

Special Issue!

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outward



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POLLS MEAN NOTHING IF YOU DON'T VOTE.

We've all seen the polls. Who's ahead. Who's behind. Who gained two points. Who lost three. Who has momentum. Who doesn't.

But here's the thing: none of it matters if you don't actually vote.

Polls don't elect candidates. Yard signs don't elect candidates. Social media posts, angry comments and yelling at the television don't elect candidates. Voters do.

So make a plan. Know what's on your ballot. Know where and how you're voting. And then follow through. **Election Day is Tuesday, November 3.**

There's a lot at stake, and sitting this one out simply leaves the decisions to everyone else.

Your country. Your voice. Your vote.
Use it.

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Welcome to the Pet Issue by Ron Tackitt

I see you've met our latest cover model, Shadow. She is one of this year's Pet Photo Contest winners and, therefore, our newest *Outword* cover supermodel. Look at that face. She was clearly born for this.

And with Shadow leading the way, welcome to our world-famous — well, at least we like to think so — Annual Pet Issue! It's one of our favorite issues to put together each year, because really, who doesn't need a few more dogs, cats and assorted furry faces in their life?

Inside you'll find all sorts of tidbits to help you and your pets have fun, stay healthy and enjoy your time together. But first, we have some introductions to make. And please, read these names in your best RuPaul-calling-out-the-runway voice:

George and Eric — they are fetch! Mica and Sofi — got it going on! Joan and Dahlia — truly fierce! Buddy Love — to die for! And then there's Kent, Sadie and so many more. Work it, girls!

We had some wonderful entries in this year's Pet Photo Contest, and you'll meet most of



them further along in the pages of this digi-zine. Space may keep us from including every photo, but it certainly didn't make choosing the winners any easier. Be sure to pay special attention to our two first-place winners — one fabulous kitty cat and one delightful doggie. Their lucky humans will each receive \$100 in cold, hard cash, which we fully expect will be spent irresponsibly on treats, toys and general pet spoiling.

There's a reason we love doing this issue every year. Our pets occupy a remarkable place in our lives. They make us laugh. They comfort us. They keep us company. They get us out of the house, steal our pillows, leave hair in places hair should never be and somehow convince us that whatever they want at that particular moment is the most important thing in the world.

And we wouldn't have it any other way.

As the world around us shifts, changes and occasionally feels like it has completely lost its mind, there is something wonderfully grounding about looking down — or beside you, or sometimes directly on top of you — and finding a creature staring back with complete trust and that familiar expression: "So... what cool thing are we going to do next?"

Maybe that's one of the greatest gifts our pets give us. They remind us to be present. To enjoy the walk. To appreciate the sunny spot on the floor. To get excited when someone we love walks through the door. And, whenever possible, to take the nap.

So welcome to the Pet Issue. We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoy bringing it to you each year. May we never lose sight of just how extraordinary animals are — and how incredibly lucky we are when one chooses to share its life with us.

The List



Golden Harvest Parade

Halloween

Diana Jahns

Trick Art Treat

Robbie Waters Library

Gerald Walburg

Election Day

Archival Gallery

Chef Burma

Sendero de las Almas Liminosas

Cabaret Macabre

Movies Under the Stars

Los Jarritos

Teen Service Saturdays

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ON THE COVER
Shadow. Ready for his walk on the town.
Come on dad!
Photo by Mark Gilroy

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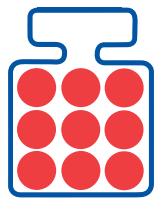
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Committed to Ensuring a Healthy Community!

Governor Newsom Signs Key LGBTQ+ Protections Into Law

resource: Governor Newsom release

New laws protect transgender veterans, patients, conversion therapy survivors, LGBTQ+ students and sensitive data while expanding access to HIV prevention.

California has added six new protections for LGBTQ+ residents, addressing issues ranging from transgender veterans and conversion therapy to HIV prevention, patient privacy and the handling of sensitive LGBTQ+ data.

Signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, the measures also strengthen support for LGBTQ+ students and put additional limits on how California agencies respond to out-of-state efforts involving transgender health care.

The legislation includes:

AB 1775 by Assemblymember Chris Ward – Support Transgender Veterans

Ensures transgender veterans discharged under discriminatory federal policies can access housing assistance, receive help obtaining professional licenses and employment, and use California's discharge upgrade assistance programs to correct their military records.

AB 1930 by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur – Safeguard Patient Privacy from Out-of-State Investigations

Strengthens privacy protections for patients and health care providers by establishing clear safeguards before California entities respond to subpoenas or investigations involving abortion or transgender health care.

SB 934 by Senator Scott Wiener – Expand Justice for Conversion Therapy Survivors

Maintains protections against conversion therapy by incorporating the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2026 guidance in *Chiles v. Salazar* regarding California's conversion therapy law.

SB 1023 by Senator John Laird – Strengthen Access to PrEP

Improves insurance coverage and reimbursement practices for long-acting PrEP, helping providers offer the highly effective HIV prevention option without unnecessary financial or administrative barriers.

SB 1114 by Senator Christopher Cabaldon – Protect LGBTQ+ Data Privacy

Strengthens protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex data by limiting when state agencies can share sensitive information and generally prohibiting its disclosure outside California state government.

SB 1328 by Senator Sabrina Cervantes – Expand LGBTQ+ Higher Education Support

Requires colleges and universities to designate a confidential employee at satellite campuses, branch campuses and outreach centers to support LGBTQ+ students, faculty and staff.

The measures arrive as federal policies affecting LGBTQ+ people – particularly transgender Americans – continue to shift under the Trump administration. California has also approved additional investments aimed at preserving access to transgender health care and restoring LGBTQ+-specific crisis services affected by federal actions.

Equality California worked with members of the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus and other legislative partners to advance the six measures as part of its 2026 legislative agenda.

October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Okay, we're already more than halfway through October—but it's definitely not too late to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month or, more importantly, to take care of yourself.

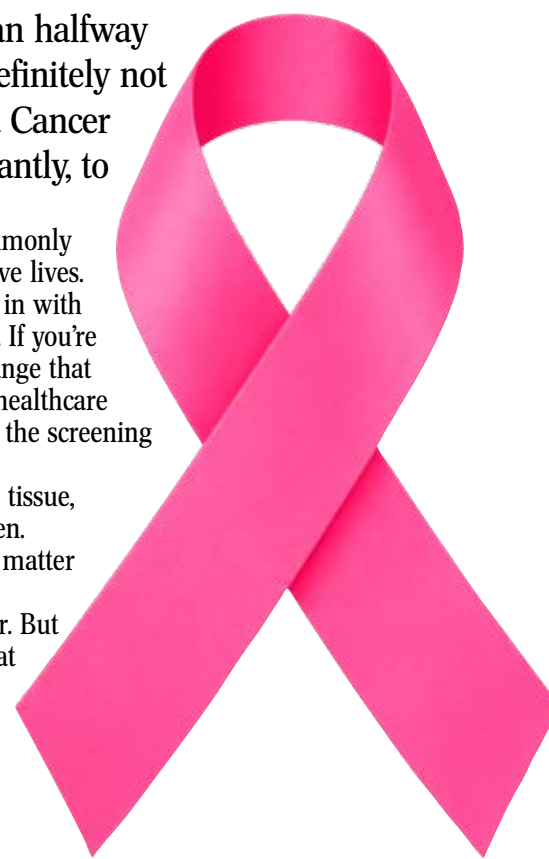
Breast cancer remains one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers, and early detection can save lives. So consider this a friendly reminder to check in with yourself—and with the people you care about. If you're due for a mammogram or have noticed a change that concerns you, don't put it off. Talk with your healthcare provider about your personal risk factors and the screening schedule that's right for you.

Breast cancer can affect anyone with breast tissue, including women, transgender people and men. Awareness, access to care and early detection matter for everyone.

So yes, October may be more than half over. But there's still plenty of time to do something that matters.

Wear the pink ribbon if you like—but even better, make the appointment. For more information go to this web address

[cdc.gov/breast-cancer](https://www.cdc.gov/breast-cancer)



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Sacramento to Gather by Candlelight for Transgender Day of Remembrance

Candles will glow beneath the vaulted ceiling of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on Saturday evening, November 21, as Sacramento gathers for the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil, honoring transgender and gender-diverse people lost to violence.

More than 150 people are expected for the 6:30 p.m. memorial, organized by Anne Upton in partnership with the Cathedral and PFLAG Sacramento. Community members, families, faith leaders and advocates are welcome, and attendees are encouraged to bring small photographs of transgender loved ones. Delta Lambda Phi fraternity will again provide security.

"This night is about saying their names and refusing to let them be forgotten," Upton said. "Every name we read belonged to someone who was loved, who had a family, and who deserved to live safely as their authentic selves."



TRANSGENDER

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Transgender Day of Remembrance began in 1999 as a vigil honoring Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman killed in Massachusetts the previous year. It has since grown into an international observance remembering victims of anti-transgender violence and calling attention to the dangers transgender people continue to face.

At the heart of Sacramento's vigil will be the reading of names. Volunteers will speak the name, age and place of death of people lost during the past year, with a candle lit for each.

The Very Rev. Matthew Woodard of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral will welcome the gathering, which will also include a performance by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, readings and group singing.

"Sacred spaces should be places where people are seen fully and loved without condition," Woodard said. "If our doors are open only to some, they are not open at all."

Organizers say remembrance must also be accompanied by action, including support for safe housing, health care access and protections against discrimination.

As the vigil closes, attendees will be invited to gather with their candles for quiet reflection and fellowship. A reception with food and refreshments will follow in the Great Hall.

For more information, visit sacgender.org/tdor or pflagsacramento.org.

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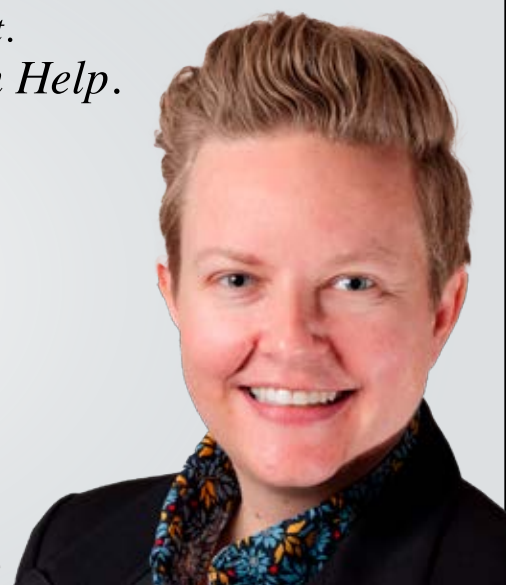
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Bonta Goes to Bat for Wildlife

resource AG Bonta press release

For an issue devoted to the animals we love, it's worth remembering that not every animal has a human looking out for them.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta is helping lead a coalition of 21 attorneys general challenging Trump Administration rules that weaken key protections under the federal Endangered Species Act, the landmark 1973 law credited with helping save species ranging from the bald eagle to the California condor.

The coalition filed two lawsuits in federal court in September, targeting changes affecting endangered and threatened wildlife and the habitats they depend upon. Among the most significant is a new interpretation of what constitutes "harm" to a protected species. For decades, that definition included significant destruction or modification of habitat that ultimately injures or kills wildlife. Under the new rule, those protections have been substantially narrowed.

The rule took effect September 14 while legal challenges continue. Federal wildlife officials subsequently issued guidance adopting a narrower interpretation of prohibited harm, focusing on actions intentionally directed at individual animals.

Other changes challenged by California make it easier to exclude land from critical habitat designations based on economic and other considerations and eliminate automatic protections previously given to newly listed threatened species.

Bonta and the other attorneys general argue that the changes violate the Endangered Species Act and other federal environmental laws and could accelerate the decline of already vulnerable wildlife.

"For over half a century, the ESA has stood as a bipartisan example of what it means to protect an irreplaceable part of our planet," Bonta said when announcing the lawsuits.

California knows something about what those protections can accomplish. The California condor, once pushed to the brink of extinction, remains one of the Endangered Species Act's most visible conservation success stories.

Our pets may get the beds, treats and belly rubs. But the animals beyond our backyards deserve someone in their corner, too.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Shopping

The holidays have a funny way of sneaking up on us.

One minute we're handing out Halloween candy, and the next we're wondering how it can possibly be time to start thinking about gifts, parties, decorations and everything else that comes along with the most festive time of the year.

That means *Outword's* annual Holiday Shopping Guides are just around the corner.

Once again, we'll be filling our holiday issues with ideas to help make the season a little easier—and hopefully a lot more fun. Look for gift suggestions, local finds, food and drink, holiday happenings, entertaining ideas and plenty of inspiration for those people on your list who are impossible to shop for. And yes, there may be a few things you decide you need for yourself. We fully support that.

More importantly, our Holiday Shopping Guides are an opportunity to remind readers that some of the best gifts don't require a giant online retailer or a delivery truck pulling up to the house. Sacramento and the surrounding region are filled with locally owned businesses, restaurants, services and organizations that could use a little extra love during the holiday season. Spending locally keeps more of those holiday dollars right here in our community.

For our business friends, there's still time to join the fun. Holiday Shopping Part One arrives November 26, with an artwork deadline of November 16. Holiday Shopping Part Two arrives December 10, with artwork due November 30.

Whether you're looking for the perfect gift, planning a holiday night out or simply trying to survive another December without resorting to gift cards for everybody, we hope you'll spend a little time shopping, dining and celebrating with the businesses that support our community all year long.

And remember: buying yourself a present still counts as holiday shopping.

Give [Fred a holler](#) if you want to get an ad in one or both of these issues, and if you have something that would work well in our Holiday gift guide contact the editor [by clicking here](#).



No Pets Left Behind: RedRover Grants \$404,311 to Shelters Serving Domestic Violence Survivors and Those Experiencing Homelessness

Did you know that women who experience domestic violence are four times more likely to experience homelessness? And did you know those survivors consider their pets family, and are more likely to stay with an abuser rather than risk leaving their pets behind?

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and a chance to show your support for domestic violence survivors and their pets. RedRover®, a national animal welfare 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Sacramento, California, is proud to announce it has awarded \$404,311 in Safe Housing grant funding in their second grant round of 2026. Two domestic violence (DV) shelters, six homeless shelters, and one animal shelter can create or expand programming for pets of those experiencing domestic violence or homelessness. Both DV shelters received RedRover + Purina's Purple Leash Project (PLP) grant, an extension of RedRover's Safe Housing grants.

RedRover President and CEO Katie Campbell said, "Shelters that offer pet housing understand that people are more likely to reach safety when they don't have to leave a beloved pet behind. Our grants give shelters the flexibility to build a program tailored to their community – one that lets the whole family, pets included, escape abuse or homelessness and find safety together."

The shelters who received grants are located in Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

The funding will support:

- Installation of indoor and outdoor pet amenities, such as climate-controlled spaces, pet-friendly furniture, dog runs, relief areas, and secure play yards with privacy fencing and benches
- Veterinary care
- Pet boarding
- Grooming areas and waste disposal stations
- Pet supplies such as crates, beds, bowls, and enrichment items

RedRover is grateful for its partners and donors for supporting survivors and their pets. For the third year, KONG® is providing dog and cat toys and treats to all Safe Housing grantees through 2026!

Pets, Domestic Violence and Unhoused Statistics:

- 91% of survivors indicated that their pets' emotional support and physical protection are significant in their ability to survive and heal.
- 50% of survivors report that they would not consider shelter for themselves if they couldn't take their pet with them.
- It has been estimated that as many as 3.5 million people experience homelessness per year, and as many as 25% have pets.
- A study by Randall Singer, Lynette Hart, and Lee Zasloff found that 93% of men and 96% of women said that they would not stay at a homeless shelter if pets were not allowed

Safe Housing grants of up to \$60,000 are available for domestic violence, homeless, and animal shelters. Safe Housing grant application deadlines are March 1, June 1, and September 1.

Ways to Show Support for Survivors and Pets:

- Visit RedRover.org/DVAM to sign up for our October 29 webinar, "Impactful Partnerships: Supporting Both Ends of the Leash"
- Organize a clothing, food, or pet supplies drive for a local domestic violence shelter or support their "wish list"
- Donate to the Purple Leash Project to help create more safe spaces for survivors and their pets.
- Visit Shop.PurpleLeashProject.com for exclusive items and apparel that support survivors and pets -100% of your purchase is a donation.
- Like and share social media posts about DVAM. A few organizations to consider following on social media:
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE)
- SafeHavensForPets.org: Includes a comprehensive database of domestic violence shelters and homeless shelters with pet-friendly programs
- Now through November 15, 2026, Purina is donating \$0.05 for every purchase of specially marked packages to RedRover, up to \$500K. Brands include: Beneful, Pro Plan, Tidy Cats, Cat Chow, Fancy Feast, Busy Bone, and Friskie's Party Mix.

We hope you can join us in supporting survivors and their pets during DVAM, and beyond. For more information [click here](#).

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Fall Fun That Gives Back to Sacramento's Pets

resource SSPCA

Looking for an excuse to spoil your pets, get out of the house and do a little good at the same time? The Sacramento SPCA has a couple of ways to add some four-legged fun to the season – and help animals in need along the way.

First up, there's still time to blast off with the Galactic Tails Online Silent Auction, running through October 24. The online auction is packed with unique gifts, themed baskets, local experiences and other goodies that might help you get a jump on your holiday shopping – or simply give you an excuse to buy something for yourself. Better yet, every winning bid helps the Sacramento SPCA provide shelter, medical care and second chances for animals throughout our community. Check out the auction before the final bids are in at sspca.org/gala.

Then, leash up your favorite sidekick for the 9th Annual Pup Crawl on December 12.

From noon to 5 p.m., pups and their people will take over Midtown Sacramento for an afternoon of sipping, shopping, strolling and plenty of "pawlday" cheer. Participating businesses throughout Midtown will welcome crawlers for a festive day that combines supporting local businesses with supporting the Sacramento SPCA.

It's a pretty good combination: friends, dogs, Midtown and a reason to wander around on a December afternoon. And unlike some holiday parties, your dog is actually invited.

You can find participating stops and register for the Pup Crawl at sspca.org/pupcrawl.

Both events help the Sacramento SPCA continue its work caring for animals who need a safe place, a helping hand and, ultimately, a home of their own.

So bid a little, stroll a little and maybe sneak your pup an extra treat along the way. It's all for a good paws. Be sure to go online and sign up for their calendar of [events here](#).



When a Good Dog Does Good

For many dog lovers, the bond with a four-legged companion is already something special. Author Susan Hartzler explores what can happen when that bond becomes a way to help others in her new book, "Teaming Up with Therapy Dogs: Skills to Build Healing Partnerships."



Hartzler brings 26 years of experience as a therapy dog team member, evaluator and trainer to the book, offering a practical introduction to therapy dog volunteering. Along the way, she looks at the history of therapy dogs, clears up some common misconceptions and shares stories from teams working in communities around the country.

Therapy dogs and their handlers can be found visiting hospitals, schools, senior living communities, airports, courts and other places where a calm presence and a little canine affection can make a difficult day easier.

But Hartzler makes clear that therapy work takes more than a friendly dog who enjoys meeting people. Successful teams need training, patience, an understanding of canine behavior and, most importantly, a dog that genuinely enjoys the experience.

That last point is an important one: not every dog is cut out for therapy work, and there's nothing wrong with that. The dog's comfort and well-being should always come first.

For people curious about volunteering alongside their pets, "Teaming Up with Therapy Dogs" offers a useful look at what's involved, how teams prepare and the organizations that help put them to work.

Published by McFarland, the 2026 book retails for \$29.95 and is available through booksellers nationwide.



STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
OF GREATER SACRAMENTO

2026 General Election

Endorsements

*indicates LGBTQ+ candidate

Governor: Xavier Becerra

Lieutenant Governor: Fiona Ma

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Controller: Malia Cohen

Treasurer: Eleni Kounalakis

Attorney General: Rob Bonta

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
OF GREATER SACRAMENTO



So Many Pets. Only Two Grand Prizes.

We asked for cute, and you delivered — big time. This year's Outword Pet Photo Contest brought us an irresistible collection of furry faces, soulful eyes, goofy grins and enough personality to make choosing our winners nearly impossible. While only two very special pets could take home our grand prizes — one cat and one dog — we couldn't resist showing off some of the other fabulous faces that caught our attention.

Consider these pages a well-deserved round of applause for our runners-up, honorable mentions and assorted scene-stealers. Every one of them made us smile, and more than a few had us wondering if there might be room for just one more trophy.

Enjoy the cuteness, pick your own favorites, and then keep turning those pages. Our Cat and Dog Grand Prize winners are coming up next, each with a page — and a spotlight — all their own.

This is just a sampling of the entries that were sent in.



Mica the adventure pup
Human - Ameya

Mica the adventure pup loves travel, extra treats, pride, cozy spots and helping build IKEA stuff.



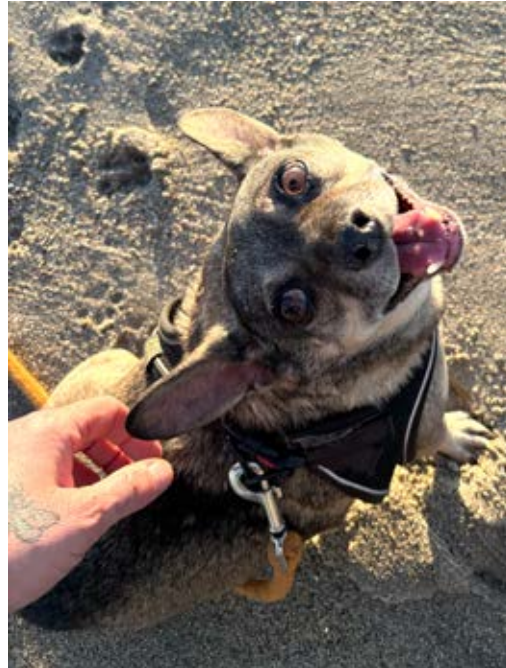
Arlie
Human - Glenn

Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
She has made me see a different kind of love for the past 9 yrs that I never had as a child. She makes me laugh and gives the best cuddles I could ever ask for.



Letty
Human - Cans

Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
Letty is, without a doubt, the greatest creature to ever walk the earth. Sweet with a little sass, endlessly friendly, and blessed with so many human-like tendencies that you sometimes forget she's a dog. She's a world-class cuddle bug, ridiculously smart, a trick-performing superstar, and the ultimate cross-country road trip companion. Equal parts personality, brains, and unconditional love, she's not just a pet—she's a best friend, an adventure buddy, and at 9 months old an 80lb furry legend.



Buddy (Love)
Human - Jenny

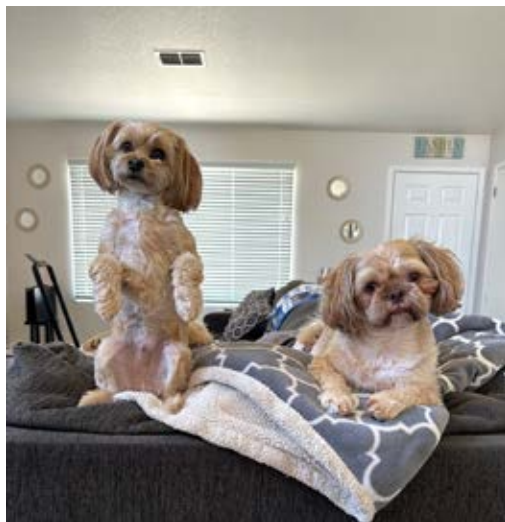
Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
On our camping trip in August, on the last night, we went to the beach to watch the sun set and as soon as Buddy felt the cool sand, he took off, running circles. I had never seen him so happy. I typically bring him to the beach during the day, when the sand is hot and he hunkers down under the sun shade. It was fun to meet a new side of him.



Arlie
Human - Shaun Fitzgerald

Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
Because Arlie is a perfect combination of unconditional love, ridiculous cuteness, and just the right amount of chaos. She makes even the hardest days better, gives the best cuddles, and somehow manages to be both my biggest comfort and my biggest troublemaker.

Pet's Name



Hershey and Snicker
Human - Samuel

Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
I love my dogs because they literally saved my life in ways they will never understand. Their unconditional love and companionship have gotten me through some of my darkest moments, and I am forever grateful for them.



Sofi
Human - Autumn

Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
Sofi is a resilient dog between her leg disability and the orthopedic surgeries she had to overcome during the process of it all. Regardless of her physical differences she's a happy, go lucky dog who enjoys the outdoors and her family.



George Harrison and Eric Clapton
Human - Amanda

Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
Because my corgis are smaller dogs with enormous personalities. They're equal parts comedian, cuddle bugs, neighborhood celebrities, and professional snack detectors—all powered by ridiculously short legs and fluffy butts. They make people smile everywhere they go and have somehow mastered the art of being mischievous and completely irresistible at the same time. The world is simply a happier place with George Harrison and Eric Clapton the Corgis—and mine are convinced they're running the whole thing.



Joan
Human - Kyle
Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
We were dog parents through and through, until our lovely friends introduced us to the wonderful world of kitties. Now we have two rescue cats that stole our hearts. This is Joan the sweetest most loving flame tip Siamese. She loves to cuddle, play, and has a real raspy Natasha Lyonne meow. True dream cat!



Rocki (short for Rocket ... like the Guardians of the Galaxy!)
Human - Andrea (Drea)
Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth?
I'm obsessed with my cat simply because she exists. She loves to talk to me, follows me around the house, will crawl in my lap at any point if she can, and loves to harass her canine brothers and sister... despite the fact that she's significantly smaller than all 3 of them!

She has come to my side when I've been sad, and loves to cuddle in bed with us. She has the most playful spirit. I get genuinely excited to come home to her, she was simply the best addition to our family.



Shadow
Human - Mark
Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth? Shadow delivers packages, relocates socks, and wears hats with the patience of a saint. He has supermodel hair, a heart of gold, and absolutely no intention of letting me go to the bathroom alone. Why is he the greatest creature ever to walk Earth? Because no matter what kind of day I've had, he makes coming home the best part.



Sadie
Human - Mary
Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth? People are drawn to Sadie like no dog I have ever own. Today I stopped at a random garage sale and the owner recognized her.... Not me. She's amazing!



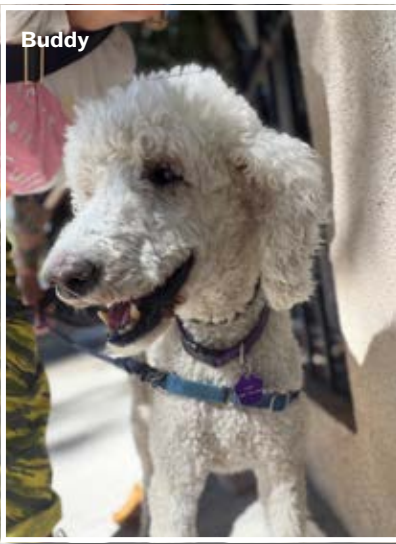
Dahlia
Human - Ryan
Why is your pet the greatest creature ever to walk Earth? Dahlia is a huge love bug. She loves to cuddle, snores excessively, and adores all the humans she meets. She will eat almost anything you give her, at a pace that could win contests. She loves to learn, and has mastered her favorite puzzle toy. Dahlia is a 9 year old pittie that has coped with years of skin conditions that have been taken care of by her two mommies. Her full name is Dahlia Pumpkin Pancake Chestnut Cheperka.



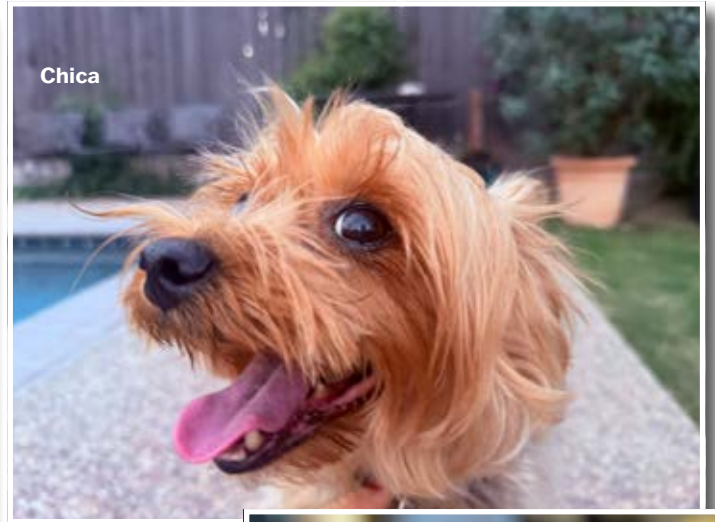
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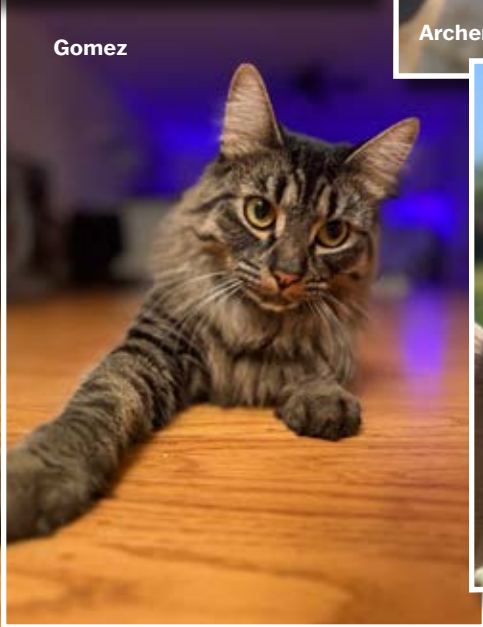
Archer



Buddy



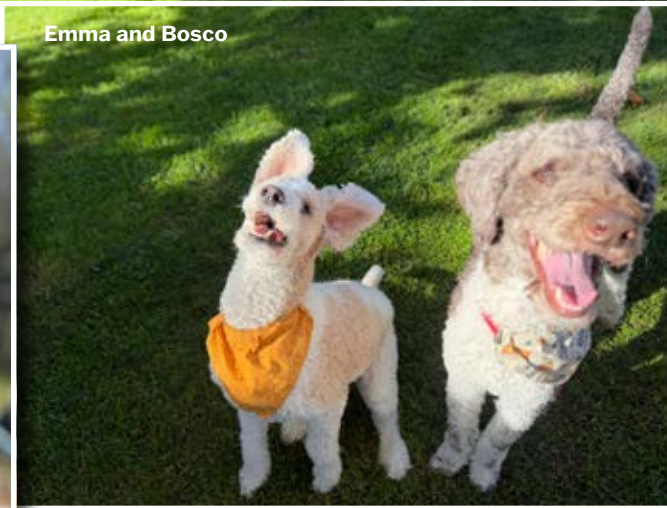
Chica



Gomez



Maggie and Josie



Emma and Bosco



Douglas

Thank You Janet!

For many years, Janet has been a friend and supporter of Outword Magazine, as well as the owner of Lucky Buddy Pet Care. And while caring for her clients' four-legged family members, she discovered another talent: capturing some pretty wonderful photographs of them.

Each year, Janet is kind enough to share some of her favorite images with us for our annual Pet Issue, and this year she really outdid herself. From expressive faces and perfectly timed poses to those little moments that show off each animal's personality, her photographs remind us why pets make such irresistible subjects.

We couldn't possibly squeeze them all into these pages, but we wanted to share a few of our favorites with you.

And if you happen to be looking for someone to care for your own furry family members, Janet and Lucky Buddy Pet Care come highly recommended by all of us here at Outword. She's been part of the Outword family for a long time, and we're always delighted when another batch of her four-legged models lands in our inbox.

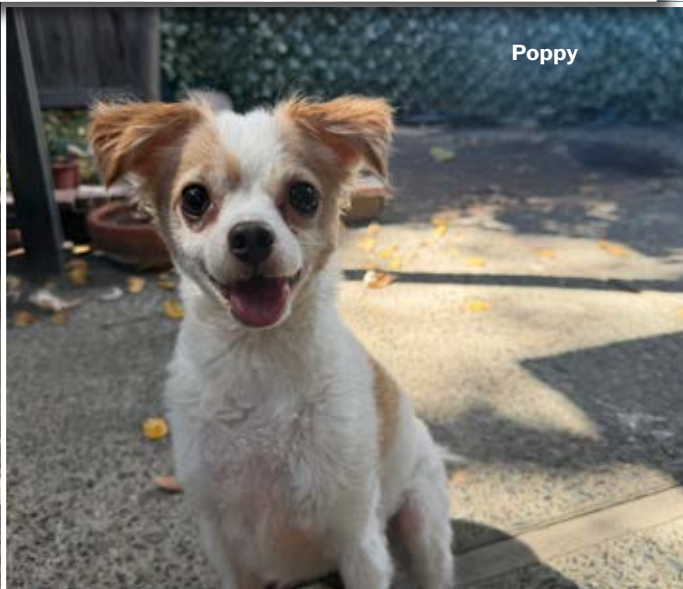
Check her out at luckybuddypetcare.com — and enjoy a few of Janet's latest stars!



The Rescues



Grayce



Poppy



Oscar



Gus



Morticia

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Got a Yard? Sniffspot Wants to Turn It Into a Private Dog Park

For dog owners who cringe at the thought of turning their pup loose in a crowded public dog park, there's another option — and it could also put a little extra money in someone else's pocket.



Sniffspot is an online service that allows homeowners and landowners to rent their yards, fields and other outdoor spaces to dog owners by the hour, essentially creating a network of private dog parks.

The idea is simple: property owners create a listing, add photos, set their availability and establish a price per dog, per hour. Dog owners then reserve the space for some private playtime. Only one booking is allowed at a time, so dogs and their humans don't have to worry about unfamiliar dogs unexpectedly joining the party.

That can be especially appealing for dogs that are shy, reactive, older or simply overwhelmed by traditional dog parks. Sniffspot locations range from ordinary fenced backyards to large fields, hiking areas, agility spaces and properties with pools or other dog-friendly amenities.

Hosts don't have to be home during visits, and Sniffspot handles reservations and payments. The company says hosts receive \$1 million in liability protection and \$5,000 in damage protection. Guest dogs are required to have current vaccinations and flea and parasite prevention, while owners are expected to clean up after their pets.

There's no upfront or monthly fee to become a host. Instead, Sniffspot takes a percentage of each booking. The company says some particularly successful hosts earn \$3,000 or more per month, although obviously your mileage — and your yard — may vary.

For anyone with an underused backyard and a soft spot for dogs, it's an interesting way to turn unused space into a neighborhood amenity — and maybe earn a few bucks while Rover runs off some energy.

More information is available at Sniffspot.com.

Hit the Road, Fido

Planning a California getaway is always more fun when the dog gets to come along. DogTrekker.com is a handy online resource devoted to helping dog lovers find places where four-legged travelers are welcome.

The California-focused site has assembled thousands of listings for dog-friendly hotels, restaurants, parks, hiking trails, beaches, wineries, campgrounds and attractions. There are also listings for practical necessities such as veterinarians, emergency services, boarding, grooming and pet supplies — useful information when you're traveling away from home.

Sacramento gets its own section, with suggestions ranging from the American River Parkway and local dog parks to restaurants and nearby destinations worth exploring with a pup in tow. DogTrekker also ventures throughout the state, covering everything from Lake Tahoe and the Sierra to the North Coast, Palm Springs and Southern California.

One particularly useful feature is the site's growing accessibility information, identifying dog-friendly destinations with paved trails, accessible parking and restrooms, step-free dining and other features for travelers with mobility needs.

So, before telling Fido to hop in the car, you might want to do a little sniffing around yourself. For more information visit their website: DogTrekker.com



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I Ain't Afraid of No Ghost! - A Resurrection Theatre review

by Chris Narloch

A good deal of time and talent have clearly gone into "The Ghosts of Smithfield House," the latest production of Sacramento's Resurrection Theatre, but I am afraid that I cannot recommend this original musical which, unfortunately, starts strong and then fades fast.

The problem I have is less with the show's production and more with the work itself, which attempts to combine a horror plot with laughs and music – a very difficult thing to pull off successfully, unless you're the folks behind something as great as "Rocky Horror."

The story involves a ghost hunter who gets more than she bargained for while investigating Smithfield House, which is haunted by the spirit of a handsome 19th-century pirate.

Will the ghost hunter make it out alive, or will she fall in love with the ghostly pirate? The premise is promising, but combining the supernatural with comedy and songs is a very tall order, and I don't think "The Ghosts of Smithfield House" quite pulls it off.

The dark set and eerie lighting are effective, as are the cool pirate costumes and some of the special effects, but the musical numbers often felt awkward on opening weekend, and I think the story would have worked better as a non-musical drama or a "Ghostbusters"-style comedy.

If you want to check out a new musical and make up your own mind, "The Ghosts of Smithfield House" performs through Halloween night at 25th and R. For more information, go to www.resurrectiontheatre.org



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- Donations are taken on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon.
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*Collectible printed or written items that were originally meant to be used for a short time and thrown away. (Marriam-Webster)

Disney On Ice Returns to G1C Halloween Weekend

Disney On Ice is bringing a new magical adventure for the whole family. Audiences will discover what it truly means to be a hero as Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and friends from around the Disney Kingdom come together to take families on a journey through timeless tales when “Disney On Ice presents Find Your Hero” skates into Sacramento from October 29 – November 1, 2026, at Golden 1 Center.

Disney On Ice
Photo courtesy of Disney



Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy set the stage for an adventure filled with tales of heroism from your favorite Disney stories in “Disney On Ice presents Find Your Hero.” Join Mirabel as she sets out to save her family’s beloved Casita, all while learning that everyone has their own gifts, magical or not, and being true to yourself and loving those around you is what makes you special. See how far Moana will go when she embarks on an action-packed voyage with mighty demigod Maui in a quest to save her island, become a wayfinder, and find her own identity. Cheer on Stitch as he searches for his special talent and discovers what it truly means to be a hero. Journey alongside Anna and Elsa and the hilarious snowman, Olaf, on their quest to protect the kingdom. Dive “Under The Sea” and test the power of true love with The Little Mermaid. Get tangled with Rapunzel as she dares to explore the world outside her own. And be there as Belle boldly tames the fearsome Beast. Discover that courage, determination and heart are all part of the hero in you!

Disney On Ice presents Find Your Hero brings beloved characters to life through cutting edge figure-skating, eye-catching costumes and stunning set designs. Innovative lighting, thrilling special effects, high-flying jumps and breathtaking skating make Disney On Ice presents Find Your Hero an experience the whole family will treasure forever!

To find tickets for the show or VIP experience, visit www.disneyonice.com.

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Saturday, December 5, 2026

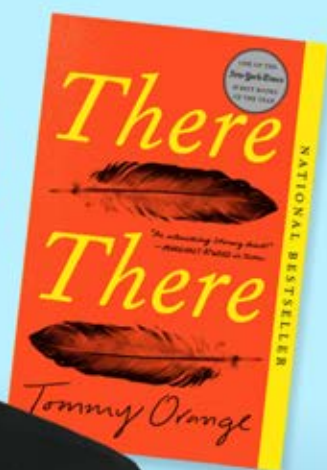
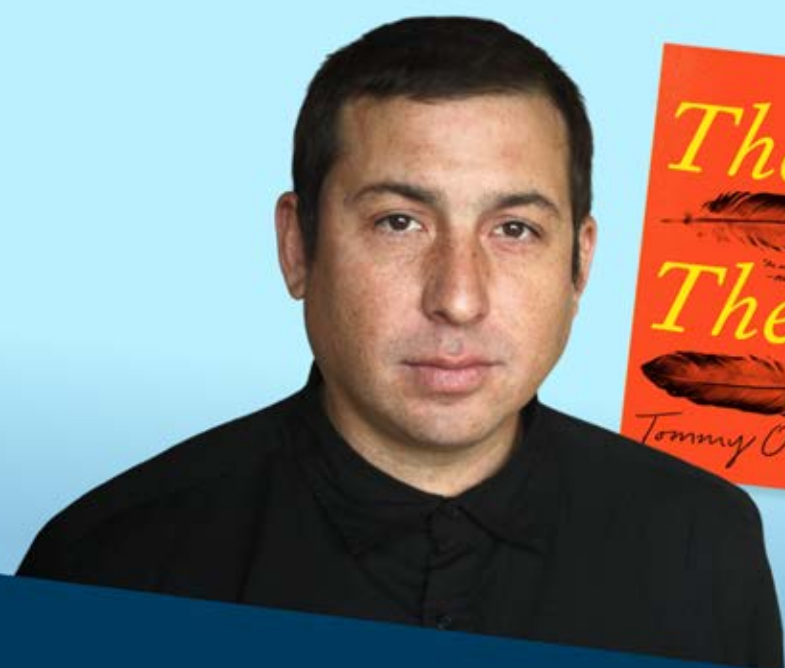
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Memorial Auditorium

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November 4

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A Free Symphony Concert

The day after Halloween, Rancho Cordova's Symphony d'Oro will perform a free concert of music that haunts, thrills and delights.



Your Halloween weekend won't be complete without attending Symphony d'Oro's "Halloween Fantasies" concert, which offers something for every kind of music lover.

From the dark drama of Beethoven's "Coriolan Overture" and the supernatural thrills of Franck's "Accursed Huntsman" to two swashbuckling pirate adventures and beloved music from "Encanto" and "Moana 2," the program spans the full range from spine-tingling to enchanting.

Round out the afternoon with a preview of Symphony d'Oro's Spring 2027 concert featuring Buster Keaton's classic silent film "Steamboat Bill, Jr."

Bring the whole family and make it a Halloween weekend to remember, on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.symphonydoro.org

"Heated Rivalry" comes home

While we wait for their heated rivalry to get even hotter in Season 2 next April, queer hockey studs Ilya and Shane (Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams) are coming home on Blu-ray and DVD, this October 20.



The DVD release of Season 1 will be followed by a limited-run Collector's Edition on 4K UHD, which will feature steamier, retro, "VHS"-styled packaging, collectible art cards, a double-sided mini poster, a "Hockey Puck" stress reliever and other exclusive extras, this November 24, just in time for the holidays.

Season 1 gave the pretty pair a perfect happy ending, so it will be interesting to see where the story goes from there. Will our favorite fictional hockey hunks go public with their relationship or continue to sneak around? Time will tell, but we will have to wait until next spring to find out.

In the meantime, fans can own Season 1 of the sexy series and drool over Shane and Ilya till the cows come home. Each of the three physical media releases features all episodes from the first season and are now available at national online retailers in the U.S. & Canada.

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Chalk IT UP



Moviegoers are not diggin' "Digger" Plus, "Verity" & "Wicker" reviewed

by Chris Narloch

The big movie news right now is documentaries, documentaries and more documentaries, especially "You Can See Everything," Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim's viral hit documentary about Elizabeth Holmes.

"You Can See Everything" claimed the second spot at the domestic box office on its opening weekend, despite a run time of almost three hours. That film is in limited theatrical release at several local cinemas.

"Musk," the new doc by Alex Gibney about Elon Musk, also opened recently, at Sacramento's Tower Theatre, and that movie is almost four hours long.

"Naza," a documentary that features interviews with 24 Israeli soldiers and intelligence officers who describe their involvement in the mass killing of Palestinian civilians, also opened at Tower recently, as did "The History of Concrete," John Wilson's surprisingly funny deadpan doc about, well, the history of concrete.

Finally, do not miss the Peacock doc "Kill. Bury. Print." which was co-produced by Rachel Maddow and deals with freedom of the press and corrupt police in a small town in Oklahoma.

I will have reviews of some of those docs in the next edition of Outword, but this article includes reviews of four narrative feature films I saw recently.



Wicker

I have seen many strange love stories in my 62 years, but this fantasy rom com just might take the cake. Oscar-winner Olivia Colman stars and is superb as a lonely, ostracized fisherwoman in a seaside town who hires a local basket-maker to weave her a husband out of wicker.

Of course, the wicker man comes to life and, since he is played by the studly Alexander Skarsgard, is an amazing lover who makes the other women in the town jealous. Colman and Skarsgard are a bizarrely beautiful couple in this bawdy feminist satire, which deserves to be a big sleeper hit.

"Wicker" opens at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on October 22.



Verity

Audiences cannot seem to get enough of Colleen Hoover, the successful author of "It Starts with Us," "It Ends with Us," and "Verity." I, on the other hand, have had more than enough of Ms. Hoover, and I especially disliked "Verity," a convoluted and farfetched mystery starring Dakota Johnson, Josh Hartnett, and the very busy Anne Hathaway.

Ms. Hathaway plays an enormously popular novelist, Mr. Hartnett is her husband, and Ms. Johnson plays a less successful writer brought in to assist Hathaway's character after an accident. Hathaway is always fun to watch, but I didn't buy Johnson as a writer, and the movie's contrived, twist-filled plot had me scratching my head and rolling my eyes.

"Verity" is currently in wide theatrical release.



Digger

This big-budget Tom Cruise vehicle has received a ton of bad press, and audiences apparently do not want to see Mr. Cruise as an old fat guy. I feel kind of bad for Tom because the 64-year-old superstar can't jump off buildings and cliffs forever, and he is trying to do something serious and challenging with "Digger."

The hit-and-miss director Alejandro Gonzalez Inaarritu cowrote and directed the movie, which is inarguably ambitious. It's the sort of fascinating failure that only very talented people have, and I give Mr. Cruise credit for going all in on a character that is loud and unappealing.

Tom plays a cartoonish Texan oil man named Digger Rockwell who causes a massive environmental disaster, and I can see why audiences have stayed away from the film in droves. The subject matter is very dark, and there is a whopper of a twist midway through the movie and another one at the end that pull the rug out from under the viewer.

"Digger" received a wide theatrical release, but it may be gone by the time you read this.



Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother

This terrific movie has received excellent reviews but little promotion so I recommend that you see it soon or add it to your streaming wish list if you can't find it at a theater near you. Bassam Tariq directs the story of a devout Black Muslim hitman in Houston with bad guys on his trail who must care for their young children after his wife dies.

The unusual story is handled beautifully by the director, and Oscar winner Mahershala Ali gives another award-worthy performance as the main character, a conflicted, loving father with a double life as a contract killer. A scary John Cho is also superb as a gun-toting, grill-wearing, crazy cult leader who clashes with our hero.

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Halloween



OCT 31 SAT

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Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

As October draws to a close, we wish everyone a wonderfully wicked Halloween and a blessed Samhain! Whether you're celebrating with costumes, candy, ancient traditions or a little seasonal magic, may your festivities be filled with joy, laughter and enchantment. With November just around the corner, the holiday season is ready to sweep us into a whirlwind of celebrations, gatherings and cherished traditions. So embrace the magic, enjoy the festivities and make some unforgettable memories this season!

Oct. 27

Think you've got what it takes to make Sacramento laugh? Stand-Up Open Mic brings fresh faces, seasoned comics and plenty of unpredictable hilarity to Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th St., Suite 130, on Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 8 to 10 p.m. Watch comedians test new material, perfect their punchlines and chase the next big laugh. Admission is just \$7! Saccomedyspot.com



Oct. 28

Get ready for a night of electrifying hip-hop when G-Eazy and Logic take over Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Pkwy in Mountain View on Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m. Known for his slick, retro-inspired style and chart-topping hits, G-Eazy joins forces with Logic for an unforgettable evening of infectious beats, razor-sharp rhymes and high-energy performances. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Mountainviewamphitheater.com

Oct. 31

Gather your boo crew and prepare for a wickedly good time at The Halloween Bar Crawl – Sacramento on Saturday, Oct. 31, beginning at 4 p.m. at The Zebra Club, 1900 P St. Costumed revelers will take over participating bars for an evening of creepy cocktails, spirited socializing and Halloween mischief. Dress to impress—or terrify—and celebrate the spookiest night of the year! Crawlwith.us

Sink your teeth into a hilariously twisted classic when Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors runs Oct. 2-31 at Sierra Repertory Theatre's East Sonora Theatre, 13891 Mono Way in Sonora. Five actors tackle more than a dozen characters as Bram Stoker's gothic tale becomes a fast-paced comic romp filled with lightning-fast transformations, romance, supernatural mayhem and outrageously ridiculous terror. Sierrarep.org



Nov. 1

The game is afoot! Step into Victorian mystery at the Sherlock Holmes and the True Believer Fundraiser on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Zittel Family Amphitheater, 200 Wool St. in Folsom. Enjoy wine tasting, sweets, a raffle and photos with Santa and the cast. Proceeds support an extended version of this family-friendly film production. BakerStreetWest.com



Nov. 5

Award-winning comedian, writer and television host Jimmy Carr is bringing his razor-sharp wit and famously dark sense of humor to Sacramento on November 5. Known for his quick-fire one-liners, merciless crowd work and jokes that gleefully cross the line, Carr promises an evening that's definitely not for the easily offended. Tickets go on sale to the general public Friday, October 23 via Live Nation, he is performing at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.



Bingo, baby! Get ready for a fabulous night of laughs, prizes and drag entertainment at Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, Nov. 5, at Mango's, 1930 K St. Doors open at 6 p.m., with bingo starting at 7 p.m. Hosted by the fabulous DoMe Moore, this Rainbow Chamber favorite benefits Chalk It Up! Bring \$20 cash for eight games and plenty of fun! RainbowChamber.com

Nov. 8

Return to LV-426 for a special big-screen presentation of Aliens: Special Edition at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., on Sunday, Nov. 8. The fun begins at 11 a.m. with actors Carrie Henn ("Newt") and Christopher Henn ("Timmy Jordan") meeting fans before the screening. After James Cameron's sci-fi classic, the siblings will take the stage for a live Q&A. A must for Alien fans! CrestTheater.com

Great Scott! There's more fun at the Crest! Fire up the DeLorean for a special screening of Back to the Future Part II on Sunday, Nov. 8, at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Actor Jeffrey Weissman, who played George McFly, joins fans for autographs, photos and a live Q&A. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with the Q&A and movie beginning at 7 p.m. CrestTheater.com

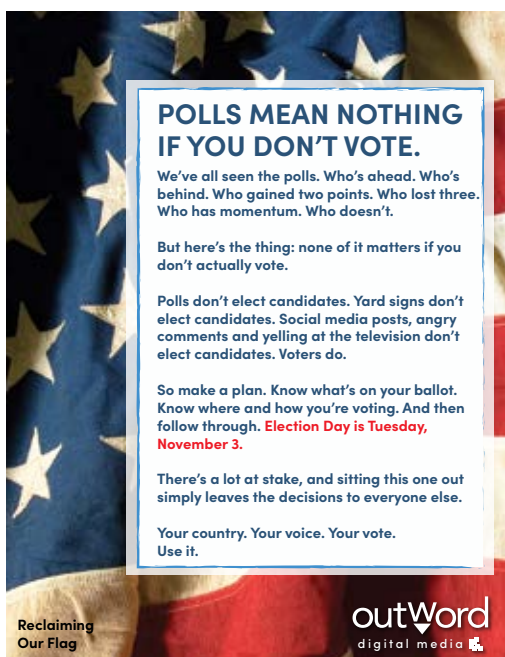
Nov. 12

Ease on down the road when The Wiz brings its acclaimed Broadway revival to the Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway in Folsom, Nov. 12-15. The Tony Award-winning musical reimagines The Wizard of Oz with powerhouse performances, dazzling choreography and an unforgettable score bursting with soul, gospel, rock and '70s funk. This high-energy production puts a fresh groove on Dorothy's timeless journey to find home. Harriscenter.net

Dec. 5

Add a little Hollywood glamour to the holidays when Pink Martini All-Stars comes to the Mondavi Center, One Shields Ave. in Davis, on Saturday, Dec. 5. The globe-trotting "little orchestra" is joined by longtime collaborators Ari Shapiro, Edna Vazquez and Jimmie Herrod for an all-new holiday show blending catchy classic pop, big-band sounds and Pink Martini's unmistakably sophisticated international flair. Mondaviarts.org

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



Nov. 3

VOTING DAY!



Oct. 31

Memes from Facebook



“
More children died of gun violence yesterday in Bend, Oregon than have died of transgender participation in sports in the entire history of the country. Maybe we should redirect some of the energy used for the latter into the former.

@KellyScaletta

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

THINGS THAT HAVE NEVER RUINED MY DAY:

- TRANS PEOPLE EXISTING
- GENDER NEUTRAL BATHROOMS
- WOMEN IN CHARGE
- IMMIGRANTS WANTING A BETTER LIFE
- DRAG QUEEN STORY TIME
- PRONOUNS
- PEOPLE BEING EDUCATED
- SCIENCE AND PROGRESS
- DIVERSITY IN THE WORK PLACE
- RAMPS FOR WHEELCHAIRS
- SNAP

THINGS THAT HAVE RUINED MY DAY:

- CONSERVATIVES.

@lffeca1

 **mathewhwatts**

Of all the things that private equity is ruining, pet ownership is one of the cruelest. Healthcare costs for animals have become obscene over the past 20 years—and it’s not like animals are living longer or enjoying significantly better quality of life than the previous decade. Here was a thing that many people took joy in, and the large corporations asked, “How much would they be willing to pay to keep that joy?” Turns out it was quite a lot.

“
“IF YOU DON’T LIKE PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, JUST DON’T WATCH IT” SAYS THE CROWD TRYING TO BAN DRAG SHOWS.

@BraddrofliT

BRIAN TYLER COHEN

OMG (Facts)

JAPAN JUST DECLARED THAT TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT HELL OR USING FEAR-BASED RELIGIOUS LESSONS IS OFFICIALLY CLASSIFIED AS A FORM OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE AGAINST MINORS


DR. FAUCI RECEIVES LGBTQ+ AWARD FOR HIS HIV/AIDS WORK

Equality Forum honored Dr. Anthony Fauci with its International Role Model Award for his work during the HIV/AIDS crisis. At a time when so many in government ignored a dying community, Fauci listened to LGBTQ+ advocates and helped push research and treatment forward. He said he is “deeply honored to be part of your history.”

THE WOKE GINGER NEWS



Don't Leave This One in the '80s

If you spent any time on a dance floor in 1986, chances are the opening notes of The Communards' "Don't Leave Me This Way" can still trigger an almost involuntary urge to move. Forty years later, the queer dance-floor classic is back – and it has received a fresh polish from Horse Meat Disco.

The Communards took a song already steeped in disco history and turned it into something unmistakably their own. Jimmy Somerville's soaring countertenor, Sarah Jane Morris' wonderfully smoky vocals and Richard Coles' pounding piano transformed "Don't Leave Me This Way" into a glorious, frantic, emotional celebration. It spent four weeks at No. 1 in the UK, became Britain's biggest-selling single of 1986 and topped Billboard's U.S. dance chart.

More importantly for many LGBTQ+ listeners, it was gloriously, visibly queer at a time when that still meant something very different than it does today.

Now Horse Meat Disco – born from London's queer club scene – has reworked the track for 2026, adding rolling bass, synths and a little extra funk while wisely leaving the heart (and that magnificent break) intact.

The 40th anniversary is also being celebrated with a limited, numbered 10-track CD featuring versions spanning four decades, including classic 1986 mixes, newer remixes and a previously unreleased 1987 live performance.

Some songs are fun to rediscover because they remind you of being young. Others somehow still make you feel young. So, turn this up to 11 and relive fun times.



photo by Mert Alas
Warner Music Group



Miley Finds a "Different Religion"

Miley is celebrating a big return to the top with a suitably electric new video. Her tenth studio album, *Bass Persuades*, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 following its September 18 release – Miley's first chart-topping album in more than a decade. Now she's keeping the party going with the very edgy "[Different Religion](#)," featuring New York experimental rock band Model/Actriz.

The new video, directed by fashion photographer and filmmaker Mert Alas, follows the album's title track and "Let's Get Married," whose romantic Chateau Marmont video features Miley's fiancé, musician Maxx Morando.

Bass Persuades, Miley's first album for Atlantic Records, finds the Grammy-winning singer diving headfirst into a dance-driven sound, with plenty of bass, attitude and the genre-hopping unpredictability that has become something of a Miley trademark.

And apparently, fans clearly approve. Along with the No. 1 album debut, demand for Miley's two-night Hollywood Bowl engagement was enormous, with nearly 1.5 million fans reportedly joining the ticket queue.

Different religion, perhaps. Same Miley ability to get everybody's attention.



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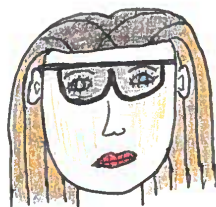
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