

outword

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Capital City AIDS Fund Becomes Project Positive

by Guy Farris

Because words matter, Northern California's HIV/AIDS Agency Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) is now called CCAF's Project Positive. Created in 1995, the nonprofit is undergoing a name-change to better reflect advances in science, the evolving language around HIV, and the voices of people who feel the acronym "AIDS" carries stigma.

"Because words do matter, we are listening and we are responding," said Joyce Mitchell, President of CCAF. "I initially resisted moving forward with the change because I've been an AIDS activist so long. But after hearing people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, I agree it's time to move forward."

Supporting the Next Generation Project Positive's Helen Veress-Mitchell Scholarship Fund continues to open doors for HIV-positive students who have connections to Northern California.

This year, nine recipients received \$1,500 each to help them pursue their educational and career goals. Investing in students is investing in our future.

Started back in 2002, this year the scholarship fund is seeing one student finishing a bachelor's degree in social work with plans for law school. Another is pursuing graduate studies in public health at UC Berkeley, and one is training to become a firefighter and paramedic. There are a myriad of ways of helping individuals pursue their goals. One scholarship student is studying cosmetology and barbering.

"These scholarships are more than financial support," said Mitchell. "They represent hope, opportunity, and the belief that our scholars

can thrive in whatever path they choose. By helping them, we see students rebound and grade point averages climb. It's a win-win."

A Legacy of Impact

Since its inception in 1995, CCAF has raised and distributed nearly \$4 million to support individuals living with or affected by HIV in the Sacramento region. The group has undertaken numerous signature events including the Sacramento Valley AIDS Walk & Run that

drew nearly 1,000 participants annually to high-profile fundraisers like Smash Hits featuring Elton John, Billie Jean King, and Carlos Santana. That single event raised more than \$500,000 for the HIV/AIDS community.

For years, the officially sanctioned Oscar Gala drew thousands of people to a fun-filled black tie event. An Evening with Greg Louganis raised funds and much-needed awareness while two Barry Manilow concerts entertained, raising a stunning amount of money.

Certainly last but not least, there was Bette Midler. Celebrities have worked with CCAF

because they know the money raised is not wrapped up in overhead and high costs. It goes to the people in need. These events not only raised critical funds but also helped put Sacramento on the map as a city committed to fighting HIV/AIDS.

Recent Achievements

A State Capitol illuminated RED on World AIDS Day remains a highlight. In 2023, after years of advocacy, CCAF worked with state legislators to light the California State Capitol red for World AIDS Day - December 1st. The powerful tribute honored those lost to AIDS, supported those living with HIV, and underscored the importance of ongoing prevention and education.

Looking Ahead

The organization is also extending its work into storytelling. Board members recently produced Never Too Late?, a powerful half-hour documentary about one of the oldest people in the U.S. to undergo gender affirmation surgery. Nominated for a regional Emmy Award, the program underscores Project Positive's commitment to inclusivity, representation, and well-being.

"Working together is how change is made," said Mitchell. "From prevention to education to supporting students, we remain dedicated to creating a healthier, more hopeful future."



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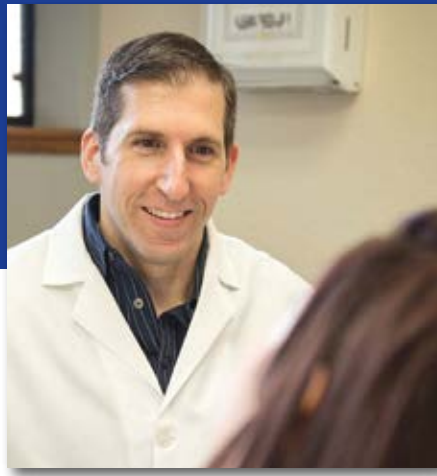
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Administration Imposes \$100,000 Fee for New H-1B Visa Applicants


In a move that very much smacks of retaliation towards Hyundai, the president has announced a sweeping change to the United States' employment visa system, raising the fee for new H-1B visa applications to \$100,000. The new policy, which took effect September 21, 2025, marks a dramatic jump from the previous \$2,000 to \$5,000 charges. According to the administration, the goal is to protect American workers, reduce reliance on foreign labor, and curb what it views as misuse of the program.

The White House has clarified that the new fee applies only to first-time H-1B applicants. Existing visa holders, as well as those renewing or extending their status, will not be subject to the \$100,000 cost. Officials also emphasized that it is a one-time payment rather than a recurring annual fee. Even so, significant uncertainty remains around how the policy will be implemented, particularly in cases involving transfers between employers or petitions filed from abroad.

The H-1B program has long been a key pipeline for highly skilled workers in technology and finance, with companies like Amazon, Microsoft, JPMorgan, and Goldman Sachs relying heavily on the visa to fill roles in engineering, data science, and other specialized fields. For large employers, the sudden increase

could add up to millions of dollars in unexpected expenses. Industry groups in India, where many H-1B workers originate, have called the move prohibitive and disruptive, warning of delays and reduced competitiveness.

Critics argue that the policy could weaken the United States' position in global innovation, particularly in artificial intelligence and other sectors where foreign talent has been critical. Legal experts are also questioning whether the executive branch has the authority to impose such sweeping fees, raising the prospect of court challenges. For now, the new rule is in effect, and both multinational corporations and would-be applicants are scrambling to adjust to a dramatically altered system.

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SB 59, the Transgender Privacy Act, Heads to Governor Gavin Newsom's Desk

The California Legislature has passed SB 59, the Transgender Privacy Act, authored by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), which now heads to Governor Gavin Newsom's desk. The bill seeks to protect transgender and nonbinary people by automatically making all court records related to gender transition confidential, reducing the risk of forced outing and harassment. Current law requires individuals to petition courts to seal such records, leaving their privacy dependent on judicial discretion. SB 59 would extend and expand protections established in 2023's AB 223, which secured confidentiality for minors, to include adults and apply retroactively.

Supporters argue the bill is urgently needed amid a rise in anti-trans harassment and violence. In California, hate crimes motivated by anti-transgender bias grew by over 10% between 2022 and 2023. Nationally, transgender people are more than four times as likely as cisgender peers to experience violent victimization, and 30% reported verbal harassment in just one year. Senator Wiener emphasized that right-wing groups have exploited publicly available personal information to target trans people and expressed confidence the governor will sign the bill.

The legislation also comes as former President Donald Trump has escalated

rhetoric against transgender rights, pledging to restrict access to healthcare, limit youth expression, and bar participation in sports and the military. High-profile cases, such as a transgender woman in Stanislaus County who was harassed after her court records were made public, illustrate the dangers of exposure. Similar privacy protections already exist in Oregon, New York, and Washington.

SB 59 is co-authored by a coalition of Democratic legislators and sponsored by groups including Equality California, the ACLU of Southern California, and the Harvey Milk Democratic Club Transgender Caucus. The governor must act on the bill by October 12.

Restaurant Owner Defies DeSantis' Rainbow Crosswalk Ban with Creative Parking Lot Tribute

An Orlando restaurateur has found a colorful way to push back against Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' crackdown on rainbow crosswalks. When the state ordered the removal of painted intersections and murals, Trina Gregory, owner of Se7en Bites, decided to transform her business's private parking lot into a canvas for pride and community expression.



The original Pulse Memorial
Rainbow Crosswalk

At a recent event titled "Parking Space for Pride — A Rainbow Connection," Gregory offered up all 49 spaces in her lot to local artists and community members. More than 1,000 people applied for the chance to paint, and the resulting designs celebrate LGBTQ+ pride, racial justice, and unity through bold colors and affirming messages. Because the lot sits on private property, it is beyond the reach of Florida's new law, which directs the Department of Transportation to erase all "surface art" on public intersections.

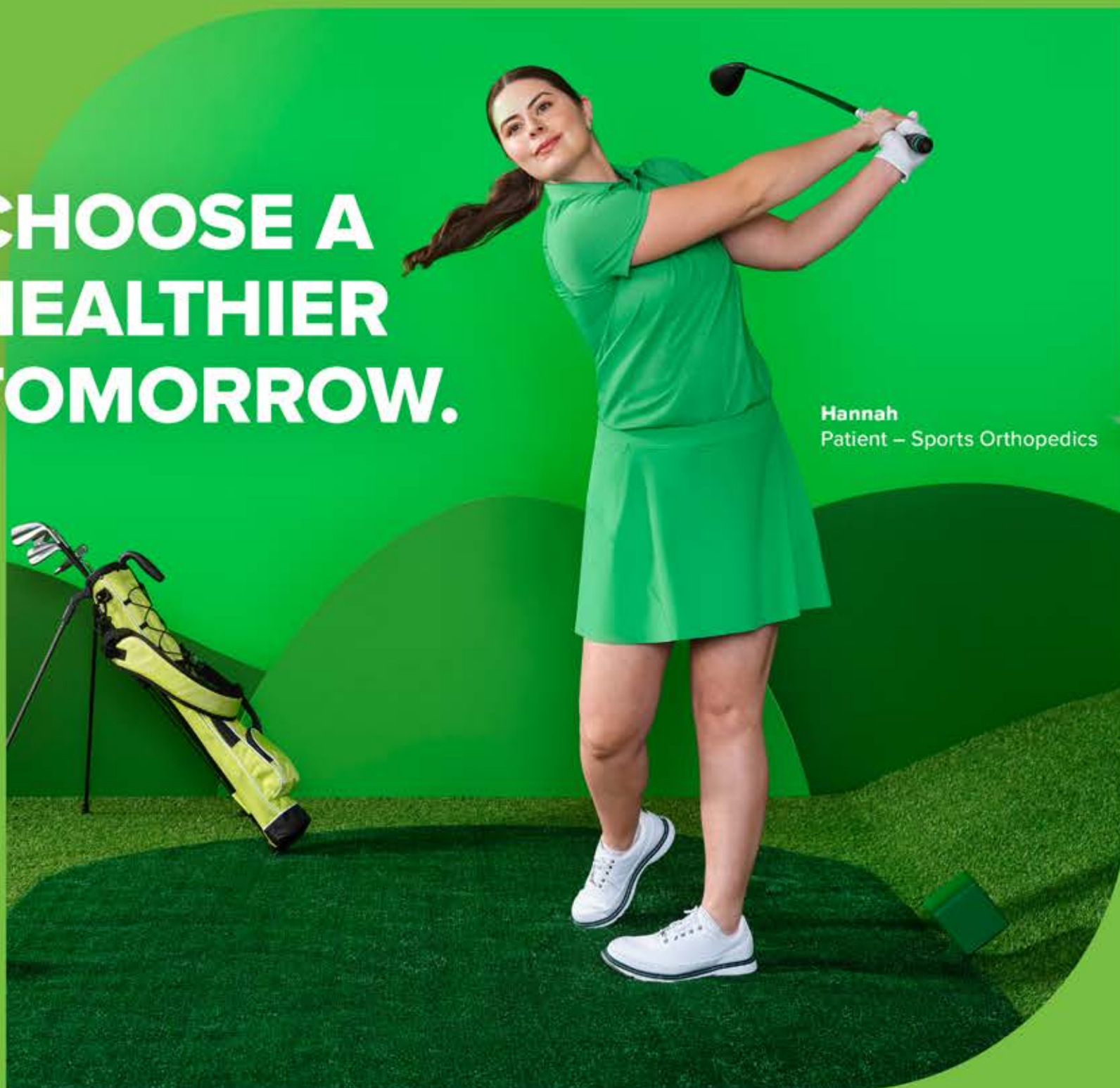
Gregory told the Associated Press that art has long been a tool of "resistance and

healing." She added, "If they want to erase symbols of pride and acceptance, then we'll create even more of them. This isn't just about paint, it's about community, visibility, and love."

The state's crackdown has already seen rainbow crosswalks in Orlando, Key West, and other cities targeted for removal, sparking protests and repeated acts of civil disobedience. Yet grassroots efforts like Gregory's, along with other private initiatives such as rainbow murals at churches, are ensuring that the symbols of inclusion endure—even as officials attempt to scrub them away.

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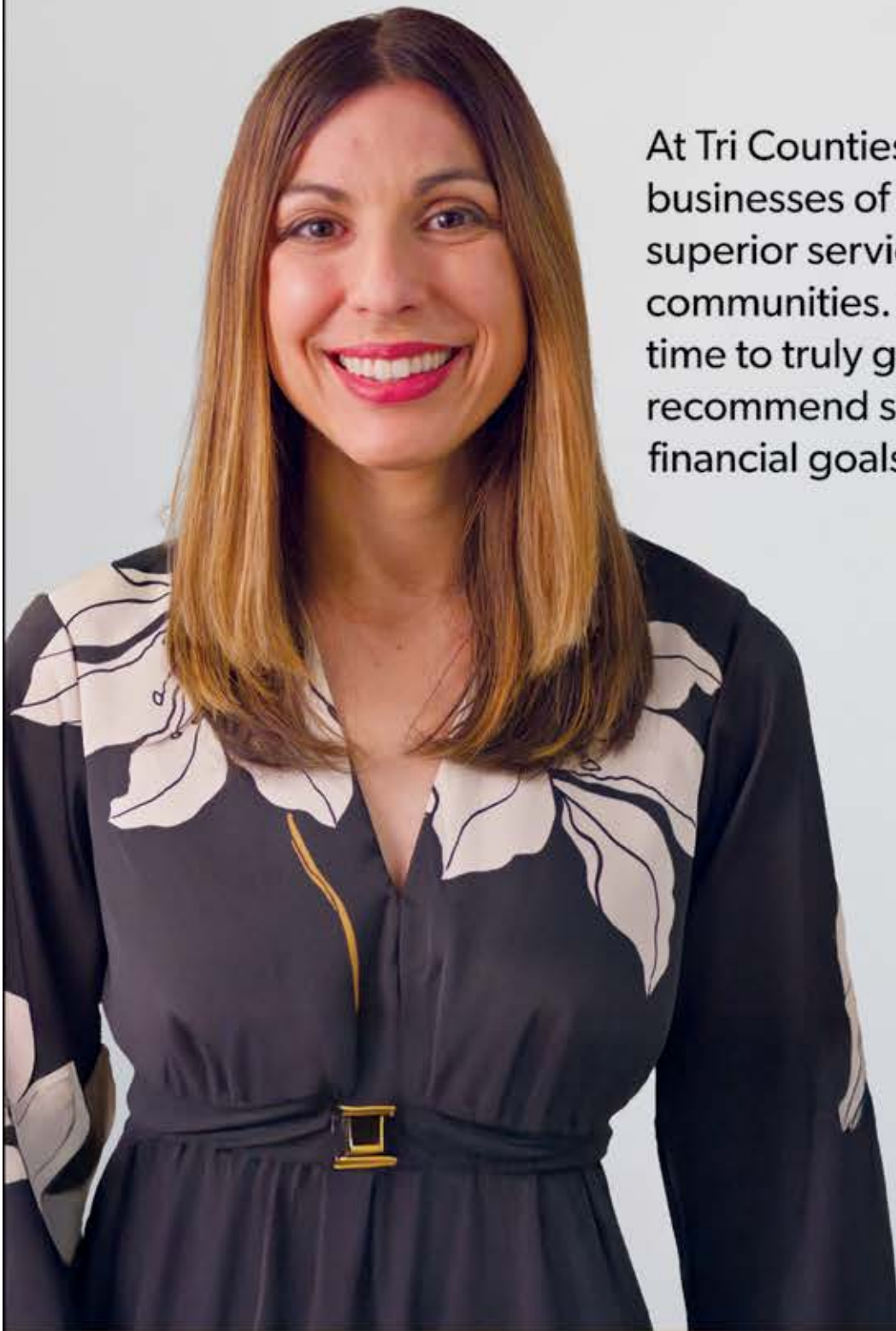
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Folsom will host its first-ever Folsom Family Pride Celebration on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lions Park—a family-friendly day of community, creativity, and connection. The free event will feature inspiring speakers, music, drag performances, local food vendors, arts and crafts, and activities for all ages, plus free flu shots provided by Kaiser Permanente. Supported by local businesses, nonprofits, and civic groups, including Inductive Automation, Little Folks University, Ruby's Books, Ben & Jerry's, and the Folsom Area Democratic Club, the celebration aims to foster inclusion and joy for LGBTQ+ residents, allies, and neighbors. Organizers emphasize that the event is designed to be accessible, welcoming, and a place where everyone can feel seen, respected, and celebrated. More details, including volunteer opportunities, are available at FolsomCAPride.com



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Sac Ballet and SF Opera

by Chris Narloch

Fans of opera and dance have reason to rejoice this fall when Sacramento Ballet and San Francisco Opera unveil their latest offerings.



Sacramento Ballet

This Oct. 24 – Nov. 2, you can experience “Connections,” an intimate, mixed-repertoire performance featuring cutting-edge creations by choreographers with deep roots in Sacramento Ballet: R. Colby Damon, and Company Artist Julia Feldman, and Rehearsal Director Stefan Calka.

Set in the Sacramento Ballet Studios, this powerful program showcases innovative new works in a raw, up-close setting, where the future of ballet is being shaped right here in Sacramento. Go to: www.sacballet.org



San Francisco Opera

“The Monkey King,” an SF Opera World Premiere from Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang, combines high-energy music and text with puppetry, dance, Peking opera, and Buddhist sutras to tell the tale of the Monkey King’s beginnings.

He’s arrogant. He’s disobedient. He’s becoming the most powerful being in creation, and he’s about to wreak havoc on heaven. “The Monkey King” performs Nov. 14 – 30 at San Francisco’s War Memorial Opera House. www.sfopera.com

Get Your Art On This Fall

by Chris Narloch

As the days get cooler this fall and folks are looking for rainy day entertainment options, museums and galleries are a perfect indoor space where you can get your art on.

The two art spaces below are my personal favorite museums in the Sacramento region, but don’t delay because one of the exhibitions in question is ending soon.



Crocker Art Museum

Bringing together the work of photographer Cara Romero and her husband, ceramic artist Diego Romero, the not-to-be-missed exhibition “Tales of Futures Past” focuses on the artistic dialogue between the artists, their wonderful work, and the common themes concerning the complexities and evolutionary nature of Indigenous identity and contemporary life.

You have until Oct. 12 to catch the amazing art of Cara and Diego Romero at Crocker.

Visit: www.crockerart.org



Manetti Shrem Museum

The lungs of our planet – oceans, forests, and the atmosphere – are under threat, invaded by carbon emissions, plastics, and man-made pollutants. The act of breathing was rendered even more perilous by the COVID-19 pandemic and police brutality.

“Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice” considers the connections between social and environmental injustice through the lens of contemporary art.

This groundbreaking exhibition brings together works focused on climate change by artists, scientists, and activists whose practices encompass photography, multimedia, large-scale sculptures, painting and more.

The art of Julio César Morales – artist, curator, and a former museum director – who grew up along the U.S.–Mexico border between San Diego and Tijuana, is also currently on display at Manetti Shrem.

After nearly a decade in Arizona creating work about the border, “OJO” marks Morales’ California homecoming and return to full-time studio practice through a mid-career survey bridging past and future to reflect on the present.

This theme of history and what lies ahead is central to both the “OJO” exhibition and Morales’ neon sign welcoming visitors to the Manetti Shrem Museum.

Both exhibitions are on view through Nov. 29 at the Manetti Shrem Museum in Davis, which is open to the public Thursday through Monday, free of charge.

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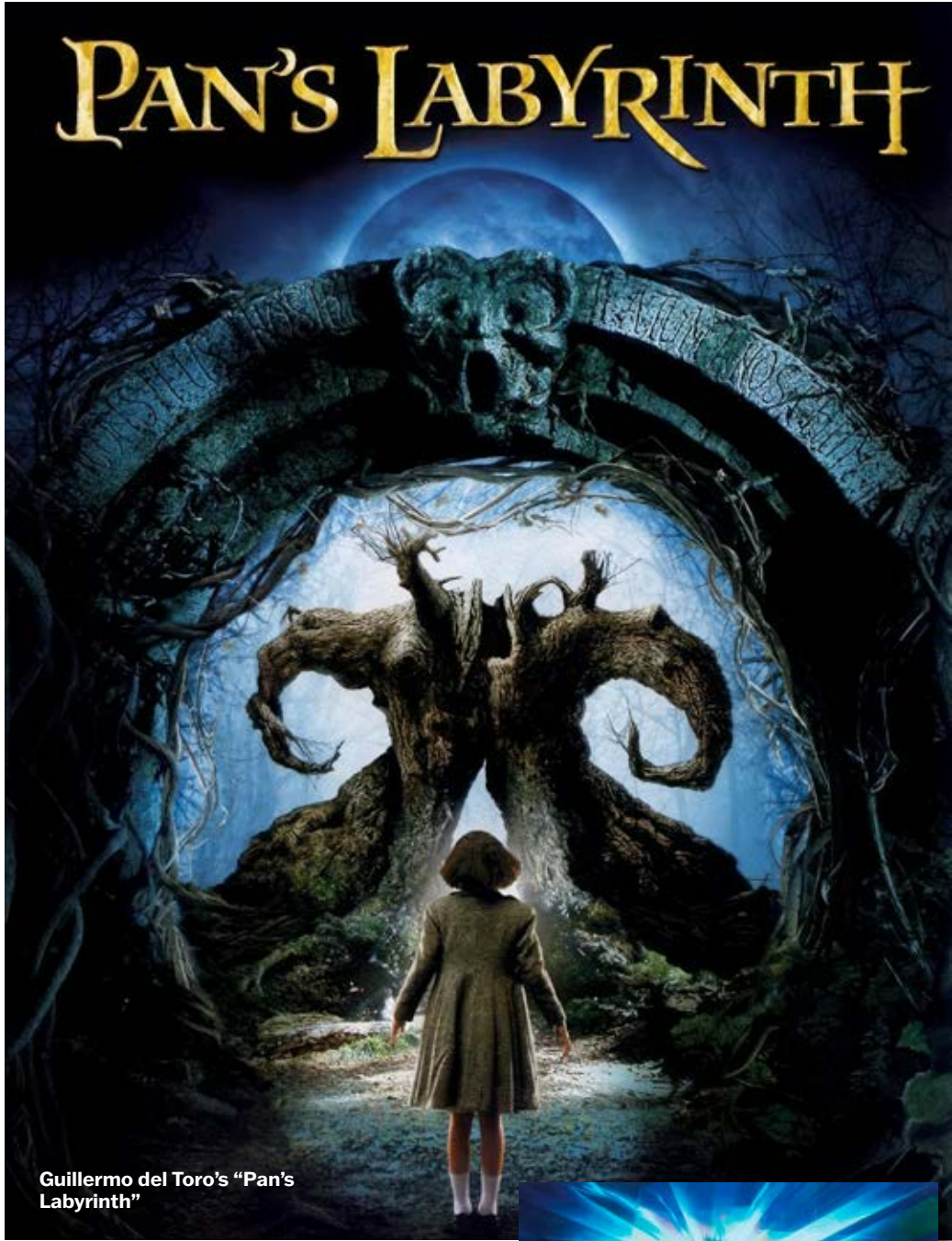
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Creature Features at Tower Theatre

by Chris Narloch

Halloween will be here before we know it, and October is always Scary Movie Month around my house, with one horror movie marathon after another.



Guillermo del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth"

In that spirit, Sacramento's Tower Theatre is presenting Tuesday Night Creature Features during the month of October, featuring four of the finest monster movies from the last forty or fifty years, back on the big screen.

Each Tuesday in October at 7 p.m., The Tower will screen a different horror title for one night only, and the quartet are a wonderfully eclectic bunch.

First up is one of John Carpenter's finest films, his 1982 remake of "The Thing" starring Kurt Russell, with Rob Bottin's great and gory practical special effects.

Next is one of my all-time favorite fantasy-horror films, Guillermo del Toro's sad but stunning political allegory, "Pan's Labyrinth," which can be enjoyed on a purely cinematic level thanks to its stunning cinematography, special effects, and production design, even if you are totally unaware of the movie's historical context.

You can follow up that film with 1990's original "Tremors," an irresistible B-movie creature feature with a super-fun cast that includes Kevin Bacon, Reba McEntire, Fred Ward, and Michael Gross.

Last and probably least – but still a guilty pleasure worth watching – is 2008's "Cloverfield," one of the better found-footage monster movies inspired by the success of "The Blair Witch Project."



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Dorothea Puente & Juliet on Stage Plus, Celebration Arts Strikes Again

by Chris Narloch

The live theatre scene in and around Sacramento is thriving like never before, and this fall will be no exception. Here are three must-see productions that I can recommend without reservation since I have seen them all before.

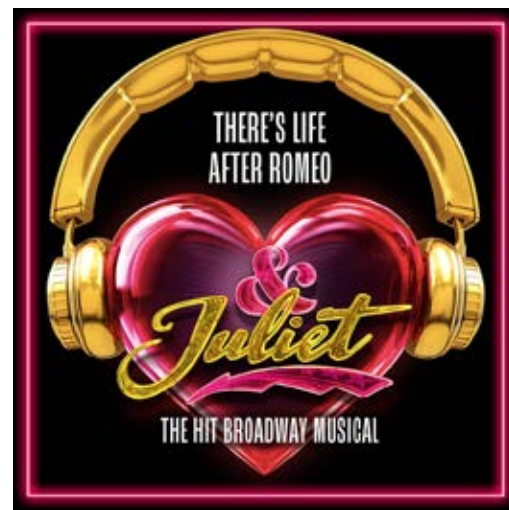
Broadway Sacramento

I had the good fortune to catch “& Juliet” on Broadway a couple years ago, and I was bowled over by how clever and progressive this feminist jukebox musical is - and how musically captivating as well.

“& Juliet” flips the script on the greatest love story ever told, imagining what would happen next if Juliet hadn’t ended it all over Romeo, and got a second chance at life and love, on her own terms.

This audience favorite was created by the Emmy-winning writer of “Schitt’s Creek” and features a playlist of iconic pop hits from Max Martin and his collaborators, including “Since U Been Gone,” “Roar,” “I Want It That Way,” “Confident,” and many more.

Original and flat-out fun, the national tour of “& Juliet” will perform this Sept. 24 – Oct. 5 at Sacramento’s SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. To purchase tickets: www.broadwaysacramento.com



Big Idea Theatre

If you have never seen the great, Sacramento-based actress Janis Stevens play Dorothea Puente on stage, now is your chance to rectify that omission. The actress will reprise one of her signature roles this October at Big Idea Theatre in a production directed by Jackie Martin.

Dorothea Puente was the infamous Sacramento serial killer who was charged with murdering nine of the residents at her boarding house in the late ‘80s, poisoning them and then burying them in the backyard. “Dorothea Puente Tells All!” charts the rise and fall of a crafty villainess who died in prison in 2011 and never stopped maintaining her innocence.

Do not miss this one, when “Dorothea Puente Tells All!” performs Oct. 10 – Nov. 1 at Sacramento’s Big Idea Theatre. Go to: www.bigideatheatre.org



Celebration Arts

Ex-cop and recent widower Walter “Pops” Washington and his newly paroled son Junior have spent a lifetime living between Riverside and crazy. But now, the NYPD is demanding his signature to close an outstanding lawsuit, the landlord wants him out, the liquor store is closed—and the church won’t leave him alone.

When the struggle to keep one of New York City’s last great rent-stabilized apartments collides with old wounds, sketchy new houseguests, and a final ultimatum, it seems that the old days may be dead and gone, or are they?

Playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis hit a huge home run when he penned “Between Riverside and Crazy,” and Sacramento will get a new production courtesy of Celebration Arts and Teatro Nagual, this Oct. 3 – 19. Visit: www.celebrationarts.net



The Sun Sets on the Sundance Kid

by Chris Narloch

I was already a film fanatic as a closeted gay boy in the '70s, and my first same-sex movie crush was on Robert Redford, who drove film fans crazy with his blonde hair, golden tan, and sexy smile.

So, I was saddened to hear that Mr. Redford, the Oscar-winning director, actor, and founder of the Sundance Institute, died at his Utah home at age 89, on September 16, 2025.

Born Charles Robert Redford Jr. on Aug. 18, 1936, in Santa Monica, California, he became one of Hollywood's defining figures over a six-decade career, starring in many hit films, such as "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "Barefoot in the Park," "The Sting," "The Way We Were," and "All the President's Men."

Mr. Redford won the Academy Award for best director for "Ordinary People" in 1980 and established the Sundance Institute in 1981, which sponsors the Sundance Film Festival and helped launch the careers of many independent filmmakers, including Quentin Tarantino and Ryan Coogler.

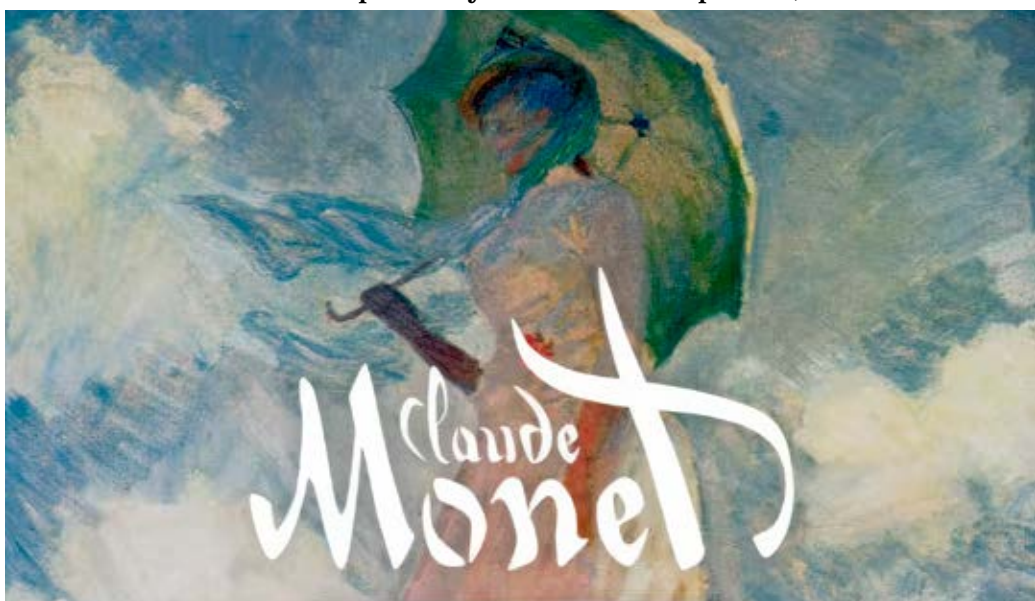
Mr. Redford received the National Medal of Arts in 1996, an honorary Oscar in 2002, a Kennedy Center Honor in 2005, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016, and a place in my heart from the first time I saw him on the big screen.



R.I.P. Robert Redford

Immerse Yourself in the Art of Claude Monet

If you enjoyed the immersive experience featuring the art of Vincent van Gogh in West Sacramento a year or two ago, you can now replicate that event with masterpieces by another iconic painter, Claude Monet.



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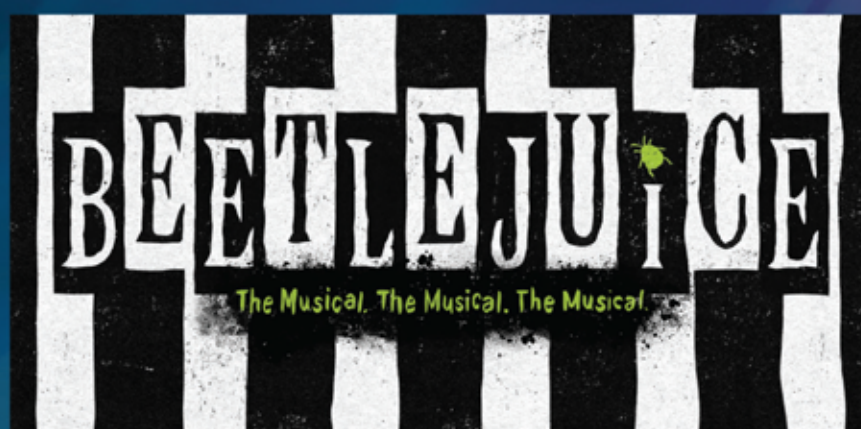
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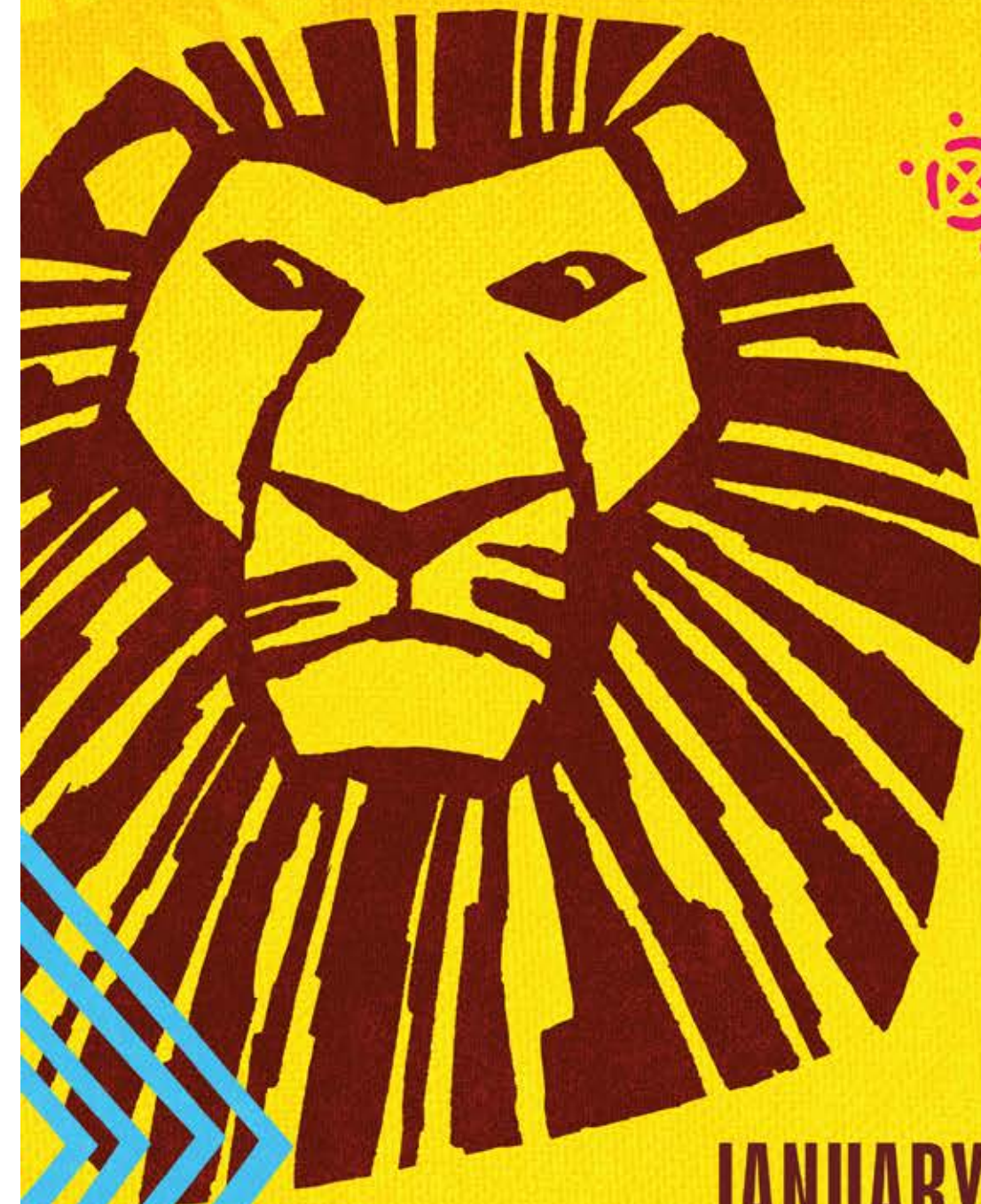
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The Music of Talking Heads and Ledisi

by Chris Narloch

The Mondavi Center in Davis continues to be one of the premier performing arts organizations in the region, and this October that venue showcases the music of some especially great artists.

Stop Making Sense

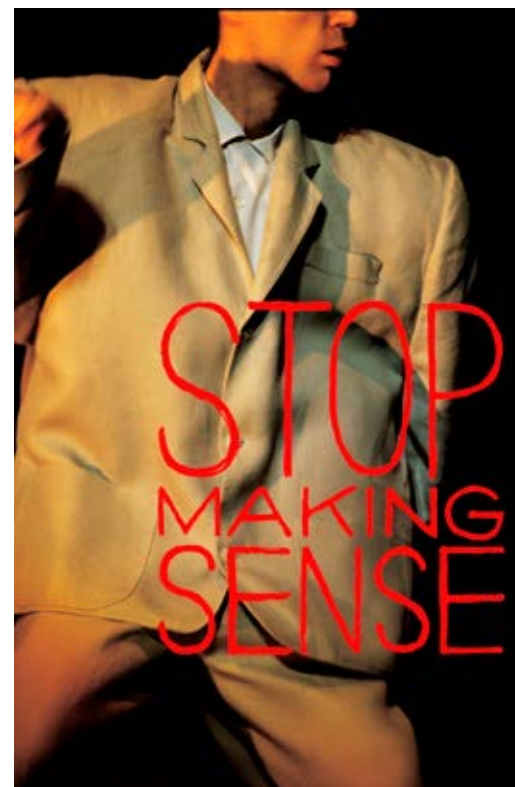
If you have never seen Talking Heads' "Stop Making Sense," inarguably one of the greatest concert films ever made, now is your chance to watch it on the big screen with a member of the band in attendance.

Join Talking Heads guitarist and keyboardist Jerry Harrison for a 40th-anniversary screening celebrating the re-release of one of the most iconic concert films ever made.

The acclaimed filmmaker Jonathan Demme directed "Stop Making Sense," which will be shown in a newly restored 4K version of the 1984 film, featuring band members David Byrne, Chris Frantz, Jerry Harrison, and Tina Weymouth.

The live performance was filmed at Hollywood's Pantages Theater and showcases Talking Heads' most unforgettable songs. Harrison will provide introductory remarks, share insights after the screening, and engage in a Q&A session with the audience.

This not-to-be-missed event is scheduled for the evening of Oct. 3.



Ledisi "For Dinah"

Ledisi's love for classic songs and legendary singers knows no bounds. The Grammy-winning soul singer celebrated the catalog of Nina Simone in 2021, and now this powerhouse vocalist pays tribute to the late, great Dinah Washington.

In her upcoming album "For Dinah," Ledisi honors the legendary blues and jazz singer saying, "She gave me permission to move freely, create freely, be a woman in leadership, wear and say what I want."

Raised in Alabama, Washington sang the blues and jazz with the same charm she brought to pop music. Ledisi brings a similar versatility to work across genres, leading John Legend to call her "one of the greatest singers in the world, period."

Ledisi's musical tribute to Dinah Washington comes to Mondavi Center this Oct. 5, two days after the album is released.

To purchase tickets for these events, go to: www.mondaviarts.org

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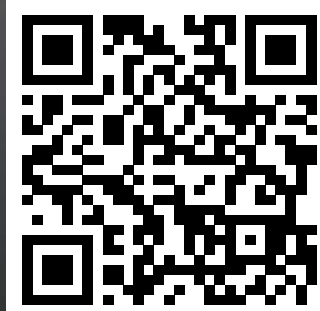
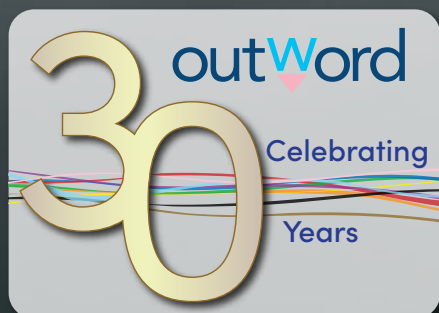
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Concert Fever Grips NorCal *by Chris Narloch*

From Stevie Nicks (Oct. 4) and the Jonas Brothers (Sept. 26), both at Sacramento's Golden 1 Center, to the B-52s with DEVO at Shoreline Amphitheatre (Oct. 16), there are so many cool concerts coming to Northern California this fall, that I hardly know where to begin. Here then is a short list of shows *Outword* is especially psyched about.

Benson Boone

This 23-year-old hunk has backflipped his way into superstardom almost overnight, thanks to his handsome face and a beautiful body that he isn't shy about showing off, in tight jumpsuits and shirtless photos. Oh yeah, he can sing also, thanks to a powerful, versatile voice that pairs nicely with his catchy, hook-filled pop songs. Boone's gay male and straight female fans will no doubt be in a frenzy when he performs this Oct. 1 at San Francisco's Chase Center.



Benson Boone

Sara Evans

This country queen hails from Boonville, Missouri, and she has had five songs reach the number one spot on the Billboard country songs chart, with nine additional singles reaching the top ten. The rare brunette among female country singers, Evans has a gorgeous, rich voice that can sell a tearful ballad like "A Little Bit Stronger" or an upbeat hit such as "Born to Fly." Country fans will not want to miss her show when Evans appears live in concert this Oct. 16 at Harris Center in Folsom, CA.



Sara Evans



Heart

This classic rock band from Seattle has been together for more than 50 years now and shows no sign of slowing down. The Wilson sisters (Ann and Nancy) are the group's stars, along with their amazing catalog of hits, including "Alone," "Magic Man," "Barracuda," "Dreamboat Annie," "Crazy on You," "These Dreams," and many more. They will no doubt raise the roof when they perform this Nov. 21 at Hard Rock Live Sacramento (in Wheatland).



Tim McGraw

Tim McGraw

Tim McGraw has helped define modern American country music with his melodic heartfelt songs and sandy Southern twang. His unparalleled career includes 46 number one singles and 19 number one albums, including "Not a Moment Too Soon" and "Live Like You Were Dying." His innate ability to reach audiences beyond country fans is well known, and now the time has come for this country superstar's first appearance at The Venue at Thunder Valley, on Oct. 24.



Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah is known for his seven-year run as host of "The Daily Show," as the author of best-selling books, and for cracking up sold-out audiences worldwide. His latest tour promises fresh material, Noah's signature storytelling, and the brilliant observations that have made him a household name. Get your tickets, settle in, and experience a classic comedy concert by one of the world's most successful comedians, inside The Venue at Thunder Valley, on Nov. 7.



The Isley Brothers

The Isley Brothers

Originating as a teenage gospel quartet in the mid-'50s, The Isley Brothers have been getting fans in the groove (and in the mood) for almost 70 years. Ronald and Ernie Isley are still going strong and recently collaborated with Beyonce. Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1992, the group achieved Songwriter's Hall of Fame induction in 2022 and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. With sixteen Top 40 albums and countless hits including "Shout," "This Old Heart of Mine," and "For the Love of You," their impact is indelible. The Isley Brothers will perform this Nov. 14 at Hard Rock Live in Wheatland.



Conan Gray

Conan Gray

This talented, 26-year-old twink (and former YouTuber) was born in Lemon Grove, CA but raised in Texas, and he has a huge queer following thanks to his confessional lyrics about romantic longing and heartbreak. Addictive singles such as "Heather," "Maniac," and "Memories" have vaulted Gray to the top of the charts, and his androgynous fashion sense has made him a favorite of Gen Z. You can bask in Gray's glow when he brings his current tour to Shoreline Amphitheatre this Oct. 3.

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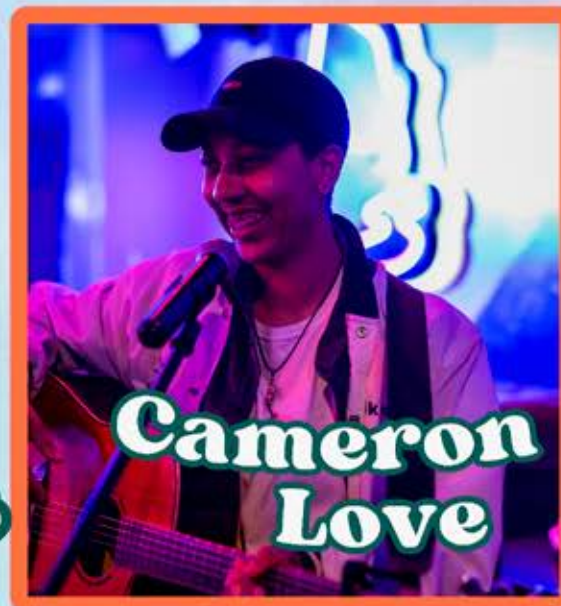
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Stephen King & Downton Abbey 3 Plus, A Queer Love Story Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

I was unable to screen Paul Thomas Anderson's new film, "One Battle After Another," before our deadline, but many critics are calling it the best movie so far this year.

PTA filmed part of that nearly-three-hour epic right here in River City, and I will be heading to the Esquire IMAX on K Street after the movie opens on Sept. 25, to see what all the fuss is about.

If you don't want to fight those crowds just yet, here are four other films currently playing in local theaters, although only one or two of them are worth your time and money.



Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale

I have heard the complaints that some critics have lodged against this hugely popular TV series and the trio of films it inspired, and yet I simply cannot resist the guilty pleasures of "Downton Abbey," which are largely a result of its enormously talented cast and the plush costumes and production design.

Sadly, Dame Maggie Smith died before the movie was made, but her character's spirit hangs in the air and gets a nice tribute. So, if this really is the show's grand finale, it is an entertaining and classy exit for the lovable inhabitants of Highclere Castle. Currently in wide theatrical release.



The Long Walk

Although well-made, this big screen adaptation of a 1979 dystopian novel by Stephen King is so dark and disturbing that I do not think it works as popular entertainment. King's story concerns a death march in which a group of young guys compete to be the last man standing, who will win a large cash prize and get his wish granted. The losers get shot along the way if they slow down or stop walking.

Mark Hamill is oddly cast as the villainous Major in the movie, but the performances by the young actors who play the walkers are solid. Still, the brutality inherent in the plot, and the graphic way most of the deaths are filmed, left me feeling horrified, and not in a good way. "The Long Walk" is currently in wide theatrical release.



HIM

It must be incredibly frustrating for an actor to give a very good performance in a very bad movie, but that - I am sorry to say - is the case with this bizarre horror movie about an up-and-coming football star who learns to be a killer athlete (in more ways than one) while at a violent training camp run by an established star quarterback, played by Marlon Wayans.

The script has no internal logic, and ideas about sports stardom and the cult of American football are dangled and then squandered to the extent that even the strong work by Wayans and the super-sexy young star of the movie, Tyriq Withers, cannot save the film. "HIM" is currently in wide theatrical release.



The History of Sound

This gay love story stars two terrific actors (Paul Mescal and Josh O'Connor) as a pair of young men in the shadows of WWI who are determined to record the lives, voices, and music of their American countrymen. As they begin to log the events, the two fall in love.

The film is lovely to look at, and the two leads are very good, but the movie is slow and a little dull in places. Even so, I can recommend you see the film, which opened on Sept. 19 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre, for the fine work by Mescal and O'Connor.



Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

As autumn officially settles in it brings with it a season of reflection and gratitude. This is a time for slowing down, taking stock, and cherishing the people who matter most. For many of us, family isn't defined by blood but by the bonds we choose—our found family. What better way to honor those connections than by gathering together? This month offers plenty of amazing events to enjoy with the ones you love.

Sept. 25

Enjoy live music in a loose, easygoing atmosphere and celebrate this quintessentially American musical genre. The Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., hosts Jazz Night: Cosmic Roots on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. The multi-instrumental ensemble weaves jazz, funk and soul in two 45-minute sets (with a 15-minute intermission). Crockerart.org



Walk to End Alzheimer's - Sept. 27

Sept. 27

The Alzheimer's Association invites everyone to the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 8 a.m. at William Land Park, Sacramento. The world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's and dementia research, the event raises awareness and supports new treatments. Participants are encouraged to register and join the movement for hope, action and community impact. Alz.org

Riverside United Methodist Church, 803 Vallejo Way celebrates the new season with the Mid-Autumn Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Families and friends can enjoy game booths, Asian street food, lively performances and a free mooncake tasting. The evening concludes with a lantern parade through the neighborhood. Admission is free. Sac-rumc.org

The Cordova Recreation & Park District hosts Barktoberfest on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lincoln Village Park, 3450 Routier Road, Rancho Cordova. The family-friendly event invites guests of all ages to enjoy doggie swimming, food, a beer garden, music and more in a lively community celebration. Lincolnvillage.org



Judy Collins - Sept. 30

Sept. 30

Folk icon Judy Collins performs Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., Sacramento. Known for her Grammy-winning "Send in the Clowns" and her timeless rendition of Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now," Collins continues to enchant audiences with her poetic songwriting, evocative voice and influential legacy in folk music. Cresttheater.com

Oct. 2

Drag Queen Bingo returns Thursday, Oct. 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Mango's, 1930 K St., Sacramento. Hosted by the fabulous DoMe Moore, the lively fundraiser benefits Lavender Heights, supporting the rainbow crosswalk and street topper signs. A \$20 cash-only donation is required. Doors open at 6 p.m., with first-come, first-served seating. Rainbowchamber.com

Oct. 3

Celebration Arts presents Between Riverside and Crazy Oct. 3–19 at 2727 B St. Written by Stephen Adly Guirgis and directed by Broadway veteran François Battiste, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play follows ex-cop Walter "Pops" Washington as he clings to his rent-controlled apartment and fractured family. With sharp humor and heart, it explores resilience and belonging. Celebrationarts.vbotickets.com



Stevie Nicks - Oct. 4

Oct. 4

Stevie Nicks performs Saturday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. at Golden 1 Center, 500 David J. Stern Walk, Sacramento. The legendary singer-songwriter, known for her solo success and iconic work with Fleetwood Mac, was the first woman inducted twice into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Fans can expect timeless hits from her storied career. Golden1center.com

Oct. 5

The Fall Makers Market comes to DOCO's west plaza, 405 K St., Sacramento, on Saturday, Oct. 5. Presented by River City Marketplace, the pop-up runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features local artisans, crafters and makers offering handmade goods, plants and specialty items, with live DJ music enhancing the shopping experience. Rivercitymarketplace916.com

Oct. 9

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce presents its annual Boas & Bow Ties Gala on Thursday, Oct. 9, at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard St. This year's theme celebrates the northern lights with an evening of dinner, entertainment and community connection. Guests are invited to sparkle in blue, purple and aurora-inspired style. Rainbowchamber.com

Oct. 11

The River District will host the Coming Out Day Festival on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 611 Riverine Way, Sacramento. The celebration features live performances by LGBTQ+ artists, local vendors, and community resources ranging from harm reduction to gender-affirming care, creating an inclusive space of empowerment and connection. Riverdistrict.net

Ongoing

Apple Hill is alive and buzzing with this year's harvest! With over 155 acres, High Hill Ranch is the largest, most visited Apple Hill farm of Placerville. Featuring an on-site restaurant and bakery the ranch is dog friendly and features a large selection of farm attractions. Open through Christmas Eve. Highhillranch.com



Il Divo

Coming Attractions

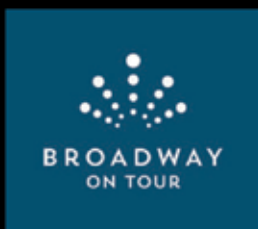
Il Divo brings its "By Candlelight" tour to Harris Center for the Arts on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at 10 College Parkway, Folsom. The classical-crossover quartet revisits two decades of romance and drama, joined by Phoenix string trio Simply Three, who also opens an intimate show. Get tickets now! Harriscenter.com

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“Wicked: For Good” Is Almost Here

Broadway fans, movie fans, and music fans have less than two months until the movie event of the year arrives, when “Wicked: For Good” is released.



Republic Records and Verve Records recently announced that the soundtrack for the highly anticipated conclusion to Universal Pictures’ global cinematic sensation, “Wicked,” will be released this November 21, the same day the sequel arrives in theaters everywhere. “Wicked: For Good – The Soundtrack” follows last year’s history-making release of “Wicked: The Soundtrack,” which achieved the highest debut ever for a theatrical adaptation of a stage musical and the biggest sales week for any soundtrack this decade. The new soundtrack, with music and lyrics by award-winning composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz, will include two new original songs featured in the film: “No Place Like Home” performed by Cynthia Erivo, and “The Girl In The Bubble,” performed by Ariana Grande. In addition, the song “The Wicked Witch of the East,” which was previously not included in the Broadway Cast Recordings, will be featured on the new soundtrack. The soundtrack will be released in multiple formats including CD, double vinyl, double picture disc and digitally. Target will have an exclusive lenticular version, in addition to exclusive versions with Amazon, Walmart and Barnes & Noble.

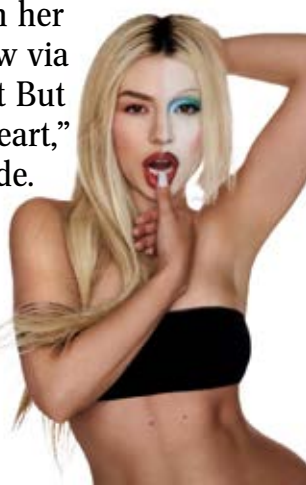
Ava Max Unveils Third Studio Album “Don’t Click Play”

Global pop powerhouse Ava Max is back with her third studio album, Don’t Click Play, out now via Atlantic Records. Known for hits like “Sweet But Psycho,” “Kings & Queens,” and “My Head & My Heart,” Ava has racked up over 22 billion streams worldwide.

The album features standout singles “Wet, Hot American Dream,” “Lovin’ Myself,” and “Lost Your Faith,” each with music videos totaling over 7 million views on YouTube. Fans can also enjoy tracks like “Sucks To Be My Ex,” “World’s Smallest Violin,” and “Catch My Breath,” which showcase Ava’s signature blend of infectious dance beats and heartfelt lyrics.

With Don’t Click Play, Ava Max returns stronger and bolder than ever, delivering hits that resonate worldwide.

For more info and purchase options [click here](#).



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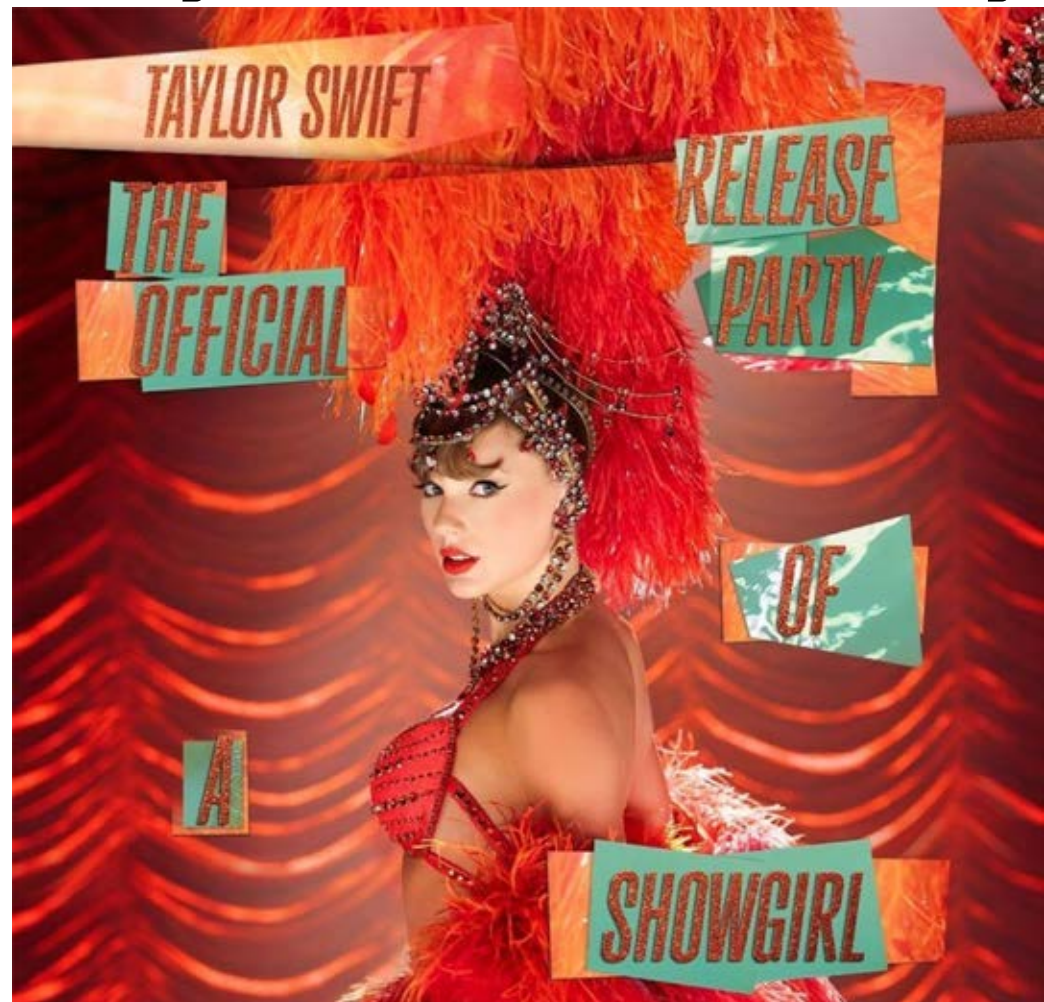
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Coming Soon to a Theater Near You Taylor Swift's Album Release Party



You can celebrate the official release party for Taylor Swift's 12th studio album, "The Life of a Showgirl," with other 'Swifties' this Oct. 3–5 at a theater near you.

See the exclusive world premiere of the music video, "The Fate of Ophelia," along with behind-the-scenes footage from the music video shoot, brand new lyric videos, and Taylor's never-before-seen personal reflections on songs from her new album.

The runtime is approximately 90 minutes, and there will be no trailers or ads before the screening, so be sure to arrive early.

Sacramento's Tower Theatre is one of the participating theaters. For tickets, [click here](#).

OPA! Sacramento Greek Festival is Coming

The Sacramento Greek Festival is a three-day celebration of Greek culture, food, music, dance, and traditions, hosted at the Greek Orthodox Church located at 616 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA. The event runs from Friday & Saturday, October 3-4, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, and on Sunday, October 5 from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM.



Visitors can expect a wide array of authentic Greek fare — everything from souvlaki, spanakopita, gyros, and meze appetizers, to traditional Greek pastries like baklava and loukoumades.

There will also be live entertainment including traditional Greek dance performances, free dance lessons, cooking demonstrations, and music featuring both Greek bands and DJs.

Admission is \$5 for ages 13 and up, while kids 12 and under get in free. The festival is produced primarily by volunteers from the local Greek Orthodox community and serves both as a cultural celebration and fundraiser for church outreach, youth programs and related charitable activities. For more information, [check out their website](#).



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To enter, fans can visit the official sweepstakes page at alltroo.com/rally/jonas-brothers. No guitar skills required! The grand prize is a 2025 Volkswagen ID. Buzz Pro S in Pomelo Yellow—the same electric bus the Jonas Brothers used during their 20th anniversary tour.

Key Details:

- Entry Period: Now through November 15, 2025
- Winner Announcement: December 17, 2025
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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.

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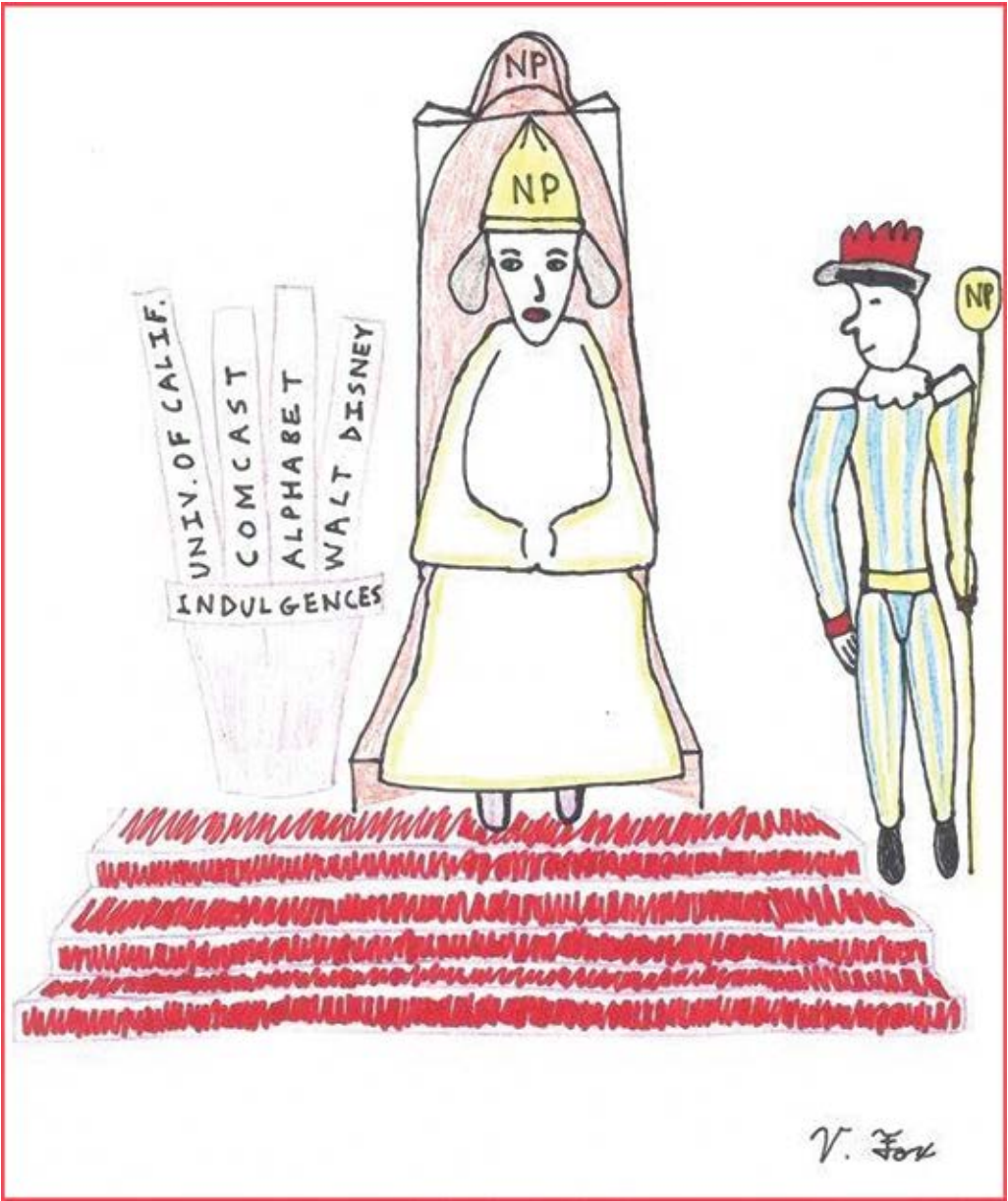
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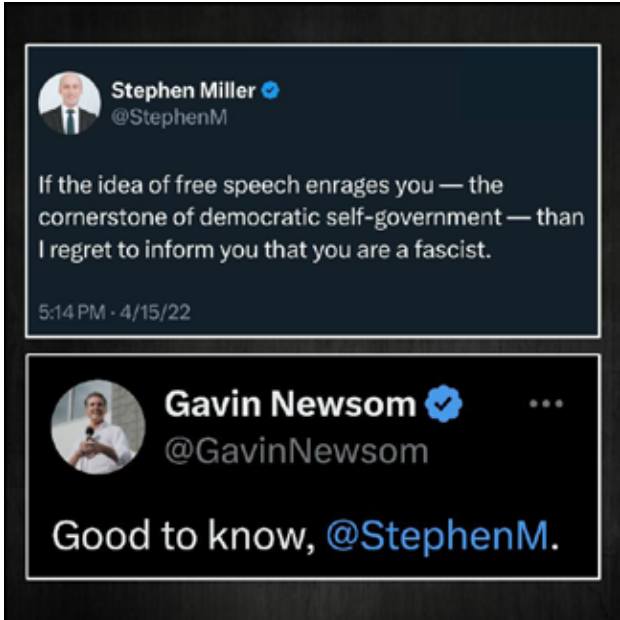
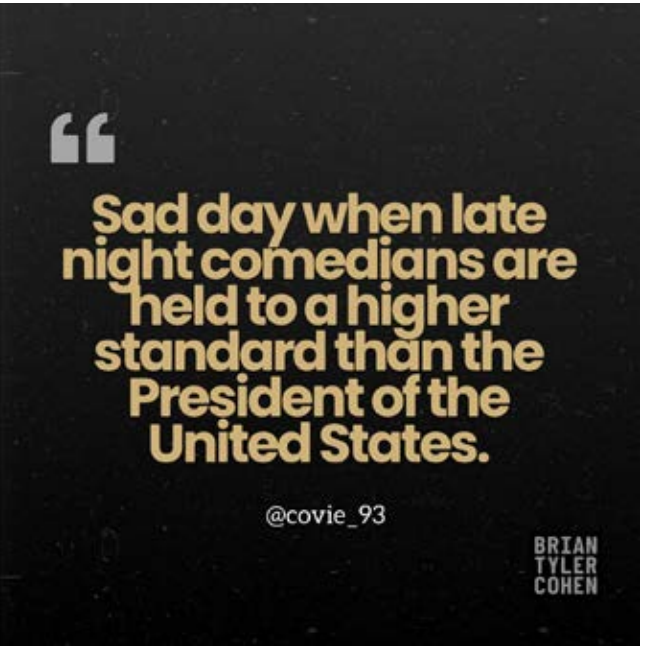
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