

HOLLY HUGHES BRINGS HER ACT TO MILWAUKEE

America's most esoteric trash-talking feminist trots out her dog and pony show.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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There and back again



There's more between Milwaukee and Madison than cows. Pull over and see for yourself.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Traveling between Milwaukee and Madison this summer? Chances are you'll spend most of the 78.7-mile journey between Lake Michigan and Lake Mendota rolling down Interstate 94, the concrete umbilical chord that connects the two cities.

To the unknowing eye, the landscape holds little more than cows, open fields and the occasional pit stop. But the four counties between the state's two major cities actually offer many attractions for those willing to get off the highway and explore. Whether you're interested in history, culture, outdoor activities or shop-

ping, you'll find something intriguing enough to turn your routine journey into a minor adventure.

WAUKESHA COUNTY HISTORY

Traveling west, one of your first stops might be Old World Wisconsin, located just south of the Waukesha County community of

Eagle. Operated by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Old World is a trip back to 19th-century Wisconsin's farms, villages and agrarian culture. Interpreters recreate the daily life of planters, craftsmen and other residents of Crossroads Village, the attraction's fictional community. Historic buildings, traditional animal breeds, heir-

loom gardens and other authentic features complete the picture.

A bit farther down the road in Genesee Depot, Ten Chimneys, the fabled summer retreat of Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, recreates a more contemporary slice of history.

Old World Wisconsin and Ten

BETWEEN page 16



From July 22 -27, ARCW president Mike Gifford will blog daily from the International AIDS Conference 2012 on wisconsin Gazette.com

Latino groups step up LGBT support

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Twenty-one of the nation's leading Hispanic organizations are launching a public-education campaign to build support within the Latino community for LGBT family members.

The campaign, called "Familia es Familia" ("Family is Family") was announced on July 8 at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza in Las Vegas. Free-

dom to Marry, a nationwide coalition that campaigns for marriage equality, is providing seed funding for the project, which also has a financial commitment from the Gill Foundation.

The announcement came a month after NCLR's board of directors passed a resolution endorsing marriage equality and after a number of public opinion polls have shown a high level of support among Hispanics for a number of

LGBT issues.

The announcement also came just days after the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights and advocacy group, passed a resolution at its annual convention in Orlando, Fla., supporting marriage rights for same-sex couples. LULAC has 900 councils throughout the United States.

"A growing majority of Latinos in this country know

that every gay or lesbian person is part of someone's family – a son or daughter, a brother or sister, a loved one – and the more conversations we have, family member to family member, the more support for the freedom to marry grows," said Evan Wolfson, founder and president of Freedom to Marry. "Latino gay couples seek the freedom to marry to affirm and strengthen their love, their commitment,

and their ability to take care of each other and their families; government should not be putting barriers in their way."

The growing support for LGBT equality among national Hispanic groups also is reflected at the local level, said Jason Burns, executive director of Equality Wisconsin. Voces de la Frontera, Wisconsin's leading immigrant rights group, has "been a tre-

LATINOS page 5

LGBT news with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

**RACHEL VICTORIOUS**

Christian hate-rocker Bradlee Dean was ordered to pay Rachel Maddow's legal fees in a \$50-million defamation suit he filed against the out MSNBC star. Dean had sued Maddow for allegedly misrepresenting a statement he made calling for the execution of homosexuals. According to court records, Dean was ordered to pay a total of \$24,625.23 to Maddow, MSNBC and two other defendants.

STOP AND RECORD

The ACLU of New Jersey recently released a smartphone app so citizens can discreetly record interactions with law

enforcement officers. The Police Tape app's release was timed to coincide with the summer season on the New Jersey shore, when apparently interactions between police and citizens increase.

ZOMBIE AUTOPSY

A medical examiner concluded that the so-called "Miami zombie" did not ingest a dose of the street drug bath salts before feeding on the face of a homeless man. There was widespread speculation on the Web that bath salts led Rudy Eugene, 31, to attack Ronald Poppo on a Miami causeway in May. But an autopsy of Eugene, who was killed by a police officer during the attack, found only marijuana in his system.

SINGING OUT

Frank Ocean celebrated Independence Day with an outing and some fireworks. Ocean said his first love at 19 was a male friend with whom he

spent two summers. "Whoever you are, wherever you are ... I'm starting to think we're a lot alike. Human beings spinning on blackness. All wanting to be seen, touched, paid attention to," Ocean wrote. The singer found support among hip-hop friends who are not always known for tolerance toward gays.

OVER AND OUT

CNN's Anderson Cooper can't be said to have come out, because the statement he posted on the Daily Beast said he wasn't in the closet. Rather, Cooper said, he was following a journalist's rule and keeping his private life private. Some cable-news watchers speculated that Cooper's public disclosure had something to do with CNN's sluggish ratings.

MARRIED

Rep. Barney Frank married longtime partner Jim Ready in Newton, Mass., on July 7. Frank, 72, and Ready, 42, tied the knot at the Boston Marriott hotel in a ceremony attended by more

than 300 guests and officiated by Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick. Frank is the first sitting member of Congress to enter a same-sex marriage.

STRANDED IN TUNISIA

Eleven male models are suing Holland America and RSVP Vacations for breach of contract. The young men allege that RSVP offered them a free vacation if they promised to "mix and mingle" with guests. But, the models claim, with rumors about them circulating, RSVP forced them off the ship, leaving them stranded in tumultuous Tunisia without travel papers and money.

STATUS UPDATE

The same weekend that Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes married boyfriend Sean Eldridge in New York, Facebook debuted new icons for same-sex couples to use on their timeline. Couples can now display their married status with same-sex male or female couples; previously they were stuck with the male-female icon.

CHOKER ON THIS

Anti-gay Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, R, was hospitalized in Los Angeles after choking on a carrot during a ceremony for the re-dedication of the USS Iowa. "We're glad he's OK," a spokesman said. "He's in great spirits. He's probably a little more embarrassed than anything."

PREACHING FROM THE BENCH

A South Carolina judge sentenced a woman convicted of drunk driving to eight years in prison and a mandatory biblical assignment. Cassandra Tolley had a blood-alcohol content of more than four times the legal limit when she drove down the wrong side of the road and plowed into an oncoming car, injuring two men. Circuit Court Judge Michael Nettles commanded Tolley to read and write a summary of the Book of Job. So far, the constitutionality of the sentence has not been addressed.

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Madison angered by Westboro protest for child abuser

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Westboro Baptist Church, the Kansas-based ministry famous for picketing the funerals of U.S. military personnel killed in action, canceled a scheduled protest in Madison on July 6, apparently because temperatures topped 100 degrees.

The church, headed by the obsessively anti-gay Rev. Fred Phelps, had planned to protest the sentencing of Philip Caminiti. The pastor of Aleitheia Bible Church in Black Earth, Caminiti was given two years in prison for teaching his disciples to beat their children with wooden spoons and rods as a disciplinary measure.

Phelps and his clan claim that the punishment is just, based on a literal interpretation of Scripture.

The church's protest was to be staged at noon in front of the Dane County Courthouse, but officials of the church contacted law enforcement officers in the area to say they'd decided against the event. A counter-protest did take place, however, attracting more than three dozen people who'd hoped to drown out Westboro's hate messages. They

chanted and carried signs in front of the courthouse for half an hour before disbanding. Afterward, many headed over to the Capitol to join in a solidarity sing-along.

Jonathan Dederig, a Green Party candidate for west Madison's 78th Assembly seat, organized a Facebook event titled "Food Drive & Picket to Oppose Westboro Baptist Church Hate." Counter-protesters contributed canned goods, toys, and school supplies in an effort to "turn hate into love," as Dederig put it in his post.

"They brought quite a bit," Dederig said. "They brought a pretty good selection of canned food, boxed food, toothpaste, deodorant and a whole bunch of school supplies."

Dederig said he planned to give the donations to a local nonprofit. The heat and humidity failed to dampen the spirits of the counter-demonstrators, he added.

Phelps' clan, which consists mostly of his extended family, began staging protests in Wisconsin on July 1, when about half a dozen of his followers showed up with hate signs in front of Milwaukee-area churches. They also pro-

tested a July Brewers game.

The demonstrations received little attention and went off without incident. The public and the media have increasingly begun overlooking Westboro, whose leaders thrive off the negative publicity their stunts generate.

In February 2011, the site godhatesfags.com was shut down for months by the hacker group Anonymous. During that time, Westboro faded somewhat from public view and has never regained its previous notoriety.

The Caminiti ruling that prompted Westboro to organize the Madison protest was handed down May 25 by Dane County Circuit Court Judge Maryann Sumi. In March, a jury found Caminiti guilty of eight counts of conspiracy to commit child abuse for teaching his church's members to beat children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years.

Police intervened in November 2010 and stopped the practice.

"What is important to me," Sumi said during sentencing, "is there was and continues to this day no expression of remorse or repentance for the conse-



PHOTOS: CALLEN HARTY

Above: Counter-protesters brave the heat in Madison. Below: A sign carried by an anti-Westboro Church demonstrator.

quences of those actions, or what the whole chain of events has led the family and the community through."

In announcing the Madison protest, Westboro issued a statement that said: "Look what you've done, doomed America! God blessed you with religious liberty. Lying false prophets taught you to lust after fag marriage. Now your judges are putting your preachers in jail for telling you the Bible says to make children behave. ...

"You have a corrupt judicial system that loves to turn over children to fag & dyke couples, while putting preachers in jail when they say you should spank a child! ... Every preacher in this nation should be marching on Dane County,



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'It's done my heart good to see the changes'

LATINOS from page 1

mendous ally and supporter" of LGBT rights, he said.

"Some of our most engaged and most involved board members are part of the Latino community," Burns said. "They really are doing a good job of being the kind of positive, progressive voice that changes the hearts and minds of people in their community."

Burns said that Voces, as the group is often called, played a vital role last year in lobbying Milwaukee County Board supervisors to extend employment benefits to the same-sex partners of county workers. "They organized their members to call local officials and say that they, as a Latino organization, support this," Burns said. "It had immediate impact."

Burns said the organization communicates support for the LGBT community on an ongoing basis and in subtle as well as overt ways.

"When Voces puts out their candidate surveys for

making endorsements, they don't ask specific LGBT questions, but they do use language that's inclusive, such as 'Do you have a spouse or a domestic partner?'" Burns said. "It's one of those little things that sends a very clear signal."

Lesley Salas, associate director of Voces, said the organization's founding executive director Christine Neumann-Ortiz recognizes LGBT equality as "just another civil rights issue." Neumann-Ortiz speaks up frequently for the LGBT community, even mentioning gays and lesbians during a speech she made during an Occupy demonstration in Milwaukee last winter.

That's a courageous position to take for the head of an organization that serves an immigrant community, Salas said,

"U.S.-born Latino kids, they pretty much don't care," she explained. "But the old-school, foreign-born people that are upholding those old ways – that is a hard

group to loosen up. ... I don't think (Neumann-Ortiz) gets people coming up and giving blowback about her position, but I do think she gets people to think."

Still, Salas acknowledged that it's easier for Latino leaders at the national level, who have some degree of anonymity, to take a strong stance on the issue than it is for local Hispanic leaders in communities like Milwaukee.

For Salas, who is out and who endured years of family members cajoling her to get married, the recent outpouring of support from Hispanic leaders has been personally gratifying.

"I'm going to be 60 in February, and the world has changed so much," Salas said. "It's done my heart good to see these changes. It's very overdue for (the Latino community) to come to the table."

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AIDS Quilt unfolded in shadow of conference

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is many things: It is the world's largest memorial. It is the largest public art project in history. It is a testament to the lives of more than 600,000 Americans who've died of HIV-related causes, and it is a lasting document of the AIDS pandemic for future generations.

Last month, the AIDS Quilt returned to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., where it was first shown in 1987. The exhibit will coincide with the 19th International AIDS Conference, which opens in D.C. on July 22 and continues through July 27. Each event marks a milestone in AIDS history. This is the first time that the entire quilt has been displayed in one location since 1996, and it's the first time that the AIDS

conference has been held on American soil since 1990.

San Francisco activist Cleve Jones first conceived of the memorial in 1985. His original idea was to inscribe the names of people lost to AIDS on placards. Installed together, the placards were reminiscent of a quilt, which sparked the idea for the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The project began in the summer of 1987 and continues to this day. About 94,000 individuals are commemorated in The Quilt through panels created by their survivors and loved ones. The compositions include everything from photographs to poems, embroidered designs and appliques, wedding rings and ashes.

The Quilt is monumental and profound, its size alone a stark reminder of the many

lives lost. Yet it's intensely personal, with each panel a lasting and loving commemoration of a unique individual.

The panels measure three feet by six feet, and eight panels are sewn together to create blocks that are 12-feet square. Always growing, The Quilt currently consists of more than 42,000 panels and weighs about 54 tons. As a whole, it would cover 29 acres of land. If the panels were laid end to end, they would extend longer than 50 miles. Spending one minute viewing each panel would take more than 33 days.

In past decades, The Quilt has been shown in various arrangements, with excerpts touring cities around the country (the Milwaukee Art Museum hung select panels in June 2010). In honor of the project's 25th anniversary, it is being shown in Washington

in its entirety. But given the scale, a viewing in one single session is all but impossible. To accommodate its size, The Quilt is being shown through a series of 60 changing displays in more than 50 locations over the span of 31 days.

The making of quilts as commemorative objects has quite a long history. They are multi-purpose, functioning as bed coverings and hangings on windows and doors to block drafty passages. Other types of quilts were made as showpieces and items of decorative beauty in their own right. In America, they have long been associated with comfort and memory, in addition to functionality.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is of a type known as a "signature quilt." These are commemorative objects used to mark significant events in the

lives of family and friends, and they traditionally bear names, written or embroidered on the quilt blocks. Signature quilts date to the mid-19th century, but they continued to be made in the 20th century as well. During World War II, signature quilts were used as charity raffle items for organizations such as the Red Cross.

One of the unique aspects of The Quilt is its iconic status as both a historical and contemporary memorial that brings together the work of many individuals and communities. And while it builds on traditions of quilt making, new technology is enhancing the ways it can be seen.

The Washington display, for instance, has an interactive timeline about AIDS and The Quilt project. There's

also a searchable database, which helps to locate individual names and panels. A mobile app is available at <http://www.aidsquilttouch.org>.

The 25th anniversary of The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a time to pause and reflect on the history of the epidemic and the countless lives it has affected in so many ways. The Quilt's presence in Washington will be particularly poignant to the world's most important AIDS researchers meeting nearby – a reminder of the significance of their work and a symbol of the pressure on them to stop The Quilt from growing.

FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE

The International AIDS Society and the Kaiser Family Foundation are providing daily coverage of the society's biennial conference July 22–27. Coverage, in both English and Spanish, includes daily webcasts, podcasts and recaps of new scientific research at <http://www.kff.org/aids2012>. In addition, webcasts will include sessions featuring former President Bill Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Ambassador Eric Goosby, Bill Gates and Sir Elton John, among others. The full list of webcast sessions is at <http://aids2012.org/>.

— L.W.



PHOTO: MARK THIESSEN/COURTESY OF THE NAMES PROJECT FOUNDATION

The last display of The AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C., in October 1992 (above) covered 13 acres and contained 20,064 panels. Today the Quilt contains 42,000 panels and would cover 29 acres of land. In the current exhibition in D.C., the Quilt is being shown through a series of 60 changing displays in more than 50 locations over 31 days.

Investigation continues in Texas double shooting

By Lisa Neff

Detectives, rangers and federal agents continue to investigate a shooting in a Portland, Texas, park that left one teenager dead and her girlfriend seriously wounded.

As WiG went to press, Mary Kristene Chapa, 18, was continuing a slow but surprising recovery after suffering a close-range gunshot wound to the head.

Chapa's girlfriend, Mollie Judith Olgin, a 19-year-old student at Texas A & M, did not survive a gunshot wound to the neck. She was remembered in an informal celebration of her life on June 29 in Portland. Her obituary said,

'The world is watching to ensure that the investigation is handled properly.'

"Mollie touched the lives of everyone and will always be remembered for her intelligence, beauty, compassion, humor and her kind heart."

She died in the knee-high grass in Violet Andrews Park, a newer, 10-acre park overlooking Corpus Christi Bay that's popular with hikers, bird-watchers and wind-surfers. A couple found the girls early June 23, some nine hours after the shooting.

The teenagers, according to friends, had planned to go to a movie on June 22 but they were early and decided to take a walk in the park.

Local police are investigating the crime with the help of the Texas Rangers and the U.S. Justice Department. Olgin's death has been classified as a murder and Chapa's shooting as aggravated assault.

At least one witness provided a description of the shooter. The suspect is a light-skinned, Anglo man with brown hair and, at about 5'8" and 140 pounds, a skinny build. Authorities released a sketch on July 4.

As of July 5, there was no information about a motive. A Portland Police Department news release said, "There continues to be no evidence that the attack was motivated by the victims' sexual orientation."

To assist with Chapa's recovery, donations are being collected through the online IIdiegogo and WePay services.

In the week after the shooting, vigils took place in Portland, Texas, as well as Portland, Ore., Portland, Maine, and many other locations.

The first of the vigils was held in Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood.

Longtime gay rights activist Cleve Jones organized the event.

"Last Friday, as millions of LGBT people and their allies were celebrating Pride, something awful happened in Portland, Texas," he said. "We need to respond publicly to

this tragedy. Whoever shot Mary Christine Chapa and Mollie Judith Olgin, whatever the motive, regardless of where it happened, two beautiful girls were shot and one was killed. We need to honor the memory of Mollie and pray for the recovery of Mary. ... Mary and Mollie loved each other. Now we need to show our love for them and their families and friends."

About 100 people attend-

ed another vigil in Washington, D.C.

Addressing the crowd, Chad Griffin, the president of the Human Rights Campaign, said, "Texas is a long ways away, but we're in our nation's capital, and so all of you being here today sends that message and says to those in Texas who are investigating that the world is watching – that the world is watching to ensure that the investigation is handled

properly and thoroughly by the local authorities."

Griffin said HRC, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group, and Equality Texas, the state's largest LGBT civil rights group, had offered assistance to investigators.

You can contact Lisa Neff at lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com.



IMAGE: PORTLAND POLICE DEPT.

A composite sketch of the suspect in the shooting of Mary Kristene Chapa and Mollie Judith Olgin.

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{ Editorial }

Science returns to U.S.

For the first time since 1990, the International AIDS Conference 2012 will be held on American soil. This is a major development.

Hosting the conference helps put the United States back into the mainstream international scientific community. The nation is increasingly becoming a scientific backwater. We are the only industrialized country on Earth where evolution and global warming are heavily doubted and science-based sex education is demonized. The return of this internationally watched and esteemed conference lends stature to our scientific community.

The International AIDS Conference began boycotting the United States 22 years ago due to the so-called "Helms Rule," a federal law that banned granting U.S. visas to people who were HIV-positive. The ban was named after the late Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., whose five Senate terms were marked by a level of anti-gay zealotry that rivals the record of former Sen. Rick Santorum.

The Helms Rule made the United States the world's only industrialized nation to ban visitors based on their HIV status. It contributed to the marginalization of people with HIV and helped spread ignorance and fear by reinforcing the myth that the virus can be spread through casual contact.

AIDS workers were overjoyed when the nation's HIV travel ban was lifted by President Obama in 2009, and they're grateful that the 19th bi-annual international conference is being held in Washington, D.C., from July 22 to July 27.

The visibility is coming at an opportune time. Effective new treatments and declining infection rates among white heterosexuals have taken the epidemic off the radar of most Americans. But for gay and bisexual men, especially young gay and bisexual men of color the epidemic rages on. The rate for this group in Milwaukee tripled from 2001 to 2008.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates about 50,000 new HIV infections occur in the U.S. every year, many of them transmitted by people unaware that they're HIV positive. In fact, about one in five Americans infected with the virus do not know their status.

A 2011 clinical trial found that treating HIV-positive people with anti-viral drugs could decrease their ability to transmit the virus by up to 96 percent. From that data, some researchers have speculated that the virus could be eradicated if everyone who is positive or at high risk received treatment.

That means it's more critical than ever to get at-risk people tested and into treatment. AIDS 2012 should facilitate that process by bringing renewed attention to the disease and reducing the stigma that often discourages people from getting tested.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved a new, over-the-counter HIV home-testing kit that should also help more people learn their status. Many at-risk individuals, particularly of color, are reluctant to be seen entering an HIV clinic to be tested. With the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test, they can test themselves at home by swabbing their upper and lower gums and then placing the samples they acquire into a developer vial. Within 20 to 40 minutes, they'll learn their results. A positive result means that additional, confirmatory testing should be done in a medical setting.

We hope that AIDS 2012 draws renewed attention to the U.S. epidemic and encourages more people to seek testing and receive care.

BY THE NUMBERS**Party ID, partisan leanings among registered Hispanic voters**

45% U.S. Hispanics identify as Democrats

36% U.S. Hispanics identify as Independents
60% lean Democratic, 10% lean Independent, 27% lean Republican

16% U.S. Hispanics identify as Republicans

SOURCE: USA TODAY/GALLUP

{ Letters }

END TITLE IX DISCRIMINATION

The June 28 issue of *WiG* featured a lengthy article by Lisa Neff praising Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972. But due to enforcement of this law, by 1999 colleges had eliminated 171 men's wrestling teams, 84 men's tennis teams, 56 men's gymnastic teams and men's track squads. How could a law meant to prevent sex discrimination in sports be used to exclude men from participation in college sports?

Supporters of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 assured Americans that the proposed law would not be a quota bill. The liberals sponsoring the legislation asserted that hiring and firing to establish or maintain a racial balance was illegal. Yet, by the time of the liberal Nixon Administration, quotas had become mandatory. Because the law forbade quotas, euphemisms were created, such as "goals

and time-tables" and more recently, "diversity."

To enforce the Civil Rights Act, the EEOC required quota-like practices to achieve racial balance. Democrats and liberal Republicans forget that affirmative action on behalf of one group is negative action against others. In practice it amounts to discrimination against whites, males and sometimes Asians.

Like the Civil Rights Act, Title IX provides a safeguard against quotas, rejecting "preferential or disparate treatment because of imbalance" or "statistical evidence of imbalance." But under Jimmy Carter, the quota crowd in the Civil Rights section of the Dept. of Education demanded that colleges seek a proportional number of women in sports.

Neff writes, "A 2005-06 study found women make up 55 percent of the student population at NCAA schools but less than 45 percent of the athlete population."

Implicit is the belief that there is something wrong with that statistic.

Should men be discouraged from sports until women are represented at a rate of 55 percent? What about women who are pregnant or not interested in sports? What about women who embrace traditional feminine roles? Democrats will keep pushing women into teams, even when they have little interest, thereby denying access by young men to college sports.

We should end affirmative action and offshoots like Title IX. The fastest way to destroy these injustices is to vote against liberal Republicans like Nixon, who made affirmative action a national policy, and against the Democrats who seek to expand these injustices.

H. Murray
Milwaukee


Send letters to lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com.

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ON THE RECORD



“When women got the right to vote is when it all went down hill.”
– RUSH LIMBAUGH sharing his insight into contemporary issues with his radio audience.

“People now don’t die from prostate cancer, breast cancer and some of the other things.”

– GOP CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE CHRIS COLLINS of Buffalo, N.Y., arguing that the nation’s health care system has eliminated deaths from prostate, breast and other cancers. The American Cancer Society estimates there will be 39,920 deaths from breast cancer and 28,170 from prostate cancer this year.

“Shame on her for using veterans.”

– TEA PARTY CONGRESSMAN JOE WALSH, R-Ill., charging his Democratic opponent Tammy Duckworth for using “her service and the service of others as a political ploy.” Duckworth lost both of her legs serving in Iraq. Walsh, whom a judge has denounced as a deadbeat dad for failing to pay court-ordered child support, has never served in the military.

“While there are very few who take this action, it is sad to see someone choose to leave. We wish them well.”

– MORMON SPOKESMAN MICHAEL PURDY commenting on the mass resignation of 120 people from the church over its anti-gay activism. The apostates climbed a peak in Salt Lake City to deliver their letters of resignation.

“I will not be attending this year’s convention, nor any Republican convention in the future, until the party focuses on a bigger, bolder, more confident future for the United States – a future based on problem solving, inclusiveness, and a willingness to address the trust deficit, which is every bit as corrosive as our fiscal and economic deficits.”

– FORMER GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JON HUNTSMAN, a moderate, explaining why he’s sitting out his party’s convention.

“There’s good weed everywhere in the world, but my God, these Americans are brilliant.”

– FILM DIRECTOR OLIVER STONE praising American-raised marijuana as the world’s best. Stone’s drug-war thriller “Savages” recently opened.

“The return of the conference to the United States is the result of years of dedicated advocacy to end a misguided policy based on fear, rather than science, and represents a significant victory for public health and human rights.”

– DR. ELLY KATABIRA, president-elect of the International AIDS Society, praising the return of the society’s biennial conference to the United States on July 22 for the first time in 22 years.

“Rick Perry rejects Obamacare because letting poor people die from lack of health coverage is cheaper than executing them..”

– COMEDIAN FRANK CONIFF speculating on why Texas Gov. Rick Perry refuses to participate in health care reform.



Chillin’ out with summer reading

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

I’ve been chillin’ during the heat wave by cuddling up to my air conditioner with lots of books. Here are some I recommend:

I finished “The Hunger Games” trilogy by Suzanne Collins and, boy, am I impressed. Media sound bites since the movie came out reduce the story to an “action adventure.” With its breakneck pacing, scenes of mortal combat and many cliffhangers, it certainly is that, but it’s also a fascinating character study and a strong anti-war statement.

Katniss Everdeen is a great creation – a flawed, reluctant heroine who actually cries when friends die or she’s forced to kill. When was the last time you saw a male hero do that? A friend criticized Katniss’s emotion as a female stereotype. It may be that, but it’s also a sign of moral

conscience. I have no problem equating the two.

The chaos and futility of war and the effects of torture (on one of the most beloved characters) are especially pronounced in the third volume, “Mockingjay.” The series does not have a simple happily-ever-after ending either. This is very mature, impressive writing for books aimed at teens, now attracting a wide adult audience.

I switched to lighter fare with “Slammerkin,” by the great Irish (and lesbian) storyteller Emma Donoghue. “Slammerkin” is an old British word for a loose-fitting gown and slang for a loose woman.

“Slammerkin” is by turns the hilarious and horrifying tale of 14-year-old Mary Saunders, a poor girl in 1760s London determined to rise “above her station” by making money and wearing fine gowns. Seduced by a creepy peddler in exchange for a bright ribbon, Mary finds herself pregnant, kicked out by

her mother and thrown into a life of prostitution.

The book charts Mary’s misadventures. She learns the tricks of the trade from a wise-cracking whore named Doll, who has less than a heart of gold. She services hundreds of “cullies” (johns) and gets the clap. She does a stint in a home for reformed prostitutes. She doesn’t reform. She pisses off London’s most brutal pimp. She flees to the countryside and finds haven assisting a kind seamstress. But trouble keeps following Mary, and her own bad choices get her in deeper and deeper doo-doo.

“Slammerkin” is a pulpy story with literary gloss. It has great period details and skewers class and gender oppression. It’s also outrageously entertaining.

I moved on to Emma Donoghue’s bestseller “Room” with apprehension, because words like “shattering” and “devastating” appear in every review. They aren’t exaggerations. “Room” has haunted me for days.

The story involves a young woman and her son imprisoned by a madman for years in a room that’s 11 feet by 11 feet. “Ma” is being raped almost nightly while 5-year-old Jack (fathered by the rapist) tries to sleep in the wardrobe but is kept awake counting bed creaks. During long days, when not depressed, Ma steadfastly educates and entertains Jack, who has never known any life outside of “Room.” As tensions rise, Ma devises a desperate escape plan that depends on little Jack. Will they escape? Can Jack adjust to the real world? Can Ma recover from the trauma?

This horror story is made heart-rending beyond belief because it is narrated entirely by Jack, through a child’s voice and naïve perceptions. You will love Jack and root for him and his Ma, whose saga is one of primal love and endurance. “Room” is the most harrowing, beautiful book I’ve read in years.

Join the WiG community on Facebook.

Anderson Cooper’s outing matters

Opinion

JENNIFER VANASCO

History only advances when people are visible.

When Anderson Cooper officially came out today in a beautiful, published email to friend Andrew Sullivan, there was one collective response: A big yawn.

“Who cares?” said people on Twitter. “Isn’t this old news?” said people on Facebook. “When is a person’s sexuality going to stop making headlines?” said commenters on Web posts.

But Cooper officially coming out is important, and I’m going to tell you why.

First, people who think that coming out no longer takes courage or isn’t brave in today’s more equal world likely haven’t come out themselves. Coming out means one risks always being known as “the gay ‘X’”: the gay journalist, the gay actor, the gay

insulated from it, but nevertheless, it will occur, and this is why he’s brave.

Second, people being openly gay, people continuing to come out, is the reason it is getting better. Change doesn’t happen in a vacuum. Life isn’t just “getting better” because that’s what life does. Life is getting better for LGBT because other people are making it better by taking risks like this one. As Cooper said in his email, “I’ve also been reminded recently that while as a society we are moving toward greater inclusion and equality for all people, the tide of history only advances when people make themselves fully visible.”

Sure, all you jaded tweeters in New York may have known that Cooper is gay. You may have seen him around with his boyfriend. You may have read the many stories speculating on his sexual orientation.

But an adult New Yorker

or Angeleno or Chicagoan is not the same as a 12-year-old gay kid in Missouri who is being bullied and is searching for reassurance that someone, anyone, gets out of his situation alive to find happiness and success. Maybe that kid has seen Anderson Cooper on TV. Maybe his parents watch his show. In any case, Anderson Cooper is living a life anyone would admire: He’s respected, handsome, adventurous, good at his job and liked by the masses.

For a kid like the scared 12-year-old in Missouri, Anderson Cooper’s coming out is a beacon of hope. Cooper’s statement is a reminder to all of us that coming out, no matter how ordinary it may seem to those of us on the other side of it, is still a risk, is still brave, is still courageous, and still matters.

Longtime journalist Jennifer Vanasco lives in New York with her new wife.

Advocates urge state action on 'Obamacare'

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is out of the ER after an extensive examination by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Now, advocates of health care reform are prescribing action in the states that refuse to implement the landmark legislation, including Wisconsin.

"Our continuing challenge will be to make sure that states opt to expand Medicaid so that more low-income people, and particularly those with HIV, can get the health care they urgently need," said Scott Schoettes, the HIV project director for Lambda Legal, a civil liberties group based in New York.

Lambda filed an amicus brief defending the ACA before the High Court, which, on June 28, released its 5-4 decision upholding key elements of the most significant health care reform in the United States since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965.

The act contains many provisions, some of them already being implemented at the federal level; others are set to go into effect in 2013 and 2014. The legislation:

- Prohibits insurance companies from canceling or denying coverage due to a pre-existing condition and from charging women more than men.
- Requires insurers to provide certain free preventive care, such as mammograms for women and wellness visits for seniors.
- Provides for rebates from insurance companies that spent too much from health care premiums on administrative costs and corporate bonuses.
- Guarantees continued prescription drug savings for seniors.
- Enables young adults to stay on family insurance plans.
- Creates insurance exchanges for people and businesses to find the best coverage for the best price.
- Bans discrimination in

coverage and care, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The most controversial provisions of the act were taken to the High Court: the requirement that people secure health insurance – the so-called individual mandate – and the expansion of Medicaid to guarantee care for lower-income people.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, joined by Sonia Sotomayor, Stephen Breyer, Elena Kagan and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito dissented.

Roberts wrote that the individual mandate can stand, as a tax, which Congress has the authority to enact.

"This ruling is a victory for millions of people – including LGBT people and our families – who don't have access to adequate, affordable health care," said Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C.

Kali Lindsey of the National Minority AIDS Council said, "The ACA does more to improve America's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic than any piece of legislation since the Ryan White CARE Act. Whether banning the practice of denying coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions like HIV infection, or caps on lifetime expenditures, this law will improve access to care for hundreds of thousands of people living with HIV."

But the Court's ruling on the expansion of Medicaid caused concern.

"That the Medicaid expansion must be voluntary means that millions of low-income Americans, including thousands living with HIV, may still lack access to the program," Lindsey said. "The law's subsidies, which are aimed at helping individuals purchase insurance through state health exchanges, were not designed to cover those who would have otherwise been eligible for Medicaid under the expansion."

The ACA provides for an expansion of Medicaid to cover people with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. Under the law, the federal government would cover the costs of the expansion until 2017, when the states would absorb some expenses.

But the Court said the federal government cannot withhold all Medicaid funds from states that decline to take part in the expansion. So, states can decide not to enter the expansion without fearing the loss of funds.

At least seven governors, including Gov. Scott Walker have indicated they will not participate in an expansion of Medicaid. And eight governors lean toward a "no."

Walker said he would implement no aspects of the Affordable Care Act – now both derided and cheered as "Obamacare" – before the November election. That's close to the deadline when states must tell the federal government whether they will build health-insurance exchanges.

"While the Court said it was legal, that doesn't make it right," Walker said at a news conference. "For us to put time and effort and resources into that doesn't make a lot of sense."

That's an opinion shared by a number of other Wisconsin Republicans in the days after the Supreme Court ruling. Those at the federal level, such as U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, vowed to work for a repeal.

"The individual mandate is a massive infringement on our freedom, and it's bad policy," he said.

Wisconsin Democrats, meanwhile, cheered the ruling and praised the law.

U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore said, "So many in my home state of Wisconsin will benefit and are already benefitting from the ACA. They can now breathe a sigh of relief that they will continue to benefit from critical patient protections, lower costs, expanded coverage and greater accountability from the insurance industry."

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

MAPS SHOW HIV BY ZIP CODE

The Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University recently unveiled a major update of AIDSvu.org including new interactive maps that show HIV prevalence data for 13 U.S. cities by ZIP code or census tract.

AIDSvu also allows users to view HIV rates alongside key social determinants of health – such as poverty, lack of health insurance, and educational attainment.

“The visual presentation of current HIV data by geographic location available from AIDSvu is a valuable tool that can help inform local, state, and regional HIV program planning and implementation,” said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri of the Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

BEATING, KIDNAPPING CASE HEADED FOR TRIAL

An Oct. 15 trial date was set for two eastern Kentucky men charged with a hate crime in the kidnapping and beating of a gay man.

The federal case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Justice Department.

U.S. District Judge Gregory Van Tatenhove issued the new trial date after delaying proceedings for 20-year-old Anthony Ray Jenkins of Partridge and 37-year-old Jason David Jenkins earlier in June.

A federal indictment alleges that on April 4, 2011, the two defendants kidnapped and assaulted Pennington because of Pennington's sexual orientation.

The defendants allegedly enlisted Mable Ashley Jenkins and Alexis LeAnn Jenkins to trick Pennington into getting into a truck with the defendants. They then drove Pennington to a secluded area of the Kingdom Come State Park in Kentucky and assaulted him. The women allegedly cheered the men on, shouting, “Kill the faggot.”

Pennington escaped his attackers during a lull in the beating, when they allegedly were discussing how to kill him and dispose of the body.



PHOTO: ADAMSMITH.HOUSE.GOV

U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, D-Washington

GOP VS. DEMS ON MARRIAGE

A congressional Democrat from Washington has filed a bill to extend equal benefits to married gay military servicemembers.

Rep. Adam Smith, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, introduced the Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act to make the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments recognize any marriage that has been recognized by a state, D.C., commonwealths or territories.

Smith's bill would change the definition of spouse in the U.S. code to include same-sex marriages.

But the legislation is not expected to advance this session in the House, where Republican leaders have formally appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court in their defense of the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act.

A U.S. appeals court in May ruled that DOMA is unconstitutional. House Republicans, with a budget of \$1.5 million, are defending DOMA in court because the Justice Department has said it will not defend the law.

MEMBER OF PHELPS' CHURCH SEEKS SCHOOL POST

A man who attends the anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church run by the Rev. Fred Phelps is a candidate for the Kansas state school board.

The Westboro attendee seeking office is Jack Wu. On a campaign website, Wu says he is a native of California drawn to the Kansas capital “after seeing the light of the Westboro Baptist Church.”

In early July, the Justice Department also asked the High Court to take the case, as well as a California case, to expedite a final review of DOMA.

Soon after, more than 130 House Democrats filed an amicus brief in the California case. The Democratic brief emphasizes that the House is not united in its defense of the DOMA.

OHIO GAY GROUP FILLS VACANCY AFTER DIRECTOR'S ARREST

Ohio's largest gay civil rights group, Equality Ohio, has tapped one of its employees to head the organization after the arrest and resignation of its director.

Kim Welter, who had been the director of programs and outreach, is now serving as interim executive director.

She succeeds Ed Mullen, who resigned after his arrest on June 16 for an incident at Columbus Pride. Mullen has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and menacing.

The Columbus Dispatch, citing police and court reports, said Mullen allegedly went onto the property of a resident and threatened him. The complaint alleged he also took pictures of the man's house, saying, “Smile now, we'll be back for you.”

CONGRESSIONAL ANTI-BULLYING CAUCUS CREATED

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda has created a new congressional caucus to combat bullying.

The California Democrat and former educator announced the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus on June 28. He said the focus would be on combating bullying from the earliest levels of school through elder abuse.

Honda said millions of Americans – on the basis of skin color, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or age – are bullied every year. The violence, he said, has reached an epidemic level.

– Lisa Neff

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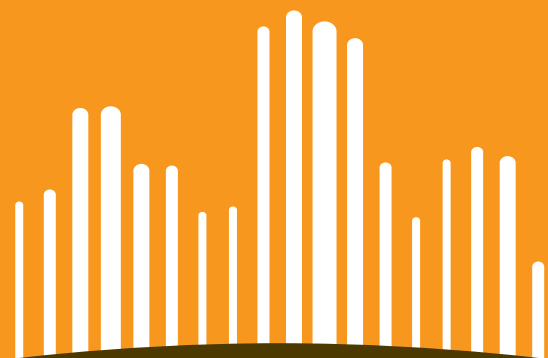


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Major brands come out for equality

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

What could overshadow the monumental news that Dunkin' Donuts was celebrating Oreo's 100th birthday by sprinkling cookie crumbs on its creamy Coolattas and stuffed doughnuts?

What could be bigger than Baskin-Robbins celebrating with Oreo 'N Chocolate, a chocolate ice cream and Oreo cookie pieces swirled with a crispy fudge crackle ribbon?

Well, a rainbow-striped Oreo cookie that looks to be about 2 inches tall, of course.

Kraft's iconic cookie got a Pride-themed makeover for mass consumption on Facebook, where nearly 300,000 people "liked" the photograph and nearly 60,000 shared a comment in late June. The image prompted odes to Oreos and bellows for a boycott.

"That rainbow cookie probably created a crisis for One Million Moms," said gay rights activist Kathy Tomlinson of Miami, referring to the right-wing Family Research Council affiliate that uses online tools to promote boycotts of companies with pro-gay profiles.

But there was only a crisis of calories for Tomlinson, who in early July purchased her first package of Double Stuf Oreos in a decade.

"Good stuff," she said.

Gay consumer Joseph Car-

mody of Madison, Wis., also purchased his first package of Oreos in some years, which he confessed in a fan letter posted to the cookie's Facebook page: "Corporate America has either gone gaga for gays or there's a conspiracy to make us all fat. Love ya, cookie cookie."

Bob Witeck of Witeck-Combs Communications, a public relations and marketing firm based in Washington, D.C., says the attention-grabbing, crème-striped cookie may lead LGBT consumers to look more closely at Kraft's record.

"Rainbow Oreos look swell, and grab our attention during Pride," he said. "But it is never so simple, and that's not the prescription to sustain loyalty. I suspect more LGBT people would express support for Kraft products if they knew that Kraft not only sponsored the 2006 Gay Games held in Chicago, but also fought back when anti-gay groups brought a shareholder petition against Kraft management – and 99 percent of its shareholder supporters – rejected the anti-gay measure and responded, 'Diversity makes us a stronger company and connects us with the diversity that exists among the consumers who buy our products.'"

Brand loyalty among LGBT consumers is legendary. And so is the community's buy-

ing power, which for 2012 is estimated at \$790 billion, according to Witeck-Combs.

So companies such as Kraft – which rates a perfect 100 on the Corporate Equality Index compiled by the Human Rights Campaign and boasted "we are open and inclusive" months before

ity and whose CEO and co-founder each recently contributed \$100,000 to defending gay marriage;

- General Mills, which in June endorsed marriage equality in Minnesota;
- Target, which this summer debuted a line of Pride-themed T-shirts to

provides equal benefits for LGBT employees.

- 23 percent of LGBT adults have switched products or services in the past year to a company more supportive of the LGBT community.

- 71 percent of LGBT adults remain loyal to a brand seen as supportive of LGBT issues, even if it costs more or is less convenient to buy.

- 47 percent of LGBT adults are more likely to purchase a company's products or services when an advertisement has been tailored to an LGBT audience.

Such outreach catches Tomlinson's attention, and Carmody's.

"I'm well aware of who is reaching out to the gay community and how," said Carmody. "That goes for the big brands but also the local businesses."

Said Tomlinson, "I know who our friends are, and I'm really loyal to them."

Right-wing boycotts – a tool that Witeck says are rarely successful or notable – ironically can help drive LGBT consumers to a brand or product.

Of the 20 brands getting the most buzz from LGBT consumers on YouGov's BrandIndex, an online measure of public perception and products, at least eight were targeted this year with right-wing boycotts.

One new addition to YouGov's LGBT buzz list is Starbucks, and its new popularity may have something to do with a community emboldened against the boycott being waged by the National Organization for Marriage, which also is leading the effort to repeal Washington's gay marriage law.

NOM collected 45,446 signatures in its five-month-old "Dump Starbucks" campaign, as well as about 18,157 pledges to "Dump General Mills" because, a NOM statement asserts, "We cannot allow Corporate America to throw its weight behind the gay marriage movement!"

If those numbers seem high, consider that in one week 70,000 people signed an HRC petition thanking General Mills for supporting marriage equality and a Washington state drive to thank Starbucks – which posted 15-percent growth in revenue the last quarter – resulted in the collection of more than 650,000 supporters.

Also, the "Dump Starbucks" campaign has not diminished the company's commitment to equality. In mid-June, months after NOM's U.S. campaign began, Starbucks' Australian division endorsed marriage equality after competitor Gloria Jeans donated \$30,000 to the anti-gay Australian Christian Lobby.



Photoshopping the Pride cookie – can expect to see some consumer gains following its social goods.

The same goes for:

- J.C. Penney, which earlier this year hired Ellen DeGeneres as its spokesperson;
- Nike and Starbucks, which in February endorsed marriage equality in Washington;
- Microsoft, which also endorsed marriage equal-

ity and whose CEO and co-founder each recently contributed \$100,000 to defending gay marriage;

"LGBT adults say that they respond strongly to brands and to companies that treat LGBT people fairly and equally, and also give back to the nonprofit causes important to LGBT families," Witeck said.

Research shows that:

- 87 percent of LGBT adults will consider buying a brand from a company that

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PHOTO: FAUSTO FERNOS/FEASTOFFUN.COM

A crowd enjoys the show at the third annual Pride Alive in 2010.

PRIDE ALIVE RETURNS TO GREEN BAY ON JULY 14

The fifth annual Pride Alive festival returns to Green Bay's Joannes Park, 1430 E. Walnut St., from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. on July 14. This year's event features entertainment from local entertainers and bands, including Shane Ashton, Saddlebrook, Red Light Saints, Orpheus, and Sara Zacek & Friends. The evening wraps up with DJ John Murges spinning.

Additional attractions include the Northeast Wisconsin LGBT History Project, a children's area and more than 50 local vendors.

Admission is free, but a \$5 suggested donation includes appetizers and a show.

For more information, go to newpride.org.

"Boris and Doris"), Israel Ramon and David L. Marsteller, Rick Steiner and Rock the Green.

To register, call 414-225-0244.

GLSEN SELLING SAFE-SPACE KITS FOR SCHOOLS

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network has launched the Safe Space Campaign to place a Safe Space Kit resource in every middle and high school in the country.

The nonprofit is encouraging former students to purchase a kit for their old school or a school in their community.

The \$20 kit includes a 42-page guide for educators, safe-space stickers and posters.

For more, go to safespace.glsen.org.

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION HOSTING FUNDRAISER

The Cream City Foundation is sponsoring My Best Friend is Straight, a summer party and fundraiser, on July 26.

The event takes place at 5:30 p.m. at North Point Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Ave., Milwaukee. An after-party party takes place at 9 p.m. at Charlie's in the Third Ward, 320 E. Menomonee.

General admission tickets are \$50 in advance, \$75 at the door, and \$25 for students.

CCF says to "bring your gay and straight friends for an evening of frivolity and food!"

The event's honorary chair is Joseph Pabst and sponsors include Paul Milakovich, Southwest Airlines, Wisconsin Gazette, Ross Draeger and Dr. Robert Starshak, Club Charlie's, Patti Keating-Kahn, Kathy Papineau's Localicious, Barbara Hayden, Bronze Optical, JG and Linda Clark Family Fund, Jody Armata, Joe Brehm, This Is It!, Jose Milan, Louisella and William Frank and Roland Dittus.

The event's host committee chair is Michael Johnston and the committee includes Denise Cawley, Paul R. Fairchild, Patrick Farrell and James Schroeder, Charles Grosz, Anne Hefter, Jerry Janis, Pam Percy and Martin Hintz (aka

GAY GAMES 2014 LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Gay Games 2014 has launched a new website to promote the events to take place in Cleveland Aug. 9-16, 2014.

Registration for the games and related cultural events already is underway at www.2014gaygamescleveland.com.

RACINE BEACH RANKS TOPS WITH USA TODAY

USA Today recently named North Beach in Racine as one of the "51 Great American Beaches."

The Lake Michigan beach sits on 50 acres, with about 2,500 feet of shoreline for sunbathing, swimming, fishing and picnicking.

Special events held at North Beach include EVP Professional Beach Volleyball, U.S. Grand Prix of Watercross and the Ironman 70.3 Racine Triathlon.

—WiG reports

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REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: MAOFOOTBALL

Chicago Fire plays New England Revolution.

CHICAGO FIRE PARTNERS WITH EQUALITY ILLINOIS

The Chicago Fire professional soccer club has teamed up with Equality Illinois for a series of events this summer.

"This support from a major pro-sports team signals to fans and LGBT youth the diverse voices that embrace equality," said Equality Illinois CEO Bernard Cherkasov in a statement. "When we have sports heroes and teams show their support, it takes the conversation away from politics."

The Chicago Fire marched with Equality Illinois in the city's Pride parade last month. The Fire plans to donate a portion of ticket sales from its Aug. 4 game against Toronto FC to the Equality Illinois Education Project.

UW HOSPITAL SUED AGAIN FOR HIV DISCLOSURE

UW Hospital is being sued

again because doctors allegedly revealed a patient's HIV status to relatives without permission.

A lawsuit alleges that instead of waking the southern Wisconsin man from a nap, a hospital resident told his wife and son he had AIDS and left it to them to break the news. The lawsuit says the revelation "stunned and devastated" the wife and son and left him "distracted" as he was forced to admit his AIDS had likely resulted from same-sex affairs. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

The Wisconsin State Journal reports the other case, filed last October by a Middleton man whose mother was allegedly told he was HIV-positive, is in mediation.

Spokeswoman Toni Morrissey says UW hospital generally does not comment on pending litigation.

MAN CONVICTED OF ARSON AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC

After deliberating just half an hour, a jury found a man guilty of federal arson in connection with an April fire at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Grand Chute.

Francis Gerald Grady was convicted of arson and damaging a reproductive-health facility.

At a pretrial hearing earlier this summer, both sides

agreed he could attend the trial unshackled and in civilian clothing.

The government played a video of Grady acknowledging his guilt to investigators, saying he broke the clinic window, poured gasoline inside and lit the fluid.

He said he committed the crime to "release the children" and that he "saw souls coming out of the windows" when he lit the fire.

No one was injured in the incident.

VIKING COMES OUT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Viking punter Chris Kluwe has endorsed the campaign for marriage equality and encouraged Minnesota voters to defeat an anti-gay ballot measure.

Kluwe has recorded a series of ads for Minnesotans for Equality, which is leading the campaign to defeat in November an amendment to ban gay marriage.

He also wrote a letter of support for the equality campaign and called the anti-gay amendment "despicable."

"For seven years I've had the privilege to play professional football in the state of ten thousand lakes, and the time I've been able to spend here has been wonderful," Kluwe said.

"Unfortunately, now there's something happening that's ... fairly despicable. I'm speaking



PHOTO: NFL.COM

Viking punter Chris Kluwe.

of the Marriage Amendment that's due to be voted on in November of this year, an amendment that promotes nothing but discrimination and prejudice against a significant subset of our population."

ILLINOIS CLERKS TO DEFEND ANTI-GAY LAW

Two county clerks say they'll defend Illinois' ban on same-sex marriage against a legal challenge because Cook County State's Attor-

ney Anita Alvarez and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan will not do so.

Effingham County Clerk Kerry Hirtzel and Tazewell County Clerk Christie Webb are represented by the Thomas More Society and willing to serve as defendants in a double complaint filed by 25 gay and lesbian couples seeking to marry.

Alvarez and Madigan say they won't defend the 16-year-old law defining marriage as between a man and a woman because it violates the state constitution's equal protection clause.

Webb is a Democrat and Hirtzel a Republican.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal represent the same-sex couples.

WHITE HOUSE HONORING WISCONSIN MAN

The White House was to honor Tim Baack, a Pewaukee advocate for homeless youth, and other leaders in that field as Champions of

Change on July 12.

Baack has been affiliated with Pathfinders since 1988 and currently serves as its executive vice president.

Under Baack's leadership, Pathfinders moved to an enhanced facility in the Riverworks Business District of Milwaukee in 2009 and added the Youth Outreach Drop-In Center and the Q-BLOK LGBT Young Adults Housing Initiative.

"Champions of Change have made extraordinary commitments to helping youth reach their full potential despite the challenges arising from homelessness," said Barbara Poppe, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

The president created the Champions of Change program as part of his Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different group of champions is recognized.

Go to wisconsin Gazette.com for news updates all day long.

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Things to do between Milwaukee and Madison



Old World Wisconsin

PHOTO: EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Chimneys provide a new dimension to “lake country,” otherwise known for its contemporary recreational activities, such as golf and boating.

THE ROAD MORE ARDUOUSLY TRAVELED

Want to bypass the interstate entirely? Fill your water bottle, strap on your helmet and take the Glacial Drumlin Trail, a 52-mile bicycle route that crosses over often well-graded former railroad beds. The path begins at 810 W. College Ave. in Waukesha and runs south of the interstate to 220 S. Main St. in the Dane County community of Cottage Grove. Along the way, it passes through 12 southern Wisconsin communities, each with an interesting history.

The New Berlin Trail at the east end connects the Glacial Drumlin Trail to the city of the same name, while connections to the Capital City Trail in the west take riders directly into downtown Madison. For maps and more information, go to www.glacialdrumlin.com.

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Everyone likes a bargain, especially deals that involve designer names.



Johnson Creek Premium Outlets, located adjacent to the interstate at the Johnson Creek exit, offers the best of both worlds.

Familiar names like Aeropostale, Ann Taylor, Calvin Klein, Eddie Bauer and Tommy Hilfiger loom large among the close to 50 factory outlet stores that line the mall. The bargains are always ripe, and the annual Labor Day sale from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3 will drop the prices on your favorite brands even lower. Stores are generally open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

So the next time you're driving past, you might consider stocking up early for the holidays ahead. Beat the crowds and the frigid weather.

ALL SINGING, ALL DANCING, ALL EATING

Those who consider the term “dinner theater” a poor example of both haven't visited The Fireside

Theater. Located in the Jefferson County community of Fort Atkinson, the Fireside mixes both elements successfully, while adding a healthy dose of shopping to the mix. The musical theater fare is light by design, the food flavorful and filling, and the accompanying shopping is a lot of fun.

The summer schedule includes an encore performance of “The Rock and the Rabbi” (July 12-Aug. 12), which tells the tale of how the fisherman Simon became Peter, the “rock” on which Jesus – he's the titular rabbi – would build his church. The story is set to a contemporary musical score. Following closely on Jesus' heels is the ever-popular “Hello Dolly” (Aug. 23-Oct. 21) and “Scrooge the Musical” (Oct. 25-Dec. 23.)

GET LEGENDARY

The Jefferson County community of Lake Mills calls itself “legendary” largely because of its connections to Aztalan State Park, site of some unusual signs of early Native American habitation (see sidebar). Legend has it that stone pyramids found at the bottom of the 1,371-acre Rock Lake, around which the town circles, were altars for sacrifices to the gods during an unseasonably long drought centuries ago – and that the lake itself was the gods' answer.

Regardless of the past, Lake Mills bustles with cur-



PHOTO: THEWORLDOFBEERCRAFT.COM

BETWEEN next page



Glacial Drumlin Trail

PHOTO: BIGOAKBIKES.BLOGSPOT.COM



The stockades at Aztalan State Park.

PHOTO: LAKEMILLS.ORG

Walk like a Mississippian

Fans of ancient history will enjoy Aztalan State Park, site of one of the country's best-preserved examples of a unique Native American culture. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Aztalan was the site of a thriving community that historians refer to as the Middle Mississippian Tradition, which existed from the 10th to the 13th century.

The community, characterized by massive platform earthworks that were used for religious as well as social purposes, was an important stop on the trading route between the Great Lakes and the Gulf coast.

Three original platform mounds remain in the 172-acre Jefferson County state park. The stockade walls that once protected the community have been reconstructed.

The name Aztalan, originally used by Mexico's Aztec people to describe a land in the north from which they believed they originated, was given to the ancient settlement because of the similarities between the earthworks and the design of Aztec temples. The park offers audio tours and an interpretive museum operated by the Aztalan-Lake Mills Historical Society just north of the park. Included on the tour are two pioneer churches and other 19th-century buildings.

Details at dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/aztalan.

BETWEEN from prior page

rent activity, and the lake draws a variety of watercraft during the summer. The community, which bumps up against the Glacial Drumlin Trail, is home to Ephraim Faience Pottery, which produces beautiful collectables in the Arts and Crafts Revival style, and Tyradena Brewing Co., one of the state's more interesting craft breweries.

Brewer Rob Larson is best known for his slightly outrageous "Brewers Gone Wild," described as a "series of big, bold, ballsy beers" that includes such titles as Bitter Woman IPA and Shagger. (The brewery has a nice tasting room, too.)

The Lake Mills Art Festival, a juried show that fills the community's Commons Park, is scheduled this year for July 21.

For something completely different, check out Aztalan Racing, the motocross track next to the wayside on the south side of the highway and visible from Interstate 94. The track is home to Aztalan Cycle Club and open to members only. But it provides some exciting visuals to passing motorists during races. Details at www.aztalanmx.com.



TOURING ON WHEELS

Biking fans already have a soft spot for Trek Bicycles, Lance Armstrong's brand of choice. But few know they can tour the factory in Waterloo, just north of Lake Mills, and see how their favorite mode of transportation is made.

The Trek manufacturing facility, 801 Madison St., offers wheelchair accessible tours at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays. Groups of 10 or more can register at least five days in advance by calling 920-478-2191, ext. 12049. In addition to the manufacturing facility, the tour covers the historic Trek collection in the world headquarters' atrium and a walk through the design department.

Interested in antique tractors? Waterloo also is the home of Wilkes Classic Tractors, a family-owned dealership with a collection of between 100 and 150 hard-to-find tractors, as well as tractor parts, toys, signage and peripherals. Recent acquisitions include a Cockshutt 1800 Standard Diesel. For more information, go to www.wilkesclassictractors.com.



The formal dining room at Ten Chimneys.

PHOTO: KATE ROTH PHOTOGRAPHY/TRAVELERS411.COM

A slice of theatrical history

Theater fans know that besides Broadway, one of the most significant sites in American theater can be found in Genesee Depot. Ten Chimneys, where construction began in 1915, was the summer home of actors Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontanne, the toast of Broadway from the 1930s until their retirement in 1960. The residence became a favorite getaway and sometime theatrical workshop for the Lunts and other theatrical luminaries, including Helen Hayes, Laurence Olivier, Carol Channing and especially out entertainer and playwright Noel Coward. He is said to have written his play "Design for Living" for and about his relationship with the Lunts.

Saved from the wrecking ball in 1996 and lovingly restored by the late Joe Garton, a former Madison restaurateur, the Waukesha County property has become a major tourism destination for fans and acting students and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Public tours are offered daily from May 26 to Nov. 10. The Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program offers a weeklong master class each July to eight to 10 outstanding regional theater actors. This year's master class will be taught by musical theater star Joel Grey, and the student list includes the Milwaukee Rep's Sarah Litzsinger.

More details at www.tenchimneys.org.



Hot air ballooning.

PHOTO: ENTOPICPICTURES.COM

UP, UP AND AWAY

One of the best ways to see southern Wisconsin, especially during its verdant summer months, is from aloft. Token Creek Balloons, located in the eastern Dane County community of Token Creek, is happy to take you there.

Now in its 25th year of operation, Token Creek, affiliated with A Great American Balloon Company LLC, offers a variety of balloon rides, always at dawn or dusk, when the winds are calmest. In a hot air balloon, you ride with the wind, and your only sense of motion comes from visual cues. Close your eyes and you'll feel the sensation of standing still. Open them and you'll see the ground passing languidly beneath you.

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Puttin' on 'The Ritz'

Terrence McNally's classic bathhouse farce is fun for the family. Well, for a very, very liberal family.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Chubby chasers, men in drag, men in towels, men out of towels and other assorted denizens of the bathhouse world will fill the small stage in Off the Wall Theatre's production of "The Ritz" this summer. Out playwright Terrence McNally's 1975 comedic collision of gangster spooof and bedroom (OK, bathhouse) farce well stands the test of time and is perfect summer fare, according to Dale Gutzman, the theater's famously innovative artistic director.

"McNally writes about the human condition, justice, love and the very meanings of life," Gutzman says about the author of "Corpus Christi" and other gay-themed plays. "He does this often with comedy, but his messages are no less important just because the audience is rocked with laughter. It's naughty but nice, if you know what I mean."

The story is as simple as the action is manic. Gaetano Proclo (Lawrence Lukasavage) is on the run from his Mafia-linked brother-in-law Carmine Vespucci (James Feeley). He chooses to hide out at The Ritz, thinking it's a swank New York hotel rather than a rundown gay bathhouse. The situation comedy that follows includes all the expected antics, but they take on increasingly bizarre twists and turns.

Inspiration for The Ritz –

the bathhouse, not the play – came from New York's Continental Baths, the gay institution that opened in 1968 in the basement of the Ansonia Hotel and was touted as reminiscent of "the glory of ancient Rome." In addition to the baths themselves, the original facility included sauna rooms, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a disco ballroom and a cabaret lounge. Alarms rang if the police were on the way, and there was K-Y jelly in the vending machine.

The Continental Baths' best known feature was its entertainment, which in its time included Gladys Knight and the Pips, Sarah Vaughn, Tiny Tim, Patti Page, Cab Calloway and others. But its most famous performer may have been a very young Bette Midler, often accompanied on piano by an equally young Barry Manilow, who often played wrapped in just a towel. Midler picked up the nickname "Bathhouse Betty" at the Continental, and her career was born.

The Continental's entertainment became so popular that straight audiences began showing up in such numbers that the gay clientele felt disenfranchised. It was as if they'd been demoted to just part of the ambience, and they stopped coming.

The baths closed in 1974, but there was a resurrection of the property in 1977 as Plato's Retreat, a heterosexual swinger's club that was



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ISTOCK

Terrence McNally's 1975 comedy "The Ritz" is set in a fictionalized version of New York's Continental Baths, best known today for helping launch the careers of Bette Midler and Barry Manilow.

shut down by the City of New York at the height of the AIDS epidemic.

"The Ritz" – the play, not the bathhouse – also has its share of entertainers, including Googie Gomez (Kristin Pagankopf), a would-be songbird with a voice "like nails on a blackboard," Gutzman says. Rita Moreno won a 1975 Tony Award for her performance as Gomez on Broadway, a role she reprised in the 1976 film version by director Richard Lester, which also starred Jerry Stiller, Kaye Ballard and F. Murray Abraham.

In addition to the character of Gomez, Off the Wall's version includes Milwaukee

drag performers Miss Karen Valentine and Miss Maple Veneer.

"I picked them because they are wonderfully comedic and their crazy style suits the show," Gutzman says. "The three leads do a drag rendition of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" that just gets wilder and wilder."

The theater's small stage will be transformed into a bathhouse, with individual rooms made out of two-by-four lumber with doors that slam. But there are no walls, so the audience can see what's going on at all times in all rooms.

"And, yes, we have a steam

room with bursts of steam and other things coming out," Gutzman says. "It figures in the plot."

"The Ritz" isn't the only McNally or gay-themed play Off the Wall is doing in the near future. The 2012 season will end in May with McNally's "Kiss of the Spider Woman," the new season launches in September with "A Man Like Hong Kong," an original espionage thriller written by Gutzman that includes gay themes.

"Doing a gay show for its own sake is never a reason," Gutzman says. "To do a show whose challenges intrigue me is, and if that show has a gay

ON STAGE

Off the Wall Theatre's production of Terrence McNally's "The Ritz" runs from July 26 to Aug. 5. For tickets and information, visit www.offthewalltheatre.com.

theme, then that's fine."

While Gutzman hopes Milwaukee's gay audiences will show up, he's shooting for a much larger audience with "The Ritz."

"The Ritz' is bring-the-whole-family fare," he says. "Well, bring the whole family if it is a very, very liberal family."

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 ASIAN
 My Best Friend is My Dad
 MY SISTER
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Holly Hughes is a trash-talking liberal artist with too many dogs

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

When out comedian Holly Hughes needs centering, she turns to the pack of dogs that shares her Ann Arbor, Mich., home. She credits them with bringing sanity to her world.

"Dogs do as much work in contemporary urban culture as they ever did in history; it's just different work," says Hughes, who also teaches at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design. "It's the work of loving us, now that we are sheep adrift toward the dark edges, and bringing us back toward the center."

Hughes explores dogs and the dog subculture in her current solo work "The Dog and Pony Show (bring your own pony)", which she'll perform five times from July 13 to 21 at Paddy's Pub, 2339

N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. Theatre Gigante is sponsoring the performances.

Hughes' show draws on her experience in the dog show world, a subculture she found in middle age. It is every bit as "strange" as the subculture she normally inhabits, she says.

"I do think of the parallels between the queerness of the dog world and the queerness of the gay world," she says. "Both are about people who love the 'wrong' thing too much."

Hughes knows well where of she speaks. The Saginaw, Mich., native moved to New York City in 1979 to become a feminist painter. She found the sexually charged lesbian subculture of the day liberating, and it galvanized her career both as an artist and performer.

"I wanted to be larger than

life, and sex is about life; it's at the very heart," Hughes says. "I wanted to create a theatrical language about women's sexuality that wasn't sanitized, that had sequins and humor and darkness."

Hughes became one of the first students at the New York Feminist Art Institute and honed her comedic performances at Women's One World Café (aka the WOW Café) in New York's East Village. Her mix of social and political satire has earned her critical acclaim and not a little infamy. Despite receiving seven prior grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, in 1990 she became one of the "NEA Four." Hughes, along with gay performance artist Tim Miller, actor John Fleck and performance artist Karen Finley, were denied

HUGHES next page

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PHOTO: LISA GUIDO

Holly Hughes

HUGHES from prior page

NEA funding for their work due to its sexual content, which Congress decried as pornographic.

The four artists successfully sued NEA, and in 1993 they were awarded amounts equal to the grant money. However, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the ruling in 1998, and the NEA was pressured by Congress to stop funding individual artists.

But Hughes, author of the 1983 breakthrough work "Well of Horniness," wasn't even slowed down by the notoriety. She continued writing, performing, painting and teaching. She then authored two books – "Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler" and "O Solo Homo: The New Queer Performance."

Hughes contends that gay artists as "outsiders" have a lot to contribute to mainstream America, as well as to their cultural peers.

"Outsiders have a perspective that enables you to see the seams, the contradictions and complications of

'I wanted to be larger than life, and sex is about life.'

life (that) those on the inside often miss," Hughes says.

"Part of gay culture is a kind of humor and irony, the language of camp, and you don't find many gay people who don't enjoy it," she adds.

But whether inside or out of the mainstream, Hughes knows that humor is a product of suffering, not joy. Some of the best humorists have the darkest vision, she says.

"Humor is fueled by darkness, often by anger. It's a catharsis, it's looking into the void. I think the reason Woody Allen loves Ingmar Bergman is that he is, at heart, as dark and existential as Bergman, but it comes out in a different voice."

Hughes is sometimes confused with other famous

women with the same name, including another painter, whose work she likes, and the author of young adult mystery novels that involve horses (her favorite of the is "Hoofbeats of Danger").

"I want to be that Holly Hughes," she says.

But one namesake with whom she does not want to be associated is the Holly Hughes who is a prominent member of Michigan's Republican Party.

"I am very disappointed that there is this big Republican Holly Hughes," she says. "The rest of my life is going to be about making everyone think she's a big lesbian, trash-talking liberal with too many dogs."

ON STAGE

"The Dog and Pony Show (bring your own pony)" will be performed five times July 13-21 at Paddy's Pub, 2339 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. Make reservations at 414-961-6119.

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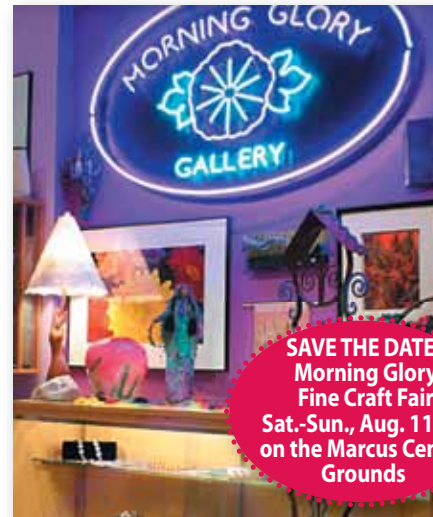


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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'ENDGAME' PUTS AIDS IN BLACK AMERICA UNDER THE LENS

Half of all Americans infected with HIV each day are black, as are half of the nation's one million people living with the virus. In "Endgame: AIDS in Black America," award-winning documentary filmmaker Renata Simone's "Frontline" focuses her camera on this often-overlooked crisis within a crisis.

Although gay white men dominated the stories and images of the epidemic's onset, they were not the only ones infected. In San Francisco, word about the emerging disease spread rapidly among the gay community. But across the bay, in Oakland, it was a different story.

In San Francisco, people were acting up, speaking out, taking action. In con-



PHOTO: COURTESY PBS

"Endgame: AIDS in Black America" premiered July 10. on PBS' "Frontline."

trast, Oakland's black gay and bi residents lived in silent fear. According to an activist interviewed in the film, African Americans simply didn't have "the safety of numbers or resources to have an out, active community." Cultural baggage forced them to protect themselves by hiding their identities.

Secrecy and fear helped to fuel the epidemic within African-American communities. An interview with Nel, a

divorced mother, a nurse and a grandmother who is active in her church, provides a perfect illustration. After her second marriage to Rodney, a man who failed to disclose his HIV status to her, she tested positive for the virus.

The homophobia of the black church led many gay men to find community in the club scene. There, they enjoyed sanctuary among others like them. They danced, drank and forgot

their troubles. But they also gained access to drugs.

The sharing of needles in shooting galleries became a major contributor to the AIDS epidemic in the black community. Laws against drug paraphernalia prevented addicts from access to clean needles. Although syringe exchange programs in cities such as Atlanta attempted to stem the spread of HIV through contaminated needles, the programs incurred political fallout and the disapproval of pastors.

"Endgame" traces a line from the crack epidemic of the 1980s and '90s to the present day. With crack's aphrodisiac effects, it's not surprising that crack and sex work, as a means of paying for the drug, often go hand in hand. Crack-related arrests created a large population of incarcerated African Americans. While most authorities in the prison system deny the existence of homosexual activity among inmates, Dr. Earl Joyner says he knows otherwise.

Paroled inmates who contracted HIV in prison returned home to their wives and girlfriends, as well as their male sex partners, and a new cycle of transmission began. Because of the large number of incarcerations, the number of available men in black communities dwindled. As a result, the competition for male attention among women intensified. Women became willing to do things they wouldn't ordinarily do, including having unprotected sex, in order to hold on to male companionship.

A tipping point occurred in the epidemic when profes-

sional basketball player Magic Johnson, who is extensively interviewed in the documentary, went public with his HIV diagnosis. Still, black leaders were slow to respond. As AIDS activist Phill Wilson says, the black community "lacked the political will to nip the epidemic in the bud."

Although antiviral cocktails have changed HIV/AIDS from a death sentence to a manageable chronic illness in the United States, the crisis is far from over. In the Deep South, due to ignorance and distrust of the government, the epidemic rages unabated. The documentary stresses that school systems and communities across the South are letting young people down by adhering to abstinence-based education.

Although an actual "endgame" doesn't appear to be in sight, Wilson says that after 30 years it's time to start talking about one. As this documentary demonstrates, however, it will not happen without a serious cultural shift among African-American leaders (religious, political and social).

'SKINNY' HAS HEFT

Gay, African-American filmmaker Patrick-lan Polk has a track record with ensemble pieces, beginning with the festival fave "Punks," his debut feature-length production. His sophomore flick "Noah's Arc" morphed into the popular Logo series of the same name and spawned another movie titled "Noah's Arc: Jumping the Broom."

In "The Skinny," five queer, African-American, Brown classmates reunite in New York for a Pride weekend of fun, frolic, floats and fire-

works. The host, Magnus (Jussie Smollett), is having mixed emotions because his friends' arrival signals the first weekend he will spend apart from Ryan (Dustin Ross), his boyfriend of five months.

But once the old gang arrives, Magnus gives them his (mostly) undivided attention. Slutty Kyle (Anthony Burrell) from L.A., virginal and naive world traveler Sebastian (Blake Young-Fountain), uptight Joey (Jeffrey Bowyer-Chapman) from Atlanta and lonely lesbian Langston (Shanika Warren-Markland) begin their visit with a little sightseeing, including a stop at the Langston Hughes House in Harlem.

Then the four-day weekend takes a series of unexpected turns.

While searching an online gay sex site, Kyle is hit on by Ryan, Magnus' boyfriend. Magnus is faced with coming to terms with the possibility of infidelity and more. Meanwhile, Sebastian confesses to Magnus that he plans to give Kyle his "flower" (Sebastian's word). Joey and Langston commiserate over their single statuses.

Writer/director Polk is careful not to let "The Skinny" deteriorate into a sexy (and occasionally graphic) queer soap opera. He manages to work educational information into the entertainment. In addition to gay literary and historical references, there are well-placed and informative discussions of HPV, preparations for anal sex and post-exposure prophylaxis treatment for HIV.

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PHOTO: SKINNYTHEMOVIE.COM

"The Skinny" premiered on LOGO on July 8.

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

UW Press book covers 300 years of gay history in Chicago

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

Before he became a saint, Sukie de la Croix and I just missed crossing paths as members of New Town Writers, the Chicago gay writers' group. But shortly thereafter, the native of Bath, England, and I found we were both writing for what would be the first in a series of Chicago LGBT publications, some of which are now defunct.

Nearly 20 years later, we each have new books out, and we're about to embark on a tour together — an experience that should either enrich or completely destroy our friendship.

De la Croix's book, "Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago before Stonewall," is being published this month by the University of Wisconsin Press. It's described by the publisher as "a colorful and vibrant record of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people who lived and loved in Chicago from the city's beginnings in the 1670s as a fur-trading post to the end of the 1960s."

Based on extensive archival research as well as numerous interviews, the book sheds light on such legendary gay characters as Jane Addams, Ma Rainey, Lorraine Hansberry and Henry Gerber.

I spoke with de la Croix shortly before we hit the road.

Gregg Shapiro: Who's the book's target audience?

St. Sukie de la Croix: The target audience for this book was originally me. I wrote the book I wanted to read. Outside of that, it will be of interest to anyone who has ever lived in Chicago or been intrigued by its history. Whatever comes to mind when you hear the word "Chicago" — Al Capone and the Mafia, Chicago Blues, political shenanigans — LGBTs were sucked up into the great drama of all of them. It's a book about a metropolis, and the contribution that LGBT people made to its growth and development. But most

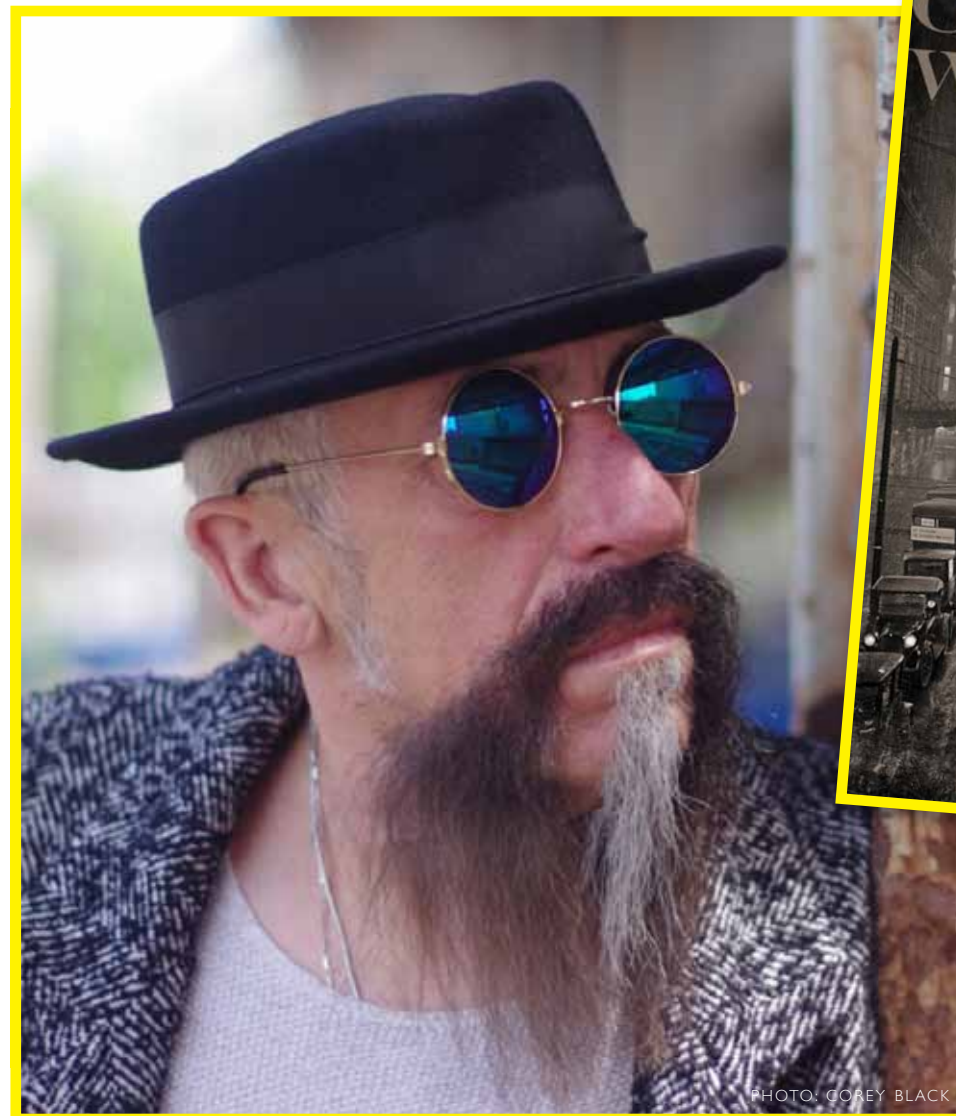
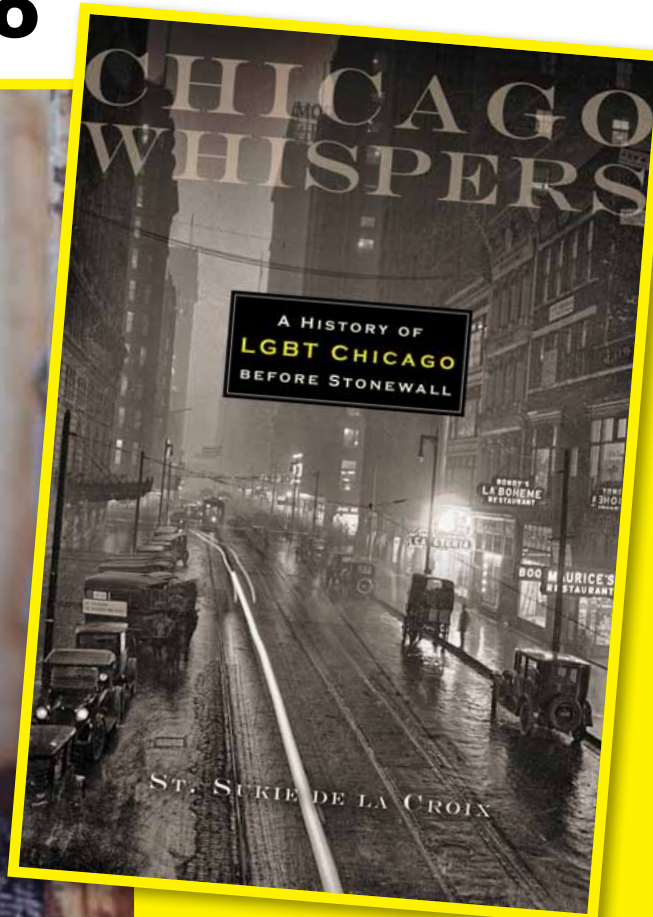


PHOTO: COREY BLACK



IN PERSON

St. Sukie de la Croix and Gregg Shapiro bring their "Symbiotic Book Tour" to Boswell Book Company on 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee at 7 p.m. on July 24.

of all it's about individuals cast out from society who found a niche, a way to survive, sometimes against terrible odds. In the end, Chicago LGBT people said "enough is enough" and they kicked against the pricks. And there were a lot of pricks in Chicago back then (laughs).

You say that you approached "Chicago Whispers" as a journalist, not as a historian. What's the distinction?

Historians have a set way of doing things, an academic clarity. There are rules to follow. A journalist will sell his own grandmother to get to the bottom of a story (laughs). Gay history is so hidden and buried that it sometimes requires intense

detective work. For example, I lied through my teeth to get into a couple of membership-only libraries. However, in the end, if the book is to be of any use to students, all the information has to be sourced, and I'm very proud of my bibliography.

"Chicago Whispers" was also the name of the LGBT history column that you wrote for six years. Did any of the chapters in the book have their genesis in those columns?

Writing the column inspired me to write the book. However, I didn't use much from the columns, as they were oral history interviews and I was writing a factual history book. I did use a few anecdotes about gay

bars and raids, but only when backed up by other sources, such as newspapers.

You shine a spotlight on the contributions of Chicago's LGBT artistic community. Were you surprised to learn about some of the people in the community — and do you think they will finally get their due?

Chicago has always been a city of artists and writers. I'm just pointing out that a lot of them were LGBT. I think that's important. An individual's sexuality is a vital ingredient to their work, but sadly it's often ignored, denied or glossed over.

Are there any surprising revelations in

the book?

In 1925 Henry Gerber, who founded the first gay group in America in Chicago, was arrested. But no proof of his arrest has ever been found. Until now, that is. I did some serious sleuthing.

Is there anyone you wrote about whom you wished you had met in person?

All of them. I would love to have interviewed the author Henry Blake Fuller, and Margaret Anderson, although, in truth, I don't think we would have hit it off. She was terribly pretentious — ghastly but fascinating. I'd love to build a time machine and zap myself back to a club called Diamond Lil's in 1928 and hear a 16-year-old Alberta Hunter singing in a brothel on Chi-

cago's South Side. Imagine meeting Ma Rainey ... Wow!

Many of the chapters have a cinematic quality. Do you think any of them might make a good movie?

Somebody needs to make a documentary about Chicago cross-dressers in burlesque, both male and female. Also, there's a rich seam of history to mine on the subject of African-American pany parlors in the early 1930s. Having said that, I've seen some awful gay history documentaries, made by well-meaning people ... but just dreadful.

ON TWITTER
@wigazette

Replay

GREGG SHAPIRO

'WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN'

Lynne Ramsay's film adaptation of Lionel Shriver's novel "We Need to Talk about Kevin" derives its raw and brutal power from the fact that no one in this traumatic drama is blameless.

Like a series of nightmares from which the dreamer can't awake, "We Need to Talk about Kevin" warps time, slithering back and forth between before

and after. Often they merge explosively.

When we first encounter Eva (Tilda Swinton), she is deep in a pharma-induced dream about a tomato festival, slathered in red. Red is as much a character in the film as the characters themselves.

Once awake in the aftermath, Eva attempts to reclaim her shattered life. But her car and house are splattered in red paint. Following a job interview at a travel agency, a woman on the street slaps

her in the face, leaving a red mark on her cheek.

The paint and the slap are because of Eva's teenage sociopath son Kevin (Ezra Miller in a star-making performance). Inspired by Robin Hood, Kevin killed several of his high school classmates with a bow and arrow and used the weapon to murder his father Franklin (John C. Reilly) and younger sister Celia (Ashley Gerasimovich).

Was Eva a bad mother? Is she to blame? Early on, we see Eva struggling with her pregnancy, feeling detached from her newborn, being frustrated with her crying infant, experiencing great difficulty connecting with her child. Franklin, on the other hand, bonds with young Kevin (Rock Duer and later Jasper Newell). The boy appears to be acutely aware of the power that he holds over his parents and plays it like a pro beyond his years. The demon seed has been planted and is growing.

As the horrors mount, from Kevin's refusal to be toilet-trained to his abuses of Celia, we see Eva's helplessness, as well as her unspoken acceptance of her situation.

The latter increases and expands until it destroys her marriage and family.

Not an easy film to watch, "We Need to Talk about Kevin" will give you plenty to talk about. Special features on the double-disc Blu-ray/DVD edition include a "behind the scenes" featurette, an interview with Shriver and more.

'TOMBOY'

A certified hit on the film festival circuit, Céline Sciamma's "Tomboy" deserves every accolade it's inspired. Cleft-chinned, freckled and short-haired Laure (Zoé Héran) has the physical androgyny of a 10-year-old girl. But there's more to Laure than that, and she embraces the tomboy that she is.

Laure and her family, including her expectant mother (Sophie Cattani), father (Mathieu Demy) and 6-year-old kid sister Jeanne (Malonn Lévana) have just moved into a new flat. Per Laure's request, her bedroom has been painted blue. Laure gets along well with the girly Jeanne and they have fun playing together.

Everything changes once



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Tomboy'

Laure ventures outside. She introduces herself as Mikael to Lisa (Jeanne Disson), the first of the neighborhood children she meets. Lisa, in turn, introduces Mikael to her friends, and things escalate from there.

The dramatic tension in the story arises from Laure/Mikael's ability to maintain separate identities at home and with her playmates. As you might expect, Lisa, the only girl in the gang, develops a schoolgirl crush on Mikael, further complicating matters.

When Jeanne inadvertently discovers the masquerade, she does what any devoted younger sister would do and comes to the aid of Laure, even embellishing the myth. But before long, Laure/Mikael's carefully crafted double life begins to unravel.

Heran's one-of-a-kind performance is a riveting must-see. The same holds true for the other young actors, Lévana and Disson, making "Tomboy" a triumph. DVD bonus features include a "behind the scenes" featurette.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Tilda Swinton in "We Need to Talk about Kevin."

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Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *The Troupe of Mademoiselle Eglantine*, 1896 (detail). Grand Rapids Art Museum, Purchase, Peter M. Wege.

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Fashion

THOMAS ADAMSON

Givenchy's menswear collection for 2013 combines sex with religious imagery

Givenchy's Riccardo Tisci produced an ecclesiastical tour-de-force last month with the religion-inspired collection he unveiled during Paris' spring-summer 2013 menswear shows.

Incense wafted from the sidelines and organ music set the scene in a show that played with the layers of priestly garb.

Shows by Tisci always contain a shock factor. Here it came in the form of sleeveless tops and jackets printed with effigies of the Virgin Mary with a black bar over her eyes.

Jesus sandals – de rigueur for all the models – bore spiky chains.

"I'm going back to my roots," Tisci, an Italian Catholic, told The Associated Press. "It's about Communion, but a sex version of it."

Silhouettes were knee-length or at the hip. The longer looks in black, white and blood red descended like columns, with cassock undergarments hanging underneath.

Some of the shorter looks worked best, such as a printed T-shirt paired with a jacket – also featuring Virgin imagery – that opened up like a Catholic triptych.

Creative attention was paid to the top of the body, with paneling or lapels hanging from the front or back. Legs were superfluous in unremarkable slim-fitting dark pants or knee-length shorts.

The sheer volume of clothes was unusual for a spring show, but Tisci rarely follows the rules.

In any case, the fashionistas didn't seem to mind.

"It's great to see so many clothes on the runway," former French Vogue Editor Carine Roitfeld said, sitting on the front row. "Each season he becomes stronger and stronger."



PHOTOS: OVERACHIEVERSCLTHING.COM

The shock factor came in the form of sleeveless tops and jackets printed with effigies of the Virgin Mary.



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PHOTO: COURTESY

Mucca Pazza plays Brady Street Festival on July 28.

MUCCA PAZZA

There's nothing safe about Mucca Pazza's latest long-player "Safety Fifth." Sassy and brassy, the multi-member punk-rock marching band could do for marching bands what their fellow Chicagoans The Coctails did for lounge music. The cartoony tune "Touch The Police" sounds like a lost Carl Stalling composition, while "Sexy Bull" takes Herb Alpert surfing. Kick off your shoes to the "Tube Sock Tango" and then slip into a grass skirt for "Mawi Wawi 5-0." Still, Mucca Pazza sounds somewhat stifled on this disc, leading to the conclusion that they're probably best experienced live to get the full effect.

SCOTT LUCAS & THE MARRIED MEN

As one half of Local H, one of Chicago's more blistering hard-rocking duos, Scott Lucas didn't mess around when it came to making your ears ring. With his admirable latest musical project, Scott Lucas & The Married Men, he branches out in new and surprisingly twangy ways. Yes, that's a violin (played by Rebecca Brooke) on "Steady Gaze" and "Heavy Lidded Love." While Lucas rocks out heavy on this disc, he also shows that he can be downright mellow on "Blood Half Moons."

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

ANDREW BIRD

Singer/songwriter and fiddle virtuoso Andrew Bird, a survivor of the 1990s Chicago music scene, has been consistently marching to his own drum — or violin, if you will — and continues to do so on "Break It Yourself." Bird flirts

with pop accessibility on "Give It Away" (featuring the amazing Nora O'Connor on vocals), rocks out on "Eyeoneye," sets hips swiveling on "Near Death Experience Experience" and is joined by St. Vincent (aka Annie Clark) on "Lusitania," which features Bird's trademark whistling. The latter is one of a series of water-themed songs.

Andrew Bird performs on July 27 at the Sound Town Festival in Somerset, Wis.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Scott Lucas & The Married Men play Club Garibaldi, 2501 S. Superior St. in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood on July 27.

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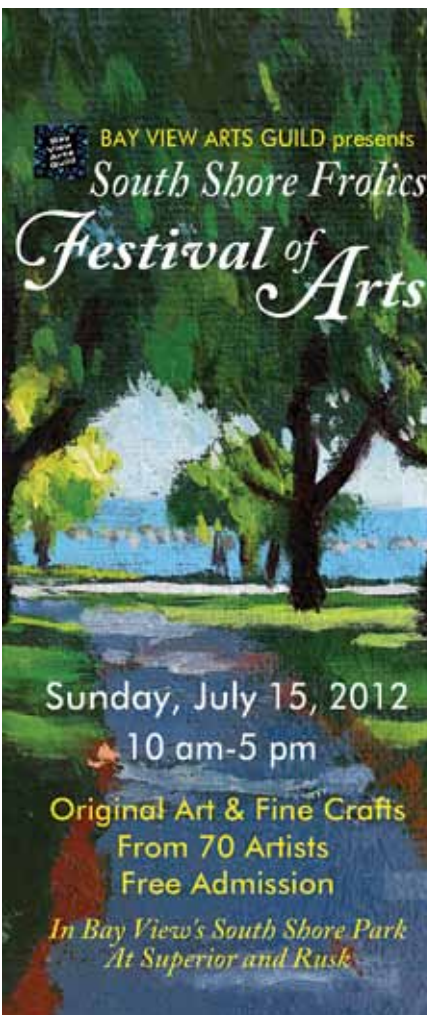
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JULY 12, THURSDAY

Peninsula Players presents Larry Shue's comedy **"The Nerd"** through July 22 at Peninsula Players Theatre, 4351 Peninsula Players Road in Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287.

Ayre in the Square presents **Brew City Big Band**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Catalano Square in the Third Ward, Broadway and Menomonee Streets. Visit musicinthesquare.org

Alterra Cafe at the Lake, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, presents **Florentine (Opera) at the Lake** at 7 p.m.

Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water, presents **"Juliana May: Combustible Gate,"** tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. Call 414-277-8480.

Jazz in the Park presents **Pete Carney & Ghost Farm** in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson, at 6 p.m.

"Packer Fans from Outer Space" continues through July 15 in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Returning for its ninth season, the musical comedy **"Belgians in Heaven"** runs through Aug. 24 at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.



"Packer Fans from Outer Space"

JULY 13, FRIDAY

"Elvis Has Left the Building," a new, king-sized comedy loosely based on an actual event, runs through July 22 at the Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

Gathering on the Green, Mequon's annual performing arts festival, returns to Mequon Rotary Park tonight and tomorrow night with a variety of entertainment, including the original Chicago cast of "Jersey Boys" performing as Under the Streetlamp. For tickets and info, visit gatheringonthegreen.org or call 262-236-0510.

University Theater presents Agatha Christie's murder mystery masterpiece, **"The Mousetrap,"** through July 29 at Mitchell Theatre in Vilas Hall, 821 University in Madison.

American Folklore Theatre in Door County presents the world premiere of **"Victory Farm,"** set in World War II Door County, through Aug. 25 at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.

Theatre Gigante presents lesbian performance artist **Holly Hughes** doing her new monologue, "The Dog And Pony Show (bring your own pony)," through July 21 at Paddy's Pub, 2339 N. Murray. Call 414-223-3496 or visit theatregigante.org/keywords/holly-hughes.

The world premiere of **"Hero,"** a new musical by Wisconsin native Aaron Thielen and Michael Mahler, runs through Aug. 19 at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, in Lincolnshire Ill. Call 847-634-0200.

JULY 14, SATURDAY

If you missed **Shane Ashton** at PrideFest in Milwaukee, you can catch him performing tonight at Green Bay PrideAlive, at 7:30 p.m. at Joannes Park, 215 S. Baird in Green Bay.

The Rock the Ark concert series at Noah's Ark Waterpark in the



Wisconsin Dells presents **Doozey**, a pop/rock boy band from the Fox Valley, performing on the Wave Stage, from 2 to 4 p.m. Visit noahsarkwaterpark.com.

JULY 15, SUNDAY

"Cheeseheads, The Musical," a "modern day dairy-tale with a lotto heart," runs through Aug. 25 at The Amphitheatre in Peninsula State Park in Fish Creek.

Coming (& Going) Attractions, an ephemeral celebration, features a series of excerpts and previews of upcoming Alverno Presents offerings from 3 to 6 p.m. in Lynden Sculpture Gardens, 2145 W. Brown Deer.

JULY 16, MONDAY

The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, welcomes Americana goddess **Gillian Welch** at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents **Diana Krall** (who collaborated with Barbra Streisand on her 2009 "Love is the Answer" album) at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

JULY 17, TUESDAY

"Billy Elliot The Musical," with music by Elton John, runs through July 22 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.



JULY 19, THURSDAY

Ayre in the Square presents **Kenny Todd**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Third Ward's Catalano Square at Broadway and Menomonee streets. Visit musicinthesquare.org.

Jazz in the Park presents **WE Six** at 6 p.m. in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson.

JULY 20, FRIDAY

Milwaukee's very own **BoDeans** perform at 8 p.m. in the Pavilion at Ravinia Festival, 200-231 Ravinia Park Road in Highland Park, Ill. Call 847-266-5100.

JULY 21, SATURDAY

The New York City-based company **De Facto Dance** presents a concert based on choreographic improvisations developed by Richard Bull Dance Theatre at 8 p.m. at Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water. Call 414-277-8480.

The Rock the Ark concert series at Noah's Ark Waterpark in the Wisconsin Dells presents Bootlegg Brothers, an Eau Claire duo, performing on the Wave Stage, from 2 to 4 p.m. Visit noahsarkwaterpark.com.

JULY 22, SUNDAY

Catch **Seal** at 7:30 p.m. at the Pavilion at Ravinia Festival, 200-231 Ravinia Park Road in Highland Park, Ill. Call 847-266-5100.



JULY 24, TUESDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, hosts LGBT History Night with **St. Sukie de la Croix**, author of "Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before Stonewall," and poet **Gregg Shapiro**, author of "GREGG SHAPIRO: 77," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

JULY 25, WEDNESDAY

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes the hip double bill of **Best Coast** and **Those Darlins** at 8:30 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

JULY 26, THURSDAY

Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells, presents Terrence McNally's award-winning comedy **"The Ritz."** For information and tickets, call 414-327-3552.

Milwaukee's very own **BoDeans** perform at 8 p.m. at Majestic, 115 King in Madison Call 608-251-2582.

Jazz in the Park presents **Orquesta Tumbao** in Cathedral Square Park, 825 N. Jefferson, at 6 p.m.



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