



5 teams get bounced from top 10

SPORTS, 8B

Oshkosh
Northwestern

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Afghans in the U.S.
fearful, anxious



More than 190,000 Afghans resettled in the United States since 2021 and some fear backlash after two National Guard soldiers were shot by a suspect who is from Afghanistan. PROVIDED BY THE US AIR FORCE VIA REUTERS FILE

Some worry of backlash after shooting in DC

Chris Kenning
USA TODAY

LOUISVILLE, KY – More than four years after a harrowing escape from Afghanistan in 2021 as Kabul fell to the Taliban, Tamim Bedar finally got his green card in March.

Bedar, 45, who spent years supporting U.S. goals during America’s 20-year war in Afghanistan, has since built a life in

Kentucky helping other refugees, seeing his kids thrive in school and working on a master’s degree.

His parents, who joined him in 2022, were granted asylum and are awaiting approval on their own green cards – further securing his family roots in a peaceful new home here, even as his brother remains in Afghanistan.

But now the ground is shifting underneath his Afghan community and others like it around the nation in the wake of the Nov. 26 shooting of two National Guard members in Washington, DC.

The suspect is an Afghan national – and that revelation has led to policy changes, political fallout and anxiety for

Bedar and others.

Afghan communities in the United States have strongly condemned the shooting while pleading to not let one person’s violence define a community.

“There’s a lot of fear within the community that there will be collective punishment because of the act of one individual,” Bedar said.

The suspect, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, is one of the more than 190,000 Afghans who resettled in the United States since 2021 through programs created by the Biden administration for Afghans fleeing the Taliban takeover.

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A Very Neenah Christmas debuts a new holiday shopping experience

Jelissa Burns
Appleton Post-Crescent
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

On Dec. 5, downtown Neenah will be transformed into a holiday wonderland for the annual A Very Neenah Christ-

mas, and for the first time, the festival is introducing A Very Neenah Christmas Market, a new weekend-long shopping experience featuring several local vendors.

From 5 to 8 p.m., guests can stroll the free, outdoor event which will feature

entertainment like a tree lighting ceremony, live reindeer, live ice sculpture creations, meet and greet with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Christmas carolers and street performers.

See EXPERIENCE, Page 4A

These are the 14 best places to retire in Wisconsin

Cailey Gleeson
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Fourteen Wisconsin cities were recently named the best places to retire in the Badger State by U.S. News & World Report.

For its “Best Places to Retire in the U.S. in 2026” report, the publication analyzed 850 of the most populated cities in the nation based on affordability, desirability, happiness, retiree taxes, job market and health care quality.

Tim Smart, contributing editor and author of U.S. News & World Report’s retirement newsletter, said in a Nov. 4 press release retirees are “prioritizing quality of life over affordability” for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This, coupled with an expanded number of places evaluated, allowed a number of midwestern cities to secure high positions in the rankings,” Smart said.

You can view the full report online at <https://realestate.usnews.com/places/rankings/best-places-to-retire/>

What are the best cities to retire in Wisconsin, according to U.S. News?

- Based on the above metrics, here are the 14 cities that made U.S. News’ list for Wisconsin:
1. Eau Claire
 2. Appleton
 3. Waukesha
 4. Wausau
 5. Oshkosh
 6. Green Bay
 7. Fond du Lac
 8. Sheboygan
 9. Madison
 10. Janesville
 11. Kenosha
 12. La Crosse
 13. Racine
 14. Milwaukee
- You can view Wisconsin full report at <https://realestate.usnews.com/places/rankings/best-places-to-retire/best-places-to-retire-in-wisconsin/>



State Street leads to the Wisconsin State Capitol on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison on Sept. 24, 2024. MIKE DE SISTI / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Rates are down, and the market’s heating up

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