

outword

No. 779 • October 23, 2025
www.outwordmagazine.com



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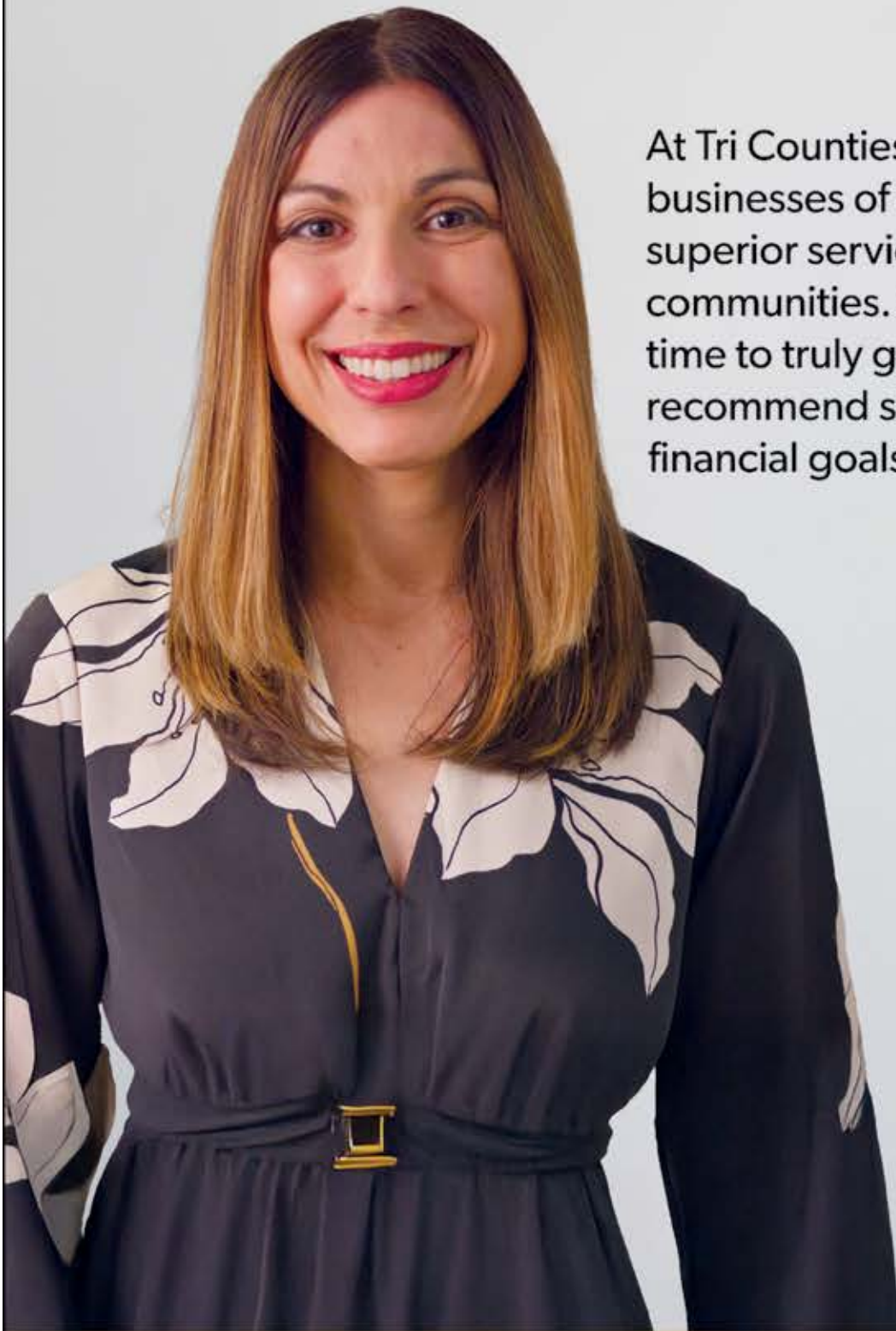
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Photo Contest Winner
Penny

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Officials Confirm First U.S. Cases of More Severe Mpox Strain With No Travel History

Health officials have confirmed what may be the first U.S. cases of in-country transmission of a more severe strain of mpox. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reported that a Long Beach resident tested positive for “clade I mpox,” while the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) confirmed a second, similar case. Neither patient, whose identities were not released, had recently traveled outside the country. Both were hospitalized but have since been released and are recovering in isolation.

Investigators in Long Beach, which operates its own city health department, said they have not identified a link between the two cases or any evidence of international exposure. A few close contacts have been vaccinated as a precaution, according to CDPH officials. Clade I mpox is considered more severe than the more common clade II strain that caused the 2022 global outbreak. Symptoms can include fever, body aches,

and, in more serious cases, painful skin lesions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that clade I infections can have a mortality rate of up to 10%, compared to less than 4% for clade II. Health officials emphasize that the overall risk to the public remains low, and that the Jynneos vaccine continues to provide protection against both strains. Mpox — renamed from monkeypox in

2022 — is caused by a virus related to smallpox and is endemic in parts of Africa. While the 2022 clade II outbreak primarily affected men who have sex with men, clade I has shown a broader transmission pattern in African nations. “It’s concerning if this virus has come here and is now starting to be transmitted from person to person,” said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University.

Study Finds COVID-19 Vaccines Saved 2.5 Million Lives Worldwide

A new JAMA Health Forum study estimates that COVID-19 vaccinations prevented about 2.5 million deaths worldwide between 2020 and 2024. Researchers modeled global outcomes and found vaccines also saved roughly 14.8 million life-years, according to U.S. Pharmacist. About one death was averted for every 5,400 vaccine doses administered, reports Science Daily, with 82% of those lives saved being people vaccinated before ever contracting the virus.

The study found that 57% of the benefit occurred during the Omicron wave, and nearly 90% of all deaths prevented were among adults aged 60 and older, highlighting how vaccination efforts most protected vulnerable populations (U.S. Pharmacist). While results are based on modeling rather than direct counts, researchers emphasize that the data still demonstrate vaccination’s profound impact on reducing global mortality. They also note that more equitable vaccine distribution—particularly in lower-income regions—could have saved even more lives. For more information and the full article, [click here](#).





The List

Cabaret Macabre

Stepdad's

Halloween at Hagan

SacTown Bites

STAB! Comedy Theater

Trick Art Treat @ the Crocker

The Butterscotch Den

Farm to Fort

Thrifthathon Elk Grove

HitchcockTober

Hallowscream Lazer Concert

The Porch Restaurant and Bar

Golden Harvest Parade and Festival

Las Cafeteras:

Hasta la Muerte

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Governor Signs Laws to Strengthen Protections for Transgender Californians

resource [Office of Scott Wiener](#)

Governor Gavin Newsom has signed two bills by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco)—SB 59 and SB 497—designed to bolster California's legal and privacy protections for transgender people. The legislation reaffirms California's status as a state of refuge for transgender residents and visitors amid growing national hostility and restrictive policies targeting the community.

SB 497 expands on Wiener's earlier SB 107 (2022), which established California as a sanctuary for those fleeing states that criminalize gender-affirming care. The new law requires warrants for law enforcement access to sensitive medical data and makes it a misdemeanor to share such data without authorization. It also strengthens existing privacy safeguards to prevent out-of-state authorities from using California's healthcare systems to target transgender individuals, their families, or providers.

SB 59 extends confidentiality protections to transgender adults by allowing court records related to name or gender changes to be sealed, building upon AB 223, which applied similar privacy measures to minors. The law applies retroactively, ensuring past records are protected as well. The measure was prompted by cases in which transgender people faced harassment after personal information—including former names—was made public.

Senator Wiener emphasized that these laws are a direct response to escalating violence and discrimination against transgender people, as well as inflammatory rhetoric from former President Trump, who has pledged to roll back transgender rights if reelected. In California, anti-transgender hate crimes rose by more than 10 percent between 2022 and 2023, reflecting a broader national trend of increased harassment and violence.

The bills were co-authored by several Democratic lawmakers and sponsored by organizations including Equality California, the ACLU of Southern California, TransFamily Support Services, and Planned Parenthood, underscoring a coordinated statewide effort to safeguard transgender rights and privacy.

Newsom Signs AB 309 to Expand Access to Sterile Syringes, Strengthening HIV and Hepatitis Prevention

resource [Zbur press release](#)

Governor Gavin Newsom has signed Assembly Bill 309, authored by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood), reaffirming California's commitment to harm reduction and public health. The new law, sponsored by organizations including the California Pharmacists Association, the Health Officers Association of California, the Drug Policy Alliance, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, allows pharmacists to continue providing sterile syringes to adults without a prescription—a long-standing measure proven to curb the spread of HIV, hepatitis B and C, and other bloodborne infections.

California first authorized nonprescription syringe sales in 2004, and nearly two decades of research confirm that access to sterile syringes reduces disease transmission and saves lives without increasing drug use. AB 309 also ensures that adults may legally possess syringes for personal use and helps safeguard access for patients who rely on them for medications such as insulin and hormone therapy.

Assemblymember Zbur emphasized that syringe access programs are both "science-driven and cost-effective," noting that preventing a single HIV infection can save the state more than \$300,000 in treatment

costs. Public health leaders praised the bill as a pragmatic step to sustain proven disease-prevention strategies. Susan Bonilla of the California Pharmacists Association called it a "simple, cost-effective way" to stop the spread of preventable diseases, while Kat DeBurgh of the Health Officers Association said it ensures a "proven prevention strategy remains in place."

Advocates from the Drug Policy Alliance and San Francisco AIDS Foundation also lauded the measure as a health-centered approach that prioritizes evidence and compassion over stigma. AB 309 will take effect on January 1, 2026.

Newsom legislative updates, [click here](#).

Newsom Announces State-branded Insulin

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has announced that starting January 1, 2026, Californians with diabetes will be able to purchase state-branded insulin at drastically reduced prices – just \$11 per pen or \$55 for a five-pack. The insulin, interchangeable with glargine (the generic for Lantus), will be produced through a state partnership with nonprofit drugmaker Civica Rx. Comparable insulin products currently sell for more than \$92 per pen at pharmacies.

Newsom described the move as part of California's effort to "take matters into our own hands" rather than wait for the pharmaceutical industry to act. The initiative aims to make the life-saving medication affordable for the roughly 3.5 million Californians living with diabetes, many of whom have struggled with high prices that often force them to ration doses.

The new offering is part of the CalRx initiative, which seeks to reduce prescription drug costs statewide. Newsom first announced the plan to produce low-cost insulin in 2022, pledging \$50 million to partner with Civica Rx and another \$50 million to build a California-based manufacturing facility. The new insulin's release comes two years later than his

original 2024 target, and the state has not provided recent updates on the factory's progress.

State health officials said CalRx's model emphasizes transparent pricing and equitable access, particularly for uninsured and underinsured residents. The announcement follows Newsom's signing of new legislation that caps out-of-pocket insulin costs at \$35 for those with insurance, further expanding affordability.

With this rollout, California becomes the first state to produce and distribute its own brand of insulin – a landmark step in confronting the pharmaceutical industry's long-criticized pricing practices and a major milestone in public health policy aimed at saving lives and reducing medical debt.

Sabrina Carpenter Supports Transgender Law Center



Pop sensation Sabrina Carpenter is putting her money where her heart is. The "Espresso" and "Please Please Please" hitmaker announced that a portion of proceeds from her Short n' Sweet Tour will benefit the Transgender Law Center, one of the nation's leading organizations advancing trans rights and equality.

The donation is part of Carpenter's charitable initiative, the Sabrina Carpenter Fund, created in partnership with PLUS1, which directs tour proceeds to nonprofits supporting social justice and empowerment. Funds raised will help the Transgender Law Center expand programs such as its Legal Information Helpdesk, Black Trans Circles, and Disability Project, among others.

In a statement, the Transgender Law Center thanked Carpenter for using her platform "to uplift trans joy and liberation." It's another sweet move from an artist who continues to mix catchy pop with genuine compassion.

For more, visit transgenderlawcenter.org or sabinacarpenter.com.

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You Can Be A Hero

Across the greater Sacramento area, numerous animal rescue organizations provide safe havens for abandoned, neglected, and surrendered pets. Each plays a vital role in our community by offering adoption services, fostering programs, and medical care to animals in need. The following list highlights several local shelters where you can adopt, volunteer, or donate to support their mission.

Sacramento SPCA

A major adoption shelter offering dogs, cats, and small animals for adoption and providing veterinary care, behavior support, and community services. Sacramento SPCA
<https://www.sspca.org>



Bradshaw Animal Shelter (Sacramento County)

One of Northern California's larger public shelters; they house stray, surrendered, and adoptable animals and run adoption events.
<https://animalcare.saccounty.gov>

City of Sacramento / Front Street Animal Shelter

The city's official shelter; you can adopt cats, dogs, and small pets there or through their adoption center in Petco.
<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/animal-care/adoptions>

Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary

A nonprofit adoption center in Sacramento that rescues, cares for, and finds homes for dogs and cats.
<https://www.happytails.org>

Fosters & Paws

Focuses on rescuing vulnerable dogs (e.g. pregnant or nursing mothers, puppies) in the Sacramento area and placing them into foster homes until adoption.
<https://www.fostersandpaws.org>

Placer SPCA (Roseville / Placer County)

Serves the greater Placer County region; offers adoption, spay/neuter, and community outreach.
<https://placerspca.org>

Yolo County Animal Shelter / Yolo County Animal Services

The local shelter for Yolo County (which includes Davis, Woodland area) offering adoptions for cats, dogs, and small animals.
<https://www.yoloshelter.org>



Sacramento Independent Animal Rescuers (SIAR)

A foster-based rescue (i.e. animals live in foster homes rather than a centralized facility) that places cats and dogs into permanent homes.
<https://siarescuers.org>

A Place Fur Rescue

A nonprofit rescue working across the greater Sacramento area; they "pull" animals from overcrowded shelters, rehabilitate them, and place them via adoption events.
<https://aplacefurrescue.org>

Foothill Dog Rescue (FDR)

An all-volunteer rescue group serving the foothills and surrounding areas; they rescue dogs from high-kill shelters or surrenders, vet them, and match them with adoptive homes.
<https://foothilldogrescue.org>

Elk Grove Animal Shelter

City shelter; adoptions and animal services. 9150 Union Park Way, Elk Grove; (916) 687-3042.
<https://elkgrove.gov/departments-and-divisions/animal-services>





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“Mistakes Were Made” by Meryl Wilsner

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

It was so not cool. And yet, you owned it because it was your error, there was no denying it, and you can't go back in time and undo it. It wasn't cool, but it happened. Then again, was it really such a misstep, or was there something good inside the something bad you did? As in the new novel, “Mistakes Were Made” by Meryl Wilsner, will it all turn out right in the end?

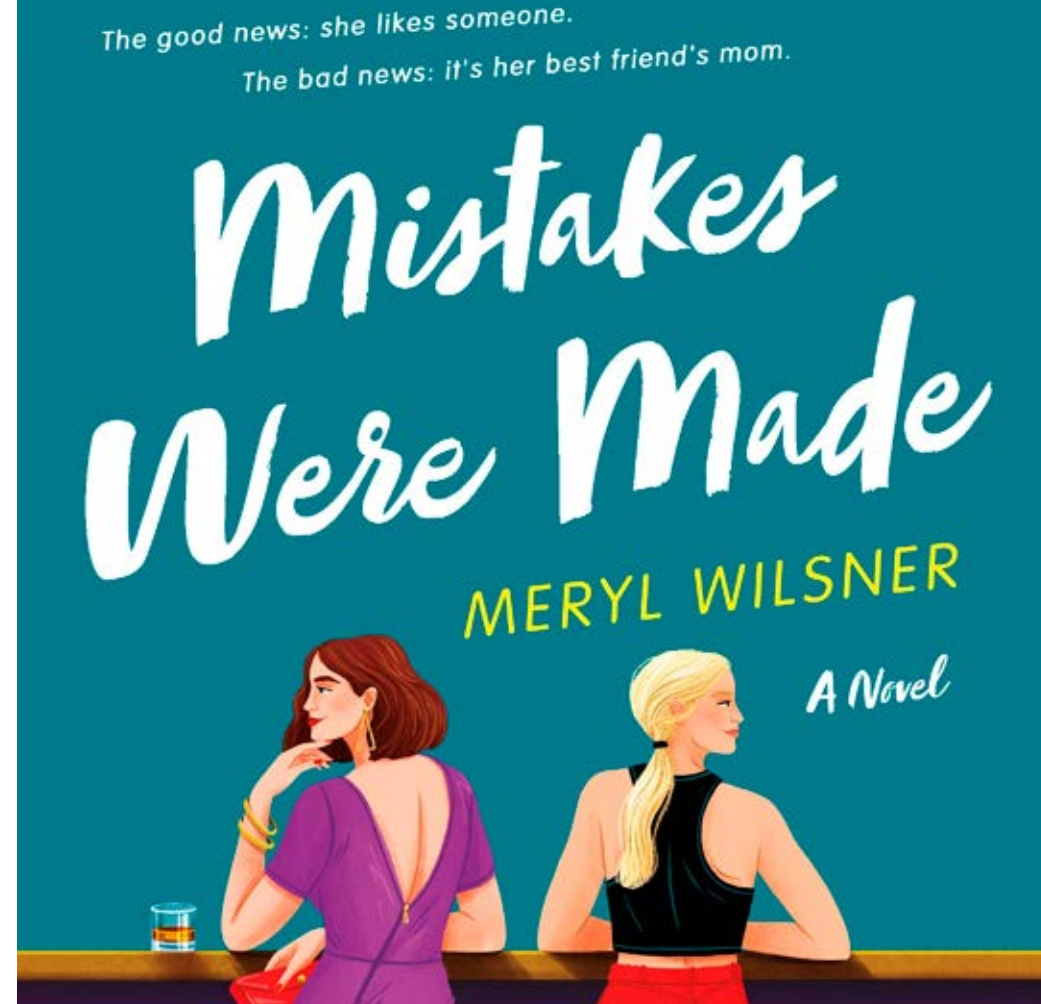
The good news: she likes someone.

The bad news: it's her best friend's mom.

Mistakes Were Made

MERYL WILSNER

A Novel



The bar wasn't one she usually frequented, but it was as far from the dorm as Cassie Klein could possibly get. It was Family Weekend at college, she'd graduate soon, and the whole “family” thing was ridiculous. No, the bar was a better place to be and she was preparing to get drunk, until she started watching the older woman who was watching her.

She bought the woman a drink and one thing led to another, which led to the back seat of the woman's car, the exchange of first names, and a semi-public one-night stand that Cassie was sure she'd never forget.

Erin Bennett had hoped being at Family Weekend might heal the broken bond she had with her daughter, Parker. She knew Parker was still angry that Erin had filed for divorce from Parker's father, and Erin wished she could explain things but she wasn't exactly sure herself why the divorce was important. She was mulling this over when Parker arrived at breakfast with one of her closest friends in tow – a friend that Erin had never officially met, but that she knew very well.

Intimately, in fact.

It was the woman she'd had sex with the night before.

Clearly, this was awkward and Parker could never find out what had happened. While the obvious thing to do was to put the brakes on, that was impossible – especially after Parker wouldn't take “no” for an answer when she invited Cassie to her mother's house for Christmas break. Being in the same home together was hard enough, but being in the same room, and in pajamas? How could anyone resist that?

There are really two basic ways to perceive “Mistakes Were Made.” It's either an overly-long, mostly-bare-bones story that contains some explicit bedroom scenes... or it's soft erotica with a tissue-thin story between steamy trysts.

Could it be better? Well, that, too, will depend on what you want in a novel.

Author Meryl Wilsner's bedroom (kitchen, back seat, living room) scenes are hotter than a baked potato straight from the oven. They're steam-your-glasses hot and there are enough of them to seize your interest and handcuff it to a bedpost – if that is, indeed, your interest. Come to this novel for a romance-y tale, though, and you could be bored because, while girl-meets-girl is all over this book, it's frustratingly slow getting to it.

And so, know what you want before you pick up “Mistakes Were Made.” If erotica is your thing, stay for the heat. If you want a good story, though, it'll leave you cold

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- Develop and foster an environment of trust and confidence between community, stakeholders and City Council.

MEET THE TEAM



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Inside The Asher House: A Sanctuary of Second Chances

by Rebecca Estrada - Director of Development, The Asher House
photos by Lee Asher



The Asher House Animal Sanctuary, based in Oregon, is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals in need. More than a rescue, it is a lifelong sanctuary committed to ending animal suffering and promoting humane treatment through hands-on care, community education, and advocacy.

At the heart of the sanctuary is its founder, Lee Asher. Motivated by a deep, lifelong passion for helping shelter dogs, Lee began a cross-country journey years ago, fostering and rehoming animals while using his growing social media presence to spotlight the importance of pet adoption. When the pandemic hit in 2020, Lee took the next step and launched The Asher House as a permanent haven for animals that might otherwise be forgotten.

Since then, The Asher House has rescued animals from across the country, including Oregon, California, Washington, Oklahoma, and Texas. Many of the animals arrive after being abandoned or spending months in shelters with slim chances of adoption. The sanctuary property in Salem, Oregon, is now home to a wide variety of animals including dogs, cats, birds, llamas, alpacas, donkeys, horses, goats, sheep, cows, pigs, and even a ram.

While some animals remain at the sanctuary permanently, dogs and cats are often rescued with the intention of placing them in loving homes. Before adoption, each animal is spayed or neutered, fully vaccinated, medically cleared, and behaviorally assessed. At The Asher House, the animals enjoy a free-roaming environment, where dogs spend their days

playing, swimming, exploring, and receiving personalized care, enrichment, and love.

One of the most beloved members of the pack is Matilda, a dog who joined The Asher House from the Tacoma Humane Society in March 2023. Matilda has cerebellar hypoplasia, a condition where the part of the brain that controls balance and coordination is underdeveloped. This can result in unsteady movement, difficulty walking, and other coordination challenges. Though there is no cure, therapy and support can help manage the condition, and it typically does not worsen over time.

From the moment she arrived, Lee was drawn to Matilda's spirit and made it a priority to include her in every possible activity. That decision has made a remarkable difference as Matilda doesn't seem to know she has a disability. Whether she is joining hikes or running along the beach, she fully embraces every adventure. She's become a symbol of resilience and joy, showing the Asher House community that all dogs, regardless of their challenges, deserve a full, happy life and a loving home. Visit [The Asher House website](#).

Matilda's story, and the mission of [The Asher House](#), continues to inspire thousands. With every rescue, the sanctuary proves that compassion, love, and second chances can change lives.



THE PET ISSUE!



Once again, Outword readers proved that love for our pets runs deep—and that Sacramento’s cutest companions are always camera-ready! After some fantastic entries and plenty of “awws,” we’re thrilled to share this year’s Pet Photo Contest winners. Each one reminds us that joy really does come on four paws.

Photo Contest Winners



**Second Place
Willow**

Human: Patrick N.



**First Place
Penny**

Human: Kyle M.

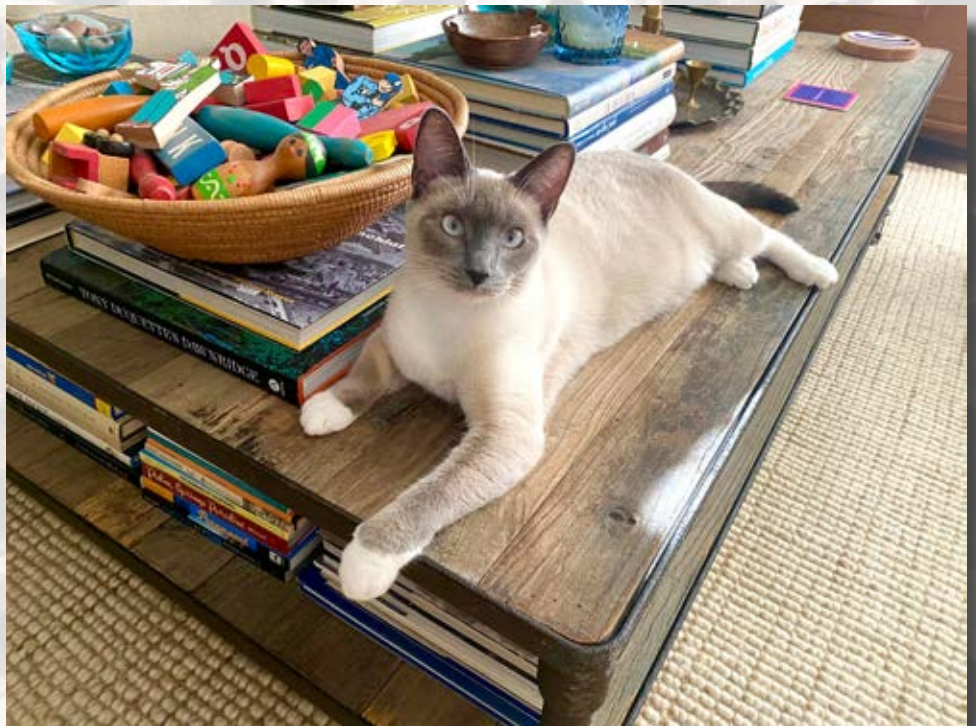


**Third Place
Rita**

Human: Mark D.



Photo Contest Honorable Mentions



Spooky
Human: Guy F.



Roxie
Human: Tina N.



Duncan
Human: Allen Y.



Tuddy
Human: Frances F.



Stevie
Human: Rachel S.

Honorable Mentions

Human: Janet / Lucky Buddy Petcare



Kenji



Koa



Gus



Gustav



Gracie



Spike



Other Contestants



Toasty
Human: Michelle



Arlie
Human: Glenn



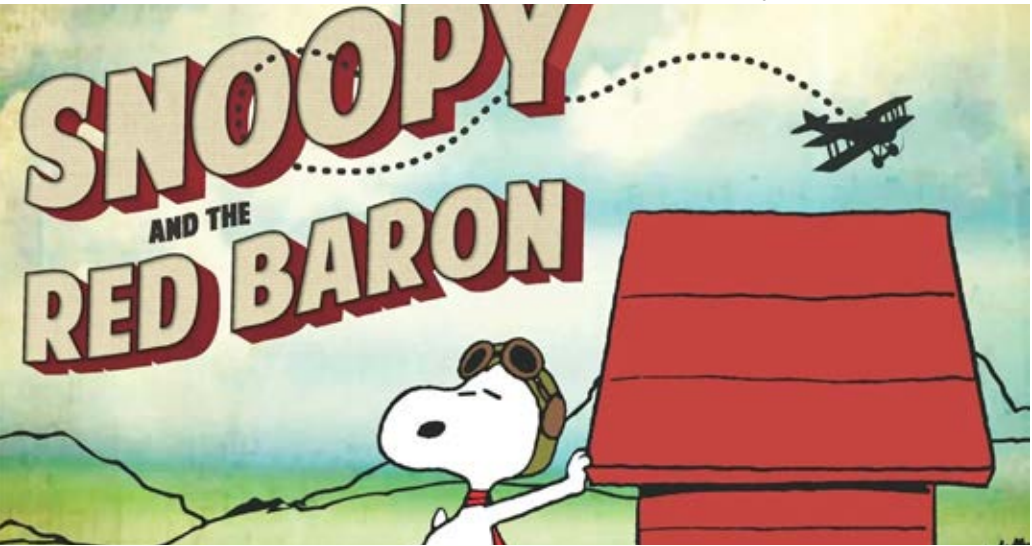
Teddi
Human: John



Aurora
Human: Julie

Snoopy Takes Flight at the Aerospace Museum of California

The Aerospace Museum of California is taking visitors on a high-flying adventure this fall with its newest exhibit, Snoopy and the Red Baron, on display now through December 31, 2025. The family-friendly traveling exhibit, on loan from the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, celebrates everyone’s favorite beagle in his iconic role as the World War I Flying Ace.



Guests will be able to explore original Peanuts comic strips, vintage toys, rare memorabilia, and historical artifacts that trace Snoopy’s imagined battles with the Red Baron. Blending humor, history, and aviation, the exhibit highlights how Schulz’s beloved character inspired generations to look to the skies with curiosity and creativity.

The museum—located at McClellan Park in the Sacramento area—invites visitors of all ages to step into the world of Peanuts and experience the connection between pop culture and flight. Snoopy and the Red Baron is a fun and uplifting experience for fans “from two to 102.”

For exhibit hours, tickets, and more information, visit aerospaceca.org/snoopy-and-the-red-baron.



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Fall Fun for a Paws-itively Good Time!

Autumn is in full swing, and there’s no better time to fall in love—with fun events and furry friends! The Sacramento SPCA invites you to take part in a season packed with exciting activities that help support the community’s animals and the people who love them. Whether you’re a pet parent, animal lover, or looking to get your holiday shopping done early, there’s something for everyone this fall.



HOWL-O-WEEN YAPPY HOUR

Benefitting the Sacramento SPCA

SACRAMENTO SPCA LOGOFF BREWING

LogOff Brewing | 3054 Sunrise Blvd, Suite J, Rancho Cordova, CA
 Thursday, October 30, 2025 | 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Mark your calendar for the annual Howl-O-Ween Yappy Hour on Thursday, October 30th! Celebrate Halloween early at LogOff Brewing and enjoy great beer, tasty food, fun costume contests, and multiple pet-themed vendors!

The Great Catsby Online Silent Auction | October 20th - 25th

Get ready to bid big for a great cause! The Great Catsby online silent auction is your chance to snag amazing items—think gift baskets, local experiences, and one-of-a-kind treasures—all while raising funds to providing lifesaving care for animals in need. It’s online, easy to join, and every dollar helps tails wag and whiskers twitch!

Howl-o-Ween Yappy Hour | October 30th

Calling all festive furballs and their humans! Dress up your pup (and yourself!) for Howl-O-Ween Yappy Hour at LogOff Brewing from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Have a blast with great beer, tasty food, costume contests, and multiple pet-themed vendors. It’s a howling good time you won’t want to miss.

Fall Book Sale | November 11th - 15th

Cozy up with a good book and help animals in need. The Sacramento SPCA’s final Fall Book Sale will feature gently loved books at unbeatable prices. From thrillers to cookbooks, there’s something for every reader. Can’t join us in person? No problem - our Amazon bookstore will continue offering books at great prices through December 31st.

8th Annual Pup Crawl | December 13th

Grab your leash and your thirst for fun! Join the Sacramento SPCA and partnering Midtown businesses from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 13th to celebrate the Pawlidays by giving back to the animals while you sip, savor, and shop this holiday season!

Mobile Adoption Events

Looking to add a furry family member to your pack? Meet adoptable dogs in a neighborhood near you! The Sacramento SPCA’s Mobile Adoption Team will be popping up at favorite local spots like Peet’s Coffee, Leash & Collar, and Der Biergarten. It’s your chance to find your new best friend while enjoying your weekend coffee, shopping, or other tasty treat!

Join the Sacramento SPCA this fall and help give love, hope, and second chances to animals waiting for forever homes. For event details, including dates and locations, visit spsca.org/calendar. Let’s make this season unforgettable—for you and our furry friends!



First cow of Sanctuary Mixtape, Bronson

Sanctuary Mixtape

by Kathryn Nicole

In my twenties, you could find me amidst the lavender, enjoying brunch with my two mastiffs at LowBrau or thriving behind the bar at Badlands. Life as a lesbian in that vibrant neighborhood was a chapter filled with community, connection, and constant energy. I was the quintessential city girl — a Southern California valley native who never imagined her alarm clock would one day be the insistent crow of a rooster.

That transformation began when my wife, Melissa, and I stepped into animal rights activism. It quickly became clear that simply advocating wasn't enough; we had to fully dedicate our lives to rescue. This shift meant a new career path that demanded both passion and clinical skill. While still bartending, I pursued a degree to become a Registered Veterinary Technician — a journey made possible with incredible support, including a scholarship from the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. During this intense period of studying and working, we rescued our very first bovine: Tommy. The moment he looked at me, a profound connection ignited a lifelong mission. We are driven to help farmed animals — those incredible, sentient beings who are so often overlooked and cruelly discarded by industrial agriculture. My RVT

training became our greatest tool, allowing us to provide meticulous, compassionate medical care and rehabilitation for animals who desperately need a second chance. We've successfully placed more than twenty rescued pigs, cows, and water buffaloes into loving homes where they are seen and cherished as individuals. But there was one cow I knew, deep in my soul, could never leave: Bronson. His presence changed everything. More like a giant, clumsy, velvet-nosed puppy than the common image of a cow, Bronson constantly nudges, seeks cuddles, and melts into attention. His boundless trust and affection solidified the purpose of our own private haven — the place where he and many others would finally be safe, honored, and unconditionally loved.

Our love for music is the creative foundation for everything we do. We attend live shows often, and at home every resident is a nod to the artists, songs, or instruments that inspire us: the gentle clucking of hens named Whitney and Britney, the deep-chested sigh of an 800-lb pig named Ziggy, and the steady, anchoring presence of my best friend and soulmate, Bronson. This is why we named our home Sanctuary Mixtape. When you visit, the atmosphere is a living, breathing composition — a mixtape of everything we love: rescue, veterinary expertise, and our deep connection to music. It's a tapestry woven from our past in the city and our present among the animals, transforming our lives and the lives of those we are privileged to protect. Our days are now defined by the love and profound trust of these incredible individuals, whose stories we are honored to share. We are always glad to host friends who want to meet and hear their stories, as well as our fellow local queer friends we are privileged to support — all close to Sacramento: Only Sunshine Sanctuary and Herd and Flock Animal Sanctuary. Instagram: @sanctuarymixtape





Channing Tatum & Keanu Reeves Plus, Julia Roberts & Kirsten Dunst

by Chris Narloch

The movie I am most looking forward to seeing this October is the epic new “Frankenstein” from Guillermo del Toro, the great Mexican horror and fantasy director.

Unfortunately, I was unable to review that one before our deadline, but I will be first in line when “Frankenstein” opens at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on Oct. 23 before arriving on Netflix this Nov. 7.

Many critics who have seen del Toro’s latest recommend watching it on the big screen instead of on Netflix because the production design and practical effects are obviously spectacular, just judging from the trailers.

After you check out that film, here are three other new movies worth paying to see, plus one dreadful dud you should avoid.



After the Hunt

Julia Roberts is in that awkward phase of her career. She is too old to make frothy rom coms like “Pretty Woman” and “My Best Friend’s Wedding” but not yet old enough for wacky old lady movies like “Book Club” or “80 For Brady.”

There just aren’t enough good roles for middle-aged women on the big screen, and “After the Hunt” is more proof of that. Roberts plays a Yale professor caught up in a sexual abuse scandal involving a colleague (Andrew Garfield, very good here) and a student (Ayo Edebiri) who may be guilty of plagiarism.

There are even more twists and turns piled on in a script that feels overheated and phony. Sadly, “After the Hunt” wastes a talented cast on inferior material. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Urchin

The talented actor Harris Dickinson, from “Babygirl” and “Triangle of Sadness,” is now a talented director thanks to this excellent new drama about a young London drifter and drug addict (brilliantly played by Frank Dillane) who struggles mightily with his second chance after he is arrested for robbery and assault.

We have seen this type of story before, of course, but Dickinson and Dillane add so much realism and pathos to Dickinson’s fine script that I was glued to the screen and totally invested in the fate of this sad, often unsympathetic screw-up. “Urchin” opened at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on Oct. 17.



Good Fortune

Funnyman Aziz Ansari directs, writes, and costars in this movie, his first effort behind the camera and a pleasant surprise. With a cast that includes Seth Rogen and Keanu Reeves (in deadpan “Bill & Ted” mode), I was expecting a goofy bro’ comedy instead of this often-thoughtful satire about workingman blues and the haves and have-nots created by capitalism.

Seth Rogen plays a filthy rich venture capitalist who changes places with Ansari’s struggling and stressed-out Everyman, thanks to intervention from an angel played by Reeves. I was surprised how much I enjoyed “Good Fortune,” which is funny without being stupid and persuasive without being preachy. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Roofman

Channing Tatum has never been shy about showing off his body – he was a male stripper for a time before he hit it big as an actor – and the star of the “Magic Mike” movies has yet another nude scene in his entertaining new dramedy, this time a very funny sequence that finds him briefly running around a Toys ‘R’ Us store in his birthday suit.

Tatum plays real-life criminal Jeffrey Manchester, who hid out in the toy store for months after committing a rooftop burglary at a nearby McDonald’s. This true story gets even weirder after Tatum’s character falls for a woman working at the store (Kirsten Dunst) and joins her church and her family, all while hiding out from the law.

Richard Linklater might have turned this material into a classic satire, but the movie’s actual director, Derek Cianfrance, does a fine job keeping us on the crook’s side, even after he behaves badly. Currently in wide theatrical release.



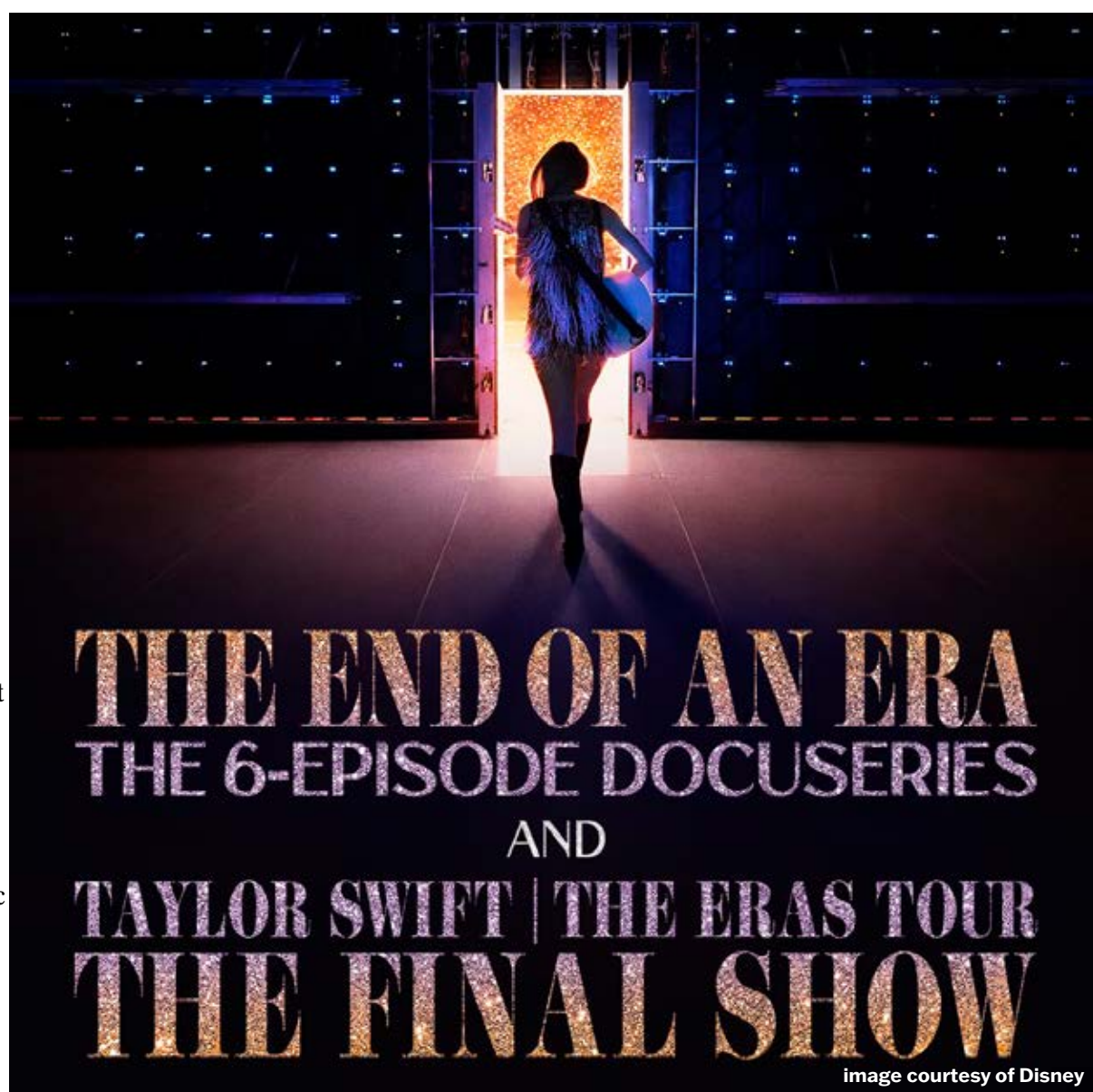
It's A Taylor Swift World!

Swifties, mark your calendars—December 12 is about to become a major holiday. That's when Disney+ will premiere *The End of an Era*, a six-episode docuseries that pulls back the curtain on Taylor Swift's record-shattering Eras Tour, along with *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour | The Final Show*, filmed during her last performance in Vancouver. The series promises an intimate look at the chaos, creativity, and heart that fueled the tour, from rehearsal-room nerves to onstage triumphs. For those of us who lived this era through friendship bracelets and midnight live streams, it's the ultimate encore—a chance to relive the spectacle while glimpsing the woman who orchestrated it all.

More than just concert footage, *The End of an Era* feels like Taylor's love letter to the fans who turned her tour into a global phenomenon. Expect raw emotion, behind-the-scenes magic, and the debut of The Tortured Poets Department set, captured in full for the first time. As the final bow on her most ambitious project yet, this docuseries isn't just about the end of a tour—it's the closing chapter of a cultural movement that united millions of fans around the world. December can't come soon enough.

In other Swifties news, get ready to experience your favorite music artist like never before, when Sacramento's Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC) presents a series of laser concerts featuring the music of Ms. Swift. The UC Davis Multiverse Theater at MOSAC is thrilled to announce a brand-new music laser series in their planetarium.

This immersive MOSAC music experience, featuring a 25,000-watt Dolby 5.1 surround sound system, paired with spectacular full-dome lasers, is the best way to listen to your favorite artists – outside of a live performance. The Taylor Swift laser concerts are scheduled for the evenings of Nov. 7-8 and Dec. 5-6. To purchase tickets, go to: visitmosac.org/laser-concert-series



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This month, the world has lost three luminous souls whose lives touched us in such different but deeply resonant ways. Robert Redford, with his sun-etched face and fierce devotion to art, nature, and storytelling, showed us that a life of passion can ripple outward in unexpected ways. Jane Goodall, with her soft voice and steady gaze, reminded us that kindness toward the smallest lives reflects our own humanity. And Diane Keaton – funny, quirky, entirely her own – made space for vulnerability, wit, and fearless self-expression. To have them leave us so closely in time tugs at the heartstrings and brings a moment of reckoning, leaving behind a profound and noticeable void.

Yet in that space, their legacies echo. Redford's Sundance spirit will continue to champion films that might otherwise go unheard. Goodall's empathy and scholarship will live on in the students, forests, and primate sanctuaries she inspired. And Keaton's bold honesty and timeless performances invite us all to live with humor and tender courage. In grieving them, we can honor their example – preserving wonder, defending the vulnerable, and speaking our truths. Losing them hurts, but their lives remain part of who we are, and the world still carries their light.



Jessie and Lou at Il Fornaio for a gnocchi cooking class, January 2014.

I lost my Aunt Lou this morning. She was, as they would say, my (step)mother Jessie's "baby sister." Jessie passed just a few short months ago and Lou was by her side the whole time. Lou was battling cancer, and I think it's safe to say, it took her from us.

I wasn't prepared for this. It all happened so fast. I never had a chance to just say goodbye. I'm so grateful that my brother and I were able to go to Kansas for Jessie's memorial last month. I know it meant a lot to Lou and it did for me too. Never in my wildest nightmares would I have thought that we would be losing Lou so soon after Jessie's service.

I sound like an old cliché but I am so regretting the things I didn't do. I should have taken time to go visit, both of them, when we could all have enjoyed it. Both Lou and Jessie were such beautiful spirits, and their smiles really did light up rooms. I should have made more room in my life for them.

I do take comfort in knowing that they are together again, to act up, go to a casino or just enjoy a great cooking class. And, that they are with their "God Dogs, Clark and Ernie" - with whom they fell in love with while visiting me here in Sacramento.

Goodbye Aunt Lou. Goodbye Jessie. I love you both - Ron.

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November 6, 2025

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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CapStage & ARC Bring the Theatre

by Chris Narloch

Sacramento's fall theatre season is in full swing, and Outword has two suggestions if you are thinking about checking out a local stage production.



The cast of "Eureka Day" at Capital Stage

Eureka Day

Sacramento's Capital Stage has done it again. The theater's current offering is another thought-provoking yet very funny play in a long line of successes. "Eureka Day" tells what happens when five teachers at a private elementary school in Berkeley have their politically correct, inclusive values tested after an outbreak of mumps causes real-life chaos among the parents and teachers.

Playwright Jonathan Spector's dialogue could not be funnier, as the five teachers on the school's executive board initially seem to agree on the school's response to the outbreak. By the end of the play, nerves have been frayed and anger has boiled over concerning the board's vaccine policy. (It turns out that good intentions can fly right out the window when it's your own child at risk.)

The production's set design and direction are spot-on, and the six-person cast is seamless, especially during the hilarious scene where an increasingly heated, profanity-laden group chat goes off the rails and shatters the liberal values and decorum the school promotes.

Do yourself a favor and do not miss this thoroughly entertaining and very topical play, performing through Nov. 16. Go to: capstage.org

Timothy Warford costars in
"Amelie" at ARC



Amelie

One of the most beloved French films of the 21st century, "Amelie" has been adapted for the stage, and "Amelie, the Musical" is currently performing at American River College in Sacramento.

The original movie is a whimsical, magical tour through Paris with a delightful, unlikely heroine, Amelie Poulain. Raised by parents who sheltered her into believing true human connection is impossible, Amelie finds herself living an introverted life in the City of Light, until she learns the power of performing small acts of kindness to bring joy to others.

As Amelie's world slowly opens, she discovers her heart is drawn to a mysterious young man. But will he feel the same, let alone notice her? Only a leap of faith will hold the answer.

I was unable to make it to ARC to see "Amelie" before our deadline, but you can check it out through Oct. 26. Visit: arctheatre.org

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NOVEMBER 1 • 7PM

TREVOR NOAH
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TY DOLLA \$IGN
WITH G-EAZY & JACQUEES
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FALL IN LOVE
VIETNAMESE CONCERT
NOVEMBER 15 • 7:30PM

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NOVEMBER 20 • 7:30PM

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HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE
NOVEMBER 21 • 7:30PM

JOHN LEGEND
GET LIFTED
20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
NOVEMBER 22 • 8PM

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BROTHERS**
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AJR
WITH ALMOST MONDAY
& OUT IN FRONT
DECEMBER 11 • 7:30PM

LAUREN DAIGLE
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DECEMBER 12 • 8PM

ALT 94.7 PRESENTS
ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS
SUBLIME
WITH BAD SUNS &
ARDEN PARK ROOTS
DECEMBER 13 • 7PM

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80'S ROCK TRIBUTE
DECEMBER 18 • 7:30PM

TONY HINCHCLIFFE
DECEMBER 19 • 8PM

LEO KU
ALL ABOUT LOVE
DECEMBER 20 • 7:30PM

JANET JACKSON
DECEMBER 27 • 8PM

DURAN DURAN
JANUARY 9 • 8PM

THERESA CAPUTO
LIVE! THE EXPERIENCE
JANUARY 10 • 8PM

3RD THURSDAY \$30 TRIBUTE SERIES
VICTOR TREVINO JR.
THE ULTIMATE ELVIS EXPERIENCE
JANUARY 15 • 7:30PM

CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER
JANUARY 16 • 8PM

DANIEL TOSH
JANUARY 24 • 8PM

3RD THURSDAY \$30 TRIBUTE SERIES
**JOURNEY REVISITED
& CCSEGR**
TRIBUTE TO JOURNEY,
BOB SEGER & CCR
FEBRUARY 19 • 7:30PM

THE PRICE IS RIGHT LIVE
MARCH 27 • 8PM

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WILSON**
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LAINEY WILSON
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Out & About

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce's annual Boas & Bow Ties Gala lit up the Hilton Arden West on Thursday, October 9 with an evening inspired by the dazzling beauty of the Aurora Borealis. The event brought together business leaders, community advocates, allies and friends to celebrate. Guests enjoyed unforgettable performances by The ShowBroads who filled the room with energy, laughter and show-stopping talent. A highlight of the night was the presentation of 14 scholarships by the Rainbow Chamber Foundation to outstanding students from across the region. These emerging leaders represent a wide range of academic fields and share a commitment to education, service and positive change in their communities. Funds raised during the gala will help support future scholars and keep the Chamber's mission to uplift and empower the next generation shining bright. To learn more about the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber & Foundation Visit their website at, www.RainbowChamber.com.





Photos on this page by: Tia Gemmell





Activating Taste Buds

words and photos by Rahn

Trillium, Guerneville, CA

After a two-hour drive to Guerneville, we were able to check into our cabins, and we still had several hours before our 6 p.m. dinner reservations (more about that in the next issue of Outword). So, we decided to head down the hill for a light lunch to tide us over. After passing by several options, we decided to give Trillium a try. It's not a large restaurant, and at that time of day, it wasn't busy—which was nice.

We decided to try a couple of things and share them between the three of us. We had the Caesar Salad, which was conveniently served as several smaller "boats" of lettuce covered with cheese and dressing. We also had the Hummus Plate and the Hamachi Crudo; both were excellent and just enough food to satisfy the three of us for a light lunch. One of these days, I'd like to return and try some of their other seafood dishes. The Ahi Poke and Prawn Ceviche Tostadas both sounded great, but we didn't need that much food.

With our beverages, the meal total came to around \$100—not bad for the amount and quality of food. The service was excellent, and it's definitely worth checking out if you're in town.

[Visit their website here.](#)



Caesar Salad



Hummus Plate

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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Our community is bursting with spooky fun this Halloween season, from haunted storytelling and eerie circus acts to costume contests and dazzling parties that light up the night. As the cobwebs clear, the city transforms into a winter wonderland filled with sparkling shows, festive fairs, and holiday magic for all ages. Whether you're dressing up for frightful fun or cozying up for cheerful celebrations, take time to enjoy these moments with friends and family. Celebrate safely, support local events, and make memories that will warm your heart long after the pumpkins fade and the twinkling lights of winter take their place.

Oct. 25

Get ready for thrills and chills at A Very Spooky Circus on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Zittel Family Amphitheater in Historic Folsom. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. and features fire, aerial, and pyrotechnic performances by Infinite Spin Performing Arts with Cirque Reverie and Organic Pyrotechnics. Bring a chair—kids 3 and under get in free! Historicfolsom.org

Get ready to shiver with anti...pation! Amber's Sweets: Halloween Edition creeps into the Historic Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd. on Saturday, Oct. 25. This wickedly fun, stage-driven Rocky Horror Picture Show tribute promises music, mischief, and madness. VIP guests enter at 7:45 p.m., general admission at 8:15 p.m. Don't dream it—be it! Lovehorrorevents.com



Oct. 30

Celebrate Halloween Eve with Craftical Magic on Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Guests ages 18 and older can enjoy a screening of Practical Magic (1998), charm-making, tarot readings, and a docent-led "witchy" tour, topped off with margaritas. Crockerart.org

Spend Halloween Eve at In a Nutshell Storytelling, 2700 Capitol Ave. for a chillingly delightful night of true tales that will haunt and thrill. The theme is "Haunted!"—with storytellers Regina Stoops, Mark S. Allen, Jerry Montoya, and Diane Amos sharing eerie, funny, and unforgettable experiences. Gather close, laugh, gasp, and celebrate the magic of live storytelling! Bstreettheatre.org



Oct. 31

Get ready for Sacramento's biggest fright night at FACES Nightclub's Halloween 2025 Bash, at 2000 K St. on Friday, Oct. 31 at 9 p.m. Step into three rooms of DJs, dazzling lights, and spooky décor for a night of nonstop dancing. Enter the costume contest and party hosted by Shelita Taylor till the witching hour! Tickets required. FACES.net

Nov. 1

Experience the magic of Disney On Ice on Nov. 1 at 3 p.m. as it presents Frozen & Encanto at the Golden 1 Center, 500 David J Stern Walk. Two beloved stories come to life on the ice! Join Anna, Elsa, Olaf, and Mirabel in a dazzling adventure filled with breathtaking skating, music, and heartwarming moments. Hosted by Mickey and Minnie, this family favorite celebrates love, courage, and the magic within us all. Disneyonice.com

Nov. 6

Join the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce for a fabulous night of fun and philanthropy at Drag Queen Bingo, Thursday, Nov. 6 from 7–9 p.m. at Mango's, 1930 K St. Hosted by the glamorous Do Me Moore, this month's event benefits AcademySTAY, a nonprofit supporting young adults transitioning out of foster care. Doors open at 6 p.m. Rainbowchamber.com

Nov. 7

"The Golden Girls" are back with an outrageous new stage comedy at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St., on Friday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. Sophia's out on bail, Blanche and Rose launch a senior sex app, and Dorothy's love life complicates everything in this adults-only, 18+ show packed with nostalgia and naughtiness. GoldenGirlsTour.com

Nov. 8

Spread your wings and join the magic at the Fall Fairy Fair on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 11269 Point East Drive, Rancho Cordova. Enjoy crystals, psychics, holistic treasures, and healing arts. Don your best fairy wings for the Best of Wings Costume Contest!

Nov. 9

Step into the strange at the Sacramento Oddities & Curiosities Expo, Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Cal Expo, 1590 Exposition Blvd. Explore taxidermy, preserved specimens, eerie art, jewelry, sideshow acts, and more. Castatefair.org



Spend an afternoon laughing with David Sedaris, the master of wit and observation, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9 at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. Presented by MagicSpace Entertainment, this one-day matinee blends humor, heart, and biting social commentary with a post-show book signing for fans. Davidsedarisbooks.com

Upcoming

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai speaks at An Evening with Malala Yousafzai on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Jackson Hall at the Mondavi Center, UC Davis. Presented by the Chancellor's Colloquium, the global advocate for girls' education joins Chancellor Gary S. May for an inspiring conversation. Tickets are limited. Mondaviarts.org

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra brings its electrifying holiday rock opera, "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve," to Golden 1 Center, 500 David J. Stern Walk, on Friday, Nov. 28, with performances at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The symphonic rock ensemble combines lasers, pyrotechnics and theatrical storytelling for a high-voltage holiday spectacle unlike any other. Golden1center.com

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

Memes from Facebook

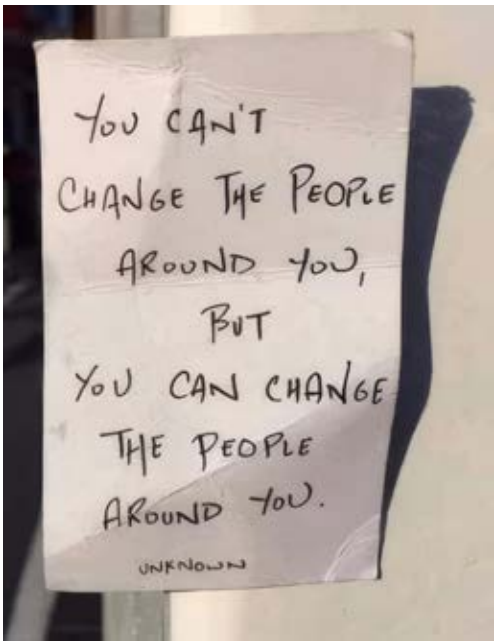
All it takes to get Universal Healthcare, is convincing Americans that paying \$2000 in taxes is better than paying \$8000 in Health Insurance.

It literally boils down to enough Americans understanding that the number 2 is smaller than the number 8.

Every other country has already figured this out.

I obviously started a movement of people showing up looking ridiculous, which is the exact point. It's to show how the narrative that is being pushed with how we are violent extremists is completely ridiculous. Nothing about this screams extremist and violent. So it's just a ridiculous narrative that the Trump administration wants to put out so they can continue their fascist dictatorship.

~ Seth Todd
Portland Frog 🐸🐸



"THE MOVEMENT TO END THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT IS A MOVEMENT THAT IS DEATHLY AFRAID OF THE FACT THAT THERE'S NO LONGER GOING TO BE A WHITE MAJORITY IN THIS COUNTRY WITHIN 20 YEARS. THEY WANT TO GUARANTEE ALL-WHITE, ONE-PARTY RULE THAT IS IMPERVIOUS TO THOSE DEMOCRATIC CHANGES, AND THEY DO NOT WANT PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT WHITE TO HAVE A SHOT AT POLITICAL POWER ANYMORE!"

— RACHEL MADDOW

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

NO KINGS OCT. 18

EARTH SURPASSES ITS FIRST TIPPING POINT: 99% OF CORAL REEFS DOOMED BEYOND 1.5°C WARMING

DISCOVER.BLOG

"What always gets me is how often the cruelty comes from people who claim to follow Christ. I think about that a lot."

@AmberWoods100

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

"OUR GOVERNMENT SPENT THE WEEK CALLING ITS CRITICS EXTREMISTS AND TERRORISTS WHO HATE AMERICA. IN RESPONSE, ABOUT 7 MILLION AMERICANS TURNED OUT FOR AN ENTIRELY PEACEFUL DAY OF PROTEST - THE BIGGEST THE COUNTRY'S EVER SEEN. NOT TOO SHABBY."

@jonfavs

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

"THIS IS SO WRONG. Trump's just IGNORED the entire process that must be followed to mess with the peoples' house. Like he ignores EVERY OTHER rule, norm, and law. I'm so pissed off at his Republican enablers who let him do this."

THE WHITE HOUSE IS OUR HOUSE. NOT HIS!"

- JOE WALSH, Former Republican Congressman

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

ACA Marketplace Enrollment Growth 2020-2025
Weighted Average Percent Growth in Enrollment

Category	Weighted Average Percent Growth in Enrollment
Blue States	36%
Overall	113%
Red States	157%

Source: KFF

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Broadway Comes to NorCal

by Chris Narloch

While we wait for one of the most popular and beloved of all Broadway musicals, "The Lion King," to return to Sacramento this January, there are several other Broadway-caliber productions coming soon to Northern California. Read on for details.



Stereophonic

This highly acclaimed new drama received more Tony nominations than any other play in that award's history. "Stereophonic" mines the agony and the ecstasy of creation as it zooms in on a music studio in 1976.

There, an up-and-coming rock band recording a new album finds itself suddenly on the cusp of superstardom. The ensuing pressures could spark their breakthrough – or their breakup.

Written by David Adjmi, directed by Daniel Aukin, and featuring original music by Arcade Fire's Will Butler, "Stereophonic" invites the audience to immerse themselves – with fly-on-the-wall intimacy – in the powder keg process of a band on the brink of enormous success. "Stereophonic" performs through this Nov. 23, at San Francisco's Curran Theatre. Go to:

www.broadwaysf.com/events/stereophonic

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Nicholas Rodriguez



Sincerely, Sondheim

Direct from the Tony Award-winning revival of "Company," Nicholas Rodriguez ("One Life to Live," "Sex and the City 2"), celebrates Stephen Sondheim with his brand-new concert, "Sincerely, Sondheim," – a nod to both the lyrical and musical genius of the late, great composer of such Broadway blockbusters as "Into the Woods," "Follies," and "Sweeney Todd."

Pulling from the thousands of handwritten letters to fans and colleagues alike, Rodriguez weaves together stories from Sondheim's own words and explores the composer's fascinating relationships with legends such as Oscar Hammerstein II, Jerry Herman, Jonathan Larson, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and of course his own personal story.

This Sondheim celebration is scheduled for Nov. 2, at the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto. For more information and the get tickets, [click here](#).

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BARS / CLUBS

BADLANDS
2003 K St., 916-441-6823 SacBadlands.com

THE DEPOT
2001 K St., Sac, 916-441-6823 TheDepot.net

CHIROPRACTORS

HEALING TOUCH CHIROPRACTIC
Dr. Darrick Lawson, 1210 G Street, 916-447-3344
www.FixMyBack.com

COUNSELING

WEAVE
916-920-2952 (24/7)
www.weaveinc.org

DENTISTRY

ERIC GROVE, DDS
KENDALL HOMER, DMD
9216 Kiefer Blvd., STE 5
916-363-9171 • grovehomerdentists.com

DINING/BEVERAGES

LA COSECHA
916-970-5354
LaCosechaSacramento.com

ROSCOE'S BAR & BURGERS
916-898-3631
Roscoes916.com

SCOTT'S SEAFOOD - ON THE RIVER
916-379-5959
ScottsSeafoodontheRiver.com

FINANCIAL PLANNING

STEELE FINANCIAL PARTNERS
Judy Steele, Financial Advisor
916-846-7733
www.steelefinancial.org

HEALTH SERVICES

CAPITAL CITY AIDS FUND
1912 F Street, 916-448-1110
PlayButPlaySafe.org

RIVER BEND MEDICAL ASSOC.
www.rbmafamlydocs.com

HOME CLEANING

HOUSE 2 OM
916-833-8510
info@house-2-om.com

LIBRARIES

FRIENDS OF THE SAC. PUBLIC LIBRARY
8250 Belvedere, Ste. E,
916-731-8493

MUSEUMS

CROCKER ART MUSEUM
916-808-7000
CrockerArt.org

OPTOMETRY

CAMERON YEE, O.D.
6407 Riverside Blvd., 916-395-0673
DrCameronYee@aol.com

PERFORMING ARTS

BROADWAY SACRAMENTO
Safe Credit Union Performing Arts Center
916-557-1999
BroadwaySacramento.com

MONDAVI CENTER
UC Davis
mondaviarts.org

PEST MANAGEMENT

EARTH GUARD PEST SERVICES
916-457-7605
contact@earthguardpest.com

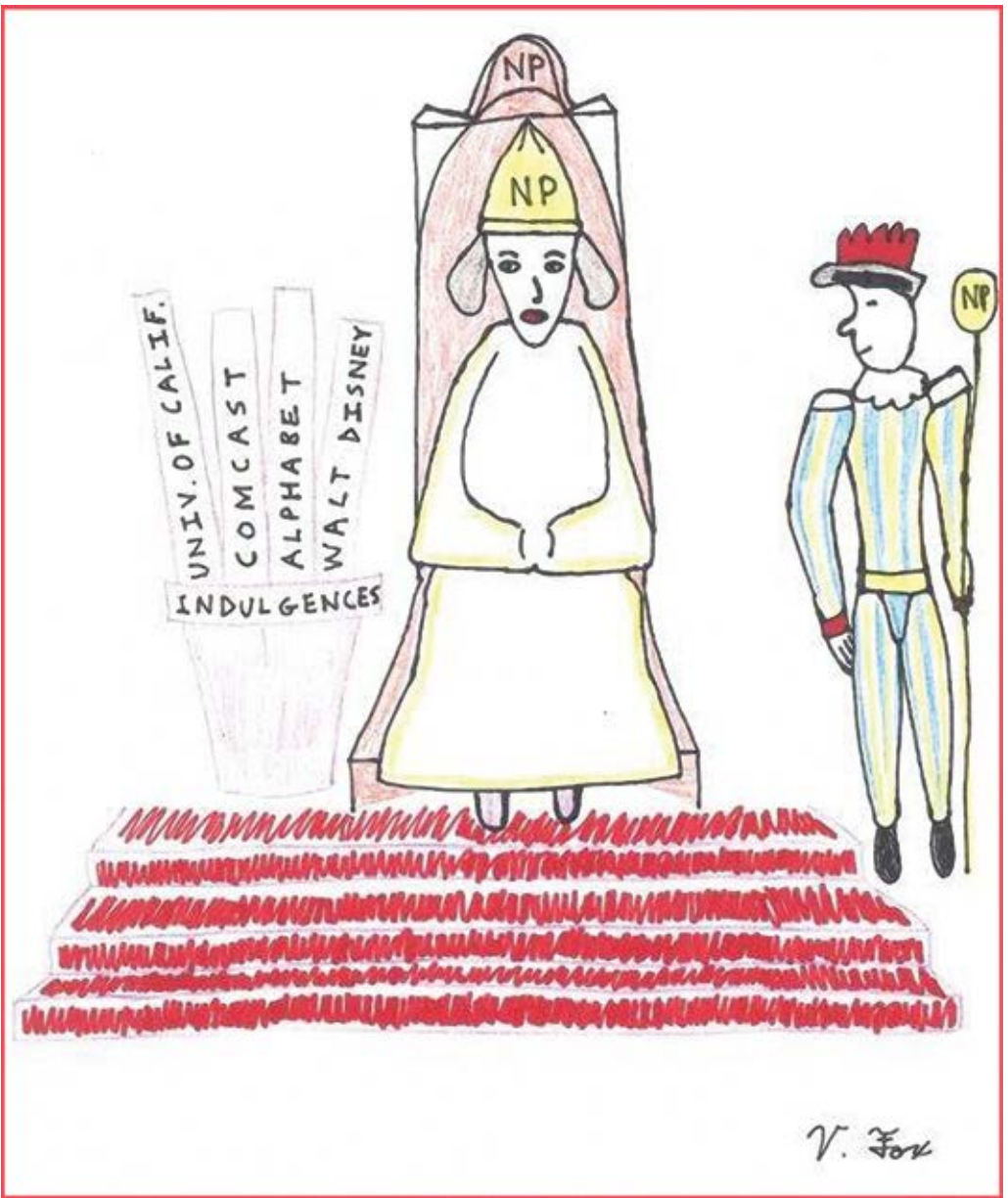
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PUCCT'S PHARMACY
3257 Folsom Blvd., 916-442-5891
www.puccirx.com

REAL ESTATE

COLDWELL BANKER
Mark T. Peters, 916-600-2039
www.MarkPeters.biz

MCMARTIN REALTY
Brian McMartin, 916-402-4160
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McMartinRealty.com

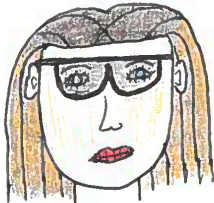


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