

SPORTS / C1

Memorial, Sun Prairie win state baseball openers

NBA FINALS: SPURS LEAD 2-1

GAME 3: PISTONS 96, SPURS 79



DAYBREAK / D1

ALL THINGS BATMAN

The best and worst of the Batman saga

★★★

W E D N E S D A Y



Wisconsin State Journal

JUNE 15, 2005

MADISON, WISCONSIN

WWW.MADISON.COM/WSJ

7 Day Forecast

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
75	77	76	78	82	85	86

State Journal illustration
Advanced technology doesn't make people feel good about a forecast when their picnic gets rained out. 'When you're wrong, that's when they remember.'

Poll finds many wary of weather forecasts

Associated Press

Never mind fancy computers, satellites and Doppler radar. The majority of people polled have limited faith that meteorologists can accurately forecast the weather. Four in 10 say they have made plans in the past month based on a weather forecast that turned out to be wrong, according to an AP-Ipsos poll. Still, most people closely follow the weather, mainly on television.

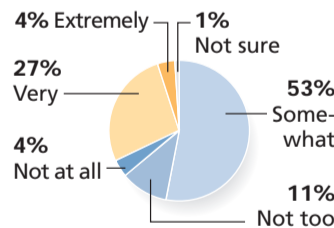
About a third say they think the weather forecasts in their area are very or extremely accurate, but a little more than half say just somewhat accurate, and most of the rest say the forecasts are off the mark. "Forecasting the weather is not an exact science. We try to do our best, but there are going to be periods of time when no matter what we do, the forecast is not going to work out," said Gary Canalle, chief meteorologist at WISC-TV (Ch. 3).

Please see **FORECAST**, Page A9

Forecast doubts

Only about a third of people polled said weather forecasts in their area are very accurate.

How accurate are the weather forecasts in your area?



In the last month, was there a time when you made plans based on a weather forecast that turned out to be wrong?



Poll of 1,001 adults taken between June 6-8; margin of error, ± 3.1 percentage points
SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP
Associated Press

PAYING DUES

Teens are back mowing lawns, scooping ice cream and policing pools. And today's summer job is more necessary than ever.



Steve Apps - State Journal

Ryan Schmitz, 18, recently began his third summer working at George Vitense Golf and on Whitney Way. But easily getting a summer job may not be par for the course, as the teen job market has grown increasingly crowded.

By John Buchel
For the State Journal

Mere hours after finishing his last final exam as a senior at Madison Memorial High School, Ryan Schmitz was on the clock at his summer job. Schmitz, 18, kicked off his third summer at George Vitense Golf and on Whitney Way last week. Schmitz's summer work is typical of many teenage summer jobs — landed through a personal connection and focused on active, outdoor work. "I love coming back to this job year after year," Schmitz said. "You stay pretty active, and it's one of the only jobs where you can be outside and enjoy the nice weather."

◆ Jobs that involve using leadership skills, volunteering and working with youth are good ways to boost your college credentials, advisers say / A10

For Schmitz, being able to avoid the summer job hunt is a perk in returning to the clubhouse. The job search can be a source of summertime blues as teens compete against college-age students, immigrant workers, senior citizens and displaced adult workers for low-skills jobs, said Arthur Morgan of the Dane County Job Center. "It's gotten more and more difficult in the last four years to find a job," Morgan said. The U.S. Department of Labor re-

ported 36.1 percent of teens age 16 to 19 had jobs in May 2005 — slightly less than the same time in 2004 and 2003 but far behind the 45.5 percent rate of May 1999. The state doesn't track unemployment for teenagers.

Teens still dominate seasonal work

Eric Grosso, an economist with the state Department of Workforce Development, said the job market usually peaks in June with the boost of seasonal employment. Grosso said last year saw a typical 5 percent seasonal bump in the number of jobs — many of which were filled by high schools students. "That's a whole lot of young people

Please see **SUMMER JOBS**, Page A9

STARTING AT THE BOTTOM: WHERE THEY WORKED AS TEENAGERS

Randy Alexander
Developer
Job: Mason tender in the Baraboo area



"I don't know the exact weight of a wheelbarrow full of wet cement, but I do know that it's really heavy and awkward to push around on 10-inch wide planks over uneven terrain. . . . The worst part of the job came after we were done working, when the three masons religiously went to the bar for three hours, exiling me to the truck, where I would sit bored and tired and hot. . . . In the end, though, it was a positive experience. I've always enjoyed hard work, and I learned from the three masons that I didn't want to hang around a bar for three hours after work every day."

Art Rainwater
Superintendent,
Madison School District



Job: Worked in family's funeral home in Charleston, Ark.

"Living in a small town in the 1950s, there were almost no summer jobs. However, I grew up in a family that owned a funeral home, so my summer work was helping out in all phases of the funeral business. I learned how important the right kind of support is when people are in the most difficult time of their lives. The small things that we say and do have lasting impact on people in these circumstances."

Kathleen Falk
Dane County executive



Jobs: Carhop at a root beer stand, a waitress at a supper club and a waitress at a hotel near the Elkhart Lake racetrack

Falk worked every summer during her teen years growing up in Waukesha County, and all of her jobs involved food. She says all of the jobs "fed her well and taught her how to handle all kinds of people."

Inside

◆ More business and civic leaders talk about their jobs as teenagers / A10

Dane County debuts its Traffic Team

Three deputies will be devoted to nabbing traffic violators.

By Ed Treleven
Wisconsin State Journal

The unmarked squad cars are an inconspicuous shade of metallic blue, a hue that might escape your attention if you're not looking for them. "That's the idea," said Dane County sheriff's Deputy Steve Mueller. Mueller is one of three deputies who

On the Internet

◆ Send your traffic enforcement requests to the Dane County Sheriff's Office at www.danesheriff.com/trafenfo.htm

have taken to the county's roads as part of the Dane County Traffic Team, whose sole assignment is to catch speeders, drunken drivers and other traffic scofflaws before they hurt or kill anyone.

The team, which has been up and running on a limited basis since June 1, was officially launched Tuesday as part of an effort to reduce the number of fatal crashes in Dane County. In its first week alone, the team issued more than 75 tickets, said Sheriff Gary Hamblin. Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk proposed the formation of the team last year in her 2005 budget, citing an alarming number of traffic fatalities on county roads.

Please see **TRAFFIC**, Page A6



Steve Apps - State Journal archives

An October 2004 crash at Highway 14 and Highway A accounted for one of Dane County's 55 traffic fatalities last year.

DNR urges caution in lakes

Blue-green algae can be a health hazard to swimmers.

By Ron Seely
Wisconsin State Journal

Swimmers and others who use southern Wisconsin lakes should be alert to the dangers of blue-green algae, which may produce toxins that can sicken or kill people and animals, the Department of Natural Resources warned this week.

The algae, which are actually a kind of bacteria, begin to bloom about this time every year and can be worse in hot and rainy weather. Also called cyanobacteria, blue-green algae are primitive plants that grow naturally in warm waters.

But more of the potentially dangerous algae have been growing in Madison-area lakes because of increasing runoff of soil and fertilizer, according to Bob Masnado, head of the DNR's water quality section. Nutrients in the runoff promote growth of the algae.

With several warm days so far this spring, blue-green algae have already become a problem. The city of Madison was forced earlier this month to close two beaches

Please see **ALGAE**, Page A10

◆ Algae precautions / A10

CELEBRITY TRIALS

The benefit of being famous

They can afford the best lawyers around.

By Jonathan D. Glater
New York Times

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson. Robert Blake. Kobe Bryant. And before them all, O.J. Simpson.

The facts, the accusations, the lawyers and the reliability of witnesses were quite different in each case. But the acquittal of Jackson on all counts against him has prompted a debate once again among the public and in legal circles of what role celebrity plays in America's criminal justice system.

Perhaps, as some defense lawyers suggested and supporters of Jackson contended, ambitious prosecutors go after the innocent or bring exceedingly weak cases, which jurors spot readily. Deciding the fate of a celebrity under intense news media scrutiny could bring so much pressure that jurors simply hold prosecutors to a higher standard. And perhaps, as some prosecutors say, celebrities can afford such good lawyers that

Please see **FAMOUS**, Page A4

◆ Attorney: Jackson won't share bed with children again / A3



Today
Breezy with morning showers. High 71. Winds: NW 10-20 mph.



Tonight
Partly cloudy and cool. Low 52. Details/back of Local

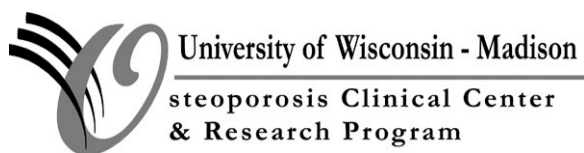
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BUSINESS / C10

CUNA contract ready for a vote

Union members are scheduled to vote Thursday on a proposed contract that could end the 15-month labor dispute with CUNA Mutual Group.



Rheumatoid Arthritis and Vitamin D: What's the Relationship?

The University of Wisconsin Osteoporosis and Research Program is recruiting individuals to participate in a 12 month research study investigating the role of vitamin D supplementation in individuals with rheumatoid arthritis.

If you are a man or woman 18 years or over with a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis you may be eligible to participate.

Eligible participants will receive:

- Bone density testing
- Medical history
- Rheumatology health assessments
- Calcium supplementation for the duration of the study

All testing and supplementation are provided free of charge. In addition, you will receive \$20 per visit for time and travel.

To find out more about how you may be able to participate, call:

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Summer jobs

Continued from Page A1

coming into the labor force for a few months," Grosso said.

Even with more adults competing for jobs with teens, youth employment experts say students on break still dominate typical summer jobs such as lawn care, landscaping and lifeguarding.

Dan Schaaf, 19, is doing just that in his job with The Tree Factory landscaping company of Waunakee.

"I love it," Schaaf said. "I get to be outside. I've started to eat right, and I've been figuring out how I can get more energy because it's physically draining."

He said he feels lucky that he didn't have to scour the classifieds for his job this year — unlike the last four years, when he had to hit the streets looking for employment and worked in restaurants and supermarkets. He's living in Madison this summer after his freshman year at Berry College in Rome, Ga., and happened upon the job when his mother met the company's owner.

"I'm definitely relieved" to have this job, Schaaf said.

Higher wages greet teenage workers

One change this summer for teenage workers is the state's minimum wage law, which took effect June 1. The new rules boost wages for many typical teenage summer jobs such as agriculture workers, camp counselors and golf caddies. It establishes a minimum wage of \$5.30 per hour for minors, up from \$5.15 an hour. The general minimum wage went from \$5.15 to \$5.70 an hour.

Grosso said he did not foresee a higher minimum wage deterring employers from hiring teens, in part because the majority of summer jobs already have wages above the minimum.

"I don't think it will dampen the demand for those workers," Grosso said. "When we talk about minimum wage work, it

Minimum wages up

As of June 1, the law increased some wages:

Job	Old	New
General wage	\$5.15	\$5.70
Minor wage	\$5.15	\$5.30
Agriculture worker		
18 and up	\$4.05	\$5.15
17 and under	\$3.70	\$4.25
Camp counselor (weekly rate, room and board included)		
18 and up	\$91	\$129
17 and under	\$74	\$105
Golf caddy (per round)		
18 holes	\$5.95	\$10.50
9 holes	\$3.35	\$5.90

Wage for tipped employees did not change.
Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

still does, by and large, make up a small amount of the work force, even for younger workers."

Junior Achievement Worldwide, a group focusing on youth economic education, found in its sixth annual poll that 62 percent of teens expect to make more than \$6 per hour this summer.

Brad Kaufman, vice president of marketing for Junior Achievement, said the most striking result of the national survey was that teens for the first time listed saving for college — and not extra spending money — as the top reason to work summer hours.

"One of the things we saw is that tuition is going up across the board," Kaufman said. "They need to have some resources to help their parents."

But in Wisconsin, extra spending money was still the biggest motivation for teens, followed closely by saving for college and then the "ever-popular" saving for a car, Kaufman said.

Emily Niles, 17, who graduated from Madison West High School on Sunday, said she makes more than the minimum at her three jobs and that tuition costs necessitate working more than one job.

"My goal is to make money for college. . . ." Niles said. "Minimum wage isn't going to send you to college."

In addition to her job at Bergmann Pharmacy, Niles started working at Michael's Frozen Custard on Monroe Street in March and also now works at a biotech lab.

She started her search for work early and said that if teens don't have a job by now, they may be out of luck.

"People have come in asking for applications now, and we have to tell them that we're pretty much done hiring," Niles said.

A struggle to balance work, fun

This time of year, many teens get acquainted with a problem their parents might face: work-life balance. Some teens struggle to allow time for work, friends, family vacations, camps and classes, which can fuel stereotypes about younger workers.

Tom Benson has been the head golf pro at Odana Hills golf course in Madison for 21 years. He complained that he has seen a general decrease in work ethic throughout the work force and said it can be especially lacking with high school students.

"When you talk about kids who only work two or three days a week, it's sort of funny when they say, 'I can't work because . . .'" Benson said.

Niles manages to fit in time with friends between her three jobs.

"At the same time, you miss out on the fun and experience that's part of youth. And that's hard, especially when this is our last summer before we go off to college," Niles said.

The job center's Morgan is disappointed when employers presume that teenagers are lazy, and he said work opportunities for youths help strengthen the future work force. The job center has created a committee to ask employers what it looks for in employees so it can help teens hone their skills.

Morgan also teaches teens to think about this question: "What do you have to offer an employer that they'll pay you for?"

Forecast

Continued from Page A1

"The other thing to consider is we do a good forecast and sometimes people interpret it wrong," Cannalite said. "Last weekend, we expected rain both days. People want to know exactly when it's going to rain. Well, these were hit-and-miss storms. That's the best we can do, but if it rains on their graduation party at 4 o'clock, they say that's a lousy forecast."

"When you're wrong, that's when they remember," said Veronica Johnson, a veteran meteorologist at WRC-TV in Washington. Cannalite agreed, saying, "People are much more apt to remember the times we're wrong, than the forecasts that were pretty good."

Some people remember only the bad forecasts.

"Just today I looked at the weather forecast and they said there would be rain after 6 o'clock, and yet as we were riding (bikes) down here, we got caught in rain at 2 o'clock," Joshua Kundert, 33, of Madison said on the UW-Madison campus. "I don't put too much faith in forecasts. I assume they're right two-thirds of the time, but I don't rely upon them."

JoAnn Sellers, 56, of Footville,

said she recently had plans for a family picnic in Rockford, Ill., and the forecast was for a fine, 80-degree day. "But it was hot and humid with thunderstorms. The temperature got to 86. We got rained on just at the very end," she said.

Despite the skepticism, most people say they check the weather forecasts.

Almost two-thirds said they had checked the weather forecast on the day they were surveyed. Television was, by far, the most popular source of weather information (used by seven in 10 who checked a forecast), followed by the Internet, newspapers and radio.

Kelly Sheahan and Trish Benishek, both 21, are UW-Madison seniors who considered becoming TV meteorologists until they slugged their way through an introductory weather forecasting course as freshmen.

"I found out it was more math and physics than you could even imagine," Sheahan said. "I have a lot of respect for weather forecasters, knowing how hard they try. Everybody makes fun of them, but after I took that class I realized how hard it is."

Weather forecasting has grown increasingly sophisticated — especially in providing early warnings and tracking se-

vere storms, veteran forecasters say. Predicting simply whether it will rain or not can be tougher. . .

The National Weather Service has made major strides in the last couple of decades, both in the ability to detect storm systems and the ability to communicate that information quickly, said Dennis McCarthy, chief of the office of weather and water services for the NWS.

A few decades ago, forecasters were lucky to be able to provide much warning of tornadoes or to accurately predict the track of a winter storm, but new radar, satellite and computer technology have dramatically improved their ability, he said.

Improvements in technology don't mean forecasters always get it right.

"Even with all the new technology and modernization, we're still not going to be able to beat Mother Nature all of the time," said E.W. "Joe" Friday, director of the National Weather Service until 1998. "A few times when I was director of the weather service, our forecasters would actually get threats when the forecast weather didn't occur and someone had planned an outdoor event like a wedding."

— State Journal reporter
Brenda Ingersoll contributed to this story.



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