

outword

No. 533 • July 23, 2015 • outwordmagazine.com

YOUNG COUNTRY GETS COOL

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What 438,269 patients in 15 states and 36 countries know...

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Announcements

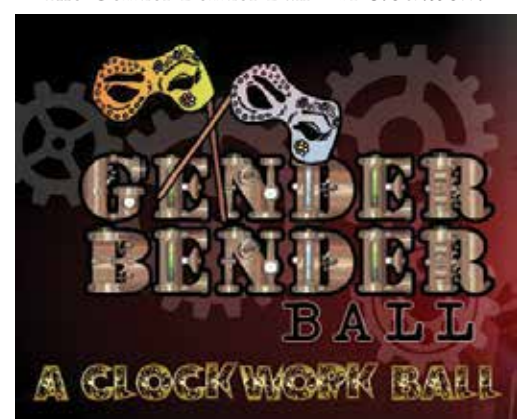
Gender Bender Ball Goes Steampunk

The Gender Bender Ball is the biggest annual fundraiser for the Gender Health Center, and this will be their sixth year. This year, they will have an entire Victorian mansion to themselves. The theme for this year's party, *A Clockwork Ball*, will be steampunk.

This gender bending party will include a live DJ, dancing, a raffle, and a stage show featuring local fire dancers. Also, several of the rooms will be for rent if you wish to spend the night.

The GHC encourages people to dress up at this party so you can expect to be surrounded by gender bending cyber techs, space pirates, goggles, top hats, and corsets. Costumes are not required, only for fun, feel free to come as you are.

The Gender Bender Ball – *A Clockwork*



Ball will be held Saturday, August 15, at the Sacramento International Hostel, 925 H St. For more information, visit www.thegenderhealthcenter.org.

Senior Pride Information Fair

The Wisdom Project = LGBT Elders is hosting the 2nd Annual Senior Pride Information Fair on Wednesday, July 29, from 2 – 5 p.m. at the E. M. Hart Senior Center, located at 915 27th St.

A project under the nonprofit of Awareness & Empowerment Projects of Servant Hearts, Wisdom Project's mission is to create community for LGBT people and allies.

This year there will be over 25 service and care providers tabling, plus speaker presentations from Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Sacramento City Councilman Steve Hansen, Clinical Psychologist Patricia Bach, Attorney Pamela Jones and Yolo Hospice Community Liaison Louise Joyce.

There will be refreshments, an opportunity for questions and ample time to visit information tables to collect resources and information.

While the 2nd Annual Senior Pride Information is specific to LGBT welcoming organizations, all elder and aging community members are encouraged to attend to learn more about staying informed and self-sufficient.

For more information, visit www.Servant-Hearts.org

Pentagon To Lift Transgender Military Ban

U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced on July 13, that the Pentagon will lift the ban on open and honest service by transgender service members.

Implementation of the new policy will be made in two stages, according to Carter. First, DoD will create a working group to study over the next six months the policy and readiness implications of welcoming transgender persons to serve openly.

Led by (Acting) Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Brad Carson, and composed of military and civilian personnel representing all the military services and the Joint Staff, this working group will report to Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work and will start with the presumption that transgender persons can serve openly without adverse impact on military effectiveness and readiness, unless and except where objective, practical impediments are identified.

In the second stage, Carter will direct that decision authority in all administrative discharges for those diagnosed with gender dysphoria or who identify themselves as transgender be elevated to Under Secretary Carson, who will make determinations on all potential separations.

"We are thrilled with Secretary Carter's announcement that the Department of Defense is finally taking steps to lift the ban on transgender military service," said American Military Partner Association President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "All qualified Americans should be able to serve our great nation, regardless of their gender identity. Lifting the

ban will dramatically improve the lives of our transgender service members and their families by allowing them to serve authentically."

"The Defense Department's current regulations regarding transgender service members are outdated and are causing uncertainty that distracts commanders from our core missions," Carter said in a released statement. "At a time when our troops have learned from experience that the most important qualification for service members should be whether they're able and willing to do their job, our officers and enlisted personnel are faced with certain rules that tell them the opposite."

"Moreover, we have transgender soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines – real, patriotic Americans – who I know are being hurt by an outdated, confusing, inconsistent approach that's contrary to our value of service and individual merit."

"As I've said before, we must ensure that everyone who's able and willing to serve has the full and equal opportunity to do so, and we must treat all our people with the dignity and respect they deserve. Going forward, the Department of Defense must and will continue to improve how we do both. Our military's future strength depends on it."

For more information visit www.MilitaryPartners.org.

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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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CDC Awards \$216 Million to CBOs for HIV Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that it has awarded \$216 million over five years to 90 community-based organizations (CBOs) nationwide to deliver effective HIV prevention strategies to those at greatest risk.

Those considered at greatest risk include people of color, men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender individuals and people who inject drugs.

No Sacramento area organizations received any of the funding, but the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, AIDS Project of the East Bay and Oakland's California Prostitutes Education Project were funded.

"Community-based organizations have been vital to our nation's HIV prevention efforts since the earliest days of the epidemic," said Jonathan Mermin, M.D., director of CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis Prevention. "The organizations we're funding have a strong foothold in the hardest-hit communities. They have the credibility and experience needed to deliver the most effective HIV prevention strategies to those who need them most."

CBOs will use the new funding to deliver

high-impact HIV prevention strategies, including:

- Providing HIV testing to those at high risk to increase the proportion of people who are aware of their HIV status;
- Engaging HIV-positive people in ongoing care and treatment, helping them adhere to antiretroviral therapy, and ensuring they receive prevention and support services;
- Ensuring high-risk, HIV-negative individuals have access to prevention and support services such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), high-impact behavioral interventions, and screening for sexually transmitted infections; and
- Distributing condoms to HIV-positive and high-risk, HIV-negative individuals.

The funded organizations are in the 50 geographic areas that reported the highest number of HIV diagnoses in 2011.

UNAIDS Reaches Goal of 15 Million People on Treatment

UNAIDS, an advocate for accelerated, comprehensive and coordinated global action on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, is reporting that the world has reached the goal of 15 million people on lifesaving HIV/AIDS treatment worldwide by 2015 – nine months ahead of schedule.

The number now exceeds the AIDS treatment targets set forth in UN's Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 6, according to the report which was released July 14.

However, AHF notes that a separate Kaiser/UNAIDS study also shows that overall donor government funding for the AIDS response increased only slightly in 2014 – approximately 1 percent after adjusting for inflation and exchange rates – and that seven of 14 donor governments (Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, Sweden, and the European Commission) actually decreased funding.

According to the funding report, "The U.S. government remained the largest donor government to HIV in the world but funding remained essentially flat, totaling \$5.6 billion in 2014, as it did in 2013."

"Reaching 15 million on treatment is an astounding human accomplishment. We are so proud to be part of the largest global lifesaving movement in history," said Michael Weinstein, President of AIDS Healthcare Foundation. "However, there is still so much work to do: still 1.5 million deaths and 2.5 million new infections per year; millions who don't know they are positive; and 20 million who are not yet

treated. Shockingly, the United States, the wealthiest country on the globe, has a smaller percentage of people with HIV being treated than the world as whole."

The UNAIDS treatment report also noted, "In 2014, the report shows that 83 countries, which account for 83 percent of all people living with HIV, have halted or reversed their epidemics, including countries with major epidemics, such as India, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe."

India was recognized by UNAIDS as one of the success stories turning back the tide of HIV and AIDS. However, that is somewhat misleading because so few people in India have actually been tested for HIV.

"Placing the next five million on treatment by the year 2020, as AHF has been spearheading in the ambitious '20X20' campaign, will require a redoubling of efforts and a new commitment of effort and funding across the globe," said Terri Ford, chief of global policy & advocacy for AHF. "Massive – and innovative – scale up of testing and linkage to care and treatment must now be the order of the day in the U.S. as well as around the world."

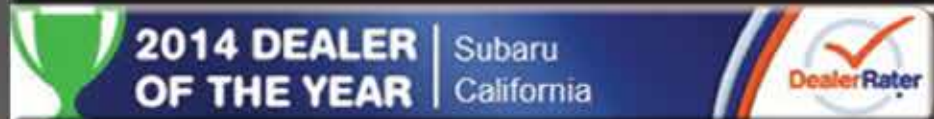


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Drag Queen Bingo Raises \$1,584 for Scholarship Fund



Miss Do MeMoore hosted a sold-out night of Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, July 2, at Mango's in Midtown, and with the generous help of all you bingo players, raised \$1,584 for the Rainbow Chamber Foundation's Scholarship Fund. The RCCF will be issuing \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students in the Sacramento area. To learn more about the Chamber, visit rainbowchamber.com.

Sacramento Stonewall Democrats Elect New Board



Sacramento's Stonewall Democrats installed their new Board of Directors at their general membership meeting held July 13 at the Red Lyon Inn. Jann Dorothy is the newly elected president and is the first lesbian to lead the democratic club. Pictured are Lanz Nalagan, Membership Chair; Kim Angulo, Communications Chair; Jonathan Taylor, Fundraising Chair; Jann Dorothy, President; Timothy Kamermayer, Vice President; and Patrick Le, PAC Chair. Not pictured is Charlene Jones, Secretary/Treasurer. Visit SacStonewall.org or facebook.com/sacstonewall.

Jury Finds NJ Gay Conversion Program Fraudulent

After a three-week trial in a first-of-its-kind lawsuit, a jury today determined that Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing (JONAH) violated New Jersey consumer fraud protections and committed unconscionable business practices by telling clients and potential clients that they were disordered and by offering "conversion therapy" services it claimed could turn their gay clients straight.

The seven-person jury deliberated for about three hours before delivering a unanimous verdict on nearly all counts in the trial overseen by Superior Court Judge Peter F. Bariso, Jr. "This verdict is a monumental moment in the movement to ensure the rights and acceptance of LGBT people in America," said David Dinielli, deputy legal director for the Southern Poverty Law Center and lead attorney for the case. "Conversion therapy and homophobia are based on the same central lie – that gay people are broken and need to be fixed. Conversion therapists, including the defendants in this case, sell fake cures that don't work and can seriously harm the unsuspecting people who fall into this trap."

The plaintiffs were three young men and two mothers. The jury ruled that the New Jersey-based JONAH violated the state's Consumer Fraud Act through its marketing and performance of conversion therapy, a practice that has been discredited by virtually every major U.S. medical and mental health association.

Expert testimony showed that it has been linked to increased anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation. It also has been criticized by the American Psychological Association for promoting a climate of bigotry and discrimination toward the LGBT community.

JONAH's techniques sometimes alienated clients from their families and caused them to blame themselves or family members for their being gay.

Plaintiff Chaim Levin, 26, whose mother, Bella, was also a plaintiff, said: "Seven years ago, I was subjected to abusive, harmful practices by JONAH that I thought would remain secret and unnoticed despite how



Plaintiff Chaim Levin

destructive they were – in part because they thrived on this secrecy in their so-called therapy practice. Now the world knows about their destructive, refuted practices. I took part in this lawsuit to take a stand. I don't want another person to endure the anguish and harm JONAH put my loved ones and me through."

"This is not a freedom of religion case," said SPLC staff attorney Sam Wolfe. "It is unlawful to defraud vulnerable individuals and lure them with false promises of orientation change. The lie that individuals can change their sexual orientation if only they work hard enough and pay for enough 'therapy' has harmed individuals, families, and religious communities for far too long."

You can watch a video interview with plaintiffs Chaim Levin and Ben Unger, courtesy of Truth Wins Out, at www.youtube.com/watch?t=15&v=DsMgRUMFZks.

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Gay Musician Releases Anti-Bullying Music Video



Christopher Sorensen, a gay singer-songwriter, has released a music video with a very positive, anti-bullying message and the goal of giving hope and happiness to those who struggle with bullying on a daily basis. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwAeE73FdQM

Christian Leadership Should Stop the Promotion of Hate

commentary by The Rainbow Sash Movement

The Rainbow Sash Movement (LGBT Roman Catholics) is calling on responsible Christian leadership to speak out against the haters in their midst.

We have learned from the terrorist threat, that fundamentalist Muslims were able to hijack Islam and spread hateful things in the name of Islam, much like fundamentalist Christians are doing with the Christian message of love.

Rev. Robert Jeffress of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, Rev. Jimmy Swaggart of SNB Broadcasting, along with Mother Angelica's Eternal Word Network are spreading extreme dislike for the national LGBT Community in the name of the Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God, while the Word of God never changes, our understanding of it does. The Word of God promotes love not hate. Like Islamic extremists, the aforementioned individuals seek to hijack the Word of God for their own hateful purposes.

That is why we are calling on responsible Christian leadership to continue to promote the message of love for one another, inclusion not exclusion, and positive messaging over the public airways.

Sadly, we in the LGBT Community understand that spreading hate over the airways can only increase the amount of bullying directed at LGBT people, and negatively impact the suicide rate among our youth.

Since these extremists use the public airways to promote their brand of bigotry, we are calling on the FCC to review their licensing to make sure they do not use the public airways to demonize any segment of our population for their hateful purposes.

For more information, visit rainbowsashmovement.wordpress.com.

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Sacramento LGBT-friendly Senior Housing Plans Progress

By 2020, there will be an estimated three million gay seniors nationwide, and many LGBT seniors, including many in Sacramento and the Central Valley, have run into discrimination in retirement communities, assisted living and convalescent homes.

As at least a start on the solution to that problem, a local nonprofit is planning the first LGBT friendly senior affordable housing community in the Central Valley.

Land for the 50-some apartment development at the corner of 16th and F Streets in Sacramento has just been purchased by Mutual Housing California.

Similar communities already are built in Hollywood, Philadelphia and Minneapolis and one is in construction in San Francisco

"This proposal is long overdue," said Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing California CEO. "Sacramento has a large LGBT population and we all need a place of acceptance and community as we live out our elder years."

A 2014 Harris poll of LGBT people aged 45 - 75 found that 44 percent of those surveyed were very interested in living an affordable LGBT-friendly housing development sometime in the future.

"LGBT seniors have unique needs, and this project will help fulfill those needs," said Steve Hansen, Sacramento City Councilmember, District 4 "The project also will fill an unsightly lot that has been vacant for more than 20 years furthering the

renaissance of this important neighborhood."

The current proposal is for a courtyard and community room, property management, service offices and parking garage on the ground floor with apartments on the three floors above.

Because resident involvement is the core of Mutual Housing philosophy, the development also will have a community organizer.

"As we know, community connections are so important to mental health and longevity, especially with your neighbors," said Jim Joseph, J. Joseph Professional Tax Services owner and a long-time supporter of LGBT senior housing.

Joseph and Michael Farnham, owner of Trendsetters Hair Design, first approached Mutual Housing with the idea of LGBT senior housing a number of years ago.

"It is clear that Mutual Housing has the experience and capacity to make this happen," said Joseph.

Because a senior population also needs to be near public transportation, medical facilities and retail such as grocery stores and pharmacies, finding the right parcel took longer than expected.

"The parcel is perfect for seniors," said Iskow of the 0.6-acre parcel. "It is across the street from great community assets such as Sampinos and Washington Park on F Street and just blocks from a light rail station."

Mutual Housing staff now will start applying for funding, including housing tax credits.

The whole process, from purchasing the parcel to completing construction is expected to take two to three years.

An LGBT leadership group has been put together to support outreach efforts and advise Mutual Housing.

Mogavero Notestine Associates will be the project architects; Cunningham Engineering will serve as civil engineer.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops, operates and advocates for sustainable rental housing for the region's diverse households.

A member of NeighborWorks America - a congressionally chartered nonprofit that supports community development nationwide - Mutual Housing has more than 3,000 residents, nearly half of whom are children.

Through its focus on leadership, the nonprofit provides training and mentoring as well as educational programs, community-building activities and services for residents and neighbors.

For more information, go to www.mutualhousing.com.

New EEOC Ruling Protects LGB Employees

The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on July 16 issued a decision that employment discrimination based on sexual orientation is a form of sex discrimination that is outlawed by existing federal law.

In 2012, the EEOC issued a similar ruling that discrimination based on gender identity or expression is also a form of sex discrimination that violates federal law, which set an important precedent for protecting transgender employees.

Both rulings are landmark advances for civil rights. Now anyone who works for an employer with 15 or more employees can file a charge of sex discrimination with the EEOC if s/he is discriminated against because of her/his sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

"The fight for basic civil rights protections for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people just took a big step forward," said American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT Project Director James Esseks. "Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people all across the country now have a place to turn if an employer fires them because of their sexual orientation. This is a significant development because protections for gay and transgender people are almost nonexistent in federal law, and 28 states also lack state-level protections."

Despite the EEOC ruling, neither Congress nor state legislatures have passed explicit civil rights protections for LGBT employees. The ACLU argues that these protections

should not be left to the courts because they may not all interpret this ruling with an even hand, and rulings like this one cannot provide comprehensive protections against sexual orientation discrimination in contexts such as public accommodations and federal

funding, where there are no bans on sex discrimination to piggy back on.

"Employers as well as employees deserve the clarity that comes with express federal and state protections that everyone understands," added Esseks. "That's why we'll continue to work for express and comprehensive protections. The EEOC ruling is a monumental step forward and provides important protections for millions of Americans, and that's something to celebrate."



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Sacramento Fine Arts Center Hosts Annual Open Show



Magnum Opus XXVI, Sacramento Fine Arts Center's annual juried open show, will be held August 4-29, with an artists reception on Saturday, August 8, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., with awards, refreshments and live piano music by Larry. Featured works will include the image **Dream Juggler** (cropped here), by Traci Owens. Visit www.sacfinearts.org

Celebrate Nevada Style at the Reno Gay Pride Festival

If you are looking for a way to beat the valley heat – and have a great time doing it – then you should head up the hill for the 19th Annual Reno Gay Pride Celebration.

Reno's Gay Pride has grown bigger and better with each passing year, while still maintaining a hometown Pride Celebration feeling. Produced by the Nevada G&L Visitors & Convention Bureau, it honors the diversity of the GLBT Community as it celebrates with the thousands of visitors, families and friends of the Northern Nevada community.

The weekend of activities begins on Friday, August 14, with a special performance of Frank Marino's Divas at Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's at 8 p.m. and the Reno Gay Pride Kick-Off party in the Sapphire Room, also at Harrah's from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

On Saturday, August 15, under the cool shade trees in Wingfield Park, along the Truckee River, guests will enjoy a full day of live performances and entertainment on the amphitheater stage at the Pride Celebration, from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Headline entertainers include Athena McIntyre, Markie, Xavier Toscano, Raquela, The Ethel Merman Experience, Frank Marino's Divas, the Nevada Gay Men's Chorus and Ms. Vanity Natalie Wynters.

In between acts, you can enjoy a

wonderful day of shopping with unique vendors, strolling through the beer garden, and sampling a variety of foods with friends and loved ones.

No pets are allowed on park festival grounds – except for service dogs. All day festival access and entertainment tickets are only \$5, and children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult

For more information, visit RenoGayPride.com.







Athena McIntyre

Take Back Your Beaver - A Musical Celebration in Honor of the Hair Down There



Cabaret Singer/Songwriter Candace Roberts has released her new music video, *Take Back Your Beaver*, a fun and provocative commentary on the media's colonization of women's bodies with the message "Let's just be in our bodies however we choose to be and want to be!" Check it out at candaceroberts.com. Photo By Jane Goldman.






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Briefly Put

Utah Federal Court Rules Same-Sex Mothers' Parentage Rights Must Be Recognized

A Utah federal court ruled July 16 that the State Office of Vital Records and Statistics must recognize a same-sex married couple as legal parents of their child.

The case was argued before U.S. District Judge Dee Benson whose ruling holds that the state must apply Utah's assisted reproduction parentage statute equally to same and different-sex spouses.

"The court's decision makes clear that Utah must provide the same benefits, protections, and obligations to married same-sex couples that it provides to every other married couple," said Joshua Block, senior staff attorney for the ACLU's LGBT and HIV Project. "Utah's assisted conception statutes were passed to ensure that children have the protection of two legal parents from the moment they are born. The state could not identify any reason at all to explain why it should be able to deny that same protection to Angie and Kami's family."

Senate Fails to Pass Nondiscrimination Protections Amendment for LGBT Students

The U.S. Senate on July 14 voted on an amendment – the Student Non-Discrimination Act – to explicitly protect LGBT students in public schools across the country. While the amendment, which was offered by Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), fell short of the required 60-vote threshold, it garnered the support of 52 senators, including seven Republicans.

Backers of the amendment vow that the fight for explicit protection for LGBT students under federal law will continue, saying that in the meantime, the Departments of Education and Justice must continue to use their existing legal authority to protect LGBT students from discrimination and harassment."

BSA Executive Committee OKs Ending Ban on Gay Leaders

The executive committee of the Boy Scouts of America has unanimously approved a resolution that would end the organization's blanket ban on gay adult leaders and let individual scout units set their own policy on the long-divisive issue.

Championed by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who told the committee that the longstanding ban on participation by openly gay adults was no longer sustainable, the change will become official policy if ratified by the organization's larger National Executive Board at a meeting on July 27.

In 2013, after bitter internal debate, the BSA decided to allow openly gay youth as scouts, but not gay adults as leaders.

Calamus Foundation Awards \$1 Million to Expand SAGE's Nationwide LGBT Elder Housing Efforts

Making a major investment to advance anti-discrimination protections for the growing number of older LGBT Americans, The Calamus Foundation of New York has awarded SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) \$1 million to expand its national LGBT Elder Housing Initiative.

The initiative was launched in response to a research report documenting widespread discrimination against LGBT people seeking admission to/or living in senior housing. The initiative engages consumers, providers, and policymakers to increase access to and create understanding and welcoming environments in housing for LGBT older people.

"As a long-time supporter, The Calamus Foundation of New York is proud once again to partner with SAGE to ensure LGBT people can age with dignity and have equal access to supportive housing and care as all other Americans," said Louis Bradbury, Board President of The Calamus Foundation.

Learn more at sageusa.org and lgbtagencycenter.org.

New HUD Regulation On Aging For LGBT Older Americans

As part of the White House conference on aging, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced new guidance that would both clarify and amplify that HUD's Equal Access Rule, a program regulation ensuring equal access of LGBT persons to HUD supported or insured housing, also applies to HUD's 202 – Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program.

"HUD's announcement is a strong step toward ending discrimination against LGBT people in federally supported senior housing," said Michael Adams, Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) Executive Director. "With a recent report showing that housing discrimination against LGBT elders is rampant, this is just the kind of leadership we need from the federal government. Now we need to make sure that these anti discrimination protections are effectively implemented."

All 32 Years of Dallas Voice Now Digitized and Online

Researching LGBT history just got a little easier now that all 32 years of the *Dallas Voice* have been digitized and put online.

The *Voice* was digitized from original paper copies to create high-quality, searchable PDF documents online, and the effort was funded in part from a \$20,000 grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

To search the *Dallas Voice* database at UNT, connect to <http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/DALVO/browse>.

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by Chris Narloch

This month I review recent album releases by two of the finest young country artists currently on the scene, Sam Hunt and Kacey Musgraves.

I saw this handsome country hunk live recently, as the opener for the opener on a concert bill with Hunter Hayes and Lady Antebellum out in Wheatland.

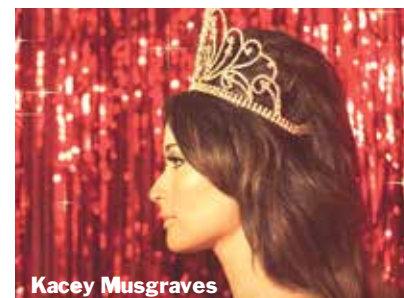
Sam Hunt all but stole that show with his sexy swagger and a progressive sound that adds R&B,

hip-hop and rock to a youthful, commercial country vibe.

Hunt is a 30-year-old singer, songwriter and former college football player who has written hit songs for Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, and Billy Currington. *Montevallo* is his debut album, and it has already spawned the #1 Country Airplay with hits “Take Your Time” and “Leave the Night On.”

Those tracks are both great, but then almost every song on

Montevallo sounds like a potential hit, including such clever compositions as “Single For The Summer,” “Break Up In A Small Town,” “House Party” and “Ex To See.”



Kacey Musgraves – *Pageant Material*

This gay-friendly young country queen made many fans in the LGBT community with the hit song “Follow Your Arrow,” from her excellent 2013 debut CD, *Same Trailer Different Park*.

Musgraves is back with another stellar set of country compositions, including the CD's first single, a very clever, down-home lyric entitled "Biscuits" that instructs listeners to "mind your own biscuits, and life will be gravy."

That classic sentiment is joined by the CD's fine title track and by other swell songs such as "Die Fun," "Family is Family," "Good Ol' Boys" and "Dime Store Cowgirl."

Like Hunt, Musgraves co-writes all of her own material, and her voice sounds a little like the great retro-country queen, Lee Ann Womack. She's an old soul in a hot, young 26-year-old body.



by Chris Narloch

Four giants of the theater – Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins, Stephen Sondheim and

L Arthur Laurents – came together to create a masterpiece of an American musical in *West Side Story*, a singing and dancing version of *Romeo and Juliet* set in the barrios of New York City.

Tony and Maria find love in a violent world and inflame a turf war between rival gangs the Sharks and the Jets. The show revolutionized Broadway and won two Tony awards, for Best Choreography and Best Scenic Design.

West Side Story features one of the finest scores in Broadway

history, including such timeless songs as "Somewhere," "America," "I Feel Pretty," "Something's Coming," "Tonight," and "One Hand, One Heart."

West Side Story plays August 4-9
at the Wells Fargo Pavilion in
Sacramento. For more information,
please visit [www.
SacramentoMusicCircus.com](http://www.SacramentoMusicCircus.com).



Justin Matthew Sargent plays Tony in *West Side Story* at Music Circus.

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Sacramento Chef Brings Home the Blue Ribbons

by Charles Peer

Winning Blue Ribbons at the State Fair for his prowess in the kitchen is nothing new for Jim Austin, and this year is no exception as he has won first place ribbons for his Pepper Jelly and his Lemon Jelly – and walked away with a third place finish for his Ginger Pear Jam!

Competing in state and local fairs is nothing new for Jim; fairs have always been a part of his family life. “I grew up on a farm and my folks were active in the grange so every year at the fair they worked in the booth,” he recently told *Outword*. “On and off I would compete in the fairs.”

He set the pace for himself when at 17 he beat his mother in a lemon meringue pie bake-off. “I got the blue and mom got fourth, she was furious!”

Fairs are a family tradition that is still being passed down. His great-nephews both compete in FFA at their county fair and have won a lot of ribbons, and his sister is on the board for the Mother Lode Fair in Sonora.

“I love fairs, big and small. It is the place where people can show off a bit. It’s only good for bragging rights anyway. There is an entry fee, so you might get a ribbon, but it’s really fun to be able to say that something you made is a Blue Ribbon Winner.”

Jim has only been doing the California State Fair for a few years, “I’d have to count, but I think I have around ten blue ribbons.” Last year his Pepper Jelly got Best of Class, and few years ago he actually went as high as Best of Division for one of his cheesecakes.

His love of baking and canning and competing at fairs led him a few of years ago to the idea for a reality show, and he made a demo tape for “Blue Ribbon Rivals,” and submitted it to the Food Network as a proposed show, but it never went anywhere.

Which is not a bad thing, because it is in the kitchen that Jim shines. For the past few years he has been concentrating on canning and



Jim Austin at home with jars of his award winning jellies.

baking.

“Three years in a row I got the blue ribbon for my brownies! Now that is one of the few recipes I wouldn’t want to share, only because it’s tricky and I wouldn’t like to share a recipe that is too hard, because then it’s not any fun.”

But he is willing to share his recipe for his Blue Ribbon Pepper Jelly, and he hopes you will give it a try.

“Jelly is not hard to make but do look online at the many great web sites to understand how to prepare your jars and lids,” Jim advises. “These sites will also show you how to process your jelly after it is in the jars. Or, there are still Kerr and Ball canning books at the bookstore that will cover more than just jelly making. You might decide that canning isn’t that daunting!”

Pepper Jelly

Wash, core and seed:

2 red bell peppers

6 jalapeno peppers

4 Serrano peppers

Then chop finely in a food processor

In a large pot mix chopped up pepper mix with:

1 cup cider vinegar

5 cups sugar

Stir thoroughly and bring to a boil over medium heat. Keep stirring so it doesn’t burn.

Bring to a rolling boil for two minutes.

Then:

Add 1 package Pectin

Bring to a rolling boil for 1 minute.

It is now ready to go into sterilized jelly jars, cap and finish off in a water bath for five minutes.

Something Rotten! Is Something Fun

If you find yourself in NYC at any point this year, you should consider seeing this new Broadway musical from Casey Nicholaw, the director of *The Book of Mormon*.

Something Rotten! is a world-premiere musical comedy about brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom (Brian d’Arcy James and John Ciani), struggling playwrights toiling in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as “The Bard.”

In a hilarious, Tony-winning turn, Christian Borle plays William Shakespeare, whose success motivates the Bottoms to create the world’s very first musical.

Something Rotten! opened on Broadway this past April at the St. James Theatre and has been packing them in ever since.

The show was nominated for 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and now the CD version is available.

The musical’s hilarious original Broadway cast album is also available on iTunes and in other digital formats.

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New Novel Tells the Tragedy of a Fallen Priest

reviewed by Darrell Scheidegger Jr.

The tragedy of a fallen priest suggests a headline cut from a local daily newspaper. Thankfully, this tragedy is fiction, as told in the new novel *The Holy Mark: The Tragedy of a Fallen Priest* by Gregory Alexander, a teacher and author living in New Orleans.

It was a very compelling read (I started it on a Wednesday afternoon and finished it that Thursday evening)! The first-person narrative tells the story of a man named Joseph, detailing the positive and negative experiences from his childhood through his 25 years in the priesthood.

The Holy Mark of the title refers to a port-wine stain on the back of his head. His grandmother calls it a sign from God, which leads to Joe entering the ministry.

Father Anthony (Joseph takes his beloved cousin's name) is a fascinating character. I found myself both liking and loathing him. First I felt empathy for this man; overweight and balding and dealing with unreasonable demands from church superiors (not to mention the dysfunctional family members he has been battling since birth: the conspiring uncle, the outspoken cousin, the greedy aunt).

But then he speaks with arrogance and frustration in his dealings with needy nuns and poor parishioners, and my allegiance changes. While his care for the troubled teen boys in his charge begins as unconditional, it soon evolves into inappropriate actions that dirty the definitions of the words "pleasure" and "love."

With each turn of a page, I struggled with these opposing thoughts and feelings, eventually realizing that it was exactly these contrasts that

made this fictional character seem real. He is neither good nor bad, but a combination; neither black nor white, but a rainbow of grays.

Another thing I enjoyed was all that I learned about Italian-American history, the Catholic Church, and the city of New Orleans. The prose was both beautiful and informative. I must confess (even though I am not Catholic) that there were many words I did not recognize. Some sent me directly to Wiktionary, but most I allowed to be defined by context. Be prepared to have your vocabulary enriched!

Gregory Alexander is an intelligent and talented author, and I look forward to his next publication. I enjoyed *The Holy Mark: The Tragedy of a Fallen Priest* for its language and history, but especially for the way the author made me think and feel throughout the narrative. A book that makes one think and feel is a book worth reading.



Trainwreck, Magic Mike & MI5

by Chris Narloch

Red-hot comic Amy Schumer debuts on the big screen this month, while hunky Hollywood leading men Tom Cruise and Channing Tatum return with sequels to *Mission: Impossible* and *Magic Mike*, respectively.

Trainwreck

"It Girl" Amy Schumer brings her singular sense of humor – one part feminist, two parts raunchy, all parts funny – to the big screen in this very modern R-rated rom-com, co-starring Bill Hader.

Judd Apatow directs Schumer's hilariously autobiographical script, which finds her character attempting to reform and fall in love for real after a lifetime of drunken one-night stands.

Hader is not remotely believable as a world-class sports surgeon, and Schumer doesn't really convince as a magazine writer, but Tilda Swinton is scathingly good as Schumer's ball-bustingly witchy boss.

Magic Mike XXL

Critics have not been wild about this sequel to Steven Soderbergh's hit male

their way to a big stripper convention in Myrtle Beach.

At least two scenes are classic: the one in which Tatum's character gets the urge to dance again while he's alone in his wood shop, and another with Joe Manganiello gyrating for an unfazed female convenience store employee.

Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation

I wasn't able to preview this one before our deadline, but if you've seen the YouTube video of Tom Cruise actually hanging off the outside of a plane (no stuntman!) as it takes off, you'll agree that the latest big screen installment of *Mission Impossible* looks like a wild ride.

Rogue Nation begins performances at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre on July 30.



stripper movie from 2012, but I liked it almost as much as the original.

Most of the original cast returns, save for Matthew McConaughey and Alex Pettyfer, but this time out, a much stronger female cast is also on board, including Jada Pinkett Smith, Andie MacDowell, Elizabeth Banks, and Amber Heard.

This *Magic Mike* is an unpredictably entertaining road movie, with the boys on

Blade Runner: The Final Cut

As part of its flashback film series this summer, the Tower Theatre will show the director's cut of *Blade Runner* on Monday evening, August 3.

Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner: The Final Cut*, one of the finest modern sci-fi movies, stars Harrison Ford, Sean Young, Daryl Hannah, Rutger Hauer and Edward James Olmos.



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How Would You Cool Off on a Hot August Night?

Sacramento temperatures are definitely heating up, so we went to Badlands and asked these folks what they would do too cool down.



Amanda Enos
Eat a corn dog.



David Bandhu
Go out in my town of West Sacramento and walk around with friends, get drunk, longboard and go to the river.



Dean Teach
My favorite thing to do on a hot night is to put the top down on the car and drive around.



Jay Rod
Skinny dip with a bunch of friends.



Will Watkins
I would chill in my bed with the AC going full blast.



Steven Walker
Get naked with lots of friends in my new swimming pool.

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The Houghs Bring Their New Tour To Oakland

by Chris Narloch

If I were inclined to be bisexual, I cannot imagine a more tantalizing twosome to have a threesome with than the dynamic dancing duo of Derek and Julianne Hough, although that would probably be pretty weird for them seeing as how they are brother and sister.



Julianne and Derek Hough

Which sexy sibling is more beautiful? I can't answer that question, but you can decide for yourself when the pair appears live at the exquisite Paramount Theatre in Oakland this August 5.

On the heels of their sold out 2014 tour, superstar siblings Julianne and Derek Hough (*Dancing With The Stars*) will team up once again, dancing their way across stages all over the country, in their new show, *Move Live On Tour*.

The Houghs are promising their fans a rock

concert of dance, and the latest tour will feature a brand new stage production with high impact choreography (by the siblings and Kyle Hanagami) spanning a multitude of different dance styles.

The Houghs will be joined by the Move Company Dancers in a fast paced show featuring live vocal performances from both Julianne and Derek plus incredible costumes and staging.

Tickets for *Move Live On Tour* are available at www.ticketmaster.com.

Leathermen Ready for Mr. Bolt Contest

It's time for the Bolt Bar's annual Mr. Bolt Leather 2016 Contest, and a chance to meet the contestants for the coveted title during a weekend of festive and fetishy fun.

In addition to representing The Bolt Bar at local and Northern California events, the winner of the contest will also represent Sacramento and The Bolt Bar at the International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago this coming May.

Mr. Bolt Leather also hosts many fundraisers throughout the year for local charities and non-profits, and helps organize ongoing leather/fetish events.

The fun starts on Friday, August 7 with a Contestant Meet & Greet beginning at 9 p.m., where you can meet the men vying for Mr. Bolt Leather who have stepped up to represent The Bolt Bar and Sacramento's Leather & Fetish Community. Contestants will be fundraising by selling Jell-O shots/raffle tickets throughout the night.

On Saturday, August 8 the Mr. Bolt Leather 2016 Contest begins at 9 p.m. with the contestants strutting their stuff in their leather attire, from formal to bar wear. There will also be silent auction baskets, special guest performances, drink specials, and most importantly, the new titleholder will be selected.

The new Mr. Bolt Leather will host a Victory BBQ & Beer Bust celebration on Sunday, August 9 at 5 p.m., so come out and congratulate him. There will be a \$9 Beer & Soda Bust, Jell-O shots, and Sunday Funday Shenanigans!

All events will be held at The Bolt Bar, located at 2560 Boxwood St., where there is always plenty of free parking and never a cover charge. Visit SacBolt.com.



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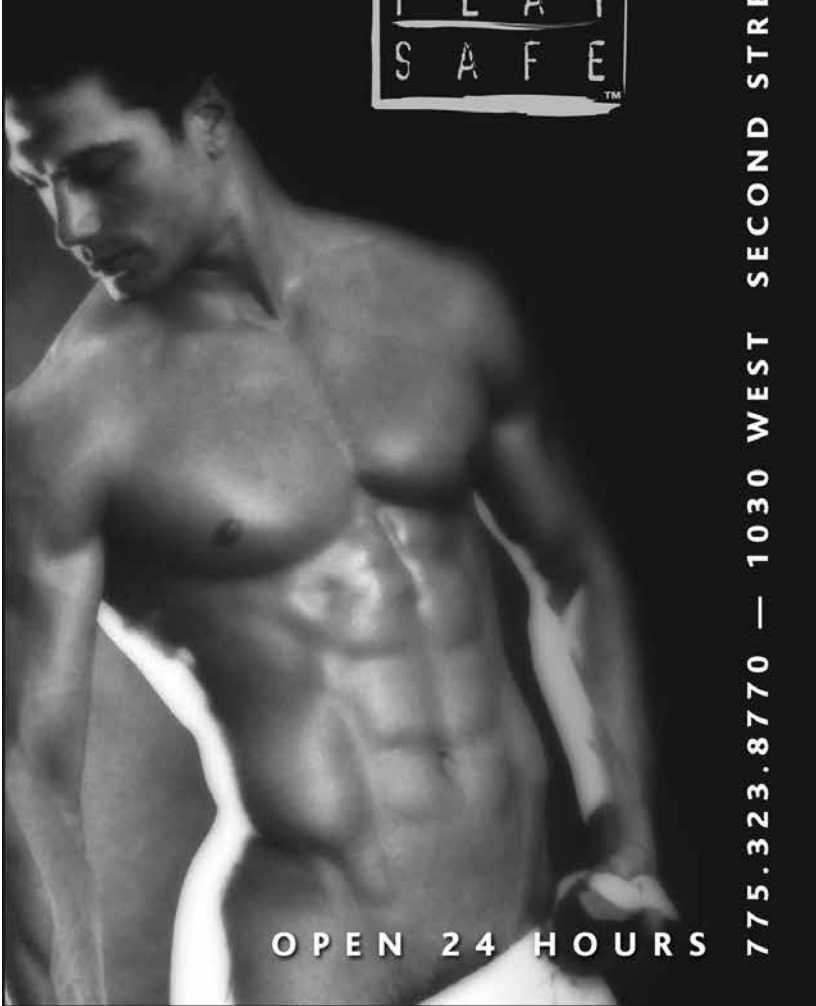
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