

outWord

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Bonta Marks Major Victory as Administration Backs Away from Efforts to Cut Funding

resource: Attorney General Bonta press release

Attorney General Rob Bonta released the following statement after the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) agreed to dismiss its appeal of a court order striking down its unlawful policy capping reimbursement for state energy programs, preserving the states' victory in federal court and bringing the case to a close:

"The Trump Administration is finally recognizing what my office has said all along: approved energy funding isn't up for grabs," said Attorney General Bonta. "Keeping these programs in place means lowering energy bills, creating good-paying American jobs, and modernizing the infrastructure we depend on. This is a clear legal victory – and a win for American

workers, communities, and our energy future. My office remains unwavering in our commitment to hold this administration accountable when they break the law."

"We are pleased with this decision. It is likely to be one among many more reinstating critical funding for energy programs that build new clean energy resources, strengthen the electrical grid, and

help Californians save money on their energy bills," said California Energy Commission Chair David Hochschild. In January 2026, DOE both appealed that ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and rescinded the unlawful policy. January 2026, DOE both appealed that ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and rescinded the unlawful policy.

California, UK Team Up on Renewable Energy

Governor Gavin Newsom recently announced a new climate and clean-energy partnership with the United Kingdom, aimed at expanding investment, innovation, and cooperation between two regions already known for aggressive environmental goals.

The agreement, signed during Newsom's February visit to London, is not a simple purchase deal for windmills or solar panels. Instead, it creates a framework for collaboration on renewable energy, offshore wind, low-carbon hydrogen, carbon removal, climate resilience, and other emerging green technologies. It also encourages research partnerships and private-sector investment between California and the UK.

One of the biggest announcements tied to the trip came from Octopus Energy, which

said it plans to invest nearly \$1 billion in California-based clean-energy and climate projects. That kind of capital could help speed up development of renewable infrastructure, battery storage, grid modernization, and new technologies designed to lower emissions.

For Californians, the impact could be practical as well as symbolic. More investment can mean more jobs in construction, engineering, manufacturing, and energy services. It can also help reduce

dependence on fossil fuels and cushion consumers from the price swings that come with gasoline and natural gas markets.

The move also sends a broader message. At a time when national climate policy can shift with elections, California continues to pursue its own path by building international partnerships and treating clean energy as both an environmental priority and an economic opportunity.

For more information [click this link: www.gov.ca.gov](http://www.gov.ca.gov)

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California Has A \$203 Million Surplus For HIV—Now's The Time To Spend It

by Paul Curtis, Sunburst Projects

End the Epidemics urges California Legislature to authorize use of \$143 million in ADAP rebate funds to stabilize and improve HIV, STI, PrEP, and hepatitis C funding statewide.

The End the Epidemics coalition released a bold and comprehensive budget request for the California Legislature this spring, which would bring an additional \$143 million to HIV, STI, PrEP, and hepatitis C programs across the state. ETE is a statewide coalition that advocates for funding to eliminate health inequities and end the HIV, STI, viral hepatitis, and overdose syndemic in California. This funding request comes as the state confronts disruptions to federal funding for health programs, and stalled progress in confronting these syndemics due to severe underfunding.

The state of California has more than enough resources at its disposal to stabilize and ramp up HIV, STI, and viral hepatitis prevention and care programs. A state fund that must be spent on HIV-related programs, the ADAP Rebate Fund, will have a \$203 million surplus next fiscal year. Additionally, \$900 million has been loaned from the ADAP Rebate Fund to the General Fund, and those dollars must be repaid if there is a need for the funds.

"California has the resources and the proven strategies to accelerate progress in preventing new infections and ensuring people living with HIV receive timely, effective care," said Robert Gamboa, Associate Director of Public Policy for the Los Angeles LGBT Center. "Year after year, Office of AIDS-funded programs prevent HIV with PrEP, cure hepatitis C, and rapidly link people to HIV care. But chronic underfunding means the Office of AIDS is forced to deny more funding applications than it can approve, leaving effective programs unable to expand or even continue. At a moment when federal cuts to HIV funding are threatened regularly and when the state has a significant surplus dedicated to HIV, increased investment is not only possible—it is essential."

The End the Epidemics coalition's budget

request includes:

- \$33.8 million for the PrEP and PEP Initiation and Retention Initiative, in order to expand the use of PrEP and PEP among people at risk for HIV;
- \$14.5 million for Rapid Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Projects, to develop projects that support people newly diagnosed with HIV to enter into care quickly after diagnosis;
- \$14.1 million for Project Cornerstone, which provides support and care to improve the health of people over age 50 who are living with HIV;
- \$30 million for the Emergency Department Screening Program, to establish opt-out testing for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis in emergency departments;
- \$50 million for rental assistance and housing services for people experiencing homelessness and living with HIV; and,
- \$550,000 for training and hepatitis C point-of-care RNA testing.

"Sunburst Projects is proud to be a member of the End the Epidemics coalition and proudly supports ADAP Rebate Fund investments so that we can scale programming to meet community needs," said Jake Bradley-Rowe, CEO of Sunburst Projects. "Through our Sunburst Clinic we are focused on providing free, confidential HIV and STI testing to reduce new infections while also working to get more people signed up for PrEP and PEP. The increase in funding in this area will allow for more programs like this across our state."

End the Epidemics also requests that opioid settlement funds be made available to support drug checking and overdose prevention (\$10 million annually for five years) and renewal of the California Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Initiative (\$16.25 million for four years).

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Sacramento Pride Run Returns - Ready to Make an Impact

by Richard Hernandez
photos courtesy of Sac Pride Run

After a historic inaugural year, Sacramento's Pride Run is back and set to energize the riverfront once again on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

Hosted by Sacramento FrontRunners and FrontWalkers, the 2nd Annual Sacramento Pride Run will feature a timed 5K run/walk beginning in Old Sacramento and traveling along the scenic Sacramento River Parkway. What began in 2021 as a small, informal grassroots run to keep Pride visible during pandemic cancellations has grown into one of the region's most inspiring and vibrant community fitness events.

"This event creates a space for self-expression and creativity for all runners and walkers," said Nick Kobel, President of Sacramento FrontRunners and FrontWalkers. "Year One was about demonstrating that we could pull it off and just break even. Year Two is going to celebrate even bigger, louder, and prouder. It's becoming the capstone way our organization promotes health and fitness within the LGBTQ+ community in Sacramento."

The Pride Run welcomes runners and walkers of all ages, abilities, and identities – along with families, friends, and allies – to move together in celebration of Pride Month. The course begins in Old Sacramento, heads south along the river toward the Tower Bridge, and finishes with a high-energy, rainbow-filled celebration in Old Town.

In its first official year, the Pride Run drew strong community participation and support from respected local running partners including the Sacramento Running Association, and Fleet Feet. Event proceeds benefited the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, directly supporting vital programs and services for the LGBTQ+ community.

Organizers anticipate even greater participation in 2026 as excitement continues to build. Founded in 1992, Sacramento FrontRunners and FrontWalkers is a local LGBTQ+ running and walking organization committed to promoting fitness, inclusion, and fellowship. The Pride Run reflects the group's mission to bring people together through movement while celebrating authenticity, belonging, and community pride.

Registration is now open at sacramentopriderun.com.
Community members interested in partnership opportunities may contact sacfrontrunners@gmail.com.

On June 13, the message is simple:
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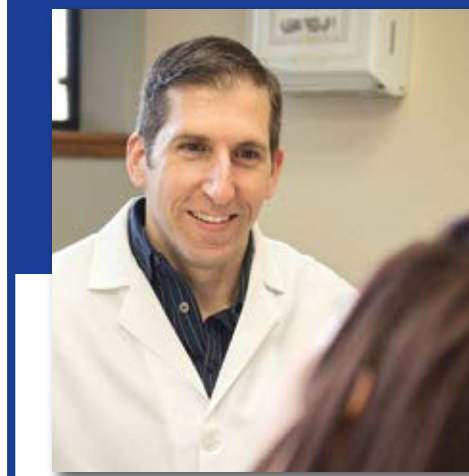


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Forest Service Overhaul Raises Red Flags for Public Lands

If you've been seeing headlines about efforts to "shut down" the U.S. Forest Service, take a breath—it's not disappearing. But a sweeping set of proposed changes could dramatically reshape how the agency works, and not everyone is convinced it's for the better.



At the center of the controversy: a major restructuring plan and deep proposed budget cuts. The administration has floated moving headquarters out of Washington, D.C., consolidating regional offices, and shifting more decision-making to the state level. Supporters say that could streamline operations and bring management closer to the land itself.

Critics, including career staff and environmental groups, see it differently. They warn that eliminating regional coordination and slashing funding—especially for research and wildfire preparedness—could weaken the agency's ability to respond to increasingly intense fire seasons, particularly in Western states like California.

The numbers are what's getting attention. Early budget proposals point to steep reductions in overall funding, along with the potential elimination of certain research and conservation programs. At the same time, there's an increased emphasis on timber production and faster approval timelines for projects on public lands.

For communities that rely on national forests—for recreation, clean water, and wildfire protection—the stakes are real. A smaller, more decentralized agency could mean quicker decisions, but also fewer resources and less oversight.

The key thing to remember: none of this is set in stone. Congress still has to weigh in on funding, and pushback from lawmakers and the public could shape what actually moves forward.

Want to learn more or get involved?

Check out the [National Forest Foundation](#) for education and volunteer opportunities, or follow updates from the [Sierra Club](#) to track policy changes and advocacy efforts.

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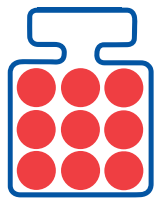


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Global Rugby Storms Sacramento

words and photos by Chris Allan

Heart Health Park opened the 2026 Pacific Four Series on April 11 – the first of six matches bringing the world's top women's rugby programs to American soil. Under skies that turned from overcast to torrential, the USA Women's Eagles faced the legendary New Zealand Black Ferns before lightning struck, forcing evacuation of the stadium. The Canada versus Australia nightcap kicked off late, played behind closed doors as the storm persisted.

The mood before kickoff was celebratory – a recorded message affirmed the event's commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion, and Black Ferns fans Aryn Wilder and Shannon Nunez got engaged on the pitch, to the delight of the crowd. They weren't the only lesbians there – leading the Eagles were: Captain and two-time World Cup veteran Erica Jarrell-Searcy (married to fellow rugby player Kay Jarrell-Searcy), Paris Olympian Alev Kelter, and veteran front-row powerhouse Kathryn Treder (the two are engaged) on a roster where out athletes are not the exception but the norm. McKenzie Hawkins, Charli Jacoby, and Kate Zackary – all part of the broader Eagles squad – were not in Saturday's lineup.

This visibility arrives during a pivotal moment. In February 2026, USA Rugby restricted its Women's Division to cisgender players, creating a separate "Open Division" for transgender women – driven by an U.S. Olympic directive complying with President Trump's executive order "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports." Framed as a fairness versus exclusion issue, the policy has yet to affect any known players at this level. On the pitch in Sacramento, the athletes pushed through with a passion more powerful than politics.

Ultimately, USA fell to New Zealand 48-15, competitive in the first half before the Ferns pulled away. After a 70-minute weather delay, Canada shut out Australia 24-0. The series concludes in Australia on April 25 – win or lose, the sport's queer athletes continue to shape rugby's global culture in ways no policy can touch.



Aryn Wilder and Shannon Nunez celebrate their engagement on the pitch before the USA vs. New Zealand match



USA hooker Kathryn Treder throws in at a line-out against New Zealand

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Too Fast, Too Furious

resource: Office of Attorney General Bonta

California Attorney General Rob Bonta and district attorneys from Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties have issued a consumer alert warning that some vehicles marketed as e-bikes may not legally qualify as e-bikes under California law. If an electric two-wheeled vehicle exceeds 28 mph with pedal assist, 20 mph with throttle assist, has a motor over 750 watts, or lacks operable pedals, it may legally be considered a moped or motorcycle instead. That can trigger requirements for registration, insurance, and the proper license.



The warning is not an attack on e-bikes themselves. Officials also note that bicycles, including e-bikes, are part of California's commitment to cleaner transportation and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. For many riders, e-bikes provide an affordable way to commute, run errands, or replace some car trips. They can reduce traffic congestion, lower fuel costs, and make cycling more practical for older adults or people with limited mobility.

E-bikes can also open recreation and transportation to people who might otherwise be unable to ride traditional bicycles because of distance, hills, fitness level, or physical limitations. In that sense, they are less a problem than a tool that needs sensible rules and responsible use.

Concerns instead center on unsafe, overpowered, or illegally modified machines being sold as ordinary e-bikes. The alert notes a rise in injuries. A University of California, San Francisco study found e-bike rider injuries nearly doubled each year from 2017 to 2022. Another University of California, San Diego study reported injuries among riders under 18 increased 300% from 2019 to 2023.

California recognizes three legal e-bike classes. Class 1 bikes provide pedal assist up to 20 mph. Class 2 bikes use throttle assist up to 20 mph. Class 3 bikes provide pedal assist up to 28 mph, but riders must be at least 16 and wear helmets. All e-bikes sold in California must include a permanent label listing classification, top assisted speed, and motor wattage.

The message from state officials is fairly simple: legal e-bikes can offer real environmental and mobility benefits, but consumers should know the difference between an e-bike and a motorcycle wearing bike clothing.

Modern Power for Older Homes

As more households add EV chargers, heat pumps, induction stoves, and battery systems, many are discovering that older electrical panels were not built for modern energy demands. That has created interest in alternatives to full panel replacement.

One Sacramento-area example is [Kora](#), which promotes technology designed to increase a home's usable electrical capacity while reducing the need for major construction. The company highlights solutions that may help homeowners add new electric appliances or vehicle charging with less disruption than some traditional upgrades.

That concept could appeal to Californians looking to electrify their homes while managing costs and avoiding extensive rewiring or utility work.

It also reflects a larger shift: cleaner living is not just about buying an EV or adding solar panels. It can also mean upgrading the systems inside the home to use energy more efficiently.

As with any home project, consumers should compare options, verify licensing, and review warranties, permits, and long-term compatibility before making a decision.

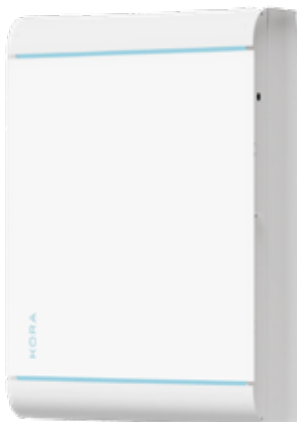


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California EV Growth Linked to Cleaner Air, New USC Study Finds

California has spent years pushing electric vehicles as a climate solution, but a new study suggests the benefits may be much closer to home: cleaner air in the neighborhoods where people actually live.

Researchers at the Keck School of Medicine of USC examined California communities from 2019 through 2023, comparing vehicle registration data with satellite measurements of nitrogen dioxide, or NO₂, a harmful pollutant tied largely to gasoline and diesel traffic. Their conclusion was straightforward: neighborhoods with more zero-emission vehicles tended to have lower levels of NO₂.

That matters because NO₂ has been linked to asthma, bronchitis, heart disease, and other respiratory problems. It is especially common near busy roads, freeways, warehouses, and dense urban corridors—places many Californians know well.

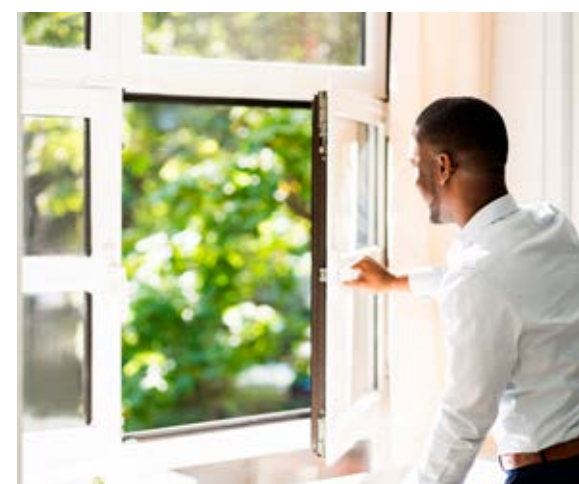
The study found that for every 200 additional zero-emission vehicles added in a community, NO₂ levels dropped by roughly 1.1 percent. That may sound modest, but across millions of residents and heavily traveled metro areas, small percentage changes can translate into meaningful public-health gains.

For California, the findings arrive at an important moment. The state continues to lead the nation in EV adoption, charging infrastructure, and clean-air policy, even as national politics around transportation and climate remain unsettled. From Sacramento to Los Angeles, cleaner cars can mean cleaner lungs.

The benefits are not evenly distributed yet. EV access, charging availability, and affordability remain real challenges, particularly for renters, lower-income households, and rural communities. But the study reinforces an idea California has embraced for decades: environmental policy is also health policy.

Electric vehicles are often discussed in terms of carbon emissions and the future of the planet. This research is a reminder that the payoff can also be immediate and local—less pollution on the street outside your door.

In a state long shaped by smog battles and freeway traffic, that is no small thing.



IONNA and Circle K - Electric Together

A new partnership between IONNA and Circle K aims to make charging an electric vehicle feel a lot more like a familiar pit stop.

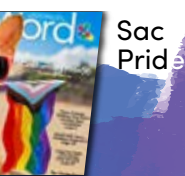


The deal will bring high-powered EV charging stations—dubbed “Rechargeries @ Circle K”—to more than 350 locations across the United States. Backed by a coalition of major automakers including BMW, GM, Honda, and Toyota, IONNA is positioning itself as a major player in the race to build out a reliable, coast-to-coast charging network.

The plan goes beyond simply adding plugs. IONNA will take over and upgrade dozens of existing Circle K charging sites while rolling out new stations at high-traffic locations that currently lack EV infrastructure. Many of these chargers are expected to deliver speeds up to 400 kW—fast enough to significantly cut down charging time—while supporting both major connector types used in North America.

For drivers, the appeal is convenience. Instead of isolated charging stations, these sites pair fast charging with the everyday amenities Circle K already offers—restrooms, snacks, and a place to stretch your legs while you wait.

The first locations are expected to come online by the end of 2026, with a broader rollout continuing into 2027. As EV adoption continues to evolve, partnerships like this suggest the future of fueling up may look a lot more like the road trips we already know. For more about this, [click here](#).



States Keep Charging Ahead on EV Infrastructure Despite Federal Stepbacks

While political fights continue in Washington over climate policy, clean energy incentives, and the future of electric vehicles, several states are moving ahead with plans to expand EV charging networks and support the transition to cleaner transportation. Recent announcements from Ohio and Oregon show that, regardless of federal rhetoric, many states see practical value in building out the infrastructure drivers need.

In Ohio, officials recently announced \$51 million in funding for 64 new EV charging sites across the state. Backed through the federal National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program, the investment will help place high-speed chargers at travel centers, convenience stores, grocery locations, and retail hubs. Private companies are also expected to contribute additional funds, showing that businesses see opportunity in meeting growing driver demand.



Meanwhile, Oregon has opened a \$32 million funding round to help businesses install fast chargers statewide. The program can cover up to 80 percent of eligible project costs, making it easier for private property owners to add charging stations along major routes and in underserved areas. Oregon's focus includes highway corridors, rural access, and improving reliability for long-distance EV travel.

Together, the two states are committing more than \$83 million in recent announcements alone.

These investments come at a time when some national leaders continue to criticize EV policies or seek to roll back clean transportation programs. But for many states, the issue is less ideological than practical. More EVs are already on the road, and drivers need places to charge. Charging stations also bring traffic to businesses, create construction jobs, and help modernize aging transportation networks.

California, New York, Washington, Colorado, and others have launched their own aggressive EV strategies, but Ohio and Oregon demonstrate that support is not limited to one political region or one type of state. Red, blue, and purple states alike are recognizing that transportation is changing.

The message from the states is increasingly clear: while national politics may shift, the move toward electric vehicles is continuing one charging station at a time. With gasoline prices still prone to sudden swings, many states see EV infrastructure not just as climate policy, but as consumer protection, economic development, and energy choice.



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It's Not Just Salad That Gets Tossed

resources: US EPA, USDA, RTS

As Earth Day rolls around, it's easy to think big—climate change, rising temperatures, melting ice caps. But one of the most immediate environmental problems is sitting much closer to home. In fact, it might be in your fridge.

In the United States, an estimated 30 to 40 percent of all food produced is never eaten. That's tens of millions of tons of food every year—groceries, leftovers, and ingredients that end up in the trash instead of on a plate. According to the EPA, the average American throws away about \$700 worth of food annually, which adds up to nearly \$3,000 for a household of four.

That's not nothing. That's real money—quietly slipping away, one unopened container at a time.

And here's the part that hits closest: most of that waste happens at home.

It's rarely dramatic. It's the bag of greens that wilted before you got to it. The leftovers that sounded great at the time, but didn't quite make it to round two. The yogurt that hit its "best by" date and got tossed, just to be safe. Small, everyday decisions that don't feel like much—until you zoom out.

The impact goes far beyond the kitchen. Food waste is the single largest category of material in U.S. landfills, and when it breaks down, it produces methane, a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide. All the resources that went into that food—water, energy, labor, transportation—are wasted right along with it.

At the same time, more than 35 million Americans face food insecurity, even as more than a third of available food goes uneaten. That contrast—abundance on one side, need on the other—is hard to ignore.

The good news is that this is one environmental issue where small changes actually matter. Planning meals a bit more carefully. Freezing what you won't use. Getting comfortable with leftovers. Understanding that "best by" doesn't necessarily mean "bad after."

There's a national goal to cut food waste in half by 2030, but that kind of change doesn't happen in policy alone. It happens in kitchens, one decision at a time.

This Earth Day, saving the planet might start with something simple: eating what you buy—and maybe keeping a few thousand dollars a year out of the trash.



some very tired spinach in the fridge...





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May 7, 2026

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Outword Magazine had a paws-itively perfect day at the Sacramento SPCA Doggy Dash on Saturday, April 18. From tiny pups rocking stylish hats to big dogs strutting in tutus, the cuteness was nonstop. It was an incredible day filled with community, joy, and plenty of tail wags—and we already can't wait to be back again next year.



Out & About





The King of Pop is Larger Than Life

Plus, Steven Soderbergh is on a Roll

by Chris Narloch

This month's movies are a grab bag of cinematic diversity, from a high-profile, pop music biopic and a glossy, Black rom com, to a bizarre, big screen adaptation of a Japanese video game. Best of all, one of the greatest living American directors is back with a new movie.



The Christophers

For almost forty years, Steven Soderbergh has been making great movies in almost every genre you can imagine, from Oscar-winning dramas like "Traffic" and "Erin Brockovich" to blockbuster franchise films such as the "Magic Mike" and "Oceans" movies. Soderbergh hasn't lost his touch with his latest big-screen effort, a terrific, darkly comic drama with a truly great cast headed by Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel. McKellen plays a washed-up painter whose conniving children hire an art restorer to pose as the aging artist's assistant, with a plan to steal several potentially valuable, unfinished works of art. Soderbergh nails every twist and turn with finesse, and "The Christophers," which was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre when this Issue of *Outword* came out, is itself a work of art.



Michael

Critics have not been kind to this new Michael Jackson biopic, which covers the first two-and-a-half decades of his phenomenal career and ends before the troubling Neverland Ranch years. Let me start by saying that the movie is estate-approved so any hopes that it would seriously deal with the more controversial aspects of the singer's life were delusional. The film is entertaining fan service for Jackson's millions of disciples, who want to see him portrayed as the musical genius that he was rather than the nefarious individual the tabloids made him out to be. (You won't get even a hint of his later legal troubles from this movie.)

The singer's life was far too complicated for one movie to capture, and I enjoyed "Michael" for what is on the screen: a greatest hits trip through the best part of his career, featuring a ton of great music and superb performances by Colman Domingo as a monstrous Joseph Jackson; Nia Long as Michael's long-suffering mother, Katherine Jackson; and especially Jaafar Jackson (Michael's real-life nephew), who pulls off the impossible job of playing the superstar.

"Michael" is currently in wide theatrical release including the Esquire IMAX on K Street.



Exit 8

The rise in popularity of video game adaptations on the big screen has mostly resulted in truly terrible movies such as "Iron Lung" and the dreadful "Five Nights at Freddy's" franchise. That changes with this bizarrely entertaining freakout, based on a Japanese video game, that follows The Lost Man, a father-to-be who finds himself in a never-ending loop inside a subway corridor, trying desperately to get out.

"Exit 8" won't be everyone's cup of tea, but if you're in the mood for a crazy, psychological mystery with hints of horror, this creepy film might be for you. Finding a theater that is still playing "Exit 8" may be challenging, but it's worth seeking out when it becomes available to stream.



You, Me & Tuscany

If you're in the mood for a harmless rom com set in Tuscany, starring two beautiful people, then I can recommend checking out this silly but sweet little movie.

The deception that powers the plot is ludicrous, but Halle Bailey ("The Little Mermaid") and Rege-Jean Page ("Bridgerton") are very easy on the eyes, and they have sizzling hot chemistry.

That said, the beautiful wine country of Tuscany gives the best performance in the movie. "You, Me & Tuscany" is currently in wide theatrical release.



CaliDanza Dance Company Presents "Festejos"

This May, CaliDanza Dance Company invites audiences across Northern California to experience "Festejos," a dynamic series of performances celebrating the richness, diversity, and beauty of Mexican folklórico dance.



Blending powerful choreography, traditional music, and stunning regional costumes, "Festejos" offers an immersive cultural experience that brings Mexico's history and traditions to life on stage. Each performance showcases the artistry, discipline, and passion that define CaliDanza's commitment to preserving and elevating folklórico dance.

Founded in Sacramento, CaliDanza Dance Company has become a leading cultural arts organization dedicated to sharing Mexican heritage through performance, education, and community engagement.

"We are proud to share these traditions with our community in a way that feels both authentic and inspiring," said Stephen Valencia, Founder, Creative Director, and Artistic Director of CaliDanza. "Festejos" is a celebration of identity, culture, and the power of storytelling through dance."

The first Sacramento area performance is on May 2, 2026, at the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival in Fair Oaks. Then on May 9, CaliDanza will perform at The Sofia in Midtown Sacramento.

Tickets: www.calidanza.com

Yes, Everything Does Glow

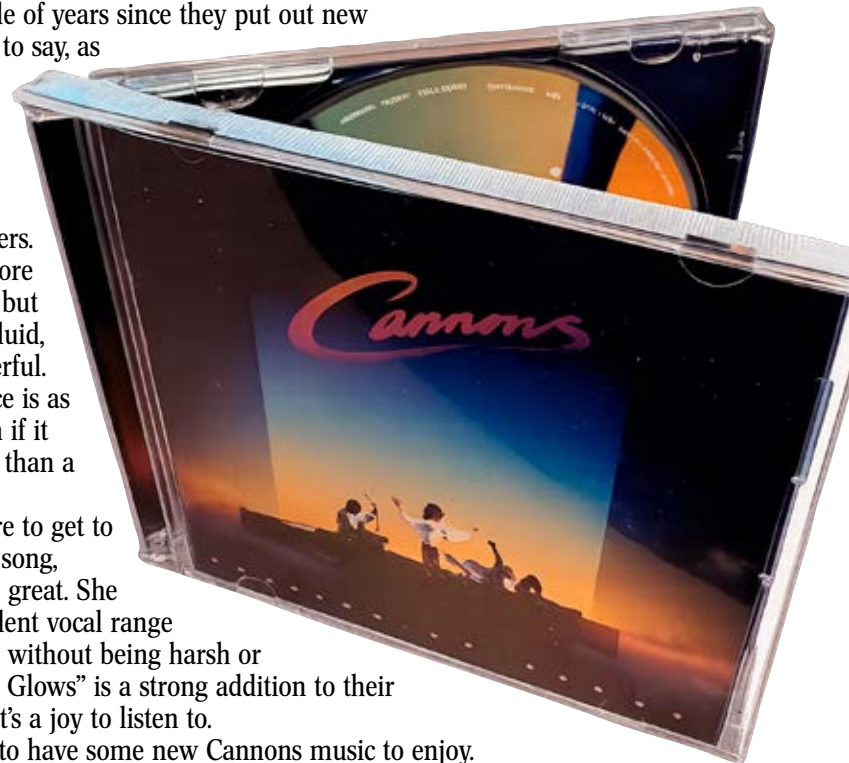
by Ron Tackitt

I did something I have not done in a long time: I bought an actual CD. I've purchased music online in digital format before, but it has been a long time since I've had a physical copy of that music. However, given how much I enjoy Cannons, I wanted complete control over my listening experience. Since their music has a slightly retro feel, it only stands to reason that I should be sliding a disc into a player.

It's been a couple of years since they put out new music, and I have to say, as far as I'm concerned, the wait was worth it. This is another great effort by the dream disco masters. There is a little more guitar in the mix, but the music is still fluid, catchy, and wonderful. Michelle Joy's voice is as good as ever, even if it rarely gets harder than a sex-kitten purr.

However, be sure to get to the second-to-last song, "Photographs." It's great. She shows some excellent vocal range and control, again without being harsh or gritty. "Everything Glows" is a strong addition to their discography, and it's a joy to listen to.

I'm very happy to have some new Cannons music to enjoy.



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PHOTO BY MATTHEW MURPHY & EVAN ZIMMERMAN



Placer Pride Marks Milestone Year with 5th Anniversary Celebration and New LGBTQ+ Center

words by Nicole Williams • photo by Jammin' Jo

Royer Park will once again come alive with color, music, and community on Saturday, May 16, as Placer Pride celebrates its fifth annual event—this year with a milestone that extends far beyond a single day.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., more than 3,000 attendees are expected to gather for the free, family-friendly celebration, themed “Follow the Rainbow Brick Road.” But in 2026, the theme carries deeper meaning. After five years of grassroots organizing, fundraising, and community building, organizers are marking the opening of Placer County’s first all-ages LGBTQ+ community center not located on a college campus: the Placer LGBTQ+ Center.

What began as a one-day Pride event has steadily evolved into something much larger—a sustained effort to create visibility, connection, and support in a region where LGBTQ+ resources have historically been limited.

“Pride is a reminder that everyone deserves to be safe, seen, and celebrated,” said Center President Daniella Zimmerman. “It’s a space where people can show up as their authentic selves, find support, and feel the strength of a growing and connected community.”

The new Center, which recently secured a permanent home in Roseville, is already beginning to serve the community through appointment-based access and a growing

schedule of programs. Monthly peer support groups, social gatherings, and youth programming are underway.

For many residents, the Center represents something long overdue.

In Placer County and the surrounding Sierra Foothills, LGBTQ+ individuals—particularly youth—often face higher rates of social isolation and mental health challenges, compounded by limited access to affirming services. Pride has become not only a celebration, but a critical entry point for connection to resources, supportive providers, and peer networks.

That dual purpose will be on full display at this year’s event.

Placer Pride 2026 will feature a full lineup of live entertainment, alongside local vendors, food trucks, and a wine and beer garden. Dedicated spaces for kids and teens, as well as areas for seniors and families, are designed to ensure that attendees of all ages feel welcomed and included. Community-based organizations will also be on site, offering information and services that extend the impact of Pride beyond the park.

“In a time when LGBTQ+ visibility and



access to care remain critical, Pride is more than a celebration,” Zimmerman said. “It’s a reflection of resilience, belonging, and the future we’re building together.”

“We are able to bring all ages together so they can learn from each other,” says Cindy Baudoin, the CFO and treasurer of the organization. “Older generations are able to pass along our history, while the youth who attend are able to share what it is like for them in our community today. Sharing our skills and knowledge helps us support one another and keep moving forward.”

That future is now taking physical shape. Funding from Pride sponsors and vendors has been instrumental in launching the Center, and remains essential to sustaining its operations. Organizers emphasize that the work is ongoing—and that community involvement will continue to play a central role in the Center’s success.

As Placer Pride enters its fifth year, the event stands as both a celebration of progress and a reminder of what’s possible when a community comes together with intention. For many, this year’s gathering isn’t just about showing up—it’s about witnessing the realization of a vision years in the making.

And for those following the rainbow brick

road this May, the destination is no longer just a day in the park—but a lasting home for connection, care, and belonging.

Event Details

Placer Pride 2026

Saturday, May 16, 2026

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Royer Park, Roseville, CA

placergbtqcenter.org/pride

Sponsorship Inquiries: nicole.williams@placergbtqcenter.org

To learn more about the Placer LGBTQ+ Center, upcoming programs, or event details, visit placergbtqcenter.org.



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**June 6,
4pm**



more events at
DavisPride.org

2026 Spring Soirée Fundraising Event Benefiting



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DATE & TIME

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TICKET PRICE

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**FOR TICKETS &
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WINDYOUTHSERVICES.ORG



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The Art of May in Sac & Beyond

by Chris Narloch

Two promising new exhibitions are opening in NorCal this May, at SFMOMA in the Bay Area and, closer to home, ARTHOUSE in Midtown Sacramento.

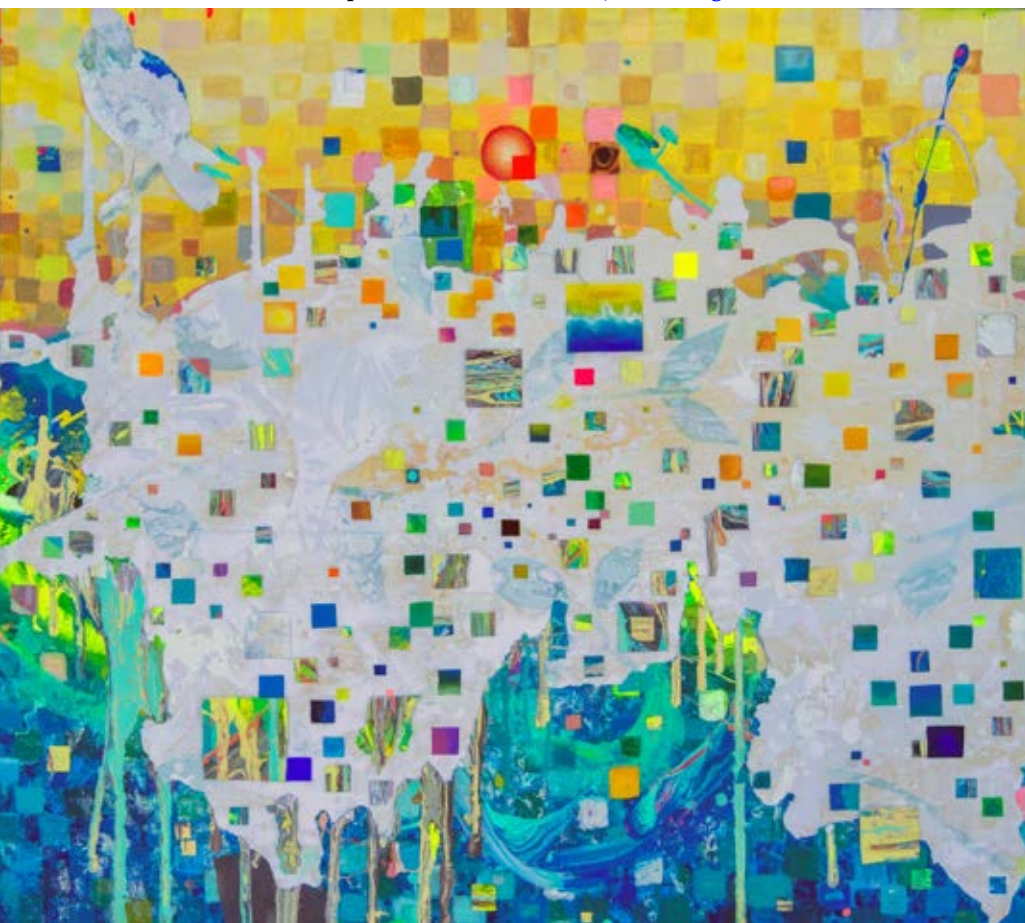


SFMOMA

Opening May 16, "Matisse's Femme au chapeau: A Modern Scandal" restages the iconic painting's explosive 1905 debut, when Henri Matisse's bold color and expressive brushwork stunned the Paris art world and ushered in Fauvism.

Featuring the largest reunion of works from the original Salon d'Automne presentation in over a century, the exhibition traces the painting's impact – from Matisse's contemporaries to artists working today, including Bay Area visionaries influenced by its daring spirit.

For more information and to purchase tickets www.sfmoma.org



ARTHOUSE On R

ARTHOUSE on R proudly presents "PALIMPSEST," featuring abstract mixed media paintings created by innovative artist Taner Paşamehmetoğlu.

On view from May 8 through June 8, 2026, the exhibition will be featured in the ARTHOUSE Gallery, located in Sacramento's historic and creative R Street Corridor. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 5–8 p.m., where visitors are invited to meet the artist.

For details, please visit www.arthouseonr.com

The night is young.

Liquor Therapy

Ingredients:
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No Straw.

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5:30 – 7 pm

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Activating Taste Buds

Café Bernardo *words and photo by Randy Hartley*

Located in an urban neighborhood in downtown Sacramento, Café Bernardo is a first come, first serve, restaurant with plenty of indoor and outdoor seating.



The Café is particularly popular on weekends for brunch. Eggs Benedict is a top choice for brunch along with the usual two egg breakfast with potatoes and added ham, bacon, or sausage. The Avocado Toast is delicious also.

The café is clean and well-arranged, and the staff are extremely helpful, friendly, and professional.

Lunch and dinner items are particularly good too! Their hamburger meat is never frozen and impeccably sourced. This is a farm to fork restaurant. For hours of operation and menu options be sure to check out [their web site](#).

Outword Afterwork

by Jules the Mixologist

“No Notes”

Some days don't need a theme.

They don't need a clever name, a citrus twist, or a five-step process that asks you to feel something.

Some days just need... a drink.

Straightforward. No decisions. No discussion. No follow-up questions.

You've made enough choices today. You've explained yourself enough. You've sat through enough conversations that could've ended sooner.

This is not that.

The Drink: Neat. Or On Ice. Your Call.
(Serves one person who is officially done)

Options:

- Whiskey, neat
- Whiskey, on the rocks
- Vodka, cold
- Tequila, straight

Directions:

Pour.
Sit down.
Take a sip.

That's it.
Why This Works
It doesn't ask anything from you.

No balance.
No garnish.
No pretending.

Just a clean, honest reset at the end of a long day.

Pair With:

- Silence
- A deep exhale
- Not responding until tomorrow
- Being done explaining

Because sometimes the best drink... is the one that keeps it simple.

Clocked out.
Poured up.



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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Spring is unfolding and there's so many amazing events to remind us that community is what carries us through uncertain times. It's a perfect time to come together, celebrate and simply be present to uplift one another. From performances to festivals these events help us to continue building a resilient, vibrant community together.

April 25

Shop, snack and support local makers at the Spring Peddler Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Bliss Marketplace, 2529 Mercantile Dr., Suite C, Rancho Cordova. Featuring 30-plus vintage and handmade vendors, food trucks and free admission and parking, this lively community event is perfect for discovering one-of-a-kind treasures and connecting with the local creative scene. Vintageblissmarketplace.com



Lucía

May 2

Jazz meets global rhythm when Lucía takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at Jackson Hall, One Shields Ave., Davis. Blending Latin folk traditions with contemporary jazz, the rising artist delivers a soulful, genre-crossing performance that celebrates heritage, storytelling and the evolving sound of modern jazz. Mondaviarts.org

May 6

Espejos: Clean, a bilingual drama by Christine Quintana, premieres in Sacramento May 6–June 7 at Capital Stage, 2215 J St. This English-and-Spanish production, with supertitles, follows two unlikely women whose worlds collide at a Mexican resort, sparking misunderstandings, reckonings and unexpected connection. Capstage.org



May 9

Step into mystery and mayhem at a live shadowcast of Clue at the Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd., on Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. Presented by Amber's Sweets, this immersive experience blends film and live performance as six suspicious guests navigate secrets, blackmail, and murder in a secluded mansion. With VIP entry at 6:45 p.m., don't miss this thrilling, laugh-filled whodunit. Lovehorrorevents.com

May 15

FoodieLand returns to Sacramento May 15–17 at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd. The nationwide food festival features more than 200 vendors offering global flavors, artisan goods, games and live music. Designed as a community gathering, FoodieLand brings friends and families together to eat, explore and celebrate culture through unforgettable culinary experiences. Foodielandnm.com

Ongoing

Explore centuries of artistic brilliance at The Sense of Beauty: Six Centuries of Painting from Museo de Arte de Ponce, on view through May 24 at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Featuring masterworks from artists like Goya, Rubens and Sargent, this stunning exhibition spans Renaissance to modern art, celebrating the enduring pursuit of beauty across cultures and time. Crockerart.org



Mayim Bialik

April 29

Actor, neuroscientist and author Mayim Bialik takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St., Sacramento. Presented by the Sacramento Speaker Series, the evening offers insight, humor and thoughtful conversation from the Emmy-nominated Big Bang Theory star and podcast host. Safecreditunionconventioncenter.com

May 1

Discover sparkling treasures at the Sacramento Gem Faire, May 1-3 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St., Sacramento. Browse gems, crystals, jewelry and supplies from direct vendors, with show hours 12–6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free with online registration or \$7 at the door. Gemfaire.com



Kick up your heels and celebrate Pride when the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus presents Rhinestone Cowboy at The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre, 2700 Capitol Ave. Performances run 7 p.m. Friday, June 19; 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, June 20; and 3 p.m. Sunday, June 21, blending country classics with dazzling queer flair, harmony and heart. Sacgaymenschorus.com

Experience The Dark Side of the Moon like never before when Classic Albums Live brings Pink Floyd's iconic masterpiece to life at the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway, on Tuesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. Performed note for note, the evening begins with the full album, followed by a high-energy set of the band's greatest hits for a truly unforgettable rock experience. Harriscenter.net

Get ready for a synth-pop spectacular when The Human League takes the stage with special guests Soft Cell and Alison Moyet at Hard Rock Live Sacramento, 3317 Forty Mile Rd. in Wheatland, on Saturday, June 6 at 8 p.m. Expect an electrifying night of iconic hits and new wave favorites from some of the genre's most influential artists. Get your tickets now, this event is sure to sell out, soon! Hardrock.com/sacramento



The Human League

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

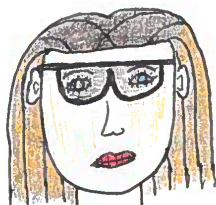


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Mememes from Facebook

PSA TO CA VOTERS

It's too late to get off the ballot in California. Deadlines were in March. Ballots are finalized and will include Swalwell and anyone else who drops out between now and June 2nd. The candidates who drop out must be clear in their communications that they're no longer running for governor, because their names being on the ballot may confuse voters. In total there are *61 names*. Please tell your friends and family!

 Jesse Adams

If you've built a personality around gleefully "offending liberals," here's what you need to know: we aren't offended. You haven't hurt our feelings or made us cry. You sound like children to us, and we're sick of responding over and over to your infuriatingly stupid talking points, but we keep doing it because people's lives might literally be at stake if the wrong kind of idiocy is allowed to spread too far.

You're not erudite debaters "owning the libs." You're the rotten annoying little kids kicking the backs of our seats while we're trying to keep the car on the road.

 Maryam
@hell_line0

The birth rate in South Korea is plummeting exponentially. This is a collective quote from the women there; "I will not give birth to a life that will discriminate against my gender, my own flesh and blood must not become a blade turned against me. If the world born from my body oppresses me, I will not let that world exist." This ignites my whole soul. Women have the ability to collectively decide to end civilization unless things change. That my friends, is what real power looks like.

SIMPLE FUEL COST COMPARISON GAS vs. ELECTRIC: CALCULATE \$/MILE

THE BASIC FORMULA
PRICE / MILEAGE = \$/MILE
(e.g., \$/gal or \$/kWh) (mpg or mi/kWh)

GAS VEHICLE
e.g., 2024 Toyota Camry (6 cyl)
Combined driving: 33 mpg



GAS PRICE:
\$3.59 /gal (Regular)

CALCULATION:
3.59 / 33 = 0.108

~\$0.11 /mile

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (Home Charging)
e.g., 2024 Tesla Model 3 RWD
Combined driving: 4.0 mi/kWh



ELECTRICITY COST:
\$0.13 /kWh

CALCULATION:
0.13 / 4 = 0.0325

~\$0.03 /mile

PUBLIC CHARGING COSTS (For EVs)

PUBLIC DC FAST CHARGERS
Tesla Time-of-Use: \$0.17 - \$0.41/kWh
Other Charging (e.g., Walmart): ~\$0.44/kWh avg.

COST PER MILE RANGE
~\$0.04 /mile to ~\$0.11 /mile

IMPORTANT NOTE: YOUR MILEAGE MAY VARY
We all drive differently, so base your mileage on what you actually get.



The U.S. government has to refund \$166 billion in tariffs, PLUS interests. Trump said he would be paying Americans checks from tariffs and eventually even replace the income tax. So now not only are you not getting DOGE checks after he cancelled DOGE, you're not getting tariff checks and paying the interests back on tariffs collected.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

96% of all new cars registered in Norway in 2025 were EVs.

UP



SO BUSINESSES RAISED THEIR PRICES TO OFFSET THE TARIFFS, WE THE CONSUMERS PAID THOSE HIGHER PRICES, AND NOW THOSE SAME BUSINESSES CAN GET REIMBURSED FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR TARIFFS WE ALREADY COVERED FOR THEM BY PAYING HIGHER PRICES?? AND 'THEY' GET A REFUND AND WE DON'T?

@trouble_man90

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

Pete Buttigieg Hints At 2028 Presidential Run: Save Me A Seat, I'll Be There



RAINBOW FUND

Help support LGBTQ+ media
here in Sacramento

For 30 years, Outword Magazine—Sacramento's longest-running LGBTQ+ publication—has been a trusted voice, celebrating our community and helping keep readers informed and connected.

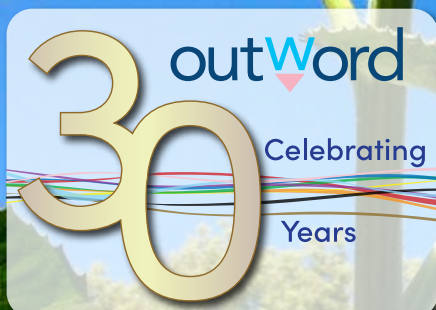
Today, that role matters more than ever. LGBTQ+ media is essential, especially as our community continues to face hostility and erasure in very real ways. That's why we've launched a subscription and reader-supported donor program, designed to help ensure Outword remains a reliable source of information, visibility, and community connection.

We invite you to consider making a contribution in whatever amount feels right for you through our relaunched Outword Rainbow Fund. Every gift helps. With a simple and secure process, your support directly sustains the work we do and the voices we amplify.

We're proud of the role Outword has played in Sacramento for three decades, and we're committed to being here for many more. Together, we can make sure our stories continue to be told and our voices continue to be heard.

Thank you,
The Outword Team

For more information please email us or give us a call:
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