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the Ebony Fashion Fair.
page 30

PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.

February 12, 2015 *Vol. 6 No. 6*





6 Discrimination still existsDespite marriage gains, most LGBT Americans still live without civil rights protections.



9 Walker's budget scares GOP Cuts to the UW system are just one of many aspects of the governor's budget that are stirring objections from his party.



24 Chocolate perfectionMadison's artisan chocolatiers create one of the world's most beloved tastes.



27 Saved from extinctionA Shorewood consignment boutique gets one more year to showcase local artists working in an array of media.

News with a twist

'FROZEN' SING-ALONG HOPPY MEALS

The head of a private Quaker school in Providence, Rhode Island, dismissed class in advance of a blizzard via a music video an adaptation of "Let It Go" from Frozen. Sing along: "School is closed, school is closed, 'cause it snowed so much last night. School is closed, school is closed. So stay at home and sit tight."

SPEAK ABOUT WHAT?

A former porn producer turned Christian anti-porn activist was arrested for the second time since December for alleged sexual abuse of a minor, Donny Pauling, 41, faces nine new charges related to a second victim. Since leaving the porn industry eight years ago, Pauling maintains a website containing videos of inspirational speeches he has given, along with a page where you can book him to speak to "your church (or youth group/men's group/women's group, etc.)."

A woman agreed to leave a McDonald's in Beaver Dam after a customer complained about the baby kangaroo she carried into the restaurant in an infant's car seat. Diana Moyer said she takes her 8-month-old kangaroo everywhere, including to the movies and church. She said the kangaroo is a therapy animal for which she has a doctor's approval. Moyer lives on a farm near Columbus and has a collection of animals, including four additional kangaroos, sheep, goats, emu, deer, horses and chickens.

DRIVING DENTISTRY

Well, you've probably been driving along and seen the motorist in the next lane picking something. But you've probably never looked over and seen a trucker pulling out a tooth. That's exactly what caused a tractor-trailer to smash into a tree and closed a



highway for 11 hours. The crash report said, "He had the tooth in his shirt pocket as proof."

BIEBER'S BOOBS

A New York pastor claims pop singer Justin Bieber is transgender and regrets cutting off his breasts. The Rev. James David Manning of the ATLAH Missionary Church in Harlem made the claims in a YouTube video, saying: "These young girls ... can be led to have operations like Justin Bieber. They can think the best choice in life is to cut off their breasts. By the

time they reach the age of 20 years old, they look and say, 'I wish I had never cut off my breasts I wish I had never cut off my penis." Manning has previously alleged that Vladimir Putin will out Barack Obama as gay and that Starbucks flavors coffee with the semen of sodomites.

WHAT WOULD LONG-MIRE SAY?

There's a new sheriff in Sublette County, Wyoming, and he's imposing a dress code that's kicking up some dirt. Sheriff Stephen Haskell banned deputies from wearing cowboy hats and cowboy boots, because the western wear just isn't appropriate when responding to emergencies, especially roadside incidents in the winter.

BEAR TRICK

Charlie Rainwater and C.J. Phillips, two tech-savvy gay bears from Oregon, have owned jebbushforpresident.com since 2008.

By Lisa Neff, Louis Weisberg & Matthew Reddin

With Bush exploring a run for president, the domain name is sure to become a hot commodity. In his public life, Bush has consistently backed anti-gay policies.

NO ORGY TONIGHT

New York City police reported finding 1,000 individually packaged condoms — for men and women left in a messenger bag behind a concrete barrier at the George Washington Bridge Bus Station. Law enforcement brought in a canine unit to check the package before opening the bag, which has gone unclaimed.

IF IT WALKS LIKE A BIGOT ...

The Washington Post reported that over-the-top, buff, immaculately dressed and rumored-forever-tobe-gay Rep. Aaron Schock, R-III., recently had his House office redecorated in the style of the PBS hit show Downton Abbey. Schock is in trouble because he claims the designer did it for free, which violates House ethics rules against accepting gifts of \$50 or more. Schock, by the way, voted to defund PBS and has consistently voted anti-gay. He's also in hot water over blatantly racist comments posted online by a senior adviser.

POOR PUT-UPON CHRISTIANS

Mike Huckabee, now a perennial Christian-right candidate for the GOP presidential nomination, complained recently that forcing Christians to accept samesex marriages is like forcing Jewish people to serve "bacon-wrapped shrimp in their deli." An insensitive remark in more ways than one. And yet, Huckabee was the one to say, "We're so sensitive to make sure we don't offend certain religions, but then we act like Christians can't have the convictions that they have had for over 2,000 years."

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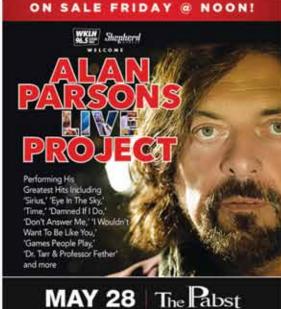


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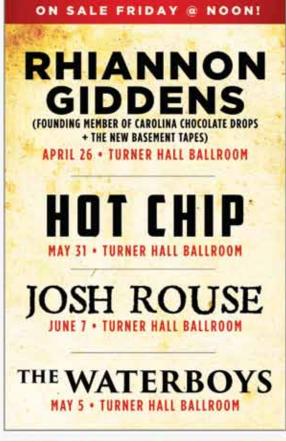
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Pediatrics group changes pot policy as legalization marches forward



PHOTO: AP/DAVID GOLDMAN

Families attend a rally in front of the Georgia Statehouse in support of a bill to legalize possession of cannabis oil for treatment of cancer, seizure disorders and other chronic illnesses.

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The nation's most influential pediatricians group updated its policy on marijuana to recommend the drug be removed from the government's most restrictive

category, which includes heroin and other narcotics said to have no accepted medical use.

The American Academy of Pediatrics proposed reclassifying marijuana as a Schedule II controlled substance to allow

for greater scientific research and experimentation.

The academy also said marijuana could be a viable treatment option for severely ill children. The new AAP policy, published online in *Pediatrics*, said pediatric use should only be considered "for children with life-limiting or severely debilitating conditions and for whom current therapies are inadequate."

The AAP does not advocate legalizing recreational marijuana and it does not deal with marijuana use among adults.

The AAP policy was last updated in 2004. Since then, marijuana laws have changed considerably. Four states — Alaska, Colorado, Oregon and Washington — have legalized recreational marijuana while 19 states have decriminalized pot possession in small amounts. Also, 23 states have legalized medical marijuana.

The Marijuana Policy Project, an organization at the forefront of reforming drug laws, is lobbying to pass a medical marijuana bill in Pennsylvania this year or next year and in Texas in 2015 or 2017. The MPP also is working to expand access under Minnesota's medical marijuana provision and helping to implement the legislation in Illinois, where the first retail licenses were issued earlier this month.

Illinois lawmakers also could decriminalize marijuana this year and make pot a ticketable offense. Elsewhere, decriminalization is on the legislative agenda in Hawaii, Virginia, Delaware and New Hampshire.

"Criminalizing someone for possessing a small amount of marijuana causes far more harm than marijuana itself," said Matt Simon, the Goffstown, New Hampshire-based New England political director for the MPP.

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POT from prior page

Three out of five adults in New Hampshire support removing criminal penalties for marijuana possession, according to a WMUR Granite State Poll released last April.

In neighboring Vermont, lawmakers could pass recreational marijuana legislation this year or next. But, with bipartisan support for a bill, Rhode Island is in a position to become the first state to legalize recreational marijuana through the legislative process rather than by ballot initiative.

At the federal level, American Indian tribes attending a conference later this month plan to discuss the legalization of pot. Their move follows a Justice Department announcement in December clearing the way for tribes to grow and sell marijuana.

And members of the U.S. House are considering a pair of bills that would end federal marijuana prohibition, as well as a measure sponsored by three Democrats and five Republicans that would allow Veterans Affairs doctors to prescribe medical marijuana.

"Our antiquated drug laws must catch up with the real suffering of so many of our veterans," said U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., a co-sponsor of the Veterans Equal Access Act. "This is now a moral cause and a matter of supreme urgency. It is unconscionable that a VA doctor cannot offer a full range of treatments, including medical marijuana ... to an American veteran who fought valiantly for our country. Conscience dictates that we not coldly ignore these desperate men and women and that we remove government from its paternalistic stance between patient and doctor."

More than 20 percent of the 2.8 million U.S. veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD and depression. In addition, a recent study found that of the nearly 1 million veterans who receive opioids to treat painful conditions, more than half continue to consume chronically or beyond 90 days. Another study found that the death rate from opiate overdoses among VA patients is about double the national average.

The bill's sponsors said in states where these patients can legally access medical marijuana, the hands of VA doctors should not be tied.

"We should be allowing these wounded warriors access to the medicine that will help them survive and thrive, including medical marijuana, not treating them like criminals and forcing them into the shadows," said U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore. "It's shameful."

ON THE BOOKS...

In Wisconsin, AB 726 exempts a very limited class of people from criminal penalties for the use and possession of cannabidiol "in a form without a psychoactive effect." The law, signed by the governor last April, allows people with seizure disorders to get their physician's approval to possess cannabidiol. However, according to the Marijuana Policy Project, the legislation "doesn't give patients a realistic way to obtain their medicine in Wisconsin" and "may be unworkable even for the limited population it's meant to help."

Medical marijuana bills have repeatedly been offered in Wisconsin, and a bill likely will be introduced this legislative session. Advocates, however, do not expect it to reach a floor vote.

— Lisa Neff

Milwaukee gives final approval to streetcar

The Milwaukee Common Council on Feb. 10 gave final approval to a \$124-million, 2.5-mile streetcar project that would connect downtown with the lower east side and the lakefront.

Although opponents are still trying to collect signatures demanding a referendum on the funding, the vote on Feb. 10 is binding.

Opponents include political foes of Mayor Tom Barrett, who supports the project, conservatives and operatives with Kochbacked groups.

Proponents said the streetcar would bolster the economy by attracting business development that will bring new jobs. The night before the 9-6 vote, those aboard with the project held a news conference to call attention to the benefits of the streetcar.

Barrett announced the new plan to move the project last November and asked for common council support for the effort, which will make use of federal money allocated specifically for rail, along with funds raised from increased property values in the three tax incremental funding districts where the streetcar will be located.

There are plans to eventually extend the streetcar to Bay View, the east side and west of the Milwaukee 2015 or early 2016. The River.

Barrett's plan followed a July 2011 common council vote to approve the project and direct the city comptroller to report to the council on costs.

The common council voted in January for the project, but a parliamentary move pushed the final vote to Feb. 10.

As proposed, the street-car would be operated seven days a week — 5 a.m. to midnight on weekdays, 7 a.m. to midnight on Saturdays and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays. City officials have said construction on the lines could begin in late

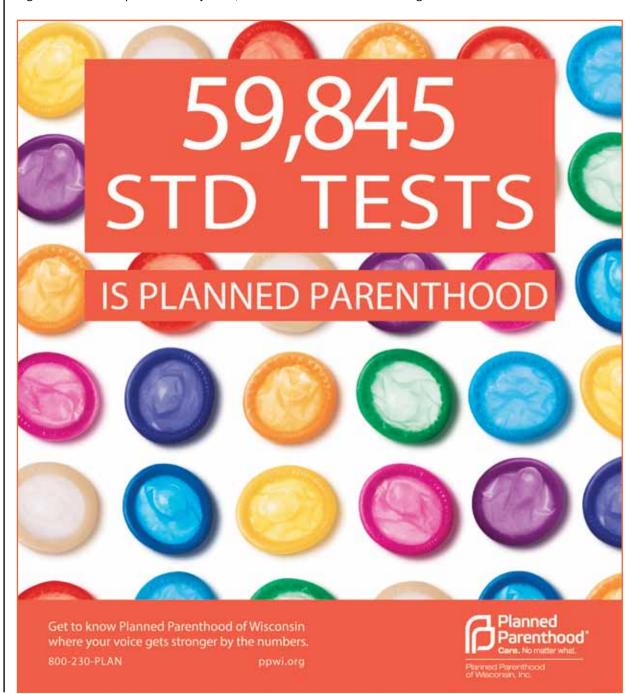
2015 or early 2016. The goal is to have the streetcar up and running by 2018. The initial cost for a ride will be \$1.

Voting "yes": Alds. Robert Bauman, Milele Coggs, Ashanti Hamilton, Nik Kovac, Michael Murphy, Jose Perez, Russell Stamper II, Willie Wade, Terry Witkowski.

Voting "no:" Alds. Bob Donovan, Joe Davis, Jim Bohl, Joe Dudzik, Robert Puente and Tony Zielinski.

Milwaukee is the most densely populated city in the U.S. without any rail in its pubic transportation

— WiG



LGBT activists launch #DiscriminationExists campaign

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Same-sex couples can legally marry in 37 states, but in some of those states the newlyweds can be fired for simply coming out and telling co-workers how they celebrated on their wedding day.

So LGBT activists across the country are engaged this winter in the #DiscriminationExists campaign, reminding people that nondiscrimination laws must be enacted or updated to provide protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"We've made great progress securing the freedom to marry in many states, but some of those states still do not have nondiscrimination protections for LGBT people, leaving many of us vulnerable to unfair treatment," said Rebecca Isaacs, executive director of Equality Federation, a national coalition of state LGBT civil rights groups.

In the first days, more than a million Twitter users joined the #Discrimination-Exists campaign and drew attention to efforts to:

- Halt a Christian right push to enact religious exemption legislation allowing businesses to discriminate or refuse to serve LGBT people. The American Civil Liberties Union is tracking religious exemption bills in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Indiana and Michigan.
- Pass federal legislation protecting LGBT people. The proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act would ban dis-

crimination in employment based on gender identity and sexual orientation. However, the number of LGBT groups pushing Congress to take up a comprehensive civil rights bill is on the rise.

• Adopt or expand state and local laws to ban bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity. More than 111 million people — 35 percent of the population — live in states where same-sex couples can marry but where LGBT people can be fired because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

"A majority of states still struggle to reach even a basic level of equality for LGBT people," said Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group. "Most states lack statewide non-discrimination laws to protect LGBT people — putting countless individuals and families at risk and creating inequalities in adoption and surrogacy, employment benefits and youth safety and well-being."

HRC recently released its annual State Equality Index, which provides an assessment of legislation affecting LGBT equality.

Wisconsin has non-discrimination protections on the basis of sexual orientation but activists continue to work to build support for amending the statute to protect transgender people. On the index, HRC placed Wisconsin and six other states in the category of "Building Equality" — states with marriage equality that have



Troy Williams speaks during a news conference and rally at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City. Protesters were pushing for Utah to adopt a statewide anti-discrimination law protecting sexual and gender orientation.

taken steps toward "more robust LGBT equality."

There are two higher categories on the index, "Working Toward Innovative Equality," which includes seven states and the District of Columbia, and "Solidifying Equality," which includes seven states.

But the majority of states — 29 —fall into the lowest category, "High Priority to Achieve Basic Equality." These states have laws undermining LGBT equality — from

criminalizing HIV and sodomy to allowing religious-based discrimination — and lack any protections from discrimination for LGBT people.

"Leaders in every state are making enormous progress to ensure equality for all, yet there remains a patchwork of nondiscrimination laws and policies," said Isaacs. "I know we can do better so that all Americans have the freedom to be our authentic selves."



Polling shows differing hopes and expectations for female leaders

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Four in 10 adults say they hope to see a woman elected to the presidency in their lifetime, while 57 percent say it doesn't matter whether they say, "Madam President" or "Mr. President."

Those percentages should work in favor of Hillary Rodham Clinton if she decides to seek the Democratic nomination in 2016. And if not Clinton, then perhaps U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who repeatedly has said she isn't running but is the focus of a draft campaign in New Hampshire.

The voters most interested in seeing a woman elected president in their lifetime are Democrats — 69 percent of the women in the party and 46 percent of the men, according to a new study from the Pew Research Center focused on women in leadership.

The percentages drop considerably for Republicans — just

20 percent of the women in the Grand Old Party and 16 percent of the men. Do these numbers indicate trouble for Carly Fiorina, the former California U.S. Senate candidate who appears to be readying to announce a bid for the Republican nomination? No, the analysts say. More likely the diminished interest among Republicans is Clintonherself: The views of many Republicans may have more to do with the prospect of a Clinton presidency than with a major milestone for women.

Among independents, 45 percent of women and 32 percent of men say, "Yes," when asked whether they "personally hope the United States will elect a female president" in their lifetime.

DOUBLE STANDARD

In 2013, EMILY's List, a group dedicated to electing Democratic women to office, launched "Madam President," a campaign to shatter the glass ceiling in the Oval Office in 2016.

Americans need to "create a nation where women's leadership isn't the exception, it's the rule," said EMILY's List president Stephanie Schriock.

That's currently far from the case. The Pew poll found that Americans claim to find women indistinguishable from men in key leadership traits. But women still hold a small share of top leadership posts: 20 percent of the U.S. Senate, 19.3 percent of the U.S. House; 10 percent of governorships; 24 percent of state legislative offices; 5.2 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs and 26.4 percent of college presidencies. And in most cases, those low percentages are record highs.

The Pew poll, a survey of 1,835 people, found that four in 10 Americans think the

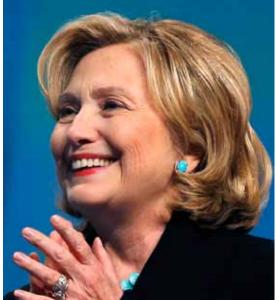


PHOTO: AP/ELISE AMENDOL

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton reacts as she is introduced to speak at the Massachusetts Conference for Women in Boston in December.

reason more women don't hold top posts is not about work-life balance, education or skill sets but instead a double standard: women have to do more than their male counterparts to prove themselves.

READY FOR CLINTON

Two weeks ago, EMILY's List announced that its 30th anniversary gala in March would honor Clinton for dedicating her life to "bettering the lives of women and families and (inspiring) the next generation with a focus on increasing economic empowerment across the country and around the world," according to Schriock.

The PAC has backed Clinton since her U.S. Senate election in New York in 2000.

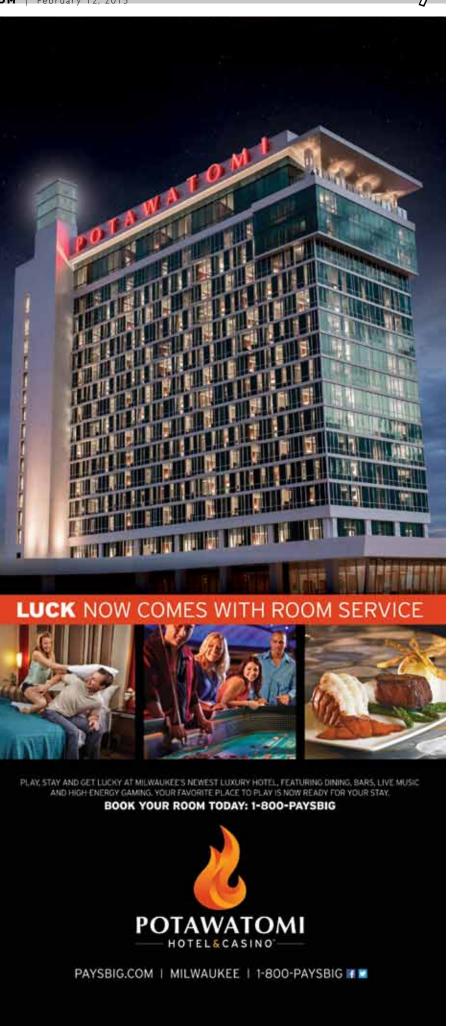
Of late, EMILY's List has been laying the groundwork for another, bigger Clinton candidacy, organizing special events promoting the idea of electing the first female commander-in-chief.

When EMILY's List launched the "Madam President" effort nearly two years ago, the first polls showed that 86 percent of Americans said the nation is ready to elect a woman president. And 72 percent said it is likely that America will elect a woman in 2016.

The Pew poll also asked about expectations: "Do you think the United States will elect a female president in your lifetime, or not?" About 73 percent answered yes — 12 points less than in 2008 but 21 points over 1996.

That year, with Bill Clinton running for re-election, then-first lady Hillary Clinton delivered her first prime-time speech, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

"One thing we know for sure is that change is certain," she said. "Progress is not."

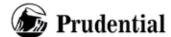


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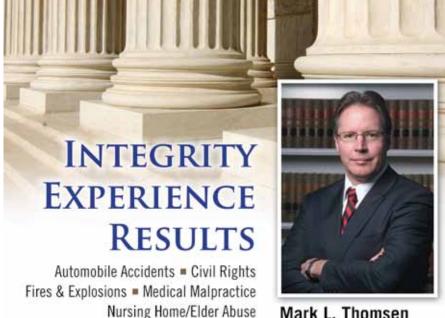
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GOP balks at Walker's budget

AP and WiG reports

Republicans and Democrats are both lined up in opposition to many of the key items in Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's \$68-billion budget proposal.

Bipartisan resistance is growing to Walker's plans to borrow \$1.3 billion to pay for road construction and infrastructure projects, cut \$300 million from the University of Wisconsin System, and pay for an expansion of the private school voucher program by taking money from public schools while holding their funding flat.

Walker's budget also requires drug testing for public benefit recipients, which has proven costly in some states and ruled unconstitutional in others. The budget eliminates 400 state government positions, slashes funds for public broadcasting and weakens environmental oversight.

Walker says his plan offers bold ideas to reshape government, which is the emerging theme of his fledgling presidential campaign. Throughout the first month of his second term, Walker has been largely missing in Madison as he travels the country to court big-bucks conservative donors, meet with right-wing national leaders and build his name recognition among tea party supporters.

In Wisconsin, the Legislature's GOP leadership is balking about the budget Walker is asking them to approve. They've been particularly outspoken about increasing borrowing by 30 percent to pay for highway projects, the majority of which are unnecessary, according to traffic studies.

"The biggest heartburn I have in regards to the proposed budget is the amount of bonding," said budget committee member Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Hazelhurst. "I know there's a number of my colleagues who are quite concerned about that."

Walker's Department of Transportation had recommended \$750 million in higher taxes and fees, including on gasoline and vehicle registrations, to pay for roads. Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and other corporate-right groups had supported a modest gas tax increase.

But deferring, perhaps, to the anti-tax tea party voters who dominate Republican primaries, Walker nixed all tax or fee increases in favor of issuing bonds that won't come due until he's long gone. That drew criticism more than 400 local governments, road builders and labor unions.

Republicans also are joining Democrats in questioning Walker's \$300 million cut to UW, which amounts to 13 percent of the system's budget. UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank said the cut would create a \$91-million budget hole at the system's flagship school. Vos has said he's worried the cut will make it more difficult for students to graduate in four years.

Along with his budget cut, Walker has proposed to give the system's 26 campuses more autonomy and freedom from state laws and oversight, something university officials have lobbied for years to get. Although university officials have better received that part of the plan, many observers fear that it would embolden



PHOTO: AP/J. SCOTT APPLEWHIT

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker speaks at the American Action Forum in Washington on Jan. 29. Shifting his focus to Washington, Walker is expanding his political operation in the increasingly crowded field of GOP White House prospects. Walker recently opened a campaign office in Iowa.

tuition hikes that would make college in the state less affordable than it already is.

UW-Madison faculty and staff planned to stage a rally and march on Feb. 14 to protest Walker's proposed cuts to the UW System. The event, "Stop the Cuts — Save UW," was set to begin at noon on the Library Mall. The Overpass Light Brigade planned a separate action at 6 p.m., when the group will spell out protest messages in lights.

While cutting UW funding, Walker's budget would hold funding for public schools flat, while removing a 1,000-student cap on the private-school voucher program. Going forward, the program would be available to students transferring in from public schools at any point, and also private school students entering kindergarten, the first grade or ninth grade. Money to pay for it would come from state aid sent to the schools losing the student.

No increase in funding for schools amounts to a cut because they won't be able to keep up with growing expenses, said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers. And, he added, taking money away from schools to pay for voucher students only compounds the problem, Evers said.

Democrats have criticized Walker and Republicans for using a previous surplus to pay for nearly \$2 billion in tax cuts primarily benefiting corporations and the very wealthy over the past four years. Those tax cuts helped fuel the current budget gap.

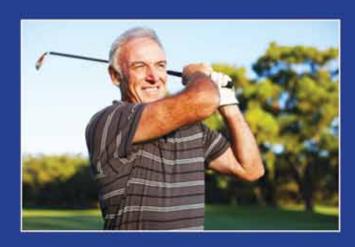
With the budget now introduced, the debate now shifts to the Legislature, where lawmakers will spend the next four months working over Walker's proposal before voting on it likely sometime in June.

Meanwhile, Walker will spend the coming months on the presidential campaign



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Nation's largest tar sands crude pipeline assembled under the radar in Wisconsin

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A 42-inch pipeline buried beneath every major waterway in Wisconsin would dwarf the volume of gritty, chemical-laced sludge carried by Keystone XL when it amps up operation next year. Only a Dane County zoning committee stands in the way — temporarily — of oil giant Enbridge's intention for Line 61 to convey more tar sands crude than any pipeline in the nation.

A network of pipes and pumping stations built at various times and gradually joined together, the convoluted line began in 2006 and currently pumps an astonishing 560,000 barrels through Wisconsin daily. After its 12 pumping stations are either constructed or upgraded with additional horsepower, the line would

convey up to 1.2 million barrels daily — one-third more than the Keystone XL's 800,000 barrels.

Enbridge, North America's largest oil and gas pipeline operator, has the Western Hemisphere's worst record for spills. The National Transportation Safety Board has recorded 800 incidents since 1999 — and that's not including oil that seeps into the environment from weak or corroded sections of pipe, which is ignored by federal regulators.

According to the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Enbridge is guilty of more than 100 environmental violations in 14 Wisconsin counties. Most recently, in July 2012, a farm field in Grand Marsh

was covered by at least 1,200 barrels of oil after an Enbridge pipeline ruptured. Enbridge had to purchase a nearby home that a local resident described as being "covered in oil," according to the Sierra Club. The rupture involved conventional crude oil rather than tar sands crude.

"Enbridge is a high-risk company," said Elizabeth Ward, conservation program coordinator for the group's John Muir chapter in Wisconsin.

Enbridge also is notoriously dodgy about accepting responsibility for its mishaps. In 2010, the break of an Enbridge line in Michigan spewed tar sands oil for more

than 17 hours before Enbridge realized it was leaking. Some 20,000 barrels of tar sands crude damaged 35 miles of Michigan's Kalamazoo River. The full extent of public health effects will probably never be known, but 320 homes were evacuated.

It was the largest inland oil spill in the nation's history.

The EPA ordered Enbridge to clean up the impacted area by the end of 2013. After some pushback, the company agreed to comply.

But Enbridge has spent more than \$1.2 billion on the cleanup and it still has yet to be completed. Some question whether it ever can be.

The company claims to have refined its operations since then, significantly increasing safety.

Superior Hawthorne Minong Stone Lake Ladysmith WISCONSIN Sheldon Marshfield Portage < Waterloo Delavan Belvidere < Pump Station to be Upgraded/Modified (Phase 1 & 2) Pump Station to be Constructed/Modified (Phase 2) Existing Enbridge Line 81 DeKalb. Existing Enhridge Pipelines (Lakehead System) Existing Enbridge Terminal

IN THE SHADOWS

Why has Keystone generated such frenzy while Line 61 has gone largely ignored? For one thing, Keystone is a new pipeline without a track record. Another is partisan politics. Republicans pushing for the president's approval of the Keystone XL have used his stated environmental concerns to charge that he's "anti-jobs." The actual number of jobs created by Keystone and similar projects, however, is surprisingly modest, given the rhetoric.

Like the tar sands sludge that would be carried by Keystone, the crude transported by Line 61 also originates in Alberta, Can-

ada. It arrives in Superior, Wisconsin, by way of a line known as the Alberta Clipper. But Line 61 itself is confined within American borders, so no presidential approval is required.

A more significant reason for the lack of public interest in Line 61 is that Enbridge seems to have learned a public-relations lesson from the drama over Keystone, Ward said. In order to avoid a reprise of Keystone, Enbridge has kept Line 61 as low profile as possible. The company also resorted to what Ward and other critics believe is subterfuge by breaking the entire project into three pieces, each of them addressed without fanfare.

Thus, the company was able to build the complex pipeline (see diagram) in the shadows, sidestepping public meetings for the most part. Environmental advocates say the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources assisted the company by virtually rubber-stamping the project every step of the way.

By the time advocates put the pieces together and realized the full scope of Enbridge's plan, all of the pipes were in place, and most of the 12 pumping stations were either ready to operate or already approved. Eleven of the 12 now have use permits.

Once environmental groups realized what was going on, they found themselves helpless to stop the juggernaut.

Becky Haase, a stakeholder-relations specialist for Enbridge, has said everything the company did was up front and on the level. According to her, the pipeline was constructed specifically to move large amounts of oil sands through the region. She said the pipes already laid were built to run up to 1.2 million barrels per day and additional permits are not needed.

Environmentalists, however, are horrified that the nation's largest tar sands pipeline, created and operated by the nation's most accident-prone distributor, was erected without conducting an environmental impact study. Six Wisconsin counties recently passed resolutions asking the DNR to do a large-impact study on the tar sands project in its entirety, Ward said. The agency, however, contends that it's not needed.

The DNR has not been helpful to any of the counties concerned, multiple sources told WiG. And, they added, it's highly unlikely that the agency will change course, given the state's current political environment. Fossil fuel companies such as Koch Industries might not employ that many Wisconsinites, but dozens — if not hundreds — of public officials have accepted what adds up to massive amounts of cash from them.

Yet one of the toughest problems facing environmental advocates in Wisconsin is the blind trust residents put in their leaders to shield them from harm. "(The

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public) automatically assumes that there's no way we can be right and Gov. Walker and the DNR could be misleading them," Ward said.

And, since gag orders inevitably come with the settlements that residents receive from oil distributors, there's no one around except for activists to tell the public the truth

HANDS TIED

The only remaining holdout on Enbridge's Line 61 is the Dane County Zoning Committee. For months, the committee has delayed approval for the project's 12th pumping station, which Enbridge plans to build in the county's northeastern corner — an area of farmland and wetland. The latest delay was Jan. 28.

Chair Patrick Miles said that while constituents have brought concerns about the project to his attention, the committee lacks authority to address their fears of prospective disasters. Some people, he said, brought their concerns to him privately, afraid to speak up publicly because they receive lucrative easements from Enbridge to allow pipelines on their properties. They fear retaliation, Miles told *WiG*.

"This particular permitting process has been more frustrating than most, because our hands are tied," he said. "Usually we have the authority to at least consider a denial if we can't mitigate concerns, but there's not an option here. It's a foregone conclusion that they'll get their permit — the question is under what terms."

Eventually, the zoning committee hit on the strategy of requiring Enbridge to show proof of adequate insurance to handle damages should something go awry. Residents should at least have assurances that their financial losses would be covered in the event of a disaster, Miles said.

For the last few weeks, the committee has frenziedly researched what kind of

PIPELINE next page

PIPELINE from prior page

costs would be associated with various disaster scenarios and what kind of insurance — and insurers — would handle them.

Miles said Enbridge officials began their interaction with the committee by being uncooperative, saying the county had no legal right to request insurance coverage. Miles said he was intimidated by the prospect that the oil giant would slap the county with an expensive lawsuit.

But the county's concerns are well-founded, say others. Enbridge is a limited liability corporation that says it's self-insured, but the company has very little value. The partners distribute profits among themselves as the money pours in and have little left in the way of assets after the oil is sold.

The \$1.2 billion that Enbridge has paid so far to restore damage on the Kalamazoo River has been paid on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, with money coming out of the company's revenue stream, says Harry Bennett, of the group 350 Madison.

With the specter of Kalamazoo overshadowing them, Miles and his crew refused to back down. The county's legal counsel dug into the relevant case law and discovered that proof of insurance is a perfectly legitimate request. After the county's standing was established, Enbridge's attitude seemed to improve.

"They're being pretty patient now," Miles said.

Enbridge had recently taken out a \$700-million insurance policy and representatives of the company offered to designate \$100 million of it specifically for any mishaps that might occur in Dane County. Enbridge officials also pointed out that the Pipeline and Hazardous Chemicals Safety Administration operates an oil spill trust fund that would make up any differences in costs.

At the committee's Feb. 10 meeting, as *WiG* was headed to press, members planned to press Enbridge on conducting an environmental risk analysis, something the company has indicated it's open to doing, according to Miles. The analysis would pave the way for obtaining adequate insurance.

Miles speculates that the precipitous drop in oil prices coupled with Obama's hesitancy toward the Keystone pipeline might have taken some urgency out of the push for Line 61. The Alberta Clipper, which feeds tar sands into Line 61 and other U.S. pipelines, also needs presidential approval, according to the Sierra Club, which has joined other groups in filing a lawsuit forcing the company to get presidential approval. and so it's possible that Enbridge does not want to draw too much attention to the project right now.

GUMMY PEANUT BUTTER

Environmentalists say it defies logic that regulators treat conventional crude and tar sands crude as if they pose the same safety risks, because they are vastly dissimilar materials.

Technically known as "bituminous sands," tar sands crude is a mixture of

petroleum, clay, sand, water and chemicals that allow the thick, abrasive sludge to flow through pipelines. Bennett calls it "gummy, peanut-butter-like stuff."

Tar sands are heavier and far more abrasive than conventional crude, and the chemicals used to dilute it are very acidic. That means the erosion of pipe walls occurs much faster and the threat of rupture is far keener on pipelines conveying tar sands crude.

Similarly, tar sands accidents do far more damage to the environment and are exponentially more difficult and expensive to clean up. Unlike traditional oil, tar sand oil is dense and does not float. As the accident in Michigan proved, lumps of chemically treated tar sand remain on the floor of riverbeds and ponds long after surface evidence has disappeared — perhaps forever. The acidic damage to the affected waterways remains unknown.

Technology to detect leaks before they mushroom into irreparable disasters is all but useless. The detection system is supposed to have automatic shut-off valves that are tripped when a leak is found. But a Natural Resources Defense Council investigation discovered that the systems missed 19 out of 20 of the smaller spills — and even four out of five of the larger spills.

"If we were in a different political state and nation, there would be a completely different process for tar sands pipelines," Ward said. "We're (operating under) antiquated rules that do not differentiate between the types of oils."

"Tar sands are the least efficient and most difficult oil to extract," Bennett said. "There should have been an environmental impact study done in 2006 or 2007, when all this was ramping up."

Many people also wrongly assume that the tar sands pipelines carry oil that is consumed domestically and helps to keep down their fuel prices. But the contents of Wisconsin pipelines, just like the contents of the proposed Keystone XL, are destined for overseas markets. Right now, Enbridge's tar sands crude is headed nowhere, because the cost of mining and processing it is either close to or greater than the cost of the average barrel of oil sold in the marketplace.

In the end, tar sands passing through pipelines in Wisconsin are bound for refineries and then storage tanks, where the oil will sit until prices rebound. Wisconsin is just a pass-through state that will see little if any economic benefit by way of gas or jobs.

"While the overseas markets will see the benefits, Wisconsinites are expected to take all the risks," Ward said.

Editor's note: See related story on Keystone pipeline on the next page.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Midwest is home to the nation's highest number of pipelines carrying tar sands. The region also has two to three times the average rate of pipeline accidents.



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Marquette University
Lifelong Commitment to Justice Award



[Environmental]

Milwaukee Brewers

David Schwartz Business



Vanessa LaCoste Artworks for Milwaukee Future of Change Award

Humanitarian Award





Herb Kohl Charities





By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Environmental activists say the EPA this month provided the president with the arguments he needs to reject the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

The EPA, in its assessment filed with the State Department before a federal comment period closed on Feb. 2, said developing the Canadian tar sands for the pipeline would represent a "significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions." Emissions from the extraction, transport and refining of the KXL's tar sands oil would put as much as 27.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide a year.

The EPA said, "Over the 50-year lifetime of the pipeline, this could translate into releasing as much as 1.37 billion more tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere." That would be the pollution equivalent of adding 5.7 million passenger vehicles.

The filing from the EPA set environmental leaders to quoting from President Barack Obama's speech on the dangers of climate change in June 2013. That sweltering day, the president said the Keystone

Environmentalists: EPA provides reason to deny KXL

XL pipeline would only be in the national interest if it "does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution."

The State Department filing makes clear the findings of the EPA.

"Keystone XL will drive us significantly deeper into the climate crisis," said Bill Snape of the Center for Biological Diversity, a watchdog and environmental advocacy group. "The ball's in President Obama's court. He said he wouldn't approve this disastrous pipeline if it significantly exacerbates the problem of carbon pollution. It's time for him to keep his word."

350.org co-founder Bill McKibben, an outspoken opponent of the pipeline project, said in a statement that the EPA's "knife-sharp comments make clear that despite the State Department's relentless spin, Keystone is a climate disaster by any realistic assessment. The president's got every nail he needs to finally close the coffin on this boondoggle."

And yet, this month Republican legislation to build the pipeline could reach the president.

The KXL pipeline would run from the tar sands in Canada across the middle United States to the Gulf of Mexico.

Proponents say the \$8 billion project proposed in 2008 would create much

KXL extraction, transport and refining of Canadian tar sands oil "represents a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions."

needed jobs and decrease the nation's reliance on foreign oil, sending 800,000 barrels of crude oil to Gulf Coast refineries each day.

Opponents say the pipeline will not create long-term jobs, that communities along the 1,179-mile route would be at risk of spills and pollution and that extracting oil from the tar sands would be a climate catastrophe. Extraction and refinement of the tar sands oil produces twice as many greenhouse gases per barrel than conventional oil and represents a massive new source of fossil fuels, according to the

Environmentalists said the EPA filing should help build the case for the administration to reject the pipeline, but the State Department could use the comments as reason to conduct further analysis, and continue to postpone a ruling.



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NATIONAL BRIEFS

SHOWDOWN OVER MARRIAGE IN ALABAMA

Same-sex marriage stalled across Alabama as 51 of 67 courthouses refused a federal order to issue licenses to gays and lesbians. Some couples took their fight back to

As WiG went to press, the dispute and confusion headed toward a showdown in federal court set in Mobile, where gay couples had waited for days in a courthouse after officials quit issuing marriage licenses altogether - even for heterosexual couples — rather than sell them to same-sex couples.

In other U.S. news ...

- NET NEUTRALITY: FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said he plans to seek approval for "the strongest open Internet protections ever proposed by the FCC." Wheeler's proposal is set for a vote on Feb. 26.
- **COLLEGE DIVIDE**: The gap between rich and poor students who earn a bachelor's degree by age 24 has doubled over the past four decades. The percentage of students from the lowest-income families earning a bachelor's degree has inched up just 3 points since 1970. College completion for students from the wealthiest families has climbed from 44 to 77 percent.
- TRANSGENDER VIOLENCE: The Human Rights Campaign reported three anti-transgender deaths in the first weeks of 2015 and the killing of at least 13 transgender women in the United States in 2014. All but one of the victims were black or Latina
- PUBLIC GRAZING: U.S. taxpayers have lost more than \$1 billion over the past decade on a program that allows cows and sheep to graze on public land. In 2014, taxpay-

ers lost \$125 million in grazing subsidies on federal land, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

- VETERANS' AFFAIRS: The Army Board for the Correction of Military Records and Navy Board for Correction of Naval Records are issuing new military discharge paperwork — Form DD-214s — to three transgender veterans to reflect their correct names and identities, according to the National LGBT Bar Association.
- TITLE VII WIN: Saks Fifth Avenue recently withdrew a motion to dismiss a lawsuit in which the retailer argued that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not protect transgender workers. The U.S. Department of Justice had filed a statement of interest in the case affirmatively stating that Title VII covers transgender people.
- FIGHTING HUNGER: Sixteen million children were on food stamps as of last year, the highest number since the nation's economy tumbled in 2008. Numbers released by the Census Bureau as part of its annual look at children and families show that one in five children was on food stamp assistance in 2014.
- KILLING THE MONARCH: The most commonly used herbicide in American agriculture, Monsanto's Roundup, has killed 99 percent of milkweed in the Midwest's corn and soybean fields, leaving the monarch on the edge of extinction, according to a new study. Monarchs lay their eggs only on milkweeds, which are the sole food source for monarch larvae.

-from WiG and AP reports

Bruce Jenner's mom addresses the Olympian's gender journey

From The AP

Bruce Jenner's mother has opened up about the celebrity's gender journey. Esther Jenner, 88, has been besieged by media calls. The widow in Lewiston, Idaho, praised her Olympian son for courage in a wide-ranging phone interview.



Bruce Jenner, former

Olympic athlete and

reality TV star.

AP: Have you spoken to Bruce recently about his transition?

Jenner: It was brief and I said I was proud of him and that I'll always love him. I never thought

I could be more proud of Bruce when he reached his goal in 1976, but I'm more proud of him now. It takes a lot of courage to do what he's doing.

He has opened up in terms of his gender identity, which he is now owning. Is that right?

That's absolutely right. He said, "Mom, I'm still the same person." He said, "I'm still going to race cars, I'm still going to fly airplanes and I'm going to get my helicopter license.'

In a lot of cases, families really suffer from that kind of announcement.

The family is close and very supportive of Bruce and we're supportive of each other.

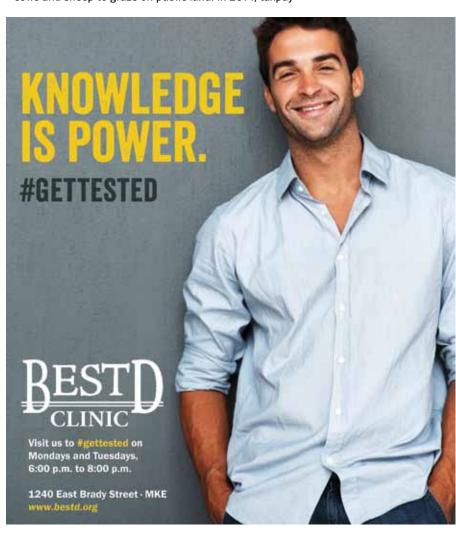
Was it a shock?

It was a shock. It's hard to wrap your mind around it.

How did he explain it to you?

He said, "I want to be honest about my identity and I know this is coming out in the press." He started by saying, "We need to have a long, serious talk." I am at peace with what he is and what he's doing.

Editor's note: The gender-specific pronouns are direct quotes in the interview.





Please recirculate & recycle this publication.



The Wisconsin Gazette is published every other week and distributed throughout the Milwaukee area, Madison, Racine, Kenosha, and 40 other cities statewide. To have WiG delivered to your address, contact jcase@wisconsingazette.com or call 414-961-3240, ext. 101.

WiG Publishing, LLC. © 2015 3956 N. Murray Ave. Shorewood, WI 53211

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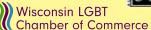
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EDITORIALS

GOP uses poor to push Koch agenda

State Sen. Alberta Darling, R-River Hills, has never been a around them "for hours." champion of the poor — quite the opposite. She's one of the most reliable foot soldiers that the Koch-backed American Legislative Exchange Council has in Wisconsin. The Koch's darling, she's been on board, if not at the helm of, nearly all the major laws enacted in Wisconsin over the past four vears to benefit the Koch's agenda at the expense of the middle class, the poor and the environment.

Darling is such an ardent shill that she inserted ALECbacked legislation into Gov. Scott Walker's first biennial budget that would have given a sales tax break for moist, smokeless tobacco products. That measure stirred outrage because it would have lowered prices on tobacco products that target kids with candy flavors and cartoonish packaging. Her measure proved too shameless even for Walker, who vetoed it.

Thus it was a shock when Darling and Rep. Dale Kooyenga, R-Brookfield, unveiled the euphemistically named "New Opportunities for Milwaukee" plan, ostensibly to help the lowest-income neighborhoods in the city. What came as no surprise, however, was the plan itself, which promotes illegal anti-union "right to work" zones, zero-corporate tax zones and measures to turn public schools into for-profit charters — all policies at the top of David Koch's wish list.

The proposal, in fact, is a nearly verbatim version of ALEC's Enterprise Zone Act. The New York Times reported that national supporters of the scheme agreed in December to test the waters for the act by first passing such legislation in Kentucky — which they did, prompting lawsuits and then trying their luck in Wisconsin. The ever-dutiful Darling quickly took up the banner.

All of the proposals contained in the legislation would harm rather than help the residents of the neighborhoods in question. There's no way Darling would have known that, since she apparently failed to speak with any elected officials, community leaders or residents in those areas. It's questionable whether she's even set foot in them, although in introducing her proposal she said that she'd driven

Darling and her spokesperson refused to speak with WiG about her proposal.

We believe that Darling's plan is a cynical manipulation to serve wealthy corporate interests at the expense of poor people under the guise of helping them. Her real goal is to perform an end-run around the state's labor laws, an action that could only drive wages lower in already impoverished neighborhoods and cost the state legal fees. Elected officials in the targeted neighborhoods, such as state Rep. Mandela Barnes (see his opinion piece on the next page) and state Sen. Nikiya Harris Dodd, are justifiably outraged, as are people of good conscience throughout the state.

Darling and her Republican colleagues have demonstrated nothing but contempt for Milwaukee's inner-city residents in the past. Their law requiring photo IDs in order to vote, for example, could disenfranchise most of the residents in those districts. Only half of eligible voters in the ZIP codes targeted have valid drivers' licenses. In one of the ZIP codes, only about 20 percent of registered voters have them.

Thanks to the policies of Wisconsin Republicans, Wisconsin ranks 32nd in the nation in terms of job growth and has a structural deficit of \$2.2 billion. The bad economy they've engineered here for their corporate benefactors hurts the most vulnerable most of all.

Instead of using tricks to insert illegal "right-to-work" zones in the state, they should be working on ways to improve our economy. Instead of trying to increase opportunities for operators of for-profit, unaccountable schools to get rich off taxpayer dollars, they should be addressing the systemic problems that cause poverty.

And rather than creating zones free of corporate taxes, they should be developing a tax code that makes successful businesses pay their fair share so that middle-class and poor people can get some meaningful tax relief.

Wisconsin Republicans have hit a new low with this latest

WiG's WEB PICKS



Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace





ON THE RECORD



"There's a connection between vaccinations and homosexuality. Anybody with eyes can see that. It doesn't take a doctor to figure that out."

- SARAH PALIN, former GOP vice presidential candidate and half-term governor of Alaska, speaking on the air with Glenn Beck.

"We don't do that in front of each other. The Fartman has yet to fart in front of his wife. ... We don't go to the bathroom in front of each other, we don't do that. Some things are left for private."

- BETH STERN telling Huffington Post that neither she nor her husband Howard Stern has farted in front of the other during 15 years of marriage.

"I'll just tell you one thing. After three elections for governor in four years in a state that hasn't gone Republican since 1984 for president, I wouldn't bet against me on anything."

- GOV. SCOTT WALKER talking about the odds of his presidential campaign to Martha Raddatz, host of ABC's This Week.

"My third-grade teacher called my mother and said, 'Ms. Cox, your son is going to end up in New Orleans in a dress if we don't get him into therapy.' And wouldn't you know, just last week I spoke at Tulane University, and I wore a lovely green and black dress."

- LAVERNE COX, transgender star of Orange is the New Black, speaking at the University of Kentucky last fall.

"It would be more than ironic if (Brian) Williams is punished for Iraq falsehoods while Dick Cheney is not."

- WILL BUNCH, a senior writer at the Philadelphia Daily News, blogging about NBC news anchor Williams' falsification of being aboard a chopper that took enemy fire in Iraq.

"Beck needs to respect artistry, and he should've given his award to Beyoncé. If the Grammys want real artists to keep coming back, they need to stop playing with us. We ain't fixing to play with them

 KANYE WEST ranting at reporters backstage at the Grammy Awards about Beyoncé's loss for best album.

"Opposition to gay marriage was particularly strong in the black church, and as (Obama) ran for higher office, he grudgingly accepted the counsel of more pragmatic folks like me and modified his position to support civil unions. ... (But Obama) never felt comfortable with his compromise."

 DAVID AXELROD, Democratic political adviser, writing in his book Believer: My Forty Years in Politics.

"You get into this business with the idea that maybe you have a point of view or have something to express, and to receive feedback for that is the greatest thing you can ask for. And I thank you for that."

JON STEWART, host of the Daily Show on Comedy Central for 16 years, announcing he will be leaving the show in 2015.



Sacrificing common sense for ideology



Gov. Scott Walker's brazen attempt to delete "truth" and "public service" from the Wisconsin Idea tells us everything we need to know about Walker, his administration, the GOP Legislature, their fat cat donors and their own perverted ideas for Wisconsin.

Since his first state budget in 2011, Walker has targeted public education. Hundreds of millions have been cut from K-12 schools, technical colleges and the university system. This attack is part of a decades-long campaign to defund public education through budget cuts, tuition freezes and transfers of tax dollars to vouchers for private schools, many of them

The \$300-million cut to the UW system will damage lives and communities. Jobs will be lost. Classes will be canceled Education will be disrupted and delayed.

Good professors will leave Natural Resources. These the system. Research will be curtailed and business ideas and startups will be hampered.

It used to be a no-brainer that investment in education pays off, especially in our competitive, globalized economy. But common sense is being sacrificed to an all-encompassing ideology of "starving the beast" - shrinking government "to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub" in the infamous words of right-wing strategist Grover Norquist.

Despite the dreams of free market purists, the public sector has been the most stable part of our economy. Dismantling it is accelerating the destruction of the middle class. Where will we be when government is rendered impotent and we are all forced to rely solely on the instabilities and chicanery of private industry?

Other Walker proposals show clearly where we're headed. His budget cuts 18.4 scientific positions from the Department of are the scientists who conduct the vital field research used to shape Wisconsin's environmental, land and wildlife management poli-

Science in the public interest be damned! The age of de-regulation has arrived. Let the land grabs and abuse of our environment commence!

Meanwhile, Ashley Furniture, which faces millions in federal fines for workplace safety violations, is poised to get \$6.7 million in tax credits from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. WEDC, a public-private hybrid that replaced the state Commerce Department, is supposed to create new jobs in Wisconsin. But audits reveal that WEDC does not account for the millions it disburses to private companies and fails to record the number of jobs created.

Ashley, responsible for more than 1000 work-related injuries - over 1,000! at its plant in Trempealeau County, is getting a real sweetheart deal. For the \$6.7 million in corporate welfare, it doesn't even have to create any new jobs.

All of this gives credence to the idea that corporate tycoons, aided by their political and media hit men, are destroying public oversight and education to consolidate wealth and property and to create a more compliant population that will shut up and take orders.

It is encouraging that some business owners joined with academics and students to protest Walker's cuts to the UW system. Yet, I wonder where all these people were during the 2014 election. It was pretty obvious then what radical moves the governor was committed to taking.

I guess the threat doesn't seem real until it's you and your livelihood or education being attacked. We need to start feeling greater solidarity with others and asserting ourselves through political action if we are to stop what amounts to a corporate coup in our formerly progressive state.

Fighting a real battle to help Milwaukee's poor



REP. MANDELA BARNES

When Milwaukee succeeds, Wisconsin succeeds. Unfortunately, in too many of our Milwaukee neighborhoods, innocent kids are dying, our children lack access to basic human necessities and our neighbors struggle to find jobs.

For far too long, our communities have been crying out in a fever pitch for their elected leaders to address these real problems. However, these calls continue to get paid only lip service by the Wisconsin Republicans who control our state government.

Recently, Senator Alberta Darling, R-River Hills, and Rep. Dale Kooyenga, R-Brookfield, introduced their legislative agenda for the City of Milwaukee. This plan from suburban Republicans does little to undo the harm that Wisconsin Republicans have done to Milwaukee communities and, in some cases, it would further damage neighborhood schools and local workers.

While I appreciate the attention they're paying to Milwaukee neighborhoods, Republicans largely ignore the root problems facing our neighborhoods and instead place Band-Aids that only further their political ideology.

Our schools and workers aren't falling behind because they need to be placed in haphazard "enterprise zones" that undermine local control and put corporate interests ahead of the community. Those communities are falling behind because our state's elected leaders are failing to provide the real infrastructure and investments needed for them to prosper

We can and must do better. It's time to put a halt to the failed political experiments and extreme special

interest agendas that rig the rules for the mega-rich and prevent our neighbors and families from getting ahead. Rather, we need to push ideas that prioritize real opportunity and security for Wisconsin communities. which is exactly what my Democratic colleagues and I have been fighting for.

We're fighting for families to be able to put more money in their pockets and work their way into the middle class. We're fighting for raising the minimum wage and cutting taxes for lowincome workers by restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit, by providing incentives for local businesses to hire more employees, and by protecting our workers and private employers. We're fighting to ensure our children and future generations have the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential in life by fully funding community-based education in our local public schools and ensuring our children have the support they need to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. We're fighting to ensure that our elders, parents and children have the security of quality health-care coverage. And we're fighting to keep our neighborhoods safe and secure by standing for sensible alternatives to our current gun laws that can keep firearms out of the hands of criminals, while still maintaining the freedom of lawabiding citizens to participate in our rich Wisconsin traditions.

When Milwaukee succeeds, Wisconsin succeeds, and we can accomplish this by getting real about creating opportunities and providing security for Milwaukee's neighborhoods and families.

State Rep. Mandela Barnes, D-Milwaukee represents Wisconsin's 11th Assembly District, which includes Milwaukee's northeast side and parts of Glendale.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

DOZENS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES DOCUMENTED

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline documented 43 cases of human trafficking in Wisconsin in 2014.

That number includes 38 cases of sex trafficking and three cases of labor trafficking, according to the NHTRC and Polaris, a national leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery.

Since 2007, the center has received reports of 148 cases of human trafficking in the state.

The data for Wisconsin shows the top venues for sex trafficking are pornography production, escort services, and street-based, hotel/motel-based and nightclub-based prostitution.

The Wisconsin cases involved 38 females and six males; 28 adults and 18 minors; 25 citizens and four foreign nationals.

In other regional news ...

- WALKER'S WRONG: A coalition of 15 groups is challenging Gov. Scott Walker's proposal to require applicants for and recipients of public assistance and unemployment insurance to pass drug tests. The organizations suggested the governor and state lawmakers focus instead on reducing poverty and helping Wisconsinites get back to work. Also, a coalition of UW alumni is forming to fight the governor's proposed \$300 million in cuts to the UW system.
- MADISON'S PEST: The Madison Forestry Section in early February confirmed an Emerald Ash Borer infestation on the city's south side at Doncaster Park. The infestation is the first on the south side and adds to previous finds on the north side at Warner Park and multiple finds on the east side.



Mercy for Animals organizing against ag-gag bill

Mercy for Animals, the watchdog group that documented animal cruelty cases on two Wisconsin dairy farms in 2014, has received reports that state lawmakers may introduce an "ag-gag" measure this session. "Ag-gag" bills seek to stop undercover investigators or whistleblowers from documenting animal abuses in the agriculture industry. Mercy is encouraging Wisconsinites to contact their representatives and the governor's office to oppose any "ag-gag" legislation.

• GOGEBIC TACONITE TIMEOUT:

Officials with the Florida company planning to excavate a huge iron mine south of Lake Superior say fieldwork has come to a standstill but they're not abandoning the controversial project. A Gogebic Taconite spokesman said the company ended consulting contracts and no work is being done while staffers analyze data gathered during the summer. Gogebic donated \$700,000 to Gov. Scott Walker shortly before regulations governing the mining-permit process were eased significantly.

- SCHOOL SPENDING SLIP: The National Center for Education Statistics said Wisconsin saw the nation's largest decline in per-pupil spending from fiscal 2011 to fiscal 2012 a drop of 8.7 percent. Wisconsin also lags behind Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota in per-pupil expenditures.
- FOUL AIR: Clean Wisconsin, along with a national coalition of environmental groups, recently sued the EPA, urging the agency to address air pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations, including ammonia. Since 2009, Clean

Wisconsin has pressed the EPA to use its authority under the federal Clean Air Act to reduce the noxious emissions from an estimated 20,000 farms across the country.

- FRAC SAND FINDINGS: In response to a petition signed by more than 1,100 Wisconsinites and at the recommendation of the state Department of Natural Resources board, DNR staff will analyze the impact of the frac sand industry in the state. The study will take about a year.
- BREWING SUCCESS: U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin has proposed cutting in half the federal excise tax that small craft brewers pay on each barrel of beer they produce. About 100 breweries in Wisconsin would benefit from the tax reduction, dubbed the Small BREW Act. In a release, Baldwin estimated the measure would save small breweries in Wisconsin roughly \$1.5 million per year, enabling them to invest in expanding and adding employees.
- STILL MARRIED: Michigan will recognize more than 300 same-sex marriages performed during a brief window when they were allowed last year, Gov. Rick Snyder announced. The Republican governor said he will not appeal a federal ruling last month that the state must recognize the marriages.
- SHINY APPLE: Appleton placed fifth among similar-sized cities for affordability and quality of life in a ranking released by Livability.com. The website recognized Appleton for its downtown social scene, playgrounds, parks and walking trails.
 - from WiG reports

"Best Wishes in the New Year from Hall Volkswagen!"

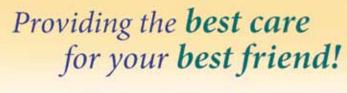


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COMMUNITY BULLETINS



A couple watches the opening night fireworks at PrideFest 2014. This year's event is slated for June 5-7 at the Summerfest grounds.

- Janesville Community Radio continues to work to bring service to that area. Supporters are raising money to build a radio tower and purchase a transmitter and studio equipment to begin broadcasting in June. For more, go to www.janesvillecommunityradio.com.
- Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee honors champions of social justice, animal welfare and environmental progress during its awards celebration on Feb. 26 at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino. Honorees include former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, Jill De Grave of the Wisconsin Humane Society, Marquette University president Dr. Michael Lovell, Vanessa LaCoste of Artworks for Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Brewers. For more, go to www.communitysharesmke.org
- WMSE is cooking up its 13th annual Rockabilly Chili fundraiser. The event takes place on March 1 at MSOE Kern Center, 1245 N. Broadway, with chili on the menu and one of the best bluegrass bands in the country at the mic - Split Lip Rayfield.

- Walk MS events are set to take place around the state in May. The walks are the largest rallying point and fundraisers for those affected by multiple sclerosis. For more, go to walkmswisconsin.org.
- Fair Wisconsin Education Fund and Diverse & Resilient host the annual Wisconsin LGBT Leadership Conference Feb. 20-22 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. For more, go to wilgbtleadership.org.
- Milwaukee LGBT Community Center offers a variety of support and discussion groups, as well as hosts social events, including drop-ins, theater outings and movie nights. For more, go to www.mkelgbt.org.
- PrideFest Milwaukee says, "Save the date." Organizers are planning PrideFest for June 5-7 at the Summerfest grounds. For more, go to pridefest.com.
 - Lisa Neff

Be yourself

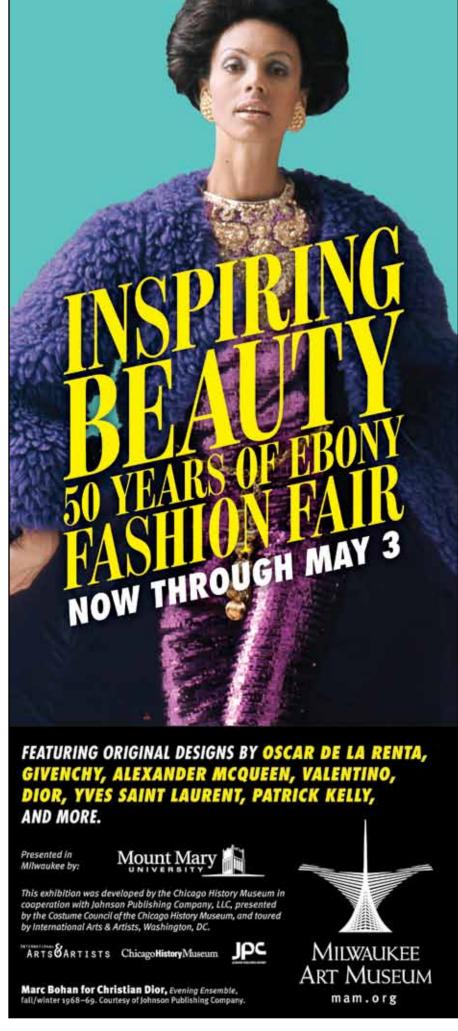
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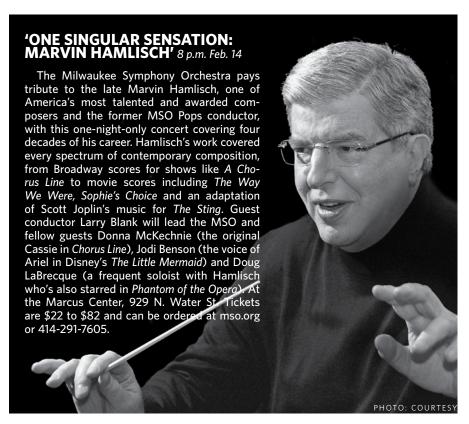


Ut on the town February 12 - 26 A curated calendar of upcoming events



PEDRITO MARTINEZ GROUP 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 (Madison) and 13 (Milwaukee)

As a session artist, Pedrito Martinez is considered a master of Afro-Cuban music who's performed on more than 100 albums. But his time as a bandleader has let him truly flourish, cultivating a group of artists who can create rhythmic, dance-ready beats that'll practically turn Madison's Overture Center and the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Centers into Havana clubs. At 201 State St., Madison, and 901 15th Ave., South Milwaukee. Tickets are \$32 at Overture Center and \$10 to \$35 at SMPAC. Visit overturecenter.org or southmilwaukeepac.org for more details.



'THE AMISH PROJECT' Feb. 13 to March 22 In 2006, a lone gunman took 10 girls in an Amish schoolroom hostage, killing five of them and himself as police raided the building. Inspired by that tragedy, Jessica Dickey wrote The Amish Project, a one-woman show that serves as a fictional account of the event — and the unanticipated, compassionate forgiveness expressed by the grieving Amish community. Local actor Deborah Staples will take on the role in the Milwaukee Rep's production, having previously performed solo there in The Blonde, The Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead in 2008. At the Stiemke Studio, 108 E. Wells St. Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased at 414-224-9490 or milwaukeerep.com. THE AMISH

PHOTO: MILWAUKEE REP

'SHE KILLS MONSTERS'

Feb. 12 to Feb. 15

Dungeons & Dragons as grief therapy? It's unorthodox, but it's working for Agnes, the protagonist of She Kills Monsters, who's exploring the fantasy world her 15-year-old sister left behind when she and their parents were killed in a car crash. But the deeper into her quest Agnes goes, the more she discovers about her sister, and her life at the time of that fatal accident. Current UWM undergraduate Levi Miles directs this '90s pop culture-RPG mashup, part of UWM's New Directions theater series. At 1925 E. Kenilworth Place, Milwaukee. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for seniors/faculty/students and \$5 for students in advance. Visit arts.uwm.edu for more details.

'TWELFTH NIGHT'

Feb. 13 to March 7

One of Shakespeare's most comic romances gets a modern twist in this Strollers Theatre production. Director Greg Harris (who staged A Midsummer Night's Dream there in 2013) takes this tale of shipwrecks and mistaken identity into the present day, with the disguised Viola still torn between being desired by the beautiful Olivia and desirous of the handsome Duke. At the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St., Madison. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at 608-661-9696 or bartelltheatre.org.

Dut on the town



BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY 8 p.m. Feb. 14

Thirty years after forming the group with his late partner, Arnie Zane, Bill T. Jones still leads one of the premier dance companies in the United States, performing a diverse array of works worldwide. When they arrive in Madison, they'll perform three of them: Spent Days Out Yonder, a musical exploration of Mozart's String Quartet No. 23 in F Major; Continuous Replay, a revised version of a solo work by Zane based on 45 precise gestures; and the company's "tour de force," D-Man in the Waters, an award-winning work that celebrates life and the resiliency of the human spirit. At Union Theater's Shannon Hall, 800 Langdon St. Tickets range from \$10 to \$44 and can be purchased at uniontheater.wisc.edu. Jones himself will be in attendance over the weekend, and will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 as part of the university's distinguished lecture series, a free event at Shannon Hall.



'SHOSHANA SINGS STREISAND' 1 p.m. Feb. 18

Broadway star Shoshana Bean has made a name for herself on stage, as a member of the original *Hairspray* cast and the first replacement for Elphaba in *Wicked*. At the Wilson Center, she takes on another name: Barbra Streisand. Bean will play tribute to Streisand and her most theatrical songs, including "The Way We Were," "Memory" and "Send in the Clowns." At 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield. Tickets are \$18 to \$23 and can be ordered at wilson-center.com or 262-781-9520.

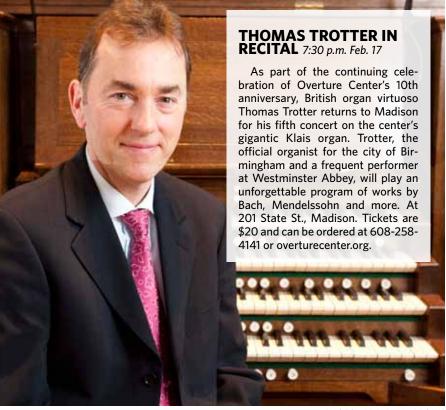


PHOTO: ADRIAN BURROWS

FEB FEST 2015

2 p.m. Feb. 14, 21 and 28

Door Country's Peninsula Music Festival is a big deal for classical music fans in the summer, but locals get their own show every February. Feb Fest returns for 2015 with three concerts on consecutive Saturdays, each featuring a different group of guest artists and varied programs. At Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, 11836 Wisconsin Highway 42, Ellison Bay. Tickets are \$25 per concert, \$5 for students, and \$60 for all three. Visit musicfestival.com for a full schedule and to order tickets.



CHINESE NEW YEAR PARTY

7:30 p.m. Feb. 20

Miss the chance to break out your dancing shoes on Dec. 31? Don't worry, Fred Astaire Dance Studio's got you covered with another New Year's party — a Chinese New Year Party. Ballroom dancing is obviously the main item on the agenda, but there'll also be food and beverages on hand to improve the celebration. At 323 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$35 per individual or couple. Visit fredastairemilwaukee.com for more details.

'CONNECTING IN THE CHAMBER' Feb. 19 to Feb. 21

Present Music's intimate chamber concert series has been a hit in both its previous iterations and its third looks to be just as charming. The new music group will travel to three locations in one weekend to perform a diverse setlist in close quarters, shrinking the distance between audience and artist about as small as it can get. The group will perform at in Milwaukee at: Anodyne Coffee, 224 W. Bruce St. (7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday), Villa Terrace, 2220 N. Terrace Ave. (11 a.m. Friday) and the home of John Shannon and Jan Serr, 3017 N. Marietta Ave. (7:30 p.m. Saturday). Tickets are \$25, \$35 or \$80 depending on location. Visit presentmusic.org to order.

'GOD OF CARNAGE'

Feb. 19 to March 1

In Off the Wall Theatre's latest show, two couples enter a room to settle their children's playground dispute ... and two couples walk out. But they're not all in one piece when they do. Yasmina Reza's acclaimed play may start out as a light discussion over snacks but, by the end of its 90 minutes, all four adults have begun scrapping worse than their children, their poise disintegrating in alternately comic and horrifying fashion. At 127 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$25 and can be ordered at offthewalltheatre.com.

A curated calendar of upcoming events February 12 - 26



'MAMMA MIA!' Feb. 20 to 22 (Milwaukee), Feb. 27 to March 1 (Appleton)

Marketing a show with the tag line, "You already know you're gonna love it!" would be presumptuous for most musicals. Not *Mamma Mia!*, the ABBA jukebox musical that kicked off the trend and has become one of the most successful shows of all time since its West End debut more than 15 years ago. The current national tour will bring this tale of a girl who invites her three potential fathers to her island wedding to Milwaukee and Appleton this month, but only for three days each. So pull out your "Money, Money, Money," dancing queens. At the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee, and Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton. Tickets range from \$41 to \$105 (Milwaukee) or \$55 to \$108 (Appleton). Visit marcuscenter.org or foxcitiespac.org for more information.



PHOTO: COURTESY WILSON CENTER

KEIGWIN + COMPANY

3 p.m. Feb. 21

When Larry Keigwin launched Keigwin + Company in 2003, the performer was hailed as a fresh new voice in the dance world. That voice still echoes today. What separates K+C from most companies is that their works are dedicated to building communities - most notably, in the case of Bolero, a site-specific work commissioned in 11 cities nationwide that pairs the company with 50 to 75 non-movement-trained people from the surrounding community. K+C won't be bringing Bolero to Milwaukee, but they'll surely enthrall nonetheless at the Wilson Center. At 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield. Tickets range from \$39 to \$69 and can be purchased at wilson-center.com or 262-781-9520.



MIAD CREATIVITY SERIES: ROBERT SABUDA 6 p.m. Feb. 25

The MIAD Creativity Series was started in 2012 as a way for the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design to bring in visiting artists who could work with students and present their work to the community at large. That tradition continues with the program's seventh creative, Robert Sabuda, an acclaimed children's pop-up book artist and paper engineer responsible for gorgeous works including the Encyclopedia Prehistorica trilogy and pop-up editions of Alice in Wonderland and The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. Sabuda will discuss and display his work at a public presentation, followed by a Q&A moderated by WUWM's Bonnie North and a book signing. On MIAD's fourth floor, 273 E. Erie St. RSVPs are preferred, to caroldavis@miad.edu.

'THE BROTHERS SIZE'

7 p.m. Feb. 23

The close bond between brothers is challenged in this emotional drama, set in Louisiana bayou country and inspired by West African mythology. *The Brothers Size* depicts two siblings: Ogun, a driven mechanic who's taken in his brother after he returned from prison, and Oshoosi, an aimless wanderer whose former cellmate shows up and threatens his newfound freedom. Director Marti Gobel will direct this Uprooted Theatre production as a hybrid staged reading, with a talkback following. At Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$12, \$7 for seniors/students. Visit nextact.org to order.

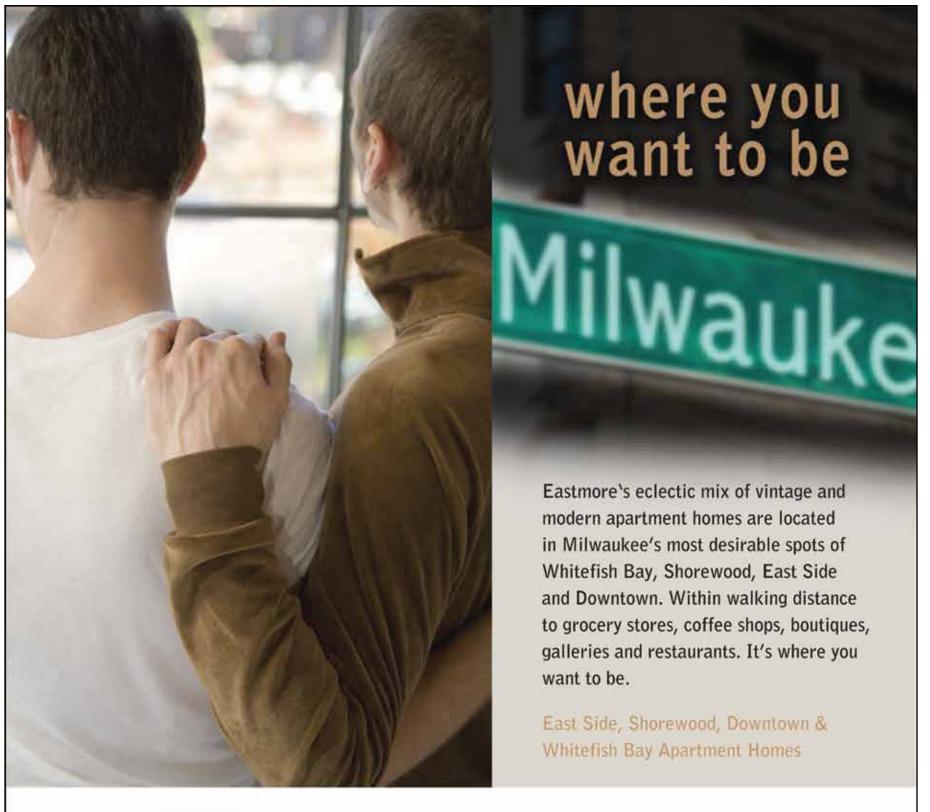


'OVER THE RAINBOW'

7:30 p.m. Feb. 26

NYC jazz artist Hilary Kole pays tribute to Judy Garland in this big band concert at Madison's Overture Center. It's a show that'll include Garland's biggest hits, like "The Trolley Song," "As Long as He Needs Me," and, of course, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." At 201 State St. Tickets range from \$35 to \$60, with \$60 tickets including a meet-and-greet with Kole after the show. Call 608-258-4141 or visit overturecenter.org to order.







you're more at home

Dissit Out

Bos makes mead modern, not medieval

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Is the next big trend in craft beer not a beer at all?

That's what Colleen Bos is counting on. The veteran homebrewer is putting her money on mead, and she's not content to wait for Madison to stumble across the drink at someone else's establishment.

Since 2012, Bos has been brewing mead, a beverage made by fermenting honey, at her tiny Bos Meadery in a former industrial building in downtown Madison. But the suite of back rooms on Washington Avenue, full of fermenting tanks, isn't exactly the sort of venue where one can try out her wares.

That's why, on Feb. 13, Bos will open her first tasting room at Tamarack Studio & Gallery, just down the hall. The tasting opportunity will give a much-needed public face to the meadery, which Bos says produces a little over 1,500 gallons a year, and the stylish two-story loft is a striking setting for sampling the world's oldest fermented beverage.

The first evidence of mead goes back eons. Ancient pottery vessels found in northern China, dating from 6,500-7,000 B.C., contain the chemical signatures of honey, rice, fruits and organic fermentation compounds — all components of mead.

Mead is mentioned in the ancient hymns of Hinduism's *Rigveda*, dated to the 15th century B.C., and in the writings of Greek and Roman philosophers like Aristotle and Pliny the Elder. The Danish warriors mentioned in *Beowulf* drank mead and it is also referenced in the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*.

Mead may be a perfect match for Bos, a Kalamazoo, Michigan, native who describes herself as "a former medievalist" with master's degrees in medieval history and medieval literature.

"I focus both on the science and art of making mead," says Bos. "The tasting room will be the perfect blend of art and artisanal beverages."

Bos is one of only three full-time Wisconsin mead producers, a drop in the proverbial honey pot compared to the state's estimated 125 craft breweries and brewpubs, 60 wineries and vineyards and 15 distilleries.

In addition to Bos, Royal Court Meadery, in Sheboygan, and White Winter

Winery, located in the Bayfield County community of Iron River, are the state's only full-time mead producers (White Winter also makes honey-wine, a cousin to mead). Bayfield Winery and Spurgeon Vineyards, in Highland, make mead too, but as part of their wine production.

Mead also is a side project for many homebrewers, since the process of mixing honey, water and yeast to make it is more akin to brewing beer than fermenting wine. Many mead-makers simply combine all the ingredients and wait for fermentation to begin.

Bos takes a more gradual approach, dividing her ingredients into quarter-size batches and adding the yeast in steps so as not to overwhelm the microorganisms that ferment the honey and other ingredients.

Bos' approach actually streamlines production, creating a better-balanced batch in less time. The mead is then aged four to eight weeks prior to being hand-bottled by Bos and partner Peter DeVault.

Bos uses unpasteurized honey from various apiaries around the state to produce her mead, including sources near Germantown, Viroqua and Madison. The unpasteurized honey produces better flavor and a more floral scent, Bos says. Honey also is a natural antibiotic and does not require pasteurization's boiling process, she adds.

Bos makes four types of mead, all of which are either dry or sparkling meads — a unique choice within the marketplace.

"Most commercial meads tend to be sweet, which is what people expect," she says. "I don't think that sweet mead has long-lasting market appeal, which is why I am taking a different approach."

Bos' current dry lineup includes Wildflower Mead, a blend of wildflower honey, water and yeast that is the standard of the mead-maker's art, and Buckwheat Wildflower Mead, which adds honey produced from buckwheat flower nectar that creates a more complex flavor that Bos equates to a fine scotch.

Most complex of all is the Wildflower Oaked Mead, which Bos says benefits from time spent in oak that adds to its complexity and gives it enough stamina to take the place of a dinner wine.

Bos also produces a sparkling Pomegranate Pyment, a mead blended with Riesling grape juice and pomegranate juice that produces a crisply refreshing,



PHOTO: JASON HENDRICK

Bos Meadery produces four varieties of mead at its Washington Avenue location, including Wildflower Mead, a complex brew made with honey from buckwheat flower nectar that owner Colleen Bos equates to the quality of a fine scotch.

yet subtle flavor.

Madison and Milwaukee residents have previously been able to try all four in random rotation only. Bos is one of the few mead-makers who packages her products in 1/6-barrel kegs for restaurants and bars, and both The Old Fashioned, on 23 N. Pinckney St. in Madison, and Sugar Maple, on 441 E. Lincoln Ave. in Milwaukee, have had one or more on tap for months.

Bos will be pouring all four when the tasting room opens. The art gallery will be reset with tables and chairs and, perhaps, some comfier arrangements. Eventually she'd like to start serving craft cocktails using locally produced products.

"It's an entirely different business operating a tasting room and I've had to juggle a lot of permits," Bos said. "I'm sure

operating a kitchen would be even more challenging."

She wants to get Madison more familiar with her meads first. All things old are new again, it seems, and Bos believes that the time has come to make mead modern.

ON TAP

Bos Meadery's tasting room will be located at Tamarack Studio & Gallery, 849 E. Washington Ave., Madison. It will be open 5-9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 2-9 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, visit the meadery's website, bosmeadery.com.



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The art of tasting artisan chocolates

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Sweets for the sweet is a time-honored Valentine's Day tradition, and no sweet is more beloved than chocolate. And when you're buying for Feb. 14, there's all the more incentive to buy the best.

So remember to take time and savor the chocolates you receive. The very best of the breed are more than mere commodity.

With quality chocolates, there's as much an art to tasting as there is to wine. The more you know before popping that first truffle into your mouth, the more fully you will enjoy the experience, according to Madison chocolatier Gail Ambrosius.

"You need to use all your senses in order to experience the flavors fully," says Ambrosius, owner of Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier on Madison's east side. "You should breathe in the aroma, after visually noticing the chocolate's color and sheen. The chocolate should have a distinct snap when you bite into it and then (you should) feel the silky smooth texture in your mouth."

Megan Hile, owner of Madison Chocolate Co., one of the city's newest producers, agrees. Moreover, she says, savor slowly and let the flavors come to you.

"Take a piece of chocolate in your mouth, chew it to start the melting process and then let the flavor open up," says Hile, who currently runs her operation solely online. "Chocolate offers flavors that will hit you up front, in the middle and then on the finish."

Great chocolate is defined by its origin point. Both Ambrosius and Hile have taken time to visit cacao growers and learn about what goes into producing the right beans to create great chocolate. The process is key, Hile says.

"Great chocolate to me means there is care taken from beginning to end — from



Lucille's Vanilla (above), a mild dark chocolate truffle made by Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier, is one of the many delicious options offered by Madison's chocolate makers.

the cacao plantation, to fermentation, to processing, to the chocolatier's kitchen," Hile says. "You can always find good chocolate, but great chocolate is made in small batches, by hand, using stellar ingredients by people who are passionate about what they do."

Ambrosius agrees: "The chocolatier takes the chocolate and uses her alchemy

Tuesday - Thursday: 4 pm- 10 pm

Friday & Saturday: 4 pm - 11 pm

Sunday brunch: 10 am - 2 pm

to turn it into wonderful truffles, bonbons or other confections. I would say it is a combination of farmer, chocolate-maker and chocolatier."

Both chocolatiers favor Ecuador as the source of their cacao beans, although they say countries in Central America also excel. Like anything else, some types of cacao are rarer and more expensive than others, Ambrosius says.

"Porcelana is said to be the rarest cacao, most expensive and most sought after," Ambrosius says. "It is native to Venezuela, but there is rumored to be some in a remote area of Peru as well. It is light in color and very aromatic in flavor. To me it almost melts away like cotton candy in my mouth."

While traveling in Peru, Ambrosius also learned of an heirloom cacao variety called cacao chuncho, named for an ethnic group of Amazonians in Peru at the time of the Spanish Conquest. "Very small beans, but the farmers were very proud of this chocolate," she added.

Different Madison area chocolatiers favor different styles, but all of them produce the classic truffle favored with everything from coconut to chili powder to cognac. No matter the approach, all great chocolate has one thing in common.

"Great chocolate is made with love," Hile says. "I believe you can taste the difference."

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CHOCOLATE next page

CHOCOLATE from prior page

Get Your Truffle On

The Madison area is home to five chocolatiers, men and women who make chocolate as an art form. Here is a list of where to shop for your Valentine's Day treats.

Candinas Chocolatier, 11 W. Main St., Madison, and 2535 Old PB, Verona, WI. 608-845-1545 or candinas.com.

Chocolatier Markus Candinas learned his trade during a three-year apprenticeship program in Switzerland and the result has been more than 20 years of elegant chocolate. Whether sampling the espresso or elderflower truffle, you will find that Candinas' workmanship speaks for itself. Shop the boutique in downtown Madison or the retail shop that fronts the factory in rural Verona. Each has its charms and plenty of chocolate to taste.

DB Infusion Chocolates, 550 N. Midvale Blvd. (in the Hilldale Shopping Center), Madison. 608-233-1600 or infusionchocolates.com.

A staff of trained chocolatiers crafts a vast array of truffles that are as attractive in appearance as they are scrumptious in flavor. This time of year, the Aphrodisiac for Her (65 percent Venezuelan dark chocolate infused with strawberry, passion fruit and tropical Tasmanian

leatherwood honey) and the Aphrodisiac for Him (Patron silver tequila, lime and a blend of guajillo and chipotle peppers in a milk chocolate center) are must-haves for your truffle basket. Caribbean Fire (70 percent mostly dark Ecuadoran chocolate around a fiery center of ancho and chipotle peppers, nutmeg, allspice and jerk seasoning) will help spark romantic fires.

Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier, 2086 Atwood Ave., Madison. 608-249-3500 or gailambrosius.com.

Although not Madison's oldest maker of handmade chocolates,

Ambrosius has one of the area's highest profiles, especially when it comes to dark chocolate harvested from unique areas around the globe. A former cartographer for the state who trained as a chocolatier in Paris after being laid off, Ambrosius manages to blend sweets and spices in unique ways that intrigue the palate and



PHOTO: MEGAN F

Madison Chocolate Co. doesn't have a storefront, so the only way for truffle-lovers to enjoy the treats is to buy shares in the company, receiving a monthly shipment of chocolates in return.

serve as a gustatory geography lesson to the world's best cacao.

Madison Chocolate Co., online only at madisonchocolate.com.

Launched in fall 2012, Madison Chocolate Co. uses facilities at Food Enterprise & Economic Development Kitchens, a contract commercial kitchen and food

industry incubator located on Madison's north side, to produce chocolate truffles. A former Spanish teacher, Megan Hile began her food education process with Ecole Chocolat coursework and a "bean to bar" internship in Mindo, Ecuador. She markets her truffles using a consumer-supported agriculture model, which enables customers to buy shares in the company and receive a monthly shipment of chocolate in return.

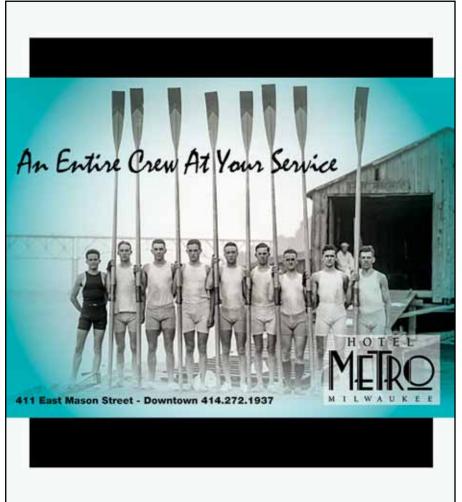
Maurie's Fine Chocolates, 1637 Monroe St., Madison. 608-255-9092 or mauriesfinechocolates.com.

Established in 1993, chocolatier Cher Mandel Diamond named her shop for her late father, who had been making fine chocolate truffles by hand since 1941. Maurie's recipes form the core of the chocolate truffles Diamond produces. The second-generation chocolatier draws on fine, internationally harvested cacao, surrounding a dark chocolate ganache infused with natural fruits, teas and spices and a thin chocolate layer. Chocolates like the Amour, a raspberryinfused dark chocolate truffle; the Single Barrel, dark chocolate infused with bourbon; or the Oporto, dark chocolate infused with port wine, should be part of the Valentine's Day celebration.

Mike Muckian















Waxwing flies back

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

It sounded like just another example of the same sad story: The Waxwing, a consignment shop that offers local artists the chance to sell their wares to eager Shorewood residents, was being forced to close at the height of its success because it wasn't going to get a lease renewed for another year.

And then, as suddenly as the bad news came, it wasn't such a sad story after all.

On Jan. 17, only a few weeks after owner and artist Steph Davies announced that The Waxwing would close at the end of February, she reversed course, revealing that her landlord had granted The Waxwing and its artists a one-year reprieve largely as a result of the outpouring of sadness and support she and the store received in those weeks.

Davies says she was surprised by the response her initial announcement got — "I had people coming in crying when they found out we were closing," she says — but the passion of The Waxwing's customer base hasn't ever been in question, even from day one.

Davies opened The Waxwing in 2012, replacing the space's two previous owners and her old bosses. They'd run a smaller-scale version of the shop, Hummingbird Art Boutique, and when they chose to step away from the store, Davies decided to give it a shot. She picked the name "Waxwing" as a loose tie to Sparrow Collective in Bay View, where she had previously sold art, as well as a suggestion of combining two distinct things in the way many of her crafters and artists do.

She'd gotten a lot of encouragement from her friends in the art community, as well as the Shorewood residents who'd stopped in for her soft opening, but when Davies officially opened her doors that March, she didn't expect anyone to show up. She was mistaken. The store was packed from wall to wall and in that single night, she made enough to cover her rent for the month.

The Waxwing's flown higher since. Originally home to about 65 artists (including Davies, for whom

the shop doubled as a studio until she ran out of space), the store is now packed to the brim with drawings, paintings, crafts, jewelry, posters, clothing, pottery and handmade gifts of all sorts from 120 artists.

Initially, Davies herself had to find artists, scouring craft fairs and galleries for art she liked, as well as art she thought would fit well in the store — a distinction she had to cultivate quickly. Now artists find her, and while many of them have been with The Waxwing for years, Davies regularly has to rotate out artists in order to let in new ones.

As a consignment shop, The Waxwing offers artists 60 percent of the earnings on their works. Davies says the percentage is higher than many other boutiques offer. In exchange for that extra amount, though, artists are expected to drop off their work ready to be sold, with labels, packaging and all. When items arrive, Davies and her six-person staff unpack them and take photographs to share on the website and in social media outlets. Most artists bring in items once a month, with the more popular and prolific doing so even more frequently. "In that sense," Davies says, "it's more fun than regular retail, because you never know what's in store."

Over the past three years, Davies says, she's had the pleasure of watching many of her regular artists grow as a result of The Waxwing's presence. Some have simply thanked her for offering them the opportunity to build up their confidence as artists. Others, even luckier, have been able to quit their day jobs, and focus on making their art full-time.

So it was those 120 artists as well as The Waxwing itself that were jeopardized in late 2014, when landlord Nathaniel Davauer told Davies of his hopes to expand Draft & Vessel, the successful tasting room/ micro-bar next to The Waxwing.

Davies says she bore no ill will toward Davauer when he explained his hopes to expand Draft & Vessel, and she understood the tough position he was in as their businesses both grew more successful, "Did it suck that it affected me? Sure. But until I own my own place, I'm always going to be at the mercy of a landlord."

But she also couldn't accept the compromise offer he provided at the beginning of the year: to renew her lease under the condition that, if he received a permit to expand from the village of Shorewood, she'd have 60 days to find a new home for The Waxwing. "I couldn't spend a year looking over my shoulder," she says. "I'm a rip-the-Band-Aid-off person."

The community's response changed that. Just as she sent the last round of messages to her artists, Davaeur sent her an email wanting to talk. Then the two hammered out a deal that would keep The Waxwing in its current location for one more year.

The announcement has given the art community and Shorewood residents hope that The Waxwing can find a new home, and that's Davies' goal too. But while she's keeping her eye out for places in Shorewood, Davies says she's already come to terms with the prospect of eventually closing the store. It's not something she wants, but with a yearand-a-half-old daughter at home and no desire to try and start from scratch in a new neighborhood, it's something she knows is a possibility. "I'm just leaving it in the hands of the universe," she says.

And if 2016 does find Shorewood without The Waxwing, Davies says that doesn't make the store's absence permanent. "Even if this is our last year for now," she says, "the key is 'for now."

IF YOU GO

The Waxwing will host a three-vear Anniversary/Encore Bash 5-10 p.m. on Feb. 28 in celebration of a lease's extension into 2016. Food and beverage will be provided, along with a performance by the Thriftones. At 4415 N. Oakland Ave. Admission is free. Visit thewaxwing.com for more information.







PHOTO: COURTESY

Opera's Kurt Ollmann returns for a Milwaukee cabaret

By Julie Steinbach

Contributing writer

Singing the role of Riff in Leonard Bernstein's "operatic" 1984 recording of iconic musical West Side Story is a highlight that pretty well sums up lyric baritone Kurt Ollmann's career: a balance of musical theater and opera performances that adds up to quite the impressive legacy.

Ollmann's career and artistry have deep roots in Milwaukee. He began his career with jobs at the Skylight before moving away and, after returning to Milwaukee in the 'OOs, Ollmann, alongside partner Bill Lavonis, was a professor in UWM's vocal department.

While the performer recently left the city, moving south to Georgia, he'll return for an evening of cabaret on Feb. 27 along-side pianist Jack Forbes Wilson, a longtime friend and collaborator. You Don't Know What Love Is will feature the two men performing a selection of love songs — from Broadway and Tin Pan Alley tunes to French chansons and contemporary indie ballads. Ollmann also will perform at UWM with pianist Jeffery Peterson on March 6.

I spoke via phone with Ollmann while he enjoyed a morning of Benjamin Britten recordings at his new home in Savannah, Georgia, to converse with him about his upcoming performance with Forbes Wilson. How did you and Jack Forbes Wilson first meet? I met Jack when I moved back to Milwaukee. I was in Milwaukee from 1978 to '82, and then I was in New York and then Santa Fe. That was when the most intense part of my career happened. I moved back around 2000 because Bill and I had become partners at that time and he was going to finish up his teaching career at UWM. An old friend with whom I had sung back in the '70s and the '80s introduced me to Jack. She said she thought we should know each other. He invited me to sing with him at the Unitarian Church, where he is one of the music directors, and which I subsequently joined.

How did you come up with the idea for You Don't Know What Love Is? What sort of songs did you select for the show? You Don't Know What Love Is is also the title of a song, and one of the lyrics of that song goes, "You don't know what love is until you've learned the meaning of the blues." (The selection) is some of our favorite songs and then a few new songs, which we haven't done before, loosely arranged around the very inclusive subject of love. Which pretty much allows you to do almost anything you want!

I grew up partly in France and my undergraduate degree is in French literature, so we often do a few songs in French or songs by French or French-speaking composers. We've started doing the song "Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucoup," which was made famous by Hildegarde, who was a great cabaret star and who was from Milwaukee! Since I've moved to Savannah, I have a new area of experience, so we're doing a Georgia section, with "Georgia on My Mind" and a song called "Hard Hearted Hannah (The Vamp of Savannah)." And there are songs of Gershwin and songs of Sondheim and songs of Cole Porter. It's a potpourri. It's not arbitrary, but it's wide-ranging.

Is that the way most cabaret performances are arranged? Sometimes a cabaret can be organized around some subject or a composer, (like) a cabaret of Sondheim songs. It can be one composer or "Music of the '20s" or it can have some other, more limiting theme — "Songs of Spring," or whatever. But this one is quite broad: "Songs We Like to Sing or Songs We Want to Try!" Everything comes under those two headings.

Why does that style of cabaret arrangement work for you? I find that a much better way to go than to come up with some obscure subject, then try to find music to fit it. Then you end up doing music for, from my perspective, not the best reason. I think the best reason is when you connect to the piece, you want to spend time with it, and you want to communicate it to other people—that's a really good reason to do a song.

How are you and Jack approaching the rehearsal process, given that you no longer live in the same city? First of all, we have the advantage that we've worked together a lot — something like 10 to 12 years together — so we have a lot of repertoire. I was back in town in the summer to do a program with Jack that I had agreed to do before I moved. And that's the case with these two gigs too; they had been scheduled before I moved. Having moved to Georgia, I would not have chosen to come back to Wisconsin in the middle of winter, but these predated my move.

So when Jack and I were together in the summer we mapped out this program. The song list has existed now for several months, and we have talked on the phone several times since (making) a few changes. I am going to be coming a week early, and that should be enough time.

When you perform songs from different shows, do you perform those in character? Or do you sing them from your own perspective? One of the things that I love about any kind of song concert is characterizing the song and yes, acting. I think of storytelling as acting. When I sing "Marry Me a Little" from *Company*, which is one of the songs we're planning to do, I don't necessarily think about the character of Bobby particularly. I don't try to make it a little vignette from the show. But I definitely try to



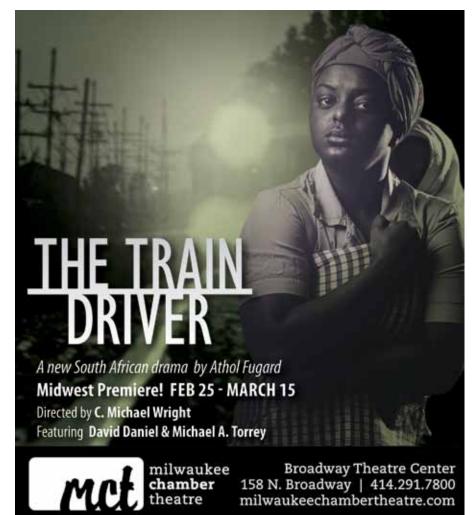
Lyric baritone Kurt Ollmann, formerly of Milwaukee, will return to the city for a cabaret show with Jack Forbes Wilson.

go to a place in my own spirit that connects to the subject at hand. I'm thinking in acting terms, but not necessarily the character from the show.

Sometimes people will come back and I'll have sung for an hour and they won't say anything about my singing. They'll say, "I really liked your acting! You're really an actor!," and I consider that a high compliment because I'm trying to tell a story.

Songs from the Golden Age of Broadway and Tin-Pan Alley seem to have an unbelievable staying power, even decades after their first appearance. What do you think gives them that quality? Well it's sort of a chicken or egg (debate). The songs that we consider to be the American Songbook are the songs that have lasted. There are all those songs from all those composers from all those shows that we don't remember. ... But I think that with any song, you have a combination of a lyric and a melody and they both have to have strength independently, but then they also have to serve each other. They have to be greater than the sum of their parts. When you have Larry Hart writing lyrics for Richard Rodgers, the words do have genius about them. I'm drawn to songs where the text can be grasped on one listening. I think that a narrative element or an emotional moment has to be crystallized: there has to be something precise and clear about what's going on.

Are you planning to attend any local shows while you're in town, or visit places you're nostalgic for? At this point, I don't have any plans to go to any performances, although I probably should. Savannah is a very beautiful and very interesting city with a lot of history — it was actually just voted the seventh most beautiful city in the world — but it doesn't have a lot of performing arts, not compared to Milwaukee. In the absence of it, I appreciate the density of stuff in Milwaukee.



'Bubbler' brings hands-on art-making experiences to Madison Public Library

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

Thanks to a \$457,627 grant, Madison Public Library now houses a program that fosters creativity in visitors of all ages through hands-on art, design and technology workshops.

Inventively named "Bubbler," the program offers opportunities to learn about and create fine art, computer animation, 3-D printing, films, audio recordings and video games. The program is so popular that it draws participants from Milwaukee.

"Bubbler" is part of an effort to reconceive libraries as more than places "where you consume content," library program coordinator Trent Miller says, as a group of grade school students troop out of the main workroom. They've just learned about screen-printing from artist-in-residence Craig Grabhorn, who calls himself "head bubblerarian."

The Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded the grant that enabled "Bubbler." Based in Washington, D.C., the agency is a main source of funding for U.S. museums and libraries. The grant allows the library and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to measure and document "Bubbler" over two years, so the program can be replicated elsewhere.

"We've proven ourselves locally and nationally. We know people are learning things, we know it's interesting," says Miller, "but there isn't a lot of qualitative, quantitative research on 'maker spaces' — hands-on participatory learning in libraries."

While many similar institutions are experimenting with maker-spaces, "I think we're unique in having an artist-in-residence," Miller says. "Some of the other things we're doing are also unique."

For example, there are themed evening events, with drinks and exhibitions. The most recent one featured a live band and celebrated the *Twin Peaks* TV series.

"Bubbler" also takes its programming into the community, notably to the Dane County Juvenile Detention Center.

"They loved it," Miller says.

"Bubbler" has two dedicated spaces in the central library — "Bubbler Headquarters" and a video lab. But the program is more of an experience than a place.



Artist-in-residence and "head bubblerarian" Craig Grabhorn educates visitors of all ages as part of the Bubbler program.

There was no advance planning to make anything like "Bubbler" a part of the \$30-million renovation of the central library building, which reopened in September 2013.

After the volumes had been removed, but before construction started, the library held "Bookless," a large art event. "There were over 100 artists, there were rock bands and DJs. We got something like 5,000 people and we had lines around the building," Miller says.

That event served as an epiphany for planners, who saw it as proof they could "do these wild, creative things," as Miller puts it. A team was formed and the program was born. But it still needed a name.

"We kept thinking, what is creative and interesting? At that point I just said, 'How about Bubbler?' And everyone smiled, and that was it."

For more, visit madisonbubbler.org.





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PHOTO: MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Eunice Johnson, who founded *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines with husband John Johnson, rose to prominence in the fashion world with her groundbreaking Ebony Fashion Fair.

'Inspiring Beauty' a powerful tribute to Ebony Fashion Fair

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

A plaid suit in red, yellow and purple sequins, worn over a black turtleneck and capped by a dapper, thinbrimmed fedora — from the hands of designer Guy Laroche, it is extraordinary. A voluminous silver silk and raffia gown, its tight diagonal texture softened by a spray of fringe cascading from the high neck, is the creation of Alexander McQueen.

These clothes require confidence, something Eunice W. Johnson, founder of the Ebony Fashion Fair, had in abundance.

Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair, which runs at the Milwaukee Art Museum through May 3, melds the adjacent worlds of art and fashion, with gowns and ensembles from some of the greatest haute couture designers. But this exhibition is not just about honoring designers whose names — Christian Dior,

Vivienne Westwood, Yves Saint-Laurent — are synonymous with the style capitals of Paris, New York, and Milan. It is the story of Johnson's achievements as she determinedly shattered racial boundaries and promoted a sense of pride and beauty for women and men of color.

Eunice Johnson, herself a noted woman of high style, was a publisher of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines along with her husband, John H. Johnson. In the late '50s, she decided to bring the best in international fashion off the pages of magazines by taking the real thing on the road, creating an opportunity for local audiences to participate in the visual and aspirational excitement of haute couture.

The Ebony Fashion Fair, launched in 1958, would became an annual extravaganza. It traveled throughout the United States, including a number of visits to Milwaukee. As an event that celebrated black models, it was

especially significant, challenging stereotypes and discrimination which kept African-Americans out of the world of fashion.

Speaking in an interview aired on NPR in 2014, model Del Handy recounted a time when the Ebony Fashion Fair was traveling the southern United States before the civil rights movement, when Jim Crow laws were still in effect. John Johnson advised the models not to go into restaurants for meals because they would have to enter through back doors. This was antithetical to the message of African-American pride and dignity represented by the fair. Instead, the white bus driver got takeout food from restaurants and the models ate on the bus.

Even Eunice Johnson, the driving force behind the event, did not have an easy time at the outset. Some designers were reluctant to join, not

FASHION next page



Inspiring Beauty's outfits cover decades of fashion and style. From left: Mark Bohan (French) from Christian Dior, fall/winter 1968-69; Valentino (Italian), fall/winter 1974-75; Pierre Balmain (French), fall/winter 1988-89; and [opposite] Angelo Marani (Italian), fall/winter 2005-06.

FASHION from prior page

entirely on board for a show featuring black models for black audiences. But she won their designs over time, wielding the power of her personality, business success and checkbook.

Facing financial difficulties, the Ebony Fashion Fair ran its last show in 2009, and Eunice Johnson's death in early 2010 marked the end of an era. But the touring *Inspiring Beauty* exhibition is a continuation of the tradition. The Milwaukee Art Museum's installation features all the pieces from the original show at the Chicago History Museum in 2013, as well as 13 additional ensembles from the extensive fashion collection of Mount Mary University.

Three keywords frame the exhibition: "Vision, Innovation, and Power." The ensembles do not fail to deliver all three.

As is part of the fantasy of high fashion, there is drama, surprise and a great deal of daring in these clothes. Eunice Johnson's

'Inspiring Beauty' is the story of Johnson's achievements as she determinedly shattered racial boundaries.

imprint is felt in the color palette; brilliant shades of purple, yellow and red, three of her favorites, are common. In fact, bright, vivacious hues are rampant throughout the exhibition hall, worn by dark-toned mannequins.

This show is nothing like strolling through a high-end shopping destination. It is an art exhibit in truth, with a feeling akin to admiring paintings or sculptures. The eye roves over exquisitely, excitingly

crafted details and notes the inventiveness of the many ways fabric can both drape and reveal the body. Some pieces are positively gravity-defying, like a Vivienne Westwood ball gown where sculptural forms flair out over the hips in dramatic clouds of russet, cocoa and black printed fabric.

There is a feeling of suspension, however, in the stillness of the displays. The clothing, created for swaying figures in motion, is static, but video clips give an idea of the choreography and showmanship that made the Ebony Fashion Fair more than a saunter down a catwalk.

The ensembles on view also serve as a road map of the general trajectory of fashion since World War II. Earlier pieces tend to reflect the formality of the time period, but more recent examples draw inspiration from casual fabrics. Angelo Marani's 2005-06 outfit of jeans, printed bustier and long coat trimmed with blue and black

fur is one crossover where high style steps up its game with ubiquitous denim.

While the majority of ensembles present women's clothing, there are some men's outfits, each meticulously coordinated with shoes, hats and accessories. A long coat by Missoni, decorated with characteristic chevrons in black, gray and mustard, is belted by a black silk cord ending in long tassels. It is a modern update on a man's 19th century robe, to be worn either staying in or going out.

The legacy of the Ebony Fashion Fair is one of high aspirations and achievement. Eunice Johnson's collected work testifies to the designer's power to transform the body through the necessity of clothing. The message of these pieces is to be bold, be daring. To have, in the spirit of *Inspiring Beauty*, vision, innovation and power.

ON DISPLAY

Inspiring Beauty: 50 Years of Ebony Fashion Fair runs through May 3 in the Milwaukee Art Museum's main gallery. Admission is \$14, \$12 for students/seniors/active military, and free for kids under 12, members and Wisconsin educators. For more information on the show and the Milwaukee Art Museum's ongoing renovation, visit mam.org.





MOWA sends Lois Bielefeld on a European adventure

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

Milwaukee native Lois Bielefeld has always been interested in portraits. Ever since she took up photography as a MIAD student and moved to New York to pursue it as a career, her artistic works have been what she calls "conceptual portraits" works assembled in a series, centered around the habits and traits all people

She moved back from New York in 2010, relocating for her day job as a Kohl's photographer, and most of her subjects since have been in the Wisconsin area. For her latest project, she's going much further afield: the tiny, landlocked Western European nation of Luxembourg.

The adventure comes as a fellowship sponsored by the Museum of Wisconsin Art, and Bielefeld is the program's first artist-in-residence. The annual, 10-week residency includes travel fare, a monthly stipend and housing in Bourglinster, a converted castle 15 minutes north of Luxembourg City, where Bielefeld will have the opportunity to live and work surrounded by Luxembourg culture.

It's an honor she says she never anticipated receiving, especially after having been able to watch the judging process for Milwaukee's Mary L. Nohl Fellowship the year after she won that in 2012. "That was a huge reality check," she says, reflecting on the 200-odd entries submitted to that prize's jury. "I knew there were amazing artists here, but I didn't know to what level. ... I in no way thought I would ever get the fellowship."

Bielefeld's works, photographs blown up to a large scale, stand out as particularly striking and intimate examples of portraiture. And she's recently expanded beyond photography with projects that investigate sexuality and gender roles. One, Ladies Out, is a documentary film that premiered in 2014, depicting a community of Milwaukee lesbians over 40 who get together on a monthly basis to go dancing and socialize.

Her latest show, Androgyny, at Portrait Society Gallery (which represents Bielefeld), follows that trend. The exhibit is primarily composed of solo portraits, depicting adults and children who present androgynously to the world at large. But while taking their photos, Bielefeld also asked her subjects a series of questions about themselves and their life experiences, which she recorded and turned into a single, six-hour audio piece. When setting up her installation, Bielefeld built a non-functioning public bathroom with gendered entrances, acknowledging the space as one where non-gender-conforming individuals are most frequently challenged and forcing her audience to feel some of that

"To me, interactive art has always been the most memorable," she says. "It just engages you on a different level. If you can get somebody thinking beyond just looking at something ... every aspect of the bathroom is very thought-out to have it hit you."

But due to the limitations of being abroad, Bielefeld says, she anticipates her residency project will stick to photographic mediums, like her earlier work. Her first series, The Bedroom, presents its subjects in their own rooms, suggesting the contents are a reflection of their characters. "I've always loved seeing people's bedrooms, even as a little kid," she says. "It really says a lot about a person."

Weeknight Dinners, an ongoing project she started as part of her Nohl Fellowship work, touches on similar themes. In each, Bielefeld captures a single family unit on an average day of the week, eating the food they normally would.

That series, she says, is how she plans to segue into Luxembourg society during her fellowship. Wisconsin is home to a number of small Luxembourg-American communities, most notably in Belgium, Wisconsin, and Bielefeld traveled there to take dinner portraits of Luxembourg-American families. She hopes to take an additional 12 while overseas, "both because I'm just curious how their eating habits are different than ours, but also to immerse myself in the culture and really get connected."

Bielefeld says those families have also proven helpful in educating her about what Luxembourg culture is like. She's already learned about the significance of St. Nicholas and his feast day over Santa Claus and Christmas, and about ethnic dishes like mustripen, a blood sausage native to the region. She even says she's beginning to get a sense of a sort of Luxembourg character trait: a warm disposition inexplicably



Artist Lois Bielefeld, who will travel to Luxembourg as part of a MOWA fellowship.

mixed with a distinctly private nature.

Details like that, and what she learns upon arrival, are what will help her figure out what to do after the first few weeks, once she's become more acclimated to the region. Or so she hopes. It's a nervous anticipation, she says, preparing for the fellowship, but she's optimistic it'll provide her with the nudge she needs to grow as an artist. "I'm really looking forward to how people do things differently elsewhere," she says, "And hopefully making a compelling body of work out of it."

Whatever Bielefeld creates is slated for exhibition at MOWA sometime next year, but that isn't her concern at this point. She's only thinking about the frames of photographs, and what snapshots of Luxembourg she's going to put in them.





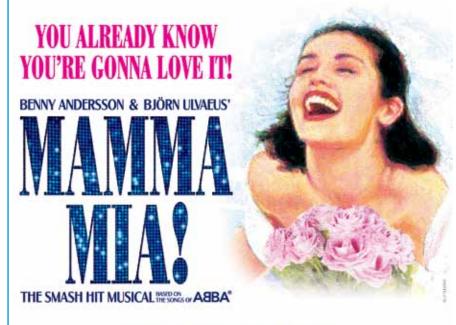
In images like "Wednesday: Emilio, Rhonda, Benedetto, Skylrae, Jacomo," Lois Bielefeld's Weeknight Dinners series depicts families in intimate yet casual moments.



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Joshua Radin's musical journey travels 'Onward'

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

Most singer-songwriters start early, taking up instruments in their teens or early 20s and using them and their voices in tandem to forge their path in the music business.

Joshua Radin, on the other hand, didn't pick up a guitar until he was 30, and says he became a musician "totally by chance." All he wanted was to learn enough chords to play a Bob Dylan song and it snowballed from there. "Pretty shortly thereafter I started writing my own songs and stopped learning cover songs," he says.

He didn't have to wait long to earn public attention. Radin's song "Winter" was used on a 2004 episode of *Scrubs*, and the exposure launched Radin's career. He's been performing ever since and this month will return to Milwaukee's Pabst Theater, a personal favorite venue, for the first time in three years.

Radin says his career has been on a "slow organic build for the past 10 years." He's continued to write his own material, with key inspiration from "classic, great songwriters" like Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Nick Drake and Elliott Smith, among others. Vocally, though, he says he thinks his biggest influence has been Paul Simon, both in Simon's solo work and his earlier collaborations with Art Garfunkel.

RADIOMILWAUKEE.ORG

DISCOVER NEW MUSIC

Radin's current tour supports *Onward* and *Sideways*, his sixth studio album and second self-released record, issued in early January. He says the album was inspired by his effort to tell a woman in his life about his love for her. "We had been friends for about five years, platonic friends, and I finally got up the nerve to tell her how I felt," he says. "But I didn't have the nerve to do it in telling her; I had to do it in song."

So far, it's worked, he adds, but don't be afraid romantic bliss will eliminate Radin's need to write love songs. "With the right woman," he says, "you have to woo her for the rest of your life."

Radin recorded his first four albums with Columbia and then independent label Mom + Pop, but he decided to step out on his own with 2013's Wax Wings. "I just like to be the only cook in the kitchen," he says, and being on a major label didn't afford him that ability. Releasing albums on his own terms lets him determine how it sounds, and he says his fan base has been loyal enough that he doesn't need a major label for the sales.

He also doesn't need them to reel in big guest stars. Onward and Sideways features a new recording of Radin's "Beautiful Day" (first released on Wax Wings) as a duet with Sheryl Crow.

The duo connected when Radin per-



PHOTO: SHORE FIRE MEDIA

Joshua Radin got his first hits thanks to the TV show *Scrubs*, but since then he's released six studio albums. He returns to the Pabst Theater for the first time in three years.

formed as an opening act for Crow six or seven years ago. When he was approached by a car manufacturer to use "Beautiful Day" as the background for a commercial, he decided to change things up a bit and reached out to his former tourmate. "I've always been a fan of her music," he says, "but then I became a big fan of her personally as well. ... I just called and asked if she would do it, and she said yeah, and she nailed it."

Radin says his live show is "about as intimate as you can possibly get," especially now that he's broken his touring band down to a trio. "I try to make the show feel like you're in my living room, as cozy and intimate as possible, and I tell stories about the songs," he says. "I really try to take the walls down between performer and audience."

Yet while Radin's songs are beloved for

their personal feel, his goals for the future include steering away from that sort of narrative. While he says his work up to now has been similar to journal entries, he'd like to move on to taking on the personas of other people in his music — as he puts it, "jumping into the skin of someone else and looking out through their eyes."

It's a bold new aspiration for the songwriter as he embarks on the second decade of his singing career — and one Milwaukee audiences will surely hope they don't have to wait another three years to see.

ON STAGE

Joshua Radin performs at the Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at 414-286-3663 or pabsttheater.org.



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?

There are so many great bands I love that we play, but if you had to press, Cold War Kids and Field Report have fantastic new albums we're playing songs from right now.





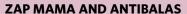
The Sets List

KACEY MUSGRAVES

7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Orpheum Theatre, Madison. \$30, \$27 in advance. madisonorpheum.com 8 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Pabst Theatre, Milwaukee. \$33. pabsttheater.org.

Jason Aldean. Blake Shelton. Tim McGraw. Taylor Swift. Those aren't just the names of four of country music's greatest working artists, they're also the names of the artists Kacey Musgraves stepped over on the way to picking up a Grammy for 2013's Best Country Album for her major-label debut, Same Trailer, Different Park. In a genre full of good ol' boys who pander to red state values, Musgraves is a breath of fresh air, turning a critical eye on smallminded small-town values in songs like "Merry Go 'Round" and "Follow Your Arrow." The best part: They're great songs too, making this progres-

sive powerhouse the full package.



8 p.m. Feb. 15 at Wisconsin Union Theatre's Shannon Hall, Madison. \$25-\$40, \$10 for UW-Madison students. uniontheater.wisc.edu.

How often do you get the chance to see two rhythmloving, African music-influenced acts for the price of
one? Zap Mama, aka Belgian artist Marie Daulne,
sings polyphonic Afropop and has integrated
elements of jazz, soul and urban music over
her 20-year career. Antibalas, part of the
same music scene as TV on the Radio and
The Dap-Kings, is pure Afrobeat, a bridge
from Fela Kuti's work to the present day.
They've never collaborated before, and
they might never again, so don't miss this
once-in-a-lifetime show.



6:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Pabst Theater, Milwaukee. \$25. pabsttheater.org.

It's a brave new digital world we're living in, and now it comes with its own tour. Digitour, founded in 2011, bills itself as the first

> social-media enlisting top stars from YouTube, Vine, Twitter and Instagram like Pentatonix, Fifth Harmony and Tyler Oakley to perform in front of oftensold-out crowds. Names like Sam Pottorff, WeeklyChris and Twaimz may not mean anything to you yet, but if the Internet's proven anything in its relatively short life, it's that you never know where the next viral hit is coming from.



THE NILE PROJECT

8 p.m. Feb. 26 at Wisconsin Union Theatre's Shannon Hall, Madison. Free. uniontheater.wisc.edu.

Eleven countries border Africa's Nile River, and the multiculturally minded Nile Project unites them all. Founded by ethnomusicologist Mina Girgis and singer Meklit Hadero, the Nile Project is a world music lover's dream, a huge collective of musicians all coming together to share their abilities with each other. The artists just had their third "gathering" thus far, in Egypt, which means they'll show up in Madison with a revitalized sound and brand-new work to show off.

DEAD HORSES

7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, Milwaukee. Free. psoa.uwm.edu.

UWM's MKE Unplugged music series is back, and kicking off 2015 with an Oshkosh band on its way up. Acoustic folk band Dead Horses specializes in coming-of-age narratives, and the four-piece has done a little coming-of-age of their own in recent months. Their sophomore album, *Space and Time*, made waves upon its release in October, and the band's been touring to high acclaim ever since. Catch them now before Dead Horses really comes to life. Upstart Milwaukee indie band Ugly Brothers opens.

BARRY MANILOW

7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the BMO Harris Bradley Center, Milwaukee. \$17-\$127. bmoharrisbradleycenter.com.

Barry Manilow's had a long, lucky career, working regularly as both a singer-songwriter and adaptor of others' works since the '70s. But he's also entering his 70s, and has decided to scale things back accordingly. Cue the "One Last Time!" tour, one last run around the nation with all his greatest hits, including "Mandy," "Copacabana" and more. Manilow will be joined on the tour by Dave Koz, a man as talented on the saxophone as Manilow is on the vocal chords.



PHOTO: OTTMAN F

Music reviews

BOB DYLAN:: 'SHADOWS IN THE NIGHT'

Casual listeners may see Bob Dylan recording an album of Sinatra songs as a shock. More experienced fans will find



Shadows in the Night less a departure and more a definitive statement of Bob Dylan at 73. Many of the songs have been on prior touring setlists, including "That Lucky Old Sun" and "Stay With Me." Sinatra would have sung them with an orchestral arrangement; Dylan just uses his guitar-heavy touring band. That gives the album an air of intimacy, and inspires some of the most mea-

sured vocal work in his career. Close your eyes, lean back and, as Dylan croons "Some Enchanted Evening," you just might find a wide smile breaking across your face.

DIANA KRALL :: 'WALLFLOWER'

Jazz artist Diana Krall has had a tough year and it shows in *Wildflower*, a melancholy but compelling set of pop and rock covers. Krall lost her father last year and *Wallflower*



was delayed three months by her bout with pneumonia. Most of the covers are soft rock classics, so familiar it's tough to make them sound unexpected. Krall achieves it. "California Dreamin" opens the album with a bleakness that will chill the listener to the bone. Her whispery interpretation of the Carpenters' "Superstar" makes the song compellingly self-reflective. When she's

joined by Michael Buble on Gilbert O'Sullivan's "Alone Again (Naturally)," the simple, beautiful melody peeks through like never before. True, the album's moodiness makes it feel longer than 12 songs. But in smaller doses, this is an elegant, worthy addition to the Diana Krall catalogue.

HOZIER:: 'HOZIER'

If you've missed Irish singer-songwriter Hozier's breakout single "Take Me to Church," you haven't been paying attention. The lapsed-Catholic-blues anthem with an irresist-



ible gospel hook was nominated for a Grammy, climbed to No. 2 on the charts and surely contributed to Hozier's sold-out Riverside show on Feb. 21. Impressively, his self-titled debut, released last fall, rarely falls below "Take Me to Church's" high bar. Devotees of fellow Irish troubadour Van Morrison will find much to love in Hozier. He gives a nod to rugged '60s R&B on "Jackie and Wil-

son." The haunting "Angel of Small Death and the Codeine Scene" digs deeper into the blues. The second half slows too much, but *Hozier* promises greater things to come.

GEORGE EZRA :: 'WANTED ON VOYAGE'

If the first time you heard British singer-songwriter George Ezra's single "Budapest" you assumed he was a singer twice his 21 years, don't feel bad. Ezra may be a contemporary



of equally precocious songwriters Jake Bugg and Ed Sheeran, but his deep-throated voice better resembles Bob Dylan's. In *Wanted On Voyage*, Ezra's voice pairs disturbing lyrics with effortlessly sunny arrangements, with great effect. In one song, "Drawing Board," he fantasizes about ways to rid himself of an absent lover — including a haircut with Sweeney Todd. George Ezra has

topped charts at home in the U.K. and this constantly engaging debut is the perfect U.S. introduction.

— Bill Lamb

Overby pursues 'Higher Ground' of world music

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

It's not unusual this time of year for Wisconsin residents to escape the state's wintry weather for the Caribbean's sunny climate. Milwaukee native Jonathan Overby is no different, but the ethnomusicologist is traveling with a purpose greater than mere tourism.

Overby is host and executive producer of Wisconsin Public Radio's Higher Ground, a show broadcast weekly on Saturday nights from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. from the UW-Madison campus that "celebrates music with African roots, and more." An average playlist may include artists as diverse as Senegalese pop singer Baba Maal, The Egyptian Orchestra, a cappella vocalists Chanticleer, jazz giant Duke Ellington or bluegrass banjo-picker Bela Fleck, all of whom Overby says have their roots in traditional African rhythms.

Overby left on Feb. 6 for a 10-day cultural research trip to Cuba. While there, he says, he'll be exploring the music of Santeria, a religion that blends Old World Catholicism with Yoruba, an African religion brought west by slaves from Nigeria, Benin and Togo.

Overby holds a Ph.D. in administrative leadership in higher education from Madison's Edgewood College, but he is making the trip as part of his Edgewood postdoctoral studies in sacred world music. It's one of nine trips he will make over the next three years to countries around the globe, all while

expanding the scope of his radio program. "What's powerful about Cuban music, which has been heavily influenced by African motifs, is that it has had a major influence on American music, particularly jazz," Overby says. "Africa went through the middle passage to this part of the world, particularly to Cuba, where they allowed their enslaved citizens to make musical instruments. That didn't happen in the U.S."

Ironically, African-influenced Cuban music made it back to Africa in the 1930s and '40s, Overby added, resulting in a unique and influential fusion dubbed "Afro-Cuban jazz."

The power of diverse music is nothing new for Overby. He grew up on the corner of Second and Burleigh Streets in Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood, the son of a white mother and a black father. His father owned the Club Chateau Lounge on what is now Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, which opened Overby's eyes to the depths and variations found in African-American music.

"All that music ignited a fire in my soul," says Overby, who holds an undergraduate degree in voice and choral conducting from San Francisco State University and a master's degree from Edgewood with an emphasis on African-American sacred music. "I wanted to unpack that music and flesh it

What Overby found is that access to various forms of music, like much of mid-20th

century society, was highly segregated by culture and race. That was an issue already in the forefront of Overby's mind, growing up in Milwaukee, still ranked the second-most racially segregated city in the United States, behind Detroit

Music both sacred and secular formed a cultural bridge for Overby, a trained lyric baritone who loved going to church as a child and is a gospel artist and former music director for the Madison Campus Ministry. The power of music to cross between cultures provided a setting that helped him decide where he would land in service to the global community, he says.

"That is the underpinning of why I do the radio show and what the content of the show includes," Overby says. "I don't overtly say what music can do in terms of reducing human hated of things that are different. I don't say, for example, that the Bible and Quran have been marginalized to justify the killing of certain people. And yet these are two amazing documents that, in my view, offer lessons on how to live life and worship a higher being in the process."

Overby lets the music speak for him. The show's name, taken from a spiritual that Overby himself wrote that serves as a theme song, speaks to how music functions to better integrate a society of diverse individuals and cultures that too often is driven by unfamiliarity, fear and hatred.

Higher Ground is centered on music with African roots, but examples of musical integration are legion among every musical genre and origin point. A single example: When Czech composer Antonín Dvořák composed his Symphony No. 9, "From the New World," in 1893, he integrated the spiritual "Goin' Home" after hearing it performed by African-American singer Harry Burley.

Rather than segregating their art, many musicians integrate their influences to communicate across cultures. This became the thesis for Higher Ground, which is broadcast



World music expert Jonathan Overby hosts WPR's Higher Ground show.

throughout Wisconsin and streamed online for listeners as far off as the U.K., Germany, Iran and Morocco. That sense of humanity also drove a lifetime of study and defined a sense of purpose for Overby.

"I believe there is something viable to the idea of playing a role, even marginally, in reducing human hatred," Overby says. "That's where I have landed and that's where I want to spend some time studying, learning and embracing these other traditions."

As Overby pursues sacred music in his postdoctoral work, he hopes that the ideas and influences found in the show rub off on his listeners.

"If in listening to the show people find it in any way, shape or form transformative in what they have learned, enjoyed and found educational, then that would be an enormous gift to me," Overby says.





ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

HARPER LEE TO RELEASE LOST 'MOCKINGBIRD' SEQUEL

The literary world was rocked this month

TOKILLA

MOCKINGBIRD

- Harper Lee -

when HarperCollins Publishers announced a sequel to Harper Lee's classic novel To Kill a Mockingbird. Go Set a Watchman, which depicts Lee's heroine Scout Finch as a young woman who returns to her Alabama hometown in the 1950s and is forced to confront the town's racial attitudes, was actually written before Mockingbird, according to the publisher. After reading the manuscript, Lee's editor recommended she flesh out elements of the story

told in flashback instead, resulting in the 1961 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

Go Set a Watchman was found by Lee's attorney, Tonja Carter, who has served as publicity-shy Lee's literary guardian since her older sister, Alice, stopped practicing law and fulfilling that role several years ago. The announcement of the new novel's discovery prompted speculation that Carter and HarperCollins may have taken advantage of 88-year-old Lee, who is nearly blind and deaf and lives in a Monroeville assisted living center, in the wake of Alice Lee's recent death. However, family and friends have publicly denounced those accusations, and Carter released a statement saying that Lee was "extremely hurt

and humiliated" by the accusations and is a "strong, independent and wise woman who should be enjoying the discovery of

> her long lost novel. ... Instead, she is having to defend her own credibility and decision making."

SAM SMITH SWEEPS GRAMMYS, BUT BECK SNAGS TOP PRIZE

Sam Smith might have written In the Lonely Hour after the greatest heartbreak in his life, but the 2015 Grammys may have finished making up for that. Smith was one of the ceremony's biggest winners on Feb. 8, taking

home four awards: best pop vocal album, song and record of the year (for "Stay With Me") and best new artist. His victories also make him the first openly gay male artist to take home awards in those categories, and Smith didn't shy away from that in his acceptance speeches, ultimately thanking the man who broke his heart for getting him four Grammys.

One of the only categories Smith didn't prevail in was also the most shocking upset of the evening: album of the year, awarded to indie songwriter Beck for *Morning Phase*. Beck beat out Smith as well as Ed Sheeran, Pharrell Williams and Beyoncé for the award, and also received the best rock album Grammy earlier in the evening.

As Beck went up to receive his award, the moment was nearly marred by Kanye West, who briefly stepped up on the stage as a reference to his VMAs stunt in 2009, when he interrupted Taylor Swift's accep-

tance speech for best female video to proclaim that Beyoncé should have won the award.

PRESENT MUSIC ARTIST PICKS UP CHAMBER MUSIC GRAMMY

The Grammys turned out well on a local front too. Present Music ensemble member Cory Smythe shared a Grammy for best chamber music/small ensemble for his piano work with Hilary Hahn, In 27 Pieces: The

Hilary Hahn Encores. It's the first time a PM artist has won a Grammy. Smythe will perform with the company for their Connecting in the Chamber series this month, premiering John Zorn's "Novalis."

NBC SUSPENDS BRIAN WILLIAMS

NBC suspended Brian Williams as Nightly News anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War.

NBC chief executive Steve Burke said Williams' actions were inexcusable and jeopardized the trust he has built up with viewers during his decade as the network's lead anchor. But he said Williams deserved a second chance.

Williams apologized last week for saying he was in a helicopter that was hit by a

grenade while covering the Iraq War in 2003.

'BIRDMAN' AND 'BOYHOOD' AWARDS PREFACE OSCARS DUEL

The battle for the best picture Oscar being awarded at the 87th Academy Awards on Feb. 22 is boiling down to a pair of contenders, if other recent awards shows are any indication. *Birdman* took home the top prize at the Director's Guild of America

awards on Feb. 7 and has also been honored by the Screen Actors Guild and Producers Guild of America. But *Boyhood* beat it out at the BAFTAs and has received the big prizes from the Critic's Choice Movie Awards and the American Cinema Editors. Both films received best motion picture awards at the Golden Globes, in the comedy and drama categories, respectively, setting them in roughly even positions as the Oscars approach.

— from WiG and AP reports



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- 9. Hamlet has five of these
- 13. Heads-up
- 14. Hula necklace
- 15. Accustom
- 16. Relating to moon
- 17. Big coffee holder
- 18. Three-masted vessel formerly used in Mediterranean
- 19. *A top Valentine's Day seller
- 21. *"How do I love thee? Let me count _
- 23. It follows the note soh
- 24. *In the _ ___ for love
- 25. Golf's Ryder
- 28. Flexible mineral
- 30. *He officiates many weddings
- 35. Bryce Canyon state
- 37. Grannies
- 39. *Love in Paris
- 40. It distinguishes a father from a son in French
- 41. Lowest deck
- 43. Away from port
- 44. Annoyed
- 46. Kind of pickle
- 47. Calf-length skirt
- 48. Broadband predecessor
- 50. Capital of Ukraine
- 52. Bottom line
- 53. Jab
- , borrow or steal"
- 57. Desdemona's suspicious husband
- 61. Properly deserved
- 65. Innocent
- 66. *It's the loneliest number?
- 68. Egg-shaped
- 69. The Dow, e.g.
- 70. *Barbie's beau
- 71. Sherpa's land
- 72. Subsequently or soon afterwards
- 73. *I love
- 74. Anoint

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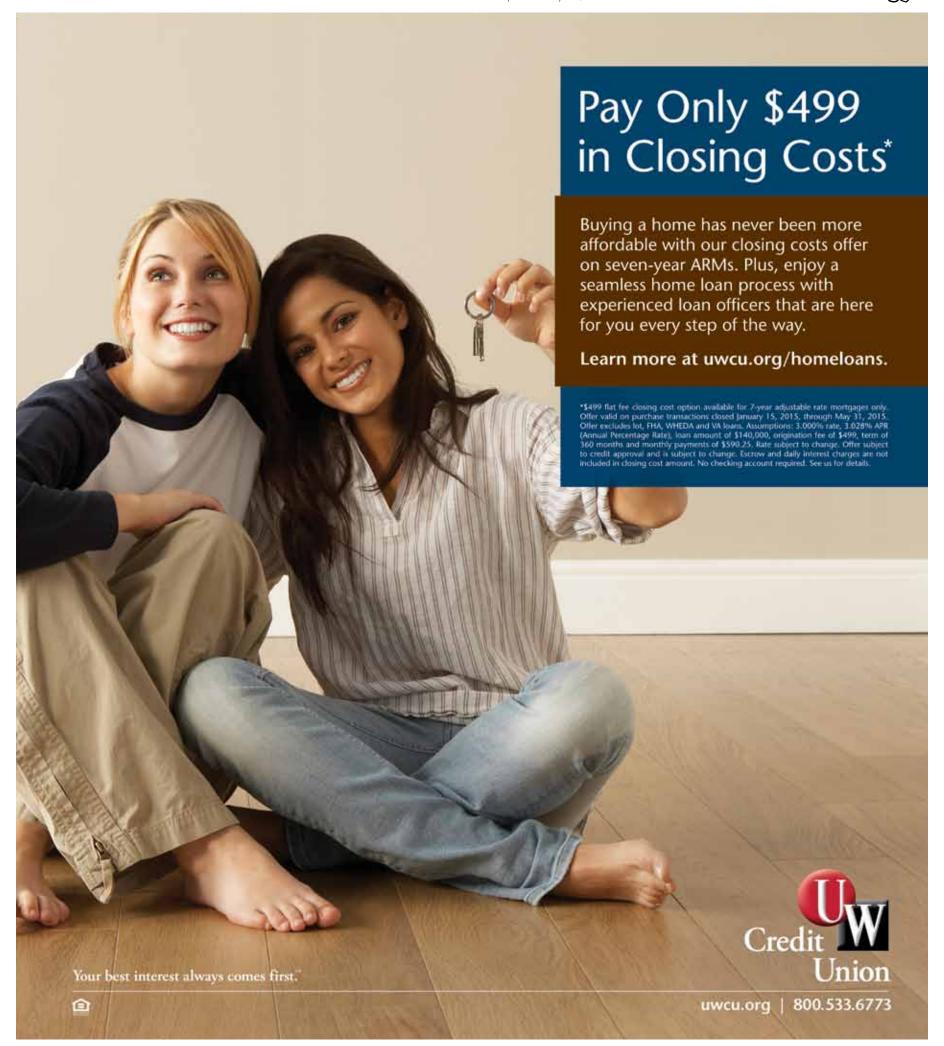
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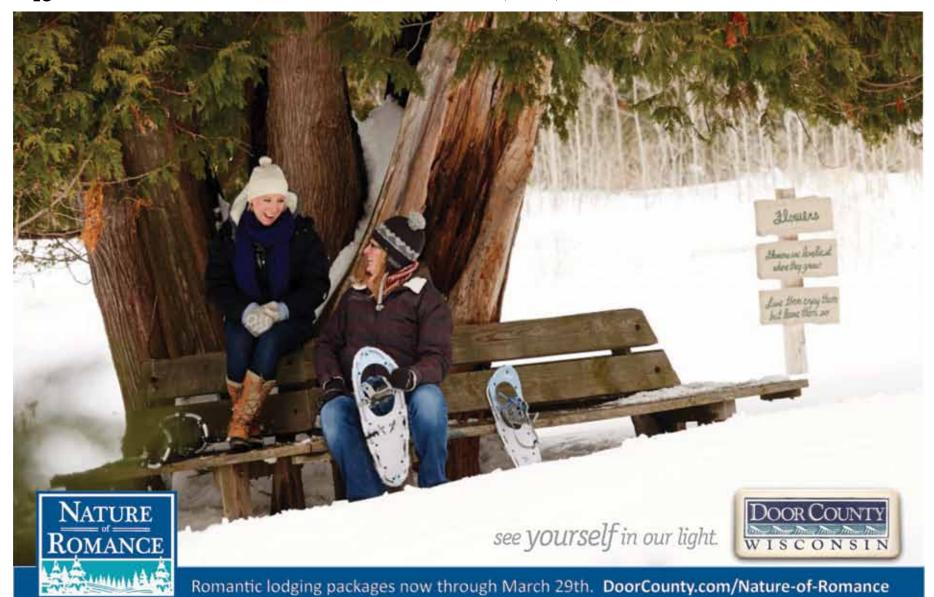
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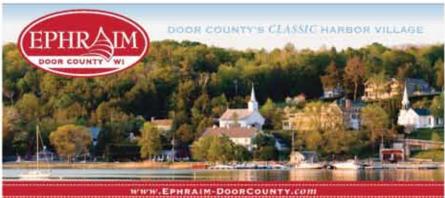
- I. One of two equal parts
- 2. Twelfth month of Jewish year
- 3. Known for gambling
- 4. A southern _
- 5. "Islands in the
- Rogers and Parton
- 6. *Bring a date or a _
- 7. Ever, to a poet
- 8. Spotted bean
- 9. Again
- 10. Target of Bay of Pigs invasion
- II. Deuce topper
- 12. Seconds
- 15. Outdoor stone seating
- 20. Endangered species
- 22. Before skip and a jump
- 24. Resembling a human
- 25. *His aim is true?
- 26. Wombs
- 27. Winter wear
- 29. *It often accompanies #19
- 31. Prayer leader in mosque
- 32. Fluorescent red dye
- 33. Elvis's "Blue Shoes"
- 34. Distinguishing feature
- 36. Last piece of a loaf
- 38. Musical composition for one, pl.
- 42. A military trainee
- 45. 2-unit house

- 49. One who's active in politics
- 51.*Romeo and Juliet's hometown
- 54. Like the Addams Family 56. Established fact
- 57. "Put a lid ___ _!"
- 58. Hyperbolic tangent
- 59. What those on the lam do
- 60. 2 and 4, e.g. 61. *It's usually full of romantic
- fare on Valentine's Day 62. Broken at finish line
- 63. And others, for short
- 64. To erase or cancel 67. "New" prefix

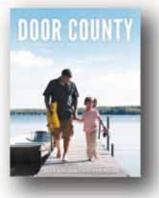












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