

Thompson's Packers will do it with defense

Tom Oates: Focus shifts from finding Favre more weapons



New gamers are girls, and they're good

★★★



Wisconsin State Journal

WWW.MADISON.COM/WSJ

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Not all see today's boycott as beneficial

The effort is meant to show how much immigrants mean to communities, but it's unclear how widespread it will be.

By ERIN TEXEIRA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now that immigrants have grabbed the nation's attention, what next? Today has been set aside for immigrants to boycott work, school and shopping to show how much they matter to their communities. But with some growing tired of street protests, and others afraid they'll be deported or fired for walking out, people are planning to support the effort in myriad ways.

Some will work but buy nothing today. Others will protest at lunch breaks or at rallies after work. There will be church services, candlelight vigils, picnics and human chains. The range of activities shows both how powerful the immigrants' rights movement has become in a matter of weeks, and that organizers don't have a clear focus on its next step.

"It's highly unpredictable what's going to happen," said Harley Shaiken, director of the Center for Latin American studies at the University of California, Berkeley. "What unites everyone that's going to do something on May 1 is they are making visible their strong feelings."

Thanks to the success of previous rallies plus media attention, planning for today's events, collectively called Un Dia Sin Inmigrantes — A Day Without Immigrants — is widespread. Officials in Los Angeles

Please see **BOYCOTT**, Page A7

A Day Without Immigrants: Madison events

The Madison Organization 10 de abril is encouraging immigrant rights supporters to participate in today's boycott.

The organization is also planning a demonstration at the Capitol at 11:30 a.m., followed by a potluck picnic in Brittingham Park.

For more information on the rally and picnic, visit www.organization10deabril.net or call the hotline at 467-0475.

Around the nation

Boycotts: Immigrants are being urged to boycott work, school and shopping in Tucson, Ariz., an organizer urged "no buying at all," not even calls to Mexico.

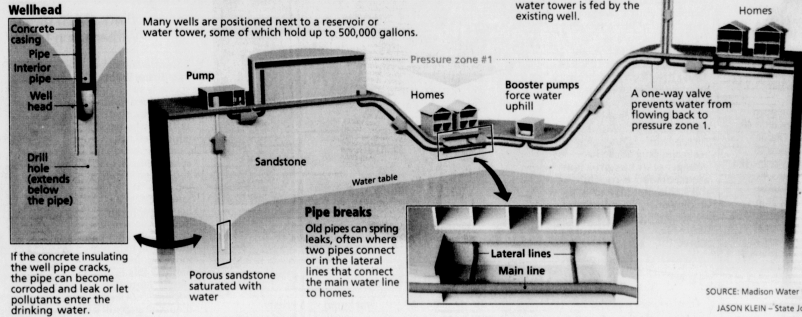
Rallies: In New York City, immigrants and supporters plan to form human chains in several spots around lunchtime. There are marches planned in Milwaukee, Orlando, Fla., Allentown, Pa., and Seattle, among many other cities.

Services: Roman Catholic churches are holding immigration-themed Masses.

WATER WORRIES | SECOND OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

Water, from well to home

To get to your home, water travels miles from a sandstone aquifer deep beneath Madison and through a complicated series of pumps, pipes, towers and reservoirs. Madison's water system includes 24 wells and more than 800 miles of water mains.



SOURCE: Madison Water Utility
JASON KLEIN — State Journal

More money and action



LEAH L. JONES — State Journal

With manganese becoming a problem for Madison residents, Madison Water Utility employees such as Mike Aulik are spending long hours this spring flushing the city's water mains. Here, Aulik takes a water sample from a hydrant at Ashford Lane and Todd Drive.

Report says that's what's needed to prevent future water woes

By RON SEELY
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Inside

- Map of main breaks, A4
- Water usage by the numbers A4

Workers at the Madison Water Utility climb into the muck more than 200 times a year trying to wrestle broken water mains together. Each time one of the mains breaks, bacteria and other pollutants get another chance to sneak into the drinking water.

But broken water mains aren't the only problems facing Madison's aging water infrastructure. According to a 2005 report by water utility consultants Black & Veatch Corp. and Strand Associates of Madison, the water utility is not investing enough in the pipes, pumps and other equipment that make the water system work.

The report also found:

- Older well houses without separate chemical rooms for the handling of chlorine and fluoride, a violation of state safety codes. The lack of

proper facilities for handling the chemicals can pose dangers to water utility employees, the report stated.

"Many problems with water storage facilities, ranging from cracks and bulges in walls to structural problems related to settling."

"On average, workers with the Madison Water Utility have to repair more than 200 water main breaks a year. But the actual number of breaks has been as high as 252 in 2000. Last year, there were 238 breaks.

A health issue

Decaying equipment can have a direct impact on water quality.

In a 2003 study of drinking water quality in 19 U.S. cities, the Natural Resources Defense Council found deteriorating

Please see **WATER**, Page A4

About this series

A four-part look at water quality in the Madison area

- Sunday:** What's in our water?
- Today:** Aging infrastructure affects water quality.
- Tuesday:** Who is watching over our water?
- Wednesday:** How are we protecting our water?

INTERACTIVE MAP: Madison residents can click on a map of their city well to learn more about what's in their water. Go to www.madison.com/wsj/spelwater

3 years after 'Mission accomplished'

Wineke: Don't look for any aircraft carrier landings from President Bush any time soon.

Displaced: Sectarian violence has forced thousands of Iraqis to flee their homes.

Disarming? Iraqi president hopeful after meeting with insurgents.

IN DEPTH, PAGE A5

The Madison way: Neighbors v. builders

That's how some developers feel about the heavy dose of input that neighbors provide on proposed projects.

By ANITA CLARK
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Neighbors who gathered last week to question a redevelopment proposal at Midvale Plaza are writing the latest chapter in a familiar story in Madison.

Speaking out on development proposals, especially the increasing number of urban infill projects that need special zoning approval, is common in a city of strong opinions.

"People care very much about their neighborhoods," said Ald. Judy Olson, 6th District. "We just want good development in the right places," said Ledell Zellers, president of Capitol Neighborhoods, a well-organized and attentive Downtown association that's had a hand in some key development decisions.

Neighborhood involvement has been hailed as democracy in action and decried as the worst of not-in-my-backyard complaining. Most developers say they're willing to work with the process, but they complain about frustrating delays.

In Madison, neighbors have helped kill projects, such as Eric Minton's proposal for the 400 block of West Washington Avenue. They've embraced others that are under way, such as the large Union Corners redevelopment on the East Side. Monroe Street neighbors held

out successfully for a grocery on the Ken Kopp's site.

"In the kind of democracy that Madison has, which is basically that everybody has a voice, there are a lot of voices that weigh in during the process," said Mark Olinger, the city's director of planning and development.

As the city celebrates its 150th birthday and looks to the future, growth increasingly comes in the form of infill instead of on undeveloped edges. Please see **NEIGHBORS**, Page A7

5 ON THE FLY

1 A locket that went down with the Titanic (\$100,000) and a survivor's handwritten account of the 1912 disaster (\$85,000) were among items sold at auction Saturday.

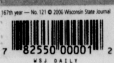
2 UW-Madison neuroscientist Richard Davidson, a professor of psychology and psychiatry, was named one of the 100 most influential people of 2006 by Time magazine. Local, B2



3 A memorial to the 1999 Columbine High School massacre victims will be built this year, vows the chairman of the group building the project.

4 Former Miami Vice star Don Johnson and his wife, Kelley, celebrated their seventh anniversary with the birth of their third child.

5 No. 2 draft pick Reggie Bush will grace the cover of the video game NCAA Football 2007.



Mostly cloudy, scattered showers
DETAILS ON PAGE A10

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Daybreak D1 Movies D2 Opinion A8 Television D9

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On the Web
What do you think?
www.madison.com/post/forum

Some mains in system date to 1880

Some Madison Water Utility equipment has been in service since the utility's earliest days. There are pumps that have been drawing water since 1926, when Calvin Coolidge was president and a stamp cost two cents.

The oldest water mains in the city were put into the ground in 1880, the year that Madison's public water system started operating. The city's streets were still unpaved and travel was by horse-drawn carriage.

Today, the system that delivers water to Madison has grown to a complicated network of pipes, wells and reservoirs that is a challenge to keep operating.

The system includes 24 active wells, 31 pumping stations, 31 storage facilities (such as towers and reservoirs) and more than 800 miles of water mains, ranging in size from 1½ to 24 inches in diameter.

—Ron Seely

BY THE NUMBERS

Average gallons of water used each day by Madison resident:

80

Average quarterly residential water cost:

\$36.50

Average residential cost per 1000 gallons of water:

\$1.15

Average gallons of water used for shower:

20

Bath:

35

Automatic dishwasher:

7-10

Hand dishwashing:

20

Toilet flush:

1.5-6

Number of Madison public wells:

24

Depth of deepest well:

1,130 feet

Average annual gallons of water used by Oscar Mayer:

402 million

Meriter Hospital:

48 million

Capital Newspapers:

15.8 million

Mermaid Car Wash:

13.9 million

Miles of water mains beneath Madison:

820

Year oldest water main still in use was installed:

1880

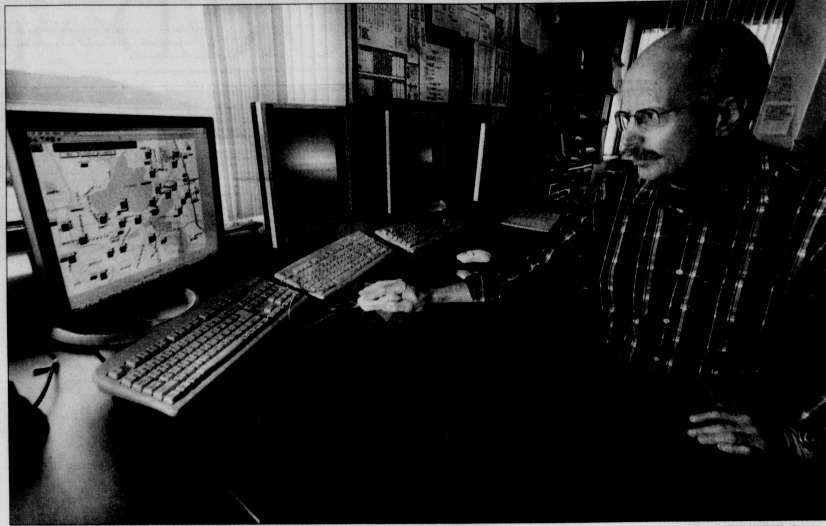
Average number of water main breaks per year:

205

Worried about your water? Here is what to do

To find out what's in your water, visit the state Department of Natural Resources Web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/.

If you live in Madison and have a question about your water, you can contact the Madison Water Utility at 266-4654 or go to the utility's Web site at <http://www.madisonwater.org/index.html>.



Photos by CRAIG SCHREINER - State Journal

The system that delivers water to Madison's homes is a complicated series of wells, pipes and reservoirs and is monitored from a control room at the Madison Water Utility office. Here, Al Larson, the utility's principal engineer, checks on the operation of city wells.

Water

Continued from Page A1

plumbing to be a major problem in most of the cities studied, including Atlanta, Boston and Washington, D.C.

The study concluded that across the country "our water supply infrastructure is breaking down at alarming rates."

And the report pointed out a health issue related to aging systems with which the Madison Water Utility is very familiar.

The study found an increase in the frequency of periodic spikes in water contamination in many of those cities. Those spikes indicate that aging equipment may be inadequate to handle today's growing contaminant loads.

Atlanta, Baltimore and Washington, D.C., have all had to issue boil alerts as a result of spikes in turbidity or discoloration of drinking water due to the presence of contaminants.

In Madison, water utility officials have had to cope with numerous spikes in contaminants, including minerals such as manganese.

The utility has blamed spikes in manganese readings at many homes on water main flushing or on other incidents such as water main breaks, which caused the contaminants that collect in older pipes to break loose.

And the presence of lead in some older pipes — at levels beyond federal standards — prompted the utility to embark on an ambitious and expensive project to replace those pipes.

The program, prompted by federal government regulations that required the city to meet federal lead standards, started in 2000 and is expected to be completed in 2011.

Such aggressive action with other deteriorating parts of the system will be necessary to prevent a decline in water quality, according to the NRDC.

"Unless steps are taken now," the report stated, "tap water will get worse."

Difficult future

Despite aging equipment, the Madison Water Utility is spending only about \$200,000 a year on reinvestment in facilities such as wells and reservoirs, according to the consultants' report.

That expenditure should be closer to \$2.5 million, according to the report.

Similarly, the utility is falling behind in efforts to replace aging water pipes, the report stated.

While the utility budgets about \$2.8 million per year for pipeline replacement, that amount should be closer to \$6.5 million, the consultants found.

If it continues, that lack of investment will make for a difficult future, according to Jerry Edwards, a Black & Veatch engineer who did the Madison study.

Unless more money is invested in replacement and repair, future generations are going to be left with an unreliable water system that will be overwhelmingly expensive to fix, Edwards warned.

Water main pipeline breaks in Madison

On average, water pipes in Madison break more than 200 times a year, increasing the chances of contamination.

| Year | Breaks |
|-------|--------|
| 2002 | 219 |
| 2003 | 235 |
| 2004* | 186 |

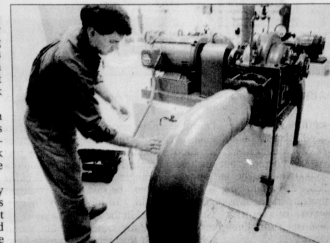


NOTE: Some pipe locations could not be plotted due to vague or missing data. This includes 25 breaks in 2002, 14 in 2003, and 77 in 2004.

SOURCE: Madison Water Utility, Black and Veatch Corp.

*Data through May 22, 2004.

LAURA SPARKS - State Journal



In addition to samples from schools and other public buildings, water utility employees including Joe Grande take regular samples from city wells such as this one on Prairie Road in Madison.

"It's going to become difficult," Edwards said. "Once you let it deteriorate to a certain point, it becomes difficult to catch up."

A good deal

But investing more money in updating the water system will be a challenge. Madison's water utility is entirely supported by money that comes from rate payers — homeowners, businesses and public institutions such as UW-Madison.

For years, ratepayers in Madison have gotten a deal. Madison Water Utility customers pay rates that are, on average, about 65 percent of rates charged by other state water utilities. The average Madison Water Utility customer pays \$36.50 per quarter.

And, according to the Public Service Commission, the city is ranked 37 out of 364 municipal water utilities in Wisconsin for the lowest rates (1 representing the lowest rates in the state and 364 the highest).

But if the utility is to adequately address the physical condition of its infrastructure, such low water bills are likely to become a thing of the past.

Rate increases considerably higher than the last increase of about 7 percent are inevitable, according to utility officials.

paired if the Public Service Commission doesn't approve the necessary increases in rates.

David Denig-Chakroff, general manager of the Madison Water Utility, said utilities across the country are facing similar tough decisions on when to replace aging water systems.

The Madison Water Utility, Denig-Chakroff said, has found it more cost effective to invest in maintaining its older equipment, much of which he said still is reliable. But he said the utility is also preparing a master plan that will outline a gradual increase in spending to modernize the water system.

Without a doubt, he added, rate increases will be necessary. He said it is too soon to know about specific increases but they are likely to be "higher and more frequent."

In a study of 20 cities the American Water Works Association estimated that by 2030 the average utility will have to spend about 3½ times as much on worn-out pipe replacement as it does today.

In smaller water systems, such as Madison's, homeowners

ers are likely to have to pay anywhere from \$1,100 to \$6,900 per household more in higher water rates over 30 years to cover the increasing costs, according to the American Water Works Association report.

Towels tell story

Carol McDonald just wants clean, white towels.

A fastidious housekeeper, the 77-year-old McDonald seemed embarrassed to display her old towels on the kitchen table at her East Side home.

A stack of new towels appeared bright white while the towels she had washed were gray.

Nothing had suffered the same fate, she said, coming out of the washer stained rusty and brown.

"I'm just so discouraged with the water," McDonald said. "If I wanted tan underclothes, I'd buy them that way."

Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz said it would be wrong to downplay such concerns.

But he also supported the utility in its decision to maintain existing equipment instead of spending money on replacement. He said that the utility's current financial situation is sound and he believes that, because of low water rates, there is opportunity for the utility to increase rates and finance improvements in coming years.

Even so, Cieslewicz, to whom utility administrators ultimately answer and who appoints members to the Board of Water Commissioners, said he will be paying close attention to the utility's planning regarding replacement of aging equipment.

"I don't think we're near a crisis," Cieslewicz said. "But clearly we need a plan going into the future."

Al Warburton, director of legislative affairs for the AWWA and project manager for the organization's recent studies of infrastructure issues, said investment decisions being faced by utilities such as Madison's are crucial for one overriding reason. They have to do with the legacy we leave.

"We inherited these systems," Warburton said. "The question is, what are we going to pass on to the next generation?"

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