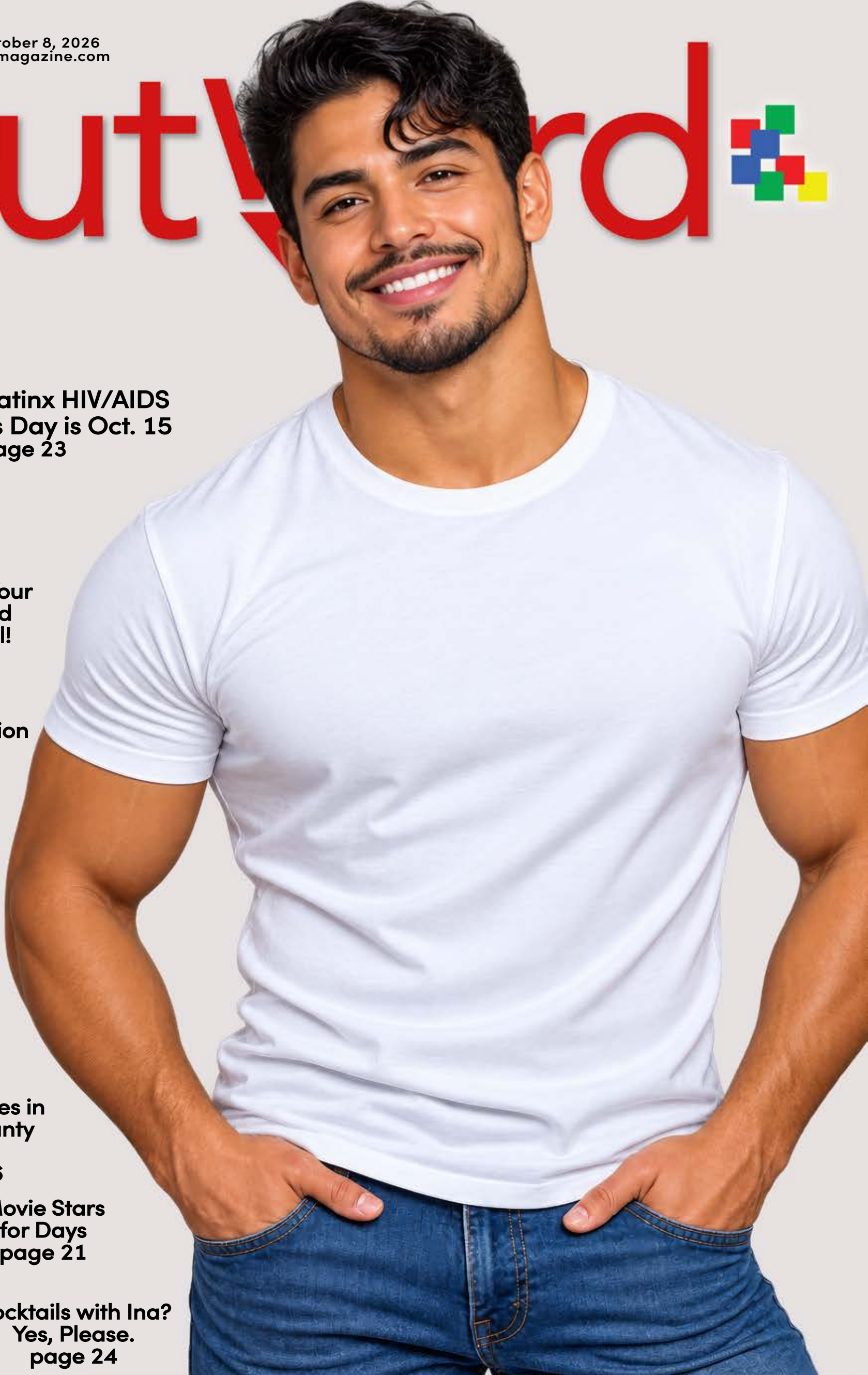


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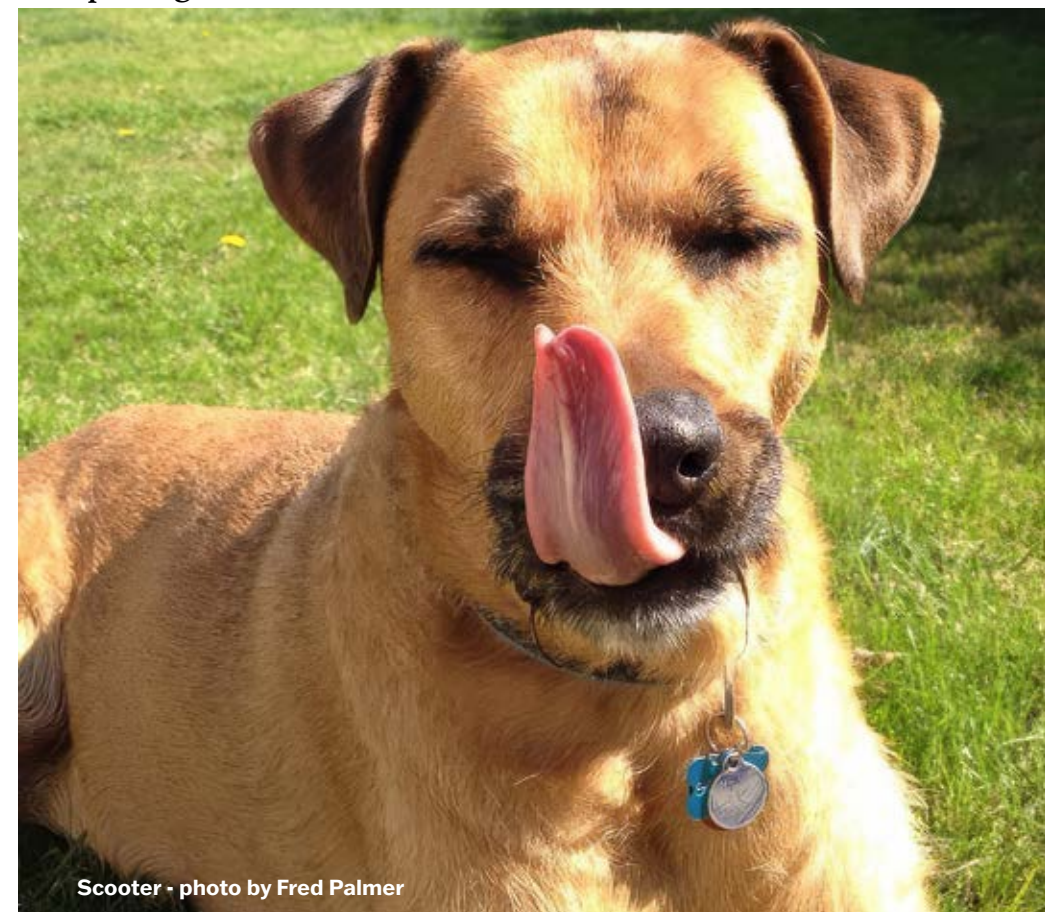
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Last Call for Your Four-Legged Supermodel!

The clock is ticking, the camera is waiting, and somewhere in Sacramento there's a dog, cat, rabbit – or other ridiculously photogenic critter – who deserves to be an *Outword* cover star.



Scooter • photo by Fred Palmer

Entries for our annual Pet Photo Contest close at 5 p.m. on October 12, which means there are only a few days left to dig through your camera roll and send us your favorite shot. Or, if your pet is currently looking especially adorable, grab the phone and start shooting.

We're looking for pets at their most lovable, ridiculous, regal, mischievous or just plain cute. You can submit one or two photos, along with an optional short paragraph telling us a little about your furry (or perhaps not-so-furry) family member and why they deserve their moment in the spotlight.

The winning photo will appear on the cover of our Pet Issue that hits on October 22, and the lucky human hooman companion will receive \$100 cash. So, it's Fame and fortune! Well, a little fortune.

There are just a couple of rules: You must have the rights to the photos you submit, and images cannot be AI-generated, purchased or stock photography. We'll be judging - based on cuteness, composition and image quality – so please, no blurry 2007 flip-phone photos, no matter how adorable Fluffy looked back then.

Think you've got a star lounging on your sofa, hogging your bed or staring at you as though you've interrupted something terribly important? Prove it.

Don't dawdle. The deadline is October 12 at 5 p.m. [Click here](#) to go to our Jotform to upload your image(s). Your little hooligan could be our next cover model.

The List

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Sky River Casino

Diwali Festival of Lights

Folsom Family Pride Picnic

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The “Gay Agenda” and Queer Consciousness

by Jamarie C.
Communications Chair, Stonewall
Democrats of Greater Sacramento

“Only gay men have had the courage to expose themselves to the woman inside them and to challenge the current masculinity...the beginnings of a new breed, but they are confused, and entangled with sexist behaviors that they have not been able to eradicate. We need a new masculinity and the new man needs a movement” - Gloria Anzaldua.

When we hear discourse concerning the “gay agenda” it’s in regards to an uptick of queer representation, whether that be in entertainment, literature, education, sports, etc. and people somehow see it as something by which “we” are trying to shove in their face, and “convince” or “teach” people to be queer.

As a result, due to an increase of queer representation, this has created a “visibility effect”, in which the individual sees themselves represented/seen/accepted and is motivated to come out and be themselves and to no longer live in fear. After this individual embraces their queerness, they begin to understand that the social constructs and norms (and the systems which produce those oppressive conditions) of gender, sexuality, and subsequently patriarchy binds a person to a version of themselves that is not full, complete, whole.

This profound knowledge and realization of understanding the systems and structures that has kept you from being, you, unlocks a new perspective that you can use as a lens to look at society through, unlocks a “new” and undiscovered knowledge, giving you a new tongue, a new language, that of liberation, and lastly giving us the best gift: Queer Consciousness. And that consciousness is what they don’t want us to attain.

Rhetoric portraying queer folk as threats to sports, military, children, schools, etc. the latter two are among one of the biggest issues we face as a community in this country. Banning queer literature (or books which simply have queer characters), no drag queen story times, no talking about anything “gay” in the classroom at all. Who does this surprise though? The queer experience (while a unique one) is one interwoven with intersectional identities, being disabled, a POC, a woman, and, by default, a worker. They do not want the common person and kids in school to learn about queerness because they will learn to be themselves and to love themselves, though, the bigger issue being culture and how our culture has been touched by colonial and imperial powers, which with them their oppressive social constructs, societal norms, and ideas. And in turn our culture shapes our perspectives, views, and ways of thinking.

When you come from a country which culture(s) has been touched and by such poison for a few centuries and has seeped through every part of your countries culture, social norms and ways of being, “boys don’t do makeup”, “being gay isn’t natural”, “women are supposed to wear dresses not suits!” suddenly become the norm. We must first educate ourselves first by reading queer theory and literature, and then spread that knowledge. The greatest rebellion the queer can make against their patriarchal and colonial oppressor is to not only KNOW how to dismantle the system and create effective change, but to spread that knowledge among others, breaking binaries, societal norms, and shamefulness of self expression.

Continue to be yourself, embracing your queerness, and being proud of our culture shaped by the richness in diversity, creativity, and beauty within being queer.

Jamarie C. is a young student/latino activist, student at Sacramento State, and Communications Chair for Stonewall Democrats of Greater Sacramento

Florida Takes Another Swing at DEI

Florida will ring in 2027 with another restriction on diversity, equity and inclusion. Senate Bill 1134, signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis, prohibits counties and cities from funding or maintaining DEI offices and programs, and bars local governments from using public money to promote DEI initiatives. The law also reaches local contracts and grants, requiring recipients to certify that government funds will not be used for certain DEI-related instruction or requirements. Local officials who violate the law could face findings of misfeasance or malfeasance, and residents may sue local governments over violations. The measure passed the Florida Senate 25-11 and House 77-37 and takes effect January 1, 2027. For LGBTQ+ Floridians and other communities that have benefited from local inclusion efforts, it’s one more way the state is limiting what their own cities and counties can do in the name of equity and representation.

The background of the entire image is a close-up of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The flag is slightly wrinkled and has a soft, fabric-like texture.

YOUR COUNTRY. YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, and if you haven't checked your voter registration lately, consider this your friendly little shove. California's deadline to register online or by mail is Monday, October 19, so don't wait until October 20 and suddenly decide this democracy thing sounds important (both sides are Not the same). Even if you're pretty sure you're registered, take a minute and check. Make sure your address is correct, your information is current and you're ready to vote. And then — here's the important part — actually vote. Elections have consequences, and sitting this one out means leaving those decisions to everyone else. Check your status or register at registertovote.ca.gov. You can do it. It takes two minutes.

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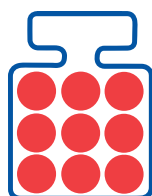
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California Strengthens Election Protections Ahead of November

resource: Gov. Newsom press release

California is adding new safeguards to its election laws ahead of the November election, with Gov. Gavin Newsom signing a package of bills aimed at protecting ballots, election records and voting technology from interference.



The new laws include felony penalties for anyone who seizes – or directs someone else to seize – ballots, election records or voting equipment. They also make it a felony for someone in a position of authority to order a subordinate to interfere with the delivery of vote-by-mail ballots, and create additional criminal penalties for unlawfully removing election materials or voting technology from the custody of election officials.

Newsom has framed the measures as a response to concerns about potential federal interference in the upcoming election and continuing efforts by the Trump administration and its allies to challenge state control over election procedures.

The legislation follows California's broader push to strengthen voting protections and counter actions by the Trump administration that state leaders say could undermine access to the ballot or the integrity of the election process.

"California will stop him at every opportunity," Newsom said, arguing that the state intends to make sure voters – not political officials – determine the outcome of November's election.

Governor Signs Cabaldon Bill Protecting Public Comment From AI-Generated Messages

from the office of christopher Cabaldon

Governor Newsom has signed Senate Bill 1159, authored by Senator Christopher Cabaldon (D-Yolo), into law. The bill, developed around theoretical concerns over AI public comment, was quickly validated in California when an AI powered advocacy tool generated thousands of fake public comments and reportedly played a large part in persuading a local air district's decision on a proposal. Situations like these overwhelm public comment and drown out the voices of everyday Californians.

The practice has become more common as AI tools make it cheap and easy to mass-produce submissions that mimic genuine public input. Regulatory agencies, city councils, and state boards rely on public comments to gauge how a policy will actually affect the people they serve, but when public bodies can no longer decipher who a message is from or trust the messages are real, they lose one of their key decision-making tools.

"When a government agency can't tell whether a comment came from a human or a machine, the whole process loses its meaning," said Cabaldon. "This bill makes sure that when people show up to be heard, they're actually being heard – not drowned out by technology built to game the system. This is about protecting one of the most basic tenets of democracy."

As AI continues to reshape how government interacts with the public, SB 1159 marks an early step toward making sure technology strengthens democratic participation instead of undermining it.

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Check Out Our Website: www.rbmafamillydocs.com****Education Department
Formally Removes LGBTQ+
Protections from Title IX**

The U.S. Department of Education has formally removed Biden-era Title IX regulations that explicitly protected LGBTQ+ students from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, returning federal education policy to rules adopted during the first Trump administration.

The move, announced September 28 under Education Secretary Linda McMahon, officially rescinds regulations adopted in 2024 that expanded the definition of sex discrimination under Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex-based discrimination in schools and educational programs receiving federal funding. The Department says the 2020 regulations are once again the governing federal standard.

The change is significant, although its immediate practical effect is more complicated than the headline might suggest. The Biden regulations had already been blocked by federal courts and were vacated nationwide by a federal judge in January 2025. The Education Department subsequently stopped enforcing them and returned to the earlier rules. This week's action formally removes the 2024 regulations from the books.

The Trump administration says the change restores Title IX to its original purpose of prohibiting discrimination based on biological sex. LGBTQ+ and civil-rights advocates argue that eliminating the explicit protections leaves transgender, nonbinary, gay and lesbian students more vulnerable to discrimination and creates greater uncertainty about their rights at school.

The issue has particular relevance in California, where state law provides broader protections for LGBTQ+ students than current federal regulations. The Trump administration and California officials are also already at odds over transgender student athletes, with the Education Department challenging California policies allowing students to participate in school sports consistent with their gender identity.

The latest action does not erase California's state protections, but it further widens the divide between Sacramento and Washington over how the rights of LGBTQ+ students should be protected.

**Rachel Maddow Brings
“Department of Fate” to San Francisco**

Rachel Maddow is headed back to San Francisco for an intimate conversation about her new book, *Department of Fate: The Promise, the Power, and the Collapse of America's Most Consequential Institution*.

Presented by ATG San Francisco and Book Passage, the event takes place Sunday, Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. at the Golden Gate Theatre. Maddow will be joined by journalist, author and longtime tech-industry chronicler Kara Swisher, who will moderate the conversation.

In “Department of Fate,” Maddow turns her attention to the nearly 150-year history of the U.S. Department of Justice and the enormous role it has played in shaping American democracy, civil rights and the principle of equal protection under the law.

As might be expected from Maddow, it isn't exactly a dry history lesson. The book traces the Justice Department through some of the country's darkest and most consequential chapters, including the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, the Red Scare, violence during the civil rights era, political corruption and abuses of power stretching into the present day.

Maddow is the Emmy and Murrow Award-winning host of “The Rachel Maddow Show” on MS NOW and the bestselling author of “Drift,” “Blowout and Prequel,” as well as co-author of “Bag Man.”

[Tickets are on sale now](#), and each ticket includes an unsigned copy of “Department of Fate.” With Maddow and Swisher sharing the stage, expect a lively conversation about history, power, politics and where American democracy goes from here.

**Rachel Maddow**
Photo: © NBCUniversal Media LLC™

Top Host Contestant

Seasoned emcee and award-show host Samuel “S. Napoleon” Jones continues to bring his signature energy, authenticity, and passion for storytelling to the Greater Sacramento region through his television talk show, “The Brew with S. Napoleon.”

Season One features eight episodes with C-suite executives, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and change-makers working across higher education, economic empowerment, health care, social justice, and community advancement. Each conversation explores the guests’ personal journeys, professional accomplishments, and visions for creating a stronger and more inclusive community.

With years of experience in radio, television, and live-event production, Jones transformed a lifelong dream into a regional television program with the support of friends, colleagues, and community partners. From set design and show running to styling, writing, producing, and editing, the show reflects the creativity and commitment of Sacramento’s diverse entertainment and media community.

To prepare for his role as a television host, Jones accepted a guest-host opportunity on Access Sacramento’s longest-running program, “Live Wire.” The experience allowed him to build on his childhood love of television and further develop his skills as an interviewer and storyteller. His work on the program was well received and helped pave the way for “The Brew.”

“The Brew with S. Napoleon” is produced by Muganzo Entertainment along with consulting producer and casting coordinator, Susan Swarts. Previous episodes have explored LGBTQ+ rights and safety, diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, belonging, and access; breaking the cycle of poverty; higher education and study-abroad opportunities; homelessness and athletics; medical emergencies; mental health; and the ways LGBTQ+ families continue to thrive in today’s political and social climate.

The show’s mission extends beyond entertainment. Its production team includes women, BIPOC and LGBTQ+ professionals, as well as Black and Brown creatives from throughout the Greater Sacramento region. The program also creates hands-on opportunities for aspiring production assistants and media apprentices to gain real-world experience in television production.

Viewers can now watch “The Brew with S. Napoleon” on YouTube by visiting [@brewcrewtelevision](#). The channel provides access to episodes, behind-the-scenes content, and additional stories from the #BrewCrew.

Jones is also taking his hosting career to a national stage as a participant in the 2026 Top Host competition. The contest is searching for an outstanding host who will receive \$25,000, lead a



cast your vote



Samuel and Guest - image courtesy of Muganzo Entertainment

six-episode podcast produced by iHeartRadio, and Outlook-firetrjd.jpg appear as a guest on “On Air with Ryan Seacrest.” Public voting begins October 5 at 10 a.m. Pacific Time. Supporters can vote for Samuel Jones at [tophost.org/2026/samuel-jones](#).

Long before “The Brew” was created, Jones knew he was meant to be an entertainer. He graduated from Radford University with a degree in Television, Media, and Film and has hosted or emceed more than 100 events, including national conferences, award ceremonies, entertainment programs, university events, and community celebrations.

His hosting credits include ABC10, the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, the University of California, Sacramento State’s Pan-African Graduation Ceremony and student welcome programs, and Radford University’s radio and television programming.

Off camera, Jones serves as Associate Vice President for Campus Life at California State University, Sacramento and is a former board president of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. He has helped raise more than \$100,000 in scholarship funds for LGBTQ+ youth and college students pursuing their educational dreams.

To learn more about “The Brew with S. Napoleon,” explore partnership opportunities, or inquire about becoming a guest, email [thebrewsnj@gmail.com](#).

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Boas & Bow Ties Celebrates 25 Years of the Rainbow Chamber

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce is getting ready to celebrate a major milestone – 25 years of supporting LGBTQ+ and allied businesses and investing in the community.

And naturally, they're doing it with a disco ball.

This year's annual Boas & Bow Ties celebration takes place October 22, with a full-on disco theme marking the Chamber's 25th anniversary. The evening will bring together community leaders, local businesses, longtime Chamber supporters and plenty of familiar faces for a night of dinner, entertainment and celebration.

But Boas & Bow Ties is about more than a fabulous night out. One of the highlights of the evening will be recognition of the 2026 Rainbow Chamber Foundation scholarship recipients. The Foundation's scholarship program supports local students as they pursue their educational goals, making the celebration as much about looking ahead as looking back at the Chamber's first quarter-century.

Over those 25 years, the Rainbow Chamber has worked to strengthen Sacramento's LGBTQ+ and allied business community, create connections and give back to the community it serves.

This year's anniversary celebration promises to put all of that history under one very fabulous disco ball – with boas, bow ties and enough sparkle to make the '70s jealous.

Tables are going fast, so if you're thinking about attending the October 22 celebration, don't dawdle.

After 25 years, it sounds like a pretty good reason to put on something fabulous and celebrate. [Click here for more info!](#)



Celebrate "Día de los Muertos" at CA Museum

Sacramento's CA Museum is scheduled to unveil its new exhibit, "Sendero de las Almas Luminosas" ("Path of the Luminous Souls"), at their 13th annual "Día de los Muertos Fiesta" ("Day of the Dead Festival") on the evening of Oct. 10.



The evening will feature live performances, a local artisan market, hands-on workshops, and more, all highlighting Hispanic heritage in anticipation of the important cultural holiday that takes place on Nov. 1 and 2.

A journey through life, love and death, "Sendero de las Almas Luminosas" ("Path of the Luminous Souls") is a new experience featuring a path of altars illuminating spaces throughout the Museum.

This year, instead of a single dedicated space, the Museum's "Día de los Muertos" altars will be woven throughout its permanent galleries. Each altar will be placed within a California Museum signature exhibit and reflect that exhibit's theme.

Guests can follow a map available at entry and collect a stamp at each altar to receive a Día-themed gift.

On Oct. 11, the exhibit opens to general admission visitors who are invited to honor friends and family members who have passed with a remembrance in the accompanying community altar, until the exhibit closes on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026.

For more information, visit californiamuseum.org

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STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
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2026 General Election

Endorsements

*indicates LGBTQ+ candidate

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Lieutenant Governor: Fiona Ma

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Controller: Malia Cohen

Treasurer: Eleni Kounalakis

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Superintendent of Public Instruction: Richard Barrera

House of Representatives, D3: Dr. Ami Bera

House of Representatives, D4: Mike Thompson

House of Representatives, D6: Dr. Richard Pan

House of Representatives, D7: Doris Matsui

CA State Senate, D6: Sean Frame

CA State Assembly, D7: Amy Slavenky

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, D1: Eric Guerra

Yolo County Board of Supervisors, D3: Mayra Vega

SMUD Board, D3: Gregg Fishman

American River Flood Control, D2: Emily Smet*

Citrus Heights City Council, D5: Porsche Middleton

Elk Grove City Council, D4: Sergio Robles

Folsom City Council, D3: Jag Nagendra

Folsom City Council, D5: Justin Hurst

Live Oak City Council: Cruz Mora*

Rancho Cordova City Council, D5: Tegan Mauldin

West Sacramento City Council, D3: Preston Jackson

West Sacramento City Council, D4: Verna Sulpizio-Hull

Dry Creek Joint Elementary School, D5: Dr. Tracy Balcom

Elk Grove USD, Area 2: Michael Vargas*

Elk Grove USD, Area 4: Delia Baulwin

Elk Grove USD, Area 5: Varinder Singh

Los Rios Community College Board, D1: Dr. Devon Graves

Los Rios Community College Board, D2: Paula Villescaz

Los Rios Community College Board, D6: Deborah Ortiz

Natomas USD, Area 1: Neil Pople*

Natomas USD, Area 4: Leng Lai

Sacramento City USD, Area 2: Jasjit Singh

Sacramento City USD, Area 6: Taylor Kayatta

San Juan USD, Area 3: Roxanne Stellmacher

Washington USD, Area 5: Sarah Kirby-Gonzalez



STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
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What are you doing?

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We are collecting entries for our annual Pet Photo Contest!
Scan the QR code over there to be swept away to our Jotform, where we'll collect your information, your precious photo and, if you'd like, a short paragraph about why your little hooligan is the best in the world. Remember, you must have the rights to any images you submit. They cannot be generated by AI or be purchased or stock photos. Other than that, feel free to send us one or two photos of your pet being its most adorable. Entries will be accepted until 5 p.m. on October 12. The winning photo will grace the front cover of our Pet Issue, hitting the streets October 22. And the lucky human who sends in the winning image will receive \$100 cash! So, if you think you have the star of the century lying there waiting oh-so patiently for you, snap a pic or two and send them our way. Just scan the QR code and you're on your way. Your little hooligan could be our next cover star!



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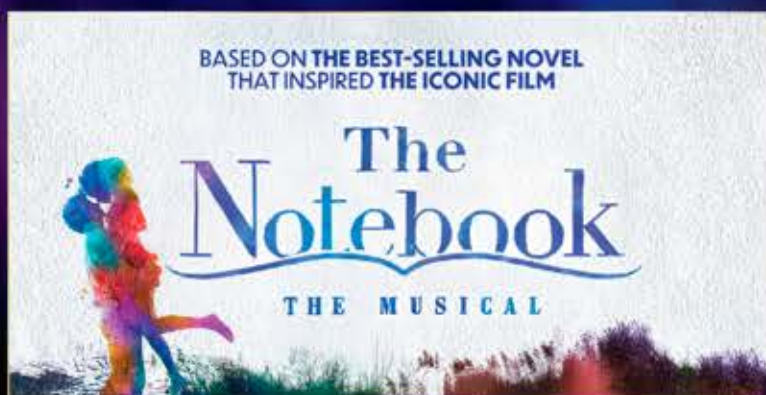
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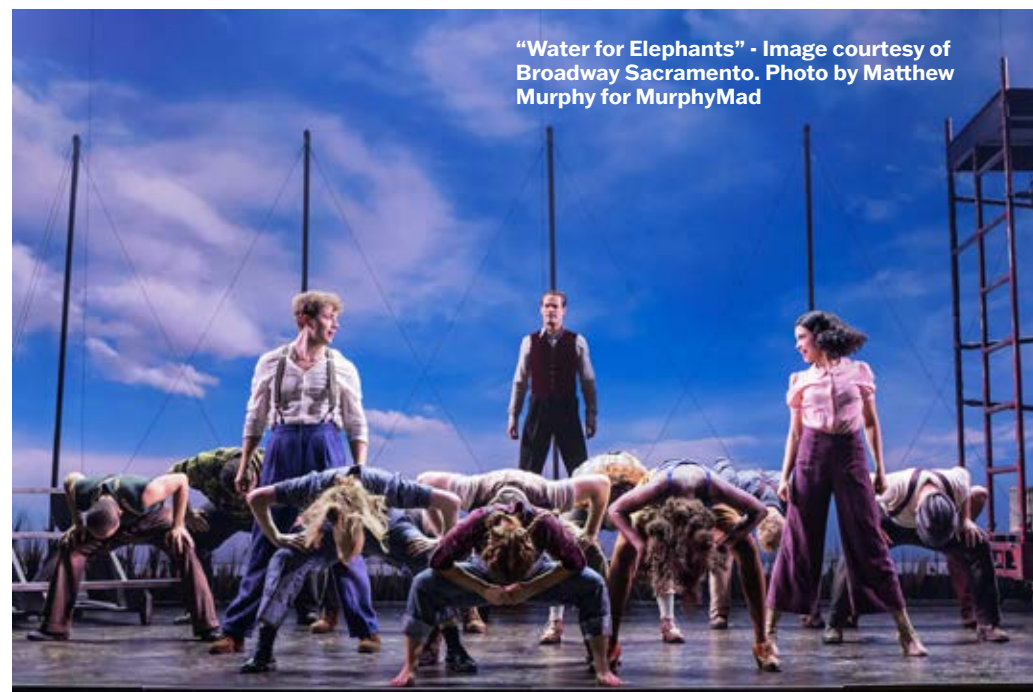
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Broadway Sac's Stellar New Season

by Chris Narloch

Of course, Sacramento's Broadway On Tour presents several wonderful musicals every season, but the 2026/2027 shows are especially strong, and I would recommend purchasing a subscription, if you can, by Oct. 13, when "Water for Elephants" kicks off the new season.



"Water for Elephants" - Image courtesy of Broadway Sacramento. Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMad

This season's national tours include eight Broadway Sacramento premieres – no repeat shows this time – including recent hot tickets like "Shucked" and "Death Becomes Her," plus three Tony Award-winning musicals that are still knockin' em dead in New York City: "Maybe Happy Ending," "Buena Vista Social Club," and "The Outsiders."

The other two shows playing this season are the fan-favorite musicals "A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical" and a stage adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' novel (and its popular movie) "The Notebook."

As I said, the 2026/2027 season begins with the 2024 musical "Water for Elephants," which I have not yet seen but am looking forward to, since I enjoyed the 2011 movie version that starred Robert Pattinson, Reese Witherspoon and Christoph Waltz.

"Water for Elephants" features a classic love triangle about an orphaned veterinary student who runs away to join the circus, where he falls in love with a married equestrian star named Marlena and bonds with an elephant named Rosie.

"Water for Elephants" performs through Oct. 18, at Sacramento's SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. For more information about the show and the season, please visit www.broadwaysacramento.com/broadway-on-tour-2-2



Image courtesy of Broadway Sacramento



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Pride Endures in the Tri-County Region

words and images by Chris Allan

Yuba City celebrated its fifth annual Pride in the Park festival Saturday, October 3, at Sam Brannan Park. Despite the 97-degree heat, mature sycamores offered shade as early fall leaves began to drop. The event has become a regional staple since Tri-County Diversity (TCD) launched it in 2022, serving a conservative swath of the Sacramento Valley.

Ahead of the event, TCD volunteers shared their thoughts with Outword.

"This event is the biggest and most reliable LGBTQ+ thing that happens in our community," said Jesse Harris, a board member and Pride committee volunteer. "It is vitally important to reach the

LGBTQ+ folx in our rural communities so they know they are not alone."

The day opened with a land acknowledgment, followed by various live performances on the stage. The park also hosted a children's play area and around 30 vendor booths. Health and wellness

organizations filled much of the lineup, alongside advocacy groups like Yuba College Rainbow Connections and the Center for Workers' Rights. Local artists, authors, and political clubs also participated, along with unique food options like ube sourdough cookies from Dreamy Treats and pansit from Kie-Kie's.

The crowd was a typical mix for smaller Prides: families, costumed teens, and couples of all kinds moving through the low-key, relaxed atmosphere.

Performer Lizz Shine captured the event's spirit from the stage. "This is a safe space so we can be seen, even if it's

just for a day," she said. "And if you just want to talk to an old trans woman, I'm here for that as well."

Attendance has ranged between 300 and 500 people in prior years, and this year's gathering added more food vendors and community organizations, and debuted a new logo by local artist J.T. Reid.

"I love Pride in the Park being at Sam Brannan every year," said volunteer Ryan L. "I gotta point out how good the shade is with the various trees in the area. It's also nice with all the tables and benches, and it feels like community space."



Mercy Rei Tanq



Lizz Shine



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¡HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL!



Jack Greenberg performs “Just for Us” at Capital Stage

by Chris Narloch

When it comes to a one-man (or one-woman) show, casting is everything. You must find just the right person to hold an audience’s attention solo. Luckily, Sacramento’s Capital Stage has done just that with its latest production, “Just for Us.”

This fascinating play is a true story about Alex Edelman, a Jewish-American comedian, writer and actor who succeeded in infiltrating a meeting of white nationalists in Queens, New York, after receiving anti-Semitic abuse and threats online.

Edelman wanted to see what kind of people were behind the bullying, and so he pretended to be a white supremacist for an evening to meet “the enemy” face to face.

This is a brilliant real-life premise for a play, and I was stunned when I saw Edelman perform it in San Francisco a year or two ago. I wondered if it would work as well with an actor playing Edelman, and the answer is a resounding “yes.”

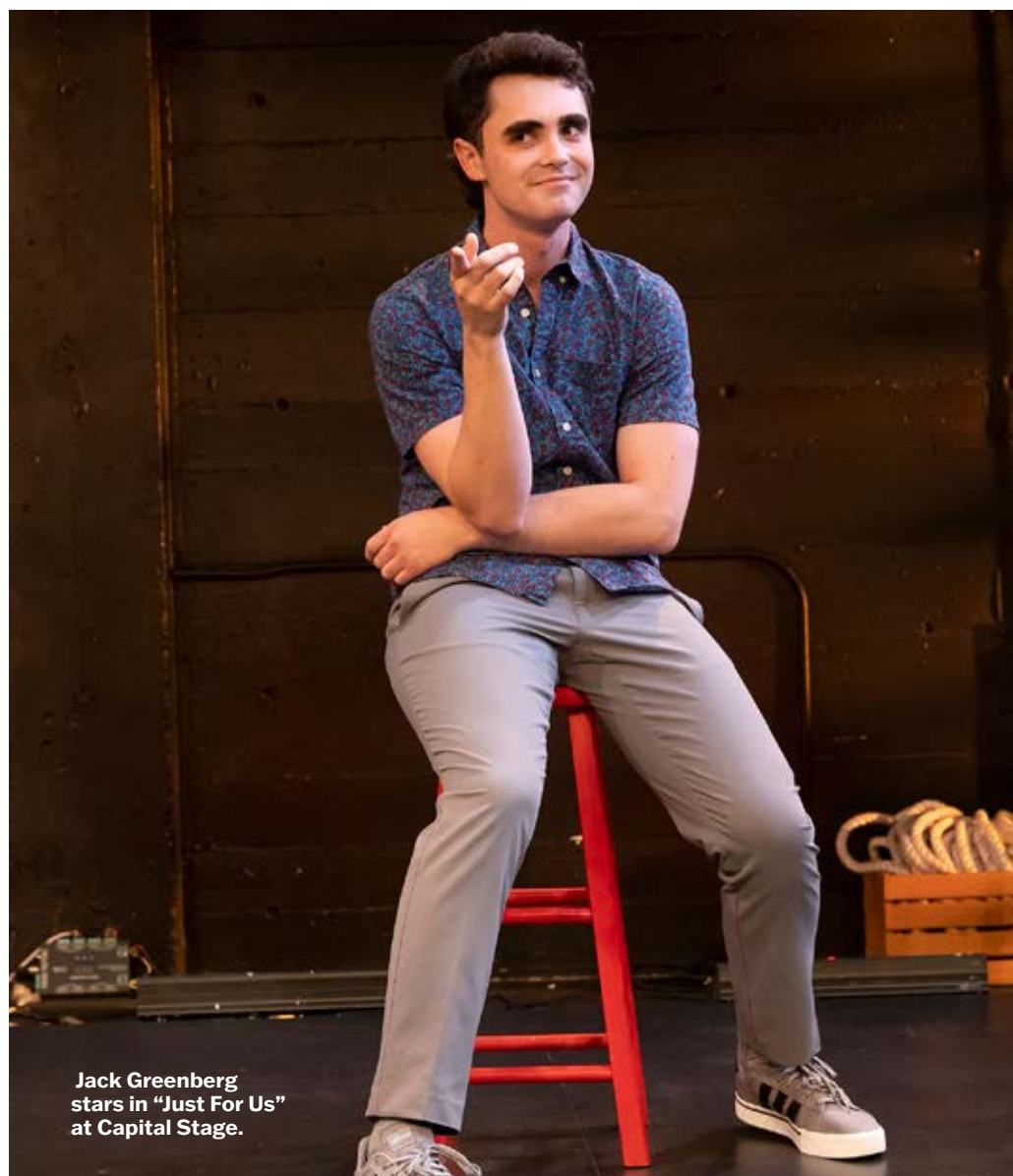
My hat is off to anyone who can command the stage for 90 minutes without any other cast members to play with, while recalling 50+ pages of dialogue.

Actor Jack Greenberg had the audience on the edge of their seats the evening I saw the show, and I was able to completely immerse myself in Edelman’s story all over again, even forgetting at several points that I was watching a performer play Edelman.

Given the suspenseful subject matter, the play is surprisingly funny, as our hero develops a crush on one of the women at the meeting, a development that has him imagining a rom-com that could begin with a “meet cute” – or not-so-cute? – at a gathering of white nationalists.

To find out what happened next, you will have to see the show for yourself, and I highly recommend you do so. Actress Amy Resnick proves that she is just as talented a director, and Jack Greenberg’s superb performance is worth the price of admission.

“Just for Us” performs through Oct. 25. For tickets and information, go to capstage.org



Jack Greenberg stars in “Just For Us” at Capital Stage.

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Pour yourself a cup of ambition

by Chris Narloch

The outpouring of sadness and love ever since Dolly Parton passed away caught me off guard at first, until I realized that Americans are starved for the generosity of spirit and human kindness that Parton exuded.

We are not getting any of that “goodness” and inspirational comfort from our political leaders these days, and so Parton’s positivity will be missed as much or more than her phenomenal talents as a singer, a songwriter, and a musician.

I fell in love with Dolly in the early 1970s the first time I heard her iconic songs “Jolene,” “Coat of Many Colors” and “I Will Always Love You,” three of the finest lyrics ever written by anyone.

When she crossed over to pop with “Here You Come Again” and “9 to 5,” those tunes were just as cleverly composed as her country classics.

Speaking of “9 to 5,” that hit comedy, which contains Parton’s first and finest film role, will screen this Oct. 15 at Odd Fellows Lodge #7 in Auburn.

The rare blockbuster featuring a female-led cast, “9 to 5” made more money the year it was released than any movie except for “The Empire Strikes Back.”

The inspired combination of Parton, Lily Tomlin, and Jane Fonda was Fonda’s idea, and their character’s pot-fueled fantasies of bumping off the boss are still some of my favorite comedy scenes in any movie.

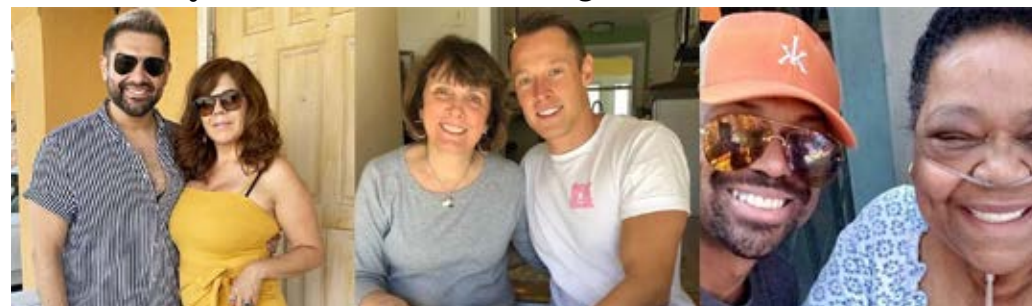
A recent screening of “Steel Magnolias” (another hit movie costarring Parton) recently sold-out Sacramento’s Crest Theatre, and “9 to 5” will likely sell out as well.

Get your tickets early at www.auburnstatetheatre.org



Mom, I Have Something to Tell You...

With National Coming Out Day fast approaching, on October 11, and the entire month of October recognized as LGBTQ+ History Month, this was the perfect time to release the new documentary, “Mom, I Have Something to Tell You.”



Long before a gay son comes out to his mother, there are often questions, uncertainty and things left unspoken. And when that conversation finally happens, the journey continues for both parties.

That emotional experience is at the heart of the award-winning documentary “Mom, I Have Something to Tell You” which deals with themes of family, acceptance and the mother-son relationship and is now available to watch online for free.

We’ve seen powerful mother-son coming out stories portrayed in “Heated Rivalry,” “Heartstopper” and “Love, Simon,” but this film turns the lens on real mothers and their gay sons, exploring the uncertainty, relief, grief, love and acceptance that can surround coming out.

Rick Miller, LICSW, founder and executive director of Gay Sons and Mothers, spent years interviewing mothers and their gay sons and researching these relationships for the film, which clocks in at a short but powerful 30 minutes.

What happens before, during and after a son comes out to his mother can impact not only their relationship but the son’s future well-being.

The coming out stories of the gay sons interviewed for the film run the gamut from sweetly positive to incredibly painful, and several of their mothers are given the chance to share their reactions as well.

To watch “Mom, I Have Something to Tell You,” please [visit this link](#).

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Movie Stars for Days

Nicole, Brad & Sandra by Chris Narloch

There are quite a few fine films in theaters right now, and here are four reviews of the movies I saw recently.



Heart of the Beast

Brad Pitt anchors this straightforward but entertaining man vs. nature survival thriller that finds Mr. Pitt's character braving the remote wilderness of Alaska after his seaplane crash lands in a lake.

The movie was filmed in New Zealand, and a real search and rescue dog was used (rather than CGI) to play the combat German Shepherd that survives the accident along with Pitt's character.

Will our hero (a retired Special Forces veteran) and his canine companion both make it out alive, despite their shared PTSD? Well, you will have to see the film to find out – or cheat and use AI – because I don't believe in spoilers.

I am a dog-lover and a fan of movies about dogs, and I found the film to be an exciting and moving tribute to military service animals. "Heart of the Beast" is currently in wide theatrical release.



Forgotten Island

I enjoy quality animated movies – as long as they're not too childish – and I can recommend this very colorful and fast-paced family film from Dreamworks about two teenaged girls who get pulled into a mystical world of Filipino folklore.

The movie begins in the Philippines during the 1990s, and the film's soundtrack includes memorable hits from that decade (and the '80s) by Journey, INXS, Montell Jordan, and others.

It helps if you're used to the frenetic pace of most current animated films, but I enjoyed this movie's poignant portrait of a female friendship that survives numerous obstacles.

"Forgotten Island" is currently in wide theatrical release.



Practical Magic 2

I had so much fun at this movie – not watching the film but watching the audience, which (at my theater) included a good-sized group of middle-aged women, obviously liquored up and dressed as sexy witches for the movie, which is a long-awaited sequel to a 1998 fantasy film that starred Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock.

It's great to have Ms. Bullock back on the big screen after a too-long break, and margaritas are again consumed onscreen (and apparently offscreen at some theaters), but the movie's plot is so absurd that it's not even worth recounting.

Clearly, this film is not made for critics, and it did not cast a spell on me, but then I didn't care for the first film either. "Practical Magic 2" is currently in wide theatrical release.



Resident Evil

This has been a banner year for scary movies, and this full throttle freakout is one of the best horror titles of 2026. I had never seen any of the films in this franchise, but, luckily, you don't need to be familiar with the previous movies to enjoy this one.

The new "Resident Evil" is an original, stand-alone movie set in the same world as the games during a T-virus outbreak in Raccoon City caused by the Umbrella Corporation.

Director Zach Cregger pulls out all the stops with crazy action sequences featuring zombie-like human monsters that attach to each other and create large rolling balls of mutated arms and legs.

Many of the incredible special effects in the movie are practical, and through it all, the movie's hero – a terrified medical courier perfectly played by Austin Abrams – attempts to deliver a life-saving package and survive the increasing carnage all around him.

"Resident Evil" is currently in wide theatrical release.



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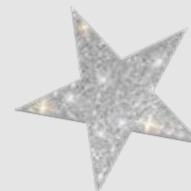
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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Spooky season is here, bringing haunted happenings, colorful costumes and plenty of reasons to celebrate! October also marks National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day on Oct. 15, reminding us that community includes looking out for one another. Enjoy the season, embrace the fun and remember that knowing your HIV status is always empowering. Also, don't forget that the last day to register to vote online for the November 3, 2026 General Election is October 19. [Registertovote.ca.gov](https://registertovote.ca.gov)

Oct. 11

Celebrate authenticity, visibility and community at the Coming Out Day Festival on Sunday, Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Township 9 Park, 611 Riverine Way. This free, family- and pet-friendly celebration brings together LGBTQ+ businesses, artists, makers and nonprofits alongside live entertainment and community resources. Bring your friends, chosen family and allies for an afternoon of connection and Pride. [Riverdistrict.net](https://riverdistrict.net)

Oct. 17

Get a head start on spooky season at the Mystic Market Oddities Festival on Sunday, Oct. 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. at 11440 Elks Circle in Rancho Cordova. Browse more than 40 vendors offering witchy, macabre, magical, retro and handcrafted treasures, plus food trucks, music, kids crafts, bounce houses and a petting zoo.

Oct. 17

Leather up for the Sacramento Leather Invasion 2026 on Saturday, Oct. 17 beginning at 7 p.m. in Lavender Heights. Celebrating its eighth anniversary, the night takes Sacramento's leather, kink and queer communities on a spirited crawl through The Merc, Badlands, The Depot and The Bolt Bar. Founded by the late Dustin "Daddy Black Widow" Thurman, the event celebrates leather history, community and unapologetic queer pride while benefiting [The Trevor Project](https://thetrevorproject.org).

Nov. 17

Join the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce for its Community Networking Mixer on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Kumi Event Center at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento in Wheatland. Enjoy hosted appetizers created by Chef Chio Saelee, a cash bar and a chance to mix and mingle with Chamber members and guests. The event is free for members and non-members; advance registration is available at [RainbowChamber.com](https://rainbowchamber.com).



"Water for Elephants" - Image courtesy of Broadway Sacramento. Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMad

Oct. 13

Step right up for a dazzling theatrical adventure when "Water for Elephants" swings into Sacramento Oct. 13-18 at the SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center, 1301 L St. Based on the bestselling novel, this acclaimed musical follows a young man who joins a traveling circus and discovers an unexpected new home and love. Breathtaking spectacle and a moving story make this one unforgettable ride. [BroadwaySacramento.com](https://broadwaysacramento.com)

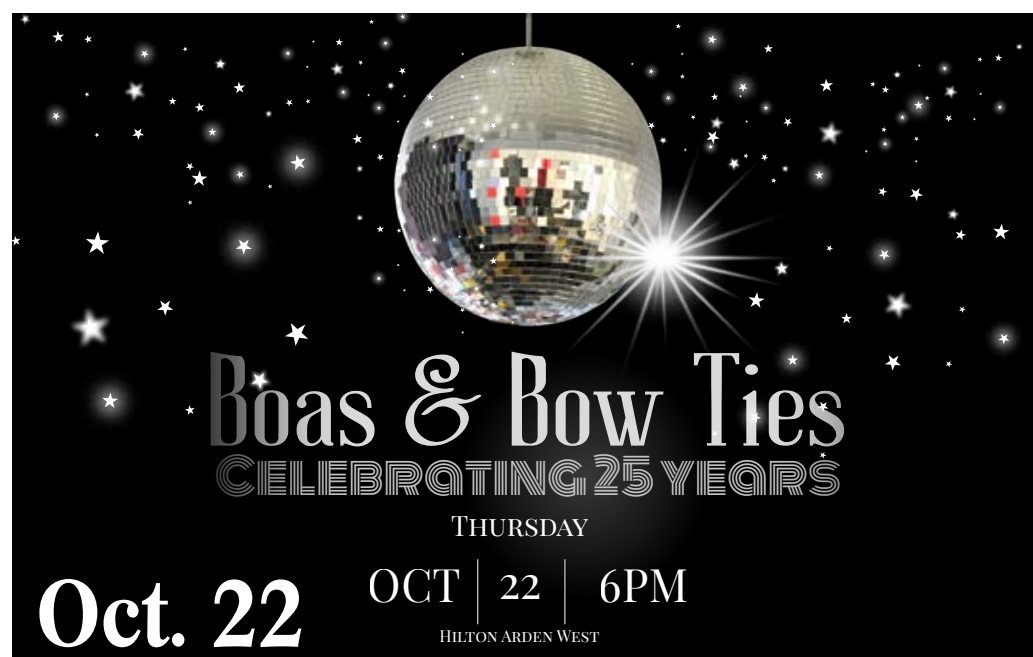
Oct. 15

National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed annually on Oct. 15, encouraging Hispanic and Latino communities to take charge of their sexual health through HIV education, prevention, testing and treatment. The 2026 theme, "Knowing Your HIV Status Is a Good Place to Start," reminds everyone that getting tested is an important first step. Golden Rule Services is offering free, confidential HIV/STI testing for NLHAAD. [SacGRS.org](https://sacgrs.org)



Upcoming

Get ready to rock the holidays when Trans-Siberian Orchestra celebrates its 30th anniversary at Golden 1 Center, 500 David J Stern Walk, on Wednesday, Dec. 2, with shows at 3 and 7:30 p.m. The milestone tour reimagines The Ghosts of Christmas Eve with TSO's signature mix of soaring rock music, dazzling lasers, pyrotechnics and spectacular special effects. [Golden1Center.com](https://golden1center.com)



Dust off your dancing shoes and celebrate 25 years of community at the Boas & Bow Ties Gala on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Arden West, 2200 Harvard St. The Rainbow Chamber's signature fundraiser goes disco for its milestone anniversary, bringing together community and business leaders for an evening of entertainment, awards, an auction and celebration. Tickets are selling quickly, so don't miss the party! [RainbowChamber.com](https://rainbowchamber.com)

Spend an evening with master storyteller Garrison Keillor when he comes to the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway in Folsom, on Monday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Joined by singer Heather Masse and pianist Richard Dworsky, the longtime A Prairie Home Companion host brings his signature blend of storytelling, humor, music and reflections on life to the stage. [Harriscenter.net](https://harriscenter.net)

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



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Los Jarritos on Broadway *submitted by Ron Tackitt*

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It's a little less upscale, but what it lacks in atmosphere it more than makes up for in food quality, quantity and, especially, price.

A staple there for me is the super chicken burrito. I don't have a scale at home, but it's easily a pound or more of hefty food. It's

huge. And every bite is worth savoring. I can usually get at least two, maybe even three meals out of one burrito. And at \$12.59, it ranks as one of Sacramento's great deals.

Of course, all of that would be moot if it didn't taste good. It does. In spades.

So fear not. If you need a Mexican food fix, Los Jarritos is there for you – with much more reasonable parking... If you haven't already, go check them out at 2509 Broadway.

Cocktails with Ina? Yes, Please.



Ina Garten has found yet another reason for us to adore her. The Barefoot Contessa is now hosting Happy Hour with Ina Garten, a new weekly YouTube series from her New York City apartment. Each Wednesday, Ina pours a drink, sinks into a comfy chair and settles in for relaxed, candid conversations with guests from the worlds of food, entertainment and beyond. Think less formal interview and more “come over, get comfortable and have a cocktail” – which, frankly, sounds like the invitation we've been waiting years to receive. New episodes arrive Wednesdays on [YouTube](#) – be sure subscribe. Cheers, Ina!



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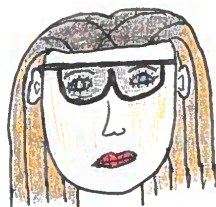
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