



**Legend lost**  
Desmond Tutu, South African clergyman who helped end practice of apartheid there, died Sunday. He was 90. **Page 6B**

**Rodgers' record**  
The first of Aaron Rodgers' three touchdown throws in Saturday's 24-22 win over Cleveland gave him the most touchdown passes in team history. **Page 1B**

**Helping hand**  
Church in town of Beloit prepared and gave out dozens of Christmas meals, toys and gift cards Saturday. **Page 3A**

Desmond Tutu



# The Gazette

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## Evers primed for 2022 fights

Governor up for reelection; GOP eyes amendment to alter election oversight

By Scott Bauer  
Associated Press

**MADISON**

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers promised to fight a proposed constitutional amendment supported by conservatives that would change election law, even as the measure could be put on the ballot for approval

without the Democratic governor's signature.

Evers, in a year-end interview with The Associated Press, said he also opposed handing election duties to the nearly powerless secretary of state's office as state Rep. Amy Loudenbeck, a Clinton Republican who plans to run for secretary of state, has proposed.



Loudenbeck

"We have a good system," Evers said Tuesday. "It's my goal to keep it." Evers, who vetoed six Republican-authored election bills this year, also promised to reject attempts to change the current

system, including giving the GOP-controlled Legislature the power to run elections.

Evers' authority is the only thing standing between the Republican Legislature and wholesale changes to the current election administration system, which was created by the Republican Legislature. High-ranking Republicans, including Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, have called for commissioners to resign and have floated proposals to reconstitute the bipartisan Wisconsin Elections Commission and potentially hand the power to run elections to the Legislature.

Turn to **FIGHTS** on Page 10A

## Travel tied up; retail thrives

Opposite trends emerge in key holiday industries as omicron wave persists

By Bryan Gallion and Paul Wiseman  
Associated Press

**NEWARK, N.J.**

The latest COVID-19 variant is upending holiday plans for tens of thousands of travelers—but it didn't do much damage to holiday shopping.

Airlines canceled hundreds more flights Sunday, citing staffing problems tied to COVID-19, as the nation's travel woes extended beyond Christmas, with no clear indication when normal schedules would resume.

But shoppers shrugged off the omicron variant, and holiday sales rose at the fastest pace in 17 years, according to one spending measure.

Omicron is likely to slow the economy's unexpectedly strong rebound from last year's coronavirus recession by disrupting travel and discouraging some consumers from venturing out. The variant could also add more heat to already simmering inflation by forcing shutdowns at factories and ports, delaying shipments and driving up prices.

"A full reopening of the U.S. economy will be delayed yet again," said Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance, a trade group of financial firms.

But it's not yet clear how deep

Turn to **TRAVEL** on Page 10A

### No injuries reported after house fire in Janesville's Fourth Ward neighborhood



Anthony Wahl/awahl@gazettextra.com

A Janesville firefighter climbs a ladder as flames dance on the outside of a two-story home at 808 W. Holmes St., Janesville, on Sunday night. Five people in the home, along with three cats, escaped the fire, which authorities believe started in the rear of the structure. **Story on Page 9A.**

## Families of Beloit gun violence victims plan meeting next month

Police chief says he won't attend, citing planned outreach events next year

By Austin Montgomery  
Adams Publishing Group

**BELOIT**

A woman who lost her cousin in a shooting in October 2020 wants shootings to stop in Beloit. To that end, she has organized an anti-violence public meeting to discuss what can be done to stop the shootings.

Alexcia Payton, founder of the Beloit Brown Community Liaison group, lost her cousin Chelsey Payton, 26, in a shooting on Oct. 3, 2020

near Grand and Park avenues. No arrests have been made in Payton's death.

From 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 15, Payton will host "We Hear You, Now Hear Us" at New Life International Ministries, 1400 Harvey St., in an effort to stop the gun violence that has affected the city.

The event will allow families of shooting victims to speak out about how gun violence has affected their lives, Payton said.

"We wanted to host an event where the families, the direct relatives of those taken from our community through gun violence, can speak directly to (the Beloit Police Department) about how their lives have been

Turn to **GUNS** on Page 9A

“ ”

We wanted to host an event where the families, the direct relatives of those taken from our community through gun violence, can speak directly to (the Beloit Police Department) about how their lives have been forever changed. Hopefully this will prompt some changes in the community and start the planning for stopping gun violence here.

Alexcia Payton



Clint Wolf/Adams Publishing Group

Beloit police investigate the scene of a shooting near the intersection of Park and Grand avenues on Oct. 3, 2020. Chelsey Payton, 26, was killed in the shooting. Her cousin, Alexcia Payton, has organized a public meeting to discuss ways to prevent gun violence in the city.

**OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES, 9A**

- Andrea Rose Baar
- Eileen T. Beggs
- Mary J. Dix
- Gaylord J. Downing
- John S. Ellsworth
- Charles E. Hanauska
- Robert A. Laukant
- Hondo L. "Ho" Schmitt
- Myron P. Seaver
- Frederick G. Shadoski
- Robert J. Skinner
- The Rev. Dr. David J. Spong
- Sheila M. Stirmel
- Ty N. Thayer

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

High 46 | Low 25  
Breezy with clouds and sunshine  
More on 10A

Classified . . . . . 8B-10B	Lotteries . . . . . 9A	Puzzles . . . . . 10B
Comics . . . . . 5A	Nation/World . . 6B-7B	State . . . . . 2A
Legals . . . . . 4B	Opinion . . . . . 6A-7A	Advice . . . . . 7B

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