sconsin **ecom**

Alternative.

A tale of two theaters The Modjeska and Avalon theaters get a second chance. page 23



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campus Students demand inclusion and target racism, driving change at the Big 10

university.





6 GOP's legislative map goes on trial

Trial date set in Wisconsin over worst partisan gerrymander in U.S.

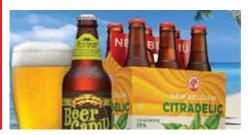
32 One female artist preserves another

UW-Madison music professor Laura Schwendinger forges ahead with her new opera about neglected Baroque painter Artemisia Gentileschi.



35 Dive into tropical IPAs

Brewers locally and across the nation are exploring the fruity possibilities of unique, citrusy hops.



News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg



CRY ME A RIVER, YOU SAY?

Natural science students at the University of Leicester, England, set out to determine the plausibility of the world's population crying enough tears to create a river based on the flow rate of the world's shortest river. Montana's Roe River is 201 feet long and discharges about 709,190,040 liters of water per day. The average human tear is about 6.2 micro liters and even if everyone on Earth was sobbing, there'd be no river. However, the students calculated, if everyone cried 55 tears they could fill an Olympic-sized

KOCH BROTHERS PULL FALSE AD

The Koch brothers' Freedom

Partners Action Fund decided to nix a \$2 million attack on Russ Feingold after three Wisconsin TV stations refused to air it. Why? The attack was an utter fabrication. In fact, it is Sen. Ron Johnson, the Koch brothers' candidate, who is guilty of the charge Feingold is accused of in the commercial.

RUBBING GUN INTO THE WOUND

George Zimmerman, who shot and killed unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin before moving on to crimes of domestic violence, is selling the gun he used to kill the 17-year-old. As of press time, the gun had drawn a bid of \$137,500 in an online auction. "This is a piece of American History," Zimmerman wrote. "It has been featured in several publications and in current University text." It's possible the buyer won't have to complete a background check.

THAT'S NOT MY NAME

A Muslim high school student in California says she's identified as "Isis Phillips" in the yearbook recently issued at Osos High School in California. Bayan Zehlif says school administration informed her the ID under her class photo was a "typo." That "typo" halted distribution of the yearbook until the name could be corrected.

BRAVO, BRAVO

Carmina Beerana, the latest specialty beer from Brewery Vivant in Grand Rapids, Michigan, toasts Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," a classical piece inspired by monks. The beer is part of the brewery's collaboration with the Grand Rapids Symphony. The beer has a bold fruit flavor, a clean and bitter finish and some Belgian character.

BETTER THAN HEMORRHOIDS

Rachel Maddow recently published data that identified things that fare worse in polls than presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. The list included: lice, traffic jams, used car salesmen, root canals, jury duty, hipsters and the DMV. "To be fair," Maddow pointed out, "Trump is losing in single digits to some of these." Trump also can take heart from the fact he polled better than hemorrhoids.

TRUMP 101

Students at Georgia's Savannah State University can enroll this summer in a three-credit course on "The Trump Factor in American Politics." They will study Trump's biography, read excerpts from his best-seller, *The Art of the Deal*, dissect some of his more controversial proposals and delve into how Trump became the presumptive Republican nominee. Savannah State is a historically black campus of about 4,900 students.

CIVICS LESSON

An 18-year-old who toured an Ohio high school while posing as a state senator has been sentenced to three months in jail for impersonating a peace officer. Authorities say the young man spoke to a government class in Sycamore, Ohio, in December 2015. School officials didn't realize they hadn't hosted a senator until weeks later.

CULPRIT WAS A RAT

A tip from the public led the FBI to arrest a man who'd allegedly been putting a mouse poison on food at a Michigan Whole Foods and other stores over a two-week period. "Our joint investigation

leads us to believe that this individual sprayed a liquid mixture of hand sanitizer, water, and Tomcat mice poison on produce," an FBI special agent told the *Detroit News*. No explanation was offered.

LETTING IT OUT

Transgender actress and activist Shakina Nayfack isn't just speaking out against North Carolina's "bathroom bill." She's peeing out. As she takes her solo act around the state this summer, she'll take selfies of herself squatting to take a whiz in men's urinals and post them on social media.

BARING IT

Photographer Spencer Tunick is looking for 100 women to pose nude for a photo shoot on July 17 at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. For the shoot, titled "Everything She Says Means Everything," 100 naked women will hold up large mirror discs that reflect "the knowledge and wisdom of progressive women and the concept of Mother Nature," according to Tunick's website.

Find more WiGWAG on our website, wisconsingazette.com.

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DARRELL SCOTT

UW-Madison works to address racism on campus

By Bryna Godar

AP Writer

UW-Madison graduate student Michael Davis says he feels isolated, excluded and afraid as a black student on the predominantly white campus, where he's been called a racial slur multiple times.

"It hasn't been a positive experience at all," Davis said.

About 76 percent of the UW-Madison's undergraduate population is white, making it the second-whitest campus among the 14 universities in the Big 10 conference. It also has the smallest percentage of black undergraduate students, at just over 2 percent.

Davis is among an increasing number of students at the flagship Madison campus demanding the administration make changes for inclusivity's sake. They join college students around the United States who've expressed frustration with discrimination and racism on predominantly white campuses.

In response, UW administrators agreed to cultural competency training, added student support hours and asked students how to improve the climate. But activists say the response is inadequate. They intend to get some outside help.

Their focal point "is organizing people in

"Your outer apparate makes me believe then say something in Spanish"

"You're From South Side Chicago, right?

I'm surprised! You talk really well. # The Rail Use!

Training, d asked

PHOTOS: COURTESY FACEBOOK

Participants in the #TheRealUW visual campaign, targeting prejudice at UW-Madison.

the city of Madison to help bring outside pressure to hold the university accountable," said Davis, who's pushing for community control of university police.

Universities nationwide have conceded to demands from protesters, including resignations of administrators at the University of Missouri. But it's unclear how many of the requested changes will be carried out. At the University of Kansas, plans for a multicultural student government are in doubt after the chancellor vetoed a proposed student fee.

At UW-Madison, a series of racially charged incidents fueled the students' pressure for change: photos of swastikas posted on a dorm room door, stereotypical war cry sounds shouted at a Ho-Chunk tribal elder and graffiti using other Nazi symbols.

For many students of color, though, it's the smaller instances. Betty Nen, a freshman whose father is from Papua New Guinea, said a guy started touching her hair at a party to see what it would feel like. Nima Cheraghi, a freshman, said a girl called him Aladdin because of his Iranian descent.

"I believe that many, especially white, students just don't understand the privileges they're given," said Cheraghi, a spokesman for Associated Students of Madison, the student government.

Sergio Gonzalez, co-president of the Teaching Assistants' Association and a doctoral student in history, said people are realizing they don't have to put up with dis-

crimination.

"I think that what's happened is students have just gotten fed up," said Gonzalez, whose parents are from Mexico.

UW students have interrupted Board of Regents meetings with lists of demands and have aired grievances and stories of discrimination on social media using the hashtag #TheRealUW.

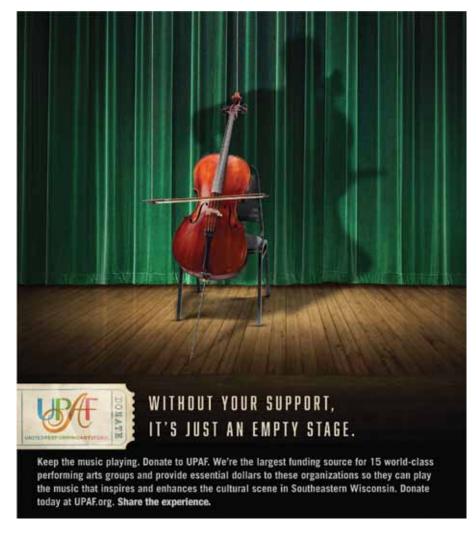
Hundreds also protested the in-class arrest of a 21-year-old senior for anti-racist graffiti, such as "White supremacy is a disease," painted around campus.

UW administrators say they are trying to be responsive to student needs and demands, and a university committee consisting of students and staff is evaluating more than 100 proposals to improve the campus climate.

"My hope is that we are a campus that is really trying to do it differently," said Lori Berquam, Vice Provost for Student Life. "We're not perfect, but we're trying to do it in a way that manifests the ideas of our students."

The conversation includes a broader range of people than it has in the past, said Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate Patrick Sims. He said "majority" students — in other words, white students — are just now finding out about issues he's been hearing about for 12 years.

"The burden cannot be on black and brown students and faculty," Berquam said.





Dueling suits filed over North Carolina 'bathroom' law

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Dueling lawsuits were filed May 9 over North Carolina's legislation banning transgender people from using public bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory announced the state suit early May 9.

"The Obama administration is bypassing Congress by attempting to rewrite the law and set restroom policies for public and private employers across the country, not just North Carolina," McCrory said in a statement to the press.

Hours later, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced the Justice Department lawsuit that names as defendants McCrory, the state's Department of Public Safety, the University of North Carolina, and the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina.

THE FEDERAL COMPLAINT

'This action is about a great deal more than just bathrooms," Lynch said at a news conference. "This is about the dignity and respect we accord our fellow citizens and the laws that we, as a people and as a country, have enacted to protect them indeed, to protect all of us. It's about the founding ideals that have led this country haltingly but inexorably — in the direction of fairness, inclusion and equality for all Americans. This is not a time to act out of virtues of inclusivity, diversity, compassion and open-mindedness. What we must not do — what we must never do — is turn on our neighbors, our family members, our fellow Americans, for something they cannot control and deny what makes them human."

"Transgender men are men - they live, work and study as men," said deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "Transgender women are women - they live, work and study as women. America protects the rights of all people to be who they are, to express their true selves and to live with dignity."

Chad Griffin, president and CEO of the Human Rights Campaign, responded to the news: "The U.S. Department of Justice has made clear that Gov. McCrory's HB2 is a discriminatory and dangerous piece of legislation that violates federal civil rights laws. Rather than working with state lawmakers to fix the mess he's created, Gov. McCrory is instead choosing to waste even more time and millions more of taxpayer dollars trying to defend his indefensible attack on transgender people. We commend Attorney General Lynch and the Justice Department."

Justice put McCrory and state officials on notice in early May, saying HB2 violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, each of which bars discrimination based on sex. The feds gave the state until May 9 to address the situation by confirming that the state would not comply with or implement HB2.

THE STATE COMPLAINT

Instead, McCrory filed a declaratory judgment action asking the federal court to clarify federal law.

"This is now a national issue that applies to every state and it needs to be resolved at the federal level," McCrory said.

He said the Obama administration is "now telling every government agency and every company that employs more than 15 people that men should be allowed to use a women's locker room, restroom or shower facility."

In his filing, McCrory said he directed state agencies to make a reasonable accommodation of a single occupancy restroom. He said the state also allows private companies to set policies for bathrooms, locker rooms and shower facilities.

"I'm taking this initiative to ensure that North Carolina continues to receive federal funding until the courts resolve this issue," McCrory said.

THE STATE'S COST

According to HRC, the state has lost more than a half-billion dollars in economic activity from companies canceling or



U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch recently announced a Justice Department lawsuit against North Carolina.

reconsidering plans to go to North Carolina and in canceled conventions, concerts and other lost tourism dollars. The loss doesn't include potential economic development that may be canceled.

Nearly 200 CEOs and major business leaders have signed onto HRC and Equality NC's letter urging the repeal of HB2.

Get more news at wisconsingazette.com.



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Wisconsin's gerrymandered map going on trial

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A dozen Wisconsin voters and their attorneys will go to federal court in May to present their case challenging one of the worst partisan gerrymanders in modern American history.

They count among their supporters Republican and Democratic politicians, good-government forces, First Amendment advocates, progressive philanthropists and fellow citizens who want their votes to count.

TO TRIAL

A four-day trial is set to begin May 24 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin over Act 43, the state's 2012 redistricting plan for the Wisconsin Assembly.

The crux of the complaint, *Whitford v. Nichol*, is the 2012 map was drawn unconstitutionally in a way to keep Republican control of the state Legislature and minimize Democratic influence.

"The plaintiffs look forward to presenting evidence at trial showing that the plan was drawn in secret, in consultation with a political scientist and without any input from Democrats, in an attempt to maximize Republican wins and minimize Democratic influence over the political process for as long as the plan was in place," stated Gerry Hebert, executive director of the Campaign Legal Center, the cocounsel in the case against the state.

The outcome of the case could have far-reaching consequences in Wisconsin, as well as chart challenges to redistricting maps in other states and guide the drafting and adoption of fair maps.

The case likely will reach the U.S. Supreme Court, which has said excessive partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional but has yet to develop a judicially manageable standard for courts to decide such cases.

The plaintiffs, their attorneys and their expert witnesses think they have the standard — and this is what both sides will focus on at the trial.

The plaintiffs are Democrats William Whitford, Roger Anclam, Emily Bunting, Mary Lynne Donohue, Helen Harris, Wayne Jensen, Wendy Sue Johnson, Janet Mitchell, Allison Seaton, James Seaton, Jerome Wallace and Donald Winter.

Their legal team includes the CLC, a nonpartisan, non-

profit organization that works on campaign finance, voting rights and government ethics.

The effort draws strong support from the Fair Elections Project, co-chaired by former Sen. Dale Schultz, a longtime leader in the Republican Party, and Democratic Sen. Tim Cullen

"We want the practice to end," said FEP director Sachin Chheda. "This is a nonpartisan effort and we are starting in Wisconsin because the most egregious example is in Wisconsin."

The defendants are Gerald C. Nichol, Thomas Barland, John Franke, Harold V. Froehlich, Kevin J. Kennedy, Elsa Lamelas and Timothy Vocke as members of the Wisconsin Government Accountability board.

The plaintiffs, as summarized by the federal district court, allege:

- Wisconsin Act 43, the 2012 redistricting plan for the Wisconsin Assembly, is an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander, "one of the worst partisan gerrymanders in modern American history."
- The redistricting plan was adopted and implemented in violation of the Equal Protection Clause with the intent to discriminate by benefiting one party and disadvantaging another.
- Republicans were successful in their attempt to maximize their influence and minimize Democratic influence with the gerrymander with GOP gains in Assembly seats in 2012 and 2014.

"There's always going to be some measure of partisan influence," Chheda said. "But if it goes too far, if it is just too much, we believe that is unconstitutional.

"Our view is that this map is unconstitutional and peoples' rights are being violated. It's not fair."

MOTIONS DENIED

The state filed a motion seeking to dismiss the complaint, which the court denied in December 2015 after determining the plaintiffs' allegations were sufficient to state a plausible claim for relief.

The state also filed a motion for summary judgment, which was denied after considering: Are challenges to a partisan gerrymander justiciable? Do plaintiffs have standing to sue? Have plaintiffs stated a plausible claim for relief?

The court answered yes to those questions.

"In denying Wisconsin's motion for summary judgment and setting the case for trial ... the three-judge court has left it to us to develop a workable standard that reflects a voter's right to fair and effective representation," Ruth Greenwood, senior redistricting counsel for the CLC, stated in a news release. "And that's exactly what we plan to do."

CRACKING AND PACKING

There are some buzzwords trial-watchers will hear and read about: "cracking," "packing" and "efficiency gap."

The efficiency gap, the challengers contend, is a tool or

The efficiency gap, the challengers contend, is a tool or figure showing the difference between parties' "wasted votes" in an election. High school civics teachers and getout-the-vote advocates may tell people every vote counts, but the plaintiffs in *Whitford* maintain a lot of votes are wasted under the Wisconsin legislative map.

A vote, in their argument, is wasted if it is cast for a candidate who lost the election or cast for the winning candidate in excess of what the candidate needed to win.

The efficiency gap, when applied to an election, measures the difference between the parties' total wasted votes among all of the districts, divided by the total number of votes cast.

And the gap, the plaintiffs maintain, reveals the extent to which voters of a party are "packed" and "cracked." Packing is concentrating one party's supporters in a few districts so





Voters line up before the polls open at Fox Valley Lutheran High School on Election Day in 2012 in Appleton. A lawsuit in federal court contends the GOP's legislative map provides for "wasted" votes in elections.

MAP from prior page

they win by overwhelming margins. Cracking is dividing a party's supporters among multiple districts so they fall short of majority in each one.

Chheda pointed to the assembly results in recent elections.

In 2010, before redistricting, Republicans won a decisive victory and converted that win into seats.

Two years later, when Wisconsin elected Democrat Tammy Baldwin to the U.S. Senate and re-elected Barack Obama, voters went Democratic in legislative races as well.

"The Democrats won a smashing victory," Chheda said. And yet, he said, the Republicans kept their seats because of the new map.

The map's challengers argue a high level of packing and cracking, and thus a large efficiency gap, demonstrates discrimination. "The plaintiffs have a very good intellectual argument," said Schultz. "This is about watering down the value of the vote, about wasting a vote."

The court has said that if the plaintiffs can prove discriminatory intent and effect during the trial, then the state must

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about fair elections and the lawsuit, go to fairelectionsproject.org.

prove the map's "severe asymmetry" was unavoidable because of the "state's legitimate political geography and legitimate redistricting objectives."

AFTER TRIAL

Whichever party loses at trial likely will appeal, making the U.S. Supreme Court the body that will decide whether the map stays or goes.

The map's challengers have said similar cases could be filed in other states, and they've stressed that both major political parties have engaged in partisan gerry-

Beyond the courthouse, fair-election proponents and good-government forces are working to change the redistricting process in Wisconsin.

"The lawsuit doesn't address the process," said Chheda. "It addresses the standard. Other folks, including our co-chairs, are advocating reforms to the redistricting process."

"People ought to be empowered to choose their representative," said Schultz, who said partisan redistricting, among other efforts to minimize voter influence, is one reason for intense public anger and animosity in 2016.

"People aren't dumb," he said. "They have figured out they have been disenfranchised.'



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No boundaries in Break Free climate change campaign

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Activists in May put their bodies on the line — across railroad tracks, in front of power plants and at the bottom of mining pits — to demand that the world "break free" from fossil fuels.

"The global climate justice movement is rising fast," said environmental activist and author Naomi Klein. "But so are the oceans. So are global temperatures. This is a race against time. Our movement is stronger than ever, but to beat the odds, we have to grow stronger."

The Break Free campaign lasted 12 days, with actions on six continents.

"There's never been a bigger, more concerted wave of actions against the plans of the fossil fuel industry to overheat our Earth," said Bill McKibben, co-founder of the 350.org environmental group. "In the hottest year on record, we're determined to turn up the political heat on the planet's worst polluters."

Protesters targeted some of the world's most dangerous fossil fuel projects in civil disobedience actions, including:

• United States: Demonstrators marched in Chicago to protest new tar sands projects in the Midwest. In other actions, protesters targeted fracking in Denver; "bomb trains" in New York state; refinery pollution in Seattle; and drilling



off the Arctic, Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts.

- Australia: On May 8, thousands of demonstrators gathered in Newcastle at the largest coal port in the world, shutting down operations for hours and making clear that climate change will be an issue in the election of the next prime minister.
 - Brazil: Activists rallied for a ban on

fracking May 6 and marched on a coal power plant in Pecem, Ceara, May 14.

- Canada: On May 14, activists demonstrated on land and on water against the proposed Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline.
- **Germany**: Activists demonstrated May 14 in the Lusatia region against one of

CLIMATE next page

PHOTO: VEEJAY VILLAFRANCA/INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE & SUSTAINABLE CITIES/BREAK FREE 2016

As part of the Break Free 2016 campaign, thousands of people from different sectarian and religious groups march May 4 around Batangas City, Philippines, to protest coal. Eight proposed coal-fired power plants are set to be constructed in the province, countering the Philippines' climate initiative of reducing carbon emissions as part of the COP21 agreement.



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CLIMATE from prior page

Europe's largest open-pit lignite mines.

- Indonesia: Thousands assembled outside the presidential palace May 11 to resist coal projects and demand the government move from a reliance on coal to embrace renewable energy.
- **Nigeria**: Demonstrators on the Atlantic coast protested against Exxon's offshore wells, which frequently leak, impacting fisheries and polluting the coastline.
- **Philippines**: Thousands of people marched in Batangas City, where JG Summit Holdings wants to build a coal-fired power plant, just one of 28 proposed in the Philippines.
- **South Africa**: Demonstrators gathered May 12 in Emalahleni, one of the most polluted towns in the world, to speak out on the effects of climate change.
- Turkey: A mass action in Aliaga May 15 focused on a coal waste site plan for four fossil fuel projects in the area.
- United Kingdom: The Reclaim the Power network brought together demonstrators at the U.K.'s largest opencast coal mine in South Wales. Earlier this spring, the Welsh Assembly voted for a moratorium on opencast coal mining.



PHOTO: JURNASYANTO SUKARNO/GREENPEACE

Thousands of people took to the streets on May 11 in Jakarta in a carnival atmosphere to urge the government to end Indonesia's addiction to coal. The marchers carried banners calling for Indonesia to reject coal in favor of clean renewable energy and to honor the commitment made in the Paris Agreement last year to reduce the country's carbon emissions.

BREAK FREE, DAY-TO-DAY

Break Free was a mass movement held in May, with protesters demonstrating around the world against continued reliance on fossil fuels.

Following are some ideas on how to break free of fossil fuels so that future generations might be born free from reliance on them:

- Conserve energy by turning off lights and replacing bulbs with longer-lasting fluorescent bulbs, running the air-conditioner less and using Energy Star appliances.
- Recycle. About 75 percent of U.S. waste is recyclable and can be donated instead of trashed. Even threadbare clothing can be donated for re-use as rags, mattress filling and other purposes.
- Avoid non-biodegradable products. Single-use foam cups and trays biodegrade very slowly and the styrene they're made of is a possible carcinogen.
 Plastic grocery bags are made from petrochemicals and also biodegrade very slowly.
- Live green. Consume only food and energy needed to survive, promote renewable and clean energy services and walk more than drive.
- Lisa Neff



HOTO: BREAK FREE 2016

On May 8 in Australia, more than 2,000 people shut down the world's largest coal port. For six hours, no coal went in or out of the Port of Newcastle. Sixty people blocked the only coal transport train line into the port. Also, hundreds of kayakers blocked the harbor's entrance to any entering or exiting coal ships.



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- 1 in 3 trans* adults smoke



Wisconsin Statistics:

- Twice as many LGB+ youth smoke compared to heterosexual youth
- 3 times as many LGB+ smoked before age 13 compared to heterosexual youth
- Smoking rates remain higher for LGB adults compared to straight adults

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The City of Milwaukee Tobacco-Free Alliance works to prevent and reduce death, disease and healthcare costs caused by tobacco through education and community mobilization.

1 in 6 U.S. hospital beds are at Catholic institutions that deny critical care to women

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

One in six hospital beds in the United States is in a facility that prohibits a range of reproductive health care services, even when a woman's life or health is in jeopardy.

In some states, more than 40 percent of all hospital beds are in a facility that complies with the "Catholic directives," leaving entire regions without any option for certain reproductive health care, according to a report released this month by the American Civil Liberties Union and MergerWatch.

The ACLU report shares accounts from patients denied important care at Catholic hospitals, as well as firsthand stories from health care providers forbidden from providing critical care because of the directives. The ACLU also shared stories from physicians at secular hospitals who treated women after they'd been turned away from a Catholic facility.

FROEDTERT MAKES THE GRADE

The three hospitals in the Froedtert and Medical College of Wisconsin Health Network were named "2016 leaders in LGBT health care equality" this spring by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Health Care Equality Index.

Seven other health care facilities in the state were on the list.

Nationally, 496 health care facilities made the grade, meeting non-discrimination and training criteria, along with the 30 best practices in caring for LGBT patients and their families.

Louis Weisberg

"When a pregnant woman seeks medical care at a hospital, she should be able to trust that decisions about her treatment will be based on medicine, not religious policies," said ACLU deputy legal director Louise Melling. "Distressingly, in an increasing number of hospitals across this country, that is not the reality. We all have a right to our religious beliefs — but that does not include the right to impose those beliefs on others, particularly when that means closing the door on patients seeking medical care."

THE DIRECTIVES

The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services sets forth standards for Catholic health care facilities. These directives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops prohibit a range of reproductive health services, including:

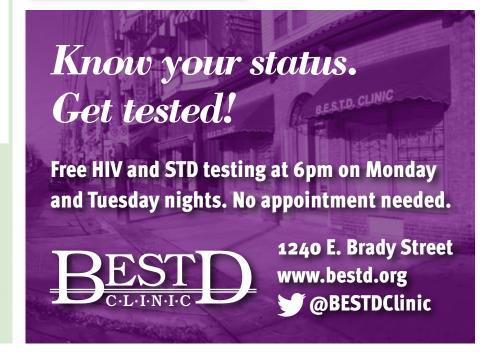
- Contraception.
- Sterilization.
- Many infertility treatments.
- Abortion, even when a woman's life or health is jeopardized by a pregnancy.

The ACLU said because of these rules, many Catholic hospitals in the United States withhold emergency care from patients who are in the midst of a miscarriage or experiencing other pregnancy complications.

Catholic hospitals, the report said, also routinely prohibit doctors from performing tubal ligations at the time of delivery, when the procedure is medically safest, leaving patients to undergo an additional surgery after recovering from childbirth.

"A Catholic hospital denied me necessary care in the midst of the worst medical

HOSPITALS next page





'We all have

our religious

beliefs — but

that does not

right to impose

those beliefs

on others.'

include the

a right to

HOSPITALS from prior page

emergency my family and I have ever experienced," said Jennafer Norris, who was denied a tubal ligation at a Catholic hospital in Arkansas at the time she delivered a baby, even though she had experienced serious complications and another pregnancy would be life-threatening.

"My family and I should have been reassured that the hospital would do every-

thing it could to protect my health and safety," Norris said. "But instead, they prohibited my doctor from providing the care I desperately needed. I don't want other women to have to go through what I did."

THE NUMBERS

Based on MergerWatch data, the report — Health Care Denied — said:

 A total of 548 hospitals — 14.5 percent of all short-term acute care hospitals in the United States — comply with the Catholic directives because they are owned by a Catholic health system or diocese, affiliated

with a Catholic hospital or system through a business partnership, or are historically Catholic hospitals now owned by a secular nonprofit or for-profit system.

- The number of hospitals complying with directives has increased 22 percent since 2001.
- In some places, such as Washington state, more than 40 percent of all hospital beds are in a Catholic hospital. Also, entire regions have no other option for hospital care.
- In 10 states, more than 30 percent of all hospital beds are in Catholic facilities.
- In nearly half the states, more than one in five hospital beds is in a Catholic facility.

In Wisconsin, there are 33 Catholic hospitals, about 45 percent of all hospitals in the state. Health Care Denied said there are 4,099 hospital beds in those short-term

acute care Catholic hospitals, about 41 percent of the beds in the state.

"The sickest patient I've ever treated came to me after a Catholic hospital denied her the most appropriate care because the procedure was prohibited by its religious policies," said Dr. David Eisenberg of the Washington University School of Medicine. "As medical professionals, we

have a responsibility to follow medical standards of care and do what's best for our patients - period. It is unconscionable that some hospitals will deny a patient life-saving care because of their religious affiliation."

The report contained a series of recommendations, including calls for:

- The issuance of a statement from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services clarifying that all hospitals, regardless of religious affiliation, are required by federal law to provide emergency reproductive health care.
- A systematic investigation by the U.S. Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services into violations by Catholic hospitals of federal laws requiring emergency care.

 A change in public policies to protect women in need of reproductive health services and the practitioners who are prohibited from providing this essential care.

The ACLU has filed lawsuits alleging Trinity Health in Michigan and Dignity Health in California violated federal law requiring the provision of emergency health care and discriminated against women.

The ACLU also sued the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for imposing the directives on hospitals and the U.S. government for allowing the denial of reproductive health care access to survivors of human trafficking.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops did not respond to calls from WiG.

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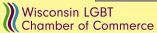
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EDITORIAL

GOP delivers 100 lashes to local control

There's a theory in politics — subsidiarity — that maintains higher levels of government should handle only tasks that cannot be accomplished at lower levels. National defense is a good example of how the theory works — it's not left to each state or city to defend itself.

In that spirit, the Republican Party's stated goal is to reduce the power and scope of the federal government. State government, their argument goes, is more democratic and accountable than Washington. State officials have a deeper understanding of the unique challenges, values and goals of their constituents. And in turn, local office-holders have a deeper understanding of their constituents than does the state.

It's not an unreasonable position, until you start to distort it beyond recognition. And that's what Wisconsin Republicans have done.

First, to show their disdain for the feds, Wisconsin Republicans made a great show of turning down federal funds after capturing control of state government in 2011. Showily flexing his ideological bicep, Gov. Scott Walker turned down about \$2 billion for Medicare expansion, high-speed rail development and high-speed internet expansion. It didn't seem to bother him or his GOP colleagues that a portion of money would originally come from Wisconsin taxpayers. Nor did it seem to concern them that the move cost the state thousands of jobs, as well as expanded health care and an improved business environment.

In short, your representatives at the state level cut off your nose to spite Washington's face — all in the name of local empowerment.

Yet, in a glaring philosophical disconnect, Wisconsin's Republican leaders also believe — in the strongest way possible — that the virtues of local control come to a screeching halt at the doors of the state Capitol. Ever since they've commanded the state, Republicans have engaged in an unprecedented usurpation of municipal, village and other local government bodies' powers in order to stop them from interfering with the moneyed interests that feather their nests.

A memo issued earlier this year by the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau detailed more than 100 ways in which the Republican Legislature and the governor eliminated local control while also increasing the number of unfunded

mandates — i.e., costs — passed on to local communities. The Republicans' actions have made it impossible for many local elected officials to balance their budgets while providing services for their constituents. That's one of the reasons your potholes don't get filled.

Just a few weeks ago, in his latest assault at local control, Walker signed a law taking away the power of local jurisdictions to protect their water. The Republican-backed law forbids municipalities from stopping property owners who want to develop land or transfer properties to erect projects that could harm local water supplies. According to the new law, in legal cases where property owners are at odds with local ordinances protecting natural resources, presiding judges must rule in favor of the property owners over the good of nearly everyone else.

That law was part of what the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters calls a "developers' grab bag," which along with a comparable "polluters' grab bag," has given polluting industries and land developers free rein over the state's natural resources by granting them authority over local governments.

Republican Attorney General Brad Schimel has done his part to support this campaign, which makes corporations not just people but Super People. In mid-May, he ruled that officials at the Department of Natural Resources cannot make decisions about high-capacity wells in order to prevent damage to local water supplies — not if Big Ag disagrees with those decisions. Schimel's ruling puts the state's groundwater, lakes and streams in jeopardy.

It's not only environmental authority that the state's GOP leaders have usurped. In the past legislative session, Republican changes included laying the groundwork to disrupt Wisconsin's popular and cost-effective system of delivering services to seniors and those with disabilities. Republican legislators backed Walker's goal to turn those services over to for-profit companies, although details are still being worked out. Republicans also are interfering with local school board elections.

By electing a solid Republican majority, voters in the state have empowered their own disempowerment in order to make rich people even richer.

How's that for subsidiarity?

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite memes



More United States Senators have been arrested for sexual misconduct in bathrooms than trans women.





embarrassment to our country, he's an indictment of it.

The fact that he is the Conservative frontrunner for the highest job in the land – with absolutely zero experience and flaunting a ticket of unbridled bigotry, xenophobia, and misogyny – clearly shows everything that is wrong with the U.S.A.

Donald Trump isn't an



ON THE RECORD

"He is such an egomaniac and such a religious zealot that he thinks he can ignore court orders with impunity. For the sake of our state, he should be kicked out of office."

· Southern Poverty Law Center president RICH-ARD COHEN commenting on Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore. The judge faces potential removal from office for ordering the state's probate judges to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex

"To have a Muslim mayor seems preferable to me to any alternative regardless of the politics. I hope it's an image that will go round the world as representing a new sort of England that's at peace with itself regardless of race and so on. That's the beauty of it."

- SIR IAN McKELLAN celebrating the election of Sadiq Khan to serve as London's first Muslim mayor. Khan represented the liberal Labour Party in the race. One million of the city's 8.2 million residents practice the Muslim faith.

"A monument to sin? That's unbelievable. War heroes deserve a monument, our nation's founding fathers deserve a monument, people who have helped to make America strong deserve a monument — but a monument to sin?"

- Evangelist FRANKLIN GRAHAM, the son of now-deceased preacher man Billy Graham, mocking President Barack Obama's plans to turn the Stonewall Inn and its surroundings in New York's Greenwich Village into a National Monument.

"I will not rest and I'm going to make sure that the leaders at every level of government don't rest until every drop of water that flows to your homes is safe to drink and safe to cook with and safe to bathe in."

President BARACK OBAMA during a visit to Flint, Michigan, where lead contamination forced residents to spend months drinking, cooking and bathing with bottled water.

"We love our girls. Thank you so much for so many years of joy. That's history tonight there, ladies and gentlemen, true American icons."

- Ringmaster JOHNATHAN LEE IVERSON bidding farewell to the performing elephants of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The trained elephants were part of a 145-year-old tradition. They've retired to a 200-acre refuge in central Florida.

"Democracy requires compromise, even when you are 100 percent right. This is hard to explain sometimes. You can be completely right and you still have to engage folks who disagree with you. If you think that the only way forward is to be as uncompromising as possible, you will feel good about yourself, you will enjoy a certain moral security, but you will not get what you want. ... This is how we cheat ourselves of progress."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA delivering the commencement address at Howard University. Pundits saw this remark as a mild rebuke to the supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who want to model their so-called "revolution" on the right wing's uncompromising tea party faction.

Congress' McCarthy-style investigation

DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

The following is an excerpted letter from Democratic U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky, Diane DeGette, Suzan K. Del-Bene, Jerrold Nadler, Jackie Speier and Bonnie Watson to House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., regarding a congressional investigation into Planned Parenthood.

We ask for your assistance in resolving what we believe is a serious abuse of congressional power. When vou were elected speaker of the House, you stressed your desire to "make some changes, starting with how the House does business." including a "return to regular order" and a desire to "open up the process."

We agree. In your role as chairman of the Budget Committee and the Wavs and Means Committee, you demonstrated your commitment to operate in an open, transparent and collegial manner. The House Select Investigative Panel created through H.Res. 461 is not operating in that fashion and should be disbanded.

After promising ... that she would hold an initial organizational meeting, Chair Marsha Blackburn has refused to hold any such meeting or to discuss with Democrats an investigative plan or rules and a timeline for completion of the panel's work.

In fact, when asked during the panel's first public hearing to explain what the panel is investigating and, in particular, how her sweeping demand for the names of researchers, graduate students, lab technicians, clinical staff and doctors furthers any legitimate aim of this investigation, Blackburn refused to do so.

In addition to refusing to provide the basic, required explanation of what she is investigating and why, Blackburn's day-to-day operation violates longstanding rules and practice of the House and its committees

Blackburn has denied Democrats access to the panel's records and files, refused to identify the source or foundation for materials used in pub-

lic hearings and routinely issued unilateral subpoenas without the required notice or consultation.

Just last week, for example ... the chair issued 19 unilateral subpoenas. Of the 19 entities and individuals served, 17 were never afforded an opportunity to comply voluntarily before receiving a subpoena.

Having refused to afford entities the opportunity to comply voluntarily, the chair has made false public claims of widespread noncompliance and unjustly portrayed individuals and entities as "clearly rattled with basic facts coming to light" and resistant to "letting all the facts come out." In fact, the panel has received more than 18,000 pages of documents over the course of this investigation.

Blackburn's "secret" subpoenas issued without the required notice or consultation and without any effort to obtain voluntary cooperation first do not reflect the values you have laid out or the accepted rules and practices of the House.

Perhaps most egregious, however, is the mistreatment of individuals who are now being compelled to appear before the panel.

Almost every person contacted by the panel has expressed fear for their safety if identified in connection with this investigation, which has repeatedly been described by the chair and other Republicans using highly misleading and inflammatory language. These concerns are not hypothetical or exaggerated.

The Republican demand that people appear and name other individuals when they do so is reminiscent of Sen. Joe McCarthy, whose bullving behavior ultimately resulted in censure by the U.S. Senate but not before he had damaged many Americans' lives and careers with unfounded accusations and insinuations.

As Rep. Jerry Nadler noted at the panel's second hearing: "This committee is worse than McCarthy investigations because McCarthy endangered people's jobs. This committee is knowingly endangering people's lives. "

Reject bigotry against transgender

REP. JOCASTA ZAMARRIPA

Fortunately, a "bathroom bill" proposed by Wisconsin Republicans during the last legislative went nowhere. The bill would have forced transgender students to use restrooms and locker rooms corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates rather than the genders with which they identify.

But the issue isn't dead in Wisconsin. State Rep. Jesse Kremer, R-Kewauskum, savs he'll introduce a bill even stronger than last year's — one that applies not only to student facilities but to public restrooms everywhere in the state.

These bills are not reactions to anything that actually happened in Wisconbills that are part of a national attack by the religious right on transgender people. Kremer is just the messenger boy.

The bills' supporters claim they're protecting the public from sexual predators who want to infiltrate restrooms for deviant purposes. That myth might excite voters who harbor deep prejudices against LGBT people but it is not based in fact.

The reality is transgender people are the ones who need protection. They suffer from high rates of violence, suicide and homelessness.

In Wisconsin, three transgender high school students — Skylar Marcus Lee, Cameron Langrell and Mindy Fabian — took their lives within the past few years because of the bullying and hate they faced.

sin. They're cookie-cutter In effect, bathroom bills provide official sanction to those who would discriminate, resulting in more bullying and more tragedies.

Transgender students are much more likely to be victimized in settings where their gender identity is most emphasized, such as bathrooms. As a result of being forced into the uncomfortable situations mandated by bathroom bills, transgender students are more likely to be tardy or absent from school, to have lower grades and to be physically bullied by their classmates.

Even if you can't empathize with the plight of transgender children, the state would suffer financially if Kremer's bill becomes law.

North Carolina recently passed a "bathroom bill," and the fallout has been swift. National conven-

tions have been canceled, as have some Fortune 500 expansions.

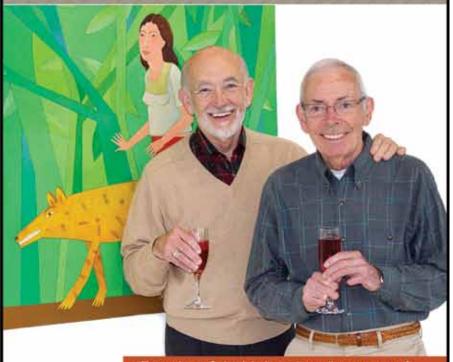
The U.S. Department of Justice declared that North Carolina's bill violates the Civil Rights Act and Title IX. If the state enforces the bill, it could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding. With Wisconsin dead last in the Midwest for job growth, our state can't afford such losses.

Kremer's bill addresses a non-existent threat but it will have real-life consequences. Is this the Wisconsin we want?

JoCasta Zamarripa represents Wisconsin's 8th Assembly District. She's one of the state's four openly LGBT legislators.

Have an opinion to share with WiG? Email Iweisberg@ wisconsingazette.com.

a Better View On Life

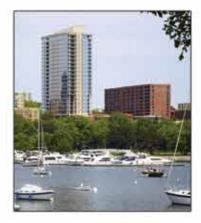


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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



Solstice celebration: The River Revitalization Foundation holds a summer solstice walk June 20 in Milwaukee, beginning at the RRF office, 2134 N. Riverboat Road. For more, email vbushell@gmail.com

Fill your plate: Clean Wisconsin, the state's oldest environmental organization, is selling seats at the table for its gala fundraiser, Epicurean Evening Milwaukee.

Celebrated Cream City chefs will prepare a multicourse meal for supporters June 16 at Discovery World.

"We are extremely excited to bring this event to the shores of Lake Michigan," said Clean Wisconsin CEO Mark Redsten. "These chefs care deeply for Wisconsin and our environment and we are fortunate to bring them together for a night of great food to bring awareness to Clean Wisconsin's work in Milwaukee and across the state."

Participating chefs include Adam Siegel of Lake Park Bistro, Cole Ersel of Wolf Peach and Justin Carlisle of Ardent.

"As a chef who takes care and pride in the state and region where I have grown up and will raise my family, I care deeply about a clean Wisconsin," said Carlisle. For more, go to wisconsinepicureanevening.org.

Party time: The Democratic Party of Wisconsin holds its statewide convention June 3-4 in Green Bay. The party plans to host candidates on the 2016 ballot, caucus meetings, socials and convention reports. The national convention is in late July in Philadelphia. For more, go to milwaukeedems.org.

Something to chalk about: Artists are needed for the Great Lakes Chalk Art Competition June 11-12 in downtown Racine. The event is in conjunction with the Monument Square Art Festival. At least 24 artists will work on panels on Fifth Street and finished work will be displayed at the Racine Arts Council Artspace Gallery. For more, go to www.monumentsquareartfest.com.

Sustainability summer: The Point Back to the Land in Stevens Point offers weekend itineraries for summer travelers looking to learn about sustainable living in Wisconsin. Getaways focus on renewable farming, sustainable homes, plants for the people, container gardening and more. For more, go to pointbacktotheland.com.

Annual meetup: The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin holds its annual meeting June 3-5 at the Landmark Resort in Egg Harbor. The agenda includes discussions on Wisconsin water quality, engaging the emerging electorate and building membership. For more, go to www.lwvwi.org.

-Lisa Neff

Send notices for the bulletin board to Imneff@wisconsingazette.com.



Rail to trail: Amtrak allows bicycles on Hiawatha route

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Amtrak now allows riders to take bicycles aboard Hiawatha trains running between Milwaukee and Chicago.

It costs \$5 to transport a bike and reservations must be made in advance. The service is limited to 15 bicycles per train.

"There's a lot of people traveling in the Chicago to Milwaukee area that would love the opportunity just to take their bikes along," said Dave Schlabowske of Wisconsin Bike Fed. Wisconsin Bike Fed encouraged Amtrak officials for at least five years to offer bicycle transport on the Hiawatha line. Previously, bicycles had to be partially taken apart and shipped in cartons.

"Chicago is such a great city for cycling," Schlabowske said.

And it's an easy way to tour a dense metropolitan area known for heavy traffic, he added.

Chicago is rated "silver" for bikers. Madison gets gold and Milwaukee has a bronze rating.

Amtrak's new policy coincides with National Bike Month, which is May, as well as Bike to Work Week, which began May 16.

State Sen. Chris Larson kicked off Bike to Work Week in the weekly Democratic radio address on May 12. He stressed the health and environmental benefits of biking.

"Did you know that active employees



PHOTO: COUL

Participants in last year's UPAF Ride for the Arts cross Milwaukee's Hoan Bridge. Cycling enthusiasts have tried for years to convince officials to put a bike lane on the bridge, where bicycles currently aren't allowed except during authorized events.

are more alert, need fewer sick days and are more productive? And that's not all, in addition to being beneficial to your health, biking is also great for reducing your carbon footprint, reducing traffic congestion, and saving you money," Larson said.

'There's a lot of people traveling in the Chicago to Milwaukee area that would love the opportunity to take their bikes along.'

RIDING A WAVE OF POPULARITY

Other Amtrak lines in Illinois and around the nation have added bicycle racks in recent years, reflecting the explosive growth of cycling enthusiasts, Schlabowske said.

He predicted Amtrak's new policy would increase tourism in Wisconsin.

The Bike Fed is the nation's largest statewide organization of bicycle clubs, with more than 6,300 individual members. The advocacy group has offices in Milwaukee, Madison and La Crosse.

In addition to lobbying for protected bike lanes, the Wisconsin Bike Fed is trying to attract a wider range of biking enthusiasts.

Schlabowske said the stereotypical cyclist is a "50-year-old white guy wearing Lycra," but "that's not what my community looks like."

"So we have a number of programs working on diversity in our city (Milwaukee),

from lower-income and older people to the LGBT community," Schlabowske said. "We're sort of working in a lot of different areas to broaden what our membership looks like."

There are thousands of organized bikeriding events in Wisconsin, from the Polish Moon Ride to the Santa Cycle Rampage.

Among the upcoming cycling events are:

• **UPAF Ride for the Arts**. The 35th anniversary event, sponsored by Miller Lite, takes place June 5, beginning at the Summerfest Grounds. Participants can ride or make a pledge on a rider.

Pledge prizes include a bike jersey sponsored by Actuant and bicycles from Wheel & Sprocket. Johnson Bank will match pledges totaling up to \$25,000.

UPAF, which supports 15 performing arts organizations, hopes to raise \$600,000.

• The Wisconsin AIDS Ride. The annual event, which raises awareness and critical funds for the fight against HIV/AIDS, is July 28–31. The full ride stretches 300 miles, from downtown Madison to Horicon — and back — in four days. But participants also can choose one- or two-day options.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more about cycling and events in Wisconsin, go online to wisconsin-bikefed.org.

Walker kicks \$101 M in debt down the road

By Scott Bauer

AP writer

Gov. Scott Walker's administration is delaying \$101 million in debt payments to help the state budget's immediate bottom line.

But it's unclear just how big a problem the state's longterm budget is facing.

The decision to restructure the debt suggests that Walker's administration is concerned there will not be enough cash on hand for the budget to balance at the end of the current fiscal year on June 30, as required by law.

The latest estimate, prepared by the nonpartisan Legislative Fis-

cal Bureau in January, projected the state was going to end this budget year with a \$219 million cushion, but a razor-thin \$71 million buffer in June 2017.

Delaying \$101 million will cost the state nearly \$2.3 million in additional interest over the next eight years, according to the Fiscal Bureau

Walker administration spokeswoman Laurel Patrick called delaying the payment a "prudent financial management tool," but did not say why it was necessary.

"Normally, if you're in strong financial



State Rep. Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh.

condition, you're not kicking the can down the road," said state Rep. Gordon Hintz, a Democrat from Oshkosh who sits on the Legislature's budget committee. He said it was embarrassing and an indication there wasn't enough money available to pay for tax cuts approved in the last budget.

Pushing off debt payments into a different budget year is a common tactic used by governors as a short-term method of balancing the books.

Since 2001, more than \$1.6 billion in such payments have been delayed.

The accounting move was first detailed in a memo by the Fiscal Bureau to the Legislature's budget-writing committee. That memo said Walker intended to defer \$50 million, but Walker's administration later said it was going to be \$101 million.

Walker has delayed more than \$741 million in payments since 2011, including \$108 million last year.

His predecessors, Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle and Republican Gov. Scott McCallum, also made delays totaling about \$872 million.

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Pet Gazzitte







Trained kittens are the real stars of 'Keanu'

By Sandy Cohen

AP Entertainment writer

Anyone who's spent time with a cat might agree with filmmaker Peter Atencio when he says cats are the "15-year-olds of the animal kingdom."

Dogs are eager to please their owners. Cats couldn't care less.

But the kittens that play the title tabby in the new action-comedy Keanu impressed their human co-stars so much, they've earned permanent places in Hollywood.

"They blew away my expectations," said Atencio, director of Keanu and a selfdescribed "crazy cat man" who has three cats, two dogs and a rabbit at home. "They took direction really well."

Keanu tells the story of Clarence and Rell (Key & Peele stars Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele), two mild-mannered guys who pretend to be killer criminals

after a gang of thugs steals Rell's kitten, Keanu. The gangsters want to keep the kitten now wearing gold

chains and a tiny do-rag — but Clarence and Rell will do anything, including embracing their inner tough-guys, to get him back.

Seven brown tabbies, all rescued from animal shelters, play Keanu. Trainer Larry Payne said animal roles generally require multiple actors (or, in this case, cat-ctors), as each has its own personality traits that contribute to the onscreen character.

Some kittens are better at hitting marks, for example, while others are particularly skilled at sitting still and being adorable.

"There's the run guy, there's the snuggle guy, there's the meow guy," Key said.

"It's like assembling a team of bank-

NOW PLAYING

Keanu, directed by Peter Atencio and written by Jordan Peele and Alex Rubens, opened in late April. The film stars Peele, Keegan-Michael Key, Method Man and Will Forte.

robbers," Atencio added.

Payne initially trained three kittens to play Keanu, but they aged out halfway through production.

'(They) had gotten big and not really kitten-like anymore," he explained.

He adopted four more kittens to finish the film. All were about eight weeks old when they began their monthlong training.

Besides learning the skills they'd need for their scenes — sit, stay, go from one mark to another — the Keanus had to get used to the noise and commotion of a movie set. Loud sounds typically make cats run and

"It's a little bit easier with the kittens, believe it or not, than with adult cats, because I don't think they know any better," said Payne, who trains all kinds of animals for film and TV roles. "The kittens almost think, 'This is what all kittens do: We work on movies!"

Payne plied the kitties with treats during training. Repetition and positive reinforcement are key, he said. He uses off-camera buzzers or clickers - which signify food is coming — to summon the cats to their marks.

He also used treats to get them to tolerate the dozen or so costumes Keanu wears. Rell dresses his pet in a little fedora, goggles, a leather jacket, a hoodie and sun-



Seven brown tabbies, all rescued from animal shelters, play Keanu.

glasses, among other things.

When the kittens weren't on screen, they hung out in miniature star trailers: deluxe animal carriers decked out with beds, toys and water. When filming on location in New Orleans, all seven Keanus stayed with Payne in his hotel suite.

Peele, who co-wrote Keanu, said a catnapped kitten wasn't part of the film's original premise. He and co-writer Alex Rubens knew the main characters and their squares-in-gangland dilemma, but "it didn't feel like we had something that really justified why we would put ourselves in danger," Peele said. "That's where the kitten came

Though he has a dog who sometimes wears outfits ("We (Peele and wife Chelsea

KEANU next page



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PET BRIEFS

NOLA NEIGHBORHOOD FIGHTS TO SAVE PEACOCK

A New Orleans City Council member says she wants to have a neighborhood added to the list of the city's bird sanctuaries to protect a peacock.

Council member Susan Guidry introduced an ordinance that would make the area where the bird is frequently seen the city's 15th bird sanctuary.

PET DOG ALERTS SLEEPING FAMILY TO HOUSE FIRE

Local fire officials are praising a pet dog for his heroics in alerting a sleeping family to a large-scale fire that had broken out at their southern Maine home.

The dog's barking woke up residents as flames ripped through the structure. The family and their dog were able to escape the burning home without injury. Fire crews from eight communities helped firefighters extinguish the blaze.

WEE-LIEF! DOGS GET AIRPORT BATHROOMS OF THEIR OWN

Dogs and other animals now have a bathroom of their own at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The room outfitted with a red fire hydrant and a patch of artificial turf is the latest "pet relief facility" to be installed at airports across the country.

It allows service and guide dogs, emotional support animals and pets traveling with their owners to relieve themselves without the need to exit the terminal and go through security again.

A federal regulation says all airports serving more than 10,000 passengers per

KEANU from prior page

Peretti) got a Burberry outfit and we do have a little beach hoodie. It goes deep."), Peele said they made Keanu a kitten because "we realized there's not a lot of kitten movies."

Payne, too, said he "never had the pleasure of doing an entire kitten movie" in his 30-year career.

Atencio would do one again, saying, "I would love to do a kitten-based horror or thriller."

Maybe he'll call on the kittens formerly known as Keanu? All the film's feline stars are staying in Hollywood. Though one went home with *Keanu* co-star Tiffany Haddish to become a housecat, Payne said the others will continue to act.

He and his colleague, April Mackin, each took two kittens home, and the remaining two live at the California ranch where Payne keeps his menagerie of acting animals.

"The fact that I was able to acclimate them to a movie-set environment when they were real young, they become valuable for us for the future to do that work," he said. "They're provided a great home. We have on-staff vets. And they're very spoiled, much like a normal star would be."

year must install a pet relief area in every terminal by this August.

Similar indoor facilities are already operating at Dulles International outside Washington D.C., Chicago's O'Hare Airport and Seattle-Tacoma International.

BLOODHOUND JOINS SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A 14-month-old bloodhound named Daisy is the newest member of the Spokane police department's K9 unit. She was brought into the department to track missing children and vulnerable adults with her handler, Sgt. Jason Reynolds, who supervises the unit.

Bloodhounds are often considered the dog breed with the best sense of smell. Daisy will not replace patrol dogs, who are usually German Shepherds or Malinois dogs who get their own specialized training in Germany.

Daisy is a rescue who came to the department by way of California. As an American-born dog, she'll be one of the few on the force who can understand English commands.

Daisy will be in training for several months, but she's certified to work as a tracker and could be called out the next time the department is looking for someone who's gone missing.

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www.conservationvoters.org



Dut on the town May 19 - June 2 A curated calendar of upcoming events



'CHEESEHEADS: THE DOCUMENTARY'

7 p.m. May 20 at Waukesha Civic Theatre. \$5. waukeshacivictheatre.org.

Some Wisconsinites loathe their nickname of "Cheeseheads." Those who embrace the moniker happily have a new reason to celebrate it. *Cheeseheads: The Documentary* is a film that follows a former Wisconsinite who returns to his home state in search of the deeper meaning of what it means to be a cheesehead. What he discovers along the way: how the place you grew up and the people around you shape who you are as an adult. (Colton Dunham)



FIDDLE FEST

8 p.m. May 20 at Anodyne Coffee in Walker's Point, Milwaukee. \$8. anodynecoffee.com.

If you're guessing that Fiddle Fest celebrates all fiddling things that fiddle, then you're absolutely correct. Hosted at Anodyne Coffee in Walker's Point, Fiddle Fest is an evening of gypsy swing, bluegrass and Irish fiddling. The Milwaukee-based gypsy swing quartet Swing Chevron, bluegrass band Thistledown Thunders and Irish fiddlers named áthas will perform tunes that'll be drawn from rhythmic tradition, funky guitar riffs and folk. (Colton Dunham)

'THE GODFATHER LIVE'

8 p.m. May 20 at the Riverside Theater, Milwaukee. \$46, \$56, and \$66. pabsttheater.

Admirers of cinema and music should be equally thrilled for this upcoming HD screening of the three-time Oscar-winning film *The Godfather*. The film, widely considered one of the finest achievements in cinematic history, will be screened with a live accompaniment of Nino Rota's iconic score of traditional Italian folk and jazz performed by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. (Colton Dunham)

ART BAR'S GIGANTIC BLOCK RUMMAGE SALE

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 21 and 22 at Art Bar, Milwaukee. Free.

Riverwest's Art Bar will take over a block of Burleigh on May 21 for its annual rummage sale. Rummagers are invited to scavenge through unique antiques, crafts, furniture, electronics and much more. Those looking to sell their stuff can reserve a table ahead of time for \$12 by contacting Art Bar at 414-372-7880 or the bar's Facebook page. (Rachele Krivichi)



'PIRATES OF PENZANCE' May 20 to June 12 at the Broadway Theatre Center, Milwaukee. \$25 to \$75. skylightmusictheatre.org.

For decades, Skylight's calling card was Gilbert & Sullivan, but the company's evolution in the past few years temporarily left the British opera masters out in the cold. No longer: The duo's best-known work, *Pirates of Penzance*, will close out the company's 2015–16 season. The comic operetta tells a story about a crew of tender-hearted pirates, dim-witted young lovers and, most famously, the "very model of a modern Major-General." (Matthew Reddin)

MICHAEL CARBONARO

7 p.m. May 21 at Riverside Theater, Milwaukee. \$37. pabsttheater.org.

Comedian and magician Michael Carbonaro has one goal in mind: make people believe the unbelievable. The host of *The Carbonaro Effect* on truTV — in which he performs tricks on unsuspecting people and records the results on hidden cameras — Carbonaro turns up the antics whenever he's onstage. His shows feature a potent blend of audience interaction, video clips and, of course, magic. (Colton Dunham)

Dut on the town

'1776'

7:30 p.m. May 23 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$20. milwaukeeoperatheatre.org.

Sublimate your sadness over not being able to see Hamilton by seeing a show equally patriotic: an all-star staging of the original Founding Fathers musical, featuring some of Milwaukee's most talented singers. For one night, Milwaukee Opera Theatre will present 1776, a vibrant retelling of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Seats on the ground floor, where patrons and actors will be seated alongside each other at tables, are sold out, but there's balcony seating available to enjoy all the Revolutionary-era fun. (Matthew Reddin)

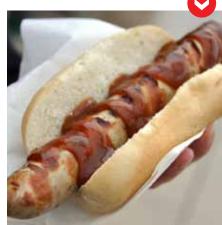
'SAM LOSCO. THE GREASY CAVEMAN'

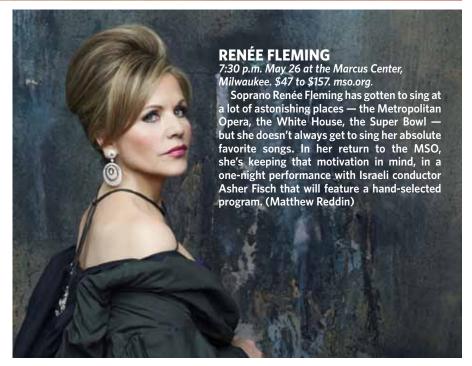
8 p.m. May 24 at Cactus Club, Milwaukee. \$10 advance, \$12 door. cactusclubmilwaukee.com.

If you say that you ever expected to see Sam Losco in Milwaukee, you're lying. The "Greasy Caveman" portrayed in the Canadian mockumentary series Trailer Park Boys — or, rather, the actor who plays him, Sam Tarasco — will be turning up at the Cactus Club for a standup set. It's not clear for how much of his set he'll be wearing the character's trademark patterned button-up shirt and shades, but Tarasco is a funny guy, regardless of how greasy he is. (Colton Dunham)

May 27 to May 30 at the Alliant Energy Center, Madison. Free. bratfest.com.

Madison's Brat Fest isn't just an overindulgent weekend to stuff your face with brats of every size, shape and flavor. Activities range from a sack race for kids and a climbing wall to a brat toss and fireworks. All four days will feature live music from artists such as Ryan Corn, the Madison Jazz Orchestra and Emperors and Elephants. Brat Fest will also partner with The Compassion Experience, an interactive exhibit that offers an immersive look at what it's like to live in poverty. (Rachele Krivichi)









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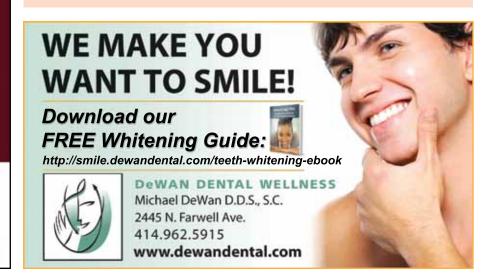




PANTS OFF DANCE OFF: CANDYLAND EDITION

9:00 p.m. May 28 at Riverwest Public House, Milwaukee. Free. riverwestpublichouse.wordpress.com

Every month, the Riverwest Public House hosts a fun event to loosen up even the most nervous partygoer: the Pants Off Dance Off. This underwear dance party is designed to promote body positivity, with music spun by DJs Claire Dactyl and Jackson Bradford. This month's theme will be "Candyland," and while it's certainly OK to just wear your underwear, costumes and makeup based on this theme are encouraged. (Rachele Krivichi)



A curated calendar of upcoming events May 19 - June 2

'KINKY BOOTS'

May 31 to June 5 at the Marcus Center, Milwaukee. \$30 to \$135. marcuscenter.org. Kinky Boots is a feel-good Broadway musical that will be making its way to Milwaukee in full glitter. It's an optimistic story about a down in the dumps shoemaker whose business is revived by a fabulous drag performer named Lola who is in need of some sparkly new stilettos. Kinky Boots is the winner of six Tony Awards and features a creative team stacked with some of Broadway's biggest names, as well as Cyndi Lauper. Madison, stay tuned: The show will pass through your neck of the woods July 12 to 17. (Rachele Krivichi)



JAZZ IN THE PARK 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 2 at Cathedral Square Park. Free. easttown.com. Jazz in the Park kicks off its summer season on June 2 with Milwaukee Soul. This trio of vocalists featuring Joe Jordan, Jess Moore and Marcya Daneille will perform old school hits by the likes of Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder, backed by talented jazz musicians and an award-winning rhythm section. Jazz in the Park will feature other jazz, Motown, blues, reggae and soul acts throughout the summer, every Thursday until Sept. 1. (Rachele Krivichi)



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DAN & PHIL: 'THE AMAZING TOUR IS NOT ON FIRE'

7:30 p.m. May 29 at Milwaukee Theatre. \$38, \$48, and \$58, \$113 VIP. milwaukeetheatre.com.

YouTube has churned out a variety of internet superstars, but few compare to Londoners Dan Howell and Phil Lester, who got their start by uploading awkward videos to the platform when they were teenagers. Those videos, quirky and comedic observations on their lives, earned them more than 11 million subscribers and a show on BBC Radio 1. This past fall, the duo released their first book, The Amazing Book is Not on Fire, a selection of behind-the-scenes stories, advice and humor. Their tour will bring many of the book's stories to life on stage, along with sketches, anecdotes, audience interactions and a few surprises. (Colton Dunham)

VERDI'S 'REQUIEM'

8 p.m. May 28 and 2:30 p.m. May 29 at the Marcus Center, Milwaukee. \$17 to \$82. mso.org.

Promotional materials for this concert bill Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem as a "work of such imposing power that no music can dare match it." And so to prove it, Requiem is the only item on this Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra program. Not that you'll need anything else. With conductor Asher Fisch at the helm and four guest soloists joining the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, this 80-odd-minute funereal work should make for an impressive evening all on its own. (Matthew Reddin)



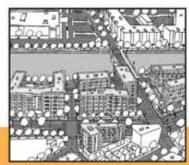
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August 30 Bruce Nemovitz, Real Estate Agent; Author – Downsizing can be overwhelming, Bruce will teach you how to prepare your home, understand the market so that your move can be made simpler.

September 13 Michael Sattell, CPA/CFF, CFE – Financial issues can be confusing. Mike will discuss the options to secure your future.



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A tale of two theaters

Local entrepreneurs give the Modjeska and Avalon second chances

By Rachele Krivichi

Contributing writer

The two theaters were more or less crumbling, headed the way of an old VHS player. Without intervention, they could have been forgotten, replaced by homeviewing options like Netflix and HBO.

But both have been given a second chance by savvy entrepreneurs who realized that with time, energy and money, the theaters again could become great.

On Mitchell Street is the Modjeska: defunct since 2010, but with an increasing number of lights twinkling in the past few years. The theater is in the process of transitioning into a multi-use venue for concerts, film festivals, craft fairs and other community events. Although it stands among other historical sites on Mitchell Street, the theater is perhaps the most prominent, with a vintage facade.

Further south, on Kinnickinnic Avenue, lies the Avalon, with its impressive entry, grand foyer with Mediterranean columns and a starlit sky fueled by thousands of incandescent bulbs glowing above its interior. It is a spectacular sight to see on the otherwise modest streets of Bay View, surrounded by small businesses and apartments.

The people responsible? Jesus Nañez and Lee Barczak, two entrepreneurs with different goals for their theaters but the same focus on preserving these iconic Milwaukee landmarks.

MODJESKA

Jesus Nañez's interest in the Modjeska was sparked by a sign: "Volunteers wanted." As soon as the musician and entrepreneur walked through its doors, he felt the history of the theater — and saw its potential.

Built in 1924, the Modjeska was a bustling venue for vaudeville acts, which catered to the Polish community in the area. The theater thrived for decades until, almost a century later, its crumbling facilities became too expensive to maintain, and the theater was shut down in the late '00s.

The Modjeska is now owned by a nonprofit called the Mitchell Street Development Opportunities Corporation, which Nañez is now working with. Nañez's



entrepreneurial background allowed him to take the project to the next level and he began leasing the building in early 2016. With his help and fundraising efforts, the Modjeska has seen major upgrades, including a new roof, sprinkler system and improved heating and plumbing.

Nañez also had the idea to sell the floor-level chairs from the theater, both as a fundraiser and in order to make the performance venue more flexible for multiple types of events. Nañez's vision includes community events and concerts, and the architectural firm Engberg Anderson, Inc. is planning a three-tiered floor that will make the cavernous space more dynamic.

The volunteer force from which Nañez got his start has drawn more and more

people from the neighborhood. This gives Nañez hope that the new Modjeska will thrive, as it once did, and become a community stronghold in the Mitchell Street neighborhood.

AVALON

The Avalon stands sturdy, but it wasn't always so strong, as owner Lee Barczak knows all too well.

Barczak — who also owns the Rosebud and Times Cinemas — bought the Avalon in 2005 for \$1.1 million.

The theater had operated continuously since 1929, until owners were denied a liquor license in 2000 and shut it down.

Barczak envisioned a swift restoration of the theater, but proceedings were com-

plicated by the economic recession. Renovations were officially started in January 2014 and the theater opened a year later.

Barczak's idea was to maintain the historical integrity of the Avalon while creating a "modern" movie-going experience.

The starry sky, which used to consist of 140 stars, was expanded to 1,400 stars, placing a galaxy overhead. Unique technology was used to create a projection of a night sky above Granada, Spain — chosen because of the theater's Mediterranean architecture.

Barczak also invested in a top-quality screen and sound equipment to create a state-of-the-art viewing experience.

Perhaps the biggest reason to get off the couch and go to the Avalon is its wide variety of food and beverages — way beyond the offerings of a typical theater. There is a full bar and restaurant in the lobby and moviegoers can even order food from their comfortable seats inside the theater.

By his count, the investments and improvements to the Avalon have paid off — big time. He guessed that the theater would have 1,000 visitors a day and this number is now exceeded regularly.

Although the Modjeska and Avalon seem different in scope and vision, they share a need for an influx of visitors.

The Modjeska requires volunteers to come in, get their hands dirty and do the work of cleaning and rebuilding an historic building.

The Avalon needs people to immerse themselves in the entertainment experience, taking advantage of the food and drink offerings, as well as enjoying the films.

As theaters like the Modjeska and the Avalon return to prominence in Milwaukee, the biggest goal is to bring people together in unique settings and out of the isolation of their homes. In the age of Netflix, these could be transformative venues.

For more information, visit timescinema. com and modjeskatheatermke.com.



Underdogs strive to survive an unoriginal summer film season

By Jake Coyle

AP film writer

Hollywood's summer film slate, which kicked off with the fittingly combative *Captain America: Civil War*, will bring a season of struggle: for box office dollars, for originality and for opportunity.

More than ever, the big tent of summer moviegoing is held up by a forest of tentpoles stretching from May to August. The swelling size of the summer movie has turned the season into a game of survival. Testosterone often dominates in front of and (especially) behind the camera, and few non-sequel, non-reboot films dare to compete.

"It's a different landscape than 2002, when the first *Bourne* movie came out," says Matt Damon, who returns to the franchise in Paul Greengrass' *Jason Bourne* (July 29). "It's like a high-stakes poker game that I don't want to be in. The swings are just so brutal. Ben (Affleck) just opened *Batman v Superman* a few weeks ago. Everyone around him and in his life was nervous about it. You feel less a sense of exultation when they do well and more a sense of relief because the bets are so big now."

This season is particularly risk-adverse. Out of the 33 films coming from the major studios, only 12 aren't a sequel, reboot or based on an already popular property, such

as a video game or best-seller. Take comedy and horror out of the equation and you're left with just a handful of originals. One of them is Jodie Foster's *Money Monster* (which opened May 13), a thriller about a brash financial news pundit taken hostage on the air, starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

Foster's film is doubly rare. She's one of only two female filmmakers helming major studio releases this summer. Though equality remains a year-round issue for the movie business, the constricted summer months can reveal Hollywood at its most retrograde.

"It's interesting to me that the studio system still sees women as a risk," says Foster, who wonders if women ultimately even want to inherit some of the kinds of films that dominate the summer. "There are movies that are part of the system we may not be that interested in embracing. I think that more women in the film business will look slightly different than it's looked in the past for men."

Paul Feig's Ghostbusters reboot (July 15) was met by a backlash from some corners of the internet that took offense to a new, female-led version starring four of the funniest comedic performers around: Melissa McCarthy, Kristin Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones. With that lineup, Feig relishes heading into "the big guns of summer."

"To put out a movie like this in the heart of tentpole season when it's all these big movies out there, I find it very exciting because a lot of these movies are very male-driven, even though they have some great female characters in them," Feig says. "But to have this be about four incredibly funny people who just happen to be women, I think that's

really exciting."
This summer includes a number of anticipated

sequels (Finding Dory, Star Trek Beyond, Alice Through the Looking Glass), the expected superhero films (Civil War, Suicide Squad, X-Men: Apocalypse) and some less likely resurrections (The Legend of Tarzan, Ben-Hur, Independence Day: Resurgence).

Recent history is clear: These will be among the summer's biggest hits. Last summer (the second biggest ever with nearly \$4.5 billion in box office), seven of the top 10 movies were remakes, sequels or came from a comic book. Ditto for four of the top five movies so far in 2016.

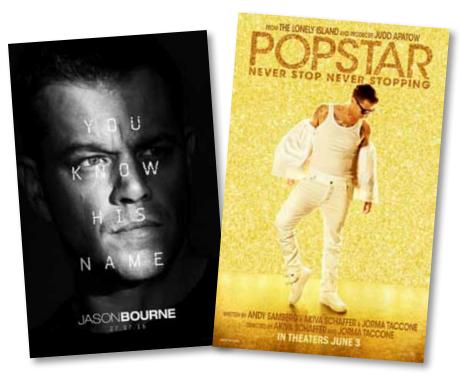
Andy Samberg and his Lonely Island trio will be among the few to brave the sequelstrewn seas with something fresh: their celebrity flameout parody *Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping* (June 3). Does he take any pride in being one of the few to push an original movie into summer?

"Um, yeah, we'll find out," says Samberg, laughing. "It's heavy duty. We were looking at the schedule and we were like: 'Holy crap. There's stuff that's coming out the week before and the week during us and the week after us, and they're all really big

UNDERDOGS next page







UNDERDOGS from prior page

movies.' (Producer Judd Apatow) and the studio felt really strongly about summer and that we had something we could put there."

One of the fathers of the summer movie season, Steven Spielberg, will also be in the mix with *The BFG* (July 1), his Roald Dahl adaptation that re-teams the director with Mark Rylance. The recent Oscar-winner plays the titular giant in a motion capture performance.

"The exciting thing about *The BFG* is the combination of Roald Dahl, who's just a superb storyteller, with Steven and (late screenwriter) Melissa Mathison," says Rylance. "It took five years to get made because of course initially many studios said: 'Giants eating kids? I don't think so!' That edge of Roald Dahl, that frightening edge, I hope is still in there. There's a kind of marvelous, frightening aspect to the fantasy as there is in the Tolkien books or the Grimm fairy tales that children can handle."

Family audiences will be especially sought after by the likes of *The Secret Life of Pets, Ice Age: Collision Course* and the remake of *Pete's Dragon*. One much smaller film, *Life, Animated* (July 8), will hope to sway moviegoers from the blockbusters while simultaneously reminding them of the power of movies.

The documentary, directed by Roger Ross Williams, is about an autistic young man, Owen Suskind, who found language through his love of Disney animated classics.

"It's rare that you create a film like this that generations can enjoy together," says Williams. "In the summer this is an alternative where families can go together and see it and hopefully be inspired and uplifted."

To be uplifted rather than pummeled at summer movie theaters would indeed be an almost radical change of pace.









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APT gets inside the mind of Miller's 'Salesman'



Brian Mani will play Willy Loman in APT's Death of a Salesman.

ON STAGE

American Players Theatre's production of Death of a Salesman opens June 18, with performances through Sept. 16, at the Up-the-Hill Theatre, 5950 Golf Course Road, Spring Green. Tickets are \$47 to \$75, and performances sell out quickly. For more on this show and the rest of APT's season, call 608-588-2361 or visit americanplayers.org.

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Few plays scrape the nerves quite as raw as Death of a Salesman, the 1949 Pulitzer Prizewinner and breakthrough work for American dramatist Arthur Miller. When American Players Theatre mounts its version next month, director Kenneth Albers plans to live up to the intent of the drama its author originally wanted to call The Inside of His Head giving audiences a work presented squarely from the point-of-view of the protagonist, Willy Loman.

There are many plays APT could have presented that seem as singularly focused on one character's perspective, Albers says, but he likes Salesman's focus on remembering the past. "In Willy Loman's case, it's all about memory and memory's capacity for (simultaneous) assault and defense."

Willy, the salesman of the title, is at age 63 a washed up has-been - or perhaps neverwas — who has lost what it takes "to be a man out there in the blue, riding on a smile and shoeshine." His wife merely tolerates him, his sons laugh at him, his employers dismiss him and he's haunted by ghosts from his memory that eventually overtake his reality.

"Memory is capable of both protecting an individual from the demons of the past and confronting him with those demons as reality quickly shifts from the present to the past, as it does in Salesman," Albers says. "For me, Mr. Miller's structure perfectly captures what he has called 'the web of forgetting.'

The very prolific Miller had 10 plays under his belt when he wrote Death of a Salesman, and the play arrived on Broadway to both critical and public acclaim. The production won a Pulitzer and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, as well as five Tony Awards, including best play and top honors for author Miller and director Elia Kazan.

Arthur Kennedy also won a Tony for his portrayal of Willy Loman in the inaugural production. Death of a Salesman has since had four Broadway revivals — and won Tonys for best revival three out of those four.

Albers has played Willy Loman three times during his career, including in a 1992 Milwaukee Rep production attended by Brian Mani, the APT actor who will take on the role this season.

To say Albers' performance impressed Mani is understating its impact.

"He was one hell of a Willy Loman," says Mani, an APT veteran who will be appearing in his first Miller play. "He wowed me."

As an arrogant, ignorant and almost abusive person whose mind is beginning to unravel, Willy Loman is not a particularly nice man, Mani says. However, the character is a hallmark of American theater and a role many actors pursue.

"I think what sets Willy Loman apart is that he is an Everyman with very familiar foibles," Mani says. "He isn't a king, he's a small man, a tiny cog in the big wheel of the American

workforce. He is a man that many would think has earned some respite toward the end of his working career, but it didn't work out that way."

Loman's humanity creates an undeniable empathy, if only because the character's familiarity strikes home with so many audience members who may know a Willy Loman, or who may be one.

"As I go through the script, I realize how many things about the character remind me of my father and myself," Mani says. "To play a king suffering such a downfall, the actor has to create a certain artifice. But Willy seems closer to me and to people who I've known throughout my life."

Much of that familiarity is the result of the playwright's skill in realistically representing things that are said, and even things that are not, throughout the play, Mani explains.

"Arthur Miller wrote in the language of the people and he had a gift for writing in the language of the day," says Mani. "He also had great insights into his characters' intention, things that are not said, or said and repeated. You can almost hear the lies and omissions that the characters are speaking around."

Miller's mastery of common language, his representation of Willy as Everyman and his intersection of reality with fantasy - something unusual when the play was first written in 1949 — has made Death of a Salesman one

SALESMAN next page



The Milwaukee Gay Sports Network presents the 5th Annual

BIG GAY 5K

THURSDAY, JUNE 9th Veteran's Memorial Park

Cost: \$30 runners/walkers (\$35 day of race)

Time: 6:30pm (registration starts at 5pm)

The Milwaukee Gay Sports Network would like to invite you to the Fifth Annual Big Gay 5K, a fun run/walk benefitting the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and a perfect way to kick off your PrideFest weekend! The run/walk takes place Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 6:30pm, with a special awards ceremony to follow.

For more information go to MilwaukeeGaySports.com

Proceeds to benefit







Presented by



SALESMAN from prior page

of the greatest plays in American theater, according to various critics and historians. Albers plans to hold his production true to the play's post-World War II time period, while it will be Mani's task to raise Willy above the level of pathos to that of a fully realized character less heroic than he is human.

"Well, that's the trick, isn't it?" Mani says. "As an actor, there are times when I don't fully know what my character is about until I hear the audiences' reaction to him. But at other times I've been able to get inside the skin of a character, and that's been the icing on the cake."

Albers agrees, and is counting on his star to create his own version of the character, one that advances the depth and understanding of those who have worn Willy Loman's tired, rumpled suit in the past.

"I've played Willy Loman three times, but this is not my Willy Loman, this is Brian's Willy Loman," Albers says. "My job is to be aware of what Brian brings to the process and help him fine-tune the choices he believes appropriate to the character."

Mani smiles at the thought of the task before him: to create one of the most familiar, yet surprisingly prickly and somewhat unlovable characters in American theater.

"I am a little scared, I am very excited and I can't wait to see how it all comes out," Mani says.

MAKING A SUMMER OF THEATER

American Players Theatre continues to diversify its summer schedule, moving beyond the Bard to produce American theater classics and offer smaller, more eclectic productions, both at its outdoor Up-The-Hill Theatre and its intimate, indoors Touchstone Theater.

Here's a short list of this year's offerings.

For more information on each show, visit american players.org.

UP-THE-HILL

Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors. Opens June 11; last production Oct. 2.

Arthur Miller's Death of A Salesman. Opens June 18; last production Sept. 16.

Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband. Opens June 25; last production Sept. 24.

Tom Stoppard's Arcadia. Opens Aug. 6; last production Sept. 24.

Shakespeare's King Lear. Opens Aug. 13; last production Sept. 30.

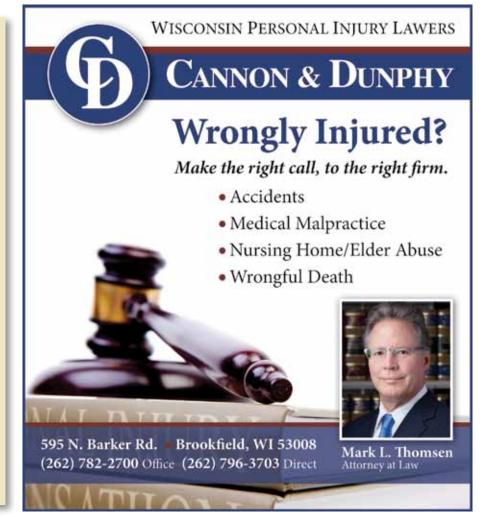
TOUCHSTONE

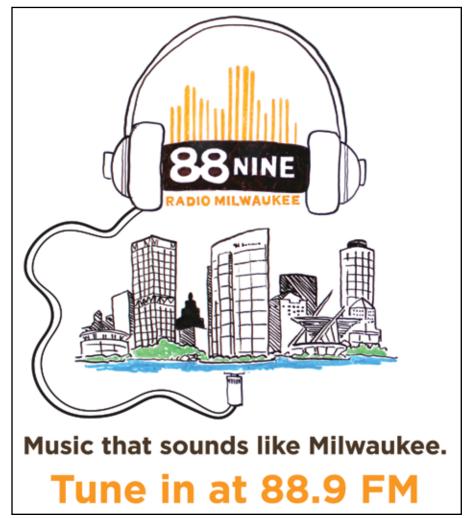
Carlyle Brown's The African Company Presents Richard III. Opens June 11; last production Sept. 14.

Sarah Ruhl's Eurydice. Opens June 25; last production Oct. 8.

Samuel Beckett's Endgame. Opens Aug. 9; last production Oct. 16.

Stephan Massicotte's Mary's Wedding. Opens Oct. 30; last production Nov. 20.







Fantasy and facts thrive in shows at RedLine and Greymatter Galleries

By Kat Minerath

Contributing writer

Fantasy, fiction, or documentary? You might choose the genre of a film or novel based on your current taste or mood, and contemporary art offers just as much breadth in genres and themes explored. Two exhibitions illustrate the ways we can consider the realm of imagination, the issues of reality, and how we tune in through visual cues.

PEERING AT 'PEEP'

The Bearded Lady, acrobats and wolfhounds are hanging out together in an exhibition of work by Jennifer Nuss. Part mystery, part science and part surrealism,

ON DISPLAY

Jennifer Nuss: PEEP continues though July 2 at RedLine Milwaukee, 1422 N. Fourth St. Visit redlineartmke. org.

Variant, featuring Barbara Ciurej & Lindsay Lochman and Nicole Naudi continues through June 3 at Greymatter Gallery, 207 E. Buffalo St., Suite 222, Milwaukee. Visit greymattergallery.com.

she creates large-scale prints and casts her characters in strangely enchanting videos.

Her exhibition at RedLine Milwaukee is titled *PEEP* — as in being nosy, not the marshmallowy Easter treat. There is indeed a voyeuristic sensation as we enter the gallery to view monumental etchings like "Miss Clotilda Conrad: Acrobat."

This piece shows a solitary figure with tall platforms attached to her feet. They seem to be held on by leafy vines and her legs are stopped in mid-motion, caught somewhere between running and dancing. Her body is covered by finely hatched lines and her ruddy face is framed by an elaborately pointed white collar. She is human but there is something primal in her hairy figure and wild eyes. These biological complexities are echoed in collage elements, in which layers and bits of prints hold the composition together.

Nuss draws us further through the peeping portal to the past with works that include sideshow posters and advertisements announcing unique acts. "Clemtine Clatteaux: A Bearded Lady" exclaims that she is "the greatest curiosity of this age." Her elegant profile portrait is decorated with a flowing red beard and collaged pearls. Through Nuss's gestures, she embodies masculinity and femininity, a

singular uniqueness and unflappable poise.

While perusing this exhibition, the visitor encounters all sorts of characters, all preparation for Nuss' stop-motion video work. It features a protagonist known as The Hermit, and we follow her through various adventures, including drawing figures that come to life from the pages of a sketchbook, and a perilous sea journey that becomes a metaphorical search for self and independence.

'VARIANT'

While PEEP is an exhibition that takes us into a realm of fantasy and metaphor, Variant at Greymatter Gallery presents work that deals with social issues and sad ironies. Nine photographs by artistic collaborators Barbara Ciurej and Lindsay Lochman are on view. The images are from their Watch Me Grow series, showing exterior views of various day care centers in Milwaukee. The cheery nature of the fragmentary business names and peeling, fading bright paint colors are a mark of struggling hope in the midst of visible decay.

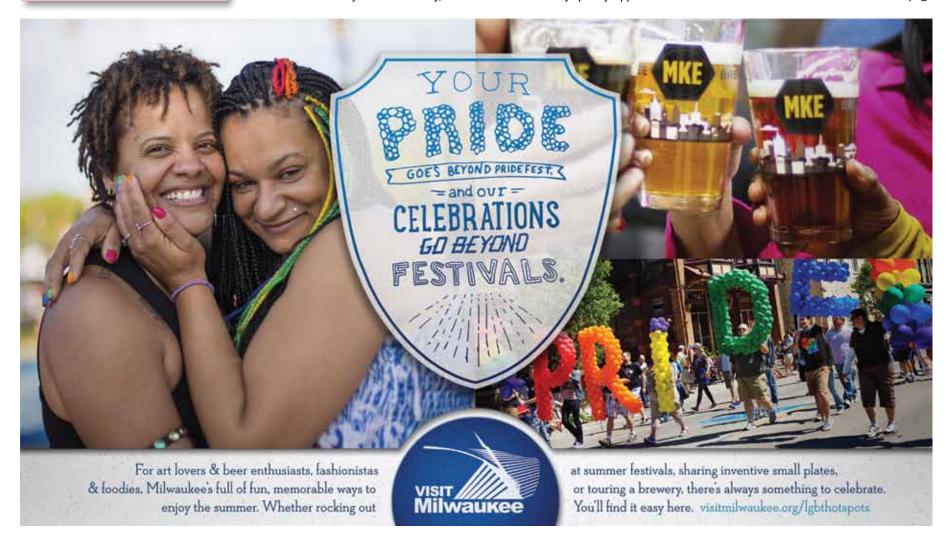
Ciurej and Lochman have been involved in this project since 2009 as a way of documenting and drawing attention to economic disparity. The works point out how aspiration and necessity quickly oppose each



PHOTO: KAT MINERATH

Jennifer Nuss' large-scale prints, like "Clemtine Clatteaux: A Bearded Lady," give viewers a voyeuristic sensation.

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FANTASY from prior page

other as contradictory positions in poorer neighborhoods. They cite research on their blog (notebook-watchmegrow.blogspot. com) that notes the exorbitant costs of child care and how it has a greater impact on low-income households as it demands a proportionally higher percentage of income. The images in the series and titles of locations suggest values of love and education, but the stark demands of reality are apparent as the window of "Kids R" announces it is enrolling children as young as six weeks old.

While the photographers' work is the main visual component in the exhibition, there are a number of choices and voices that played a role in the development of *Variant*.

Curator Paul Druecke describes his interest in the relationships that are built by the pattern and arrangement of content. The organizing of Ciurej and Lochman's photographs in a grid pattern binds them together as singular images that contribute to a larger meaning and purpose.

Druecke also ponders notions of transparency, combined with the ubiquitous pattern of the grid, and offers these concepts to Sarah Sutterfield, who selected work by Nicole Naudi to further contribute to the exhibition.

Naudi's poetry and writing appears as brief passages, accompanied by a few sketches, on transparency sheets which are placed on shelves lined by a grid pattern. Visitors are encouraged to rearrange the transparencies and alter the layers, and consequently the meaning, of the varied parts.

The concept of the grid as a structure, whether as a pattern or a plan of city blocks, has a sense of rigidity, whereas transparency is like a fluid way of seeing. What is visible to our eyes depends on where we turn our attention, and from what vantage point we look. Ciurej and Lochman suggest that seeing and considering the city anew can render the layers of social values, mores, and structures a little more transparent.



Barbara Ciurej and Lindsay Lochman's *Watch Me Grow* series shows the exteriors of day cares in Milwaukee, a mix of hopeful aspirations and economic decay.

UPCOMING OPENINGS

'GO FOR BAROQUE: OPULENCE AND EXCESS IN CONTEMPORARY ART'

Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., Racine May 22 to Sept. 4

The Racine Art Museum is going "glam" with a slate of summer exhibitions featuring contemporary artists and designers who add an extra bit of bling, sparkle, opulence and excess to their work. Showcasing sculptural installations, ceramics, jewelry, clothing and two-dimensional pieces from about three dozen artists, RAM will dazzle in the upcoming months.

'CONCRETE RIVER: AN ART INSTALLATION'

Alfons Gallery, 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee Opening reception, May 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

Exhibition continues through July 31

Photographer Eddee Daniel has long been concerned with nature and industry in his work. In this exhibition, he and environmental artist Melanie Ariens collaborate on an installation that functions as a memorial to the Kinnickinnic River. Much of its length lined with concrete since the 1960s, the river is likened to a drainage ditch, and the exhibition will pay homage to this site. The artists will give a gallery talk at 2 p.m. during the opening reception.

BETWEEN A PORTRAIT AND ITS OTHER

Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee Opening reception Friday, May 27, 5 to 7 p.m. Exhibition continues through Aug. 28.

A series of collectors come together to present a unique meditation on meaning. Joseph Pabst, a prominent LGBT activist and philanthropist, will show examples from his collection of late 19th centery and early 20th century cabinet cards of men, an illustration of portraiture from yesteryear. Bryce Clark is the owner of restaurant Cempazuchi and a noted collector of retablos and ex-votos related to Day of the Dead celebrations. And Andy Kraushaar, visual materials curator at the Wisconsin Historical Society, takes over for his predecessor, Paul Vanderbilt, in whose honor the exhibition is held.

— Kat Minerath



MMoCA explores Claire Stigliani's complexities

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Look behind Claire Stigliani's colored pencil drawings and you'll find a most complex process at work.

More of those complexities than ever before can be seen at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, where the new exhibition *Half-Sick of Shadows* will present new drawings and paintings by Stigliani alongside video and miniaturized sets used to help create those works.

The show opens May 28 at the Overture Center for the Arts.

Stigliani's colored pencil sketches depict images and characteristics of the artist and elements of her world, with fantastical embellishments.

"My drawings, paintings, puppet theaters and videos tell stories about wide-eyed women who transgress and draw parallels between these fictional women and the artist's own experience of indulging in fantasy," says Stigliani, who received her MFA from UW-Madison in 2010 and has frequently exhibited work in the state. "Like the fictional women, the artist begins her journey alone, unashamed and full of wonder."

Stigliani began her artistic journey as a youth, thanks largely to the failure of two Eastern European countries' currencies to

ON DISPLAY

Half-Sick of Shadows, an exhibit of Claire Stigliani's work, runs May 28 through Sept. 4 at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Arts, 227 State St., Madison. Stigliani will be on hand to discuss her art June 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. as part of the exhibit's opening festivities. Visit mmoca.org for more details.

cooperate.

Stigliani was born in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1983, but spent many of her early childhood years in Vienna with her parents. Her father's business travels back and forth to what is now the Czech Republic went smoothly with one small exception. Her father was required to convert his Austrian currency for Czech korunas when he crossed the border, but was unable to convert the Czech currency back upon return, which meant he had to spend all his converted cash before he came home.

"He once brought this beautiful Czech puppet theater with painted backdrops and puppets to tell the stories," Stigliani says. The miniature theater became integral to staging the scenes and telling the stories that eventually comprised her paintings.

Today, Stigliani creates her own puppet theater "sets," from which her subsequent art evolves. In order to focus her thoughts for a sketch or series of sketches, Stigliani makes a miniature set of whatever the context is for her work, along with puppets to populate the set. The set could represent a fantasy setting or even her own cluttered apartment, depending on the images she wants to create.

Stigliani acts out the story behind the prospective painting on the set with her puppets, taking videos of the play.

It is from the frames of the video that the artist creates her drawings, careful to capture the action while also recreating the complex details of the sets.

The European fairy tales Stigliani learned in Austria had a profound influence on the artist's life. In addition to the often brutal narratives, the role of women in these tales tended toward the damsel-in-distress model. As she grew older, Stigliani began questioning the docility and subservience of the women in these tales and started to see a sort cultural "bondage" under which the characters existed.



PHOTOS: CLAIRE STIGLIAN

Stigliani's work, including "The Apartment" (above) and "Red Riding" (right), frequently features motifs of tied-up women, which the artist says signifies society's oppressive restraint of women in general and restrictions she's felt in her profession.

This imagery, too, crept into Stigliani's art, and not necessarily in a good way. In fact, she compares herself to a visual Angela Carter, the English writer who exposed the violence inherent in fairy tales and their objectification of women.

"Women in fairy tales are pretty submissive and the biggest problem seems to be the happily-ever-after aspect in which the princess is saved by the prince," Stigliani says. "It teaches women to be competitive with each other because we all know there can only be one princess and the rest of us are mere subjects."

The name of her exhibit, Half-Sick of Shadows, is a verse taken from Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Lady of Shallot," which tells the story of a woman trapped in a tower who can only weave and wait for Lancelot to rescue her. Unfortunately, the noble knight doesn't show and the woman dies.

Such fantasies inform much of Stigliani's work, which reinterprets society's views of women, both past and present.

Stigliani does some work with paint and canvases, but feels she needs to produce something "important" when she invests in those more expensive supplies.

The paper-and-pencil drawings, she says, give her the freedom to fail.

"I am an artist that has a lot of failures," she says. "I make about 300 drawings per year and I had to figure out how not to be

afraid while I was working."

The MMOCA exhibit will include 15 paintings, five drawings, five miniature theater sets and five videos, giving viewers a broad spectrum of her artistic process.

Stigliani says the imagery used refers back to her life, acting almost as a sort of personal therapy.

The fact that she has constructed tiny sets modeled after her cluttered apartment indicates an ongoing effort to find ways to better handle her own challenges.

"All of my work is a way to better understand myself," Stigliani says. "I know that my work has really helped shape me as a person, and I think it always has been that way."



Centennial celebrations planned for the late Roald Dahl

By Hillel Italie

Associated Press

Lucy Dahl, one of the late Roald Dahl's five children, has special memories of birthdays.

"Birthdays were always a big event when I was a child," Dahl, a screenwriter and daughter of Dahl and actress Patricia Neal, told The Associated Press. "We were one of the few people I knew who were lucky enough to have an indoor swimming pool and we'd have these big parties, great big celebrations actually.

"But my father didn't have a big ego. On the whole he enjoyed celebrating other people's birthdays and he loved giving them presents and things like that."

This year, Roald Dahl is the guest of honor. To mark this September's centennial of the British author's birth, tributes will range from a "Traveling Trivia Tour" to a rerelease of the 1971 film Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, starring Gene Wilder. New editions of James and the Giant Peach, The Witches and other classics are being published, along with the Oxford Roald Dahl Dictionary. Steven Spielberg's adaptation of The BFG, starring Mark Rylance, premiered in May at the Cannes Film Festival and will open in theaters in July.

During a recent telephone interview, Lucy Dahl talked about her father's life and legacy.

What would your father have made of all the events this year?

He would have loved it. He worked so incredibly hard his whole life and he's become more and more well-known and loved by children and discovered by children as the years go on. That's what he wanted. He wanted to make children happy through his work. He wanted children to know that he understood them.

He used to say, "Children have a lot to go through. Try walking around on your knees, being half the size of everyone else. And everything you want you have to ask for and 99 percent of the time you're being told 'no.' See how you feel at the end of the day."

What do you think of Spielberg's film of The BFG?

Steven got it right. Steven, too, understands the idea of good triumphing over evil and identifying with being young at heart.

I went to the set for one day and spent a lot of time there. It was one of the most magical days in my whole life. All of the sets were in one massive warehouse. It was really incredible and Steven treated me like I was a queen. The BFG was a bedtime story when I was growing up, and I had this visual image of it, as one does, and walking into that giant warehouse and walking on to those sets ... was like everything I ever imagined.

I wrote to him (Spielberg) and (producer) Frank Marshall and said I felt like I was Charlie Bucket walking into the chocolate factory.

Are there any other adaptations of your father's work that stand out for you?

I especially love (the Tony-winning production) *Matilda the Musical*. It's really, really fantastic. I also like (the movie of) *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. (Director) Wes Anderson spent a lot of time in our home, in Buckinghamshire, in Dad's workhouse, and he got the feeling exactly right.

It's very difficult for many people to adapt Dad's work. There's a line between tragedy and tragedy that goes too far. Dad used to say a good example was of children walking down the street and seeing a man slip on a banana skin. They roar with laughter, but if he's broken his back then it's not funny anymore. There's an invisible tightrope Dad was able to walk along that makes it a challenge for filmmakers.

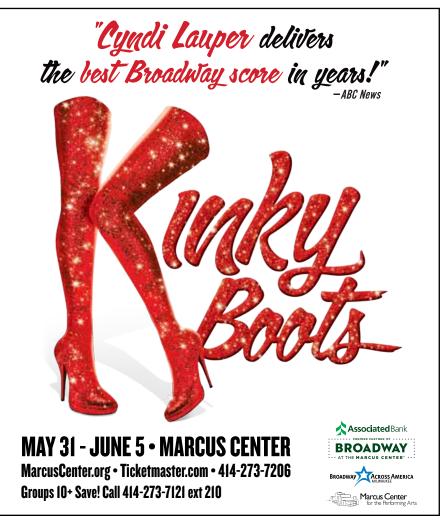
Why do you think your father's books are still so popular?

They're timeless books. The issues they talk about are timeless. Like the big giant and *BFG*. It's in the same vein as *Alice in Wonderland*, children having to deal with authority. Or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Everybody loves chocolate. That's pretty timeless as well.





Over the course of his life, British author Roald Dahl wrote 17 books and three poetry collections for children, including *James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG*, and *Matilda*. September marks the centennial of his birth in 1916.



UW-Madison music professor pens a new opera about a neglected female painter

Artemisia Gentileschi, who depicted

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

"Official" artistic canons have historically recorded a greater number of men than women. But that discrepancy is shifting in both the present and the past, as female artists in the modern era stake their claims and female artists from the past are honored by research and scholarship.

One recent project with Wisconsin ties will bring two such women forward, one from the 21st century and one from the 17th century. UW-Madison music professor Laura Elise Schwendigner has been awarded more than \$75,000 in grants to finish her first full-length opera, *Artemisia*, a chamber opera based on the life of Artemisia Gentileschi, an Italian Baroque painter.

"The story of Artemisia hit me when I was an artist-in-residence in Rome (in 2009)," says Schwendinger. "I visited a lot of galleries and was struck by her works, like 'Judith Slaying Holofernes.' There weren't very many women painters at the time."

Schwendinger says she hopes Artemisia, which she is developing with librettist Ginger Strand, will change the historical perception of Gentileschi (1593-1656). While the artist holds the high honor of being the

Schwendinger hopes her opera can spread Artemisia Gentileschi's story, further righting the wrong done to her by historians.

first female member of Florence's prestigious Accademia di Arte del Disegno and was a respected and successful artist in her time, history books remembered her for centuries primarily as a teenage victim of rape by her tutor, artist Agostino Tassi.

Following the assault and the older Tassi's ultimate failure to marry the 16-year-old girl as promised, Artemisia's father, the Tuscan painter Orazio Gentileschi, pressed charges against Tassi for taking his daughter's virginity. The lawsuit, highly unusual for the time, resulted in long, protracted proceedings, during which Artemisia was subjected to gynecological exams and tortured to verify her testimony. The proceedings also revealed a plot by Tassi to murder

his wife. Tassi eventually was sentenced to one

never served any time.
Gentileschi would go
on to have a long and
successful career, rare
for a female painter in
her time. But later generations would obscure
her contributions to the
Baroque period, some
of her work even attributed to other artists.

year in prison, but he

In recent years, that perception has begun to shift back, with Gentileschi again credited as one of the period's greatest painters. Schwendinger hopes her opera can spread Gentileschi's story, fur-

ther righting the wrong done to her by historians.

Schwendinger's opera, a co-commission of Trinity Wall Street Novus in New York City and San Francisco's Left Coast Chamber Ensemble that will premiere on the East Coast in early 2017, will take an unusual approach to Artemisia's story, emphasizing the artist's work as it goes. The painter's most important canvases, including her self-portrait, will be seen as onstage projections to introduce various sections of the opera. The performers will emerge from the projected tableaux to tell the opera within the visual context.

"I don't think I've ever seen anything quite like that in opera before," Schwendinger says. "The visual elements will be the thing that audiences will talk about after the performances, but I hope they talk about the music, too."

While this is Schwendinger's first full-length opera, it is by no means her first composition. Born in Mexico City to a pair of U.S. foreign exchange students and raised in Berkeley, California, Schwendinger began making up melodies at age 4 and playing the flute at age 8. Her debut with the Berkeley Youth Orchestra at age 13 included a performance of "Between Two

Baroque period's most significant painters, after long labeled a mere footnote. UW-Madison composer Laura Elise Schwedigner (inset) will dramatize her life in the upcoming opera Artemisia.

Artemisia Gentileschi, who depicted herself here in "Self-Portrait as a Lute

Player," is now considered one of the

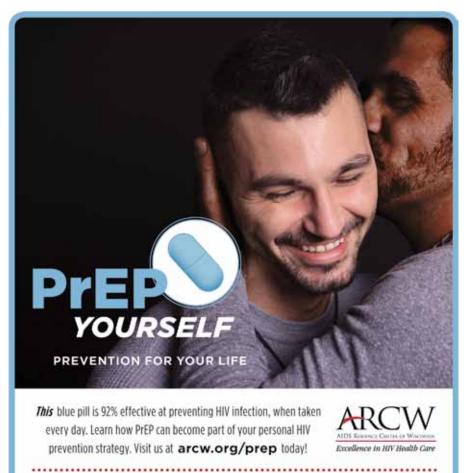


Continents," her first orchestral composition.

When Schwendinger applied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to study flute, her application included several compositions as well, which caught the ear of composer John Adams, best known for his operas *Doctor Atomic* and *Nixon in China*. He invited her to study composition with him, and she afterward went on to receive both her master's degree and Ph.D. in music from the University of California-Berkeley.

Her career has since taken her to multiple locations, though she has been a professor at UW-Madison for more than a decade. That university recently awarded her a \$60,000 Kellett Mid-Career Award, a grant sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and awarded to nine other faculty members for the 2016-17 academic year.

Schwendinger also received \$16,500 as part of OPERA America's \$200,000 Opera Grant for Female Composers, awarded to seven women and seven opera companies, which she will use in addition to the Kellett Award to finish and mount the upcoming productions of *Artemisia*.



Madison: 800.486.6276 • Milwaukee: 800.359.9272

The Sets List

WFRSTFRX

9:30 p.m. May 27 at High Noon Saloon, Madison. \$10. high-noon.com.

8 p.m. May 28 at the Miramar Theatre, Milwaukee. \$10. themiramartheatre.com.

You don't expect Lupe Fiasco's opening act to be a 22-year-old rapper or for him to have such a firm grasp on his identity as a musical craftsman. Nonetheless, here we are, admiring the skill of Milwaukee's WebsterX. A year after the experimental rapper blew audiences away at the Big Gig, he's back in Wisconsin for his "Lost Ones" tour, including his first hometown show in months. Milwaukee's show also will feature fellow member of the New Age Narcissism artistic collective Lorde Freddee, along with Mic Kellogg and a bunch of promised surprises. (Matthew Reddin)



'MUSIC FOR THE MIND'

5:30 p.m. May 20 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$20. mhawisconsin.org.

Five bands. One night. One mission. This year's *Music For The Mind*, hosted by Mental Health America of Wisconsin, will bring in five Milwaukee-based music acts as part of a benefit to help kick off the festival season. Performers such as Sam Ilanas, Christopher Porterfield, The Cavewives, Tigernite and headliner Maritime will perform onstage while attendees will enjoy appetizers and drinks from the cash bar. Proceeds will benefit MHA of Wisconsin. (Colton Dunham)



PURITY RING

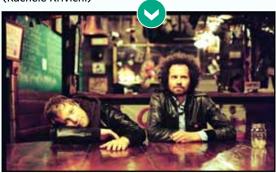
7 p.m. June 1 at the Pabst Theater, Milwaukee. \$25. pabsttheater.org.

Electronic duo Purity Ring has more fans than they even thought — proven by the release of their cover of Soulja Boy's "Grammy" in 2013, which had so many people running for their website to download it that the server crashed. Their performance in Milwaukee likely will draw a similarly enthusiastic crowd. Their newest album, *Another Eternity*, is a collaboration with rappers Danny Brown and Angel Haze and is a progression away from their first studio album, which primarily featured band member Megan James alone on vocals. (Rachele Krivichi)

ROGUE WAVE

7 p.m. May 24 at Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. \$16 advance, \$18 day of show. pabsttheater.org.

The band Rogue Wave was formed by Zach Schwartz aka Zach Rogue after he found himself jobless in San Francisco. It's his partnership with longtime band member Pat Spurgeon that has helped shape the band into what it is today: an alt-rock meditation on the delusions of American society. They're touring in support of their most recent album, *Delusions of Grand Fur*, an indie pop record released at the end of April. (Rachele Krivichi)



THE TALLEST MAN ON EARTH

8 p.m. May 31 at the Barrymore Theater, Madison. \$30. barrymorelive.com.

Kristian Matsson, who styles himself The Tallest Man on Earth, has drawn comparisons to Bob Dylan for his folk-inspired music. Although he is from Sweden, his style is drawn from the American singer-songwriter tradition, as was evident in his first solo album, *Shallow Grave*. In his latest record, *Dark Bird is Home*, Matsson's incorporated a full band for the first time, and has made what he claims to be his most personal work yet. Basia Bulat opens. (Rachele Krivichi)

Music reviews

BRIAN ENO :: 'THE SHIP'

Brian Eno combines ambient textures with droning vocals on *The Ship*, a powerfully challenging and gloomy recording that ends in



bright revelation. Eno draws from what he sees as similar historical events — the sinking of the Titanic and World War I — and his idea that "the hubris of our ever-growing power contrasts with the paranoia that we're permanently and increasingly under threat."

The album features only two songs: a 21-minute title track and "Fickle Sun," a three-part work. "The Ship" reflects the soundscape of the ocean's depth before

Eno, singing like a Byzantine choir of foghorns, delivers the eulogy.

The transition to "Fickle Sun" from "The Ship" is initially smooth, the tragedy on the sea also enveloping the battlefields. Eno's register rises, his voice skimming the land where "all the boys are going down, falling over one by one." Distortion and sound blasts evoke the combat and a horrified survivor repeatedly recounts "When I was a young soldier." At the close, a bright light shines through the ocean and across the front — a sumptuous, harmony-drenched version of The Velvet Underground's "I'm Set Free." It's about release, but it has a catch — "I'm set free to find a new illusion." (Pablo Gorondi/AP)

MARTINA MCBRIDE :: 'RECKLESS'

Martina McBride's latest album presents something old and something new. On Reckless, the four-time CMA female vocalist of



the year tosses out a few pop-country trifles: "We'll Pick Up Where We Left Off" and "That's the Thing About Love." They feature powerhouse performances and bright arrangements, but the lyrics are too contrived to mean anything to anyone.

Elsewhere, however, McBride shows how effective she can be when moving away from formula. She excels on wholly modern tunes, such as "Every-

body Wants to Be Loved" and "It Ain't Pretty," both of which feature inventive arrangements that suggest this 49-year-old could beat youngsters half her age at their own game. Similarly, the timelessness and superb taste shown on the strippeddown piano and vocal stunner "You and You Alone" and the spare, breezy Buddy Miller duet, "The Real Thing," reveal that McBride remains an artist of the first order. (Michael McCall/AP)

KEITH URBAN :: 'RIPCORD'

His run as an American Idol judge over, Keith Urban leaps into Ripcord, the most eclectic, genre-spanning album of his career. Like



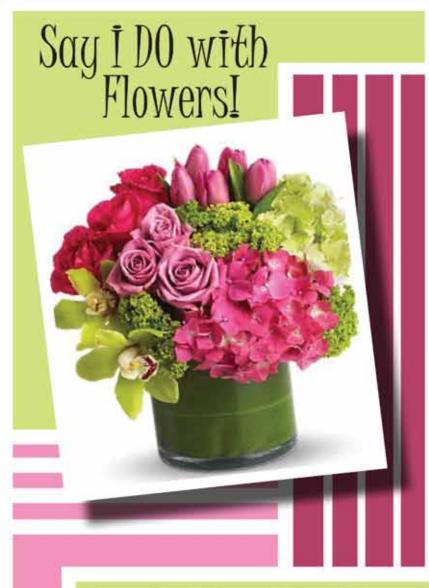
Idol, Urban's new songs are a little bit country, a little bit rock, a little bit R&B and a lot of glossy, carefully arranged pop.

Ripcord is a hodgepodge of musical directions. Singing with new vigor and range, the Australian-raised country singer sounds best when leaning on old-school R&B. He brings a soulful touch to "Break on Me" and his duet with Carrie Underwood on "The Fighter" sounds like

a modern update of Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell.

Elsewhere, Urban strains to fit into a hip sound. "Gettin' in the Way" is a clever song about desire, but the generic group choruses dampen the joy. He stands his ground with Pitbull on the hip-hop-lite of "Sun Don't Let Me Down," but it sounds more like an exercise than a celebration.

An experimental approach is commendable for a veteran artist. Despite the uneven results, *Ripcord* pays off more often than not. (Michael McCall/AP)



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Present Music celebrates its 'Finale,' plans Season 35



HOTO: CONTEMPORANEOU

Guest conductor David Bloom, founder of the new music ensemble Contemporaneous is just one of the many developing artists joining Present Music for its 2015-16 Finale.

By Kirstin Roble

Contributing writer

It's been a good year for Present Music and the company has lots of reasons to celebrate. So they're going to do just that, inviting you and a range of guests to their *Finale* concert June 3 at Turner Hall.

"We've got a great lineup for the evening," says Present Music artistic director Kevin Stalheim. "The event features a lot of young, up and coming musicians, which we are really excited about."

Stalheim says the concert's most notable guest is conductor David Bloom. Based in New York, Bloom is a rising young star in the world of conducting. The founding coartistic director of 21-member new music ensemble Contemporaneous, Bloom has already conducted more than 120 premieres in major North American venues.

Bloom is not the only "young blood" who will be featured at the event. Several "young" colleagues performing new and recent pieces will join Bloom. "A lot of this concert came from David's feedback and suggestions," explains Stalheim. "Many of these pieces have never been heard in this area before."

Selections include work by composers Andrew Norman, Missy Mizzoli (whose opera Songs from the Uproar was recently produced by Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Wild Space Dance Company) Matthew Evans, David Lang and Jeremy Podgursky. Milwaukee-based psychedelic surf rock band Painted Caves will provide postconcert entertainment.

As he prepares to finish the company's 34th season, Stalheim is looking to the 35th. "We have a big year planned," says Stalheim. "Every five years, we try to do something bigger than before. This year is going to be no exception."

Stalheim's goals for the 35th season include branching out into the Milwaukee community more often, with collaborations with the Milwaukee Art Museum and Milwaukee Public Museum. Perennial PM favorite shows, including the Thanksgiving concert, will be in the mix as well.

And the 35th season premiere will focus on the company's musicians, with a program that revisits some of the favorite pieces from the past, along with a new work.

But before all that, Present Music must say farewell to the 34th season, with a *Finale* to remember.

ON STAGE

Present Music's *Finale* concert is at 7:30 p.m. June 3 at Turner Hall Ballroom, 1040 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$15, \$25 and \$35. Visit presentmusic.org to order.

wisconsingazette.com updated all day.

Distit Out

As summer approaches, dive into 'tropical' IPAs

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Consider the lowly *Humulus lupulus* — better known as "hops," a key ingredient in the production of beer. Their flowers, which look like tiny green pinecones hanging from their vines, were originally introduced to beer to act as a natural preservative. The most common hop-heavy beer today, an IPA or "India pale ale," was a beer highly hopped to better withstand the months at sea that it took to deliver

the barrels to English forces stationed in India.

Over time, hops have become the single most integral asset to a beer's character and flavor. Hops lightly used can add zest to a lager's light, refreshing quality, while hops fully loaded can take the forefront in a brew, their sharp bitterness crossing the tongue like an herbal wood rasp.

But hops are more complex than that and there are other flavor elements at work, not the least of which are fruit notes, such as citrus, pomegranate and nectarine.

cultivation by brewers in isolating those flavor elements from the right varieties of hops has resulted in a relatively new subgenre known as "tropical" IPAs.

It may have been California's **Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.**, which in January introduced a brew called **Tropical IPA** as part of its Beer Camp series, that set the industry's wheels in motion. Now brewers everywhere, including Wisconsin, are tapping into hop varieties old and new in an attempt to harvest their fresher,

fruitier characteristics.

The most popular tropical IPA hop is called Citra, but that's just the zest of the lemon, as it were. El Dorado, Equinox and Azacca hops also have been popping up lately in area beers and new varieties cultivated in Australia and New Zealand with names like Galaxy, Motueka, Nelson Sauvin, Pacifica and Wakatu have really broadened brewers' palates. Fine examples of the emerging style exist closer to home and deserve to

to your beer rotation.

Stevens Point Brewery proved an early adopter a few years back with Point Beyond the Pale IPA (6.5 percent ABV) brewed with Galaxy Hops, a boast that appears boldly on the beer's label. The beer pours golden, capped with a tall white head. A musty, citrus aroma greets the nose and pine and citrus flavors highlight a grassy malt taste that provides the basis of this and many other tropical IPAs.

Madison-based **Ale Asylum** recently released **High Coup** (6.2 percent ABV), which invites imbibers to "Seize the Dank," a reference to the musty quality that comes from various hops. The beer boasts a hazy, orange hue and high white head. The juicy fruit flavors collide with hop bitterness that offers hints of grapefruit in this complex, yet approachable varietal.

Lakefront Brewery raises the stakes with Hop Jockey Double India Pale Ale (8.2 percent ABV), a tropical thorough-

bred with kick and character. Centennial, Cascade and Citra hops combine to deliver grapefruit, pineapple and orange aromas and flavors, balanced against a fulsome, biscuity blend of lightly roasted caramel malts. This one is a sipper and a keeper.

Milwaukee Brewing Co.'s Hop Freak (8.7 percent ABV) is a double IPA perhaps best known for the infusion of Rishi Organic Jasmine Tea in the blend. The tea plays a subtle role in the beer's flavor profile, but Centennial and Cascade hops have been tapped to give off a strong citrus character. Sharper palates may detect lemon zest, orange peel, pineapple, light pepper and a big grapefruit presence in the beer. Hop Freak makes a strong statement. So make sure your taste buds are ready.

We've been fans of Founder's Brewing Co. from Grand Rapids, Michigan,

IPA next page



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IPA from prior page

for a long time. So it came as no surprise that their **Azacca IPA** (7 percent ABV) ranked as a favorite in this category. Named for its hop variety that, in turn, is named for the Haitian god of agriculture, it pours coppery-colored with a full head and great aromatics. It's a full-on tropical, with an almost pulpy mouthfeel and flavors of peach and mango. This a case where a single hop variety works exceptionally well. If you can find it, we suggest you buy it.

If your idea of citrus is strong notes of tangerines on the nose and

palate, then New Belgium Citradelic is your cup of, well, beer. Using a blend of Azacca, Citra, Galaxy and Mandarina Bavaria, the beer from Ft. Collins, Colorado, delivers fully on its flavor profile with an explosion of tangerine flavor. It helps, of course, that actual tangerine peel has been added to the boil, but

whether or not that is the brewing equivalent of performance-enhancing drugs is the subject of a later debate. Citradelic's bright flavors, on the other hand, are not.

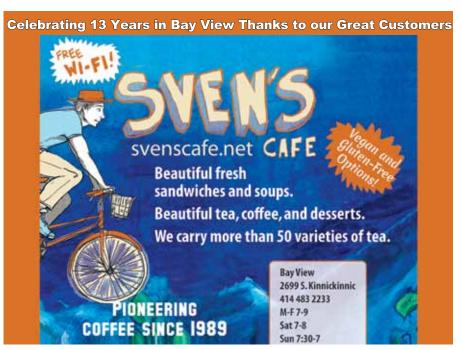
Speaking of tangerine additives, **Potosi Tangerine IPA** from **Potosi Brewing Co.**in southwestern Wisconsin is one of the earlier examples of the style. As one of Wisconsin's legacy brands — the brewery opened in 1852 and closed in 1972

for more than 20 years — Potosi has made a strong comeback in the past decade with a variety of brands, including its own tropical IPA, introduced about four years ago.

The brewmaster incorporates tangerine juice during the brewing process, resulting a well-balanced, juicy beer that well fits the tropical qualifications. Once again, Good Ol' Potosi was ahead of its time.







A new trick to grill the perfect burger

By Elizabeth Karmel

Associated Press

I thought I knew how to make the perfect burger. Now I know better.

I still stand by most of my principles making your own blend of ground meat, a combination of ground sirloin and ground chuck; working and mixing the meat as little as possible — but I recently discovered a far better way to cook the burgers. I discovered it while attempting to grill tiny samples of a variety of ground beefs (I was searching for just the right blend and didn't want to make lots of full-size patties).

As I pondered how I was going to grill tiny patties without them falling through the grates, I considered a cast-iron grill platter, a thick, flat sheet of cast iron. Bingo! We could grill the bite-sized burgers on the sizzle platter!

I placed the platter on the grill grate and started grilling the bites. They were all delicious. But the most exciting part was the rich, brown crust they all developed. The platter turned the gas grill into a flat grill, while the heat of the cast-iron surface deeply caramelized everything it touched. Because the lid was down and there were other foods on the grill, the burgers still got that smoky outdoor grilled flavor, but with a griddlestyle crust.

It was the perfect cooking mashup of grill and griddle for my all-American cheeseburger topped with melted American cheese. Since that evening, it is the only way that I grill burgers — of any size!

The recipe below is my favorite burger these days. I traded in my aged cheddar cheese for old-fashioned American, which melts better and adds a layer of soft gooeyness on top of the crunchy caramelized crust of the burger. To me, this is the best condiment and I don't need anything else except maybe pickles, which I layer on the

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GRILLED GRIDDLED CHEESEBURGER

Start to finish: 20 minutes | Servings: 6

Ingredients:

1 pound ground beef chuck 1 pound ground beef sirloin 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

1 tsp. Coleman's Mustard powder (optional) (optional)

Kosher salt and ground black pepper 6 slices American cheese Olive oil 6 potato burger buns Dill pickle chips

Being careful not to overwork the meat, in a large bowl mix together the chuck and sirloin with the Worcestershire sauce, mustard powder

and generous pinches each of salt and pepper. Gently shape the meat into 6 burgers, each about 3/4 inch thick. Brush each patty on all sides with olive oil. Use your thumbs to make an indent at the center of each burger.

Heat the grill to medium. Place a flat cast-iron griddle on the grates at the center of the grill. When the grill and griddle are hot, place the burgers on the griddle and cook, covered, until the meat is no longer pink, 8 to 10 minutes, turning once halfway through grilling time.

Top each burger with American cheese about 2 minutes before you remove them from the grill. You want the cheese to be soft but not too melted.

Let the burgers rest 2 to 3 minutes and serve on a potato bun with pickle chips.

bottom bun so that the cheese and

the top bun stick together and become one.

Of course, you can add any of your favorite condiments and toppings, but try this minimalist burger at least once. When you use the best quality beef and grill the burg-

ers using the cast-iron sizzle platter, you hardly need anything besides the cheese and a soft potato bun to make it summer's best burger.

Elizabeth Karmel is a barbecue and Southern foods expert. She is the chef and pitmaster at online retailer CarolinaCueToGo.com and author of three books, including Taming the





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Astro Logic with Dr. Sterling Asterix

May 22 marks the end of an era. No, not the conclusion of our first-in-a-decade month when five planets are in retrograd (although in retrospect that would have been better), but the conclusion of America's Funniest Home Videos! Yes, the show managed to survive the loss of Tom Bergeron last year and struggled on after YouTube showed up to ALL SIGNS: year and struggled on after JAN. 1 - DEC. 31 do its job better, but now —

What's that? Season finale? After everything else on ABC got cancelled??!? Sorry guys, I may not be here next week due to some unanticipated angry picketing.

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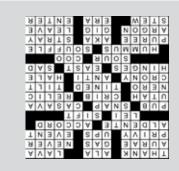
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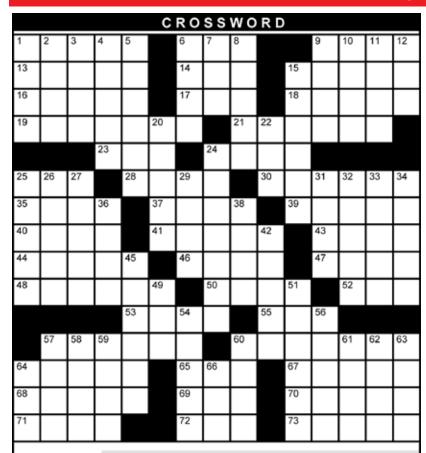
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ACROSS

- 1. Give gratitude
- 6. *In the manner of, French
- 9. Etna output
- 13. Saintly glows
- 14. Filling station filler
- 15. Never say this?
- 16. Outhouse
- 17. FedEx competitor
- 18. Gallery opening, e.g.
- 19. *Firm to the bite, Italian
- 21. *Agreement, French
- 23. Luau welcome
- 24. Prep flour for baking
- 25. Public house, for short
- 28. Sudden break
- 30. Tapioca in primordial stage
- 35. Beehive state
- 37. Stewie Griffin's bed
- 39. Holy Grail, e.g.
- 40. Infamous Roman
- 41. Having prongs
- 43. ____-a-whirl
- 44. Dr. Watson to Sherlock Holmes, e.g.
- 46. Hostile to
- 47. In good health, often precedes "hearty"
- 48. Door holders
- 50. Where Magi came from
- 52. Feeling blue
- 53. cream
- 55. Bird word
- 57. *Mashed chickpeas, Arabic
- 60. *"Airy" dessert, French

- 64. Put through a blender
- 65. William F. Cody, ____ **Buffalo Bill**
- 67. Alley cat
- 68. Ar on Periodic Table
- 69. Band booking
- 70. L in AWOL
- 71. Harbor ill feelings
- of Good Feelings
- 73. Keyboard key

DOWN

- 1. *Cover in Spanish
- 2. Fling
- 3. Like Gobi
- 4. Innie or outie
- 5. Father of Keynesian economics
- 6. Chills and fever
- 7. Napkin holder
- 8. *Allegro ____ in music, Italian
- 9. Prefix meaning "left"
- 10. Affirm solemnly
- 11. Vendors do this
- 12. Public hanging?
- 15. Greek god's libation
- 20. Color lightly
- 22. Chlorofluorocarbon
- 24. "Mr. Twister" gear
- 25. *Judy's husband, from Italian Pulcinella
- 26. Embryo cradles
- 27. Sacha Cohen's middle name
- 29. *Vocal piece for one, Italian

- 31. Comedian ____ Rogan
- 32. Bruce Wayne's Batman,
- 33. *Fancy country house, Italian
- 34. Behaved
- 36. *Mercantile establishment, Chinese
- 38. Between Phi and Kappa
- 42. Studio 54 heyday genre
- 45. Ones of unquestioning obedience
- 49. Old French coin
- 51. Dishevel
- 54. Cell phone bill item
- 56. More than occasional
- 57. Injure
- 58. Drive
- 59. Feline noise
- 60. *Long and complicated story, Old Norse
- 61. Sigma Phi Epsilon
- 62. Cleanse
- 63. Ogler
- 64. *Ballet step, French
- 66. Creme de cassis plus

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Economists unite: Tax havens serve no useful economic purpose

VERN LIGHTWINE:...only serve one purpose; hide assets from taxing authorities and thereby inflicting economic damage to societal programs and services including Defense!

SUSAN BENDIX: They need to pay their fair share or move to another country. They re using the resources of the US and hiding their profits while regular citizens make up the dif-

STEVE SHAW: Only crooks need tax havens.

JAMES DEGROFF: What were talking about here is a world tax authority. That is fine, but understand that once legitimized there is no reversing it.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced a lawsuit against **North Carolina seeking to block** enforcement of HB2's provision against transgender people.

PATSY BIBA MCKENZIE: I am so ashamed of my mothers home state but then the southern states devalue education while still whoppin their Chillin and voting for the despicable likes of Trump.

CAROLE GILLETTE: Love it that we're being pro-active. The states have to comply with the Constitution, there have to be ramifications when you break the laws governing this UNITED country.

STEPHEN CARLYLE TOWNSEND: THANK YOU MS. LYNCH!!!! This was absolutely the correct thing to do in the face of the NC legistature's response to your department's request for a repeal!

Sarah Palin says she'll defeat **Paul Ryan for dissing her man Donald Trump**

DIANE PLUFF CHRISTENSON: What power does she think she has? She is a nobody who is one sandwich short of a picnic! She should just go home and look for Russia.

STEVEN SCHMITZER: Come on people you know you would miss her if she wasn't around. Her eloquent words of wisdom. Her in depth knowledge of issues. Her relevancy. What would we do without her. Pointedly how could we go on?

MARY MANSELL: Go for it Palin. You won't get very far. Anyone endorsing Trump is a bit crazy. I give Ryan a little credit on this one.

KEITH BARTON: The only thing that she could oust is a cork out of a wine bottle.



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