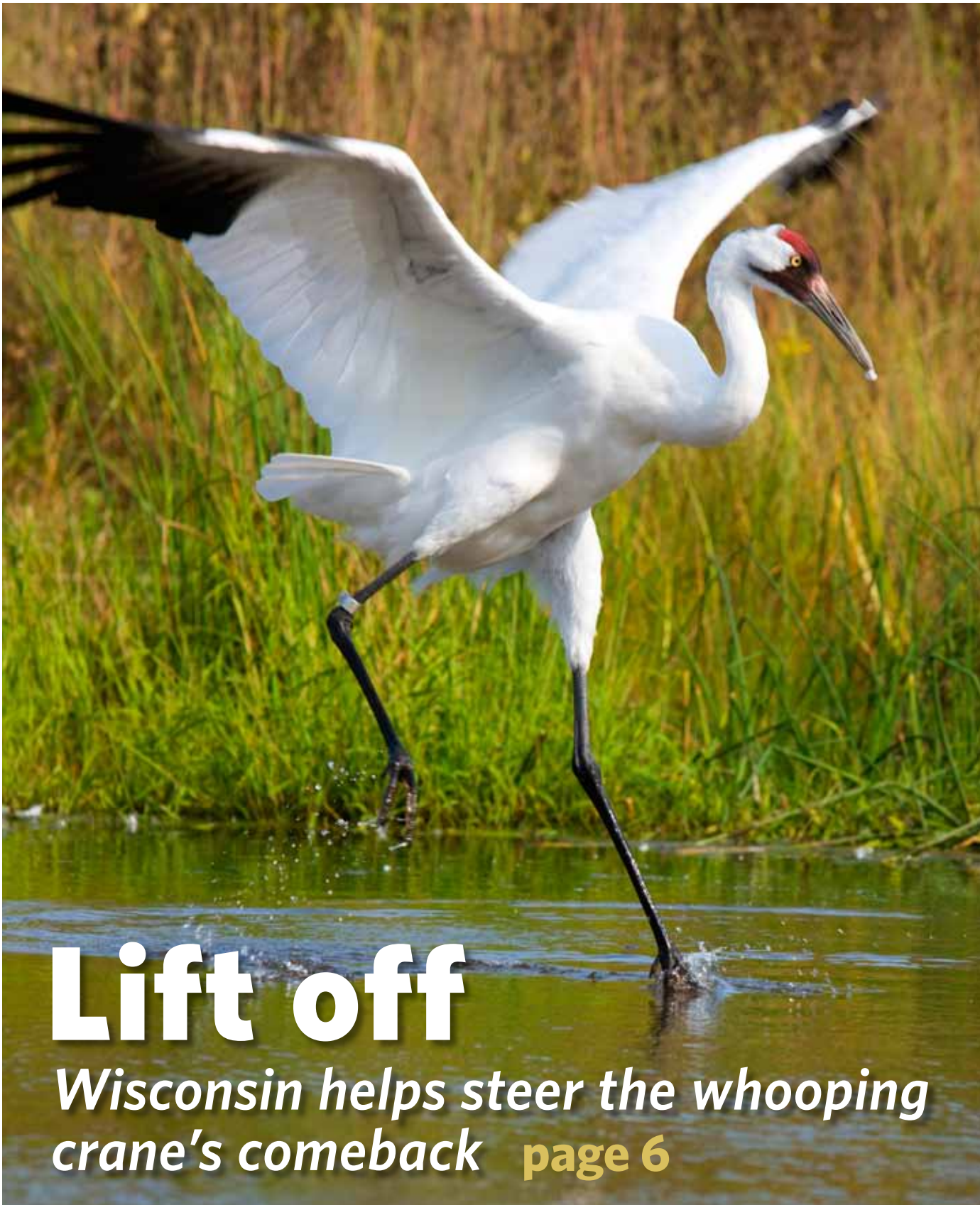


Vin Diesel on 'Furious 7'
The action star talks about how Paul Walker's death changed the hit movie and brought a new level of seriousness to the set — and to his own life.
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Lift off

Wisconsin helps steer the whooping crane's comeback page 6



4 Clash over Walker's budget
Republicans face a lot of tough choices in dealing with a budget that critics call calamitous.



13 Earth Day activities
Earth Day arrives on April 22, and WiG presents a short calendar of activities that will help you to enjoy it.

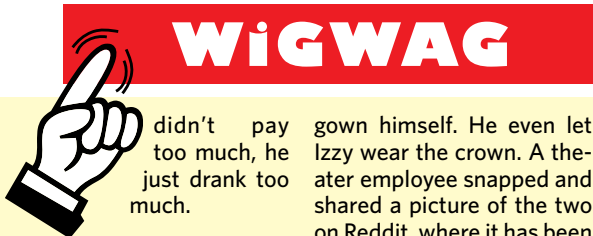


31 Jeeves' final bow
Local actor Matt Daniels reprises his role as the perfect valet for the third and last time.



33 Hubbard Street Dance
The Chicago troupe returns to one of its favorite performance locations, Madison's Overture Center for the Arts.

News with a twist



By Lisa Neff, Louis Weisberg & Matthew Reddin

APPLE A DAY, OR SO

A study recently published in JAMA Internal Medicine raises questions about the old "apple a day" adage. Researchers reported that apple eaters had slightly fewer doctor visits than apple avoiders — those who ate fewer than one apple

daily — or none. However, that difference disappeared when the researchers considered weight, education, health insurance, race and other factors that can explain the frequency of medical visits. Also, the researchers found that apple eaters are less likely to smoke, which could explain better health.

HEAVEN HELP US

A La Crosse pastor resigned after being accused of sending an obscene email to a blogger

who had written that society would be better without cops. The *La Crosse Tribune* reported the Rev. David Wendt left First Evangelical Lutheran Church after responding to the post on the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's* website by threatening to gang rape the blogger.

Perhaps not coincidentally, the *Journal Sentinel* recently announced new rules of civility governing the posting of comments on its site.

EMERGENCY TAB

An Idaho man is facing a \$1,000 fine and possible jail time after repeatedly dialing 911 to complain about being overcharged on a bar tab. The man made 12 emergency calls. A bartender provided authorities with a receipt, showing that Club Tequila charged \$30 for 10 beers. So, the man



didn't pay too much, he just drank too much.

BUT DID THE PURSE MATCH HIS SHOES?

Patrick Collin Drury, 33, of Portage, was arrested on suspicion of felony credit card fraud, theft, fleeing police in a motor vehicle, fleeing police on foot and fourth-degree drunken driving after he stole a woman's purse at a bar and then used her American Express card to purchase cigarettes, gift cards and \$2,000 worth of lottery tickets.

AVUNCULAR PRINCESS

Jesse Nagy, a professional actor from metro Detroit, wanted to make his niece Izzy, 4, feel less self-conscious about wearing a princess costume to see the movie *Cinderella*. So the bearded, tattooed, muscular Nagy donned a princess

gown himself. He even let Izzy wear the crown. A theater employee snapped and shared a picture of the two on Reddit, where it has been viewed millions of times.

MEANWHILE IN MICHIGAN...

Organizers of the Wurst Challenge wanted to get people excited about sausage and charity. Ypsilanti's Wurst Bar hosted the annual event, bringing in people with big appetites to devour 20-foot bratwursts. For vegetarians, the bar offered a tofu apple bratwurst. Participants competed to see who could eat the most wurst and also for victory in the category of "greatest sense of style."

NOT A PEEP?

Some who celebrate Easter do so with baskets overflowing with jellybeans and Peeps. Others have egg hunts. St. Louis artist Zack Smithey decided to encourage a different sort of hunt.

He hid 1,000 artworks — each valued at about \$500 — around the city and led people on daily hunts. Smithey said the first Easter Art Search was designed to get people interested in art.

LAKE WHO?

There's a grassroots movement afoot to change the name of Lake Michigan to Lake Wisconsin? "For too long Michiganders have gloated over Lake Michigan and their pretty sunsets. From now on, we will exclusively refer to it as Lake Wisconsin until every American joins us," a spokesperson for the movement wrote in a press release. Unfortunately, the release turned out to be an April Fools' joke, but it's not actually a terrible idea....

COPPER CASTRATION

A copper bull lost a sizable appendage — and we're not talking about horns — after a storm of controversy swept through

Hurricane, Utah. The sculpture on Barista's restaurant had boasted oversized genitalia. Then residents complained and called on the city council to revoke the business' license. Business owner Stephen Ward removed the very public private parts, but claimed he wasn't bullied into action. "I just decided it would look better without the weenie. And, oh my God! It's beautiful," he said.

MIXED MESSAGE

Chemist Patrick Moore appeared on a French cable TV program to counter scientific findings that the weed killer Roundup is probably carcinogenic. Moore said, "You can drink a whole quart" of the herbicide "and it won't hurt you." But when offered him a glass of the chemical to drink on-air, Moore stormed off shouting, "I'm not an idiot."

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Wisconsin Republicans 'running scared' over Walker's budget

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Gov. Scott Walker's GOP colleagues are balking at his budget, which axes programs and policies that enjoy strong bipartisan support. That leaves many state Republicans in a no-win situation: Those who give the budget blanket approval will alienate significant numbers of constituents, but those who speak out against it could face the punishment of a well-financed opponent in their next primary race — one paid for by Walker's corporate backers.

As a result, Capitol watchers say not to expect the governor to win the kind of support he received from his party for his two prior budgets. "This budget is so bad for so many people, it's hard to ignore," said former Republican state Sen. Dale Schultz.

The budget's political impact is already being seen in polls. In early March, Public Policy Polling took the first survey of the governor's favorability rating since the budget was released. PPP found Walker at his lowest level of support since the massive 2011 protests in Madison over Act 10.

Walker's overall approval stood at 43 percent, while his disapproval rate stood at 52 percent. In late October, the same Democratic-leaning poll found 49 percent approval for Walker's job performance and 47 percent disapproval.

Among independents in the latest poll, Walker's disapproval rate was 57 percent, compared with an approval rate of only 36

percent. Walker is pointing to his prior success with independent voters as a cornerstone of his presidential campaign.

Even right-wing media and pundits are calling Walker out for his recent actions, which they contend are motivated by his presidential aspirations rather than his duty to serve the people of Wisconsin.

An editorial that appeared in the conservative *Waukesha Freeman* was downright caustic.

"Wisconsin conservatives have reached that moment of truth," wrote former editor Pete Kennedy. "It's time to accept the fact that Scott Walker is done with you. ... I could go on, but you don't need to hear it all. Deep down you know the truth: Walker is an opportunist who is stepping on this trivial state as he makes his way to the presidency. ... But he's not just stepping on the liberals who marched in circles around the Capitol, or signed the recall petition, or went to court over his emails. No, he's grinding his heels into the conservatives — the people who fought for him, and trusted him. People like you."

If Walker's Wisconsin approval continues to decline, Republican leaders could be emboldened to vote their conscience on some of the impossible-to-defend budget items. They might be able to salvage the budget in part by turning Walker's ambitions back on him, since it's unlikely the governor wants to deal with apostasy in his own party while trying to sell GOP primary

voters on his leadership skills.

Four categories in the budget are generating bipartisan heat against Walker, said Democratic state Rep. Chris Taylor. As part of the Assembly's Joint Committee on Finance, she's sat through listening sessions and public budget hearings throughout the state. The high turnout and intense anger people have expressed in Republican strongholds toward several items in the budget have surprised her.

TARGETING SENIORS AND THE DISABLED

Perhaps the most widely opposed items in the budget involve health care cuts.

Walker's budget proposes a \$15 million cut to SeniorCare, a Wisconsin program that helps more than 85,000 elderly people in the state pay for prescription drugs. Walker intends to push more of seniors' pharmaceutical costs onto Medicare Part D, which is more expensive.

Currently, taxpayers save \$90 million annually through SeniorCare's direct negotiation with drug companies for lower costs. Enrollees pay a \$30 annual fee, income-based deductibles and \$5 co-pays for generic drugs.

Another program Walker has placed on the chopping block is notable because eliminating it doesn't save the state a dime, according to a nonpartisan fiscal analysis. It also will cost jobs.

Walker wants to cut \$19 million from the program known as IRIS, an acronym for "Include, Respect, I Self-Direct." IRIS allows the disabled to choose their own caregivers and support services within an allotted budget.

The financial cut to IRIS translates into 1 million fewer hours of personal care for those who need it the most. The budget also eliminates eight long-term care districts, which will cost about 3,000 jobs. United Healthcare, which lobbied for the provision, or another large insurance company, will replace the current grassroots regional

managed care organizations that the disabled want to keep. Perhaps not coincidentally, Walker's chief of staff is a former United Healthcare official, according to Taylor, who calls the plan "a big giveaway" to insurance companies.

Taylor said that a number of disabled people have wept at budget hearings as they begged lawmakers not to take away their caregivers and the right to maintain self-determination over their lives.

Republicans and Democrats alike were upset to learn that Walker wrote both proposals into his budget without consulting or informing Kitty Rhoades, his Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS

Republicans have enacted restrictions on voters, including forcing them to show photo ID at the polls. Because seniors and the disabled are less likely to have driver's licenses, they might not have the chance to hold lawmakers accountable for cuts to SeniorCare and IRIS come election time.

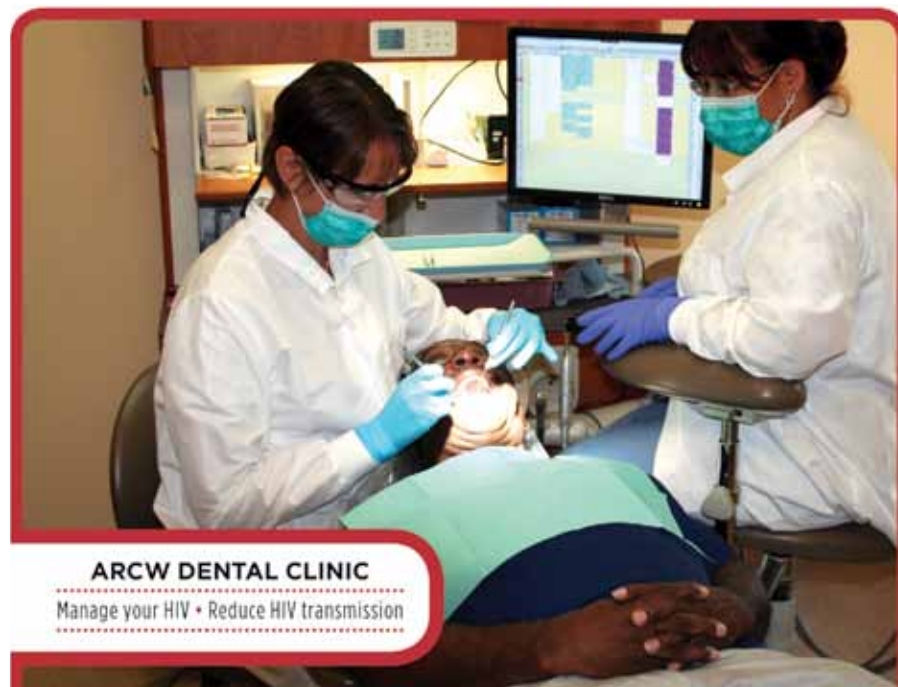
But GOP lawmakers could face a backlash from the children of seniors, many of whom might have to make up for the financial losses to their parents.

As for IRIS, if the quality of care plummets and enough people realize that changes to the popular program were not designed to save taxpayers money but rather to shift it to Walker's supporters' pockets, voters of both parties will rebel. Wisconsin voters have heard too many pay-to-play stories about Walker.

State Rep. Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit, helped to collect more than 13,500 signatures in support of SeniorCare and presented them to Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Joint Finance Committee members and Walker.

"Some of my colleagues across the aisle have recently expressed support for saving

REPUBLICANS next page



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REPUBLICANS from prior page

SeniorCare," Spreitzer said in a statement. But, he added, Republican leaders are still open to burdening the program with enrollment caps and increasing fees, which will come out of the pockets of many poor people living on fixed incomes.

"Saving SeniorCare means leaving SeniorCare alone," Spreitzer said. "Increasing annual premiums and co-pays or cutting off future enrollment simply means SeniorCare will suffer a slower death than in the governor's proposal."

ASSAULT ON EDUCATION

Voss, who is said to be considering a gubernatorial bid in 2018, pronounced Walker's proposed \$300 million cut to the UW system dead on arrival. Other Republicans agree with Voss, saying the cut will do irreparable harm to the university and state economy.

The quality of the state's education system is one of Wisconsin's proudest achievements. The university system spins off technology that spurs new business development, and it helps create the kind of skilled workforce that would draw high-tech jobs to the state. During Walker's tenure, education cuts have coincided with lagging job growth. The jobs that have been created under Walker are overwhelmingly low-paying, service-sector positions.

Walker also is calling for a freeze on state spending for public schools, along with a freeze on property taxes. The latter move leaves communities deprived of the ability

to raise money to fund schools, except by voter referendum.

Walker's most recent proposals come on top of his first budget's cut to public schools, which were the nation's largest. His opponents charge that the governor, who dropped out of college as a "C" student, is hostile toward educators.

But Walker said he's holding school funding in check to fulfill his re-election promise to lower property taxes. Critics say the goal is farcical, since bills on a median-valued \$151,000 home will go down only \$5 in each of the next two years under Walker's plan.

State Schools Superintendent Tony Evers said no increase in funding for schools amounts to a cut, because the money will not be sufficient to keep up with growing expenses. State Sen. Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee, said Walker's educational funding proposal, coming on top of massive cuts in his first budget that were never fully restored, means that Wisconsin schools are no longer "losing fat, they're losing muscles and organs."

Other proposals by Walker will also hit schools hard. The governor wants to allow unlimited voucher schools in the state, let anyone with a college degree become a teacher without first studying pedagogy and eliminate sanctions on failing schools — something his fellow Republicans oppose strongly.

Walker's call for unlimited voucher schools is especially controversial. National groups have been pouring money into Wisconsin elections for years in an effort to promote private, for-profit voucher schools

paid for by taxpayers. Koch-backed groups have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on school board races in places such as Milwaukee, Kenosha and Menomonee Falls in order to stack them with pro-voucher members.

Through the use of a complicated formula, when a student moves from a public school to a voucher school, the state moves the money it's spending on that student's education to the new school. That sends public school dollars to schools that aren't held accountable for their performance in the same way public schools are.

Walker does want to create a charter school oversight board. But unlike traditional school boards, which elect members, the charter school board will be composed of political appointees.

Many voucher schools are religious-affiliated, and critics say that providing them with taxpayer funding oversteps the traditional American boundary separating church and state. In addition, unlike public schools, voucher schools are not required to be handicap-accessible.

Larson estimates that Walker's changes to education will cut state support of public schools by \$98 million over the biennium by freezing local support for schools via the tax levy and funneling more public spending to private schools.

'RUNNING SCARED'

The across-the-board unpopularity of cutting education has Republicans "running scared," Larson said. He said Republicans are trying to hammer out a more reasonable

budget and he believes significant changes will be made to the education apportionment before it's approved.

Former state Sen. Dale Schultz, R-Richland Center, was the last remaining openly moderate GOP legislator in Wisconsin before retiring after 32 years. He said there's a lot of outrage in the western part of the state over neglected infrastructure and tax giveaways to the uber wealthy, as well as education and health care cuts, particularly Walker's rejection of Medicare expansion. According to Schultz, people in western Wisconsin can see how Democratic policies created a thriving economy in nearby Minnesota while their own quality of life has suffered under Walker's tea party policies.

Schultz consults with schools for free on how to make things work while their funding is under assault.

"I'm talking to school district (faculty and staff) now that have \$4,000 deductibles on their insurance and \$2,000 co-pays," he said. "They have to completely defer maintenance on their buildings. Over the past three budgets, I think we've lost 3,000 educators. Some of the rural schools are growing again and none of the initiatives in the budget are helping them at all."

Schultz has predicted, "The hangover from Walker will be spectacular." Republicans have the chance to mitigate the danger and over the next two months Wisconsinites will see how far they're willing to go to expose their necks to save their party — and their state.

Editor's Note: See related story on page 8.

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Flying back from edge of extinction

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Reason to "whoop": Central Wisconsin is welcoming back "snowbirds" — Nana and Papa are packing up suitcases and closing down condos on Florida's sunny shores and heading home. But actual snowbirds are flying 1,000-plus miles over the United States to nest in Wisconsin's woods and marshes, backyards and shorelines.

Among them is one of North America's most magnificent birds, the whooping crane, a species on the edge of extinction decades ago and still endangered. Just 21 whooping cranes existed in North America in 1941, but today the population is about 600.

"I'm not a sentimental person," said whooper enthusiast Karen Murphy, who lives near St. Marks Wildlife Refuge in St. Marks, Florida, one of the places where the birds winter. "But my God, when you see a whooping crane soar, it's emotional."

The rescuers — a team of scientists, government officials, ultralight pilots, nonprofit organizers,

philanthropists and volunteers — come across as humble, focused more on the day-to-day activity of the birds than on their extraordinary battle against extinction.

But they do recognize the magnitude of guaranteeing the existence of *Grus Americana*.

"We're reintroducing this bird for a whole number of reasons. For one, it deserves to be here. And, if you save whooping cranes, you have to save habitat. And habitat also is essential for our survival," said Joseph Duff, CEO and co-founder of Operation Migration Inc., the nonprofit playing a crucial role in establishing the Eastern Migratory Flock of cranes. Operation Migration helps prepare juvenile whoopers for migration and leads the young cranes to Florida using ultralight aircraft, with Duff as the lead pilot.

In early April, Duff was at OM's headquarters in Ontario, Canada, where he awaited reports from the cranes' winter grounds in Florida, and from Wisconsin, where a ground crew eagerly awaited the return of the birds.

As *WiG* went to press, one crane in the 2014 class — "7-14," for the hatch order and year — and two adult cranes arrived in Marquette County, Wisconsin. Five other class members went soaring on April 3, departing with an adult crane to guide them to central Wisconsin. The next morning, the cranes were over Alabama.

For the Operation Migration crew, the spring migration is a real test of their feathered students.

The class of 2014 began the 1,250-mile trek from Wisconsin's White River Marsh to Florida last October. But bad weather kept grounding the cranes and the ultralights. The flyers covered just 52 miles in 32 days. Eventually, the team had to crate the birds and move on to Carroll, Tennessee, skipping miles on the migration route for a species that learns to fly by "imprinting."

"We've never broken their train of knowledge," Duff said. "So the big concern: How do they know the way back?"

Crane 7-14 returned to Wisconsin without having flown part of the route in the fall, but the question remains for the others, who were over Kentucky on April 8.

WONDERFUL WHOOPERS

Whooping cranes are remarkable birds, a species that dates back 50 million years. Adult cranes stand 5 feet tall, with a wingspan of more than 7 feet. They are bright white, with a crown of red and wings tipped with black.

"To see one in the wild would be at the top of any birder's lifelist," said Charlie McCurdy, a Wisconsin bird-watcher who follows Operation Migration cranes online, including on the Crane Cam.

Decades of unregulated hunting and destruction of their habitat near-

FLYING next page

PHOTO: AP / HAL YEAGER
Operation Migration pilot Joseph Duff in his ultralight aircraft makes a flyover with 10 juvenile whooping cranes on a journey from Wisconsin to their wintering habitats on wildlife refuges along Florida's Gulf Coast.



APRIL 17TH

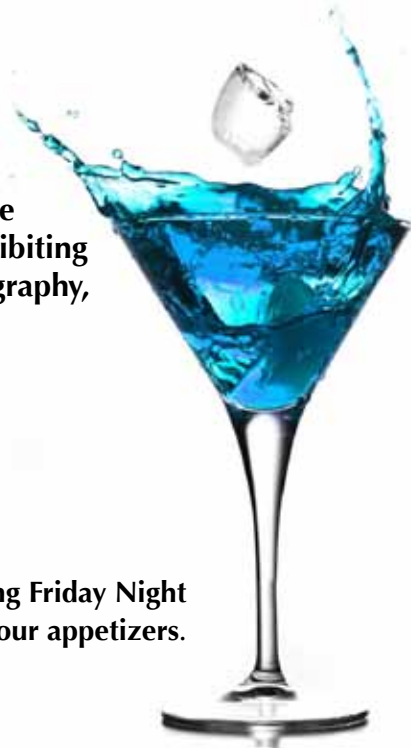
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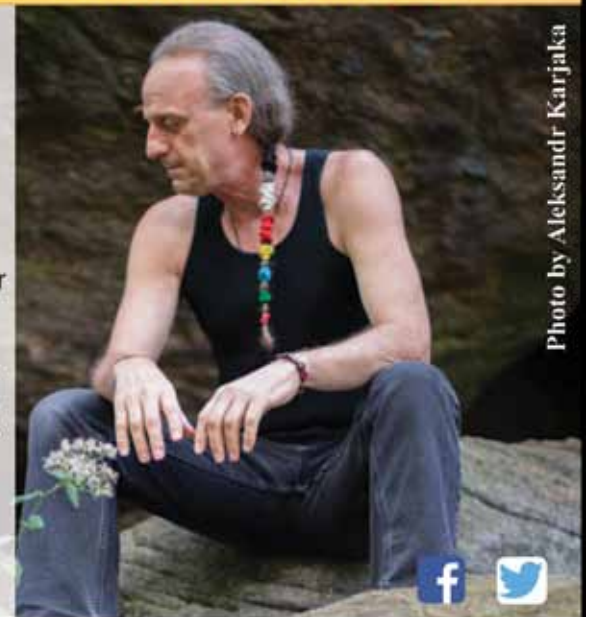


Photo by Aleksandr Karjaka

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FLYING from prior page

ly destroyed the species. Today just one self-sustaining wild population exists — the birds that summer in the Northwest Territories of Canada and winter at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. The long-term fate of the species remains uncertain.

By the early 1960s, concerned that disease or a single weather catastrophe could wipe out the flock, conservationists began exploring ways to establish new populations. In 1975, scientists collected whooper eggs from nests in Canada and placed them with sandhill cranes at Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho, finding some success.

But by the mid-1990s, conservationists were seriously looking at the novel idea of using ultralight aircraft to teach juvenile whooping cranes to migrate. And, by 2001, the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership began introducing a new migratory flock — the Wisconsin birds — into North America. Additionally, non-migratory flocks were introduced in Florida and Louisiana.

Approval for the migratory whooping crane program followed other successful test programs. Operation Migration already had ultralight pilots leading Canada geese, trumpeter swans and sandhill cranes on migrations.

Canadian naturalist Bill Carrick, in the 1980s, learned he could imprint Canada geese to follow his boat. Then Canadian ultralight pilot Bill Lishman succeeded in 1988 in flying with geese. He documented the adventure in *C'mon Geese*, an award-winning video that caught the attention of Terry Kohler of Sheboygan.

Kohler, a pilot, environmentalist and longtime supporter of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, showed the video to George Archibald, ICF co-founder and a world-renowned crane expert.

AN IDEA WAS HATCHED

"George contacted Bill and Bill was interested. He asked me. I said sure," Duff recalled. "And the more I got involved, the more interested I became."

But before the first successful ultralight migration with whoopers, there were other adventures. Lishman recruited Duff, a pilot and commercial photographer, to fly with 18 Canada geese from Ontario to Virginia, in 1993 — a trip documented by ABC's 20/20.

A year later, Operation Migration became a Canadian charity. And the next year, Lishman and Duff formed a production company and partnered with Columbia Pictures to produce *Fly Away Home*, a film starring Jeff Daniels and Anna Paquin and telling a fictionalized story about a man migrating with geese.

Duff chuckled when asked about continued interest in the movie.

"It was a long time ago," said Duff, who trained the geese for the film and provided footage. "It was a lot of fun to do it and gave us some funding."

The film brought fame to Operation Migration's work.

And then, in 1998, there was more fame.

BUILDING A RECOVERY

Operation Migration's successes with other species convinced the International Whooping Crane Recovery Team that cranes could imprint and follow an ultralight along a pre-determined migratory route to winter grounds.

"Our aircraft creates a wake behind it," Duff said. And the birds feel that and learn to fly in a long line off the wing tip. "If we match the speed perfectly, then the bird just hangs there, just gets carried along by the aircraft."

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership was formed in 1999. Founding members include the International Crane Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Operation Migration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Wildlife Health Center, Whooping Crane Recovery Team, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation.

The goal is to have a flock of 125 birds in Wisconsin by 2020, including 25 nesting pairs producing 18-20 chicks a year. The federal goal for the species in North America is to establish a self-sustaining population of at least 1,000 cranes by 2035.

The captive-born cranes in the class of 2014 hatched at the U.S. Geological Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, home to the world's largest breeding flock of whoopers.

There, and at every station throughout the program, caretakers conceal their humanness from the cranes. Chicks exposed to humans become imprinted on them. So, even though caretakers act as surrogate parents, they do so in costumes. They don't speak in the company of cranes. They use crane puppets when feeding the birds. They shield the birds from man-made structures and equipment. They play tapes of bird calls in the hatchery, the pens and from the aircraft. The caretakers and trainers also play recordings of ultralight aircraft engine noise, helping the birds imprint on the aircraft and conditioning them to fly with the machine — if only for the southern migration.

Before fledging, the cranes go from Patuxent to Wisconsin for flight lessons. Initially, populations were introduced in Wisconsin at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, which remains the summer breeding ground for much of the Eastern flock.

However, black flies proved a problem at Necedah, and the summer trainings were relocated five years ago to the "Wisconsin Rectangle," a wetlands area that includes Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and White River Marsh.

Last fall, the cranes departed for Florida from the White River Marsh.

And that's where 7-14 headed this spring.

"We're really pleased," Duff said.

But much work remains to protect the species.

"When you save a whooping crane, you have to save habitat, and everything else that makes a wetland work," said Duff. "You see, conservation is not just nice to do. It's important to our survival."

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Recycling groups want Walker budget cuts trashed



A coalition of recycling and solid waste organizations want the Legislature to dump Gov. Scott Walker's budget cuts to recycling efforts.

Four recycling groups — the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin, Council on Recycling, Solid Waste Association of North America-Badger Chapter and Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association — in late March weighed in on the Walker budget. They urged reconsideration of proposed reductions or eliminations in funding from the Environmental Management Account.

Walker's two-year budget plan would reduce recycling grants available to local governments by \$4 million; eliminate \$394,100 for UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center and eliminate \$156,100 for UW solid waste research and experiments.

The funding doesn't come from tax dollars but rather from the per-ton recycling and environmental fees assessed at landfills. From the nearly \$13 per-ton fee, \$9.64 goes to the Environmental Management Account.

The recycling groups, in letters to Walker and mem-

The budget would reduce recycling grants by \$4 million.

bers of the House and Senate, expressed special concern for the \$4 million reduction in financial assistance to local governments for recycling. The cut of 22 percent would come on top of a cut of 40 percent that hit in 2011, under Walker, who also diverted money from the environmental management program for other uses.

"These cuts pose a risk to recycling programs across the state and pose a greater risk to those Wisconsin businesses that rely on recyclables as raw materials for Wisconsin," the groups said jointly.

Environmentalists also protested the proposed cuts, arguing the administration budget threatens the state's 20-year-old mandatory recycling campaign at a time when residential recycling is on the decline.

— Lisa Neff

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The Genius of Earth Day

How a 1970 Teach-In Unexpectedly Made the First Green Generation

"Adam Rome's genial new book ... brings to life another era."
—Nicholas Lemann, *The New Yorker*

Adam Rome Author of *The Bulldozer in the Countryside*

RECOMMENDED READING

Adam Rome's *The Genius of Earth Day: How a 1970 Teach-In Unexpectedly Made the First Green Generation* tells the story of how the first Earth Day in 1970 proved a transformative, monumental event.

And Wisconsin figures prominently in the story.

From the preface, "The more I learned about Earth Day, the more improbable the story seemed. The basic facts still amaze me. In September 1969, Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin vowed to organize a nationwide environmental teach-in in spring 1970, and his call to action inspired thousands of events across the country...."

His call also inspired actions in the years to follow, the creation of environmental advocacy groups, the establishment of environmental beats on newspapers, the launch of community campaigns and more.

— Lisa Neff

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Amid spate of fraternity investigations, feds indict Georgia man for noose at Ole Miss

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The federal government indicted a Georgia man on one count of conspiracy to violate civil rights and one count of using a threat of force to intimidate African-American students at the University of Mississippi.

Graeme Phillip Harris was enrolled in classes on the Jackson, Mississippi, campus in February 2014, when the noose and a flag bearing the Confederate battle emblem were found on a statue honoring James Meredith, the student who integrated the school in 1962.

University officials turned the case over to the Justice Department after the local district attorney declined to prosecute, saying no state laws were violated.

"This shameful and ignorant act is an insult to all Americans and a violation of our most strongly held values," U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder stated in a recent news release.

He said, "No one should ever be made to feel threatened or intimidated because of what they look like or who they are. By taking appropriate action to hold wrongdoers accountable, the Department of Justice is sending a clear message that flagrant infringements of our historic civil rights will not go unnoticed or unpunished."

The Justice Department announced the indictment in late March, when several investigations were underway on other campuses over alleged sexual harassment, abuse, racist and sexist chants, and violent hazings.

This spring, the University of Mary Washington in Virginia suspended its men's rugby team for violating

the school's code of conduct for club sports. An audio recording captured team members chanting a song with sexually explicit, derogatory and violent language.

The University of Oklahoma disbanded a Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter after a video revealed fraternity members taking part in a chant that included references to lynching, a racial slur and a vow never to induct a black member.

The chant was part of the pledge process, according to school officials, who said punishment for fraternity members included expulsion, community service and sensitivity training.

At Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania, local authorities are investigating an invitation-only Facebook page hosted by Kappa Delta Rho that contained nude and seminude photos of women, including some who were either sleeping or passed out. The university suspended the fraternity for a year and police are looking into possible criminal charges, including invasion of privacy.

In late March at the University of Maryland-College Park, a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity was suspended after sending other fraternity members an email containing racial slurs and sexually aggressive language.

At North Carolina State University, a chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity recently was suspended after the discovery of a notebook containing sexist and racist comments.

Another NCSU frat, Alpha Tau Omega, was suspended in March after drug paraphernalia was seized in the

'The poor behaviors we've seen by a few in no way represent the strong character and values of our larger student body.'

execution of a search warrant related to a sexual assault allegation.

University chancellor Randy Woodson, in a statement to the press, said, "The poor behaviors we've seen recently by a few in no way represent the strong character and values of our larger student body."

Meanwhile, hazings that occurred last fall resulted in recent sanctions against the Acacia fraternity at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. *The Advocate* newspaper reported that pledges of the now-dissolved chapter were required to stand in hot steam, prohibited from eating the week of initiation and required to participate in activities that interfered with "academic and psychological well-being."

And, at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, the fraternity that partly inspired *Animal House* is now accused of branding pledges.

Gawker first reported the story, saying the incidents took place last fall, when the chapter was under suspension over a party.

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Experts offer tax guidance to newlywed same-sex couples

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Karie Washington and Anne Hurley promised to love, honor and cherish. And, having commingled their financial affairs long before they legally married, the Madison women also promised to file one tax return on Tax Day 2015.

"It's kind of scary — who isn't afraid of the IRS?" said Washington.

For newlywed same-sex couples with concerns and questions about filing their state or federal taxes, a number of organizations are offering guidance and assistance.

Lambda Legal, the legal defense and education group long at the forefront of the push for marriage equality, issued a guide, "Eight things same-sex couples need to know about taxes," in advance of the filing deadline.

The Tax Foundation also released a guide, as did The National LGBT Bar Association, working in partnership with BNY Mellon and White and Case LLP.

"Tax season is always a trying time for many families, but for LGBT families especially," said D'Arcy Kemnitz, The LGBT Bar's executive director. "The quickly changing legal landscape makes things even more complicated."

Kemnitz said the association and its partners produced "The Online LGBT Tax Resource" to provide taxpayers and tax preparers the best possible state-by-state information.

The bar's online resource — lgbtbar.org/tax — reviews state rules concerning same-sex marriage, including the impact on state income tax; contains state guidance for married same-sex taxpayers; provides information on litigation and legislation that could impact LGBT families filing taxes; and reports notices from state revenue departments.

"Because laws vary from state to state, we marshaled the knowledge and skills of our pro bono teams to deliver an outstanding resource for the LGBT community," said Arunas Gudaitis, managing director and senior managing counsel at BNY Mellon. "As a result, the online guide offers direction to same-sex couples and their tax advisers and prepares a comprehensive view of tax laws and regulations across the country."

For Wisconsin, where same-sex couples began marrying last June, The LGBT Bar guidance cites the case law dealing with marriage equality and confirms that married same-sex couples "file their Wisconsin individual income tax returns as married filing jointly, married filing separately or, if qualified, as head of household." Married same-sex couples do not require a Schedule S, as was required last year.

For federal purposes, the IRS in 2013 said married same-sex couples, regardless of where they live, file as "married" and chose "married filing jointly" or "married filing separately," according to Lambda Legal, which has a website at lambdalegal.org.

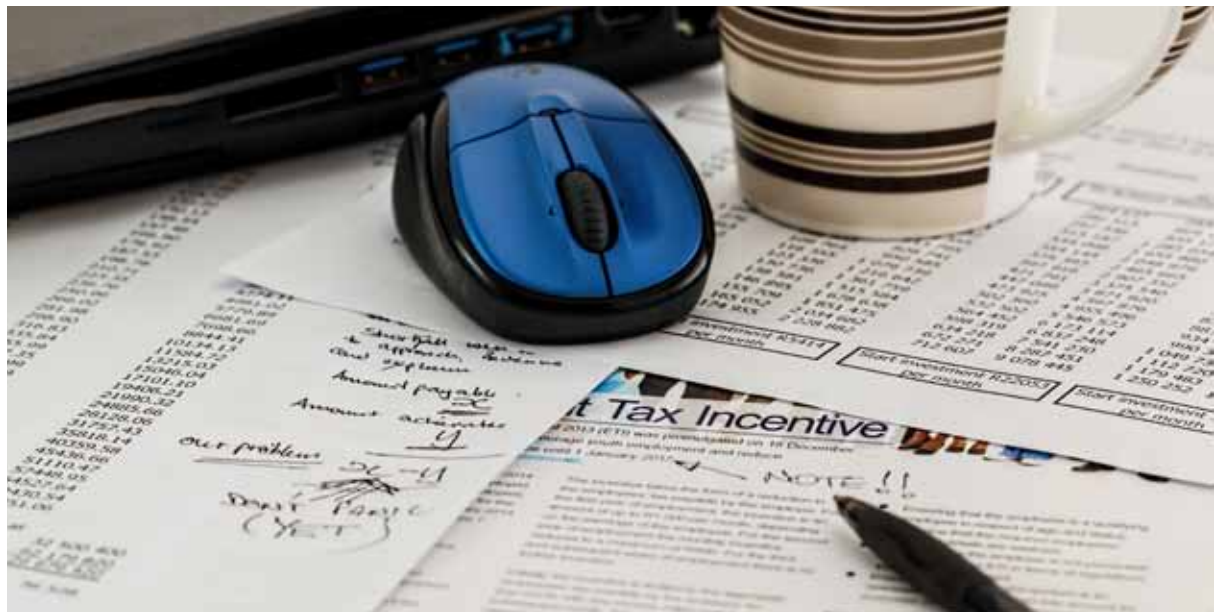


PHOTO: PIXABAY.COM

TAXING TIMES: The deadline for filing income tax returns is April 15. Many more same-sex couples will be filing as married this year.

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Dogs and cats need eye care, too

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A beagle named Hope once was blind but now she sees, thanks to a doctor at the Wisconsin Veterinary Referral Center.

Dr. Peter Accola, a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist, removed cataracts from both of the seven-year-old dog's eyes at WVRC's Waukesha hospital. Veterinary specialists like Accola are part of a fairly new but rapidly growing area of medicine — a response to the growing bonds between Americans and their furry friends.

About 90 percent of Americans consider their animal companions as part of their families and more than 80 percent say they'd likely risk their lives to save Fido, according to polls. As Americans have opened their hearts to their pets, they've also opened their wallets. According to the Connecticut-based American Pet Products Association, Americans spent \$14.37 billion for veterinary care and \$13.14 billion for pet supplies and over-the-counter medicines in 2013.

Along with such a high level of affection has come the demand for specialized health care. WVRC has veterinary cardiologists, oncologists, dentists, neurologists, internists and other specialists on staff.

Accola says he's one of about 10 veterinary ophthalmologists in Wisconsin. He began his career in emergency veterinary

care of small animals before switching to ophthalmology in 2011, when he earned board certification in the practice from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine (his doctorate in veterinary medicine is from the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison).

Eye diseases in dogs and cats are similar to those in humans, Accola says. Hope, for instance, has diabetes, which causes ocular problems for people as well as other mammals. She now has perfect vision.

From pink eye to corneal ulcers, eyelid tumors, glaucoma, cataracts and retinal detachment, many of the medical and surgical conditions that affect human eyes also are experienced by cats and dogs — although Accola sees more of the latter. Some problems are more common in one species than another, others are unique to canines or felines.

Fortunately, the same technological advancements used to treat those conditions in humans also are available to pets through specialty hospitals such as WVRC and specialists such as Accola. WVRC offers corneal transplants, lens removals and ocular cryotherapy, which uses liquid nitrogen to treat retinal tears.

Still, "a lot of people don't know we exist," Accola says. His specialty is relatively new and has only become widespread in recent years.



How do you know if your furry friend has eye problems? As with humans, some conditions are, well, readily visible.

"Eye redness is a big (clue) and also discharge from the eyes, whether tears or mucous," Accola says. "If eyes appear cloudy, that's an indication of an eye problem. A lot of patients will rub their eyes if they're uncomfortable."

Other conditions, such as nearsightedness or farsightedness are more difficult to determine. Although contact lenses are available for dogs, they're seldom used. Sight-challenged animals, even blind ones, often are able to maintain an excellent quality of life, according to Accola.

If your dog or cat does require ophthalmological care, you can expect to be part of the cure. Treatment often involves follow-up at home with topical treatments, such as eye drops and ointments.

It's yet another way to bond with your best furry friend.

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Hope, a 7 year old Beagle whose vision was restored through cataract surgery.

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IS YOUR YARD WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY?

StatePoint

Being a good neighbor means more than being friendly to the humans across the street. It also means being friendly to the animals in your yard. Making your yard a safe place for local wildlife should be a top lawn-care priority.

With that in mind, here are some tips for creating a healthy habitat for local critters.

BE A VALUABLE REST STOP

Stock your garden with small native species of trees, shrubs and flowers to give wildlife needed nourishment, as well as cover from predators.

A source of water also can be a great resource for visiting fauna. Whether it's a pond or a bird bath, be sure this zone is well-maintained so you don't inadvertently create a haven for unwanted species. In the warmer months, when mosquitoes are most active, you should change the bird bath water often.

PROMOTE SAFETY

A bird feeder in your backyard, full of water and seeds, will be the perfect invitation for beautiful

migrating and local birds to stop by.

Just be sure your property is safe for birds. Unfortunately, birds don't see clear glass. As a result, millions die every year by striking it.



Don't let your sliding glass doors or other windows become a death trap for birds.

To protect birds, apply special decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight.

For example, those from WindowAlert have the appearance of frosted glass, but glow like a stoplight for birds, so you don't have to compromise your own view out your window. The brand also makes a high-tech liquid called WindowAlert UV Liquid, which should be applied between decals.

"Wildlife can beautify your garden and be a sign that your yard is healthy" says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert. "But birds and other wildlife need food, shelter, and safety."

Get out the binoculars! With a few small actions, you can make your yard or garden a wildlife refuge.

Earth Day activities

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22. The following is a collection of activities on or around the occasion.

- **Work Play Earth Days**, April 11–May 2, Wisconsin State Parks. Friends of Wisconsin State Parks and the DNR bring out volunteers for cleanup efforts.
- **Earth Poets and Musicians 28th Annual Earth Month Performances**, 8 p.m. on April 18, Coffee House, 1905 W. Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Poetry and musical performances with donations to benefit Penokee Hills Support Committee of Milwaukee.
- **Ninth Annual Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference**, 9 a.m. on April 20, Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, 1 John Nolen Drive, Madison. Programs, including a keynote by astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and host of the television series *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*.
- **Adopt-a-Beach Training**, 4:30 p.m. on April 20, Milwaukee Environmental Consortium, No. 100, 1845 N. Farwell, Milwaukee. Instructions and tips to lead a team in cleaning up a shoreline.
- **Adopt-a-Beach Web Training**, 5 p.m. on April 21, online at greatlakesadopt.org. Providing instructions and tips to lead a team in cleaning up a shoreline.
- **Earth Poets and Musicians/Earth Month Performances**, 7:30 p.m. on April 24, Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee. Music and poetry to benefit the UEC.
- **Energy Fair**, 4:30 p.m. on April 24, Evansville School District Field House, 320 Fair St., Evansville. Exhibits, demonstrations, activities involving children and adults.
- **Earth Day Service**, 9 a.m. on April 25, UEC Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St., Milwaukee. Sponsored by the Student Conservation Association's Milwaukee Conservation Leadership Corps and Urban Ecology Centers.
- **Earth Day Challenge**, 10 a.m. on April 25, various city parks. Volunteers remove trash, and weed and spruce up parks.
- **Earth Day Workshop and Celebration and Awards Program**, 7:45 a.m. on April 29, Briggs and Stratton, 12301 W. Wirth St., Wauwatosa. Presented by the Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council.
- **11th Annual Clean Rivers, Clean Lake Conference**, 8 a.m. on April 30, Harley-Davidson Museum, 400 W. Canal St., Milwaukee. Featuring 38 speakers on a variety of topics.
- **Move Some Earth Day**, 9 a.m. on May 2, ReNew the Earth Institute, 7558 Deer Road, Custer. Cleanup, landscaping, painting and planting at the center.
- **Great Milwaukee Victory Garden Blitz**, May 9–23, Milwaukee. Volunteers install hundreds of raised-bed gardens at homes, schools, community centers and other locations.



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Indiana's religious freedom law inspires pot church

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The same day that Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed the state's controversial Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Bill Levin filed paperwork with the Indiana Secretary of State to open a new church — The First Church of Cannabis. His application was approved and, thanks to the state's new religious freedom law and a flurry of publicity that brought in thousands of dollars in donations, practitioners of his faith soon should be lighting up with the same impunity as a nun saying her rosary.

It appears that Indiana lawmakers were so focused on preventing evangelical Christians from being forced to bake wedding cakes for lesbians that they left a loophole in the RFRA. Although the RFRA has been amended to add that the law can't be used to deny services to gays, it says nothing about other exceptions, including sacramental marijuana.

Speaking from his home in Indianapolis, where a recalcitrant pet cockatoo kept interrupting the conversation by banging its metal dish, Levin told WiG that his church application and the RFRA created "the perfect storm" for him. A lifelong advocate for legalizing pot — he even ran for public office once on a pro-cannabis platform — Levin is a co-founder of the political action committee Relegalize Indiana PAC, a pro-pot lobbying group.

"I have looked for five years for people to debate me on a public forum about cannabis and not one person in this city will go into a public debate with me," Levin said.

But the RFRA and the acceptance of his filing as a nonprofit religious corporation changed his approach.

Levin said: "I thought they should burn that piece of shit bill (the RFRA) before it ever left the senate or house, but the dumb bastard signed it and I thought, 'If you're

going to sign it baby...'" Unfortunately, he was interrupted by the clanging cockatoo, but his meaning was clear: Levin intends to take full advantage of the law, which prohibits anyone from being forced to do anything that flies in the face of their religion. He's creating what he calls a "house of hemp" for its worshippers.

Indiana attorney Abdul-Hakim Shabazz agreed that the RFRA should make pot smoking perfectly legal in a religious context. "As long as you can show that reefer is part of your religious practices, you got a pretty good shot of getting off scot-free," he wrote on Indypolitics.org.

Shabazz noted that marijuana consumption is part of faith traditions practiced by Hindus, Buddhists and Rastafarians.

"All the religions I know are out of date," Levin said. "They came around 4,000 or 5,000 years ago and got translated into things that people misinterpret. We're not going to have any magic books."

Levin said his church's "good book" is *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, by Jack Herer. Published in 1985, "it was the first book to break the cherry of cannabis," Levin said, by explaining the numerous benefits of the marijuana plant.

The First Church of Cannabis also involves promoting 12 steps to live by. There's no association between his 12 steps and a well-known recovery program for alcoholics and other addicts.

For instance, Levin's 11th step exhorts believers to "laugh often, have humor and be positive," he said.

"Everyone else is sharing guilt, shame and sin," he said. "I'm saying, 'You go out and have fun—be positive in life.'"

"We're trying to stay away from karma and alter egos," he added. "And costuming. We're just building our own religion based on love, understanding — simple things."

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March madness: Uproar forces Indiana, Arkansas to retreat on anti-gay laws

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

March did not go out like a lamb in Indiana, where protesters roared against a "religious liberties" measure intended to protect those who discriminate against LGBT people.

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence claimed that was not the intent of the law he signed on March 26 but retreated from on April 2, with conservative Republicans following. But Pence, a former congressman and tea party politician, had signed the initial Religious Freedom Restoration Act law surrounded by Christian right leaders who, having largely lost the campaign against marriage equality, are waging a battle to make it legal to deny services, accommodations and products to LGBT people, particularly the marrying kind.

"If discrimination is not the intent of the law, then what is?" said civil rights activist Sam Bartlett of Indianapolis. "The truth is, they wanted to pass a law to allow discrimination against gays and didn't know the backlash would be so big and so costly to the state's economy and reputation when the eyes of the nation were upon us."

Indianapolis is home to the NCAA and hosted the men's Final Four basketball championship on April 4-6. NCAA presi-

dent Mark Emmert had said the Indiana law needed to change and suggested that the organization could leave the state if the law wasn't fixed.

"March Madness this year meant something else entirely," said Bartlett, who was astounded by the vitality of the rainbow-themed demonstrations at the Capitol as Republican lawmakers advanced the legislation and then, facing condemnation and boycotts, amended the law to state that it did not authorize discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

When GOP legislators announced the changes on April 2, they stood not with religious right leaders but with corporate leaders from Eli Lilly, the Pacers and the state chamber of commerce. The Center for American Progress estimated the backlash could cost Indiana "as much as \$250 million in economic activity and counting."

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, LICENSE TO DISCRIMINATE

So-called religious freedom laws exist in 20 states and were introduced in 15 states this year, following unparalleled advances in marriage equality. Indiana's religious liberties bill was introduced in January, just months after a federal court overturned the state ban on same-sex marriage.

Proponents of the measures claim they are fashioned after the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act signed by Democrat Bill Clinton in 1993 and have argued that their purpose is to protect the rights of religious minorities.

However, the recent push really derives from the Manhattan Declaration, a manifesto drafted in 2009 by a coalition of conservative Christians pledging to resist laws requiring recognition of same-sex marriages and enabling abortions.

And Indiana's RFRA, broader than most, was enacted in a state that still lacks civil rights legislation banning bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"The timing of this legislation is important to understanding its intent: The bill was introduced as a backlash reaction to achieving marriage equality for same-sex couples in Indiana," said Jane Henegar, executive director of the ACLU of Indiana.

Civil rights activists organized a statewide campaign to defeat the bill, but the national uproar over the measure followed the governor's signing of the initial bill.

Corporations — including Nike, Apple, Twitter, Subaru, Levi Strauss & Co., Gap, PayPal, Yelp, Salesforce, Alcoa, and Cummins — joined in the opposition. Among the first to weigh in was Angie's List, halt-

MARCH next page

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Discover Milwaukee

with 88Nine Radio Milwaukee's
Stephen Kallao

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

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

What are your 2 favorite bands that you can hear on 88Nine?
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.



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MARCH from prior page

ing an expansion in Indianapolis. "Angie's List is open to all and discriminates against none and we are hugely disappointed in what this bill represents," CEO Bill Oesterle said in a press statement on March 28.

Marriott CEO Arne Sorenson called the legislation "pure idiocy from a business perspective." He also said the "notion that you can tell businesses somehow that they are free to discriminate against people based on who they are is madness."

Hollywood stars, pro athletes and rock stars joined in the protest on social media. Bands put plans to perform in Indiana on hold. Faith-based institutions, including Reform Jews and Disciples of Christ, condemned the legislation, as did leaders of the AFL-CIO and the American Federation of Teachers. And many politicians, most of them Democrats, registered outrage. Connecticut instituted a ban on government-funded travel and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel wrote letters inviting about a dozen businesses to leave Indiana for Chicago.

In Wisconsin, Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele personally has donated \$5,000 to the ACLU of Indiana's work to further LGBT equality and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett penned an op-ed for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, saying, "Wisconsin would be wrong to follow" Indiana and other states.

Also, Dane County Supervisors Kyle Richmond, Chuck Erickson and Andrew Schauer and Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic proposed banning taxpayer-funded non-essential travel to Indiana.

"I was born and raised in Indiana and I am embarrassed," said Richmond, who is gay. "Legalizing bigotry in the name of religion is divisive and cowardly."

Meanwhile, defense of Indiana's RFRA was more limited — mostly to extremist groups, such as the Traditional Values Coalition and conservative politicians hoping to become president, such as Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz and Scott Walker, who has said he supports the RFRA in principle.

On March 31, Pence asked for an amendment clarifying the bill.

A QUESTIONABLE 'FIX'

So, as Indiana lawmakers worked on a fix, lawmakers considered similar bills in other states. On April 2, Pence also signed Indiana's amended law, which prohibits using the measure as a legal defense for refusing to provide goods, services, facilities or accommodations based on race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or U.S. military service.

The law exempts churches and affiliated schools, along with nonprofit religious organizations.

Pence said on April 2, "However we got here, we are where we are, and it is important that our state take action to address the concerns that have been raised and move forward."

The political madness, as the Final Four weekend arrived, appeared to be dying down, but concerns continued.

Gay rights leaders said Indiana must enact broad civil rights protections for LGBT people.

"The harm has been lessened, but we have not reached the day when LGBT Hoosiers can be assured that they can live their lives with freedom from discrimination," said Katie Blair, campaign manager for Freedom Indiana. "It's long past time to enact a comprehensive nondiscrimination law, and we must continue to work to ensure, once and for all, that the RFRA cannot be used to discriminate against or hurt anyone."

The Human Rights Campaign said approximately 80 percent of Hoosiers live with no explicit protection from or recourse for LGBT discrimination under state or local law. Also, the so-called "fix" still allows a pharmacist, citing personal religious beliefs, to deny a legitimate prescription to an LGBT person seeking HIV medication, hormone therapy, or to a lesbian couple seeking fertility

drugs. And the "fix" also allows a parent to sue an individual teacher for intervening when his or her child harasses another child perceived to be LGBT.

In Arkansas, the legislature sent a bill to Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who, looking north to Indiana and hearing objections from Wal-Mart, asked for revisions.

Arkansas lawmakers changed the bill to more closely mirror the 1993 federal law and it only addresses actions by the government, not by businesses or individuals. Hutchinson signed the legislation on April 2, with civil rights leaders still concerned about the potential impact.

"This new law fails to protect against the use of religion to discriminate against and harm others," said Rita Sklar, executive director of the ACLU of Arkansas. "Religious liberty is a fundamental value that the ACLU of Arkansas has been working to uphold since 1969. We will be vigilant and ensure that the shield of religious freedom doesn't become a sword used to harm others in the state of Arkansas."

PHOTO: AP PHOTO/DARRON CUMMINGS

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, right, exits a news conference discussing the state's religious-freedom law.



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3956 N. Murray Ave. Shorewood, WI 53211

CEO/PRINCIPAL

Leonard Sobczak
lsobczak@wisconsin-gazette.com

PUBLISHER/EDITOR IN CHIEF

Louis Weisberg
lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com

SENIOR EDITOR

Lisa Neff, lmneff@wisconsin-gazette.com

ARTS EDITOR

Matthew Reddin
mreddin@wisconsin-gazette.com

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Mark Richards
mrichards@wisconsin-gazette.com

BUSINESS MANAGER/ PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Kaity Weisensel
kweisensel@wisconsin-gazette.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Eric Van Egeren, Maureen M. Kane

COPY EDITOR

Stephen DeLeers

SALES INFORMATION

sales@wisconsin-gazette.com or call 414.961.3240

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Jeff Kerr, jkerr@wisconsin-gazette.com
Laurie Verrier, lverrier@wisconsin-gazette.com
Logan McDermott,
lmcdermott@wisconsin-gazette.com
Larry Zamba, lzamba@wisconsin-gazette.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Jake Case, jcase@wisconsin-gazette.com

DISTRIBUTION

Andy Augustyn, Shauna Boswell, Shawanda Collins, Thomas Now, Robert Wright

CONTRIBUTORS

Maddy Hughes, Jamakaya, Bill Lamb, Mike Muckian, Kat Murrell, Jay Rath, Kirstin Roble, Anne Siegel, Gregg Shapiro, Julie Steinbach



Wisconsin LGBT
Chamber of Commerce

EDITORIAL

Indiana governor betrayed his state along with his self-claimed beliefs

Of all the headlines about Indiana's discriminatory anti-gay law, *The Onion* had the best: "Indiana Governor Insists New Law Has Nothing To Do With Thing It Explicitly Intended To Do."

Throughout the ordeal surrounding Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Gov. Mike Pence insisted it was never designed to provide a legal right to discriminate against LGBT people. But the company he keeps and his history on the issue suggest otherwise.

For proof, look no further than the people who surrounded Pence as he privately signed the bill into law.

Standing directly behind him was Micah Clark, executive director of the American Family Association of Indiana. The American Family Association has been labeled as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for spreading mistruths that demonize LGBT people and incite violence toward them. An AFA "action alert" in 2012 typifies the group's rhetoric. It said, in part: "Homosexuality is a poor and dangerous choice and has been proven to lead to a litany of health hazards to not only the individuals but to society as a whole."

It's unlikely that Pence would invite someone from a group that made similar statements about white men to a bill signing.

Also standing near Pence was anti-gay activist Eric Miller, executive director of Advance America. In praising Pence for signing the bill, Advance America exposed the law's true intentions by crowing that the law would allow wedding vendors to refuse to serve same-sex couples and allow Christian businesses to refuse transgender people access to restrooms.

Pence's record while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives also reflects his anti-gay bias. The Human Rights Campaign, the national LGBT lobbying group that rates lawmakers based on their votes on equality issues,

awarded Pence a zero for every legislative session from 2005 to 2012.

As is generally the case with bigots, Pence doesn't like other minority groups either. The NAACP awarded him a zero to 5 percent rating over the same time period. Both the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the National Council of La Raza awarded him zeros.

In the backlash over Indiana's discriminatory law, Pence repeatedly claimed it was no different from laws in other states or from a federal law signed by President Bill Clinton. If that were the case, then why was Pence compelled by a backlash over the law to add an amendment specifically stating that it couldn't be used to discriminate against gays? No one else who signed a religious freedom act was compelled to do that. And why are his former Christian-right supporters so angry with him over that amendment?

The federal law was designed to prevent government from interfering with people's practice of their faiths. For instance, it prevents government from prohibiting the use of peyote by Native Americans in their religious ceremonies. Most of the religious freedom laws in other states are based on that model, and many states with such laws specifically protect LGBT people from discrimination. Tellingly, Pence made it clear that he would never support such a law in Indiana.

Pence and other religious fundamentalists are frustrated by the legalization of same-sex marriage and they're unleashing a string of such laws to push back against what we see as social progress. They're certain that they're doing what God wants then to do.

Given their certainty, why did Pence deny the law's obvious intentions? He shamed himself with those denials. He betrayed his state by tarnishing its image and he betrayed his faith by refusing to stand behind it.

WiG's WEB PICKS

Favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

IF YOU'RE OUT IN PUBLIC AND YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT A STRANGER'S GENDER, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

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America's Best Christian, Mrs. Betty Bowers explains how "Religious Freedom" works



"You've confused a 'war on your religion' with 'not always getting everything you want [...] This government 'hates' religious organizations so much, it lets them keep \$100 billion a year in offerings tax-free. Persecute my ass like that!"

- Jon Stewart

ON THE RECORD



“You don’t respect my reason, my rape, my abortion, and I guarantee you there are other women who should stand up with me and be courageous enough to speak that voice. What you’re doing is so fundamentally inhuman, unconstitutional, and I’ve sat here too long. I dare any one of you to judge me. I dare you to walk in my shoes.”

— Ohio state REP. TERESA FEDOR speaking to fellow lawmakers attempting to outlaw abortion in the state after just six weeks of pregnancy.

“I’m in a place where I will be able to provide for my family and really change my life. I feel extremely blessed and thankful.”

— JEREMY MEEKS, dubbed the “hot convict” after police posted his mug shot on Facebook, telling ABC News that he’s snagged a modeling contract. But first Meeks must complete a two-year prison sentence for felony weapons charges.

“Bring it on.”

— GOV. SCOTT WALKER telling right-wing pundit Charlie Sykes that he’s looking forward to debating Hillary Clinton over her record as secretary of state.

“Loans are pretty easy to get and college is a lot of fun.”

— Wisconsin SEN. RON JOHNSON during a public appearance in Verona at which he said students are responsible for their own money woes because they choose the wrong fields of study and wait too long to complete their degrees.

“America is an exceptional country. And I think, unfortunately, sometimes there are many in Washington who think those of us who believe we are exceptional means we are superior, that we’re better than others in the world. And to me, much like my thought process of being an Eagle Scout is, no, being an exceptional country means we have a higher responsibility ... not just to care for ourselves and our own interests, but to lead in the world, to ensure that all freedom-loving people have the capacity, who yearn for that freedom, to have that freedom.”

— GOV. SCOTT WALKER attempting to answer a conservative radio host’s question about his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief.

“I have failed in many ways because I should have raised the concerns that I ended up sharing with everybody. I should have done that months in advance, but again, we didn’t think the bill would ever get out of committee.”

— Arkansas state SEN. JEREMY HUTCHINSON, R, expressing shame for giving in to political pressure and voting for the originally proposed Religious Freedom Restoration Act in that state.

“My concern about creating special legal protections is that historically, our country, we’ve only done that in extraordinary circumstances, and it’s not evident to me — it doesn’t appear to be one of those moments today.”

— Louisiana GOV. BOBBY JINDAL, R, resurrecting the evangelical canard that laws banning discrimination against LGBT people are “special rights.”



Lessons of Lincoln’s death unlearned

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

One hundred and fifty years ago this month, a stunning series of events altered the course of American history.

On April 9, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The surrender ended four years of a bloody civil war that took the lives of 750,000 Americans.

Five days later, on Good Friday, April 14, racist fanatic John Wilkes Booth shot President Abraham Lincoln in Ford’s Theater in Washington. Lincoln, who was shot in the head, never regained consciousness and died the next morning in a rooming house across the street from the theater.

Booth had spent months gathering accomplices and plotting to murder the president. The final straw for

him was the defeat of the Confederacy and the president’s plan to extend the vote to former slaves. Booth was also a narcissist, convinced he could avenge the South and become a hero — a modern day Brutus who had slain America’s Caesar.

A well-known actor, Booth was able to walk into Ford’s Theater and carry out his crime without hindrance. During his flight through Maryland, Booth was dismayed when he learned of the revulsion that his murder elicited in both the North and South. On April 26, the federal manhunt closed in and he was cornered in a barn in Virginia. Booth was shot in the neck and spent three hours dying. His last words were: “Useless, useless.”

Booth and his Confederate cohorts had feared Lincoln’s retaliation toward the defeated South. Like so many other things, they misjudged the character of the man. Just days before the surrender, when Grant asked Lincoln about what

terms to impose on the rebels, Lincoln had said: “Let ‘em up easy.”

Lincoln’s magnanimity was also apparent in his second inaugural address the month before: “With malice toward none, with charity for all ... let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds ... to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

The public had seen Lincoln as an awkward and untested man when he became president. He was immediately confronted with the secession of Southern states, which were determined to maintain and expand slavery, and the Confederates’ defiant shelling of Fort Sumter. Lincoln wrestled with unrelenting problems of military logistics, political maneuvering and personal tragedy over the next four years. You can see the growing devastation of our civil war written on his face in photos taken

from 1861 to 1865.

Lincoln weathered many controversies (the military draft, emancipation, suspension of *habeas corpus*) but grew in stature as he led the Union to victory. His slaying on a Good Friday burnished his image as a beloved martyr, and he is now revered for a war to preserve the union and to free millions of slaves.

We’ll never know if post-Civil War America and race relations would have had a smoother time under Lincoln’s second term. Some question whether we ever achieved his dream of “a new birth of freedom.” Confederate partisans continue to defend their spurious “cause” on the Internet today.

The events of April 1865 offer a sobering perspective on racism, inflexibility and extremism. Amid escalating political inactivity and casual calls for secession in our own time, we would do well to heed that lesson.

Strengthen the link between MAM and O’Donnell

Opinion

VIRGINIA SMALL

Ever since The Milwaukee Art Museum’s winged architectural masterwork transformed the lakefront in 2001, residents have adopted it as an icon. We take pride in “The Calatrava,” the first U.S. building by renowned Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava. Something besides beer has made Milwaukee famous.

In contrast, O’Donnell Park has been treated like an ugly stepchild. Calatrava designed his breathtaking building to dovetail with the park plaza. He placed the museum and pedestrian bridge to line up with Mark DiSvero’s “sunburst” sculpture “The Calling.” The park’s contrasting focal points and panoramic city views draw shutterbugs and tourists. O’Donnell Park is an ideal place to visually

take in Milwaukee.

This park-museum linkage is now threatened by county schemes to sell off O’Donnell Park for private redevelopment. Some elected and appointed officials claim that O’Donnell Park is much too valuable as “buildable real estate” (read “high-rise”) to be used merely for the public’s benefit. They sidestep private-development restrictions stemming from the Public Trust Doctrine and the sacrosanct principle that parks are always set aside forever. Park-sale mania also ignores compelling data that parks are powerful economic catalysts. Great cities all have great public spaces where everyone is welcome, especially downtown. Parks contribute to a diversified tax base by attracting and serving businesses, residents and tourists. It’s synergy writ large.

While some don’t view O’Donnell Park as the indispensable nexus between MAM and downtown,

museum leaders clearly do. MAM depends heavily on O’Donnell Park for access and parking. Milwaukee County’s Board will vote April 23 on a resolution to allow MAM officials to explore formal agreements with county officials.

This effort could yield a win-win solution for both MAM and Betty Brinn Children’s Museum, located in O’Donnell Park. The collaborative Lakefront Gateway Project recently commissioned four teams of professionals to submit design concepts for unifying downtown with lakefront parks and cultural destinations. The city is coordinating the project with the county, which owns park space within the focus area.

An alternate board resolution seeks bids from for-profit businesses to redevelop any or all of O’Donnell Park (which includes a 1,332-space parking lot under the plaza). The county keeps trying to sell this revenue-producing park, without

providing criteria for why it should be sold rather than responsibly stewarded. Selling the park would unnecessarily wreak all kinds of havoc, most alarmingly by declaring it “surplus property” and removing its income from the parks budget.

Please urge county supervisors to allow MAM to pursue a formal arrangement that mutually benefits the public, Milwaukee County Parks and MAM. It’s in everyone’s interest to preserve the park, much-needed parking for lakefront venues and unfettered public access to our world-famous museum. A far-sighted MAM-O’Donnell partnership could engender many positive outcomes, including more respect and care for Milwaukee’s irreplaceable overlook park.

Virginia Small is a conservation advocate who volunteers for a parks friends group in Milwaukee.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



CRUDE-BY-RAIL SAFETY: Democratic U.S. Sens. Tammy Baldwin, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray and Dianne Feinstein recently introduced a bill to set new safety standards for trains hauling crude oil. The **Crude-By-Rail Safety Act of 2015** would require new regulations to mitigate the volatility of gases in crude oil shipped via tank car and immediately halt the use of older-model tank cars.

FORCED STERILIZATION PROPOSED IN TENNESSEE PLEA DEALS

Prosecutors in Nashville, Tennessee, made sterilization of women part of plea negotiations at least four times in the past five years. The district attorney banned his staff from using the invasive surgery as a bargaining chip after the latest case.

In that case, first reported by *The Tennessean*, a woman with a 20-year history of mental illness was charged with neglect after her 5-day-old baby mysteriously died. Her defense attorney says the prosecutor assigned to the case wouldn't go forward with a plea deal to keep the woman out of prison unless she had the surgery.

Defense attorneys say there have been at least three similar cases in the past five years, suggesting the practice may not be as rare as people think and may happen more often outside the public view and without the blessing of a court.

BLAZE RUINS HISTORIC GAY RESORT ON FIRE ISLAND

A blaze on Fire Island, New York, destroyed several structures, including two well-known landmarks in a historic gay resort, and required dozens of firefighters to respond by ferry from the mainland.

The fire, reported at about 1:30 a.m. on March 27, ruined an apartment complex known as Holly House, as well as the Grove Hotel, and left three firefighters with minor injuries.

A nightclub attached to the hotel called the Ice Palace avoided serious damage.

Cherry Grove has been known since the late 1940s as a sanctuary where gay writers, actors and businesspeople from New York City and beyond escape to relax, hold hands and show affection in public.

In other national news ...

• **LEAVE ON HOLD:** U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor blocked a recent rule change to the Family and Medical Leave Act from the U.S. Department of Labor. The decision prevents legally married

same-sex couples in Texas from exercising their FMLA rights.

• **SOUTH DAKOTA DESIST:** A federal court ordered South Dakota officials to stop violating the rights of Indian parents and tribes in state child custody proceedings. The ruling stems from a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union and a Rapid City attorney on behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The lawsuit charges that Native American children are being removed from their homes in hearings that lasted as little as 60 seconds and that parents have no chance to present evidence.

• **NOT GOING THERE:** Nevada Republicans are dropping two proposed bills that would have added religious freedom protections to state law that critics have hounded as legalizing discrimination against LGBT people. Assemblyman Erv Nelson and Sen. Joe Hardy said they would no longer pursue passage of the bills, which contained language similar to the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

• **PAYING IT FORWARD:** Apple CEO Tim Cook, 54, is joining a list of magnates who plan on leaving their money to charities when they die. Cook, an out gay man, revealed his intentions during an interview with *Fortune* magazine. Cook said that after deducting the cost of a college education for his 10-year-old nephew, he'll donate the rest of his money to philanthropic causes. The charitable commitment echoes pledges made by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett and Oracle Chairman Larry Ellison, among others. Gates, Buffett and Ellison each have a net worth of at least \$54 billion and rank among the five richest people in the world, according to *Forbes* magazine.

— from *WiG* reports

REGIONAL BRIEFS

ANN WALSH BRADLEY WINS 3RD TERM ON COURT

Justices on the Wisconsin Supreme Court will remain the same following the April 7 election, but there likely will be a new chief justice for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Justice Ann Walsh Bradley easily defeated Rock County Circuit Judge James Daley for what will be her third 10-year term. But voters also approved a constitutional amendment that gives the seven justices the power to decide who will be chief justice. For the past 126 years, the position went automatically to the court's most senior member.

As a result, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson will soon end her 19-year tenure and be replaced by a justice in the conservative majority.

Abrahamson, 81, joined the court in 1976 and has served longer than anyone in state history.

Bradley, a close ally of Abrahamson's, said the court has not discussed how it will move forward once the amendment becomes final. That is likely to happen at an April 29 meeting of the state elections board, which must certify the results before they take effect.

Under the new amendment, the justices will vote for a chief justice every two years.

The chief serves as lead administrator for the state court system, with power to assign judges for cases below the Supreme Court level. The chief also designates and assigns reserve judges and schedules oral arguments before the high court, among other duties.

Supporters of the change say it's undemocratic to have the position go to the justice with the most experience.

— from AP

STATE TO PAY FOR ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE DEFENSE

An agreement announced in late March requires the state of Wisconsin to pay more than \$1 million to the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented eight gay and lesbian couples who sued to overturn the state's 2006 constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

The couples won their lawsuit and the ACLU can recover legal costs in the case, which went as far as the U.S. Supreme Court because of the vigorous defense waged by Gov. Scott Walker and then-Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen.

MADISON ADOPTS LAW PROTECTING ATHEISTS

Without dissent, the Madison Common Council on March 31 voted to ban discrimination against people who are "non-religious." Multiple sources say the move makes Madison the first city in the nation to protect people who don't believe in God from discrimination.

"It's my personal feeling that since we protect religious people, we should protect non-religious people," said Madison Alder Anita Weier, who sponsored the amendment. She introduced it on March 17.

"It was something I've been thinking about for quite a while," Weier said. "I'm not running for re-election, so it's something that I wanted to get passed before I left office. Anyone who was seeking reelection might not have introduced it."

The ban was added to an existing equal-opportunity ordinance, which protects people from discrimination based on a list of factors, including race, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity. The March 31 vote added the phrase "religion or non-religion" to the ordinance, which applies to employment, housing and public accommodations.

In other regional news ...

- **UNMINING LAW:** The Sierra Club has renewed its call for the Wisconsin Legislature to repeal 2013's Act 1, the measure written by Gogebic Taconite to enable its now-abandoned open-pit mine proposal. The measure gutted environmental protections to ease the way for the project. The environmental advocacy group, in a statement issued on March 30, said the law should be repealed in its entirety.
- **PLANNED PARENTHOOD SCORE:** Authorities safely detonated a suspicious package found outside a Planned Parenthood clinic in Kenosha. Authorities closed nearby streets for several hours and called in the bomb squad. After x-rays were inconclusive, the emergency team deployed a robot to fire a charge into the package, which apparently contained paper.
- **REGULATING RIDE SHARE:** Wisconsin lawmakers recently introduced a bill to impose statewide regulations on online ride-sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft. The measure would require that companies apply for a \$5,000 state license and would prevent local governments from issuing further regulations. Uber supports the bill.
- **ANIMAL RESCUE AND REMOVAL:** The Humane Animal Welfare Society removed 331 chinchillas and two cats from a Waukesha home deemed uninhabitable by the local fire department. Authorities also found nearly two dozen dead chinchillas.
- **GRANDE GESTURE:** The chief executive of Starbucks met privately with the family of Dontre Hamilton, an unarmed black Milwaukee man who was fatally shot by a police officer. Hamilton's shooting drew national attention and sparked demonstrations in Milwaukee. In addition to meeting with Hamilton's family, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz recently launched an initiative called "Race Together" to generate discussions about diversity. He quickly backtracked from writing the phrase on cups, however.

tion to meeting with Hamilton's family, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz recently launched an initiative called "Race Together" to generate discussions about diversity. He quickly backtracked from writing the phrase on cups, however.

• **MOTHER'S DAY MARCH:** The mother of Dontre Hamilton hopes to get a million moms from around the nation to march in Washington, D.C., on Mother's Day. Maria Hamilton has created a support group for mothers who have lost children after encounters with police called Mothers for Justice United, which is organizing the event. Social justice organizations around the country are raising money for the women to go.

• **ORDER IN THE COURT:** Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice David Prosser stepped down from a drunken driving case after violating court proceedings and contacting a state lab. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported that the court was notified someone claiming to be Prosser contacted the Laboratory of Hygiene on Feb. 19 and asked questions that could be related to the case. Judges are supposed to decide cases based on facts presented, not information gathered independently. Prosser withdrew the day that the contact became public.

• **FEINGOLD IN THE LEAD:** Public Policy Polling's first look at the Wisconsin Senate race in 2016 finds former Sen. Russ Feingold with a clear lead over Ron Johnson in a hypothetical rematch of their 2010 contest. Feingold gets 50 percent of the vote to just 41 percent for Johnson. Only 32 percent of voters approve of the job Johnson's doing, compared with 40 percent who disapprove. Twenty-eight percent have no opinion about Johnson, suggesting he hasn't made a terribly strong impression on people over the last four years.

— from WiG and AP reports

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COMMUNITY BULLETINS

PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE EXPANDS RESTROOM ACCESS

PrideFest Milwaukee plans to provide additional gender-neutral restrooms at this year's LGBT Pride celebration.

According to a news release, "PrideFest Milwaukee is increasingly concerned about our reputation as a safe place for our trans guests and their loved ones. We are disappointed that our organization, policies and long-standing provisions may have been misrepresented. We apologize for any anxiety, confusion or doubt this misinformation may have caused."

The organization then announced plans to:

- Add gender-neutral restrooms for the festival.
- Clearly mark gender-neutral bathrooms.
- Offer a map of gender-neutral restrooms.
- Post PrideFest's restroom policy and code of conduct at the entrance gate.

"We will be retraining our volunteers on approaching the restroom environment with sensitivity," said Terrance Raffet, PrideFest security director. "We are committed to protecting and serving all visitors and to creating a safe, meaningful and memorable experience."

For more, go to pridefest.com.

More community bulletins ...

- **GOOD DINING:** Pam Grier, Ted Allen, Mondo Guerra and Daisy Martinez serve as the celebrity spokespeople for Dining Out for Life, the national campaign to raise money for HIV service organizations. More than 3,000 restaurants participate in the annual event, set for April 30. For more, go to diningoutforlife.com.
- **SUMMONED TO EQUAL RIGHTS SUMMIT:** Baltimore is to host "It's Time 2015: The Partnership Summit to Elevate Women's Leadership" on May 1-3. The purpose is to unite advocates in the campaign for gender equality. For more, go to www.itstime2015.com.
- **CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY:** With Wisconsin's natural resources under greater attack than ever in the proposed state budget, this year's Conservation Lobby Day is more important than ever, according to organizers. The deadline to register for the April 14 event is April 10. Go to conservationvoters.org, click on "act" in the blue bar at the top of the page, then scroll down to "events."
- **WORK THE NETWORK:** The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosts a networking breakfast at 8 a.m. on April 16 at Bella Caffe, 189 N. Milwaukee St., in the Third Ward. No registration is required.
- **HAPPY CESAR CHAVEZ DAY:** Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy Romo West and County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic called for a holiday for Milwaukee County employees on the birthday of Cesar Chavez. The holiday would take place beginning in 2016.



PHOTO: COURTESY/PIXABAY.COM

ARTIST ACTIVISTS: Amnesty International honored folk singer Joan Baez, pictured with Bob Dylan, and artist Ai Weiwei with the Ambassador of Conscience Award for 2015. The award—to be presented in Berlin in May—is the organization's top honor, recognizing "those who have shown exceptional leadership in the fight for human rights, through their life and work." For more, go to amnestyinternational.org.

• SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SCHOLARSHIP:

Members of Youth Empowered in the Struggle rallied on March 30 at Marquette University in Milwaukee, calling on the school's administration to establish a scholarship fund for undocumented students. For more, go to vdf.org.

• **LABOR LEADERSHIP:** Pride at Work hosts its third annual LGBT leadership training program at the Communications Workers of America headquarters in Washington, D.C., this month. For more, go to aflcio.org.

— from WiG reports

Send community bulletins to Lisa Neff at lmneff@wisconsin Gazette.com.

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Out on the town *April 9 - 23*

A curated calendar of upcoming events

'LETTICE AND LOVAGE'

April 10 to May 3

For lead character Letitia "Lettice" Douffet, being the tour guide of a stuffy old historic building is boring. So she spices up her stories with a little murder and intrigue. No harm done — until her boss shows up. Milwaukee actresses Laura Gordon and Carrie Hitchcock square off in this British comedy by the writer of *Equus* and *Amadeus*, closing Renaissance Theaterworks' 2014-15 season. At the Broadway Theater Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Tickets are \$36 and can be purchased at 414-291-7800 or r-t-w.com.



'PIANO GENIUS' *April 10 to April 12*

One of the most acclaimed pianists performing today lives right in Madison, and he'll join the city's symphony for a series of piano-heavy works. Christopher Taylor will be featured on a Madison Symphony program including the orchestra's first performance of a Bach keyboard concerto as well as Liszt's first piano concerto. The orchestra will complete the evening with their first-ever performance of Anton Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, widely considered one of his greatest works. At Overture Center, 201 State St. Tickets are \$16 to \$84 and can be ordered at 608-258-4141 or overturecenter.org.

UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF BRITAIN *8 p.m. April 11*

Forget your preconceived notions of ukulele music and say hello to the Ukulele Orchestra of Britain. The ensemble from across the pond has a vast repertoire of cover tunes — from Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" to Lady Gaga's "Born This Way." — that allows them to show off the wide range of things you can do with the tiny stringed instrument. At Wisconsin Union Theater, 800 Langdon St., Madison. Tickets range from \$10 to \$42 and can be ordered at 608-265-2787 or uniontheater.wisc.edu.

'LUCHADORA!' *April 10 to April 26*

One pink wrestling mask is all it takes to launch *Luchadora!*, a coming-of-age tale making its world premiere at First Stage Children's Theater. The show's protagonist, Vanessa, finds the mask in her Nana's briefcase and, as she explores its origins, we follow her into a world of lucha libre wrestling, both in 1950s small-town Texas and present-day Milwaukee. At the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$12 to \$32 and can be ordered at firststage.org or 414-273-7206.



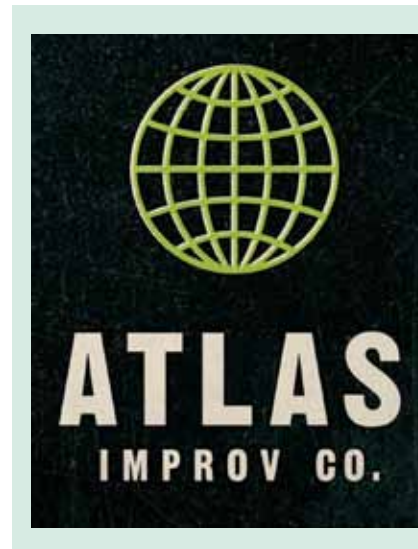
PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



MIDWEST GAMING CLASSIC

April 11 and April 12

Gamers of all stripes will converge on Brookfield for the Midwest Gaming Classic, a celebration of all forms of electronic entertainment. While the title attracts a large contingent of retro-gamers drawn to pinball, arcade machines and '80s consoles, fans of the latest computer and console games are equally welcome. Best of all, the Midwest Gaming Classic is no industry trade show, so the point is simply to enjoy games new and old. At the Milwaukee Sheraton Brookfield, 375 S. Moorland Road. Weekend passes are \$40, while individual tickets for Saturday are \$30 and tickets for Sunday are \$15. Visit midwestgamingclassic.com for more information.



THE ENDURANCE IMPROV FEST *April 16 to April 18*

It's almost unbelievable how much Atlas Improv Company is packing into one weekend for its Endurance Improv Fest. Madison's first improv festival will feature three different shows on the first two nights (a general show Thursday at 9:30 p.m. and their usual short-form and long-form improv shows at 8 and 10 p.m. Friday, respectively), and then buckle in for a nonstop 11 hours of improv on Saturday, from 4 p.m. to 3 a.m. the next morning. Unbelievably, it's all free, although we'll be surprised if you won't feel inspired to improvise yourself and drop some donations into the proverbial bucket. At 609 E. Washington Ave., Madison. Visit atlasimprov.com for more information.

TEN QUESTIONS

to

Ask your Biology Teacher about Evolution

by Stephen Massicotte

April 9 -
May 3, 2015

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Out on the town



'THE SECOND CITY HITS HOME' 8 p.m. April 17

The Second City is coming to Madison, and this time it's personal. Chicago's most famous sketch/improv troupe is bringing its touring company to the city, and they're prepared for a show that will expose and lampoon all of Madison's most outrageous quirks. If you're a Madisonian who hasn't laughed at themselves lately, get ready to make up for lost time. At Overture Center, 201 State St. Tickets range from \$25 to \$40 and can be purchased at 608-258-4141 or overturecenter.org.

'EMBRACE' 7 p.m. April 18

Visual art installations meet classical Indian dance in *Embrace: A Conversation About Change*. The concert pairs local artists Dara Larson and Nirmal Raja with dancer Sumana Mandala and her Austin-based troupe Stage Sanchaar, which will perform four dance pieces in the traditional *bharata natyam* style. Throughout the evening, dancers will explore the style's evolution from a solo art to a group one, with the final dance inviting the audience to join performers in exploring the art installations that inspire the event. At Theater Unchained, 1024 S. Fifth St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20 (free for students) and all proceeds benefit RedLine Milwaukee. RSVP at 512-450-8344 or stagesanchaar@gmail.com.



PHOTO: COURTESY

KENILWORTH OPEN STUDIOS

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18

A synthesizer that creates explosions of sound with nothing more than an iPad. A design professor who 3-D prints prosthetic hands. That's just the tip of the iceberg at this year's Kenilworth Open Studios, an annual open house for UW-Milwaukee's many art students and faculty members working in the Kenilworth building. For three hours, the building will open its doors to the public, letting us in to explore six floors of design, film, music, theater and dance studio space. At 1925 E. Kenilworth Pl. Admission is free. Visit uwm.edu/psoa/kos for more details.

'EMERGENCE: GAIA RISING'

April 17 to April 19

Brush off that winter chill with the help of Madison's Kanopy Dance Company. Their spring show, *Emergence*, will feature new works by local, national and international choreographers. Japanese *butoh* dance theater, Scottish folklore and flamenco are just a handful of the diverse influences at play in the vibrant program. At Overture Center, 201 State St. Tickets are \$29, \$22 for students, \$14 for children. Call 608-258-4141 or visit overturecenter.org to order.


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 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CAMERATA EVENTS.



PHOTO: LIZ LINDER

'REPERTORY II' April 17 and April 18

The Madison Ballet concludes its season with a bang, restaging some of the company's most iconic performances including two neoclassical works by artistic director W. Earle Smith. On the program for their final concert of the year are Smith's 2011 works *Palladio* and *Expressions*, as well as two works choreographed by George Balanchine (*Élégie* and *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*) and an adaptation of Marius Petipa's *White Swan Pas de Deux*. At the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for children/seniors, and can be purchased at madisonballet.org or 608-278-7990.

BLUE HERON 3 p.m. April 18

Early Music Now concludes its official season by taking its audience to Canterbury Cathedral. Boston's Blue Heron choir will be performing a series of works arranged for the cathedral in the 16th century. Only part of the works survived the purge of Catholic music during the Protestant Reformation, but they've recently been reconstructed for performance. Included in the program is an anonymous Mass that may have been dedicated to St. Augustine, the local hero of Canterbury. At St. Joseph Center Chapel, 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$28 or \$44 for preferred seating (\$10/\$15 for students, respectively) and can be purchased at earlymusicnow.org.

A curated calendar of upcoming events **April 9 - 23**



PHOTO: COURTESY

CAMILLE A. BROWN & DANCERS 6:30 p.m. April 21, 7:30 p.m. April 23

In her in-process work *Black Girl*, Camille A. Brown draws on motifs from Melissa Harris-Perry's *Sister Citizen*, imagery from *Alice in Wonderland* and the photography of Carrie Mae Weems. The result is a multimedia project that explores the complexities of black female identity in urban America. Brown and her dance company will perform that and other works at a John Michael Kohler Arts Center concert sure to impress. At 608 New York Ave., Sheboygan. Tickets are \$29 or \$24 for members/students for Thursday's performance; \$16 or \$12 for Tuesday's. Visit jmka.org for tickets or more details.

'THE LAST SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN TOUR' 8 p.m. April 18

With a world-famous pianist, saxophonist/clarinetist, trumpeter, trombonist and drummer among its ranks, there is no family more important to contemporary jazz than the Marsalis family. The path to legendary status began with pianist and patriarch Ellis Marsalis Jr., and four of his children have since joined the family business, with eldest sons Branford and Wynton getting most of the spotlight. This time around, Ellis is touring with one of the others: trombonist Delfeayo, who he's never yet recorded or performed with. At the Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield. Tickets are \$37 to \$67 and can be ordered at 262-781-9520 or wilson-center.com.



PHOTO: TETYANA VASYLENKO

DAKHABRAKHA 8 p.m. April 23

Straight from Kiev, it's DakhaBrakha: a "punk-folk-circus-rock" band that performs punk pop music with distinctive Balkan harmonies. Taking their name from the Ukrainian for "give" and "take," the four-piece does both on stage, with a presence that reflects their origins as the offshoots of an underground theater troupe. At Alverno's Pitman Theatre, 3431 S. 39th St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20 and can be ordered at alvernopresents.alverno.edu.

'RX' April 18 to May 3

After a season of running around Milwaukee, the Boulevard Theatre wants to pop a few pills and lie down. So it's staging *RX*, a pharmaceutical farce featuring a harried heroine who just wants something to keep her workplace blues under control. But when she signs up for a drug trial, she gets swept up in a haze of love and medication, with comic results. At Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20 and can be ordered at 414-744-5757 or boulevardtheatre.com.



PHOTO: JOHN NIENHUIS

ELSEWHERE IN WIGOUT:

'Jeeves Takes a Bow': Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's series of plays about the incomparable valet Jeeves and his dimwitted employer Bertie receives its third and final installment. April 16 to May 3. See page 31.

'10 Questions to Ask Your Biology Teacher About Evolution': Next Act Theatre closes its season with a play that tackles the debate between teaching evolution and intelligent design in schools. Through May 3. See page 32.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago: One of the Windy City's most acclaimed dance companies visits Madison's Overture Center for an evening of inventive, virtuosic choreography. April 15. See page 33.

'An Evening with Nickolas Butler': The Shorewood Public Library invites Wisconsin author Nickolas Butler to town to discuss his debut novel, *Shotgun Lovesongs*. April 16. See page 34.

'Jones Uncovered': The music of record producer and composer Quincy Jones gets a re-interpretation thanks to DJ Jordan "Madhatter" Lee and a team of local musicians. April 11. See page 41.

LOVE really is the Best Medicine!

Rx
BY KATE FODOR

APRIL 18 - MAY 3

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Dish it Out!

Local beer weeks bring out the best of the brews

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Whether you like to tipple a tallboy, quaff a cold one or just generally soak up the suds, upcoming weeklong beer celebrations in both Milwaukee and Madison will give drinkers the opportunity to get up close and personal with brands they haven't before tried, all in the name of beer "education."

Milwaukee Beer Week, first out of the tank, runs April 18-25 in venues throughout the greater metro area. Expect brewers and beers from around the state, the nation and points beyond to drop in for beer brunches and dinners, tap takeovers and other events designed to showcase their brews under the best conditions possible.

Madison Craft Beer Week follows close on Milwaukee's week, with much the same setup. Scheduled for May 1-10, the series of events is designed to celebrate Dane County's vibrant beer culture and allow drinkers to mix and mingle with brewers, chefs and a bevy of enthusiastic imbibers.

But let's check out Milwaukee's schedule first. With more than 85 events listed at press time, the schedule is still evolving. However, there already are highlights beer lovers will not want to miss. Make sure to check the milwaukeebeerweek.com for registration details.

Steny's Tavern, 800 S. Second St., is offering a **Southern Tier Beer Brunch** April 18 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to help kick off its new brunch menu. The tavern will offer its famous bloody mary accompanied by a free chaser from Southern Tier, a Lakewood, New York, brewer famous for its high-alcohol imperial brews.

On April 19, **Cleveland Pub & Grill**, 14000 W. Cleveland Ave., New Berlin, will host a tap takeover by Michigan powerhouse **Founder's Brewery**. Look for Kentucky Breakfast Stout and other favorites from the award-winning Grand Rapids brewer. With any luck, there may even be a little Devil Dancer on tap.

The Palm Tavern, 2989 S. Kinnickinoc Ave., offers two notable events back to back. On April 20, the Palm offers "**The Best of Our Cellars**," trotting out some of its most rare and limited bottles for sampling. The \$10 fee nets you a glass and samples, with proceeds going to the

MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary. On April 21, it's the Palm's second annual **Barrel-Aged Beer Night**, offering samples of barrel-aged brews from around the world.

Fans of Sheboygan's **3 Sheeps Brewery** will want to stop in to **The Black Sheep**, 216 S. Second St., for a 3 Sheeps tap takeover. Look for Cirque du Wit wheat beer; Hello, My Name is Joe coffee stout; and other favorites.

Sand Creek Brewing Co., based in Black River Falls, will be in the spotlight for a limited release tapping at **World of Beer**, 418 N. Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, on April 23 from 6-9 p.m. The highlight is sure to be Oscar's Oatmeal Stout, aged for one year in a bourbon barrel, blended with Badger Porter, aged for two years in a port wine barrel. The mind boggles at the possibilities.

April 25, the last day of Milwaukee Beer Week, is **Sour Saturday at Landmark 1850**, 5905 S. Howell Ave. Sample some new and favorite sour beers with a selection TBD.

Convening just a week later, Madison Craft Beer Week really "hops" up the activity. As of press time, the 10-day week already had more than 350 events scheduled.

It kicks off on April 30 with the tapping of the **2015 Common Thread**, a joint effort by 15 different Wisconsin brewers to produce a limited edition specialty beer just for the festival. The inaugural tapping, held this year at **Wisconsin Brewing Co.**, 1079 American Way, Verona, will explore a jointly brewed Belgian tripel, a perfect way to welcome Wisconsin's warmer weather. This year's installment was designed exclusively by female brewers, as homage to beer appreciation group Females Enjoying Microbrews and the growing number of women in the field.

On May 1, **The Flying Hound Ale House**, 6317 McKee Road, Fitchburg, is offering a **Belgian Beer Bonanza**, promising 12 to 22 tap lines devoted to Belgian dubbels, tripels, quads, sours, strong darks and saisons for sampling all day. The pub will reprise the bounty twice: with a different set of limited releases on May 6 and returning to the original set on May 10.

The newly opened **Bos Meadery Tasting Room**, 849 E. Washington Ave., Madison, is celebrating its first Craft Beer



PHOTO: MADISON CRAFT BEER WEEK

Milwaukee and Madison will host beer weeks in April and May.

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BEER next page

BEER from prior page

Week with the limited release of its **brandy barrel-aged black pepper mead** on May 1 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Meadmaker Colleen Bos borrowed a brandy barrel from Madison's Old Sugar Distillery and the results will no doubt be spectacular.

Curious about cask ale? Join the **Kick-off Celebration and Cask Ale Festival** May 2 at the **East Side Club**, 3735 Monona Dr. More than 17 breweries offer cask ales you won't find elsewhere and \$35 will get your four hours of cask ale heaven starting at 11 a.m.

Think you know beer? Test your knowledge at a **Beer Flavor and Beer Styles Seminar** at UW-Madison's Department of Food and Science, May 3 from noon to 5 p.m. in 205 Babcock Hall, 1605 Linden Dr. Kevin Eichelberger, brewmaster and owner of **Redeye Brewing Co.** in Wausau, will be on hand as a special guest to share samples and answer questions in this one-of-a-kind short course.

For a different kind of pub crawl, join the experts from the **Wisconsin Historical Museum**, 30 N. Carroll St., and the **Great Dane Pub and Brewing Co.**, 123 E. Doty St., on May 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. For \$40, participants receive a historical overview of Wisconsin brewing history courtesy of Jim Draeger, co-author of *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*. Participants also receive beer samples, a commemorative T-shirt and a slice of



PHOTO: MADISON CRAFT BEER WEEK

Madison's Craft Beer Week will feature more than 600 events for beer lovers over 10 days.

pizza.

Steenbock's on Orchard, 330 N. Orchard St., and **Karben4** will co-sponsor **The Science of Beer Dinner and Tap TAKEOVER!** May 9 from 6-10 p.m. Executive chef Chris Swenson and brewmaster Ryan Koga will

host a three-course dinner and beer pairing while discussing the scientific side of food and drink. This sold out early last year.

There's all that, plus countless beer challenges, food and beer pairings, lim-

ited release specials and numerous special events on Kentucky Derby Day (May 2), National Star Wars Day ("May the Fourth") and Cinco de Mayo (May 5).

Time to start training that liver. Cheers!

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	Sat. April 18th The Charles Barber Experience
	Fri. April 24th Kenny Walker & A Touch Of Fire
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Zymbiotics revives the art of fermented food

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Everything old is new again, and one of the latest waves in healthy eating dates back to a time when people depended on fermentation to preserve their food.

Chances are few of them knew at the time that cabbage, carrots and other fermented vegetables actually increase in nutritional value during storage. Fox Point entrepreneur Jeff Ziebelman and his girlfriend Betty Holloway are reviving interest in food fermentation with their company Zymbiotics, which uses age-old fermentation processes to increase the nutritional value of foods like sauerkraut, Korean-style kimchee and pickled carrots.

"The idea is that we are in a symbiotic process with the microbes in the human gut and these little partners are doing so much good for us," says Holloway, a registered dietician. "Microbes help digest food and maximize its value, and we want to keep them healthy and only allow the good bacteria to survive."

Ziebelman, whose previous job was importing pianos from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, has been working with Holloway on Zymbiotics for about eight months. He credits his dietician/nutritionist partner for coming up with the idea behind the firm.

"I always liked food and cooking and

have a pretty healthy lifestyle, with daily exercise, yoga and meditation," Ziebelman says. "Betty was the one who suggested fermented foods. It's one of the hottest things in health and wellness right now."

But there is more to fermentation's value than just its preservative capabilities. Scientifically speaking, the fermentation process ruptures the plants' cellular walls, allowing for a release of nutrients that are then more easily assimilated in your body, Ziebelman says. The plants' natural bacteria add to those already in the human gut, increasing the body's capability to process nutrients and maximize their value.

"By fermenting the vegetables you're almost pre-digesting them," Ziebelman says. "This helps your immune system by making sure that the walls of your intestine are covered with healthy bacteria that helps keep more deleterious bacteria from entering your system."

Holloway credits the fermentation section of *Cooked*, food journalist Michael Pollan's treatise on food preparation styles, for stimulating her interest in fermented foods.

"It got me to thinking that this is the type of process we have to pursue," Holloway says. "This is something we need to promote and a vestige that we need to revive."

Zymbiotics began distributing its products last summer at farmer's markets in southeastern Wisconsin, and the three-product line is now available in 35 retail outlets in the greater Milwaukee area, including Outpost Natural Foods. Plans to move into the Madison market are in the works.

In addition to Jeff's Zauerkraut, Zymbiotics also produces Jeff's Zimchi and Jeff's Ginger Zarrots. The duo uses the commercial kitchen and staff at Klasiana Pizza in Cudahy to produce and package its products.



PHOTO: JEFF ZIEBELMAN

Zymbiotics uses age-old fermentation processes to maximize nutritional content.

Jeff's Zauerkraut combines both red and green cabbage, which Holloway says is a more nutritional blend, with carrots, onions, sea salt, garlic and caraway seeds. Jeff's Zimchi, a spin on Korean kimchee, uses Daikon radish, ginger and Korean peppers, plus a dash of fish sauce and one cup of sugar for every 26-gallon batch, Ziebelman says. The Ginger Zarrots, the simplest of all, are comprised of carrots, ginger and sea salt.

"Jeff's Zimchee is produced from a tra-

ditional Korean recipe, but we made some modifications for the American palate spice-wise," Ziebelman says. "We wanted something with that burst of flavor without the burn. A number of Korean nationals have touted the quality of it, so we feel good about that."

Most plants have some level of natural sugar, which makes them good candidates for fermentation, Holloway says. Natural fermentation processes preserve nutrients and add the vinegar-like quality familiar to those who eat pickled foods. However, there is no vinegar used in any of Zymbiotic's foods, which is why the products are kept chilled. The living organisms remain at work long after the products have been packaged.

Zymbiotics' products differ from pickled foods bought off store shelves. Unless products are refrigerated, there's a good chance they've been pasteurized, which kills the nutrients, Holloway says.

"The most important thing is that the overall health benefits of these foods are so vast," she says. "It's not just good for one thing or another, but it creates the nutrients you need. It helps people feel better by creating some of the neurotransmitters so relevant to our health and well-being, and it tastes good, too."

Fermented foods also help with weight loss by providing the feeling of being full without all the calories associated with an actual full stomach, Holloway says.

For more information go to www.zymbioticsllc.com.

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WIGOUT!

As MCT's Jeeves, Matt Daniels takes a final 'Bow'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Few characters in 20th-century literature have quite as much intellectual and comic clout as Reginald Jeeves, better known as the personal valet, or "gentleman's gentleman," to hapless, dim-witted Bertram Wilberforce "Bertie" Wooster. As one of the last of the idle rich in England's post-Edwardian era, Wooster has little to do other than get himself into trouble and then rely on Jeeves to get him out of it again.

The brainchildren of author P.G. Wodehouse, Jeeves and Wooster have delighted fans for decades, in their ongoing sendup of the British class system. Wodehouse wrote 11 novels and 35 short stories about the pair from 1915 to 1974, and the characters have been adapted for other media as well. Their most famous appearance, perhaps, has been *Jeeves and Wooster*, the '90s-era PBS import from the U.K., featuring Stephen Fry as Jeeves and Hugh Laurie as Wooster.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre has offered its own trio of Jeeves and Wooster comedies over the past five years, adapted for the stage by playwright Margaret Raether. The latest production, *Jeeves Takes a Bow*, finds the plucky pair in New York City, tangled up with showgirls and gangsters.

Matt Daniels, who has played the incomparable Jeeves in all three productions, spoke to *WIG* about his character and how he's developed the role over the past five years.

What are the different plays you've performed in the Jeeves cycle? *Jeeves Takes a Bow* is the third play in a series by Margaret Raether. Milwaukee Chamber Theatre produced *Jeeves Intervenes*, the first in the series, in 2010. MCT then produced the second in the series, *Jeeves in Bloom*, in 2013. I have played Jeeves in all three productions.

What elements are essential to the character of Jeeves? Jeeves is the "gentleman's gentleman." He is sophisticated, urbane, smart, knowledgeable and proper. He is always one step ahead of everyone else in the room, whether that's with a well-timed snifter of brandy or working out a plan to get his employer Bertie out of a jam.

Wodehouse talks about Jeeves gliding in and out of rooms, shimmering into existence. As an actor, I look for economy and precision in every movement onstage. There are few (stage) crosses that don't include multiple actions, but each action is cleanly executed. Since Jeeves is a personal servant, I am liberal with inflection for emotional signifiers, as gesture and volume would be out of place.

Is Jeeves as smart as he appears, or simply a few steps ahead of his dim-witted employer? Jeeves is very smart, indeed. While we'd all like to think of ourselves as a few steps ahead of Bertie, Jeeves is able to subtly get him out of tight spots with grace and elegance, without ever upsetting the appercart. He's a master tactician, a great chess player who lays out the elements of his plan long before Bertie — or the audience — realize it. In addition, he is always ready with a quick fact or 20. He's a sort of human encyclopedia.

Jeeves and Wooster are characters from a specific time and place. What do the stereotypes they represent say about the society from which they came? The period between the wars in Britain was the beginning of the decline of the aristocracy there, but the aristocracy didn't know it yet. Bertie and his pals in the Drones' Club are members of the idle rich, and Jeeves is charged with keeping his master well dressed and personally taken care of. Jeeves sees this charge as extending to keeping Bertie happy in life and living, and he himself is one of the last vestiges of the crumbling aristocracy. The whole thing is basically *Downton Abbey*, but much funnier.

What characteristics of Jeeves do you most admire? Are there any you don't like? Jeeves is calm, cool and collected. He always knows what to do and when to do it. He is the embodiment of style, elegance and grace. What's not to like?

Jeeves is a character whose legend precedes him, one that raises certain audience expectations. How have you evolved the character to make Jeeves your own? As an actor, I try not to watch performances that have come before my own, as I am always afraid I'll get stuck in someone else's interpretation. Over these past few years, I have tried to craft a character that is true to Wodehouse's vision, through the multifaceted lens of theatrical collaboration.

As for expectations, I am lucky to have created the character for the MCT audience. With this being the third play in the series, I hope I am the standard to which I am being compared — if that makes sense.

What does the MCT audience need to know about Jeeves? Coming in, the audience need only know that Bertie is rich and idle and Jeeves is his valet. Everything else is deftly revealed by the playwright. As far as the man himself, Wodehouse keeps Jeeves a man of mystery. Only one of the stories is told from his point of view, and much is left to the imagination.



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

ON STAGE

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's production of *Jeeves Takes a Bow*, Margaret Raether's adaptation of the P.G. Wodehouse stories, runs April 16 to May 3 at the Broadway Theatre Center's Cabot Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. For tickets, call the box office at (414) 291-7800 or visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com.



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

Matt Daniels will return to the character Jeeves, having first played the role in 2010's *Jeeves Intervenes* (left) and then for 2013's *Jeeves in Bloom*.



PHOTO: JOHN NIENHUIS

'Ten Questions' asks us to balance science and faith

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

It's been almost a century since the Scopes "Monkey" Trial so famously fictionalized in *Inherit the Wind*, yet the battle over teaching evolution and/or creationism in schools still rages on. But while the central question may have remained the same, the cultural landscape has changed since the 1925 trial that challenged a state law against the teaching of evolution, or that 1955 play that revived its themes and conflicts.

A new era of debate requires new plays to illuminate it, and Next Act Theatre has just such a play on tap. *Ten Questions to Ask Your Biology Teacher About Evolution*, a world premiere work by Stephen Massicotte, depicts a contemporary classroom thrown into chaos after an inquisitive 16-year-old derails a teacher's biology class.

Director Shawn Douglass says the play subsequently focuses on the relationship between the teacher, Ms. Kelly (Deborah Staples), and the student, Raymond (Kyle Curry), as they try to negotiate each other's worldviews and come to an understanding. Each has an ally: Kelly is supported by interim principal Mr. Lester (David Ceasarini), who has ulterior, romantic motivations for helping, as well as professional ones; Raymond is championed by his mother, Lynn (Mary MacDonald Kerr),

a single parent and evangelical Christian who sees "Darwinism" as a threat to her faith.

It's this tight, intimate focus that Douglass believes is a strength of Massicotte's play. "A lot of the noise around this issue is around the political aspects of the fight," he says. "Lawsuits and those types of things. What's attractive about (*Ten Questions*) is that you get to see that play out on a very personal level."

While the play ultimately comes down on the side of science, Douglass says it never ceases to paint a clear picture of the spiritual and emotional needs that faith can fulfill, and Raymond and his mother are treated just as sympathetically as the other two characters. In a sense, he says, the play is about how to bridge that divide, and teach those who place their trust in science and evidence and those who trust in a higher power and belief system to coexist and value each other despite their differences.

"Sometimes as we hear these discussions on the news," Douglass says, "we tend to think of both sides in terms of 'the other.' 'Those funny Christians' or 'those atheist scientists.' What the play does masterfully is form a connection between two people who may not agree with each other all the time, but are open to each other, are interested in each other and care about each other."

One of the challenges in working on a play as complex and sensitive as *Ten Questions* comes from having no other production to rely on. Douglass has never directed a Massicotte play (although Next Act has previously produced two: *Mary's Wedding* and *The Clockmaker*), and since *Ten Questions* is a world premiere, he and his actors must build their world from scratch. "That's been a new experience for me, to build that reality from the ground up," he says.

To help them do that, Douglass asked actors in rehearsal to focus on talking with each other about the play's issues, trying to understand where their characters' attitudes come from.

The conflict between religious and secular worldviews is once more in the public eye of late, due to the firestorm set off by Indiana's "religious freedom" legislation. Given that, Douglass thinks it's more important than ever that society understand where many of their fellow Americans are coming from, to enable dialogue and understanding. "There's a sense, I think, for many Christians, especially those on the right end of the spectrum, that they feel under threat, and they feel like they are being forced to live in a world with different values than they hold," he says.

He believes *Ten Questions* might offer a framework for coexistence — as long as both sides can accept each other for who they are, and care for each other as fellow human beings.

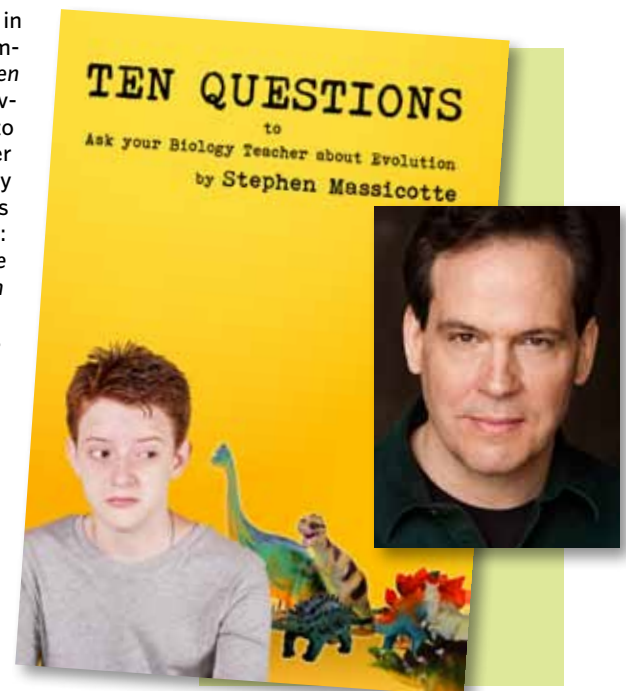


PHOTO: COURTESY

Shawn Douglass will direct Stephen Massicotte's world premiere about a teen who challenges his teacher on evolution.

ON STAGE

Next Act Theatre's world premiere of *Ten Questions to Ask Your Biology Teacher About Evolution* will run through May 3 at 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$28 to \$38, and can be purchased at nextact.org or 414-278-0765.

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Hubbard Street Dance embraces the 'original' art form

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Think of humanity's earliest forms of art, and the average expert may point to the Paleolithic painting of a dun horse in the Lascaux Caves in southwestern France as a prominent example. Glenn Edgerton, artistic director of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, suggests we look elsewhere.

"Dance is one of the earliest forms of expression and each culture has its own style," Edgerton says. "The human body is the truest and most natural instrument available to you, and dance is a means of communication."

Edgerton and his troupe will be using that natural instrument April 15 at Madison's Overture Center. It's the latest in a long line of visits to the venue, a destination that Hubbard Street looks forward to every time, the creative director says.

"We always love coming to Overture," Edgerton says. "We've been there enough that there is a momentum and excitement from the audience, and that's always a nice experience for us."

Founded in 1977 as the natural evolution of founder Lou Conte's dance studio, Hubbard Street has managed to stretch the boundaries of modern dance in multiple directions, says Edgerton, an Orange, Texas, native who spent time at Chicago's Joffrey Ballet and other international dance companies before becoming Hubbard Street's artistic director in 2009.

"Hubbard Street is focused on bringing the best contemporary dance possible to the most people as possible," Edgerton says. "We use the work of both established and new choreographers and we keep experimenting. That's the beauty of the company."

Hubbard Street's set list for Overture contains programming elements both new and familiar to Madison audiences. It's a blend typical of the troupe's commitment to a variety of dance forms and styles that provide compelling and sometimes artistically complex performances.

The evening opens with "Falling Angels," choreographed by Jiří Kylián, considered one of the most influential artists in western contemporary dance. Danced to the

music of Steve Reich, the 15-minute work involves eight female dancers whose group fractures and combines in endlessly inventive patterns.

The second piece, Alejandro Cerrudo's "Pacopepepluto," is a men-only dance to music made popular by crooner Dean Martin and Martin's number one interpreter Joe Scalissi. The seven-minute work taps stanzas from "That's Amore," "Memories Are Made of This" and other songs Martin made famous, while dancers interpret Cerrudo's esthetic austerity and sharp wit.

"Waxing Moon," which opens the performance's middle segment, combines the choreography of Robyn Mineko Williams with "The Ivory Coast," composed by Robert F. Haynes and Tony Lazzara. The 20-minute minimalist work contemplates the process of "becoming" as the protagonist considers the possibility for his future while confronting two figures.

The five-minute "A Picture of You Falling," choreographed by Crystal Pite, focuses on "the shared narratives that live in our bodies — the familiar, repetitive storylines that move across cultures and generations — and the body's role as their illustrator," according to Pite herself.

"I'm curious about the ways in which the body can convey profound meaning through the simplest of gestures," she added, "and how distortion, iteration and analysis of familiar human action provide opportunities to recognize and re-frame ourselves in one another."

The performance will close with "Gnawa," Nacho Duato's 22-minute choreographed composition created for Hub-



PHOTO: TODD ROSENBERG

Hubbard Street Dance Company will perform at Overture Center, a much-loved touring destination.

bard Street in 2005 and already familiar to Overture audiences from prior performances. Set to evocative music by Hassan Hakmoun and Adam Rudolph, the vibrant ensemble work taps the Mediterranean spirit of North Africa and Duato's native Spain.

All of the works go far in helping meet Edgerton's definition of dance. Although a complicated concept, dance is not hard to understand once you appreciate its purpose.

"Dance is a way of communicating, a brilliant form of expression," Edgerton says. "When there is imagination involved,

when you put your mind into expressing something with your body, movement becomes dance."

ON STAGE

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago will perform at 7:30 p.m. April 15 at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison. For tickets, call the Overture box office at 608-258-4141 or visit hubbardstreetdance.com.



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Nickolas Butler brings literary success stories back to Wisconsin

By Maddy Hughes

Contributing writer

Shotgun Lovesongs, Wisconsin native Nickolas Butler's debut novel, has become a breakout success for the author since its publication in March. The book tells the story of five friends who came of age in a tiny Wisconsin town. They reunite for a wedding and must confront each other's adult selves.

This month, the book is the focus of Shorewood Reads, a communitywide event centered on a single book. Butler will visit Shorewood for the conclusion of that event, to discuss his work with the community.

WiG spoke to him about *Shotgun Lovesongs*, his writing process and what comes next for the author.

Shotgun Lovesongs is your first book, correct? How long did you work on writing it? It is my first book. I can't say that I carried the idea around for a long time before I wrote it. In fall of 2010 I was at the Iowa Writers Workshop and I was commuting back and forth from my family. I was homesick and lonely and thinking about Wisconsin and my family and trying to deal with those emotions and the first chapter spilled out one night. I didn't know it was the beginning of a novel.

In spring, I wrote what became the end of the book. After getting feedback on the first part I spent a year connecting beginning and end before my agent sent it out to different editors, and after it was purchased we spent another year smoothing it out.

What are you most proud of about this book? If you asked me five years ago whether I'd ever write a novel, I would've told you no because I couldn't wrap my head around the idea of anyone writing a story longer than 40 pages. To me it's like finishing a marathon, and I'm proud that I learned enough from grad school to fool myself into doing that. I'm proud that people are reading it all around the country and the world. I wouldn't profess to say whether it's successful or not. I know all its weaknesses and half the time when asked to read I think, "I guess that was the novel I wanted to write" and the other half I think, "I wish I could go back and rewrite that." It's just this artifact of my life.

What kinds of conversations do you think this book has to offer to a community? I think it's a really contentious time in Wisconsin politics, and I'd like to think that my book is about kindness, understanding and forgiveness. I don't know if a book can bring people in the state together and make them think about how we're dealing with one another, but maybe. There are pointed



PHOTO: OLIVE JUICE STUDIOS

Nickolas Butler was inspired to write Shotgun Lovesongs while homesick for his family in Wisconsin. He will talk about his career at the Shorewood Public Library on April 16.

passages about what our values are as a state and as a country. Those passages are important.

Was your idea of the publishing process much different than how it actually occurred? My publishing experience was totally abnormal in the best possible way. My agents submitted a draft of the novel to 25 different editors on a Friday and by that next Monday morning there was so much interest that the only fair way to sell the book was through an auction. Within about two weeks we sold it to a great editor and it started selling in other countries and then the movie rights sold.

... When your dream comes true it can be paradigm shattering, it's just unbelievable. You're still the same person, but it's as if you pressed through this weird invisible membrane and you're suddenly living your best life. How do you process that? It's unbelievable.

Do you have any critiques of the publishing industry? If not for you, for others trying to get published? I'll tell you this. More than half of my class at University of Iowa was women and they go through struggles I haven't had to deal with. There are different preconceived notions of what they should be writing, like chick-lit. ... It's a giant business where people write what they think

BUTLER next page

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BUTLER from prior page

of as their art but it goes off into this giant corporate machine and then it's a commodity. And that world is really cutthroat. It's amazing that there are tens of thousands of amazing books written by people more talented than me and those books disappear as soon as they're published. That's unfair but it's just a huge meat grinder of an industry.

Growing up, what kind of support did you have for your ambition to write? I had great support in terms of being a writer, though I never vocalized to anyone that I wanted to be a professional writer. I didn't even know it myself until my late 20s. But I had the greatest teachers in the world. It seems sort of in vogue right now to bash teachers, but I owe so much to my teachers. They gave me writing challenges, gave me books to read when I was bored with what we were reading in class. I give huge credit to Eau Claire public school teachers. Also my mom was always finding new books and writers for me as a kid so my childhood was filled with reading. It's not possible to be a good writer if you're not a good reader, so I owe everything to my mom.

Tell me about the role Wisconsin takes in this book. How did you portray it? I think when I first wrote the first chapter, I had all these classmates from all over the country

— Boston, Illinois, Maryland, Oklahoma — and I wanted to show them what Wisconsin looks like. ... I never thought about writing a Wisconsin book but all the fiction I adore is place-based; place is of huge importance.

What do you think is most inspiring about Wisconsin? What should Wisconsinites be grateful for? I just love the landscape. I love our seasons. When I'm describing it to people from other places I always say we're bordered by two great lakes and one of the biggest rivers in the world. I'd also like to think that we're a kind, generous culture. We like fun, we like good food and beer, and I think there's a special spirit here.

Do you think the book will be a different reading experience for people from Wisconsin versus those who aren't? That's tricky because the easy answer is to say yes, of course. But the difficult thing is that for some reason there's a lot of people reading this book in Spain and Italy and France and apparently enjoying it. They're experiencing the same thing as people in Shorewood. What does someone in Italy know about the Green Bay Packers, how is that resonating with them? I don't have an answer to that, but it is, I guess. I'm sure someone living in LA is reading it different than someone in La Crosse, but you have to

hope that everyone's experiencing something universally appealing.

Do you have more book ideas in store? My next book comes out May 5. It's a collection of short stories. ... I'm always working on short stories and poems and I'm already 140 pages into my next novel. I'm always working on stuff. Right now I'm just encouraging people to check out the next collection. It's called *Beneath the Bonfire*.

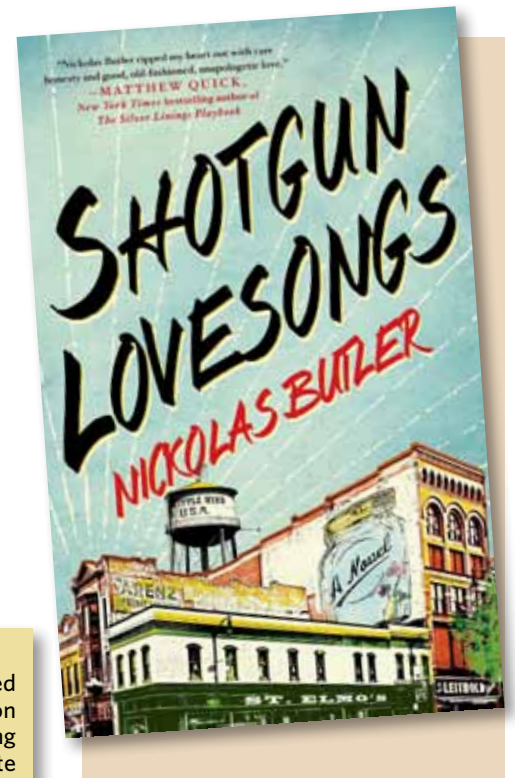


PHOTO: COURTESY

Shotgun Lovesongs was published in March 2014 and has since become a breakout success for its author.

SHOREWOOD READS

Nickolas Butler will be featured at the Shorewood Public Library on April 16. He will speak about writing and being published in an intimate session at 10 a.m. and talk about *Shotgun Lovesongs* at a public reading at 7 p.m. Visit shorewoodlibrary.org for more information.

JEEVES TAKES A BOW
by Margaret Raether | **APRIL 16 - MAY 3**
Bertie & Jeeves are back for another madcap adventure!
Matt Daniels - Photo by John Nienhuis

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Walker's death changed 'Furious 7'— and Vin Diesel's life



PHOTO: REUTERS

'Movies to me are sacred. They just are. There is something about movies that's immortal that can change people's life. They do it for me.'

Vin Diesel says action sequel *Furious 7* is worthy of an Academy Award for best picture.

By Phil Thompson

The Interview Feed

Vin Diesel says that the latest *Fast & Furious* film deserves a best picture Oscar but has two strikes against it when it comes to the Academy — it's an action flick and it's a sequel. The 47-year-old actor has appeared in virtually all of the *Fast & Furious* films, whose plots are built around fast cars.

Although wildly popular with fans, the action franchise hasn't won over critics until now. *Furious 7* scores an 85 percent average rating from reviewers on Rotten Tomatoes — higher than 25 previous best picture winners. It also scored at the box office, taking in \$143.6 million during its opening weekend.

Perhaps the untimely death of series co-star Paul Walker, who was killed in a car crash before the picture was completed, brought out deeper emotions and a sense of unity among the bereaved cast and crew. The movie was completed with help from Walker's brother and is a tribute to him.

Diesel, who also produced the Universal Pictures movie, said that *Furious 7* has an "emotional toll," which seems more directed toward women. "We're actually responding to the fact that our woman audience has just increased and has either eclipsed or is threatening to

eclipse our male audience — we've seen that across the board," Diesel said.

In the latest film, which went into wide release on April 3, Diesel plays street racer Dominic Toretto, whose family is threatened by Jason Statham's character, who is out for revenge for the death of his brother.

Diesel spoke to *The Interview Feed* about making the film with the ghost of Walker hovering in his heart.

Do you think your nickname still fits you — "Diesel"? Well, times do change. But it's still "Diesel." I can't shake it. It's still the same name. Maybe it should be more romantic.

Can you imagine *Fast and Furious 10* one day, racing Teslas? Of course. I tried to get a Tesla in this one. But that's part of this franchise — to introduce new fun cars. We want to be up to speed and to stay contemporary. It's fun.

Normally every single one of these movies sets up the next one. But this one is for many reasons very different. How do you envision number 8? Normally I would be walking you through the many films of the future, but because of this film I am going to hold back and allow the

FURIOUS next page

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FURIOUS from prior page

audience to just embrace this one. This movie is different. This one is special for all of us. We are not trying to set it up so much as we have in the past. This one has a very clean ending. To the best of my ability I try to hold to that and don't want to talk about the place in the future.

How did the story change after Paul died? The story was going in one direction. After the tragedy, it became very clear and important to us to make sure that we honor his character. Thankfully, we built in so many themes that actually end up playing out in a way that's more true than we initially set out to. It's surreal, because the story is in its best shape and its best form — inspired by a tragedy.

What did the first day after the tragedy feel like? It was very, very difficult just to get there for the first day. I had to call upon a strength that I never had to call upon just to make it back to the set. I am doing a scene on the first day. It's a showdown. My character is supposed to be furious. I was in a car, the set went quiet.

What happened then? I'd feel something running down my cheek, and my nose is running. It didn't make sense, because I was so angry. I am the son of a theater director, it didn't make sense. I spent 40 years trying to master this craft. But I couldn't stop that thing running down my cheek. And it was all because the car I was sitting in was a car I was introduced to by Paul. I went through three boxes of tissues, and I just couldn't stop it. I couldn't shoot the scene.

The loss of Paul was a loss on so many different levels for you. Did it make you reevaluate your own life, did it make you regroup? Very much so. Just the year earlier we were doing press, and he told me how lucky we were to be alive because of all the stunts we had done. I had no idea how close to reality he really was when he was saying that.

You are a producer for this film as well. Is it true that you would not be part of this franchise anymore if you weren't the producer? I wouldn't have been an actor in this if I hadn't been a producer. The studio was prepared to never do *Fast* again. But they asked me to do a cameo in *Tokyo Drift*. I said it's tricky for me to make a cameo. They said you turned down so many in the past, just do this cameo for us and we'll let you produce the next one. And then we started working on this saga. If I do four, the world is going to want more. I told the studio that I could save them a lot of money, if I just shoot three back to back to back. That's how we got to 6 and 7.

Why is this franchise so popular? There is an integrity that you don't find anywhere else. These are great heroes in a world where superheroes wear capes and stuff. They are the authors of this saga. It's not

comic books. They pay close attention to everything. It's a home-grown franchise. Universal should be very proud of it.

Have you ever thought of doing TV? I played with the idea of TV. The studio wanted me to play with a TV idea for this and for *Chronicles of Riddick*. I just haven't had enough time to really give it a go. We could create stories that expand our universe. We are in that world now where we can do that.

The car stunts in this film are just unbelievable. Do you ever feel that you have reached the absolute limit? Every time you want to up the last one. Whenever we broke records, I would always say I feel a sense of pressure with this great success. It only means that you have to beat it. Each success is only a benchmark to make it even better.

Are you a fan of sequels? I didn't used to believe in sequels. I asked the studio to never do another one after the first one came out. It had a stigma in the '90s. *Rebel Without A Cause* would have been ruined with a sequel. But I never thought of *The Godfather: Part II* as a sequel. So I guess I changed my mind.

We have heard that you guys had plenty of sad moments on set, but were there also fun moments? Is laughter the best medicine when you are grieving? My responsibility is not to worry about the pranks, but just to make a great movie. I always feel the pressure. I always think about the big picture. I am always super serious on set. When I am not on set, I am the funniest guy. I laugh so much with Tyrese in my life, but not on set. I am watching every moment on set to make sure there is a place to find some magic that's not on the page. That's what I did with Paul. We always tried to make it so much better. I am holding my breath when I make the movie to catch the moment to make something immortal.

You sound like a guy who really does love movies and doesn't see them just as a job. That's true. Movies to me are sacred. They just are. There is something about movies that's immortal that can change people's life. They do it for me.

If Paul could see this movie, what would he say? That is the question. I am hoping when the premiere happens, that I hear a voice. And it's Paul who says: "Vinnie, that's it, the best one that has been made."

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Emanuel Ungaro, Evening Dress, Fall/winter 1987-88. Courtesy of Johnson Publishing Company.

Robin Jebavy turns glassware into expansive still lifes

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

Imagine an antique shop in the afternoon. Sunlight diffuses through shelves of colorful glass vases and goblets, compotes and all sorts of glittering vessels arranged carefully by hue. Each piece is distinguished by its particularities, its sinuous contours and decorative flourishes, but when seen as a whole arrangement they join and multiply. They overlap and refract, not so much as a kaleidoscope but more like a dream recorded in echoing waves of paint and time.

To be enveloped in this phenomenon would be a bit like stepping into a painting by Robin Jebavy. In her solo exhibition at Lynden Sculpture Garden, she adopts the traditional and often modest subject of the still life, and boldly layers permeable objects and bounced reflections. She paints as though light had fingers, and trailed them along the edges of cut glass, laying illuminated fingerprints on familiar objects organized in ways that defy the physics of the ordinary world.

The three large still lifes (2014) in monochromatic tones of green, red, and blue are good points of entry into Jebavy's work. From a distance, the compositional elements stack up like chords, richly harmonious with seldom a dissonant overtone. On closer viewing, the details break up more distinctly into independent pieces, articulated through direct brushstrokes of pure color that are pointed yet restrained.



PHOTO: KAT MURRELL

Robin Jebavy's monochromatic still lifes, including "Green Still Life," are powerful points of entry to her work, with harmonious compositional elements.

While Jebavy's monochromatic still lifes are hypnotically insular, "Outdoor Wedding" (2012) and "Jubilee" (2013) have a brightness and opacity that set them apart. Both are monumental canvases that play off a white ground. Glasses and goblets appear again but in spaces densely filled by candy-colored lines and patterns. Everything vibrates with a sugary energy.

The next set of works is radically different from that visual delight. In "Bach's Organ"

(2014-2015), abundant, brilliant colors and patterns explode like fireworks on a dark sky. Light and shadow become equally dominant but opposite forces, contrasting in order to make each other stronger.

The earlier "Sun King" (2008) seems to have foreshadowed this palette, but is differentiated by the spaces separating the composition like deep breaths. A rich purple background washes into an undecipherable pink window, creating support for abstract

forms of glowing gold halos that hover around medallions and cut glass. The brushwork and color in this earlier canvas is flatter, more smoothly modulated.

It is the dramatic pause before the finale. "Joy of Life" (2013) pulls out all the stops. The illumination glows incandescently, pushing back against the hints of a tenebrous setting. Its atmosphere is more mysterious, and the glass objects more dazzling for their alchemies of color. The composition is held together by an almost-radial symmetry that makes it seem as though something is about to burst forth from behind all that shimmers.

Jebavy makes various oblique references to art history in her work. She has an affection for Dutch Baroque art, a 17th-century style that elevated the still life to something opulent, dramatic and metaphorically deep.

In that style, there is a wonderful genre of still life called a *pronkstilleven*, as delightful to see as to say. These are paintings full of gloriously abundant and delicious foods, wonderful tableware, and often suffused with an extravagant aesthetic lushness.

This exhibition, though comprising only eight paintings, creates a modern take on the *pronkstilleven*. Jebavy's complexity and multiplicity of views makes absorbing the details of her paintings a captivating pleasure.

Robin Jebavy: Recent Paintings continues through May 31 at the Lynden Sculpture Garden, 2145 W. Brown Deer Road. Visit lyndensculpturegarden.com for more details.

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ART GAZE - MILWAUKEE

Gallery Night and Day is coming up on April 17 and April 18. Here are a few shows not to miss:

'HOME IN THE HEART OF THE CITY'

ACLU of Wisconsin, 207 E. Buffalo St.
Friday 5-10 p.m., Saturday noon-4 p.m.

Barbara Miner shows her photographs documenting life in the 53206 ZIP Code, noted as Milwaukee's "poorest ZIP Code." As an author, activist and artist, Miner seeks to go beyond news headlines and connect the complexities of real life.

'RAFAEL FRANCISCO SALAS: WASTED DAYS AND WASTED NIGHTS'

Portrait Society Gallery, 207 E. Buffalo St.
Walker's Point Center for the Arts,
839 S. Fifth St.
Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday noon-5 p.m.

This exhibition by painter Rafael Salas, opening simultaneously at both galleries, provides an expansive view of new work closely related to his cultural heritage as a Mexican-American. Salas ventures into mixed media as well as painting and drawing. Additional exhibitions are on view as well. At Portrait Society Gallery, Salas is partnered with *Shane Walsh: 12th Wave Utopia*, a fantastic exploration of

abstract painting. WPCA will open their latest featured member exhibition, dedicated to the work of Gary John Gresl, and host a reception for Gresl and gallery talk by Salas.

'SPRING IS IN BLOOM' GROUP SHOW

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center,
1110 N. Market St.
Friday, 5-9 p.m.

Welcome the warm weather with a view of works in a variety of media by Bo Wesley, Steven J. Miller, Thom Ertle, Francis Benedict, and other artists.

'A 50 YEAR ARTWORK COLLECTION'

DeLind Gallery of Fine Art, 450 E. Mason St.
Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The DeLind Gallery of Fine Art was established in 1969, but has come to the end of its run with the impending retirement of owner Bill DeLind. While the gallery may be best known for Beas-ties and vintage French posters, there is an array of works from contemporary and historical artists in the inventory. It is more than worth a final farewell this gallery night.

— Kat Murrell

'Hair Affair' more than the average blow out

By Jay Rath
Contributing writer

Every two years, the capital's hair-impaired unite in outrage. That time has come again: The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art is about to present its bold, biennial exhibition of ... hair.

We few, we balding and bald, have as little use for such an event as we do for the cherished combs of yesteryear. And yet it sounds fun — dammit.

It's *Hair Affair*, a juried art show featuring hair as sculpture. "It's what I think of as one of the greatest events in Madison," says Annik Dupaty, museum director of events and volunteers. "We've been doing this now every other year. It's our spring fundraiser."

Madison-area stylists and salons are invited to submit concepts based on a theme. This year it's "Cirque des Cheveux" (circus of hair).

"The jury provides them some feedback and gives them a little bit of direction, pushes their concepts even further," says Dupaty. "Then, come April 23, we'll have this big runway show down our glass staircase."

Professional and amateur models selected by the stylists serve as the art-

ists' collaborators. While we without hair, by definition, are the ideal blank canvases, we have no hope of competing with entries such as, according to past museum literature:

- "An alluring black hole design radiating 5 feet around the head of a stately model."
- "A steampunk goddess design, blending science-fiction and neo-Victorian elements."
- "A wind-swept design incorporating leaves and twigs, evoking Red Riding Hood's escape through the woods with the Big Bad Wolf in pursuit."

Alas, not even our most clever comb-overs can compete with that. Nor are they meant to.

"This is definitely not going to give you ideas for your day-to-day hair," says Dupaty. "These are really opportunities for stylists to showcase the breadth of their talents. They push it to an extreme."

Taking part will be 14 models representing 13 stylists. In the past, both male and female models have been featured. This year stylists have chosen only women.

This is the fourth *Hair Affair*. It benefits MMoCA's free exhibitions and education



PHOTO: ROBERT STEBLER/MADISON MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

"Her Timeless Majesty," designed for last year's *Hair Affair* by a team from Alan Koa Salon Spa, is a striking example of what designers offer at this biennial fundraiser.

ON DISPLAY

Hair Affair will be 7-10:30 p.m. April 23 at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, 227 State St. Reservations are strongly recommended. Admission is \$70, \$60 for museum members. For more information, contact the museum at 608-257-0158 or visit mmoca.org.

programs.

"The museum has a number of events where we ask people in the community to do something inspired by art, such as architects and interior designers and so on," notes Dupaty. "This is just another way that we're getting people to think creatively."

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PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.

Alverno uncovers music's Quincy Jones

By **Kirstin Roble**

Contributing writer

Alverno Presents artistic director David Ravel went to DJ Jordan "Madhatter" Lee last year with a challenge: completely reinterpret the songbook of an American composer.

It was a tall order, but the collaboration turned out even larger than Ravel or Lee expected.

"I thought about re-interpreting Michael Jackson's music first after meeting with David Ravel," Lee explains. "I didn't stay with him very long though because he didn't write any of his own songs — his best songs were written by others."

But one of those songwriters turned out to be just who Lee was looking for: Quincy Jones.

In the resulting concert, *Jones Uncovered*, Lee and a curated team of Milwaukee performers will present a selection of Quincy Jones' songs re-imagined for a new audience. In doing so, they'll create a show as accessible for those who've never heard Jones' work as it is for his most passionate followers.

This isn't the first time Ravel has challenged a musician to re-imagine the work of a beloved predecessor. WMSE's Ryan Schleicher and 88Nine's Tarik Moody started the trend with tributes to Civil War-era songwriter Stephen Foster and soul legend

Marvin Gaye, respectively. And earlier this season, Alverno hosted an *Uncovered* concert honoring Patti Smith, in which Betty Strigens, the lead vocalist of local rock band Testa Rosa, curated her own group of artists to re-invent the punk rocker's work.

Quincy Jones might top them all. Born in 1933, the record producer, musician, conductor and composer has worked in the industry for more than six decades. He has 79 Grammy nominations, with 21 wins. He's served as the conductor and arranger for Frank Sinatra's orchestra, produced *Thriller*, the biggest album of all time, finagled the groundbreaking collaboration "We Are the World," scored films such as *The Color Purple* and *In Cold Blood* and worked with innumerable other stars of song and stage, even launching many of their careers.

"Will Smith and Oprah Winfrey ... both got their careers started by him," Lee says. "He is so engrained in the musical culture, and really, the American language."

Jones' influence with artists past and present is what convinced Lee he was the perfect choice for the concert. The tricky part, he says, was deciding what pieces to use.

"Quincy Jones had hundreds of songs," Lee says. "I spent a few months just going through his music and trying to narrow them down to have a concert order. The list started in the triple digits and I was

able to get it down to a semi-finalist list of 27 songs. After that, I looked at who in Milwaukee would be good collaborators for these pieces to get it down to 15 songs."

Lee's method for finding collaborators was to assemble a "big band," much like the one Jones formed earlier in his career as a jazz and bossa nova artist. The first person he brought on was David Wake, the bandleader for Milwaukee jazz act De La Buena. With Wake's help, Lee assembled 11 instrumentalists from De La Buena and other groups like Fresh Cut Collective and Ross Movement, as well as soloists who can sing pieces from Jones' career.

Many of those artists have worked with Lee before, a testament to both Lee's own ties within the city and Milwaukee's musical atmosphere as a whole. "The community of music in Milwaukee is great. It's so much easier to connect the dots here than in a major metropolitan area because there is literally one or two degrees of separation versus five or seven degrees. It makes the community more intimate and supportive of one another."

There's a lot to uncover in the musical history of Quincy Jones, and with a history of success, Lee and Alverno Presents may be able to find some new gems to share with Milwaukee.



PHOTO: COURTESY

DJ Jordan "Madhatter" Lee has assembled a big band to re-imagine the work of one of music's greatest artists: Quincy Jones.

ON STAGE

Alverno Presents will stage *Jones Uncovered* at 8 p.m. on April 11 at the Pitman Theatre, 4300 S. 43rd St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$25 and can be ordered at alvernopresents.alverno.edu.

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Americana artist Trapper Schoepf still has stories to tell

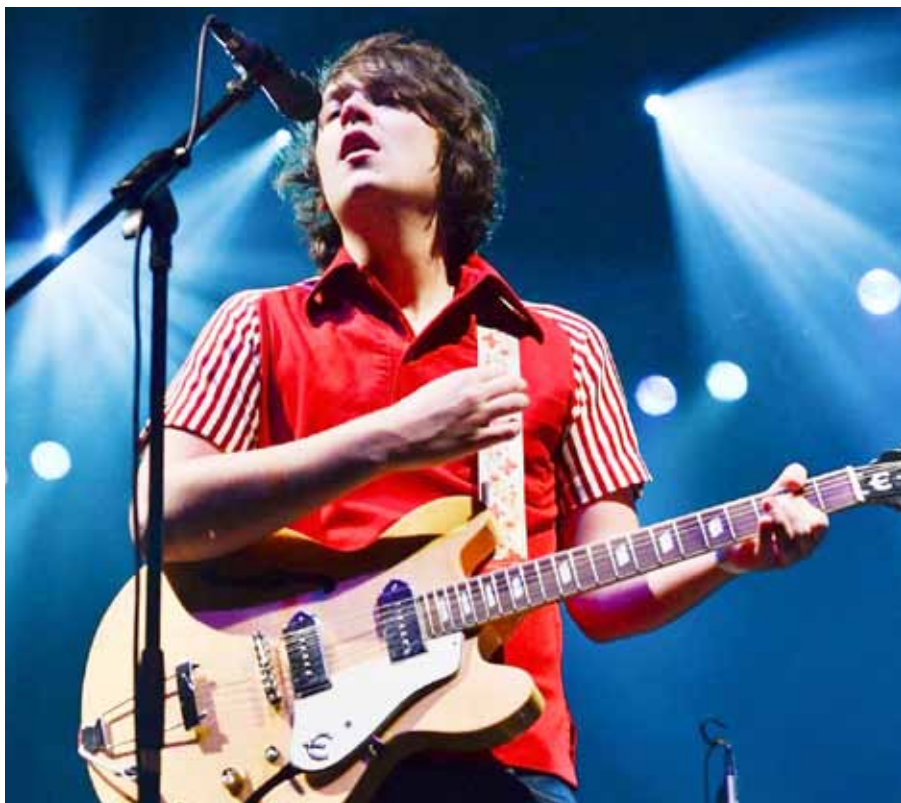


PHOTO: COURTESY

Trapper Schoepf, a Milwaukee-based Americana musician who often performs with his five-piece band The Shades, made his first solo appearance at SXSW this year.

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

While there wasn't a specific Milwaukee-focused stage like the unofficial MilwaukeeHome stage at last year's South By Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas, Wisconsin was well represented at 2015's celebrated industry event by local musicians. Among those performing were one of the state's best known artists, rock and Americana musician Trapper Schoepf.

Schoepf's already received national acclaim for his work with his main band, Trapper Schoepf and The Shades. Their album *Run, Engine, Run*, originally released by Milwaukee's Good Land Records in 2011, received a successful re-release in 2012 from indie label SideOne Dummy, that propelled them to tour with artists including The Wallflowers and the Jayhawks.

Schoepf's appearance at SXSW this year was a solo billing, unlike his show with The Shades at the MilwaukeeHome stage last year. "I have a show-must-go-on, DeadHead attitude to gigging," Schoepf says. "I always hope to have a five-piece band, but the logistics of life on the road make that next to impossible these days."

He wasn't completely alone on stage, of course, with his brother Tanner present along with keyboardist Dustin Thomas, violinist Gina Romantini, drummer Jonny Phillip and guitarist Steve Selvidge of The Hold That Steady.

It doesn't mark an end to Schoepf's work with The Shades, though. He says the band is at work on a follow-up to *Run, Engine, Run* titled *Rangers & Valentines*, which will be out later this year. "It has a lot of twists and turns in terms of instrumentation and production," he says. "The album isn't pigeonholed by one genre. Each song is a different adventure. I hope people dig it."

Schoepf is known for writing songs that unfold as engaging stories, and he's no less prone to storytelling in interviews. When asked about songwriting inspirations, a story pops into mind:

"I just read a story about three teenage boys who got lost at sea for 51 days. They set out on a dare trying to find another island where these girls were. By the time they were rescued by a fishing boat, they'd been declared dead for weeks. This all happened between New Zealand and Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean. Three teenagers in a 12-foot boat looking for girls. Crazy, right? That's the kind of reckless, romantic story that makes for a fun song narrative."

He doesn't always have to look to the lives of others. Schoepf says the trip to South By Southwest this year had interesting moments. "I woke up in Missouri to a sheriff pounding on the door of the house we stayed at," he says. "One of our van doors was ajar and he was doing small-town detective work. My brother ran outside to see if our gear had been stolen in just his underwear and cowboy boots. The sheriff then took his ID and asked if he was a 'wanted man.' It's all very confusing but not all very strange out here."

Schoepf also continues to draw inspiration from growing up in Wisconsin. He says, "I grew up on 50 acres in rural Wisconsin wondering, wandering and making my own fun. In a lot of ways I'm still trying to do that."

It's that spirit that he took to the stage at South By Southwest, representing the musicians of Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin.

Trapper Schoepf and The Shades will next perform in Wisconsin on May 17 at Club Garibaldi's, 2501 S. Superior St., Milwaukee. For more information on the band, visit trapperschoepf.com.

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The Sets List



WHO'S BAD

8 p.m. April 10 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$18. pabsttheater.org.

Lots of tributes to Michael Jackson sprang up after his death in 2009, but Who's Bad has the distinction of being the only one to previously exist — founded in 2004 as an homage to the then-living artist. They've cultivated their brand ever since, offering a celebration of Jackson's overstuffed musical catalog stretching from his Jackson 5 days to his greatest successes.



JOE PUG

9:30 p.m. April 10 at High Noon Saloon, Madison. \$12, \$14 day of show. high-noon.com.

Singer-songwriter Joe Pug almost didn't come back to music. After meteoric touring success on the indie circuit from 2010 to 2013, Pug was burned out, and sessions for his follow-up album quickly fizzled out. But after taking time to get his personal and creative lives in order, Pug is back with *Windfall*, a minimalist, ambitious record that sums up his sound better than anything that's come before. Opening for Pug at his Madison gig is one of the state's own troubadours: Chris Porterfield of Field Report, performing solo.

SEXY ESTER CD RELEASE PARTY

10 p.m. April 18 at the Frequency, Madison. \$7, \$10 under-21. madison-frequency.com.

If you're still digging the current '80s revival but looking for some new acts to fall in love with, John Hughes-style, consider buying local. Madison act Sexy Ester, led by a frontwoman (Lyndsay Evans) who sounds like she stepped straight out of a DeLorean, has put together a new self-titled record, the follow-up to 2013's *Monomania*. According to advance press, it sounds like this particular neo-new wave venture leans less glam and more gritty, an evolution born of their live act. Freshly back from SXSW, the band will mix a little '50s in their '80s energy, with a "pin-ups and greasers" themed album release party. Something To Do and Damsel Trash open.

MILWAUKEE DAY

7:30 p.m. April 14 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$10. pabst-theater.org.

There's no wrong way to celebrate Milwaukee Day (for the uninitiated, that's 4-14, like the area code). But one of the rightest ways is to check out the now-annual Milwaukee Day show at Turner Hall. This year, the venue's booked rising alt-country stars Hugh Bob and the Hustle to headline the show. But don't expect the whole thing to feel country. The lineup will be further diversified by rapper Webster X and indie rock band Greatest Lakes. It's a perfect sampling of Milwaukee's scene, on the Milwaukeeest day possible.

JAILL | COLLEEN GREEN | UPSET | MAMA

9 p.m. April 14 at Mad Planet, Milwaukee. \$7 cover. mad-planet.net.

This show's so jam-packed they had to move it out of Riverwest's intimate Cocoon Room into this dancetastic space. Power pop rockers MAMA and all-female punk act Upset are the appetizers for LA songwriter Colleen Green, whose latest album *I Want to Grow Up* tackles the onset of proper adulthood and subsequent growing pains. Also on the bill is a Milwaukee favorite: indie rock band Jaill — about to release its first album since 2012.

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS

7 p.m. April 19 at the Barrymore Theatre, Madison. \$25. barrymore-live.com.

There's a lot of wonderful weirdness tucked into They Might Be Giants' career, stretching a full three decades and counting — the band's biggest single is sung from the point of view of a nightlight, for crying out loud. One of the best tidbits is Dial-A-Song, the telephone service the band operated from 1983 to 2006 that would play demos or song snippets off its answering machine in lieu of an outgoing message. Almost a decade after the service shut down, the band's brought it back, and the tracks released via the new Dial-A-Song thus far will be the backbone of their 17th album, *Glean*. Of course, with more than 30 years of music, there's no telling what they'll perform in their Madison show, so come ready for just about anything.

Music reviews

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE :: 'KINTSUGI'

"Kintsugi" is a Japanese art form in which broken pottery is repaired with lacquer, making the cracks a part of the work. It's also a fitting title for Death Cab for Cutie's eighth album. Since the last release in 2011, founder Ben Gibbard divorced Zoëy Deschanel and original guitarist Chris Walla has exited the band. *Kintsugi* embraces those signs of breakage, translating them into warmth and affecting emotion — most notably on opening song "No Room In Frame," a gently galloping breakup song that slowly works its way into your heart, and the strong lead single "Black Sun." But *Kintsugi* gets more disjointed as the album wanders on, shifting tones and tempos as if they're off their groove and trying to find their way back. *Kintsugi* isn't a bad album, and it's a good transition, but it's no *Transatlanticism*.



SUFJAN STEVENS :: 'CARRIE & LOWELL'

Not familiar with Sufjan Stevens yet? Start your exploration with *Carrie & Lowell*. Arguably the most powerful record released thus far in 2015, the album explores the singer-songwriter's grief and reflection following the death of his mother Carrie in 2012. Their relationship was difficult and complex at best, but that makes the album all the more startling and engaging. Recorded at Stevens' home studio and released on his independent label Asthmatic Kitty (run by Stevens' stepfather Lowell Brams) the album is sparse, even ghostly at times, with lyrics that are simply unforgettable. There is harrowing anger and shame here, but also plenty of love. *Carrie & Lowell* is an album to cherish.



RHIANNON GIDDENS :: 'TOMORROW IS MY TURN'

Rhiannon Giddens has already been successful with old-time string band Carolina Chocolate Drops and on the New Basement Tapes project, recording a previously lost trove of Dylan lyrics with the likes of Elvis Costello and Marcus Mumford. She steps into the spotlight on *Tomorrow Is My Turn*, covering female artists like Dolly Parton, Patsy Cline and Nina Simone. She is at her strongest delivering the arresting field holler of "Waterboy," a version of "Black is the Color" that sounds like contemporary hip hop, and with a mournful fiddle on "O Love Is Teasin'," previously associated with "Mother of Folk" Jean Ritchie's dulcimer. Giddens is proof American roots music is safe with a new generation.



BOZ SCAGGS :: 'A FOOL TO CARE'

Pop fans over 40 are likely familiar with Boz Scaggs' late '70s classics "Low Down" and "Lido Shuffle." Many are not aware that he is still recording, and his blue-eyed soul is as engaging as ever. *A Fool To Care* follows his well-received 2013 album of covers, *Memphis*. This copies the same format, with songs by Al Green, the Spinners and Curtis Mayfield included among the 12 tracks. It's easy to sit back and relax with this album, enjoying the gentle grooves, Boz Scaggs' tastefully spare guitar work and his timeless vocals.



— Bill Lamb



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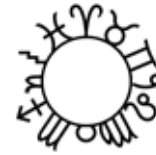
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AstroLogic with Dr. Sterling Asterix



ALL SIGNS: JAN. 1 - DEC. 31

According to my good friends with Merriam-Webster, the word "histrionic" can mean either "too emotional or dramatic," "deliberately affected" or "of or relating to actors, acting or the theater." This is for thespians what we in the astrology business call a negative correlation, much like the negative correlation occurring as Venus crosses into Taurus. It's not a good idea for goddesses of love to bump into bulls, but gosh darn it, Venus keeps doing it anyway. Don't copy her lead. Bovines are not interested in your romantic affections or affectations and are very willing to trample you to death if you annoy them.

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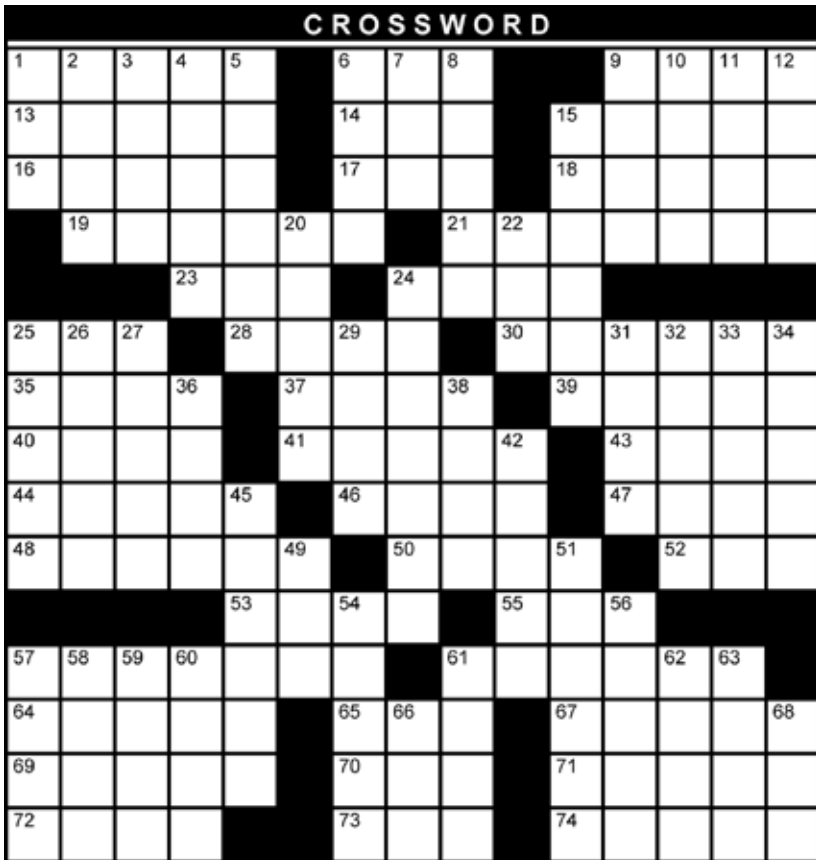
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GARDENING



ACROSS

- 1. Like something fit for a king
- 6. ___ Testament
- 9. *Some cities turn abandoned ones into gardens
- 13. Savory taste sensation
- 14. 7
- 15. Wassailing composition
- 16. Hundred Acre Wood creator
- 17. "___ show time!"
- 18. Bizet creation
- 19. *Type of garden bed
- 21. *Comes from certain refuse
- 23. *Plant need
- 24. Deal with it
- 25. Greenwich time
- 28. Not final or absolute
- 30. Mourner's emotion
- 35. Lyric: "___, born is the King of Israel!"
- 37. Low-___ diet
- 39. Lacking guile
- 40. Orbison's "___ the Lonely"
- 41. Asci, sing.
- 43. ___ gin
- 44. Silk fabric with wavy pattern
- 46. Loser's reaction
- 47. Kept together
- 48. Protective embankment
- 50. Wading bird
- 52. Old operating system

DOWN

- 53. Birthday ___
- 55. Last word of a story
- 57. *Begonias and zinnias, e.g.
- 61. *Small shovel
- 64. Brag
- 65. Williams sister's return
- 67. Was rebroadcasted
- 69. George or Jennifer
- 70. Follow ems
- 71. Exclude
- 72. Barely got by
- 73. *Nutrient-dense ___ soil
- 74. Winter driving hazard
- 1. Cuba Libre ingredient
- 2. Arab ruler
- 3. Apple variety
- 4. Embryo sacs
- 5. A dead body that ___ state
- 6. "Metamorphoses" poet
- 7. English course
- 8. Studio 54 genre
- 9. Member of nomadic Scandinavian people
- 10. Black and white treat
- 11. High rocky hills
- 12. *Some use fences of it around their gardens
- 15. Chop-chop
- 20. Writer ___ Jong
- 22. Activities, as in military
- 24. Type of court
- 25. *Garden ornament
- 26. Spanish monkeys

- 27. Denoting the final end or purpose
- 29. Back talk
- 31. *Develops after touching poison ivy
- 32. Ticked off
- 33. Convex molding
- 34. *Unwanted plants
- 36. "Musical" constellation
- 38. *Tulip starter
- 42. Bode Miller, e.g.
- 45. Cheap substitution
- 49. Afghan monetary unit
- 51. Saws logs
- 54. Florida Key, e.g.
- 56. Persistently complain about
- 57. "Willing and ___"
- 58. Barnes & Noble reader
- 59. Back of neck
- 60. Second-hand
- 61. Recipe description
- 62. PA city and lake
- 63. Use a ladle
- 66. Lennon's partner
- 68. *Protector from birds

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UW-Madison researcher changes monkey study that drew outcry

ANDI KLEIN: I am glad to hear that the baby monkeys will not be taken away from their mothers, but I still think this is an abhorrent, disgraceful and disgusting experiment that should not be allowed to take place. I have absolutely NO RESPECT for Dr. Kalin and his ill conceived and cruel experiments! I truly think there is something VERY WRONG with individuals like Dr. Kalin who use "scientific research" as an excuse to act without compassion, common decency, common sense, or basic ethical and moral standards. His ridiculous and cruel experiments have not yielded any definitive positive conclusions that have helped those with anxiety and depression in any real, measurable way, and in this case where he's dooming sensitive, intelligent monkeys to an existence of suffering and then early death, his means certainly DO NOT justify the ends!

Major companies, organizations threaten to leave Indiana

BARBARA ARNALL: It is very scary when people like this are in leadership. Vote!!

CINDY ROSE: Is this where we are headed? Separation of church and state ... for a reason!

DANIEL OLIVA: Great time to stand up to discrimination, let's start with a boycott of any product coming from the state!

STEVEN JONES: This whole thing sounds like economic blackmail to me: "Do what I want or we'll stop during business in Indiana." Sad.

JEREMY THOMAS: How do you decide who's gay? You must violate basic rights to do so, or just assume based on observation, essentially making discrimination OK for people who don't act straight enough. On top of that, why do they want a law? Super telling.

Scott Walker struggles to defuse flip-flop on immigration

MELODY RABUS: If only he would speak to what he believes to be right, rather than speak to what he is told to say. U can be in a party n have ur own say, I would think.

JIM REYNOLDS: Thinking people can consider information as situations evolve and political positions can change ... you can see the puppet strings that guide every one of (Walker's) "decisions" or "political stances" and you can guarantee that he does nothing for the good of the voters!

RICK BLACKBURN: I don't fear the person who grows and can change. I fear the person who is so perfect that he is always right.

DAVID FERYANCE: But when John Kerry flip-flopped on the Iraq war it was called courage. Not that I am defending Walker here I am just pointing out the double standard.



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