California votes to ban future sales of gas-powered cars

Meet sculptographer Yassi Mazandi

A new season of food TV shows

Demi Lovato's new album is punky therapy

By Brett Callwood
WHAT TO WATCH

A New Season of Somebody Feed Phil And The Great Hive Heist in California on Devoured

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

From a new season of Somebody Feed Phil to foraging fiddlehead ferns, balsamroot and stinging nettles for culinary masterpieces from Canadian Chef Paul Rogalski, fall will be a tasty season for food TV. Here are our choices to sit and stream.

TOP PICKS

The second season of the sensational PBS Wild Harvest foraging series with Canadian survivor expert and musician Les Stroud, alongside award-winning Chef Paul Rogalski has kicked off with travels through wine country, digging up balsamroot and sagebrush for some experimental twists on classic dishes.

In the outback series, Stroud shares his extreme wisdom on adventures of gathering wild edible ingredients in rugged terrain, while Rogalski transforms berries and bark on open fire into sophisticated gourmet dishes like a balsamroot and Merlot chicken plate. From the foothills of Alberta to the rough shores of the Oregon coast, Rogalski, who is culinary director and co-owner of the acclaimed Rouge Restaurant in Calgary, explores the culinary potential of wild ingredients. It’s as fascinating as it is therapeutic. The rugged duo hopes to feature urban adventures in Los Angeles next season.

If you love true crime as much as food news, Devoured on Vice debuted this year and is about as addictive as the ice cream, pizza and deli wars it covers in this first knotch docu-series. The first episode, A Slice of the Pie, old fashioned mafia justice is served up when a family recipe from Brooklyn’s L&B Spumoni Gardens & Pizzeria is stolen.

We All Scream digs deep into the deaths of four who died from a listeria outbreak after Blue Bell Ice Cream refused to pull its product from the shelves. Still, Texans stand by their brand with an almost cult-like devotion.

Perhaps most fascinating is the episode centered on the multimillion-dollar bee heist stretching from the docks of Los Angeles to California’s Central Valley, involving the cross-country theft of hundreds of bee hives by organized crime.

The research and incredible access to insiders is delicious, including the sheriff who enjoyed beekeeping as a hobby, and ultimately cracked the case.

And for Phil Rosenthal fans, the wait is over. The Somebody Feed Phil season six premieres on Netflix Sunday, Oct. 18, with a new lineup of cities including Croatia, Philadelphia, Nashville, Austin, and Santiago, and includes a special tribute episode to Rosenthal’s parents, Helen and Max.

ALSO WORTH THE WATCH

Bobby and Sophie On The Coast premiered on Food Network & discovery+ this week, a three-episode series that takes celebrity chef Bobby Flay and daughter and LA community journalist Sophie on a food travelog across the city. Visits include the iconic Jitlada kitchen to make green curry, shopping at the Original Farmers Market, Nancy Silverton’s The Barish, Yamashiro, Gigi’s, breakfast at Salt’s Cure, and Persian ice cream at Mashti Malone’s.

Long-running culinary hit Chef’s Table returns to Netflix on Wednesday, Sept. 7, with a season that’s all about the pizza. From Portland to Phoenix, Italy to Japan, go inside the kitchens of chefs whose creativity elevates this ordinary dish to an art form, tossing up unique flavors, inspiring backgrounds, and passion for creating the perfect slice. Featured chefs include Chris Bianco from Phoenix who just opened Pizzeria Bianco in DTLA, Gabriele Bonci (Rome, Italy), Ann Kim (Minneapolis), Franco Pepe (Casarano, Italy), Yoshihiro Imai (Kyoto, Japan) and Sarah Minnick from Portland.

Also coming to Netflix in October is some nostalgic fun – The Easy Bake Battle: Home Cooking Competition. The new culinary competition series, inspired by Hasbro’s iconic Easy-Bake Oven that used a pair of ordinary incandescent light bulbs as a heat source, features skilled and clever home cooks facing off and using ingenious kitchen hacks to prove who can make the easiest, fastest, and most delicious food. Stream in on Friday November 4th – National Easy Bake Oven Day.
CALIFORNIA VOTES TO BAN SALE OF NEW GAS-POWERED CARS BY 2035

Two years after California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to ban the sale of gas-powered cars by 2035, a vote was taken by the California Resources Board to officially put planning into effect.

BY ISAI ROCHA

New gas-powered cars will no longer be sold come 2035 after the California Air Resources Board voted on the policy on Aug. 25.

The policy calls for cars to fully run on hydrogen or electricity by that time, a move that is a first for not just the U.S., but worldwide.

“We can solve this climate crisis if we focus on the big, bold steps necessary to cut pollution,” Newsom said after the board’s vote. “California now has a groundbreaking, world-leading plan to achieve 100% zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035.”

Newsom ordered the ban back in September of 2020, citing transportation being the cause of 50% of greenhouse emissions in the state, 80% of which come from smog-forming pollution and 95% from diesel. At the time of the announcement, he was able to secure commitments to ramp up the production of zero-emission vehicles from Honda, General Motors, Volvo, Ford and BMW.

“Ford is proud to be the only American automaker to stand with California for reduced greenhouse gas emissions,” Ford COO Jim Farley said after joining California in its zero-emission vehicle goal in 2020. “We want to leave a better world to the next generation.”

Newsom said the expectation is for zero-emission vehicles to make up 35% of car sales by 2026, 68% of sales by 2030, and a complete transition by 2035.

“That’s 915 million oil barrels’ worth of emissions that won’t pollute our communities,” Newsom said on Thursday. “California will continue to lead the revolution toward our zero-emission transportation future.”

Newsom added the state will work to make zero-emission electric or hydrogen cars more affordable by the 2035 deadline.

The state currently has roughly 80,000 EV charging stations, with a 2025 goal of having 250,000 available for drivers.

With the ban only applying to new cars, used gas-powered cars will be unaffected by the policy, although it is not immediately clear what the transition will mean for gas fuel companies, taxes on gas-powered vehicles, or other incentives to switch to a zero-emission vehicle.

L.A. COUNTY SET TO FEEL TRIPLE-DIGIT HEAT INTO NEXT WEEK

L.A. County has felt 100-degree weather already this week and is expected to feel the triple-digit record-breaking heat heading into next Tuesday.

With an expected high of 110 degrees in the valleys and mountains this weekend, the National Weather Service Forecast predicts highs of up to 115 degrees on Monday.

Cities along the coasts are not expected to see triple-digit heat until next Monday, with the temperature projected as high as 100 degrees.

“We will very likely be in the midst of a full-fledged and potentially dangerous heat wave by mid-week, as a strong ridge will form in the region,” The National Weather Service posted in a bulletin Monday. “Thursday may be warm enough to threaten daily record high temperatures. Daytime highs of 105-110 F will be possible in the hottest areas. More significant offshore winds will bring the heat back on Sunday and Monday as even hotter days.”

With the record heat, L.A. County residents are being advised to wear lightweight clothing, drink more water, avoid strenuous activity during the hottest parts of the day, and check on elderly or vulnerable neighbors and family members.

In line with the extreme temperatures is the reminder of fire season in L.A. County, as more than 100 acres burned near the San Gabriel Canyon of Angeles National Forest this week, with 0% containment as of this writing.

More than 200 firefighters and aircrafts have been deployed to battle the second county brush fire in as many weeks.

The “East Fire” that popped up on Aug. 27, is now 93% contained, with 156 firefighters making progress toward putting out the blaze that at one point reached 150 acres and forced closures in several Glendora mountain roads.

The excessive heat advisory is expected to expire at 8 p.m., on Monday, Sept. 5, which falls on Labor Day.
Demi Lovato’s new album is punky therapy
BY BRETT CALLWOOD

As is often the case with popular music artists, everybody thinks they know Demi Lovato. The countless column inches have been devoted to their pronouns, their depression, their dating life, have resulted in the public genuinely feeling that they know Lovato inside out. They know their motivations, their every emotion, and they feel that they can judge them based on the conclusions that they have drawn.

Incidentally, Lovato has decided that they are happy with “they/them” or “she/her,” having previously opted for the former. This concerned and confused people with, apparently, not much in their life to be concerned and confused about. For the purposes of consistency, we’re going with “they/them” in this article. Frankly though, Lovato has every right to use whatever pronouns they want to. Contrarian voices be damned.

The irony is that if people really want to know what Lovato is thinking, what their motivations are right now, all they have to do is listen to new album HOLY FVCK. The record is essentially a journal of the two years since she recorded the previous album, Dancing with the Devil… the Art of Starting Over. As prophecies go, that title was a bit of a doozy because Lovato has entered a whole new stage of their career.

“It’s definitely a statement album,” Lovato says of HOLY FVCK. “It’s definitely showing the world who I am. I had to do a lot of growing to get here. It’s just life. The music created, it’s just about getting older, life experiences — everything has led me to where I’m at today, and that means artistically, as well.”

Apparently the demons that they’re expelling here, the emotion that they’re
expressing with full-blooded passion, has led Lovato into punky waters. A lot has been made of the artist's switch of genres, and the addition of sonic crunch and extra edge is certainly notable. Welcome even. But it's also not as stark, as inorganic, as some are suggesting it to be. Lovato is certainly happy to embrace the punk label.

“I don't mind that at all, I think that that's dope,” they say. “Fuck yeah, I'll take it. But to me, as long as people are enjoying the music, that's all that matters. I made the music because I enjoyed it. I put it out because I wanted people to share it as well. I wanted to share it with people. I guess all that matters is that I enjoyed the music, but I'm so happy that other people are going to be able to, as well.”

Here's the thing – anytime a pop artist decided to dip their toes into harder, heavier waters by experimenting with punk, or metal, or rock 'n' roll in general, they are met with a sledgehammer of distrust. Their integrity is questioned because, “how can somebody who made that music now want to make this music?”

But here's another thing, and this is coming from somebody who has been involved in the punk and metal scenes for decades – aficionado of those genres can be the most pig-headed, gatekeeper-esque snobs. In the case of punk, that mindset makes no sense at all. By definition, punk is about doing whatever you want to do and not giving the slightest shit what anybody thinks. To enforce rules about musical styles, fashion, or anything else is fundamentally against everything punk stands for.

So there will be suspicions that Lovato is using punk – both musically and aesthetically – for reasons that don't pass the aforementioned gatekeepers' tests. Fuck 'em.

“In a way I feel like it's not new,” Lovato says. “I feel like it's going back to my roots. But at the same time, it's harder than what I used to perform and sing. So it's definitely new in a way, but it's also nostalgic for me. I grew up with the emo scene, and so I listened to a lot of that, I listened to harder music, and then I started writing and recording music when I was 15, so I was smack dab in the middle of the 2000s when all of that was blowing up. And so it definitely is a part of who I am artistically.”

If Lovato was using punk for their own commercial, career reasons, it could be argued that they were only following in the footsteps of great capitalist provocateurs such as Malcolm McLaren, Vivienne Westwood and even Andy Warhol. As it happens, there's nothing about HOLY FVCK that suggests they don't mean it. They were involved in the writing of all the songs, and the emo-tions are their own. Recent single “Substance,” for example, tackles the very inauthenticity that we're talking about.

“It's definitely about reminding people of human connection and the meaningfulness that life has in store for us,” Lovato says.

The album, Lovato says, is serving the purpose that they intended it to do – it's allowing them to release the demons that have led them to suffer so terribly in the past. Depression, addiction, eating disorders – if this is the album they needed to make to help them through hard times, then we're delighted that they found this path.

“I feel like, even with 'Happy Ending,' I was going through a really rough time when I wrote it,” Lovato says. “I was going through depression and I was kind of losing hope. That got out a lot of that emotion for me, that hopelessness. It got it out, and it was very cathartic and therapeutic for me. I started turning a page shortly after, I think because I had started making music that was so vulnerable and true to where I was at that moment. And then I had that song to listen to over and over again, to get it out and cry to if I needed to.”

Who would deny them that? We've lost way too many musicians because of a social desire to brush struggles with mental health under the carpet. You'd think we'd know better by now.

“It's definitely challenging,” Lovato says. “But I would say, someone in my position is not any more special than someone who's dealing with depression that's not in my position. I definitely know what it's like to deal with it. Now, dealing with depression in the spotlight is challenging because sometimes people don't realize that, just because you have a lot of stuff, a lot of followers or whatever it is, that you don't feel things. I'm an empath – I feel everything. I feel other people's emotions. I pick up on whatever it is, that you don't feel things. I'm an empath – I feel everything. I feel other people's emotions. I pick up on energy. So I'm definitely very sensitive and I have to be careful. I have to guard myself from people that are gonna say, 'She's got everything, why's she upset?' I don't look at that, I don't read it.”

That's smart, though not always easy in the internet age. Lovato, thankfully, seems to have found some peace, thanks to an album that is crunchy, packed with great tunes, and that many of their fans will be able to relate to. Are fans of Crass, the Exploited or Black Flag likely to love it? Probably not. But people who love the music of Paramore, Avril Lavigne, Bowling for Soup and even Green Day very well might. Just pry those minds open.

Lovato is about to go on tour, having recently warmed up with dates in Illinois
and Iowa. According to the singer, the gigs were great.

“My band is so sick,” they say. “They’re so talented and I’m so grateful to be touring with them. The shows were really fun. It was really nice to get back on stage – I was super nervous, but it’s because I care. I really wanted to put on a great show. I’m so glad that I was able to.”

That band includes superstar guitarist Nita Strauss, who joined up with Lovato straight out of Alice Cooper’s band.

“She’s such a fucking rock star,” Lovato says. “She’s just so cool but so talented, and so it’s really amazing to get to perform with her because she’s such a rock star.”

A glance at the first two set lists and then a look at YouTube tells us that Lovato is performing older songs on this tour, but they’re getting a punky spit ‘n’ polish.

“I changed the arrangements on some of my older hits, and it’s really fun to be able to switch it up like that,” Lovato says. “My fans are enjoying it.”

Lovato is here, in Inglewood actually, at the YouTube Theatre on Sept. 28. Some of the arrangements might be switched around by then.

“I’m gonna probably keep the set list very similar to Iowa and Illinois, but I’m gonna be changing some of the arrangements, so that they sound more rock rather than what they used to sound like, and I’m just excited for everyone to hear it,” Lovato says.

A new single, “29,” is about to be released, a song about “self-realization and something that a lot of people will be able to relate to.” And after the tour, Lovato is looking forward to taking some time off. But looking ahead, who would they get a kick out of collabing with?

“I’m touring with Dead Sara and Royal & the Serpent on this tour,” Lovato says. “I’m so excited because, not only are they friends of mine, but their music is amazing and I’m a fan of their work. Getting to tour with them has been dope. But I think a dream of mine has been to collaborate with Paramore. Maybe something with them in the future would be awesome.”

You heard it here first.

Demi Lovato’s HOLY FVCK album is out now. She performs at the YouTube Theatre on Wednesday, September 28.
CANNABIS

WILL CANNABIS BE BIDEN’S NEXT KEPT PROMISE?

BY JIMI DEVINE

A student loan forgiveness advocates celebrate last week's home run at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., cannabis advocates are wondering if they'll have their shot at the plate soon, especially with midterms on the horizon.

As we celebrate the working class people like teachers and social workers that will be able to live a better quality of life, what about the nonviolent cannabis offenders in cages? As we transition from talks about the quality of life to actual personal freedom, the matter feels even more pressing.

The left's longest-tenured drug war hawk, Biden was forced toward the middle on the 2020 campaign trail. He knew he could not stop the cannabis snowball and started speaking about his newfound support for decriminalization, while always stopping short of legalization.

In September of 2020, Vice President Kamala Harris gave the firmest details on what the Biden-Harris ticket was promising us.

"Under a Biden-Harris administration, we will decriminalize the use of marijuana and automatically expunge all marijuana-use convictions and end incarceration for drug use alone. I think from our collective perspective, this is no time for half-steppin'. This is no time for incrementalism. We need to deal with the system and there needs to be a significant change in the design of the system," Harris said.

At the time, this sounded like a great start for advocates. Sure they wanted to see some promises on wider legalization and banking access, but the ones who have been in it the longest mostly got in it for the sake of getting people out of cages. The regulated market was an afterthought to them. Those advocates were hyped.

After election night, it was a countdown to the inauguration. The vice president-elect had told us how it all would play out once they took the reins of power in January. During the first month, everyone was kind of apathetic as the administration worked to return regulatory structures that had been gutted to their pre-Trump format. But the clock kept ticking, especially for those in a cage who thought they might see some relief.

A month later, the Congressional Cannabis Caucus leadership led 35 lawmakers in calling on Biden to take action.

"Until the day that Congress sends you a marijuana reform bill to sign, you have a unique ability to lead on criminal justice reform and provide immediate relief to thousands of Americans," the lawmakers wrote in a letter sent to the president. "We urge you to grant executive clemency for all non-violent cannabis offenders," the lawmakers urged the president a month after he took office.

Now, two years later, those members of Congress and advocates are still waiting.

We reached out to longtime advocate Justin Strekal who recently founded BOWL PAC. The political action committee that works to unify the public, interest groups, and policymakers on the plan to legalize marijuana without leaving behind the people, and communities hit the hardest by enforcement.

Strekal spent years organizing the highest-level cannabis actions the halls of Congress had ever seen. He told LA Weekly it was surreal to be here two months before midterms seeing movement on Biden's promises, "among the things he made a commitment about was decriminalizing cannabis."

Strekal is deeply connected in federal cannabis policy circles. We asked if he believed Biden might make a move before the election. He quickly replied it's very difficult to assess if the Biden administration will pull the trigger.

"They seem really hesitant to do things," Strekal said. "I don't want to believe in Joe Biden, he's got receipts from other campaign commitments and it's within the realm of possibility."

Strekal quickly emphasized he wasn't trying to set expectations too high. But it would not be out of the blue when it does happen.

The conversation moved on to whether he'd heard anything of the communications between Biden's team and the Senate leadership around the Cannabis Administration and Opportunity Act.

"I know that this issue has been brought up by various Senators' offices a number of times. But as far as what specific asks, I don't know," Strekal said. "We've seen what we've seen publicly, where we've had a number of senators sign letters calling on him to take action to decriminalize and pardon. But again, I don't want to, I don't want to get optimistic about something that has not happened."

Strekal also believes if a bill did make its way to the Oval Office, it would not get vetoed.

Strekal moved on to the road map that has previously been given to Biden on how he might provide relief to nonviolent offenders.

"I just want to keep reminding people that we, advocates and industry, had sent the administration language and the legal structure for a blanket pardon based on how President Carter issued a blanket pardon for conscientious objectors to the draft," Strekal said. "It is fully within his legal authority to issue a proclamation pardoning all cannabis offenders for federal offenses."

Strekal said as we're thinking about what Biden might do before the election, that's a super tangible thing he can pull the trigger on instantly.
From her birthplace of Tehran, to the UK where she was raised, to Los Angeles where she has made her home, artist Yassi Mazandi has always been interested in dissolving borders and blending influences — and by extension, mediums. Mazandi works in porcelain, clay, bronze sculptures; paintings and drawings; lately in video; and more recently in digital mediums. Having spent much of lockdown entertaining and educating herself about the enchantments and challenges of cryptoart, in 2021 she dropped her first AR and NFT pieces, in which she bridged the gaps between the extreme corporeality of clay and the limitless energy of the disembodied metaverse.

This all sounds very au courant, but actually for Mazandi it began during her Rauschenberg Residency on Captiva Island in 2012, as some “technique-related experiments” evolved into a body of work which she named “sculptographs,” as they blend physical sculptures with advanced imaging practices like derivations from color-manipulated 3D scans of the hand-thrown flower sculptures. Mazandi’s objects and images illuminate interfering patterns, broken mandalas, interventions into sacred geometry, and fractal sigils, all with botanical, cyborgian, and anatomical aspects, hinting at narrative and ceremonial functions. Now a new kinetic sculptural work by Mazandi, *Language of the Birds*, activates the exterior of LACMA’s Resnick Pavilion. The installation of schematic avian beings is based on an epic 12th-century Persian poem by Farid al-Din Attar — a parable about a flock of birds undertaking a perilous mystical quest for God, also seen as a metaphor for a spiritual home, or even our own best selves — but claims clear resonances with contemporary issues from migration to climate change and the search for identity and community.

**L.A. WEEKLY:** When did you first know you were an artist?

**YASSI MAZANDI:** In my mid-teens I discovered how much I enjoyed the artistic process, how still my mind is while creating art.

**What is your short answer to people who ask what your work is about?**

Nature and my reaction to it, both conscious and subconscious.

**What would you be doing if you weren't an artist?**

I’d be brokenhearted and probably going insane.

**Did you go to art school? Why/Why not?**

I am self-taught. Sadly, art school (university, actually anything above high school) was forbidden by parental sexism. Happily, I love experimenting, mak-
ing mistakes and learning.

**Why do you live and work in L.A., and not elsewhere?**

I came to spend time with and get to know my aging father. I stayed because not elsewhere?

**When is/was your current/most recent next show or project?**

Language of the Birds is on show at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) through June 2023. It is a kinetic sculpture of 100 bronze birds, named after the 12th century Persian poet who wrote the search for home, truth and meaning. The installation also references climate change and recent, dramatic loss of bird populations. On September 18, I’ll be talking about this new installation alongside artist Mohammad Barrangi — who also has an outdoor installation, Mantiq al-Tayr currently at LACMA.

**What artist living or dead would you most like to show or work with?**

Lee Bontecou.

**Do you listen to music while you work?**

Yes! Everything!

**Website and social media handles, please!**

yassimazandi.com

IG @YassiMazandi

Languages of the Birds + Mantiq al-Tayr are supported by and launched by the Guggenheim, and are sponsored in part by the LA Times Foundation.

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Making a false or fraudulent claim is a felony subject up to 5 years in prison or a fine up to $50,000 or double the value of the fraud whichever is greater, or both imprisonment or fine.

SECURITY GUARDS NEEDED

Rio Gentlemen’s Club - 13124 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90061 $18 to $20 an hour. Outside security needed for patdowns, ID checks and monitoring parking lot of the club. Please contact Dave Carlson at rmckinney@jjmfirm.com

First Vaccines and deworming. Excellent therapeutic family dogs. please text or call Lisa 424-227-2646.

Instagram @redpoodlesnoodles