

Special Issue!

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outword



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"I don't wanna
be a reindeer."

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Stay Vigilant: Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community Confronts Violence After Hate-Driven Attack

A night meant for fun and celebration in Sacramento's Lavender Heights ended in tragedy when a member of the local LGBTQ+ community was brutally assaulted outside Badlands in the early hours following Halloween. The Sacramento Police Department is investigating the attack as a hate crime – and it serves as a heartbreaking reminder that the threats queer people face have not disappeared with greater visibility and acceptance, especially in this country's volatile political climate where cruelty is often considered strength.

Shortly after 1:30 a.m. on November 1, Alvin Prasad, who was celebrating with his daughter and a close friend, was approached by a man who mocked him for his clothing. Prasad, known for expressing himself proudly and joyfully while out dancing, was targeted simply for being himself.

Within seconds, the attacker allegedly punched Prasad in the head, sending him crashing to the pavement. Prasad has remained hospitalized ever since, in a coma with possible permanent brain damage. If he survives, his life will be forever altered.

Police have arrested a 24-year-old suspect, who now faces hate crime and assault charges.

This attack reinforces what many already know: joyful pride and self-expression can still make us targets of those who are uncomfortable with – or hateful toward – anyone who isn't like them. These encounters can often become dangerous and violent. While we continue to gather proudly in LGBTQ+ spaces, we must stay alert, look out for one another, and remain keenly aware that real dangers still exist.

And, as a community, we must support those harmed by hate – because violence is never a show of true strength.

Update:

Prasad remains hospitalized in very serious condition as the community continues to rally around him and his family. Dozens gathered for a candle-light vigil outside Sacramento City Hall, joined by city leaders who called for unity and stronger protections in Lavender Heights. Advocates emphasized that hate-motivated incidents continue to threaten queer safety, urging anyone targeted to report bias-related acts. The suspect remains in custody and is scheduled to appear in court on December 16.



Vigil image by Jonathan Cameron

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New Website Empowers LGBTQ+ Community to Evaluate Safe Places to Live

In a moment when LGBTQ+ rights feel increasingly vulnerable across the country, one national organization is stepping up with a powerful new resource designed to protect and empower our community. The LGBT National Help Center has launched LGBTPridePath.org, a free website that allows users to compare legal protections for LGBTQ+ people in cities and towns nationwide – helping individuals and families make informed decisions about where they can feel safest and most supported.



The tool is simple and customizable: users enter a ZIP code and select the legal protections and community features that matter most to them – such as nondiscrimination laws, transgender healthcare access, protections for youth, and more. PridePath then identifies nearby communities that meet those criteria and even allows for side-by-side comparisons between two locations.

While everyone deserves to feel safe and valued wherever they live in the United States, the reality remains that legal protections vary widely from one state – and even one neighborhood – to the next. For many LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender youth and their families, relocating has become a necessary step for survival and dignity. PridePath aims to

provide clarity during what can be an overwhelming and emotional process.

Developed by the team behind the LGBT National Hotline, a trusted nonprofit celebrating 30 years of supporting the community, PridePath is backed by extensive research and will be continually updated to ensure accuracy. Just as importantly, the site is built with privacy at its core: no personal information is collected, stored, or shared.

LGBTPridePath.org serves as both a practical guide and a stark reminder of the work still needed to ensure full equality nationwide. But for those navigating uncertain times, it's also a lifeline – offering knowledge, options, and hope.

For more information, visit www.LGBTPridePath.org or email LGBTPridePath@LGBTHotline.org.

STATEMENT FROM BADLANDS SACRAMENTO

We are deeply saddened by the violent attack that took place in Lavender Heights on November 1. Our hearts are with Alvin Prasad, his family, and everyone affected by this tragedy.

Violence against members of our LGBTQ+ community impacts all of us. Badlands stands with our neighbors, friends, and the entire Sacramento LGBTQ+ community as we support Alvin during his recovery.

We remain committed to helping keep Lavender Heights a safe and welcoming place for everyone, and we're grateful to those continue to show care and support.

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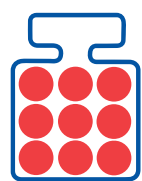
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Bring a Toy, Spread Some Joy! Annual WEAVE Toy Drive at Badlands

The holiday spirit is coming to K Street – and it's bringing dinosaurs, dancing, and a whole lot of heart! Liquid Therapy and Badlands are teaming up once again for their Annual Toy Drive, benefiting WEAVE's Holiday Toy Shoppe. That means every sip and smile on Friday, December 12 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. helps make the season brighter for local kids and teens.

Guests are encouraged to bring a brand-new, unwrapped toy – including gender-neutral gifts – to support WEAVE's mission of care and empowerment for families in Sacramento. Whether it's a cuddly plush, a fun robot, or a simple, but challenging game, your generosity will help ensure every child has something special waiting for them to pick this holiday.

Swing by Badlands (2003 K Street) with your toy, or toys, in hand, enjoy the company of friends, and toast to giving back. After all... nothing pairs better with Liquid Therapy than a little holiday magic.

Let's fill this season with love – one toy at a time!



Celebrate Thanksgiving Without the Cleanup Stress

Thanksgiving is all about togetherness – great food, warm laughter, and those cherished moments with family and friends. But once the plates are cleared and the guests have left, reality sets in... If the idea of tackling a post-feast clean-up is overwhelming, House-2-Om Cleaning Services has you covered!

To help you relax and stay in the holiday spirit a little longer, they're offering limited-time Thanksgiving weekend deals that make a sparkling home more affordable than ever. Whether you're hosting a full house or just wanting a fresh start heading into December, there's a package designed to fit your needs.

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Their professional team will take care of the mess – so you can enjoy the rest. Spend more time enjoying leftovers in peace, planning your holiday shopping, or curling up for that well-earned nap. And be sure to ask about how you can receive 10% off a whole house cleaning (restrictions apply).

Don't wait – these deals won't last! Call them today: 916-833-8510 or 916-279-7506 or you can email them at: info@house-2-om.com

House-2-Om looks forward to helping you keep the holiday magic without the stress of keeping the house looking clean and fresh. They have been a valued Outword advertiser since 2016.



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Could the Destruction of the ACA Force Democrats to Champion Medicare for All?

by Sam Rosenthal, [TRUTHOUT](#)

After the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, Senate Democrats faltered and ended their standoff with their Republican colleagues. Democrats had initially dug in for the funding fight, they said, to protect subsidies for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These government tax credits, set to expire at the end of the year, keep health insurance affordable for the millions of Americans who are covered through the ACA.

In the end, the only concession Democrats extracted from Republicans was a “promise” to hold a vote on the ACA subsidies — a vote that is almost certain to fail. Ultimately, seven Democrats and one independent — Sen. Angus King (I-Maine), who caucuses with the Democrats — broke ranks with their party and voted to approve the Republican-backed budget. Why these Democrats chose to cave, and why they did so at this juncture, has mystified observers and fellow party members.

To begin with, Democrats saw some of their strongest electoral results of either Trump era on Election Night, sweeping gubernatorial contests and winning important victories across the country. There should have been a strong sense that momentum was on the party's side. At the same time, polling showed that Democrats were winning the messaging battle over the shutdown, with more voters blaming Republicans than Democrats for the standstill. Trump's approval rating had also fallen to the lowest point of his second term, even dipping below the lowest moments of his first term. Among the Democratic base, fighting for the ACA subsidies was popular, with more than 80 percent of Democrats backing the standoff, even as Republicans ratcheted up public pressure by ending SNAP benefits and canceling flights.

It is a searing indictment of the U.S. health care system that more than 20 million people can lose coverage overnight based on the decisions of just 100 elected officials.

With so much seemingly working in their favor, why did Democrats abruptly cave? Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-New Hampshire) publicly cited a sense of intractability — that there was no clear path to ending the shutdown without one side conceding. Shaheen reportedly led a group of moderate Democratic senators who worked with Republicans to bring the standoff to an end. Meanwhile, Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia surely felt pressure from his constituents to reopen the government and end furloughs for federal workers, given that Northern Virginia is home to hundreds of thousands of federal employees.

For other Democrats, however, the rationale is far murkier. Theories abound: some observers point to a general lack of strategy within the caucus, while others blame Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) for a failure of leadership. More partisan voices have argued that Democrats simply could not stomach

watching Republicans inflict so much pain on SNAP recipients, federal workers, and the public at large. There is also speculation that some senators worried that forcing Republicans to eliminate the filibuster might have set a precedent that moderate Democrats feared could later empower their own party's progressive flank.

In bailing Republicans out, though, Democrats have created more problems for themselves. First, outrage is growing within the party's own ranks, taking particular aim at Schumer. This internecine discord is unlikely to die down anytime soon. And, with insurance subsidies still likely to expire for more than 20 million people in the U.S., the party now partially owns the forthcoming health care crisis. If Democrats had won real concessions from Republicans or had forced the GOP to overturn the filibuster to unilaterally reopen the government, they would have kept themselves insulated from the consequences. Instead, they now bear partial responsibility for the looming ACA catastrophe.

While the government shutdown disrupted many aspects of U.S. life, its most lasting legacy may be the harsh light it once again cast on the fragility of the U.S. health care system. It is a searing indictment of the U.S. health care system that more than 20 million people can lose coverage overnight based on the decisions of just 100 elected officials.

This moment naturally raises the question of whether Democrats are prepared to pursue more permanent and decisive action to guarantee health care for all people in the U.S. The party currently sits in the minority in Congress and does not control the White House. Yet with Trump's favorability cratering and the 2025 election results hinting at potential Democratic gains in the midterms, the party may soon regain significant governing power. The question, then, is what Democrats would do to address the health care crisis if they were once again tasked with legislating.

In 2020 — the last competitive Democratic presidential primary — support for Medicare for All was a major issue. While proposals under that label vary, most involve establishing a single-payer national health insurance program in which the federal government covers all health care costs for everyone in the U.S.

If millions lose health care coverage heading into the 2026 midterms, Democrats

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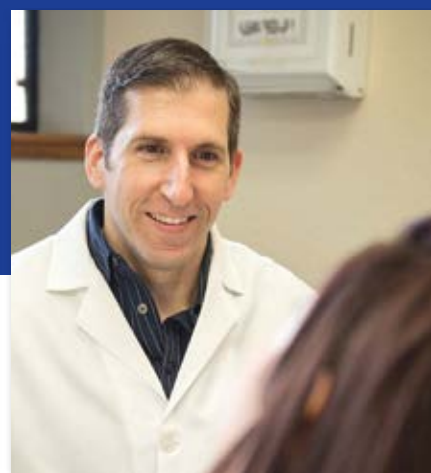


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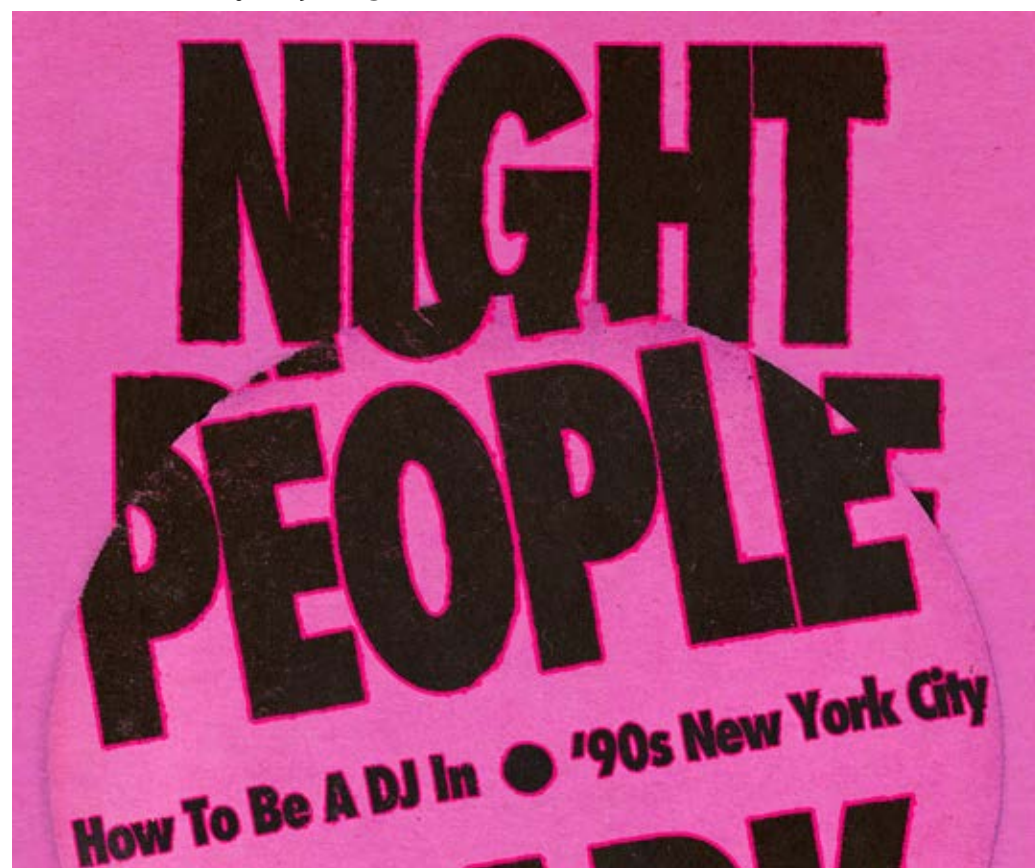
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“Night People” How to Be a DJ in ‘90s New York City” by Mark Ronson

book review by Terri Schlichenmeyer

You just can't hold still. The music starts and your hips shake, your shoulders bounce, your fingers tickle the sky to match a beat. Your air guitar is on-point, your head bops and your toes tap. You can't help it. As in the new memoir, “Night People” by Mark Ronson, you just gotta dance.



With a mother who swanned around with rock bands, a father who founded a music publishing company, and a stepfather who founded the band, Foreigner, it was natural that Mark Ronson would fall into a music career of some sort. He says he was only ten years old when he realized the awesome power of music.

As a pre-teen, he liked to mix music in his stepfather's studio. As a teenager, he formed a band with Sean Lennon that didn't quite catch on. In the fall of his senior year of high school, Ronson began sneaking into Manhattan clubs to listen to music, dance, and find drugs. It was there that he noticed the alchemy that the DJs created and he searched for someone who'd teach him how to do that, too. He became obsessed.

Finding a gig in a New York club, though, was not easy.

Ronson worked a few semi-regular nights around New York City, and at various private parties to hone his skills. His mother purchased for him the electronic equipment he needed, turntables, and amps. He befriended guys who taught him where to get music demos and what to look for at distributor offices, and he glad-handed other DJs, club owners, and music artists.

That, and the rush he got when the dance floor was packed, made the job glamorous. But sometimes, attendance was low, DJ booths were located in undesirable places, and that totally killed the vibe.

Some people, he says, are mostly day people. For others, though, sunlight is something to be endured. Nighttime is when they when they feel most alive.

Part esoteric hip-hop discography, part biography, part SNL's Stefan, and part cultural history, “Night People” very likely has a very narrow audience. If you weren't deep into clubbing back in the day, you can just stop here. If you were ages 15 to 30, thirty years ago, and you never missed club night then, keep reading. This is your book.

Author Mark Ronson talks the talk, which can be good for anyone who knows the highs of a jam-packed club and the thrill of being recognized for skills with a turntable. That can be fun, but it may also be too detailed: mixology is an extremely heavy subject here. Many of the tunes he names were hits only in the clubs and only briefly, and many of the people he name-drops are long gone. Readers may find themselves not particularly caring. Heavy sigh.

This isn't a bad book, but it's absolutely not for everyone. If you weren't into clubbing, pass and you won't miss a thing. If you were a die-hard club kid back then, though, “Night People” will make your eyes dance.

* * *

Want more? Then check out “What Doesn't Kill Me Makes Me Weirder and Harder to Relate To” by Mary Lucia (University of Minnesota Press). It's Lucia's tale of being a rock DJ in Minneapolis-St. Paul, life with legions of listeners, and not being listened to by authorities for over three harrowing, terrifying years while she was stalked by a deranged fan.

Peter Michael Winery: A Remarkable Expression of the Vine

words by Diana Kienle, Certified Specialist
of Wine, photo by Cathy Schwamberger

This winery is located in the northeast corner of Sonoma County (California) in Knights Valley AVA. This is the main winery, and several of the vineyards are at this location. A tasting at this property includes a stunning view of the vineyards from 1000 feet up, on the hillside of Mount Saint Helena. Upon arrival, you are welcomed into a tasting room that has the comfort of a friend's living room and truly feels like a home. This is a warm and open space. The real journey though is by truck. You are driven slowly to the top of the hillside to enjoy the view. Here, they have built a guest space that allows for the magnificent view of vineyards and the valley below. It is a gorgeous expanse of hillsides and vines. The winery is a remarkable commitment to nature.

The winery itself is 750 acres with 144 planted to vines. Beyond Knights Valley, Peter Michael's other vineyards are located in Oakville (Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot) and in Seaview on the Sonoma mountains providing coastal mountain vineyards for Pinot Noir. These far-reaching vineyards allow Peter Michael to deliver a broad portfolio of wines including Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, and red blends.

Ah yes, the wine! The Chardonnay that we tasted was rich and plush after 11 years of aging. The tasting was set up to demonstrate how the wines evolve. Kenji, who led our tasting, was extremely well educated on the winery, its history, and the depth of the portfolio. Unlike many tastings, the one at Peter Michael is designed to showcase the ability and potential for gracious aging and evolution of the wines. The wines are svelte, smooth, and rich after several years of aging.

The entire lineup was one of great depth. We had the pleasure to taste through four wines, beginning with the lovely 2014 'Belle Côte' Chardonnay as mentioned previously. We then moved on to the Estate Sauvignon Blanc, the 2018 'L'Après-Midi', which was bright and full of orchard fruit. Then we tasted the 2012 'Les Pavots' Estate Cabernet Blend and the 2012 'Au Paradis' single vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. Both were very deep and rich, being fully expressive after 13 years of aging. All the wines were well-structured wines that will age gracefully. It is not often you get the chance to taste the depth and age-ability of wines. Peter Michael is a true standout in the valley.

Tastings at [Peter Michael Winery](#) are offered for members of the mailing list. To get access to a tasting, you can join their waitlist at the website to be added to their mailing list. I'd also recommend calling the winery to ask if you can schedule a tasting. It's a two-hour experience that is worth the effort. The beautiful wine and gorgeous scenery are both memorable.

Enjoy!



Kenji, the hospitality host at
Peter Michael



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Shop Local, Spread Love Three Easy Ways to Keep Your Holiday Dollars Close to Home

Sure, the days of strolling through jam-packed malls may be fading – but supporting local this holiday season is easier than ever. With a couple of thoughtful clicks (or a neighborhood walk!), you can help the small businesses that make our community vibrant and give gifts that feel personal, joyful, and full of Sacramento spirit. Here are three great ways to shop local this year:

Delicious Experiences: Restaurant Gift Cards

Give someone a night out on the town – and keep your favorite neighborhood eateries thriving. From [brunch](#) and bubbly or [fine dining](#) in Midtown to delicious comfort food and [seafood](#) along the river, a restaurant gift card turns into fun memories... and maybe even a second round of [margaritas](#).

Pro Tip: Add a personal touch – “You must try the [Poke Nachos](#)!”

Bonus points if they post a pic later and tag the business – instant holiday cheer.

Perfect for: foodies, date-night duos, and anyone who loves a good locally crafted cocktail.



“You must try the Poke Nachos!”

Pamper & Presence: Wellness and Self-Care Gift Cards

Let's be real – everyone could use more ahhh this season. A massage, a fresh new cut, a facial, or a relaxing [floating therapy](#) session are the kinds of gifts that say, “You deserve to feel amazing.” Many LGBTQ-owned or affirming salons and wellness studios offer digital gift cards – easy for you, and easy for your recipient.

Pro Tip: Pair it with a locally made candle or bath bomb for the full spa-day fantasy.

Perfect for: stressed-out besties, your favorite [drag queen bingo](#) partner, and anyone with New Year refresh goals.

Sip & Shop: Local Coffee, Wineries & Gift Boutiques

Small gift shops, indie coffee roasters, local breweries, and wineries make gift-giving way more fun. Think cozy hoodies from a favorite café, curated gift boxes from local boutiques, or [wine tasting](#) passes from one of the amazing Northern California vineyards just a short drive away.

Pro Tip: Create a DIY “Local Taste Tour” bundle – a [coffee](#) card plus a bottle of local wine and something sweet from a nearby bakery or candy shop. It's like gifting a whole weekend of happiness!

Perfect for: hosts, coworkers, chosen family – or anyone who loves sipping and strolling.

Why It Matters

When you shop local, you're strengthening the community – supporting LGBTQ+-friendly spaces, keeping dollars circulating in our neighborhoods, and showing love to the businesses that show up for us all year long. And if you do hit up a big-box retailer, take a second to look into their business practices – make sure your purchase still reflects your values.



Pipes burst, drains clog, and toilets stage surprise takeovers... and guess who your customers will call first? Keep your business top-of-mind with Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community. It's easy, affordable, and you can be the hero in coveralls!

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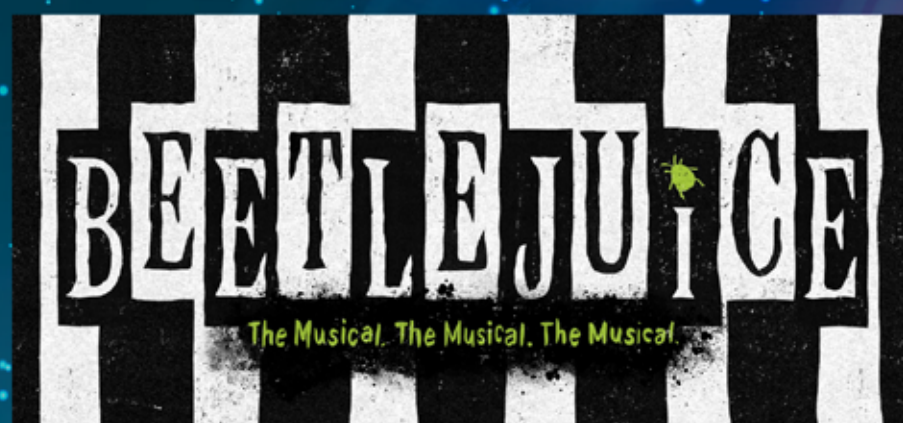
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The Ultimate Guide to Queer Gift Giving: 2025 Edition by Mikey Rox

Some gifts scream practical, others whisper luxury, and a few flat-out blur the lines. From cocoa that feels ceremonial to a cologne that linger like a suggestive smirk, this year’s ultimate gift picks prove that thoughtful (and occasionally naughty) presents don’t have to be prosaic. Welcome to your holiday cheat sheet for festive tangibles that get noticed, remembered, and maybe even result in a peck of gratitude planted under the mistletoe. Consensually, of course.



Amber Glass Champagne Flutes
Pop the champs – but make it vintage. These tulip-shaped stunners in amber-tinted glass brings all the Gatsby vibes without the jazz-age drama. Whether you’re toasting a milestone or celebrating a Tuesday, their seven-ounce capacities and hand-wash-only care make ‘em as practical as they are pretty. Pair with a thoughtful bottle of bubs and gift with a glittering wink. \$18, NantucketLooms.com

Cipriani Prosecco Gift Set
Effervescent with stone-fruit sweetness and a touch of Italian flair, the Cipriani Bellini & Prosecco gift set brings brunch-level glamour to any day of the week. The Bellini blends rich white-peach purée with sparkling wine, while the dry ‘secco keeps things crisp and celebratory. Pop a bottle, pour a flute, and suddenly winter weeknights feel like a party – even with your pants off. \$36, TotalWine.com



Disaster Playbook by Here Comes the Apocalypse
Because the end of the world shouldn’t be a solo act, this spiral-bound guide is your step-by-step roadmap to surviving and thriving when everything else goes sideways – which might be sooner than you think. Packed with checklists, drills, and a healthy dose of humor, it’s like a survival manual written by your most prepared (and slightly snarky) friend. Whether you’re prepping for a zombie apocalypse or, more realistically, REVOLUTION!, this playbook’s got your back. \$40, HereComesTheApocalypse.com

Molekule Air Purifier
For the one who treats their space like a sanctuary (or just can’t stand sneezes mid-Brunch Club), the Molekule Air Pro is magic in motion. Covering up to 1,000 square feet, it doesn’t just capture allergens, VOCs, and smoke – it destroys them, leaving your air feeling luxury-clean. FDA-cleared as a Class II medical device, it’s serious science disguised as modern design. Gift it to your city-dwelling, pet-loving, candle-burning friend who likes their living room as pristine as their Instagram feed. \$1,015, Molekule.com



Villeroy & Boch Royal Classic Christmas Collection
Every meal is a mini celebration – with whimsy at every place setting – in Villeroy & Boch’s Royal Classic festive dinnerware collection that hits all the right notes. Made from premium German porcelain, it features nostalgic little toys, nutcrackers, and rocking horses in delicate relief, giving your holiday spread a playful but refined twist. Dishwasher- and microwave-safe, it’s luxe without the fuss. Gift a piece to a special someone, or start a collection they’ll use (and show off) for years to come. \$22-\$363, Villeroy-Boch.com

Wickless Vulva Candles
Bold, luxurious, and completely flame-free, CTOAN’s wickless candles melt from beneath on a warmer, releasing a subtle, sophisticated fragrances, like sandalwood or lavender. The vulva-shaped wax adds a playful, provocative element to any space –perfect for a bedroom, living room, or anywhere you want elegance with a muffy edge. A gift that celebrates form, intimacy and self-expression, no fire required. \$39, CTOANCO.com

Parkside Flask Mojave Edition
Wine nights get a desert glow-up with Parkside’s limited-edition 750-milliliter all-in-one flask draped in sun-washed bronze and badland hues like sage, sand, and terracotta – with magnetic stemless tumblers that snap on for effortless shareability. It keeps your vino chilled for 24 hours, pours without drips (no tears for spilled rosé, please), and even lets you laser-engrave your own mantra or inside joke. Perfect for picnics, surprise rooftop clinks, or gifting to your favorite wine (or desert) rat. \$149, HighCampFlasks.com

Manta Sleep Mask
Total blackout, zero pressure on the eyes, and Bluetooth speakers built right into the straps, this ain’t your mama’s sleep mask – but it could be. The Manta SOUND sleep mask features C-shaped eye cups that block every hint of light while ultra-thin speakers deliver your favorite white noise, meditation, or late-night playlist straight to your ears. With 24-hour battery life, breathable fabric, and easy-to-adjust sound, it turns any bed (or airplane seat) into a five-star sleep suite. Perfect for anyone who treats shut-eye like an art form (or just wants to escape their roommate’s late-night bingin’ and/or bangin’). \$159, MantaSleep.com



Woo(e)d Cologne
British GQ recently crowned Woo(e)d by ALTAIA the “Best Date Night Fragrance,” and honestly, they nailed it. Confident without being cocky – smoky gaïac and Atlas cedarwood grounds the room while supple leather and spicy cardamom do all the flirting – it’s a scent that lingers like good conversation and soft candlelight. Gift it to the one who always turns heads – or keep it for yourself and let them come to (and then on) you. \$255, BeautyHabit.com



Shacklelock Necklace
Turn the industrial-chic vibe of a shackle into a sleek statement. Mi Tesoro’s platinum-plated stainless-steel necklace sits on an 18-inch wheat chain, featuring a shackle-style latch pendant that’s waterproof, tarnish-free, and totally fuss-less. Beyond style, it nods to a classic gesture in the queer leather community: replacing a traditional Master lock with something elegant to quietly signal belonging to someone special. Wear it solo for a minimalist edge or layer it like you mean it; either way this piece locks in both your look and your intentions. \$90, MiTesoroJewelry.com



Lococo Cocoa Kit
Keep the run-of-the-mill mugs in the cabinet this Christmas and pull out Lococo’s handcrafted Oaxacan versions that demand you slow down and sip like it matters. Paired with a wooden scoop, rechargeable frother, and Lococo’s signature spice hot-chocolate blend (vegan, gluten-free, with adaptogenic mushrooms), this holiday kit turns Mexi-cocoa into a mini ritual you’ll look forward to. Perfect for anyone who loves a little indulgence with a side of ¡A huevo! energy. \$62, LococoMagic.com



Greenworks Electric Lawnmower
You a ‘hood queen who considers lawn care performance art – or just wants to rule the cul-de-sac in quiet, emission-free glory? Greenworks’ zero-turn electric mower has the muscle of a 24-horsepower gas engine but none of the fumes, drama or maintenance. Six 60V batteries and a 42-inch deck mean you can mow up to two-and-a-half acres on a single charge – then plug in, recharge, and ride again. It’s whisper-quiet, slope-ready, and smooth enough to make you wonder why you ever pushed anything besides your queer agenda. The perfect gift for the homeowner who loves sustainability, symmetry, and showing off their freshly striped yard like that fresh fade you get on Fridays. \$5,000, GreenworksTools.com

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with he/him on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels



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RainbowChamber.com





Local Museums Encourage Community to Shop with a Purpose on Museum Store Sunday on November 30

Complete with a variety of holiday specials and plenty of in-stock inventory on-hand, Sacramento area museums are proud to participate in the 9th Annual Museum Store Sunday on November 30, 2025. In partnership with the Museum Store Association (MSA), more than 2,200 museum stores representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, 25 countries, and five continents will offer inspired shopping at your favorite museums and cultural institutions. Museum Store Sunday offers an opportunity for the community to shop with a purpose while supporting the missions and programs of each participating museum and cultural institution.

Sacramento-area museums are gearing up for the 9th Annual Museum Store Sunday on November 30, inviting the community to shop with purpose and support local arts, culture, and education. Part of a global celebration organized by the Museum Store Association, the event includes more than 2,200 museum stores across all 50 states and 25 countries encouraging shoppers to enjoy meaningful gifts while helping sustain beloved cultural institutions.

New this year, seven central city museums have teamed up to offer a Museum Store Sunday Shopper's Passport. Visitors can pick up a passport at any participating location and collect stamps by visiting multiple shops. Shoppers who earn at least three stamps will be entered to win one of three prize baskets filled with museum merchandise. Passports can be picked up and submitted at the California Automobile Museum, California Museum, California State Railroad Museum, Crocker Art Museum, SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity (MOSAC), Sacramento History Museum, and Capitol Books & Gifts

inside the California State Capitol Museum. (Capitol Books & Gifts will provide an online entry code since the store is only open Monday, December 1.)

A variety of holiday sales, discounts, and special items will be available at museum stores throughout the Sacramento region:

Aerospace Museum of California

Enjoy 25% off all merchandise (excluding Snoopy), from aviation-themed toys and books to models and STEM kits. Every purchase supports museum programs. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.aerospaceca.org

California Automobile Museum

Receive 10% off storewide (20% for members) on collectibles, apparel, books, and more. Plus, new and renewing memberships earn three extra free months through December 31 with code HOLIDAY. calautomuseum.org

California Museum

Shoppers get 10% off select items, 20% off

purchases over \$100, and 20% off admission. Browse California-themed gifts, jewelry, apparel, and toys supporting statewide culture and history. CaliforniaMuseum.org/MSS

California State Railroad Museum

A can't-miss destination for train fans, featuring books, toys, Polar Express items, and exclusive railroad dinnerware. Enjoy 20% off two limited-edition dinnerware lines Friday-Sunday.

www.californiarailroad.museum/store

Sacramento Children's Museum

10% off everything, select items up to 50% off, and a free swag gift with \$20 purchase. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.sackids.org

Sacramento History Museum

Unique prints from the popular Print Shop, locally crafted items, historic books, and more. Enjoy 20% off merchandise tied to the current exhibition "RCAF in Mictlan." www.sachistorymuseum.org

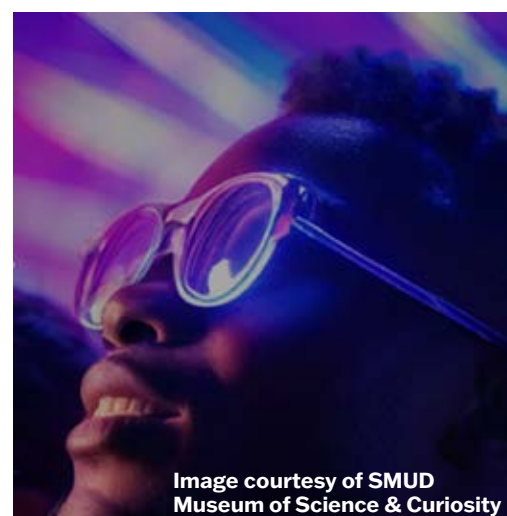


Image courtesy of SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity

SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity

Enjoy 20% off the entire store, perfect for STEM gift-giving and family discoveries. www.visitmosac.org

For details about global Museum Store Sunday activities, visit museumstoresunday.org. To explore Sacramento museums year-round, follow @SacMuseums or visit SacMuseums.org.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

Fremont Presbyterian, Sacramento

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Reno Has a Destination Museum

by Chris Narloch

If you have never been to the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, this is the time to plan a day trip and check it out, before these two superb current exhibitions are gone.

Dorothea Lange: Seeing People

During her long, prolific, and groundbreaking career, the American photographer Dorothea Lange made some of the most iconic portraits of the 20th century. "Dorothea Lange: Seeing People" reframes Lange's work through the lens of portraiture, highlighting her unique ability to discover and reveal the character and resilience of those she photographed.

Featuring 100 photographs, the exhibition addresses her innovative approaches to picturing people, emphasizing her work on social issues including economic disparity, migration, poverty, and racism.

This exhibition debuted at the National Gallery of Art in 2023 and is curated by Philip Brookman, consulting curator in the department of photographs, National Gallery of Art. The Nevada Museum of Art's presentation of "Dorothea Lange: Seeing People" will be the only West Coast venue for this exhibition.

When Langston Hughes Came to Town

"When Langston Hughes Came to Town" explores the history and legacy of Langston Hughes through the lens of his largely unknown travels to Nevada and highlights the vital role Hughes played in the Harlem Renaissance and beyond.

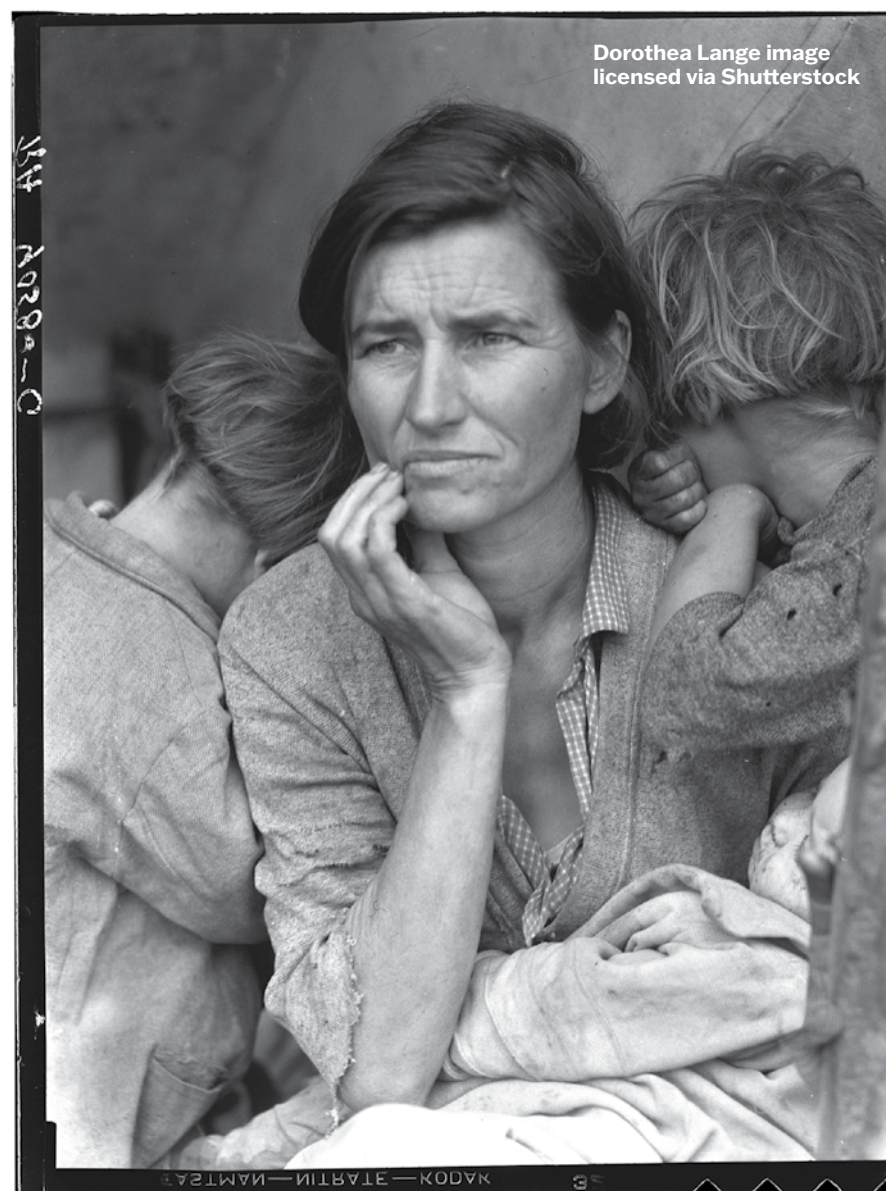
Hughes studied at Columbia University in 1921 for one year and would eventually become one of the leading writers of the Harlem Renaissance. A writer with a distinctive style inspired by jazz rhythms, Hughes documented all facets of Black culture but became renowned for his incisive poetry.

The exhibition begins by examining the relationship of this literary giant to the state of Nevada through a unique presentation of archival photographs, ephemera, and short stories he wrote that were informed by his visit to the area.

The writer's first trip to the Silver State took place in 1932, when he investigated the working conditions at the Hoover Dam Project. He returned to the state in 1934, at the height of his career, making an unexpected trip to Reno, and found solace and a great night life in the city.

The presentation continues with work created by leading artists of the Harlem Renaissance who had close ties to Hughes, including sculptures by Augusta Savage and Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, photographs by Griffith J. Davis, and paintings by Beauford Delaney, Romare Bearden, Aaron Douglas, Norman Lewis, Hugo Gellert, Hale Woodruff, Charles Alston, and Archibald J. Motley, Jr.

Note: Both exhibitions are on display through Feb. 15, 2026. For more information: www.nevadaart.org



THE VENUE — AT THUNDER VALLEY —



PATTI LABELLE & GLADYS KNIGHT
JANUARY 17 • 7:30PM

THE DOOBIE BROTHERS
WALK THIS ROAD TOUR
DECEMBER 5 • 8PM

GWEN STEFANI
DECEMBER 6 • 8PM

ALT 94.7 PRESENTS ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS
AJR
WITH ALMOST MONDAY & OUT IN FRONT
DECEMBER 11 • 7PM

LAUREN DAIGLE
THE BEHOLD CHRISTMAS TOUR
DECEMBER 12 • 8PM

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

3RD THURSDAY \$30 TRIBUTE SERIES
ROCK MONSTERZ
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

DIRTY HEADS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST ROME
JANUARY 23 • 7:30PM

DANIEL TOSH
JANUARY 24 • 8PM

BRAD PAISLEY
TRUCK STILL WORKS WORLD TOUR
JANUARY 30 • 7:30PM

HALESTORM
WITH SORRY X
FEBRUARY 6 • 7:30PM

VALENTINE'S JAM '26
FEATURING JOE, MYA, STOKLEY
& MONTELL JORDAN
FEBRUARY 7 • 7PM

ALANIS MORISSETTE
FEBRUARY 13 • 8PM

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

HACKEN LEE WITH
KEN & SAMMY
BEST WISHES 2026
FEBRUARY 21 • 7:30PM

BOY GEORGE &
CULTURE CLUB
WITH MARTHA WASH
MARCH 13 • 7:30PM

3RD THURSDAY \$30 TRIBUTE SERIES
WHEN DOVES CRY
THE PRINCE TRIBUTE SHOW
MARCH 19 • 7:30PM

AARON LEWIS AND
THE STATELINERS
2026 AMERICAN TOUR
MARCH 21 • 8PM

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What's New in Sonoma County – Holiday Edition

Sonoma County glows for the holidays, as vineyards rest and towns light up with seasonal celebrations. From menorah lightings and Christmas markets to New Year's festivities, Wine Country welcomes everyone to gather and celebrate from Gualala to Carneros – all season long. (Some of these are happening very soon!)



photo courtesy of
stayhealdsburg.com

[Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa](#)

Celebrate the holidays in luxury with festive dinners at Santé, cozy Sonoma Swiss Chalets, and the resort's Annual Tree Lighting on December 4. Seasonal spa treatments and gift-worthy experiences round out the Wine Country escape.

[Christmas in the Redwoods](#)

Drive through a dazzling redwood light display at Alliance Redwoods, then visit Occidental for Santa, hot cocoa, and small-town cheer. Happening the first three weekends in December, Thursday–Sunday, 5:30–8:30 p.m. | \$10 per car | Reservations required.

[Lighting of the Sonoma Plaza](#)

Kick off the holidays as Sonoma Plaza lights up with thousands of sparkling lights, live entertainment, food trucks, and local wine and cider. A festive, family-friendly tradition. Nov. 22 | 5–8 p.m. | Sonoma Plaza

[Santa's Riverboat Arrival \(Petaluma\)](#)

Santa and Mrs. Claus make a grand entrance by tugboat, followed by Nutcracker dancers, carolers, and holiday photos. Continue the celebration downtown for Small Business Saturday. Nov. 25 | 11:30 a.m.

[Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Grove \(Windsor\)](#)

More than 200 decorated trees brighten Windsor Town Green as part of a cheerful holiday celebration with crafts, performances, and treats. Main event: Dec. 4 | 5–8 p.m. Tree grove remains through Jan. 1.

[A Season to Sparkle \(Healdsburg\)](#)

Healdsburg decks out downtown with lights, parties, winery events, and its annual tree lighting on December 5. Special happenings include holiday feasts, bazaars, and Breakfast with Santa – celebrating one of America's top Christmas towns.

[Northern Lights Winter Lights Art Walk – Luther Burbank Center](#)

A free, outdoor illuminated art walk through the Sculpture Garden, showcasing local artists with glowing installations and twinkle-lit pathways. Nov. 20–Jan. 19 | Dusk–9:30 p.m. | Donations welcome

[Sonoma Botanical Garden: Gardens Aglow](#)

Stroll through shimmering light tunnels, enjoy crafts and music, and relax by cozy firepits with s'mores or wine. Fri–Sun, Dec. 5–21 | 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.



photo courtesy of
TimberCoveResort.com

New in Hotels

[Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa – All-Inclusive Package](#)

A new all-inclusive stay combines dining, spa time, golf, and exclusive amenities – all rooted in the resort's signature Wine Country hospitality and geothermal luxury.

[Timber Cove Resort – Micro-Retreats & Babymoon Package](#)

Experience quick wellness escapes in the Reset & Restore Suite with contrast therapy, compression boosts, and coastal calm – plus a special babymoon package designed for relaxation.

New in Wine

[Foppiano Vineyards](#)

A refreshed tasting room with vineyard-view seating marks a new era at this historic winery, with future plans for wood-fired bites and expanded hospitality.

[Portworks Wine Lounge](#)

New owners Heringer Estates bring a fresh look and organic wines to this relaxed Petaluma lounge known for its small-batch ports and waterfront charm.

[Bricoleur Vineyards: Après Bricoleur](#)

A cozy Pendleton-inspired winter greenhouse invites guests to enjoy fireside-style wine and food for a holiday après-ski vibe in Wine Country.

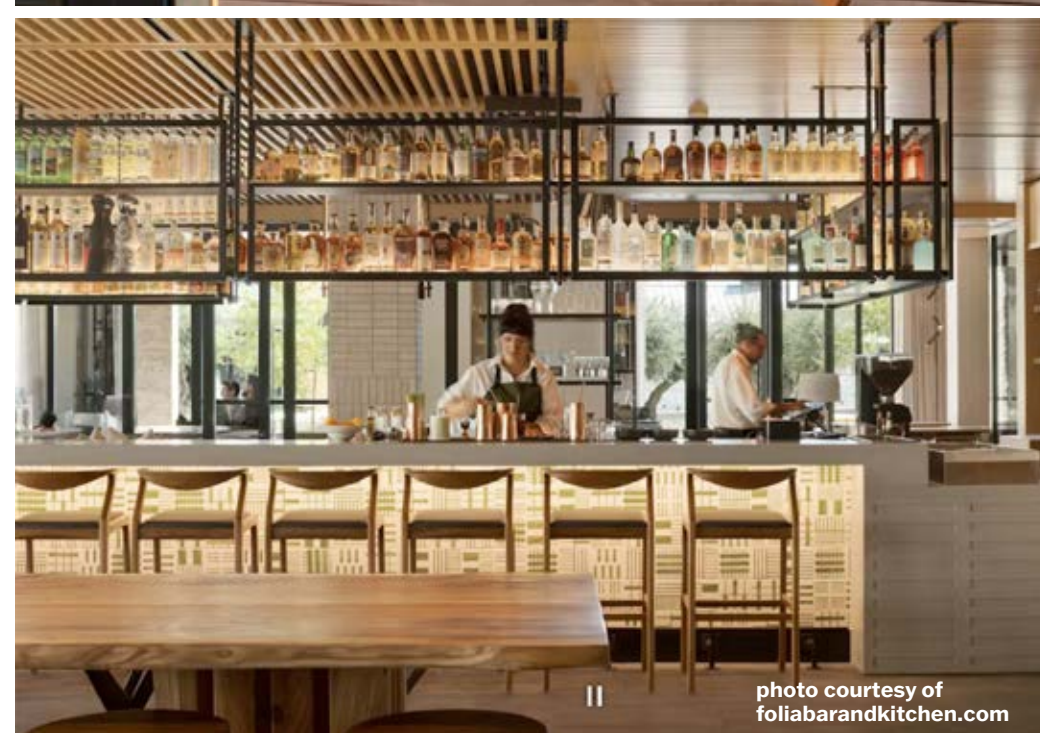


photo courtesy of
foliabarandkitchen.com

New in Restaurants

[Folia Bar & Kitchen \(Appellation Healdsburg\)](#)

Charlie Palmer's newest restaurant celebrates seasonal live-fire cooking in a welcoming space that blends dining, check-in, and laid-back Wine Country style – with a rooftop lounge above.

[Quail & Condor Bakery](#)

The beloved Healdsburg bakery expands into a larger home to add seating and boost production, growing its influence in Sonoma's thriving artisan food scene.

[Pastasciutta La Bodega](#)

Next to Michelin-recognized Diavola, this new market offers fresh pasta, paninis, and take-home Italian classics – strengthening Geyserville's culinary appeal.

Get Festive in Style with Fun Holiday Shirts

Why blend in at the holiday party when you can be the one everyone remembers? Hardaddy's playful printed shirts deliver instant cheer with bold patterns—think tropical Santa vibes, cocktails with candy canes, and designs that practically shout let's celebrate!



photo courtesy of Hardaddy.com

These shirts make great conversation starters and look amazing in group photos (your Instagram feed will thank you). They're lightweight, layer easily under a blazer or over a tee, and transition from office gatherings to late-night fun without missing a beat.

Looking for a memorable gift? These prints are perfect for the friend who always brings the laughs—or the one who needs an excuse to. Pair a bold shirt with simple chinos or jeans and let the outfit do the talking.

This season, skip the ugly sweater and step into something a little more eye-catching. Festive style should be fun—and these shirts absolutely deliver. hardaddy.com

Wear Your Favorite Walk-Companion

Imagine wearing your sweatshirt — complete with an embroidered likeness of your favorite walking companion. Pawaviva turns that dream into reality! They specialize in custom silhouette embroidery: just upload a photo of your pet, and their artists will transform it into a beautifully stitched portrait that captures your pet's unique features — from the tilt of an ear to the curve of a tail.

Their canvas? Cozy hoodies, tees, and sweatshirts made from sustainable, earth-friendly materials. Every time a Pawaviva piece is purchased, they donate \$1 to the Petfinder Foundation to help pets in shelters find loving homes.

Whether you're gifting a pet parent or treating yourself, Pawaviva blends artistry, comfort, and cause into wearable keepsakes. pawaviva.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a holiday sale coming up on Saturday December 6th, regular store hours. There will be a 50% discount in the warehouse. A great time to buy that special book for someone!



The Jane Austen Birthday Tea
Sunday, December 14th, 12-3pm

Refreshments - tea of course - will be served. Teapots will be available for purchase, and raffled off along with many, many books from Miss Austen and others. Costumes are not necessary but encouraged.



- Donations are taken on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon.
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If you have any questions, please email bookden@saclibfriends.org. You can also call the Book Den, 916-731-8493 between 9am and 12pm. Please be patient - we are an all-volunteer organization and not in the office past noon most days...



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Sacramento



Hosted By

DoMe Moore

TOY DRIVE

THIS MONTH'S BENEFICIARY:

WEAVE





How Good Is “Wicked: For Good”? Plus, “Merrily We Roll Along” Arrives

by Chris Narloch

Broadway fans rejoice. In addition to the second big screen movie in the “Wicked” franchise, theater queens can look forward to a filmed performance of “Merrily We Roll Along,” coming soon to a theater near you. Read on for more on those and two other new movies.



Wicked: For Good

Wicked: For Good

After a year of anticipation, and an intense promotional campaign, the sequel to the first “Wicked” film has arrived in a gazillion theaters, and inevitably, reviews have been mixed.

Whenever a movie enjoys the colossal success that “Wicked” has, there will always be some critics waiting with their knives out to carve up the sequel. The less you read about the movie the better, and I would recommend avoiding reviews from straight male critics, a population that is genetically predisposed to hate all musicals.

That said, I enjoyed “Wicked: For Good” – despite the crazy hype – but not quite as much as the first “Wicked” film, which has the potential to become a classic. As with the “Wicked” stage musical, the second part is not as fun, lacks humor, and has fewer good songs.

On the plus side, the film’s production values are again spectacular, and the two leads go even deeper into the characters of Glinda and Elphaba than before. I also admired the way Jon M. Chu stages the musical’s very clever tricks and twists in the new movie’s final scenes, and he handles the character of Dorothy Gale perfectly.

What I admire most about both “Wicked” movies is how they celebrate friendship. It’s rare that we see a platonic relationship between two women depicted on the big screen with this much emotion, and Arianda Grande and Cynthia Erivo can be proud of the beautiful bond they have created on and off-screen.

The best way to see “Wicked: For Good” is at Sacramento’s Esquire IMAX, where it will be playing through at least Dec. 9. To purchase tickets, visit: www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo



The Running Man

The Running Man

Action film junkies looking for an antidote to “Wicked” mania should enjoy this non-stop, action-packed remake of an early Arnold Schwarzenegger futuristic film about a desperate father who enters a deadly reality game show to save his sick child.

To win \$1 billion, Ben Richards (Glen Powell) must survive 30 days while being hunted by professional assassins across the country, with every move broadcast to a bloodthirsty public. His anger at the system and his role as a fan favorite turn him into a threat to the network’s control.

Edgar Wright directs with the subtlety of a chainsaw, but Mr. Powell brings the grit and gravitas required of him and gifts his fans with a lovely nude scene to boot. Currently in wide theatrical release.



Zootopia 2

Zootopia 2

If you saw the first “Zootopia” movie, you no doubt remember the hilarious scene with the sloths working at DMV.

If you don’t know what I am talking about, you need to see that classic family film before you watch this equally wonderful, animated movie, which opens exclusively in theaters this Thanksgiving weekend.

Clever and funny, “Zootopia 2” features a superb voice cast that includes Shakira, Quinta Brunson, Macaulay Culkin, Fortune Feimster, and Ke Huy Quan.

Merrily We Roll Along

Stephen Sondheim cultists and fans of Jonathan Groff and Daniel Radcliffe will not want to miss this one. The recent Broadway revival of “Merrily We Roll Along” was a star-studded, runaway hit, and tickets were almost impossible to get.

Now you can have a front-row seat when a filmed performance of this beloved Sondheim show hits movie theaters, beginning Dec. 4. The production won four Tonys, including performance awards for stars Jonathan Groff and Daniel Radcliffe, plus Best Revival of a Musical.

Sony Pictures Classics will release the film, and you can purchase tickets at: www.fathomentertainment.com/



Merrily We Roll Along



Sacramento Will Have A “White Christmas” This Year

by Chris Narloch

Sacramento apparently wants snow this Christmas. “Irving Berlin’s White Christmas” has not even opened yet, and it has already been extended because of strong ticket sales.

The timeless movie of the same name from 1954 has been adapted for the stage in a merry and bright theatrical experience for all ages. It’s the story of a song-and-dance team putting on a show in a magical Vermont inn and falling for a talented sister act in the process.

Full of dancing, laughter and some of the greatest songs ever written, the musical features the Irving Berlin hits “Blue Skies,” “Count Your Blessings,” “I’ve Got My Love to Keep Me Warm,” “How Deep Is the Ocean?” and the classic title song.

Due to popular demand, the show has been extended from Dec. 5 through Dec. 14, including 2 new matinees. As I write this, the best availability is Dec. 12 -14, so get your tickets now while they last.

Remember that this production will perform at the UC Davis Health Pavilion on H Street, not at the theater across from the Capitol. For more information:

www.broadwaysacramento.com/broadway-at-music-circus



Merry Sapphic Christmas

If you’re in the mood for a light, lesbian rom com this holiday season, check out “The Christmas Writer,” a new, queer Christmas movie that had its world premiere recently on the Tello Films Network.



When a bestselling lesbian Christmas author loses her holiday muse – and holiday festivities are just a sad reminder – she returns to her sleepy hometown in search of new inspiration. What she finds is an unexpected love story that even she couldn’t have written.

You can watch “The Christmas Writer” on VOD at Tello Films Network, the longest running LGBTQ+ streaming platform with the biggest library of sapphic holiday films available anywhere. The movie is also available to rent or buy on Amazon, Apple, YouTube Movies and other VOD platforms.

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Artwork Deadline
December 1

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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

The holiday season is a chance to gather, celebrate and share the traditions that make each of our communities shine. As festivities unfold across the region, it's also an opportunity to honor the rich diversity of customs, beliefs and cultural practices that shape how we mark this time of year. The spirit of togetherness, understanding and inclusivity are hallmarks of our Sacramento community and the events below.

Dec. 3

Experience youthful discovery and unexpected connection in I AND YOU, opening Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Capital Stage, 2215 J St.. This intimate production by Lauren Gunderson and directed by Imani Mitchell brings two teens together in a poetry assignment that evolves into a life-affirming connection. It runs through Dec. 28. Capstage.org

Dec. 4

Celebrate with glitz and good vibes at Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce's "Drag Queen Bingo" on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) at Mango's, 1930 K St. Cover: \$20 (cash only) for eight fabulous rounds of bingo. Excitement guaranteed! Rainbowchamber.com

Celebrate the season with the Folsom Lake College Dance Department's "Winter Showcase! Evening of Dance" on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m., at the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway in Folsom.. A vibrant mosaic of styles including ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop and musical theatre takes the stage alongside guest artists, setting the tone for a festive holiday celebration. Harriscenter.net

Dec. 5

Sierra Repertory Theatre brings holiday cheer to the Gold Country with A Christmas Carol, running Dec. 5-21, at the Historic Fallon House Theatre, 11175 Washington St., Columbia, Calif. This beloved Dickens classic features spirited music, Victorian charm, and a heartwarming journey of redemption, offering a joyful, family-friendly seasonal tradition in Columbia State Historic Park. Sierrarep.org

Experience the joyous holiday musical Black Nativity by Langston Hughes, directed by Miranda D. Lawson, from Dec. 5-21 at Celebration Arts Theatre, 2727 B St. This spirited production fuses gospel song, powerful dance and communal storytelling into a seasonal celebration of faith and culture. Celebrationarts.net



Ben Ali Shriner's Holiday Craft Fair

Dec. 6

NorCal Resist hosts its vibrant Pozole Fundraiser on Dec. 6, from 6-10 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 2425 Sierra Blvd. Dinner runs 6-8 p.m., followed by dancing from 8-10 p.m. Guests can enjoy pork, chicken or vegan pozole, plus raffles, music and a dessert auction. Tickets start at \$30 for adults and \$20 for children. Norcalresist.org

Arden Fair's UnchARTed program brings back the 916 Market on Dec. 5 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Arden Fair Mall, 1689 Arden Way, offering a festive day of art, community and creativity. The Holiday Artisan Market features locally made art, jewelry, home goods and specialty foods, plus hands-on crafts and live entertainment. Shoppers can explore two locations on the lower level near See's Candies and JCPenney, celebrating Sacramento's vibrant makers under one roof. Ardenfair.com



Krampus comes back to Old Town Elk Grove

Dec. 7

Mystical Celtic Heart brings Krampus back to Old Town Elk Grove for its fifth year on Dec. 7, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 9031 Elk Grove Blvd. The free event features holiday music, artisan vendors, food and family-friendly fun. Guests can enjoy a free meet-and-greet with Krampus and his Dark Elves, photo ops, candy and a complimentary Krampus ornament. Krampuselkgrove.com

Get into the holiday spirit with the annual Ben Ali Shriner's Holiday Craft Fair on Sunday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St. A perfect time to pick up unique handmade gifts, festive décor, and supporting local artisans. Bring your friends, your list and your holiday cheer! Sacramentoscottishrite.org

Ongoing

The exhibition Black Artists in America: From the Bicentennial to September 11 is running at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O Street through Jan. 11, 2026. Featuring more than 50 works by Black American artists spanning the late 1970s to early 2000s, the show explores how visual creators engaged with cultural, political and social shifts of the era. Crockerart.org

Dec. 10

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Holiday Mixer on Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Arden West, 2200 Harvard St. Members and guests will celebrate the season with networking, appetizers and a cash bar. A free AARP "Six Pillars of Brain Health" workshop begins at 5 p.m. Admission is free for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Rainbowchamber.com

Dec. 13

Brooklyn-based clarinetist and saxophonist Anat Cohen brings her bold, genre-blending jazz to Jackson Hall at the Mondavi Center, 523 Mrak Hall Dr. in Davis on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. The performance, led by musical director Oded Lev-Ari, will feature Cohen's tentet in a set spanning Latin, Middle Eastern, klezmer and jazz. Mondaviarts.org

Upcoming



Buy your tickets today to see Patti LaBelle and Gladys Knight live at The Venue at Thunder Valley! Don't miss these iconic Divas bringing down the house with the powerhouse vocals and timeless hits only they can deliver. January 17, 2026

Community Announcements

Happy birthday to Markcurtis on Dec. 4. Also, our hearts go out to community member Alvin Prasad and their family and loved ones.

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

A Free Holiday Concert

No "Bah, humbug" here! Rancho Cordova's Symphony d'Oro will get you in a festive mood with their latest concert, "Holiday Harmonies."



Tap your toes to tunes from Charlie Brown, the Grinch, and "The Polar Express." Enjoy gorgeous winter-themed music by Tchaikovsky and Holst. Then join your neighbors in a good old-fashioned sing-along.

You can celebrate the season with symphonic splendor on Saturday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m., at Cordova High Performing Arts Center in Rancho Cordova.

This is a free admission event with open seating. Doors at the Cordova High Performing Arts Theater will open at 3:30 p.m. For more information: www.symphonydoro.org



Activating Taste Buds The Lodge at New Dawn Ranch

presented by Rahn

Guerneville, California has never really been known for its fine dining. Every once in a while, a restaurant would open up and then, sooner than you knew it, it was gone. What used to be the old Fifes Resort is now called New Dawn Ranch, and they have a restaurant called The Lodge that is something very, very special.

I'm happy to say that I was treated to dinner there for my birthday this year. The experience was exceptional — as was the food.

The homemade sourdough bread was wonderful and came with a dill butter that was very flavorful. A nice start. There were three of us, so we decided to get a few plates to share so we could each experience more of the flavors available.

Here's what we had: Bluefin Tuna Tostadas, Potato and Caviar Bites, Ricotta Gnudi, a plate of Chicken and Mushrooms, and Snake River Picanha. Yes, it was all very fancy, beautifully presented, and melt-in-your-mouth good. Surprisingly, the Chicken and Mushrooms dish was a clear standout. Amazing.

We ended the night with what they simply call "Strawberries." But these strawberries were presented several different ways — fresh, as a gazpacho, and also made into a sorbet. What sounded like a simple dessert dazzled us with its freshness and breadth of flavor, all stemming from simple strawberries. It was a lovely endcap to the evening.

Our server was fun, personable, and extremely knowledgeable about the food. And the sommelier came to the table to share his expertise on the wines available, including an excellent port served with dessert.

This is such a short review for something I could write about much, much more. The experience was elegant but not stuffy, filling but not too much, and all in all, a very fair value for the money. The bartender was smoking hot as well. That didn't hurt.

dawnranch.com/dine/



Potato and Caviar Bites



Chicken and Mushrooms

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Destruction of the ACA

Continued from page 7

may rediscover the appeal of a bold, populist policy guaranteeing universal coverage.

Bernie Sanders made Medicare for All central to both his 2016 and 2020 campaigns, popularizing the idea that "health care is a human right." At one point, as many as 10 Democratic presidential hopefuls expressed initial support for Medicare for All. Some later retreated from that stance: Kamala Harris backtracked after having supported it in the Senate, while Pete Buttigieg shifted to "Medicare for All Who Want It," which would have left the private insurance system largely intact. Ultimately, firm support for a true Medicare for All system remained strongest on the party's left flank, represented by Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

If Republicans allow ACA subsidies to expire, however, health care reform is almost certain to return to the political forefront. Single-payer, universal health care bills introduced this session in both chambers of Congress have struggled to gain support from even half of their respective Democratic caucuses. Until now, though, Democrats could

rely on the ACA as cover for not backing more comprehensive health care reform. But if Republicans genuinely begin dismantling Barack Obama's signature domestic policy achievement — something they have long threatened — Democrats could suddenly find themselves without that shield. And if millions lose health care coverage heading into the 2026 midterms, Democrats may rediscover the appeal of a bold, populist policy guaranteeing universal coverage.

Still, the barriers to passing anything resembling Medicare for All remain steep. The Democratic Party is deeply divided on the issue, and with over \$7 million in PAC spending from the health insurance industry during the 2024 cycle alone, that sector's influence continues to present a formidable obstacle. Yet the collapse of the ACA subsidies — and Democrats' complicity in that collapse — may force a reckoning. The question now is whether the party is prepared to meet the health care crisis it helped create with the sweeping solutions the moment demands.

"A Very Barry Christmas" Returns for Fifth Anniversary at Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Deck the halls, Vegas-style! Barry Manilow is back to light up the season with his fan-favorite holiday spectacular, "A Very Barry Christmas," returning to the iconic International Theater at Westgate Las Vegas for its fifth anniversary shows. Celebrate over two glittering weekends — December 4-6 and 11-13, 2025 — and soak up the sparkle, sing-along fun, and classic Manilow magic.



It's the Most Wonderful Time of
the Year with Barry Manilow!

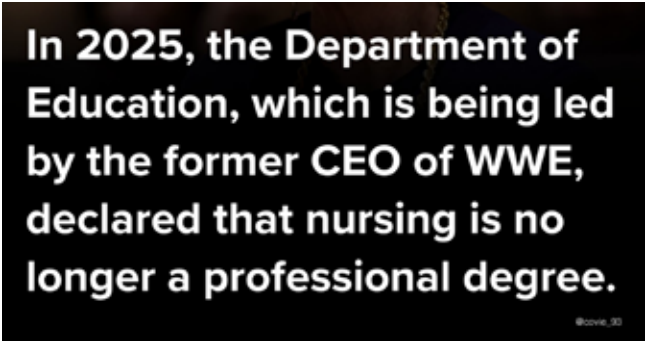
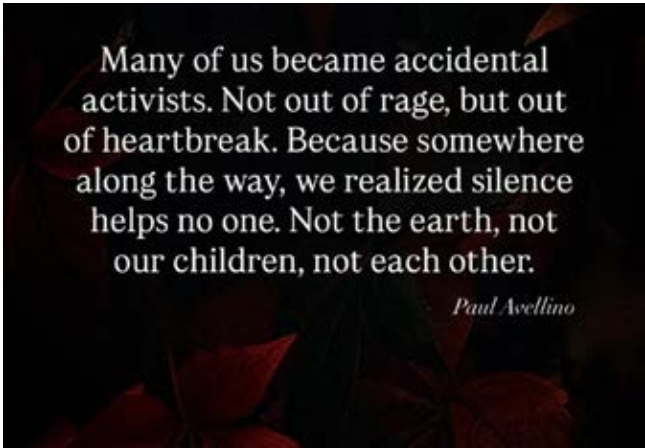
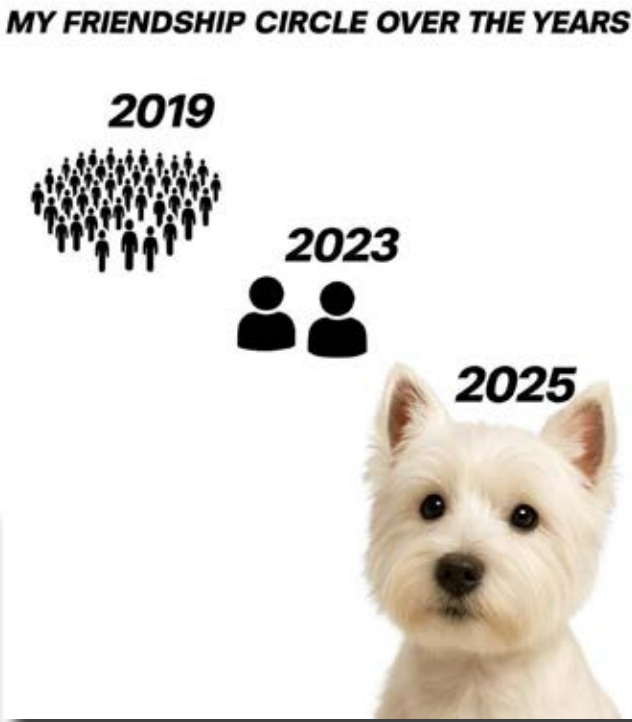
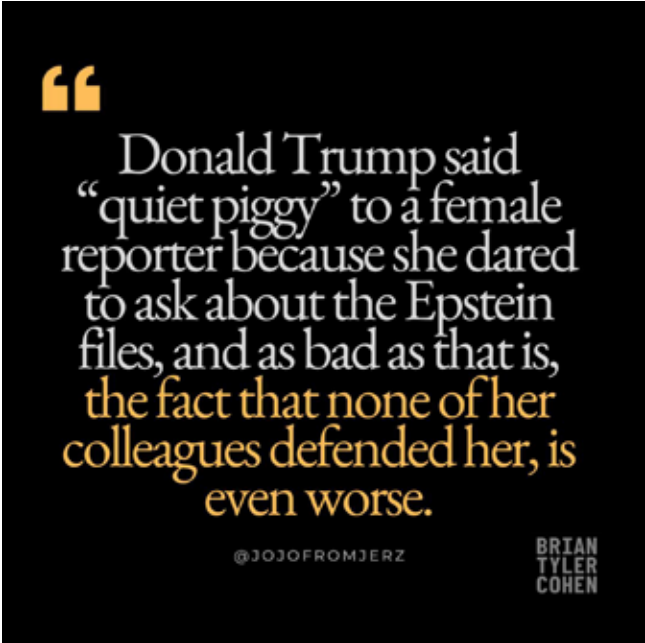
Fresh off being named #1 Best Las Vegas Show in the 2025 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, this holiday party blends chart-topping hits, seasonal favorites, dazzling visuals, and plenty of that signature showmanship Fanilows love. As Barry puts it, "There's simply no place like Las Vegas — or the Westgate — to make the season bright."

Tickets are on sale now at Ticketmaster.com, barrymanilow.com, and westgatelasvegas.com.

Plus, guests can spread the cheer by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to support Las Vegas Toys for Tots — collected by U.S. Marines in the lobby throughout the run.

Make your holiday shine with "A Very Barry Christmas" — the brightest tradition on the Strip!

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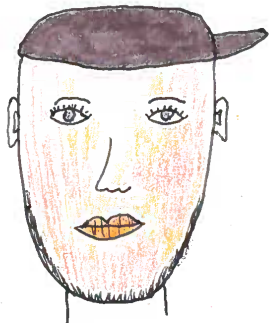
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