# Wisconsin Gazette ocom

## Framing the conversation

Over decades, gallery owners new and old have shaped Milwaukee's artistic community. page 26



May 21, 2015 | Vol. 6 No. 13

PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.





**4 Madison struggles to heal** No charges were filed in Tony Robinson's shooting, but questions still linger.



**8 Highway robbery**Unneeded road construction pilfers funding for potholes, forcing taxpayers to pay twice for repairs.



**24 Summer sippers**Bittercube mixologist Mike McDonald suggests a variety of cocktails to embrace the coming summer.



**34 The Weepies are back** The folk-pop duo kicks off their latest concert tour in Madison to support their first full-length studio album in five years.

#### News with a twist

#### **ANOTHER REASON** TO COME OUT

A Nebraska woman who claims to be an ambassador for God and Jesus Christ filed a federal lawsuit against all homosexuals in the world for breaking "religious and moral laws." In a seven-page, handwritten petition delivered to the U.S. District Court in Omaha, Sylvia Ann Driskell contends that "homosexuality is a sin and that the homosexuals know it is a sin to live a life of homosexuality," according to the Lincoln Journal Star. "Why else would they have been hiding in the closet(?)"

#### **RAINBOW WARRIORS**

How do you keep a Russian submarine at bay? Swedish peace activists staged a stunt earlier this month, playfully launching an underwater defense installation: a gay-themed sonar system. In "Operation Singing Sailor," the Swedish Peace and Arbi-

tration Society placed a sonar device in the Stockholm archipelago and sent a message in Morse code: "This way if you are gay." The group was responding should be celebrated!!" to calls for re-armament after a hunt in October for a suspected Russian sub.

#### **SPRAYED DOWN**

A man is in jail after authorities say he foiled his own robbery by accidentally pepper-spraying himself. Police allege the 43-yearold West Virginia entered a pharmacy wearing full camouflage and a paintball mask. He started spraying pepper spray in an effort to take down employees, but then walked into the cloud of pepper spray in front of him. Police say security footage shows him staggering out of the business.

#### **BBQ BLUNDER**

The owner of Rubbin' Buttz BBQ and Country Cafe in Milliken, Colorado, placed a sign in his restaurant WiGWAG

announcing, "White Appreciation Day! June 11th. Because all Americans

He planned to offer white customers discounts of 10 percent. Edgar Antillon thought, "least we could do is offer one day to appreciate white Americans." Bad idea. He received a bomb threat and protests shut down the server for his website. Now he's offering the deal to all.

#### **HUNGRY MAN**

Pennsylvania police cited a 47-year-old man for disorderly conduct after he became furious that a Roy Rogers restaurant on the turnpike was out of macaroni and cheese and potatoes. He was left with a choice of salad, baked apples, baked beans, a fruit cup or coleslaw. Police were called when the man began throwing condiments at employees.

#### **GINSBURG'S DOPPELGANGER**

Natalie Portman recently signed on to play U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in a biopic titled On the Basis of Sex, which focuses on Ginsburg's support for women's rights. The actress and the justice have a lot in common. Like Portman, Ginsburg is Jewish and was a great beauty in her youth. Portman left her acting career for several years to receive a degree from Harvard University. While there, Portman was research assistant to famed lawyer Alan Dershowitz.

#### **CALLING DR. GOOGLE**

When your back aches, your eyes itch, your knees go weak or your nose runs, do you go searching for a cause and treatment on the Web? You are not alone, because Google reports that one in 20 searches are for health-related informa-

tion. However, an analysis by experts in technology information based in Brisbane and Vienna found major search engines provided irrelevant information leading to incorrect

self-diagnosis and self-

treatment. The result? A

bad case of cyberchondria.

#### **STRANGE BEDMATES**

A city councilman in Bremerton, Washington, said he was surprised to learn his wife had filed to challenge him for the office he's held for six years. Kim Faulkner said she decided to join the race after watching husband Roy Runyon on the council. "I just sat down and said I think the city of Bremerton, District 6, needs more qualified people to run for office," Faulkner said.

#### **RESTROOM RESEARCH**

published Research in Gender, Place & Culture exposes gender-based differences in bathroom graffiti. The researchers claim that in the private confines of a public bathroom, men and women stick to stereotypes. Women's graffiti refers to love and relationships a. Men's graffiti centers on sexual acts and sexual organs and is characterized as "crude," "com-

petitive" and "aggressive."

#### **SCANDALOUS**

By Lisa Neff, Louis Weisberg & Matthew Reddin

Fox News is accustomed to ridicule, but usually it's over factual errors. New York City's local Fox affiliate, however, came under fire for covering the breasts of a nude woman in a cubist painting by Pablo Picasso. "We decided to blur the nude portions so that we could show it to you on air," said anchor Dari Alexander before "Les Femmes d'Alger" appeared partially on screen. The painting recently fetched \$179 million at auction, making it the world's most expensive painting.



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## No charges in Madison shooting, but doubt remains

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Madison police arrested more than 25 protesters the day after Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne announced the white officer who killed an unarmed biracial man would not be prosecuted.

The decision came on May 12.

Demonstrations followed — a peaceful march from the scene of the shooting to the state Capitol on May 12. The next day, another peaceful protest, coordinated by the Young, Gifted & Black Coalition, drew an estimated 200 demonstrators to march in downtown Madison. At the Dane County Courthouse, protesters staged a mock trial and convicted the officer of homicide. Police placed 25 protesters in handcuffs for allegedly refusing to clear an intersection near the state Capitol.

Otherwise, there were no incidents during the march.

"I think the people in this city are ... pretty good about voicing their emotions without running around and tearing things up," said Andrea Irwin, the mother of Tony Robinson Jr., the 19-year-old man killed on March 6 by Madison Police Officer Matt Kenny. "I don't think that's ever happened in Madison."

Kenny is white. Robinson was biracial and identified as black, like Ozanne, who reflected on a shared identity when he announced his decision that the officer's use of deadly force was lawful. Ozanne

offered condolences to Irwin and said his own mother, who is black and who participated in Freedom Summer in 1964, worries about his safety because of his skin color. He said he understands the pain of "unjust profiling" and that he's aware of racial injustice and disparities.

However, Ozanne said, his responsibility was to determine whether Kenny should be criminally charged based on facts. "This decision is guided by the rule of law," he said.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice investigated Robinson's death under a statute that requires an outside agency to lead probes into officer-involved shootings. The evidence consists of reports from the police department, the crime lab and the medical examiner, as well as photographs, squad car video, three 911 calls and interviews with residents, police, paramedics and others at the scene.

The DA said the 911 calls revealed that Robinson was hallucinating on mushrooms and behaving violently, assaulting at least two people on a sidewalk before Kenny's dispatch to an apartment house that Robinson had entered.

The WDJ investigation found that Kenny entered the apartment house, heard loud voices and what he thought was a fist hitting a wall. The officer then climbed a stairway with his weapon drawn. Near the top of the stairs, Kenny encountered Robinson, who punched him in the head.



IOHN HART/WISCONSIN STATE IOURNAL VIA AF

James Madison Memorial High School student Naomi Makesa, 17, helps hold a banner during a rally for Tony Robinson along Williamson Street in Madison on May 13.

Kenny fell backward into a wall. He said he feared losing consciousness and that Robinson might take his weapon, so he shot Robinson. Kenny fired seven shots in 3 seconds, all of them hitting the unarmed man.

Kenny said he administrated aid to Robinson and searched the apartment, finding no one inside.

Ozanne said, "I conclude that this tragic and unfortunate death was the result of a lawful use of deadly police force and that no charges should be brought against Officer Kenny."

Irwin said she suspects authorities withheld information and she disputes Kenny's account of what happened.

At the ACLU of Wisconsin, executive director Chris Ahmuty said Ozanne's decision left a cloud of uncertainty over the circumstances of and the responsibility for Tony Robinson's death.

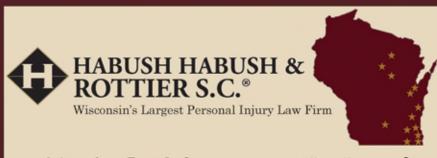
"If Officer Kenny did not violate the law, then is anyone legally responsible for Mr. Robinson's death?" Ahmuty said. "Does the criminal law protect individuals like Mr. Robinson from deadly force exer-

cised by police officers? Are police officers above the law?"

He continued, "Furthermore, what will the Madison Police Department do to ensure that Madison police officers stop killing unarmed individuals when they have killed three people in the past 11 months? The MPD needs to find ways to hold officers accountable so that they will know there will be consequences for their actions. City leaders need to continue to work to make sure that the Madison Police Department and all its members work to protect and serve all residents in an unbiased and professional manner."

The Young, Gifted & Black Coalition issued a statement encouraging people to "remember Tony and reflect on the complex ways state violence impacts Black lives." The statement also announced "a national movement for Black Liberation. ... It is time to grow and move into spring, demonstrating resistance and resilience against the assault on Black people in Madison and across the country."

The AP contributed to this report.



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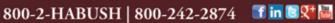
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## Help for women's shelters arrives by the truckload

**By Louis Weisberg** 

Staff writer

Imagine leaving your home forever with literally just the clothes on your back — without even such basic necessities as a comb or a toothbrush.

Every day, countless survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault find themselves in that situation. When the opportunity to flee their abusers or attackers presents itself, they must often take instant action amid life-ordeath circumstances. There's no time to plan or pack a suitcase.

Unfortunately, decreased government grants have harmed domestic violence programs. Fortunately, philanthropists and private charities are generously helping to fill in the gaps.

Some of the help has come from unexpected places. Every year, for instance, Two Men and a Truck launches a massive nationwide drive to collect essentials for women's shelters, which are then distributed around Mother's Day.

The Movers for Moms program is a natural fit for the company, which lays claim to being the largest franchised moving company in the United States and internationally. The company already has the moving boxes and the trucks to transport the items. And, despite the company's name, it's woman-owned.

"The founder of our company nationally is a woman named Mary Ellen Sheets and her two sons, who are the original two men — and her daughter," said Tim Lightner, who owns the Two Men and a Truck franchises in Dane and Rock Counties. "She was a single mom, and she decided from day one that being active in the community was an important mission for her."

Wisconsin's TMT franchises participate in the program, which benefits the YWCAs of Dane and Rock counties, as well as the Women's Resource Center of Racine.

"This is our fifth year with the program, and it has just really exploded very wonderfully for us," Lightner said.

He said his company sets up more than 50 donation sites each March in Dane County and many of them are filled and replaced over and over with items ranging from diaper rash cream to lip balm to shampoo to blankets.

"It's been an educational thing for me — I hadn't realized just how big the need was," Lightner said. "One of our core values as a company is to give back and participate in the community. Being a good steward in the community is really an important part of what we do."

The Women's Resource Center of Racine provides shelter to about 350 victims of domestic violence annually. Executive director Cherie Griffin said the donations collected by Two Men and a Truck and other generous people are prompted in part by the fact that so many people know a victim of domestic violence.

"Their hearts know the mission, and that's why they're so willing to give," Griffin said.

Besides fulfilling survivors' needs for personal necessities, the donations communicate to survivors that there are "a lot of people out there who want (them) to be safe," Griffin said. "That's a powerful message, especially for victims who are so low and have been so isolated from their communities. That's how abusers become successful, by disconnecting victims from their communities. ... Domestic abuse is a power and control issue."

People reaching out with aid in the simple form of shampoo and pillows are part of victims' reconnection with the world at large and with themselves, Griffin said. And receiving that help from "powerful women making use of their resources and leveraging their companies to respond to crises such as these" sends a very important message to victims, she added.



PHOTO: TWO MEN AND A TRUCK

Two Men and a Truck employees in San Diego work on their local Movers for Mom program.



## Workers take fight for \$15 to McD's shareholders

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

After years of lying low, the Hamburglar crept back into McDonald's ads this spring. That's fitting for a company that reaps massive profits and pays minimal wages, say the workers taking their fight for \$15 to McDonald's shareholders.

Shareholders planned to meet on May 21 outside Chicago in Oak Brook, Illinois, where McDonald's employees planned a massive demonstration to present investors with a petition demanding a \$15 hourly wage and the right to form unions without retaliation.

The petition, signed by more than 900,000 people, states, "No one can feed a family on the poverty wages you pay. For more than two years, fast-food cooks and cashiers have called for fair pay, and I stand with them. McDonald's workers deserve \$15 an hour and union rights. It's time to pay your people enough to survive."

"All of us are fighting for a reason," said Adriana Alvarez, who works for the fast-food company in Chicago. "Me, I'm out here fighting for \$15 for my son Manny. He's 3 years old and, as a single mom, I struggle every month to pay for child care and keep him fed on fast-food pay. I make \$250 a week. No one can live on that. My son deserves better. All of our kids deserve a world where hard work means a decent living. Where we don't have to worry about hitting the rent check each month and keeping food on the table."

For the past three years, McDonald's workers and their supporters have fired up protests at shareholders' meetings. Last spring, police arrested 101 demonstrators from among the 2,000 who protested outside the company headquarters.

The labor campaign continues as the company, under new CEO Steve Easterbrook, works to overhaul McDonald's image and menu in order to halt declining



PHOTO: AP PHOTO/M. SPENCER GREEN

McDonald's workers and supporters rally outside a McDonald's in Chicago in April. Recent data on income inequality is fueling the call for raising the minimum wage.

sales.

In April, the company announced plans to boost pay for about 90,000 employees in its company-owned stores. The announcement made headlines, but the policy change only impacts employees at 10 percent of U.S. locations, or maybe fewer. McDonald's in May debuted a turnaround plan that involves selling company-owned stores as franchises — about 32,000 restaurants around the world.

"My overall vision is for McDonald's to be seen as a modern, progressive burger company, delivering a contemporary customer experience," Easterbrook said in a conference call with investors earlier this spring. "'Modern' is about getting the brand to where we need to be today, and 'progressive' is about doing what it takes to be the McDonald's our customers will expect tomorrow."

Labor activist Melissa Sharpe, of Racine, said she uses "progressive" differently.

"We are seeing businesses positioning themselves as progressive and meaning employing liberal ideas in how they conduct business, how they compensate workers and safeguard the environment," she said. "I haven't heard that this is what McDonald's means by 'progressive.' But I hope shareholders push on this. McDonald's isn't losing business because it doesn't serve breakfast all day. McDonald's is losing business because it is about profits before people."

Sharpe and other activists, including workers from Wisconsin, say the time to rally in the fight for a \$15 minimum wage is now, as 2016 political campaigns ramp up and with presidential candidates in both parties talking about income inequality. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders has said wealth inequality "is now reaching obscene levels" and Hillary Rodham Clinton recently commented, "The deck is still stacked in favor of those already at the top. And there's something wrong with that. There's something wrong when CEOs make 300 times more than the typical worker."

On May 14, the AFL-CIO released its annual "Executive Paywatch" report, revealing that Wisconsin S&P 500 CEOs made an average of \$4.7 million in 2014, 116 times more than the average worker. Nationally in 2014, the average worker earned about \$36,000 per year while CEO pay averaged \$13.5 million per year.

"The massive pay gap between workers and CEOs shows what happens when the deck is stacked against working families," said Wisconsin AFL-CIO president Phil Neuenfeldt.

Former McDonald's CEO Donald Thompson made the "Paywatch" report, receiving \$7,288,578 in compensation in 2014. However, he was nowhere near the top of the rankings. He wasn't even in the top 100 on a list that began with David M. Zaslav receiving \$156 million in compensation from Discovery Communications and ended with Leonard Bell receiving \$20.5 million from Alexion Pharmaceuticals.

"Income inequality is at a crisis point in America. Corporate profits and CEO pay continue to rise as workers' rights are eroded and wages are stagnating," said Stephanie Bloomingdale, Wisconsin AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer.

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# Johnson faces uphill slog in rematch with Feingold

#### **By Scott Bauer and Dana Ferguson**

AP writers

Almost from the day Republican U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson defeated his Democratic predecessor Russ Feingold five years ago, both sides have anticipated a rematch.

Feingold, who passed up an open U.S. Senate seat and two chances to run against Republican Gov. Scott Walker, announced plans this spring to try to avenge his five-point loss to Johnson.

For months, while Feingold pondered his decision, Republicans attacked him, anticipating he would get in the race. The National Republican Senatorial Committee in February blasted Feingold's support for the federal stimulus plan approved six years earlier, saying it was worth noting as he was "plotting his return to power."

The attacks from Republicans picked up in March, when Feingold stepped down from his position with the U.S. Department of State as an envoy to Africa and began traveling around Wisconsin to talk with voters.

Republicans have tried to paint Feingold as a Washington insider with tenuous ties to his home state, pointing to his recently completed teaching job at Stanford University.

"The voters of Wisconsin terminated Russ Feingold in 2010, but he's back," Johnson told reporters on May 15.

Feingold's campaign manager Tom Russell in a statement said voters were looking for an "independent-minded" candidate like Feingold.

"Right now they have a senator that puts partisan ideology and the needs of billionaires and special interests ahead of Wisconsin," Russell said.

The seat is a key target for Democrats looking to regain control of the Senate who see Feingold as their best chance to retake it. Republicans currently hold a 54-44 majority, with two independents who caucus with Democrats.

Democrats see hope for Feingold, because he'll appear on the ballot in a presidential year when Democratic voters in Wisconsin historically far outnumber Republicans. A Republican presidential candidate hasn't carried Wisconsin since Ronald Reagan in 1984 — when Feingold was a 31-year-old freshman state senator.

Johnson's win over Feingold was part of the tea party wave in 2010 that also put Republicans in control of both chambers



PHOTO: AP/JEFEREY PH

Russ Feingold, left, and Republican Ron Johnson, right, participate in a 2010 U.S. Senate debate in Milwaukee.

of the Wisconsin Legislature. Walker also won election as governor for the first time.

In 2014, when President Barack Obama carried Wisconsin for a second time, voters also elected liberal Democrat Tammy Baldwin for an open Senate seat, picking her over former Gov. Tommy Thompson, a Republican who had won four previous statewide elections.

Baldwin's win — a huge victory for Democrats — was all the more telling given that it came just five months after Walker won a recall election. Feingold, whom many Democrats wanted to come out of retirement to take on Walker, passed on that race. Feingold also chose not to take on Walker last year when he ran, and won, re-election.

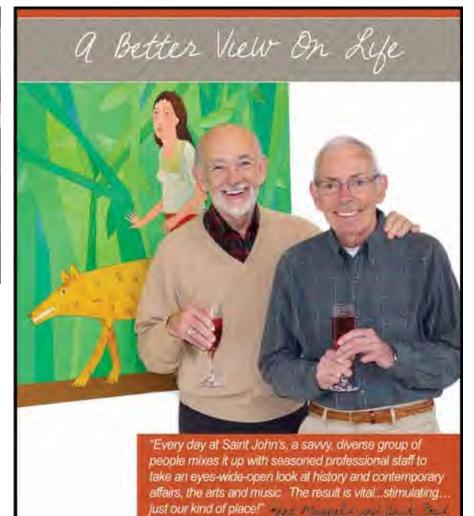
Another problem for Johnson is that recent polls show that even after six years in office, he remains a blank slate to many voters. Thirty-nine percent of respondents to a Marquette University Law School poll done in April had no opinion of Johnson. Only 26 percent had no opinion of Feingold, who was a state senator for 10 years before first being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992.

That same poll showed that Johnson's favorable rating sat at 32 percent, compared with 47 percent for Feingold. And in a head-to-head matchup, the poll showed Feingold beating Johnson 54 percent to 38 percent.

Johnson called the poll "completely meaningless" given that it was done 18 months before the election.

Johnson said he expected the race to be close, but he was optimistic the state's Republican Party would help him win using grassroots campaigning.

Despite the positive numbers, Feingold has the weight of history working against him. Only two senators since 1956 have successfully won their old seat back after losing a re-election attempt.



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## **GOP** would increase sales taxes to fix potholes while borrowing \$1.3 billion for unneeded highway projects

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Do the potholes in your neighborhood look like they belong in Syria?

No surprise. The conditions of Wisconsin's roads rank third worst in the nation, according to a recent study commissioned by the Local Government of Wisconsin Institute.

The low ratings mark a dramatic decline for the state, which ranked 22nd in the country just 11 years ago. Fewer than half of Wisconsin's roads rated as "good" or better, the report found.

According to the study's researchers, the poor condition of our roads affects almost every industry and motorist in the state

But now Republican lawmakers might give locals a new mechanism to maintain their roads — with a new tax. State Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Halzehurst, and state Rep. Dean Knudson, R-Hudson, have proposed giving voters the ability to increase their local sales tax by one-half cent to pay for road upkeep. That means people in localities that adopt the sales tax would then be paying four separate tax streams for road and highway upkeep.

Steve Hiniker, executive director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, which advocates for responsible land use, says the plan is highway robbery.

Most Wisconsinites believe the fees they're charged for license plates, coupled with the gas taxes they pay when filling up their tanks, go toward keeping their roads in order. Those fees and taxes are collected into the state Transportation Fund. The original plan was to have the fund reimburse up to 80 percent of the costs of local road repairs to the communities where they were raised.

But times change. Today only about 20 percent of the money is returned to the localities where it's paid. Instead, most of the money in the Transportation Fund pays for state highway projects, which, of course, do nothing to patch up the potholes that throw your car out of alignment.

Nor do they do much to relieve traffic,



since many of the massive new highway projects are located on highway corridors where traffic use is declining. That's because projects are based on obsolete WisDOT traffic projections.

Automobile use has dramatically declined as the state's population is graying, car ownership among young people is falling and gas prices are volatile. Between 1981 and 1991, the number of miles driven in Wisconsin grew by a rate of 35 percent. In contrast, the growth rate from 2003 to 2013 was zero.

Researchers hired by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin compared the WisDOT traffic projections used for planning 11 upcoming major highway projects with today's actual vehicle use of those highway stretches. They found that traffic counts on all of the projects are unlikely to come close to WisDOT's outdated projections.

For example, the area of expansion on I-94 between Milwaukee and Kenosha is experiencing an annual traffic-rate reduction of 0.88 percent, far lower than the 0.75 percent increase projected by WisDOT. At the same time, the expansion work has caused horrendous traffic delays and accidents.

"WisDOT is projecting a 23-percent increase in traffic on I-94 near (Miller Park) by 2040," said Hiniker. "However, actual traffic counts show that traffic has actually decreased by 8 percent along that stretch of highway. Present trends show that the WisDOT projections will never be achieved."

Despite these facts, Gov. Scott Walker wants to issue \$1.3 billion in bonds to cover the projects already planned. The plan would leave the state that much more in debt, even as it faces a current budget deficit. The \$1.3 billion is in addition to the money that's already available in the Transportation Fund.

GOP lawmakers have balked at Walker's highway borrowing plan, with most seeking to reduce its size at the least. Several have instead proposed to increase licensing fees and gas taxes, including Walker's transportation secretary Mark Gottlieb last November.

But Walker has rejected that strategy, saying that fees are virtually taxes and he will not raise taxes.

Still, legislative Republicans are not on board, with even Walker's most ardent supporters saying the state needs to find a sustainable solution for maintaining its transportation infrastructure. GOP state Sen. Alberta Darling, R-River Hills, who has overwhelmingly supported Walker's policies in the past, complained that the bonding plan amounts to kicking the can down the road, a charge that Democratic supervisors on the Milwaukee County Board frequently leveled at Walker. The former Milwaukee County executive, Walker left the county with more obligations in debt repayment than money to spend on services, according to current County Executive Chris Abele.

Politics appear to prevent Walker from either endorsing the new taxes or cutting back on highway spending. Conventional wisdom is if Walker approved a tax increase, it would kill his chances of winning the Republican presidential nomination. At the same time, road builders are among the most generous and dependable campaign contributors, and Walker could have his sights set on their financial support for his presidential aspirations.

So he'd rather borrow and, according to his critics, leave someone else in charge when the bill comes due.

But back to those potholes. In the past, property taxes filled in the growing funding gap between Transportation Fund disbursement to local governments and the cost of local road maintenance. But Walker froze property taxes in his first two budgets, leaving local lawmakers with no way to raise the money.

Now, faced with the choice of halting expensive highway projects, raising road-related fees or property taxes, the Legislature has floated the proposal of allowing local citizens to vote themselves a one-half cent sales tax increase. Ostensibly, Walker could then claim that he didn't raise taxes — the people raised their own.

"It's a hold-up," Hiniker says. "The people are already paying taxes to maintain local roads, but their money is being used to build highways in other parts of the state. It's unreal."



## Minn. company hires 500 Wis. workers laid off due to Walker budget proposal

A Minnesota home care company plans to hire hundreds of Wisconsin employees who are losing their private-sector jobs due to an item in Gov. Scott Walker's budget.

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

The cut is notable because it doesn't save the state a dime, according to a non-partisan fiscal analysis. It also will cost jobs and could raise costs by turning the program's functions over to large, for-profit insurance companies.

Republicans and Democrats alike were surprised and upset to learn of Walker's plan to eliminate IRIS. It appeared in his budget without prior warning or discussion. Not even Kitty Rhoades, Walker's

A Minnesota home care company plans secretary of the Department of Health and hire hundreds of Wisconsin employees Human Services, was informed.

Elderly and disabled participants in IRIS have given emotional testimony at budget hearings around the state, begging lawmakers not to take away their caregivers and their ability to remain in their homes.

Due to the budget proposal, Gemini-Cares, which provides home health workers in Wisconsin under IRIS, announced plans to lay off 700 workers in Slinger, Adams, Hayward, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Marinette, Neillsville, Reedsburg, Stevens Point, Whitehall and West Bend.

But a Minnesota company, International Quality Homecare Corp., announced it will hire at least 500 GeminiCares workers — and possibly more in the future.

The Associated Press



PHOTO: PIXABAY

Traffic in Hanoi, Vietnam.

#### By the numbers: Wheels around the world

About one-third of people surveyed in 44 countries reported access to a working car at home. Bikes are more common, according to the Pew Research Center, which said about 42 percent of people in 44 countries possess at least one working bicycle at their residence.

About half of people in the United States said there is a working bicycle at home. But chances are a German garage more likely will contain a bike — eight in 10 Germans possess a bike. Other countries with high rates of bike ownership include:

- Japan, 78 percent
- Thailand, 74 percent
- Poland, 70 percent
- Vietnam, Chile, China and Indonesia, more than 60 percent.

The lowest rates of bike ownership exist in Lebanon at 7 percent and Jordan at 5 percent.

Auto ownership is high in the United States — 88 percent, just a point behind Italy. Across the European Union, the median is 79 percent. Pew documented a wide disparity in auto access in Asia — about 83 percent in South Korea have

access to a working auto at home, about 2 percent have access in Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Pew found the possession of a scooter or motorcycle is lowest globally, but high in South and Southeast Asia. More than 80 percent of people in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia reported household ownership of a working scooter or motorcycle. About 60 percent in China, 47 percent in India and 43 percent in Pakistan.

By comparison, about 26 percent reported household ownership of a scooter or motorcycle in Italy, 23 percent in Greece. In the United States, the percentage is at 14, still above France, Poland, Russia, Mexico and Colombia.

Pew identified some interesting statistics related to wealth and income. Wealthier people are far more likely to own a bike than are others in the United States. Not so in other countries, where bike ownership is more even among the income classes. The trend suggests bike ownership in the United States remains more a means of recreation than a mode of transportation.

Lisa Neff



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## Pit bull bans blasted as biased, without merit

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Eavesdrop on the social circles at the local dog park.

The snippet of conversation about discrimination and bullying might sound like a discussion of the latest proposal to allow businesses to refuse service to gays. But the human companions to the canines may be denouncing breed-specific laws and defending pit bulls.

"When I walk my pit bulls, I get looks and people cross the street to get away from us," said Lisa Williams, founder of Moonracer No Kill Animal Rescue, a nonprofit that rescues pit bulls and other large dogs from animal control shelters. "My dogs will not hurt anyone, they love people. But, because of how they look — some with cropped ears and tails, cut before I ever got them — people won't give them a chance. People will look at our pictures on display at events and say, 'Oh, you're a pit bull rescue' and walk away.

#### **DANGEROUS BREEDS?**

"So many end up in the shelter because people think they cannot be family dogs. It is the perception. ... My favorite adopter was a 70-year-old island woman who adopted a pit puppy in order to promote them as the wonderful dogs they are," said Williams, whose rescue is based in Florida.

Earlier this spring, the first known

political action committee formed to fight breed-specific legislation. The Ohio PAC, founded by pit bull champions Alisha and Luke Westerman, operates under the banner Ohioans Against Breed Discrimination. The PAC maintains that breed-specific legislation is discriminatory, ineffective, unenforceable and unconstitutional.

Similar arguments were shared this spring in the Wisconsin community of Platteville, where the common council considered a proposal to prohibit Staffordshire bull terriers, American pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers and mixes with those breeds.

The council in April voted 4-2 against continuing a discussion on the matter after hearing from opponents of a ban, which lacked an endorsement from the police chief and was the focus of an online petition drive.

Platteville resident Kieryn Aigner launched the Care2 petition campaign in March, after Ald. Mike Denn proposed making it "unlawful to own, harbor or keep" a pit bull terrier or a mixed breed of pit bull.

Aigner, who adopted a pit bull in 2013, quickly collected thousands of signatures and lined up dozens of people to address the common council if necessary.

Considering the reputation pit bulls get on being a 'bully' breed, I made sure to do my research" before adopting, Aigner said.

Ownership!

"I knew I was going to get a lot of criticism and I knew I had to be smart when it came to this puppy. If he ended up being poorly trained, it would have been because I failed as an owner. Just as kids are raised, so are puppies. As parents, we have to teach them right from wrong, good from bad."

Other opponents of breed-specific bans have adopted the online petition as an effective lobbying tool. A year ago, activists defeated a proposed ordinance to ban pit bulls in Medford, Oregon, after amassing more than 8,600 signatures on a Care2 petition.

"It is wrong to discriminate against a breed," said Aigner. "If you are going to go after someone, it should be the owner for not training their dog correctly, not the

DogsBite.org is a website and national organization "dedicated to reducing serious dog attacks." The group maintains that the number of dog bites in the United States is under-reported and that certain types of dogs — pit bulls and Rottweilers - are deadly. The group says from 2005 to 2014, pit bulls and Rottweilers caused 74 percent of the human fatalities from dog attacks.

"Unlike other dog breeds, pit bulls frequently fail to communicate intention prior to an attack (surprise attacks), possess a lethal bite style (hold and shake) and a ruinous manner of attack (gameness),"

reads a "dangerous dogs" passage on the website.

Yet, the American Veterinary Medical Association says no breed or type of dog is more dangerous than another.

The AVMA says, "Any dog can bite, regardless of its breed, and more often people are bitten by dogs they know. It's not the dog's breed that determines risk it's the dog's behavior, general size, number of dogs involved and the vulnerability of the person bitten that determines whether or not a dog or dogs will cause a serious bite injury. Dogs can be aggressive for all sorts of reasons. A dog that's bitten once can bite again and a dog that's never bitten could still bite. Don't rely on breed stereotypes to keep yourself safe from dog bites. A dog's individual history and behavior are much more important than its breed."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Bar Association and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals also oppose breed-specific legislation.

The ABA "urges all state, territorial and local legislative bodies and governmental agencies to adopt comprehensive breedneutral dangerous dog/reckless owner laws that ensure due process protections for owners, encourage responsible pet ownership and focus on the behavior of

**BANS** next page







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#### **BANS** from prior page

both dog owners and dogs, and to repeal any breed-discriminatory or breed-specific provisions."

In its review of the issue, the CDC notes that data collection related to bites by breed is fraught with the potential for error in identifying the type of dog, especially among mixed-breed dogs. A 2009 study supports this point, noting a significant discrepancy between visual determination of breed and DNA determination of breed.

The ASPCA's position statement says the organization "is not aware of credible evidence that breed-specific laws make communities safer either for people or other companion animals. There is, however, evidence that such laws unfairly target responsible pet guardians and their well-socialized dogs, are inhumane and impede community safety and humane sheltering efforts."

In its lengthy statement, the ASPCA says breed-specific laws ignore factors known to affect a dog's tendency toward aggression: early experience, socialization, training, sex and reproductive status.

Breed-specific laws also "can cause hardship to responsible guardians of properly supervised, friendly, well-socialized dogs. ... Although guardians of these dogs may have done nothing to endanger the public, they nevertheless may be required to choose between compliance with onerous regulations or forfeiture of their beloved companions," according to the ASPCA.

#### **STATES RETHINKING BANS**

In Ohio, after passage in 1987 of a law that identified pit bulls as "vicious," some dog owners faced difficulties finding housing or securing liability insurance. Lawmakers removed the language three years ago, but a number of Ohio communities still label pit bulls as "vicious."

Forfeiture of animals also results in crowded shelters or increases in killings by animal control. In Ohio in 2004, animal control agencies killed at least 7,400 pit bulls. In Prince George's County, Maryland, 80 percent of the 500 to 600 dogs seized and killed under a ban on pit bull terriers are "nice, family dogs."

Williams said, "It is heartbreaking when dogs are labeled dangerous and they really are not. ... Many dogs that have been labeled 'dangerous' or 'aggressive' have been rescued or adopted and turn out to be just the best dogs ever, once they feel safe and secure. We want them to have a chance to shine, if they can."

And animal welfare advocates stress an unintended consequence of breed-specific legislation. As one type of dog is banned, those who exploit and abuse animals train others to be aggressive, to fight.

Breed-specific laws exist in 55 Wisconsin communities, according to DogsBite. org. Thirty ordinances ban pit bulls, while other measures place restrictions on ownership of pit bulls and Rottweilers, such as prohibiting pit bulls declared "dangerous" or "vicious."

"No good comes from discrimination, whether it's discrimination against dogs



or people," said animal welfare advocate Shelaghla Donohue of Madison. "Instead of more communities passing bias legislation, I think Wisconsin should prohibit breed-discriminatory legislation. Probably that won't happen anytime soon."

States with measures against enacting breed-specific legislation include California, Connecticut, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

"The way I see it, outlawing a pit bull or

a Rottweiler or a Chihuahua, for that matter, is like saying, 'We don't like that kind of person,'" said Green Bay animal rights advocate Laura Lippert. "And we just don't do that."

Said Williams, "Give pit bulls a chance, you won't be disappointed. Help out at shelters so the dogs can be more socialized and have a chance to find homes. Ask to pet a pit bull, you will most likely end up covered in kisses."





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## Wisconsin puppy mill breeders exposed in new report

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

How much is that doggie in the window, the one with the waggly tail? The cost — measured in suffering — is high if a puppy mill supplied the dog to the store.

The Humane Society of the United States in May issued *The Horrible Hundred: Puppy Mills Exposed*, with a state-by-state breakdown. It is not a comprehensive list of bad breeders, but rather an annual report that offers a sampling of the problems in the breeding industry.

In Wisconsin, this means it's likely there are more puppy mills than the four identified in the report.

"There are approximately 10,000 puppy mills in the U.S. and they exist in every state," said Melissa Tedrowe, Wisconsin state director for The Humane Society of the United States. "Although Wisconsin is not one of the top five puppy mill states, it still has a significant number. And for every one that The Humane Society of the United States is aware of, there may be twice as many that are operating in the shadows, unlicensed and unreported."

#### **CANINES FOR COMMERCE**

A puppy mill is a dog-breeding business in which the physical, psychological, and/or behavioral needs of the dogs are neglected due to inadequate housing, shelter, staffing, nutrition, socialization, sanitation, exercise, veterinary care and inappropriate breeding.

The Humane Society compiled *The Horrible Hundred* report from inspections by federal and state agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

The report reveals widespread problems in the U.S. puppy breeding industry, as well as gaps in laws and enforcement.

Missouri and Kansas continue to shelter the greatest number of problem dealers for the third year in a row — 23 in Missouri and 16 in Kansas, followed by Nebraska at 14, Iowa at 11 and Arkansas at seven.

Partly as a result of greater public scrutiny and stronger laws, nearly two dozen problem breeders identified in 2012 and 2013 closed down.

Still, puppy mills continue to be relicensed year after year in the United States. Many dogs in these facilities are inbred and overbred, receive minimal veterinary care, poor quality food and water and little socialization and exercise.

#### REPEAT OFFENDERS

Among the Wisconsin breeders exposed in *The Horrible Hundred*, John Zeiset, operator of Lone Pine Kennels in Thorpe, is classified as a repeat offender in the report.

Last June, a USDA inspector found a Cavalier King Charles spaniel at Lone Pine Kennels in Clark County with an "open and discharging laceration on the bottom of its neck," which appeared to be caused by an embedded chain collar. The gash was untreated.

In December 2014, a state inspector found at the kennel excessive feces, unsafe conditions and more dogs in need of veterinary care, including an underweight 15-week-old Maltese puppy with one eye "completely sealed shut from dried mucus."

In New Holstein, federal and state inspectors repeatedly cited Brooknook Puppies, operated by Herman Gingerich, for issues related to unsanitary and unsafe conditions. USDA inspectors reported excessive cobwebs, debris and rodent droppings, excessive piles of feces and



excessive temperatures. State inspectors noted similar problems. The most recent state report, dated December 2014, indicated improvements but feces remained an issue, as well as a lack of adequate grooming at the Calumet County facility.

The report identified two other problem breeders in Wisconsin: Mose Bontrager in Hillsboro, and Alvin and Esther Nolt in Thorp.

In a February inspection, officials determined Bontrager's kennel in Vernon County had not been cleaned for a week, apparently because the owner left town. The

inspector noted "lice nits in the fur of several dogs," matted dogs, dogs with fur "dirtied with excrement due to unsanitary conditions," a dog with nails so overgrown the animal could not properly walk and a "significant and unacceptable accumulation of excrement in whelping enclosures."

The inspector also observed a Siberian husky with three puppies kept in an outdoor enclosure with only a cracked igloo-type shelter and other puppies housed in a corncrib, with no other protection.

The report said Bontrager was selling puppies wholesale without the required USDA license.

At the Nolts' facility in Clark County, federal and state inspectors repeatedly found problems with sanitation and animal care, according to *The Horrible Hundred*. Last November, a state inspector noted piles of feces, dogs without adequate protection from the cold, puppies with their feet falling through holes in wire flooring and several dogs in need of veterinary treatment. One dog later was euthanized due to "several tumor-like growths" near the ear, along with a wound that was open and bleeding. In March, a USDA inspector said the kennel was now compliant.

Several animal welfare watchdogs contacted *WiG* to report the four breeders in Wisconsin are Amish, and that conditions at their facilities were indicative of how the Amish treat animals, as resources rather than pets.

Lisa Williams, founder of a Florida-based rescue shelter, worked as an investigator for a national animal rights group. "I investigated three puppy mills, two of them Amish," she said. "Depending on how many dogs they have, they can make around \$100,000 per year just by selling puppies. I went to a farm with over 400 dogs in two small barns. They think nothing of keeping them in small wire cages and never letting them out for their entire lives. Trucks come to the farms in the night and pick up puppies to move to pet stores. I watched them do that. It broke my heart."

Tedrowe said, "No one should neglect the proper care of their animals, Amish or otherwise. There is no excuse for animal cruelty. That being said, The HSUS has found puppy mills with dreadful conditions operated by people of all creeds. We really need to place the focus on the conditions that animals are living in, not the lifestyle of the owners."

Efforts to reach the Wisconsin breeders were unsuccessful as of WiG's deadline on May 20.

MILLS next page





#### MILLS from prior page

Meanwhile, some animal welfare advocates responding to The Humane Society report said more must be done to close the mills

"We've accomplished a lot in the past five or six years, but we must do more. We can always improve," said activist and dogrescuer Monette Barrett of Milwaukee.

#### **LAW AND ENFORCEMENT**

Legislation signed in 2009 by Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle went into effect in mid-2011 and set minimum standards of daily and veterinary care for dogs and established a licensing program for breeders and sellers that annually market more than 25 dogs from more than three litters and prohibited the sale of puppies less than 7 weeks old unless sold with their mothers. The law provides for an inspection process and requires that certificates of veterinary inspection or health certificates accompany dogs sold or adopted for a fee. The inspectors evaluate the general care of animals, conditions of indoor and outdoor enclosures, transportation of dogs, animals' ages, record keeping and health certificates.

The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection website says the intent of the law "is to protect the welfare of dogs and to protect consumers who buy or adopt them.

Act 90, dubbed "The Puppy Mill Bill" as it moved through the Legislature, passed with unanimous support in both chambers. Doyle's signature on the measure was hailed as a milestone. Before passage. Wisconsin was one of the few states with no regulation of dog sellers or shelter operators. The federal Animal Welfare Act also requires minimum standards.

"But the standards are just that — minimal survival standards," said Tedrowe.

In the first year, the DATCP inspected 339 breeders, dealers and sellers and reported that 289 earned a state license. Concerns resulted in 35 facilities receiving conditional licenses. The state

denied three applications and other cases sold to less than 25 per year.

Yvonne Bellay, animal programs leader for DATCP's animal health division, said, "We've taken a great first step this year toward protecting the welfare of dogs in Wisconsin."

more protections for future pets, specifically tools enabling the rapid removal of dogs from unsafe and unsanitary conditions and putting repeat offenders out of business.

consumers play in either propping up puppy mill operations or closing them down: Puppy mill operators breed dogs for the money, not the love of breeding dogs.

"It isn't easy for the USDA or the state Department of Agriculture to simply shut down a breeder just because they had some violations." Tedrowe said. "Often they have to go to court in these cases, which can be a costly and lengthy process. That's why the public really has to take part of the responsibility."

#### **CONSUMER WATCHDOGS**

Animal welfare advocates caution people against purchasing a puppy from a pet store or over the Internet, because the dogs commonly come from puppy mills. And the only way for potential buyers to know if they are purchasing from responsible breeders is to visit breeders in person and see how and where their puppy was raised, according to The HSUS.

"If every person who purchased a puppy took the time to visit the breeder and ensure that the dogs are living in good conditions, puppy mills would cease to exist," Tedrowe said.

In Wisconsin, people should be wary of purchasing a dog:

- If they are denied access to where animals are sheltered
- If the seller cannot provide a certificate

involved facilities that either went out of business or reduced the number of dogs

On the first anniversary of the law,

Still, animal welfare advocates want

But they also stress the important role

and details about health care

- If the animal is being sold on the Internet
- If a seller or an advertisement fails to have a license number from the state.

A license does not guarantee a breeder is providing humane conditions for dogs, as evidenced by the four Wisconsin breeders listed in The Horrible Hundred. But a license means the breeder is inspected and being monitored, making it possible to identify problems and expose bad opera-

"The HSUS estimates that across the country there are as many as two unlicensed breeders for every one that is licensed," said Tedrowe. "That is why we recommend that no one ever purchase a puppy without personally visiting the breeder to see where the puppy was raised. And, of course, we always encourage adoption from an animal shelter as the very best way to find a best friend."

#### **ACTION ALERT**

People who suspect a puppy mill should report the operation to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at datcp.wi.gov. If you witness cruel or inhumane treatment of an animal, you can also report the issue to the local animal shelter and law enforcement. Also, HSUS operates the Puppy Mill Tipline at 1-877-MILL-TIP and, for information, a micro site at apuppyisnotaproduct.com.







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#### CEO/PRINCIPAL

Leonard Sobczak Isobczak@wisconsingazette.com

#### **PUBLISHER/EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Louis Weisberg lweisberg@wisconsingazette.com

#### SENIOR EDITOR

Lisa Neff, Imneff@wisconsingazette.com

#### **ARTS EDITOR**

Matthew Reddin mreddin@wisconsingazette.com

#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

Mark Richards mrichards@wisconsingazette.com

#### **BUSINESS MANAGER/ PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**

Kaity Weisensel kweisensel@wisconsingazette.com

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**

Eric Van Egeren, Maureen M. Kane

#### **COPY EDITOR**

Stephen DeLeers

#### **SALES INFORMATION**

sales@wisconsingazette.com or call 414.961.3240

#### **ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**

Kim Jackson, kjackson@wisconsingazette.com Jeff Kerr, jkerr@wisconsingazette.com Logan McDermott, Imcdermott@wisconsingazette.com Laurie Verrier, Iverrier@wisconsingazette.com Larry Zamba, Izamba@wisconsingazette.com

circulation@wisconsingazette.com 414-961-3240

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#### EDITORIAL

## WEDC agency shows why the state lags

In his 2010 campaign for governor, Scott Walker pledged to create 250,000 jobs. At the center of his pledge was the creation of a new public-private agency called the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, which replaced the state Commerce Department. Right-wing media were overjoyed to bring in private business people to grow the state's economy instead of relying on wonky government

Unfortunately, none of WEDC's boosters seemed concerned about oversight and accountability. Yes, government regulators are annoying, with all those pesky little boxes to check on compliance reports and taking care to dot every "i" and cross every "t."

But all that boring paperwork serves an important purpose, as WEDC ultimately proved by dispensing with it.

Left alone to run amok, that's exactly what WEDC did the minute it left the station. Millions of dollars in loans were made without any terms attached. Technically, they weren't even loans - they were handouts, because they were granted without stipulations or payback terms. Many were not recorded, so they can't be tracked and will never be repaid. Those were among the shocking findings of a 2013 audit of the agency. Changes were promised following the audit, but a follow-up audit this month doesn't suggest overall improvement. Since 2013, more than \$4 million in loans were written off by WEDC because they were only 90 days behind in their payments. What sort of creditor forgives a loan that's only three months in arrears? Does Walker think if he stopped paying his Sears bill the company would say, "That's OK, forget about it," after three

WEDC has continued to treat taxpayer money like play money. Walker, who chairs WEDC, says he's horrified by the prospect that a food stamp recipient could buy lobster with taxpayer money. But he didn't bat an eye when businessmen were showered with booze, iTunes gift cards and Badgers tickets at taxpayer expense through WEDC, according to the latest audit.

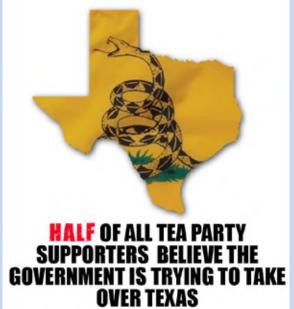
The primary purpose of WEDC was to grant loans supporting companies' efforts to grow and hire more workers in the state. But the 2013 audit found that money was being handed out without any such agreements. Since that audit, large loans have been made to companies that outsourced jobs to places such as Tijuana, Mexico. We'd love to hear Walker explain the thinking behind that plan.

The more recent audit found that loan recipients are still not contractually required to submit information showing that jobs were created and/or retained. It also showed that WEDC has continued not to comply with state laws or to collect information about the numbers of jobs created and retained as a result of its handouts.

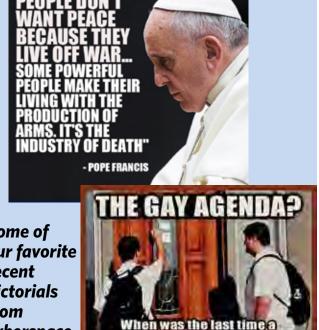
In his 2015-17 budget, Walker proposed fixing the mess he created by combining WEDC with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority - in other words, bringing it back under government control. But after the latest audit, he sent an SOS to the Legislature, asking lawmakers to step in and handle it. It takes an incomprehensible amount of gall for the man who set up the agency and serves as its chair to turn it into someone else's problem.

People who wonder why Wisconsin's economy lags the rest of the nation need look no farther than WEDC. It's emblematic of the Walker administration's arrogance, incompetence and disregard for the rules. It illustrates not just ignorance of the most fundamental workings of government but also a complete lack of interest in them. It reveals a character that cannot accept responsibility and whose only leadership strategy is to spin his failures into someone else's problem.





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#### ON THE RECORD

"It's not something I'm proud of but it's something that happened. (John Lindsay) and I had a little fling one night and the next morning, I woke up and I had these

creatures and I had no idea (what they were). He sent me flowers the next day and apologized. And of course, I never really saw him again."

— FLORENCE HENDERSON, the ageless entertainer who's most famous as Carol Brady on TV's The Brady Bunch, telling The Huffington Post that she caught crabs from former New York Mayor John Lindsay. The story is included in her new tellall memoir Life is Not a Stage.

"Something I want you all to think about is that the next president of the United States, whoever that individual may be, could choose up to three, maybe even four members of the Supreme Court. (This election) isn't about who's going to be the president of the United States for just the next four years. This could be about individuals who have an impact on you, your children and even our grandchildren. That's the weight of what this election is really about."

 RICK PERRY, former Texas governor and likely Republican presidential candidate, speaking to an audience in South Carolina.

"Arctic sea ice is undergoing a striking, closely monitored and highly publicized decline."

— Opening line of a new study by SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPY that found the Arctic sea may go ice free in the summer faster than previous models had projected.

"New research from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography says that predictions of an ice-free Arctic are based on 'oversimplified' theories."

— CLIMATE SCIENCE DENIERS spinning the Scripps Institution's study cited above. Their response appeared on the *Daily Caller*.

"People are frustrated that they want to see more women, doing more things, in superhero movies and because we don't have as many women as we should yet, they're very, very sensitive to every single storyline that comes up right now. But I think what's beautiful about what Joss did with Black Widow. I don't think he makes her any weaker, he just brings this idea of love to a superhero, and I think that's beautiful. ... I think that what people might really be upset about is the fact that we need more superhuman women."

— Kenosha native MARK RUFFALO saying in a Reddit interview that people are wrong to criticize *Age of Ultron* director Joss Whedon for his handling of the Black Widow character. He called Whedon a "deeply committed feminist."

"The only thing you can think of as an artist is try to come up with something where you explain to people why life is worth living, and is a positive thing, and does have some meaning. Now, you really can't do that without conning them. You can't be honest and do that. Because in the end, it has no meaning. You're living in a random universe. You're living a meaningless life"

— WOODY ALLEN speaking with The AP at Cannes, where he's presenting *Irrational Man*.



## Lawmakers: Stop harassing the poor

## Opinion

U.S. REP. GWEN MOORE

When you're trying to feed your family and stretch a dollar, steaks and short ribs don't make it to your grocery list. As one of nine siblings in a low-income household in Wisconsin, my mother made a habit of buying inexpensive stewing meat for us. These tough cuts of beef came in handy when shopping on a budget, but if Missouri lawmakers have their way, stewing meat will be off the menu for the working class. Republican state representatives have recently introduced legislation that would regulate the kind of groceries one can purchase with taxpayer money, banning sales with food stamps for "cookies, chips, energy drinks, soft drinks, seafood or steak."

Impoverished Americans and the social safety net programs they depend on have increasingly become the target of forced political paternalism. Politicians at the local, state and federal levels have set behavioral standards as a condition to receive public assistance, ranging from ridiculous to outright unconstitutional. Implemented under the guise of fiscal responsibility and self-sufficiency, efforts to regulate the activities of low-income Americans have emerged all over the country.

In 2011, Florida Gov. Rick Scott required Temporary Assistance for Needy Families applicants to submit to mandatory drug testing. After years of litigation, not only did two federal courts rule Scott's policy unconstitutional, but the state also failed to produce any reliable results of drug use among those tested. The program did prove to be a colossal waste of time and taxpayer money.

Wisconsin governor and likely Republican presidential candidate Scott Walker upped Scott's ante by proposing that recipients of both food stamps and unemployment benefits

prove their sobriety in order to receive the vital social services necessary for survival. Despite outcries from local lawmakers and Wisconsin's faith community, the governor stuck to his discriminatory policies. Walker claimed his proposal wasn't meant to hinder the ability to receive critical government assistance. In his own words: "I'm making it easier to get a job."

Gov. Sam Brownback upped the ante in Kansas by signing legislation that aims to prevent welfare recipients from spending their assistance on items like tattoos, body piercings, spas, lingerie, theme parks and fortune-tellers — a remedy to a trend that simply doesn't exist. Adding insult to injury, the law also sets tighter welfare eligibility requirements, cuts time limits for how long one can receive benefits and restricts ATM cash withdrawals from Tanf accounts to \$25 a day.

One would think that Republicans would be first to reject such government overreach as anathema to conservative values and philosophies, but politics has once again trumped policy.

We don't drug-test wealthy CEOs who receive federal subsidies for their private jets, nor do we tell Pell Grant recipients which degrees to pursue. We don't dictate how senior citizens should spend their social security checks, nor do we force judges or public officials to prove their sobriety to earn their paychecks. Attaching special demands to government aid exclusively targets our country's most vulnerable individuals and families. The implication that those battling poverty are more susceptible to substance abuse is as absurd as it is offensive, and forcing people to choose between feeding their families and protecting their constitutionally protected rights is disgraceful.

In this ongoing competition of Republican oneupmanship against the poor there are no winners. If we abandon the idea that each of us is worthy of dignity, we all lose.

## In support of Young, Gifted & Black

## Opinion

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM

representatives from social service agencies, mental health experts and academics formed a group that called itself the Community Response Team.

We were deeply shaken by the police culture, policy and training that led to the actions taken that night and that continued throughout the year. We worked tirelessly to examine the culture, motives, policies, management and incentives that led, not only to Paul Heenan's fatal shooting, but to the damaging and dysfunctional communication from the Madison Police Department to the community after his death.

Two more fatal, officerinvolved shootings during the next several months strengthened our drive to identify and address systemic problems within and around the MPD. Sadly, just over two months into 2015, our community is again grieving the loss of yet another unarmed resident killed at the hands of police. Only this time, state violence has ended the life of young, unarmed Black teenager.

What's his name? Tony Terrell Robinson.

Another mother's child has been taken from her and the pain seems bottomless. We all urgently feel things must change. We must prevent this from happening again.

A bright spot within all of this tragedy is the emergence of the Young, Gifted & Black Coalition, an energized group of youthful thought-leaders who are amplifying the ideas of people from whom we hear least in our community.

These are the voices of LGBTQ, Black, and Brown residents: those touched personally by the criminal

justice system, those who have known homelessness, have known food insecurity, have felt the hand of state violence on their necks. These human rights champions are the voices of some of the most impacted — and among those to whom we look for leadership within our community.

The Community Response Team is offering its resources and strong support for the leadership of the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition.

We share their concerns and stand behind them in making their demands. We hope our efforts complement theirs and that together we can move our criminal justice system, our government and our community to higher ground where education, safety, health and prosperity are equitable opportunities for all.

In order to provide this quality of life to all residents, we believe that the MPD must overhaul several policies starting with its pol-

icy on how and when to use force. The present standard — individual fear (*Graham v. Connor*) — cannot be the standard of a professional, democratic police agency. It is far too low.

Until there is actual data to show that officers incur greater injuries or fatalities due to increased restraint, the present standard must be raised and training adjusted accordingly if we are a community committed to the moral idea that Black lives, and indeed all lives, truly matter. Leadership must be proactive and any new system must be carefully monitored in order to be held accountable.

This is what professional police do in a free and democratic society.

This is what our community expects and demands and we will accept nothing less.

We are committed to helping MPD meet this high calling.

#### **NATIONAL BRIEFS**



#### **INDIANA RETHINKS TOURISM SLOGAN**

An Indiana tourism slogan could get the boot as part of an effort to repair the state's public image, which was battered by an anti-gay religious objections law.

A New York public relations firm is expected to look at the "Honest to Goodness Indiana" slogan as part of a \$2 million review of the impact of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, signed by Indiana Gov. Mike Pence in March. When the tourism slogan was adopted last year, some critics dismissed it as too wholesome and even judgmental. That could prove counterproductive to efforts to reboot Indiana's brand as more welcoming, although the slogan was already in place as the state's summer season tourism campaign got underway.

In the wake of the RFRA, many companies canceled travel to Indiana amid concerns that the law was anti-gay. Although the law was modified to address discrimination concerns, tourism officials told the *Indianapolis Business Journal* that meeting planners are still reluctant to schedule events in the state.



#### SURVEY: 40 PERCENT OF BEEHIVES DIED IN PAST YEAR

More than two out of five American honeybee colonies died in the past year, and, surprisingly, the worst die-off was in the summer, according to a federal survey.

Since April 2014, beekeepers lost 42.1 percent of their colonies, the second highest loss rate in nine years, according to an annual survey conducted by a bee partnership that includes the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"What we're seeing with this bee problem is just a loud signal that there's some bad things happening with our agro-ecosystems," said study co-author Keith Delaplane at the University of Georgia. "We just happen to notice it with the honeybee because they are so easy to count."

#### FEDS CLOSE INSURANCE LOOPHOLES ON PREVENTIVE CARE

From contraception to colonoscopies, the Obama administration on May 11 closed a series of insurance loopholes on coverage of preventive care.

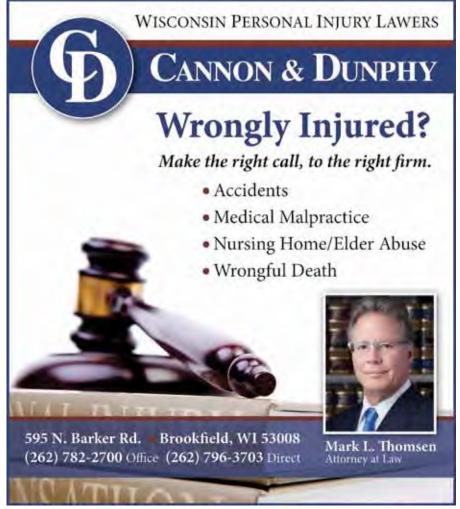
The U.S. Department Health and Human Services said insurers must cover at least one birth control option under each of 18 methods approved by the FDA — without copays.

Also, insurers can't charge patients for anesthesia services in connection with colonoscopies to screen for cancer risk.

Independent experts and women's groups had recently found insurance coverage gaps for some of the preventive care mandated in the Affordable Care Act.

#### In other national news ...

- PETA PROTESTS: In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals alleges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is sanctioning a massive loophole in the Endangered Species Act. The law allows exceptions in the import or export of endangered species when granting a permit aids the species' survival. PETA says the agency is granting exceptions for applicants making donations as small as \$500 to conservation groups.
- BLOOD BAN REVISITED: The FDA on May 12 released proposed guidelines for screening blood donors at increased risk of carrying HIV. Under the proposal, the current blanket ban on donations from gay men would be replaced with a policy barring donations from men who have had sex with another man in the last year. The Obama administration previously announced the policy shift in December.
  - from WiG and AP reports



#### **REGIONAL BRIEFS**



PHOTO: COURTES'

SMALLER IS BETTER: The town of Bayfield in northern Wisconsin is one of "the 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2015," according to Smithsonian.com. In a news release from the Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau, Bayfield Mayor Larry J. MacDonald said, "The recent designation from Smithsonian reinforces all the qualities of the place we call home."

#### **MILWAUKEE DELAYS DECISION ON MARIJUANA MEASURE**

Milwaukee aldermen on May 12 voted to delay a final decision on a proposal that would greatly reduce the fine for possessing a small amount of marijuana.

Ald. Nik Kovac took the proposal to the full council for a vote, saying his goal is to "make the fine so low that it wouldn't be worth writing the ticket."

The proposal would lower the maximum fine from \$500 to \$50 for possessing as much as 25 grams of marijuana. Four members of the Common Council joined Ald. Terry Witkowski in voting to delay the change until the council could gather more information from law enforcement officials and the courts. A Wisconsin law enacted last year gives local governments more control over regulating marijuana.

#### In other regional news ...

- OUTFITTING OFFICERS: The University of Wisconsin-Madison's police officers are expected to be wearing body cameras this fall, but the police chief first wants to get public input on how officers should use them. The department has ordered 10 cameras at \$400 each, but Chief Susan Riseling said the devices are back-ordered because so many departments are buying them.
- MOMS' RIGHTS: A same-sex couple from Madison filed a federal discrimination lawsuit because the state failed to put both their names on their baby's birth certificate. Chelsea and Jessamy Torres say the state's practice of listing opposite-sex parents on birth certificates, but not same-sex parents, is discriminatory. The couple listed both their names on their son Asher's birth certificate after Chelsea gave birth March 15. The couple was married in New York in 2012.
- Pictured Rocks Photo Workshop
  Learn to create stunning images at one of the most beautiful places on Earth with photographer Larry Zamba!

  June 15-19 Michigan's UP / Call 262-843-2888

- RESTITUTION AND REHABILITATION: The
   Chicago City Council in May passed landmark legislation providing reparations for
  torture committed by former Chicago Police
   Commander Jon Burge and his detectives.

   Forty-three years after Burge's reign of torture
   began, a resolution providing compensation,
   restitution and rehabilitation to survivors
   passed with overwhelming support.
- PROFILING CHICAGO: During recent years, the Chicago Police Department has set up far more roadside sobriety checkpoints in minority communities than in predominantly white ones, according to a *Chicago Tribune* investigation. Out of 152 roadside sobriety checks set up between February 2010 and June 2014, 127 or 84 percent were in black or Hispanic police districts. Fewer than 4 percent of the checkpoints were in majority-white districts.
- OPEN RECORDS REQUESTED: A Milwaukee County Circuit Court has heard oral arguments concerning a lawsuit brought by Voces de la Frontera, an immigrant rights group, against Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke under Wisconsin's Open Records Act. The group wants information regarding requests from the federal government to the sheriff's office ordering detention and deportation. Clarke provided documents that redacted information.
- **JEOPARDY CHAMP:** Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers earned \$50,000 for childhood cancer research by defeating astronaut Mark Kelly and *Shark Tank*'s Kevin O'Leary on *Celebrity Jeopardy*. Rodgers' chosen charity is Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer.
- from WiG reports





Join Us At the Biggest Monthly Social Event in the LGBT Community!

## **TGIF JUNE 5TH**

JOIN US AT AT PRIDEFEST FROM 4:30-6:30PM

THE LOFT LOUNGE - 2ND FLOOR OF THE HARLEY-DAVIDSON PAVILION

Join the Fun! Stop in to connect with friends & build a new social network.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE PRIDE WITH YOU!

MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER · mkeLGBT.org



#### **WALKER WATCH -**

#### WALKER AIDES PRESSED FOR \$500K LOAN TO MAJOR DONOR

Gov. Scott Walker's top aides pressed for a taxpayer-funded \$500,000 loan to a now-defunct Milwaukee company that was collapsing and created no jobs, according to a newspaper investigation.

Walker's economic development agency, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, awarded an unsecured loan to Building Committee Inc., owned by William Minahan, according to records the Wisconsin State Journal obtained through an open records request.

The 2011 loan is among several recently questioned by state auditors in a report that led Walker earlier this month to ask lawmakers to scrap the loan program.

Paul Jadin, the former head of WEDC, said Minahan and then-Administration Secretary Mike Huebsch pushed for a \$4.3 million loan to Building Committee, but the agency couldn't justify more than \$500,000 — which Jadin said he considered "fairly risky."

Minahan had given Walker's 2010 gubernatorial campaign a \$10,000 donation on Election Day — the maximum individual contribution allowed under law.

Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said the likely 2016 presidential candidate wasn't aware of the donation. Patrick also said the governor, who chairs the WEDC board, "has not met with Mr. Minahan, nor was he involved in or aware of any part of the loan process concerning The Building Committee Inc."

But Jadin said in this letter of intent that he was writing "on behalf of Governor Scott Walker" and noted "cc: Scott Walker, Governor" at the bottom.

Documents also show that in June 2011, lobbyist Eric Petersen, who represented BCI and Minahan, and Keith Gilkes, the governor's chief of staff at the time, met with Huebsch and Minahan — a member of the WEDC board — to discuss the loan.

#### SCOTUS REJECTS CONSERVATIVES' APPEAL TO HALT JOHN DOE PROBE

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a petition from conservative groups seeking to halt a probe into whether Scott Walker's 2012 recall campaign illegally coordinated activities with the Koch brothers' Club for Growth and other GOP organizations.

The right-wing groups seeking to end the investigation did not argue they were innocent of the charges, but rather that it infringed on their constitutional rights to free speech and free association.

Earlier in May, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and four other journalism groups won a lengthy battle for access to documents concerning Walker's second so-called John Doe probe. The first, which concerned his 2010 gubernatorial campaign, resulted in the convictions of several Walker staffers on charges of corruption, embezzlement and working on campaign activities on Milwaukee County time.

The documents show that Walker was planning to argue that his coordination with Club for Growth was not illegal because it happened before he was an officially declared candidate in his 2012 recall race.

The case now goes to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which is expected to rule by the end of June whether the investigation can proceed. The court is almost certain to rule in Walker's favor. Its conservative majority received millions of dollars in campaign donations from Club for Growth and some of the other same right-wing groups involved in Walker's case.

The Republican lead investigator has called on the justices to recuse themselves from the case, but Chief Justice Patience Roggensack has ruled that justices don't need to recuse themselves from cases in which there's a real or perceived conflict of interest, including campaign donations from one of the parties in a case.

#### COMMUNITY BULLETINS



PHOTO: PIXABAY.CO

BIKING BENEFITS: Milwaukee area businesses partnered in Bike! Bingo and Bicycle Benefits to promote cycling this spring and summer. Cyclists place Bicycle Benefits stickers on helmets and find discounts at participating businesses. In Bike! Bingo, riders cycle to participating businesses to complete a bingo on their card for a prize. For more, go to bicyclebenefits.org.

#### PROGRESSIVES UNITE AGAINST INCOME INEQUALITY

Progressive leaders, including Wisconsin Congressman Mark Pocan, in mid-May united to launch The Progressive Agenda to Combat Income Inequality.

"The Progressive Agenda shifts the national conversation to creating an economy which serves hardworking Americans by reforming our tax code and supporting working families," said Pocan. "This agenda addresses the root causes of income inequality in America and puts meat on the bone of our progressive values."

For more, go to progressive agenda.us.

#### **MARCUS CENTER HOSTS FLAG DAY EVENTS**

Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts hosts its sixth annual Flag Day Celebration on June 12. The festivities are at the Marcus Center's Peck Pavilion at 11 a.m. New this year will be a naturalization ceremony, followed by the presentation of colors, the singing of the national anthem by Hmong American Peace Academy Students and an invocation by Lt. Colonel Carl H. Krueger of the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

The master of ceremonies is Paul Mathews, president and CEO of the Marcus Center. The keynote speaker is retired U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Shua P. Yang, recipient of two Bronze Stars. For more, go to marcuscenter.org.

## Bay Shore Lutheran ELCA God's work. Our hands.

#### Join Us In collecting Personal Care Kits For Nepal Earthquake Victims

#### Kits include:

- · 1 dark colored bath towel
- 2 bars soap in packaging (8-9 oz)
- 1 metal nail clipper and nail file
- 1 wide tooth comb or hair pick
- · 1 toothbrush in packaging

New items please. Deliver some or all items to:

Bay Shore Lutheran Church 1200 East Hampton Road Whitefish Bay, WI

Hours: 8am - Noon, 1-4:30 pm M-Thurs. Call 414.332.6436 to schedule evening delivery.

Thank you!!

#### Other community bulletins ...

- POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE: The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom recognized Milwaukee native Annette Jacobi Roberts, who died in 1986, for her lifetime committed to world peace during a celebration at The Hauge. Roberts was one of the 38 women who witnessed the birth of the U.S. Section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. For more, go to peacactionwi.org.
- CELEBRATING CONSERVATIONISTS: The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters' Conservation Victory Fund is the beneficiary of a celebration set for June 2 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison. The 2015 Conservation in Action Awards will be presented and WLCV board member Tom Thoresen and former program director Anne Sayers will be hon-

ored. For more, go to conservationvoters.org.

- GOOD GIVING: Cream City Foundation announced \$48,000 in grants to nonprofits in Southeast Wisconsin: AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee Gay Sports Network, Milwaukee Pride Inc., Fair Wisconsin Education Fund, Diverse and Resilient, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin and Milwaukee Repertory Theater. For more, go to creamcityfoundation.org.
- ARTS ENDOWMENT: The National Endowment for the Arts announced a \$10,000 grant award to Milwaukee's Present Music to support ComposeMilwaukee, a new community engagement project with local composers. For more, go to presentmusic.org.
- from WiG reports

Send announcements to Lisa Neff at Imneff@wisconsingazette.com.

## Ut on the town May 21 - June 4 A curated calendar of upcoming events

#### WORLD'S LARGEST BRAT FEST May 22 to 25

Events like the World's Largest Brat Fest are nice because they're exactly what they say they are - the world's biggest celebration of a quintessential Wisconsin sausage, in this case. But there's more to the Memorial Day weekend festival than the 3.5 million brats sold since 1983, or the \$1.4 million raised for more than 100 charities. The event also will feature a carnival midway, charity run, kids' play area and musical guests, including classic rock artist Bret Michaels of Poison. On Willow Island at the Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Way, Madison. Admission is free. Visit bratfest.com for more details.

#### WURST TIMES FESTIVAL 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 23

There's something nice about a festival that wears its affection for Dickens puns right on its sleeve (it was the best of times, etc.), but the real reason to like this Madison event is for its commitment to a single day of celebrating Madison through song and brats and beer. In its fifth year, the fest again will partner with the Madison Area Music Association, bringing local artists, including The Mascot Theory, Stop the Clock and Rodeo Burns to the adjoining venues of High Noon Saloon and The Brass Ring, as well as an outdoor stage. At 701 E. Washington St., Madison. \$10 donation requested. Visit wursttimes.com for more information.



#### 'DIRTY DANCING' May 26 to 31

Some stage adaptations of classic films take wide liberties with the source material, reinventing it for better or worse. Not Dirty Dancing. There are tweaks, to be sure some new songs, some stagecraft to suggest the scenes that might otherwise only work on film, and of course, more dancers. But this version of the 1987 film (billed as "The Classic Story on Stage") stays true to its roots. It's a faithful, nostalgic look at one of the greatest films of the 1980s. Because nobody puts Baby in a corner. At Overture Center, 201 State St., Madison. Tickets range from \$40 to \$99 and can be ordered at 608-258-4141 or overturecenter.com.



PHOTO: MATTHEW MURPHY

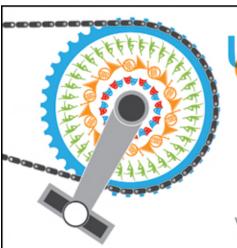


JOHN MULANEY 7 and 9:30 p.m. May 29

OK, so maybe Mulaney didn't work for its titular comic, who played a version of himself trying to make it big as a stand-up comic. But that's fine because John Mulaney already has risen up the comedy ranks in real life, both in the world of stand-up and as an acclaimed writer on SNL. It's not clear where Mulaney goes next in the abstract sense, but in the physical sense, the next place he'll be is right here, for two shows in Milwaukee. At the Pabst Theatre, 144 E. Wells St. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at 414-286-3663 or pabsttheater.org.

#### THE BLACK AND BROWN **COMEDY GET DOWN** 8 p.m. May 29

Seeing six comedians in one night already sounds like a fantastic evening. When those comedians are Cedric "The Entertainer," Mike Epps, Eddie Griffin, D.L. Hughley, George Lopez and Charlie Murphy, you're getting way more than your money's worth. They've been touring the country as part of the Black and Brown Comedy Get Down, and they'll be passing through Milwaukee one night only. At the BMO Harris Bradley Center, 1001 N. Fourth St. Tickets are \$50 or \$72, and can be ordered at bmoharrisbradleycenter.com or 414-227-0400.







#### BE A VITAL PART OF THE PERFORMANCE.

Join us on Sunday, May 31, for UPAF's largest annual fundraising event. Ride and raise pledges to benefit 15 outstanding performing arts groups in Southeastern Wisconsin. With routes from 5 to 66 miles, it's fun for all!

#### Register online at www.UPAFRide.org or in person at:



#### Mequon

11558 N. Port Washington Rd.

Tuesday, May 26 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### **Brookfield**

17630 W. Bluemound Rd.

Wednesday, May 27 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### Milwaukee

1123 N. Van Buren St.

Thursday, May 28, and Friday, May 29 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.







facebook.com/upafrideforthearts

## uf on the town

#### 'THAT SIXTIES SHOW!' 7:30 p.m. May 29 (Madison) and May 30 (Milwaukee)

Madison and Milwaukee's all-male gay and gay-friendly vocal ensembles will team up for this spring concert reflecting on a long-gone time period. In That Sixties Show!, Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus and City of Festivals Men's Choir will perform a variety songs as diverse as the decade, from the British Invasion and Broadway musical numbers to Motown and music of the protest movement. At First Union Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave., Madison, and Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20 and can be ordered at perfectharmonychorus.org.





Five years ago, the Lynden Sculpture Garden opened its doors to the public, allowing everyday people to see the dozens of sculptures collected by Peg Bradley, the wife of Allen-Bradley Corp. co-founder Harry Bradley. This year, they're celebrating with a day of outdoor adventure, kite flying, butterfly garden planting and refreshments from Falafel Guys. John Riepenhoff's "Beer Endowment" for artist-run organizations will offer the first taste of its Green Gallery beer, brewed by Company Brewing. At 2145 Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee. Admission is \$9, \$7 for seniors, students and children. Visit lyndensculpturegarden.org for details.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 30

8 p.m. May 30

Craig Ferguson had to cancel his last Milwaukee gig to film a pilot. But now he's back, and the former Late Late Show comedian and current Celebrity Name Game host will be making up for lost time. He may not have the same national platform, but his Hot and Grumpy Tour retains its best — and funniest elements. At the Riverside Theater, 116 N. Wisconsin Ave. Tickets are \$46 and can be purchased at 414-286-3663 or pabsttheater.org.



#### **UPAF RIDE FOR THE ARTS** May 31

The average bike ride doesn't do anything for the arts. UPAF's does just about everything for the arts. This annual fundraiser. where riders gather pledges and donations before embarking on one of five different routes (from 5 to 66 miles), is responsible for a large portion of the United Performing Arts Fund's annual campaign — the money that keeps the arts companies you love creating, educating and inspiring. Routes are run throughout the day and all end at the Finish Line Party at the Summerfest grounds, with live entertainment and food. Visit events.upaf.org for more details.





## A curated calendar of upcoming events May 21 - June 4



#### CHILL ON THE HILL KICKOFF 6:30 p.m. June 2, 6 p.m. subsequent Tuesdays

Bay View's summer concert series will get a better-than-usual jumpstart with a top-tier local guest: the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. They'll play the inaugural installment of this weekly live music series, their first appearance at Chill on the Hill to date. Guest conductor Brett Mitchell will lead the ensemble in a variety of works, by composers including Wagner, Leonard Bernstein and Duke Ellington. Future Chill on the Hill performances will take place Tuesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. At Humboldt Park Chalet, 3000 S. Howell Ave. Admission is free. Visit bayviewneighborhood.org for more details.



#### **ELSEWHERE IN WIGOUT...**

**'Into the Woods':** An adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's fairy tale epic hit the big screen last year, but if you want the whole story, you need to see the real thing, coming to Milwaukee's Skylight Music Theater. *Through June 14*. See page 30.

**'Held':** Two Madisonians wrap up Broom Street Theatre's 45th season with this musical tale about three friends whose relationship is tested when one's extraordinary powers strand them in a timeless land. *May 29 to June 20.* See page 31.

**'Present Music Nation':** Present Music gives its audience the power in its concluding concert, where everything on the program has been selected via popular vote. *June 5.* See page 33.

#### 'CAMINO REAL' June 3 to 14

Off the Wall Theatre loves a polarizing play. Among the many works of Tennessee Williams, Camino Real may be one that truly fits the bill. Set in a vaguely Latin American country and featuring an eclectic cast of characters including many famous from literature, Camino Real creates a poetic atmosphere of romance and dreams that clashes with the corrupt world around it. Off the Wall director Dale Gutzman has reworked the various versions of Williams' show, which met with mixed success in his lifetime, making it more palatable for his audiences. At 127 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$25 and can be ordered at 414-484-8874 or offthewalltheatre.com.



#### 'ZIEGFELD GIRL' 7:30 p.m. June 3

Once upon a time, Judy Garland, Hedy Lamarr and Lana Turner were all showbiz hopefuls looking to get a big break. So it makes perfect sense that they'd be cast as showbiz hopefuls in Ziegfeld Girl, a 1941 film that chronicles their characters' efforts to join the Ziegfeld Follies. The Charles Allis Art Museum will screen the film in conjunction with its current exhibit: More on Less: The History of Burlesque in America from Lydia Thompson to Amber Ray. At 1801 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$7, \$5 for seniors and students. Visit charlesallis. org for more information.



## A new space, a new beginning!

## Exercising Pride

## PrideFest Health & Wellness

Open Sat. June 6th and Sun. June 7th Noon to 6pm at Milwaukee's PrideFest Henry W. Maier Festival Park (aka the Summerfest Grounds).







ome see the New Health and Wellness Area! Located in the Harley Davidson Stage area on the south end of the grounds!

Visit with community organizations, get informed, enjoy fun activities, and healthy giveaways!



Free HIV Testing Sat. & Sun. Noon-6pm "Where's the Tent?"

BestD testing has moved into the Harley Davidson Area.

SPONSORS













## Order up! It's National Hamburger Day!

#### By Mike Muckian

Contributing writer

Fire up the grill and uncork the condiments. May is National Hamburger Month and May 28 is National Hamburger Day, a time when even the healthiest among us honor the great American tradition of meat and bread and a whole stack of condiments between them.

Many claim credit for inventing the hamburger, but one of the earliest honors goes to "Hamburger Charlie" Nagreen. In 1885 he started selling meatballs tucked between two bread slices to attendees of what was then called the Seymour Fair, now the Outagamie County Fair, in Seymour, southwest of Green Bay. The Seymour Community Historical Society explains that Nagreen named his creation the "Hamburg steak," a dish with which he felt the local German immigrants were familiar.

But as Nagreen first proved, hamburgers are as unique as the person who makes them. Cooks — amateur and professional alike — vie for the title of burger master (or mistress) by offering their own unique spins on an all-American favorite.

And we all have our favorite burgers, made in the style that we grew up with, or some exciting variation we discovered at a pivotal point in our life. To some burger

go to wisconsingazette.com/dining.

#### **GRILLING UP A MILWAUKEE ORIGINAL**

It was a brisk morning as the last of 2014's snow melted when some friends and I decided to spend a Sunday enjoying brunch and then taking a trip to the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, aka "The Domes."

After reading several "Best Bloody Mary" reviews, we were off to Sobelman's Pub and Grill (1900 W. St. Paul Ave., 414-931-1919). The hunt was on for the greatest "bloody." What we found with it was The Big SOB.

For \$12, you can get a three-patty burger, which contains a mountain of American, Swiss and Cheddar cheeses, fried onion, bacon and diced jalapenos. The taste of the burger was juicy, each bite exploding with jalapeno flavor because they dice rather than slice the pepper. The different cheeses, melted and oozy over the patties, made the sandwich sharp and juicy. I ordered sweet potato fries as a side.

I was nervous watching my friends order but, once consumed, the burgers brought contented smiles to our faces. Needless to say, after reaching the Conservatory, I spent my time napping in the desert dome.

Logan McDermott, account executive

#### **RAMPING UP A CLASSIC**

I'm not one for burgers with a lot of fixings. Give me a bun, meat, cheese, ketchup maybe lettuce if I'm feeling healthy.

But I make exceptions when the mood strikes me, and there's one exception that still stays with me. Ironically, it's from a brat house, not a burger joint. The Milwaukee Brat House (1013 N. Old World Third St., 414-273-8709), to be specific, home to a variety of non-sausage items including a monstrous offering called the Wisconsin Burger. For \$9.95, it's a deal for its sheer size.

The Wisconsin Burger still fits my usual style of minimal toppings, but the ones it puts on its half-pound ground steak patty are perfectly selected. A slice of cheddar cheese, savory sautéed red peppers and, best of all, a hearty helping of Wisconsin cheese curds, so many they're spilling out of the bun.

Making my way through that burger was like climbing a mountain — I wasn't sure I was going to make it to the proverbial top and I haven't had the fortitude or fortune to attempt it again. But every bite was worth the journey.

Sometimes you aren't looking for an everyday burger. You're looking for an adventure.

Matthew Reddin, arts editor

#### **SWEET, SAVORY, BUT NOT ALTOGETHER STRANGE**

May starts the season of road trips, and our first this year was to Wollersheim Winery just south of the Wisconsin River and a short 30-minute jaunt north of Madison. But before sampling the latest vintages, we stopped for lunch at The Blue Spoon Creamery & Café (550 Water St., 608-643-0837) in Prairie du Sac just north of the river.

Part of Culver Franchising Systems Inc., the Blue Spoon is a sort of uber-Culver's, with creative cuisine, craft beer and an enviable wine list. That afternoon, one dish stood out from the intriguing menu — the Peanut Butter-Caramel Onion-Pickle Burger. A combination like that just begged to be tasted. At \$8.99 with one side, it teased me out of my comfort zone.

We sat in anticipation on the Blue Spoon's outdoor terrace overlooking the river and breathing the warm spring air, waiting for the burger to arrive.

The 7-ounce patty arrived on a whole grain bun spread with creamy peanut butter, topped with caramel onions and fullsized dill pickle spears and slathered in Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce. My side of choice was baked beans with fresh apple

My burger was both sweet and savory,



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## Greet warm weather with a selection of summer sippers

#### By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Warm weather chases away the winter blues and so should summer cocktails, according to Mike McDonald, a mixologist with the Milwaukee firm Bittercube Bitters. He says there's no time like the present to polish up the glassware, start grating citrus fruits and get down to some serious cocktailing.

"Characteristically, warm-weather cocktails are lighter, brighter and often feature fresh fruits, vegetables and floral components that are starting to reach the markets once again," says McDonald, a Milwaukee native. "I don't think there is anything I would completely stay away from when designing spring and summer cocktails."

McDonald gained his mixology mastery working with Bittercube founders Nicholas Kosevich and Ira Koplowitz, who he says admired his enthusiasm and interest. Bittercube produces six types of cocktail bitters from all-natural ingredients and uses distillates from Madison's Yahara Bay Distillery.

The pair began creating small-batch bitters, an essential cocktail ingredient, by hand in 2010. Bittercube also has consulted with bars and restaurants throughout the Midwest to create unique cocktail programs. Representatives have been known to lend their spirited prowess to trade shows, speakeasy nights and other cocktail events throughout the Midwest.

What is the secret to a successful cocktail? McDonald would tell you it's the use of high-quality ingredients blended in a balanced format. Presenting those ingredients in the proper cocktail glass doesn't hurt, either.

"A successful cocktail should be able



PHOTO: BITTERCUB

Mixologist Mike McDonald of Bittercube says that any cocktail made with high-quality ingredients, properly balanced and properly presented should be successful.

to tell you a story about how it came to be," McDonald says. "All of the ingredients should be thoughtful and work well together. Understanding flavors and how they interact with our sense of taste and smell is essential."

In case of warm-weather libations, the drinkers' mood should help set the mixolo-

gist's pace, McDonald says. "Good warm-weather cocktails are the ones that can deliver us from winter," he adds.

McDonald favors cocktail classics that have stood the test of time, blended with new and exciting flavors for a more nuanced approach. Different gins and rums impart different flavors to the blend, and selection by brand also should be a primary consideration in cocktail creation.

"I think the next trend in cocktails is updating and improving classic concepts like bottled cocktails, complex soda syrups and other aspects," McDonald says. "Herbal extracts, acids and other compounds commonly found in the kitchen are quickly becoming new tools for bartenders and those at the forefront of product creation."

During the warm weather, the drink you will find most often in McDonald's glass is the classic daiquiri. A high-quality rum, blended with fresh lime juice and a sweetener of some kind, goes down very easy, he says.

"It may be obvious by now, but if the cocktail is balanced and the flavors of the ingredients play well together, chances are I'd enjoy it," McDonald says.

Here are some classics redefined and updated by Bittercube to add just the right spirit to your next warm weather gathering.





#### **DAIQUIRI**

2 oz. Twisted Path White Rum .75 oz. fresh-squeezed lime juice .75 oz. simple syrup

Shake, strain through tea strainer. Glass: coupe, sidecar

Glass: coupe, sideca Garnish: lime wheel



#### **TOM COLLINS**

2 oz Rehorst Gin .75 oz. lemon juice .75 oz. simple syrup 2 oz. seltzer 1 dropper Bittercube Cherry Bark Vanilla Bitters

Shake, strain through tea strainer. Glass: collins/highball Garnish: lemon twist



#### **HEMINGWAY DAIQUIRI**

1.75 oz. Plantation 3 Star White Rum .75 oz. grapefruit juice .5 oz. lime juice .75 oz. Luxardo maraschino liqueur .5 oz. simple syrup

Shake, strain through tea strainer. Glass: coupe, sidecar Garnish: lime wheel



#### **FRENCH 75**

1 oz. Citadelle Gin
.5 oz. fresh-squeezed lemon juice
.5 oz. simple syrup
3 oz. sparkling wine
1 dropper Bittercube Jamaican
#1 Bitters

Shake first three ingredients, plus bitters. Add sparkling wine and double strain into fluted glass. Glass: flute Garnish: long lemon twist



#### **OLD FASHIONED**

2 oz. Twisted Path Vodka (80 Proof) .25 oz. \*lavender syrup 2 droppers Bittercube Jamaican #2 Bitters Stir, strain Glass: rocks with ice Garnish: lemon peel



#### **LAVENDER GIMLET**

2 oz. Bombay Sapphire Gin .75 oz. fresh lime juice .75 oz. \*lavender syrup 1 dropper Bittercube Jamaican #2 Bitters Shake, strain through tea strainer. Glass: coupe Garnish: lemon wheel



#### \*LAVENDER SYRUP

24 grams dried lavender 2 cups hot water 2 cups granulated sugar Steep lavender in hot water for five minutes covered. Strain with a chinois (a fine mesh conical sieve) and measure back up to 2 cups. Whisk in 2 cups of sugar slowly.







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## Framing the conversation

Milwaukee's gallery owners build an art community

#### By Kat Minerath

Contributing writer

"Everyone has to do their own bit. Not sit back and wait for other people to do it. Get up off your ass and do it yourself, you're an artist for f\*\*k's sake. Get creative."

So says Clive Promhows, owner of Milwaukee's Live Artists Studio, one of several galleries in the city's artist community. It's advice that illuminates the energy of that community, unified by tenacity and passion.

The Milwaukee art scene is rich with a diverse array of galleries and art venues, but there are distinct changes afoot. The closing of the DeLind Gallery of Fine Art after 46 years, and the forthcoming shuttering of Elaine Erickson Gallery this June will create voids in the wake of their long-established presences. Yet, there are new locations for exhibitions that suggest transformation in the way art intersects with a public audience, and other established galleries are changing too.

But regardless of change, one thing remains the same: Each gallery has its own distinct feel, an individual expression of its owners' vision.

#### THE GALLERY TRADITION

Most conventional, in Milwaukee, are the Tory Folliard Gallery and Dean Jensen Gallery. These two mainstays developed in the Third Ward in the late 1980s, growing as the neighborhood did.

Folliard's interest in art was nurtured by her work as a docent, and she started to take her work home with her — her earliest shows, featuring the work of Guido Brink, took place in her own house. When things got to the point that she was moving furniture to make room for more art, it became clear that a dedicated space was in order.

After several successful exhibitions in Fox Point, Folliard moved to the Third



HOTO: COURTESY

Each of Milwaukee's independent galleries has its own feel — be it traditional, DIY or, like the modular, multi-room Portrait Society Gallery, a little bit of both.

Ward. She has remained there for the past 25 years.

She attributes her longevity to the deep sense of enrichment visual art gives her. "It makes life so enjoyable," Folliard says. "It inspires you, it makes you happy, it changes everything. I can't imagine a blank wall. It just makes your life full in a different way."

Jensen came to gallery ownership from a different direction. Originally a newspaper reporter, his life took a sudden shift after a yearlong fellowship at the University of Michigan, studying Renaissance painting. Returning to his newspaper job, he had an awakening: "From the instant I got off the elevator the first day after that wonderful year in Ann Arbor, I made the decision that I didn't want to do that anymore," he says. "Before the year was out I had a gallery."

Jensen's career as a novelist also demands his attention, but the gallery remains important. "This has been wonderful coming in here each day, sort of like coming into my own little chapel. You get visual stimulation from the work. I spend time with the pictures and everyday see them anew."

The longest-running gallery in the city is the David Barnett Gallery, now in its 48th year. Initiation into the art business came early for Barnett. When he was 16 years old, his family's factory closed, derailing his assumed future with the business. His interest in art took over; three years later he opened his gallery.

Initially, Barnett's focus was on local artists. But several years in, he took out a loan and flew to New York, where he purchased works by Pablo Picasso, Joan Mió, Salvador Dalí and more: an inventory to grow from in subsequent decades.

Barnett's gallery is in a Victorian house on the East Side, and visitors will note the extraordinary diversity of works on view — from historical pieces to contemporary art.

He says these works serve as a reflec-GALLERIES next page

#### **GALLERIES** from prior page

tion of his individuality, rather than diversity for its own sake. "It's based on my own personal beliefs in collecting, philosophy, instinct and passion. ... It's perhaps not a very business-like model but it's the honest one for me which is why I have such a big collection."

#### **BENDING CONVENTIONS**

In 2008, the Portrait Society Gallery filled a 300-square-foot office on the fifth floor of the Marshall Building in the Third Ward. Director Debra Brehmer helped it grow, pushing her exhibitions out of that room and sending them sprawling into the hallway. As they continually increased in scope, they eventually made the leap into adjacent areas as they became available for rental.

These spaces have coalesced into a flexible, multi-room venue, all dedicated to Brehmer's expansive interpretation of portraiture. "I curate the shows out of my own interests and that's the way it's always been," Brehmer says. "I think it's the only thing you can really do to grow and get people used to the idea that there is a sort of a center and a vision. It gives the gallery an identity."

Other art venues take a different approach. Green Gallery, now located on the East Side after a fire destroyed its primary space, has expanded considerably since its establishment in Riverwest in 2004. Director John Riepenhoff began the endeavor while still a student at UWM. "In essence, no one was doing the type of gallery I wanted to see so I just made it happen," he says. "My brother started a recording studio in one room, the gallery was in another room and a music venue was in another room."

One of the guiding principles of Green Gallery is to create a sense of community, and to form a place where ideas can be explored and developed.

"For the Green Gallery we don't narrow what it can be, we open it up," Riepenhoff says. "Sometimes we don't know what the



PHOTO: COURTESY

#### David Barnett Gallery, now the city's oldest, is a diverse gallery in a Victorian house on the East Side of Milwaukee.

work looks like until we're actually in the space. The opening is happening and there's a certain kind of presence in the air and in the work. Sometimes it's years later that I really learn about the depths of what a show was about. For us it's about a nowness, being very current, being present, and very open to the possibilities of what art can be and not what our expectations have been."

Clive Promhows' Live Artists Studio is driven by a model of deliberate scarcity. Promhows embraces visual culture, drama, music and all manner of creative endeavors, but many of them are only held for a single day or a couple of nights. "The real good stuff, you gotta get in there quick," he says.

These single-night and limited-run engagements, growing more common among other galleries and groups as well, have become important for showcasing his work and promoting many other artists in often monumental exhibitions. In the last

five-and-a-half years, Promhow has hosted 45 to 50 shows in the studio, on the fourth floor of an old industrial building in Walker's Point. It intrigued him from the start. "I thought, I have no idea what's going to happen here, but I'm going to do my best," he says.

Being outside of a formal gallery structure is also a point of liberation. Promhows says, "We've got nothing to lose, we've got no one to please. There's so much hidden talent in this town. Huge. With art, with music, with acting, with film. It's just a question of elevating people's attitude."

#### **RECENT AMBITIONS**

Making a physical location for things to happen also motivates some of the newer galleries on the scene, including Usable Space, initiated by Keith Nelson about two years ago in Bay View.

His background as an artist, as well as 10 years spent as a preparator at the Milwaukee Art Museum (where he still works freelance), gives Nelson a unique curatorial approach. He calls himself a "facilitator," offering exhibition opportunities for others.

"I started Usable Space knowing that it's not going to be a profitable business that can generate its own funding," Nelson says. "Another thing that was important to me was to have artists curate, and bring in artists from outside of Milwaukee. I didn't want it to just be a local scene thing. I've had artists from New York, Chicago and L.A. alongside artists from Milwaukee, so it shows that what is going on in Milwaukee is

relevant to what is going on in all the big art centers, too."

Six shows are held at Usable Space yearly, monthly from April to September. The location's logistics (the gallery is a converted garage) preclude winter exhibitions.

Equally inventive is the new gallery space opened by Mike Brenner, a veteran of the local scene still known for his edgy Hotcakes Gallery, which was open from 2004 to 2008. Brenner's recent ambitions offer another alternative for the promotion of art. He's opened a new brewery in Walker's Point, Brenner Brewing Company, that features and facilitates an adjoining art gallery and studio space: The Pitch Project.

Overseen by Jason Yi and Sonja Thomsen, The Pitch Project serves as a network of 22 artists' studios, as well as exhibition space. It's an effort by them and Brenner to integrate art spaces into the community. Brenner is also incorporating original, contemporary art into the packaging of his beer, with designs by artists including Sue Lawton, Erin Paisley-Steuber and James "Jimbot" Demski on new products.

Brenner says there are challenges to this joining of art and commerce, but he sees this as something more than product promotion. "You hope that eventually people do see the value in it and it pays off. And then we can continue to do it and grow it and make even more good for the community."

It's a mission that echoes the missions of so many other gallery operators throughout the city, even as each frames their galleries in their own individual way.

#### **CURRENT/UPCOMING GALLERY EXHIBITIONS**

#### **TORY FOLLIARD GALLERY**

233 N. Milwaukee St. 'Mark Forth: Modern Ballads' 'Harold Gregor: Midwestern Master' May 29 to July 4

#### **DEAN JENSEN GALLERY**

759 N. Water St. 'Great Impressions IV: An Exhibition of Contemporary Prints'

'Gérard Sendrey: Constantly Inconstant '

Through June 14.

#### **DAVID BARNETT GALLERY**

1024 E. State St. 'Kiki's Paris' Through July 18.

#### **PORTRAIT SOCIETY GALLERY**

207 E. Buffalo St., Fifth Floor
'Wis-Con-Sin': Eugene Von Bruenchenhein, J. Shimon & J. Lindemann,
Charles Van Schaick
June 12 to Aug. 30.

#### **GREEN GALLERY**

1500 N. Farwell Ave.
'Kim Miller'
""Democrats, Republicans, Capitalists
and Creeps" ... and You'
Through June 13.

#### **USABLE SPACE**

1950b S. Hilbert St. 'Where Does It Go Now? New Paintings by Annie Hémond Hotte' Exhibition opens May 22.

#### **LIVE ARTISTS STUDIO**

228 S. First St., Suite 302
'The Carol Show 2: Pastel Drawings
by Carol Rode-Curley'
Exhibition opens May 22.

#### BRENNER BREWING COMPANY THE PITCH PROJECT

706 S. 5th St.
'Pyrite Suns, Miner's Dollars': An
Installation by Aspen Mays
June 12 to Sept. 12



# 'Wisconsin Pastorale' depicts a regional artist's earliest successes

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Even standing at the back of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, the viewer can't help but be drawn to "The Homestead," an oil painting by Wisconsin regional artist Lois Ireland. The work lacks the inner luminescence of Ireland's other works, but the clarity of the objects against the pallid landscape draws the eye for that exact reason.

The 1944 painting evokes the country-side of Grant Wood, Thomas Hart Benton and John Steuart Curry, the latter of whom was instrumental in forwarding Ireland's career. A man and his dog walk through pale fields that brown with the season toward a simple farmstead that stands out against the white clouds and barely blue sky.

The colors are pale, yet the lines are strong and surprises of detail, like a broad tree's shadow on the russet-colored shed, speaks to a world complete in its simplicity. All are characteristics of American regional art, in which Waunakee-native Ireland's paintings of her home state play a distinct, if not remarkable role.

Wisconsin Pastorale: The Early Paintings of Lois Ireland consists of 20 of Ireland's works, filling one of the galleries at MMoCA, located inside Overture Center for the Arts. The works will be on display through July 19.

Now 87 and living near the Twin Cities, Ireland is still painting, these days mostly pastels. However, the MMoCA retrospective focuses exclusively on Ireland's pastorals painted during the 1940s, a time when regional art was at its height — just before it would be eclipsed by the abstract works of Jackson Pollack and other artists of the 1950s.

Ireland was just 14 in 1942, when Curry first saw her paintings on display inside a steakhouse in Westport just north of Madison. Ireland was already part of the Wisconsin Rural Arts Program and Curry was the artist-in-residence at UW-Madison. Ireland enrolled in the UW's art department after graduating from high school and, under Curry's mentoring, developed a distinct style as a regional artist.

ity. All are characteristics of American regional art, in which Waunakee-native Ireland's paintings of her home state play a distinct, if not remarkable role.

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Lois Ireland's "The Homestead" is a prime example of her regional art style, with its detailed yet simplistic depiction of life in the American countryside.

ity and wonderful sense of color," says MMoCA curator Richard H. Axsom. "Her subject was the rural countryside and its seasonal calendar, whose bucolic character she lyrically celebrated."

Ireland's celebration of the Wisconsin countryside was part of a school of realism that emerged during the '30s and '40s, Axsom says. In 1949, Ireland moved to New York for a year to enroll in the Art Students League, but returned to Wisconsin a year later to pursue her career as a regional artist.

However, regionalism's prominence began to fade in the 1950s, making it more difficult for a small-town Wisconsin girl whose mentor had passed away (Curry died in 1946). She turned away from art and, in 1958, she married John Zwettler, an Oconomowoc barber. With him she raised two children and assumed the duties of a mid-20th century housewife.

But in the 1970s, Ireland returned to painting, exhibiting some of her works at

the Fanny Garver Gallery on Madison's State Street. Her talent remained, as did her distinctive regional style.

Regionalism of the type that Ireland painted is still around, but it is not considered mainstream art, Axsom says. Wisconsin remains a hub for it, and examples of it are frequently featured in an annual Art Calendar produced by the Dane County Arts Commission.

"They pretty much always sell out," Axsom says of the calendars, "which means there is still a fondness for regionalism. This is often good art."

#### **ON DISPLAY**

Wisconsin Pastorale: The Early Paintings of Lois Ireland will be on display at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, 227 State St., through July 19. For more information, visit mmoca.org.



## Fantastic fandoms get the museum treatment at RAM

#### By Larry Zamba

Contributing writer

Most art exhibitions show works from a movement or artist of the past, or perhaps a contemporary portrait of what's going on in the world of art today. In comparison, the Racine Art Museum's new exhibit is literally out of this world.

A Whole Other World: Subculture Craft is a show that orbits around fantastic fandoms in the realm of speculative fiction, like science fiction, superheroes and steampunk. The works included in A Whole Other World, by 26 artists (nine from Wisconsin and one international artist), reenvision pop-culture sci-fi icons or explore their own fantasy world.

Lena Vigna, the curator of the exhibition — herself a fan of Batman, Wonder Woman and *Doctor Who* — says, "I'm holding up a lens to the human condition, trying to provide a framework of art that doesn't feel esoteric — rather more appealing to the general public."

#### **SCI-FI**

Science fiction is an important artistic genre, because its ripple effect can predict future innovations in science and engineering. At its best, science fiction forces us to ask, "How do we create a positive future by retro-engineering a social or technological future that hasn't happened yet?"

Science fiction is always painted against a background of change, but the actions its protagonists take to change their world for the better can differ.

Doctor Who and Star Wars could fall on opposite ends of that. An action movie series at heart, Star Wars celebrates combat and strife as the way to vanquish evil.

#### **ON DISPLAY**

A Whole Other World: Subculture Craft at the Racine Art Museum runs May 24 through Sept. 6. RAM admission is \$5, \$3 for students and seniors and free for children under 12 and members. Guests who visit in cosplay (dressed in character) will receive free admission throughout the exhibit's duration. Visit ramart.org for more information.



Doctor Who's scripts believe in embracing the differences that make you unique, and emphasize intelligence over brute force to win the day.

A reimagining of familiar characters and artifacts from both franchises can be found at the museum. Jamie Kratz-Gullickson of Beaver Dam creates felted *Star Wars* characters from local sheep's wool. Thomas Richner presents a new 5-foot long cardboard replica of the Millennium Falcon alongside an almost-to-scale papier-mâché R2-D2. Whovians will probably delight in Kristy Daum's 6' x 8' stitched quilt, "The Tenth." (If you have to ask, you're obviously not a fan.)

#### **SUPERHEROES**

Many have a love affair with superheroes — endowed with extraordinary powers, we may love them more than we love ourselves, for they are who we want to be.

They inhabit an emotional world and a destiny that only few can truly understand. Subtlety rarely enters the storyline. All that's needed are lots of primary colors, bold type, love, fear, hate and a few explosions.

Artist Mark Newport flies against clichéd superhero concepts. He constructs full-body superhero costumes, both for traditional heroes and his own creations: the Sweatermen and friends like Argyleman

Vigna says the suits pose the question of "Where do we look for heroes?" and ventures her own guess at an answer. "We look at superheroes as strong, but these (costumes) are saggy. He calls them real heroes and compares them to real people



in his life. His Uberdad costume is an example that asks, 'What does it mean to be a man? If I put this costume on would I feel like a hero?'"

#### **STEAMPUNK**

Originating as a role-playing fantasy, "steampunk" is defined as a stylistic genre inspired simultaneously by Victorian England, the Wild West and futuristic technology. Steampunk outfits overflow with overly mechanized devices and feature intricate design aesthetics. Tesla coils, multiple gears and pressure relief valves that may or may not have some important function are common artistic choices.

Steampunk embraces a broad lifestyle and creative vision, occasionally mixing the digital with the handmade. It is a fashion and lifestyle movement — sustainable, gritty, analog and salvaged, a fantasy often imagined by artists to exist in a postapocalyptic or dystopian world.

But steampunk is different for each individual creator. Steampunk-influenced fashion designer Silversärk (aka Stephanie Schultz) says that, "To me, (steampunk) is about taking inspiration from every resource imaginable, and making a tangible, wearable piece of art to reflect the time period or event, or encapsulate the designer's thoughts and emotions, much like a painting."

Milwaukee fiber artist and Project Runway alum Timothy Westbrook also



BHOTOS: COLIBTES

Thomas Richner's replicas of Star Wars iconography, Marcia Docter's Spider-Manthemed painting and Creek Van Houten's "Steampunk Capelet" are just a few of the works on display at RAM's new exhibit.

will have work featured in the exhibition, although he is exploring "reverse steampunk" — re-contextualizing antiquated technology in a modern context. "I believe that regressing technologically will allow us to progress socially," Westbrook says.

Westbrook's contributions to the exhibit include four gowns created from repurposed materials, three of which were recently on display at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. "What I'm suggesting is in 2220 we could be using items from the past to create a more sustainable present," Westbrook says. "My work examines the expiration date of stuff. For example, I'm into using cassette tape, eight-track and reel-to-reel audio-tape as a woven fabric. I'm rescuing these abandoned memories to reincarnate them into elegant wearables."



## Skylight journeys 'Into the Woods' to end its season

#### By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

For an entire season, Skylight Music Theatre has been building a strong foundation of fairy tales, where Cinderellas and Dorothys can set out on an adventure with pure hearts and return having unequivocally vanquished the evil in their midst.

With their final show, *Into the Woods*, things aren't so simple anymore. The musical, composed by Stephen Sondheim with James Lapine writing the book, depicts a variety of characters from classic fairy tales — Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, the archetypal Witch and Jack (of beanstalk fame) to name a few — as they work to make their wishes come true. Then it shows what happens next.

"The first act is seeing the traditional fairy tale characters pursuing their wishes selfishly," says director Edwin Cahill, making his first appearance with the company since serving as the associate director with Skylight artistic director Viswa Subwaraman on Fidelio in 2013. "The second act is

actually what happens after 'ever after,' and discovering that if you only focus on yourself, catastrophic results arrive."

If the story sounds familiar despite you not being a Sondheim buff, that's probably thanks to the Disney film adaptation that hit movie theaters at the end of 2014, starring major actors like Anna Kendrick, Emily Blunt and Meryl Streep.

But don't think having seen that means you should avoid the Skylight's production. Cahill says the cinematic adaptation, while good, takes notable liberties with its source material — jettisoning important characters and songs while abandoning the binary, two-act

structure that makes the musical so effective on comic and dramatic levels. "If you haven't seen the movie, and it's just brand recognition, that's great for getting people to see us. But if you did see the movie and you thought, 'It was good, but I don't know if I want to revisit that movie again,' I would highly suggest (you) come and see this. So much was distilled."

More to the point, Cahill had his vision for the piece in place long before Sondheim's score spilled forth from projectors nationwide. A longtime fan of Sondheim who was fortunate enough to work with him as an actor in the 2005 revival of *Sweeney Todd*, Cahill has had his eye on *Into the Woods* for a long time, and is directing it for the first time with the mostly local Skylight cast.

He says his production could be seen as centering around the message of "No One Is Alone," one of the show's songs. "For me, (that's) the thesis of this whole show ... and not in the traditional, mawkish sense, of reassurance. But in the sense of, 'Your

actions have direct effect on your neighbors, your family and your community.' And that's a really powerful message."

Community was at the forefront of Cahill's decision about how to present Into the Woods' only nonfairy tale characters: the Baker and Baker's Wife. In the original Broadway production, he says, the couple was presented as an urban couple of the time — aka: New Yorkers, Upper West Siders perhaps, very much unlike 21st century Midwesterners. His duo (Jonathan

Altman and Karen Estrada) are much more like the Milwaukeeans of today, complete with stand mixers, a touch of emphasis on their Middle American accents and



PHOTOS: ROSS ZENTNER

Into the Woods depicts an eclectic cast of fairy tale characters — and a modern Midwestern couple (center and inset left) — as they chase their wishes, with catastrophic results.

visual callouts to co-ops like Outpost in their costumes.

Also important to Cahill was exploring exactly what fairy tales mean to a community, and why they've persisted over hundreds, even thousands of years. "I think the magic that both fairy tales and musicals hold for an audience is understanding oneself better, both by laughing at oneself and also seeing some of the faults that we all have, the weaknesses," he says.

The problem, he says, is in most modern fairy tales, which sanitize the dark, violent elements in favor of the happy moments — in Disney's classic *Cinderella*, for instance, there's a handsome prince and a beautiful gown, but no sawing off of toes in the effort to squeeze wicked stepsisters' feet into slippers. He sees it as a particularly American instinct to protect children, but one that ironically leaves them unexposed to the evils of the real world and unable to act morally as adults.

"I would argue," he says, "that to have fully

integrated children, it's better for them to see how people can go awry, but if you make good choices, you can get yourself back on track. It's not all over."

That's part of the reason he believes any child who can sit through the two-and-a-half hour musical is well-equipped to see the dark, serious second act as well as the happier first act, the only one included in the so-called "Junior" version often performed by high schools or amateur theaters.

Without its second half, *Into the Woods* has no moral core — and everyone knows it's the lesson you learn that's the important part of any fairy tale.

#### **ON STAGE**

Skylight Music Theatre's production of *Into the Woods* runs through June 14 at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Tickets start at \$23 and can be purchased at 414-291-7800 or skylightmusictheatre.org.





## **New Broom Street musical aims for emotional impact**

#### **Bv Michael Muckian**

Contributing writer

Madison's Broom Street Theater is celebrating the end of its 45th season with an original musical by two veteran Madison artists taking their first few steps into theater.

Held tells the tale of three friends, one with extraordinary powers. They find themselves trapped in a place where time stands still and the only way out is unthinkable. The play explores the nature of relationships and what holds the trio together, following a twisted timeline to its inevitable conclusion.

This is only the second original production for the play's creators, Kelly Maxwell (book and lyrics) and Meghan Rose (music). But the pair has a history of working together: They are half of Little Red Wolf, an all-female indie rock quartet (Maxwell plays guitar, Rose plays piano).

With their background in theatrical performance and composition, the pair has taken its creative muse in new directions at Madison's oldest experimental theater.

Maxwell and Rose recently filled *Wisconsin Gazette* in on the particulars of the production and their creative process.

#### How did Held first come about?

**Kelly Maxwell:** The show originated as one of five short musicals that were conceived, written, rehearsed and performed within just one week's time for *Are We Delicious?*: *Musical Fantasy*. In that production, everybody wrote, everybody acted, and nobody rested until the final curtain.

Meg and I were randomly paired up by the draw of a card, and the moment we were matched I felt a spark of excitement light up inside of me. I knew something special was about to happen.

#### Does Held have a specific message?

**Maxwell:** There were two themes that were important to me as I wrote the show.

The first is the idea that within our most intimate relationships, our friendships and

partnerships, we have to allow for change. The idea of a lifelong friendship or a lifelong love is seductive and beautiful, but people need to grow. True friends should be like sunlight for each other, encouraging growth.

The other is the importance of effectively expressing anger. Personally, I have had trouble with this for as long as I can remember. Something pisses me off and my anger sits there in the center of my abdomen like acid, churning and hot, until eventually my body just absorbs it. Sometimes I feel like all the rage I have ever felt is still present in my body. I don't think I ever learned how to be mad and sometimes that's just what we need to do to get the rage out.

#### Do the two of you, singly or collectively, have a personal creative ethos?

**Meghan Rose:** We are both fans of harmony, literally and figuratively. In Little Red Wolf we always prided ourselves on our vocal harmonies and writing for the musical was no different.

In the figurative sense, to keep harmony within our friendship and our work was very important and guided our process. Trusting each other is huge, too. We had an advantage knowing each other so well that trust was already there, but it's a different thing when it's just two of you.

Maxwell: I believe in saying yes. I believe in discovering the story, rather than creating it. I believe in collaboration, and in choosing my collaborators very carefully. I see myself as a student, always. I learn from everyone.

#### What would you like the audience to take away from *Held?*

**Maxwell:** We are hoping for emotional resonance. We are trying to pluck those strings of poignancy running through people's souls, and I hope our audiences are truly moved.

When we got the cast together for the first time, I asked them to each bring photos of themselves with someone who was once





Meghan Rose (left) and Kelly Maxwell are collaborators on Broom Street's Held.

their best friend, but is not anymore. We shared the stories of our friendships and why they ended. This is a potent subject, one with which I think most of our audience will be able to identify.

**Rose:** The audience can expect to be very moved by the emotions in the story and the music. I hope they fall in love with the characters, the songs, and I hope they are transported to another world for the hour and fifteen minutes they are in the theater.

Admittedly, I always want to make people cry with my songwriting, and the story definitely serves that purpose as well. It may

seem morbid, but my goal is to not have a dry eye in the house. I want the audience to have those kind of silent tears that fall because something is beautiful. It means something really resonated, which is what theater is all about.

#### **ON STAGE**

Broom Street Theater's production of *Held* by Kelly Maxwell and Meghan Rose runs May 29 to June 20 at 1119 Williamson St. in Madison. Tickets are \$11 and can be purchased at bstonline.org.





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## Present Music lets its 'Nation' pick its latest program

#### **By Kirstin Roble**

Contributing writer

This June, Present Music will end its season with a great evening of music. The twist? None of the audience members have any idea what they'll be coming to

Present Music Nation is the ensemble's second version of this "choose-your-ownconcert" format. They first tested it with Choose, a concert in June 2012 that also featured a program of audience-selected pieces.

Audience development manager Erin Woehlke said in a recent phone interview that the good reception of Choose gave artistic director Kevin Stalheim the encouragement to plan for a similar show, when the time came. "The concert fit the theme of this season, so we decided to go ahead with it," she says.

Present Music Nation will cap Present Music's 33rd season. The company was founded in 1982, and works with contemporary composers to develop and create new music for Milwaukee. Despite being a locally driven music organization with a large Milwaukee fanbase, Present Music has grown to perform both nationally and internationally, and has won numerous accolades and honors in recent years.

Concerts like Present Music Nation require a very different sort of preparation than a regular show — after all, even of their first performances back. "We're

staff members didn't know what would be a part of the concert until recently.

Present Music's voting process took place largely online in late April and early May, with the group posting possible selections on its Facebook page and sending out information to mailing lists as well. Fans had the opportunity to listen to all the pieces suggested and then vote for their favorites in an online forum, unable to see the results or even what pieces were currently leading the votes.

June's concert will showcase the voting results, as well as create a show that reflects the audience Present Music has cultivated over the last 33 years.

"Present Music Nation is a great embodiment of the organization," explained Woehlke. "So much of what we do is community-centered. We pride ourselves on really being a community within the Milwaukee scene. Present Music Nation lets our audience, our community, become involved with the development of a concert and that is really special."

There is one thing those attending can count on seeing for sure. The concert will include a performance by the Calamity Janes and the Fratney Street Band, a Milwaukee-based folk and bluegrass

The group has been on a brief hiatus, and Present Music Nation marks one excited to have the Calamity Janes onboard," says Woehlke. "They're a great group that produces fantastic music it's an added bonus for audience members to have them performing with us."

Woehlke was able to divulge another small clue though: The concert will include a piece by Present Music's new community engagement project, ComposeMilwaukee.

"As for anything other selections or how voting turned out," Woehlke says, "I am not allowed to say. You will have to attend the concert yourself and find out!"



Present Music Nation will be performed at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. June 5 at Hot Water Wherehouse, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$15, with a half-off discount for students. Visit presentmusic.org to order.



Present Music Nation will conclude the company's 33rd season.

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# The Weepies turn a year of struggle into a powerful return to form

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

Celebrated folk-pop duo The Weepies, composed of married couple Deb Talan and Steve Tannen, will kick off their latest concert tour May 29 at Madison's historic Majestic Theatre. It's a tour in support of *Sirens*, their first new full-length studio album in five years. And it's been a hectic five years.

Since releasing *Be My Thrill* in 2010, the couple has moved to lowa, had a third child and faced Talan's diagnosis of breast cancer in 2013. But with her cancer in remission, the band is back on the road and showing their talents in new venues — including, unexpectedly, the BMI Pop Awards.

They were there, Tannen says, at the request of pop artist Pink, who was being honored by the licensing organization with the President's Award at this year's event, held on May 12. She got to pick the acts that opened for her, and the Weepies, along with Brandi Carlile, were the ones to get the call.

Tannen says it was a stressful experience, especially considering he doesn't "get" award ceremonies, but he and Talan acquitted themselves well on a performance of Pink's "F\*\*king Perfect."

But now that the show is behind them, he and Talan can focus on their own work — considered by critics to be a strong return to form. Tannen says he and Talan recorded *Sirens* in their new home, a welcome change from years of renting apartments in New York or Los Angeles.

Tannen says the couple are "hermits by nature" and the big cities where they spent the past 15 years weren't conducive to that. lowa City was always on their radar, a place where they'd performed frequently and had

friends. Years prior, as they had their first children, Tannen says the couple joked that "(they) should just buy a house in lowa."

When they actually started looking, after Talan learned she was pregnant with the couple's third child, they weren't so single-minded. They visited eight cities, considering the pros and cons of each. But when they experienced a "magical vibe" pulling up to their new home and found themselves talking to neighborhood children about items as specific as where the best sledding hill was, lowa City became the obvious choice. Shortly after they moved in, they set up a studio in the attic and recorded *Sirens*.

The Weepies have stated in previous interviews that they associate the sound of their albums with their cover art and *Sirens* is no different. While she was battling cancer, Talan investigated how other cultures deal with such a huge life issue. One of the cultures she studied was of the island of Bali, in Indonesia, and she found herself increasingly interested in Balinese sirens, or mermaids. It's common for her to doodle or create etchings during the recording process and, as time passed, her drawings of them became a visual theme that defined their recording process.

While Talan's battle shaped much of the album, the couple wrote many of its songs before her diagnosis, although that didn't keep the occasional strange coincidence from peeking through. In "No Trouble," for example, Talan sings "I don't need no trouble, but sometimes trouble needs me" — lyrics written only weeks before her diagnosis. "It still keeps me up at night," Tannen says, although he adds that while he's spiritual, he doesn't truly believe the lyrics were a predic-



Married duo Steve Tannen and Deb Talan will kick off their new tour in Madison.

tion, or that you can dream ahead of time.

Still, he says the experience has changed the way he'll look at songwriting going forward, deciding that he'll only write about "where everyone's happy, there's always peace, and we all live forever."

With Talan being declared cancer-free last year, Tannen says the group is in a celebratory mood. "Deb is fighting trim," he says. "She's in such great shape."

He expects that will carry through to the mood of the tour, of which Madison is the first stop. They'll be joined by Pete Thomas, the drummer for Elvis Costello's band The Attractions (who also is featured on *Sirens*), and will have a six-person band in total — just for fun. "We wanna have fun," Tannen says. "We feel like it's a return to the world ... and we're going to go for as long as they will let us on stage."

#### ON STAGE

The Weepies will perform at Madison's Majestic Theatre at 8:30 p.m. on May 29. Tickets are \$25, \$28 day-of-show, and can be purchased at 608-255-0901 or majesticmadison.com.





### The Sets List



#### **LAKE STREET DIVE**

8 p.m. May 27 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$20, \$22 day of show. pabsttheater.org.

If you love the Beatles as much as Motown but your musical skills run more to jazz, you might be in Lake Street Dive. This quartet has been performing together off and on for more than a decade, but it's only in the last few years that they've prioritized this work over their other bands. It's paying off: They've learned to put together a heck of a live show, backed by enviably groovy tunes. The Congress, another rock and roll act known for strong live shows, will open.



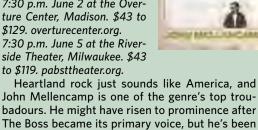
#### THE MOWGLI'S

8 p.m. June 4 at the Majestic Theater, Madison. \$20. majesticmadison.com.

They may have three members originally from points further east, but The Mowgli's are quintessential California. Making their mark with the peppy single "San Francisco" in 2013, the band has developed a sunshine pop sensibility that they refine with each successive album and show. Increasingly, their music is taking on the tone of the journey they're on, especially with new single "I'm Good," a percussive, unforgettable anthem. Milwaukee indie-electronic band Vinyl Theatre will open.

#### JOHN MELLENCAMP

7:30 p.m. June 2 at the Overture Center, Madison. \$43 to \$129. overturecenter.org. 7:30 p.m. June 5 at the Riverside Theater, Milwaukee. \$43



John Mellencamp is one of the genre's top troubadours. He might have risen to prominence after The Boss became its primary voice, but he's been able to say more than a few things in his time, with hits like "Hurts So Good," "Pink Houses," "Small Town," and "Jack & Diane." Although his biggest hits may have come at the beginning of his near-40-year career, he's still talking, touring in support of his 20th album Plain Spoken straight through the heart of America. Tickets come with a digital download code for a free copy of Plain Spoken.



8 p.m. May 31 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$25. pabsttheater.org.

Britain has a long tradition of talented electronic, synthpoppy music artists who don't always get the attention they deserve: Pet Shop Boys, Gary Numan, Brian Eno. Consider adding Hot Chip to the list. The band was leading the charge for a synthpop revival long before the real revival happened. So 15 years after their founding they've got six albums to their name (including Why Make Sense?, released in the U.K. earlier this month) and a cult fanbase that's sure to tune in for their Turner Hall show.

#### **ARCHIE POWELL & THE EXPORTS**

9 p.m. May 29 at the Frequency, Madison. \$6, \$8 day of show. madisonfrequency.com.

Power pop is alive and well and living in Archie Powell & The Exports. Composed of the titular lead singer and three Export brothers to round out the lineup, the Chicago-based quartet has been rocking out since 2009, fueled by beer and a passion for honest lyrics and noisy riffs. They'll bring their high-energy live act north of the border for a spell, with Madison acts Heavy Looks and Little Legend opening.



#### **CAGE THE ELEPHANT**

8 p.m. June 5 at the Orpheum Theater, Madison. \$30, \$33 day of show. madisonorpheum.com.

The word "melophobia" means "fear of music," so it was really strange to see it as the title of Cage the Elephant's newest album. But for the band, it was more about fear of making music for the wrong reason, after the group took a few months off and reunited to discover they had completely opposite visions of what their musical direction should be. The album reflected those dichotomies, branching out from Cage the Elephant's core sound with bluesy rhythms, soulful sounds and occasionally pure, raw energy. With almost two years of touring to support it and a new record planned, it's safe to say Cage the Elephant isn't afraid anymore.

#### **Music reviews**

#### **BRANDON FLOWERS:: 'THE DESIRED EFFECT'**

Brandon Flowers is best known as lead vocalist for The Killers, but he's gone solo before, on 2010's Flamingo. For



his second effort, he enlisted producer Ariel Rechtshaid, who worked with Vampire Weekend on Modern Vampires of the City. The Desired Effect is an album of big pop-rock anthems about questions of morality and ambition. One of the album's best moments is the appearance of the Pet Shop Boys' Neil Tennant via a voicemail message. The segment is brilliantly worked into

"I Can Change," built on an instrumental sample from Bronski Beat's "Smalltown Boy." The Desired Effect is filled with the hooks we expect from Flowers but Rechtshaid helps him take the next step: to be memorable and, frequently, exciting.

#### **EMMYLOU HARRIS AND RODNEY CROWELL:: 'THE TRAVELING KIND'**

Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell first joined forces when he performed in her Hot Band in the 1970s. Since,



both have become Americana leaders in their own right. They reunited two years ago, for the Grammy-winning album Old Yellow Moon. The Traveling Kind serves as a follow-up. It's not flashy; instead it's a deeply satisfying collaboration between two unassuming legends. Highlights include the oldfashioned honky-tonk of "If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home Now," a rock-

edged cover of Lucinda Williams' "I Just Wanted To See You So Bad," and the warmly engaging title song, co-written with Appleton's Cory Chisel.

#### **FATHER JOHN MISTY :: 'I LOVE YOU, HONEYBEAR'**

Three years ago, Joshua Tillman left Fleet Foxes and

string section on the title song to the

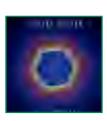
evolved into Father John Misty. But he says the change was actually him shedding his sad songwriter persona to be himself. If that's so, I Love You, Honeybear is like a concept album about Father John Misty. Its material is highly personal and highly arresting, from the weeping

> laugh track welded onto "Bored In the USA." Sarcastic humor is everywhere including a swipe at his previous

stage incarnation, "The Night Josh Tillman Came To Our Apt." I Love You, Honeybear is the exciting sound of a gifted artist setting himself free.

#### **PAUL WELLER :: 'SATURNS PATTERN'**

Paul Weller is a pop legend who remains little known this side of the Atlantic. As leader of The Jam in the



'70s, he helped bridge punk and new wave. Then he put together the jazzpop lounge band Style Council in the 1980s, earning his biggest U.S. successes. Since 1992, he has released 11 consecutive top 10 albums in the U.K. Saturns Pattern varies wildly, but it all has the feel of a mature legend at work. The heavy rock of "White Sky" could please Jimi Hendrix. "Going My Way"

sounds like a 1970s AM pop radio outtake. "Long Time" suggests Weller has been listening to Iggy and the Stooges. There is no better time for discerning U.S. pop music fans to discover this living legend.

— Bill Lamb

## Rhinelander arts workshops build community

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

One of Wisconsin's oldest arts education programs, the Rhinelander School of the Arts, soon will begin its 52nd year. The July 17-19 weekend will feature workshops in visual, culinary, writing and performing arts.

This program is no ordinary weekend workshop. Over five decades, the northwoods getaway has helped draw powerhouse authors to its faculty, including Robert Bly, Archibald MacLeish, Studs Terkel, Dale Wasserman and Marc Connelly, the playwright and a member of the legendary New York circle of wits, the Algonquin Round Table.

"One of the things that we've been able to continue through all these years is this underlying sense of community," says program director Lynn Tarnoff. "It's a great space for people to really take risks and share their souls with one another."

As much a summer artists' colony as an organization, the Rhinelander School of the Arts has drawn participants and instructors from across the country. Its former artist in residence, the late August Derleth, is perhaps best known today for rescuing the works of H.P. Lovecraft from obscurity, and for expanding Lovecraft's "Cthulu mythos," an elaborate series of stories in the genre of Gothic fiction.

Jerry Apps was first a student, then a teacher, and today is one of Wisconsin's best-known authors. A documentary based on his book, *A Farm Story*, aired on PBS in 2013.

"I taught various nonfiction courses from article writing to book writing and lots of other topics from 1971 to 2003," he recalls. "I met hundreds of wonderful writers from all walks of life. Some would become well-known writers. Others were happy to write something for their family."

The goal always has been to encourage the artist in everyone. Today arts workshops are everywhere but when it was founded in 1964, the Rhinelander School of the Arts was a rarity, nationally and certainly in Wisconsin.

The school is operated by the UW-Extension. For many years it was two weeks long, but modern students prefer a shorter schedule. Workshops are pitched at varying levels, so participants can create at the pace that's right for them. Everyone is welcome, from newcomers to professionals.

And then there are those who attend for reasons other than learning.

"I remember fondly the Twin Cities woman who was in my class one year," says Apps. "I asked students to say a word or two about what they hoped to gain from my workshop — why they were enrolled. Most said something about their writing goals, large and small. But the Twin Cities woman said, 'Oh, I don't want to write anything, I just like being



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Rhinelander School of the Arts has been teaching students for half a century.

around writers."

Financial aid is available. For more information, visit continuingstudies.wisc.edu/conferences.

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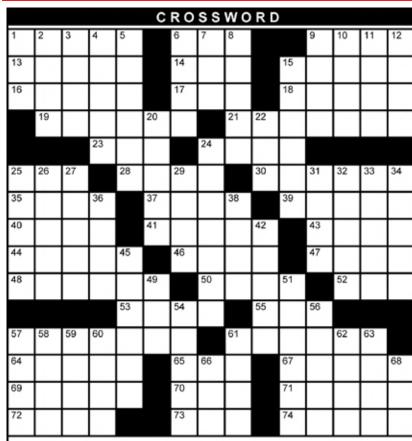
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- 65. Anger or wrath
- 67. Less wild
- 69. Soil for cultivation
- 70. Sailor's assent
- 71. Clear the blackboard
- 72. Eye affliction
- 73. Albanian money
- 74. As opposed to owns

#### **DOWN**

- 1. \*TV's friendly alien
- 2. Den
- 3. Marine eagle
- 4. Relating to uvea
- 5. Walmart competitor
- 6. \*Location of hostage crisis
- 7. \*Ted Turner's TV addition
- 8. Brazilian dance
- 9. Deep wound
- 10. \*\_\_\_\_ Whelchel of Facts of Life
- 11. Purse to match a gown
- 12. Ogler
- 15. Woody polymer
- 20. Temples' innermost sanctuaries
- 22. Aggravate
- 24. At or near the top
- 25. \*Assassinated Egyptian President
- 26. Sheep-like
- 27. Plants and animals
- 29. \*"Brat \_\_\_\_'

- 31. Navy commando
- 32. Like Boy Scout's badge
- 33. Organ swelling
- 34. \*Youngest heavyweight champ
- 36. Small quantity, especially of a liquid
- 38. Stiff hair
- 42. Bantoid language
- 45. \*"Rock the \_\_\_\_" by The Clash
- 49. Government Printing Office
- 51. Resurrection Sunday
- 54. Relating to axis
- 56. Close call
- 57. \*"Harvey's Wallbangers" were good with them
- 58. Bypass
- 59. \*For Your Eyes \_\_\_\_
- 60. Dust allergy trigger
- 61. They will inherit the
- 62. Middle Eastern sultanate
- 63. Used to be wild?
- 66. Marbled bread

earth?

68. Hi-\_\_\_

Solution on page 36

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## We posted... you commented...

#### Wisconsin FoodShare fraud crackdown questioned

JAN ETTLINGER TYMOREK: I wonder how much is the salary of the person recently hired to do these investigations into "fraud" compared to how much he is "saving the taxpayers"

**KATHY ANDERSON OLSON:** While (Scott Walker) travels the world on the backs of Wisconsin taxpayers. A crook and liar.

**MARY OLSON QUAM:** Can someone explain why sharp cheddar is a no-no while medium cheddar is o.k.? We can take a pound of steak and make 3-4 meals from it. And this is the group that nominally opposes government interference in people's lives.

**BEN ZOLTAK:** Wisconsin's most corrupt administration in our history is cracking down on our poorest people ...what a pathetic joke.

**BARBARA JAKOPAC:** Shame Shame on Walker and the Wis. legislators. Have them live on your income for a month.

**PAM MARTIN:** We have money to investigate "fraud" in the food stamp program but no money for education. This is so sad.

**POLLY CISCO:** Walker has defunded the breeder/seller enforcement in Wisconsin leaving only 2 inspectors for the whole state. He couldn't repeal the law so he just cut out their budget.

#### Walker budget cuts threaten AMBER and emergency alert systems

**DUANE BUNNO DE LORME:** I do not think he knows or even cares what the consequences of all his cuts are. Walker thinks to cut will make him look powerful and important.

RYAN LARSH: Is this guy simple or some-

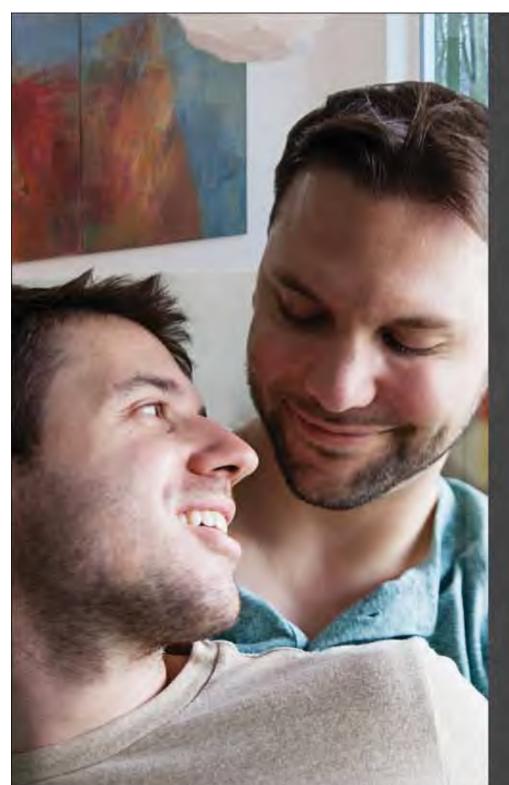
thing? It's like, "Oh, hey! That's a thing. I'm going to stop that thing. Oh, and that too. I'm going to just put an end to ALL the things!"

**SHARON TRIANOSKI:** Of course he will cut public radio. It broadcasts true commentary.

**KATHY JOHNSON:** His plan is to gut this state and then try to be elected president (this will never happen) to gut the country so his wealthy donors can run it from behind closed doors.

MARK GRAFFENIUS: Because of his trickle down ... only for the rich policies he's strangling Wisconsin to death. Again I'm ashamed to say I live in Wisconsin.

**JULIE LINDBERG:** What tax breaks? My taxes went up. Paid in this year for the first time. Local school referendum passed. I voted yes to it, the schools are struggling! So where is the tax break Walker boasts about?



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