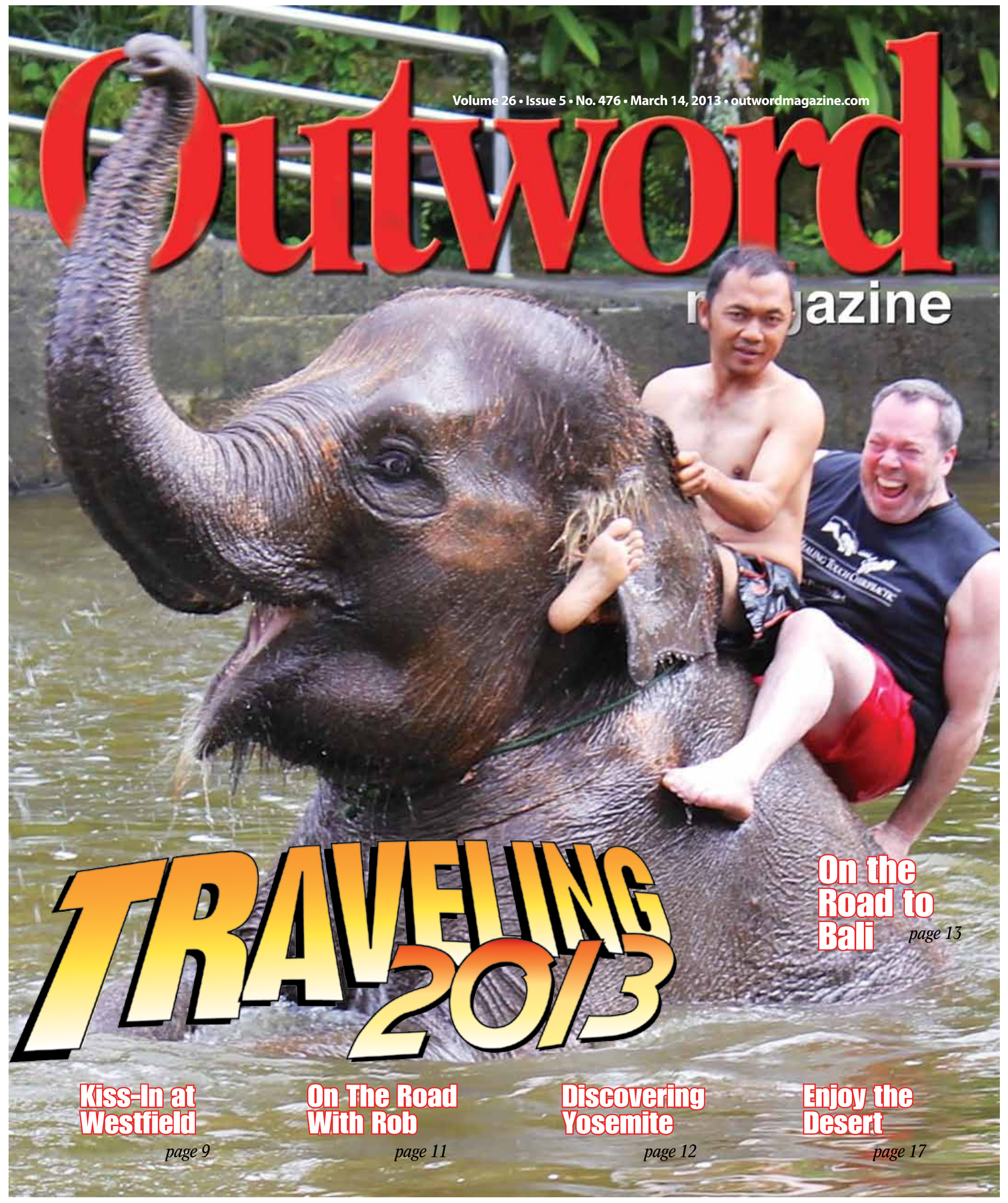


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Outword

magazine



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ON THE COVER

Tia, a Sumatran elephant at the Elephant Safari Lodge in Ubud, takes pleasure in dunking Darrick during her daily bath. Darrick and Dale also got to take turns washing her back and hosing her off.

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Letters

Celebrating Stonewall's Success

Join Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen and SCUSD Board Member Jay Hansen in honoring all those who were endorsed and supported by the Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club in the last election.

Tickets are \$35 (two for \$50), and include hors d'oeuvres and one drink. Funds raised will be used to support future candidates.

Celebrating Stonewall's Success will be on Wednesday, March 20 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Sidetrax, 2007 K St. Info: SacStonewall.org.

LGBT Theatre To Announce New Season

Closet Door Theatre Company, formed nearly a year ago with almost a year of prior planning, will announce the three shows of their first season at a launch party on Thursday, March 28.

The party will be held at the Kennedy Gallery Art Center, 1931 L St. from 6 to 9 p.m. and all are welcome to attend, not only to find out about the new season, but to learn about acting and volunteer opportunities.

For more information, visit ClosetDoorTheatre.org

CARES Needs Volunteers for Video Project

Dear Outword Readers,

CARES is putting together a video/PSA targeting youth to encourage safer sexual practices and also talk about general sexual health.

We are asking for your help in either participating or finding youth volunteers aged 18-24 in the Sacramento area who would be interested in participating in this video/PSA which will be seen on various media outlets.

We are looking for youth volunteers to talk about their experiences (good/bad) around HIV/STDs and sexual health in general. We want this to be as real and open as possible.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating, please let us know as soon as possible with contact information. If you have any questions regarding this video/PSA, please do not hesitate to ask.

Filming will occur in March at a professional studio in the Sacramento area. Details will follow once we've recruited the individuals.

Please contact:

Jon Benorden, CARES Program Manager,
at 916-914-6246 jbenorden@caresclinic.org.

Flipping for Flapjacks

Dear Outword Readers,

I would like to invite you to a special Flapjack Breakfast fundraiser that is being held to benefit the NorCal AIDS Cycle.

Funds from this event will help in the fund raising efforts of Keidri and myself as we set off to bike 330+ miles over four days in May.

We will have two seating sessions (8 & 9 a.m.) allowing 150 people in each session. You may purchase tickets through the online system ncaclapjack.eventbrite.com.

Breakfast will cost \$8 per person, and includes three pancakes, two slices of bacon, breakfast potatoes, coffee, orange juice and fountain beverages.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sandr  L Nelson, President
Breaking Barriers



In Memory of Jerry Miller

Friends of Jerry Miller (February 15, 1972 - March 1, 2013) are remembering a loving person to all and a very giving man to anyone in need of help. Back in the old days, he helped the community as much as possible, including gay charities. Everyone he met became a friend.

Jerry passed from a major stroke. He leaves two children, Shavon and Patrick, his mother and two sisters, stepfather, niece and nephew and many friends.

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Bill Introduced To Modernize HIV Confidentiality Laws

Legislation modernizing California's HIV confidentiality and data sharing laws has been introduced that will protect the privacy of HIV and AIDS patients while allowing the disclosure of important medical information under limited circumstances in order to better coordinate and transition care.

Senator Mark Leno (D-SF) announced on February 15, the introduction of SB 249, co-sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, AIDS Legal Referral Panel and Conference of California Bar Associations.

The bill also updates the state's confidentiality requirements for HIV tests to ensure that all existing and new testing types are protected.

"California's privacy protection laws for HIV patients are in great need of modernization," said Sen. Leno. "With improvements in both state and federal laws that fully protect patient confidentiality, California's ban on the disclosure of HIV information between caregivers has become an impediment to HIV and AIDS patients who are transitioning to new health care systems or trying to coordinate care between two or more providers. It is time to update our laws to ensure that all patients get the vital healthcare services they need, regardless of their HIV status."

Although the state and federal governments have gone to great lengths to protect the confidentiality of HIV and AIDS patients, current California law prohibits any sharing of HIV information by public health authorities, with extremely limited

exceptions, even at the request of the patient.

SB 249 updates California law to ensure that providers are able to coordinate care for HIV and AIDS patients without compromising the confidentiality of sensitive medical information. These changes are particularly necessary and important because of the implementation of federal health care reform.

At the same time, state law does not provide privacy protection to all types of HIV tests that are now available. SB 249 extends the confidentiality guidelines that now apply to blood tests to all types of HIV tests, including urine and saliva tests, as well as methods yet to be identified.

"This bill is critically important because, with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, people living with HIV will be transitioning into new systems of care," said Neil Giuliano, CEO of San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "This legislation modernizes how we protect and report health information to ensure that people won't lose access to life-saving care and treatment as these transitions occur."

SB 249 is co-authored by Assemblymember Mark Stone. It will be heard in policy committees in the Senate this spring.

Obama Signs LGBTQ-Inclusive Violence Against Women Act

President Obama has signed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the first federal bill to contain LGBTQ-inclusive anti-discrimination provisions.



President Obama signing the Violence Against Women Act.

Obama signed the Act on March 7, and was joined by The New York City Anti-Violence Project's (AVP) Executive Director, Sharon Stapel, a symbolic gesture in recognition of the two years of continuous work by AVP through their National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

(NCAVP), and is seen as a tremendous victory for all LGBT people in the United States.

"This legislation includes LGBT people in truly historic, unprecedented ways," said

OBAMA

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New Bill Takes Aim at Youth Group Discrimination

New legislation has been introduced that would remove a state tax exemption for any youth group, including the Boy Scouts of America, that discriminates against members and leaders on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in California.

Currently, organizations that discriminate on these grounds may still receive sales and corporate tax exemptions, a provision that is intended to encourage acting in the public interest.

The bill, SB 323, is authored by State Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Long Beach) and sponsored by Equality California.

"Our state values the important role that youth groups play in the empowerment of our next generation; this is demonstrated by rewarding organizations with tax exemptions supported financially by all Californians," stated Senator Lara. "SB 323 seeks to end the unfortunate discriminatory and outdated practices by certain youth groups by revoking their tax exemption privilege should they not comply with our non-discrimination laws."

Some organizations in California, defined similarly to non-profit organizations under federal law, receive exemptions from state corporate taxes and taxes on items they sell. SB 323 would end this exemption for youth groups that continue to discriminate by treating their sales to the same extent as any other retailer.

"California does not tolerate discrimination, and by removing this exemption, we will make it clear to the Boy Scouts and all other organizations that discrimination has a real cost," said John O'Connor, Equality California executive



State Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Long Beach).

director. "We believe this legislation will encourage groups to do the right thing, which is ending their discriminatory policies that unfairly exclude LGBT people."

The bill would also require organizations with discriminatory policies to pay corporate taxes on donations and other forms of income.

Existing California law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in public accommodations and government programs, and this law will end a special exemption for organizations that discriminate on these bases.

For more information, visit. www.eqca.org.

Ban on LGBT Discrimination by Federal Contractors Urged

Thirty-seven members of the U.S. Senate – led by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) – sent a letter to the White House on February 14, urging President Obama to issue an executive order to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity by federal contractors.

The senators, all of whom are supporters of the long sought Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), rightly describe the executive order as a "critical step that you can take today toward ending discrimination in the workplace."

In writing about the senators' letter for *The Washington Post*, Greg Sargent took note of the "enormous" significance of the proposed executive order, which would be yet another landmark milestone along the road "towards making the ideal of full equality before the law a reality."

"The ACLU included the executive order as the top first 100 day civil liberties recommendations for President Obama's second term," said Ian S. Thompson, of the ACLU's Washington Legislative Office. "It is the single most important step that President Obama could take over the next four years on

his own to eradicate LGBT discrimination in America's workplaces."

It has been estimated that the order would cover one-fifth of the entire U.S. labor force, and, with federal contractors employing people in all 50 states, would ensure that there were at least some workplaces in every state with legally binding protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"All American workers who stand side-by-side at the workplace and contribute with equal measure in their jobs deserve to also stand on the same equal footing under the law," said Thompson. "This executive order would represent a critical step forward for this most basic standard of workplace fairness. As the chorus of voices in support of the executive order continues to grow, the time for action from President Obama is now."

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Six Million American Children & Adults Have an LGBT Parent

An estimated 37 percent of LGBT Americans have had a child, meaning as many as six million American children and adults have an LGBT parent, according to findings from a national study released by Williams Institute Distinguished Scholar, Gary J. Gates.

“These analyses highlight the diversity and prevalence of LGBT parents and their children in the U.S.,” said Gates. “The data show that LGBT families are clearly part of modern American life.”

The report, *LGBT Parenting in the United States*, provides a demographic portrait of LGBT parenting in the United States. The report found that same-sex couple parents and their children are more likely to be racial and ethnic minorities. An estimated 39 percent of individuals in same-sex couples with children under age 18 at home are non-white, as are half of their children.

LGBT parents live in states from coast to coast and states with the highest proportions of same-sex couples raising biological, adopted or step-children include Mississippi (26 percent), Wyoming (25 percent), Alaska (23 percent), Idaho (22 percent) and Montana (22 percent).

Notably, the report found that LGBT individuals and same-sex couples raising children face greater economic challenges than their non-LGBT counterparts. Single

LGBT adults raising children are three times more likely than comparable non-LGBT individuals to report household incomes near the poverty threshold, and married or partnered LGBT individuals living in two-adult households with children are twice as likely as comparable non-LGBT individuals to report household incomes near the poverty threshold.

Several factors likely contribute to the relative economic disadvantages of same-sex couples with children, including that LGBT parents are more likely to be female, black, Latino/a, and younger than their different-sex counterparts. In the U.S., all of these groups, on average, have lower incomes.

The demographic portrait Gates provides is the result of analysis from several data sources, including the 2008/2010 General Social Survey, the Gallup Daily Tracking Survey, Census 2010, and the Census Bureau’s 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). The full study is available williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Parenting.pdf.

Top Talent and Boys in the Sun Highlight PS White Party ‘13



If you are still planing your spring break getaway, White Party producer Jeffrey Sanker has revealed a sizzling list of world class talent for this year’s annual White Party, happening March 29 - April 1 in Palm Springs, that just might tempt you to head towards the desert. Entertainment headliners include Ana Matronic of Scissor Sisters, who will rock White Party with an unforgettable solo performance, and recording artist Alexis Jordan returns by popular demand to spread the “happiness” and debut her slamming new song, “Acid Rain.” With non-stop parties and fun in the sun, this is the ultimate Spring Break Getaway. Tickets and more information at www.jeffreysanker.com.

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Love Is Love at Kiss-In at Westfield Galleria Mall

There was a lot of love – and kisses – in the air at the Roseville Westfield Galleria mall on Saturday, March 9, at what started out to be a protest and ended up being a celebration, with nearly 300 people showing that Love Is Love!

It all began when Daniel Chesmore and his boyfriend Jose Guzman were reportedly asked to leave the mall for sharing a few kisses and holding hands on March 5.

Although criticized for their initial response to the incident, Westfield took a different tack and invited the community to the mall, and went the extra step by providing a stage and sound system, a live band and passing out Mrs. Fields cookies and Starbuck's hot chocolate.

Keith Kaplan, Westfield's vice president of development, who is himself gay, issued a straight forward and heartfelt apology and recounted Westfield's pro LGBT policies, while stating that they would work harder, including sensitivity training, to ensure that a similar event would not happen again.

A special thanks to Beverly Kearney, Jovi Radtke, Carrie Martin, David Larson, the Sac. G&L Center and all the other folks who made this great event possible.



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Forget the Oscars, It's Time for the Gaybies



The 2013 TLA Gaybie Awards will honor the very best work in gay-themed movies and literature from the past year, in categories ranging from best drama to best actor. This year's nominees were hand-picked by TLA's opinionated, gay-movie-obsessed staff, but you get to pick the winners. The winners will be announced on April 15, so just visit www.tlavideo.com/gaybies/a-2 to vote for your favorites.



It's All About Pride!

Sacramento Pride Guide

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Sacramento Pride is on Saturday, June 15th!

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Take a Trip through Northern California with *Rob On The Road* by Bonnie Osborn

Rob Stewart is asked several times a day if he is going to be “the next Huell Howser,” a reference to the renowned public television personality and producer/host of the long-running “California’s Gold” who died last month. “It’s an honor” to be asked the question, Stewart says. “Huell is irreplaceable, but we would love to take the *Rob On The Road* show statewide.

As suggested by the name, “Rob On The Road” segments spotlight Northern California destinations and attractions, such as the Point Reyes National Seashore, an animal sanctuary in San Andreas, and local Sacramento treasures such as the Sacramento Zoo, State Library and Railroad Museum.

Other segments focus on remarkable business owners, local artists and topics such

prove yourself.”

He began his own television career at the Charleston ABC affiliate WCIV, then moved to the Myrtle Beach market, where he worked for three years as an anchor and reporter. From there, he moved to the New York City-based News 12, a local network covering New York, New Jersey and Connecticut – an enormous leap for someone who grew up in the tiny town of



Rob Stewart, host of KVIE's *Rob On The Road*.

as recycling, green farming or solar energy. The result is an eclectic mix of stories that attempt to encompass the diversity and dynamism of Northern California culture – imbued with Stewart’s irrepressible excitement and enthusiasm at sharing each new discovery with his audience.

As a transplant to California, Stewart believes he views California, its beauty and its energy, with a sense of awe that a native might not experience. A youthful 41, he has been working in television since graduating from the College of Charleston, South Carolina, nearly 20 years ago, and his enthusiasm for the medium remains undiminished. “I was going to go to law school,” he recalls. “Then I did an internship my senior year in college at the local TV station. I fell in love with it, because it was different every day. I worked like a dog for free, and I loved it.”

Stewart’s advice for young people interested in a career in the scaled-down field of broadcast media, in which jobs are increasingly scarce, is to take full advantage of internship opportunities. “Show up early and stay late. Dress the part. Go in there and be willing to do any job to prove that you’re worth hiring. An internship is a great way to

Cheraw, South Carolina. After five years in New York, it was four years as a reporter, anchor and producer for WHYI, a Public Broadcasting System (PBS) flagship station and home to Terry Gross, producer of National Public Radio’s “Fresh Air.”

Finally, in 2008, Stewart moved to Sacramento. “When I came here, I had an offer at a local television station and an offer at KVIE,” the local PBS station, he says. “I had to make a conscious decision to go the TV news route or documentary magazine programming. I loved the news business, but after reporting from Ground Zero in New York after September 11, I got to a point in my life that I felt, whatever I was going to be doing, I wanted to plant a positive seed in viewer’s homes. I found myself wanting to make a positive impact.”

About six months after taking the KVIE job, staff there created the “Rob On The Road” show. At the beginning, the show consisted of short segments that aired between scheduled programming. Today, the show is in its third season of half-hour segments, airing at Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

ROB

continues on page 22

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Discovering Yosemite with Photographer Nate Feldman

Sacramento photographer Nate Feldman enjoys capturing the world in his images in ways that most of us don't see. That frequently takes him away from the studio and out on location, including a recent trip this February to photograph one of his favorite locations, the Yosemite Valley. You can see more of his stunning images at NateFeldman.com or on his Facebook page facebook.com/NateFeldmanPhotography.



Yosemite at night, with the full moon behind the clouds and a 30 second exposure. This image has been cropped to fit in this space and color adjusted for printing on newsprint, visit his website to truly appreciate their beauty.

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On the Road to Bali - Isle of the Gods and Good Food

by Dr. Darrick Lawson and Dale Howard

This year over the Christmas season we were fortunate enough to travel through Bali and be impressed daily by what the island and its people have to offer.

After one of the longest flights you can take, we found ourselves outside one of the most chaotic, but efficient airports in the world, and a few minutes later we were in a taxi heading to Ubud, about 45 miles north of Denpasar, the island capital.

Though only a few miles by western standards, it took nearly three hours to reach Ubud. The tiny roads were choked with traffic as we drove through town after town - each consisting of a few houses, a few temples and several corner stores that all sold gasoline in recycled Absolut Vodka bottles.

and restaurants, all of which arrived faster than the town could prepare for them. The result is a sweaty, smelly scene of people dodging cars, mopeds and panhandlers while they look for the charm they had been told about by their friends.

Even with all of the problems, there was beauty to be found, including one of the most remarkable temples that we saw the entire trip, but keeping to form, the beautiful temple had a very attractive Starbucks built at its entrance.

Given our love of animals, the best part of Ubud was the Sacred Monkey Forest. The



Darrick and Dale at Purah Tanah Lot, Land (in the) Sea Temple in the Balinese language. Inspired by the priest Niratha, Tana Lot's shrine is a holy place to worship Balinese sea gods, and is said to be protected by a giant snake created from Niratha's scarf.

Between each village, a brief scene of terraced rice paddies would emerge, and the anxiety of Balinese traffic and congestion would seem miles away.

We stayed near Ubud in the Elephant Safari Lodge which is located in an elephant sanctuary that has operated on Bali since a small herd of Sumatran Elephants were rescued from horrible mistreatment on their native island. The people and elephants enjoy the tropical paradise that has been created for them.

Every morning, we were treated to a ride and swim with an elephant - in our case a wonderful young lady named Tia. At night, the phone would ring with a reminder that our elephant would arrive to pick us up off our balcony and take us to dinner. Each night's dinner was a display of the best sea food, grilled meats and desserts that Bali had to offer.

Ubud, for us, fell far short of the hype. It is a very congested town that once might have been calm and spiritual, but now seems overrun with tourists, spas, "yoga studios"

forest itself conjures images of Endor, and there are literally hundreds of friendly monkeys everywhere you turn.

Later we moved on to Seminyak, the most developed of the beach towns in Bali. With that comes a loss of Balinese character that is replaced with convenience, luxury and a 5 Star meal on every block. If you are considering a trip, google Potato Head Bar, Biku, and The Deck to get a flavor of the great food and fun that awaits. Wherever you go, order the Nasi Goreng, a local fried rice that will make you happy every time.

Before heading home, we spent our last evening watching the sunset at Tanah Lot, perhaps the most famous temple in southern Bali. Tanah Lot is almost an island unto itself, that looks as if it might be inhabited by Smurfs or Gnomes. Though it is completely inundated with worshippers and tourists, you can see past and enjoy the true beauty, and be blessed by a priest and touch a holy snake.

If you have the opportunity, take this trip - you will be amazed by the hospitality and eccentricity of this island and its people.



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Country Singer Drake Jensen Is a Gay OUTlaw

by Chris Narloch

I'm a proud country music fan (as opposed to a closet country music fan) who wishes that more country artists would come out of the closet.



k.d. lang will always be a country girl at heart, but she didn't come out publicly until after her switch to more of a pop music sound.

Aside from lang and Chely Wright, who was an established country artist when she outed herself a few years back, there have been no other high profile country artists to come out of the closet.

Gay men have been especially scarce within the beer-drinkin' and bible-totin' confines of country music – until now. Drake Jensen hopes to change all that with the release of his new album *OUTlaw*, set for release on March 12.

Born in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada, Drake Jensen is a unique figure in the country music industry: a voice for the LGBT community who speaks openly and unapologetically through his music.

In 2007, Jensen moved to Ottawa and in 2008, married partner Sean Michael Morin who is also his personal manager. Jensen began making his mark on country music with his 2011 debut album *On My Way To Finding You*.

Last year, Jensen was included in Towleroad.com's list of "The 50 Most Powerful Coming Outs of 2012." For more information about the man and his music, please visit www.drakejensen.ca.

outwordmagazine.com

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TRAVELING 2013

Take the Time to Enjoy the Desert on Your Las Vegas Trip

by Charles Peer

Glitz and glamour is what Las Vegas is all about, but there is a calmer side that is every bit as spectacular, and just a stone's throw from the frenzy of the casinos.

As a kid, my mother always told me I had rocks in my head, and I now think she may have been right, because I have developed an obsession for rocks and geological formations. So on a recent trip to Las Vegas with my friend Clint, I was truly amazed by that calmer side of the Las Vegas area, the desert itself.

Before leaving Sacramento, we had already booked an excursion to Hoover Dam, which I know is a pretty "touristy" thing to do, but since we had never been

is a first-rate operation. We were warmly greeted and after going through a short safety review we were taken out to the helicopter.

The flight itself is pretty short, only about 25 minutes, but it is spectacular and affords you a magnificent view of the desert that you obviously can't see from ground level. As we approached the dam, the pilot filled us in on some of the history of the dam and the surrounding area, including the magnificent new Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman



We managed to take our Las Vegas trip on one of the two cloudy days Las Vegas gets every year, but the scenery was still spectacular and it was fun to watch the "natives" get excited about the 16th of an inch of rain we got. This shot is of the new Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, with Hoover Dam and the Colorado River/Lake Mead in the background. The dam was only at 40 percent capacity on this day, revealing the white "cliffs"

there we wanted to go and see it. By excursion, I mean we were going to fly over the dam in a helicopter.

Our flight was booked with Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters, and they would have given us a complimentary ride from the Blue Moon Resort, the gay resort we were staying at in Las Vegas, but since we had a rental car we decided to make the short 25 mile drive ourselves and explore the desert on the way.

It was a beautiful drive, so much so that we decided to drive again to Hoover Dam the next day. But on our first day we drove straight to Boulder City Airport to catch our helicopter flight. We did leave enough time to do some site seeing around the Boulder City area, though.

This was not either of our first ride in a helicopter, but nonetheless, there are always a few jitters at the prospect of flying in one. They were of course groundless and Papillon

Memorial Bridge.

Seeing the dam and the bridge from the helicopter was pretty amazing, and convinced us that we needed to go back the next day to walk over the bridge and the dam itself. No matter how "touristy" you may think that is, it is well worth the trip. We also took the "back roads" on this second-day trip which truly took us into the desert and to beautiful Lake Mead.

Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters, as its names implies, also flies over the Grand Canyon, and that is a trip that I will be making in the near future. They have also just announced a new tour to the top of Tower Butte, the incredible sandstone pinnacle that rises 5,000 feet above sea level, located in Lake Powell Navajo Tribal Park near Page, Ariz.

You can arrange your own getaways from the madness, but fun, of Las Vegas at www.Papillon.com or call 888-635-7272.



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Entertainment

Snow White & SF Gay Men's Chorus Unite for Gala Concert



Snow White has left Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon at Club Fugazi to search for her "Prince Charming" at Davies Symphony Hall with the aid of the SFGMC on March 25 & 26. In this never-before-seen collaboration, the 300 men of SFGMC are joined by the Beach Blanket Babylon cast in singing classic favorites and custom songs created especially for this show. The show-stopping numbers will be infused with spectacular costumes, dazzling hats and appearances by some of Beach Blanket Babylon's beloved characters including King Louis, Glinda the Good, Pineapple Princess, Banana Carmen, Elvis Presley, Tina Turner, James Brown and Barbra Streisand. Tickets at SFGMC.org

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Two Takes on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Sacramento

Shakespeare's timeless tales never go out of style, and this March is proof positive that the Bard is as popular as ever on Sacramento stages.



Jason Oler as Puck and Troy Thomas as Oberon in STC's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

In addition to a current production of *As You Like It* that is set and performed in Sacramento by Big Idea Theatre, there are two productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* scheduled for this month, courtesy of Sacramento Ballet and Sacramento Theatre Company.

Sacramento Ballet

Ron Cunningham puts his unique spin on Shakespeare's hilarious comedy of mismatched lovers, playful sprites, and general pandemonium when Sac Ballet brings *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to life in dance.

Also on the bill is George Balanchine's *Western Symphony* which features cowboys and dance hall girls strutting their stuff to classic folk tunes such as "Turkey in the Straw" and "Red River Valley."

Sacramento Ballet's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* plays March 21-24 at the Community Center Theater. Please visit www.sacballet.org.

Sacramento Theatre Company

"What fools these mortals be," says the mischievous Puck, who then proceeds to turn the life of the mortals of Athens upside down.

The fine folks at STC (Sacramento Theatre Company) have already opened their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and it plays through March 24, the same day Sac Ballet concludes their run.

For more information, go to www.sactheatre.org.



Michael RJ Campbell as Quince and Matt K. Miller as Bottom in STC's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*.

Calendar March

compiled by Charles Peer

10 p.m. Sidetrax, 2007 K St. Info: 916-441-6823 SideTraxSac.com

PLAY LADIES NIGHT

Party Like A Youngstar at this new party for women who like to dance, with DJs Rockaway and Page Hodel. \$5. 6 - 10 p.m. Sidetrax, 2007 K St. Info: 916-441-6823 SideTraxSac.com

JAZZ, POETRY & ART

The Sacramento Fine Arts Center presents a cross-genre concert of art, poetry and jazz, featuring musicians from the Dave Brubeck Institute and prominent poets from the Sacramento Poetry Center. 6:30 p.m. SFAC, 5330B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. Info: 916-716-5951 sacfinearts.org

Sunday, 17

A SOUTH OF THE BORDER ST. PAT'S

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Mexican twist - Green Iguanas, Mojitos, Midori

Avenue Q

The smash-hit Broadway musical about real life in New York City, as told by a cast of people and puppets, through a hilariously irreverent, Tony-winning book and score where everyone learns to embrace the ups and downs of city life and realizes that "the real world" isn't so bad after all! Presented by Runaway Stage at the Black Box Theatre, through March 31. Tickets and info at RunawayStage.com



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Monday, 18

SAC VALLEY VETS MEETING

Join this LGBT veterans and active duty group for their monthly meeting and get together. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Lavender

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Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-436-7676 www.sacvalleyvets.com

THE CLOSET DOOR

CSUS Pride Center has been collecting postcards and emails that reveal secrets about LGBT students' lives, and will be displaying them, appropriately, on a closet door. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. University Union, CSUS, 6000 J St.

Tuesday, 19

PFLAG SACRAMENTO

Support group for LGBT individuals and their parents, families and friends. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Saint Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 Saint Mark's Way. pflagsacramento.org

RAINBOW CHAMBER MIXER

Join members of Sacramento's LGBT business group at their monthly mixer, for socializing and networking. 6 - 8 p.m. Info: RainbowChamber.com

Wednesday, 20

CELEBRATING STONEWALL'S SUCCESS

Join Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen and SCUSD Board Member Jay Hansen in honoring all those who were endorsed and supported by the Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club in the last election. \$35 (to support future candidates.) 6 - 8 p.m. Sidetrax, 2007 K St. Info: SacStonewall.org

Thursday, 21

ECLECTIC TRASH BOOK CLUB

Join this LGBT book club for a lively discussion of *Curse the River* by Per Petterson. 7 p.m. Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-492-0558 LavenderLibrary.com

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Ron Cunningham's hilarious comedy with donkeys and dance hall girls, plus George Balanchine's *Western Symphony*. 7:30 p.m.

Community Center Theatre, 1301 L St. Info: 916-808-5181 SacBallet.org

Friday, 22

HELLA GAY COMEDY SHOW

SF's best LGBT and LGBT friendly comedians make their Sacramento debut, hosted by Charlie Ballard, with Justin Lucas, Morgan, Kate Willet and Loren Kraut. 9 p.m. Sacramento Comedy Spot, 20th & K. Info: 916-444-3137 saccomedyspot.com

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A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

See Thursday, 3/21

Saturday, 23

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continues on page 23

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Entertainment

by Chris Narloch

It's *Ordinary Days*, but *Robyn is Happy* when *Shrek Visits Avenue Q*

There is no shortage of talent on Sacramento stages this month, and your theatrical choices range from the return of Broadway hits such as *Shrek the Musical* and *Avenue Q* to another area premiere from New Helvetia Theatre.



Elisabeth Nunziato, Amy Kelly and Melinda Parrett in *Robyn Is Happy*. Photo Terri Brindisi.

Ordinary Days

This off-Broadway effort from 2009, with music and lyrics by Adam Gwon, is described as an intimate chamber musical about four young New Yorkers whose lives intersect as they attempt to make their way in the Big Apple.

Connor Mickiewicz both directs and plays Warren in *Ordinary Days* and will be joined on stage by Tristan Rumery, Kiera Anderson, and Courtney Glass. This talented quartet performs through March 30 at New Helvetia Theatre on R Street in Sacramento.

For more information, visit www.newhelvetia.org.

Robyn is Happy

Another terrific cast takes the stage as B Street Theatre presents *Robyn is Happy*, starring Elisabeth Nunziato, Amy Kelly and Melinda Parrett (fresh off her triumph in New

Helvetia's last show, *Next to Normal*).

Robyn is Happy is described as an outrageous comedy about Robyn and Trudy, who suddenly make radical choices in life and love that threaten to destroy a once rock-solid friendship and send friend Hannah over the edge.

Robyn is Happy plays through April 14 at B Street Theatre in Sacramento. Please visit www.bstreettheatre.org.

Avenue Q

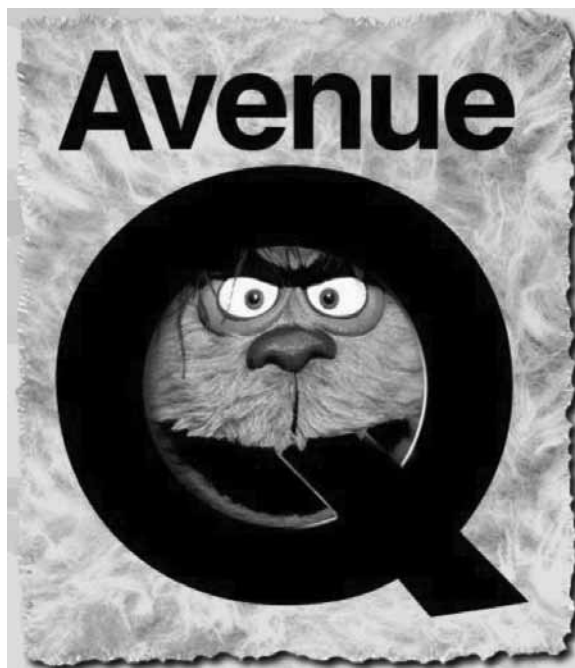
This bawdy musical puppet show can still sting (and sing its way into your heart) even after repeat viewings.

It's back, courtesy of Sacramento's Runaway Stage Productions, through March 31 at West Sacramento Community Center's Black Box Theater. For more information, visit www.runawaystage.com.

Shrek The Musical

The national tour of this fun family show makes a stop at Three Stages on the campus of Folsom Lake College, for six shows only.

The big, green ogre plays Thursday, March 14 through Sunday, March 17. Visit www.ThreeStages.net.



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Obama

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Stapel. "For the first time in history, federal law includes LGBT anti-discrimination provisions, a huge victory for the LGBT communities and a great step forward for LGBT inclusion in our nation's laws. By including LGBT people in VAWA, we can say to all survivors of violence: you matter and there is support for you."

This historic act names LGBT people as underserved populations in need of specific attention to address the unique issues they face as survivors of intimate partner or sexual violence.

In his signing remarks, the President said "Today is about all the Americans who face discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity when they seek help. So I want to thank Sharon Stapel ... for the work she's doing - the great work she's doing with the Anti-Violence Project. ... But we cannot let up - not when domestic violence still kills three women a day. Not when one in five women will be a victim of rape in their lifetime. Not when one in three women is abused by a partner."

The Act prohibits VAWA grantees from discriminating against survivors of violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity when providing services, and it establishes a specific purpose area to address LGBT violence at the state level.

Importantly, the legislation also increases protections for Native Americans, immigrants, communities of color and students.

"President Obama has shown great leadership today in including LGBT survivors of violence in VAWA, our nation's response to intimate partner and sexual violence," said Stapel. "I was proud to thank him and Vice President Biden for their work on behalf of LGBT people. We are grateful to all of the advocates and survivors who worked so hard to make this inclusive bill a reality."

The bill's sponsors were Senators Leahy and Crapo, and was supported by leaders in the House of Representative including Congress Members Moore, Cole and Conyers and House Minority Leader Pelosi.

Rob

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Although Stewart produces and has editorial control, show concepts are vetted by the production team. Once a segment is approved, Rob and the video crew shoot it, write the script, edit it and put it on the air.

"When we started the show four years ago, I was tasked to come up with a mission statement. I kept it short: 'To explore stories that capture the unique spirit of Northern California.' The beautiful thing is that can be anything, people and places. I wanted to cast a wide net, and find the California stories that would plant a positive seed. The broader you make your scope, the more positive you can be."

KVIE staff and leadership could not have been more supportive of the show's mission, Stewart says. "I love our staff's management and leadership," he says. "They have given me this ball and let me run with it in any direction. That's something I really don't take lightly because all that can change in an

instant.

"That people can go home, turn on the television, and watch the show means a great deal to me—that someone would want to sit down and watch something I am consciously trying to do for the greater good. I feel like it's been a perfect marriage."

"I have been working in television since I was 22 years old, and I can honestly say this is the best job I've ever had," Stewart says. "To be able to meet such wonderful people on every shoot. I have not had one bad experience, and to be able to explore this state and take the 1.5 million homes in our area with me each time is a blessing and a responsibility."

Stewart resides in Sacramento with his "much better half" of 14 years.

Bonnie Osborn is a writer and the owner of Writeaway Communications Services. She can be reached at 916-212-9110 or Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz.

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Calendar

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on bullying. 9:30 a.m. - noon. RSVP:
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art, craft and floral design clubs and
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Monday, 25

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Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon come
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SFGMC's 35th anniversary. Davies

Symphony Hall, SF. Info: 415-392-4400
SFGMC.org

Wednesday, 27

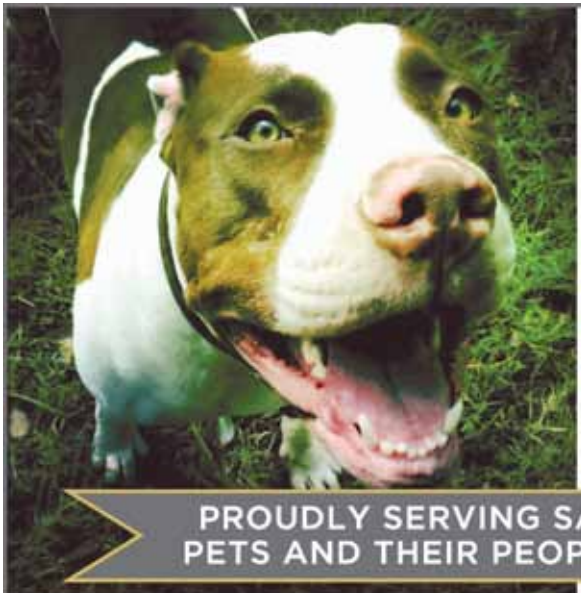
SENIOR SUPPORT GROUP

A casual social gathering for seniors. 10
a.m. - noon. Sac G&L Center, 1927 L St.
Info: 916-442-0185 or
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Thursday, 28

CLOSET DOOR THEATRE PARTY

Sacramento's new LGBT theatre company
is announcing the three shows of their first
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Theatre.org



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