



## Milwaukee's major food groups

*Three locally  
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Wisconsinites love their brew, and there's no better time to enjoy it than Okwtoberfest.



# News with a twist

## WiGWAG

By Lisa Neff, Matthew Reddin, Louis Weisberg

### GNOME GATE

The Socialist Party of Austria says about 400 garden gnomes placed ahead of elections in western Austria went missing. The figurines disappeared from lampposts used in the party's campaign. The fingers were pointing at the People's Party, which denied any involvement in the scandal.



### LOVE, AMERICAN STYLE

A study of American singles from Indiana University-Bloomington shows that during sex with a familiar partner, men have the highest orgasm rates. On average, men experience orgasms 85.1 percent of the time, with their sexual orientation making little difference. Women on average experience orgasm 62.9 percent of the time. Lesbians experience orgasm more often — 74.7 percent

of the time — than other women.

### WITH FRIENDS LIKE THAT...

Florida Gov. Rick Scott has pulled a re-election campaign advertisement after learning that the man who endorses him in it was convicted of human smuggling, *The Miami Herald* reports. In the Spanish-language advertisement — devoted to Rick Scott's success in creating jobs for Floridians — Maikel Duarte-Torres is seen hugging the governor and saying, "Four years ago, the economy was very bad. Rick Scott helped Florida's economy and you can see the difference. ...That's why I support Rick Scott. I'm just like him." Three years ago, Duarte-Torres was being held in a prison in St. Maartens after having been convicted of trying to smuggle two Cuban girls from the Caribbean



country into Miami, and prosecutors believe he may have had a hand in organizing the transport of 10 other Cubans at the price of \$12,500 per person.

### QUITE THE SECRET INGREDIENT

File this under "ways not to smuggle drugs." U.S. customs officers found about 7 ounces of cocaine stuffed inside some tamales while screening a passenger at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. According to the agency, the 46-year-old man was traveling from El Salvador to New York when officers found a box of 200 tamales hiding nine bags of cocaine inside his luggage.

### NUTTY NUGENT

Former rock star Ted Nugent continues to strike off-key chords with off-color remarks from the extreme right. After the police shooting of unarmed black teen Michael Brown in Ferguson,

Missouri, Nugent said liberals should be held responsible because they keep "repeating the nonsense that more 'reasonable' gun control laws will stop street savages from getting their hands on guns and killing each other." He also said Barack Obama "believes fanning the embers of racism will keep black Americans squarely in the corner of their big daddy Democratic Party."

### LONG LIVE THE KING, AGAIN

The Estate of Elvis Presley and Pulse Evolution Corporation are working to raise the King of Rock 'n' Roll using state-of-the-art human animation technology. Elvis Presley will live again in the form of a holograph, appearing in live concerts, commercials and more. What would Elvis think about his high-tech resurrection? Presleyheads know that he owned one of the first mobile phones and watched a projector

TV before well before the masses.

### CLASS OF 2018

Beloit College in late August released its annual College Mindset List for the new freshman class. Most of the new class of 2018 were born in 1996, have always had *The Daily Show* to set them straight and rarely have heard the term "bipartisan agreement." What else? When they see wire-rimmed glasses, they think Harry Potter, not John Lennon. Also, their TVs have always been flooded with ads for prescription drugs, and their disturbing side effects.

### SEND BACK THE CIGARS

It's a soap opera plotline waiting to happen: A Chinese zoo canceled its planned livestreaming of a panda birth after it was discovered that the mother had been faking her pregnancy the whole time. Pandas at the Sichuan zoo's breeding

center are given specialized treatment, including private rooms and additional food, when they're believed to be pregnant, and experts say particularly clever pandas learn to simulate pregnancies so they can keep their perks longer. No word yet if the panda father's yet been told to cancel the child support payments.

### FOUL PLAY

A South Carolina woman was arrested after allegedly hitting a man she said "passed gas" in her face. Jessica Cerney, 33, told police that 64-year-old Darrell McKnight came home drunk and farted on her visage while she was lying on the couch, according to documents obtained by *The Smoking Gun*. Furious about the blast, Cerney left the house, but when McKnight followed her outside, she allegedly punched him in the face three times.

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wisconsinazette.com

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OF THE KINKS

SEPTEMBER 3  
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**JOURNEY**

SEPTEMBER 5 • PABST  
**SYLVAN ESSO**

SEPTEMBER 5 • TURNER  
**MONDO LUCHA**

SEPTEMBER 11 • PABST  
**RONNIE MILSAP**

SEPTEMBER 17 • TURNER  
**BOB MOULD**

SEPTEMBER 17 • RIVERSIDE  
**SPOON**

SEPTEMBER 18 • TURNER  
**TASTE OF IRELAND**

SEPTEMBER 18 • PABST  
**IRON & WINE**

SEPTEMBER 20 • PABST  
**R5**

SEPTEMBER 21 • PABST  
**THE WAR ON DRUGS**

SEPTEMBER 23 • RIVERSIDE  
THE VOICE OF ROXY MUSIC  
**BRYAN FERRY**

SEPTEMBER 24 • TURNER  
**CRYSTAL BOWSOX**

SEPTEMBER 25 • TURNER  
**FREEMAN**  
AARON FREEMAN, FORMERLY  
OF WEEN

SEPTEMBER 26  
BMO HARRIS PAVILION  
**LORDE**

SEPTEMBER 26 • TURNER  
**CONCERT 4 MACC**

CORY CHISEL AND  
THE WANDERING SONS  
HUGH BOB &  
THE HUSTLE

SEPTEMBER 27 • TURNER  
**THE DANDY WARHOLS**

OCTOBER 1 • TURNER  
**JJ GREY & MOFRO**

OCTOBER 1 • RIVERSIDE  
**THE AUSTRALIAN  
PINK FLOYD SHOW**

OCTOBER 4 • PABST  
**WARPAINT**

OCTOBER 4 • TURNER  
**SHOVELS & ROPE**

OCTOBER 5 • PABST  
**ERASURE**

OCTOBER 5 • TURNER  
**MIRAH**

OCTOBER 7 • PABST  
**ASIA**

OCTOBER 7 • RIVERSIDE  
**ZZ TOP**

OCTOBER 8 • RIVERSIDE  
**SANTANA**

OCTOBER 9 • PABST  
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**OK GO**

OCTOBER 11 • RIVERSIDE  
**GLADYS KNIGHT**

OCTOBER 12 • RIVERSIDE  
**BIG FREEDIA**

OCTOBER 12 • RIVERSIDE  
**DAVID GRAY**

OCTOBER 14 • RIVERSIDE  
**RYAN ADAMS**

OCTOBER 14 • TURNER  
**DELTA SPIRIT**

OCTOBER 15 • TURNER  
**RURAL ALBERTA  
ADVANTAGE**

OCTOBER 15 • RIVERSIDE  
**SO YOU THINK YOU  
CAN DANCE**

OCTOBER 16 • TURNER  
**KINA GRANNIS**

OCTOBER 16 • RIVERSIDE  
**THE PIANO GUYS**

OCTOBER 17 • RIVERSIDE  
**JASON MRAZ  
AND RAINING JANE**

OCTOBER 18 • RIVERSIDE  
**BRIAN REGAN**

OCTOBER 18  
MILWAUKEE THEATRE  
**BASTILLE**

OCTOBER 18 • PABST  
**THE BEST OF JETHRO TULL  
PERFORMED BY  
IAN ANDERSON**

OCTOBER 19 • RIVERSIDE  
**MATTHEW WEST**

OCTOBER 22 • PABST  
**FIELD REPORT**

OCTOBER 23 • PABST  
**TUNE-YARDS**

OCTOBER 23 • RIVERSIDE  
**LECRAE**

OCTOBER 24 • PABST  
**RHYE**

3 SHOWS!  
OCT 24, 25, 26 • RIVERSIDE  
**WIDESPREAD PANIC**

OCTOBER 30 • TURNER  
**LIL B**

OCTOBER 31 • PABST  
**THE MILK CARTON KIDS  
& SARAH JAROSZ**

NOVEMBER 1 • PABST  
**JOHN PRINE**

NOVEMBER 5 • TURNER  
**YONDER MOUNTAIN  
STRING BAND**

NOVEMBER 10 • TURNER  
**DAVID BAZAN  
+ PASSENGER  
STRING QUARTET**

NOVEMBER 13 • PABST  
**THE NEW PORNO-  
GRAPHERS**

NOVEMBER 14 • TURNER  
**BLEACHERS**

NOVEMBER 15 • PABST  
**INTERPOL**

NOVEMBER 16 • RIVERSIDE  
**FRESH BEAT  
BAND**

NOVEMBER 18 • RIVERSIDE  
**DIANA KRALL**

NOVEMBER 18 • TURNER  
**RL GRIME**

NOVEMBER 22 • RIVERSIDE  
**PHILLIP PHILLIPS**

DECEMBER 2-24 • PABST  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

DECEMBER 2 • TURNER  
**YELAWOLF**

DECEMBER 4 • RIVERSIDE  
**CHRIS BOTTI**

DECEMBER 4 • TURNER  
**SHAKY GRAVES**

DECEMBER 5 • TURNER  
**STURGILL  
SIMPSON**

2 SHOWS!  
DEC. 10 + 11 • RIVERSIDE  
**NEIL DEGRASSE  
TYSON**

DECEMBER 13 • RIVERSIDE  
MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY  
PERFORMS THE MUSIC OF  
**LED ZEPPELIN**

DECEMBER 14 • RIVERSIDE  
**MANNHEIM  
STEAMROLLER**  
CHRISTMAS BY CHIP DAVIS

FEBRUARY 14 • RIVERSIDE  
**ALTON BROWN  
LIVE**

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SEPTEMBER 19 • DISCOVERY WORLD  
POINT FISH FRY & A FLICK  
**GHOSTBUSTERS**  
FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE

SEPTEMBER 12 • PABST  
**NICK SWARDSON**

SEPTEMBER 19 • PABST  
**CAPITOL STEPS**

SEPTEMBER 25 • PABST  
**TIM AND ERIC &  
DR. STEVE BRULE**

OCTOBER 10 • RIVERSIDE  
**JERRY SEINFELD**

2 SHOWS! OCT. 10 / OCT. 11 • PABST  
**LEWIS BLACK**

OCTOBER 16 • PABST  
**CHRIS D'ELIA**

OCTOBER 17 • PABST  
**JEANNE ROBERTSON**

OCTOBER 18 • RIVERSIDE  
**BRIAN REGAN**

OCTOBER 20 • TURNER  
**JOHN HODGMAN:  
TONIGHT!**

OCTOBER 24 • TURNER  
**MAZ JOBRANI**

NOVEMBER 14 • PABST  
**LAST COMIC  
STANDING LIVE**

4 SHOWS! NOV. 20 - 22 • TURNER  
**SPANK! THE FIFTY  
SHADES PARODY**

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**JIM GAFFIGAN**

JANUARY 17 • PABST  
**FRANK CALIENDO**

FEBRUARY 6 • TURNER  
**SEBASTIAN  
MANISCALCO**



# Appeals court justices grill anti-equality lawyers

## Wisconsin, Indiana marriage bans move to next legal level

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Judges scoffed at defenders of Indiana and Wisconsin bans on same-sex marriage and bristled at their outdated, flawed arguments for continuing to deny equal rights to gays and lesbians in the Midwestern states during an appeals court hearing on Aug. 26 in Chicago.

A crowd began to assemble on the federal plaza the evening before the three-member panel of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in equality cases from Indiana and Wisconsin.

Defending the constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2006 to the skeptical panel, Wisconsin assistant Attorney General Timothy Samuelson repeatedly cited "tradition."

He didn't seem to persuade any of the judges.

Judge Richard Posner, appointed by Republican President Ronald Reagan in 1981, said he was reminded that proponents of laws barring interracial marriage also cited "tradition." That, Posner said, was a tradition that got swept away.

As for prohibitions against same-sex marriage, Posner said such bans are based on a "tradition of hate ... and savage discrimination" of gays.

Samuelson, during his 20 minutes before the court, struggled to offer specific reasons for banning gays from marrying and seemed to welcome a yellow light signaling his allotted time was up.

"It won't save you," said Judge Ann Claire Williams, who was appointed by Democrat Bill Clinton.

"It was worth a try," Samuelson said.

Indiana Solicitor General Thomas Fisher didn't have an easier time before the panel.

His presentation was interrupted by Posner, who read through a list of difficulties that children of same-sex couples can face because their parents cannot legally marry and then asked Fisher to identify a societal benefit of barring same-sex marriage that trumps the harm posed to children whose parents are denied legal standing.

Fisher responded, "All this is a reflection of biology. Men and women make babies, same-sex couples do not. ...We have to have a mechanism to regulate that, and marriage is that mechanism."

A ruling from the court is expected this fall, probably in October, but challenges could be taken as high as the U.S. Supreme Court, which already has been asked to hear three other equality cases — from Utah, Oklahoma and Virginia.

"Courts across the country have ruled in favor of love, freedom and justice for same-sex couples, and we're hopeful that this court will affirm our plaintiffs' commitment to each other," said Camilla Taylor, marriage project director for Lambda Legal. "The legal precedent for striking down discriminatory marriage bans is growing almost every week and with each victory, Indiana's ban on marriage for same-sex couples becomes increasingly unjustifiable."

Officials with the ACLU said the same for Wisconsin's amendment reserving marriage for a man and a woman, a measure that was declared unconstitutional by a federal judge in early June. Civil rights attorneys maintain that barring same-sex couples from marrying violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

More than 500 same-sex Wisconsin couples married during a weeklong gap between the district court ruling against the state's marriage ban and the placement of



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/CHARLES REX ARBOGAST

**VERY APPEALING: ACLU attorney Ken Faulk, center, talks to reporters surrounded by plaintiffs and supporters of gay marriage on Aug. 26 in Chicago.**

a stay on the ruling pending an appeal. The procession to county clerks' offices ended as Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen prepared his appeal.

### VAN HOLLEN'S 'CONCERN'

In a statement after the appeals court hearing, Van Hollen said, "My duty to support and defend the Constitution is not limited. I am increasingly concerned about the federal government's reach into, if not domination of, powers guaranteed to the states and the people in the 10th Amendment. All laws governing domestic relations, whether they are laws concerning marriage or divorce or child custody, have been traditionally left to the states. Wisconsin's laws defining marriage should be given the same respect and deference."

But Van Hollen had also tried to strike down Wisconsin's domestic partnership registry law, claiming with certainty that it was unconstitutional under state law. Every Wisconsin Supreme Court justice disagreed with his interpretation of the state's

Constitution, including the conservative Republicans who form the majority on the bench.

The ACLU and the ACLU of Wisconsin represented the same-sex couples in the Wisconsin marriage case, known as Wolf v. Walker and filed in federal court in February.

The ACLU of Indiana and Lambda Legal represent the same-sex couples challenging Indiana law.

"Some of our plaintiffs are advanced in age, some have children, and some are battling extreme medical circumstances. They are just a small sample of Hoosier families that urgently need the protections of marriage," said Taylor.

Same-sex couples can legally marry in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the provision in the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that barred the federal government from recognizing legal same-sex marriages. Since then, marriage equality campaigns have secured 36 victories and not a single loss in the courts.



# For first time, two women top state's November ballot

## The Associated Press

Democrat Mary Burke is the first woman to win a major party nomination for Wisconsin governor, but you wouldn't know it from her campaign. She rarely strays from her main message: job creation.

Susan Happ, who is running for the second-most powerful statewide office in Wisconsin, has taken a much different approach. She's as likely to talk about women's access to health care as conviction rates as she vies for a position she considers an advocate for citizens as well as the state's top cop.

The two Democrats hold similar views on abortion rights, marriage equality and the environment. The differences in their campaigns reflect the dynamics of their races, as Burke seeks to win crucial swing voters in a close contest with Republican Gov. Scott Walker, while Happ tries to distinguish herself from an opponent with a similar background, political experts say. But regardless of whether the candidates talk about women's issues, gender is a factor in the November election.

Walker has faced criticism for policies that Democrats and organizations like Planned Parenthood say are hostile to women — including signing bills to severely limit women's access to reproductive health services, including contraception and abortion; supporting a bill that would have exempted religious organizations from Wisconsin's requirement that employer health

plans cover contraceptives; and refusing to expand Medicaid.

Emily's List, which works to elect Democratic women who support reproductive rights, has endorsed Burke and Happ, and the group's president Stephanie Schriock said she expects "some pretty significant involvement" in the governor's race. The group spent \$3.5 million to help elect U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin in 2012.

A male candidate wouldn't receive that kind of support, which could be critical in helping Burke counter the "very deep set of pockets" available to Walker, said Richard Matland, a political scientist and visiting scholar at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Walker has raised \$18.7 million since his recall election victory in July 2012; Burke has raised \$6 million since announcing her candidacy in October.

But Matland cautioned that while Democrats like to say Walker has "a woman problem," Burke has "a man problem." Men who might once have voted Democratic as part of labor unions gravitated in recent decades to the GOP, he said.

Recent polls show that Burke leads Walker among women, but he leads her among male voters.

"She might be concerned as being seen as too liberal, and then an effective counter message is she ran a business, did very well, knows how to make tough decisions," Matland said.

Meanwhile, protecting women's access to health care is a main theme of Happ's campaign.

"As a mother who nearly died in childbirth, I know how personal those decisions are, and that those decisions must be made by women in consultation with their family, their physician and their faith," she said at a recent news conference. "And we have seen a war on women. It has to stop."

Her remarks could help "whip up the base" in an election that hinges on which party pulls more voters to the polls, Beloit College political scientist Georgia Duerst-Lahti said. They also distinguish Happ from right-wing Republican Brad Schimel.

Peg Lautenschlager, the only woman to serve as state attorney general, said she made decisions in office that her male successor, Republican J.B. Van Hollen, may not have. She pointed to a 2003 advisory opinion in which she said companies should offer contraceptive coverage in their health care plans. Judges later cited her opinion in orders for companies to do just that.

"The gender is interesting," said Happ, who got 52 percent of the vote in a primary against two men. "I think women are saying, 'Listen, we want more representation in our elected officials.' Because we are woefully underrepresented."

Win or lose, having Burke and Happ on the same ticket is significant in a state where no woman has held the top office,



PHOTO: AP/JOHN HART

**Susan Happ, the Democratic nominee for Wisconsin Attorney General.**

only one has been attorney general and Baldwin is the first female U.S. senator. Three women have served in the symbolic but powerless office of lieutenant governor, including Republican incumbent Rebecca Kleefisch.

When women hold the top spot, Duerst-Lahti said, "there's a role model effect, it opens the door for other women to move up easier and faster, and regardless of anything else, we have not had that in Wisconsin."

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# Ferguson prompts U.N. condemnation, lawsuit

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff reporter

Even as Ferguson grows calmer, recent indictments in the St. Louis suburb continue to provoke outrage around the world.

Ferguson and St. Louis County have been sued in federal court for the use of excessive force and the false arrest of innocent bystanders during the civil unrest following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old African American.

The United Nations has issued a report condemning the United States for widespread violations of the human rights of people of color.

The federal lawsuit, filed Aug. 28, seeks \$40 million in damages. Plaintiffs include a clinical social worker who says she and her 17-year-old son were roughed up and arrested after not reacting quickly enough to police orders to evacuate a McDonald's; a 23-year-old man who says he was shot multiple times with rubber bullets and called racial slurs while walking through the protest zone to his mother's home and a man who says he was arrested for filming the disturbances.

Attorney Malik Shabazz said the lawsuit could be broadened to include additional plaintiffs. Ferguson and St. Louis officials have declined comment on the suit.

The U.S. Department of Justice is considering a broad investigation into whether a pattern of using excessive force by Ferguson police has routinely violated people's civil rights. At least

five police officers and one former officer in the city's 53-member department have been named in civil rights lawsuits alleging the use of excessive force.

In fact, there have been four federal lawsuits, including one that is on appeal, and more than a half-dozen investigations of the Ferguson police department over the past decade. Charges have included killing a mentally ill man with a Taser, pistol-whipping a child, choking and hog-tying a child and beating a man who was later charged with destroying city property because his blood spilled on officers' clothes.

## PERSISTENT DISCRIMINATION

On Aug. 29, the United Nations blasted the United States for the use of excessive force on display in Ferguson during the demonstrations following Brown's killing. After examining records and hearing testimony from witnesses, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concluded that minorities, particularly African Americans, are victims of unacceptable disparities in the United States. The finding was especially embarrassing for the nation coming just months after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to scuttle the Voting Rights Act of 1965, claiming that institutionalized animus toward blacks is no longer a problem in this country.

A CERD panel of 18 independent experts grilled a U.S. delegation on Aug. 13 about what the experts called persistent discrimination



PHOTO: DAVE LAUERSDORF

**MILWAUKEE MARCHES:** Ralliers showing solidarity with Michael Brown and the black community of Ferguson, Missouri, march down West State Street on Aug. 22.

against African Americans and other minorities, including within the criminal justice system. U.S. Ambassador Keith Harper told the panel that the nation has made "great strides toward eliminating racial discrimination," but he also conceded that much work is yet to be done.

Among those who testified before CERD in Geneva was Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teen killed in Florida by a neighborhood watch volunteer. Also attending was Ron Davis, father of Jordan Davis, a 17-year-old who was shot dead in a car in Florida during an argument over loud rap music in November 2012.

At an Aug. 29 press briefing announcing the committee's conclusions, CERD vice chairman Nouredine Amir said, "Racial and ethnic discrimination remains a serious and persistent problem in all areas of life from de facto school segregation, access to health care and housing. (Ferguson) is not an isolated event and

**'The death of Mike Brown was Ferguson's spark, and if Milwaukee does not make changes soon, I believe our spark is coming.'**

illustrates a bigger problem in the United States, such as racial bias among law enforcement officials, the lack of proper implementation of rules and regulations governing the use of force, and the inadequacy of training of law enforcement officials."

CERD, which monitors a treaty ratified by 177 countries, including the United States, also concluded that the "Stand Your Ground" laws in 22 states, which indemnify Americans who kill because they

fear their lives are in imminent danger, should be reviewed to "remove far-reaching immunity and ensure strict adherence to principles of necessity and proportionality when deadly force is used for self-defense."

The Aug. 9 shooting of Brown in the St. Louis suburb, which is 70 percent black and has a police force that's nearly all white, is just the latest in a long list of police and vigilante killings of unarmed black men in recent years. The protests that rocked Ferguson in the wake of the shooting worsened after local law-enforcement stepped in with military equipment, tear gas and rubber bullets.

Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, who shot Brown, has been put on paid leave and is in hiding. A St. Louis County grand jury has begun hearing evidence and the U.S. Justice Department has opened its own investigation into what happened to Brown.

Another St. Louis police officer

**FERGUSON** next page

## Unrest in Ferguson

A timeline of key events following the fatal police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Missouri.

**Aug. 9.** Brown and a companion are confronted by an officer as they walk back to Brown's home from a convenience store. Brown and the officer are

involved in some kind of scuffle, followed by gunshots. Brown dies at the scene.

**Aug. 10.** After a candlelight vigil, people protesting Brown's death

smash car windows and carry away armloads of looted goods from stores. This is the first of several nights of violence.

**Aug. 11.** The FBI opens an inves-

tigation into Brown's death. Two men who said they saw the shooting tell reporters Brown had his hands raised when the officer approached with

his weapon and fired repeatedly. That night, police in riot gear fire tear gas and rubber bullets into a crowd.

**Aug. 12.** Ferguson Police Chief Tom

Jackson cancels plans to release the name of the officer who shot Brown. The Rev. Al Sharpton and President Barack Obama plead for calm after clashes between police

and protesters.

**Aug. 13.** Another night of violence in Ferguson. Some people toss Molotov cocktails and other objects at police, who respond with

smoke bombs and tear gas. Images of police using armored vehicles and pointing assault rifles at the crowds are widely shared on social media.

**TIMELINE** next page



**FERGUSON** from prior page

who was assigned to day patrols in Ferguson during the height of the protests was forced into retirement after a 2012 video came to light in which he called himself "a killer" and warned that he would kill anyone who got in his way. In addition, officer Dan Page, a 35-year-veteran of the force, made hateful, racist remarks about President Barack Obama and slurs against LGBT people during the widely viewed rant.

Page, who retired with full benefits, also shoved CNN host Don Lemon on camera during a report from the scene.

**'TWO SHOOTINGS AWAY'**

Since Brown's slaying, four additional unarmed black men have been killed by police, according to *Mother Jones* magazine. Marches and rallies demanding justice for Brown and other African-American victims of police brutality have been held repeatedly in cities across America, including here in Wisconsin.

Citing seemingly intractable conditions of poverty, joblessness, despair and segregation in Milwaukee, Ald. Milele Coggs issued a statement saying that the city is two shootings away from a situation like the one in Ferguson.

"The death of Mike Brown was Ferguson's spark, and if Milwaukee does not make changes soon, I believe our spark is coming," she said.

Demonstrators rallied in Milwaukee on Aug. 17 in Brown's memory. They marched to Milwaukee police headquarters, blocking traffic while officers helped divert drivers.

On Aug. 22, a diverse



PHOTO: DAVE LAUERSDORF

**The father of Dontre Williams, an unarmed black man who was shot 15 times by a police officer in Red Arrow Square, addresses supporters on Aug. 22.**

crowd of about 250 people staged a tearful rally organized by Milwaukee's African American Engagement Roundtable. The racially mixed crowd included people of all ages and circumstances — students with backpacks and at least one woman with a Coach purse

The event began with rally leaders reading off the names of dozens of unarmed black men who've been shot down in the streets of America by police. There was a moment of silence, followed by a chant of "black lives matter."

The setting was Milwaukee's Red Arrow Park, where 31-year-old Dontre Hamilton, an unarmed black man suffering from schizophrenia, was shot as many as 15 times by an MPD officer in April. Hamilton's father presented an impassioned speech, saying that after nearly four months, his family has yet to receive an explanation from

police or the district attorney's office about what happened to his son. The officer who shot Dontre Hamilton has not been charged or named publicly.

Hamilton's death was the first following the adoption of a new law in Wisconsin that requires outside investigations of cases in which deaths occur while people are in police custody. The state Division of Criminal Investigation has issued a report on Hamilton's case to the Milwaukee County district attorney's office, but its contents have yet to be released.

Hamilton's father, who said the wait has been excruciating for him and his family, told the crowd that the white establishment looks at black men as "bugs" that "need to be exterminated."

"We need to understand that all of our hearts beat the same," he pleaded to an enthusiastic response.

The father of Corey Singley also spoke. Sixteen-year-old Singley was asphyxiated by three adult white men after stealing a bottle of alcohol at a corner store. Singley referred to the three men as "vigilantes."

Following the rally at Red Arrow Park, more than 100 people under the watchful eyes of riot police, chanted, "No justice, no peace," and stopped traffic as they marched down West State Street to the Milwaukee Municipal Court building, which also houses MPD's administrative offices. There, they staged a sit-in and called on Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn to meet with them.

A third rally was held in Milwaukee on Aug. 19 and more actions are planned.

## Body cameras proposed for MPD officers

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

In the wake of a string of high-profile shootings of black men by police, Ald. Tony Zielinski is urging Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett to include the cost of outfitting MPD officers with body cameras in his next budget, which will be introduced this month.

An increasing number of police departments around the nation, including in Ferguson, Missouri, are now outfitting officer uniforms with video cameras to record interactions with the public as well as suspects in criminal matters.

A year-long study conducted by the Police Foundation found 50 percent fewer incidents involving use of force and nearly 10 times fewer citizens' complaints after Rialto, California, officers used cameras during their patrol shifts.

"These cameras are a win-win situation," Zielinski said. "They're a win for citizens and taxpayers. If you look at this incident with the shooting (of Dontre Hamilton) at Red Arrow Park, if there had been a body camera, we wouldn't be spending all this money on an investigation. If a police officer goes to someone's house and says, 'I've got a camera on,' the perpetrator is much less likely to engage in disruptive behavior requiring the use of force."

Cameras would also put the public more at ease in working with police, Zielinski added.

Both Barrett and MPD Chief Edward Flynn have said they are open to the strategy — as have the majority of other aldermen, Zielinski said. He said plans are underway to start a pilot program using about 50 cameras.

Details of that pilot program had yet to be announced as WiG headed to press. "The devil's going to be in ironing out the details — when you turn it on, when you turn it off, and so on," Zielinski said.

He added that he only would back a resolution to adopt police cameras if it contained the stipulation of purchasing American-made equipment.

An online petition calling on MPD to outfit its force with wearable cameras claims that the city ranks among the top five nationally for police misconduct.

Nearly 2,200 people have signed the change.org petition, which calls on Barrett to designate city dollars for the cameras.

**TIMELINE** from prior page

**Aug. 14.** The Missouri Highway Patrol takes control of security in Ferguson. Within hours, the mood becomes calmer.

**Aug. 15.** Police identify the officer who shot

Brown as Darren Wilson, 28. They also release a video purporting to show Brown robbing a convenience store of almost \$50 worth of cigars shortly before he was killed. The

video provokes anger, and after nightfall, officers and crowds clash again. The convenience store in question is looted.

**Aug. 16.** Gov. Nixon declares a state of emergency

and imposes a curfew. The night ends with tear gas and arrests, after police in riot gear use armored vehicles to disperse protesters who refused to leave.

**Aug. 17.** U.S. Attor-

ney General Eric Holder orders a federal medical examiner to perform another autopsy on Brown, due to the "extraordinary circumstances" surrounding the death and

a request by Brown's family members. Police use tear gas to clear the street three hours ahead of the curfew.

**Aug. 18.** Nixon calls the National Guard to Fergu-

son. A pathologist hired by the family says an independent autopsy shows Brown was shot at least six times, including twice in the head.

**Aug. 19.** Nixon says he will not seek

the removal of the prosecutor overseeing the investigation into Brown's death. St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch's deep family connections to police had

**TIMELINE** next page



# Can America change its 'ritual' of black deaths?

By Jesse Washington

AP writer

The choir sang, the preachers shouted and the casket stayed closed. The body was taken to the cemetery, and Michael Brown was laid to rest.

Thus went the most recent enactment of "the ritual" — the script of death, outrage, spin and mourning that America follows when an unarmed black male is killed by police.

With a few variations, the ritual has followed its familiar course in the two weeks since the 18-year-old Brown was shot by white police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, a St. Louis suburb. It continues as the country awaits the judgment of a grand jury considering whether Wilson should be charged with a crime.

Will the ritual ever change, and is it even possible that Ferguson could be part of that? This time, can recognition of the well-known patterns help heal the poisonous mistrust between police and many black people? Is the ritual already helping, in small gains buried beneath the predictable explosions of anger and media attention?

"This tragedy, because the world's attention has been galvanized, this is one of those things that's ripe for change," said Martin Luther King III, the son of the famed civil rights leader, after the funeral on Aug. 25.

The ritual began to take shape in the 1960s, when instances of police mistreatment of black people led to organized resistance in many places across America — and sometimes to violence. As the decades passed, a blueprint developed for how black advocates confronted cases of alleged police brutality: protest marches, news conferences, demands for federal intervention, public pressure on sympathetic elected officials.

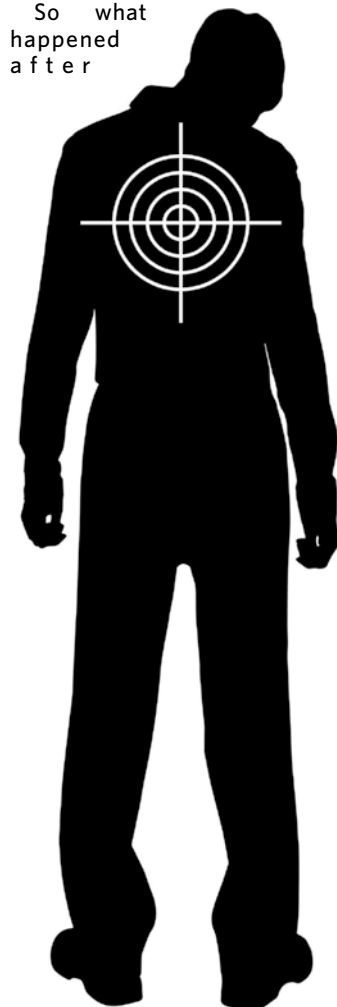
Sometimes this led to charges or even convictions of police officers. Sometimes there were riots: Miami in 1980 after police were acquitted in the death of a black motorist; Los Angeles' Rodney King rebellion in 1992; Cincinnati in 2001 when a 19-year-old was fatally shot by an

officer; Oakland's uprising in 2009 after Oscar Grant was shot in the back while face-down on a train platform.

The 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood watchman in Florida added the transformative element of social media. The public was now participating much more intimately in the ritual.

And still, the unarmed black males kept dying. The chants of "No justice, no peace" kept rising.

So what happened  
a f t e r



Brown was shot on Aug. 9 was predictable:

First, protests and outrage. A narrative forms in favor of the deceased: According to accounts of several witnesses from Brown's neighborhood, he was shot with his hands up. He was a "gentle giant" headed to college. Pictures

of Brown circulate that show him smiling, baby-faced — reminiscent of the childlike photos that first introduced us to Trayvon Martin.

The day after Brown's shooting, protesters are met with a militarized police response. Violence and looting erupt and persist for days. Police respond with tear gas and rubber bullets, "scenes that have brought back visions of the

**Thus went the most recent enactment of 'the ritual' — the script of death, outrage, spin and mourning that America follows when an unarmed black male is killed by police.**

1960s, when civil rights activists were met with force in the streets," says the president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, La June Montgomery Tabron.

Michael Brown's death goes viral. Ferguson trends on Twitter. A horde of media descends. The civil rights activists Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson arrive.

A backlash builds against the protesters. There are complaints that the liberal media skew the facts to create a false narrative about racist white police. As with Trayvon Martin and Oscar Grant, a narrative forms against the deceased: Based on a video released by police, Brown is characterized as a weed-smoking thug who robbed a store minutes before his death.

Social media spreads facts, rumors and lies at Internet speed. There is a chain email with a fabri-

cated arrest record saying, falsely, that Brown was charged with several felonies. A photo circulates of someone who is not Brown pointing a gun — like the menacing photo of a gangsta rapper that some said was Martin.

"Every time a black person does something, they automatically become a thug worthy of their own death," the actor Jesse Williams says in a TV appearance.

The media reports new versions of the old stories: White flight has created poor black neighborhoods policed by white cops. Black people don't trust the police. Black males are stereotyped as violent.

## THEN, THE FUNERALS

The main sermon at Brown's service was delivered by Sharpton, who is as much a part of the ritual as police tape. His solution is twofold: Change the nation's policing policies and repair the black community from within.

"Nobody is going to help us," Sharpton said, "if we don't help ourselves."

There are a few glimmers of institutional change.

Those concerned that Brown's death might not be fairly investigated took note of the high-profile appearance of Eric Holder, America's first black attorney general, in Ferguson to meet with locals and discuss the federal probe he ordered. At least three police officers in the Ferguson area have been suspended for behavior that came to light due to newly heightened scrutiny of police. The White House is reviewing policies that have supplied police departments with military hardware, an issue that received much scrutiny in Ferguson.

In Michael Brown's case, can the ritual be remembered for more than riots?

"Most definitely," said Ferguson resident Jeremy Rone as he completed a protest march.

He said Brown's death should increase voter registration, which would "put the right people in the right places" to change the way police deal with the black community.

Soon after the unrest started, a voter registration booth went up on the corner of the hardest-hit street.

## LGBT GROUPS SHOW SOLIDARITY FOR BROWN FAMILY

In the weeks since the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, dozens of LGBT groups have signed a letter supporting the victim's family.

The letter reads, in part, "When communities experience fear, harassment and brutality simply because of who they are or how they look, we are failing as a nation. In light of the recent events in Missouri, it is clearer than ever that there is something profoundly wrong in our country."

## U.S. CRITICS SPEAK OUT

"Violence has become institutionalized in the U.S. in recent years, but since President Obama, the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize winner, came to the White House, the violence has intensified."

— Iran's government news service

"(The United States should) mind its own business and not seek solutions to its problem in suppressing demonstrators but bring to light the real picture of the American society, a graveyard of human rights."

— A North Korean government spokesman

"Ferguson police are compounding problems with threats and the use of unnecessary force against people peacefully protesting the police killing of Michael Brown. They should be upholding basic rights to peaceful assembly and free speech, not undermining them."

— Alba Morales, a U.S. researcher with the global Human Rights Watch

## TIMELINE from prior page

been criticized by black leaders who question his ability to be impartial. In the streets, more subdued protests unfold.

**Aug. 20.** Holder visits Ferguson, meeting with Brown's family and investigators. He says he understands why many black Americans

do not trust police, recalling how he was repeatedly stopped by officers who seemed to target him because of his race. In nearby Clayton, a grand

jury begins hearing evidence to determine whether Wilson should be charged.

**Aug. 21.** Nixon orders the National Guard to begin

withdrawing.

**Aug. 22.** The streets stay peaceful for another night.

**Aug. 23.** The St. Louis County

NAACP holds a youth-led march in Ferguson. A diverse group, including police, gather peacefully. Earlier, a moment of silence is observed at the

first home football game at Brown's high school.

**Aug. 24.** Michael Brown's father pleads for a "day of silence" and peace.

**Aug. 25.** Michael Brown's funeral takes place at Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis.  
— from AP and WiG reports



# Koch-backed ALEC infiltrates local governments



By Lisa Neff  
 Staff writer

The organization that delivered stand-your-ground bills and suppress-the-vote measures to statehouses around the country is now following that old phrase: Think globally, act locally.

The American Legislative Exchange Council is taking an interest in local governments, which troubles the progressives who demonstrated for days outside the ALEC's annual conference in Dallas earlier this summer. "You know the 'think global, act local' saying? It's OK when it applies to picking up trash. It's scary when it applies to companies and the conservative lawmakers they own," said Paul Reynolds, who protested with an Occupy-style group.

ALEC national chair Linda Upmeyer, Iowa's majority leader, welcomed those attending the conference to develop policies. "Every year, we look forward to this meeting as an opportunity to hear new ideas and expand our understanding of limited government, free markets and federalism," she said.

Over the course of three days, conference attendees attended training sessions and heard from Koch-backed elected officials.

ALEC, which is mostly funded with corporate money or corporate foundation money, is not a new organization, and it is not newly dangerous to progressive causes. But ALEC has relatively newfound infamy, in large part because it drafted model bills for some of the most conservative and controversial mea-

asures passed in U.S. statehouses in recent years. Those measures broadened self-defense laws, rolled back collective bargaining rights and provided clearance for racial profiling by police.

Now an offshoot of ALEC, the American City County Exchange, has formed to promote conservative corporate interests at the local level. ACCE arrived a time when municipalities are adopting progressive policies to raise the minimum wage, guarantee sick leave for workers, institute new environmental protections, push to overturn Citizens United, form health coops, refuse federal demands to incarcerate undocumented immigrants and advance marriage equality.

Some predict ACCE will operate in concert with Americans for Prosperity, the Koch-backed group that invested this year in the school board election in Kenosha and the board of supervisors election in Iron County.

ACCE's first meeting coincided with ALEC's conference. One workshop topic was "releasing local governments from the grip of collective bargaining."

The conference also brought an announcement that the National Federation of Independent Business — a group that has received millions from Karl Rove's Crossroads GPS, Koch brother entities and other right-wing funders — joined the ALEC board. The Center for Media and Democracy said the NFIB is a front group with big-business interests that claims to represent small businesses.

PHOTO: COURTESY

**Koch Brothers Exposed** is now available in the updated **Koch Brothers Exposed: 2014 Edition**. The documentary filmmakers delved deeper into where the Koch money is going and who the money is hurting.

## MICROSOFT DELETES ALEC FUNDING

Microsoft says it has cut ties to the American Legislative Exchange Council and will no longer provide funding to the controversial group. About 80 groups and 19 nonprofits have publicly announced they were withdrawing from ALEC, according to ALEC Exposed at the Center for Media and Democracy.

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Alexander Calder, *Unfired*, c. 1945 sold for \$145,500; A Pair of George IV Silver Entree Dishes and Covers, Paul Storr, sold for \$25,000; An 18 Karat Yellow Gold, Fancy Vivid Yellow Diamond and Diamond Ring, sold for \$542,500; William Adolphe Bouguereau, *Le Goutier*, sold for \$688,000

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PHOTO: SCREENSHOT/CBS 5

Monica Jones appearing on an Arizona newscast on CBS 5/Channel 5 in Phoenix.

# Transgender woman appeals 'manifesting' prostitution conviction

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Civil rights leaders say Monica Jones was arrested and prosecuted under a Phoenix ordinance against "manifesting" an intent to engage in prostitution because she's a transgender woman of color who was wearing a tight-fitting black dress in low-income neighborhood.

Jones, a full-time student at Arizona State University who advocates on behalf of sex workers, is seeking a reversal of her conviction with the support of civil rights attorneys at the ACLU, Perkins Coie law firm and actress-activist Laverne Cox.

Jean-Jaques "J" Cabou, an attorney at Perkins Coie, said Jones was denied a trial by jury, convicted of a misdemeanor or she did not commit and prosecuted under a statute that is unconstitutional.

After a bench trial, Jones was convicted in April of a misdemeanor under a city code that her attorneys say allows people to be prosecuted for waving at cars, talking to passersby and asking if someone is a police officer.

"The officer who arrested me profiled me as a sex worker because I am transgender, I am a woman of color and I live in an area that is perceived to be low income," Jones said.

When Cabou submitted an appeal on Aug. 5, the ACLU, the ACLU of Arizona, the Transgender Law Center, Lambda Legal and the Urban Justice Center filed a friend-of-the-court brief on Jones' behalf and against the Phoenix law.

The city law, according to the amicus brief, violates the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of expression and speech. The brief also states that the code is vague and allows officers unfettered discretion to profile transgender women and presume they are engaging in criminal conduct when walking down the street, flagging a cab or greeting friends.

"Transgender women, especially transgender women of color, are too often perceived by law enforcement to be engaged in prostitution solely because of their transgender status," said ACLU attorney Chase Strangio. "Vague and overbroad laws, like Phoenix's manifesting ordinance, give too much discretion to police officers, encouraging biased policing against women of color, particularly transgender women of color, people living in poverty and other members of the LGBT community."

During the bench trial, the arresting officer said that Jones' presence in an area he claimed is "known for prostitution" and her outfit, which he described as a "black, tight-fitting dress," suggested to him that Jones was manifesting intent to engage in prostitution. The arresting officer, while testifying at the trial and about 20 times in his written report, also referred to Jones as a man.

Lending support to Jones' cause, Cox joined in a news conference in August.

The transgender actress, who was nominated for an Emmy for her role on Netflix's *Orange is the New Black*, said, "Our society is unfortunately filled with negative assumptions about trans women. This law allows all of those assumptions to be acted upon, emboldening officers to arrest people just because of how they look or act. Walking while trans should not be a crime, but this law can certainly make it one."

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# Petition targets Wal-Mart push to privatize schools

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Labor and education. Both were on the minds of Americans with the three-day holiday weekend that commemorates Labor Day and signifies the end of summer and the start of a new school year.

So the AFL-CIO figured it was a great time to take on the push by Wal-Mart's owners to privatize — or corporatize — U.S. education.

In late August, Elizabeth Bunn, director of organizing for the AFL-CIO, urged labor advocates to sign a petition at aflcio.org to "keep Wal-Mart out of our classrooms," and she wasn't referring to the school supplies purchased for students at the discount store.

"Back to school isn't the most fun time of year, but it is especially hard for teachers and students when you have billionaire families like the Wal-Mart-owning Waltons gearing up to use their billions to attack public education and shift much-needed resources to for-profit corporate schools," Bunn said, appealing for petition signatures. "The Waltons have spent more than \$1 billion on their corporate-style education scheme that's

opposed commonsense proposals like giving all kids access to free public pre-K education."

The concern of the AFL-CIO and many progressive groups is that the Walton family is investing heavily in creating charter schools, promoting voucher systems that transfer taxpayer dollars to private schools, pushing policies drafted through the American Legislative Exchange Council and funding campaigns for conservative candidates from local school boards to the governor's mansion.

Several years ago, the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism documented the influence of Wal-Mart heirs on the 2010 election — six members of the family, none of them residents of the state, were among the top 10 individual contributors to winning state legislative candidates as Republicans took control of the government.

After taking office, Gov. Scott Walker and the GOP majority cut public school funding by \$800 million over two years, allocated \$17 million over two years to voucher programs and rolled back collective bargaining rights for public

union employees.

Estimates suggest that since 2000, the Walton Family Foundation has put about \$1 billion into initiatives that promote a corporate-friendly model of education, making Wal-Mart the largest funder of charter schools in the nation.

The foundation, in 2013, invested millions to mold education policy — money went to the Black Alliance for Educational Options, the right-wing Alliance for School Choice, the New Teacher Project and Parent Revolution Inc., according to *Inside Philanthropy* — and to shape studies that endorse charter school programs.

Progressives' worry is that the Walton Foundation's efforts to privatize education are as threatening to public schools as Wal-Mart's retail stores are to local businesses and Wal-Mart's personnel policies are to the economic security of its employees.

Numerous studies show that expanding charter schools and school choice increases segregation — by race, ethnicity and income — and jeopardizes the stability of traditional public schools.

## \$90K raised for gay teen

Online donations for a gay 19-year-old youth from Kennesaw, Georgia, exceeded \$93,000 in three days after he posted a video online of his family beating him and throwing him out of his home.

About 4.7 million people have watched the clip, in which the voice of Daniel Ashley Pierce can be heard telling his father, stepmother and sister that he was born gay and could never change. His stepmother and sister take the most combative roles, with his stepmother saying, "We will not support you any longer. You will need to move out and do whatever you want to, because I will not allow people to believe that I condone what you want to do."

Pierce's stepmother says

that she's known he was gay since he was a child, but she denies that he was born that way and insists homosexuality is a path he's chosen. She also says that she loves him but hates what he's doing — before she proceeds to physically attack him.

"You know you wasn't born that way," she says before smacking him. "You know damn good and well."

Pierce's stepmother also argues that she's not a homophobe, because she has gay friends. The difference, she says, is that Pierce is related to her.

On the gofundme.com page that Pierce set up to raise money, he thanked his supporters and asked them to donate to an Atlanta group that helps homeless

LGBT youth.

"My intent is to pay it forward and hopefully turn something so negative into something positive," he wrote. "If you would still like to make a donation please consider donating to Lost-N-Found Youth in Atlanta" — at [www.lost-n-found.org](http://www.lost-n-found.org). "They have been an amazing support and resource through this difficult time."

According to a 2012 study by the Williams Institute, 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT. Eighty-nine percent of them ended up on the streets due to their families' reactions to their sexual orientation.

— Louis Weisberg

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# Rams cut Sam, Cowboys sign him to practice squad

## From WiG and AP reports

Not long after Michael Sam waved to an adoring crowd at Missouri's season opener, he looked down at his cellphone.

It was 3 p.m., the deadline for NFL teams to pare rosters to 53 players. And the Rams coach was talking to the players who didn't make the cut.

He headed into the locker room. At some point, his phone rang with the bad news: He didn't make the cut.

Twenty others were cut by the St. Louis Rams on Aug. 29, all of them mere footnotes. For Sam, it meant a setback in his journey to become the first openly gay player to make an NFL roster.

But the setback proved short-lived. As WiG was headed to press, the Cowboys announced Sam was headed to Dallas to join the team's practice squad.

Many were surprised when the Rams passed over Sam to join its 10-man practice squad, despite his performance in the pre-season.

Some blamed ESPN for an unprovoked report about how other Rams players felt about sharing a locker room and showers with a gay man in training camp. Rams coach Jeff Fisher blasted ESPN for creating a bogeyman issue, calling the reporting "very, very unprofessional."

In a tweet to ESPN reporter Josina Anderson, Rams defensive end Chris Long wrote, "Dear ESPN, Everyone but you is over it."

ESPN apologized and

Fisher repeatedly insisted that the team's passing over Sam was purely a football decision.

"I will tell you this: I was pulling for Mike," Fisher said. "I really was, and I don't say that very often. Mike came in here and did everything we asked him to do."

Throughout training season, the seventh-round draft pick projected confidence while being scrutinized at least as closely as Browns rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel. Sam was cheered by athletes and celebrities, denigrated by just a few.

But in the end, the defensive end couldn't make a team stocked with pass rushers and lost out to undrafted Ethan Westbrook, who proved more productive and more versatile, according to NFL experts.

Before Sam failed to make the practice squad of the Rams or any other NFL team, Fisher said he still believed the trailblazer had a future in the NFL.

Wherever he lands, Fisher said "there will be no challenge, no challenges whatsoever."

"He's not about drawing attention to himself," Fisher said. "He kept his head down and worked and you can't ask anything more out of any player for that matter."

On Twitter, roughly an hour after he was cut, Sam wrote, "The most worthwhile things in life rarely come easy, this is a lesson I've always known. The journey continues."

He also thanked the Rams

**'He kept his head down and worked and you can't ask anything more out of any player.'**

and the city of St. Louis on Twitter, adding that he looks forward to a long and successful career.

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Sam was the SEC co-defensive player of the year at the University of Missouri and had been projected as a mid-round draft pick. His stock fell after a poor combine showing not long after he came out as gay in February, and the Rams took him with the 249th overall pick out of 256.

He kissed his boyfriend as a national television audience looked on, and arrived brimming with confidence and with a quick retort for anyone who contended he was in the NFL only because he came out. Fisher was proud to have made the landmark pick, but made clear from the start that Sam would be judged on talent.

The cameras followed, but the extra attention did not seem to faze Sam or his teammates. Veteran defensive end Chris Long noted



PHOTO: AP/MICHAEL CONROY

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

rosters are always made up of players from different backgrounds. Players said Sam was part of their family.

Sam shed weight before training camp to be faster for special teams duty, reporting at 257 pounds. But after the pre-season opener, Fisher said Sam would have to make the team based on defensive end play.

Sam came out publicly following his final season at Missouri, though he had already come out to his teammates. His coming-out at Missouri proved no distraction. The team tied the school record with 12 wins

and won the SEC Eastern Division. Sam had 11-1/2 sacks.

From the start, his Rams teammates seemed to like having Sam around. His energy was infectious and, if there were problems, they stayed behind closed doors. Publicly, Sam was just another late-round pick trying to make the Rams, which, like other NFL teams, held sensitivity training early in camp. The Oprah Winfrey Network put off a planned documentary on Sam, saying it would allow him to focus on his dream.

At one point, Sam's Rams

jersey was the No. 2 seller among rookies online, trailing only Manziel's, and Sam was among 10 draftees selected by the NFL to be featured on commemorative coins.

Sam was given the Arthur Ashe Courage award at the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Awards. In accepting the honor, he got a hug from Hall of Famer Jim Brown on his way to the stage and fought back tears throughout his speech.

He told the audience: "Great things can happen when you have the courage to be yourself."

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# Sydney claims victory in world cup of gay rugby

## From WiG reports

The world cup of gay rugby, the Bingham Cup, concluded Aug. 31 with the hosting team, the Sydney Convicts, claiming its second championship in a row, beating the Brisbane Hustlers 31-0.

The biannual competition took place over three days in Sydney, with 24 teams from around the world, including the LA Rebellion, NYC's Gotham Knights and the San Francisco Fog, each playing six games over three days. London's Kings Cross Steelers, the world's first gay rugby team, was favored to win, but lost to Brisbane in the semifinal match.

The cup is named for Mark Bingham, a gay rugby enthusiast who died a hero on Sept. 11, 2001. Bingham was one of the hostages who helped bring down Flight 93 in Pennsylvania.

The gritty sport of rugby is a display of hardcore masculinity that defies gay stereotypes.

The tournament's timing was well suited for its first appearance in the Southern Hemisphere since it began in 2002. The Australian Rugby Union announced an inclusion policy to tackle homophobia in sports the week before the Bingham Cup began.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Before playing the Bingham Cup tournament in Sydney, Australia, rugby players joined in an intense two-hour training session with Australia's national team, the Wallabies, and Sydney's state team, the NSW Waratahs. Above, team members with the San Francisco Fog.**

As a way of showing their support, players and coaches from Australia's national team, the Wallabies, and Sydney's state team, the NSW Waratahs led 400 players in a two-hour training session held before the

competitions.

"We wanted to give them all drills and skills they can take away with them and practice in the future as they go forward with their rugby careers," said Aussie player Andrew Blades.

"We want everyone to feel like they've got a place in rugby, you don't want anyone to feel like they're excluded. I hope that over time players in this tournament will feel like that they can play on any team."

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## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### MORMON BOOKSTORE PULLS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE CARDS

Greeting cards celebrating same-sex marriages turned up at the Brigham Young University bookstore — but were not on the shelves for long.

Placed by Hallmark, the cards reading “Mr. and Mr.” and “Mrs. and Mrs.” were removed when bookstore staff at the Mormon school in Salt Lake City discovered them after photos surfaced online.

BYU is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which has stood behind its belief that marriage should only be between a man and a woman despite a growing social, political and legal movement in support of same-sex marriage.

Asked why the cards were removed, a school representative referenced the BYU honor code, which states, “Homosexual behavior includes not only sexual relations between members of the same sex, but all forms of physical intimacy that give expression to homosexual feelings.”

### MOST AMERICANS OPPOSE FURTHER ABORTION RESTRICTIONS

Seven in 10 Americans oppose new laws to further restrict abortion, according to a national poll commissioned by NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Unlike other polls on the issue that ask whether respondents support or oppose

choice, the NARAL survey posed three questions: “I believe having an abortion is morally acceptable and should be legal”; “I am personally against abortion for myself and my family, but I don’t believe government should prevent a woman from making that decision for herself”; and “I believe having an abortion is morally wrong and should be illegal.”

Twenty-five percent chose the first option. About 45 percent of respondents chose the second response, agreeing that they would not personally have an abortion but don’t support the enactment of further restrictions on abortion for others. Pro-choice advocates said the survey proves their long-held contention that laws imposing increasingly severe restrictions on women’s reproductive choices are unpopular, even among voters who may not identify as “pro-choice.”

### SANTA FE DECRIMINALIZES MARIJUANA

The cost of getting caught with a little weed in Santa Fe, New Mexico, will drop to just \$25 max, thanks to a recent city council vote to decriminalize marijuana.

When the ordinance goes into effect, those caught with an ounce or less of marijuana in Santa Fe will be hit with a civil fine. Previously, it was a criminal misdemeanor carrying a possible \$100 fine and jail time.

With the 5-4 vote, Santa Fe became the

first city in the state to decriminalize pot. By approving the matter outright, the council hoped to avoid the costs of a referendum which were estimated to be as high as \$80,000.

According to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, 18 states have decriminalized marijuana possession and treat the infraction like a traffic ticket. Colorado and Washington state have legalized possession of pot.

### PENNSYLVANIA REVEALS WATER CONTAMINATION FROM DRILLING

For the first time, Pennsylvania has made public 243 cases of contamination of private drinking wells from oil and gas drilling operations, posting cases from 22 counties online in late August. Susquehanna, Tioga, Lycoming and Bradford counties had the most incidences, which included the methane gas contamination of multiple wells’ water, wastewater spills and wells that simply went dry or became undrinkable.

The move to release the contamination information comes after years of the AP and other news outlets filing lawsuits and Freedom of Information Act requests from the DEP on water issues related to oil and gas drilling and fracking.

### In other national news ...

- **U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan**, R-Janesville, says he and his family are carefully weighing whether he’ll run for president in 2016. The 2008 vice presidential candidate, who has been traveling on a national book tour, also said he wishes Mitt Romney would run again.
- **Health insurance companies** operating in California may not refuse to cover the cost of abortions, state insurance officials have ruled. The decision is a reversal of a decision that allowed two Catholic universities to drop elective abortions from their employee health plans.

- **Three-quarters of millennials** consider themselves selfish, hard-working and responsible while 67 percent see themselves as tolerant and 58 percent as entitled, according to the latest Reason-Rupe survey.
- **The Center for Biological Diversity and Center for Food Safety** filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeking federal Endangered Species Act protection for monarch butterflies, which have declined by more than 90 percent in under 20 years. The government must now issue a 90-day finding on whether the petition warrants review.
- **U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle** has ruled that Florida’s amendment banning gay and lesbian couples from marrying is unconstitutional. In *Brenner v. Scott*, attorneys sued the state on behalf of same-sex couples who argue that Florida’s ban on marriage equality violates the U.S. Constitution. Florida voters approved the state constitutional amendment in 2008.

- **The Meatless Monday Movement** has secured a victory in the South San Francisco Unified School District, which is offering meat-free dishes on Mondays in elementary and middle-school cafeterias. The district also has committed to teaching students about the benefits of eating more plant-based foods.
- **The Washington Post’s editorial board** will stop using the word “Redskins” when referring to the NFL football team in the U.S. capital. The board said, “While we wait for the National Football League to catch up with thoughtful opinion and common decency, we have decided that, except when it is essential for clarity or effect, we will no longer use the slur ourselves.”

— From WiG and AP reports

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## WISCONSIN BRIEFS

**SUSTAINABILITY CAMPAIGN  
BENEFITS MILWAUKEE  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

Clean Wisconsin and the Northwest Side Community Development Corp. are collaborating with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Authority to install rain gardens and rain barrels throughout neighborhoods in the 30th Street Industrial Corridor. The project is part of MMSD's Fresh Coast 740 initiative focusing on simple, everyday things people can do at home, school or work to better manage stormwater where it falls and reduce water pollution, basement backups and sewer overloads.

"Every inch of rain in our service area translates to 7 billion gallons of water so we need the entire community to help manage water where it falls," said MMSD executive director Kevin Shafer. "We're reaching out to residents through our Fresh Coast 740 initiative to give them the tools and knowledge needed to install rain barrels and rain gardens at their homes."

Marek Landscaping was commissioned to educate residents on how they can better manage stormwater around their properties.

Local artist Quan Caston was commissioned to create public art at the installation sites.

The project area includes Sherman Park, Metcalfe Park, Franklin Heights, Garden Homes, Century City Triangle, Washington

Park, Little Canada and Cold Spring Park.

"As the 30th Street Industrial Corridor becomes more and more synonymous with innovation, it's exciting to see this type of outside-the-box thinking," said Northwest Side CDC executive director Howard Snyder. "Anything we can do to help this community is another step toward bringing back businesses and jobs while protecting the homes of the hardworking families in our neighborhoods."

**FORBES MAGAZINE NAMES  
PACKERS FANS THE NFL'S BEST**

The Green Bay Packers have the NFL's best fans, according to *Forbes* magazine.

A study by Nielsen Scarborough found that only 16 percent of adults living in Green Bay are not fans, with the remaining 84 percent of Green Bay-area residents having watched, attended and/or listened to the Packers' games in the past year.

Factors that figured into the rankings included the hometown crowd reach, social media reach relative to the area's population and three years' worth of Nielsen television ratings, stadium capacity percentage and merchandise sales via NFLShop.com. Packers fans scored the highest marks in every category except for TV (second) and merchandise (seventh).

The NFL's smallest market, Green Bay has a metro population of 306,241, which is easily surpassed by the Packers' back-

ers on Facebook (4.4 million) and Twitter (701,000). The Packers also hold 13 NFL championships, including four Super Bowl titles.

**In other regional news ...**

• **A flurry of endorsements** for the general election followed the low-turnout primary election in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin AFL-CIO endorsed Democrats Mary Burke for governor, John Lehman for lieutenant governor and Susan Happ for state attorney general, among others. Fair Wisconsin, a statewide LGBT group, also endorsed Happ.

• **Ashley Furniture Industries** disputes reports that it plans to outsource jobs after receiving a \$6-million tax credit from Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. The credit caused a stir because it was granted without a reciprocal guarantee from Ashley to keep jobs in the state.

• **The right-wing Wisconsin Family Action's** political action committee revoked its endorsement of Ashton Kirsch in south-central Wisconsin's 81st Assembly District. The statement said the committee decided Kirsch's views on marriage differ too much from WFA's beliefs.

— L.N. and L.W.

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

• **Journalist and author John Nichols and Lisa Graves of the Center for Media and Democracy** will keynote the 28th Amendment National Roadshow at the Marquee Theater at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 6. For more, go to [28amend-movi.nationbuilder.com/madison](http://28amend-movi.nationbuilder.com/madison).

• **The Victory Garden Initiative's** "Farm-Raiser" is set for all day on Sept. 20 at Concordia Gardens, 220 W. Concordia Ave., Milwaukee. For more, go online to [victorygardeninitiative.org](http://victorygardeninitiative.org).

• **Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee**, which raises money for social justice, animal welfare and environmental efforts, holds a fall campaign party at Anodyne Coffee, 224 W. Bruce St., Milwaukee, on Sept. 18. For more, go online to [communitysharesmk.org](http://communitysharesmk.org).

• **The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce** celebrates its 2-year anniversary at 5 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino, 1611 W. Canal St., Milwaukee. For more, go online to [wislgbtchamber.com/anniversary](http://wislgbtchamber.com/anniversary).

— L.N.

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# Massive environmental march a prelude to U.N. meeting

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The alarm has sounded for years. Now a draft U.N. report on the environment warns that global warming is here, caused by people, unquestionably dangerous and possibly irreversible.

With this news, activists from across the country will converge on New York City on Sept. 21 for what could become the largest climate change march in history — the People's Climate March.

"Thousands of people from across the world, from all walks of life, will stand as one calling for global climate action," said Frances Beinecke of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "This event will show the world's most powerful leaders that people are united in their support of this cause and want to see ambitious climate action today. It is time for world leaders to rise to the challenge."

In late August, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change circulated the draft of a 127-page report on the state and the future of the planet. "Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems," the paper states.

The report warns that if the world continues to pump greenhouse gases at an accelerating rate, it's likely that by mid-century temperatures will increase by about another 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit compared to temperatures from 1986 to 2005. And by the end of the century, that scenario will bring temperatures that are about 6.7 degrees warmer.

"Climate change is the crisis of our times," said Bridget Burns, advocacy and communications director of the Women's Environment and Development Organization. "For too long now, political posturing, greed and complacency in 'business as usual' has taken precedent over justice, equality, action and ambition. But change is not something which you wait for, it's something that you make happen."

WEDO is one of the many organizations involved in the march, which is being held to demand action from world leaders who in

the fall will begin 18 months of international negotiations. Climate negotiators will meet in New York and Copenhagen this fall, then head to Peru in December to work on a global climate deal. In September 2015, world leaders again will meet in New York to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. Three months later, leaders will gather in Paris to negotiate a climate treaty.

Some 750 groups — from the largest transit workers union in New York City to a coalition of Buddhist monks — are involved in staging the march.

The scale of organizing rivals a major electoral campaign, with thousands of volunteers, daily phone-banks and canvasses in New York City, and a major online operation to turn out people for the march that begins at Columbus Circle.

Trains and hundreds of buses are bringing people to New York, including dedicated trains from San Francisco and D.C. and buses from multiple points outside of New York, including Madison. Much of the recruitment is taking place on college campuses.

"Young people are coming to the streets of New York in huge numbers to stand up and say we've had enough — we're not going to sit back and wait for politicians to save our future," said Adam Hasz of the environmental group SustainUS. "Instead, we're on the front lines fighting extractive industries and proposing just policies to confront climate change and its impacts on the most vulnerable. The People's Climate March will show that a better future is not only possible, but underway."

In August, at a warehouse in Bushwick, artists were at work creating giant sculptures, floats and banners for the march. Others were designing posters for a subway campaign.

"The energy buzzing around the march organizing headquarters here in New York is palpable," said May Boeve, executive director of the activist group 350.org. "Every day, volunteers are hitting the phones, streets and Internet to turn people out. ...This effort has already helped build the type of movement infrastructure we need to take the climate fight to the next level."

## HUNDREDS OF EVENTS COINCIDE WITH THE NYC MARCH:

- In New Delhi, people will take to the streets on Sept. 20 to demand a renewable energy revolution.
- In Australia, organizers are expecting hundreds of individual events to take place across the country.
- In London, groups are planning a march through the city to the steps of Parliament.
- In Berlin, three parallel marches will combine forces in a festival.
- In Paris, local groups will create the Paris Marche pour le Climat, with parades, marches and bicycle rides planned across the bridges of the Seine.
- Events also are being organized in Kathmandu, Rio, Sao Paulo, Jakarta, Dublin, Manila, Seoul, Mumbai, Istanbul, Ghana, Kenya, DRC, Nigeria, Guinea and Johannesburg.



IMAGE: CESAR MAXIT

A poster promoting the People's Climate March set for Sept. 21 in New York City.

## MARCHING OUT OF MADISON

Activists with 350 Madison are organizing a Wisconsin contingent for the People's Climate March in New York on Sept. 21.

"We will bring our message that Wisconsin is becoming a major battleground in the fight against climate change," said a statement from the grassroots environmental group.

350 Madison said utilities in Wisconsin are proposing "billing schemes that are a huge detriment to renewable energy and energy efficiency" and that the Canadian company Enbridge Energy "plans to expand the Line 61 pipeline, which traverses our beautiful state from Superior to Delavan, to carry more toxic tar sands than what the controversial Keystone XL pipeline would carry."

The grassroots group also raised concerns for "trains, carrying the potentially explosive Bakken oil" traveling through many Wisconsin communities.

## GET CONNECTED

For more information, details on travel scholarships or to purchase tickets for the bus trip from Madison to New York City, go online to <http://350madison.wordpress.com/upcoming-events/people-climate-march-nyc/>.



IMAGE: FAVIANNA RODRIGUEZ

A poster for the People's Climate March taking place later this month in New York City.

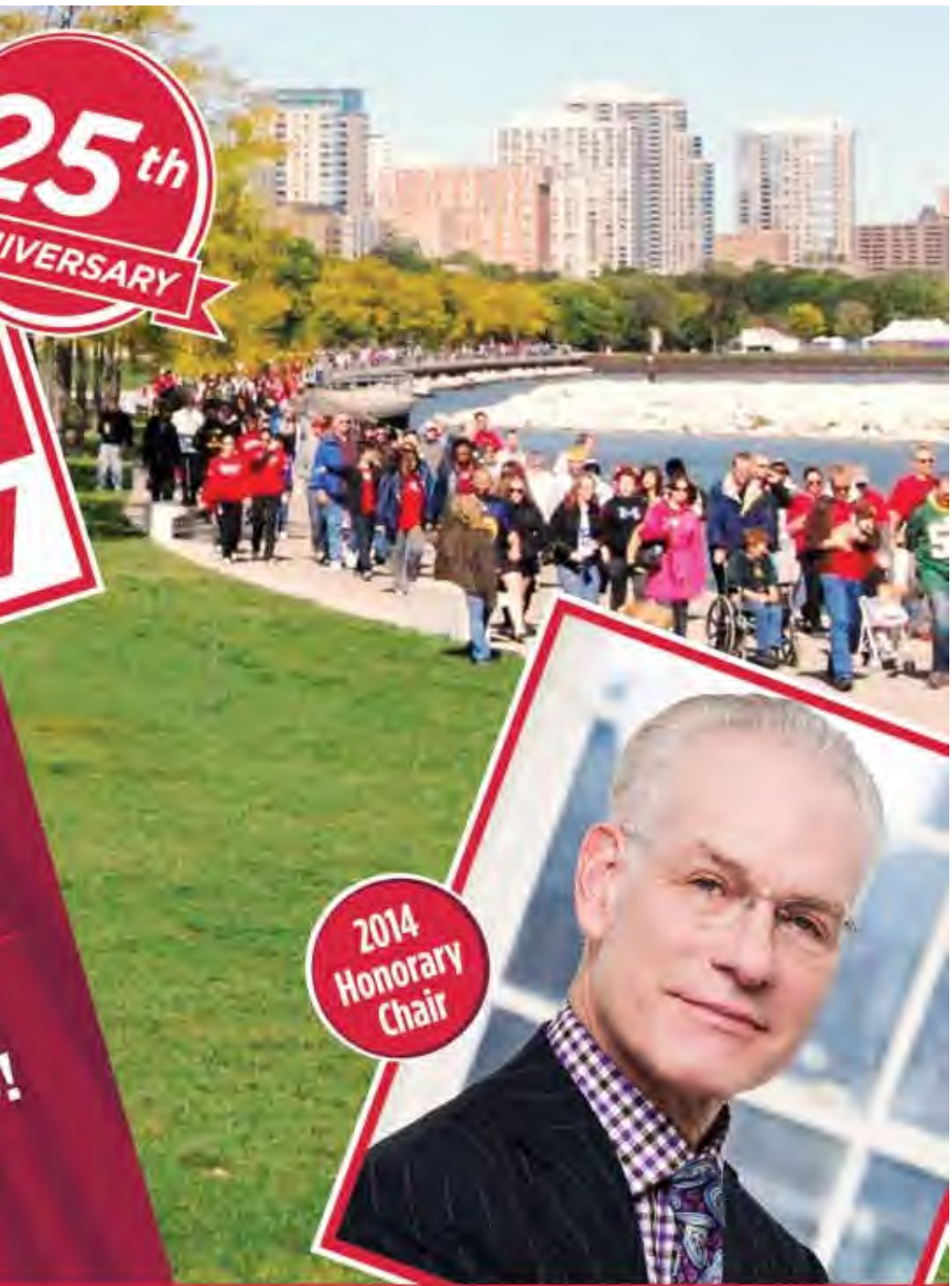


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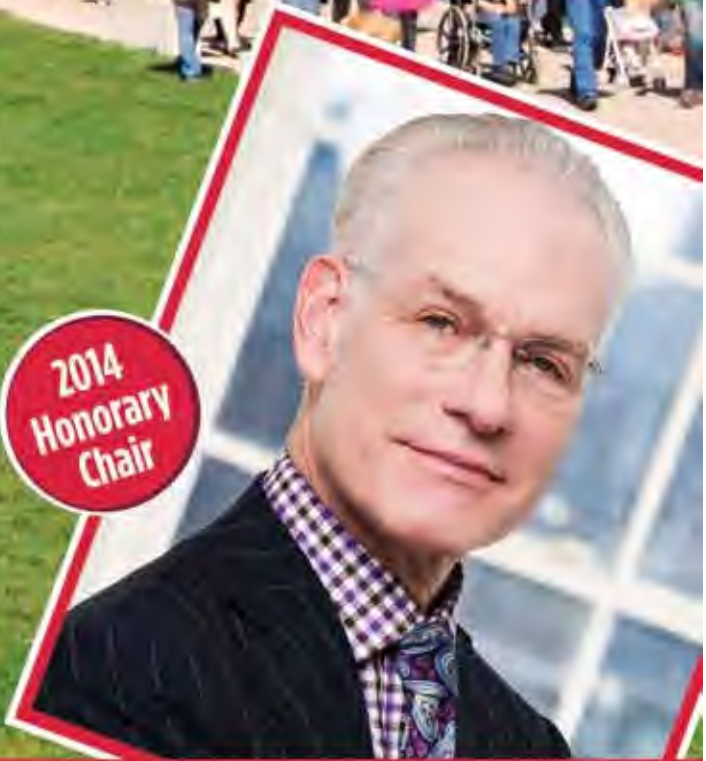
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{ EDITORIAL }

## Mining the bottom of the political pit

The latest court documents released from the John Doe investigation of Gov. Scott Walker's political activities provide an unsurprising but depressing look at how low American politics has sunk.

Apparently Walker instructed donors to get around state-mandated limits on individuals' donations to his campaign by contributing unlimited amounts to the Koch brothers-backed group Wisconsin Club for Growth. Under the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling, individuals and corporations can give whatever they want to third-party political action committees advocating for issues instead of candidates.

The problem here, of course, is that Club for Growth's issue was advocating for Walker — to help him win his recall race and continue moving forward with their corporate agenda like a charging bull. Emails among Walker's staffers make that irrefutably clear.

Did the strategy amount to illegal coordination of fundraising under state law? That's for prosecutors to decide. If Walker is indicted, he'll be regarded as a martyr by the right; if not, the left will continue to whine about "fairness," as if such a concept ever existed in politics. The only thing that really matters is that the money Walker raised for CFG was successfully used to promote his messaging and win his recall race.

The most damning donation to the

complex Walker campaign apparatus was the \$700,000 donation from Gogebic, the company that wants to build a massive, open-pit iron ore mine in the Penokee Hills. As an assemblyman, Walker reportedly opposed mining expansion — as well he should have. It creates a modicum of short-term jobs but very long-term profits for its out-of-state owners and even longer-term, perhaps permanent, damage to the environment.

It's now embarrassing for Walker and his apologists that one of the first things he did after being elected was to ram through changes in the mine-permitting process without even first gathering input from residents near the mining area. The scenario is no different in effect than the pay-to-play scandals that have landed so many elected officials in prison, even if proving causality in this case is probably impossible.

But we already knew that this was how Walker — and, to be fair, nearly everyone else in politics these days — flies. What's far more disturbing is that voters have become so accustomed to it, they only complain when an elected official on the other end of the political spectrum is caught. Otherwise, it's business as usual.

No one should accept this sort of behavior from any candidate affiliated with any political party. Our democratic

process has collapsed into a scheme that seeks only to manipulate and trick voters by inundating them with misleading spin and outright lies. The more money you have, the more and cleverer propaganda you can churn out via mailers, print ads and commercials. The higher the office, the more this costs. That's why our leaders spend the vast majority of their time raising fundraising.

Is it any wonder that nothing ever gets done for the average working stiff?

The big bucks rule in today's America. And those who believe that's a good thing — that after 30 years of failure, trickle-down is magically going to help the poor and middle-class lift themselves up by their bootstraps and join the country club — are living proof of how effective mass messaging has become. Once they're sufficiently propagandized, people will stop believing their own lying eyes.

There's only one way out of this tragic ending to the great American experiment in government: a constitutional amendment that overturns Citizens United.

Can it happen? That seems to depend on how much the people against Citizens United can raise versus how much the mega-corporations who are for it can.

How much are you good for?

## WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



### Lethal weapons

Deaths from police shootings  
Latest available year

Japan 0 Britain 0 Germany 8

Source: National sources; *The Economist*

America  
409



## ON THE RECORD



“I think a lot of people want to be able to walk into a grocery store, particularly, a lot of the women, want to go and buy a bottle of wine for dinner, go down, buy a six-pack or two six-packs, buy dinner and go home rather than what I described as three stops in Pennsylvania.”

— Pennsylvania GOV. TOM CORBETT telling a local talk show host that his plan to reform the state's liquor laws will benefit women by saving them time buying alcohol while they're shopping and preparing dinner. The comment was the latest in a series of remarks by the unpopular tea party governor that have alienated female voters.

“I am so hungry.”

— *Breaking Bad* actor AARON PAUL speaking after the popular AMC show won the night's final Emmy award, meaning that he could finally leave and get something to eat. The series finale garnered six wins, including best drama, best actor (Bryan Cranston), best supporting actress (Anna Gunn) and best supporting actor (Paul).

“It's a wonderful night.”

— Former GOP Florida Gov. CHARLIE CRIST after winning the Democratic primary to run for governor this year. Crist, who has liberalized his position on many issues, has thrown his support behind marriage equality.

“Self-flying vehicles could open up entirely new approaches to moving goods, including options that are cheaper, faster, less wasteful and more environmentally sensitive than what's possible today.”

— GOOGLE in a pamphlet outlining its efforts to build a fleet of drones designed to bypass earth-bound traffic.

“I'm only trying to do one thing: preserve what's there for the public's benefit. I thought about doing what Rosa Parks would want. I doubt that she would want to have her stuff sitting in a box with people fighting over them.”

— HOWARD G. BUFFETT, billionaire Warren Buffett's son, commenting on his foundation's purchase of items that belonged to the civil rights icon and have been sitting unseen for years in a New York warehouse. He plans to give them to an institute or museum.

“Gay men have terrible taste in music.”

— Singer/songwriter RUFUS WAINWRIGHT telling a reporter why he'd glad that he doesn't have more gay fans.

“Law enforcement, from the FBI to state and local police, are obligated to respect and uphold the human rights of our communities. The U.S. cannot continue to allow those obligated and duty-bound to protect to become those who their community fears most.”

— STEVE W. HAWKINS, executive director of Amnesty International USA, responding to police reaction in Ferguson, Missouri.



## A romp through local gay history

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

## 40 YEARS AGO

In 1974, the Gay People's Union worked with the Milwaukee Health Department to set up a free VD screening clinic for gay men on East St. Paul Avenue. The clinic moved to Farwell Avenue when GPU opened a center there in 1975. The clinic continues to serve people today as the BESTD Clinic on Brady Street.

Lesbians who had graduated from the “freospace” coming-out groups and were looking for ways to get involved in lesbian issues created Grapevine: A Lesbian Feminist Action Core in 1974. In its first years, Grapevine had a political focus. It evolved into a social group that sponsored potlucks and camping trips. It was revered for providing a non-bar atmosphere in which newly out lesbi-

ans could meet women and learn about the LGBT community in Milwaukee.

## 30 YEARS AGO

In 1984, Ron Geiman began publishing *Wisconsin In Step* magazine, which became one of the longest-running gay publications in Wisconsin history. Initially, *In Step* covered the bar scene and entertainment news and was criticized by some as a “bar rag.”

Geiman was a Vietnam veteran who had specialized in journalism while in the military. Under his leadership, *In Step* expanded its news content and circulation and participated in friendly rivalries with *Wisconsin Light* (1987-2002) and *Quest* (1994-present).

Geiman sold *In Step* to William Attewell and Jorge Cabal in 1996. They published it until late 2003.

In December 1984, the Milwaukee AIDS Project was formed. It later grew into the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

## 20 YEARS AGO

In 1994, Wisconsinites played a big role in the Stonewall 25 March and the Gay Games IV & Cultural Festival in New York. The march marked the 25th anniversary of the fabled uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village when police came to raid and shut down the bar. Bar raids were a common form of harassment against gay people, and the resistance shown at Stonewall is seen as the birth of the gay liberation movement.

Milwaukee hosted a meeting of the National Steering Committee of Stonewall 25, which this reporter recalls as being as wildly contentious as it was task-oriented. One hundred Wisconsinites joined 10,000 athletes at the Gay Games, competing in everything from tennis to in-line skating to wrestling. Madison's Bovine Babes soccer team competed, and *Wisconsin Gazette* publisher Leonard Sobczak swam in five events.

Also in 1994, a proposal

for a Gay/Lesbian Studies certificate program at UW-Milwaukee was introduced. It garnered opposition from anti-gay zealots but was approved the following year. Today, it is known as the LGBT Studies certificate program and requires 18 credits in LGBT-related classes.

## 10 YEARS AGO

In 2004, the Wisconsin Legislature passed an anti-gay marriage amendment. As required of constitutional amendments, both houses passed it again in the next legislative session. It was approved by voters in a November 2006 referendum and is currently one of the many being challenged.

PrideFest overcame a massive debt from the 2003 festival to successfully host the 2004 festival at Maier Festival Park in June. Support from donors and sponsors, some debt forgiveness and a permanent Legacy Fund helped save the day. The LGBT community breathed a collective sigh of relief.

## Combat zones or communities?

Opinion

On Aug. 25, a coalition of politicians, community leaders and social justice organizations published an open letter to President Barack Obama, which read in part:

In cities across America, law enforcement too often treats low-income neighborhoods populated by African Americans and Latinos as if they are in military combat zones instead of communities where people strive to live in peace. Youth of color who should be growing up in supportive, affirming environments are instead presumed to be criminals and subjected to aggressive police tactics that result in unnecessary fear, arrests, injuries and deaths.

Michael Brown is only the latest in a long list of black men and boys who have died under eerily similar circumstances. Investigations into the shooting are ongo-

ing, and many of the facts remain unclear. However, the pattern is too obvious to be a coincidence and too frequent to be a mistake. From policing to adjudication and incarceration, it is time for the country to counter the effects of systemic racial bias, which impairs the perceptions, judgment and behavior of too many of our law enforcement personnel.

The militarization of police departments across the country is creating conditions that further erode trust between residents and the police who serve them. The proliferation of machine guns, silencers, armored vehicles, aircraft and camouflage in local law enforcement units does not bode well for police-community relations.

Neither systemic racial bias nor police department militarization serves the interests of the officers who bravely place their lives at risk every day.

We call on the Obama administration to pursue the following actions:

**Training.** Law enforcement personnel, under guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Justice, should undergo racial bias training as a part of ongoing professional development and training.

**Accountability.** Police departments should not be solely responsible for investigating themselves. DOJ must set and implement national standards of investigation.

**Diversity.** Police departments must adopt practices that result in hiring and retention of diverse law enforcement professionals.

**Engagement.** Police departments must break through stereotypes and bias by identifying opportunities for constructive and quality engagement with youth living in the communities they serve. The administration can

authorize support for youth engagement activity under existing grants issued by DOJ.

**Demilitarization.** The administration must suspend programs that transfer military equipment to police departments and create guidelines that regulate and monitor the use of military equipment that has already been distributed.

**Examination and change.** The administration must establish a national commission to identify the best policies and practices that can prevent more Fergusons.

**Oversight.** The administration must appoint a federal czar, housed in the Department of Justice, to promote the professionalization of law enforcement, monitoring egregious law enforcement activities and adjudicating suspicious actions of local agencies that receive federal funding.





# Facetime

*Filler turns back the clock on your face by replacing volume lost from aging*

**By Louis Weisberg**  
Staff writer

In their never-ending quest to maintain a youthful appearance, Americans of a certain age and mindset are increasingly choosing dermal fillers over surgery to smooth the cracks and crevices of time. Together with Botox, fillers can erase a decade or more of age's cruelties in a relatively inexpensive and painless hour. Unlike cosmetic surgery, which carries the danger of branding you with that alien or "wind-tunnel" look, fillers are subtle and non-invasive.

Those on the fence should know that fillers come with a double-edged benefit. If you don't like the results, you can just wait: They generally dissipate after eight months. But if you *do* like the

results, that temporary nature is a liability. As one of the latter, I was excited to learn about ArteFill, a dermal filler that, in the hands of a skilled practitioner, cannot only pave over the potholes of time but also resculpt the youthful contours of your face.

Best of all, the effects can last for seven years — or longer.

## COMFORT LEVEL

When Dr. Stacy Kaiser, who owns A Younger You Medical Spa in Brookfield, offered me the opportunity to try out ArteFill, I instantly agreed. Kaiser is a Picasso with a syringe, as she's proven several times in the course of applying various injectable products to my face. Because I have very thin skin (literally, not meta-

phorically), such procedures usually leave me with a few bruises. But Kaiser, who began her medical career as an ER doc, has given me dozens of injections without even breaking a capillary. She says that's a matter of luck, but after 15 years of undergoing such procedures, I'm convinced that it's skill.

A Younger You operates three small offices, in Burlington, Lake Geneva and Brookfield. The Brookfield office is a small, homey suite, a welcome contrast to the faux McMansions and strip mall castles where I've generally had such work done.

Feeling at ease is an essential ingredient in achieving success with cosmetic fillers. You have to be comfortable enough with the doctor or practitioner to share insecurities about your most defining physical characteristic — your face. The practitioner must have not only technical skills and product knowledge, but also the ability to manage your expectations, and to read and maintain your level of comfort during the procedure. The best practitioners engage you in the process, soliciting your input and approval.

Dermal fillers correct changes in the face that accompany aging, particularly the loss of subcutaneous fat and protein-like substances. Those losses create the sunken cheeks, hollow eyes, creases and wrinkles that are inevitable markers of our golden years.

Beginning around age 25, the body stops producing collagen and elastin, which are in the deepest layer of the skin. As a result, your skin becomes gradually thinner and looser. It's not gravity that makes your face look like it's fleeing to Mexico as you get older, it's the loss of elastin, the substance that holds your skin

in place.

## FILL 'ER UP

The dermal fillers Restylane, Juvederm and Radiesse (I've tried them all) are effective at correcting the loss of volume in the face. They're used most commonly to plump up cheeks and fill crevices in the nasolabial fold, the area of the face between the nose and mouth. Fillers also add volume to the lips, replace fat loss under the eyes and erase "puppet lines" — those pesky creases that form at the corners of the mouth.

I've used dermal fillers for more than a decade and, in most cases, I've been highly satisfied. They create subtle improvements that make my face appear healthier and refreshed but not artificial. The only times I've been disappointed were when I failed to heed the doctor's advice and insisted on overdoing it.

## MAKING COLLAGEN

There are several important differences between ArteFill and other fillers. It's injected with a blunt-tipped cannula tube rather than a syringe, which I found more comfortable. ArteFill is also more flexible, and can be used in more areas of the face and for more purposes.

Most importantly, the technology behind ArteFill, the longest studied of all dermal fillers, provides twofold benefits.

One ingredient in ArteFill is bovine collagen, which instantly plumps up the skin as it is applied, just as other fillers do. But contained within ArteFill's collagen are beads of polymethylmethacrylate (PMA), a compound used for years as a surgical glue and a permanent filler for soft-tissue augmentation.

After the collagen in ArteFill breaks down and is absorbed by the body, the tiny round particles of PMA remain behind. "They're too big to eliminate and they're inert," Kaiser says. "The body can't dispose of them or degrade them, so they just remain there."

You want that because PMA stimulates collagen production. Kaiser says the PMA works like scaffolding, on which the body goes to work building new matrices of collagen. It's truly a gift that keeps on giving.

Before my procedure, Kaiser scrutinized my face to identify areas of fat loss and asymmetry. Research has shown that people rate symmetrical faces as more attractive than asymmetrical ones, so ArteFill can improve on what you had before aging began.

## FROM LAX TO FIRM

I quickly discovered ArteFill could help out cosmetically in ways that I'd never imagined. When I complained about some droopiness over my right eye, Kaiser simply inserted a dollop of filler over my brow. The filler slightly pulled up the skin above my eye and voila — the droopiness was gone.

Kaiser also used ArteFill above my cheeks and forehead to balance out the volume added to the lower part of my face, where I had ArteFill placed in my jawline. The filler also made the sides of my face more symmetrical.

As Kaiser predicted, the initial volume slowly dissipated over the course of several weeks. But after two months, the collagen-making process began to show dramatically in many ways.

After three months, my skin is appreciably smoother and healthier looking. The volume lost after the initial collagen injection was absorbed, but now collagen has returned in force, supplied by own body. The skin on my jawline is dramatically firmer, an effect that I hadn't thought was possible.

All told, Kaiser used five syringes of ArteFill on my mug, which carries a total price tag of \$2,750. That represents far less than I would have spent on my annual doses of fillers, which are now unnecessary. In fact, the treatment accomplished many of the goals of a facelift, which costs upwards of \$12,000.

And the process might not be over yet. With my body now in collagen-churning mode, I will likely continue to see improvements, Kaiser said.

Because of the body's delayed response to the treatment, she requires patients to wait three months after their initial application of ArteFill before receiving more. But I think she got it just right for me the first time. My face is good to go.

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# Dish it Out!

## Milwaukee restaurant groups offer menu of choices

**By Matthew Reddin**  
Staff writer

Milwaukee's dining scene isn't as well-known as Chicago's or New York's, but Brew City is far from starving for quality culinary options. The metro area hosts a feast of high-quality, creative food and drink options that cater to big spenders and average Joes alike.

The originality of the city's dining venues is so impressive that it's surprising to learn how many of them are operated by the same ownership groups. Just three of those groups — Bartolotta, Mojofuco and SURG — manage more than 30 restaurants, bars and eateries among them. There's an obvious financial benefit available to owners who can pull it off, no easy task in the current economy.

But the real accomplishment is not in having a successful portfolio of restaurants. It's in pleasing the palates of Milwaukee — and elevating the dining scene in the process.

### BARTOLOTTA

Brothers Joe and Paul Bartolotta have been building their line of restaurants for more than 20 years. But all they originally wanted was a single really great one — and Joe didn't even realize he wanted that at first.

"(Paul) knew exactly what he wanted to do, and I didn't," Joe Bartolotta says, reflecting on their post-high school days. While Paul took the culinary path, graduating from MATC's restaurant and hotel management program in 1980 and studying Italian cooking with master chefs in New York City and Italy, Joe stumbled into a DIY business and management program, working at restaurants throughout NYC and learning as he went. "There was really no school for that at the time," he says, "so the best way to learn was to roll up your sleeves and do it."

When the two returned to the Midwest, they had the skill sets and the drive necessary to create that one great restaurant: Ristorante Bartolotta, which opened its doors in 1993. Located near their childhood home

in Wauwatosa — Joe wryly notes they visited the restaurant as kids when it was a pancake house — Ristorante Bartolotta was an unusual Italian restaurant for its time. The menu focused on Northern Italian cuisine, which uses less meat and more heavy red sauces, olive oil and herbs.

Ristorante Bartolotta was a hit, earning a four-star rating from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* immediately upon opening. But it also made Joe realize the job he'd built for himself was going to make him a "prisoner" of the restaurant.

So he started looking for ways to expand the prison bars. After an 18-month struggle with Milwaukee County, he obtained permission to transform a neglected pavilion into Lake Park Bistro in 1995, winning accolades for its authentic French bistro cuisine. Italian steakhouse Mr. B's followed in 1999.

Joe says Mr. B's was the tipping point: "When you have three restaurants, a lot of people approach you with opportunities."

Those opportunities have made Bartolotta Restaurants Milwaukee's premier fine-dining group and one of its most diverse. And it's still growing. In 2012, Bartolotta's opened a modernized supper club, Joey Gerard's, in two locations (Greendale and Mequon); Miss Beverly's Deluxe Barbeque, a carryout-focused barbecue restaurant opened in July adjacent to Joey Gerard's in Greendale.

Bartolotta credits the balancing act to his 1,100 employees, many of whom have built careers with the company. He says he prioritizes his workers' happiness — if they're happy, they'll keep diners happy.

The Bartolotta Restaurants' latest project is the food court in the U.S. Bank building — a once-perfunctory space now known as the Downtown Kitchen. It provides dine-in or carryout options, including a kosher-style deli, Pizzeria Piccola pizza and North-point burgers.

"It's like a food court," he says, "but a really cool food court."

Although Bartolotta admits there are

days where the business feels too big to manage, they're evened out by days when he recognizes his growth has enabled his employees to build careers in the industry. And that, in turn, has helped Milwaukee build a reputation of its own as a city with solid fine-dining options, both at Bartolotta restaurants and elsewhere.

### MOJOFUCO

It seems like Scott Johnson and Leslie Montemurro should have had a top-level research and development team guiding them, the way they've opened restaurants. They opened Hi-Hat Lounge right when craft cocktails returned in vogue. Palomino opened in Bay View just as Gen X Milwaukeeans began to migrate there. Balzac jumped on the small-plates bandwagon long before the style became a staple.

Guess again. Johnson says they've just been lucky since the day he and Montemurro returned from a cross-country road trip and decided to open a neighborhood coffee shop like those they'd enjoyed while visiting different cities.

Neither Johnson nor Montemurro had managed a restaurant before opening Fuel Cafe in 1993. But back then, it wasn't about building a big restaurant group.

"I was a punk rocker and anarchist," Johnson says. "I was traveling a lot at the time, and I wanted some way I could keep traveling and have a job to come back to."

Things didn't quite work out that way. Fuel was a hit, as were the coffee shops, bars and restaurants Johnson and Montemurro opened in the years that followed, each launched as inspiration struck.

Initially, Johnson and Montemurro participated directly in management. But after



**RESTAURANTS** next page

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## Numerous employees have gone on to careers in the restaurant industry

RESTAURANTS from prior page

a few years, they stepped back, creating an operating structure that let them focus on big-picture issues and empowering the head staffers of each location to have a free hand in hiring and management.

"It doesn't make sense for me to hire employees to work for a manager — they should hire their own people," Johnson says. "That took us a while to figure out. We were figuring it out as we went."

Perhaps it's their hands-off management style that's enabled Johnson and Montemurro to work well with other entrepreneurs in the city. They originally teamed up with Mike Eitel and Eric Wagner to open Hi Hat, Garage and Balzac, then part of the Diablos Rojos restaurant group along with Trocadero and Cafe Hollander. Eitel and Wagner eventually broke away amicably, taking Trocadero and Hollander to form the Lowlands Group. (Lowlands Group was unable for comment on this story.)

Johnson and Montemurro also share ownership of Comet, HoneyPie and Palomino with the brother-sister duo Adam and Valerie Lucks, and Kristyn St. Denis is a co-owner at both Fink's and the three BelAir Cantinas.

It's a complicated but beneficial

arrangement. Johnson says the Lucks' intervention helped save Comet Cafe from a slump by focusing more heavily on food options. And the group would never have opened a second BelAir, if not for St. Denis. She exhibited a flair of intuition similar to Johnson and Montemurro's, when she found a building in Wauwatosa for sale and recommended that the group take advantage of a neighboring restaurant boom before it was too late.

Johnson says they've been fortunate not to close any restaurants, attributing that both to talented employees and to chance: "We've made a lot of mistakes, but luckily none of them were really too bad to sink us."

Mojofuco Restaurants' biggest project right now is opening the latest BelAir Cantina on Downer Avenue, where it will replace VIA Downer in a few weeks. After that, Johnson thinks the group will rest for a while on its bay laurels. Or will it?

"I wouldn't mind just taking some time off, all of us, take a year to travel more and maybe work less," Johnson says. "We say that, but then some cool opportunity comes up and we want to

  
SURG  
RESTAURANT GROUP

   
WOOD-FIRED GRILL

jump on it. We're constantly asking, 'What are we missing?'"

### SURG

Created in 2008, SURG Restaurant Group is one of the newest groups on the scene. But the group's partners, Omar Shaikh and Mike Polaski, have been around longer. Shaikh opened Carnavor in 2006, and Polaski opened both Umami Moto (in its original Brookfield location) and Mi-Key's shortly before the two joined forces.

The company's presence has exploded in the past few years, now encompassing just under a dozen locations throughout downtown Milwaukee and the suburbs.

SURG's growth is especially impressive considering that two of its former flagship locations were hurt by Ryan Braun's steroid scandal last year. SURG previously operated two restaurants sponsored by Braun — Graffito and 8\*Twelve. After Braun's admission that he'd used steroids, Shaikh and Polaski chose to ditch both names.

Those weren't the first restaurants the group shuttered. The pan-Latin restaurant Charro closed in 2012 after four years of inconsistent business, and the

piano bar Nuovo Centanni closed the same year.

But each loss has proven to be an opportunity for SURG to pivot and try a different concept. "We like to evolve," Shaikh says.

So they did. Nuovo Centanni was quickly replaced by the tag team of Gouda's Italian Deli and Bugsy's, a classic sandwich shop by day and a 1920s-themed bar by night. Minor tweaks to the former 8\*Twelve focusing on local vendors made it farm-to-table restaurant Hōm, a concept so popular the group has already opened a second location.

And earlier this year, SURG on the Water opened as a private event space in Graffito's former location. (A new restaurant is planned to take over Charro's space, but Shaikh says it's too early to release details.)

Each of SURG's restaurants has a very different format, but Shaikh says they all share certain characteristics. Attention to detail is one: The restaurants are meticulously constructed, most of them developed by the firm Flux Design. Another common factor is the sense of intimacy they offer diners. Although the two Hōms are large spaces, many of the other restaurants are deliberately small.

SURG restaurants also now share behind-the-scenes cohesion. SURG director of marketing Jaime Jacobs says the restaurants' managers have begun working together more frequently as a way to help promote the group as a whole, which is one of Shaikh's goals.

Overall, Shaikh says the company plans to keep expanding and tweaking things as it goes. "We're going to be pretty busy," he predicts.

So make your reservations now.

See restaurant listings next page

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**Restaurant listings**

**BARTOLOTTA RESTAURANTS:**

- Ristorante Bartolotta, Northern Italian cuisine
- Lake Park Bistro, French bistro dining
- Mr. B's, high-end Italian steakhouse
- Pizzeria Piccola, thin-crust Neapolitan pizzas
- Bacchus, contemporary American cuisine
- Northpoint Custard, burger and custard stand
- Harbor House, New England-style seafood
- Rumpus Room, steampunk-influenced gastropub
- Joey Gerard's, modern supper club
- Miss Beverly's Deluxe Barbeque, American smokehouse barbecue
- Bartolotta Catering & Events

**MOJOFUCO RESTAURANTS:**

- Fuel Cafe, Riverwest coffeeshop
- Comet Cafe, local, from-scratch diner
- Hi-Hat Lounge, craft cocktail club
- Palomino, Southern comfort food
- Garage, bar with brunch
- Balzac, wine and small plates
- Honeypie, from-scratch food and desserts
- BelAir Cantina, California-style Mexican
- Fink's, casual cocktail bar

**SURG RESTAURANT GROUP:**

- Carnevor, high-caliber steakhouse
- Umami Moto, Asian fusion
- Mi-Key's, comfort food meets cocktail lounge
- Distil, artisan cocktail bar
- Gouda's Italian Deli, Italian sandwiches and groceries
- Buggy's, '20s speakeasy bar
- Höm, Wisconsin farm-to-table
- SURG on the Water, private event venue



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# Oktoberfest begins September — are you ready to pour?

By Michael Muckian  
Contributing writer

As you're reading this, there's probably enough time left to catch a flight to Munich for the annual opportunity to drink copious amounts of hearty German beer from 1-liter tankards with 6 million of your closest friends. *Ach du lieber!*

On the other hand, if you don't have the opportunity to stagger across the *Theresienwiese* ("Therese's meadow," where Munich pitches 14 mammoth beer tents) with the rest of the *bierleichen* ("beer corpses," a popular German term for those who overindulge), you can still celebrate the Bavarian festival of Oktoberfest in Wisconsin.

The misnamed annual beer celebration begins on Sept. 20, at the moment Munich Mayor Dieter Reiter pounds the first spigot into the first keg and announces "O'zapf is!" — "It's tapped!" Reiter's stroke of the mallet will launch more than two weeks of malt-headed, well-hopped consumption that doesn't conclude until the last drops are drained on Oct. 5.

The festival began in Munich, but it's wildly popular elsewhere, including here in the Badger State. For the past half century, one of the largest celebrations has taken place in La Crosse — Oktoberfest, USA. This year's installment convenes on the banks of the Mississippi River Sept. 25-28. Buy one beer or six, march in the parade of your choice, dance to the funk band Here Come the Mummies! on Saturday night, and then find a comfortable bar stool to watch the Packers once again defeat the Bears on Sept. 28 while

you get *cupshoten* — aka drunk (oktoberfestusa.com).

That same weekend, New Glarus Brewing Co. brewmaster Dan Carey will don his lederhosen, tap a keg of, presumably, his brewery's Staghorn Oktoberfest beer, and launch the Swiss community's Oktoberfest celebration. The party begins Sept. 26 at 1 p.m., and runs through Oct. 28. Cheese fondue, a chain saw woodcarving competition and other events round out the weekend's festivities (swisstown.com/festivals-2014).

In Milwaukee, consider the entire metro area a de facto Oktoberfest celebration during the latter half of September. Oktoberfest is the crown jewel of the city's German heritage, and you can count on Mader's Restaurant, 1041 N. Old World Third St., Karl Ratzsch's German-American Restaurant, 320 E. Mason St., the Old German Beer Hall, 1009 N. Old World Third St., and many other businesses to pull a pint to celebrate Oktoberfest.

Want to start Oktoberfest early? Of course you do. Then drop by Glendale's Heidelberg Park during the first four Fridays and Saturdays in September, where weekly Oktoberfest celebrations will take place at the Bavarian Fest Garten (oktoberfestmilwaukee.com).

Of course, you can always celebrate at home. Wisconsin has a number of locally available Märzenbiers, a dark Bavarian lager that's considered the official beer of Oktoberfest. It's brewed with either more hops or slightly more alcohol to bet-



PHOTO: VISIT MILWAUKEE

ter preserve it and give it a fuller flavor than most lagers. And it should be no surprise that Wisconsin's got a lot of other German brews available to complement Märzen.

Here's a mixed six-pack you might want to try.

Many German brewers still make Märzenbier, originally produced in the spring to last through the summer, the season in which Bavaria outlawed brewing to preserve quality. The most popular brands include **Spaten Oktoberfest** (\$8.49 per six-pack), **Weihenstephaner Oktoberfestbier** (\$7.99), from what claims to be the world's oldest brewery, and **Paulaner Oktoberfest Märzen** (\$7.99).

Doppelbocks — a malty variant of the German lager with a little more firepower — have become increasingly popular. Two of the best are **Spaten Optimator** (\$8.49 per six-pack) and **Ayinger Celebrator Dop-**

**pelbock** (\$12.49 per four-pack.). The Optimator is rich and refined, with complex aromas and tasting notes; Celebrator is all that and more, with notes of toffee, caramel and a dark-malt roastiness.

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## Mellow with age, Bob Mould still plays fast and loud

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

When thinking of gay artists in popular music, the alternative rock genre rarely comes to mind. However, 53-year-old out artist Bob Mould can fairly lay claim to being an elder statesman of alt rock. He was a co-founder of legendary punk band Hüsker Dü and, through his later band Sugar and a series of well-received solo albums, he's been a guiding light in the alternative rock community for 25 years.

Mould brings music from his current album, *Beauty & Ruin*, to Milwaukee's Turner Hall on Sept. 17.

While Mould may accept his identity as a gay icon, he's much different from the stereotypical gay rock star. Sober since 1986, he eschews glitz and glamour. But he's been a serious supporter of his community for decades — first in New York and Washington, D.C., and today in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, where he's an active member of the local "bear" community.

Mould released his autobiography, *See a Little Light: The Trail of Rage and Melody*, in 2011. The book is a revealing look at the life of gay musicians in the U.S. punk scene in the 1980s, before it exploded into the grunge of the early 1990s.

Mould had a public reputation of being brutally angry if not actually scary. He famously lashed out at President Ronald Reagan's perpetuation of public ignorance about the AIDS epidemic, calling it "the coal that fueled that train of discontent for hardcore (punk) for so long."

"I was a young, confused homosexual living in a country that refused to acknowledge me as a human. That will make you angry," Mould told *Spin* magazine.

Mould's sexuality was an open secret for many years. He began his first long-term relationship in 1983 at age 22, but only came out in 1994 after journalists threatened to out him.

Mould co-founded the seminal punk band Hüsker Dü while a student at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1979. The trio came together over a mutual love of the Ramones. The band quickly evolved into a hardcore punk group and released the legendary albums *Zen Arcade*, *Flip Your Wig*,

*Candy Apple Grey* and *Warehouse: Songs and Stories* before unraveling in 1987.

Hüsker Dü's collapse came too soon to see alternative rock bands like Nirvana blast into the pop mainstream in 1991. However, Mould is quick to remind interviewers that he was on the short list to produce Nirvana's breakthrough album *Nevermind*, and without their commercial success, his post-Dü band Sugar wouldn't have seen its debut *Copper Blue* become such a success in 1992.

As a child, Mould's father was a major influence on his musical and personal development. He introduced Mould to pop and rock music through a collection of jukebox singles that remains a treasured possession. Mould bought the first Ramones album for his 16th birthday when his father took him to a record store and let him pick out his own gift. The elder Mould also financially supported his son's early music career.

But the father-son relationship was often difficult, and it occasionally veered into potentially abusive territory. Speaking to NPR in June, Bob Mould said, "You know, my dad, he was a drinker. He liked to drink. Weekends could be tough."

His father died in 2012. His latest album *Beauty & Ruin* addresses the past while moving forward into the present. It is structured around the four themes of loss, reflection, acceptance and future. That's best seen with "The War," which ends side one of the vinyl edition of the album, and "Forgiveness," which begins side two. They give a clear audio representation of Mould's difficult transition from reflection to acceptance.

He says that he's finally left behind much of the rage that fueled his punk music in the 1980s. There's a new sense of fun and even humor in his music. That might be a shock to some and a very welcome shift to others. Mould told *GQ* magazine in a 2011 interview that many of his fans "would prefer to see me miserable."

Despite the changes in his personal life and outlook for the future, do not expect a Mould concert to be quiet. While there are likely to be acoustic touches, expect to experience music fast and loud when Mould takes the stage at Milwaukee's Turner Hall.



### ON STAGE

Bob Mould performs at 8 p.m., Sept. 17 at Turner Hall Ballroom, 1034 N. Fourth St., with opening act Cymbals Eat Guitars. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling 414-286-3663 or visiting [pabsttheater.org](http://pabsttheater.org).

PHOTO: COURTESY



# 'Love Is Strange' is an understated but tender film



PHOTO: COURTESY

Alfred Molina and John Lithgow play a married New York couple separated by circumstances in *Love Is Strange*.

## The Associated Press

A gay couple together for almost four decades are separated — at least physically — by factors beyond their control in *Love Is Strange*, the latest tender and meandering exploration of human relationships from indie darling Ira Sachs (*Keep the Lights On*, *Forty Shades of Blue*).

Set in the Big Apple, this is a sprawling yet intimate narrative, constructed almost entirely of in-between moments rather than the big turning points and tragedies.

The starting point is the housing problem of two newlyweds but longtime lovers, played with enormous generosity by Alfred Molina and John Lithgow. But the film slowly expands its vision to encompass a much larger cast that includes Marisa Tomei and Cheyenne Jackson.

*Love Is Strange* opens on what should be the happiest day in the lives of Ben (Lithgow) and George (Molina), as they get ready in their tasteful Manhattan apartment for their wedding. Initially somewhat counter-intuitively, Sachs ensures that everything looks rather ordinary: They get up, shower, dress, are running late and can't find a taxi. Indeed, as will become clear from the film that follows, this is not the happiest day in their lives exactly because the duo, who've been together for 39 years, have mastered the art of being happy with what they have, every single day.

Thus, the vows are dispatched in a scene under a minute long, and the marriage celebration takes place in the couple's apartment and feels like any number of parties they must have had with friends over the years. Wedding guests include Ben's nephew, Elliot (Darren Burrows), a busy businessman; Elliot's wife, Kate (Tomei), a novelist who works from home; their teenage kid, Joey (Charlie Tahan), and the two party-loving gay cops who live in the lovebirds' building, Roberto (Manny Perez) and Ted (Jackson).

When news of the marriage reaches the

ears of the New York archdiocese, George, who's a Catholic school music teacher, is fired, and the couple are forced to sell the apartment. When finding new lodgings takes longer than anticipated, they ask their friends for a roof over their head, resulting in their separation.

Sachs and co-writer Mauricio Zacharias, from *Lights*, get the familiar humor and half-evoked memories so typical of long-term relationships exactly right, and a short scene in a historic gay bar is not only funny and real but also casually reveals some of the core values that have kept this couple going for all those years.

That said, the rather strange living arrangements of the two, divorced physically if never emotionally, is one of a number of elements that has to be accepted for the film to work. A makeshift mattress for two somewhere would have turned this into a short.

But more important things ring true, starting with George and Ben's relationship, which is an inspiration for people like Elliot and Kate, too absorbed by their work to really follow their only son. Lithgow and Molina are impressively tuned in to the material and each other, and Tomei and the young Tahan deliver the film's other heartfelt, fully rounded performances. Burrows and especially Perez and Jackson are given less to do, and there's a sense their stories ended up on the cutting room floor.

The soothing and occasionally quietly soaring music of Chopin, heard throughout the film, helps set the right tone for this understated drama.

Cinematographer Christos Voudouris gives the characters room to breathe but is also intimate when necessary, while editors Michael Taylor and Affonso Goncalves string the series of small moments together with grace, turning the film into a quietly effective overview of relationships, feelings and outside occurrences that simply have to be dealt with.

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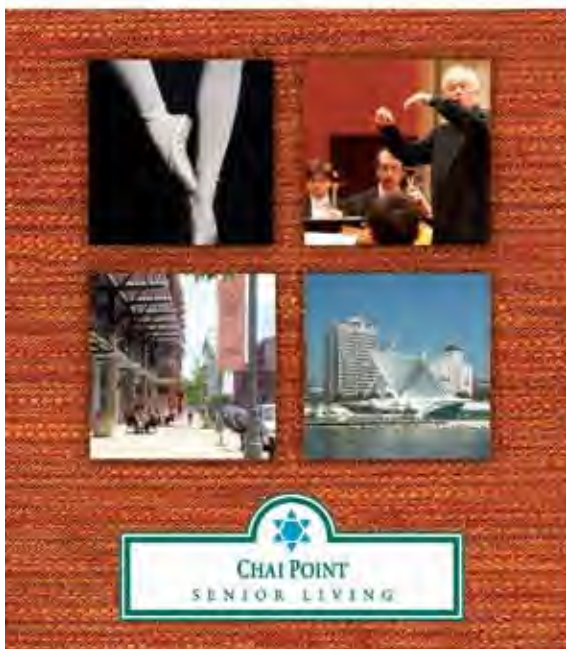
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## ART GAZE — MILWAUKEE

By Kat Murrell  
Contributing writer

**'LEJOS'**

Through Sept. 21

Dean Jensen Gallery is cool and quiet, but the art is not. Brilliant colors shine with energy, but the images they create are often mysterious and surreal.

Co-curated by Milwaukee-based/Argentina-born artist Santiago Cucullu and gallery owner Jensen, the collection of works by members of the Argentinian collective *Artistas en Cooperativa* is in town for a late summer stay. The show is called *Lejos*, meaning "far" in Spanish, and it's geographically apropos for the artists.

The sense of distance is more than physical. The pictures take us deep into a world of dreams and psyche, with lost Edens, lonely mountains and urban cacophony.

Noella Farias has a talent for stillness. She populates sparse, mountainous landscapes with pensive women. Their youthful appearances are trumped by the knowing maturity of their fixed gazes and distant expressions.

The painting "A la espera (Waiting)" is a suspended narrative in which a dour young woman with golden hair, dressed modestly in blue, sits beside a dark, hair-covered figure. The light touch of Farias' color palette makes the deep blackness of the prone figure unsettling. It lies like a body or a black hole in the earth, making the girl appear a



PHOTO: COURTESY DEAN JENSEN GALLERY

Noella Farias, "A la espera (Waiting)," 2012.

witness to human truths of which we can only guess.

If there are dramas to decipher, Andrea Cukler's *After the World* series seems clear about the end result of the story: desolation. With gorgeously apocalyptic brushwork, her destruction melts the industrial landscape of Buenos Aires' port under blemished skies. It is post-industrial decay, but also a metaphor for substance lay to waste.

Not all is so sinister. Florencia Fraschina

paints somnolent, voluptuous women in tropical lands with flowers so brilliant one can imagine their perfumed scent. Drawing even closer to nature, Balbina Lightowler's abstract paintings, on clear acetate, physically layer one painting over another, densely working with translucent tones and negative spaces.

In his catalog remarks, Cucullu writes of how these artists lead us to a new vantage point of physical and psychological place, where we "become more conscious of certain forces in and around us that, while not always entirely seeable, shape who and what we are." This exhibition offers a vicarious entrance into imagination where unreality is entirely real.

At Dean Jensen Gallery, 759 N. Water St. Visit deanjensengallery.com or call 414-278-7100.

**'SUMMER ART ORGY'**

Through Sept. 13

If orgy denotes hedonistic abundance, celebration and sensuality, it's an apt name for this exhibition, one of the strongest presentations at Portrait Society in recent memory. Romano Johnson's monumental paintings of pop stars like Michael Jackson and Tina Turner glisten with glitter and iconic stature, weaving abstract flatness and pattern with expressive visuals capturing the charisma of their inspirations. Skully Gustafson's full-room installation brings the viewer into the exuberant world of the artist's studio in paintings, photographs, sculptures, objects hanging from the ceiling and a small stage that offers an overt invitation to be part of the show. A counterpoint to Gustafson's extroverted art are Erik Moore's austere and stunning black-and-white photographs. It may be said that Moore is quite a master of lighting, capturing the nude male physique capped by elaborate animal masks in a mode that suggests satyr-like shamans. This is an exhibition not to be missed.

At Portrait Society Gallery, Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo Street, 5th Floor. Visit portraitsocietygallery.com or call 414-870-9930.

**'CARGO SPACE'**

Through Sept. 20

A converted, decorated bus with grimacing teeth for a bumper and fiercely piercing eyeballs has rolled into town, and with it the new exhibition at Inova. Spearheaded by Christopher Sperandio, Simon Grennan and Duncan MacKenzie, the show is one of a pair simultaneously on view in Milwaukee and Chicago exploring notions of artist residencies. For the non-artist viewer, it is an opening into the experimentation of art-making.

The cavernous Inova space is divided into a series of installations of finished work and ephemera. A handwritten gallery sign announces that "the form of this show isn't set. Art works will change and/or move during the course of the exhibition." Like the creative process, it is amorphous and unsettled, but an intriguing conceptual peek into the creative process, both illuminating and disheveled.

At Inova, 2155 N. Prospect Ave. Call 414-229-5070 or visit uwm.edu/psa/inova.

**'SUMMER DANCES: MONOTYPES BY JAN SERR'**

Through Oct. 8

Jan Serr began working with monotypes in the early 1980s, and in subsequent decades she's experimented intensively with this printmaking process. A monotype, most basically put, involves applying some type of medium such as paint to a plate and pressing paper to its surface to transfer the image. Serr's works are much more elaborate, involving multiple pressings to produce translucent, exquisitely layered colors. Inspired by dancers in performance, her figures are ethereal but strong, figurative but abstract. Her extraordinary color sense offers a memorable visual experience to celebrate the waning summer days.

At Museum of Wisconsin Art on the Lake at St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave. For more information, visit wisconsinart.org/MOWAOnTheLake.

**'UNIS: THE ORIGIN OF THE UNICORN'**

Through Sept. 28

Timothy Westbrook is most well-known as a clothing designer and for his appearance on Season 12 of *Project Runway*. He also is a huge fan of unicorns, which form the basis for this museum-wide installation at the Charles Allis. The exhibition guide takes the visitor through a narrative where the mythology of the unicorn is combined with a fictional history of intrepid explorers seeking this legendary creature in upstate New York. Clothing, drawings, literature, unicorn tchotchkes and an installation of contemporary art linked to the unicorn form is on view, making for a treasure hunt and meditation on the inspirational nature of mythical figures in folklore and pop culture. At Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave. Ring 414-278-8295 or to charlesallis.org.

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## ART GAZE — MADISON

# Madison joins Any Given Child youth arts program

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

Madison students will find more art in the schools this year — lots of it, in all forms.

In July 2013, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., chose Madison as the 12th city to take part in its Any Given Child program. It seeks to improve elementary and middle school arts education, combining resources of the school district, local arts groups and the Kennedy Center.

"All of our Madison Metropolitan School District students need involvement in the arts as an outlet for creative expression and a pathway to success in the 21st-century world and workforce," says Ann Katz, executive director of Arts Wisconsin, an arts-advocacy nonprofit. "That's why it really is a great thing that Madison was chosen to participate in this national program."

The involvement of Kennedy Center and its ongoing partnership "is crucial as we continue to work to foster creativity confidence in our children," says Mayor Paul Soglin. "Madison remains deeply committed to equity and equality in our schools and neighborhoods. That certainly includes access to and appreciation for the arts regardless of status or income."

With the assistance of Kennedy Center staff and other professionals, community

leaders have been developing a long-range plan. A comprehensive audit of existing arts education resources was conducted, and recommendations were recently made to provide a tapestry of arts education by strategically weaving assets together. The Kennedy Center is making its resources available, including professional development opportunities for teachers and teaching-artists, as well as online interactive learning for students.

"This past summer, a program committee comprised of teachers and community members has been working to identify, in more detail, what the elements of an arts-rich K-8 education might be," says Barbara Schrank, chair of the Madison Arts Commission. "The results of the community committee and the program committee will be shared with the larger Madison community this fall."

Other communities taking part in the program have been able to add arts teachers in schools, raise significant dollars for performance and museum experiences, and coordinate the efforts of arts organizations providing education programs so that more students are served.

"There's been a lot of support and involvement from the city, school district, Overture Center (for the Arts) and so many other community partners, to move this



PHOTO: JEFF MILLER/UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Volunteer docent John Young leads a group of third-grade students from Madison's Emerson Elementary School on a tour of artwork from the permanent collection on display at the Chazen Museum of Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on April 9. Pictured is *Our Good Earth*, a 1942 oil painting by John Steuart Curry.

forward," Katz says. "The result of this program over time will be a strong and sustainable infrastructure for learning through the arts and creativity, and more opportunities for participation in the arts for all Madison students."

"As a member of the community committee this past year, I'm encouraged with the progress I've seen so far, and I look forward

to seeing an art-rich curriculum develop further," Schrank adds.

Other communities taking part in the program include Baltimore, Maryland; Sacramento and Fresno, California; Portland, Oregon; and Austin, Texas.

For more information about Any Given Child, visit [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).

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show

BY Bruce Arntson | DIRECTED BY JC Clementz

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Michae Arcadio and Erin Parkes. Photo by Michael Bravina



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# 'Doyle & Debbie Show' an affectionate country music burlesque

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

There's only one musical with the audacity to make a honky-tonk pun out of a German artistic movement, and the "strum' and drang" musical in question is on its way to the Stackner Cabaret.

The Milwaukee Rep's 2014-15 season kicks off with *The Doyle & Debbie Show*, a concert/musical hybrid of the sort the company's grown famous for staging in its cabaret theater. The play depicts the Nashville debut of the fictitious Doyle & Debbie: a country duo composed of Doyle Mayfield (Michael Accardo), a washed-up singer trying to finally pull off a successful comeback after an emotional breakdown, and his fourth or fifth Debbie (Erin Parker), the young co-star he found singing at a VFW in southern Tennessee.

It's a story that sounds ridiculous, and director JC Clementz promises it is. "When I first read this piece," he says, "I had tears coming down my face, I was laughing so hard."

Clementz, who directed *Forever Plaid* in the Stackner Cabaret last year, says *Doyle & Debbie* is similar in that it takes the form of a real concert, with the characters interacting with the audience as they would in an actual performance. But the play's subject matter and tone are different, closer to irreverence than anything else.

"It's a parody, but I also think it's a love

song to country music as well," Clementz says. "We never make fun of it, we make fun with it."

The play's songs, all original, run the gamut of classic country music, from upbeat honky-tonk to soulful ballads. But each deals with over-the-top subject matter or features preposterous lyrical conceits. There's an ode to "Fat Women in Trailers." Debbie sings of the "ABC's of Love" by packing her sentences full of initials. Doyle's hit ballad has the incomparable title "When You're Screwin' Other Women (Think of Me)."

What differentiates the songs from mean-spirited lampoons of country music is the earnest treatment Accardo and Parker give their characters.

"(Classic country singers) sang about real things," Clementz says. "And if that real thing was your dog dyin', you wrote a song about it. ... That's what I think makes the play so funny."

Around the songs, creator Bruce Arnston (also the original Doyle) builds a storyline through the duo's banter with each other, the audience and bandleader Buddy (Bo Johnson), whose "band" is now a laptop due to financial constraints. Much of the storyline is devoted to Doyle's prior breakdown and the increasingly relevant fact that their Nashville show takes place on the anniversary of his father's death.

But Clementz says the show also delves



PHOTO: COURTESY MILWAUKEE REP

**JC Clementz, Milwaukee Rep artistic associate, directs *The Doyle & Debbie Show*.**

into Debbie's lifelong love of the Doyle & Debbie duo, and how her impression of her idol shifts as she gets to know him better through the evening.

As the Rep's casting director, Clementz had the opportunity to select the actors he'd later direct. The 2007 play was specifically designed in its original version for actors with a wide range of vocal prowess that proved tough to emulate. He says the show also requires actors with strong comedy chops, as well as an understanding of the country genre.

Ironically, Clementz wasn't versed in country music before becoming the production's director. That's how he knows it will be a hit with more than country music-lovers, he says.

"If you're not a fan of country music, I think you'll enjoy it just as much as if you are. The music is catchy, the songs are great and the performances that you'll see are just stellar."

## STACKNER CABARET SEASON

Doyle and Debbie aren't the only talented artists visiting the Rep's Stackner Cabaret this season. Read on for a concert billing that spans the coming months at the company:

- **Liberace!** (Nov. 7-Jan. 11): The Rep's beloved tribute to Liberace returns for an encore performance, bringing along Jack Forbes Wilson to reprise his role as the flamboyant virtuoso.
- **The Beautiful Music All Around Us** (Jan. 16-March 15): Legendary musician Stephen Wade presents a one-man show that pays tribute to Southern musical traditions and folksong, through spoken word, projected images and live performance.
- **Low Down Dirty Blues** (March 20-May 24): Four actor-musicians tune up to honor the blues in this after-hours performance featuring rhythms and riffs from Muddy Waters, Ma Rainey, Sophie Tucker and more.

## ON STAGE

The Milwaukee Rep's production of *The Doyle & Debbie Show* will run Sept. 7-Nov. 2 at the Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells St. Tickets start at \$40. For showtimes and more information, visit [milwaukeeerep.org](http://milwaukeeerep.org) or call 414-224-9490.

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# 'Gilligan's Island' star Dawn Wells answers the question: What Would Mary Ann Do?

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

As the title suggests, *What Would Mary Ann Do?*, by Dawn Wells with Steve Stinson, is a book of advice. Wells, who played the wholesome, naïve Mary Ann in the classic 1960s sitcom *Gilligan's Island*, subtitled the book *A Good Girl's Guide To Life*, and it's a subtitle that refers to both Wells and Mary Ann. Wells offers suggestions for living through the eyes of the actress as well as the character. The book also is full of photos from Wells' acting career.

I spoke with Wells shortly before the book's September publication date.

**What's the target audience for *What Would Mary Ann Do?*** I probably raised a generation that are parents of teenagers now, and the attraction to Mary Ann has been the wholesomeness, the honesty, the pitching in and helping. (She represents) the kind of values that seem to be going out the window. It's hard, as a parent, to corral the teenagers. I don't have children, but I can see (the teen years are a) difficult time. I have men say to me, "I married a Mary Ann," or "I want to raise a Mary Ann." I thought, "There's something in this character, in this silly little show, that has more



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dawn Wells

value than we think."

**Could you see parlaying this book into a manners/advice column?**

It's very interesting that you say that. I had an experience at a barbecue/fundraiser last year. This girl, probably 13 or 14, sat down next to me for an autograph while I was signing them for other people. I had never seen a child so beautiful. One of those faces that just takes your breath away. I said to her, "I'm going to tell you something," and her mother was standing there, and I said, "Say no." She said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Because of how



you look, you are going to be asked so many things that you don't understand. Boys can't help themselves, etc. Start out with 'no.'" We started to laugh about it. I don't know that young people would read (an advice column), but they might. That's kind of a cute idea. I have to roll it around

in my brain.

**In the book you write about your idea for the British-style red phone booths to be used as cellphone stations.** I think it's sheer brilliance. I get so tired of being in a room and everybody's talking to somebody else (on their phones). You can't help but overhear. Privacy is gone. I think we all need private time and private moments. I think it would be nice if you had to go into a booth

to have your conversation. We're all invaded by all of that. Where is our privacy? Where are our own quiet thoughts?

**In the book you write about "the lesson of seven castaways" — about how they made the island a "safe haven for humanity," which is especially applicable today, with the devastation in Gaza and Ferguson, Missouri. What would it take for everyone to coexist in peace and harmony?** I'm not sure it's possible. We are observing it now, firsthand. I get tears in my eyes half the time. Remember the peace marches years ago? Martin Luther King and all that. We in Nevada felt like we had something to do with Montgomery, Alabama. Now, can we do something in Gaza? With the people we elect? The people we elect have a huge responsibility. I don't know where the world is going.

**A few days ago, Huffington Post ran a piece titled "11 TV Shows That Defined Your Childhood, Ranked From Worst To Best." Gilligan's Island came in at No. 3. What does that ranking mean to you?** First of all, I think it would mean an awful lot to the creator (Sherwood Schwartz), who is gone. That he had the vision. Of course, we were bad-rapped: "The worst show ever on television!" "It'll never last 30 seconds!" CBS didn't want to put it on the air. Until they showed it to the public — when they had those audiences and it was rated one of the highest ever. I think it was fun and silly at the time. But it sustained because we need it. We need that escape. It's not Judy Garland tap dancing. It's more relatable. You saw the camaraderie between these seven misfits trying to get along. I do think Mary Ann was part of the stability. I don't think that was part of the writers' vision from the beginning — "Mary Ann's got to be the peacemaker." No. The creator had a purity and a childlike vision of life through these seven characters. You loved the Skipper! We didn't bully Gilligan. With what's going on today, Gilligan would be thrown off the island.

**You also write about Russell Johnson (The Professor), who had a gay son and then became an AIDS advocate when his son became ill. Are you aware of a gay following?** I'm very much aware of the gay following and very supportive. I think Mary Ann would've been your buddy! I respected Russell so much. It was a tough time. He went out on a limb and he talked about it and the pride he had with (his son) David. That was a big step way back then.

**Where do you stand on the subject of same-sex marriage?** I'm supportive. I think we are more alike than different. I think we need to embrace who we are today and stop fighting. If there is love around, it's love, there's nothing offensive about that.

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# Boulevard's first itinerant production is concert reading of 'Pal Joey'

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

Here's the big story about the Boulevard Theatre this season: After 29 years, the company has left its Bay View home on South Kinnickinnic Avenue to become an itinerant company.

But another big story about the group is its first show on the road is a resurrection of the long-neglected Rodgers and Hart musical *Pal Joey*, which is to be presented in a concert staging at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center.

Concert stagings, in which actors perform without costumes, sets or more than minimal blocking, are a specialty of the Boulevard. Artistic director Mark Bucher champions the approach as a compromise between a full, expensive staging and a mere reading in which the actors sit around a table. David Flores is directing the concert staging of *Pal Joey*, which he and Bucher selected after they kept circling back to it during a brainstorming session earlier this year.

"It's both of its time and ahead of its time," Flores says.

In many ways, *Pal Joey* is a musical that resembles the other work of Rodgers and Hart and their contemporaries (pre-World War II). It's centered around a powerful romance, its songs (including standards like "I Could Write a Book" and "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered") are jazzy and linguistically clever, and its lead role required the dancing skills of no less than Gene Kelly in its original production.

But it's where the comparisons end that reveals the obstacles *Pal Joey* faced when it



PHOTO: BAYLES-YEAGER ONLINE ARCHIVE

Souvenir program from *Pal Joey's* 1952 Broadway revival.

premiered in 1940 to widespread panning by critics — including a *New York Times* writer who famously asked about the play, "Can you draw sweet water from a foul well?" The titular "hero" is a womanizing nightclub performer willing to do whatever it takes to get his big break, including embark on an affair with the play's female lead, Vera, a married socialite with a string of lovers. Those jazzy tunes and lyrics are so sexually frank that they widened the eyes of the era's Broadway theatergoers.

## ON STAGE

The Boulevard Theatre's production of *Pal Joey* plays at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 26, and Sept. 27, and at 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 28. Tickets are \$20. Call 414-706-5049 or go to southmilwaukeekeepac.org. Seating is limited to 100 patrons per show.

And most importantly, there's no happy ending for its protagonist.

In retrospect, the show was merely ahead of its time, Flores says. A string of acclaimed revivals supports his assertion. But with each successive production, directors have made changes to the play's structure and plot, changing it into a completely different show, according to Flores.

"The most recent revival's score and book bore no resemblance to the original," Flores says. "I wanted to present the original and let that do all the talking."

The concert staging helps. Flores says it allows him to focus on the dialogue and songs with a minimal amount of blocking and dance. He says he'll preserve some of the Boulevard Theatre's intimacy by seating the audience on the SMPAC stage along with the performers. Each of the 100 seats per performance provides an up-close and personal view.

Marty McNamee, who plays Joey in Boulevard's production, says concert stagings allow actors and directors to recreate shows in the format in which they were originally developed. Focusing on the basics makes audiences do the same.

McNamee thinks *Pal Joey's* greatest merits come from its unflinching, unglamorous depiction of Joey's imperfect lifestyle, and how it affects him. He may bounce between

## BOULEVARD'S 2014-15 SEASON

*Pal Joey* is only breezing through for a weekend, but the group has much more planned for its first itinerant season. Other productions scheduled include:

**Gidion's Knot**, at the Walker's Point Center for the Arts (Oct. 3-12): This two-woman, 90-minute drama cuts deep into issues of education quality, bullying and teen suicide in its depiction of a parent-teacher conference between a grieving mother and an uncertain teacher.

**A Child's Christmas in Wales**, at Plymouth Church (Dec. 13-14): Welsh poet Dylan Thomas' romanticized retelling of a childhood Christmas will be staged as a prose-play hybrid. Also on the bill is the Plymouth Chorale performing the Robert Frost-themed song cycle *Frostiana*.

**RX**, TBD (April 10-26): A pharmaceutical farce, *RX* follows a woman who signs up for a drug trial that should make her fall in love with her job, but makes her fall for the doctor instead.

women like Vera (Diane Lane) or a naive stenographer (Alexandra Bonesho) as if he's completely immune to emotions, but McNamee says all that back-and-forth just drives home Joey's crushing loneliness.

# StageQ's 'Standards of Care' spotlights transgender issues

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Transgender issues take center stage at Madison's StageQ this month. The company opens its 2014-15 season with *Standards of Care*, a play about a therapist specializing in transgender issues whose professional and private lives collide.

It's a big step for StageQ, which is considered the premier queer theater in Madison (if not Wisconsin), yet has only produced one play with a transgender focus in its 14-year history — 2008's *Looking for Normal*. *Standards of Care* looks to be a powerful follow-up, with author Tobias Davis — himself transgender — examining the lives of two trans characters mid-transition with

humor and heart.

"My own experiences being trans affected the narrative in the sense that I like to create stories about trans people," says the Massachusetts-based Davis. "That said, neither of the trans characters in the play are particularly like me. I wanted to explore some of the nuances of different trans identities."

The two central trans characters are David (Rowan Calyx), who needs a letter from a therapist in order to pursue genital surgery, and 16-year-old Jessica (Loryn Jonelis), who's beginning to discover his own transgender identity as Jason. They're initially connected only secondhand through the play's third major character:

Nancy (Petrovinia McIntosh), David's therapist and Jason's mother. But when Nancy refuses to accept that her child could be trans, Jason visits a local LGBT center and finds a mentor in David.

The ensuing collision results in an honest exploration of some of the harsh realities members of the trans community face — not just in adapting to their new identities, but in adapting to a world that doesn't understand them. The misunderstanding world isn't limited to straight cisgender individuals, according to director Callen Harty.

"I believe that the next important civil rights battle will be for transgender rights," Harty says. "For years, even the bulk of the queer community tended to ignore the 'T' part of 'LGBT.' It has only been in the past several years that a concerted effort to understand transgender issues and incor-

porate those into civil rights struggles for all has come into the forefront."

Harty calls this production a critical one for StageQ. "As an LGBT theater group," Harty says, "I felt it was a very important project for StageQ and for Madison. I believe it moves our understanding of transgender issues forward, but it does so by showing us real characters living real lives. Parts of the play are very funny and other parts are poignant."

The lessons in the play may be especially important for the sizable cross-section of cisgender members of the gay and bisexual community who are sympathetic to transgender issues but don't really understand them. Davis' goal in crafting the play was to open the eyes of allies on both sides of the sexual orientation spectrum.

"I would like audience members to leave with a little more insight about some of the issues facing the trans community, especially surrounding mental health care and family support," Davis says. "I also want audience members to empathize with the characters — to laugh and cry with them and be touched by their stories. I think the world is lacking in compassion and theater is a place to really connect with each other's humanity."

## STAGE Q'S 2014-15 SEASON

Tobias Davis' *Standards of Care* opens a season marked by humor, music and maybe just a little heartache.

**Christmas with the Crawford** (Dec. 5-20): Just in time for the holidays, StageQ recreates the infamous 1944 Christmas Eve broadcast from Joan Crawford's California home. Numerous stars drop by to steal Crawford's limelight, including Judy Garland, Ethyl Merman and Bette Davis in her "Baby Jane" drag.

## Body Awareness (March 27-April 11):

A controversial painter of female nudes shakes up the lives of a lesbian couple hosting him in their home for a Vermont college's "body awareness" week, especially when one of the women considers posing for him.

**Queer Shorts 10** (June 12-20): Playwrights and actors come together for a variety of short plays based on LGBT themes. Fans of the series take note: This might be the last season of *Queer Shorts*.

## ON STAGE

*Standards of Care* runs Sept. 5-20 on the Evjue Stage at Madison's Bartell Theater, 113 E. Mifflin St. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for Thursdays and matinees. For more details, visit stageq.com or call 608-661-9696.



# Single prop unpacks the program of 'Suitcase Dreams'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Artists are often at their best when challenged by the limitations of a single idea, entity or concept. Such may prove to be the case with *The Suitcase Dreams*, a new and unusual collaborative performance work by Madison-based Theatre LILA.

Utilizing a single prop — a suitcase — a team of 14 actors, five writers, four designers and three musicians have created a series of vignettes that include dance, drama, music and poetry. The dozen or so scenes run from a min-

ute to 20 minutes each, and range from the absurd to the dramatic.

*The Suitcase Dreams*, which opens Sept. 18 in Promenade Hall in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, features the work of Tony Award-winning actor Karen Olivo, Madison playwright Gwendolyn Rice, UW-Stevens Point theater professor Tyler Marchant, and Theatre Lila co-artistic directors Mike Lawler and Jessica Lanius.

"This is definitely a unique project for us," says Lanius, who is directing the show.

Although scene development began with the work of individual writers, the actors

and musicians aided the creative process, Lanius says. Such cross-disciplinary collaborations have become a hallmark for Theatre LILA, which was founded in New York City in 2004 and relocated to Madison in 2013.

"The style of the piece and its vignettes lends itself to the style of theater that I tend to lean toward as a director — very collage-like," Lanius says. "The collaborative idea of having numerous writers allowed us to play pretty hard creatively. It can be

quirky, offbeat, and not so precious, and that's kind of freeing."

In addition to the performances, Theatre LILA is collaborating with area school districts to hold a series of free theater workshops conducted by Lanius and Olivo for teachers and students at Verona High School, Waunakee High School and Malcolm Shabazz City High School. Through movement and improvisation exercises, educators and students will devise their own short theater pieces inspired by the creative possibilities inherent in a suitcase.

Lanius, a Wisconsin native who spent 12 years in the New York theater scene before returning to the Midwest, gave her writers limited direction, instructing them to focus on a single suitcase prop. After four months of work, *The Suitcase Dreams* took shape and the creative team went to work.

"The process has been inspiring," Lawler says. "Jessica asked us to start by imagining a tower of suitcases. An actor pulls a case off the top and the story begins."

Many of the scenes were workshopped in early summer with Theatre LILA's Actors' Lab 360, an ensemble of theater professionals who met once a week for 10 weeks to improvise, explore and practice their craft. During the formal rehearsal process, which began Aug. 18, the writers worked with the cast to develop the final content for the production.

"It won't be finished until opening night," Lanius says. "The challenge with a new work is it keeps evolving. You keep discovering new things and adding that to the performance. It's both thrilling and terrifying."

## THEATRE LILA'S 2014-15 SEASON

In spring, the company will collaborate with Children's Theater of Madison in an original adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The production will run March 7-29 in The Playhouse at Overture Center.

Ongoing throughout the season, Theatre LILA's Actors Lab 360 will rigorously investigate and explore physical theater techniques and experimental ideas at the Madison Opera Center, 335 W. Mifflin St. The opera rehearsal space will function as a "theater gym," allowing invited actors, designers, directors and writers to work out once a week, developing new ideas and theatrical concepts.

## ON STAGE

Theatre LILA's production of *The Suitcase Dreams* runs Sept. 18-28 at Promenade Hall in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St. For more information, visit [theatrelila.com](http://theatrelila.com).



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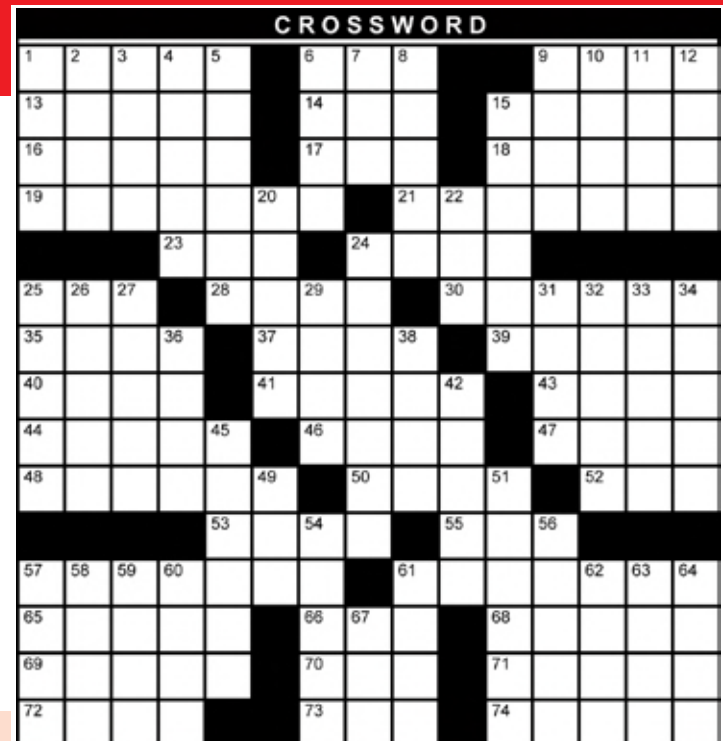
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- Ma Bell, e.g.
- Artificial leg
- Also
- Neptune's realm
- \*Team with most NFL championships
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ league
- "\_\_\_ you sure?"
- Dateless
- David Alan Grier's initials
- "I \_\_\_ the sheriff..."
- Uproar
- The Colosseum today, e.g.
- Mimicked
- Inspiration for poets and musicians
- Oscar winner and directed by Ben Affleck
- Donkey in Latin America
- All over
- Animals of a particular region
- \*Football center move
- Viscount's superior
- Start a golf hole
- \*BYU Cougars' home state
- Fleur-de-\_\_\_
- Soap bubbles
- Not decaf.
- \*Princeton opponent in what is considered first college game
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- Finno-\_\_\_ language
- Club on a card, e.g.
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- Michael Moore's hometown



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- Ear-related
- "Roll Out the Barrel" dance
- Comes in
- Used for stewing, pl.
- \*Sometimes a team goes for this after a TD
- High up
- Religious offshoot
- Legal action
- South American wood sorrels
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ Romo
- \*Part of a football cleat
- \*What players do to help fix injured joint or limb
- "I see!"
- Chest bone
- \*It includes 7 rounds
- Saintly glow, pl.
- Jig, in France
- "Moonlight Sonata," e.g.
- Highlands hillside
- Trite or hackneyed
- Wombs
- \*Sugar and Orange, e.g.

- Not to be done, especially for a baby
- Exclamation of annoyance
- Style of abstractionism popular in 1960s
- Change
- In favor of
- \*Concussion preventer
- Colorado resort
- Seeing eye dog, e.g.
- Queen Elizabeth I's neckwear
- Tangerine grapefruit hybrid
- Type of math
- Tanqueray and Bombay Sapphire, e.g.
- Extended time period
- "Leaving Las Vegas" Oscar winner
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# Out on the town *September 4 - 18*

## A curated calendar of upcoming events

### MONDO LUCHA 8 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 5

The only variety show that blends Mexican lucha libre wrestling with burlesque dancers, sideshow acts and exemplary local musicians returns to Turner Hall Ballroom. Mondo Lucha's latest Milwaukee visit is sure to offer the usual no-holds-barred fun. Indie rock group Body Futures is listed on the poster as a musical guest, but to figure out which representatives of the wrestling stable will grace the ring, you'll just have to show up. At 1040 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased at 414-286-3663 or pabsttheater.org.



PHOTO: COURTESY BARRY W. SZYMNASKI

Terror Lapinski celebrates after a Mondo Lucha victory.

### 'THE DOYLE & DEBBIE SHOW' Sept. 7 - Nov. 2

In its first show of the season, the Milwaukee Rep transforms the Stackner Cabaret into a Nashville honky-tonk dive for *The Doyle & Debbie Show*, a loving and laugh-packed parody of classic country music duos. The revue's stars are a washed-up country legend and his latest in a string of replacement Debbies. Together they'll try to make a comeback with original, hilarious tunes crossing every style of country music. At 108 E. Wells St. Tickets start at \$40. For more information, including showtimes, visit milwaukee.com or call 414-224-9490.



PHOTO: COURTESY MICHAEL BROSILOW

Michael Accardo and Erin Parker play the country duo of this honky tonk send-up.

### 'THE SEAGULL' 8 p.m. on Sept. 4-21

Cooperative Performance Milwaukee is something new for the city: a nonprofit, member-owned theater company that produces works that are picked by both artists and patrons of the cooperative. The group makes its official debut with a new production of Chekhov's *The Seagull*, adapted and directed by company co-founder Don Russell. The production is built around a question that's particularly relevant for a cooperative theater company — is art purely commercial, or does it have value of its own? At Bucketworks in Grand Avenue Mall, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., 2nd Floor. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at cooperformke.com.

### INDIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL Sept. 5-7

The first weekend in September finds the Summerfest grounds hosting its last festival of the season. Indian Summer, the largest American Indian celebration of its kind in the U.S., doubles as a Horse Nation Celebration this year, with world-renowned horse experts in attendance alongside genuine American Indian ponies and horses. The event also features a contest powwow throughout the weekend, native storytellers and dancers, and performances by Joseph Hall, the Native American Elvis. Admission is \$14, \$10 for seniors and free for children 12 and under. Visit indiansummer.org for a full schedule or more information.

### THE BLACK KEYS 8 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 9

There's no stopping The Black Keys. Ever since *Brothers* flew up the charts in 2010, the band's become one of the most important names in contemporary blues rock, and it's a reputation well-deserved. The Keys' newest LP *Turn Blue* builds on the momentum of *Brothers* and its follow-up *El Camino*, while also stretching into more psychedelic directions. Just look at the mind-bending cover for the most obvious example. The Keys roll through the BMO Harris Bradley Center this week, with Cage the Elephant opening. At 1001 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$32 to \$70, and can be purchased at 414-227-0400 or bmoharrisbradleycenter.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY DANNY CLINCH

Patrick Carney (L) and Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys.



# Out on the town September 4 - 18



'EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL' Sept. 11-14

Longing for a theatrical experience where you might get splattered with fake blood if you're close enough to the action? Good news! The Overture Center is playing host to *Evil Dead: The Musical*, a gory stage recreation of Sam Raimi's horror film franchise. The production cuts together elements from all of Raimi's films, and adds in musical numbers like "All the Men in My Life Keep Getting Killed by Candarian Demons." *Annie Get Your Gun* it's not. At 201 State St. Tickets range from \$35 to \$76, and can be purchased by phone 608-258-4141 or visiting [overturecenter.com](http://overturecenter.com).

## GLOBAL UNION 12 to 6 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 13

Alverno Presents' Global Union may be the last celebration of the summer, but at least it's an exciting one — a multicultural bonanza of performers from across the globe. This year's lineup features Brazilian electronica artist La Yegros, an "avant-Chinese-Appalachian-indie-folk-rock" band titled Wu Force, calypso diva Calypso Rose performing with the reggae fusionists of Kobo Town, and Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, a band of exiled musicians who focus on the dance music of their homeland. Admission is free. At Humboldt Park in Bay View. For more information, visit [alverno-presents.alverno.edu](http://alverno-presents.alverno.edu).



PHOTO: COURTESY WILD SPACE

## 'BREW CITY DREAMS' 8 p.m. on Sept. 11-13

Wild Space Dance Company opens its season with *Brew City Dreams*, yet another site-specific creation. This time, the company scatters itself within the century-old Schlitz Brewery Stock-House, performing vignettes to the music of local composer Tim Russell. At 235 W. Galena St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors; for \$25, you can attend a pre-show talk with photographer Peter Bialas, author of *Schlitz Brewing Art*. Call 414-271-0712 or visit [wildspacedance.org](http://wildspacedance.org) to order.

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# A curated calendar of upcoming events

## 'POWER BALLADZ'

8 p.m. on Sept. 12 & 13

This celebration of '80s-era anthems returns to the Marcus Center's Todd Wehr Theater for a second consecutive year. *Power Balladz* may not have the storyline of some retro flashback shows, but it makes up for that with interactive game show elements, *Wayne's World*-esque comedy and 90 minutes of face-melting rock, complete with guitar solos. At 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets start at \$37. Visit [marcus-center.org](http://marcus-center.org) or call 414-273-7206.



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



## FIGHTING BOB FEST

7 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 12 (Madison); 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 13 (Baraboo)

The fight against the "robber barons" lives on at the annual Fighting Bob Fest. The progressive political festival, named for "Fighting Bob" La Follette, is now in its 13th year. It kicks off with an event on Friday at the Barrymore Theater, 2090 Atwood Ave., that features appearances by U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), the Solidarity Singers and comedian Will Durst. The real thing starts the next day in Baraboo at the Sauk County Fairgrounds, where gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke will join the festivities, including break-out political education segments and additional speakers. Admission is free, although donations are accepted. Visit [fightingbobfest.org](http://fightingbobfest.org) for more details.



PHOTO: COURTESY ATOSSA SOLTANI/BANDALOO

**Bandaloo, a California dance troupe specializing in "vertical dance," will perform alongside world music.**

## MADISON WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL Sept. 12-13

The academic year springs to life with a shot of multiculturalism at the Madison World Music Festival, an annual collection of some of the world's best musical performers. This year's installment features a wide variety of performers, including Cuban jazz band Mezcla and EviscerArt, a Spanish flamenco group. They'll also be joined by the California dance troupe Bandaloo, which will perform its pioneering style of vertical dance at four shows during the festival. At the UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., and Willy Street Fair, 900 Williamson St. Admission is free. Visit [uniontheater.wisc.edu](http://uniontheater.wisc.edu) for more details and schedules.

## 'DON GIOVANNI' Sept. 13, 14 and 16

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra isn't pulling any punches with its season opener at the Marcus Center's Uihlein Hall. The orchestra presents Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni*, featuring an international cast along with conductor Edo de Waart and the MSO Chorus. Shows are at 7 p.m. on Saturday and Tuesday; 2 p.m. on Sunday. At 929 N. Water St. Tickets range from \$22 to \$102. Call 414-291-7605 or go to [mso.org](http://mso.org).



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**Alexandre-Évariste Fragonard's depiction of Don Giovanni.**

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# Out on the town *September 4 - 18*

## A curated calendar of upcoming events

### SPOON 8 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 17

Indie rock stalwart Spoon has been performing for more than 20 years under the direction of frontman Britt Daniel and drummer Jim Eno. The recent release of the band's eighth studio album *They Want My Soul* proves it hasn't lost its distinctive, minimalistic voice. That's all the more impressive given that the release is the group's first since 2010. The tour supporting the record comes to the Riverside Theater, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Wednesday night. Tickets are \$26.25. To order, call 414-286-3663 or visit [pabsttheater.org](http://pabsttheater.org).



PHOTO: COURTESY SPOON

### 'FROM HERE TO THERE: ALEC SOTH'S AMERICA' Sept. 14-Jan. 4

Contemporary photographer Alec Soth's first traveling survey arrives at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art this month. The series of more than 100 photographs depicts serendipitous narrative moments in the lives of his subjects. The exhibition explores Soth's career from 1995 to 2010, including his breakthrough series *Sleeping by the Mississippi*, a five-year project that took him up and down the Mississippi River, and his latest body of work *Broken Manual*, which depicts subjects who've retreated from civilization. The Madison presentation also includes Soth's *Lothlorien* series, commissioned by MMoCA for a 2006 exhibition and featuring images from the housing cooperative of the same name that once occupied a home on the southern shore of Lake Mendota. At 227 State St. Admission is free. For more details, visit [mmoca.org](http://mmoca.org).



PHOTO: COURTESY ALEC SOTH

"Charles, Vasa, Minnesota," considered one of Soth's best-known photos.

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