

In Wisconsin and around the world, Gaza conflict exposes divisions

pages 10-14



AP PHOTO: DAN BALILTY

In Tel Aviv, Israeli left-wing activists light candles in the shape of the word "sorry" in Hebrew and place portraits on the ground of Israelis and Palestinians who've been killed in the Gaza conflict. On July 26, Israeli police dispersed a peace rally attended by several thousand people.



9 The rest of the fests
From Ice Age Days to Indian Summer, festivals continue through August and into September.



21 Talk about funny
With stand-up, sketches and improv, Milwaukee Comedy Festival returns for its biggest year yet.



23 Summer Set Festival
Bassnectar and Kaskade headline this year's electronic music concert in Somerset, Wisconsin.



24 Picturing local life
Milwaukee Art Museum exhibit presents eleven photographers' views of Milwaukee.



29 Fruit of the heirloom
At last, Wisconsin tomatoes are ripe and ready to take center stage on your menu.

News with a twist



PHOTO: COURTESY FUNZEE

FUNZEE WITH ONESIES

Funzee, the online retailer of "adult onesies," has just sent to the U.S. market a Reggae version of its one-piece pajama wear. The retailer claims the funzee in stripes of black, gold, red and green already is popular in Europe, where people are wearing onesies to parties and concerts. Ya, OK. But man, what would Marley say?

OVER EXPOSURE

What does it take to stir up New Yorkers? A photo-

graph of a nude man — full-frontally exposed — in the window of Rivington Design Houses' gallery in Manhattan prompted a series of complaints to the gallery and to authorities. One complaint brought out the NYPD, but officers left without taking action when they realized the naked "suspect" of concern was in a photograph and not walking around the street.

TOW JOB

A man in Orange County, Florida, faces 29 charges of grand theft auto for an alleged scheme to tow the cars of people attending Gay Days in Orlando earlier this summer. Authorities say Jason Combs had spotters watch people bound for Gay Days park their autos and then the spotters called in tow trucks. More than 100 vehicles were towed and Combs' company took in more than \$1,600 in fines and fees. Big business or big bigot?



HERE SHE COMES AGAIN

The subscription-based Sarah Palin Channel went live on July 27, serving as a "direct connection" between the former GOP vice presidential candidate and her supporters. Palin, in a video statement that could be seen for free on the site, said she was tired of "the media filters." "We'll talk about the issues that the mainstream media won't talk about," said Palin, who earns a living from mainstream media — she's a paid contributor on the Fox News Channel and a reality-TV personality.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

The Great Alaskan Bush Company, a Phoenix strip club, has endorsed the Rev. Jarrett Maupin, a Democrat, in the 7th Congressional District in Arizona. Maupin says he's happy for the support, which is displayed on a sign outside

the club. The candidate, a member of the "Progressive Christian Coalition," earned the endorsement of club employees because he's an advocate for affordable student loans and all-day kindergarten.

IDENTITY ISSUES

Rep. Curt Clawson, R-Fla., addressed what he believed were two members of the Indian government at a House hearing and assured them that, as a U.S. representative, he would support all efforts to facilitate a better relationship between America and "your country" and "your government." But there was one problem — the officials testifying before the House Asia and Pacific subcommittee weren't Indian officials at all, but two Indian-Americans: Nisha Biswal of the State Department, and Arun Kumar of the Commerce Department. When Clawson asked them for cooperation in increasing U.S. investment, a confused Biswal responded that

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

they shared his sentiments — as members of the U.S. government.

ALL TREES MUST PASS

In a sad bit of irony, a tree planted in Los Angeles' Griffith Park in honor of the late Beatle George Harrison has died due to an "infestation of beetles." Plant specialists are trying to determine if the beetle infestation could be part of a British invasion.

SHEBOYGAN BITES BACK

No wrestling was required to subdue a 4-foot-long alligator on the loose in Sheboygan County. A team of sheriff's deputies and Sheboygan police officers corralled and snared the snarling reptile in a ditch near the Sheboygan River after receiving a call about an alligator sighting. The reptile is temporarily in the care of the Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Fredonia until a zoo or other permanent

home can be found. You never know what you'll run into in Sheboygan.

UNFRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN

A man dressed as Spider-Man was arrested on charges that he slugged a police officer who told him to stop harassing tourists in Times Square. Junior Bishop, 25, was charged with assaulting an officer, resisting arrest and criminal mischief after he punched a cop who stepped in after he demanded at least \$5 from a woman he posed with for a photo. It was just the latest in a series of incidents involving "characters" in Times Square. In the last two years, a man dressed as Cookie Monster was charged with shoving a 2-year-old, a person dressed in Super Mario's overalls was accused of groping a woman and an Elmo figure pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct after unleashing an anti-Semitic tirade.

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NOV.20 - 22 • TURNER SPANK! THE FIFTY SHADES PARODY</p> <p>DECEMBER 2-24 • PABST A CHRISTMAS CAROL</p> <p>DECEMBER 4 • RIVERSIDE CHRIS BOTTI</p> <p>DECEMBER 4 • TURNER SHAKEY GRAVES</p> <p>2 SHOWS
DECEMBER 10 + 11 • RIVERSIDE NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON</p> <p>DECEMBER 14 • RIVERSIDE MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS BY CHIP DAVIS</p> <p>FEBRUARY 6 • TURNER SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO</p> <p>FEBRUARY 14 • RIVERSIDE ALTON BROWN LIVE</p> |
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Progressives win 1, lose 2 at Wisconsin Supreme Court

By Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg
Staff writers

Progressives showed supreme disappointment in two decisions delivered by the state's highest court on July 31. And a victory in a third case yielded little enthusiasm.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court issued rulings in disputes over Act 10, the union-busting law enacted in 2011; Act 23, the voter ID law that Republican Gov. Scott Walker signed in 2011; and the domestic partnership registry measure signed into law in 2009 by then Gov. Jim Doyle.

The court upheld all three measures.

VALIDATING VOTER ID

In the days after the Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the state's 3-year-old voter ID law, voting rights activists stressed that for now the law, still under challenge at a federal appeals court, remains blocked.

They also encouraged voters to think about Wisconsin Republicans' campaign to suppress the vote when they head to the polls for the primary on Aug. 12 and in the general election on Nov. 4.

Walker signed Act 23, the voter ID law, in 2011. At the time, conservatives across the country were working to shape the 2012 election by suppressing the vote.

Two cases, one brought by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and one brought by the Milwaukee branch of the NAACP with the immigration rights group Voces de la Frontera, took the dispute to the state Supreme Court.

While upholding the law, the court said the state must guarantee that voters could get an ID without paying a fee.

Justice Patience D. Roggensack, writing for the majority in one of the cases, said, "The State of Wisconsin may not enact a law that requires any elector, rich or poor, to pay a fee of any amount to a government agency as a precondition to the elector's exercising his or her constitutional right to vote."

A dissenter in both cases, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson said the state failed to show a compelling interest in creating a new burden on voters. "Today the court follows not James Madison — for whom Wisconsin's capital city is named — but rather Jim Crow — the name typically used to refer

to repressive laws used to restrict rights, including the right to vote, of African-Americans," she wrote.

In the NAACP case, the ruling was 4-3, with Roggensack, Michael J. Gableman, David T. Prosser Jr. and Annette Kingsland Ziegler in the majority. Abrahamson and Justices Ann Walsh Bradley and N. Patrick Crooks were in the minority.

In the League of Women Voters case, the ruling was 5-2, with Crooks joining the majority.

Republican backers argue that requiring voters to show ID would cut down on voter fraud and boost public confidence in the integrity of the election process.

But opponents said concerns over voter fraud are overblown. They contend the law's true intent was to reduce turnout among minorities and others more likely to vote Democratic — a contention supported by the fact that only Republicans are promoting such laws, while Democrats universally oppose them.

Ironically, the only high-profile case of voter fraud in Wisconsin involved a Republican supporter of Walker. Robert Monroe, a 50-year-old Shorewood health

insurance executive, was charged just months ago with 13 felonies after it was discovered that he allegedly voted a dozen times in five elections between 2011 and 2012, using his own name as well the names of his son and his girlfriend's son. Other high-profile cases of voter fraud since 2011 have involved Republican voters in Nevada and New Mexico.

Walker, in a statement on July 31, said, "Voter ID is a common-sense reform that protects the integrity of our elections. People need to have confidence in our electoral process and to know their vote has been properly counted. We look forward to the same result from the federal court of appeals."

Coming just before the midterm and gubernatorial elections, publicity over the law could have the opposite effect that Republicans seek. It's believed that attempts to suppress minority voters inspired massive voter turnout in 2012 among African-Americans, helping ensure victories for President Barack Obama and Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin.

In a joint statement, the NAACP and Voces de la Frontera said, "It is especially tragic and ironic that

'Today the court follows not James Madison but Jim Crow.'

this decision was made on the cusp of the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement's 'Freedom Summer,' which fought so hard to defend voting rights for African-Americans.

"We encourage all to make every effort to vote in the upcoming elections on Aug. 12 and Nov. 4."

An estimated 300,000 registered Wisconsin citizens do not possess one of the IDs allowed under the Wisconsin voter ID law.

Act 23 now heads to the federal appeals court level, where the U.S. Justice Department recently filed an amicus brief siding with opponents of the law. In that case, a federal judge ruled in April that Act 23 violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

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APPROVING ACT 10

The passage of Wisconsin's Act 10, which effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers, sparked massive protests at the Capitol and led to a recall election, which Republican Gov. Scott Walker survived.

The protests that started in the tumultuous winter of 2011 have continued on a regular basis, with Solidarity Sing-Alongs at the Capitol, Overpass Light Brigade demonstrations and other actions, including federal and state lawsuits.

But it appears that Act 10 will remain the law of the land until Walker and his administration no longer rule the state.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled 5-2 to uphold the measure, which prohibits public employees from collectively bargaining for any wage increases beyond inflation, as constitutional. Justice Gableman wrote the majority opinion: "Collective bargaining remains a creation of legislative grace and not a constitutional obligation."

Chief Justice Abrahamson and Justice Bradley dissented in the case brought by the Madison Teachers union and a union representing public employees in Milwaukee. They argued that Act 10 violated workers' constitutional rights to free assembly and equal protection.

Walker, who likely will face Democrat Mary Burke in his reelection bid in November, said, "Act 10 has saved Wisconsin taxpayers more than \$3 billion. Today's ruling is a victory for those hard-working taxpayers."

However, Madison Teachers Inc. executive director John Matthews called the court ruling morally bankrupt. Matthews, referring to the dissent by Bradley and Abrahamson, said the court reframed, dodged and twisted the issue to reach its verdict. "Gov. Walker said he would divide and conquer public employees, and he did with Act 10. Now his conservative supporters on the Supreme Court have said what he did in acting to divide and conquer is constitutional."

A federal appeals court has twice upheld Act 10 as constitutional. In addition to imposing massive restrictions on collective bargaining, Act 10 requires public employees to contribute more toward their health and pension plans, requires members to vote annually for union representation and prohibits automatic deductions for union dues from their paychecks.

In a statement, AFSCME Wisconsin said, "Act 10 has caused incalculable damage to the state economy and the public workplace. It has driven thousands of dedicated employees away from public service. It's not the Wisconsin way, and ultimately it will not stand."



Thousands of opponents of Gov. Scott Walker gather to protest at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison on Feb. 26, 2011. AP PHOTO: WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL, JOHN HART, FILE

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Rep Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore on Issues Impacting the LGBT Community:



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DECIDING FOR DOMESTIC PARTNERS

Gay civil rights advocates have argued for years that domestic partnerships create a separate and unequal class, because they provide far fewer than the 1,000-plus benefits and rights afforded by marriage.

On July 31, Wisconsin's highest court affirmed the argument that domestic partnership is not equal to marriage in unanimously upholding the law that created the state's domestic partners registry. Signed by Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle in 2009, the registry provides such limited benefits as hospital visitation rights and the ability to take family medical leave to care for a sick or injured partner.

Although the rights conferred by the registry are limited, they are nonetheless considered essential by the 2,300 Wisconsin same-sex couples who've registered their relationships. That's why Fair Wisconsin and Lambda Legal were willing to go to the mat to protect the registry from a legal challenge by the anti-gay group Wisconsin Family Action.

WFA's executive director Julaine Appling said the registry violated a 2006 constitutional amendment that her group successfully put before voters. The amendment reads, "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not



PHOTO: WISCONSIN.GOV

The Wisconsin Supreme Court chamber in the Capitol.

be valid or recognized in this state."

Appling, who has lived for decades with another woman in a home that the two own jointly, alleged that the more than 20 benefits afforded by the registry created relationships substantially similar to marriage — and thus in conflict with the 2006 constitutional amendment. After a lower court ruling upheld the registry, Appling took it to the state's high court, where Lambda Legal, representing five registered couples, defended it.

Writing for the entire bench, Justice Crooks said that during the campaign to enact the amendment, its proponents ensured "that (it) simply would not preclude a mechanism for legislative grants of certain rights to same-sex couples."

"We're thrilled that Wisconsin same-sex couples can keep the limited but very important protections that the domestic partnership registry grants them," said Lambda Legal counsel Christopher Clark, who argued the case. "The statute is clearly constitutional, and the Supreme Court of Wisconsin agreed with us. Gay and lesbian couples in Wisconsin no longer have to fear that the protections they have will be taken away by unnecessary anti-gay legal action."

Fair Wisconsin CEO Katie Belanger added, "We're glad that we can finally move on from this long and unnecessary battle. We're happy for the thousands of same-sex couples in Wisconsin that need the domestic partnership registry to protect themselves and their families. We must now continue to focus our attention on securing the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in Wisconsin."

Earlier this summer, a federal court overturned Wisconsin's 2006 anti-marriage amendment, a decision that briefly allowed more than 500 same-sex couples to marry in the state before an injunction was issued pending appeal. Oral argument in the appeal is set for Aug. 26 in Chicago.

In her initial reaction to the high court's decision, Appling questioned the significance of the partnership case now, with the state seemingly marching toward full marriage equality. But in a statement released to the press, she strained to put a positive spin on the decision against her.

"While we are disappointed that the

Wisconsin Supreme Court did not agree with us, what's important is that marriage remains between one man and one woman in Wisconsin and that even in this ruling, the court recognized that marriage is unique and nothing like relationships formed by same-sex couples," Appling said.

VAN HOLLEN'S CHOICES

Fair Wisconsin had to hire Lambda Legal to defend the registry law because Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen refused to do so. At the same time, he said that he's appealing the federal circuit court's decision striking down the 2006 amendment, because he's obligated to defend state law.

Before the Supreme Court decision, WiG asked Van Hollen to explain why he was obligated to defend the anti-gay state law but not the pro-gay state law. Van Hollen said through a spokesperson that the difference was that the registry law was clearly unconstitutional.

In an exclusive interview with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Van Hollen insisted that the registry law was "indefensible" and that defending it would be "frivolous."

But even the author of the 2006 amendment, far-right Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, did not back Appling's lawsuit. He told the *Journal Sentinel* that he specifically authored the amendment to allow some benefits for gay and lesbian couples.

Now that the high court's conservative leadership has agreed with the amendment's right-wing author that the registry was indeed constitutional, Van Hollen would seem to owe the public an explanation of how he concluded that it was unconstitutional.

Equality supporters are hopeful that Van Hollen's apparent inability to discern constitutionality will also yield them a victory at the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Arab World Fest returns to Milwaukee's lakefront

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

It's been four years missing, and Milwaukee's Arab World Fest is finally ready to make its triumphant return to the Summerfest grounds Aug. 8-10 with a cultural event festival that president Ihsan Atta says celebrates familial unity.

The calendar forced the festival on hiatus. The dates scheduled for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 events coincided with Ramadan, the ninth month of the lunar Islamic calendar, during which Muslims pray and fast from dawn until sunset. Ramadan is clearly the sort of serious religious observance that would not fold into a festival atmosphere, especially one featuring food.

Luckily, the month of Ramadan wrapped up this year on July 28, just in time for Arab World Fest to prepare for its return.

Atta acknowledges that having been so long out of the public mind poses problems for this year's festival. But he says Arab World Fest has been around since 1998 and was gaining popularity before its last appearance in 2010.

"The momentum was growing every year," he says. Atta expects

AT THE LAKEFRONT

Arab World Festival runs Aug. 8-10 at the Summerfest grounds. Hours are 5 p.m. to midnight on Friday, noon to midnight on Saturday and noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$10 at the gate, \$8 in advance. Children under 6 are admitted free. For more, visit arabworldfest.com.

the Arab-American community and other former attendees to return en masse this year.

Arab World Fest follows much the same formula as the other ethnic festivals on the Summerfest grounds, filling in each variable with its own cultural elements. Vendors sell such foods as falafel, shish kebabs and baba ghanoush. Stages are stacked with song and dance from a list of artists that includes Freedom Debke Group, which will perform its trademark Levantine folk dance, Chicago-based and Morocco-born singer Nidal Ibourk and numerous belly dancers. Goods and crafts from around the Arab world are sold at

the "souk," a diverse marketplace. And educational booths are set up to teach visitors about the cultures of the 22 individual Middle East countries that are part of the Arab sphere.

There's much to experience that's distinctly Arab World Fest-flavored. There's the buffet of hookah options, for one, available to rent throughout the festival and popular for mainstage watching. Camel rides are another option — an especially popular one for kids — at only \$5 a ride.

But perhaps one of the most interesting inclusions is an adjoining film festival, which presents a mix of contemporary Arab films such as *Flying Paper*, a documentary about a group of Palestinian children trying to break the world record for most kites flown at once. The film examines the lives of the children, who live on the edge of Gaza.

The recent escalation of the ongoing conflict in Gaza (see story, page 10) could cast a pall over the festival. "Unfortunately, this has become part of our culture," says Atta, adding that organizers briefly considered canceling it. A similar festival in Dearborn,



Michigan, was canceled last year and this year due to assaults at the 2012 festival prompted by Christian missionaries seeking to convert attendees.

Atta hopes Milwaukeeans will attend the festival as a way to sup-

port the victims on both sides of the Gaza conflict while celebrating Arab culture.

"We want to have the festival in solidarity with all those families who have lost loved ones," Atta says. "We will be that family."

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Rest of the fests

Wisconsin is famous for its colorful array of summer festivals. Although, regrettably, the summer sun is waning, a surprisingly large number of interesting festivals are still to come in the next month. This page presents just a few of the upcoming festivities that the state offers.



Musical performers at the Logjam Festival in Mosinee.

LITTLE BULL FALLS LOGJAM FESTIVAL, AUG. 8-10

Flannel and fireworks: Mosinee celebrates life on the Wisconsin River and the region's rich logging history with three days of entertainment featuring the Drovers and Hillbilly Wild, re-enactments, chainsaw carving, fireworks and lumberjacks flexing some muscle. At River Park, 1101 Main St., Mosinee, 54455. Admission is free. For more, visit logjamfestival.org.



Parading in Rib Lake.

RIB LAKE ICE AGE DAYS, AUG. 8-10

Pebbles, Bamm-Bamm and bands: Rib Lake — population 910 — celebrates its place along the Ice Age Trail with Ice Age Days, a family-focused festival featuring a fish boil, a street dance, musical performances, a classic car show and a Sunday parade with marchers costumed as cave-men and cavewomen. Downtown, McComb Avenue, Rib Lake, 54470. Admission is free. For more, call 715-427-5404 or visit riblakewisconsin.com.



In August, the biggest supermoon of the year coincides with the brightest meteor showers.

PERSEID METEOR SHOWERS NIGHT SKY CELEBRATION, AUG. 12

Looking up in darkest park: Skygazers gather in the darkest park in northern Door County — with lawn chairs, blankets and coolers in tow — to picnic under meteor showers. An added attraction is the biggest and brightest supermoon of the year, coinciding with the biggest and brightest meteor shower. At Newport State Park, 475 County Road NP, Ellison Bay, 54210. No charge.



The Emerald Isle gets its time in the sun every August.

IRISH FEST, AUG. 14-17

Emerald Isle's time to shine: We're lucky to have a Celtic celebration as large and established as Irish Fest, still going strong after more than 30 years. This year's festival invites eight Scottish contemporary folk bands to join the usual slew of Irish entertainment, including Trinity Irish Dancers and Gaelic Storm. It's also the millennial celebration of Brian Boru, Ireland's first modern ruler, and the festival's presenting his life through story, song and — because it's a summer festival — food. Tickets are \$17, \$12 for seniors and \$5 on Thursday. For more, visit irishfest.com.



Aaron Williams & the Hoodoo performs at the Big Bull Falls Blues Fest this month.

BIG BULL FALLS BLUES FEST, AUG. 15-16

Tuning up: Wausau is warming up for the 23rd annual Big Bull Falls Blues Fest — the state's longest-running blues fest. The stage lineup includes Aaron Williams and the Hoodoo, The Jimmys, Candy Kane, Quinn Sullivan, John Nemeth and the Royal Southern Brotherhood. At Fern Island Park, 500 River Drive, Wausau, 54403. Tickets are \$15 on Aug. 15, \$35 on Aug. 16 or \$40 for two days. For more, call 715-843-0748 or visit wausauevents.org.



The High 48s are to perform in Rosholt later this month.

BLUEGRASS IN THE PINES, AUG. 21-23

Summertime rag: Rosholt hosts a three-day jam session and camping event in conjunction with its fifth annual music festival. The host band is Art Stevenson and High Water. The lineup also includes Feller and Hill and the Bluegrass Buckaroos; Larry Gillis and Swampgrass Band; Tommy Brown and County Line Grass; the High 48s; Horseshoes and Hand Grenades; the Fish Heads; and Sloppy Joe. At Rosholt Fair Park, North Main Street, Rosholt, 54467. Tickets are \$10-\$15 and campsites are \$5-\$20 per person per night. Call 715-884-6996 or visit highwatermusic.com.



Dancers at Mexican Fiesta.

MEXICAN FIESTA, AUG. 22-24

Southern neighbors: Milwaukee's Mexican community always turns out in force for Mexican Fiesta, a vibrant celebration of their culture. Mariachi is the musical style that takes center stage, but the rest of their lineup is strong too, including major norteño band Los Tigres del Norte. The festival also features a wide array of food options, as well as arts and crafts on display at their cultural pavilion. Admission is \$15. Visit mexicanfiesta.org for more details.



The dragon boat fest in Superior draws more than 20 teams.

LAKE SUPERIOR DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL, AUG. 22-23

"Ready, ready": Dragon-boat racing is one of the world's fastest growing water sports. The 13th annual Lake Superior Dragon Boat Festival will draw 20-plus teams to compete in 450-meter races off Barker's Island. Fans can watch and cheer from the shore, where organizers promise food, song and dance. Barker's Island, 300 Marina Drive, Superior, 54880. Admission is free. For more, call 715-395-6169 or visit lakesuperiordragons.com.



Cyclists can chose to ride an 18-mile or 36-mile route.

THREE LAKES NICOLET WHEEL-A-WAY, AUG. 30

Tour de Three Lakes: Bicycling enthusiasts on the 23rd annual Three Lakes Nicolet Wheel-A-Way can peddle an 18-mile or 36-mile route through the Nicolet Forest and through the three-lakes area. The ride begins at 9:20 a.m. and breaks for a picnic lunch at Franklin Lake. At Don Burnside Park, 6000 Stanzil St., Three Lakes, 54562. Registration is \$35-\$40 per individual, \$70-\$75 per family. For more, call 715-546-3344.



The potato gets toasted, roasted, boiled and fried at Potato Fest.

POTATO FEST, AUG. 30

Spud-filled day: Of course there's a potato-salad taste-off, a couch potato race, a French Fry Frenzy and a pancake breakfast, as well as live music. At Trig's Green Space, 232 S. Courtney St., Rhinelander. Admission is free. For more, call 715-362-7374 or visit downtownrhinelander.com.



American Indian culture is on full display at Indian Summer.

INDIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL, SEPT. 5-7

Summer's last hurrah: As the last big festival of the season, Indian Summer is already a hot ticket, and that's before considering it's the biggest American Indian celebration of its kind in the country. This year's festival includes a concurrent Horse Nation Celebration, as well as a weekend-long contest pow wow, lacrosse matches and Olympic amateur boxing. Tickets are \$14, \$10 for seniors. For more, visit indiansummer.org.



NEWS ANALYSIS

At home and abroad, rising tensions over Israel's Gaza incursion spark acts of hate



PHOTO: SKIP O'ROURKE/THE TAMPA BAY TIMES

TENSION IN TAMPA: Nofar Haymovich of Israel, who is currently staying in Lakeland, Florida, displays the Israeli flag during a rally held in Lykes Gaslight Square Park in downtown Tampa on Aug. 1. Hundreds of people from across Tampa Bay joined together in the park at noon as a sign of solidarity in support of Israel and Ashdod (Tampa's Sister City). Tensions between supporters of Israel and pro-Palestinians have been high in the Florida city ever since Israeli police beat Tampa teenager Tariq Abu Khdeir, who was visiting family in the West Bank this summer. The beating was videotaped and seen worldwide.

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Last month Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke asked for the public's help in monitoring suspicious activity around religious sites. He had good reason.

"With the heightened tensions and military activity occurring in and around Israel and the Gaza strip, there is the potential that local agitators will seize upon the current climate to opportunistically attack religious sites, including synagogues, temples and mosques, and deface or vandalize them under the guise of legitimate protest," Clarke wrote in a press release.

In Europe, and less frequently in the United States, numerous such instances have occurred. Meanwhile, Arab World Fest (see story, page 8) returns to Milwaukee's Summerfest Grounds on the weekend of Aug. 8-10, and the Jewish High Holidays, which routinely present heightened security challenges, begin on Sept. 24. This confluence of events raises concerns.

Adding to those concerns in Milwaukee is an unfortunate anniversary: On Aug. 5, 2012, white supremacist Wade Michael Page fatally shot six people and wounded four others at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek.

In other American cities, such attacks have been undertaken by racists who've confused Sikhs with Muslims, although there's no evidence that's what motivated Page.

As WiG headed to press, Milwaukee Police Department spokesman Mark Stanmeyer said there have not been any reported crimes in the city related to the conflict in Gaza. But he said law enforcement authorities throughout the area remain vigilant.

"The Milwaukee Police Department, through its Southeastern Wisconsin Threat Analysis Center, works with federal partners to assess potential threats to special events," Stanmeyer said via email. "I'm not aware of any planned increase in Milwaukee Police resources as a result of recent events."

Vicious verbal attacks on both Jews and Muslims have spiked recently on local social media pages. "It's the usual heartbreaking, hateful drivel" about Jews "running the media, controlling people, using power for deleterious ends, etc.," said Elana Kahn-Oren, director of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council. "Thank goodness we've not experienced vandalism or physical attacks like other communities, including Chicago."

In Chicago, anti-Semitic leaflets were left on cars in a North Side Jewish neighborhood on July 20. In Miami, a synagogue was vandalized with anti-Semitic slurs and cars owned by Jews have been egged. Vandals in Philadelphia spray-painted hate symbols on a local synagogue.

In recent weeks, many Madison and Milwaukee-area Jewish congregations have held services and rallies to show solidarity with Israel. On July 27, a rally at Milwaukee's Congregation Shalom drew 800 pro-Israel demonstrators and a group of about 200 counter protesters, who hurled anti-Semitic epithets at ralliers, according to the *Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle*. Protesters called the supporters of Israel "animals," according to Kahn-Oren and others. They chanted, "Hey, Yid go home," and, "Jews and Nazis are the same, the only difference is the name!"

Pro-Palestinian sympathizers have staged protests across the state as well, including in Appleton, Racine, Madison and Milwaukee. Participants have called on Israel to end its military incursion into Gaza, which has killed more than 1,000, including many children. Pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian op-eds have flooded Wisconsin newspapers.

Like the local Jewish community, Milwaukee's Arab community also have received taunts and insults, particularly as worshippers entered and exited area mosques during the holy month of Ramadan, which ended on July 28, said Othman Atta, executive director of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee.

"We've had a few eggs thrown at us and people calling (by phone) and shouting profanities and so forth, but that's been the extent of it so far," Atta said. "There hasn't been any kind of direct attempt to attack the mosques."

Atta said the local Arab-American community, composed largely of people of Palestinian descent, maintains tight security around mosques and other Muslim gathering places. "We're very careful about who has access to the center, especially during times when we have a lot of attendees," he added.

MILWAUKEE'S MUSLIMS AND JEWS

Muslims began to establish roots in Milwaukee during the 1950s, and today the community is about 15,000 strong, according to the most recent estimates. Wisconsin is home to 23 mosques and Islamic centers.

Suspensions toward Muslims remain strong in Wisconsin, just as they have across the nation since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Late in 2007, Milwaukee's first Arab-American police officer sued the city on charges he was taunted and discriminated against due to anger over 9/11. Public backlash against the opening of an Islamic

The military incursion in Gaza has provoked a much stronger backlash worldwide than here in Wisconsin.

center in Sheboygan County in 2010 exemplified anti-Muslim sentiment.

The Jewish community has a much longer history in Wisconsin, and several high-profile Jews have lived in the state. Among them was Golda Meir, a Ukrainian refugee who immigrated to Milwaukee, where she taught school before going on to become Israel's fourth prime minister.

The Jewish Community Study of Greater Milwaukee 2011 found that the Jewish population of the area is about 30,000 people, including a large Russian-Jewish community on the city's North Side. But due to growth in interfaith marriages and the backlash toward religion in general among young people, Wisconsin's Jewish community is struggling to maintain its size and identity. Many people believe the community is shrinking.

In general, Jews and Muslims in America have been cautiously supportive of one another. As minority religious groups in a politically Christian nation, they have worked together on shared interests involving religious freedom, civil rights and immigration policy.

Relations between the two communities, however, have become increasingly strained due to the global rise of Islamic terrorism and Israel's political turn to the hard right, which resulted in territorial aggression toward Palestinian lands and the apartheid-style treatment of Palestinians living in Israel. Interfaith programs in Wisconsin and elsewhere have become strained, according to those involved.

BACKLASH

Around the nation and the world, the military campaign underway in Gaza has provoked a much stronger backlash than it has here in Wisconsin. In the United States, that backlash has primarily targeted Arab-Americans, while in Europe it has focused on Jews.

"The big backlash is not happening here, it's happening in Europe, which we see every time there is trouble between Israel and the Palestinians," said Mark Potok of the South-

GAZA next page

GAZA from prior page

ern Poverty Law Center.

Anti-Semitism has been firmly entrenched for centuries in European societies. While many progressive Europeans oppose Israel's treatment of Palestinians on the grounds of social injustice, many others use it as cover for anti-Semitism. The Anti-Defamation League released a survey this year that found 34 percent of eastern Europeans and 24 of western Europeans hold anti-Semitic views.

People in the U.S. view Israel more favorably. In the post-9/11 world, the Jewish nation is a strategic military ally in a region that's otherwise hostile to American interests. In addition, evangelical Christians believe the second coming of Jesus is dependent on Jewish control of the Holy Land — and evangelism is far more widely embraced by Americans than Europeans.

A CNN/ORC poll conducted between July 18 and 20 found 57 percent support among Americans for Israel's actions in Gaza.

Europeans "don't have the same tradition of supporting Israel that we do," Andrew Kohut, founding director of the Pew Research Center, told *The New York Times*. "That area of the world is closer to them, and they get more exposure to Arabs and Muslims, and are more open to the Palestinian point of view."

Anti-Semitic attacks in Europe have been rising precipitously for the past two decades. Since the Gaza conflict began, scores of European Jews have been attacked, synagogues have been firebombed, Jewish businesses, homes and neighborhoods have been vandalized and numerous demonstrations have called for "Death to the Jews," despite the fact that a large proportion of Jews, even Israeli Jews, condemn what is occurring in Gaza. Israeli Jews have staged several large protests in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square condemning the attack on Gaza, and dozens of the protesters have been arrested.

The anti-Semitic backlash over Gaza has been the worst in France, which, in addition to its anti-Semitic tradition, also has Europe's largest population of Muslim and Arab immigrants. But a July 29 *Newsweek* cover story titled "Exodus: Why Europe's Jews Are Fleeing Once Again" reported that even Malmö, Sweden's third-largest city, recorded 60 anti-Semitic incidents from 2010 to 2012, including the bombing of the local Jewish community center.

Although Malmö's mayor blamed the acts on Zionism rather than anti-Semitism, Hannah Rosenthal, the former U.S. special envoy for combating anti-Semitism, told *Newsweek* that the city exemplifies the "new anti-Semitism," which uses anti-Zionism (opposition to Israel's existence) as a disguise for hatred of Jews. (Rosenthal is currently president and CEO of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, but she was unavailable for comment during the week that WiG prepared this story.)

For many Jews, the escalating anti-Semitic attacks in Europe are reminiscent of the 1930s, when most of the Jews who failed to flee wound up in Nazi gas chambers. "At what point do the Jews of America and the

Jews of Israel tell the Jews of Europe that it might be time to get out?" American-Jewish journalist Jeffrey Goldberg asks in the *Newsweek* article.

DEMYSTIFYING ISLAM

In America, it's the Arab community that faces the greatest threat of a widespread backlash over Gaza. So far, violence toward Arabs hasn't resulted in serious injuries or deaths. But Ibrahim Hooper, national communications director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, described incidents such as "an old guy getting pelted with eggs coming out of a mosque in New York" as violent attacks.

There's certainly a large enough reservoir of hatred to fuel violence toward Muslims. Hooper and his organization regularly receive emails that make Nazi propaganda read like Hallmark cards in comparison. Hooper forwarded WiG an email he received in which the writer called for the slaughter of Muslim babies in the most brutal terms possible.

Hooper said that CAIR, which many consider a radical organization, encourages open houses at mosques and cultural events to demystify Islam and "decrease suspicion (caused by) lack of knowledge."

Atta said that's exactly what Arab World Fest aims to accomplish. "People go to partake in the food, customs and music," he said. "The people who go there are pretty open-minded, and they're there because they're willing to learn. It's a social time.

"There's a good mix of people that come in. The people that go there, they go and enjoy themselves. It's not political or anything of that sort. It's more entertainment in nature. There are cultural and historic dimensions, but most people go for the food and the marketplace."

Security at the Summerfest grounds is technologically advanced and reliable, Atta adds, so no one should hesitate about attending Arab World Fest, despite what's happening elsewhere in the world.

Meanwhile, Clarke hopes to deter small acts of hate-motivated vandalism that could lead to escalated violence.

"Nationwide, the 'If You See Something, Say Something' campaign has proven to be a simple and effective program to raise public awareness in helping to deter and report suspicious activity to local law enforcement authorities," Clarke said in his press release. "Nowhere is this concept more applicable than in safeguarding our fellow citizens' houses of assembly and worship.

"Any citizens observing suspicious activity in relation to these sites, and particularly activities occurring during off-worship times or under cover of darkness that may presage acts of vandalism, are asked to contact their local municipality's law enforcement immediately." To report suspicious activity, call 414-278-4788.

Editor's Note: For more perspective, see "Younger Arab-Americans embrace more liberal views" page 12, and "Liberal Jews wrestle with faith in Israel," page 14.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGE

EUROPEAN BACKLASH: Palestinian sympathizers demonstrate in Malmö, Sweden, on July 10 against the Israeli incursion into Gaza. Sweden's third-largest city recorded 60 anti-Semitic incidents from 2010 to 2012, including the bombing of the local Jewish community center.

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Younger Arab-Americans embrace more liberal views

PHOTO: AP/DAMIAN DOVARGANES

American Muslim Omar Akersim, 26, poses for a photo on his prayer rug at his home in Los Angeles. Nearly 40 percent of the estimated 2.75 million Muslims in the U.S. are American-born and the number is growing, with the Muslim population skewing younger than the U.S. population at large, according to a 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center.

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By Gillian Flaccus

AP writer

Omar Akersim prays regularly and observes the dawn-to-dusk Ramadan fast. He also is openly gay.

Akersim, 26, is part of a small but growing number of American Muslims challenging the long-standing interpretations of Islam that defined their parents' world. They believe that one can be gay and Muslim; that the sexes can pray shoulder-to-shoulder; that females can preach and that Muslim women can marry outside the faith — and they point to Quran passages to back them up.

The shift comes as young American Muslims work to reshape the faith they grew up with so it fits better with their complex,

dual identity, with one foot in the world of their parents' immigrant beliefs and one foot in the ever-shifting cultural landscape of America. The result has been a growing internal dialogue about what it means to be Muslim, as well as a scholarly effort to re-examine the Quran.

"Islam in America is being forced to kind of change and to reevaluate its positions on things like homosexuality because of how we're moving forward culturally as a nation. It's striving to make itself seen and known in the cultural fabric and to do that, it does have to evolve," said Akersim, who leads a Los Angeles-based support group for gay Muslims.

The shift doesn't end with breaking obvi-

LIBERAL next page

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LIBERAL from prior page

ous taboos, either. Young American Muslims are making forays into fashion, music and stirring things up with unorthodox takes on staples of American pop culture. A recent YouTube video, for example, shows Muslim hipsters — or “Mipsterz” — skateboarding in headscarves and skinny jeans as Jay-Z’s “Somewhere in America” blasts in the background.

Nearly 40 percent of the estimated 2.75 million Muslims in the U.S. are American-born and the number is growing, with the Muslim population skewing younger than the U.S. population at large.

Advocates for a more tolerant Islam say the constraints on interfaith marriage and homosexuality aren’t in the Quran, but are based on conservative interpretations of Islamic law. Historically, in many Muslim countries, there are instances of unsegregated prayers and interfaith marriage.

“I think it’s fair to say the traditional Islam that we experienced excluded a lot of Muslims that were on the margins. I always felt not very welcomed by the type of Islam my parents practiced,” said Tanzila Ahmed, 35, who published an anthology of love stories by Muslim American women.

Many second-generation American Muslims still practice their faith in traditional ways, but others are seeing the Islam of their parents as more of a cultural identity, said Dr. Yvonne Haddad, a Georgetown University professor who has written extensively about Islam’s integration into U.S. society.

As a result, there’s a new emphasis on meeting for prayer and socializing in neutral spaces instead of mosques, and on universal inclusion.

“Some of them still want a mosque, they still want to belong and to pray and others are shifting and they are very comfortable being non-religious,” Haddad said. “These

people feel that they can get rid of the hang-ups of what the culture has defined as Muslim and maintain the beliefs and values, the spiritual values, and feel very comfortable by shedding all the other restrictions that society has put on them.”

In Los Angeles, Muslims for Progressive Values has been pushing the boundaries with a female imam who performs same-sex and interfaith marriages, support groups for gay Muslims and a worship style that includes women giving sermons and men and women praying together. The group has chapters in half a dozen U.S. cities and at least six foreign countries and last year was recognized by the United Nations as an official non-governmental organization.

Founder Ani Zonneveld, a Muslim singer and songwriter of Malaysian descent, started the group in 2007 after she recorded some Islamic pop music that generated a backlash because it featured a Muslim woman singing.

“For us, the interpretation of Islam is egalitarian values — and by egalitarian it’s not just words that we speak. It’s practice,” she said. “It’s freedom of religion and from religion, too.”

Akersim, the gay Muslim, knows firsthand how hard this shift will be.

Last year, he fled his parents’ home in the middle of the night after they called him at work and demanded to know when he was going to get married. He stays in touch with his mother, but hasn’t spoken to his father in a year and a half.

Now, he avoids mosques but prays privately. He has no regrets about coming out, he said.

“All these struggles that I’ve had to endure have only brought me closer to God,” Akersim said. “Within that storm, I feel like I’ve been able to persevere because of my faith, because of this strength from God.”

Pew takes U.S. public’s temperature on religions

A Pew Research survey shows that Americans tend to feel warmly toward Jews, Catholics and evangelicals but chilly toward Muslims and atheists.

Pew created a thermometer — measuring degrees from zero to 100 — to take Americans’ temperature toward religious groups in a survey conducted mostly in June.

Pew told people a rating of 100 meant they felt as warm as possible toward a group; 50 degrees meant not particularly negative or positive and zero meant as cold and negative as possible.

The responses:

- Jews, 63 degrees.
- Catholics, 62 degrees.
- Evangelical Christians, 61 degrees.
- Buddhists, 53 degrees.
- Hindus, 50 degrees.
- Mormons, 48 degrees.
- Atheists, 41 degrees.
- Muslims, 40 degrees.

Some other findings:

- Republicans and those with Republican

leanings rate evangelicals highest at 71 degrees, Jews at 67, Catholics at 66, Mormons at 52, Buddhists at 49, Hindus at 47, atheists at 34 and Muslims at 33.

• Democrats and those with Democratic leanings rate Jews highest at 62 degrees, Catholics at 61, Buddhists at 57, Hindus at 54, evangelical Christians at 53, Muslims at 47, atheists at 46 and Mormons at 44.

Familiarity with a religion or someone of a certain faith tends to be a factor. About 87 percent say they know someone who is Catholic and 70 percent say they know someone who is an evangelical Christian. About 61 percent say they know someone who is Jewish and 59 percent say they know someone who is an atheist.

Just 44 percent of Americans say they know someone who is a Mormon and 38 percent say they know someone who is a Muslim. About 23 percent know someone who is a Buddhist and 22 percent know someone who is a Hindu.

— Lisa Neff



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Liberal Jews wrestle with faith in Israel

Opinion

JANE EISNER

Last Shabbat, as my husband and I were walking home from a long, lovely lunch with friends, I noticed scribbling on the sidewalk. Since the letters were written in white chalk and were upside-down from where I stood, it took a moment to decipher their meaning, and another moment to get over the shock.

This was on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, the epicenter of the liberal American shtetl, a place so ubiquitously Jewish that even the smallest grocery store posts Friday night candle-lighting times each week. So to see even this mildly anti-Israel graffiti was a surprise. For the first time since we moved to the neighborhood a couple of years ago, we felt uncomfortable, targeted, as people who care about Israel and as Jews.

Though we share serious misgivings about the way the military conflict in Gaza began and is being prosecuted, and we grieve for the horrendous loss of life, we also believe that Israel does have a right to defend itself against a terrorizing organization that seeks its obliteration. If Israel's actions warranted the end of its sizable financial support from the United States, what about neighboring Egypt — also a recipient of billions in aid — whose govern-

ment has killed peaceful protesters, imprisoned journalists and put a democratically elected leader in jail?

As we continued our walk, we asked ourselves whether the comparison was unfair, because Israel should be held to a higher standard, and whether that scrawled sidewalk sentiment was a legitimate criticism of American policy or rank anti-Zionism (opposition to the existence of Israel). And when does anti-Zionism bleed into simple hatred of Jews?

To borrow Irving Kristol's line about neo-conservatives, was I acting like a liberal Jew who gets mugged?

Like many liberal American Jews, I have long insisted that anti-Zionism is not necessarily anti-Semitism, that one can be critical of Zionist political ideology and not hate Jews as Jews. The argument is partly an intellectual one, and partly a response to the embarrassing ease with which some Jews make the link, equating every criticism of Israel with "the oldest hatred" — an accusation that can unfairly label dissenters and shuts down the conversation.

Plus, I'm American. America loves its Jews, and loves Israel. I can show you the polls, and the votes in Congress, and the intermarriage rate, and all the other indicators of public sentiment. To equate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism somehow turns us into victims, part of a global victimhood, but we are not victims here, and even a

few uncomfortable words scrawled on the sidewalk cannot really make a dent in our secure standing.

The virulent reaction around the world to Israel's latest incursion into Gaza is making me rethink that argument, and I know that I am not alone. "I've never been as concerned, frightened, worried and confused as this," the historian Deborah Lipstadt told me. "Maybe it's not 1939, but it may be 1934."

We liberals simply cannot ignore the pernicious way the Israeli invasion of Gaza and the horrible civilian death toll there has given an anti-Zionist cover to attacks against Jews as Jews. In France, England, Belgium, India, etc., etc., Jews are being held responsible for Israeli actions they may not even support. In Turkey, the prime minister tells CNN that what Israel did to Palestine "has surpassed what Hitler did to them" and then confirms that he said it. Unfortunately, I could go on.

"Liberals need to recognize that there is no comfort in their position," said Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum, himself a liberal. Arguing that these anti-Zionist actions are not also anti-Semitic is "making a distinction that goes against the reality of what we are experiencing today."

This is not something new so much as it is a new inflection point in a long, uneven development. The historian Robert Wisniewski argued in the *Jewish Political Studies Review* that "anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism are two distinct ideologies that over time (especially since 1948) have tended to converge." That was written a decade ago, when various United Nations actions made the convergence seem more troubling. I think we are at another one of those moments today.

Now, there are some who argue that we Jews bear a share of responsibility for this convergence. More than six decades after the birth of the modern State of Israel, we have made attachment to that state a central aspect of Jewish identity. Throughout the Diaspora and especially in the United States, support for Israel has taken on theological dimensions: We talk about it more openly, passionately and sometimes antagonistically than we do about belief in God or any other tenet of our faith.

A free trip to Israel is every young adult's birthright. A donation to an Israeli cause is every Jew's tithe. It is the barometer by which we judge each other and judge our "friends."

This public form of diasporic Zionism is enhanced by the rhetoric and actions of the Israeli government, especially under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who characterizes himself as a leader of all the Jews and introduced a demand that Palestinians recognize Israel as the state of the Jewish people.

I can see how this line of thinking is appealing, because to hold ourselves partly responsible for this convergence is also to hold the tools of a response: We could amend our language, perhaps, or redirect our activism. But do we really think the rage



directed at Jews in a Parisian synagogue was fueled by a few words at a Netanyahu press conference, or by talking points from the Jewish Agency? The growing centrality of Israel to Jewish life in the Diaspora is a complicated communal challenge to us Jews, but it's simply an excuse for those who choose to hate us.

I can hear the sneers from those conservatives eager to show they were right all along: Liberals fooled themselves into thinking that anti-Semitism was not behind the violent agitation and political machinations against Israel that have left it isolated and vulnerable. Hating Israel and hating Jews are one and the same, they might say. Welcome to the real world.

What I reject about that argument, in the past and still now, is that it views the world as an irredeemably hostile place for Jews, forcing us into a universally defensive position and expecting no real change for the better in human behavior. And it rejects any responsibility for our own actions, and the terrible consequences they may cause.

I'm a liberal because I believe that human beings can progress, sometimes with the help of government, to a place of more tolerance, equality, justice and compassion. And that includes Israel. And that includes other Jews.


Yes, there have been awful riots in France. But there also have been forthright statements condemning such riots from French leaders. It's not 1939. It's not 1934, even. It's 2014.

The challenge for liberals is not to deny or diminish the frightening convergence of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, or to dismiss some of its root causes. The challenge is to own it, to recognize the world for what it is right now and not lose sight of our obligation to repair it.

Editor's note: This article originally appeared at forward.com on July 31, 2014, and is reproduced with permission. You can contact Jane Eisner at eisner@forward.com or comment on Twitter @Jane_Eisner.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: WIKICOMMONS

BAD MEDICINE: In a 2-1 decision, the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in late July that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not have to consider banning the practice of dispensing antibiotics to animals that are not sick despite its finding that the misuse of antibiotics threatens the effectiveness of essential human medicines. About 80 percent of all the antibiotics sold in the United States are used in livestock production.

10.3 MILLION GAIN HEALTH COVERAGE IN MARKETPLACE

A new study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* estimates that 10.3 million uninsured adults gained health care coverage during the first open enrollment period in

the federal government's health insurance marketplace.

The study finds greater gains in the states that expanded their Medicaid programs under the Affordable Care Act. Wisconsin is not one of those states.

Responding to the report, Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell said, "This study also reaffirms that expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act is important for coverage, as well as a good deal for states.

"To date, 26 states plus D.C. have moved forward with Medicaid expansion. We're hopeful remaining states will come on board and we look forward to working closely with them."

The findings show that the uninsured rate for adults ages 18-64 declined from 21 percent in September 2013 to 16.3 percent in April 2014.

The research finds that the decline in the uninsured was significant for all age, race/ethnicity and gender groups, with the largest changes occurring among Latinos, blacks and adults ages 18-34.

APPEALS COURT RULING KEEPS ONLY MISSISSIPPI ABORTION CLINIC IN BUSINESS

Mississippi's governor and attorney general will have to decide whether to challenge a federal appeals court ruling that is keeping the state's only abortion clinic in business. A panel of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to block a 2012 Mississippi law that requires abortion doctors

to obtain admitting privileges at nearby hospitals.

When Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law, he said he hoped it would end abortion in the state, but the appellate judges ruled that every state must guarantee constitutional rights, including abortion. Bryant, in a statement, said the court's ruling disappointed him.

Ten states, including Wisconsin, have adopted similar laws, forcing a growing number of clinics to close. Many hospitals ignore or reject abortion doctors' applications, and they won't grant privileges to out-of-state physicians. The traveling doctors who staff Mississippi's last open clinic, the Jackson Women's Health Organization, encountered both obstacles.

The ruling from the conservative Fifth Circuit was narrowly crafted to address the situation in Mississippi, but it could have implications for other states with similar laws and dwindling access to abortion, such as Wisconsin and Alabama, whose officials have said women could cross state lines if clinics close, said the center's litigation director, Julie Rikelman.

Attorneys for Mississippi argued that if the state's last clinic closed, women could still get abortions in other states. But the judges said the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision established a constitutional right to abortion for all citizens — and that Mississippi may not shift its obligations to other states.

In other national news ...

- **Barack Obama** is as powerful a motivating factor for Republican voters as he was in 2010: 51 percent of those who say they will vote Republican on Nov. 4 consider their choice to be a vote "against" Obama, according to a Pew survey.
- **The New York Giants** recently named former player David Tyree as director of player development. In 2011, when the New York Legislature was considering a marriage equality bill, Tyree said he would have rather lost the Super Bowl than allow gay and lesbian couples to legally marry, claiming that it would lead to "anarchy."
- **Two-thirds of millennials** believe government is inefficient and that government regulators favor special interests. About 58 percent, according to a survey from Reason-Rupe, are convinced government agencies abuse their powers, while only 25 percent trust that government agencies usually do the right thing.
- **Democrats** dismissed congressional Republicans' vote to sue the president as a legally groundless exercise that could end up costing taxpayers millions of dollars in legal fees and other expenses. Meanwhile, conservatives such as Sarah Palin continue to use impeachment talk as a fundraising tool.

— from *WiG reports*

REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: FLICKR/MICHAEL PERECKAS

CYCLING INTO NO. 3: The League of American Bicyclists recently ranked Wisconsin No. 3 on the list of bicycle-friendly states for its programs, policies, safety and state funding. Washington came in at No. 1, followed by Minnesota.

WISCONSIN SENIORS SAVE \$203 MILLION ON DRUGS UNDER OBAMACARE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported in late July that Medicare beneficiaries in Wisconsin saved \$202,883,257 on prescription drugs under the Affordable Care Act.

Said Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, "The Affordable Care Act is working for Wisconsin and thanks to the reforms we put in place four years ago, we have made prescription drugs more affordable and lowered out of pocket costs for seniors in Wisconsin."

As recently as late July, the Walker administration attacked the ACA as a "flawed law." The governor would like to repeal the health care reform that has provided coverage through the marketplace for 139,815 Wisconsinites.

In other regional news ...

- **Wisconsin's report card** on racial cancer disparities shows wide gaps in cancer incidence and deaths when comparing African-Americans and whites. "An analysis of cancer incidence and death data over the period shows while both have decreased over the last few decades, not all people in Wisconsin have benefited equally," said Amy Williamson, lead author of the report from the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center.
- **One out of every three Wisconsin residents** will see a referendum on Nov. 4 on accepting federal funds for BadgerCare, which were rejected by Gov. Scott Walker and the GOP-led Legislature. Voters in at least eight counties will vote on a non-binding referendum on the issue, according to Citizens Action of Wisconsin.
- **Two oil pipelines** at the bottom of the waterway linking Lakes Huron and Michigan will get additional support structures to help prevent potentially devastating spills. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette put Enbridge Energy Partners LP on notice that it was partly out of compliance with an agreement dating to 1953.

— from *WiG and AP reports*



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COUNTY COMMITTEE APPROVES ABELE'S DONATION

The Milwaukee County Board's Finance Committee recently voted to approve Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele's personal donation of \$7,147 to pay overtime costs associated with keeping the courthouse open outside regular hours for same-sex couples to get married.

After learning of the federal district court ruling overturning the state ban on same-sex marriage, Abele ordered the courthouse to stay open late on June 6 and also on June 7, a Saturday. Nearly 150 couples exchanged vows in a 24-hour period.

Abele, in a news release, said, "It's safe to say this is the best \$7,000 I've ever spent. By keeping the courthouse open we helped loving couples marry and sent a message that Milwaukee County supports equality."

LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER DIRECTOR RESIGNS

After eight months on the job, Colleen Carpenter, executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, resigned July 23. No reason was given for Carpenter's abrupt departure.

"I have been honored to serve the LGBT community in this role, but I have decided to move in a different direction professionally," Carpenter said in a prepared statement.

Community-building initiatives, day-to-day management of the center and fundraising efforts will continue uninterrupted under the leadership of Karen Gotzler, who also filled those roles during the search that ended with the selection of Carpenter in October 2013.

"The center's board of directors is committed to quickly filling the position permanently," wrote the board in a press release.

A statement released by board co-president Tina Kreitlow thanked Carpenter for "her strong commitment to the well-being of the LGBT community."

"Colleen leaves the center in a stable financial condition. Most recently, she secured a \$10,000 grant to support Project Q, the center's core youth program," said co-president Paul Williams. "In addition, she has developed new programming initiatives that will continue to shape the center's future."

Prior to joining the center, Carpenter was executive director of Daystar Inc., a Milwaukee-based organization that provides long-term transitional housing for women fleeing domestic violence.

Carpenter was selected for the position from a field of 58 candidates.

Her departure from the center follows the similarly abrupt resignation of Cream City Foundation president and CEO Paul Fairchild last month. No reason for Fairchild's sudden departure was given.

In other community news ...

- **Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools** is hosting its leadership training institute Aug. 14-17, bringing together 40 students

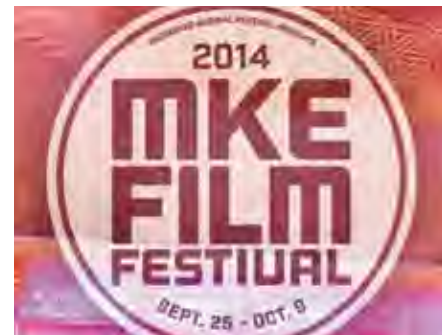


PHOTO: COURTESY MILWAUKEE FILM

Milwaukee Film recently announced Times Cinema is the newest venue to join the 2014 Milwaukee Film Festival. Organizers also unveiled the promotional artwork for the festival, which takes place Sept. 25-Oct. 9. For more, go to mkefilm.org.

from around Wisconsin. GSAFE is seeking kitchen volunteers for the camp, located about 30 minutes north of Madison. For more, go to www.gsafe.org.

- **Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce** and Rounly's teamed up to plan for a Pride picnic at 5 p.m. on Aug. 14 at Milwaukee County's Gordon Park, 2828 N. Humboldt Blvd., Milwaukee. For more, call 414-678-9275.
- **Emerge Wisconsin** presented a 21-member graduating class this summer. The nonprofit trains Democratic women to seek elected office. The graduation ceremony took place at a residence in Madison and featured a speech by Emerge adviser Peg Lautenschlager, the first woman elected Wisconsin attorney general. For more, go to www.emergewi.org.
- **The National LGBT Bar Association** will present the Dan Bradley Award on Aug. 22 to Freedom to Marry founder Evan Wolfson. "Great lawyers don't just win cases; they change lives," said D'Arcy Kemnitz, executive director of the bar. "Evan is a true visionary in the movement to expand marriage equality to LGBT couples." For more, go to www.lgbtbar.org.
- **Key West Womenfest**, the East Coast's alternative to the Dinah Shore Weekend, takes place Sept. 4-7. Thousands of women attend every year — for the morning excursions on the Gulf of

Mexico, evening sunset celebrations on Mallory Square and late-night parties in the island clubs. For more, go to www.womenfest.com.

- **The NAACP** unanimously passed a resolution at its summer convention in Las Vegas supporting fast-food workers' fight for a living wage of at least \$15 and to unionize. For more, go to www.naacp.org.
- **Human Rights Campaign Foundation**, in partnership with the National Education Association and the American Counseling Association, will hold the national Time to Thrive youth conference in Portland, Oregon, Feb. 13-15, 2015. For more, go to www.hrc.org.
- **Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele** recently went to New York City to kick off the new fundraising campaign — "Great Futures" — for the all-inclusive Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Abele is a member of the nonprofit's national board of governors. For more, go to bgca.org.
- **The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce** received the national Rising Star Chamber Award from the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, which held its national business conference in Las Vegas in late July.

— Lisa Neff

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{ Editorial }

Raise the minimum wage now

The minimum wage reached its peak value in 1968 and has been falling ever since. If it had kept pace with inflation, the minimum wage would now stand at \$10.74 per hour instead of \$7.25.

Today, with less of the nation's wealth going to workers than ever before and income inequality near record levels, it's both morally and economically indefensible not to raise the federal and state minimum wages to at least \$10.10, as Democrats have proposed and Republicans have blocked.

Since the year began, 13 states have raised their minimum wages, as have numerous municipalities (including Milwaukee). On average, those states have seen higher job growth than states (like Wisconsin) that have kept their minimum wages at 2013 levels.

Raising the minimum wage increases the standard of living for workers at the bottom of the pay scale and saves taxpayers costs associated with public assistance programs, such as food stamps. The majority of food stamps go to the working poor.

The liberal Center for American Progress found that increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour nationally would save taxpayers \$4.6 billion in spending on food stamps alone.

Under the current minimum wage, highly profitable companies such as Walmart tell workers to apply for food stamps so they can afford to eat. Walmart and other minimum-wage-paying companies argue that if they had to pay employees a livable wage, then consumers' prices would rise.

That argument amounts to a strange form of socialism whereby government protects the uber-rich from having to pay the cost of doing business and protects consumers from having to pay the actual cost of goods. We find it dis-

turbingly hypocritical that conservatives constantly rail that individuals should live from the fruit of their labor and not from government handouts, yet they support a minimum-wage policy that forces government to pick up the costs of private business in order to maintain corporate profits and hold down consumer prices. (A UC-Berkeley study on the effect of raising the minimum wage to \$12 found that the average shopping trip to Walmart would cost 46 cents more and the average cost of a Big Mac would rise by a dime.)

So conservatives oppose a policy that spurs both job growth and economic activity. Studies have demonstrated that raising the minimum wage puts more money into consumers' pockets and thus increases economic activity in our consumer-based economy.

A study of the state of Washington is particularly revealing. At \$9.32 an hour, the state's minimum wage is the nation's highest. Washington first adopted the nation's highest minimum wage in 1998, and it's been tied to inflation ever since, allowing for plenty of time to examine its impact.

A Bloomberg study found that in the 15 years following Washington's initial minimum-wage increase, job growth averaged 0.8 percent annually — 0.3 of a percentage point above the national rate. Payrolls at Washington's restaurants and bars, which are said to be the most vulnerable to higher wage costs, expanded by 21 percent.

At the time Washington's higher minimum wage was raised, opponents warned it would kill jobs and hurt the workers it was designed to help. It didn't. It helped Washington's economy, and it would help the nation's.

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

If we need to drug test welfare recipients



Let's start with Wall Street CEOs



"I ask you to ensure that humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it."

- POPE FRANCIS



- JOHN F. KENNEDY

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In September, the U.S. Senate will consider a constitutional amendment to overturn the disastrous *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision. Millions of Americans must demand that their members of Congress, once and for all, end the ability of the billionaire class to buy elections.

- Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

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ON THE RECORD



"Friends and colleagues often ask my wife how she balances her job and motherhood. Somehow, the same people don't ask me. A few months ago, I decided the only way to balance was by stepping back from my job."

— MAX SCHIRESON, former CEO of Mongo DB software company, explaining his decision to resign and spend more time with his family.

"I'm not a scientist either, but I can use my brain, and I can talk to one."

— Former Florida Gov. CHARLIE CRIST, who's campaigning to win back his old job, talking about climate-change deniers at a Florida State University presentation on greenhouse gases and rising sea levels.

"If I own stock in your company and you move offshore for tax reasons I'm selling your stock. There are enough investment choices here."

— Dallas Mavericks owner MARK CUBAN, tweeting his new strategy of investing in the nation's future.

"I would have to say no. But the justices continue to think and change. So I am ever hopeful that if the court has a blind spot today, its eyes will be open tomorrow."

— Supreme Court Justice RUTH BADER GINSBURG answering Katie Couric's question, "Do you believe that the five male justices truly understood the ramifications of their decision (in the Hobby Lobby case)?"

"Climate change occurs no matter what. (Efforts to reduce power plant emissions) are outside of the confines of the law (and) an excuse to grow government, raise taxes and slow down economic growth. (What those efforts) end up doing is making the U.S. economy less competitive."

— U.S. REP. PAUL RYAN, R-Wisconsin, speaking out against carbon emission regulations during a breakfast hosted by the Christian Science Monitor.

"Every law-abiding, blind individual should be able to have whatever guns they want. And if you disagree with that statement or you haven't thought it all the way through, you don't take your rights seriously enough."

— DOM RASO, commentator for *NRA News*, making a case for allowing blind individuals to purchase or carry guns as an extension of their Second Amendment rights.

"(The) most f**ked up, disgusting, worst, most insulting things anyone has ever said about me — hands down, in my entire life, came out of (Glenn Beck's) mouth. So what I wanna know, does he regret that? Do you regret barfing into the camera and pretending to barf for 15 minutes at the idea of me doing a PSA for skin cancer?"

— MEGHAN MCCAIN, political commentator for social advocacy TV network Pivot and daughter of Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, referring to Beck's recent acknowledgement that he said "stupid things" while at Fox News. McCain went on to list Beck and fellow pundit Ann Coulter as examples of the kind of people dividing the Republican Party over the last few years.



Stirring the alphabet soup

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

I ran across the acronyms "LGBTQIAP+" and "GLBTQ-IZX" recently and had to look up what the heck they mean. This crazy alphabet soup of sexual minorities is getting out of hand.

If I, as someone who's been in queer activism and publishing for 40 years, can't keep track of the latest gay shorthand, what are John and Jane Q. Public going to think? (And just what does the Q in those names stand for anyway?)

I worked for a publication in the 1990s that had to change the identifiers in its subtitle from "Gay" to "Gay and Lesbian" to "Les-BiGay" when bisexuals started organizing and then to "LGBT" when transgender

people demanded recognition. I remember the editor joking: "How many more misfits are we going to add? Pretty soon, we'll just be a big alphabet soup!"

Although "LGBT" is standard usage in most mainstream media today, the alphabetical free-for-all continues. Making things more complicated is that most letters now have multiple meanings, and the position of each letter within the string is fraught with political implications. Just ask the gay men and lesbians who have argued for decades about which should come first, the "G" or the "L."

As a public service, I've compiled an interactive guide to LGBT+ initials. Make your own additions. Purge the unworthy. Create your own minority. Mix and match. Please note that some words once used as

slurs have been reclaimed with pride. Enjoy the alphabet soup!

A = Androgynous; Asexual; Ally

B = Bear; Bisexual; Bulldyke; Bottom; Bulgarian

C = Cisgender; Curious; Chubby; Cross Dresser; Cunnilinguist

D = Dyke; Diva; Dragster; Daddy; Dominant

E = Eunuch; Eyeballer; Easy; Everything Else

F = Family; Fairy; Fruit; Friend of Dorothy

G = Gay; Gender Outlaw; Genderqueer; Goddess

H = Ho; Homo; Homosexual; Horndog

I = Intersex; Intergalactic; Intrigued; Icon

J = Jock; Jezebel; Jailbait

K = Kiki; Kinky

L = Lesbian; Leatherman/woman; Lounge Lizard

M = Mary; Married; Masochist

N/NA = Nance; Nellie; Neuter; Not Available; None of the Above

O = Omnisexual; Other
P = Pansexual; Polyamorous; Poz; Partnered; Particular; Peculiar

Q = Queer; Queen; Questioning

R = Randy; Risky; Risk-Averse; Ready to go; Rough trade

S/SO = Sissy; Slut; Sodomite; Submissive; Significant Other

T = Tomboy; Top; Transgender; Transvestite; Two-Spirit; Tinker Bell; Twink

U = Uranian; Undecided

V = Vagitarian; Vampire; Variable

W/WTA = Winkie; Wanker; Wolf; Wishy-Washy; Will Try Anything

X = Unknown quantity.

Y = Your proclivity here.

Z = I have no damn idea.

Merger would hog up the meat market

Opinion

In late July, a coalition of farm, consumer, rural and faith-based groups wrote the U.S. Department of Justice regarding the proposed merger of Tyson Foods, Inc., and The Hillshire Brands Co., which originated in Wisconsin. The coalition wants the department to oppose the early termination of the anti-trust examination and take a second review of the merger, which the groups argue creates a monopoly, threatening small farms, reducing consumer choice, allowing for higher prices and possibly degrading the food quality.

The letter, in part, reads:

We believe that the scale and scope of this proposed merger would "substantially lessen competition, or tend to create a monopoly," which is proscribed by Section 7 of the Clayton Act, passed 100 years ago this year. The proposed merger would harm hog farmers, consumers and other food manufacturers.

The food and agribusiness

sector is already excessively consolidated, from seed to supermarket. This proposed merger comes after a year of intense acquisition activity in the food and agriculture sector, amounting to a growing wave of substantial mergers that threaten to accelerate the food industry's tight control of this extremely concentrated sector of the economy. The Department of Justice should vigorously examine all proposed food and agribusiness mergers to prevent any firm from exercising unfair market power over farmers, consumers or rural communities, including the proposed Tyson-Hillshire merger.

First, the proposed merger joins the top protein manufacturer with one of the top branded and marketed processed meat companies and likely would raise consumer prices and reduce consumer choices. It would significantly reduce competition in the meat and processed meat categories, where the two companies already overlap significantly. The combined firm would be the second largest frozen food manufacturer in the country, with

\$3.7 billion in sales.

Second, not only would the merger strengthen Tyson's hand with hog producers, the extra profit margin and revenues would also give the company more resources to disadvantage cattle producers and contract poultry growers as well as affect the market across all proteins. Tyson's capacity to increase the supply of chicken can undermine the consumer demand for pork and beef, and, therefore, lower the prices cattle and hog producers receive.

Third, the proposed merger would be a vertical merger that would undermine competition. Tyson's slaughterhouses currently supply meat-processing firms, including Hillshire and its rivals, which rely on these inputs to manufacture their products. Tyson could charge higher prices to non-Hillshire manufacturers or limit the rivals' access to these products altogether. Tyson's dominant position in the pork-packing industry gives it the incentive and capacity to disadvantage Hillshire's rivals, undermine competition and ultimately

raise consumer prices.

We believe the anti-competitive impacts of the proposed merger between Tyson and Hillshire warrant close examination. The Department of Justice must issue a second request to extend the investigation into the potential effects of the proposed merger. The proposed merger would significantly impair competition throughout the hog and processed pork marketplace, harming farmers, consumers, rival processors and rural communities.

The Department of Justice must not grant an early termination of the merger review. The department should extend the investigation and issue a second request to solicit more information from the parties necessary to fully examine the complexities of the proposed merger. The undersigned groups would appreciate the opportunity to study these issues more closely and share our findings with the Department of Justice.

Signers include 82 organizations.



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WIGOUT!

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

What's the funniest event in Milwaukee?

Most comedy aficionados would say that's an easy question to answer: the Milwaukee Comedy Festival.

The success of this four-day celebration of laughs and the comedians who inspire them has been a long time coming. Festival founder Matt Kemple is marking his ninth year running the show. He says the last two years' events remained slightly under the radar. But he senses that things are different this time around, with interest among performers and audiences skyrocketing.

"This year it feels like we've broken through," he says.

Kemple appears to have found a formula that works. The festival is arranged into groups of shows, most with three different artists or groups performing. Each artist specializes in a different style of comedy, so a show might open with a stand-up comedian, who's followed by a sketch comedy group and then an improv troupe.

Kemple says that juxtaposing comedic styles in that way has multiple benefits. On a practical level, comedy doesn't lend itself to "binge watching," so offering different styles in a tight 90-minute show keeps audiences engaged. It also allows people to see genres they might not think they'd enjoy.

"I want people to be exposed to all kinds of comedy," he says. "Some people say they just don't like stand-up, for example, but they'll come to the festival and see a stand-up comedian that they love."

About half of this year's scheduled performers are from Milwaukee, but there's also an impressive array of talent from further afield, from comedy centers as near as Chicago and as far flung as Los Angeles and Toronto.

Kemple says there are a few performers he's especially elated to have attending this year. One is stand-up comic Rob Christensen, an up-and-coming artist who's appeared on Comedy Central and NBC's *Last Comic Standing*. He'll perform Saturday at 8 p.m.

"It's exciting to have someone on his level want to be in the festival," Kemple says.

Kemple also is happy to present the Chicago improv troupe Three to Turn the Stool, a supergroup composed of improvisers Ed Ferman (who recently snagged a writing gig on an untitled sketch comedy show in production by NBC), Beth Melewski (former host of

Bigger, better, funnier Milwaukee Comedy Festival comes into its own



Cash Cab Chicago) and TJ Jagodowski (half of TJ & Dave, the acclaimed improv duo that recently announced plans to open their own theater within iO's space).

One show that's a little different from the rest is Sunday's teen comedy showcase, featuring young performers from the Milwaukee area. It's the only Sunday show this year, a decision made due to low Sunday attendance in years past. But the teen show has always drawn a packed house, and it provides a great way to close out the weekend.

New to the festival this year is an expansion in food and drink options. Partnerships with Great Lakes Distillery and Sprecher will provide the latter, while food trucks will offer dining options for patrons between shows.

The addition of food-and-beverage service shows the increasing scale of the festival as it closes in on its 10th anniversary. Kemple says he and other organizers are considering adding more venues and recruiting bigger headliners in the future, but there are no specific plans yet.

Those decisions will be made in the weeks and months to come — after everyone has recovered from this year's laughter.



Milwaukee Comedy mascot Jimbo.

Stand-up comic Rob Christensen performs Aug. 9.

PHOTO: COURTESY

ON STAGE

The Milwaukee Comedy Festival is Aug. 7-10 at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Shows are at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday; 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance. Go to festival.milwaukeecomedy.com.

Couture meets countertop at AIDS fundraiser

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

A charity fashion show that combines high-end couture and high-end plumbing fixtures is bound to attract attention. When the beneficiary supports people living with HIV/AIDS, then it's attention worth drawing.

Refashion for Life, which takes place on Aug. 20, supports CommonGround Ministry/Elena's House, a nonprofit that pro-

vides housing and social services for people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Refashion is set up much like a normal show, with models walking the runway in stunning outfits — but they're paired with fabulous interior decor provided by sponsor Callen Construction.

The mashup was born more than seven years ago, when a designer working for Tom Callen suggested it during a brainstorming session. Years prior, Callen had spoken with

Life hasn't changed all that much since it began. This year's installment will be structured much the same as the first, with local fashion expert Bjorn Nasett returning as the emcee after several years off.

The reason the event hasn't changed, Callen says, is because the original was so incredibly successful. Organizers had hoped to raise \$10,000, but actually received about \$22,000 in donations.

Over the past six years, Refashion for Life has raised more than \$125,000 — 100 percent of which has gone directly to sup-

'It's a very clever way of putting a fashion show together. It really is a magical night.'

groups, including the faith-based Raphael House. When that center closed in 2001, she opened Elena's House.

The majority of proceeds from the Refashion for Life event come from the silent and



PHOTOS: COURTESY:

ON THE RUNWAY

Refashion for Life, a fundraiser for CommonGround Ministry/Elena's House, is from 5:30 to 10 p.m. on Wed., Aug. 20, at Callen Construction's Muskego showroom, S63 W13131 Janesville Rd. The event features an original fashion show, high-end décor, catering by Saz, a performance by Fred Astaire Dance Studio and two auctions. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at refashionforlife.com.

Mary Ellen Huwiler, the executive director of Elena's House and a personal friend, about potential fundraising ideas. The concept of combining décor with fashion excited him so much that Callen called Huwiler immediately to pass along the idea. She loved it.

"It's a very clever way of putting a fashion show together," Huwiler says. "It really is a magical night."

The two organizers say that Refashion for

porting Elena's House.

Elena's House is close to Huwiler's heart. Formerly a fashion designer for 23 years, Huwiler changed her career path dramatically when her HIV-positive brother-in-law was infected in the Cryptosporidium outbreak in 1992 and became too sick to live alone. After he died in 1994, Huwiler began working for a number of HIV/AIDS resource

voice auctions, as well as from ticket sales. But also contributing are the sales of jewelry made by current residents and friends.

"It's their way of giving back," Huwiler says.



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Summer Set Festival brings EDM north of the border

ON STAGE

Summer Set runs Aug. 15-17, from 2 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$44.50 for individual nights or \$115 for a three-day pass. Camping packages can be reserved for an additional fee. The festival has scheduled after-parties that cost \$20 to attend. For more, visit summerfestival.com/2014.



PHOTO: AMORPHOUS MUSIC

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

Only in its third year, Wisconsin's Summer Set Music and Camping Festival has quickly become a top destination on the summer music scene. Spread across three days — Aug. 15-17 — the festival features music from the electronic and jam band genres.

Located in Somerset, a Wisconsin town of about 2,500 just 45 minutes from downtown Minneapolis, Summer Set is based around the Somerset Amphitheater and three surrounding campgrounds. The layout gives the event an ambiance that's half traditional music festival and half camping festival.

In 2012, the festival's first year, Summer Set drew 13,000-15,000 attendees per day. It's been growing ever since under the watchful eye of its promoters, veterans of Chicago's Spring Awakening and North Coast Music Festivals.

Most impressive at Summer Set is the musical lineup. Electronic dance music dominates, but there are plenty of other genres represented — from jam bands to hip-hop. Many EDM acts fail to cross the border north of Chicago for Wisconsin concerts. Summer Set fills the gap.

Headlining on Aug. 15 is Grammy-nominated DJ Ryan Raddon, better known as Kaskade. The Chicago native was named "America's Best DJ" by DJ Times magazine in both 2011 and 2013. He headlined Miami's Ultra Music Festival, widely recognized as North America's top electronic dance music festival, in 2012. Much of his fame among EDM artists comes from his ability to present shows that tell a story and make the concert experience feel intimate even in

massive arenas and crowded festivals.

Big Gigantic leads Day Two of the festival. The Boulder, Colorado, duo has built a reputation among music festival devotees. They're almost guaranteed a rapturous welcome-back after headlining last year's Summer Set.

Big Gigantic's music is difficult to describe — an intriguing blend of electronica, hip-hop, jazz and jam band with analog saxes and drums amid technologically advanced beats, lighting and stage designs.

Bassnectar anchors Sunday, the final night. Bassnectar is the recording name of DJ Lorin Ashton. He grew up in the San Francisco Bay area and was originally influenced by heavy metal and hard rock. Like Big Gigantic, Bassnectar is known for powerful live performances, with dramatic lighting effects and recurring, interwoven motifs. Bassnectar is often ranked as one of the foremost artists in the drum and bass genre, but hip-hop and rock are also an integral part of his shows.

Beyond the headliners, Summer Set boasts about 60 acts spread across four stages, where music begins by mid-afternoon daily. Other notable performers include progressive improv band Umphrey's McGee, hip-hop legends Wu-Tang Clan and Philadelphia-based electronic jam band Disco Biscuits — all strong performers who help raise Summer Set's stature as a great summer music destination.

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Bassnectar, the recording name of DJ Lorin Ashton, headlines the Summer Set Festival with Kaskade and Big Gigantic. The festival features electronic and jam band artists.

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ART GAZE — MILWAUKEE

Through a reflective lens: 'Postcards from America'

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

Postcards from America, on view through Oct. 19 at the Milwaukee Art Museum, uses the idea of a postcard like a diving platform. The artists make the concept a jumping-off point for plunging into pools of local culture. Each diver makes a splash and interprets the idea in an individual style. There's no imagining the postcard as a cutesy, trite image or the reduction of a place into a static symbol here — those stereotypes are firmly quashed by the varied interests of the exhibition's 11 photographers.

MAM's exhibit is exclusive to the city, but the fifth part of an overarching national series. The *Postcards from America* project was initiated in 2011 and has previously focused on the American Southwest, Utah, Florida and Rochester, New York. The photographers made their way to Milwaukee between August 2013 and April 2014, spending a few weeks apiece here. Their home bases vary — some live elsewhere in the U.S., others abroad — but they're all connected through Magnum Photos, an international cooperative that has promoted documentary and street photography since 1947.

When you set up house in a new place for a while, everything you see and experience

is colored by novelty. Each street corner is different, each local peculiarity fascinates. *Postcards from America* taps into that subjectivity of vision, with each photographer filtering the images through memories or resonant personal history. In this way, the exhibition becomes a reflector, revealing the photographer's own curiosities more than universal truths.

Donovan Wylie, in his project titled *The Preparatory City*, juxtaposes modernist glass office blocks with the graceful embellishments of the Mitchell Building. It's a concept that could exist nearly anywhere, but a location specific to downtown Milwaukee. Countless factors shape a city's sense of place, and one of them is the way historic and modern construction layer on top of each other to create a quirky blended family. Wylie's presentation of this in photographic form offers an opportunity to pause and consider how the past often remains present.

Other photographers explore community more than place, picturing events like street festivals and the State Fair. Bruce Gilden is drawn to Milwaukee's faces, particularly those of women who are not unmarred by age and experience. The images are presented in a way that feels more like a study of line and texture than portraits of



PHOTO: SUSAN MEISELAS/MAGNUM PHOTOS

MAM's *Postcards from America* series includes the work of Susan Meiselas, who focused on the often-unseen labor of women in factories, including a woman packaging sausages at a Johnsonville Sausage plant in Sheboygan.

individuals — less studies of character than appearance.

One of the more personal installations belongs to Zoe Strauss. Her work centers on the murder of Evon Young, a promising, 22-year-old transgender hip-hop artist who went by the moniker Yung LT. Part visual narrative, part memorial, the work includes photographs, ephemera and words of mourners to reflect on the sadness.

Also fixating on individual experience is Susan Meiselas, who explores the often-unseen labor of women in factories. Brand names like Harley-Davidson or Johnsonville Sausage are well-known, but the faces behind the factory walls are not. Meiselas photographs women at work and includes their commentary on their jobs, peering into the work that fills so much of the time of life itself.

Some photographers lean toward the traditions of art photography, like Jacob Aue Sobol. He visited Wisconsin last winter, traveling the shore of Lake Michigan up to Lake Superior. Along the way, he captured stark, sharply contrasted black-and-white photographs of faces young and old alike, as well as landscapes and stairwells that hint at a mysterious nature.

The exhibition feels rather like a form of contemporary cultural anthropology — highlighting details of daily life and work, what people enjoy and where they live. But even as we learn more about the hidden corners of the city and region around us, the camera lens distinctly reflects each photographer's own experience, approach and angle of vision as well.

AFTER DARK

The Milwaukee Art Museum will keep its lights on a bit longer on Aug. 15 for the latest installment of MAM After Dark, a monthly art party. The evening takes its cue from *Postcards From America* with the museum soliciting Milwaukeeans' photos of the city for display. Even if you can't attend, post your Milwaukee image to Twitter with the hashtag #mamafterdark to have it included.

Libations will flow, with craft cocktail samples, plus a cash bar. Café Calatrava will offer a selection of tasty snacks, and music comes courtesy of The New Seven and I'm Not a Pilot. There also will be a photo booth to visually capture the fun. Admission is free for museum members; signing up for membership at the door will get you and a plus-one in for free. Other ticket options include purchasing advance admission (\$9 plus fees) online or paying \$14 at the door.

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PHOTO: BRUCE GILDEN/MAGNUM PHOTOS

"At the State Fair," Bruce Gilden.



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ART GAZE — MADISON

New building planned for UW-Madison music school

By Jay Rath
Contributing writer

The University of Wisconsin-Madison's new School of Music is finally scheduled to break ground in 2015.

"We are moving forward on the design of the first phase of the new music performance center at the corner of North Lake Street and University Avenue," says Gary Brown, director of campus planning and landscape architecture. "Design will continue for the next year, with construction anticipated to begin in the fall of 2015 and completion, hopefully, by the spring of 2017."

The UW School of Music provides more than 350 free public concerts a year. Its home, the Mosse Humanities Building, 455 N. Park St., also houses the departments of history and art. The seven-story example of "Brutalist" architecture was completed in 1969, when angular fortresses of unadorned con-

crete were popular, especially for public buildings.

From the beginning, there were practical problems with the building: leaks in the third-floor courtyard bled all the way to the first floor; the basement music lounge received much more natural light than the top floors' art studios; disconnected interior spaces were confusing; and the cantilevered fourth floor was cold in winter (glued-on exterior insulation added in the 1980s is being replaced).

"Stark, graceless and unadorned," naming the building "Humanities" may be one of "the greatest unintentional sarcasms in university history," wrote Jim Feldman, author of *The Buildings of the University of Wisconsin*, published by UW Archives in 1997.

The building's late creator, Chicago architect Harry Weese, also designed the adjacent Chazen Museum of Art and Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the



PHOTO: COURTESY

The current Mosse Humanities Building.

Performing Arts.

Brown says the first phase of the stand-alone School of Music includes a new 325-seat recital hall and a large rehearsal hall. Phase II of the project will add an 800-seat concert hall to replace Mills Hall, the school's primary concert venue.

So far, capital for the project has been provided entirely by donations, and Brown says the timing of Phase II is dependent on further fundraising.

Cesar Pelli, the architect of Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, was consulted in early stages. The new facility will be designed by Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture of

New York City. Malcolm Holzman was also a principal with Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates, which designed Overture's predecessor, the Madison Civic Center.

Holzman Moss Bottino's previous work includes the American Ballet Theater in New York City, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Georgetown University Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C., and the University of Southern California Music School and concert hall. Madison-based Strang Inc. will assist in design and construction.

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Learning to dance like James Brown



PHOTO: D. STEVENS/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Chadwick Boseman, as James Brown in the new film *Get On Up*, a biopic based on the life of the Godfather of Soul.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Choreographer Aakomon "AJ" Jones was given 30 days to teach actor Chadwick Boseman to dance like the inimitable James Brown. The task would have been less challenging if Boseman had ever danced professionally.

Boseman, best known for portraying ballplayer Jackie Robinson in the biopic *42*, actually had no dance experience. "If it were up to me, he would have had no less than two months (of training)," says Jones, a self-taught dancer. "We didn't have that luxury, so we had to double-down."

And double-down they did, working for two hours a day, four days a week to begin with and then boosting Boseman's training to six hours a day, five days a week. But the end result is worth the effort: a near perfect portrayal of the Godfather of Soul in the film *Get On Up*. Released on Aug. 1, the movie has received critical acclaim both overall and specifically for Boseman's performance.

Jones' work played no small role in helping bring one of rhythm and blues' most iconic performers to life.

"Chad had rhythm, and I knew that if we gave it enough focus, we would accomplish (the) goal," Jones says. "We didn't use any dance doubles in the film, and when the camera showed a close-up of Chad's feet, we made sure it panned up to a full body shot so the audience could see that it was Chad who was dancing."

Despite a lack of formal training, the 10-year choreography veteran knows what he's doing. He's choreographed for every major pop star — from Madonna and Mariah Carey to Jennifer Lopez and Justin Timberlake — and has choreography credits on *Dreamgirls*, *Pitch Perfect* and the upcoming sequel *Pitch Perfect 2*.

In *Get On Up*, he tackled a biopic about a performer he credits with helping to change both the industry and the way the American public views African-American R&B music.

"I had been a James Brown fan for many a year," says Jones, whose hometown of Decatur, Georgia, is roughly 90 miles from Toccoa, where Brown began as a gospel singer. "I could have rolled the dice and did this without research, but I studied a lot of film and read James Brown's autobiography. But I also took some key tips from Chad and what he was learning about his character from the book. I tailored my approach and piggybacked it on Chad's understanding of his character."

Brown was born into poverty in 1933 and led a hardscrabble life. As a child he was abandoned by his mother and beaten by his father. He escaped such traumas by immersing himself in gospel singing.

Eventually Brown joined an R&B group called the Avons, which later changed its

"As a performer, James Brown knew it was more than just the dance steps. It's learning to produce, package and present them to the audience."

name to The Famous Flames. Brown served as lead singer.

The rest, as they say, is musical history.

James Brown performances were famous for the singer's dance moves. Brown created a familiar pattern he could improvise on: a series of rapid-fire shuffle steps, punctuated by single and double splits, then capped with a collapse to his knees. Brown, like Jones, had no formal training, but he had an incredible amount of energy and heart, Jones says.

"James Brown as a dancer is not really that much different than I am," he muses. "He was familiar with the party dances of the time and went on to own them. He was a master of his craft who made them fit into his performances."

Moves like Brown's can be seen in early performances by Marvin Gaye and Sam & Dave, Jones says. But the Godfather of Soul had one distinct advantage over them all.

"As a performer, James Brown knew it was more than just the dance steps," Jones says. "It's learning to produce, package and present them to the audience. He was the leader, the full package, the nucleus of even the most complicated stage performance."

Brown drew his influences from his own sensibilities and from early R&B performers, including African-American saxophonist and bandleader Louis Jordan, whose performances also included elaborate dance moves.

"Jordan was animated and had a lot of energy, but his technique was nothing like James Brown's," Jones says. "Brown was also exposed to a lot of gospel preachers and their antics, and it was show time there, too."

Brown went on to influence generations of performers, including Michael Jackson, M.C. Hammer, Usher and even Mick Jagger, one of the film's co-producers.

"James Brown's movements came from a place of sheer, raw energy and built on dance steps he made his own," Jones says. "These other performers had to draw their inspiration from somewhere, and James Brown was a great place to start."

But Brown's contribution to modern culture went beyond singing and dancing, Jones says.

"James Brown taught not just black people, but all people not to be ashamed of who they are, but proud," Jones says. "I think that was his greatest contribution."

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Robin Hood, through the eyes of Marian's 'Lady in Waiting'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Whether portrayed by a swashbuckling Errol Flynn or a conflicted Kevin Costner, Robin Hood has always been interpreted more as myth than man. Theater RED, a relatively new Milwaukee theater company, reverses the equation. In its latest world premiere, *A Lady in Waiting*, the troupe adopts a female point of view that presents the legendary male outlaw on a human scale.

Penned by Wisconsin playwright Liz Shipe (who also plays Maid Marian in the production), the story is told from the perspective of Marian's handmaid Aria (Kelly Doherty). Shipe says Aria's quick tongue and sharp insights shed new light on familiar characters like Robin Hood (Zachary Thomas Woods) and the Sheriff of Nottingham (Matthew J. Patten), as well as the play's other Merry Men and royals, thus muddling the usually stark distinctions between heroes and villains.

The play begins with Robin Hood already established as the outlaw prince of Sherwood Forest, so both Aria and the audience are inserted *in medias res*. "Everything I read positioned Robin Hood as the main character, and that seemed the logical way to go," Shipe

says. "But I wanted to look at Robin Hood through the lens of someone who might not see him as a hero, learning about him as the audience does."

Shipe says telling the story from a female perspective also gives the play some contemporary flavoring, although she hesitates to label its viewpoint as explicitly feminist.

"The original idea was to create a medieval buddy-on-the-road story for two women and a bunch of fellas," Shipe says. "(But) over the course of writing it, the play did become much more about what it is to be a woman in any society — which is a great thing to put in the spotlight."

The unconscious shift in perspective fits well with Theater RED's creative ethos. Married co-founders Christopher Elst and Marcee Doherty-Elst established the company last year as a way to present premiere works from local authors and plays that offer substantial roles for women and new artists. Their first full production *A Thousand Times Goodnight* was a particularly good example: an original, Shakespeare-esque adaptation of *The Arabian Nights* by local writer Jared McDaris that centered on Scheherazade as the lead character.

Neither Elst nor Doherty-Elst had

extensive experience or education in theater arts until reaching adulthood. Elst majored in literature and has a background in fencing, with advanced actor combatant certification from the Society of American Fight Directors. Doherty-Elst, a trained skater, majored in sociology and statistics. But the two became independently involved in local productions, learning about theater from fellow cast members as they went along.

"We credit the theater training we have received from being involved in productions with amazing actors, musicians and directors," Doherty-Elst says. "We learned from working alongside the best and are often cast in the same shows, which is great fun and nice to have our schedules align."

Starting Theater RED has allowed the couple to share what they've learned with others, including Shipe. She's excited about sharing her unique vision of the Robin Hood myth.

"Robin Hood's story has been told from his point of view a lot, and I thought that shifting the focus a bit would breathe some life into the story," Shipe says. "I hope other people feel that way, too."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Liz Shipe (seen here as Maid Marian) wrote *A Lady in Waiting* from a female perspective to depict what it's like to be a woman in both Robin Hood's society and our own.

ON STAGE

Theater RED's production of Liz Shipe's *A Lady in Waiting* runs Aug. 7-23 at the Soulstice Theatre, 3770 Pennsylvania Ave., Ste. 2, in St. Francis. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.theaterred.com.

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DisH it Out!

Seven sassy chardonnays to brighten your summer

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

We all know that summer and chilled white wines go together. And few whites are more reliable than chardonnay, one of the country's top white choices.

The adaptable chardonnay grape has flourished in cooler as well as warmer places, such as its native southern France. When other countries discovered chardonnay, an unintended hybrid of the Pinot Noir and Gouais Blanc grapes, its status and availability grew.

Once chardonnay crossed the Atlantic, the market exploded. Growers began to clear their slopes of many lesser-known varietals to plant chardonnay. Acres of historic vines and entire enological legacies were lost to make way for the upstart. The result was an eventual market glut that made chardonnay somewhat passé.

Fortunately, the varietal is regaining popularity. Consider the following seven sassy chardonnays produced by U.S. vineyards.

Winemaker Philippe Coquard does not produce his **Wollersheim Chardonnay (\$17)** from grapes grown on his estate just south of the Wisconsin River. Instead, he contracts for a custom-grown grape from Washington State, which he uses to create a fine example of chardonnay in his winery near Prairie du Sac.

Two-thirds of Wollersheim Chardonnay is matured in French oak barrels and one-third in stainless steel containers. The wine

captures the vanilla-and-spice essence of the oak while tempering it with the cleanliness of the stainless steel. The result is a dry, crisp, clean wine with a pleasant fruitiness and subtle acidity.

California wine country has no shortage of chardonnay producers. In Sonoma County, **Joseph Carr 2012 Chardonnay (\$18)** was made according to a method known as the Dijon clone.

The grapes were cold-pressed and then the juice was aged *sur lie* — in new French oak barrels along with the sediment that settles to the bottom during fermentation. The result is a wine with more complex character. Carr's chardonnay offers a nose hinting at apricot, vanilla and peach, as well as a palate with overtones of apricot, strawberries and citrus.

The **Ferrari-Carano 2012 Chardonnay (\$21)** was made with fruit from 60 different chardonnay lots. These were cold pressed and aged *sur lie* in two ways — 30 percent in new French oak, 60 percent in older cooperage. The result is similar in char-



acter to the Carr wine, featuring a slightly different flavor profile of peach, lemon and a hazelnut. In neither case does the wine disappoint.

The **Flowers 2011 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay (\$41)** was produced using a similar sourcing pattern, including cold pressing and a variety of oak cooperage, but with slightly

different effect. The wine exhibits a slight flintiness thanks to its terroir, providing an interesting edge to its flavor profile that's reminiscent of Honeycrisp apples. Flowers' chardonnay also has an abundant mouthfeel and a fine acidity.

The Laguna Vineyard Ranch in the Russian River Valley has been producing chardonnay for some 40 years, and the **Laguna 2012 Chardonnay (\$28)** was made using the same approach as the Sonoma vineyards. The wine, once again cold-pressed and oak-aged, opens with delicate notes of apple, pear and tangerine. The wine is well balanced, with supple mouthfeel and a fine

lingering finish.

The winemakers at Frog's Leap, located in Napa Valley, take a different approach, placing emphasis on the soil in which the grapes were grown. The **Frog's Leap 2012 Chardonnay (\$26)** was made with fruit from the Carneros district, whose soil often yields chardonnays with a more vibrant acidity. Ninety-five percent of Frog's Leap 2012 Chardonnay was aged *sur lie* in concrete vats, and only 5 percent of the developing wine was exposed to wood.

The Frog's Leap profile is crisp and very clean. The acidity blends nicely with the flavors of fruit. Slate and hints of lemongrass on the nose give way to a palate of peach and citrus with an underscoring mineral quality that make this wine stand out.

Much further south, the winemakers at Fess Parker Winery & Vineyard in California's Santa Barbara County follow similar a technique, but one that leads to yet another unique result. The **Fess Parker 2012 Ashley's Chardonnay (\$28)**, produced from grapes harvested in Ashley's Vineyard in the Santa Rita Hills, was also barrel-aged in French oak. The wine offers aromas of pear, peach and honey that give way to a palate featuring pear, green apple and pastry crust, along with a hint of vanilla courtesy of the French oak.

Chill any of these and serve and you will quickly see the chardonnay, sassy or not, is no longer passé.

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Tomayto, tomahto

Either way it's a nutritious summer treat

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Let's make one thing clear. A tomato, despite its uses, is botanically a fruit — specifically an ovary, together with its seeds, of a flowering plant.

However, a tomato has far less sugar than any other fruit, making it less suitable for all those tasty usages to which fruit is put. Yes, there are green tomato pies, but would you ever dollop chopped tomato over vanilla ice cream?

Still, tomato — or “tomahto,” if you prefer the British pronunciation — is one of the botanical and culinary joys of late summer. Our garden is ready to burst with this year's heirloom varieties, and we can't wait to get them on our plates.

We're waiting patiently for our Big Rainbow heirloom beefsteak variety, its yellow flesh mottled with red, to be sliced and served drizzled with olive oil and fresh basil as a succulent appetizer. Our Lemon Boys will be quartered and chunked into salads, adding their delightful flavor and colorful contrast to succulent Bibb lettuce and peppery arugula.

As to the remaining heirloom cultivars — Chocolate Cherry, Cherokee Purple and Black Krim — their colors and flavor variations will also delight us. Our garden also is home to cantaloupe, cucumber, eggplant, and both black and pimento peppers; but it's clear that our rubyfruit jungle of tomato varieties will always be the anchor tenant.

Tomatoes, like potatoes, originated in South America's Andes Mountains. The plant takes its name from the Nahuatl word *tomatōtl*, and records show that by 500 B.C. tomatoes were being cultivated in Mexico.

Although European colonists first thought tomatoes, a member of the deadly nightshade family, to be poisonous, conquistador Hernán Cortés was recorded to have taken some small yellow tomatoes to Europe in 1521. There is also evidence that Christopher Columbus may have introduced tomatoes to Spain as early as 1499.

Tomatoes are considered among the world's healthiest foods. They're an excellent source of the antioxidant lycopene, vitamins C and K, and a host of minerals and other nutrients.

Our dish of sliced Big Rainbow tomatoes is, in fact, one of the healthier serving options, because olive oil helps increase the body's absorbance of lycopene, a naturally occurring compound that has been linked to a reduced risk for cancer, heart disease and age-related eye disorders. Add a little oregano, some buffalo mozzarella cheese and dashes of pepper and sea salt and you

have an insalata Caprese, one of the most popular summer salads.

Tomatoes offer nutrition and flavor without a lot of calories: A cup of chopped raw tomatoes contains only 32.

Tomatoes are delightful both raw and cooked. Here are several tasty ways to use your summer harvest.

For more tomato recipes, visit wisconsin Gazette.com

WATERMELON-PEACH SALSA AND TOMATOES

If you like your summer dishes sweet and hot and your tomatoes raw, this salsa may be just the thing to get your taste buds tingling. You'll need:

INGREDIENTS

½ cup hot pepper jelly
1 tbsp. lime zest
¼ cup fresh lime juice
2 cups seeded and diced fresh watermelon
1 cup peeled and diced fresh peaches
1 cup chopped fresh basil
¼ cup chopped fresh chives
3 cups baby heirloom tomatoes, halved
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Garnish: fresh basil sprigs

DIRECTIONS

Whisk together pepper jelly, lime zest and lime juice in a bowl, then stir in watermelon, peaches, basil and chives. Season halved baby tomatoes with salt and freshly ground pepper to taste and spoon into cocktail glasses. Top with salsa and garnish with basil sprigs.

GRILLED TOMATOES WITH BASIL VINAIGRETTE

Many foods are grillable, but few fare as well as tomatoes. Here's how to make the most of those lovely little orbs over red-hot coals. You'll need:

INGREDIENTS

3 yellow tomatoes
3 red tomatoes
3 tbsp. olive oil, divided
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground pepper
2 tsps. white balsamic vinegar
2 tbsps. chopped fresh basil
Garnish: fresh basil sprigs

DIRECTIONS

Cut tomatoes in half and thread onto skewers, alternating colors. Brush with 1 tablespoon oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Grill over medium heat (300 degrees to 350 degrees) for 10 minutes, turning skewers often. Combine remaining 2 tablespoons oil, vinegar and basil and drizzle over kabobs. Garnish, if desired.

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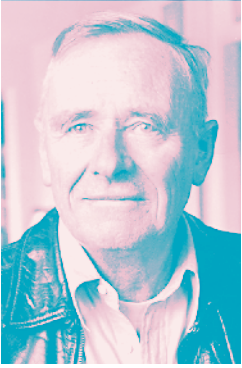


PHOTO: RANDOM HOUSE

Author Christopher Isherwood.

ISHERWOOD REISSUED

"Waking up begins with saying *am* and *now*." This is the first line of Christopher Isherwood's *A Single Man*, a novel that, when it first appeared in 1964, shocked many with its frank, sympathetic and moving portrayal of a gay man.

The story, set in sunny Southern California in the 1960s, follows a middle-aged English professor adjusting to solitude after the death of his partner. Edmund White called the book one of the first and best of the modern gay liberation movement.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux has

re-issued *A Single Man* in a collection that includes *The Memorial: Portrait of a Family*, an early Isherwood novel set in England in the aftermath of World War I, and *Down There on a Visit*, published in 1962 and considered the most accomplished of the writer's novels.

Isherwood, who died in 1986, dedicated *Down There on a Visit* to Don Bachardy, an artist and the author's partner for more than 30 years.

The Animals: Love Letters Between Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy, also from FSG and edited

by Katherine Bucknell, creates a remarkable portrait of the relationship between the two men. It is a strange, engrossing book — extraordinarily personal and unlike any other volume of letters in literature. "Animals" is a word the men use for themselves, for their private world, where Isherwood is a workhorse named "Dobbin" and Bachardy is a playful kitty cat.

"Our relationship is really so very, very strange," Isherwood writes Bachardy, who today lives in Santa Monica, California. "No wonder it gives us trouble. I

mean, I often feel that the Animals are far more than just a nursery joke or a cuteness. They exist. They are like Jung's myths. They express a kind of freedom and truth which we otherwise wouldn't have."

— Lisa Neff



PHOTO: WIG

WIGWIRED: TECH BRIEFS

OUT AND ACTIVE

- **Extreme Selfie.** The prestigious Tillywig Award for "best toy" has gone to Lexi-book's Wi-Fi Move Cam, a sports camera made for action and adventure — pedaling down a mountain bike trail, hiking around the bend, snorkeling on the lake's bottom and swimming out to the float.
- **Seek & find.** Pricey boats are equipped with pricey fish finders and depth plotters. For anglers just paddling away from shore in a kayak, or even standing on shore or a pier, Deeper's Smart Fishfinder is a more moderately priced alternative at \$250. The fishfinder is cast using a rod and reel

to send an image of what lies beneath the water to a companion app. Be sure to double-check the clasp before casting.

- **Spot on.** For those heading into remote or rural areas and not expecting reliable cell signals, the Spot satellite messenger can be used to let social media friends know when you've reached the summit of the mountain or the bottom of the canyon but, more importantly, transmit an SOS when an emergency strikes.
- **On break.** Take the phone but turn off email. A recent survey found that work email is encroaching into the personal lives and downtime of many laborers.

About 44.8 percent of those surveyed for the poll say they check work email at least once a day in their personal time. About 63.6 percent of those surveyed admit to checking work email while on holiday, and:

- 6.7% have gone through work email during a child's school event.
 - 5% have checked work email during a wedding ceremony.
 - 3.8% have checked work mail during a funeral.
 - 3.8% owned up to checking their work email while their spouse was in labor.
- Lisa Neff

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Out on the town *August 7 - August 21*

A curated calendar of upcoming events

MILWAUKEE COMEDY FESTIVAL *Aug. 7 to 10*

It's time to laugh: The Milwaukee Comedy Festival has returned. This annual celebration of stand-up, sketch and improv comedy has delighted comedy lovers for nine years, and each gets bigger and better. This year's features two dozen performers or groups from around town and across the country, spread across eight different performance slots that include a teen comedy show on Sunday afternoon. At Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water St. Tickets are \$20, \$15 in advance, or \$50 for an all-access pass. For show-times or to order tickets, visit festival.milwaukeecomedy.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Jimbo, a character created by comedian and festival organizer Matt Kemple.

MILE OF MUSIC *Aug. 7 to 10*

Americana comes to Appleton for the Mile of Music Festival, the city's second annual celebration of folk, country and blues-influenced music. Mile of Music brings more than 200 performing artists to over 60 venues in the Appleton area. Performers include former R.E.M. members Peter Buck and Mike Mills, producer Butch Vig with his new band Emperors of Wyoming, and co-founder Cory Chisel. Admission to most performances is free, but \$150 priority-access passes are available. To order, visit mileofmusic.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Butch Vig will perform with his new band Emperors of Wyoming.

ANIMAL FARM

GEORGE ORWELL



PHOTO: COURTESY

'ANIMAL FARM'

7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8

If you missed the opportunity to visit Trimborn Farm last month for Quasimondo's production of *Animal Farm*, you're in luck. The company is staging an encore performance of its adaptation of the Orwell classic at Lake Park in Milwaukee. The production includes an assortment of puppets that help bring this barnyard-set, anti-Soviet parable to life. Admission is free. Visit thequasimondo.com for more information.

'A LADY IN WAITING'

7:30 p.m. on Aug. 7 to 23

Robin Hood won't be the focal point of Theater RED's world premiere play about his myth. Commissioned from local playwright Liz Shipe, *A Lady in Waiting* tells a tale of Nottingham, Merry Men and rob-from-the-rich-give-to-the-poor, but tells it all through the eyes of Maid Marian's female servant. The unique point of view inspires a more complex Sherwood Forest, where men aren't always as noble or villainous as they appear and women seek roles beyond mere bargaining chips. (See preview, page 27.) At Soulstice Theatre, 3770 Pennsylvania Ave., St. Francis. Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered at theatrered.com.



PHOTO: FANPOP.COM

Numerous actors have portrayed Robin Hood and Maid Marian in films over the years, including Audrey Hepburn and Sean Connery in "Robin and Marian" (1976).

Out on the town August 7 - August 21



'DANCEWORKS ON TAP: TAP THE MAP'

7:30 p.m. on Aug. 8 and 9, 2 p.m. on Aug. 10

Danceworks on Tap's annual summer concert is always a treat, but this year the company is blending traditional tap performance with world music beats. The result is a multicultural fusion that promises to bring new rhythms to the stage. At Danceworks' studio, 1661 N. Water St. Tickets are \$15, \$18 reserved and \$10 for students and seniors. Call 414-277-8480 or visit danceworksmke.org.



ARAB WORLD FEST Aug. 8-10

After a hiatus of several years due to conflicts with the observance of Ramadan, Arab World Fest returns to the Summerfest grounds this for a celebration of the music, food and culture of the Middle East (see story page 8). This year's nonpolitical, nonreligious event is dedicated to the theme of family. Organizers encourage visitors to bring along their young ones for three days of camel rides and exhibits detailing the history of the 22 Arab countries represented. Admission is \$10. For information, visit arabworldfest.com.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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IRISH FEST Aug. 14-17

They say everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day, and the same is true when Irish Fest rolls around. The annual celebration of Irish culture takes over the Summerfest grounds with a mix of musical guests, including perennial visitors Gaelic Storm, performances by the Trinity Irish step dancers, cultural displays and discussions, and the annual Sunday Mass. New to the festival this year is a millennial celebration of Brian Boru, the first modern ruler of Ireland, who unified the island's clans before dying at the Battle of Clontarf 1,000 years ago. Admission to the festival is \$17, \$12 for seniors and free for children, with \$5 tickets on Thursday and additional discounts throughout the weekend. For more, click irishfest.com.



Gaelic Storm.

PHOTO: COURTESY

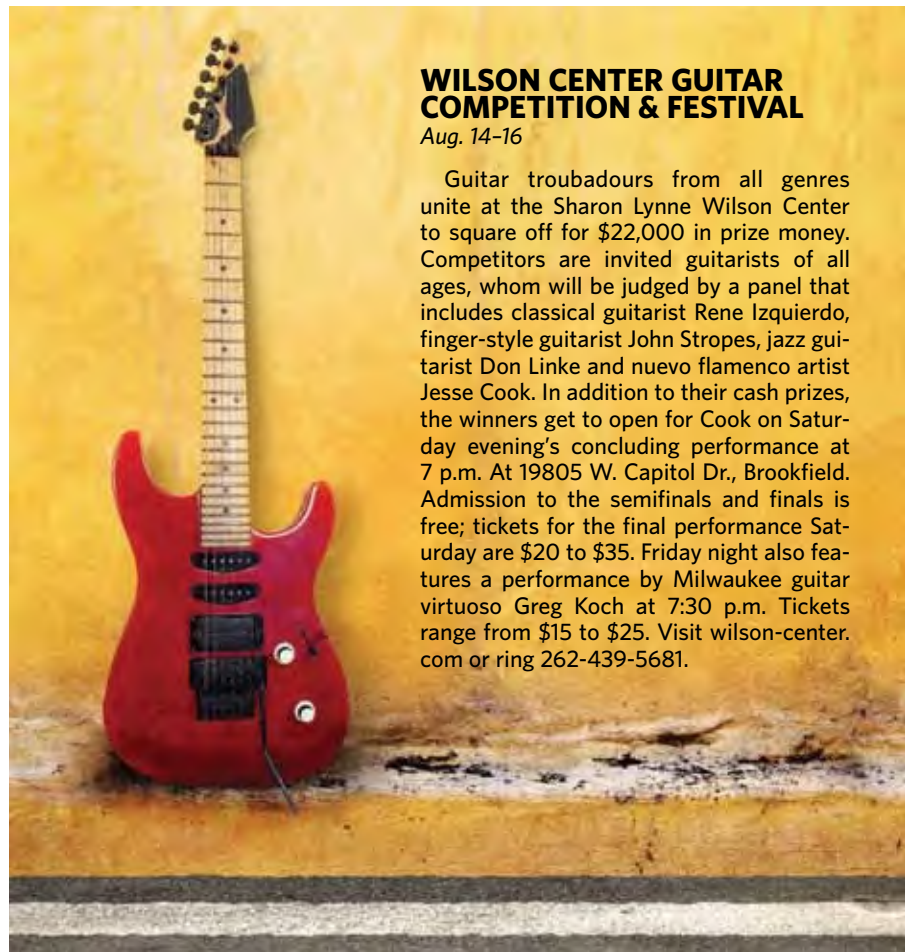


PHOTO: COURTESY

STEELY DAN

8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16

When you think of the sound of the '70s, you probably think of Steely Dan, the jazz rockers who released a string of wildly successful albums in that decade culminating with *Aja*, the group's magnum opus. The core founders Walter Becker and Donald Fagen split up the group up in 1981, but the duo has since reunited, embarking on a string of successful tours. The latest passes through Madison's Overture Center, where they're sure to play hits like "Reelin' in the Years," "Rikki Don't Lose That Number" and "Peg." At 201 State St., Madison. Tickets are \$79.75 to \$199.75. Ring 608-258-4141 or go to overturecenter.com.



WILSON CENTER GUITAR COMPETITION & FESTIVAL

Aug. 14-16

Guitar troubadours from all genres unite at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center to square off for \$22,000 in prize money. Competitors are invited guitarists of all ages, whom will be judged by a panel that includes classical guitarist Rene Izquierdo, finger-style guitarist John Stropes, jazz guitarist Don Linke and nuevo flamenco artist Jesse Cook. In addition to their cash prizes, the winners get to open for Cook on Saturday evening's concluding performance at 7 p.m. At 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. Admission to the semifinals and finals is free; tickets for the final performance Saturday are \$20 to \$35. Friday night also features a performance by Milwaukee guitar virtuoso Greg Koch at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. Visit wilson-center.com or ring 262-439-5681.

'MASTER CLASS' Aug. 8-24

Maria Callas is a legend, both for her outstanding prowess as an opera soprano and her famously temperamental personality. In *Master Class*, playwright Terence McNally captures both, depicting Callas as she instructs a class of prospective singers and reflects upon her life. Milwaukee Chamber Theatre brings Angela Iannone back in the role she first performed in 1999. MCT has partnered with directors Jill Anna Ponasik and James Zager of Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Carroll University for this powerful opening to the group's 40th-anniversary season. At the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Tickets range from \$15 to \$40. Phone 414-291-7800 or go to milwaukeechambertheatre.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

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'THE KILLING CYCLE...' & 'THE LAST CLEAN SHIRT'

Aug 20-Dec. 23

Alfred Leslie and Frank O'Hara were two artists of the New York School, an informal collective active in the '50s and '60s who often worked together and shared ideas. One idea was *The Last Clean Shirt*, an experimental film Leslie and O'Hara created together that comments on the political and social climate of the '60s through Leslie's visuals and O'Hara's words. Tragically, it would be one of their last collaborations — O'Hara was killed in a dune buggy accident a few years later. But it was not the last time O'Hara would inspire Leslie. That would come shortly after his death, when Leslie synthesized his grief over the loss of O'Hara and over a subsequent fire that destroyed his entire studio-home into *The Killing Cycle...* A series of "painted stories," this series of narratives blend fact and fiction to describe O'Hara's fatal crash. The Haggerty Museum of Art at 13th and Clybourn Streets in Milwaukee will exhibit the series together for the first time in more than 20 years, alongside a screening of *The Last Clean Shirt*. Admission is free. Visit marquette.edu/haggerty for details.



PHOTO: COURTESY
Alfred Leslie's "The Accident."

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