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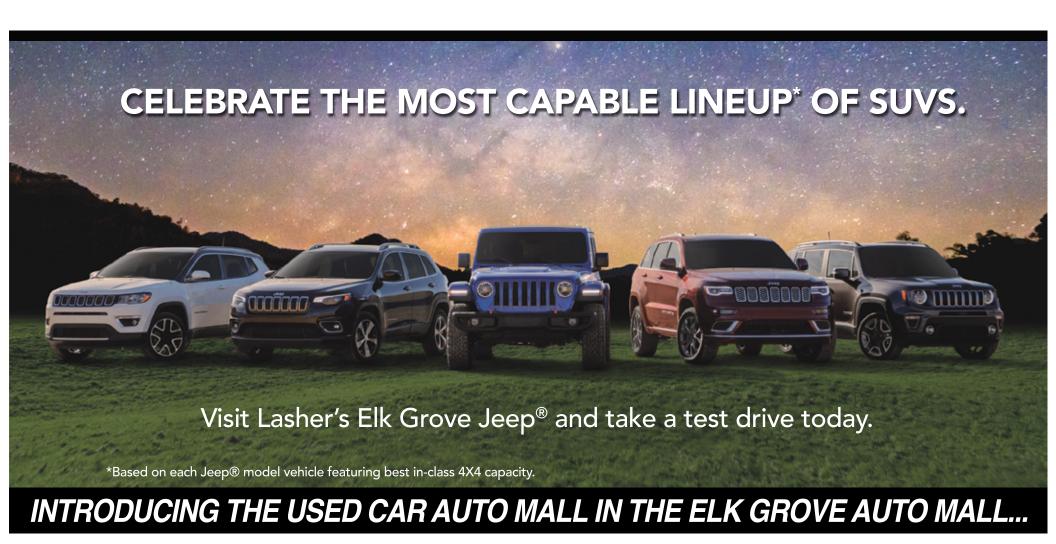


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The UC Davis Love Lab Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

by Joyce Mitchell

aving lives and protecting students, the UC Davis Love Lab celebrates 10 years of work on the University of California, Davis campus. From dining halls to the gym lobby, the Love Lab traverses the campus, giving away free condoms and sexual health information.



Ted Ross, Inventor/Builder of Love Lab and Blake Flaugher. MPH/UC Davis Health Specialist.

The number of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) continues to climb, according to the California Department of Public Health. There's an uptick is syphilis affecting people age 20 to 29. Teenagers tend to be contracting Chlamydia at a higher rate.

Health officials say the less informed, the less likely young people will get tested. They say youth often are skittish about buying protection. That makes the Love Lab on the UC Davis campus an invaluable tool.

During the past decade, the Love Lab has given away nearly a million free condoms to students coupled with sexual health information. "We know STIs are on the rise in general," said UCD Health Promotion Specialist Blake Flaugher, MPH. "What I really like about the Love Lab is that it's a rolling billboard promoting sexual health."

The Love Lab was designed and donated by Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF). Board Member Ted Ross, who invented and built the cart, recently visited the Love Lab on the UCD campus. He and Flaugher examined the cart for wear and tear and by all appearances, the cart has held up remarkably well.

When school's in, the Love Lab serves about 85 students a day. "We have safe sex products for everyone," said Flaugher. "That's what we try to promote. Equality. We're very grateful to Capital City AIDS Fund."

Citing evidence-based research, Flaugher says it's vital to take condoms and sexual health information directly to the students. Throughout the year, employees and student staff working with the Love Lab give away nearly 100-thousand condoms annually.

Checking over the Love Lab, Ross said that the years have been kind to his sturdy creation." I can see those wheels have got some miles on them," said Ross. "But they have some time left on them."

Ross was visiting the Love Lab because Sacramento State University may now be interested in something similar. And yes, it will be built and donated by CCAF. If all goes well, Sac State will have a cart by the end of fall.

"As a rule, people absolutely love it," said Flaugher. "Like any sexual health initiative, at first, it may be met with mixed reaction. Then as people become more comfortable with it, they absolutely love it."

Corporate Pride

guest commentary by Kevin Knauss

Tow do you know it is Pride month? When you see corporate ads in your Facebook newsfeed that include a rainbow in the background. The LGBTQ+ community is a demographic group that is now embraced and targeted by corporate America. Is this a bad thing? Some people think so, but it cuts both ways.

Since I have played around with Facebook, and other online advertising, I can attest that these social media platforms are very good at allowing advertisers to target discreet demographic groups. Welcome to the world of big data where every click, like, and share is captured and aggregated.

There are some people who do not like the outsized corporate presence at Pride events. They argue that Pride should be a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community and not debased with consumerism. While that is a lovely sentiment that I can appreciate, the reality is that large events need cash to function.

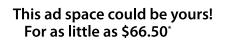
Most nonprofits organizing a celebration such as Pride must make a deal with corporate sponsors. For the most part, Sacramento Pride has created a nice balance between community celebration and corporate presence. I did read one editorial by Eddie Jen in the Sacramento Bee (Sacramento Pride: Plenty of rainbows, but no water. What's up with that? June 20, 2019) that blamed the lack of available water for participants on a monopolistic beverage arrangement. Mr. Jen attributed this arrangement, that severely restricted access to

plain bottled water, to corporate greed. I'm unsure if this arrangement was to help the vendor of alcoholic beverages or just a bad organizational choice that restricted easy access to water on a very warm day.

The involvement of local and national corporations in Pride events will necessarily impact the decision-making process for these events. Corporate sponsors do not want to be associated with controversy. I have to wonder how much influence corporate sponsorship played in the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's decision to abruptly reverse the ban on Sacramento City police officers marching in uniform in the Pride Parade.

On the flip side, corporate sponsorships validate that the LGBTQ+ community is here to stay. The recognition of the community by powerhouse businesses from insurance to utilities also helps influence politics and either the removal of discriminatory laws or the additional protections for the LGBTQ+ community. At this point, I would rather have corporate America on our side, than against us.

Kevin Knauss is a local health insurance agent, member of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber, and author of local history books.





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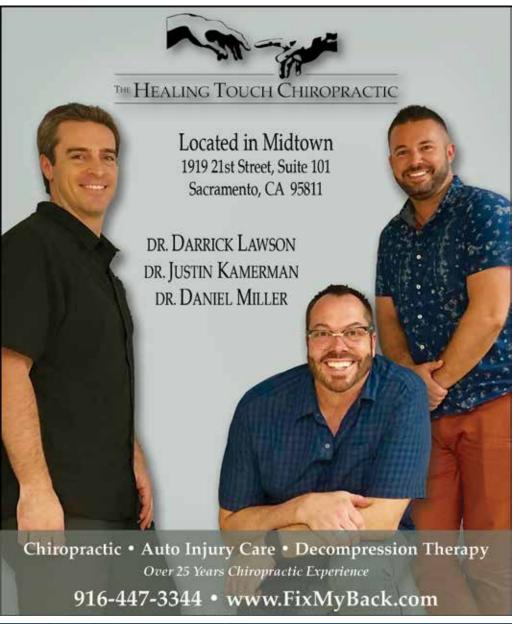


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San Francisco To Create Castro LGBTQ Cultural District

he San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an ordinance, authored by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, to create the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District, bringing additional funding and resources to one of the country's most important LGBTQ neighborhoods.



"The Castro has been recognized worldwide for half a century as a symbol of LGBTQ liberation and as an enclave for LGBTQ people to find safety, acceptance, and chosen family," said Mandelman, who represents the Castro on the Board of Supervisors. "The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District will be an important tool to ensure that the Castro remains a vibrant LGBTQ neighborhood well into the future."

The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District will join the list of other recognized Cultural Districts including the Compton's Transgender Cultural District in the Tenderloin and Leather LGBTQ Cultural District in SoMa.

The Castro has renowned anchor businesses that are synonymous with San Francisco like the Castro Theater, Cliff's Variety and Twin Peaks Tavern. It is host to many community organizations including the Castro Country Club, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Strut and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. History has been made in the neighborhood at sites like Harvey Milk's Camera Shop and the storefront where the AIDS Memorial Quilt was conceived," Mandelman said. "I am proud that this ordinance will allow the Castro to access critical resources to support the small businesses, non-profits, cultural institutions and people that make the neighborhood the heart of our city's LGBTQ community."

For more information visit sfgov.org



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Equality California Praises Supreme Court Ruling on Politically Motivated Citizenship Question to 2020 Census

he U.S. Supreme Court, at least temporarily, has blocked the Trump-Pence administration from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census. Writing for the majority, Chief Justice Roberts explained the administration's stated reason for adding the citizenship question "seems to have been contrived" and that the Court "cannot ignore the disconnect between the decision made [to include the question] and the explanation given [of Voting Rights Act enforcement]."

The Court remanded the case back to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York for further consideration. The U.S. Census Bureau has previously stated that the agency would have to begin printing census forms July 1, 2019, raising questions about the ability to resolve the matter in before the deadline.

If the administration is ultimately allowed to add the citizenship question, U.S. Census Bureau experts estimate 6.5 million people living in the United States might not be counted. An undercount caused by the inclusion of an untested and unnecessary citizenship question would have devastating effects on California, which has the highest immigrant population in the country, and on the LGBTQ community in particular, which has been designated as a "hard to count population" by both the U.S. Census Bureau and the California Complete Count Office.

For more information go to Equality California's website www.eqca.org

LGBTQ Health Groups Launch Campaign to Expose Big Tobacco's Decades Targeting LGBTQ Community

quality California Institute and 17 LGBTQ and health service providers throughout Los Angeles County announced the launch of the OUT Against Big Tobacco Coalition and a new campaign to expose tobacco industry marketing that has deliberately targeted the LGBTQ community for decades.

Such predatory marketing efforts – first dubbed "Project SCUM" by industry leaders in 1995 – have resulted in alarmingly high rates of tobacco use among LGBTQ youth and adults and contributed to significant health disparities between members of the LGBTQ community and the general public.

"For too long, Big Tobacco has preyed on LGBTQ people, getting us hooked on their toxic products and profiting off our deaths," said Equality California Institute Executive Director Rick Zbur.

Research suggests that the tobacco industry's decades of well-documented targeted marketing to LGBTQ people - often exploiting social and political stigma and resulting stress – are among the reasons for high rates of LGBTQ tobacco use:

LGBTQ Californians are more than twice as likely to smoke as their non-LGBTQ peers, and nearly 30,000 LGBTQ people across the country die every year of tobacco-

Estimates of smoking rates among LGBTQ youth range from 38 to 59 percent, compared to just 28 to 35 percent of youth generally.

Nearly 24 percent of California's LGBTO adults use tobacco products, compared to just 17 percent of adults who don't identify as LGBTQ.

The OUT Against Big Tobacco Coalition's campaign aims to build public support for tobacco control policies – such as restricting flavored tobacco products and coupons that are often distributed at LGBTQ Pride events - beginning in the cities of West Hollywood and San Fernando and ultimately expanding to other cities throughout Los Angeles County. Coalition members include Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, American Lung Association, AIDS Project Los Angeles, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Among the Coalition's priorities is building public support for a ban of the redemption of tobacco coupons in the city of West Hollywood. Tobacco companies reported spending \$380 million on coupons in 2016 to offset the effects of tobacco tax increases, such as those imposed in the state of California in the aftermath of the passage of Proposition 56 in 2016. Recognizing the negative effects that tobacco coupons have on smokers and the fact that coupons reduce the effectiveness of tobacco tax increases in encouraging smokers to quit, New York City, Chicago, San Jose, Berkeley, and other municipalities have all passed measures to restrict their redemption.

For more information go to Equality California's web site www.eqca.org



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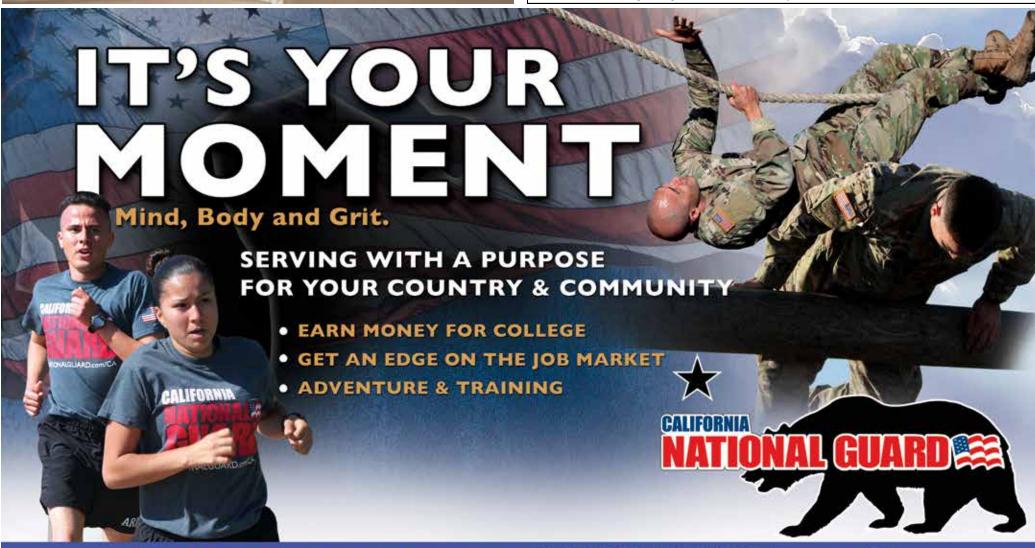
needs of the LGBTQ+ Community!



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Out & About With Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

uly is here! This month we celebrate blueberries, hot dogs, ice cream, cheesecake and nude recreation. I'll take care of the cheesecake, y'all can do the recreatin'.

One of the best ways to recreate is at Outword's Liquid Therapy Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands, 2003 K St. Drink, dance, win cool stuff and leave your worries behind! Join us on July 12 at 5:30 p.m. Then don your gay apparel because it's Christmas in July at 7 p.m. Hosted by Precious Cargo the CGNIE fundraiser will feature drag performances, Jell-O shots and huge prizes. Charity disbursements will follow the show. Badlandssac.com

Stop by Mango's Sacramento, 1930 K St. at 7 p.m. on July 11 for Drag Queen Bingo. Come early for burgers and beat the crowd. This month's event will benefit the Alzheimer's Association: The Longest Day where participants from across the globe come together to raise funds in support of the Alzheimer's Association. Rainbowchamber. com

Out at the Fair® is returning to the California State Fair on July 14 and promises a full day of activities including Out at the Races featuring Drag Bingo hosted by Val Curie, a performance by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, Glam Show, Chefs in the Kitchen with Ryan Ulmer, and a TLC Concert at 8 p.m. Download the companion apps or visit the website for more information. Outatthefair.com

Summer is for theater! Indoors or outdoors, Sacramento has always been a theater town and what better way to reconnect with the mothership of gay plays than with the flag ship of of them all: Angels In America, Tony Kushner's Raison d'être about AIDS. If you haven't seen the play performed live make haste to the Roseville Theatre Arts Academy, 241 Vernon St, Roseville. Both parts will be alternating in repertory until July 21. Rosevilletheatreartsacademy.com

The Sacramento Shakespeare Festival continues through July 28 with the romantic comedy Twelfth Night alternating weekends with Shakespeare in Love based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Sacramentoshakespeare.net

And don't forget the hit of the season! The five time Tony award winning The Drowsy Chaperone runs through July 14 with the

amazing Bruce Villanch as "Man In Chair." Broadwaysacramento.com

Second Saturday Art Walk is in full swing and the streets of Sacramento are swarming with art lovers and enthusiastic onlookers. This month Kennedy Gallery offers participants a chance to experience architecture and art collide by embracing their urban identity. The Urban Identity exhibit features works from over 20 resident artists and newcomer William Hinte whose photo was featured in this month's poster. Running through August 4 the gallery is open



Happy Birthday Dr. Darrick!

for extended Hours on Second Saturday. KennedyGallery.net. For a full list of galleries and events, go to Sacramento.downtowngrid.

Happy birthday to Darrick Lawson, Luke Adiken Shawver, Michael P. Coleman, Lance Navarro, Mathew Salisbury, Wendy Rae Hill, Brian McMartin, Jolanne "Jammin' Jo" Tierney, Ben Clinton, Chase Tinsley and all other July babies.

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries, or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@ gmail.com. Check out his books at JustKissTheGuv.com







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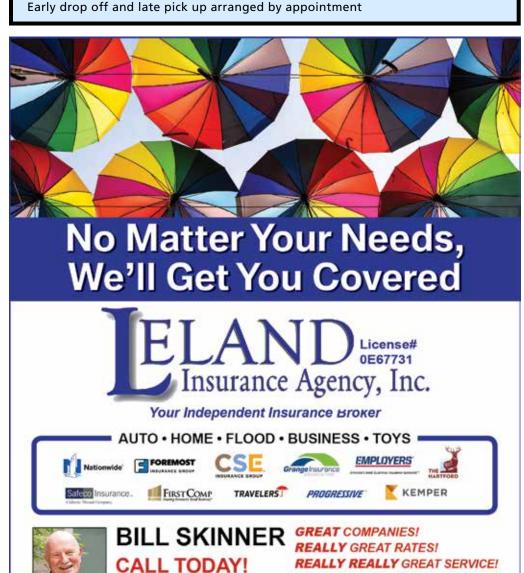
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Come, Meet Your Gladiator words by Graham Enos, image courtesy of Chrysler Corp.

Today, when people talk about "slinging mud," often it's because of some political nonsense on cable news or Twitter. ■ But what if you wanted to literally sling some mud? There's only one thing that comes to mind: a Jeep. Now, Jeep has a new and more practical way to get down and dirty in the all-new 2020 Jeep Gladiator–Jeep's first truck in nearly 30 years.

The Gladiator, or JT in Jeep-speak, is a sibling of the venerated Jeep Wrangler. Looking at it from the outside, you'd be forgiven for thinking someone had welded a truck bed on the rear of a four-door Wrangler...and in some ways you wouldn't be wrong. The engineers at Jeep took what made the Wrangler the off-road SUV to have and made them more capable and

its size and proportion.

This isn't just any other truck though. It's a Jeep. In addition to the legendary 3.6L Pentastar V6 that makes 286 hp and 260 ft-lb of torque, it also can be optioned with a manual transmission and comes as standard with removable top, doors and has a foldable front windshield. For those who'd want to get off the paved roads and blaze a new trail, the



comfortable in the Gladiator. Most of this is achieved by lengthening and stiffening the chassis (31 inches longer than a four-door Wrangler) to accommodate the bed and towing capabilities. Other improvements like unique shocks, thicker axle tubes and sway bars add up to a gas-powered mid-size truck with best-in-class towing capacity of up to 7,650 lbs. when properly equipped and best-in-class payload capacity of 1,600 lbs. While it may look like a Wrangler with a bed attached, the Gladiator puts up real truck numbers.

While the design and engineering of the Gladiator is meant to make it an off-road powerhouse, some of the choices also make for a smooth and comfortable ride on highways and around town. The extra inches in the wheelbase make highway driving comfortable, and progressive rate springs in the suspension that become stiffer under load but remain flexible and springy under normal driving conditions make for a gentler ride than many would expect from a truck of

Gladiator is able to do both. All models, even the base Sport and Overland trims have 40.8 degree approach angles, 25 degree departure angles and 10 inches of ground clearance. There's also additional underbody protection for the automatic transmission (if equipped), as well as added protection around the fuel tank and transfer case for those times when slinging mud means slinging mud. Just make sure to wipe off the front and rear trail cameras when vou're all done.

This might be the perfect truck for those folks who work all week and then like to get outside and away from civilization on the weekend. And, again it's a Jeep. For those in the know, and those who want to know, there's no better place to get down and dirty than at Elk Grove Dodge Chrysler Jeep RAM out in the Elk Grove Automall. They've been helping folks find the right car, truck or SUV (or even a Jeep truck!) for over 60 years and like the Gladiator, they can do both: get you a great new vehicle and save you time and



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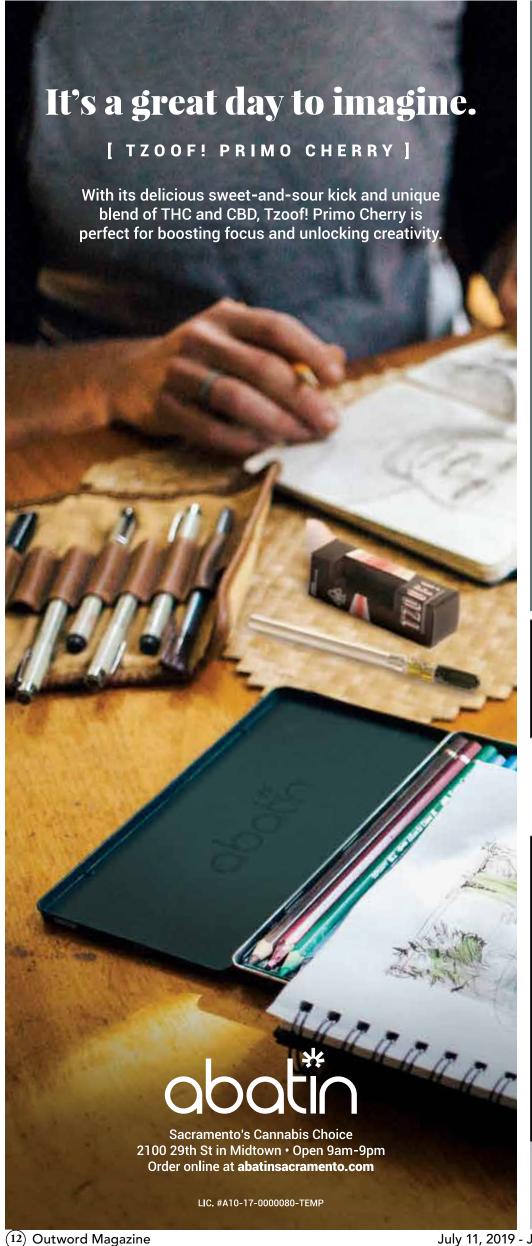


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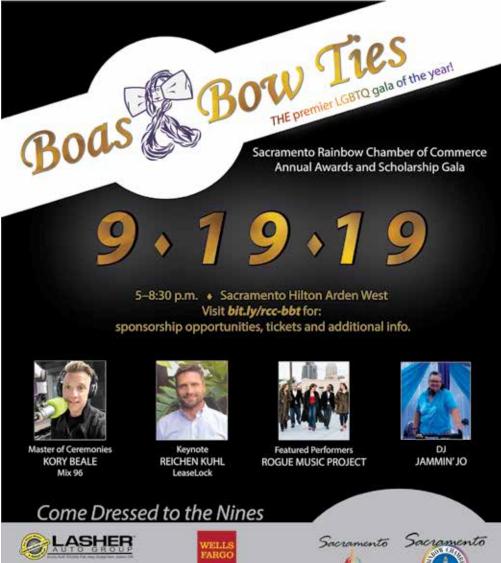
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July 25, 2019

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An Audiodork's Fantasy Xmas Wish List — Six Months Later by AudioDork

wrote an article around Christmas that highlighted some fun things I would like to find underneath my Xmas tree and now, six months later, I had a chance to experience, and own, some of the items.

First on my list was a Yamaha turntable and Bluetooth stereo receiver. Sadly, these have not made the cut. At \$700 the turntable is just too expensive and I don't even have one record to play on it. Maybe one day I will find a nice, clean used table and start playing records again, but that hasn't happened yet.

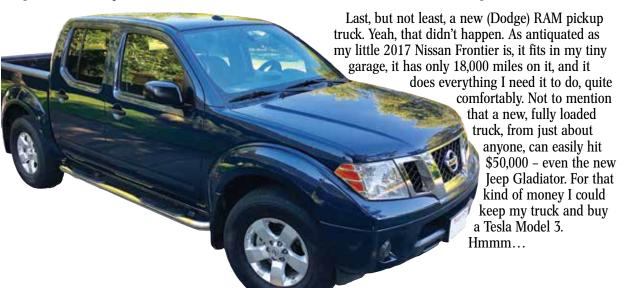
Second on the list was an Apple Watch, Series Three. Just before Xmas the price of the outgoing Series Three went down below \$300 so I bought myself one for Xmas, to replace my Model One Watch. The three is so much faster in its everyday functions that it makes some sense. I say some because now that I have owned it, and wear it every day, I am still only using it in a very limited capacity. I'm not going to get rid of it anytime soon, but I'm not in a hurry to get the next latest, greatest version.

Third on the list was a mirrorless Fuji camera. While I did get a new mirrorless camera, I opted for the somewhat long-in-the-tooth Sony A6000. I like that the Sony, like the Fuji, is available with a more-retro silver body instead of only being available in boring black. The largest deciding factor for choosing the Sony, though, was the price. It tends to fluctuate all the time, but if you catch it on sale, the basic kit can be had for \$500. I found a great deal on a telephoto lens, also in silver, and have bought a case that holds the camera and both lenses, as well as some accessories and still have spent less than I would have on the Fuji. That's all well and good, but rest assured, the Sony takes amazing pictures, and the autofocus it super fast. I haven't even scratched the surface of what the camera will do, and maybe when I do, I will tell you all about it. For now, great camera, at a great price (on sale), no regrets.

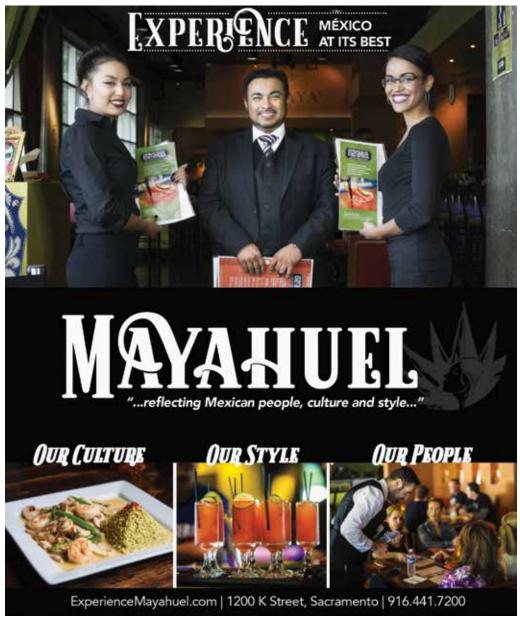


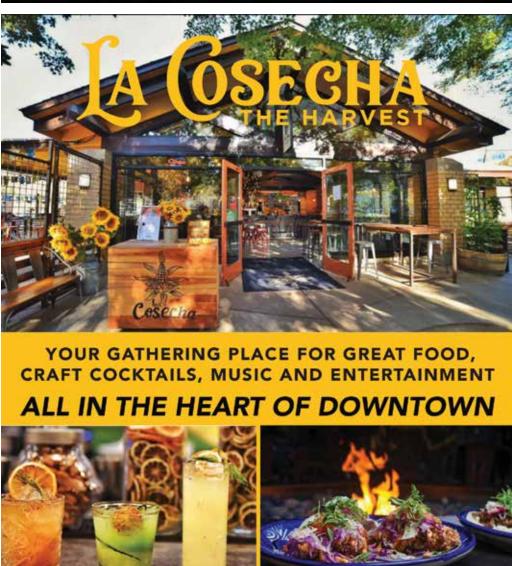
Fourth was an LED Headlight kit for my Nissan pickup truck. Let's just say that after some research I chose a set that claimed to be Plug and Play. They were not, and after a couple of hours of trying to get them to fit, I boxed them up and sent them back. It was very frustrating and I'm bummed that I still only have the factory halogen bulbs in my truck... Whomp, whomp.

Fifth was a midline Sony 4k 75" TV. Well, thanks to Best Buy and their same as cash credit card, and a \$500 reduction in price, I was able to sell my old Sony 60" and buy the new one. And it's stunning. I can only imagine what the top of the line models look like because this set is beautiful. And huge. I love it.









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Natural Cork vs. Screw Cap: Which Is Better??

words and image by Diana Kienle

There is an impression in the marketplace that a Stelvin (screw cap) closure on a bottle of wine infers a wine of less quality and value. Is it true or a misunderstanding? What does the bottle closure really do and what are the differences between the two? Why does it matter?



First, let's look at what a bottle stopper does for wine. Wine is made up of water, alcohol, sugar, phenolic compounds and acids. It is the winemaker's purpose to bring these components into balance. If too much oxygen gets in too quickly, it will decrease the fruity aromas and flavors found in that wine. It will also impact the color of the wine - darkening white wines and lightening reds. It is the job of the stopper to moderate the amount of oxygen that gets into the bottle over time.

One of the main measurements for closures is the Oxygen Transfer Rate (OTR). That, most obviously, is the measure at which the closure allows oxygen in through the stopper. Today, it has become a standard measure associated with a stopper for wine, whether it be cork, glass, or synthetic. Controlling the amount of oxygen is important to maintain freshness and allow the wine to evolve in proper time.

The real question though is why bother with something that works well and is associated with the ritual of opening a bottle? That pop sets the tone for a festive occasion, not like the crackle of a twist off cap. The main concern about natural cork for the wine industry is a mold from the cork that can contaminate the bottle of wine. The mold interacts with other compounds to

generate a chemical called TCA, or 2,4,6-trichloroanosole, which impacts the bottle of wine. The common term used is the bottle is "corked." Cork taint will, at the very least, mute the flavors and dull the aromas. At higher levels, it will smell like a dank, moldy basement. It is one of the reasons that you need to smell the wine and taste it to ensure the wine is good. Today, incidence of cork taint has fallen to low levels based on the great attention by the industry.

Screw caps are not associated with TCA, and that is one of the prime reasons vintners have been experimenting with different closures. Manufacturers of screw caps will provide closures based on the OTR desired by the winemaker. Most frequently, you will find screw caps on wines that are crafted to be drunk young such as Sauvignon Blanc or Rosé. Yet there are many wineries experimenting and putting some of their big reds in screw caps to see how the wine ages. The picture depicts some excellent wine: Cade, a big mountain Cabernet, and Siduri, an ageable Pinot Noir. Both are bottled with

Do not be deterred from bottles based on the closure. Cork or screw cap deserve your attention and taste.

Enjoy!

Celebrate Meerkat Day At The Sac Zoo

hile we wait to learn whether the Sacramento Zoo will be expanding to a new location, the current site in Land Park is open for business and will celebrate World Meerkat Day this July.

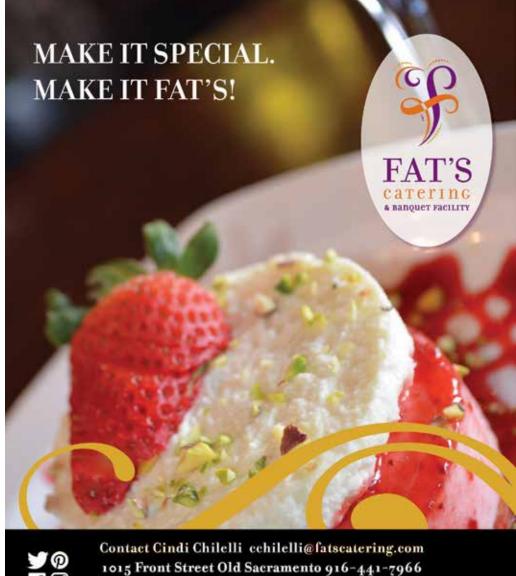


Presented by the Greater Sac Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), World Meerkat Day gives friends of the zoo an opportunity to take part in interactive crafts, educational activities, and fun raffles while learning all about meerkats, their habitat and their social

Sacramento's resident mob of meerkats love to interact with guests at their exhibit window so come celebrate World Meerkat Day and meet Kiki, Lizzie, Pringle, Snaggle Tooth and Bailey.

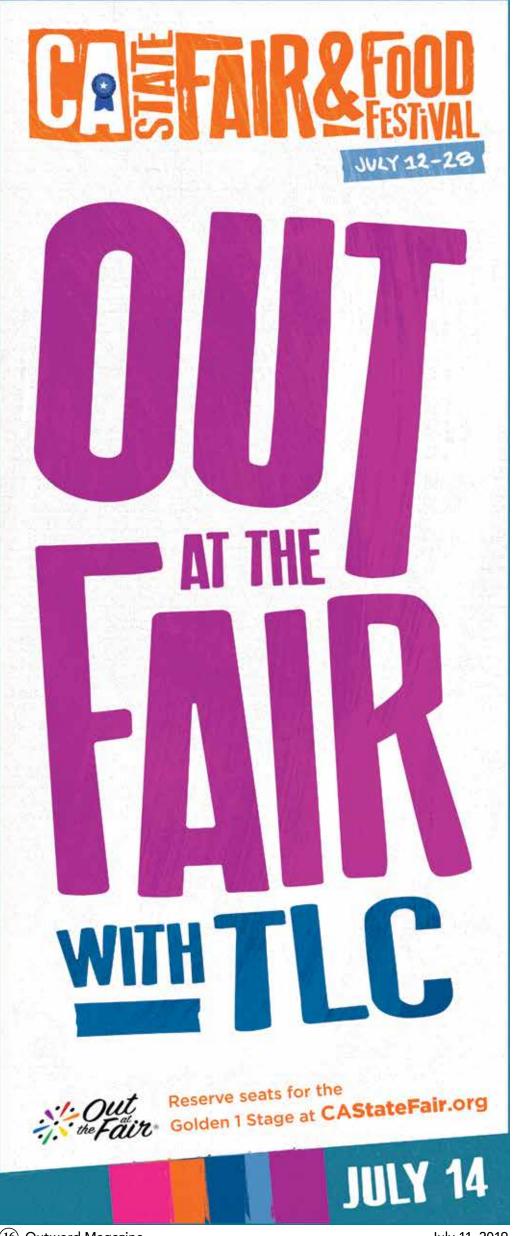
Meerkats belong to the mongoose family, live in the Kalahari Desert in Africa, and have a complex social structure that includes a sentry. You can watch Sacramento Zoo's meerkats take turns standing guard during Meerkat Day on Saturday, July 13, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 4

For more information, visit https://www. saczoo.org/visit/event-calendar/celebratemeerkat-day.









Exciting Summertime Exhibits at Local Museums

In addition to its fascinating Gold Rush past, the Sacramento area is rich with an amazing array of state-of-the-art museums and historic sites that offer visitors the chance to explore California's fine art, history, science, and wildlife treasures all year long. With a number of exciting and/or limited time exhibits currently on display, summer is the perfect time to plan a visit to a favorite museum or explore a new one. Here is a sampling of must-visit exhibits that cover a variety of topics and interests.

"Microcars" Exhibit at the California Automobile Museum (through 8/5/19)

It's the summer of microcars with the limited-time exhibit that features more than 20 of the most eye-catching and practical cars ever made. Visitors and automotive enthusiasts alike will love to learn the story behind microcars, their original purpose, varieties and eventual decline. This exhibit is focused mainly on post-war cars under 700cc or just barely over (although there are some additional microcars around the 1,000cc level). For more, visit www.calautomuseum.org.



"Making the Grade: California and the Transcontinental Railroad" Exhibit at the California Museum (through 9/1/19)

Discover the Transcontinental Railroad's Golden State history in a temporary exhibit celebrating the 150th anniversary of the route's completion. Based on an online exhibit developed by the California State Archives, the installation features historic documents and maps drawn from its collections. Also featured are photographs and artifacts from the California State Library and California State Parks chronicling how the 1,912-mile line connected America coast-to-coast and united the nation. For details, visit www.californiamuseum.org/transcontinental-railroad.

"Building a Legacy: – One Hundred and Fifty Years of the California State Capitol" Exhibit at the State Capitol Museum (through 3/20/20)

Visitors to the State Capitol can experience a compelling multi-room exhibit that looks at the fascinating 150-year history of the Golden State's Capitol and examines both the construction and restoration of one of California's grandest structures. As a highlight, guests can see never-before-exhibited artifacts and objects connected with the building's history. For more, visit www.capitolmuseum.ca.gov.



"The Race to Promontory: The Transcontinental Railroad and the American West" at the Crocker Art Museum (through 9/29/19)

Guests to the Crocker Art Museum will enjoy a new exhibition that celebrates the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad through the eyes of two photographers: Andrew Joseph Russell for the Union Pacific and Alfred A. Hart for the Central Pacific. The two documented the railroad's challenging path through mountains and plains. Their original photographs and stereoviews, as well as archival materials relating to the Promontory Summit ceremony, will provide a new view into this transformative event, which allowed Sacramento – and E. B. Crocker – to prosper. For more, visit www.crockerart.org.

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 user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org.

"Spider-Man" & "Star Wars" On The Big Screen

The blockbusters just keep on coming, with a brand new "Spider-Man" movie currently in theaters. If that's not enough L CGI for you, the Crest is showing the original trilogy of "Star Wars" movies this month and then following it up with a Japanese Film Festival.



Tom Holland stars in "Spider-Man: Far From Home."

Spider-Man: Far From Home

How adorable is Tom Holland anyway? If Robert Downey, Jr. really is hanging up his Marvel hat for good, then we are in good hands with Mr. Holland, who plays Peter Parker and his sticky alter ego, in the latest stand-alone Spidey-flick.

In addition to his cuteness quotient being off the charts, Holland is also a funny guy. The 23-year-old British actor doesn't take himself seriously, but he's not snarky and annoying either, and he can act.

Marvelous Marisa Tomei is back as Aunt May, Zendaya adds her own quirky, spunky charm to the proceedings, handsome Jake Gyllenhaal joins the Marvel universe as Mysterio, and the ubiquitous Samuel L. Jackson returns too -- because it wouldn't be a Marvel movie without Nick Fury.

Since I am loathe to spoil the plot for anyone who hasn't seen the movie yet, here is the official synopsis: "Following the events of "Avengers: Endgame," Spider-Man must step up to take on new threats in a world that has changed forever."

Aside from a couple routine-looking CGI monsters, the new "Spider-Man" is a rip-snortin' fun popcorn movie, and make sure you stay until the end of the credits for the extra scene.

Star Wars

Sacramento's historic Crest Theatre is scheduled to show all three original "Star Wars" films over July 12 weekend, beginning with "Episode IV: A New Hope" on Friday evening, July 12. "The Empire Strikes Back" will screen the next evening, followed by "Return of the Jedi" on Sunday night, July 14. For show times and ticket information, visit https://www.crestsacramento.com.

Sacramento Japanese Film Festival

The 15th year of this popular, local film festival will bring fans of Japanese cinema to the Crest the weekend after "Star Wars" screens at that movie palace. Seven full-

length titles are planned for the three-day event (July 19-21), including anime, drama, comedy, and "High and Low," a classic from 1963 starring Toshiro Mifune that was directed by the late, great master filmmaker, Akira Kurosawa. Visit www.sacjapanesefilmfestival.net/index.html

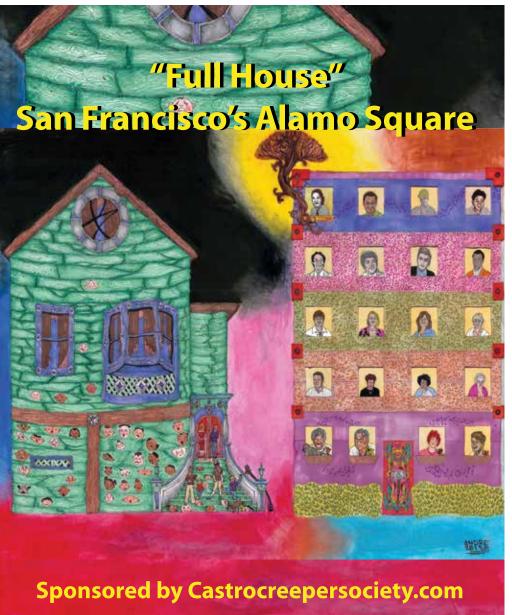






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The California State Fair Concerts Return

by Chris Narloch

If I'm being honest, I attend the California State Fair each year for two main reasons: the food and the music. You will find me there again this month -- at TLC and/or Martina McBride -- enjoying a jumbo corn dog and ice-cold strawberry lemonade, with a cinnamon roll for dessert.

The State Fair concerts kick off on Opening Day, Friday, July 12, with the pop/rock pleasures of the Plain White T's, and they wrap up on Sunday, July 28, with country music queen Martina McBride. In between those two big shows, there is a different concert each evening, featuring an eclectic array of musicians.

Tribute bands are popular this year, with musical knock-offs of Queen (Queen Nation, July 13), Def Leppard (Def Leppard Tribute, July 15), Tom Petty (Petty and the Heartshakers, July 18), the Eagles (The Boys of Summer, July 22), and Journey (Journey Revisited, July 27) all playing the Golden 1 Stage during the Fair.

Also part of the 2019 Toyota Concert Series are the real groups, 38 Special (July 23) and The Marshall Tucker Band (July 17). In addition to all that classic rock, soul music will be represented by the '90s R & B acts Tony Toni Tone (July 26) and TLC (July 14),





and by reggae artist Sean Kingston (July 19).

Country music will also be featured this year, courtesy of Clay Walker (July 16) and Joe Nichols (July 20). Christian rock will make an appearance on July 24, thanks to We Are Messengers, as will Mexican music, on July 21, when Mariachi Vargas takes the stage.

Reserved seating down front varies in price for each concert, but there is a large, free general admission section for every

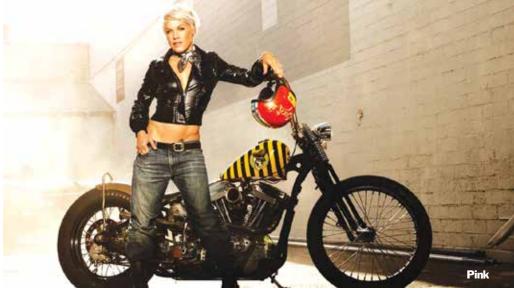
show, with paid admission to the Fair (which is \$14 this year for adults, \$12 for seniors 62+, and \$10 for children 5-12). For more information, please visit https://www.castatefair.org.

Note: "Out at the Fair" returns again this year, on Sunday, July 14, with its third annual celebration of diversity at Cal Expo, including Drag Queen Bingo, Queens in the Kitchen, and a group photo opportunity. Just click on the Special Events tab via the above web address for details.

New Music From Sia, Pink & Madonna

by Chris Narloch

That have pop music's queens been up to lately? Read on for reviews of new music by none other than Madonna, Sia, Pink, Sara Bareilles, and Carly Rae Jepsen.



Pink – Hurts 2B Human

I saw Pink live for the first time recently at Sacramento's Golden 1 Center and was very impressed with her dynamic show and her hit-filled body of work. Her new CD doesn't break any new ground for the artist, but if you have a successful formula - why mess with it?

The singles "Hustle" and "Walk Me Home" are classic ballsy blasts of pure Pink pop,

and the disc's title track, which features Khalid, is also a winner. Elsewhere, Pink recognizes the power of collaboration on three tasty tracks she shares with Cash Cash, Wrabel, and Chris Stapleton.

Labrinth, Sia & Diplo - LSD

"LSD" is the first studio album by a side project super-group comprised of the DJ named Diplo, rapper and record producer Labrinth, and the sensationally prolific singer Sia, who I love.

There's not a bad track anywhere on this disc, but if I had to pick a favorite, I would be torn between "Mountains," the two different versions of "Genius," and the CD's short intro track which is terrifically trippy.

Carly Rae Jepsen - Dedicated

This singer's 2012 megahit, "Call Me Maybe," was such a success that it must be both a blessing and a curse for the 33-year-old Canadian songstress. She has been trying to find another song that catchy ever since, and I am sorry to report that Jepsen does not achieve that goal on "Dedicated," a sadly disappointing album of synthetic-sounding bubblegum pop.

Sara Bareilles - Amidst the Chaos

One of my favorite current pure-pop singer-songwriters has returned with another catchy collection of finely crafted songs, after taking a break to score the big Broadway hit musical, "Waitress."

Bareilles may not have come up with another big radio hit on "Amidst the Chaos" – I don't hear anything here that pops like past winners "Brave," "Love Song," or "King of Anything." – but the CD has no duds either. I especially like the new songs "Fire," "Armor," and "A Safe Place To Land."



Madonna - Madame X

It's over Madge. I'm sorry to break it to you, honey, but if this tired, listless, autotuned mess of an album is any indication, your hit-filled days are in the rear-view mirror.

Live on stage, the Material Girl is still a force to be reckoned with, and no one can ever take her iconic status and amazing back catalog away from her, but she seems to have lost her mojo in the recording studio.

Madonna would probably never appear on the television show "Songland," but she needs to do something extreme like that if she hopes to pull herself out of this slump.

Please collaborate with some producers who can really challenge you or sign with a label that will tell you "No" when you submit a CD as bad as Madame X. Your fans deserve better than inferior, repetitive lyrics like "Future."

The one saving grace on Madame X (and a hint of what might have been) is the second track, "Dark Ballet," which includes a section where Madonna performs a hilarious dramatic reading over a melody by Tchaikovsky from "The Nutcracker." That truly bizarre portion of the song is almost as weird and wonderful as Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

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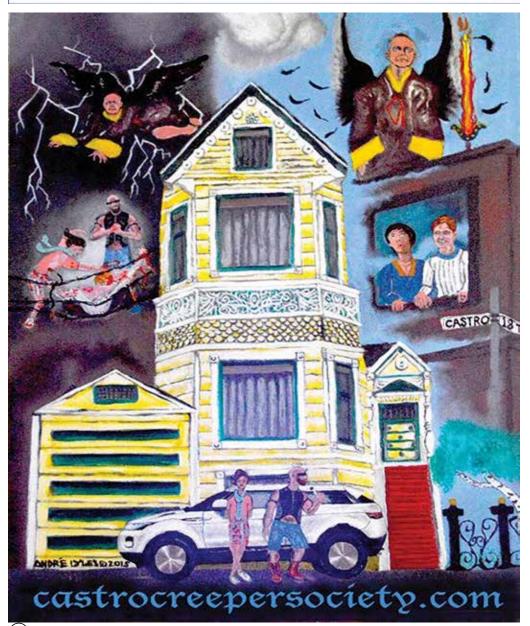
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wo mismatched roommates share a joint and find they have more in common than they thought in the bittersweet comedy "The Roommate," now playing through July 21 at Sacramento's Capital Stage on J Street. Dena Martinez directs Jamie Jones and Laura Jane Bailey. Get tickets before they are gone, at https://capstage.org.



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Bruce Vilanch Wakes "The Drowsy Chaperone"

by Chris Narloch

Tunnyman Bruce Vilanch, who wrote jokes for the Oscars telecast for a quarter of a century and has recently returned to his theatrical roots is performing in Sacramento for to his theatrical roots, is performing in Sacramento for the first time ever this month, in the Broadway At Music Circus production of "The Drowsy Chaperone."

A funny musical is about to get even funnier when the openly gay Vilanch steps in to the plum role of Man in Chair, the show's hilarious host: a theater queen who narrates the show-within-a-show and delivers delicious monologues addressed directly to the audience.

I caught up with Vilanch, who is 71 years young, during rehearsals recently, and he gave me the 411 on his latest role and his illustrious career.

Are you enjoying rehearsals for "The **Drowsy Chaperone," Bruce?**

Well, you know, it's in the round, which I haven't done in quite a while. I was much thinner the last time I worked in the round. Now I really am in the round. The audience is looking at you from all angles, so you're thinking "How's my tush coming off in this scene?"

What took you so long to get to **Broadway At Music Circus?**

FEATURED MEMBERS

I actually have worked in the round quite a bit, just not in Sacramento. Barbara Walters' former husband, Lee Guber, used to have several tent theaters up and down the Atlantic Seaboard that were in the



Funnyman Bruce Vilanch stars in "The Drowsy Chaperone" for Broadway At Music Circus.

round, and I did a lot of summer stock when on television every night on Hollywood I was a kid. Then at my parents' encouragement I went in to writing so I would have something to fall back on. They



said "Newspapers...they'll never go away." Who knew?

Isn't that how you met Bette Midler?

Yes! I was at the Chicago Tribune, and I wrote a review of her act. We became friends, and then she hired me to write jokes for her Broadway shows in the '70s and '80s. We're still great friends. It's funny the way one job will lead you to the next. When I was

in alphabetical order

Squares, I got all kinds of offers - most of them obscene - but one of them was to play Edna Turnblad in "Hairspray," which I did for three years.

And now you're playing another gayfriendly role as Man in Chair, the ultimate musical-obsessed theater queen. Do you relate to him?

Totally. I was completely obsessed with cast albums. I loved musicals, and my father loved musicals so that's how I got to see a lot of shows. But I was one of those kids with an encyclopedic knowledge of theater. I knew who sang what in what production, and it was mildly annoying I'm sure.

So this is your first time playing Man in

Yes. I always wanted to play him, but he was originally conceived as thin and bitter. I told them, "Thin I can't give you, but bitter won't be a problem. How many portions would you like?" But it's actually such a fun role to play and such a fun show so I'm thrilled that they asked me to do it. I remember seeing Tab Hunter in "Damn Yankees" at Music Circus in 1978 and Rich Little in "Little Me" about a hundred years ago, and now I'm going to be at Music Circus.

Note: You can see Bruce Vilanch in "The **Drowsy Chaperone**" at Sacramento's Wells Fargo Pavilion, through July 14. For more information, visit https://www.broadwaysacramento.com.

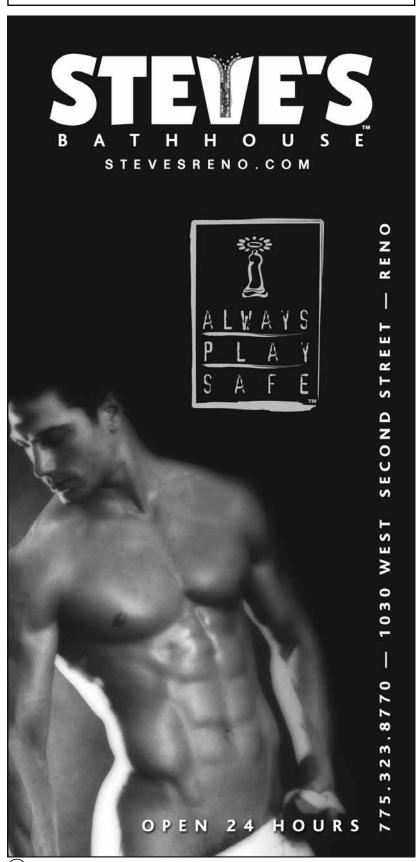
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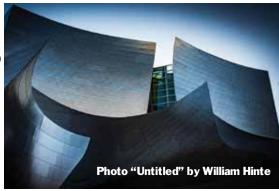
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"Urban Identity: My Life On The Grid" Kennedy Gallery Exhibit

focused on rushing to our next destination that we fail to look up from the sidewalk, or our smart phones, to see the beauty of the city around us. Where architecture and art collide. Where graffiti turns from vandalism to street art. It's when we look up that we begin to embrace our urban identity.



The Urban Identity exhibit runs July 9 - August 4 at Kennedy Gallery. This exhibit features works from over 20 resident artists and three floors of open studios in the heart of Midtown's entertainment district. July 13 on Second Saturday there will be extended hours, noon-10 p.m. and a full-service no-host bar.

Kennedy Gallery is at 1931 L St. in Midtown Sacramento. Be sure to check out their web site for more details and gallery hours. www.Kennedy.Gallery.net

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Testing is available for HIV, Hepatitis C, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis. Treatment available same day.

We also offer PrEP, PEP, birth control, and pregnancy testing.



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