



**Madison's fleet of fun**

1,500 paddlers become the Fools' Flotilla, riding the Yahara River from Lake Mendota to Lake Monona

**LOCAL&STATE. A3**

**SENIOR LEADERSHIP**

Reese Richardson steps up to help Oregon outlast Madison West in sectional final shootout

**SPORTS. B1**



**Was that an octagon?**

Mixed martial artists visit White House lawn on President Trump's 80th birthday

**NATION. A2**

**The fighting in Europe**

Ukraine's president uses birthday call with Trump to discuss ending 4-year war

**NATION&WORLD. A7**

Monday, June 15, 2026

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**MIDEAST WARS | PEACE FRAMEWORK**

**US, Iran agree to end war**

Trump confirms deal, US to end blockade, Iran to open Hormuz

**PARISA HAFEZI AND PHIL STEWART**  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Iranian officials said Sunday they agreed on a peace framework for a deal to end their war, halt the U.S. blockade of Iran and reopen the Strait of Hormuz,

possibly leading to lower energy prices once oil shipments resume through the critical waterway.

"The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete," President Donald Trump posted on social media at about 5:30 p.m. ET on Sunday. His post came shortly after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country served as a mediator, announced a deal had been struck early Monday local time.

The pact will be officially signed Friday in Switzerland, Sharif wrote.

The precise terms were not immediately known. Sharif said in a post on X that the pact called for "the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."

Lebanon was a sticking point in negotiations, with Israel and Hezbollah ignoring calls from Trump and others to stop their

attacks on each other in recent weeks.

Trump said the Strait of Hormuz, a major shipping lane for global energy supplies that Iran effectively shut down for months, would open Friday, and that he had ordered the end of the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports.

"Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" Trump wrote.

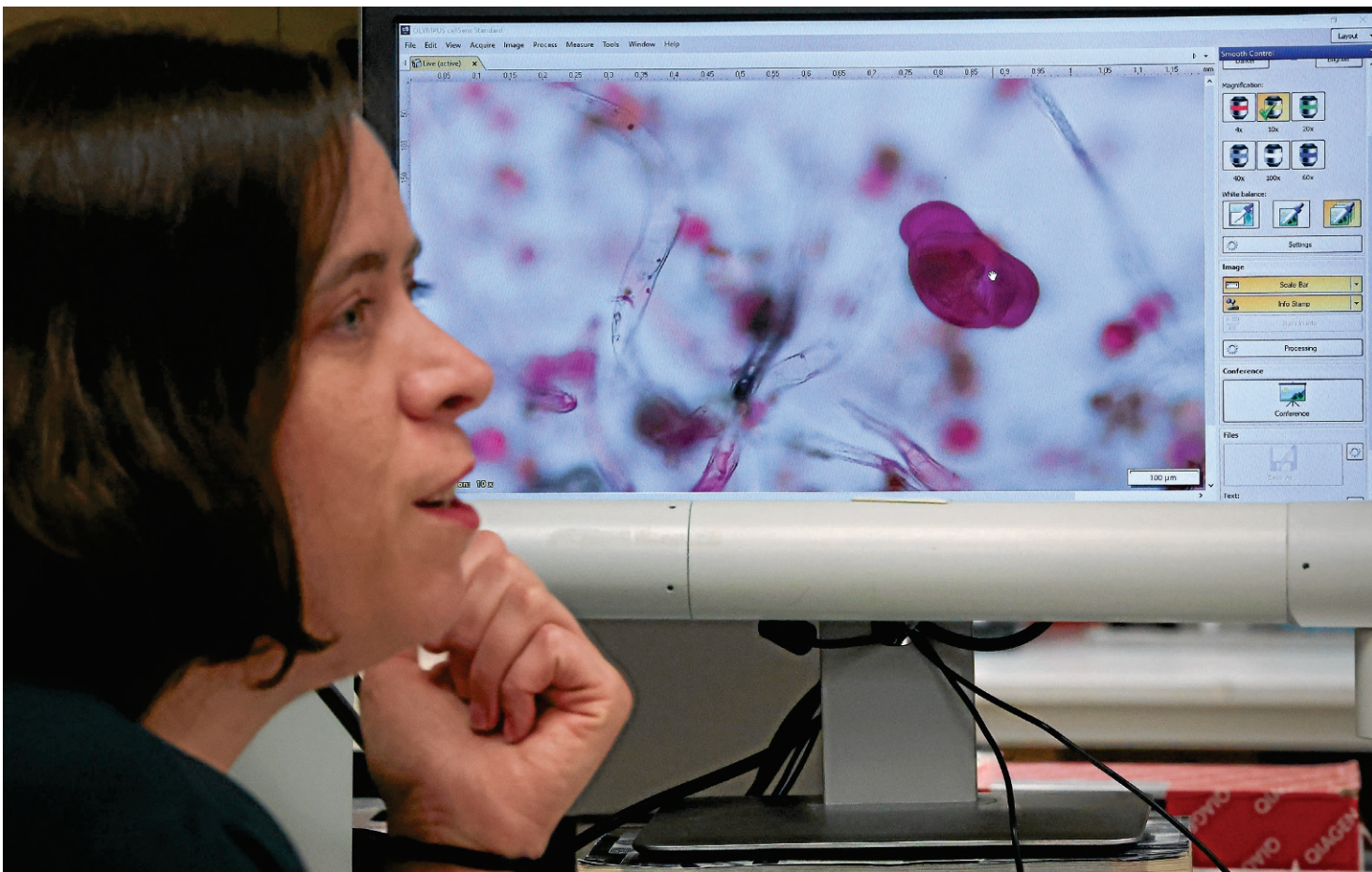
Oil prices fell on the news. Brent crude futures fell 4% in

early trading Monday, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate slid more than 4.6%.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, said a more expansive agreement would be negotiated during a 60-day ceasefire period, including sanctions relief. The fate of Iran's nuclear program will also be addressed in those later talks, sources told Reuters.

Please see **IRAN**, Page A5

**ALLERGY SEASON | GATHERING THE DATA**



JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

Microscopic pollen samples are displayed on a screen in the UW Health laboratory where Heather Floerke analyzes them.

**We're counting on her count**

UW Health's pollen station can tell when sneezing will hit us

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During allergy season, Heather Floerke is an early riser.

She arrives to work at UW Health's University Hospital at 7 a.m. and treks up to the 10th floor four days a week to access the roof and unlock a shoebox-size pollen collection machine to bring two plastic

rods as big as toothpicks to her lab desk for analyzing.

Scanning one of the rods with a microscope for as long as an hour and a half, Floerke tediously counts every tiny pollen grain, which she has dyed with a purple solution to highlight its features.

"This happens to be a walnut, and it's because I can tell that there are pores on the underside of it," said Floerke, a lab manager at UW-Madison's Division of Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care and pollen counter.

The microscopic data Floerke

collects over 24 hours, four days a week, is part of a nationwide effort to forecast allergy season and track pollen trends for research and the public at the National Allergy Bureau.

UW Health's pollen counting station is one of four in the state and about 70 across the country that report to the allergy bureau, said Dr. Mark Moss, UW Health allergist and researcher.

Wisconsin's other counting stations are in Greenfield near Milwaukee, La Crosse and Appleton.

The counting station has been

in Madison for the past three decades. Floerke has headed the counting operation since 2018. UW Health pollen experts Robert Bush and Rose Vrtis, who are now retired, launched the station on the roof of the Madison VA Hospital, Moss said.

But in recent years, Moss said, global warming has increasingly contributed to earlier, longer and more severe allergy seasons for millions of Americans, raising the importance of the pollen-counting station.

Please see **POLLEN**, Page A6

**TRANSPORTATION**

**District, city plot safer way to school**

Draft plan identifies areas that fall short

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The Madison School District and city officials have shared the first draft of their plan to make getting to and from school safer and encourage more students to walk and bike to school.

Most Madison residents want more children walking and biking to school, according to the first draft of the Madison Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan, released late last month. However, the city and school district must improve in several areas where existing designs, transportation arrangements and education around transportation fall short, the plan said.

"When a principal calls an Alder to request a crossing guard, a parent writes the superintendent to ask for bus transportation, or a student is involved in a crash — these incidents demand staff time and require thoughtful response," the draft plan said. "This SRTS plan is designed to help the City, MMSD, and partner agencies establish protocols for responding to traffic safety concerns near schools and prioritize their investments in a strategic and efficient way."

Please see **SAFETY**, Page A5



ROBIN BUCKSON, THE DETROIT NEWS

Dr. Mirza Beg, division head of geriatrics at Henry Ford Health, talks with patient Althea Anderson, 84, at Henry Ford Medical Center-Livonia. Providers like Beg are in high demand as the U.S. population ages.

**BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS | WAGES**

**Docs occupy 19 of 20 top pay grades**

**DANIEL DE VISÉ**  
USA Today

Of the 20 U.S. occupations with the highest average pay, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 19 are some kind of doctor or dentist.

Pediatric surgeons earn \$450,810 a year on average as of 2024, according to federal data. Cardiologists make \$432,490. Orthopedic surgeons get \$365,060.

Of the 20 highest-paid professions, only one is not a doctor or dentist: The 20th best-paid occupation in America is airline

pilot. Pilots, co-pilots and flight engineers earn a median pay of \$226,600.

Doctors earn more than any other broad category of worker, according to federal data.

To find a better-paid group, economists say, you have to drill down to elite subcategories, such as corporate CEOs and law partners. The average partner at a large firm earns more than \$1.4 million a year. The typical S&P 500 CEO drew in \$17 million in 2024, according to research by Equilar and the Associated Press. American doctors are so

conspicuously well-paid, a group of economic researchers spent years trying to figure out why.

**Lots of school, hours**

One must study for a very long time to become a doctor: college, then medical school and years of post-graduate residency training.

A typical doctor's workweek runs from 40-plus hours to 60 or more, depending on specialty, the researchers found.

Please see **WAGES**, Page A5