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Special Issue!

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Arts and ENTERTAINMENT



Orville Peck is Stubborn as a "Mule" page 20

A Life in Sequins and Fabulousness page 3

Lavender Heights Gets Added Security page 4

Palm Springs Pride Is Celebrating Its Big 4-0 With Some Big Names page 9

Stockton Marks 15 Years of Pride page 13

Queer Concerts coming to NorCal page14

Gallo Center welcomes Lily Tomlin page 17

Do not miss "Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!" page 22

"Heated Rivalry" refuses to cool off page 20

Taylor Mac & Matt Ray make beautiful queer music together page 24

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Bob Mackie: A Life in Sequins and Fabulousness

Fashion and costume design legend Bob Mackie, the man who helped define glamour for generations of performers, died Sept. 14 at the age of 87.

For more than five decades, Mackie understood something few designers did quite as well: sometimes the clothes aren't supposed to whisper. They're supposed to make an entrance.

His extraordinary career included unforgettable creations for Cher, Carol Burnett, Diana Ross, Tina Turner, Liza Minnelli, Elton John, Dolly Parton and countless others. His decades-long collaboration with Cher produced some of entertainment's most recognizable looks, while his work on "The Carol Burnett Show" proved costume design could be every bit as important to comedy as the punchline.

Mackie earned nine Emmy Awards, three Academy Award nominations and a Tony Award for his costumes for Broadway's "The Cher Show."

But awards only tell part of the story. Mackie gave performers permission to be bigger, brighter and more fabulous. Sequins, feathers, beads and rhinestones became his vocabulary.

Bob Mackie didn't simply dress stars. He helped them become icons.

And somewhere, we'd like to think, there's a spotlight shining a little brighter – with considerably more sequins. R.I.P.



Shutterstock: Kathy Hutchins

California Is Working "9 to 5" for Dolly



Shutterstock: Kathy Hutchins

California has found a fitting way to remember Dolly Parton: September 25 – or 9-2-5 – is now officially Dolly Parton Day.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 931, authored by Senators Shannon Grove and John Laird, establishing the annual observance in honor of the legendary singer, songwriter, actress and philanthropist. The date, of course, is a nod to Parton's classic hit "9 to 5."

Parton, who died in August, sold more than 100 million records during her remarkable six-decade career, but California's tribute also recognizes a legacy that reached far beyond music. Her Imagination Library has distributed more than 300 million books to children around the world, including thousands of young readers in California.

Parton was also a longtime friend and ally of the LGBTQ+ community, lending both her voice and financial support to LGBTQ+ causes and the fight against HIV/AIDS. She also helped fund research that contributed to the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

So, come September 25, Californians have official permission to add a little extra sparkle to the workday.

After all, nobody did 9 to 5 quite like Dolly.

The List



- Dry Diggings Distillery
- Raphael Delgado
- Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin Festival
- Lavender Heights Community Patrol
- Nashville Airport/Dolly Parton
- The 7th Street Standard Festival
- Camellia Coffee Roasters
- Yolo Press
- Luminescence Sacramento
- Aftershock Festival
- Ferrari Fisheries
- Sinister Book Fair
- Rancho Cordova Barktoberfest
- Sutter Street Theatre





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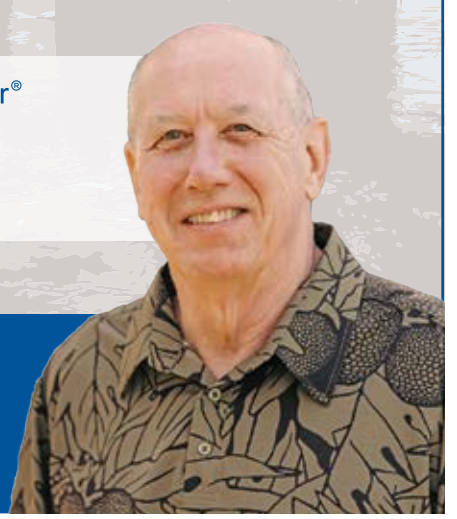
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Lavender Heights Gets Added Security Following Recent Attacks

words and images by Fred Palmer

Following a series of recent incidents that have raised concerns about safety in Lavender Heights, Sacramento Mayor Kevin McCarty joined LGBTQ+ business and community leaders the morning of September 21, to discuss increased security in the historic neighborhood.





McCarty spoke outside Faces Nightclub alongside HQ Security CEO Aaron Zeff; Faces owner Terry Sidie; and TJ Bruce, owner of Badlands, The Depot and Roscoe's Bar & Burgers.

The most immediate new security measure comes from HQ Security, which announced it will donate services to the neighborhood for a period of time at no additional cost. Zeff said the effort will include security personnel, patrol vehicles and CCTV cameras, with HQ working alongside local businesses, Sacramento Police and LGBTQ+ nightclubs in the area.

Sidie said Faces has 17 security guards, and believes Depot and Badlands provides between 10 and 12.

The additional security follows several recent assaults in and around Lavender Heights that have heightened concerns among business owners, patrons and residents. Community members have also responded by organizing volunteer patrols in the neighborhood.

Asked about those community-based patrols, McCarty said, "I like the idea."

McCarty said Sacramento's neighborhoods are safe but could be safer, while acknowledging the presence of hate crimes and emphasizing the need for the community to speak out against them.

The increased private patrols are not being presented as a permanent solution. Rather, they are intended to provide an additional layer of visibility and response during a period of heightened concern, particularly given worries that highly publicized incidents could lead to copycat crimes.

Lavender Heights, centered around 20th and K streets, has long been the heart of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ nightlife and community. For businesses and city leaders, the immediate goal is a straightforward one: making sure people continue to feel comfortable coming to the neighborhood while additional security is in place.



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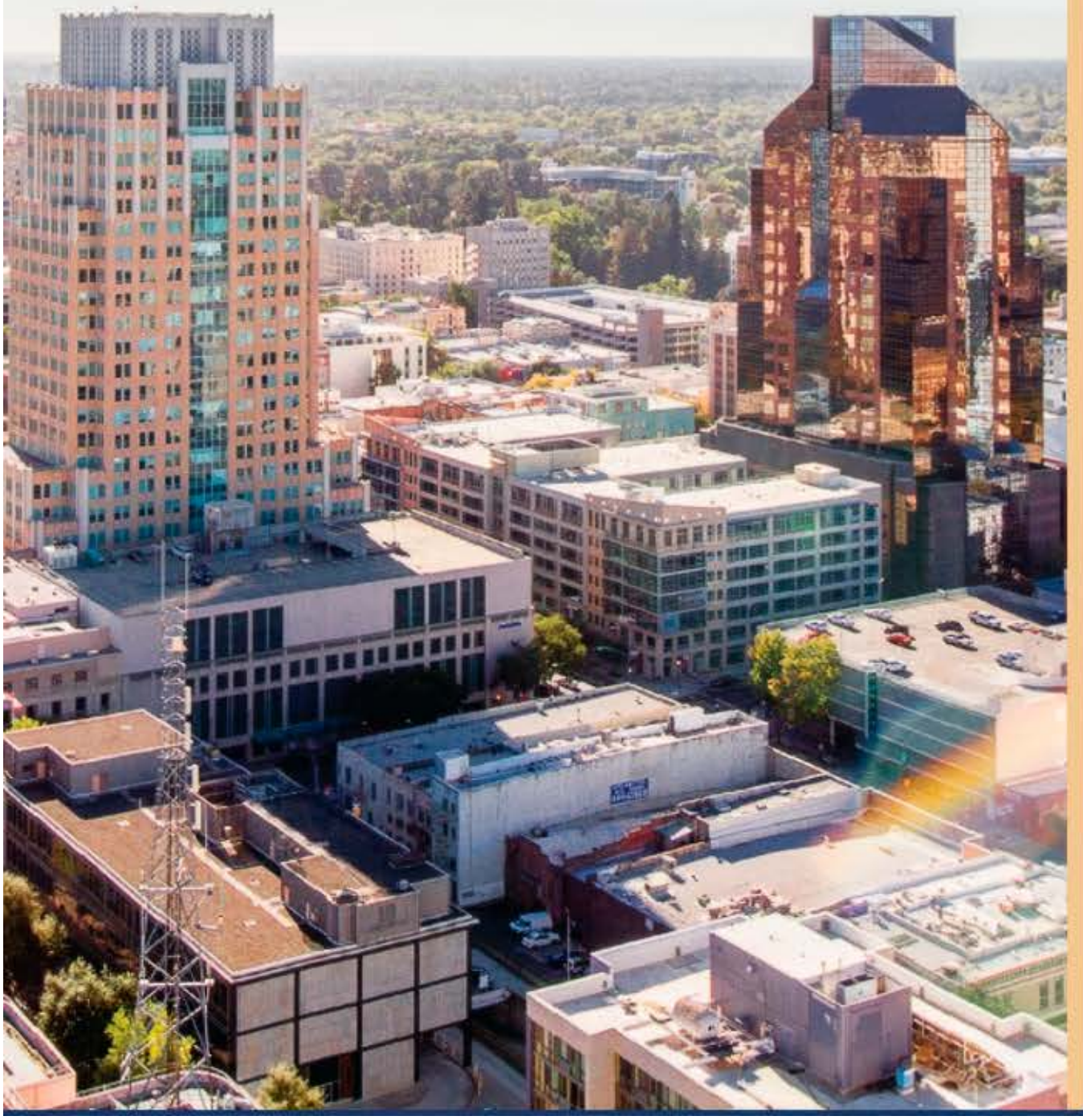
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Capital City AIDS Fund Steps-Up Innovation for HIV+ Scholarships

by Guy Farris

From behind bars, to a college classroom. As in all past years since 2002, Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF), now called Project Positive, is again reaching out beyond the borders of what's expected in society to help people struggling with past life choices. This story reflects the hard-work of a woman living with HIV, who is now regaining her self-worth, with support from CCAF.



It's about Natalie Michalik, one of the hundreds of students receiving scholarship awards from the Helen Veress Mitchell Scholarship Fund. Natalie received her first scholarship in 2024 while living in a re-entry facility within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She was unemployed, separated from her children, and trying to rebuild her life.

Project Positive seeks to serve all young people living with HIV, looking to improve their lives. To date, CCAF has raised and distributed nearly half-a-million dollars for scholarships alone.

After receiving her most recent 2026 scholarship check, Natalie reports that her life has changed remarkably. With support from CCAF, she earned a bachelor's degree, moved into a home and got her kids back to raise.

Another one of CCAF's many success stories, Natalie is now studying for her MA Degree while also working for a nonprofit. She's even considering pursuing a PhD program. As she moves forward with her education, CCAF will continue supporting her.

"I was starting over from the beginning for the first time in my life, "Natalie recalls. "CCAF supported me through all of it." Natalie was diagnosed with HIV in 2018 while giving birth to her twins. It was a big wakeup call.

Today, she's shed her prison duds for work and school attire. She's passionate about moving forward as a mother, student, and employee. She said that the combination of education, understanding, and opportunity has been life changing.

All the while, Natalie credits CCAF for consistently looking beyond her past to give her a better future. And that is the organization's vision - investing in people living with HIV. It's a win-win. The positive re-enforcement bolsters students to succeed. GPAs get higher, degrees are acquired, and lives enriched. Individuals benefit – but, obviously, so do communities.

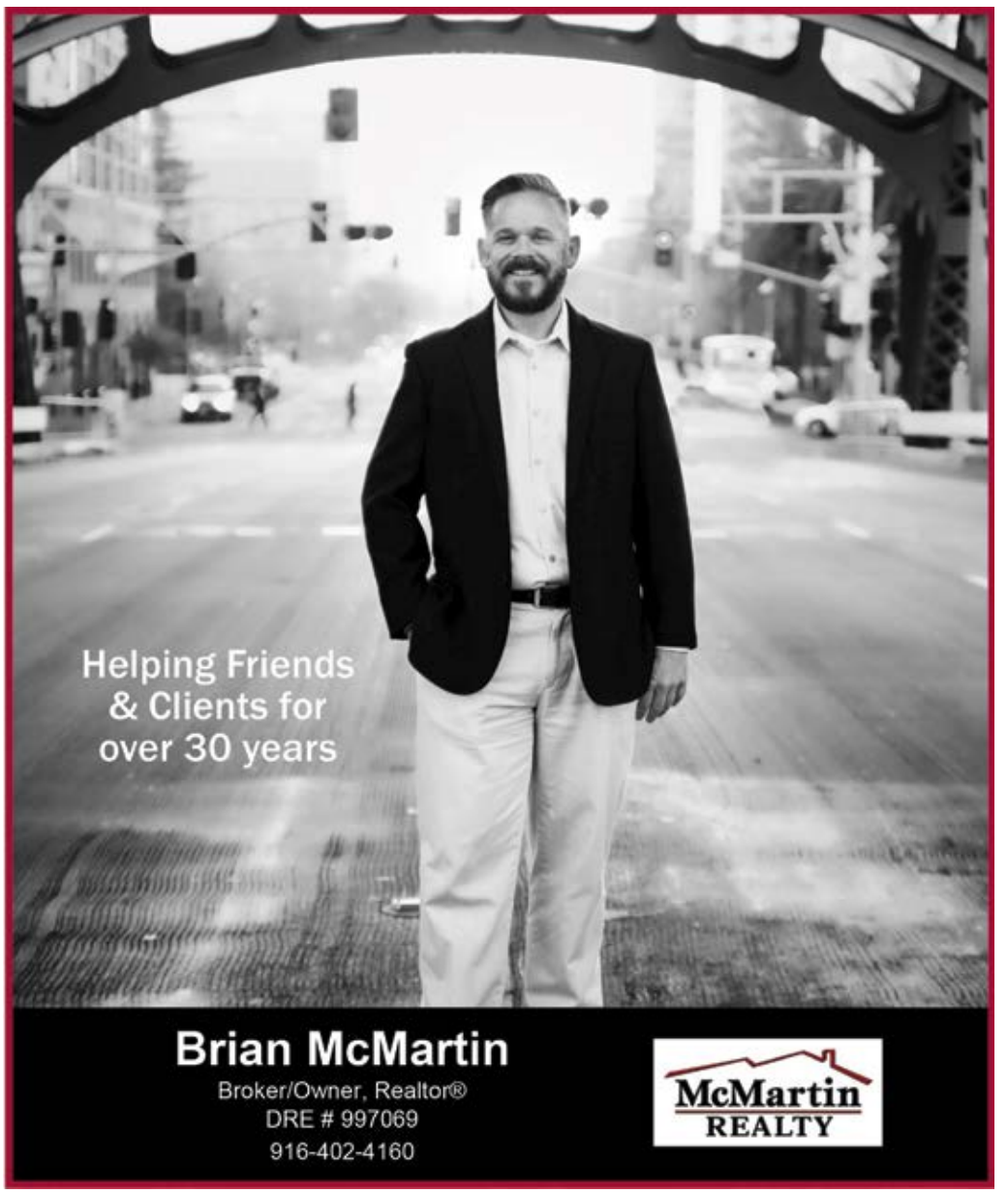
Founded in 1995, CCAF has transitioned to the name Project Positive to better reflect both advances in HIV treatment and a desire to move away from language some people living with HIV find stigmatizing. Its mission, however, remains the same. And that is, to continue investing in people living with or affected by HIV while also working to prevent new infections.

The work of Project Positive centers around two key missions: its Prevention and Education Program and the Helen Veress Mitchell Scholarship Fund. The agency also promotes use of PrEP, regular testing and U=U – Undetectable Equals Untransmittable - the scientific consensus that people living with HIV who maintain an undetectable viral load through treatment cannot sexual transmit the virus.

As for one of the many CCAF success stories, Natalie, hopes to use her education to help others who feel judged or forgotten. Her message to someone newly diagnosed with HIV reflects the philosophy behind Project Positive.

"HIV is part of my story," Natalie said. "But it has never had the power to decide how my story ends."









Sacramento Metro Chamber Announces Single Event Ticket Availability for Guest Speaker Monica Lewinsky

The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce single event tickets are now available for guest speaker Monica Lewinsky on September 30 to kick-off the 2026-27 Sacramento Speakers Series™. Led by the Sacramento Metro Chamber and presented by Sutter Health – in partnership with KCRA 3, My58 and KFBK News Radio – an impressive line-up of remarkable speakers and thought leaders await Capital City audiences at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center in the coming months.

2026-27 Sacramento Speakers Series Line-Up

- September 30, 2026 – Monica Lewinsky, activist, writer, producer, global public speaker, and contributing editor to Vanity Fair
- October 28, 2026 – Former U.S. Representative Liz Cheney, who served for Wyoming's at-large congressional district from 2017 to 2023
- January 27, 2027 – Amy Webb, widely recognized as the global authority who transformed the practice of strategic foresight into a rigorous, data-driven discipline
- February 17, 2027 – Secretary of Defense General James Mattis, USMC (Ret.), dedicated patriot, intellectual, and strategist
- March 24, 2027 – Emmanuel Acho, former FOX sports analyst and modern thought leader
- April 28, 2027 – Father Greg Boyle, ordained a priest in 1984, community activist best known as "Father Greg"

A celebrated tradition more than two decades strong, the Speakers Series was founded in 2004 and acquired by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce in 2025. The series has become a cornerstone of civic dialogue, featuring diverse and influential voices that provide invaluable insight to audiences eager to broaden their perspectives and deepen understanding.

The Series includes an important educational component to help foster the next generation of leaders – the Share the Vision program – that is generously supported by the California State Library Foundation. The program provides local high school students with unique access to speakers through exclusive pre-event receptions and complimentary admission.

For more information and to purchase season tickets to Sacramento Speakers Series, please visit sacramentospeakers.com. More information about the Sacramento Metro Chamber is available at www.metrochamber.com.

Cathedral City LGBT+ Days Becomes Cathedral City Pride

The Cathedral City Council voted unanimously on Sept. 16 to officially rename the annual Cathedral City LGBT+ Days as Cathedral City Pride. The Council also approved moving the celebration to March 12–14, 2027.

Organizers say the new name gives the event a clearer identity among Pride celebrations throughout California and beyond, while the new dates are expected to encourage greater participation, tourism and collaboration with other Coachella Valley events.

"Renaming the event to Cathedral City Pride honors the spirit and heritage of the LGBTQ+ community while positioning it for continued growth," said Michael Westman, marketing manager for Montage Agency/Montage Events, which produces the celebration.

For the past decade, LGBT+ Days has grown from a local community gathering into a destination event featuring live music, performances, community activities and local vendors.

"Ten years under the LGBT+ Days name built something remarkable," said Ryan Hunt, Cathedral City's director of communications and engagement. "Pride is the word the LGBTQ+ community already uses, and it makes room for everyone who has made this event what it is."

Planning is already underway for the first celebration under the Cathedral City Pride name. Festival schedules, entertainment lineups and ticket information will be announced in the coming months.

Cathedral City Pride will take place March 12–14, 2027.

Palm Springs Pride Is Celebrating Its Big 4-0 With Some Equally Big Names Leading The Way

Comedian, actor and writer Fortune Feimster has been named National Grand Marshal for the 40th Annual Greater Palm Springs Pride Parade, while Broadway, television and recording star Cheyenne Jackson will serve as Celebrity Grand Marshal. The milestone parade steps off Sunday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. under this year's theme, "Be Included."



Fortune Feimster
Todd Rosenberg Photography



Cheyenne Jackson
Photo by Vince Truspin

Feimster has become one of comedy's most recognizable LGBTQ+ voices, with three Netflix stand-up specials and roles in "FUBAR," "The Mindy Project," "Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar" and more. She'll also take the stage at Palm Springs' historic Plaza Theatre at 8 p.m. on Pride Sunday for an encore performance of Fortune Feimster: Takin' Care of Biscuits.

Jackson brings an equally impressive résumé, spanning Broadway productions including "Xanadu," "Into the Woods" and "All Shook Up," along with television appearances in "American Horror Story," \"30 Rock," "Glee" and "The Morning Show." He'll perform at the McCallum Theatre at 6 p.m. on Nov. 8.

Local LGBTQ+ legend Marshall Pearcy, aka Dottie DuBois, has also been designated Pride Royalty for Life, while longtime community leader and Palm Springs Desert Winds co-founder Gary Moline will receive the Community Service Award.

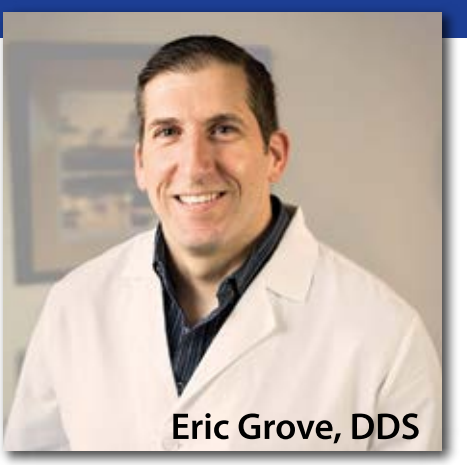
This year marks four decades of Pride in Palm Springs, which began in 1986 with a dinner and variety show at the Riviera Resort and has grown into one of the region's largest annual celebrations. Pride weekend runs Nov. 6–8, filling downtown Palm Springs and the Arenas District with multiple entertainment stages, block parties, more than 200 marketplace exhibitors, nonprofit organizations, food and drink vendors and community spaces. Best of all, the festival remains free and open to the public.

Sunday's parade travels south along Palm Canyon Drive from Tachevah through downtown, finishing at the Pride Festival at Amado. Palm Springs Pride *website here.*

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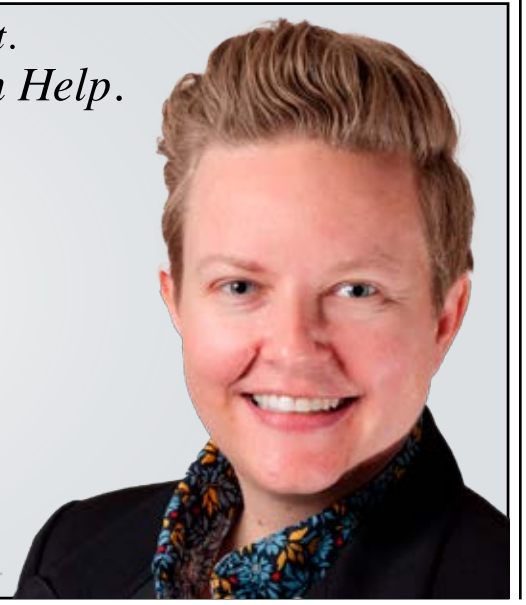


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Weezer Brings The Gathering to Sacramento

by Jules the Mixologist/Groupie

Weezer kicked off its new The Gathering tour on Tuesday, September 8, bringing opening night to Sacramento's Golden 1 Center. From the first opening act to the final song, the night felt less like a standard arena concert and more like a full evening built around the wonderfully strange world of Weezer.

Silversun Pickups opened the show and immediately gave the crowd a reason to arrive early, followed by The Shins, whose set brought another wave of familiar alternative-rock favorites. With three bands that have each built loyal followings over the years, the lineup made the night feel like an event before Weezer ever stepped onstage.

Then the lights went down, Weezer arrived, and the real weirdness began.

The Gathering is not simply a band standing beneath a few lights and working through a greatest-hits set. The production has a whole personality of its own, with theatrical visuals, playful staging, costume changes, acoustic moments and instrument swaps woven throughout the night. It was quirky, slightly ridiculous and completely on brand - exactly what you want from Weezer.



The music, of course, was the center of it all. The set traveled through more than three decades of the band's catalog, balancing the songs everyone came to hear with newer material and enough deep cuts to keep longtime fans paying attention.

There was plenty of classic Weezer, including "My Name Is Jonas," "Undone - The Sweater Song," "Say It Ain't So," "Buddy Holly," "Hash Pipe," "Beverly Hills" and "Pork and Beans." Pinkerton fans got their share too, with songs including "The Good Life," "Pink Triangle," "El Scorcho," "Falling for You" and "Tired of Sex." Newer songs such as "Shine Again" and "C.E.O." helped keep the night from feeling like a simple trip down memory lane.

One of the best surprises came when Nikki Monninger of Silversun Pickups returned to the stage to join Weezer. Rather than a quick cameo, Monninger joined the band for three songs: "We Might as Well Be Strangers," "Go Away" and "I Just Threw Out the Love of My Dreams." It was an unexpected collaboration that felt genuinely special and gave opening night in Sacramento a moment of its own.

There were other surprises along the way. Rivers Cuomo moved behind the drum kit for "Pork and Beans," while the band shifted instruments and changed the pace throughout the set. Acoustic moments gave the arena a different energy before the full production kicked back in again.

But what stood out most was how much fun the whole thing was.

There was nostalgia everywhere, but Weezer never seemed trapped by it. Instead, the band leaned into the fact that these songs have been part of people's lives for decades while still finding ways to make the show feel playful and current. Looking around Golden 1 Center, there were fans of different ages singing the same lyrics at full volume - proof that Weezer has somehow managed to keep collecting new generations of listeners without losing the ones who have been there all along.

By the time the night came to a close with "Island in the Sun," Sacramento had gotten a little bit of everything: the hits, deep cuts, newer music, guest vocals, theatrics and plenty of that unmistakable Weezer weirdness.

For the opening night of The Gathering, it was pretty damn close to perfect.

The band sounded great. The production was wildly entertaining. Silversun Pickups and The Shins made the entire lineup worth showing up early for. And after more than three decades, Weezer can still fill an arena and make thousands of people completely lose their minds over a sweater song.

That's a pretty damn good night at a rock show.

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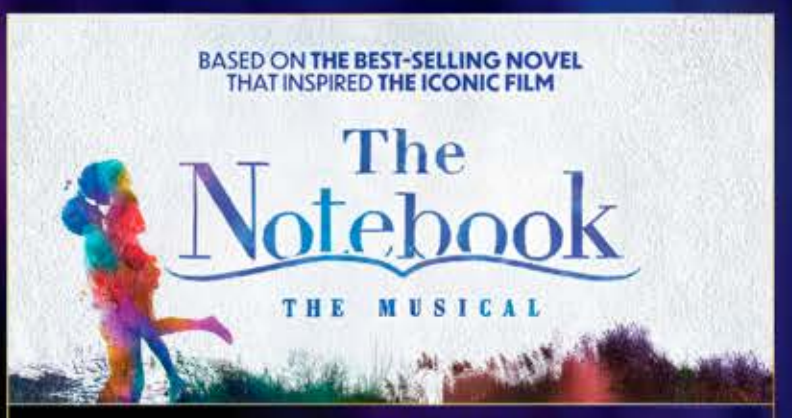
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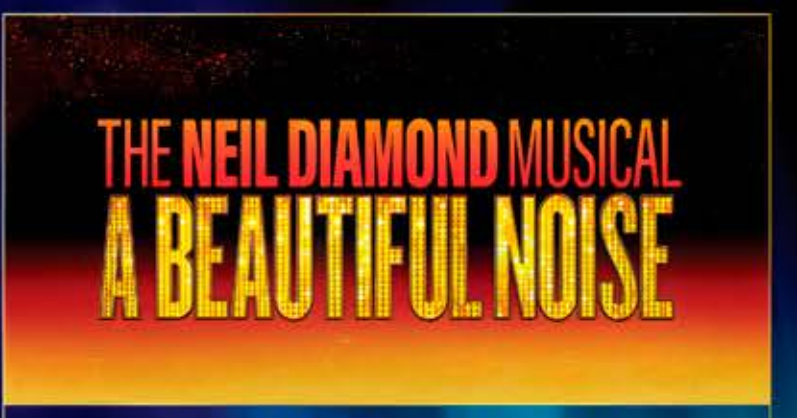
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"Rocky Horror" returns

by Chris Narloch

With the recent death of Tim Curry, "Rocky Horror" celebrations will be especially meaningful this October, with an upcoming screening at the Crest already sold out.

Fans will have other opportunities to celebrate the movie (and Mr. Curry's memory), and the two I am most excited about are listed below.

Rocky Horror with Amber's Sweets Shadowcast

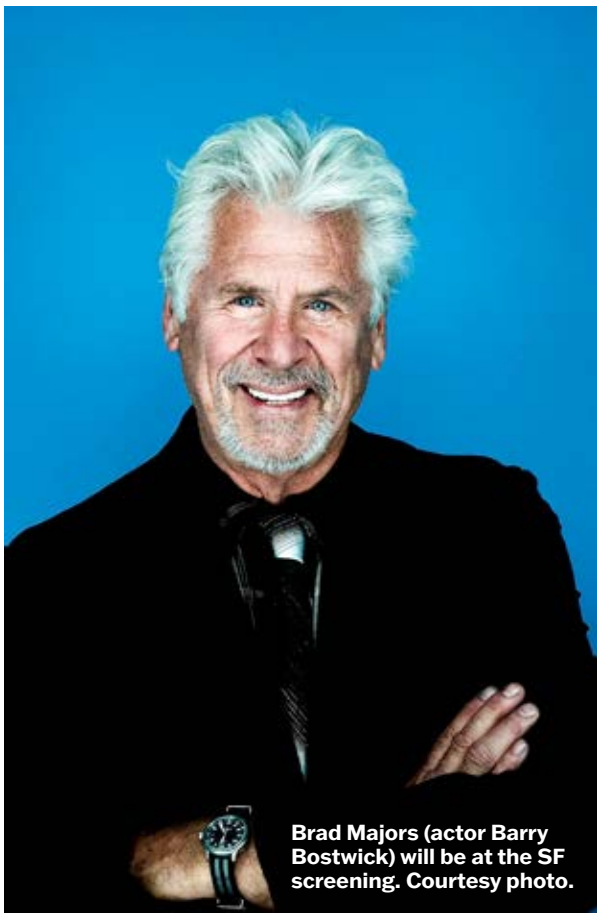
Locally, Sacramento's Love Horror Events will present two screenings of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" with shadowcast, on October 24 and Halloween night, at the Historic Colonial Theatre.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.lovehorrorevents.com

Rocky Horror with Barry Bostwick

Over in San Francisco, you can join the original Brad Majors (actor Barry Bostwick) at a 4K restoration screening of the unedited movie, with shadowcast and audience participation, a costume contest, memorabilia from the movie, and a VIP meet and greet opportunity.

This one-night-only event is scheduled for Sunday evening, Oct. 11, at the Curran Theatre. To purchase tickets, *click here*.

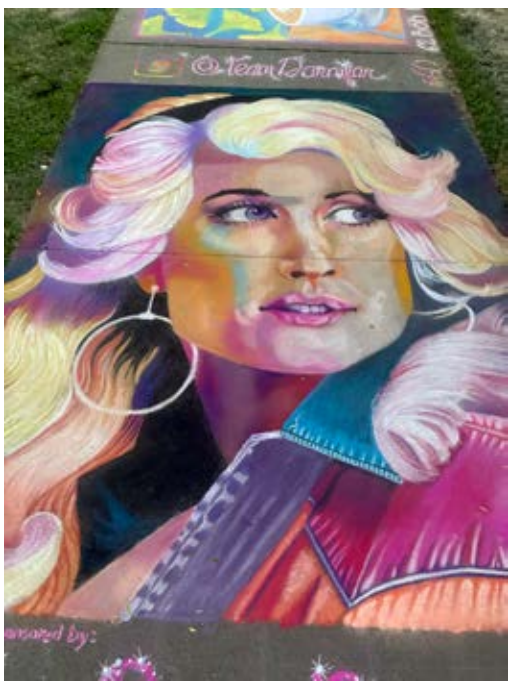

Brad Majors (actor Barry Bostwick) will be at the SF screening. Courtesy photo.



Dolly & Tim Chalk It Up!

by Chris Narloch

If there was any doubt that we have many terrific artists in the Sacramento area, all you had to do was stroll around Fremont Park in Midtown over Labor Day weekend and marvel at some of the chalk masterpieces on the sidewalk.





My two favorite temporary works of art this year were colorful tributes in chalk to the late, great Dolly Parton and Tim Curry, who were memorialized on the cement with superb skill.

In truth, many of the chalk artworks fall in to the "not bad" or "just okay" category, which makes you appreciate the finest ones even more.

The patience and precision required to produce legit art on concrete with chalk, in just a day or two – knowing that it will be washed away in another day or two – never ceases to amaze me.

My hat is off to all the artists who participated in "Chalk It Up!" this year – and every year. They help make Sacramento a more beautiful and colorful place to be.

Stockton Marks 15 Years of Pride

words and images by Chris Allan

San Joaquin County's largest city celebrated its 15th Pride festival this month at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza in downtown Stockton. The daylong event, held Saturday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., marked another step in the city's slow rebuild since the pandemic.

Organized by Stockton Pride Inc., in connection with Central Valley Gender Health & Wellness, the one-day event was moved from its original June date after organizers realized it conflicted with the city's Juneteenth observance.

Festival founder Matthew McCann said the event goes back to 2012, when he came home from a Pride festival in Modesto and couldn't understand why his own city didn't have one. "This is kind of like my baby right here," he said. Back then, Stockton's LGBTQ+ community had almost nowhere to gather. "The only thing we had out here was the AIDS Foundation and a bar. We had nothing else."

Fifteen years and a pandemic later, the festival is still finding its footing. This year's event marked its second at the downtown plaza. Fifty-two vendors filled the square under warm, sunny skies. Attendance has been climbing slowly back from a pre-pandemic peak of 5,200. "We're slowly rebuilding," said Cymone Reyes, Chair of Stockton Pride and founder and CEO of Central Valley Gender Health & Wellness. "Last year we reached about 2,800 people, and so this year we're slowly seeing them trickle in."

New additions included a Native American land acknowledgment and a main stage built within the footprint of the plaza's dry fountain. That stage hosted the live band Hunny Hush and both English- and Spanish-language drag shows, with 14 Central Valley performers including Sacramento drag kings Neo Petts and Sir Vix.

Beyond the stage, the plaza's relaxed, park-like setting included hair tinsel and volleyball, Filipino food and gourmet hot dogs, plus tables for San Joaquin Behavioral Health Services, ViiV Healthcare, Stockton's new pro hockey team, and festive balloon displays. New residents continue to discover the celebration, even as organizers work to grow it further.

But for the people who built it, the anniversary itself is the story. "This proves right here that we lasted for 15 years," McCann said. "Even through COVID, we lasted."

Note: A second, separate Pride event, Pride in the Park, hosted by the San Joaquin Pride Center, is set for Saturday, October 3 at 11 a.m. at 730 E Fulton St.



Openly gay Stockton City Councilmember Mario Enriquez addresses the crowd. He and Vice Mayor Jason Lee were elected together in 2024 as the city's first out LGBTQ+ representation since 2012.









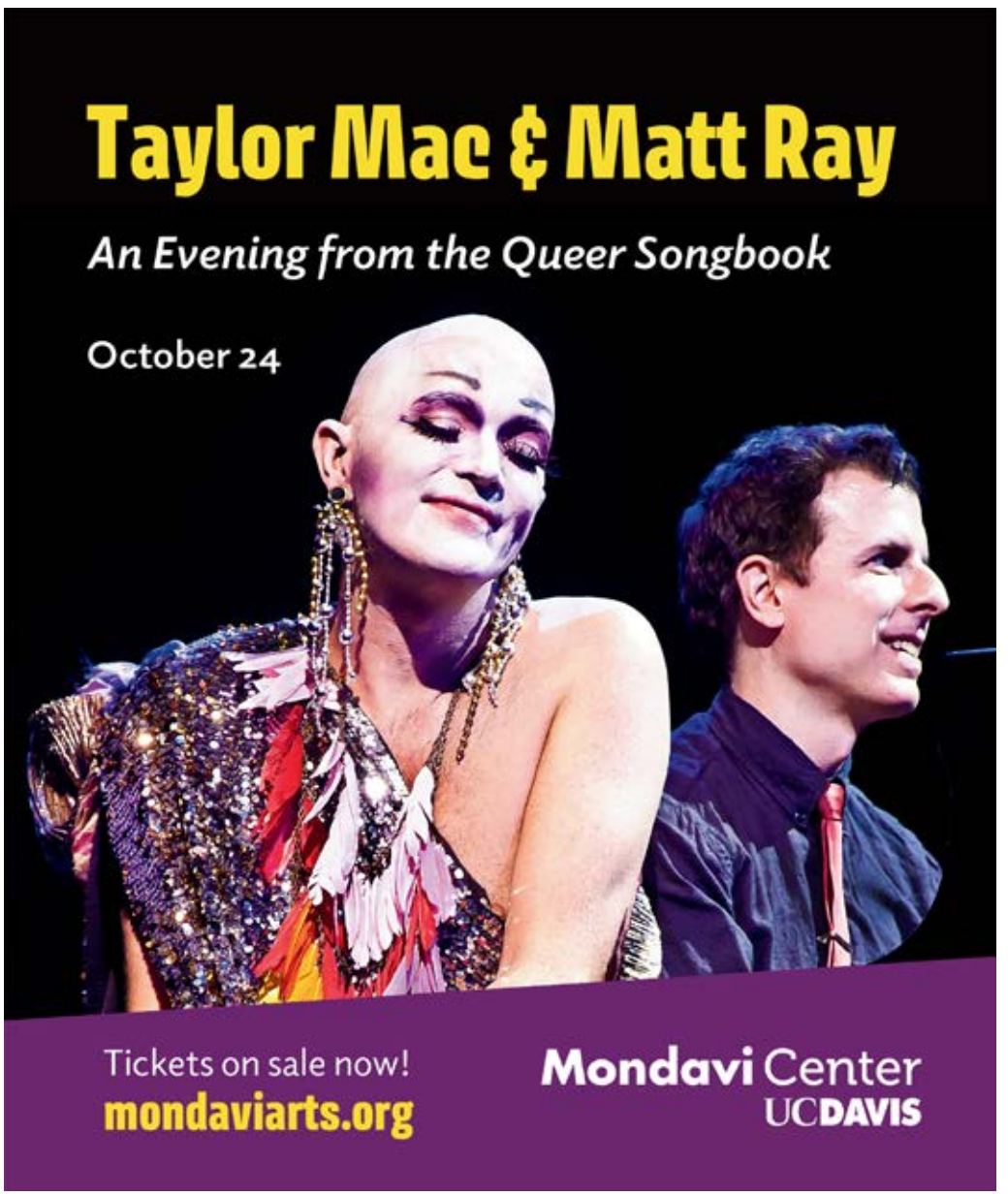












Queen Budapest: The IMAX Experience

On July 27, 1986, Queen performed their largest-ever stadium concert at the Népstadion in Budapest in front of 80,000 ecstatic fans.


Freddie Mercury of Queen

The concert was part of the famed Magic Tour, which was the last time the band toured with lead singer Freddie Mercury.

With three years to go before the fall of the Berlin Wall, this was the first Western rock concert performed in a stadium behind the then Iron Curtain.

Now, this original concert film has been beautifully rescanned and remastered alongside a dynamic new audio mix, featuring many of Queen's biggest hits: "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "I Want To Break Free," "We Are The Champions," and many more.

The show was of such significance to the Hungarian authorities and film industry that a group of the country's top film cameramen and technicians were brought together to film it for posterity.

The glorious result, "Queen Budapest: The IMAX Experience," will screen twice at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street, this Oct. 7 and 10.

To purchase tickets, go to *IMAX Esquire*



Queer Concerts coming to NorCal

Fans of music (and comedy) can take heart because there is no shortage of queer artists and gay-friendly concerts coming to Northern California this fall.


Ricky Martin will perform at The Venue at Thunder Valley Casino Resort

Funny ladies Tig Notaro and Fortune Feimster have separate tours and will be performing nearby – Ms. Notaro in Chico on Oct. 9 and then in Napa on Nov. 15, while Ms. Feimster is scheduled to perform in Oakland on Oct. 17.

Closer to home, you can catch the one and only Jonathan Van Ness (from the "Queer Eye" reboot) when his "Hot and Healed Comedy Tour 2026" comes to Sacramento's Channel 24, on Oct. 8.

Last but certainly not least, our favorite homosexual Hispanic hottie, Ricky Martin, brings his 2026 Tour to the stage of The Venue at Thunder Valley Casino Resort, on Friday, Nov. 6, 2026.

From his days with Menudo to his groundbreaking solo career, Ricky is one of the kings of Latin pop. Timeless, talented and still hotter than heck at 54, you'll be "Livin' La Vida Loca," at least for a couple hours.

Martin is a global superstar and one of the few artists who can sell tickets to straight women, gay men and a Spanish-speaking audience, so get your tickets before they're gone at *www.thundervalleyresort.com*

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Sac Zoo's Community Day is coming

Here at Outword, we are always on the lookout for entertainment deals – especially with the current inflated cost of just about everything.



The good news is that it's almost time for another Community Day at Sacramento Zoo, where you can enjoy discounted $10 admission, on October 2.

Bring your whole zoo crew and see everything the zoo has to offer, including its new HeroRATs, African giant pouched rats that use their powerful sense of smell for live-saving and conservation tasks.

Whether it's the Twilight Safari Gala, Wine on the Wild Side, the Fall Zoo-bilee, Migratory Bird Day, Community Day, or Fall Eduction Opportunities, there is always something exciting coming up at Sac Zoo.

Get your tickets now and save time in line at www.saczoo.org

Hitchcock-tober returns to Tower Theatre

It's almost time. October is officially scary movie month, and Sacramento's Tower Theatre will celebrate once again with five of the finest films by the Master of Suspense, director Alfred Hitchcock.



First up on October 7 is "Strangers on a Train" from 1951, wherein two handsome men who meet on a train agree to "exchange" murders.

As always, Hitchcock-tober wraps up on Halloween with the director's hair-raising masterpiece, 1960's "Psycho."

In between, Tower will screen "Rear Window," "Suspicion" and "Vertigo," with each film playing twice on one day only.

For dates and showtimes, *please click here*.

Gallo Center welcomes Lily Tomlin

by Chris Narloch

I have had the good fortune to see the great Lily Tomlin live on stage several times, and she will return to Northern California this October when she brings her current tour to Modesto's Gallo Center.



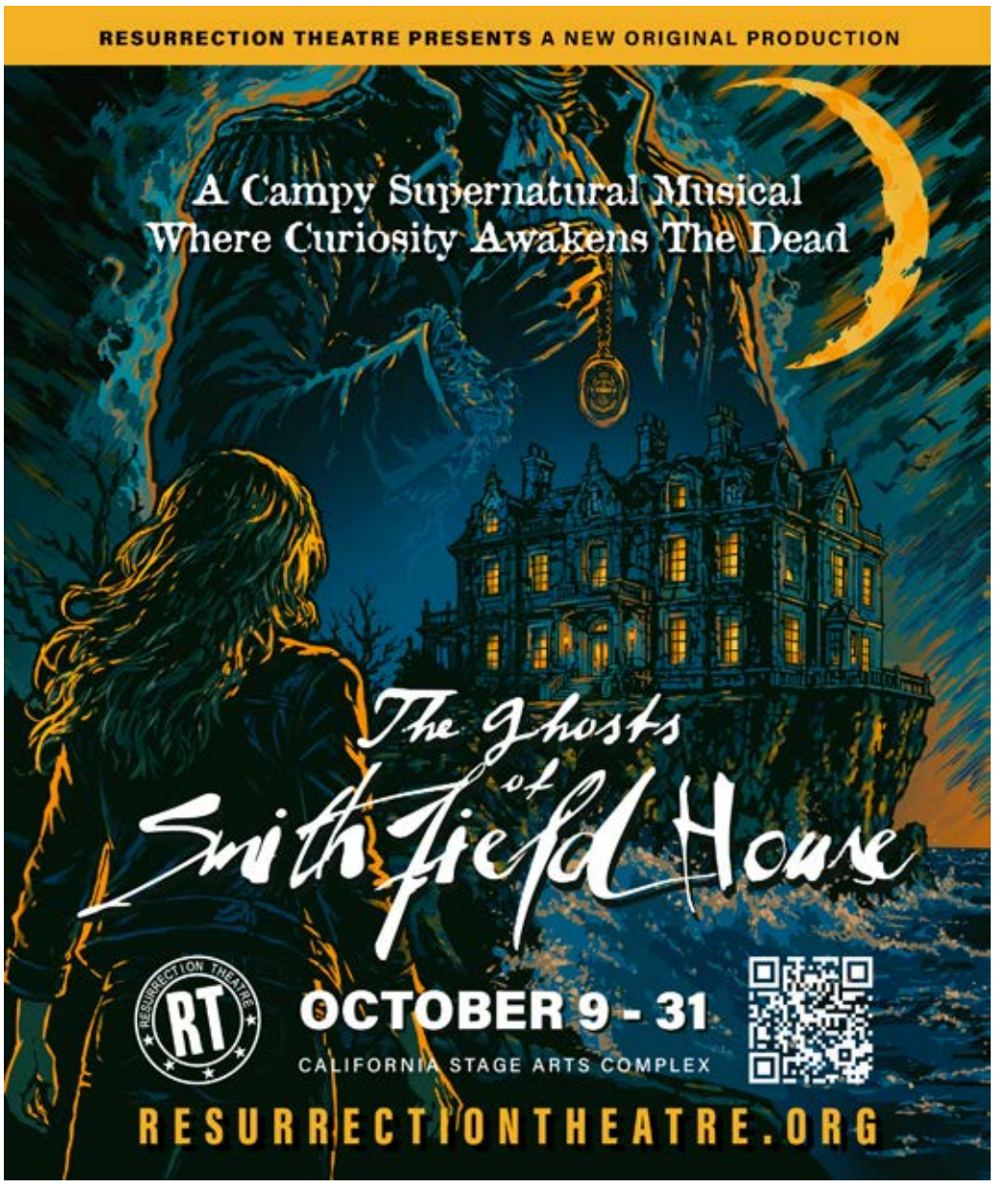
That she is a comedy legend goes without saying, after a decades-long career that began on "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" in 1969 and continues to this day.

Ms. Tomlin has won six Emmy awards for her comedy specials on TV, two Tony awards for her one-woman stage shows, a Drama Desk award, two Peabody awards, and an Oscar nomination for her very first film, Robert Altman's "Nashville."

Lily's recent costarring role with Jane Fonda on "Grace and Frankie" brought her a whole new generation of fans, and she continues to make movies well into her '80s, after creating iconic performances in hit films like "9 to 5," "Big Business" and "All of Me."

Ms. Tomlin will bring her classic character-driven comedy to Modesto this October 10th, for an evening of storytelling and observational humor.

To purchase tickets for her Gallo Center show, *click here.*





Suzanne Adan at Crocker Art Museum Plus, Marilyn at the Academy Museum

by Chris Narloch

There are so many great art spaces in and around Sacramento and throughout California that I wish I had time to visit them all.

Later this year, I will be writing about upcoming events at Sacramento's CA Museum, the Manetti Shrem Museum in Davis, and others.

I did find time to see several excellent exhibitions recently, at Sacramento's Crocker Art Museum and in Los Angeles at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Read on for details.



Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

I finally made it to this destination museum for movie lovers, which has been open since 2021 on Wilshire Blvd. at Fairfax in Los Angeles and is the largest museum in the United States dedicated to the arts, sciences, and history of moviemaking.

Despite all the hype and my anticipation, I was still thoroughly impressed with my entire experience at the Museum, and I recommend allowing several hours to see all the exhibitions on display.

Clearly, a great deal of care and money have gone into the planning and execution of the various levels and gallery spaces inside, and I arrived in time to see temporary installations devoted to two of my favorite film folks: Marilyn Monroe and the great Korean director, Bong Joon Ho.

With unprecedented access to the filmmaker's archive and personal collection, the Joon Ho exhibition features over 100 original objects including storyboards, research materials, film posters, concept art, creature models, props, and on-set photographs relating to films such as "Parasite," "The Host," "Mickey 17," and others.

As for Marilyn, her "Hollywood Icon" exhibition is everything you could hope for, with room after room of clips from her classic films, an extensive array of Monroe's gorgeous screen-worn costumes, as well as posters, letters and copious photographs.

You can also enjoy "The Godfather" photo experience during a visit, inside a reproduction of that movie's famous office, and peruse a roomful of Oscar statuettes – on loan or donated by their owners.

The in-depth areas devoted to the behind-the-scenes aspects of filmmaking, such as cinematography, editing and sound, are no less fascinating.

For more information, please visit www.academymuseum.org



Crocker Art Museum

You have until this Oct. 11 to catch the delightful exhibition "Suzanne Adan: I'm No Spring Chicken," which celebrates the talented octogenarian's decades of artistic creation with a retrospective assembled in her 80th year.

Adan was born in Woodland, raised in nearby Yolo, and she earned her BA and MA from Sacramento State College in 1969 and 1971.

Adan creates personal universes that combine fantasy, popular culture, and autobiography, often with an absurd and/or satirical edge, and 125 of these compelling works, in a variety of media, are included in "Suzanne Adan: I'm No Spring Chicken."

To learn more, go to www.crockerart.org

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"Heated Rivalry" refuses to cool off

Center Stage Records has announced that "Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody" Original Off-Broadway Cast Recording is now available in streaming and digital formats.

The album features the original Off-Broadway cast of "Heated Rivalry," including Jay Armstrong Johnson as Ilya Rozanov and Jimin Moon as Shane Hollander.

Originally scheduled for an 8-week run, the critically acclaimed production has been extended twice and is playing Off-Broadway at The Culture Club in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, through January 17, 2027.

Tickets are on sale now and available at https://www.heatedrivalryparody.com. Subsequent productions are now running in Canada and the UK.



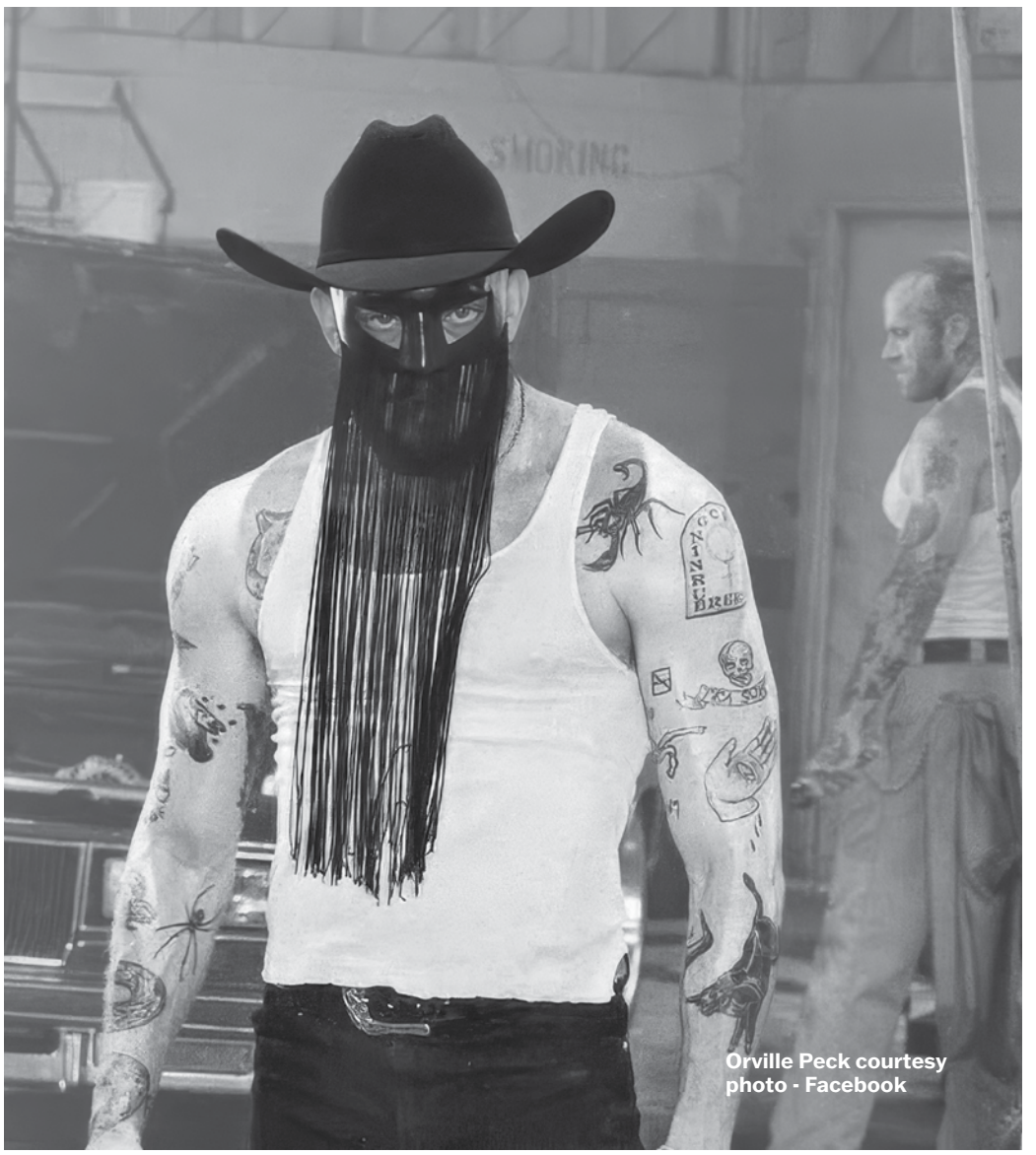
Inspired by the hit HBO series about hockey, "Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody" follows starry-eyed golden boy Shane Hollander on his journey from power center to power bottom.

To stream or download "Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody," please *click here*.

Orville Peck is stubborn as a "Mule"

by Chris Narloch

2026 would seem to be the year of Orville Peck, with his brand-new album just out, a very sexy spread of photos alongside a revealing interview in Playgirl magazine, and a current tour that will bring Mr. Peck to Sacramento for a live show this October 28, at Channel 24. Not bad for a guy who still won't show us his face.


Orville Peck courtesy photo - Facebook

Mr. Peck's fourth album, "Mule," just might be his finest, with thirteen lucky tracks that expose the alt-country crooner – even more than his smoking hot Playgirl pics – and chart his recent stint in rehab, and recovery from addiction.

The musician collaborates with (among others) Emmylou Harris and Noah Cyrus on "Mule," which kicks off with a lovely a cappella bluegrass track, "Prologue (Eulogy of a Man Turned Mule)," performed by Harris, Cyrus and Allison Russell.

The subsequent twelve tracks outline the singer's journey from addiction and denial to acceptance of his problem – and a pledge to be a workhorse (or "mule") to his artistic pursuits rather than fame and drugs.

The CD sounds heavy – and the lyrics frequently are – but the music is closer to Americana, with a queer-country rock vibe that hooks you in and never bums you out.

"Mule" is another triumph for Peck after his superb "Stampede" album, which found him dueting with everyone from Kylie Minogue and Diplo to Elton John, Beck, Teddy Swims, Mickey Guyton, TJ Osborne, Margo Price -- and the legendary Willie Nelson for a duet of Nelson's cover of "Cowboys Are Frequently, Secretly Fond of Each Other."

To help promote "Mule," Orville posed nearly naked for Playgirl magazine via its online platform, in a move that turns the tables on sexism in the music business, where female artists from Donna Summer to Madonna, and Beyonce to Lady Gaga, have often injected explicit sexuality into their music and music videos, while the male artists mostly kept their pants on (so to speak).

After you check out those hunky photos and read Mr. Peck's interview, at https://playgirl.com/features/orville-pecks-coming-home you can purchase "Mule" and then check out Orville's Channel 24 concert.

Tickets were still available for that show last time I checked, but you'll want to get them before they're gone, at *channel24sac.com*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 19 — Bag Sale September 19th

Oct 4 — Teacher Sale Sunday, October 4 10 am - 3 pm

Oct 18 — Antiquarian and Ephemera* Sale October 18th • 9 am - 3 pm



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Do not miss "Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!" Plus, Russell Crowe & Ethan Hawke team up

by Chris Narloch

October is "Scary Movie Month" in my household, and at least three local theaters will be putting the spotlight on suspenseful cinema leading up to Halloween: Dreamland Cinema, Tower Theatre, and the Crest. Go to their websites for titles and showtimes if you're a fan of fright films.

As for other movies playing on local screens, I am always on the lookout for offbeat, eclectic films, and I found several titles this month that I can highly recommend.



The Weight

This dynamite dramatic thriller stars Ethan Hawke and Russell Crowe, as two desperate men who find themselves on opposite sides of the law during the Depression, in the rugged wilderness of Oregon. Hawke plays a single father sent to a brutal labor camp who will do anything to get back to his young daughter before she is put up for adoption.

Crowe runs the camp and offers to give Hawke an early release if he helps him steal some gold bars. What ensues is a tense and terrific tale of survival through dangerous terrain, powerfully helmed by Padraic McKinley in his feature film directorial debut.

Despite excellent reviews, the movie isn't receiving the promotion it deserves, so I urge you to see it while you can. "The Weight" is currently playing theatrically.



Faust

I am thrilled that Sacramento's Crest Theatre is scheduled to screen this stone-cold classic title from 1926, because silent films are almost never shown on the big screen in Sacramento anymore. This one is partially based on a famous play by Goethe about a brilliant scholar who makes a deal with the devil that leads to great tragedy.

Stunningly directed by F.W. Murnau, "Faust" is considered a pillar of German Expressionist filmmaking and is famous for its groundbreaking black-and-white cinematography, visual design, and special effects. The movie will be shown one night only, on October 21.



Hope

I am a big fan of South Korean cinema, and I wish I could recommend this film directed by Na Hong-jin, who previously made the superb 2016 horror movie "The Wailing." This time, the director bites off more than he can chew with an overly ambitious mashup of horror and sci-fi about a remote fishing village that is beset by killer creatures.

It is a shame that the script ultimately falls apart because this director is tremendously talented and knows how to mix humor, thrilling action, and horror together, sometimes in the same scene. "Hope" goes on too long, becomes repetitive and is probably for diehard devotees of South Korean cinema only.

"Hope" was still playing at the Tower as we put this edition of *Outword* to bed.



Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!

Rinko Kikuchi, who was Oscar-nominated for her role in the 2006 film "Babel" deserves another nomination for her wonderful performance in this feel-good film, which is surprisingly funny, occasionally sexy, and very moving.

The story revolves around a Japanese woman (Kikuchi) who competes in ballroom dance in Tokyo with her husband, until he suffers a heart attack during competition. The film is about the difficulty of moving on from grief, but it tackles that subject with so much verve and humor that I was tempted to sign up for a dance class after it was over.

In a perfect world, "Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!" would be a big sleeper hit, and I hope it finds its audience. The movie opens on Sept. 24 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.

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Taylor Mac and Matt Ray. Photo by Ian Wallman

Taylor Mac & Matt Ray make beautiful queer music together

by Chris Narloch

I always tell people if you ever get a chance to see Taylor Mac perform live, do not miss it, and Sacramentans will finally have that opportunity when the gender-bending performer appears in concert with Obie Award-winning composer Matt Ray, in Davis this October 24th.

Taylor's philosophy is "if you're not invited to the party, throw a better one," and Mac and Ray will no doubt do just that, when they join forces once again, for an evening that invites reflection on queer lineage and queer futures.

Billed as electrifying, provocative and disarming, this duet evening is an open call to community and celebration.

Mac and Ray also come together to celebrate the release of "Bark of Millions," an original, illustrated queer songbook, set to be released this September 29 and available for pre-order from several major retailers.

The book contains lyrics, essays, and music lead sheets from an epic four-hour rock-opera and drag spectacle that was created by Mac and Ray.

Recently, I was able to speak by phone with Matt Ray, who has been described as "the musical nexus of New York's alt-cabaret scene" by The New York Times.

The following are excerpts from our conversation:

So how did you and Taylor meet and when did you start working together, Matt?

We were introduced by a mutual friend of ours in New York who was writing music for a show of Taylor's called "The Lily's Revenge." I was invited to play piano for the reading of the play, and that's how we met. I ended up music arranging that show, around 2008 or 2009, and then we've been working together ever since, making lots of shows.

Sounds like you two just naturally clicked artistically…

Yeah, it was simpatico in terms of how we view art and how it's made in a room and the kind of people that we want to be around. And Taylor's very inspiring in just the way he carries himself as an artist.

But you had a flourishing career before you two met, right?

I was already deep in the music world in New York before I met Taylor, and I had done some theater but was not trying to do Broadway or anything like that. So, I was able to bring some musicians with me who hadn't really done theater before, and thanks to Taylor I was exposed to a lot of downtown performers that I was aware of, or had met, but I had not worked with all of them before.

So, it was the best of both worlds…

Right. Bringing together good people and then creating a show around their different perspectives and talents is part of the magic.

Were you a cabaret performer like Taylor?

I came from jazz, like 80% doing jazz gigs in the '90s and then singer/songwriter stuff, political theater, and some different things like that but was always doing arrangements and music directing. I studied jazz at Oberlin in Ohio.

Are you a native New Yorker?

I was born in DC but have been mostly in Brooklyn since '96.

The digital copy of "Bark of Millions" I have looks like it's going to be amazing. The illustrations are very lovely.

Thank you. I have an advance copy, and on paper, they're even more beautiful. It's a two-book set in a slipcase, and the first book has the lyrics, like poems, and then the second book those same lyrics are in music form.

How does the show you're doing in Davis tie into the book?

Well, I haven't seen the full setlist yet, but I'm sure that we will be doing some of the songs from "Bark of Millions." We tailor the shows to the performers that we have joining us on stage. Taylor chooses the setlist, and then I come in and music direct and get everyone ready for the show. We have a really wonderful prolific partnership.

It's definitely working, and we look forward to seeing you two in Northern California.

Taylor Mac & Matt Ray will perform "An Evening from the Queer Songbook" at the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, inside the Mondavi Center on the UC Davis campus in Davis.

To purchase tickets, go to *Mondavi's website by clicking here.*

Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Autumn has arrived, and with it comes one of our community's most spirited seasons! From pumpkin patches and harvest festivals to haunted happenings, costume parties and Halloween celebrations, October offers plenty of reasons to get out and have some fun. As the nights grow longer in Lavender Heights, remember to celebrate safely, stay aware of your surroundings and watch out for one another. Let's make this spooky season memorable for all the right reasons.

Oct 1

Get ready for big laughs and bigger prizes at Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, Oct. 1 at Mango's, 1930 K St. Doors open at 6 p.m., with bingo beginning at 7 p.m. This Rainbow Chamber crowd favorite combines fabulous drag entertainment with lively bingo while supporting Futures Explored, a nonprofit serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Bring your friends and prepare to play! RainbowChamber.com



Bodies – The Science Within courtesy image

Oct. 2

Explore the extraordinary machinery of the human body when Bodies – The Science Within comes to Sacramento Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J St., Oct. 2-Nov. 29. Featuring respectfully preserved real human specimens, the internationally touring exhibition explores movement, respiration, the nervous system and more through an educational, system-by-system journey. Presented in English and Spanish, the fascinating experience has already captivated more than 5 million visitors worldwide. BodiesTour.com

Sink your teeth into a hilariously twisted classic when Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors runs Oct. 2-31 at Sierra Rep's East Sonora Theatre, 13891 Mono Way in Sonora. Five actors tackle more than a dozen characters as Bram Stoker's gothic tale becomes a fast-paced comic romp filled with lightning-fast transformations, romance, supernatural mayhem and increasingly ridiculous terror. SierraRep.org

Oct. 9

Calling all collectors! The Monster Collectibles Show takes over Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Oct. 9-11 with more than 300 vendor tables packed with treasures. Hunt for Pokémon and other trading cards, sports memorabilia, comics, vintage and modern toys, collectibles and more. There's even a Monster Cosplay Contest! Whether you're buying, selling, trading or browsing, prepare for a monster-sized weekend of pop-culture fun. Monstershowusa.com

Get ready for a hauntingly fun musical mystery when "The Ghosts of Smithfield House" runs Oct. 9-31 at the California Stage Complex, 2509 R St. Presented by Resurrection Theatre, Joy Gee's original musical follows a skeptical ghost hunter whose investigation leads to a charming 19th-century spirit and plenty of unfinished business. Expect mystery, humor, music, heart and delightfully campy supernatural chaos. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m., with two Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Resurrectiontheatre.org

Raise a stein and celebrate fall at Saktoberfest, Sacramento's biggest outdoor Oktoberfest, Oct. 9-10 at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd. The festivities run Friday from 4 to 11 p.m. and Saturday from 2 to 11 p.m., with live music, German beer, pretzels, sausages, schnitzel, food trucks, cornhole, a pumpkin patch, yodeling competitions and family-friendly fun. Calexpo.com

Oct. 10

Things are getting delightfully creepy at The Avid Reader, 1945 Broadway, when the Queer Sacramento Authors Collective celebrates spooky season Saturday, Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. Five local queer authors will share readings from their spookiest works, exploring everything scary, eerie, frightening and unsettling. Grab a seat, embrace the chills and discover what happens when Sacramento's queer writers venture into the shadows. QSAC.rocks

Upcoming

It's time to do the Time Warp again! "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" takes over the Historic Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd., Oct. 24 and 31 at 9 p.m. Amber's Sweets and Sacramento's legendary shadowcast deliver callbacks, prop kits, flying toilet paper and plenty of gloriously messy audience participation. Both Halloween-season performances also feature a special tribute to the legendary Tim Curry. Don't just watch Rocky—live it! LoveHorrorEvents.com



Altan comes to The Sofia

Experience the heart and fire of traditional Irish music when Altan comes to The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave., on Sunday, Oct. 18. Led by acclaimed fiddler and vocalist Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, the legendary Donegal ensemble blends jubilant jigs, reels and evocative songs. This year's concert also honors longtime collaborator Dolly Parton with a special performance of the traditional ballad "Barbara Allen." Bstreettheatre.org

Emmy-winning comedian Ali Wong brings her fearless, no-filter humor to Ali Wong Live Dec. 18–23 at The Masonic, 1111 California St. Known for her hit stand-up specials and razor-sharp takes on modern life, Wong delivers a bold, laugh-out-loud performance you won't want to miss. Aliwong.com



Ali Wong

Ongoing

Take a whimsical journey through the imagination of one of the Sacramento region's most distinctive artists when Suzanne Adan: "I'm No Spring Chicken" opens June 28 and runs through Oct. 11 at Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Celebrating Adan's 80th year, the retrospective features 125 surreal, humorous and deeply personal works inspired by fantasy, pop culture and autobiography. Expect quirky characters, playful satire and plenty of delightful surprises. CrockerArt.org

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



More Than Music: Sacramento Lavender Chorus Builds Community Through Harmony

by Matthew Burlingame

Sometimes you don't know how badly a community needs something until you open the doors and people start walking through them.

When organizers of the newly formed Sacramento Lavender Chorus held their first rehearsal earlier this year, they expected about 28 singers. More than 40 showed up.

"There was incredible joy," co-founder Sage Brown recalled. "It was clear from the first moments that we were creating something that was needed."

Don Henkle was there recording the rehearsal for posterity. What he witnessed felt less like the first gathering of strangers and more like people finding one another.

"There was laughter, tears of joy, and it was almost like a reunion," Henkle said.

That feeling of finding community is at the heart of the Sacramento Lavender Chorus, an LGBTQ+-centered, non-audition chorus welcoming singers of all genders, identities, backgrounds and experience levels.

The idea grew from conversations between Brown and Artistic Director Jim Parr. They wanted to create something positive for Sacramento's queer community at a time when many were feeling discouraged by the political climate.

"A major inspiration was the damage being done to our queer community and the country by the current government," Brown said. "We wanted a safe and loving place for people to go and express their feelings."

There was also a musical need to fill.

Sacramento already had several established choral organizations, but Brown and Parr saw room for an LGBTQ+-focused chorus incorporating the full traditional SATB vocal range of soprano, alto, tenor and bass.

For Parr, a recently retired music educator and Sacramento native, music was only part of the vision.

"I wanted to build a chosen family of friends to create a diverse community using choral music," he said.

Getting there took work. Organizers had to establish a nonprofit, create bylaws, find rehearsal space, recruit singers and raise money. Brown and Parr each contributed $500 of their own money to help get things started.

They soon discovered they weren't alone.

Sacramento Pop Choir donated rehearsal space, while the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus provided a $5,000 operating grant to help cover music, insurance and startup expenses.

The chorus has already made its presence known in the community, including an appearance at Sacramento's Pride Flag Raising ceremony at City Hall. But some of its most meaningful moments have happened away from the spotlight.

Brown remembers one woman who joined after illness had kept her from singing for some time. She eventually stepped forward for a solo at a recent concert and received a standing ovation.

"Members feel like they are a part of something truly special," Brown said.

That support doesn't end when rehearsal does. Members celebrate milestones, help one another through health challenges and have formed friendships that extend beyond the chorus.

There are no auditions. Experienced singers can find themselves standing next to someone singing in a chorus for the first time. Music is selected collaboratively through a member-driven committee, with performances emphasizing hope, resilience and LGBTQ+ experiences, including transgender stories.

As the chorus grows, its members hope to deepen relationships with the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus and Sacramento Pop Choir while becoming an even greater part of the region's LGBTQ+ community.

And for anyone who thinks they might like to sing but is standing nervously outside that proverbial rehearsal-room door, Brown has a simple invitation.

"We are a safe, loving, kind, friendly and supportive family who love to sing," Brown said. "Come join us!"

Perhaps that is ultimately what the Sacramento Lavender Chorus is creating. Not simply another place to sing, but another place to belong.

"We hope to continue being a loving, safe place for people to find their voice for many years to come," Brown said. "We want our music to uplift people and to foster their pride in who they are."

Judging from those first 40-plus voices that showed up expecting a rehearsal and found so much more they are already well on their way.

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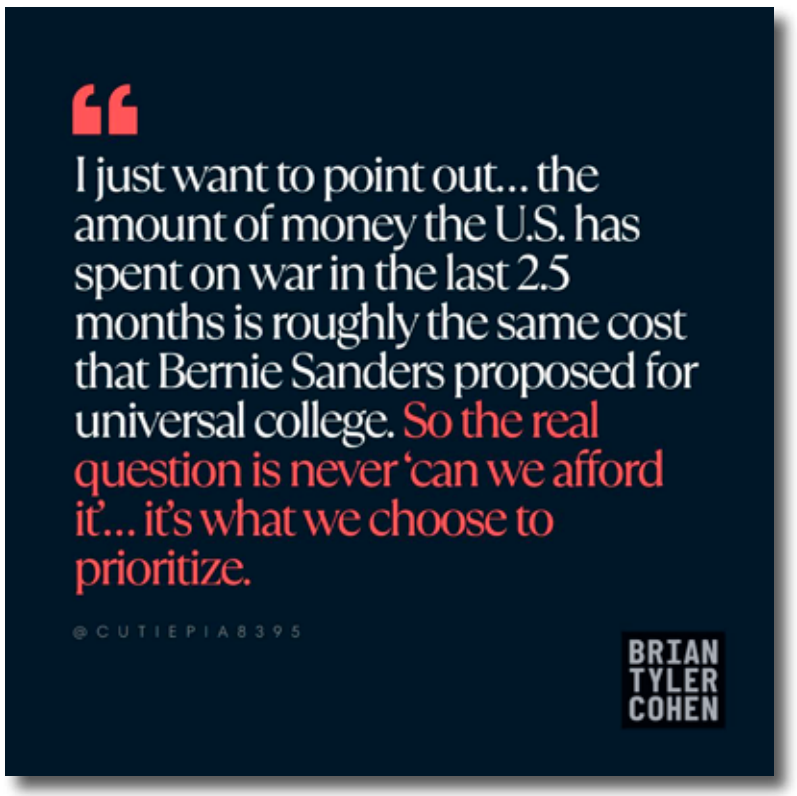
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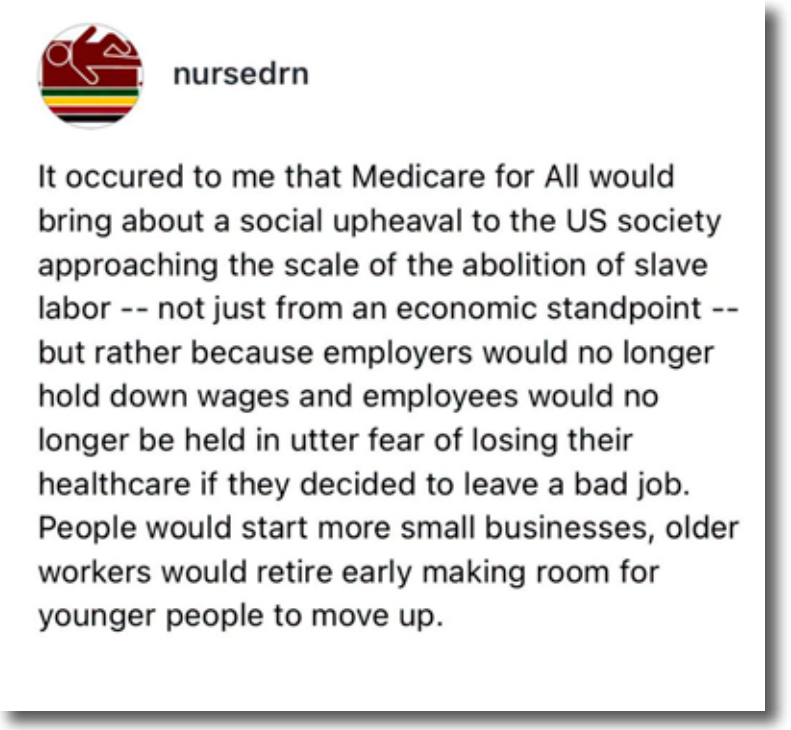
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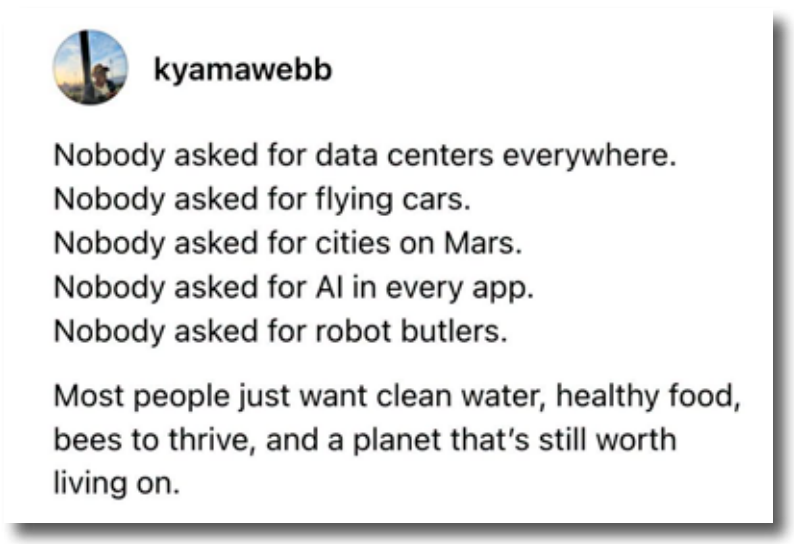
FOR MORE INFO

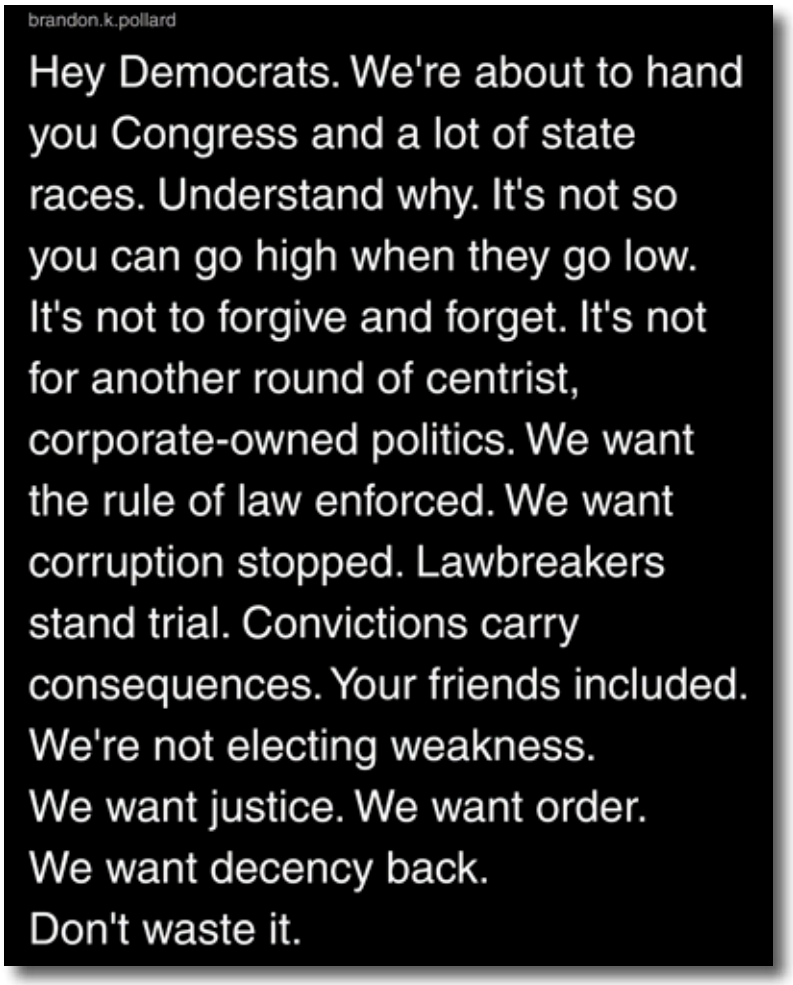
FolsomFamilyPride.org

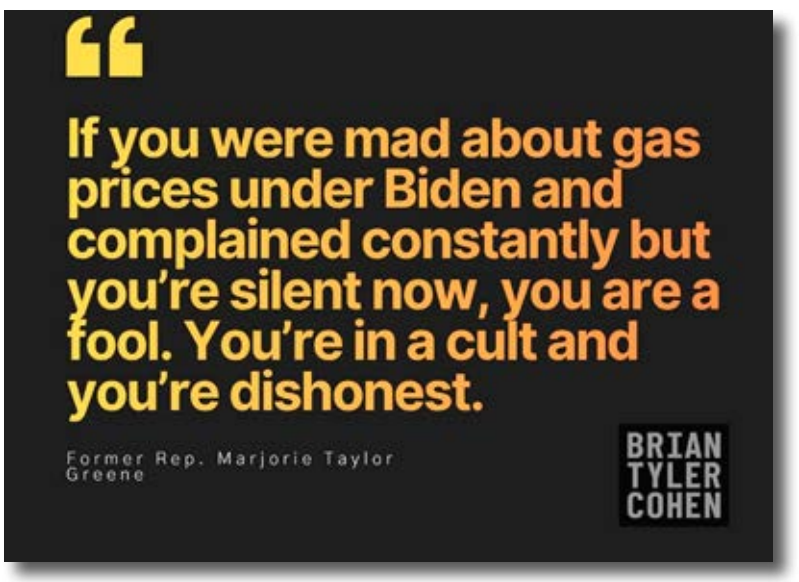
Memes from Facebook

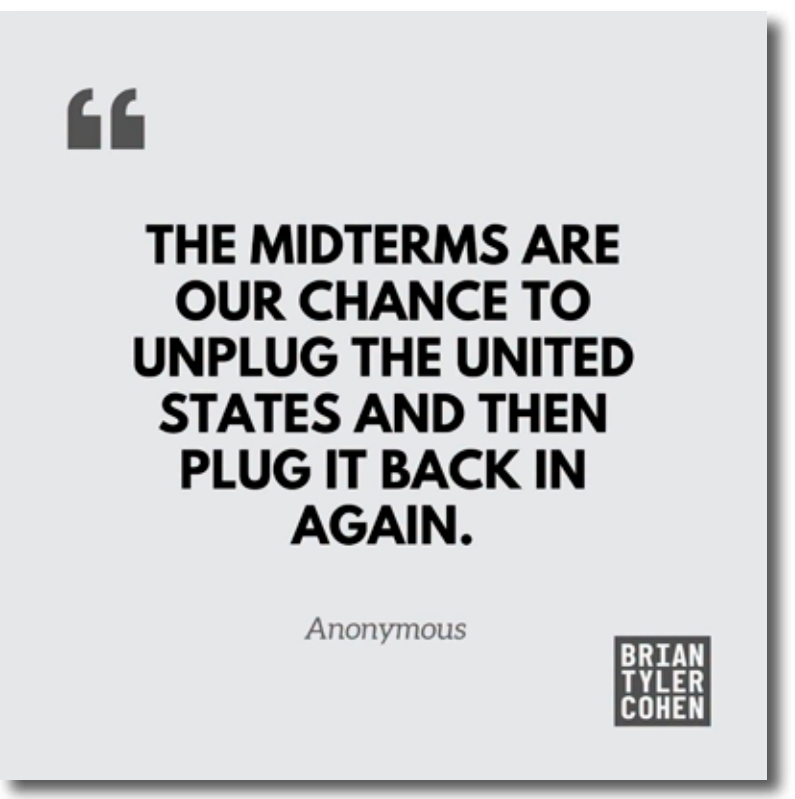












Centerfold

not

Centerfold





CA State Fair's two-page spread

Sunburst Projects' center spread

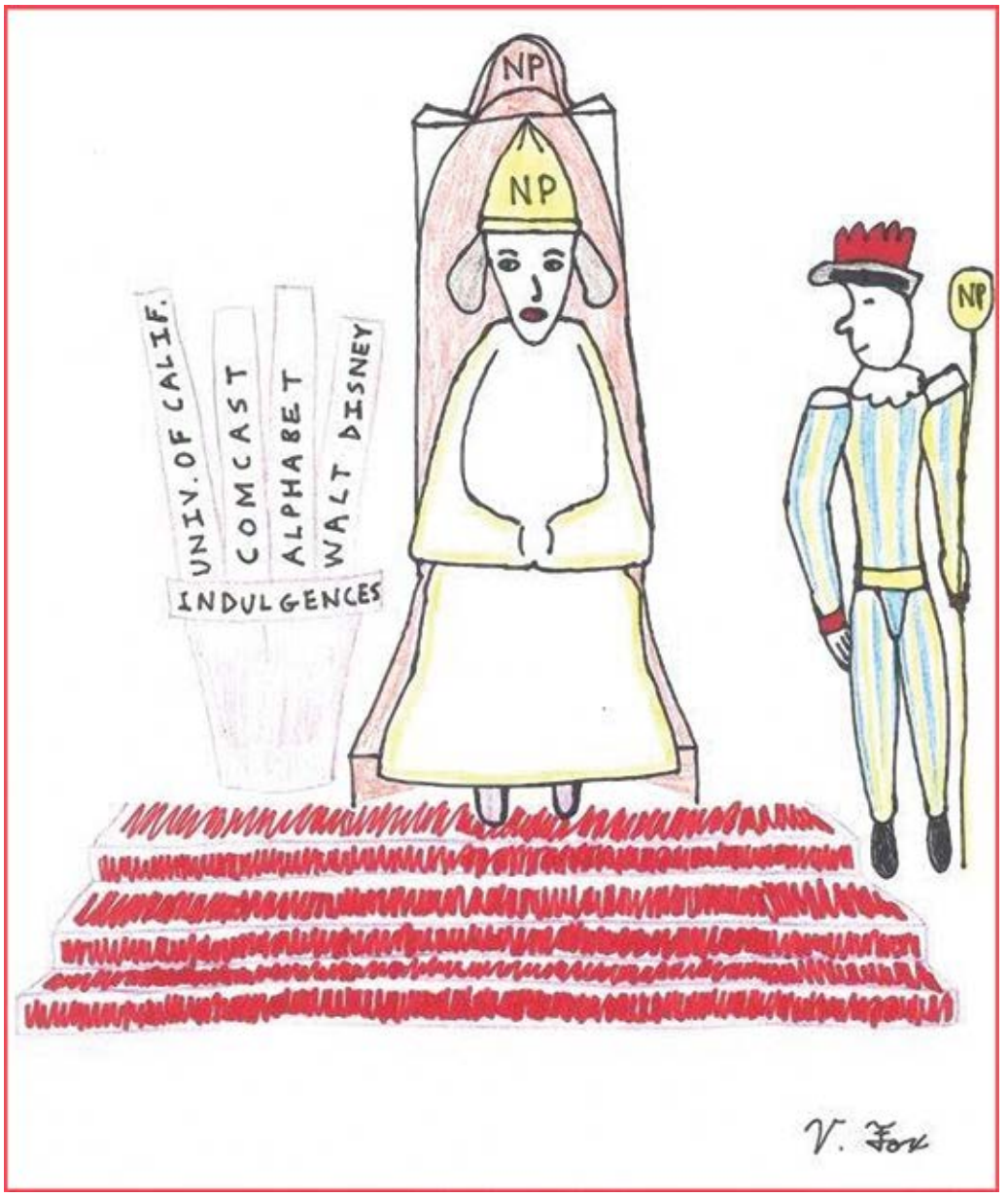
Ernie already has that covered.
We're talking about a gorgeous two-page spread in an upcoming issue of Outword, the perfect place to showcase your business, introduce your staff, share your story, or promote whatever deserves the spotlight.
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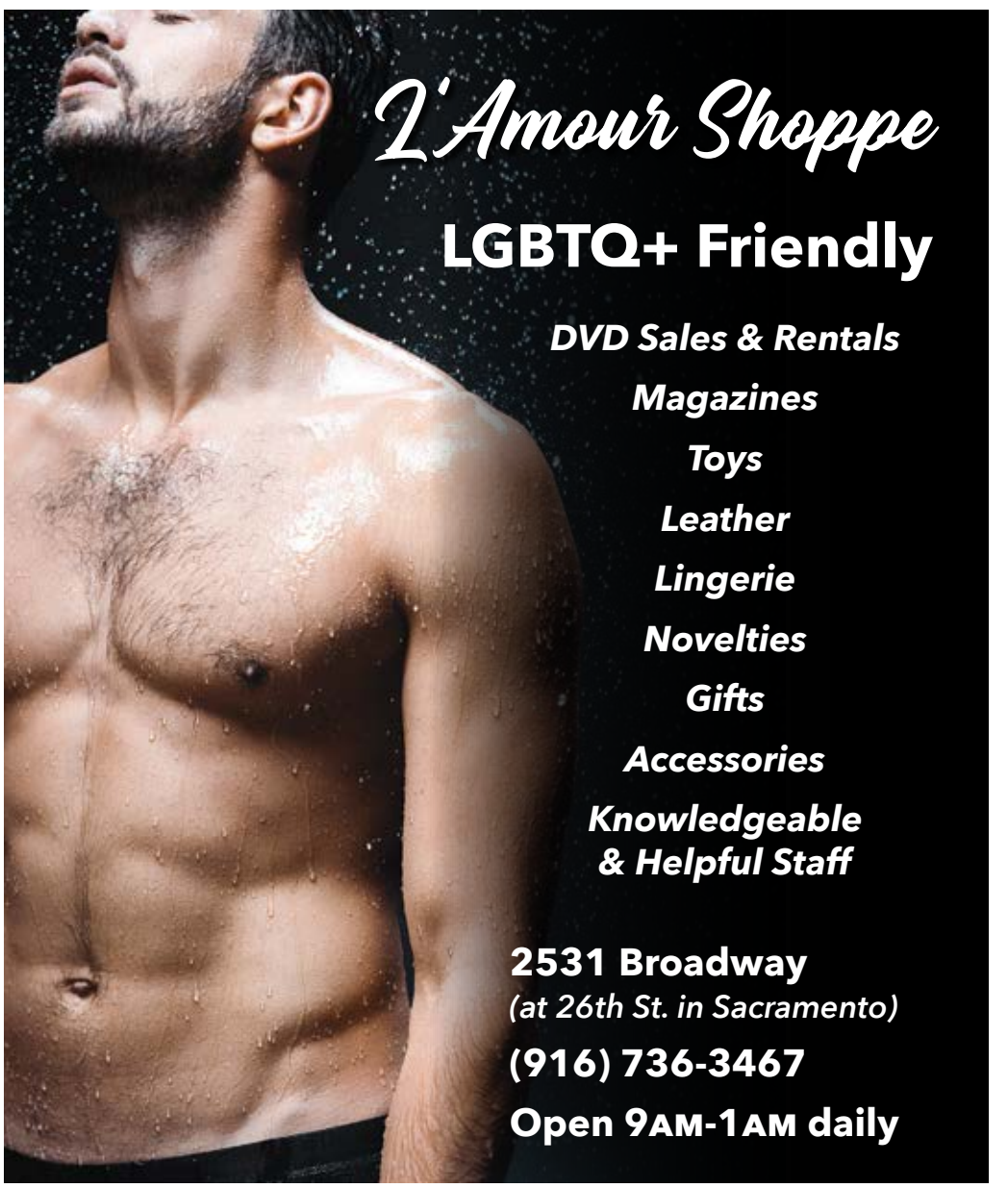
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outWord digital media



Ernie
September 2023
iPhone 13 Pro Max

We are ready to start collecting entries for our annual Pet Photo Contest! Scan the QR code over there to be swept away to our Jotform, where we'll collect your information, your precious photo and, if you'd like, a short paragraph about why your little hooligan is the best in the world.

Remember, you must have the rights to any images you submit. They cannot be generated by AI or be purchased or stock photos. Other than that, feel free to send us one or two photos of your pet being its most adorable.

Entries will be accepted until 5 p.m. on October 12. The winning photo will grace the front cover of our Pet Issue, hitting the streets October 22. And the lucky human who sends in the winning image will receive $100 cash!

So, if you think you have the star of the century lying next to you on the couch snoring, snap a pic or two and send them our way.

Just scan the QR code and you're on your way.

Your little hooligan could be our next cover star!

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