



## Holiday Gift Guide

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Shopping for your cool cats & top dogs



### 5 Immigration reform

How President Obama's executive action on immigration is playing out in Wisconsin.



### 10 Solar setback

Environmentalists are outraged at We Energies' proposal to penalize homeowners with solar panels.



### 29 Woodman's spirits

The mega-grocer has perhaps the most extensive liquor, wine and beer selection to be found in Wisconsin.



### 31 Christmas Carol

After 15 prior performances in the show, Jonathan Smoots finally gets to play Scrooge in the Rep's 'A Christmas Carol.'

# News with a twist



## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff, Matthew Reddin, Louis Weisberg

### BULLY FOR BENJY

Benjy, Ireland's so-called "gay bull," has been saved from the slaughterhouse and is destined to live out his days at an animal sanctuary in England. Hopefully near another bull. The AP reported that Sam Simon, the co-creator of *The Simpsons* and a leading supporter of animal welfare causes, helped save the Charlerois bull, who failed to impregnate any heifers and showed an attraction for another bull.

### APOCALYPSE NOW?

A poll by the Public Religion Research Institute showed that 69 percent of Americans believe there is solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer. But when pollsters asked about the cause of recent natural disasters, 49 percent blamed the biblical "end times" instead of pollution.

### OVERTIME

About one in four American workers will have to go to work this year on a holiday. Kmart and Target employees have been told that they will face being fired if they don't come in. In fact, Kmart will open its doors at 6 a.m. on

Thanksgiving Day and remain open for 42 hours. But other businesses, such as locally owned Biltrite Furniture store, a WiG advertiser, are not only giving employees Thanksgiving Day off but even closing early on the day before. Even some big-box stores are adopting employee-friendly policies, including Costco, Petco, DSW, Burlington Coat Factory, TJ Maxx, Crate & Barrel and Bed Bath & Beyond.

### BETTER NOT POUT

The right-wing Liberty Counsel already is compiling its "naughty or nice list" in its Friend or Foe Christmas Campaign. The group makes a tradition of going after companies that strive to promote diversity during the season with the use of "holiday" or the mention of Hanukkah or government entities that seek to honor separation of church and state. American Eagle Outfitters already has earned three frowning elves for using "Yule" instead of "Christmas" in a promotion. Hobby Lobby, meanwhile, has three smiling elves for, well, you know.

### SEXISM BLUES

For a year, TV host Karl Stefanovic wore the same blue suit when he appeared on the *Today* program on an Australian network. And no one seemed to notice. Stefanovic was out to prove a point: While people regularly judge women on what they wear and how they look, including his female co-host, men are generally judged on their job performance.

### NEWS FOR VLADIMIR

Apple is now worth more than Russia's stock market. The tech giant's worth has overtaken the combined value of all Russian public companies for the first time in history, Bloomberg reported. Not bad for a company with a gay CEO, hey, Missy Putin?

### REAL DISHONEST

Former megachurch pastor Mark Driscoll's book *Real Marriage* topped the hardcover advice section of *The New York Times* best-seller list in 2012. But the evangelical magazine *World* reported that the book's sales figures were driven by a consulting firm called ResultSource, which purchased books on behalf of Driscoll in a

coordinated effort to spike sales. Driscoll recently resigned from his church over the scandal. ResultSource CEO Kevin Small is a graduate of Liberty University.

### SAY 'SPAGHETTI'

A Utah woman says she didn't encounter too much hassle for wearing a strainer on her head when she posed for her driver's license photo at a Utah Division of Motor Vehicles bureau. The woman follows the satirical Flying Spaghetti Monster Church — also known as "Pastafarianism." The movement began in 2005 to protest the teaching of intelligent design in Kansas schools. Utah officials said they recognize Pastafarianism as a religion. So despite a ban on hats or headgear in license photos, colanders can be worn because they are religious garments.

### MARILYN MONROE

The Lost Archives of Marilyn Monroe, a collection of more than 200 very rare items that belonged to the timeless star, will be auctioned off during the Icons & Idols: Hollywood event to be held Dec. 5-6 at the Julien's Auctions Beverly Hills gallery. Included are love

letters written to Marilyn from husbands Arthur Miller and Joe DiMaggio — letters that the auctioneer says are worthy of a movie script.

### NOT BUYING IT

A petition on change.org is calling on Old Navy to stop charging more for plus-size women's clothing than it does for big men's apparel. More than 16,000 people signed after learning that Old Navy charges \$12-\$15 more for plus-sized women's jeans than for smaller sizes, but does not do the same for men's large-size jeans. A spokeswoman said that women's plus-sized clothing costs more because it has special features that men's apparel doesn't.

### BIG BOO-BOO

After a parent complained, school district officials in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, pulled a high school class assignment on genetics that was something of a story problem: "LaShamanda" has a "big bootie" and husband "Fontavius" has a "small bootie." So what is the probability of their baby, "LaPrincess," having "her mama's big bootie"?

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**Sandro Botticelli (and Possibly Assistant), *The Annunciation*, ca. 1490-95 (detail), Glasgow Museums; Bequeathed by Archibald McLellan, 1856 (174). © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums. Collection. Courtesy American Federation of Arts.**

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**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

DECEMBER 3 • RIVERSIDE  
**WILCO**

DECEMBER 4 • RIVERSIDE  
**CHRIS BOTTI**

DECEMBER 4 • TURNER  
**SHAKY GRAVES**

DECEMBER 5 • TURNER  
**STURGILL SIMPSON**

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DEC.10 • 11 • RIVERSIDE  
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DECEMBER 12 • RIVERSIDE  
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**LED ZEPPELIN**

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

DECEMBER 27 • TURNER  
**THE TIME LORDS' BALL**

DECEMBER 28 • TURNER  
**BRUCE IN THE USA**

3 SHOWS! DEC.29-31 • PABST  
**JIM GAFFIGAN**

NEW YEAR'S EVE  
DECEMBER 31 • TURNER  
**THE GET DOWN**

JANUARY 17 • RIVERSIDE  
**FRANK CALIENDO**

JANUARY 17 • TURNER  
**PABLOVE 6**

JANUARY 18 • PABST  
**RAILROAD EARTH**

JANUARY 19 • TURNER  
**JUKEBOX THE GHOST**

JANUARY 23 • RIVERSIDE  
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JANUARY 25 • PABST  
**GHOST HUNTERS LIVE**

JANUARY 31 • RIVERSIDE  
**HOWIE MANDEL**

FEBRUARY 1 • PABST  
**COLD WAR KIDS**

FEBRUARY 6 • TURNER  
**SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO**

FEBRUARY 7 • TURNER  
**GALACTIC**

3 SHOWS! FEBRUARY 12-21  
**TONY & TINA'S WEDDING**

FEBRUARY 13 • PABST  
**CHERUB**

FEBRUARY 14 • RIVERSIDE  
**ALTON BROWN LIVE**

FEBRUARY 15 • PABST  
**LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO**

FEBRUARY 18 • RIVERSIDE  
**SLEATER-KINNEY**

FEBRUARY 19 • PABST  
**JOSHUA RADIN**

FEBRUARY 20 • PABST  
**MILWAUKEE GOSPEL**

FEBRUARY 21 • RIVERSIDE  
**HOZIER**

FEBRUARY 26 • TURNER  
**LOTUS**

MARCH 5 • PABST  
**THE MUSICAL BOX: FOXTROT**

MARCH 8 • TURNER  
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MARCH 11 • PABST  
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MARCH 17 • PABST  
**GAELIC STORM**

MARCH 19 • PABST  
**MIKE + THE MECHANICS**

MARCH 21 • PABST  
**THE PRIESTS**

MARCH 26 • PABST  
**CELTIC THUNDER**

MARCH 27 • PABST  
**WILLY PORTER**

MARCH 27 • TURNER  
**BENJAMIN BOOKER**

MARCH 27 • RIVERSIDE  
**BRIT FLOYD**

MARCH 28 • RIVERSIDE  
**ZZ TOP**

APRIL 3 • TURNER HALL  
**EXTREME MIDGET WRESTLING FEDERATION**

APRIL 10 • 11 • PABST  
**C.S. LEWIS' THE GREAT DIVORCE**

APRIL 11 • TURNER HALL  
**TWIN SHADOW**

APRIL 23 • RIVERSIDE  
**JOE BONAMASSA**

MAY 14 • TURNER  
**MILKY CHANCE**

MAY 28 • TURNER HALL  
**MURDER BY DEATH**

JUNE 3 • RIVERSIDE  
**JOHN MELLENCAMP**

AUGUST 6 • RIVERSIDE  
**DIANA KRALL**

# Lame-duck drama

## Showdowns over immigration, Keystone XL pipeline

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

President Barack Obama came back after a massive Election Day defeat to take big leaps on climate change and decisive executive action to protect millions of immigrants from deportation.

Meanwhile, Democrats fended off a bid — led by one of their own but favoring the GOP — to approve the long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline project during the lame-duck session that ends in December.

Those involved in progressive groups, who in early November were heartbroken by election results, celebrated multiple victories later in November.

After Obama announced his immigration plan on Nov. 20, EarthJustice president Trip Van Noppen, who just days earlier had cheered the defeat of the KXL bill, said, "We applaud the president for taking steps ... to eliminate the threat of deportation for millions of immigrants who have become an intrinsic part of our communities and the nation as a whole.

"Rather than try to tear this initiative down, Congress should step up to its responsibility and enact comprehensive immigration reform for the millions of aspiring Americans whose ability to secure justice is hampered by their immigration sta-

tus. Immigrants, like many of our nation's farmworkers who will have put the food on our Thanksgiving tables, play a fundamental role in our country yet remain in the shadows."

Still, Republican leaders, who warned the president against acting on immigration before the new Congress is seated in January, complained Obama had poisoned the well.

"The president's decision to issue this executive order is a stunning act of partisanship and polarization," said U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin. "Clearly, he is more interested in playing politics than helping hard-working taxpayers. With this legally suspect and unilateral act, he has poisoned the well on what should be a bipartisan effort and brought relations with Congress to a new low."

Obama had pledged to act on immigration after the midterm election and, knowing House Republicans would refuse to act, the president on Nov. 21 signed an executive order offering relief from deportation for about 5 million people.

The night before, Obama outlined his plan in a speech to the nation and right-wing Republicans made dire predictions. U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma falsely predicted, "The country's going to go nuts,

because they're going to see it as a move outside the authority of the president, and it's going to be a very serious situation. You're going to see — hopefully not — but you could see instances of anarchy. ...You could see violence."

Later, tea party Republicans launched an effort to insert into any spending bills language barring federal spending to implement the president's policy. Such a move could lead to another partial government shutdown, something incoming Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner have said would not happen.

The president's executive action on immigration followed his achievement in reaching a landmark deal with China for both countries to cut emissions and reduce pollution.

In November, Obama also pledged \$3 billion to the United Nations Green Climate Fund, a new institution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that channels funds primarily from developed to developing countries to deal with climate change.

### NO PIPELINE — YET

Democrats, meanwhile, held back a push to pass a bill approving the Keystone XL project, which would create a pipeline system that would bring oil from the tar sands of Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Republicans and oil-beholden Democrats were maneuvering to bypass the federal review that was extended indefinitely in April, pending the outcome of a legal challenge to the project in Nebraska.

Advocates say the pipeline's construction would create jobs and reduce U.S. dependence on Middle East oil.

Opponents say the drilling is harmful, much of the oil would be exported and it the project would not create many long-term jobs.

"To talk about 50 permanent jobs as a 'jobs program' is nothing more than a cruel and misleading hoax to workers in this country who want and need decent-paying jobs," said U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont who often votes with Democrats.

The Keystone bill passed easily in the GOP-controlled House, but came up one vote short of the 60 votes needed in the Senate.

Republicans vowed to bring the bill back in the next session. With 53 or 54 seats, depending on the outcome of a runoff in Louisiana on Dec. 6, they'll have the numbers to pass the legislation, but probably will not have the 67 votes in the Senate to override a presidential veto.



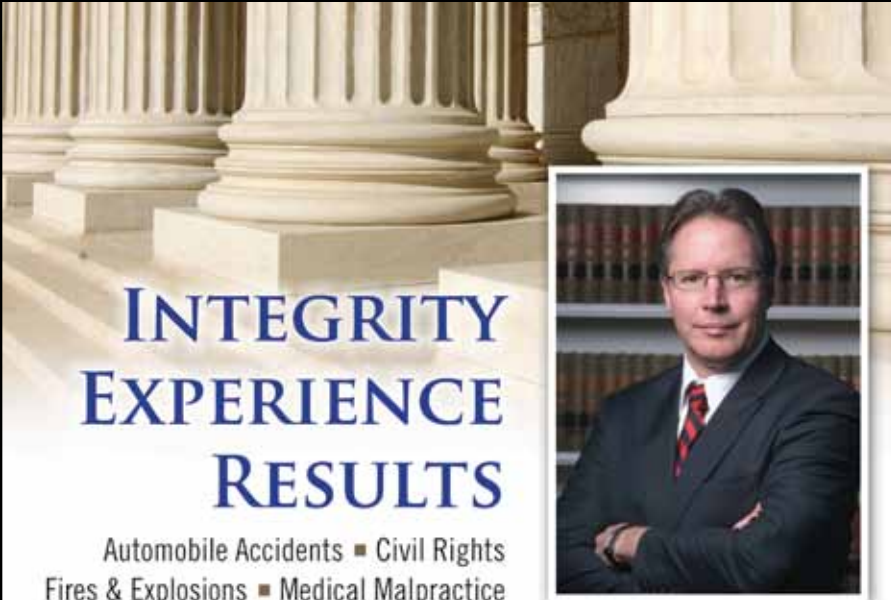
PHOTO: PETE SOUZA/WHITE HOUSE

**President Barack Obama looks over notes in the Blue Room at the White House. In mid-November, the president addressed the nation on immigration, announcing executive action to protect millions.**

### IMMIGRATION ACTION


The president's executive measures on immigration include:

- Protecting immigrant workers from deportation and making work permits eligible for about 4.1 million people who are in the United States illegally but whose children are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. To be eligible, the parents must have lived in the U.S. for five years.
- Expanding the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals program launched by the administration in 2012. The program shields from deportation minors brought to the U.S. illegally as children.
- Lowering the deportation priority for parents of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents who have been in the U.S. fewer than five years.
- Replacing the Secure Communities program that hands over people booked for local crimes to federal immigration authorities.
- Committing more resources for patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Loosening eligibility requirements for a waiver program for people seeking green cards. People who entered the U.S. illegally must leave the country for as much as 10 years before seeking a green card, unless they get a waiver.




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# How immigration reform affects Wisconsin

By Scott Bauer  
Associated Press

Things to know about how President Barack Obama's plans to shield as many as 5 million immigrants from deportation affect Wisconsin:

## HOW MANY ARE AFFECTED

The Washington, D.C.-based Migration Policy Institute reports that there were about 76,000 immigrants living illegally in Wisconsin in 2012. Of those, about 75 percent had been in the state for more than five years. Under Obama's plan, deportation protections would be extended to parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, as long as those parents have been in the country for at least five years.

## WISCONSIN'S IMMIGRANT POPULATION

The number of unauthorized immigrants in Wisconsin remained relatively flat between 2009 and 2012, according to a report released by the Pew Research Center. The report said that populations grew or decreased in 21 states over that time. Seventy-six percent of the Wisconsin immigrants were from Mexico. That ranks Wisconsin seventh highest among all 50 states in terms of percentage of unauthorized immigrants from Mexico.

**52 percent of Wisconsinites believe unauthorized immigrants working in the U.S. should be able to apply for citizenship.**

## POLITICAL REACTION

Wisconsin Democrats generally praised Obama's action, while Gov. Scott Walker called it illegal. He joined other GOP governors in calling for a lawsuit, which House Republicans filed on Nov. 21. U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, who like Walker is mulling a possible run for president in 2016, called the president's action legally suspect and a "stunning act of partisanship and polarization" that will make it more difficult to reach a bipartisan solution. Democratic U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan blamed House Republicans for not taking action, saying Obama was "using his constitutional authority to make much needed progress on this important issue."

## OTHER REACTION

Immigrant rights advocates supported the president, while the state's business and agriculture

community was more circumspect. Wisconsin Farm Bureau spokesman Casey Langan said Obama's plan was "not the comprehensive, long-term fix that agriculture is seeking." He said Wisconsin farmers need a new, flexible visa program that allows for long-term access for workers to enter the U.S. Voces de la Frontera, an advocate group, had praise for Obama's action and held informational sessions in Milwaukee to help immigrants understand what to do next.

## PUBLIC OPINION

A Marquette University Law School poll from October showed that 52 percent of respondents in Wisconsin believe unauthorized immigrants who are currently working in the U.S. should be allowed to stay in their jobs and apply for citizenship.

Twenty-four percent said they should be required to leave the country, while 20 percent said they should stay as temporary guest workers.

## WHAT'S NEXT

It's unclear how Obama's action will be carried out at the state level, given Walker's opposition. The governor's spokeswoman did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment on what steps, if any, state agencies would take in light of the president's order.



Protesters hold signs during a March 2014 protest in Milwaukee organized by the group Voces de la Frontera.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# Discover Milwaukee

with 88Nine Radio Milwaukee's  
**Stephen Kallao**

**What's your favorite thing to do in Milwaukee in the Winter?**  
My favorite thing to do in the winter is take photos. I really do cherish the changing of the seasons, and finding beauty behind the grey and white. Second favorite: Get custard, it's just as good in 10 degree weather as it is in the sweltering heat.

**What's your favorite Milwaukee destination to take an out-of-town guest?**  
It almost always ends up being the Domes. Particularly in winter it's a nice escape from the cold, and once we're done there are great sledding hills around Mitchell Park. Sledding is an underrated joy for adults.

**What are your 2 favorite bands that you can hear on 88Nine?**  
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# Obama endorses 'net neutrality'



PHOTO: ANGELA WAYE

## By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

President Barack Obama angered Republicans but delighted netroots activists when, in mid-November, he called on the Federal Communications Commission to treat broadband Internet service much as it would any other public utility.

Though he has no direct authority over FCC decisions, the president called on the agency to prohibit Internet providers from negotiating rates for faster service, a fast-lane/slow-lane concept that consumer activists say would give large companies advantages over fledgling enterprises. The FCC is believed to be close to a decision on whether broadband providers should be allowed to cut deals with content providers.

"An open Internet is essential to the American economy, and increasingly to our very way of life," Obama said in his White House statement. "By lowering the cost of launching a new idea, igniting new political movements, and bringing communities closer together, it has been one of the most significant democratizing influences the world has ever known."

He continued, "'Net neutrality' has been built into the fabric of the Internet since its creation — but it is also a principle that we cannot take for granted. We cannot allow Internet service providers to restrict the best access or to pick winners and losers in the online marketplace for services and ideas."

The president detailed what he called "bright-line rules" for a free and open Internet:

- **No blocking.** If a consumer requests access to a website or service and the content is legal, the ISP should not be permitted to block it.
- **No throttling.** ISPs should not be able to intentionally speed up some content

## ON THE WEB

For more about "net neutrality" advocacy, go to [battleforthenet.com](http://battleforthenet.com).

or slow down others — through a process often called "throttling" — based on the type of service or an ISP's preferences.

- **Increased transparency.** The connection between consumers and ISPs is not the only place some sites might get special treatment. So Obama asked the FCC, an independent entity, to "apply net neutrality rules to points of interconnection between the ISP and the rest of the Internet."

- **No paid prioritization.** The administration said, "No service should be stuck in a 'slow lane' because it does not pay a fee. That kind of gatekeeping would undermine the level playing field essential to the Internet's growth."

The president's position is in line with about 4 million people who have called on the FCC to protect net neutrality.

"This is a huge victory for millions of Americans who have called for Title II reform and a huge blow for the cable companies that seek to establish fast and slow lanes on the Internet," said David Segal, executive director of Demand Progress.

Demand Progress, along with Fight for the Future and Popular Resistance, organized a Washington, D.C., "party" outside the FCC after learning of Obama's announcement.

Other events took place in Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, New York, San Francisco and Boston.

"The Internet freedom movement has a lot to celebrate," said Holmes Wilson, co-founder of Fight for the Future. "We're closer than ever to winning real Title II net neutrality that will protect free speech on the Internet for generations to come."

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Jonathan Gillard/Daly, Photo by Michael Breslow

# Learning about commitment from gay male couples

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Milwaukee jazz pianist Tim Clausen is not in a same-sex marriage — nor does he have a long-term male partner.

But he has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the dynamics of such relationships, having conducted 103 interviews with gay men who are partnered or married. He turned the interviews into his first book, *Love Together: Longtime Male Couples on Healthy Intimacy & Communication*.

Clausen, 54, selected couples who had been together between a decade and 65 years. He founded and led the Milwaukee Gay Fathers Group from 1995 to 2004, and one couple he interviewed met via the group a dozen years ago. Otherwise, he relied heavily on social networking to find his subjects, whom he interviewed separately in order to get more candid interviews.

The men were diverse on many levels. Included in the book is Larry Duplechan, an African-American California man in a biracial marriage. He's the Lambda Literary Award-winning writer of *Blackbird*, a seminal work of gay black YA fiction. Also included is the first same-sex military couple in America to marry and a Hollywood film industry couple who met the day WWII ended.

WiG recently spoke with Clausen about the project.

**Why pursue this particular topic?** I've had a couple of longer relationships, but the whole sort of life-partner thing has remained sort of elusive. I've sometimes been mystified when I would meet certain long-term couples over time who seemed to have a good vibe. How do they get along together over decades in a harmonious way? I was interested in finding out.

**How did most of the couples find each other?** One of the questions I looked into is, "Do we choose our life partner or is that person brought to us as destiny or fate?" A lot of meet-

ings between the partners who'd been together many, many years seemed to have a serendipitous quality. Life often kind of brings us together through mysterious ways. And there's no time limit on when it can happen.

**How did you organize the book?** One of the nice things about the book is its structure. I created

ship to opening up and then going back to monogamy. There was no one-size-fits-all approach that worked for every couple.

But in every case communication around the issue was important.

**How did most of them feel about marriage?** A lot of guys thought that getting married is just a formality, but then they found going through the experience was very profound. It helped deepen the bond. After getting married, people realized how important same-sex marriage was.

**What will heterosexual couples find the most surprising about male couples?** They'll be surprised by the very open communication that male couples have, especially the freedom to talk about sex and who they find attractive. It's just assumed that straight couples will be exclusive, whether it happens or not. But gay couples as a rule talk more openly with each other about that. For gay couples, there's not a standard script handed to you about how marriage should be as you're growing up, and you kind of have to make it up and find the way that works best for you.

**What did you learn?** Some of the key themes that emerged were having as absolutely as open and honest communication as possible. Anything and everything needs to be on the table for discussion. Communication is huge.

People have real different backgrounds and experiences family-wise. One's family background might be very open and expressive: You scream and throw the crockery and five seconds later it's over with. And the other partner might have trouble learning how to communicate his feelings at all. So the first partner would have to learn how to tone down his communication style. (Many couples) had to learn that after a fight everyone still loves each other and they're going to move on together.

**Anything else?** People grow and change over time, and allowing your partner to grow and change and understanding that you grow and change also is going to make for long-term success. If you allow for personal growth and you're willing to support your partner, that's going to help your relationship succeed. About half the couples sought some sort of counseling and almost always found it helpful.

Eric and Eugene had a practice in which they had two marriages — on their 24th and 40th anniversaries. And Eric recommends that couples repeat their marriage vows out loud to each other once every quarter or six months just to reaffirm their commitment. When they'd find themselves in conflict, they'd say, "We need to go and repeat our marriage vows," and they'd find the bigger picture (again).



PHOTOS: COURTESY  
Two of the couples interviewed in the book.

## ON STAGE

Tim Clausen reads from and signs his book *Love Together: Longtime Male Couples on Healthy Intimacy & Communication* from 2-3:30 p.m. on Dec. 13, at Whitefish Bay Public Library, 5420 N Marlborough Drive.

sections by the couples' longevity.

The last couple in the book are particularly remarkable. They're from Portland, Oregon, and they'd been together just shy of 60 years when we interviewed. We continued to stay in touch after the initial interviews. Eugene (one of the men) died of congestive heart failure four days before Christmas last year. Eric (his partner) is a Buddhist teacher and is a brilliant, remarkable man. I asked Eric after Eugene passed away if he'd be open to talking about losing a partner of 60 years. We had an interview 10 days after Eugene's passing and then another interview a month later and then a third six months later, which was the day after what would have been their 61st anniversary. The book basically ends with that three-part interview.

**What sort of questions did you ask the men in the book?** It was all across the board. "How do you deal with conflict?" "Have you been to counseling together?" And, "Did you ever consider ending the relationship?" Not all of them had, but most of them had gone through difficulties at some point.

The monogamy/non-monogamy issue was a big topic. Couples ran the gamut in terms of sexual exclusivity. Many started out as totally exclusive, then opened up the relationship to being sexual together with others or separately. Couples varied from being exclusive to opening up the relation-

PHOTO: RICK WOOD  
Jazz pianist & author Tim Clausen.

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# State commission backs electric bill hikes, 'solar tax'



PHOTO: 123RF.COM

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has endorsed changes to We Energies billing that amount to a "solar tax" and punish those who seek to conserve electricity.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission voted for a rate plan submitted by We Energies that environmentalists say penalizes customers who conserve energy and jeopardizes the fledgling solar industry in southeastern Wisconsin.

"We feel like what the PSC approved for the We Energies

rate case is a huge setback for Wisconsin in the area of clean energy development," said Keith Reopelle, senior policy director for Clean Wisconsin, a statewide environmental advocacy group.

In a mid-November vote, the commission split 2-1 in approving We Energies proposed rate changes. The plan will be finalized in December and take effect in January.

The commission approved a 75-percent increase in the monthly fixed charges that residential customers see on their bills in southeastern Wisconsin and the Fox Valley area. Monthly fixed fees will go from \$9.13 to \$16. We Energies said it needs to increase the charge so all customers — large users and small users — share in maintaining the company's infrastructure.

"What we're proposing is fair rates for all our customers who use the grid," said We Energies spokeswoman Jessica Williamson, according to the AP.

As the fixed fee goes up, hourly usage rates would drop by less than a cent per kilowatt-hour.

The two commissioners who backed the increase, Phil Montgomery and Ellen Nowak, were appointed by Republican Gov. Scott Walker. The commissioner who voted no, Eric Callisto, was appointed by Democrat Jim Doyle.

"Under this decision, customers who use more will see lower bills and customers who use less will see higher bills," said Robert Kelter, senior attorney with the Environmental Law and Policy Center, a nonprofit active on conservation issues throughout the Midwest. "It sends the wrong price signals on energy efficiency because it makes it harder for customers to control their monthly bills."

## A 'SOLAR TAX'

The We Energy plan also involves billing changes for customers investing in renewable

energy systems, with a provision that existing owners of solar systems will be grandfathered for 10 years.

Under the changes, customers with renewable energy systems will pay We Energies \$3.80 per kilowatt per month, based on the size of the system. This means that a property-owner with a 4 kW solar system would pay \$182 annually to We Energies for owning that solar system.

Additionally, We Energies reduced the price credited for excess generation from the current 14 cents per kilowatt-hour to just 3 cents per kilowatt-hour.

"This decision is bad for job creation, bad for energy independence, bad for the environment and bad for customers," stated Tyler Huebner, executive director of the conservation group RENEW Wisconsin.

He continued, "Our Republican-appointed commissioners approved a new tax, killed jobs and restricted energy choice in Wisconsin."

Huebner said the commission ignored facts and a "record

RATES next page

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**RATES** from prior page

level of over 1,900 public comments" in reaching its decision on the We Energies rate changes.

And Reopelle recalled the results of a pre-election poll showing Wisconsinites overwhelmingly support more reliance and investment in clean energy, not less. "We Energies' proposal was especially egregious in terms of how it treated solar power," he said, adding that there is great potential for developing clean energy sources in the state but "the policies we have in place are not particularly friendly."

**'RAPACIOUS DEMANDS'**

We Energies is not the only Wisconsin utility seeking rate changes that involve increased fixed monthly fees and slightly lower hourly rates. The PSC voted to raise Wisconsin Public Service Corporation's fixed monthly charge to \$9, less than the \$15 that the utility asked for. As WIG went to press, a request from Madison Gas and

Electric was pending.

The regulatory decisions drove Democratic lawmakers to call for an investigation and reform of the state regulatory process and pushed Alliance for Solar Choice, a group advocating solar energy, to announce plans to sue once the We Energies plan is finalized.

Democratic state Sen. Tim Carpenter, calling for "major reform," said, "The PSC has shown that it is either unwilling or unable to protect residential customers in the face of rapacious and predatory demands of large public utility corporations. The PSC members are supposed to balance the public utilities' desire for a regulated profit with what is fair for the customers. The failure of the PSC to provide such balance is simply unacceptable."

Meanwhile, state Rep. Christine Sinicki questioned the integrity of the regulatory process in the wake of a *Capital Times* report finding that some people identified on a "Consumer

Energy Association" list as advocates of We Energies' plan didn't actually back the requests.

She said her husband "was falsely listed as a supporter" and "was not contacted by the CEA and does not support the We Energies proposal. Further, he does not support raising fixed fees on utility bills in a way that harms homeowners, seniors and clean energy development."

Sinicki characterized the CEA as a Houston-based lobbying group for the fossil fuel industry and said its list of supporters for the We Energies proposal was oddly identical to a list it submitted in support of Madison Gas and Electric's rate hike plan.

The lists were tossed in late October by an administrative law judge who determined they contained "inadequate and incorrect information."

Sinicki said she's concerned about fraud and corruption.

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# Prudential offers whole life insurance for people with HIV

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

As evidence of how far HIV treatment has progressed, The Prudential Insurance Company of America last year began offering whole life policies to people infected with the virus.

Prudential classifies the virus as a chronic, manageable condition similar to diabetes or certain heart conditions. Insurance applicants who acknowledge that they're HIV-infected are asked by Prudential to answer three questions on the application form about their current state of health as well as their treatment compliance. Like all whole life insurance applicants, people with HIV must also undergo basic lab work.

Underwriters follow up with physicians to verify that applicants have an undetectable viral load and have vigilantly maintained their course of treatment for two years, said Wauwatosa-based Prudential financial adviser Kurt Schummer.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Kurt Schummer.

Although the company began offering coverage to people with HIV late in 2013, Schummer only recently began promoting it in southeastern Wisconsin through networking and targeted advertising. He said the maximum benefit amount is \$1 million.

Milwaukee philanthropist Tim Clark, 45, commissioned the study that demonstrated the policy's financial viability. The study

entailed a comprehensive review of mortality rates among people with HIV as well as statistics related to the efficacy of new treatments, said Clark, who has lived with HIV for nine years.

"It concerned me greatly that the industry was far behind in its information on the disease," Clark said. "People (with HIV) are living for decades and should have the opportunity to plan for their futures. (HIV) isn't a death sentence, it's a chronic disease. So let's start treating it that way and bring some equality into this aspect of financial planning, which includes taking care of your loved ones when you're no longer around."

Clark, who began looking into the issue six years ago, said he went through the application process for the policy himself before recommending it to others.

"I was pleasantly surprised," he said. "I couldn't believe how simple it was."

Rates vary based on factors such as age and the value of the policy, but

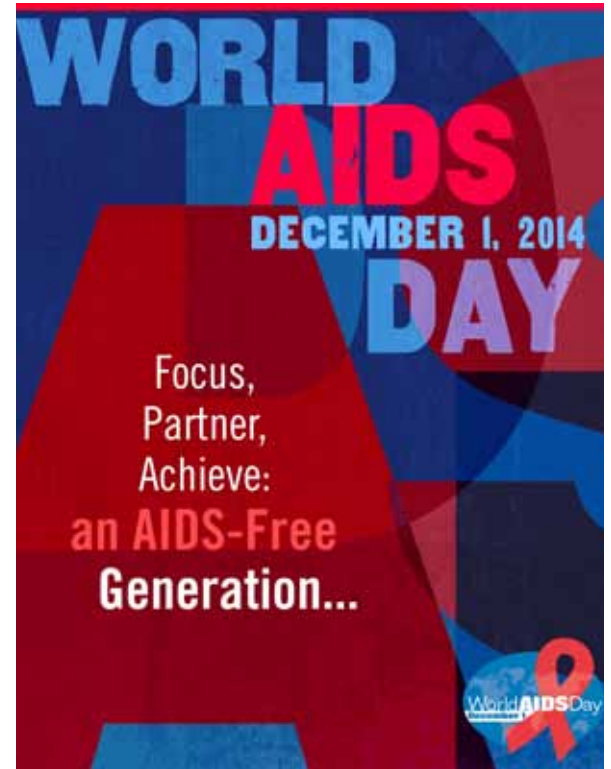
Schummer described the coverage as comparatively "affordable."

Schummer said he believes that offering the coverage positions Prudential as a "very forward-thinking" company.

"It's pretty amazing that it's taken as long as it has to get to this point, but it's another positive step," said Bill Keeton, vice president of government and public relations of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. "A lot of folks who were infected in the 2000s are still with us and doing well. It's hard to put an average life span on (people living with HIV)."

"We're happy that it's happening," Keeton added. "It means that people who are studying this stuff are finding that people with HIV aren't at too much risk for life insurance."

Thanks to ARCW's unique model of care, people in Wisconsin live longer with HIV than their counterparts in any other state, according to statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Health



and Human Services.

People buying life insurance should consult a professional adviser to determine whether whole life or

term life is more suitable for their financial circumstances.

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# Grand jury fails to indict in Ferguson case, rallies follow

## From WiG and AP reports

Thousands of people rallied in U.S. cities, passionately but peacefully protesting a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer who killed a black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri.

People led marches, waved signs and shouted chants of "hands up, don't shoot," the refrain that has become a rallying cry in protests over police killings across the country.

In Milwaukee, protesters gathered in Red Arrow Park before the decision was announced. Red Arrow is where a police officer fatally shot an unarmed Dontre Hamilton seven months ago.

The most disruptive demonstrations were in St. Louis and Oakland, California, where protesters flooded the lanes of freeways.

Activists had been planning to protest even before the nighttime announcement that Officer Darren Wilson will not be charged in the shooting death of Michael Brown.

The racially charged case in Ferguson has inflamed tensions and reignited debates over police-community relations even in cities hundreds of miles from the predominantly black St. Louis suburb. For many staging protests on Nov. 26, the shooting was personal, calling to mind other galvanizing encounters with local law enforcement.

Police departments in several major cit-

ies braced for large demonstrations with the potential for the kind of violence that marred nightly protests in Ferguson after Brown's killing. Demonstrators there vandalized police cars and buildings, hugged barricades and taunted officers with expletives on Nov. 26 while police fired smoke canisters and tear gas. Gunshots were heard on the streets and fires raged.

Police arrested 61 people in Ferguson and another 21 in St. Louis. But police elsewhere reported that gatherings were mostly peaceful.

A diverse crowd of several hundred protesters marched and chanted in St. Louis not far from the site of another police shooting, shutting down Interstate 44 for a time. A few cars got stuck in the midst of the protesters, who appeared to be leaving the vehicles alone. They chanted "hands up, don't shoot" and "black lives matter."

Groups ranging from a few dozen to a few hundred people also gathered in Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Washington, D.C., where people held up signs and chanted "justice for Michael Brown" outside the White House.

"Mike Brown is an emblem (of a movement). This country is at its boiling point," said Ethan Jury, a protester in Philadelphia, where hundreds marched downtown with a contingent of police nearby. "How many people need to die? How many black people need to die?"

In New York, the family of Eric Garner, a Staten Island man killed by a police chokehold earlier this year, joined the Rev. Al Sharpton at a speech in Harlem lamenting the grand jury's decision. Later, several hundred people who had gathered in Manhattan's Union Square marched peacefully to Times Square.

In Los Angeles, about 100 people gathered in Leimert Park, and a group of religious leaders held a small news conference demanding changes in police policies.

A group of about 200 demonstrators marched toward downtown and briefly shut down the northbound and southbound lanes of Interstate 110 in Los Angeles, according to City News Service. People stood and lay in the northbound lanes and the center divider. California Highway Patrol officers declared an unlawful assembly.

After midnight, about 100 police officers wearing riot gear fired hard foam projectiles into the ground to disperse about 50 protesters on Pico Boulevard in downtown Los Angeles.

Another group of about 30 people marched all the way to Beverly Hills, where they lay down in an intersection.

Chris Manor, with Utah Against Police Brutality, helped organize an event in Salt Lake City that attracted about 35 people.

"There are things that have affected us locally, but at the same time, it's important to show solidarity with people in other cit-

ies who are facing the very same thing that we're facing," Manor said.

At Cleveland's Public Square, at least a dozen protesters' signs referenced police shootings that have shaken the community there, including the weekend's fatal shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who had a fake gun at a Cleveland playground when officers confronted him.

In Denver, where a civil jury last month found deputies used excessive force in the death of a homeless street preacher, clergy gathered at a church to discuss the decision, and dozens of people rallied in a downtown park with a moment of silence.

## ON THE RECORD ...

"The grief and frustration of the American people is justified and understandable, especially as we struggle to address the highly polarized relationship between law enforcement and young black men. The unnecessary loss of Michael Brown's young life should urge all Americans to recommit to reconciliation during this dark time. As we reflect on the grand jury's decision, let us move toward honoring the dignity and value of Michael's life. The Brown family continues to be in my thoughts and prayers."

— U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee

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3956 N. Murray Ave. Shorewood, WI 53211

## CEO/PRINCIPAL

Leonard Sobczak  
[lsobczak@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lsobczak@wisconsin-gazette.com)

## PUBLISHER/EDITOR IN CHIEF

Louis Weisberg  
[lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com)

## SENIOR EDITOR

Lisa Neff, [lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com)

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Mark Richards  
[mrichards@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:mrichards@wisconsin-gazette.com)

## BUSINESS MANAGER/ PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Kaity Weisensel  
[kweisensel@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:kweisensel@wisconsin-gazette.com)

## GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Eric Van Egeren, Maureen M. Kane

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Matthew Reddin  
[mreddin@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:mreddin@wisconsin-gazette.com)

## COPY EDITOR

Stephen DeLeers

## SALES INFORMATION

[sales@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:sales@wisconsin-gazette.com) or call 414.961.3240

## ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Jeff Kerr, [jkerr@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:jkerr@wisconsin-gazette.com)  
Logan McDermott,  
[lmcdermott@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:lmcdermott@wisconsin-gazette.com)

## CIRCULATION MANAGER

Jake Case, [jcase@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:jcase@wisconsin-gazette.com)

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## EDITORIAL

# We must overcome voter apathy

The midterm elections and their aftermath show the extent to which our democracy is failing. In the primary races leading up to Nov. 4, a record low of only 7 percent of Americans said they had “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in Congress. Yet nearly all incumbents survived their primary challenges.

Voters’ frustration is understandable. The 113th Congress will probably end up having passed fewer bills than any in history. With partisan wrangling rather than lawmaking now the goal of our elected officials, it seems to make little difference who’s in charge.

The Nov. 4 elections further demonstrated how checked out voters are. Turnout was the lowest in 72 years, despite the \$4 billion spent on political advertising, according to Center for Responsive Politics. Of course, the advertising itself might have turned off voters. The money was spent mostly by special-interest groups on advertising that was misleading and/or focused on matters of little to no consequence.

In the aftermath of the election, political gamesmanship went winto higher gear than ever. Frustrated with gridlock and facing stronger Republican opposition in Congress, President Barack Obama issued an executive order addressing immigration reform,

which the GOP has held up for six years solely for political reasons. Republicans responded by renewing their vow to continue doing everything in their power to punish the president by holding up his appointments.

No one who watches Congress can help but conclude that our legislative branch has become a useless forum of childish egos and transparent one-upmanship rather than a forum for conducting the people’s business.

But for the one percent to whom lawmakers are actually accountable, the “gridlock” is working quite well. It maintains the status quo, which is structured to serve their interests.

In that light, voter apathy is understandable: Neither party has incentive to drain the swamp.

Still, the only way to save the government of “we the people” is to involve the people. Today’s citizens seem more interested in *Monday Night Football* than in their children’s futures. They haven’t considered the consequences of not having a responsive and responsible government, even as they live through those consequences on a daily basis. The more our quality of life erodes, the more the public binge-watches streaming video.

The only hope for change is an informed and engaged electorate, one

**For the one percent to whom lawmakers are actually accountable, the ‘gridlock’ is working quite well.**

that looks beyond political agendas and demands real solutions to our potentially apocalyptic problems — problems such as growing income inequality, a disintegrating planet, a failing educational system and the spread of radical militancy.

Make it one of your New Year’s resolutions to become informed and engaged. Rather than checking out, tune in. Search for the truth under the spin. Take some time to learn the positions of your elected officials and question them. Visit sites such as [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org) that let you know — without commentary — how your representatives vote, how different interest groups rate them and who their major donors are.

Ultimately, the greatest threats to our future are our ignorance and apathy. The good news is that we have the power to overcome both.

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— Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)

**Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace**

## ON THE RECORD

“We’re in this interesting place where we have this push by Congress for the (Keystone pipeline) at a time when the marketplace is telling us we don’t need this new oil.”

— ANTHONY SWIFT, a staff attorney for the National Resources Defense Council, quoted in “Lower crude prices challenge Keystone pipeline,” an article that appeared in *USA Today’s* website on Nov. 14.

“Understand what this project is: It is providing the ability of Canada to pump their oil, send it through our land, down to the Gulf, where it will be sold everywhere else. It doesn’t have an impact on U.S. gas prices. If my Republican friends really want to focus on what’s good for the American people in terms of job creation and lower energy costs, we should be engaging in a conversation about what are we doing to produce even more homegrown energy. I’m happy to have that conversation.”

— PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA addressing Keystone XL pipeline proponents.

“We found that, for the most part, heterosexuals are equally as supportive of legal benefits for same-sex couples as they are for heterosexual couples, but are much less supportive of public displays of affection for same-sex couples than they are for heterosexuals.”

— LONG DOAN, a Ph.D. candidate in the sociology department at Indiana University and the lead author of the study *Formal Rights and Informal Privileges for Same-Sex Couples: Evidence from a National Survey Experiment* summing up the study’s findings. The peer-reviewed study appears in the December issue of the *American Sociological Review*.

“(T)he relationship of Negroes and Democrats is truly a master-slave relationship, with the benevolent master knowing what’s best for his simple-minded darkies.”

— Nevada Assemblyman IRA HANSEN, the Republican selected to serve as his state’s next House speaker, quoted by the *Reno News Review*. Hansen stepped down after his comments went public.

“I needed football — it was just something to do, an excuse to not be at home. When I played in junior high and high school, it was a hobby. I was just trying to get away from something. That was the only reason I did it.”

— MICHAEL SAM in an interview with *GQ* magazine. The magazine chose Sam for the cover of its annual Men of the Year issue, which is available on newsstands.

## Working for peace year-round

## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

Maybe you’ve seen the hardy band at busy intersections, rain or shine, with signs urging you to “Honk for Peace!” Maybe a team of canvassers came to your door this fall asking you to vote for peace and human needs.

Or maybe you’ve heard about the “Lanterns for Peace” observance each August that marks the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan in 1945. The ceremony includes the launching of Japanese paper lanterns on the Milwaukee River from Pere Marquette Park.

These and other activities year-round are brought to you by your friends and neighbors who volunteer for Peace Action Wisconsin. In this season of peace and goodwill, how about making a commitment to peace throughout the year?

Peace Action’s annual dinner and membership meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m., Dec. 11 at Our Savior Lutheran Church,

3022 W. Wisconsin Ave. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested. Along with a good meal (veggie choice included), there will be discussion of the past year’s activities and planning for 2015. This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded activists, learn more about Peace Action and become a member.

The organization began in 1978 as Mobilization for Survival. It focused on the escalating nuclear arms race and the nuclear power industry (the scary reactor meltdown at Three Mile Island occurred in 1979). In 1999, the group was rechristened Peace Action Wisconsin due to its statewide scope and affiliation with National Peace Action.

Mitch Sandquist, 27, got involved in peace activism at UWM while earning a political science degree. Now a co-director at Peace Action, he told me about some of the group’s ongoing campaigns.

The Wisconsin Job Security Campaign is a coalition of peace, labor, faith and economic justice groups build-

ing support for the economic conversion of Wisconsin’s economy from defense contracts to production that enhances the civilian sector and community infrastructure. The Peace Voter campaign kicks in during midterm and presidential election years. It involves surveying candidates, publishing their views and canvassing neighborhoods for voter education and get-out-the vote drives. The Digital Freedom initiative focuses on ending illegal government surveillance and preserving Internet neutrality.

Peace Action members attended the Climate March in New York in September and protested at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in Georgia in November. At the Institute, the U.S. military trains foreign police forces and militias, many of which have been implicated in human rights abuses. The group also sponsored a series of lectures on international human rights and peace issues at UWM this fall.

Peace Action owns a build-

ing — the Peace Action Center — in Milwaukee’s Riverwest neighborhood. It’s a hub of activity that houses the group’s offices, meeting space for community groups and a Peace Shop where visitors can buy political buttons, bumper stickers and books. The phone number is 414-964-5158.

I’ve admired the work of Peace Action for years. We all benefit from its persistence in working hard to redirect the militaristic policies of the U.S. toward human needs and environmental sustainability.

If you, too, respect the work, consider sending a tax-deductible donation to the Peace Education Project of Peace Action Wisconsin at 1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212. To get involved, attend the Dec. 11 dinner meeting or check out the website at [www.peaceactionwi.org](http://www.peaceactionwi.org).

Celebrate the season by joining a committed band of activists who promote peace and justice the whole year round.

## The cost of doing business with Boss Vos

## Opinion

SAUL NEWTON

much an open question.

A substantial amount has been secured from team ownership, private investors and former team owner Herb Kohl. However, there will almost certainly be a need for some sort of state funding as part of a larger financing deal. Enter GOP Assembly Speaker Robin Vos.

Appearing on a Sunday morning talk show *UpFront with Mike Gousha*, Vos said, “As I said this week, having one of the Bucks new owners go and greet Barack Obama on the tarmac in the middle of the Mary Burke campaign probably wasn’t the wisest decision.”

Vos has made numerous similar statements that he will withhold state aid for the arena because of new co-owner Marc Lasry’s support for Democratic political candidates. To be clear, Lasry has never made any contribution to any Wisconsin Democrat. He is not a partisan politician. However, he has donated to national candidates, and that is enough for Vos to hold a massive develop-

ment project hostage.

Vos is threatening to hold up any public financing for a new arena as a way to send a message to Wisconsin’s business community: It’s OK for businesses to be politically involved, as long as they’re involved for Republicans.

Vos has never spoken out against Jon Hammes, the developer leading the redevelopment of the Park East freeway in Milwaukee who’s a donor to Republican candidates and conservative causes. Vos has been silent about the millions of dollars in campaign contributions made to Republicans by recipients of state aid from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Vos was only too happy to lead the charge in favor of a proposed iron ore mine in northern Wisconsin after the company donated \$700,000 to Republican candidates.

Vos’s actions are petty and disgraceful. His transparent pay-to-play politics damage Wisconsin’s image for other businesses considering expan-

sion into Wisconsin. Our business leaders deserve a better partner in state government than someone who imposes a political litmus test on all state aid to business.

The debate over plans to build a new arena in Milwaukee is understandable. The implications of the eventual plan are far reaching and will impact the city and the region for decades. There are many legitimate issues on all sides, and finding a way forward will require compromise and collaboration. There is no room for political extortion. There is no room for Vos’s petty games.

Boss Vos crossed a line. Every Milwaukee elected official, community leader, and business leader should denounce him, and his attempts to undermine Milwaukee for his own political ends.

*Saul Newton is a research assistant at the progressive advocacy group One Wisconsin Now.*

## NATIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

A federal committee, ignoring recommendations from major medical groups, is recommending against ending the ban on gay blood donors.

## Federal committee fails to recommend end on gay blood donor ban

The federal Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety Availability recently concluded that it would be reasonable to move from an outright ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men to a deferral-based policy utilizing a one-year period of abstinence from same-sex sexual activity.

"This recommendation — although nominally better than the existing policy — falls far short because it continues to stigmatize gay and bisexual men, preventing them from donating life-saving blood based solely on their sexual orientation," said David Stacy, government affairs director of the Human Rights Campaign.

The American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers and the American Association of Blood Banks have characterized the blood ban as medically and scientifically unwarranted.

The committee recommendation will be made to the Blood Products Advisory Committee, which will meet in December. That committee will in turn make recommendations to the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell.

### In other national news ...

- A **LARGE STUDY OF GAY BROTHERS** adds to evidence that genes influence men's chances of being gay. Researchers, writing in the journal *Psychological Medicine*, said the study of nearly 800 gay brothers bolsters previous evidence pointing to genes on the X chromosome. They also found evidence of influence from a gene or genes on a different chromosome.
- **WASHINGTON STATE'S** first marijuana auction brought in about \$600,000. Fireweed Farms of Prosser sold about 300 pounds of pot to state-licensed processors and retailers during the tent sale.
- The **OBAMA ADMINISTRATION** said early sign-ups on HealthCare.gov were going well, a far cry from last year's frozen computer screens and frustrated customers. An estimated 100,000 people submitted new applications during the first weekend of enrollment. Only a handful of customers managed to enroll on the first day last year.
- The **NATIONAL CENTER OF FAMILY HOMELESSNESS** says with poverty and inequality on the rise, about 2.5 million children were homeless in 2013. The center says annually one in 30 children are homeless in the United States.
- The **SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** unanimously voted in favor of a Retail Workers Bill of Rights that would require restaurants and retailers to pay four hours of wages to employees who are on call or sent home early, offer part-time workers more hours before hiring new employees, post schedules 14 days in advance and give workers extra pay for last-minute schedule changes.

— from WiG and AP reports

7,224  
MEN'S HEALTH VISITS  
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where your voice gets stronger by the numbers.

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## REGIONAL BRIEFS

**MADISON EARNS PERFECT SCORE ON LGBT EQUALITY INDEX**

The city of Madison earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's 2014 Municipal Equality Index, which looks at cities and efforts to ensure equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The average score for cities in Wisconsin was 76 out of 100 points, which was above the national average of 59, according to the HRC Foundation, which released the study in mid-November.

In the review of Wisconsin, which was limited to four cities, Green Bay scored a 54, Kenosha scored a 58, Madison scored a 100 and Milwaukee scored a 91.

The study rated cities based on 47 criteria falling under six broad categories: non-discrimination laws, relationship recognition, municipal employment policies, inclusiveness of city services, law enforcement and municipal leadership on equality.

**In other regional news ...**

• The **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** has proposed raising taxes and fees for drivers in Wisconsin by \$751 million over the next two years, including higher taxes on

gasoline and a new annual fee on those who drive fuel-efficient hybrid and electric vehicles. The budget proposal was turned over to Gov. Scott Walker just 10 days after he won re-election claiming that he'd balanced that state's budget. The taxes and fees would plug \$680 million of his nearly \$2-billion shortfall.

• **ANGELA WALKER**, running as an independent in the race for Milwaukee County Sheriff, received over 67,000 votes. That means the African American feminist and labor activist got more than 20 percent of the countywide tally — the largest vote for an independent candidate in Milwaukee County since the 1940s.

• Out **U.S. REP. MARK POCAN** of Madison swept to re-election on Nov. 4 with 224,548 votes. That's likely the highest vote total for any Democratic House candidate in any contested race in the country.

• **BLASE CUPICH** was installed as archbishop of Chicago on Nov. 18. The relatively liberal former bishop of Spokane is replacing Cardinal Francis George, the fiery conservative who's retiring as he battles cancer. The appointment to the

nation's third-largest diocese is Francis' first major mark on American Catholic leadership.

• **DONTRE HAMILTON's** family members and supporters staged a protest Nov. 20 at a tree-lighting ceremony in the Milwaukee park where Hamilton was gunned down by a white Milwaukee police officer. About 20 people held signs calling for justice as city leaders gathered to light the city and county Christmas tree in Red Arrow Park. Another protest occurred on Nov. 26, after a Missouri grand jury failed to indict a police officer in the fatal shooting of an unarmed Michael Brown in Ferguson.

• **Michigan voters** overwhelmingly rejected wolf-hunting on Nov. 4. Wisconsin animal welfare advocates are using that vote to renew their call for a ban in the state.

• The **ACLU OF WISCONSIN** and its community partners hosted about 400 high school students for the annual Youth Social Justice Forum on Nov. 19. Students gathered for workshops and other activities at the UW-Milwaukee Student Union.

• Of the **14 WISCONSIN-BASED COMPANIES**

ranked on the equality index compiled by the Human Rights Campaign, six earned perfect scores: Foley & Lardner LLP; Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance; Quarles & Brady; Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc.; Rockwell Automation, Inc.; and S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Four other companies scored 80 percent or above. Overall, the Wisconsin companies averaged a 79 percent ranking on the index.

• At least nine in **10 LGBT STUDENTS** in Wisconsin say they regularly hear "gay" used in a negative way and almost as many hear other homophobic remarks at school on a regular basis. These are two findings in the biennial National School Climate Survey released by the Gay, Straight Education Network in November. For more, go to [glsen.org](http://glsen.org).

— from *WiG* and AP reports



PHOTO: COURTESY

Jason Jenders of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and Charles Smart (not pictured) of Many Men Many Voices are listed in the "POZ 100." The recognition from the magazine *POZ* honors "unsung heroes under the age of 30 who are taking a stand against HIV/AIDS. These young leaders come from across the country — and around the world. Some are HIV positive and some are HIV negative, which seemed appropriate since everyone, regardless of their HIV status, should be encouraged to join the struggle."

## Open enrollment to purchase Health Insurance for 2015 started Nov., 15th, 2014

The penalty in 2015 for not having a qualified plan goes to \$325 or 2% of your income whichever is greater.

See if you qualify for Government Subsidies to lower your monthly premium.

If you currently have an individual plan, Open Enrollment is the time to shop the other plans that are available.

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## What's Happening at Sarah's House

All events begin at 2:00 pm, except Dec. 17 which will be 1:30 pm

### Sunday, December 7

**John Gurda** author of *One People, Many Paths: A History of Jewish Milwaukee*, and *The Making of Milwaukee* offers Reflections on Milwaukee's Jewish History.



### Sunday, December 14

**Papi Makeana** brings a touch of the tropics. He'll be singing traditional, contemporary and classic pop tunes, as well as audience requests.



### Monday, December 8

**Jews of Other Countries Series** begins as Rabbi Steve Adams of Congregation Emanu-El explores the *Jews of Down Under: Australia and New Zealand*. This series continues on the second Monday of each month thru June.

### Monday, December 1

**Rockin' Randy** brings a 50s & 60s dance party to us. Enjoy favorites such as "Sherry Baby" and "All Shook Up" with Randy's unique twist.



### Tuesday, December 9

**Easy Days Barbershop Quartet** returns. Enjoy Big Band music of the 30s and 40s. The quartet was the 2009 Land O'Lakes District Senior's Champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



### Monday, December 17

**Opera soprano Ruth Brown** has been seen in Milwaukee Opera Theatre's "Fairy Queen Fantasy" and "The Eurydice Festival."



### Sunday, December 21

Musical performance to be announced.

### Sunday, December 28

**Terry Morgenroth** returns to entertain the crowd with "Musical Memories of the 40s, 50s and 60s."

Also, remember to visit our rotating Art Gallery. Each artist's work will be on display for approximately eight weeks.



Please drive past the Health Center to the Apartments.

*Sarah Chudnow Community offers living options for older adults, with apartment living, assisted living, memory care, and sub-acute rehab. Options are available to customize your lifestyle. An elegant community with the emphasis on choice is just a phone call away.*

*Visit [sarahchudnow.org](http://sarahchudnow.org) or call Connie at 262-478-1506 to learn more.*

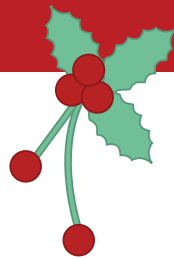




2014  
**HOLIDAY**  
Gift Guide



**Wisconsin  
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PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.



# HOLIDAY Gift Guide

By Kerrie Kennedy

Special to WiG

Finding the perfect gift is simple, as long as you have a handle on the personality types of the people on your gift list. To make this easy for you, we've compiled a glossary of some major "types," given you clues about how to identify them and developed customized shopping lists that are guaranteed to make everyone merry this holiday season.

## FOR THE FOODIE

**Clue:** Addicted to the Food Network, often quotes Julia Child.

**A top-level cooking class.** In January, two of Milwaukee's top chefs, Justin Carlisle and Thomas Hauk, will go head-to-head in a battle of the side dishes/cooking class that's sure to be a hot ticket for the foodies in your life. If you want to sweeten the pot, pick up some professional cookware as well. Cooking classes at Boelter Super Store range from \$30 to \$50, and you no longer need to be a professional chef to shop at the store (boeltersuperstore.com).

**A restaurant gift certificate.** If there's one thing gourmands love to do, it's eat — and eat well. May we suggest Centro Café, a little gem on Center Street that offers rustic Italian classics made with seasonal local ingredients (centrocaferiverwest.com) or Divino, offering classic, old-world Italian (divinomke.com). For more suggestions, check out our Dish It Out section in every issue.

**A special bottle of wine.** If you're not a wine connoisseur, stop by Pastiche Wines for some expert help. While you're there, be sure to sample a glass or two at the wine bar, half price 4–6 p.m. Monday–Thursday (patichebistroandwinebar.com).

**A cookbook.** Let your foodie friend travel through Mexico and learn authentic recipes from each region in *Mexico: The Cookbook*, by Margarita Carrillo Arronte, a stunningly illustrated tome featuring more than 700 recipes, all bound in eye-catching hot pink. \$50 at Boswell Books in Milwaukee (boswell.indiebound.com).

## FOR THE WEEKEND WARRIOR

**Clue:** Extreme downhill skateboarding is their idea of a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

**A pair of roller skates.** In case you didn't know, in-line skating went out with the '80s, but old-school roller-skating has made a major comeback. Outfit your roller derby enthusiast with a pair of Ridell R3 Deluxe Roller Skates, \$129, available at Bigfoot Bike and Skate (bigfootbikeandskate.com).

**Bikes with a bonus.** Pick up a used-but-refurbished bike for a song at Dream Bikes, a nonprofit bike store that not only finds new homes for old bikes, but helps the community by offering jobs and new skills (in bike repair) to young, never-before-employed workers.

Bikes range from \$150–\$250 at Dream Bikes (dreams-bikes.org).

**Chiropractic services.** Let's face it: Injuries come with the territory for most adventurers. The key to recovery? A good chiropractor. Pick up a gift certificate for your sports enthusiast at Riverwest Chiropractic Center (riverwestchiropractic.com).

## FOR THE BEAUTY JUNKIE

**Clue:** Counts hairstylists among their closest friends.

**Hair salon gift certificate.** It's a well-known fact that the beauty-obsessed cheat on their hair stylists with shocking regularity. So think nothing of introducing your beauty-conscious friend to some new talent with a gift certificate for hair services at Beehive Salon (beehivesalonboutique.com).

**A gift certificate for Botox/fillers.** Some people might take a gift certificate for Botox as an insult — but certain friends will treasure it as if you just gave them the fountain of youth. And in a way, you did. At the aptly named A Younger You, Botox injections run \$10/unit, fillers (Restylane, Juvederm) are \$525 a syringe (or two for \$799) and Artefill, which lasts a whopping five years, is \$800 a syringe (ayoungeryou21.com).

**A day at the spa.** Pamper the pretty prince or princess in your life with a spa package that includes an hourlong massage, facial, blowout, manicure and pedicure, and a spa lunch. The "Ritual" package, \$275, is available at Azana Salon and Spa (azanaspa.com).

## FOR THE BREW & SPIRITS CONNOISSEUR

**Clue:** Sports a beer belly; owns a fully-stocked bar cart

**A distillery tour.** At Great Lakes Distillery, Milwaukee's premier small batch distillery, a tour and tasting with a complimentary cocktail is a mere \$7, so be sure your gift includes a bottle of the distillery's artisan brandy, citrus and honey vodka or pumpkin seasonal spirits (greatlakesdistillery.com).

**Dinner at a brewery.** Next Door Brewing Company in Madison offers hand-crafted small batch beer and a wide range of seasonal, collaborative and creative brews, not to mention locally sourced and freshly made soups, sandwiches, salads, entrées, and a popular Friday Fish Fry, the perfect thing to enjoy with a pint of beer. Cheers! (nextdoorbrewing.com).

**A case of craft beer.** Pick up one of Milwaukee Brewing Company's diverse, unique, and cleverly titled brews, from Outboard to Hop Happy, Polish Moon to Booyah. Named 2014 Brewery of the Year by *Drink Me* magazine, Milwaukee Brewing Company also offers "beer in hand" tours that your brew connoisseur will surely appreciate (milwaukeebrewing.com).





### FOR THE DOTING PARENT

**Clue:** Never stops talking about cute child, dog or cat, except when watching cute child, dog or cat videos.

**Books-to-bed pajamas.** No matter how dedicated the parent, there is no time more welcome than bedtime — so what better gift than a pair of PJs and a bedtime book? Choose from *Goodnight Moon*, *Madeline*, *Angelina Ballerina*, *Babar*, or *12 Days of Christmas*; PJs come in sizes 2-6X, \$45 at the wonderfully named Little Monsters ([littlemonstersmilwaukee.com](http://littlemonstersmilwaukee.com)).

**Music lessons.** For rock stars big and small, Shorewood's School of Rock offers a multitude of lessons in guitar, keyboards, and — dare we say? — drums ([shorewood.schoolofrock.com](http://shorewood.schoolofrock.com)).

**Pet toys.** Kids aren't the only ones who love toys — pets do too! Bark n' Scratch Outpost carries a variety of wildly entertaining interactive toys for cats, dogs, even ferrets. \$10-\$50 ([barkscratchoutpost.com](http://barkscratchoutpost.com)).

**Vet services.** Keeping furry friends healthy is a priority, which is why a gift certificate to a favorite veterinarian is like catnip for pet owners. The Cat Doctor in Milwaukee, a clinic dedicated to keeping cats healthy and fit, goes so far as to make house calls when needed. And you'll find an excellent selection of cat toys, selected by people who know what cats like ([catdoctor98.com](http://catdoctor98.com)).

### FOR THE MUSIC MANIAC

**Clue:** Is cooler than you in every way; glares when you turn on Top 40 radio.

**A vinyl album.** Yes, you read that right. In this digital age, vinyl has become uber trendy, and not just as a collector's item. Audiophiles say the sound is hard to beat. The Exclusive Company, America's oldest full-line independent record store, offers a wide selection of vinyl, as well as new and pre-owned CDs, DVDs, Blu-Ray and video games ([exclusivecompany.com](http://exclusivecompany.com)).

**A guitar.** Be prepared to spend some serious money — and have some serious fun at Cream City Music, one of the world's finest guitar shops. Can't quite afford the \$1,599 price tag for a vintage 1974 Fender Fretless Precision Bass guitar? Pick up a gift certificate instead ([creamcitymusic.com](http://creamcitymusic.com)).

**Concert tickets.** Buy a pair, and perhaps you'll snag an invite. The historic Pabst Theatre in Milwaukee hosts some of the biggest names in the music industry. For a complete listing, go to [pabsttheatre.org](http://pabsttheatre.org).

### FOR THE ARTS ENTHUSIAST

**Clue:** Doesn't need to read the subtitles at the opera; on a first name basis with the artistic director of every arts institution in Wisconsin.

**'Nutcracker' tickets.** The holiday season wouldn't be complete without experiencing Milwaukee's most magical holiday tradition, the Milwaukee Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, performed live with the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra and the Milwaukee Children's Choir ([milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org)).

**'Messiah' tickets.** Celebrate the season with the power of Handel's masterpiece *Messiah* on Dec. 13 at the Stoughton Opera House ([wcoconcerts.org](http://wcoconcerts.org)).

**'A Christmas Carol' tickets.** Dickens' classic story never gets old — in fact, it's celebrating its 39th year at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Dec. 2-24 ([milwaukeekeep.com](http://milwaukeekeep.com)).

**Bel Canto Chorus tickets.** Milwaukee's celebrated chorus sings traditional holiday songs and leads a popular audience sing-along, Dec. 13-14 at St. Josaphat Basilica in Milwaukee ([belcanto.org](http://belcanto.org)).

**George Winston tickets.** There's just something about Grammy Award-winning pianist George Winston that exudes the warmth and spirit of the holidays. He performs Dec. 12 at South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center ([southmilwaukeekeep.org](http://southmilwaukeekeep.org)).

### FOR THE STYLE SETTER

**Clue:** When they aren't shopping, you'll find them at the drycleaners.

**Italian menswear.** Truly chic people recognize that Italians should be admired for their style, not their pasta. Find the spirit — as well as the merchants and menswear from ultra-chic Lucca, Italy — in Madison at Lucca Fine Men's Clothing. ([luccaclothing.com](http://luccaclothing.com)).

**Jewelry.** Diamonds are a girl's best friend — and gold is a close second. Find all of it, including colored gemstones, pearls, watches, and engraving (a must when you give a watch) at Kloiber Jewelers in Milwaukee ([kloiberjewelers.com](http://kloiberjewelers.com)).

**A cashmere sweater.** One of the rare joys of winter, a cashmere sweater combines warmth with luxury, making it perhaps the perfect holiday gift. For him, go to Harley's Menswear Store ([harleys4men.com](http://harleys4men.com)); for her, Refined Boutique ([tosarefined.com](http://tosarefined.com)).

### FOR THE DESIGN STAR

**Clue:** Secretly hoping to be named HGTV's next *Design Star*.

**An amazing candle.** The brainchild of former lawyer Jon Bresler, the Lafco Candle House & Home Collection offers fragrances for every room in your home, not to mention specialized candles for your beach home and ski house. The latter, a rich, woody fragrance, is a best-seller at Home Market Milwaukee for \$60 ([homemarketmilwaukee.com](http://homemarketmilwaukee.com)).

**A design book.** Chicago-based designer Alessandra Branca's stunning *New Classic Interiors* offers intelligent design advice that marries function, comfort and beauty. \$60 at Boswell Books in Milwaukee ([boswell.indiebound.com](http://boswell.indiebound.com)).

**A decorative accessory.** Pick up a Peruvian hand-painted glass box, coaster or tray at the global, exotic Embelezar in the Historic Third Ward, \$10-\$400 ([embelezar.com](http://embelezar.com)).





# Enjoy the holidays without weight gain

On average, Americans gain weight during the holiday season. While the gain may not be dramatic, research shows that it tends to stick and accumulate over the years. But you don't have to succumb to this progression.

"There are strategic steps to avoid holiday weight gain while still enjoying friends, family and holiday feasts," says Sonya Angelone, registered dietitian nutritionist and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokesperson.

In preparation for a big feast, don't skip meals during the day. This may result in overeating later.

"It is especially important to eat breakfast," says Angelone. "High-fiber and high-protein foods like oatmeal and milk with fruit, an egg and spinach on whole wheat toast, Greek yogurt with nuts, or nut butter on a whole-wheat English muffin will satisfy hunger without a lot of calories."

Holiday meals tend to be large or buffet-style and include second or third helpings. While most people wouldn't consider eating a whole cake, a common mistake is eating large portions of foods perceived as healthful.

To avoid overeating, use a smaller

plate. It will encourage proper portion sizes. Also, start by filling your plate with vegetables and salad before getting entrées and desserts. Research shows eating a salad before your meal can help you eat fewer calories overall. Eat slowly and savor every bite. Before you go back for seconds, wait 10 minutes to see if you really are still hungry.

Including nutrient-rich foods in your diet is great, but remember that these foods have calories too. That should be taken into consideration with your whole eating plan. Angelone adds that you should be mindful of alcohol consumption, keeping it to one or two cocktails and drinking water instead to quench your thirst.

And remember to include at least 30 minutes of physical activity into your day even during the holidays — and get the whole family involved.

Having healthful eating and exercise plans for holiday meals will help ensure success throughout the season and all year long.

For more healthy holiday tips and information, consult a registered dietitian nutritionist. To find an RDN in your area, visit [eatright.org](http://eatright.org).

— From StatePoint



PHOTO: STATEPOINT

**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JOLLY HOLLY FOLLY**

Tickets to the event are limited. Reserve yours today!

*The Nutcracker*

## The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

invites you to enjoy the wonders of the season at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual **Jolly Holly Folly!**

Signature tastings from 20+ of the Milwaukee area's finest and best-loved restaurants followed by The Milwaukee Ballet performance of Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker!*

**Thursday, December 18, 2014**  
 Marcus Center for the Performing Arts  
 929 North Water Street, Milwaukee

**For tickets and more information call: 414.225.1570**

Presenting Sponsor



PHOTO: YOXO/PLAY FROM SCRATCH

**Pack Santa's sack with recyclable and repurposed goods. Play from Scratch's YOXO kits — building sets consisting of Ys, Os and Xs — can be connected in thousands of ways and attached to stuff around the house. The toys are made with recycled wood pulp, meaning the toys are ultimately recyclable.**

**PARTISAN SHOPPER**

Some, after a long and bruising election cycle, may want to escape politics and settle in for a long winter's nap. But for those who want to infuse their holiday cheer with a dose of partisanship or progressive spirit, WiG recommends:

- BuyPartisan is an app that helps conscientious consumers make purchases, with some thought to the politics behind the goodies. After downloading and installing on a smartphone, use the app to scan a barcode on a possible purchase. The scan, using data from the Center for Responsive Politics, Sunlight Foundation and Institute for State Money in Politics, shows how employees and executives donated to political parties.
- Buycott, another barcode scanner app, can be used to trace products up the corporate ladder to their biggest parent company and provide details of political leanings and contributions.
- Buying for Equality from the Human Rights Campaign was updated in September and utilizes a hefty database that provides solid information about which companies are best on LGBT workplace issues.
- 2nd Vote is an app that identifies businesses by how well they adhere to top conservative values. Flip the script: Avoid 2nd Vote's favorites and support the lowest-scoring (aka liberal and progressive) businesses.
- 2A is an app that uses GPS and a smartphone's location to identify nearby businesses that are "2nd Amendment friendly" and encourage patrons to carry weapons. Download it to know where to avoid.

— Lisa Neff

**GREENING THE HOLIDAYS**

The arrival of Black Friday brings on the frenzy: Buy, wrap, waste; then buy more, wrap more, waste more.

So WiG invited a dozen leaders of local, state and national environmental groups — from Audubon Society and Sierra Club chapters to the national Keep America Beautiful — to offer tips to brighten the green in the red and green season. The consensus:

- Those reusable tote bags aren't just for groceries. Use them when shopping for gifts. And use them instead of wrapping paper when giving gifts. Another wrapping paper alternative — fabrics or newsprint.
- If using mail-order shipping, ask the seller — or shipping company — to pack items with paper rather than polystyrene packing peanuts.
- There need not be shame in second-hand. WiG came across a certified pre-owned iPad Mini for under \$200 at Gazelle.com and big discounts on unused gift cards at GiftCardGranny.com.
- For holiday hellos, consider sending e-greetings or reduce the amount of paper by sending postcards instead of greeting cards inside envelopes.
  - When decorating, look for natural ornaments (pine cones, shells, dried flowers, berries) and recycled curios (glass, wood, metals, fabrics) rather than items made of non-biodegradable plastics or manufactured using petroleum-based products.
  - LED holiday lights use less energy than incandescent bulbs. And there are eco-friendly alternatives to burning paraffin candles.
- Recycle the Christmas tree. If your community doesn't recycle trees, use the bulk of the tree for firewood and use the branches for mulch under acid-loving bushes and shrubs, such as evergreens and rhododendrons.
- Recycle electronics. Don't trash broken or unwanted appliances and electronics or old batteries. Hold onto them to take to an e-scrap collection. And trade smaller items at ecoATM kiosks at shopping malls for cash or coupons.
- Donate rather than discard items. When new gifts replace working but old possessions, donate them to a charitable cause or give them away. Check out the Freecycle Network at freecycle.org.

— Lisa Neff






PHOTO: COURTESY



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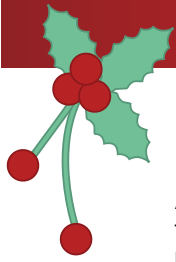






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# Deck the tables with oversized gift books

As self-purchases, coffee table books may seem like pricey indulgences, but as gifts they're an easy way to please a connoisseur, hobbyist or wannabe.

Usually image-driven, often encyclopedic, coffee table books come in all sorts of genres for all sorts of people. Consider ...

## MUSIC

**The Rolling Stones**, edited by Reuel Golden, brief foreword by former President Bill Clinton. If it's large-scale satisfaction you crave for your superfan, this 13-by-13-inch tome will do the trick at 522 pages of images, with limited text. Photographers David Bailey, Peter Beard, Cecil Beaton, Bob Bonis, Anton Corbijn, Annie Leibovitz and Helmut Newton are among the contributors, with a few Linda McCartney-shot images thrown in. Taschen, \$150.

**Jimmy Page**, by Jimmy Page. This visual autobiography by the Led Zeppelin guitarist travels from his days as a choirboy to this promise at the end: "It might get louder." It includes the work of rock photographers, and personal and tour memorabilia in 512 pages. Genesis Publications, \$60.

**All the Songs: The Story Behind Every Beatles Release**, by Jean-Michel Guesdon and Philippe Margotin, consulting editor Scott Freiman. As if there's anything more for the truly obsessed, this 672-pager drills

down to the genesis and production of 213 Beatles songs released in less than a decade, with photos and breakout factoids for fanatics. Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, \$50.

## POP CULTURE

**The Art of Discovery**, by Jeff Vespa, edited by Robin Bronk. This volume features more than 100 celebrity portraits (Jessica Chastain, Shailene Woodley, Jared Leto, Seth Rogan) and quotes in 216 pages describing important moments in their lives. A portion of proceeds will go to support the arts advocacy programs of The Creative Coalition. Rizzoli, \$45.

**The World of PostSecret**, by Frank Warren. It's been 10 years since Warren first asked people to anonymously send him handmade postcards with their deepest secrets. Since, he's received more than 1 million, traveling the world to talk about his project and lending them to museums. This is his sixth book of postcards (288 pages) and might be his last as he contemplates turning over the project to someone new. William Morrow, \$29.99.



**Don Martin: Three Decades of His Greatest Works**, foreword by Nick Meglin. Martin gathers more than 200 cartoons from his days as Mad magazine's "maddest artist." There's an abundance of color work, along with a selection of his posters and portraits. Running Press, \$30.

## FASHION

**Joe Eula: Master of Twentieth-Century Fashion Illustration**, introduction by Cathy Horyn, image curation by Melisa Gosnell and Dagon James. This book is an odyssey in sketches by the legendary fashion illustrator Joe Eula. He was there for Yves Saint Laurent's first Dior show in 1958 and, over five decades, also worked as a costume designer, stage director and creative director at Halston. Quotes culled from interviews are included. Harper Design, \$85.

**Study of Pose**, by Steven Sebring and Coco Rocha. Rocha, a dancer-turned-supermodel, is known as the "Queen of Pose" in fashion. Here she strikes 1,000 of them for the photographer, filmmaker and digital innovator Sebring. Each page is one numbered black-and-white photo showing Rocha in a simple dancer's leotard and tights. And she did it inside Sebring's famous "Rig," an igloo-like contraption fitted with 100 cameras that shot her from numerous perspectives, all of which will be included in a companion app. Harper Design, \$60.

**Cartier in the 20th Century**, by Margaret Young-Sánchez, Pierre Rainero, Stefano Papi, Janet Zapata, Martin Chapman and Michael Hall. A glamorous and droolworthy 272-page history organized by theme in text and photos, with archival shots of Elizabeth Taylor and various royalty. In a slip box from

The Vendome Press, in association with the Denver Art Museum, \$75.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Vivian Maier: A Photographer Found**, by John Maloof and Marvin Heiferman. The authors present more than 235 full-color and black-and-white images shot by the mysterious nanny photographer who is also the subject of a documentary film, *Finding Vivian Maier*. Maier's street and travel photography was discovered and her life reconstructed through interviews and the 150,000 images she had saved. Harper Design, \$80.

**Camera Crazy**, by Christopher D. Salyers and Buzz Poole. The cutesy history and specs of toy and novelty cameras, a term that generally spans simple plastic box cameras with fixed focus, limited aperture settings and a single shutter speed. Prestel, \$29.95.



## OUTDOORS

**Rainforest**, text by Lewis Blackwell. From aerial to macro, leading nature photographers — new work by Tim Flack included — bring the rainforest alive from Peru to Borneo. With attitude. "Destroying rainforest for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to cook a meal," the book opens. Abrams, \$60.

**The Gardener's Garden**, introduction by garden designer Madison Cox. In 480 pages, more than 250 private and public gardens around the world are covered. Each is shown in full color from several angles with detailed text covering their history and plantings. Organized geographically for gardens on five continents and 45 countries, from a 15th-century specimen in Japan to Versailles. Phaidon, \$79.95.

— from WIG and AP reports

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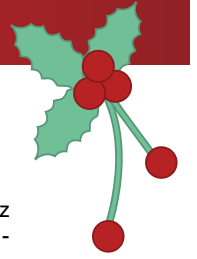
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# Oy vey! Does Hanukkah wannabe Christmas?

By Beth J. Harpaz

AP writer

Christmas has Elf on the Shelf. Now Hanukkah has Mensch on a Bench — not to mention Maccabee on the Mantel.

Christmas has gingerbread houses; Manischewitz sells Chanukah House kits, using cookie dough with blue-and-white icing.

These are just a few of the Hanukkah-themed products inspired by Christmas traditions and toys. Pinterest and Etsy are loaded with blue-and-white Hanukkah crafts like wreaths and stockings. There are Hanukkah greeting cards, cookie cutters, and even tree ornaments shaped like the three symbols — Stars of David, menorahs and dreidels — that scream “Hanukkah!” amid a sea of holiday merchandise adorned with Christmas trees and Santas.

You can also buy a \$285, 6-foot Menorah Tree, shaped like a candelabra, with pine garlands wrapped around each of the menorah’s nine candle-holders.

Some may say “Oy vey!” to all this kitschy retooling of Christ-

mas stuff for Jewish consumers. But others, like Rabbi Evan Moffic of Congregation Solel in suburban Chicago, ask, “Why not?”

He sees the crossover trend as part of how Jews “embrace the larger culture.” Moffic points out that even dreidels, the traditional spinning tops, were borrowed from German culture.

Latkes are a crossover tradition too. They’re made from potatoes, which were abundant in Eastern Europe, where millions of Jews lived for centuries.

“What most of us think of as Jewish food was borrowed from all the different countries Jews lived in Eastern Europe,” said Ted Merwin, a Dickinson College professor who’s writing a book about the history of Jewish delis called “Pastrami on Rye.” “I don’t know why people think that when Jews come to America we would stop taking from the surrounding culture.”

Merwin says the Hanukkah-Christmas crossover products are “driven by high rates of intermarriage between Jews and Christians, but some of it is simply the reality” of living as a minority in a

multicultural society.

Dianne Ashton, a Rowan University professor and author of “Hanukkah in America,” says Jews began giving gifts at Hanukkah to show they had joined America’s consumer culture. “For immigrants in the early 20th century on the Lower East Side, buying presents for your kids showed you weren’t a greenhorn, and it also showed that you had earned enough money and had a few pennies extra.”

The custom of “Hanukkah bushes” instead of Christmas trees emerged in the 1950s, Ashton said, along with postwar suburban life.

“You were no longer Jews living in urban ethnic enclaves where everybody was Jewish,” Ashton explained. “Here children were much more exposed to what their gentile peers were doing and how their neighbors’ houses were decorated.”

Neal Hoffman created Mensch on a Bench last year after his son asked for Elf on the Shelf, the doll that watches kids’ behavior so Santa knows whether they deserve Christmas presents. Hoffman is

Jewish, his wife is Catholic, but they’re raising their children Jewish. He raised \$22,000 on Kickstarter for a prototype Mensch last year, and is producing 50,000 units for sale this year in retailers like Target and Toys “R” Us.

But Mensch on a Bench is different from Elf on the Shelf: Kids can’t touch the elf, but the mensch “is an old Jewish guy” designed to be played with like any doll, Hoffman said. It comes with a guidebook for family activities for each of Hanukkah’s eight nights, including collecting presents for others in need.

Other Hanukkah toys that echo Elf on the Shelf include Kippah Kantor and Maccabee on the Mantel. The Maccabee doll comes with a book that tells the Hanukkah story, in which a band of Jewish soldiers called Maccabees defeated the Syrians, who had tried to force their Jewish subjects to give up their religion.

The Manischewitz Company — best known for selling Passover matzo — launched Chanukah House kits in 2012. “We want to give families a fun activity to do,” said spokeswoman Sara Stomer.

Manischewitz hosts a competition on Facebook for the best-decorated house, with a \$2,000 first prize.

Harbor Sweets, a small, New England handcrafted-chocolate company, started selling Hanukkah gift boxes decorated with menorahs in response to customer demand.

“Christmas-celebrating customers do not want to leave out their friends or clients who celebrated Hanukkah, and requested that the company make a specific gift box,” explained Harbor Sweets owner Phyllis Leblanc.

One of Merwin’s favorite examples of the blurring of the two holidays is a children’s book, “How Murray Saved Christmas,” a rhyming spoof of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas.” Murray, a deli owner, fills in for Santa and gets the toys delivered even though he smells like pickles and can’t remember the reindeer names.

“It’s a brilliant parody,” said Merwin.

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# Shopping Madison's unique retail districts

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Although small in area, Madison has a number of distinct neighborhood shopping districts that offer a variety of retail experiences. Gifts for hard-to-please friends and relatives can often be found in the most unlikely places, provided you know where to look.

## STATE STREET

Students, style and more

Few Madison byways are as well known as State Street, the mile-long pedestrian mall that connects Wisconsin's Capitol with UW-Madison. This commercial corridor, which hosted some 35,000 revelers for Freakfest last Halloween, is a popular destination for its bars, restaurants and specialty shops.

As might be expected, State Street businesses skew toward the younger, liberal college crowd, but shoppers can find higher-end establishments as well.

**The Soap Opera**, 319 State St., offers a comprehensive selection of hard-to-find bath and beauty products. Owned by out couple Chuck Bauer and Chuck Beckwith, the shop has everything from terra cotta foot scrubbers made by a women-owned cooperative in Pakistan to Opie's Goats, organic goat's milk soap produced on a farm outside of Beloit (soapopera.com).

The Soap Opera also is the place to stock up on tub toys, including rubber duck cowboys. Create your own production of "Brokeduck Mountain."

Once you've cleaned up you might want to don some new duds for upcoming holiday parties. A visit to **Jazzman Clothing**, 340 State St., can put you in a stylish state of mind. From classic to casual to contemporary couture, Jazzman emphasizes style and service, along with belts, shoes and a wide range of accessories.

Jazzman also offers the Nixon line of wristwatches, which have everything to do with style and nothing to do with the late president. (Visit Jazzman on Facebook.)

Top off your haute couture shopping with a new chapeau at **Sacred Feather**, 417 State St., which one online fan described as "the best hat store in the world." The business, which Tony Badame started some 30 years ago as a craft store in a former State Street residence, quickly got its head into hats. It's the place to go for authentic fedoras, bowlers, berets and top hats.

Sacred Feather also offers leather goods, and its staff will hand-cut a belt to your specifications — and let you choose your own buckle to boot (sacred-feather.myshopify.com).

For women's clothing, check out **Bop**, 222 W. Gorham St., the only brick-and-mor-

**MADISON** next page



PHOTO: JOEY REUTEMAN

A portion of the State Street shopping corridor in downtown Madison.

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**MADISON** from prior page

tar outlet for the wildly successful online retailer shopbop.com. In a world of \$200 denim you won't find many bargains in this small shop just off State Street. But Bop does stock hard-to-find labels that might otherwise demand a trip to Chicago or some other major metro area.

You can also trot over to **Madison Sole**, 414 State St., for one of the city's best shoe selections, with top casual and dress wear. The emphasis is on women's shoes, but the store also has a men's section.

For clever stocking stuffers, visit **Little Luxuries**, 230 State St., for items like French hairclips, hand-woven socks and other useful novelties. We're especially fond of Rewined, large wine-scented votive candles made from recycled wine bottles, and Madison Candle Co.'s "Seasons in the Sand" series of scented soy-wax candles in small jars coated with sand harvested from across the country (littleluxuriesmadison.com).

The **Madison Museum of Contemporary Art Museum Store**, 227 State St., offers a wide selection of artisan-made jewelry, scarves and art-themed household items. It also has what may be Madison's only retail selection of handcrafted glass items by artist Dale Chihuly, a Madison alumnus. You may need several credit cards (mmoca.org/shop).

**MONROE STREET**

*Chic design on a cozy scale*

Stretching from Camp Randall Stadium to the UW Arboretum, Monroe Street is the main artery for one of Madison's older near West Side neighborhoods. It's also a vibrant shopping district — the mile-plus-long stretch has become Gallery and Design Central for the city.

**Hue Art Gallery**, 1934 Monroe St., emphasizes affordable art produced by local and regional artists, as well as paintings, prints, photography, ceramics, sculpture, glass, furniture, jewelry and vintage architectural objects for the home (shopmonroestreet.com/hueartgallery).

**Janus Galleries**, 2701 Monroe St., Ste. 100, features more than 1,500 paintings and works on paper spanning four centuries (www.janusgalleries.com). **Milward Farrell Fine Arts**, 2701 Monroe St., Ste. 200, has two- and three-dimensional works from artists nationwide (milwardfarrellfineart.com).

**Monroe Street Antiques**, 2606 Monroe St., and **Spirals Antiques and Interiors**, 1843 Monroe St., offer a variety of antiques and collectables. **Calabash Gifts**, 2608 Monroe St., and **Art Gecko**, 1725 Monroe St., offer unique interior designs items and artifacts from around the world (shopmonroestreet.com/Calabash and artgeckoshop.blogspot.com).

For the kid and kid at heart on your gift list, **Capitol City Comics**, 1910 Monroe St., offers new and collectable Marvel and DC comics (capitolcitycomiccon.com).

Next door, **Strictly Discs**, 1900 Monroe St., features new and used music CDs in many genres, including collectable and hard-to-find discs (strictlydiscs.com).

And a shopping trip to Monroe Street

wouldn't be complete without a visit to **Orange Tree Imports**, 1721 Monroe St., one of the Midwest's best kitchen gear and gadget stores for more than 35 years. The store also has toys, food, cutlery, cards and other surprises (orangetreeimports.com).

**WILLIAMSON/ATWOOD**

*Peace out, dude!*

Think Haight/Ashbury in its prime, but wrapped in a small town neighborhood ambience. Connected by a right turn at Schenk's Corners, north-south Willy Street and east-west Atwood Avenue cover several miles of bars, restaurants and shops in a near East Side neighborhood known for its diversity and sense of community. A patchwork of several neighborhoods, each featuring its own summer fair, this area and its shops have more funk per square foot than anywhere else in the city.

Hemp was considered purely utilitarian until people discovered it was more fun to smoke than to make into rope. But at **Hemp-en Goods**, hemp products still abound. From clothing and bags to body care products and even belts made from recycled bicycle tire inner tubes and hemp, this mail-order-only business shows what a versatile weed, um, weed really is (hempengoods.com).

For a woman's perspective on sex and your next jar of Nipple Nibbler, visit **A Woman's Touch Sexuality Resource Center**, 302 S. Livingston St. Owned and operated by social worker/sex educator Ellen Barnard and physician/organic farmer Myrtle Wilhite, the store offers counseling and answers questions about sexuality for women. It also carries adult toys, erotica, garter belts, party games and other unique stocking stuffers (sexualityresources.com).

If there's a vinyl fan on your list, you'll have a field day at **Sugar Shack Records**, 2301 Atwood Ave. Owner Gary Feest offers new and used music, movies and memorabilia spanning decades of pop culture. Looking for some rare Pink Floyd or the latest from local punk-klezmer band Yid Vicious? Chances are you'll find it at Sugar Shack.

**Cosmic Delights**, 2334 Atwood Ave., offers "tools and treasures for today's techno-shaman." Owned by Andrew and Luna Lynn Frey, the store offers candles, oils, incense, jewelry, visionary art and crystal singing bowls. Luna Lynn is a sacred sound oracle who uses sound techniques — including those crystal bowls — to put customers in touch with their inner divinity. Say what? (cosmicdelights.com).

Speaking divinity, few substances are more sacred than chocolate, and few temples to the cacao bean more divine than **Gail Ambrosius Chocolates**, 2086 Atwood Ave. Ambrosius, named one of North America's 10 top chocolatiers by *Dessert Professional* magazine, creates wonderful single-origin dark chocolate confections that blend flavors from around the world. Favorite truffle flavors include sea salt and caramel, chipotle pepper and a variety of liquor- and tea-infused bites (gailambrosius.com).

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# DisH\*it Out!

## Pairing holiday foods and wine

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

When pairing wine with food, most hosts and hostesses know that red goes with red meat and white pairs with fish.

But what if you're serving an appetizer of oysters, a plate of porcini risotto or a cache of special chocolates? How do you choose the best pairings when there's no deceased animal flesh to guide you?

Pairing wine and food is a lot like pairing different dishes, or ingredients in a recipe. Look for contrasts and complements, so the wine and food work together to enhance each other and hide shortfalls.

Following are some suggestions to guide you:

- Watch your weight, as well as that of your wine and food. Full-bodied wines with flavors that won't be overwhelmed by gravy best accompany rich, heavy foods.
- Pair complementary flavor intensities, like a pinot noir's bright berry character with roast duckling. Balance is the key.
- Make sure the wine's level of acidity complements the flavor and fattiness of the food so it can serve as a palate cleanser.
- Always serve wine as sweet or sweeter than the food it accompanies. Sweet wine

can also help tame rich, indulgent foods like foie gras.

- If all else fails, remember that almost everything goes with Champagne.

Those suggestions hinge, of course, on how well you know the wines in your market. The casual host can consider the following classic matches.

### APPETIZERS

Serving rich patés or foie gras? Consider a riesling or pinot gris with a good blend of fruit and acidity.

Serving shrimp or shellfish? A French chablis or lightly oaked chardonnay provides sufficient flavor and backbone.

And nothing suits oysters like Champagne.

### ENTREES

Most people match turkey with white wine, which is fine if the wine is rich and full like a premium California chardonnay. But turkey is a heavier meal, requiring a robust wine, and a lean bird as well, so tannins must be kept in check. A bountiful beaujolais, powerful pinot noir or even a zesty zinfandel works well.

If you're serving goose or duck, both high-



fat birds, make sure that you've saved some of the riesling and pinot gris from the foie gras. Either will provide good service.

Speaking of robust foods, roast beef and even venison are often holiday favorites, and few meats bring as strong a flavor palate. Powerful reds, including wines from France's Burgundy and Bordeaux regions, are called for here. A top-flight cabernet sauvignon also pairs wonderfully with either.

Stepping outside the norm and serving seafood? Try matching an elegant fresh salmon with a light red, such as a pinot noir. The wine's fresh berry taste offers a surprising complement, and its natural acidity helps tame the fish's strong flavor and cleanses the palate between bites.

Vegetarian dishes are becoming more common at holiday gatherings. Generally, they're lighter in body and flavor density, meaning a light red or a zesty white may offer the best match for meat-free entrees.

### THE CHEESE COURSE

A well-considered cheese platter is a delightful accompaniment to any holiday gathering. But it can be challenging when it comes to pairing with wine. Cheeses come in a wide variety of flavors and textures, many of them clinging, cloying and on a col-

lision course with most robust, high-tannin red wines.

Cheese is best accompanied by dessert wines like vintages ports and sherrys, or crisp white wines such as New Zealand sauvignon blancs, chilled California chardonnays or white wines from Burgundy. The wine's acidity cuts the cheese's strong flavors and helps dissolve the debris accumulation on the palate while delivering fresh fruit flavors that broaden the tasting experience.

### AND, OF COURSE, DESSERTS

When it comes to desserts, sweet almost always rules the palate. The same is true of dessert wines. There are wonderfully fruity and fragrant ice wines, which are from grapes harvested after freezing on the vine, which concentrates the natural sugars. Also great with desserts are elegant old ports — fortified wines with full, rich palates and enhanced alcoholic horsepower.

And those tasty chocolates? A vintage tawny port has the sophistication, as well as a drier palate to complement the candy. For something lighter and brighter, a fine muscat can also do the trick. Even a robust red goes especially well with dark chocolate.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

# Woodman's spirits department rising

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

The assignment seemed simple: Sample and report on organic beers. In Madison, that should be as easy as falling off a barstool, right?

But despite the city's locavore overload and love for all things organic, the anticipated organic-grain tipple proved elusive. Organic ingredients are expensive and those used in making beer — especially hops — are not easily available.

At Willy Street Co-op, I was only able to find a six-pack of Organic E.S.B. from Milwaukee's Lakefront Brewery. (Lakefront has since discontinued the brand.) At Madison's Whole Foods outlet, the organic selection was limited to a single brand of organic from U.K. brewer Samuel Smith, sold in individual bottles.

But if there are more organic beers in Madison, then Woodman's likely has them. At Woodman's West, my family's neighborhood grocery store, we found — scattered among the 6,000 other brands and varieties — Lakefront Organic E.S.B. and a half-dozen different Samuel Smith organics.

This seemingly oversized number is not mere hops hyperbole. In addition to featuring some of the lowest prices on beer in the area, Woodman's carries just about every brand available in the Wisconsin

and Illinois markets where its 15 stores are located. (Next spring, a 16th Woodman's is set to open in Eau Claire.)

In addition to the 6,000 beers, Woodman's West's liquor store carries about 6,000 liquor brands and between 8,000 and 9,000 different wines, according to manager Mark Okey.

The store's recent expansion into what used to be the video department increased its footprint to 14,000 square feet — 3,000 square feet more than Woodman's average. That makes it the chain's largest liquor store.

"The craft beer aisle is where it's happening," said Okey, who has worked for 27 years for the Janesville-based chain, family owned since its founding in 1919. "I've got 40 linear feet of craft beer cooler space that's going to increase to 48 linear feet after the New Year, because we just can't keep up with the new brands."

The majority of brands are the same from store to store, but each liquor department is given license to bring in locally produced and available specialty beers and other products to serve the tastes of area shoppers.

In craft-beer-centric Madison, that includes a diverse and comprehensive collection. While craft beer may be the store's

**WOODMAN'S** next page

One of Woodman's extensive liquor racks, holding thousands of brands.



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**WOODMAN'S** from prior page

most vibrant section, liquor and wine also hold their own, Okey says. Despite the country's economic swings, interest in premium brands is growing greater every day, he says.

Okey says he tries to offer what's popular in area bars and restaurants, "where most people go to try new things." Even younger consumers go to Woodman's looking for high-end cordials and other items they've sampled in establishments around town.

"At first the sticker shock may get them," says Okey, pointing to a bottle of St-Germain, a French artisanal liqueur made from freshly hand-picked elderflower blossoms. It's become a popular cocktail ingredient, despite its \$32.99 shelf price.

"But even when I point out less expensive substitute brands they always seem to go for the originals."

The same dynamic characterizes the wine section, which offers a revolving selection of domestic and imported wines.



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The store has its own versions of used be known as "Two-buck Chucks," a reference to selections from California's Charles Shaw Winery that originally sold at Trader Joe's for \$2 each. Woodman's offers a variety in the three-for-\$10 range, but that's not where the action is, Okey says.

Instead, he says, "I sell an awful lot of cabernet sauvignons in the \$60-to-\$100 per bottle range."

The store recently reintroduced its limited selection of upscale wines, located in a locked box near the checkout counter. Customers can impress their friends by serving either La Muse Red or Le Désir from Sonoma County's Vérité winery for a mere \$369.99 per bottle. (The average price nationally, according to wine-searcher.com, is \$391 each.)

Interest in high-priced, small-batch bourbon at \$30-to-\$50 per bottle also is on the rise, while purchases of high-end, single-malt scotch continues to decline. Any locally produced spirits, whether from Madison's Yahara Bay Distillery, Milwaukee's Great Lakes Distillery or 45th Parallel Distillery in far away New Richmond, are guaranteed to attract a following.

But the state's love affair with brandy continues, Okey says. Wisconsin consumes more brandy per capita than any other state, although Okey says tastes dif-

**Wisconsin consumes more brandy than any other state, although tastes differ from city to city.**

fer from city to city.

"In Appleton, Aristocrat Brandy is the largest seller," he explains. "But I don't even stock it because I can't give it away here."

In Madison, favorite brandy brands include Christian Brothers, E&J and Paul Masson. But the top seller is — and probably always will be — Korbel.

"We sell more Korbel Brandy than any store anywhere else," Okey says. "Our Korbel rep tells us that we are the center of the distillery's universe."

Thanks to Woodman's wide selection and low prices, that may be true of other brands as well.



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# WIGOUT!

## Jonathan Smoots finally gets Scrooged at the Rep



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

**Jonathan Smoots, right foreground, plays Mr. Fezziwig in the Rep's 2013 version of *A Christmas Carol*. He'll upgrade to the role of Scrooge for the first time this year.**

**By Matthew Reddin**

*Staff writer*

It's common for Milwaukee Rep actors to shuffle through various roles in the company's annual production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, but Jonathan Smoots has taken it to a new level.

Smoots has been the gravedigger, a chorus director and a philanthropic solicitor. He's portrayed Mr. Fezziwig, Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas past and present.

About the only roles he's missed, he says, are Bob Cratchit, nephew Fred and Old Joe, the pawnbroker of Christmas Future. And Scrooge.

But that's about to change. After participating in 15 productions of *A Christmas Carol* and understudying the role for a decade, Smoots will finally don the humbug's night-shirt this year.

Smoots has technically played "a" Scrooge before, taking on the role of Young Scrooge in 1981, in both his first Rep *Christmas Carol* and his first Rep show. At the time, the role was a one-off, with Smoots playing roles in a handful of other productions that season. Then he made only occasional appearances with the company until 1998, when yet another *Christmas Carol* brought him back to the Rep. He's been in *Carol* almost every

season since, drawing closer and closer to the role he's desired for years.

"I love the story so much," Smoots says. "I love the character. There are not many characters where you can bring all your dramatic abilities to playing the role honestly, and then in the last fifth of the play you get to use all your comedy skills."

He hoped to get the role during the 2012 season, when Aaron Posner was announced as the new director for the production. He even reached out to Posner directly to pitch himself as Scrooge. But being new to the Rep, Posner instead decided to work with someone he already knew: Christopher Donahue, who played Scrooge that year and in 2013.

But Smoots got another opportunity this year when Donahue said he wasn't returning for a third year as Scrooge. "He told me, 'I'm not one of those actors who can repeat a role year after year after year. It's just not in me,'" Smoots says. He acted fast, reaching out to Posner and artistic director Mark Clements about the role the same day, even before Donahue had a chance to inform them himself. The Rep didn't make the decision on the spot, but by this spring, Smoots knew he'd be the next actor to play Scrooge on the Pabst stage.

Then Smoots had to figure out what sort

of Scrooge he is.

Every year, the *Christmas Carol* understudies perform an understudy run, and in 2013 Smoots says he found himself unusually unsettled, playing the character differently in every scene. "Over the years, it fell out of focus for me, because it seemed unlikely that I was ever going to go on," he says. "I lost the drive and the urge to zero in on something specific and consistent, a real character."

So this year Smoots hit the reset button. He went back to read the original Dickens novella — much of which is preserved in the language of the Rep's adaptation, co-written by former artistic director Joseph Hanreddy and Edward Morgan — and worked on keeping his interpretation of Scrooge simple and honest.

Doing so has led him to new interpretations of Scrooge's journey, especially in the play's second half, when he reflects on the present world and the potential future that lies ahead. Smoots says his Scrooge realizes he lived his life poorly as early as the end of Act I, making the second act all about learning that he still has the ability to change his ways — and the lives of those around him.

He's worked with Posner on changes to the script that better support that thesis. For instance, it's always bugged him that the

play's final scenes seem to give the impression that it's simply seeing himself dead in the future that inspires Scrooge's change in behavior.

Smoots explains: "We're all going to die. That shouldn't be a surprise. ... It's not his death that shocks him to say, 'I can make a change; I will make a change.' It's Tiny Tim. It's Bob Cratchit. It's giving that little boy who came to his office a coin. It's the full realization that life can be so much more, and so much fuller."

The simplest example says it all. In prior productions, Smoots says, Scrooge wakes up after the spirits' visitations shouting, "The time before me is my own! I'm alive! Alive!"

But back in the original Dickens, and now in the Rep's production, the sentiment is more complex, and more moving: "The time before me is my own — to make amends."

### ON STAGE

The Milwaukee Rep's production of *A Christmas Carol* runs Dec. 2-24, at the Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St. Tickets range from \$25 to \$85 (subject to change) and can be purchased at 414-224-9490 or milwaukeerep.com.

# John Oliver says the joke's the thing

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

No one was more surprised than John Oliver at the world's reaction to his take-down of the Miss America Pageant, specifically its claim of providing millions in academic scholarships for women. Women's scholarship funds such as the Society of Women Engineers received a major bump in both donations and website visits thanks to Oliver's satirical treatment of the pageant.

After proving that Miss America organizers massively inflate their scholarship payouts, Oliver issued a call for action: Donate to groups such as SWE "if you want to change the fact that currently the biggest scholarship program exclusively for women in America requires you to be unmarried with a mint-condition uterus and also rewards working knowledge of buttocks-adhesive technology," he urged.

His listeners did. The organization received \$25,000 — that's 15 percent of its regular annual donations — in just two days. Traffic to the group's website more than doubled in page views over the prior week, and social media activity jumped by nearly 2,000 percent, according to an SWE spokeswoman.

That's an impact Oliver didn't have in his last job, as the "British correspondent" on Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show*. He took

aim at the pageant from behind his desk as host of HBO's *Last Week Tonight*, a weekly comedy news program. *Last Week Tonight* fits the mold pioneered by Stewart and fellow former *Daily Show* colleague Stephen Colbert's *The Colbert Report*, but Oliver has a more frenetic style and a greater sense of the absurd.

His YouTube videos, which receive millions of hits, bear this out. For example, check out his show's "Why Is This Still a Thing?" segments on YouTube. In less than three minutes, the Emmy and Writers Guild Award-winning comic skewers everything from Columbus Day to Ayn Rand to net neutrality.

Oliver, whose appearance at Madison's Orpheum Theatre on Dec. 7 is sold-out, took timeout from his current tour to speak with WiG about the nexus of news and humor.

**What it was like growing up in the U.K. and what experiences helped make you a successful comedian?** Growing up in the U.K. was everything that you imagine it to be. All British people are born orphans, and we have to join a pick-pocketing gang by the time we are 6 years old. Until then, we spend most of our time cleaning chimneys and charismatically breaking into song at inopportune moments.

Honestly, the most useful experience



PHOTO: HBO

John Oliver, who's made the jump from *Daily Show* correspondent to late-night comedy host in his own right, will appear at a sold-out Orpheum show on Dec. 7 in Madison.

you have when you start off in comedy is relentless failure. When you're performing comedy, you are forged in the crucible of failure. And I was forged hot and hard for many years.

**When did you know you were funny?** I always liked making people laugh. I found as a child that being funny was a much easier way to impress people than by presenting any kind of tangible skill. I still can't quite believe I get to do this for a living, to be honest. It's amazing.

**Are there comedians you consider role models?** I loved Peter Cook, Monty Python and Armando Iannucci growing up. Richard Pryor was my favorite stand-up. As a role model, Jon Stewart has definitely been the most formative influence that I've had. In terms of comedy, he basically taught me how to walk.

**One of the most interesting cultural syntheses we've seen has been the blend of comedy and news broadcasting, such as *Last Week Tonight*. Is there value to this hybrid beyond its obvious entertainment capabilities?** I don't know. I'm only really interested in the entertainment capabilities of comedy. It's hard enough to worry just about that. We're just trying to make the funniest, most interesting show that we can.

***Last Week Tonight* has distinguished itself by actually stimulating change, like in the case of the Miss America pageant. Did you ever expect such an outcome, or is it the result of some unlikely circumstances coming together with the right emphasis at the right time?** With Miss America we thought there was something both horrify-

ing and inherently ridiculous about their scholarship claims. We thought that was worth exploring, and our research team went to work frantically pulling tax forms. As for "stimulating change," I'm pretty sure regarding Miss America we have stimulated no change whatsoever.

**What type of research do you and your team do in preparing an episode of *Last Week Tonight*?** We do a great deal of research — more than you might reasonably assume. We also rigorously fact-check everything, because there's no point joking about something if that joke is built on sand. The whole premise just falls apart. Our production team holds themselves to very high standards, and I couldn't be prouder of them.

**Will you be consciously aiming for targets similar to Miss America in the future?** We're working on a few subjects for next year already, but it's probably best not to mention any of them this early on.

**What is comedy's role in society, other than entertainment?** Again, I really don't concern myself with anything other than the entertainment value. My main worry is that when I get to the end of a joke, there is a laugh. If there's silence, then I'm in tangible trouble.

**What can audience members who attend your shows in Madison and elsewhere expect?** It'll be like *Cirque du Soleil*, if *Cirque du Soleil* was all based around a relatively stationary man talking out loud for an hour or so.

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# Shakey Graves builds on DIY folk skills



PHOTO: BIG HASSLE

Shakey Graves' folk music defies description, earning him accolades from critics and peers.

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

It's not easy to impress the alternative music community with something they haven't seen before, but a kick drum made out of an old suitcase might qualify. So might the man behind that unique instrument, Shakey Graves, who made a memorable impression on the scene in 2011 with his raw vocals, acoustic guitar skills and that suitcase drum.

Since then, Graves has become a mainstay in his hometown of Austin, Texas. He released his debut album in 2011, *Roll the Bones*, a blend of blues and folk music that reveals a passion and talent that commands attention. NPR named him one of 10 artists music fans "should have known" in 2012 and his newest album, *And the War Came*, is further cementing his position as a rising indie star.

Born Alejandro Rose-Garcia, Graves grew up in Austin, where his parents were a part of Austin's arts community. His father managed the Paramount Theater and his mother was an actress, writer and director. Both encouraged their son's talents, initially in the realm of acting. As a teenager, he appeared in *Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over* and *Material Girls* and he booked a recurring role in the TV series *Friday Night Lights* in 2007.

But Graves would ultimately fall in with the New York anti-folk scene that had nurtured the career of a young Regina

Spektor, turning his focus toward performance. The pivotal moment came when the artist moved to Los Angeles and saw a performance by one-man band Bob Log III. Shortly thereafter, Graves began to perform under his stage name, and it didn't take long for audiences to fall under his spell.

His latest solo album shakes off the one-man band approach, adding in other musicians, including vocalist Esme Patterson of the band Paper Bird, and was recorded at Graves' home with producer Chris Boosadha. Discussing the album, Graves says, "The concepts for the songs are a little bigger. This is not the 'Mr. Folk,

## ON STAGE

Milwaukee's Turner Hall Ballroom, 1040 N. Fourth St., will host Shakey Graves Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. Singer-songwriter Sean Rowe and Esme Patterson will appear as special guests. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 day-of-show, and can be purchased at 414-286-3663 or pabsttheater.org.

Hobo Mountain' album — it's more of the Cyborg Shakey Graves. It's definitely the next step in the staircase." Released on indie label Dualtone, *And the War Came* broke into the top 50 of the national album chart.

The sound of Shakey Graves' music defies easy description. He has clear ties to folk music and alternative country, but the songs and performances don't fit comfortably and clearly in either genre. There are moments of bracing rock guitar and howling vocals that echo the work of blues greats. And, making them especially memorable, many songs feature a catchy pop melody threaded through everything else.

Although only in his 20s, Shakey Graves feels like a well-seasoned performer in concert, with a disarming stage presence and banter that can charm even the most skeptical crowds. He's added a drummer and additional guitar player to his set, although many songs are performed solo. He's also brought along Patterson, and their duets are considered the best moments of his concerts.

Graves' reputation among fellow musicians and industry insiders is quickly rising. Earlier this year, he was named Best Acoustic Guitarist at the Austin Music Awards and he received a nomination as Musician of the Year. He was rated as one of the key performers to see at this year's South By Southwest festival in Austin.

If you think that Mumford and Sons or the Lumineers are all that the recent rebirth of folk music has to offer, let Shakey Graves change your mind.

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## ART GAZE — MILWAUKEE

# Drink pink at The Pitch Project in Walker's Point

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

The neutral white of The Pitch Project's main gallery space is bathed in a wash of pink light. A couple of camping tents are pitched in the corners, kitted out with sleeping bags and other sundry outdoor necessities. Off to one side, a pedestal holds a

monument of Busch Light beer cans. On the walls, photographs show 20-somethings frolicking outdoors in the summer, guzzling beer and cuddling a scruffy cat.

Has camp culture gone campy? In this exhibition, called *LIT UP*, it is humorous and insular, filled with deadpan irony. The artistic duo behind the installation, known

as Gurl Don't Be Dumb, includes Brooklyn-based Jamie Steel and Eileen Mueller, a Milwaukee native now living in Chicago. Establishing GDBD in 2011, the pair has engaged in a variety of curatorial projects, and *LIT UP* represents a new direction in their collaborative work, but it's consistent with their established playfulness and humor.

The inspiration for this exhibition, which was originally presented as a one-night show at Forever & Always Projects in Chicago, goes back to a 2013 residency at ACRE (Artists' Cooperative Residency and Exhibition) in rural Steuben, Wisconsin. The end result is a sort of play on stereotypes, particularly dudes who use nature as a drinking venue. As the artists describe in their exhibition notes, "This is your Styrofoam cooler emitting a soft pink glow, this is your moonlight skinny-dip *LIT UP*."

A video in the front gallery brings the combination of camaraderie and bravado together. The artists are nonchalant behind sunglasses, sitting in plastic chairs opposite each other in a grassy clearing. They throw plastic darts at each others' feet, taking three shots at a time, and then a guy clambers in to collect the darts to be thrown again. The point of the lackadaisical dart game becomes apparent when one punctures a can of beer on the ground, shifting gears into a drinking game in which beer is sucked down from the pierced opening. With a stomp and a squash of the nearly empty can, the video ends.

In another gallery, a pop-up shop offers prints, accouterments and "schwag" from earlier exhibitions curated by Gurl Don't Be Dumb. The humor and self-referential irony are scaled down to more easily portable sizes and price points.

*LIT UP* is a playful exhibition, one that absorbs and deflects heavy-handed seriousness. It may suggest questions about frayed stereotypes and gender, but is also about a manner of fun. If there are statements to be made, they come through under the haze of a soft glow rather than direct glare.

*LIT UP: Gurl Don't Be Dumb* continues through Jan. 17 at The Pitch Project, 706 S. Fifth St., Milwaukee.



PHOTO: COURTESY KAT MURRELL

*LIT UP* continues at The Pitch Project in Walker's Point through Jan. 17.

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## FINAL EXAMS

The university semester is winding down, making this a great time to visit area campuses to catch exhibitions before they close. Not to worry, these won't be on the final.

## VITAL TECHNOLOGY

Through Dec. 6

If you're interested in contemporary art with a digital twist, do not miss this exhibition. Nathaniel Stern and Bryan Cera present solo and collaborative installations that engage the viewer in a variety of sensory experiences, including sound and movement. The underlying question of the exhibition is a meditation on how technology influences our actions. This is a happy collaboration between people and machine.

At Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design's Frederick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee.

## VISUALIZING SOVEREIGNTY

Through Dec. 12

This exhibition opens a discussion about Native American culture in the context of the 21st century, asking how traditional stories and customs are preserved in the rush of modern life and what is the impact of European influence on character and socioeconomic structures. There are a number of striking pieces in this exhibition, particularly the paintings by Bunky Echo-Hawk, who deftly uses pop culture references and aesthetics to open up questions about Native American identity and acceptance.

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## ART GAZE — MADISON

## New music venues not needed for city

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

To the delight of music fans, two new concert venues a few blocks from each other have been proposed for Madison. But do we need either?

City planning documents say "no."

While the City of Madison has long identified a need for various performance facilities, big indoor concert venues are not among them. And that's just what these venues are: big. The first, part of a larger mixed-use development on the 1000 block of East Washington Avenue would seat 2,000 to 2,500, according to Madison-based concert promoter Stone House Development and Frank Productions. The other, being constructed by promoter and Madison native Toffer Christensen's Brooklyn-based company T Presents, is a similar mixed-use development on East Washington's 800 block that would seat 1,500.

By contrast, the city's largest current performance spaces are Overture Hall (2,251 seats), Orpheum Theatre (1,730 seats), Wisconsin Union Theater (1,165 seats) and Capitol Theater (1,089 seats).

But two specific reports question the benefits of those proposed venues, espe-

cially in the middle of residential neighborhoods. Madison's 2013 Cultural Plan, a 102-page document compiled over four years by the Madison Arts Commission, and a supplementary 98-page Performing Arts Study commissioned by the mayor's office both recommended the city focus on creating spaces very different from either proposed venue.

Both planning documents stress that cultural spaces should be spread across the city, including among four extant cultural districts identified in the Cultural Plan. Instead, the two proposed facilities fall in the western portion of the Williamson Street/Atwood Avenue district, almost within the adjacent Lower UW-Madison Campus/Downtown district, where most existing venues are located. Facilities are more keenly needed in South Madison and regions without neighborhood centers already.

Dedicated concert venues are also the wrong type of cultural building to create, according to the reports. The Performing Arts Study specifically observes that, citywide, "while there is some demand for new performance space (of 400 seats and smaller), the greatest need is for rehearsal, production, meeting, administration and

storage space." Even were the proposed spaces within the size parameters requested by the report, they fail to qualify under the Performing Arts Study's further recommendation that new performance facilities serve "multiple functions with diverse technical requirements."

The Cultural Plan echoes these same sentiments, adding that Madison's greatest performance venue needs are a permanent festival area and an outdoor concert venue.

On the other hand, the Performing Arts Study also includes a note that could be viewed as a slim mandate for building the large facilities. It suggests that new audiences for events will have to come from outside the city, so from an economic development standpoint, "one might conclude that one of the few (growth) strategies available to Madison is the establishment of a new, regional or national destination."

Meanwhile, the underutilized Dane County Memorial Coliseum in South Madison has variable arena seating for more than 10,000. It's the subject of a recently announced \$300,000 update study to make it more popular with promoters and the community.

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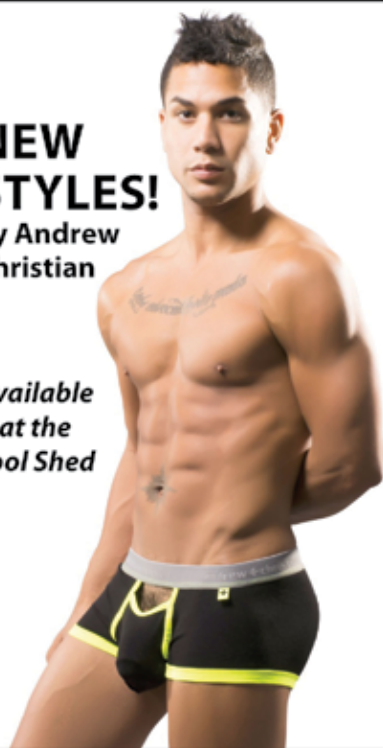
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### TURNER HALL RESTAURANT REOPENING

The new owners of the restaurant at Turner Hall Ballroom have resurrected the formerly shuttered venue, with an increased focus on its proximity to the BMO Harris Bradley Center across the street. The Ole' Turner Hall Restaurant, now managed by the owners of nearby sports bar Major Goolsby's, will be tailoring its hours to revolve around events at the arena, largely open during the evening weekdays and all day on weekends to coincide with sports and entertainment events. The menu will be inspired by other pub eateries around town, including Goolsby's. More details and hours can be found at [turnerhallrestaurant.com](http://turnerhallrestaurant.com).

### BILLBOARD TO INCLUDE STREAMS, DIGITAL SALES

The music industry tracker Billboard will update its Billboard 200 chart to include streaming and digital track sales, beginning on Dec. 3. The move from a sales-based ranking is meant to provide a more comprehensive sense of popularity, with acts whose streaming and digital

song sales outperform physical album sales set to benefit most. The change is the biggest update since 1991, when Nielsen's point-of-sale data was added to measure sales.

The move comes shortly after several music acts, including Taylor Swift and Jason Aldean, pulled tunes from the streaming service Spotify, citing unfair compensation of artists.

### RINGLING SHED IN BARABOO GETS RENOVATION

Contractors have completed a more than \$1 million renovation of a circus building that once housed train cars in Baraboo before the "Greatest Show On Earth" was taken across the country. The \$1.2 million upgrade to the Ringling Bros. train shed is finished after nearly a decade of planning and execution.

Crews replaced almost 300 windows, installed fire hydrants, updated electric wiring and upgraded nearby roads to prepare the 105-year-old building for its eventual opening to Circus World Museum visitors.

The 600-foot-long shed is the longest wooden railroad

structure in America, according to museum officials, and was where the Ringling's 80-plus railroad cars were repaired and repainted during the winter. Circus World has been restoring the shed for the past nine years, beginning the final phase this fall. The museum hopes to eventually incorporate displays that highlight the role the shed played in the Ringling Circus' national success.

### 'QUEEN LATIFAH' AXED AFTER 2 SEASONS

*The Queen Latifah Show* will be ending after this season. The daytime talk show was launched in fall 2013 and found a so-so reception in its freshman year. This season it named a new executive producer and reaffirmed its motivational, upbeat elements. Queen Latifah vowed to be "more loose, more playful, more fun, more provocative," but it didn't work, with viewership dropping in the sophomore season.

The 44-year-old singer-actress will next star in an HBO biopic of blues legend Bessie Smith.

### BOBBLEHEAD LOVERS LOOK TO CROWDSOURCE MILWAUKEE MUSEUM

Miller Park is the place best known for bobbleheads in Milwaukee, but if two locals have their way, a bobblehead museum will take its place in the next few years. Phil Sklar and Brad Novak have launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$250,000 for a National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum, which they hope to open in downtown Milwaukee in 2016. The museum would feature a collection of more than 3,000 bobbleheads, as well as rotating exhibits about the history of bobbleheads. The campaign has raised a little more than \$3,000, but will run through Jan. 17, 2015.



— From WiG and AP reports

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# Shakespeare: In 120 minutes or less



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

**UW-Whitewater alumni Marcus Truschinski, Chase Stoeger, Chris Klopatek, and Rick Pendzich perform an astonishing array of Shakespeare characters.**

**By Anne Siegel**

*Contributing writer*

Alas, poor Shakespeare! You thought you knew him well ... and then came a merry band of pranksters to ruffle your refined sensibilities. That's what happens in the uproarious *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]*.

Other local companies have staged *The Complete Works*. Theatergoers may recall the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's production in 2012.

But each production delivers its own brand of lunacy, and the current production, staged by Milwaukee Chamber Theatre in the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, is no exception.

The show's simple premise is that four bored guys whip through all of Shakespeare's 37 plays in about two hours. They commit to this mission while standing in a home's unfinished basement. It is partitioned by bed sheets hung from a clothesline, "sewn" together by safety pins, which serves as the show's curtain.

Given that the holidays are drawing near, the guys adorn their basement (and the ceiling above the audience's heads) with glittering Christmas tree lights. They add a bit of holiday flair to the songs as well.

Just behind the actors sits a set of band instruments, including a guitar, drums, keyboard, etc. The actors also function as the show's band when they're not acting.

But it's the show's script, not the songs, that draw the most laughs. Audience participation is part of the fun. Be aware that those who volunteer also become targets for the pranksters' humorous jabs.

To make things easier for the actors' memories, all volunteers — female and male — are told to respond to the name "Judy." This is not just because "Mary" is overused, it's a sly reference to the musical playing just down the hallway from the Studio Theatre — the Skylight Music Theater's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The best of these references is undoubtedly a drawn-out "I'm melting" sequence by *Hamlet's* Olivia.

The players' madcap antics give new meaning to the phrase "over the top." Kudos for the troupe's success belong equally to each member: Chris Klopatek, Rick Pendzich, Chase Stoeger and Marcus Truschinski.

Although all of Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies and histories are briefly mentioned, the most popular plays get more stage time. In the wacky treatment of *Romeo and Juliet*, Romeo drinks his poison from a Green Bay Packers plastic drinking cup.

One of the best "adaptations" of a Shakespeare tragedy is the show's version of *Titus Andronicus*. It's done as a TV cooking show called *The Gory Gourmet*. Those with weak stomachs will be spared further details.

The show features a seemingly endless supply of plausible props that one might find in any basement. Like little kids who "put on a show" for relatives at Christmas or Hanukkah, the pranksters repurpose the stuff around them. A Christmas tree skirt, for instance, becomes a maiden's frock. Old toys, such as a hobbyhorse and child-sized cowboy hat, are put to new and unusual uses, and mop heads serve as some of the wigs for "female" characters. A personal favorite is an old vacuum hose that is used as the asp to kill Rick Pendzich's Cleopatra.

The holidays are a time for festivity, and one cannot imagine a more festive atmosphere than the one created by the cast of *The Complete Works*. This hard-working cast, under the direction of Ray Jivoff, pulls out all the stops to create a sidesplitting experience.

## ON STAGE

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's production of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]* continues at the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, through Dec. 14. Tickets are \$15-\$40 with senior and student discounts available. Phone 414-276-8842 or visit [chamber-theatre.com](http://chamber-theatre.com).



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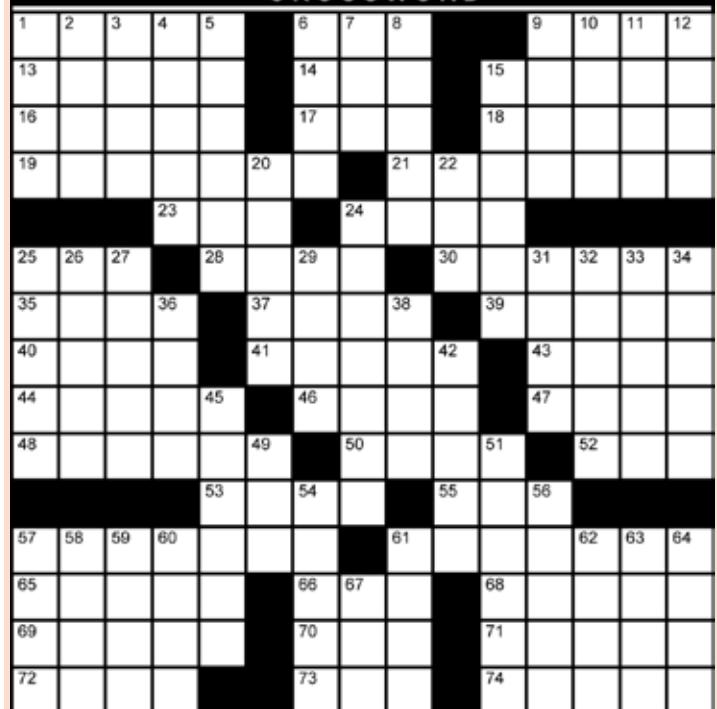
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### ACROSS

1. Fictional elephant
6. Comprised or embodied
9. Attention grabber
13. Swelling
14. Possess
15. Corner joint
16. Moth-\_\_\_\_\_
17. Mauna \_\_\_\_, Hawaii
18. Be theatrical
19. \*He arrived with a puff of smoke?
21. \_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_, 1992 Tom Cruise movie
23. \*Former Haiti President, "Baby \_\_\_" Duvalier
24. To clean corn
25. Goon
28. Redecorate, e.g.
30. Vandalizing a car
35. Donkey sound
37. Push for something
39. "\_\_\_ de Lammermoor"
40. Fit of shivering
41. \*He annexed most of Crimea
43. C in COGS
44. Food-grinding tooth
46. Spanish surrealist Joan
47. MCL spot
48. Sung before games
50. Suggestive of supernatural
52. \*Kim Yo Jong to Kim Jong Un

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53. Praise or glorify
  55. Mercator projection, e.g.
  57. \*"Wizard of Omaha"
  61. \*Head of Her Majesty's Government
  65. Tear jerker
  66. ET's craft
  68. Shade of violet
  69. Rosie's connector
  70. It's collapsible in NBA
  71. Audience's approval
  72. Donald and Ivana, e.g.
  73. Clinton \_\_\_ Rodham
  74. \_\_\_ of film, pl.
- DOWN**
1. Bone to pick
  2. Jewish month
  3. \_\_\_-carotene
  4. Change, as in U.S. Constitution
  5. Resentment
  6. Stir fry pans
  7. Leave speechless
  8. Big mess
  9. Extra long stable cotton
  10. Stash in the hold
  11. \_\_\_ good example
  12. Deuce topper
  15. \*German Chancellor
  20. Freeze over
  22. Query
  24. With bound limbs
  25. \*Leader of the Free World?
  26. Ar on Periodic Table
  27. *The \_\_\_ in Our Stars*
  29. \_\_\_ set, in a band
  31. Exclamation for disgust
  32. Religious paintings
  33. Japanese-American
  34. \*One of biggest philanthropists in the world
  36. Uh-huh
  38. De Valera's land
  42. Marilyn Monroe's original given name
  45. Give in to pressure
  49. Dojo turf
  51. Cry like an animal
  54. 180 on a road
  56. \*Begin and Sadat signed a \_\_\_ treaty in '78
  57. Drill
  58. Type of operating system
  59. \*James Monroe: U.S. President number \_\_\_
  60. \*Kennedy and Khrushchev, e.g.
  61. Dog command
  62. \*What monarchs do
  63. \* \_\_\_ office
  64. New Jersey hoopsters
  67. Show disapproval

ANSWERS ON PAGE 34



# cheers to that



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Photo: Mark Frohna



# Out on the town Nov. 27 - Dec. 11

## A curated calendar of upcoming events

### 'A CUDAHY CAROLER CHRISTMAS' Nov. 26-Jan. 4

In Tandem Theatre's Wisconsin-ish holiday classic returns, along with its crew of Cudahy denizens. Artistic director Chris Flieller again plays Stasch, the loveable south sider tasked with rounding up his old chorus after a five-year hiatus to perform one last show on public access. This year's production could be Flieller's last, so if you want to experience him warbling his way through "We Three Guys from Cudahy Are" and "O, Bowling Night," don't miss it. At Tenth Street Theater, 628 N. 10th St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$25, \$23 for seniors/students/military. Go to [intandemtheatre.org](http://intandemtheatre.org) or call 414-271-1371. In Tandem will also present the dark holiday comedy *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, a fundraiser for the company, at 8 p.m. Dec. 8 and 15. Tickets are \$35.



PHOTO: COURTESY

### 'RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL' Nov. 28-Dec. 28

The stage musical adaptation of this 1964 TV special got its start at Milwaukee's First Stage Children's Theatre in 2012. The theater is reviving its hit production as part of a nationwide trend this year. The adaptation retains all the reindeer and characters of the original Rudolph, manipulated about the stage by puppeteers. At the Todd Wehr Theater, 929 N. Water St. Tickets are \$12 to \$37. Call 414-267-2961 or go to [firststage.org](http://firststage.org).



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

First Stage will revive its hit production of 'Rudolph,' last performed in 2012.



PHOTO: TOM KLINGELE

*Christmas Carols* are a holiday tradition in both Madison and Milwaukee. Madison's production (above) places kids center stage; Milwaukee's hews closely to Dickens' original novella.

### 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'

Milwaukee Rep: Dec. 2-24  
Children's Theater of Madison: Dec. 12-23

No matter which of Wisconsin's two largest cities you call home, there's a *Christmas Carol* production to charm you and your family all over again. The Milwaukee Rep's production will mark 39 consecutive years of telling Scrooge's story, this time with a brand-new actor in the role: Rep favorite Jonathan Smoots. The Rep's production is celebrated for its adherence to the Charles Dickens novella on which it's based, as well as its stunning costumes, charming carols and impressive set on the stage of the Pabst

Theater. At 144 E. Wells St. Tickets range from \$25 to \$85 (subject to change) and can be purchased at 414-224-9490 or [milwaukeeep.com](http://milwaukeeep.com).

Children's Theater of Madison has performed its own production of *Carol* on and off for several decades as well. Colleen Madden's adaptation adds a narrator — portrayed by APT's John Pribyl — who guides the audience through Scrooge's redemption. Now in its fourth year, this *Carol* is getting an extreme visual makeover, with new scenery, lighting, music and dance numbers. At 201 State St. Tickets range from \$25 to \$49 and can be ordered at 608-258-4141 or [overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org).

### URBAN GARAGE SALE

10 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 29

Skip Black Friday: Pick up gifts with some local flavor at Milwaukee's Urban Garage Sale instead. Now in its 8th year, the Urban Garage Sale brings together 60 makers, artisans and vendors to Turner Hall Ballroom for a single day of shopping. At 1034 N. Fourth St. Admission requires a \$4 donation at the door. For more information, visit [urbangaragesale.com](http://urbangaragesale.com).

### HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD PARTY

6-9 p.m. on Dec. 5

Holiday parties are always fun, but holiday parties that double as charity benefits up the ante. Milwaukee Harley-Davidson will host its annual Holidays Around The World Party, an event with appetizers and cocktails from 10 different countries, live entertainment, a giant raffle and photos with Santa. Admission (\$10 in cash or toys) benefits the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys 4 Tots program. At 11310 W. Silver Spring Road.



### 'UNDER THE MISTLETOE' 8 p.m. on Dec. 5 and 6; 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 7

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops concert returns with a weekend of holiday cheer. This year's installment features the vocal flair of Broadway star Ashley Brown (the original stage *Mary Poppins*), singing holiday tunes old and new. Guest conductor Steven Reineke and the MSO Chorus under the direction of Lee Erickson round out the evening. At the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St. Tickets range from \$27 to \$102. Call 414-291-7605 or visit [mso.org](http://mso.org) to order tickets.

# Out on the town Nov. 27 - Dec. 11



PHOTO: COURTESY

## 'CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRAWFORDS'

Dec. 5-20

If you think your family gathering is crazy, check out the Crawfords'. Based on the infamous 1940s radio broadcast of Joan Crawford celebrating Christmas with her children, Stage Q's *Christmas with the Crawfords* is an outrageously campy romp through her attempt to revitalize her career. She's foiled by the appearance of a cavalcade of Hollywood stars trying to steal her thunder, including Judy Garland, Carmen Miranda, Ethel Merman and Bette Davis in character as "Baby Jane." At the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St., Madison. Tickets are \$20 for Fridays and Saturdays, \$15 for Thursdays and Sundays. Go to [stageq.com](http://stageq.com).

## 'A MADISON SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS'

7:30 p.m. on Dec. 5; 8 p.m. on Dec. 6; 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 7

For its holiday concert, the Madison Symphony pulls together a program from across the canon of Western music. Traditional favorites like "Joy to the World" and the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's *Messiah* share the first half of the concert with contemporary works such as John Rutter's *Star Carol* and William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*. The program's latter half is packed with carols and Christmas tunes — some of which audience members will be invited to sing along with! John DeMain conducts, and guest vocalists include Alyson Cambridge, Harold Meers, the Madison Youth Choirs and Mt. Zion Gospel Choir. At Overture Center, 201 State St. Tickets range from \$16 to \$84. Go to [overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org) or phone 608-258-4141.

## 'WHO KILLED SANTA?' AND 'NEIL'S DIRTY SHORTS'

Dec. 11-31

If you're a fan of local playwright Neil Haven, you'll be overjoyed to learn Umbrella Group Milwaukee is staging both his choose-your-own-ending musical murder whodunit *Who Killed Santa?* and the world premiere of *Neil's Dirty Shorts*, a six-pack of irreverent, satirical comedies. They'll partner well with *Who Killed Santa?*, which starts wholesome (Frosty, Tiny Tim, the Little Drummer Boy and Rudolph show up at Santa's holiday party) but becomes anything but — even before Santa gets a candy cane through the heart. The shows will run in repertory at Soulstice Theater, 3770 S. Pennsylvania Ave. #2, St. Francis. Tickets are \$25 for *Who Killed Santa?*, \$15 for *Neil's Dirty Shorts*, and \$35 for both. Reserve tickets at [whokilledsanta.com](http://whokilledsanta.com).



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# A curated calendar of upcoming events

## 'THE NUTCRACKER'

Madison Ballet: Dec. 13-27  
Milwaukee Ballet: Dec. 13-27

*Nutcrackers* are springing up all over Wisconsin, so local fans of the Tchaikovsky ballet should be able to find a production easily. The biggest productions go up simultaneously in Madison and Milwaukee. Madison Ballet artistic director W. Earle Smith choreographs the classic for the 10th year, with music provided by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Andrew Sewell (who conducted Smith's inaugural production). At 201 State St. Tickets start at \$14. Call 608-258-4141 or visit [overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org) to order.

The Milwaukee Ballet's production, shaped by artistic director Michael Pink, expands the cast to include an additional sibling for Clara and a nephew for the toymaker Drosselmeyer. Young artists of Milwaukee Ballet School & Academy and the Milwaukee Children's Choir join the corps, accompanied by the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra. Tickets range from \$30 to \$77 (subject to change) and can be ordered at [milwaukeeballet.org](http://milwaukeeballet.org) or 414-902-2103.



PHOTO: JESSICA KAMINSKI

Milwaukee's production of *The Nutcracker* expands the cast to include Clara's sister Marie, danced above by Valerie Harmon. Madison's production, running the same time, will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The MSO will perform Handel's *Messiah* at three locations this year, including the Basilica of St. Josaphat.

## 'A CONCERT OF NOTE'

4 p.m. on Dec. 13; 7 p.m. on Dec. 14

Boulevard Theatre and the Plymouth Chorale are uniting to celebrate three great artists of poetry and prose. Actor/director Beth Monhollen honors Emily Dickenson through readings and musical adaptations performed by the Chorale. Boulevard founder Mark Bucher pays tribute to Dylan Thomas with a staged reading to his holiday reminiscence "A Child's Christmas in Wales." The Plymouth Chorale ends the evening with *Frostiana*, a collection of seven songs using Robert Frost's poems as lyrics. At Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St. Tickets are \$20, \$5 for students. Call 414-744-5757 or [boulevardtheatre.com](http://boulevardtheatre.com).

## 'CHRISTMAS IN THE BASILICA'

7:30 p.m. on Dec. 13;  
3 and 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 14

Bel Canto Chorus' annual Christmas concert is always a highlight of the season. This year, the company once again joins the chorus' Boy Choirs and Stained Glass Brass ensemble at the Basilica for holiday music old and new. The program includes an original composition by music director Richard Hynson, *The Christmas Story*, and the American premiere of Gordon Thornett's *Gloria*. At 2333 S. Sixth St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$37 or \$32 for adults, with a \$3 discount for students and seniors; premium seating is \$59. Call 414-481-8801 or visit [belcanto.org](http://belcanto.org) to order.

## ◀ HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH' 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 to 20; 4 p.m. on Dec. 21

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra takes one of the greatest religious choral works of all time on tour. The orchestra will perform Handel's full *Messiah* oratorio at three churches: St. Mary Catholic Faith Community, 9520 W. Forest Home Ave., Hales Corners (Dec. 17); Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 812 N. Jackson St., Milwaukee (Dec. 18 and 19); and Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. Sixth St., Milwaukee (Dec. 20 and 21). The MSO Chorus, guest conductor Paul Goodwin and four acclaimed guest soloists will join MSO's world-class musicians. For tickets or more information, visit [mso.org](http://mso.org) or call 414-291-7605.

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by A.R. Gurney

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# Out on the town Nov. 27 – Dec. 11

## A curated calendar of upcoming events



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Trans-Siberian Orchestra will be playing its second holiday album, *The Christmas Attic*, live for the first time ever this winter.

### 'IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: LIVE FROM WVL RADIO THEATRE' Dec. 18-21

In this adaptation of the holiday classic, a blizzard threatens to put a '40s-era radio station out of business when it strands the voice actors cast in its annual production of *It's a Wonderful Life*. It's a dire situation, but the show must go on. So the four employees trapped in the studio must perform instead, creating dozens of characters and sound effects to retell George Bailey's tale and save the day. At the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets start at \$38. Visit [marcuscenter.org](http://marcuscenter.org) or call 414-273-7206 to order.

### 'HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS WITH AFT' Dec. 26-31

If you want to hold on to the holiday spirit, consider driving up to Door County after Christmas for this musical revue dedicated to the season of giving. American Folklore Theatre (in the last program before its name change to Northern Sky Theater goes into effect) has commissioned two married duos — Katie Dahl & Rich Higdon and Molly Rhode & Chase Stoeger — to perform a collection of old folk tunes, AFT favorites and some surprises. At Gibraltar Town Hall, 4097 Main St., Fish Creek. Tickets are \$22, \$13 for children, and can be ordered at [folkloretheatre.com](http://folkloretheatre.com) or 920-854-6117.

### TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA 4 and 8 p.m. on Dec. 29 (Milwaukee); 4 and 8 p.m. on Jan. 2 (Green Bay); 3 and 8 p.m. on Jan. 3 (Madison)

Trans-Siberian Orchestra doesn't self-define as a Christmas-themed band, but there's no denying that its progressive arena rockers have found their greatest successes through "Christmas Trilogy," three albums built around holiday themes. The strange thing is, one of those albums, *The Christmas Attic*, has never been performed live in concert — a lapse the band is rectifying during its 2014-15 winter tour. TSO will play the album in full at Milwaukee's BMO Harris Bradley Center, 1001 N. Fourth St.; Green Bay's Resch Center, 1901 S. Oneida St.; and Madison's Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Way. For tour info or ticket links, visit [trans-siberian.com/tour](http://trans-siberian.com/tour).

## UN-HOLIDAY FARE

### 'ASSASSINS' Dec. 5-14

If the holidays make you want to reach for your Red Ryder BB Gun, skip the carols and let Sondheim be your musical guide. Four Seasons Theatre opens its 10th anniversary season with *Assassins*, Sondheim's controversial foray into the minds of the killers and attempted killers of America's presidents. It's a show that volleys musically across the centuries, as each assassin takes his or her turn to step up to the firing line. At Overture Center, 201 State St. Tickets are \$35, \$30 for seniors and \$20 for students. Call 608-258-4141 or visit [overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org) to order.

### 'THE LAST FIVE YEARS' Dec. 18-27

Jason Robert Brown's most famous song cycle is built on a clever conceit. The two-person show starts at both the beginning and end of a couple's relationship — one partner moving forward in time and one backward. What's more, it works, and the musical has become one of the most influential of the 21st century thus far. Local actor and director Robby McGhee presents *The Last Five Years* at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at 414-278-0765 or [nextact.org](http://nextact.org).

### 'ANYTHING GOES' Jan. 6-11

The acclaimed touring revival of *Anything Goes* sails into Milwaukee to kick off the New Year. The original Cole Porter musical has been reworked a number of times over the decades since its 1934 premiere, but this Tony Award-winning production keeps the things that make it work: madcap romantic hijinks at sea, larger-than-life characters and a score that includes some of musical theater's greatest songs, from "I Get a Kick Out of You," to "You're the Top" and back to the title track itself. At the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St. Tickets range from \$25 to \$95. Go to [marcuscenter.org](http://marcuscenter.org) or 414-273-7206.

### 'WUTHERING HEIGHTS' 7:30 on p.m. Jan. 9; 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 11

The star-crossed love story of Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* will find new life in January with the Florentine Opera's concert staging of American composer Carlisle Floyd's operatic version. A cast of Florentine favorites is set to perform with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. The performance is to be recorded and released commercially. At the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. Tickets range from \$30 to \$70. Call 800-326-7372 or visit [florentineopera.org](http://florentineopera.org) to purchase.



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