

# PORTAGE DAILY REGISTER

Wisconsin defender Harvey selected 1st overall in PWHL Draft

SPORTS, C1



Saturday, June 20, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

portagedailyregister.com

## QUESTIONS ABOUND AS RIDGLAN WINDS DOWN



OWEN ZILIAK, STATE JOURNAL ARCHIVES

Volunteer Rebecca Ryals counts beagles in cages taken out of Ridglan Farms to be driven to Big Dog Ranch Rescue in Florida on May 1 in Marshall. The day before, rescue center Big Dog Ranch Rescue and nonprofit animal welfare organization Center for a Humane Economy announced a deal to buy 1,500 of Ridglan's 2,000 beagles for an undisclosed amount of money.

### Dane Co. animal research, breeding facility to give up dogs, but what next?

SABINE MARTIN AND ZOEY THOMAS  
Wisconsin State Journal

MADISON — The pending release of the last remaining dogs from a long-embattled town of Blue Mounds animal research and breeding facility leaves the United States with just one remaining industrial-scale beagle breeder — and questions about the industry's future.

Ridglan Farms has agreed to give up

the remaining 475 of its more than 2,000 dogs by the end of August, Florida-based animal rescue Big Dog Ranch Rescue announced Monday. The news marked the end of a yearslong effort by activists to shutter Ridglan, including two recent attempts to storm the property to seize its beagles, which resulted in dozens of arrests.

"I see it as maybe the most prominent

success on the part of beagle activists in what I think of as a more recent phase of activism around beagles and dogs in science," said Brad Bolman, an assistant professor of history and environmental studies at Tulane University and author of "Lab Dog: What Global Science Owes American Beagles."

Please see RIDGLAN, Page A4

## 'Water for Elephants' cast visits Circus World

Broadway circus show plays in Madison this week

JOHN GITTINGS  
jgittings@wiscnews.com

BARABOO — A Broadway circus show is visiting Madison this week but also made sure to stop by Wisconsin's main circus attraction.

The "Water for Elephants" cast went to Circus World in Baraboo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday to learn about circus history and attend one of the attraction's Big Top shows. Crew members said that the 1930s-era circus memorabilia and the Baraboo show reflected the musical they are performing.

"Water for Elephants" is playing at Overture Center in Madison through Sunday.

Tickets are available on the Overture website. There are two shows on Saturday, at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and one on Sunday, at 1 p.m. The show lasts for two hours and 20 minutes.

"It's really great to be here," Tyler West, one of the show's actors who also works as a clown, said, adding that he knows some of the clowns honored at Circus World. "Cool to see the history of a show that we're

currently playing. Sometimes, I think we forget the things that we're doing are actually real and about real people."

While "Water for Elephants" is based on a true story, the story itself is fictional.

West, who plays a clown, Walter, in the show, added that he and his crew raise a tent with animals during the performance.

Please see CAST, Page A4

GET THE FULL BENEFITS OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit [wiscnews.com/activate](http://wiscnews.com/activate) and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

#### Weather

Nice w/ clouds and sun  
High: 75 Low: 52  
Forecast: A10

#### Inside

COMMUNITY	A2	OPINION	A8-9
NATION/WORLD	A6	RELIGION	A7
OBITUARIES	A2	SPORTS	C1



\$2.50 • TTS • Volume 141, Issue 171 • A Madison Media Partners publication • Copyright 2026 • Lee Enterprises, Incorporated — Majority shareholder, David Hoffmann, Hoffmann Media Group • Follow us: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PortageDailyRegister) /PortageDailyRegister



# VOTING COMING SOON!

VOTE FROM  
**Wednesday, July 1 -  
Sunday, July 26**

**BEST OF THE BEST WILL BE BACK ON JULY 1ST!**

Visit [go.wiscnews.com/best26](http://go.wiscnews.com/best26) to vote for your favorite businesses!

