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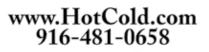




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Take a Survey to Help Sacramento Plan for Growth

The City of Sacramento invites residents and those who work in Sacramento to complete a web-based survey to provide feedback about living and working in Sacramento.

The survey results will be used as part of the City's 2030 General Plan annual report and will help capture the community's perspective on livability and quality of life in Sacramento.

To complete the survey, about five minutes, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/ communitysurvey2015. The survey will be open through Friday, February 6.

The Will of the People **Dear Outword Readers.**

Over and over again you hear defeated opponents of same-sex marriage claim "the will of the people" is being overruled by the courts. They decry that "democracy has been defeated."

America is not ruled by the "will of the people," but by the Constitution of the United States of America.

If "the people" pass a law that defies the

constitution, that law is unconstitutional, and must be overturned.

The men and women who serve in the United States Military do not take an oath to uphold "the will of the people." They take an oath to defend the constitution.

If you don't understand that, you don't understand America, and you cannot possibly value your own freedom.

Danny Ingram, President Emeritus American Veterans for Equal Rights

RCC Launches Membership Drive

The LGBT Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce is hosting an Auld Lang Syne Homecoming at the Top of the Hyatt, to honor former and long-time members and to launch their 2015 membership drive.

"New members help energize the Chamber with fresh ideas and new opportunities for your businesses to grow," said RCC Board President Paul Weubbe. "Our board's No. 1 resolution for 2015 is to add value to Chamber membership and to share that value with many more new members."

The Auld Lang Syne Homecoming and Membership Drive is January 20, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Downtown. For more information, visit

RainbowChamber.com

U.S. Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Marriage Equality Case

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed on Jan. 16 to review a federal appeals court decision upholding Michigan's ban on marriage **L** for same-sex couples. By granting the petition the Court will be considering Michigan's ban on marriage as well as those in the other states still denying marriage licenses to gay couples.

The move means the high Court will rule on the issue of marriage equality by the end of June 2015. The court has also agreed to hear cases from Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Friends who supported each other through nursing school and now a committed couple for more than 10 years, Michigan plaintiffs April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse are both hospital nurses and the parents of four special-needs children whom they fostered and then adopted.

They originally challenged Michigan's adoption code so that they could adopt their children jointly rather than as "single" individuals, and provide them the security of having two legal parents. They later challenged the state's marriage ban since it keeps April and Jayne, as well as the children, from being legally recognized as a family and from the protections other families enjoy. They argue that state laws banning marriage equality violate the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of equal protection and due process.

"We are now that much closer to being fully recognized as a family, and we are thrilled," said DeBoer. "This opportunity for our case to be heard by the Supreme Court gives us and families like ours so much reason to be hopeful."

"By choosing to hear the DeBoer case, the

Court now has the opportunity to end the injustices facing gay families in Michigan and so many other states, and to ensure that same-sex couples nationwide are free to move for work, school, or to care for elderly parents without jeopardizing their family's security," said Dana Nessel who represented the family.

Multiple other court rulings since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Windsor v. United States in June 2013. have established marriage equality as the governing law. In October 2014, the Supreme Court declined to review rulings by the Fourth, Seventh and Tenth Circuits that all found state marriage bans unconstitutional.

On November 6, 2014, two judges of the three-member panel in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Friedman's decision and those of courts in Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky. Within weeks, attorneys for DeBoer and Rowse filed a petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court.

"Families like April and Jayne's have been deprived of the status, dignity, security, and stability that marriage brings for far too long," said Stanyar. "This Court should hold that prohibiting same-sex couples from joining in marriage violates our nation's most cherished and essential guarantees.

Sock Drop Drive Rocks -Despite Burglary

S acramento branding and marketing firm Uptown Studios surpassed all of its goals in its 4th annual Sock Drop drive for Sacramento homeless, collecting and donating over 25,000 pairs of socks to Sacramento Loaves & Fishes with loads of help from the community.



The Uptown Studios' team and Sister Libby Fernandez, Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes, handing out socks at Sacramento Loaves & Fishes. Pictured are (Left to Right) Sarah Barkawi, Brent Stromberg, Anton Weaver, Sister Libby Fernandez, Tina Reynolds, Kristen Stauss, Tania Torres, Leidhra Johnson, Luke Miller, Cris Webber.

The success of this sock drive came on the heels of a Thanksgiving Day robbery of Uptown Studios' office, which saw all of the collected socks up to that point stolen along with equipment and other items.

"We saw that computers and other equipment were gone, and then realized that they had even taken our socks! We couldn't believe it," remarked Uptown Studios' Project Manager Tania Torres.

Rather than let this be a roadblock, business owner Tina Reynolds immediately created a video in response, telling the community what happened and putting out a renewed call for support. The response from the community was huge, with a constant stream of phone calls asking how people could help and knocks at the door from neighbors dropping off bags of socks.

"Sacramento is an amazing community," Reynolds said in a released statement. "So many people have wanted to help make this drive to help our local homeless community a success."

Local businesses Trumpette, SAFE Credit Union, and Famous Footwear were instrumental partners in the effort to meet and exceed the initial goal of 5,000 pairs of socks, serving as collection sites and places where community members could easily purchase and donate more socks.

Assemblymember Eggman to Chair Legislative LGBT Caucus

The California Legislative Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Caucus has elected Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman as its new chair.

"I am honored that my colleagues elected me to serve as the next LGBT Caucus Chair," Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman (Stockton) said. "We have done a lot of great work recently, and there is more still to do."

Originally formed in 2002, the LGBT Caucus serves as a forum for the California Legislature to discuss issues that affect LGBT Californians and to further the goal of equality and justice for all residents in the State.

Comprising both Senate and Assembly members, the LGBT Caucus members include: Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins, Assemblymembers Susan Talamantes Eggman (Chair), Richard S. Gordon, Evan Low; and Senators Cathleen Galgiani, Ricardo Lara, and Mark Leno.

"We will continue working with our colleagues and community partners to ensure that members of the LGBT community have the freedom to marry whom they choose, are safe at work and in our schools and that our most vulnerable members, including homeless youth and transgender individuals, are not left behind," said Eggman. "We have laid a strong foundation and I am excited to continue working on behalf of all Californians."

The Caucus' formation made California the first state in the country to recognize an official caucus of openly-LGBT state legislators.



Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton)

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Alan LoFaso Named Deputy Controller for Health Policy

T tate Controller Betty T. Yee announced on January 8 the appointment of Sacramentan Alan LoFaso as Deputy Controller for Health Policy.

LoFaso, 49, will advise the State Controller on health care policy matters and serve as a designee to the California Public Employees' Retirement System health benefits committee, the California Health Facilities Financing Authority, and the Stem Cell Institute's Citizens Financial Oversight Committee.

Since 2005, LoFaso served as the Chief Deputy to Board of Equalization Member Betty T. Yee. He had previously served as Chief of Staff to Carole Migden in the both the Senate and the Assembly, where he spearheaded legislative initiatives enacted to regulate HMOs, increase patient privacy protections, expand health coverage for investigational HIV and cancer treatments, fund organ transplants for HIV-infected individuals, prevent health worker infections, and improve access to treatment for chronic pain relief.

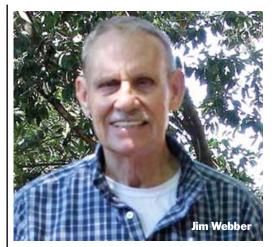
"My earliest experiences as an HIV/AIDS advocate in the Capitol and local LGBT activism here in Sacramento led me to this position," LoFaso told Outword. "I have

always cherished those experiences and the opportunities they have given me."

Lofaso is a longtime member of the Sacramento Stonewall Democrats. "We are proud to have an LGBT community member, Stonewall member, and previous board member, receive such a prestigious appointment with such a great ally to our community, Controller Betty T. Yee," Said Stonewall President Mario Guerrero. "Our congratulations to Alan Lofaso."

Lofaso has also worked as the Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs at the California Public Utilities Commission, and served as Senior Consultant to Assembly Members Wally Knox and Terry Friedman.

LoFaso began his career as a Senior Public Policy Specialist for AIDS Project Los Angeles and as a Legislative Advocate for the LIFE AIDS Lobby. LoFaso is a licensed attorney and holds a B.A. degree in History from the University of California, Davis and a Juris Doctorate degree with distinction from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.



Remembering Jim Webbe

The family of Jim Webber is sad to announce that Jim passed away on January 2, 2015.

Jim had been long active in the gay community of Sacramento. He served on the Board of Directors of the Lavender Library, where he was also its webmaster, was a founding member of the Sacramento Valley Veterans, where he also served as webmaster and designed their logo and was a long time member of the Stonewall Democrats.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, he was a graduate of Southwest Missouri State College (now Missouri State University) where he majored in studio art. After nearly seven years in the Army during the Vietnam War, he returned to the University of Oregon to study architecture.

Jim was an urban planner for fifteen years, eventually serving as planning director for the cities of Pismo Beach and Paso Robles. In the 1980's he changed careers to computer programming and web design, eventually retiring from the staff of the University of California, Davis.

Jim's main claim to fame was that, as a student of architecture at the University of Oregon, he designed an innovative play structure that his class built at a pre-school center in Eugene, Oregon. After Sunset Magazine published an article on the structure in March 1970, the concept went viral. Copied in wood, metal and plastic, it eventually spread to virtually every playground in the world where it has become the center of playground activities.

Jim is survived by his two sisters, both living in Kansas. At his request, his remains will be interred at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.





Miguel Diaz and Ed Farris, who organized the 2014 Xmas Tree Skirt Party held December 20 at Sidetrax, presented a check for \$1,500 to Sunburst Mental Health Counselor América Navarro and Sunburst founder Geri De La Rosa.

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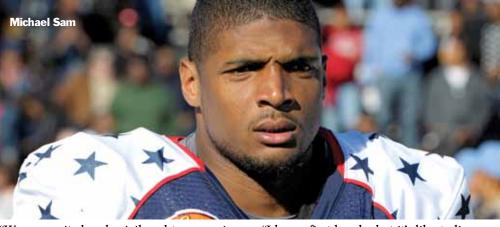
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Michael Sam to be Honored

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has announced that Michael Sam, who made history as America's first openly gav professional football player, will be honored at HRC's national Time to THRIVE conference in February.



"We are excited and privileged to recognize Michael Sam, and his brave commitment to leading an authentic life in a profession that has been historically unwelcoming to LGBT people," said Vincent Pompei, chair of Time to THRIVE and director of the HRC Foundation's Youth Well-Being Project. "By coming out, Michael sent an invaluable message to young LGBT Americans that anything is possible for them – even playing in the NFL."

Sam, a Texas native, was chosen as an All-American, and shared the title of Southeastern Conference (SEC) Defensive Player of the Year during the final year of his college football career at the University of Missouri. A defensive end, he then became the first openly gay football player picked by an NFL team when the St. Louis Rams chose him during the league's 2014 draft.

G&L Softball to Hold Ratings Clinic

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"I know first-hand what it's like to live and come out in spaces where being LGBTQ isn't accepted, much less celebrated," Sam said. "So I understand the challenges that many of today's LGBTQ youth are facing – from bullying to family rejection, even homelessness. These are heartbreaking problems that no child, no young person should have to face alone, and that people like teachers, counselors and social workers are uniquely positioned to help overcome."

Time to THRIVE will take place over President's Day Weekend, February 13-15, 2015, with AT&T as the presenting sponsor, and will include more than 60 workshops on topics such as creating safe and inclusive schools, and supporting transgender and gender-expansive youth.

To register, visit www.TimeToThrive.org.

cleats if you have some) and make some new friends, plus get some valuable information.

Sunday, February 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tahoe Park, 3501 59th St.



The United States Tennis Association (USTA) will for the first time be adding same-gender couples' doubles tournaments to its 2015 adult competition tennis calendar.

The groundbreaking decision opens the door to new play opportunities for same-sex spouses, those in civil unions, domestic partners, and spousal equivalents, making the USTA's popular adult competition more diverse and inclusive.

The Plaza Racquet Club in Palm Springs will be hosting the historic inaugural event, March 7-8. Other sanctioned same-gender events will be scheduled by the USTA throughout the 2015 calendar year.

The new divisions can be found in the 'Family Divisions" categories on Tennislink, and include: Same Gender Female Couples Doubles and Same Gender Male Couples Doubles, with additional brackets based on the combined ages of the couples.

"The USTA could not be more excited to offer the opportunity for same-gender couples to play in sanctioned tennis tournaments,' said Katrina Adams, USTA Chairman of the Board, CEO and President. "Tennis once again has stepped to the front to break down barriers in order to allow individuals to compete in the game they love with these new sanctioned events."

By introducing the tournaments during the 2015 calendar year the goal is that the events will become National Championships for the 2016 adult competition tournament calendar year.

"This is a great and important step forward for tennis," said Hall of Famer Billie Jean King. Tennis is a sport that's equally fun and beneficial for everyone, so it's nice to know that going forward, we'll enjoy a greater sense of equality between the lines in adult competition. The makeup of families in our world is changing and I'm thrilled to see that tennis also is recognizing that change, and making it easier for same-gender couples to competeand have fun-together on the tennis court."

For more information on upcoming tournaments, visit tennislink.usta.com.

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South Dakota Marriage Ban Overturned

U.S. District Court Judge Karen E. Schreier has ruled in favor of the freedom to marry in South Dakota, declaring the state's ban on marriage between same-sex couples unconstitutional.

The ruling was in a case that challenged the constitutionality of a state constitutional amendment in that only respects marriages between one man and one woman.

Judge Schreier wrote in her decision: "Plaintiffs have a fundamental right to marry. South Dakota law deprives them of that right solely because they are same-sex couples and without sufficient justification." The order was stayed pending appeal.

Saks Fifth Avenue Doubles Down on LGBT Discrimination

Gerald L. Storch, the chief executive of Saks Fifth Avenue's parent company, has declined to renounce Saks' claim that transgender Americans are not protected under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In an interview with the New York Times, Storch of Hudson's Bay, declined to repudiate Saks' legal assertion that former transgender employee Levth Jamal, who has filed an employment discrimination lawsuit against Saks under Title VII, was not protected under the law because "trannsexuals are not a protected class," as the company stated in a motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

"Mr. Storch's abhorrent decision not to renounce that position is not only morally wrong, but wrong on the law," said Sarah Warbelow, HRC Legal Director.

Nevada Brothel Rules to Apply to Porn Industry

After another performer became infected with HIV while working in the porn industry in October, Nevada health officials have announced they are considering applying the same regulations required of sex workers in brothels to the adult film industry.

Since 1988, when the Nevada's State Health Department first mandated condom use for all prostitutes in all brothels, there have been no reported HIV infections tied to Nevada brothels.

According to the L.A. Daily News, "Nevada's health regulations on licensed brothels require 'each patron to wear and use a latex prophylactic while engaging in sexual intercourse, oral-genital contact or any touching of the sexual organs or other intimate parts of a person."

Russia Bans Trasnsexual/Transgender Drivers

Russia has listed transsexual and transgender people among those who will no longer qualify for driving licences. A long list of others deemed to have "mental disorders" and behaviors that disqualify them for getting licenses includes: fetishism, exhibitionism and voyeurism; and "pathological" gambling and compulsive stealing.

In 2013, Russia made "promoting non-traditional lifestyles" illegal.

The government says it is tightening medical controls for drivers because Russia has too many road accidents. Apparently, the excessive drinking of Vodka is not included on the list.

Oral Arguments Conclude in Marriage Cases at 5th Circuit

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on Jauary 9 heard oral arguments in marriage cases out of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi seeking both the freedom to marry and legal respect of same-sex couples' lawful marriages.

"The arguments that they were positing for all three of the states, they were the same arguments that they've always been, the same arguments that have been refuted time and again," said Vic Holmes, one of the plaintiffs in Texas's suit. "What we heard today was that once again, these same arguments don't stand up."

The U.S. Supreme Court has remained largely silent on the many marriage cases that have been decided by District Courts, and may be waiting for the 5th District's decision, which could come at anytime. For a more detailed account, visit www.texasmonthly.com/ story/fifth-circuit-hears-texas'-same-sex-marriage-lawsuit/page/0/1

North American G&L Soccer Championships Scheduled

The 2015 International Gay & Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA) will be holding their North American Championships in the Greater Madison Wisconsin area August 9-15, 2015 at Reddan Soccer Park in Verona.

The tournament will feature approximately 250 competitors, and organizers are expecting teams from all over North America to compete.

The IGLFA was founded in 1992 in order to help promote and foster the growth of LGBTQ football worldwide. Since IGLFA's creation, more than 100 teams/clubs representing over 30 countries have joined and participated at IGLFA competitions.

CA Launches Ethics' Investigation of NOM & Major Donors

The California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has announced that it will investigate the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) and seven of its major donors as a result of Fred Karger's 35 page complaint filed late last year. NOM is the largest anti-LGBT organization in the country.

Karger's complaint was against NOM head Brian Brown, NOM's Political Director, Sacramento based Frank Schubert and the campaign committee sponsored by NOM, "Privacy for all Students (PFAS) – Stop AB 1266."

Seven individuals were also listed in the complaint, including Sean Fieler, a New Jersey hedge fund honcho who is alledged to have given PFAS at least \$200,000 without reporting it.



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Stephanie Desrosiers Have sex and then eat soup.



Leticia Juarez Stay cuddled up in bed.



Stephane Gautreau Go for a Polar Dip – jump in the water when it's ice cold.

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Sacramento Museum Day Returns for 17th Year

Tn a popular cultural tradition designed to encourage all members of the community to experience the Capital City's Lincredible wealth of art, history, science and wildlife – at little or no cost - Sacramento Museum Day is returning for its 17th year.



Nearly 25 area museums are taking part in Sacramento Museum Day 2015, including the **California Auto Museum**

Nearly twenty-five local museums will offer free or half-priced admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 7. Most of the museums will offer free admission. Two destinations located in residential areas -- the Sacramento Zoo and Fairytale Town -will offer half-priced admission to offset traffic control and security costs.

The day is coordinated by the Sacramento Association of Museums (SAM) and the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau, and in addition to offering free or reduced cost admission, many of the destinations are offering special activities during Sacramento Museum Day.

A sampling of the special activities include the following:

• The Aerospace Museum of California will offer an "open cockpit" day where most aircraft will be open for viewing (weather permitting), a children's art contest and on-site exhibitors such as the Tuskegee Airmen

 The Masonic Service Bureau will be on-site at the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center providing free electronic fingerprints of children for their parents;

• The Sacramento History Museum will offer hands-on gold panning activities for kids;

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• The crowd-favorite Sacramento Children's Museum mascot "Leo" will make special appearances throughout the day;

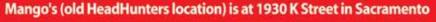
• And, the Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum will serve cake to celebrate the birthday of Laura Ingalls Wilder and mark the anniversary of Sacramento's first public school in February 1854.

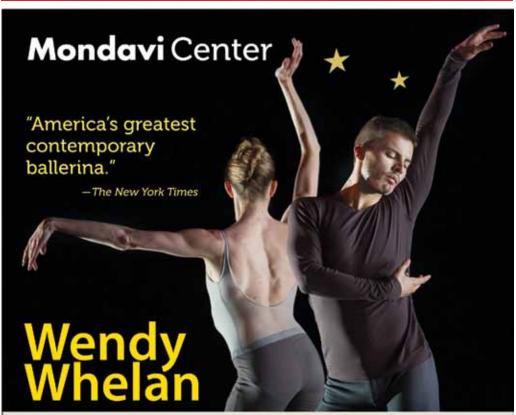
"Every year is unique and offers new discoveries for guests to explore on Sacramento Museum Day," said Sacramento Association of Museums Chair Kristina Swanson. "With a variety of participating museums located from Woodland to Roseville, we're pleased to introduce interested community members to the amazing array of arts, culture and museum offerings available in the greater Sacramento region."

Due to the popularity of Sacramento Museum Day, some locations must limit the number of admissions for safety reasons. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. but note the last guests will be admitted at 4 p.m.

More detailed information about participating museums, addresses, limitations, suggested parking and public transit options is available at www.sacmuseums.org.







🖈 Restless Creature SAT, JAN 24 • 8PM

Former New York City Ballet principal Wendy Whelan will dance in a contemporary suite of duets with four rising choreographers. Set to music ranging from Max Richter and Philip Glass to Hauschka and Hilder Guðnadóttir, Whelan dances with artists Kyle Abraham, Josh Beamish, Brian Brooks and Alejandro Cerrudo.

"Everything about her is riveting, interesting, unusual, intelligent." — The New York Times



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American Sniper & Selma Rock the Multiplex Plus Sacramento French Film Festival Returns

by Chris Narloch

Tor many of us, film going is the great escape, and I enjoy a good popcorn movie as much as the next person. Fun new releases include the first fulllength, live-action *Paddington* movie and a big-screen showing of episodes

from Game of Thrones.

Movies can also be an enriching, life-changing experience, however, and this month I spotlight several films, including Selma and American Sniper, that depict amazing true stories that deserved to be told.

American Sniper

Director Clint Eastwood was passed over when the Oscar folks recently announced their nominations, and that is a real shame since his clear-eyed moral conscience is the main reason why watching American Sniper is such a shattering experience.

The other major reasons to see the film are for its brilliant lead performances by Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller, whose collective work honors the real-life couple Chris and Taya Kyle. The less you know about Chris's story in advance the better. Just go see this film. Currently playing at Esquire IMAX and theaters everywhere. Selma

Celebrate Black History Month early by seeing this great, factbased film. David Oyelowo gives a magnetic, towering performance as Martin Luther King Jr., and Carmen Ejogo, who like Oyelowo is British, is also perfect as Coretta Scott King.

It took an African-American woman to finally bring the story to the big screen of the three marches from Selma to Montgomery that eventually led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Director Ava Duvernay does a remarkable job of making the racist violence depicted in the film both visceral and personal for viewers, so that the movie is never just a history lesson. Rather than being depressing, watching Selma is moving, insightful, and thrilling.

Paddington

The people who made the abysmal recent sequel to A Night at the Museum should be tied down and forced to watch this superb live-action family film, which puts most recent children's films to shame.

Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Julie Walters, and Nicole Kidman shine alongside an absolutely adorable bear that was created using CGI and animatronics. If you have kids in your life, please take them to this charming film. Blackhat

Hunky Chris Hemsworth, who looks like a modern Viking, is the nominal star of this odd, action

flick about hacking and cyber crime, but the real star is director Michael Mann and his stunning visual sense.

The indispensable Viola Davis costars with Hemsworth and a talented, largely Asian supporting cast, but the overlong *Blackhat* is probably only required viewing for diehard fans of Chris Hemsworth or Michael Mann.

French Film Festival

You can support freedom of the press on Wednesday, Jan. 28 by attending a one-time only screening at the Crest Theatre of the documentary Cartoonists: Foot Soldiers of Democracy (Caricaturistes: Fantassins de la Democratie).

Presented by the Sacramento French Film Festival, this is a special screening to honor the memory of the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

Support freedom of speech and democracy, and stay for a postscreening discussion with Professor Kevin Elstob, Bee Cartoonist Jack

Ohman and others.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the film starts at 6:30 p.m. Visit www. sacramentofrenchfilmfestival.org. **Cinemark Classic Series**

Despite the availability of classic films via numerous home entertainment options, I still love watching old movies on the big screen in a movie theater – as they were meant to be seen.

So I appreciate the fact that the Cinemark chain occasionally shows classic Hollywood movies in their theaters. This January and February, you have four great titles to choose from.

How The West Was Won plays Jan. 25 & 28, Funny Girl shows Feb. 1 & 4, Breakfast at Tiffany's appears Feb. 8 & 11, and *Giant* can be seen on Feb. 15 & 18.

For more information, and a list of participating theaters near you, visit www.cinemark.com.

Game of Thrones in IMAX

If you ever dreamed of seeing Dany, Bran, and Tyrion on the big screen, you will have your chance for one week only, when Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre presents Season Four's last two episodes of HBO's Game of Thrones, beginning January 29 at 10 p.m.

The fifth season of the show isn't scheduled to premiere until April 12, 2015, but you can whet your appetite by watching Episodes Nine ("The Watchers of the Wall") and Ten ("The Children") from last season, on the really big screen in IMAX.

The IMAX release of *Game of Thrones* will be digitally re-mastered into the image and sound quality of The IMAX Experience.

Tickets are on sale now at www. imax.com/sacramento.

Killing Us Softly With Her Song by Chris Narloch

Tou don't have to be a gambler to know that Roberta Flack's upcoming shows at Cache Face," "Feel Like Makin' Love," Creek Casino Resort in Brooks will be a safe bet for lovers of great soul music.

Her not-to-be-missed concerts will showcase Ms. Flack's unparalleled outwordmagazine.com

career as a singer-songwriter, which has produced such timeless pop classics as "Killing Me Softly," "The First Time Ever I Saw Your "The Closer I Get To You," and many more.

Classically trained on the piano from an early age, Ms. Flack received a music scholarship at age 15 to attend Howard University.

Discovered by the jazz musician

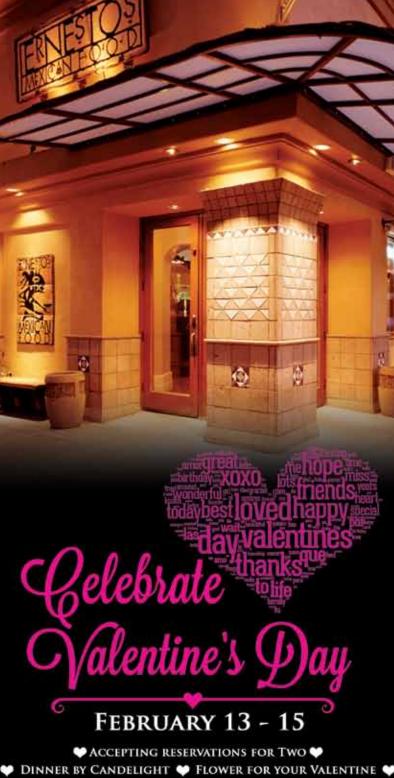
Les McCann while singing at a Washington, D.C. nightclub, she was promptly signed to Atlantic Records.

Many Grammys and hit records later, she continues to record new music and tour the world.

Robert Flack will perform two shows at Cache Creek Casino Resort, on Friday, February 13 and Saturday, February 14, at 8 p.m. Visit www.cachecreek.com/

entertainment.

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Meghan, Ella, Nick & Charli XCX – A Quartet of New CDs

by Chris Narloch

The pop music business continues to be a playground for the young, with artists who cannot yet legally drink or in some cases even drive proving to be among the most successful in terms of record sales and airplay.

The four artists I review below range in age from 19 (Ella Henderson) to 25 (Nick Jonas). Although I could bemoan an entertainment culture that worships youth at the expense of older artists, I won't since many of these "kids" are truly talented.

Meghan Trainor – Title

This pop princess just turned 21, which means she can finally purchase champagne to celebrate having the most successful year of any singer who debuted in 2014.

If you haven't heard Trainor's gazillionselling single (and cultural phenomenon) "All About That Bass," you have been living in a remote cave somewhere without any access to a radio.

That song's tribute to big booties became an anthem for proud full-figured women everywhere, and it helped guarantee that this disc would debut at number one on the charts upon its release.

The artist's second single, "Lips Are Movin," is another winner, proving that Trainor is no one-hit wonder. She also successfully teams up with (of all people) John Legend, for the charming "Like I'm Gonna Lose You."

Charli XCX – Sucker

The "Boom Clap" singer is a year older than Meghan Trainor, which may account for the fact that her version of modern pop/rock is a tad edgier than Trainor's.

The first cut on Charlie XCX's new disc is also the CD's title track, and I can see why the record company chose to lead with it. "Sucker," which sounds like a cross between bubblegum and punk rock, is probably the most irresistible song on the album.

The rest of the disc is a mixed bag, with annoying, juvenile lyrics like "Break The Rules" and "London Queen" alternating with more accomplished selections such as "Doing It" and "Need Ur Luv."

Nick Jonas – Nick Jonas

At 25, Nick Jonas is almost ancient by current pop radio standards, and he has definitely left the purity rings and his boy-band reputation in the rear-view mirror.

Jonas scored a big hit recently with the seductive single "Jealous," and the surprise on this self-titled CD is that he also has several other sexy, successful songs up his sleeve.

I couldn't name the other two Jonas

brothers if my life depended on it, and I don't know one song title of theirs. Yet Nick can really sing, and he has surrounded himself with first-rate producers here and chosen some terrific songs ("Chains," "Numb").

Ella Henderson – Chapter One

The 'baby' in these reviews is a 19-year-old singer-songwriter from the UK who placed sixth on the ninth season of Britain's *The X Factor*. I don't know what

they are putting in the water across the pond, but Britain has been churning out one terrific female soul singer after another the last few years, and Ella Henderson is another fine example.

"Ghost," her propulsive first single, is tearing up the charts in the U.S., and the rest of *Chapter One* is an equally impressive calling card for this throaty thrush.

For someone so young, Henderson sings like an old soul whether she's tackling up-tempo material ("Empire," "Pieces") or slower songs ("Yours," "Hard Work").

Nick Jonas. Photo by Yu Tsai for Flaunt Magazine

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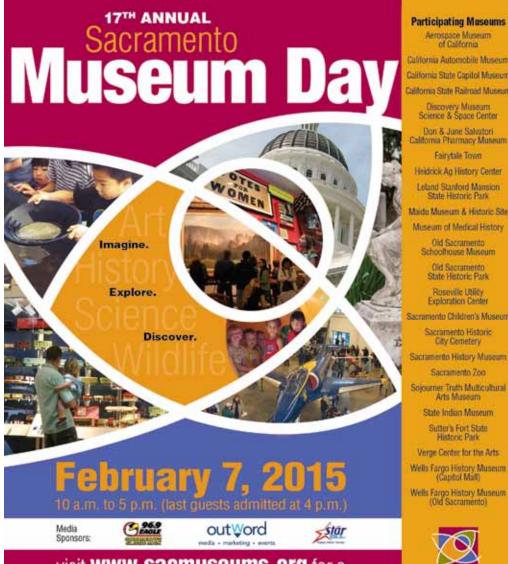
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Outword's Happy Hour with Jason Brock Gets Mustachioed

Cabaret singer and former X-Factor contestant Jason Brock came to Outword's Happy Hour at Badlands on Friday Jan. 9. Brock performed some great songs and everyone got a free mustache to celebrate - well, were not sure what we were celebrating except maybe TGIF!

The next *Outword* Happy Hour at Badlands will be, Friday, February the 13th and it will be a "Lost Boys" theme, with special prizes from the Sacramento Ballet that include tickets to "Peter Pan!"





visit www.sacmuseums.org for a complete list of nearly 25 participating museums

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Joseph & His Dreamcoat Coming to Broadway Sacramento



Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colors, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including "Those Canaan Days," "Any Dream Will Do" and "Close Every Door." Pictured here are Ryan Williams as Pharaoh and Ace Young as Joseph in a scene from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat National Tour 2014, coming to the Community Center Theatre Jan. 27 to Feb. 1 Tickets www.californiamusicaltheatre.com. Photo by Daniel A. Swalec.

Houston! We Have Lift Off



Gritty as it may be, the web series *Tha Life: Houston* gives viewers a bird's eye glimpse into six lives that are willing to show the world who they are and how they live, including its first transgender character. Catch it all at www.waitfourit.com.

Innovative BODYTRAFFIC Dances into Harris Center



Straight from an engagement at the Joyce Theatre in New York, the LA based dance company BODYTRAFFIC will perform the west coast premieres of *Dust* by Hofesh Shechter, the Israeli-born British based choreographer known for his blunt, earthy style; and of *Once again Before You* Go by Victor Quijada, the Montreal-based choreographer whose work blends break-dancing and ballet. At The Harris Center on Saturday, January 24. www.harriscenter.net

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Ballot Measure Requiring Condoms in Porn Advances

s part of an ongoing campaign to improve and strengthen California state law on the use of condoms in adult films produced in California, advocates from AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) and FAIR (For Adult Industry Responsibility) have submitted the official text for a proposed 2016 California

statewide ballot initiative. The initiative is an effort to reduce the spread of STDs, including HIV, through mandatory condom use and

safer sex in the adult film industry. Plans for the proposed initiative – a statewide California law that will require condom use in all adult films shot anywhere in the state – were previously announced by the group in November. The measure will be formally known as "The California Safer Sex in the Adult Film Industry Act."

Advocates aim to have the condoms in porn measure qualified to appear on the November 2016 Presidential election California ballot. Initial polling of 1,158 California voters that the group conducted on the statewide measure in mid-September 2014 showed overwhelming support for the proposed law - 71 percent answered 'yes' - when asked how they would vote on such a measure were the election held today.

"Given the probability of strong

confident that this no-nonsense workplace safety measure will become the law of the land, providing muchneeded additional protection to California workers," said Michael Weinstein, President of AIDS Healthcare Foundation and one of the five formal proponents of the ballot measure. "We sadly just witnessed another HIV infection directly tied to the adult industry this fall - an outcome that consistent and correct condom use could have prevented."

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