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As gays join the institution, concern for marriage is evolving from culture war to common cause.



24 Rainbow memories. We look back at Milwaukee Pride-Fest and the Pride Parade.



42 Actor Chris Pratt began his career as a lovable, chubby comedian, but his recent roles in *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Jurassic World* are making him a bona fide action star.

News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff, Louis Weisberg & Matthew Reddin



PHOTO: JIM COOLEY

Cooley poses with his daughter and AK-15.

HAVE GUN — WILL TRAVEL

A man caused a disturbance at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport's ticketing area when he took an AK-15 assault weapon with him to check his daughter in for a flight. But Jim Cooley was operating within the law, officials said. Still, a picture of Cooley with his daughter and assault rifle inside the airport caused a commotion on social media after Cooley sent the picture to WSB-TV.

TABLE FOR ONE

If Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum was disappointed when he arrived at an Iowa restaurant meet-and-greet and found an audience of only one person, he didn't let on. In fact, Santorum said that low turnout was all part of his plan. Still, he appeared happy when three other people arrived just as his lunch was served. "I haven't eaten all day," he explained.

SINGING CICADAS

The police chief in Bryant, Arkansas, felt compelled to assure citizens that alien spaceships were not hovering over the state. The department was flooded with 911 calls from people worried after hearing eerie sonic disturbances and fearing an alarm going off or, worse, an invasion from outer space. Turns out it was a natural noise from our space — cicadas. On Facebook, the chief posted, "No we are not kidding that



noise is really insects but no worries it will not last long, the mothership will run out of fuel and go back soon to their 'UnderGround-Planet.'"

SOUR GRAPES

A born-again Christian couple in Australia says they will divorce if same-sex marriage is legalized in their nation. They will, however, continue living together and spawning.

INVITATION TO AN INN

The Center Lovell Inn and Restaurant in rural Maine has a new owner. But the owner isn't the top bidder in a sale. Janice Sage selected the winner of the inn through a 200-word essay contest on the subject, "Why I would like to own and operate a country inn." Sage, 68, decided to select an owner that way because that's the way she

won the White Mountains inn — 210-years-old with seven guest rooms — 22 years ago. Sage still earned from the sale — about \$900,000 at \$125 per entry in the contest.

MUSCLING IN

Edward Garcia, 44, was arrested after making several 911 calls to police in Fruitland Park, Florida, to tell a female dispatcher about his "big muscles" in an effort to win a date with her. Police tracked the calls to a campsite at Lake Griffin State Park and then dialed the number he'd used to call the station. When they heard a phone ringing inside one of the tents, they found Garcia inside, surrounded by empty beer cans.

NO BABY FACE

New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan has vetoed a measure that would have allowed some images of minors on beer labels.

State Rep. Keith Murphy, who runs a popular tavern, sponsored the bill because he wanted to be able to buy Breakfast Stout, crafted by Founders Brewery Co. in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The beer's label depicts a chubby, Norman Rockwell-esque baby scooping oatmeal into his mouth. Hassan said allowing the images could undermine the state's efforts to fight underage drinking.

LAVERNE COX GETS WAXED

While Caitlyn Jenner is making history with her own reality TV show, actress Laverne Cox is being cast as the first transgender person with a wax figure at a Madame Tussauds museum. A life-sized likeness of the *Orange is the New Black* co-star is scheduled to be unveiled at the Madame Tussauds in San Francisco on June 26, two days before the city's annual LGBT Pride

parade. Cox said having a wax figure in her image is an improbable and extraordinary honor.

QUEEN PARTS

Speaking of sculptures, visitors can't decide if a new one in the gardens of Versailles represents a tuba or Marie Antoinette's lady parts. Artist Anish Kapoor isn't saying exactly what the centerpiece of his latest installation, called "Dirty Corner," represents. But he told *Journal du Dimanche* that it suggests "the vagina of the queen who takes power" and called it a "provocation."

PUNKED

An army of Internet trolls tricked the mass media into reporting on a bogus petition to strip Caitlyn Jenner of her Olympic medals. Among those punked were: CBS Detroit, the *Washington Post*, Perez Hilton, the *Daily Caller*, *Us Magazine* and Yahoo.

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Harley-Davidson roars toward youth market

By Larry Zamba

Contributing writer

Project Livewire, Harley-Davidson's prototype electric motorcycle, could be the most radical technological evolution in the company's 111-year history. It's beautifully designed, well crafted and powerful. If Livewire goes into production, it could prove to be a cycle perfect for the times — and beyond.

Harley-Davidson's need to get into the electric market is sparked by two realities. One is market share. Harley is looking beyond the 50-plus white male market. Though H-D is proud that it's been the No. 1 seller of new, on-road motorcycles in the United States to young adults, ages 18-34, women, African-Americans and Hispanics for the past six years, millions of riders, especially younger people, fail to identify with the brand. The heavy retro-styling — the most visible portion of the H-D brand — is what their fathers rode.

The culture that's grown around traditional Harleys — the beards, bandanas, pseudo-rebel and outlaw look — is not for a large part of the youth market.

But, with its electric jet-engine whine and sleek appearance, the Livewire turns their heads.

Livewire is the beginning of a new heritage for Harley. The riders will create their own piece of history — one that rockets them into a different future instead roaring into the past on grandpa's oil burner, the company says.

Another challenge for traditional H-Ds is fuel. Widespread predictions of an oil crisis from 2020 through 2035 prompt the need to move to alternative sources of



transportation power. And electrics are beginning to permeate the market.

Harley's technical expertise seems to be gearing up to take the lead in the small but growing electric motorcycle field, which is currently dominated by Bammco and Zero. Yamaha also is set to enter the electric market in 2016, with the launch of the PES1 and PESD.

In 2014, more than 15,000 customers provided feedback on Project LiveWire, including more than 6,800 who took demo rides, as part of a 30-stop tour across the United States.

"Project LiveWire has reset expectations about what a Harley-Davidson motorcycle can be," said Harley-Davidson chief marketing officer Mark-Hans Richer. "The first phase of the Project LiveWire Experience tour provided

valuable feedback about the features and experience riders expect from an electric Harley-Davidson motorcycle."

The Harley Owners Group, or HOG, is torn between the company's roots and the coming future of transportation. HOG is generating more noise than Livewire, praising and criticizing the project simultaneously.

Harley's work-in-progress refutes the myth that "loud pipes save lives," which H-D itself discounts. Livewire does away with the exhaust noise, because it doesn't have any pipes, or big V-Twin vibration.

Twist the throttle and Livewire leaps forward. From 0-60 mph in under 4 seconds, Livewire is one of the fastest cycles in the world. There's no shifting, just riding. It's electronically limited to 92 mph, but driver's say you can tell it'll give you more if Harley would take it off the leash.

Livewire's lithium battery is good for 55 miles in Econo mode and 33 in Power mode, making it a perfect commuter or city bike. (Most people only drive 29 miles per day.) It takes 3.5 hours to recharge to full capacity on 220 volts.

Harley is still getting feedback from riders.

For more ...

If you want to register for the chance take a 15-minute chaperoned test drive, visit <http://projectlivewire.harley-davidson.com> to sign up. The next rides are during Chicago Tech Week at The Merchandise Mart Plaza June 24-26. In Milwaukee, you can register for the Livewire Experience that runs Sept. 3-6 at the Harley-Davidson Museum.

Safety tips for Wisconsin motorists and motorcyclists



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More than a half million Wisconsin residents have a motorcycle license or permit. As motorcycles continue to grow in popularity among men and women of all ages, safety is a constant concern. Last year, 73 motorcycle riders and passengers died in Wisconsin traffic crashes.

"We would like to remind drivers to share the road and watch for motorcycles, especially at intersections and while making turns and lane changes," says Greg Patzer, manager of the Wisconsin Motorcycle Safety Program. "Drivers can easily misjudge the speed and distance of an approaching motorcycle because of its smaller dimensions. To prevent crashes, drivers should check the position of a motorcycle at least two or three times before they proceed through an intersection or make a turn."

To protect themselves and others on the road, motorcyclists are legally required to have a motorcycle endorsement on their driver license. Nearly 42 percent of motorcyclists' fatalities in 2013 involved riders who had not completed the safety training or skills test required to obtain a motorcycle endorsement on their license.

"Too many people have been riding for years without a valid motorcycle endorsement on their driver license," Patzer says. "It's a serious problem, especially for those who have not ridden a motorcycle for several years." In addition, members of the motorcycling community are aging. The average age of a motorcyclist in a fatal crash increased from 30 years old in 1992 to 48 in 2012.

Motorcyclists can obtain their motor-

cycle endorsement in two ways:

- Pass a written test and a road test at a DMV service center.
- Successfully complete an eligible rider education course that waives the requirement for the DMV road test. More information about rider education courses — from beginner to advanced — is available online.

The WMSP is teaming up with ABATE of Wisconsin, a motorcycle riders' advocacy group, to distribute hang-tags in showrooms urging riders to get endorsed.

In addition, the WMSP will use radio and TV public service announcements, billboards and social media to remind motorcycle riders and drivers to share the road. Electronic message signs on major highways this riding season will urge motorists to look twice for motorcycles.

Patzer emphasizes that motorcyclists need to make responsible decisions to reduce their risks. "Motorcyclists must obey all traffic laws, such as speed limits, and never ride while impaired. They should always wear protective and conspicuous clothing and gear, including a helmet that meets or exceeds U.S. DOT standards. Two out of three motorcyclists who died in crashes from 2009 to 2013 were not wearing helmets."

Patzer concludes, "Now more than ever, we need well-trained and responsible motorcycle riders along with motorists who share the road and look twice for motorcycles to help reach the goal of reducing the number of preventable traffic deaths to zero in Wisconsin."

Lawmakers want to strip protections from gray wolf

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to fund the Interior Department contains a rider that would end Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the western Great Lakes states and Wyoming.

A similar rider removing protections for wolves in Idaho and Montana was attached to a key appropriations bill and passed in 2011, marking the first time that Congress legislatively removed protections for a species. Since the 2011 rider passed, more than 1,900 wolves have been killed in the two states and many similar riders removing protections for species have been attempted.

"This is another cynical attack on science and the Endangered Species Act that will result in wolves being mindlessly slaughtered in the few places where they have begun to recover," said Brett Hartl, endangered species policy director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The American people know that the gray wolf's still-fragile recovery is one of the Endangered Species Act's great success stories, and they want wolves protected until the job is done. The Obama administration needs to oppose this rider, which is out of step with the American people and has no place in an appropriations bill."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lifted federal protections for gray wolves in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota in 2011 and in Wyoming in 2012.

Federal judges overturned both decisions for failing to follow the requirements of the act, failing to follow the best available science and for prematurely turning management over to state fish and game agencies openly hostile to wolves.

The rider in the Interior appropriations bill would reverse these court orders, wiping out Endangered Species Act protections for the approximately 4,000 wolves that live in those four states.

"Rather than letting the Endangered Species Act's recovery process play out — not to mention the legal appeals on these two cases — House Republicans are ignoring both the best science on wolf recovery and the law," Hartl said. "This meddling is dangerous for wolves, the rule of law and the Endangered Species Act itself."

Since gaining protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1976, gray wolves have made progress toward recovery in the lower 48, with populations growing from fewer than 1,000 wolves to more than 4,000 today. When federal protections were lifted in 2011 and 2012, state-sanctioned hunts resulted in more than 1,600 wolves being killed, contributing to a 25 percent decline in Minnesota and a 9 percent decline in the Northern

Rockies. The federal court decisions rejected the Fish and Wildlife Service's decisions to delist the gray wolf because the states' regulatory programs did not adequately maintain wolf populations in those states.

In the western Great Lakes decision, the federal court observed that the service never downlisted the gray wolf from endangered to threatened — a middle step that would have allowed states to address wolf conflicts while allowing for the continued recovery of the wolf.

In January, about 20 organizations filed a petition with the Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify gray wolves as threatened.

"Congressional delisting of the gray wolf in Montana and Idaho opened a dangerous door," said Hartl. "Now no species is safe from cynical and politically motivated attacks by the extreme wing of the Republican Party. From the sage grouse to the Delta smelt to the critically endangered American burying beetle, every endangered species is now on notice that it can be consigned to extinction by the whims of Congress for no other reason than being politically unpopular."



Gray wolves in the wild.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

Politics and jobs

Most librarians are Democrats. Most farmers are Republicans.

Doctors, as a group, are in the middle, but pediatricians lean to the left and urologists to the right.

This is according to Verdant Labs. The creators of the Nametrix baby name app dove into the campaign contribution data at the Federal Election Commission and came up with Democratic and Republican occupations.

DEMOCRATS: Environmentalist, flight attendant, bartender, taxi driver, innkeeper, chairwoman, sculptor, floral designer, yoga instructor, architect, bookseller, Episcopal priest, carpenter, midwife, park ranger, gardener, chef, comedian, poker player, union organizer, psychiatrist.

REPUBLICANS: Neurosurgeon, petroleum geologist, business owner, insurance agent, talk show host, cattle feeder, sheriff, surgeon, plumber, Catholic priest, pawnbroker, home builder, car salesman, exterminator, plastic surgeon, chairman, motel owner, logger, truck driver, beer wholesaler, pilot and oil worker.

— Lisa Neff

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Wisconsin Senate approves controversial abortion ban

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The Wisconsin state Senate approved a controversial, potentially unconstitutional bill that would ban non-emergency abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The bill's supporters in the Republican-controlled Senate say fetuses can feel pain after 20 weeks, while opponents argue that the suffering for Wisconsin women would be greater if the measure advanced. The Senate approved the bill on a 19-14 vote along party lines, with Republicans voting in favor.

All of the state's major medical organizations oppose the law, partly because a screening for serious birth defects cannot be done until 18-20 weeks. Earlier than that, it's possible to test for genetic defects, but not structural abnormalities. That means planned pregnancies that go awry can only be discovered at the point when Wisconsin's Senate bill would cutoff access to abortion.

The Senate abortion bill that passed would have minimal impact on reducing the number of abortions in the state. The most recent information from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services shows only 1 percent of abortions in the state in 2013 occurred after the 20-week mark — 89 of the nearly 6,500 abortions per-

formed that year.

Planned Parenthood clinics don't perform abortions after 20 weeks. The vast majority of those are limited to cases in which severe fetal anomalies are detected. Because the mother's life is usually in danger, they are done in hospitals.

The Senate's abortion bill will wind up facing expensive litigation. But Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said it's worth spending hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars defending the law in court, regardless of its minimal impact.

"Protecting life is something that we shouldn't necessarily just put a price tag on," Vos said.

Under the measure, doctors who perform an abortion after 20 weeks in non-emergency situations could be charged with a felony and subject to \$10,000 in fines or 3.5 years in prison. The fetus' father also could press charges against the physician. As written, the bill doesn't provide exceptions for pregnancies conceived as a result of rape or incest.

State Sen. Leah Vukmir, R-Wauwatosa, a fervently anti-gay, fundamentalist Christian, said passing the bill would prevent suffering during an abortion.

"It's cruel to allow a baby and a mother to go through a process that inflicts that pain, ultimately ending a life," Vukmir said.

"How can we allow these abortions on 5-month-old babies?"

While the bill's supporters contend that fetuses can feel pain after 20 weeks, science does not support them.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says research suggests fetal pain is not possible until the third trimester begins at 27 weeks.

State Sen. Jon Erpenbach, D-Middleton, said the bill disregards a mother's health. The bill says a doctor cannot perform an abortion after 20 weeks unless the mother is likely within 24 hours to die or suffer irreversible impairment of one or more of the woman's major bodily functions.

"The mother basically has to be knocking on death's door for the doctor ... to legally feel he's OK to focus on the life of the mother," Erpenbach said. "You're going to take a doctor who makes a decision and you're going to make him a felon."

Other advocates for a woman's right to choose say the bill is an attack on sexually active women that's designed to deflect attention from the Republican-controlled Legislature's stalemate over a controversial budget bill. The budget bill slashes popular programs while giving massive taxpayer dollars to wealthy business interests, including politically connected construction companies that build unneeded

highways and the billionaires developing a new arena complex for the Milwaukee Bucks.

Vos said the Assembly could take up the abortion bill later this month or in the fall. He said Assembly Republicans had not discussed the measure, but he supported the bill.

"The bill as it's drafted, I think, has a lot of merit," Vos said at a news conference. "I do not certainly support the idea of allowing unborn children who feel pain to be aborted inside the womb."

Republican Gov. Scott Walker has said he would sign the bill into law.

Fourteen states have passed bans at 20 weeks or earlier, which depart from the standard established by the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. That ruling established a nationwide right to abortion but permitted states to restrict the procedures after the point of viability — when a fetus could viably survive outside the womb under normal conditions. It offered no legal definition of viability, saying it could range from the 24th to the 28th week of pregnancy.

Courts have blocked bans in Georgia, Idaho and Arizona. Litigation in other states is ongoing.

Associated Press reporters Scott Bauer and Dana Ferguson contributed to this report.

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Martha Laning elected chair of Wisconsin Democrats

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

At its annual meeting in early June, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin elected Martha Laning to succeed Mike Tate as party chair.

State Rep. David Bowen, who ran for the position of Laning's vice chair, also was elected. "We're already a team," Laning said.

Laning is a former state Senate candidate who lives in Sheboygan, where she's been visibly active in local political and civic projects. She faced four other candidates in what became a bruising and sometimes ugly campaign.

One of her competitors, former state Rep. Jeff Smith, dropped out of the race on June 4 and threw his support behind Laning after it was revealed that he'd offered her a high-level party position if she threw her support to him. The backlash over that seemed to be a turning point.

The party's leadership appeared to be lined up behind Democratic National Committee member Jason Rae, who is the director of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

Rae took a lot of heat during the campaign for his job with Nation Consulting, a Milwaukee-based political consulting firm that represents candidates all over the political spectrum. Rae, however, only worked for Democratic and progressive candidates.

Rae served as the board chair of Fair Wisconsin, the state's LGBT advocacy group. Katie Belanger, who worked with him when she was the group's executive director, threw her support behind Laning.

Other candidates included former state lawmaker Stephen Smith and former state party chairman Joe Wineke.

Laning received 721 votes. Rae received 428 followed by Wineke with 191, Steve Smith with six and Jeff Smith with three votes.

Tate held the party's chairmanship for nine years, but announced he would not seek another term several months ago, after state Democrats suffered major losses at the polls both in 2010 and 2012.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Martha Laning.

At the convention, Jeff Smith nominated Laning and was seconded by state Sen. Kathleen Vinehout.

"We have the best chance in our lifetime to make a real difference in this state," Vinehout told the delegates. "We have the opportunity to elect an intelligent, tenacious woman."

Laning gave a forceful speech, interrupted by cheers, which apparently prompted some delegates to switch their votes to

her. She spoke about how the state's progressive values helped create a level playing field that enabled her father to rise from poverty to success. She vowed

to elect "proud, progressive Democrats" and to promote "values-driven messaging."

Democrats in Wisconsin often are criticized for their fear of taking strong stands that might put off independent voters.

"Wisconsin has a rich tradition of being behind ... progressive values and today we are seeing that slip away," Laning told the enthusiastic crowd. "Our values of opportunity for all, responsiveness to others, fairness and fair play are but a distant memory, and we need to stand up for them."

Following the election, the new leaders went directly into a two-hour administrative meeting.

Laning promised she and Bowen would bring together diverse people from around the state and empower the party's grassroots.

"I am here to bring our party in a new direction," she said.

'I am here to bring our party in a new direction.'

Protests seek to halt Grand Canyon development

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The U.S. Forest Service is considering a proposal that would clear the way for a mega-development only a mile from the Grand Canyon National Park boundary.

"The local, national and international communities have spoken and the message is clear — this development doesn't belong next to the Grand Canyon," said Robin Silver, a founder of the Center for Biological Diversity. "Now it's up to the Forest Service to act in the public interest and reject this proposal."

This spring, more than 200,000 people submitted public comments urging the U.S. Forest Service to reject a special permit request from Stilo Development Group to build roads, sewers and other utilities through the public lands within the Kaibab National Forest. The access is needed to develop the 580-resident community of Tusayan, Arizona — near the southern entrance to the park — from a tourist town into a complex of high-end homes, retail stores and restaurants.

President Theodore Roosevelt guaranteed federal protection for the Grand Canyon in 1908, declaring, "Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it."

The Stilo project is one of several proposals environmentalists say threaten the canyon. Another would restart operations at a nearby uranium mine.

Environmentalists say the Stilo development threatens groundwater that feeds the canyon's creeks and springs, endangering some of the park's most important and biodiverse wildlife habitat.

"Building a massive sprawling development at the gateway to Grand Canyon threatens the very things that the park was established to protect — the waters, wildlife, dark skies and opportunities to

experience natural quiet," said Sandy Bahr, chapter director for Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter. "That is why thousands of people here in Arizona and across the country are asking the Forest Service to reject this proposal."

The opposition includes business owners in Tusayan and nearby Flagstaff, a former Coconino County development director, a former Grand Canyon National Park superintendent, outdoor enthusiasts and many park visitors.

Also, the Department of the Interior warned the massive development was raising international concerns over potential harm to the Grand Canyon, a World Heritage Site. The National Park Service has called the project one of the biggest threats to the park in its nearly 100-year history.

David Nimkin, Southeast senior regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association, added, "The Grand Canyon is one of our most beloved and iconic national parks — a sentiment that reverberated in messages of opposition sent by our members, supporters and partners in Arizona and across the country."

On behalf of several groups, the environmental legal defense group Earthjustice submitted a letter in May urging the Forest Service to reject the proposal or, at a minimum, to prepare a full environmental impact statement.

The Forest Service will review the comments this summer and then decide whether to reject the application outright, proceed with a minimal "environmental assessment" with little public review or prepare an environmental impact statement.

An environmental assessment would take up to a year to complete. An impact statement would take twice that long.

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U.N.: alarmingly high rates of anti-LGBT violence

From AP and WiG reports

The U.N. human rights chief said in a new report that lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people are victims of "pervasive, violent abuse, harassment and discrimination" in all regions of the world. The report cites hundreds of hate-related killings.

High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Raad al-Hussein said actions by some countries to reduce violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity since the last report in 2011 have been overshadowed by continuing human rights violations against these groups, too often perpetrated with impunity.

The report to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council cites the murder of transsexual women in Uruguay and of black lesbian women in South Africa and the killing of a gay man in Chile by neo-Nazis who carved swastikas into his body. In February, it said, photos appeared to show several men, allegedly accused of homosexual acts, being pushed off a building to their deaths in Syria by militants of the so-called Islamic State extremist group.

While data are "patchy," the report said available information suggests alarmingly high rates of violence against LGBT people.

Brazil reported 310 documented murders in 2012 "in which homophobia or transphobia was a motive," it said. The Trans Murder Monitoring project, which

collects reports of homicides of transgender people, lists 1,612 murders in 62 countries between 2008 and 2014. And the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reported 594 hate-related killings of LGBT people in the 25 countries of the Organization of American States between January 2013 and March 2014.

The report also gives many examples of non-lethal violence, including the arrest, beating and ill-treatment by police in Zimbabwe of 44 members of an LGBT organization, a woman reportedly arrested in Bangladesh for being a lesbian who was allegedly raped by police while in custody and four people arrested in Egypt for their alleged sexual orientation who were reportedly sexually assaulted by other inmates while in detention.

In the United States, the report said recent government figures show that bias-motivated crimes based on sexual orientation rank second only to racist incidents among hate crimes.

According to the report, at least 76 countries retain laws used to criminalize and harass people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, including laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relationships among adults.

In Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and parts of Nigeria and Somalia, consensual homosexual conduct may be punished by death, "a grave violation of human rights," the report said.



The U.N. rights chief expressed concern about laws enacted or proposed in the past two years to restrict public discussion of sexual orientation under the guise of "protecting minors" from information on non-traditional sexual relations. He pointed to Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Moldova, Russia, Uganda and Ukraine.

The report makes over 20 recommendations including urging all countries to ban so-called "conversion therapies" intended

to "cure" homosexual attraction as well as involuntary treatment, forced sterilization, and forced genital and anal examinations.

The high commissioner also calls for changing laws to remove offenses relating to consensual same-sex conduct, investigating and prosecuting alleged hate crimes and prohibiting incitement of hatred and violence on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.



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Protecting pollinators

Saving hard-working honeybees

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

"Christopher Robin, I've come to a very important decision: THESE ARE THE WRONG SORTS OF BEES!" Pooh Bear exclaimed after he went up to the honey tree in the 100 Acre Woods.

But they probably were the right sorts of bees — humble, hard-working honeybees.

Today these bees are in peril, and the 100 Acre Woods might be polluted.

A global battle is underway to protect endangered bees and other pollinators from threats created by people. The network of pollinator protectors is vast — reaching from the United Nations to the backyards of Brookfield and the rooftops of Racine apartment buildings.

And it is varied, involving policymakers and protesters, corporations and commercial growers and a budding body of citizens doing their part by keeping bees and creating habitat.

"What we want is a global colony of people, as many as possible, doing what they can to protect pollinators," said Rachel Mattison, a gardening enthusiast and environmental activist from Lake Geneva. "Maybe they want to get involved in pollination politics. Maybe they want to plant a garden or get a package and start

keeping bees. Something, anything, we can all get involved."

THE COLLAPSE

The number of wild bees in the United States, specifically feral honeybees, dramatically declined from 1972 to 2006. Meanwhile, year after year, beekeepers reported the decline or decimation of colonies, a phenomenon now called "colony collapse disorder."

The Bee Informed Partnership, a collaboration of the Apiary Inspectors of America and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, released an annual survey this spring showing beekeepers lost more than 42.1 percent of their colonies over the past year. This is the second-highest annual loss recorded to date.

Beekeepers in Wisconsin and seven other states reported losing more than 60 percent of their colonies.

"The domestic honeybee and a lot of your native pollinators are under a lot of pressure," said Wisconsin beekeeper "Little" John Holzwart.

Scientists are looking at the impact of climate change on pollinators. In 2014, an international intergovernmental panel on climate change warned that pollinators faced increased risk of extinction because

of global warming.

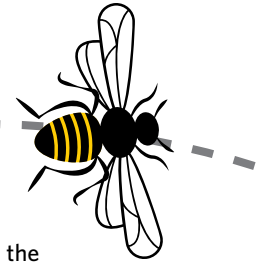
Scientists also are studying the impact of:

- The proliferation of single-crop farms that reduce the amount of land providing nectar for bees. Most new acres of corn used to be grassland or pasture that supported pollinators.

- Systemic pesticide application, specifically neonicotinoids, which are used on nearly all field corn seed and most soybeans in the Midwest. Honeybees collect and carry nectar and pollen to their hives to provide food throughout the winter. Pesticides, whether applied to seeds or plants, get carried back and contaminate the hive. The bees consume the chemicals as they feed on nectar and pollen.

- Application of fungicides, which are used on field corn and soybeans and, in Wisconsin, on some cranberry bogs and many potato fields.

- Urbanization and destruction of habitat. Like the homogenization of cropland, developments with sprawling green lawns and no flowering plants leave bees without necessary nutrition.



THE PLAN

In early June, the Obama administration issued its pollinator rescue plan and identified three goals:

- Reduce honeybee colony losses to economically sustainable levels.

The administration proposes spending \$82.5 million in the next budget year on research to accomplish the goal. Current spending is about \$34 million.

- Increase the number of monarch butterflies — they are also important pollinators — to protect the annual migration.

- Restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators in the next five years.




The plan stressed "the quantity and quality of habitat for pollinators" and emphasized an "all hands on deck" approach to promoting pollinator health by engaging citizens and communities and forging public-private partnerships.

"Here, we can do a lot for bees and other pollinators," University of Maryland entomology professor Dennis van Engelsdorp told The AP. He led a federal bee study that found last year's large loss. "This I think is something to get excited and hopeful about. There is really only one hope for bees and it's to make sure

BEES next page

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BEES from prior page

they spend a good part of the year in safe, healthy environments. The apparent scarcity of areas is what's worrying. This could change that."

The president required the plan a year ago in a memorandum calling for a federal strategy to promote the health of honeybees and other pollinators — birds, bats, native bees and butterflies — and calling on the EPA to assess the effect of pesticides on bees within 180 days.

The EPA responded in April with a moratorium on new or expanded uses of neonicotinoids while it continues research. And guidance already directs the caretakers of federal lands and facilities — from national parks and interstate corridors to public housing complexes — to acquire seeds and plants from nurseries that do not use systemic insecticides.

PESTICIDES

However, the administration's strategy disappointed many in the environmental community, who said the White House isn't going far enough to halt the use of poisons on the landscape.

"The plan focuses heavily on improving pollinator habitat but is blind to the fact that new habitat will simply become contaminated by insecticides still heavily in use," said Larissa Walker of the Center for Food Safety, a national nonprofit that promotes sustainable agriculture and safe food. "We can't just plant more wild flowers near cropland and expect insecticides to stop being a problem."

"When it comes to pesticides, President Obama and other federal decision makers have passed the buck," said Lex Horan of the Pesticide Action Network North America.

Two years ago, the European Union banned the three most widely used neonicotinoids based on scientific research showing the chemicals can kill bees outright and make them more vulnerable to pests, pathogens and other stressors.

Studies by Newcastle University and Oxford researchers indicate reducing chemical use may be the only certain way to halt pollinator decline.

Yet, the chemicals continue to be used in the United States.

One study found the pollen bees collected in agricultural fields and brought back to their hives was contaminated with 35 pesticides, according to the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Federal legislation introduced by U.S. Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., would require the EPA to suspend the use of some neonicotinoids.

Meanwhile, a coalition of environmental and food-safety groups are pressing nurseries, retailers and institutions to promote bee-friendly plants. Consumer demand for these products is high — more than a million people signed petitions calling upon Lowe's and Home Depot to stop selling neonicotinoids.

On June 1, Friends of the Earth and the Pesticide Research Institute issued a report stating that Lowe's and Home Depot, along with Whole Foods and BJ's



PHOTO: COURTESY MOONWISEHERBS.COM

Wisconsin beekeeper John Holzwart.

Wholesale Club, have taken steps to eliminate neonicotinoid insecticides from stores. Ace Hardware, the largest retailer-owned landscape cooperative in the world, also has announced a willingness to move away from the products.

"With bees serving as such an essential part of a healthy ecosystem, it's simply the better choice for the environment and for agriculture to move away from these chemicals," Scott Williams, an assistant vice president with BJ's, stated in a news release.

THE COMMUNITY

Bee-friendly plants are what consumers will be looking for as they enlist in the National Pollinator Garden Network's "Million Pollinator Garden Challenge," an effort to plant a million new gardens by the end of 2016 using sustainable practices. The network involves about two dozen organizations — including Keep America Beautiful, National Wildlife Federation and National Garden Clubs — and their local affiliates.

"All pollinators are critical to our ecosystems, as well as our nation's economic well-being," said Jennifer Tedeschi, COO of the National Gardening Association. "NGA has worked for over 40 years to educate people of all ages about the personal and community benefits of gardening. We are thrilled to be partnering with so many experts in conservation, ecosystems and horticulture to bring this challenge to the American people and engage them in protecting pollinators."

Mattison said a friend involved with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's campaign educated her about the plight of pollinators and inspired her to plow under her lawn and create a flower garden.

"You plant for diversity, in clusters and for color — native bees, for example, are attracted to blue, purple and yellow blooms," she said.

Beekeeper Holzwart, of

Sheboygan, also was drafted into the pollinator protector campaign. He became a beekeeper. He started with two hives and, over the years, has kept as many as 25 hives.

Holzwart said another beekeeper, who was selling him honey, nudged him toward the hobby. "He kept encouraging me to get some bees, to get some hives," Holzwart said. Eight years ago, in the early spring, Holzwart said his friend said, "Now is the time to order bees" and he did. The friend became a mentor and Holzwart became a beekeeper who sells honey online at moonwiseherbs.com, takes calls to remove bees and teaches classes and workshops on beekeeping.

"It's an exciting hobby," he said. "But the main goal is to get people aware of the need to save the honeybees."

Until recently, Holzwart kept hives at two locations in the country and also at his home in Sheboygan.

"A lot of people keep hives in the city," he said. "City bees will actually out-produce country bees two to one because, in the city, there is more diversity. Out in the country, well, there is a lot of open wasteland."

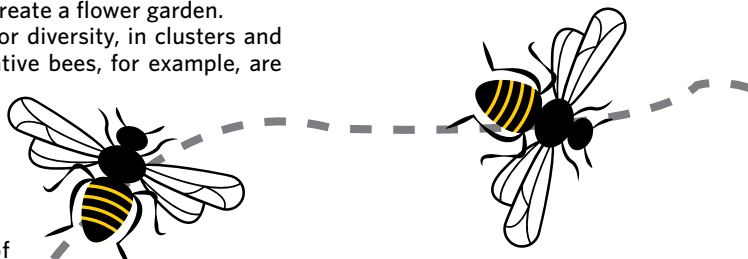
Recently, he and his partner, Linda Conroy, bought a farm, where the hives were moved. "We really are plant people and it seemed like a natural evolution to us," Holzwart said. "We like to live close to the earth."

Conroy is a herbalist and Holzwart, who made auto parts for 12 years until the Sheboygan factory where he worked closed down, said they plan to grow herbs, as well as plant an orchard. "Bees are pretty necessary to ensure pollination," he said.



DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 20,000 known species of bees and 4,000 known species in North America. The best-known species is the European honeybee.
- The honeybee was named Wisconsin's state insect in 1977.
- Bumblebee species are eight times more efficient than honeybees at pollinating some crops, like blueberries.
- Bees are found on every continent except Antarctica.



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Top docs: No reason for transgender military exclusion

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The nation's largest physicians group declared in June that there is no medically valid reason to exclude transgender individuals from U.S. military service.

The policy adopted by the American Medical Association during its annual meeting also affirmed the organization's position that transgender servicemembers should receive care according to the same medical standards that apply to all other military personnel.

The policy is intended to help modify the federal regulations that bar transgender individuals from the military and prohibit providing medically necessary care as determined by a doctor. The estimated 15,500 transgender individuals who serve in the U.S. military face being discharged if outted. Unlike "don't ask, don't tell," the statutory ban that barred LGB servicemembers from serving openly, the ban on transgender military service is regulatory and could be eliminated by the Department of Defense, without congressional action.

"The new AMA policy adds to a growing public consensus, including former public health and military officers, which questions the military's policies toward transgender individuals, and the negative impact these policies have on the health of transgender servicemembers," stated AMA president Robert M. Wah.

The Human Rights Campaign has repeatedly called for the DOD to end the ban on transgender individuals serving openly in the military, which is the largest employer of transgender people in the United States.

HRC also has urged reform in the Department of Veterans Affairs, which fails to provide a full range of medically necessary care to transgender veterans.

Before the AMA vote, four former U.S. Surgeons General issued a statement of support for the policy. Drs. Joycelyn Elders, David Satcher, Regina Benjamin and Kenneth Moritsugu said, "We agree with the proposed American Medical Association resolution that there is no medically valid reason to exclude transgender individuals from military service. Transgender service members should, as is the case with all personnel, receive the medical care that they need."

Members of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality, a national group, also encouraged support and applauded the AMA vote.

During its meeting, the AMA also approved:

- A policy to help human trafficking victims. About 12.3 million adults and children are enslaved in human trafficking around the world at any given time, according to the United Nations' International Labor Organization. To help address this growing epidemic, the AMA adopted



a policy to ensure physicians are trained to report suspected cases of trafficking to authorities while ensuring victims have the medical, legal and social resources they need.

"We must do everything we can to help get victims of human trafficking to safety," said AMA board member William E. Kobler. "Since we know that victims of human trafficking rarely seek help out of fear of their captors or law enforcement, we believe that the health care setting is an ideal way to engage with suspected victims and get them the help and resources they so desperately need."

- A policy aimed at strengthening prescription drug-monitoring programs. In the midst of what the AMA called a national opioid misuse epidemic, the

organization bolstered its support for drug-monitoring programs.

The policy encourages the use of programs that protect patient privacy, contain relevant and reliable clinical data, are integrated into a care team's workflow and provide actionable information. It also calls on state governments to modernize and fully fund the programs.

"We must also continue efforts to increase access to the life-saving medicine naloxone, ensure that patients in pain and patients with substance use disorders receive the coordinated care they need for as long as they need it and to reduce the stigma associated with being treated for pain or having a substance use disorder," said AMA board secretary Patrice A. Harris.

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Marriage evolves from culture war to common cause



By David Crary

AP National writer

Through two decades of debate on whether America's gays and lesbians should have the right to marry, opponents of such unions depicted their resistance as "defense of marriage."

Now, on the cusp of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that could legalize same-sex marriage nationwide, the underlying institution is under scrutiny anew.

Does marriage in America indeed need help?

What kind of shape is it in?

In simplest terms, the diagnosis is mixed.

Among college-educated, relatively affluent couples, marriage is doing pretty well. Where education and income levels are lower, it's often a different story — higher divorce rates and far more children being born out of wedlock, including many to single mothers.

There's broad sentiment that this "marriage gap" is unfortunate, but no consensus on what to do about it.

Some believe government-funded marriage-promotion programs can make a difference.

Others depict marriage-focused solutions as misguided and say the problems can be eased only by broader economic and social initiatives benefiting all types of households.

"There is no one silver bullet," said David Blankenhorn, head of a centrist think-tank, the Institute for American Values, that focuses much of its work on marriage and families.

Yet despite uncertainty about solutions, he and others believe there is now an opportunity to bridge the left-right split over marriage, particularly in light of the sweeping gains for gay and lesbian couples.

For many years, the gay-marriage debate was intertwined with assertions about "traditional marriage" between a man and a woman. A federal act passed in 1996 and a subsequent wave of amendments adopted in many states used the term "defense of marriage" to deny recognition to same-sex unions. Many opponents

of same-sex marriage argued that allowing gays to wed would somehow undermine heterosexual marriage.

Such arguments have fared poorly in recent federal court cases. And there's a strong likelihood that the Supreme Court will order the legalization of same-sex marriage in all 50 states in a ruling expected by the end of the month. Opinion polls show a solid majority of Americans support it.

"Marriage as culture war in America can now be replaced by marriage as common cause," said a coalition of scholars and civic leaders in their manifesto for a new initiative called Marriage Opportunity.

The group, with Blankenhorn as an organizer, envisions liberals fighting for economic opportunity, conservatives fighting for stronger families and gays who have now won marriage rights for themselves all uniting to confront the marriage gap.

Scholars who have chronicled the gap say it stems in large measure from the loss of stable, well-paid industrial jobs — consigning many young adults to precarious, low-paid work, and prompting some to put off marriage even while having children out of wedlock.

In contrast, college-educated young adults are more likely to wait until married to have children and then have the prospect of raising them in a household supported by two good incomes.

According to the Pew Research Center, the share of American adults who've never married is at a historic high. In 2012, 20 percent of adults 25 and older had never been married, compared to 9 percent of adults in 1960. Back then, according to Pew, the likelihood of being married didn't vary according to level of education; now men with advanced degrees are far more likely to have married than those who didn't go beyond high school.

Another striking figure: Unmarried mothers account for 40.6 percent of children born in the U.S., according to recent Census data. In the African-American community, the rate is 71.5 percent.

Tera Jordan, a professor of human development at Iowa State University, has studied various aspects of marriage and relationships among black Americans.

She sees a need for multiple changes — more access to good-paying jobs, better educational opportunities, a lowering of the incarceration rate for young black men. Her advice to young adults wondering about marriage: "Be clear about your goals, be patient. Finish your education."

Before moving to Iowa, Jordan worked with a federally funded marriage-strengthening program in Georgia. In all, according to experts who study the field, more than \$1 billion in public funding has been spent since 2005 on such programs, yet their effectiveness remains subject to debate.

The largest, most durable state-level program is the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, recently renamed

Project Relate. Since its launch in 1999, it has served more than 400,000 Oklahomans — about 10 percent of the population.

One of its primary programs, Family Expectations, entails 30 hours of classes for low-income expectant parents who want to strengthen their relationships. Independent assessments found that couples taking the program are more likely to stay together than other couples.

Kendy Cox, a senior director of Project Relate, said many low-income couples believe in the concept of marriage, yet are unsure if it's the right step for them.

"It's become seen as sort of pie in the sky for some couples," she said.

Among Family Expectations' graduates is Rachel Chudoba, 27. She and her then-fiance, Chad — now her husband — were 19 when they signed up in 2007; they're now parents of a son and a daughter.

Chudoba said communications skills they learned came in handy when Chad, a member of the Army National Guard, was deployed to Afghanistan in 2013.

"It's hard to acknowledge that you need a timeout in a conversation when you don't get to talk very often," Chudoba said. "But being separated for a year, you are going to have disagreements."

Chudoba said she and her husband came from challenging backgrounds. Both of Rachel's parents had multiple divorces; Chad spent time in foster care.

"We didn't have a lot of positive examples of how to have a relationship and how to raise children," she said. "That was a huge thing for me and my husband — not repeating the mistakes of the older generation."

Several members of her extended family are in their early 20s and wondering about marriage. "I see people who are apprehensive," Chudoba said. "I see a lot of looking for answers."

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Pope Francis to issue encyclical on human-caused climate change, stirring outrage among conservatives

By Nicole Winfield

AP writer

Anxiety has gripped American conservatives over Pope Francis' upcoming encyclical on the environment. So much so that you might think a pope had never before blamed fossil fuels for global warming. Or accused energy companies of hoarding the Earth's resources at the expense of the poor. Or urged the rich to consume less and share more.

But several of Francis' predecessors have done just that, raising the question of what all the fuss is about. Why would U.S. Republican presidential hopeful Rick Santorum, a devout Catholic who says he loves the pope, urge Francis to "leave science to the scientists" and stop talking about global warming? And why would conservative Catholic commentators attack the Vatican for hosting the U.N. secretary-general at a climate conference?

It turns out that environmental issues are particularly vexing for the Catholic Church, especially in the United States. They carry implications for Big Business, often with ties to wealthy Catholics, as well as for the world's growing population, which brings up questions of birth control. For the religious right, the Vatican's endorsement of the U.N. alarm about global warming amounts to an endorsement of the U.N. agenda to give women access to contraception and abortion.

Popes in recent decades have not shied from framing ecological concerns in moral terms, given that in the Bible God places humankind in the Garden of Eden with the explicit instructions to not only "work" the ground but to also "take care of it."

Recent popes have made clear that human activity is largely to blame for environmental degradation that's threatening the Earth's ecosystems. They've demanded urgent action by industrialized nations to change their ways and undergo an "ecological conversion" to prevent the poor from paying for the sins of the rich.

Some have even made their points in encyclicals, the most authoritative teaching document a pope can issue.

Take one of St. John Paul II's annual messages for the World Day of Peace:

"The gradual depletion of the ozone layer and the related greenhouse effect has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs," he wrote. "Industrial waste, the burning of fossil fuels, unrestricted deforestation, the use of certain types of herbicides, coolants and propellant: all of



these are known to harm the atmosphere and environment. The resulting meteorological and atmospheric changes range from damage to health to the possible future submersion of low-lying lands." The year was 1990.

Before him there was Pope Paul VI. In his 1967 encyclical, *On the Development of Peoples*, Paul wrote that while creation is for human use, the goods of the Earth are meant to be shared by all, not just the rich.

"No one may appropriate surplus goods solely for his own private use when others lack the bare necessities of life," Paul wrote nearly a half-century ago.

And then there was Pope Benedict XVI, dubbed the "green pope" because he took

concrete action to back up his ecological calls. Under his watch, the Vatican installed photovoltaic cells on the roof of its main auditorium and a solar cooling unit for its main cafeteria, as well as joined a reforestation project aimed at offsetting its CO₂ emissions.

"The fact that some states, power groups and energy companies hoard non-renewable energy resources represents a grave obstacle to development in poor countries," Benedict wrote in his 2009 encyclical *Charity in Truth*. "The international community has an urgent duty to

International Panel on Climate Change in a major document. Francis, history's first Latin American pope, also is bringing the point of view of the "Global South" to a social teaching document of the church.

But, though it's gotten lost in other issues, the church's environmental message has been articulated for years. "To be honest, we have been talking about this but not with enough emphasis," said the Rev. Agostino Zampini Davies, the Argentine theological adviser to CAFOD, the development agency of the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Zampini Davies recently made a presentation to the church's global Caritas aid agencies outlining what each pope and bishops' conference has said about the environment for the past half-century, a remarkable compilation that could have saved Francis' ghost-writers time and effort in drafting the encyclical.

Zampini noted that the 2004 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, a massive undertaking by the Vatican to pull all the church's social teachings into one book, gave scant attention to the environment — "a missed opportunity" Zampini Davies said Francis is now correcting with an even more authoritative document.

Amid the alarm over Francis' encyclical on the environment, U.S. Cardinal Donald Wuerl recently addressed a conference of business and church leaders on how sustainable actions can drive economic growth to lift people out of poverty.

"The teaching of Pope Francis and his efforts to address the environment are in harmony with those of his predecessors," he insisted.

DRAFT LEAKED

L'Espresso published the encyclical on its website on June 15, three days before the scheduled release. The Vatican response condemned the leak as a "heinous act" and insisted that what was published was a draft.



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NATIONAL BRIEFS



IMAGE: COURTESY

An artist's rendition of the I-90 wildlife crossing.

SPECIAL OVERPASS TO HELP ANIMALS CROSS SAFELY

Interstate 90 is a lifeline for the Northwest, connecting people and economies across the Cascades and linking the region to the rest of the country.

For wildlife, though, it's a killer. Multiple lanes of pavement and high-speed traffic bisect habitat more ruthlessly than any fence, isolating populations and undermining the genetic vigor that's key to long-term survival.

But part of that barrier is now being lifted.

The Washington Department of Transportation recently broke ground on the state's first freeway overpass for animals. The 150-foot-long structure is designed to provide safe passage for species ranging from black bear and cougar to deer, elk, as well as squirrels, mice and lizards.

It's part of an ambitious project to convert a 15-mile stretch of interstate into one of the world's most wildlife-friendly highways.

"I-90 has a tremendous impact on wildlife in the Cascades," said Jen Watkins, of Conservation Northwest and the I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition. "Animals fundamentally require the ability to move on the landscape, and if we prevent them from doing that we can block their ability to find food and mates and new habitat when conditions change."

In other national news ...

- HARVARD CLOSES PRIMATE RESEARCH:** Harvard Medical School closed the New England Primate Research Center on May 31. The university announced the decision to close the center two years ago, citing funding issues and a shift in priorities. When Harvard announced the intended closure, the facility housed 2,000 monkeys. The center was cited for numerous Animal Welfare Act violations that resulted in the death of four primates and compromised the welfare of others. There are now seven National Primate Research Centers supported by the National Institutes of Health.
- WHITE HOUSE MENU:** The Obama administration in early June issued a memo directing federal agencies to establish a preference for purchasing meat according to "responsible" antibiotic use. Some groups are pressing the White House to expand the policy. The

National Resources Defense Council said: "For the first time, the federal government is flexing its considerable purchasing power muscle to help build the market for meat and poultry produced with the so-called 'responsible' use of antibiotics. But to truly eliminate the routine use of antibiotics in animals that are not sick ... the federal policy should halt all routine use of medically-important antibiotics, not just one category of routine use."

- LEGAL FEUD OVER LOGGING:** The Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Idaho Sporting Congress and Native Ecosystems Council filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Boise against the U.S. Forest Service. The groups in the 10-page complaint say the agency violated environmental laws by approving Idaho's Lost Creek-Boulder Creek Landscape Restoration Project without proper environmental analysis and the project threatens habitat for bull trout, a threatened species.

- DEMANDING RECORDS:** The refusal of a California city to release videos showing the fatal shooting of an unarmed man by police is an attempt to avoid public scrutiny and criticism, three media outlets argued in a federal court motion seeking release of the footage. The videos, which are under a federal court seal, show 34-year-old Ricardo Diaz Zeferino being shot by Gardena police officers in 2013. The Zeferino family and another man who was wounded filed a federal civil rights lawsuit that the city settled for \$4.7 million earlier this year.

- PRISON TRANSFER OVERTURNED:** Connecticut's second-highest court ruled that a transgender girl's due process rights were violated last year when she was transferred from the custody of the state's child welfare agency to a state prison — a detention that sparked an outcry from civil liberties advocates. A panel of the state Appellate Court said a lower court judge didn't hold the Department of Children and Families to a high-enough standard of proof when the agency presented evidence that the girl was too violent for child welfare agency facilities and had assaulted staff.

- 'ANGOLA 3' ORDER:** The last of the "Angola Three" inmates, whose decades in solitary confinement drew international condemnation and became the subject of two documentaries, was ordered released. The ruling should free 68-year-old Albert Woodfox, a former Black Panther, after more than 40 years in solitary, which human rights experts have said constitutes torture. Woodfox and two other state prisoners became known as the Angola Three because of their long stretches in solitary confinement at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

— from AP and WiG reports

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THE DUCHESS OF COOLSVILLE — RETURNS TO THE PABST THEATER —



REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: THE AP

WRIGHT PLACE: A Frank Lloyd Wright house was rediscovered in Shorewood after being hidden for years by shrubbery and facade additions. "It went from, 'Your house can't possibly be a Frank Lloyd Wright house,' to, 'Your house is most definitely a Frank Lloyd Wright house,'" said Pat Wisialowski, who has owned the house since 1993. The home was constructed in 1917 as an American System-Built House, part of Wright's effort to develop and market well-designed houses for any income level — his first effort to reach a broader audience. There are currently 13 others standing in the Midwest, including six in Milwaukee and one in Oshkosh. The two-bedroom house in Shorewood is a "Model A203," with the original art glass windows in place.

THOUSANDS PROTEST PROPOSED NORTHWOODS OIL PIPELINE.

Thousands of people rallied in early June in St. Paul, Minnesota, to protest a \$2.6 billion Sandpiper pipeline that would carry crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken oil fields to Superior, Wisconsin. That's where pipeline owner Enbridge Energy operates an oil terminal tied to other pipelines supplying refineries in the East and Midwest.

Anti-pipeline activists said they estimated around 5,000 people attended. Activists who led the battle against the giant Keystone pipeline say they hope to turn the pipeline proposal into the next national organizing symbol against tar sands and climate change.

Richard Smith, who heads the group Friends of the Headwaters, told Minnesota Public Radio News the Enbridge project could put sensitive water resources at risk.

"They shouldn't have the right to exploit our water resources, our headwaters of the Mississippi, our lakes and streams, our

wild rice and our drinking water," he said.

Sharon Day, with the Indigenous People's Task Force, fears expanding oil production in Canada and moving more oil through the state will hurt the environment.

"If you want your grandchildren's grandchildren to have life, to have clean water, then we must all do what we can," Day said.

Enbridge is a Calgary, Alberta-based energy company and its operations date back to the 1950s.

REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS MOVE TO FIRE WISCONSIN DNR SCIENTISTS

Republican lawmakers are cutting scientists from the Department of Natural Resources who worked on issues related to climate change, pollution and mining.

Republicans claim the cuts are designed to refocus the DNR on hunting and fishing. But Democrats say the GOP is retaliating against researchers in areas they oppose

for political reasons.

"It has to be political," Rep. Chris Taylor, D-Madison, a member of the Legislature's budget committee, said of the cuts. "The public hasn't called for this. Most people in the state want decisions about the environment to be based on science, not politics."

In other regional news ...

• **PIMPING FOR PIPELINE:** The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation is checking allegations that an agent working for a pipeline company offered to hire a prostitute for a landowner in exchange for access to his land. The Lee County landowner said he recorded proof that the agent made the offer. The proposed pipeline would carry 450,000 barrels daily from North Dakota to a hub in Illinois.

• **RALLYING FOR FEINGOLD:** In his first public appearance since announcing he intended to win back his U.S. Senate seat, Russ Feingold received a standing ovation at the Wisconsin Democratic Party convention in early June. Feingold told the audience he would tour each of the state's 72 counties in 2015, listening to residents' concerns.

• **TELLING TREES:** The Arbor Day Foundation offers What Tree Is That? to help identify tree species. "The pocket guide is an ideal resource for developing a greater appreciation for trees," said Arbor Day Foundation CEO Matt Harris. For more, go to arborday.org.

• **RUN FOR THE PARKS:** The Park People and Bay View Neighborhood Association are organizing the sixth annual Run for the Parks 5K run and 2K family walk on July 14 in Milwaukee's Humboldt Park. For more, go to milwaukeeenvironmentalconsortium.org.

• **SAVE THE DATE:** Organizing is underway for the Whooping Crane Festival, with activities and events planned for Sept. 10-13 in Green Lake, Marquette and Dodge counties. Registration is available for a welcome bash, festival dinner and nature tours. For more, go to operation-migration.org.

— from WiG reports

— WALKER WATCH —

SCOTT WALKER'S WISCONSIN RANKS DEAD LAST IN BUSINESS START-UP ACTIVITY

Wisconsin ranks last among the states for new business start-up activity, according to the new Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurship, released on June 5.

Milwaukee fared little better, coming in 39th place out of the nation's 40 largest metropolitan areas.

The index is the first and largest tracking entrepreneurship across city, state and national levels for the United States, according to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The Kauffman Survey is one of the world's most respected and cited entrepreneurship indicators in the nation.

In last year's index, Wisconsin ranked 45 — five states higher than in 2015.

WALKER TAKES ON HIGHER ED

Four years ago, Gov. Scott Walker took union rights away from teachers and other public workers in the state. Walker, who did not graduate from college, now wants to strip job protections for University of Wisconsin professors.

Eliminating tenure in state law, as Walker proposed in January and a Republican-controlled legislative committee approved earlier this month, is part of a larger overhaul of higher education policy that he is talking about to Republican voters around the country.

University professors and their supporters are raising alarms that it's an attack on academic freedom that could gain momentum in other states.

"Within the higher ed universe, this is being seen as an extremely consequential, signal event," said Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

A companion effort would take from professors and staff certain decision-making powers about campus issues including curriculum, research and faculty status. Combined with ending tenure in state law, the higher education proposal would be the first of its kind in the country, Nassirian said.

— from AP and WiG reports



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Wisconsin LGBT
Chamber of Commerce

EDITORIAL

GOP plots revenge on bipartisan agencies that dare using truth and facts to hold government accountable

The cheap thrill of retaliation has no place among elected officials who are paid to serve the public, not their egos. But some of Wisconsin's Republican leaders are on a payback binge that's noteworthy for the sweeping changes it will make to the nature of democracy in the state and the irreparable harm it will wreak on our quality of life.

The most disturbing recent Republican attack is on the non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau, which has provided citizens and lawmakers alike with honest, reliable investigations of waste, fraud, abuse, inefficiencies and cronyism in state government since 1966. Not surprisingly, in doing so, the bureau has fallen into disfavor with Gov. Scott Walker and some of his supporters.

A series of LAB and external audits have found Walker's much-touted "job creation" agency — the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation — lost track of \$56 million worth of taxpayer-funded loans, lacked basic internal accounting controls and was staffed by unqualified Walker cronies. LAB also found that WEDC had written off more than \$7.6 million in loans, including a \$500,000 loan to an unqualified company owned by a major Walker donor.

Auditors discovered that WEDC didn't even require the beneficiaries of its largesse to create jobs in Wisconsin and didn't track the results of the loans that it made.

So now, in typical Walker fashion, the governor and his colleagues want to eliminate the bipartisan, fact-finding bureau and instead empower the Assembly speaker and the Senate majority leader — in other words, partisan leaders — to appoint investigators at their discretion. There's nothing to compel those leaders to launch fair, impartial investigations that might harm their interests.

Aside from investigating WEDC, the bureau has conducted numerous other audits that provided lawmakers with information critical to planning budgets and setting policy.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos has said he will never support eliminating the LAB, and we urge readers to contact him directly to support his stance — and to hold him to it.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Common Cause in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign have said the draft bill, co-sponsored by state Rep. David Craig and Rep. Adam Jarchow, would destroy the best watchdog the state has — and for no good reason. We agree.

Besides eliminating the LAB, Walker and legislative Republicans also decided to fire scientists from the Department of Natural Resources who worked on issues related to climate change, pollution and mining. The GOP has been out to get the state's environmental scientists ever since they refused to automatically green-light an iron ore pit mine in northern Wisconsin that could have devastated the area's watershed and polluted Lake Superior.

Walker was humiliated over DNR scientists' insistence on researching the consequences of the mine, because the mining company that proposed the project had given him \$700,000. He'd empowered representatives of the company to rewrite the state's mining regulations so the project could move forward.

There are numerous other examples of Walker dishing out payback, possibly including his elimination of state funding for the Wisconsin Transportation Alternatives Program, which supported projects for cycling and walking paths. He also floated the idea of imposing a tax on bike sales to pay for bike lanes on roadways.

Both actions were seen as retaliation against his 2014 Democratic gubernatorial opponent Mary Burke, whose family owns Trek Bicycle. That might sound too petty to be true, but sadly, it's not. Apparently, nothing is.

WiG's WEB PICKS

*Some of our favorite recent
pictorials from cyberspace*



ON THE RECORD

“I personally believe that marriage is between one man and one woman. If the court decides (against) that, the only next approach is for those who are supporters of marriage being defined as between one man and one woman is ultimately to consider pursuing a constitutional amendment.”

— GOV. SCOTT WALKER telling ABC's *This Week* that he would support amending the Constitution to allow the states to defy a possible Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. Walker is known to have several gays and lesbians in his inner circle of advisers.

“Today Republicans are systematically and deliberately trying to stop millions of American citizens from voting. What part of democracy are they afraid of? I believe every citizen has the right to vote and I believe we should do everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote.”

— Democratic presidential candidate HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON speaking at historically black Texas Southern University.

“I think the thing that stressed me out and probably gave a lot of people anxiety about the *Vanity Fair* cover and the positive reaction to it was, it was unclear if we were celebrating Jenner because she transitioned or because she passed and we wouldn't know that she had transitioned. ... If we're celebrating that we wouldn't know she was trans or that she passes for how we think a woman should look like, it makes things a lot tougher for trans people who will probably never pass with that kind of resources and that kind of backup.”

— CARLOS MAZA of Media Matters, speaking on MSNBC about Caitlyn Jenner's *Vanity Fair* cover.

“The unfortunate part of this situation is that Republicans have led our state into a fiscal mess that makes all our budgeting decisions more difficult. If Republicans had made better financial decisions like reclaiming our federal health care money, then our state wouldn't be feeling this painful squeeze and would be more able to invest in such priorities as public schools, our universities and major projects.”

— REP. PETER BARCA, Assembly Democratic Leader, commenting on the deal reached between Milwaukee officials and Gov. Scott Walker for a new Milwaukee Bucks arena complex that will cost taxpayers upward of \$400 million.

“I'm saying, what should the pope use his moral authority for? I think there are more pressing problems confronting the Earth than climate change.”

— Former U.S. SEN. RICK SANTORUM telling *Fox News Sunday* that Pope Francis has no authority to talk about climate change. Santorum is seeking the Republican presidential nomination.

“He's an unwelcome distraction. We already have so many candidates vying for attention, and he brings a sideshow element to the whole thing.”

— Republican strategist RON BONJEAN telling *The Hill* that a Donald Trump presidential candidacy could drag down the party's entire field.

Three cheers for Allison Bechdel

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

On June 7, the musical based on Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir *Fun Home* won five Tony Awards, for best musical, best director, best actor, best book and best original musical score.

Fun Home is the little musical that could.

Allison Bechdel spent years drawing her memoir about growing up and discovering she was a lesbian in the context of a dysfunctional family whose father was a closeted gay man. The “Fun Home” of the title is what Bechdel and her brothers called the funeral home their father ran. It's also an ironic twist on their troubled abode.

Because the story was so personal, Bechdel wasn't sure it would ever be published. But her mother and brothers consented, and *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* was published to

positive reviews. It was on many lists of the 10 best books of 2006. It went into development as a theater piece in 2009, played Off-Broadway in 2013 and opened on Broadway this spring.

Fun Home is the first Broadway musical with a lesbian protagonist, which is pretty amazing given how many shows with gay and transgender characters have trod the boards for decades. Yet it strikes universal themes. Jeanine Tesori, who won a Tony for the music, said it's about “trying to grapple with what your parents gifted you with and what they burdened you with.”

It depicts Bechdel at three stages of her life: as an 11-year-old chafing against limitations and recognizing her incipient lesbianism (“Ring of Keys,” sung by Sydney Lucas on the Tony show); as a college student making love with a woman for the first time (“Changing My Major”); and as a 43-year-old looking back trying to make

sense of her crazy family life (“It All Comes Back”).

The show's Tony wins give wider recognition to an artist who spent much of her career documenting lesbian life and foibles through her decades-long cartoon series “Dykes to Watch Out For.”

Begun in the 1980s, “Dykes to Watch Out For” was published in dozens of gay, lesbian and feminist publications. It followed the misadventures of a group of lesbians through self-discoveries, love affairs, break-ups, political arguments and family dramas.

The strip was remarkable for its multi-sexual, multi-racial, multi-ethnic characters and its commentary on culture and politics. The feminist bookstore owner Jezanna railed against “Bunns & Noodle” stealing her business. The characters attended many an anti-war protest and women's music festival. They debated and spoofed the latest twists in gender theory.

One comment in a 1985 “Dykes” strip has become

a feminist touchstone: the Bechdel test. The character says she'll only go to movies that fit these criteria: 1) it has to have at least two women in it who 2) talk to each other about 3) something besides a man. See bechdeltest.com.

A month before the Tony Awards, Bechdel made another notable contribution. She filled in as a table sponsor at the PEN America Awards after some writers pulled out to protest the organization giving its Courage Award to the survivors of the French newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*. Bechdel clearly saw the protesters' rationale as fallacious. Salman Rushdie quipped: “I hope nobody ever comes after them.”

Three cheers for Allison Bechdel for standing up for artistic freedom, for sharing her life story, for giving hope to young lesbians, and for making the lives of lesbians more visible and relatable to a wider audience.

Open letter to the Sup't of Milwaukee Schools

Opinion

MADELINE DIETRICH

I wish to call to your attention to an oversight, a failure to act by Milwaukee Public School administrators, which undoubtedly contributed to the suicide of one of Milwaukee Public Schools' best and brightest teachers this past school year. While the blame for her death cannot be fully placed on the Milwaukee Public School District, it is my opinion that if key personnel had responded appropriately, this teacher might be alive.

Karis Anne Ross, who taught at MPS's prestigious Milwaukee German Immersion School, took her life over the Thanksgiving holiday last November. She was 37 years old. Ross was the school's lead special education teacher, a stressful job

made unnecessarily more stressful by a hostile work environment that included disrespect and bullying, not from her students, but from the aides assigned to assist her.

There were four professionals working in Ross' classroom — a lead teacher and three aides, all of them women. But three were cisgender, while only Ross was transgender. Three were black, while Ross was white. Three were paraprofessionals charged with supporting the lead teacher's direction, while only Ross held a master's degree and professional teaching certificate.

The differences in race, education status and gender identity fostered an environment where the majority group regularly subjected Ross to intimidation and resistance.

Ross repeatedly informed principal Albert J. Brugger. It had gone on for years, but in the weeks leading to Ross'

suicide, numerous emails were exchanged among school officials, the medical community and Ross. All of them pointed to a crisis that Brugger largely ignored.

The suicide occurred the Saturday afternoon before Ross had to face the hostility of her support staff and the indifference of her principal the following Monday morning. Each aide was named in Ross' suicide letter, along with Brugger, as the primary cause of her grief.

Friends, employers, landlords and family too often reject transgender people. They are 40 percent more likely to attempt suicide than the mean population. The MPS employees whose job was to assist her in caring for profoundly disabled children rejected Ross.

Adding insult to injury, MPS made no attempt to contact Ross' family for nearly two weeks after her death. Brugger sent flow-

ers and a card, but made no official announcement to faculty and staff, who only learned of the suicide from Ross' uncle when he arrived to collect her personal belongings.

I wish Darienne Driver the best as the leader of a major metropolitan school district. It is my hope that she will move forward with a renewed awareness of the responsibilities held by schools in our society, not only in teaching our students, but also in setting an example for our population through modeling tolerance.

As Ross so eloquently put it in closing her suicide letter, “Love to everyone, even the rotten apples.”

Madeline Dietrich, MM/MLIS, AOP Fellow, UW-Milwaukee Class of 2013.

Share your opinion with [WiG](mailto:WiG@wisconsin Gazette.com). Write to lweisberg@wisconsin Gazette.com.

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Feline fans are the cat's meow at CatConLA

By Sue Manning

AP writer

Their cat tails wagging and whiskers twitching, feline fans, some in shirts emblazoned with "Check Meowt," chattered about their "purrfect" pets as they waited in line for hours for a selfie with a kitty celebrity.

No one was as serious as Laura E. Mart of Los Angeles, who donned a ballgown she crafted from 300 fabric cat photos, its skirt several feet wide. She also wore a tall, furry hat, complete with a long tail she swung about.

"If I see a cat, I have to pick it up and pet it. I was afraid I was going to be a cat lady, so this is my way of having all the cats I want," she said of the dress.

The first-ever CatConLA brought the cat craze popularized online to life in a big, costumed way June 6-7. It tapped into the Internet memes and clickable videos that have spread on social media as people share their love of cats' antics and help create stars, including ever-downtrodden Grumpy Cat and eternally tongue-wagging Lil Bub.

More than 12,000 people dusted off old Halloween costumes or cat-patterned clothing to become the most visible part of the cat lovers' version of ComicCon, the comic book fest that attracts flocks of



PHOTO: JAE C. HONG/AP

Chelsea Place is dressed as a sick cat at CatConLA in Los Angeles on June 6. Attendees came in droves, ready to talk about cats, act like cats and embrace or buy all things cat.

costumed fans.

Famous feline Lil Bub rubbed up to cat enthusiasts Mayim Bialik of "The Big Bang Theory" and Jack McBrayer of "30 Rock" as panelists entertained and vendors peddled products.

The huge turnout overwhelmed some of the 100-plus sellers. Olivia Mew — seem-

ingly destined for cat commodities — said that by the afternoon of the first day, she had sold all 150 shirts, totes, bags and art prints she brought with her from Montreal.

The Beauty Bar ran out of cat stickers that manicurists pressed on people's fingernails. Even the food truck fare ran low.

CATS page 22



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CATS from page 20

But the crunch didn't faze the flocks of feline fans. Long lines at booths, autograph signings and seminars at The Reef in downtown Los Angeles just gave them a chance to meet more cat lovers.

Wearing a "Mayim is Purr-fect" T-shirt, one woman waited in line for two-and-a-half hours to be the first to get an autograph and photo of the actress.

"I am always surprised when anybody wants to take a picture with me," Bialik said, laughing. "But I thanked her for waiting that long."

The adoptable cats and kittens drew a steady line of more than 100 people. Best Friends Animal Society helped place 74 from several Los Angeles shelters, said Candi Crawford, manager of the no-kill rescue.

At the Lil Bub souvenir booth, blankets and towels quickly sold out. The cat became an online sensation with her big eyes and a tongue that's always sticking out, which stems from dwarfism that left her without teeth.

At one of two sold-out meet-and-greets benefiting animal charities, owner Mike Bridavsky talked about his special relationship with Bub and their exhausting work. Then, the crowd, limited to 75 people who spent \$150 each, got to pet Bub.

"The people who will pay \$150 to meet Bub are some of the most wonderful people you'd ever meet," Bridavsky said. "They are very sweet and protective of her



PHOTO: JAE C. HONG/AP

ABOVE: Laura Mart wears a dress with pictures of 300 cats printed on it at CatConLA on June 6 in Los Angeles. Cats were not the stars of the cat convention, their humans were.

and have this deep love for her."

Other seminars featured syndicated "Sally Forth" cartoonist and author Francesco Marciuliano, blogger and author

Angie Bailey and animator Simon Tofield, who started "Simon's Cat," a YouTube series about a mischievous fat cat and his owner Simon.

CatConLA, which will be back next year, raised more than \$20,000 for FixNation, a nonprofit spay-and-neuter clinic for feral cats in LA, organizer Susan Michals said.

At the event, cat owners Clarissa Mosher of Carson and boyfriend Freddie Luna of El Monte tried out the selfie station set up with kitty props.

"They give unconditional love in its purest form," Mosher said. "Cats are more picky than dogs, so if they like you, you know they mean it."



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Out on the town *June 18 - July 2*

A curated calendar of upcoming events



PHOTO: FRONT ROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

LAKEFRONT FESTIVAL OF ART *June 19 to 21*

This annual festival celebrating art of all sorts has been a summer mainstay for years. And this year's festival is bigger than ever — even if the museum it surrounds is still partly closed for renovation. A partnership with MAM After Dark will bring musical guests Cardinal Harbor, Nightgown, GGOOLLDD and Group of the Altos to the mainstage. Painting classes offered for the first time by Wine and Canvas will offer the opportunity to embrace your inner artist with the help of a glass of wine. What remains the same is the diversity of work presented by more than 170 jury-selected artists, including featured artist Anthony Hansen, who works primarily with found sheet metal. At 700 N. Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee. Tickets are \$17, \$14 students/seniors, \$10 Milwaukee Art Museum members, and \$25 for a three-day pass. Visit lfoa.mam.org for more details.

ISTHMUS JAZZ FESTIVAL

June 19 to 20

Madison celebrates America's great jazz tradition with this two-day festival at the Memorial Union Terrace. Artists from the Dixieland, swing, bebop and Latin jazz movements will be given the chance to perform for an eager crowd, with the Freddy Cole Quartet headlining Saturday night. Organizers also will be partnering with the Madison Music Collective, which will present six presentations under the "Jazz with Class" banner, featuring film screenings, workshops and discussions of jazz movements and history. At 800 Langdon St. Admission is free for all events except the headlining show; tickets to Freddy Cole Quartet are \$20 to \$32, with discounts for students, seniors and UW-Madison staff available. Visit uniontheater.wisc.edu for more details.

'SING-A-LONG-A GREASE'

7 p.m. June 19

Check the back of your closets for your jackets, T-Birds and Pink Ladies. Madison's Overture Center will show the classic film *Grease* this month, with a special sing-along screening. Hosts will provide a free fun pack with items for use during the show, as well as run the audience through vocal warm-ups and teach them how to hand jive with the best of them. At 201 State St. Tickets are \$19 to \$25 and can be ordered at overturecenter.org or 608-258-4141.



'CARMINA BURANA' *8 p.m. June 19 and 20, 2:30 p.m. June 21*

Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* is one of the most popular and powerful works of 20th century classical music, a near-guaranteed smash for any orchestra that takes it up. The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will sweeten the deal by inviting back former music director Andreas Delfs to conduct, along with the MSO Chorus, Milwaukee Children's Choir and several guest soloists. Concertmaster Frank Almond will lead off the program with Max Bruch's masterpiece, his First Violin Concerto. At the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St. Tickets are \$22 to \$102 and can be ordered at 414-291-7605 or mso.org.

CEDARBURG STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL *June 27 and 28*

Cedarburg is known for one thing above any other: its Strawberry Festival. This year marks the 30th year of a celebration that draws as many as 100,000 people. Food vendors are a big part of the festival, of course, with strawberry shortcake, crepes, slushies, pancakes and even brats available, as well as the berries. Visitors also can pick up a bottle of Cedar Creek Winery's Strawberry Blush wine and take in art displayed by Midwest artists along Washington Avenue or being made by plein air painters. Admission is free. Visit cedarburgfestival.org for a full schedule of events.



KEEP READING FOR...

'Fairy Queen Fantasy': Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Danceworks team up for this trip to Lynden Sculpture Garden, where they'll tell a tale of Shakespeare's fairies Titania and Oberon through song and dance. *June 19 and 20.* See page 34.



PHOTO: DAN BISHOP



Pride 2015



PrideFest Milwaukee reported record attendance of 32,822 people at its annual celebration of LGBT Pride on the Summerfest Grounds. This year's festival ran June 5-7 and featured stars Ani diFranco and En Vogue, along with an impressive array of popular Wisconsin performers. Trixie Mattel, a Milwaukee drag queen who appeared as a contestant on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, also entertained.

The nation's largest LGBT festival on permanent grounds — and the largest run by volunteers — PrideFest draws a regular audience throughout the Midwest.

On June 7, the Milwaukee Pride Parade stepped off in Walker's Point. Parade winners included: Northwestern Mutual, for best marching unit; Black Sheep MKE for best float; and Milwaukee GAMMA for best-decorated car.

Photographer Dave Lauersdorf captured both events for *Wisconsin Gazette* and it's our privilege to share with you these cherished memories.







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JULY 1 – Frogwater John & Susan perform Celtic, Bluegrass, Blues, Ragtime and Regional Instrumental Dance.

JULY 29 – Iberian Spanish Dancers share the rich traditions of dance, music and culture of the Ibero-Hispanic experience through classical and folkloric Flamenco styles.

AUGUST 11 – Carmen Nickerson's beautiful vocals and **Kostia's** original compositions create an exciting evening.

AUGUST 26 – Dixie Doodlers will perform lively Dixieland Jazz.

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Dish it Out!

America's favorite snack bursting with options

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

It can be light and fluffy, or crisp and nutty. Cover it with butter and salt or liberally dose it with caramel, cheese or other popular seasonings. Nothing delivers flavor with a crunch quite like popcorn.

America's favorite snack food is inexpensive and healthy when prepared naturally. There are even a variety of choices emerging popcorn-oisseurs are discovering that bring greater variety in flavor, texture and even color to the mix. And, like so many popular foods, popcorn also has North American origins.

The domestication of corn reaches back some 9,000 years to Mexico and evidence suggests that indigenous people living in Peru were popping corn as early as 4700 B.C. In fact, popcorn was the first form of corn consumed. It was an important food to the early Aztecs, who ate it in abundance, celebrated it and used it to decorate the statues of their gods during religious rituals.

Today, Americans consume 16 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year, according to The Popcorn Board, a Chicago-based trade association. That's 51

quarts of popcorn for every man, woman and child in the 50 states.

While all popcorn is corn, not all corn can be popped. As a whole grain, the strain, a subspecies of everyday maize, consists of three layers: the pericarp (or outer hull), the endosperm (internal starch) and the germ (the once-living center). Each kernel contains a small amount of water, and it's this miniscule moisture that makes it pop.

When kernels begin to heat up and the temperature reaches 212 degrees, those internal droplets are vaporized, turning the surrounding starch into a tiny gelatinous mass. At about 347 degrees the pressure inside the hull reaches 135 pounds per square inch, which causes the hull to burst open or "pop."

The steam is released, the soft starch spills out and inflates to 40 to 50 times its original size, forming the characteristic white "flake" that we know to be popcorn. The result is either the rounded, more durable "mushroom" shape or the multi-winged "butterfly" shape, but both are delicious.

Air-popped popcorn by itself is considered the healthiest snack food on the market. It's naturally high in dietary fiber

and antioxidants, low in calories and fats and free of sugar and starches. Most people can snack freely on popcorn without losing their appetites for meals.

However, conditions change depending on how the corn is popped and what you put on the finished product. A somewhat notorious 1990s-era report from the Center for Science in the Public Interest studied "movie popcorn," the type frequently served in theaters.

The CSPI accused movie popcorn, popped in high-fat tropical oils and slathered in butter-like substances, of containing more fats "than a breakfast of bacon and eggs, a Big Mac and fries and a steak dinner combined." But true popcorn fans know that the whole-grain food, delicious by itself, can be flavored with any number of seasonings without becoming a health risk.

Given the types now available locally, slathering anything on the different strains available may be a huge mistake. Various brands from Tietz Family Farms, located near Watertown, offer visitors to both the Dane County Farmers' Market and the Oconomowoc Farmers Market a chance to discover new flavor varieties in popcorn.

Tietz, now in its seventh generation of family ownership, produces five types of popcorn:

- The yellow popcorn, the most familiar of the selections, offers tender flakes with a strong natural corn flavor.

- The Ruby Red variety produces small, white flakes with a light nutty flavor. The flakes are crisp, yet tender, with a light crunch.

- The white popcorn is a hull-less variety, producing tender, fluffy flakes with a melt-in-your-mouth quality.

- Shaman Blue, which creates large puffs in tight clusters, yields crunchy white flakes with a subtle sweetness and natural corn flavor.

- The calico corn, a naturally grown hybrid similar in appearance to an ear of Indian corn, contains a little bit of everything.

Tietz's popcorn also is available via mail order. Visit tietzfamilyfarms.com for more information.

For those who do want to experiment with new approaches to standard grocery store-variety popcorn, The Popcorn Board suggests the following recipes:

KEY LIME POPCORN CLUSTERS

Makes about 32 clusters

Ingredients:

8 cups popped popcorn
4 graham crackers, finely chopped
1 jar (7½ ounces) marshmallow crème
¼ cup butter or margarine
2 tablespoon grated lime peel
1 tablespoon lime juice

Directions:

Line a 9-inch square pan with foil. Combine popcorn and all but 2 tablespoons of graham cracker pieces in large bowl.

Microwave marshmallow crème and butter in large glass bowl on high for 1 minute. Stir until butter is melted. Stir in lime peel and lime juice.

Pour marshmallow mixture over popcorn, mixing thoroughly. Using damp hand, firmly press mixture into prepared pan. Sprinkle with reserved 2 tablespoons graham cracker pieces and refrigerate 2 hours until firm.

Lift foil from pan. Break popcorn mixture into clusters.

SWEET CHILI & PEANUT POPCORN

Makes about 5 cups

Ingredients:

5 cups popped popcorn
½ cup honey roasted peanuts or peanuts
¼ cup peanut butter
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon honey
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce (or to taste)
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes (or to taste)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Place popcorn in a large bowl. Scatter peanuts over top and set aside.

Stir together peanut butter, butter, honey, brown sugar, and hot sauce in a small, microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave about 30 seconds. Stir to blend.

Drizzle the peanut butter sauce over the popcorn. With a large spoon, stir

popcorn until evenly coated. Spread mixture onto a rimmed baking sheet and bake 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Allow popcorn to cool and serve immediately.

BOMBAY POPCORN

Makes about 8 cups

Ingredients:

8 cups popped popcorn, warm
3 tablespoons butter or margarine
2 teaspoons curry powder or hot curry powder
½ teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon sugar
½ cup toasted coconut, golden raisins or sliced almonds, optional

Directions:

Place popcorn in a large bowl. Microwave butter 20 seconds or until melted, then stir in curry powder until well blended.

Drizzle seasoned butter over popcorn and stir to distribute. Sprinkle with salt, sugar and optional ingredients and stir gently until blended.

LAVENDER PROVENCAL POPCORN

Makes about 12-14 cups

Ingredients:

2 quarts popped popcorn
1 tablespoon butter, melted
2 teaspoons Herbs de Provence (with lavender)
½ teaspoon minced garlic
½ teaspoon salt

Directions:

Place popcorn in a large bowl. Drizzle in melted butter and toss.

Evenly sprinkle Herbs de Provence, garlic and salt over popcorn; toss again and serve.

Note: For fewer calories, omit butter. Spray popcorn lightly with cooking spray.





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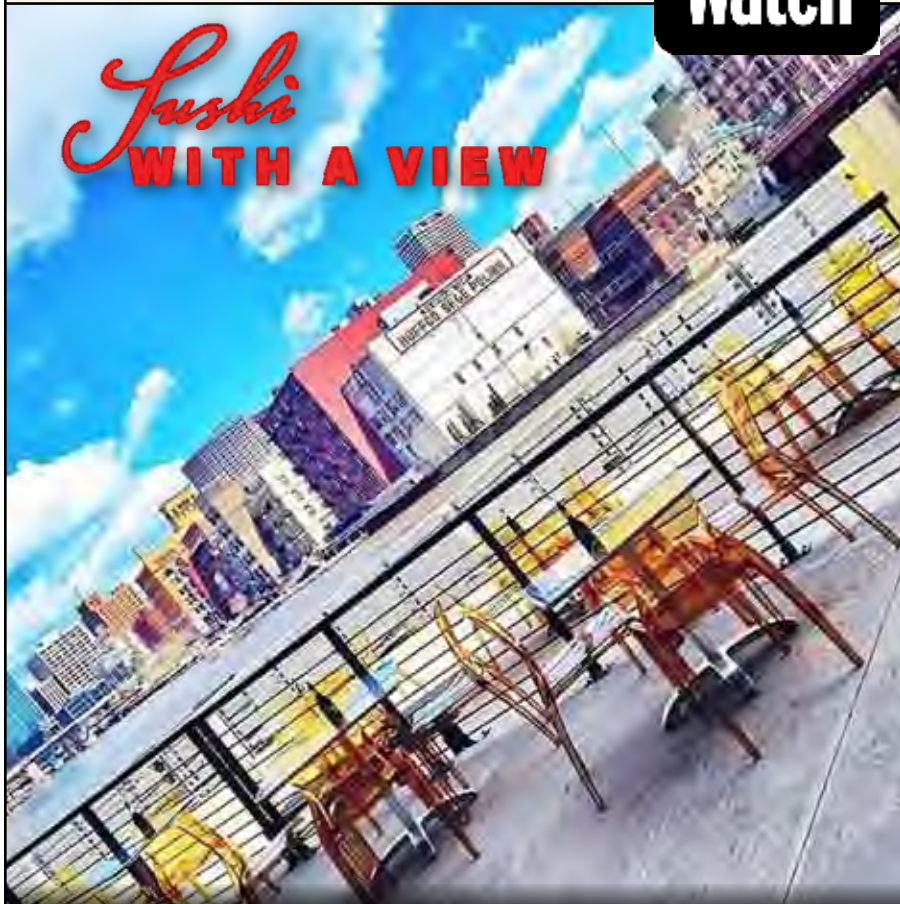
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A date-pistachio treat perfect for breaking a Ramadan fast

By Aarti Sequeira

Associated Press

I still remember the anticipation of watching the sun sink closer and closer to the horizon. It was Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. My childhood hometown of Dubai held its breath as the fiery ball dipped lower, lower and then finally into oblivion.

"Boom!" went the cannon, announcing that the day of fasting was over. Across the city, Muslims broke their fast as the Prophet Muhammad did, with a single date and a glass of water. The evening feast, known as "iftar," would only happen after prayers.

There is little resembling those days in my new hometown of Los Angeles except for the palm trees and boxes of impossibly sweet dates at the supermarket. Without thinking, I still reach for them, a shortcut to home.

Dates are revered in the Middle East.

References to dates line the Koran, and a date tree even sits on the Saudi seal. Nomadic Bedouins depended on its high sugar and fiber to sustain them during their travels. In fact, dates traveled with the Arab empire as far away as Spain, where they are wrapped in bacon and shallow-fried (an incarnation you're not likely to find on a Muslim table, given the prohibition of pork from their diet!).

Walk into most Arab homes and you'll be greeted by a plate of dates and a demitasse of strong, black Arabic coffee. You'll find all kinds of delicious desserts made with dates, but they're also used in savory preparations, such as pilafs, meat dishes and tagines.

Here's my addition to the compendium: date-pistachio balls that are dipped in dark chocolate. They are best eaten cold, right out of the refrigerator — if your tastes are anything like mine!

CHOCOLATE-COVERED DATE-PISTACHIO TRUFFLES

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Makes 24 truffles

Ingredients:

1 cup shelled unsalted raw pistachios
2 cups moist, pitted dates (about 24)
1/2 teaspoon tangerine or orange zest
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
12-ounce bag semi-sweet chocolate chips
Himalayan pink salt (or fleur de sel or kosher salt), to garnish

Directions:

In a food processor, pulse the pistachios until very finely minced, but not powdered. Add the dates, tangerine zest and cardamom, then process until a cohesive ball forms. Transfer to a large bowl.

Line a baking sheet with kitchen parchment. Remove about 1 tablespoon of date mixture and roll between your palms until you form a smooth ball. Place on the baking sheet, then repeat with remaining mixture. Very slightly wet hands help alleviate stickiness.

Fill a medium saucepan halfway with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low to maintain a low, steady simmer. Place a medium stainless steel or other heat-safe bowl on top of the saucepan. Pour the chocolate into the bowl and allow to melt, stirring occasionally until smooth.


Using 2 small spoons, drop a date

ball into the melted chocolate and turn gently to coat. Use a spoon to scoop up the ball, then pass it back and forth between the 2 spoons, letting any excess chocolate drip off. Gently return the coated date ball to the baking sheet, letting any extra chocolate on the spoon drip on top of it. Sprinkle with a little pink salt. Repeat with remaining balls.

Place baking sheet in the refrigerator and chill until the chocolate hardens, about 1 hour, though overnight is best.



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Ciders give America's favorite fruits a chance to sparkle

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

If you hail from the Midwest, fresh-pressed apple cider makes you think of autumn — the season where a bountiful harvest results in something a little out of the ordinary that puts one of America's favorite fruits in a glass.

Other parts of the world don't feel the same, but it's for a good reason. In the same way "football" denotes soccer everywhere but here, globally the word "cider" refers specifically to hard cider, a fresh-pressed fruit beverage that benefits from the addition of alcohol.

More and more, ciders have come into vogue as an alternative to beer, wine and cocktails. In addition to traditional apple cider, there are pear ciders, cranberry ciders and a host of other flavors. Ciders can be sweet or dry, sparkling or still and pour from a bottle, can or barroom tap.

Making cider is similar to making wine. The fruit is pressed, the juice extracted and the remaining pulp composted, used for animal feed or, in some cases, distilled into fruit liqueurs. Calvados and applejack are both distilled from cider and its byproducts.

The juice is fermented for three months before it's bottled and ready. Sometimes extra sugar is added to make it effervescent, but that takes time and requires special equipment, bottles and corks.

The United Kingdom consumes the most cider per capita, but the beverage also has

its fans in Ireland, France and northern Spain. Other parts of Europe offer their own variations on cider.

Cider can be a boutique beverage product, but all the major brewers have hopped on the wagon. MillerCoors, Anheuser-Busch InBev, Stella Artois, Boston Beer Co. (Samuel Adams' brewer) and C&C Group (Magners Irish Cider) all either produce their own lines of alcoholic U.S. cider or have bought up a company that does.

Regardless of where you stand on the micro versus macro brewing argument, one thing the volume producers can offer is consistency and quality. But cider fans know there is reason to explore some of the smaller brands available throughout Wisconsin. Here are some notable ones:

As one of the newest boutique brands, **Island Orchard Cider** also has a Wisconsin pedigree. Milwaukeeans Bob and Yannique Purman own a farm on Washington Island, off the tip of Door County, which has its share of apple trees. That resource, combined with an investigation into Yannique's French roots, led to the couple's decision to produce traditional French-style ciders.

At their tasting room (12040 Garrett Bay Road, Ellison Bay) on the peninsula's northern end, Island Orchard offers a medium dry brut apple cider whose tart fruit characteristics only get better in its oak-aged version. The pair also produces a pear and apple-cherry cider as well.

Seattle Cider, from its Washington name-

sake city, takes a more adventurous approach to its products. Pint cans of the company's dry, semi-sweet and citrus hard cider can be found in most package stores. The flavors are refined and tend more toward the dry rather than sweet side. Expect a little spice here and there as well.

Some of the firm's varieties can be harder to find. Cider Three Pepper, brewed with jalapeno, habanero and poblano peppers, is one, as is Gin Botanical, with layered flavors made from gin ingredients, including lemon, cucumber and juniper, and featuring gin-and-tonic overtones.

Sonoma Cider, from the heart of wine country in Healdsburg, California, takes the beverage in another bold direction. In addition to an apple cider (The Hatchet) and a pear cider (The Pitchfork), the cidery established by father- and-son team David and Robert Cordtz in 2013, also produces The Anvil, an organic apple cider blend aged in a former bourbon barrel.

Barrel-aging is all the rage nowadays, and Sonoma does well with The Anvil. Expect flavors of butterscotch, vanilla and honey on the palate, with apple and oak bringing up the rear.

Who wouldn't love a cider called **Original Sin**? And what name would be more appropriate for a cider produced in New York City?

Cider maker Gidon Call taps orchards on the family farm in upstate New York to make the traditional dry cider, working hard to capture the notes and tones found in early American cider styles. In addition to apple, apricot, elderberry and pear ciders, Call also produces single batch ciders pressed from heirloom varieties. The line includes ciders from Newtown Pippin and Northern Spy apples, as well as Cherry Tree, a blend of heirloom apple and tart cherry ciders.

Speaking of heirloom varieties, **Aeppel-Treow Winery & Distillery** in Burlington, Wisconsin, is home to 130 heirloom apple varieties. In addition to wine and spirits, AeppelTreow also produces apple and pear

ciders in the traditional pre-Prohibition style.

With such a small yield, the ciders (made by owners Charles and Milissa McGonegal) are often hard to find. But you can always visit the tasting room (1072 288th Ave., Burlington) for a sample. Charles, a chemist by trade, will be happy to tell you more about heirloom apple varieties than you ever thought possible.

Of course, not every Wisconsin cidery-maker has the interest or means to get their product from the ground to the grocery store, but that doesn't mean they aren't great travel destinations.

Bayfield Winery (86565 County Hwy. J, Bayfield) is the state's northern most cidery, overlooking Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Located within Hauser's Superior View Farm, the winery produces ciders from local fruit. Look for hard-to-find flavors like blueberry, cherry, cranberry and raspberry. Arrive in the fall and you can even pick your own apples.

About a half-hour south and west of Bayfield, **White Winter Winery** (68323 Lea St., Iron River) was established in 1996 as Wisconsin's first commercial mead producer. Mead-maker Jon Hamilton soon expanded to produce wine and ciders. Specialties like cyser, a blend of honey and cider, and paaynat, a naturally sparkling pear cider, make White Winter a worthy stop.

Maiden Rock Winery & Cidery (W 12266 King Lane, Stockholm) sits high on the bluffs above the Mississippi River in Pepin County. Heirloom varieties drive much of the cider production, which includes the Kingston Black Limited Semi-Sweet Cider made from apples of the same name, and Somerset Semi-Sweet Still Cider, made from Kingston Black and St. Edmund's Russet, classic English cider apples.

Maiden Rock even produces Crabby Cider, made from zesty Dolgo crabapples, proving they have both a sense of adventure and a sense of humor.

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Our progressive, alternative guide to Summerfest

Compiled by Maddy Hughes, Bill Lamb and Matthew Reddin

When they call Summerfest “the Big Gig,” boy, do they mean it. The 11-day event is the world’s largest music festival, bringing in more than 800 acts from across the globe.

For locals and visitors alike, this presents a conundrum: How the heck do you figure out what to see?

This year, we’re offering our help. We’ve perused the list of Summerfest acts, looking for artists big and small who we think might create wonderful Summerfest experiences this year.

The list that follows is our best of the best, although we didn’t limit ourselves just to the most well-known acts. We also took the time to find some excellent local acts, as well as some smaller shows earlier in the day that are well worth dropping in for. We also chose not to include any of the acts scheduled for the Marcus Amphitheater since those acts, while great, require attendees to purchase additional tickets.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. We’ll also feature expanded Summerfest coverage online at wisconsin Gazette.com, with full picks for every day of the festival.

Summerfest will run June 24-28 and June 30-July 5. Tickets are \$19, \$12 on weekdays and \$7 for seniors and children 10 and under, with three-day passes available for \$45. Visit summerfest.com for more details.



ROBERT DELONG w/ BIG DATA

8 p.m. and 10 p.m., July 4 U.S. Cellular Connection Stage

Big Data and Robert DeLong are the perfect double bill for anyone looking to experience the latest experiments in fusing pop, EDM and alternative rock. Big Data, a project led by Alan Wilkis, is best known for the alternative hit single “Dangerous,” with vocals from Daniel Armbruster of the band Joywave. However, the debut full-length 2.0 takes listeners further into the project’s digital era concerns. DeLong is known for bringing a warmer, human, singer-songwriter touch to EDM, and is a one-man band with a variety of instruments filling the stage. Look for plenty of neon, glowing face paint and music that will make you want to move. (BL)

THE FLAMING LIPS

9:45 p.m. June 27,
BMO Harris Pavilion

Everyone should see The Flaming Lips once — at least. The alternative rock legends have recorded classic songs like “Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots,” “Do You Realize?” and “She Don’t Use Jelly,” but it is live that band leader Wayne Coyne’s penchant for spectacle truly shines. You never know exactly what you will see — giant inflatable puppets, Coyne rolling over the audience in a massive inflated transparent ball or perhaps copious amounts of streamers and confetti. A performance by The Flaming Lips always takes on the air of a monumental celebration of basic goodness in life driven by a sort of demented contemporary hippie aesthetic. (BL)



BASTILLE

10 p.m. June 24, Miller Lite Oasis Stage

“Pompeii” is a song about a volcano, but it turns out that wasn’t even a good enough metaphor to describe the track’s impact when it hit airwaves. One of the hottest songs of 2013, Bastille’s explosive single made the band’s reputation, but the song shouldn’t have had to do it alone. In the great Britpop tradition, “Pompeii” is only the recognizable hit from a strong album American listeners might otherwise ignore: *Bad Blood*. Bastille’s headlining slot offers a chance to see what you’ve been missing. (MR)



SHAKEY GRAVES

8 p.m. June 26, BMO Harris Pavilion

Shakey Graves is quite the idiosyncratic live artist and one well on his way to becoming a legend in the Americana music genre. Born Alejandro Rose-Garcia, he began his entertainment career as a teen actor but got caught up in NYC’s anti-folk scene and eventually returned to his native Austin, Texas. There, he took up the name Shakey Graves, performing solo accompanied by his acoustic guitar and a kick drum fashioned out of an old suitcase. He’ll surely upgrade his equipment for the BMO Harris stage, but his work needs no such improvement. His performance at Turner Hall last December left the crowd spellbound.

Stick around after for the innovative country-classical chamber music of the Punch Brothers, technically the headliner for this set. (BL)



EDWARD SHARPE AND THE MAGNETIC ZEROES w/ PHOX

8 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. June 2, BMO Harris Pavilion

Coming early on in the folk rock revolution of the late ‘00s/early ‘10s, Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeroes felt like a blast from the past — neo-hippies in both form (with ever-fluctuating membership and 10 to 12 members at any given time) and sound (rocking tambourines, ukuleles, mandolins and harmonicas). Their subsequent releases haven’t captured the same lightning-in-a-bottle feel as 2009’s *Up From Below*, but the group’s aesthetic has always been to create and perform songs that sound better live than on a record, and they deliver — attending an Edward Sharpe concert feels like a micro-Woodstock. This particular gig is an especially great time to catch the band due to its opening act: Phox, a Wisconsin sextet that features a similar folksy, free-form aesthetic. (MR)

SUMMERFEST from prior page

**LOCAL FAVORITE:
GGOOLDD**

6:45 p.m. June 26, U.S. Cellular Connection Stage

GGOOLDD's name is unforgettable and so is their sound. The band's music feels very '90s, dancey and stylish — self-described "electro dream dance pop" — and is channeled through lead singer Margaret Butler. For such a young band (their first EP *Standard\$* was only released last July) they have gained an amazing amount of hype and played six shows at SXSW this year. Just watch a single performance on YouTube, or the impressive music video for "Boyz," and you'll know why you should catch GGOOLDD before they really explode. (MH)

**LOCAL FAVORITE:
KIINGS**

6:45 p.m. July 4, U.S. Cellular Connection Stage

In a lot of ways, electronic musicians are defined by the artists they invite to join them on recordings. So consider Sean Foran and Chris Siegel of Kiings quintessential Milwaukee, since the duo's debut album *WWYDF* features an array of local artists including Chris Porterfield, WebsterX, Milo, Bliss & Alice and more. But the duo are pretty solid all on their own too, as they'll surely prove with their Summerfest set. (MR)

**LOCAL FAVORITE: CANOPIES**

9 p.m. June 25, KNE New Music Stage

Canopies, one of Milwaukee's most celebrated bands in recent months, brings a special fusion of futuristic and avant-garde beach pop sounds to your ears and, ideally, the dance floor. The group, composed of five members using drums, keyboard, synth and muted vocals, released their latest album *Maximize Your Faith* in December of last year, along with a few psychedelic videos. They haven't held nearly enough live shows since, so make sure you show up at this one. (MH)

**LOCAL FAVORITE: HUGH BOB AND
THE HUSTLE**

9 p.m. July 3, KNE New Music Stage

Hugh Robert Masterson grew up in Butternut, Wisconsin, in the far north of the state. He refers to his style of music as "North Country," incorporating folk rock sounds with lyrics that speak to the experience of those who live up north. Hugh Bob and the Hustle have received strong statewide acclaim and continue to build a national reputation, with their song "Lost & Found" featured on hit TV show *Nashville* last month. Although Masterson relocated to the real-world Nashville six months ago, he has not left Milwaukee, his home for 15 years, behind entirely. Hugh Bob and the Hustle performed for Milwaukee Day 2015 and the Summerfest show will be a warm homecoming for the band. (BL)

**DAYTIME SURPRISE: THE LISTENING PARTY**

12 p.m. June 27, Briggs & Stratton Big Backyard Stage

Call me elitist, but any band that'll take photos surrounded by gorgeous bookshelves earns my attention. And that isn't all The Listening Party has going for them. Armed with a mandolin, piano, acoustic guitar, upright bass and hauntingly soulful vocals, the four-piece performs acoustic folk with a smart twist — a pulsing, driving rhythm more akin to rock music. They're homegrown too, originally from the Fox Valley before relocating to Milwaukee earlier this year. Take the excuse to start your day at Summerfest with a bang. (MR)

DAYTIME SURPRISE:**JOHN MARTIN**

1 p.m. July 4, Uline Warehouse Stage

Get out to Summerfest early on the Fourth of July. He may be stuck in a lunchtime slot, but Chicago-based singer John Martin might be one of the best surprises of the year. Martin grew up in the St. Louis area, and last fall, he appeared on *The Voice*. He lost his first battle round, but that hasn't stopped him from pursuing a solo career. Martin's style is influenced by melodic pop-rock acts like John Mayer, Coldplay and Gavin DeGraw, and his show is likely to be an easy, enjoyable way to kick off the day. (BL)

DAYTIME SURPRISE: BAILIFF

3 p.m. July 1, U.S. Cellular Connection Stage

When its members start playing, Bailiff sounds like any other indie blues rock band. Then they start singing, and the Chicago-based trio's Indian influences start trickling in. Between the use of ragas (melodic modes originating in Indian classical music) and chant-like vocals, the band creates something very new out of components very old. It's an exploratory adventure worth dropping in for. (MR)



For even more Summerfest recommendations, check out *WiG's* coverage online at wisconsingazette.com.

Music reviews

ADAM LAMBERT :: 'THE ORIGINAL HIGH'



American Idol was the origin point for Adam Lambert, but it was clear early on that the show forced him to focus on his vocal gymnastics and explore a warm, radio-friendly approach that he always seemed uncomfortable with. On *The Original High*, his third album and first since leaving post-Idol label RCA, Lambert has found his groove. Working with pop masters Max Martin and Shellback (who helped bring him his previous hits "Whataya Want From Me" and "If I Had You"), he digs deeper into his glam disco roots while not forgetting the glistening surfaces of contemporary pop. *The Original High* is filled with melodic hooks, which might help him latch onto more mainstream success.

JAMES TAYLOR :: 'BEFORE THIS WORLD'



Despite frequent concert appearances, James Taylor has not released an album of new material in 13 years, saying that writing simply wasn't a priority for the last decade. *Before This World* feels like an artifact from his most fertile period: his early days as a revered '70s-era singer-songwriter. About half of *Before This World* is somewhat forgettable; the rest feels like a comfortable easy chair — as was true of many of Taylor's albums at his commercial peak. There are a few true standouts. "Angels of Fenway" is a charming statement of oneness with fellow Boston Red Sox fans. "Montana," with its wistful celebration of when "The thing on my mind is the work in my hand," tugs at the heartstrings. Sting and Yo Yo Ma show up as guests, but it is James Taylor and his guitar that remain the warm focus.

NATE RUESS :: 'GRAND ROMANTIC'



So how would you follow up on your band's massive Grammy-winning breakthrough album? If you are Nate Ruess, leader of alternative pop band fun. and architect of the multi-platinum-selling *Some Nights*, you retreat to solo territory because your songs are so personal you want to keep them for yourself. To his credit, *Grand Romantic*, his solo debut album, sounds exactly like that. This is the collection of songs that is likely to divide the Nate Ruess true believers from those who have had enough already. The massive pop hooks, penchant for Elton John-style theatricality, and words that lay all of the emotion out on his sleeve are all here. When it works, it can be glorious as on the poppy 80's influenced "You Light My Fire" or the album closer "Brightside," which sounds

like a showstopper from a not-yet-produced Broadway musical. However, if Nate Ruess' hyper-earnest vocals and sometimes cloying joy over his relationship with fashion designer Charlotte Ronson cause you to cringe, *Grand Romantic* is not for you.

JAMIE XX :: 'IN COLOUR'



For fans of minimalist electronic pop band The xx, group leader Jamie xx's debut solo album will be a welcome addition to summer playlists. As the album's title suggests, these songs are just a bit brighter and more diverse than Jamie xx's previous work with the full band. But minimalism is still the focus. Jamie xx is a master at creating an engaging pop song out of the most basic melodic and rhythmic elements. The track "Obvs" weaves together a steel drum loop, basic rhythm track, a section of electronic choral sound, and then the simple ringing of electronic guitar notes. The overall impact is pleasing and warm. *In Colour* is an album that will only whet your appetite for the next album by the full team.

— Bill Lamb







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'Fairy Queen Fantasy' enchants via song and dance

By Maddy Hughes

Contributing writer

Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Danceworks Performance Company know the magical possibilities that come from artistic collaboration. They will prove it in their upcoming show: *Fairy Queen Fantasy*, a romp through Milwaukee's Lynden Sculpture Garden built around 17th century composer Henry Purcell's adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

This is MOT and Danceworks' third collaborative performance and it is their most ambitious, with a 75-person team that ranges in age from 7 to 77 years. It's also a piece that the company's artistic directors, Jill Anna Ponasik (MOT) and Dani Kuepper (Danceworks), are ecstatic to share.

WiG spoke with Ponasik and Kuepper about working together and why *Fairy Queen Fantasy* is unlike anything they've done before.

Tell me about Purcell's *The Fairy-Queen*. Why did you choose this particular story?

Jill Anna Ponasik: The score of *The Fairy-Queen* is chock-full of ravishing music. In 1692, opera was a very different thing than it is now. People would eat and drink and talk between pieces, they might leave the theater for a time and then come back.

Once we knew we'd be out of doors at the Lynden Sculpture Garden, we began to take a particular approach to *The Fairy-Queen*. In an acoustic, outdoor performance, it's hard to compete with the sounds of wildlife and the way the wind can make sound drift. Rather than fight that, we're working with it. There is no narrative to follow here, but rather, an enchanted garden to stroll through, encountering masques and music as you go.

Would you say this is a typical production for Milwaukee Opera Theatre?

Ponasik: This is wildly different than anything we've ever done before. The cast

includes 53 dancers, 12 singers, six instrumentalists and two actors. Managing all of it is a monumental operation.

Do productions of *The Fairy-Queen* usually include dance? Would you say dance is necessary for the version of this story you're telling?

Ponasik: Dance was a major component of Baroque opera. In this performance, the dance is contemporary and beautifully suited to the outdoor setting. The dancers in this cast range in age from 7 to 77. Working with an intergenerational cast has been a phenomenally inspiring adventure.

We love working with dance companies and frequently incorporate dance in our productions. This is our third collaboration with Danceworks. We started with *Maria De Buenos Aires*, a tango opera we did five years ago. *Façade* was next and now *Fairy Queen Fantasy*.

What kind of dancing will there be in *Fairy Queen*?

Kuepper: This opera is not being told in a narrative form, which works really well for contemporary dance because we're always taking the pieces of something, shaking them up and spilling them out again. People can expect very beautiful dances, funny dances and also sexy dances.

When I started doing fairy research I used a book called *Faeries* (by Alan Lee and Brian Froud) and delved into this question of "What are fairies?" Of course the answer was that there are all kinds. I wanted dancers to not just have a generic image of fairies in their minds, but a sense of character and that every fairy would have a unique identity. Some fairies are mischievous, some are guardians or dream catchers, some are dark and sultry phantom lovers. There are even some fairies that are very busy and helpful. They come



PHOTO: DAN BISHOP

In *Fairy Queen Fantasy*, singers and dancers will act out masques depicting scenes adapted from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

in to clean your house when you're gone. And fairies are immortal! The intergenerational cast creates a feeling of immortality. The cast spans seven decades, but they dance together, play games together and it is truly beautiful.

Will the dancers be singing as well?

Ponasik: For the most part, the dancers are dancing and the singers are singing, but we do have one dancer singing a role. And, we have several singers serving as instrumentalists.

How has staging this production at Lynden Sculpture Garden affected the way you're presenting it?

Ponasik: The gardens are a third collaborator. When the birds chirp, they become part of the score. The sculptures and trees are our set. At one point, Dani Kuepper said, "Why not make the place crawling with fairies?" We're doing just that. Moving away from the confines of a theater allows our imaginations to run quite wild.

This is an unusual, and informal environment. I don't know that I would call it interactive, but, if you attend, a little fairy may just brush past you.

Why would you recommend this show to someone?

Ponasik: *Fairy Queen Fantasy* is an adven-

ture. It's a gorgeous opportunity to experience live performance on the grounds of the Lynden Sculpture Garden and it's a terrific event for families. There are dozens of young people in the cast and tickets for children under 10 are free.

Sometimes there's a negative connotation that goes with the opera, that it's outdated or too traditional. Do you think this is a misinformed perspective and why?

Ponasik: Gosh, what a dicey question. I work hard every day to expand the perception of what people think of as "opera." It's not just a long performance sung in a foreign language. It's a broad and deep art form, full of possibility. Quite frequently when I talk to people in the lobby after one of our performances, they say, "I don't like opera, but I liked this."

ON STAGE

Fairy Queen Fantasy runs June 19 and June 20 at 7 p.m. (rain date June 21) at Lynden Sculpture Garden, 2145 W. Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. both nights for picnicking. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for students/seniors and free for children under 10. Order at 800-838-3006 or fairyqueen.brownpapertickets.com.

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American Players' Jim DeVita reconquers 'An Iliad'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

What is a teacher if not a storyteller? And what is an actor if not the embodiment of that story?

Jim DeVita becomes a brilliant example of all three in his return to *An Iliad*, the one-man version of Homer's epic that opened in American Players Theatre's Touchstone Theatre earlier this June.

Adapted by Lisa Peterson and original performer Denis O'Hare from the ancient Greek poet's tale of the siege of Troy, *An Iliad* personalizes the millennia-old saga while turning the poem's glorification of war on its head. DeVita plays the Poet, embodying all the heroic characters and struggling along with them to make sense of and survive the chaos and carnage inherent in the tale. He does so entirely alone on stage, save for the cello-playing but otherwise silent Muse (Alicia Storin).

If this sounds familiar, it's because director John Langs and his team have tackled this material before, in a well-received production at the Milwaukee Rep last year. There, DeVita was depicted as a weary survivor stumbling amid the epic rubble of warfare, thanks to scenic designer Andrew Boyce.

Scenic designer Brian Sidney Bembridge has created something very different for the intimate, 201-seat Touchstone. He's reimagined the set as a classroom, with chalky, double-hung blackboards and a science bench with a working sink. It's a setting likely to be familiar to more of the audience.

Costume designer Holly Payne has traded DeVita's battlefield togs for a tweedy, mismatched professorial jacket-and-tie ensemble — and as passions rise within the story, the actor does not let his wardrobe's limitations get in the way, shedding it layer by layer as the story goes.

DeVita's skills as an actor have always focused on bringing an almost conversational accessibility to the language of William Shakespeare's plays, long part and parcel of APT's repertoire. But the 21-year veteran of the company also has an amazing capacity to combine that intellectuality with a visceral physicality, which director Langs fully exploits.



PHOTO: ZANE WILLIAMS

The Poet (Jim DeVita) and his silent Muse (Alicia Storin) tell a sorrowful tale of the agonies of war in *An Iliad*.

DeVita's Poet, by turns, informs, entertains and amuses in his professorial role, using the odd-lot demonstration devices often found in academic lectures to make his point. Their unintentional absurdity is another nod to Bembridge's sense of both authenticity and humor.

But the agonies of war, especially the epic battle between Hector and Achilles, rely fully on DeVita's physical and rhetorical skills. A complete slate of attendant emotions manifests in the actor's voice and movement with as much fear as ferocity, and we've long ago forgotten about the tweed jacket.

As the Muse, Storin is nothing if not stoic, letting her commentary speak through her instrument. Long, sonorous passages alternate with sharp pizzicato, as well as the cries of pain she elicits from her strings. Award-winning composer Josh Schmidt brings his

original music and sound design to the production supporting and supplementing the performance's emotional depth.

Schmidt's sound design also includes ghostly crowd noises that occupy the Poet's mind at both the beginning and end of the 110-minute intermission-free production. As a device, it is effective, but its relative absence throughout most of the performance makes it seem like a last-minute addition that doesn't hang particularly well with the proceedings.

But that is a minor complaint about an otherwise compelling production. APT's version of *An Iliad* rises and sometimes surpasses the company's consistently high standards. That's due as much to the concept as it is to Langs' execution and DeVita's performance.

It is also one of the few productions that runs the length of season, closing October

18. It's a length of time that will surely test DeVita's emotional and physical stamina, for this play requires him to have considerable strength in both.

But the like war-weary Poet he portrays, chances are that the actor will live to fight another day. And another. And another.

ON STAGE

American Players Theatre's production of *An Iliad* runs through Oct. 18 in the Touchstone Theatre on the company's Spring Green campus, at 5950 Golf Course Road. For information and tickets, visit americanplayers.org.



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Cycling Door County: Good for the heart — and soul

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

There's no better way to get a feel for the terrain of a place than by cycling it.

With generations of family ensconced in Sturgeon Bay and a lifetime of visits behind me, I thought I knew almost everything about Door County. But I came to learn that I'd never paid close enough attention to the hills.

Door County is full of them. Astride a Trek bicycle rented from Nor Door Sport and Cyclery in Fish Creek, I got up close and personal with the Door's steep topography.

"I always say that it's good for the heart," said Chet Gerlach, a former state legislator from South Milwaukee who, among other things, is currently co-owner and tour guide for Door County Bike Tours.

"And for every uphill, there's a downhill on the other side," he added reassuringly.

"Sounds like something a politician would say," I thought as I chuffed up a hill just south of Ephraim. "I'll tell that to my legs when they start cramping."

Gerlach, now a Madison-based contract lobbyist, and his wife Barb, an educator with Madison Public Schools, are four years into the bike tour business. They fell in love with the idea after taking their own cycling odyssey up the length of the peninsula and back again. The pair has been

introducing other bikers to Door County's pastoral pleasures — including its hills — ever since.

The Gerlach's three-day excursions start and end daily at the Eagle Harbor Inn, a nicely appointed B&B tucked back from the sometimes-bustling Highway 42 at the south end of Ephraim.

I stayed in "Josie," a very pleasant room with a four-poster bed and a view of spacious lawn. The rooms at the Eagle Harbor Inn have names rather than numbers, and mine was named for Josephine Lang, born in 1905 and known as one of Door County's finest cooks. Given the high quality of each morning's breakfast, it seems that Josie's ghost still haunts the inn's kitchen.

Our intrepid tour group was composed of five women and two men: a retired engineer from Naperville, Illinois, two medical technicians from Minneapolis, and three visitors from Michigan's upper peninsula, one of whom was a Michigan state trooper.

And, of course, there was me.

I introduced myself by recounting the words of a bike tour guide in western Ireland: "Today's route is flat, but some parts are flatter than others." Gerlach smiled. I later learned that I'd given him a new line to use on future tours.

That line was foremost in my head as we struggled uphill on Highway 42 to the entrance to Peninsula Park. Wisconsin's

third-largest state park, Peninsula is visited by 1 million people annually. Once in the park, the terrain continued to roll, but by then we were becoming conditioned to it.

Our route took us along the Shore Road to Eagle Tower, a 76-foot-high wooden observation tower that stands atop a 180-foot-high limestone bluff. The tower offers a commanding view of Green Bay — the body of water, not the city — and its islands. The tower's many steps further taxed my legs, already weary from cycling up hills, but the view made it worth the effort.

Continuing along the shoreline, we stopped at the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse, first built in 1868. It was home to several lighthouse keepers and their families prior to becoming automated in 1926. A friendly docent led us on a private tour of the facility, considered palatial for its time and place.

A leisurely ride back to Ephraim took us along little-used back roads winding under the park's canopies of massive trees. The hill we earlier had struggled up was now a sweeping free ride back into Ephraim and the Eagle Harbor Inn.

Day two dawned to cloudy skies, which soon opened to an almost iridescent blue. This day our route turned inland and we headed out — uphill, of course — for a tour of farm and field.

Most tourists clog Highway 42 from Sturgeon Bay to Gills Rock in search of entertainment, using a few large country roads to cross over to Highway 57 on the Lake Michigan side of the peninsula. Few travel the warren of tiny back roads that comprised day two's route. Other than a few other bike groups, the roads were virtually ours.

Small farms dappled with aging and crumbling barns gave our route a pastoral-postcard quality. A wealth of photo ops lined our travel — including a farm with a camel in its corral — as we made our way to the Edgewood Orchard Galleries, one of the many art galleries dotting the peninsula.

But Edgewood is a little different. This third-generation, family-owned gallery is



PHOTO: MIKE ROEMER

the only one with a sculpture garden. We occupied our rest time wandering among fantastical creations lining paths that snaked through a grove of trees.

Next we idled along a primarily downhill route past some beautiful bayside homes, which reminded me why people move to Door County, before landing at Fish Creek's White Gull Inn for lunch.

The White Gull's claim to fame came in 2010, when the B&B won *Good Morning America Weekend's* "Best Breakfast in America" challenge for its cherry-stuffed French toast.

The dish, two golden brown slices of egg bread with pockets of cream cheese and fresh Door County cherries, is available for breakfast or lunch for \$8.70. But we had a similar dish for breakfast at our own B&B, so most of us opted for protein to continue the ride.

BIKES next page

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BIKES from prior page

From the restaurant we rode easily back to our lodging and, with 25 miles behind us, spent the rest of the afternoon with wine, cheese and croquet mallets. Several of Gerlach's colleagues were well versed in the lawn "sport" and guided us through a pair of well-managed and highly competitive games.

On our third and final day, our route took us southeast to Baileys Harbor on the peninsula's Lake Michigan side. The group received a guided tour of Björklunden vid Sjön (Norwegian for "birch forest by the water"), which is the summer campus of Appleton's Lawrence University. Boynton Chapel, the campus' centerpiece, is an excellent example of a Norwegian *stavkirke*, or stave church, and home to 41 hand-painted frescos and ornately carved wooden fixtures.

As nice as Björklunden and its chapel were, they weren't the highlight of my visit. That came later, on a side trip down nearby Frogtown Road.

In the late 19th century, my ancestors Peter and Anna Muckian emigrated from Ireland to Door County, building a house on the hillside overlooking Lake Michigan. The house and its inhabitants were connected to Bailey's Harbor by what was then called Muckian Road.

Over the years, things changed. Peter and Anna died, their children moved away, the land was subdivided and sold and other, more impressive houses were built along what's now called Frogtown Road.

But the old house is still there, shuttered and small on the hillside behind a very large and much newer McMansion. I had never met Peter or Anna — they died before I was born. But sitting astride my now trusty Trek and staring up at what was once the Muckian homestead, I felt a

deep kinship with the people of the peninsula, and a profound sense of place and of peace.

Gerlach was right. Cycling through Door County is good for the heart, and in so many ways.

ON THE ROAD

Door County Bike Tours offers three-day weekend excursions June through September. For more information, visit doorcountybiketours.com.



PHOTOS: COURTESY CHET GERLACH

Chet and Barb Gerlach (top right) host bike tours of Door County — three-day trips that begin and end at the couple's Eagle Harbor Inn (above).

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Rebels with a cause

Summer art exhibitions feature innovators past and present

By Kat Minerath

Contributing writer

Let the movie theaters have their big-name actors and action movies filled with explosions. This summer, two of the major Milwaukee museums are hosting what could be described as blockbusters of their own.

Van Gogh to Pollock: Modern Rebels at the Milwaukee Art Museum showcases developments in art from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, drawing the viewer in through the freedom in art that boosted appreciation for approaches like abstract painting. *Current Tendencies IV* at Marquette University's Haggerty Museum of Arts, on the other hand, tunes into contemporary regional artists who explore new concepts of landscape and the places around us.

MOMENTS OF THE PAST

While undergoing renovation, the Milwaukee Art Museum's permanent collection is under wraps for the summer. Instead, MAM is hosting the touring exhibition *Van Gogh to Pollock: Modern Art Rebels*, filled with paintings from the permanent collection of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York. It is a respected institution that counts work by Paul Gauguin, Frida Kahlo, Salvador Dalí and many others among its holdings. They are all going to be part of the exhibition in Milwaukee, which opens on June 18.

MAM chief curator Brady Roberts notes the significance of this exhibition, saying, "*Van Gogh to Pollock* will be a visually powerful, experiential journey for any art enthusiast. This is the best chance most people will have to see key works of Post-Impressionism to Pop Art, many of which have not toured in decades."

The expansive show includes about 70 pieces by 68 artists, offering a rich view of artistic innovation from the Post-Impressionist period of the 1880s to the bright

Pop Art style that emerged in the 1960s.

One of the things visitors will notice is the way artists' styles changed during these decades. In the late 19th century, naturalistic representations of the visual world tended to be most highly prized. Breaking away from tradition, artists like Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890) started to record their experiences in a more expressive, personally interpretive manner.

This is also apparent in the work of van Gogh's friend and colleague, Paul Gauguin (French, 1848-1903). His "*Manao Tupapau* (Spirits of the Dead Watching)," painted in 1892, is an extraordinary and important piece. It was inspired by Gauguin's life in Tahiti and depicts his young mistress awake in the night. Gauguin recounted the episode in his travelogue *Noa Noa*. The title, as he noted, may be taken to mean either "she thinks of the ghost" or "the ghost thinks of her."

Surrealist artists of the 20th century used art as a tool to make the strangeness of dreams into something real. The best-known Surrealist is perhaps Salvador Dalí (Spanish, 1904-1989) whose daring and provocative art was matched by his unusual persona.

"There is only one difference between a madman and me," he famously said. "I am not mad."

MAM's exhibition includes Dalí's "*The Transparent Simulacrum of the Feigned Image*" (1938), which depicts the otherworldly landscapes of his imagination, painted with precision and clarity to render them, as he called it, "hand-painted dream photographs."

Frida Kahlo is at times also associated with the Surrealists, though she would not have aligned herself with that or any other movement. Her "*Self-Portrait with Monkey*" (1938) will be part of the exhibition, characteristic subject matter for her. The self-portrait will offer a moment to experi-



PHOTO: HAGGERTY MUSEUM OF ART

Work by Derrick Buisch will be part of *Current Tendencies IV: Topography Transformed*.

ence her powerful presence through the painted image.

One of the key developments in modern art was a growing predilection for artists to work in pure abstraction. For some of these artists, a painting becomes as much about its process as what was ultimately on the canvas.

MAM's exhibit features one of those in particular: Jackson Pollock, the premier American abstract expressionist. Pollock is known for his drip paintings, created by throwing, splashing, and flinging paint onto a canvas spread on the floor. The results are like crystallized energy, rendered through the spontaneous though purposeful layers of paint.

This sense of daring and innovation underlies *Modern Rebels*. Even as the exhibit functions as a walk through the history of art, it highlights the way artists met creative challenges and questioned the very nature of art.

"These modern art all-stars were rebelling against the academic norm," Roberts notes. "They took risks and challenged the art world status quo. They were innovators responding to the world around them, and the results are compelling."

Van Gogh to Pollock: Modern Rebels — Masterworks from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery runs through Sept. 20 at the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive. Tickets are \$14, \$12 for students and seniors and free for members, children 12 and under, military and K-12 teachers. Visit mam.org for more details.

A MOMENT HERE AND NOW

The Haggerty Museum of Art is celebrating its 30th year as an institution, and the latest installation of its recurring exhibition celebrating contemporary regional

artists. *Current Tendencies IV: Topography Transformed* opens June 18 and takes a new view at the way landscape and place may be considered.

Bauenstudio (Marc Roehrle and Mo Zell, Milwaukee), Derrick Buisch (Madison), Keith Nelson (Milwaukee), Shane McAdams (Cedarburg), and Joseph Mougel (Milwaukee) are the creative minds behind the works made especially for the museum and this moment. Two-dimensional pieces such as drawings and paintings will be part of it, as well as three-dimensional sculpture and large-scale installations.

McAdams synthesizes a sense of nature by incorporating motifs of trees with expressive abstraction in the series *Oak*

REBELS next page



PHOTO: MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Frida Kahlo's "*Self-Portrait with Monkey*" is a characteristic example of her work.

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REBELS from prior page

Tree. Buisch's linear work notes an architectural sense of construction disassociated from specific backgrounds, becoming like symbolic ciphers in the process. Nelson plays with a sense of context as familiar materials such as wood and plastic panels combine to form topographies of their own, carefully balanced for a play of texture and color.

While *Current Tendencies* is a conceptual exhibition firmly interested in the pulse of the moment, the Haggerty also is celebrating its past by exhibiting Keith Haring's "Construction Fence." When the museum was being built in 1983, Haring was commissioned to paint a mural on the large plywood fence around the site. It is another transformation of place, changing a dull eyesore into a representation of his playful, buoyant art.

As an artist, Haring gained a reputation for his interventions with art in public spaces such as the New York subway. His drawings became prized things within the public eye and his graphic, iconic style serves as a reminder and inspiration of how art can change a place and our perception of it.

Current Tendencies IV: Topography Transformed and Out of the Vaults: Keith Haring will run through August 20 at the Haggerty Museum of Art, 13th and Clybourn Sts. on the Marquette University campus. Admission is free. Visit marquette.edu/haggerty for more details.

SUMMER ART STARTS

Along with the simultaneous opening of these exhibitions at the Haggerty Museum of Art and the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Lakefront Festival of Art is taking place June 19-21 on the MAM grounds. This annual event was established in 1963 and this year's roster of 170 artists promises for a rich array of painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, wearable art and much more.

Besides the enjoyment of viewing the festival, visitors can experience the pleasure of making art with LFOA's Paint and Pour series. Occurring every two hours, a short painting lesson will be given and participants can make their own work while enjoying a glass of wine or other beverage of choice. Perhaps it also is a moment to take some inspiration from the contemporary works in *Current Tendencies IV* or follow in the footsteps of *Modern Rebels*.

The Lakefront Festival of Art will take place 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. June 19, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 20 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 21. Tickets are \$17, \$14 students/seniors, \$10 Milwaukee Art Museum members and \$25 for a three-day pass. Visit lfoa.mam.org to order or for more details.



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Inside Brian Wilson

Musician Darian Sahanaja talks about playing with the revered Beach Boy and consulting on biopic 'Love & Mercy'



PHOTOS: ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Paul Dano (above), along with John Cusack, plays the Beach Boys' talented but troubled Brian Wilson in *Love & Mercy*.

By Bill Forman

Colorado Springs Independent

Brian Wilson, as he himself has sung, wasn't made for these times. Or any others, for that matter, which is part of the reason his music has remained so timeless through all of his breakups, breakdowns and breakthroughs.

Forgoing the clichés that weigh down most celebrity biopics, the forthcoming *Love & Mercy* aims for something much more poetic and profound. The film shifts back and forth between a perfectly cast Paul Dano, as the young

musical genius behind the Beach Boys in the mid-'60s, and John Cusack as the after-the-fall Wilson, who's being kept under constant surveillance by since-discredited therapist Eugene Landy (a role played with disturbing intensity by Paul Giamatti).

Much of *Love & Mercy* centers on the post-surfer era of Wilson's two masterpieces — *Pet Sounds* and its shelved successor, *Smile* — which found his artistic vision expanding even as his psyche and support system unraveled.

Wilson's "God Only Knows," his father insists in the

film, is not a love song, but a "suicide note."

Meanwhile, Brian's cousin and bandmate Mike Love (Jake Abel) is shown arguing that the band needs to get back to its origins: "I don't care how many car horns and bicycle bells, and jingle jangle or whatever you put in there, they're not gonna buy something depressing like that."

And while Wilson's shift from beach anthems to baroque pop reportedly made even the Beatles jealous, that endless specter of fun in the sun continued to loom large over him. "We're *not* surfers, we never *have* been, and *real* surfers don't dig our music anyway," he insists, pounding on the recording console, to no avail.

Through it all, *Love & Mercy* boasts an air of authenticity, especially in its studio scenes. That's due, in large part, to the efforts and expertise of Darian Sahanaja, who served as the film's supervising music consultant and coached Dano so well in all-things-Brian that an Oscar nomination seems almost inevitable.

The co-founder of an LA power pop band called The Wondermints, Sahanaja has played with Wilson for the last 15 years and joined him on the Beach Boys' 50th anniversary tour. He also co-helmed the completion of the lost *Smile* album, which would win Brian Wilson his first Grammy Award.

In the following interview, Sahanaja provides an insider's view of the film and Wilson, whose singular vision and legendary eccentricity have made him one of music's most celebrated geniuses.

So when you first met Brian, were you one of those guys who knew every single note of *Pet Sounds*? Well, um, not really. Actually, when I got into the Beach Boys, I was a little kid and I heard "I Get Around" on the radio and it blew my mind. And I thought it was a new band. (Laughs.) So I got *Endless Summer*, which was one of the very first albums that I bought with my own money, and I remember looking at the songwriting credits on the

WILSON next page

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WILSON from prior page

label and thinking, "OK, this B. Wilson is on everything, so he must be in the Beach Boys. And then I'm looking at (Gary) Usher — is he a Beach Boy?"

But not Mike Love.

No, I think that was before he was able to sue his cousin (Wilson) so he could get the credit back.

Which is part of what led Brian Wilson fans to think of him as the Antichrist.

Yeah, they tend to demonize him. You know, he's not a perfect person. But when I toured with him ...

On the reunion tour?

Right. And he was pretty nice and sweet to me. Maybe he just didn't see me as a threat, I don't know. But I think all of this stuff between Brian and Mike is more about the camps that have surrounded them over the years. But Brian and Mike, they love each other. Mike will only have great things to say about Brian, and he's always quick to credit him as the genius that he is.

And, you know, all those guys, they were kind of these hicks from Hawthorne, you know what I mean? They really are. And then they became very, very popular and rich at an early age. And, you know, that can mess anybody up.

So I've watched the film a few times, and really thought to myself, does this further demonize Mike Love? And, you know, some will say it does. But I think there's nothing he's saying that a lot of us wouldn't be concerned about in that situation. We would probably be thinking, "Wow, what is Brian doing? Why is he doing this?"

And "how can we stop him?"

Right. Or at least question him along the way. Unfortunately, it was the lack of support — and, you know, some mind-altering trips that he had — that sort of derailed the whole *Smile* project. His infrastructure was just falling apart and he just decided he couldn't follow through.

A lot of people have their theories about why *Smile* didn't happen, but I just felt like he didn't have the love, you know?

What was the scope of your involve-

ment in the film?

Well, pretty much my biggest contribution was all the musical segments that you see in the '60s half of the film. When they cast Paul Dano to be the young Brian, I got a call from the producers, who were trying to figure out the best approach to help him research the part and get some musical training. So they asked my opinion, you know, "Should we hire him a piano teacher? A vocal coach?" And my main concern was that, since Brian was never formally trained, if Paul was taught the scales and all that, he would have to unlearn things in order to play the role.

So Paul actually sings and plays the music? That seems kind of impossible.

I know, I had no idea, and neither did the producers, about what the potential was there. The two of us met up in this small music shop in Brooklyn that had a little piano room and he was exactly as I'd hoped he'd be: very sensitive and somebody you could tell was really into Brian.

And it turned out he had a pretty darn good voice. It just need to be groomed to be as close as possible to Brian's phrasing. And since he didn't read music, I ended up making these sort of diagrams of the piano keys, and it was like, "Put your fingers here."

Did you have to do the same with John Cusack?

Well, no, since John was playing the late-'80s Brian — when he was under the watch of Dr. Landy and meeting (his future wife) Melinda — there was hardly any music in those scenes.

There's one scene where he sits at the piano and plays, and they had one of my friends be the piano double. And then there's another cheat shot of him reaching down to play and I had to go and play that piano part. Which is fine for that. But when it came to the '60s stuff, there are just so many scenes of musicians actually playing. And that's what you actually hear and see.

One story I've heard is that, back when Landy had him on that strict health regimen, Brian just went missing from the studio one day. And so they drove around to his favorite haunts and found him in one, hiding in the back booth hunched over a cheeseburger. And it just sounds



so childlike, in a way that's incredibly poignant. Is there a personal side to Brian you've seen that might differ from the public perception?

Well, if that's the public perception — what you just described — then that's absolutely true. He loves food, he's very immediate, he's very impulsive and anxious. And he does seem like a child. You know how kids in public, even if they're hiding behind their mother's leg, will just keep staring at you? That's Brian.

We were in the dressing room at this fundraiser in New York, and Don Henley and Timothy Schmidt from The Eagles walked in. And Timothy was very nice, but Don was just kind of aloof and walking around the room. And finally, after a few minutes of chatting, Don pulls out a copy of *Pet Sounds* on CD that he wants Brian to sign.

So Brian grabs it and he signs, "To Don, thanks for all the great music." And he's handing it back to Don, but before Don can take it, he grabs it back and he crosses out "great" and puts "good music." (Laughs.) And the thing is, there's no irony there. He's not being funny. He's really thinking, "I wrote 'great,' but I don't think it's great. But it's good. It's good music." And he handed it back to Don, and it was perfect.

Having worked so much with Brian and his songs, how do you view the connection between that personality and the music itself?

Well, he's simple and complex at the same time. You hear these songs and you just go, "OK, let's sing along." But then, if you have to sit there and figure out the chords and the harmonies, it's like, "Oh, these are not exactly jammable songs."

Was that true even with the early Beach Boys stuff?

Not with things like "Surfing USA," which was based on Chuck Berry songs. But on something like "I Get Around" or "The Warmth of the Sun" and even "California Girls," there are so many chordal shifts. Yet they come across so effortlessly and they connect with the masses.

And that's part of the genius of Brian Wilson. He's one of those rare artists that creates in a bubble — he's still that guy in the bubble — but somehow his art has managed to touch many, many people. And that's very rare.

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Chris Pratt takes a bite out of stardom in 'Jurassic World'

By Piers Manning

The Interview Feed

Pre-gym membership, Chris Pratt was the lovable schlub, a clumpy slacker best known for his likeably rotund turn as *Parks and Rec's* Andy Dwyer, not to mention slovenly support on *The OC* and Mormon-tinged drama, *Everwood*.

Post-gym membership, he's a granite jawed, muscle-bound sex god with a killer grin and leading roles in franchises like *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Jurassic World*. There's even talk of a *Knight Rider* reboot. Or even taking over the role of Indiana Jones!

"It's the sad reality of realizing, and I've always tried to fight against this, your physical appearance plays a great deal in the roles you get," Pratt explains over the phone from his L.A. base.

Raised in timbered Washington state, Pratt's success is the stuff of Tinseltown scripters. At 19, while working at a Bubba Gump in Maui and living in a tent between parked cars, the young actor was offered a small part in Rae Dawn Chong's *Cursed Part 3*, a horror comedy spoof. He went on to enjoy moderate small screen triumph in *Everwood* and *The OC* and landed supporting film roles in *Wanted* and *Take Me Home Tonight*, where he met wife Anna Faris.

He then turned his attention to trying to play the leading man, auditioning unsuccessfully for *Star Trek* and *Avatar* before returning to the small screen again in *Parks and Rec*.

However, it was Kathryn Bigelow's *Zero Dark Thirty* that changed everything — in particular, one hulking, tighty-whitely-sporting



PHOTO: UNIVERSAL

Chris Pratt has gone from lovable comedy star to the action hero of films such as *Jurassic World*.

selfie that caught the gaze of Marvel Studios producers looking for a show-stopping Star Lord for *Guardians of the Galaxy*. A freshly bulked-up Pratt won the part and charmed audiences around the globe to a fearsome tally of just under \$750 million at the box office. A movie star was born.

Living in LA with Faris and their 2-year-old son Jack, Pratt is now taking his new status to even higher levels in Colin Trevorrow's *Jurassic World*, the long awaited follow-up to Stephen Spielberg's 1994 pre-historic masterpiece *Jurassic Park*.

Alongside a cast including Bryce

Dallas Howard, Judy Greer and Jake Johnson, *World* works off the basis that John Hammond's dinosaur park is 20 years up and running — and facing patron fatigue. New thrills need to be introduced.

Naturally chaos ensues.

Promoting the new release, the *Jurassic* "superfan" talks of his excitement for the blockbuster, his career surge, life at the Faris/Pratt household, the origin behind his nickname, "Monkeyboy" and why his body is his fortune.

***Jurassic Park* was one of the defining films of my childhood —**

and every other member of my generation — so it's safe to say this is one movie that many are looking forward to. Dude, I was the exact same. *Jurassic Park* is one of those films that feels like a milestone. Like it's marked your journey into manhood. It's one of the most influential movies in my life. I was a huge fan. And it's going to be so good. The director's a giant fan and I'm precious of *Jurassic Park* so I didn't want this f**ked up.

So to be a part of it, the lead ...

I know, it's weird. Now I don't just feel like a fan of the franchise.

I feel like a peer of the artistic creators, which is really strange and surreal to think of.

How did you even land such an insanely contested role? Bradley Cooper was up for this, Joseph Gordon Levitt, Eddie Redmayne, Aaron Paul ...

All those guys? God, I didn't even know that. Well let me just pat my back here. (laughs)

I mean, I got the call that Colin wanted to sit down with me and you know, we just started getting real giddy about the idea. Really excited. And the longer we talked and the longer we sat there, I thought, "Holy shit, I actually think I could get this! They want you to do this movie." And Colin felt like the right guy for it. As I said, *Jurassic Park* was so special to me, I wanted it done right. And he's got a great vision for the movie.

Were you worried by the poor quality of the previous film?

The last one wasn't great. It was rushed, contrived a little bit. Kinda like, "We need to get Sam Neill back to the island. How? I dunno, just get him back to the island."

Tell me about the film's plot. It's been 22 years since the first movie (premiered), 16 years since No. 3 came out. (This film) is new and cutting-edge and has a point of view of our society that has changed since the original.

The park is up and running — 20,000 people a day. John Hammond's dream came true and everything he dreamed of and

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Roy Lichtenstein, Head—Red and Yellow, 1962 (detail), collection of Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, Gift of Seymour H. Knox Jr., 1962. © 2015 Estate of Roy Lichtenstein.

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This exhibition was initiated by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, and was organized by Albright-Knox Chief Curator Emeritus Douglas Dreishpoon. It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

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PRATT from page 42

more is there. But it's been open long enough that people are no longer intrigued. It's a sign of the times. Blasé attitude. Not impressed. So then they create this new attraction that will hopefully generate some new interest in the park.

And things go horribly wrong? And things go horribly wrong. As an audience member, you'll see (the park). And then you'll see it getting torn down.

Tell me about your character Owen Brady? He's a dinosaur behaviorist, specializing in velociraptors. He studies them and has a good relationship with these animals. He's like the Velociraptor Whisperer, if you will.

I read where you said he was like a mix of Sam Neill's Alan Grant and Jeff Goldblum's Ian Malcolm? Yeah, he does have a little of both. He's got a little bit of the Goldblum cynicism but also the Sam Neill excitement at the wonder of it all, so it's a combination. It's a pretty apt description. I stand by that.

With this and the humongous success of Guardians, your career is unrecognizable. How do you get your head around it? I don't. (laughs) I had an idea of what my niche was as an actor and I didn't think it was right for me. I was the big comedy guy, the fat friend, sidekick and I was working. I didn't want to fix it if it wasn't broken. But it didn't seem

right. Then *Zero Dark Thirty* came out and I suddenly saw myself as this believable badass.

You were training for Zero Dark Thirty when you put out that Instagram selfie with you in the white pants. I'd lost 70 pounds and my older brother Cully persuaded me to do it. It was douchy and embarrassing but without it, who knows?

Well, you probably wouldn't have gotten Guardians of the Galaxy without it. Probably. No, actually, definitely. I remember testing a couple of times, it was a process that dragged out for several weeks. And then I get a call asking me to come back to (head of Marvel) Kevin Feige's office. I'm all the way out in Manhattan Beach, that's like a 45-minute drive. If they were bringing me in to tell me I didn't get it, I would've been like, 'F**k you!' But instead, they held up the selfie from *Dark Thirty* and said, "You're too fat for Star Lord. How long will it take you to look like this?" They gave me five and a half months. I did what I had to do.

Obviously you look ripped, but does it all feel unnatural for you? Don't you want to just pig out ... or at least eat normally? Yea, I don't think so, I like feeling this way, the roles have opened up. It's my time to do that. I'm 35. I've a 2-year-old son at home. I'd like to be able to retire and spend time with my family, and it's the sad reality of realizing that trying to tighten it up and look as good as I possibly can, for the next few years, is

the best way for me to achieve the type of success I need to live my dream, getting out of Hollywood, taking my son and wife and living in the country somewhere. As long as you're cognizant of the fact that so many Hollywood people turn into assholes, the system is kind of designed to make you self-involved.

Could you see that happening to yourself? My brother said to me if I get "too Hollywood," he will find me and fart on me or something. (laughs)

Do you feel like you're at your peak now? I don't think you ever want to let your guard down. You don't ever want to feel like you've peaked. I don't ever want to be in that position, thinking "Maybe you can, maybe you should, maybe I will — when it's all settled down." It's a tricky thing.

What does Anna make of this new chapter in your career? Has much changed? I mean, maybe I'm a little more away from home but as far as my life with them goes, nothing has changed.

Aside from your hunky frame ... She preferred me soft anyway (laughs).

Were you both fans of each other before you got together? She didn't know who I was but I knew who she was. I was a huge fan of the Wayans brothers, back in the day. *In Living Color* was my jam. And then I saw *Scary Movie* in the theater and definitely thought she was hilarious.

Were you nervous when you starred together in Take Me Home Tonight? To be honest, I didn't actually know what her name was, but when I booked this film, and saw she was in it, I was like, "Oh that's amazing, that's the girl from *Scary Movie*. I can't wait to meet her."

I imagine there's a lot of laughter in the Faris/Pratt household? We laugh a lot. She on a daily basis will say something that no one else will ever think to say. Usually I'm the one who's getting the laughs, she'll bust me out constantly. It's a little bit of a competition we have.

Don't you share some strange passions — taxidermy being one of them? We're both fascinated by natural history. We have a lot of fossils, dead bugs and preserved animal taxidermy. We're going to be like hoarders, buried under all this natural history. And we have lots of roaches in our house. They're like pieces of art, and have them hung all over the house.

And that's something you both liked, before you got together? It's unusual, so clearly we were meant to be. When we found out that was something we shared, we merged them together on the one wall, so come birthday times and gift time, we get all these wonderful presents of dead bugs. It's something we both think is cool. Maybe one day, we'll just have a house dedicated solely to insects.

Does your son Jack "get" what mom and dad do? He seems to freak out when he sees his mom on TV. He'll cry, "Mama, Mama, mama," You see his brain melting. I don't quite get the same reaction.

Let's talk future projects. I actually don't know what I'm doing tomorrow.

What about Indiana Jones? I wish!

So it's happening? Not as far as I'm aware.

What about Knight Rider? Not that I know of. I loved that show as a kid and a remake, it would only work if it was super funny.

And the Guardians sequel is obviously on the way. That is happening but not for a while. But it made a shitload of money, pretty much guaranteed it was going to happen.

Lastly, explain to me why your nickname's "Monkeyboy"? I was obsessed with monkeys. It became my nickname in high school. Every Monday I would do a comic strip of monkeys and that's how it first started, and every time I would see a stuffed monkey, I would buy it. Even when I was a salesman, everyone had a nickname and I became Monkeyboy and it sort of stuck. Some of my closest friends still call me that. They say, 'Monkeyboy done all right.'



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Non-twins will continue to burn like lobsters as the Sun migrates into Cancer, the sign of the Crab.

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1		4			7			
8					3		7	
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4			2		1			3
2		1	5			6		
7			4					
		5		2				9
			3			5		2

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Answers on page 46.

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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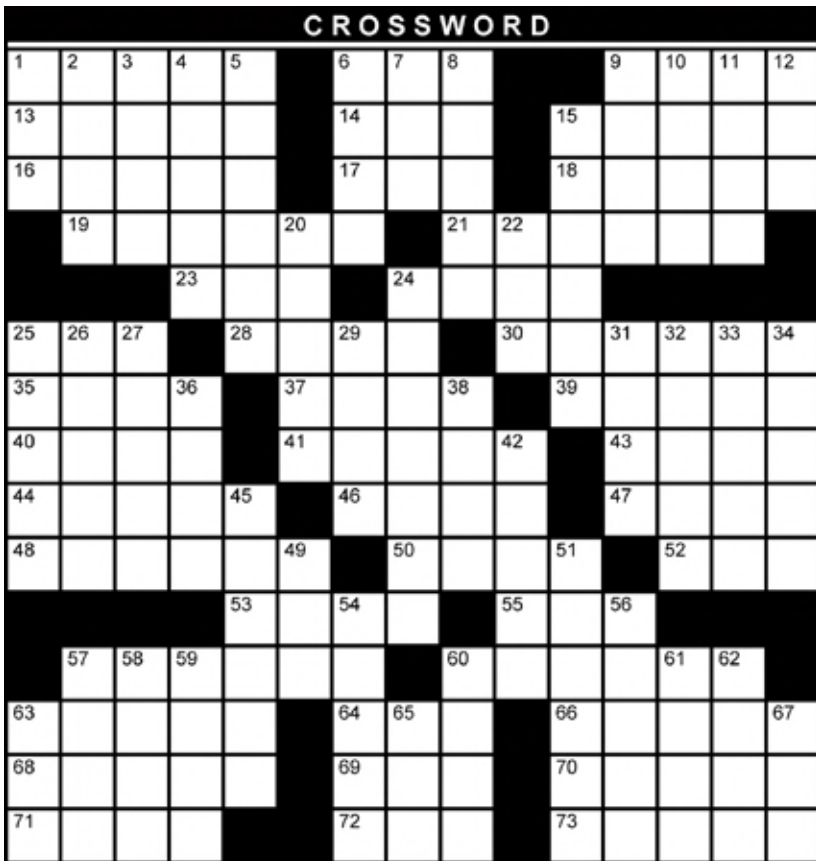
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TOURIST DESTINATIONS



ACROSS

- 1. India's first P.M.
- 6. *Lake Geneva or ____
L'Éman to the French
- 9. "The Fame Monster" Lady
- 13. Soft single in baseball
- 14. Go wrong
- 15. Like Al Yankovic
- 16. Goes with a dagger?
- 17. ____ bum, found in mountains
- 18. Pavlova and Karenina
- 19. *Bourbon ____ in New Orleans
- 21. *The Smithsonian, e.g.
- 23. Questionnaire check box
- 24. Table hill
- 25. "____ to the Bone"
- 28. *You spend it in Acapulco
- 30. Manual calculator
- 35. Shade of beige
- 37. Grub
- 39. "That is," Latin
- 40. High or low cards
- 41. Echo sounder
- 43. Month of Purim
- 44. Violent collision
- 46. Spanish earthen pot
- 47. Jesus' first guests?
- 48. Pollock actor Ed
- 50. Varieties
- 52. Workout unit
- 53. Leave at the altar
- 55. Mama sheep
- 57. *Versailles or Buckingham

- 60. *London or Golden Gate
- 63. It is often wreaked
- 64. Lungful
- 66. Liveliness
- 68. Smart ____
- 69. Old French coin
- 70. Mideast VIP
- 71. Jamaican rub
- 72. QB exclamation
- 73. Schoolmarm's whip

DOWN

- 1. Major network
- 2. Building extensions
- 3. Owl's talk
- 4. Woman's cries, according to Helen Reddy
- 5. Homeowner's concern
- 6. "____ we forget"
- 7. Genesis vessel
- 8. C in CSI
- 9. Kind of pool
- 10. Hokkaido people
- 11. One thousandth of kilogram
- 12. Publisher's revenue source
- 15. *Popular condiment when dining in Tokyo
- 20. Golden parachute recipients
- 22. *Disney World is among its most popular attractions
- 24. Like light of full moon
- 25. *Keys attraction
- 26. Capital of Ghana

- 27. Dismal
- 29. "Go away!"
- 31. Original rib owner?
- 32. Mothball substitute
- 33. Data ____
- 34. *The ____ in Las Vegas
- 36. It was Brezhnev's domain
- 38. *China has a great one
- 42. Autumn laborer
- 45. Steal a plane
- 49. "____'em!" to a dog
- 51. Extreme agitation
- 54. Fido's restraint
- 56. Swelling of human organs
- 57. Not sun-kissed
- 58. Affirm
- 59. Key receiver
- 60. Very dry
- 61. Increased in size
- 62. December 24 and 31, e.g.
- 63. Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 65. Promise to pay
- 67. "____ he drove out of sight..."

Answers on page 33.

6	4	8	3	1	9	5	7	2
3	1	5	7	2	6	4	8	9
7	9	2	4	8	5	3	6	1
2	3	1	5	9	8	6	4	7
4	5	6	2	7	1	8	9	3
9	8	7	6	4	3	1	2	5
5	7	3	9	6	4	2	1	8
8	6	9	1	3	2	7	5	4
1	2	4	8	5	7	9	3	6

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Clinton: Why are Republicans so afraid of letting people vote?

SCOTT SCHWANDT: Go ask Wisconsin Gov Scott Walker... the only people getting caught for voter fraud are REPUBLICANS!!!

KEITH PERRY: The bigger question is why are Democrats so afraid of voter ID

MATHEW PESMARK: Keith, to answer your question: there have been less than 50 cases of voter fraud in the last 10 years. Enacting laws costs money. Why create a law with virtually no impact? Because one other thing that would also get affected by a voter ID law would be the disenfranchisement of many urban poor people who legitimately are allowed to vote, and do so, but have never had a need for the type of identification these laws require ... So to recap, voter ID laws would not actually have much effect on fraud because virtually none exists, but it would

essentially eliminate hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of votes, which tend to vote Democratic.

Wisconsin GOP fires DNR scientists working on research related to climate change and pollution

JERRY OLKIVES: I thought he was supposed to create jobs, not take them away?

AMANDA LEAH: Our state needs help and a caring hand. We need to take care of each other. This includes our air, food, and education. Making it more efficient?? Then take someone from private non-political based backgrounds and let she or he have a peek into how our systems are ran. Solutions can be made together, not by politicians alone.

ROBIN DORST: No agenda here...look away nothing to see here.....look abortion is bad... look over here abortion is bad!

Scott Walker OKs Bucks arena plan that will cost taxpayers more than \$400M, even without the hidden costs

MARK ADSIT: Time for a housecleaning in Madison. Maybe Milwaukee too. Be sure you let your assemblymen and senators know we're coming to get them if this deal goes through!

STEVEN HALL: Why should the general public pay for a stadium? I have a private business and you did not give me a building..

RAY JANUSIAK: Walker doesn't have any difficulty raising taxes as long as they are not for public schools.

TIM HANDLEY: Walker didn't want high speed rail because it would cost the Taxpayer, then he cuts 300 million of the UW budget, and now he wants our tax dollars to pay for a palace for millionaires to play a kids game of Hoops?

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