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GAZETTE

THE INFLUENCE ISSUE

JUNE 2018



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Movers & Shakers

Six high achievers on our radar this month, from Bay Area heavyweights to the next generation shaking things up **BY ERIN CARLSON**



Billy Curtis

June is not just any month in San Francisco — it's Pride Month! And Curtis is a community grand marshal, chosen by the SF Pride Board of Directors for his activism and advocacy. Nearly 20 years ago, Curtis was hired as UC Berkeley's first full-time director for LGBT resources and currently leads the university's Gender Equity Resource Center. He has served on a number of boards, including with Vitality, a network of LGBT business professionals, and the SF LGBT Center. He also volunteered with Project Open Hand and has participated in the inspiring, 545-mile AIDS/LifeCycle ride from SF to LA. Curtis intends to use his SF Pride honor to raise funds and awareness for underserved LGBT students at Berkeley. "All of this is about visibility," he says. "I'm calling the alumni back."

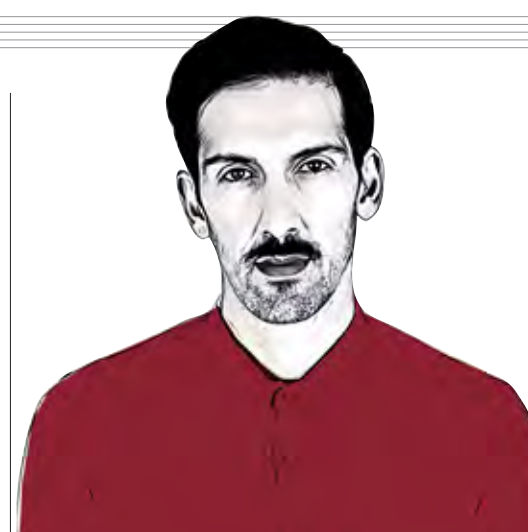


Tessa Edwards

This summer, Edwards marks her fifth year as director of individual giving at Festival Napa Valley — and remains committed as ever to the event's inclusive mission and providing the sort of experiences that folks remember, like when **Bill Murray** and the cast of *Hamilton* performed at last year's Arts for All Gala. "Festival Napa Valley offers an extraordinary range of artists and programming," she says. "But what I really love is working with an organization that cares about bringing the transformative power of the arts to everyone. So far we have donated more than \$1 million to art programs in Napa County's public schools. We are not only producing stellar events, but also keeping the arts alive in our community." We'll toast to that.

Jim Knowlton

Congratulations to the new director of athletics at UC Berkeley! Knowlton previously held a similar position at the United States Air Force Academy and won the Athletic Director of the Year award from his peers in the collegiate sports world. "By virtue of his experience, values and personal attributes, Jim stood out in what was a large and deeply talented pool of applicants," raved Berkeley Chancellor **Carol Christ**. "He is an excellent communicator who thrives on challenges, and shares my commitment to excellence, integrity and diversity. I am certain he will be the thought partner I sought, and the leader our campus needs at this pivotal time so that we can, together, usher in a new era of excellence for Cal Athletics."



Arthur Pita

The Icelandic singer-songwriter **Björk**, perhaps more famous for the iconic swan dress she wore to the Oscars than her innovative music, helped inspire South Africa-born choreographer Pita's "Björk Ballet" at the San Francisco Ballet's Unbound Festival, which featured the world premieres of 12 new exciting new works. The Björk superfan had long aspired to set her songs against his choreography, and seized on the opportunity for Unbound — since Artistic Director and Principal Choreographer **Helgi Tomasson** hails from Iceland, there perhaps seemed no better sign that he should go for it. The standout show, which included "Hyperbald," "The Anchor Song" and "Bachelorette," received glowing reviews, further cementing Pita as an artist to watch and Björk as a muse for those who dare to be different.

Reverend Yolanda Norton

Queen Bey can certainly draw crowds of worshippers. More than 900 people flocked to Grace Cathedral for a recent Mass featuring the icon's transcendent pop repertoire. Norton, who teaches a course called "Beyoncé and the Hebrew Bible" at the San Francisco Theological Seminary, delivered the guest sermon, using the superstar as a touchstone to talk about how black women interpret biblical texts. "We weren't trying to deify Beyoncé," Norton tells the *Gazette*. "What I've seen in her work is an evolution of her growing into herself as a black woman." On the set list: "Survivor" (one of Beyoncé's earliest hits with girl group Destiny's Child) "Listen" (from *Dreamgirls*) and "Freedom," a track from the 2016 masterpiece *Lemonade*. Norton had only expecting 50 to 100 in the audience at Grace, but thanks in part to social media buzz, the event became a sensation.



Paul Holes

The retired Contra Costa investigator helped unmask the suspected Golden State Killer **Joseph DeAngelo** using open-source genealogy website GEDmatch with genetic information provided by one of DeAngelo's relatives. Holes' killer instinct, combined with his telegraphic looks, have made him an overnight celebrity among true-crime fans known as "Holerinos." The 50-year-old forensics phenom, who is married (sorry, ladies!), has been fielding multiple offers from Hollywood and literary agents fascinated by his decades-long investigation. "First, absolutely flattered by #HotforHoles," he tweeted recently of the trending hashtag. "Second, I'll see how I can get that blue check mark so everybody can feel confident this is me."



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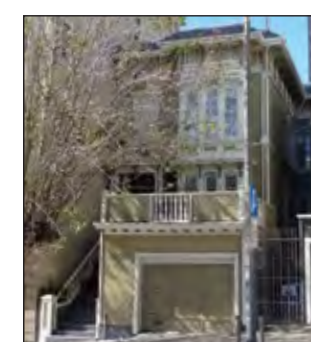
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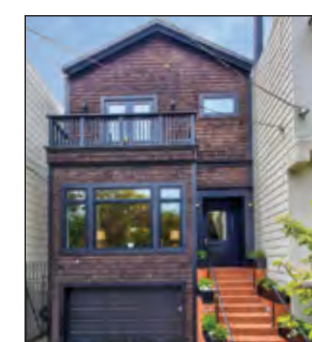


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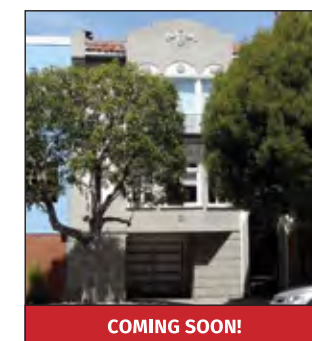
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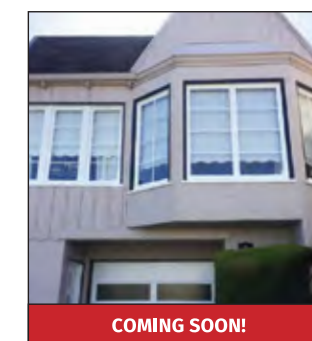
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RUGBY COMES TO GIANTS COUNTRY

BY RILEY McDERMID

Watch out, San Francisco: Rugby is coming to town. From July 20 to 22, the world's top rugby teams will meet at AT&T Park for the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 competition. More than 70,000 tickets have already been sold to fans eager to watch the world's top 16 women's teams and 24 men's teams battle it out for one of the sport's toughest titles.

Love crazy costumes and a fan culture to match? Then head to AT&T Park for the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018 competition in July.



Fans of the sport are known for sporting colorful costumes and dressing in themes when they attend the events for one of the world's most popular contact sports. If the action in the stands isn't enough, turn your attention to the field where game play features seven-minute halves and two-minute half-times, resulting in constant action.

"Sevens is a fantastic introduction to rugby and with the launch of single day tickets for all days of the competition, not only will existing fans have more flexibility and choice, it will enable us to attract new audiences by giving the option to come and experience an action-packed day of sevens rugby at its flagship event," says World Rugby Chairman **Bill Beaumont**. Men's teams at the competition will be

grappling to take home the Melrose Cup, via a knock-out preliminary round for all nations ranked between ninth and 24th in the world. The current top eight seeds automatically qualify for a round of 16, the association said. The women's competition will take place in a standard tourna-

ment format.

Giants Enterprises, a San Francisco Giants unit that cultivates events and experiences outside of the Major League Baseball franchise, will collaborate with World Rugby and USA Rugby on the games.

The amount of prep work done to transform the stadium as most Giants fans know it was not insignificant. Organizers spent months creating a regulation size rugby field that can accommodate both men's and women's matches. The same number of seats will be available for the matches as are open during baseball games,

organizers said, giving Northern California one of its largest rugby events ever.

Attendees can purchase either single-day tickets or three-day passes. For more information, visit www.rwcsevens.com/tickets.

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12 Celebrated chef **Tanya Holland** is the guest of honor at the Museum of African Diaspora's annual Diaspora Dinner and benefit. There will be a champagne toast followed by a curated multi-course feast at the St. Regis. moadsf.org.

17 Stern Grove Festival's 81st Season kicks off with The Big Picnic Concert, featuring two soulful R&B legends: **Jeffrey Osborne** and **Peabo Bryson**. Admission is free to the public. However, if you want reserved seating or to partake in the picnic, tickets begin at \$250. The concert kicks off at 2 p.m. For details visit, sterngrove.org. *NHG sponsored.*



21 Buckelew Programs presents MarinScapes' 30th anniversary gala dinner to support people in the North Bay with mental health and addiction challenges. Location: The Historic Escalante Winery. Tickets start at \$175. bucklew.org.

23 Cuisine is the theme of The Oakland Zoo's 26th Annual *Walk in the Wild*, where guests will sample food, wine and beer from the Bay Area's top chefs and restaurants. Individual VIP tickets are \$300 for non-members. oaklandzoo.org.

24 The festivities continue with SF Pride VIP Party, which will take place at City Hall to celebrate the LGBT community. The reception follows the Pride Parade, this year called "Generations of Strength." sfpride.org.



JULY

20-29 Festival Napa Valley returns with an enticing smorgasbord of festivities, featuring a stellar list of performers from **Kristin Chenoweth**, who headlines the Arts for All Gala at HALL St. Helena on July 22, to **Joshua Bell** and **Lea Salonga**. The Opening Weekend All Access Pass goes for \$3,000 per person, and includes a seat at Opera Under the Stars at Meadowood Napa Valley. festivalnapavalley.org.

30 San Jose State plays host to the new Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic, formerly known as the Bank of the West Classic, which had been held at Stanford since 1971. The WTA women's tennis tournament runs through August 5. mubadalasvc.com.

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