



10 of the best music festivals in Wisconsin this summer

SUNDAY LIFE, 1D

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Christina LaVicka is surrounded by photographs of her and her son Austin Lavicka Luehring on May 1 in the living room of her home in Appleton. Luehring, 27, was killed in 2024 in a wrong-way head-on crash on Interstate 41 in Grand Chute. PHOTOS BY DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Mother remembers son killed in wrong-way crash

Christina LaVicka envisions '497 Austin Alert' to warn drivers of danger

Vivian Barrett Green Bay Press-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

When Christina LaVicka of Appleton found out a woman had driven the wrong way on Interstate 41 for over two miles before crashing head-on with and killing LaVicka's son, she immediately asked herself, "Why didn't my son know?" • Austin Lavicka Luehring was 27 when he died Nov. 5, 2024. Around 10:15 p.m. that night, Rosalie Polsin, 79, of Hortonville, entered I-41 going the wrong way near College Avenue and continued driving the wrong way for over two miles before hitting Austin's car head-on near Lynndale Drive.

Polsin pleaded guilty to homicide by the negligent use of a vehicle and was sentenced to two years in prison followed by five years on extended supervision.

As soon as LaVicka learned Polsin had driven over two miles the wrong way before the crash, she wondered why a system to warn drivers of imminent danger on roadways doesn't exist.

"I thought, why isn't there a warning system?" LaVicka said. "My Austin had no warning that he was heading in the direction of a missile heading right in his direction."

Several other drivers had called 911 and reported Polsin's wrong-way trajectory, according to a criminal complaint. Outagamie County 911 dispatch, the sheriff's office and Grand Chute police were gathering updates and trying to intercept Polsin's vehicle; but those 911 calls weren't known to Austin or the other drivers on the road.

That's when LaVicka came up with an idea for an alert system that would combine existing technology to alert others within a two-mile radius to danger on the roads. LaVicka envisions a platform called 497 Austin Alert, honoring her son with his name, birth month and



Christina LaVicka and her son Austin LaVicka Luehring are shown in a photograph in her living room. "We were best buddies," said LaVicka.

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PACKERS

Schedule may be hard for business, but fans like the lineup

Richard Ryman

Green Bay Press-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

The 2026 schedule is the strangest the Green Bay Packers have had in a long time.

For starters, they will be on national broadcasts - a lot. Seven times, in fact, and five of them at Lambeau Field. Which means five of nine home games will be at night.

Also, the NFL has decided the Frozen Tundra will be a thing this season. The Packers will play four home games in December and January, two in prime time, but also two against warm-weather teams. It is not unusual for the Packers to have three December/January games, but they've not had four in more than a decade.

In return, they will play three of their first four games on the road.

Notable points about the Packers' 2026 schedule

- Seven nationally televised games, six in prime time, one on Christmas Day and five at Lambeau Field. Two on Thursdays, two on Sundays and one on Monday in Green Bay. They also will play a rare Wednesday night game the day before Thanksgiving.

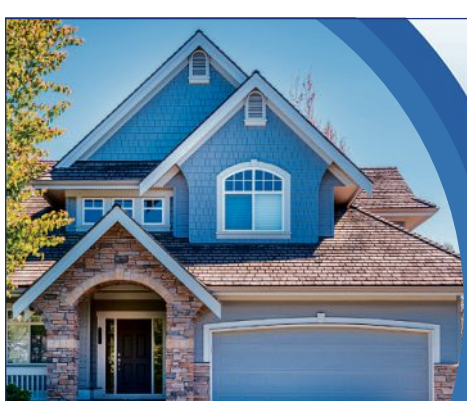
- Gold-package season ticket holders will get a late start on the season, their first game coming Oct. 11, the latest Gold package first game in at least a decade. On the other hand, both games are against NFC North opponents, the Chicago Bears and the Minnesota Vikings, and neither is a night or weekday game.

- Churches will be happy. There are only two noon games at Lambeau Field, a Gold package affair against the Vikings in November and a Green package game against the Miami Dolphins in December.

- Four games are on Amazon or Netflix streaming services, which will vex fans and agitate elected officials who are critical of the NFL over the cost of watching games. For fans in Green Bay and Milwaukee TV markets, this won't mean much, since games are broadcast on local stations, but the Packers have fans across the nation (and around the world) who won't be happy.

- The Packers will be done with the Vikings before Thanksgiving. They'll play the Bears on Christmas Day in Chicago and finish the season with the Detroit Lions. This will be the seventh time in 11 years and the fourth during Matt LaFleur's tenure they finish with

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