

Road signs

Eighteen digital billboards to display original work by Milwaukee artists in October.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

Politicians play doctor

Pols gamble with your health in Obamacare rollout

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PHOTO COLLAGE: MAUREEN M. KANE OF MMK DESIGN



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Macklemore's "Same Love" marks a significant moment in pop music

News with a twist



MACHO MAN TO MARRIED MAN

Village People cowboy Randy Jones married his partner of 30 years on Sept. 13 in New York, according to TMZ. According to the celebrity website, Jones stretched his wedding to Will Gregga into a three-day – what else? – disco affair.

AIM TO PLEASE

Law enforcement officials in Iowa are debating the wisdom of issuing permits for blind people to carry guns. Cedar County Sheriff

Warren Wethington says: “If sheriffs spent more time trying to keep guns out of criminals’ hands and not people with disabilities, their time would be more productive.” But Delaware County Sheriff John LeClere has a different opinion: “At what point do vision problems have a detrimental effect to fire a firearm? If you see nothing but a blurry mass in front of you, then I would say you probably shouldn’t be shooting something.”

NO DEFEAT HERE

After three years of boycotting Home Depot over its LGBT-supportive policies, the American Family Association says it has achieved its goals and is ending the boycott. The announcement came as a surprise to Home Depot, which continues to offer numerous services to support diversity in the workplace, including a Pride Network Associate Resource Group.



WIGWAG

PLAYING THE BULLIED CARD?

Russia has banned gay “propaganda” by law. Putin has banned public demonstrations before, during and after the Winter Olympics in Sochi. The International Olympic Committee says athletes are not free to express political opinions, implying political expressions could include coming out. And yet the marketing boss for the Sochi Games is playing victim? He’s crying to the IOC that speculation and intimidation by the LGBT community could “ruin a lot for all of us.”

KEEP A LID ON IT

Leave it to Angie’s List to remind us of the potential horrors of the household toilet. AL reported that salmonella bacteria survived in a toilet for four weeks despite the use of cleaning fluids, according to one study. In another study, sci-

entists planted 737 E. coli bacteria in a toilet bowl only to find them scattered throughout the bathroom two hours after flushing with the toilet lid open. The take-away message? Avoid using public toilets whenever possible and, gentleman, keep the lid down – not only out of respect for the women who use your bathroom but for your own safety.

SOLIDARITY SISTERS

A group of Catholic nuns was successful in keeping a pipeline off their 780-acre property in Marion County, Ky. A spokesman for Williams Co. confirmed in early September that the proposed route for a 500-mile natural gas pipeline to the Gulf of Mexico would be better defined and stay well away from the Sisters of Loretto’s property. The nuns, meanwhile, say they’ll continue to oppose the pipeline – wherever it goes.

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

LIFE AFTER WILLIE

John Wayne Bobbitt, whose ex-wife severed his penis with a kitchen knife and threw it in a field, has found God and a fourth wife, he told reporters on the 20th anniversary of the infamous incident in June. Bobbitt’s ex-wife Lorena claimed she clipped her rooster’s comb in retaliation for spousal abuse. Bobbitt’s penis was found and reattached – and he went on to star in the porn films “John Wayne Bobbitt Uncut” and “Frankenpenis.” He’s now at work on a memoir.

EXPERT OPINION NOT NECESSARY

A North Carolina appeals court has said a woman can go forward with suing the doctors associated with Duke University Medical Center who attached her intestine to her vagina. The doctors had sought to have the case thrown out and a trial judge had agreed, finding that a medical expert should have reviewed the

matter before it went to court. But the appeals court said, “It requires no expert testimony to understand that feces are not meant to be excreted from the vagina and that such an injury does not ordinarily occur in the absence of a negligent act or omission during a surgical procedure.”

POOR TASTE

Tumbledown Golf Course in Verona drew outrage after advertising a Sept. 11 golf sale offering “9 holes with cart for only \$9.11 per person or 18 holes with car for only \$19.11!” The course was overwhelmed with offended callers and Facebook posts. Some included death threats, prompting club owner Marc Watts to station a sheriff’s deputy at the club. He told The Associated Press that he intended to show no disrespect with the promotion.

Find more WigWag at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

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Walker gambles politically with healthcare

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Despite unrelenting pressure by congressional Republicans to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, some GOP governors in swing states acknowledge that the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land.

Some Republican governors' reluctant acceptance of Obamacare is based on financial prudence and political necessity – the law provides new policies that could prove popular, while efforts to ruin them ultimately could upset consumers.

"We're going to do our level best to make it work as best we can," Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said. "My approach is to not spend a lot of time complaining."

That same view has been embraced by Republicans John Kasich of Ohio, Susana Martinez of New Mexico, Brian Sandoval of Nevada, Rick Snyder of Michigan and even Rick Scott of Florida.

But not Scott Walker of

Wisconsin, who has joined congressional Republicans who are trying to derail, defund or demolish the ACA. Walker and his allies already have begun rear-guard action against reform, causing tens of thousands to lose coverage or expanded benefits and tens of thousands more to be denied the coverage intended for them next year.

Why? "To sabotage the Affordable Care Act and get political credit for that from the far right and parlay that into his run for president," said Robert Kraig, executive director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

Kraig said Walker doesn't want Democrats getting credit for something that represents "a huge step forward in the history of economic security in the United States, because there's going to be – for the first time – a backup system where everyone can buy health care."

So to build up his far-right cred and national profile as he prepares to run for his party's 2016 presidential

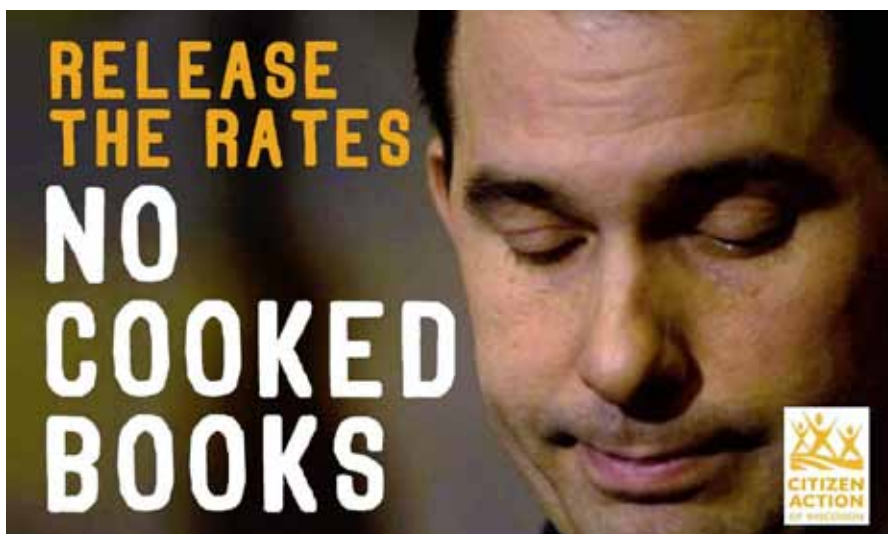


PHOTO: COURTESY CITIZEN ACTION

SABOTAGE: Collages like this one on progressive websites have been heavily critical of Gov. Scott Walker for his campaign of misinformation against the Affordable Care Act. The Walker administration released trumped-up "statistics" claiming that health insurance premiums would skyrocket across the board with the ACA's implementation. The administration was ultimately forced to acknowledge that its frightening statistics were not based on actual premium rates.

nomination, Walker has broken with other governors in his party and will turn his back on some \$12 billion in funding through the

ACA that would have all but eliminated the waiting list for insurance for the poor and working families who have their Medicaid payments delivered through the BadgerCare program.

To ensure that the poor people of Wisconsin will suffer when the ACA begins enrollment, Walker's biennial budget made major changes to BadgerCare. Counting on public ignorance, he'll attempt to position the problem as a consequence of the ACA.

HEAVY COST

Estimates are that 96,000 childless adults, children and parents who earn more than 100 percent of the federal poverty level – about \$12,000 for a single person – will be kicked off coverage as a result of Walker's budget.

"He is literally going to cost the state \$148 million in this biennial budget to cover fewer people with health care," Kraig said.

Kraig also claims that Walker's rejection of federal funding could cost the state

up to 10,000 new jobs in health care, one of Wisconsin's largest employers.

In addition to turning away the money for Medicare expansion and throwing poor people off health care, Walker refused to set up a state insurance marketplace, raising an outcry from consumer advocates, doctors, nurses, health insurers, business groups and other stakeholders. Instead, he's forcing Wisconsinites to go through a federally-created marketplace.

The state's medical groups had backed the creation of a statewide exchange but Walker ignored them, returning a \$38 million check that the federal government had given ex-Gov. Jim Doyle to fund it.

"Under Doyle, we had a whole plan for the exchange and a website set up allowing people to go through the whole process of signing up online," Kraig said. "Our online exchange was to be used as a prototype for the nation. We were one of only five states given this opportunity."

Insurance marketplaces – or exchanges – under the ACA will be open for enrollment starting on Oct. 1, with coverage beginning Jan. 1. The marketplaces will offer a choice of health plans with some tax breaks for low- and middle-income consumers.

Despite Walker's efforts, **ACA** next page

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ACA from prior page

insurers have established marketplaces in the state's three regions, said John Tomlinson, who specializes in designing employee benefit and health insurance plans for businesses at Mid-State Insurance in Mequon. Three exchanges have been established in the Milwaukee area and five in Madison, he said.

One of the Milwaukee exchanges – Wisconsin Physicians Service – will cover only health care provided by Aurora. A fourth exchange for the Milwaukee area is currently in the planning stages, he added.

NONPROFITS STEP IN

Walker has left Wisconsinites on their own to navigate the complexities of acquiring coverage under the new system, but progressive non-profit groups have stepped in to try steering people through the process.

"There could be issues around literacy. They may not be English-speaking, they may be homeless. They could get the notice in late September, and they may not understand it," said Molly Bandt, director of Covering Kids and Families in Madison. "There are still things to work out – although on the positive end, there's a lot of energy in trying to get the word out."

Covering Kids and Families, which works to get children and families enrolled in Medicaid programs, is among the groups planning seminars at job centers, schools and libraries across the state. Trainers will discuss the ACA, explain what is and isn't changing and help people figure out which plans work best for them.

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership has been asking churches, community leaders and advocacy organizations to help reach out to low-income people losing their coverage. The idea is that it'd be most effective to reach people through those they already know and trust, executive director Joy Tapper said. Pastors and neighbors can contact Medicaid recipients, let them know about the coming change and direct them to the partnership for more information, she said.

That strategy worked well in Massachusetts, where organizers identified word-

of-mouth as one of the most critical factors in successful outreach, Tapper said.

SCARE TACTICS

Besides making it difficult for people to acquire coverage under the ACA, Walker and other Republican leaders have been criticized for promoting false statistics to scare people into avoiding the ACA. The Cap Times reported last month that anonymous emails were being circulated claiming that if medical tests prove to be flawed, the ACA will not pay for retesting; that the only pain medication covered under Obamacare is aspirin and that people on Medicare will lose the right to choose their own doctors.

Republicans have focused a lot of their efforts to sabotage the ACA on young people, who are being hit with pleas not to sign up for health care coverage, as required under the "individual mandate" provision in the law. GOP leaders believe that by keeping young, healthy people from joining the system, they can make it fail by limiting the risk pool only to the sick and elderly.

At the beginning of September, Walker's administration was condemned for releasing a phony analysis that tried to terrify consumers with the specter of dramatic premium rate increases under the ACA. But the analysis didn't take into account federal tax subsidies, which are expected to lower premium costs as much as 77 percent. It also failed to show the comparative costs related to the benefits or copays under different policies.

When asked by media to provide the premium costs on which the projected percentage increases were based, the administration refused to release the numbers and then later admitted that the increases were not based on actual numbers.

ODD GAMBLE

Even those who understand the political gamble Walker is making with Wisconsin's health care have a hard time understanding how he can morally justify working to deny health care accessibility to the poor and middle class.

Some pundits say Walker

**Why gamble?
"To sabotage
the Affordable
Care Act and
get political
credit for
that from the
far right and
parlay that
into his run
for president."**

doesn't understand the risk he's taking just a year after Democrats succeeded in

casting Republicans as the party of the prosperous.

Other Republican governors understand, and that's why they're climbing on board with Obamacare.

Lori Lodes of the Center for American Progress, a liberal-leaning think tank that supports the law, put it this way: "They can't risk pursuing a partisan agenda that would turn down taxpayer dollars and deny their constituents health care."

In Michigan, where Snyder faces an uphill re-election fight and there is disagreement in his party about the law, the governor has argued that receiving an estimated additional \$1.4 billion in federal money to bring roughly 500,000 residents under health coverage makes economic sense.

Ohio's Kasich, also faced with a difficult re-election road, promotes expanding Medicaid as a moral issue.

Kasich advisers say agreeing to include more low- and moderate-income people in the program could soothe relations with female voters or independents angry about the budget he signed in July that included intrusive new restrictions on abortion.

"Among suburban women, it could soften his image," said Bob Klaffky, a Kasich adviser.

Other Republican governors who have agreed to the Medicaid expansion include Jan Brewer of Arizona, Chris Christie of New Jersey and Jack Dalrymple of North Dakota. Arizona, where Brewer isn't seeking re-election, and North Dakota

are Republican-leaning states; New Jersey, where Christie is running this fall, is considered Democrat-leaning.

Martinez and Sandoval have gone the furthest toward implementing the law.

— Graeme Zielinski and The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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Feds out to enroll LGBT Americans in health coverage

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Community leaders from across the country gathered at the White House on Sept. 12 to learn how they can help hundreds of thousands of uninsured LGBT Americans get health care coverage.

Less than two miles away, at the U.S. Capitol that day, tea party Republicans led by Wisconsin Rep. Sean Duffy continued to try to derail implementation of key elements of the Affordable Care Act, including the opening of the health insurance marketplaces on Oct. 1. Republicans in the U.S. House have held more than 40 votes aimed at repealing or weakening the ACA or, as it is widely known, Obamacare.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, addressing LGBT leaders at the White House and a wider online audience, seemed confident they'd fail

"Thanks to all of you, this law is now a reality and it is going to happen in spite of some of the best efforts of our friends at the Hill," she told the crowd. "This is what we call a law. It was passed. It was signed. It was upheld by the Supreme Court. And the president got re-elected. This is a law, and the people are entitled to these benefits."

Sebelius was focused at the forum on making sure LGBT Americans know their rights, responsibilities and options under the ACA. "Here is the fact you all need to keep in mind," she said. "One in three lower-income LGBT adults in America doesn't have health insurance. We are talking about a community that can be hugely impacted by what's about to happen."

Starting in 2014, the ACA prohibits insurers from denying coverage or charging a higher premium based on a pre-existing condition, including HIV or AIDS. The

law also prohibits insurers from charging someone more because of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Being a woman is no longer a pre-existing condition," said White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett. "Being LGBT is no longer a pre-existing condition."

The ACA also has removed dollar limits on lifetime coverage and, starting in 2014, annual limits on coverage will be illegal.

Under the ACA, health insurance plans also will have to provide preventive care, including annual check-ups, mammograms, HIV testing, cancer and diabetes screening, and vaccinations without co-pays or deductibles.

To access those benefits, people must be covered. Uninsured Americans can find coverage in online marketplaces opening Oct. 1, while the underinsured or overcharged can shop for

better plans or take advantage of tax credits.

"State health exchanges will open with various levels of readiness and competition," said William Melville, a market analyst at the HealthLeaders-InterStudy. "Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have robust insurer participation despite a hands-off approach from state governments. The important thing to remember at this stage is that exchanges are very volatile and subject to changes good and bad – and each of these changes will have a corresponding impact on companies doing business in the health care space."

COMMUNITY LEADERS

"But here's what we know, unless they know how to connect with those benefits, all of this is just paper," said Sebelius, who talked with LGBT leaders just after an ACA briefing with the president and cabinet.

So HHS is relying in part on community leaders – such as Jason Rae of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce and Paul Fairchild of the Cream City Foundation, who attended the White House briefing – to spread the word about the marketplaces.

The community leaders asked to share the "get covered" message play particularly important roles in states such as Wisconsin, where the Republican right is working against the ACA and an expansion of Medicaid and has ceded responsibility for the marketplace to the federal government.

Surveys show that many residents in such states mistakenly think they can't access the marketplace or have the protections of the ACA. And correcting the confusion may be more difficult in those states, because federal money for outreach is less than in cooperating states. An Associated Press survey found that government spending for outreach will be about 46 cents per capita in Wisconsin and \$9.23 per capita in West Virginia.



IMAGE: U.S. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH FOR ALL: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched a "get covered" campaign emphasizing that everyone deals with health matters.

Filling the void in states with administrations hostile to Obamacare are nonprofits, businesses and community advocates.

In the LGBT community, national organizations such as the Center for American Progress, the Federal Agencies Project and the Sellers Dorsey Foundation are working with local and state leaders on the Out2Enroll outreach initiative.

"Like so many people across the country, LGBT community members have questions about what the health reform law means to them," said Christopher Labonte of the Sellers Dorsey Foundation. "Out2Enroll's targeted outreach and enrollment program will offer the kind of community-specific information and resources LGBT people need to navigate these new options."

A new Kaiser Family Foundation analysis estimated that Americans who buy their own insurance will receive tax credits averaging \$2,700 next year for coverage through the new marketplaces, also called exchanges.

"Tax subsidies are an essential part of the equation for many people who buy insurance through the new marketplaces next year," said KFF president Drew Altman, adding that about 48 percent of Americans with individual coverage should be eligible for credits. "They will help


make coverage more affordable for low- and middle-income people."

The credits subsidize premiums for those who don't have access to affordable coverage through work and who have incomes between 100 percent and 400 percent of the federal poverty level – about \$11,500–\$46,000 for a single person or \$24,000–\$94,000 for a family of four.

GETTING COVERED

- The health care marketplaces provided for in the Affordable Care Act open on Oct. 1.
- Every state will have a marketplace.
- Coverage in marketplace plans starts on Jan. 1, 2014, when almost everyone in the United States must have insurance.
- Depending on incomes, tax credits may help offset the cost of premiums.
- As is the case now, not all health care providers will accept every insurance plan.
- Questions: Call 800-318-2596 or visit www.healthcare.gov.
- For information specific to the LGBT community, visit www.out2enroll.org.

– L.N.



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Life without the ACA

By Graeme Zielinski

Special to WiG

Just what would happen in Wisconsin if the Affordable Care Act were repealed or defunded?

The prospect is too much for Sarah Conklin to contemplate.

Six years ago, the 58-year-old from Menasha was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and quickly rang up \$90,000 annually in medical bills. She was hurtling toward her insurance cap.

She says she would have reached the cap this year or early next and, after that, her family would likely have been headed to the poor house.

But the ACA ended caps for policyholders with pre-existing conditions and, beginning next year, will forbid caps or prohibitions on pre-existing conditions for all new policies.

"I'm very grateful for Obamacare. I have a list a mile long of pre-existing conditions and nobody would have insured me. We would have had to declare bankruptcy. I would have lost everything," Conklin said.

Ending the cap for new policies is only a part of an expansion of Obamacare that will take place in coming months.

Kevin Kane, a health care organizer for Citizen Action Wisconsin, says the upcoming reforms have been shown to keep health care costs down for everyone, but defunding or repeal would

reverse this trend.

"It's immoral that we would even be talking about denying people health care," Kane said. "We all already pay the cost of health care for those without insurance who to emergency rooms. Now we want to make sure people get care and they don't pass on the costs."

But now, in the fourth year after its passage, and after an election that saw the bill's namesake sent back to office by a commanding margin, Republicans in Congress and in Wisconsin are still trying to get rid of the law.

Conklin, for one, is perplexed: "It just makes no sense."

Of course, the U.S. Senate is in the hands of the Democrats and the White House in the hands of the ACA's author, so there is little chance the law will be repealed any time soon.

DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES

But advocates for the ACA say if Republicans did succeed in demolishing the law, hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites would see their insurance coverage evaporate and their premiums skyrocket.

According to defenders of Obamacare, repealing the law in Wisconsin would mean:

- More than 63,000 seniors would lose out on more than \$46 million in rebates to close the so-called "doughnut hole" for pre-

scription drug coverage for Medicare Part D.

- More than 43,000 people ages 26 and younger in college would not have health care coverage through their parents' plans.

- Some 968,000 Wisconsin women and 482,000 seniors and individuals with disabilities would not receive free preventive care, a requirement of the ACA. The effects of this would be felt most in areas with higher population concentrations such as Milwaukee and Madison.

But those figures just represent the consequences of the parts of the law already implemented. The ACA's major components, offering subsidies and tax credits and new marketplaces intended to keep down insurance costs, are to begin Oct. 1. After that, killing the ACA would mean:

- Wisconsin wouldn't be able to expand BadgerCare coverage to some 80,000 uninsured childless adults below the federal poverty level.
- The option to buy insurance through the new marketplace wouldn't be available for 274,000 uninsured non-elderly adults in Wisconsin with incomes over the poverty level. As it stands currently, 219,000 of these are in line for substantial federal subsidies for their policies.

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Minneapolis mayor delivers wedding invites to gay Wisconsinites

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak traveled to Milwaukee and Madison earlier this month to deliver wedding invitations to Wisconsinites.

Because Wisconsin bans same-sex couples from marrying, Rybak suggested gay couples exchange vows in the more welcoming state of Minnesota, specifically in the City of Lakes.

Minnesota's marriage equality law went into effect on Aug. 1. In less than two months, 1,640 same-sex couples have applied for marriage licenses – that's one in three marriage licenses granted during that time. Rybak has officiated at more than 40 same-sex weddings, including that of Minneapolis Police Chief Janeé Harteau to Police Sgt. Holly Keegel.

On Sept. 9, the Minne-

apolis mayor stopped by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center to talk about marriage equality and invite same-sex couples to take a 337-mile trip to exchange vows.

He also went to Madison to court the LGBT community and spread the equality message.

"Minnesotans and Wisconsinites are almost like family: We know each other well and see each other often. Now, our Wisconsin cousins have another great reason to come see us in Minneapolis: to get married," said Rybak. "Gay and lesbian couples from Madison and across Wisconsin don't have to wait one more day to get legally married in Minneapolis. We're a supportive and welcoming city where we're ready to help them put together the wedding of their

dreams."

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin added, "It's time for Wisconsin for to join the 21st century and do the right thing. Eventually, we will recognize same-sex marriage – and the sooner, the better."

Katie Belanger of Fair Wisconsin spoke at the events in Madison and in Milwaukee, advocating for equality at home.

"Wisconsin's antiquated and discriminatory laws banning marriage equality and civil unions are bad for our people and our economy, and put our entire state at a disadvantage to our more welcoming neighbors," she said.

Several days before visiting Wisconsin, Rybak took his "I Want to Marry You in Minneapolis" campaign to Chicago. In the spring, Illinois and Minnesota seemed to be racing toward passage of marriage



PHOTO: MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL, GARY PORTER/AP

COME UP TO SEE ME SOMETIME: Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak unveils posters of a new ad campaign encouraging Wisconsin same-sex couples to come to Minneapolis to marry. Rybak was joined by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele on Sept. 9 at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

equality legislation. However, while Minnesota lawmakers passed legislation that was swiftly signed into law by Gov. Mark Dayton, the drive stalled in Illinois, where a vote was expected but not taken on the last day of the House's regular session.

The Illinois measure, which

passed the Senate on Valentine's Day and has the support of the governor and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, could be taken up in late October, during a brief fall session.

In addition to Minnesota, 12 other states and the District of Columbia have

legalized same-sex marriage. Also, county clerks in New Mexico and one county official in Pennsylvania have issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The legal status of these marriages remains unclear.

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Quinn places 3rd in NYC primary race

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Christine Quinn ended her campaign for New York City mayor with a third-place finish in the Sept. 10 Democratic primary – and an outpouring of support from the national LGBT community.

Quinn, New York City Council's influential speaker, would have been the city's first female mayor, as well as the city's first openly gay or lesbian mayor.

She had an early advantage and strong poll numbers until late in the contest, when New York City Public Advocate Bill de Blasio suddenly surged ahead. De Blasio placed first in the primary and will face John Lhota in the Nov. 5 general election race to succeed Michael Bloomberg, who has termed out after 12 years. Pundits attributed Quinn's loss to her role in helping Michael Bloomberg win an unprecedented third term, as well as to de Blasio's more effective advertising.

"There's no sugar-coating what an emotional loss this is for her, her many supporters

and for all of us here at the Victory Fund," said Chuck Wolfe, CEO and president of the VF, which exists to recruit, train and endorse openly LGBT candidates at all levels of elected government.

Wolfe, who has known Quinn for years, described her as "a remarkably effective and passionate advocate for LGBT equality and, most importantly, for everyone who calls New York City home. Few people are as committed to anything as Chris is to New York, but I can tell you that all of us at Victory were behind this campaign with all our hearts."

Quinn, who was endorsed by The New York Times, the Daily News and the New York Post, kicked off the final days of her long campaign with a nighttime rally at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village.

Edith Windsor, the New York City widow whose lawsuit overturned Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, introduced Quinn to the crowd outside the Stonewall,

'Even in New York, women and LGBT candidates have steeper hills to climb.'

where the legendary riots took place in 1969.

"We're standing on hallowed ground, on a place where people before us said we're not going to get pushed around anymore," Quinn said. "In the course of this campaign we've taken a lot of hits. We've been attacked over and over by opponents and by individual expenditures, and we're right here tonight, on ground where people fought back against things much harder than we have, against things much harder than the attacks I have taken in this campaign, to send a message that we're moving forward. Nobody has ever handed our community anything. We've gotten there by organizing, by joining with our allies, by educating and by pushing forward, and that's what we're going to do until Tuesday."

Wolfe, reflecting on Quinn's campaign in a message to Victory Fund supporters, noted that, since its founding, New York City has had more than 100 mayors – and all of them have been men.

"That's a hell of a glass ceiling," he said. "Even in New York, women and LGBT candidates have steeper hills to climb, and that's why we continue to fight for people like Chris, who was battling a centuries-old tradition of electing only men to Gracie Mansion. We will never, ever back down from those tough races."

Eight of 10 Victory Fund candidates running in New York elections on Sept. 10 were victorious, including city council candidates Carlos Memchaca, Rosie Mendez and Ritchie Torres.



IMAGE: FACEBOOK/CHRISTINE QUINN FOR MAYOR

HAND IN HAND: Christine Quinn and wife Kim Catullo head to the polls on Sept. 10 to cast their ballots in New York City's Democratic primary for mayor. Quinn placed third.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



IMAGE: COURTESY

FUNDRAISER: Next Act Theatre and the ACLU of Wisconsin are partnering for an ACLU benefit that features a performance of "Perfect Mendacity." The benefit is Sept. 29. The show runs Sept. 19-Oct. 13 at the theater, 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee. For more, visit www.nextact.org.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS: Send community announcements to lmneff@wisconsin Gazette.com.

PROUD THEATER-MILWAUKEE ENROLLING YOUNG ACTORS

Proud Theater-Milwaukee is enrolling people between the ages of 13 and 18 for the 2013-14 season.

The program is open to young people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer-questioning, who are children of LGBTQ parents or who are allied with the community.

Rehearsals for the new season are on Tuesdays during the school year at 6 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 1110 N. Market St.

To enroll, contact Proud Theater by phone at 608-222-9086, by email at info@proudtheater.org, or by showing up at a rehearsal.

FORGE HOLDS FORUM ON TRANSGENDER ISSUES

Milwaukee-based FORGE holds a forum Sept. 28 on transgender issues, specifically policies related to housing, health care, employment and also access to public restrooms.

FORGE's invitation to the event – which takes place at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 1110 N. Market St. No. 2, Milwaukee – states, "Come ... hear about the phenomenal policy

strides the trans community has made over the past few years and where we are going next."

The program begins at 7:30 p.m., after an open support group session at 6 p.m.

Loree Cook-Daniels, FORGE's policy and program director, is a scheduled presenter. So is Katie Belanger, president and CEO of Fair Wisconsin, who will talk about T-Fair, a state transgender advocacy coalition.

Visit www.forge-forward.org.

In other community news...

Milwaukee Common Council's Judiciary and Legislation Committee

on Sept. 17 signed off on a resolution that condemns the persecution of LGBT people in Russia and calls on Russian leaders to repeal anti-gay laws. "Russian lawmakers crossed the line a long time ago with their infringements on the rights and freedoms of the country's LGBT population," the resolution's primary sponsor, Ald. Tony Zielinski said in a news release. "But it's even more alarming that these Draconian laws could allow Russian officials to detain and prosecute gay people and their allies who are visiting from other countries. The international

community must come together as one against these abuses."

Emerge Wisconsin is taking applications from women who want to enroll in the nonprofit's 2014 class. The organization trains Democratic women to run for elected office. Applications are due by Oct. 25. They can be found at www.emergewi.org.

The Ruby Project and Out in October Pride Picnic are preparing for the annual event set for Oct. 20 at the Rock County Courthouse Amphitheater. For more, visit therubyproject.us.

ACLU of Wisconsin and Milwaukee's Next Act Theatre co-host a brunch and performance of "Perfect Mendacity" on Sept. 29. Proceeds benefit the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation. For more, visit aclu-wi.org.

The Public Education is a Civil Right March and Rally takes place on Sept. 21 at 10:30 a.m., beginning at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts, 2300 W. Highland Ave., Milwaukee. For more, visit aclu-wi.org.

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{ Editorial }

The mixed blessings of Obamacare

There's a lot to celebrate with the Affordable Care Act. If you lose your job, you can still get health coverage for you and your family at an affordable price. An insurer can't turn you down due to a pre-existing condition. You'll still have a choice of policies and similar access to doctors.

But the ACA represents everything that's wrong with our political leadership.

The Obama administration had good reason to try fixing our tattered, expensive and bizarrely inefficient health care system. A panel of doctors, epidemiologists, demographers and other researchers brought together by the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine released a report in January concluding that U.S. health care ranks last in effectiveness among the world's 17 developed nations. Meanwhile, it's the second most expensive, even though, unlike other countries, it has huge gaps in coverage.

The legislation is the president's hallmark achievement, and so Republicans want to make it fail far more than they want to save people's lives. One of the worst offenders is Gov. Scott Walker, who hopes to ascend to the White House by preventing as many people as possible from gaining the benefits of health care reform.

But Obama and the Democratic Party gave critics fodder by creating an overly complex law designed to please the monied interests and win over right-wing critics rather than a law to provide citizens with the most affordable and expansive coverage possible. Fearing the demagoguery of critics slinging terms like "socialized medicine," Barack Obama shackled us with a half-assed law so weighted down by bureaucracy and exceptions that it's impossible to explain – and difficult to defend.

Other industrialized nations have some form of a single-payer plan. In those countries, rich people can still get whatever care they want, and poor and middle-class citizens get better coverage for a far lower cost than we do under the ACA.

One reason for that lower cost is cutting out the middle man: the insurance companies. For instance, United HealthGroup CEO Stephen Hemsley was paid nearly \$13 million in 2012 – to do what? There are rich CEOs like Hemsley at scores of health insurance companies, and they have deputies under them who also receive extravagant salaries and bonuses without directly helping a single patient. Under Obamacare, insurance companies are mandated to spend a reasonable portion of premiums they collect on providing actual health care.

The bottom line is that Obamacare is both a failure and a vast improvement. Ultimately it might lead to the single-payer plan that it should have been from the get-go.

Ignore all the lies about Obamacare coming from the tea party. Jump in and learn all you can about it for yourself by going to government Internet sources. Make the most of it and it will improve your life.

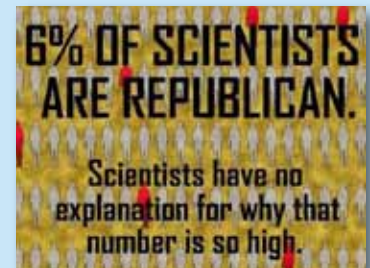
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ON THE RECORD



“Growing up I was a target. Speaking the right way, standing the right way, holding your wrist the right way. Every day was a test and there were a thousand ways to fail, a thousand ways to betray yourself, to not live up to someone else’s standards of what was accepted, of what was normal...The first time I tried to kill myself I was 15. I waited until my family went away for the weekend and I was alone in the house, and I swallowed a bottle of pills.”

– Newly out star of “Prison Break” WENTWORTH MILLER telling the Human Rights Campaign about trying to kill himself as a teen.

“That would be really tacky – they would win if I had to clarify.”

– Actor JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT declining to confirm or deny rumors that he’s gay in an interview with Out Magazine.

“I can’t name names but my friend called who is a big oligarch over there (in Russia), and asked me if I’d like to be an ambassador for the Olympics and open the show. I immediately said no. I want to know why all of this gay hate just exploded over there.”

– CHER telling Maclean’s magazine that she refuses to take part in the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi due to Russia’s persecution of LGBT people.

“I’ve clearly experienced some change in my feelings so that I am attracted to my wife. But it’s definitely not a 180 degree reorientation. All of us will continue to have desires and feelings which aren’t right, until Jesus returns.”

– “Ex-gay” Christian SEAN DOHERTY telling Christianity Magazine that he’s finally feeling some attraction toward his wife but still desires men.

“Being the most famous man to have his penis chopped off does have its advantages. It definitely has not hurt my love life – in fact it improved it.”

– JOHN WAYNE BOBBITT, whose ex-wife severed his penis with a kitchen knife and threw it in a field, telling a British tabloid that he’s at work on a memoir. Bobbitt went on to star in two porn films after having his member reattached.

“To be clear: we do not want these events in our stores.”

– Starbucks CEO HOWARD SCHULTZ asking pro-gun advocates to cease staging appreciation days in its stores. The events began after the company announced it would welcome customers with open and concealed weapons in its café. Meanwhile, the corporate-owned Starbucks refuse to allow the distribution of gay newspapers on its premises.

“I’ve no qualms dancing with a woman or a man. Kristina will be easier to pick up though.”

– Rugby star and fierce LGBT ally BEN COHEN responding to the news that he will be paired with dancer Kristina Rihanoff as a contestant on the hit British TV show “Strictly Come Dancing.” Cohen said he’d hoped to be paired for the competition with pro male dancer Robin Windsor.

“Do you stop everyone going, ban all the artists coming in from Russia? But then you’re really leaving the men and women who are gay and suffering under the antigay laws in an isolated situation.”

– ELTON JOHN telling The Guardian that he must go on with his performance in Moscow in December.

Slowing the rush to war

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

Although it may be only a temporary reprieve, I’m glad our trigger-happy leaders have been prevented from lobbing missiles into another Middle Eastern country.

Like most people, I was horrified at the images of the Syrians felled by gas attacks in August. But I was also alarmed at President Barack Obama’s swift mobilization of our naval and air forces and the decision to strike back militarily. How could it possibly help to drop more bombs into an extremely chaotic situation amid an already traumatized population? We have left so much chaos in our wake in the countries where we have intervened. Why is our first response always to bomb?

I swung into action, determined to resist another ill-conceived war. I wrote to the president and to Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson.

I used social media to send congressional links to friends, encouraging them to oppose the bombing resolution. I posted anti-war arguments on media sites and encouraged colleagues at work to get involved.

It felt good to do something instead of waiting for another obscene exhibition of “Shock and Awe” to be unleashed, terrorizing more people. Make no mistake about it, missile attacks and aerial bombing of large population centers, no matter what the source or how noble the motive, are always acts of terror.

Many things aggravated me about the drumbeat for war, both in the media and government. One was the constant use of “regime” for Bashar al-Assad’s government. Whenever we want to demonize a country, you can bet it will be dubbed a “regime.” Secretary of State John Kerry’s maudlin pleas to emotion, his rote repetition of talking points and ridiculous defense of Obama’s flip-

flops (“We didn’t set a red line, the world did”) made him appear toadying and unstable at times.

How about the angst over American “credibility” and “prestige”? This discussion included hand-wringing over our need to “prove” ourselves, to show strength, to not appear “impotent” in the eyes of the world. That took me back to Richard Nixon, who fretted about the United States looking like “a helpless, pitiful giant” if we didn’t invade Cambodia. That invasion in 1970 set Cambodia on a decade-long free-fall into genocide. Frankly, arguments that come down to pissing contests and male inadequacy just don’t cut it with me.

We heard that chemical weapons are so horrible they have been used only twice since World War II. We didn’t hear that the U.S. facilitated Saddam Hussein’s gassing of the Iranians in the 1980s. That’s when he was our buddy – before he became a “regime.”

Also conveniently forgotten are our devastating uses of napalm and Agent Orange in Vietnam from 1963 to 1973. They were produced by Dow Chemical and Monsanto, respectively. Napalm consists of two acids with fuel added as an accelerant. It was designed as an anti-personnel weapon and dropped over wide swaths of territory, including whole villages, burning to death and disfiguring tens of thousands of people. Agent Orange was a highly toxic, dioxin-based herbicide used as a defoliant against forests and crops. Vietnamese civilians and American soldiers poisoned by Agent Orange suffer neurological disorders to this day.

While our selective outrage is infuriating, chemical arms in Syria do need to be curbed and kept out of the hands of terrorists. We need to continue negotiations and all other means of pressure short of military intervention to collect and destroy these weapons.

Blending advocacy and protest

Opinion
KATIE BELANGER

Wisconsin, we’ve gotten really clear about a couple of key things.

First, marriage equality is a critical issue facing the LGBT community, but it certainly isn’t the only issue that impacts the amazingly diverse and expansive LGBT community. Whether your key issue is marriage equality, trans-inclusive nondiscrimination, access to culturally competent and adequate health care services, overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth in our homeless population, or something else, there is no shortage of work to be done to make Wisconsin truly safe and inclusive for LGBT people.

Second, being “grassroots,” “strategic,” “pragmatic” and “political” are not mutually exclusive. In fact, our ability to achieve our mission depends on our ability to simultaneously change hearts about the harms of anti-LGBT discrimination, change the minds of lawmakers on the need to take action, and change the faces of participants in our

government to make sure the interests of the LGBT community are represented.

We must have a robust grassroots presence through which we engage LGBT and allied activists, highlight the key intersections between LGBT equality and other social, economic and racial justice movements, and educate the general public and lawmakers about the harms of discrimination and the need for substantive policy changes to treat people equally and with respect.

We must have a solid presence in the state Capitol, which means having a strong understanding of the landscape, relationships with elected leaders on both sides of the aisle, and a political operation that seeks to expand pro-fairness support within state and local government.

Finally, these core elements of our work must be fully integrated, to ensure the grassroots and broad advocacy programs are not just complementary, but symbiotic

in their efforts to achieve the same outcomes.

However, that can be easier said than done. The interests of grassroots activists, the diverse needs of the full LGBT community, and the willingness or ability of elected leaders to tackle those needs are often misaligned, competing or contradictory. We must engage in a delicate dance to balance these external pressures, while still achieving tangible victories that move Wisconsin forward.

It’s never dull around here. But within those challenges are some of the most unique opportunities for alignment. Our work in local communities across Wisconsin – most recently in Appleton, Beloit and Kenosha – is a prime example of how we’re able to leverage the energy and momentum of the grassroots to work closely with elected leaders to affect real and lasting change.

Katie Belanger is president and CEO of Fair Wisconsin.



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REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Kathy Flores

APPLETON BANS HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENDER IDENTITY

Appleton has become the third city in Wisconsin to adopt a policy banning housing discrimination based on gender identity.

Seventeen states and 160 cities, including Madison and Milwaukee, prohibit housing discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Transgender Law and Policy Institute.

"Why now? There aren't state and federal protections for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, so it's up to cities," said Kathy Flores, Appleton's diversity coordinator. "People are assigned female or male at birth, and often that's the identity that stays, but that's not true for everybody. Gender is not that black or white."

Landlords who deny rentals to transgender individuals face a penalty of up to \$10,000 under Appleton's

new ordinance.

Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to adopt anti-discrimination protections for gay residents in 1982. But transgender residents still experience discrimination while looking for housing statewide, said Katie Belanger, president of Fair Wisconsin, a state advocacy group for LGBT issues.

Belanger said that transgender "people have twice the rate of homelessness, twice the rate of unemployment, and a vast majority of trans people have faced discrimination in every aspect of their lives: employment, housing and in public spaces."

New protections for gender identity faced no resistance in Appleton, which has a population of 73,000.

LAMBDA ASKS WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT TO UPHOLD PARTNERSHIP LAW

Lambda Legal has filed a brief on behalf of Fair Wisconsin and five same-sex couples asking the Wisconsin Supreme Court to uphold the state's domestic partnership law as constitutional.

The high court will hear oral arguments in the case on Oct. 23.

Lambda senior staff attorney Christopher Clark said, "The domestic partnership law in Wisconsin is without question constitutional. The limited protections provided by domestic partnerships are a far cry from the significant rights, benefits and responsi-

bilities associated with marriage. To suggest that the two types of relationships are impermissibly similar is an anti-gay stretch of the imagination."

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle signed the partnership bill in June 2009, several years after the state enacted a right-wing sponsored constitutional amendment defining marriage and any equivalent arrangement as only the union of a man and a woman.

The partnership law grants limited rights to registered same-sex couples, including hospital visitation and the ability to take a family medical leave to care for a sick or injured partner.

Wisconsin Family Action, an anti-gay group, sued to overturn the partnership law, alleging that it violates the marriage amendment.

Lambda Legal has intervened on behalf of Fair Wisconsin and five same-sex couples.

In December 2012, the state court of appeals upheld the partnership law.

WFA challenged that decision, turning to the state Supreme Court.

Fair Wisconsin president and CEO Katie Belanger, in a news release, said, "Wisconsin's same-sex couples need the domestic partnership registry — it provides important protections in a state that has banned same-sex couples from having the freedom to marry. The Wisconsin Court of Appeals rejected the plaintiffs' arguments as 'nonsense,' and that hasn't changed."

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GENDER NEUTRAL BATHROOMS REQUIRED IN OCONOMOWOC SCHOOLS

Oconomowoc School District superintendent Rodger Rindo recently announced that unisex bathrooms will be installed at every district school.

The policy was adopted in response to an incident involving a transgender elementary school student. Parents complained after the student used a girl's restroom at Summit Elementary School on Sept. 6. Apparently, they believed she should have used the boy's room.

Rindo, in a news release, said making one restroom at each school gender-neutral "will provide a facility which is safe and accessible to all students, not only to transgender students."

"What's really important is that we're not singling anyone out – that anybody can use that bathroom," Rindo later told FOX6 Milwaukee.

Maureen White, a youth program coordinator of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, told FOX6 the district deserves praise for standing up for transgender students.

"I think it's really important for the young person to have facilities that they feel comfortable in," she said. "The truth is, there have been gender neutral bathrooms at the malls, at universities, and at the center for the last 10 years."

FOX6 reported that some parents complained about the policy off-camera, saying their children are not ready to learn about such issues.

Oconomowoc is in Waukesha County, the most conservative county in Wisconsin and one of the most strongly Republican suburbs in the northern United States.

In other regional news ...

- **Ashanti Mcalister**, one of five men charged in the gang-related killing of a Milwaukee rap artist, has been sentenced to life in prison. A jury found 19-year-old Mcalister guilty on June 27 of first-degree intentional homicide in the death of 22-year-old Evon Young, a transgender rapper who also was known as Yung LT.
- **The Wisconsin Legislature** is off to a slow start this season, with Republicans in control of both the Senate and Assembly still searching for consensus on major issues like toughening drunken driving laws and imposing new reporting requirements on public and choice schools. The Assembly canceled its meeting days in September, in part because of the disruption caused by the resignation of Majority Leader Scott Suder. The Senate was in session only on Sept. 17 and did not take up a measure to restrict public access to the proposed iron ore mine site in northern Wisconsin. That and other major issues will have to wait until later in the fall.
- **The Walker administration** took back \$720 from the Capitol Police chief that was given to him retroactively. Walker's administration acknowledged that it acted improperly in retroactively

raising Chief Dave Erwin's pay by 11.7 percent. The chief and Gov. Scott Walker have faced widespread criticism for aggressive crackdowns on gatherings in the Capitol, which has long been considered a forum for free speech and expression.

• **Gov. Scott Walker** rescinded a \$500,000 grant made to a tea party group, the United Sportsmen of Wisconsin, which has ties to the governor. But Democrats and other critics still have legal and ethics questions about what's been characterized as a pay-to-play scandal. One Wisconsin Now executive director Scot Ross said, "Walker got his hand caught in the cookie jar."

• **Council Bluffs, Iowa**, authorities were investigating a house fire as a hate crime. Racial slurs were spray-painted on the walls of the home where a mixed-race family resides.

• **An Iowa man** is asking an appeals court to overturn his conviction under the state's HIV notification law. The man was sentenced to prison for failing to notify a sex partner of his HIV-positive status but his attorney is arguing that the sex was consensual, a condom was worn and the partner does not have HIV.

– from AP and WiG reports

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Acupuncture works like magic – but it works

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Imagine: You're lying in your shorts on a massage table, your face either pointing upward or buried in one of those massage-table doughnut holes. A practitioner enters the room and sticks tiny, hair-thin needles all over your body, turning you into a veritable porcupine. Then he or she lowers the lights, turns on some cosmic New Age music and leaves you there to ponder the universe and wonder what the hell you're doing. You might find yourself asking, as I did, "What good can possibly come of this?"

In my case, the answer to that question was "a lot." Thanks to regular acupuncture sessions, I've experienced significant pain relief and restored flexibility in my neck. I can turn my head

while driving to see if it's safe to switch lanes without having to rotate my entire body – a potentially life-saving capability.

So how does this 3,500-year-old Eastern medicine work?

"Magic," smiled Dr. Xiping Zhou (pronounced "joe"), a peripatetic man who almost always radiates a warm, reassuring smile and an unmistakable aura of wisdom.

But before we get to Zhou, I'll tell you how I wound up in his tranquil, feng-shui perfect, spa-like Shorewood clinic.

At 62, I have degenerative disk disease in my cervical spine and osteoarthritis that's progressed to what's termed "end-stage" in my left shoulder. I won't go on about this – I'm not one to complain – but suffice it to say these conditions can be as crippling as they sound.

The symptoms of my spinal condition include a very stiff, achy neck and shoulders along with radiating nerve pain (known as radiculopathy) down my arms and in my hands. Sometimes the muscles in my upper arms and shoulders twitch and jump around for hours, and sometimes my left index finger feels as if I've stuck it into an electrical socket.

For several years, I've kept my problem more or less under control through epidural injections of cortisone in my neck. Unfortunately, epidurals can prove less effective over time, particularly when used frequently to battle a degenerating condition.

ENTER DR. ZHOU

A couple of months ago, Dr. Zhou visited Wisconsin Gazette to ask about adver-

tising his clinic in Shorewood. He took one look at my neck, instinctively placed his hands on it, massaged around a bit and pronounced grimly, "You've got problems."

"You have no idea," I replied.

The doctor called his office and booked me an appointment. "I'll show you, OK?" he smiled. I was impressed with his confidence.

That confidence is rooted in 3,500 to 5,000 years of Chinese medicine and the thousands of patients he's served. Zhou, who's a licensed M.D. (neurologist) in China, has practiced acupuncture and related therapies, including acupressure massage, cupping and herbal supplementation, for more than 30 years. In 1999, he became the first acupuncturist in the state to work in a Western hospital (Columbia St. Mary's). In addition to his relatively new clinic in Shorewood, he also has a popular clinic in Madison.

Zhou also is a venerated educator in his discipline. In 2000, he founded the East-West Healing Arts Institute and in 2008 he started the nonprofit Madison Community Wellness Clinic to expand access to alternative health care to people with limited incomes.

IT'S COMPLICATED

Acupuncture is complicated to explain, but it's based on using hair-thin needles to stimulate specific points on the body that can trigger biochemical and physiological conditions. Eastern medicine contends those points are located along channels of energy known as merid-

ians that connect major organs. According to Chinese medical theory, illness arises when the cyclical flow of the body's energy, known as "Qi," becomes unbalanced or blocked as it moves through the meridians or connecting channels.

Western medicine contends that inserting the tiny needles into acupuncture points stimulates nerves that transmit electrical impulses to the hypothalamic-pituitary system, which releases neurotransmitters and endorphins. Those are the body's natural pain-killing hormones. In fact, endorphins are said to be 200 times more potent than morphine.

Research has shown acupuncture reduces nausea and vomiting after surgery and chemotherapy, relieves arthritic pain, reduces symptoms of seasonal allergies and benefits many other conditions and complaints as well. There are acupuncture protocols for addressing a broad range of conditions.

The World Health Organization recognizes acupuncture for more than 50 health conditions, including stress. The National Institutes of Health reports successful use of acupuncture for a long list of ailments, and the U.S. Air Force treats everything from battlefield wounds to post-traumatic stress disorder with acupuncture.

Zhou believes combining acupuncture and other Eastern healing arts and herbal remedies with Western medicine is the most effective approach for a range of problems, from arthritis to fibromyalgia, anxiety to addiction, obesity to infertility. In fact,



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dr. Xiping Zhou.

there's very little that traditional Chinese medicine can't help or cure, according to its adherents.

BACK AT THE CLINIC

During my first session at Zhou's clinic, I lay there on my stomach thinking of all the work sitting on my desk and nervously shaking my feet. The time seemed to go on forever. When the needles, which are no thicker than a hair and nearly painless, finally were removed, a massage therapist came in to knead and stretch me. Finally, the doctor himself showed up for a brief round of pummeling.

When I finally stood up – man, what a surprise. My head had not sat so upright on my shoulders in years. I slowly tested my neck, cautiously rotating to the left and then to the right. It moved!

"Lift your arm up," Zhou said, pointing to my left arm, which normally moves no higher than Sen. John McCain's. "You've got to be kidding," I thought.

But to my amazement, I stretched it all the way above

ZHOU next page

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ZHOU from prior page

my head with only medium pain. My head felt light, as new visions of me in motion raced through my brain. I dreamily imagined my hand exploring the upper reaches of my kitchen cabinet – a place that hasn't seen visitors in years. What molded treasures might I find?

When I suggested writing a story about acupuncture, focusing on my experience, Zhou began introducing me to other patients. Each one had a different story but they all ended happily. Patients uniformly voiced respect and gratitude for Zhou.

Sarah Bernhard, 65, a retired principal, sought out Zhou's services after having successful knee replacement surgery. Despite the new knee, the tendons and ligaments in her leg were so sore that she had a hard time climbing stairs.

According to Bernhard, Zhou helped her with that and more. After going to the Shorewood clinic twice weekly, she was able to return to gardening and found herself practically bounding up stairs, Bernhard said.

"I always had to do one step at a time, and now I'm doing two steps at a time," she said. "When I leave here, I'm ready to skip down the highway of life."

Bernhard said she was perplexed on her first visit, when the doctor put a needle in her head. "I thought what's he doing in my head, when it's my knee that's hurt? I now know that it's because one's body is interconnected."

Zhou also helped Bernhard with weight control by reducing her appetite through needles placed mid-abdomen, she said.

"I've always had sinus issues too," she added. "I don't know what he's doing with that. But my sinuses are better."

BROAD USES

One of the more unexpected applications of acupuncture is to combat addictions, including smoking, drugs and alcohol. Zhou introduced me to a 23-year-old suburban woman who's using acupuncture as part of her recovery program from an opiate addiction.

The young woman (who



PHOTO: STOCK IMAGE

Acupuncture dummies are used for training.

asked to be identified only as Sarah) had stopped using drugs two years before she started seeing Zhou. She was experiencing anxiety, depression and restless leg syndrome.

At first Sarah was given a generic medication for the restless-leg problem. She was prescribed anti-anxiety meds but declined because they have the potential to become addictive.

"My problem was drugs, so I didn't want to take them," Sarah said.

At first, Zhou focused on Sarah's restless-leg problem.

"I really didn't now what to expect, I just had an open mind," Sarah said. "The first treatment, I could feel energy moving around in my back and legs – and it just felt really great afterward. I noticed a huge change in my emotions and energy level right away. Now my energy is more stable and my mood is more stable."

Zhou said he stimulates Sarah's vagus nerve, which "stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system to make the body feel better – to make her relax." Among other things, stimulating the nerve releases more of the neurotransmitter serotonin.

As with most acupuncture treatments, the way of achieving this effect seems counterintuitive to the Western mind. Zhou focuses on

an acupuncture point on Sarah's outer wrist. An hour of stimulating this point – known as No. 7 – significantly relaxes Sarah's body.

Similarly, Zhou focuses on a point in my left calf to improve the flexibility of my left shoulder. When I asked him how this could work, he grinned and said, "Ancient Chinese secret."

SKEPTICS

Unfortunately, that's exactly the way that many Western medical professionals treat acupuncture. Skeptics dispute research proving its effectiveness. They and competing wealthy interests have succeeded in keeping Medicare from covering acupuncture in Wisconsin and other states. In addition, it is not covered under the Affordable Care Act, and private insurers rarely reimburse for it.

"If people could have access to acupuncture, it would lower the cost of their health care and help them avoid unnecessary medications that can cause bad side effects and overdoses," Zhou said. "Acupuncture is a natural, non-invasive alternative to help people deal with both illness and mental health conditions."

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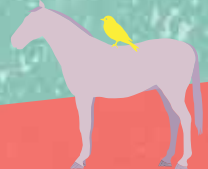
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Signs of the times

Billboards to display work by Milwaukee artists

From Oct. 1 through Oct. 10, original work by Milwaukee artists will rotate on 18 digital billboards in the metro area to raise the visibility of the local public art scene.

IN:SITE, which promotes temporary public art, is partnering with Clear Channel Outdoor and Lamar Outdoor Advertising to organize the 10-day campaign, part of Digital Billboard Art Month.

Each billboard will display images from one or two artists selected to represent local nonprofit visual art organizations. Billboards also will include the artists' and nonprofits' names.

"Over the 10 days of the campaign, well over 1 million people will have the chance to see these pieces of art," said Jay Guidinger, sales manager of Lamar of Milwaukee.

IN:SITE hopes the campaign will encourage viewers to seek more information about the artists and nonprofits. The ultimate goal of Digital Billboard Art Month is to act as a catalyst for developing more advocacy, promotion and funding for Milwaukee's visual arts.

IN:SITE, which did the research and planning for the project, discovered that art on billboards — both vinyl and digital — is growing nationally. In the fall of 2012, IN:SITE contacted 27 visual arts groups to request their participation. Each group was asked to contribute \$75–\$300, depending on its annual operating budget.

The participants' contributions paid for Graeme



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Reid, director of collections and exhibitions at the Museum of Wisconsin Art, to review the art submitted. The contributions also covered some of the reception expenses and paid for graphic designer Marly Gisser to develop and oversee the technical submission guidelines.

A public reception for Digital Billboard Art Month takes place 6–8 p.m. on Oct. 2 at INOVA, 2155 N. Prospect Ave. Creative Alliance Milwaukee, the newest incarnation of the 2005 Cultural Alliance of Greater Milwaukee, will act as the reception's primary sponsor.

FUNDING

Unlike the city's perform-

ing arts groups, which benefit from funding through the United Performing Arts Fund, the city's visual arts groups face an uphill battle in securing financial support. Created in 1967, UPAF raised more than \$11 million this year through corporations, workplace giving, individuals, foundations and the annual UPAF Ride for the Arts. The funding helped support 32

performing arts group in the 2012–13 season.

In anticipation of the 2001 opening of the Santiago Calatrava addition to the Milwaukee Art Museum, a visual arts funding umbrella was started. In November 2000, Marilu Knode, then-senior curator for INOVA at the Peck School of the Arts at UWM, held the first planning session for what

became Visual Arts Milwaukee, also known as VAM! The Greater Milwaukee Foundation contributed \$10,000 to the effort.

VAM! co-chair Mark Lawson, director of galleries at Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, cautioned at the time, "It's important this collaborative energy doesn't drift away." But it did. The visual arts community did

not continue with other joint initiatives, perhaps because VAM! was disappointed that the media attention in 2001 focused almost exclusively on MAM.

Now Creative Alliance Milwaukee seeks to become a catalytic hub to help grow what its organizers call "creative industries" that have "aesthetic, artistic or cultural content."

"Visual artists and groups in Milwaukee are an undervalued resource," said Creative Alliance executive director Maggie Kuhn Jacobus. "The Creative Alliance wants DBAM to succeed so it can continue past 2013 and spur more group efforts."

Pegi Christiansen is co-founder of IN:SITE



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ON THE CALENDAR

A public reception for Digital Billboard Art Month is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 2 at INOVA, 2155 N. Prospect Avenue. The event is free. IN:SITE's website has more information at <http://insitemilwaukee.org/dbam>.



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Doc explores tragic genius of musician James Booker

The late James Booker, known as “The Piano Prince of New Orleans” and other grand epithets, was a conspiracy enthusiast and applause junkie who sometimes dressed in drag. A man on the edge and a virtuoso, Booker is the subject of Lily Keber’s documentary “Bayou Maharajah: The Tragic Genius Of James Booker.”

The mythology surrounding Booker is as enormous as his talent. Booker, who wore an eye patch, did little to dispel the rumors swirling around him. How did he lose his eye? Depending on the person asked, the answers include a fight in Angola State Pen (where he served time following a heroin bust), Jackie Kennedy, a record company dispute and a fight with Ringo Starr. Born

in New Orleans in December 1939, Booker performed as a child prodigy at various establishments, including the legendary Dew Drop Inn. From ages 16 to 20, Booker was an in-demand piano player who toured with several musicians.

Unfortunately, his spiral into drug and alcohol addiction was rapid. It fueled paranoia and made him a prima donna. Although he never felt valued at home, he found an appreciative audience in Europe. But his erratic behavior eroded that following.

Booker died waiting to see a doctor at Charity Hospital in New Orleans at 43.

In addition to vintage performance footage, “Bayou Maharajah: The Tragic Genius Of James Booker” includes several interviews with



Booker himself. The doc is augmented by interviews with those who knew and worked with him, including Allen Toussaint, Charles Neville, Harry Connick Jr., historian Douglas Brinkley, actor/musician Hugh Laurie and many others.

Although Booker, who was at work on his own autobiography, is quoted as saying that “the James Booker story does not need elaboration,” we can be grateful to Lily Keber for bringing his story to the screen.

Visuals elevate trans epic ‘Laurence Anyways’

“Laurence Anyways” is an urban transgender epic set at the dawn of the new millennium and directed by Xavier Dolan, whose previous works include must-sees “I Killed My Mother” and “Heartbeats.”

The story centers around a pair of star-crossed outcasts – Laurence (Melvil Poupaud) and Frederique aka Fred (Suzanne Clément, who steals every scene in which she appears).

We learn about the couple’s relationship during a mostly off-screen 1999 interview between Laurence and a journalist (Susie Almgren). Laurence and Fred “meet cute” on a movie set where Fred works in the late 1980s. Laurence is a college lit professor and writer. In fact, Laurence wins a prestigious literary award in his mid-30s.

The couple have an offbeat relationship that includes clubbing and quirky shenanigans in drive-thru car washes. But Laurence tells Fred he’s “dying” because he wants to become the woman he was born to be.

Thus begins Laurence and Fred’s transgender journey.

The people in Laurence’s immediate circle, including



PHOTO: COURTESY

A scene from “Laurence Anyways.”

Fred, Laurence’s mother Julienne (Nathalie Baye) and her colleagues on the faculty all support her in their own ways. Fred, for instance, buys Laurence a wig. But shortly after she begins coming to class in women’s clothing, she’s fired.

Fortunately for Laurence, she finds an extended community in the Pink Club gang, a group of people more marginalized than either she or Fred. While this is happening, however, Fred loses her grip. Perhaps the film’s most riveting moment is a scene in which Fred comes to Laurence’s defense against an obnoxious waitress.

But it’s not long afterward that Fred realizes the futility of their relationship and ventures out to reclaim her

identity. She begins by making a Cinderella-like entrance at a ball, where she meets Albert (David Savard). Fred soon moves out of the home she shares with Laurence and ends up married to Albert.

But Laurence can’t leave well enough alone. Even though she moves in with Charlotte (Magalie Lépine-Blondeau), she remains obsessed with Fred and tries winning her back, with emotionally shattering results.

In addition to inventive and effective storytelling, Dolan also gives the viewer something stunning to watch. His expert use of lighting and other visual effects elevate the film to an artistic level. The performances, especially Clément’s, are fantastic.

—G.S.

Cinema and conversation

Silence is urged during the shows, but talk is encouraged afterward at the fifth annual Milwaukee Film Festival, which features several panel discussions, a lecture and the Milwaukee debut of the Sundance Institute ShortLab.

The Sundance workshop – free to UWM students, \$100 for the general public – explores the world of short filmmaking and how directors transition from shorts to features.

ShortsLab Milwaukee participants include filmmakers David Lowery, Ry Russo-Young and Calvin Lee Reeder and Sundance Film Festival short film programmer Mike Plante.

The program takes place on Oct. 5 at the UWM student union.

Panels presented by the Milwaukee Film Festival take place at Colectivo Coffee, 2211 N. Prospect Ave., and include:

- Representing Race on Sept. 28, with a discussion on “concerns and questions that arise when representing race issues onscreen in contemporary film.” UWM professor Donte McFadden moderates the panel that includes journalist Eugene Kane, producer Nathaniel Kohn and directors T.J. McKay Martin and Grace Lee.

- MKE At Risk: Transgender Youth Awareness on Sept. 29, with a screening of “Valentine Road” at the Oriental Theatre and then a conversation about transgender youth awareness and advocacy in Milwaukee moderated by Mitch Teich of WUWM’s Lake Effect and featuring Michael Munson and Loree Cook-Daniels of FORGE, Tina Owen of Alliance School and Syd Robinson of the ACLU of Wisconsin.

- Work-In-Progress Forum on Oct. 6, with a sneak peek at several in-progress projects by Wisconsin filmmakers. Director Jeff Reichert is moderating a panel that includes Pat Buckley, Manny Marquez, Jeff Gendelman, Cris Siqueira, Chris James Thompson, Ruben Whitmore II and Xavier Ruffin.

- Filmmaker, Meet Entrepreneur on Oct. 6, with Milwaukee filmmakers Susan Kerns, Brad Lichtenstein and Kurt Raether interviewing Milwaukee entrepreneurs Kelly Fitzsimmons, Andy Nunemaker and Michael Drescher on applying business practices and the entrepreneurial spirit to filmmaking.

The festival also presents Sara Hall of the University of Illinois-Chicago lecturing on trends in German cinema on Sept. 29.

For more, visit mkefilm.org. —L.N.

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Unpacking the teen shooting documented in 'Valentine Road'

By Gregg Shapiro
Contributing Writer

Oxnard, Calif., is a town that "hardly anyone knows (about) unless they've heard about the story," says one resident in the documentary "Valentine Road."

On Feb. 12, 2008, openly transgender eighth-grade student Larry King was shot and killed by classmate Brandon McInerney in a classroom at Oxnard's E.O. Green Junior High School. "Valentine Road" explores the events of the day, as well as those leading up to the killing and its aftermath.

Surrounding this story of the premeditated killing of a 15-year-old are revelations of homophobia, white supremacy, drug addiction and a system that failed two boys.

Earlier this month, I spoke with "Valentine Road" director Marta Cunningham and producer Sasha Alpert.

Gregg Shapiro: When did you first hear about the killing of Larry King?

Marta Cunningham: I read (about it in) an article, about five months after. I was horrified that this event happened, that I had not heard about it and that it wasn't still being talked about on the news. I immediately started doing as much research as I could and found that a lot of the media coverage was victim-blaming, inaccurate. I was really upset by that.

Is that what drew you to the story?

MC: Really what I wanted to do was show the complexities and not just focus on the incident. That was just too black-and-white of a story for me. What really interested me the most (were) the complexities about both of the boys. What was similar, not just what was different.

"Valentine Road" shines a light on a number of issues. A very telling moment in the film occurs when a couple of students being interviewed seem not surprised that a shooting occurred, much less that it involved Larry.

Sasha Alpert: They live without a lot of adult supervision. There was no one intervening in this tense situation at the school. Neither of these kids had stable home situations, so they both lacked parents to guide them through a very difficult adolescence. Oxnard is a divided, mostly agricultural migrant labor community, and there is violence there. There is certainly gang activity and white supremacist activity there.

MC: But I think it's fair to say that kids grow up in a different world than we did. School shootings are reported all the time. The problem is that we've accepted it. I don't think it matters what neighborhood you're in. They were so quick to be comfortable with the shooting, because this is just part of our culture now. I think it's horrific.

"Valentine Road" is full of surprises, including the revelation that Brandon was a "budding white supremacist" and that some jurors saw the victim as responsible for his own murder. Some of the jurors wore "Free Brandon" bracelets when they were being interviewed on ABC at the time of the retrial. Were you surprised?

MC: I think by that time nothing really surprised me. I was pretty jaded by that point in the journey. No, I wasn't shocked, because I had witnessed, by this time, so much homophobia. What was shocking to me was that they got to wear them (the bracelets) in the courtroom.

"Valentine Road" shows how powerful the effects of the murder were - from those touched by it on a local level to a national level, including Ellen DeGeneres. Is that a comment on changing attitudes toward the LGBT community?

SA: Attitudes have been changing over the course of the time we were making the film. Lots and lots of changes are happening, and it's a really exciting time. I think kids that are



PHOTO: COURTESY

adolescents now are going to live in a very different world than we live in, in that area. We just watched gay marriage being legalized in California.

Marta, you make use of animation when it comes to the depiction of Larry's transgender alter-ego.

MC: I wanted to create a lightness of touch. That's what Larry seemed to have. I wanted to keep that childhood notion alive, that fantasy aspect alive. I talked to a lot of trans men and women who talked about depictions that they had when they were younger. Sometimes they had to create alter egos to survive the amount of bullying and harassment that they went through. Last night, at the New York screening, there was a young man who came up to me and started crying. He said he was so happy that I had done the animation, because he was also like that as a child. He had so many different alter-egos.

"Valentine Road" has a Valentine's theme - beginning with Larry and Brandon's Valentine's Day interaction. The entrance to the cemetery where Larry is buried is on Valentine Road, and Larry's heart was donated to a little girl on V-Day. Has this had any effect on how you feel about the occasion?

MC: I never thought about it. I really try to keep my private life separate from anything that I do work-wise. I'm very good at compartmentalizing. I always think about Larry on Feb. 12, the day he was shot.

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ON SCREEN

As part of the Milwaukee Film Festival, "Valentine Road" plays at 2 p.m. on Sept. 27 at the Fox Bay Cinema; 2 p.m. on Sept. 29 at the Oriental Theatre and at 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 1 at Fox Bay Cinema. Wisconsin Gazette is a community partner in the presentation.

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In Tandem Theatre opens season with Milwaukee premiere of 'Burying the Bones'

Theater

MIKE MUCKIAN

The most frightening ghosts are the spirits of dark ideas that return.

Some of the most frightening ghosts are not ectoplasms floating through haunted houses, but the spirits of dark ideas that return to threaten continued harm. It's the ghost of South African apartheid that haunts the characters in M.E.H. Lewis' "Burying the Bones," which opens the 2013–14 season of Milwaukee's In Tandem Theatre Co.

At the center of the play, a Wisconsin premiere, is the character Mae (Malkia Stampley), who seeks the truth behind the disappearance of her husband James (DiMonte Henning), a member of the African National Congress. Against the advice of her older sister Cassandra (Bria Cloyd), Mae visits the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, set up by the South African government to address the crimes of apartheid. There she faces Gideon (Mark Corkins), an unrepentant Afrikaner policeman who has his own definition of justice.

The play's power as a character study and its conflicting points of view are the qualities that drew In Tandem to "Burying the Bones," says company co-founder Chris Flieller, who directs the production.

"(The play) will surely toy with the audience's alliances and sympathy toward the characters as the action

unfolds," Flieller says. "Secondarily, it's rich in cultural references and does a beautiful job of transporting one to another place and time."

Like most dramas set in South Africa, the shadow of apartheid looms large in this story, which occurs two years after James' disappearance. But the political overtones are a framework for deeper issues, the director says.

"It is more a universal examination of human behaviors in times and places of extreme stress, and (it) speaks to all of us on a deeply human, rather than an overly political level," Flieller says. "In that respect it is not much different from (South African playwright Athol) Fugard's better works when they ascend from the topical to the literary."

Unlike Fugard, "Burying the Bones" author Lewis comes from Evanston, Ill., and lacks the personal experience that might have informed the play at certain levels. But reviews of past productions credit outstanding character development and a well-honed narrative for helping to carry what are essentially the remnants of a love story.

"There are beautifully tender moments between Mae and her husband, both in flashback and in real time when James is not there physically," Flieller says. "There are wonderfully ironic moments in the scenes between Gideon and Cassandra as the two discover they may have more in common than either of them would want to admit."

Although it's debatable

IN TANDEM'S SEASON AT A GLANCE

"Burying the Bones" is first of five shows that comprise the 2013–14 season. The remaining productions include:

- "A Cudahy Caroler Christmas" returns for another season of frivolity and all the favorite carols, including those about beer and bowling, Nov. 29–Jan. 5.

- "The Eight: Reindeer Monologues" concerns depositions against Santa when one of the tiny flyers accuses the Jolly Old Elf of sexual harassment in this humorous, adult-themed fundraiser for In Tandem, Dec. 9–16.

- "Chesapeake" offers a one-man "tail" of politics, performance art and the kidnapping of a beloved dog, Feb. 21–March 16.

- "1959 Pink Thunderbird: Laundry and Bourbon/Lone Star" includes two one-act plays about the same characters in the same small Texas town, April 25–May 18.

whether James appears onstage as a ghost or a figment of his wife's psyche, "Burying the Bones" still taps the South African spiritual tradition mandating burial of the dead. Fulfilling that tradition has thus far eluded Mae. But the ghost of her dead husband is not necessarily the most powerful spirit haunting the play, the director says.

"I believe the most trenchant 'ghost' ... is the notion that history gets to be revised by the victors, and 'truth' becomes malleable, a tool that can serve as both a cushion and a bludgeon," Flieller says.

In Tandem's production of "Burying the Bones" runs Oct. 4–27.

Pinter's 'Betrayal' bares the soul of deception

Theater

MIKE MUCKIAN

English playwright Harold Pinter is the master of stripping characters to the nerve with disarmingly spare but astringent dialogue. The result can be a soul-cauterizing experience for the audience — an effect that's made Pinter's 1978 work "Betrayal" one of his most critically acclaimed.

"Betrayal," which uses reverse chronology to tell a story inspired by one of the playwright's extramarital affairs, was made into a 1983 film starring Jeremy Iron. It's scheduled for a revival starring Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz that opens on Broadway on Oct. 27.

"Betrayal," which runs through Sept. 28, kicked off the 2013-14 season for Soulstice Theatre in St. Francis. The play is just one in a season of challenges, both for the company and its audi-

ence, says Jillian Smith, Soulstice Theatre's board chair.

"The primary mission of Soulstice is to create meaningful theatre that challenges, inspires and entertains," Smith says. "We enjoy challenging not only our audiences, but ourselves as artists."

Capturing the spirit of "Betrayal" may be one of the company's most difficult projects to date. The challenge comes not from elaborate staging or a large cast, but in capturing and communicating the essence and emotion of the drama buried within Pinter's lean and muscular text. The author's deliberate lack of subtext for his characters requires actors and directors mounting the drama to unearth what is hidden in silence.

"With Pinter, you have nothing but his words to flesh out who the characters are and where they're coming from," says Josh Perkins, Soulstice's stage manager and vice president.

"Betrayal" focuses on the seven-year clandestine love

affair between Emma (Amy Hansmann), who is married to Robert (Joe Krapf), and Jerry (Andrew Riebau), Robert's best friend who is married to Judith. The reverse chronology begins in 1977, when the lovers meet two years after the affair has ended, and ends in 1968, when Jerry first declares his love for Emma. The structure is designed to strip away artifice and show, sometimes quite heartlessly, that such affairs require the betrayal not only of others, but of ourselves as well.

The drama draws on Pinter's affair with BBC broadcaster Joan Blakewell, who at the time was married to producer/director Michael Blakewell, while Pinter was married to actress Vivian Merchant. Although known in certain circles, the affair achieved full public knowledge when the lovers spoke about it in their authorized biographies. Pinter wrote "Betrayal" while engaged in another affair, this time with writer Lady Antonia Fra-

ser, for whom he eventually divorced Merchant to marry.

Matt Michaelis, the show's director, says the reverse chronology allows the audience and the artists to more closely and honestly examine the affair and its impact.

"By beginning with the end and slowly slipping back in time, we're allowed insight into the future, Michaelis says. "We learn why the same question posed two years in the future held so much more meaning."

In fact, the structure brings an intellectual depth, maybe even a truthful brutality to

the company's interpretation of the work, he adds.

"Betrayal" requires an honesty in interpretation," Michaelis says. "From everyone involved with the production, it requires a willingness to explore the emotionally gray areas of relationships, and the choices one makes and rationalizes."

"Betrayal" begins the last season for Soulstice Theatre founding artistic director Char Manny, who will direct the season's second production, Steve Martin's comedy "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."



PHOTO: COURTESY

"Betrayal."

A SEASON OF SOULSTICE

In addition to "Betrayal," Soulstice Theatre is mounting:

- **"Picasso at the Lapin Agile,"** Steve Martin's absurdist comedy that portrays Albert Einstein meeting the famed artist, Nov. 7-23.
- **"Enhanced Readers' Theatre,"** featuring Jean Kerr's "Lunch Hour," a comedy about a marriage that's lost its blush, Dec. 12-14.
- **"God,"** Woody Allen's existential romp asking some of life's big questions with tongue planted firmly in cheek, Jan.

23-Feb. 8.

• **"Still Life,"** the story of a photographer who shutter her lens at mid-career in search of something more, April 3-9.

• **"Metamorphosis"** by Mary Zimmerman and **"Myths & Hymns"** by Adam Guettel alternate in repertory with twin takes on Ovid's poems, Greek myths and sacred music that tell of humankind's search for meaning and more, May 28-June 21.

More at www.soulsticetheatre.org.



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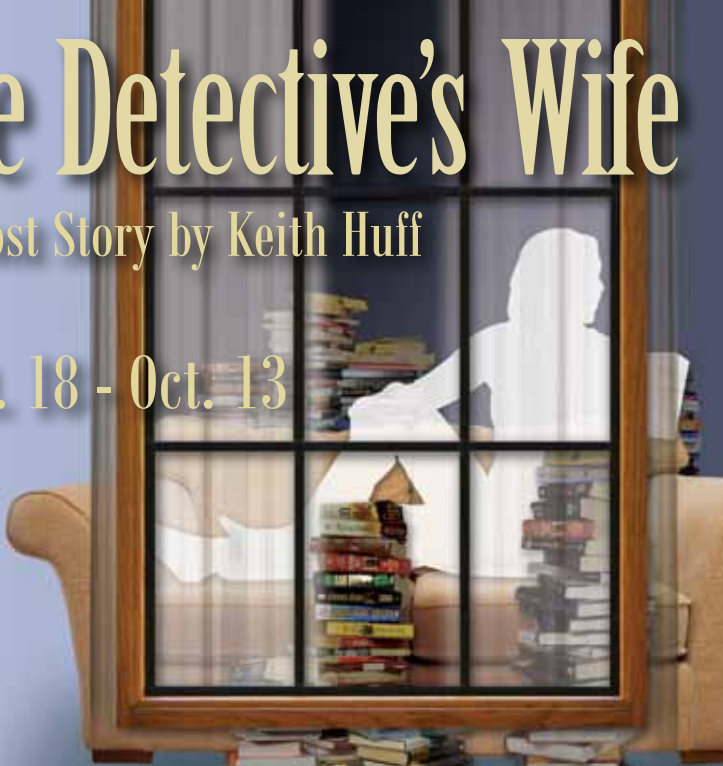
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DisH it Out!

Recipes for apple season

EASY APPLE TART

As satisfying as it is to eat freshly picked apples straight up and unadorned, the chill of fall makes it equally tempting to head back to the kitchen and bake them into a pie.

But that's where most people get tripped up. They fear a fussy pie crust. They loathe a long baking time or a persnickety filling. So we decided to come up with an easy apple tart that uses a fuss-free crust and comes together in under an hour. Even better – because the filling is only gently cooked on the stovetop, the apples retain more of their crisp, fresh, just-picked flavor.

Start to finish: 1 hour

Servings: 12

INGREDIENTS

14 tablespoons (1-3/4 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt, divided

1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour

4 apples, peeled, cored and sliced

2 tablespoons cider vinegar

1/4 cup packed brown sugar

1/4 cup apple cider

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

2 teaspoons cornstarch

1 tablespoon water

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 400 F. Coat an 11-inch removable bottom tart pan with baking spray.

In a food processor, combine the butter, sugar and 1/4 teaspoon of the salt. Pulse several times. Add the flour and pulse to combine, scraping down the sides of the work bowl as needed.

Transfer the dough to the prepared pan. Press the dough evenly across the bottom and up the sides of the pan. Poke the bottom all over with a fork. Bake 15–20 minutes or until golden brown.

While the crust bakes, make the filling. In a large skillet

over medium-high heat, combine the apples, vinegar, brown sugar, cider, cinnamon and the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Cook, gently stirring to promote even cooking but without breaking the apples, until just tender, about 10–12 minutes.

In a small glass, mix together the cornstarch and water. Add to the apples and cook, stirring gently, for 2 minutes, or until thickened.

When the crust and apples are cooked, spoon the apples into the crust, arranging them in concentric circles if desired. Pour any extra juices over the surface of the apples. Serve warm or room temperature.

Nutrition information per serving: 270 calories; 120 calories from fat (44 percent of total calories); 14g fat (9 g saturated; 0g trans fats); 35mg cholesterol; 36g carbohydrate (2g fiber, 19g sugar); 2g protein; 85mg sodium.

– Alison Ladman, AP writer

APPLES next page

— (keeping it local)

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APPLES from prior page

SAUSAGE & APPLE DUTCH BABY

As families try to get back into their school year routines, there will be many cool autumn nights when the comfort and speed of warm breakfast foods would be just the thing to finish the day. But having breakfast for dinner doesn't mean the meal can't have a savory side.

When we think of one-pot dinners, we generally gravitate to stir-fries and casseroles. But a baked pancake is a fine choice, too, particularly when you add sausage and apples.

For this weeknight recipe, I started with a basic Dutch baby, a common baked pancake. But I spiked the pancake with crumbled breakfast sausage and chopped apples, a delicious and filling combination that blends savory and sweet flavors. For a leaner take, you could substitute chicken sausage. Just be sure to go for a flavor that will work with the apples and cinnamon.

Because salty sausage loves the sweet accent of sugar, this pancake gets drizzled with maple syrup just before serving. But if you'd rather ditch the sweet, you could sprinkle the top with grated Parmesan or even cheddar cheese and return it to the oven for another minute.

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 6

INGREDIENTS

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour



- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- Pinch salt
- 1 pound loose breakfast-style pork sausage
- 3 medium apples, divided
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Maple syrup, to serve

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 400 F. In a blender, combine the eggs, flour, milk, yogurt, vanilla, cinnamon and salt. Blend until very smooth, then set aside. Alter-

natively, the batter can be made in a bowl using a whisk.

Coat a large cast-iron or oven-safe, non-stick skillet with cooking spray, then heat it over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and cook, breaking up the meat until it's just starting to brown, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, peel and core two of the apples, then cut them into 1/2-inch chunks. Add the cut apples and onion to the skillet, then sauté until they are just tender, about 6-8 minutes. Spread the sausage-apple mixture evenly over the bottom of the skillet and remove the pan from the heat.

Core the remaining apple then cut it crosswise into very thin slices. A mandoline

is best for this, but a food processor or knife work is fine, too.


Pour the batter evenly over the sausage-apple mixture. Tilt the pan as needed to ensure it spreads evenly in the pan. Arrange the apple slices over the top of the batter; it's fine if they overlap. Sprinkle the apples with the sugar, then bake for 20 minutes.

To serve, slice into wedges and drizzle with maple syrup.

Nutrition information per serving: 380 calories; 150 calories from fat (39 percent of total calories); 17g fat (5g saturated; 0g trans fats); 145mg cholesterol; 39g carbohydrate; (3g fiber, 25g sugar); 17g protein; 460mg sodium.

- J.M. Hirsch, AP writer

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~ Aristophanes

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ANDY HOGLUND

Rapping for equality

While many observers have written about Miley Cyrus' performance during the Aug. 25 MTV Video Music Awards, perhaps the significant moment of the night came from rapper Macklemore's performance of "Same Love."

When he burst onto the national scene, few would have taken Macklemore for anything but a gimmick. His lead single, the ubiquitous bargain-hunting ode, "Thrift Shop," was regarded by Spin Magazine as nothing more than "a party track for privileged dweebs." Macklemore appeared to be approaching his expiration date.

Yet his latest single "Same Love" may be the most significant pop song since Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone." Or at least "We Are the World." Standing at No. 14 on Spotify's Top Lists when it won "Best Video with a Social Message" at the MTV Awards before a television audience of 10 million, "Same Love" captures pop music's potential to be catchy while simultaneously persuasive and meaningful.

HIP-HOP AND GAY RIGHTS

While nobody will ever mistake Macklemore for the next Dylan, he enters the mainstream at an interesting time for both hip-hop and gay rights. After nearly three decades of gangsta rap, mainstream hip-hop needed to move beyond immature machismo if it wanted to remain a cultural staple. As 2013's grunge rock-influenced Yeezus and ASAP Ferg demonstrate, today's rap is forcing itself to experiment for the sake of self-preservation. Underground rap has seen the emergence of more openly gay artists than ever before. The results have been cathartic for the genre, although many still question whether rap has been supplanted as the

This is a song not intent to preach to the choir, but also imploring others to reconsider their opposition.

foremost movement in popular music.

At the same time, despite making inroads in many parts of the country, marriage equality remains a foreign concept to some Americans. Macklemore's response is clever: He fuses the two challenges.

Currently, 43 percent of Americans – or more than 130 million people – live in a state that offers either same-sex marriage or same-sex civil unions. On the heels of a not-antagonistic U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the forces behind gay marriage have mounted a furious state-by-state strategy. They are like Sherman and his march toward the sea, having first implemented shrewd and vigorous grassroots campaigns in New England and on the West Coast, and now the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

But troubles remain. With many states still deadlocked, the battle over gay rights underscores the limited ability politicians have to lead on issues driven by attitude and heart. Instead, pop culture and musicians are the ones with the opportunity to take up the baton.

SAME LOVE

Macklemore has described himself as "David Bowie meets Kanye." Maybe. What he shares with both artists is a great ear for the

moment. "Same Love" begins with the hushed purr of a church organ, followed by a gentle piano and, finally, wind chimes. His lyrics tell a personal story. It begins with a younger Macklemore questioning his own sexuality, a great insight into the confusing power of stereotypes. He then bravely invokes God, while also questioning organized religion's sometimes skewed concept of acceptance. It is perhaps the most straightforward discussion of religion in popular music since Kanye's own "Jesus Walks."

Gone are the typical boasts of manhood found throughout much of rap's lyrical history. Indeed, Macklemore's second verse directly indicts rap's complicity in demonizing gay people. To Macklemore, it is not only wrong but antithetical to the very origins of hip-hop. He views marriage equality as the latest movement in previous historical battles for equality:

*"It's the same hate that's caused wars from religion
Gender to skin color, the complexion of your pigment
The same fight that led people to walk outs and sit ins."*

There is more. By condemning "a world so hateful some would rather die than be who they are," Macklemore evokes the It Gets Better movement and the tragic stories about gay teenagers who committed suicide as the result of bullying. His delivery is laced with quiet anger, demanding that the hip-hop community reconcile that they too were once oppressed.

It is a strong call to action, eventually leaving listeners with the sweet simplicity of the song's final moments. Again, alluding to the universal power of faith and love, Macklemore collaborator Mary Lambert trails off cooing a passage from One Corinthians 13:4-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Rapper Macklemore won an MTV award for "Same Love."

8: "Love is patient/love is kind."

Here the song reaches out not simply to hip-hop heads, but the many religious pockets across America. This is a song not content to preach to the choir, but also imploring others to reconsider their opposition.

By breaking new creative ground and in daring to reach a fresh demographic, "Same Love" is reminiscent of Dylan when he introduced civil rights to a generation of white listeners who otherwise might not have considered what Jim Crow actually meant.

Conceived during Washington State's debate over same-sex marriage, Macklemore's point of view is explicit: "Damn right I support it."

His performance is one of those important moments that we may look back on in the coming decades when re-examining today's push for marriage equality. Anthems from the civil rights movement like James

Brown's "Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud" and Sly and the Family Stone's "Everyday People" contain the same resonance. Those hits reflected cultural trends, and also changed minds. Few singles today dare try (City High's "What Would You Do?" and the lackluster "Where is the Love?" by the Black Eyed Peas being exceptions).

So while Macklemore may not be the first rapper, or the best, to speak on progressive issues (conscious rappers such as Talib Kweli come to mind), few have ever had his wide opportunity to galvanize and play to people's hearts. In a period of momentum for marriage equality, his "Same Love" might just emerge as the song to help flame social change. For hip-hop to survive, it will need more spokespeople like him.

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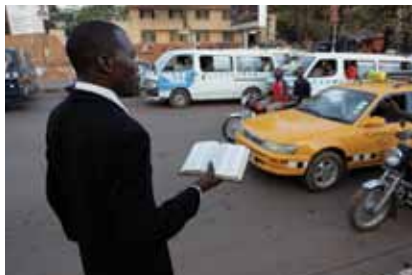
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Milwaukee theaters find new ways to fill seats

Theater

ANNE SIEGEL

Milwaukee is blessed with a wide array of theater venues and companies to suit almost everyone's taste. But whether a theater company focuses on splashy, big-budget musicals or intimate dramas, every troupe has the same bottom-line interest: to stay in the black.

In order to achieve this goal, theater companies – like all performing arts groups – are getting more creative in designing ticket deals and special programs to attract new and/or young audiences. Their marketing efforts often require as much creative thinking as do their productions.

Below are a few of the new (or almost new) programs created by local theater companies to attract new ticket buyers. These innovative ideas ultimately serve everyone in the community by expanding the theatrical experience and turning shows into high-concept events.

SKYLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE

Skylight Music Theatre in Milwaukee's Third Ward is introducing a series of special evenings geared to LGBT audiences. "Be Out at Skylight" will take place three nights during the 2013–14 season, offering ticket-holders a pre-show reception during which they can mingle and network. The evenings will begin at 6 p.m. with complimentary appetizers and a cash bar in the upstairs salon. The shows follow at 7:30 p.m.

The three nights are scheduled during the run of popular musicals with proven queer appeal. The series begins Dec. 12 with "Les Misérables" and continues into 2014 with "In the Heights" and "Hair."

Skylight marketing director Jennifer Samuelson came up with the idea for "Be Out at Skylight" after reading in a trade publication about a similar series in another market. When she introduced the idea to Skylight's board of directors, "It received an instant, positive reaction," she says.

Partner organizations helping to sponsor

the events include Wisconsin Gazette and Planned Parenthood. Samuelson says the concept seems to have caught on so quickly that the group's marketing and audience development team has found itself asking, "Why didn't we do this sooner?"

If successful, Skylight might further expand its targeted outreach to the LGBT community. "We realize that this group already represents an important segment of our audience," says Emily Vitrano, Skylight's audience development manager. "This season, our goal is to try to make an evening of theater more of an event."

Tickets for "Be Out at Skylight" start at \$22.50 and can be reserved by calling the Skylight Box office at 414-291-7800.

Another new Skylight initiative is called "Opera 101." Teasingly advertised "for opera virgins," the initiative is geared for opera newbies of all ages. It balances education with live performance and audience interaction.

The headquarters for "Opera 101" is the East Side bar The Hotel Foster, 2028 E. North Ave. New artistic director Viswa Subbaraman will lead the light-hearted program. He launched a similar program in Houston that proved to be a big hit.

The program's approach is "extremely fun," Samuelson says. The events are to be casual, held at the bar. The educational aspect involves teaching guests how to create an opera of their own choosing.

For more on the dates and times of "Opera 101," contact the Skylight at 414-291-7811 or go to www.skylightmusictheatre.org.

THE MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater is putting the finishing touches on an event for LGBT audiences to be held in conjunction with the production of "End of the Rainbow," a salute to the late, great diva Judy Garland. She was so idolized in the LGBT community that Garland's tragic death in 1969 is widely credited with helping to spark the Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village, which marked the beginning of the modern gay rights movement.

Opera 101's headquarters is The Hotel Foster, and the program will be light-hearted.

"Rainbow" opens on the Rep's Powerhouse stage Jan. 7, 2014. Keep an eye on the Rep's website – and on Wisconsin Gazette – for emerging details about the event to be held for "End of the Rainbow."

In its efforts to attract younger audiences, the Rep already has achieved success with a special subscription package for playgoers 35 and under.

The Rep's programming doesn't overlook families, either. In addition to presenting an annual yuletide production of "A Christmas Carol," artistic director Mark Clements wants to ensure there's at least one "family-friendly" show on each season's schedule, says marketing director Lisa Fulton.

For the 2013–14 season, the hit musical "Ragtime" offers family entertainment at the Rep. Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, "Ragtime" is a historical epic about early 20th century immigrants coming to America seeking better lives.

Fulton says parents are encouraged to bring children ages 8 and older to see the show, which runs through Oct. 27. The cast features a few child actors, and it has some snazzy special effects. (In one sequence, a Model T is driven onstage.)

NEXT ACT THEATRE

Next Act Theatre is starting a new series called "Premier Professionals." Hosted by Next Act board president Mike Burzynski, the series includes pre-show receptions with complimentary appetizers and drinks, as well as an appearance by a cast member.

Marketing and public relations director Becky Moder says the term "professional" casts a wide net. "We want to attract professionals from all walks of life – from accountants to interior designers, bankers to nonprofit staff members, educators to physicians," she explains.

Joining "Premier Professionals" requires an annual membership fee of \$120, which includes a ticket to each of the season's four shows and the opportunity to purchase two

"guest passes" for \$20 each. Certain restrictions apply. For more information, contact Next Act at 414-278-7780.

MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATER

Two years ago, Milwaukee Chamber Theater began an event called "Tweet Seat Night." The promotion includes free tickets for 12 to 20 tweeters. Unlike the rest of the crowd, which is instructed to silence cell phones prior to each performance, tweeters do exactly the opposite: They tweet on their cell phones during the entire show.

To avoid bothering regular patrons, the "tweeters" are restricted to the second balcony of the Cabot Theater. Only shows performed in the Cabot are eligible for tweeters, and each production features only one "Tweet Seat Night."

"We wanted to make sure (the tweeters) weren't distracting the audience or the actors," says chamber marketing director Cara McMullin.

What do audiences tweet about? Cara knows, because she is backstage with a laptop or smart phone and monitoring the action.

"People will comment on a funny line of dialogue, or maybe what a character is doing onstage," she says.

In addition to listening, McMullin also is busy "re-tweeting" many audience remarks on the company's website. "Many of (the cast members) do read the tweets when I print them out and post them on the call board after the show," she says. "In this way, we are incorporating social media into our marketing mix."

If you're looking to participate in one of Milwaukee's growing number of novel theatrical promotions this season, check out the websites of your favorite theater companies. You might be surprised to find there's something tailored for your niche or interests.

StageQ presents a gender-bending 'Much Ado'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing Writer

StageQ, Madison's LGBT theater troupe, will undertake Shakespeare for the first time this month with a "gender-queer" production of the Bard's comedy "Much Ado About Nothing." The production, which opens the group's 2013-14 season, will put less emphasis on the comedy and more on the romance of the story, according to new artistic director Audrey Lau-

ren Wax.

Wax says StageQ's contemporary retelling of the story will be nothing like Shakespeare fans have ever seen.

"For me, it was important to set the play in current times for today's audience," says Wax, a Rockford, Ill., native who teaches theater arts at Madison's Edgewood College. "It needed to be fresh, sexy, sophisticated and clever — and we have just

that!"

StageQ's "Much Ado" is drawn from an adaptation by Peter Reynolds, co-founder and artistic director of Mauckingbird Theatre Co., Philadelphia's LGBT troupe. Reynolds set the play in a contemporary West Hollywood nightclub and gave it a gender-bending treatment to capitalize on its human themes without regard to stereotypical male-female roles.

In StageQ's version, soldiers returning from Afghanistan stay at the nightclub owned by Madame Leonato (Peggy Rosin). The narrative follows the growing relationship between Benedick

(Braden Larson), a U.S. Army serviceman, and Beatrice (Craig Schlager), a drag performer at the club. As their love blooms, so does the love between Leonato's daughter Hero (Andrea Kleiner) and Claudio (Sarah Listuq), a female soldier.

"Our actors and designers are pulling out all the stops in order to show our Madison community that we have what it takes to compete with the other companies who produce Shakespeare within their rotations," Wax promises.

The classical elements of Shakespeare's works are in keeping with StageQ's mission and purpose. "The vision for StageQ is that of a community theater company that creates exhilarating, entertaining, challenging queer theater, building community and encouraging positive social change in the process," Wax says. "We envision a company in which all of us are valued and respected, and in which the rich tapestry of our his-

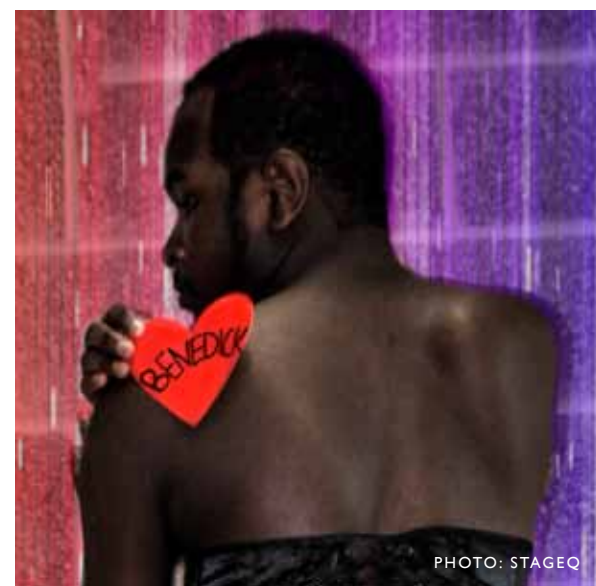


PHOTO: STAGEQ

STAGEQ'S QUEER SEASON

"Much Ado About Nothing" launches a season of four productions, including:

- **"Scrooge in Rouge,"** the raucous retelling of Dickens' immortal Christmas tale in which we learn that "Ebenezer" rhymes with "geezer," "teaser" and "squeeze 'er," Dec. 6-21.
- **"5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche"** chronicles the annual breakfast of the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein in 1956, when the communists come to town, March 28-April 12.
- **"Queer Shorts"** brings talented actors, playwrights and directors together for an annual evening of short plays. Dates to be announced.

For more, visit www.stageq.com.

ON STAGE

StageQ presents a gender-bending adaptation of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" at Madison's Bartell Theater, 113 E. Mifflin St. Performances run Sept. 27-Oct. 12. For more, go to www.stageq.com.

stories and communities is apparent."

Last summer, Wax co-wrote and directed Broom Street Theater's production "Conceal & Carry: Queers Exposed." She's also worked with feminist playwright Eve Ensler on such productions as "The Good Body" and

"The Vagina Monologues."

StageQ's "Much Ado" will help take Madison's LGBT theater scene to the next level, she says.

"Is this a traditional approach to Shakespeare?" Wax asks. "No, and that's the thrilling part of it all!"

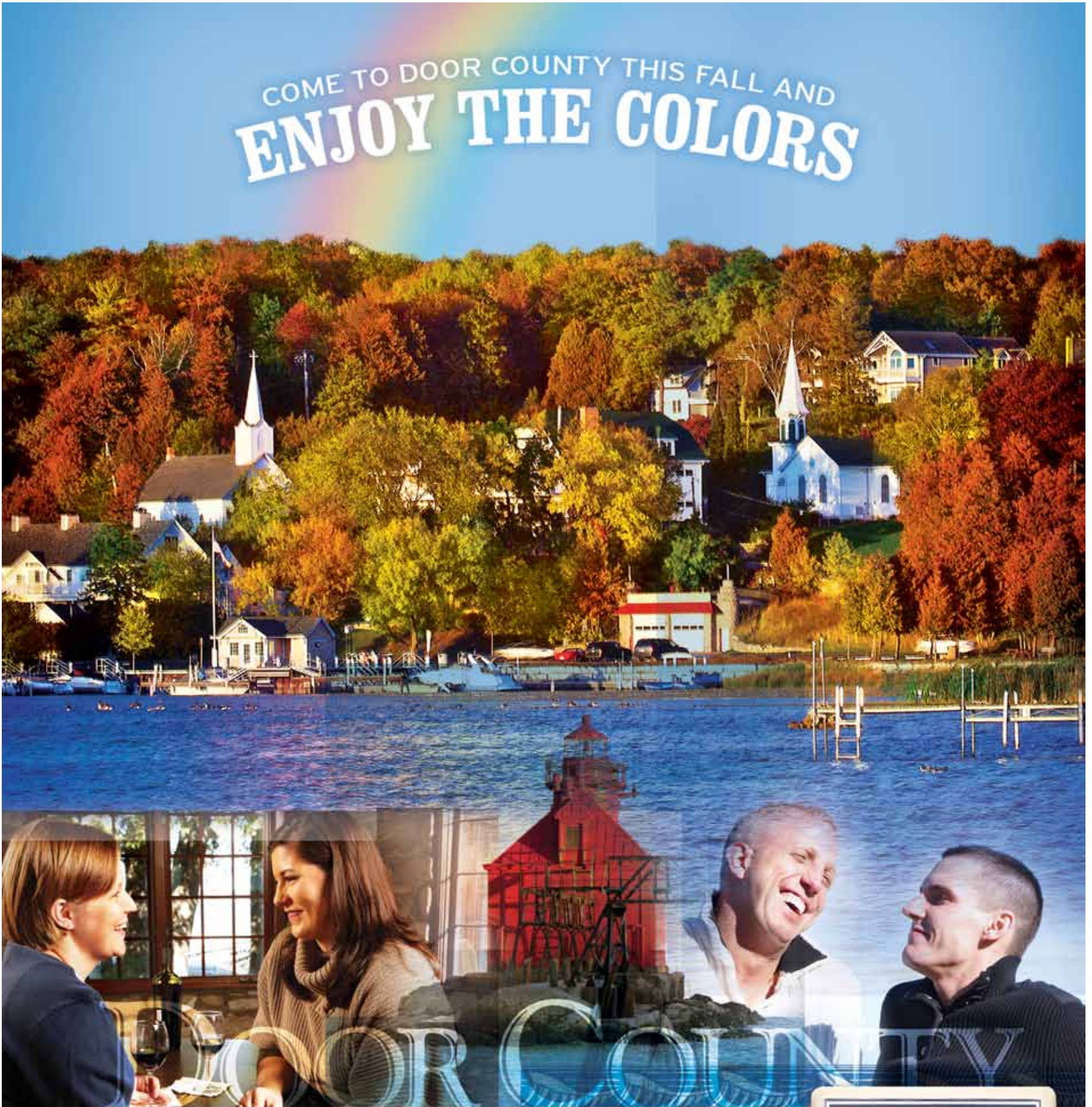
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