ice and a squeeze of citrus, and you've got a cocktail made for warm afternoons, patio lounging or pretending you're going to have just the one.

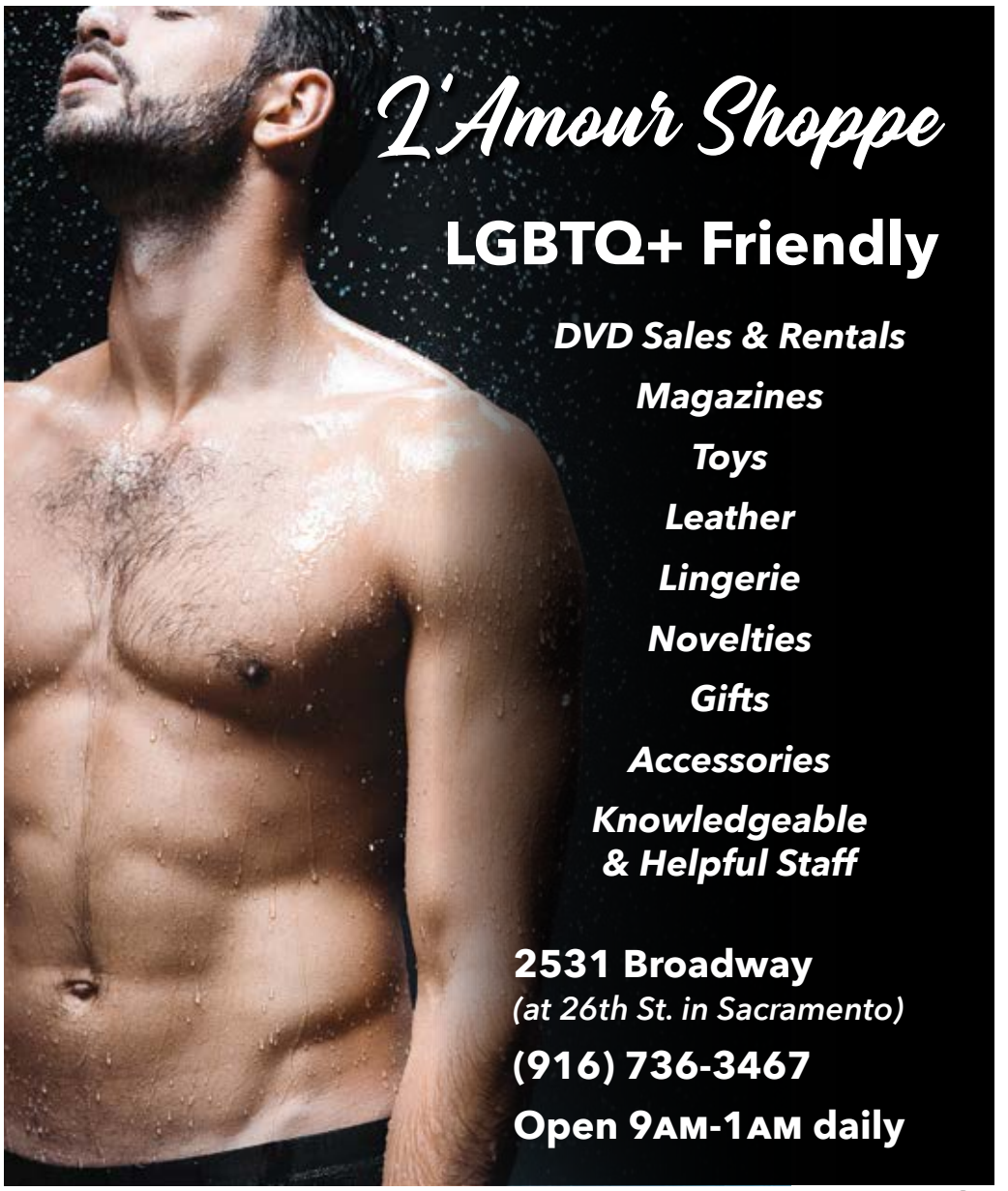
The Vodka Press

- Full glass of ice
- 2 oz. vodka
- 2 oz. club soda
- 2 oz. lemon-lime soda
- Fresh lime or lemon wedge
- No Straw - Save the Sea Turtles

Fill a tall glass with ice and add the vodka. Top with equal parts club soda and lemon-lime soda, then give it a gentle stir. Squeeze in a wedge of lime or lemon and drop it in.

Want it a little less sweet? Go heavier on the club soda. Want it a little more festive? Add a splash of cranberry or muddle in a few fresh berries (oh, not now, forget that...!). Want it a bit stronger, double the Vodka ratio…

Simple, refreshing and impossible to screw up. We'll drink to that.



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For 30 years, Outword Magazine—Sacramento's longest-running LGBTQ+ publication—has been a trusted voice, celebrating our community and helping keep readers informed and connected.

Today, that role matters more than ever. LGBTQ+ media is essential, especially as our community continues to face hostility and erasure in very real ways. That's why we've launched a subscription and reader-supported donor program, designed to help ensure Outword remains a reliable source of information, visibility, and community connection.

We invite you to consider making a contribution in whatever amount feels right for you through our relaunched Outword Rainbow Fund. Every gift helps. With a simple and secure process, your support directly sustains the work we do and the voices we amplify.

We're proud of the role Outword has played in Sacramento for three decades, and we're committed to being here for many more. Together, we can make sure our stories continue to be told and our voices continue to be heard.

Thank you,
The Outword Team

For more information please email us or give us a call:
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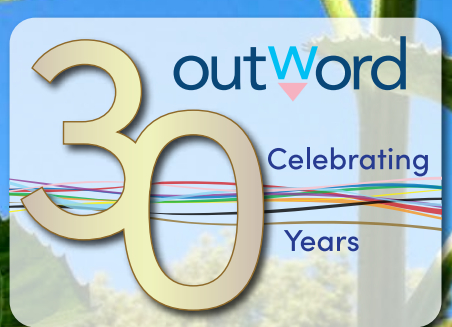

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