

DAYBREAK D1
A FEW POINTERS TO GET YOU INTO SWIMSUIT SHAPE


Wisconsin State Journal
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Thousands at Capitol support immigrants

By DEE J. HALL
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 608-252-6132

At least a dozen local businesses closed, hundreds of students stayed away from school and thousands of people rallied at the state Capitol Monday to highlight the contributions that immigrants make to the local economy and society.

The Madison event was part of a nationwide "Day Without Immigrants," designed to pressure lawmakers to change U.S. law to provide a path to citizenship for an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants. They were urged to take the day off work and school.

Nationwide, hundreds of thousands of mostly Hispanic immigrants protested, while many farms, factories, markets and restaurants were closed or provided reduced service. In Milwaukee, tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets, while Los Angeles and Chicago reported hundreds of thousands of protesters.

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Inside
 • Illegal immigrants demonstrate economic clout by their absence. A7
 Karen Cano, center, takes part in the immigration-rights rally Monday at the state Capitol.
 STEVE APPS
 - State Journal

WATER WORRIES | THIRD OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

A loss of public trust

Water utility response to problems was disappointing, some say

By RON SEELY
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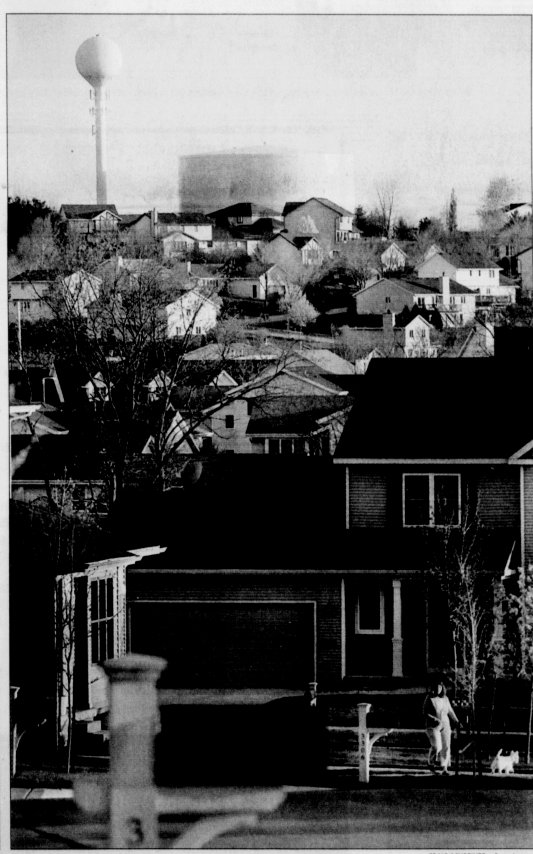
The black manganese being flushed from Madison's water mains this spring has revealed not only the fragility of a clean water supply but also focused public attention on a utility that has operated largely unnoticed over the years.

And in the glare of the public spotlight, it became apparent that the Madison Water Utility has problems.

A Wisconsin State Journal analysis of the rise of the current manganese contamination in the fall of 2004 shows the utility was unprepared to handle such a pressing public health issue. The bungled response to manganese reveals a number of operational shortcomings:

- For months, utility employees were told to tell concerned residents that discolored water was safe even though contradictory health information about manganese was surfacing.
- Many residents with dirty water who were interviewed for these stories said they have been disappointed with the utility's response to their problems and said they no longer trust the Madison Water Utility or the safety of the city's drinking water.
- Record-keeping of complaints was almost nonexistent in 2003 and 2004, two years when problems with turbid water and manganese were rising steeply. Such record-keeping is required by state law.
- Administrators with the utility, entirely dependent on water sales to finance the operation of the water system, bristle at any publicity that reflects badly on the city's water. As a result they keep a tight lid on bad news — sometimes to the public's detriment.

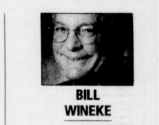
Please see WATER, Page A4



As Madison's population increases, the Madison Water Utility is faced with greater challenges in providing a plentiful, safe supply of water, utility officials and others say. A water tower and reservoir, seen here from Bradbury Road, loom above homes near the Madison and Fitchburg border.



Stephanie Stender, who lives in Madison's Nakoma neighborhood, no longer drinks the water from her tap because of concerns about manganese. Instead, she buys bottled water.



Bill Wineke
Foiled by foie gras, a Madison faux pas

Madison is in imminent danger of losing its reputation as politically correct capital of the Midwest — of all places — Chicago.

The Chicago City Council Wednesday voted to outlaw the sale of foie gras, a delicacy made of goose or duck liver. Animal rights activists hate the idea of foie gras because it involves force-feeding the birds until their livers swell to 10 times their normal size.

Actually, normal people also hate the idea of foie gras because it tastes like, well, like braised goose fat.

Gourmets, however, like the idea of foie gras because it is an exotic food that normal people hate.

So, you might think the Madison City Council would long ago have banned foie gras. To do so would be to uphold the civil rights of geese and would, at the same time, step on the toes of very few actual voters.

This is the kind of issue that should ring joy bells in the heart of a city with its own foreign policy. Instead, we go around banning cigarettes from taverns, an action designed to drive smokers from the bars, leaving behind those moderate-types who leave half of their first bottle of light beer behind when they leave for home.

Chicago, it must be noted, also has a smoking ban. But, unlike here, the

There was a time when equating the force feeding of geese with the torture of prisoners would have been our issue.

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- 5 ON THE FLY**
- 1 The Social Security trust fund will be depleted in 2040, while Medicare will exhaust its trust fund 12 years from now. **Business, C8**
- 2 A judge has approved a class-action settlement requiring Netflix Inc. to offer a free month of DVDs to 5.5 million current and former subscribers, resolving a case that prompted the online rental service to acknowledge it gives preferential treatment to its most profitable customers.
- 3 John Daly says in his autobiography to be released next week he has lost between \$50 million and \$60 million during 12 years of gambling.
- 4 Yahoo unveiled Yahoo Tech, aimed at helping consumers cope with new technology.
- 5 A Duke University committee recommended its men's lacrosse team resume play next season, but said the team had a history of problems tied to alcohol and needed strict monitoring.

Partly cloudy and warmer
 DETAILS, BACK OF LOCAL

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

Water

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Attempted break-in

Utility administrators insist they didn't think it was necessary to report an attempted water tower break-in to police or to the state Department of Natural Resources, which regulates the utility.

Tom Stunkard, the DNR water quality engineer who oversees the Madison Water Utility, was displeased when reporting by the Wisconsin State Journal turned up the unreported break-in at the Sprecher Road water tower in July 2003.

Workers with the utility found a lock on a door at the base of the water tower ground off. Utility General Manager David Denig-Chakroff said two other doors inside the tower remained locked and the culprit had not reached the water stored in the tower.

Because of that, Denig-Chakroff said the incident was not reported.

"We just thought it was kids," he added.

Stunkard said that was a mistake. The incident should have been reported.

"I would have gone out there," Stunkard said. "And we would have gotten together with the Police Department to see if it was a credible threat. What if it had been vandals? What if it had been credible?"

A little more than two years earlier, Stunkard had questioned the utility's handling of a bacteria problem.

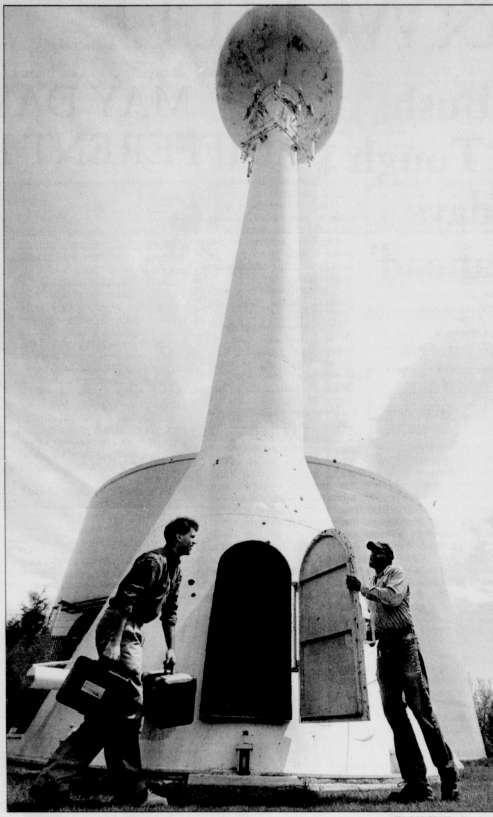
In February 2001, utility officials were reluctant to comply with a boil order sought by the DNR when water samples tested positive for fecal bacteria, Stunkard said.

Fourteen samples were taken on the East Side and three came back positive for the dangerous bacteria that can sicken humans, Stunkard recalled.

He wanted to issue a broad boil order for East Side residents. Utility officials, he recalled, argued against the order covering an extensive area as Stunkard wanted.

"They really didn't want to publish the notice I wanted them to," Stunkard said. "But I like to err on the side of public health. I think the problem with the bigger utilities like this is that they are so afraid of negative press. But you can't fool around with something like fecal bacteria."

The order was issued and subsequent tests showed no



Water samples for testing are taken regularly at the Madison's wells and water towers. Here, Joe Grande, left, and Ken Tarver, with the Madison Water Utility, enter a tower to get samples.

CRAIG SCHREINER - State Journal

presence of the bacteria. Still, it had been an unsettling confrontation with the utility for Stunkard.

"It would have made my job a lot easier if instead of arguing about boundaries for the boil order they would have just issued it. Sometimes, I think the

utility looks too much at dollar signs. But it's our job to look at public health."

Denig-Chakroff said utility officials were cooperative with the DNR and added that he had not heard complaints about the handling of the situation until recently.

Here's how Madison water is controlled

By RON SEELY
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Who is taking care of our water?

Madison's water system, which went into operation in 1880, is owned and run by the city of Madison. The city agency designated by state statutes to manage and operate the water system is the Madison Water Utility.

Though the utility is an agency of the city of Madison, it is somewhat different from other departments because it gets money to operate from water bills instead of tax dollars.

State statutes also provide for the appointment of a Board of Water Commissioners to manage the utility and oversee its operation. The board appoints a general manager, subject to the approval of the mayor and City Council. The general manager is responsible for day-to-day operation and supervision of the utility.

The general manager serves at the pleasure of the mayor and, ultimately, the mayor has final say on renewal of the manager's contract. General Manager David Denig-Chakroff's contract is up for re-

Water commissioners



Priscilla Mather, president
Occupation: environmental engineer
Appointed: May 18, 1993
Term expires: Sept. 30, 2007



Jon Standridge, vice president
Occupation: environmental laboratory manager, retired
Appointed: Oct. 5, 1999
Term expires: Sept. 30, 2009



Gregory Harrington, secretary
Occupation: professor of environmental engineering
Appointed: Sept. 19, 2000
Term expires: Sept. 30, 2010



Larry Studeville, commissioner
Occupation: administrator, Department of Workforce Development
Appointed: Jan. 22, 2002
Term expires: Sept. 30, 2006



Lauren Cnare, City Council member commissioner
Occupation: freelance writer, Madison City Council member
Appointed: May 30, 2005
Term expires: April 17, 2007

neval in June.

The Madison Board of Water Commissioners has five members — four citizens and one City Council member. The mayor appoints and the City Council confirms water commissioners for terms of five years for citizen members (with staggered appointment dates) and two years for the City Council member.

The members are not paid. Agendas for the meetings of the Board of Water Commissioners are available on the Madison Water Utility's Web site, www.madisonwater.org/about/Info.html.

Members of the board can be reached by writing to a commissioner at the Madison Water Utility, 119 East Olin Ave., Madison WI 53713.

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/dwv/.

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>.

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/wsi/spe/water

Not on tax bill

Utility officials aren't used to much oversight from city officials or the public.

"They've gotten a little less attention from the mayor's office and from the City Council simply because they are not on the tax bill," Mayor Dave Cieslewicz said. "They probably have been less scrutinized."

Cieslewicz, with the approval of the City Council, appoints the five members of the Board of Water Commissioners that directly oversees the operation of the Madison Water Utility.

Jon Standridge, vice president of the Board of Water Commissioners, said utility officials have too often presented the board with what he called "canned presentations" on monthly utility data but not substantive issues.

"We don't get enough information," Standridge said. "For the responsibility we have, we need more details, more information on how decisions are made. ... The communication needs to be freer, more open and more voluminous. Even though it is not the administration's intent to cover things up, that has been the perception."

More scrutiny, Cieslewicz agreed, might have prompted a more timely and complete response on manganese and other recent problems, better record-keeping, and a more forthcoming, transparent approach when dealing with problems such as pollutants and financial issues.

'The same message'

Officials with the water utility responded to manganese complaints in late 2004 in much the same way they have responded for years to complaints about rusty or dirty water.

"They told anybody with discolored water that the water is safe and that running the faucet for a few minutes would clear up the problem."

"That's been the message for as long as forever," Denig-Chakroff said. "And it's the same message you'll hear in other utilities."

Such assurances were provided to many who called to complain about manganese in

subsequent months.

Denig-Chakroff said the utility was relying on information provided by the federal Environmental Protection Agency — that manganese is primarily a nuisance that can discolor water but doesn't cause health problems. The agency, he pointed out, sets only advisory and not legal standards for the mineral — 50 parts per billion for an aesthetic standard and 300 parts per billion as a health advisory.

Three wells in the Madison system had tested at levels beyond the aesthetic limits, including well No. 10, which serves the Nakoma area and more than 10,000 people on the West Side. It tested regularly for manganese at levels beyond the aesthetic standard.

But pipes in the system were apparently also clogged with the mineral, which reacts with chlorine and settles in the mains.

Some increases in homes in the Nakoma area were particularly alarming: a sample from one home would test at 24,400 parts per billion in March 2005.

On March 14, 2005, Denig-Chakroff sent a memo to water utility staffers warning them not to tell people that water may be unsafe.

"I can understand telling someone they may not wish to drink it for aesthetic reasons until things clear up, but we must be very careful NOT to imply that the water is unsafe for drinking," Denig-Chakroff wrote in the memo. "If you are responding to a call, you should reiterate to the caller that drinking the water is not a health hazard."

In 2005, the Madison Public Health Department, according to epidemiologist John Hausbeck, received information on at least two cases of possible manganese poisoning, including a Nakoma teenager whose pediatrician received a letter with her diagnosis.

Throughout 2005, complaints about dirty water all across the city increased dramatically, Denig-Chakroff said.

Please see WATER, Page A5

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Dr. Eileen Isom

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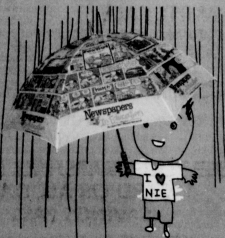
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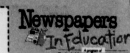
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"I think the problem with the bigger utilities like this is that they are so afraid of negative press. But you can't fool around with something like fecal bacteria."

TOM STUNKARD, water quality engineer for the DNR

Water

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On the East Side, Denig-Chakroff added, it is now apparent that many of the hundreds of complaints are at least partly related to high levels of manganese in well No. 29, the city's newest well, which has now been idled because of the problem. The utility is considering installing a \$2 million filter.

Stephanie Stender noticed that the water in her Nakoma home was discolored in the winter of 2005.

When she first called the water utility she was told to let the water run and that, even though it was discolored, the water was safe to drink.

In January 2006, the utility tested her water. She didn't hear back on the test results and didn't find out until she attended a meeting on the issue and saw her house on a list of test results.

Her water had tested at 286 parts per billion, very near the federal advisory health standard of 300 parts per billion.

Stender was not pleased with the utility's response.

"There is a real erosion of trust," Stender said. "It's the fact that it seems like they're trying to hide something."

Barely kept records

Tracking water quality complaints is difficult because for two years, just as the manganese issue was exploding, the utility barely kept records of water quality calls, even though state statute requires such record-keeping.

An open-records request by the Wisconsin State Journal for all water quality complaints for 2003, 2004 and 2005 turned up 19 recorded complaints in 2003, 28 in 2004, and 420 complaints in 2005.

Earlier this year, after an investigation of the utility's water quality complaint records, the Public Service Commission reported that "the utility acknowledged its utility complaint records were not as accurate or complete as they should have been."

Denig-Chakroff said that in February 2005, the utility installed a database system that records information on complaints. He added that, prior to that, especially in 2003 and 2004, record-keeping was lax because the person who had been responsible for the task had retired and not been replaced.

Even so, phones at the utility were ringing constantly.

John Marchewka, who has

since left the utility, was charged for a while with taking the calls. From December 2005 through February 2006, after media reports of manganese problems, Marchewka said the calls skyrocketed and numbered sometimes as many as 30 a day.

Marchewka said he had asked earlier in the fall what he should be telling callers about the safety of their water. Administrators had told him to tell callers that, even though it was discolored, the water was safe.

Despite the utility's assurances, information was surfacing in the winter of 2005 that at least raised questions about the health effects of exposure to high levels of manganese.

Residents in Nakoma cited peer-reviewed scientific studies that showed uncertainty about the impact on infants when exposed to high levels of manganese, especially if they were drinking formula already fortified with the mineral.

Late in the winter of 2005, Cieslewicz formed a task force to study the manganese issue. One of the tasks tackled by the group was issuing appropriate health information.

And in March, the group issued a report that recommended against drinking or

cooking with discolored water. The report also notes the dangers of too much manganese for infants as well as people with chronic liver disease.

Manganese, according to the report, can be dangerous at high levels because it has been shown to cause neurological problems.

"That should have been done a year earlier," Cieslewicz said of the report.

Cieslewicz said he was displeased with much of the utility's response to the manganese problems.

"I think it could have been handled better from the start," Cieslewicz said.

Officials with the Madison Water Utility said they still believe they responded adequately based on the information they had from the EPA about manganese in January 2004.

They cite the widespread testing they did in affected neighborhoods, several mailings to affected homeowners, replacement of pipes in Nakoma, and a citywide flushing program — using new technique that increases water velocity — to blast manganese from aging pipes.

"I don't think we made any mistakes," said Al Larson, the utility's principal engineer. "But from a public relations perspective, it wasn't properly handled."

Wineke

Continued from Page A1

Chicago City Council did not rest on its laurels. It went from protecting the rights of nonsmokers to protecting the rights of geese.

The Chicago debate even enlisted the testimony of actress Lorena Swit (she was "Hot Lips," wasn't she?), who equated the treatment of foie gras geese to the torture of Iraqis at the Abu Ghraib prison.

What's happened to us, Madison?

There was a time when equating the force feeding of geese with the torture of prisoners would have been our issue.

There was a time when we would be embarrassed to read that Chicago has a more enlightened animal rights policy than we have. There was a time when we would be first to be laughingstock of the nation. There was a time when we had pride, pride misplaced, perhaps, but pride nonetheless.

I fear that Madison, like the Democratic Party it so often supports, has lost its spiritual moorings. We allow foie gras to be served without protest and we sit back in a chronic wimp state while Chicago takes the lead in irrelevant legislation.

It's probably not too late to act. Surely, there is something new we can ban and regain our rightful place in the weird world. But we have to do more than talk; we have to act.

Reach Bill Wineke at bwineke@madison.com or at 252-6146. Read Bill Wineke's Blog at www.madison.com.

Moussaoui jury still not back

Long deliberation seen as sign that chances of the death penalty are getting slimmer.

By MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — More than a week has passed since jurors in the Zacarias Moussaoui trial began their deliberations. And with each passing day, the chances that the jury will impose a death sentence shrink, experts say.

The jury concluded a fifth day of deliberations Monday without reaching a decision on a sentence, death for Moussaoui, the only person in this country charged in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, or life in prison.

So far, in more than 28 hours of deliberating, the jurors have given few clues into their decision-making process. They have asked only one question — a request for a dictionary that was denied by the judge.

Experts warn against reading too much into the process but generally agree that a prolonged deliberation is a sign that at least a few jurors are reluctant to vote for a death sentence.

Frank Salvato, a defense lawyer in Alexandria who has won acquittals in death-penalty trials at the federal courthouse where Moussaoui is on trial, said the jurors probably have spent much of their time making sense of the 42-page verdict form they will be required to fill out. It asks them to make findings on dozens of alleged aggravating and mitigating factors before reaching their ultimate conclusion.

Still, he said, "there has to be some type of split or dissension within the jury."

If by Wednesday the jury still has not returned a verdict, Salvato said it would be a strong signal that reaching an unanimous death sentence will be difficult.

In this phase of the trial, a lack of unanimity clearly favors the defense, because jurors are not required to reach a unanimous decision. If they disagree on the punishment, Moussaoui will automatically be sentenced to life in prison.

The jurors have been told what occurs if they are not unanimous, and that also favors the defense because a lone juror can hold out for life and spoil any chance of a death sentence, said Arthur Patterson, a Florida-based jury consultant with trial consulting firm DecisionQuest Inc.

"It gives more power to the individual," Patterson said. "It's more like 12 individual juries."

Patterson said he suspects that the length of deliberations isn't a case of a meticulous jury and instead indicates some type of split.

Jeffrey Frederick, a jury consultant and director of jury research for National Legal Research Group in Charlottesville, also cautioned against reading the tea leaves too closely, though he agreed that longer deliberations tend to favor the defense.

"They can still deliberate a long time and come back with a death penalty," said Frederick, adding that jurors want to be methodical in a trial of this importance.

Patterson said that, if pushed to guess, the jurors are wrestling with the argument made by the defense: that executing Moussaoui will make him a martyr. During the trial, Moussaoui twice defied his court-appointed lawyers to testify on his own behalf and twice appeared to do himself more harm than good.

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