

# outWord

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ISSUE**

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## More Budget Cuts

On July 18, 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly approved a sweeping rescission package that slashes \$9 billion from previously authorized federal spending—marking the first time since 1999 a presidential rescission request has successfully clawed back such funds. The measure passed 216–213, largely on party lines, with two Republicans joining all Democrats in opposition.

### What's in the package?

- \$1.1 billion eliminated from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which supports over 1,500 local radio and TV stations and national outlets like NPR and PBS. Critics argue cuts could jeopardize rural emergency alerts and local programming. Supporters say public media displays liberal bias and wastes taxpayer money.
- Nearly \$8 billion rescinded from foreign aid programs—spanning global health, disaster relief, peacekeeping, and U.S. Agency for International Development initiatives. A chunk of USAID was absorbed into the State Department earlier this year amid broader restructuring Wikipedia.
- A proposed \$400 million cut to PEPFAR (HIV/AIDS prevention) was dropped in the Senate after bipartisan concerns, allowing the broader bill to proceed with a 51–48 Senate vote.

### Political stakes & precedent

This action hands unprecedented power to the executive branch to unilaterally cancel Congress-approved spending—challenging traditional separation of powers Wikipedia. Senate critics, including Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski, warn it

undermines the role of Congress and could damage bipartisan cooperation in future appropriations.

White House officials hailed the move as a “step toward fiscal sanity,” with Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt dismissing public media funding as “\$9 billion worth of crap.”

### What's next?

The bill is now on President Trump's desk awaiting his signature, expected imminently. The White House has indicated this could open the door to additional rescission requests—potentially re-shaping discretionary spending dynamics for the rest of the term.

Concurrently, under Trump's directive, the Department of Justice filed a motion in Manhattan federal court to unseal grand jury transcripts from the Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell cases. Deputy AG Todd Blanche emphasized transcripts will be redacted to protect victims but made public due to “extensive public interest.” Attorney General Pam Bondi led the court filing.

Just a day earlier, Trump launched a \$10 billion defamation lawsuit in federal court against The Wall Street Journal, Dow Jones, Rupert Murdoch, and others, over a report claiming he sent Epstein a risqué birthday message in 2003. Trump vehemently denied the Journal's depiction and called the story “fake news,” challenging the paper to prove its sourcing.

## Garamendi Statement on Secretary Burgum and Attorney General Bondi Visit to Alcatraz

Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA-08), a senior California Democrat and former Deputy Secretary of the Interior, released the following statement in response to the news that Trump's Attorney General Pam Bondi and Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum visited the Alcatraz Museum:

“This is plain just stupid. I have spent decades in policymaking and served as the Deputy Secretary Department of the Interior, and I have never seen such a craven political stunt.

“Alcatraz stopped being a prison in 1963 because of the deteriorating infrastructure and extreme operational costs. What Burgum and Bondi are visiting today has deteriorated 60 additional years and is only conducive to being a museum. They should know better than to turn a 60-year-old museum into a prison just because their boss got an idea from a movie he saw on television.

“This stunt is nothing more than a distraction from the countless mishaps Trump's feckless administration is involved in. A distraction from his ‘Big Ugly Bill’ that strips healthcare from millions of Californians. A distraction from Trump taking away your children's school lunches, raising your energy costs, cutting funding for public news stations, and stealing your hard-earned money to hand it to billionaires.

“I'm begging the news media and the public: don't be distracted by this stunt. While they dredge up absurd headlines, they are destroying everything that makes this country great.”



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Love at First Sight  
Corey's amazing vintage VW Beetle  
see page 8

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# CBS Kills "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert"

CBS has officially announced that The Late Show with Stephen Colbert will conclude in May 2026, bringing an end to Stephen Colbert's ten-year run as host and retiring the entire franchise. Although the show has consistently led its late-night time slot—drawing around 2.4 million viewers and even gaining audience share in 2025. CBS described the decision as “purely a financial decision against a challenging backdrop in late night,” and explicitly said it was not tied to the show's performance, content, or any matters involving parent company Paramount Global.

The timing of the cancellation, just days after Colbert publicly criticized Paramount's \$16 million settlement with former President Trump—calling it a “big fat bribe”—has sparked fierce public scrutiny and allegations of political interference. Senators Adam Schiff and Elizabeth Warren have both questioned the network's timing and motivations, demanding transparency and investigation.

Colbert broke the news to his studio audience on July 17, 2025, sharing that he had learned of the cancellation the night prior. As the audience booed, he said, “I'm not being replaced. This is all just going away,” and expressed gratitude to his 200 member crew and long-time viewers. Colbert's colleagues in late-night television—Jimmy Fallon, Seth Meyers, Jimmy Kimmel—and celebrities across entertainment expressed solidarity, calling the decision shocking and lamenting the abrupt end of such a cultural institution.

Together, these developments mark a dramatic closing chapter for late-night broadcast on CBS and a significant shift in the broader landscape of American TV comedy.



# The List

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Sacramento in a Can  
Photo courtesy of Sac. History Museum

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# Amid Epstein Fallout, Video of Trump Judging Teens in Model Contest Resurfaces

by Chris Walker, [TRUTHOUT](#)

**A**mid ongoing scrutiny of President Donald Trump and his administration's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein child sex trafficking case, newly unearthed video shows Trump taking part as a judge in a beauty pageant that featured models as young as 14 years old.

The video in question shows Trump as one of 10 judges in Elite Model Agency's 1991 "Look of the Year" competition. Within the video, young women and girls walk in front of Trump and others in order to be judged on both their looks and "personality," according to the narrator.

A *Guardian* investigation published in 2020 found that the competition was "used by founder John Casablancas and others to engage in sexual relationships with vulnerable young models, some of whom were teenagers." Trump was not among those who were accused of such actions, but his behavior during similar pageants, recollected by those who had participated in them, has sparked renewed concerns regarding his treatment of women.

Contestants have recalled that they were "encouraged to parade downstairs, one by one, and dance for Trump" and other judges.

"I knew in my gut it wasn't right. This wasn't being judged or part of the competition – it was for their entertainment," said one model, who was 15 when she competed.

The video's circulation comes as Trump is dealing with fallout following his administration's release of two pages of information regarding the Epstein child sex trafficking case. Those documents claim that the disgraced financier did not keep a "client list" of powerful people, as has been alleged in conspiracy theories that Trump himself has helped promote on the far right.

In addition to judging the competition, Trump also hosted the competition at his New York properties in 1991 and 1992. He's also faced scrutiny for his behavior during Miss Teen USA pageants, with former participants in those competitions saying that he would often barge into their dressing rooms without warning them.

Trump has corroborated those claims himself, in later years bragging about how he could "get away" with such behavior by saying he was "inspecting" the room as the owner of the pageant.

Also in 1992, Trump, who was close friends with Jeffrey Epstein at the time, attended a party with him and several NFL cheerleaders, an event that was also filmed. The video, which has circulated online, shows the two ogling and commenting on the women involved. Trump also hosted a "calendar girl competition" at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida that year, although the only other person who attended the event was Epstein, *The New York Times* reported this weekend.

In interviews from the early 2000s, Trump expressed knowledge of Epstein's preference



for younger women, stating that he was "a terrific guy," and that he enjoyed women "on the younger side."

Trump's disrespectful treatment of women has persisted, including into the White House. Some former staff from his first term in office say that Trump "engaged with women" in a "dangerous" manner, adding that they were "nervous about what could happen" if Trump was left alone with certain women staffers.

Since the release of the Justice Department's short statement on the Epstein case earlier in July, Trump has become visibly upset both with reporters and with his own MAGA supporters online who have questioned the lack of transparency on the case. During the 2024 presidential race, Trump said he was open to releasing the files, and even implied that the Biden administration had been hiding them from the public – a clear instance of Trump using the Epstein drama as a means to further his own political ambitions.

This month, however, Trump tore into his supporters who are demanding more information, calling MAGA-backers asking for more Epstein documents "weaklings" who are in league with Democrats opposed to his administration.

A recently published CBS News poll conducted from July 16-18 finds that the vast majority of Americans overall, 75 percent, are dissatisfied with the Trump administration's handling of the case. Among self-identified MAGA supporters, 60 percent say they are satisfied with the way Trump has handled the case – with 40 percent saying they are dissatisfied, indicating a rare splintering within Trump's base.

*Chris Walker is a news writer at Truthout, and is based out of Madison, Wisconsin. Focusing on both national and local topics since the early 2000s, he has produced thousands of articles analyzing the issues of the day and their impact on the American people. He can be found on most social media platforms under the handle @thatchriswalker.*



# Jewel Thais-Williams: Trailblazer, Healer, and Icon of Black LGBTQ+ Community

Jewel Thais-Williams, who passed away on July 7, 2025, at age 86, was a pioneering businesswoman, activist, and community healer whose impact resonated far beyond Los Angeles. Best known as the founder of Jewel's Catch One, she created one of the country's first Black-owned LGBTQ+ nightclubs and transformed it into a cultural landmark over four decades.



The dancefloor area of Jewel's Catch One was decorated with large, pink neon palm trees. If you would like to see the actual interior, watch "Beaches."

Born on May 9, 1939, Thais-Williams purchased the Diana Ballroom on Pico Boulevard in 1973. At a time when racism and homophobia were entrenched in nightlife, she envisioned a safe, welcoming space for people who were often excluded. Rebranded as Catch One, her club became a vibrant sanctuary where Black queer communities, along with allies from every background, could dance, connect, and celebrate freely. It was affectionately dubbed the "Studio 54 of the West Coast," but unlike its Manhattan counterpart, Catch One was re-nowned for its openness rather than exclusivity.

Under her leadership, the venue hosted legendary performers and celebrities including Madonna, Whitney Houston, Janet Jackson, Donna Summer, and Sharon Stone. But Thais-Williams's legacy extends far beyond nightlife. As the AIDS epidemic devastated marginalized communities, she stepped up to care for those abandoned by mainstream institutions. She co-founded the Minority AIDS Project with Carl Bean and

served on the board of AIDS Project Los Angeles. Alongside her wife, Rue, she established Rue's House, the first housing facility in Southern California dedicated to women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

Even after selling Catch One in 2015, she continued to advocate for health equity and holistic wellness, supporting the Village Health Foundation, a nonprofit clinic offering affordable healthcare to underserved communities. In 2019, the city of Los Angeles honored her contributions by naming the intersection in front of Catch One "Jewel Thais-Williams Square."

Her remarkable story inspired the 2016 documentary "Jewel's Catch One," which chronicled her decades-long fight for equality and visibility.

Throughout her life, Jewel Thais-Williams embodied resilience and compassion, forging spaces where people could be fully themselves. She leaves behind an indelible legacy as a trailblazer who uplifted generations and transformed what community could mean.



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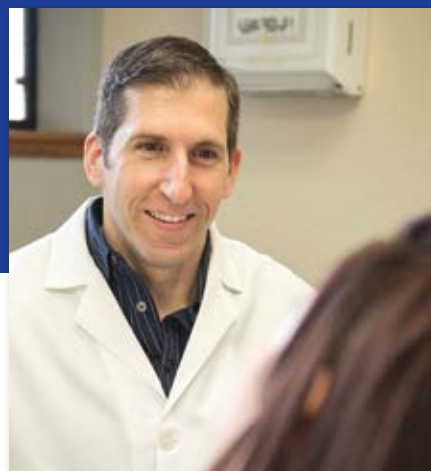


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## Love At First Sight

*words and photos by Corey Egel*

**I**t was love at first sight—the curves, the friendly face, that quirky personality, and the unmistakable guttural hum. I’m talking about my lifelong passion for the Volkswagen Beetle.

Growing up, my family had a 1975 Beetle—black exterior, red vinyl interior. It was finicky, unpredictable, and utterly charming. When it rained or snowed overnight, we’d cover the engine and cross our fingers, hoping it would start by morning. More often than not, it didn’t. I’d end up in the driver’s seat steering while my mom pushed it down the hill, jumping in at just the right moment to pop the clutch. Still, it was part of the magic.

Of course, Chicago winters didn’t do the car any favors. The road salt ate away at the body, and eventually, we noticed we could see the road racing by beneath our feet. My uncle, who owned a garage, did his best to patch it up. However, the rust was winning, and my mom made the decision to sell the car and buy something bigger and more reliable. I’ll never forget the summer day it was driven away from my grandparents’ house by its new owner. I stood there, heartbroken, watching a piece of my childhood disappear down the street.

Yet, the love never left me. When the modern Beetle was reintroduced in 1998, I knew I had to get one. It was cute, bubbly, and tried its best to capture the spirit of the original. As endearing as it was, it came with its own pricey quirks—loose transmission bolts (of all things!), switches that would break ... you name it. Eventually, I had to admit it just wasn’t the same. There’s something about a 53-horsepower engine that stirs the soul in a way newer models can’t replicate.

Years later, living in Sacramento, I met a dear friend who happened to own a rare, vintage 1967 Beetle. I’d spot him around town and smile every time I saw him driving the car. One day, out of the blue, he asked if I might be interested in buying it. I was stunned. We discussed it on and off for quite some time, and finally, I told him yes!

Now, that car lives in my garage—and in my heart. It has no power steering, no electronic windows, no AC, and none of the flashy features we take for granted today. Still, the moment I turn the key and hear that engine growl to life, everything else fades away. Driving it down the road, watching heads turn and smiles appear, I’m reminded why I fell in love in the first place.





# Cool Retro Gadget

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Despite its retro inspiration, the M1 offers modern features for versatile listening. Bluetooth 5.0 and AUX output let you connect to a wide range of sound systems. The bright LCD display makes it easy to control playback and view track details, while the included one-button remote adds convenient operation from across the room.

The M1 supports multiple formats, including CD-DA, CD-R, CD-RW, MP3, and WMA files up to 48kHz sampling rate, ensuring your entire collection can come alive again. Its rechargeable, replaceable 18650 battery provides up to eight hours of playback, perfect for enjoying music anywhere.

At a sale price of \$159 (regularly \$249), the M1 is an accessible way to rediscover your CDs while making a bold design statement. From the soft glow that highlights the spinning disc in a darkened room to the seamless integration with modern audio setups, this player is both a nostalgic tribute and a contemporary centerpiece.

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# Electric Hostility in the US

by Ron Tackitt

I’ve been driving an electric vehicle (EV) for nearly two years now, and while I absolutely love it, I continue to see a steady stream of online hostility and misinformation—or at least selectively presented facts that paint EVs as a failure, which they are not. (It’s also worth noting that trends in Tesla sales don’t reflect the state of the entire EV market.) Much of the resistance to EVs in the United States seems to stems from a mix of political, economic, cultural and psychological factors. Here’s a closer look at some of the most significant sources of this pushback:

### Political Polarization

Partisan identity: EVs have been heavily associated with climate change activism, environmental regulations, and Democratic policies. For many conservatives, that branding alone makes EVs politically unpalatable.

Perception of mandates: Government incentives, regulations, and future bans on internal combustion engines (ICEs) are often framed as government overreach, especially by right-wing media and politicians.



Volvo XC40 display

### Fossil Fuel Industry Influence

Oil and gas lobby: The fossil fuel industry has a vested interest in maintaining gasoline demand and has historically funded campaigns to cast doubt on climate science or resist electrification.

Automaker alliances: Some traditional automakers, particularly those late to EV development, have quietly resisted aggressive EV transition timelines, especially if their core markets are ICE trucks and SUVs.

### Economic Anxiety and Infrastructure Gaps

Affordability: Despite falling costs, EVs are still viewed by many as expensive, luxury items—especially in rural or low-income areas.

Charging concerns: Lack of charging infrastructure in many regions fuels anxiety about practicality, particularly for road trips or rural living.

Job fears: There’s concern about job losses in traditional auto manufacturing, oil refining, and maintenance sectors that are more reliant on ICE vehicles.

### Cultural Attachment to ICE Vehicles

Car culture: Gas-powered muscle cars, pickups, and road trips are part of American identity and nostalgia.

“Freedom” narrative: EVs—tied to apps, software updates, and government subsidies—can feel like a move away from the rugged, independent ethos many associate with cars.

### Disinformation and Social Media

Online echo chambers: Anti-EV myths—about battery fires, rare earth mining, or grid collapse—spread widely online.

Misinformation campaigns: Influencers and media outlets sometimes exaggerate downsides or invent issues to stoke outrage and gain views or political traction.

### Aversion to Change

Technophobia: Some people are skeptical of new tech, especially when it disrupts something as familiar as how we fuel our cars.

Habitual inertia: Most Americans have driven gas cars their whole lives. Shifting habits, from fueling to range planning, feels like a hassle.

Hostility toward EVs in the U.S. is often times less about the vehicles themselves and more about what they represent—to some, it’s progress and sustainability; to others, it’s elitism, government control, or cultural loss. As more and more people experience living with an EV, a lot of the fears melt away. Yes, for long trips, a bit more planning is required, and for someone that drives a lot of miles, constantly, EVs are not a good option - yet. But people who are driving them in their day to day lives are finding that they are not as scary as some would lead them to believe. The benefits of low-cost charging (at home), efficiency, speed and overall lower maintenance are easily winning over converts. The fact they produce so much less environmental impact over the life of the vehicle is delicious icing on the cake, for those who care.



# A Glitch on the Road – Two Years With a VW ID.4

words and photos by  
Ron Tackitt

I've have the good fortune of driving a wonderful little green Volvo full-electric SUV, and I really love it. I'm well aware that my Volvo is a very nice car. It's not excessive, but it's well put together and thoughtfully designed. However, it wasn't originally my first choice. I had an order in for a VW ID.4—but then COVID disrupted everything, and shortly after, Russia invaded Ukraine, near where the VW was made. After a year and a half of waiting, I gave up on the VW and was able to get the Volvo.

Right around that time, a friend of mine was able to lease an ID.4, and is still driving it today. Until recently, I hadn't spent much time behind the wheel of his car, but I finally got to drive the electric VW for a full week while he was out of town—and I thought I'd share my impressions.

Overall, they're quite favorable—but not without some caveats. The physical car is solidly built and offers a great blend of utility and comfort. The center control screen is large with good resolution, especially when displaying the backup camera feed (something my Volvo is absolutely terrible at).

Like all electric cars, technology is king. Without computers, chips, and software, an EV wouldn't get very far. Unfortunately, this is where my main disappointment with the VW lies.

Most functions work well, even if the logic behind their layout and operation feels unfamiliar. Some features—like being able to wave your hand side to side to swipe through screens—seem gimmicky. There are only a couple of screens that actually have content to the left or right. Syncing an iPhone to wireless Apple CarPlay is a bit finicky; while I didn't have issues, my friend is constantly frustrated with how the VW communicates with his phone. (I suspect deleting and re-pairing the phone might help.) Voice command features rarely work—you usually end up doing things manually, like closing the sunshade.

While I had the car, I kept getting alert notices about non-critical systems that either weren't working or needed service. These warnings would come and go randomly. They didn't prevent me from driving, but they were definitely annoying.

Another shared frustration was the software interface for the climate control and sound system. Both are unintuitive, and the volume up/down sliders aren't even backlit—you have to memorize their location and function. What I wouldn't give for old-fashioned knobs. The steering wheel controls are also frustrating and lack clear feedback. Altogether, these quirks make everyday driving needlessly distracting.



She cleans up nicely. Notice the little green EV behind...



Clean, comfortable, good-looking and durable interior.

(Update: The car is currently in the shop for various small fixes and software updates. It's possible VW has addressed some of these issues...)

I also found it frustrating that you can't adjust the current draw for home charging. My Volvo allows me to reduce the current to avoid overloading my 240V outlet. The VW does not. It has just two charging modes: trickle (which takes days) or full power (which tripped my circuit breaker). This forced me to rely on public superchargers. I really appreciate that I can plug my Volvo in at night and wake up to a full charge—something I couldn't do with the VW, given my current home electrical setup.

It may sound like I dislike the car, but I don't. There's a lot to like. It's comfortable,

**Sidenote:**  
by Fred Palmer (lessee)  
A another big part of the frustration with this vehicle is with the charging company Electrify America. Volkswagen offered free charging for three years with the ID.4, but only with Electrify America stations. (Volkswagen owns Electrify America) I have found that the charging stations are often unreliable, broken or very slow, and they have some of the worst customer service of any company I've ever dealt with. Often calling customer support would land me on hold for so long that I usually just gave up. We did not put a charging station in our home, because of the expense and we thought that it would be free and easy to charge at Electrify America stations. (It is not.) Although some of this is getting better, slowly, it is, obviously, still a sore subject.



Charging at the new Costco in Natomas.

quiet, and spacious enough for weekend yard sales or trips to Home Depot, and easily has room for four adults. The materials, fit, and finish are perfectly fine—though not particularly luxurious—and visibility from the driver's seat is better than in my Volvo.

But again: software, software, software. The operating system reminded me of Windows 95. It usually got the job done, but there was

little joy in using it. Sadly, my friend is counting the days until he can return the car at the end of his lease. I really wish he were enjoying his VW experience more—but I fear it's too late for that. I do know VW has made major upgrades to the software in newer models, but unfortunately, those updates aren't available for older versions. That's a shame.





# Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

August kicks off with a sizzling lineup of events sure to keep your summer energy high. From candlelit concerts and Shakespeare with a disco twist to pet vaccine clinics and 21+ cupcake nights, Sacramento is serving up something for everyone. Whether you're chasing live music, indulging in sweet treats, or solving a dinner theater mystery, there's no shortage of fun to be found.

## July 26

Get ready to relish the fun at the Pickle Party on Saturday, July 26, at 11 a.m. at the Oak Park Farmers Market, 3500 5th Ave. Held in McClatchy Park, this "dill"-lightful event features live demonstrations, global pickling traditions and family-friendly fun. It's a tangy celebration that's sure to leave everyone in a briny good mood! Foodliteracycenter.org

Experience the sounds of Coldplay and Imagine Dragons like never before at Candlelight: Coldplay X Imagine Dragons on Saturday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the California State Railroad Museum, 125 I St. This 60-minute concert, performed by the Listeso String Quartet under the warm glow of candlelight, blends hits like "Clocks," "Believer" and "Viva la Vida" in a stunning sensory setting. Feverup.com

Protect your furry friend without breaking the bank! Yolano Veterinary Service is offering low-cost vaccination appointments for pets July 26-27 at locations throughout the Sacramento area. Keep your pet healthy with Dog and Cat Shots by YolanoVet. Schedule a visit for your dog or cat by creating an account or logging in at dogandcatshots.com.



## Thru July 27

Get ready to be dazzled as the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival rolls out a glittering reimagining of A Midsummer Night's Dream—now through July 27. Set against the sparkle of Xanadu, this whimsical production blends Shakespeare's classic tale of love and mischief with disco beats, ELO hits and roller-skating fun. It's Shakespeare like you've never seen it—fabulous, funky and full of magic. Sacramentoshakespeare.net

## July 31



## July 31

Get ready to strut your stuff with Behind the Seams at Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. It's a one-night-only fashion experience on Thursday, July 31, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the museum. Free for members and included with general admission, this stylish evening offers runway showcases, interactive workshops and upcycled couture from local and student designers. From custom sneakers to live garment construction, you'll see how every stitch tells a story—and maybe even create a piece of your own. Crockerart.org

## Aug. 1

Step into a night of suspense, secrets and spaghetti at the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Show, held at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1910 J St. This interactive whodunit invites guests to solve a thrilling crime while savoring a delicious three-course meal. But beware—anyone could be the killer, even you! Friday Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. Tickets available on Eventbrite.

## Aug. 1-7

Feel the beat of the city in In The Heights, running Aug. 1-7 at Broadway At Music Circus, UC Davis Health Pavilion, 1419 H St. From Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, this Tony-winning musical pulses with Latin rhythms, hip-hop and heart, following a tight-knit community and a bodega owner chasing dreams in a neighborhood on the verge of change. BroadwaySacramento.com



## Aug. 7

Join the fun at Rainbow Chamber Drag Queen Bingo, on Thursday Aug. 7 at Mangos, 1930 K St. All seating is first come, first served, with the game starting at 7 p.m. A \$20 cash donation to play. Don't miss this exciting and charitable event with proceeds going to the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance. Rainbowchamber.com

*Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to matthewburlingame@gmail.com.*

## Aug. 8

Ben Folds brings his genre-bending musical talents to the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway in Folsom on Friday, Aug. 8. The Emmy-nominated composer, known for his solo work and Ben Folds Five, continues to inspire with symphonic collaborations and advocacy for music education. Harriscenter.net



Sugar Coated Cupcakes is turning up the heat with Cupcakes After Dark, a 21+ after-hours dessert experience on Friday, Aug. 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. at 5774 Broadway. Indulge in three gourmet cupcakes to spike and style at the Topsy Toppings Bar, sip on a handcrafted cocktail, and vibe to smooth R&B. Tickets must be purchased in advance—come get a little frosted! Sugarcoatedcupcakes.com





# THE VENUE

— AT THUNDER VALLEY —



MELISSA ETHERIDGE & INDIGO GIRLS  
AUGUST 8 • 7:30PM

**THIRD EYE BLIND**  
WITH NEON TREES  
JULY 25 • 7:30PM

**SUMMER BASH**  
VIETNAMESE CONCERT  
JULY 26 • 7:30PM

**RICK SPRINGFIELD**  
I WANT MY 80'S TOUR  
WITH JOHN WAITE, WANG CHUNG  
& PAUL YOUNG  
AUGUST 1 • 7PM

**KEYSHIA COLE**  
THE WAY IT IS: 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
WITH FRIDAYY AND LIL' KIM  
AUGUST 2 • 7PM

**DEF LEPPARD**  
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**JASON BONHAM'S**  
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# Broadway at Music Circus Scales "The Heights"

by Chris Narloch



Before he blew up with the mega-musical "Hamilton," Lin-Manuel Miranda found success on Broadway with the more modest yet no less entertaining musical, "In the Heights."

In 2021, before he made the "Wicked" films, John M. Chu directed the big-screen version of "In the Heights" which should have been a much bigger hit at the movies.

The stage version was a big success on Broadway and beyond, however, and it returns to Sacramento in early August, courtesy of Broadway at Music Circus.

Lin-Manuel Miranda's multiple Tony-winning Best Musical captures the sights and sounds of a vibrant New York City neighborhood on the brink of change, telling the story of a bodega owner whose life is interwoven with residents who visit his store.

The musical's thrilling score combines Latin rhythms, hip-hop and pop for an exhilarating journey about chasing your dreams and what it truly means to be home.

"In the Heights" will perform August 1-7 at Sacramento's UC Davis Health Pavilion. Please visit: <https://www.broadwaysacramento.com/production/in-the-heights>

# Studio Ghibli Summer at Tower

If you are a fan of great movies - and especially great animated movies - then you have probably seen a film by Hayao Miyazaki, the genius Japanese director behind "The Boy and the Heron," "Spirited Away," and "Princess Mononoke," among other fantastic films.



Sacramento's Tower Theatre frequently brings Miyazaki's movies back to the big screen where they belong, and this summer is no exception. The theatre's "Studio Ghibli Festival" continues through September 4 with the three titles referenced above, plus four others, and most of the seven were directed by Miyazaki.

Studio Ghibli is the acclaimed Tokyo animation studio, cofounded by Miyazaki, that has produced dozens of fine films since it was created in 1985, including "My Neighbor Totoro" and "Howl's Moving Castle" (Those two are not being shown this summer.)

The other four classics that are showing this summer are "Kiki's Delivery Service," "Castle in the Sky," "From Up on Poppy Hill," and "Whisper of the Heart."

For dates and ticket information, please [click here](#).

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# It's A Bird...It's A Plane... It's More Summer Films

by Chris Narloch

Emmy nominations were announced recently, and among the nominees with multiple nods were deserving shows such as “Severance,” “The White Lotus,” “Hacks,” and “The Studio.”

I rarely review TV series anymore because the good ones are all widely-acclaimed and so popular that they don't need any help from me.

Movie theaters, on the other hand, appear to be on life support, since crowds are often shockingly small when I pay to see new movies at area cinemas.

Therefore, I feel it's my duty to promote big-screen entertainment whenever possible, and to that end, here are my latest movie reviews.



## F1

There is no denying that Brad Pitt is a movie star to the core, and he gives a sexy, appealing performance as a middle-aged but still cocky driver in this new racing drama. Pitt's character is clearly an adrenaline junkie who clashes with a much younger driver on his team (Damson Idris) who is even cockier.

Javier Bardem and Kerry Condon round out the main cast, and the movie features plenty of thrilling action that puts viewers in the driver's seat. At 156 minutes, the film could have used a diet, but I'm not going to complain about too much Brad Pitt because, at 61, he's still hotter than hell. “F1” is currently in wide theatrical release.



## Elio

The latest Disney/Pixar release is another charming animated film from the folks who brought us the “Toy Story,” “Inside Out,” and “Cars” franchises. The title character is a rambunctious 11-year-old orphan who lives with his aunt and is fascinated by outer space.

Elio is mistaken for Earth's ambassador and soon finds himself in another galaxy, making friends for a change, but with eccentric aliens. You can read online all about the queer controversy surrounding the film, but I still enjoyed this colorful, creative movie. “Elio” is currently in wide theatrical release.



## Superman

Brad Pitt isn't the only stud on screen this summer, and this so-so new superhero saga is worth seeing if only for David Corenswet, the unbelievably handsome actor who fills out Superman's red briefs very nicely and also makes a perfect Clark Kent.

All the elements are in place for a first-rate reboot: a brainy and beautiful Lois Lane (Rachel Brosnahan), a sadistic tech-bro' Lex Luthor (Nicholas Hoult), and the aforementioned hunky Superman. Why then was I underwhelmed? Well, the director (James Gunn) obviously believes that “more is more,” and his excessive use of CGI frequently made me feel like I was watching a live-action cartoon. Even the dog is CGI. Currently in wide theatrical release.



## Eddington

This week's Pedro Pascal movie is the fourth feature film by the talented director Ari Aster, who began his career with the double whammy of “Hereditary” and “Midsommar,” two fascinating freak-outs that he has followed with two serious dramas, neither of which hit the bullseye, in my opinion.

Aster's last film, “Beau is Afraid” was so incoherent that it was almost unwatchable, and “Eddington” also stars Joaquin Phoenix, this time as a stubborn small-town sheriff who butts heads with the town's politically-correct mayor (Pascal) during the height of COVID.

I found “Eddington” dated and dull, and I hope Aster gets back to what he does best -- scaring the bleep out of us -- as soon as possible. Currently in wide release but probably not for long.



# Mememes from Facebook

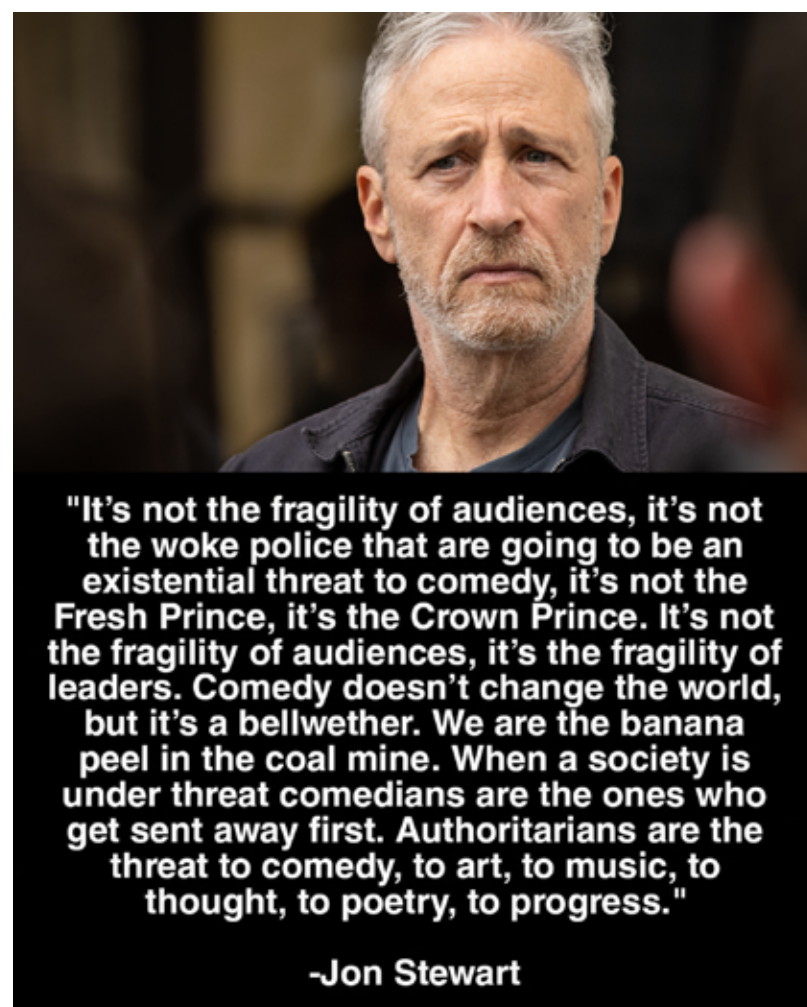
newmexlb

Dear CBS: You have made yourselves entirely irrelevant. Colbert will take his audience with him now that you've cancelled him. Cowardly Broadcast System.



If the Epstein files cleared him, he'd be selling them on Truth Social.

Anonymous



"It's not the fragility of audiences, it's not the woke police that are going to be an existential threat to comedy, it's not the Fresh Prince, it's the Crown Prince. It's not the fragility of audiences, it's the fragility of leaders. Comedy doesn't change the world, but it's a bellwether. We are the banana peel in the coal mine. When a society is under threat comedians are the ones who get sent away first. Authoritarians are the threat to comedy, to art, to music, to thought, to poetry, to progress."

-Jon Stewart



Fascists aren't happy until they silence every voice opposing them.

AudreyLovesPolitics



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

The word is, and it's a strong word at that, Jimmy Kimmel is NEXT to go in the untalented Late Night Sweepstakes and, shortly thereafter, Fallon will be gone. These are people with absolutely NO TALENT, who were paid Millions of Dollars for, in all cases, destroying what used to be GREAT Television. It's really good to see them go, and I hope I played a major part in it!





# Steam Locomotive Granite Rock 10 is Set to Ride the Rails - Again

Visitors to the Old Sacramento Waterfront will soon regularly hear that steam whistle blow as Granite Rock 10 returns to operating service, riding the rails of the Sacramento Southern Railroad. The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are thrilled to announce the historic steam locomotive is set to officially begin pulling weekend excursion trains on August 9, 2025. Moving forward, Granite Rock 10 will likely pull excursion trains on two weekends per month, rotating with historic diesel locomotives. In the meantime, the community and rail fans may see Granite Rock 10 on the excursion train, as the train crew gets fully up to speed operating the steam locomotive for the first time in six years.

Picture courtesy of the CA State Railroad Museum. Photo by Kelly B Huston



Since October 2019, Granite Rock 10 has been out of service for needed maintenance that took place in the historic Railway Shops. Most of the meticulous work done on the locomotive involved a cylinder-rebuilding project followed by precision adjustments to the valves and valve-timing mechanisms. The precision-focused maintenance was led by Chief Mechanical Officer Al DiPaolo who was supported by a dedicated crew of mechanics that specialize in historic rail equipment.

"Still operating steam locomotives such as our prized Granite Rock 10 are true survivors and always have a fascinating story to tell," said Dr. Ty Smith, Director of the California State Railroad Museum. "We invite our local, regional, and world rail community to take a ride back in history to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a historic train ride reminiscent of an earlier time when steam ruled the rails and connected the nation in majestic ways."

As background, Granite Rock 10 was built in 1942 for the U.S. Army Transportation Corps, sold as surplus to Granite Rock Co. of Logan in 1947 before retiring from service in 1960. The historic steam locomotive was later donated to the California State Railroad Museum in 1995 and returned to service in 1997, pulling weekend excursion trains and delighting fans of all ages.

With roots dating back to World War II, Granite Rock 10 tells a tale of ingenuity and using every available technological resource available at the time. "Today, Granite Rock 10 allows the Museum to preserve and teach the now nearly forgotten knowledge associated with the maintenance and operation of steam-driven machinery," said Tim Schroepfer, President & CEO of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation.

In addition to periodic evening and/or special train ride experiences, memorable six-mile, 45-minute excursion train rides are available Fridays through Sundays, with three trains departing on Fridays (11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.) and five on Saturdays and Sundays (10 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.). Advance reservations for excursion train rides are available here. Tickets purchased online may be picked up in the ticket office of the Central Pacific Passenger Station on Front Street between I and J streets at the Old Sacramento Waterfront. If still available, same-day tickets are available at the ticket office as well.

For updates on when Granite Rock 10 will be operating on the Sacramento Southern Railroad, the team will give much advance notice as possible via social media channels. For more information about the California State Railroad Museum or Foundation, please visit [www.californiarailroad.museum](http://www.californiarailroad.museum).

## August 7, 2025

\*Doors open @6. All seating is first come first served. 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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# Activating Taste Buds (ATB)

submitted by Ron Tackitt

## Hawks Public House Revisited

I very much wanted to try Hawks again because it obviously has so much to offer, so for a weekday lunch, we did just that. We started with the Miso Deviled Egg, which was really good. (It should be noted, as our waiter told us, that it's one egg—two halves.) Regardless, totally worth the \$6.

We also ordered the Kennebec Fries with garlic and Parmesan cheese. These were great and came with a very nice aioli.

In the spirit of trying multiple things, we

ordered the Steamed Mussels, which came in a bowl of creamy broth, beautifully flavored and colored with chorizo. Very tasty. I rounded out my lunch with the Bacon and Onion Jam Cheeseburger and regular fries. The burger was cooked perfectly—medium rare—and the onion jam was sweet and added a pop of flavor not usually found in burgers. Inventive and delicious. (Not pictured.)

Sidenote: I would have had the Fish and Chips, but they were sold out. Bummer—but more reason to go back again.

[hawkspublichouse.com](http://hawkspublichouse.com)



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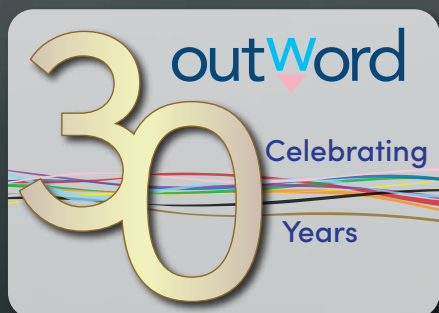
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## Captain Christopher Pike, Uhura, Spock, and even Nurse Chapel are Back!



**S**eaon three of Star Trek: Strange New Worlds has finally begun streaming on the Paramount+ network. This prequel to the original Star Trek is easily one of the best of the many spin-offs in the franchise. With today's digital capabilities, Strange New Worlds easily out-shines the older shows—but what really sets it apart is that the characters feel far less one-dimensional. Among other things it's wonderful that they've made Captain Pike a foodie, complete with a huge gourmet kitchen in his cabin.

Beyond that, the story lines are excellent. The writers aren't afraid to have some fun, but the show never feels silly—even when the whole crew is singing (season two). Although only two episodes of season three are currently available, episode one is, shall I say, stellar.

Welcome back. Live long and prosper. [Paramount+](https://www.paramount.com)

## Faces Nightclub Celebrates 40 Fabulous Years in Lavender Heights

**F**aces Nightclub, a cornerstone of LGBTQ+ nightlife in Sacramento, is marking 40 years in the heart of Lavender Heights. From now through Sunday, August 31, 2025, Faces is honoring four decades of community, pride, and unforgettable memories with nonstop celebrations, including Rainbow Festival.

The anniversary festivities include \$4,000 in giveaways, with \$2,000 going to a lucky guest and another \$2,000 donated to local charities like UC Davis Children's Hospital, Sacramento Food Bank, WEAVE, Lavender Library, and more.

The summer lineup will include: Resident and guest DJs, Karaoke nights and RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Season 10 queens are stopping by for meet & greets and over-the-top drag performances.

The anniversary celebration culminates on Sunday, August 31, with the Sacramento Rainbow Festival — a grand finale featuring performances by David Archuleta, Kristine W, Kandia Salsa Orchestra, DJ Lezlee & VTech, and more.

"Forty years at Faces isn't just a milestone — it's a movement," said club management. "This summer, we celebrate our past, our people, and the future we're building together."

So, raise a glass to 40 years of pride, community, and of course, dancing. Happy anniversary FACES!

For more information about Rainbow Festival, be sure to visit: <https://www.faces.net> or [sacrainbowfest.org](https://sacrainbowfest.org).



Faces nightclub owner Terry Sidie

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**BOOK INTRODUCTION**  
Philip Behrens lived in San Francisco from 1980 to 2018. He took a 10 year break in charming Vacaville from 2001 to 2011. He then moved to Vermont, Cape Cod, and finally Grand Island, New York. Having bought and sold 5 homes over the years, he has a unique perspective on housing in America and how we are not truthful to either ourselves or others where housing is concerned. What is really behind the "charm" campaign of the Cape Cod city of Dennis? He also examines the roots of the emotionality over our abortion policy. Can we be proud as a nation of our policy on housing and our policy on abortion? Along with his discussion of these weighty issues, the author throws in interesting facts on some of the cities he has lived in. To find out which American city has an ACE Hardware with 6 different types of silver polish, "Don't Harm the Charm" is required reading. Available on AMAZON.

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