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## Light teardown

Bluffton Electric Department crews have begun to take down the Christmas lights throughout downtown Bluffton. Should fundraising efforts by the Christmas Light Committee be successful, this will may be the last time these specific lights are hung. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

## Gov. Eric Holcomb looks back on 8 years in office

*In an end-of-term interview, Holcomb recalled the highs, lows and lessons learned over the course of his tenure*

By CASEY SMITH, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Looking back on two terms in office, outgoing Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb doesn't have regrets — or at least not many.

The Republican statesman is just days away from bringing his eight years as governor to a close. He'll officially hand the reins to Gov.-elect Mike Braun on January 13.

In a sit-down interview with the Indiana Capital Chronicle in December, Holcomb pointed to economic gains — like job and wage growth, and an influx of new business developments in the state — among his biggest wins.

His tenure as Indiana's 51st head of state was most notably defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, however. Even so, Holcomb said he hopes to be revered as “more than just a COVID governor.”

“I hope people say that we were served at a point in time that — while the economy grew — we were able to invest and reinvest and modernize things that had been on the shelf ... gathering dust, understandably, because we didn't have the money ... and we upgraded so many different facilities that will have a positive impact on people's lives and give them more opportunities,” he said. “And then maybe even most importantly, that I was a person that respected everyone, whether I agreed with them or not, or they with me. And that I was kind, even during the most challenging times. That's enough for me.”

### Holcomb's COVID-19 response

The Holcomb administration's response to the global pandemic likely earned the governor the most criticism, much of which from conservatives who disapproved of Indiana's statewide mask mandate and other COVID-19 restrictions that Holcomb imposed by executive order.

“You're never going to please everyone, and you might not even please half of them. But what gave me confidence, actually strength, during it all, was that we were looking at all the information that we could get our hands on and

(Continued on Page 2)



Governor Eric Holcomb

## FBI: Driver in New Orleans rampage acted alone, was inspired by Islamic State group

By ERIC TUCKER, JIM MUSTIAN, KEVIN MCGILL and JACK BROOK

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Army veteran who drove a pickup truck into a crowd of New Year's revelers in New Orleans acted alone, the FBI said Thursday, reversing its position from a day earlier that he likely worked with others in the deadly attack that officials said was inspired by the Islamic State group.

The FBI also revealed that the driver, Shamsud-Din Jabbar, an American citizen from Texas, posted five videos on his Facebook account in the hours before the attack in which he proclaimed his support for the militant group and previewed the violence that he would soon unleash in the famed French Quarter district.

“This was an act of terrorism. It was premeditated and an evil act,” said Christopher Raia, the deputy assistant director of the FBI's counterterror-

ism division, calling Jabbar “100% inspired” by the Islamic State.

The attack along Bourbon Street killed 14 revelers, along with Jabbar, 42, who was fatally shot in a firefight with police after steering his speeding truck around a barricade and plowing into the crowd. About 30 people were injured.

It was the deadliest IS-inspired assault on U.S. soil in years, laying bare what federal officials have warned is a resurgent international terrorism threat. It also comes as the FBI and other agencies brace for dramatic leadership upheaval — and likely policy changes — after President-elect Donald Trump's administration takes office.

Raia stressed that there was no indication of a connection between the New Orleans attack and the explosion Wednesday of a Tesla Cybertruck filled with explosives outside Trump's Las Vegas hotel. The person inside that truck, a decorated U.S. Army Green

Beret, shot himself in the head just before detonation, authorities said.

The FBI continued to hunt for clues about Jabbar but said that a day into its investigation, it was confident he was not aided by anyone else in the attack, which killed an 18-year-old aspiring nurse, a single mother, a father of two and a former Princeton University football star, among others.

The attack plans also included the placement of crude bombs in the neighborhood in an apparent attempt to cause more carnage, officials said. Two improvised explosive devices left in coolers several blocks apart were rendered safe at the scene. Other devices were determined to be nonfunctional.

Officials reviewed surveillance video showing people standing near one of the coolers but concluded that they were not connected “in any way” with the attack, though investigators still want to speak with them as witnesses, Raia said.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Soldier shot self before Cybertruck exploded outside Trump's Las Vegas hotel, officials say

By TARA COPP, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, COLLEEN LONG and TY ONEIL

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The highly decorated Army soldier inside a Tesla Cybertruck packed with fireworks that exploded outside Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas shot himself in the head just before detonation, authorities said Thursday.

The explosion caused minor injuries to seven people but virtually no damage to the hotel. Clark County Sheriff Kevin McMahill said Matthew Livelsberger, a 37-year-old Green Beret, likely planned a more damaging attack but the steel-sided vehicle absorbed much of the force from the crudely built explosive.

Damage from the blast was mostly limited to the interior of the truck because the explosion “vented out and up” and didn't hit the Trump hotel

doors just a few feet away, the sheriff said.

“The level of sophistication is not what we would expect from an individual with this type of military experience,” said Kenny Cooper, a special agent in charge for the the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Authorities are still working to determine a motive.

“It's not lost on us that it's in front of the Trump building, that it's a Tesla vehicle, but we don't have information at this point that definitively tells us or suggests it was because of this particular ideology,” said Spencer Evans, the Las Vegas FBI's special agent in charge.

Livelsberger had recently returned from an overseas assignment in Germany and was on approved leave when he died, according to a U.S. official.

A law enforcement official said

investigators learned through interviews that he may have gotten into a fight with his wife about relationship issues shortly before he rented the Tesla and bought the guns. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Among the charred items found inside the truck were a handgun at Livelsberger's feet, another firearm, a number of fireworks, a passport, a military ID, credit cards, an iPhone and a smartwatch, McMahill said. Authorities said both guns were purchased legally.

Investigators identified the vehicle's driver — who was burned beyond recognition — as Livelsberger, of Colorado Springs, on Thursday. The cause of death was suicide by gunshot, according to the Clark County coroner.

Livelsberger served in the Green

(Continued on Page 3)

## Israeli strike hits Gaza humanitarian zone

By WAFSA SHURAF and FATMA KHALED

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli airstrikes killed at least 40 people, including several children, across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, hitting Hamas security officers and an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone.

As the daily bombardment continued, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he had authorized a delegation from the Mossad intelligence agency, the Shin Bet internal security agency and the military to continue negotiations in Qatar toward a ceasefire deal.

Israeli media said the delegation would depart on Friday. There was no immediate Hamas comment. The U.S.-led talks have repeatedly stalled during 15 months of war.

The Israeli strike in the seaside humanitarian zone known as Muwasi occurred as hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians have been huddling there in damp winter weather.

“Everyone was taking

shelter in their tents from the cold, and suddenly we found the world turning upside down. Why, and for what?” said Ziyad Abu Jabal, displaced from Gaza City.

The early morning strike killed at least 10 people, including three children and two senior Hamas police officers.

Israel's military said it targeted a senior police officer, saying he was involved in gathering intelligence used by Hamas' armed wing in attacks on Israeli forces.


Another Israeli strike killed at least eight people in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza. The men were members of local committees that help secure aid convoys, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the bodies. An Associated Press journalist there confirmed the toll.

There was no immediate comment from Israel's military.

In southern Gaza, the military killed five policemen in eastern Khan Younis. Israeli government spokesman David Mencer said the strike targeted the head of

(Continued on Page 2)

**Inside**  
Local/Area  
Obituaries . . . . . 3  
Police Notebook . . . 3  
  
Opinion  
Marc Thiessen . . . . 4  
  
Also...  
Sports . . . . . 6-7  
Classifieds . . . . . 7  
Diversions . . . . . 5

**Outside**  
  
Cloudy, cold and windy  
today and tonight  
  
Today Saturday Sunday  
High 26 High 21 High 25  
Low 14 Low 14 Low 19  
More Weather on Page 2

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## Gov. Holcomb reflects

(Continued from Page 1)

were connected with communities in all 92 counties. We were connected to trade associations, to schools, to hospitals, to local health departments, to all kinds of entities that had an opinion," Holcomb recalled.

"There was some disinformation and misinformation. And information was changing daily ... and we were trying," he continued. "What gave me strength and confidence is the administration was trying to do the right thing, regardless of the hit that I might take politically. ... No matter how hard it is or unpopular it is, I have to do the right thing. I'll defend it to the end."

But if there is "one regret" Holcomb has, it came in May 2020, after a photo was posted on Facebook showing the governor posing at the Hobnob Corner Restaurant in Nashville, Indiana, with two other people — none of whom were wearing masks.

The photo was posted amid rising statewide tensions over Holcomb's stay-at-home orders that caused many businesses to shut down.

"(The woman who wanted a photo) asked, 'Could I get a picture with our faces?' And it was so innocently asked, and I didn't get COVID after it. So, it was almost like, 'Well, why are you telling us to wear it?' I get it," Holcomb said. "I wish I wouldn't have done that."

Ire was also high among state legislators, some from within Holcomb's own party.

Throughout the dog days of the pandemic, Holcomb said he "was in constant communication" with legislative leadership. Although the governor "was always asking" if lawmakers wanted to come back in session, "they never did."

In 2021, lawmakers approved a measure that sought to give the Republican-dominated legislature the power to call themselves into special session after the governor has declared an emergency. Holcomb vetoed, claiming it went against the Indiana Constitution, but the General Assembly overrode his veto.

Ultimately, Holcomb prevailed before the Indiana Supreme Court. He called the debacle "an honest disagreement ... that I didn't lose any friendships over."

"There were some disagreements among us. You had to make calls like, where does one's individual liberty infringe on another person's individual? Do you believe it's airborne-transmitted? Some didn't, I do. ... And people were also angry that I was promoting getting vaccinated," Holcomb said.

"With an issue like a global pandemic that was unlike in 1918, where information traveled faster than light and sound, and there were different motivations — you just had to try to do the right thing," he added. "I know that sounds so cliché, but we tried to balance lives and livelihoods every single opportunity that confronted us."

Still, Holcomb empha-



Gov. Eric Holcomb speaks at the Indiana Global Economic Summit in downtown Indianapolis on Thursday, May 23, 2024. (Photo by Leslie Bonilla Muñiz)

sized that there's another, far more supportive "side of the conversation" surrounding his response pandemic.

"To this day, if we were to go to ... an MCL or to Hardee's or wherever, if you and I went in and we were standing there, inevitably, someone comes up to me and says, 'Thanks for the way you handled COVID,'" the governor said.

"I'm almost amazed by — I shouldn't be — but the lingering positive effect of how we got through it all. The attention has been on the loud, angry disagreeers, on the people that protested with guns on their backs and dressed me up as Hitler out here. They wanted attention. They had their own motivation, and some of it was probably pure, and they were afraid of the government taking over their lives," he continued. "I know this sounds thin-skinned of me, but we had a (gubernatorial) election after it (in 2020), and the one thing that kind of stifled some of the noise was the people spoke, and it riled up this silent majority that said, 'Those people are being unfair, and I'm going to vote, and I'm going to cross over, and I'm going to express my support.' And then they said, in a record number, 'keep going.'"

Holcomb said he also wishes he could have done more to improve Indiana's infant and maternal mortality rates. Despite significant focus, the state still ranks among the worst in the country for both metrics. The governor said the lack of progress is one of few shortfalls "that will haunt me."

"We're nowhere where I thought we could be after years. Not close. It's not because we're not trying. There's a shortcoming somewhere, because other states are doing a better job than we are, and I don't want to just blame the state — it takes two to tango," Holcomb said. "We've got really good corporate partners, great stakeholders who are helping us, trying to provide the education to expecting or new mothers. But we just cannot figure it out."

Holcomb cited resistance from the General Assembly as a major "inhibitor" to achieving better maternal health.

Lawmakers, he said, "just flat out thought" pregnancy accommodations for mothers, for example, amounted to "government intervention in the business workplace that was unnecessary."

"I always thought it was a pro-growth culture that

wasn't anti-business, for sure," Holcomb said. "It was the opposite to me."

### Trials — and triumphs

Holcomb had a breadth of political experience — but not governing experience — when he assumed office in January 2017.

Before he was governor, Holcomb was an advisor to both then-Gov. Mitch Daniels and former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats. He additionally worked for Congressman John Hostettler and as a state chairman of the Indiana Republican Party.

Holcomb's gubernatorial campaign lasted just 106 days, after former Gov. Mike Pence was tapped as would-be President Donald Trump's vice president in 2016.

His biggest surprise over the last eight years has been "the amount of turnover" in government, media, the judiciary, and other public sectors.

Holcomb said the lack of "consistency and continuity" causes Hoosiers — "real people" — to be less connected to elected officials and others whose decisions have "impact."

"It's the amount of change, not just technology, and how it's impacting and forcing change on how to govern, or how to cover those governing. The turnover ... and how that translates to the average citizen who doesn't read (the news), or see every press release I put out, or is just earning a living and trying to get by, or recover from an addiction, or fill in the blank," he said. "There is a need for all of us, including me, to be a better storyteller about why we do what we do, and not just assume."

The governor said his greatest accomplishment — aside from economic development wins — was "not taking the bait" and "staying focused on the job" despite "a lot of upheaval, and a lot of new faces, and new motivations, and new competition."

"People want you to think about running for this. Say you ought to do that. You ought to come out and address the protesters — whatever it is to get my attention diverted from the job that I have," Holcomb said. "I'm not trying to pat myself on the back, but that takes discipline, and a really good team that also stays focused on the job that they have."

### Looking ahead

As the transition of power nears, Holcomb said he has a list of recommendations to hand off to his successor. Included are "a number of" capital investment

deals he'll advise Braun to chase, along with possible actions for improving maternal and infant health.

Above anything else, Holcomb said Indiana's next governor should expect "to be learning — and learning a lot every day."

"It's one thing to be convicted, and to have your opinions, and have a good plan, and execute and implement and tweak it, and pivot and scramble, or whatever. It's another thing to just understand that this is the first time any of us ever had the job. It's different from every other job. And I'm not saying it's harder. I'm just saying it's a different job, and you have to be aware that you're going to be learning," Holcomb said. "And I would say to remain humble, in the sense that you're going to be learning every day about things, and it's necessary then to stay in contact with people ... in every county, okay, and different associations, and all these tentacles that you have."

What comes next for the departing state leader is still to be decided, but he and First Lady Janet Holcomb — who will move just northwest of Indianapolis after leaving the governor's residence — plan to lay low and "travel a little less," for now.

"We've had a busy few months, and just kind of want to exhale, and spend some time with family, initially, and friends that just always seem to kind of take the hit," he said. "But I won't go stir crazy. I mean, I'll get busy after a few months, doing something."

It's also the more mundane aspects of day-to-day life that Holcomb said he's looking forward to most, like "mowing the lawn with my headphones."

"I would love to be able to go to CVS or Walgreens and buy Q-tips without having to be followed ... or without addressing the decision that I just made the other day," Holcomb said, chuckling. "Or maybe when I go out to eat — and I'm sure my mouth is open when I'm chewing — and I can see (someone coming up to me) out of the corner of my eye. It's just the anonymity that you had prior will be nice, or not having law enforcement so close every minute of the day."

And as for another go at elected office?

"Not right now," Holcomb said of any possible future political aspirations. "I've not devoted one second to that, and in fact, I need a break."

## Weather

Friday, January 3, 2025

(24-hour observations at 9:45 p.m. Thursday at Fort Wayne International Airport)

**High:** 30; **Low:** 24; **Precipitation:** None  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 5.90 feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 26. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 21. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 14. West wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** A 50% chance of snow, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 25.

**Sunday Night:** Snow. Low around 19. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

**Monday:** A 30% chance of snow before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27.

**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13.

**Tuesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 24.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11.

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 19.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 6.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny and cold, with a high near 17.

## Israeli airstrike

(Continued from Page 1)

the Hamas internal security force in southern Gaza.

"Where did we find him? Where else, but of course hiding in the humanitarian zone in Khan Younis, where Gazans are sheltering from this war," Mencer said.

Israel has repeatedly targeted Gaza's police during the war, contributing to a breakdown of law and order that has made it difficult for humanitarian groups to deliver aid. Israel accuses Hamas of hijacking aid for its own purposes.

The Hamas-run government had a police force numbering in the tens of thousands that maintained a high degree of public security before the war, while also violently suppressing dissent. Now officers have largely vanished from the streets in many areas.

Meanwhile, three Palestinians were killed in an Israeli strike that hit a group of people walking in the street in Maghazi in central Gaza. Their bodies were taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital.

And late Thursday, Israeli strikes in Maghazi and in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed at least 14 people, including five children. They were taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where an AP journalist counted the bodies.

The war was sparked by Hamas-led militants' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel. The militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive in

retaliation has killed over 45,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which says women and children make up more than half the dead. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in their tally.

Israel's military says it only targets militants and blames Hamas for civilian deaths because its fighters operate in dense residential areas. The army says it has killed 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war has caused widespread destruction and displaced some 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, many of them multiple times.

Hunger is widespread. Children, some barefoot or in sandals, waited in line with metal pails or other containers at a food distribution center in Deir al-Balah on Thursday.

Netanyahu leaves the hospital after surgery

Netanyahu was released from the hospital Thursday after having prostate surgery Sunday.

Doctors at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital said Netanyahu was recuperating well, although he has a period of recovery ahead. Despite doctor's orders to remain hospitalized, the 75-year-old leader briefly left the facility to participate in a vote in Israel's parliament on Tuesday.

Netanyahu has vowed to press ahead in Gaza until Hamas is destroyed. But the militant group, while greatly weakened, has repeatedly regrouped in parts of the territory — notably the largely isolated north — after Israeli forces withdraw.

## 'Dinosaur highway' tracks dating back 166 million years are discovered in England

By BRIAN MELLEY  
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A worker digging up clay in a southern England limestone quarry noticed unusual bumps that led to the discovery of a "dinosaur highway" and nearly 200 tracks that date back 166 million years, researchers said Thursday.

The extraordinary find made after a team of more than 100 people excavated the Dewars Farm Quarry, in Oxfordshire, in June expands upon previous paleontology work in the area and offers greater insights into the Middle Jurassic period, researchers at the universities of Oxford and Birmingham said.

"These footprints offer an extraordinary window into the lives of dinosaurs, revealing details about their movements, interactions, and the tropical environment they inhabited," said Kirsty Edgar, a micropaleontology professor at the University of Birmingham.

Four of the sets of tracks that make

up the so-called highway show paths taken by gigantic, long-necked, herbivores called sauropods, thought to be Cetiosaurus, a dinosaur that grew to nearly 60 feet in length. A fifth set belonged to the Megalosaurus, a ferocious 9-meter predator that left a distinctive triple-claw print and was the first dinosaur to be scientifically named two centuries ago.

An area where the tracks cross raises questions about possible interactions between the carnivores and herbivores.

"Scientists have known about and been studying Megalosaurus for longer than any other dinosaur on Earth, and yet these recent discoveries prove there is still new evidence of these animals out there, waiting to be found," said Emma Nicholls, a vertebrate paleontologist at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

Nearly 30 years ago, 40 sets of footprints discovered in a limestone quarry in the area were considered one of the world's most scientifically

important dinosaur track sites. But that area is mostly inaccessible now and there's limited photographic evidence because it predated the use of digital cameras and drones to record the findings.

The group that worked at the site this summer took more than 20,000 digital images and used drones to create 3-D models of the prints. The trove of documentation will aid future studies and could shed light on the size of the dinosaurs, how they walked and the speed at which they moved.

"The preservation is so detailed that we can see how the mud was deformed as the dinosaur's feet squelched in and out," said Duncan Murdock, an earth scientist at the Oxford museum. "Along with other fossils like burrows, shells and plants we can bring to life the muddy lagoon environment the dinosaurs walked through."

The findings will be shown at a new exhibit at the museum and also broadcast on the BBC's "Digging for Britain" program next week.

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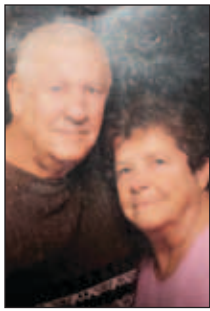


OBITUARIES

Raymond Markley, 88

Raymond D. Markley passed away on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024.

Ray was born March 8, 1936, to Earl Markley Jr. and Elsie Louise. Ray served in the National Guard for six years. It was during this time that Ray married Patricia S. Hannon. They had three children together and remained happily married for 54 years. Ray worked for General Motors in Marion. He retired as a tool and die maker after 46 years of service.



Ray is survived by a brother, David Markley; a sister, Jauneanne Monroe; a son, Raymond D. Markley Jr.; a daughter, Lisa (Tim) Downam; six grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Pat, one son, Robert Markley, two sisters, Nancy and Sandra, and one brother, Jerry.

Funeral Services will be held on Jan. 4 at Garden View Funeral Home, 10501 N State Road 3 in Muncie. Visitation starts at 10 a.m. and the service will begin at 11 a.m.

They are now together forever.

Rae Ann Hayden, 71

Rae Ann Hayden, 71, of rural Bluffton, passed away Thursday morning, Jan. 2, 2025, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.



(Photo submitted)

Ossian Hardware acquires Markle Hardware & Rental

Ossian Hardware announced its acquisition of Markle Hardware & Rental in Markle. This strategic acquisition expands Ossian Hardware's operations to three home improvement and rental stores in Northeast Indiana, enhancing the company's ability to better serve the local community with a broader range of products and services.

Markle Hardware & Rental has been a trusted community resource under the ownership of Mark Schaufelberger and his daughter, Whitney McBride, since 2007. The 5,400-square-foot, full-service home improvement store is known for its key departments, including fasteners, lawn and garden, plumbing, rental, and The Color Bar.

Following the acquisition, the store will continue to operate under the name Markle Hardware & Rental, maintaining its current leadership and dedicated staff to ensure a seamless experience for its loyal customers.

"I've long admired Mark's leadership and the strong reputation he's cultivated with Markle Hardware & Rental," said Ossian Hardware Owner Eventt Norris. "This acquisition allows us to build on that legacy, serving an even broader portion of Wells County. Our goal is to deliver the same high level of customer service and product selection that our Ossian and Marion customers have come to expect. We officially took the reins on Jan. 1, and we've already felt so welcomed by the commu-

unity." This acquisition marks the third hardware store for Norris, joining Ossian Hardware in Ossian and Max Hardware in Marion. Additionally, Norris operates Bluffton Rentco Tool & Equipment Rental in Bluffton. This acquisition is a natural progression of his commitment to serving the region's hardware and rental needs.

"We're confident in passing the torch to Eventt and his team," said Schaufelberger. "Their dedication to the home improvement industry and providing exceptional customer service perfectly aligns with our values. We're looking forward to seeing how they continue to grow the store and serve the community."

To celebrate this new chapter, Norris is planning a grand reopening event in the spring of 2025, which will include all store locations. This celebration will feature exclusive promotions, product demonstrations, and family-friendly activities, inviting customers from across Wells County to join in the festivities.

Ossian Hardware's growth is backed by the strength of its status as a member-owner of Do it Best, a U.S.-based hardware, lumber and building materials co-op with thousands of independently owned locations in the United States and more than 60 other countries. Store hours are 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday. Learn more at [doitbest.com/ossian-hardware](http://doitbest.com/ossian-hardware).

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Tuesday, 3:16 p.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Report of theft.

Tuesday, 11:33 p.m., Main Street and Sutton Circle Drive. Intoxicated driver.

Wednesday, 12:35 a.m., 1000 block of W Wabash Street. Report of physical domestic altercation.

Wednesday, 6:04 a.m., Main and Ohio streets. Driver cited for speeding and no insurance.

Wednesday, 1:39 p.m., Budget Inn. Weapon offense.

Wednesday, 3:06 p.m., 200 block of North Bond Street. Domestic assault.

Wednesday, 3:47 p.m., Budget Inn. Report of child battery.

Wednesday, 4:06 p.m., 400 block of Cottonwood Court. Report of a puppy outside all day, owner agreed to bring inside.

Wednesday, 5:26 p.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Report of theft.

Wednesday, 8:39 p.m., Main Street and Dustman Road. Driver cited for 50 in a 40 mph zone.

Wednesday, 9:19 p.m., Community Thrift. Four men reportedly dumpster diving at thrift store, gone upon officer's arrival.

Wednesday, 11:47 p.m., Sunset Drive. Domestic altercation, parties separated for the night.

Thursday, 7:47 a.m., American Axle & Manufacturing. Employee hit building with vehicle, report to follow.

**County:**  
Wednesday, 12:41 a.m., 100 block of South Johnson Street. Officer flagged down with reports of a father yelling at a child outside with no shoes on. Child found inside at the location, but appeared OK. Others at location reported the subject was drunk and causing problems. No criminal issues found.

Wednesday, 2:16 a.m., S.R. 1 and C.R. 300 N, Bluffton. Vehicle observed with headlight out, traffic stop initiated. Vehicle searched due to marijuana smell, but nothing was found.

Wednesday, 12:05 p.m.,

C.R. 1000 S and Meridian Road, Keystone. Road rage incident, dispatch spoke with both drivers and they went in separate directions.

Wednesday, 4:10 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served. Kahleah Joyann Flick, 21, Bluffton; battery, a Class A misdemeanor, and disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,500.

Thursday, 11:17 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served. Jason Dewayne Harding 47, Bryant; possession of meth, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.

**Ossian:**  
Wednesday, 3:46 a.m., Jefferson Street and Bittersweet Lane, Ossian. Vehicle observed with headlight out, traffic stop initiated. Driver April Lois Ramirez, 54, Bluffton, admitted to drinking that night, smelled heavily of alcohol and appeared intoxicated. Ramirez registered 0.119% in portable breath test and was transported to Bluffton Regional

Medical Center for a blood draw. Ramirez arrested for operating while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor, and cited for improper headlights. Bond set at \$500. Bonded.

ARRESTS

James Bret Chilton, 62, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$3,000. Bonded.

Jessup Dillon Groff, 31, Bluffton; intimidation with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony, and pointing a firearm, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Adonis Jose Alvarado Cordero, 31, Bluffton; domestic battery causing injury to a pregnant family, a Level 5 felony, and strangulation of a pregnant woman. Bond set at \$10,000.

Jeremy Allen Berry, 38, Liberty Center; sex offender violation, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000. Bonded.

New Orleans rampage

(Continued from Page 1)

Investigators were also trying to understand more about Jabbar's path to radicalization, which they say culminated with him picking up a rented truck in Houston on Dec. 30 and driving it to New Orleans the following night.

The FBI recovered a black Islamic State flag from his rented pickup and reviewed five videos posted to Facebook, including one in which he said he originally planned to harm his family and friends but "was concerned that news headlines would not focus on the 'war between the believers and the disbelievers,'" Raia said. Jabbar also stated that he joined IS before last summer, and he provided a last will and testament, the FBI said.

Jabbar joined the Army in 2007, serving on active duty in human resources and information technology and

deploying to Afghanistan from 2009 to 2010, the service said. He transferred to the Army Reserve in 2015 and left in 2020 with the rank of staff sergeant.

A U.S. government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly, said Jabbar traveled to Egypt in 2023, staying in Cairo for a week, before returning to the U.S. and then traveling to Toronto for three days. It was not immediately clear what he did during those travels.

Abdur-Rahim Jabbar, Jabbar's younger brother, told The Associated Press on Thursday that it "doesn't feel real" that his brother could have done this.

"I never would have thought it'd be him," he said. "It's completely unlike him."

He said that his brother had been isolated in the last

few years, but that he had also been in touch with him recently and had not seen any signs of radicalization.

"It's completely contradictory to who he was and how his family and his friends know him," he said.

Chris Pousson, of Beaumont, Texas, said he became friends with Shamsud-Din Jabbar in middle school, describing him as someone who was quiet and reserved and did not get into trouble.

After high school, he said, they reconnected on Facebook around 2008 or 2009 and would message back and forth throughout the next decade.

"If any red flags would have popped off, I would have caught them, and I would have contacted the proper authorities," he said. "But he didn't give anything to me that would have suggested that he is capable of doing what happened."

In New Orleans on

Thursday, a still-reeling city inched back toward normal operations.

Authorities finished processing the scene early in the morning, removing the last of the bodies, and Bourbon Street — famous worldwide for music, open-air drinking and festive vibes — reopened for business by early afternoon.

The Sugar Bowl college football playoff game between Notre Dame and Georgia, initially set for Wednesday night and postponed by a day in the interest of national security, was played Thursday evening. The city also planned to host the Super Bowl next month.

New Orleans "is not only ready for game day today, but we're ready to continue to host large-scale events in our city because we are built to host at every single turn," New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell said.

Cybertruck exploded

(Continued from Page 1)

Berets, highly trained special forces who work to counter terrorism abroad and train partners. He had served in the Army since 2006, rising through the ranks with a long career of overseas assignments, deploying twice to Afghanistan and serving in Ukraine, Tajikistan, Georgia and Congo, the Army said.

He was awarded a total of five Bronze Stars, including one with a valor device for courage under fire, a combat infantry badge and an Army Commendation Medal with valor.

McMahill said Livelsberger rented the Tesla electric vehicle in Denver on Saturday and the sheriff displayed a map showing that it was charged in the Colorado town of Monument near Colorado Springs on Monday. On New Year's Eve, it was charged in Trinidad, Colorado, and three towns in New Mexico along the Interstate 40 corridor.

Then on Wednesday, the day of the explosion, it was charged in three Arizona towns before video showed it on the Las Vegas Strip about 7:30 a.m.

McMahill said investigators obtained charging station photos showing Livelsberger "was the individual that was driving this vehicle" and was alone.

"We're not aware of any other subjects involved in this particular case," the sheriff said.

Authorities searched a townhouse in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Thursday as part of the investigation. Neighbors said the man who lived there had a wife and a baby and did not give any sign of posing a danger to anyone.

Cindy Helwig, who lives diagonally across a narrow street separating the homes, said she last saw the man she knew as Matthew about

two weeks ago when he asked her if she had a tool he needed to fix the SUV he was working on.

"He was a normal guy," said Helwig, who said she last saw his wife and baby earlier this week. Helwig noted that people in the townhome on a hill with views of the mountains don't interact much except for when they're getting the mail or walking their dogs.

The explosion of the truck, packed with firework mortars and camp fuel canisters, came hours after 42-year-old Shamsud-Din Bahar Jabbar rammed a truck into a crowd in New Orleans' famed French Quarter early on New Year's Day, killing at least 14 people before being shot to death by police. That crash was being investigated as a terrorist attack. The FBI said Thursday that they believe

Jabbar acted alone, reversing its position from a day earlier that he likely worked with others.

Both Livelsberger and Jabbar spent time at the base formerly known as Fort Bragg, a massive Army base in North Carolina that is home to multiple Army special operations units. However, one of the officials who spoke to the AP said there is no overlap in their assignments at the base, now called Fort Liberty.

Chris Raia, FBI deputy assistant director, said Thursday that officials have found "no definitive link" between the New Orleans attack and the truck explosion in Las Vegas.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said Wednesday afternoon on X that "we have now confirmed that the explosion was caused by very large

fireworks and/or a bomb carried in the bed of the rented Cybertruck and is unrelated to the vehicle itself."

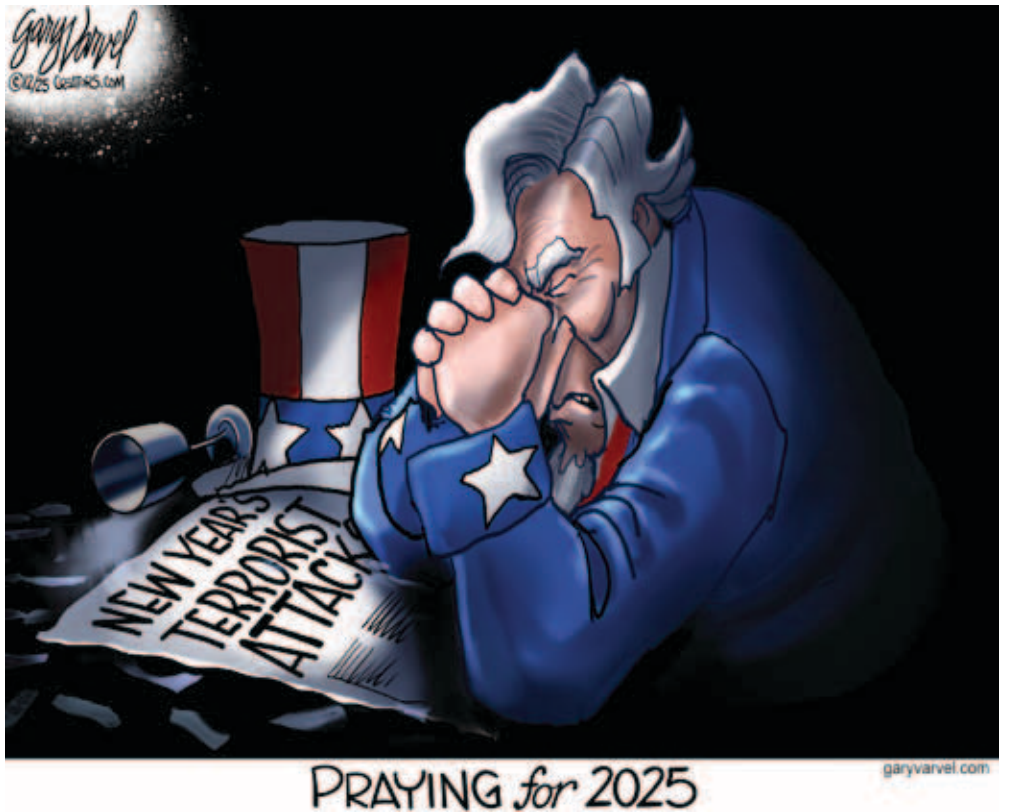
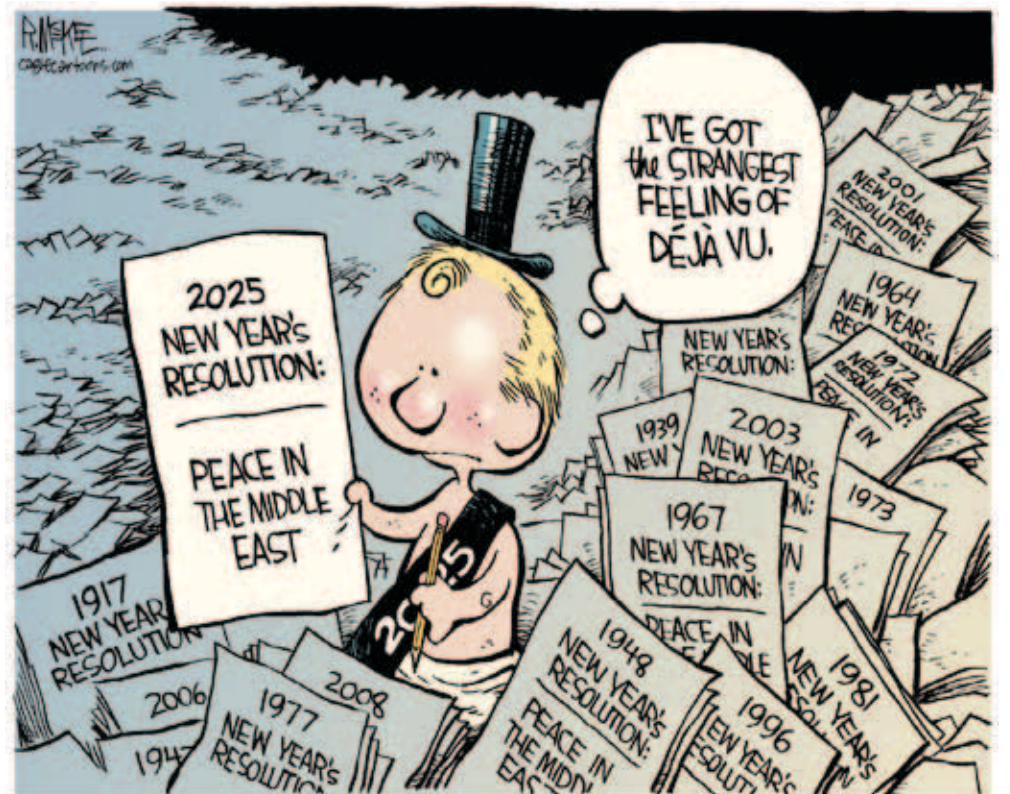
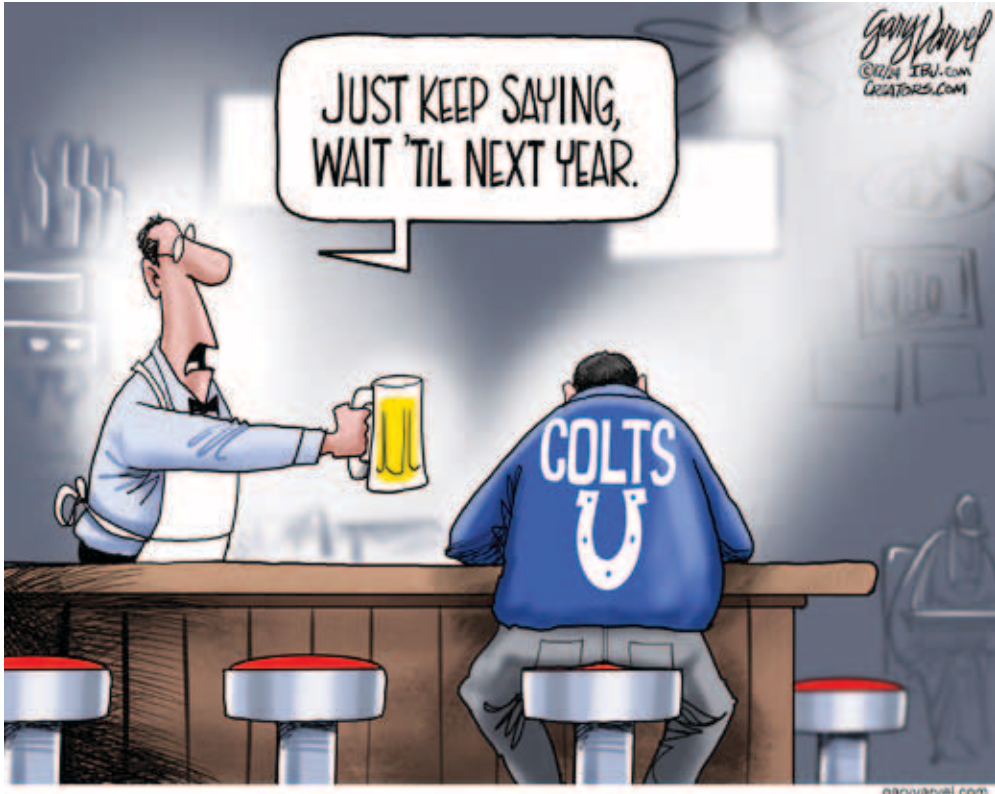
Musk has recently become a member of President-elect Donald Trump's inner circle. Neither Trump nor Musk was in Las Vegas early Wednesday. Both had attended Trump's New Year's Eve party at his South Florida estate.

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The New Year Cometh - a look through cartoonists' eyes...



Other Opinions

Trump got it right on skilled worker visas

MAGA hardliners may be apoplectic, but President-elect Donald Trump got it spot on when he embraced the kind of visa program used to bring highly skilled technology workers to this country — an article of faith for the “tech bros” who supported Trump during his campaign.

Trump has throughout his years in government been firmly on both sides of the skilled immigration issue as represented by his stand on H-1B visas — the type that allow companies to bring skilled technical workers, including engineers, to this country for six-year stints. In fact, the type of visa once held by billionaire Elon Musk, a South African émigré, who became a US citizen in 2002.

Expanding the program, which is currently capped at a piddling 85,000 (65,000 plus another 20,000 reserved for those who graduate from US universities with a master’s degree or higher), is critical to the kind of economic growth and competitiveness that Trump supported all through his campaign. But for populists among his supporters — the ones who see every job that goes to someone not born on these shores as a loss — there is no middle ground. There is only “them” vs. “us.”

The current brouhaha over the visas began during Christmas week when MAGA activist Laura Loomer criticized Trump’s choice of tech entrepreneur Sriram Krishnan, who was born in India, to be a senior policy adviser on artificial intelligence, because of his previous stance on immigration. Then she drifted into a racist rant on X that included this gem: “You know, it was white Europeans who created the American Dream, and we didn’t create it so that it could be exploited by pro open border techies.”

Never shy about expressing his own views, Musk shot back on the social media site he bought in 2022 for \$44 billion, “The number of people who are super talented engineers AND super motivated in the USA is far too low. If you want your TEAM to win the championship, you need to recruit top talent wherever they may be.”

And then he went off in a more obscene direction. That spurred Trump adviser Stephen Bannon to fire back, saying of Musk, “Someone please notify ‘Child Protective Services’ — need to do a ‘wellness check’ on this toddler.”

Trump, who temporarily froze H-1B visas during his first administration in a misguided effort to stem pandemic-related job losses, attempted to put an end to the internecine warfare, telling the New York Post Saturday, “I have many H-1B visas on my properties. I’ve been a believer in H-1B. I have used it many times. It’s a great program.”

Well, in fact, Trump may have confused the program that brings tech workers into the country with the H-2B program, used to bring unskilled workers in as gardeners or housekeepers, and the H-2A program for agricultural workers. In fact, the Trump Organization properties make widespread use of both of those programs.

And frankly there’s nothing wrong with that either. Tech companies like Amazon, Google, Meta, and Musk’s Tesla lead the pack in acquiring thousands of visas for their companies, according to a report by the National Foundation for American Policy.

If Musk and his codirector on Trump’s effort to cut government waste, Vivek Ramaswamy, do nothing beyond convincing the incoming administration to cut that red tape, reach out beyond this nation’s borders, and invite in those with the talent and the drive to help build this nation, they will have done a great service.

There is also nothing contradictory about supporting a well-organized visa program that helps deliver the workforce America needs and still provides the secure border which Trump has also promised to deliver — Loomer’s ugly rantings notwithstanding.

Giving the United States access to the world’s best and brightest — who have throughout history contributed to its wealth and its culture — is essential to its future. Trump, by listening to those who know and operate in the real world, can help assure that future.

THE BOSTON GLOBE  
Distributed by The Associated Press

The 10 best things Biden did in 2024

As the Joe Biden era comes to a close, I once again offer my annual lists of the 10 best and 10 worst things the president did in the past year (a tradition I started in the first term of Donald Trump and will continue in the second). In the spirit of the season, I will lead off with the best.

10. He helped get NATO allies to spend more on our collective defense. At the 75th anniversary NATO summit in Washington, NATO announced that non-U.S. members were projected to spend \$510 billion more on defense this year than they did in 2016. Of course, \$400 billion of that increase was due to commitments made during Trump’s first presidency (while much of the rest can be attributed to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine). Still, presidents get credit for what happens on their watch, and on Biden’s watch the number of allies meeting their commitment to spend 2 percent of GDP on defense rose to an all-time high of 23.

9. He killed the top Islamic State commander in Iraq. Biden launched an Aug. 29 raid that devastated the group’s top leadership in Iraq, killing its top commander, Ahmad Hamid Husayn Abd-al-Jalil al-Ithawi, and its top bombmaker, Abu Ali al-Tunisi (who had a \$5 million bounty from the U.S. government on his head).

8. He imposed new restrictions on the sale of advanced chip technology to China. For the third time in his presidency, Biden imposed new prohibitions on the sale of chips and specialized machinery to make cutting edge chips to China. He also added more than 140 Chinese entities to a restricted trade list, with the goal of stopping Beijing from producing its own advanced chips that can be used for cyberattacks, new military technology to threaten the United States and its allies, and surveillance systems to repress the Chinese people.

7. He sent the largest package of military aid to Taiwan ever. In September, Biden approved \$567 million in new security assistance to Taiwan — the largest such package to date, significantly outpacing the \$345 million package sent in 2023 — sending the aid directly from U.S. stockpiles, the speediest method of delivery.

6. He strengthened the U.S.-Japan alliance to counter China. Biden hosted Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for a state visit and announced “the most significant upgrade of our alliance since it was first established” — including the formation of a joint defense council, a new “Joint Force” operational headquarters led by a three-star commander, joint military exercises with Britain, and new trilateral military cooperation between the U.S., Japan and the Philippines, with Japanese warships patrolling the waters off of the Philippines for the first time. The strengthening of our Pacific alliances will be among his most enduring legacies.

5. He secured passage of nearly \$32 billion in military aid to Ukraine. The arms package ensured that Donald Trump will not inherit a military disaster in Ukraine when he takes office. He also successfully pushed the Group of Seven to approve using Russian frozen sovereign assets to support Ukraine.

4. He defended Israel from the air with U.S. fighter aircraft. When Iran attacked Israel in April, Biden deployed U.S. fighter pilots over the skies of Jordan and Saudi Arabia to defend Israel, shooting down 80 attack drones and six ballistic missiles before they reached Israeli airspace. U.S. forces coordinated with Israel to repel another Iranian attack in October. Biden also deployed the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system to Israel to combat the missile threat from Iran and its terrorist proxies. The U.S. military used THAAD in combat for the first time on Friday to intercept a ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels in Yemen.

3. He signed legislation to ban TikTok. The Chinese-owned social media app has more than 170 million American users, giving the Chinese Communist Party the ability to collect unprecedented reams of information on them, including search and browsing histories, keystroke patterns and biometric identifiers, fingerprints and voiceprints, passwords, location data, and message drafts. The bill Biden signed would ban TikTok in the United States if its Chinese parent company does not sell it to a company that isn’t Chinese within a year.

2. He began the mass deportation of illegal immigrants. Biden unleashed the worst border crisis in American history, while dramatically reducing deportations to just 59,011 in his first year in office. But in year four, he finally reversed course — increasing deportations to 271,484, the highest level since 2014. He also implemented new rules that sharply restrict asylum claims, causing illegal border crossings to plunge in 2024 — all without any additional authorities or resources from Congress, which shows that the Biden border crisis was a crisis of choice all along.

1. He finally decided not to run for a second term. To anyone who watched Biden falling asleep during his meeting with world leaders in Angola, or read the Wall Street Journal’s stunning exposé on how the White House functioned with a cognitively diminished president, it was obvious he was not capable of serving four more years in office. Biden took far too long to act (and only did so when his hand was forced by Democrats panicking over his disastrous debate performance) but he eventually did the right thing and stood down.

In my next column, I will review the 10 worst things Biden has done this year.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen on X, @marcthiessen.



Marc Thiessen

Today in History

By The Associated Press  
Today is Friday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2025. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Jan. 3, 1920, Boston Red Sox owner Harry Frazee sold the contract of Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees, beginning a championship era for the Yankees and decades of heartache for Red Sox fans. (The Red Sox would ultimately break the “curse” in 2004, winning their first World Series in 86 years.)

Also on this date:  
In 1777, Gen. George Washington’s army routed British troops in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.  
In 1861, more than two weeks before Georgia seceded from the Union, the state militia seized Fort Pulaski at the order of Gov. Joseph E. Brown.

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Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

*Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.*



# Blindsided by wife's betrayal

Dear Annie: Three months ago, I came home from lunch and my wife had packed up her closet and said: "I'm sorry, but I'm no longer in love with you. I'm bored and lonely, and I'm moving out."

We have been together 33 years and married 32 years. It was devastating to say the least. Since then, we have spent some time together going to the gym and getting dinner. So she moved back in last week.

Then, after one day, I could tell she was uneasy. She stated she felt it was still too early to live with me again and that she was still not in love with me and still not sure if she wants to be married anymore.

We have never fought or argued about anything our entire marriage. She said not one word to me about this decision at the time. She will not go to see a counselor with me at this point. She states that she is the one who changed and that I'm a wonderful man and a great husband, father and provider. What must I do to regain her love for me? I miss her terribly! — Emotionally Devastated and Depressed

*Dear Devastated and Depressed: I am so sorry that your wife gave up on your marriage without so much as an explanation. That must be incredibly confusing and difficult to accept.*

*Unfortunately, things won't get better unless BOTH of you are committed to fixing your marriage. If she's not, then you're better off moving on — easier said than done, but time heals all wounds.*

Dear Annie: My husband is in prison. I don't want to get into the details about why he is there. It's mostly for context. My mother-in-law has told me that him being gone has affected her more than it has me because she's his mother and nothing will change that. I can throw him away as my husband, but she can't throw him away as her son. But I'm navigating life without him, and it's hard. I was pregnant with our second child when he was arrested. Our older child was 6 years old. We still speak,

and we are not divorced.

How do I deal with what my mother-in-law says when she screams at me that this whole situation is worse for her? I didn't know we were competing, and quite frankly, we are both losing, so I don't know what she wants me to do. She insists I always say it's worse for me but never gives me a "For instance" because I've never done that. That just tells me she doesn't think I have any right to be affected by this.

My husband's sister has also been getting on my nerves. She's gone on medication for anxiety and depression since my husband went to prison but won't go to a therapist, and it shows. Nobody thinks she should have to because she has a master's degree in psychology. She's not a psychologist or anything. She has degrees but won't use them. Should I just cut off contact with them? — Family Drama

*Dear Family Drama: You're absolutely right. It's not a competition between you and your mother-in-law — or anyone else in your family, for that matter — over who is in the most pain. The next time your MIL goes down this road, acknowledge her feelings but don't feel like you have to diminish your own. If this continues, take whatever distance you need to protect your peace of mind and your children's.*

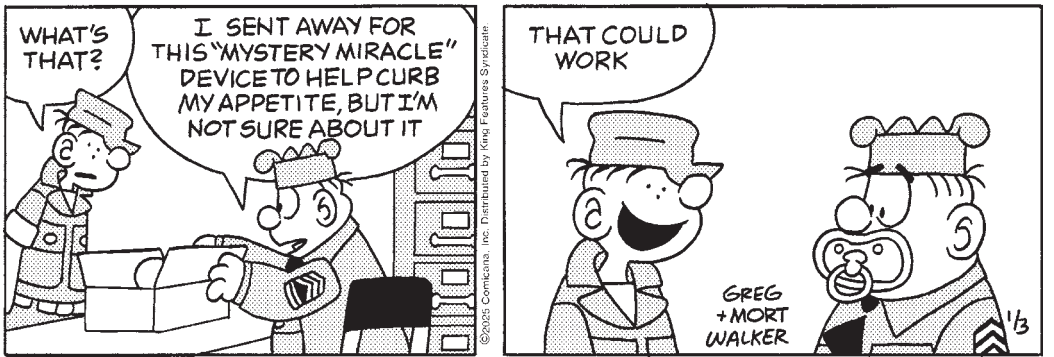
*The same goes for your sister-in-law. You can't control how she decides to cope with this situation either, but you can put boundaries in place so that it doesn't negatively impact you or your kids.*

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com). © 2025 CREATORS.COM

## Dear Annie by Annie Lane



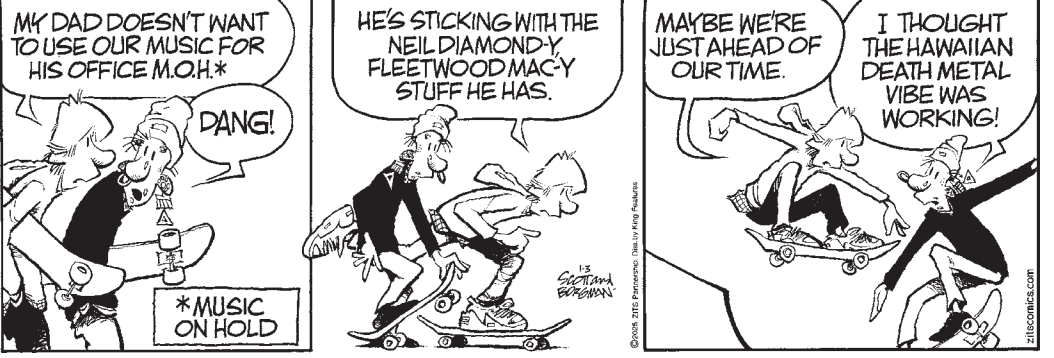
## BEETLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE



## ZITS



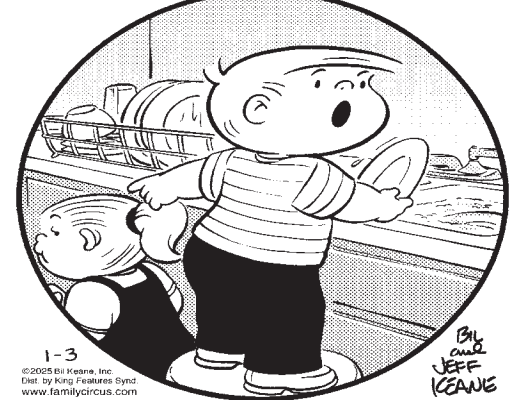
## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



## Drunkenness is a sin

my mother and to our family. — D.A.

Answer: Those who know something about alcoholism tell us that the first step toward deliverance is to have a strong desire to change and to verbally admit that they are an alcoholic. In saying this, they state a tremendous truth, for we can never be saved from sin until we first admit, "I am a sinner," and then have a desire to let God take control. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10, NKJV). He is the hope of every person ever born. Many alcoholics have been converted to Jesus Christ and have been delivered from the terrible craving that's plagued them for years.

Drunkenness is a sin, according to the Bible, and must be treated that way. It can lead to a sickness, of course, as it did with WWII veteran and Olympic athlete Louis Zamperini, whose remarkable life was featured in the film Unbroken and his testimony declared on the DVD Captured by Grace. Louis talked frequently about his battle with alcohol and depression — that is until he encountered the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ. He is the transformer of hearts. Never give up. God is ever-present.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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*Question: My mother made a resolution a year ago to stop drinking. She was sick of being drunk at every family gathering and grew weary of being shunned by ladies she thought were her friends. As hard as she tried, though, she went back to the alcohol. Then a neighbor's children started coming around and talking to her about the Lord. In a miraculous way, this was used to encourage her and brought her to the place of acknowledging her sin and dependency. Surely the Lord Himself put this Christian family in her pathway, and I praise Him for bringing healing to*

01/03	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30			
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Washington Watch With Tony Perkins	News-at-6	Creflo Dollar	Joseph Prince	Turning Point	TCT Today	Joyce Meyer	Jewish Jesus	Life Today with Robert Jeffress	Truths That Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Prop. Com							
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy!	Cody Awards (N)	Fire Country	S.W.A.T.	Nightcast	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) After Midnight							
Antenna WANE-2 (352)	106	20			Hawaii Five-0 "Ho'amaano"	Hawaii Five-0 "Mo'o olelo Pu"	Magnum P.I. "From the Head Down"	Magnum P.I. "The Woman Who Never Died"	Magnum P.I. "Six Paintings, One Frame"	Magnum P.I. "Sudden Death"	Magnum P.I. "Death Is Only Temporary"	Magnum P.I. "The Cat Who Cried Wolf"	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	High Potential	To Be Announced	Programming to be announced.	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Nightline
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	High Potential	To Be Announced	Programming to be announced.	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	ABC21 News (N)	(35) Nightline							
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14	14	Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	Family Feud	Happy's Place (N)	Lopez vs Lopez (N)	Dateline NBC Compelling mysteries, powerful documentaries, in-depth investigations. (N)	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)							
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	Bob Hearts Abishola	Bob Hearts Abishola	Mad Fam "Paris"	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Chicago Fire "The F Is For"	Chicago Fire "Hiding Not Seeking"	Chicago Fire "Hiding Not Seeking"	Seinfeld "The Pilot"	The Conners	The Conners	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs					
CV WISE (33)	4	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)			TMZ (N)	True Crime News (N)	Inside the NFL (N)	Whose Line Is Who's Line Is	Friends	Friends	TMZ (N)	Dish Nation (N)	True Crime News	Chicago P.D.					
PBS WFVA (38)	13	5	39	39	The Boileys: A "Desire"	PBS News Hour (N)	BBC News America	PrimeTime Live (N)	Washington Hoover (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Independ. A look at five weeks in Dallas a year before COVID-19, and the people who work & live there.	Independ. A look at five weeks in Dallas a year before COVID-19, and the people who work & live there.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington Hoover	Washington Hoover	Firing-Range	Washington Hoover						
PBS WFVA (38)	13	5	39	39	The Boileys: A "Desire"	PBS News Hour (N)	BBC News America	PrimeTime Live (N)	Washington Hoover (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Independ. A look at five weeks in Dallas a year before COVID-19, and the people who work & live there.	Independ. A look at five weeks in Dallas a year before COVID-19, and the people who work & live there.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington Hoover	Washington Hoover	Firing-Range	Washington Hoover						
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<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>																							
LIFE	23	113	108	252	The Rookie "Fight or Flight"	The Rookie "Long Shot"	The Rookie "Hit List"	The Rookie "Real Crime"	The Rookie "Coding"	(05) The Rookie "Backstabbers"	(05) The Rookie "Simone"	(05) The Rookie "Real Crime"											
FX	24	132	136	148	★★★★ Black Widow Scarlett Johansson.	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War	★★★★ Captain America: Civil War		
TVLAND	25		106	304	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith		
E!	26	142	114	236	(400) 10 Things I Hate About You	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men		
PARMT	30		241	241	College Football Respondor Bowdoin crown against the Mean Green (6-6) in Dallas.	SportsCenter (L) (N)	College Basketball Duke's Mayo Bowl: Minnesota vs. Virginia Tech (7-5) and Hokies (6-6) meet for the first time, in the Duke's Mayo Bowl. (L) (N)	College Basketball Wichita State at Temple (L) (N)	College Basketball Saint Joseph's at Saint Louis (L) (N)	NFL Live	UFC Archival												
ESPN	31	50	140	206	(400) College Football Respondor Bowdoin crown against the Mean Green (6-6) in Dallas.	SportsCenter (L) (N)	College Basketball Duke's Mayo Bowl: Minnesota vs. Virginia Tech (7-5) and Hokies (6-6) meet for the first time, in the Duke's Mayo Bowl. (L) (N)	College Basketball Wichita State at Temple (L) (N)	College Basketball Saint Joseph's at Saint Louis (L) (N)	NFL Live	UFC Archival												
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	Around   Pardon	SportsCenter (L) (N)	College Basketball Duke's Mayo Bowl: Minnesota vs. Virginia Tech (7-5) and Hokies (6-6) meet for the first time, in the Duke's Mayo Bowl. (L) (N)	College Basketball Wichita State at Temple (L) (N)	College Basketball Saint Joseph's at Saint Louis (L) (N)	NFL Live	UFC Archival												
FDMW	33		418	671	(400) Foul Territory	FIBA Basketball Stars	NASCAR 2023 Atlanta: Quaker State 400	Pro Padel League The City's Cup: 2024 Finals From New York.	FIBA Basketball	All Blacks	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance											
USA	34	133	105	242	Chicago Fire "A Little Taste"	Chicago Fire "Nazarovaya!"	Gold Rush "On Thick Ice"	Gold Rush "Brother vs. Cousin"	Gold Rush "Flood of Emotions"	(05) Gold Rush (N)	(15) The Last Woodmen (N)	Sister Wives	Sister Wives	(05) Unbelievable "Strange Places"	(05) Unbelievable "Strange Places"	(05) The First 48	(05) The First 48	(05) The Nine Lives of Christmas					
DISC	35	72	182	278	Gold Rush "On Thick Ice"	Gold Rush "Come Nuggets or High Water"	Gold Rush "Brother vs. Cousin"	Gold Rush "Flood of Emotions"	(05) Gold Rush (N)	(15) The Last Woodmen (N)	Sister Wives	Sister Wives	(05) Unbelievable "Strange Places"	(05) Unbelievable "Strange Places"	(05) The First 48	(05) The First 48	(05) The Nine Lives of Christmas						
TLC	36	73	183	280	Sister Wives	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé		
A&E	37	77	120	269	Aliens "Edgar Cayce: The Sleeping Prophet"	Unbelievable "Strange Experiments"	The First 48	"Crossroads"	Bride, Prejudice and Mistletoe ("18, Romance)	Prendice, Prejudice and Mistletoe ("18, Romance)	Sugarplummed (2024, Drama) Janel Parrish, Brendon Zub, Maggie Lawson.	The Nine Lives of Christmas											
HST	39	134	118	265	★★★★ LeAnn's Perfect Gift (24) Emily Arlook.	★★★★ The Predator (2018, Sci-Fi) Trevante Rhodes, Jacob Tremblay, Boyd Holbrook.	★★★★ The Forever Purge (2021, Action) Josh Lucas, Tenoch Huerta Mejia, Ana de la Reguera.	★★★★ The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Ian Holm, Dennis Quaid.	★★★★ Fast & Furious (09) Paul Walker, Vin Diesel.	★★★★ Pacific Rim Uprising (2018, Sci-Fi) Scott Eastwood, Tian Jing, John Boyega.	★★★★ Into the Blue												
SYFY	41	135	122	244	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang		
TBS	43	130	139	247	Terminator: The Final Destination	★★★★ Sleepy Hollow (1999, Horror) Christopher Moltisano, Seann William Scott.	★★★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler.	★★★★ Braveheart (1995, History) Sophie Marceau, Patrick MCGeehan, Mel Gibson.	★★★★ Organ Trail (2023, Horror) Nicholas Logan, Olivia Grace Applegate, Zoë De Grand Maison.	★★★★ Premonition (07) Julian McMahon, Nia Long, Sandra Bullock.	★★★★ The Revenant (2015, Adventure) Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Leonardo DiCaprio.	★★★★ The Big Short (2015, Comedy Drama) Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Steve Carell.	★★★★ The Brokers (07) Demi Moore, Dane Cook, Kevin Costner.										
BIG BANG	44	131	138	245	★★★★ Sleepy Hollow (1999, Horror) Christopher Moltisano, Seann William Scott.	★★★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler.	★★★★ Braveheart (1995, History) Sophie Marceau, Patrick MCGeehan, Mel Gibson.	★★★★ Organ Trail (2023, Horror) Nicholas Logan, Olivia Grace Applegate, Zoë De Grand Maison.	★★★★ Premonition (07) Julian McMahon, Nia Long, Sandra Bullock.	★★★★ The Revenant (2015, Adventure) Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Leonardo DiCaprio.	★★★★ The Big Short (2015, Comedy Drama) Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Steve Carell.	★★★★ The Brokers (07) Demi Moore, Dane Cook, Kevin Costner.											
AMC	45	131	138	245	★★★★ Sleepy Hollow (1999, Horror) Christopher Moltisano, Seann William Scott.	★★★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler.	★★★★ Braveheart (1995, History) Sophie Marceau, Patrick MCGeehan, Mel Gibson.	★★★★ Organ Trail (2023, Horror) Nicholas Logan, Olivia Grace Applegate, Zoë De Grand Maison.	★★★★ Premonition (07) Julian McMahon, Nia Long, Sandra Bullock.	★★★★ The Revenant (2015, Adventure) Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Leonardo DiCaprio.	★★★★ The Big Short (2015, Comedy Drama) Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Steve Carell.	★★★★ The Brokers (07) Demi Moore, Dane Cook, Kevin Costner.											
COM	47	107	249		Speak Joy Taylor, Keyshawn Johnson and Paul Pierce discuss the biggest sports topics of the day.	The Hill (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	Cuomo (L) (N)	Dan Abrams Live (L) (N)	Banfield (L) (N)	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup		
FS1	48	64	150	219	Speak Joy Taylor, Keyshawn Johnson and Paul Pierce discuss the biggest sports topics of the day.	The Hill (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	Cuomo (L) (N)	Dan Abrams Live (L) (N)	Banfield (L) (N)	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup	Love After Lockup		
WE	57	128	260	9-1-1 "Karma's a Bitch"	9-1-1 "Trapped"	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners		
FOOD	59	153	110	231	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners		
BRAVO	60	140	129	237	Vanderpump Rules	★★★★ The Mask (94) Jim Carrey (P)	★★★★ Dumb and Dumber (94) Jeff Daniels, Jim Carrey (P)	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends		
NICK	68	170	299		★★★★ The Mask (94) Jim Carrey (P)	★★★★ Dumb and Dumber (94) Jeff Daniels, Jim Carrey (P)	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends	★★★★ Friends		
DISC	69	30	172	290	★★★★ Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021, Action) Zendaya, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Holland.	★★★★ Role Models (08, Com) Paul Rudd, Yes Man (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Seann William Scott).	★★★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler.	★★★★ Braveheart (1995, History) Sophie Marceau, Patrick MCGeehan, Mel Gibson.	★★★★ Organ Trail (2023, Horror) Nicholas Logan, Olivia Grace Applegate, Zoë De Grand Maison.	★★★★ Premonition (07) Julian McMahon, Nia Long, Sandra Bullock.	★★★★ The Revenant (2015, Adventure) Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Leonardo DiCaprio.	★★★★ The Big Short (2015, Comedy Drama) Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Steve Carell.	★★★★ The Brokers (07) Demi Moore, Dane Cook, Kevin Costner.										
FREEFORM	70	32	180	311	★★★★ Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021, Action) Zendaya, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Holland.	★★★★ Role Models (08, Com) Paul Rudd, Yes Man (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Seann William Scott).	★★★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler.	★★★★ Braveheart (1995, History) Sophie Marceau, Patrick MCGeehan, Mel Gibson.	★★★★ Organ Trail (2023, Horror) Nicholas Logan, Olivia Grace Applegate, Zoë De Grand Maison.	★★★★ Premonition (07) Julian McMahon, Nia Long, Sandra Bullock.	★★★★ The Revenant (2015, Adventure) Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Leonardo DiCaprio.	★★★★ The Big Short (2015, Comedy Drama) Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Steve Carell.	★★★★ The Brokers (07) Demi Moore, Dane Cook, Kevin Costner.										
HBO	301		300	501	★★★★ Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021, Action) Zendaya, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Holland.	★★★★ Role Models (08, Com) Paul Rudd, Yes Man (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Seann William Scott).	★★★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler.	★★★★ Braveheart (1995, History) Sophie Marceau, Patrick MCGeehan, Mel Gibson.	★★★★ Organ Trail (2023, Horror) Nicholas Logan, Olivia Grace Applegate, Zoë De Grand Maison.	★★★★ Premonition (07) Julian McMahon, Nia Long, Sandra Bullock.	★★★★ The Revenant (2015, Adventure) Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Leonardo DiCaprio.	★★★★ The Big Short (2015, Comedy Drama) Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Steve Carell.	★★★★ The Brokers (07) Demi Moore, Dane Cook, Kevin Costner.										
MAX	325		318	515	★★★★ Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021, Action) Zendaya, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Holland.	★★★★ Role Models (08, Com) Paul Rudd, Yes Man (Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Seann William Scott).	★★★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey, Maya Rudolph, Amy Poehler.	★★★★ Braveheart (1995, History) Sophie Marceau, Patrick MCGeehan, Mel Gibson.	★★★★ Organ Trail (2023, Horror) Nicholas Logan, Olivia Grace Applegate, Zoë De Grand Maison.	★★★★ Premonition (07) Julian McMahon, Nia Long, Sandra Bullock.	★★★★ The Revenant (2015, Adventure) Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Leonardo DiCaprio.	★★★★ The Big Short (2015, Comedy Drama) Ryan Gosling, Christian Bale, Steve Carell.	★★★★ The Brokers (07) Demi Moore, Dane										



# Freeman and Notre Dame oust Georgia in Sugar Bowl

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman and the Fighting Irish found the right balance of family and football to produce a memorable performance under unprecedented, emotionally trying circumstances.

Riley Leonard passed for a touchdown, Jayden Harrison returned a kickoff 98 yards for a score, and Notre Dame's defense made it hold up in a 23-10 victory over No. 2 Georgia in the Sugar Bowl on Thursday that sent the third-ranked Fighting Irish into the semifinals of the College Football Playoff.

The triumph came in wake of a deadly terror attack in the host city early Wednesday — the day the game was supposed to have been played. The first postponement of a Sugar Bowl in the event's 91-year history followed hours later.

"We spent some time together, and I think that's what you do in tough moments," Freeman said in recounting how the Irish handled their unexpected down time on Wednesday. "You want to spend time with family, and that's what we are."

Notre Dame (13-1, CFP No. 5) came through with enough big plays, avoided major mistakes and all but sealed it with a clever move by Freeman.

"Our coaches called the game aggressive. Our players executed, put everything on the line," Freeman said. "I'm really proud of them. Proud of the way they handled the events of the last 24 hours."

Georgia (11-3, CFP No. 2) was in position to close within one score when Notre Dame stopped the Bulldogs on fourth-and-5 from the Irish 9-yard line with 9:29 to go.

Minutes later, Notre Dame had a fourth-and-short deep in his own territory when

Freeman sent the punt team out before running all 11 players off the field and sending the offense back out. Georgia raced to match up and then jumped off-side as the play clock ticked down, giving the Irish a clock-sapping first down with 7:17 to go.

"They were going to hard-count us. We prepare for that. We do it every week," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "We jumped off-sides."

By the time the Bulldogs got the ball back, just 1:49 remained, and Notre Dame was on its way to a 12th straight victory and a date with No. 5 Penn State (13-2, CFP No. 6 seed) in a semifinal at the Orange Bowl in Miami next Thursday.

"That's the aggressiveness in terms of our preparation that I want our program to have," Freeman said. "That's got to be one of our edges, that we are going to be an aggressive group and not fear making mistakes."

Georgia played without starting quarterback Carson Beck, who injured his elbow in the Southeastern Conference championship game. He was replaced by Gunner Stockton, who was 20 of 32 for 234 yards and one touchdown.

The Bulldogs outgained Notre Dame 296 yards to 244, but Georgia was stopped on all three of its fourth-down attempts and lost two fumbles — one deep in Notre Dame territory and one inside its own 20.

"The turnovers are the difference in the game, guys," Smart said. "I mean, you



should know when you turn it over twice and they return a kickoff for a touchdown, you're not going to have a lot of success."

Leonard finished with 90 yards passing and a team-high 80 yards rushing, including a late first-down run in which he was sent head over heels as he tried to leap over a defender.

"We're in the playoffs," Leonard said. "Everybody else can put their body on the line, I'm going to do it right there with them."

The game had been set for Wednesday night as part of a New Year's Day playoff tripleheader, but it was postponed after an Army veteran inspired by the Islamic State group drove a pickup truck into a crowd on Bourbon Street early Wednesday morning, killing 14 revelers. Security was increased at the Superdome — which will also host the Super Bowl next month — and arriving fans said they felt safe.

With some fans unable to alter their travel plans, attendance in the 70,000-seat stadium was announced at 68,400. There were patches of empty seats in the upper levels, but passionate supporters made no shortage of noise trying to will their teams into the next round of college football's first 12-team playoff.

The game was tied at 3-all before Notre Dame scored 17 points in a span of 54 seconds.

The unusual sequence began with Mitch Jeter's 48-yard field goal with 39 seconds left in first half.

Soon after, Georgia paid for a decision to attempt a drop-back pass from its own 25. RJ Oben's blind-side sack caused Stockton to fumble at the 13, where Irish defensive lineman Junior Tuihalamaka recovered. Leonard found Beaux Collins over the middle for a touchdown on the next play for a 13-3 lead that stood at halftime.

By the time 15 seconds had elapsed in the third quarter, Notre Dame led 20-3.

Harrison took Georgia's second-half kickoff all the way to the end zone, slipping a tackle near the middle of the field, cutting toward the right sideline and outrunning everyone.

Georgia closed the gap to 20-10 when Stockton hit reserve running back Cash Jones for a 32-yard score before Jeter's third field goal of the game gave the Irish their winning margin.

"Holding a team like that to 10 points, it's a low amount, it's pretty good," safety Xavier Watts said. "Just really proud of the performance we put up."

## Takeaways

**Notre Dame:** With a dominant defense and the dual-threat nature of Leonard's play-making, the Irish look dangerous heading into the semifinals.

**Georgia:** A team trying to win big games without its starting QB can't afford big mistakes, and missed opportunities doomed the Bulldogs and Smart, who will have to wait a year for another chance at his third national title.

## Up next

**Notre Dame:** The Irish resume a series with the Nittany Lions that is currently even at 9-9-1.

**Georgia:** The 2025 season opener will be at home against Marshall on Aug. 30.

## High School Calendar

### FRIDAY, JAN 3

**BOYS' BASKETBALL:** Norwell vs. Elkhart Christian (Wawasee High School), 10 a.m.; Union City at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JAN 4

**BOYS' BASKETBALL:** Lakewood Park at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL:** Bluffton at Bellmont, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Randolph Southern, 7:30 p.m.

### MONDAY, JAN 6

No events scheduled.

### TUESDAY, JAN 7

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL:** Carroll at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Daleville at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

**WRESTLING:** Norwell at Bluffton, 6:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Northfield, 6:30 p.m.

**SWIMMING & DIVING (co-ed):** Angola at Norwell, 6 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN 8

**WRESTLING:** North Miami at Norwell, 6:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JAN 9

**SWIMMING & DIVING (co-ed):** South Adams at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; East Noble at Norwell, 6 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JAN 10

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL:** Jay County at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Leo at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.

**SWIMMING & DIVING (co-ed):** Bluffton at Jay County diving Invitational, 6 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JAN 11

**BOYS' BASKETBALL:** Bluffton at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m.; Norwell at Leo, 7:30 p.m.; Heritage at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

**SWIMMING & DIVING (co-ed):** Bluffton, Norwell at Jay County Invitational, 10 a.m.

**WRESTLING:** Bluffton, Norwell at Bill Kerbel Invitational (New Haven), 9 a.m.

# Lions and Vikings wrap up NFL's regular season by playing for top seed in NFC

By **LARRY LAGE**  
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings will wrap up the NFL's regular season with an unprecedented matchup and much at stake Sunday night.

Detroit (14-2) and Minnesota (14-2) will become the first teams to meet in the regular season with at least 13 wins and a combined 28 victories.

"It is unique," Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said.

It is also quite consequential.

The winner earns the NFC North title, home-field advantage until the Super Bowl and a coveted bye in the playoffs. The loser will start the postseason on the road next week as the league's first 14-win wild card.

"This is exciting, but it's not like it's the playoffs," Lions coach Dan Campbell said.

Detroit has been aiming for top seeding in the conference since it missed out on the advantage last season following a controversial loss at Dallas late in the regular season. The stinging setback put the Lions on the road for the NFC championship game at San Francisco, where it squandered a 17-point, third-quarter lead.

"You come out of that game and feel like

it gives you the best odds to get to where the ultimate is, which is, as well all know what the prize is, and that's the Super Bowl," Campbell said.

The Lions went into the season with aspirations to reach the Super Bowl for the first time in franchise history and looked like a contender, winning 12 of their last 13 games.

The Vikings, meanwhile, were met with modest expectations when the season began nearly four months ago and have surpassed projections. They started 5-0 and have won their last nine games to be in a position to knock off the defending division champions on their home turf.

"We knew we had to win a lot of football games to keep pace with a team that really has been, if not the best, one of the top two teams in the league for most of the year," O'Connell said.

Vikings running back Aaron Jones said he and his teammates have always known they have what it takes to be among the NFL's best.

"We weren't on anybody's radar," Jones said. "But it was never dark in this building when we came in. It was always light, always a joy to be here."

(Continued on Page 7)

# Antetokounmpo, Jokic and James among All-Star vote leaders

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo is the early leader in fan balloting for the NBA All-Star Game, and LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers seems well on his way toward extending his record and getting picked for a 21st time.

The first update on All-Star voting for this season's revised game was released Thursday, with Antetokounmpo the overall leader with about 1.7 million votes. Denver's Nikola Jokic is second overall with about 1.4 million votes, which is tops among all Western Conference players.

The 10 players on pace to be selected as starters, at least based on the fan balloting: Antetokounmpo, Boston's Jayson Tatum, New York's Karl-Anthony Towns, Charlotte's LaMelo Ball and Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell from the Eastern Conference, and Jokic, Phoenix's Kevin Durant, Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Dallas' Luka Doncic and James from the West.

But there won't be 10 starters this year for the All-Star Game, set to take place Feb. 16 in San Francisco. There will be more.

It's the first year of a new All-Star format, one where there will be three games.

The 24 All-Stars will be drafted into three teams of eight players apiece by TNT personalities and former NBA greats Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley and Kenny Smith.

Those three teams will be entered into a four-team tournament, with the remaining squad being the team of NBA rookies and second-year players that wins the Rising Stars event on All-Star Friday. There are two semifinal games, followed by the winners meeting in a championship game — with the first team to reach 40 points the winner of all three games.

It will be wildly different than last year, when the All-Star Game final score was 211-186 — the highest-scoring one in history.

Voting continues through Jan. 20.

Fan voting makes up 50% of the All-Star starter selection formula, with media voting accounting for another 25% and voting by current NBA players counting for the remaining 25%.

The 10 players designated as starters — even though there technically will be at least 15 starters in the All-Star "games" — will be announced on Jan. 23, and the reserves that will be selected by NBA head coaches will be announced on Jan. 30.

# Pistons' Jaden Ivey has surgery on leg he broke in collision

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Pistons guard Jaden Ivey had surgery on his left leg, a day after breaking his fibula in a collision during a win over the Orlando Magic.

The Pistons said Thursday that Ivey will be reevaluated in four weeks.

"I promise to come back even better," Ivey wrote in a social media post. "The recovery starts now #DetroitBasketball."

Detroit drafted Ivey with the No. 5 overall pick in 2022 and the former Purdue star was having a breakout year. Ivey averaged 17.6 points and 4.1 rebounds — both career highs — along with four assists in 30 games this season.

He was injured when Orlando's Cole Anthony slipped and fell as he and Ivey

went for the ball. Anthony's momentum carried him into Ivey's planted leg, knocking Ivey to the floor. The 22-year-old Ivey was in obvious distress as he grabbed for his shin, and the team's medical staff quickly attended to him.

Members of the training staff held up towels to block the crowd's view of the injury and players from both teams formed a circle around him. After a lengthy delay, he was loaded onto a stretcher and wheeled out of the arena with a towel covering the injury.

"It is tough for all of us," Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff said after Detroit's 105-96 victory. "There's no better person or teammate than J.I. and no one cares more about this than he does."



# Red Bull picks Liam Lawson as Max Verstappen's F1 teammate in 2025

MILTON KEYNES, England (AP) — Liam Lawson will partner world champion Max Verstappen at Red Bull in 2025, the Formula 1 team said on Thursday.

Lawson, a New Zealander, replaces Sergio Perez, who was dropped on Wednesday after months of poor results.

The 22-year-old Lawson will switch from Racing Bulls, Red Bull's sister team, after racing as a replacement driver in 2023 and this year. He started in Red Bull's junior program.

"There's no doubt that racing alongside Max, a four-time champion and undoubtedly one of the greatest drivers ever seen in F1, is a daunting task," Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said, "but I'm sure Liam can rise to that challenge and deliver some outstanding results for us next year."

Lawson said it was a "lifelong dream" to be racing with Red Bull.

"This is something I've wanted and worked toward since I was 8 years old," he said. "It's been an incredible journey so far."

Perez's contract was terminated two years early, the Mexican ditched after being rarely competitive this season. He had not won a race since April 2023 and the last time he finished higher than sixth in a grand prix was in May. Meanwhile, Verstappen continued to dominate F1.

Lawson joined Red Bull's junior program in 2019 and made his F1 debut at the Dutch Grand Prix in 2023 with Scuderia AlphaTauri — which was later rebranded as Racing Bulls — in place of the injured Daniel Ricciardo. He completed five races for the team that year.

This year, Dawson had a points-scoring finish at the United States Grand Prix, again replacing Ricciardo.

"Liam's performances over the course of his two stints with Racing Bulls have demonstrated that he's not only capable of delivering strong results," Horner said, "but that he's also a real racer, not afraid to mix it with the best and come out on top."



Liam Lawson



Max Verstappen

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# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
East					
y-Buffalo	13	3	0	813	509 345
Miami	8	8	0	500	325 332
e-N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	250	306 384
e-N. England	3	13	0	188	266 401
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	9	7	0	563	349 358
e-Indianapolis	7	9	0	438	351 404
e-Jacksonville	4	12	0	250	297 409
e-Tennessee	3	13	0	188	297 437
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	11	5	0	688	483 351
x-Pittsburgh	10	6	0	625	368 281
Cincinnati	8	8	0	500	453 417
e-Cleveland	4	13	0	188	248 400
West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
*-Kansas City	15	1	0	938	385 288
x-Chargers	10	6	0	625	368 281
Denver	9	7	0	563	387 311
e-Las Vegas	4	12	0	250	289 400

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	13	3	0	813	443 290
x-Washington	11	5	0	688	462 372
e-Dallas	9	7	0	438	313 314
e-N.Y. Giants	3	13	0	188	260 395
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	9	7	0	563	475 366
Atlanta	8	8	0	500	351 379
e-N. Orleans	5	11	0	313	319 371
e-Carolina	4	12	0	250	297 496
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Detroit	14	2	0	875	533 333
x-Minnesota	14	2	0	875	423 301
x-Green Bay	11	5	0	688	438 314
e-Chicago	4	12	0	250	286 348
West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-L.A. Rams	10	6	0	625	342 356
e-Seattle	9	7	0	563	345 343
e-Arizona	7	9	0	438	353 355
e-S.Fran.	6	10	0	375	365 389

**Saturday's Games**  
Cleveland at Baltimore, 4:30 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
Buffalo at New England, 1 p.m.  
Carolina at Atlanta, 1 p.m.  
Chicago at Green Bay, 1 p.m.  
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.  
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.  
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.  
Washington at Dallas, 1 p.m.  
Kansas City at Denver, 4:25 p.m.  
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m.  
Miami at N.Y. Jets, 4:25 p.m.  
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.  
Seattle at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.  
Minnesota at Detroit, 8:20 p.m.

Shreveport, La.  
Army 27, Louisiana Tech 6

**Dec. 30**  
**Music City Bowl**  
Nashville, Tenn.  
Missouri 27, Iowa 24

**Dec. 31**  
**ReliaQuest Bowl**  
Tampa, Fla.  
Michigan 19, Alabama 13

**Sun Bowl**  
El Paso, Texas  
Louisville 35, Washington 34

**Citrus Bowl**  
Orlando, Fla.  
Illinois 21, South Carolina 17

**Texas Bowl**  
Houston  
LSU 44, Baylor 31

**College Football Playoff Quarterfinals**  
**Fiesta Bowl**  
Glendale, Ariz.  
Penn St. 31, Boise St. 14

**Jan. 1**  
**College Football Playoff Quarterfinals**  
**Rose Bowl**  
Pasadena, Calif.  
Ohio St. 41, Oregon 21

**Jan. 2**  
**College Football Playoff Quarterfinals**  
**Peach Bowl**  
Atlanta  
Texas 39, Arizona St. 31, 2OT

**Jan. 3**  
**College Football Playoff Quarterfinals**  
**Sugar Bowl**  
New Orleans  
Notre Dame 23, Georgia 10

**Gator Bowl**  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
Duke vs. Mississippi, late (ESPN)

**First Responder Bowl**  
Dallas  
North Texas vs. Texas St., 4 p.m. (ESPN)

**Duke's Mayo Bowl**  
Charlotte, N.C.  
Minnesota vs. Virginia Tech, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Jan. 4**  
**Bahamas Bowl**  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Buffalo vs. Liberty, 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

**Jan. 9**  
**College Football Playoff Semifinals**  
**Orange Bowl**  
Miami  
Penn St.-Boise St. Winner vs. Notre Dame-Georgia winner, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Jan. 10**  
**College Football Playoff Semifinals**  
**Cotton Bowl**  
Dallas  
Clemson-Texas-Arizona St. winner vs. Ohio St.-Oregon winner, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

**Jan. 20**  
**College Football Playoff National Championship**  
Mercedes-Benz Stadium  
Atlanta  
Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

## BASKETBALL

### High School

**Thursday Boys' Scores**  
Anderson 81, Yorktown 53  
Angola 51, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 37  
Detroit Cass Tech, Mich. 81, Michigan City 73  
E. Noble 67, Churubusco 66  
Clinton Central Tournament  
First Round  
Tipton 79, Kokomo 50  
Delphi Tournament  
Consolation  
Frankfort 55, N. Newton 48  
Pioneer 54, N. Montgomery 47  
Fifth Place  
Pioneer 61, Frankfort 54  
Semifinal  
Rossville 60, Winamac 50  
Taylor 39, Delphi 33  
Seventh Place  
N. Montgomery 66, N. Newton 41  
Fishers Tournament  
First Round  
Chesterton 79, Evansville Bosse 54  
Fishers 77, S. Dearborn 39

Ft. Wayne Wayne 73, Bloomington North 61  
Portage 76, Lawrence Central 66  
Huntington North Tournament  
Avon 76, Ft. Wayne Snider 44  
Ft. Wayne Snider 60, Mishawaka Marian 53  
Huntington North 55, Lighthouse 46  
S. Bend Adams 63, Huntington North 42  
Kouts Tournament  
First Round  
Bremen 60, Frontier 54  
Kouts 79, W. Central 42  
Third Place  
Frontier 79, W. Central 67  
Richmond Tournament  
Consolation  
Indpls Washington 40, Centerville 37

N. Decatur 77, Phalen 64  
Warsaw 54, Purdue Poly (Englewood) 46  
First Round  
Ft. Wayne Luers 67, Warsaw 53  
Heritage Christian 49, Seton Catholic 36  
Indpls Ben Davis 61, Centerville 43  
Indpls Shortridge 54, Phalen 49  
NorthWood 64, Indpls Washington 48

Richmond 58, Indianapolis 57, OT  
Shelbyville 74, N. Decatur 36  
Quarterfinal  
Ft. Wayne Luers 64, Ft. Wayne North 56  
Indpls Ben Davis 53, NorthWood 40  
Shelbyville 63, Indpls Shortridge 54

**Wednesday Boys' Scores**  
Indpls Cathedral 68, Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep, Mich. 65  
Lighthouse 63, Detroit Lincoln-King, Mich. 62

**Thursday Girls' Scores**  
Evansville Central 49, Bedford N. Lawrence 42  
Homestead 60, Lake Central 44  
Lakewood Park 72, Hamilton 12  
Lapel 61, Winchester 43  
Milan 39, Cambridge City Lincoln School 15

New Palestine 53, Franklin Co. 46  
Pendleton Hts. 77, Jay Co. 29  
University 53, Guerin Catholic High School 50  
Young, Ill. 81, Hammond Morton 38  
Center Grove Tournament  
Championship  
Brownsburg 66, Center Grove 48  
First Round  
Brownsburg 83, Jeffersonville 56  
N. Knox 67, Center Grove 54  
Third Place  
N. Knox 67, Jeffersonville 54

Edinburgh Tournament  
Consolation  
Indpls Tindley 36, Hagerstown 33  
First Round  
Austin 75, Southwestern (Shelby) 23  
Madison Shawe 62, Columbus HomeSchool 25  
S. Dearborn 38, Hagerstown 37  
Semifinal  
S. Dearborn 60, Edinburgh 41  
Hanover Central Classic  
Hanover Central 47, Griffith 45  
Highland 53, Hanover Central 52  
Highland 54, Griffith 39  
Northview Tournament  
Championship  
Northview 46, Parke Heritage 27  
Fifth Place  
Terre Haute South 54, Greencastle 36

Seventh Place  
Cloverdale 54, S. Vermillion 6  
Third Place  
Terre Haute North 52, W. Vigo 36

## Colts hope their season finale provides meaningful answers heading into the offseason

**By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer**  
**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — The Indianapolis Colts and Jacksonville Jaguars opened this season with playoff hopes.  
Both had creative coaches, young quarterbacks, manageable schedules and what they anticipated were promising futures.  
On Sunday, the AFC South rivals will finish their seasons looking to find a meaningful message that can apply to their offseason calculations.  
“We've got a job to do no matter what the circumstances are,” Colts coach Shane Steichen said. “We've got to put our best foot forward and try and win a football game. Meetings, practice — you're still playing for something, right? We've all got jobs to do and we've got to go out and perform.”  
Instead, the Colts (7-9) and Jaguars (4-12) have largely underperformed this season and nobody can be certain what's next.  
Indy remains hopeful quarterback Anthony Richardson returns from severe back spasms after missing last week's playoff-eliminating loss. He watched last year's season finale from the sideline after having season-ending surgery on his throwing shoulder.

Jacksonville, meanwhile, again will go with Mac Jones at quarterback since its starter, Trevor Lawrence, remains on injured reserve after having season-ending surgery on his non-throwing shoulder.  
It's a different story for the team's decision makers.  
Coach Doug Pederson and general manager Trent Baalke have been rumored to be on their way out of Jacksonville for weeks now and many believe Sunday's game will be the final chapter — even if it's not the most pressing issue this week.  
“Obviously, you're trying to win the game, bottom line,” Pederson said. “The key is to make sure that everybody stays locked

and focused on the task at hand, right? I mean that's the most important thing. I don't necessarily use it as developmental for anybody.”  
There have been similar murmurs in Indy regarding Steichen and longtime GM Chris Ballard after the franchise's playoff drought officially reached four seasons last week.  
Most, however, expect the Colts to move on from defensive coordinator Gus Bradley, the Jaguars' former head coach who has been under fire all season.  
“I think I would worry about it if I wasn't embarrassed,” Bradley said, referring to the loss to the New York Giants. “I'm still upset and frustrated and we've got to get this right. My mindset is that we have one more game and it's not for a playoff opportunity, but it does give us a chance to get this right and at least set the tone for what it needs to look like.”  
And, of course, that means one more win that isn't so meaningless.  
“It's a big thing to do in the NFL — if you can stack some good practices and games and carry that momentum wherever it may go,” said Jones, who could become a free agent in March. “You definitely want to put your best foot forward.”

**Pro Bowl bound**  
Despite the poor overall season, three Colts were selected to this year's Pro Bowl.  
Left guard Quenton Nelson was chosen for the seventh straight year — every season of his pro career — and running back Jonathan Taylor is returning for the first time since he won the 2021 NFL rushing title. Taylor has 450 yards rushing and five TD runs over the past three weeks and ranks seventh among the league's rushers this season with 1,254 yards.  
Linebacker Zaire Franklin is a first-time Pro Bowl selection. He leads the league in tackles (165) and has finished among the league's top tacklers each of previous two seasons.

over the previous four seasons combined with three teams — to show the promise the New York Jets envisioned when selecting him No. 3 overall in 2018.  
Darnold became the first NFL quarterback to win 14 games in his debut season with a team. He went 21-35 as a starter in six seasons with the Jets, Carolina and San Francisco.  
Lions defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn said Darnold's renaissance is reminiscent of Baker Mayfield's resurrected career in Tampa Bay.  
“There are some of these quarterbacks, or players, in this league that people just give up on so fast,” Glenn said. “Sometimes, the environment has a lot to do with that.”

## Lions and Vikings

(Continued from Page 6)  
**Under center**  
Detroit's Jared Goff was selected to start the Pro Bowl for the NFC, and Sam Darnold was chosen as a backup.  
Leading the league's top-scoring offense, Goff has completed 75% or more of his passes in half of his 16 games to join Tom Brady (2007) as the two NFL quarterbacks to connect on three-fourths of their attempts in eight games of a season.  
Darnold, who completed a season-high 81.5% of his passes in a two-point loss to Detroit at home in October, threw for a career-high 377 yards in last week's win over Green Bay.  
He has thrown a career-high 35 touchdown passes — eight more than he threw

under the previous four seasons combined with three teams — to show the promise the New York Jets envisioned when selecting him No. 3 overall in 2018.  
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## SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

### King Classic Sudoku

		6						2
	7	9						
					1	7	9	
						3	1	
5	9						8	
		7					5	
9	7		1	2				5
		4						9
2		1	5		6	4		

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 1/3 ©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Lottery Numbers

**Thursday's Drawings**  
**HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 09-19-25-32-35  
Cash4Life — 08-27-30-36-47, Cash Ball: 04  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 02-04-05-11-12-29-30-31-32-44-52-54-61-65-66-67-72-76-79-80, BE: 11  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 09-02-05, SB: 05  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 07-02-09, SB: 05  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 06-04-07-04, SB: 05  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 05-08-04-05, SB: 05  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 04-05-10-20-24-26-27-31-32-35-39-46-48-53-62-64-66-71-72-73, BE: 05  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$35.5 million  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$42 million  
**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$200 million

## REAL ESTATE

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## Public Sale Calendar

**BIDDING ENDS JANUARY 5 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Eldrid Tinkel, seller.** Large antique and collectible auction. Country primitives, early metal toys including vintage tractors, farm implements, trucks, boats, more, antique furniture, cast iron collection, antique brass cash register, antique stoves, large and rare collection of vintage graniteware, Fenton, Marion advertising memorabilia, vintage beer signs, crocks, long guns, coins, more. Open house Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, Steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**BIDDING ENDS JANUARY 7 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only) - Wayne Metals LLC Machining Division, owner.** Offering over 200+ Lots. Roskelley 1440 Lathe, 2007 Haas SL-40T CNC Turning Lathe, Handing CHNCl Precision CNC Machine, Delta Floor Drill Press, Omni Turn GT-75 CNC Lathe, Targa Surface Grinder, Acer Milling Machine W/ Phase-2 3 Jaw Chuck, Abex Denison Stamp Machine, OOYA RE-1225H Drilling & Tapping Radial Arm Drill, Cincinnati Milacron Hawk 150 A2100 CNC Lathe, Welders, Tooling Cabinets, Large Selection of pallet racking, Power &

Hand Tools and much more. 9312 Avionics Drive, Fort Wayne IN 46809. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.  
**JANUARY 17 - 10 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Online only truck & equipment auction. Offering 500+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 250+ various skid steer attachments, various truck parts, fencing, work benches, tool boxes & much more! Accepting consignments! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

## SUDOKU ANSWER

*****SUDOKU*****								
1	6	7	9	5	4	1	8	2
1	9	2	6	1	8	7	9	5
5	8	9	4	2	1	9	1	6
8	2	6	9	9	7	5	1	4
9	4	7	8	1	5	2	6	9
9	1	5	2	6	4	8	9	1
6	1	5	8	2	9	7	9	
4	5	9	1	5	6	1	2	8
2	5	8	7	4	9	6	5	1

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# Biden awards civilian honor to Liz Cheney, Bennie Thompson

By COLLEEN LONG and DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

President Joe Biden on Thursday awarded the second highest civilian medal to Liz Cheney and Bennie Thompson, leaders of the congressional investigation into the Capitol riot who Donald Trump has said should be jailed for their roles in the inquiry.

Biden awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal to 20 people in a ceremony in the East Room, including Americans who fought for marriage equality, a pioneer in treating wounded soldiers, and two of the president's longtime friends, former Sens. Ted Kaufman, D-Del., and Chris Dodd, D-Conn.

"Together, you embody the central truth: We're a great nation because we're a good people," he said. "Our democracy begins and ends with the duties of citizenship. That's our work for the ages and it's what all of you embody."

Biden last year honored people who were involved in defending the Capitol from a mob of angry Trump supporters on Jan. 6, 2021, or who helped safeguard the will

of American voters during the 2020 presidential election, when Trump tried and failed to overturn the results.

Cheney, a Republican former Wyoming congresswoman, and Rep. Thompson, a Mississippi Democrat, led the House committee that investigated the insurrection. The committee's final report asserted that Trump criminally engaged in a "multi-part conspiracy" to overturn the lawful results of the election he lost to Biden and failed to act to stop his supporters from attacking the Capitol. Thompson wrote that Trump "lit that fire."

The audience erupted in loud cheers and stood when Cheney took the stage. Biden clasped her hand and gave her the medal. The announcer said she was being given it "for putting the American people over party."

Cheney, who lost her seat in the GOP primary in August 2022, later said she would vote for Democrat Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential race and campaigned with the Democratic nominee, raising Trump's ire. Biden has been considering whether to offer preemp-

tive pardons to Cheney and others Trump has targeted.

Thompson, who also received a standing ovation, was recognized "for his lifelong dedication to safeguarding our Constitution."

Trump, who won the 2024 election and will take office Jan. 20, still refuses to back away from his lies about the 2020 presidential race and has said he would pardon the rioters once he is back in the White House.

During an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," the president-elect said that "Cheney did something that's inexcusable, along with Thompson and the people on the un-select committee of political thugs and, you know, creeps," claiming without evidence they "deleted and destroyed" testimony they collected.

"Honestly, they should go to jail," he said.

Cheney and Thompson were "an embarrassment to this country" for their conduct on the committee, Trump's communications director Steven Cheung asserted.

Biden also awarded the medal to

attorney Mary Bonauto, who fought to legalize same-sex marriage, and Evan Wolfson, a leader of the marriage equality movement.

Other honorees included Frank Butler, who set new standards for using tourniquets on war injuries; Diane Carlson Evans, an Army nurse during the Vietnam War who founded the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation; and Eleanor Smeal, an activist who led women's rights protests in the 1970s and fought for equal pay.

He bestowed the honor to photographer Bobby Sager, academics Thomas Vallely and Paula Wallace, and Frances Visco, the president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

Other former lawmakers honored included former Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J.; former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, the first woman to represent Kansas; and former Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y., who championed gun safety measures after her son and husband were shot to death.

After he presented the awards, he went back to the lectern to ask lawmakers in the room to stand, as

well as John Kerry, a former U.S. senator and Biden's first climate envoy.

"Let's remember, our work continues," he said to the room after he thanked the families in attendance for the support they gave to the nominees. "We've got a lot more work to do to keep this going."

Biden honored four people posthumously: Joseph Galloway, a former war correspondent who wrote about the first major battle in Vietnam in the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young"; civil rights advocate and attorney Louis Lorenzo Redding; former Delaware judge Collins Seitz; and Mitsuye Endo Tsutsumi, who was held with other Japanese Americans during World War II and challenged the detention.

The Presidential Citizens Medal was created by President Richard Nixon in 1969 and is the country's second highest civilian honor after the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It recognizes people who "performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens."

# Why Mike Johnson's bid to remain House speaker could be a struggle

By FARNOUSH AMIRI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mike Johnson is fighting for his political life, again.

The Louisiana Republican's hold on the House speaker's gavel and his position as second in line to the presidency will be tested Friday when a new Congress convenes and House Republicans weigh whether to reelect him to the post.

The challenge, as always, is that Johnson will need almost every Republican vote to win.

Johnson has a singular asset in his favor: President-elect Donald Trump endorsed him for speaker in a social media post at the start of the week. But it's uncertain whether Trump's blessing will be enough to persuade far-right Republicans who have at times grown frustrated with Johnson's leadership and who are prone to demand concessions when their votes become essential.

Johnson, 52, ascended to the speakership in October 2023 almost by accident after Republicans struggled to replace Kevin McCarthy following the unprecedented removal of the California Republican from the job.

Several contenders tried and failed before Republicans settled on Johnson, who is well liked across the conference.

But Johnson's handling of major funding fights, including passage of aid to Ukraine last spring and, most recently, a short-term spending bill, has turned at least a few allies into detractors.

With Republicans holding a narrow 220-215 majority in the House, it would take only two GOP lawmakers voting for other candidates to deny Johnson a majority for the speakership, forcing more rounds of voting.

Here's what to know about how the House elects a speaker:

Electing a speaker is the first order of business for the House after a new session of Congress begins at noon. It's a vote that members take even before being sworn into office.

The House cannot organize until it has a speaker because that person effectively serves as the House's presiding officer and the institution's administrative head. The House can elect a new speaker at any time if the person occupying that role dies, resigns

or is removed from office. The speakership has been vacant only 13 times in U.S. history, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service. No speaker had ever been removed until eight Republicans joined with Democrats to oust McCarthy.

Barring those instances, a speaker is normally elected at the start of a new Congress and serves in the job for the full two-year session.

The House clerk presides over the speaker's election. Lawmakers call out the name of their choice for speaker from the floor, a rare and time-consuming roll call that heightens the drama on the floor. Members often liven up the proceedings by shouting or standing when casting their vote.

Any name can be called out from the House floor. While it has been the tradition for the speaker to be a member of the House, it is not required.

In past years, Democratic President Joe Biden, Trump and even a senator, Republican Rand Paul of Kentucky, have received votes for House speaker. None received the majority of the vote. And generally, a party's official nominee for

speaker is who ends up with the gavel.

Republicans chose Johnson as their nominee for speaker in a closed-door vote in November. A week later, Democrats unanimously chose Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., to remain their leader despite the party's electoral losses.

Lawmakers are not obligated to vote for their party's nominated candidate.

And that is why the process can quickly get messy.

Once the House is in a quorum — meaning the minimum number of members are present to proceed — nominating speeches will be made on behalf of the nominees for speaker. The clerk appoints lawmakers from each party as tellers to tally the votes before the roll

call begins.

To become speaker, a candidate needs a majority of the votes from House members who are present and voting.

It remains to be seen whether Johnson will reach a majority to become speaker on the first ballot. Should he come up short, it is likely the clerk will move to start another roll call vote.

## Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

<b>STEFFEN</b> Financial Group steffinancial.com	<b>Genesis</b> Pest Services genesispestservices.com	<b>Daniel's</b> JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net	<b>ABOVE &amp; BEYOND</b> Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com
<b>INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE</b> Bluffton Office   (260) 824-2234 infarmbureau.com	<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR</b> SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	<b>Myers</b> FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com	<b>KELLYS</b> COLLISION CENTER, INC. 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com
<b>WELLS COUNTY 4-H</b> GROWS HERE extension.purdue.edu/wells	<b>3 RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com	<b>MOSER &amp; SON</b> Heating & Air 824-0228 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton moserandsonheatingandair.com
<b>Frederick Cook &amp; Harold</b> MEMORIAL CHAPEL A Tradition of Caring thegmcfamily.com	<b>RiverStone</b> DENTAL riverstonedental.net	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com	<b>State Farm</b> Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 www.MyBlufftonSFAgent.com
<b>NOVATE CONCEPTS</b> AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	<b>La Fontaine Center</b> A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org	<b>HOME COURT</b> HOME CARE homecourthomecare.com
<b>Lengerich</b> MEATS lengerichmeats.com	<b>Still Waters</b> FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	<b>Thoma/Rich, Lemler</b> Funeral Home thomarich.com	<b>NBDigital</b> nb-digital.com

## January

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