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Ceremony to Unveil Lavender Heights Street Sign Toppers



After much hard work, the Lavender Heights Street Sign Toppers will be unveiled at a ceremony at 20th & K on Thursday, January 25 from 4:30 to 5 p.m. The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will welcome everyone with song, and then speakers will include Paul Weubbe, of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce; Sacramento Vice Mayor Steve Hansen; Midtown Icon and owner of FACES Terry Sidie; and representatives of the Sacramento LGBTQ Center, the Midtown Business Association and Visit Sacramento.

RainbowPAC Crab Feed Could Help Elect LGBTQ-Supportive Candidates

The 3rd Annual RainbowPAC All-You-Can-Eat Crab Feed will feature a meet-and-greet cocktail reception for 2018 candidates, presentations by Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis, Senator Cathleen Galgiani, and Senator Richard Pan, dessert auction, and delicious Dungeness crab with all the fixings.

The Crab Feed be held Saturday, February 3rd from 6 to 9 p.m. at Dante Club. Dennis Mangers, currently with the office of Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The evening will begin with a Candidate Meet-and-Greet Cocktail Reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and program at 7 p.m. Supporting sponsors include Outword Media Marketing Events, Molsby & Bordner LLP, Pucci Pharmacy and Stephanie Slagel, State Farm.

The festive annual event has grown in popularity each year to become RainbowPAC's largest fundraiser. All proceeds will be used to help elect candidates in 2018 who support small business-friendly policies and who reflect the PAC's core values of diversity, inclusion and equal rights for all. In 2016, RainbowPAC endorsed 14 candidates in state, county and city races.

"The RainbowPAC Crab Feed was festive and fun in its first year, and last year it really took off," said RainbowPAC Chair Robin Shofner. "This year ticket sales are up again, and we expect a sell-out crowd. It's a noisy and fun family dinner, and Dante Club puts on a delicious meal. But it is fun with a higher purpose."

RainbowPAC, the non-partisan political action committee of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, was founded in 2012. To maximize its endorsement impact, RainbowPAC focuses on supporting candidates in local and regional races as well as legislation and ballot initiatives that reflect its core values.

Tickets for the 3rd Annual RainbowPAC Crab Feed are \$65 per plate and just \$500 for a table of eight. For more information about the event and to purchase tickets, visit RainbowChamber.com.

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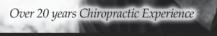
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Crab Is What's For Dinner at NCAC's Mardi Gras Crab Feed

The NorCal AIDS Cycle will be hosting their Mardi Gras Crab Feed at the Turn Verin Hall on February 10th, at 6 p.m. and invite you to come eat, drink, and be merry, all for a wonderful cause with all proceeds going directly back to the local community to provide assistance to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS through educational resources!

The menu includes all you can eat Crab, Mac & Cheese, Green Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Beer, wine, soda, and water will be available for purchase. There will be a Live Auction, Silent Auction, Dessert Auction and "Fund-A-Need" Auction that will be held to support the NCAC Youth Scholarship Program which helps equip young riders that would otherwise be unable to participate in the NorCal AIDS Cycle Ride.

Tickets are available at norcalaidscycle.org/crabfeed/ The 5th Annual Sacramento Chocolate Salon Will Sweeten Up Downtown

TasteTV and the International Chocolate Salon are have announced that the Premier and Original Chocolate Show for the Sacramento Region and Sierras takes place when the Sacramento Chocolate Salon returns on Saturday, January 27th.

Chocolate aficionados, fanatics, lovers and addicts can taste and experience the finest in artisan, gourmet and premium chocolate at The Citizen Hotel's Metropolitan Terrance. Featured chocolatiers include Amano Artisan Chocolate, 3D Candies, Farm Fresh To You, be a gourmet, Cowboy Toffee Company, The Cocoa Exchange, Raphio Chocolate, Le Grand Confectionary, Rainy Day Chocolate, New Orleans Bill, Cru Chocolate, Z. Cioccolato, Endorfin, Michael's Chocolates, Tombo Toffee, Kindred Cooks Caramels, Fookie Fudge, Welk Resorts, and more.

There will be two different "seatings" at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and tickets and more information are available at www.SacChocolateSalon.com

Proposal Would Give Health Workers License to Discriminate Against Women, LGBTQ Community

A proposed rule from the Trump-Pence administration's Department of Health and Human Services' civil rights office could allow health workers to discriminate against patients by refusing to provide reproductive care to women, denying care to transgender individuals, or refusing to prescribe HIV medication or birth control.

"Once again, women and the LGBTQ community are under attack from the Trump-Pence administration," said DNC Director of LGBTQ Media Lucas Acosta. "It wasn't enough to try to strip transgender Americans of their right to serve, roll back access to birth control, and attempt to defund Planned Parenthood. Now Trump, Pence, and their Republican cronies want to allow health care workers to discriminate and rip away access to medical care. This rule is unethical and dangerously undermines public health."



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Senator Harris Appointed to Senate Judiciary Committee

alifornia Senator Kamala Harris has been appointed to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where she will sit alongside Senator Dianne Feinstein in the key position of reviewing the qualifications of Federal judges and Executive nominations.

"Equality California is delighted that Senator Kamala Harris was appointed to the key Senate Judiciary Committee," said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur.

"During the past year, the Trump Administration has been sending unqualified, unvetted and often venomously anti-LGBTQ nominees for lifetime judicial seats and high-ranking positions throughout the federal government.

In addition to its critical role in providing oversight of the Department of Justice and the agencies under the Department's jurisdiction, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security, the Judiciary Committee plays an important role in the consideration of nominations and pending legislation.

At her first hearing as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Harris pressed a judicial nominee for the District of Utah, Howard Nielson, Jr., on his history of advocating against the rights of LGBTQ Americans. Previously, Nielson represented the proponents of California Proposition 8, a 2008 ballot measure that outlawed same sex marriages. After he lost the case, Nielson then tried to reverse the outcome by arguing that the judge should have recused himself due to the judge's sexual orientation.

"I was Attorney General of California during this time and I opposed the motion to remove Judge Vaughn Walker," Harris said. "I wrote in my brief, 'As many judges have recognized however, this is a distinction without a difference. Faced with similarly nuanced challenges, courts have seen such recusal requests for what they really are: a thinly veiled attempt to disqualify judges based on their race, gender, religious affiliation, or in this case sexual orientation.' I stand by those words."

"Now that Senator Harris is joining Senator Feinstein on the key Judiciary Committee, Equality California looks forward to full-throated leadership by both of California's Senators in blocking unfit and anti-LGBTQ, anti-women and anti-civil rights nominees," said Zbur.



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Two Country Queens Roll Into Nor Cal

by Chris Narloch

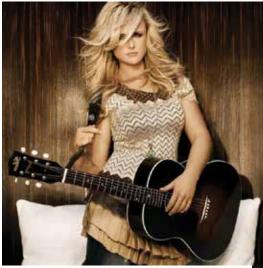
S o much has been written over the last year or two about the dominance on the radio of bro-country artists like Florida Georgia Line that I decided to shine this issue's musical spotlight on two of my favorite country queens, Miranda Lambert and Lee Ann Womack.

Both Lambert and Womack are coming to Northern California this February in support of their current CDs, which coincidentally are my two favorite albums from last year in any genre.

Miranda Lambert

Lambert's current disc, *The Weight of These Wings*, actually came out in late 2016, but she is still touring behind it and the CD continues to yield hits like the recent country heartbreaker, "Tin Man."

That single was my favorite song from last year. A haunting breakup ballad sung as a direct address to the character in *The Wizard of Oz,* "Tin Man" is flawlessly written, perfectly produced and exquisitely sung. Lambert, who co-wrote the song after her



Miranda Lambert

split from Blake Shelton, will be hardpressed to top the composition even if she records for another fifty years.

The rest of the CD is almost as great and (ambitiously) features 24 songs over two discs, 20 of which were co-written by Lambert. The really amazing thing about *The Weight of These Wings* is that there is not a dud anywhere among those two-dozen songs.

Lambert is a natural born songwriter with an intuitive gift for how to turn a phrase and surprise you without ever seeming pretentious or overly clever. She is also musically adventurous, so that the CD features classic-sounding country ("To Learn Her"), trippy neo-country ("Vice") and sly country pop ("Pink Sunglasses").

If you are a fan of true country music, *The Weight of These Wings* is indispensable, and I'm hoping Miranda Lambert will perform much of it live when she graces the Golden 1 Center stage this Feb. 8. For tickets, visit www.golden1center.com.

Lee Ann Womack

This 51-year-old singer rarely gets played on mainstream country radio anymore, which is no reflection on her talent but instead a result of the fact that Nashville is currently in a bro-country slump that is both sexist and ageist.

The good news is that Womack's departure from the Nashville music machine to smaller labels has resulted in back to back brilliant CDs that are the two finest of her career (so far).

2014's *The Way I'm Livin'* and 2017's *The Lonely, the Lonesome & the Gone* are both superb, old-school country releases that are heaven-sent proof that country music has not totally forgotten where it came from.

Womack's 2017 CD is "cryin'-in-your-beer" classic country music updated with bluesy guitars and soulful vocals that make the songs sound completely fresh.

Womack co-wrote six of the songs on *The Lonely, the Lonesome & the Gone,* and every one of the CD's fourteen cuts is a success to my ears, including the gorgeous title track (which makes me cry every time I hear it), the sweetly sad "Hollywood" and the fabulous first song, "All the Trouble," which begins a cappella and then builds to a fiery Womack wail.

I have had the good fortune to see Lee Ann Womack in concert several times and I am sure that she will not disappoint when her current tour stops in to Grass Valley's Center for the Arts on Saturday evening, Feb. 24. For tickets, visit thecenterforthearts.org.



Lee Ann Womack

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Adam Rippon Ready To Go For The Gold Openly Gay Skater Set For The Olympics

by Chris Narloch and Chris Allan

dam Rippon, a 28-year-old ice skater who currently resides in Los Angeles, can expect to see the words "Olympic athlete" before his name from now on, after winning one of three berths on the U.S. Olympic men's figure skating team.

Rippon is the first openly gay athlete chosen to represent the U.S. in the Winter Olympics, and he is also believed to be the first publicly out gay man ever selected for a Winter Olympics team from any country in any sport.

(You can watch Rippon go for the gold on NBC, which will televise the 2018 Winter Olympics this February 9-25 from Pyeongchang, South Korea.)

Not since Johnny Weir – with his bold fashion choices on the ice – has an Olympic-level skater been so comfortably queer; Adam can even be found on YouTube singing Rihanna's "Diamonds" live while skating in front of several thousand Japanese fans at the NHK Trophy exhibition gala in Osaka last year.

Weir did not officially come out until after his Olympic career was over, however, and Rudy Galindo, the first international competitor to come out, never made it to the Olympics.

Adam Rippon had this to say when asked by *Outword* about his decision to disclose his sexual orientation in 2015:

"I would say that coming out has been the most positive thing I've ever done. I felt very comfortable with who I was and comfortable sharing who I authentically was to the audience and the judges, and that's when I think my career really took off. After that, I won my first U.S. title, and now I'm on my way to the Olympics."

Rippon competed this January in San Jose, CA, where he won his highly coveted spot on the Olympic team wearing his signature tight, sexy, see-through tops.

Outword sent Sacramento resident Chris Allan to that competition to photograph and interview Rippon, who was selected for one of the top three Olympic spots, despite placing fourth overall in San Jose and winning only the pewter medal.

Rippon brought down the house with his saucy, spectacular performance in the short program at the Nationals, scoring a career-best 96.52 for second place, but he had trouble during his free-skate program, falling on his opening quad jump and then turning his triple salchow and lutz jumps into singles, which lowered his technical marks significantly.

As a result, Rippon's competitor in San Jose, Ross Miner, placed second overall, thanks to a great program, but failed to make the Olympic team and will travel to South Korea as an alternate this February.

There was some Olympic-sized suspense over who would join Nathan Chen on the U.S. team, but ultimately Rippon's international experience and his superior performance over the last two years led the judges to give him (along with second-place finisher Vincent Zhou) one of the three Olympic team slots, despite what he later called his "stupid errors" in San Jose.

Rippon's upcoming Olympic journey is all the more impressive coming four years after he nearly quit figure skating completely and just one year after breaking his foot. The skater was also born almost totally deaf with a severe eye infection and underwent successful corrective surgeries for both ailments before his first birthday.

Not since 1936 has an American man his age made an Olympic skating debut. (Rippon is ten years older than both of his Olympic teammates, Nathan Chen and Vincent Zhou.)



Figure Skating Championships in San Jose this January. Photo by Chris Allan.

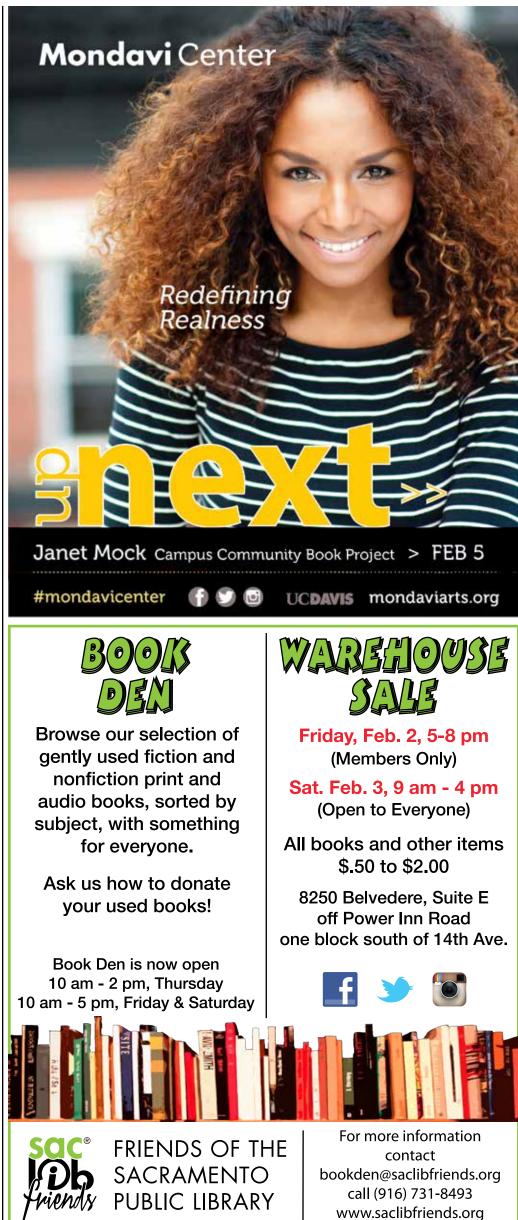
Rippon is almost as famous for his sassy sense of self as he is for his skating. Witness his comical confidence, before competing in San Jose, when asked about his Olympic chances:

"[There is] absolutely no reason why I should not be on the Olympic team. I've done all the work I've needed to do, unless other skaters' mothers are on the selection committee."

Even funnier was Rippon's response when asked why he wears "butt pads" while on the ice: "Somebody asked me if the butt pads I was

> **RIPPON** continues on page 14

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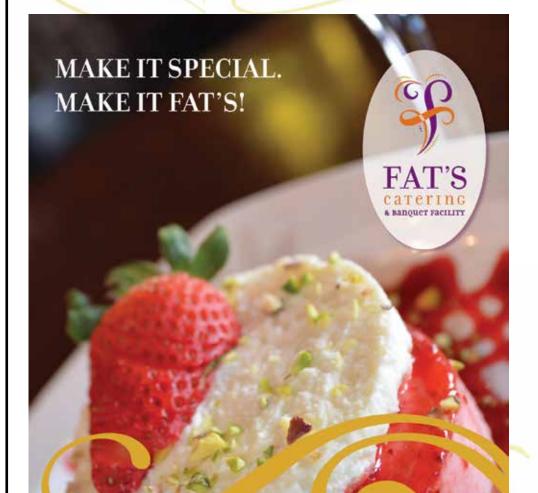
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Oscar Nominees Are Showing A Jazz Tribute to Leonard at the Tower & Crest by Chris Narloch

Ry the time you read this, Oscar nominations will have been announced, leading to a mad scramble by movie nuts like me to try to see all of the nominated films and performances and then predict who will win when the Academy Awards are handed out, on Sunday, March 4.

You can catch up on your pre-Oscar movie-going over the next several weeks at the Tower, the Crest, and at other area theaters. Here is a rundown on several of the likely winners, which are finally making their way to Sacramento screens.

I, Tonya

Allison Janney and Margot Robbie give Oscar-caliber performances as the dysfunctional mother and daughter from Hell in this darkly comic satire about the infamous Tonya Harding scandal involving a plot to hobble Harding's nemesis, fellow skater Nancy Kerrigan.

I was in white trash heaven reliving every sordid detail of this shameful story, and the

find it there, the movie should be playing at a few other local theaters.

Phantom Thread

Daniel Day-Lewis is a shoo-in to receive his sixth Oscar nomination for this stylish and strange love story about a driven British dressmaker and confirmed bachelor who finds his carefully tailored life disrupted when he falls helplessly in love with a young waitress, who becomes his muse.

Day-Lewis is phenomenal in Phantom Thread, and he has two superb actresses by his side: Lesley Manville, who plays the designer's steely sister, and Vicky Krieps, as his love interest.

Those three characters enter in to a



Timothee Chalamet and Armie Hammer play lovers in Call Me By Your Name.

fact that it happened almost 25 years ago makes the movie's success even more remarkable, since I certainly never thought I needed to revisit this embarrassing tale until I watched the movie, that is.

See *I*, *Tonya* and decide for yourself whom to believe, or whether, like me, you think they're all bat-shit crazy. I, Tonya is currently playing at the Tower.

Call Me By Your Name

I haven't screened this movie yet, but I hear great things from everyone who has seen Call Me By Your Name, and it will likely compete in several Oscar categories. including Best Picture and possibly Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor.

Armie Hammer and Timothee Chalamet play two men who pursue a passionate relationhip after they meet at the 17th-century Italian villa where 17-year-old Elio (Chalamet) lives with his parents.

Enter a hunky doctoral student named Oliver (Hammer), who's working as an intern for Elio's father, and the next thing you know, a peach is being used as a sex tov.

Amid the sun-drenched splendor of their surroundings, Elio and Oliver discover the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer that will alter their lives forever.

Call Me By Your Name was scheduled to open at the Tower on Jan. 26. If you don't

fascinating emotional triangle that becomes increasingly complex and unpredictable as the movie unfolds.

Director Paul Thomas Anderson (Boogie Nights, Magnolia, There Will Be Blood reaffirms that he is one of the most challenging and talented American directors currently working on the big screen.

Phantom Thread deserves to vie for Best Picture, although it may prove too odd for Oscar voters. It should, however, receive nods for its gorgeous costumes and score, in addition to Day-Lewis' brilliant performance.

Phantom Thread was originally scheduled to open at the Tower, but the hometown success of Lady Bird has bumped several titles back, and you may have to look for Daniel Day-Lewis at an area multiplex. **2018 Oscar Nominated Short Films**

If you want to get really serious about your Academy Awards preparation, you can watch all of the short films nominated this year, when the historic Crest Theatre begins showing the potential winners on Friday, Feb. 9.

The Oscar-nominated shorts are divided into three categories - Animation, Live Action, and Documentary - and the Crest will present separate programs of these mini-movies on multiple dates through Sunday, Feb. 25.

For more information and tickets, visit www.crestsacramento.com.

Bernstein At Mondavi

Tn one of three events celebrating legendary composer Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday, jazz pianist Bill Charlap and longtime trio bassist Peter Washington and drummer Kenny Washington will perform songs from Charlap's 2004 tribute album, Somewhere: The Songs of Leonard Bernstein, this February at the Mondavi Center in Davis.



Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Cecile McLorin Salvant.

Charlap is an acclaimed master of the Great American Songbook, whose inspired reading of Bernstein includes songs from West Side Story, On The Town, Fancy Free and Wonderful Town.

Joining the trio onstage is Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Cecile McLorin Salvant, who returns for her third consecutive Mondavi Center season.

Bill Charlap Trio with Cecile McLorin Salvant will perform at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9 at Mondavi Center. For more information, visit www.mondaviarts.org.

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Sacramento Museum Day Offers Art & Culture

Which was and local destinations participating during this celebratory year, the 20th Annual Museum Day is a great way to experience the many world-class museums in the Sacramento area.

To the delight of the greater Sacramento area community, the participating local museums will open their doors to offer free or half-priced admission to the community from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 3.

Most of the museums will offer free admission whereas two destinations located in residential areas – the Sacramento Zoo and Fairytale Town – will offer halfpriced admission to offset parking and traffic control costs.

Coordinated by the Sacramento Area Museums (SAM) and Visit Sacramento and presented by Sutter Health, the annual event is a popular cultural tradition designed to encourage all members of the community to experience the Capital City's incredible wealth of art, history, science and wildlife – at little or no cost.

In addition to offering free or reduced cost admission, many of the destinations are offering special activities during Sacramento Museum Day. The activities range from special staffing by docents (for some smaller museums not normally open on Saturdays) to the following:

The California Automobile Museum will feature a special Story Time with a celebrity reader at 11 a.m. and noon. Also, some of the eye-catching class cars will be on display outside the Museum (weather permitting);

The California State Library will be featuring water transportation

in California and a special Haiku and Japanese Art exhibit. The State Library has the largest haiku collection outside of Japan. Plus, kids can visit with the Library's very own robo-dog, Browser;

Powerhouse Science Center Discovery Campus guests will have the opportunity to experiment with some of the hands-on engineering design activities offered in Design Lab and see live critters and insects up-close in the Nature Discovery Area. Additionally "Scooter" the Air



Quality Management District's mascot plans to make a special guest appearance;

The Sacramento History Museum will offer their interactive and fun gold panning activities for kids outside in front of the Museum;

The Sacramento Zoo will have craft stations hosted by Zoo teens and docents available throughout the day to answer animal questions and share biofacts. Also, guests are encouraged to stop by the Reptile House Lawn at 11 a.m. to meet some of the Zoo's animal ambassadors during an Animal Encounter.

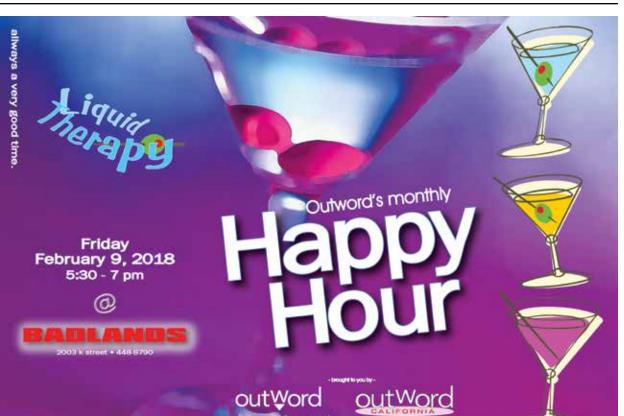
"We are thrilled to present the

20th Annual Sacramento Museum Day and invite the community to join us during this celebratory year," said Sacramento Area Museums Chair Lynda Walls. "And we'd especially like to thank our continuing sponsor – Sutter Health – for helping us to present this important event each year so we can introduce the community to the amazing array of arts, culture and museum offerings available in the greater Sacramento region."

Due to the popularity of Sacramento Museum Day, some locations must limit the number of admissions for safety reasons. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. but note the last guests will be admitted at 4 p.m. More detailed information about participating museums, addresses, limitations, suggested parking and public transit options is available at www. sacmuseums.org (click on "News & Events"), or by calling Visit California at (916) 808-7777.

In addition to Sutter Health, the 2018 Sacramento Museum Day is supported by active and engaged media partners including FOX40 & Studio40 Live, KSEG 96.9 FM & 106.5FM The End, Outword Media and Sacramento365.com.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at www. Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and Twitter @ SacMuseums or visit the userfriendly website at www. SacMuseums.org.



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Rippon

wearing were necessary, and I said, What butt pads?' And they said, You know, the ones you compete with' And I was like, 'No, no, no, no. You're so confused.' I just have a fat butt, and you know what. I've earned my big ass because I work really hard - and I have a great body?

What advice would Rippon give to a young person questioning his

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or her sexual identity, or wondering

about coming out as gay or lesbian?

friends will always love you for who

you are, and that you should always

"And if you are in a situation where

you feel safe and [know that] those

people who you trust will love you

matter whether you are gay - it

no matter what and will be there no

"I would say that your true

be true to yourself," said Rippon.

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won't matter. It's just a part of who you are, and it's not all you are. The most important thing is how you treat other people, and to act like the role model you would want to have."

You can see Adam Rippon walk proudly "out" when he joins his teammates at the Pyeonchang Olympic Stadium, on Friday, Feb. 9, as NBC televises the 2018 Winter Olympics opening ceremony.

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