

Big Night Out

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center staged its biggest fundraiser ever.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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News with a twist



CRUZZING TO DEFEAT

Gay boxer Orlando Cruz lost his bid for the featherweight title on Oct. 12, getting stopped in the seventh round by veteran Orlando Salido. Cruz, the first openly gay professional fighter, was outclassed by Salido, who landed the heavier punches before knocking Cruz down with a right hand to the head in the seventh. Cruz fought in rainbow trunks. It was the first title fight for him in a 13-year career in which he has had mixed success.

STIMULATING DECISION

A federal appeals court has ruled that subjecting a sex offender released from prison to penile stimulation testing risks violating the premise that even convicts

retain their humanity. The panel wrote, "We see no reasonable connection between fluctuating penis size and public protection - certainly none strong enough to survive the careful scrutiny that we give to unusual or severe conditions of supervised release." Czech psychiatrist Kurt Freund developed the testing procedure, which was used by the Czech government to identify and attempt to "cure" homosexuality.

KUWAIT'S GAYDAR

Kuwait's director of public health claims the country will conduct medical tests to "detect" gays and keep them from entering the country. He said health centers already routinely check "the health of the expatriates" but "we will take stricter measures that will help us detect gays who will be barred from entering Kuwait or any of the GCC member states."



WIGWAG

There were no details on what type of detection might be used. Perhaps something borrowed from the former Czechoslovakia.

FEMINISM AT MARQUETTE

Two weeks after canceling a radical female sexuality seminar for the second time, Marquette University hosted feminist Jaclyn Friedman in an appearance sponsored by the student government using student activity fees. Friedman, who hosts a weekly podcast, "F***ing While Feminist," spoke on healthy sexuality and anti-rape activities during Sexual Violence Awareness Week.

SLOW OUT OF THE GATE

On the day Mary Burke made her announcement that she's running governor, the Republican Party of

Wisconsin stole a clap of her thunder. One of the first actions in organizing modern campaigns is securing your name.com. Somehow, Burke and her consultants overlooked this most basic of preparations, giving the GOP the chance to go live with maryburke.com, a site loaded with opposition research and Burke's most embarrassing moments.

PROTEST WITH PLEASURE?

A California punk band recently posted a video of its bass player pleasuring herself on the lawn of Westboro Baptist Church. The prank was performed by bassist Laura Lush of Get Shot, the self-proclaimed world's most "ridiculously sleazy rock 'n' roll band." Said Lush: "The Phelps family and Westboro Baptist Church are ridiculous and do nothing except spread hate and cause controversy. As a bisexual woman and the bass player of a ridicu-

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

lous punk band, I wanted to spread my legs and cause controversy."

TO RUSSIA WITH NO LOVE

Brian Brown, the boss of the National Organization for Marriage, may have to change the name of his alleged nonprofit. As marriage equality advances in the United States - in the law books and in the public opinion polls - the national organization is reaching far beyond U.S. borders to peddle its hateful message. Brown advocated against marriage equality in France earlier this year. And he recently traveled to Moscow to cheer on anti-gay legislation in Russia.

CHIVALRY GOES MISSING

A group of Ole Miss students disrupted a campus play with anti-gay "hate speech." Michael Barnett, the assistant theatre chair, said several students

in the play told him audience members were disruptive and used "derogatory terms" for gays during a production of "The Laramie Project." Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze said a group of football players apologized after the play.

YOU PEOPLE

Jews across America are crying "anti-Semitism" after learning the craft chain Hobby Lobby is not carrying merchandise related to Hanukkah. Employees of the company's fundamentalist Christian owner said that doing so would violate his religious values. Ken Berwitz of Marlboro, N.J., first blogged about a friend's experience at the local Hobby Lobby. "When one of our friends asked where the Chanukah goods were, (she) was told there wouldn't be any, and she asked why," Berwitz wrote. "According to her, the answer was: 'We don't cater to you people.'"

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Democrat Mary Burke announces for gov

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Ending months of speculation, Democrat Mary Burke on Oct. 7 threw her hat into Wisconsin's 2014 gubernatorial ring.

A former executive with Trek Bicycles, a business founded by Burke's father, she quietly met with officials and influencers around the state for months to explore a run for the Democratic nomination to oppose Republican Gov. Scott Walker. In launching her campaign, Burke lost no time in taking aim at the state's dismal job-creation record under Walker.

"Wisconsin ranks 45th out of 50 states in projected job growth," she said in an online video announcement. "We're fifth from the bottom. I'm running for governor because we can do better than that. A lot better. But to do it, we've got to make some real changes in Madison."

Burke, 54, is positioning herself as a job creator with private-sector business experience. At Trek, she served as director of European operations, helping to create and manage companies in seven countries.

"I know that Wisconsin workers can compete with anyone in the world. That's why when you look around at places like Minnesota, Indiana and Ohio, whose economies are creating more jobs than ours, you wonder what the heck's going on?" Burke said in her announcement.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Wisconsin Democrat Mary Burke has launched her campaign for governor.

In the opening days of her campaign, Burke contrasted her business experience with Walker's. The governor's private-sector experience includes a part-time job as a warranty salesman for IBM while attending Marquette University, followed by four years as a fundraiser for the American Red Cross.

Walker never completed a bachelor's

degree at Marquette. He left shortly after being suspended for violating the university's campaign rules while running for student body president.

In contrast, Burke has an MBA from Harvard University. She served briefly as former Gov. Jim Doyle's commerce secretary and is currently a member of the Madison School Board.

Burke's exploratory outreach included meetings with LGBT leaders in the state, as well as a quick, impromptu visit to the *Wisconsin Gazette* on Oct. 4.

"We welcome Mary Burke to the race for governor and look forward to engaging in a robust dialogue through our endorsement process about her vision for supporting the LGBT community as governor of Wisconsin," said Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger.

Some Democratic officials view Burke as the best choice for governor because she has personal wealth to compete against Walker's enormous fundraising advantage. The governor has raised \$3.5 million in the first half of this year alone to support his re-election.

A great favorite of the Republican's tea party faction and corporate-right leaders such as Charles and David Koch, Walker appears to have limitless financial support from the corporate right. Right-wing Republicans consider Wisconsin among the most critical states in their agenda to restrict labor unions, corporate taxes, the minimum wage, women's pay equity, environmental regulations, consumer protections, government-subsidized health care and access to voting. Many of the most controversial policies approved by Walker include boilerplate legislation created by the American Legislative Exchange Council, a corporate-right group that develops model legislation to benefit big business.

Democratic Party of Wisconsin officials welcomed Burke into the race.

"It's exciting news that a proven leader like Mary Burke is entering the race for governor," said Democratic Party of Wisconsin chair Mike Tate in a statement. "Between her track record of growing good-paying private sector jobs right here in Wisconsin and experience as an executive in the public and nonprofit sectors, Mary really understands how to create jobs and opportunity for Wisconsinites. Mary also knows that the way we move forward is together. Her history of bringing people together for the betterment of our state will serve as a stark contrast to Scott Walker's style of divisive extremism."

"While Scott Walker has overseen Wisconsin's steep economic decline, Mary Burke has spent her career creating jobs in both the private and public sector," said U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison. "Wisconsin needs a proven leader like Mary Burke who will stand up for working families in the governor's seat, not a Koch brothers-funded candidate running for president."

But Democratic leaders stopped short of endorsing Burke over other Democrats this early in the election cycle.

"We know that Wisconsin deserves better than Scott Walker and are confident that Democrats will field the strongest possible candidate to take him on next year," Tate's statement concluded.

In the months leading up to Burke's announcement, Democratic state Sen. Kathleen Vinehout had said she would not oppose Burke for the 2014 Democratic gubernatorial nomination if Burke decided to run. Vinehout ran in last year's primary to select a Democratic opponent to run against Walker in his recall election.

But after Burke's announcement, Vinehout said she's still considering a run for governor. Vinehout, who said she wants the state to elect a woman governor, plans to announce her final decision early next year.

Two more obscure Democrats, Hariprasad Trivedi and Marcia Mercedes Perkins, also have filed gubernatorial campaign papers.

SLIM RECORD A PLUS

In addition to Burke's ability to provide some of her own financing, she appeals to many Democratic leaders because of her slim public record. The longer a candidate's political dossier, the easier it is for opposition researchers to spin a vote or statement out of context and then use it in political advertising.

But Burke is not popular among the most liberal Democrats, some of whom dismiss her as an elitist. They disapprove of her wealth, her support for a charter school in Madison over opposition by a teacher's union and for spending \$120,000 on her school board campaign.

In July, a Daily Kos blogger criticized Burke as a leftist Mitt Romney and said she would hurt Democrats. In a non-presidential election, when each party's hard-core political base is more likely to vote than swing voters, candidates who fail to catch fire with their party's most engaged voters often lose. The Daily Kos blogger claimed Burke falls into that category.

In online posts, some staunch liberals are comparing Burke to Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, a progressive who has earned their ire for making decisions stressing fiscal responsibility in budgeting and spending. But that same characteristic has earned him praise from middle-of-the-road voters seeking decision-makers who emphasize problem-solving over ideology.

At any rate, Democratic officials – privately, at least – seem bullish on Burke for the same reasons that ideological purists oppose her. They say it will be hard for opponents to pin the epithets "Madison tax-and-send liberal" or "rich elitist" on her candidacy.

But within days of her announcement, factions both on the right and left were already branding her in those terms.

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Equality advocates rally ahead of sessions in Illinois, Hawaii

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Marriage equality advocates in Hawaii and Illinois are turning out for days of action as their state lawmakers prepare for days of debate.

In Hawaii, Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie called a special session of the Legislature to take up his marriage equality bill. "The decision to call a special session is based on doing what is right to create equity for all in Hawaii," the governor said.

In Illinois, lawmakers will gather at the Capitol in Springfield for a few days this month and again next month for a fall veto session that could include consideration of marriage equality legislation. A bill passed the Senate on Valentine's Day and has the support of Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn, but the measure was not called in the House in the final hours of the regular session on May 31.

Openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago,

with tears in his eyes, said that night on the floor, "Several of my colleagues have indicated they'd not be willing to cast a vote on this bill today. And I've never been sadder to accept this request, but I have to keep my eye, as we all must, on the ultimate prize. They've asked for time to go back to their districts, talk to their constituents and reach out to their minds and hearts and have told me they'll return in November with their word that they're prepared to support this legislation. And I take my colleagues at their word they shall."

Throughout the summer, equality advocates lobbied lawmakers, as well as sought out support from citizens, businesses, clergy and others from Freeport to Cairo through the Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition.

The action continues this month, with volunteers staffing phone banks, knocking on doors and joining up for the March on Springfield



PHOTO: COURTESY
Gov. Neil Abercrombie called a special session to take up marriage equality.

set for Oct. 22, the first day of the veto session.

Still, it remains unclear whether sponsors have the 60 votes needed for passage in the House. The count, as well as a pension crisis, has led to speculation the equality bill could be pushed back to 2014.

Meanwhile, there was certainty that marriage equality legislation would be addressed during the special session in Hawaii - that's the sole purpose of the gathering that begins on Oct. 28.

What's not certain is the

vote count.

"Some of my colleagues just don't know how they're going to vote in special session," said state Rep. Chris Lee, who is an equality advocate working with the Hawaii United for Marriage effort. "Here's what I can tell you from talking with some of my undecided colleagues: The only way we'll convince them to vote for marriage equality is by mobilizing thousands of constituents in their districts to make phone calls, write letters and share why marriage personally matters to them."

Those phone-banking operations and letter-writing campaigns are taking place, as are community forums.

Lawmakers and religious leaders also have been meeting to work on the language for the provision that would exempt religious institutions from being required to host same-sex weddings.

In both Illinois and Hawaii, same-sex couples can enter into civil unions,

IN THE COURTS

A landmark case out of Virginia — *Loving v. Virginia* — clearly established that the ability to marry the person you love is a fundamental right, says David Boies.

And Virginia is where Boies and Theodore Olson, the attorneys in the successful campaign to overturn California's Proposition 8, are waging their next fight for same-sex marriage rights. The two recently joined the legal push to overturn the state's constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The federal case was filed earlier this year on behalf of two same-sex couples seeking marriage equality in the state.

Meanwhile, in neighboring West Virginia, Lambda Legal has sued on behalf of three couples seeking the freedom to marry. Lambda is arguing that the state's ban is discriminatory and makes same-sex couples second-class citizens.

Lawsuits for marriage equality are before courts in at least 19 states, including in New Mexico, where the state Supreme Court is set to hear oral arguments on the issue on Oct. 23, and in New Jersey, where the state Supreme Court was expected to decide, as WiG went to press, whether to stay a lower court's order that same-sex marriages could begin Oct. 21.

Same-sex couples can marry in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

- L.N.

which means they can access many state benefits associated with marriage but not the more than 1,000 rights and benefits associ-

ated with marriage at the federal level.

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When cobwebs rained from Milwaukee's skies and other unexplained Wisconsin phenomena

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

In October 1881, it rained cobwebs in Milwaukee.

For pure ickyness, that has to rank high, but Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin have seen plenty of other spooky phenomena. What better time than Halloween to share alleged area encounters with werewolves, Bigfoot, lake monsters, UFOs and the like?

Strange things have been known to rain from the skies for centuries, often in association with nearby tornadoes or water-spouts, which can sweep up objects and carry them for miles. Those objects include frogs, fish and, in eastern Wisconsin in 1881, cobwebs. They fell on Milwaukee, Sheboygan and Green Bay, and were so thick "as to annoy the eye," according to Scientific American magazine at the time. Strangely,

no spiders were found among the webs. A similar cobweb shower occurred in Montreal in 1962.

The sky has held mysteries since ancient times, and it's only since 1947 that some have been termed "flying saucers." On the night of April 11, 1897, Milwaukee police officer Harry Moore and several others spotted what was then called a "mystery airship." This was well before the first practical airplanes, dirigibles or blimps were in operation.

It was "about as big as four ordinary stars," Moore told The Milwaukee Sentinel. It gave off red, green and white light, "and besides this, it bobbed up and down" before departing southward, he said. Whatever it was, it was seen in Appleton the next evening.

The city's most recent UFO sighting was around 8:40 p.m. on June 16 of this year.

According to the National UFO Reporting Center, a strange diamond-shaped object with fiery exhaust was allegedly seen. "As the flame went from a full flame to just a red glow, I noticed that the object was slowly losing altitude and drifting slowly southeast, toward Lake Michigan," reported the witness, who claimed to have taped the encounter. With its blunted corners, "it looked almost like a giant church bell with a flame at the bottom."

Mysteries also are found in the water. As the 19th century turned to the 20th, "a ferocious looking beast" was sighted in the Milwaukee River. Viewed from the Michigan Street Bridge, it was described as a grayish-green serpent, heading downstream. It was also spotted by commercial fishermen in the city's bay. Decades earlier, in 1867, a similar creature was spotted by boat crews on Lake Michigan, just off Evanston.

Wisconsin also has stories of strange two-legged visitors. There are many reports of Bigfoot, for example. Native Americans have several legends about what they called Wisconsin's "Windigo." One of the best modern sightings came in July 1964, when Dennis Fewless saw "a big hairy thing" near Delavan.

He was driving late at night when he spotted the creature, which he estimated was 7 or 8 feet tall and weighed 400-500 pounds. It ran across the road on two legs and jumped a barbed wire fence.

"I was awful scared that night," Fewless later said. "That was no man. It was all hairy from feet to head." He returned the next day to look for footprints, but didn't find any. He did, however, see where the creature had passed into a cornfield.

"You know what deer look like, or skunk or bear," he said. "This didn't look anything like that at all. As far as I'm concerned it was real, and no one can tell me it wasn't."

Others in Walworth County have allegedly seen what they describe as a werewolf. The man-like canine is nicknamed "The Beast of Bray Road" - referring to its most common haunt. Author and journalist Linda Godfrey has collected many reports about the creature.

Robert Bushman and his wife saw it on Nov. 30, 1991, while driving between Elkhorn and Delavan. It was a sunny

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PHENOMENA next page

PHENOMENA from prior page

day, and at first they thought they'd seen a deer. Then they thought it must be a wolf, but it was much too large for that. It "had a terribly unkempt look to its fur — wild not normal," they later said. "It was black, scraggly looking, (and) like no animal."

Cherilynn Smage also claimed to have seen the beast that autumn, near Bray Road. She was driving in the tractor lane of a cornfield, taking dinner to her husband. "It was staring at me, on all fours," she said. Its back was higher than the hood of her Ford Escort, and it fled to the woods.

Sometimes, however, the Beast of Bray Road is aggressive. It reportedly chased two Elkhorn women, Lori Endrizzi and Doris Gipson, who were driving on Bray Road in early 1992. They said the creature jumped onto their car's trunk and left "deep claw marks."

Another jumping creature, less frightening but just as puzzling, haunted Waukesha, Pewaukee and Menomonee Falls in the spring of 1978. The area experienced a wave

of kangaroo sightings.

The kangaroo was seen at least seven times. Jill and Peter Haeselich saw it from their Pewaukee dining room at 6:15 p.m. on April 12. "It was going pretty quick," Jill later told a reporter. "It was hopping. We knew it had to be a kangaroo." A similar wave of kangaroo sightings bedeviled the Dodgeville area, in southwestern Wisconsin, in 2005.

All such stories, and those of more classical ghouls and ghosts, are fun to share at this time of year, if only as modern folklore. Still, if you're the sort that needs absolute proof, visit the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison.

That Dodgeville kangaroo? It was finally captured. You can see it at the zoo anytime. Happy Halloween!

Jay Rath is the author of "The W-Files: True Reports of Wisconsin's Unexplained Phenomena," which is out of print. He's working on an updated e-book edition.



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Christian right holds homecoming weekend in D.C.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Values Voter Summit that took place Oct. 11-13 was something of a homecoming for right-wing leaders.

For the progressives who gathered to protest, it was something of a fright fest.

"This event is put on by hate groups with really scary ideas about American values and no respect for equality and justice," said Joshua Alcorn of Baltimore, who demonstrated outside the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 11, the first day of the three-day summit and the 11th day of the partial federal government shutdown.

"I would have hoped our elected officials would have had something better to do than to be here, stoking the fires," said demonstrator Shawnee McMurphree of Washington.

The summit theme was "Standing for Faith, Family and Opportunity for All" and, in keeping with tradition, the event featured a straw poll for the next presidential election. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, won the poll with 42 percent of the vote. Ben Carson and Rick Santorum followed with 13 percent each.

Before the summit speeches began, the right-wing Liberty Counsel legal defense group hosted the Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition breakfast.

Opening day ceremonies featured Cruz and U.S. Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and



PHOTO: AP/JOSE LUIS MAGANA

STRAW POLL WINNER: Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, addresses the Values Voter Summit, held by the Family Research Council Action, on Oct. 11. Cruz won the event's straw poll for president.

Rand Paul of Kentucky. The first day also featured "The Future of Marriage" panel led by Tony Perkins, of the ultra-right Family Research Council, and Brian Brown, of the National Organization for Marriage.

Paul described a "war on Christianity" that U.S. foreign policy must address and Rubio said, "We can't stop talking about the importance of our values and our culture.

We can't stop talking about them because the moral well-being of our people is directly linked to their economic well-being."

Cruz told those gathered that the nation is on the edge of a cliff — he was heckled during the speech, leading right-wing media to speculate operatives for President Barack Obama had infiltrated the event.

The Oct. 11 schedule did require some adjustment for speakers who did not attend, including U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who sent a video message explaining that as chair of the House budget committee "things are a little busy up here on Capitol Hill these days."

In the message, he told conservative activists that he too is a "values voter" and what sets "us apart is our beliefs." Ryan said those beliefs include rethinking "government's role in our lives" and that includes ending the Affordable Care Act.

Many speakers, with the shutdown imposed and a deadline to act on the debt ceiling approaching, focused on money issues on the mainstage, but outside the spotlight there was plenty of focus on marriage, abortion and the other hot-button issues that drove the so-called "values vot-

ers" to D.C.

Throughout the event there were breakfast gatherings, worship sessions, banquets, luncheons, book-signings, workshops, receptions and speeches, including by U.S. Reps. Jim Bridenstine, Louie Gohmert, Jim Jordan and Steve Scalise, as well as Fox personalities Allen West, Mike Huckabee, Todd Starves and others.

Program topics included "What is Marriage ... Really?" "Getting America Back to Great," "The Erosion of Religious Liberties in the Public Square," "Responding to the Tough Questions on Marriage, Religious Liberty and More," "The Hispanic Community: Messaging and Mobilizing," "Values and Obamacare," "Standing up to the Assaults on our Faith," "Is it too Late to Reclaim America?" "The War on Football: Saving America's Game" and "Challenging Tyranny."

In the days before the summit, civil rights activists launched a campaign aimed at persuading scheduled speakers to skip the summit. FRC has a history of demonizing gays, portraying gays as sick, evil, incestuous, violent and perverted threats to the nation.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, Human Rights Campaign, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, GLAAD, People for the American Way Foundation and Faithful America all called on lawmakers to skip the summit.

"Elected officials shouldn't lend the prestige of their office to hate groups that have a long history of telling incendiary lies about the LGBT community and spreading other forms of bigotry," said a statement from the SPLC.

A letter signed by representatives from civil rights group that went to Ryan and others said, "Last year, RNC chairman Reince Priebus said that 'people in this country, no matter straight or gay, deserve dignity and respect.' The question before you today, therefore, is where the party of Lincoln stands in 2013 on vilifying the LGBT community. You can help answer that question by saying no to bigotry and declining the invitation to speak at the Values Voter Summit."



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NATIONAL BRIEFS

LGBT MUSEUM SEEKS HOME

Supporters of the nonprofit National LGBT Museum are looking in the nation's capital for a home for a growing collection of records and artifacts from the movement.

"We are looking for a space that will be conducive to hosting a variety of programs and exhibitions," said museum representative Christopher Kane.

The museum has acquired about 5,000 objects and artifacts documenting the lives of LGBT people and, with the arrival of LGBT History Month in October, announced that supporters had completed a business model, created a fundraising and development plan and launched a campaign to recruit experts to help grow the museum.

"It becomes crucial in the collections process to target local, regional communities that often have a story to tell - a story which is part of a larger narrative and might otherwise be forgotten or never reach the audience it deserves," said museum founder and CEO Tim Gold.

For now, the museum has a web-based home at www.nationallgbtmuseum.org.



PHOTO: COURTESY

National LGBT Museum founder Tim Gold.

deal was withdrawn in August following allegations that Hunt exchanged thousands of texts with the girl and sent her nude photos. Civil and gay rights groups say that Hunt is being punished for behavior that occurs at schools across the United States without resulting in criminal charges because she's a lesbian.

- **Ford's Theatre** in Washington, D.C. canceled performances of "The Laramie Project" because of the partial federal government shutdown. Theater officials had planned to go ahead with evening performances because the programming was funded privately and run by a nonprofit group. However, the theater where President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated is a National Park Service site and was closed. Instead, the play was staged at the First Congregational United Church of Christ.



PHOTO: WHITE HOUSE

Vice President Joe Biden.

- **Vice President Joe Biden** canceled his speech to the nation's largest gay civil rights group because of the shutdown. Biden was set to deliver the keynote address to about 3,400 people at the Human Rights Campaign's annual dinner on Oct. 5.

- **Blood from HIV-infected humans** shows an immune response against a cat AIDS virus protein, a surprise finding that could help scientists find a way to develop a human AIDS vaccine, according to researchers at the University of Florida and University of California-San Francisco. Their findings appear in the October issue of the Journal of Virology. The discovery supports further exploration of a human AIDS vaccine derived from regions of the feline AIDS virus.

- L.N.

In other national news ...



PHOTO: COURTESY

Kaitlyn Hunt was charged in February with having sex with a 14-year-old female schoolmate.

- **A Florida teen** accused of having sex with her underage girlfriend has pleaded no contest, essentially conceding the charges without admitting guilt. Kaitlyn Hunt was charged in February with having sex with a 14-year-old female schoolmate. Hunt was 18 at the time. A previous plea

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U.S. evangelist faces trial for crimes against humanity

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Two out of the five men in the running for the title of Bigot of the Year in the U.K. are evangelical exporters of hate from the United States - Pat Robertson and Scott Lively.

The aging Robertson, who most recently claimed on his Christian Broadcasting Network that San Francisco gays wear special rings to cut people and transmit HIV, seems suited for a lifetime "achievement" award in the category. Lively, meanwhile, is leading the pack of this year's nominees representing "the most hateful spokesperson for the anti-gay movement," according to Stonewall, the presenters of the award. Also to be presented at the seventh annual ceremony in London on Nov. 7 are awards for Hero of the Year and Politician of the Year.

"The Stonewall Awards are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achieve-

ments of so many individuals who've made a real difference," said Laura Dougherty, deputy chief executive director at the LGBT civil rights group. The group is marking a historic year that included passage of a marriage equality bill for England and Wales.

"Sadly," she added, "the contrast between those who've made a positive difference and those who simply seek to demean and degrade gay people and their families has never been more stark. That's why all five of our Bigot of the Year nominees deserve their places on the list."

Lively was nominated for aggressively exporting homophobia around the globe.

ACCUSED IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD

Lively stands accused of crimes against humanity in a case that was filed in March 2012 in federal court in Massachusetts. It's the

first case of its kind, brought by the U.S.-based Center for Constitutional Rights under the Alien Tort Statute on behalf of Sexual Minorities of Uganda, a Uganda-based coalition of LGBT advocacy organizations

The complaint alleges that Lively's actions over the past decade in collaboration with government and religious officials in Uganda led to increased violence, inspired the "Kill the Gays" bill and deprived LGBT Ugandans of fundamental human rights.

In his effort to inflame hatred against LGBT people, Lively has falsely claimed gays were partially responsible for the Holocaust and genocide in Rwanda. He's authored two books that set forth a plan to repress the "gay movement," which Lively has described as the "most dangerous social and political movement of our time," according to the complaint. He visited Uganda in 2009, hosting a seminar on

"exposing the homosexual agenda" and pressing parliamentarians, police officers, teachers, journalists and ministers to act.

Lively is represented by the Liberty Counsel, a Virginia-based Christian-right legal defense fund. In January, announcing the LC's role in the case, Liberty Counsel founder Mathew Staver said, "What SMUG cavalierly labels as 'crimes against humanity' - the most heinous of all crimes - is actually nothing more than civil, peaceful, political discourse in the public square on a subject of great public concern."

The defense's first move was to ask the judge to dismiss the lawsuit by arguing that the court lacked jurisdiction and that the First Amendment protected Lively's work.

Judge Michael Ponsor, however, denied motions for dismissal in August and affirmed CCR's argument that the fundamental human rights of LGBT people are protected under international law.

"Widespread, systematic persecution of LGBT people constitutes a crime against humanity that unquestionably violates international norms," Ponsor wrote. "The history and current existence of discrimination against LGBT people is precisely what qualifies



PHOTO: AP/SPRINGFIELD UNION NEWS/MARK MURRAY

Massachusetts-based evangelist Scott Lively.


them as a distinct targeted group eligible for protection under international law. The fact that a group continues to be vulnerable to widespread, systematic persecution in some parts of the world simply cannot shield one who commits a crime against humanity from liability."

Frank Mugisha, the director of SMUG, said the ruling was a victory for "human

rights everywhere but most especially the LGBT Ugandans who are seeking accountability from those orchestrating our persecution."


CCR attorney Pam Spees said the court recognized "the gravity of the danger faced by our clients as a result of Scott Lively's actions. Lively's single-minded campaign has

LIVELY next page




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LIVELY from prior page worked to criminalize their very existence, strip away their fundamental rights and threaten their physical safety."

The case against the evangelist is now in the discovery phase.

Lively remains undaunted. He maintains the case is an attempt to criminalize his religious views.

"Scott Lively can hide behind claims of religious freedom all he wants, but when religious opinions turn into institutional oppression and violence against minority groups, we are no longer talking about the First Amendment," stated Evan Hurst, associate director of Truth Wins Out, a Vermont-based group founded to counter anti-gay propaganda and expose the ex-gay myth. "Spreading demonizing lies about LGBT people is not a tenet of any religion I've ever heard of, and it's certainly not a feature of Christianity."

FROM BEGGAR TO BULLY

Lively, in an autobiogra-

phy on the website for Scott Lively Ministries, wrote, "On Feb. 1, 1986, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ on my knees by myself in an alcohol treatment facility in Portland, Ore."

He said he arrived in Portland after 16 years of addiction, "drifting around the United States, often homeless, sometimes sleeping under bridges and begging for spare change on street-corners."

Lively had grown up in Shelburne Falls, Mass., where his childhood apparently came to an abrupt end when he was 16 years old. He watched his father, "in a state of extreme psychosis, engage in an armed stand-off with the state police ... over an incident involving my dropping out of school."

The roamer settled in Portland, where he said Jesus, serving as his "higher power," reunited him with his estranged wife. He said he "received my ministry when a pro-life activist showed me pictures of aborted babies," and he was brought into the fold of the Oregon Citizens Alli-

ance, the largest statewide Christian right group in the country, with Lon Mabon as the leader.

NO FORMAL EDUCATION

In his autobiography, Lively said within a few weeks of meeting Mabon in 1989 and "having no formal education or experience, I became the State Communications Director."

In 1991, when the OCA shifted its focus to driving an anti-gay ballot measure, Lively also shifted his focus: "I knew very little about the issue, but over the next several years had my eyes opened to things very few Christians have ever seen or experienced. I realized that homosexuality was even more destructive to society than abortion."

The evangelist, who resides today in Springfield, Mass., and may run for governor in the next election cycle, said he spent the next dozen years accumulating the "skills and credentials" he needed to become a "prominent leader in the now global pro-family

movement."

In 2006 and 2007, Lively toured extensively in Russia and in Eastern European countries, promoting anti-LGBT policies and, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, describing "the gay movement as the most dangerous political movement on earth."

He recently praised Russian President Vladimir Putin's signing of a national measure banning gay "propaganda."

"As the United States and the United Kingdom morph slowly into a 'gay' version of the Soviet Union, an unlikely hero of family values has emerged: Russian President Vladimir Putin," Lively wrote on his blog at scottlively.net. "In a stunning reversal of roles, the Russian Bear has become the defender of Christian civilization against the Cultural-Marxist American Eagle and British Lion."

"While America and Britain compete to see how fast they can turn their children into Sodomites, Russia has banned homosexual propaganda to youth. While the 'mainstream' American and

UN DECLARATION

In the United Nations' highest-level meeting on the issue ever, a group of 11 countries recently called on member states to repeal laws that discriminate against LGBT people.

"Those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender must enjoy the same human rights as everyone else," said the declaration of the LGBT Core Group, which includes the United States, Japan, Israel and eight European and Latin American nations.

"Advancing equality for LGBT persons isn't just the right thing to do," Secretary of State John Kerry said in his statement at the meeting. "It's also fundamental to advancing democracy and human rights."

- L.N.

British press publish only pro-'gay' puffery and propaganda, Russia's Pravda has become a counter-balance to their lies."

The evangelist has taken some credit for Russia's national law, as well as similar measures enacted at regional levels. His blog post praising Putin closes with the statement: "During a 50-city speaking tour of the former Soviet Union in 2006 and 2007, and in his Letter to the Russian People, published in St. Petersburg at the close of the tour, Dr. Lively advocated for

the criminalization of 'gay' propaganda to children, a policy which has since been adopted by the Russian government."

TWO's Hurst said, "We are now seeing the fruits of the work of Scott Lively and others like him in Uganda, Russia and other nations where American fundamentalists have been active, and it's not pretty."

But, he added, there's hope that the case against Lively will expose his "sinister actions" as the "crimes against humanity that they are."

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REGIONAL BRIEFS



MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILL INTRODUCED IN MADISON

Wisconsin Democrats are trying again to legalize marijuana for medical use.

Rep. Chris Taylor of Madison and Sen. Jon Erpenbach of Middleton held a news conference on Oct. 3 to announce a new bill, saying marijuana can provide pain relief other medications don't.

Democrats have been pushing for years to legalize medical marijuana. They introduced a similar bill in 2010, when they had complete control of state government, but the measure went nowhere after a public hearing. They brought it back in 2011, when Republicans controlled the Assembly and Senate, but the measure didn't get so much as a hearing.

The new bill looks doomed as well.

Republicans still control both houses.

In other regional news ...

• **Money Out, Voters In**, a coalition of 35 progressive groups, is calling on the Wisconsin Legislature to approve Assembly Joint Resolution 50 authorizing a statewide referendum on whether the U.S. Constitution should be amended to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling. Activists with the coalition rallied at the state Capitol on Oct. 8.

• **American Civil Liberties Union and Wisconsin Department of Administration** announced a settlement Oct. 8 in the federal lawsuit concerning free speech at the Capitol. The ACLU said the state must create a notice system that allows groups to gather inside the Capitol without a permit. "This is a victory because giving notice is significantly different from forcing people to ask the government for permission to exercise free speech," said Larry Dupuis, legal director of the ACLU of Wisconsin. "Giving notice is very informal. The state can't deny use of the Capitol to anyone giving notice, unless someone else has reserved the entire space by obtaining a permit for the same time."

• **U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy**, who represents

Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District, is among the vulnerable Republicans being targeted by an outside Democratic group. Americans United for Change is airing television commercials blaming tea party adherents, including Duffy and four other Republicans considered vulnerable in their re-election bids next year, for the government shutdown.



• **Project: We Hope, Dream and Believe**, a nonprofit group in Inkster, Mich., wants to clean up and restore a house where civil rights leader Malcolm X lived in the 1950s. The group also wants a landmark designation for the home.



• **Minnesota wolf hunting licenses**

dropped by almost half this year compared with last year, when the state held its first wolf hunt since the animals were removed from the endangered list.

- L.N. and L.W.

• **Becket Fund for Religious Liberty** is representing the owners of the Görtz Haus Gallery in Grimes in a lawsuit challenging Iowa's nondiscrimination law. The fund argues that the owners of the bistro and art gallery should be allowed to refuse service to gay customers because of their Mennonite beliefs.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



PHOTO: SCOTT LONE/COURTESY AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

RAISING THE BAR: With the support of eager volunteers, walkers, runners and bars — the number of participants exceeded 2,177 this year — AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2013 raised \$341,481 for prevention, treatment and care services in the state.

AIDS WALK DRAWS 2,177 RUNNERS, WALKERS TO LAKEFRONT

AIDS Walk Wisconsin drew 2,177 runners and walkers from across the state to Milwaukee's lakefront to raise \$341,481 for prevention, treatment and care services.

"Thank you for walking, running, fundraising, team-building and helping people with HIV have a better life," Wisconsin Tourism Secretary Stephanie Klett said in a news release. She served as the honorary chair of the event. "I walk because for over 21 years I have been a part of this fight."

Mike Gifford, president and CEO of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, said during the walk on Oct. 5, "Today is an important day in our quest for a world without AIDS. AIDS Walk Wisconsin ensures everyone with HIV in Wisconsin has access to the health care and medicine they need to live long, healthy lives, regardless of their ability to pay."

Also, AIDS Walk Wisconsin's Raising the Bar Competition set a record this year with participation by 20 bars and taverns from Appleton, Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee and Sheboygan. Raising the Bar has raised more than \$288,000 for HIV prevention and treatment.

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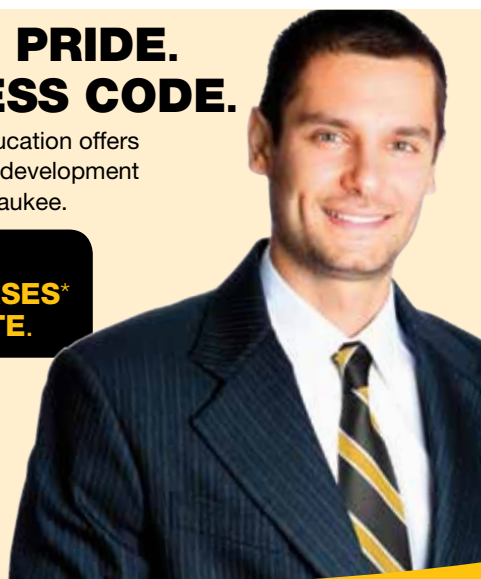
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In other community news ...

• **GSAFE** is offering K-8 educators in Wisconsin a three-hour training in creating safe and supportive schools for LGBT youth and families. Training sessions take place on Oct. 29 in Waukesha and on Nov. 5 in Oshkosh. For more, visit www.gsafewi.org.

• **A Night to Remember** benefits the Lesbian Fund and the Alliance School. The drag show takes place at 8 p.m. on Nov. 3, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. at Montage Lounge, 801 S. Second St., Milwaukee. For details, call 414-277-8092.

• **Cream City Foundation** is taking reservations for its annual LGBT Business Equality luncheon on Nov. 4 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. The keynote speaker is Dr. Nick W. Turkai of Aurora Health Care. For details go to www.creamcityfoundation.org.

• **Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** hosts healthy relationship classes Nov. 4–Dec. 14. For more, visit www.mkelgbt.org.

• **The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin** has weekly Monday night support groups in Kenosha and Racine. The Kenosha group meets at 5:30 at 7730 Sheridan Road. Call 262-672-3680 for more information. The Racine group meets at 6 p.m. at 1456 Junction Ave. For more, call 262-664-4100.

• **Diverse and Resilient and Fair Wisconsin** hold a flash mob at 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 19, in Spaight's Plaza on the UWM campus, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. The dance event will precede the screening of *The New Black* at UWM Union Theater as part of The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival. The movie explores divisions in the black community over marriage equality. A 2:30 p.m. panel discussion at UWM Union Art Gallery follows the film. To join the flash mob, call 414-390-0444.

— L.N. and L.W.

OBITUARY

Remembering Bobbi Fries

Roberta Fries, known as Bobbi, was Queen of the SAGE Spring Fling a few years ago. (SAGE is a social service, and advocacy organization for LGBT seniors.) But she was more widely known for her adoption work. She died Oct. 9 following surgery, while still recovering from a previous fall. Bobbi founded her Adoption Option agency in 1985 and over the next quarter century was instrumental in the placement of babies and children in many lesbian and gay families, as well as in numerous other families. Until recently Bobbi hosted a picnic each summer to bring adoptive families together. In addition to her services for adopting families, Bobbi was actively involved with the Equality Wisconsin adoption committee, working to change state laws on behalf of lesbian and gay adopters and children. Born Dec. 8, 1934, Bobbi grew up in Racine and graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She earned her master's degree in social work from UW – Milwaukee. Her passions included country line dancing, classical music, bridge, Sudoku, and the Cubs.

An open-hearted and nonjudgmental person, Bobbi had many friends in the women's community and beyond. She is survived by her son John, his wife Karri, her sister Arlene and her hus-

band Steve, her sister-in-law Diana and her husband Carter, and numerous other relatives. Bobbi's husband David and son Robbie preceded her in death. A memorial service will be held on Sat., Oct. 19, at Church and Chapel Funeral Home, 1875 N. Calhoun Rd., Brookfield (visitation at 1 p.m., service at 3 p.m.).



COMMUNITY BRIEFS:

Send community announcements to lmneff@wisconsinngazette.com.

{ Editorial }

Dumb and dumber

Cutting taxes for the uber wealthy was supposed to spur investments in new enterprises that would yield innovative products and provide high-paying jobs. That was the line Gov. Scott Walker and the GOP fed Wisconsin voters on their way to assuming iron-clad control over every part of state government.

But, it simply hasn't happened — and why would it have? The United States began experimenting with such trickle-down gimmicks more than three decades ago, launching a period of steady decline for the middle class and widening the chasm between rich and poor to historic proportions.

Many services provided by government are essential to fostering a healthy business climate — and that's one of the reasons Walker's reckless shuffling of money and policy to benefit the uppermost echelon of earners at the expense of government services might have helped land our state near the bottom of the pack.

Walker passed a two-year budget in January that cut taxes by nearly \$1 billion, promising that his action would lure businesses to the state. Meanwhile, our western neighbor Minnesota increased taxes by \$2 billion dollars this year. Democratic Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton said the additional revenue would put his state's fiscal house back in order and make critical investments in education, job creation and infrastructure that would spur economic growth.

Whose formula worked? From March 2012 to March 2013, Wisconsin saw a 1.1 percent increase in private-sector jobs, ranking 34th among the 50 states in job creation, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meanwhile, Minnesota — our colder, more geographically remote and tax-raising neighbor — ranked 16th, with 2.1 percent job growth during that period.

Walker ran for governor on the pledge that taking an ax to taxes would bring 250,000 new jobs to Wisconsin in four years. To meet that goal now, he'd have to discover 10,000 jobs a month for the last 16 months of his term — nearly double the number added during the past 32 months.

Of course, countless factors are at play in job creation, and most of them have nothing to do with the governor. The chief executive of a state has far less to do with how well the state performs economically than, say, a debt crisis in faraway Greece.

But Walker pledged that voting for him would mean job growth, thanks to his plans to slash corporate taxes and regulations. He followed the dictates of Big Business, disseminated through the American Legislative Exchange Council, to the letter. He got everything he asked for from the Assembly.

Still, Wisconsin ranked 11th in private-sector job growth in 2010 and dropped to 38th in 2011, Walker's first year in office. The ensuing years have seen similar results.

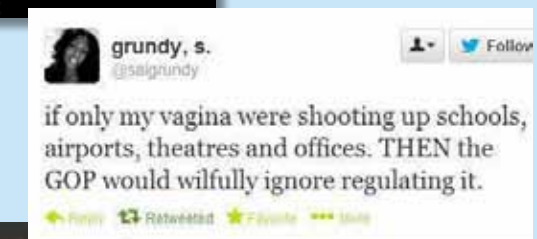
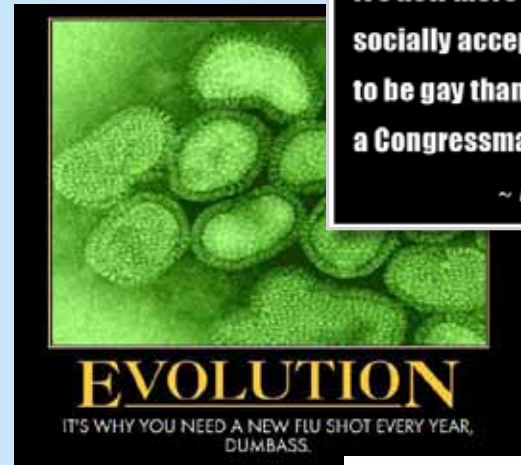
Bad luck? Perhaps it is to a large extent. But Walker bet the barn on it. He was dumb to make a promise that he had such little control over and dumber still to tie its fulfillment to approaches that have already failed.

Now he's trying to back away from it all, after the damage he's done in cutting education, demolishing unions, relaxing environmental regulations and putting critical offices in the hands of well-connected cronies.

Believing that Wisconsin would benefit proportionally from the sort of recoveries that inevitably follow recessions, Walker promised himself into a corner. That corner is precisely where his failed political career should end.

We're for anyone in 2014 but Walker.

WiG's WEB PICKS



Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

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ON THE RECORD



“I believe that God breathed life into every person and that every person is made in the image of God and you have to accept them as they are, on their journey. I’m not here to preach hate or push people down.”

— Televangelist JOEL OSTEEN telling HuffPost Live that God accepts and approves of gay people.

“I think the reason is because President Obama can’t wait to get Americans addicted to the crack cocaine of dependency on more government health care. Because, once they enroll millions of more individual Americans it will be virtually impossible for us to pull these benefits back from people.”

— MICHELE BACHMANN explaining to World Net Daily why Republicans chose to shut down the government over the Affordable Care Act.

“Maybe it’s time to move to Canada because these people are not screwing around. You don’t think they’re going to scoop people up? They will. They’re revolutionaries. Look at everything they do, they’re revolutionaries, pure and simple.”

— Right-wing radio pundit GLENN BECK urging listeners to make for the border before the bloody Marxist revolution of health care reform goes into effect.

“A lot of my hair stylists and my beauty team that I work with are gay so I hang out with gays a lot and I just think they’re adorable and hilarious.”

— BRITNEY SPEARS defending herself during a radio interview in San Francisco against allegations that she’s exploiting her gay fan base with the new single “Work Bitch.”

“I would probably list myself as mostly straight. Maybe I could say right now I’m 100 percent straight. But who knows? In a f**king year, I could meet a guy and be like, ‘Whoa, I’m attracted to this person.’”

— “Hunger Games” star JOSH HUTCHERSON telling Out magazine that he’s “mostly straight” now but doesn’t rule out the possibility of being attracted to a man someday.

“I hope that (a nondiscrimination ordinance) becomes something that is commonplace. I look forward to a Texas where we see that in every city in the state. (It’s) important that people be treated equally in the workplace, plain and simple.”

— Texas state Sen. WENDY DAVIS expressing her support for a law banning discrimination against LGBT Texans in an interview with the Texas Tribune. Davis is running for Texas’ Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

“Now, we talk about transgender, I have a former stallion who is now a gelding, because stallions get very aggressive. But he wasn’t trying to be a girl, we just made him into a less aggressive male. And I want you to see him! He’s big and beautiful!”

— PAT ROBERTSON demonstrating his knowledge of transgender people to his TV audience.



Disability is also a civil rights issue

Opinion
JAMAKAYA

LGBT leaders are fond of declaring marriage equality the “civil rights issue of our time.”

This is rather arrogant, because it ignores a number of ongoing struggles for freedom that are equally compelling and involve the fates of millions of people. Because October is Disability Awareness Month, I will address that struggle. It is really “our” struggle because any of us — due to injury, illness or quirky chromosomes — can develop a disability at any time.

Many people are angry about the government shutdown and budget impasse, but among those taking direct action have been members of the kick-ass disability rights group ADAPT.

ADAPT is a network of activists who engage in direct action to assert the rights of people with disabilities to live

in freedom and independence. It focuses on the de-institutionalization of people with disabilities and is incensed at government policies that hinder that process. Its slogan is “Free Our People!”

On Sept. 30, hundreds of ADAPTers protested at the U.S. Capitol, while 20 stormed the office of House Speaker John Boehner. Their message: Don’t play politics with programs that assist people with disabilities to lead independent lives.

Sixty activists, many in wheelchairs, were arrested at the White House. They had squeezed through barriers, chained themselves at the gates and refused to move. They were protesting Vice President Joe Biden’s broken campaign promise to meet with them about community living issues and a new regulation proposed by the Department of Labor that ADAPT believes will restrict the hours of home-care attendants and people’s rights to choose their own attendants.

The regulation extends

overtime pay to home-care workers, a long-overdue pay equity issue, supported by the Service Employees International Union. However, because Medicaid is not increasing reimbursement rates for home care, providers are likely to cut or cap the hours attendants work. This could lead to inadequate home-care services and the shift of some people back to institutional care, which is better covered by Medicaid.

The failure of government to put more money into home care and community support to enable people with disabilities to live independently is the issue that unites all disability rights groups. It’s financially shortsighted, because the cost of community-based living is half that of 24/7 institutionalization.

ADAPT’s slogan of “Free Our People!” is not just rhetorical. Thousands of people with disabilities feel imprisoned due to their lack of resources and the government’s skewed priorities. This is absolutely a freedom move-

ment.

Senate Bill 1356 (Workforce Investment Act), reauthorizes the Rehabilitation Act in ways that will realign the patchwork of disability programs spread throughout federal agencies. Central to this is the creation of an Independent Living Administration. The ultimate goals are to strengthen independent living services and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act needs defending against those who want to weaken its provisions. The ADA forbids employment discrimination based on disability and has made public venues, transportation and workplaces more accessible to elderly, disabled and non-disabled people alike.

To learn more and get involved, go to www.adapt.org and click on the “Join ADAPT” link for Wisconsin contacts. Or call IndependenceFirst at 414-291-7520 and ask about joining one of its advocacy teams.

Support the community that supports you

Opinion
KATIE BELANGER

equality across the country and in Wisconsin, our ability to continue moving forward requires significant resources and increased investment.

With fewer than 4 percent of LGBT people supporting LGBT organizations, we have a considerable challenge to overcome. But we also have an incredible opportunity to increase support to a level that will sustain the equality movement for years to come.

This is not just an issue that impacts political organizations such as Fair Wisconsin. The statistics, compiled by the Movement Advancement Project and Horizons Foundation, include giving to the full spectrum of LGBT-focused organizations, including those providing advocacy, education and direct service.

Many of you are already doing as much as you can to support the LGBT community. Whether you’re donating what you can afford, volunteering your time, serving on boards or advocating for the changes we need to ensure LGBT people thrive in Wis-

consin, your leadership is welcome with much gratitude.

But I urge those of you who haven’t started to invest in the future of equality or the community to think about the fact that the vast majority of LGBT people aren’t contributing to the work done on their behalf.

Want a quick and easy way to step up your game? No problem. Fall isn’t just the season when we pull out last year’s fleece to keep warm on a brisk day. It’s also when workplace giving campaigns are in full swing.

Workplace giving offers a unique chance for people to pledge to support the charity or charities of their choice through simple payroll deductions. Employers often match their employees’ giving, providing the opportunity to double your impact. Community Shares of Wisconsin and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee are two organizations dedicated to raising funds to support social justice work in Wisconsin. These groups have a strong commitment to the LGBT community

and are doing amazing work to build the individual giving of people across our state. Many LGBT organizations are members of both of these organizations, including the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, OutReach, GSAFE, Cream City Foundation, New Harvest Foundation and Fair Wisconsin Education Fund. This is not a comprehensive list of LGBT organizations in Wisconsin — it includes just the recipients of those two workplace-giving groups. Whether your employer participates in Community Shares, United Way or another workplace giving program, or whether your LGBT organization of choice is not included in the list above, I hope you’ll consider how your giving can positively impact Wisconsin’s LGBT community. Being in the majority isn’t always something to be proud of. Join the 4 percent who are making visionary investments in the future of LGBT equality.

Katie Belanger is president/CEO of Fair Wisconsin.

Boo! Fox's anti-LGBT bias frightens viewers

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Blue light streamed across the living room, casting eerie shadows.

The light flickered and jumped.

A figure shifted on the couch, reached for the remote.

And then an explosion of noise came from the TV. "Shut up! Shut up!"

Fox News Channel star Bill O'Reilly was red-faced

furiously, again, and moving in for the strike.

Fox News, launched in 1996 to compete with CNN, reaches more than 90 million homes and, according to its press releases, dominates the cable news lineup, especially in prime time. At the top of the heap is O'Reilly, with the most-watched program on cable news — "The O'Reilly Factor."

When critics challenge

Fox's claim that the network presents "fair and balanced" news, network executives sometimes bristle and O'Reilly shouts, "Shut up!"

But Media Matters says there is far more than political bias on the Fox News Channel: There are fabricated stories and rumors reported as fact, as well as consistent manipulation of photographs and video that distorts reports. Wisconsin residents might recall the video accompanying a Fox News broadcast reporting on the pro-union protests in Madison in February 2011. The snarling protesters were dressed in T-shirts and shirts, shaking their fists menacingly as they stood against a background of palm trees. Meanwhile, Madison lay buried in snow with temperatures hovering in the teens.

Media Matters also noted vitriol and venom in Fox commentary when the issues involve race, immigration, health care, women's rights, LGBT equality and also the president.

LGBT ISSUES

As for Fox's coverage of LGBT issues, media watchdog Carlos Maza said the network is "the primary promoter of LGBT disinformation."

Maza is a researcher with Equality Matters, an initiative launched by Media Matters, the web-based nonprofit founded in 2004 to monitor for "news or commentary that is not accurate, reliable or credible and that forwards the conservative agenda."



PHOTO: EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION FOR THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER/AP IMAGES

MOST POWERFUL: Bill O'Reilly and Barbara Walters attend The Hollywood Reporter Celebrates the 35 Most Powerful People in Media, on April 10 in New York.

EM keeps tabs on right-wing groups such as the Family Research Council and Liberty Counsel and watches over the media for LGBT misinformation. Monitors watch the news from the early a.m. to the early a.m. to flag problematic coverage. "We have eyes on Fox basically all day long," Maza said.

And a lot of flags go up.

At the Oct. 11-13 Values Voter Summit hosted in D.C. by the Family Research Council, a right-wing hate group, Fox personalities at the podium included Allen West, Ben Carson, Mike Huckabee, Cal Thomas and Sandy Rios, who said ex-gays are everywhere but closeted because they are "maligned." Homosexuality, she added, puts the lives of young men at risk and it is a "dangerous time to be a Christian conserva-

tive" because in the country today "good is called evil and evil is called good."

Overall, with polls showing greater acceptance for gay people and majority support for marriage equality, Maza said he's noticed shifts in how Fox's broadcasts address LGBT issues.

On marriage, Fox often frames the issue as an attack on religious freedom, with Christians "as the victims of intolerance and the gay activists who have become the bullies. Those stories, they get a lot of traction."

A recent example is how Fox covered the conflict over amending a non-discrimination ordinance in San Antonio, Texas, to include gender identity and sexual orientation.

"Fox ran segment after segment describing it as a war against Christians,"

Maza said.

The researcher also has tracked an uptick on Fox in coverage that demonizes and ridicules transgender people. "On Fox, it's still very much OK to make rape jokes about transgender people," he said.

Last January, in a segment on "The O'Reilly Factor," Bill O'Reilly and Megyn Kelly joked about a transgender prison inmate.

"Couldn't they do a better job for a million bucks than this guy? Look, there he is. For a million you figure he might look like Annette Funicello or somebody. I don't know?" O'Reilly said.

Kelly said, "He's in a male prison."

O'Reilly added, "All right, but I don't think he's in any danger."

That month, Oregon LGBT civil rights activists protested the use of a still of Robin Williams as "Mrs. Doubtfire" to illustrate a story about regulations requiring that insurers in California and Oregon provide equal coverage to transgender customers.

In late August, Fox personalities complained about using feminine pronouns for Pvt. Chelsea Manning, the transgender soldier convicted of leaking classified documents to WikiLeaks. They mocked Manning's appearance.

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FOX from prior page

'BATHROOM BILL'

That month, Fox characterized as a "bathroom bill" landmark legislation signed by California Gov. Jerry Brown that guarantees transgender public school students access to facilities and programs that correspond to their gender identity.

On "The O'Reilly Factor," Greg Gutfeld said if he was a devious teenager he'd "tell girls that I'm a girl trapped in a boy's body, just so I could sneak into the girl's bathroom. In fact, I do that now at Fox News. Gretchen Carlson threw me out of the bathroom just last week."

Carlson, commenting on the legislation, said, "Can you imagine now, the boys want to go into the girls bathroom and the girls want to go into the boys bathroom, and they can just say, 'Oh, well, I was transgender for the moment.' I just can't get my head around this."

O'Reilly called the legislation "the biggest con in the world."

Hannity said government was forsaking the 99 percent to accommodate the .00001 percent."

"It's like red meat for their viewers," Maza said. "They are very comfortable turning those kinds of stories into horror stories."

For the creepiest commentary on transgender issues, Fox relies on Dr. Keith Ablow, who has said a transgender person on "Dancing with the Stars" could kindle "gender dysphoria" in others and that Chaz Bono suffers from a "psychotic delusion" because "there is nothing substantially different from a woman believing she is a man than there is about a woman believing she is a CIA agent being followed by the KGB" when she is really a salesperson at J.Crew.

Maza said, "Very flawed and medically inaccurate" information is pervasive on Fox.

About 41 percent of American voters trust the information they get on the channel and 46 percent do not, according to a survey by the liberal-leaning Public Policy Polling firm. PPP president Dean Debnam

'It's like red meat for their viewers. They are very comfortable turning those kinds of stories into horror stories.'

said the survey also found that Democrats trust most TV news sources other than Fox, while Republicans don't trust anything except Fox.

Maza said, "I think that for some Fox News employees, they know there is a segment of the audience that this really resonates with. So they really get on board with the transphobic stuff and that is good for their national profile."

But there are those at Fox, Ablow for example, who seem to Maza to "harbor real resentment or animosity" toward LGBT people.

The consequences of that animosity? A Pew Research Center report released on Oct. 11 found that dedicated cable viewers average 72 minutes of home viewing per day. CNN reaches slightly more adult viewers than Fox, but the study found Fox narrowly has the largest singularly dedicated audience — 24 percent of U.S. adults watch only Fox News.

That's a lot of people getting information from a source that Masen Davis, who heads up the Transgender Law Center, has described as "dangerously uninformed."

At the National Center for Transgender Equality, Mara Keisling has said Fox's coverage contributes to violence and harassment.

Maza and others said Fox's disinformation and animosity also can embolden campaigns against equality and "really impact the same-sex couple raising a family in San Antonio or the transgender student in California."

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Milwaukee LGBT Community Center holds its biggest fundraiser eve

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center held its most successful fundraiser ever on Oct. 11 — National Coming Out Day — at Potawatomi Bingo Casino.

More than 500 people attended Big Night Out cabaret, a Roaring '20s-themed event, netting about \$50,000 for the center, according to preliminary estimates. Numerous local performers were featured during an event that included a silent auction, food and a cash bar.

- L.W.



PHOTOS BY DAVE LAUERSDORF AND MIKE HILLER





BIG NIGHT OUT

CABARET



Talk about scary

Charlie Sykes, Mark Belling dominate Milwaukee talk radio

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Remember the "Fairness Doctrine"? It was an FCC regulation that required broadcasters to showcase opposing views on controversial issues. If a television host featured a guest speaking against LGBT equality, for instance, a pro-equality guest would have been required to balance the conversation.

The FCC stopped enforcing the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 and officially removed it from the books in 2011. The policy's demise helped pave the way for Rush Limbaugh, Fox News and the rest of the right-wing echo chamber.

On talk radio especially, opinion has replaced facts and spin has become the standard style of reporting. The impact has been particularly profound in the Milwaukee radio market, says Christopher Terry, who worked in local radio for many years and now lectures about it in UWM's Journalism, Media and Advertising Department.

Milwaukee talk radio differs from that of other cities in two key respects, Terry says. For one thing, Milwaukee is not only dominated by right-wing talk radio, but also lacks any countervailing progressive voice.

Milwaukee talk radio is also unique in that the city has its own homegrown right-wing talk stars. Elsewhere, canned, syndicated programs imported from outside the market domi-

nate the airwaves. But Milwaukee has produced its own hateful luminaries, including Jeff Wagner, Charlie Sykes and Mark Belling, who's subbed for no less than Limbaugh himself. This year Wagner's name appeared as No. 96 on Talkers Magazine's 2013 "Heavy Hundred" list of the 100 most important radio talk show hosts in America (the heaviest, pardon the pun, was Limbaugh.)

DEBUNKING SYKES

Despite Wagner's vaunted rating, it's Belling (WISN) and Wagner's mentor Sykes (WTMJ) whom racists in Washington County are most likely to quote to their families over their evening six packs. Sykes has the vein-popping, eardrum-shredding "angry white man" rant down so pat that he makes it look easy — as if any garden-variety bloviator off the street with enough teeth to form consonants could do it.

Sykes' special area of reporting is people of color receiving public assistance. Besides his radio program, Sykes hosts the TV talk show "Sunday Insight with Charlie Sykes," offers the subscription website RightWisconsin and has written seven books, including "A Nation of Moochers." The fundamental message he disseminates is that the reader, listener or watcher would be rich today if not for welfare queens in northwest Milwaukee taking all their hard-earned tax money and

spending it on crack.

Although facts hold no sway in Sykes' world, it's worth noting that welfare is actually a right-wing bogeyman that makes only a slight real-world dent in the economy. About 12 percent of the federal budget goes to support the broad category of "income security," which includes programs that recipients actually help to pay for themselves, such as general retirement and disability insurance, federal employee retirement and disability, and unemployment compensation.

Two-thirds of the people who receive food assistance are white, and 40 percent of them work at jobs that don't pay enough to feed their families. And despite Sykes' belief that entitlement programs represent everything that's wrong with America, his first ex-wife was forced to go on welfare for a few months in 1980 when he fell behind on child support payments.

In the noble tradition of other conservative leaders, Sykes has divorced two wives to marry his mistress, which perhaps explains why he tends to avoid bedroom politics. In 2006, he expressed skepticism over amending the state's Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, saying, "Gays who wish to marry don't want to tear down marriage. They want in on it."

Sykes' primary objective seems to be re-making Wisconsin into a sort of libertarian tax haven where

rich white oligarchs control — and profit from — the state's resources and its limited activities.

BELLING'S BLOVIATIONS

Belling, on the other hand, has a conservative social agenda that derives from his devout right-wing Roman Catholicism. UWM's Terry, who worked as a producer at WISN for 15 years, says he got the impression that Belling is the more earnest conservative of the two.

While Sykes is generally neutral on LGBT issues, Belling is staunchly anti-gay and aggressively promotes Christian fundamentalism. In 2012, he played a major role in pressuring the Department of Natural Resources to yank a permit to perform a popular, innocuous farce loosely based on the Bible from appearing in Lapham Peak State Park in Delafeld.

"The Bible: Complete Word of God (Abridged)" is one of a set of "abridged" plays that in recent years have taken on classics in a spirit of good fun. But Belling failed to see the humor, condemning the G-rated work as an attack on Christianity.

Issues related to sexual morality are often on Belling's list of topics. He defended Limbaugh for calling Sandra Fluke a "slut" after she was scheduled to testify before Congress in favor of requiring insurance plans to cover birth control. Belling told listeners that legalizing gay marriage

would "create a law that gives (gays) special treatment."

The good news about Belling and Sykes, according to Terry, is that neither they nor others of their ilk actually influence anyone or change anyone's mind. People don't tune in to learn the news or to acquire new ideas, Terry says. Studies have shown that right-wing talk listeners merely enjoy hearing their beliefs reinforced, he explains.

"This is emotional programming at its core," Terry says. "Facts are inconvenient. Emotional appeals are much more powerful."

And since talk radio's biggest audience is older white men, it's essentially an echo chamber of old white men telling other old white men what they already believe.

Arbitron ratings complete the picture. The top-rated station in the Milwaukee market is a country format, while the second most popular station plays oldies. The right-wing talk of WISN and WTMJ round out the top four stations, all of which specialize in content that appeals to older white men.

Says Terry: "The problem isn't Belling and Sykes, and the problem isn't Fox News. The speech isn't the problem. The characters involved in delivering that speech aren't the problem. The problem in First Amendment terms is that people tend to consume only one kind of media. People get locked in or zoned into only one kind of outlet. They get

locked into one stream of information.

"With all the ways we have to communicate in our society, people still gravitate toward speech that already reflects their views. They aren't willing to do what the First Amendment (intends for them) to do, which is expose themselves to alternative ideas."

TIES THAT BIND

A problem of special concern to Wisconsin is the umbilical cord that exists between Gov. Scott Walker's administration and Milwaukee's right-wing talk radio stars. It's not clear whether Sykes and Belling get their marching orders from the governor's mansion or it's the other way around. But what is crystal clear is that they're working every bit as in tandem as the Chinese synchronized women's swimming team — delivering the same message points with the same rhetoric at the same hour of the clock on a daily basis.

The dissemination of partisan message points from the halls of power to the public through independent broadcast media is the virtual equivalent of propaganda — or at least free political advertising. But no one has yet found a smoking gun demonstrating an illegal connection between the two that would be legally actionable.

Not yet, that is.

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On the bench: Supreme Court begins term

From WiG and AP reports

The Supreme Court began its new term on Oct. 7, turning away hundreds of appeals. The justices took the bench just past 10 a.m. on the first Monday in October, even as much of the rest of the government was coping with a partial shutdown.

Among the appeals denied was Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's request to review an appeals court ruling that threw out the state's ban on oral and anal sex. Cuccinelli, the GOP candidate for governor, said the sodomy ban should remain when applied to sex between a minor and an adult.

The new term may be short on the sort of high-profile battles over health care and gay marriage that marked the past two years, but the court has taken cases on campaign contributions, housing discrimination, government-sanctioned prayer and the president's recess appointments. Abortion, contraceptive coverage under the new health care law and cellphone privacy

also may find their way onto the court's calendar.

Several of those cases ask the court to overrule prior decisions - bold action in an institution that relies on the power of precedent.

"There are an unusual number of cases going right to hot-button cultural issues and aggressive briefing on the conservative side asking precedents to be overruled," said Georgetown University law professor Pamela Harris, who served in the Justice Department.

The campaign finance argument on Oct. 8 was the first major case on the calendar. The 5-4 decision in the Citizens United case in 2010 allowed corporations and labor unions to spend unlimited sums in support of or opposition to candidates. The new case, *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, challenges the overall limits on what an individual may give to candidates, political parties and political action committees in a two-year federal election cycle.

ON THE DOCKET

- Greece, N.Y., is asking the Court to uphold its practice of opening town council meetings with a prayer. An appeals court ruled the invocations violate the First Amendment.

- Michigan is fighting to keep a constitutional amendment that bans the use of racial preferences in education. An appeals court ruled the ban is discriminatory.

- Massachusetts is defending a law that creates a 35-foot buffer zone at abortion clinics to limit protesters' ability to interact with patients.

Several cases challenging constitutional amendments against same-sex marriage and state law prohibiting businesses from anti-gay discrimination could reach the Court. So could a challenge to California's law barring the use of "ex-gay" therapy on minors.



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Thrill or chill at these Milwaukee Halloween events

By **Mrinal Gokhale**
Contributing writer

CREAM CITY CABARET HALLOWEEN SHOW

Oct. 18

Cream City Cabaret Halloween Show debuts on Oct. 18 at Riverwest Public House, 815 E. Locust St., beginning at 10 p.m. Cover charge is \$6 — or \$3 with a costume. The 21-and-older event features burlesque, drag and live musical performances. Riverwest Public House also holds Taco Tuesdays every week, featuring \$2 tacos, Cream City Cabaret, open mic burlesque and free HIV testing. DJ Rocka spins. If you're interested in performing, show up before 9 p.m. with your song and sign up for a spot. Cover charge is \$5. Visit Riverwestpublichouse.com for more information.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Oct. 25-26

The lewdly hilarious "Rocky Horror Picture Show" screens at The Landmark Oriental, 2230 N. Farwell Ave., Oct. 25-26. The

1975 British musical comedy horror film is based on "The Rocky Horror Show," a musical by Richard O'Brien. The fun begins when Brad and Janet get lost with a flat tire near the castle of Dr. Frank N. Furter, the sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania (Tim Curry), who's been making (literally) a man with blond hair and a tan. This ghoulish camp masterpiece, the longest running theatrical release in film history, is rated R for mature audiences. Tickets are \$10. Visit landmarktheatres.com for show times.

CREATURES AND CREATORS HALLOWEEN

Oct. 25

Made in Milwaukee and 88Nine Radio Milwaukee present Creatures and Creators Halloween on Oct. 25 at Turner Hall Ballroom. This funky celebration features DIY art, local music, fashion and a Michael Jackson dance party. Listen to a diverse music lineup ranging from indie dance and psychedelic rock to spoken word and hard rock. Bands include Boy Blue, D'Amato and MC Oneself and Fatty Acids. Creatures and

Creators Catwalk showcases five collections by local designer Alexis Rose. Models sport many fashion styles, including Victorian, 1990s vintage and fiber arts. Six local artists are involved in the live and DIY art portion of the program. The Michael Jackson v. Prince dance party begins around midnight, an hour before the party ends. Turner Hall Ballroom is at 1034 N. Fourth Street. Pre-concert tickets are \$12. For more info, visit mimhalloween.com.

MARS HAUNTED HOUSE

Oct. 25-Nov. 2

The Mars Haunted House is open Oct. 25, Oct. 27, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1-2. Voted the No. 1 haunted house in Milwaukee, the house features claustrophobic mazes, bone-chilling scenes, haunted hallways and very life-like characters and props. Built in the 1880s at 734 W. Historic Mitchell St., the house is popular for both its comedic and its fright value. According to legend, Jacob Milton murdered his family there in 1943, leaving the home littered with ghosts. The site has attracted paranormal investigators, as well as thrill-seekers. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for children under 12 and \$11 for groups of 15 people or more. For more, visit marshauntedhouse.com.

EDELWEISS HALLOWEEN CRUISE

Oct. 31

Edelweiss Boats holds a Halloween cruise at 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 31. The cruise includes a DJ playing top hits, a Miller Lite and nacho buffet and a cash bar. Prizes are awarded for best costume, although dressing up is not mandatory. The cruise departs from

Milwaukee River Cruise Line through the most scenic parts of the city. Guests typically wander over to nearby Water Street or Old Third World Street after the cruise. Tickets are \$28 at edelweissboats.com. You must be 21 or older with a valid ID to board.

HAUNTED BREWERY BASH

Nov. 1

Best Place at Historic Pabst Brewery celebrates its second annual Halloween Party at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1. The party features a dance floor, two bars, two outdoor patios, a fireplace and a costume contest. Guests receive prizes in the categories of best couples costume, sexiest costume, best historic costume and best Pabst costume. Drink specials include \$2 PBR, Schlitz or Milwaukee Tall Boys and \$3 Jager Monsters. Admission is free and guests must be over 21. Visit Bestplacemilwaukee.com for more information.

THE MANSION

Nov. 2

Promo MKE and Ultra Music present The Mansion on Nov. 2 at a to-be-announced location downtown. Thrills combine with club nightlife at this haunted Halloween party. Guests pass through many spooky rooms. DJs Omni and Justin Gessert play opening tunes, followed by Ultra Music artist Ron Resser. A U.K. chart topper, Resser remixes hits Adele, Gotye, Beyonce, Flo Rida, Maroon 5 and more. Visit themanionmke.com to purchase tickets.



UNMASQ

We invite you to join us for UnMasquerade at the Marq, a fundraiser to benefit the LGBT Partnership. UnMasquerade at the Marq will be held at the Marq in De Pere on Tuesday, November 5, from 6 – 9 p.m. This elegant event will feature nationally renowned speaker and safe schools advocate Jamie Nabozny, youth presentations and fundraising events.

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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Exploring Appleton's antique paradise

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Small-town Wisconsin is rife with antique emporiums hawking everything from ancient tractors to faux Tiffany fixtures, from authentic heirlooms to funky kitsch. The state has a regional reputation as a collectors' paradise.

Columbus Antique Mall, located between Beaver Dam and Madison, is the state's largest, with roughly 222 dealers occupying 82,000 square feet. But antique malls and shops of all sizes are tucked away in unexpected places throughout the Badger State.

Two stores in Appleton stand out both for the vastness of their selections and the restoration skills of their staff. In the hands of experts, something old really can become new.

Urban Evolutions, which recently moved from Menasha to 2401 W. College Ave., Appleton, traces its roots back to a personal tragedy suffered by owners Jeff and Robin Janson. After fire nearly destroyed the couple's 1890s Wisconsin farmhouse some 20 years ago, they began looking for materials to restore the property in a way that would maintain its historical integrity. They eventually found themselves with enough left-over doors, moldings and tin ceilings to help area business owners rehab their properties to accurately reflect their historic origins.

The architectural salvage continued as the couple and a growing staff mined the countryside for seasoned wood from tumbledown barns, salvaged materials from abandoned factories and other historic architectural flotsam. The quality and variety of their materials became well known nationally as well as locally, and the business flourished.

Over time, the Jansons turned to craftspeople to repurpose their scavenged materials into useful household objects and décor. Urban Evolutions began selling its materials and wares through upscale merchandisers such as Anthropologie, L.L. Bean, Urban Outfitters and others, marketing their repurposed products under the tagline, "Made in America. Again."

"Isn't that beautiful?" asks Joseph Amann, general manager for Urban Evolutions' Appleton outlet store, located in a recently acquired former lumberyard.

A portion of the store's flooring is made of Kentucky oak horse fencing that's been laid in a chevron pattern. Other recovered woods are used as flooring in the 8,000-square-foot showroom, which is part of a 35,000-square-foot retail and manufacturing facility. The showroom features numerous décor novelties, including popular wall units and media centers crafted

from repurposed barn wood. Also on display are colorful wall treatments made of reclaimed gymnasium flooring, large bedroom sets made of barn wood and wall hangings composed of replaned tin ceiling medallions.

As an outlet, the store offers many products at considerable discounts. A four-part shelving unit, any two units of which can be covered by a sliding "barn door" made of repurposed barn wood, sells for \$3,750 — significantly less than the \$4,495 retail price.

"Customers often bring U-hauls from Chicago, Minneapolis and points in between to cart their purchases away, because the savings make the effort worthwhile," Amann says. "But they should call ahead to make sure we have what they want before making the trip."

For collectors who like furniture and accessories restored to their original luster, a trip to Harp Gallery, 2495 Northern Road, is in order. Founded in 1985 by Ken and Rebecca Melchert, the 20,000-square-foot showroom stocks meticulously restored furniture and household accessories from a variety of periods.

Harp Gallery adds many new items to its inventory each day, according to the store's website. An estimated 75-80 percent of the gallery's business is conducted over the Internet.

The store arranges for delivery across the United States and makes direct deliveries to customers in the state, as well as to Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Louis.

The gallery's crowded aisles wind through a veritable treasure trove of antiques, including a recently acquired collection of classic opera glasses inlaid with mother-of-pearl and a rotating-drum butter churn.

The store's current collection features more than 40 Art Deco pieces. A black-and-white marble Art Deco bar, created in 1925 by Pierre Vignal and Raymond Bodver (\$4,850) stands near a 1930 Art Deco oak-and-maple medicine cabinet (\$295).

Among the store's grandest items is a 1915 mahogany bedroom set with bas-relief bronze cherub accents. The queen-size bed, with an ornately carved headboard and footboard, is priced at \$12,750. Also included in the set are a 10-foot triple armoire (\$4,975) and a black marble-topped dresser (\$3,995). Twin frosted-globe light fixtures illuminate the three pieces.

Harp Gallery illustrates each piece on www.harpgallery.com with up to 30 images shot from different angles by the store's in-house photographer.

Although both Urban Evolutions and Harp Gallery have reasonably priced items,



PHOTOS: COURTESY

The showrooms of Harp Gallery, above, and Urban Evolution — both in Appleton.

the stores are not for the faint-of-wallet. If you're on a budget, head over to the Fox River Antique Mall, 1074 S. Van Dyke Road.

With more than 165 dealers and 30,000 square feet, the mall offers selections from World War II relics to old beer cans. Books, long-playing records, old toys, cast-off clothes and logoed glassware abound. Hanking for the Flintstone jelly jar drinking glasses of your youth? If you could find them anywhere, it would be at Fox River

Valley Antique Mall.

This season's specialty seems to be old fashioned gas cans — the rustier the better — with jack-o-lantern faces cut into their sides. Call it seasonal repurposing.

ON THE WEB

Travel Wisconsin antique destinations: www.travelwisconsin.com/article/things-to-do/top-antiquing-destinations

The Rep's 'Venus in Fur' is a sexy, dazzling delight

By Anne Siegel

Contributing writer

In staging David Ives' dark sex comedy *Venus in Fur*, Milwaukee Repertory Theater joins the ranks of dozens of other regional theaters across the country. According to American Theater magazine, *Venus* is the most-performed play in American theaters this season. A whopping 22 productions were scheduled in 2013, according to the magazine's survey.

The two-person play opened on Broadway in 2011, with actor Nina Arianda winning the Tony Award for her performance as Vanda. In the Rep's production, Greta Wohlrabe essays that role — a character who swings back and forth between "ditzy actress auditioning for a play" and the play's seductress.

Vanda is a tough role for even a seasoned actor to pull off, much less an actor who needs to be 20-ish

and voluptuous (Wohlrabe certainly fits that bill, at times rocking a skin-tight black bustier created by Rachel Laritz). Tempting and manipulative, Vanda employs whatever trick she can conjure to conquer the play's director, Thomas (Reese Madigan), and win the role.

As the play begins, it's early evening in a seedy audition hall. Overhead fluorescent lights glare down on ancient brick walls, a desk and a faded, tattered divan. Thomas is on his cellphone, complaining to his girlfriend about all the actors he's seen that day. None of them, in his opinion, even comes close to the mark.

"I need a woman who can pronounce the word 'degradation' without needing a tutor," he moans.

A clap of thunder is heard as Vanda nearly topples into the room. With liberal use of four-letter words, she describes her harrow-



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

Reese Madigan and Greta Wohlrabe in Milwaukee Repertory Theater's production of *Venus in Fur*, playing through Nov. 3 at the Stiemke Studio.

ing trip across Manhattan in a violent storm. Although Thomas sternly informs her he is in no mood for more auditions, Vanda cajoles, wheedles and cries until he relents.

As the audition begins, Thomas plays the male role: a real-life, 19th-century author who coined the term "somasochism." His 1870 book is called *Venus in Fur*.

Wohlrabe is maddeningly funny as she frequently goes "off character" to make observations or ask Thomas a question about the play. "It's a play about S&M porn, right?" she asks at one point.

Thomas responds in a frosty tone: "It's a serious novel."

The play's meaning becomes less important once the actor and director establish their characters. They switch roles at one point, with Madigan giving a convincing performance as Thomas' notion of Vanda. They begin improvising, not knowing exactly where their dialogue will lead.

As Thomas, Madigan successfully walks a tightrope. He must be strong-willed and sexy, but also sensitive and vulnerable. He must be securely attached to his girlfriend — at least until Vanda intervenes. Most importantly, he can't make Thomas seem creepy, effeminate or

extremely sexist. Madigan accomplishes his goal with astonishing aplomb.

Playwright David Ives (*All in the Timing*) tantalizes the audience as much as he does Thomas in this funny, sexy show. Director Laura Gordon skillfully maintains the sexual tension throughout the play's 90 minutes.

The actors are well matched as they balance the give-and-take that *Venus* requires.

With the help of Scott Davis' realistic-looking set and Aimee Hanyzewski's increasingly seductive lighting (once the fluorescents are turned off), this production of *Venus in Fur* would be tough to match in any regional theater across the country.

For the adventurous theatergoer, this show is a dazzling delight.

Editor's Note: Although the play is all in fun (all foreplay and no action), it's unsuitable for children.

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Milwaukee Ballet's 'Romeo and Juliet' is true to sources

Romeo and Juliet live happily ever after? Fortunately, that's not how Michael Pink sees it.

Pink is artistic director for the Milwaukee Ballet, which opens its 2013-14 season Oct. 31 with his production of "Romeo & Juliet," Shakespeare's timeless tale of star-crossed lovers danced to the music of Sergei Prokofiev. The composer's original version of the ballet, based on a synopsis by Russian dramaturge Adrian Piotrovsky, had a happy ending that spared the doomed lovers.

Thankfully, that version was never publicly performed. The composer was persuaded by various sources to return to the original ending before the ballet was debuted in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in 1938. It was an artistic decision that not only better reflected the times but remained true to Shakespeare's intentions, Pink says.

Romeo & Juliet also was one of the first "through-composed" classical stage works, a term that refers to music that is played from start to finish without interruption or distinct musical stops to allow for audience applause. The fluidity of the

music makes performing to it that much easier for the dancers, Pink says.

"The composition takes you on this journey and deposits you at the end of it," he explains. "It's more pleasing for me by far because it helps better tell the story."

Pink and the Milwaukee Ballet presented the ballet in 2003 and 2007. Milwaukee Public Television recorded the latter performance, which is available on DVD.

The public's familiarity with Shakespeare's tragedy and Prokofiev's music make the ballet exceptionally accessible, Pink says. Guided by the audience's expectations, Pink approaches the work in a way that's "very conscious of making sure the dance tries to be a realistic representation of what the story would be."

Pink familiarizes his dancers with the story by holding dramatic readings of the play with stage actors. Understanding the material is foremost to his dance interpretation, the artistic director says. It helps performers capture the proper pace and cadence of the characters.

The balcony scene, certainly the play's most famous, ends Act 1 of the ballet with a lovely pas de deux by the two main characters. Pink's staging seeks to capture the nature and the age of the characters.

"I've seen productions where it's played quite slowly and loses its sense of youth and energy and excitement," says Pink. "They're teenagers, for Christ's sake, and the tempo of the music has to give the dancers that support."

Milwaukee Ballet company members David Hovhannisyan and Luz San Miguel will dance the roles of the ill-fated lovers. Pink credits the pair's natural chemistry for making the performance

come alive.

"The production belongs to David and Luz because of their genuineness," Pink says. "They each have their own life partners, but when they're together you'd swear they had been living as lovers for all of their lives. That energy just oozes off the stage, which is exciting."

Pink's past interpretations of the classic have met with positive reviews.

"I knew this work was something I'd be able to realize in a powerful way, and I wanted a sense of grit and urgency about it," Pink says. "I didn't want it to be pretty-pretty, I wanted it to be as real as we could make it."

"People in the profession say it's one of the best interpretations they've seen," he adds, "and that's quite a complement."

PHOTO: JESSICA KAMINSKI

David Hovhannisyan and Luz San Miguel in Milwaukee Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Dance

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

ON STAGE

Milwaukee Ballet's *Romeo & Juliet* runs through Nov. 3.

Milwaukee Ballet's 2013-14 season

Romeo & Juliet opens a superlative season for Milwaukee Ballet that includes world premieres. Other upcoming performances include:

- *The Nutcracker*, Tchaikovsky's holiday fantasy, Dec. 14-27.
- *Winter Series*, featuring the choreography of Luca Veggetti in a program that promises to be stripped-down and seductive, Feb. 13-16.
- *Spring Series* featuring two world premieres by choreographers Matthew Neenan and Amy Seiwert, April 3-6
- *Mirror, Mirror*, the world premiere of a new work by Pink and composer Philip Feeney that's based on *Snow White*, May 15-18.

For more information, visit www.milwaukeeballet.org.



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Joffrey Ballet's 'Romeo & Juliet' takes novel approach

By Michael Muckian
Contributing writer

Take Romeo and Juliet, imagine them traveling in a time machine set for three distinctly different stops in the 20th century, and you'll have some idea how Chicago's Joffrey Ballet will bring the star-crossed lovers to the stage next spring.

The Joffrey, which first introduced U.S. audiences to Sergei Prokofiev's now famous ballet during its 1984-85 season, plans to stage the U.S. premiere of Polish choreographer Krzysztof Pastor's unorthodox interpretation of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* April 30-May 11. The production crosses three periods, beginning in 1930s Italy, which was then struggling under an economic depression and facing the rise of fascism.

"Pastor sets his production in Italy at the same time that Prokofiev wrote the original score - 1935," says Ashley Wheater, Joffrey artistic director. "Perhaps the troubled time resonated with Prokofiev, but at the very least Pastor reminds us that the warring Capulets and Montagues live among us still, and that innocents are often caught in the crossfire."

After Depression-era Italy, Pastor moves his action to less-specified location in the 1950s Cold War era and the 1990s, a time of ethnic cleansing. The connecting tissue is less the location and more the surround-

ing social struggles that the characters face.

"The change from period to period within the ballet is subtle," Wheater says. "The same dancers continue to play each role and the physical setting remains constant, but the world changes around them. It is as if the same plot unfolds regardless of time."

It's a level of poetic license that Wheater thinks is appropriate for the ballet — and even to Shakespeare's intent.

"Pastor says, 'We had the play in our hands, and the score . . . but we started from zero, with no preconceptions. We thought it was our obligation to have an original view,'" Wheater explains. "He intends his choices to make the story more relevant."

Despite the dramatic time shifts, the spirit of the production and its performance will not seem strange to ballet purists, who will appreciate the choreographer's sensitivities, Wheater says.

"Despite his modern idiom, Krzysztof Pastor comes from a ballet tradition," Wheater says. "His style of movement is fresh, but derived from a familiar syllabus. I believe it is important for dancers to explore many different forms of movement."

For more information, visit www.joffrey.com.



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN

Alberto Velazquez and Mahalia Ward star in next spring's unconventional staging of *Romeo and Juliet* at Chicago's Joffrey Ballet.

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Theater

GREGG SHAPIRO

For baby boomers, Sally Struthers' name conjures a host of memories from the groundbreaking 1970s television series *All in the Family*. Struthers played Gloria Stivic, the wholesome, idealistic wife of "meathead" Mike (Rob Reiner) and the daughter of armchair bigot Archie (Carroll O'Connor) and dingbat Edith Bunker (Jean Stapleton). Caught between a sitcom marriage and the emerging feminism of her day, Struthers gave the nation its first liberated version of Miss American Pie, cheerfully speaking out against sexism, racism and homophobia as she helped set the dinner table.

In recent years, Struthers has divided her time between TV series (*Gilmore Girls* and *Still Standing*) and stage work. She's currently touring the country as matchmaker Dolly Levi in gay composer Jerry Herman's *Hello, Dolly!*

I spoke recently with Struthers about her *Dolly*, her career and her life.

Gregg Shapiro: What do you enjoy most about playing Dolly Levi?

Sally Struthers: Oh, my goodness, Dolly Levi in *Hello, Dolly!* is one of the best roles ever written for a woman in the American theater. Dolly Levi gets to be brilliant and sassy and meddling and adorable and sing seven songs and manipulate a man into proposing to her and make other people fall in love and dress in beautiful clothes and have lots of monologues. It's a challenge to learn, and once you've learned it it's in there for life. It's brilliant! The words are brilliant, the lyrics are brilliant. It's such an entertaining show. There are so many beautiful people on stage dancing and singing memorable songs!

Do you have a favorite song that you sing as Dolly?

I think my favorite one to sing is actually in the second act. It's "So Long Dearie." It's a very sassy vaudeville song done with a straw hat and a cane. It's really fun to sing.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Have you ever had a chance to meet Jerry Herman?

Oh, yes, Jerry is a friend of mine. His number is in my cellphone. He's the reason I'm doing this. He hasn't let anyone take this musical out on a national tour since Carol Channing (who originated the role on Broadway in 1964, when it won 10 Tony Awards). We fell in love with each other many years ago when I did *Mame*. I didn't play Auntie Mame, I played Agnes Gooch. He came to the show and said, "You're the funniest woman

I've ever seen. No one has ever played Agnes Gooch the way you played it." We have awards in Los Angeles akin to the Tony Awards, called the Ovation Awards. That year, I won an Ovation Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical for *Mame*. When Jerry Herman said that I could go out with *Dolly* I felt like St. Peter had let me into the gates of heaven. That's quite a nod.

Have you ever met any of the previous Dollys, including Carol Channing, Pearl Bailey or Barbra Streisand?

I've met and dined with and hung out with Carol Channing. I saw Pearl Bailey do it, but never met her. Those are the two that I saw play the role.

Are you like Dolly, a woman who brings people together?

I am! There are two couples that I know of, so far, that are married because I introduced them. There are lots of other people (I've gotten) together. I also take people into my house to give them a place to live, so my house is always full. I get myself involved in a lot of people's lives in a way to

try and help them. My sister said to me once, "How can you stand it with all those people in your house? Don't you need alone time? Don't you need your own space?" I said, "I have eternity to be alone in the grave. While I'm alive, I want to be around people. I want it to be a party every day."

With all of your theater work, I imagine that you've probably developed quite a following in the LGBT community.

I know in my own personal life that I have as many friends that are LGBT as I do straight. If that translates into fans, as well, who enjoy it when I work, then I'm thrilled. I don't understand people that are afraid of other people! Because of their sexual persuasion or the color of their skin — what's the matter with them? We all breathe the same, we all lay down to sleep, we all chew our food the same. What's wrong with people? I get so disappointed in people that are narrow-minded. I know they're probably that way because they were raised by narrow-minded people. You learn bigotry on the knee of your parents.

A 1971 episode of *All in the Family* was one of the first shows in prime time to feature a gay character. At the time, did you have any idea of the significance that episode would have?

I was just a young, naïve kid from Portland, Ore., who landed this role. I had never heard of these racial slurs, epithets. I would sit in the rehearsal hall on Monday mornings when we read the script dialogue for that week. Archie would say

these words and I would say, "What does that mean?" I was told, "That's what some people use as a derogatory term for a Spanish person or an Italian person or an Irish person or a black person." I'd say, "Well, I've never heard that in my life in Portland, Ore. I come from a nice Lutheran Norwegian family. We don't dislike anybody."

No, I didn't understand the significance of any of it until I was way past it. I had to be in my 30s, 40s, 50s to look back and see just how groundbreaking that show was and therefore how fortunate I was to be a small part of it. It's dumbfounding to me. I still will open a newspaper in any city I'm in and immediately go to the crossword puzzle page and sometimes it'll say, "Actress who played Gloria on *All in the Family*," and I go, "Oh, my God! I'm in the crossword puzzle." My daughter, who is 34 years old now, when she was in elementary school you didn't look things up on the computer, you had *Encyclopedia Britannica* and I bought her a set. One day she was writing a report in her room and she screamed, "Mom!" I came running and asked her what was the matter and she said, "Look." She opened it up to "T," and under television there was a picture of the four of us from *All in the Family*. She said, "You're in the encyclopedia!" (Laughs). Who knew?

Are there other projects that you have in the works?

I wrote my own one-woman show *Life Is Short and So Am I*, and I've been doing that in quite a few places. I won't be able to do it now until April 2014. But it's been really fun to do.

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Madison Opera brings the fiery 'Tosca' to Overture Center



Opera

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Murder, mayhem and a few leitmotifs come together in Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, which opens Madison Opera's 2013-14 season at the city's Overture Center for the Arts.

The opera that musicologist Joseph Kerman once famously called "a shabby little shocker" is one of Puccini's best-known works.

"Puccini always has a certain formula of music and high drama in his operas, and this is where he went full-tilt," says A. Scott Parry, who is directing the production. Parry is a freelance director who also teaches opera at Ohio State University.

"It is the most shocking and most violent of his operas, and the zenith of his emotional works," Parry adds.

The opera is based on the French play *La Tosca*, which author Victorien Sardou wrote specifically for actor Sarah Bernhardt. The melodrama, a huge hit for Sardou at the end of the 19th century, unfolds as Napoleon prepares to invade the Kingdom of Naples. Torture, murder, suicide and one of Puccini's best-known arias fill out the lengthy narrative.

"In all of Puccini's operas the heroine dies by dramatic means," Parry says. "In this situation the heroine and multiple people die."

Parry calls *Tosca* a "through-composed" opera, meaning the music runs continuously, without

obvious stops. *Tosca*, he says, reflects characteristics often associated with Puccini's German contemporary Richard Wagner, who composed the *Ring* cycle. *Tosca* reflects Wagner's lofty brand of drama and symphonic musical quality, as well as the use of leitmotifs — short recurring melodies associated with specific characters.

"There's a fluid musical texture to *Tosca*, and this is where Puccini is veering into (Wagner's) musical realm," Parry says.

Nonetheless, there were distinct differences between the Italian and German cultures during the Romantic period.

"Italians are fiery by nature, with a sense of emotional expression in speech and the way they communicate," Parry says. "Germans tend to be more intellectual, more about the thought and the philosophy. It's the difference between the heart and the head."

Soprano Melody Moore appears as the fiery *Tosca*, a role she also played with the San Francisco Opera in 2012. Moore began as the understudy in that production, but she stood in for Angela Gheorghiu after she was stricken by intestinal flu at the end of Act 1. Moore used the opportunity to make the role her own, drawing praise from San Francisco critics for her vocal power, dramatic

fervor and "superb" performance of "Vissi d'arte," *Tosca*'s famous Act 2 aria.

Tenor Scott Piper, a Madison Opera favorite, returns as Cavaradossi, *Tosca*'s lover. He's also played his role before — and he'll reprise it early in 2014 with the Austin Lyric Opera.

Grammy Award-winning baritone Nmon Ford plays the evil Baron Scarpia, the third of a trinity of roles that Parry says distinguish *Tosca* from the composer's other works.

"Each of the three key characters has an interesting shading and can be looked at with a more well-rounded point of view," he says. "I have three well-rounded performers who have an interest in finding the motivating characteristics that bring the characters to three-dimensional life."

The performances will make *Tosca* an outstanding production for an audience that Parry says truly appreciates fine operatic art.

"I have worked all over the country and remember thinking that it's amazing that Madison has this regional company with 50 years of experience," Parry says. "Madison Opera really shows itself as a company of substance, with an audience open to enjoying not only the great old war horses like *Tosca* but also more contemporary works. That's unique."

ON STAGE

Madison Opera performs "Tosca" at 8 p.m. on Nov. 1 and at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 3 at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. Phone 608-238-8085 or go to madisonopera.org.

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By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

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¾ oz. sweet vermouth

DIRECTIONS

Pour all three ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

CHOCOLATE MALTED MARTINI

Any holiday is a good excuse to mix chocolate and alcohol. This concoction will float your spirits.

INGREDIENTS

1½ oz. vodka
½ oz. chocolate syrup
½ oz. chocolate malt powder (try Ovaltine)
½ oz. half-and-half
2 dashes chocolate bitters

DIRECTIONS

In a martini shaker filled with ice, combine the vodka, chocolate syrup, malt powder, half-and-half and bitters. Shake vigorously, then strain into a cocktail glass.

BLACK CLOUD COCKTAIL

The mixture of orange and black make this cocktail perfect for Halloween.

INGREDIENTS

½ cup orange soda
1 cup orange juice
1 shot orange liqueur
2 shots black vodka
2 peppermint sticks
2 licorice wheels

DIRECTIONS

In a small pitcher combine the orange soda, orange juice and orange liqueur.

Divide evenly between two martini glasses. Hold a teaspoon measure upside down over the glass, slowly pour a shot of black vodka on top of the orange juice mixture so that it floats on top, creating a layered

effect. Repeat with second drink. Garnish with a peppermint stick and/or a licorice wheel.

SATAN'S REVENGE

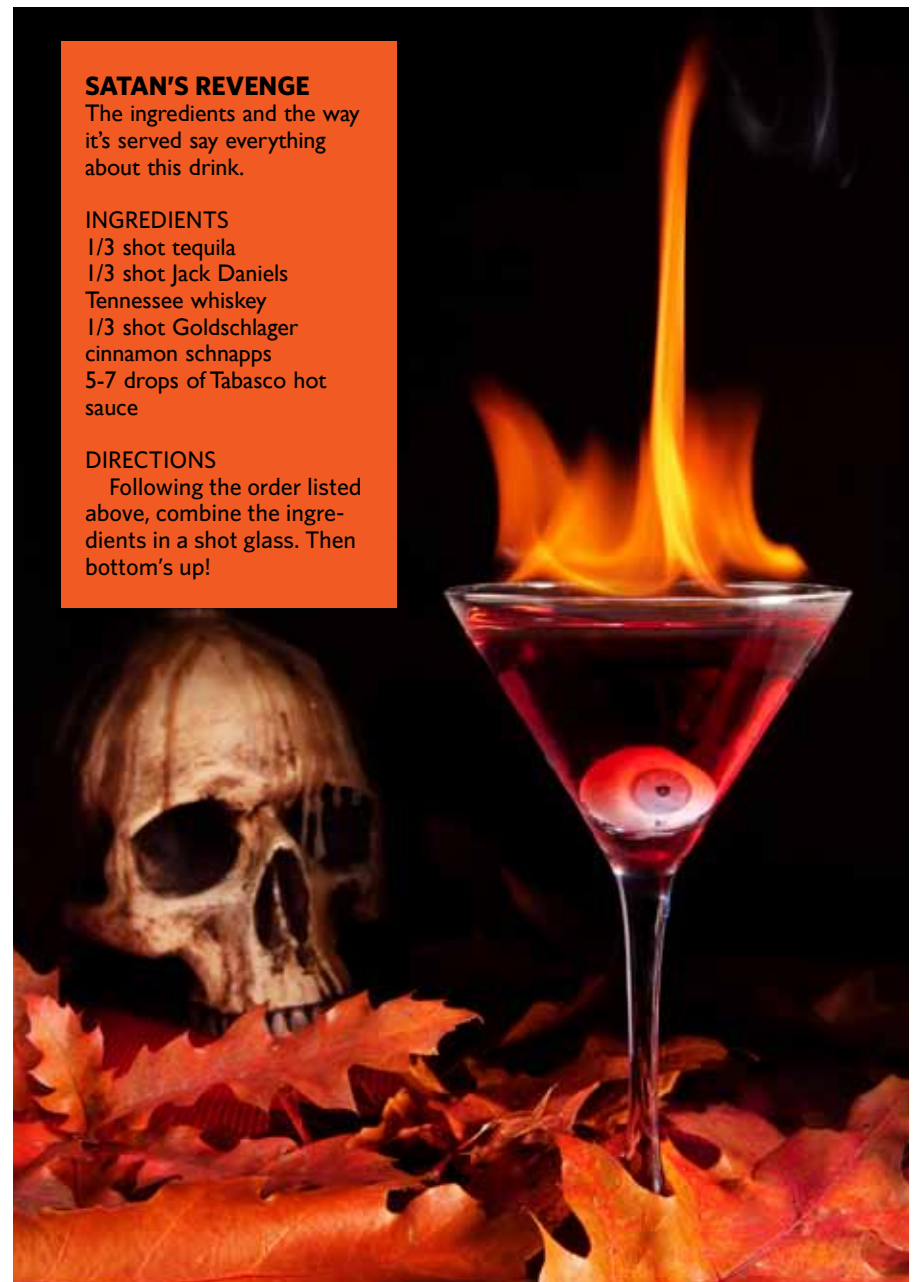
The ingredients and the way it's served say everything about this drink.

INGREDIENTS

1/3 shot tequila
1/3 shot Jack Daniels
Tennessee whiskey
1/3 shot Goldschlager
cinnamon schnapps
5-7 drops of Tabasco hot
sauce

DIRECTIONS

Following the order listed above, combine the ingredients in a shot glass. Then bottom's up!



Trick or seed: Jack-o-lantern's toasty snack

By Sara Moulton

AP writer

New York City has a zillion charms, but it may not be the ideal place to celebrate Halloween. Here's the problem — where do you display your jack-o'-lantern if you live in an apartment building with no porch?

Then again, my family and I are New Yorkers, and a little defect like this was not going to keep us from carving scary faces into pumpkins. As a kid, I loved this kind of project, even though — or because? — it was so messy. It also was kind of dangerous, given the sharp knives required.

Some years my mom would get ambitious and turn the pumpkin seeds into a snack. It was a lot of work. We had to separate the seeds from the fibrous pulp, wash them thoroughly, then dry them on towels before we roasted them. Drying the seeds was a particular ordeal. They tended to stick to the towels, and those that didn't could end up sticking anywhere, floor to ceiling.

But the finished product was wonderful: nutty, chewy, salty, seasonal. I missed them!

So this year, with Halloween looming, I decided to cast toasted pumpkin seeds as the star of a healthy snack mix. A delight for young or old, it makes a great afterschool treat or an appetizer at a Halloween party.

And I've managed to eliminate the sticking-to-the-towel problem.

Finding the best way to toast the seeds took several trials. I tried high-heat roasting and low-heat roasting before deciding — following a tip from a Twitter buddy — that sautéing them in a skillet on top of the stove produced the most succulent result. The sticking-to-the-towel thing? Just dry the wet seeds in the oven for 10 minutes before toasting them in the skillet. No towels required.

And by the way, pumpkin seeds — like most seeds — are very good for us. They're a great source of magnesium and zinc, as well as omega-3 fatty acids. And then there are the economic and ecological bonuses. The seeds are free, a by-product of the pumpkin carving. It's not unlike being able to make a chicken stock out of the bones of

a roast chicken.

Speaking of healthfulness, this recipe pairs the pumpkin seeds with a fellow good-for-you all-star — chickpeas. A staple of soups, stews and salads, chickpeas lately have been popping up as a crispy snack. Who knew they could cross over into potato-chip land? And it's easy, too. Just dry them, toss them with a bit of oil (and spices, if you'd like), then bake them in a 400 F oven 25-35 minutes.

I rounded out this snack mix with dried cranberries and nuts. It happens to be cranberry season, but any one of your favorite dried fruits would do, including cherries, apricots and raisins. Nut-wise, I'm partial to pistachios, but go with what you like best.

As for the seasoning, extra-virgin olive oil and salt comprise a simple and tasty accent. But depending on the occasion and guests, you could jazz it up, adding curry powder, smoked paprika or dried rosemary.

HEALTHY HALLOWEEN SNACK MIX

Start to finish: 1 hour 15 minutes (20 minutes active)

Makes about 3 cups

INGREDIENTS

15-ounce can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 teaspoons spice blend, such as curry powder, garam masala, chili powder, divided (optional)
Kosher salt and ground black pepper
1 ¾ cups raw pumpkin seeds, cleaned and drained, but not patted dry
¾ cup dried cranberries, dried cherries, raisins or a mix
¾ cup unsalted raw or roasted pistachios, peanuts, almonds or cashews

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 400 F.

Dry the chickpeas thoroughly by spreading them on a large plate and patting them dry with kitchen towels. Transfer to a bowl, then toss with 1 tablespoon of the oil, 1 teaspoon of the spice blend, if using, and salt and pepper to taste. Once the chickpeas



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SPOOKY from prior page

BLOODY-TINI

Although this cocktail looks like blood, it tastes a whole lot better — unless you're a vampire.

INGREDIENTS

2 oz. Veev Acai spirit
1 oz. acai juice
½ oz. fresh lime juice
Champagne or sparkling wine
Lime wedge

DIRECTIONS

Combine Veev, acai juice and lime juice with ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass, top with Champagne and garnish with lime wedge.

ECTOPLASM EXPRESS

There is nothing like a little "ghost in a glass" to lift the spirits. And this one is absurdly simple to conjure.

INGREDIENTS

2 oz. vodka
1 oz. vanilla simple syrup
1 oz. cream
2 oz. club soda

DIRECTIONS

Blend ingredients with ice in a cocktail shaker, then pour into a chilled cocktail glass.

SATAN'S 'TINI

Rumor has it that this libation was created to satisfy Beelzebub's taste for rum. Certainly, the devil is in this cocktail's details.

INGREDIENTS

2 oz. dark rum
½ oz. dry vermouth
Black olives
Orange sugar

DIRECTIONS

Stir rum and vermouth in a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Rim a chilled martini glass in orange sugar, then pour mixture into the glass. Garnish with black olives.

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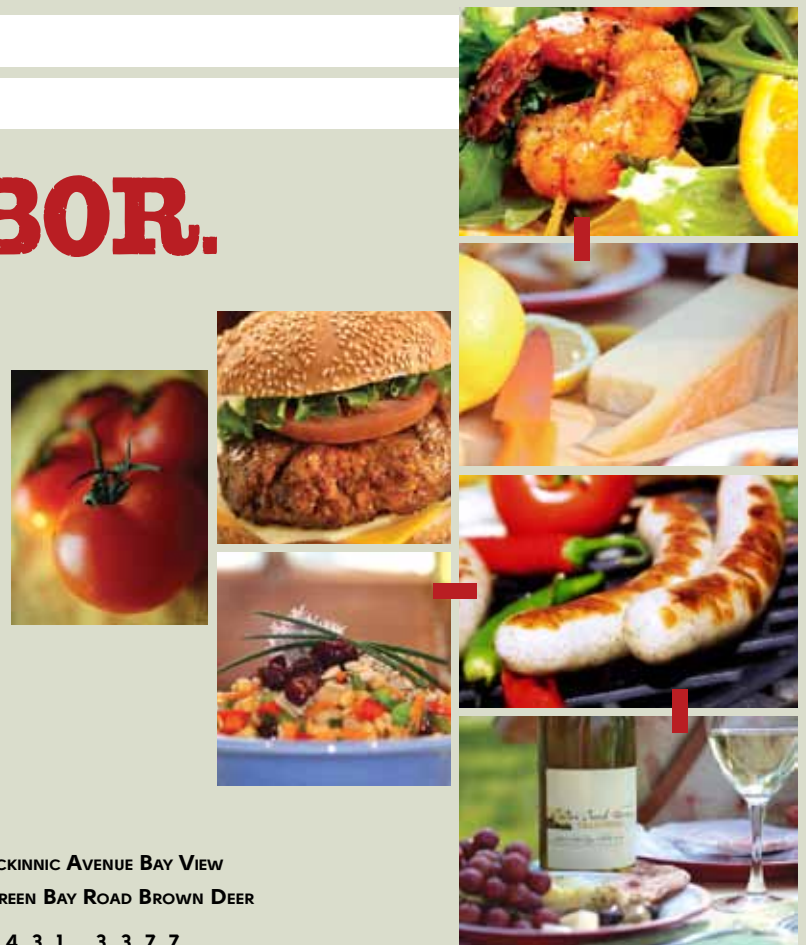
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Art project stretches the boundaries of performance

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Textile artist Bird Ross sits across a small café table from me manipulating a stuffed dark-green frog larger than her hand. The frog, playing the role of The Night Owl, confronts a four-inch-tall fabric snowman, dubbed The Newcomer about his intentions in The Forest. This is all part of the latest production of Ross's "(Very) Tiny Table Top Theatre," being staged for me at The Victory, a tiny coffee shop on Madison's East Side.

"What is it you want?" Ross says in the frog's faux-baritone.

"I want the box," she squeaks back in the snowman's shrill, pre-pubescent voice. She's referring to a small lemon-yellow prop.

"I need to have what's inside," she continues.

The yellow box with the hinged lid is empty, which contributes to the dramatic arc that Ross and I work through in creating the 4-minute drama, which she captures on her cellphone.

Ross' participatory performance returned me to a childhood play-time experience. The only limitations were those of my own imagination. With three characters, a setting, an action and a conclusion picked from a recipe box of choices, Ross and I together created a little morality play using a random collection of small toys to examine life's true values.

I got all this for the price of a cup of coffee (and I got to keep the cup.)

Ross's tabletop performance was part of the Café Allongé project, mounted by UW-Madison professors Michael Peterson and Laurie Beth Clark. The project operates under the moniker Spatula&Barcode.

The concept is the academic pair's contribution to the 2013 Wisconsin Triennial, an exhibition of Wisconsin visual artists that opened Sept. 21 at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art.

Ross is one of installation's 16 performers, a list that also includes Peterson. All of them offer one-on-one performances at 16 coffee shops throughout Madison. For the price of a cup of coffee (the cost of admission) and a willingness to think



PHOTO: COURTESY

PERFORMING TABLETOP: Artists create original tabletop performances for individuals or groups.

creatively for an hour or less, audiences of one to four can take part in a creative process that is the work of art.

"I like the idea of art as temporary," says Bird, whose husband Tom Loeser teaches art at UW. "After each production I pack up my stuff and go home, and the only thing left is a lot of food for thought."

"That's probably the best description I've heard of what we do," says Peterson, whose 20-minute production "Short Order Long Pull" starts at the drive-up window of Cargo Coffee on South Park Street. Variations on what Peterson describes as "an automotive lecture-demo about extraction" are available for those who arrive by bicycle or on foot.

The inspiration for Café Allongé — named after a French espresso drink made with a slow pull of

water through finely ground coffee — has been years in the making for the academic pair, who have become well known locally for their creative kitchen collaborations. Blurring the line between art and eating, Peterson and Clark have given elaborate dinner parties in their home for 20 years that have morphed into a form of performance art often focused on the edible.

"We decided we should be getting professional credit for all this creative energy," says Peterson, associate professor with the UW-Madison Department of Theatre and Drama. Clark is a professor of non-static art forms — video/performance /installation — at the UW-Madison Art Department.

"One key feeling we have is that, for us, the social interaction of every piece is the actual core of our artwork," says Peterson. "This

our 15th project and first public work we've done in Madison."

Spatula&Barcode, a name that pays homage to the program's roots in food, has also mounted smaller-scale programs in Germany, Morocco, the Netherlands and Croatia. The Café Allongé concept was first tested a few years ago in Montreal.

While some performances are highly whimsical like Ross's, others have political overtones. Theater Research grad student Megan Marsh-McGlone has attracted a lot of attention with "No Keener Revelation," a 20-minute treatise on the importance of breastfeeding. The performer may either breast-feed her daughter Morgan or pump her breast while sitting at a table with her audience at Mother Fool's Coffee House on Williamson Street.

Some sessions are esoteric,

'I like the idea of art as temporary. After each production I pack up my stuff and go home.'

such as artist Dale Kaminski's "Touching the Infinite." During the 25-minute session, Kaminski and his audience of one will use Penrose tiles and a soundscape prepared according to the rules of hocket, a form of polyphony practiced by a Congolese horn section, to construct an aperiodic tile pattern while sipping tea at Dobra Tea on State Street.

Some sessions are personal, such as UW art professor Douglas Rosenberg's "Breakfast with My Father." For each session, the artist invites up to four men over age 50 to have breakfast with him at Mickie's Dairy Bar on Regent St. in an attempt to recreate an experience he had with his father as a child, one that fosters male intimacy, community and ritual. Rosenberg buys the breakfasts.

In January, Peterson and Clark are traveling to Uruguay to work with scientists attending the annual conference of the South American Institute of Resilience and Sustainability (Clark sits on the group's board). The couple will involve the scientists in exploratory performances related to sustainability topics.

In the meantime, the artists continue to perform in Madison coffee shops through early January. By all accounts, both the performers and their audiences are having a good time, and Peterson has urged his performers to add more dates.

For more information and to sign up for a Café Allongé session, visit cafeallonge.net.

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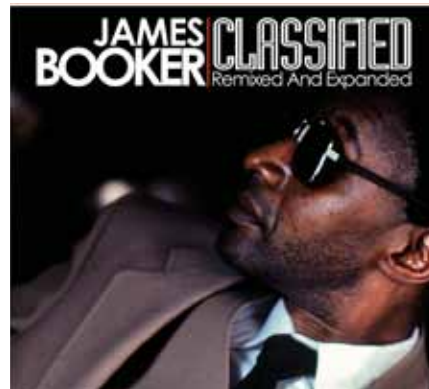
After detouring into blues (*Blood, Bones & Baltimore*), Latin music (*Tango*) and other genres, disappear fear, led by the versatile SONiA, returns with its best album in years. *Broken Film* incorporates politics and social commentary in SONiA's distinctive style, but also takes on family ("Farmland and The Sky,"), spirituality ("Ari Ari") and, of course, love (the anthemic "Love Out Loud" and "L Kol L Vavcha," which is partially sung in Hebrew). The album's high point is the breathtaking "The Banker," in which SONiA deftly addresses the impact of the financial crisis with wisdom, sensitivity and fury.

Ezra Furman

Bi-singer/song-writer Ezra Furman includes a quote by trans writer/activist Kate Bornstein in the liner notes of his new disc *Day of the Dog*. Listening to



Furman's latest release is a little like walking through the pound and looking at all the pooches in cages, each with its own distinctive personality. There's the fierce "Maybe God Is a Train," the affectionate "Been So Strange" (dig that brass) and "Slacker/Adria," which is the kind of mixed-breed that stops people in their tracks. Considered the suburban Chicago Bob Dylan of his generation, Furman whips listeners into a frenzy on "I Wanna Destroy Myself," which combines the garage heat of Hunx & His Punx with the Violent Femmes. "Tell 'Em All to Go to Hell" is a slicked-back, rockabilly rouser. "My Zero" is easily one of Furman's catchiest and most pop-friendly tunes.

**James Booker**

The subject of Lily Keber's fascinating documentary *Bayou Maharaj: The Tragic Genius of James Booker*, the late, queer New Orleans piano legend James Booker was a gifted performer with a serious substance abuse problem. He died at 43 in 1983. Booker was so unpredictable that he was

able to make only a few studio albums. To coincide with the release of the documentary film about him, *Classified*, considered his masterwork, has been reissued as *Classified: Remixed and Expanded*. It's an exceptional 22-track crash course in Booker. Almost half of the songs were previously unreleased, including the extraordinary Booker original "I'm Not Sayin'," which says plenty about his talent.

**Elton John**

As flamboyant and talented as James Booker, Sir Elton John also has battled demons. Fortunately, he was able to overcome them. John's new album *The Diving Board* finds the piano man re-teamed with T Bone Burnett (who produced John's collaboration disc with Leon Russell). It's an admirable return to form. In this outing, John's sensational playing is not buried under distracting production effects. "Oscar Wilde Gets Out," one of the album's best songs, reminds us of the way John first made us swoon decades ago. His keyboard prowess also distinguishes "The Ballad of Blind

Tom," "My Quicksand," "Home Again," and "The New Fever Waltz." John hasn't had a hit single in a while, and he may not have one on *The Diving Board* either. But "Can't Stay Alone Tonight," which recalls some of his 1980s hits, has the best shot.

Lovers

Is there anything more thrilling than connecting with a band and following it from its first album to its latest, charting its evolution and growth? A melding of Tegan and Sara, Le Tigre and Luscious Jackson, the queer Portland band Lovers has been through a series of incarnations in its more than 10 years of existence. A trio since 2010's *Dark Light*, Lovers delivers on the promise of that record with its latest - the brilliant *A Friend in the World*. "The Modern Art Museum of the Modern Kiss Goodbye" is a perfect dance track, "Oh Yeah" has a funky strut, "Lavender Light" is a dreamy pop number and "James Baldwin & the Diagonal Trance" delivers subtle electro. *Dark Light* should have listeners falling for Lovers.

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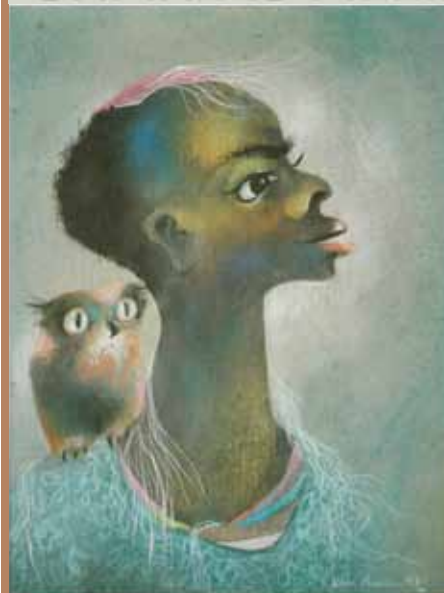
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HALLOWEEN

ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of rappel
- 6. Be mistaken
- 9. Long, long time
- 13. Eagle's nest, e.g.
- 14. Remain
- 15. Like unrefined oil
- 16. Actor Jeremy
- 17. Credit card acronym
- 18. *Spooky
- 19. *It's illuminating
- 21. Two dots above a letter
- 23. Last word of "America the Beautiful"
- 24. Speed unit
- 25. Highest card in "War"
- 28. Calf-length skirt
- 30. Relating to living organisms
- 35. Legal prefix
- 37. Hyperbolic tangent
- 39. Around or approximately
- 40. Socket insert
- 41. Cruising
- 43. Bank claim
- 44. Chinese fruit
- 46. Shells, e.g.
- 47. "___ be surprised"
- 48. Unlike a mammoth, e.g.
- 50. Insubstantial

- 52. Bond, e.g.
- 53. *Avoided by Dracula
- 55. Corn site
- 57. *Fairy
- 60. *Kind of Halloween house
- 64. *Specter
- 65. Tarzan's parental role model
- 67. Out of the way
- 68. Figure out
- 69. ___ Appia
- 70. Fencing move
- 71. At the top
- 72. Moray, e.g.
- 73. Artiset Fernand or designer Herve

DOWN

- 1. To finish with a ceiling
- 2. Vega's constellation
- 3. Chipping choice
- 4. Breath refreshers
- 5. Befit
- 6. Distinctive flair
- 7. *Body marker
- 8. Old episode
- 9. Acreage
- 10. Leader or expert
- 11. Prep for publication
- 12. Get the picture

- 15. Boston pro
- 20. Indian restaurant condiment
- 22. Capone's family
- 24. Flesh and blood
- 25. *In season, sing.
- 26. Flower part
- 27. Spew
- 29. Computer entry
- 31. Greasy
- 32. Threesomes
- 33. Freeze
- 34. *Halloween swag
- 36. Muslim honorific
- 38. Part of hemoglobin
- 42. Blood carrier
- 45. Compose
- 49. Sylvester, to Tweety
- 51. Everyone else
- 54. Boxer's move
- 56. Arise
- 57. 3-pointer, e.g.
- 58. aka the sport of kings
- 59. Please get back to me
- 60. Cure
- 61. Sound of a small bell
- 62. U2 guitarist
- 63. Doe in "Do-Re-Mi" song
- 64. Fed. property manager
- 66. *Around now, pumpkin ones become popular

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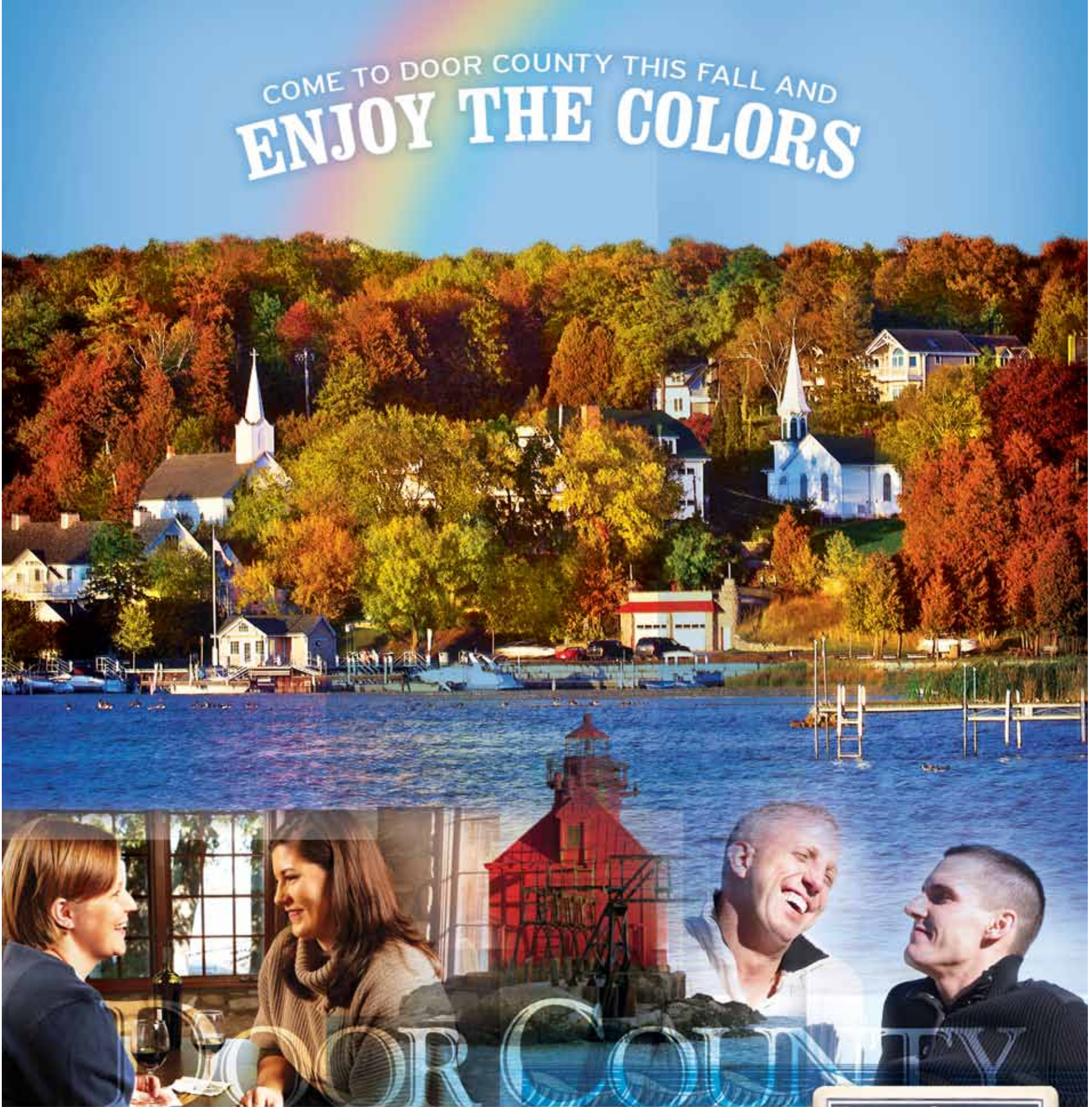
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