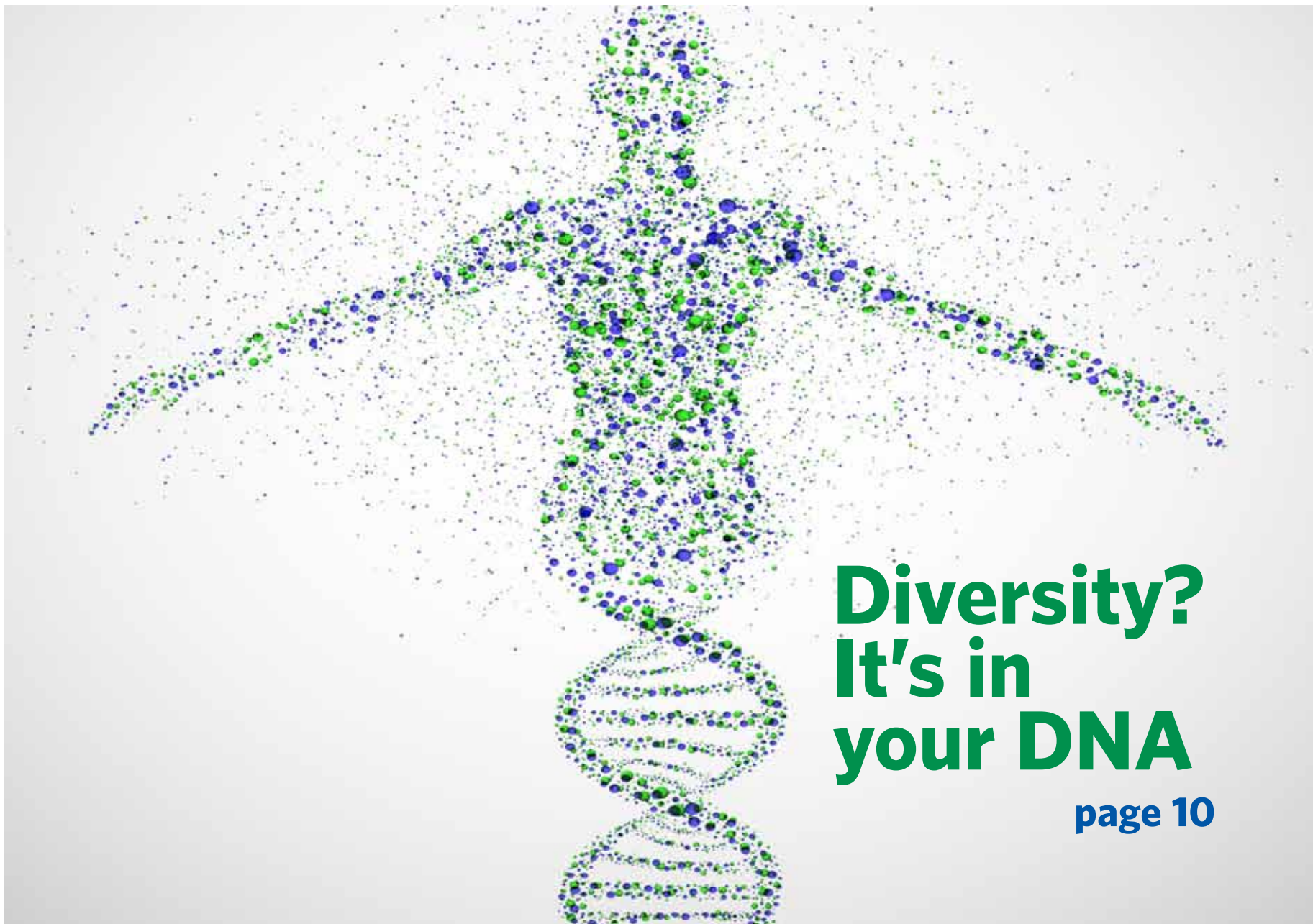


Milwaukee Ballet fantastic 'Alice'
Michael Pink calls this take on Wonderland artistic, vibrant — and a challenge. *page 32*



PROGRESSIVE. ALTERNATIVE.

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Diversity? It's in your DNA

page 10



6 And then there were three
Donald Trump's emergence as Republican presidential nominee shakes up the race for Democrats

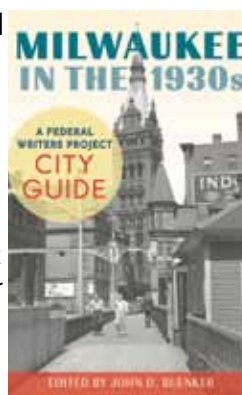
21 Dozens of dogs rescued from puppy mill

The depraved cruelty uncovered in western Wisconsin horrified veteran animal control officials.



27 A time-travel tour of MKE

A recently rediscovered guide to the city of Milwaukee offers a glimpse of Cream City just before World War II — a familiar yet radically different place.



42 The cheese stands alone

A Madison-area cheese gained international fame after being voted the world's best this year.

News with a twist



WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg



SEPARATED AT BIRTH?

Searcy Hayes went on the *Maury Povich Show* in April and became a sensation — not because she passed a lie-detector test after her fiancé accused her of cheating but because viewers widely agreed she's a doppelganger of Ted Cruz. Hayes became an immediate meme star and, according to the *Huffington Post*, she and her fiancé agreed to do a six-minute sex tape for \$10,000. If you've been longing to see Ted Cruz in drag making it with a guy, your chance is coming.

JENNER TESTS TRUMP

Caitlyn Jenner decided to take Donald Trump up on his statement that transgender folks should be able to use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity. Jenner posted a video of her entering the women's room at Trump International Hotel in New York. "Thank you,

Donald, really appreciate it," she says upon completing the mission and exiting. "By the way, Ted," she quipped, "nobody got molested."

TURNING THE TABLES

South Carolina state Rep. Mia McLeod introduced a bill requiring men to wait 24 hours to get Viagra prescriptions filled. The proposal, which has no chance in the Republican male-dominated legislature, also requires cardiac stress tests for men seeking drugs for erectile dysfunction, as well as counseling that presents celibacy as a viable lifestyle choice. The requirements mirror South Carolina's anti-abortion law.

TEXAS EDUCATION

A school in Austin, Texas, may get a new name because of its existing name — Lee Elementary, as in Robert E. Lee. Some people suggested honoring author Harper Lee, artist Russell Lee, actor Bruce Lee or director Spike Lee. Some suggested recognizing local legends, like Willie Nelson and Stevie Ray Vaughn. More than a few took offense at the decision to withdraw the Confederate

honor and suggested Bleeding Heart Liberal Elementary and Adolf Hitler School for Friendship and Tolerance. But the most popular name? Donald Trump.

ANOTHER NAME GAME

In an online poll, the Natural Environment Research Council in Britain invited people to help name a new polar research vessel. The top vote-getter turned out to be Boaty McBoatface, which Britain's science minister said probably wouldn't become the name of the \$284 million ship.

BAD TASTE

The Krave "candy" bar mixes fruit with meat. Flavors include blueberry barbecue beef and pineapple-orange beef jerky. "We aren't going out there saying it is a meat bar," a Hershey's marketing VP told the *Wall Street Journal*. But it is definitely a meat bar.

TRUE LOVE'S KISS

One Million Moms raised a ruckus in April after ABC aired an episode of *Once Upon A Time* featuring a "true love's kiss" between Ruby AKA Red Riding Hood and Dorothy Gayle. On its website, the grassroots group complained,

"Many families watch the program based on beloved children's fairy tales, but unfortunately ABC has distorted and twisted the storylines in these fables." The group said ABC is "purposefully pushing a gay agenda." The producers defended the episode, saying it honored the fairy tale truth: Love is love.

RED'S RIFLE?

Red Riding Hood's trending these days. NRA Family, apparently the kid-friendly section of the National Rifle Association website, features retakes on old stories. The first story in the series is "Little Red Riding Hood (Has a Gun)." It transforms Red into a fashion-conscious Annie Oakley. Grandma also has a gun — better to shoot to maim. And the big bad wolf is annoyed because, "Oh, how he hated when families learned how to protect themselves." Twitter users had a good time offering grim takes on fairy tale figures and accidental shootings. Heard the one about the elves and the shoemaker?

QUALITY CHECK

A 45-year-old woman in Toulouse, France, was unsure about

the quality of her cocaine. So she sought help at a local police station, asking officers to test three bags of the drug for purity. She seemed baffled by her arrest, saying that she merely wanted "to know it was good quality so people do not die of an overdose."

PRICY JUNK

Nick Hawk, the Madison native who stars in the Showtime series *Gigolos*, recently took out an insurance policy for \$1 million on his moneymaker. George Geldin, who provided the policy, said it was the first one he'd heard of during his 24 years in the business.

STRESSING OUT FIDO

People love to hug their pooches, but a study by the University of British Columbia found the feeling isn't mutual. Hugging Fido relieves stress for humans, but it turns out that it causes stress for most dogs, who don't like being squeezed.

Find more *WiGwag* stories at wisconsin Gazette.com.

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 MAY 11 - 'AN ASTROPHYSICIST GOES TO THE MOVIES'
RIVERSIDE



NEXT WEEK

STRFKR COM TRUISE
FAKE DRUGS
 MAY 9 • TURNER HALL



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 MAY 12 • PABST THEATER



NEXT WEEK

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NEXT FRIDAY

MST3K
 FRIDAY, MAY 13 • TURNER HALL



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MAY 22 • TURNER MST3K STARS 'THE MADS' TRACE BEAULIEU & FRANK CONNICK	MAY 24 • TURNER ROGUE WAVE	JUNE 9 • BMO HARRIS PAVILION CAGE THE ELEPHANT	JUNE 17 • RIVERSIDE KEVIN JAMES	SEPTEMBER 2 • RIVERSIDE BONNIE RAITT
MAY 14 • RIVERSIDE HARRY CONNICK JR.	MAY 28 • RIVERSIDE MAGIC MEN LIVE		JUNE 20 • RIVERSIDE FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS BING FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS	SEPTEMBER 10 • PABST CAPITOL STEPS

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JUNE 26 • COLECTIVO
PURE BATHING CULTURE

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JESSICA LEA MAYFIELD

Scott Walker's recycling bill still short on funding

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on April 27 signed legislation to increase recycling grant funding in the state. But the funding remains short of where it stood when Walker took office.

In a signing ceremony at J & S General Contracting in Osceola, the governor signed AB 515, making it Act 392.

"I was happy to support it," state Rep. Melissa Sargent, D-Madison, said of AB 515. However, she added, "We're still grossly below what we were and even less than what we had last year."

The legislation increases by \$3 million the recycling grant funding provided to the state Department of Natural Resources for this fiscal year. The DNR issues the grant money to local governments for efforts that "positively impact the day-to-day operations of local government recycling programs."

The measure, passed with bipartisan support in the Assembly and the Senate, is intended to reduce the harm caused by a \$4 million cut to the state recycling program in the 2015 budget bill.

"I wish it was substantially more," Sargent said of the funding. "I wish we hadn't slid backward."

Meanwhile, environmental watchdogs report that recycling in the state has declined, and they suggest a tie to the funding cuts.

In its campaign to restore funding, the nonprofit Clean Wisconsin informed its membership that a \$4 million cut to grants for municipalities resulted in cuts to curbside pickup, reduced hours at recycling drop-offs, and raised service fees for residents.

"Combined with other cuts over the last five years, recycling funding has been reduced a whopping 53 percent," CW informed members.



Recyclables on the way to the blue bin.,

The DNR's overall numbers show residential recycling at: From 2010 to 2011, money for the recycling grant funding program went from \$32.1 million to \$20 million under the Walker administration.

Other factors figure into recycling rates, including several positive trends: industries have reduced the amounts of packaging materials they use and consumers have economized on the packaging they bring home. Single-stream programs in some locations have made recycling easier, as has increasing pickups.

"I've never met a person who said we should recycle less," Sargent said.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 94 percent of Wisconsin households recycle, according to Clean Wisconsin, a statewide environmental group.

Dems question delay in notifying public about mysterious infection

Assembly Democrats are asking why state health officials delayed informing the public that a potentially deadly blood infection was spreading.

The Department of Health Services began investigating a rash of illnesses from Elizabethkingia in December 2015. The agency told hospitals to be on the lookout for infections in January but didn't announce the problem to the public until March.

Elizabethkingia is a common bacteria that's usually harmless. But the Wisconsin outbreak has resulted in a record number of illnesses and at least 19 deaths.

Assembly Democratic leaders sent Gov. Scott Walker a letter asking for an explanation and how DHS will avoid "these systemic deficiencies."

DHS officials said they didn't want to alarm the public because they hadn't determined the source.

In an email to The Associated Press, DHS spokeswoman Julie Lund said, "We carefully considered the impact of sharing what limited information we had. We alerted the public once we had a general understanding of who is most likely to be affected by this outbreak, the region where the outbreak is located, and how it can be successfully treated."

She added that most of the people infected were over age 65 and all of them have serious, underlying health conditions.

Walker spokesman Jack Jablonski said in an email to The Associated Press that the governor approved nine additional DHS positions to help investigate the outbreak.

He also said DHS officials would respond to the lawmakers and clarify their facts.

— AP

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Alabama city criminalizes bathroom use with anti-trans rule



From WiG Reports

The city council in Oxford, Alabama, has unanimously approved an ordinance preventing transgender people from using public bathrooms and other facilities consistent with their gender identity.

The ordinance goes beyond other regulations and imposes a \$500 fine or six months in jail on violators.

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group, says the ordinance is unprecedented in its establishment of criminal penalties for violations and raises privacy and legal concerns, including questions about how the law will be enforced.

The ordinance lacks clarity on whether all people in Oxford will be expected to produce birth certificates when using public facilities or, if not, how law enforcement officials will obtain evidence.

"This ordinance is a shameful and vile

attack on the rights and privacy of transgender people," said HRC Alabama state manager Eva Walton Kendrick. "Transgender people are our neighbors, our co-workers and our fellow churchgoers, and every Alabamian has the right to live their lives without fear of discrimination and prejudice. Throughout the country elected officials from both sides of the aisle, along with hundreds of business leaders and advocates throughout the country have resoundingly rejected these kinds of proposals, which only seek to demean and marginalize the transgender community."

Anti-LGBT activists who back such measures say they are needed as a safeguard. These advocates — most famously Sen. Ted Cruz — offer up arguments about adult men posing as transgender women to prey upon girls in women's restrooms.

However, states with laws protecting transgender people's access to the appro-

priate bathroom have seen no increase in public safety incidents.

Additionally, a coalition of more than 250 sexual assault prevention organizations released a statement in April decrying policies such as the one adopted in Oxford.

The statement, in part, said, "States across the country have introduced harmful legislation or initiatives that seek to repeal nondiscrimination protections or restrict transgender people's access to gender-specific facilities like restrooms. Those who are pushing these proposals have claimed that these proposals are necessary for public safety and to prevent sexual violence against women and children. As rape crisis centers, shelters and other service providers who work each and every day to meet the needs of all survivors and reduce sexual assault and domestic violence throughout society, we speak from experience and expertise when we state that these claims are false."

With the passage of HB2 earlier this spring, North Carolina became the first state to enact a "bathroom bill."

Oxford's ordinance is unprecedented in that it enumerates criminal penalties, including the potential for jail time, for violations. It also applies to bathrooms and locker rooms citywide, including in private businesses, which goes further than the provision in North Carolina's law, which applies to government buildings, according to HRC.



TRANSGENDER PRIDE FLAG FLIES IN BOSTON

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh says a transgender Pride flag raised on May 2 over Boston City Hall plaza would continue to fly until everyone is equal under the law in Massachusetts.

The Democratic mayor and other elected officials joined activists in raising the flag of blue, pink and white horizontal stripes as state lawmakers continue to weigh a bill that would extend protections to transgender individuals in public places.

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker hasn't said whether he would sign the measure, which would expand a 2011 state law banning discrimination against transgender people in the workplace and housing by also prohibiting discrimination in restaurants, malls and other public accommodations, including restrooms or locker rooms.

Wisconsin has a law that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation but the measure does not include gender identity.

— AP



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And then there were three: Trump vs Clinton vs Sanders

From AP reports

The GOP nomination within his grasp, Donald Trump must win over a broader group of voters in November, going beyond those who helped clear the Republican presidential field for the billionaire.

As a whole, voters in the general election will be younger, more likely to be female and vastly more diverse than the predominantly white Republican primaries.

To counter the Democrats' significant advantage among women, young people and black, Latino and Asian-American voters, Trump will have to maximize his support among whites — especially white men — to levels rarely seen.

Trump's target, analysts say, must be to win about two-thirds of white voters, a feat reached in modern politics only by Ronald Reagan in his 1984 landslide.

"It's going to be difficult for him to increase his margins among some of the groups" that already support him, such as white men, said Karlyn Bowman, a demographer at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute.

Ruy Teixeira of the liberal Center for American Progress said Trump has performed well in the primaries among white college graduates, but polls indicate he is disliked by that demographic in the broader electorate.

"People get so caught up in how well he's done in the Republican primaries, but that's just so very different from the kind of people who show up in November," Teixeira said.

Some Republicans acknowledge the steep curve for Trump, who edged closer to clinching the nomination after winning Indiana on May 3 and pushing Ted Cruz and John Kasich out of the race.

"The guy is hated and detested by an extraordinary amount of the American electorate," said Whit Ayres, a GOP pollster who worked on U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio's presidential campaign.

"It's not just one group that detests him," Ayres said, alluding to Trump's rhetoric on immigration and his incendiary comments about women. "He has been on a concerted effort to make enemies of millions of Americans."

Thus far, Trump has won votes by making enemies. But that strategy will not get him far in a general election, especially in battleground states such as Ohio and Florida, considered must-wins for Republicans to have any shot at retaking the White House.

Trump also has a barrier in his party. As partisan divisions have hardened, recent presidential nominees have counted on support from 90 percent or more of their political base. It's not clear Trump can rely on Republicans to that degree. He's only modestly increased his backing over the course of primary contests, even as rivals dropped out.

His ascendancy also has led to a movement among conservatives who have pledged never to vote for him, and many prominent Republicans plan to skip the party's summer convention in Cleveland.

Still, more Republican leaders are likely to unite behind him now that Kasich and Cruz, Trump's nearest rival, have dropped out.

And they'll be uniting with Trump against Hillary Clinton.

Ohio Republican Chairman Matt Borges insists Clinton's unpopularity will bridge any GOP gaps. "Ohio voters know the double-speak that has defined her career," he said.

Trump regularly boasts he can knock off Clinton.

"I'll bring places in play that nobody else can bring," Trump told California's Republican Party convention. "For example, New York, I won it by landslide numbers."

The New York example, though, shows why Trump's performance in primaries doesn't necessarily translate to success in



November.

Clinton also won New York and received more than 500,000 more votes on primary night than Trump did. In the New York Republican primary that Trump won so convincingly, 91 percent of voters were white. Minorities comprise 42 percent of the state's population. Democrats outnumber Republicans in New York by a 2-1 margin and have carried the state in the past seven presidential elections.

In the week that the GOP contest dwindled to one, the Democratic presidential contest remained at two. Bernie Sanders, after a win in Indiana, repeated his pledge to take his campaign to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Sanders said, "There is nothing more I would like than to take on and defeat Donald Trump."

But despite Sanders' win on May 3 and his staying power, Clinton remains positioned to become the nominee.

And the Clinton camp, casting her candidacy as a cry to unify a divided country, is exploring ways to woo Republicans put off by Trump. Even before Trump was declared

the winner in Indiana's GOP primary, there were some signs that a sliver of the GOP might see Clinton as the only option.

"We have an informed understanding that we could have the potential to expect support from not just Democrats and independents, but Republicans, too," said Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon. "There's a time and place for that support to make itself known."

Democrats say their effort to win over "thoughtful" Republicans is in its earliest stages, but could grow to include ads and other outreach efforts in battleground states.

"Educated, suburban white women are turned off en masse and there will be more of that," Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, a Clinton backer, said of Trump.

A February poll of likely Republican voters commissioned by a Democratic firm led by Stan Greenberg, a former pollster for former President Bill Clinton, found that 20 percent of Republicans were "uncertain" whether they would back Trump or Clinton in a head-to-head match-up.

— WiG contributed to this report.




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The n-word had no place at the White House Correspondents' Dinner

Opinion

CORNELL WILLIAM BROOKS

On *The Nightly Show* and in many other programs Larry Wilmore is a thoughtful and courageous comedian who consistently makes us laugh by confronting the ugly contradictions we see in our government, media, and society.

I assume that Mr. Wilmore was sincere in humorously criticizing, commending and mocking the president during the White House Correspondents' Dinner on April 30 in Washington, D.C. But context, like race, matters.

The n-word has a long history of hate. It doesn't matter whether the people listening are wearing tuxedos and gowns, the racist ugliness of it cannot be forgotten. Many in the audience clearly believed he had crossed a line in his final remarks.

In this election year, we have consistently reminded candidates that the words they choose have meaning and consequence. Even a seemingly "friendly" form of the n-word ending in "ga" rather than "ger" insults many in our nation, even when meant to compliment our president.

While it may be common to use the n-word as a racial obscenity for effect with a crowd in a night club or among acquaintances in a locker room or a rhyme in a song, the n-word, as racist profanity, should not be in the same sentence or the same room as the President of the United States.

The fact that President Barack Obama is the first African-American to hold the highest office in this country should not be a license for undue racial familiarity or racialized disrespect.

For many years now, the NAACP has maintained that the n-word does nothing to foster real and meaningful conversations our country needs to have about race, class, segregation and tolerance in our nation. We are, once again, sadly disappointed by its perpetuation in our national dialogue.

With a vocabulary of America's aspirations, the NAACP strives for a day when the n-word refers to a 'nation' indivisible by race, class, color, creed or slurs.

Cornell William Brooks is president and CEO of the NAACP, the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization.

Baldwin pushes for Medicaid expansion

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

New reform introduced by U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin would ensure that states that opt to expand eligibility for Medicaid can access the same federal funds as states that expanded the health care program before 2014, under the Affordable Care Act.

"I support this legislation because it is my hope it will point our state in the right direction," Baldwin, a Democrat from Wisconsin, said in a news release.

The Affordable Care Act has provided federal financial support for states to expand Medicaid programs to provide health care coverage to individuals up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

The federal government, under the ACA, pays the cost of expansion for the first three years for the states that enrolled in 2014 and phases down to a 90 percent match rate for the sixth and subsequent years.

In a lawsuit over the expansion program, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could opt-in or opt-in and 19 states — mostly with Republican governors — opted out.

Republican Gov. Scott Walker has refused

to expand Medicaid eligibility in Wisconsin and instead he shrunk the BadgerCare program.

Baldwin said the governor has put "politics ahead of progress and taken our state in the wrong direction," kicked Wisconsin off their coverage and created a coverage gap.

She said she hoped the States Achieve Medicaid Expansion Act of 2016 would provide the incentive for states to opt-in and expand Medicaid programs, as well as assist the seven states that expanded after 2014.

Studies show states that expanded Medicaid eligibility saw direct and indirect benefits in job growth, earnings growth, increased gross state product, increased state and local revenues and reduced uncompensated care and hospital costs.

In an analysis released last year, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimated the economic impact of expanding eligibility in Wisconsin would be \$1.3 billion and the creation of 10,500 jobs.



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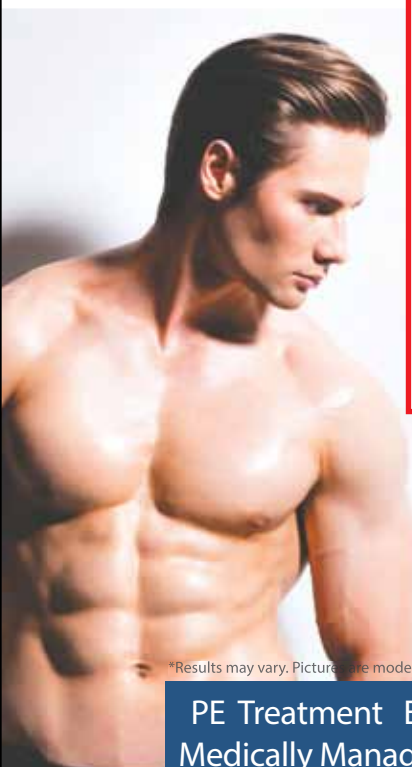
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Barriers to voter ID continue to limit access to polls

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Civil rights advocates responded with protests and pledges to fight on after Gov. Scott Walker signed legislation that prohibits counties and towns from spending money on or issuing photo ID cards.

The law also prohibits the use of city or village IDs to vote or obtain public benefits.

The legislation is the GOP's response to the partnership forged between the city of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County — with strong support and leadership from progressive organizations — to issue IDs to residents who have difficulty obtaining other government IDs and thus difficulty voting.

The coalition behind the partnership includes End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, GenderQueer Milwaukee, the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the League of United Latin American Citizens, Voces de la Frontera, and several other organizations.

"Gov. Walker and the Republicans in the state Legislature should be ashamed of themselves for taking away local governments' ability to recognize and respond to the needs of some of their most vulnerable constituents — and they will suffer consequences for their bigotry," said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, executive director of Voces de la Frontera.

The day he signed the legislation, Walker

turned to Twitter to say that government IDs should be uniform throughout the state and that "state-issued photo ID cards are available for free upon request at DMV."

However, state-issued ID cards are not as easy to obtain as Walker implied.

Letters recently released by Common Cause in Wisconsin indicate how the GOP enacted legislation mandating the use of certain government-issued photo IDs to vote but then failed to help under-served communities — particularly in rural areas — obtain them.

Last June, representatives of Common Cause in Wisconsin, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Voices, Fair Elections Legal Network, 9to5, Wisconsin African-American Roundtable, One Wisconsin Institute, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Citizen Action of Wisconsin, and Our Democracy 2020 wrote to Wisconsin Transportation Secretary Mark Gottlieb.

They shared concerns that 300,000 eligible voters lacked an ID needed to cast a ballot in Wisconsin and that 60 of 92 Division of Motor Vehicle centers in the state were open just two days a week or less. In some locations, the DMV centers were open just six days a year, and only two centers were open after 5 p.m. on a weekday.

Responding to those complaints, the DMV expanded services and hours — a minimum of 20 hours per week in every county. The agency also decided to offer



Saturday morning hours in some locations.

In March, Jay Heck, executive director of Common Cause in Wisconsin, wrote to Walker noting that mobile DMV centers have been successful in Alabama, Indiana, Virginia and Texas. He urged a program for mobile DMV operations in under-served communities of Wisconsin, saying they would put the state "in a far better position to fully implement the new voter ID requirement."

Gottlieb, however, did not respond to that request.

In a statement, Heck said, "The Walker administration has not now, nor has it ever ... had any plans to make these required forms of ID needed to vote easier to procure by setting up a mobile program."

Heck said this, along with the lack of state funding for a public information campaign, led him to conclude that Walker, Gottlieb

and "the Republican-controlled Wisconsin Legislature are engaged in a widespread, coordinated, systematic campaign" of voter suppression.

Twenty-nine other states have a voter ID rule now in force.

In North Carolina, civil rights attorneys are appealing a recent U.S. district court ruling upholding a 2013 major rewrite of state voting laws.

The ruling rejected arguments by the state NAACP, the U.S. Justice Department and others who claimed the election changes approved by the GOP-led General Assembly disproportionately harmed minority voters. They also alleged that the voting law was passed to discriminate against poor and minority voters, violating the Constitution and U.S. Voting Rights Act.

But District Judge Thomas Schroeder said, "North Carolina has provided legitimate state interests for its voter ID requirement and electoral system."

Lawyers for the plaintiffs filed notices of plans to appeal the 485-page ruling to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Rev. William Barber, North Carolina NAACP president, called the ruling "almost 500 pages of rationalization for the intentional race-based voter suppression law that everybody knows was written to suppress African-American votes."

AP contributed to this report.

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PHOTO: JOE BRUSKY

Former U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold addresses the crowd during the Wisconsin May Day March for Immigrant, Worker, and Student Rights in Milwaukee. "We need to provide a pathway to citizenship for all those living in the shadows," said Feingold, who's running to win back his seat in November from tea party Republican Ron Johnson.

May Day march draws 8,000 protesters in Mke

On May 1, more than 8,000 people participated in the Wisconsin May Day March for Immigrant, Worker, and Student Rights in Milwaukee.

The event included a rally organized by Voces de la Frontera, the state's leading immigrant rights group. Marchers carried signs and banners urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold President Barack Obama's expansion, by executive order, of deportation protections to parents and immigrant youth.

"Day after day we live in fear, fear of being arrested and deported," said Gabriel Ruiz, a foundry worker and father from Racine, who qualifies for legal residency under the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans plan. That executive order, along with DACA, which stands for Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals, are currently on hold pending the high court's decision.

"I only ask the government to give us a chance with DAPA, so we can come out of the shadows and continue to contribute to this country," Ruiz said. "More than anything, I want to live without fear!"

Aldermen José Pérez and Nik Kovac, along with newly elected Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton, promised to continue fighting to make Milwaukee identification cards available to undocumented people. Gov. Scott Walker recently signed legislation banning counties and towns from issuing local photo ID cards (see story on prior page).

"We are going to fight to the end to make sure that we get our local IDs," Perez vowed. "We have local control and we are going to exercise it. We're going to make sure everyone is counted in our community."

"The civil rights and the human rights of people who live in this city will not be ignored or denied," Hamilton said. "Whoever stands in the way of this fight, whether on the state or federal level, we want them to look at this crowd, and we say face us in November! ¡Sí se puede! We are with you, united in this fight."

CALLS FOR MENARDS BOYCOTT

In response to Walker's signing of the anti-immigrant bill blocking counties from issuing local identification cards, speakers called for a boycott of Menards, one of Walker's largest corporate donors.

"I'm boycotting Menards because I'm not willing to pay for the further spread of hate, racism, and anti-immigrant politics," said Voces de la Frontera member Nancy Garcia of Appleton. The mother of four is a former Menards employee.

"When I worked for Menards I was paid \$7.80 an hour. Meanwhile John Menard Jr., the billionaire owner, secretly donated \$1.5 million to help Gov. Walker prevail in the bitter 2012 recall election," she said.

"Today I ask all roofers, contractors and any businesses that are considering purchasing their materials from Menards to stand with me. I ask you to join the boycott, to help Latinos and immigrants who deserve not only justice but dignity. We will hold the governor and his corporate backers accountable."

In addition to banning local ID cards, Walker and the state's Republican leaders joined in the suit against the Obama administration over his executive orders protecting immigrant families.

— Louis Weisberg

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The ancestors

Decoding your life, growing family trees with DNA tests

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

You're not who you think you are, and now science can prove it.

Individuals might have genes from ancestors who practiced discrimination as well as genes from the people against whom they discriminated.

As gay poet Walt Whitman wrote in 1855, "I am large. I contain multitudes."

Today, with a little spit and about \$200, millions of people are learning about the multitude of ancestors embodied in their DNA. Through personal genomic testing, they're gaining unprecedented insights into themselves and their family histories.

People are also reaching a better understanding of how they connect to one another. Simply looking at our ancestral composition map elicits a feeling of connectedness as a species.

"You can find out if you're part Irish, Scandinavian, Cameroonian or one of the other 23 ethnicities. And you might even discover cousins you never knew you had," AncestryDNA says in its promotion inviting

people to test the test sold by Ancestry, the parent of Ancestry.com.

While the world seems to be divided along racial, ethnic and geographic lines, our genes tell a story of just how connected humans are on planet Earth. Diversity resides in harmony within all of us.

"What do the 23 pairs of chromosomes in your DNA say about you?" teases 23andMe, Ancestry.com's chief rival in the consumer market and the maker of probably the best-known home DNA test kit.

With these the tests, people around the world are gaining new perspectives on their personalities and their health. And, many are getting surprises — large and small — with their results.

One member of WiG's extended family took the test and learned that the family trees buried in a memory box at the back of her closet contain errors and are vastly incomplete, while the family crests her dad's been buying over the years apparently belong to someone else's family.

Using 23andMe, she learned that she's 0.8 percent Middle Eastern/North African, less than 0.1 percent East Asian/Native



American and 99.1 percent European.

The analysis of her European ancestry shows her to be: 94.1 percent northwestern European, including 49.1 percent British/Irish; 15.4 percent French/German; 2.3 percent Scandinavian; 0.1 percent Finnish; and 28 percent "broadly Northwestern European."

She has 289 Neanderthal variants, which is more than 69 percent of other 23andMe customers, but her Neanderthal ancestry accounts for less than 4 percent of her overall DNA.

Laura Weber of Green Bay took the test last year and found that Neanderthal ancestry accounts for less than 3 percent of her overall DNA.

"I learned that I'm not 100 percent German, which my mom led me to believe for 56 years," Weber said.

On Mother's Day, Weber said she might ask her mom to take the test, just to be certain she's her mom.

She was joking, but people who use 23andMe and AncestryDNA can make life-changing discoveries.

HOW IT WORKS

Here's how 23andMe testing and analysis works:

A kit is purchased online for about \$200 and, soon after, a small box containing instructions and a vial is delivered. This is the "home-based saliva collection kit."

An account is created on 23andMe.com and the unique identifier code that arrived with the kit is registered with the account.



Then, taking care to rinse out the mouth first, the customer spits into the vial, places the sample in a plastic bag that's tucked into the box and ships the package — postage pre-paid — to the lab.

After that, there's a wait until one day an email arrives with a notice that the analysis is complete and the results are ready.

The customer signs on to 23andMe.com to dive in and learn about his or her genetic code. An individual's 23 pairs of chromosomes provide a lot of information about ancestry, health and traits. There are reports for:

- Ancestry composition and maternal and paternal lineage, probably the first batch of information viewed by a new customer.
- Wellness research for lifestyle choices, including research about lactose intolerance, muscle composition, sleep movement, and caffeine consumption.
- Traits, from physical attributes to food preferences. Traits include: asparagus odor detection, bitter taste perception, cheek dimples, cleft chin, earlobe type, earwax type, eye color, finger length ratio, freckles, hair curliness, hair loss, reflex, toe-length ratio, and widow's peaks.
- Carrier status and inherited conditions, including for cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, hereditary hearing loss.

For a couple of years, 23andMe couldn't provide health-related information in the United States by order of the Food and Drug Administration. The government's concern was that the information might lead people to take steps to mitigate serious diseases

DNA next page

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DNA from prior page

that they don't have — or to ignore symptoms assuming they can't have an illness.

Last year, 23andMe gained clearance to provide the health reports and interest surged.

"My family did it for Christmas," said Kevin Laws of Madison. "It really was pretty cool."

GROWING KNOWLEDGE BASE

Laws, who has a background in chemistry, said he's most interested in the health information and taking the 23andMe surveys to further research. People take the test and then take online surveys linked to scientific studies, which grows the knowledge base.

There's a broad range of surveys.

Earlier this year, a study based on a 23andMe survey was published in *Nature Communications* and identified 15 locations in DNA associated with "morningness."

"In this study, we set out to discover more about an individual's preference toward rising and were able to identify the genetic associations with 'morningness,' as well as ties to lifestyle patterns and other traits," said Youna Hu, the lead author on the paper. "This type of study speaks to the power of the 23andMe database, which can yield genetic insights into a variety of conditions and traits and potentially (show) how those genetic factors are affected by behavior and environment."

The study of more than 89,000 customers found that seven of the loci associated with "morningness" are near genes previously known to be involved in the circadian rhythm.

Additionally, the study found 56 percent of those surveyed considered themselves night owls. Women and adults over age 60 are more likely to be morning people, and morning people are less likely to suffer insomnia or need eight hours of sleep each day.

Weber said she's a morning person. Laws is an owl.

"The beauty of 23andMe is the ability to conduct research on common traits like being a lark or a night owl, which affect everyone, yet typically wouldn't receive funding for a study," said 23andMe senior scientist David Hinds, a co-author of the paper. "With the information we have, we can uncover the genetics behind a variety of conditions and diseases, and hopefully reach a better understanding of how we differ from one another."

In addition to accessing reports and taking surveys, customers on 23andMe, which partners with MyHeritage.com, can opt to share their genetic fingerprints, which allows for relatives — close and distant — to connect with them.

Customers also can learn ancestral compositions and build family trees using Ancestry.com and its AncestryDNA autosomal DNA test, which costs about \$100.

BRANCHING OUT

Using MyHeritage and Ancestry.com, a person can grow a family tree from a sapling to a redwood overnight.

Both websites offer tools to search billions of historical records, find archival photos, collect newspaper articles and bookmark histories.

When MyHeritage and 23andMe announced their collaboration, MyHeritage CEO Gilad Japhet said, "Combining genealogy with DNA-based ancestry is the next evolution in uncovering family history. DNA testing can connect you to relatives you never knew existed, who descend from shared ancestors centuries ago. ... Family trees and historical records are critical to map and fully understand these connections."

Laws said he was surprised to find a marriage record showing he had great-great grandparents who married in their teens. Weber said she was thrilled to come across a census account showing 12 people in her family lived together during World War II in an apartment on Chicago's West Side.

The services also can do the work of building a tree, which makes adding ancestors as easy as making friends on Facebook.

"The next thing for me is to find out who all these people

were," said Laws, whose tree currently goes back to 1587. "Right now, they are names and dates and some bits of information."

Polling conducted by Ancestry.com for its *Global Family History Report* found that Americans would prefer to find they are descendants of explorers, royalty, Mayflower travelers and Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. That could explain why one WiG staffer knew two people who claimed to have learned from psychics that they were the reincarnation of Cleopatra. The ensuing feud over who was the real Egyptian queen ended their friendship.

Genetic science, unlike psychics, tells the truth, which often is less glamorous. Most people learn they descend from World War II vets, immigrants and entrepreneurs.

And Americans, the polling found, would prefer not to find thieves, drunkards or murderers in their family tree.

Though Laws said he wouldn't mind a thief if he left a fortune.

DID YOU KNOW?

National DNA Day is observed annually on April 25 to celebrate the discovery of DNA's double helix in 1953 and the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003. This year, the National Human Genome Research Institute celebrated with a series of events.

DNA USA

An early 23andMe study examined what DNA reveals about the U.S. population, migration and the rate of "ancestry mixing" among populations.

The research, led by Katarzyna Bryc, showed the signature of historical migrations in the United States can be found in the DNA of today's population.

- About 3.5 percent of European Americans have 1 percent or more African ancestry.
- European Americans with African ancestry are found at much higher rates in the southern states.
- The highest levels of African ancestry among self-reported African Americans are found in the southern states, especially South Carolina and Georgia.
- One in every 20 African Americans has Native American ancestry.
- Among self-reported Latinos in the United States, those from the South and Southwest have the highest percentage of Native American ancestry.

— Lisa Neff

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VISIT
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Wisconsin birdathon benefits conservation programs

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Those who venture into the woods on a weekend in May might spot an "Old Coot" or a "Lower Chippewa River Titmousekeeter."

Those are not new species to add to the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, but rather teams in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon, an annual event that brings hundreds of birders outdoors for spring scoping. The event also raises money for conservation programs in the state.

The slogan is: See a bird, save a bird.

The goal is to raise \$70,000, according to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative.

Birders — there are no restrictions on experience levels — can join a team or create a team online and then find sponsors who pledge to make a donation for each species that the team sees during a 24-hour period.

"It's like a walkathon, but with birds instead of miles," says Diane Packett, whose role as birdathon coordinator is to manage the website, recruit participants and help as many as 100 teams get set up to raise money and count birds.

Some teams got out as early as April 15, but the event continues through June 15.

Among the participants are eight teams of hotshot birders. These teams alone aim to raise \$30,000. They include:



PHOTO: LINDSAY RENICK MAYER

The Foundation Flamingos gather at Ferry Bluff State Natural Area to search for species in a past birdathon.

- Lake Superior eBirders in Ashland and Bayfield counties, who last year counted 161 species.

- Madison Green Team of Dane County, who travel by bike, foot and kayak in search of birds at the UW Arboretum, Dunn's Marsh, along the Capital City Bike Trail, in the Nine-Springs Wetlands and elsewhere.

- Cutright's Old Coots, whose territory includes Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac and Dodge counties. They participate in honor of Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Famer Noel Cutright.

Other celebrated teams include Curlew & Screech, representing Columbia, Dane, Iowa, Sauk, Richland, Grant and Crawford counties; Secretary Birds of Door County

GET INVOLVED

The Great Wisconsin Birdathon, a partnership between the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, continues through June 15. To create or join a team or pledge to a team, visit wibirdathon.org.

and Green Bay; WSO Tessen Team of the Green Lake region; MotMotley Crew of Dodge County; and the Titmousekeeters of Eau Claire, Dunn and Buffalo counties.

"The signature teams include the state's most serious birders, but the Great Wisconsin Birdathon can be great fun for everyone, no matter what skill level," says Ruth Oppedahl, executive director of the NRFW. "Birding in your backyard for just a few hours is a wonderful way to learn about Wisconsin's birds, while also taking action to help conserve them."

Packett says, "You can make the birdathon whatever you want. We have someone who does the birdathon from his backyard. Some people spend half a day. Some people start at midnight and drive around the state."

Students also get involved, including a grade-school class that identifies species on a neighborhood walk.

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Dane's outsized board has advantages, challenges

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

While some Milwaukee County residents may think their 18-member board of supervisors is too large, Dane County is doing just fine — with 37.

"That's better than when there were 91," says County Executive Joe Parisi, with a laugh.

Not that Dane County is typical even today.

"According to the National Association of Counties, we believe that we have the third largest board in the nation," Parisi notes.

Besides serving as the state capital, Madison also is the county seat. Until 1966, the Dane County board consisted of 91 supervisors. That year it was reduced to 47. In 1972 it was reduced to 41.

"Then, after the 2000 census, the number went down to 37 and they've stuck there ever since," says Parisi. He believes tradition accounts for the large number of representatives.

Dane County was organized before statehood, in 1836, the same year the Wisconsin Territory was split from the Michigan Territory. Milwaukee County was organized the year before Dane County, when all of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and parts of the Dakotas were included in the Territory of Michigan. (Wisconsin attained statehood in 1848.)

The number of Dane County's represen-

Are 37 county supervisors too many? Or does the high number translate into better services for constituents and a more representative governing body?

tatives increased along with its population.

County supervisors meet in a chamber shared with the Madison Common Council, in the City-County Building, two blocks south of the Capitol Square. All 37 meet in one room.

Are 37 county supervisors too many? Or does the high number translate into better services for constituents and a more representative governing body?

"I can see both sides of the debate," says Parisi, who's served as county executive since 2011. Prior to that, he served as a Democrat in the Assembly.

"One of the things I like about this is that

it does make it very grassroots," he says. "The supervisors don't represent a lot of people, so they're very accessible."

At the same time, he says, a smaller board could maintain that quality. "To do the quick math, each supervisor represents about 13,500 residents. Now, if you went down to about 25 members, I think that would still just be about 20,000 people, so it wouldn't be that much different."

There are, of course, disadvantages to having such a big board.

"Communication can be a little challenging with a board this size," Parisi says. "When I am dealing with a policy issue or the budget or anything where I have to interact with the board, communicating a concise message to all 37 members can become challenging. I issue memos, I speak to leadership and chairs, my staff meets with members — but it's just kind of cumbersome in that way, so I can see the argument for a little smaller board, from an efficiency standpoint."

If it's hard for Parisi, communicating with others is just as hard for his supervisors. "It's a part-time job," he points out. "Most of them have day jobs."

There have been a several attempts over the years to reduce the board but none have succeeded.

"Among the supervisors there are probably a few people on both sides of the issue," Parisi says.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi.

Has there ever been an attempt to enlarge the board?

"I have never heard anyone on the planet suggest that we create more elected officials!" he says.



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Scalia gone, Supreme Court adjusts to a bench divided

Mark Sherman and Sam Hananel

AP writers

Two months, 31 arguments and 18 decisions since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, is the Supreme Court hopelessly deadlocked or coping as a party of eight?

The answer varies with the issue, but arguments in the corruption case of former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell show there are high-profile cases on which justices from the left and the right agree more often than they don't.

There also is some indication, hazy though it may be, that the court is trying to avoid division in an era of stark political partisanship and during a rollicking presidential campaign.

"The court prides itself appropriately as being an institution that works," said Washington lawyer Andy Pincus, who argues regularly at the Supreme Court.

If the court can demonstrate an ability to get its work done, that could reinforce Republican opposition to confirming federal Judge Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's nominee to replace Scalia, who died in February.

At the same time, the court has split 4-4 in two cases and part of a third, and the justices could end up similarly divided over immigration, birth control and a couple of other issues. Scalia's death has deprived the court's conservatives of a fifth majority-making vote on some high-profile issues.

In McDonnell's appeal of his corruption

convictions, however, liberal and conservative justices seemed to share a deep skepticism of the government's case. They strongly suggested that the court eventually will set aside his criminal conviction.

Liberal Justice Stephen Breyer, conservative Chief Justice John Roberts and the justice between them on the ideological spectrum, Anthony Kennedy, all sharply questioned the government's case against McDonnell. The onetime rising Republican star was convicted of accepting, along with his wife, Maureen, more than \$165,000 in gifts and loans from a wealthy businessman in exchange for promoting a dietary supplement.

Breyer said he worried about putting too much power in the hands of a criminal prosecutor, "who is virtually uncontrollable." Roberts said perhaps the court should strike at the root of the problem and declare unconstitutional a key federal bribery law.

The justices long have expressed their discomfort about overzealous prosecutors and their pursuit of corruption charges, previously limiting the very law Roberts speculated about. Scalia was a loud voice against the "honest services" fraud statute, but he was not alone.

If corruption prosecutions are one area in which ideology seems less important, concern about digital-age privacy is another. Two years ago, the court unanimously ruled for a suspected gang member after police searched his smartphone without a war-

rant.

On both topics, the fear of unbridled government power worries liberals and conservatives alike.

In two more cases, the court unanimously turned away Republican- and conservative-led voting rights challenges in Arizona and Texas. Both cases still might have come out the same way — with the challengers losing — had Scalia been there.

But John Elwood, a lawyer who writes a popular feature about the court's caseload for *Scotusblog*, said he thinks the court resolved the cases more narrowly after Scalia's death, perhaps to avoid division.

The court misses Scalia's vote and his distinctive voice. The biggest difference at the court since Scalia's death has been the way the justices relate to each other during arguments that once were filled with Scalia's pointed barbs and wry wit.

In some arguments, Justice Sonia Sotomayor has adopted a more aggressive tone, even challenging Roberts or interrupting his line of questioning. During arguments last month over the Obama health care law's contraception mandate, Roberts suggested that women who work at faith-based groups that object to birth control coverage could instead apply for it through the federal insurance exchanges.

"That's a falsehood," Sotomayor said before Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. could respond.

In a second case involving Puerto Rico's financial plight, Sotomayor essentially answered a question Roberts had asked lawyer Chris Landau.



PHOTO: PHIL ROEDER/AP

The flag in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building flies at half mast following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

The exchange prompted Roberts to say: "You came up with a very good answer, Mr. Landau, to my question."

In a case involving the federal Clean Water Act, Elwood said Kennedy seemed to fill the role once played by Scalia as the law's chief skeptic.


In last week's McDonnell case, Kennedy offered a tart response to Justice Department lawyer Michael Dreeben's assertion that it would be stunning if the court were to strike down long-standing anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws.

"Would it be absolutely stunning to say that the government has given us no workable standard?" Kennedy asked.

In some ways, the justices could be trying on roles as they adjust to life without Scalia. There are fewer big cases in the pipeline for next term, almost certainly a product of the court's desire to avoid controversial topics until the bench is once again full.

The eight-justice court probably will be around for a while — at least through the presidential election in November and possibly some months beyond that.

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Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce

EDITORIAL

Sanders breaks bad, wants contested convention

Hillary Clinton is 90 percent of the way toward capturing the Democratic nomination. She could lose every remaining primary by a wide margin and still be the party's standard-bearer, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. Bernie Sanders would need to flip hundreds of Clinton-pledged superdelegates to have a shot at the nomination, including superdelegates from states and districts that Clinton won.

And that's just what Sanders wants to do. He also wants superdelegates to overlook Clinton's popular vote lead — more than 3 million and climbing. Sanders is pressing the party elite to override the will of the people.

Although Sanders has never run as a Democrat, he was aware of the superdelegate system when he signed on as a candidate with the party. Tad Devine, his own campaign manager, is credited with creating that system.

Thus it was shocking to hear Sanders tell the National Press Club that he's aiming for "a contested convention." That's a scenario so destructive that Democrats were gleefully wishing it on the GOP just weeks ago. Now Sanders is threatening to force it on the Democrats. How does that serve the legions of donors who contributed to his campaign with the goal of electing a Democratic president? In 2008, Clinton had more reason than Sanders does now to push for a contested convention. She was closer to beating Obama than Sanders is to overcoming her. But she ultimately showed restraint for the good of the party and her progressive values.

Sanders' worst sin is the way he's escalated his rhetoric against Clinton to devastating levels since losing big to her in the northeastern primaries. Republicans have spent hundreds of millions of dollars over the past 25 years tearing Clinton down. Sanders is fast becoming their accomplice.

Sanders' rationale for his behavior is that he's running stronger than Clinton in the polls against Donald Trump. Never mind that polls at this point in a presidential race have only a 50 percent rate of accuracy.

Sanders has the benefit of being relatively unknown. If Karl Rove and his fellow GOP character assassins turned their guns on him — an avowed socialist who would have to raise taxes significantly to pay for his proposals — his poll numbers would most certainly drop. Clinton has the advan-

tage of already having survived the worst they can throw at her. They haven't started yet digging into Sanders' garbage.

Sadly, the vitriolic behavior coming from Sanders is rubbing off on his hardcore supporters. We've seen shocking misogynistic attacks from Sanders supporters on Facebook, Twitter and the comment sections of blogs and websites, including our own. Hating women is not a progressive value.

AP recently documented some of the misguided attempts by Sanders' supporters to woo superdelegates. For instance, Nancy Schumacher, an administrative assistant from Elk River, Minnesota, who's pledged to Clinton, has received constant threatening phone calls and emails from Sanders followers.

"Some of them called Hillary names. And others said I was a stupid bitch and something bad will happen to me," Schumacher told AP.

Gus Bickford, the former executive director of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, said threats from Sanders supporters have flowed into his inbox and onto his Facebook page.

"Someone put up a list of the superdelegates and a person from Rhode Island posted a response that basically said, 'They should all be assassinated,'" Bickford said.

Sanders must condemn such outrages.

He and his supporters have performed a service to the progressive agenda by dialing the political dialogue to the left and bringing the liberal brand back into the mainstream. Sanders has the strength to build solid progressive planks into the Democratic platform and that's where he should focus his efforts.

Despite Trump's high negatives, it's rare for a political party to win a third term in the White House. It's only happened three times in the past century and only once in the past 50 years. Democrats do not have this election in the bag.

We don't believe Sanders should withdraw. His ideas have enlightened and attracted many new voters. But he and his supporters must stop helping the GOP destroy the Democratic frontrunner. Like Clinton did eight years ago, Sanders must show the maturity and commitment to work toward party unity. He's risking not only Clinton's chances in November, but also the legacy of his own campaign.

WiG's WEB PICKS



WHO WORE IT BETTER?

Some of our favorite memes about Donald Trump's hair



ON THE RECORD

“

“Nothing is more stunning than having the words ‘serial child molester’ and ‘speaker of the House’ in the same sentence.”

— JUDGE THOMAS DURKIN in sentencing former House Speaker Dennis Hastert to 15 months in federal prison for paying hush money to a man he allegedly abused. Prosecutors allege Hastert molested at least four boys during his time as a wrestling coach in west suburban Chicago.

“I have Democrat friends and Republican friends. I get along with almost everyone, but I have never worked with a more miserable son of a bitch in my life.”

— Former House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER sharing his feelings about GOP presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz in a talk hosted by Stanford University. Boehner referred to Cruz as “Lucifer in the flesh.”

“We’re just thrilled that Andrew Jackson has had a removal of his own. The constant reminder of Andrew Jackson being glorified is sad and sickening to our people.”

— Country singer/songwriter BECKY HOBBS commenting on the U.S. Treasury’s decision to replace Jackson, who owned slaves and displaced Native Americans from their land, with African-American abolitionist Harriet Tubman on the face of the \$20 bill.

“Prince was very proudly black and a lot of the music that he played — you’ve got to remember the rock ‘n’ roll that some people said that was the ‘white’ side — no, rock ‘n’ roll was black music. Funk is black music. Ballads is black music. Prince was playing music that was true to his soul and true to his core.”

— STEPHEN HILL, president of programming for Black Entertainment Television, talking about Prince’s legacy as an African-American entertainer.

“I’ve never seen such a combo of simplistic slogans and contradictions and misstatements in one speech.”

— Former Secretary of State MADELINE ALBRIGHT assessing Donald Trump’s foreign policy vision, which he laid out in a speech in Washington.

“If Hillary Clinton were a man, I don’t think she’d get 5 percent of the vote. The only thing she’s got going is the woman’s card and the beautiful thing is, women don’t like her.”

— DONALD TRUMP in a speech following his five-state win April 26.

“The other day, Mr. Trump accused me of playing the woman card. Well, if fighting for women’s health care and paid family leave and equal pay is playing the woman card, then deal me in.”

— HILLARY CLINTON responding to Donald Trump’s critique of her on the campaign trail.

“This seems to be a solution in search of a problem.”

— Fox News host CHRIS WALLACE sharing his assessment of North Carolina’s so-called “bathroom bill,” which essentially prevents transgender people from using public restrooms.

”

Privatizing long-term care for profit

Opinion

JAMAKAYA

With the media focused on our crazy presidential campaign, it’s easy to overlook another disturbing power play by Gov. Scott Walker and his cronies here at home.

A year ago during the legislative budget session, GOP leaders proposed to dismantle Wisconsin’s highly rated long-term care system.

The proposal came as a shock to the state’s nonprofit managed care organizations — or MCOs. They’re the long-term care providers and personal care workers. No one bothered to consult the 55,000 elderly and disabled individuals who receive assistance from the programs or the family members who participate in their care.

Despite a mighty grassroots effort to defeat the proposal, the GOP voted for the changes anyway. Walker vetoed the item only because he disagreed about how to section off regions of the state to the

advantage of for-profit insurance companies.

No bad ideas rest for long with the GOP leaders who control our state — especially not when their campaign contributors and cronies stand to benefit.

In late April, Walker and GOP legislative leaders announced again that they plan to shift the current system of eight regions overseen by nonprofit MCOs to three regions administered by national for-profit health insurance companies. They have the votes and the power to do whatever they want.

R.J. Pirlot, executive director of the Alliance for Health Insurers, is in quite a hurry. “The sooner the committee acts,” he said in a statement, “the sooner both service recipients and Wisconsin taxpayers will reap the benefits.”

Walker spokesman Tom Evenson is antsy, too. “We believe the sooner we can transition to improved services, the better off consumers and tax payers will be.”

Pardon my skepticism toward the newfound altruism of our one-party state. In the past few years, the

The proposal came as a shock to the state’s nonprofit managed care organizations.

GOP has slashed access to food stamps, rejected almost \$1 billion in federal Medicaid funds for the poor, and defunded and forced the closure of Planned Parenthood clinics.

Walker and GOP Rep. John Nygren claim that turning the long-term care system over to the private sector will save the state \$300 million over the next six years.

That sounds good, but expanding caseloads and payouts to insurance company shareholders over those years can only result in cuts to services for our most vulnerable citizens.

The non-partisan Legislative Reference Bureau has issued several reports showing that our current long-term care system is

efficient and has saved money. Its emphasis on providing home and community services reduced the number of Medicaid-covered individuals in nursing homes by 10,811 between 2002 and 2011.

The state Department of Health Services has issued data on the positive health outcomes and high rates of satisfaction among individuals receiving care in their communities. Sudden changes in providers or services will surely be upsetting to elderly and disabled recipients.

I know many dedicated people who worked hard over almost 20 years to gather input, plan and reform our long-term care system into what it is today. It was painstaking work, taking the views of disabled people, their families, caregiving agencies, health care providers, county and state agencies and legislators into account.

It is a travesty of justice that this model of consensus and consumer-directed service can be dismantled in just one month by those whose only concern is providing more profits for wealthy corporations.

Reject bigotry against transgendered

Opinion

REP. MARK SPREITZER

I believe in tolerance. I believe in being inclusive. I believe people should be themselves, rather than be forced or shamed into hiding their identities out of fear.

I believe elected officials are chosen by the people to work on the real issues Wisconsin needs us to solve — issues like underfunded public education and the need for family-supporting jobs.

Unlike state Rep. Jesse Kremer, I believe those of us with the responsibility of representing our state should take that obligation seriously and not fall victim to the easy lure of divisive

I believe lawmakers should know the law and speak the truth.

rhetoric over where people go to the bathroom. I’m not alone in this belief. Leading presidential candidates from both political parties say it’s wrong to discriminate against transgender people by preventing them from using the restroom that conforms with their gender identity.

I believe elected officials also should avoid the arrogance, however tempting or politically advantageous in

our districts, of assuming we should decide the legitimacy of someone else’s identity.

Elected officials should stop using resentful innuendo and disparaging statements such as “a guy who thinks he’s a woman.” It’s time to acknowledge the truth: Transgender women are women. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender men are men. Transgender boys are boys.

I believe lawmakers should know the law and speak the truth.

We should not try to lump together sexual predators and people we simply don’t understand. Indecent exposure, sexual harassment and sexual assault have been, are now, and will continue to be illegal. Wisconsin has many laws addressing these crimes.

I condemn public statements and positions that would seek to marginalize vulnerable groups.

I condemn public officials who target transgender people with discriminatory laws because they’re angry at a changing society.

I believe everyone should feel safe, no matter where they are and no matter who they are. Forty-one percent of transgender people attempt suicide and half experience sexual violence in their lifetimes.

It’s time we let go of bigotry and fear of the transgender community. It’s time for us to get to work making Wisconsin a better place for everyone.

Democrat Mark Spreitzer represents the 45th Assembly District.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



PHOTO: COURTESY

TOURING FOR TALIESIN: Taliesin Preservation unveils a new ride, inviting bicyclists to explore a broad swath of Frank Lloyd Wright territory in Wisconsin, starting and ending at his 800-acre Wisconsin River estate. Tour du Taliesin, set for May 22, features two ticketing levels and two route distances. Plus, there's an after-party at Tan-y-Deri Hill. For more, go to taliesinpreservation.org.

JANE'S WALK

Jane's Walk steps off at 4:15 p.m. May 10, at the Plankinton Building, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave. Following the walk, there's a 5:30 p.m. fish fry at Turner Hall to celebrate the 100th birthday of Jane Jacobs, who pioneered a community-based approach to urban development. The event features a talk and slide show by former Mayor John Norquist at 7 p.m. He'll talk about Jacobs' positive influence on Milwaukee's development.

CLIMATE CINEMA

A new film based on Naomi Klein's book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*, will be screened at the Barrymore Theatre in Madison at 7 p.m. May 25. The 350 Madison Climate Action Team hosts the event with co-sponsors Madison Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Madison Institute, Sierra Club, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Wisconsin Environmental Health Network, 350 UW, and Clean Wisconsin. For more, go to 350madison.org.

H2O HAPPENING

Milwaukee Water Commons hosts the Confluence Gathering at 5 p.m. May 12 at Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery, 901 E. Juneau Ave. The forum provides an opportunity to announce a series of water initiatives, including:

- Increasing green infrastructure.
- Expanding water recreation.
- Restoring Milwaukee's three rivers.

For more, go to milwaukeeewatercommons.org.

CHAMBER ACCOLADES

The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce holds an expo and awards celebration May 18 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee. The expo is 5-7 p.m. and the awards presentation is at 6:30 p.m. For more, go to wislgbtchamber.com.

MADISON READING MATERIAL

The 2016-17 "Go Big Read" common reading project for UW-Madison will focus on *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by UW-Madison graduate Matthew Desmond. The book tells the story of eight Milwaukee families faced with losing their homes and explores how evictions in the U.S. went from rare to frequent occurrences. For more, go to gobigread.wisc.edu.

STEP FORWARD

The 2016 Southern Wisconsin MG Walk benefiting the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America takes place at 10 a.m. May 7 in Greenfield Park in West Allis. For more, go to myasthenia.org.

BREWING TREES

A partnership between Milwaukee County Parks Department, the Brewers Foundation and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources involves planting 70 trees this spring. Seven species will be planted — catalpa, sugar maple, swamp white oak, Kentucky coffee tree, hackberry, Japanese tree lilac and honeylocust. For more, go to milwaukeecountywi.gov.

LABOR CONFERENCE

The 35th annual conference of the Wis-

consin Labor History Society takes place May 21 at UAW Local 72 Hall, 3615 Washington Road, Kenosha. The theme is "A Historical Look at Immigration and Unions: Lessons for Today." For more, go to wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

BLACK LENS BOOST

Milwaukee Film received a \$10,000 grant to support its Black Lens Program from the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Sixteen FilmWatch grants were issued for 2016-17. Black Lens programming is a selection of films by African-American filmmakers. For more, go to mkefilm.org.

GROWING PRIDE

Milwaukee Pride is seeking candidates for its expanded board of directors. Applications should be sent by May 10 to info@milwaukeepride.org.

KP DUTY

Eleven Milwaukee chefs will host a benefit dinner May 23, offering dishes inspired by the Waffle House menu, to raise money for the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. "Milwaukee Chefs for Homeless Vets: Waffle House Re-Imagined" takes place 6:30-10 p.m. at Merrimont Social, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave. The initiative provides a range of services to military veterans and families in crisis. For more, go to mkehomelessvets.org.

GEM TIME

The Wisconsin Geological Society holds its annual rock and gem show May 14-15 at Hart Park's Mueller Building in Wauwatosa. The event features about 20 vendors and raises money for college scholarships. For more, go to wisgeologicalsociety.com.

— Lisa Neff

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For the birds: Living with a feathered companion

By Katherine Roth

AP writer

Atina Cote's three birds roam freely in her home, participate in making bird treats and bird toys, nibble playfully at her fingers as she types at her computer keyboard and even join her in the shower.

When she walks in the front door, she says, her beloved Beeker, Schroeder and Charlie joyfully sing, "Hey Bird! Hey Bird!"

Schroeder is a cockatiel and Charlie a black-capped conure.

"We're one big happy flock," says Cote, of Toronto, who has a tattoo of Beeker, her spectacled parrotlet, on one shoulder.

"Birds make great pets, but it's important that you have plenty of time for them," she said. "Each one has its own personality and they really want to hang out with you as much as possible. You can teach them tricks and they eat a lot of the same food we do. They're hilarious and loads of fun."

"Particularly when you start out with a young hand-raised bird, it really becomes a part of the family," she said.

Of course, it's not all pretty feathers and sweet songs. Cote admits her lifestyle "is not for clean freaks."

"They poop on you and throw their food around. I have to clean the splattered fruits and vegetables off the walls and floors. It's a constant battle, but I love it," she said.

The birds tend to keep to a small area of her apartment and she puts down towels there to make cleaning up easier.

Although birds have never been as popular a pet in the United States as dogs or cats, their fans say that's a shame and that people just don't know what they're miss-

ing.

"Birds are the best pets ever. They're very smart and, while a dog will adore you no matter what you do, birds recognize you for who you are, and if you do something stupid a bird will look at you and kind of go, 'Really?!,'" said Jamie Whittaker, a bird breeder, behavior consultant, pet shop owner and president of the Austin, Texas-based American Federation of Aviculture.

And while pet birds do demand lots of time and attention, they don't have to be walked. Cote periodically gives her birds' wing feathers a light trim so they can fly around her home but can't escape.

If you're thinking of buying a pet bird, make sure it hasn't been imported, since trade in wild birds is illegal in many states, according to Jim Breheny, director of the Bronx Zoo in New York City. "A pet bird bred in captivity and hand-fed by aviculturalists makes for a much happier, healthier pet," he said.

He also warned that even captive-bred and hand-fed larger parrots, such as cockatoos and macaws, can be noisy and destructive if they don't get huge amounts of attention.

They bond with their owners and, if they are passed from one owner to another, their behavior grows even worse, Breheny said.

"You need to be prepared to take on not only their physical care but also their emotional health. Larger parrots can live to be between 50 and 70 years old. It's a demanding pet that you may have to make provisions for in your will," he said.

Beginners might want to consider smaller, more readily available birds, like zebra



finches, society finches, budgies, parakeets or cockatiels, which are domestically produced and have lifespans in the teens to 20 years, Breheny said. Even finches and budgies will spread hulls, dander and feathers on the floor, she added.

"And if you want to hand-train a budgie or parrot, you almost have to clip its wing feathers occasionally, because if captive birds escape they can get hurt very badly," he said.

Novices should find a mentor, Whittaker said.

"When you get that first bird, make sure you have someone who understands birds,

who you can turn to for advice. That person can be anyone with a lot of experience with birds," she said.

Bird clubs and magazines are also great sources of information, she said.

It's best to let a bird have its own cage, Whittaker said, but if you have more than one in a cage, stick with the same species and gender.

In selecting a first bird, look for one that truly interests you.

"Honestly, if it's a bird that fascinates you, that you just relate to and think is super neat, that's the best bird for you," Whittaker said.



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Forensic vets investigate abuse

The Associated Press

The cocker spaniel arrives at the animal hospital with a police officer, whimpering and shaking. He has a puss-filled pink socket for a left eye and is so skinny that his spine and ribs show through his fur.

Because animal abuse is suspected, this dog won't be handled like the other pets coming in for treatment at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Instead, the dog will go to a specialized team of forensic veterinarians who are trained to treat animals while also developing evidence for possible criminal charges.

"The message to people who are abusing animals is that there is action being taken," said Dr. Alison Liu, one of the forensic vets on staff. "And if they're thinking they may not get caught, that's not always the case."

The New York-based nonprofit has a team of three forensic vets dedicated to capturing evidence to punish animal abusers. Their jobs include traveling to crime scenes and working with the New York Police Department in a new partnership that has doubled cruelty-related arrests in the past two years. They have a necropsy lab, evaluation unit and a rehabilitation center that houses about 60 animals for adoption.

Team leader Dr. Robert Reisman developed evaluation standards that are used nationwide in determining cases of abuse and neglect. He's testified in some of the first animal cruelty cases to use DNA at



trial to obtain felony convictions.

The ASPCA has created an animal forensic sciences program at the University of Florida. The agency has a team of forensic vets who help out all over the country.

In January, an ASPCA crew rescued some 600 animals from a no-kill shelter in North Carolina that was suspected of abuse and neglect. The nonprofit is funded mostly through donations.

Last year, the forensic team in New York saw 700 animals — mostly cats and dogs, but also chickens and rabbits.

"You can't really separate out what's happening to animals with what's happening to people," Reisman said. "The most obvious reason is the connection between animal abuse and human interpersonal violence. The cases we see on a regular basis are domestic-abuse cases where there's both a human victim and an animal victim."

One such case was a pit bull named Honey, who was shot in the mouth by a man who was also accused of beating up his girlfriend. He was charged with animal cruelty, menacing and strangulation. The girlfriend and the dog survived.

The team can't talk about the cocker spaniel because that case is ongoing. But each live animal brought in receives the

same treatment. They are physically examined and weighed multiple times. A specific set of blood work is completed to rule out possible illness, and then the vets begin to heal the animal.

One dog, a boxer named Brewster, was dropped off last year by a good Samaritan who said he found the starving animal in a park. The dog was shockingly thin with sad, brown eyes.

Police later discovered the Samaritan was actually the owner, who starved him. In part because of the forensic evidence, he ended up pleading guilty to felony animal cruelty charges.

Meanwhile, Brewster was carefully cared for, eventually regaining his health, doubling his weight and getting adopted.

Veterinarian Laura Niestat said that in addition to starvation, the vets often see cases of neglect in which tight collars wear off layers of skin, frostbite destroys ears and tails, and extreme matting of fur chokes limbs like a tourniquet.

Some animals have been shot, others beaten and suffocated.

"We try to focus on how we're helping the animals," Niestat said, "and not on how awful it is."

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48 labs rescued from Wisconsin puppy mill

From WiG and AP reports

Forty-eight Labrador Retrievers were rescued recently from an alleged puppy mill in western Wisconsin, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

According to the news release, the 35 adults and 13 puppies, all yellow Labradors, were discovered living indoors in small, filthy travel crates, with no access to food or water.

Sixteen dead dogs also were found on the property in Elmwood.

The ASPCA believes the facility is a puppy mill — a large-scale breeding operation designed to generate profits at the cost of the animals' health and well-being.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Office arrested owner, Stuart West, who faces 117 criminal charges of animal mistreatment and is accused of failing to provide adequate food and shelter for the animals.

WQQW in Eau Claire reported the dogs were taken to the Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley, Minnesota, where they were receiving medical treatment. The dogs are considered evidence and will be cared for by the Animal Humane Society until their custody is determined by the court.

The ASPCA also was collecting forensic evidence and providing legal support to strengthen the case and ensure the strongest legal outcome for the dogs.

"What we saw here is no way for a dog to live," said Kathryn Destreza, director of investigations for ASPCA Field Investigations and Response. "The puppies at breeding facilities are sold for profit, but many people don't realize that their parents are often kept there for years, subjected to incessant breeding and usually lacking



PHOTO: COURTESY

An ASPCA worker cuddles a yellow Labrador he saved from a puppy mill in Elmwood.

basic care and socialization, resulting in a very poor quality of life."

"Large scale animal cruelty cases are not something that we encounter often here in Pierce County," said Pierce County Sheriff Nancy Hove. "When we are made aware

In Madison, call 608-255-2345 to have an Animal Services officer dispatched.

To report incidents elsewhere in the state, visit the website of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and search for a "humane officer" in the jurisdiction where you reside.

— Louis Weisberg

of any animal cruelty issues we do the best we can to investigate and hold accountable those responsible. This case started with a complaint from a concerned citizen who was appalled by the conditions these animals were exposed to. Deputies responded to the complaint and determined the allegations had merit. Citizens are encouraged to contact law enforcement when they are made aware of these situations so they can be addressed accordingly."



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Does the animal have regular access to food, water and shelter?

Is his/her area clear of feces, broken glass or other objects that may do harm or cause illness?

Does the animal have open wounds or other injuries that have not been treated?

Does the animal have signs of an illness that has not been treated? (Examples include heavy discharge from eyes or nose, rash or bumpy skin, and missing hair.)

Have you witnessed someone kicking, beating or otherwise harming the animal?

Is the animal's coat extremely matted or his nails severely overgrown?

Does the animal appear overly aggressive or timid?

Even if you are not sure that you are observing animal cruelty or neglect, please report it anyway. An animal control or police officer will make that determination. If no prosecution occurs, at least the an officer can educate the person who is caring for the animal in humane treatment.

Source: Friends of MADACC

REPORT ANIMAL CRUELTY

If you witness or suspect animal cruelty, abuse or neglect, you should contact the police department in the municipality where the event occurred.

In Milwaukee, contact the Department of Neighborhood Services at 414-286-2268 Monday-Friday during normal business hours. After hours, weekends or holidays, call the Milwaukee Police Department.

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Out on the town *May 5 - 19*

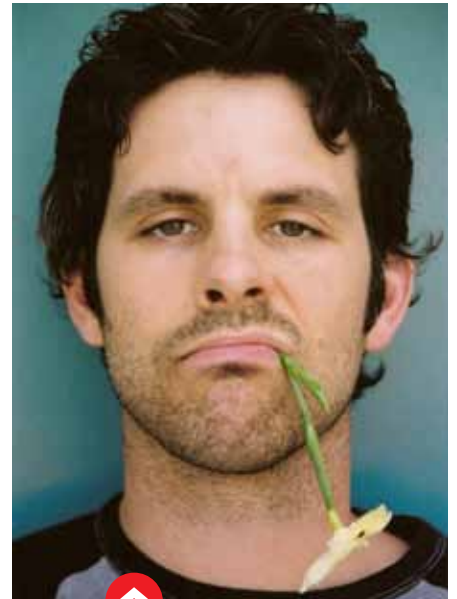
A curated calendar of upcoming events



◀ 'SONGS FROM THE UPROAR'

May 6 to 8 at the Broadway Theatre Center, Milwaukee. \$29, \$19 students and artists. milwaukeeoperatheatre.org or wildspacedance.org.

Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Wild Space Dance Company team up to create a multimedia mash-up of poetry, music and dance. The 75-minute work tells the story of Isabelle Eberhardt, a Swiss explorer whose diary entries chronicle an unconventional life of exploration and discovery in Europe and northern Africa in the late 19th century. The team producing it is small — five singers, five dancers (including Colleen Brooks as Isabelle), and a tiny chamber ensemble — but the experience is bigger than the sum of its parts. (Matthew Reddin)



▶ NATHAN TIMMEL

7:30 p.m. May 5 to 7 at Comedy Café, Milwaukee. \$10. milwaukeescomedycafe.com.

Nathan Timmel bills himself as three things: A comedian. An author. And an idiot. The comedian, who's been spitting out jokes on stage for the past 15 years, says he got his start even earlier — when, as a child, he heard George Carlin's infamous "Seven Dirty Words You Can't Say on Television" and ran around shouting them on the playground. Nowadays, he's performed all across the country, and even made soldiers laugh in Iraq and Afghanistan, although they thought the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders were prettier. (Colton Dunham)



▶ 'THE QUEST'

May 12 to 15 at Next Act Theatre. \$22, \$27 premium seating, \$16 seniors/students. danceworksmke.org.

Quest narratives always draw on the same character archetypes: the princess, the knight, the dragon. With the help of Chant Claire Chamber Choir and Milwaukee playwright/composer/funnyman Jason Powell, Danceworks is going to shake up that narrative. This "unique blend of the Real and the Magickal" will feature an equally blended score, a mix of canonical repertoire and newly penned ballads that fit into the overall tapestry. (Matthew Reddin)

▶ 'THE LION KING' May 10 to June 5 at Overture Center, Madison. \$29 to \$175. overturecenter.org.

Disney has no shortage of creative properties to translate from screen to stage (start saving for *Frozen* in 2018, parents), but one stands above the rest as perhaps the company's greatest theatrical achievement: *The Lion King*. Working with already phenomenal material, the stage version of "Hamlet with Lions" further elevated itself by adding extra songs, fleshing out plot points left fuzzy in the children's movie and — most strikingly — employing both creative costumes and puppetry to bring the African animals to life. The national tour returns to Madison this May. (Matthew Reddin)



Out on the town



SYTTENDE MAI FESTIVAL

May 13 to May 15 at various locations, Stoughton. Most events free. stoughtonwi.com.

This fun festival weekend when "everyone claims to be Norwegian" is a celebration of Norway's Constitution Day. Stoughton, a Wisconsin town southeast of Madison with a strong Norwegian heritage, marks the holiday with Norwegian dance, costumes, art and songs. The festival also features traditional Norwegian crafts, an "ugly troll" drawing contest for children, a 20-mile run/17-mile walk and parades. (Rachele Krivichi)

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'DIXIE'S TUPPERWARE PARTY'

May 12 to 15 at the Marcus Center, Milwaukee. \$43. marcuscenter.org.

Dixie's Tupperware Party is just that: a Tupperware party. Just not one you've ever encountered at your neighbor's place. The fast-talking Dixie Longate has left her children behind in an Alabama trailer park and is traveling the country throwing old-fashioned Tupperware parties, where she spins funny and heartfelt stories, encourages audience participation and has giveaways. During this zany party, you'll learn all about the most up-to-date Tupperware products (actually available for purchase at the show) and discover some of Dixie's alternative uses for the ubiquitous plastic items. (Colton Dunham)



'ILLUMINATE'

6:30 p.m. May 12 at the Milwaukee Theatre. Free, with donations accepted. exyomke.org.

Express Yourself Milwaukee is a nonprofit that sponsors arts immersion programs that expose at-risk youth between ages 7 and 25 to music, theater, dance and visual art as a way to help them explore their creativity and discover inner strength in the process. *Illuminate* is the culmination of that process, the organization's 15th annual show presents what participants have worked on over the course of the year. This year's theme emphasizes the sparks of ingenuity and the explosive creativity that will be on display at this multi-disciplinary celebration. (Matthew Reddin)

'STRING SERENADE'

1 p.m. May 14 at Carroll University, Waukesha. \$12, \$10 students/seniors. myso.org.

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra is an renowned orchestral program for youth up to the age of 18 that advocates music as a way to shape the lives of children. Some of the youngest performers will show off what they've learned as part of the "String Serenade," at Carroll's Shattuck Music Center Auditorium. The performance will feature MYSO's four String Orchestras, for kids in grades 4 to 7, as well as the Prelude Orchestra for younger elementary students. (Rachele Krivichi)

UWM STUDENT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

7 p.m. May 13 at UWM Union Cinema, Milwaukee. Free. uwm.edu.

As each semester draws to a close at UW-Milwaukee, the campus' Union Cinema becomes a home for the work of student filmmakers. It's always an eclectic selection: One film could be an experimental short, another could be an animation piece and another could be a broad comedy. You never know what you'll be seeing until you're right there, alongside the filmmakers who made it all happen. (Colton Dunham)

A curated calendar of upcoming events May 5 - 19

BAY VIEW ART IN THE PARK

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. starting May 14 at Humboldt Park, Milwaukee. Free. bvartinthepark.com.

Bay View Art in the Park kicks off its summer season on May 14 in Humboldt Park. This monthly craft fair features 50 rotating local artisans displaying and selling crafts and art ranging from pastoral watercolors to stunning black and white photography. It is a great way to support the work of local artists. The event will include programs for kids and families, such as recycled art material workshops. Art in the Park will recur every second Saturday of the month until Sept. 10. (Rachele Krivichi)

ROCKABILLY FESTIVAL

4 to 9 p.m. May 14 at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. \$14. cedarburgculturalcenter.org.

This celebration of the merging of rock 'n' roll and hippie culture into the phenomenon called "rockabilly" will be an all-day festival of boisterous fun — the first ever in Cedarburg — complete with food trucks and happy hour. Make sure to come as your best rockabilly alter ego, because there will be a best-dressed Rock-a-Billy and Rock-a-Betty contest, as well as a best hairdo contest. Special musical guests include Lance Lipinsky and the Lovers, the Revomatics and the Night Crawlers. (Rachele Krivichi)



MILWAUKEE PUG FEST

9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 15 at Milwaukee County Indoor Sports Complex, Franklin. \$8, \$3 for children, \$6 and \$2 in advance. milwaukeekeepugfest.com.

Pug Hugs Rescue, a nonprofit dedicated to the protection and advancement of pugs, will host Milwaukee Pug Fest, the largest pug event in North America. The day will consist of a pug talent contest and pug costume contest, as well as a silent auction and a "Blessing of the Pugs and Friends" by the Rev. John Allen. The event will close with pug races. All attending pugs will have some way to showcase their adorable talents. (Rachele Krivichi)

KEEP READING FOR...

Lewis Black: The ascerbic comic brings his raged style to Milwaukee for a two-night engagement. *May 13 and 14.* See page 30.

Cream City Comedy Festival: Local stand-up showcases get put in the spotlight at this new comedy series. *May 12 to 15.* See page 31

'Alice (in wonderland)': The Milwaukee Ballet wraps up its season with this stunning spectacle, retelling the tale of Alice with superb costumes, lavish sets and, of course, unforgettable dancing. *May 19 to 22.* See page 32.

'Return of the Tango': By popular demand, Frankly Music presents an evening defined by the tango, with the astonishing Stas Venglevski returning to perform with his bayan, the Russian cousin to the accordion. *May 16.* See page 38.

'Die Fledermaus': This Viennese operetta, set at a masked ball and featuring the deceptions, duplicity and comedy perfect for that location, concludes the Florentine's season. *May 13 and 15.* See page 39.

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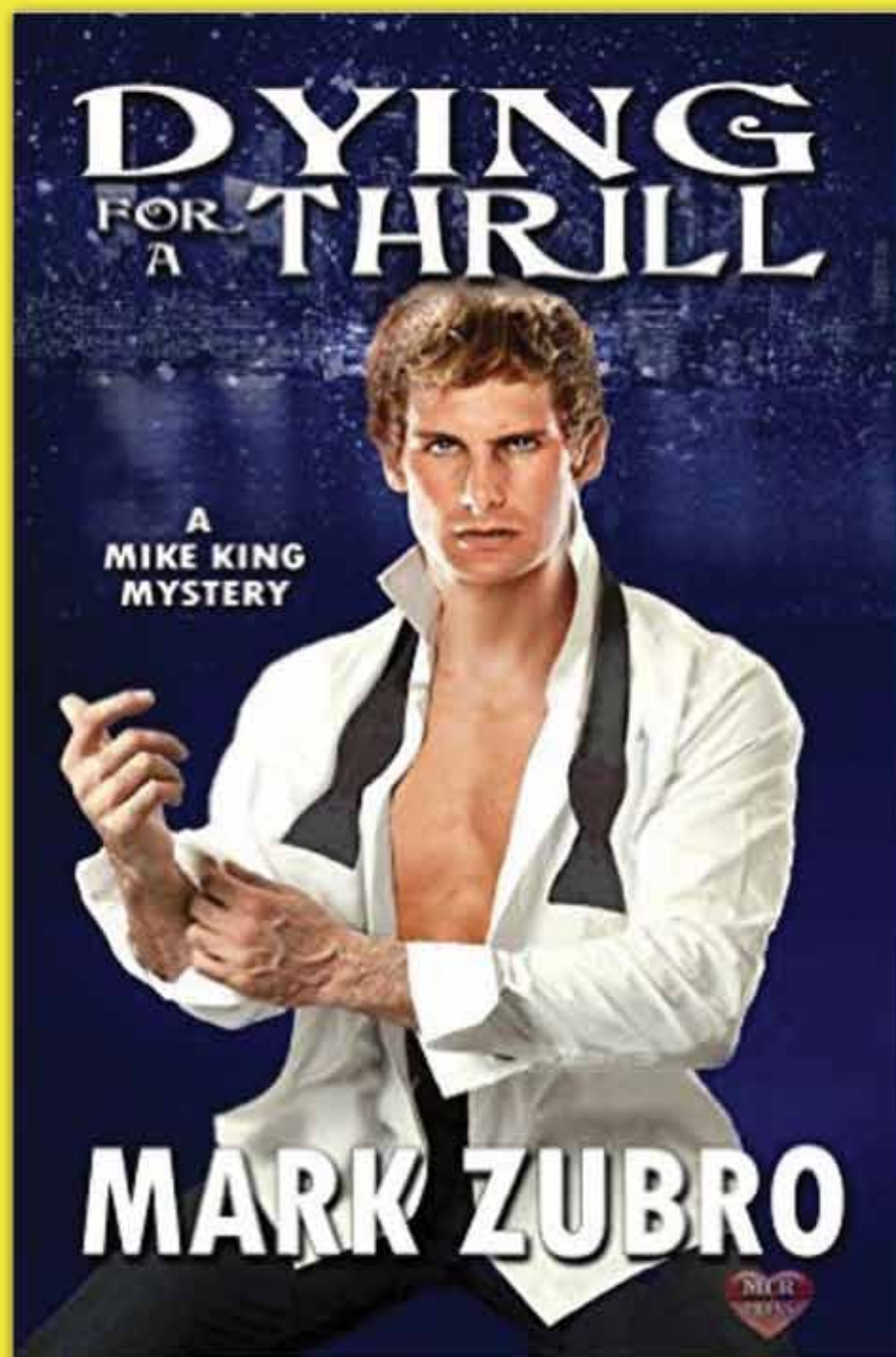
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WIGOUT!

Explore Milwaukee — 75 years in the past

A newly discovered 1940s guide reveals the Cream City of yesteryear

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

"Numerous explanations have been advanced for Milwaukee's low crime rate," according to the city's newest guidebook, although "there is quite a little downtown activity right up until midnight."

If that sounds like a less-than-accurate set of facts, you're technically wrong — since this guidebook describes a Milwaukee of yesteryear, almost a century in the past.

Seventy-five years later, this guide written by members of the Federal Writers' Project has finally been published by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The manuscript tells the story of Milwaukee from its founding in the 19th century until 1940.

"You can look at how the city was laid out and how different, really, it was back then," says project editor John Buenker. "People from that time coming downtown today would be amazed at the high-rise buildings. They had never seen anything over three or four stories."

The Federal Writers' Project was one of many programs launched during the Great Depression by the national Works Progress Administration. The WPA hired unemployed workers to build civic improvements such as roads, bridges, locks, dams, hospitals and schools, as well as to improve parkland.

The WPA employed writers, too. "They generally hired teachers or journalists, people like that," says Buenker, who taught history for 35 years at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. He also taught at UW-Milwaukee and UW-Madison.

Additionally, the WPA's Federal Writers Project hired mapmakers, photographers and archeologists — more than 6,500 employees in all. WPA workers compiled priceless oral histories and field recordings, notably of the last generations of African-Americans who had been held in slavery.

The Federal Writers Project also produced state guidebooks. Wisconsin's, published in 1941, was a 651-page behemoth. The next task was to write guidebooks for major cities, including Milwaukee.

Then came Pearl Harbor and the United States' entry into World War II. The city guide went unpublished.

Decades later, "there always was this rumor that there was a history of Milwaukee that was worked on, but nobody knew where it was," says Buenker.

The files were found in the archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society, which has now published it.



The book, richly illustrated with period photos and maps created expressly for the guide, is like *Alice in Wonderland* — if *Wonderland* were made up of colorful ethnic communities and landmarks now lost to Milwaukee.

The guide includes once-important industries, such as "the fishing fleet," and the Pabst Brewery, 917 W. Juneau Ave., "where visitors may view talking pictures which tell the story of brewing."

Readers were invited to visit the Milwaukee Public Museum, then housed inside the Milwaukee Public Library at 814 W. Wisconsin Ave. "In front of the building stands a totem pole carved by the Haida Indians." Besides a model of Solomon Juneau's trading post, inside you could see "birds' nests and eggs," postage stamps and "boots and shoes of all the nations."

Or you could have visited the "veal and poultry commission district." There, the Central Municipal Market covered an entire square block at North Fifth and West Vliet Streets. "On weekday mornings, farmers within a radius of 150 miles bring farm produce to sell to housewives and independent merchants. ...Here and there a farmer's wife, more enterprising than her neighbor, hawks bouquets of freshly picked flowers."

At night, you could visit the theater belonging to the Wisconsin Players, 535 N. Van Buren St. The former church housed "one of the oldest little theater groups in the United States." Talk about drama! Once it was home to "spasmodic feuds." In fact, a bomb was found there that killed nine police officers. Today it's a parking facility.

ON THE SHELF

Milwaukee in the 1930s: A Federal Writers' Project City Guide, edited by John D. Buenker, is published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, \$19. Visit wisconsinhistory.org for more.

Much of "the Negro district" — Milwaukee's historic Bronzeville, the African-American community centered northwest of downtown — had recently won its battle to simply exist; property owners refused to give way to what later was called "urban renewal." The cruelest urban renewal of all had yet to be conceived: Tearing down blocks and displacing thousands to create the freeway cutting through Milwaukee.

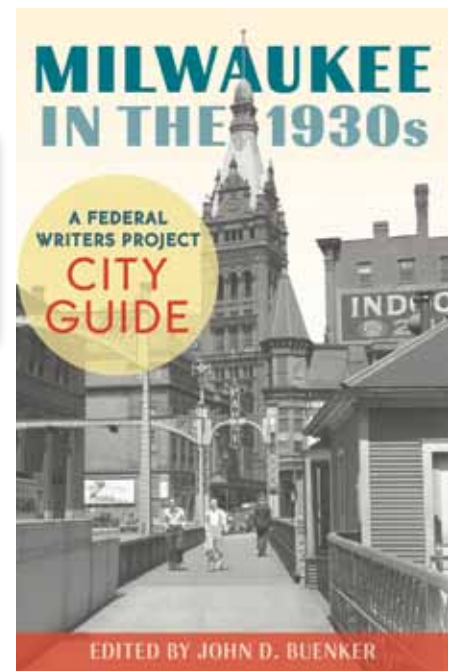
"When they put I-94 and its subsidiaries in (during the 1950s and '60s), they destroyed whole neighborhoods," says Buenker. "They actually gutted whole parts of the city, neighborhoods that had Polish or African-American or Italian or Greek people. There was a lot of controversy about that. Back in the 1930s, people used public transportation or they walked."

The guide describes what has been lost. Readers are challenged to learn what has survived. Whatever happened, for example, to the mammoth 14-by-23-foot painting of "The Flagellants"? It was a landmark all by itself inside the Milwaukee Auditorium (today the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn Ave.). "The picture depicts a group of religious fanatics who believed that by flogging themselves they would appease God."



PHOTOS: MOWA (L), WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (A)

"The Flagellants" (left), once a landmark in itself at the Milwaukee Theatre (above), is now in the collection of the Museum of Wisconsin Art.



(The guide left out that they were semi-nude.) Painted by city native Carl von Marr in 1889, it was "awarded the gold medal of the Royal Academy of Berlin that year," and four years later drew crowds at the Chicago World's Fair.

We have to set the guide aside to learn that, today, "The Flagellants" is on permanent loan to the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend. At least it still exists — as does much of what Milwaukee once was, trapped in amber by the Federal Writers' Project's delightful guide.

Oh — and the reason for Milwaukee's low crime rate?

"Small town 'nosiness."

The Ridges a sanctuary for Wisconsin's native orchids

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Stroll down the new boardwalk or along the 5 miles of trails at The Ridges Sanctuary, the nature preserve in Baileys Harbor on the Door County peninsula, and there is a good chance you will come across a ram's-head lady's-slipper, one of the 49 orchid varieties indigenous to Wisconsin.

But what's common to The Ridges is less common elsewhere. The ram's-head lady's-slipper is considered a "threatened" species by Wisconsin's Bureau of Endangered Resources and The Ridges' efforts at orchid restoration may help save the delicate flower from extinction.

Such a mission is just one indication The Ridges Sanctuary is a very uncommon destination.

The 1,500-acre sanctuary, along with another 100 or so acres on Logan Creek in nearby Jacksonport, was the Badger State's first private nature preserve and land trust. As one of three boreal forests in Wisconsin — meaning that it is a northern forest consisting of trees like pines and spruces — The Ridges has a concentration of 26 of the state's 49 orchid varieties. It's also a home and breeding ground for the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly and families of northern flying squirrels.

Located on a Lake Michigan inlet that concentrates the water's cold currents, The Ridges takes its name from the unusual geographic formations created by the lake's ebbs and flows, according to Steve Leonard, the sanctuary's executive director.

"Each of the ridges is an old lakeshore formed by the lake's wave action," Leonard says. "The space between the ridges accounts for between 40 to 50 years, which is Lake Michigan's recessionary cycle."

The 30 existing ridges total 1,200 to 1,500 years of the lake's ingress and egress, Leonard adds. The hydrologic activity also contributes to the unique environment that makes The Ridges such an effective natural preserve.

Fronted by a relatively new \$2 million visitors center on Highway 57, The Ridges' pristine environment makes it a peaceful retreat from Door County's summer tourist bustle. The sanctuary's unique flora and verdant forest also make it easy to understand what first attracted naturalists to the region more than 80 years ago.

In 1935, Albert Fuller, then botany curator at the Milwaukee Public Museum, began traveling to Baileys Harbor to study the area's unusual plant life. His research led to a full-blown conservation effort when he discovered that the original 40-acre land parcel, leased to Door County by the U.S. Lighthouse Service, was destined to become a trailer park.

After two years of advocacy by Fuller and conservationist Jens Jensen, the newly formed Ridges Sanctuary, the state's first land trust, acquired the parcel in 1937. Over the years, adjoining land was acquired to grow the preserve to the



PHOTO: DOUG SHERMAN

The Ridges, a 1,500-acre sanctuary in Door County, was Wisconsin's first private nature preserve and is now a home for 26 of the state's 49 orchid varieties, as well as other rare plants and animals.

size it is today.

Two lighthouses, a pair of range lights built in 1869, still stand in The Ridges. The lights in their day were important safety features for the many ships that arrived in Baileys Harbor as part of a booming logging industry in the late 19th century.

Prior to the building of the new visitors center, which opened in June 2015, the house at the base of the larger of the two lights served as The Ridges' administrative offices. The house and the lights have since been refurbished and will open for public tours for the first time May 21.

For Leonard, however, the big news is the orchid restoration project, which is being conducted with help from other members of the North American Orchid Conservation Center and the Smithsonian Institution.

"The primary goal is to better understand and preserve these orchid species and their habitat so we can better protect them in the future," Leonard says.

Orchids are one of the world's largest plant families,

IF YOU GO

The Ridges Sanctuary, located at 1866 Hwy. 57, Baileys Harbor, is open daily, with guided hikes available on weekends. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 18. For more information, call 920-839-2802.

with more than 30,000 varieties growing in almost every habitat on every continent except Antarctica, the executive director explains. Because of the plant's reliance on certain pollinators and fungi to survive, orchids are among the first species to disappear when an ecosystem is altered or changed.

As the botanical equivalent of a canary in the coal mine, orchids provide early warnings for the declining health of an ecosystem, enabling conservation action to be taken before it's too late. That's part of why The Ridges has embarked on a full-scale restoration effort.

In April, The Ridges began to create a scope of work for the summer months, which begins with a survey of the preserve's orchid varieties and comparison of habitat data with other regional NOACC members. From there conservators will begin collecting and freezing for future use seeds from different orchid varieties to be stored locally at The Ridges, nationally at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and internationally at London's Kew Gardens.

The sanctuary and other NOACC members also will conduct research into orchid propagation and the relationship with the mycorrhizal fungi they need to survive. Additional research will be done on the various pollinators required to help the orchid population prosper.

Further steps in the plan include the establishment of

RIDGES next page



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PHOTOS: LEN VILLANO (L), DOUG SHERMAN (R)

The ram's-head lady's-slipper, a rare species of orchid native to Wisconsin, will be reintroduced to The Ridges this summer.

RIDGES from prior page

a greenhouse to foster and grow orchid seedlings, restoration of areas within the sanctuary for orchid growth and an overall orchid management plan for The Ridges.

"Our biggest effort of the summer will be to reintroduce the ram's-head lady's-slipper, which we're propagating off-site," Leonard says. "Then we'll look at the other species as well."

In the meantime, a growing number of

visitors will come to The Ridges Sanctuary for its peace and tranquility. Few of those visitors treading the boardwalk will be aware of the riches growing right at their feet.



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Lewis Black is angry about politics (No, really?)

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Given the current political climate, most comics wouldn't worry about job security. Lewis Black sees things differently.

"I'm not sure what my job as a comic is anymore given what's going on in the current election cycle," says Black. "My job is to be crazier than what I see around me, but we're really hitting the limit here."

In truth, Black should have no problem paying the bills. He's booked a two-night stop at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater May 13 and May 14, where the ongoing political chaos will provide ample fodder for the acerbic comedian's profanity-laced rants.

Black says the race for the presidency is unlike any before. It's hard to be funny, he says, when reality is such a joke.

"I feel like we're living in fictional times," Black says. "If I were reading about this in a book I'd be laughing."

The big issue, Black believes, is Republicans and Democrats have ceased any kind of pretense at doing their jobs in serving their constituencies. The result, he says, is both parties have gotten the candidates they deserve and now they're going to have to live with them.

"The Republicans have let the tail wag the dog and they make it real hard to gravitate towards them," Black notes. "Ted Cruz is a bitter pill and his own party doesn't like him. And once Donald Trump started saying that

all Mexicans were involved in some kind of rape-a-thon, he was done. As a president you can think those things, but you have to learn to keep your mouth shut."

The Democrats don't fare much better under the comic's hyperbolic analysis. Hillary Clinton, especially, attracts Black's wrath.

"Hillary is a criminal," Black says. "She's the one who's been in your carpool for 10 years and every morning you think, 'I can't believe I have to pick her up again!'"

Bernie Sanders appeals to Black, who describes himself as a socialist. But the comedian doesn't hold out any hope that the senator from Vermont will be elected.

"The good news is that Bernie Sanders is running as a socialist, and the bad news is that he is running as a socialist," Black quips. "Voters are afraid of the word 'socialist' and treat the party and his concept as a completely irrational alternative. But the fact that Bernie is running on the platform in my lifetime is huge."

Black didn't have any good words for the candidates who already have dropped out of the race, including Ben Carson ("He's batsh*t crazy!") and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

"Don't you ever send us someone like Scott Walker and expect us to accept him as our president. He has all the charisma of Tupperware!" Black rants. "From (Robert 'Fighting Bob') LaFollette to this? Wisconsin doesn't do that, Texas does that. You should be punished!"



PHOTO: CLAY MCBRIDE

Lewis Black brings his passionate political feelings to Milwaukee May 13 and 14.

But then Black believes the outcome of the election, especially after two years of televised debates that began to resemble the comic's tamer routines, may be punishment enough for voters.

"That leaves us with what we have — a long, slow plodding toward the light," Black says. "And it leaves the politicians where they should be — seeking compromise. ... Go and do your job! You haven't done it in 20 years!"

Black sees voters growing increasingly frustrated and becoming vocal critics of the political process.

"It's a reflection of the anger that's out there," he says. "When I first started 25 years ago they said I was too angry as a comic. Now I don't think I am as angry as a lot of the people in the audience."

There's a lot to be angry about, too, but Black advises all to be careful what they wish for.

"The pendulum will eventually swing the

other way and this, too, shall pass," Black says. "But crazy as it is now, this could become a real fucking snoozefest as well."

Often thought to be a mean-spirited curmudgeon, Black instead describes himself as a "pissed-off optimist."

"Curmudgeons don't believe there is any hope, but I don't think I would be as angry as I am if I weren't an optimist," Black says. "I guess I'm a glass half-full guy, but the glass is half-full of slightly polluted and lightly leaded water."

ON STAGE

Lewis Black's *The Emperor's New Clothes: The Naked Truth Tour* appears at 8 p.m. May 13 and 14 at the Pabst Theatre, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$55. Dial 414-286-3663 or visit pabsttheater.org to buy tickets.

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Cream City Comedy Festival puts Milwaukee stand-up first

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

Milwaukee's comedy scene punches way above its weight class. Despite not having the lofty reputation of New York, LA or Chicago, there are more Milwaukee places than you'd expect offering open mics, showcases and other comedy events. The trick is figuring out where to look for local laughs.

A new stand-up comedy festival plans to make it a little easier. The Cream City Comedy Festival, scheduled for May 12-15, will bring together local comedy showcase producers for a weekend of performances from local and out-of-state comics.

Phil Davidson, who's coordinating the event with recent Milwaukee expatriates Sammy Arechar and Liz Ziner (now based in Chicago), says the idea for the festival came about from discussions with Arechar about a year ago. He says that while there are lots of independent stand-up showcases throughout Milwaukee, presenting local comedians on a monthly or biweekly basis, there was no annual event dedicated to stand-up (the Milwaukee Comedy Festival, in August, is much broader, featuring sketch, improv and stand-up performances).

About three months ago, Arechar and Ziner emailed Davidson, following up on their earlier conversation and asking if he was interested in joining them to create that missing festival. Things moved quickly from there and the Cream City Comedy Festival now has about 70 comedians booked for the four days and 11 shows.

Rather than choose one location for the festival to take place, Davidson says, the organizing team embraced the fact that Milwaukee doesn't really have a unified arts district and comedy showcases can be found all over the city. "It would be great if we could somehow "Transformer" Bay View and the East Side and Riverwest into one super-neighborhood where everyone likes to go out and see entertainment," Davidson says. "But because they're all split apart ... we wanted to showcase all these different locations and neighborhoods where there's comedy happening."

To that same end, festival organizers have done their best to feature local comics in addition to guests from out of town, with Davidson saying the festival is split about 50-50. To decide what comics got the invite for the inaugural festival, Davidson says they turned to the showcase producers, asking them to pick a "dream lineup" of Milwaukee stand-up comedians. Davidson, Arechar and Ziner went through those lists, adding out-of-town comedians where appropriate and fairly distributing locals requested by more than one showcase until they came up with a final schedule.

Of those out-of-town comedians, David-



son says their biggest get is Nick Vatterott, a New York-based comedian who got his start in Chicago and has since been featured on *Conan*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* and a Comedy Central special. After learning he'd be in town that weekend, Davidson says they reached out to see if Vatterott was interested in participating and he signed on without hesitation. "We're excited to have him," Davidson says.

To help encourage audience members to try the festival, all shows in the festival are free, but Davidson says they're encouraging donations to support the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by depression and mental illness.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 12

8 p.m.: **Yeah Buddy Awesome Time**, Club Garibaldi, 2501 S. Superior St.

Friday, May 13

7:30 p.m.: **Blipsters**, Karma Bar & Grill, 600 E. Ogden Ave.

9 p.m.: **Hot Room** (local showcase), Angelo's Piano Bar, 1686 N. Van Buren St.

10:30 p.m.: **Boy Kisses**, Hybrid Lounge, 707 E. Brady St.

Saturday, May 14

3 p.m.: **Bad Comedy Theatre** (local showcase), Hybrid Lounge

6 p.m.: **Subjective**, Var Gallery & Studios, 643 S. 2nd St.

8 p.m.: **Clam Jam**, The Jazz Gallery, 926 E. Center St.

10 p.m.: **Sammy's 3rd Annual Zucchini Party** (afterparty/no comedy), Company Brewing, 735 E. Center St.

Sunday, May 15

2 p.m.: **Sorry Not Sorry**, Riverwest Public House, 815 E. Locust St.

4 p.m.: **Super Talent Show**, Cactus Club, 2496 S. Wentworth Ave.

8 p.m.: **Closing Ceremony** featuring Nick Vatterott, Club Garibaldi

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Milwaukee Ballet goes down the rabbit hole with 'Alice (in wonderland)'



PHOTOS: TOM DAVENPORT

The Milwaukee Ballet will end its season with a vibrant adaptation of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, originally produced by the Washington Ballet Company.

By Julie Steinbach

Contributing writer

Don't be late for the very important dates of May 19-22. That's when the Milwaukee Ballet will be closing its 46th season with *Alice (in wonderland)*, a stunning production that brings the Lewis Carroll classic to life with vivid, surreal staging. The production will feature 30 dancers from the company, as well as nearly 100 children from the Milwaukee Ballet School and Academy.

According to Milwaukee Ballet artistic director Michael Pink, choreographer Septime Webre's vision of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* focuses on broad brushstrokes, harnessing the whimsical and familiar elements and personalities of Wonderland. "I liked the artistic side of it. Instead of it being so quirky and dark and mysterious, it's very open and very bright," says Pink.

Webre's interpretation was originally produced by the Washington Ballet Company in 2012 and has appeared previously in Denver, Cincinnati and Kansas City, Missouri. It combines the memorable storybook characters of Alice, the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, the Red Queen, the Cheshire Cat and others with Cirque du Soleil-style feats of strength and daring to tell this light-hearted adventure story.

Alice truly has no physical boundaries. Its choreography asks Milwaukee Ballet dancers to perform complex acrobatics and athleticism and features staging that makes wild use of dimension and space. It's a challenge that makes Pink excited, but cautious.

"I warned them at the beginning (of the season) when we did *Dracula*," says Pink, "This is waiting for you at the end of the season, *Alice* is waiting for you. Do not under-

estimate what you will need to do to get through this.' It's a monster of a show.

"In a piece like *Alice*, our job is to pass on the technique of survival: to know how and when to push, what are the ways in which you can keep yourself safe," adds Pink. The endurance required of the company to pull off *Alice* will be unlike anything else of the season, although the ballet's previous contemporary program, *Kaleidoscope Eyes*, comes close. Pink believes the stamina his company has built up as a result of that diverse, three-work program will help them shoulder *Alice*.

Still, Webre's choreography will be a Herculean challenge, Pink says. "Septime's given some very complex partnering for the Cheshire Cat, for the Red Queen and for the Caterpillar. In the midst of all this fast and furious movement, you have to try and stay focused on the correct align-

ment and take all the tension out of it so you can make it effortless."

In addition to this extraordinary dancing, *Alice (in wonderland)* features colorful and fanciful scenery, costumes and puppets. To Pink, these theatrical elements serve as the bridge between the classic text and the stage. "The costume designer had all of the materials screen-printed (with) quotations from the text," says Pink, "which I think is a lovely idea because that's almost like the pages coming to life."

Some of the puppets and set pieces are so large they seem to threaten both dancers and audience members alike. Pink says the Jabberwocky puppet is "spectacular," a 25-foot-long silver, black and red creation with menacing frills, spikes and teeth that requires a team of eight to operate.

Alice's composer, Matthew Pierce, will lend his musical expertise to the production, joining the chamber orchestra on violin. "The piece is incredibly tuneful," describes Pink. "It's got a lot of character and there's something very filmic about it."

This production will mark the final appearance of several dancers who've helped Michael Pink make the Milwaukee Ballet so impressive in his time with the company. Dancers Susan Gartell (with the company for 13 years), Valerie Harmon (10 years) and Alexandre Ferreira (five years) will leave Milwaukee for new dance prospects after the final curtain, while leading artist Marc Petrocci will retire from dance after a career including 13 years with the Milwaukee Ballet. "This is such a wonderful way to celebrate their contributions as they turn their attention to their futures," says Pink, "so we'll be celebrating them throughout that weekend."

ON STAGE

Alice (in wonderland) runs May 19 to 22 at the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$35 to \$102, and can be purchased at 414-902-2103 or milwaukeeballet.org.



Liesl Shurtliff writes Li'l Red into her fractured fairy tales

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Once upon a time, there was a girl who loved to read *Grimm's Fairy Tales* and play in the woods.

This girl grew up to be a best-selling author who loved to tell variations on classic fairy tales.

Liesl Shurtliff's *Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood* reached *The New York Times'* best-seller list in April, while Shurtliff was in the midst of a tour promoting the new novel. That tour brings the author to Milwaukee on May 10, when, with the support of Boswell Book Company, Shurtliff will visit local schools.

"I go directly to the schools and I speak about my books, where I get my ideas, my writing process, how to develop ideas into a story," says Shurtliff. She's on an hourlong break between signing books and talking with students in a class in Cincinnati. "I explain all about fairy tales and talk about where they come from."

Red, Shurtliff's third novel after *Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin* and *Jack: The True Story of Jack and the Beanstalk*, is for middle-grade readers; the author says ages 8 to 12 is the "sweet spot" she considers when writing.

But readers of any age will become enchanted by this fractured fairy tale about a girl, her grandmother, a wolf, lots of magic and an adventure in "The Woods." The spell is cast with the opening sentence: "The first time I tried my hand at magic, I grew roses

out of my nose."

Shurtliff, who lives in Chicago with her husband and three children, grew up in Salt Lake City. There, her family spent a lot of time hiking and camping in Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons in the Wasatch Range, which she remembers as "better than Disneyland."

As a child, she devoured fairy tales: "I read *Grimm's Fairy Tales*. My grandmother gave me a copy for a gift one year. I was kind of shocked by the contents. I thought, I can't believe I am allowed to read these."

Shurtliff also danced and fell in love with the fairy tale ballets, like *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

"Fairy tales just resonated with me in a powerful way," Shurtliff says. "As a kid, I really did love the princess tales. As a grown woman, I shy away from them. The girls in those stories are often so passive."

There's nothing passive about *Red*, the hero in *The True Story of Red Riding Hood*. When readers ask about the "true story" part of the title, Shurtliff says, "It's really different from what you've seen before. It's a different way of looking at the story."

She reminds readers that most of the fairy tales they know are revisions.

One of the first stories Shurtliff wrote was a riff on "Aladdin and the Magic Lamp." She wrote about a turtle who found the lamp and gave it a rub.

"I was writing these retellings at a very young age," she says. "When I got older and

started writing, I didn't want to write fantasy at all. I wanted to write serious fiction. Young adult fiction."

Then she tumbled into the story for *Rump*: "I was thinking about names being our destiny ... and I thought of Rumpelstiltskin. I kept thinking about this."

She developed *Rump's* story and from that novel came *Jack's* story and then *Red's* tale, a story to make a reader shudder with fear, laugh out loud, wipe away a tear and most certainly cheer on a strong-willed, independent girl braving the dangers of a dark forest to save her granny and defy death.

In this version of the tale, Red and Granny are witches but Red has sworn off magic because she's afraid of miscasting spells. She must confront this weakness when Granny falls ill and needs a cure-all potion made of ingredients to be found in the woods.

On her hero's quest, Red encounters a wolf, Horst the Huntsman, Goldie Locks and others and learns lessons about life and love, friendship and fear.

Shurtliff says she's writing one more fractured fairy tale, a retelling of the "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" story from the perspective of Borlen, a dwarf who will be familiar to readers of *Red*.

"I'm hard at work on the story and I'm finding a lot of delight in the telling," she says.



PHOTO: KNOPF BOOKS

Red, a retelling of "Little Red Riding Hood," is the third novel by author Liesl Shurtliff (left).

ON THE SHELF

Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood, by Liesl Shurtliff, can be found at Boswell Books (2559 N. Downer Ave., boswellbooks.com) and other retailers.

KIDS' SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

PICTURE BOOKS

The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend: A delightful story about Beekle, an imaginary friend who undergoes an emotional journey looking for his human. Written and illustrated by Dan Santat.

Nana in the City: The story of a boy's visit to his grandmother, who helps him to lose his fear and experience the city in a new way. Written and illustrated by Lauren Castillo.

Viva Frida: A celebration of the artistic process and the famed artist Frida Kahlo. Written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales.

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus: This book explores the personality and work of Peter Mark Roget, who ordered the world into lists that became his groundbreaking thesaurus. Written by Jen Bryant and illustrated by Melissa Sweet.

Last Stop on Market Street: The story of a child, his Nana and their bus ride to the last stop on Market Street. Written by Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson.

MIDDLE GRADES

The Peddler's Road: An action-adventure tale featuring a child protagonist with a disability that bursts with intrigue and challenging riddles. Fans of *A Tale Dark and Grimm* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events* will want to keep reading. By Matthew Cody.

Lily and Dunkin: The story of a 13-year-old transgender girl, Lily, and her friend, Dunkin, a new student dealing with bipolar disorder. They meet one summer morning and their lives forever change. By Donna Gephart.

The Seventh Most Important Thing: A coming-of-age story about a 13-year-old boy depressed by his father's recent death and dealing with the themes of loss and anger. By Shelley Pearsall.

Roller Girl: A graphic novel about Astrid, who falls in love with roller derby and learns how to be fearless. Written and illustrated by Victoria Jamieson.

— Lisa Neff

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Photos of 'Tropicalísimo' reflect beauty, resiliency

By Kat Minerath

Contributing writer

"Heat, humidity, salty air and frequently conditions of poverty, cause things and people to fall apart south of the Tropic of Cancer." Such are the musings of photographer John Sevigny, whose new exhibit at Latino Arts comprises 40 digital photographs taken in Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador between 2012 and 2014. Titled *Tropicalísimo*, the photos "look at people and things as they corrode, and yet, remain bound by rust, wire, string and the sheer force of human will."

These 40 works are mostly color prints of moderate size, tacked to the wall. As simple as the curatorial presentation may be, the order of their placement creates a sense of rhythm and direct dialogue between the pictures. Many images suggest ripe short stories, where the narrative of daily life is filled with beauty and resiliency.

One of the strengths of Sevigny's work is his manner of photographing people.

Regardless of their surroundings, whether sprawled on a tattered couch on the pavement or secluded in a dark interior room, something has been chosen in that photographed moment. They are lifted out of the flotsam and jetsam of the everyday grind, calling out to the essential dignity of each person. The photographer's talent in this is his own, but also seems to recall something of art historical predecessors.

One of the first pieces in the exhibition is labeled "Two Transvestites with Dog." The heat is palpable. A woman is slouched in a chair, her short skirt exposing legs while an arm draped over her head pulls hair back from her damp brow. Her companion fusses with a small white dog who pants atop a table. The shadows conceal her face and it takes a moment to see the cigarette dangling from her lips. The realness of the picture, and the deep shadows that linger on the sides and behind the two main figures, employ the dynamics of Baroque painting — Caravaggio, in particular, comes to mind.

Perhaps this is not accidental. Sevigny has written about Caravaggio in the past, and the Italian artist was notorious for depicting his subjects in stark realism. Even in religious paintings, Caravaggio would use ordinary men and women from the street as models, a move that shocked viewers who deemed this as a transgression on propriety. Today, we hold no such



PHOTO: LATINO ARTS

John Sevigny's photos in the *Tropicalísimo* series, including "Mancar," depict people from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador holding on by "the sheer force of human will."

strictures, but what Sevigny does is present the people of his photographs in a manner that conveys a similar sense of gravity.

Sevigny also references Caravaggio's fellow 17th-century artist Diego Velázquez, who explored the picture plane as a deep, multi-dimensional world. Sevigny's "Juke Box and Pooh" is similarly dense, although it doesn't appear so at first. We look into a seemingly deserted bar, decorated with a poster for the football team Real Madrid and the eponymous jukebox with a large cut-out of Winnie-the-Pooh on top. But our eyes travel back, behind a half-curtained wall to the area beyond. A clothesline is strung with laundry, a note on the domestic necessitates that lie just out of reach of the public space.

Texture and color are rich notes in Sevigny's photographs, offering a lush surface from which to contemplate the scenes and subjects he portrays. "Mancar," with its tightly cropped focus on a man driving a rusted yellow automobile, feels like a claustrophobic traffic jam, no matter the time of day. To cite a more modern comparison, this seems a cousin to work by the Indian photographer Ragubir Singh, who also fixated on visual color and the vibrance of his native culture in pictures combining documentation and poetry.

There are some weighty stories in these works. Sevigny, in his exhibition introduction, notes that violence was part of many places he lived and worked. This is at times less obliquely referenced. In a poignant curatorial pairing, pieces called "Crib" and "Coffin" are placed side-by-side. The photographic prints are the same size, but they upend assumptions.

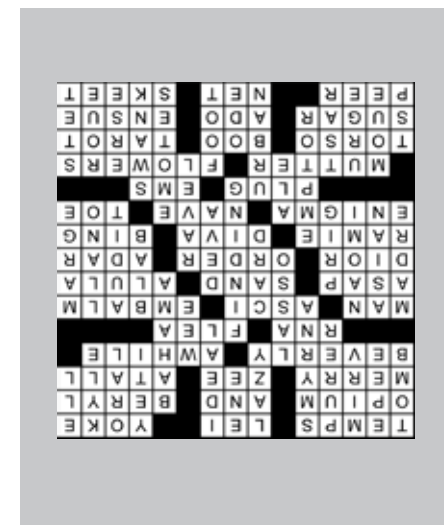
"Crib" shows a man lying in a baby's crib on the street, scrunched in a fetal position behind its blue painted bars. "Coffin" is a close-up view of the pleated fabric on the inside. It is not entirely clear which part of the coffin we see, nor the source for the discoloration and speckles of color on the pale surface.

Sevigny's work is currently on view at Latino Arts, a center for education and arts in the Hispanic community. Sevigny grew up in Miami and his work has taken him far field as a news photographer for The Associated Press and other major organizations. While Latino Arts' exhibition may seem modest in execution, the center for education and the arts in the Hispanic community is in fact presenting an artist whose work has been shown internationally. In this context, the show's intimacy is an excuse to be more fully engaged in Sevigny's *Tropicalísimo*.

ON DISPLAY

Tropicalísimo by John Sevigny continues through June 3 at Latino Arts, 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. Admission is a \$1 donation. For more information about this and other Latino Arts programs, visit latinoartsinc.org.

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Opinion

JUDITH LIGHT

The life of an actor sometimes takes on more plot twists than the work we appear in. When I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University, I knew I wanted to pursue an acting career. I also knew I had to pay my dues and seek out acting opportunities throughout the country.

I quickly cut my acting chops in 1970 by spending two seasons at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, which proved to be a priceless experience and growth opportunity for an aspiring actor. Growing up out east and attending college in Pittsburgh, I was aware that the Rep had established a reputation as an excellent company far beyond the Midwest. The Rep gave me an opportunity to appear in a variety of roles in plays, including *You Can't Take It With You*, *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, *The Liar*, *Cat Among the Pigeons*, *Spoon River Anthology* and *Medea*.

While I went on to perform at other theater companies, I returned to The Rep in 1973-74 to appear in *All Together Now*, *Our Town* and *The Little Foxes*. In Milwaukee, I was privileged to share the stage with many gifted artists, some of whose names you may recognize — Jeffrey Tambor, Charles Kimbrough and the gifted actor and playwright of

Agnes of God, John Pielmeier.

My time in Milwaukee was transformational. I had an opportunity to be a member of the community and appreciate an arts and cultural vibe that far exceeded cities of a much larger size. What I also observed is the people in the Milwaukee area embraced the arts.

By the time I arrived in Milwaukee, an organization called the United Performing Arts Fund had been launched about three years earlier. What a novel concept: an umbrella fundraising organization dedicated to supporting some of the key performing arts assets in the community, including the Milwaukee Rep.

Now, almost 50 years later UPAF's annual campaign raises more than \$12 million and supports 15 member groups and dozens of smaller affiliate organizations. But those dollars come from the generosity of more than 22,000 donors, companies and foundations that share the belief that the performing arts give a community a heart and a soul. The work of UPAF remains a nationwide model for support of the arts.

As an actor who has been fortunate to cross over to film and television, I'll always consider the stage my home. It's impossible to replicate the adrenaline rush that comes with performing before a live audience. I've also grown to appreciate the breadth of what we call the performing arts — theater, music and dance — all supported by UPAF.

When it comes to filling the pipeline for

performers, I'm concerned about the cutbacks that have come throughout the country in arts education and what that means for new generations of artists. Even if you don't pursue a career in the arts, exposure to it at an early age feeds the curiosity and contributes to the overall civility of our society.

Again, UPAF through its dedicated arts in education funding has helped pick up some of the slack by contributing last year more than \$400,000 to expose young people to the power of the arts.

While my time in Milwaukee was decades ago, the experiences and memories are indelible. It's heartening for me to know that my "old" home, the Milwaukee Rep, continues to thrive and that the performing arts as practiced by dozens of UPAF-supported groups continue to enchant audiences and make the Milwaukee area a better place to live and work. Please keep supporting UPAF now and in the future.

Judith Light is an Emmy and Tony-award winning actress.



PHOTO: JONATHAN STOLLER



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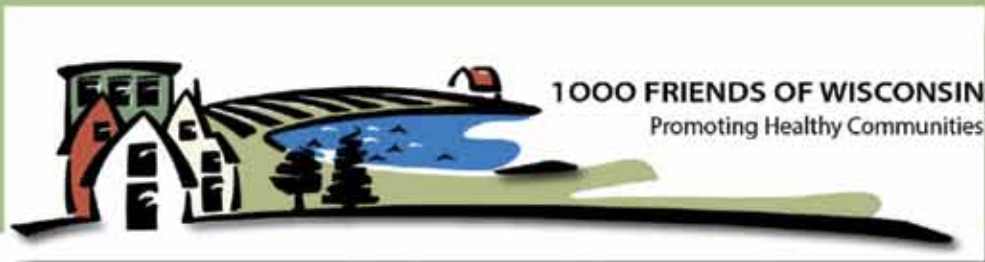
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Chris Evans is a conflicted Captain America in 'Civil War'



PHOTO: MARVEL STUDIOS

Captain America (Chris Evans, center) assembles a team of renegade heroes to challenge onetime ally Iron Man in Marvel's latest superhero blockbuster.

The Interview Hub

Chris Evans is a proud Bostonian with the kind of all-American good looks that Hollywood loves. So it's hardly surprising that he was chosen to play Steve Rogers aka Captain America in Marvel Comics' multi-billion dollar superhero films.

In person, Evans is about as down-to-earth as you can get, much like his comic book character alter ego. His chiseled features and straight-arrow personality are ideally

suited to playing an iconic figure known for his deep sense of virtue and responsibility, in contrast to the often conflicted or troubled superheroes fighting alongside him.

In *Captain America: Civil War*, that contrast provides dramatic tension with serious consequences. Steve Rogers finds himself in a moral dilemma when he and Tony Stark/Iron Man take opposing views about whether the world's superheroes should agree to be placed under control of an interna-

tional governing body. Their conflict grows to include other heroes; some fall into line behind Iron Man and others go rogue with Captain America.

"Cap ... is a good man and his moral compass is probably the cleanest," Evans explains. "This is a tough thing. This is what made it so interesting while we were filming and hopefully what will make the movie great is that nobody's right, nobody's wrong. There's no clear bad guy here. (Steve and Tony) both have a point of view, which is akin to most disagreements in life and politics."

Civil War marks Evans's fifth time in the role of Captain America, which leaves him only one more film left in his six-picture, mega-million contract with Marvel. In the meantime, however, he realized his long-time ambition to direct when he helmed the romantic drama *Before We Go*. Released last year, the film tells the story of two strangers (Evans and British actress Alice Eve) who meet by chance in New York City and whose relationship plays out over the course of an eventful 24 hours. When his days as Captain America are over, Evans intends to pursue his directorial ambitions more intensely, describing himself as "the kind of guy who likes to do everything on the set."

Evans, 35, grew up in Boston, where his mother served as the artistic director for a theater company and his father was a dentist. As a teenager he began nurturing serious ambitions of becoming an actor and after finishing high school he moved to New York City and eventually landed a role in the TV series *Opposite Sex*. Before becoming Captain America, he played a different superhero — The Human Torch in Fox's original *Fantastic Four* franchise — and has since earned critical acclaim for his role in the cult action film *Snowpiercer*.

Chris, what is the core of the dilemma facing Steve in *Captain America: Civil War*?

In the previous films, Steve Rogers knew who the enemy was and who to fight against. But this time, Cap is struggling in different ways and trying to figure out his responsi-

bilities. He just doesn't know who to be and Tony doesn't make it easy for him.

What makes it so interesting for me is that for the first time Cap is thinking about his own needs because in the past he's been so selfless. He's always been this very noble and sympathetic character but now he's wondering whether he should keep putting himself last. I was glad that he gets to have a more personal agenda.

Has it been exciting for you to see Captain America and all the other Marvel characters evolve over the years?

Marvel has an incredible ability to bring all these characters together and make the stories work and make great movies. It's been exciting to watch how Marvel is evolving the characters and bringing their different universes together. They know how to weave it all together.

What is the basis of the conflict between Tony Stark and Steve Rogers?

Tony actually thinks we should be signing these accords and reporting to somebody. Cap, who's always been a company man and has always been a soldier, actually doesn't trust (in that) anymore. Given what happened in (the previous film), I think he kind of feels the safest hands are his own.

These are understandable concerns, but (Cap also) agrees with Tony in a way, and I do agree that to make this work, you do need to surrender to the group. It can't just be one person saying this is right and this is what we're going to do. But Cap has his reasons ... Tony and Cap are friends, but on this issue, like it happens so often in life, they disagree as friends and that makes it even more dramatic and difficult.

You're good friends with Chris Hemsworth (Thor). It must be fun for you to keep getting to work together.

What's been great for us is how we've bonded over the years. We've been through this journey together and we were both

EVANS next page

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EVANS from prior page

kind of apprehensive and nervous when we started out in these films. Neither of us knew how things would turn out and we've been able to talk about it and have this brotherly support for each other.

You seem to be a pretty gregarious guy. Does that make it more interesting for you to play a more reserved personality?

I'm very different from Cap. He's very inward-looking and not very comfortable being open with his emotions. I'm very honest and direct with people and I don't like hiding what I think about things. It's not very tough to get to know me.

You've long been nurturing ambitions as a director and recently you got a chance to make your directorial debut with *Before We Go*. What was that experience like for you?

Directing is something I've been aiming toward for a long time. I love acting and I will always love that. It's very fulfilling. But as an actor you're only a small piece of the overall puzzle and I love being in control when it comes to the process. If I could, I would get involved in every aspect of a film — the lighting, the camera work, the sets. I love all of it. As a director, you get to put all the pieces together and the trick is to bring all that creativity into one satisfying whole.

But I also love the process of collaboration with people who are all very talented at what they do. I wanted to do this film because I felt the story was intimate and small enough that I wasn't taking on too big a challenge the

first time out.

Your character Nick in that film is also very different from Captain America.

That was another thing that interested me about the story. Nick was very articulate and expressive. He loves to talk and charm people and is very open about his feelings. That was a nice change for me from playing Cap who keeps his emotions and thoughts much more to himself.

Do you want to direct more films?

That's my goal. I love acting but I'm not very comfortable with the celebrity that comes with it. The media attention can be tiring at times and also you have to train for months and go on special diets. As a director you don't have to do any of that. You can just throw yourself completely into the process of telling a story and bringing all the creative elements together. That's why directing means so much to me.

I want to be able to tell stories that capture small moments between people that everyone can relate to. I especially love stories about families, which explore relationships between fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers. That's why one of my favorite films is *Legends of the Fall*. I think that film tells a beautiful story about loyalty and pride and family. I would love to make movies like that where small moments have such profound meaning.

Captain America: Civil War opens in wide release May 6.


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Frankly Music marks the 'Return of the Tango'

By **Kirstin Roble**
Contributing writer

The last time Frankly Music assembled a tango-centric concert was five years ago — more than long enough to justify a return of the classic musical form. This time, the chamber music company will end its season with tango pieces from South America and Europe in *Return of the Tango* on May 16, a concert that also features the return of guest musician Stas Venglevski and his bayan.

The tango is best identified as a dance form, but Frankly Music artistic director Frank Almond says this concert will focus exclusively on the tango as a musical form. "The music of the tango has evolved out of a form of lower class entertainment," he says. "The tango dance is something slightly different as it involves intricate dance steps and can be very difficult to grasp."

Evolving in Argentina around the turn of the last century, tango music was born out of a melting pot culture of more than 2 million immigrants who would descend on Buenos Aires. It originated in the club scene in the late 1880s, with the first written pieces surfacing in the following decade. Early tango pieces likely would have been scored for flute, violin and guitar or played on a solo piano in brothels and cabarets.

The name that brought tango to the international stage was that of Astor Piazzolla. Born in Argentina in 1921, Piazzolla was the son of Italian immigrants. As a young child, he listened to his father's tango records and developed a fascination with the style.

Piazzolla trained in Europe as a classical musician but would bring that training back to merge the two styles, creating "nuevo tango." "Piazzolla was a revolutionary during his time," says Almond. "Even though he was slightly ashamed initially because of his early upbringing, he really brought the two styles together to create something unique and new."

This concert will feature a variety of pieces from South America and also Europe.

"People don't always realize that, while a number of pieces come from Brazil and South America, there are also a significant portion of tango music compositions that came from European composers," says Almond.

"This is a really special concert," explains Almond. "It really exemplifies what I want to do with this concert series. We want to give a place where people can go and enjoy chamber music without feeling alienated. We want to educate without making people feel like they are being talked at. This concert represents the core of what Frankly



PHOTO: FRANK ALMOND


Bayanist/accordionist Stas Venglevski will perform tango music of South America and Europe with Frankly Music to end their 11th season.

Music is about."

The concert will feature Venglevski in a prominent role. The musician, now living in Milwaukee, is a native of the Republic of Moldova, in the former Soviet Union, and rose to prominence in the 1980s for his mastery of his signature instrument: the bayan, a Russian style of accordion. Venglevski is a frequent performer with Frankly Music and other local ensembles, and his instrument is well-suited for an evening of tango music.

ON STAGE

Frankly Music will present *Return of the Tango* at 7 p.m. May 16 at Wisconsin Lutheran College, 8815 W. Wisconsin Ave., Wauwatosa. Tickets are \$35, \$10 for students, and can be ordered at franklymusic.org. For more information on Frank Almond or to purchase his new record, *A Violin's Life, Vol. 2: Music for the Lipinski Stradivari*, visit frankalmond.com.




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Florentine Opera to beguile and amuse with season-ending 'Die Fledermaus'

By Julie Steinbach

Contributing writer

Milwaukee welcomes back director John Hoomes as the Florentine Opera closes its season with the delightful and cheeky operetta *Die Fledermaus*.

The tale by Johann Strauss II is about a masked ball held by a prince who brings together a collection of duplicitous socialites. Rife with humor and witty athleticism, *Fledermaus* will feature the talents of Inna Dukach in her Florentine debut as Rosalinde, Corey McKern (*The Elixir of Love*, 2015, *La Bohème*, 2014) as Eisenstein and former Milwaukeean Bill Theisen as Frosch, with local James Zager on hand for choreography. Putting it all together is Hoomes (*Elmer Gantry*, 2010), who says he's excited to make his return to Milwaukee with this "fantastic piece."

How would you describe *Die Fledermaus'* place in the history of modern opera?

This work, like so many operas, almost went in cycles — similar to *Faust*, which did that for years. It was the most popular opera in the early 1900s, then for years nobody performed it and then it started coming back. *Fledermaus* comes and goes. It's a fantastic piece. It's been at least eight years since I've done a *Fledermaus*, but now this is the second one I've done this year. It's not like we all talk (to each other), it just all seems to roll back around.

Will the production be in its traditional period (the late 19th century) or something different?

It will be period, but with great liberty. The script for this is one I had worked with before and is put together from a number of different editions I have done. There isn't an official edition of *Fledermaus*. It changes a good bit depending on the cast, on the direction and on the concept. The dialogue

especially can be very different.

I've put together the dialogue for this production over the years myself. Some of it is based on a version from the 1930s, so some of it plays like the Carole Lombard comedies of the '30s, and some of it looks and plays more contemporary, like some of the *Naked Gun* movies Leslie Nielsen was in. It gets very silly sometimes in a cool comedic way.

How has the cast taken to their roles as comedians? Is that typical or atypical of an opera singer's palette?

Well, that's what takes time rehearsing. Comedy is not easy and you really have to work and routine it to make it look naturalistic and make it run fast. The timing of the jokes is in the music: The music and composer give you all the timing, the length of pitch and everything. It's all about that timing and opera singers aren't used to having to do that. We'll spend so much time polishing the gags. It's very much like Broadway in that respect.

How would you characterize the score of *Die Fledermaus*?

It is written by Johann Strauss and so the music in this is almost all waltzes — the entire piece is made up of a series of waltzes. There are some melodies that people will recognize if they remember any of the *Tom and Jerry* cartoons because they used some of this music every now and then. It's very light, it's effervescent, it's gorgeous music. Sometimes too, the music is kind of funny!

What do you think will resonate most with audiences?

Well, a lot of the scenes of the piece involve intrigue, like all operas, but it is more of a family piece as well. It's light, it's beautiful and nowadays, with everything

going on in the world, it's nice to come to a comedy, to something that's light and beautiful. It's a very wonderful, very funny piece. We kind of need a comedy now, with the state of the world.

It's a little *Eyes Wide Shut* if it were done as a socially awkward Woody Allen comedy, without all the heaviness of it. It's fun, the costuming is beautiful. So much of the piece is about the comedy and the music and how that blends together. I think people will be surprised just how funny it is.

What should less casual opera fans keep an eye out for in this production? Or is there any insider's knowledge you can provide?

There's a character that shows up in Act II whose name is Prince Orlofsky. He is supposed to be a German prince who is hosting this very elaborate, somewhat decadent party at his palace. Even though it is a male prince, the role is sung by a woman — it is a "pants role," which is largely traditional in a lot of opera. For example, Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*. But for some reason, if people don't know that they get a little surprised because he is a very prominent character. We have a wonderful soprano, Amanda Crider, who's doing this role and that's one of the special things about the piece.



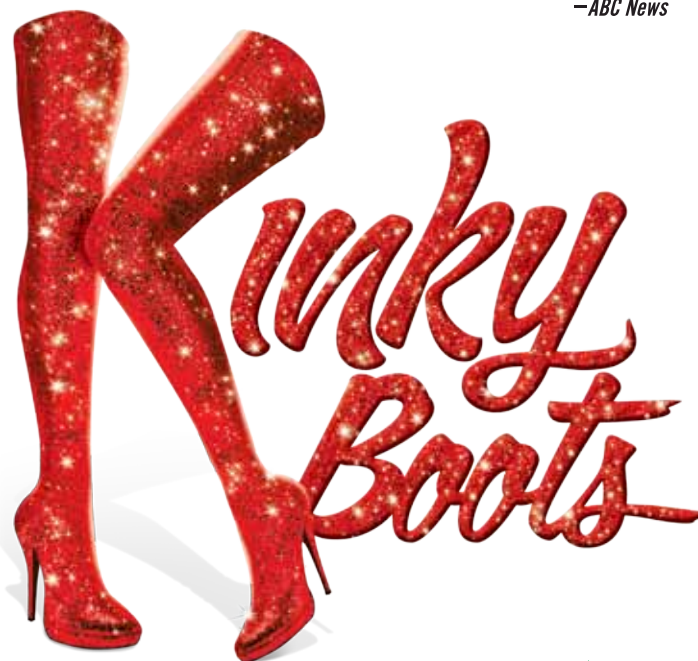
PHOTO: FLORENTINE OPERA

John Hoomes, who last directed *Elmer Gantry* in 2010, returns to the Florentine for *Die Fledermaus*.

ON STAGE

Die Fledermaus will be performed at 7:30 p.m. May 13 and 2:30 p.m. May 15 at the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$31 to \$130 and can be purchased at 800-326-7372 or florentineopera.org.

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Pirate radio on the rise in the internet age

By Ben Finley

Associated Press

In the age of podcasts and streaming services, you might think pirate radio is low on the list of concerns of federal lawmakers and broadcasters. You'd be wrong.

They're increasingly worried about its presence in some cities as unlicensed broadcasters commandeer frequencies to play anything from Trinidadian dance music to Haitian call-in shows. And they complain the Federal Communications Commission can't keep up with the pirates, who can block listeners from favorite programs or emergency alerts for missing children and severe weather.

Helped along by cheaper technology, the rogue stations can cover several blocks or several square miles. Most broadcast to immigrant communities that pirate radio defenders say are underserved by licensed stations.

"The DJs sound like you and they talk about things that you're interested in," said Jay Blessed, an online DJ who has listened to various unlicensed stations since she moved from Trinidad to Brooklyn more than a decade ago.

"You call them up and say, 'I want to hear this song,' and they play it for you," Blessed said. "It's interactive. It's engaging. It's communal."

Last year, nearly three dozen congress-

sional members from the New York region urged the FCC to do more about what they called the "unprecedented growth of pirate radio operations." So did the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, which said pirates undermine licensed minority stations while ignoring consumer protection laws that guard against indecency and false advertising.

The New York State Broadcasters Association estimates that 100 pirates operate in the New York City area alone, carrying programs in languages from Hebrew to Gaelic to Spanish. Many also broadcast in and around Miami and Boston; FCC enforcement data show agents have gone after at least one pirate in nearly every state in the past decade.

The FCC has been discussing possible solutions, such as penalizing pirate radio advertisers, and last month urged landlords and government officials to look out for rogue broadcasters.

The alleged pirates include Jean Yves Tullias, a barber living in Irvington, about 15 miles from New York. The FCC claims he appropriated an unused frequency to broadcast his show, which includes church services, gospel music and a call-in program for fellow Haitians.

Tullias denies any wrongdoing. Cutting hair recently at his barbershop, he said a friend broadcast his Internet radio show without telling him he used a pirated frequency.

Tullias, 44, started his show because the local Haitian community "had no communication, nobody to help them," he said.

"When you get that radio station, that prayer line, you feel comfortable," he said of older listeners who speak little English and feel isolated. "You feel happy."

Broadcasters are increasingly concerned because the FCC has gone after fewer pirates in recent years. The commission issued more than 100 warnings and fines against alleged pirates last year, compared with more than 400 in 2010.

That number fell despite a "significant increase" in the number of pirate stations, tallied by David Donovan, president of the

New York State Broadcasters Association.

Donovan said the signals interfere with the Emergency Alert System, which relies on a phone-tree-like chain of stations listening to one another. Listeners also can't hear the alerts, he said.

In his response to lawmakers' concerns, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler cited a stagnant budget and its smallest staff in 30 years. Fines and seizures are not enough, he added, because pirates often refuse to pay and quickly replace transmitters and inexpensive antennas.

For about \$750, pirates can buy equipment to broadcast at a range of at least one or 2 miles, experts say.

An FCC spokesman said the agency remains dedicated to combating pirate radio and has added agents to its New York office. Meanwhile, lawmakers and FCC officials continue to discuss solutions.

The FCC has tried to encourage more diverse and underrepresented groups to start community stations through its Low Power FM effort, but it has had its limits.

The program has helped spawn 1,500 stations with a reach of about 3.5 miles since 2000, including Riverwest Radio (RW 104.1) in Milwaukee. But there have been fewer opportunities in crowded urban radio markets, and anyone known to have pirated the airwaves is barred.

Charles Clemons Muhammad, who started an unlicensed Boston station for black listeners in 2006, is among those banned. The commission fined him \$17,000, shuttering his station in 2014. He continues to broadcast online but must work to bring his older listeners with him.

"I did this to give my community a 24-hour voice," he said.

John Nathan Anderson, director of media studies and journalism at Brooklyn College, said pirate radio remains a "medium of last resort when you have no other way to communicate broadly to a community."

"A lot of people look at radio as dead," he said. "But what we're actually seeing in many respects is a renaissance of radio as it goes into its next 100 years."

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The Sets List

STRFKR

8 p.m. May 8 at the Majestic Theatre, Madison. \$18, \$20 day of sale. majesticmadison.com.
7 p.m. May 9 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$17. pabsttheater.org.

Looking for a night of electro-pop dance fun? Good thing Wisconsin is about to get a visit from Portland band STRFKR (you know what letters are missing). The electronic quartet is best known for songs like "Rawnald Gregory Erickson the Second" and "Millions," featured in commercials and on shows like *Weeds*, as well as for hosting quite the crazy dance party. New York synthwave artist Com Truise opens. (Rachele Krivichi)



AVISHAI COHEN QUARTET

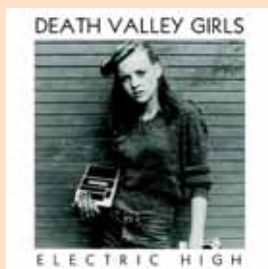
7 p.m. April 30 at Colectivo Back Room, Milwaukee. \$25. pabsttheater.org.

Colectivo Coffee on Prospect Avenue offers you a chance to get live multicultural jazz with your coffee, when Avishai Cohen Quartet makes a stop at the cafe's performance space. Once described by *DownBeat Magazine* as a "jazz visionary of global proportions," Cohen has garnered international acclaim and a strong following due to the energy he emotes on stage, and even comparisons to the acclaimed jazz artist Miles Davis. He and his quartet are currently touring the U.S. in support of *Into the Silence*, a record dedicated to the memory of Cohen's late father. (Colton Dunham)

MILWAUKEE PSYCH FEST

9 p.m. May 6; 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. May 7; 3 p.m. May 8 at Cactus Club, Milwaukee. \$7, \$10, and \$15. cactusclubmilwaukee.com.

With summer just around the corner, it's better to prepare early for the upcoming music festival season. There's no better way than to groove to the tunes at Milwaukee Psych Fest. For its fourth year, the fest has a lineup to get psyched about. For three days, bands and artists such as Plastic Crimewave Syndicate, Ryley Walker, Murals, Sugar Candy Mountain, Painted Caves, Nest Egg, Flavor Crystals, Lake of Fire, Slow Walker, Young Revelators, Black Thumb, Chives, The 45's and more will be hitting the stage. New this year will be an area just outside of the Cactus Club with music starting earlier and various vendors setting up shop. (Colton Dunham)



DEATH VALLEY GIRLS

9 p.m. May 4 at Cactus Club, Milwaukee. \$8. cactusclubmilwaukee.com.

Hailing from the sun-soaked landscape of California are the Death Valley Girls, a trio

of rockers that have been working non-stop over the past few years with no signs of slowing down. While continuously touring, they've found time to record albums including their upcoming *Glow in the Dark*, a trippy debut created via "telekinesis, portals and time travel." They'll bring their galactic energy to the Cactus Club, for a show that'll be as otherworldly as they are. (Colton Dunham)



HARRY CONNICK JR.

8 p.m. May 14 at the Riverside Theater, Milwaukee. \$55 to \$95. pabsttheater.org.

Actor, vocalist, pianist and philanthropist Harry Connick

Jr. will visit Milwaukee as part of his 2016 American tour. The Grammy and Emmy award-winning musician is best known for his sentimental albums such as *When My Heart Finds Christmas* as well as his double-platinum soundtrack for *When Harry Met Sally*. Connick's newest album *That Would Be Me*, a collaboration with producers Eg White and Butch Walker, displays a unique sound and his wide array of talents. (Rachele Krivichi)

Music reviews

BEYONCÉ :: 'LEMONADE'

Beyoncé doesn't simply release albums anymore, she unleashes events.

Her latest, *Lemonade*, contains revenge anthems for scorned wives, a requiem for side chicks, a display of #BlackGirlMagic and support of #BlackLivesMatter and an ode to forgiveness, all wrapped into an hourlong HBO special that was deeply personal and a bold statement.



While Beyoncé has used rumors of infidelity to fuel her music for years, from "Ring the Alarm" to "Jealous," it seemed as if she was spilling all the tea on her much-scrutinized marriage with *Lemonade*. For the first half of the album it seems husband Jay Z's 100th problem is here and unfixable.

On "Hold Up," an intoxicating song with an tropical beat, a smiling Beyoncé takes "Crazy in Love" to a new level, smashing everything around her with a bat while reminding her man that other women "don't love you like I love you." Later, on "Sorry," she and a twerking Serena Williams show her man the stupidity of his cheating ways and all he's lost, singing, "Middle fingers up, put 'em hands high, put it in his face, tell him 'Boy bye'" and calling out her man's desire for "Becky with the good hair."

These sequences read as empowering, not desperate, in part thanks to the poetic narrative Beyoncé uses to tie each segment together (text by Warsan Shire), as well as imagery that defiantly celebrates the beauty of black women: Dark to light, woolly hair to wavy hair, all looking glorious, with cameos from the likes of Oscar-nominated Quvenzhané Wallis, Zendaya and Amandla Stenberg.

And just as we think it's time to start to get seriously concerned for Jay Z's safety, he appears, nestled with his queen, in "Sandcastles," which speaks to a troubled union but a love that transcends.

Lemonade is not made for pop radio. Besides the explicit language, it doesn't fit into neat categories and boxes, ranging from R&B to a bit of reggae to rock and even a country twang. Paired with visuals, it's also elevated, becoming a work of art that has many layers to be dissected; there may well be dissertations planned on it at this moment.

It all speaks to Beyoncé's undisputed role as the queen of pop — not just pop music, but pop culture. It's hard to imagine any other artist who could captivate us so. (Nekesa Mumbi Moody/AP)

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT :: 'TAKE ALL MY LOVES'

Rufus Wainwright appears in many guises on *Take All My Loves*: composing, producing, arranging and, least of all, singing. Instead, he presents nine of the Bard of Avon's sonnets as individual or group performances by singers like sister Martha Wainwright and Florence Welch (sans Machine) and thespians like Helena-Bonham Carter, Carrie Fisher and William Shatner.

Nearly all the poems are recited and sung, sometimes within the same track. Five arias by coloratura soprano Anna Prohaska, accompanied by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, alternate with five shades of pop songs. The contrasts can be jarring, but the recitations act as buffers. Wainwright has only one genuine solo spot, the sensuous and tender "A Woman's Face (Sonnet 20)," a return to a sonnet he previously presented on *All Days Are Nights: Songs for Lulu* in 2010.

Welch sings splendidly on "When in Disgrace with Fortune and Men's Eyes (Sonnet 29)," which has a waltz-like feel if not actual 3/4 time. Wainwright and Marius De Vries turn "Take All My Loves (Sonnet 40)" into a percussive music box. On "All Dessen Mud (Sonnet 66)," one of two songs in German, Wainwright, actor Jurgen Holtz and countertenor Christopher Nell stage a performance worthy of a Weimar cabaret.

Wainwright outdoes himself on *Take All My Loves*, partnering with a lyricist who remains incomparable 400 years after his death. (Pablo Gorondi/AP)

Dis*it Out!



PHOTO: EMMI ROTH USA

The Roth Grand Cru Surchoix was the first American-made cheese to take top honors at the World Championship Cheese contest since 1988.

Wisconsin's cheese stands alone Madison-area cheese dubbed world's best

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Wisconsin is America's cheese capital — the only state whose citizens proudly wear foam-rubber headgear made to resemble their favorite fermented milk product.

Yet despite the Badger State's cheese chauvinism, experts appeared taken by surprise when a Wisconsin-made cheese took top honors at the World Championship Cheese Contest this past March at Madison's Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

The Roth Grand Cru Surchoix, produced by Emmi Roth USA at the company's plant in Monroe, was the first American-made cheese to snag the award since 1988. The cheese competed against 15 finalists (culled from 2,948 entries from 31 states and 23 countries) and earned best of class in the smear ripened hard cheeses category with a score of 99.8 out of 100.

The Grand Cru, named as a reference to the official French term for top-quality wines, is a far cry from the bland American and colby cheeses on which most Wisconsin residents were first weaned. What does it take to make the world's best cheese?

According to Rob Frie, director of operations for the Swiss-owned company's Monroe and Platteville plants, the cheese is as much the result of having the right "growing" conditions as it does the proper attention from skilled Wisconsin cheesemakers to help manage the cheese's development.

"Our farmers have to first produce great cow's milk, and they do," Frie says. "Like winemaking, cheesemaking is subject to the rigors of *terroir*. In fact, we've seen cows that have gotten into an onion patch in which the onion flavor comes through in the milk."

Fortunately, no onion flavors or aromas appeared in the locally sourced milk used to produce the Grand Cru Surchoix, which can be best described as a Gruyere-style cheese. The hard cheese's unique character traits are the result of the techniques

applied to the production and aging of the cheese, including application of just the right bacteria to the large wheels curing in Emmi Roth's Green County cheese cellar.

Once the hard cheese has been produced, the process begins with the daily washing of the rind in a bacteria bath for the first two to three weeks of the cheese's life, Frie says. The cheese resides on a bed of red spruce planks, another holdover from the traditional Swiss cheesemaking process.

"As the cheese gets established, you have millions of good bugs doing their thing on the cheese's surface and overpowering the bad bugs," Frie notes.

The process continues, moving to every-other-day washes for the subsequent three weeks, followed by a final wash with salt water to inhibit mold growth and end the active bacterial process.

The cheese is then allowed to age for a minimum of nine months.

"The bacteria helps cheese age and develop its flavor profile from the outside in while it sits in an environmentally controlled room designed to optimize bacteria growth," says Frie.

"The lactose in the cheese breaks down inside and that contributes to the curing and aging process."

High-quality cheeses get taste-tested and flavor profiled throughout the aging process, which in the case of the award-winning Surchoix lasted 14 months. Emmi Roth only produced 20,000 pounds of the award-winning cheese, Frie says.

What does the world's best cheese taste like? Even fans of 10-year-old cheddar and other aged cheeses will find the Surchoix a unique experience.

The cheese arrives dressed in a black rind, which contributes to its character and flavor. The overall color is aged ivory, which gets significantly darker as it gets closer to the rind where it was subject to higher levels of bacterial inoculation during the



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CHEESE next page



PHOTO: EMMI ROTH USA

Judges commented on the Grand Cru Surchoix's complex flavors and nice mouthfeel.

CHEESE from prior page

aging process.

"The judges commented that the cheese had a lot of complex flavors, but that it was well-balanced and nicely toned," Frie says. "There weren't a lot of peaks and valleys amid the flavor components and it has a nice mouthfeel."

At 14 months, complexity becomes the cheese's key driver. We found earthy notes and the suggestion of burnt caramel on the back palate. Despite the cheese's hard texture, the overall sensation indeed led to a creamy mouthfeel and flavors that gained intensity closer to the rind. One can almost taste the cellar ambience in the rind itself,

which adds immensely to Surchoix's dimension and charm.

The only downside is that given the cheese's relatively limited production, it's getting harder to find since it won the award.

Specialty cheese shops like Madison's Fromagination and grocery stores like Trader Joe's and Whole Foods tend to carry the cheese, which retails for \$19.99-\$24.99 per pound, depending on where you shop. But demand is quickly exceeding supply, Frie says.

"Next year we'll make more," he adds.

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Location critical for Sea Smoke wines

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

The saying goes that three things are critical to real estate success: location, location, location.

The same holds true for successful winemakers, who realize the hackneyed phrase really refers to vineyard topography, climatic conditions, soil quality, elevation and a host of other more specific characteristics. Great wine starts with great grapes, and that means grapes planted in the right location, grown and harvested under the proper conditions, and then passed into the hands of talented winemakers.

At Sea Smoke Estate Vineyards, in California's sprawling Santa Barbara County, topography is critical to setting the high-end vineyard's wine apart from its peers, according to Victor Gallegos, the winery's director of wine-making. In fact, the contours of the land are among the vineyard's most distinctive and influential features.

"The Santa Rita Hills American Viticultural Area (AVA) features a Region 1 microclimate, among the

coolest for growing grapes," says Gallegos, a 14-year Sea Smoke veteran who also has made wines in New York state, Spain and France's Bordeaux region. "Region 1 is located at roughly the same latitude as Tunisia, which leads to a unique combination (of climate characteristics)."

What's critical to the pinot noirs and chardonnays that Sea Smoke produces can be found in the nature of the land itself. The contours of the land, located near the "knee" of California that juts into the Pacific Ocean, is thought to be the result of a long-ago tectonic plate shift that fractured the traditional valleys that run through portions of the Golden State.

Rather than running primarily north to south, like the more familiar Napa and Sonoma valleys, the wine-growing regions in Santa Barbara County tend to perch on the hillside in valleys that run at an angle to the ocean and are subject to its influences more so than their cousins to the north.

Because the area is just 7.5 miles from the Pacific, its most influential characteristic may be the ocean fog, or "sea smoke," that floods the valley's

higher elevated vineyards every evening, Gallegos says.

"The predictable daily ingress of fog from the ocean into the Santa Rita Hills can drop the temperature from 85 degrees to about 55 degrees in a couple of hours," Gallegos explains. "The fog and resulting temperature drop shut the vines down for the evening and allow the wines to retain their characteristic cool-climate acidity."

The temperature change also creates an extended growing season for the biodynamically managed vineyards, the winemaker adds. The grapes have more "hang-time" on the vines, which allows them to naturally develop ripe tannins, optimal flavors and lovely aromatics.

The net result of the longer growing season, as well as a cooperage program that utilizes new and used French oak in differing combinations, yields pinot noir and chardonnay varietals of exceptional quality.

The 2013 Sea Smoke "Southing" Pinot Noir (\$60) is complex and elegant, offering a nose of red fruit and spices with pliable tannins and a distinct minerality that balance well on the palate. The 2013 Sea Smoke "Ten" Pinot Noir (\$82) is a more robust and full-bodied wine with spice and black cherry flavors supported by firm tannins that indicate a long cellar life. The variation in character comes from the differing grapes themselves matched once again to variance in vineyard characteristics, Gallegos says.

"Southing" refers to the fact that all of our vineyard blocks are south-facing, while 'Ten' refers to the 10 low-vigor pinot noir clones planted in our vineyard," Gallegos explains. "Each of our wines is stylistically distinct, and the objective of the barrel grading and our blending efforts conducted by our wine team is to maintain these distinct styles."

Gallegos and his team also produce sparkling wine, and the 2012 L.D. Sea Spray (\$80) is a lighter and brighter pinot noir, with a more floral nose and the suggestion of pastries on the palate. Sea Spray spends nine months in oak, compared to 16 months each for the previously mentioned wines.

"In addition to less barrel time for the Sea Spray base wine, we choose lower-impact coopers," Gallegos says. "This allows us to develop barrel-aged characters in the base wine, without a great deal of oak impression, which would be enhanced on the nose and palate by the bubbles."

The 2013 Sea Smoke Chardonnay (\$60) also spends 16 months in a blend of new and used French oak, resulting in a floral wine redolent of apricots. But then oak is part of the Sea Smoke process and figures prominently in the profile of its wines.

"We feel that all of our wines are improved by elevage in barrel — it is part of the 'house style' of Sea Smoke," Gallegos says. "In the case of our chardonnay and Sea Spray, we are looking for the aromatic character as well as a hint of oak aromatics. In the case of our pinot noirs, we are looking for both a balanced aromatic component and the polishing of the tannin profile of the wines."



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ACROSS

1. Christmas help, pl.
6. Mele Kalikimaka wreath
9. Oxen connector
13. Poppy seed derivative
14. Plus
15. Emerald, e.g.
16. Christmas wish?
17. Last letter
18. The least bit
19. *TV's smothering Goldberg
21. Stay for this long?
23. Biology class abbr.
24. Bloodsucking hopper
25. Leonardo da Vinci's "Vitruvian ____"
28. American Society for Clinical Investigation
30. Preserve, like mortician does
35. Rush job notation
37. Castle building supply
39. Spurious wing
40. Christian of haute-couture
41. *Taken from mom before breakfast in bed
43. Month of Purim
44. China Grass
46. Cher or Mariah Carey
47. Google alternative
48. Conundrum
50. Church section
52. Little piggy
53. Blatant promotion
55. Ambulance squad, acr.

DOWN

1. Place to rest in peace
2. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
3. Type of missile, acr.
4. More pure
5. Turkey's ancient port
6. *Like the mom in *Married with Children*
7. Compass bearing
8. Like utopia
9. Sasquatch's Asian cousin
10. Verbal exam
11. Broflovski of *South Park*
12. Right-angle building extension
15. *____ Mama, tropical drink
20. Rodeo rope
22. Diminutive
24. ____ Nemo
25. *Mother, in Italian
26. Hailing from the East
27. *Ashley and Wynonna's

29. *Paper Mother's Day gift
31. Spill the beans
32. Tax evader's fear
33. Latin American plain
34. *Bart's mom
36. Arrogant snob
38. Deity, in Sanskrit
42. Synonym of unravel
45. Purchaser
49. Draft pick
51. Speaks like an actress
54. City-like
56. *Million Dollar Baby* Oscar-winner
57. Wry face
58. Craving
59. Russian autocrat
60. *It can swell during pregnancy
61. Gaelic
62. Casanova, e.g.
63. Let it stand, to proofreader
64. Medicinal amt.
66. Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem

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Scott Walker signed legislation to restore recycling grant funding in the state, but the money is still far short of where it was when Walker took office.

GREG FERGUSON: Yet another chapter in ALEC-inspired Kochpublican "starving the beast," trying to kill everything great about the state — on behalf of Charles and David, Dianne Hendricks and the Bradley Foundation/John Birch Society. Sad.

LAURIE GILBERT: Where is all that extra money he claims he saved us? It's not going into schools, roads or anything worthwhile! Where is it going???

KATHI DUGINSKI: Just dump it on the lawn of the governor's mansion. He will come up with appropriate funding.

JIM LOGAN: GOP doing the least they can.

The city council in Oxford, Alabama, has unanimously approved an ordinance preventing transgender people from using public bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.

JILL HIX: Obviously the men in Oxford are waiting for Caitlyn Jenner to come walking into their men's bathrooms. Actually I'd love to see her do it just for publicity on how crazy all of this is.

TONY RIO: This is why I always just pee on the benches in the park. Bathrooms are a haven for perversion!

HARRY WILLIAM FIFAREK: Get your dirty minds out of the bathroom crap.

MIKE STRYCHARSKE: Yes! Please still allow the gay men to pee with the straight men though.

DAVE PAVLATOS: Who's on "Genital Check Duty"?

Koch brothers spend \$44 million to hijack Wisconsin.

TOM FISCHER: Unions represent people.....corporations represent the 1%.

CAROL STILSON: Our laws should benefit "the people" not corporations. Corporations are inherently evil since their only goal is to make profits so they care nothing for the environment or the health and welfare of the community. Profits first! ! And our congress made it easier and easier for them to make obscene profits while the middle class disappeared. ... Because unions and teachers were blamed for our high taxes instead of the real culprits — greedy companies who pay slave wages while keeping the profits at the top.

PAT HEALY: And we wonder why our state is just a shadow of what it used to be. Teachers, labor, parks, roads, universities, Morale.....the list grows. The only solution is voting for all forms of state offices.! No more Koch puppets, please!

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