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# outword



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# Court Blocks Protections for Trans Students as Legal Fight Continues

The U.S. Supreme Court has temporarily blocked California from enforcing its 2024 student privacy law, setting off a new round of debate over the rights—and safety—of LGBTQ+ youth.

The law was designed to protect students by preventing schools from requiring staff to disclose a student's gender identity, name, or pronoun changes to parents without the student's consent. Supporters argued it helped ensure schools remained places of trust, particularly for students who may not feel safe being out at home.

But in a 6-3 emergency order, the Court put those protections on hold while the case continues through the legal system. For now, that means school districts may move forward with policies that include notifying parents about a student's gender identity, even if the student objects.

The challenge to the law came from parents and educators who argued it violated their constitutional rights—specifically religious freedom and the right of parents to be informed about their children's lives. The Court's majority agreed that those arguments were strong enough to justify pausing the law before a full ruling is made.

LGBTQ+ advocates and California officials see the decision differently. They warn that

removing these protections could expose some students to rejection or harm, particularly those in unsupportive households. For them, the law is less about secrecy and more about giving young people control over when—and how—they share deeply personal information.

It's important to note this is not a final decision. The underlying case is still moving through the courts, and the law could ultimately be upheld or struck down.

For now, though, the ruling underscores a growing national divide—one that places student privacy and parental rights on a direct collision course, with real consequences for young people caught in the middle.

## Equality California Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Decision Undermining Protections for Transgender Students [resource: EQCA](#)

Equality California, the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights organization, released the following statement from Executive Director Tony Hoang in response to today's U.S. Supreme Court shadow docket ruling in *Mirabelli v. Bonta* regarding California's student privacy protections for transgender youth:

"Today's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in this case is deeply disturbing. By stepping in on an emergency basis, the Court has effectively upended California's student privacy protections without hearing full arguments and before the judicial process has run its course. While not surprising, this move reflects a dangerous willingness to short-circuit the established judicial process to dismantle protections for transgender youth.

Transgender youth deserve dignity, safety, and the freedom to learn without fear. We will never stop fighting for transgender youth and their families. Equality California will continue working with parents, educators, and advocates to ensure schools remain safe, welcoming, and focused on the success and well-being of every student."

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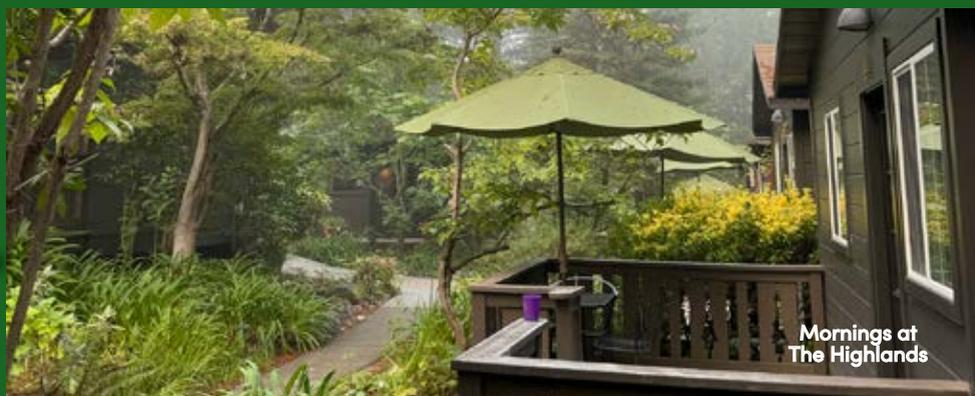
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## Cabaldon Introduces the Drive My Car Act

*resource: the office of Senator Cabaldon*

Senator Christopher Cabaldon announced the Drive My Car Act to protect Californians' power to drive their own cars and opt-out of "self-driving" technologies installed in their vehicles. Senate Bill 1315 makes it clear that insurers cannot penalize drivers who choose to drive manually instead of engaging self-driving systems. This includes denying coverage or applying fees or surcharges to people who don't sign up for expensive technology subscriptions.

"Although self-driving technology holds promise, no Californian should be coerced from driving their own car," said Cabaldon. "As Elon Musk moves to rig the system to use mandatory auto insurance to force drivers to pay uncapped subscription fees for self-driving features they may not want or trust, California must step in."

Last month Reuters reported U.S. insurer Lemonade will offer a 50% premium advantage for drivers of Tesla electric vehicles when the automaker's Full Self-Driving (FSD) artificial intelligence system is steering. This comes on the heels of Musk's January announcement that

Tesla's Autopilot, which has been standard, is being discontinued and that drivers will now have to pay for a \$1,000 subscription, which he said will rise significantly due to FSD's "massive jump in value".

"Musk talks often about an 'infinite money glitch,' and FSD subscriptions appear to be what he's referring to," reported Motor Trend magazine. "The 'glitch' depends on the state's mandatory auto insurance coverage law," noted Cabaldon, "so California must step in before Californians lose their ability to drive and get trapped paying 'infinite money' subscriptions."



Senator Scott Wiener

## Senator Wiener Introduces Bill to Protect Survivors of Conversion Therapy

*resource: the office of Senator Wiener*

California continues to lead on LGBTQ+ protections with the introduction of SB 934, a new bill from Senator Scott Wiener aimed at holding practitioners of conversion therapy accountable—and giving survivors a clearer path to justice.

Conversion therapy, the long-debunked practice that claims to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, has been condemned by every major medical and mental health organization. Research consistently shows it causes serious harm, including depression, anxiety, and lasting trauma. Yet for many survivors, processing that harm can take years—often far longer than current legal timelines allow.

SB 934 addresses that gap by expanding the ability for survivors to file malpractice claims against licensed providers who engaged in these practices. Under the proposed law, individuals who were minors at the time would have until age 40 to file a claim. Adults would have up to 10 years from their last session, or up to five years after discovering related harm.

The bill also strengthens how these cases can be argued in court, allowing plaintiffs to rely on established scientific consensus to demonstrate the harm caused by conversion therapy—an important step in holding practitioners accountable.

California was the first state to ban conversion therapy for minors in 2012, but those protections have faced increasing legal challenges nationwide. SB 934 represents a new approach, focusing on survivor-centered justice through civil liability.

Backed by organizations including Equality California, Lambda Legal, and The Trevor Project, the legislation underscores a clear message: harmful, discredited practices have no place in modern care—and those impacted deserve the time and support to seek justice.



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# A New Chapter for Sacramento LGBT Community Center Begins

Big things are happening in Lavender Heights—and they're all about building a stronger, more welcoming future for Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community.



The Sacramento LGBT Community Center is entering the final phase of a long-envisioned transformation: a full renovation of its permanent home. After purchasing and moving into the building in 2020, the Center has continued to grow—expanding programs, increasing staff, and serving more community members than ever before. Now, it's time for the space itself to catch up with that growth.

To make that happen, the Center will temporarily relocate just around the corner to 2031 K Street while construction gets underway. The move is designed to keep services running smoothly, with all core programs fully operational in the temporary location beginning March 16.

This renovation isn't just about fresh paint and new fixtures—it's about creating a space that truly reflects and supports the community it serves. Plans include expanded

confidential service rooms for counseling and health services, improved accessibility throughout the building, and additional space for community meetings and events. Behind the scenes, major upgrades to HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems will help ensure the building remains safe, efficient, and sustainable for years to come.

There's also a strong focus on enhancing safety and security, as well as creating updated workspaces for the Center's growing team—because supporting the people who support the community matters, too.

Construction is expected to take about seven months, with a grand reopening anticipated in Fall 2026.

More than a renovation, this project represents an investment in the future—a reaffirmation that Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community deserves a permanent, vibrant place to gather and thrive.

## Pulse Nightclub Has Been Demolished

The site of the former Pulse nightclub in Orlando has been torn down, marking the end of a physical space that came to symbolize both unimaginable loss and enduring community strength. For many, it's a difficult moment—one that brings back the weight of what happened there, and the lives forever changed on that night.



There is, however, some comfort in what comes next. The site will be transformed into a permanent memorial, ensuring that those lost are honored with the dignity and remembrance they deserve. It offers a space not just for reflection, but for healing—an opportunity to hold both grief and resilience in the same breath.



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# Jamie Lee Curtis Joins California Hall of Fame

words and photos by Chris Allan

Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom welcomed guests to the California Museum in Sacramento on Thursday, March 19 for the 19th Annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony. A total of nine inductees were honored for their contributions to the state.



Among the night's biggest draws was actress, activist, and Oscar winner Jamie Lee Curtis. She was tireless on the red carpet with the press, and patiently gave a group of young journalists their first taste of A-list glamour and star power up close.

Curtis has become one of Hollywood's most vocal advocates for trans rights since her daughter, Ruby Guest, came out in 2020. When Outword asked what message she had for the queer community, the celebrity was direct: "Always hope. I hope we can all get back to the lives that we were living and continue to fight for the rights of everybody – not be in a defensive position, but be in an open, inclusive position."

Other honorees who helped break barriers for the LGBTQ+ community and beyond included:

- Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles – America's first all-women mariachi group
- Terry McMillan – The celebrated novelist whose personal life has intersected powerfully with the LGBTQ+ experience
- John L. Burton – Legendary California progressive and early champion of same-sex rights, honored posthumously

The full class also includes Olympic gold medalists Carl Lewis and Janet Evans, celebrated chef Nobu Matsuhisa, author and systems scientist Riane Eisler and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, though he was not present at the ceremony.



# It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Pride Season

We're already feeling the warmer air and longer days as we move toward summertime—and of course, Pride. And Outword is getting ready to meet the moment head-on and in full color, as we support not only Sac Pride but other regional prides like Davis and Placer.

**Coming Soon...**  
Outword's Pure Pride 2026 Special Issues

- Senior Pride Street - 5/14
- Sacramento Pride Street - 5/28
- California Pride Street - 6/11
- Pride History Street - 6/25

click here to email Fred

Like every year, we'll be publishing four Pride special issues: Senior Pride, Sacramento Pride part one, Sac Pride – part two (both including the official Sac Pride program) and wrapping it all up with Pride History. While you don't have to wait for these issues to start advertising, if you're building a game plan, this is a smart way to focus your dollars on a community that responds—and appreciates the ask. We're calling this year's series Pure Pride 2026.

It all begins with the Senior Pride issue on May 14, a nod to a more seasoned generation with distinct interests and priorities. From fine dining to home services to quiet getaways, this issue offers a chance to connect in a meaningful way.

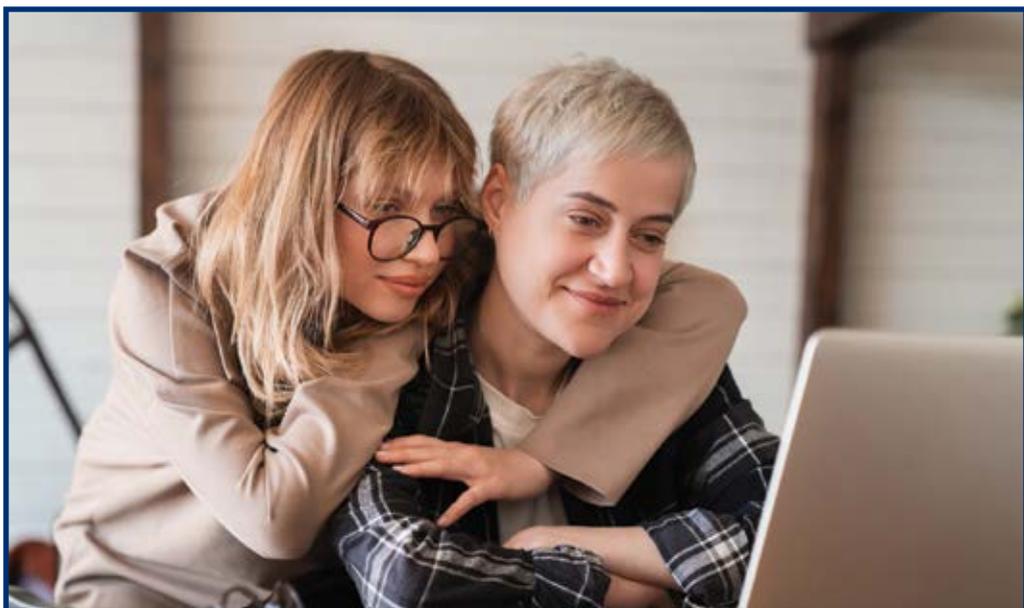
Things pick up speed with the Sacramento Pride – part one issue on May 28, landing just ahead of one of the region's biggest weekends of visibility and community. And

as we've done for years, the official Sacramento Pride program will once again live in the digital pages of both Sac Pride issues of Outword.

June keeps the momentum going. The Sac Pride – part two issue arrives June 11, just in time for the Sacramento Pride festival. Then, on June 25, the Pride History issue offers a moment to pause and reflect—because Pride isn't just a celebration, it's an ongoing story.

For advertisers and community partners, now's the time to jump in—give Fred a call or send an email to secure your spot. And if you need help creating an ad, we've got you covered.

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# SF Pride 2026 Theme Reveal

resource: SF Pride

San Francisco Pride is setting the tone for 2026 with a theme that feels both timely and deeply rooted in history: “Resistance in Action!” It’s a call that doesn’t whisper—it shows up, takes space, and reminds us exactly where Pride began.

At a moment when LGBTQ+ rights and communities continue to face renewed challenges, this year’s theme is less about looking back and more about stepping forward. It invites people across the spectrum - queer, allied, and everywhere in between - to engage, organize, and speak out in ways both big and small. Because, if Pride has taught us anything, it’s that progress has never come from staying quiet.

“Resistance in Action!” draws a direct line to the movement’s origins, honoring the protests, marches, and grassroots efforts that sparked a global fight for liberation. It celebrates not only the iconic figures we recognize, but also the everyday individuals who refused to be invisible—those who pushed conversations forward and demanded to be seen and heard.

San Francisco Pride Executive Director Suzanne Ford captured that urgency, noting that this moment calls for unity across the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Her message is clear: the work isn’t finished, and the responsibility is shared.

And while the theme carries weight, it also carries energy. It’s a reminder that Pride has always been more than a party—it’s been a platform. A place where visibility meets action, where celebration and resistance coexist.

In 2026, San Francisco Pride isn’t just honoring its legacy. It’s asking all of us to be part of what comes next.



# Davis Pride is June 6



Mark your calendars and cue the rainbow vibes—Davis Pride 2026 is back and ready to light up Yolo County in all the best ways. The centerpiece celebration, the 12th annual Davis PrideFest, takes over Civic Center Park on Saturday, June 6, bringing together thousands for an afternoon and evening of music, community, and unapologetic self-expression. Davis Pride



Davis Pride 2025  
photo by Wendy Weitzel

Think of it as Pride with a slightly more laid-back, come-as-you-are energy—but don’t mistake that for low-key. Expect a lively main stage, local performers, food vendors, and plenty of booths showcasing community organizations and businesses from across the region. It’s colorful, it’s welcoming, and yes, it’s very easy to spend hours wandering, mingling, and running into someone you know (or want to know).

What makes Davis Pride stand out is its heart. As Yolo County’s largest and longest-running LGBTQ+ celebration, it’s built around creating a genuinely inclusive, family-friendly space where everyone—from first-time Pride-goers to longtime community members—can feel at home. There’s room for dancing, room for activism, and room for just soaking it all in with your chosen crew.

And while PrideFest is the big day, the celebration doesn’t stop there. Davis Pride has grown into a full season of events throughout June, giving you plenty of chances to connect, celebrate, and maybe even discover a new favorite hangout.



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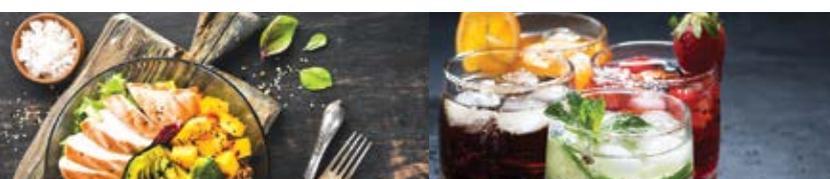
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## “Kids, Wait Till You Hear This! My Memoir” by Liza Minnelli, as told to Michael Feinstein

book review by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Twenty feet in front of you, and you can't see a thing. Even the closest faces are in shadow – lit, but not quite enough for you to see for sure what the people there are thinking. Still, you can hear them, their gasps, their laughter, and applause. Such is life, on-stage. Now read “Kids, Wait Till You Hear This! My Memoir” by Liza Minnelli, as told to Michael Feinstein, and read about it beyond the spotlight.



Almost from the moment she was born, Liza Minnelli was famous. It was inevitable: her mother was Judy Garland. Her father was director Vincente Minnelli. Her godparents were Hollywood glitterati, her neighbors were famous, her playmates would be famous someday, too.

But her life wasn't all starlight and happiness. She made her stage debut as a toddler. She became her “mother's caretaker” at age 13. At 16, she had a growing career of her own – one that her mother tried to stop. But, she says, “In her own way, Mama was wonderful to me. Try understanding – she was my mother, not a movie star... I knew her as the person who loved me and always would.”

At 19, Minnelli was working, happy, and madly in love with the man who'd become her first husband, and life was wonderful - until she came home one day to find him in their bed with another man. Before they were divorced, she lost her beloved mother, and became “engaged” to two other men simultaneously, neither of which made it to the altar with her.

She married her second husband, the son of one of her mother's former co-stars, in 1974 but her love affairs and addictions led to a second divorce.

Her third husband was a stage manager. She doesn't have much good to say about her fourth, and last, husband. Overall, she says, “You gotta play the comedy for all it's worth and leave ‘em laughing. Even when your heart is breaking.”

Are you expecting bluntness, sass, or attitude here? Good, because that's what you get inside “Kids, Wait Till You Hear This!” It's strong on honesty and don't-give-a-flip. It's wonderfully edited, so it moves fast. It's eye-opening and funny and a pleasant surprise for a first, and only (so far), memoir.

Even better, author Liza Minnelli (with best friend, Michael Feinstein) is really quite candid and nicely gossipy, starting from the beginning. There are some Hollywood folks, in fact, who are feeling edgy tonight, because of what's inside this book and the secrets spilled. Minnelli and Feinstein seemed to have fun telling her story, and they comfortably lure readers in.

That's not to say that it's all a cabaret. Minnelli tells about her addictions and recoveries, her marriages and why she wed two gay men, and the losses she endured, including miscarriages, deaths, and broken relationships. The bad balances well with the good for a tale that's several notches above most celebrity memoirs. “Kids, Wait Till You Hear This!” is, in fact, a real joy to read, a genuine bright spot.

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# It's On - In a Big Day Way!

by Ron Tackitt

Mark your calendars, Sacramento—because on May 7, it's officially party time. And not just any party. The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Foundation's Big Day Bingo returns for an evening filled with sparkle and gussied-up drag queens with a whole lot of personality. This event usually sells out, so consider this your friendly nudge to get your tickets now.

Know that this ain't your grandma's bingo night—although if she comes along, she might just surprise you. Expect dazzling queens working the room and keeping the energy moving for a crowd that's fully ready. At any given moment, you might hear a cheer of "It's on, bitches," or someone fully committing to the "Pelt Her, Pelt Her" experience.

Bring your peeps and make a night of it. Tables tend to go quickly, especially for groups looking to paint each other's faces with the daubers—you know, enjoy the full experience. Whether you're coming for the entertainment, the cocktails, or the great prizes, you'll be amazed at how much fun it all is.

Besides being a blast, proceeds from Big Day Bingo support the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Foundation and the work they continue to do locally. Playing is an easy way to be part of something meaningful while enjoying a semi-wild night out with the posse. Note: this is the only bingo event where VIP tickets are sold, ensuring your seat at the table.

So, pick your look, make your plans—but don't wait too long to grab your spot. The room fills up fast, the energy builds quickly, and before you know it, the night is in full swing.

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# Out & About

The Capitol City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence celebrated their 10-Year Anniversary Mixer on February 28 with a lively afternoon that felt like a reunion and party. Sisters from all over Northern California, including a couple local Saints, filled the room, catching up, sharing stories, and toasting a decade of service to the Sacramento community. Co-hosted by Sister Indica, the event emanated with the Sisters' signature mix of heart and humor, pomp and circumstance. It was a fabulous afternoon. Thanks for letting *Outword* share in the joy.

photos by Johnathan Reveles





# “The Compton’s Cafeteria Riot” Stuns in San Francisco

review by Chris Narloch

If you like edgy, important art that matters, I highly recommend you check out “The Compton’s Cafeteria Riot,” an immersive stage production currently taking audiences on a righteous rollercoaster ride in San Francisco’s Tenderloin district.

The show, which has been staged inside a storefront space meticulously remodeled to look like a 1960s-era diner, is based on an actual incident from Tenderloin history that plays out in front of and around the audience, who effectively become the diners at Compton’s Cafeteria each night that the production is performed.

In the summer of 1966, a trans woman at the real Compton’s Cafeteria threw her cup of hot coffee in the face of a police officer who was attempting another unwarranted arrest. The riot that followed became the first recorded act of militant queer resistance in the United States, three years before Stonewall.

Forcefully directed by Ezra Reaves, the play places audiences at the heart of that history, as a 12-person cast immerses attendees in the action leading up to a riot inside the “diner,” which is set designed with period-appropriate yellow and orange decor.

As I entered the cafeteria, a hostess escorted me to my swivel seat at the counter, facing the shake machine and not far from the grill, with another theatergoer to my right and, to my left, a cast-member with a flaming-red wig, long gold gloves and a print dress. The cafeteria’s “owner,” an amusingly cranky guy named Gus, took my order, and before I could take a sip of the water and coffee in front of me, a bouffant waitress named Shirley served me a plate of blueberry pancakes – with butter, syrup and sausages on the side.

Everyone gets the same “special” I had, although vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free breakfast options are available with advance notice. Don’t expect a four-star meal because that’s not the point of the show. Remember, this is immersive theater, and diner food is diner food. (That said, I wolfed down every bite after my drive over from Sacramento.)

The play began as I was finishing my breakfast-for-dinner, and there wasn’t an empty table or seat in the place as my fellow diners sat rapt for approximately 90 minutes while living history erupted all around us. The real Compton’s Cafeteria was home to drag queens, sex workers, and other marginalized folks, and, appropriately, most of the show’s performers are trans individuals who bring absolute authenticity and passionate conviction to their roles.

The players are introduced swiftly: among them, a sailor on his way to San Diego and looking for some fun who may not realize that Suki, his stunning, statuesque date, is a sex worker with a “surprise”; a young, closeted hippie guy with a painful secret; a gutsy, Black drag queen in a velvet mini dress; and a sadistic cop who likes to make life hell for the regulars at the cafeteria.

Rather than continuous, straightforward action, vital narration and songs that provide commentary and context to the proceedings have been cleverly inserted into the mix, and they give the audience a chance to breathe as the tension builds towards the inevitable conclusion. The show’s writers have also broken up the action leading to the melee, using blackouts so that the players can be reconfigured for the next scene.

My favorite character in the show is Marilyn, a glamorous drag queen with a platinum blond wig, drop earrings, and a stunning gold dress, who performed the feminist anthem “Don’t Make Me Over” and shared queer history of the Tenderloin throughout the performance.

Indeed, most of the queer characters have stories to tell that include painful memories of heartbreak, discrimination, and brutality. Those stories burn even brighter and hit harder considering the sickeningly, trans-negative times we are currently living in, making this terrific show even more moving and essential.

“The Compton’s Cafeteria Riot” was co-written by trans activists Collette LeGrande and Donna Persona, who were part of the Tenderloin’s queer community during the era, along with playwright and co-producer Mark Nassar. The show is a production of The Tenderloin Museum.

Founded in 2015, the Tenderloin Museum preserves and presents the history of San Francisco’s Tenderloin neighborhood. Through exhibitions, programs, and community engagement, the museum celebrates the area’s cultural, social, and political significance while embracing its vibrant and evolving present.

For tickets and more information about the production, which runs through at least June 30, 2026, please visit [www.comptonscafeteriariot.com](http://www.comptonscafeteriariot.com)



All photos by Matheson Media





## CapStage Serves Up a Tasty “Fat Ham”

by Chris Narloch

If you're queer or you care about great theatre, get thee to Capital Stage for this wild, R-rated retelling of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" by James Ijames, who somehow successfully marries traumatic tragedy with crazy comedy.



Cast members from the Capital Stage production of "Fat Ham"

Risky material like this doesn't always work, but the playwright so skillfully juggles themes of generational violence and queer identity with lots of laughs, that "Fat Ham" won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was nominated for five Tony Awards including Best Play.

At Capital Stage, James Simpson nails the juicy role of Juicy, a young, queer, Black man attending college online and struggling with the recent death of his violent father and the even more recent marriage of his also-abusive uncle to Juicy's mother.

If the plot sounds heavy, it occasionally is – in a good way – but the genius of "Fat Ham" is how the play turns a familiar classic drama into dark comedy by injecting it with sex, music, and lots of sass.

The story takes place before and during a backyard cookout that serves as a wedding reception for Juicy's mom and his uncle - who, we learn, was responsible for his own brother's death. After his dead dad appears to Juicy, the conflicted young man debates whether to carry out the ghost's request for revenge.

In between the play's more serious moments, the audience is treated to two karaoke performances, some dirty dancing, several characters who "come out," and a hilariously unexpected drag queen.

The entire cast of "Fat Ham" – some equity and some non – is dynamite, and director Anthony D'Juan puts them through their paces with seamless skill. A modern, queer, Black comedy version of "Hamlet," with a happy ending! What more could you want?

"Fat Ham" continues through April 19, 2026. For tickets, go to [capstage.org](http://capstage.org)

## Black & African American Railroad

The California State Railroad Museum is inviting the community to help shape history with its newest lobby exhibit, Black & African American Railroad Experience: A Work in Progress, Building The Exhibit Together, now on display through June 2026.

Developed in collaboration with the African American Experience Committee, the exhibit is part showcase, part call to action. It highlights the often-overlooked contributions of Black and African American railroad workers while actively gathering stories, photos, and artifacts that will inform a future permanent installation.

Anchored by the theme "Our Lives are Made of Railroad Stories," the exhibit underscores the importance of representation in telling a fuller, more accurate history of American railroading. Featured elements include figures like A. Philip Randolph, the organizing efforts of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and the legacy of "Red Caps," who assisted passengers in stations across the country.

Museum Director Dr. Ty Smith emphasizes that this is a collaborative effort—one that depends on community voices to complete the picture.

The exhibit is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for youth, and free for children under five. Visitors are encouraged not just to explore—but to contribute. Please visit [www.californiarailroad.museum](http://www.californiarailroad.museum).

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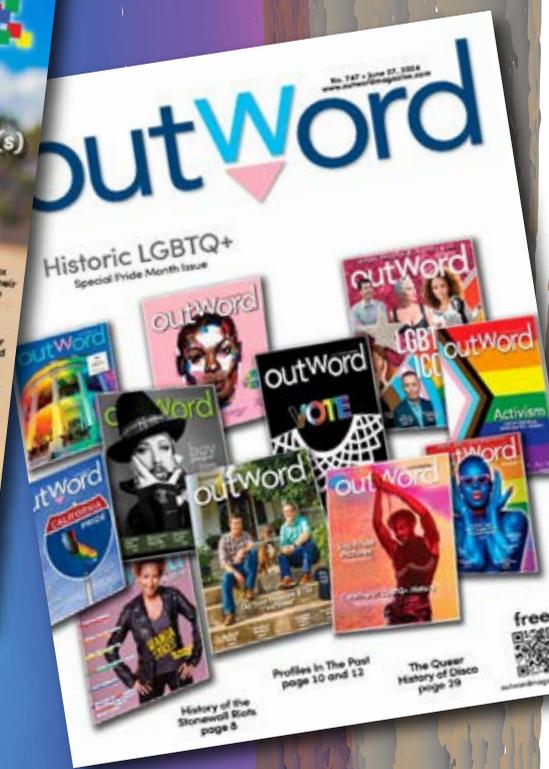
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## The RCAF Is Having Its Moment

The Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF) is a Sacramento-based art collective founded in 1970 by José Montoya, Esteban Villa, and others to support the Chicano Movement. Originally named the Rebel Chicano Art Front, it became famous for its murals, posters, and community activism, championing social justice and labor rights.



Photo by Alfred González

Sacramento's Verge Center for the Arts just extended its RCAF show, and you still have two other opportunities to explore the history of the Royal Chicano Air Force, with current exhibitions at the Sacramento History Museum and Crocker Art Museum.

### Sacramento History Museum

The museum has partnered with La Raza Galeria Posada for a special exhibit titled "RCAF in Mictlan: 50th Anniversary of Dia de los Muertos." You have until April 5, 2026, to check it out.

The exhibition includes posters, documents, photographs, videos, ephemera, and much more, that aim to educate the public about the Mesoamerican origins of Dia de los Muertos and its transformation in the United States into a public observance during the Chicano Movement.

The ancient cultural tradition of DDLM was embraced and revitalized by Chicano/a communities to bring the community together to honor deceased loved ones as well as to maintain its spiritual values. The exhibition also highlights the pivotal role played by Sacramento's RCAF, whose members launched Sacramento's first Dia de los Muertos observance, in 1975.

For more information, please visit [sachistorymuseum.org](http://sachistorymuseum.org)

### Crocker Art Museum

Not to be outdone, "Rebels with La Causa," at the Crocker, also explores the expansive production and creative impact of the RCAF, between 1970 and 1990. Beginning in 1970 at Sacramento State, the group produced individual artworks and group murals, as well as posters for educational, cultural, and political activities.

The RCAF's transformation into a broader collective not only initiated an explosion of Chicano art exhibitions, literary events, performances, and community celebrations, but expanded civic and political engagement.

While RCAF posters served as announcements for these wide-ranging activities, their multicultural aesthetics, subject matter, and strategic humor redefined Chicana/o art, as well as the history of art and activism in the United States.

"Rebels with La Causa" continues through June 28, 2026, at the Crocker.

For more information, go to [www.crockerart.org](http://www.crockerart.org)



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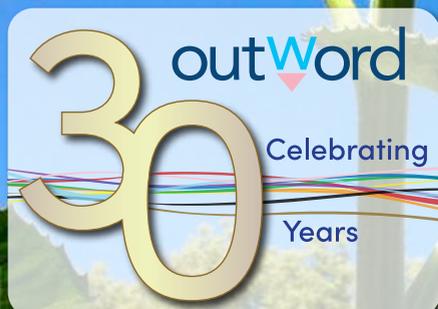
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# Ryan Gosling, Marc Jacobs & Sofia Coppola

by Chris Narloch

It's that time of the year, when the Oscars are in the rear-view mirror, and summer blockbusters are getting ready to roll. Before that happens, take a chance on these offbeat but fascinating films currently in theaters.



## Project Hail Mary

Ryan "Just Ken" Gosling has a hit on his hands with this successful sci-fi stunner about a lonely, junior high science teacher (and former molecular biologist) who is plucked from obscurity and compelled to join a mission that will take him light years away from Earth to a distant star system.

Our hero is tasked with saving humanity from a microorganism on the sun's surface that will cause catastrophic global cooling of the Earth within 30 years. Gosling is perfect for the role, and his natural charm is on full display as he bonds with a rock-like, five-legged alien from another planet whom he meets in space and names "Rocky."

The CGI in the film is first-rate, and the supporting cast includes the great East German actress Sandra Huller, who plays the stern head of the Hail Mary project. "Project Hail Mary" is currently in wide theatrical release.



## Sirat

This holdover from 2025 finally made it to Sacramento recently, and it was deservedly nominated in two categories at this year's Academy Awards: Best Sound and Best International Feature Film. The haunting, techno-infused drama follows a father and son on a quest through the desert in southern Morocco.

The pair are searching for their daughter/sister, who has been missing for five months and was last seen at a dance festival. As the pair travel from party to party, they hear about a rave near the border of Mauritania, but getting there will test their ability to survive.

"Sirat" was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre when this edition of *Outword* came out.



## A Magnificent Life

This adorable, animated film was directed by Sylvain Chomet, who made the equally charming 2003 animated adventure, "The Triplets of Belleville."

This time out, Chomet animates the life of the famous French novelist, playwright, and filmmaker Marcel Pagnol, who reflects on his life and confronts memories from his childhood and career with the help of his younger self.

If you enjoy beautiful, animated films aimed at adults, you will love "A Magnificent Life," which is precious in the best possible way. This title opens at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on March 27.



## Marc by Sofia

I was unable to screen this one before my deadline, but if you're a fan of Sofia Coppola's work like I am, you'll want to check out this new documentary - her first - about Marc Jacobs, the uber-successful, queer fashion designer who served as Artistic Director for Louis Vuitton for more than 15 years.

Coppola and Jacobs are friends, and the director was granted backstage access as the designer put together his 2024 spring show. Seeing as I'm a sucker for the bizarre world of high fashion, I can't wait to check out the crazy-cool clothes in this documentary.

"Marc by Sofia" opens on March 27 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.



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## California's Finest Olive Oils Take Top Honors at 2026 State Fair

California's olive oil scene continues to shine, and the 2026 California State Fair Commercial Extra Virgin Olive Oil Competition proves just how vibrant—and flavorful—the industry has become.

Now in its eleventh year, the competition celebrates the best oils made from 100% California-grown olives. This year, 216 entries were put to the test in a rigorous blind tasting led by Head Judge Julie Menge, with experts evaluating each oil for aroma, flavor, and finish. From that impressive field, three stood out above the rest, earning coveted Best of Show honors.

Leading the pack in the Monovarietal category was Frantoio Grove Extra Virgin Olive Oil from San Martin, a high-polyphenol oil crafted from estate-grown olives and milled within hours of harvest for peak freshness.

In the Blend category, Capay Valley Olive's French Blend from nearby Capay captured judges' attention—an especially notable win as it marks the producer's very first harvest and competition entry.

And for something a little unexpected, McEvoy Ranch Organic Ginger Turmeric Olive Oil from Petaluma took top honors in the Flavored category, blending fresh ginger and turmeric with estate olives for a bold, aromatic finish.

Beyond these top winners, the competition highlighted standout producers across a wide range of categories—from small-batch micro-producers to large-scale operations—reflecting both the diversity and innovation driving California's olive oil movement.

Fairgoers will have the chance to experience many of these award-winning oils firsthand during the 2026 California State Fair, with tastings, cooking demos, and opportunities to purchase directly from local producers.

For a complete list of winners and details about the competition, visit [calexpostatefair.com](http://calexpostatefair.com).



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## Be a Marilyn for the Day

Palm Springs is getting a glamorous glow-up this spring. From May 29 through June 1, 2026, Palm Springs Pride presents Marilyn 100, a citywide celebration marking what would have been Marilyn Monroe's 100th birthday.



The highlight lands on Saturday, May 30, when organizers attempt a Guinness World Record™ for the largest gathering of Marilyn look-alikes. The goal? Rally 500 "Marilyns" in downtown Palm Springs—well beyond the current record of 254—for a synchronized martini (or mocktail) toast under the desert sun. Participants can channel their inner icon with a \$75 registration kit that includes the signature white halter dress, platinum wig, and entry to the official record-setting celebration.

But this isn't just about wigs and wardrobe. Proceeds benefit Palm Springs Pride, supporting decades of LGBTQ+ advocacy and community programming. Organizers note that Monroe's legacy goes beyond Hollywood glamour—she remains a symbol of authenticity and cultural impact.

Beyond the record attempt, Marilyn 100 takes over the city with pop-up experiences, including a glam dressing room and boutique near the famous Forever Marilyn statue, plus a full weekend of dining, arts, and nightlife.

Register [here to be a Marilyn](#).



# Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

As spring blooms across our region, it brings a reminder that even in an uncertain world, joy is still ours to claim. Now more than ever, it's time to live fully, play hard and love even harder. From dazzling performances to community gatherings, this season's events invite us to show up, celebrate loudly and support one another, because together we create the vibrant, resilient community we all deserve.

## March 26

Celebrate a historic milestone at the Hmong History and Cultural Studies Model Curriculum Kick-Off from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at the HOPE Center, 631 Eleanor Ave. Hosted by Hmong Youth and Parents United, the inspiring evening honors educators and community leaders advancing Hmong history in California classrooms, with a focus on unity, culture and future generations.

## March 31

International Transgender Day of Visibility celebrates the lives, achievements and resilience of transgender people while raising awareness of ongoing discrimination. Founded in 2009 by activist Rachel Crandall Crocker, the day centers joy, recognition and advocacy while uplifting transgender voices and honoring their vital contributions to communities around the world.

## April 3

Show tunes meet the dance floor at Broadway Rave: A Musical Theater Dance Party, kicking off at 9 p.m. Friday, April 3, at Harlow's. This 21-and-over night invites fans to sing, dance and celebrate their favorite Broadway hits in a high-energy, theatrical party atmosphere. Harlows.com

## Upcoming

Book lovers, mark your calendars: the Sacramento Book Festival returns from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 19, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St., Sacramento. The free, family-friendly event features 200-plus authors, lively panels, kids' activities and book signings plus food trucks for a full day celebrating stories, creativity and community. [Sacramentobookfestival.com](http://Sacramentobookfestival.com)

## April 5

Celebrate Easter with a rock opera classic when Ted Neeley brings his farewell tour to Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 5. The legendary star introduces a newly remastered "Jesus Christ Superstar" and meets fans after the screening in this once-in-a-lifetime event. [Cresttheater.com](http://Cresttheater.com)

Legendary hits take center stage when Lionel Richie joins forces with Earth, Wind & Fire for the Sing a Song All Night Long tour at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at Chase Center, 300 16th St. Expect an unforgettable night of timeless soul, funk and feel-good classics. [Livenation.com](http://Livenation.com)



## March 28

Get ready to be rocked at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 28, when Bohemian Queen celebrates the 50th anniversary of Queen's first U.S. tour at Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. The high-energy tribute delivers "Queen Live Through the Years," packed with iconic hits, dazzling costume changes and theatrical flair for a one-night-only rock spectacle. [Cresttheater.com](http://Cresttheater.com)

## April 2

Balls, calls and queens—oh my! Drag Queen Bingo returns from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at Mango's, 1930 K St., Sacramento. Hosted by DoMe Moore, the high-energy night features eight lively games, dazzling drag antics and plenty of sass, all benefiting Sacramento Sirens Cheer Elite. Doors open at 6 p.m.; \$20 cash to play. [Rainbowchamber.com](http://Rainbowchamber.com)



## April 14-15

Experience breathtaking movement and powerful storytelling when the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater takes the stage April 14-15 at Jackson Hall, One Shields Ave., Davis. Presented by the Mondavi Center, the program blends bold new works with beloved classics, including the iconic "Revelations," celebrating a legacy of artistry, culture and emotion. [Mondaviarts.org](http://Mondaviarts.org)



Rock icon Rick Springfield brings his intimate Stripped Down tour to Uptown Theatre Napa at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 30, in downtown Napa. Blending acoustic performances with candid storytelling, Springfield revisits hits like "Jesse's Girl" during an evening of music, memories and enduring charisma at the historic venue, 1350 Third St. [Rickspringfield.com](http://Rickspringfield.com)

Jazz meets reinvention when Wizard Robot performs from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Center for Musical Arts, 2564 21st St. Led by pianist Daniel J. Owens, the dynamic quartet blends pop favorites with jazz standards, delivering an experimental, genre-bending sound that appeals to both seasoned jazz fans and curious new listeners. [Centermusicalarts.com](http://Centermusicalarts.com)

## March 29

Experience breathtaking artistry when Shen Yun takes the stage at 2 p.m. March 29 at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. The internationally acclaimed company blends classical Chinese dance, vibrant costumes and live music to revive 5,000 years of culture in a visually stunning performance that's both inspiring and unforgettable. [shenyun.org](http://shenyun.org)



Step into Regency-era romance at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 3, when Candlelight: Best of Bridgerton on Strings illuminates the California State Railroad Museum, 125 I St. Performed by the Listeso String Quartet, this candlelit concert reimagines beloved melodies from the hit Netflix series in an intimate, elegant setting, inviting guests to dress in their finest and be swept away. [Californiarailroad.museum](http://Californiarailroad.museum)

Lace up for a cause at the Indian Association of Sacramento's 5K Run/Walk on April 4 at Maidu Park, 1550 Maidu Dr. in Roseville. Check-in begins at 8 a.m., with the race starting at 9 a.m. The community-focused event promotes wellness while raising funds for local charities and invites runners and walkers of all levels to participate. [Iassac.org](http://Iassac.org)

Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to [matthewburlingame@gmail.com](mailto:matthewburlingame@gmail.com).

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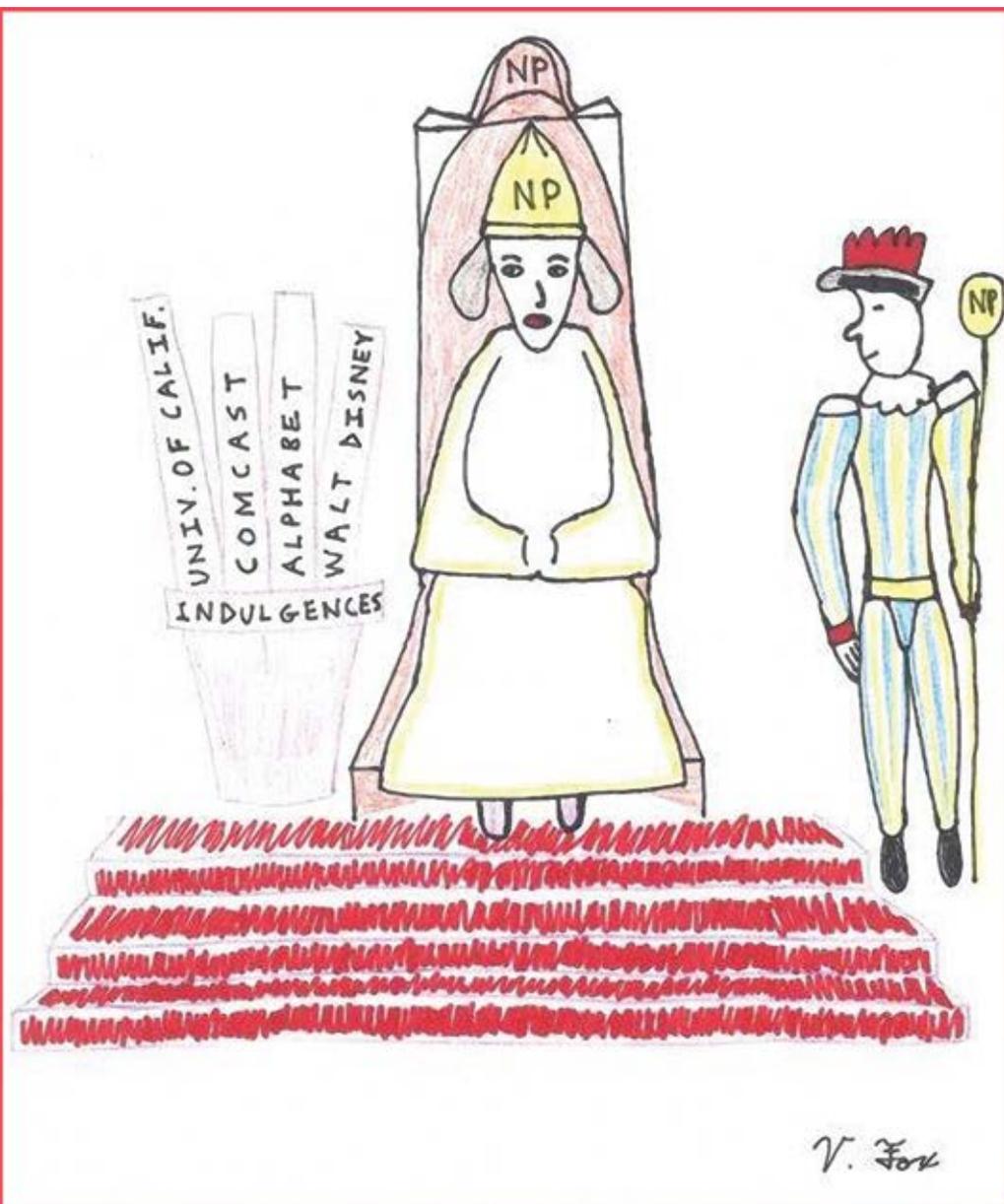
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