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Badgers looking
to revive
running game

SPORTS, C1



Entrapments hit
20-year high in
deadly fire season

360



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TEEING UP GROWTH



JOHN HART PHOTOS, STATE JOURNAL

The 72 hitting bays on two levels at Topgolf Madison in Monona are heated and have tables, comfortable seating and bar and food service.

Monona hopes Topgolf Madison will be catalyst for further development

BARRY ADAMS
badams@madison.com

MONONA — The worst-kept secret along the Beltline is finally open.

There has been no hiding the construction of the \$30 million Topgolf Madison facility with its 180-foot-tall towers that support acres of netting.

Thousands of vehicles pass the 16-acre site daily, and officials estimate that the massive facility, which opened quietly on Aug. 10 and held its grand opening celebration Thursday night, will draw 250,000 customers a year.

This is the first Topgolf in Wisconsin, but officials with the Dallas, Texas-based company say they are looking at Milwaukee for another location. It remains to be seen how much business the Monona Topgolf facility will draw from two other golf-centric businesses: PinSocial in DeForest, which opened in 2023 as PinSeekers, and later declared bankruptcy, and Vitense



Please see **TOPGOLF**, Page A4

Topgolf Madison opened on Monday and had its grand opening celebration on Aug. 10.

UW wants additional \$730M from state in next budget

System says extra support
would allow for tuition
freeze, AI investments

SABINE MARTIN
smartin@madison.com

MADISON — The Universities of Wisconsin is pledging to freeze tuition for two years and create thousands more workers as part of a two-year budget request it plans to submit to the state Legislature that asks for an additional \$730 million in state funding.

The request, released Monday, seeks to

“address the state’s needs,” UW system Interim President Renée Wachter said.

Over the last few budget cycles, the UW system’s budget efforts have had mixed success, sometimes leading to significant increases in state funding and at other times resulting in hard-fought negotiations that yielded little.

During the 2025-27 biennial budget cycle, the UW system requested an \$855 million increase, with the Legislature ultimately approving \$256 million. That increase, despite being lower than requested, was the largest in more than two decades for the universities.

At one point, Republicans even floated cutting the system’s budget by \$87 million over what GOP leaders said was a “lack of political diversity” on campuses.

The UW Board of Regents will vote on the UW system’s 2027-29 state budget request at a meeting at UW-Madison on Thursday and Friday.

Here are five takeaways from the request.

UW system commits to 2-year tuition freeze

The UW system is pledging to freeze undergraduate in-state tuition over the next

two school years, starting in 2027, if the state commits \$190 million in its budget request.

If approved, the funding would also allow the UW system to limit any potential increases in the 2029-31 biennium above the rate of inflation.

Students entering in the fall of 2027 would see tuition decline relative to inflation for four years, the UW system said.

But if the Legislature doesn’t approve the \$190 million, it would be difficult not to increase tuition in the future, Regents President Kyle Weatherly told reporters Monday.

Please see **UW**, Page A5

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Inside

CLASSIFIEDS	C7	OBITUARIES	A4
COMMUNITY	A2	OPINION	A6-7
LEGALS	C3	SPORTS	C1

