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ROAD WIN FOR BADGERS

Frank Kaminsky scores 24 as No. 5 UW beats Iowa by 11

SPORTS. D1



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In the third commemorative page celebrating our 175th anniversary, how railroads saved Madison

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GOGEBIC MINE | NORTHERN WI PROJECT HAS SLOWED

Locals fear company may pull out

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Work has slowed to a crawl on a massive proposed iron mine that has served as Gov. Scott Walker's signature job-creation effort.

Gogebic Taconite had aimed to submit a mining permit application this spring, but a key state regulator says it is unlikely the company will apply before 2016 because it isn't conducting crucial water monitoring needed for an environmental impact study

LIVE CHAT

Chat live with reporter Steve Verburg about the Gogebic Taconite mine proposal at noon Monday. Go to madison.com

of the site in Iron and Ashland Counties.

Meanwhile, the company has cut its workforce to a half-dozen employees who are trying to redesign plans in light of an unexpected proliferation of wetlands

that were found on the site last year, and a company spokesman said a proposed Iron County zoning ordinance has had a "chilling effect" on the project.

"We are taking a breather," said corporate spokesman Bob Seitz. "We have to analyze a lot of things and do a lot of reassessing at this time."

Last year the company announced it would cut about one-third of the \$1.5 billion project that was to be in Ashland County because of actions

by county leaders, and now Iron County officials are worried that the company will pull out completely, county zoning administrator Tom Bergman said.

"You know it's an emotional roller coaster up here," Bergman said. "They put the community in a difficult position by continually threatening to leave."

With the highest unemployment rate in the state, Iron County desperately wants the hundreds of jobs the mine could offer, but county leaders also want to make

sure the operation enhances, rather than degrades, the quality of life in the area, Bergman said.

Iron County Clerk Mike Saari said Gogebic Taconite president Bill Williams told him and county board chairman Joe Pinardi last week that he was not being allowed to spend any more money on the project for the time being. Williams declined to make a scheduled \$20,000 payment to renew a lease option for two years

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HIGHER EDUCATION | OTHER STATES BOOST SPENDING



AMBER ARNOLD — State Journal

As Gov. Scott Walker proposes to cut higher education funding in Wisconsin, other states are starting to spend more on campuses.

Walker cuts buck national trend

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Gov. Scott Walker's proposed budget cut of \$300 million to the University of Wisconsin System comes as other states, nationally and in the Midwest, have inched up funding for higher education, restoring support lost during the economic recession. More increases are expected in coming years.

"The numbers do seem to be improving," said Lara Couturier, director of postsecondary state policy at Jobs for the Future, a Boston research nonprofit focused on education and employment for low-income Americans. "Since

the dog days of the recession, the national picture is looking a little better but it doesn't change the fact that there has been overall a declining investment in higher education by our states."

Wisconsin is one of a handful of states that hasn't restored funding in this fiscal year to where it was in 2009-2010, when higher education systems nationwide — in addition to most other public agencies — saw dramatic funding cuts due to the economic recession that started in late 2007.

Nationally, state support for public universities is up 10 percent since then, according to the annual Grapevine survey at Illinois State University. In Wis-

consin, it's down 4 percent even before the proposed 13 percent drop to come in the next two years.

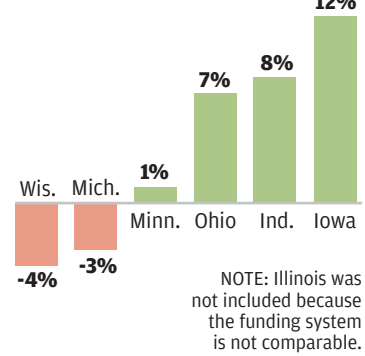
Other state agencies will likely face similar budget cuts as the state tries to plug a \$2 billion budget hole, although details won't be known until Tuesday. Walker released details of the UW plan last week.

Campus leaders throughout the state have already warned of coming layoffs, with other effects predicted. The \$300 million proposed cut would be the largest two-year reduction in history for the 26-campus System.

"They'll increase tuition and

State funding of universities

Change from 2009-10 to 2014-15 in the amount of total state funding universities received.



NOTE: Illinois was not included because the funding system is not comparable.

SOURCE: Grapevine survey at Illinois State University State Journal

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Exact Sciences' hiring soars

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With its home test kit for colorectal cancer now available for use in the U.S. and Europe, Exact Sciences Corp. has become one of the fastest-growing businesses in the Madison area.

One year ago, the company had 110 employees. Now it has 430. And the staff will likely double by the end of this year to more than 800, said Kevin Conroy, president, chief executive and chairman.

"I can't think of anyone that's had that level of growth in that time frame, outside of Exact and Epic," said Matthew Mikolajewski, Madison Office of Business Resources manager.

Epic Systems Corp., Verona, one of the nation's largest electronic health records developers, has about 8,000 employees, up around 1,000 in the past year.

Since federal regulators approved the use of Exact Science's Cologuard noninvasive, stool-based DNA test for colorectal cancer last August, 4,000 physicians nationwide

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INSIDE

• **Business Roundtable:** The State Journal gathers area tech leaders, who say Madison shouldn't be Silicon Valley, but it can grow. **D10**

Costumes, or "cosplay," are a big part of the Wizard World Comic Con events and conventions like them.

Wizard World



Superheroes, stars to descend on city

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Superheroes will probably descend. Jay most definitely won't be silent. And it would be a very bad idea for William Shatner to tell anyone to get a life.

When the Wizard World Comic Con comes to Madison beginning on Friday, an event that has its roots in comic books and science

fiction will bring a panoply of pop culture to the Alliant Energy Center. TV's "The Walking Dead" has a big presence, but so do cultural touchstones that don't have a ton to do with comics or sci-fi.

Among the celebrities making appearances for autographs and photo opps are Shatner, most famous as Capt. James T. Kirk on "Star Trek." He'll be joined by Bruce Campbell ("Army of Darkness" and "Evil Dead," among

others), Kristin Bauer ("True Blood"), Ian Somerhalder ("The Vampire Diaries"), Emily Kinney ("The Walking Dead"), Billy Dee Williams ("The Empire Strikes Back") and many other performers as well as artists and writers.

But it's not just those with horror or sci-fi connections. Jason Mewes, best known as the chatty Jay in "Clerks" and "Jay and

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WEATHER. B10

Snow, blowing snow. High 18, Low 0

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176th year — No. 62 © 2015 Wisconsin State Journal