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Wells Fargo Supports LGBTQ Nonprofits



Continuing its unwavering commitment to the LGBTQ community, Wells Fargo is partnering with influential members and allies, to bring to life the stories of four national nonprofits: Point Foundation, The Trevor Project, SAGE and GLSEN. Over the past year, these organizations have witnessed firsthand an increase in the number of crises experienced by LGBTQ youth and elders alike, and are working harder than ever to address these issues – but they need our support. The collaboration includes partnerships with Devon & Rob of Dads Not Daddies (pictured) and Scout Masterson, among others, who will be using their storytelling abilities and personal experiences to create content that generates awareness for these organizations and the work they seek to accomplish. Visit www.wellsfargomedia.com/standingtogether

SMUD Sponsoring Electric Vehicle Test Drives

If you've haven't yet driven an electric vehicle and are wondering what all the buzz is about, SMUD is offering you a unique opportunity to get behind the wheel of one and feel all those electrons pulsing through the pedal.

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SMUD's test drives of plug-in electric vehicles will be held at Arden Fair Mall starting Thursday, July 12 through Saturday, July 14, daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot near Forever 21. All ride and drive participants will receive a free entry ticket to the California State Fair at nearby Cal Expo. The California State Fair runs July 13 through July 29. Some EV manufacturers offer considerable rebate incentives and SMUD offers free home charging for two years. For more information visit SMUD.org.

LGBTQs Make History in Democratic Primaries

LGBTQ people across the country are making history. Just this year, Democrats have nominated more LGBTQ people to statewide office than ever before including three gubernatorial nominees in Colorado, Texas and Oregon.

Coloradans made history by choosing Jared Polis to be the Democratic gubernatorial nominee. If Polis wins in November, he would be the first openly gay governor elected in the nation.

Here's a snapshot of some of the new LGBTQ candidate successes so far this primary season that are close to home:

California: Ricardo Lara (CA Insurance Commissioner): If elected, Lara will become California's first LGBTQ statewide elected official, and the only LGBTQ person of color elected to statewide office in the nation: Katie Hill (CA-25): If Hill prevails over Republican Steve Knight, she will become

California's first openly LGBTQ congresswoman; Numerous LGBTQ candidates are poised to make the California state legislature even more diverse including: Joy Silver (SD-28), Sonia Aery (AD-3); Jackie Smith (AD-6); and Sunday Gover (AD-77)

Colorado: Jared Polis (Governor): If elected, Polis will become the first openly gay governor elected in the nation; Brianna Titone (HD-27): If elected, Titone will become the first openly transgender state legislator in Colorado; Alex Valdez (HD- 05): If elected, Valdez will expand the already diverse LGBTQ caucus of the Colorado House of Representatives, adding an important

LGBTQ Latinx voice to the table.

Nevada: Nelson Araujo (Secretary of State): If elected, Araujo will not only flip the Secretary of State's office from red to blue but also become the state's first openly LGBTQ statewide official and one of the first LGBTQ people of color elected to statewide office in the nation. **Oregon:** Jamie McLeod-Skinner (OR-02): McLeod-Skinner was the first out lesbian elected to the Santa Clara City Council and will be taking on Congressman Greg Walden, former chair of the NRCC. If elected, McLeod Skinner would become the first openly LGBTQ person elected to Congress from Oregon.

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Military Leadership Says that Inclusive Trans Policy Works

June 30th marked two years since the U.S. military officially began allowing transgender individuals to serve openly in its ranks, and those service members have compiled a record of distinction and earned consistent support from the highest ranks of the nation's military leadership.

"While the culture wars are fought out on Donald Trump's Twitter account, transgender service members have compiled a two-year record of achievement serving America on the front lines. They are proving every day what military leaders and medical professionals told us: that inclusive service strengthens the U.S. military and makes our country safer," said Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center.

The consensus in support of open service puts virtually the entire military chain of command at odds with the political leadership of the armed forces, as President Donald Trump and his Defense Secretary, James Mattis, have called for reinstating a ban on transgender service members.

Federal judges have repeatedly blocked the

...Trump and his Defense Secretary, James Mattis, have called for reinstating a ban on transgender service members.

ban from going into effect as the issue works its way through the courts.

Patriotic transgender men and women have been serving openly with honor and distinction. Examples include:

Air Force Staff Sergeant Ashleigh Buch, whose commander, Lt. Col. David "Bo" Rice, said of her: "She means the world to this unit. She makes us better. And we would have done that [supported gender transition] for any airman but it made it really easy for one of your best."

Air Force Staff Sergeant Brandon

Rodriguez, who has deployed three times in his 11 years of service and currently works in ground transportation at Kirtland Air Force Base. Rodriguez said his commander has been "nothing but supportive." His commander, Col. Richard Gibbs, said, "How we choose to define ourselves doesn't really matter to me. It's all about the people who choose to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. The rest of it is just treating each other well."

Air Force Staff Sergeant Logan Ireland, who was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, was named a Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter and is a Combat Leader Course graduate. Ireland deployed to Qatar and to Afghanistan to conduct counter-intelligence missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Marine Lance Corporal Aaron Wixson, whose commanding officer, Col. Walker Field, said that Wixson's decision to forgo an athletic scholarship and enlist showed his "exceptional character and patriotism," adding that: "We are lucky to have such talent in our ranks and will benefit from his retention ... Enabling LCpl Wixson to openly serve as a transgender Marine necessarily increases readiness and broadens the overall talent of the organization."

Army Captain Jennifer Peace, who deployed to Iraq and to Afghanistan as a military intelligence officer with the 4th Infantry Division. She was named the Distinguished Honor Graduate of the Intelligence Career Course and became the primary staff intelligence officer in her Infantry battalion during the "Pathway to the Pacific" mission to Asia, where she was rated #1 out of 11 intelligence officers.

The rationale for the transgender ban has now been repudiated by the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, and the American Psychiatric Association.

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DNC Launches LGBTQ Voting Rights Toolkit

In order to ensure every voice is heard this November, the Democratic National Committee has launched an LGBTQ Voting Rights Toolkit to help answer common LGBTQ-specific voting concerns.

Now more than ever, with LGBTQ people under attack from Republicans and the administration rolling back the progress we have made, LGBTQ people must get out and vote.

LGBTQ people, especially transgender voters, deal with unique issues when going to the polls - like when your gender identity doesn't match your voter ID or your name has not been changed on your voter registration.

The DNC's LGBTQ Voting Rights Toolkit will not only help address these concerns, but point LGBTQ people to additional resources, including the DNC's Voter Hotline that is staffed on weekdays to work with any voters one-on-one to help resolve questions or issues.

"Stonewall showed us that speaking up against abuses is the only way to achieve change. With voting rights and LGBTQ rights under attack by this administration, the Democratic Party is proud to stand with LGBTQ people and ensure that every voice is heard this November," said DNC Chair Tom Perez. "The DNC's LGBTQ Voting Rights Toolkit gives someone the resources they need to make sure they aren't turned away at the polls because of who they are or who they love. Too much is at stake this November, especially for the LGBTQ community, for any voter to stay home."

Visit s3.amazonaws.com/uploads.democrats.org/180601_LGBTQ_VoterPro_toolkit.pdf

Supreme Court Sends LGBT Discrimination Case Back to Washington State Supreme Court for Review

On the heels of the Supreme Court's decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, the high court vacated and remanded the Washington State Supreme Court's decision in *Arlene's Flowers v. Washington*, a case involving a same-sex couple turned away from a flower shop because they are LGBT.

"The Supreme Court today (June 25th) asked the Washington courts to re-examine our clients' case in light of the recent decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*," said James Esseks, director of ACLU's LGBT and HIV Project. "To be clear, the court made no indication the lower courts ruled incorrectly and made no decision on the case's merits. We are confident that the Washington State Supreme Court will rule once again in favor of the same-sex couple, and reaffirm its decision that no business has a right to discriminate. Our work to ensure LGBT equality is the law and the norm in all 50 states will continue."

OUTBermuda Pledges to Battle against Government Appeal in Marriage Decision

OUTBermuda declared on July 5th that "we will never surrender equality for all Bermudians, and especially the LGBTQ families and couples who deserve it."

The group's statement was made in response to the Government of Bermuda's decision to appeal the historic June 6 verdict by the Supreme Court of Bermuda that overturned the Government's decision to ban same-sex marriages.

Said Roderick Ferguson, the original litigant: "Just one month ago, LGBTQ Bermudians inched closer to our goal of restoring marriage equality. We regret this ill-advised and costly decision to appeal the Supreme Court's finding, and we will summon our voices and resources again as a united community to prevail."

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Dixon Vice Mayor Urged to Resign Over SPAM

by Charles Peer

Dixon Vice Mayor Ted Hickman has declared July “Straight Pride American Month” and has made numerous derogatory references to the LGBTQ community, but maintains that he does indeed, not eat SPAM.

Riddled with inaccuracies and typos, it is hard to take the column seriously. It appeared in Dixon’s *Independent Voice* in a column entitled “That’s Life,” that the *Sacramento Bee* says he has been writing for the paper since the 1960s as a “weekly tongue-in-cheek column.”

In the column, Hickman urges us not to get “our pantyhose in a knot,” and describes his faithful as “healthy, heterosexual, fairly monogamous, keep our kinky stuff to ourselves, Americans...”

His exhortation that we not get our pantyhose in a bunch has gone unheeded though.

“Despite all the progress we’ve made, hate and intolerance are alive and well in fringe politicians like Mr. Hickman who spew hateful rhetoric in an attempt to dehumanize members of our LGBTQ community,” said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur in a released statement. “Mr. Hickman’s words have no place in our society – especially at a time when our nation is already so divided and studies show hate

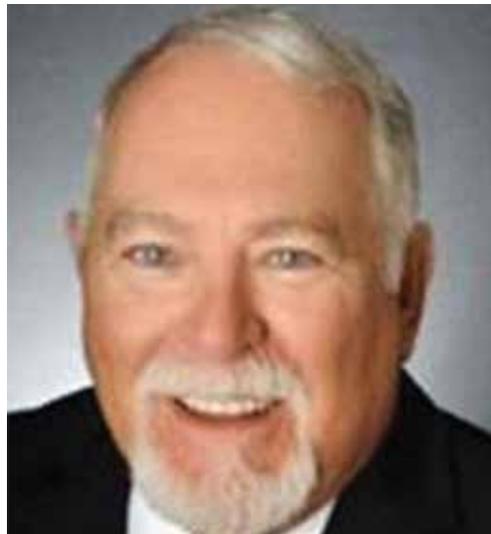
crimes are on the rise. Residents of Dixon – LGBTQ people, their families, their friends and their neighbors – deserve better, and Mr. Hickman should resign immediately.”

Hickman has defended his column as “tongue-in-cheek,” but a *Sacramento Bee* report details Hickman’s history of homophobic rhetoric and behavior.

Another member of the Dixon City Council, Devon Minnema, responded to Hickman’s column, saying in a statement, “There is no part of the community that is untouched by the venom that Councilman Hickman has spewed over the years, and that is the saddest part.”

“We ARE different from them...” Hickman continued in his column. “We work, have families, (and babies we make) enjoy and love the company (and marriage) of the opposite sex and don’t flaunt our differences dressing up like fairies...”

Recalling his readings of *Peter Pan*, Hickman’s research into fairies found that they are often powered by “piezoelectric” crystals which can be energized by sound



Dixon Vice Mayor Ted Hickman

waves made by clapping.

“So, right now if you don’t want any fairies to expire, you can clap your hands,” he said. “See, I do have a heart I just can’t type and clap at the same time...”

A petition, The Care2 Petition, has been circulated and signed by over 13,000 people calling on the Dixon City Council to recall Hickman. Additionally, groups are planning a protest at the next City Council meeting on July 10 as well as an LGBTQ Pride Day in Dixon on July 28.

Hickman’s full statement can be read at www.tedhickman.com. He is up for re-election this November.

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Montanans Reject Trans Discrimination Initiative

Montana voters stood shoulder to shoulder with the LGBTQ community and rejected a ballot initiative intended to intimidate and harm transgender and non-binary Montanans. I-183 failed to gather the necessary 25,468 signatures to make it on the November ballot.

“Transgender and non-binary Montanans have been powerful examples of bravery and authenticity in leading the fight against I-183” said SK Rossi, Director of Advocacy and Policy for ACLU of Montana. “We anchored our campaign against I-183 in the voices of the community most impacted by this costly and unnecessary measure. And in those voices, people heard their friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers.”

I-183 sought to block transgender and non-binary Montanans from public life. The initiative would have prevented them from

using public facilities that correspond with their gender identity in places such as libraries, parks, and schools. The state legislature rejected an almost identical measure in 2017.

Last July, the ACLU of Montana successfully challenged the legal sufficiency of I-183’s ballot statement. The Montana Supreme Court agreed that the statement did not accurately describe I-183’s intended and unintended consequences. The court invalidated the ballot statement, voiding “thousands of signatures” according to the

initiative proponents. The campaign to legalize discrimination never recovered.

After the ballot statement was revised, the ACLU of Montana filed a lawsuit challenging I-183 as unconstitutional. Ten LGBTQ Montanans, the City of Missoula, and the City of Bozeman appeared as plaintiffs in the lawsuit. With the ballot measure failing to collect the required signatures, the ACLU of Montana will likely move to dismiss the lawsuit.

“Courts across the country have found measures like I-183 to be unconstitutional, and voters in a growing number of states have rejected similar attempts to legalize discrimination,” said Caitlin Borgmann, Executive Director. “If an effort to discriminate against LGBTQ Montanans rears its ugly head again, we will be there to fight back on behalf of the transgender and non-binary community.”

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Artist on Asylum Needs Help

commentary by Emily Rymland

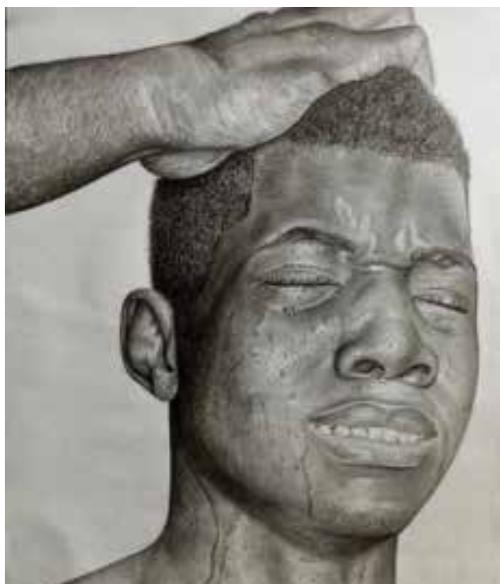
There are times in my life when I have been captured by a cause or by a person or by a moment. Well, it happened again. I have been graced with the opportunity to have met a young fellow named Patrick Chuka.

He is 18 years old, gay and seeking asylum from Nigeria. Now I have so many things going on in my life, my work in Uganda, my work here, my schooling, my personal life my own kid ... and the list goes on.

But there is a magic in this kid that has penetrated my heart. It took all of 30 seconds to know that he would become a part of my life, part of my family, part of my community.

He is here on asylum as being gay in Nigeria is life threatening. Imagine at 18 years old you are so fearful that you leave behind everything that you know and head to the U.S. - to live. While in Nigeria he was helping his mother support his four younger siblings by selling his art. He feels terrible for having left her to raise them without his help but staying home was no longer an option.

This weekend Patrick texted me to ask me if I could help him sell his art to help pay his rent. He has no income, no family, no source



Work by Patrick Chuka

of support. Of course I can help. I went to Facebook and posted a bit of his story with a photo of his work. 12 hours later I had raised \$1100. The generosity of people is alive and well which is hard to remember right now.

Today I had lunch with Patrick and I asked him what his biggest worry is. He said he is afraid of eviction if he cannot pay his rent. I was so thrilled to tell him that I was able to raise some money that would cover his rent for the next few months. I can't even begin to tell you the expression on his face. His disbelief that there are strangers that care for him.

I assured him that I will never let him become homeless. That he is an artist that has things to say that are important for the world as we all want to give him a voice.

Here is his blog: patrickchuka.blogspot.com/

Emily Rymland, RN, MSN, FNP-C, AAHIVS is with the East Bay Aids Center and is the Medical Director of the Em's Clinic, Kirybicooli, Uganda. She can be reached at buseesacomunity.org/who-we-are/board-of-directors/emily-rymland/



Emily Rymland with Patrick Chuka

Cool Off On the River While Learning to Row



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Can Artificial Intelligence Save Our Environment?

by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss, EarthTalk

Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the capability of machines to imitate intelligent human behavior and learn from data, is considered by many to be the final frontier of computing, and environmentalists and tech companies are now harnessing the power of AI to service the environment.



Using drones and Artificial Intelligence programs like SnotBot, scientists can gather information about whales from their "blows" without disturbing them.

To wit, Microsoft announced in December 2017 that it is expanding its "AI for Earth" program and committing \$50 million over the next five years to put AI technologies in the hands of individuals and organizations working to solve global environmental challenges, including climate change as well as water, agriculture and biodiversity issues.

Lucas Joppa, Microsoft's first Chief Environmental Scientist, is convinced that AI is now mature enough and the global environmental crisis acute enough to justify the creation of an AI platform for the planet.

"I believe that for every environmental problem, governments, non-profits, academia and the technology industry need to ask two questions," Joppa said. "How can AI help solve this and how can we facilitate the application of AI?"

The older, but rapidly growing project, eBird, has been demonstrating the power of coupling human observers with AI algorithms to provide a source of reliable data for scientists and environmental decision makers. Based out of Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, eBird engages a global network of bird watchers to identify bird species and report their observations through the eBird website or mobile app.

Due to the variability in the observations the volunteers make, AI filters observations through collected historical data to improve accuracy. And now with over 500 million bird observations recorded through this global database, Microsoft's Azure Cloud Computing Program is helping to allow calculations that used to take upwards of two to three weeks to now be accomplished in only hours.

California's One Concern is utilizing AI technology to identify and mitigate future risk stemming from natural disasters. One

Concern's platform can predict the impacts of climate change-driven events, and disasters such as earthquakes, floods and fires at a high degree of resolution and accuracy so that communities can better prepare and respond. Damage from an earthquake can be predicted with 85 percent accuracy within 15 minutes, and flood damage is predicted days ahead of storms.

Lastly, whale field research is being revolutionized by AI and drone technologies. "SnotBot," which doesn't exactly sound sophisticated, uses drones which allow a vastly different approach to whale research, flying well above the surface of the water where the whales are never touched or approached closely.

Snotbots hover above a surfacing whale and collect the blow (or "snot") exhaled from its lungs, then return back to researchers about a half mile away. Blow samples reveal a vast amount of biological data, including stress hormones and environmental toxins. Prior to SnotBot, data samples of wild whales were gathered by shooting sampling darts from crossbows into the mammal from a loud boat.

"It's not just all about Silicon Valley building cool Silicon Valley things," says Parley's Ian Kerr who manages the SnotBot program. "It's how AI could actually help us save the planet and solve scientific mysteries."

Delve deeper at Microsoft AI for Earth, www.microsoft.com/en-us/aiforearth; Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478; One Concern, www.oneconcern.com; Parley for the Oceans, www.parley.tv/#fortheoceans.

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Subaru Grows Up – With an All-New 3-Row SUV

Most folks know a few things about Subarus: legendarily rugged, reliable and safe. They win rallies, they climb hills. They take you and all four of your golden retrievers to the dog park (or the v-e-t). But they can't seat more than five people... until now.

Enter the 2019 Subaru Ascent, the first three-row SUV to roll off Subaru's production line since the Tribeca ended production in 2014. With two seating configurations, a 7-passenger with second-row captain's chairs or an 8-passenger with a second-row bench, it's finally possible to take the whole family camping, or just do the school run with one vehicle.

While getting everyone around town is no small feat, the Ascent truly shines outside the city. While some three-rowers prove lumbering wannabes off the asphalt, the Ascent is a legitimate off-roader with standard All-Wheel Drive and a suite of

the driver aids and safety features folks expect in a Subaru. Exclusive Eyesight Safety System with automatic emergency braking and lane keep assist is standard. So too is Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, making controlling music or sending a text a snap.

Another standard feature proving the Ascent is a real-deal Subaru is how it drives. Drivers would be forgiven for thinking the Ascent feels more like a spritelier 5-passenger sedan than a 7-passenger behemoth. The all-new 2.4-liter boxer four-cylinder makes 260hp, and it makes all its 277lb-ft of torque at just 2,000rpm, so it's both quick off the line and passing. With a



The 2019 Subaru Ascent's beautiful, leather clad interior offers the rows of seating for lots of people room.

features that put it well ahead of the pack.

Besides the traction control system Subaru calls "X-Mode" which helps find and maintain traction in adverse conditions like sand and snow, it also comes with Hill Descent Assist for negotiating steep declines.

The standout, however, is class-leading 8.7 inches of ground clearance, besting the Explorer, Pilot, Hyundai Santa Fe and Toyota Highlander. Getting everyone to that secluded beach campsite has never been easier.

Oh, and once you get there don't worry about setting up a tent on the ground because Subaru rated the Ascent's roof rails for car-top tents – a segment-first that Subaru included by popular demand. Or, if a tent isn't your speed, the Ascent's 5,000-pound towing capacity will easily bring your camper along.

Inside, the Ascent is massive. With 86.5 cubic inches of cargo space behind the first row (47.5 cu-in behind the second), it bests the Fords, Toyotas, Hyundais and Hondas of the world. Another place where the Ascent smokes the competition? Cupholders. 19 to be precise (that's 2.375 cupholders per person!).

Water bottle storage isn't the only thoughtful detail the Ascent has to offer inside. Up front, the Ascent comes with all

combined 22-MPG and 500 miles per tank, filling up on a road trip isn't so daunting a proposition either.

Perhaps what really makes the Ascent stand out among a crowded field of more-established three-row haulers is the team that stands behind it. From the engineer obsessives at the factory to the knowledgeable and professional Sales and Service staff that help folks find and maintain their Subaru vehicles every day, every member of the team takes pride in providing the kind of quality, care and love that Subaru owners expect.

Like at Lasher's Elk Grove Subaru. Their sales and service staff are known for providing the best experience for their customers day in and day out. As multi-year winners of the coveted Subaru Stellar Care award and recipients of the 2017 DealerRater Dealer of the year award, their commitment to serving the community with care and integrity is well known.

So, if you want to check out the new Ascent when it arrives later this month, or any of Subaru's other award-winning vehicles, the folks at Elk Grove Subaru in the Elk Grove Auto Mall will help you discover that the vehicles aren't the only thing that Make a Subaru a Subaru.

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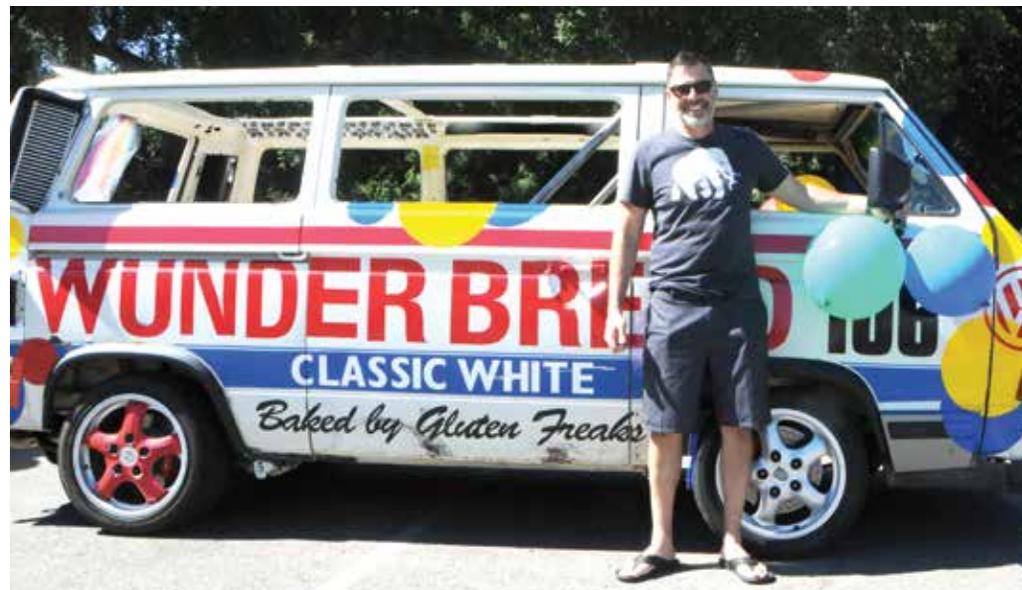
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My VW Westfalia Life

by Stephan White.

I have always loved camping! I remember when we lived in Spain as kids we would take our Mercury Monarch (Ford Granada's cousin) and pack all our gear in the trunk and we were off for the weekend and sometimes longer – memories made that can never be forgotten.



Camping is not the only use Stephan White has for his VWs, and he decked out this 1990 VW Vanagon to compete in the 24 Hours of Lemons, a race series where vehicles cost under \$500 to build. He named his Wunder Bread, well, because it looks like a giant loaf of bread. His four drivers and crew are named "Gluten Free" and dress as bakers and they hand out PB&J Sandwiches at races. Watch them race at www.24HoursofLemons.com.

Getting out there with nature, star gazing at night, the wondrous smells of the earth waking up with me, cooking breakfast on a Coleman stove, eating lunches on the beach with actual sand in our sandwiches. It all just brings me to my happy place.

Little did we know just how much planning it required to get all the camping gear together and hit the road. Those were the good old days when things were just done for us. We just had the hard task of being kids and to stay out of trouble.

At an early age I knew was going to be an auto mechanic. My dad and I would do all the maintenance and repair to our vehicles on borrowed military base garages. I believe they were free to use to all military service people and the tools needed to do just about any repair.

The only catch was the bay you were working on had to be spotless after you were complete. The "head guy" would inspect our bay after we were completed. This taught me the importance of a clean work area.

In my automotive mechanic life, I stumbled across a Volkswagen Vanagon camper that had all the stuff that was needed to get out there and camp. WOW! This vehicle had everything already. A built in two burner stove, refrigerator, sink with a 14-gallon water tank and sleeps four (if your really friendly). It was amazing!

It wasn't too long after that I found one on the cheap that needed work. Right up my alley.

It was heaven! We would take this VW on many trips. What a cool way to get out there with nature. All that was required was a road and we were there.

We keep our VW Westfalia pretty much stocked with essentials. Sheets and sleeping bag, plates, utensils, cups, wine glasses (they

are plastic), flashlights etc.

I found out was there is still a lot to get ready and pack on every single trip. Stuff that mom used to do for us looked so easy! There is a check list for all the other items that we need to take with us. Like the gray water tank bucket, drinking water, sunscreen, carpet mats, step to get into the tall van, all the rope type LED lights (rainbow color of course), camping chairs, tables, extension cord (if needed), food, snacks, alcohol, towels for us and dishes, cell phone chargers and extra battery packs, portable shower kit.

Then there are the normal items that at times get forgotten. Like make sure the water tank for the van is filled, propane for the heater and stove, batteries charged up and ready to go, washer fluid, fuel. Yes fuel! It's like the last thing on my mind after we get all loaded up.

Oh, let's take the mountain bikes too! Okay. Let's see. We need the bike carrier, bungee cords, tubes and tools for flats, tire pump, helmet, shoes, bike clothes, separate towel for possible road rash injuries.

This tent camper on wheels is the perfect vehicle for the adventure type folks. There are people who we call "full timers" who live in their Westfalia's full time. The only thing missing is the toilet (find a tree) and shower with endless supply of hot water.

The coolest thing about this vehicle is when you see another one coming down the road. It's like we know each other and must wave and smile. The gas station conversations are also fun with all walks of life!

When not out rambling (Westfaliaing?) Stephan White can be found at his auto repair shop, Stephan's Auto Haus, located at 3950 Attawa Ave. 95822, 916-456-3040, www.stephansautohaus.com.



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Summer Is a Great Time for a Drive in the River

words and photos by Mark Hinte

Summers in Sacramento are more than just cookouts, pool parties and camping, they also bring out the best in car collectors and their admirers and each weekend parking lots across the area are filled with vintage automobiles, showing off some of histories finest work on four wheels.

As an admirer of the vintage collections, I asked Todd Darling and Scott Mickelson to meet me at Discovery Park for a photo shoot of one of their most prize possessions, the Amphicar 770. Produced from 1962 to 1967, this half automobile

stopped to admire this unique automobile, and as we approached the boat ramp, spectators rushed up for the rare opportunity to see of the Amphicar 770 transforming into a boat.

By pulling a lever on each door

automobiles which includes rarities such as the 1958 Ford Skyliner with retractable hardtop, a 1957 Zundapp Janus 250, a 1952 Citerion Traction Avant and a 1991 Nissan Figaro that took over two years to register in the US due to smog requirements.

Todd first started out the conversation by talking about his first car. At the age of 16, he inherited the families 1930 Model A Ford. Since that time, he has been collecting and restoring old cars that have a lot of character.

Most of the cars have unique attributes such as the Zundapp that its doors open from the front of the car and the back of the car and are interchangeable. This German manufactured automobile is only one of 155 left in the world.

When asked about how they met, Scott agreed that it was their fascination of cars that brought them together over 19 years ago and remains an incredible shared



The Amphicar 770.

half boat was created to not only cruise the streets of local towns but also designed to boat down the waterways.

Created in Germany with British parts, Americans first viewed the amphibian car on live TV during the Ed Sullivan show. With an unsuccessful attempt at appealing



to the public, manufacturers created just 3000 Amphicar 770s, with only 500 remaining worldwide today.

As we wrapped up the land shots of the nautical framed convertible complete with four wheels and two small propellers in the back, Todd and Scott invited us to join them in experiencing the aquatic side of the automobile.

Driving through the park, many onlookers including bicyclist,

and putting the car in drive, the vehicle launched into the river and started to sail through boats waiting to dock. As I finished up photographing the car, many onlookers, expressed their joy to see this type of vehicle, that is more commonly viewed in movies and on television.

After finishing the shoot, I was able to sit down and speak with Todd and Scott about their incredible collection of vintage

time buying and restoring the cars together. As members of the Freewheeler Car Club, an LGBT club based in San Francisco, they now share their love for old cars with other LGBT members.

Todd noted that the car club just celebrated its 40TH anniversary, making it the oldest LGBT car club in the United States.

When asking Todd and Scott what their favorite car was, out of their 15 unique automobiles, both looked at each other in bewilderment as though I had asked them to pick their favorite kid. Both explained that each has unique qualities and back-stories making it impossible to choose.

As I wrapped the conversation, placing my camera in the bag, I took a final glance at the cars realizing that only a dream and innovation had created such incredible wheels.

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What's New on Local Stages?

by Chris Narloch

This month, I spotlight two local productions with all-female casts, plus a Broadway smash musical starring mostly young men, and a play with gender parity – two male characters and two female characters.

Newsies

If you've never seen this hit musical, check it out in the round this month at Music Circus, with handsome Joey Barreiro in the lead role of a New York City newsboy who stands up to powerful publishers during a historic 1899 newspaper strike.

Featuring stirring music by Alan Menken (Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*) and thrilling choreography, *Newsies* is a crowd-pleasing, Tony-winning smash that will have you on your feet cheering for its scrappy pack of underdog heroes.

The Broadway At Music Circus premiere of *Newsies* kicks up its heels through July 15 only. Go to <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/newsies>.

The Thanksgiving Play

The perfect play for these polarized times, this satire of political correctness is a wacky comedy about four self-proclaimed artists who attempt to create an ethnically sensitive school play that celebrates Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month – with no Native American actors.

Capital Stage's current production of Native American playwright Larissa Fasthorse's *The Thanksgiving Play*, skillfully directed by Michael Stevenson, stars Gabby Battista, Cassidy Brown, Jouni Kirjola, and Jennifer Le Blanc, giving it their all in this wickedly funny play.

The Thanksgiving Play continues through July 22 at Sacramento's Capital Stage. For more information, visit www.capstage.org.

1776
Fans of *Hamilton* may want to check out the original Broadway musical about our founding fathers, Peter Stone and Sherman Edwards' *1776*.

The historical hit premiered on Broadway

in 1969 and is based on the events surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

In a timely twist, the current concert version of *1776* at Chautauqua Playhouse in Carmichael features an all-female cast portraying our nation's founding fathers. Revolutionary indeed. Take that, Donald Trump!

1776 plays through July 22. Visit www.cplayhouse.org.

The Ladies Foursome

One of B Street Theatre's funniest shows returns but only until July 22. Get your tickets while you can for this laugh-fest about life on the links.

During an outrageous round of golf, four friends discuss how they navigate the ups and downs of life, love, men, sex and careers.

Tara Sissom, Amy Kelly, Rebecca Dines, and Tate Hanyok star in Norm Foster's heartwarming comedy, directed by Dave Pierini. For more information, visit bstreettheatre.org/show/the-ladies-foursome.



Amy Kelly, Rebecca Dines, Tara Sissom and Tate Hanyok in *The Ladies Foursome*. Photo by Rudy Meyers Photography

Everyone Was Partying Like a Guacstar at Ernesto's Pride Mixer



Ernesto's got in the spirit of Pride on June 28th when they teamed up with *Outword* for a Pride Happy Hour. Guests enjoyed complimentary appetizers and a margarita of their choice, super-sized fun and a fabulous raffle! "As a longtime supporter of *Outword Magazine*, we were happy to host their Pride happy hour celebration at Ernesto's Mexican Food!" If you haven't visited Ernesto's, *Outword's* favorite Mexican restaurant, located at 1901 15th St., in a while, you are missing out on some great eats! Check out their menu at ernestomexicanfood.com. Photos courtesy Cameron Kay Hobbs.

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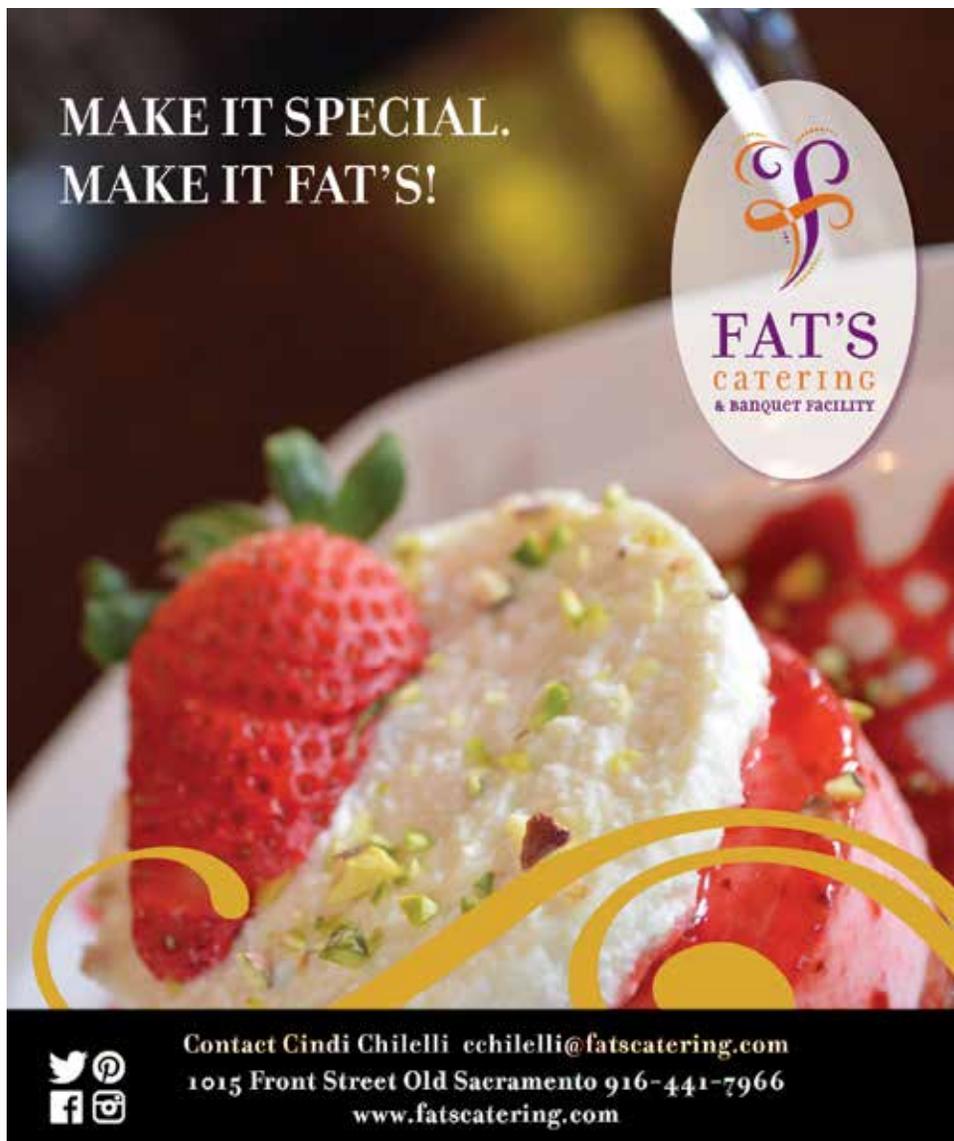


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New Queer Music from Hayley Kiyoko, Michael Blume & Shea Diamond

by Chris Narloch

June may be over, but pride-filled music keeps pumping all summer long, thanks to recent releases by lesbian artist Hayley Kiyoko, gay singer Michael Blume, and trans sensation Shea Diamond. Their current discs are reviewed below.

Hayley Kiyoko – *Expectations*

This gay model, actress, and singer is opening for Panic! At The Disco this summer, and her first full-length CD came out earlier this year.

Kiyoko has been nicknamed “Lesbian Jesus” by her fans, which is a lot to live up to, and on *Expectations* she definitely has her moments, although I can't say I am ready to convert to the Church of Hayley just yet.

My favorite track here is the dance-pop confection “Curious,” but Kiyoko also impresses on the CD's first three cuts, “Feelings,” “What I Need,” and “Sleepover.”

Shea Diamond – *Seen It All*

Short and sweet is the way I would describe this five-song EP by a transgender artist whose voice reminds me of the great Ruth Pointer from The Pointer Sisters.

Diamond nails it right out of the starting

block on “American Pie,” the fantastic first cut, which sounds like an anthem for trans rights and a rallying cry for Black Lives Matter all rolled in to one.

Elsewhere, the singer shines on “Keisha Complexion,” “I Am Her,” and the EP's terrific title track.

Michael Blume – *Cynicism & Sincerity*

This EP, which is accurately titled, has only seven tracks, but it displays Michael Blume's eclectic taste and versatile talent with style and precision.

From the laugh-out-loud wit of “R U Mad (That I'm Gay)” to his lovely upper register on “I Wanna Know,” Blume shows several different sides of his artistry here - and a refreshing romanticism on “Maybe Love Is True.”

I especially liked the closing remix of “R U Mad,” which sounds very similar to a recent hit by Meghan Trainor.

The Sac Japanese Film Festival Returns

by Chris Narloch

The Sacramento Japanese Film Festival, which returns to the Crest this month, is one of only four film festivals in the continental United States that dedicates itself exclusively to Japanese cinema.



Mumon: The Land Of Stealth

What began as a one-day festival in 2005 will take over the historic Crest Theatre for an entire weekend this year, with seven feature films screening over three days.

Among the not-to-be-missed movies for 2018 is *Sisters of the Gion*, a classic from 1936 directed by the great Kenji Mizoguchi about two sisters who are geishas in Kyoto before WWII.

Fans of animation will want to catch *In This Corner of the World*, a poignant coming of age story set during the closing days of WWII that won the 2017 Japanese Academy Award for Best Animation.

Oh Lucy! is Atsuko Hirayanagi's highly acclaimed tale of a middle-aged woman with a dead-end job who falls for an American teacher (Josh Hartnett) and then follows him to Los Angeles.

Also screening this year is *After The Storm*, an award-winning film by Hirokazu Kore'eda, one of Japan's greatest living directors, about the relationship between a failed novelist and his young son.

The 14th Annual Sacramento Japanese Film Festival is scheduled for July 20-22. For a complete list of titles and show times, visit www.sacjapanesefilmfestival.net.

Out & About With Matt by Matthew Burlingame

Independence Day, a.k.a. "The Night of Terrorizing Pets and Vets With PTSD" is done for another year and Rainbowfest isn't until September! So what do we do until then?

For starters, have you gotten your tickets for Gypsy running July 24-29 at Broadway At Music Circus? Seriously, if you just said "no"... my "even" just can't with you right now. This iconic musical follows the life and career of famed striptease artist and burlesque entertainer Gypsy Rose Lee and her complicated relationship with her domineering mother. The show contains mild language, revealing costumes, suggestive dancing, and adult content. So pretty much, a night at the Badlands.

Speaking of Badlands, don't miss *Outword* & Badlands' Super Happy Hour and Liquid Therapy Friday! The prizes include items by Broadway Sacramento and *Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon!* While you're there take the 2018 *Outword* "Best Of" survey (just write my name in all the categories!). July 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 2003 K St.

If you missed July's fabulous Drag Queen Bingo benefiting Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Tennis, then go put next month's event in your calendar reminder right now! The August 2 event benefits PFLAG and is hosted by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber. Just \$15 for 8 games. Make sure you get there early enough for dinner!

Mango's Sacramento, 1114 20th St. Don't forget the 9th Annual PFLAG Sacramento Ice Cream Social scholarship fundraiser on July 15 from 2-4 p.m. at Sacramento Elks Lodge #6, 6446 Riverside Blvd.

One of the most anticipated events of the summer! "Out At The Fair-California State Fair" was a huge success last year. This year's is going to be even better as it is now an official fair event. Join Sacramento's LGBTQ community July 29, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. 1600 Exposition Blvd. Find out more at OutAtTheFair.com

The Vice Mayor of Dixon, Ted Hickman, has declared July as "Straight Pride Month." So on July 28 the Solano Pride Center and the Love is Love Movement is hosting Dixon's first spontaneous LGBTQ Pride Day. Bring your partners, kids, friends and family as well as a picnic lunch and signs and let's show Dixon that love conquers hate!

Sacramento Women's Chorus welcomes all women who have a desire to contribute to their community through song. Join them July 16 at 1:30 p.m. for guest night to learn about the group, what they do and how to become a member. RSVP at sacramentowomenschorus.com

Jammin' Jo invites you to the Leo Birthday Dance on July 27 from 6-11 p.m. at the Sky Room, 2600 Watt Ave. The outrageous rapper Cupcakke is going to be steppin' up to the mic at Harlow's Restaurant & Nightclub, 2708 J St., July 21 at 7 p.m. Hosted by Tastemaker Live tickets are \$22-\$27 and available at ticketweb.com

Happy anniversary to Mike Tentis and husband Jeff. Congratulations to Mike Mendez on the final submission of his script to Yale University Press. Also to Michael Gorman on winning the "Rookie of the Year" award for his radio show *The Tribal Mind*

on 96.5 FM. Huge congratulations to Myk Ciapucci and John Leggett for tying the knot. Welcome to Koby Rodriguez who has just been selected as the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's next Director of Programs, and to Elena Carrillo as the new president of the Lavender Library.

Happy birthday to Darrick Lawson, Luke Adiken Shawver, Lance Navarro, Michael P. Coleman, Brian McMartin, Jammin' Jo Tierney, Ben Clinton, Chase Tinsley, Josh Varner, Nate Feldman, Marc Koenigsberg, Bethany Hidden and all the other July babies!

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries, or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com. And check out his other work at JustKissTheGuy.com.



Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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*This page,
words by Bryan Aubineau,
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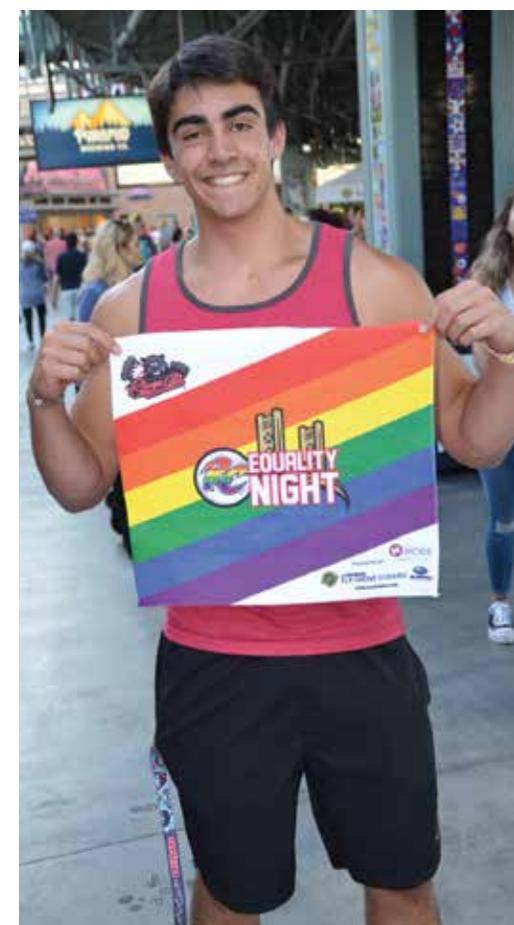
Raley Field Filled With Pride For 4Th Annual Equality Night

On June 29, River Cats Equality Night wowed local baseball fans with a fun-filled evening, promoting inclusion, diversity, and acceptance for the LGBTQ community. For the past four years, Project MORE Foundation has partnered with the Sacramento River Cats, You Can Play, and local LGBTQ-supportive organizations and businesses to produce a premium experience bringing fans, players, and communities together in a safe and affirming environment.

Fans and casual baseball watchers, from as far as the Bay Area and Reno, filled Raley's Field as the Sacramento River Cats shut out former Triple-A affiliate for the San Francisco Giants, the Fresno Grizzlies. Individuals who purchased Project MORE's exclusive ticket offer had early access to Knee Deep Alley early for a special pre-game reception, featuring live tunes from The Well Dressed Mannequins and light refreshments before taking their seats in the equality section near 3rd base.

The game began with a flag presentation ceremony where volunteers carried the United States and LGBTQ Rainbow flags with pride as the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus harmonized the National Anthem. After the first pitch, the left field scoreboard turned rainbow for the duration of the game. 2,000 early entry visitors and nearly 200 exclusive ticket purchasers waved their commemorative rainbow rally towels courtesy of Lasher Elk Grove Subaru, rooting on the River Cats to victory. When that final out was called, and the team and fans rejoiced, they were presented with a breath-taking, pride-themed firework display that lit the sky rainbow. For many the night continued at Badlands Sacramento where we were excited to see so many fans who took advantage of their free cover entry to the midtown dance club by presenting their River Cats tickets at the door.

To learn more about this and other ways Project MORE Foundation empowers LGBTQ inclusion throughout Northern California visit us online at www.doMOREproject.org.



Out & About

Equality Night *This page, photos by Chris Allan*



...And he's...!



Kids waving their Rainbow Towels



Dinger on the River Cats Equality Night



Paul Crouch scheming on Dinger's fan



Gay Mens Chorus singing National Anthem



These Equality Sticks were loud enough to raise everybody's Pride



The Equality Night Towels were waving strong and proud!



Even the Hot Dog Tossers got in the rainbow spirit

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Canadian Olympic Gold Medalist Eric Radford Celebrates Pride with *I Was Born For This* Video

In celebration of Pride month, Olympic figure skater and gold medalist Eric Radford has released a short video entitled, *I Was Born for This*, showing Radford delivering a commanding performance on ice, while proudly toting a rainbow flag. 33-year-old Radford is the first openly gay athlete to win a gold medal for Canada in the Winter Olympics and is the face of the Canadian Olympic Committee's "Be You" campaign, dedicated to the eradication of homophobia in sports. For a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the *I Was Born for This* video, visit www.instagram.com/p/BkWWpidHeNe/?taken-by=aplus_creative



Out at the Fair Returns To Cal Expo

by Chris Narloch

Sacramento's first annual *Out at the Fair* day was such a success in 2017, the event will return to Cal Expo this summer. So grab a hot dog on a stick and one of those amazing cinnamon rolls and join us on Sunday, July 29, the final day of the California State Fair.



San Diego City Councilmember Chris Ward and his partner Thom with their daughter Betty at *Out at the Fair* San Diego.

If you can't make it for *Out at the Fair* on the 29th, there's plenty more to do at the State Fair this year, especially for music lovers, who can enjoy free concerts every day of the Fair, beginning Friday, July 13.

The 2018 Toyota Concert Series on the Golden 1 Stage will feature 17 artists, in a wide variety of musical genres, including WAR ("Low Rider"), Berlin featuring Terri Nunn ("Take My Breath Away"), Kool & The Gang ("Ladies Night"), and Night Ranger ("Sister Christian").

Other hit-makers appearing in the Concert Series include Sugar Ray ("Every Morning"),

The Greg Kihn Band ("The Breakup Song"), The Spinners ("The Rubberband Man"), and UB40 ("Red Red Wine").

Other featured music acts scheduled this month include Christian music from Tenth Avenue North, country acts Easton Corbin and Trace Adkins, Latin artists Los Lonely Boys and Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, plus Beatles and Queen tribute bands.

For more information about *Out at the Fair*, visit www.outatthefair.com/castatefair. To see a complete schedule of this year's Concert Series, go to www.castatefair.org/attractions/concerts-music.

Hearts Beat Loud Playing at The Tower

by Chris Narloch

The cool thing about *Hearts Beat Loud* is how the young heroine of the movie, Sam (the lovely Kiersey Clemons), just happens to be gay. The fact that she is a lesbian is incidental – the movie is really about the character's relationship with her dad and whether she will choose medical school over a music career.

Clemons isn't the only winning cast member. The film also features funnyman Nick Offerman in a more serious turn as Sam's dad, plus fine supporting work by Toni Collette, Ted Danson, Blythe Danner, and Sasha Lane as the lesbian love interest.

In the hip Brooklyn neighborhood of Red Hook, single dad and record store owner Frank (Offerman) is preparing to send his hard-working daughter Sam off to college while being forced to close his vintage shop.

Hoping to stay connected through their shared musical passions, Frank urges Sam to turn their weekly jam sessions into a father-daughter live act. After their first song becomes an inter-net breakout hit, Sam must make a difficult choice regarding her future.

Hearts Beat Loud isn't earth-shattering stuff – the movie is entertaining but doesn't go deep enough into its characters' inner lives. Still, Clemons and Offerman have a nice rapport, and the same-sex subplot is

refreshingly matter-of-fact.

Hearts Beat Loud was playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as we went to press. Hopefully, the film will still be there when you read this. To find out, visit www.readingcinemasus.com/tower.



Sasha Lane and Kiersey Clemons costar in *Hearts Beat Loud*.



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