SPORTS

Harden Goes Crazy vs. Indy

See Page 6

MENU TIPS

Holiday Bark a Festive Treat

See Page 7

Browns help give away Thanksgiving food

Browns staff and alumni teamed up with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at its Community Resource Center ahead of Thanksgiving to distribute food—including Sugardale ham and bacon—and the team pledged $10,000 toward more turkeys.

Woman murdered on E. 130th Street,

A 21-year-old woman was found murdered in her apartment on the city's East side earlier this week.Cleveland police said officers responded to the 2800 block of E. 130th St. around 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23 for a "report of unknown trouble." When officers arrived, they said they found the victim and she was pronounced dead at the scene.

2 armed men rob Cleveland store at gun point

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department are looking for two men accused of robbing and east side convenience store on Nov. 1.Making threats the men ordered the employ into the office where there were two other employees. Ordered to get on the floor, all three employees were then assaulted by the suspects. Taking cash, a victim's cell phone, and the keys to an employees car the two men stole their get away car.

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Daily

EASTSIDE NEWS

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READ ON - WRITE ON READ ON - WRITE ON

"COVERING THE NEWS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW"

As gun violence rises, Gov. DeWine makes it easier to get a gun

Residents in East Cleveland were dealing with two shootings in two days near the intersection of Euclid and Northfield avenues. East Cleveland neighbors saying their streets are plain dangerous and something has to change.

Across town, in Parma, three people were killed and another person was wounded in a shooting during a baby shower at an event venue.

Police and fire personnel were called to Pandora's Magical Events Venue Road in Parma, about 10 miles south of Cleveland, at about 6:05 p.m. local time November 22 after reports of shots fired involving multiple victims, according to the Parma Police Department. Investigators determined that four people were struck "during an exchange of gunfire," police said.

The three people killed were a 45-year-old man, a 17-year-old girl and a 19-year-old man, according to police. A 39-year-old woman suffered a gunshot wound to her leg that was not considered life-threatening.

In another incident, a 20-year-old woman died after being shot Sunday night on Cleveland's west side, police said.

Officers responded to a call for a disturbance just before 7:15 p.m. on Sunday Nov. 22 in the 4300 block of West 150th Street, according to Cleveland police.

A week before, Cleveland Police Fourth District officers responded to a report of shots fired around 6 p.m. October 25 in the 4100 block of East 120th Street.

Upon arrival, officers found Williams suffering from multiple apparent gunshot wounds in the street, according to Cleveland police.

Officers provided first aid until Cleveland EMS arrived and continued treating the victim. Williams was transported to a hospital, where he later died.

Officers also found Pride suffering from gunshot wounds on the front porch of a residence. Cleveland EMS pronounced him dead at the scene.

Cleveland police said detectives used the department's Real Time Crime Center and automated license plate readers to identify a potential suspect during the investigation.

At the time, investigators determined the suspect had left Cleveland and was possibly in Akron.

With assistance from the Summit County Sheriff's Office and the Akron Police Department, Belton was arrested within hours of the killings, police said.

In Euclid, a 15-year-old boy died during a burglary, police say. Edward Cary III was found unresponsive in a hallway on East 222nd Street and later pronounced dead at a hospital. No arrests have been made.

A $1 million bond was set for suspect in fatal shooting of Shaker Heights High School student Jaiden Tunson on Buckeye Road

In the midst of the rising gun violence, Gov. Mike DeWine has signed a bill to make it easier to get a gun.

On Tuesday, he approved the biggest rollback of state gun-control rules in years, signing bills that loosen concealed-carry restrictions for teens and motorists, ease restrictions on silencers and sawed-off shotguns, and increase cities' financial liability when their gun restrictions are struck down.

Senate Bill 278 and Senate Bill 214, which DeWine signed without comment just ahead of Thanksgiving, are the latest moves by Ohio Republicans in a years-long effort to roll back the state's gun-control laws.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 214

It removing firearm suppressors (silencers), short-barreled rifles, and short-barreled shotguns from Ohio's list of "dangerous ordnances". The law takes effect in 90 days. You can view the official bill text and legislative record on the Ohio Legislature website.

Removes "Dangerous Ordnance" Status: Suppressors, short-barreled rifles, and short-barreled shotguns are no longer classified alongside items like explosives or rocket launchers, eliminating felony charges tied solely to possessing or carrying them under that classification.

Changes Purchasing & Registration Rules: Buyers are no longer subject to prior ATF approval, fingerprint scans, or federal registration requirements for these items under Ohio law, shifting purchases toward standard firearm transfer processes.

Aligns With Federal Shifts: Lawmakers passed the measure following 2026 federal tax and court/ATF changes affecting National Firearms Act rules on suppressors and short-barreled firearms.

Supporters: Primary sponsor Sen. Kyle Koehler, Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson, and gun-rights groups such as the Sportsmen's Alliance argued the bill aligns Ohio with updated federal standards, protects hearing, and prevents law-abiding gun owners from facing felony charges over conflicting state and federal rules. For additional coverage of the federal alignment and signing, see Cincinnati.com and the Sportsmen's Alliance.

Critics: Opponents, including Ohio's police union and gun-violence prevention groups like Moms Demand Action, raised public safety concerns—arguing that suppressors can make it harder to locate gunfire

Ohio Senate Bill 278 (incorporating the "Freedom to Carry Act")

Firearm legislation package passed by the Ohio General Assembly in mid-November 2026 that DeWine signed on Tuesday.

Concealed Carry Age & Permitless Carry: Lowers the minimum age for "qualifying adults" (18 and older, not legally prohibited from possessing weapons) to carry a concealed weapon without a permit from 21 to 18.

Broader Weapons & Licensing: Expands concealed carry beyond handguns to other qualifying deadly weapons (such as rifles, shotguns, and knives, excluding restricted "exclusive deadly weapons") and renames the "concealed handgun license" to a "concealed weapons license".

Vehicles and Vessels: Removes restrictions on carrying loaded firearms within reach in vehicles and allows concealed carry in vehicles or boats.

Local Government Liability: Expands firearm preemption by allowing individuals to sue municipalities and seek punitive or exemplary damages over local gun control ordinances that violate state law.

Legislative Status: Introduced by Sen. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) and amended in the House (incorporating provisions tied to the Freedom to Carry Act), the bill cleared the General Assembly in November 2026.

Supporters: Primary sponsor Sen. Terry Johnson, Republican lawmakers such as Rep. Jennifer Gross, and gun-rights groups including Ohio Gun Owners, the Buckeye Firearms Association, and the NRA argue the bill protects Second Amendment rights and enforces uniform statewide gun laws.

Opponents: As reported by FOX19 and NBC4, officials including Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney Shayla Favor, the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Hamilton County Sheriff Charmaine McGuffey.

The GOP-dominated state legislature hastily passed the gun-control reforms last week as Statehouse Republicans rush to enact conservative priorities before Democratic Gov.-elect Amy Acton takes office in January.

$10 Million Federal Grant to Support Middle School Literacy

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) Director Stephen D. Dackin today announced that Ohio has been awarded a $10 million federal grant to strengthen literacy instruction for middle school students.

Awarded through the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) Education Innovation and Research Program, the grant will allow more than 350 Ohio teachers in grades 6-8 to receive coaching on how to effectively incorporate literacy instruction aligned with the Science of Reading into their science and social studies classes.

"We have made tremendous progress in strengthening literacy instruction in Ohio, and we want to make sure that students of all ages are benefiting from the Science of Reading," said Governor DeWine. "As our students get older, building a strong vocabulary and developing the ability to understand increasingly complex material is so important to their success in all subjects. I want to thank Secretary McMahon for supporting our efforts to help more Ohio students become strong, independent readers who are equipped to reach their full potential."

Ohio will implement the Promoting Adolescents' Comprehension of Text (PACT) framework, developed by researchers at The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk at the University of Texas at Austin. The Meadows Center also recently led the Ohio Department of Higher Education's statewide audit of educator preparation programs at Ohio colleges and universities to evaluate their alignment with the Science of Reading.

PACT equips educators with proven strategies for vocabulary, comprehension, and text-based learning and is designed to help students better understand complex reading materials, deepen their knowledge of the subjects they are studying, and strengthen readiness for high school, higher education, and future employment opportunities.

Professional learning will follow a train-the-trainer model, with the Meadows Center training ReadOhio coaches, regional partners, and DEW staff to deliver PACT coaching across the state. The grant will support three cohorts of teachers from 60 schools with low reading proficiency rates serving children from low-income families.

The University of Cincinnati and the University of Texas will partner with DEW to implement the PACT framework in Ohio.

"This grant reflects Ohio's commitment to ensuring all students have access to rigorous literacy instruction so they can build the comprehension skills they need for academic success and the jobs of tomorrow," said Director Dackin. "We are grateful for the partnership of the University of Texas and University of Cincinnati as we work to expand opportunities for middle school learners across our state."

Throughout his administration, Governor DeWine has made literacy a top priority, recognizing that the ability to read is the foundation for success in school, work, and life.

In 2023, Governor DeWine launched the ReadOhio initiative, a statewide effort to raise literacy achievement by aligning schools with the Science of Reading. With the support of the Ohio General Assembly, the Science of Reading is now the required literacy teaching method for all public schools in Ohio.

The 2025-2026 school year marked the first year that the Science of Reading was fully implemented in Ohio schools, and the results were significant. The 2026 Ohio School Report Cards showed that statewide English language arts proficiency reached a five-year high of 62.2%, with proficiency increasing across every student demographic group.

Among students in grades 6-8, English language arts proficiency reached a three-year high of 59.0% in 2026. While these gains are encouraging, the results also highlight the opportunity to further strengthen literacy achievement among Ohio's middle school students.

This latest federal investment builds on Ohio's ongoing efforts to improve literacy achievement among students of all ages.

During his 2026 State of the State Address, Governor DeWine announced the expansion of the ReadOhio coaching network, which now includes 140 coaches serving more than 200 schools, and the creation of new Science of Reading Instructional Implementation Teams to help educators fully execute the Science of Reading in their classrooms.

Gasoline prices in area decrease

Northeast Ohio gas prices jumped about seven cents a gallon this week to $3.45, according to AAA East Central's Fuel Gauge report.

The auto club reported that the average price for regular unleaded gasoline in Northeast Ohio was $3.45, up from $3.38 last week but less than $3.58 this time a year ago. The average cost of gas across the state was $3.45.

AAA East Central surveys more than 460 Northeast Ohio gas stations on a weekly basis. It says the cheapest gas was $3.27 in Niles and the highest was $3.53 in Lyndhurst.

Ohio (+10) was one of 10 states to see regular unleaded gas prices increase. Prices in the Midwest are consistently among the most volatile in the country, increasing and decreasing quickly.

While prices have risen slightly over the last week in parts of the Midwest due to refinery problems, many of these same states also recently lead the nation in month-over-month price decreases.

Across the U.S. for the first time since March 12, the national average price for unleaded gasoline dropped below $3.50 per gallon ($3.50). Today's national average is at the lowest level for early August since 2010. Today's price is two cents less than one week ago, 16 cents less than one month ago and 12 cents less than the same date last year.

Oil market watchers continue to monitor the Middle East and northern Africa, paying special attention to growing tensions in Eastern Europe.

United States and European powers last week announced coordinated sanctions targeting Russia's long-term ability to develop new oil resources in response to the country's involvement in the insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil prices settled 41 cents higher on Monday at $98.29 per barrel.

AAA Fuel Gauge Gasoline Price Survey

Northeast Ohio Average for Self-Service Gasoline

		Regular
This Week	(11-27-26)	$3.45
Last Week	(11-20-26)	$3.38
Last Year	(11-28-25)	$3.58
National	(11-27-26)	$3.52



Holiday traditions-Three celebrations, one Square

Kwanzaa

Rhythm, Stories & Community

Drumming performance, 12:30–1:00 p.m.

Cleveland Association of Black Story Tellers, 1:30–2:00 p.m.

Children's activities, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Food samples from 1:00 p.m. until the food is gone

With Santa Breakfast & photos

Enjoy a free breakfast with Santa (9:30–11:30 a.m.) and free photos with Santa. Holiday photo packages are available for purchase from Kamron Khan Photography.



Hanukkah

Culture, Music & Crafts

Dreidel decorating, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Live music performance, 2:00–2:45 p.m.

Desert Samples 1:00 pm, until food is gone



Holiday Remembrance

Presented by Rivers in the Desert

Three 30-minute sessions at Café Indigo give attendees space to remember and honor the love that remains for loved ones who are no longer with them.

Session 1: Noon–12:30
Session 2: 2:00–2:30
Session 3: 4:00–4:30

VANTAGE POINT

Rep. Hall speaks in opposition of Bill weakening Consumer Protections

State Rep. Derrick Hall (D-Akron) today urged his colleagues to vote against legislation that would weaken consumer protections under Ohio's Home Solicitation Sales Act, making it easier for dishonest businesses to take advantage of Ohioans, particularly seniors and other vulnerable consumers.

House Bill (HB) 405 exempts certain consumer goods service contracts from existing protections against high-pressure and deceptive sales tactics. The bill removes important safeguards for Ohioans who purchase service agreements for household products, such as repair and maintenance plans.

"As the Ranking Member on the House Insurance Committee, maintaining consumer protections is a non-negotiable factor for me. I think of the older adults and vulnerable individuals in my district that will be harmed by removing these protections. I would never support legislation that harms our seniors,"



Hall

said Rep. Hall.

Under current law, Ohioans who make certain purchases through in-home solicitations have three business days to cancel a contract. Sellers are also prohibited from beginning services or charging consumers during that period.

These protections give consumers time to review agreements, reconsider high-pressure sales decisions and protect themselves from potential scams.

HB 405 rolls back those protections without providing any meaningful benefit to everyday Ohioans. By carving out new exemptions from the law, the legislation creates additional opportunities for dishonest companies and scammers to take advantage of consumers who may not realize what they are signing up for.

State Representative Derrick Hall is currently serving his first term in the Ohio House of Representatives representing House District 34, which includes Hudson, Stow, Tallmadge, Silver Lake, Munroe Falls, and portions of Akron. Currently, Representative Hall is the ranking member of the House Insurance Committee. He also serves on the House Medicaid Committee, House Energy Committee, and House Veterans and Military Development. Prior to his election to the Ohio House, Representative Hall served as the president of the Akron Public Schools Board of Education.

Representative Hall brings a socially pragmatic and fiscally responsible approach to addressing the critical issues we face each day in Ohio. Representative Hall prioritizes a strong public education system, robust support for small businesses, property tax reform, enhanced healthcare access, energy policy that is environmentally friendly, and improved senior services.

Prior to joining the legislature, Representative Hall worked with, and for, multiple Fortune 50 companies and for both large and medium sized non-profits inclusive of his work with multiple community boards.

Representative Hall also currently serves his country as a U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer.

Representative Hall earned his Doctor of Pharmacy, Juris Doctor, and MBA from The Ohio State University. He also attended Harvard Medical School where he earned his master's degree in healthcare operations. He lives in West Akron with his wife and their two children.

YOUR HEALTH

Kratom, sold as gas stations, can be deadly

If you've been to a gas station or a smoke shop in the last decade, you may have seen kratom products – sold as powders, pills, gummies, tonics and even kratom-infused chocolates. They're advertised as energy boosts, or even as a way to manage chronic pain or mental health conditions. But some of those products contain high doses of something called 7-OH: a compound that acts like opioids in the brain. Over the last decade, the U.S. government has attempted to restrict both kratom and 7-OH products, but strong opposition to those moves by the public and powerful advocacy groups backing the substances have kept them federally legal. That's started to change.

Tyler's opioid addiction began in his early 20s, and when he decided he wanted to quit, he used kratom leaf powders to help ease withdrawal symptoms.

Tyler, now 38, told NPR he thinks kratom helped him stop using opioids for a decade.

Tyler asked NPR to use only his first name because of the stigma attached to his history with drug use and addiction.

In early 2025, he saw a new product at a gas station called 7-OH. He hadn't heard of 7-OH, but said the tablets were advertised as "kratom products." He decided to try them, since the kratom powders he'd taken in the past "can be hard on your stomach," he said.

Kratom and 7-OH products are widely available. They're also at the heart of a public health debate.

At first, 7-OH gave him a feeling of euphoria he described as similar to opioids, which "felt like a kind of a miracle," he said.

Nearly a year and a half later, he was in a rapid detox program in Michigan, where he was sedated to sleep through the withdrawals he experienced when he tried to stop taking it.

In the past few years, highly concentrated products with 7-OH — sometimes alongside other semi-synthetic opioids — have popped up online, and at many smoke shops, liquor stores and gas stations. They can come in the form of tablets, gummies, tonics and chocolate.

7-OH, or 7-hydroxymitragynine, is one of the major psychoactive ingredients in kratom, which comes from a tree in the coffee family. It's naturally found in kratom in very small amounts, and seems to act more like an opioid in the human brain than kratom leaf products. Kratom is used by some people with opioid addiction to maintain long-term recovery. Some people say it makes them feel energized or focused. Others describe the effects of kratom like those of opioids, and say it can relieve pain, feel calming or even create euphoria.

"Some users of 7-OH and kratom show classic signs of addiction, researchers and policy officials say. But the products are not always clearly labeled, so it's difficult or impossible for users to know what quantity of the substances they are consuming.

"I did not know at all what I was in for. It was much more potent than I had imagined," Tyler said.

Estimates of how many people use kratom and 7-OH in the U.S. are wide-ranging. Some suggest over 5 million people have used kratom in their lifetime. David Epstein, a senior investigator at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Intramural Research Program, says he's seen estimates of kratom use as high as 15 million. Those estimates don't usually distinguish between whole leaf kratom, 7-OH or other related products.

In the last decade, the U.S. government has attempted to restrict both kratom and 7-OH products, but strong opposition to those moves by the public and powerful advocacy groups backing the substances have kept them federally legal.

That's started to change in the last few months.

A federal crackdown is likely on the way

No federal actions have been taken against "traditional botanical kratom," but a new federal restriction on some 7-OH products could go into place as early as Friday, Nov. 13, 2026.

The path there has not been straightforward. In August, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) restricted the making and sale of three semi-synthetic opioids derived from 7-OH and other related compounds: MGM-15, MGM-16 and mitragynine pseudoindoxyl (MGPI). Those compounds were listed under the Controlled Substances Act alongside the most highly restricted drugs, like heroin and LSD.

That caused backlash from kratom advocates who worried the rule would affect products with "trace amounts" of the semi-synthetic opioid, MGPI. One kratom advocacy organization, the American Kratom Association, filed a federal lawsuit on Aug. 26 against the DEA. It asked the DEA to ensure natural kratom products with traces of MGPI would remain legal.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) then issued a new recommendation on 7-OH and MGPI on Oct. 9, and the DEA changed its course. They now plan to restrict a narrower range of 7-OH and MGPI products: ones that contain higher concentrations of 7-OH and/or MGPI.

Many people who oppose the restriction say kratom and 7-OH products have kept them away from traditional opioids, and helped them manage chronic pain, mood and mental health.

Some also point to the fact that opioid deaths in the U.S. are decreasing. In 2023 alone, a KFF report found there were over 79,000 opioid deaths, and in 2024 there were 54,000.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Tips for saving on your heating bill this winter

Home heating and cooling costs are surging. From September 2021 to September 2026, average household energy prices jumped 35 percent, according to Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis data.

Moreover, the average U.S. home will spend nearly $1,030 on heating this winter, an 8.7 percent uptick from last year, according to a report from the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, which represents state governments in securing federal funding.

The bright spot: Keeping your home's energy costs manageable when the temperature drops doesn't require wearing three sweaters or installing a new heating system. Making changes to your home and daily habits at little or no cost could improve energy efficiency and slash your heating bills by 20 percent or more.

Adjust your thermostat

Setting your thermostat a few degrees cooler than you usually do can lead to significant savings. Knocking the temperature back by 7 to 10 degrees for eight hours per day can save you up to 10 percent annually on heating costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"When temperatures drop, heating systems often run longer to maintain the temperature set on the thermostat," says Caroline Fountain, a spokesperson for Duke Energy, a Charlotte, North Carolina–based electric and natural gas utility company with customers in seven mostly Southern states. Because heating is typically one of the biggest drivers of home energy use during colder weather, dialing back the thermostat can make a meaningful difference, she says.

But don't get too carried away. Drastically lowering the temperature or turning the heating off can force your home's heating system to work harder — and could even cause pipes to freeze and burst.

Kelly Ziegler, department manager of New York–area utility Con Edison's mass market energy efficiency programs, recommends setting your thermostat to around 68 degrees during the day and lowering the temperature when you're sleeping or out of the house for more than six hours.

You can automate this process by installing a programmable or smart thermostat, says Todd Berreman, director of energy efficiency programs at Houston-based CenterPoint Energy, which provides electricity and natural gas in Texas and five other states. These devices allow you to set temperature controls and schedule when your heating turns on, so you can sit back and forget about adjusting it manually.

Some energy companies offer rebates to customers who install smart thermostats. Others provide bill credits or compensation to customers who permit their smart thermostats to be temporarily adjusted by the utility company during peak demand periods. For instance, Duke Energy customers, depending on where they live, may be able to earn bill credits by enrolling a qualifying smart thermostat, electric water heater or other eligible equipment and allowing the energy company to make brief temperature adjustments during high demand periods.

Pay attention to your water heater temperature as well. It accounts for almost 20 percent of your home's energy use.

Lowering the setting can help reduce your heating bill. Just be sure to set the temperature no lower than 120 degrees to prevent the growth of Legionella, a bacteria that can cause Legionnaires' disease.

Check whether your utility company offers tools that show how much energy you are using and what it may cost. This could help you identify ways to save.

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Islam In The Community

Over 100 writers from PEN America to form splinter group over Gaza tensions

More than 100 well-known writers and members of the literary world are to form a splinter chapter of PEN America, the free-expression literary and human rights group, over tensions within the organization over Israel's war in Gaza and other issues.

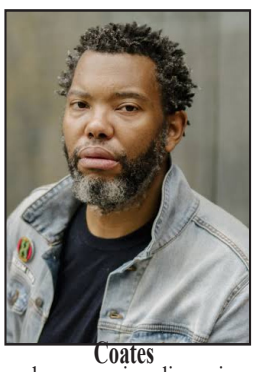
Writers including Ta-Nehisi Coates, M Gessen and Jacqueline Woodson are among those who on Monday announced they are forming a new group called PEN Writes US that will be "guided by the PEN Charter's vision of 'one humanity, living in peace and equality in one world'".

The group describes itself as an "aspiring PEN chapter founded by writers, translators, artists, editors, agents, and booksellers" from all over the US. The group says it is supported by PEN International while it aims "to build a new home for writers committed to free expression, and their range of backgrounds, languages, and perspectives is our greatest strength".

"We seek to join more than 140 PEN Centers worldwide (and the many that have coexisted in the United States) in mobilizing writers at every stage of their career to defend free expression, support writers and artists at risk, and champion reading, translation, and literature," it added.

PEN America told the Associated Press that it remains focused on "defending free expression as a universal right that must be protected regardless of viewpoint".

Novelist Maaza Mengiste told the outlet that the new group does not seek to be a rival of PEN America and will probably share common ground about fighting censorship and oppression and encouraging discussions among writers.


Coates


Mengiste

Mengiste said that PEN Writes will differ in its structure and in some of its priorities, ideally becoming "a center where sustained and equal advocacy for all writers guides principles, rather than institutional caution".

The formation of PEN Writes comes as PEN America has faced criticism from numerous writers and activists who say they are unhappy with the latter group's response to Israel's war in Gaza. Critics argue that PEN America has been reluctant to criticize Israel or to defend the rights of Palestinian writers with the same force it has advocated for writers elsewhere.

"I think there's been a feeling for quite a while that PEN's response to the war in Gaza has been inadequate," says PEN Writes member Francine Prose, a former president of PEN America, according to the AP.

Fallout from the war in Gaza led PEN America to call off its annual awards show and World Voices festival in 2024 because so many participants dropped out.

Those events resumed. But in June, Dinaw Mengestu resigned as PEN America president after PEN published a report about obstacles and harassment faced by Israeli and Jewish writers since Israel began waging war in Gaza in 2023 in the wake of the 7 October attacks by Hamas that year.

Mengestu, a prize-winning novelist who is now a member of PEN Writes, at the time cited the report's criticism of cultural boycotts. He expressed support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, or BDS.

Organizers advocated for economic and cultural pressure on Israel to end the country's occupation of territories captured in the 1967 Middle East war, grant full equality to Arab citizens of Israel and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return.

PEN America says it "emphatically opposes any efforts to inhibit the free international exchange of literature, art, information, or knowledge, including academic and cultural boycotts". The group says it also defends the rights of individuals to "be protected from retaliatory efforts" for participating in boycotts.

Mengiste told the AP that PEN Writes takes a broader view, supporting boycotts themselves.

In July, in the aftermath of Mengestu's departure, PEN America issued a statement citing such initiatives as its direction of $500,000 in emergency aid to Palestinians in Gaza, its legal support for a pro-Palestinian activist threatened with deportation by Donald Trump's administration, and a 2025 PEN report entitled All That Is Lost: The Cultural Destruction of Gaza.

The new group is aiming for recognition at the PEN International Congress in Montenegro in September 2027. The process includes forming a steering committee, establishing communication with the PEN International secretariat and "seeking interest from the full diversity of writers" in a given country, according to PEN International's guidelines.

Other prominent members of PEN Writes include Pulitzer prize winner Percival Everett, literary agent Nicole Aragi and novelist Hannah Lillith Assadi, who on Wednesday won the National Book Award for fiction.

Mengiste said PEN Writes aims to be effective as a more stripped-down, egalitarian organization run entirely by writers on behalf of writers.

"I think writers know first-hand what self-censorship or lost contracts or deplatforming looks like," she told the AP. "We know that what comes for one writer will very likely come for others. We are guardians of each other as much as we are stewards of literature. We do not work with a writers organization, we ARE writers, organized and mobilized to defend all writers."

A Look At My World

Acting crazy does have it's perks

DR. JAMES L. SNYDER

The older I get, the more I learn something I didn't know. I guess that's the unexpected benefit of getting old. I can honestly say I know more today than I did when I was first born. And yet, I still have a long way to go.

After 55 years of marital bliss, I am still learning how to deal with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It has been a long road, but I must admit I have learned quite a bit along the way.

When I first got married, I really didn't understand women and the difference between them and men. I had no experience with women outside of my mother, which doesn't really count.

When I think I have everything put together concerning women, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage introduces me to something new. If there is a man on earth anywhere that knows everything about women, he is a liar, and his wife is controlling him. When I think I know, I realize I don't know.

Last week we had a little incident and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me with both hands on her hips and said, "Are you acting crazy?"

She has said that more times than I can remember. But this time it was different. This time a lightbulb went on inside my head. I never even thought about "acting crazy." I just thought it was something that you did without even knowing what you're doing.

Now my focus has shifted to acting crazy. My thespian skills are not very good. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can see through every act every time.

I started thinking that if I worked on my thespian skills, I might see some benefits.

Being an actor has never been an aspiration of mine at any level. But when she mentioned me acting crazy, I really had to think about it for a long time. Maybe I do have some thespian skills that I did not know I had. And if I could hone those skills, I could profit greatly from them.

The trouble is, I don't know where to begin to study acting, crazy. I checked several places and even spent an afternoon in the library, but it doesn't seem to be on anybody's radar. I need to start a new adventure in my life. Being retired means I have a lot more time to put into this rather important project.

The first thing I need to do is understand what "crazy" really means. I don't need to know what a lot of people think about crazy; I just need to know what The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage understands crazy to be. That's where I need to begin.

Of course, I could say that her definition of crazy is what I see in the bathroom mirror each morning. I can understand that. But I need to delve a little bit deeper so that I can really put on a professional act of acting crazy. An act that she cannot figure out.

When I think about acting crazy, the first thing that comes to mind is when I was driving, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was sitting in the passenger seat. I had almost forgotten this, but fortunately it came to mind.

We really didn't know where we were going, so we had a map with directions that she printed from her computer. Without those directions, we probably would never have found where we were going.

As we were driving down, we had come to where we needed to make a turn. So I said to her, "am I to turn left down here?" She responded, "right." And so I turned right, and she looked at me and said, "Are you acting crazy? You said left."

There was a time when she sent me to the store to pick up something. She was busy preparing for Thanksgiving dinner and didn't have the time to go, but she needed something from the store.

Of course, I said I would go and pick something up for her.

I got back, put the grocery bag on the table, and went into my office to work. All of a sudden, she came to the door of my office and said, "Are you really acting crazy today? I said I wanted a dozen apples why do I find Apple fritters in the grocery bag?"

She then told me to take these back, get a refund, and get the apples she ordered in the first place.

Before I left, I asked if we could keep the Apple fritters for later. Looking at me, she said, "I do not want these Apple fritters in our house. You may be acting crazy but I'm not."

That almost worked, but in the long run it didn't.

I'm not going to quit; I'm going to continue working on my thespian skills so that I can become a professional crazy actor. I hope I'm close to my goal.

As I was contemplating my next move, a Bible verse came to mind.

"Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

I need to look at my actions through God's eyes. What do God see in the actions I do and how is He effected? That's what's important. My goal in life is be God's delight on His terms.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamessnyder-ministries.com.

Israel has turned Gaza into a toxic wasteland


Israel's destruction of Gaza through the extensive use of explosive and incendiary weapons has made air, soil and water dangerous to Palestinians now and for decades to come

Israel's destruction of Gaza through the extensive use of explosive and incendiary weapons has made air, soil and water dangerous to Palestinians now and for decades to come, with indicators of toxic contamination across almost the entirety of the Strip. With international attention increasingly turning to Gaza's reconstruction, environmental recovery must not be treated as an afterthought, but as a vital undertaking in parallel.

This paper presents a comprehensive picture of Gaza's contamination landscape. Satellite-derived data, remote sensing analysis, and geolocated conflict incident databases are used to spatially map contamination risks across Gaza, drawing on scientific and legal literature to assess exposure pathways, potential health consequences, and the legal implications of environmental harm. It demonstrates that the evidence already available is sufficient to conclude that contamination is widespread, severe and consequential, and that the destruction and contamination of Gaza's environmental resources and systems raise serious concerns under international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law (IHRL) and occupation law.

The research found that that the scale and intensity of the Israeli military's onslaught has affected approximately 78 per cent of Gaza's land area, with the report's spatial analysis identifying indicators of potential contamination across more than 99 per cent of the territory; highlighting the scale and near-total geographical spread of pollution risks.

Oxfam calls for a full, independent, field-based Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment, which is needed to establish what contaminants are present, where they are found and at what concentrations; determine the risks they pose to people and the environment; and identify what needs to be done to address them. The absence of a full, independent, field-based post-conflict environmental assessment is a direct consequence of Israel's continued refusal of independent access to Gaza.

Israel must end its genocide and siege of Gaza and to allow unrestricted access for aid, environmental assessment and essential equipment. Recovery and reconstruction of Gaza must be owned and led by Palestinians themselves. It must be rights-based, reparations-oriented, and rooted in accountability. International funding does not replace Israel's obligation to make reparations for the harm caused by its unlawful acts.

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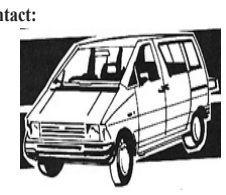
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EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

Monsters lose Lorentz, Jack Williams

The AHL's Cleveland Monsters nounced Thursday that the Blue Jackets recalled forwards Steven Lorentz and Jack Williams from the Monsters. In nine appearances for Cleveland this season, Lorentz posted 7-2-9 with four penalty minutes and a +2 rating while Williams registered 1-4-5 with two penalty minutes in seven appearances for the Monsters.

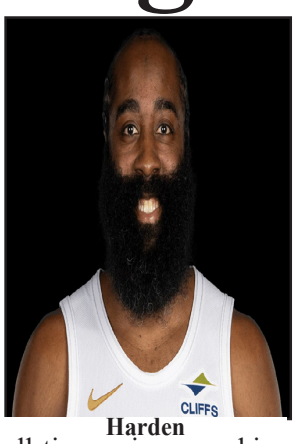
Thunder & Lightning boxing presents Holiday Storm featuring Cleveland's own Dante Benjamin vs Ramon Ayala in a 10 rounder main event at LanderHaven, 61111 LanderHaven Drive, Mayfield Hts. Buy tickets: www.ThunderLightningBoxing.com

Monsters defeat Hammers

The Cleveland Monsters beat the Hamilton Hammers 5-2 on Tuesday evening at Rocket Arena. With the win, the Monsters are now 8-8-0-0 and are currently in sixth place in the AHL's North Division standings. Cleveland's Evan Gardner made 20 saves for the win while Hamilton's Vítek Vaněček made 7 saves in relief of Josh Kotai who stopped 3 shots for the loss.

Harden goes crazy vs. Indy Pacers

By KARL BRYANT


Harden


Bryant


Mobley


Merrill


Watson

James Harden scored 51 points in a 128-119 Cavaliers win over the Pacers that wasn't as close as the score would indicate. Oddly, the teams exchanged 21-4 runs in the 2nd Half. It was an NBA Cup match that put the Cavs at 2-1 in Group Play.

Harden became 3rd all-time in reaching the 50-point plateau in NBA history, behind Wilt Chamberlain and Michael Jordan. While Harden went crazy, Donovan Mitchell added 20 points for CLE. Mario Hezonja scored 10 points and pulled down 10 boards.

To the delight of the large contingent of Croatians in attendance in The Land, fellow countryman Ivica Zubac had a solid game for the Pacers.

Pascal Siakam and Zubac each scored 21 points to lead Indiana and Zubac also pulled down 10 boards.

Cavs Coach Kenny Atkinson effused praise regarding Harden in his post-game comments, stating, "It's an honor, I really mean that. It doesn't happen to a lot of coaches, to get to coach a guy like that."

Huskers shuck Buckeyes

By KARL BRYANT


Jackson

This was not your Grandfather's Nebraska. Neither legendary mentors Bob Devaney nor Tom Osborne were seen pacing the sidelines. Instead it was current Coach Matt Ruhle who saw his Huskers shuck the Bucks.

Ohio State took it on the chin for the 4th time this year, absorbing a 31-28 loss. The Cornhuskers took a two possession lead in the 4th Quarter and the Bucks could only get to within three with a TD by VASJ RB Bo Jackson. The OSU Defense did not do well again. They've allowed 30, 41, and 31 points in their three November losses.

Jeremiah Smith added to his Heisman Hopeful resume by catching six passes for 165 yards and two TDs - one a 67 YD TD Pass and the other, a 31 YD TD Pass. That's what the Buckeyes PR has left to root for - some personal accolades. OSU QB Luke Fahey went 16 of 27 for 259 yards and the Two TD tosses t o Smith, with an INT. The Buckeyes ran for 76 yards. Cornhuskers QB Anthony Colandrea went 19 of 28 for 200 yards and three TDs. Nebraska runners gained 176 yards rushing.

Michigan (The Team Up North), who just beat previously undefeated UCLA, 18-16, in 3 OTs, is next for OSU. It's not often that the two archrivals have a combined nine losses (Wolverines are 6-5 and Buckeyes are 7-4) going into The Game. The Buckeyes better be ready for this one.

Monsters team up for the holidays

The Cleveland Monsters will return from Thanksgiving to host the Hamilton Hammers at Rocket Arena for Black Friday presented by The Salvation Army on Friday, November 27, and Hockey Fights Cancer presented by University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center on Saturday, November 28, with both puck drops at 7:00 p.m.

A Cleveland holiday tradition, the Monsters Black Friday game welcomes guests home for the holidays and visiting loved ones to Rocket Arena the day after Thanksgiving. The team will match the theme sporting their black primary jerseys at home for the first time this season. Friday's game marks a 1-2-3 Friday featuring $1 Coca-Cola products, $2 hot dogs and $3 Labatt Blue and additional select beer specials. It also will be another Hockey for Heroes night where local veterans are spotlighted at the game, enjoy the action on the ice and meet with a Monsters player after.


Undefeated Slippery Rock, which is led by Massillon QB DaOne Owens (1), manhandled Charleston (WV), 59-21, in an NCAA Div. II 1st Round win (ESDN Photo by Bill Moore, Minority Publishers Assn.)

On Saturday, the Monsters will celebrate their annual Hockey Fights Cancer game, spotlighting fans whose lives have been touched by cancer and recognizing the caregivers at UH Seidman Cancer Center. Dr. Amy Armstrong will join her patient Amanda Hugli at center ice for an unforgettable ceremonial puck drop where Hugli will ring the bell signaling the conclusion of her cancer treatment. Throughout the night, UH Oncology nurses will be celebrated with spotlights and experiences such as Benchwarmers. Fans will receive an I Fight For sign when they enter that can be filled out and displayed from their seats during the game.

The team will sport specialty Hockey Fights Cancer jersey that will be available to bid on from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on DASH with a select group available postgame during a live auction. More information on the jerseys and auction process can be found at clevelandmonsters.com/hfc. In addition to the jerseys, signed warm up pucks and Hockey Fights Cancer themed name plates will be available to bid on through DASH. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Lorain County which will also host the 50/50 that night.

Fans can shop the Hockey Fights Cancer Collection including a replica jersey, puck, hats and more while supplies last through Center Ice both online and in person with a portion of the proceeds benefitting The Gathering Place in memory of Senior Retail Operations Manager, Sharon Caramell.

This weekend will continue the Toy Drive presented by The Salvation Army where fans can support those in need this holiday season by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the game. The Salvation Army is looking to rebuild their toy collection after a warehouse fire destroyed their storage unit over the summer. Fans are especially encouraged to assist by purchasing toys for kids ages 9 to 14 and can also support online at clevelandmonsters.com/toydrive.

Stay up to date on all Monsters news with the Monsters Mobile App presented by University Hospitals available to download at the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Be sure to follow the Monsters on X, Facebook,

Steelers stopped by Eagles

By ANDREW CARTER


Rogers

The Steelers fell behind the Eagles and never caught up, losing,19-16, in Philadelphia. QB Aaron Rodgers completed 30 of 44 passes for 277 yards and a 20 YD TD Pass - the Steelers only TD of the game - to Max Hurleman, inside of the Two-Minute Warning.

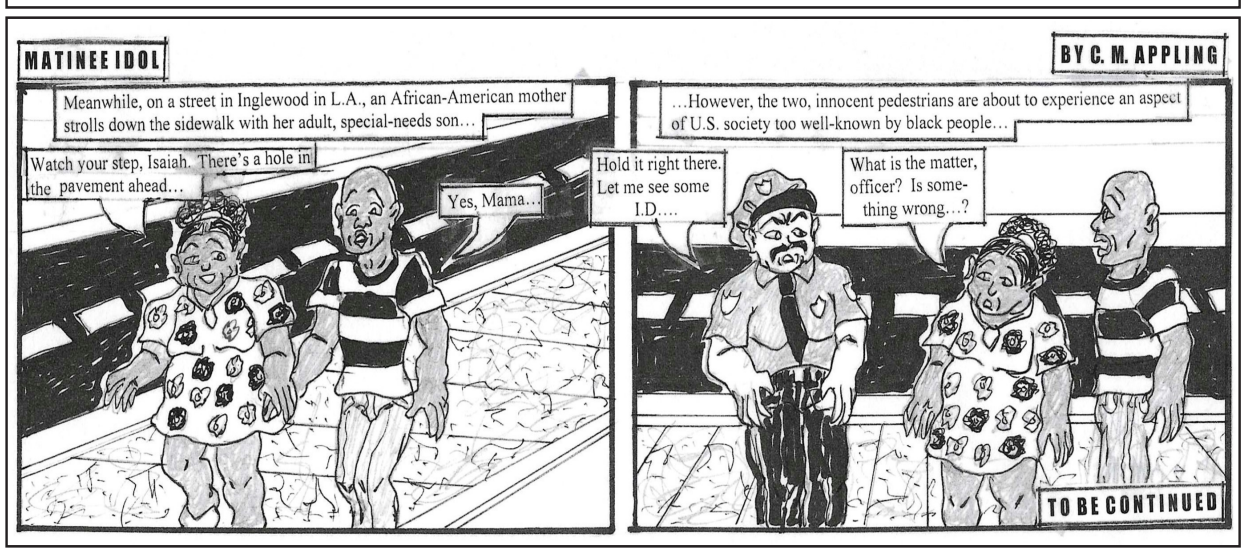
He was sacked five times and was the Steelers leading rusher with 29 of their 73 run yards. When Aaron Rodgers is your leading rusher, it's never a good sign. Chris Boswell kicked three FGs.

Philly QB Joe Milton was a tolerable 11 of 21 for 141 yards. The Eagles had 91 yards rushing. Philly K Jake Elliot kicked four FGs.

At Press Time, Coach Mike McCarthy announced that back-up QB Mason Rudolph would start the Steelers Black Friday game against the Broncos in place of Rodgers.







EAST SIDE Daily NEWS

On The Town

MOVIES * MUSIC * THEATER * DANCE * RESTAURANTS * NIGHT LIFE

Mojo Brookzz 'Out of Pocket' tour to come to the State Theater

Mojo Brookzz 'Out of Pocket' tour to come to the State Theater on March 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Dyon "Mojo" Brooks is an actor, writer, producer, and nationally acclaimed stand-up comedian whose debut one-hour special hit number one on the Netflix charts after only one day of release, a feat only less than five comics have achieved in the history of the platform. Additionally, was named as one of Variety's 10 Comics to Watch for 2025 where he was recognized and honored at the historic Just For Laughs Montreal. The prestigious list includes such notable alumni as Kevin Hart, Amy Schumer, Patton Oswalt, Tiffany Haddish, and Kumail Nanjiani to name just a few.

Dyon "Mojo" Brooks (stage name Mojo Brookzz) is a stand-up comedian, actor, writer, and producer from Chicago, Illinois. Born on February 9, 1990 (age 36), he rose to prominence through viral social media comedy sketches and crowd work before expanding into television, touring, and stand-up specials.



Mojo Brookzz 'Out of Pocket' tour to come to the State Theater on March 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Stand-Up & Specials: Released his debut Netflix stand-up special, Mojo Brookzz: I Know You Lying, in October 2026.

He has headlined sold-out tours including Unhand Me Now and I Know You F*ckin' Lying, performed on Mike Epps' We Them Ones Tour, and sold out Chicago's Chicago Theatre.

Television & Acting: Appeared on Wild 'N Out (Season 21) and plays Basil Henderson in Tyler Perry's Netflix series Miss Governor.

Social Media: Built a following of over 5 million across platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook with character sketches, family/relationship humor, and Chicago sports commentary.

Follow @mojobrookzz on Instagram, or check his bio on Famous Birthdays.

MENU TIPS

Christmas Crack Bark for the holidays

When it comes to easy Christmas desserts, it doesn't get any better than this caramel toffee chocolate bark. Crispy, crunchy, salty, and sweet, it's highly addicting and perfect for gifting. Made with six simple ingredients, including saltine crackers and McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract, in less than 30 minutes, no candy thermometer needed!

Ingredients

1 sleeve saltine crackers, about 35 crackers - Substitutes

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter

1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

1/8 teaspoon McCormick® Sea Salt Grinder

1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick® All Natural Pure Vanilla Extract

1 package (10 - 12 ounces) chocolate chips semi-sweet, milk or dark chocolate

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or foil. Spray lightly with no-stick cooking spray. Arrange crackers on baking sheet in single layer so that the edges almost touch.

Heat butter and brown sugar in 2-quart saucepan on medium heat. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring frequently. Simmer 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in salt and vanilla. Pour caramel sauce over crackers and spread to evenly coat crackers. Bake 6 minutes.

Remove pan from oven. Sprinkle chocolate chips over caramel layer. Let stand 5 minutes. Spread chocolate chips into an even layer on top of caramel.

Refrigerate 1 to 2 hours or freeze 30 to 45 minutes or until firm.

Break or cut into pieces to serve. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator up to 1 week.

Stir 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Ground Cinnamon into caramel mixture along with salt and vanilla.

Sprinkle chopped pistachios and chopped McCormick Gourmet Organic Crystalized Ginger over chocolate layer immediately after spreading over crackers.

Substitute chocolate confectionary coating wafers (such as Wilton Candy Melts) for the chocolate chips. Heat Candy Melts as directed on package and stir in your favorite McCormick® Extract to taste such as Peppermint, Orange, or Almond.

Peppermint bark is easy to make with just 5 ingredients. This simple recipe for the classic Christmas treat features 3 layers of white and dark chocolates flavored with peppermint extract, plus crushed candy canes for garnish. The bark sets in an hour, so your holiday treat will be ready for tasting and gift-giving in a snap!

White Chocolate

Semi-sweet or Dark Chocolate

Oil (coconut or vegetable). Oil helps thin out the chocolate so it's easy to pour and spread. It also helps keep the chocolate on the softer side, rather than crumbly and hard.

Peppermint Extract

Crushed Candy Canes. You need 2–3 standard-size candy canes (24–36g), depending on how much candy cane topping you like on your peppermint bark.

Melt 1/2 teaspoon of oil with the white chocolate in the microwave in 20-second increments, stirring in between. When melted and smooth, stir in 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract.

Spread the peppermint-flavored white chocolate into a lined pan.

Place the pan in the refrigerator for 10–15 minutes (I find 11 is just about perfect). You don't want it to set for too long and completely harden, or else the layers will separate.

Repeat with chocolate.

Repeat with second batch of white chocolate, but no peppermint extract this time. Sprinkle with crushed candy canes, then place the pan in the refrigerator one last time to fully set.

Peppermint bark takes about 1 hour to set.

If you have some leftover crushed candy canes, use them instead of sprinkles on your Christmas sugar cookies.

You can spread/pour out the melted chocolates in an 8- or 9-inch square baking pan, or simply spread on a baking sheet, where the thickness is up to you. No matter which pan you use, make sure to line it with parchment paper or aluminum foil so the bark is easy to get out of the pan after it's set.

Tips for Making the Best Peppermint Bark

Spreading the chocolate layers: A spoon or offset spatula helps spread the melted chocolate easily. You can also pick up the baking pan and tip it to help the chocolate slide around.

Why are my layers separating? You may have chilled the layers for too long. Only refrigerate the bottom and middle layer for 10–15 minutes before spreading the next layer on top. You want it still a bit soft so the layers adhere together.

Can I use peppermint oil instead of extract? You can use peppermint oil, but proceed with caution!

This stuff is very potent and you'll only need a drop in the bottom and middle layers.

'Annie!' will brighten your holiday

'Annie!' the long-standing musical hit will be at the Allen Theater from November 28 to December 27.

It is the family holiday musical favorite as everyone roots for Annie and Sandy to find their forever home with billionaire Oliver Warbucks!

Bursting with spirit and unstoppable charm, Annie shines with the kind of hope that refuses to be dimmed, as an irrepressible young girl with a big voice and an even bigger heart proves that courage comes in small packages.

In this high-energy, rags-to-riches adventure featuring iconic anthems like "Tomorrow," "Easy Street," and "It's the Hard-Knock Life," our young heroine takes on a world that underestimates her as she transforms everyone she meets—from a lovable stray dog named Sandy, to the billionaire Oliver Warbucks, and even the President of the United States!

Because sometimes, all it takes is one plucky dreamer—bright, bold, and unshakable—to remind us all that the sun will come out tomorrow!

ANNIE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Tickets are on sale now.

Annie is a musical with music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin, and a book by Thomas Meehan.

It is based on the 1924 comic strip Little Orphan Annie by Harold Gray (which in turn was inspired from the poem Little Orphant Annie by James Whitcomb Riley).

The original Broadway production opened in 1977 and ran for nearly six years, setting a record for the Alvin Theatre (now the Neil Simon Theatre).

It spawned numerous productions in many countries, as well as national tours, and won seven Tony Awards, including for Best Musical. The musical's songs "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life" are among its most popular musical numbers.

The original Broadway production opened at the Alvin Theatre on April 21, 1977, and starred Andrea McArdle as Annie, Reid Shelton as Warbucks, Dorothy Loudon as Miss Hannigan, and Sandy Faison as Grace Farrell, with Danielle Brisebois as Molly, the youngest and smallest orphan.

It was nominated for eleven Tony Awards and won seven, including the Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book at the 31st Tony Awards. Replacements in the title role on Broadway included Shelley Bruce, Sarah Jessica Parker, Allison Smith and Alyson Kirk. Replacements in the role of Miss Hannigan included Alice Ghostley, Dolores Wilson, Betty Hutton, Marcia Lewis, and June Havoc. Ann Ungar understudied and played for Dorothy Loudon in the role of Miss Hannigan.

She also understudied Alice Ghostley and Dolores Wilson.

Just Jazz

By NANCY ANN LEE

King Oliver

Cornetistand bandleader (Joe) King Oliver was born in 1885 in New Orleans

His career began in hometown brass bands, dance bands, and other small groups in Crescent City cabarets and bars.

Claimed to be the spiritual father of syncopated ("hot") jazz, he moved to Chicago in 1918 and formed King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band (June 1922) with cornetists Louis Armstrong, clarinetist Johnny Dodds, trombonist Honore Dutrex, pianist Lil Hardin, drummer Baby Dodds, and bassist-banjo player Bill Johnson.

Oliver began recording in 1923 what are now considered historic masterpieces.

After Armstrong departed in 1924, Oliver completely reorganized his band to include saxophones.

He went to New York, had a successful but brief club engagement before his group disbanded.

He toured widely in the Midwest and upper South from 1920-1936, but made no further recordings after 1931. Considered to be an important New Orleans-style musician, his recordings have been reissued.

His tune "Dipper Mouth Blues," later known as "Sugar Foot Stomp," became a classic.

Although he was an excellent bandleader, Oliver's playing style was superseded by Louis Armstrong's and by 1937 he was forgotten and in failing health.

He died in Savannah in 1938.

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING

TRIVIA - (Biographies)

1. In the HBO cable film The Josephine Baker Story (1991), actress Lynn Whitfield portrayed the great, American expatriate dancer who fled to Paris, France and became an international sensation and the richest black woman in the '20's and '30's; but who is the veteran, black actor that portrayed a U.S. serviceman that inspires her to return to performing after she experiences great pain and loss?

2. In what musical mini-series do actor Lawrence Hilton Jacobs and actress Angela Bassett portray a '60's, lower-class, black couple from Gary, Indiana who take their five sons (Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon and Michael) to audition for Motown Record's President Berry Gordy to become the most famous, musical family in history?

3. Who is the light-skinned, green-eyed actress/singer in The Courage To Love (2000) that portrayed the story of Henriette Delille: a quadroon in pre-Civil War New Orleans who rejects the female, Creole tradition of being kept by a wealthy, white man to instead become a Catholic nun and teach slave children to read and write?

4. In Livin' For Love: The Natalie Cole Story (2001), actress Teresa Randle portrays the young-adult Natalie while Diahann Carroll portrays Cole's mother, but who is the African-American actor who portrayed the singer's legendary father, Nat King Cole?

5. In what film does African-American director Julie Dash have actress Angela Bassett portray the special bus rider who made history by sparking the '60's Civil Rights Movement when she was arrested for refusing to give up her Jim Crow seat for a white passenger?

ANSWERS: 1. Louis Gossett, Jr. 2. 'The Jacksons: An American Dream' (1997) 3. Vanessa L. Williams 4. James McDaniel 5. 'The Rosa Parks Story' (2002)

MOVIE MATCH-UP - (The Jacksons: An American Dream)

ACTORS/ACTRESSES:	ROLES:
1.Angela Bassett	a) dad, Joe Jackson
2. Lawrence Hilton Jacobs	b)assistant Suzanne De-Passe
3. Holly Robinson-Peete	c) producer Berry Gordy
4. Billy Dee Williams	d) mom, Katherine Jackson
5. Vanessa L. Williams	

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

' New Jack City' is great gangster film

By C.M. APPLING

Ever since the 1920's, gangster and mobster movies have been a popular staple of white American cinema culture. Since that time, black versions of gangster films have mirrored the criminal violence and decadent debauchery that draws audiences to experience the underworld's activity. Caucasian crime classics such as The Godfather trilogy and The Untouchables are examples of extremely successful mobster motion-pictures, as is Scarface starring Al Pacino as Latin drug-kingpin Tony Montana.

With the emergence of so-called 'Gangsta Rap' in the 1990's, the black music scene exploded with a proliferation of hip-hop artists who seemed to glorify the negative aspects of crime and violence that they were raised around. While there have been several movies made about famous real-life African-American gangsters (such as Laurence Fishburne as 'Bumpy Johnson' in Hoodlum, and Denzel Washington as 'Frank Lucas' in American Gangster), none caught the black community's cinematic fascination like fictional drug-dealer 'Nino Brown' in New Jack City.

Released in 1991, New Jack City was directed by black actor/filmmaker Mario Van Peebles. 'Mario' (the son of pioneering black movie-maker Melvin Van Peebles, who directed the precedent-setting film Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song), came along and managed to blend together a feature that captured perfectly the pathos of the crack-cocaine crisis sweeping black communities across the country (done with a 'new jack swing' music soundtrack).

Set in 'The City', New Jack City told the story of make-believe urban gangster 'Nino Brown' (Wesley Snipes). Nino is a drug-dealer who, through his ruthless and evil ambition, quickly rises from a neighborhood 'rock slanger' to becoming a crack kingpin who does not only challenge the law but the Italian mob itself.

Relying on his criminal homeboys, the 'C.M.B.' (Cash Money Brothas) Nino is backed by an African-American assortment of illegal lackeys. 'G-Money' (Allen Payne) is Nino's right arm. 'Da Duh-Duh Man' (Bill Nunn) is a large stuttering artist. Keisha (the 'other' Vanessa Williams in Hollywood) is a cold-hearted strapped sista. Finally, Kareem (Christopher Williams) is a former Wall Street brotha turned bad. Actress Michael Michele portrays Nino's long-suffering upper-class girlfriend who eventually realizes his soul-less nature and turns on him.

To bring this 'heartless monster' down, director Van Peebles stars himself as Stone: a black police lieutenant who decides to send two officers undercover to expose Nino and destroy his abominable empire for good. Rapper/actor Ice-T is Appleton: the dredlocked sympathetic cop with a heart for his 'hood. White actor Judd Nelson is cast as Peretti: an off-beat Italian loner who catches criminals to the beat of his own drum. Together, Appleton and Peretti infiltrate Nino's ghetto-project infrastructure known as 'Tha Carter.'

To help them get inside, the detective pair acquire the assistance of a local crackhead named 'Pookie'. Played with addictive amusement by now comic giant Chris Rock, the frail emaciated Pookie joins Stone's operatives for the mission. But, when his wire-tap is exposed and his cover is blown, the detectives are even more motivated to avenge the fallen junkie and to bring Nino down permanently.

Van Peebles' direction drives home the anti-drug message with the subtlety of a sledge-hammer. However, although the message is blatantly emphasized, it does not overwhelm the acting of the assembled cast, including the film's star Wesley Snipes.

Before New Jack City, Snipe's made his debut in Michael Jackson's Bad music video as 'the lead thug'. After that, Snipes starred as a football player in Wildcats and as a black architect caught in an affair with a white Italian temp-secretary in Spike Lee's Jungle Fever. But, New Jack City was his breakthrough.

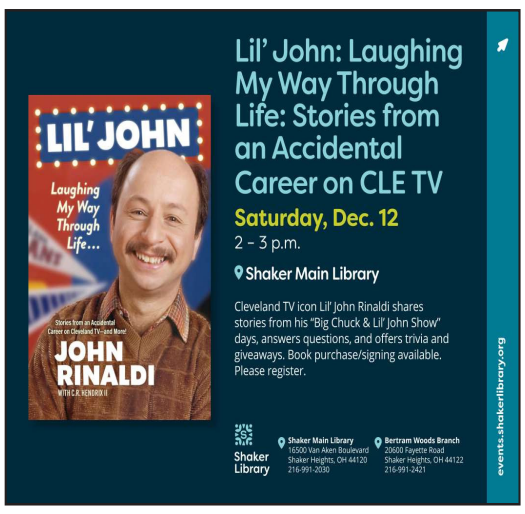
As Nino Brown, Wesley Snipes equaled the criminal charisma of Al Pacino's Tony Montana, if not surpassed it. 'Nino' is the ultimate evil antagonist who not only dominates his neighborhood domain but that of other villains in black film history. (The only other actors/actresses that have reached Snipes' level of his character's villainy are: Denzel Washington's 'Alonzo' in Training Day, Tasha Smith as 'Jennifer' in Daddy's Little Girls, and Samuel L. Jackson's 'Stephen' in Django Unchained.

New Jack City serves as a good action-thriller that delivers the goods to its audiences. Although it captures a very distinct time-period in black social history, it continues to act as a filmic deterrent to drug use and as a moral center during a troubling time in our community.

Lil John to meet fans and friends at the Shaker Heights Library

Lil John will be at the Shaker Heights Library, 16500 Van Aken Blvd., to chat with fans who grew up watching him on television. He will be there to sign his book, "Lil' John: Laughing My Way Through Life" a wonderful nostalgic gift for in time for the holiday season. He will be at the library on December 12 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Below is a wonderful profile of Lil John by Bruce Checefsky



Lil' John Rinaldi showed up for his first television performance with Big Chuck dressed like a young girl. The retired jewelry store owner and legendary local TV entertainer recounts that story along with many more in his recently published book, Lil' John: Laughing My Way Through Life, published by Gray & Company and available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and www.bigchuckliljohn.com. In case you are wondering, he also sells the book from the trunk of his car.

"I had a good, happy, and fun life," said the 80-year-old television legend in a recent interview at Panera Bread in Solon, a few steps from his former jewelry store. "I still enjoy life."

Rinaldi was born in Cleveland and grew up near East 110th and Woodland Ave, which was predominantly Italian back then. He attended Cleveland Public Schools, graduated, and went to Ohio State University, where he majored in marketing. He worked at a jewelry store part-time while in college. After he graduated, Rinaldi's interest turned into a full-time job with Cowell and Hubbard Co., Cleveland's oldest and most prestigious luxury jewelry store.

"People come to the jewelry store to get engaged or married. It was always a joyful occasion. I wanted to make them laugh and smile," said Rinaldi. "Diamond stud earrings were always the number one seller."

A year later, etiquette coach Dick Blake came to his store and encouraged Rinaldi to meet with the cast from the Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show, a late-night movie and comedy sketch program on WJW-TV Channel 8 in Cleveland. Hosted by Bob "Hoolihan" Wells and Chuck "Big Chuck" Schodowski, the show combined classic horror and sci-fi movies with original, offbeat comedy sketches poking fun at life in Northeast Ohio.

Chuck was not looking for anyone, but Rinaldi kept in touch, thinking the show would be good for his jewelry business and the show. "I need a little girl," Chuck eventually told Blake, and soon after, Rinaldi received a phone call.

"The rest is history," he said.

A few weeks later, Rinaldi showed up at Bonnie's Lounge on West 220th and Lorain Ave. He borrowed combat boots from his buddy Dave Burger, a Vietnam vet, and arrived with a couple of his friends. It was a Saturday night. The door was locked. Cars were parked in the lot. Suddenly, the door opened, and it was Chuck.

Bridget the Midget was born that night. The skit was based on the Ray Stevens pop song, "Bridget the Midget (The Queen of the Blues)." It marked Lil' John's very first appearance on Cleveland television.

In the act, Hoolihan is the emcee, hyping up the crowd, introducing Bridget the Midget, the Queen of the Blues. Rinaldi is in full drag, wearing a flamboyant wig, high heels, and a dress. He lip-syncs to the Stevens song and does a series of comical go-go dance moves across the stage while backup singers and dancers, introduced as Strawberry and the Shortcakes, accompany him. It concludes with the program's iconic booming recorded laughter. The skit was a massive success.

"We have over 2,000 skits," said Rinaldi. Most were filmed on 16mm stock in the early days, with one-inch and half-inch videotape later. Typically, skits lasted between one and three minutes, he said. "Chuck was the comic mastermind."

When Hoolihan moved to Florida in 1979, the show officially rebranded as the Emmy Award-winning The Big Chuck and Lil' John Show, with comedy skits until 2007. Schodowski passed away in 2025. He won 28 Emmys over his career.

Big Chuck wrote the scripts, while Rinaldi handled contracts and public appearances at basketball games and other sporting events.

In September 1998, Big Chuck and Lil' John took on heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson. The event was a charity exhibition organized by George Forbes and Fannie Lewis, Cleveland city council members, with boxing promoter Don King, who was born and raised in Cleveland.

"We held a private rehearsal at George Forbes's office for the upcoming press conference, with Chick and me, local radio hosts Gary Dee and Lynn Tolliver, and Mike Tyson. Each of us would be in the ring with Tyson for three-one-minute rounds," writes Rinaldi. "During rehearsal, Tyson said to Gary Dee and Lynn Tolliver, I am not going to hurt you guys. You're an old man, and you're a fat fool. But then he turned to Chuck and said, You're a big man. I'm going to hurt you." He looked at Rinaldi and said, "I'm going to knock you out."

Once the press conference started, Rinaldi lunged across the table at the world champion boxer, while Chuck held him back. Tyson was shocked. King laughed.

"You're not a champ; you're a chump," he taunted Tyson throughout the press event.

The fight took place at John Adams High School, Rinaldi's alma mater, and to get there, he and Chuck arrived by helicopter, flying over Cleveland and circling the Terminal Tower before landing. Dee and Tolliver were scheduled to fight first, with Chuck and Lil' John as the main event. Dee never showed up.

Chuck was introduced, followed by Rinaldi, announced as "the Italian Pony." The referee searched both men and found several weapons in their clothes, including a hammer and a horseshoe. The crowd roared with laughter.

"I told my trainer, Cecil, I'd love to land one punch. He advised me that Tyson would step back when I went in to push him, something he wouldn't do in a real fight," Rinaldi explained. "The idea was to follow up quickly if Tyson stepped back. But I wasn't fooling this champion. He was ready for everything I threw at him."

Tyson dodged and ducked, but Rinaldi landed a punch. "It was like throwing a waffle ball against a brick wall," he said. Tyson countered with a soft punch and lifted Rinaldi upside down as though he might toss him over his shoulder.

Forbes successfully leveraged the sparring spectacle to boost local civic engagement ahead of municipal election cycles, merging pop culture, an anti-drug platform, and social influence. Tyson used his star power to support a local anti-drug campaign, TKO on Drugs, and encourage voter registration across Cleveland. The event drew a massive, diverse crowd of over 10,000 local residents.

Rinaldi, who stands at four feet and three inches, never let his height hinder him. "My father said early on, no one is going to lower the curbs just for you," he laughed. "It's a big world; get in it."

Lil' John: Laughing My Way Through Life: Stories from an Accidental Career on Cleveland TV—And More! is a 240-page memoir by Cleveland television legend John Rinaldi (co-written with C.R. Hendrix II) published in May 2026. It features wild, true stories and photographs from his decades on the Big Chuck & Lil' John Show. Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, at www.bigchuckliljohn.com, and if you see him in the parking lot, from the trunk of his car.

Black travelers on Route 66 weren't welcome at most gas stations — except this one

During the Jim Crow Era, Black families traveling Route 66, the historic highway that ran more than 2,000 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles, needed to carry food and gas with them. Most restaurants, gas stations and motels wouldn't serve them.

But there was one place they were guaranteed to find respite: a small, family-owned business just east of Oklahoma City that offered fuel, food and a place to stop for the night. The Threatt Filling Station, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was the only known Black-owned and operated gas station along the famous Mother Road.

"Grandpa took care of whatever they needed to have," said Linda Fisher, the granddaughter of the station's founder, Allen Threatt Sr. Her family still owns the station and the 150 acres around it.

"If they didn't have any food, they fed them," she said. "If they needed some kind of shelter or blankets or those types of things, Grandpa and Grandma made sure they got those kinds of things."

Threatt moved from Alabama to the farming community of Luther, Okla., in the early 1900s as part of the Great Migration. His father had been born into slavery, and Threatt and his wife, Alberta, seeking stability and refuge, wanted their own farm.

At the time, Oklahoma was a place where Black migrants could own land and form their own towns. Between 1865 and 1920, Black Americans settled more than 50 "all-Black" municipalities in Oklahoma, the largest number of any state.

But Oklahoma also had its issues — by the time of the Great Depression, many of those all-Black towns had ceased to exist. And there was a rise in "sundown towns": all-white communities that warned non-white people to get out before dark, or they would face violence or police harassment. There was a sundown town on either side of the filling station during the Jim Crow era, Fisher said.



Edward Threatt stands outside the Threatt Filling Station in Luther, Okla., off Route 66. It was the only known Black-owned and operated gas station along the famous highway, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation

But at the Threatt Filling Station, "everyone was welcome," Fisher said.

The building, which closed to the public in the 1970s, is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Allen Threatt Sr. built the original filling station in 1915, when he started to notice people driving by a corner of his property on what was then the Ozark Trail.

In 1926, Route 66 was founded, and the trickle of cars became a steady stream. When the old wooden building burned down, Threatt replaced it with a charming sandstone one, built like a small, welcoming house.

Eventually, the station and the property surrounding it became a community hub. There were dances in the restaurant next door, social club meetings, barbecues. Occasionally, players from the Negro Leagues would have a game on the baseball diamond.

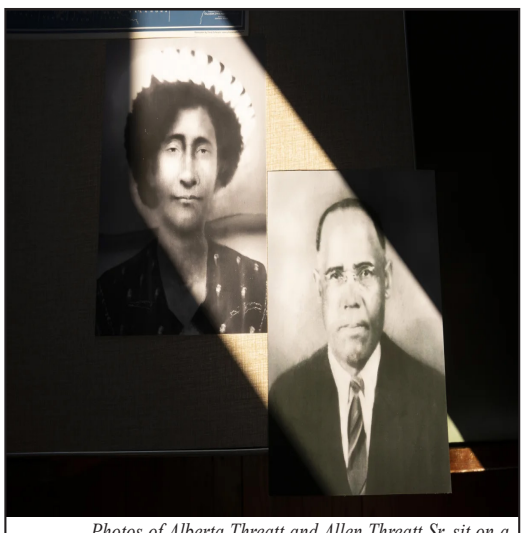
Black and white photos of Alberta Threatt and Allen Threatt Sr. sit on a table at the filling station.

Allen and Alberta Threatt had 11 living children, and a couple of them took over the running of the station in the 1950s.

But the building of the Interstate Highway System, launched under the Eisenhower administration, led to dwindling traffic on Route 66, and by the mid-'70s, the station had closed.

A half-century later later, the building was derelict. In 2021, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed the station as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

But hope was around the corner: A few years earlier, a trio of Allen Threatt Sr.'s grandchildren decided to restore the property. Now, thanks to nonprofit grants and a lot of cousin elbow grease, the filling station has a restored exterior.



Photos of Alberta Threatt and Allen Threatt Sr. sit on a table at the filling station



Linda Fisher is the granddaughter of the station's founder, Allen Threatt Sr. She is standing behind a counter in a filing station. There are stacks of t-shirts and a vintage cash register behind her. Linda Fisher is the granddaughter of the station's founder, Allen Threatt Sr.

Tourist Paul Ortega gets out of his vintage car to stop by the filling station.

Ceramic Conoco gas pumps from the 1940s stand proudly outside; new signs inside detail the history of the family, the gas station and Route 66, and visitors can talk to the Threatts themselves and buy a T-shirt.

Eventually, the family is planning to build an RV park, a restaurant and perhaps even a new baseball diamond.

"We're all standing on Grandpa's shoulders — Grandpa and Grandma's shoulders," said Edward Threatt, another grandchild of Allen Threatt Sr. who is one of the leaders of the restoration.

"We have this property today because of Grandpa, and so we represent him, we represent our mothers, our fathers. And we're just trying to do them proud, that's all."

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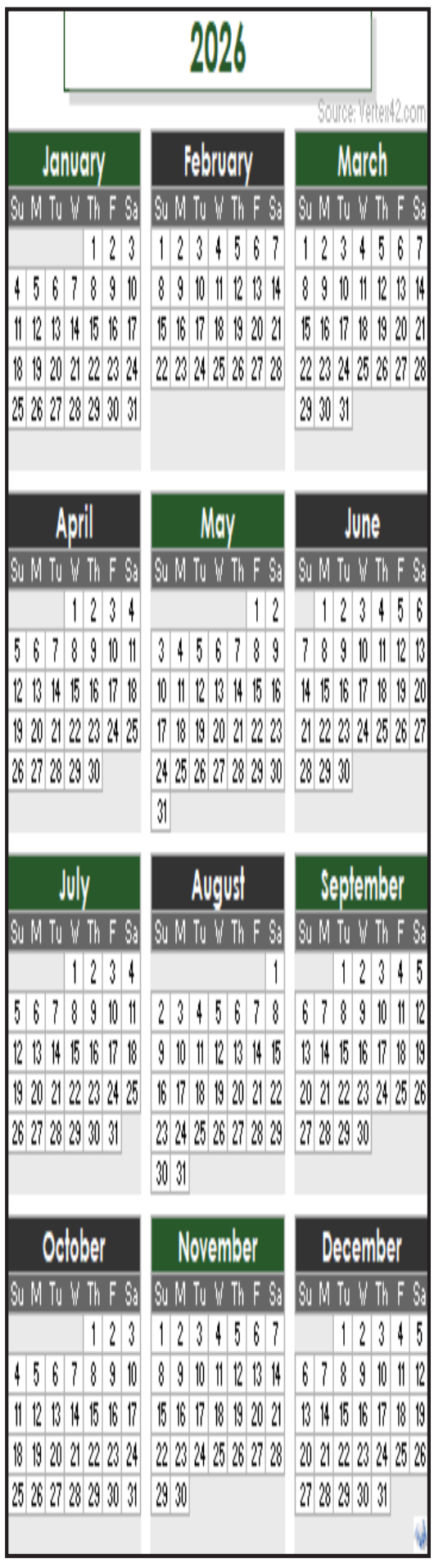
46	33	24	86	55	13
2456	9789	2222	1354	9080	6677

LUCKY FIVE

25	35	45	55	65

LUCKY SIX

12	**53**	**87**	**45**	**33**	**77**



The human cost of the electric vehicle boom is at the center of a lawsuit in Congo



A neighborhood on the outskirts of Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo, where industrial mines encroach on homes and open-pit operations increasingly consume residential areas, Sept. 27.





An artisanal miner loads copper ore onto a motorcycle in Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo, where expanding open-pit mines are encroaching on neighborhoods

In a small cinderblock home in the scrub beside a Chinese-owned copper and cobalt mine in Kolwezi, a mother shares a story of devastating loss.

She believes pollution from the neighboring mine is responsible for her family's suffering.

She has lost three children. Two died at birth. A third suffered repeated nosebleeds before dying. One of her two surviving children has stunted growth.

Now she and 26 other residents are taking the company to court in a rare attempt to hold alleged polluters accountable in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are also suing the government, accusing it of failing to enforce environmental regulations.

Like other plaintiffs, she asked NPR not to identify her, fearing retribution from the company or government. Although the claimants' names are public in court documents, they want to avoid further exposure. Their lawyers also fear the plaintiffs could face intimidation from other locals.

"Our children are the first victims," she said, as the sun set over a nearby mound of mine tailings. "What we're hoping for is to see justice done."

The plaintiffs, whose case began Nov. 3, describe similar problems: contaminated water, nosebleeds, skin rashes, miscarriages and birth defects, which they blame on mining pollution.

The mine, known as COMMUS, is owned by Chinese multinational Zijin and lies in Kolwezi, a city of more than 500,000 people in the heart of Congo's copper belt, a southern region with vast mineral reserves.

Congo is the world's second-largest producer of copper, and also the source of over 70% of the world's cobalt, a metal that is critical to the electric-vehicle revolution because of its use in rechargeable batteries.

Last year, the U.S. signed a sweeping economic partnership with Congo aimed at attracting American investment and challenging the dominance of Chinese companies in the country's mining industry

Despite the global importance of Congo's copper and cobalt mines, however, environmental pollution from the industry has received comparatively little scrutiny.

In Kolwezi, pollution is severe. Neighborhoods near mines are often filled with an acrid smell that residents attribute to the sulfuric acid used to process minerals. A study published in June by environmental research organization Source International — carried out with the advocacy groups RAID and Afrewatch, and scientists from Congo's University of Lubumbashi — also highlighted the scale of the contamination.

Researchers found that levels of fine particulate matter, known as PM2.5, in Kolwezi were three to six times the World Health Organization's air quality guideline. The highest concentrations were recorded near the COMMUS mine.

These tiny particles can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. Exposure poses health risks generally, but is particularly dangerous for pregnant women and young children.

The researchers also tested dust samples and found residue of copper, cobalt and manganese, which they said pointed to mining waste as the main source. When the study was released, Source International's executive director, Flaviano Bianchini, said that "these are among the most concerning air quality results we have documented in years of monitoring pollution at industrial mining sites around the world."

The boundary between urban space and mining land is fading in Kolwezi, in the heart of the African copper belt. Open-pit mines are gradually eating away at neighborhoods, while concessions are piling up on top of one another.

The study did not examine health impacts directly, and the authors recommended formal epidemiological research. Residents and health workers in Kolwezi nonetheless point to a string of ailments that they blame on a polluted environment.

In a dilapidated health clinic in the shadow of a mountain of waste from the COMMUS mine, nurse Héritier Bukassa said that people routinely break out in itchy hives. "Some sick people scratch themselves with knives to relieve itching," he explained.

Bukassa added that women in the area also suffer from high rates of miscarriage, and that he had referred four babies born with congenital malformations — mostly cleft palates — to hospitals this year alone.

Respiratory illnesses are common too, Bukassa said, especially in otherwise healthy babies who develop breathing problems a few weeks after birth. "No one from the [mining] company has ever come to talk to us about this," the nurse said.

The Cobalt Institute, an industry lobby, said that understanding environmental pollution requires "an evidence-based approach that considers all potential sources and contributors." It added that companies perform environmental monitoring and carry out mitigation measures.

RAID, which is supporting the plaintiffs alongside Afrewatch, described the case this month as one of "the most ambitious legal challenges yet brought by Congolese residents over industrial mining pollution."

The suit is an important test case that could lead to communities challenging other mines in the future, it added.

The plaintiffs are seeking $1.3 million in compensation for health problems and medical expenses, as well as $5 million to restore the environment. Their lawyers say they worry their clients might come under pressure or intimidation to withdraw their testimony.

The mother, however, said she had no such fears. "We have a right to a clean environment," she said, "and to health."

Senegal reinstated as Afcon 2025 winners by court ruling



Sadio Mane's Senegal have been confirmed as Afcon 2025 winners following their appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, giving the Teranga Lions a second continental title

Senegal have been reinstated as winners of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations after a ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The court's award overturns a previous decision which had stripped the West Africans of the title they won on the pitch during a chaotic final against host nation Morocco in January.

With the game goalless, Senegal left the field of play in second-half stoppage time in protest at a penalty awarded against them. The match in Rabat was delayed by over 15 minutes before Morocco's Brahim Diaz had his spot-kick saved.

Senegal then triumphed 1-0 after extra time, with Pape Gueye scoring the winner.

That result was overturned almost two months later when a Confederation of African Football (Caf) appeals board decreed the Teranga Lions had breached competition regulations by leaving the field of play after the penalty was awarded.

Senegal's football federation (FSF) subsequently appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Cas), sport's highest legal authority, with a three-man panel hearing its case behind closed doors in Lausanne on 8 October.

In a unanimous verdict, the Cas panel has effectively backed the decision by referee Jean-Jacques Ndala to restart the game after Senegal returned to the field and the match was played to a conclusion. The result of the final stands and Senegal are now confirmed as Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) 2025 winners.

A statement issued by Cas said the court considered that "the referee's decision to resume the match or to stop it fell definitively within his sole authority".

"By blowing his whistle to restart play, the referee considered that the conditions for resuming the match had been met - both teams were on the pitch again, and both expressed their willingness to resume."

The FSF immediately reacted with a social media post featuring a picture of the side lifting the trophy in January captioned with the phrase "again and always champions of Africa".

"The FSF welcomes this ruling with deep satisfaction," it later said in a statement.

"This decision affirms, above all, the triumph of sporting fairness and reaffirms a fundamental principle: the true outcome of a match is determined exclusively on the field of play, under the protection of sports law."

Meanwhile, Morocco's football federation (FRMF) expressed "surprise" at the ruling and added that it would "pursue all available legal avenues to challenge the decision".

Caf says it respects the Cas award and "will take all the necessary measures to implement it".

The full grounds for the decision will be published by Cas in due course unless the parties request confidentiality.

'Shameful' and 'terrible look' - the chaos that marred Afcon 2025 final

Senegal's walk-off during the final in Rabat has already brought about a change in football's rules.

"The referee may sanction with a red card any player who leaves the field of play in protest at a referee's decision," said Ifab, the game's lawmaking body, in April.

"This new rule will also apply to any team official who incites players to leave the field of play. A team that causes a match to be abandoned will, in principle, forfeit the match."

Morocco and Senegal have both changed coach since the Afcon 2025 final and earlier this month secured their places at the 2027 edition of the tournament with two rounds of qualification remaining.

What happened in the Afcon final?

Referee Ndala was at the centre of the controversy during the Afcon final

A tightly contested final between the continent's top-ranked sides produced two moments of controversy in second-half stoppage time, with referee Ndala at the centre of the drama.

First the Congolese official denied Senegal a near-certain goal, blowing his whistle for a challenge by Abdoulaye Seck on Morocco right-back Achraf Hakimi moments before Ismaila Sarr nodded in.

The free-kick looked soft, but the video assistant referee (VAR) was unable to get involved because Ndala had awarded the foul before the ball crossed the line.

Three minutes later came a flashpoint in the Senegal box, when El Hadji Malick Diouf tugged Morocco playmaker Diaz back before heading a corner clear.

Diaz vehemently claimed a penalty and Ndala eventually awarded a spot-kick after being sent to consult his pitchside monitor by the VAR.

Senegal coach Pape Thiaw called his players over to the touchline, and Thiaw subsequently headed down the tunnel to the changing room in protest against the decision - accompanied by several players.

They eventually returned, but over 15 minutes had elapsed since the award of the penalty by the time Real Madrid's Diaz failed to convert, with his Panenka-style attempt easily saved by goalkeeper Edouard Mendy.

Meanwhile, there was unrest inside the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium as a small contingent of Senegal supporters clashed with security staff.

Cleveland attorney suspended



Wilson

A Cleveland attorney who used artificial intelligence to cite four nonexistent court cases and then made false statements as a federal judge pressed her to explain the citations has been indefinitely suspended from practicing law in Ohio.

The Ohio Supreme Court on Tuesday unanimously suspended Arleesha Shawntay Wilson, who was admitted to practice law in 2018. The court found that Wilson committed numerous professional violations involving several clients and owes more than $647,000 stemming from her misconduct.

The court also ordered Wilson to pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings.

Wilson is a native Clevelander and a proud graduate of John Hay High School (shout out to class of 2003)! She began her career studying Criminal Justice at Bowling Green State University. Shortly thereafter, she was a Probation Officer for five years. During this time, she supported many through the process of probation and found her passion for advocacy. As a Probation Officer, her philosophy was simply to inspire people to do better in life, rather than violate them, which often came with jail time. Discovering the passion of advocacy led her to law school. In law school, she participated on the Trial Advocacy Team. This experience taught her how to present a case and advocate for a client in court. She continued to draw on that experience as a real life attorney. Cleveland Marshall College of Law taught her how to read and interpret law, a skill that she offered clients in hopes of helping them fight through the complex legal system.

Cleveland air quality poor

The Cleveland metro area was named the 31st most polluted metro area in the country for ozone pollution and 73rd worst in the nation for short-term particle pollution in the American Lung Association's 2024 State of Air report.

The report grades areas by how much residents are exposed to unhealthy levels of air pollution, specifically ozone pollution, particle pollution, and other spikes in air pollution from 2020-2022. Cuyahoga County received a failing grade on ozone pollution and air pollution levels above the federal standards outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency. The State of Air also found that communities of color are disproportionately exposed to unhealthy air, with a person of color in the U.S. more than twice as likely than a white individual to live in a community with a failing grade.

Exposure to environmental hazard, such as air pollution, ozone, and lead particles, is harmful, leading to detrimental health outcomes, socio-economic outcomes, and possibly leading to premature death. The geography of exposure to environmental hazard is built on the legacy of segregation, redlining, predatory lending, discrimination, exclusionary zoning, highway development, and a host of other government policies.

For example, a 2022 report published by the American Chemical Society found that historically redlined neighborhoods have higher exposure to air pollution than neighborhoods that were not redlined and within previously redlined neighborhoods significant racial disparities in exposure to air pollution persist.



Beware of holiday scams to keep your money safe

The holidays are a time for giving, but don't let a scammer sneak onto your list. So far this year, scammers have stolen more than $6.9 million from Cuyahoga County residents, according to calls to the Scam Squad hotline.

Scams that become especially active during the holidays include:

Social media ads that connect shoppers to scam sellers who take money but never deliver.

Imposter calls or texts that offer big discounts on internet services if you first send payments or buy phones that you're assured you can return later. (In reality, scammers send you a phony "return" label that sends the phones straight to them, leaving you stuck with the bill.)

Calls, texts or emails from imposter law enforcement officers threatening arrest or prosecution. All of these are scare tactics used by criminals to get your money.

Text messages from unknown numbers about problems with gifts or packages. Don't click those links. Instead, log into your account to check the status of orders.

"Artificial intelligence makes it even easier for criminals to pretend to be someone else, so take a moment to make sure anyone you're dealing is legit before you engage. Taking a pause could save you thousands of dollars and a lot of holiday stress," said Sheryl Harris, Director of the Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs. "One simple but effective way to avoid scams is to ignore texts from unknown senders and let unknown calls go to voicemail."

If you want to stay ahead of scammers this holiday, Consumer Affairs provides advice from its investigators and Scam Squad partners online:

Learn how to check out a retailer and find safer ways to pay for purchases at cuyahogacounty.gov/shopping. Visit the Internet Safety page for tips and tools on protecting your privacy and avoiding malware.Visit the Scam Squad website to read about or report current scams. Read our free Scam Squad Guide for simple tips to protect yourself and your loved ones from scams. It's available online and in print at your local library. Need more help? Talk to an investigator by calling the Scam Squad line, 216-443-7226, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Editor, writer Marcia Ann Gillespie dies

Editor and author Marcia Ann Gillespie died on October 30. She was 82 years old.

Gillespie was an American magazine editor, writer, academic, media and management consultant, and racial and gender justice activist.

She served as editor-in-chief of Essence magazine and Ms. magazine. She co-authored the authorized biography Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration, and, sometime between 2012 and 2017, was working on her own memoir titled When Blacks Became Americans.

She taught media and communications at SUNY Old Westbury College as a visiting professor.

Gillespie was born on July 10, 1944, in Rockville Centre, New York, to Charles M. Gillespie and Ethel Young Gillespie. Her father was a church sexton who also ran a floor-waxing business, and her mother was



Gillespie

a domestic worker who operated a catering business.

Gillespie and her sister, Charlene Gillespie, grew up in Long Island, New York. She graduated from a mostly white and Jewish high school and then enrolled in Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois, near Chicago, where she received a B.A. degree in American studies in 1966.

Upon graduation, Gillespie moved to New York City after being employed by Time-Life Books, Inc. as a researcher. In 1970, she was hired as a managing editor at the newly-founded African-American publication Essence magazine.

After being promoted to editor-in-chief a year later, at the age of 26, she started the process of transforming Essence into one of the fastest growing women's publications in the United States, as well as a trusted source of inspiration, information, and affirmation for millions of African-American women readers.

In 1980, Gillespie left Essence to join Ms. magazine as a contributing writer. She went on to serve as contributing editor, executive editor, and finally editor-in-chief by 1992, making her the first African-American woman editor-in-chief of a mainstream publication in the United States.[

Under Gillespie's leadership, Ms. magazine reached the most diverse readership in its history.

During her tenure at Essence, Gillespie also served as vice-president of Essence Communications, from 1975 to 1980, and as a member of the board of directors. Susan L. Taylor, a later editor-in-chief at Essence, would call Gillespie her "greatest encouragement" when she wrote the fashion and beauty pages of the magazine. Taylor said that Gillespie's words, "if you can speak you can write", pushed and encouraged her in the days whenever she questioned her writing ability.

Gillespie co-founded Liberty Media for Women, a limited liability corporation composed of women investors, and served as President. The company acquired Ms. magazine in November 1998 and launched the publication in March 1999.

Negotiations of the magazine's transfer to the Feminist Majority Foundation, initiated by Gillespie, began in December 2000 and were officially completed by February 2001.

In 2001, Gillespie ended her tenure as editor of Ms.

From 1971, Gillespie lectured widely on college and university campuses and to women's groups, and authored innumerable articles and essays.

Gillespie served as a member of the board of directors of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Global Fund for Women.

She previously served on the board of directors of the Rod Rodgers Dance Company, the Arthur Ashe Institute of Urban Health, the Black & Jewish Women of New York, and the Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C. She was also appointed to the advisory board of the Aspen Institute, the New Federal Theater in New York City, and the Studio Museum in Harlem. She was a member of the National Council of Negro Women and the American Association of Magazine Editors.

Gillespie was a recipient of the Lake Forest College Outstanding Alumni Award (1973); the New York Women in Communications Matrix Award (1978); the New York Association of Black Journalists' Life Achievement Award for Print Journalism; the Mary MacLeod Bethune award from the National Council of Negro Women; the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the University of Missouri School of Journalism; and the National Magazine Award. She received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from her alma mater, Lake Forest College.

In 1982, she was named by the March of Dimes as one of the "Top Ten Outstanding Women in Magazine Publishing." She was also named by Time magazine as one of the "Fifty Faces for America's Future".

Her Works include:

Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration (2008), Waterville, Me.: Thorndike Press/ Gale Cengage Learning (co-authored with Rosa Johnson Butler and Richard A. Long).



A Night to Remember: Ten professional bouts. One ring

By BRUCE CHECEFSKY

Newhouse Boxing and Mason Brothers Boxing present A Night to Remember III on Friday, December 11 at the LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility in Westlake. Six fighters from Greater Cleveland, three from Toledo, and one from Akron take center ring. The Ohio Athletic Commission has scheduled and sanctioned the bouts.

A Night to Remember III is the third installment of the series and the first co-promoted with Mason Brothers Boxing, the Cleveland outfit run by Valiant Mason. Three members of the Mason family appear on the card. Amir Mason, 4-1 with 3 knockouts, meets Nelson Morales over six rounds at welterweight. Ibrahim Mason, 3-0 with 3 knockouts, fights over six rounds at super featherweight. Adel Mason, 3-0 with 2 knockouts, faces Allen Torres at featherweight.

Cleveland heavyweight Roney Hines, with a 16–0 professional boxing record, including 8 knockouts, is the main event for the evening against Jeyson Minda, with a record of 16 wins including 9 knockouts, 8 losses, and 1 draw.

Hines, 31, a professional heavyweight boxer, emerged as a heavyweight contender in American boxing by defeating David Becker by a technical knockout in his first professional fight in 2018. Just months earlier, he captured the National Golden Gloves championship, establishing himself as a promising heavyweight prospect.

Three fighters from Toledo fill out the card, including Gabe Kalis at light heavyweight, Gavin Richard at super featherweight, and Lamar Stewart at middleweight. Each is 1-0 with a knockout and in their second professional fight. The Mason brothers are a family of professional boxers from Cleveland, trained by their father, Valiant Mason. Often compared to the "Jackson 5 of boxing," multiple brothers have competed in the professional ranks.

At 29, Amir Mason is a two-time Cleveland-area Golden Gloves champion who began boxing as a teenager. The oldest of the Mason brothers, he helped establish the family's reputation in amateur boxing. Amir sets up combinations with his left hand while delivering powerful punches with his right.

Ibrahim Mason, 20, is the youngest brother and represented Cleveland at the



The Mason Brothers upcoming boxers in the Cleveland area. Amir, Ibrahim, and Adel are featured boxers on A Night to Remember III on December 11 at the LaCentre Conference and Banquet Facility in Westlake.

2019 USA Boxing National Championships, competing in the intermediate 106-pound division. He defeated Luciano Trevino of Texas by a split decision. He is a technical boxer-puncher with good hand speed, a sharp jab, and three knockout victories in his first three professional fights.

Adel Mason, 27, defeated Ethen Curtis of Port Huron, Michigan, by technical knockout at 2:11 of the first round in April 2025. He has recorded two professional knockout victories in three reported wins. Adel is an aggressive, power-oriented boxer who leads with his left hand and uses his right as his rear power hand.

Tim Van Newhouse, owner of Newhouse Boxing and a former professional fighter, spent more than a decade competing on the national amateur circuit, recording over 100 bouts before turning professional. Today, he draws on that experience to organize and promote boxing events

"I have known the Mason brothers since they were young men, with a good connection to their father, Valiant. We felt that this would be a good moment to highlight the young men and their talents," said Van Newhouse.

"Promoting is for the kids. Stepping in the ring and watching them develop is a beautiful moment," he added, "and putting them in the right fights at the right time in their careers.

Finding a balance between a boxer's talents and their opponents' talents is tricky, he admitted, because, as a promoter, you want to develop a fighter's abilities to perform in the ring. Putting on a good show for the audience is also a must.

"When you knock someone out in thirty seconds, you don't learn a lot about that local kid, but if you watch him over two or three rounds, you learn more about the personality of the fighter, which captures the viewer's heart in coming to see them again," said Van Newhouse

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"I have known the Mason brothers since they were young boys, with a good connection to their father, Valiant. We felt that this would be a good moment to highlight the boys and their talents," said Van Newhouse.

Cleveland has boxing talent like most leading markets, but the economy is not here to support the fighters, according to Van Newhouse. It will take someone special like Abdullah Mason to get the market more involved.

Abdullah Mason, 22, has held the WBO lightweight title since November 2025. As an amateur, Mason won the National Junior Championships in 2017, the Eastern Regional Open in 2017 and 2018, and the USA Boxing Youth National Title in 2021. He is currently the WBO Lightweight World Champion with an undefeated professional record of 21 wins and 0 losses (18 KOs). Ring Magazine ranked Abdullah No. 4 in the lightweight division following his 12th-round TKO victory over Albert Bell on July 4.

While Abdullah is not on the fight card, "Cleveland has a lot of talent," he said. "What is missing is a consistent platform for the young fighters, so they are not moving to larger markets. We need to keep them here."

Doors open at 5:30 PM, and the first bell is at 6:30 PM.

Tickets start at $50 for general admission, with general reserved seating at $75, preferred at $100, premium reserved at $125, and ringside at $150, on sale now through Eventbrite.

For more information, visit Newhouse Boxing at newhouseboxing.com

