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## Budget vote to create \$3.4B gap

### Republicans announce plan to reject tax hike, federal BadgerCare funds

**Patrick Marley**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON - Wisconsin Republicans will create an initial \$3.4 billion gap in the state budget Thursday when they

vote to reject tax increases and forgo additional federal aid.

They will spend the next several weeks balancing the state's two-year spending plan, which they say they will do without raising taxes.

The leaders of the Joint Finance Committee last week announced they would strip hundreds of provisions from Democratic Gov. Tony Evers' proposed spending plan. That move will come at a significant cost, according to budget documents.

Much of the financial hit comes from the Republicans' decision not to make more people eligible for the BadgerCare Plus insurance program. Evers' proposal would net \$1.6 billion over two years because the federal government would pay for more of the state's health care costs if the state gave about 100,000 more people access to BadgerCare Plus.

In addition, Republicans plan to reject Evers' proposals to raise about \$1 billion in taxes over two years.

When accounting for those changes

and others, Thursday's vote will create a \$3.4 billion difference between Evers budget and the starting point for the Republican spending plan, according to figures from the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

Because they are taking money out of the budget, Republicans will have to come up with a spending plan that puts less toward schools and other services than what Evers wants.

See **BUDGET**, Page 4A

### If you feel safe, now's the time to get away from it all



Travelers make their way to the front of the airport after disembarking from the plane April 29 at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee. PHOTOS BY EBONY COX / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

## Low fares, more service as airlines seek travelers

**Joe Taschler**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

One of the least-reported side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine is the nearly full-on donnybrook it is creating in the sky.

As more Americans become fully vaccinated against the virus, an explosion in leisure and VFR (visiting friends and relatives) air travel is expected this summer.

With business travelers maintaining no-show status, airlines have been scrambling to add routes to their schedules in an effort to get as many paying customers into seats as possible.

"You can call it the spaghetti theory," said Robert Mann, who is principal at R.W. Mann & Co., an airline industry consulting firm in New York. "They are throwing spaghetti at the wall and seeing what sticks."

"Everybody's fighting over the same leisure customers, even the carriers with very, very high costs like the network carriers," Mann added.

Travelers flying from Milwaukee will see this play out soon. By late summer there will be four airlines offering nonstop service between Milwaukee and Las Vegas. Right now, there are two.

You can also go nonstop, at least seasonally, from Milwaukee to Portland, Maine, and Charleston, South Carolina. Whether that service sticks is anybody's guess.

"I think the current experimentation on new routes will like any experiment have some successes and some failures," John Grant, a U.K.-based senior analyst at OAG, a global travel data analysis firm, said via email.

"Covid-19 may have caused immeasurable damage (to the airline industry), but in a bizarre way it



Travelers are returning to airports including Mitchell International in the highest numbers since last spring when air travel began to plummet because of COVID-19 concerns.

has made airlines think long and hard about how they structure their networks and how best to serve their customers," Grant said.

More than 1.6 million people were screened at U.S. airport checkpoints on Sunday, May 2, according to the Transportation Security Administration. That was the highest number screened since March 12 of last year when air travel began to plummet.

### No sand between your toes on video calls

That re-thinking has led to new routes and sometimes competing routes to places where video conference calls are no substitute for actually being there.

"You can't Zoom a trip to Cancun or Vegas," said Barry Bateman, retired airport director at Mitchell who now runs an airport consulting business in Kentucky.

See **AIRLINES**, Page 13A

## Moratorium end leaves city groups scrambling

### Judge says eviction ban was federal overreach

**Michael Collins and David Jackson**  
USA TODAY  
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WASHINGTON - A federal judge has thrown out a national moratorium on evictions enacted last year to help Americans who have fallen behind on their rent during the coronavirus pandemic, a decision that left Milwaukee area landlord and tenant groups scrambling to gauge its impact in the city.

U.S. District Judge Dabney L. Friedrich of the District of Columbia ruled Wednesday the federal government overreached in enacting the ban.

"The court recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic is a serious public health crisis that has presented unprecedented challenges for public health officials and the nation as a whole," Friedrich wrote in a 20-page decision. "The pandemic has triggered difficult policy decisions that have had enormous real-world consequences."

See **EVICIONS**, Page 7A

### MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL

## 'When Claude Got Shot' tells about impact of local attack

**Chris Foran**  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

While visiting Milwaukee for his high school reunion in 2014, Claude Motley was shot in the face during an attempted carjacking.

In the hospital, Motley tried to come to grips with what had happened to him, and with "the apathy" he saw about crime and its victims in the city he grew up in.

"You just get so frustrated that there is just no real system of attacking the situation, but just reacting to the situation," Motley said in a recent interview.

After surgery, Motley recuperated at the house of his friend, Milwaukee filmmaker Brad Lichtenstein. Lichtenstein had been with Motley's son, Seoul, when he learned his friend had

See **CLAUDE**, Page 9A

### Proposal for UW System

Republican Sen. Roger Roth calls for grouping campuses into four regions. **Local, 3A**

### Favre on Rodgers

Former Packers quarterback says he's pessimistic of return. **Sports, 1B**

### Weather

High 55° | Low 44°  
Showers.  
Forecast, **14B**

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