

In Real Estate

East Town, new home of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, offers a lively mix of summer events.



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

July 1, 2010 | Vol. 1, No. 17

Smoked out *Ban takes effect July 5*

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Milwaukee's gay bar owners are bracing for a potential downturn in business when a statewide indoor smoking ban takes effect July 5. But they're also looking at the bright side.

"I won't have to clean the bar as hard," says Kruz owner Jerry Breiling. "It will be one less thing I have to do every month – washing all those walls down. The environment will be nice."

Breiling also hopes the absence of smoke will reduce the frequency with which he has to clean the bar's air-conditioning filter – currently once every three days. And Breiling, like owners of other bars with patios, hopes he can mitigate any loss of business from smokers by offering them an outdoor space to indulge.

In addition, Breiling hopes that the ban "will help me quit."

But bar owners' concerns

about falling revenue in the wake of the smoking ban appear to be well-founded. The United Restaurant & Tavern Owners of New York Inc., for example, found that 76 percent of New York City bars and nightclubs experienced a 30-percent decrease in customers during the year after that city enacted a ban in 2003. A year after Iowa's smoking ban went into effect in 2008, the Quad City Times reported statistics suggesting that more people were choosing to drink at home rather than bars in Scott County. Liquor store sales there rose by 16.8 percent over the next year, while new liquor licenses in the county dropped sharply. It was unclear, however, whether the differences resulted from the ban or the economic downturn.

Anecdotal evidence from cities such as Chicago, however, suggests that the impact of smoking bans on gay bars is temporary. Dave Eick, a bartender at Madison's Club 5 for six years, says his employer's revenues fell "a little" immediately after that city adopted a smoking ban but then rebounded after "a period of adjustment."

Wisconsin's smoking ban has inspired nothing resembling the outcry that met similar laws in Chicago and
Smoking page 7



GRAPHIC BY
JASON SMITH

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wisconsin Gazette.com

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BREAKING NEWS: Wisconsin Supreme Court upholds marriage ban, page 6

Feds award \$1.7m grant to Diverse & Resilient

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will give \$1.7 million to Diverse and Resilient to coordinate a grassroots HIV-prevention campaign tar-

geting gay and bisexual black men in Milwaukee. The grant is believed to be the largest ever awarded by the government to an LGBT organization in Wisconsin, said D&R executive director Gary Hollander.

The CDC estimates that up to 40 percent of gay and bisexual African-American men in Milwaukee are HIV-infected. The transmission rate among young black men in the city tripled between 2001 and 2008, compared

with a 143-percent increase among young non-black males. During the same period, the HIV-transmission rate for other demographic groups leveled off or fell.

The CDC came to Milwaukee in late 2009 to

investigate the problem and concluded that the disparity was not based on behavioral differences such as condom usage but rather on social factors, including the stigma associated with homosexual-

Grant page 10

LGBT news with a twist

WiGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

“IDOL” COMING TO MILWAUKEE

Think you've got the voice to become the next American Idol? Milwaukee is among the six cities hosting auditions for the next edition of the FOX TV mega-hit and star-making vehicle. Tryouts will be held July 21 at the Bradley Center.

NO TO 'FEMALE VIAGRA'

The FDA gave a thumbs-down to flibanserin, a controversial medication that was hyped in the press as the female version of Viagra. After reviewing the clinical tests, the FDA decided that the drug was not effective in reducing the symptoms of female sexual arousal disorder, a condition believed to impact nearly 40 percent of women in the United States.

LAVENDER ON THE WALK OF FAME

Openly gay celebrities Neil Patrick Harris and Melissa Etheridge are getting stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame next year. Harris, the star of "How I Met Your Mother," is in a domestic partnership with celebrity chef David Burtka. Grammy-winning singer Melissa Etheridge, who appears at The Riverside in Milwaukee on Aug. 11, was recently in the news for her split with partner Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge.

Other Walk of Fame inductees in 2011 will include Reese Witherspoon, Penelope Cruz, Gwyneth Paltrow, Tina Fey, Danny DeVito, The Go-Go's, Rascal Flatts and Will.i.am., Oprah Winfrey, the Muppets and Buddy Holly.

**COVER BOYS**

Three male cast members of MTV's hit show "Jersey Shore" were selected as cover boys for the Village Voice's annual Queer Issue. But apparently the guys weren't told how



their picture would be used, drawing complaints about the Voice's ethics. In a tweet responding to his critics, editor Tony Ortega said, "It's only unethical if you think being a gay icon – or gayness

itself – is somehow bad."

TOFUCAKE

You've heard of beefcake and cheesecake? But what about tofucake? People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is polling Web surfers, seeking to identify the sexiest vegetarian celebrity. Topping the poll, as WiG went to press, were Ellen DeGeneres, Portia de Rossi, Alison Goldfrapp and Missy Higgins. Want to vote? Go to www.peta2.com.

HUCKABEE YUCKABEE

Former Arkansas governor and former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee entertained a New Yorker writer recently with his down-home take on America and U.S. politics. Regarding gay marriage, Huckabee, who just may make another failed bid for the White House in 2012, told the magazine, "We can

get into the ick factor, but the fact is two men in a relationship, two women in a relationship, biologically, that doesn't work the same." However, he said, if his only options for relations with the opposite gender were either with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or retired White House reporter Helen Thomas, Huckabee might support same-sex marriage.

WiG is wondering: What makes Huckabee think Pelosi or Thomas would be interested in him? Ick. And what makes him think he'd find a guy to marry? Double ick.

OILED UP

Proponents for clean energy and a diminished reliance on oil joined in the Hands Across the Sand demonstration June 26. But guys in the Castro showed their opposition to drilling and their support for the

environment in another way. In a uniquely San Fran fundraiser, gay men stripped and wrestled in oil – vegetable not petroleum – to raise money to help rescue wildlife threatened in the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

PLAY BALL, NOT

Stop the presses. There is a lesbian softball coach in Tennessee. The Bellevue Baptist Church recently informed Jana Jacobson, the coach of a women's softball team, that her team could not compete in the church league because it would send a message that the church condones her sexual orientation. Jacobson said she isn't interested in a legal fight – an attorney suggested she has a case. She also said she isn't interested in returning to the church league.

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Find Your Big Life.



Diverse & Resilient is committed to the development and celebration of healthy lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who thrive and find satisfying lives in Wisconsin. While our work is often behind the scenes, our programs stretch from Eau Claire to Milwaukee and La Crosse to Appleton.



Diverse & Resilient
2439 North Holton Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212 • 414.390.0444 • www.diverseandresilient.org

Diverse and Resilient Youth Services serves as a catalyst to help LGBT youth groups get started and continue to thrive by providing subcontracts to program partners, consultations, and leadership training and coaching. We promote health and prevent risks through programs and initiatives such as:

Youthink HIV prevention program in four regions of Wisconsin that seeks to change community norms and reduce HIV risk among LGBT youth through small group interventions, social marketing, and community outreach.

Youth Health Institute Biennial four-day leadership development workshop for LGBT youth and their adult allies with the emphasis on HIV prevention, mental health promotion, and prevention of tobacco and alcohol abuse.

Thinking Under the Influence Milwaukee-based alcohol skills training program that seeks to increase knowledge about alcohol risks and to reduce binge drinking.

Wisconsin LGBT Youth Health Coalition Biannual convening of 24 member organizations and leaders to address LGBT youth health disparities and create a biennial status report on their needs and development in Wisconsin.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey In concert with the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, analyze and report on the significant health disparities that exist for LGBT youth in Wisconsin.

Youth Development Specialist (YDS) Training and Consultations Semi-annual two-day workshop that prepares and updates 20 adults who work with LGBT youth groups across Wisconsin as member groups of the *Rainbow Alliance for Youth (RAY)* network.

Dating Violence and Healthy Relationships Statewide effort to foster healthy relationships among LGBT youth, alerting them to vulnerability to dating violence because of community social pressures and limited positive supports.

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OLD 97s

SATURDAY, JULY 15 • PABST
NEON INDIAN

FRIDAY, JULY 23 • TURNER
BUILT TO SPILL

SATURDAY, JULY 24 • PABST
CAPITOL STEPS

SATURDAY, JULY 24 • TURNER
LANGHORNE SLIM

MONDAY, JULY 26 • TURNER
HEARTLESS BASTARDS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28 • TURNER
BLITZEN TRAPPER

THURSDAY, JULY 29 • TURNER
GREG LASWELL & GARY BROTHERS

FRIDAY, JULY 30 • PABST
USTAD AMJAD ALI KHAN - DE ALMAAS

FRIDAY, JULY 30 • RIVERSIDE
NEIL YOUNG
SOLO ACOUSTIC & ELECTRIC

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4 • RIVERSIDE
THE NATIONAL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4 • TURNER
mewithoutYou

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7 • TURNER
JOHNNY WINTER

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12 • PABST
HANSON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 • RIVERSIDE
THE BLACK CROWES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 • PABST
THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE WITH YO-YO MA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 • PABST
GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 • PABST LOWER LEVEL
LARRY CARLTON TRIO

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28 • TURNER
TRAMPLED BY TURTLES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 • PABST
SLASH

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 • TURNER
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WEDNESDAY JULY 21 • 8PM

The Pabst

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RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
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MARTHA WAINWRIGHT

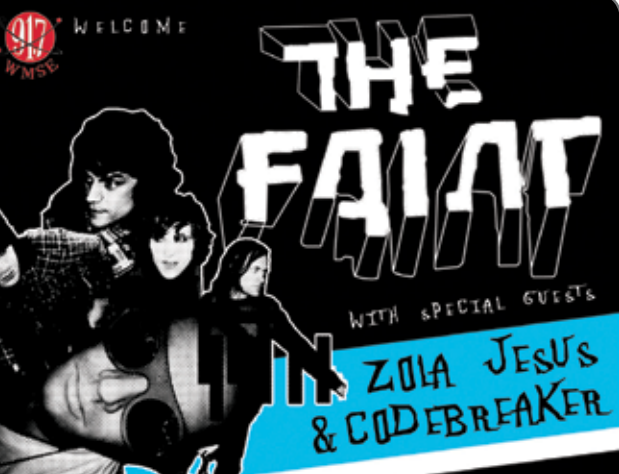


TUESDAY AUGUST 10 • 8PM

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MELISSA ETHERIDGE
LIVE IN CONCERT



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11 • 8PM

THE RIVERSIDE

Wis. court: Gay parents do not have equal rights

By Ryan J. Foley

AP writer

A woman who raised two adopted children for years in a same-sex relationship is not considered their parent under Wisconsin law, an appeals court ruled in late June.

The court ruled against a woman who was seeking legal guardianship of two children for whom she had been a stay-at-home mother. The District 4 Court of Appeals ruled that only the woman's former partner is their parent, since the adoptions were done under the partner's name.

The woman, identified in court records only as Wendy because of the confidentiality surrounding guardianship proceedings, had been in a domestic relationship for 7 years before the couple

decided to adopt a child from Guatemala in 2002. They adopted a second child from there in 2004.

In an interview, Wendy said she would consider asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to overturn the decision.

"For someone like me that was in a relationship for 12 years and a stay-at-home mom for 7, I shouldn't have to fight to parent my kids who I've been parenting 24-7," she said. "For me to read in the court documents that I'm not a parent is disturbing and troubling."

Same-sex couples do not have adoption rights in Wisconsin, meaning that only one of them can be considered the legal parent. In this case, Wendy's partner, identified in court records as Liz, was named the legal par-

ent so the children could be added to her health care plan.

Wendy agreed to stop working and stay at home to look after the kids while Liz, an attorney, was the family's breadwinner. The couple split up in 2008, and agreed to equally share custody of the children.

However, Wendy wanted legal recognition of her rights to the children, and she petitioned a court to be named a legal guardian. Wendy said she worries that she could not visit her children in the hospital without Liz's permission in the event of an accident, or wouldn't automatically get custody in the event of Liz's death.

Without legal recognition, she said she could also have problems with daily issues such as taking the children to the doctor or out of school

for a vacation.

Liz initially agreed to the guardianship, but then objected to the petition. When a Dane County judge sided with Liz, Wendy appealed.

The appeals court ruled that "parent" is defined under Wisconsin law as someone who is either a biological or an adoptive parent, and Wendy is neither.

The court also rejected her argument that she should be granted guardianship because the children would be harmed by "depriving them of one of the two persons who has raised them from infancy."

The court ruled she still shares custody under the informal arrangement, and only factors such as abandonment or neglect would justify guardianship to be granted to a "third party," which she

hasn't proven.

Carol Gapen, an attorney with the Madison-based Law Center for Children and Families, which represented Liz, said the decision simply affirmed existing law. She said the center believes same-sex couples should have equal rights, but that this was not the right case to press that issue.

She said guardianship gives the ability to make key decisions for children, but does not grant the full range of rights given to parents.

"We argued what the law is today and they agreed, which is kind of sad," she said. "We do support rights for everybody. But this was not the case to argue those rights."

Tamara Packard, a Madison lawyer who serves on the board of Fair Wisconsin, said

the practical impact of the decision is relatively narrow. It should not affect cases in which gay couples have consented to guardianship agreements for their children but only those in which one of the partners objects, she said.

"It gives the biological or adoptive parent an incredible amount of power and control over the non-biological, non-adoptive parent that can be used in ways that aren't healthy," she said. "It does underscore the significant handicap that same-sex couples have in forming and safeguarding their families."

Join the WiG Facebook community.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Hard Hat Party June 27 drew 108 guests and raised \$15,700 toward the renovation of the center's new home in the Blatz Boiler House, 252 E. Highland Ave.

The party featured a tour of the new space as well as a raffle (right).

"For our community, moving into a space that is so centrally located, in a historic building, is such a huge step forward from where we started 12 years ago in a windowless warehouse at Second and Seebooth," said center director of philanthropy Patrick Price.

-L.T.

PHOTO: KATE BRENNER



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Touting record, Barrett asks for LGBT support

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tom Barrett drew a sharp contrast between his record and that of his Republican foes during a June 24 fundraiser at the home of gay community leader Joe Pabst.

The Milwaukee mayor told supporters they face a "clear choice" when they cast ballots in November.

"I will fight as governor to protect the rights we have now ... (and) to expand LGBT rights within this state," Barrett told the crowd, speaking poolside next to his wife Kris. Barrett warned that the politics of divisiveness espoused by his opponents Scott Walker and Mark Neumann would harm the state.

"In difficult economic times, it's so easy to play to people's fears," he said. "We're going to get through these times by working together, not tearing each other apart. ... There are values that unite us, and I see it in every part of the state. ... We have far more in common than separates us."

Barrett was introduced by Doug Nelson, executive director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

"There's no guessing where Tom Barrett stands on our issues," Nelson said. "For over 25 years of public life, Tom Barrett has been on our side. Now it's time for us to be on his side."

Barrett reminded listeners he was one of only a handful of congressional Democrats

to break rank and vote against the "don't ask, don't tell" military policy in 1993. He also touted his opposition to Wisconsin's same-sex marriage ban.

"Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights," Barrett said.

Characteristically relaxed and upbeat, Barrett joked about the backdrop for the event – Pabst's elegant East Side home, which was recently featured in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

"This is where I wanted to present my housing policy," Barrett said. "I think we can all agree it's a nice starter home."

But he ended his pitch on a serious note. "This is going to be a bruising campaign. I'm going to need your help," he said.



PHOTO: LEONARD SOB CZAK

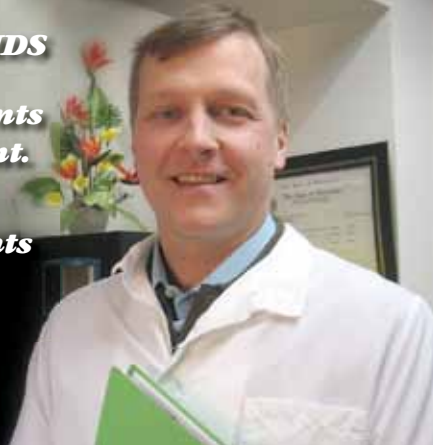
During a June 24 fundraiser at the home of Joe Pabst, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett vowed to be a champion for LGBT rights if elected governor in November.

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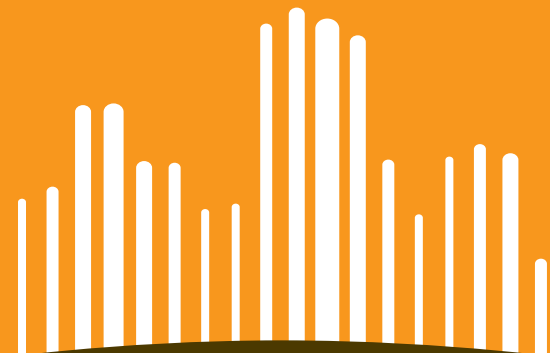
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Wisconsin Supreme Court upholds same-sex marriage ban

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

In a long-awaited decision, the Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the 2006 voter referendum amending the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions.

The unanimous 7-0 decision did not directly address the marriage issue but rather a legal technicality involving the referendum process.

Bill McConkey, a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh political science instructor, filed suit in 2007 arguing that the marriage referendum violated state law requiring that such proposals can only address a

single subject. He argued that because voters were asked whether the state should ban both same-sex marriage and "identical or substantially similar arrangements," they were denied the opportunity to vote "no" on one part and "yes" on the other.

Polls in Wisconsin and elsewhere have shown that many voters who reject the concept of same-sex marriage nonetheless support civil unions, and McConkey maintained that the two issues should have been presented separately.

Representing the state, Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen countered

that the referendum was legal because the two parts of the amendment were closely related and served the same purpose of preserving "the unique status of marriage."

The state also argued that McConkey didn't have legal standing to sue because he would have voted "no" on both questions, even if the referendum had been written in two parts. The state contended McConkey therefore wasn't harmed by the way the referendum was written.

The Dane County Circuit Court agreed with the state and McConkey appealed that decision, leading to the June 30 Supreme Court ruling.

"Fair Wisconsin is disappointed in but respects the court's decision," said Katie Belanger, executive director of the statewide LGBT advocacy group. "We will continue working to protect Wisconsin's 15,000 same-sex couples and build toward a legislative repeal of this discriminatory amendment to our state's constitution."

Belanger said that in ignoring the larger question of whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry or enter into civil unions, the court's decision does not affect the domestic partnership registry enacted by lawmakers last summer. The

registry provides same-sex couples with about 40 of the 150 rights enjoyed by married couples.

In July 2009, Wisconsin Family Action and other right-wing groups asked the Supreme Court to block the domestic partner registry law because they said it violates the same-sex marriage amendment. But last November the court declined to hear the group's petition without comment.

Belanger said the Supreme Court justices went "out of their way not to make any swipes about the policy matter at hand" in issuing their decision on the amendment.

"This is literally about interpreting the single-subject rule, not about interpreting whether the constitutional amendment was the right step for the state," she said.

Legal precedents concerning the single-issue rule are scarce and conflicting, Belanger added.

"Domestic partnerships are just one step on the long road to equality," Belanger said. "Fair Wisconsin will continue working toward the day when all Wisconsin's citizens will know true equality."

Wisconsin voters adopted the 2006 marriage amendment by a 59 percent majority.

Marriage equality is key to economic recovery

Opinion
HENRY SANDERS JR.



COURTESY PHOTO

Henry Sanders Jr.

In a tough economy, cities, regions and entire states must do everything they can to compete. That means providing the best infrastructure, talent pool and economic incentives necessary to attract and retain jobs.

Among the most important factors businesses consider as they seek out sites to locate or expand operations is workforce. That's why marriage equality is a key plank in "Progressive Recovery," my 18-point job creation platform.

Marriage equality would lead to a significant immediate windfall in the tourism and hospitality industries, sectors that have especially

suffered during the recent recession. A study by UCLA's Williams Institute projects that recently-enacted marriage equality policies in the District of Columbia would grow the city's economy by over \$52.2 million over the first three years. The local tax base is expected to jump by \$5.4 million as a direct result of marriage equality. More than 700 new jobs will be created almost immediately through increased marriage licensing needs, tourism and other work related to the wedding industry. This immediate positive impact results from a population only one-10th of that of the state of Wisconsin.

Perhaps more important, however, are the long-term implications in terms of human capital. Studies show that the next generation of workers increasingly choose a place to live first, and then find a job there. These same workers are more attracted to places they see as inclusive, places that accept and embrace people of all races, backgrounds and family types. As the economy continues to evolve, and the aging Baby Boom generation retires, attracting and retaining these workers will become increasingly important for the health of Wisconsin's economy.

Since 2006, discriminatory language directed against

marriage equality written into our state's constitution has directly hampered Wisconsin's ability to attract and retain the human capital necessary for economic development. In the public sector alone, tens of millions of dollars in research grants and federal funds have been lost due to the departures of university faculty. For example, three recently departed faculty members interviewed by a UW-Madison newspaper cited inequality concerns as a major factor in their decision. The departures resulted in a loss of nearly \$10 million in grants and dozens of staff positions.

This trend will only wors-

en over time, with a ripple effect that will be felt across the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Conversely, a significant number of highly skilled workers would be attracted to Wisconsin in order to take advantage of benefits such as inheritance and medical protections. In addition to Washington, D.C., Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, have all capitalized on these economic benefits by guaranteeing full equality for all couples.

The private sector already knows this. Half of the Fortune 500 offer full ben-

efits to same-gender couples, as do more than 7,500 major corporations nationwide. They do this because they need to remain competitive. It is far past time for the state government to catch up.

For our state to compete economically in a national and global marketplace, we must take the necessary steps toward guaranteeing full equality for all couples in Wisconsin. The next administration and legislature must work to repeal the discriminatory language in our state constitution and pave the way to equality for all Wisconsin families.

Henry Sanders Jr. is a Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor.



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'People seem to be in denial'

Smoking from I

New York. Breiling says that's because the bans have become so common throughout the country that people are accepting it with a feeling of inevitability. "Anyone who travels knows you can't smoke in half the places," he says.

ON THE WEB
www.rm2breathe.org

"People so far seem to be acting in denial, like they don't really seem to grasp that this is going to take effect very soon," says Harbor Room owner Gregg Fitzpatrick. "The non-smokers seem to be much more aware of it than the smokers."

Joe Brehm, owner of This Is It, says his only objection to the ban is that it contains loopholes for casinos, which he says presents a competitive advantage for those establishments.

"It's a disgraceful thing," Brehm says. "All of the citizens of the state of Wisconsin

that are in the tavern business and work hard to make a living at it don't get the same break as the casinos, and that's just not right."

Partly in anticipation of the ban, Nate Fried and Bill Lison decided to prohibit smoking from the outset when they opened Hybrid Lounge March 9. "I was a little leery about it deterring people, but that fear went away within the first week of opening the doors," Lison says. "We get a lot of praise from people thanking us, even from smokers."

"It's amazing how many of our customers mention that they can leave the bar and go home and not smell like smoke," Fried says. "That's been a big part of our initial success, I feel."

But Lison says he believes the decision to go smoke-free should have been left up to individual business owners.

Supporters of the ban say it will help reduce the hazards of second-hand smoke inhalation and encourage more people to quit. According to the 2010 Burden of Tobacco Report, Milwaukee loses 730

'We get a lot of praise from people thanking us, even from smokers.'

people annually to smoking-related deaths, which amounts to 15 percent of the city's overall fatalities. The impact is even greater in the LGBT community, which has a smoking rate that's nearly double that of the general population, according to the Milwaukee-based group Diverse and Resilient (D&R).

Two years ago, D&R launched rm2breathe, a comprehensive statewide program designed to reduce smoking in the LGBT community. Through statewide partner organizations, rm2breathe promotes awareness of the problem of smoking in the LGBT community and offers information and support services to those who want to quit.

"We have three health promoters in Madison who go to bars and clubs and talk to people about the program and tell them about the 'quit groups,'" says Steve Starkey, executive director of Outreach LGBT Community Center in Madison, which is a partner in the program.

The quit groups meet weekly for seven weeks and participants undergo an intensive process of learning about the dangers of smoking and techniques for quitting. Then participants all quit together and provide each other with ongoing encouragement through a buddy system.

Starkey says Milwaukee's gay bar owners should ignore the dire predictions about the impact of the smoking ban on their bottom line. He says the impact on Madison's bars doesn't appear to have been nearly as drastic as feared.

"But it's had a big effect on the air quality in public places," Starkey says. "Now you can go to a bar and feel like you don't have to burn your clothes when you go home."

The law

As of July 5, smoking cigars, cigarettes, pipes or other lighted smoking equipment except for E-cigarettes is banned in the following places:

Places of employment, including any indoor place that employees enter carrying out their work duties, such as offices, work areas, employee lounges, rest rooms, conference rooms, meeting rooms, classrooms, elevators, stairways, lobbies, common areas, vehicles, cafeterias, meeting rooms or hallways.

Public places, which are any places that are open to the public or where the public may be invited

Enclosed places, meaning any structure or area that has a roof and more than two substantial walls (i.e., a wall with no opening or with an opening that either does not allow air in from the outside or is less than 25 percent of the wall's surface area.

Up in smoke

In its June 29 report "Smoking Out a Deadly Threat: Tobacco Use in the LGBT Community," the American Lung Association says that the stress of discrimination, targeted marketing by the tobacco industry and lack of access to culturally appropriate smoking cessation programs all contribute to a higher rate of smoking in the LGBT people. Researchers found that:

Gay, bisexual and transgender men are 2.0 to 2.5 times more likely to smoke than heterosexual men.

Lesbian, bisexual and transgender women are 1.5 to 2.0 times more likely to smoke than heterosexual women.

Bisexual boys and girls have some of the highest smoking rates when compared with their peers.

Second-hand smoke at PrideFest

Sadness, dangers and some basic ground rules

The events of PrideFest are major for our community. Seeing members of our LGBT family happy, seeing Rainbow Families WI marching down the street or witnessing those wonderful moms and dads of PFLAG – Pride brings out the best of our LGBT community for all to see. I wish my family could have enjoyed it more.

Sadly, it brings out the worst of some people. The worst of our community is the number of people, including teenagers, who smoke and drink. It is the smoking that matters most to me, because it doesn't just impact the individual. Second-hand smoke forces itself onto others.

At PrideFest I could barely breathe – even in the "Health and Wellness" area. And I was too worried about protecting my 18-month-old baby



girl from the second-hand smoke to take in much of the joy, excitement and beauty of Pride.

It was the same at the Pride parade. It was hard to see the happy floats of LGBT folks through the clouds of other people's habits. Why should my baby girl and I, who just want to breathe to the best of our ability, have to adjust our behavior to make room for those who don't consider the impact of their choices on the people around them?

In the perfect world that Pride often evokes – a world of equality, unity, community and justice – smokers would be more courteous. Or

maybe no one would smoke at all. The impact of smoking on an individual's health is well-known. High numbers of LGBT people smoke, and thus the impact on our community's health is no secret. The dangers of second-hand smoke, especially to children, are also common knowledge. How can a person come up to me, say "What a cute baby," and then light up right next to us?

Many of the PrideFest workers, in their official blue shirts, were also smoking. These people are role models for many of our young people. What does it say when our role models smoke and when they smoke in front of our children?

It makes me angry and it makes me sad. There were tables of people smoking in the kids-and-family area. I asked a PrideFest worker

to say something to them, but she told me she did not know what to say.

Perhaps some training is in order. Training members of our community to speak up and speak out against smoking and second-hand smoke. Training members of our community who are working at events to communicate basic ground rules. Or even setting up basic ground rules. Signs that designate some areas non-smoking would be a start. Though this would not really help navigate the entire festival, it would be nice to know that the kids' area is away from the dangers of other people's bad habits.

I propose three basic ground rules for smokers:

1). Never light up when children are present. If you are smoking and children come into the area, put the cigarette out or leave the area.

2). Always ask others



COURTESY PHOTO

Jennifer Cadenas with Alejandra

around you if it is OK for you to smoke near them. Your choice is not yours alone. The air that you pollute is shared by all of us.

3). If you are on a well-traveled public pathway, one that most other people have to take to get from point A to point B, don't smoke. Common areas should not be taken over by one person's second-hand smoke.

I cannot change the world,

but I wish I could. I wish our community cared more about health. But until that day, I wish for the chance to enjoy PrideFest with my family free from the dangers of second-hand smoke. The rights of others to breathe unpolluted air come before the rights of those who smoke. Second-hand smoke makes one person's behavior into everyone else's problem. This issue isn't hard to grasp.

{ Editorial }

PrideFest's blank page

Bolstered by great headline acts and decent weather, Milwaukee's PrideFest achieved another year of record-breaking attendance. Except for an uncomfortably long delay in bringing opening night headliner Kathy Griffin onstage, the event ran smoothly – no small feat given that it's organized and staffed entirely by volunteers.

PrideFest also deserves praise for including so many LGBT performers in its line-up. Pride festivals provide these entertainers an essential way of connecting with old fans and gaining new ones, yet too many such events, including Chicago's, overlook them.

Unfortunately PrideFest also showed how tragically far these events have come from their activist roots. Glaringly missing from the three days of festivities was a political presence. This is a pivotal election year, and PrideFest organizers missed an enormous opportunity to help inform and mobilize a constituency that has a great deal riding on what happens in the state's voting booths in November.

The few political organizations that did show up at PrideFest were nearly hidden behind the vendors' market. Rainbow coffee mugs and wrist bands are dandy, but they're empty gestures when the movement they symbolize is missing.

Go to pridefest.com, click on the "entertainment and activities" bar, then scroll down the list of venues and click on "history exhibit." You'll find a blank page. This stunning omission is a slap in the face to the courage and sacrifice that make events like PrideFest possible.

If PrideFest wants to make its event relevant to the LGBT civil rights movement, its organizers have created an effective model with the Health and Wellness Area. This forum brings prospective clients, volunteers and contributors into direct contact with LGBT-focused service organizations, including the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Diverse and Resilient, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and BestD Clinic.

These organizations attract thousands of visitors by presenting their programs in lively, creative ways. They pass out vital health information and offer referrals to community resources. More than 600 people received HIV tests this year in the Health and Wellness Area.

Politically focused groups deserve the same opportunity to utilize PrideFest's visibility. LGBT history is not a blank page and it is still being written. PrideFest has a role to play in the saga and an obligation to fulfill that role.



"I'm sorry sir - you're properly dressed".

{ Letters }

RACE DOES MATTER IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

I applaud the Wisconsin Gazette for the June 3 piece on race and the LGBT movement as it gives me an opportunity to discuss diversity and inclusion at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

The center is one of the most diverse and inclusive LGBT organizations in the city. Our board of directors is diverse (38 percent people of color) and the center's staff is equally diverse (38 percent people of color), representing African-American, Latino and Native American people. The board and staff are also very diverse in orientation and gender identity.

Across our programs, participants are overwhelmingly people of color with varied orientations, gender identities, ages and many of these people are of moderate-low income status. In fact, the majority of the funding received by the community center directly benefits LGBT people of color. The result is our programs are very responsive and relevant to the estimated 8,000 people we serve.

Across all our programs we have established partnerships with organizations at the local, state and national level, many of which represent people of color. We value our partnerships with these organizations because what we learn from our partners and our programs are made all the better through these affiliations. We are honored to name a few of these partnerships: Association for the Rights of Citizens with Handicaps, Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, FORGE, GenderPAC, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc., Hmong American Women's Association, Inc., La Casa De Esperanza, Inc., Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, UMOs Latina Resource Center and Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC.

On a professional note, in my role as a national board member of CenterLink (a national association of LGBT community centers), I had the opportunity to participate in the Pipeline Project for executive directors of LGBT community centers. This year-long diversity pro-

gram was aimed at bringing more LGBT people of color into leadership roles.

As a commissioner for the last three years on the Milwaukee Commission on Police Community Relations, I serve with representatives from every cultural and minority group in the city, and I learned a great deal about the concerns of these groups. As a commissioner, I support the efforts of these allied groups to gain equality.

As a member of the diversity committee for Visit Milwaukee, I support efforts to bring diverse conventions and meetings to the city, including the 2011 LGBT Community Center Executive Directors Summit.

Supporting equality in our city is about doing what one can do to improve life circumstances for everyone. It is actions that create change, and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center continues to provide meaningful leadership.

Maggi Cage
Executive director
Milwaukee LGBT
Community Center

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The Wisconsin Gazette is published biweekly and distributed throughout the Milwaukee area, Madison, Racine and Kenosha. To have WiG delivered to your address, contact circulation@wisconsin-gazette.com or call 414-961-3240.

WiG Publishing, LLC. © 2010

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WiG wants your letters!

Please send to managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

PrideFest fashion disasters

Being born and raised in – and rarely removed from – Milwaukee has turned me into a very specific type of person, one who's completely over Milwaukee PrideFest. I go to school with people from all over the country, as well as a few from outside the country, and a common opinion I've heard from them is that Milwaukee is a "drinking town." I agree with this judgment, though I never really had a huge issue with it because I like drinking (a lot) and could never completely understand why some people choose not to drink. At PrideFest this year, however, I witnessed a number of gay spectacles, many of which might never have occurred if the spectacles hadn't been drinking.

Spectacle #1: Gold stretch pants. I've worn some ridiculous looking things in my days as a younger gay man but gold stretch pants were not one of them. My question is, did he get dressed at home and kiss his mom goodbye with them on or did he secretly put them on in the car outside the festival? I ask this because if I were a parent of a 16-year-old boy, gay or straight, and he left my home dressed like a hooker, I'd stop him just like you'd stop a 3-year-old from leaving the house with his shoes on the wrong feet.

Where are the parents these days? It's one thing to be supportive of your son's gayness and quite another to be a supporter of fashion disasters.

Spectacle #2: Lil' Kim. I was taken aback at the sight of a rap-superstar walking through the Summerfest grounds until I realized that it wasn't really her, but a breast-like imitation wearing a version of Lil' Kim's infamous 1999 VMA outfit in which her left breast was exposed but the nipple was covered by a purple metallic areola-shield.



This version of the outfit was even more scandalous than Lil' Kim's. Both breasts were exposed and her nipples were covered only by a thin layer of glitter paint. Honestly, it looked really cool and was very well done, but again I have to urge parents to educate their children on the costume trends of strippers and prostitutes and be sure to let them know that costumes aren't meant to be worn as regular everyday clothing.

Spectacle #3: Chewbacca boots. OK, so with this one I have to apologize to my close friend Alexis, because I know she has some and I know she loves them, but this is my opinion column and I think they're a little weird. I will take into consideration, however, that they were a legitimate fashion trend for a while. All I'll say is that they aren't the cutest choice of foot wear, and neither are Ugg Boots, Crocs or flip-flops. Those are lazy choices. Put some thought into your outfits, guys and girls.

One thing we should always remind ourselves of as we get dressed is that clothing is meant to be an outward reflection of your inner self. So I guess if you're a hooker on the inside (or if you were drunk when getting dressed) then some of the things I mentioned might be appropriate for you. But if you aren't then I strongly advise you to step outside yourself and ask, "What am I saying with this outfit?"

Got something to add?
E-mail WiG at
managingeditor@
wisconsinazette.com or join
our Facebook community.

The test that can save your life

I've noticed a number of commercial and public health ads for free HIV-testing in WiG. Yet I wonder if there is any gay man (and it is mostly men who are at risk of infection) who has not at this point been tested.

I suppose so. There are always new young gay men who are just becoming sexually active, and there are obvious holdouts among older men who do not think they are at risk. I'm sure there is a sizable population of gay men who have not been tested.

There are a number of excuses for not getting tested. One friend told me he was always a top so he was sure he was not infected. He turned up positive. God only knows how many other gay men he had unknowingly infected.

Another friend said he almost always used a condom. Almost! He too turned out to be infected. Both

promptly went on antiviral drug therapy and are doing fine.

I myself am hardly a poster boy for early testing. I was tested only two years ago after years of sexual activity, and I did so only after a good friend of mine got tested and found he was infected.

In telling me my results, the young woman counselor kept asking, "How are you feeling?" or "Are you feeling alright?" I kept replying, "Well, this is not welcome news, but it is not a shock," which was the truth. Apparently she was accustomed to gay men who had strong reactions to the news of their infected status. But for me there was a certain satisfaction in knowing for sure: It was like the other shoe dropping.

Shortly thereafter I went to the local gay health clinic and got tested for viral load, and T-cell levels. It turned out my viral load was high and

my T-cells (the particles that fight infection) were dangerously low. Yet I felt fine and I'd had no symptoms. I started on HIV therapy soon thereafter.

There are a couple of good reasons to be tested. If you're negative, there is an incentive to stay that way. A second is the incentive, if you have a conscience, to avoid infecting others by using condoms or having sex only with other infected men.

A third is the incentive to go on antiviral therapy and spare yourself the possibility of a crippling or disfiguring opportunistic infection. I recall that the moment I went on antiviral therapy, my viral load sank to an almost undetectable level and my T-cell level began to rise, almost like magic. As recently as 15 years ago, people died from this disease.

Taking one to three pills a day at a meal is not an enor-



mous burden. Two decades or so ago the antiviral regimen involved several pills taken with certain kinds of foods at various times a day. It was so complicated that many men missed doses or were tempted to give up the whole thing entirely.

Be grateful for medical progress. I do not expect a cure for HIV/AIDS in my lifetime, or perhaps yours, but eventually there may be a once a week or once a month drug therapy by pill or shot.

Over the past 30 years we have seen remarkable progress on this disease. It would be foolhardy in the extreme not to take advantage of the progress that has been achieved.

Rachel, you made me love you

Dear Rachel Maddow,
I am writing you today
and I hope that you will read it
so you know.
My heart beats like a hammer
and I stutter and I stammer
each time I see you on your
TV show.
I guess I'm just another fan
of yours
and so I thought I'd write and
tell you so...

You made me love you,
it wasn't hard to do it,
your brilliance drove me to it.
You made me love you,
when news is so depressing,
you make it less distressing...

At first, Rachel, as with all love affairs (even virtual, unreciprocated ones), I was bewitched, bothered and bewildered. That voice. That brain. Those looks. I soon became besotted, transfixed – and ornery.

"Why are you calling me now?" I'd demand before hanging up on friends. "Rachel Maddow is on, for god's sake!"

People just don't understand.

In a world gone mad, Rachel, in a media circus



dominated by moronic shouters, you are my dream come true: a paragon of intelligence and civility. You are simply the best interviewer, researcher and anchor on TV today. You are credited with raising MSNBC's ratings, and when you appear on the snoozefests known as Sunday morning public affairs programs, record numbers of people tune in.

Among a sea of hacks, you're a professional journalist who's become a media star. Respected, influential. And such good manners! Does anyone besides you model good manners anymore?! Even some of the wingnuts you interview, who are frequently undone by your tough questions, express admiration for your fairness and decency.

What a tribune you have been during the oil disaster! You've trumped other media outlets with exposés of BP's underhandedness

and tramped through the Louisiana marshes to hold extended colloquies with scientists to explain environmental issues. Muckraking and teaching – what a unique use of commercial airwaves!

No one but you, Rachel, has consistently reported in depth on the racism and corporate interests fueling "populist" resentment among Americans. Nor have they made clear the insidious, degrading effect it is having on our social and political culture. There's such an impressive moral core that runs through your reporting.

And your faux Oval Office speech, presented as a powerful alternative to President Obama's limp response to BP, was priceless. Pulitzer committee, take note.

But Rachel, I don't just love you for your brain. You are beautiful. Those skanky, stringy-haired girls of "The L-Word" (except for Pam Grier, of course) don't have anything on you, honey. You are what old lesbians like me call "dykely," one of the highest of all compliments.

Dykeliness involves handsome features, no-nonsense

hair and clothes, direct eye contact, and an assertive voice – all grounded in innate confidence. Your expressive face and hands, your plunging neckline and that occasionally furrowed brow (when reporting on some outrage or stupidity) are killers.

And your laughter! Given all the dreadful things you report on, you always find some story or angle that elicits a belly laugh or a giggle. What a tonic you are! You are never more precious than when your eyes crinkle and tear up in a moment of laughter.

*I don't care what happens,
let the whole world stop.
As far as I'm concerned
you'll always be the top,
'cause you know you made me
love you.*

Devotedly,
Jamakaya

(Props to Roger Edens and Joseph McCarthy for adapting "Dear Mr. Gable" and "You Made Me Love You")

'You have to ask and you have to tell'

Grant from I

ity in the African-American community. That can lead to what Brenda Coley, D&R director of adult services, called a "don't ask" policy when it comes to discussing HIV status with sexual partners.

"You have to ask and you

have to tell," Coley said. "Silence really is death."

D&R will use the federal funding to launch a five-year project utilizing tried-and-proven methods of HIV reduction that are endorsed by the CDC. The project will feature a youth program tailored to men ages 14 to 24 as well as a separate program targeting men over 25. Both programs will promote

HIV testing and both should launch by the end of 2010.

Coley said a core goal of the programs is to build a sense of gay and bisexual identity and community among black Milwaukeeans, to "change social norms to being proud that you're gay and bisexual and black, and the way you show that is by being healthy, taking care of yourself and being suc-

cessful."

As part of the effort, D&R will expand its partnership with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and other agencies to recruit program participants. A number of other groups throughout the state will also partner in the project, including the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, the AIDS Resource Center of

Wisconsin and the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center.

"For other LGBT groups that partner on this project, it should raise the bar for them to improve their systems," said D&R executive director Gary Hollander. "They're going to have training in organizational development through this program that will put them in a better

position for their future."

In June, the City of Milwaukee announced that it would provide a grant to D&R to mobilize grassroots organizations in the African-American community to discourage high-risk sexual behavior and encourage the disclosure of HIV status between sexual partners.

The amount of that grant was not disclosed.

Wis. Warriors aim for 2nd title

By Lucky Tomaszek

Staff writer

The Wisconsin Warriors, southeastern Wisconsin's full-contact women's football team, is California-bound for its second play-off game on July 10.

Team owner Jodi von Spreckelsen said the team ended its season with a 5-3

record, making it first in the Independent Women's Football League's Tier 2 Midwest division.

The Warriors, who play on Ameche Field at Tremper High School in Kenosha, is a relatively new team. This is only its third season. Despite its youth, however, the team was the 2009 North

American Champions – a title team members hope to hold on to this year.

To help the team get to California and meet that goal, players have been fundraising. In addition to a raffle and several bar events, the team's Web site at www.wiwarriors.com has a "Sponsor a Player" page that accepts

donations through PayPal. Von Spreckelsen said the cost to send the entire team to the playoff game is "hefty," and some players are paying their own way. Once they've returned, the fundraising will continue with a spaghetti dinner, where if all has gone their way, Warriors' fans can celebrate victory with team members.

For those who want to follow the team's progress, the Warriors has a Facebook page as well as e-mail updates available through the



PHOTO: COURTESY WIS. WARRIORS

Web site.

The games are not televised, but the final North American championship game on July 24 will be broadcast via the Internet.

See www.iwflsports.com for broadcast details and more information about the IWFL.

Join the WiG Facebook community.

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Diverse & Resilient

Diverse and Resilient, Inc. seeks to hire three skilled, enthusiastic, engaged team members to advance health and prevent HIV disease in the Greater Milwaukee Area. The people who fill these full-time positions will work effectively with internal and external partners in the public and non-profit sectors to address HIV prevention and other related health disparities. They must be eager and competent to work in a fast-paced, multi-cultural organization focused on the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The work is exciting, engaging, varied, and challenging.

HIV Prevention Manager: Leads risk prevention and health promotion activities for adult African American gay and bisexual men and other MSM. This person is responsible for project development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The person should have significant experience with presenting to adult learners; Master's degree preferred, but bachelor's degree with three years of related experience may be substituted.

Data Manager: Responsible for all aspects of data use from collection through reporting. Produces status reports, recommends new methods of documentation, creates and revises procedural manuals as needed. This person is the primary liaison to mandated data reporting processes for state and federal contracts. Master's degree preferred, but bachelor's degree with three years of related experience may be substituted.

Program Assistant: Aids directors and managers in projects by taking an active participatory role. This person is responsible for major portions of project implementation, coordinating complex meetings and their related agenda items. The person will maintain organizational files and records and respond to a variety of questions that require substantial knowledge of HIV prevention. Bachelor's degree preferred, but high school diploma with four years of related experience may be substituted.

How to Apply: Send resume and letter of intent to Rachel Federlin, Diverse and Resilient, 2439 N. Holton Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212 (rfederlin@diverseandresilient.org). Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the best candidates are selected for interviews. All positions offer a competitive salary and benefit package.

Diverse and Resilient, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people by helping groups and communities take action. • Diverse and Resilient is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from women, people of color, people with disabilities, and LGBT people.

NATIONAL GAZE

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Lawyers make final arguments in marriage case

From AP and WIG Reports

Lawyers arguing a landmark federal case involving California's same-sex marriage ban made their final arguments in mid-June, with supporters describing matrimony as an institution intended to promote child-bearing and opponents saying the U.S. Supreme Court had recognized it as a fundamental right.

Former U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson delivered the closing argument for the two same-sex couples who sued to overturn voter-approved Proposition 8, claiming it violated their civil rights under the U.S. Constitution.

He told Chief U.S. Judge Vaughn Walker that tradition or fears of harm to heterosexual unions were legally insufficient grounds to discriminate against gay couples.

"We have always done it that way" is a corollary to "Because I say so." It's not a reason," Olson said at the start of the five-hour hear-

'Your honor, there is a political tide running.'

ing. "You can't have constitutional discrimination in public schools because you have always done it that way."

Former U.S. Justice Department lawyer Charles Cooper, who represents the religious and conservative groups that sponsored the 2008 ballot measure, countered that cultures around the world, previous courts and Congress all accepted the "common sense belief that children do best when they are raised by their own mother and father."

"The plaintiffs say there is no way to understand why anyone would support Proposition 8, would support the traditional definition



PHOTO: DIANA WALKER

The team fighting Proposition 8 in the federal trial in California includes Ted Olson (left) and David Boies.

of marriage, except through some irrational or dark motivation," Cooper said. "That is not just a slur on the 7 million Californians who supported Proposition 8. It's a slur on 70 of 108 judges who have upheld as rational the decision of voters and legislatures to preserve the traditional definition of marriage."

Walker is being asked to strike down the measure that banned same-sex marriages in California five months after the state's highest court legalized the practice and after an estimated 18,000 couples from around the nation had tied the knot.

The judge heard 12 days of testimony in January, but closing arguments were delayed until June to give Walker time to review the evidence and because of a skirmish between lawyers about putting additional material from the 2008 campaign into the trial record.

Walker did not indicate when he might make his ruling in the trial, the first in federal court to examine if states can prohibit gays from getting married.

Whatever Walker does will be almost surely be reviewed by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and then would likely go before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Olson invoked the High Court often during his closing argument, stressing that it has afforded prisoners serving life sentences and child support scofflaws the right to marry and refused to make procreation a precondition of marriage, as evidenced by laws allowing divorces and contraception.

"It is the right of individuals, not an indulgence to be dispensed by the state," Olson said. "The right to marry, to choose to marry, has never been tied to procreation."

Walker pressed Olson on that point, noting Proposition 8 supporters have gone to some lengths to argue that gays and lesbians only can have children with help from a third party, unlike opposite-sex couples.

"That is a difference," Walker said. "And why is that difference not one the Legislature or voters could rationally take into account in setting the marriage laws in California?"

Olson said that argument would only work from a constitutional standpoint if the ban's backers had proven that allowing gays to wed was a threat to heterosexual relationships, a requirement Olson said had not been met.

"You would have to explain or make some state-

ment that allowing these other individuals we represent here today to engage in the institution of marriage would somehow stop people from getting married ... or cause them to get divorced," he said.

Cooper used his closing argument to try to persuade the judge that it was up to the plaintiffs to prove that voters lacked justification for outlawing same-sex marriage, even if they acted only out of fear of the unknown. He urged Walker to sidestep the "judicial tsunami they are asking you to sail into."

"The plaintiffs have to negate every conceivable rational basis that might explain the policy at issue," he said.

Cooper's repeated efforts to use the procreative abilities of opposite-sex couples as the rationale for Proposition 8 drew a series of challenges from Walker.

The judge asked if similar arguments were once used to keep interracial couples from marrying, and if procreation was so central to marriage, why didn't the state refuse to sanction marriage by infertile couples or couples who choose to remain childless?

"It is Orwellian, but isn't that the logic that flows from the premise that marriage is

about procreation?" Walker asked.

Cooper answered that it would be impractical for governments to test couples to see if they were capable of having children before they marry or to require those that were capable to sign pledges that they would have children.

With respect to laws that banned interracial marriage, Cooper said, "those racist sentiments and policies had no foundation in the historical fact they were at war with it."

During Olson's rebuttal, the judge seemed to wrestle with whether he should declare Proposition 8 unconstitutional when public opinion appears to be moving toward accepting same-sex marriage, which is legal in five states and the District of Columbia.

A premature judicial edict, Walker said, could harden public opinion in the same way as the high court's 1973 decision legalizing abortion.

When the Supreme Court invalidated interracial marriage bans in Virginia and 14 other states in 1967, "there was already a tide running, a political tide with respect to interracial marriage," Walker said. "Do we have a political tide here that is going to carry the Supreme Court?"

"Your honor, there is a political tide running. And I think that people's eyes are being opened," Olson answered. "But that doesn't justify a judge in a court to say, 'I really need the polls to be just a few more points higher. I need somebody to go out and take the temperature of the American public before I can break down this barrier and change this discrimination.'"



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Lingle lingers over civil unions

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

"Aloha" has come to mean "hello" and "goodbye."

Hawaiians don't yet know how Gov. Linda Lingle will address – "hello" or "goodbye" – legislation that would establish civil unions in the Aloha State. Lingle has placed civil unions on a list of bills she might veto.

"While the Legislature each year passes legislation it believes is important, it is my duty as governor to ensure the bills that become law are constitutional, fiscally responsible and in the state's and the public's long-term best interest," Lingle said in a statement accompanying a list of 39 bills that might be vetoed.

Lingle has until July 6 to decide whether to sign the legislation, allow it to become law without her signature or

veto the bill.

The measure has been on the Republican governor's desk since May 3. The Hawaii House approved the measure several days before.

The legislation would allow both opposite-gender and same-gender couples to enter into civil unions that the government would recognize.

Earlier this summer, Lingle met with opponents and proponents of civil unions.

During a June 1 press conference, she said, "I don't want whatever decision I make to in any way diminish one side or the other, or make one side or the other feel I'm being judgmental in any way."

LGBT civil rights advocates said they welcomed Lingle's thoughtful approach, but that the time to act had arrived.

"Dragging this issue out any longer is of benefit to no one, including the thousands of Hawaii families who would receive equal treatment under the law if civil unions are approved," said Alan Spector of Equality Hawaii, a statewide LGBT group. "We urge the governor to do what's in the best interest of these families and the state of Hawaii, which is to make this bill the law in Hawaii."

Hawaii, like Wisconsin, provides some domestic partnership recognition, but the statute falls far short of what many gay and lesbian couples were expecting from their state government 17 years ago. At that time, Hawaii was poised to become the first state in the country to legalize gay marriage.

The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled in December

1993 that denying marriage licenses to gays and lesbians is discriminatory and same-sex marriages must be allowed unless the state provided a compelling reason to allow the discriminatory practice to continue.

That ruling fueled expectations that gays would soon begin marrying in Hawaii, but the ruling also fueled a nationwide campaign to enact constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman and barring recognition of same-sex marriages.

A series of legal disputes followed, and, while the state supreme court reviewed an appeal in the marriage case, the legislature approved an anti-gay amendment to the constitution, which was ratified by a vote of the people.

In 1998, Hawaii became the last state in the country



Former First Lady Laura Bush, who supports same-sex marriage, and Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle, who has put a civil unions bill passed by her state's legislature on a veto list.

expected to legalize gay marriage.

Earlier this year, the prospect of passing a civil unions bill also seemed slim.

But since May, gay rights advocates have amassed widespread support, including from Hawaii's business

and religious communities.

"We trust that she will listen to this ever-growing chorus of support," Jennifer Pizer of Lambda Legal said of Lingle's review.

If the governor vetoes the bill, marriage advocates likely will go to court.

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Texas GOP adopts anti-LGBT platform

The Texas State Republican Party has adopted a platform that calls for prosecuting those who perform marriage ceremonies for gay couples.

The platform seeks to label such acts as a felony.

The platform also:

- Calls on Congress to bar federal courts from dealing with family law cases.

- Opposes the recognition and granting of benefits to domestic partners.
- Seeks to re-criminalize private, consensual same-sex sex.
- Opposes employment protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- States "homosexuality must not be presented as an

acceptable 'alternative' lifestyle in our public education and policy, nor should 'family' be redefined to include homosexual couples."


The platform also calls for the eviction of the United Nations operations from the United States, bans on stem cell research and abortions, the elimination of the U.S.

Department of Education and limiting a student's bilingual education to three years.

Responding, the Human Rights Campaign called on the Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele to repudiate the language in the platform.

— L.N.

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Obama administration proposes visitation policy

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A proposed Health and Human Services hospital visitation policy was announced June 22, the same day the Obama administration celebrated LGBT Pride.

The president issued a memorandum in April instructing HHS to make new rules requiring that medical institutions receiving federal money through Medicare or Medicaid programs implement a policy respecting the

rights of patients to designate their visitors and to prohibit hospitals from denying visitation privileges based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

HHS, at the direction of Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, on June 25 published the rules that would carry out the president's order. She announced the new rules June 22 and, in a letter to national medical organizations, urged voluntary com-

pliance with the intent of the president's order until the rules can be adopted.

"I would appreciate your voluntary support for the intent of the presidential memorandum by encouraging your members to review policies they may currently have in place and adopt and enforce patient-centered visitation policies, as contemplated by the president, to the extent that they have not done so already," Sebelius wrote. "Your actions could

spare many patients the pain of being separated from a loved one during an admission to a hospital – often one of the most anxious times in their lives."

After the president issued his memo in April, he telephoned Janice Langbehn, a woman who was denied visitation with Lisa Pond, her partner, who slipped into a coma and died. Langbehn, with the support of Lambda Legal, has fought the Florida hospital that kept Pond apart

from her family, and the president has said her battle played a role in his decision to issue the presidential directive.

On June 22, the day HHS announced its draft rules, Langbehn and her children were in Washington, attending the LGBT Pride reception at the White House.

"I was watching President Obama tell a room full of people that what happened to our family was 'wrong' and

'cruel' – his words, not mine," Langbehn said.

The president also said, "Nothing can undo the hurt that her – that Janice's family – has experienced. And nothing can undo the pain felt by countless others who've been through a similar ordeal," but forcing the policy change is "the right thing to do."

Write managingeditor@
wisconsin-gazette.com.

Supreme Court rules for open records

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The U.S. Supreme Court June 24 ruled for the public disclosure of signatories on initiative and referendum petitions.

The ruling came in Doe v. Reed, a case out of Washington state that involves a dispute over the disclosure of signatories on a petition calling for a vote on Washington's domestic partnership law.

The ballot vote took place in November 2009, when Washington narrowly elected to retain the partnership measure.

But the vote didn't end a dispute over whether the identities of those who signed the petition leading to the ballot question should be disclosed by the state.

Those seeking to repeal the domestic partnership bill

sought to protect the identities of 138,000 signatories, arguing that the release of their names would result in harassment and intimidation.

The state defended disclosure, arguing that public information and public access is crucial to good and free government.

A U.S. appeals court went with the state's argument.

So did the Supreme Court, which issued an 8-1 decision authored by Chief Justice John Roberts.

The decision upheld the state's public records act as constitutional, although the ruling did not go as far as some public records advocates wanted and certain questions about releasing petition names remains before the trial court.

Roberts wrote, "The State's interest in preserving the integrity of the electoral

process suffices to defeat the argument that the PRA is unconstitutional with respect to referendum petitions in general."

"This is a good day for transparency and accountability in elections – not just in Washington but across our country," Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna told the press. "We're pleased the Supreme Court ruled in favor of disclosure, upholding the public's right to double-check the work of signature gatherers and government – and giving them the ability to learn which voters are directing the state to hold an election on a new law. Citizen legislating is too important to be conducted in secret."

Justice Clarence Thomas was the dissenting vote.

Thomas questioned the need for making public the

names of signatories.

"People are intelligent enough to evaluate the merits of a referendum without knowing who supported it," he wrote.

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Pride celebrated from White House to Castro

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Pride month came to a close with the nation's largest LGBT parades taking place in San Francisco, New York City and Chicago and the nation's most prominent leaders honoring the community.

At the White House June 22, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden hosted an LGBT Pride reception that was celebratory despite the day's furor over the remarks of Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal and questions about whether the then-Afghan commander would be removed from his post.

The reception took place at about 6:15 p.m. in the East Room of the White House, where Obama delivered remarks and greeted about 300 guests, including Harvey Milk's nephew Stuart Milk, country singer Chely Wright, Mississippi teenager Constance McMillen,

and former assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development Roberta Achtenberg.

Arriving to applause, Obama said, "I was going to say welcome to the White House, but you guys seem like you feel right at home."

'We celebrate the progress that is being made here in our own country.'

You don't need me to tell you — it's the people's house."

A number of congressional representatives, including U.S. Reps. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Jared Polis, D-Colo., attended the reception. Obama called the gay

representatives "fierce warriors." "They are openly terrific," he added.

The president's brief comments focused on activism and everyday people creating change.

"That fact that we've got activists here is important because it's a reminder that change never comes — or at least never begins in Washington," Obama said. "It begins with acts of compassion — and sometimes defiance — across America. It begins when ordinary people — out of love for a mother or a father, son or daughter, or husband or wife — speak out against injustices that have been accepted for too long. And it begins when these impositions of conscience start opening hearts that had been closed, and when we finally see each other's humanity, whatever our differences."

U.S. Secretary of State

Hillary Rodham Clinton also hosted a Pride celebration, which took place mid-day June 22 at the Henderson Auditorium in D.C. and was heavily attended by many State Department employees.

"The purpose of this occasion is to recognize with gratitude the contributions made by LGBT members of the State Department family every single day," Clinton said. "We celebrate the progress that is being made here in our own country toward advancing the rights of LGBT Americans, and we recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done but that we are moving together in the right direction."

At the Justice Department June 21, Attorney General Eric Holder presented a Pride program that highlighted the long-awaited enactment of federal hate crimes reform that authorizes Justice to get involved in local hate crimes cases, as well as expands the definition of hate crimes.

"As you all know, up until last fall, there was not a single line in the nearly 225-year history of the U.S. Code that referred explicitly to gender identity," Holder said. "Today, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act ... does just that, finally protecting our nation's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals from the most brutal forms of bias-motivated violence."

By the end of last week, the

SUSPECT IDENTIFIED IN FATAL PRIDE PARTY SHOOTING

San Francisco police say a suspect in the deadly shooting during a weekend gay pride event is a 20-year-old man who may have known one of the victims.

Police Lt. Lyn Tomioka says Ed Perkins of San Francisco is in custody on suspicion of murder.

Perkins was arrested at the scene after 19-year-old Stephen Powell was shot multiple times and two others suffered gunshot wounds to the leg at a street party in the Castro district late June 29. Police recovered a handgun in the shooting.

Tomioka would not say if investigators believe Perkins was the shooter, nor would she confirm if there are other suspects.

Police believe the shooter knew Powell. They say the other two victims, one a 19-year-old woman and the other a 29-year-old man, were bystanders.

Police do not suspect the shooting was a hate crime.

speechmaking had yielded to parading — with large-scale celebrations taking place in major metropolises, but also smaller events taking place in a number of mid-size cities and towns. Celebrations this past weekend took place in Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, New York, San Francisco and Seattle, as well as St. Petersburg, Fla., and Omaha, Neb.

Participants in New York's parade, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. David Paterson, made their way down Fifth Avenue toward the Greenwich Village neighborhood. One of the parade's grand marshals was McMillen, who sued her Mississippi school district over its policy banning same-sex prom dates.

San Francisco's 40th annu-

al weekend started at Civic Center Plaza, where thousands converged. The celebration moved into the city's Castro District for a street party, where police said a 19-year-old man was killed and two others injured in a shooting that is not believed to be a hate crime.

Chicago's parade included the first-ever float from the Cubs baseball team and an appearance by the Stanley Cup, won this year by the Chicago Blackhawks.

"We are thrilled that it worked out as it's important for the city and important for the franchise," Blackhawks spokesman Adam Rogowin said.

AP contributed to this report.

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Funding for jet engines might crash repeal

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Defense Secretary Robert Gates confirmed in late June that this year's congressional drive to repeal the military's gay ban might end with a veto from the White House, but not a veto over repealing "don't ask, don't tell."

The controversy is over funding for a fighter jet engine program that the president wants to eliminate and some in Congress support.

The House earlier this year approved the defense authorization act, which includes funding for military programs but also an amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," the Clinton-era policy that prohibits gays from serving openly in the Armed Forces.

A Senate committee has

signed off on a spending bill that also would provide for a repeal. A full vote in the Senate is ahead, which would then trigger a House-Senate review to craft compromise legislation.

Gates in late June testified that if the final bill contains what President Barack Obama considers wasteful spending, he will veto the measure despite his desire to repeal DADT.

Gates, too, said he would lobby for a veto if he finds wasteful spending.

"Let me be very clear, I will continue to strongly recommend that the president veto any legislation that sustains the continuations of the C-17 or the F-35 extra engines," Gates told a Senate defense appropriations sub-



PHOTO: COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The controversial fighter jet that has the Obama administration and some members of Congress fighting.

committee.

Gates said Obama would not sign legislation that contains spending he opposes because it "includes provisions important to him and

this administration."

The president himself vowed to veto any legislation that included funding for a second engine program for the multinational F-35 fighter

or more Boeing Co C-17 cargo planes.

"Our military does not want or need these programs being pushed by the Congress, and should

Congress ignore this fact, I will veto any such legislation so that it can be returned to me without those provisions," Obama said in late May.

KAGAN CONFIRMATION HEARING BEGINS

U.S. Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan maneuvered carefully through tough Republican questioning on military recruitment at Harvard Law School, gun owners' rights and free speech June 29, giving little ground to critics and drawing strong praise from Senate Democrats.

In a long day of questioning at a hearing, Kagan came under fire from U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions for her decision as dean of Harvard Law to bar recruiters from the school's career services office over the Pentagon's policy against openly gay soldiers. He said that amounted to "punishing" the military services, treating them in a "second-class way" and creating a hostile environment for the military on campus.

Kagan said she was trying to balance Harvard's non-discrimination policy, which she believed "don't ask, don't tell" violated, with a federal law that required schools to give military recruiters equal access as a condition of eligibility for federal funds. She said she welcomed the military, and believed her

policy of requiring recruiters to work through a student veterans group was a valid compromise." We were trying to make sure that military recruiters had full and complete access to our students, but we were also trying to protect our own antidiscrimination policy and to protect the students whom it is ... supposed to protect, which in this case were our gay and lesbian students," Kagan said.

GROUP SAYS IT WILL SIT OUT IOWA RACE

An influential evangelical Christian group says its standing by a pledge to sit out the governor's race this fall because neither of the major party candidates share its view on social issues.

The decision by the Iowa Family Policy Center is a blow to Republican Terry Branstad, who is relying on religious conservatives to be among the base of his support as he faces Democratic Gov. Chet Culver.

Danny Carroll, chairman of the Iowa Family Policy Center, has criticized Branstad for not giving greater emphasis to issues such as gay marriage and abortion. Carroll said in a statement it would

BRIEFS

take a "fundamental transformation" for the group to back either candidate.

Another powerful evangelical group, the Iowa Christian Alliance, supports Branstad.

CHARGES DROPPED IN US ELTON JOHN THREAT CASE

Charges have been dropped just before the trial of a Georgia man accused of threatening Elton John on the Internet and outside the singer's Atlanta condominium.

The case against Neal Horsley was dismissed by Fulton County Superior Court Judge Kimberly Esmond Adams before a trial was due to start last week.

Horsley was apparently angered when John told an interviewer that he believed Jesus was gay. The judge said Horsley's actions didn't warrant criminal charges.

The 65-year-old Horsley had been charged with making terroristic threats, criminal defamation and using the Internet to disseminate threats.

Prosecutors say Horsley

posted threats against John online and that he picketed outside John's Atlanta property with a sign that said "Why Elton John Must Die."

VT. HEARING IN LESBIAN CUSTODY CASE BEGINS

Lawyers for a Virginia woman who has disappeared with her 8-year-old daughter went back to a Vermont courtroom in late June to argue that she never should have been stripped of custody.

Lawyers for Lisa Miller are challenging a Family Court judge's decision to award custody to former partner Janet Jenkins of Fair Haven.

Miller, of Forest, Va., and daughter Isabella Miller-Jenkins failed to appear for a court-ordered Jan. 1 custody swap in which Jenkins was to get the girl. The girl is now listed as missing, and Jenkins' attorney has said the two are believed to have moved to El Salvador.

The Vermont Supreme Court was to hear arguments from Miller's attorneys who say Judge William Cohen erred last November in awarding custody to Jenkins, who is not the biological mother.

MARRIAGE GROUP TO ASK MAINE TO DISMISS COMPLAINT

A group that helped fund a successful effort to repeal Maine's gay marriage law is going to ask the state ethics commission to dismiss an investigation into the fundraising techniques it used prior to last year's vote.

An attorney for The National Organization for Marriage, Barry Bostrom, tells the Portland Press Herald the group doesn't want to reveal the names of donors because they fear harassment and because there is a constitutional privilege not to.

Maine law says groups that raise or spend more than \$5,000 to influence elections must register with the state and disclose their donors.

The Organization for Marriage donated more than \$1.9 million to Stand for Marriage Maine, a political action committee that helped repeal Maine's same sex marriage law.

MINN. SENATOR DINED WITH GAY ADULT FILM STAR

A two-term Minnesota state senator facing a

Republican primary challenger confirmed reports that he went on a date with an adult film star.

Sen. Paul Koering, R-Fort Ripley, who revealed to his constituents in 2005 that he is gay, told the Brainerd Dispatch that he dined with Brandon Wilde at a Brainerd restaurant. Several websites reported on the date.

Wilde is described as a gay porn star in his Twitter profile and he posted messages about the dinner on Twitter.

"I went to dinner with this guy," Koering told the newspaper. "His mom is my constituent. I would just say I don't see where the story is. If I have to start asking someone for a resume when I go out to dinner with him, or lunch, it's pretty sad."

Koering's re-election bid is unfolding in a socially conservative north-central Minnesota district that sent him back to the Minnesota Senate in 2006. Koering battled for the Republican endorsement before defeating primary and general election opponents.



COURTESY PHOTO

THOUSANDS CELEBRATE BERLIN'S GAY PRIDE

Tens of thousands of gays, lesbians and other revelers marched and danced in downtown Berlin for the German capital's annual gay pride celebration in late June, which featured a colorful parade through the heart of the city.

Under the motto "Normal is different," an estimated 250,000 people lined the route for the Christopher Street Day parade, as some 50 floats carrying dancers wove through the city streets.

Christopher Street Day commemorates the start of the gay rights movement in New York's Greenwich Village in 1969 and the parade generally draws large crowds in Berlin, which has a history as a gay metropolis going back as far as the 19th century.

- AP

German court: Gay marriage is only 'partnership'

A Berlin court declined to set a precedent by recognizing a gay marriage performed in Canada, ruling in late June that the union would only be considered a civil partnership in Germany.

German law defines marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman. It allows civil partnerships between same-sex couples.

Andreas Boettcher, a 37-year-old German event manager, married his Spanish partner, a dancer and choreographer, in Montreal in July 2006. He asked a Berlin administrative court to recognize the relationship as a marriage after local authorities listed him as "single" on his registration card in November, despite his Canadian marriage certificate and a family registry entry from Spain that names him as the husband of his partner.

Boettcher said the couple, who have been together for 17 years, decided to marry in Canada about six months before they took a trip there

to participate in a sporting event.

Spain and five other countries in Europe let same-sex couples wed. In the United States, five states and the District of Columbia have legalized gay marriages.

"The German authorities would have had no problems, had (he) been an Isabel," said Boettcher, who asked that his husband not be identified.

The German court said a same-sex marriage abroad is to be legally considered a civil partnership in Germany.

Boettcher said he accepted the ruling, although it fell short of his goal.

"I could fight it, but it would take a lot of time and a lot of money," he said. "At least, I have reached the minimum."

Germany's Gay and Lesbian Association sharply criticized authorities forcing Boettcher to take his case to court to get a marriage recognized as a civil union.

- AP

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'All right' now

An interview with out filmmaker Lisa Cholodenko

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

The Kids Are All Right," the new movie by out filmmaker Lisa Cholodenko ("High Art" and "Laurel Canyon"), is one of the most eagerly anticipated movies of the summer season, gay or straight.

In the film, Joni (Mia Wasikowska) and Laser (Josh Hutcherson), the children of lesbian couple Nic (Annette Benning) and Jules (Julianne Moore), seek out their sperm donor father Paul (Mark Ruffalo). The results of their quest is at turns humorous and heartbreaking and ultimately unforgettable. WiG spoke with Cholodenko shortly before "The Kids Are All Right" opened in theaters.

Gregg Shapiro: "The Kids Are All Right" strikes the right balance between seriousness and humor. How important was it for you to maintain a sense of humor in the film?

Lisa Cholodenko: It's pretty important. I'm a big fan of (director) Billy Wilder, especially the films that had more of that tone, like "Sunset Boulevard" and "The Apartment," where you kind of feel like you're unsettled. To me, that feeling of being unsettled between the comedy and the drama is what makes the absorption and the engagement.

GS: Speaking of humor, one of the funniest scenes in the movie involves a vintage Colt Studio porn video starring Gordon Grant. It's delightful and unexpected.

LC: I had to do a huge research project to find just the right movie. I got my straight editorial assistant and my straight film assistant - I sent (those) guys home with so much porn,



PHOTO: COURTESY

Annette Benning (left) and Julianne Moore star as lesbian moms in Lisa Cholodenko's "The Kids Are All Right."

you wouldn't believe it. Gay women I know have said over the years that they love gay male porn and especially the '70s era when it was still done on film. I always find that more interesting. There's something about video that's too in your face. It's kind of gnarly. ... I had known about Colt and thought, those are good, those are classic, vintage era. ... They were cool to let us use it.

GS: Do you think straight movie audiences are ready for a scene such as that?

LC: I think most people won't know what the fuck to make of it, and in that sense think it's a big joke, think it's funny. And then the people who are kind of in the know will go, "Wow!"

GS: The movie demonstrates that the kids, Joni and Laser, really are all right and that it's

the adults who are messed up. Is this intended to show that kids from same-sex households really aren't that different from those being raised by mixed-gender parents?

LC: Kind of, yeah. I think it's really to show that it's the quality of parenting, not who's parenting. What's the structure? What's the consistency? What are the values? What is the love factor? What are all those things? Those are the defining things that make character and stability.

GS: Julianne Moore is having what I would describe as her lesbian year on screen, as Jules in "The Kids Are All Right" and Atom Egoyan's "Chloe." But even before that, Moore has been a presence in films by gay filmmaker Todd Haynes, as well as in numerous gay-themed films including "A Single Man"

and "The Hours." What was it like working with Julianne?

LC: It was great. I knew her in a very peripheral way for a long time and always liked her, but I didn't know if she would be pleasurable to work with. For me, she was just a total team player. She was like, "I've been hanging around for a long time, waiting for you to make this film." She'd been attached to it for four or five years, and I think she was ready to jump in and enjoy it and give it good energy. It was a really fast shoot. She was awesome.

GS: If Julianne is having her lesbian year on-screen, then Annette Benning is having her maternal one as Nic in "The Kids Are All Right" and as a woman looking for the daughter she gave up for adoption in "Mother and Child." What was it like to work with Annette?

LC: She is a formidable person. She knows what she likes. She's a very experienced and intense person. She's incredibly bright and attentive to details. Her bravery blew my mind. I was wowed more than a few times.

GS: You wrote the screenplay for your films "High Art" and "Laurel Canyon," but you co-wrote "The Kids Are All Right" with Stuart Blumberg. What's the collaborative process when it comes to writing a screenplay?

LC: In many ways I loved it. I loved that I had somebody that was in the trenches with me. I loved that it was a straight man and we could counterbalance perspectives a lot. ... We could pull each other back from the margins. Stuart is somebody that I'd known before, not terribly

intimately, but always was really fond of. I felt really close to him. It's a very intimate thing to go into this world with somebody else.

GS: The character of Joni is named after Joni Mitchell and there's a wonderful scene in which Nic and Paul sing Joni Mitchell's praises and then go on to sing a Mitchell song. Is Ms. Mitchell aware of the part she plays in "The Kids Are All Right"?

LC: I've never met her. My significant other is a musician. Her name is Wendy Melvoin. She used to play with Prince. Wendy knows her. Wendy used to be friendly with her. ... Joni had to sign off on it and we had to pay her a certain amount of money for the rights to perform the song. ... I hope that at some point she'll see it and enjoy it.

Sailing away to where? *Artistic voyages at the WPCA*

By **Kat Murrell**

Contributing writer

"Sailing the Barbarous Coast," the new exhibition at Walker's Point Center for the Arts, pulses with contemporary concerns underpinned by history. The "barbarous" reference is to the Barbary Coast, a name that for centuries referred to the region of North Africa comprising Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. Inhabited by the people known as the Berbers, it was also a locus for unsavory occupations such as slave trading and piracy.

But that was long ago and far away. What about here and now?

Conflict, compromise and chaos lie close to the surface in this show, and the art isn't so much personal as it is a societal reflection. New York-based artist Anthony Smith Jr., brings in a series of mixed-media works revolving around the title "Who is Prester John?"

Prester John is something of a historical mirage. He was reputed to be king of a fantastically wealthy kingdom, first thought located in India, then over time alleged to be in North Africa. Apocryphal letters circulated in medi-

eval Europe asking for military help to fend off infidels and invaders from his pious, peaceful, Christian kingdom. There were added attractions, as the rivers in John's realm flowed with gold and there was a Fountain of Youth, too. No one really knew where all of this wonderfulness was, but it didn't stop Europeans from heading to distant lands to fight for religion and find the riches.

Smith recalls this strange old tale of foolhardy intervention by invoking the name of Prester John in concert with Ethiopia, India, Mongolia — even Jamaica and the UK. It could happen anywhere, misguided intrusion motivated by self-righteousness and greed.

The complications of modern life resonate in the rhythms of Smith's canvases. What serves as underpainting are the flags of nations, but they are subsumed by a cacophony of images and lines and paint, jostling as though searching for answers to unformed questions. The artist's brother appears in small photos as a charming sweet boy, and political leaders hold court as collaged, disembodied heads. They



COURTESY OF ARTIST/WALKER'S POINT CENTER FOR THE ARTS.
Anthony Smith Jr., "Who is Prester John, No. 11," 2009.

float like icons over teeming figures, animals, shadows, and unknown forms. President Barack Obama appears, haloed and smoking a cigarette, a figure simultaneously divine and mortal.

Smith, who has a long exhibition history and a resume that includes teaching at Princeton, creates with a sophisticated approach that recalls shades of Jean-Michel Basquiat, particularly in the

regal but rough crowns and eerie masks populating his compositions. The feeling that remains in these dense works is like a crowd moving en masse, helpless except to stumble forward into uncertain futures; there is no static history.

Colin Matthes' work shares Smith's penchant for bright colors punctuated by inky black. Matthes, who is based in Milwaukee and works internationally, wields angst-ridden lines and more overt images of despair. He's at his strongest when most sparse.

"Staying Afloat" is a watery world described by a polypych of nine canvases. Blue and purple lines suggest ocean waves as though seen from an airplane. Floating up from the deep are strange lost bits — a round, candy-like life preserver, a submerged house, a drowning crane whose metal geometries call to mind oil rig architecture. A military helicopter flies over the debris toward a lone person on a round driftwood disc. There's little hope it seems, for those at sea.

One of the most startling notes in the show is Matthes' "US Foreign Military

Interventions: a list of locations from 1801-2009," which is the ultimate in sparse art. Sheets of paper are tacked floor to ceiling. In scrawled block letters is a list of United States military missions, from the aforementioned Barbary Coast to our current conflicts. It's a long list and the intervals between are short. The same information is easy to imagine in the appendix of a textbook, but this installation makes for a physical confrontation with the past.

"Sailing the Barbarous Coast" conjures ideas of voyage and exploration, but shot through with uncertainty. It's like being adrift on the ocean, but no sign of land comes into view. This acts as a metaphor for our times, facing struggles of daily life in the economy, and conflicts domestic and foreign. The references are historical, but the images and meaning are of our times.

This exhibition remains on view at the Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 839 S. Fifth St., through July 17.

Get more news at
www.wisconsin Gazette.com

Artwatch

KAT MURRELL

Looking for some laughs

while looking at art? In addition to the multiple showings of Wisconsin-based visual satirist Warrington Colecott around town (see June 18 Artwatch by Debra Brehmer), there is

fun to be had at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan with the new exhibition, "A Sense of Humor."

This show brings together a roster of artists from

across the nation, as well as Chile and Austria. Art of all types abounds, including painting, sculpture, installations, photography, and video. This exhibition takes aim at various subjects with playful visions and biting satire. Daniel Carr of Colorado offers a new view of sometimes-controversial currency with his "Parody State Quarters." We here in Wisconsin, now identified with the cow sniffing a round of cheese on our real state quarter, can certainly chuckle at this.

The fun continues at the JMKAC with a range of other exhibitions through the summer. "Lynda Barry and Roz Chast: Comic Reflections" showcases the mind behind "Ernie Pook's Comeek," and a visual author of The New Yorker cartoons since the late

The fun continues at the JMKAC.

1970s, respectively. There's plenty of visitor participation in "Mads Lynnerup: Flip-Flop Ordinary." Lynnerup, an artist based in New York and Denmark, exhorts viewers to don the summer shoes for playful exploration.

Another new exhibition trends to the contemplative. The Lynden Sculpture Garden is hosting their first temporary exhibi-

tion, "Inside/Outside: Linda Wervey Vitamvas & Kevin Giese." Vitamvas, who is also a participant in the 2010 Wisconsin Triennial at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, offers an installation of over 350 porcelain pieces and botanical-inspired art. Giese shows some of his earlier pieces indoors, such as an installation of 80 ash tree strips called "Still Living" and presents his outdoor installation titled "Immigrant," which derived from the invasive species of tree, the buckthorn.

Send letters to
managingeditor@wisconsin Gazette.com

Let your creativity OUT!

Families by Design (FbD), a Milwaukee-based group of LGBTQ families and their allies, is now accepting logo submissions for a competition. Our mission is to provide education and support for families led by same-gender, transgender, and LGBTQ couples or singles. The logo must relate to the mission and offer a creative design to appear on brochures, clothing, and other items.

> The winning logo artist will receive a Families by Design t-shirt with the logo and acknowledgement on our Facebook page.

> Email submissions to families_by_design_lgbta@yahoo.com or posted to our Facebook Page: Families by Design — Milwaukee.

Deadline is August 2, 2010. Provide name, phone, email and provide logo in .jpg or .gif formats. The winning artist will be notified by August 13, 2010.

DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

'THE AMAZING TRUTH ABOUT QUEEN RAQUELA
(E1/Regent/here!)

According to filmmaker Olaf De Fleur, transsexual women in ancient myths were feminine but strong, guardians of kingdoms. De Fleur goes on to say that today many of them live outside of society, have little education and work low-paying jobs or in the sex industry.

Based on actual events, De Fleur's narrative style documentary tells the fascinating story of Raquela Rios, the "Queen Raquela" of the title. Living as a "ladyboy" in Cebu City in the Philippines, Raquela, 21, works as a prostitute. She is a streetwalker during what she calls, in her falsetto voice, the "low season" and on rainy days. She is surrounded by danger from police chases to accidents to harassment. Raquela, who lives at home and has a dog named Tootsie, dreams of going to Paris.

Out nightclubbing with ladyboy pals Via (Via Galudo) and Aubrey (Brax Villa), the trio commiserates about guys who aren't serious about relationships with ladyboys. In an interview with Raquela's mother, she refers to her son, born Earvin, as "she." Via's mother has five children, including ladyboy

The amazing truth about pornography

and a lesbian. She smiles proudly when she talks about her "complete family" and how it is God's will.

While Aubrey wants to become an engineer so that she can help her family, Raquela has dropped out of school. Raquela confesses to not liking to use condoms during sex. There is a sort of carelessness about her attitude. When she is hit by a car while chatting away on her cell phone, it doesn't come as much of a surprise. At the

**"The Amazing Truth About Queen Raquela"**

hospital, with her leg in a cast, she jokes about having used up one of her nine lives.

There is a recurring theme of disappointment throughout the film. It is exemplified in the people she makes contact with on the Internet, many of whom promise her things but never deliver. A nursing school interview, in which Raquela is dressed as

Earvin, is also something of a disaster.

But things soon turn around for Raquela when she encounters Johnny (Markus Kalberer) from Holland. Johnny works for Michael (Stefan Schaefer), who lives in New York and owns and operates a transgender porn website. Talent scout Johnny recognizes Raquela's potential and puts her to work. Before she knows it, she is a huge success. With an income, it looks as though Raquela's dream of a trip to Paris may become a reality.

Raquela also meets Valerie (Valerie Grand), a trans woman from Iceland, on the Internet. Valerie offers to help Raquela go abroad and get a visa. First Raquela must get an HIV test. When she tests negative for the virus, website owner Michael also offers to help by paying for her airline ticket to Iceland. Michael, who vacillates between being generous and sleazy, shares his insights into the phenomenon of the ladyboy.

Once in Iceland, following a two-day stopover in Copenhagen, Raquela meets Valerie face-to-face and goes about beginning her new life. On a "very tight" visa, with no room for "hanky-panky," Raquela goes to work with Valerie in a fish factory. She also takes a side job as a housecleaner for a little extra money. Just as she is settling in to her new existence,

her two-month visa permit is approaching its expiration date. Raquela wants to extend it and expresses her desire for a "passage for a better life."

Michael flies to Iceland to see Raquela. He takes her to Paris and it soon becomes clear that his interest in her goes beyond being professional. But they don't get along at all and he leaves her alone in Paris and takes off for Amsterdam. By this point Michael has moved on in his interests and, back in New York, he talks about exploring the ladyboy community in Brazil.

Meanwhile, Queen Raquela is forced to return to Cebu City. In spite of her rich fantasy life, in which she imagines that she somehow ended up in the wrong family because of a curse that was put on her by an evil queen, she somehow finds a way to face the reality of her situation. Reunited with Via and Aubrey, the trio picks up where they left off, as if no time had passed.

DVD bonus features include audio commentary and a "making of" featurette narrated by the director, a dozen deleted scenes and a Queen Raquela music video.

'PORNOGRAPHY: A THRILLER'
(Wolfe Video)

In many ways, this is director David Kittredge's "Mulholland Drive." In much

**"Pornography: A Thriller"**

the same way that the David Lynch thriller reeled us in through a story of movie-making and some of what happens behind the scenes and in the lives of those involved, "Pornography: A Thriller" does so with gay male erotica. Unfortunately, it also falls apart in the same way that "Mulholland Drive" did.

In New York in 1995, retired gay porn actor Mark Anton (Jared Grey), now clean and sober and enrolled in photography school, is offered \$40,000 by an anonymous fan to make one more video. He shows up, is killed and his murder is videotaped.

In Brooklyn, 14 years later, gay couple Michael (Matthew Montgomery) and William (Walter Delmar) find the perfect apartment, with a view of the Manhattan sky-

line, at an unbelievable price. William works in the city and Michael is a writer, hard at work on a book about the "history of genre film-making," AKA gay male porn, and the "nature of desire." He spends his day tracking down and trying to interview porn stars and perusing rare and vintage movies. Michael notices strange holes in the wall and ceiling, where cameras were mounted, and he also discovers a secret panel in the wall which contains a video of Mark Anton being tortured and murdered.

After a series of creepy events, the movie evolves into a supernatural psychological thriller – and an effective one, at that. And just as you get swept up in the action, you find out that you're watching a movie about an L.A.-based porn star writing a "porno thriller in three acts" that ends like a Greek tragedy titled, you guessed it, "The Mark Anton Story." This is exactly where things begin to unravel. Unfortunately, by the third act, the story gets muddled and that's too bad, because up to that point, "Pornography: A Thriller," was living up to its name.

DVD bonus features include commentary, deleted scenes, a featurette and more.

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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

"CYRUS"

(Fox Searchlight)

Mumblecore continues the quest for a mainstream audience with the dark romantic comedy "Cyrus," co-written/co-directed by Jay Duplass and Mark Duplass (who starred in 2009's mumblecore feature "Humpday"). Following, as it does, on the heels of "Greenberg" (starring Ben Stiller and mumblecore goddess Greta Gerwig), it looks like the crossover has officially begun and mumblecore mania is here to stay.

Socially awkward John

Reel advice

(John C. Reilly), who compares himself to Shrek, has been divorced from Jamie (Catherine Keener) for seven years. But John still relies on Jamie for advice, guidance and occasional companionship, in spite of her impending marriage to Tim (Matt Walsh). However, all of that changes when John meets the seemingly out of his league Molly (Marisa Tomei).

Molly's life is "complicated," and she moves at a cautious pace. But overeager John wants more. Of course he gets more than he bargained for when he meets Molly's pampered, 20-something, live-at-home son Cyrus

(Jonah Hill). At first, neither John nor Cyrus sees the other as a threat. It doesn't take long before that changes.

Part psychological thriller/part pitch-black comedy, "Cyrus" pits the potential love interest and the controlling son against each other in a war of the wits. The manipulative Cyrus plays Molly and John against each other, although his mad mission backfires on him. Even at its darkest, "Cyrus" manages to find humor in the most unexpected (and uncomfortable) places and is surprisingly touching at times.

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A scene from "Cyrus."

PHOTO: COURTESY

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

Summer soul

TONI BRAXTON

Once you get past the lifted Leona Lewis energy of "Yesterday" and the borrowed Beyoncé spirit of "Make My Heart" and "Lookin' At Me," Toni Braxton's eagerly anticipated comeback record "Pulse" (Atlantic) can't be beat. Not that there's anything wrong with the aforementioned tunes. In fact, they prove that Braxton is capable of being a musical chameleon. It's obvious that she hasn't lost her touch with soulful ballads, as you can hear on "Why Won't You Love Me," "If I Have To Wait," "No Way" and the title cut.

MACY GRAY

Possessing a voice (and a style) as distinctive as any of her contemporaries, Macy Gray has spent the last 10 years trying to make a record that equals her phenomenal 1999 debut "On How Life Is." "The Sellout" (Concord)

may not be that record, but it's every bit as good as 2007's should-have-been-bigger "Big" disc. The raucous and righteous "Kissed It," on which Gray is joined by Velvet Revolver (!), sounds like a comeback single if ever there was one. The hand-clapping/foot-stomping pseudo-spiritual of "Beauty In The World" and the gospel funk of "Help Me," the batty tail-feather shaker "That Man," the dizzying effect of "On & On" and the fittingly titled "The Comeback" are also pleasures.

ERYKAH BADU

The second in an ongoing series by Erykah Badu, "New Amerykah, Part Two: Return of the Ankh" (Universal Motown) is less mind-bending than its predecessor, but no less mind-expanding. The retro soul of "Window Seat" and "Turn Me Away (Get MuNNY)" remind us of why we first fell so hard for Badu. The thick beat of "Gone Baby, Don't Be Long" sounds a little more modern,

but no less timeless, while the cosmic epic "Out My Mind, Just In Time" is in a category unto itself.

JANELLE MONÁE

Like Badu, the gifted Janelle Monáe delights in stretching the boundaries of 21st century soul music on her full-length debut "The Archandroid" (Bad Boy/Wondaland/Atlantic), an ambitious concept album. Whether or not you choose to indulge in the storyline, you will nevertheless be dazzled at every turn. From the retro disco of "Locked Inside" to the Julee Cruise vibe of "Sir Greendown" and the enticing funk of "Tightrope," Monáe makes an indelible impression, and that isn't even the half of it. She's equally at home in the acoustic ("Oh, Maker"), psychedelic ("Mushrooms & Roses"), jazz vocal ("Say You'll Go") and dance ("Make The Bus") spheres. An astounding and unforgettable debut!



Joan Armatrading performs at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood, Madison, July 28, 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

LEELA JAMES

She's a few years shy of 30 and "My Soul" (Stax) is only Leela James' third studio disc, but when this rising retro-soul diva sings about paying her dues with such conviction in opener "I Ain't New To This," it's hard to dispute her claim. To her credit, that same passion infiltrates every number, including "The Facts," "I Want It All," "Tell Me You Love Me," "If It's Wrong" and "It's Over," despite the fact that James worked with an array of producers. Fortunately, James is enough of a grounding force that the whole thing comes together in a solidly soulful way.

JOAN ARMATRADING

As her sizable GLBT following can attest, Joan Armatrading has been blending soul, folk and island-inflected music for nearly 40 years. Her latest, "This Charming Life" (429), is a massive improvement over the misstep of her previous all-blues disc and serves as a reminder of the best aspects of her highly regarded mid-1970s to mid-1980s output. Utterly charming tracks include the title tune, "Two Tears," "Goddess of Change," "Cry" and "Love Love Love."

GIL SCOTT-HERON

On "I'm New Here" (XL), his first studio recording in more than 15 years, soulful sage Gil Scott-Heron merges soul-stirring blues and spoken word into one of the

most riveting discs of the year. With the personal poetic expression of "On Coming From A Broken Home (Part I)," Scott-Heron sets the tone for the revelations to follow. A jarring and very modern reading of Robert Johnson's "Me and the Devil" precedes the title track, on which Scott-Heron conjures Leonard Cohen. The sincerity of "I'll Take Care of You" is one of the warmest moments on the album, while the chill of "New York Is Killing Me" is a case of cold hard blues.

BOBBY MCFERRIN

The timing of Bobby McFerrin's new album "VocaBuLarieS" (Emarcy) couldn't be better, considering the popularity of choral sitcom "Glee" and a cappella music in general. On "VocaBuLarieS," McFerrin is joined by "50 amazing singers," including Janis Siegel (of Manhattan Transfer), Lisa Fischer (who can also be heard on the Rolling Stones' "Exile On Main Street" reissue), out lesbian Rhiannon and Brazilian jazz vocalist Luciana Souza, among many others. Although there's nothing as commercial as his 1988 smash hit "Don't Worry, Be Happy," the seven tracks will nevertheless delight listeners.

AL JARREAU AND CASSANDRA WILSON

Collections by Al Jarreau and Cassandra Wilson, respectively, focus on the

jazz influence in soul music. Jarreau's "The Very Best of: An Excellent Adventure" (Warner Brothers/Reprise/Rhino) includes his theme song for the 1980s TV series "Moonlighting," as well as hits such as "We're In This Love Together" and "After All," as well as the new track "Excellent Adventure," among others. Wilson's "Closer To You: The Pop Side" (Blue Note) compiles 11 selections from six of her albums on which she applies her distinctive interpretive skills to songs by U2 ("Love Is Blindness"), Cyndi Lauper ("Time After Time"), The Monkees ("Last Train To Clarksville"), The Band ("The Weight"), Ann Peebles ("I Can't Stand The Rain") and Neil Young ("Harvest Moon"), to mention a few.

'SOUL REVIVAL'

The NPR Discover Songs comp "Soul Revival" (Shout Factory) draws our ears to the new class of soul stirrers, including The Revelations, Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings, Eli "Paperboy" Reed and Raphael Saadiq. The set also respectfully includes selections by old school soul legends who have made recent well-received returns to the fold, including Bettye LaVette, Chaka Khan (with Mary J. Blige) and Candi Staton, among others.

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The United Performing Arts Fund gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the thousands of individuals, companies and foundations in our community who donated to the 2010 Campaign. Your gifts have given 34 performing arts groups the chance to enhance education, entertainment and the vitality of Southeastern Wisconsin.

Special thanks to UPAF's 2010 Campaign Co-Chairs, Ted D. Kellner and Linda T. Mellows, their exemplary Cabinet, and the hundreds of volunteers who worked together to surpass the goal of raising \$9.4 million this year for the performing arts. So go ahead – take a bow.



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JULY 1, THURSDAY

Today's Summerfest performers include the B-52s and Joan Jett among others, at Henry W. Maier Festival Park, 200 N. Harbor Drive. Visit summerfest.com for schedule.

**Devo****JULY 2, FRIDAY**

Today's performers at Summerfest include out acts The Che Arthur Three and Martha Berner, among others, at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive. Visit summerfest.com for the complete schedule.

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Divas Night, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

JULY 3, SATURDAY

Today's performers at Summerfest include favorite of the GLBT community Dar Williams and newcomers Malea McGuinness and Katzenjammer, among others, at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive. Visit summerfest.com for the complete schedule.

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Dar Williams**JULY 4, SUNDAY**

Today's performers at Summerfest include favorites of the GLBT community such as Devo and Carrie Underwood, among others, at Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds), 200 N. Harbor Drive. Visit summerfest.com for the complete schedule.

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Divas Night, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents a live female impersonator show, at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

JULY 6, TUESDAY

John McGivern performs "The Wonder Bread Years" through July 31 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal, presents an evening with Mary Chapin Carpenter at 8 p.m. Call 414-847-7922.

John McGivern**JULY 8, THURSDAY**

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, has The Historical Mystery Band with Jerry Grillo at 8 p.m. Call 414-672-7988.

Alterra Cafe at the Lake, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, hosts Florentine at the Lake featuring Florentine Opera Chorus members at 7 p.m.

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Listings also online at wisconsin-gazette.com

JULY 10, SATURDAY

Danceworks, 1661 N. Water St., presents "Screen Dance," at 9:15 p.m. Call 414-277-8480. Bristol Renaissance Faire opens in Kenosha. Call 847-395-7773.

JULY 11, SUNDAY

Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St., presents "open canvas artist" Mike Kasun at 6 p.m. Call 414-372-7880. Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, hosts a live female impersonator show at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

JULY 14, WEDNESDAY

Tropical Night Club, 626 S. Fifth, hosts Noche De Divas, with a show beginning at 11 p.m. Call 414-630-6055 or 414-460-6277.

Defy gravity and see the beloved musical "Wicked," running through Aug. 8 at the Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

JULY 15, THURSDAY

Led by Rhett Miller, Old 97's performs at 8 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes Liars at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Liars

Summer events add to the allure of East Town living

By **Kerrie Kennedy**

Contributing writer

Can't make it to Paris for Bastille Day? No problem – head over to Cathedral Square in Milwaukee's East Town. You won't find all that *je ne sais quoi* Parisian attitude, but you will find an abundance of champagne, crepes, croissants, pommes frites – and even a replica of the Eiffel Tower. The 43-foot lighted tower, constructed by a crew of volunteer students from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, is one of the highlights of the annual July celebration, which is the largest French-themed outdoor festival in North America and one of Milwaukee's most popular events with LGBT people.

People who associate Milwaukee with beer and brats – as opposed to champagne and crepes – may be surprised to learn that Milwaukee's French roots go back much further than its German heritage. According to Anne Herisson-Leplae, executive director of the Alliance Francaise Milwaukee, they go back even further than the city itself.

"If you look at the very first maps of Wisconsin, they were all written in French, because the first explorers were French," Herisson-Leplae says. "Wisconsin was actually spelled 'Ouisconsin'"

Many of Milwaukee's French roots can be traced directly to East Town, a neighborhood once called Juneau Town in honor of the city's first mayor, Frenchman Solomon Juneau. Located east of the Milwaukee River and bordered by Brady Street, the Third Ward and Lake Michigan, East Town became the site for Bastille Days after a local French chef and an art gallery owner decided to celebrate the neighborhood's French roots with an event that would attract more people downtown.

More than 200,000 people will head to East Town July 8-11 for Bastille Days, a Francophile's paradise complete with French food, French history neigh-



PHOTO: COURTESY EAST TOWN ASSOCIATION

Bastille Days, July 8 to 11, features a landmark 43-foot lighted replica of the Eiffel Tower that recognizes East Town's French heritage.

borhood tours, French games (Petanque, a French game similar to Bocce ball), French wines and cheeses, French music, French language lessons and French mass at the historic St. John the Evangelist Cathedral at Cathedral Square.

One of the most popular events is the waiter/waitress race, which has local restaurant servers competing on an obstacle course carrying trays of full wine glasses, which are inevitably spilled. The event is a great way to bring together some of East Town's businesses, says Kate Borders, executive director of the East Town Association.

The business district

in East Town contributes to Bastille Day's ambiance, Herisson-Leplae says: "The cafes on the sidewalks, the French restaurants and the cultural institutions give East Town a French feel right in the heart of Milwaukee."

The area's newest attraction is the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, which is in the process of opening in the Blatz Boiler House, 252 E. Highland Ave. – only a stone's throw from such East Town attractions as the Marcus Center for Performing Arts, The Pabst, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Cathedral Square.

In addition to Bastille Days, East Town hosts the huge-

ly popular Jazz in the Park in Cathedral Square every Thursday evening from 6-9 p.m., June 3 through Sept. 23. This event is also a great favorite with local gays, many of whom head over to This Is It, 418 E. Wells St., to continue partying after the music dies down. Tempt, Milwaukee's newest gay bar at 324 E. Mason St., is another East Town gay magnet.

East Town boasts more than 200 businesses, including such gay-friendly hangouts as Elsa's on the Park, 833 N. Jefferson St. White Star, a gay-owned men's "clothing lounge" opened at 524 N. Water St. in late spring, and a five-story, 55,000-square-



PHOTO: KATE BRENNER

East Town boasts more than 200 businesses, including some of Milwaukee's most popular entertainment and dining venues.

foot Gold's Gym is set to open at 735 N. Water St. in late fall.

"It's a pretty big mix here, just like the neighborhood itself," Borders says. "We have law firms, accounting firms, restaurants, spas, salons, hotels, a post office and two grocery stores. In

one square mile, you can do just about anything."

That might be why Money magazine recently named East Town one of the best places to retire in the United States. "It's such a walkable neighborhood," says Shorewest Realtors agent and longtime East Town next page

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East Town from 23

East Town resident Dennis Miller. "There are many fine restaurants in the neighborhood and you can walk to almost any service you might need." According to Miller, the Web site Walkscore.com, which rates neighborhoods on their walkability, gives East Town a score of 95, or "walker's paradise."

East Town's location is also somewhat of a paradise, Miller says. "There's easy access to the lakefront for people who like to bike and run, and at the same time it's a great downtown location for people who want to walk to work."

Unlike many other downtown areas, East Town has always been a residential neighborhood, which means it has numerous housing options. There are old, beautifully restored mansions and vintage hotels and buildings that have been converted to condos, as well as new construction condominiums, buildings and townhomes, many overlooking the lake or the river.

According to Miller, prices in East Town are as diverse as its



East Town Market hosts a popular farmer's market in Cathedral Square Park, corner of Kilbourn Avenue and Jefferson, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays, June 5-Oct. 30.

housing stock. At the top of the price range are newly constructed condominiums in luxury buildings along the lakefront. These units can run up to several million dollars. At the bottom of the price range are efficiency units in converted condomini-

um buildings. Studio units in the Knickerbocker on the Lake, for example, start as low as \$50,000.

Despite the housing slowdown, new projects in the neighborhood, such as the Breakwater – a new construction condo building overlooking Lake Michigan

– are selling briskly, Miller says. He attributes the success to the neighborhood's inherent charm, its vibrant history, arts, entertainment, parks and festivals.

Join WiG's Facebook community.



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CLASSIFIEDS

APARTMENTS

Apartments available in popular Brady street area building. Rent includes heat, water, cooking gas. Studios are \$525/month and two-bedroom are \$775. On site W/D and storage locker. Call Sharon at 414-241-4606.

Best Downtown Location

Shoreland Manor, 1029 E. Knapp St., downtown High-Rise, 1 block from lake front bike trail, center of East Town night life, 1 bdrms starting at \$630/mo, includes internet & cable, options to customize your space, call Greg at 414-759-1154 for your personal showing, www.eastmore.com.

HELP WANTED

Bob had a job. Bob lost his job. Want Bob's Job? Call Larry at 503-995-4057.

U.S. Census Workers

Earn good pay working for the US Census Bureau! For Milwaukee County residents, office jobs pay at least \$11.25 an hour and field positions pay at least \$15 an hour. Weekly pay & paid training. Temporary, part-time & full-time, work with flexible hours. Help your community have a successful census. Call the toll-free jobs line at: 1-866-861-2010 to

schedule the required 30 minute basic skills test at a time and location convenient to you. More information, including a practice test, is available at www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Professional, experienced Executive Assistant seeking employment as a Personal or Executive Assistant. Private or Professional. Full-time preferred, but amenable to part-time. Open to other job opportunities. For a copy of resume, please inquire via e-mail. Age: 34 Experience: 7 years (both Small Business and Corporate).

SERVICES

MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage therapy service provided at your home. Relaxation, deep tissue and sports massage. Claude Gagnon, Wisconsin Certified Massage Therapist #839-46 18 years of experience 414-460-7762.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Karen Zammit, CMT#831-046, Nationally Certified Massage Therapist and Reiki Master, Thai Massage, Neuromuscular Therapy, 20 years experience. Near east side location. By appointment only. Call 414-962-6340.

DOG WALKER

Dog walker and pet/house sitter with more than 25 years of experience. Contact me at olivia.merrillbaum.com or olivia@merrillbaum.com.

SWIMMING POOL & SPA

Swimming Pool & Spa Service Racine & Kenosha Area 262-857-7470.

COMPUTERS

PC Medic Milwaukee Mobile PC repair We also do Virus Removal, Upgrades and Custom Computer Builds. Call Kevin @ 414-788-2383.

SEEKING

HOUSE BOI WANTED

SGWM with a limited disability looking for a house "boi" for lack of a better term. I need a guy to clean, do some minor cooking & run errands when necessary. I occasionally need a lift, so a car would be helpful. You wouldn't have to live in full time. Seeking SGWM, age 24-34, for this position. It is not a difficult job. If you live in rent would be minimal. Reimbursed for gas \$. Please send stats and what your plan is for the next 5 years with contact info. Must have references & a phone of your own. Perfect for college or grad student. All the comforts of

home. Send to: hummelcreche@netzero.net.

BWMT

Black and White Men Together (BWMT) invites men of all races, ethnic

backgrounds, and ages together for socializing! Join us at 7 pm, on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Dinner outings, and other group activities. For more information: www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee.

Classifieds can get your business or service noticed! Call 414-961-3240 to find out how to get started today.

WIG'S TAIL-WAGGER

COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY

Johnny Cash is a handsome 11-week-old kitten with a mellow purr. A friendly feline who loves socializing with the shelter volunteers, he has a beautiful black coat with white markings. You can meet Johnny Cash today at the Wisconsin Humane Society, located at 45th and Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee.

Tango's Tip: Sign up now for Feasting for Fido! This fun evening will include restaurant tastings of creative cuisine, inspiring wines, locally crafted beer, festive music, an auction and raffle prizes. All proceeds help homeless and injured animals get a second chance at happiness. Register at www.wihumane.org.



Johnny Cash

SEE HIM TODAY!

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OUT & ABOUT

Got a listing to add? Tell us managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.

STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

KENOSHA/RACINE

Club ICON, 6305 120th St. (off I-94), Kenosha, 262-857-3240

JoDee's, 2139 Racine St., Racine, 262-634-9804

MILWAUKEE

Art Bar, 722 Burleigh, 414-372-7880

Ballgame, 196 S. Second St., 414-273-7474

Boom & The Room, 625 S. Second St., 414-277-5040

Boot Camp, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900

City Lights Chill & Grill, 111 W. Howard Ave., 414-481-1441

Fluid, 819 S. Second St., 414-643-5843

Harbor Room, 117 E. Greenfield, 414-672-7988

Hybrid, 707 E. Brady St., 414-810-1809

JACK, 200 E. Washington St., 414-389-3596

Kruz, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-KRUZ

LaCage, 801 S. Second St., 414-383-8330

Mona's, 1407 S. First St., 414-643-0377

Nut Hut, 1500 W. Scott, 414-647-2673

Pump, (Sundays at Decibel), 1905 E. North Ave., 414-272-3337

This Is It, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192

Triangle, 135 E. National Ave., 414-383-9412

Tropical Niteclub, 626 S. Fifth St., 414-460-6277

Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second St., 414-643-7468

Woody's, 1579 S. Second St., 414-672-0806

MADISON

Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, 608-277-9700

Plan B, 924 Williamson St., 608-257-5262

Shamrock, 117 W. Main St., 608-255-5029

WOOF'S, 114 King St., 608-204-6222

BELOIT/JANESVILLE

Impulse, 132 W. Grand Ave., Beloit, 608-361-0000

Off The Wagon, 18-24 S. River St., Janesville, 608-359-3209

LACROSSE

My Place, 3201 South Ave., 608-788-9073

Players, 300 Fourth St., 608-784-4200

Chances R, 417 Jay St., 608-782-5105

WISCONSIN DELLS

Captain Dix Rainbow Valley Resort, 4124 River Road, 866-553-1818

SHEBOYGAN

Blue Lite, 1029 N. Eighth St., 920-457-1636

FOX VALLEY

Rascals Bar & Grill, 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton, 920-954-9262

Ravens, 215 E. College Ave., Appleton, 920-364-9599

Napalese, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, 920-432-9646

SASS, 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay, 920-437-7277

The Shelter, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay, 920-432-2662

XS Niteclub, 1106 Main St., Green Bay, 920-430-1301

Debs Spare Time, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh, 920-235-6577

PJS, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh

NORTHERN

Scooters, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire, 715-835-9959

JT's Bar and Grill, 1506 N. Third St., Superior, 715-394-2580

The Flame, 1612 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-395-0101

The Main, 1217 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-392-1756

OZ, 320 Washington St., Wausau, 715-842-3225

To get considered for a listing on Out & About, e-mail managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com.



Calendar

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THURSDAY

2:30 p.m., first and third Thursdays, LGBT senior adults discussion, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison. Info: ferington@charter.net.

6 p.m., third Thursdays, same-sex partners group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1, Madison. Info: 608-255-8582, www.lgb-toutreach.org.

6 p.m., Qgrads, UW Memorial Union Rathskeller, 800 Langdon St., Madison.

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Alliance movie night, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442.

7 p.m., AA Living Sober; 7 p.m., Crystal Meth Anonymous, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., Q2-LGBTQ Youth Group, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702, Info: 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

7:30 p.m., Four Lakes

Bears, Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, 114 State St., Madison. Info: 608-251-5299.

FRIDAY

4-7 p.m., fourth Friday, Happy Hour with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, rotating location in Milwaukee/Madison. Info: www.ppawi.org.

5:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Pozitive Lite HIV/AIDS group, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1, Madison. Info: 608-255-8582.

6 p.m., second Fridays, Lesbian Alliance game night and potluck, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-272-9442.

6:30 p.m., Open Mic night, Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay, 54303. Info: 920-268-3911 or dtappy_gw@gwicc.org.

7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., Gay Narcotics

Anonymous, 315 W. Court St., Second floor, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936.

7 p.m., Drop-in night, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702, Info: 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line dancing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Info: 414-383-75936.

SATURDAY

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Walkers Milwaukee Run Walk, starting at the Water Tower at the East end of North Avenue, Milwaukee. Info: 262-285-7645.

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Madison, Wingra Park off Monroe St., Madison. Info: 608-469-4882.

3 p.m., second and fourth Saturdays, Women4Women, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1, Madison. Info: 608-255-8582.

6 p.m., AA The Women's

Light meeting; 7:30 p.m., Spiritual Light, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

6 p.m., Rotating Activity Night each week, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54702. Info: 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

7-8:30 p.m., third Saturdays, BWMT (Black and White Men Together), general meeting.

SUNDAY

1 p.m., Cream City Squares dances, Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee.

7 p.m., AA The Big Book meeting, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

5 p.m., OutThere LGBT youth group meeting, OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1, Madison. Info: 608-255-8582.

5 p.m., third Sundays,

PFLAG Milwaukee, Martin Luther Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa.

7 p.m., second Sundays, Gay and Straight in Christ, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, N88 W17658 Christman Road, Menomonee Falls, 262-502-0437.

MONDAY

7 p.m., Spectrum-Social and networking LGBT group, Harmony Cafe, 233 E. College Ave. Info: ericksoc@gmail.com, 917-669-7529.

7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

TUESDAY

12:30 p.m., third Tuesday, Retired Old/Older Lesbians (ROLLers), Madison. Info: 608-219-7751.

5 p.m., AA Over 40; 7 p.m. AA The Blue Group, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info:

414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

6 p.m., third Tuesday, Fair Wisconsin Action Network of the Chippewa Valley, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54701. Info: 715-552-LGBT.

7 p.m., Spectrum GLBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, 1660 W. Mason St., Appleton.

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m., AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, The Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., No. 201, Milwaukee. Info: 414-276-6936, galanoclub.org.

7 p.m., first Wednesday, Bear Club 4 Men monthly meeting, Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, Info: bearclub4men@gmail.com.

Send listings to ltomaszek@wisconsin gazette.com.

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

FRIDAY

July 2

6 p.m., Queer Zine Archive Art and Film Show, Jackpot Gallery, 825 E. Center St., 53213, www.qzap.org.

6 p.m., Global healing meditation, Harmony Cafe, 124 N. Oneida St., Appleton, 920-722-6438, www.harmony-cafe.org.

SATURDAY

July 3

9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tour de Fat: New Belgium Brewing's traveling bicycle celebration, Humbolt Park, 3000 S. Howell Ave, 53207, www.newbelgium.com/tour-de-fat.

SUNDAY

July 4

2-4 p.m., SAGE Milwaukee

July Fourth Picnic, the home of G. Gussick, 6066 N. Appleblossom Lane, Glendale, 414-224-0517.

MONDAY

July 5

4 p.m., Smoke-free bar hop with GAMMA, Walker's Point area, 414-530-1886, milwaukeegamma.com.

WEDNESDAY

July 7

12 p.m., Blue plate special with GAMMA, Cafe Centraal, 2306 Kinnickinnic Ave, Bay View, 53207, 414-530-1886, milwaukeegamma.com.

FRIDAY

July 9

6-9 p.m., "Visions of People and Places," opening recep-

SAVE THE DATE

Milwaukee GAMMA is hosting a camping trip to the Lost Lake campground in Nicolet National Forest near Crandon July 15-18. Campsites are \$12 (shared). Reservations by July 7. More information is available at www.milwaukeegamma.com.

tion with the artist Nancy Greenbaum, LGBT Center of S.E. Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

SATURDAY

July 10

11 a.m.-10 p.m., Pride Alive festival, Joannes Park, 1430 Walnut St., Green Bay, www.newpride.org.

11 a.m.-4 p.m., Christmas in July One Stop Shop, GALAXY youth group fundraiser,

Seven Rivers Region LGBT Community Center, 303 Pearl St., LaCrosse, 608-784-0542, 222.7riverslgbt.org.

3:45-5 p.m. LGBT writer's group, Mo's Cafe, 5537 Sixth Ave., Kenosha, asstdirector@lgbtsewisc.org.

SUNDAY

July 11

3-7 p.m., Beer/soda bust, Castaway's M.C. Leather Club, at KRUZ, 354 E. National Ave., castawaysrd-captain@yahoo.com.

MONDAY

July 12

11 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Anit-Violence Project's City Hall art show installation, help is needed to hang the Postcard Project at City Hall. RSVP is requested to 414-292-3072 or jlindo@mkelgibt.org.

6-7:30 p.m., LaCrosse Pride planning committee meeting, Seven Rivers Region LGBT Community Center, 303 Pearl St., LaCrosse, 608-784-0542, 222.7riverslgbt.org.

6:30-7:30 p.m., Transgender

support group, LGBT Center of S.E. Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

7:30-8:30 p.m., Gender identity support group, LGBT Center of S.E. Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, www.lgbtsewisc.org.

TUESDAY

July 13

7-9 p.m., Insurance for the LGBT Community: Domestic Partner Benefits, forum discussion, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 715-522-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

Send listings to ltomaszek@wisconsin gazette.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MILWAUKEE

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Cream City Chorus, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-276-8787, www.creamcitychorus.org, info@creamcitychorus.org.

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080, www.iagsdc.org/creamcity.

Men's Voices Milwaukee, 2717 E. Hampshire St., 53211, 414-964-1513 www.mensvoicesmilwaukee.com.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 53204, 414-383-3727, www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org.

Milwaukee/LGBT Film/Video Festival, www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm.

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St., 53202, www.qzap.org.

Shoreline Country Dancers, 2809 E. Oklahoma Ave., 53207, www.shoreline-milw.org, info@shoreline-milw.org.

Women's Voices Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-534-5645, womensvoicesmke.viviti.com, womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, www.bvgays.com.

Brew City Bears, P.O. Box 1035, 53201, 414-331-3744, www.bcb4men.info.

BWMT, 414-463-5359, www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee.

Castaways, P.O. Box 1697, 53202, castawaysmc@yahoo.com.

CONNEXUS, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org/connexus.

Diverse and Resilient, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.

FORGE, P.O. Box 1272, 53201, 414-559-2123, www.forge-forward.org.

GAMMA Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, 53201, 414-530-1886, www.milwaukeegamma.com.

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, ggwi.tripod.com.

Lesbian Alliance, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-272-9442, www.lesbianalliance.org.

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Milwaukee, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com/who_we_are/lesbian_fund.

LOC/Women of Color, P.O. Box 93594, 53203, 414-263-1631.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-271-265, www.mkelglt.org.

Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, www.mkelgbthist.org.

Milwaukee Pride Parade, P.O. Box 070177, 53207, www.prideparademke.org.

Out to Brunch, jennieragland@wi.rr.com.

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-299-9198, pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com.

PrideFest, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.

Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, queerprgrm@aol.com.

SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 220, 53202, 414-224-0517, www.sagemilwaukee.org.

Sapphic Adventures Milwaukee, www.meetup.com/sapphic-MKE, calamityjane321@gmail.com.

SHEBA/Sisters Helping Each other Battle AIDS, 2349 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444.

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com.

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-258-8834 www.washingtonheightsrainbow.org.

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, 414-218-9277, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.

Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, P.O. Box 353, Hartland, 53029, www.wiscrad.org.

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., 53212, www.wirainbowfamilies.com, info@wirainbowfamilies.com.

HEALTH

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 510498, 53202, 414-273-1991, www.arcw.org, info@arcw.org.

Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 53202, 414-272-2144, www.bestd.org, bestd@execpc.com.

Galano Club, 315 Court St., Suite 201, 53213, 414-276-6936, www.galanoclub.org, mail@galanoclub.org.

Health Institute of Milwaukee, 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive, Suite 3, 53212, 414-263-9999.

Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway, Suite 230, 53202, www.mwcinc.org.

Pathfinders, 1614 E. Kane Pl., 53202, 414-271-1560, www.pathfinders.org, info@tccmilw.org.

STD Specialties, Inc., 3251 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialties.org.

POLITICS

Center Advocates, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-271-2656, www.centeradvocates.org.

Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-431-1306, www.equalitywi.org.

Human Rights League, P.O. Box 510407, 53203, 414-319-9863, www.hrl-pac.org, hrlpac@yahoo.com.

Vets Do Ask Do Tell, 315 W. Court St., 53212, www.vetsdoaskdotell.org.

Religion/Spirituality
Central United Methodist Church,
639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600, www.centralumcmilw.org.

Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org.

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, www.divinewordlutheran.org.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, www.uumilwaukee.org.

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, lakeparklutheran.com.

Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, www.milmcc.org.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 53212, 414-263-2111, www.milwaukeequakers.org.

Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-964-1513, www.plymouth-church.org.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233, 414-964-1513, www.stjamesmilwaukee.org.

SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, ullrwoolf.com, frontrunnersmke,thbolt@milwpc.com.

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 3957 81st St., 53222, 414-616-3716, moenell@sbcglobal.net.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clark St., 53212, 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeegaysoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, www.ssblmilwaukee.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 53205, 414-267-5400, www.allianceschool.org.

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 53214, 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.

Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, <http://gayyouthmilwaukee.tripod.com>.

Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233.

Marquette U G/L Alumni, P.O. Box 92722, 53202.

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-223-3220.

UWM LGBT Resource Center, UWM Union WG 89, P.O. Box 413, 53201, 414-229-4116, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

FOX VALLEY

COMMUNITY

Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, 54915, 920-734-2233, www.harmonycafe.org, skenevan_gw@gwicc.org.

PFLAG-Appleton/Fox Cities, 740 Kensington Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-722-7145. Rainbow Over Wisconsin, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org.

GREEN BAY

COMMUNITY

Argonauts of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 22096, Green Bay, 54305, www.argonautsll.org, info@argonautsll.org.

Bear Club 4 Men, P.O. Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307, www.bc4m.com.

Harmony Café, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay, 54303, 920-569-1593, www.harmonycafe.org.

Positive Voice, P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, 54305, 920-435-4404, pvinc.org, info@pvinc.org.

Pride Alive, 920-471-3260, www.newpride.org, info@newpride.org.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Angels of Hope MCC, P.O. Box 672, Green Bay,

54305, 920-983-7452, www.aohmcc.org, aohchurch@netnet.net.

MADISON

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, Madison, 53713, 608-277-9700, www.dcandc.org

COMMUNITY

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, www.lgbtoutreach.org, info@lgbtoutreach.org.

PFLAG-Madison, 4221 Venetian Ln., Madison 53718, 608-848-2333, pflagmadison@yahoo.com.

POLITICS

Fair Wisconsin, 112 State St., Suite 309, Madison, 53703, 608-441-0143, www.fairwisconsin.org, info@fairwisconsin.com.

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org.

Madison Gay Volleyball, 608-347-8907, www.madisonlbtvolleyball.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

GSA for Safe Schools, 301 S. Bedford St., Madison, 53703, 608-661-1360, www.gsaforsafeschools.org.

RACINE/KENOSHA

COMMUNITY

PFLAG-Racine/Kenosha, P.O. Box 580058, Pleasant Prairie, 53158, 262-694-2729, pflagkenosha@aol.com.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, www.bradforduu.org.

SPORTS

Wisconsin Warriors, P.O. Box 334, Somers, 53171, 414-759-8823, www.wiwarriors.com, wiarriors@yahoo.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Rainbow Alliance, UW-Parkside, Student Center, L108D, 262-595-2685, <http://www.uwp.edu/clubs/clubtemp.cfm?clubID=38>.

Send changes or addition suggestions to ltomaszek@wisconsinngazette.com.





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