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JOURNAL SENTINEL

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Evers, GOP leaders reach \$1.8B surplus deal

Includes tax cut, rebate checks, school funding

Molly Beck and Jessie Opoien
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

BARNEVELD – Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and Republican legislative leaders have struck a \$1.8 billion deal to deliver new funding to schools, lower property taxes and send direct payments to income tax filers across the state.

The bipartisan spending package comes two months after state lawmakers ended their regular session for the

year and at a time when the cost of living has become central to Wisconsin voters' decision-making ahead of the midterm elections, when control of the state Legislature and the governor's office are up for grabs.

"It's a historic day for Wisconsin's kids and our schools, and I'm jazzed we were able to get this done," Evers said in a statement.

The governor touted the bipartisan nature of the deal to reporters during a May 11 visit to the Barneveld School District.

"Once again, we're in a position to actually compromise and have Republicans and Democrats, at least at the leadership level, getting something

done," Evers told reporters.

Lawmakers in the state Capitol are expected to pass the deal this week in a special session.

"Republicans have fought hard to control spending, and now we have a sizable budget surplus," Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, said in a statement. "We're sending it back to help families with the pressure of increasing costs, reward hard work, and to continue investing in schools to help stabilize rising property taxes."

The proposed deal will spend down the state's projected \$2.5 billion surplus that, until now, lawmakers have been

See **SURPLUS**, Page 9A



Gov. Tony Evers speaks about a new tax cut and school funding measure reached in negotiations with Republican leaders in the Legislature. Evers spoke during a visit to the Barneveld School District on May 11.

JESSIE OPOIEN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

HIDDEN HARM

Milwaukee still has 65,000 lead pipes it must replace



Chris Williams, left, and Eddie Christoffel, Milwaukee Water Works foreman, work in the 2000 block of North 49th Street, where lead pipes are being replaced with copper pipes. PHOTOS BY ANGELA PETERSON/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Funding loss may make it hard to hit 2037 deadline

Joey Schamber
Special to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK

On a cold morning earlier this year, Eddie Christoffel and a crew of workers dug nearly four feet into frozen soil to remove a lead pipe in Milwaukee.

"I think it's important to get that lead out of the ground," Christoffel, the foreman, said.

"Copper's a lot safer to drink out of, especially if you have little kids," he added. "I have three, so before I bought my house, I made sure it was switched over."

In Milwaukee, every pipe counts as the city races to meet a federal deadline for replacing the lead service lines that carry water from mains under streets to residents' homes.

But meeting the 2037 deadline will become more difficult as federal funds to support the effort dwindle over the next few years.

See **LEAD PIPES**, Page 11A



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A lead pipe, estimated to be 106 years old, is removed from the 2000 block of North 49th Street in Milwaukee on Feb. 12.



The Dutch-flagged cruise ship MV Hondius sails next to a tanker May 11 during a refueling operation on the island of Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands.

JORGE GUERRERO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

American passenger positive for hantavirus

9 cases now linked to cruise ship outbreak

Nicole Fallert, Natalie Neysa Alund, Melina Khan, Thao Nguyen, Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy and Daniel de Visé

USA TODAY

Two more people, including an American, have tested positive for hantavirus after being evacuated from a luxury cruise ship hit by a deadly outbreak, health authorities said, as Spain prepared on May 11 to evacuate and repatriate the last passengers remaining on the vessel.

A French passenger who was evacuated from the MV Hondius tested positive for the virus and her condition is deteriorating, French Health Minister Stephanie Rist said May 11.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said May 10 that one of the 17 Americans being repatriated had tested "mildly positive" for the Andes strain of the virus, while a second had shown mild symptoms. The two people were transferred to Atlanta for further testing, officials said at a May 11 news briefing from the University of Nebraska, where the American passengers were flown for examination.

"Over the next several days, passengers will undergo an initial health assessment and receive guidance on next steps from the CDC experts," said John Knox, the principal deputy assistant secretary for the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

The risk to the rest of the country remains low, said Adm. Brian Christine, the assistant secretary for health at HHS.

The World Health Organization said there were now nine reported cases of hantavirus linked to the MV

See **HANTAVIRUS**, Page 8A

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