

**Shades of Gray**  
Macy Gray talks about her Grammy, her acting career and her upcoming performance at PrideFest.

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PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.

May 15, 2014 | Vol. 5 No. 13

## Tiny houses are a big idea

page 8



HOUSE FROM [WWW.IDESIGNARCH.COM](http://WWW.IDESIGNARCH.COM)  
This tiny home for tall people has 130 square feet of space plus a sleeping loft. Furnished with IKEA furniture, the house has plumbing and a water hook-up.



### 4 Vanishing Milwaukee

Search very hard and you might find Milwaukee on the state's tourism website. Jim Rowen explains.



### 10 Making NFL history

Out gay football player Michael Sam makes NFL history when he's drafted by the St. Louis Rams.



### 19 Doing 'Hair'

Skylight Music Theatre resurrects the groundbreaking musical, which is as relevant as ever.



### 20 A Ray of country sun

Amy Ray explains her first true country album ahead of the Indigo Girls' return to the Pabst Theatre.



### 24 Building discord

Tom Strini asks critics to give planners a chance to refine their design for MAM's Kahler extension.



# News with a twist



## BEARDED DRAG QUEEN WINS EUROVISION

Austrian bearded drag queen Conchita Wurst won the 59th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest with a James Bond-inspired entry that had unleashed a wave of protests in Eastern Europe before the competition. The power ballad, "Rise Like a Phoenix," helped Wurst — the alter ego of 25-year-old Thomas Neuwirth — secure Austria's second victory in the competition with 290 points. The contest's most famous winners include ABBA and Celine Dion. "This is dedicated to everyone who believes in a future of peace and freedom," Wurst said in accepting the trophy. "We are unity."

## BLACK-BELTED NELSON

Willie Nelson, who recently turned 81, received his fifth-degree black belt in the martial art of Gong Kwon Yu Sul. Nelson trains in Austin, Texas. The redheaded stranger said that keeping physical — with martial arts, running and biking — is the key to his good health. Not smoking pot?

## 'OH MARY' GETS TO LOG CABIN

Log Cabin Republicans demanded an apology from Democratic Congressman Scott Peters after his campaign reposted a blog by liberal political activist John Aravosis referring to Peters' opponent as a "Mary," dishy gay slang for a gay man. Openly gay Republican Carl DeMaio had complained that social conservatives were more tolerant of him being a gay Republican than were gay people. Aravosis wrote in his blog, "Oh Mary, it's so hard to be you." On social media, reactions to Log Cabin's demand for



## WIGWAG

an apology and to DeMaio's being a gay Republican were way harsher than "Oh Mary."

## WHAT A DRAG

Steve Wiles, a Republican state Senate candidate who supported North Carolina's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, performed in drag at a gay nightclub a little over a decade ago as Miss Mona Sinclair. Wiles is now a real-estate agent and Republican activist. He placed third in a May 6 GOP primary against two other candidates in the solidly red state Senate district.

## IN MEMORIUM

The Utah Department of Transportation has rejected an animal rights advocate's request to erect a roadside memorial to 720 turkeys killed in a traffic accident near Provo in late April. The DOT said the proposed People for the Ethical Treat-

ment of Animals memorial — which included a suggestion to "try vegan" — didn't meet state standards, namely that relatives erect memorials to loved ones killed in crashes. But activist Amy Meyer argued the standard shouldn't apply to factory-farmed turkeys, because they all get slaughtered and thus have no living relatives.

## 'TRUE OUTFITTER'

Celebrity interior designer Nate Berkus, host of *American Dream Builders*, tied the knot with his fiancée Jeremiah Brent on May 3 in the New York Public Library, becoming the first same-sex couple to wed in the iconic building. Sheri Salata, president of OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network & Harpo Studios, officiated the ceremony. Berkus and Brent are part of Banana Republic's "True Outfitters" campaign, which features real-life couples. Milwaukee-area residents can see the couple's picture in the window of the BR store at Bayshore Town

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

Center in Glendale.

## WISCONSIN GOBBLES UP GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Despite a boycott by Pro-Life Wisconsin, members of the 24-county Badgerland Council of Girl Scouts of the USA sold 1,427,412 boxes of cookies during the recently concluded six-week sales period. That's up about 1 percent from the fall of 2012. This year's total is the highest so far for the Badgerland Council, which was formed in 2009. Pro-Life Wisconsin contends that the Girl Scouts of the USA is too palsy with Planned Parenthood and other supporters of reproductive freedom.

## NYPD BLUE

An NYPD baseball team had to cancel a tournament championship game after a thief broke into the team's minivan and stole \$15,000 in jerseys, gloves and bats. New York's Finest Baseball Club had been scheduled to play the Dallas Fire Department in a Texas tourney.


And CrimeStoppers tip No. 1? Do not leave valuables unattended in vehicles.

## BRIGHT LIGHTS, STEEL CITY

Steel city, Big screen: Pittsburgh is celebrating its cinematic heritage with bus tours to settings in *Flashdance*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Night of the Living Dead*, *The Dark Knight Rises*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Jack Reacher* and more. The Lights, Camera, Pittsburgh! tour is being made ready for action later this month — in time for a visit from 75 Canadian journalists who might think all Hollywood films are shot in Toronto or Vancouver. WigWag tip: IMDB.com is a great resource for film locations.




More WIGWAG at [wisconsin Gazette.com](http://wisconsin Gazette.com).




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JUNE 4

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RICHARD THOMPSON ELECTRIC TRIO

JUNE 14 • PABST

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JUNE 14 • RIVERSIDE

MAXWELL

JUNE 15 • TURNER

JOHNNY WINTER

JUNE 18 • TURNER

CHRIS ROBINSON BROTHERHOOD

JUNE 19 • TURNER

GINGER BAKER'S JAZZ CONFUSION

JUNE 22 • TURNER

OLD 97'S

JULY 3 • TURNER

BONOBO (LIVE)

JULY 9 • RIVERSIDE

SARAH MCLACHLAN

JULY 9

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VERUCA SALT

JULY 11 • TURNER

BEN KWELLER

JULY 15 • TURNER

BOY & BEAR

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JULY 16 • PABST

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JULY 18

CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK

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JULY 18 • RIVERSIDE

THE VOICE LIVE TOUR 2014

JULY 21 • RIVERSIDE

COUNTING CROWS

JULY 25 • PABST

NATALIE MERCHANT

JULY 25 • PABST

LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND

JULY 31 • TURNER

ERIC JOHNSON

AUGUST 6 • TURNER

PHOX

AUGUST 9 • RIVERSIDE

SMOKEY ROBINSON

AUGUST 10 • TURNER

FUTURE ISLANDS

AUGUST 11 • TURNER

BORIS

AUGUST 16 • RIVERSIDE

RODRIGO Y GABRIELA

AUGUST 16 • PABST

ELVIS & ORBISON

AUGUST 18

PABST LOWER LEVEL

STRAND OF OAKS

AUGUST 21 • TURNER

PAUL THORN BAND

AUGUST 22 • TURNER

RING OF HONOR WRESTLING

SEPTEMBER 4 • RIVERSIDE

YANNI

SEPTEMBER 5 • TURNER

MONDO LUCHA

SEPTEMBER 11 • TURNER

RONNIE MILSAP

SEPTEMBER 11 • TURNER

WISHBONE ASH

SEPTEMBER 19 • PABST

CAPITOL STEPS

SEPTEMBER 23 • RIVERSIDE

BRYAN FERRY

OCTOBER 7 • PABST

ASIA

OCTOBER 10 • PABST

LEWIS BLACK

OCTOBER 16 • RIVERSIDE

THE PIANO GUYS

OCTOBER 18 • RIVERSIDE

BRIAN REGAN

OCTOBER 19 • PABST

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JUNE 1

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## OPINION

## The incredible vanishing city

By James Rowen

*Special to WiG*

Here's something that people in cities across the country understand: When the weather warms up, tourists come for the museums, the restaurants, the entertainment and the rest of the amenities that urban areas offer.

So people in Wisconsin's biggest city were not surprised when the *Journal Sentinel* wrote that Milwaukee County leads the state in tourism spending. But the Walker administration, politically hostile to Milwaukee and all things urban, is focusing its Department of Tourism website and visitors' guide on just about everything but Milwaukee — except for a photo of a Milwaukee-area interstate highway and a directional sign that links to a WisDOT travel safe/road conditions website.

### WELCOME TO WISCONSIN!

Throughout the year, the state of Wisconsin welcomes visitors from far and wide with countless exciting travel options. Visit extraordinary natural wonders such as Cave of the Mounds or the Apostle Islands. See the landscape in a whole new way with a thrilling zip line adventure.

If you're all about the great outdoors, Wisconsin is a paradise for hunters, fishers and campers. Foodies, wine and beer lovers will delight in discovering Wisconsin's artisan cheese makers, wineries and breweries, as well as the state's abundant farmers markets and award-winning restaurants.

Great places like Wisconsin Dells, Door County and Lake Geneva offer tons of options for family fun as well as resorts for romantic getaways, golfing, boating, skiing and sightseeing. However you enjoy recreating, Wisconsin offers a special place to do it.

All of that is on the website.

But where are the featured pictures of Milwaukee's stunning lakefront? Missing on the site are Summerfest, the Calatrava addition to the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Milwaukee County Zoo, Miller Park, Water Street and the club scene. Where are the city's many ethnic restaurants, Milwaukee County's world-famous parks and botanical gardens, the Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, the Pabst Theatre, Mitchell Park Domes, the breweries, the historic Third Ward and the downtown filled with historic architecture, including Milwaukee's iconic City Hall?

I don't see a single Milwaukee upcoming event listed in "Things to Do," nor a single restaurant, sub and sandwich shop, bed and breakfast, pub, tavern, hotel — not even a coffee shop — on the site's featured lists.

Milwaukee residents and businesses are paying taxes to support this website, which is sending tourists and commerce elsewhere. Cabins and kayaking and waterfalls

**Milwaukee is all but missing from the state's tourism website. Milwaukee residents and businesses pay taxes to support this website, which is sending tourists and commerce elsewhere.**

are fine, but what about the rest of the state, you know, the part that votes Democratic and houses most of the state's cultural attractions?

### 'WALK WITH WALKER'

The portion of the website that promotes hiking Wisconsin trails features a photo that links to "Walk with Walker," a list of walks featuring the governor's wife Tonette Walker.

You can argue that all governors do this sort of thing, though I don't recall a "Jogging with Jessica" website during Gov. Jim Doyle's tenure. In an election year, such shameless self-promotion looks especially inappropriate.

In fairness, the site's Southeast Wisconsin tab does give Milwaukee four lines and even a photo of MAM's spectacular Calatrava entrance. But Lake Geneva and its fancy homes belonging to Chicago owners are mentioned in the same paragraph.

If visitors persevere through enough tab clicks, they could find a pdf listing of Milwaukee events. But the state's largest city and economic engine gets no featured treatment. And I didn't see a single photo of a person of color on the site.

What's the message there? And to whom is it directed, or not?

The Milwaukee business community should be raising holy hell over all this. It put Walker in office, so where's the reciprocity or the enlightened self-interest?

Remember that Walker warned Wisconsin voters Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett would turn the whole state into another Milwaukee. The bottom line is that his undisguised bias against the city affects many decisions state government makes about issues concerning Milwaukee and not in a positive way. The tourism website is just one.

*James Rowen is a veteran newspaper writer and Democratic political consultant. Follow him at [thepoliticalenvironment.blogspot.com](http://thepoliticalenvironment.blogspot.com).*



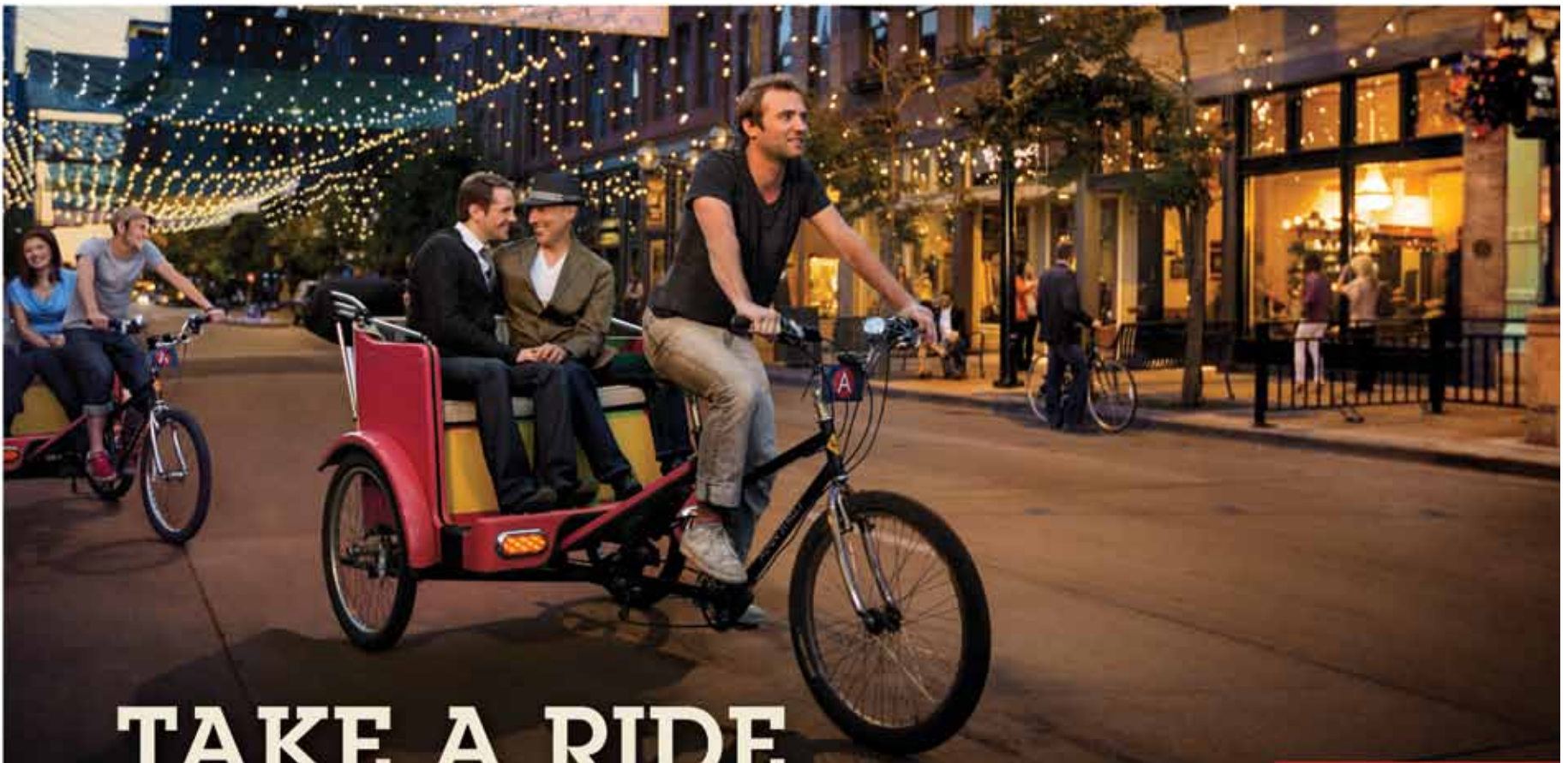
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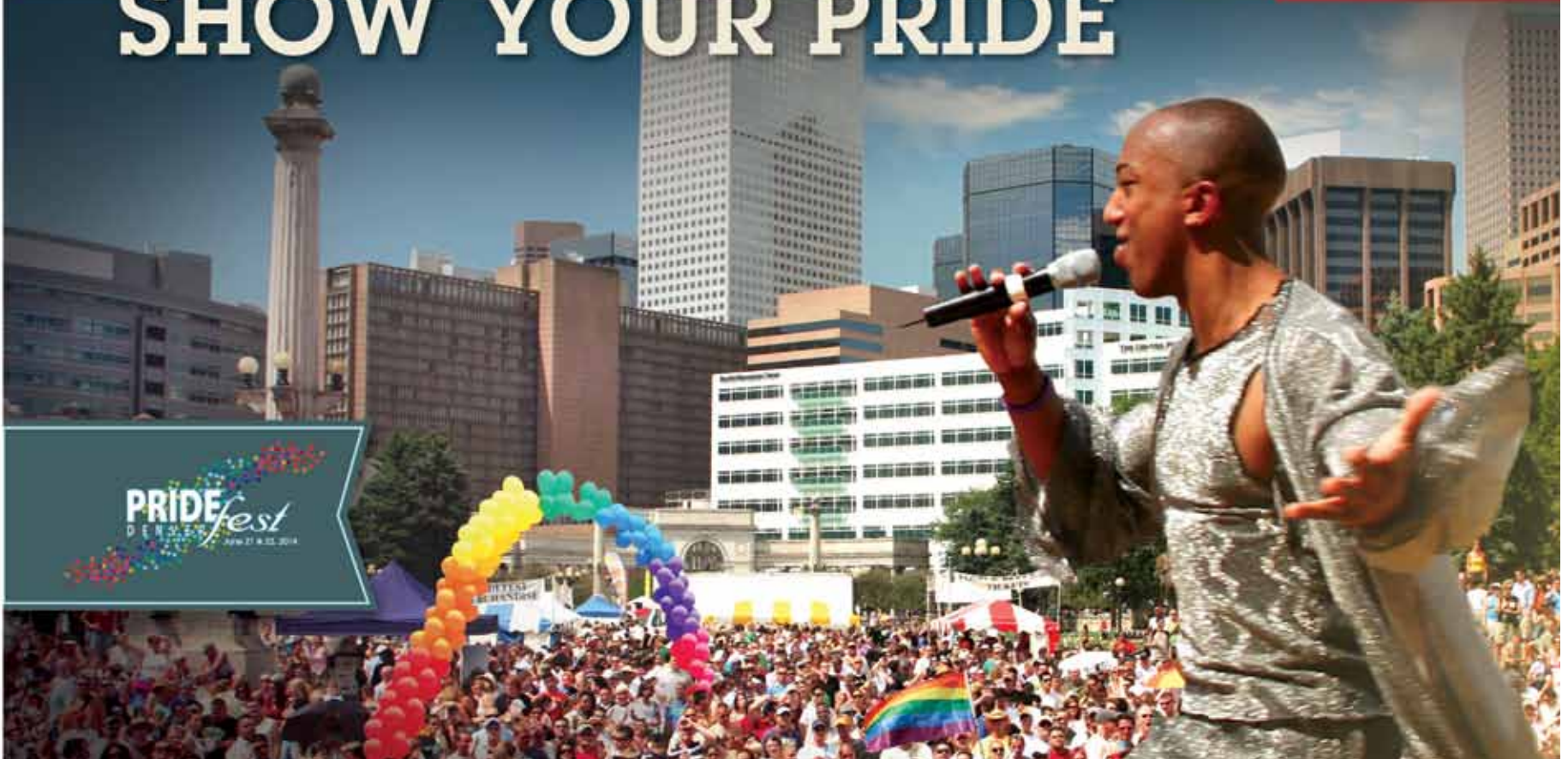


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# Walker accused of cronyism in UW hiring

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

The University of Wisconsin System has hired a controversial longtime associate of Gov. Scott Walker to serve in the newly created post of vice president for university relations.

Walker's critics are crying foul, saying the hiring of Jim Villa for a job he's unqualified for is yet another example of the governor's penchant for cronyism.

Villa, who's been extensively involved in Walker's campaigns, has no reported background in higher education. In his new job, he earns an annual salary of \$178,000 to oversee the university system's lobbying and public relations efforts.

Villa's association with Walker dates back to the governor's days in the Assembly, when Villa served as his chief of staff. Villa later worked on Walker's 2002 campaign for Milwaukee County executive and then became his chief of staff at the county. He

also served as an informal adviser to Walker during his gubernatorial bid.

Villa was regularly copied on emails sent out by Walker's campaign and his county office, according to investigators in the so-called "John Doe" criminal probes of Walker's Milwaukee county executive staff.

The brunt of Villa's professional experience has been in real estate. In 2008, he was named president of the Commercial Association of Realtors-Wisconsin, a title he continues to hold. He's also a lobbyist for Wisconsin Realtors Association.

Villa's name appeared repeatedly in the more than 28,000 pages of emails and other documents released in conjunction with the John Doe investigation of former Walker aide Kelly Rindfleisch.

Rindfleisch was convicted of campaigning while on duty at the Milwaukee county executive's office. She was sentenced to one year in jail and three years of

probation, but she managed to avoid serving time.

While working for the county, Rindfleisch lived with Villa, apparently in order to meet the residency requirements for county

***'It's a shame the UW System has been put in a place where they feel they have to hire Scott Walker's henchman to get the governor and the GOP Legislature to stop abusing them.'***

workers that were then in effect. Walker eliminated those requirements after becoming governor.

However, there seems to be no love lost between Rindfleisch and Villa. In one email that surfaced from the John Doe investigation, she said the name of her consulting firm — JVS — was

an acronym for "Jim Villa Sucks."

Villa was not charged in connection with the "John Doe" investigation. But his lobbying firm caught the attention of investigators

due to his involvement in bidding on office space for the county Department of Aging.

The Associated Press obtained records showing concerns among university officials about hiring Villa for the new position. UW president Ray Cross chose Villa over four other final-

ists.

Villa listed Walker, former Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson and powerful lobbyist and former Thompson administration official Bill McCoshen as his references when applying for the position.

Tony Evers, superintendent of public instruction of Wisconsin and also a member of the board of regents, emailed fellow regent John Drew two days after the appointment was announced to say he was reading "scary" information online about Villa.

Liberal groups also objected to the appointment, noting that the Walker administration has been repeatedly embarrassed by hiring unqualified "cronies" for high-paying jobs.

"Filling this job with a scandal-tainted figure like Mr. Villa is a \$178,000 a year exclamation point to Gov. Walker's record of corruption, cronyism and failure," said Scot Ross, executive director of One Wisconsin

Now, a liberal group. "Gov. Walker's personal involvement in securing a newly created executive level job for his longtime confidant and aide continues the shameful willingness of this administration to flout the principles of honest and ethical government in pursuit of political advantage."

Melissa Baldauff, communications director of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, said, "Scandal has followed Jim Villa at every public position he has ever had, and we have every expectation he will bring more problems to the University of Wisconsin System. It's a shame that the UW System has been put in a place where they feel like they have to hire Scott Walker's henchman to get the governor and the GOP Legislature to stop abusing them."

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# Tiny homes house big solutions

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The activists who've rallied behind "We are the 99 percent" are swinging hammers and raising money to build homes for the homeless in Madison — 99-square-foot homes.

Volunteers with Occupy Madison's OM Build program are helping to take the tiny house movement — a trend in living that has seized the dreams of individuals seeking to simplify their lives by downsizing their dwellings — in a new direction.

"There's so many people out there that are struggling quite a bit and it's just hard to get housing at this point," Occupy Madison board member Brenda Konkel said during a Madison Common Council meeting on May 6. "This is one tiny, tiny answer to that problem."

At the council meeting, the nonprofit won unanimous support from the alders for an experimental tiny house village. The village, to be established on the site of an auto repair shop, will consist of nine tiny houses, a workshop, kitchen-lounge, retail store and bath-house, as well as garden beds and landscaping.

"I would be happy to live across the street from this development," said resident and former Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway during the hearing. Nearly 50 people stepped to the podium to speak on the issue, most of them in favor of the project.

"I kind of wish there was an empty lot across the street from my house so I could say, 'Come here,'" she added, noting the sweat equity requirement of the future tiny house dwellers, the respect Occupy has shown neighbors and the sustainable elements of the plan.

Occupy's rezoning request for one-third of an acre in the Emerson East neighborhood reached the council with a recommendation from the plan commission, but there was some opposition at the council meeting from people who raised concerns that the "portable shelters" don't meet code, potentially creating safety issues and negatively impacting property values.

Occupy Madison treasurer and house designer Bruce Wallbaum sought to ease concerns: "We're going to invest in this property financially and with volunteers."

Ald. Larry Palm, who represents the district where the village will be located, also sought to reduce worries, noting revisions to the plan, including some stipulations that he added at the council meeting. Palm is convinced Occupy is committed to the cause. He said he's inspired by the volunteers' vision for affordable housing, sustain-

able development and communal living.

Their vision is shared by advocates for the homeless in cities where other tiny house communities are being established. Dozens of organizations have stated interest in founding tiny house

villages and several communities are in various states of development. In Austin, Texas, there's Community First. In Oregon, there's Dignity Village in Portland and Opportunity Village in Eugene. And in Olympia, Washington, Quixote Village opened on Christmas Eve in 2013.

Quixote began several years ago as a camp for the homeless protesting a local ordinance prohibiting people from lying or sitting on a sidewalk. Last December, the camp's occupants left their tents for the 2.17-acre village, which consists of 30 cottages, each about 144 square feet.

A full-time manager and a part-time resident advocate work in Quixote, which is supported by the nonprofit Panza, named for Sancho Panza, Don Quixote's servant in Miguel de

Cervantes' magnum opus.

A tiny house "can be very cozy," said project spokesman Raul Salazar. "It is whatever the resident makes it. Some people have really settled in. Others have used it as a home base and a place to sleep at night, but do not spend tons of time in the home during the day."

He added, "Our situation is not about someone who has chosen to downsize. Our residents were homeless, living in tents prior to being a resident in our village. The appeal here is actually having a roof over your head, no matter how big it is."

But downsizing is the appeal for many who have opted to leave large homes, condominiums, apartments or lofts to reside in a tiny house — which is not a new way to live but rather a very old way.

## DOWNSIZING

Tiny housers are fond of reminding people that Henry David Thoreau, for his 2-year, 2-month and 2-day experiment on Walden Pond, took shelter in a "tightly shingled and plastered" English-style cottage about 10-by-15-feet.



Kitchen in the Linden design.



Main room in the Elm.

PHOTO: TINY HOUSE COMPANY

**Tumbleweed Tiny House Company's line of "houses-to-go" includes the Elm, the Cypress, the Linden and the Micro. The company also conducts tiny house workshops.**

## TINY HOUSES, BOLD CAUSE

Occupy Madison's OM Build is working to establish a cooperative eco-village of tiny houses at 2046 E. Johnson St., Madison — currently the site of Sanchez Motors.

The houses would be 99 square feet — 14-by-7-feet with a porch — and include a bed, loft, trailer, wheels, solar panel, propane heater, compostable toilet and a water system with a sink.

The effort to create housing for the homeless or formerly homeless, as well as a workshop, kitchen-lounge, gardens and retail store, involves thousands of volunteer hours, more than \$80,000 in property improvements and a fundraising drive to purchase the property.

Source: Occupy Madison/OM Build — L.N.



**TINY** from prior page

"Some try (tiny house living) for a few months and others really make it a way of life," said Mikey Browning, who's lived in a humble home of 140 square feet in southern Minnesota for three years. "I wanted to reduce my footprint. The best way to do that was to reduce the footprint of my home."

Tiny house advocate Dee Williams, after a health crisis and an awakening, decided about 10 years ago to sell a three-bedroom house in the Pacific Northwest and build an 84-square-foot home.

She wrote about the experience in the recently released *The Big Tiny: A Built-It-Myself Memoir* from Blue Rider Press: "Admitting that I'm 'happy enough' makes me wonder if I'm falling short of my potential as a middle-class American; like I should want more out of life than this tiny house and the backyard, and the way it feels to sit on the porch and watch the sun come up.

"But the facts are the facts: I found a certain bigness in my little house — a sense of largeness, freedom and happiness that comes when you see there's no place else you'd rather be."

Williams founded Portland Alternative Dwellings to teach others about the simple life, and she has opened her tiny house to many of the curious.

New Mexican Pedra Mitchell decided this winter that her home sweet home should be a house-to-go; one of her few new possessions in her downsized life is Williams' memoir.

Relatives and friends tease Mitchell about the size of her living space — 110 square feet. "My brother says his doghouse is bigger, but you should see my brother's mortgage," said Mitchell, who doesn't have a mortgage.

The housing crisis has helped convince many of the newest tiny housers to go small. One in 10 Americans live in the 100 hardest-hit cities, where the number of underwater homeowners range from 22 percent to 56 percent, according to a report released on May 8 by the University of California-Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. The study ranks Milwaukee as the third hardest-hit large city, with widespread underwater mortgages.

Meanwhile, a survey at TheTinyLife website shows that about 68 percent of tiny house people have no mortgage.

That's the type of information that helped persuade Breeze Skinner to settle into her tiny house, currently parked on a farm outside Springfield, Illinois. She'd been renting an apartment but had the itch to own. "I was not seeing anything I could afford. I didn't want to get into a situation where I couldn't afford my mortgage and might lose my house," Breeze said.

Last fall, she visited a friend living in a tiny house and experienced the "small house swoon."

These tiny house people connect at meet-ups and even a new annual conference held this spring in Charlotte, North Carolina. But mostly they click online, through Facebook and Tumblr, as well as websites that:

- Show where they live ([tinyhousemap.com](http://tinyhousemap.com)).
- Offer construction advice ([tinyhousebuild.com](http://tinyhousebuild.com)).
- Promote resources ([tinyhouseparking.com](http://tinyhouseparking.com)).
- Sell houses and plans ([tumbleweedhouses.com](http://tumbleweedhouses.com)).
- Post listings for really small real estate ([tinyhouseslistings.com](http://tinyhouseslistings.com)).

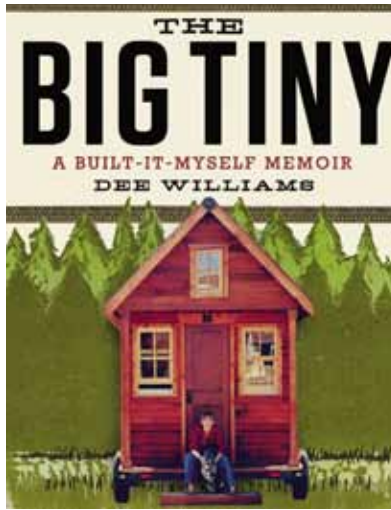


PHOTO: BETTY UDESEN

Dee Williams in her tiny house. Williams is a tiny house advocate and educator, as well as the author of the recently published book *The Big Tiny*.



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# Michael Sam's big week: drafted, feted

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

An All-American described by NFL scouts as hyperactive, occasionally mouthy, hard-working, goal-oriented and moody made history on May 10 in the seventh round of the NFL draft. Michael Alan Sam Jr. became the first openly gay man drafted into the pros.

He's headed for St. Louis to play with the Rams and the record books. When the 2014-15 season begins after a summer of training, he'll become the first openly gay man to play in the NFL. And then, what firsts will follow?

"We congratulate Michael Sam and the St. Louis Rams on their terrific decision to draft him," said Chad Griffin of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group. "Today, LGBT young people can look to Sam as proof that being open and proud of who you are doesn't keep you from achieving your dreams. Gay people are our neighbors and friends. They're our U.S. senators and, starting today, they're our professional football stars."

Sam was gathered with family and friends at his agent's home in San Diego when he received the call. He and his boyfriend reacted tearfully and then embraced and kissed — to the joy of many and the displeasure of some.

The SEC's Defensive Player of the Year, Sam came out publicly in February, after

graduating from the University of Missouri. He'd come out to teammates and relatives in August 2013.

Sam's coming out unleashed a wave of public support — from teammates and coaches at Mizzou, fans of the game, NFL players and coaches and executives, and also a legion of hall of famers.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell was at a Rainbow PUSH gathering when he responded to the news: "Good for him. He's proud of who he is and had the courage to say it. Now he wants to play football. We have a policy prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. . . . We truly believe in diversity and this is an opportunity to demonstrate it."

The league issued a statement pledging that "any player with ability and determination can succeed in the NFL. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Michael Sam in 2014."

## ASH COURAGE AWARD

The draft — a high-profile event that took place at Radio City Music Hall — began the day after it was announced that Sam was the 2014 winner of the Arthur Ashe Courage Award for "his courage and honesty that resonates beyond sports."

The athlete offered a humble response to the announcement of the award, which will be presented at ESPN's ESPYs on July 16: "You know, I don't think there is anything

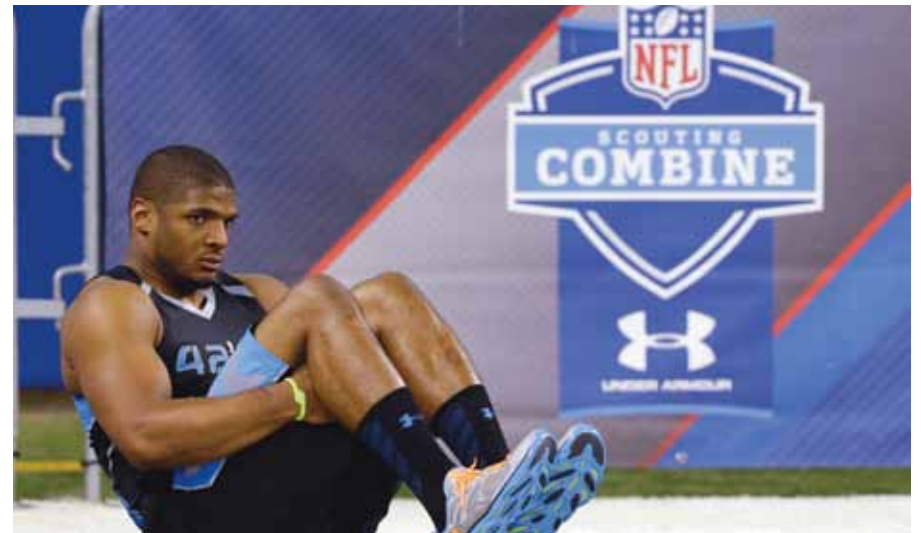


PHOTO: AP/MICHAEL CONROY

Michael Sam stretches before drills at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis.

courageous in what I did. I am thrilled to be living in a time when you can be accepted for how you live."

Past winners include Australian sprinter Cathy Freeman, basketball coach Pat Summitt, boxer Muhammad Ali, freedom-fighter Nelson Mandela and tennis star Billie Jean King.

The award is named for Arthur Ashe, the tennis legend who died in 1993 of AIDS-related complications after contracting

HIV through a blood transfusion. Ashe won three Grand Slam titles, is the only black man to win the singles title at Wimbledon and worked to raise AIDS awareness.

His widow, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, said, "When Michael Sam announced that he is gay, he courageously stepped forward to engage an issue that still remains a pervasive problem in many professional sports. Michael has displayed true leadership both on and off the field."

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7pm - Laugh @ The LOFT  
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Tanya Atkinson  
8pm - Lezy Dezy  
9pm - Roxie Beane  
10pm - Elena & Sabronique

### SATURDAY, JUNE 7

4pm - Moonlight Karaoke  
with John Kaspar  
6pm - Max Hardswell's Drag  
King Takeover  
7:30pm - Corky Morgan  
8:30pm - Lex Allen  
10pm - Shane Ashton

### SUNDAY, JUNE 8

6pm - Dixie Kuppe's Kamp  
& Kurlers Review  
7pm - Kaitlyn O'Keefe  
8pm - Movie: Tying The Knot

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## NATIONAL BRIEFS



**MUNCHING MARIJUANA:** Colorado is finding an unexpected number of people prefer to eat weed rather than smoke it, which has led to a task force looking for ways to deliver diners information about how much marijuana they can consume. One approach would be to use labels like those on ski slopes — green dots for weak pot products, black diamonds for strong.

### SOY TREATMENT FOR HIV?

Soy solution? Virologists at the University of Missouri are testing the next generation of HIV medications, and they are using a molecule related to a flavor enhancer found in soy sauce. The flavor enhancer is part of the family of compounds called "nucleoside analogues," which are very similar to existing drugs for the treatment of HIV and other viruses.

### MAJORITY OF LGBT EMPLOYEES CLOSETED AT WORK

About 53 percent of LGBT employees nationwide are closeted on the job, according to a new report from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest gay civil rights group.

HRC noted that consistent legal protections are not afforded to LGBT people state to state: There are no statewide laws prohibiting workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in 29 states and none based on gender identity in 33 states.

The research also showed:

- About 81 percent of non-LGBT people feel LGBT people "should not have to hide who they are at work," but less than half

would feel comfortable hearing an LGBT co-worker talk about dating.

- One in four LGBT employees report hearing negative comments such as "that's so gay" while at work.
- Twenty-six percent of LGBT workers have stayed in a job because the environment was accepting.

### IN OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

- **Ikea** will serve a vegetarian version of its Swedish meatballs at its store cafeterias. The retailer said it was adding the item for environmental reasons. "We are looking at all our food products from a sustainability perspective, but specifically meatballs. They are very popular and they are also our most carbon-intensive food item on our menu," said one Ikea exec.

- **The Guttmacher Institute** recently reported that more bills to protect access to abortion have been introduced thus far in 2014 than in any of the past 25 years. Two measures already have become law.

- **Openly gay Seattle Mayor Ed Murray** earlier this month proposed a phased-in increase of the minimum wage to \$15 an hour over the next seven years — a compromise endorsed by both business and labor that would make the city's pay baseline the highest in the nation.

- **West Hollywood's** prohibition on the sale of animal fur apparel was upheld by a federal judge. Dismissing a retailer's challenge, the judge found that the city's intent to "promote community awareness of animal welfare, foster the city's goal to be a community that cares about animal welfare, and further the city's reputation as Cruelty Free Zone for animals" was a "legitimate interest."

- **Gene Robinson**, the first out gay Episcopal bishop, plans to divorce his husband. He announced the plans in an email sent to the Diocese of New Hampshire, where he served for nine years before retiring in 2012.

— Lisa Neff

## REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: YOUTUBE.COM

**Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch would become governor if Scott Walker mounted a successful presidential bid in 2016, but Wisconsin Republicans are unconcerned.**

### GOP DELEGATES UNFAZED BY WALKER'S LACK OF COMMITMENT

Scott Walker refuses to commit to a full second term as governor, but delegates to the state GOP's annual convention in early May didn't seem to care.

Walker is likely to face Democrat Mary Burke in the November election.

But the governor also is pondering a 2016 presidential bid. If he won in November and ran for president in 2016, a victory then would mean Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch would inherit the governor's office. The former news anchor survived a recall attempt alongside Walker, but her office carries no real responsibilities. She also was criticized in 2010 for saying that extending benefits to same-sex couples could lead to people marrying dogs and furniture.

Wisconsin Democratic Party spokeswoman Melissa Baldauff called Kleefisch underqualified and questioned how Republicans could be comfortable with her becoming governor.

Still, many delegates to the state's recent GOP convention seemed unfazed. There was little buzz about a possible Walker bid for the White House.

Also at the state convention, delegates defeated a tea party-backed resolution demanding that legislators pass bills affirming the state's right to secede and nullifying federal laws.

### RULING MAY CHANGE WISCONSIN OPEN RECORDS LAW

Government officials can consider the intentions of people who file open records requests when deciding whether to fill them, according to a recent court ruling that experts say marks a significant change in Wisconsin law.

The Court of Appeals ruled that the Milwaukee School Board acted appropriately when it denied a request for an employee's attendance and disciplinary records from a man accused of abusing her. The employee had obtained a restraining order against Korry Ardell and the board said it worried about her safety.

The appeals court said records custodians rightfully considered Ardell's history when denying his request. Ardell's attorney, Rebecca Mason, said, "We're setting a precedent where you could have a custodian who doesn't agree with a media outlet or a particular citizen's viewpoint and ... deny the request."

### IN OTHER REGIONAL NEWS

- **President Barack Obama** nominated Pamela Pepper, chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Milwaukee, to fill a seat on the U.S. District Court for eastern Wisconsin. In announcing her nomination, the president said Pepper has "a long and distinguished record of service."

- **The Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals** endorsed Mary Burke for governor, saying she has a strong commitment to making quality health care available to all Wisconsinites and is clearly on the side of working families, especially working women.

- **Nearly 140,000 Wisconsin residents** selected an insurance plan through the online federal exchange through mid-April, reflecting a crush of signups in a seven-week period that nearly matched the number of enrollees in the first six months.

— from AP and WiG reports

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**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**



PHOTO: CITIZENKOCH.COM

A still from *Citizen Koch*, which will open in Madison and Milwaukee on June 13.

**WISCONSIN-FOCUSED DOC 'CITIZEN KOCH' TO SCREEN IN MADISON, MILWAUKEE**

Madison and Milwaukee will screen *Citizen Koch*, which tells the story of the changing American political landscape from the perspective of three Wisconsin state employees — all lifelong Republicans — who found their party taking direct aim at them with Scott Walker's campaign against collective bargaining and unions.

The documentary premieres in June after debuting at Sundance. The film will open in Madison and Milwaukee on June 13. It also will screen in other select cities, including New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Columbus, Ohio, and Hartford, Connecticut.

Academy Award-nominated directors Carl Deal and Tia Lessin, who co-produced *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *Bowling for Columbine*, made the film about the rise of the tea party, the impact of Citizens United, the influence of right-wing billionaires such as the Koch brothers and Scott Walker's war on workers.

The filmmakers completed production with crowdfunding after PBS canceled its support for the project, apparently out of concern for losing donor support from David Koch.

For more, go to [citizenkoch.com](http://citizenkoch.com).

**IN OTHER NEWS**

• **Transition Milwaukee** hosts the fifth annual Power Down Week, a series of events designed to build community and encourage energy conservation. Organizers are building support and preparing now for the week, which is July 6-13. For more, go to [www.powerdownweek.com](http://www.powerdownweek.com).

• **The Human Rights Campaign** is urging a boycott of American hotels owned by the Sultan of Brunei after Brunei advanced a

series of changes to its penal code that would allow for the stoning of LGBT people. The sultan issued the law despite his notoriously lavish and depraved lifestyle, which includes scores of harems of young girls and many homes, one of which has 1,800 rooms. The tiny Southeast Asian nation began phasing in a version of sharia law in early May, prompting HRC to call for a boycott of The Beverly Hills Hotel and the Hotel Bel Air, which are part of the Sultan's Dorchester collection. For more, go to [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).

• **The Gay & Lesbian Institute** is accepting applications for a candidate and campaign training session in Portland, Oregon, June 19-22. The weekend-long program will bring prospective candidates, staffers and community organizers together for workshops taught by consultants and campaign veterans. For more, go to [www.victoryfund.org](http://www.victoryfund.org).

— L.N.

PHOTO: COURTESY

**Ready to unplug and power down? Milwaukee celebrates Power Down Week in July.**



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# Gay couples marry in Little Rock, state seeks stay

By Christina Huynh

The Associated Press

Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza tossed out Arkansas' gay marriage ban after business hours on May 9, setting up a run on courthouses in Little Rock and Fayetteville on May 12, as same-sex marriage arrived in the Bible Belt. As he arrived at work on May 12, Piazza walked up to a colleague performing same-sex weddings in the courthouse rotunda and shook his hand. Piazza declined to talk to reporters.

"I have already spoken my opinion," Piazza said.

Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, who recently said he supported marriage equality but would defend the ban, filed paperwork on May 12 asking the state Supreme Court to temporarily suspend Pulaski County Judge Chris Piazza's ruling striking down a 2004 constitutional amendment approved by voters. As WiG headed to press two days later, the state repeated its request, but the state's highest court had not yet responded.

About 400 marriage licenses have been issued to same-sex couples since Piazza's ruling. Only Pulaski and Washington, two of the state's most populous counties, were still issuing licenses to gay couples, and clerks in both locations said they would do so until a Supreme Court order told them otherwise.

Shelly Butler of Dallas was the first to wed a same-sex partner in the state.

"When we heard the news in Arkansas, we had to jump in the car to get here," said the 51-year-old Butler shortly before receiving the first license in Little Rock, the state's largest city. Butler met her partner, 48-year-old Susan Barr, at Southern Arkansas University in 1985. They arrived at the courthouse at 6:30 a.m. and were allowed to go to the front of the line because Butler has muscular dystrophy and is in a wheelchair.

"I am just in shock, I think. You go from being so private and hidden to such a public display of commitment. It's just so nice," Barr said.

The U.S. Supreme Court last year ruled that a law forbidding the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages was unconstitutional. Using language similar to that from the nation's highest court, state and federal judges nationwide have struck down other same-sex marriage bans and ordered states to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

Federal judges in the past year have ruled against marriage bans in Michigan, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia and Texas, and ordered Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee to recognize same-sex marriages from other states.

In all, according to gay-rights groups, more than 70 lawsuits seeking marriage equality are pending in about 30 states,

including in Wisconsin. Democratic attorneys general in several states — including Kentucky, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Virginia — have declined to defend the anti-gay bans.

In Fayetteville, the home of the University of Arkansas, clerks issued 23 licenses to same-sex couples the morning of May 12 and one to a heterosexual couple. Those who work in the office used White-Out to correct the documents' formatting where necessary.

"On our licenses, it automatically prints 'Mr.' and I told the girls just to change that to 'Ms.'" Washington County Clerk Becky Lewallen said.

Fifteen same-sex couples received licenses in Eureka Springs on May 10, but clerks in other counties said they wanted further guidance from a higher court.

"With all due respect to the Third Division Circuit Court of Pulaski County, a circuit court does not establish or strike down statewide law," Faulkner County Attorney David Hogue said in a statement. "That would be the role of the state Supreme Court."

Carroll County deputy clerks who had granted licenses to same-sex couples said they had resumed granting licenses only to heterosexual couples and referred calls to Clerk Jamie Correia, who couldn't immediately be reached.

Pulaski County drew one protester dressed all in white.

"Marriage is between a male and female. ... These are the words of the almighty God. Woe unto you, said the Lord," Larry O. Walker shouted outside the courthouse 75 minutes before the first license was issued.

Thomas Baldwin, 37, and Devin Rudeseal, 24, of Bryant, were the second pair to receive a marriage license in Little Rock. They married quickly because Rudeseal planned to take a final exam at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock later on May 12.

"Let's cross my fingers that I pass it," said Rudeseal, who had waited in line since 2:30 a.m.



PHOTO: AP/DANNY JOHNSTON

**Susan Farr, top, and Shelly Butler, both of Dallas, are first to line up to file paperwork for a marriage license at the Pulaski County Courthouse in Little Rock, Ark., Monday, May 12, 2014.**

Pulaski County Circuit Judge Wendell Griffen, whom Piazza met on his way into the courthouse, said he married three couples in the first hour after the clerk's office opened.

"It's the right thing to do. I am a minister. I am a judge. I am ordained to celebrate commitments in marriages and I have believed for a long time that my faith compels," Griffen said. "This is the love of God joining with the love of people."

Marion County Clerk Dee Carleton said her office had issued one marriage license to a gay couple the morning of May 12. The clerk's office said two men from Yellville received the license.

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## JUDGE THROWS OUT IDAHO'S MARRIAGE BAN

A federal magistrate judge ruled May 13 that Idaho's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

U.S. District Magistrate Judge Candy Dale wrote in the decision that Idaho's laws banning same-sex marriage unconstitutionally deny gay and lesbian citizens their fundamental right to marry. Dale said marriage works a fundamental change on the lives of all who experience it, and it holds immense personal and spiritual significance.

Idaho's laws wrongly stigmatize gay and lesbian couples and relegate their families to second-class status without sufficient reason, she said.

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter already has said

he intends to appeal the case.

"In 2006, the people of Idaho exercised their fundamental right, reaffirming that marriage is the union of a man and a woman," Otter said in a statement. "Today's decision, while disappointing, is a small setback in a long-term battle that will end at the U.S. Supreme Court. I am firmly committed to upholding the will of the people and defending our Constitution."

Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden said he would consult with the governor on the state's appeal.

Four Idaho couples filed the lawsuit challenging the marriage ban in November.





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# { Editorial }

## Cronyism has consequences

Unfortunately, as we saw in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it's disastrous when our leaders assign friends or financial supporters to key positions for which they're wholly unqualified. Remember Michael D. Brown, who served as under secretary of emergency preparedness and response in George W. Bush's administration? A Bush crony, he wasn't even prepared to handle a traffic jam. His faltering response to Katrina amplified its devastation. Bush's frat-boy shoutout to Brown as alligators swam the streets of New Orleans feasting on the bloated corpses of Katrina's victims — "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job" — ensured Brown a prominent place in crony history.

*Forbes Magazine* quoted Ayn Rand about cronyism in an article that blasted the more egregious examples in Barack Obama's administration. In *Atlas Shrugged*, Rand warns that your society is in trouble "when you see that money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors — when you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work."

Gov. Scott Walker must have missed that passage.

Walker claims to be fiercely opposed to government spending. He's turned down billions of federal dollars and thousands of good jobs to prove it. He's willing to make his citizens suffer in order to avoid what he calls government dependency and waste.

Apparently, that doesn't apply to his friends.

In this issue, we publish yet another story about Walker appointing a long-time associate — one who's hovered close to some of his worst scandals — to head communications for the University of Wisconsin System. Jim Villa's professional background is in real estate and in handling messy and questionable campaign shenanigans, not in higher education. The position Walker rewarded

him with pays \$178,000 a year and did not even exist before Villa was hired. It appears to have been created for a loyal staffer who's kept his mouth shut through all the Walker investigations.

Walker turned down \$4 billion for Medicare expansion to wean Wisconsin residents off what he called "generational dependence on government." Apparently Walker has no such concerns for Villa's dependency — or that of the many other cronies he's rewarded.

Walker appointed the 27-year-old son of a lobbyist to head the Commerce Department's division that oversees environmental and regulatory matters as well as a staff of dozens. The young man had no college degree and little management experience, but he would have been paid \$81,500 if Walker had not been shamed into revoking the decision.

Walker appointed unqualified crony Ryan Murray as chief operating officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development Commission. That agency has not only failed abysmally at creating jobs, but also has lost millions of taxpayer dollars. Millions literally disappeared while Murray was in charge — more than the budget of some of the programs Walker has cut in the name of thrift. No charges have been filed and the mainstream pro-Walker media has forgotten about it, which is odd considering their editorial boards rail about nothing but deficits and government spending.

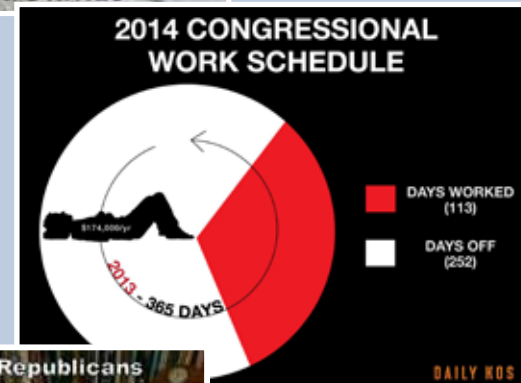
Walker's crony list goes on and on. Last year, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a nonprofit, non-partisan government watchdog group, named Walker the sixth worst governor in the nation largely due to the audacious extent of his cronyism.

Getting rid of Walker will not end cronyism, which festers like a cancer in both parties. But it's a virtual crime that all candidates should be held accountable for at the ballot box.

## WiG's WEB PICKS



Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



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## ON THE RECORD



"If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven."

— JESUS, quoted in Matthew 19:21.

"I think everyone should be with who they love. I don't want to be controversial or stir up a bunch of trouble but people are going to love who they are going to love. I think gay couples should be allowed to marry. They should suffer just like us heterosexuals. Ha ha ha!

— DOLLY PARTON speaking with Britain's *Event* magazine about her support for marriage equality.

"I'm going to zealously defend our constitution, but at the same time I think it's important to let people know where I stand on the matter."

— Arkansas Attorney General DUSTIN MCDANIEL telling AP that he'll defend his state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, even though he personally opposes it.

"Which proves that orange really is the new black."

— PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA noting that House Republicans have grown more critical of GOP House Speaker John Boehner, who's famous for his fake orange tan, than of him. Obama made the joke at the annual White House Correspondents' Association Dinner.

"I believe ultimately that this museum, which will be built on the National Mall, on federal land, will enshrine the radical feminist movement that stands against the pro-life movement, the pro-family movement and the pro-traditional marriage movement."

— Retiring U.S. Rep. MICHELE BACHMANN warning her congressional colleagues that a National Women's History Museum proposed for construction in the nation's capital would become a "shrine" to "radical feminists" who believe in same-sex marriage.

"Are female breadwinners a problem? Is there a problem with men earning less in the household, and do you think that it could cause big marital problems?"

— Fox News host CLAYTON MORRIS ranting on *Fox & Friends* that women "breadwinners" are emasculating men's "innate" biology.

"It would be a first-class opportunity to kick the governor for being insensitive to people with disabilities."

— Retiring Wisconsin GOP state SEN. DALE SCHULTZ commenting on the decision to reject a proposal made by a foundation run by Scott Walker's wife Tonette to remove the wheelchair ramp at the governor's mansion to make the building more historically accurate. Schultz decided not to seek re-election due to the embarrassment he felt over his party's attempts to restrict voting in a way that would disproportionately affect poor, black, elderly and student voters.

"I think we ought to raise it."

— Former GOP presidential candidate MITT ROMNEY expressing support for raising the minimum wage.



## Justice is as justice does

## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

Spring has finally sprung. While others rejoice in the warmth of the sun, my thoughts have been in darker places.

There's so much evil in the world, so little justice. I thought I'd work out my gloom by suggesting some ideal punishments for perpetrators of cruelty and injustice. Hey, it's cheaper than going to a shrink.

Don't be shocked. When it comes to crime and evil, I'm no liberal. I'm more like Madame Defarge, who cried: "Tell the wind and the fire where to stop, not me!"

The trigger for my depression was the alarming number of bodies — mostly women's bodies — that showed up again this spring in Wisconsin rivers, cornfields, ditches and burn pits. I say anyone who mutilates and murders a woman and discards her body should face punishment that

matches the crime in every gruesome detail. Some crimes are unforgivable, some criminals irredeemable.

Christina Huth of the Crazy 8s roller-derby team survived being shot in the chest by an armed robber in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood last year. Huth, whose moniker is "Sin N' Innocence," is finally back on her skates but the authorities have not apprehended her assailant.

When police do find the thug, I think he should face justice from the entire Brewcity Bruisers Roller Derby League. Put him on skates and see if he can survive a few jams with the Bruisers. What a show that would be!

Poetic justice for conservatives who want to cut food stamps and oppose an increase in the minimum wage is obvious. Force them to live on food stamps and the current minimum wage for a year. They wouldn't last one month.

Why this meanness about denying our fellow citizens

food and a fair wage to support themselves and their families? Aren't health and employment basic requirements for a stable society? We have billions for arms and private interest subsidies but not for our neighbors? What's that about? Beware those who want to divide us.

In another divisive move, Milwaukee's Southridge Mall has restricted public buses from its massive parking lot, forcing poor, elderly and disabled people to negotiate a dangerous 1,000-foot route from the bordering streets. How backward and insensitive can you be? Exclusion is not the way to do business in the 21st century.

I hope that Southridge's owners develop temporary disabilities that will give them a reality check and a chance to develop some empathy. I encourage Southridge customers to join the growing boycott and let management know you are shopping elsewhere. This is a local justice issue

on which you can really have an impact.

To global warming deniers, who are mostly wealthy corporate tycoons, and their paid media lapdogs, I hereby channel my inner Moses: May your beach properties be inundated by the seas; may your corporate farmlands shrivel in the heat; may you have no water to drink except that fouled by your own pollution.

Finally, to Boko Haram, the Taliban and other fiends who enslave and kill little girls because they don't want girls educated and they hate Western culture: May you be imprisoned and tortured for life, forced to watch a blaring, unending video loop of Queen Elsa belting the girl-power anthem "Let It Go" from Disney's *Frozen*, a movie which celebrates the Western values of freedom, respect for differences and everyone's right to a fabulous makeover.

Ah, sweet justice.

## Combating our epidemic of violence

## Opinion

L. CRAIG WILLIAMS

We pay large amounts of money to watch people kill one another on giant movie theater screens.

Video games allow for players to live a psychopathic life of crime.

America's favorite sport, football, clearly rewards brutality.

Our increasing tolerance of and lust for vicarious violence is frightening. The upward trajectory of vicarious violence is matched by the increasing amounts of dehumanizing media we're exposed to: "Reality television" turns supposed real-life personal heartbreak and tragedy into entertainment. The Internet is casually rife with porn and horrific imagery.

It's no surprise we're seeing more and more mass shootings at schools and

other public venues, more incidents of road rage and even more heinous crimes committed by children. When we're inured to violence and we lose our appreciation for the value of every human life, society can become terribly cruel, even sadistic.

How can you shield yourself and your family from dehumanizing media?

- Don't give your children "junk food" media. You wouldn't let your kids eat a candy bar with a Yoo-hoo for breakfast, pizza for lunch and a plate of cheese fries for dinner. Discourage junk media by encouraging stimulating discussions and edifying reading material at an early age. Children are full of curiosity and wonder. Don't be afraid to engage with them on their questions about life, even if you don't have all the answers.

- Already addicted to vicarious violence? Exercise your empathy. Are you captivated by clownishly

aggressive young women having meltdowns on TV? Rather than taking petty pleasure with a palpable dash of superiority in witnessing that footage, you might instead wonder why you are supporting the exploitation of broken, emotionally immature people. That young woman could be your daughter, sister, friend, co-worker, etc., who forever regrets her misguided choices while a young person.

- Read a book! Focusing on anything for an extended period of time is inherently pleasurable, and reading a book — but please not a murder mystery — provides engagement that is far more satisfying than vicarious violence. If it has been awhile since you've read a book, you'll feel just as good as you do when you exercise and eat right. Reading is good for you. Fiction is shown to increase empathy among readers, and nonfiction books

broaden your understanding of how the world works.

- Engage with the people around you. One way vicarious violence works is by a disassociation with the person being abused. This disassociation is probably being amplified by seeing people as two-dimensional profiles online — more like vague entities than human beings. Take time to renew and strengthen relationships. Pay attention to your family members. Understand your neighbor may have had a rough day — heck, maybe the checkout girl at the store could use a smile and a kind word. Isn't life more interesting when you're engaged with what and who is around you?

L. Craig Williams is author of *The Fourth Army*. To learn more about his efforts to create a more peaceable and just world, go to [www.lcraigwilliams.com](http://www.lcraigwilliams.com).





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## 'Hair' is just as groovy and socially relevant as it was in '67



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

**FAR OUT:** Alex Mace (Berger), Raven Dockery (Dionne), Alison Mary Forbes (Sheila), Sherrick Robinson (Hud), Doug Clemons (Claude) and Katherine Duffy (Crissy) in Skylight Music Theatre's production of *Hair*.

**By Michael Muckian**

*Contributing writer*

In 1967, the Broadway musical world was rocked like never before by *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical*. Nothing like it had been tried before, and it spawned an entirely new direction in musical theater.

Wrapping sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll in social, political and environmental themes, the show captured a unique time in American history. Nearly 47 years later, *Hair* still speaks with vibrancy about issues remaining at the forefront of American social concerns, according to Ray Jivoff, the director helming Skylight Music Theatre's upcoming production of the classic.

"The show is about raising people's awareness," says Jivoff, a native of Syracuse, New York, and life partner of C. Michael Wright, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's producing artistic director. "The idea of men with long hair as a revolutionary statement has evolved, but there is still controversy in terms of language, sexual references, racial issues, the war and the government."

"This is more of an event than a show," he adds. "It's a ritual that asks more questions than it answers."

The play's street theater conventions and cultural references, which would date a lesser work, simply serve as a starting point

in *Hair*, says Jivoff, who's directed the work twice before.

Written by James Rado and Gerome Ragni with music by Galt MacDermot, *Hair's* loose storyline chronicles a "tribe" of characters on New York's Lower East Side at a time when the Vietnam War raged, racial unrest burned in America's cities, and young people questioned every aspect of traditional society.

Claude (Doug Clemons in the Skylight production) receives a draft notice telling him to report for military service. Friends Berger (Alex Mace), Sheila (Alison Mary Forbes), Woof (Ryan Cappleman), Hud (Sherrick Robinson) and the rest of the tribe attempt to talk him out of going, but with little luck.

Between the opening notes of "Aquarius" and the closing anthem "Let the Sunshine In" come a host of former pop hits, including "Hair," "Easy to Be Hard" and "Good Morning Starshine." The play also includes a "be-in," an anti-war protest, a hallucinogenic drug trip and an obligatory nude scene.

Make that a nude "episode," Jivoff says.

"The nude scene seems to be what everyone remembers, but it's really only 20 seconds at the end of Act I," he explains.

More unsettling to contemporary audiences might be the racist stereotyping in

the song "I'm Black/Colored Spade" sung by Hud, an African-American character. The song "Sodomy," sung by Woof, a closeted gay character, broke new ground in 1967 and might continue to set some audience members on edge.

Act I is full of high energy as it establishes themes and explores the characters' joyous, hedonistic lifestyles. Act II turns darker as it follows Claude to Vietnam and explores the narrative's anti-war roots.

"Claude is often compared to Hamlet and Jesus Christ and quotes from both of them," Jivoff says. "He feels he is a character in a myth and turns out to be a character destined to be sacrificed to inspire the tribe to continue with its anti-war mission."

*Hair* has seen notable actors and other performers in productions throughout its history. Authors Rado and Ragni appeared in several early iterations, and a young Diane Keaton was part of the original Broadway cast. So was singer Melba Moore and dancer Ben Vereen.

Performers Andre DeShields, Donna Summer, Meat Loaf, Dobie Gray and Jennifer Warnes appeared in various productions. The London staging introduced Tim Curry to Richard O'Brien, who went on to develop *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Jivoff is proud of his all-Wisconsin cast,

including 19 performers from the Milwaukee area. He also is thrilled with Jeremy McQueen's choreography, which he says takes the show to a new level.

Audience members should be prepared to interact with the cast. The actors have been instructed to break the fourth wall and address audience members, asking for spare change, handing out leaflets and encouraging them to come on stage for the finale. They also dance in the aisles during the song "Hair," he says.

Although not designed to make the audience uncomfortable, interaction with the cast could be a little more extensive than similar shows, Jivoff adds.

"The character of Berger is extroverted and fairly sexual," he says. "I think that's all I will say about that."

### ON STAGE

Skylight Music Theatre's production of *Hair* runs May 16-June 28 at the Cabot Theatre in Milwaukee's Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N Broadway. For more information, call 414-291-7811 or visit [www.skylightmusictheatre.org](http://www.skylightmusictheatre.org).



# Amy Ray's latest release is pure country, and it's been a long time a-comin'

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

Indigo Girl Amy Ray's fifth solo studio album *Goodnight Tender* is a country record through and through. The traditional sounds on *Goodnight Tender* have a history of surfacing on the Georgia native's recordings, both her solos and those she's made with fellow Indigo Girl Emily Saliers.

But *Goodnight Tender* features a dozen unabashed country songs. On this album, Ray is "shining like a national guitar," to quote Paul Simon. She's backed by an all-star band playing pedal steel, dobro, banjo, fiddle, mandolin and stand-up bass.

Ray remains one-half of the legendary queer duo Indigo Girls. While she's toured solo throughout the spring, she continues to regularly perform concerts with Saliers. In fact, Indigo Girls performs at The Pabst on June 5, paving the way for PrideFest's opening the next evening.

**How long have you wanted to record a country album?** About 10 years, maybe a little longer. I started writing songs and putting them in a pile and filing them away in my mind, (thinking) "When I get enough songs and when I'm ready to do this, I'm going to make a traditional country record." Over the years, as I've made my other solo records, sometimes I've thrown the more rockabilly/mandolin/fast songs on the punk or rock records. I didn't have the amount of songs or content that I wanted.

**Did any of these songs start out in a different musical genre?** "Hunter's Prayer" is the main one. It changed drastically. It was more of a folk song. Even the chord arrangement was different. I tried it that way, I even tried suggesting it for Indigo Girls, but it just wasn't working. So I bagged it for a few years. I was working on something, some other song, and I just started singing the lyrics to "Hunter's Prayer" to a different chord progression and I was like, "Ah! This is supposed to be a country song" (laughs). Other than that, the other stuff I pretty much knew as I was writing it what the genre was.

**Who would you cite as your greatest influences in country music?** From the earliest time, Townes Van Zandt and Steve Earle. Even for songs I was writing for Indigo Girls. As far as strictly traditional country artists, Hank Williams, George Jones, Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton and Merle Haggard. All the greats. I like that era from the Carter Family, gospel mountain music, a whole lot. To me, they're the parents of folk music. (Ethnomusicologist) Alan Lomax's recordings played a big part when I was writing a song such as "Johnny Rottentail" and more of the storytelling kinds of songs. As far as production goes, the earlier 1950s stuff, (such as) Lefty

Frizzell. I like (it) heavy on the pedal steel, and the drums to not be the center focus of the project, but still have the groove.

**Where does Duane Allman, who is feted in the song "Duane Allman" on *Goodnight Tender*, figure into your influences?** (Laughs.) Southern rock was the earliest thing I listened to as a kid. It had its roots in some country. That's something I was brought up on — the Allman Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd — that was in my house. Allman Brothers were one of my favorite bands from second-grade on. The Allman Brothers have stayed a favorite for me. There are some old records that I go back to and listen to all the time for pleasure. Not for songwriting tips or anything like that. To me, their music is more about the melodic sense between the instruments and the vibe — the passion of it.

**Heather McEntire, the out lead singer of Mount Moriah, can be heard singing on "When You Come for Me." How did that come about?** Maybe seven years ago, she was in a punk band from Durham, North Carolina, called Bellafea, and she wrote me an email as I was getting ready to go on the road with The Butchies. She asked if she could come out and open for some shows. That's how I originally met her. She started Mount Moriah, and they had a lot of country influences. I think they're a cross between Björk and Americana. They have a weird pollination going on.

**Would you describe it as insurgent country?** Yes. I loved that project and we kept in touch. She said she was starting to write some songs that were country songs and sent me some demos. She asked me if I wanted to put any of them on the record. I said (about "When You Come for Me"), "Maybe you should just sing lead on it and I'll sing harmony and it will be like a duet." That's how we ended up doing it. She's opened for Indigo Girls. She's been in my life a lot.

**The inimitable Kelly Hogan, who has also toured with Indigo Girls, can be heard on "Time Zone" and the title cut. Why did you want her to sing on the album?** I've always wanted have her (laughs) on this record, actually. As I was writing, (the song) "Goodnight Tender" especially, I was thinking that I wanted it to have those close, Everly Brothers harmonies, and she's the person I had in mind. I made sure I had a time when I could capture her when she was off from (touring with) Neko Case. I got lucky! I was in Chicago with Indigos. It was sheer luck. We went to Jeff Tweedy's Wilco loft and we recorded those vocals. I would have waited and flown to her wherever she



PHOTO: RYAN RUSSELL

**Amy Ray is one-half of the duo Indigo Girls, which performs at The Pabst on June 5.**

was, but it was lucky that it was so convenient. She's one of my favorite vocalists and an amazing person. We have a long history. She's an ally in the music business for me.

**Attitudes (on equality) continue to evolve in Nashville, albeit slowly. What would it mean to have this album embraced by the Nashville music community?**

It would be huge. But that would mean something bigger than me. (Lesbian country artist) Brandy Clark is being embraced. Kacey Musgraves has that "Follow Your Arrow" song that was embraced. It might be slightly different for someone such as me to be embraced, because I'm so obviously left-of-center and gay and out and political and masculine and all that. It'd be a pretty big deal (laughs). But I don't have any expectations in that arena whatsoever. I spend more time in Nashville than I used to. I have a lot of friends there. I would say that over the years I've noticed discernible changes in the culture there. It used to be, 12 years ago, if I played in Nashville, there

were always derogatory remarks from the bartenders and even the club owners. It was hard. The last time I played there, people and the club-owner were super-friendly and I had a big crowd. I didn't expect to have a crowd at all. And I was with The Butchies. It wasn't like I had toned it down at all or anything (laughs). I would at least like to make inroads in the Americana scene. I have a lot of friends in that scene. To break into any scene at this age is very hard. I just have to put the music out there and hope that it finds its way.

**Over the course of your four solo albums, you have touched on genres ranging from punk rock to riot grrrl to R&B. Are there other musical genres you'd like to work in?** Nothing radical. I probably wouldn't try to do a soul or hip-hop record. I didn't have it in me for this record. I just wanted to do something with an easy feeling to it. You could drive down the road to it and nothing was going to shake you up too much.

*More features on wisconsin Gazette.com.*



# Folk artist captured 19th-century Wisconsin rural life

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

The color palette is bright or muted, depending on the type of paper used. The perspective isn't always accurate. The bird's-eye landscape views are better imagined than observed.

But the watercolors of German-born Wisconsin artist Paul Seifert chronicle a place and time long past in the state's history, including Wisconsin's "lost city" in Richland County. Seifert's folk art is cherished for its historical value.

"Wisconsin in Watercolor: The Farmscapes of Paul Seifert," on display at the Wisconsin Historical Museum on Madison's Capitol Square through Aug. 30, chronicles a time when few artists and fewer photographers roamed rural Wisconsin. Seifert's approach, simple yet thorough, provides a comprehensive view of farm life in Wisconsin's Driftless Region at the end of the 19th century. The style is reminiscent of that of Grandma Moses.

"Call it folk art, outsider art, naïve art — all those terms have their limitations," says Joe Kapler, the museum's curator of cultural history and curator of the Seifert exhibit. "These are real places where real people lived and still live, not abstract bowls of fruit."

The exhibit gathers 17 watercolors together for the first time. They're all that remains of Seifert's estimated output of some 40 paintings. The Wisconsin Historical Society, which is affiliated with the museum, owns six of them. The rest are on loan from private collectors, including descendants of the families for whom Seifert originally painted the farmscapes.

The exhibit also includes historical artifacts from the region during Seifert's time. There's also a Seifert-rendered map of Richland City.

That Richland County community, originally located just south of the town of Gotham on the banks of the Wisconsin River, was built on a foundation of sand. Over a period of about 40 years, the river eroded the underlying land. By the 1920s, there was virtually nothing left of Wisconsin's "lost city."

That's not the case with many of the farms painted by Seifert, a native of Germany's Saxony region and the son of art instructors who emigrated to the United States in 1867 and settled in Richland City. He married Elizabeth Kraft, the daughter of German immigrants. He became a gentlemen farmer and a trained taxidermist.

Seifert painted commercially, producing images on glass for sale. It wasn't until 1879 that he painted his first farmscape — *Residence of Lemuel Cooper*. That painting is currently on loan to the exhibit from New York's American Folk Art Museum. The subject is a Plain, Wisconsin, farm. Dominated by earth tones that age has muted, the painting is considered Seifert's "alpha work," because it clearly bears the artist's signature.

The watercolor's orderly arrangement of detail is characteristic of Seifert's farmscapes. It's his bird's-eye view of the landscape, a characteristic Kapler says the artist could never see from ground level.

"The perspectives of these paintings are not ones that could be seen with the eye, because there was nothing in the area tall enough to stand on to get such views," Kapler says. "This is really Seifert's envisioning of the farm, but there is nothing in writing that explains the artist's process."

Paintings that followed *Residence of Lemuel Cooper* embraced a brighter color palette but contained many of the same details. Those details became more abundant during his farmscape period. That period ended in 1915, and he died six years later.

Hay harvesting was a popular element in Seifert's works, as were symmetrically arranged gardens and orchards. People and livestock of all sizes populated the landscape and unique details — from croquet games to hops harvesting — further enhanced the paintings' historical accuracy.

Many of the works have been restored. But even those



PHOTO: COURTESY

Farmscape by Paul Seifert of the residence of Martin Lustcher in Town Honey Creek, circa 1885.

that haven't represent a quality and durability unexpected from watercolors painted on paper more than 100 years ago, Kapler says.

"The reds are still quite vivid, and that's often the first color to fade," the curator explains.

The exhibition includes a large touch-screen display, which allows visitors to explore the artist's life and work in greater depth. It also provides access to close-up views of many of the paintings' details. Corresponding photos from the period are paired with artistic details, such as the horse-drawn lawnmower that appears in one of Seifert's works.

It's the details of Seifert's work that add so much to our understanding of Wisconsin's past, Kapler says.

## ON EXHIBIT

"Wisconsin in Watercolor: The Farmscapes of Paul Seifert" is on display at the Wisconsin Historical Museum, 30 N. Carroll St., Madison, through Aug. 30. For more information, visit [historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org](http://historicalmuseum.wisconsinhistory.org).

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# Macy Gray talks about her Grammy, her movie roles and her upcoming performance at PrideFest

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

Singer/songwriter and actress Macy Gray hit it big with her infectious hit single "I Try," earning a Grammy Award for the track in 2000. Since then she's released six more studio albums, including two in 2012 (*Covered* and *Talking Book*).

Gray also acted in several high-profile film projects, including *Training Day*, *Shadowboxer* and *For Colored Girls*. On June 7, she performs at PrideFest on the Miller Lite Mainstage.

**What did winning a Grammy award mean to you?** It's everything. It's really incredible.

**Do you have a place of honor for your Grammy?** Yes! It's actually right in front of me. It's in my living room, with my other awards, in a case.

**You're a singer known for performing original material, but you released a pair of albums in 2012 on which you interpreted other people's songs.** It was something that I always wanted to try but my label was never into it, because cover records historically don't do that well. I wouldn't say it was just for fun, but we had a ball doing it. It was like an experiment, something we wanted to try.

**Marijuana legalization is gaining ground in states across the nation. Your new single "Stoned," as well as "Smoke Two Joints" (from *Covered*), are a couple of indications that you might back such legislation.** As far as legalization (is concerned), I'm kind of on the fence about it. I don't know if it's something the government should be in control of. It's such a culture. You have your own dealer and they deliver and they can give it to you on credit sometimes. I have friends that it would put out of work. It kind of takes the fun out of it. There are some states that made a lot of money (from it), but we don't know what they do with the money. Where is it going? I kind of like the marijuana culture. It's a whole underground thing that supports a lot of people who would probably be put out of work. I don't know yet. They're going to tax it. It's going to be weird.

**In addition to making music, you've also had a prolific acting career. What do you like best about acting?** I love being on set. I love creating characters. I love taking what's on paper and turning it into a real person. It's a major collaborative effort, so I always make good friends on the set. There's always a lot of people around doing incredible things you didn't even know could be done. I love the process of it. Of course, I love watching movies. But the process is



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Macy Gray.

always fun and challenging. It gets me into something I haven't done before and that I'm not sure I can do yet. It always challenges me creatively.

**Are there any new movies coming out that your fans should be watching for?** Yes. I'm doing an HBO movie. There are a couple coming out that I did last year. One's called *Brotherly Love* and one's called *November Rule*. I also did Lee Daniels' new TV show, but I don't know when that comes out.

**In June, you'll perform at Milwaukee PrideFest. Have you always been aware of a following in the LGBT community?** Oh, yes. We've always had. I could see it at my shows. I did a song called "Sexual Revolution" and it was on after that. It's cool. It's such a massive audience now. I think it's

important as a musician. It's not like it used to be. It's not like, "Oh my God, a bunch of gays showed up at my show. What does that mean?" Now, it's necessary, because they're such a massive audience.

**Have you ever performed or spent time in Milwaukee?** I performed there once. We were only there for a day. I've never been much to Milwaukee and I don't know much about it, unfortunately, except for beer (laughs) and the Bucks.

**What do your Milwaukee fans have to look forward to?** It'll be a really awesome mixture of (songs from) all my albums and a couple of new ones that no one has heard. My new album comes out late this year. It's cool. It's an awesome show, and we always have a ball.

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# Unrehearsed MKE brings musicians together for inspired improv



## Brandon Miller

Contributing writer

Band members generally spend a great deal of time preparing for performances — warming up, reviewing play sets, polishing difficult stretches, honing introductions.

But the performers who sign up for Unrehearsed MKE have no such opportunity.

"The concept for Unrehearsed MKE is to be randomly put into groups that have never played before together and create improvised music," says founder Devin Drobka. "The focus is really on improvisation, and whatever that really means to everyone."

What transpires onstage during Unrehearsed MKE performances is as suspenseful for the audience as it is for the performers. The music presented lives and dies in the moment, although some performers decide they want to work together again, Drobka says.

The series is currently held the first Sunday of each month at Jazz Estate, 2423 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee.

For each event, Drobka and the event's two other "curators" bring musicians together and ask them to improvise about a 45-minute set of music. There are no themes or instructions. Musicians simply are asked to play something, relying wholly on their intuition.

Says Drobka: "Some people ask me, 'Well, what do I play?' and I reply, 'I don't know, what are you going to play? How are you feeling today?'"

The curators strive to create unconventional ensembles. Drobka recalls that he once paired a trumpet player with a string player. The result was beautiful and actually sounded rehearsed, Drobka says.

"When musicians are really listening to each other and are consciously centered, it yields for some spectacular moments," he adds.

Drobka credits Baltimore musicians Adam Hopkins and Matt Frazao with the

concept. Unrehearsed MKE is modeled after their event Out of Your Head, which Drobka participated in during a visit to Baltimore.

Drobka says participating in Unrehearsed MKE has proven valuable to his personal growth as a musician.

"I met some really close friends through it," he says. "I learned a lot about myself, things that only improvisation and the nature of the process could produce."

Other musicians have had similar reactions.

A musician who recently participated for the first time told Drobka, "This is a totally different experience than any other I've played, because it requires such a different part of myself. It's so much more (about) being present."

Unrehearsed MKE's 17th performance is on June 1, and the events have grown continually since the beginning. As awareness has grown, so has the number of participants and audience members. So far, about 70 musicians have signed up for the series, and Drobka plans to have more people help curate future groups. At the outset, he had to seek out participants, but now musicians are asking to play.

"Not only do I want people to experience something they are never going to hear again, I want Unrehearsed MKE to encourage collaborations," Drobka says. "This exposes people in Milwaukee to a wide range of talents from a lot of genres. The larger hope is that people just know that it's OK to take risks."

## ON STAGE

Unrehearsed MKE happens every first Sunday of the month at the Jazz Estate starting at 7:30 p.m. The next program will be on June 1. \$2 cover.

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This program was supported in part by a grant from Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Susan Gartall & Nicole Teague. Photo: Jessica Kaminski.



# Let's skip the drama and build the MAM addition



PHOTO: PUBLIC  
Jim Shields' current design.

By Tom Strini

Special to WiG

The Milwaukee Art Museum brass and architect Jim Shields have resolved their differences, and Shields is back as lead architect on the museum's renovation/addition plans. On May 6, the museum released Shields' revised plan, which would extend the 1975 Kahler annex eastward toward Lake Michigan.

A murky dispute between Shields, Milwaukee's star architect — designer of both the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend and Discovery World on the Milwau-

kee lakefront — and MAM curatorial staff cropped up a few weeks ago. Shields withdrew — temporarily, as it turns out — as lead architect for the museum expansion. That occurred as museum director Dan Keegan unveiled, on April 8, renderings of a cantilevered building that would add 17,000 square feet of exhibition space. Mary Louise Schumacher, of the Journal Sentinel, blasted that version of the building in a column on May 2. Her tirade followed Tom Bamberger's "It is a monumental blunder and cannot, must not be built" battle cry in Urban Milwaukee on April 10.

Keegan's evasiveness at the April 8 press event made things worse. In an obvious attempt to smooth over hard feelings with Shields, he refused to answer questions about the architect's withdrawal from the project on the grounds that it was a personnel matter — a preposterous argument for an outside contractor involving an important public space. I understand that he was trying to spare everyone's feelings while moving the project along. But evasion never helps.

Both Schumacher and Bamberger zealously took on the role of aesthetic defenders of a holy lakefront site. They decried the plans as generic. Bamberger, always a champion of the prerogatives of genius over all other considerations, also became incensed at his perception of museum officials dissing Shields. In the same Urban Milwaukee commentary, Bamberger approved of an earlier Shields proposal for an 8,000-square-foot addition. That idea was to feature a "diaphanous cloud with graded transparent glass."

That might well have been entrancing in reality. But in the preliminary drawings, it looked like a generic white cube and displayed no more charm than the draft that Keegan unveiled on April 8. I wonder if Bamberger will change his tune now that Shields is back on board with a more detailed and nuanced version of the same building the writer torched in Urban Milwaukee?

Keegan should have been clearer and more frank, but both Schumacher and Bamberger ignored his caveat that the drawings were preliminary. Yes, the sketchy rendering



**Schumacher and Bamberger took on the role of aesthetic defenders of a holy lakefront site. They decried the plans as generic.**

left a lot to the imagination, but that's the nature of a place-holder design. Schumacher and Bamberger should know that. I knew that. I doubted that the broad expanse of blank wall at the base would remain in the final design, and it hasn't.

Shields has set back the galleries from the exterior glass wall. This allows for a lighter and more welcoming face toward the bike path and room for a cafe and a court filled with sculpture rather than light-sensitive paintings or photos. I like that idea. I also like Shields' new cutouts in the pointed cantilever over the path.

But even the new renderings don't fill in all the blanks. I can imagine some very welcoming landscaping in that green wedge, where passers-by can rest in the building's afternoon shade or sit and watch the sun rise over the lake. And I can imagine new bridges and pathways that take pedestrians over Lincoln Memorial Drive to a lofty but welcoming plaza atop the new annex and


**ADDITION** next page

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**ADDITION** from prior page

down stairway to that lakeside haven.

All of this will vastly improve the atmosphere along the bike/pedestrian path between the seawall and the east side of the museum complex. I have biked through that stretch many times and felt MAM's cold shoulder. The ability to see into the museum from that viewpoint, stop and drop into a cafe with its own entrance will change that experience.

The new addition will provide some dramatic framing, too, especially for those biking north to south. You'll glide toward that point where the cantilevered corner covers the path and kisses the edge of Lake Michigan. You'll glimpse blue sky through the glass cutouts on the approach. And when you emerge from the overhang on the south side, boom — the gleaming prow of the Calatrava addition.

Both Schumacher and Bamberger have insisted on a brilliant if not spectacular building on this site or no building at all. Sorry, but that's just silly. This site is a key one if you're in a boat, in the Harbor House restaurant on in Veterans' Park. Otherwise, not so much. Most people view the museum from the bluff to the west or in passing along Lincoln Memorial Drive, from which the new addition will be invisible.

Cool down the rhetoric, please; it's an important site, but not a sacred shrine.

Schumacher argued passionately for at the very least delaying any new construction to await a coherent plan that would aesthetically unite the entire complex. Good luck with that. The Saarinen War Memorial masterpiece to the west and the Calatrava masterpiece to the south inhabit different aesthetic worlds. And the Kahler box is there, too. You can't really harmonize Calatrava and Saarinen with a third building. You do what you can — duck down a little, create a buffer and let them shine separately.

Finally, any homeowner who's lived through a major remodel knows that the time to add that wing is when the electrical, mechanical, drainage, roofing and climate control are in play. Crumbling infrastructure within and around the War Memorial and Kahler addition prompted all this in the first place. Fixing that now and adding space later would be absurdly more expensive and doubly disruptive to muse-

um operations.

The museum and the site need a clean, light, understated, human-friendly building that nestles elegantly but unobtrusively between Saarinen and Calatrava. It must enhance the experience of both museumgoers and passers-by and show the Milwaukee Art Museum's growing collection to best advantage. Shields, his team and museum staff, board and donors have met those needs in the design made public on May 6. It will certainly be subject to new rounds of criticism and refinement, but this is the right idea.

Build it.

For more of veteran cultural writer Tom Strini's insights, visit his blog at [striniwrites.blogspot.com](http://striniwrites.blogspot.com)

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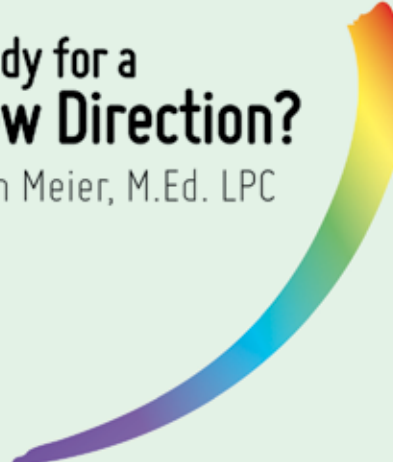
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# Summer cinema sans superheroes



Guy Pearce and Robert Pattinson in *The Rover*.



Marcia Gay Harden and Emma Stone in *Magic in the Moonlight*.

## Jake Coyle

AP film writer

More exotic creatures thrive in the shadows of summer blockbusters. Here are 10 of the most anticipated indie films due this summer, nary a caped superhero or city-crushing monster among them.

1. **The Rover** (June 13): David Michod's follow-up to his Aussie crime drama *Animal Kingdom* qualifies as a must-see because

of the rare quality of his feature film debut. This one, which will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, stars Guy Pearce and Robert Pattinson and is set in a near-future Australia where the world economy has collapsed and bandits roam the Outback.

2. **Boyhood** (July 11): Richard Linklater spent 12 years making this wholly unique film. It charts a fictional family over that time (Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette play divorced parents) and, remarkably, shows the maturation of 6-year-old Ellar Coltrane (playing their son) from boy to man.

3. **The Immigrant** (May 16): Tales of immigrants arriving through Ellis Island are a well-trod genre, but James Gray's 1920s drama is distinct in its portrait of the American Dream as both myth and reality. With Marion Cotillard and Joaquin Phoenix.

4. **Life Itself** (July 11): Teve James (*Hoop Dreams*) presents a documentary and ode to the late film critic Roger Ebert.

5. **Begin Again** (July 4): Much like John Carney's *Once*, this is a naturalistic, street-level drama about musicians. Keira Knightley stars as a British singer-songwriter discovered in New York by a down-on-his-luck music executive (Mark Ruffalo).

6. **Magic in the Moonlight** (July 25): Woody Allen's annual offering is a comedy set on the French Riviera in the '20s starring Colin Firth and Emma Stone. It promises a romantic lightness, but how will audiences respond to Allen following the renewed allegation of sexual abuse?

7. **Tracks** (May 23): Mia Wasikowska stars as Robyn Davidson, who in 1977 trekked across 1,700 miles of Australia to

reach the Indian Ocean. Adam Driver (*Girls*) stars as the National Geographic photographer who trails her.

8. **A Most Wanted Man** (July 25): Anton Corbijn's adaptation of John le Carre's novel is one of two posthumous releases for Philip Seymour Hoffman. The late actor also stars in *God's Pocket* (May 9), the directing debut of John Slattery (*Mad Men*).

9. **Wish I Was Here** (July 18): Zach Braff took a lot of criticism for his use of Kickstarter to help fund his second directorial effort following 2004's *Garden State*. Braff also stars as a struggling actor who homeschools his kids.

10. **They Came Together** (June 27): David Wain and Michael Showalter deconstruct the romantic comedy with a cast led by Paul Rudd and Amy Poehler.

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Keira Knightley and Adam Levin in *Begin Again*.

PHOTO: THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY



## ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Matt Bomer and Mark Ruffalo in HBO's *The Normal Heart*.**

### HBO'S 'THE NORMAL HEART' TO RECEIVE SPECIAL PREMIERE IN MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee will be one of five cities to receive an advance screening of HBO Films' original movie *The Normal Heart*, based on the Tony Award-winning play by Larry Kramer about the early days of the AIDS crisis. Directed by Ryan Murphy of *Glee* and *Nip/Tuck* fame, the movie features Kenosha native Mark Ruffalo, along with Jim Parsons, Matt Bomer, Alfred Molina and Julia Roberts. HBO is partnering for the screening with Milwaukee Film, which previously presented the North American premiere of *Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God* during the 2012 Milwaukee Film Festival. The screening is at the Landmark Oriental Theater at 7 p.m. on May 21, and tickets

are available to Milwaukee Film members and invited supporters. *The Normal Heart* debuts on HBO on May 25.

### APPLETON MUSEUM FEATURES SIGNED TIME MAGAZINE COVERS

Appleton's Trout Museum of Art has put together a new exhibition titled "Moments in Time," featuring signed covers of Time magazine. The covers were originally gathered by the late collector Jerry Gottlieb, who from 1964 to 1974 sent out copies of the magazine covers to the people featured on them for autographs. He received more than 250 signed copies back, including covers featuring all four of the Beatles, the Apollo 11 astronauts and Robert Kennedy — a mere two weeks before Kennedy would be assassinated. The exhibit features a curated selection of the covers that will be on display through June 29.

### GREEN BAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO CLOSE

After 100 years of making beautiful music, the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra will fall silent at the end of the 2014-15 season, the result of dwindling donations and years of declining attendance. Orchestra executive director Dan Linszen announced on May 2 that while the orchestra was able to acquire a number of corporate sponsors, contributions were not enough to compensate for other lost revenue. Linszen said the

arts are in an evolutionary phase: "We've got to be sensitive about what constitutes art appreciation for the next generation. It's clearly not symphony concerts."

The orchestra, founded in 1913, will end next year after a farewell season of five performances, beginning with a Star Spangled Celebration on Sept. 13.

### HGTV PULLS PLUG ON ANTI-GAY REAL ESTATE SHOW HOST

The HBT network announced it would not go forward with its upcoming real estate show *Flip It Forward* after protests revealed one of the hosts campaigned against same-sex marriage and denounced homosexuality. David Benham would have been featured buying and renovating real estate alongside his twin brother Jason Benham. But the network learned of Right Wing Watch's labeling of David Benham as an "anti-gay extremist" for his work against abortion rights and statements about gays.

### REP RECEIVES \$500,000 GRANT TO REPAIR SINKING BUILDING

The Herzfeld Foundation announced on May 2 that it would provide the Milwaukee Repertory Theater with a one-time grant of \$500,000 to help with repairs to keep the historic building from settling due to deteriorating support pilings. Along with previous donations from the United Performing Arts Fund, the Bert L. and Patricia S. Steigleder

Charitable Trust and various individual gifts, the Rep has secured commitments for more than 50 percent of the \$1.75-million project, which takes place this summer. The deterioration, which began with a drop in the water table that exposed the 117-year-old building's wooden support structures to rot and decay, is not an immediate threat to the public or Rep employees.



### THE BLACK KEYS TO PLAY BMO HARRIS BRADLEY CENTER IN SEPTEMBER

The Black Keys announced their 2014 tour dates, and one of those dates brings the group back to Milwaukee. The Keys will play the BMO Harris Bradley Center on Sept. 9, supporting the group's eighth studio album *Turn Blue*, which debuts this week. Cage the Elephant will open. Tickets will go on sale May 16 at 10 a.m. Visit [bmoharrisbradleycenter.com](http://bmoharrisbradleycenter.com) for more details.

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# DisH\*it Out!

## Wines to flatter your grilled food



**By Michael Muckian**

*Contributing writer*

Does anything say summer dining more than grilled burgers and cold beer, with maybe a little potato salad on the side?

Of course not, but beer packs on the calories, as do burgers — which, unless you're an experienced griller, can wind up dried out or underdone. And leaving mayonnaise-based potato salad in the sun too long can

create more problems that most stomachs can handle.

It's time to upgrade your grilling with more sophisticated fare and replace those tall, cool ones with wines that operate in concert with your menu. That principle works indoors, so why not carry it over to your al fresco dining?

Matching wine with food on your patio follows the same guidelines that you'd use in your dining room. Red wines work best with heartier fare, while white wines complement more delicate dishes.

But grilled foods, especially vegetables, have unique flavor profiles. Zucchini and eggplant slices, which you might smother in cheeses and sauces in your oven, come into their own when grilled. Smoke from the grill also imparts a heartier flavor.

That means the traditional wine pairings you're accustomed to choosing should be reconsidered. White wines, served chilled and pulling double-duty as refreshing aperitifs, can handle bolder flavors when matched with picnic fare.

Following are some pairing alternatives for grilled dishes:

### WHITE WINES

The **Biohof Pratsch 2012 Grüner Veltliner (\$13)** is Austria's version of the more

familiar German Riesling, but not quite as lush and fruit-forward. This lighter-bodied organic wine pours with a nose of apple, peach and apricot, delivering flavors of fruit, spices and white pepper to the palate. Serve chilled as an aperitif or with more delicate fish dishes.

Torrontes, Argentina's native white wine grape, comprises 100 percent of **Michel Torino Torrontes Don David (\$17)**. The wine can be wonderfully heady and refreshing. Expect a nose that's almost floral, with tropical fruit notes and a flavor profile of citrus, peach and anise balanced by light acidity and pleasant character.

Viognier originated in France's Rhone Valley, but the grape's popularity in producing wine that's a smooth, creamy alternative to oaky Chardonnays and snappy Sauvignon Blancs is gaining ground worldwide. The **Fess Parker 2012 Viognier (\$18)**, produced by the heirs of the actor who played Disney's Davy Crockett, delivers the goods. The oak-aged Santa Barbara County wine offers both a nose and palate of soft summer fruits — peaches, nectarines and honeydew melons — with a bit of citrus and vanilla on the back of the palate. It's one of the nicest whites around.

**WINES** next page

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**WINES** from prior page

## ROSÉ

Few wines are as uniquely refreshing as a well-crafted rosé. The 2013 **Hecht & Bannier Languedoc Rosé (\$13)** fits the bill. The blend of 40 percent Syrah, 35 percent Cinsault and 25 percent Grenache offers essences of gooseberry and cherry with bright flavor highlights and a mellow acidity. It's a great blend for outdoor dining.

## RED

Since grilling often involves red meat, red wines seem to be a natural choice. Those who like red wines will appreciate the following selection.

**Francis Coppola's Diamond Selection 2011 Petite Syrah (\$17)** has become a personal favorite. Its dry flavor profile neatly showcases aromas of berries, cloves and currants and a palate of plum, cocoa and toasted oak, the result of its 12-month barrel-aging process.

Zinfandel has always been a summer favorite due to the bold, rustic style of this more-or-less native grape. The **Kenwood Jack London Vineyard 2011 Zinfandel (\$20)** contains aromas of raspberry and fig, with significant fruit and spice on its palate thanks to the 10 percent of Syrah in the blend.

**Argentina's Trivento 2012 Amado Sur Malbec (\$16)** blends 70 percent of its namesake grape with 18 percent of Bonarda and 12 percent of Syrah. The result is an intense, fruity wine. Think cherries, raspberries and plums with hints of spice and vanilla from its

eight-month stay in French oak.

Chile's **Primus 2011 Carmenere (\$19)** capitalizes on a wine grape that was all but wiped out from European vineyards during the 19th century. The flavor and aroma profile highlights plum, blackberry and spice notes in a well-balanced wine with a touch of dried figs on the palate.

Australian winemaker Bruno Tait takes wine drinkers on a wild ride with his **Tait 2012 The Wild Ride Shiraz (\$19)**. The blend of 60 percent Shiraz, 20 percent Grenache and 20 percent Mataro results in a bold wine with intense cherry and floral flavors seasoned with spices and what the winemaker describes as a "sneaky sweetness" sure to please.

For something completely different, try the 2010 **Painted Wolf "Guillermo" Pinotage (\$17)** from South African winemaker Jeremy Borg. The South African hybrid grape delivers favors of blueberry, mocha and spice with ripe tannins and a long finish. According to wine critic Robert Parker Jr., the wine is impressively focused, "a little aloof and masculine, but with style and class."

Parker says nothing about the wine's use in grilling, but that will be something for you to decide.

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2014

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Volunteer!

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Reserved  
seating  
available!

Friday **JUNE 6TH**  
3:00PM-MIDNIGHT  
BRUCE VILANCH  
CHAD MICHAELS  
CAZWELL  
BJ DANIELS REVUE

Saturday **JUNE 7TH**  
12PM-MIDNIGHT  
MACY GRAY  
BIG FREEDIA  
MARY LAMBERT  
STEVE GRAND

Sunday **JUNE 8TH**  
12PM-MIDNIGHT  
LISA LAMPANELLI  
SANDRA BERNHARD

Beverly McClellan, The Nearly Deads, Shane Ashton, Ronnie Nyles and Tallulah Who,  
Dear Ruthie, Ian & the Dream, Miltown Kings, Debby Holiday, Dangerous Muse,  
The Upside, Jordin Baas, Trannika Rex

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# Out on the town May 15 - June 15

## A curated calendar of upcoming events

### 'MIRROR MIRROR'

7:30 p.m. on Thurs., May 15, to Sat., May 17; 1:30 p.m. on Sun., May 18

Michael Pink wraps up the Milwaukee Ballet season with his original and much-anticipated *Mirror Mirror*, a take-off on the Snow White story. Pink's version does more than retell the classic tale of an evil queen, armed with a poisonous apple, conducting a one-sided rivalry with her pure-as-snow stepdaughter. Instead, Pink creates a back-story establishing Snow White and the queen as polar opposites waging war in a surreal landscape manipulated by demons that inhabit the queen's magic mirror. Oh, and there are no dwarves, hence no whistling is required during the intermission. At Uihlein Hall, 929 N. Water St. Tickets range from \$30 to \$95. Phone 414-902-2103 or visit milwaukeeballet.org.



'LETTERS HOME' 8 p.m. on Fri., May 16; 2 and 8 p.m. on Sat., May 17; and 2 p.m. on Sun., May 18

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts may be anticipating Memorial Day a bit in its scheduling, but the timing doesn't make *Letters Home* any less powerful a production. This play brings the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq home through letters written by soldiers and their families, performed on stage to help the audience understand both the difficult circumstances faced by those serving our country and the patriotism and self-sacrifice that drives them. In telling their stories, the play provides the perspective of a new generation at war and a powerful portrait of the modern soldier. At Vogel Hall, 929 N. Water St. Tickets start at \$35, and can be purchased at 414-273-7206 or marcuscenter.org.



### SUZANNE VEGA

8 p.m. Fri., May 16

Since the early 1980s, Suzanne Vega has been hailed as one of the leading singer-songwriters of her generation, performing neo-folk songs with an acoustic guitar and her sharp, distinctive voice. Her biggest hits remain from her early period, including "Marlene on the Wall," "Luka" and "Tom's Diner." But Vega she hasn't stayed trapped in the past. Her latest album *Tales from the Realm of the Queen of Pentacles* dropped earlier this year, earning high praise and proving she's not just an '80s flashback. At the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave., Madison. Tickets are \$35, \$45 for Gold Circle admission. Order at majesticmadison.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

### 'HAIR' May 16 through June 8

The Skylight Music Theatre wraps up a season of revolution with *Hair*, perhaps one of the most revolutionary musicals of all time when it premiered on Broadway in 1967. Following "the tribe," a collection of counter-cultural individuals embracing the '60s hippie movement, *Hair* presented such groundbreaking themes as race, drug use, the Vietnam War and — most famously — nudity. The result was a theatrical experience unlike anything seen before onstage. The production is a bold move for the constantly evolving Skylight, and one that hopefully serves as a harbinger for future evolution. At the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$27.50 to \$67. Call at 414-291-7800 or go to skylightmusictheatre.com.



### BAYFIELD IN BLOOM

May 16 through June 15

Spring is finally here, and Bayfield celebrates it like no place else. The city's annual Bayfield in Bloom celebration is a month-long series of events meant to draw visitors to its exemplary fields of flowers and apple orchards. Throughout the month, various outlets in the city feature specials and sales, so there isn't a bad day to show up. But perhaps the best times to arrive are: for the start, a live broadcast of Wisconsin Public Radio's *Garden Talk* on opening day, May 16, at 11 a.m.; or the finish, when the traditional Blessing of the Fleet Ceremony on June 15 parades fishing boats, sailboats, kayaks and more through Bayfield's City Harbor, where clergy from the Apostles Island community will bless each. Visit bayfield.org for more details.

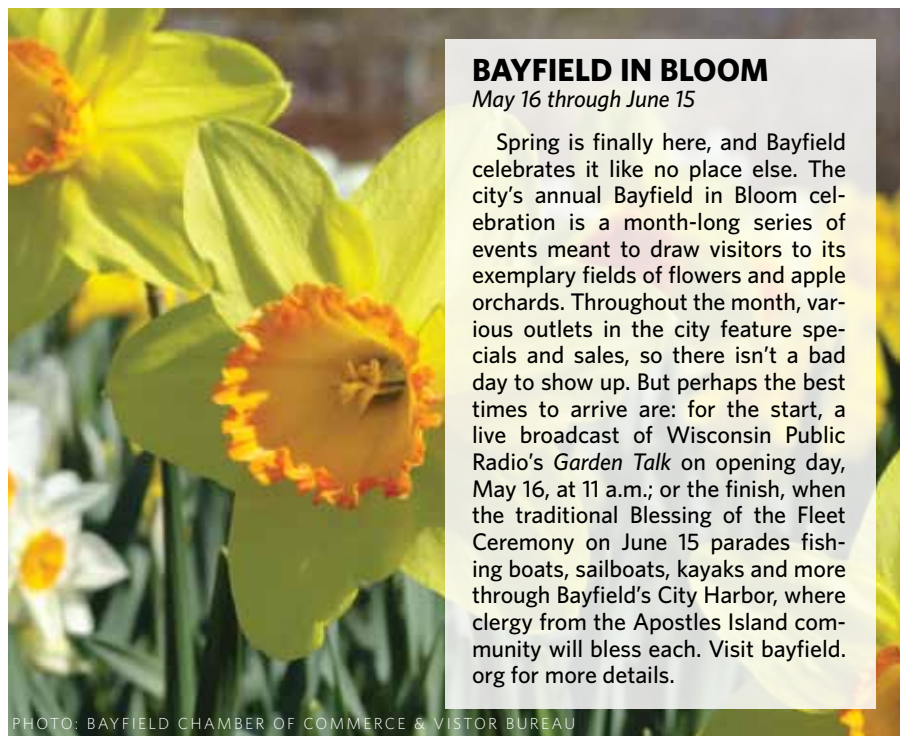


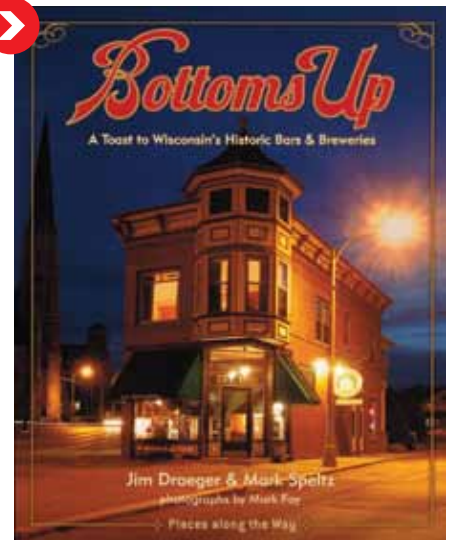
PHOTO: BAYFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISTOR BUREAU



### BOOKS N' BREWS

2:00 p.m. on Sat., May 17

Wisconsin is home to thousands of bars and breweries, so it's nice to know people out there like Jim Draeger, who feel compelled to put them all together in one place through compilations like *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars and Breweries*. Draeger's book focuses on 70 of Wisconsin's most treasured establishments to provide snapshots of each, examining their architecture and history and why they've endured. He'll discuss the book as part of a celebration of American Craft Beer Week at the Wisconsin Brewing Company, 1079 American Way, Verona, in partnership with the Verona Public Library. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Admission is free.





# Out on the town May 15 - June 15



**AZIZ ANSARI** 7 and 9:30 p.m. Mon., May 19 (Milwaukee); 7 and 10 p.m. Tue., May 20 (Madison)

With a prominent gig on *Parks and Recreation* and various roles and cameos in film and television, Aziz Ansari has become a breakout star of the modern comedy scene. But like many of his colleagues, he first came to prominence as a stand-up comedian. He's passing through Wisconsin as he wraps up his tour supporting his Netflix comedy show *Buried Alive*. He appears at Milwaukee's Riverside Theater, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., on May 19 and at Madison's Overture Center, 201 State St., on May 20. Tickets are \$38 at the Riverside, \$39 at Overture Center. Visit [pabsttheater.com](http://pabsttheater.com) or [overturecenter.com](http://overturecenter.com), respectively.

## BRAT FEST May 23 to 26

Maybe you didn't know the world's largest brat festival is in Wisconsin, but you're not really surprised, right? Brat Fest, held every Memorial Day weekend on Willow Island at the Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, celebrates Wisconsin's favorite sausage with brat-friendly food, family activities and musical performances from a line-up that includes Bret Michaels. All the festival's proceeds go to local charities, meaning every time you stuff a brat in your face you're really giving back to the community. As if you needed an excuse. Admission is free. For more information, visit [bratfest.com](http://bratfest.com).



PHOTO: ANNEMARIE SAWKINS



## WASHINGTON HEIGHTS SPACES & TRACES TOUR

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat., May 17

Historic Milwaukee's Spaces & Traces tour, its first home tour of the season, takes participants into the Washington Heights neighborhood. Visitors will be guided through an area filled with Tudor revival, Colonial revival, Mediterranean revival and postmodern homes. Author and historian John Gurda presents a talk about the area. Tickets to the presentation are included in the tour price — \$25 for Historic Milwaukee members and \$30 for non-members (although a \$5 discount is available if purchased in advance). For information visit [historicmilwaukee.org](http://historicmilwaukee.org).

## ART GAZE ■ BY KAT MURRELL

### LISA SELBY: 'MUST COME DOWN' AND BENJAMIN DEMOTT: 'TEETER JAM'

Through May 18

One of Milwaukee's premier contemporary art venues, Inova currently hosts the work of two artists in a manner that divides the gallery space into two solo shows, each exploring the possibilities of ceramics in vastly different forms.

British artist Lisa Selby is exquisitely austere and ultimately poetic in her exhibition, *Must Come Down*. Working in porcelain, she uses traditional forms such as vases, combining them with multimedia elements in "Goodbye daffodils, hello affair." An auditory monologue plays, giving the vessels plaintive, imploring voices of their own. Other cast objects, such as a railing wrapped around a wall and a hanging bowl — precariously suspended from the ceiling — are similar stand-ins for the fractured and fragile side of human emotions.

Benjamin DeMott's sprawling installation *Teeter Jam* has a conversely brash character. The pieces create bulk through diminutive details. Using wire with found and ceramic objects, he conveys playfulness. Shades of Alexander Calder's linear sculptures become three-dimensional drawings on a wall; an exhausted head rests on a tilted stepladder; and a tiny, Max Ernst-like surrealist landscape with a hanging man rests on a monumental clear Plexi-

glas vitrine. At Inova, 2155 N. Prospect Ave. Call 414-229-5070 or visit <http://www4.uwm.edu/psoa/inova>

### 'FORWARD 2014: A SURVEY OF WISCONSIN ART'

Now Through June 29

Charles Allis Art Museum is housed in one of the grand old mansions that survived the 20th-century's reckless demolition spree. It was built in 1911 for Charles Allis, of Allis Chalmers fame, and his wife Sarah. The museum displays a plethora of interesting objects, many from the Allis' personal collection of art and furnishings. Their interests ranged from ancient Greek pottery to Asian decorative arts. The museum regularly presents exhibitions of contemporary work.

Curated by Museum of Wisconsin Art director and CEO Laurie Winters, the current exhibition profiles trends from the state's artists in a variety of media. Works on view tend largely toward two-dimensional. There is only a small sample from each artist, but the exhibit is an excellent way to become familiar with some prominent names in the area's art scene.

The exhibition is juried, and recipients of the major awards demonstrate an exceptional quality of craft. Painter Terrence Coffman won the Grand Prize for "Angel 1," a monumental composition combining elements that subtly reference figure

and landscape painting, created with the panache of Abstract Expressionist brushwork. Joseph Mougel took home the Award of Excellence for "Blanc\_029," a print in which a half-length figure of a girl with wide, upraised eyes is suggested by delicate gray contours. She is an ethereal figure, emerging like a whispered breath from a pure white background. The composition is delicately poised on the edge of nonexistence. Mougel's skill in achieving such a balance of presence and absence is worthy of the award. At Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave. Phone 414-278-8295 or visit [www.charlesallis.org](http://www.charlesallis.org)

### 'SPECIES AND SPECIMENS'

Through May 25

The Charles Allis' sister museum is the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum. Perched on a dramatic bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, this museum is housed in the historic Italianate home of A. O. Smith president Lloyd Smith. Former bedrooms have been transformed into gallery spaces, and the current exhibition, *Species and Specimens*, offers a fantastic range of three-dimensional sculptural works exploring all manner of flora and fauna, both real and imagined.

The 11 artists in the show have been brought together from around the country. They delve into a wide range of subjects, including biodiversity, the majesty and his-



Detail of Karen Gunderman, "Ramble."

tory of the American West, and imagined animalistic beings. Karin Davis uses wool to create tall, freestanding figures that seem like strange alien guests. Namim Kim's *Circles* in the *Material World* floor sculptures are organic roundels of clay rods and wood sticks placed like pools alongside John Ty Bender's fanciful deer and other woodland creatures. Curator Karen Gunderman's wall installations are intricate, thin ceramic lines that twist and meander like bramble, inhabited by odd critters. One of the most amusing surprises is Angela Biederman's "Vermin Fountain," in which porcelain mice frolic around a bathroom sink. This piece is a subtle installation, and well worth scoping out. At Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave. Call 414-271-3656 or go to [www.cavtmuseums.org](http://www.cavtmuseums.org).



# A curated calendar of upcoming events



## ◀ MIDWEST BREWHAHA May 30 to June 1

Milwaukee's own Brewcity Bruisers host the 5th annual Midwest BrewHaHa, a tourney that brings more than 25 of the most talented roller derby teams from the United States and Canada together for three days of bouts. The BrewHaHa determines who gets to compete in this year's Women's Flat-Track Derby Association championships later this year. The Bruisers aren't the only local team you'll be able to cheer on. In addition to their All-Star team, the tourney will feature the Bruisers' B-Team, the Battlestars, an unaffiliated men's team known as the Milwaukee Blitzkrieg, and Madison's Mad Rollin' Dolls. At the U.S. Cellular Arena, 400 W. Kilbourn Ave. For more information, visit [brewcitybruisers.com](http://brewcitybruisers.com).

## 'NAKED MAN'

7:30 p.m. on Fri., May 30, in Madison and Sat., May 31, in Milwaukee

Perfect Harmony Chorus and City of Festivals Men's Chorus, the gay and gay-friendly men's choral groups of Madison and Milwaukee, respectively, will unite at the end of the month for a pair of "emotionally naked" concerts. *Naked Man*, a 16-song cycle originally commissioned by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in 1996, presents vulnerable, true stories from within the LGBT community, on subjects ranging from anger to love, and remains just as poignant and relevant now as it was 18 years ago. The cycle will be performed once in Madison, at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave., and the following day in Milwaukee, at Plymouth Church UCC, 2717 E. Hampshire St. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [perfectharmonychorus.org](http://perfectharmonychorus.org).



## ▶ CHER 8 p.m. Fri., June 6

She hasn't been back to Milwaukee since 2003, but Cher is returning and she's "Dressed to Kill." Her appearance is part of her eighth solo tour in support of her new album *Closer to the Truth*. The tour reportedly features all the bombast that audiences expect from Cher, the original queen of glitz and elaborate stage performances. But word on the street is that the real highlight of the show is the same one that's distinguished her 50-year career: that voice of hers, still able to execute all the tricks of a repertoire too long and well known to list here. Not many 67-year-olds could pull it off, but Cher's not just any 67-year-old. Cyndi Lauper will open the show. Tickets range from \$25.50 to \$105.50. For more information visit [bmoharrisbradleycenter.com](http://bmoharrisbradleycenter.com).



PHOTO: COURTESY

## 'PROUD THEATER: CRYSTAL QUEER'

7:30 p.m. on May 29 and 30; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. on May 31

Proud Theater's mission since its 2000 inception has been to serve as a place of support and inclusion for LGBT and queer youth by offering performance opportunities that double as outreach in their community. The closing show of their season *Crystal Queer* fulfills those objectives perfectly. This emotionally honest show gives the young performers of Proud Theater's Madison branch an opportunity to examine family, bullying, community and the world around them, with alternately outrageous and profound results. At the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St., Madison. Tickets are \$12. Call 608-222-9086 or email ticket requests to [reservations@proudtheater.org](mailto:reservations@proudtheater.org).



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# Out on the town May 15 - June 15

A curated calendar of upcoming events

## 'WAR HORSE' June 10 to 15

The heartwarming tale of a boy and his quest to save his beloved horse finally arrives at the Madison's Overture Center, 201 State St., for one week only. Through the use of elaborately crafted, life-size horse puppets, *War Horse* takes its audience into the battlegrounds of World War I, where a horse named Joey serves alternately on both sides of the conflict even as his former owner Albert struggles to find him and bring him home. The original Broadway production won five Tony awards, including best play, and the national tour retains its adventurous spirit. Tickets range from \$46 to \$99 and can be ordered at 608-258-4141 or [overturecenter.com](http://overturecenter.com).



## BAY VIEW GALLERY NIGHT Fri., June 6

Bay View Gallery Night is an evening to explore the Bay View community and view great works by Milwaukee artists. Over 50 local businesses will host more than 200 local artists and musicians for the evening. New to this year's event is a showing at the historic Beulah Brinton House featuring a collection of historically inspired art, jewelry, and fashion. Jazz performances will take place at four different venues and feature 13 local jazz bands of various styles. Food Truck Friday is back and will have a lineup of local food trucks ready to serve at Morgan Park on KK and Holt. For a complete listing of all the evening's events and times, go to [bvgn.org](http://bvgn.org).



## SPRING ON BRADY ART WALK 12 to 4 p.m., Sat. June 7

Embrace the spring (if and when it arrives) with Brady Street's annual Art Walk, sponsored by Newaukee. This mini-festival brings nearly 30 merchants together on one of Milwaukee's most culturally vibrant streets to host live artists, sidewalk sales, food and libations. The event kicks off on the west end of the street at Casablanca, 728 E. Brady St., where participants can get a map and punch card. Fill out the punch card and drop it off at Nomad World Pub, 1401 E. Brady St., to gain entry into an art-themed raffle. Attendance is free.

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