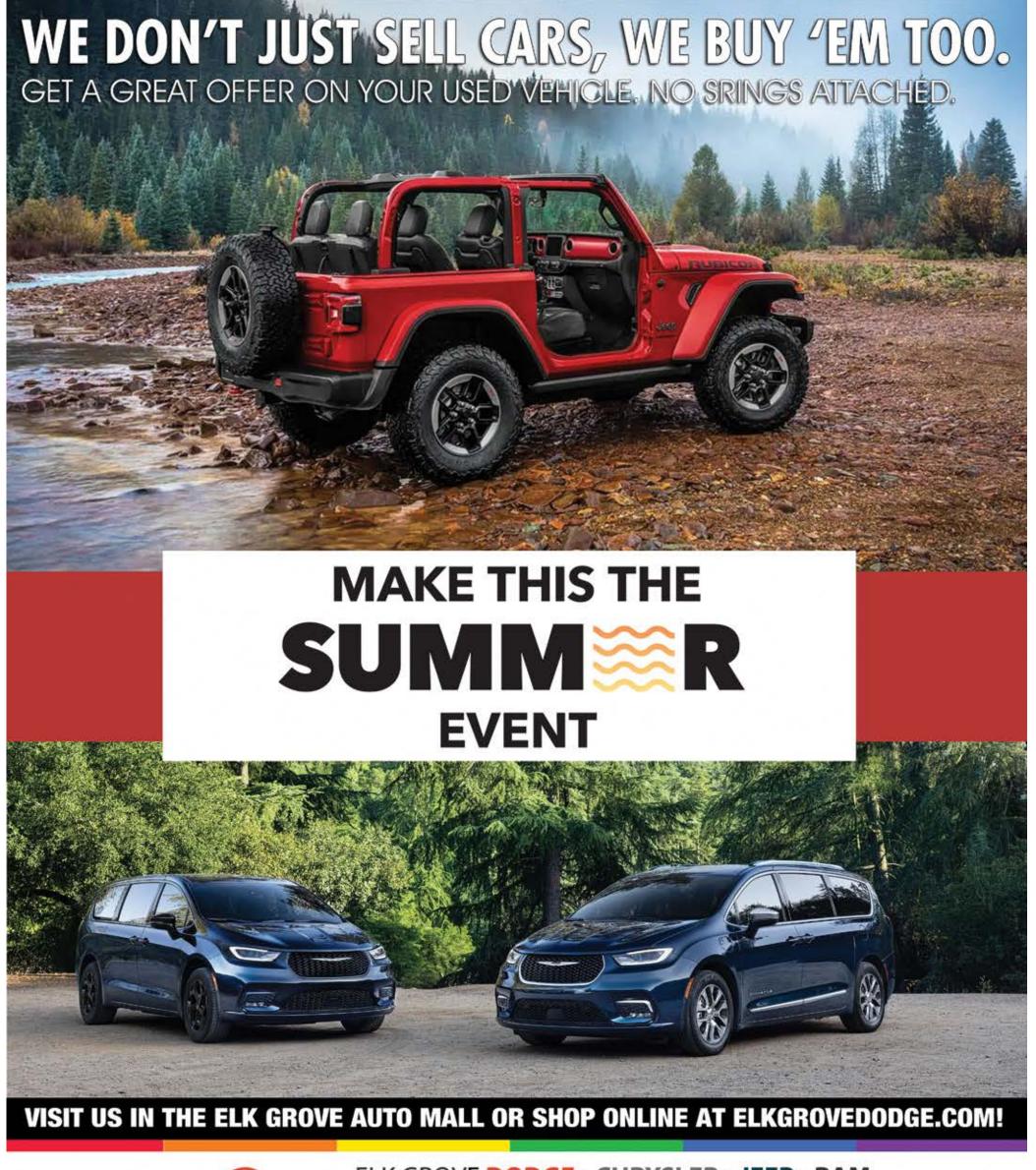


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ELK GROVE **DODGE • CHRYSLER • JEEP • RAM** 









all words and photos by Chris Allan

# **Elk Grove Pride: A Growing Festival Uplifts Youth, BIPOC**

In front of a row of enlarged banned book covers, District **▲**10 Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen (D-Elk Grove) celebrated Pride month with a presented an award to Elk Grove Pride organizers.



"I need you to continue to fight!" she said to a roomful of organizational booths, vendors and visitors at the Laguna Town Hall on June 17. Notably, Elk Grove's second-ever pride festival was organized by Sacramento Filipinx LGBTQIA+ and Elk Grove Pride.

The "Embodied Liberation" theme of the event spoke directly to uplifting the experiences of youth and Black, Indigenous and People of Color in the Sacramento suburb. It included, for example, local artists working on a mural of Darell Richards, a 19-year-old of Black and Hmong descent, who was killed in 2018 by the Sacramento

Speakers and presentations continued inside the hall all afternoon, while outside, tasty lumpia and soul-food offerings were available, as well as a play area for kids.

"I just think this is very cool," commented Tim Garcia from the Center for Spiritual Awareness. "The big prides are important, but so are these smaller ones. A small-town pride like this might have changed my life."

Elk Grove Pride Committee member Jessica Carter agrees, noting that the event is already outgrowing its current location. "We may need to be somewhere else next year," she said. "We're hoping each year to keep growing."





# **Woodland Pride: Small-town Pride** arrives on Main Street

**¬**or the first time in the the event, Woodland festive parade on June 24 in the heart of its downtown. Over a hundred participants gathered at Main and Walnut Streets before stepping off as the town clock chimed ten.

We celebrated with a parade and it was nice to see the community come out to support it," said Mayor Victoria "Vicky" Fernandez. "Hopefully it will continue to grow and we can show that we are an inclusive community," she said.

Like other leaders, she's aware that the Yolo County capital has been caught in the queer crosshairs of the country's culture war. The city faced an ugly incident last year at Mojo's Lounge when several extremists disrupted the Drag Happy Hour yelling homophobic slurs. Then in June this year a newly-elected school board trustee spoke about the "Social Contagion" that leads to teenagers identifying as transgender.

However, Woodland Area Roller Derby member Gwendolyn Costa says this is just one-off behavior. "This normally is a very accepting community," she insisted, noting that she has lived in Woodland for 27 years. "And very loving, and we definitely take care of each other." She estimates that over half of the roller derby team are LGBTIQ+ identified. "But everybody's welcome. Everybody is definitely welcome to come and play!"



# **South Lake Tahoe: Pride at the Lakeside**

Thile you won't find a Pride march or festival in the Sierra Nevada basin city of South Lake Tahoe (SLT), Lake Tahoe Pride does organize multiple queer-themed activities throughout the year for visitors and locals.



The resort area of course straddles both California and Nevada. That means it's possible to pop in for dinner and drinks at gay-owned bar Sidellis on the Cali-side on Friday night and then check out the weekly Drag Brunch at the Hard Rock Casino in Nevada the next morning.

"It's a great, open community," says Michael Freeman, who has been in SLT for over fifty years.

Freeman is at Sidellis on the June 28 anniversary of the Stonewall riots helping with a raffle to raise money for an Equality Scholarship at Lake Tahoe Community College. They've ended up with more than \$2,000 this year, as the community keeps growing in strength and support.

Freeman also lists the various queer bingo, walking, skiing and other events that Lake Tahoe Pride organizes to keep the pride going all year in this beautiful location. "We've got everything!"

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# **Reaction to Recent Supreme Court Discriminatory Rulings**

### Statement from President Joe Biden on Supreme Court Decision in 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis

In America, no person should face discrimination simply because of who they are or who they love. The Supreme Court's disappointing decision in 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis undermines that basic truth, and painfully it comes during Pride month when millions of Americans across the country join together to celebrate the contributions, resilience, and strength of the LGBTQI+ community. While the Court's decision only addresses expressive original designs, I'm deeply concerned that the decision could invite more discrimination against LGBTQI+ Americans. More broadly, today's decision weakens long-standing laws that protect all Americans against discrimination in public accommodations - including people of color, people with disabilities, people of faith, and women.

My administration remains committed to working with our federal enforcement agencies to rigorously enforce federal laws that protect Americans from discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation. We will also work with states across the country to fight back against attempts to roll back civil rights protections that could follow this ruling. And we will accelerate our march towards full equality for every American.

When one group's dignity and equality are threatened, the promise of our democracy is threatened and we all suffer. Our work to advance equal rights for everyone will continue. That is why we must pass the Equality Act, which will enshrine civil rights protections for LGBTQI+ Americans in federal law and strengthen public accommodations protections for all Americans. I urge Congress to swiftly send this legislation to my desk.

# **Black Women Organized for Political Action State Pac**

This has been a difficult week for our communities. The Supreme Court handed a series of rulings -- from affirmative action and LGBTQIA+ rights to student loan debt cancellation -- that will have devastating consequences for our communities for generations to come. We want to take this moment to recognize the collective grief and anger that so many are feeling at this very moment.



Make no mistake about it: There is nothing normal about this. This Supreme Court is out of step with public sentiment and certainly do not reflect our values as a country.

One cannot be impartial in the face of injustice -- and the nation's highest court's refusal to acknowledge the role government has played in perpetuating these same discriminatory practices shows utter disregard for the well-being of communities of

As Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said in her dissent on Students For Fair Admissions Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard College:

"No one benefits from ignorance. Although formal race-linked legal barriers are gone, race still matters to the lived experiences of all Americans in innumerable ways, and today's ruling makes things worse, not better."

For more information about BWOPA visir: www.bwopapac.com

# Attorney General Bonta Voices Support for LGBTQ+ Community Following Unfavorable U.S. Supreme Court Decision

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision today in 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis, California Attorney General Rob Bonta reiterated his unvielding commitment to LGBTQ+ rights. Attorney General Bonta criticized the ruling, which denies equal access to public businesses for LGBTQ+ individuals. In August 2022, Bonta joined a coalition of 21 attorneys general in submitting an amicus brief, urging the Supreme Court to reject a challenge to the State of Colorado's public accommodations law.

"California's unwavering support for the LGBTQ+ community remains steadfast even in the face of today's disheartening decision,» said Attorney General Bonta. «We unequivocally reject any form of discrimination. While this ruling is a setback, we will continue and redouble our pursuit of equality for all."

In 303 Creative, Lorie Smith, owner of a graphic design firm, sought to exclude same-sex couples from her provision of wedding website design services based on her religious beliefs. That exclusion would have violated the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA), which prohibits businesses serving the public from discriminating on multiple grounds, including sexual orientation. Smith filed a lawsuit in federal court contesting the constitutionality of CADA on First Amendment grounds. The district court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit rejected that theory, but today the Supreme Court disagreed, holding that the First Amendment prohibits Colorado from requiring Smith to offer wedding website design services to same-sex couples.

Historically, the law has required businesses that serve the public to treat all customers equally. After the Civil War, many states, including Colorado, enacted this common law principle into statute. Today, most states have laws prohibiting businesses from discriminating against customers based on characteristics like race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. These laws ensure that everyone, irrespective of their background or identity, can access goods and services without fear of exclusion. This is particularly important for the LGBTQ+ community, which is often the target of discrimination. Today's unfortunate ruling undermines the effectiveness of these laws, but Attorney General Bonta remains committed to ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals can access goods and services on the same terms as the rest of the public.

# Senator Wiener's Statement on Supreme Court Authorizing Businesses to Refuse To Sell to LGBTQ People

The Supreme Court issued a ruling in Creative LLC v. Elenis that overrules state laws protecting LGBTQ people's access to publicly available services, and enshrines anti-LGBTQ discrimination. In response, Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) issued the following statement:

The Supreme Court today ruled bigoted business owners can exempt themselves from civil rights laws by refusing to sell to LGBTQ people. This ruling is dangerous and horrifying. It has massive implications for LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, and other contexts. The Court is taking us down a road where discrimination against LGBTQ people is constitutionally protected. This attack isn't happening in a vacuum. It's part of a well-funded, concerted legal strategy by right wing extremists to hijack the First Amendment and use it as a tool to validate and constitutionally protect anti-LGBTQ discrimination."

### **DNC Statement on Supreme Court's Ruling in 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis**

DNC Chair Jaime Harrison and DNC LGBTQ+ Caucus Chair Earl Fowlkes released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in 303 Creative LLC v.

"Today, on the last day of Pride month, the conservative Supreme Court issued yet another radical and out of touch opinion that chips away at civil rights laws that protect all Americans, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and religion, from discrimination in public accommodations.

"Open to the public means open to the public. That includes everyone, including the LGBTQ+ community. While we are deeply concerned that this decision could invite further discrimination against LGBTQ+ Americans and pave the way for further eroding of civil rights law, we applaud President Biden for doubling down on his commitment to work with states and federal law enforcement to protect LGBTQ+ Americans.

"The Supreme Court's decision comes as anti-LGBTQ+ groups have set their sights on rolling back LGBTQ+ rights in states across the country. This year alone, anti-freedom MAGA Republicans have introduced hundreds of bills with the sole purpose of rolling back the clock on LGBTQ+ rights in our country. But Democrats will not sit back quietly as these groups continue to wage war on the freedoms for LGBTQ+ Americans. An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us. We will continue standing shoulder to shoulder with the LGBTQ+ community as we fight for legislation like the Equality Act, which would enshrine civil rights and public accommodations protections for LGBTQ+ Americans in federal law.



















# Statewide and Regional Business Community Responds to Supreme Court **Decision on Affirmative Action**

The united business community issued the following response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned affirmative action practices for college and university admissions:

"The statewide business community remains steadfast in our commitment to creating job opportunities and improving the diversity of our businesses across all sectors. California thrives because of the diversity in our population, the diversity of our workforce, and the diversity of our economy. While this ruling may seem narrow, only affecting the education sector, we are concerned that it could threaten the business community's commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives by creating future barriers in building a diverse and qualified workforce, especially for C-suite and executive level positions.

"As part of our ongoing commitment, we will work to educate employers about the Supreme Court's decision and how we can ensure that our employees and their families continue to know they are an integral part of our businesses and our communities." **KEY TAKEAWAYS:** 

- Today's ruling has no impact on existing or future hiring practices and does not affect existing or future DEI initiatives.
- · Businesses rely on strong and diverse colleges and universities to attract qualified workers into the workforce. Rulings like this that affect the education system affect the workforce as well.
- · California businesses look forward to continuing to partner with our world-class colleges and universities to ensure today's decision does not impact the commitment and progress we have collectively made.

California Business Roundtable, Sacramento, www.cbrt.org



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# **Poll Finds Most Voters Disagree With Most Recent Anti-LGBTQ Decision From SCOTUS**

by Sharon Zhang, TRUTHOUT

The majority of voters disagree with the outcome of the Supreme Court's latest anti-LGBTQ ruling allowing businesses to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation, new polling finds.

According to a survey from Data for Progress released this week, 65 percent of likely voters say that businesses should not be allowed to deny services to people based on their race, religion, disability or sexual orientation. This includes 84 percent of Democrats and 66 percent of independents, as well as a plurality of Republicans, at 48 percent.

The poll's results show the unpopularity of the Supreme Court's decision in 303 Creative v. Elenis last week, in which the Court's conservative majority ruled in favor of a website designer's entirely hypothetical argument that being forced to create a wedding website for a gay couple something it appears she has never been asked to do – would constitute a violation of her First Amendment rights.

The decision is a major blow to the rights of LGBTQ people, who will now be open to discrimination from businesses that do any sort of creative work discrimination that is, according to the far right Supreme Court, a right granted to business owners under the Constitution.

**Justice Sonia Sotomayor noted in her** dissent that it is the first time the Supreme Court has ruled that "a business open to the public [has] a constitutional right to refuse to serve members of a protected class." LGBTQ advocates have spoken out against the ruling, raising alarm that the decision will usher in more forms of discrimination against LGBTQ people and, potentially, other marginalized populations.

The poll also found that granting rights to business owners should not be prioritized over the rights of people,

despite the Supreme Court's apparent view. Sixty-four percent of respondents said that the right of individuals to be served regardless of their race, religion, disability or sexual orientation should be prioritized over the right of business owners to refuse service.

This also held true when voters were asked specifically about their views on LGBTQ rights. A majority of respondents (52 percent) said that they disagree that business owners should be allowed to refuse services for same-sex marriages in particular, with 38 percent saying they "strongly" disagree.

This includes a strong majority of Democrats, at 76 percent, and 50 percent of independents. Only 30 percent of Republicans said they disagree with the statement – perhaps because of the right's increasing attacks on the LGBTQ community.

Other polls have found that the GOP's current attacks on LGBTQ rights are unpopular. Researchers have found that Republicans' focus on attacking trans people and eroding LGBTQ rights could backfire as an electoral strategy. In March, Data for Progress found that 64 percent of voters say there is "too much" legislation targeting the rights of trans and gay people, while a Grinnell College poll found that nearly 60 percent of people believe bans on books discussing gender or sexual orientation are

Sharon Zhang is a news writer at Truthout covering politics, climate and labor. Before coming to Truthout, Sharon had written stories for Pacific Standard, The New Republic, and more. She has a master's degree in environmental studies. She can be found on Twitter: @zhang sharon.

# **Nielsen Reveals Increasing Value Of Gender Diversity And LGBTQ+ Inclusivity In Advertising And Programming**

Tielsen, a global leader in audience measurement, data and analytics, released "The Push For Change: Examining LGBTQ+ Representation in Media and Advertising" report, which highlights that gender diverse audiences are increasingly more welcoming to brand engagements that are targeted based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Yet, while these audiences are more receptive to targeted brand messaging, there is still a significant gap in authentic representation in media content and advertising.

The majority (46%) of LGBTQ people surveyed were more likely to say that the best way to improve LGBTQ+ inclusivity is by avoiding stereotypes. This furthers the notion that authentic and realistic depictions of LGBTQ+ individuals are even more critical for brands and advertisers aiming to reach and connect through inclusive content. In addition, 47% of people who identify as gay and 49% who identify as lesbian believe adding more LGBTO+ individuals to content would enhance inclusivity in programming and advertising.

To download the full report, or for more information about Nielson, visit:



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# **CA LGBTQ Health Convening Brings Community Together In-Person After 3 Year Hiatus**

he California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Convening is a two-day event taking place on August 15 **L** & 16, 2023 in Sacramento at the Holiday Inn. This 4th Annual event will bring together for the first time since 2019 LGBTQIA2S+ community leaders from across California who are dedicated to improving the health and wellness of their



Of course, 2020 brought significant challenges to many due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the injustices against Black and API communities across the country. For the past two years, the Network proceeded with caution to prioritize community health and safety, and held the Convening online for community leaders to gather and learn from each other. The Network will continue to keep community safety at the forefront for this year's Convening. COVID-19 vaccines are required to attend, and masking will be highly encouraged amongst all attendees.

Participants will have a chance to strengthen relationships with other LGBTQIA2S+ leaders and build skills related to health and human services program development, policy engagement, and advocacy strategies that they can bring back to their local communities. Below are just some of the panels and activities that will be available!

August 15, 2023

The Convening will kick-off with a Community Forum on Tuesday, August 15 from 2-5 PM.

The community forum is a FREE preconference event open to the public focused on exploring the intersections of tobacco-use and mental health among LGBTQ+ communities. The forum will discuss how tobacco-related health disparities are driven by the social determinants of health and why addressing tobacco-use is an important LGBTQ+ issue. Community forum attendees will receive a free ticket to the Rainbow Connection networking event later the same evening. Attendance at the community forum is required to receive a free ticket to the Rainbow Connection event. Space is limited, therefore you must register to participate!

Later that same evening from 6-8 PM, the Network will host their Rainbow Connection event. The session will give LGBTQ Californians, policy makers, and foundation representatives the opportunity to learn more about statewide LGBTQ health and human services work being done right now. LGBTQ leaders will be sharing via 5-10 minute 'QTalks" - similar to TED Talks. This session is open to everyone who supports the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities. Allies are welcome.

August 16, 2023 from 8 - 6 PM

The main event day of the Convening will feature plenty of community building activities, a calming room available for attendees, a Keynote Luncheon with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and various workshops ranging from supporting Trans and Nonbinary Youth, to SOGI Data Collection, and Economic Empowerment just to name a few. There will be something for everyone to engage with and learn from.

If you haven't registered yet, tickets are still available for purchase at bit.ly/ LGBTQconvening23. We do not want the cost of attending to be a barrier for attending - if you need financial assistance, please complete a Convening Scholarship Application to be considered for a scholarship to attend the 2023 CA LGBTQ HHS Convening: bit.ly/LGBTQapp23. We look forward to having community together again and celebrate community joy and resilience!

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# August 15-16, 2023

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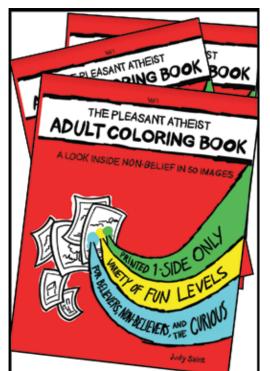












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# Little Activisms by Judy Saint **Letters to the Editor**

**6** Hey, Babe, look at this article in the paper! I can't even finish it; it makes me so mad!" Has this ever happened to you? Right there is an outlandish article for tens of thousands to see. Do this little activism, though, and you'll feel differently. You'll reward yourself with home-cooked pasta. What you do is jot a quick reply for those same tens of thousands of people. Oh, yeah, baby. We all sooo need to learn how easy this is.

Back up. Opinion sections of media are not 'news', they can be considered 'entertainment', so they can lie. That explains why some articles in respected newspapers get away with bigoted, hate-filled, controversial statements, not facts at all, even if they present them as facts. The way to combat this is to flood these papers with incisive cuts to the assumptions and tactics in these articles. If enough of us do this, we can combat the current wave of incivility and disinformation. You can help.

If you find an article you'd like to comment on in the Sacramento Bee, for example, write down the headline, date, and page number. Then fill in the online form at sacbee.com/ opinion/letters-to the-editor/submit-letter.

A few days ago, the Bee published an opinion piece with hot red flags all through it. Since I care about keeping religion out of government and calling out religious bigotry,

...because it works. Science works. Reason and empathy work. Listening and compassion work. This is how we make our lives better.

in part because religious bigotry is so destructive to LGBT+ rights, let me share with you a Letter to the Editor I submitted yesterday, as an example.

"In Sunday's opinion section we read some truth (America is losing religion), some questionable remarks (assuming Founding Fathers' reactions), and The Big Lie that becoming non-religious leads to chaos, fear, and loss of morality. (Actually, studies show

non-believers are more honest than believers.)

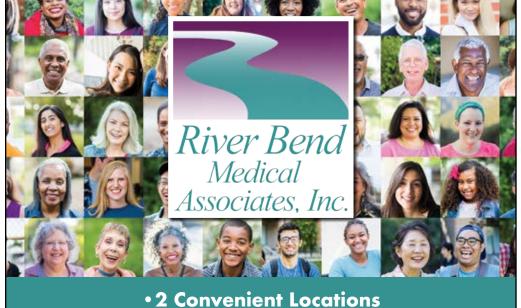
There is good reason why Americans are becoming less religious, following the trend throughout the modern world. Because it works. Science works. Reason and empathy work. Listening and compassion work. This is how we make our lives better.

"I ask believers how they know which parts of their books apply today and which don't. How do they 'just know' that we do not kill mouthy children anymore, or cut off hands for accidentally touching something? We just know. If you don't, then I worry about you.

"This is not 'wisdom' from 'the one Source', but goodness in us all, despite religion's attempt to claim goodness for itself."

It didn't hurt to submit that at all. I might submit another letter someday. Maybe you'll join me. Thanks for considering it. Enjoy your pasta.

Little Activisms encourages readers to consider small changes we can make to help social causes, and to feel good about ourselves for taking small risks. Judy Saint is President of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation and author of The Pleasant Atheist Adult Coloring Book available on Amazon.



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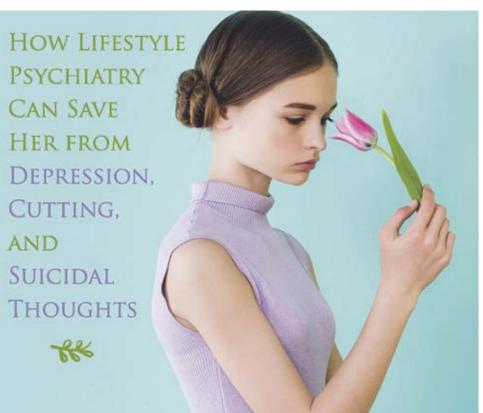






# Offering Strategies to Stem 'Rising Tide of Despair' in Teen Girls

he current mental health care system and its go-to protocol of diagnoses, drugs and hospitalization is falling short, and at least so far, has failed to meet the challenges posed by the current mental health crisis.



The current mental health care system and its go-to protocol of diagnoses, drugs and hospitalization is falling short, and at least so far, has failed to meet the challenges posed by the current mental health crisis, says Dr. Cheryl L. Green, M.D., a lifestyle psychiatrist based in Southern California.

Moreover, a report from the CDC, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, broke the startling news that, among high school girls in the past year: 57% felt sad or hopeless; 30% considered suicide; 24% made a suicide plan; and 13% attempted suicide.

"Our teens have been experiencing grave problems in their mental health for over a decade, and the recent pandemic greatly deepened what was already a crisis," Dr. Green said, adding that she has witnessed the rising tide of despair in teen girls firsthand at the medical university where she teaches and in her own private practice.

In her book, Heal Your Daughter: How Lifestyle Psychiatry Can Save Her from Depression, Cutting, and Suicidal Thoughts, Dr. Green presents a new paradigm for helping teenage girls with depression. She describes the new field of lifestyle psychiatry, and then walks parents or other caregivers through six concrete ways in which they can help their daughters develop health-promoting, depression-reversing habits. State of the art, evidence-based information and guidance is provided in six domains: nutrition, detoxification, exercise, sleep, emotional connectedness and stress reduction.

"The good news is that healing, even from the worst disasters of childhood and early adolescence, is possible," Dr. Green writes in the book's introduction. "The early traumas that life inflicts need not be 'managed' with ever-escalating doses of psychiatric medications; I believe that they actually can be healed — completely or almost completely healed. There is every reason for hope."

Dr. Green explains that the method outlined in her book can be used in conjunction with traditional therapies or as a standalone treatment. The method doesn't require a diagnosis. It is drug-free and affordable. And perhaps most importantly, it offers new hope to those who have given up on psychiatry and on the traditional mental health care system.

"Teen girls with depression are often overwhelmed, and are unable to help themselves," Dr. Green added. "But you, the caregiver, can help them take tiny steps in the six domains described in the book. The more tiny steps taken, the closer teen girls can come to reclaiming the foundations of their physical and mental health."

Ultimately, Heal Your Daughter and its companion book, The Heal Your Daughter Workbook, aim to make important new contributions to society's collective understanding and support of today's girls.

Dr. Cheryl L. Green is a lifestyle psychiatrist based in Southern California. She works part time at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, and part time in her own private practice based in the greater Los Angeles area. She holds degrees from Harvard University (A.B.), Princeton University (Ph.D.) and Stanford University School of Medicine (M.D.). She is board certified in Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Lifestyle Medicine. Her passion is inspiring others to achieve vibrant physical and mental health. She can be found online on her website, www. CherylLGreenMD.com.









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# A Chat With ChatGPT - *Outword* Asks The Newest Artificial Intelligence Tool About The Dangers Of A.i. by Chris Allan

Inless you've been living under a rock for the past eight months, you've likely heard of the blockbuster bot ChatGPT, created by OpenAI. The company's CEO is Sam Altman, a gay, San-Francisco-based entrepreneur.

The bot has dominated tech headlines because it uses Artificial Intelligence in a very user-friendly and specific degree not previously seen. According to an article by Business Insider, the bot is "powered by large amounts of data and computing techniques to make predictions to string words together in a meaningful way." Unsurprisingly, two new class-action lawsuits recently hit the news, alleging that there are serious intellectual property issues at play here.

If you'd like to see for yourself what all the fuss is "abot," users can sign up for a free account and ask ChatGPT to perform tasks such as explaining the scientific likelihood that a gay gene exists to writing poems about one's first same-gender crush.

At *Outword*, we've been taking out the technology for a spin. While the responses are somewhat yawn-inducing, they do seem to carry a high degree of accuracy. For a bit of meta-A.I., we've asked the app to generate an article of under 300 words giving a brief overview of the dangers of the ChatGPT app and artificial intelligence in general for the LGBTIA+ community.

In response, the app kicked out a very standard five-paragraph, high-school-like essay for its readers. The text is original, in



that if you copy and paste it into a Google Search (old teacher's trick), it will not show up as a verbatim text anywhere. We've taken out the introduction and conclusion and left in the salient points for you to ponder:

# **Reinforcement of Stereotypes**

AI models like ChatGPT learn from vast amounts of text data, including societal biases and stereotypes. Consequently, there is a risk that the AI system may inadvertently perpetuate these biases during conversations, leading to the reinforcement of harmful stereotypes against the LGBTIA+ community. This can result in misrepresentation, prejudice, and further marginalization.

# **Insufficient Understanding and Sensitivity**

While AI has made significant strides, it still lacks comprehensive understanding of

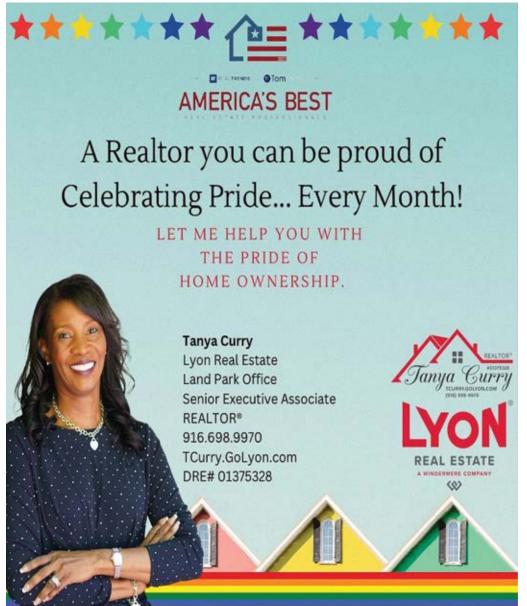
complex topics like gender identity and sexual orientation. The limitations of AI can lead to misunderstandings or inappropriate responses when engaging in conversations about LGBTIA+ issues. This can potentially cause emotional distress, invalidate experiences, or perpetuate harmful assumptions.

# **Privacy and Confidentiality**

Using ChatGPT requires sharing personal information and engaging in conversations that may touch upon sensitive topics. For the LGBTIA+ community, maintaining privacy and confidentiality is crucial, as disclosure of personal information could lead to discrimination, harassment, or outing. Concerns arise regarding the security and potential mishandling of this sensitive data.

# **Lack of Inclusivity**

AI systems like ChatGPT often struggle with accurately representing the diverse experiences within the LGBTIA+ community. The lack of inclusivity can reinforce feelings of marginalization and erasure. Inadequate representation may also result in the omission of important perspectives, further exacerbating existing biases.















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ubaru's debut all-electric vehicle offers all-weather performance, generous passenger space and impressive safety features. The fully-electric 2023 Solterra delivers all-weather performance, generous passenger space and a bundle of in-vehicle safety technologies for off-road adventures.

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# **Under the Hood**

Subaru's all-new Solterra is powered by dual electric motors and generates a combined output of 215 hp and 249 Ib-ft of

A floor-mounted 72.8 kWh lithium-ion

battery pack requires nine hours for a full charge using a level two home charging station, and delivers an EPA estimated driving range of 228 miles on Premium and 222 miles on Limited and Touring trim levels. If you use a Level 3 DC fast-charger you should be able to charge the Solterra to 80% in under an hour.

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For more information please visit: www.subaru.com/vehicles/solterra.html



**Anniversary Issue Artwork Deadline:** Aug. 14, 2023 **Street Date:** Aug. 24, 2023



**Artwork Deadline:** Sept. 4, 2023 **Street Date:** Sept. 14, 2023

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# For Making Our Three Pride Issues The Best Ever!

# Sacramento Pride

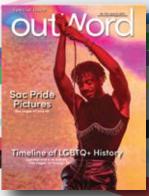


# California Pride



# LGBTQ+ History (Including our complete

LGBTQ+ Timeline)



- CA vs. Hate
- SBA Small Business Administration
- Adult Coloring book by Judy Saint
- Elk Grove Subaru
- Elk Grove Jeep
- Elk Grove Volkswagen
- Elk Grove Audi
- Elk Grove Acura
- Midtown Association
- Rainbow Festival (September 3)
- Club Fugazi
- The CA Endowment
- Sac County Stop Stigma Sacramento
   Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
- Davis Pride
- Elk Grove Pride
- Sacramento Pride
- Placer Pride
- CDC Stop Smoking Campaign
- Mutual Housing Sacramento
- Al Roche, Midtown Financial
- Albie Aware
- Badlands
- Brian Mc Martin, McMartin Realty
- Broadway Sacramento
- CAL Hope
- Cameron Yee, O.D.
- Capital City Aids Fund
- Capital Floats

- Carlos Sanchez, Exit Real Estate
- Cats About Town Society
- Celebration Arts
- Crocker Art Museum
- Earth Guard Pest Services
- Eric Grove, DDS
- Esquire IMAX Theatre
- Freedom From Religion Foundation
- Friends of the Sacramento Public Library
- Granite Bay Golf Club
- Hamptons Community Foundation
- Healing Touch Chiropractic
- House 2 Om
- Houseboats.com
- Jim Anderson, Lyon Real Estate
- Judy Steele, Steele Fiancial
- L'Amour Shoppe
- La Cosecha
- Law Office of Patrick Gihana
- Mansion Apartments
- Mark Peters, Coldwell Banker
- Nissan USA
- Nugget Market
- One Community Health
- Perfection Home Systems

- Pucci's Pharmacy
- Quick & EZ Titile and Tags
- River Bend Medical
- Roscoe's Bar & Burgers
- Ryan Maguire, State Farm
- Sacramento Childrens Museum
- Sacramento History Museum
- Sacramento Natural Food CO-OP
- Sacramento Regional Transit
- Sacramento SPCA
- Sadie Grove Farm
- SBL Entertainment, The Crest Sacramento
- Scotts Seafood on the River
- SMUD
- Stage Nine
- Steph Baker, Dunnigan Realtors
- Sunburst Clinic
- Tanya Curry, Lyon Real Estate
- The Depot
- The Highlands Resort
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# Finding the Perfect Skillet - Two Excellent Pans Reviewed

Tt's no secret that I enjoy cooking. I'm not a master chef or anything, but I like making simple recipes that taste good and are not terrible Lateral for my body. (Limit fat, salt and carbs). And, the most used piece of cookware in the house is my 8" non-stick skillet. Actually, I have two, of different makes. This is a story of my search to find a replacement for the two I have that are approaching the end of their useful lives.

My oldest skillet is a Macy's brand called Belgique. It is about 16 years old and has been a favorite tool in the kitchen pretty much the whole time. The very best feature is the copper bottom. While it does need to be cared for, it absorbs and transfers heat amazingly well. Meaning there are not hot spots on the bottom of the cooking area, and that area heats quicker. This skillet has a nice weight to it, and a solid, nicely shaped handle. All in all it was a great investment. If memory serves me correctly, I paid around \$50 for an 8" and a 10" pair. Unfortunately, Macy's no longer offers a copper bottom



**Hestan Thomas Keller** Insignia 8.5

skillet with a non-stick cooking surface. I have looked for years, they are hard to find.

My second old skilled is a lower-end All-Clad 8.5" skillet that is made of aluminum and is about ten years old. It has a nice hefty handle and a good weight, but there are daily reminders that this is not their best effort. While aluminum disperses heat well, it does take longer for this skillet to heat up and start cooking. In another comparison I also noticed the difference in the heating surface it creates. There are definite hot zones - compared to the copper bottom skillet. (I was making lots, and lots of bacon so I had both doing the same job at pretty much the same heat setting.) This skillet does it's job, but kind of pretends to be an upmarket skillet - and I noticed that the non-stick surface has not held up as well as the Belgique.

I'm sure you are all aware that if you Google something like "cookware" your Facebook feeds are filled with companies advertising their cookware to you. This is how I came across the next two contenders. A Hestan Thomas Keller Insignia 8.5", and the de Buyer 9.5" Affinity non-stick skillets. Both are premium, up-market items and are touted as Professional Chef-honed designs. I'm looking for a long lasting, excellent performing skillet, so I skipped the inexpensive stuff and went for these two to

test. Here's what I found.

I will start with the Hestan because it arrived first. My immediate impression was that the retail box it arrived in was very cool, and quite fitting for an upscale product. It was made of pure white, tightly corrugated cardboard with the Hestan logo and Thomas Keller's signature pressed, embossed, into the top. It was a very nice touch. This skillet came with a 12 page booklet explaining company philosophy, the design of the cookware, cooking and cleaning instructions and a shameless plug displaying all the items in their cookware lineup, just in case you want more Hestan in your kitchen.

The industrial design is impressive. It has good weight to it, not too heavy, and a smooth heat resistant handle that fits in your hand nicely. I especially like the bump at the front end of the handle that lets you know you are holding it at the right spot. The outside surface of the pan is a brush steel that looks and feels very nice. Inside the cooking surface has a slightly pebbly finish and is reinforced with diamond particles really. Also, inside the rivets that hold on the handle are flush with the inside of the pan. This should really help keep food from getting stuck on the edges of regular rivets. The top edge of the cooking surface is



rounded to help facilitate clean pouring, which is nice, but it also creates a lip on the underside that food could get stuck to.

The de Buyer pan arrived in a fairly ordinary box with images of their cookware on the top of it. Not at all bad, but not the impact of the Hestan. The de Buyer had a small booklet attached to the handle that briefly told of the company, product design and care instructions. (By the way, both say they are dishwasher safe).

The design of the de Buyer was different in subtle ways. The handle is also smooth and fits well in your hand. But instead of a bump at the base this skillet has bumps along the bottom side for your fingers to rest in. De Buyer claims that there handle will



remain cool in most situations. Both skillets can be used in the oven, the Hestan states up to 600 degrees, the de Buyer doesn't say on the box or packaging.

The outside and bottom of the de Buyer is beautiful. The very bottom, flat portion, is brushed steel but once you start heading up the sides, it changes to a mirror finish. Very pretty, and should be easy to keep clean. This skillet does not have a rounded edge on the top of the cooking surface and therefore does not have a lip along the outside edge. I chose the 9.5" size within the Affinity line, so it is a little bigger than all the other pans I have at my reach. Inside the non-stick finish is also pebbly, but without the flex of diamond. The de Buyers does use traditional rivets to hold the handle on, but they are coated in the non-stick material. All in all it has a nice weight, the handle is curved just right and it exudes quality of craftsmanship.

For the last month or two I have kept both of these skillets on the stovetop so they would be immediately accessible and handy. I usually made a point to switch between the two of them. I have, mostly, used these skillets for eggs, but will also cook a sausage patty from frozen in them before cooking my egg. Most of the time I cook using olive oil. Butter is a bit too decadent, unless I'm making grilled cheese sandwiches, which are also very decadent. Both the Hestan and the de Buyer handled these tasks with ease. (The Macy's pan has a couple of spots where the non-stick is not its best and eggs will get stuck.) The Hestan will stick just a little bit after thawing and cooking the sausage patty, but if you lubricate it with more olive oil, that will smooth it out. I never noticed the de Buyer acting that way.

I have not had extensive time with either (years) but I really admire the performance of the non-stick surface in both. I wouldn't think of putting any of my pots and pans in the dishwasher, no matter what the manufacture says, in an effort to ensure maximum lifespan, they were, and always will be, hand washed and dried. Unlike my old copper bottom pans, these two are a breeze to keep looking like new. There is no need to clean tarnish off the copper bottom.

There are subtle touches that each pans has that makes them slightly different from one another. I like the handle of the de Buyer, and I like that it is prettier. The Hestan has an industrial design that very much says "Pro Kitchen Tool." That's not a bad thing, it's just different. The smooth rivets is a nice touch for cleanup and the smaller size means that the small lids I already own fit it well when needed. The de Buyer is too large for my small lids and not big enough for the next size up lid.

In closing I will comfortably state that both are great, upscale tools for your daily cooking tasks. They both look and feel like money was well spent, and are a joy to use. Which one do I usually reach for? The de Buyer. Since they both perform so well, I like the way the de Buyer looks and the way it feels in my hand. I also like that it is just a bit larger than a typical 8" without going all the way to a 10". It is a little more money than the Hestan, but I think it's worth the difference.

I kept the old Macy's skillet handy too and compared it to the two new ones a couple of times... The non-stick it pretty tired although not entirely useless. But, it quite simply heated up faster and more evenly than any of the other skillets on hand. Both de Buyer and Hestan have copper exterior pans if you are interested in investing in some super-premium cookware. Just be sitting down when you check out the prices on those pieces. Also, strangely, neither make a copper outside skillet with a non-stick inside. I wonder why? In an ideal world, that would be worth the high price. Or, I might look into having the non-stick coating of the Macy's pan replaced. I have read that that is expensive, but it would give me the best of both cooking worlds.

For now, I will love making over easy eggs in my de Buyer. Maybe I will spring for their 11" for those times when I need a little room..?

For more information visit: HestanCulinary.com or deBuyer-usa.com







# The Pro-Ject Automat A1 Turntable Reviewed by Ron Tackitt

If you are a longtime reader of *Outword* you will probably remember that I have reviewed a couple of turntables over the years. Some years ago I reviewed an excellent, completely manual turntable made by Music Hall. It looked and sounded amazing. But I couldn't get over the fully manual aspect. Sound from vinyl is so... "analog" that I would often find myself falling asleep while listening, and at the end of the record, the needle would just sit there and bump as the platter kept spinning.

During COVID I bought a vintage
Techniques turntable that, at that time, was called "semi-automatic." Not a good phrase these days... The point being that for a minimal investment I could listen to vinyl and it would automatically remove the needle/tone arm and put it back on the tone arm rest. Unfortunately, it just wasn't a very impressive turntable. It didn't sound that great, and it was susceptible to vibration of even the slightest amount, and the connectors for the cables broke while I was trying to press my audio cables on. It was a cheap table.

Which brings me to this little gem of a table. (It should be noted that I am listening to Andreas Vollenweider's "Down to the Moon" as I write this.)

Since I got rid of the Techniques, I missed the truly analog experience you get from playing a record. I have a nice stereo and I do like to relax and just listen to music. So I Google'd fully automatic turntable and this one came up. Pro-Ject is a German company that has been making amazing turntables for quite some time. Almost all of them are fully manual, and most are more expensive than the Automat A1. Although it was still more than I wanted to pay, I at least knew that it would be sonically and functionally worth the price. (under \$500)

The Automat is a simple machine. It's obvious that Pro-Ject saved some money by making it with no options and not really any way to do home upgrades. The Ortofon OM10 cartridge is mounted at the factory and the tone arm is made specifically for

that single cartridge. I might look into if there is a work around, but that means lots more money and I am thinking it would not be worth it. The cables too are hard wired. Now this I really wish were not the case. I have some old cables from when I worked in the industry, that I would like to try on this machine. Can't do it.

(I had to flip the record...)

So, does any of this really matter. I'm thinking, Not. The Automat is a wonderful machine, just the way it is. It is beautiful in its simplistic design, with a crystal clear dust cover and a nice matt black finish. The Ortofon cartridge still looks just as cool as it did 40 years ago. And best of all it does what it is meant to do, sound amazing and offer the convenience of fully automatic playback, sort of.

This player comes with a phono preamp built in so if your stereo or receiver doesn't have one, you are still good to go. My amp does have one built in, so I am not using the one in the Automat. Because of the no-option design, setup couldn't be easier. You will not have to fiddle with anything, not the needle tracking, not the counterbalance, nothing. Just plug it in, hook up the audio cables and the ground cable and you are ready to rediscover analog music.

The sound quality, however, is simply amazing. During COVID I bought ELO's "Out of the Blue" with the album artwork on the disc themselves. I thought it made for a poor pressing when I played it on the Techniques, but the Automat showed just



how glorious it was regardless of the image discs. The Ortofon really pulls out the subtleties, air and space that is so cleverly imbedded in those grooves. The previously mentioned Andreas album is also a masterpieces that shines on this turntable. At this time, I don't have many LPs available to me but I can say Norah Jone's "Come Away With Me" is a stunner and Lorena McKinnitt's "The Visit" is breathtaking. So far, I am not longing for upgrades. The Automat is fantastic just the way it is.

The fact that you get that level of sound quality, and the machine will put on, and take off the tone arm and stop the platter is almost unbelievable. It may sound petty, but I wish it was slightly more automatic. It would be great if it had a Repeat function, and out-of-this-world if it had a remote control so you could start it from the comfort

of your sofa. But, alas, having a record player and listening to records is about the whole experience.

With new records costing \$25 or more, this is not an inexpensive hobby. I have not looked into buying used, yet but I know that will cost much less.

(Had to get up and restart the player)
I am likening this hobby with that of
going out for a lovely meal on the town. It's
an activity to savor, relax and enjoy. I am
calling it my "Vinyl Friday Nights." Although,
to be honest, I am indulging more often then
just once a week.

If this sounds good to you. You should check out the Pro-Ject Automat A1. It's an amazing turntable, and you don't have to worry if you fall asleep while listening. The Automat has you covered. For more information visit: Project-Audio.com

# Epilogue: Elegy for the Old Castro by John Daniel

pushed and pulled in vain, but the glass door was locked. Although it was only four in the afternoon on a Sunday, my favorite record store in the Castro was closed. I mean really closed. For good.

Nothing made me happier than whiling away the afternoon drinking with friends and then stepping into the Castro's wonderful, independently-owned music stores, book stores and video outlets, which routinely stocked titles that I could never have expected to find in my small Central Valley hometown. It was a ritual I'd repeated for decades, obviously long before one could acquire such unique treasures, (including men, via download or same day delivery), with a simple swipe of a finger across a screen

As I re-entered the bar to catch up with my friends, the bouncer noticed that I'd shed a few alcohol-infused tears.

"Are you alright?" he asked.

"Streetlight's closed." I stuttered, eyes averted. "I've been going there since I was 20- something."

"What's Streetlight?"

"They sold m- m-" I couldn't spit it out. The young man's face lit up: "Oh yeah, they sold Media. Physical media. Yeah, that's too bad."

"They sold music!" I retorted. "Record albums you could hold and touch and loan to friends and proudly display in a bookcase in your dorm room, along with your favorite books and VHS movies!"

The bouncer wasn't moved. He escorted me back out the door and pointed to a coffee shop across the street. Indeed, perhaps it was time to quit feeling sorry for myself and sober up. I obliged....

"It's mostly straight couples with kids in here," I whispered to the Barista as he handed me my cup of coffee. "Where did all the gay people go?"

"Dorothy," he whispered back, "this ain't Oz no more."

As I sipped my coffee, I made eyes with a handsome gentleman whom I presumed was gay, but then his wife and daughter returned with a threadbare treasure they'd found in the book basket.

"What'd ya get, honey?" Father asked.
The little girl ran her index finger slowly across the title: "M-My Two Mommys...
Don't... Live Here... Anymore."

"Very good, sweety!"

"Worst Castro getaway ever," I thought, as I tossed my coffee cup into the trash.

It was reassuring to see that the landmark Twin Peaks bar hadn't yet been turned into a Chik-fil-A. As I walked past the big, (and once audacious) plate glass windows, a group of young, presumably straight couples waved. I waved back, barely containing my wonder and slight contempt. In the early 70's, LGBTQ patrons nervously sipped their first drinks in plain view (!) of passersby in the street; now it's a family-friendly tourist attraction, littered with Pottery Barn bags and "I Heart San Francisco" T-shirts, but what can one do? We wanted integration and equality.

"A Different Light" bookstore is still open as well, though a bit slimmed-down. Years ago, I bought my first "gay" publication there: Edmund White's "States of Desire," a book containing colorful, thumbnail sketches of all the wonderfully-diverse Gayborhoods throughout the US. As I browsed the shelves, I wondered if there was an updated version. Would the Starbuck's at South Beach or Fire

continued on page 32

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# **Special Edition Vinyl for** Cher & Wham! by Chris Narloch

ccording to sales figures released earlier this year, vinyl records outperformed CDs in the US for the first time since 1987. Just over 41 million vinyl records were sold in 2022, whereas only 33 million CDs were purchased.

You know what they say – everything old is new again – and I am so glad that I kept most of the hundreds of vinyl records I bought in the '70s and '80s (most of them from the now-defunct Tower Records store on Watt Avenue in Sacramento).

The kids know a good thing when they see (and hear) it, and younger music fans are turning on to the joys of album artwork – a great American art form. There is also a sentimental attachment that comes with collecting vinyl that downloading and streaming music cannot provide.

I recently acquired two new vinyl special editions that will delight queer music fans who remember when Cher and Wham! ruled the charts. Read on for details.







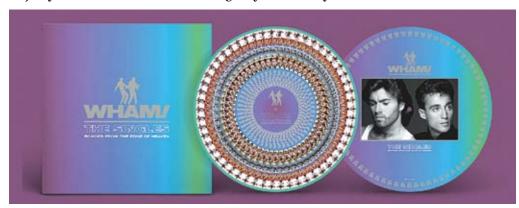
### Cher It's A Man's World Deluxe Edition

I am a sucker for colored vinyl, and so I couldn't wait to get my hands on Cher's new vinyl set of one of her most under appreciated late-career discs — the four LPs in the limitededition box are each pressed on a different colored vinyl (red, blue, green and yellow).

"It's A Man's World'

The special deluxe limited-edition vinyl box set features a remastered version of the original 14-track UK album on 2 LPs, as well as a newly compiled double LP containing 11 rare remixes. In addition to "One By One (JR's Pride Mix)," the set includes "Walking In Memphis (Shut Up and Dance Vocal Mix).

The box includes an exclusive, numbered lithograph of an iconic photograph of Cher, and the D2C version, sold via Cher's official site, features its own exclusive lithograph. The majority of the remixes are available digitally and on vinyl for the first time.



### Wham!

# The Singles: Echoes From The Edge Of Heaven

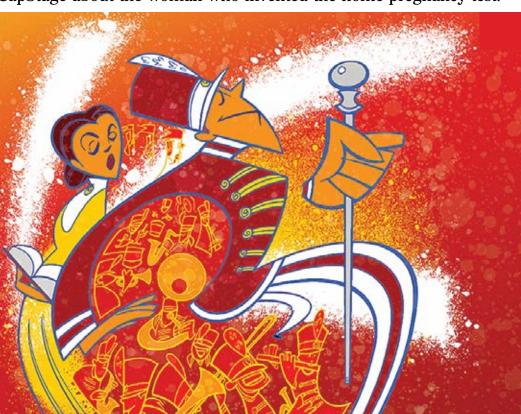
I am old enough to remember before the late, great George Michael's solo career, when he was half of the chart-topping duo Wham!, Britain's best loved and most popular duo, alongside Andrew Ridgeley.

To celebrate 40 years of Wham!, this multi-format release includes a special edition 7" vinyl singles carry case containing all the hits, which spanned four dazzlingly successful years, kicking off with 1982's "Young Guns (Go For It)" and culminating in 1986's "The Edge Of Heaven.'

Along the way, Wham! produced some of the most uplifting music of the era: "WHAM RAP! (Enjoy What You Do)," "Bad Boys," "Club Tropicana," "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go," "Freedom," "Last Christmas," "Everything She Wants" and "I'm Your Man!"

# "The Music Man" at Music Circus Plus, "Predictor" at Capital Stage

wo very different works are gracing Sacramento stages this month. Read on for more information about the latest Broadway At Music Circus musical, plus a wild comedy at CapStage about the woman who invented the home pregnancy test.



### The Music Man

One of musical theatre's most beloved works, this tribute to the optimism, warmth and stubbornness of small-town America has been charming audiences of all ages for decades, and I am sure that this summer's Music Circus production of the show will continue that tradition.

There's trouble in River City, Iowa when traveling salesman Harold Hill comes to town and causes disruption. Featuring the classic songs "Seventy-Six Trombones," "Goodnight My Someone" and "Till There Was You," Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man" performs through Sunday, July 16 at Sacramento's UC Davis Health Pavilion.

Please visit: www.broadwaysacramento.com/broadway-at-music-circus



### **Predictor**

I had never heard of Margaret Crane, who invented the first home pregnancy test in 1967, and that is the point of this play, a surprisingly funny account of a woman who was cheated out of her place in history by the pharmaceutical company where she worked.

Jennifer Blackmer's inventive, wacky version of Crane's life turns her sad story into a game show at more than one point, and a talented cast led by Alissa Doyle as Margaret squeezes every drop of ironic humor out of the script.

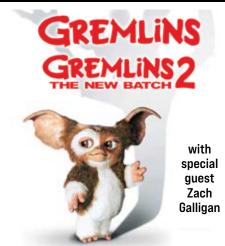
The time is the late '60s, and the play follows Crane's journey through a male-dominated corporate establishment that pats her on the head and patronizes her, and then rips her off after she develops a revolutionary product that may or may not make it to market.

Will Margaret sell her patent for the home pregnancy test to Organon Pharmaceuticals, and will her invention fall into the wrong hands? You'll just have to buy a ticket to "Predictor" and see for yourself, before July 23, 2023, when the play concludes its successful run at Sacramento's Capital Stage.

For more information, go to https://capstage.org

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FRIDAY | AUG 04



1 AUG 05



SATURDAY, JUL 22, 7:00PM

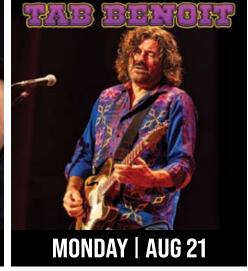
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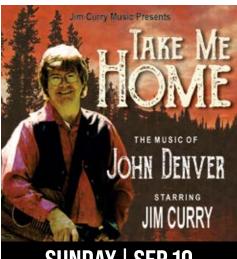
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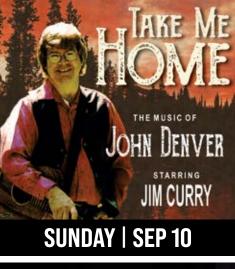




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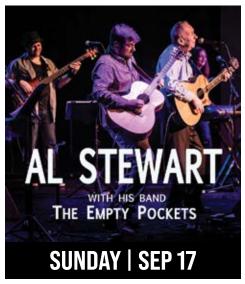






















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# Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

This year, it seems the Pride flags are staying up a little longer than usual. After the idiotic decisions by the Corrupt Court we need to be even more visible and diligent in using our voices. We will not let six religious zealots chip away at our hardfought-for and won equality. We mustn't get discouraged or give up. Continue living out loud and proud, and waving those beautiful rainbow flags right in their bigoted faces!



**Boy George and Culture Club are** coming to the Concord Pavilion.

Escape the summer heat and come to Outword's ultimate Liquid Therapy Happy Hour at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. Discover the perfect blend of refreshing drinks, energizing music videos, exciting giveaways, and a vibrant community of friends. Don't miss out on drink specials and the chance to make lasting memories.

Experience the fabulousness of Drag Queen Bingo at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Sacramento. Hosted by Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, it's an evening of laughter, entertainment, and thrilling prizes. Mark your calendars for July 15, 7-9 p.m., and July 16, 3 p.m. Unforgettable fun awaits! Hardrockhotelsacramento.com

Honoring Prudence Mabele, the first Black South African woman to publicly share her HIV status, Friday, July 21, is designated as Zero HIV Stigma Day. The observance aims to raise awareness about the negative attitudes and judgments faced by those living with or at risk of HIV. Visit: HIV.gov

Join the Lavender Library Queer Writing Salon, a new monthly meetup for queer and trans writers of all backgrounds. This event offers a supportive space to focus on projects while being part of a vibrant community. Experienced or just starting out, this salon provides protected writing time. Drop in Monday, July 24, at Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Lavenderlibrary.com.

Get ready to be mesmerized by the dazzling queens of RuPaul's Drag Race as they bring the Official World Tour to Hard Rock! On Thursday, July 20 at 8 p.m. witness the incredible "WERQ Your World" presented by Voss Events, World of Wonder, and MTV. Prepare for a night of glamor and talent at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Sacramento, 3317 Forty Mile Rd. in Wheatland. Hardrockhotelsacramento.com.

Bizarre. Fanciful. Engaging. Over the top AF! This isn't your grandmother's cabaret show. Scream Queens Gorelesque presents Freak Show Cabaret! Witness the spectacle

of the season Saturday, July 22, at The Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd. The event is 18+, and it's suggested that audience members bring cash to tip performers. Lovehorrorevents.com

When you need a laugh, these comedians never disappoint! LoLGBT+ Presents Queens & Comedy on Sunday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Punch Line Comedy Club, 2100 Arden Way. Punchlinesac.com

Floats and flotillas will be riding the currents down the Russian River Saturday, July 15, in a free event starting at 10 a.m. Steelhead Beach, 9000 River Rd. in Forestville, and ending at Sunset Beach, 11403 River Rd. in Forestville. Find out more on the "Boys and Bears Lazy River Float" page on Facebook.

The 1980s were totally tubular, and the bands of that decade are out and about touring the globe this summer! That includes Boy George and Culture Club coming to the Concord Pavilion, 2000 Kirker Pass Rd. in Concord on Sunday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. Culture Club promises a night of show-stopping classics and generationdefining favorites from "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me" to "Karma Chameleon." Joining the celebration will be special guests Berlin!

Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, actor and author Ashanti is one of the true divas of our times. See her perform live Wednesday, July 26 at 8 p.m. at The CA State Fair, 1600 Exposition Blvd. Calexpo.com

"Predictor" is the real-life story and struggles of Margaret Crane, who in 1967 became the inventor of the first home pregnancy test. Will her invention fall into the wrong hands and disappear, or will she make the ultimate sacrifice to change the shape of women's lives forever? The West Coast Premiere is directed by Imani Mitchell and runs through July 23 at Capital Stage, 2215 J St. Capstage.org.

Events, birthdays, announcements? Send them to matthew@hengemedia.com.





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# **Tom Cruise & Wes Anderson** Save Summer by Chris Narloch

fter a rocky start, with several disappointing duds at the box office, the cinematic summer has really begun, with new movies from Tom Cruise and Wes Anderson that have arrived to save the multiplex and arthouse theaters.



### **Mission Impossible 7**

I was never a huge fan of "Mission Impossible" - the TV show or the movies - although I admired the first film's classy direction by Brian DePalma very much. Full disclosure: spy films are not my favorite genre.

However, Christopher McQuarrie's new "Mission Impossible" flick is such a blast of big screen adrenaline that I enjoyed it – not as much as last summer's "Top Gun" sequel but much more than I expected to.

I guess I have seen too many James Bond films, because I found the doomsday dialogue in between the big action set pieces a little dull. Still, those action sequences are all mindblowing, and you can't help but be impressed that 61-year-old Tom Cruise still does many of his own stunts. Currently in wide theatrical release, including the Esquire IMAX Theatre.



### **Past Lives**

If you can find a theater that is still playing this amazing movie - which opened at Sacramento's Tower Theatre and on a few other local screens at the end of June - do not miss it (or else add it to your future streaming wish list).

A bittersweet love story about the power of friendship, "Past Lives" follows two heterosexual childhood sweethearts who are separated after one of their families emigrates from South Korea.

The pair briefly reunite as adults years later in New York City and grapple with their life choices and their feelings for each other. The movie has a rare emotional intensity.



# Asteroid City

I am torn when it comes to the director Wes Anderson's films, and I am especially divided in my feelings for this beautiful looking but somewhat hollow comedy about odd events that disrupt a Junior Stargazer/Space Cadet convention in an American desert town

The real stargazing is provided by the movie's incredible cast, which includes Tom Hanks, Jeff Goldblum, Willem Dafoe, Margot Robbie, Steve Carell, Tilda Swinton, Adrien Brody, Edward Norton, Matt Dillon, Bryan Cranston, Liev Schreiber, Jeffrey Wright, Hong Chau, and an excellent Scarlett Johansson.

I enjoyed the actors and the film's exquisitely stylized production design and cinematography, but the strange story never fully came to life for me. After it was over, I felt like I had gobbled up a bunch of cotton candy and was still hungry, for more than empty calories. Currently in theatrical release, including Sacramento's Tower Theatre.



# **No Hard Feelings**

Jennifer Lawrence needs to find a new film franchise like "The Hunger Games." Almost nobody saw her last film - the excellent "Causeway" - and most moviegoers will wish they had not seen this embarrassing coming of age comedy, which tries and fails to pull honest laughs out of a hopeless script about an "older" woman who needs some fast cash and is hired to deflower a teenaged boy, by his parents, before he goes off to college.

Lawrence and her costar Andrew Barth Feldman are both very appealing in the film after her character stops being obnoxious - but the movie cannot decide whether it wants to be a raunchy sex comedy or a heartfelt dramedy about two misfits who collide. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Download the complete, current issue at www.outwordmagazine.com.



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For 27 years, we have been Sacramento's resource for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and we have helped connect and maintain our community.

Because of the continuing trauma being caused by COVID, many of our advertisers are doing everything they can to stay afloat - that includes Outword Magazine. At the onset of the pandemic we changed our distribution model to an online-only affair. That helped us weather the storm, but we have since returned to both online as well traditional, printed copies. Thankfully, the responce we have recieved after returning to print has been fantastic!

However, we are continuing to ask that you, our readers and advertisers help us with a contribution that will be used to keep the presses rolling. This money will assist with publishing costs, both in print and online, and help pay our production staff, staff writers and distribution costs among other things.

Should you wish to support us please click on this ad and go to: OutwordRainbowFund.com.

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# OutwordRainbowFund.com

# **Rugby Star Ben Cohen Makes His Acting Debut This Summer**



en Cohen, the Rugby champion and longtime ally of LGBTQ+ rights, is making his acting debut this summer in "Patterns," a new LGBTQ+ series acquired by TLA Releasing that will begin streaming exclusively on Dekkoo on July 27. In mini-narratives, the British camp comedy explores several unique themes that make up the lives of LGBTQ+ people and their allies, including family dynamics, coming out, dating, therapy and surviving an existential crisis. For more information, visit: Dekkoo.com

# **Do Not Miss Taylor Mac On HBO**

'n 2016, the genius drag performance artist Taylor Mac performed a one-time-only, 24-hour immersive theatrical experience in front of a live audience at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn.



The concert offered an alternative take on U.S. history, narrated through music that was popular from the nation's founding to the present, with Mac transforming hourly changing into elaborate, decade-specific costumes by Mac's longtime collaborator, Machine

A new documentary by Academy Award winners Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, which began airing on HBO and Max during Pride Month, captures Mac's marathon performance in New York, alongside footage from other shows on the tour, which played throughout the world.

In the show, Mac and 24 musicians interpret 24 songs, from "Yankee Doodle" to "Gimme Shelter," "Born to Run," and "Gloria," with one performer leaving the stage each hour, until Mac is on stage alone in the final 24th hour.

I had the great good fortune to see a portion of "Taylor Mac's 24-Decade History of Popular Music" live in San Francisco a few years back, and I can honestly say that it is one of the most staggering artistic achievements I have ever seen in my six decades on this planet. If you have HBO, do not miss it, and if you don't, then find someone who does.

Go to: www.hbo.com/movies/taylor-macs-24-decade-history-of-popular-music

# Thank You Outword Supporters!

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Once again we would like to thank those that have become sponsors of Outword Magazine! Your contribution will help us keep the lights on and the closet doors wide open. Here are a list of our Sponsors at the level they participated, so far. We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.

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www.outwordrainbowfund.com www.outwordmagazine.com







continued from page 18



Island be all that different from the Starbuck's in the Castro?

I received a text from my friends. They were tired and ready for the drive home. As we made our way back across the new Bay Bridge, the partially dismantled sections of the old bridge came into view. I liked the way the old bridge shamelessly flaunted its salty, steely muscles: one could almost taste the blood, sweat and tears that went into building the thing some 85 years ago. In the late 80's, this was the bridge that delivered my once naive and closeted 20-something self into gay adulthood, with all its dizzying freedoms and, of course, its indescribable burdens. I could almost visualize myself driving across that bridge and into San Francisco for the very first time, grinning from ear to ear, flipping back my feathered hair and just bursting with anticipation and

\As my carmates groped for their iPhones to snap pictures of the sleek new iBridge that seemed to so effortlessly loft us above the churning waters below, I remained fixated on the last remaining towers of the old bridge which had yet to be torn down; an endless parade of trucks were hauling away the rough, oily broken slabs of pavement that had once carried me from isolation and darkness into brotherhood and light. Crumbled bits of the old road littered the highway for miles inland, much to the annoyance of anyone stuck behind the seeping trucks. At one point our driver pulled over and we stepped out of the car for one last stretch and photo session. I toyed with the idea of attempting to take a few decent pics of the sun setting over the bay, but - in the end - I simply watched in silence as it quietly slipped below the

# **Ashley McBryde Joins CA State Fair Free Concert Lineup**

sincerely hope that country-rock rebel Ashley McBryde performs "Brenda Put Your Bra On," the hilarious first cut on her classic concept album from last year, when she comes to town this July.

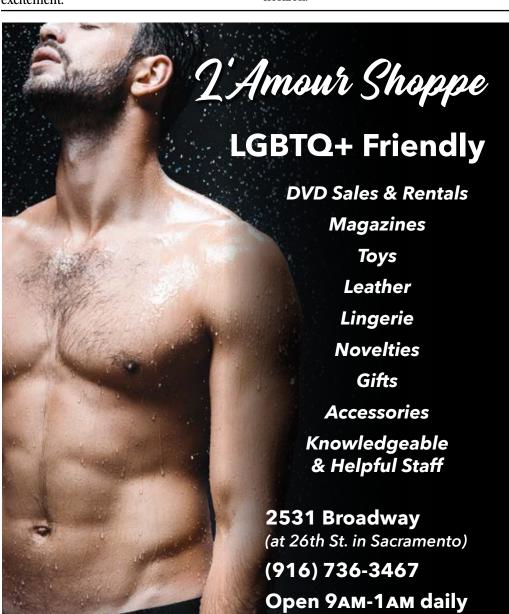
That CD, entitled "Lindeville," which features 13 songs inspired by the fictional characters of that fictional town, is brilliant from start to finish, and I will definitely be there when McBryde graces the stage at the CA State Fair, on Sunday evening, July 16, as part of the Toyota Concert Series.

I don't know who curated the eclectic talent for this year's free State Fair concerts, but they did a fantastic job. McBryde's is just one of many not-to-be-missed shows, which include other great country artists (LeeAnn Rimes, Scotty McCreery, Trace Adkins), classic rock (38 Special, George Thorogood & The Destroyers, Gin Blossoms, Third Eye Blind), and two separate tribute bands (SantanaWays, Revisitng Creedence).

The super-fun, dance-pop party band Fitz and the Tantrums kicks off the concert series, on Friday evening, July 14, and there are also half a dozen sizzling soul acts performing this year, including The Isley Brothers, Ashanti, Kool & The Gang, Ginuwine, Boyz II Men, and Confunkshun.

The concert series continues, with one headliner each night, through Friday evening, July 30th, and all shows are free with general Ca State Fair admission. (Reserved seats are also available and start at just \$25.) For more information, visit https://calexpostatefair.com







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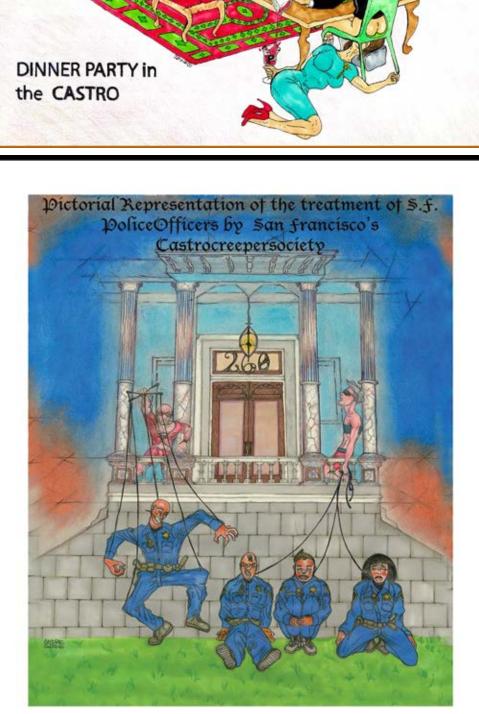
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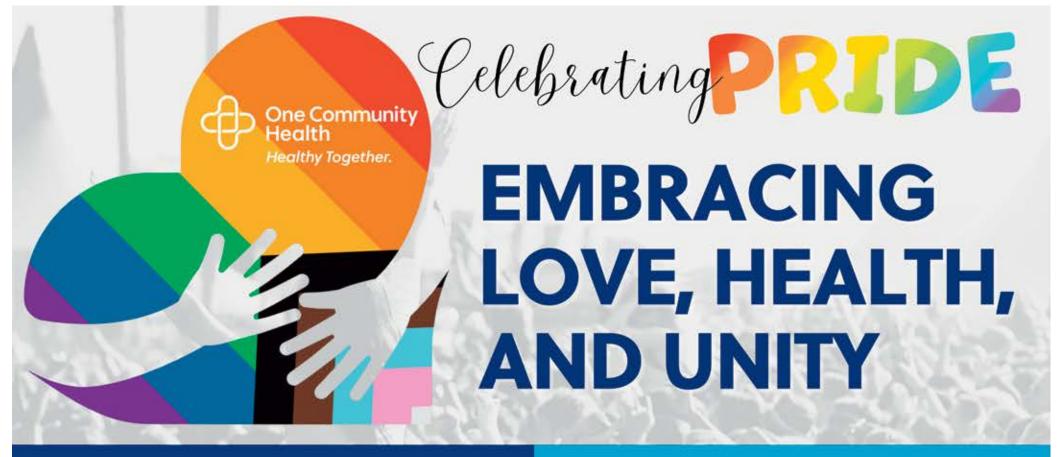
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