

outw^ord

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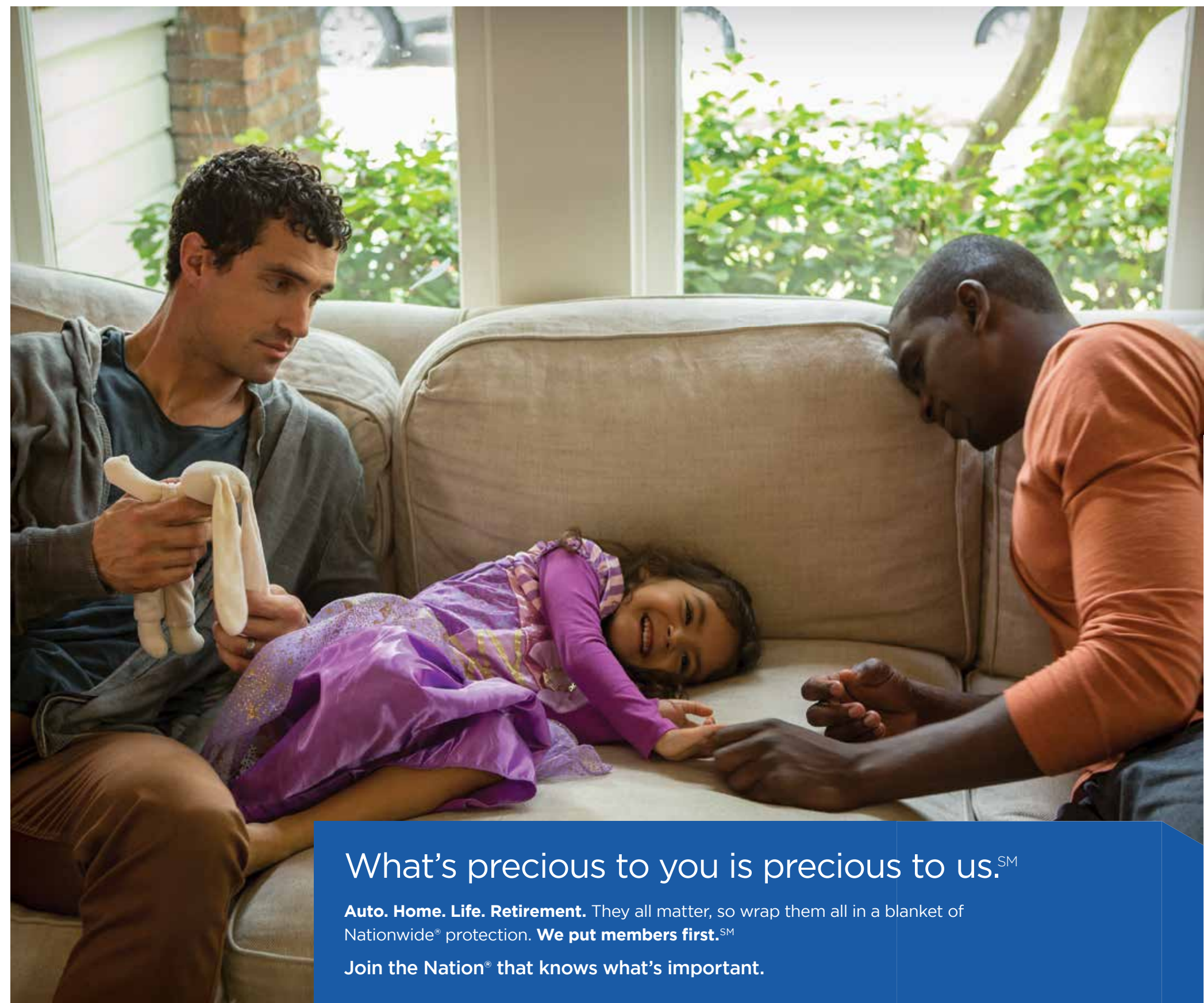
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Dr. Darrick Lawson will
be one of the
performers at *A Musical
Evening With Friends*.
Photo by Tia Gemmell.

Local Artists Present *A Musical Evening With Friends*

Musical artists Clifford Shockney, Coleen Chandler, Dr. Darrick Lawson and David Deerfeeder are coming together for a special concert in Midtown to benefit Sacramento's LGBT Seniors.

A Musical Evening with Friends' Benefit Concert, will be held on Friday, March 11th, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 21st & J Streets.

The concert will benefit the many projects of Wisdom Project = LGBT Elders, but especially the 3rd Friday LGBT Elders Community Café Nights in Midtown. 3rd Friday Café Nights are held in the Terrace Room at First United Methodist and include a catered buffet meal and entertainment in a safe environment that encourages community building and social engagement with other older LGBT people and allies.

Wisdom Project is a program of the grassroots all volunteer nonprofit of Servant Hearts. Our programs provide for older and aging Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender people in the greater Sacramento Area a variety of social events, resources materials, community building and enrichment programs. Our Core Values: Building Community, Community Outreach & Education, Encouraging Self-Sufficiency, Fostering a Sense of Well-Being & Spiritual Connectedness.

A Meet the Artists Reception will be held immediately following, Suggested Donation \$20, and tickets are available at musiceveningwithfriends.brownpapertickets.com.

Wind Youth Services Closes Shelter, Seeks Help to Reopen

Wind Youth Services, the only service provider in Sacramento County focusing solely on runaway, homeless, street youth and transition age youth, has suspended services at their adolescent shelter for lack of funding.

Unless operating funds can be quickly raised to reopen the facility, Sacramento is at risk of losing the only emergency shelter specifically for teens ages 12-18. Wind Youth Services owns the building, so the beds and shelter are already in place, but the necessary funding to operate is not.

"This is one of the most vulnerable homeless populations in the Sacramento area," says Suzi Dotson, executive director of Wind, "these at-risk young people are dependent on our services as they strive to move from homelessness to a stable living

Goodwill, "this is why we responded immediately with a check and a challenge to the community to join us and help move our young people off the ground and into the available beds."

Over the last two years, Wind's adolescent shelter has provided safety and emergency shelter for nearly 200 Sacramento teens who have often escaped a home where they were victims of physical or sexual abuse, suffered from extreme poverty, were kicked out for their gender or sexual identity or a combination of the above.



Wind Youth Services provides supportive services and opportunities to youth experiencing homelessness as they pursue self-determined lives of stability and independence.

situation."

Goodwill Sacramento Valley & Northern Nevada has offered the first \$10,000, with a community challenge to businesses, churches, politicians and individuals to help reach the goal.

"Goodwill is committed to helping the displaced and disadvantaged," commented Joseph Mendez, President and CEO of

"For too long," says Dotson, "Wind has struggled to operate Sacramento's only adolescent shelter program with inadequate support."

Interested parties can donate directly on the website at www.windyouth.org/donate or checks can be mailed to Wind Youth Services, 1722 J Street, 3rd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95811.

No Hate in Our State Rally

Evangelist Franklin Graham is scheduled to hold a rally at the California State Capitol in Sacramento on March 31st as part of his 50-state tour called Decision America 2016.

In response to this event, LGBT activists and their allies, concerned citizens, and faith leaders are coming together to mount a counter-rally, beginning one hour prior to the Decision America 2016 rally, to counter Graham's message of fear and intolerance with messages of love and equality.

While the Decision America 2016 website does not refer specifically to homosexuality, Graham has spoken out extensively on the subject, actively advocating against equal rights for LGBT people, saying "LGBT activists are trying to hook their caboose to the 'freedom train' and drag their immoral agenda into our communities by claiming that this is a civil rights issue."

He has publicly urged boycotts of LGBT-owned businesses - and even businesses that feature LGBT couples in their advertising - calling to

"fight the tide of moral decay that is being crammed down our throats by big business, the media, and the gay & lesbian community."

Graham has said that LGBT people "don't deserve civil rights," calling them "the enemy" and "immoral," and has implied that transgender people are "predators and sexually perverted people."

The No Hate In Our State: Decide to Love rally will take place on the North Steps of the Capitol in Sacramento at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 31, one hour prior to the scheduled starting time for Franklin Graham's Decision Tour event on the West Steps of the Capitol.

For more information on the Decide to Love rally, and to volunteer, visit www.facebook.com/events/243809222617781/.



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Briefly Put

National Organizations Target "Conversion Therapy" Quacks with Federal Consumer Fraud Complaint

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) have filed a federal consumer fraud complaint against People Can Change, an organization that preys on vulnerable LGBT people and families by using damaging and discredited claims that it can change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

In the complaint filed with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the groups lay out the junk pseudoscience that Virginia-based People Can Change (PCC) uses to expose the American people to ineffective and dangerous "conversion therapy" practices that have for decades been linked to serious harm, including depression, substance abuse and even suicide.

CA Democratic Party Plank Supports Transgender Rights

The California Democratic Party has voted to incorporate a plank in the party platform affirming the rights and dignity of transgender people.

The addition to the party's platform, which was officially adopted at the California Democratic Party Convention, is designed to "Protect the right of all people to use facilities and participate in all aspects of society consistent with their true gender identity".

"As transgender people across the nation face violence and attacks on our fundamental rights, the California Democratic Party's actions this weekend are a welcome step forward," said Kris Hayashi, executive director of the Transgender Law Center. "We applaud this progress as we continue working to ensure all transgender people can live our lives safely, authentically, and free from discrimination in California and across the country."

LGBT Groups Denounce TSA Rule Codifying Body Scanners

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA)'s has decided to codify its use of full body scanners. Ordered to review the program by a federal appeals court five years ago, TSA said on march 2, that it will make no changes in airport security and denied there is any impact on travelers' privacy.

TSA has admitted that the scanners routinely trigger alarms based solely on transgender people's body parts, leading to widely-publicized incidents where travelers were forced to discuss their genitalia with TSA officers.

The National Center for Transgender Equality, Lambda Legal, and the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT & HIV Project, have heard from hundreds of transgender travelers in the U.S. who were asked to lift or remove clothing to reveal undergarments or prosthetics, required to undergo multiple pat-downs and questions about their bodies, and even prevented from boarding flights because of a "groin alarm."

Bill Introduced to Drive Down Suicide Rates Among Youth

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D - Long Beach) has introduced AB 2246 requiring local school districts to adopt a suicide prevention plan. The bill is supported by Equality California and The Trevor Project, organizations dedicated to achieving equality, acceptance and social justice.

"LGBTQ youth are up to four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers, yet California is among just a handful of states that do not require that all schools have suicide prevention policies to protect our kids," said Rick Zbur, Executive Director of Equality California. "This new law will help get teachers the resources they need to recognize and support at-risk kids."

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the third leading cause of death for children 10-14 and the second among people 15-34.

"Our kids spend so much of their day in school that teachers serve as the first line of defense when a child is suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts," said Assemblymember O'Donnell. "AB 2246 protects students going through difficult economic, physical or social challenges by ensuring teachers are trained to identify warning signs."

"The Trevor Project is dedicated to co-lead this effort to ensure that educators in California are able to protect youth, including LGBTQ students, in their schools. We believe that this bill will set a precedent that will be a model for the rest of the country," stated Abbe Land, Executive Director & CEO of The Trevor Project. "We thank Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell for introducing this ground-breaking bill."

The bill now awaits referral to its first policy committee.

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What It's Like To Be in a Primary Political Caucus

commentary by Neil Pople

The Nevada caucus was the Democratic Party's first political test in the West in the 2016 campaign, the first chance candidates got to prove their mettle with a demographic other than white people. It was a phenomenal opportunity for candidates to detail their policies, hobnob publicly with Elvis impersonators, dance with mariachis and court Britney Spears.



California Young Democrats invade Circus Circus in Reno

As a proud supporter of Hillary Clinton, I braved the slushy roads of Interstate 80 to support my candidate and view my first-ever caucus during last month's Nevada Democratic caucus. I was spending my first election season in over 12 years as a private citizen, no longer a campaign staffer or candidate myself. For the first time since college, I was rooting for someone who wasn't giving me a paycheck, and I have to say, it felt pretty great.

Over 100 volunteers from the Sacramento-area trekked up the Sierras to help Hillary in her final push. Along for the ride, I spent a good chunk of my time in the Reno for Hillary Headquarters making phone calls with Eric Garcetti, the mayor of Los Angeles. The majority of the Sacramento volunteers took to the doors, making sure voters were aware of their caucus locations and the specific time the doors close at high-noon.

The caucus process in and of itself is a weird experience. A room is filled with caucus-goers, and corners are picked to represent "home base" for campaigns. Supporters of one candidate flock to one corner, the others to the opposite corner. Undecided voters have a corner of their own, and the total numbers are counted – by hand.

After the initial counting, it becomes a free-for-all to convince the undecided folks to join the ranks of one side or the other. To put

it as simply as possible? The caucus process is a gross, disgusting, unwieldy monster of an event that does NOT represent democracy, but more the base fears of being intimidated and pressured by peers in the name of Party building.

At the end of the day, Hillary won the Nevada caucus. The process, as messy and unlikeable as it was, re-started the momentum my candidate needed to trounce her primary opponent in South Carolina by 50 points, as well as by nearly two million votes across the country on Super Tuesday. The race is close to wrapping up on the Democratic side, and the stakes couldn't be higher (especially for the LGBT community).

When the dust settles, we all need to roll up our sleeves and help defeat Donald Trump and the anti-LGBT zealots hell bent on taking away our rights. Get out there this primary season. Volunteer and learn how you can stand up for what you believe. Take your activism beyond the parameters of Facebook & Twitter, and help make a difference!

Nevada's caucus may be over, but there are still numerous opportunities to be heard and to move our country in a better direction.

Neil Pople is a veteran of the political campaign world. Having staffed local, congressional, and presidential campaigns, he offers a unique perspective on elections and their impact on our community.



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Chris Mosier – Blazing a Trail for Trans Athletes

by Connie Wardman

There has been a growing awareness of transgender athletes over the past couple of years, thanks in particular to professional MMA fighter Fallon Fox and triathlete and sprint duathlete Chris Mosier, Compete's 2013 Athlete of the Year.

Although Mosier won't be competing in this year's Olympic Games since the duathlon isn't an Olympic sport, the recent change in International Olympic Committee (IOC) competition guidelines for transgender athletes that no longer require gender reassignment surgery and two years of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) wouldn't be complete without including his role in the change.

Every day Mosier says he reads the following quote, "Be who you needed when you were younger," a sentiment that fuels the reason he is willing to be open about his transition. He's not looking for that elusive fifteen minutes of fame; he's paying it forward, being the transgender athlete role model he looked for and couldn't find when he was younger.

What put the IOC rule change process into overdrive was Mosier's seventh-place finish in the men's 35-39 age category at the Duathlon National Championship in June 2015, earning him a spot on the national men's team competing for Team USA at the 2016 World Duathlon Championship in Spain this June.

As the first transgender man to make Team USA, the U.S. national men's team that matches his gender identity as opposed to his assigned sex at birth, it still wasn't guaranteed that Mosier would be eligible to compete with his teammates in the world finals.

He's always been an athlete and an extremely competitive one who never has been willing to be a "middle of the pack" competitor. Clearly, Mosier has been able to compete as a man so it's very important to him that he follows the rules and regulations of any meet in which he's participating so, in his words, "there will never be a case where I win something and people contest it."

Once he qualified for Team USA, he contacted the International Triathlon Union (ITU), host of the upcoming world championships for a status check, he ultimately learned that they follow the IOC rules that would exclude him from the duathlon (a duathlon being a run-bike-run format as opposed to a triathlon format of swim-bike-run) competition.

However, once the IOC revised its guidelines, Mosier only needed to ensure that the ITU would abide by the revisions in order for him to compete. If they didn't, he already had engaged legal counsel – and started a GoFundMe page to help pay for it – to contest a potential negative decision, something that now doesn't appear to be needed.

And the ultimate result of his activism to change the IOC requirements used by so many international, national and local sports organizations means that transgender athletes will now be able to compete and win legitimately

in their sports of choice, even in the Olympics. In an interview last year with *Outsports*, he said "Many transgender athletes stop competing when they transition categories. I want people to know it is possible to maintain an identity as an athlete and transition. When I was considering transition, I did not see transgender men competing at a high level in the way I aspired to compete. I am excited to be a visible example for other trans athletes or people considering a medical transition."

Connie Wardman is editor in chief at *Compete Magazine*, the world's only sports diversity magazine. CompeteNetwork.com.




Chris Mosier. Photo by Jason Sietawan

Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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Same-Gender Tennis Tournament Becomes A USTA National Championship Event

The United States Tennis Association has announced that the same-gender couples' doubles tournament, inaugurated last March in Palm Springs, will now become a USTA National Championship event, and will become an annual part of the USTA's adult competition tennis calendar moving forward.



Winners of the inaugural same-gender couples' doubles tournament held in Palm Springs, March 7-8, 2015.

Last year's groundbreaking tournament opened the door to new play opportunities for same-gender 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 will again host this year's historic event on March 4-6.

"The USTA is proud to recognize this tournament as an official USTA National Championship event," said Katrina Adams,

USTA Chairman of the Board, CEO and President. "We were thrilled at the success of last year's inaugural event, and sincerely hope that giving the event National Championship status will allow it to continue to grow and attract even more same-gender couples to competition. Tennis once again has stepped to the front to break down barriers and ensure that our sport is inclusive and welcoming to all."

St. Louis, Mo., Kansas City, Mo., Oak Lawn, Ill., and West Hollywood, Calif. are also scheduled host local same-gender couples doubles events in 2016.

"I was thrilled by the announcement of the single-gender couples' doubles tournament last year, and I'm even more excited now that the USTA has made it a National Championship event," said Hall-of-Famer Billie Jean King. "It's another important step forward in leveling the playing field and making tennis more accessible and available to more people. I'm looking forward to continued growth and success of this event and hope to see a lot more like it in the near future."

Take a Day-trip and Walk Among the Ancient Giants

by Clinton Vigen

With so many amazing places within an hour or two driving from Sacramento, my partner Mark Hinte and I love to explore what this distance has to offer, and weekend trips have become routine.

Celebrating our two year anniversary, we packed a day backpack, strapped the camera to the side and drove up through Amador County and into the beautiful scenic foothills of Calaveras County.

Just about two hours outside of Sacramento, nestled just right outside of Arnold, lies Big Trees, our destination for the day. Big Trees is a state park founded in 1931, and created to preserve the North Grove of the giant Sequoias.

As you enter the park, you are greeted by the ancient giants that appear to be watching over the mountains and the various hiking trails found within. These majestic trees continually inspire a constant look of awe, even as you are trying to park.

When you enter, California State Park employees ask for a small fee to help preserve the natural beauty of the California Parks.

As you begin to enter the North Grove of Big Trees you are quickly greeted by the Discovery Tree, also known as the Big Stump. This ancient tree was the first Sierra redwood noted by Augustus T. Dowd in 1852.

Moving on throughout the North Grove you will wind around the forest of California's natural skyscrapers, constantly looking up and many times back. At the end



Serenity and awe inspiring magnificence await you at Big Trees State Park. Photo by Mark Hinte.

of your tour, the grove wishes you a farewell by allowing you to walk through a broad cut out path through a Sequoia.

For the more experienced day hikers, Big Trees has expanded its acreage and now includes a South Grove to its tour. This grove allows you to climb above the park and offers many different hiking trails that include open skies above the young conifers.

Many paths will lead you to breathtaking natural vista points along the way. Cameras

and a sense for adventure (don't forget the water) are essential for this trip.

Big Trees State Park is considered the longest continuously operated tourist facility in California, but make no mistake, it offers plenty of room for those that need a little alone time with mother nature.

As our day ended and we began to head back, we knew this was a place that we had to share. So if ever you find yourself with a day to adventure in California, we both recommend The Big Trees.



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Small Ship River Charters Offer a Fun and Sophisticated Vacation Alternative

by Jeff Gundvaldson & Brian Van Weyby



For those of you who've sworn to never take a cruise for reasons including fear of sea sickness, too large crowds, too much partying and too little time to explore, river cruising might just be the alternative you've been looking for.

River cruises offer fun, camaraderie, soft adventure and more time to explore destinations, all in a more sophisticated, but never stuffy environment.

If you've already experienced ocean cruises on vessels larger than 200 passengers, you're in for a wonderful surprise when you first experience river cruising. The small size of these vessels, dictated by the size of the rivers they travel, provides a much more intimate and personal experience than one can ever achieve on larger cruise ships.

Traveling by river allows you arrive in the heart of cities and villages you want to visit, eliminating the need for long bus transfers and affording more time to actually explore the destination. Gone are the long lines for excursion sign ups, and dinner and show reservations. They are replaced by face to face, friendly and personal service by attentive staff

traveling to more exotic destinations such as Myanmar and India to ensure you'll have safe and reliable food and lodging. Although upscale, you can leave your dress clothes at home since casual and smart casual is always the dress of the day.

If you're comfortable traveling with a primarily straight crowd your options are endless. But, the last thing you want on your vacation is to be made to feel uncomfortable for who you are. In this unique small ship environment, being with like-minded people is more important than ever.

When Googling "gay river cruises" you'll come up with various options including hosted groups and full ship charters from several providers. Again, your comfort level in a mixed group will factor into your decision as will dates offered. Hosted gay groups such as Pied Piper or Aquafest may offer more



An all-LGBT river cruise is a fun way to see the sights and still have time to relax with friends.

who actually know your name.

River cruising is currently the fastest growing segment of the cruise industry. Much of the increased popularity can likely be attributed to Viking River Cruise's prime advertising spots on PBS's *Downton Abbey*. It also owes much of its appeal to frequent cruisers who are looking for an alternative to the big ship experience and who have already traveled to most destinations visited by ocean going vessels.

The most obvious choice for first timers are the rivers of Europe, and by far the most popular of these is the Danube due to the allure of great cities like Prague, Vienna and Budapest.

While the destination cities on other European river itineraries may not be household names, there is much to offer on trips down the Rhine, Rhone, Douro and Po Rivers, just to name a few. Then there are the more exotic destinations such as the Mekong in Vietnam and Cambodia, the Irrawaddy in Myanmar, the Ganges in India and the Amazon in Peru.

On a river cruise you'll enjoy the benefits of a pre-planned, virtually all-inclusive vacation that is also a value when you consider the inclusions. It's also a great option when

departure dates, whereas all-LGBT charters offer specific dates which are more tailored to the audience.

When companies like Brand g Vacations, Olivia or RSVP Vacations charter the entire vessel your experience is more customized, often adding special entertainment and programming which enhances the experience for gay and lesbian guests. Plus, you have the added benefit of feeling comfortable to be the truest version of yourself.

As owners of Brand g Vacations we are intimately involved in every aspect of your vacation from planning to hosting the trip and everything in between. Specializing in small-ship vacations allows us to focus on unique destinations and develop deep relationships with the best local operators in the business.

By our level of involvement, we are truly accountable to be sure you have an unforgettable vacation. Our goal is that you feel part of a family and make lifelong friends while exploring some of the most fascinating and lesser-traveled corners of the world. We hope you'll join us and find out for yourself why river cruising has become so popular.

Jeff Gundvaldson & Brian Van Wey are the co-owners and operators of Brand g Vacations, www.brandgvacations.com.



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My Return To Cuba

by Doug Kopecky



The first time I went to Cuba was as a 22 year old sailor stationed at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay. It was a long time ago, not too many years after “The Bay of Pigs” event, and we were not allowed off base into the rest of the island.

So when Sacramento's Sports Leisure Vacations offered an escorted, person to person, cultural, educational nine day experience to three areas of Cuba's North Coast, I jumped at the opportunity!

With all the recent changes in the US-CUBA relationship, I figured it would be best to see what the people and country was like “before a Starbucks, Walmart, and Trump Tower” appeared on every street corner.

Approaching the January 6th, 2016 departure date, questions like these arose: Do we need to take our own toilet paper? Do we need to know Spanish? Do U.S. credit/debit cards work? How about our cell phones or internet? (Answers to all of these questions is: NO).

I reminded myself that we, the U.S., has

Cuba's most famous folkloric dance group, AfroCuba de Matanzas.

Along the way we managed a stop at the Che Guevara monument and museum, visited Ernest Hemingway's home at Finca Vigia, which, along with a personal meeting with notable Cuban photographer, Roberto Salas, in his studio/home were two of my favorite stops.

We also did a walking tour of Old Havana, (walked where Pope Francis had just recently walked), explored Cuba's national art at the Fine Arts Museum, tasted (and purchased) Cuban Rum, had some time to shop for souvenirs, dressed for our last evening in Havana and a ride in Vintage Chevys to a private concert by Eme Alfonso followed by dinner in a three-story walk-up Russian themed restaurant where they celebrated the



Photo by Doug Kopecky

been boycotting Cuba, not the other way around. The rest of the World has been welcome in Cuba and there are some tourist areas and first class hotels; check the internet. (NOTE: The Cuban Government is “tolerant,” just don't “flaunt it!”)

Traveling with a group of 19 plus two Cuban Guides and our “Super Guide, Chris” from Sports Leisure, everything was taken care of, including passports, visa, air tickets, insurance, hotels, coach, and all but maybe two meals, from the 3:30 a.m. Carey Limo home pick-up to the return to our front door.

We were kept moving, with a lot of cultural, people and educational events to see each day. Remember, this is NOT a “leisure vacation” for us. (For me, used to at least one nap a day, the pace was acceptable and very interesting, but I Really needed a long nap when the experience was over).

What did we see/do? EVERYTHING from visiting artist's studios, an antique printers shop, and the Sugar Mill and Museum with a ride on a vintage train to lunch, visit to Casa de las Tradaciones in Caibarien (think MARDI GRAS costumes), exploration of Bellamar Caves, meet with director & students at Pastorita Art School, visit a publishing house that teaches creation of handmade books, watched and danced with

first Cuban Astronaut, (who happened to be the father of our Cuban Guide, Marianna).

Mid morning, we took our time riding thru more of Havana on our way to the airport for a charter flight back to Miami. (On the flight was Janet Napolitano and group; she has since, spoken at The Cuban Consortium's first conference at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.).

Many of us took advantage of having the rest of the “day off” and slept til morning when we headed to Everglades Safari Park and an airboat tour, followed by lunch and shopping and connecting flights back to Sacramento and the Limo ride home. For the first time in nine days, we had to “think” about what to do next.

What an experience! One traveler was a repeat customer with plans to do this, (never exactly the same), journey again next year. With President Obama set to visit Cuba this Spring, things will be moving forward, but don't worry, the Cuban Government is in charge of what happens in Cuba and for sure, it won't let “The Heart of Cuba, its People and Culture” be changed.

Doug Kopecky is a retired U.S. Navy Reserve PN1 and frequent traveler. For additional information, contact Sports Leisure Vacations at 916-361-2051 or www.sportsleisure.com.

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Source Events was founded in 2001 though conversations with like-minded friends who shared a vision of creating great travel adventures. Thanks to thousands of explorers around the world, Source Events is proud to be celebrating its 15-year

anniversary in 2016.

“Our guests have made every journey as priceless as the destination,” says Craig Smith, the founder of Source Events. “That’s what sets our adventures apart: a deeper connection with each other and ourselves as we explore this amazing world.”

Source Events prides itself on being relationship builders and connectors in the LGBT community, building lifelong bonds between their guests that make them part of the Source Events family.

“If you share our passion for extraordinary adventures, then join our Source family of travelers in making these dream trips a reality,” says Smith. “Our commitment is to continue to create the best in gay luxury travel adventures. We invite you to join us as we continue to dream up new ways to keep exploring the world, and discovering your

Source.”

So pack your bag, grab your passport, and join Source Events on one of their many travel destinations. Here are a some of the opportunities:

- Dreams of Tahiti Cruise – September 16 – 23, 2016 aboard the Wind Spirit will give you the magical experience of sailing under a full moon on your own private tall ship to the most beautiful islands in the world, including two days in legendary Bora Bora. World-renowned author Armistead Maupin, will be joining the cruise as a special guest speaker.

- On the Road to Mandalay in Myanmar , October 20 – 28, 2016 you’ll visit an extraordinary land of gilded pagodas and opulent palaces. For a once-in-lifetime adventure, you can even glide in a hot air balloon over Bagan and witness the

extraordinary site of thousands of ancient pagodas cast in a golden sunlight.

- Experience

two of the most requested destinations and explore the Mysteries of Machu Picchu –

November 12 – 19, 2016 and Journey to Africa – July 28 – August 7, 2016

- Journey to Petra, Jerusalem & Tel Aviv Pride, May 27 – June 5, 2016 you’ll walk through history, experience one of the wonders of the world and enjoy a world-famous celebration.

- Journey to Cuba – Experience a land frozen in time on this people to people trip that will be filled with World Heritage Sites, classic cars, art and music. (The 2016 journey is sold out, but a new trip in 2017 will be added soon.)

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Photo courtesy of Source Events



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A Weekend Lay Over on a Grand Scale in Beijing

by Dale Howard and Dr. Darrick Lawson



In our years of traveling, we use free tickets booked with frequent flyer miles whenever possible. The down side of free tickets can sometimes mean long and frequent layovers in out of the way places, but we've learned that with good planning and a spirit of adventure, these inconveniences can be turned into a vacation bonus round.



Dale Howard and Dr. Darrick Lawson at Marble Boat on Kunming Lake at the Summer Palace.

On our way to a board a holiday cruise through southeast Asia which departed from Hong Kong, we traded a dreadful day in an airport for a fantastic weekend in Beijing by calling American Airlines and asking them to extend a 10 hour layover into 48 hours. They obliged, and for no additional fees or miles.

Because so much of our planning had focused on Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore, we arrived in Beijing with little more than a room at the Waldorf Astoria (booked for the price of a Holiday Inn in the U.S.), and a dream of seeing the Forbidden City and the Great Wall.

The Waldorf service was the most impressive we have seen, and within minutes of our arrival, we were settled into a wonderful room, and the concierge had arranged for private tours of not only the Forbidden City and Great Wall, but also the Temple of Heaven, and the Summer Palace.

The next morning we met our excellent guide, Better Ren (www.betterchinatrip.com), and headed out for the Forbidden City.

I should mention that both days of our visit were under "Red Alert" air quality, so the air was thick with smog. Even though this was oppressive and sad, it couldn't dampen the trip.

Arriving at the Forbidden City, you don't need to know much about Chinese history to be impressed with the enormous scale and detail of the former royal palace. It is simply one of the most impressive royal complexes on earth, especially considering that it was built before Columbus left Spain for the New World.

It was a busy season for domestic tourism in China, so there were many people visiting Beijing from the countryside. This had the strange affect of us being asked to pose for photos with more than a dozen vacationing Chinese families who had never seen Westerners before.

Next, we headed to the Badaling section of the Great Wall. Sadly, even an hour drive into the mountains did not provide relief from the dense pollution.

Our guide, Ren, briefed us on the

important facts of the Wall, and sent us on our way with instructions to be back in two and a half hours. Ten minutes into our cold climb up large and uneven stairs, we realized why Ren didn't join us.

In short, climbing the Great Wall is a once in a lifetime experience. A second time would qualify as punishment.

Joking aside, the scale of the wall is colossal, yet laughably small all at the same time. Thousands of miles long, yet not more than ankle high in many places. It is easy to see why the wall was ineffective at keeping enemies out, and it was a good reminder to beware of any politician promising to build a wall.

The next day, we visited the Temple of Heaven, which, with its park, rivals the size of the Forbidden City. The Temple is the location where the emperor would literally go to speak to God.

Next up was the Summer Palace on the outskirts of Beijing. Given the frozen lake and the ominous orange sky, we would recommend visiting in warmer weather. That having been said, if you find yourself in Beijing in any season, you can't miss this complex.

Countless palace buildings and bridges surround a man made lake that spreads out beyond the horizon. The focal point of the royal grounds is a man made, pagoda-topped hill formed from the earth removed when digging the lake. Even in less than ideal conditions, this was a highlight of the trip.

Before this trip, Beijing was not high on our bucket list, and we didn't anticipate a return trip. The city won us over, though. The history, the people, and the food are sure to make for an exciting adventure, and we hope to return one day (when they have the smog under control).

Dr. Darrick Lawson is owner and chiropractor at The Healing Touch Chiropractic, and his partner Dale Howard also works in the family business and serves as the family travel agent. They live in downtown Sacramento with their three dogs."

Pitching Tents: 8 Places to Go Gay Camping This Spring

by Mikey Rox



Whether you like roughing it in the woods or prefer the luxuries of a well-equipped cabin, these eight inclusive campgrounds, resorts and retreats for both gay men and women have something for everyone.

So, load up the Winne and git along, little dogies and enjoy the great outdoors the way Mother Nature intended at these gay-owned and -accepting wilderness hot spots:

Lizard Landing Campground Columbia, Ala.

Primarily catering to the gay community but welcoming of allies, Lizard Landing offers 11.5 secluded acres of primitive tent sites, no-frills sleeping cabins, and deluxe cabins featuring in-unit hygiene facilities. Heated saltwater pool (your skin will thank you!), fishing, canoeing and kayaking activities are available for adventurers, plus access to a boat ramp if you bring along your vessel. lizardlanding.com



Lizard Landing

Cross City, Fla.

If you prefer a more private, members-only (and age 18 and older) ambience, check into the clothing optional and aptly named Southern Comfort Campground in northwest Florida. Pick from your preference of camp arrangement – tent, RV or cabin – before letting loose in the Southern Nights clubhouse, playing horseshoes or volleyball, visiting the beer garden, or dressing up for one of the destination's theme weekends.

southerncomfortcampground.net

Roy's Hideaway

Gay and lesbian anglers will delight at the abundance of fishing opportunity at Roy's Hideaway – a private, members-only campground in rural Georgia – offering six lakes filled with a wide assortment of daily catch. Landlubbers can stay occupied at the pool and spa area, hiking several tree-covered trails that wind through the property, canoeing, kayaking, duck watching, or enjoying a snack from the café. royshideaway.com



Stag Run

Stag Run Club at Overlook Farm

Mauckport, Ind.

Gunning to get dirty? Don your boots and overalls for a weekend of camping among farm animals, including horses, cows, chickens, ducks, and other wildlife with which you can interact. Tents, log cabins, bunkhouses and suites are available on this private, all-male property where, after you've put in an honest day's work (like gathering your own freshly laid eggs for breakfast), you can bask on the clothing-optional sun deck;

dive into the heated pool; engage in games in the lodge; or ride your own stallion if you brought one – of the two- and four-legged variety. stagerunclub.com

Twin Ponds Lodge Albion, Maine

It's a bare-all free-for-all for naturists at Twin Ponds Lodge in Maine, a gated campground and resort for men age 18 and older. Strip down and hang out – literally – anywhere on the property, from the large heated pool and 14-man hot tub to the recreation hall outfitted with billiards, ping-pong, and satellite TV. Day passes also are available if you prefer a shorter stint fishing or hiking, releasing toxins in the wood-fired sauna, scrubbing down in the communal shower room, or catching rays in open sunning areas. twinpondslodge.com

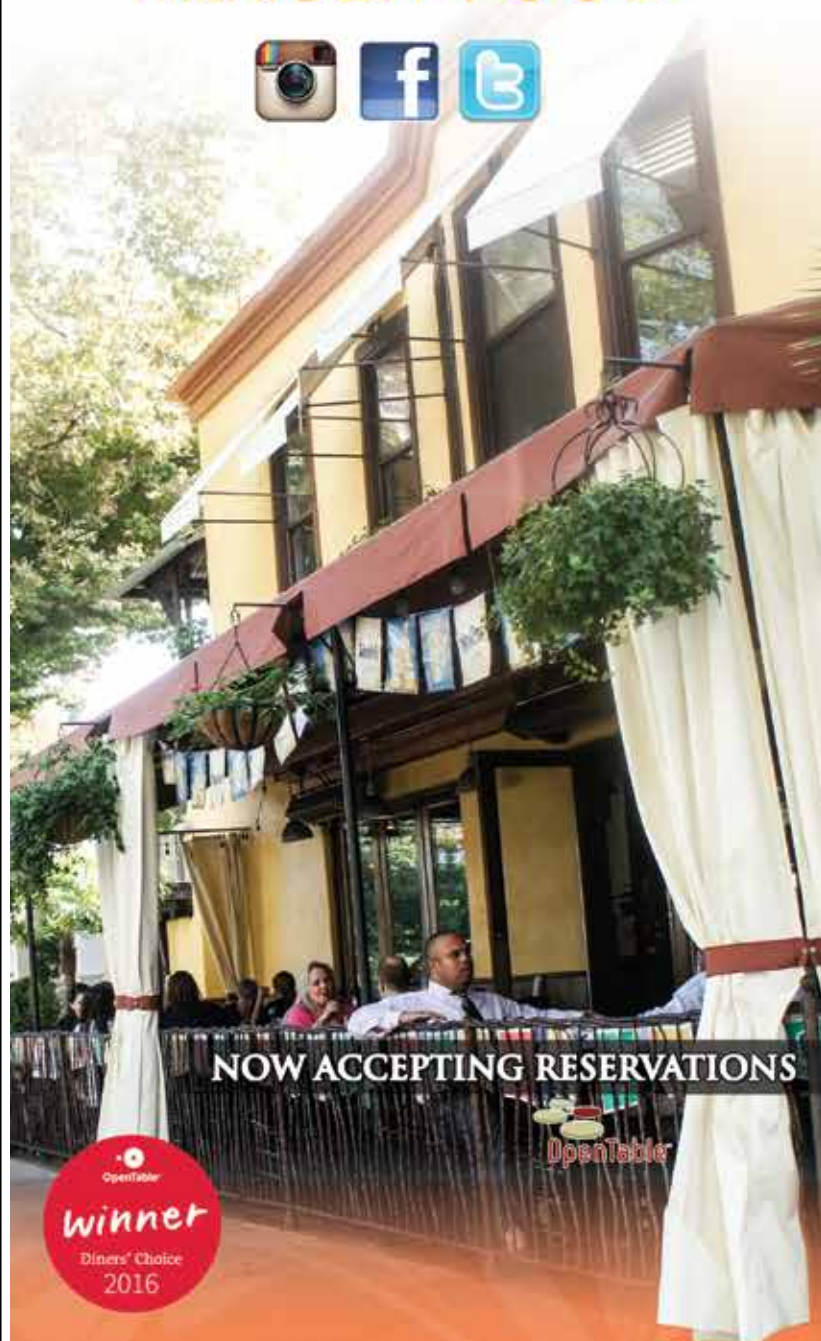
Windover Women's Resort Owendale, Mich.

Lady-loving ladies can find camaraderie and perhaps companionship at Windover, a private, membership-only resort on the Pigeon River of Michigan's farm country. Open to women age 18 and older, this tent- and RV-friendly ground offers a pool, nature trails, clubhouse and scheduled events with other exciting activities nearby, including golf, boating, and recreational water sports. windoverwomensresort.com

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world, including CNN.com, The Huffington Post, The Advocate, Instinct magazine, Queerty, NewNowNext, and Out.com, among many others. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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Entertainment

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by Chris Narloch

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Its performers train in their own center in the Kuj Highlands on Kyushu called Grandioso. The strenuous physical demands of their performance style demand that all performers also train as athletes.

After more than a decade touring Japan, the group performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where they sold out of tickets for 25 straight days and outsold every other performance group. They have been touring internationally ever since.

TAO: *Seventeen Samurai* will perform two shows at the Harris Center in Folsom, at 4:00 and 8:00 pm on Saturday, March 19. Visit www.harriscenter.net.

Grigorovich's *Spartacus* To Be Broadcast Live from the Moscow Bolshoi Ballet in U.S. Cinemas

Grigorovich's *Spartacus* was created at the Bolshoi in 1968 and has since remained the Russian company's signature ballet, telling the story in ancient Rome of Spartacus, a Thracian king, turned captive by Crassus with his wife Phrygia and forced to fight as a gladiator. A live performance of the ballet will be broadcast to theatres nationwide on Sunday, March 13, at 12:55 p.m. Visit www.fathomevents.com/event/bolshoi1516-spartacus

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CA State Fair Announces Toyota Concert Series

The best 17 days of summer at the California State Fair will include 17 nights of free, big name entertainment on the Golden 1 Stage at Cal Expo.

The 2016 State Fair takes place July 8-24 with the Toyota Concert Series featuring a variety of music genres including country, pop, funk, classic rock, and a comedy performance.

General seating for all concerts is free with Fair admission. Reserved Gold Circle seats, closest to the stage, range in price from \$12-\$20 depending upon the artist.

All concerts start at 8 p.m. each night. Gold Circle seats and discounted State Fair admission tickets are on sale at CAStateFair.org.

Performers for the 2016 Toyota Concert Series include: 7/8 – Salt N Pepa with Spinderella; 7/10 – Sebastian Maniscalco; 7/11 – Chaka Khan; 7/12 – Journey Revisited – Reliving The Glory Days Of Journey; 7/13 – Tower of Power; 7/14 – Parmalee; 7/15 – Creedence Clearwater Revisited; 7/16 – Queen Nation – A Tribute to the Music of Queen; 7/17 – Dwight Yoakam; 7/18 – Styx; 7/19 – Matchbox Twenty Too; 7/21 – Lincoln Brewster; 7/22 – Don Felder; and 7/23 – Joe Nichols.



Queen Nation — A Tribute to the Music of Queen, is just one of the groups in this year's lineup at the California State Fair.

Upcoming EVENTS at Jackson Rancheria



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PAUL RODRIGUEZ
MAY 20 AT 7 P.M.
GRAND OAK BALLROOM



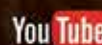
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Andy Warhol: Portraits Coming to Crocker

by Chris Narloch

No serious discussion of modern art can be complete without including photographer, filmmaker, painter and provocateur Andy Warhol, who was one of the most famous American artists of the 20th Century.



Andy Warhol often painted portraits of friends and contemporary icons like Truman Capote.

This spring a major survey of Warhol's work will exhibit at Sacramento's Crocker Art Museum featuring 168 drawings, fashion sketches, photographs, personal memorabilia and portrait paintings.

Andy Warhol: Portraits includes examples of Warhol's self-portraits, in addition to a broad sampling of the 20th-century luminaries who eagerly sat for him.

Among the diverse subjects featured are the fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent, playwright Tennessee Williams, Pulitzer-prize winner Truman Capote, artists Keith Haring, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Jean-Michel Basquiat, and actors Judy Garland, Jane Fonda, and Sylvester Stallone.

Evoking the experience of Warhol's

Factory, an exhibition interactive allows visitors to make their own Screen Test, bringing to life and making personal a related aspect of Warhol's portraiture.

Other upcoming Warhol-related events at the Crocker include a Warhol Factory Party Fundraiser on March 12, The Twisted Sacratomato Salon on March 24, a symposium on the art of Andy Warhol and Ai Weiwei on April 2, and an exhibition tour and farm-to-fork dinner on April 7.

Andy Warhol: Portraits was organized by The Andy Warhol Museum and runs March 13 - June 19.

For more information, visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.

B Street Theatre Reanimates *Frankenstein*

by Chris Narloch

This excellent horror-themed drama is actually part of B Street Theatre's Family Series, but you wouldn't know it wasn't on the main stage by the production values and the talent on display.

Adults will also love this version of Mary Shelley's classic novel, which was inspired by a famous contest among friends to see who could tell the greatest ghost story.

When your friends include Lord Byron and (eventual husband) Percy Shelley, that's some stiff competition.

Experience the creation of literature's most memorable monster one stormy night in this intricately entertaining scare-fest for the whole family.

Adapted and directed by Jerry R. Montoya, this fascinating twist on the *Frankenstein* legend stars John Lamb, Stephanie Altholz, Bryan Staggers, Megan Wicks and Michael R.J. Campbell.

The cast and the entire creative team are all on point here to the extent that B Street should consider bringing this production back around Halloween time with even more scares added.

Recommended for adults (and children 10 and up),

Frankenstein plays through March 20. Visit www.bstreettheatre.org.

outwordmagazine.com

Frankenstein

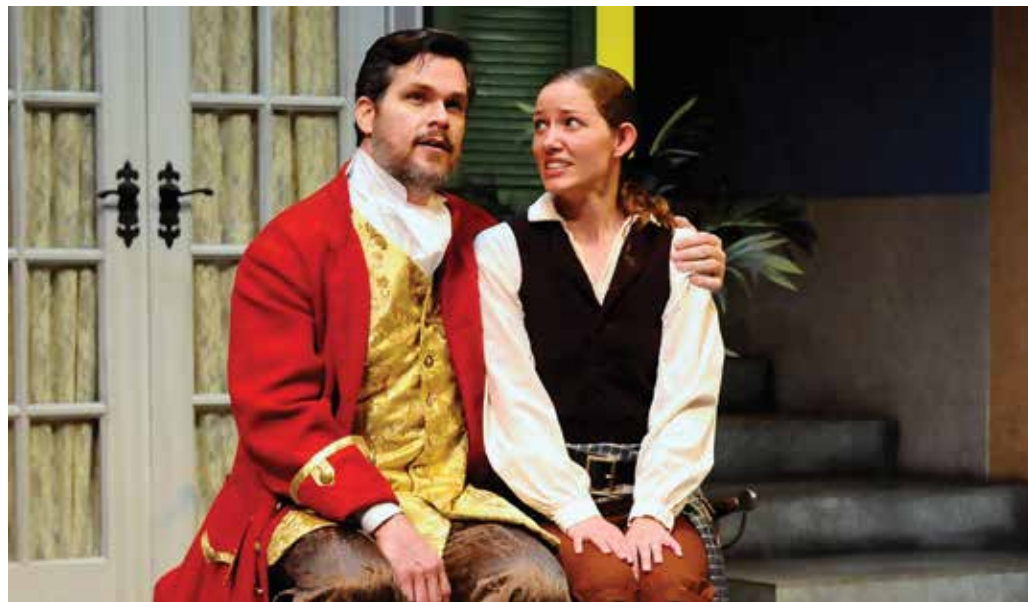


Gaycation Explores LGBTQ Cultures Around The World



Gaycation follows hosts Ellen Page and Ian Daniel as they set off to explore LGBTQ cultures from Japan to Brazil to Jamaica. In the first episode of the series, Ellen and Ian head to Japan, where same-sex marriage is still not legal and same-sex couples often bear a social stigma. Produced by Viceland, you can watch *Gaycation* at Viceland.com or on some cable providers at 10 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Shakespeare's Finest Comedy Re-set in Colonial Caribbean



Ryan Snyder as Duke Orsino and Alicia Hunt as Viola in STC's production of *Twelfth Night*, Shakespeare's masterpiece comedy of mistaken identity. Plays through March 20 at Sacramento Theatre Company. www.sactheatre.org/shows/twelfth-night.

You're Killing Me Is an Original Mix Of Horror and Comedy



George (Jeffery Self), a narcissistic wannabe internet star, starts dating Joe (Matthew McKelligon), a monotone serial killer, and while all of George's friends agree that Joe seems a bit strange, George claims his new beau "isn't scary, he's gorgeous." That is until friends start to disappear. *You're Killing Me* employs humor, camp, and razor sharp wit to tell a morality tale about self-obsession and our growing disconnection with the world around us. Watch the trailer at www.wolfevideo.com/products/youre-killing-me/

God, after consulting with *Castrocreepersociety*, has decided to reissue the 10 Commandments to keep up with modern times.

Please refer to the Castro News section of the website **Castrocreepersociety.com** for a listing of the new 10 Commandments



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Mama's Back and She's Fixin' You a Mess of Bacon

The fourth annual Mama's Making Bacon Drag Brunch is here and better than ever, with a delicious buffet brunch by Lucca, flowing Mimosas and Bloody Mary's and a drag show with appearances from your favorite drag queens and kings!



Mama's makin' bacon, with a little help from Taryn Thru U and Betty Booger.
Photo by Luis Barrera Photography.

This year Lucca is opening up their full bar, so if you fancy a glass of chardonnay or prefer a beer with brunch, whatever you desire, you can have!

"So, what are you waiting for?" Mama asks. "Secure your seat now."

Mama's Making Bacon Drag Brunch is a fundraiser for Sacramento LGBT Community Center and will be on Sunday, March 20. Seating begins at 11 a.m. and the show starts at noon at Lucca Restaurant and Bar, 1615 J St. in Midtown Sacramento.

And for just \$60 you get a fabulous brunch, flowing spirits, one of a kind entertainment, and friend to enjoy it with.

To book a group of six or more, please email Kelli Hannaford at Kelli@details2.com. Need help assembling a group? Share the Facebook event. (www.facebook.com/events/226964697643301/)

"This is a guaranteed extraordinary time for everyone!" says Mama. "You get to eat good and do good at the same time - it doesn't get better than that!"

An Evening with Frankie Moreno at KVIE

If you've seen him on PBS, then you already know that singer/songwriter and classically trained pianist Frankie Moreno is ridiculously talented (and very easy on the eyes).

A Las Vegas Headliner of the Year, Moreno is coming back to Sacramento for another exciting concert event at the studios of KVIE Public Television, where he will perform *An Evening with Frankie Moreno* on Thursday, March 31, 2016.

Enjoy delicious refreshments, enter the raffle for a chance to win exciting prizes, and experience the fantastic music of Frankie Moreno.

Tickets start at \$80, and a VIP experience is also available that includes a pre-show reception, a meet and greet with the band, the concert, and a post-show acoustic set in the courtyard.

Ticket quantities are limited so get them before they sell out. For more information, visit www.kvie.org/Uncorked.



Frankie Moreno

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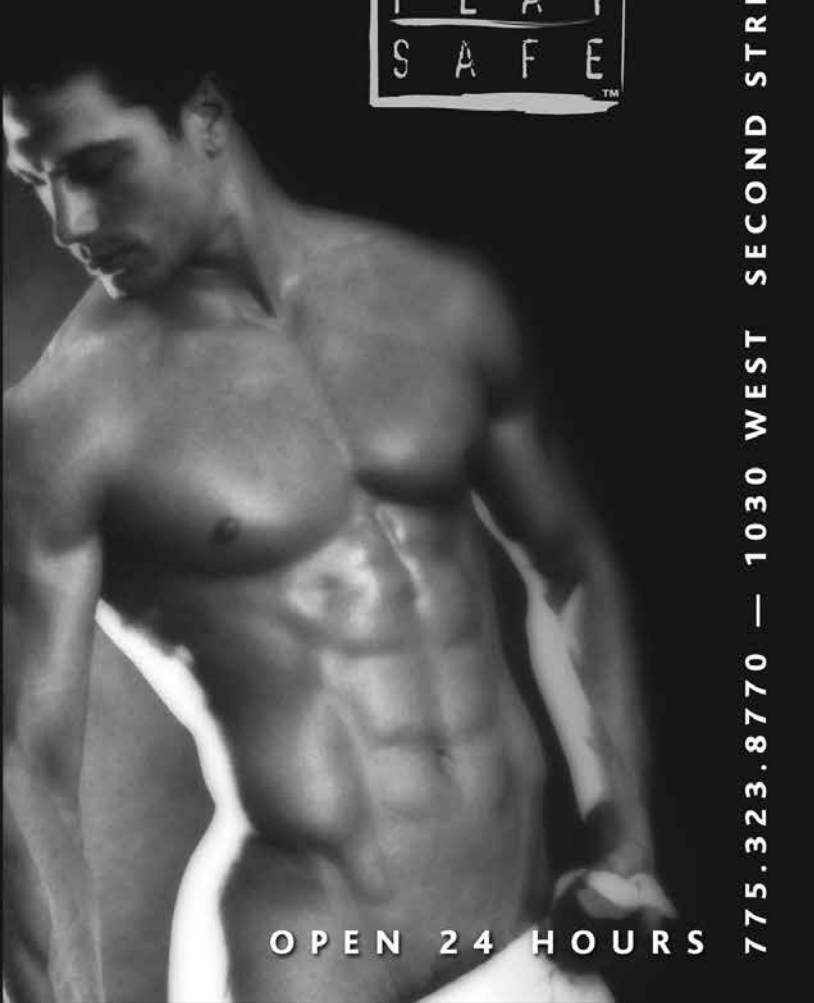
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After enjoying a successful run in the PPV market, BluMedia is making the entire first season of **Broke Straight Boys** available online at www.brokestraightboys.tv. The series focuses on straight men that create gay adult films and the multi-million dollar company that provides the platform. Episodes will be released each Saturday at 10 p.m. culminating in the season finale on April 16.

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Disengaged: Web Series Eplores When Sometimes It just Doesn't Work Out



Starring Hannah Pearl Utt ("Jules") and Jen Tullock ("Sidney"), *Disengaged* tells the story of a lesbian couple living in Los Angeles who succumb to the peer pressure of a whirlwind engagement upon the legalization of gay marriage. The ten-episode series was written, created and produced by the leading stars. Catch it on the Super Deluxe YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Alex Newell Goes from *Glee* to Disco Queen

The 23-year-old singer and actor Alex Newell parlayed his appearances on *The Glee Project* in to a recurring role on *Glee* as a sassy trans teen named Wade "Unique" Adams.

Now, the talented young performer (and out gay man) has transformed himself yet again, this time in to a successful recording artist and disco diva with a fabulous new 5-song EP entitled *Power*.

After witnessing his powerful pipes on *Glee*, it should come as no surprise that Newell can belt out a song. *Power* proves that he also knows how to surround himself

with other talented artists, including producer Nile Rodgers, songwriter Diane Warren, and DJ Cassidy.

If you like dance-pop, Newell is the real deal. The EP begins with a bang, thanks to its catchy first cut, "This Ain't Over," and the grooves just keep on coming until Newell wraps things up in style with his dynamite debut single from 2014, the addictive "Nobody to Love."

Note: For tour dates with Adam Lambert and more information about Alex Newell, please visit www.thealexnewell.com.



Five Game-Changing Cocktail Trends for Your Next Party

If you are looking to add a little pizzazz to your next party, you may want to look at some of the new trends in the cocktail, where more playfulness and less pretention are kicking severe mixology to the curb.

Linda Losey's Bloomery Distillery (www.BloomerySweetshine.com) is on the forefront of these trends, morphing traditionally homespun spirits like moonshine into gourmet luxe liqueurs that are changing the craft cocktail game one tasty artisanal "garden-to-glass" elixir at a time.

Here are her five tips for throwing a party

1 – Cheeky And Whimsical Brands And Beverages – preciousness and pomposity has taken a back seat to professionalism, opting for homespun hospitality over haughtiness. Cocktailing is becoming simpler with a lowbrow laid-back sensibility on the rise.

2 – Simplicity Reigns Supreme – gone are the days where overzealous mixologists have

something to prove, taking 15 minutes or more to perfect a drink. Now, simplified elixirs are at the forefront that require few ingredients and/or steps of preparation to create a killer craft cocktail—even at home.

3 – Increasing Culinary Influence – fresh fruit, roots, nut

and herb-laden libations are all the rage, even taking cues from the kitchen with imaginative culinary cocktail filled with farmed foodstuffs. Mixers with all-natural ingredients like Italian lemons, Hawaiian ginger, black walnuts and pumpkins are being utilized to craft distinctive, memorable and crave-worthy flavors.

4 – Moonshine Goes Gourmet – once just a novelty item, distillers are now getting creative proffering high-end premium spirits taking crafted cocktails to an incredible new level using time-honored recipes with a modern spin and hand-crafted technique.

5 – Beer Cocktails – no longer reserved for the world of spirits, beer is being elevated with toppers and mixers taking barley and hops to a whole new level.





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To learn more about the services we provide, visit **CaresCommunityHealth.org**



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