

Race for governor

Sara Rodriguez is most Democrats' preferred pick according to results of the party's straw poll

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MOVING ON

Madison Memorial wins to reach state semifinals

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Group of Seven

President Trump joins other global leaders Monday for summit in France

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Justice Department

California governor says he's subject of politically motivated investigation

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Tuesday, June 16, 2026

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MADISON POLICE | 2024 ARREST OF RICHARD LEE JOHNSON



OWEN ZILIAK PHOTOS, STATE JOURNAL

Family members of Richard Lee Johnson, including his mother, Gloria, center, and the family's lawyer, Andrea Farrell, at left, said they have never received an unredacted report or photographs related to his death in police custody on Dec. 30, 2024. In a report Monday, Madison's Office of the Independent Police Monitor alleges police caused Johnson's death, not a drug overdose as ruled by the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office.

RIDGLAN FARMS RESEARCH BEAGLES

Last dogs at facility will leave

SABINE MARTIN AND ZOEY THOMAS
Wisconsin State Journal

MARSHALL — Ridglan Farms, the embattled town of Blue Mounds dog breeding and research facility targeted for years by animal rights activists, has agreed to give up its last remaining beagles.

The company confirmed Monday that the Washington, D.C.-based Center for a Humane Economy and Florida-based Big Dog Ranch Rescue bought and will transfer 325 dogs on Monday and Tuesday. In a statement, Ridglan said it has agreed to donate the remaining 150 puppies to Big Dog Ranch Rescue by the end of August.

Big Dog transferred the first 100 of the purchased dogs out of Ridglan beginning at 9:05 a.m. Monday, the rescue's CEO, Lauree Simmons, said at a press conference at a private farm owned by Operation HEEL, a local dog training service, where volunteers microchipped, examined and vaccinated the dogs to prepare them for interstate travel.

As she spoke, puppies streamed out of a large white van outside. Volunteers carried them to a fenced pen to run, jump and roll around in the grass.

"I made you a promise that we would not stop until every single beagle was out and safe — we would not leave one dog behind," Simmons said. "Today, we have honored that promise."

Some of the more timid canines sheltered in the arms of volunteers, who brought them into a building one by one for quick medical checkups, gently pushing back their floppy ears and administering shots.

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Report: Use of force caused man's death

Independent monitor says case should be classified as homicide

GEORGE WIEBE AND NOE GOLDBABER
Wisconsin State Journal

A Madison man who died the day after his arrest in December 2024 died as a result of officers' use of force, not drug use, and his death should be classified as a homicide, the city's independent police monitor said in a report Monday.

Richard Lee Johnson, 32, slumped over and became unresponsive roughly 30 minutes after Madison police arrested him on Dec. 30, 2024, on suspicion of stealing a vehicle. He died in a hospital a day later.

The Dane County Medical Examiner's Office ruled



Interim Independent Police Monitor Aairamique Glass said the Madison Police Department and Dane County District Attorney's Office should reinvestigate the circumstances of Johnson's death.

Johnson's death the result Wisconsin Department of Justice investigated. But an

independent pathologist consulted by the Office of the Independent Police Monitor disagreed.

Dr. Victor Weedn, a former Virginia forensic pathologist who reviewed Johnson's case, said drugs may have contributed to his death but were not the cause.

"Richard Lee Johnson died from restraint-related cardiac arrest and metabolic acidosis directly caused by police action," the report states, referring to a condition in which a person has too much acid in their blood. "Cocaine may have been a predisposing or contributing factor, but was not the cause of death. But for the police actions, Richard Johnson would not have died."

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WAR WITH IRAN | MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Trump: Deal 'all signed'

STEVE HOLLAND, PARISA HAFEZI AND MAAYAN LUBELL
Reuters

DUBAI — President Donald Trump said Monday a preliminary agreement to end the war in the Gulf is already signed by the United States and Iran, though details have yet to be made public.

"The deal's all signed," Trump said after he arrived in France for a summit of the G7 group of big economies, adding that Vice President JD Vance would attend a formal signing

ceremony Friday in Geneva.

The agreement would reopen the blockaded Strait of Hormuz and extend a ceasefire for 60 days, allowing negotiators to tackle difficult issues like the future of Iran's nuclear program. Oil prices fell to their lowest level since March 10, shortly after the conflict cut off one-fifth of the world's oil supply.

The deal is the most significant step yet to resolve the conflict, which has killed at least 7,000

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REUTERS

Vessels are seen Monday in the Strait of Hormuz from Musandam, Oman. President Trump said Monday that an agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz has been signed by both the U.S. and Iran.

WISCONSIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS | REPORT

Staffs have grown while enrollment has fallen

TEAGAN KING
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Wisconsin school districts saw a 30.7% growth in para-professionals and program aide positions over the past 16 years in response to increased student needs, a new report found.

Districts said the increased hires are due to growing student needs, especially around mental health, the rising number of students with disabilities and needed support for students for whom English isn't their first language, according to the report from the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

"We also heard from districts that it wasn't that they were adding staff willy-nilly, but

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A7

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