



COLE SWINDELL

live in concert

SUNDAY, AUG 8

All ages show • Doors at 6pm, Show at 8pm

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ARTS DEVO

by JASON CASSIDY • jasonc@newsreview.com



WHAT PANDEMIC? Ever get that feeling that you've just traveled through a portal and landed in a time when the current stress and strife have been erased—and you've been reunited with the entire community of creatives, instigators, freaks and fun people that has been your collective best friend for the past 32 years, and you felt a surge to the **Energy Dome** that made you tingle with joy? Me, too!

This past Saturday (June 26), **Stonewall Alliance Center** hosted its cornerstone **Chico Pride** event: the **Pop-up Fair and Festival** in the parking lot next to its office. It hardly mattered that it was several ticks over 100 degrees on the blacktop because **Arts DEVO** was with his people. What a beautiful way to return to the world after **COVID-19** exile, at a celebration of diversity.



Weak Daze at Pride Pop-up Fair and Festival, June 26.



Siana Sonoquie, live painting in progress.

It was my first time in a crowd without a mask on my face—and the first time I've seen the faces of most of my friends and acquaintances in Chico—since the beginning of the pandemic. Plus, there was great art! **Siana Sonoquie** and **Paul Alvarez** were aerosol-painting murals on site; my old favorite local musician, **Scout**, and one of my new favorite local crews, **Weak Daze**, played great sets (check out the latter's brand-new hyper single, "My Wife's Boyfriend Bought Me a Nintendo Switch" at weakdaze.bandcamp.com); and the sammich masters at **Gnarly Deli** fueled my day with a work of art dubbed "Hammitich."

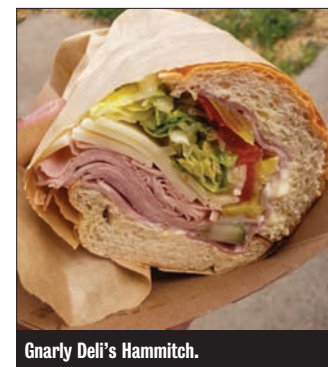
Even though I felt reasonably comfortable outdoors among a crowd that featured many folks who I personally know have received a COVID-19 shot (way moreso than I would at a grocery store in this county where only 36.2 percent of the residents are currently vaccinated), I still have mixed feelings about the all-at-once reopening of the arts and live-event scene.

It's a thrill to see fliers for that "crazy mother-f'r from around the way," **Ice Cube**, playing at **Rolling Hills Casino** (July 18), and I'm very stoked about local fun-rockers **The Empty Gate** joining excellent S.F. dream pop crew **Cindy** at **Duffy's Tavern** (July 10), but none of this comes without risks. I'll probably beg off indoor events and enormous crowds for now and sustain myself on the good Pride fair vibes for a minute.

Enjoy yourself, my friends, and stay safe out there.



Cindy, coming to Duffy's Tavern July 10.



Gnarly Deli's Hammitich.