

West Sacramento Avenue bird houses.
PHOTO BY TINA FLYNN

Best avian neighborhood

Birdhouses on West Sac

Make a left turn off of Nord Avenue onto West Sacramento, like you're heading out to the river, and it looks as if you're heading into a typical suburb in Chico. But wait, just past the intersection of Eighth Avenue you'll start to notice small, colorful objects hanging on the tall, wooden fences lining the right side of the road. Grouped in clusters, the birdhouses are fashioned in an array of styles, some traditional, some representing well-known buildings in Chico.

Started as a simple project by local residents Bruce and Jodie Dillman and their grandchildren in 2019, the number of birdhouses has expanded to almost 300, mounted primarily on the fences between Colmena Drive and Mayette Drive. The Dillmans continue to build and repair the tiny homes today, while neighbors have joined in on the fun by contributing even more new birdhouses and other objects.

No official report yet of birds actually living in the houses, but humans can experience this outdoor art display by just walking down the sidewalk.

Best alternative to the Big House

Stansbury Home 307 W. Fifth St.

It's impossible to discuss Chico's historical architecture without mentioning the big, pink-ish elephant in the middle of town—the Bidwell Mansion. But if you're bored by the Bidwells, there are other ways to appreciate Chico's unique historical landscape and delve into the lives of its less well-known denizens.

One of the most fascinating and well-preserved is the Stansbury Home. Built in 1883 for the family of Dr. Oscar Stansbury and located at Fifth and Salem streets, the Italianate Victorian-style house is packed full of artifacts and oddities of earlier times, including a beautiful wooden statue of Hermes, the doctor's Masonic regalia, and a spooky surprise lurking in the closet of the room where he practiced his trade.

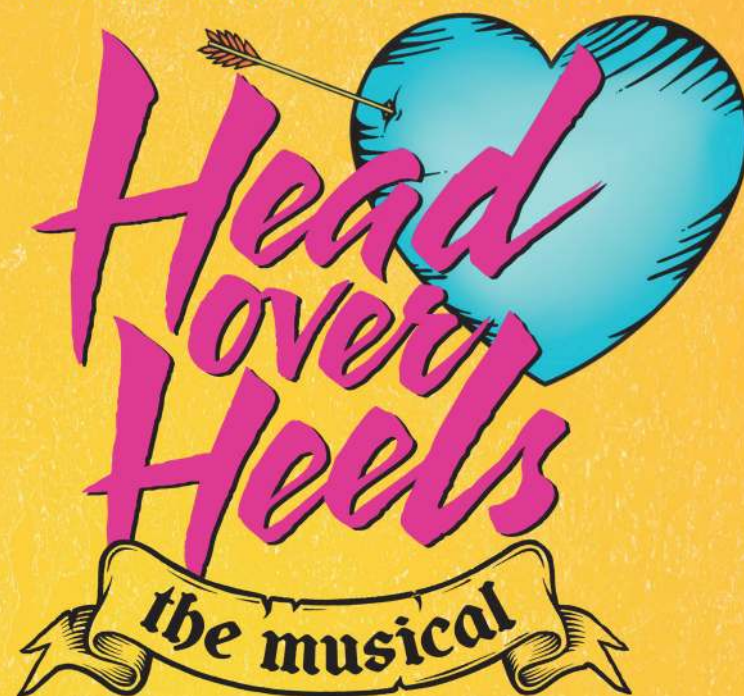
The knowledgeable docents do a great job of honoring the home's early residents and sharing details of their lives. It's open for public tours on weekends and hosts two annual events: an ice cream social in the summer and a Victorian Christmas during the holidays. For more info, go to thestansburyhome.com.



Phonograph at the
Stansbury Home.
PHOTO BY KEN SMITH

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CHICO STATE MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS



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CONCEIVED AND ORIGINAL BOOK BY JEFF WHITTY
ADAPTED BY JAMES MAGRUDER

SONGS BY THE GO-GO'S

OUR LIPS ARE SEALED → LUST TO LOVE →
WE GOT THE BEAT →
VACATION → HEAD OVER HEELS →

October 12–14 | 7:30 p.m.

October 14–15 | 2 p.m.

Harlen Adams Theatre (PAC 144)

Tickets Available at the
University Box Office

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California State University Chico
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