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“COVERING THE NEWS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW”

READ ON - WRITE ON

Lil’ John: Laughing My Way Through Life

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



Rinaldi

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.

Letters needed to Save the Shaker Lakes from NEORS

On August 3, The Ohio EPA’s Public Notice for “Receipt of 401 Application and Public Hearing” was published in the Plain Dealer and online at Cleveland.com regarding the Ohio EPA’s review of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification application by NEORS.

The Ohio EPA will

hold a Public Hearing in reference to the 401 application:

WHEN: Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00pm

WHERE: Shaker Heights Middle School Auditorium, 20600 Shaker Blvd.

The Ohio EPA will continue to accept writ-

ten comments on the application through the close of business on September 29. Anyone may submit written comments at <https://ohioepa.commentinput.com/?id=fde6QFZat> or by writing to: Ohio EPA-DSW Attn: Permits Processing Unit P.O. Box 1049

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 horse-shoe. 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.

Gasoline prices spike again this summer

As millions of drivers filled up and hit the road for the long Independence Day weekend, gas prices were the lowest they’ve been in several weeks. The national average is down 40 cents from a month ago at \$3.79 for a gallon of regular. While that number is higher than last year, it’s a relief from this past spring, when the national average peaked at \$4.56 on May 21. Crude oil prices have fallen to their lowest levels in months, dropping to the \$65 per barrel range.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline demand increased

last week from 8.77 million barrels per day to 9.13 million. Total domestic gasoline supply decreased from 216.3 million barrels to 214 million. Gasoline production increased last week, averaging 10 million barrels per day.

At the close of Wednesday’s formal trading session, West Texas Intermediate fell 92 cents to settle at \$68.58 a barrel. The EIA reports that crude oil inventories decreased by 3.8 million barrels from the previous week. At 408.4 million barrels, U.S. crude oil inventories are about 7% below the five-year average for this time of year.

Northeast Ohio Average for Self-Service Gasoline

	Regular
This Week (08-21-26)	\$3.61
Last Week (08-14-26)	\$4.61
Last Year (08-22-26)	\$3.52
National (08-21-26)	\$4.49

Cleveland police have arrested two 15-year-old boys in connection with the fatal shooting of a 15-year-old girl on Thursday afternoon. Officers were called to an apartment building in the 900 block of Spring Road at about 1:30 p.m. after reports of a shooting.

Police found the victim, identified as Christine Bogarty, inside an apartment. Cleveland EMS responded and pronounced her dead at the scene.

Police said two 15-year-old boys were arrested in connection with the shooting. Both were transported to the juvenile detention hall. They won’t be identified, due to their ages.

Cleveland police Sgt. Freddy Diaz said investigators believe the victim and suspects knew one another.

Two firearms were also recovered and are believed to be connected to the shooting, police said.

The victim was preparing

to celebrate her birthday in September. She was a student in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District at Max S. Hayes High School.

In a statement, the school posted:

“... We are reminded that time is precious and every moment matters. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family, friends, and all who loved her. May her memory inspire us to cherish one another and never take a single day for granted.”

The investigation remains ongoing.

In another shooting incident earlier in the week, a second teen was killed in a shooting that also injured two other people Monday in Cleveland’s Lee-Miles neighborhood has been identified.

The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s

Office identified the two people killed as Dysean Russell, 19, of Cleveland and Hasani Reed, 17, of South Euclid. Reed was identified in a Tuesday report from the medical examiner’s office and Russell’s identity was released Wednesday.

The shooting happened around 10:40 p.m. in the 17600 block of Invermere Ave., police said. Russell and Reed were pronounced dead at the scene.

A 17-year-old boy and a 34-year-old man also were shot. They drove themselves to a local hospital for treatment, police said.

Investigators believe the shooting may have stemmed from a dispute involving family members, police said.

Authorities have not said whether any arrests have been made and have not offered further details on how the shooting played out.

To destroy this area under the guise of stormwater management should be a non-starter.

The information provided by the NEORS has been wrong and misleading.

The Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water received NEORS’s application and is beginning to consider whether to issue or deny a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for a project to restore a section of Doan Brook in the Ashtabula Chagrin Watershed (Huc: 0411003). The Ohio EPA ID Number for this project is 262506A1.

Residents can attend a meeting on Saturday, August 22 at noon at the Shaker Heights Library on Lee Road for more information.

VANTAGE POINT

Pepper Pike resident, Eldar Zarbavel, convicted of Medicare fraud

Eldar Zarbavel, 45, is the 16th person convicted in connection with the investigation that netted charges against 35 people. He pleaded guilty to one count of pleaded guilty to one count of money laundering.

Zarbavel is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 16 by U.S. District Judge Judith Levy in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His sentencing guideline range is about four years in prison, according to court records.

Prosecutors said Zarbavel helped the organization access the U.S. financial system by opening bank accounts in Northeast Ohio for Royce Medical Supply LLC, a Florida-based company that sold durable medical equipment, including glucose monitors and urinary catheters.

From July 2022 through July



Prosecutors said Zarbavel helped the organization access the U.S. financial system by opening bank accounts in Northeast Ohio for Royce Medical Supply LLC, a Florida-based company that sold durable medical equipment, including glucose monitors and urinary catheters.

2024, Royce Medical Supply submitted about \$1.42 billion in false and fraudulent claims to Medicare and other health insurers, according to prosecutors.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services suspended reimbursement on nearly all of the claims, but some were paid.

Between June and July 2024, Zarbavel helped deposit, transfer and withdraw

about \$3.4 million in fraud proceeds, according to court records.

Prosecutors said the organization used faked corporate records and false sale documents to disguise the identities of the people who actually owned and controlled the companies and their bank accounts. Once the accounts were opened, proceeds from Medicare and

private insurers were deposited before being transferred to shell companies and banks overseas.

The organization also used other tactics to circumvent internal controls at multiple banks and, in some cases, coordinated with bank employees, prosecutors said.

Royce Medical Supply LLC is a Florida-based business registered as a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) & Medical Supplies supplier, with its primary office at 2950 W Cypress Creek Rd, Ste 318, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-1797 nationalprovider.org+1. Its NPI number is 1942934195, and the authorized official is Kevin Valdhans. Valdhans was arrested for Medicare fraud in 2025.

YOUR HEALTH

Choosing the right caregiver

(NAPSI)-According to Pew Research, every day, 10,000 Americans turn 65 years old. And that will continue for the next 12 years, reaching 18 percent of the population by 2030. Americans 85 and older will triple in population by 2050.

With a rapidly aging population living longer than past generations, caregivers are in high demand. A cost of care study by Genworth forecasts that there will be a shortage of more than 3 million home care aides in the next decade. To meet this demand, over the years there has been an explosion of home care franchises and independent home care agencies across the country. Yet, as many families discover, finding the right caregiver to meet your family's specific needs can be a challenge.

One innovator looking to solve the caregiver gap is a San Francisco-based company focused on modernizing and improving home care for older adults.

By professionalizing its caregiver workforce and developing technology to improve efficiencies, it's able to deliver more consistent and reliable care. Through its Honor Care Network, the company partners with home care agencies in multiple states, making quality care more accessible to more families.

Called Honor, the firm suggests five things that families should consider when hiring a caregiver to ensure a safe and optimal care experience for their parents or loved ones:

Important Questions to Ask Your Home Care Agency

How do you screen your caregivers for safety? A responsible, credible home care agency in California always conducts a thorough screening and background check of its caregivers before sending them into a cli-

ent's home. In addition to Home Care Aide (HCA) mandated certification and Department of Justice fingerprinting and background checks, the best home care agencies go further by screening for DMV driving records, drug testing, and abiding by strict minimum-age requirements.

How do you train your caregivers and verify their skills? Caregivers should have a solid foundation of training, such as how to use mechanical lifting equipment, basic knowledge of how to support clients living with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, and how to assist with daily living activities such as bathing, grooming and hygiene. Ask if the caregivers are tested on scenario-based skills and if any personality tests are conducted to check for temperament under stress or condition-related situations, such as "sundowning."

What is your performance record for on-time arrivals and no-shows? How promptly do you communicate schedule changes to your clients? Ask the agency how it manages late arrivals and last-minute cancellations by caregivers. Does it guarantee a replacement? How does it com-

municate with clients and how often? What is its policy if there's an ongoing tardiness issue?

How do you manage caregiver performance? Ask how the agency motivates caregivers to provide the best care and client experience. Does it value and know its caregivers' track record and does it continually train caregivers to ensure it has the best talent? Assessing personality and chemistry with clients is also important.

How do your caregivers communicate with each other about a client's condition during shift changes? Your parent will likely have more than one caregiver to staff weekly schedules. Ask the agency how each caregiver is notified of a client's daily condition, how that information is communicated to other assigned caregivers to ensure seamless care, and how families are notified, how often and when.

Finding the right caregiver can be less stressful if you know the right questions to ask. Initiating a conversation at the start about what's most important to you in finding the right caregiver can make all the difference. For further facts and tips, go to www.joinhonor.com.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Focus on financial future for couples

By NATHANIEL SILLIN

Flipping a house can seem like a walk in the park when it's wrapped into a few montages during a half-hour TV segment. Find a run-down property. Buy it. Take out a few walls, paint, replace carpets, upgrade the kitchen and voilà – you could make tens of thousands of dollars in just a short time. Reality is seldom so straightforward. Flipping a home can be risky, and there's no guarantee you'll profit.

Finding and buying the right house at the right price point can be difficult. The shows

often start with the submission of a winning offer on a home. You may not realize that it takes a lot of work to determine what a potentially good flip looks like and find a property to match.

Experienced flippers have learned how to estimate costs and work backward.

A rule of thumb in the industry is to take 70 percent of the potential selling price (what's known as the after-repair value, or ARV), subtract the renovation costs and use that as the maximum buying price.

You'll need a lot of background information, including comparable selling prices of

similar homes, to figure out the right numbers. The ability to be honest with yourself while estimating the cost of parts and labor is also important.

For example, if you estimate that you could sell your renovated home for \$200,000, you'd start at \$140,000 (70 percent of a \$200,000).

If you calculate that the renovation costs will be \$40,000, you'll arrive at the maximum buying price of \$100,000. The 30 percent margin that remains if everything goes according to plan isn't entirely profit; you may still have expenses like closing costs or reimbursing your investors.

You need a lot of working capital. While paying cash for a home can expedite the sale and increase profits, it might not be an option for beginner flippers. However, traditional lenders don't necessarily offer financing for flips, especially if you're trying to fix up a dilapidated home. Even when they do, you might not be able to borrow enough to cover all your expenses.

Instead, some flippers

turn to hard-money lenders, private individuals or companies that issue short-term loans backed by real assets (such as the home you're buying). With either traditional or hard-money lenders, expect the financing costs to be higher than what you'd pay for a mortgage if you're buying a home to live in.

Keeping an eye on your total budget is essential. If you borrow enough money to make the purchase but don't have cash on hand to pay for the renovations and unexpected contingencies, you'll be stuck before you even start.

In addition to the purchase price, you'll need money for renovations, upgrades, inspections and permits. Also, consider the cost of ownership between the purchase and sale. Carrying costs, including utilities, financing, insurance and property maintenance, can add up each month.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](https://twitter.com/PracticalMoney).

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Islam In The Community

Senior Israeli official calls for killing of “30 to 40” people in Gaza every night: “They’re not even people”

Israel’s far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, in a podcast published over the weekend, called for “30 to 40” people to be killed per night in targeted assassinations in the Gaza Strip.

Discussing Israel’s response to the Hamas-led terrorist attack on Oct. 7, 2023, which sparked the war in Gaza, and Israel’s recent move to reduce the number of strikes being carried out in the decimated Palestinian territory, Ben-Gvir said: “It’s no secret, I disagree with the

prime minister ... I think targeted assassinations should be carried out in Gaza, taking down 30 to 40 every night.”

“Not just those who pose an immediate threat,” added the Israeli cabinet member. “There are people there who are not worthy of life. They shouldn’t live. They’re not even people.”

The security chief made the comment to Rom Braslavski, who was previously held as a hostage in Gaza, on his Sunday podcast.

Israel once had a block of 21 settlements —

known as Gush Katif — in the Gaza Strip, but the settlers and Israeli forces pulled out of the enclave two decades ago.

“I see all of Gaza as ours,” Ben-Gvir said in the taped interview. “Settlements not just in Gush Katif but throughout Gaza, encouraging as much emigration as possible, sending them to their countries. And for the terrorists, no emigration, nothing, just to kill them one by one.”

Legal experts and the Secretary-General of the



Israel’s far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, in a podcast published over the weekend, called for “30 to 40” people to be killed per night in targeted assassinations in the Gaza Strip.



Israeli forces kill one in Gaza as another body recovered from rubble

United Nations have warned that any move to force Palestinians to leave Gaza could amount to ethnic cleansing.

Israel’s vast network of settlements in the occupied West Bank — the other, much larger Palestinian territory — are considered illegal by the United Nations, the International Court of Justice and many other entities and nations. Israel’s current government has encouraged new construction in the West Bank, however, and it disputes the illegality of most of the settlements in the territory.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi posted about Ben-Gvir’s comments on X Monday. “These confessions must be recorded and preserved for the day of reckoning and trial of these criminals,” he wrote.

Similar statements by Ben-Gvir and other senior Israeli officials have been presented to the U.N. as evidence of an alleged genocidal intent by Israel’s government in Gaza.

The national security minister is no stranger to controversy.

In May, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — whose was able to form his coalition government thanks to support from far-right politicians including Ben-Gvir — publicly rebuked his security minister after video emerged online of Ben-Gvir’s treatment of pro-Palestinian flotilla activists in custody.

Last year, five long-standing U.S. allies — Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom — announced sanctions against Ben-Gvir “for inciting violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.”

Slovenia, the Netherlands and Spain followed suit later in 2025.

This year, Ireland and France banned Ben-Gvir from entering their territory.

Ben-Gvir is a follower of Kahanism, a movement named after a long-dead rabbi who espoused violent ethnonationalism and advocated for the expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank.

The security chief’s first moment in the spotlight came in 1995, when he stole the Cadillac emblem off then-

as a teen provocateur had disqualified him from serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Ben-Gvir was active in protests against the Oslo Accords in the 1990s, and came to public attention for the first time in 1995, when he appeared on television brandishing a Cadillac hood ornament stolen from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin’s car, and declared: “We got to his car, and we’ll get to him too.” Several weeks later, Rabin was assassinated by right-wing extremist Yigal Amir.

Ben-Gvir continued to be associated with the Kahanist movement; Otzma Yehudit is considered Kach’s ideological successor. However, when forming the Otzma Yehudit party, he claimed that it would not be a Kach, Kahane Chai or splinter group. He carried out a series of far-right activities that have resulted in dozens of indictments. In a November 2015 interview, he claimed to have been indicted 53 times. In most cases, the charges were thrown out of court. In 2007, however, he was convicted for incitement to racism and supporting a terrorist organization. Following a bombing in Jerusalem, Ben-Gvir had chanted “Death to Arabs” and held signs reading “Expel the Arab enemy” and “Rabbi Kahane was right: The Arab MKs are a fifth column.” Ben-Gvir has been convicted of at least eight charges.

As a lawyer, Ben-Gvir has represented a series of far-right Jewish activists suspected of terrorism and hate crimes, some of which are colloquially known as hilltop youth. He has stated that his work representing them is ideologically motivated.

Notable clients include Kahanist activist Benzi Gopstein and two teenagers charged in the Duma arson attack, in which three people died, including a 18-month baby.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz described Ben-Gvir as the “go-to man” for Jewish extremists facing legal trouble, and reported that his client list “reads like a ‘Who’s Who’ of suspects in Jewish terror cases and hate crimes in Israel.”

Ben-Gvir has also represented Lehava, a far-right Israeli anti-assimilation organization founded by Gopstein which is active in opposing Jewish intermarriage with non-Jews, and has sued the Jerusalem Waqf.

Prior to entering office Ben-Gvir was known to have a portrait in his living room of Israeli-American mass murderer Baruch Goldstein, who massacred 29 Palestinian Muslim worshippers and wounded 125 others in Hebron, in the 1994 Cave of the Patriarchs massacre; he removed the portrait in preparation for the 2020 Israeli legislative election in hope of being allowed to run on the unified right list headed by Naftali Bennett. Ben-Gvir is married to Ayala Nimrodi. They met around 2002 when Nimrodi was 15 and Ben-Gvir was 26 and married in 2004. Reportedly, the couple visited the grave of Baruch Goldstein, a mass murderer who committed the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre, on their first date. The couple has six children, and they live in the Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba/Hebron, which is illegal under international law, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

A Look At My World

Keeping Up Is Hard To Do At My Age

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

There was a time in my life when keeping up was part of my daily routine. I started each day with a specific objective, and by the end of the day, I had completed it.

I took pride in completing my work on time. The secret was to plan carefully. Some projects required several days; therefore, I organized them accordingly.

That had been true throughout my life until a very serious enemy came into view and hindered me from finishing some projects. This enemy has been a curse in my life.

Comparing me with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, you will discover that she had no such enemy in her life messing with her schedule. If she wanted something done, she completed it on time. I, on the other side of the marriage table, had trouble along these lines, and even though I wanted something done, I never actually got it done when I wanted it.

You might ask what this enemy is. It was something I really never expected in my life, and voila, there it is. That vicious enemy is “Old Age.” It has snuck up on me without any indication it was coming.

Although The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage

is technically two years older than me, she doesn’t have that same enemy messing up her daily schedule. No matter what, she finished a project exactly on time.

When I was younger, I was taught that “Old Age” was chasing me and would catch up sooner than I expected. Laughing, I always pushed it aside and said everybody gets old except me.

I looked at my father and mother and noticed they were getting old. I never really believed that I would actually come face-to-face with “Old Age,” and yet here it was.

Every time I celebrated a birthday, it never occurred to me that it meant I was one year older than the year before. Why do we celebrate birthdays every year? Don’t we realize that your birthday means you’re just older?

Sitting at my desk the other day, I noticed a pile of work I needed to complete. I never realized I had so much to do at my age and it was taking me longer to do it.

I had the superstitious idea that getting older didn’t mean you couldn’t accomplish all that you could years before. I just assumed that celebrating my birthday was just another click on the clock.

My birthday and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage

sonage’s birthday are two days apart. We went to a restaurant to celebrate our birthday like we usually do.

At the restaurant, we told our waitress we were celebrating our birthday. Looking at me, she said, “How does old feel?”

Without even looking at her, I reached across the table, took hold of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage’s arm and gently squeezed it. Then I looked back at the waitress and said, “It doesn’t feel really that bad.”

The waitress didn’t know whether she should laugh or walk away. Unfortunately, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knew exactly what to do, and it wasn’t to laugh. The look she gave me still burns in my head today.

My predicament is trying to get around that stupid remark to the waitress. As long as I have been married, I still have trouble dealing with my stupidity.

Through 55 years of marital bliss, I have worked hard to keep up with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. When I think I’ve accomplished it, something happens that sets me back in a remarkable way.

I’m not quite sure how she can keep up with everything. If I knew her secret, maybe I could apply it to my life and get to the place where I’m actually keeping up with everything. However, if I asked her the secret, I’m not exactly sure how she would respond.

Looking back over the years of my life, I think I can say the only place I have actually kept up with everything was my relationship with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. The fact that we’ve been married 55 years says quite a lot about both of us.

The secret I have discovered is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can fix anything wrong or broken.

About eight years ago, the bumper on my truck broke and was almost dragging on the ground. I had no idea what to do, and as I was looking at it, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came out and said, “What’s wrong?”

When I told her, she looked at it for a moment and then said, “I think I know how to fix that. Let me go inside and get something.”

She came out in a few moments with some large paperclips. She looked under the bumper, asked me to hold it up, and then put three paperclips underneath the bumper. That was eight years ago, and those paperclips are still doing their job of keeping the front bumper in place.

If she can’t keep up, nobody else can.

Thinking on this reminded me of a Bible verse. “See then that ye walk circum-spectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

I need to be careful each day, live as it pleases the Lord, and focus on what is important. Some things are worth doing, and I need to know the difference.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543.

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GC Sports HOF 2026 Class

By ANDREW CARTER

The GC Sports HOF will induct four new members on Sept. 23. Two - Cleveland Browns DB Hanford Dixon, who coined the term “Dawg Pound,” and Stow HS RB Larry Czonka, who later starred at Syracuse and then Miami in the NFL - are gridiron legends. The other two - Elyria Catholic HS multi-sport athlete Brianne McLaughlin and Cuyahoga Hts. HS’s Kelly Stack - were collegiate hockey stars and USWNT Olympic Silver Medalists in 2010 and 2014.

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 to Friday, August 21, 2026

EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

A LEA fundraiser boxing show will be held on August 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Metroplex, 1620 Motor Inn Drive, Girard, Ohio 44420. For information, contact John Loew at 330-501-5713.

216 Regatta to be held

The 216 Regatta will be held on September 26–27 at the Edgewater Yacht Club, 6700 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway. Classes & Racing: CRW features: Over a dozen One Design classes Nine Handicap (PHRF) divisions Three JAM divisions and four race courses www.clevelandraceweek.com. The event draws over 1,800 national and international participants annually, offering marketing exposure to sailing professionals, amateurs, juniors, and women’s sailors www.clevelandraceweek.com. It maintains a strong sponsorship network, placing it among the top U.S. sailing regattas www.clevelandraceweek.com.

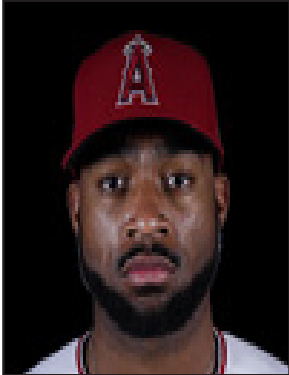
CLE AL franchise gets 10,000th win

BY KARL BRYANT

It’s no secret that the Guardians lately have been struggling. Wins have been few and far between, so we must take time to savor a noteworthy one.

It was pointed out that CLE’s 6-1 victory over San Diego on August 15, in their Home series last weekend, was the 10,000th win in the franchise’s history. They join NY and Boston as the only AL teams to do so. Fittingly, it was a one-hitter, in homage to CLE’s historical pitching prowess. Joey Cantillo (9-7) and three relievers combined to earn the historical feat.

When the Giants came to town next, CLE handed them an 8-1 shellacking.



Adell

Jo Adell had a superlative game as he hit a lonnng 3-Run HR and knocked in six total runs, which was a career high. He hit a monstrous homer in the 1st Inning, a single in the 2n that plated two more, and a single in the 4th that scored an insurance run.

Foster Griffin (14-4) won his second straight



Griffin

start for CLE, as he went 6.0 innings, striking out six, and allowing five hits. A HR by Bryce Eldridge, accounted for the Giants only score.

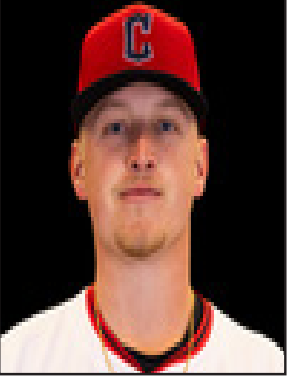
Fans enjoyed the offensive showing. Sue remarked, “I’m so happy they’re scoring these runs. Usually, they play a nail-biter.” Bob said,



Bailey

“Hey, maybe some of his (Adell’s) ability will rub off on our underperforming guys.” Jacob noted, “Two of our Trade Deadline guys (Adell and Griffin) came through today. Kudus to the Front Office.”

Sadly, Guardians hitters looked lame the next day, as they were whitewashed by S.F., 1-0, in a sort-of-Bullpen game. Parker Messick (9-8), who had



Messick

10 Ks, was the hard luck loser. Matt Wilkinson, acquired from CLE in May for C Patrick Bailey, had his MLB debut, pitching the first two innings by design. Adrian Hauser, not exactly an Ace at 3-8, with a 4.03 ERA, hurled 5.0 scoreless innings to get the win. Bailey, who came on as a pinch hitter in the 9th, ended the game by taking a called third strike.

Fortunately, CLE got



Williams

the best of San Fran, as they took the series finale, 5-2. Gavin Williams (12-7) struck out 11 for The Land and three RBI singles in the 1st Inning gave them a lead they never lost. Bailey had one of those RBI singles and went 2 for 3 to raise his BA to .210. Cade Smith got Save # 32.

The Guardians now take to the road as they continue InterLeague play in Colorado.

Steelers Pummel Packers

BY ANDREW CARTER

The Steelers pummeled the Packers in their first 2026 pre-season game, 28-9. The Steelers dominated the game as they gained 385 yards, and the Packers, who were held to three FGs, gained just 160.

It’s a foregone conclusion that future HOFer Aaron Rogers will be the Steelers starting QB,

and he’ll sit out the pre-season. Longtime back-up, Mason Rudolph and two young signal callers with Ohio ties - Will Howard and Drew Allar - are battling for Depth Chart standing. Rudolph started and didn’t get a score. Howard, who led Ohio State to the 2025 National Championship, followed and got the Steelers a score when he drove them down to

within a foot of the goal, and Lew Nichols took it in from there.

With just under five minutes left in the 3rd Quarter, Rookie Allar, from Medina H.S, who had a successful career at Penn State, came in and from there, accounted for three more scores. He threw TD Passes to Kaden Wetjen and Riley Nowkowski, and had a 3 YD TD Run. For Green Bay, former Buckeye QB Kyle McCord, who later transferred to Syracuse, was 12 of 16 for 102 yards, and took the Packers close enough to get two FGs.

During the week, new Steelers Coach Mike McCarthy said that Howard will start pre-season Game 2 vs. the Jets and that Allar will relieve him. Rogers and Rudolph will not play.

Browns beaten by Bears

By KARL BRYANT

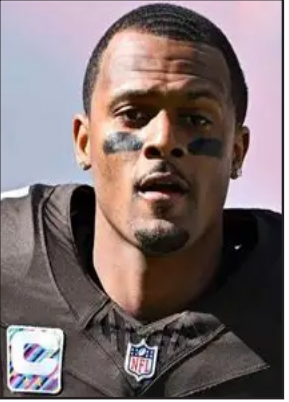
In their first preseason game, the Browns got 10 points right off the bat, but then, nothing more. Meanwhile, “Da Barse” scored 34 straight points to arrive at the 34-10 final.

Deshaun Watson, who’s in a battle with Shedeur Sanders to be the Browns No. 1 QB, started the game.

It was his first live game action since Oct 20, 2024 (a 21-14 loss to the Bengals), when he suffered a torn Achilles Tendon.

He was QB for the two Browns scoring drives. He threw 15 times, completing 11, for 126 yards.

Sanders came in and completed 6 of



Watson



Sanders

11 passes for 79 yards, with an interception, plus had a strip sack fumble, although it was 4th Down and the Bears were going to get the ball, even if they didn’t recover it.

Dillon Gabriel came in to mop up and completed 5 of 8 for 23 yards, with an INT.

CLE did put up some yards, as they gained 314; Chicago accumulated 430. The Browns lone TD came on an

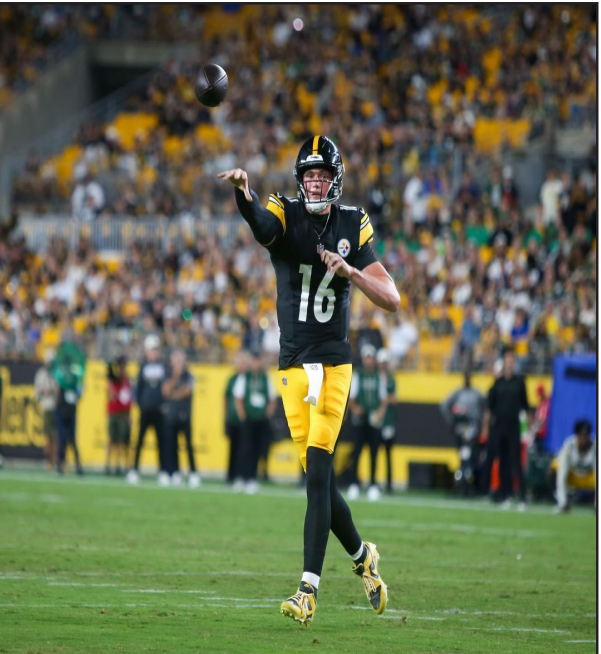
End Around 14 YD TD Run by Rookie KC Conception. Andre Szmyt hit a 50 YD FG to open the game’s scoring.

Browns 1st Year Coach Todd Monken was pleased with Watson’s showing after such a long layoff.

He reiterated that Sanders will start preseason Game 2 this Saturday on the Lake-front.



Steelers QB Will Howard (#18), who led Ohio State to the National Championship after the 2024 season, looks downfield during their pre-season opening 28-9 win over the Packers. (ESDN Photo by Frank Hyatt, Minority Publishing Assoc.)



Steelers Rookie QB Drew Allar (#16), from Medina, throws downfield during their pre-season opening 28-9 win over the Packers. (ESDN Photo by Frank Hyatt, Minority Publishing Assoc.)

BEEZWAX By John Martin

MATINEE IDOL BY C. M. APPLING

TO BE CONTINUED

On The Town

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

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child to come to the State Theatre

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child to come to the State Theatre from August 24 to September 12.

Broadway’s spellbinding spectacular, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, is coming to Cleveland. Join the next adventure and experience the wizarding world like never before at this record-breaking hit and winner of six Tony Awards® including Best Play. “It’s one of the most de-

fining pop culture events of the decade” (Forbes).

When Harry Potter’s headstrong son Albus befriends the son of his fiercest rival, Draco Malfoy, it sparks an unbelievable new journey for them all—with the power to change the past and future forever. Prepare for a mind-blowing race through time, spectacular spells, and an epic battle, all brought to life with the most astonishing theatrical magic ever

Porter to perform at Mimi Ohio Theater

Gregory Porter to perform at Mimi Ohio Theater on September 26 at 8:00 p.m.

With his rich baritone voice and his mastery of the deepest traditions of soul, jazz and gospel, Gregory Porter has established himself as one of America’s most versatile and acclaimed vocalists. His artistry and sensitivity is plain to the ear whether he’s putting his stamp on beloved standards by heroes like Nat “King” Cole or demonstrating his own writing talents with original songs strong enough to stand with the many classics in his repertoire.

Produced by Troy Miller (Jamie Cullum, Laura Mvula), All Rise is Porter’s sixth studio album and fourth for the iconic Blue Note label. Like his 2013 breakthrough Liquid Spirit — the Grammy Award winner for Best Jazz Vocal Album — Porter’s latest is a confident display of his many gifts, starting with his ability to convey feelings of both exaltation and sadness with uncommon directness and warmth.

Porter has twice won the Grammy Award for



Porter

Best Jazz Vocal Album: first in 2014 for Liquid Spirit and then again in 2017 for Take Me to the Alley.

His third album, Liquid Spirit, was released on September 2, 2013, in Europe and on September 17, 2013, in the US.

The album, produced by Brian Bacchus, won the 2014 Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album. Liquid Spirit enjoyed commercial success rarely achieved by albums in the jazz genre, reaching the top 10 on the UK album charts. It was certified gold by the BPI, selling over 100,000 units in the UK.

In August 2014, Porter released “The ‘In’ Crowd” as a single. On May 9, 2015, Porter participated in VE Day 70: A Party to Remember, a televised commemorative con-



seen on stage. It’s a “marvel of imagination” (The New York Times) that will “leave you wondering ‘how’d they do that?’ for days to come” (People

Magazine).

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is a play written by Jack Thorne from an original story by Thorne, J. K. Rowling, and John Tiffany.

The plot occurs nineteen years after the events of Rowling’s novel Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. It follows Albus Severus Potter, the second son of Harry Potter, now the Head of the Department of Magical Law Enforcement at the Ministry of Magic.

When Albus arrives at Hogwarts to get sorted into Gryffindor, he gets officially sorted into Slytherin and feels unable to live up to his father’s legacy, making him resentful of his father.

From its premiere, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child has received mostly positive reviews from critics for its performances, story, illusions, and stage wizardry, though reception from the Harry Potter fandom was more polarized. The original West End production premiered at the Palace Theatre on 7 June 2016.

It received a record-breaking eleven nominations and won another record-breaking nine awards, including Best New Play, at the 2017 Laurence Olivier Awards. A Broadway production opened at the Lyric Theatre on 22 April 2018.

That production received ten nominations and won six awards, including Best Play at the 2018 Tony Awards. An Australian production opened at the Princess Theatre in Melbourne, on 23 February 2019.

A second American production opened in San Francisco at the Curran Theatre on 1 December 2019. The first non-English production opened at the Mehr! Theatre in Hamburg, Germany, on 5 December 2021.

A North American Tour began in September 2024 in Chicago’s James M. Nederlander Theatre. The Tour also included shows in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Across all its productions worldwide, Har-

ry Potter and the Cursed Child has sold over 6 million tickets.

The play was originally produced as a two-part play, that could be viewed on the same day (i.e. in the afternoon and in the evening) or over two evenings.

In June 2021, the play was re-staged as a single 3½-hour show for future performances on Broadway in November 2021.

The Broadway production currently has an even shorter runtime of 2 hours and 55 minutes. The West End production is the only location that continues to stage the original two-part play.

However this is set to change, with the two-part play closing in the West End on 20 September 2026 and re-opening as the one-part play on 9 October 2026.

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

Incredible action movie to watch

By C.M. APPLING

The role of the action movie hero began with the early days of Hollywood with actor Errol Flynn as the romantic, swashbuckling pirate in Captain Blood (1935) and as the legendary thief who robbed from the rich and gave to the poor in The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938). Later, in the 1950’s and ‘60’s, John Wayne (a.k.a. ‘The Duke’), would emerge as the quintessential cowboy in a herd of western-inspired films.

Then, in 1971, Richard Roundtree broke the color barrier and starred as the too-cool, black detective John Shaft in Shaft. Also that same year, Clint Eastwood would begin his own, film franchise character as the tough-as-nails, street detective Harry Callahan in the ‘Dirty Harry’ movie series.

In the 1980’s, 90’s and 2000’s, various Hollywood actors would continue the legacy of the action hero such as muscle-bound stars like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone, franchise celebrities like Harrison Ford, Bruce Willis and Keanu Reeves, and African-American icons like Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes and Will Smith.

However, after his motion-picture debut in The Mummy Returns (2001), former WWE pro-wrestler Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson would reign as the box-office king of the post-millennial generation as its premiere, action movie hero.

And, as a man of color who is half-African-American and half-Samoan, he would break boundaries as a leading man in both action and comedic films. And, in Skyscraper (2018), he once again proves his ability to captivate our audience with his Schwarzenegger-like physique and charismatic persona.

The movie starts 10 years ago when bronze-colored, black U.S. Marine War Veteran-turned-FBI Hostage Rescue Team soldier Will Sawyer (Dwayne Johnson) loses

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING



TRIVIA - (Black Leading Men)

1. Who is the legendary, black leading man and calypso singer who starred with the great, Dorothy Dandridge in 3 films: 'Bright Road' (1953), 'Carmen Jones' (1954) and 'Island In The Sun' (1957)?

2. Who is the former running back for the Cleveland Browns who turned into a macho, action-film star appearing in such movies as 'The Dirty Dozen' (1967), 'Riot' (1968), ad in the 1969 classic '100 Rifles' where he starred with Burt Reynolds and created controversy for having an on-screen, interracial love scene with white actress Raquel Welch?

3. Shavenheaded Louis Gossett, Jr. made his film debut in 'A Raisin In The Sun' (1961), starred as the musical slave 'Fiddler' in Alex Haley's 'Roots' miniseries (1977), but in what motion-picture did he win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor?

4. Versatile ac-

tor Laurence Fishburne has starred in Spike Lee's 'School Daze' (1988) and in John Singleton's 'Boyz 'N The Hood' (1991), and an Oscar-nominated portrayal of Ike Turner in the Tina Turner biography 'What's Love Got To Do With It' (1993), but in what sci-fi movie did he star with Anglo-Asian actor Keanu Reeves as a futuristic rebel leader against an evil, artificially-intelligent, machine program?

5. Who is the talented actor who starred as the real-life, controversial, high school principal Joe Clark in 'Lean On Me' (1988) as a black, Civil War soldier in 'Glory' (1989) and as white actress Jessica Tandy's chauffeur and best friend in 'Driving Miss Daisy' (1989)?

ANSWERS:

1. Harry Belafonte 2. Jim Brown 3. 'An Officer and A Gentleman' 4. 'The Matrix' (1999) 5. Morgan Freeman



MOVIE MATCH-UP - (Samuel L. Jackson)

CHARACTERS:

1. Jungle Fever (1991)
2. Jurassic Park (1993)
3. A Time To Kill (1996)
4. Eve's Bayou (1997)
5. Shaft (2000)

ROLES:

a) vengeful father of abused daughter

b) cheating doctor of Creole family
c) scientist on dinosaur island
d) supercool detective
e) crack-addicted brother

ANSWERS: 1, e; 2, c; 3, a; 4, b; 5, d

MENU TIPS

Potatoes improve your salad days

(NAPS) Here’s heartening news: A smart salad can become even more heart healthy—and delicious—when you add potatoes.

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A great way to enjoy all that nutrition is in this easy, elegant salad:

Idaho Potato and Pesto Chicken Salad

Yield: 8 servings

2 pounds Idaho potatoes, well scrubbed (peeled, if desired)

1 pound fresh green beans, washed and trimmed

1 tb. olive oil

1½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes

¾ cup prepared pesto sauce

3 to 6 cups mixed salad greens (optional)

Over high heat, in a large, heavy pot with tight-fitting cover, bring half a pot of water to boil. Meanwhile, cut potatoes in half lengthwise, then cut crosswise in ½-inch slices. Add potatoes to boiling water, cover and return to boiling; cook 3 minutes. Add green beans to pot with potatoes and cook another 4 minutes; drain potatoes and beans and set aside. (Vegetables should be firm.) In same pot, heat olive oil over high heat and cook chicken, stirring 6 to 8 minutes or until meat is completely cooked through. Remove from heat; stir in pesto sauce, then gently stir in potatoes and green beans, taking care not to break up vegetables. Serve salad warm or at room temperature on a bed of salad greens, if desired.

To be sure you’re getting genuine, top-quality Idaho potatoes, look for the “Grown In Idaho®” seal.

For more recipes for salads and other potato dishes, visit <http://www.idahopotato.com>.

ODA releasing approximately 4,000 acres from Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarantine

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the removal of a significant portion of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) quarantine area in Clermont County—marking encouraging progress in Ohio’s effort against the invasive species.

The newly-released 6.2-square-mile area includes the southeast portion of Tate Township south of State Route 125. This removal represents the reduction in regulations since the initial quarantine was established in 2011. ALB was first discovered in



The beetle can be easily recognized by its distinct appearance: Black and white antennae longer than its body Shiny black body with white spots, approximately 1” to 1½” long Six legs with bluish-tinted feet

Tate Township in 2011, and since then, 118,306 infested trees have been removed to prevent the pest’s spread. ODA and USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continue their partnership

through the Ohio ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, which has produced strong results in limiting the beetle’s impact.

ODA Director Brian Baldrige and staff held an event for

stakeholders from its ALB Eradication Program Office in Bethel to share an update on the progress made and what’s ahead for the program.

“ODA and USDA have worked tirelessly to fight this destructive pest,” Baldrige said. “Releasing another section of the quarantine zone is a clear sign that our collective efforts are paying off. We remain committed to protecting Ohio’s forests, communities, and industries from the long-term damage ALB can cause.”

ALB poses a major threat to Ohio’s hardwood forests and the state’s nursery industry. The pest is an

invasive wood-boring beetle that targets 12 hardwood species in Ohio, including maples, elms, birches, willows, and Ohio’s state tree, the buckeye. The beetle bores tunnels as it feeds and emerges as an adult usually around mid-summer. Infested trees eventually die but also serve as a breeding location for more beetles, leading to further spread. Additionally, the boring activity makes those infested trees hazardous as weakened branches or whole trees fall, particularly during storms.

The beetle can be easily recognized by its distinct appearance:

Black and white antennae longer

than its body Shiny black body with white spots, approximately 1” to 1½” long Six legs with bluish-tinted feet

Possible signs of infestation include dime-sized round exit holes in trunks or branches; shallow oval or round egg-site scars; coarse sawdust-like wood shavings, also known as frass, on branches or at the base of trees; and dead or falling branches from an otherwise healthy-looking tree.

As a reminder, 37.8 square miles in Clermont County remain under quarantine, including portions of Tate Township, East Fork State Park, and East Fork Wildlife Area. Under quarantine regulations, certain materials may not be moved out of the area without a compliance agreement, permit, or certificate. Regulated items include firewood (all hardwood species), nursery stock and logs from host species, branches, and other woody materials a half inch or more in diameter. For more information, please visit ODA’s ALB webpage.

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AAA: School’s open, tips to drive carefully

As children return to school, AAA East Central is launching its annual School’s Open-Drive Carefully campaign. The campaign encourages parents to talk about the importance of school zone safety with their children and teen drivers. It also advises motorists to take extra caution when traveling through school zones or near school buses especially during before- and after-school hours. Children are particularly vulnerable during the afternoon hours following their school day.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 64 percent of child pedestrians killed in traffic crashes occurred during the

weekday (6 a.m. Monday to 6 p.m. Friday) in 2024.

“School zone speed limits and crossing guards are in place to save lives,” said Lynda Lambert, media spokesperson and safety advisor, AAA East Central. “Since children can move quickly and cross the road unexpectedly, it is important to obey speed limits and be ready to stop at a moment’s notice.”

Speed is a crucial factor in protecting the lives of students as they make their way to class.

According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 20 mph is about two-thirds less likely to be killed as

compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 30 mph. Moreover, nearly 1-in-5 children 14 and younger who die in traffic crashes are pedestrians.

In addition to slowing down, AAA offers the following advice for motorists to keep children safe as they navigate their way through school zones:

Ditch distractions. Research shows that glancing away from the road for just two seconds doubles the chances of crashing.

Stay alert. Don’t rush into and out of driveways. Expect pedestrians on the sidewalk, especially around schools and in neighborhoods.

Mind vehicle blind spots, check for

children on the sidewalk, in the driveway, and around the vehicle before slowly backing up.

Brake for buses. It may be tempting to drive around a stopped school bus, but not only is it dangerous, it is against the law.

Talk to your teen. Car crashes are one of the leading causes of death for teens in the United States. More than one-quarter of fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 to 7 p.m.

Come to a complete stop. Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones and neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, check

carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.

Watch for bikes. Children on bicycles are often unpredictable, so expect the unexpected. Motorists should slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between their vehicle and bicyclists.

Plan ahead. Leave early and build in extra time for congestion. If possible, modify routes to avoid school zones.

Look for AAA School Safety Patrollers. With more than 600,000 AAA School Safety Patrollers at 31,000 schools across the country, patrollers are a sure sign that school zone is approaching.

Cleveland RTA executive found dead in Virginia

Dr. Floun’say R. Caver, 50, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority’s (GCRTA) deputy general manager of operations, was reported missing in Hampton, Virginia, on August 17, 2026, but was later found dead the following day.

Caver was on a planned trip to Virginia when he went missing. He was last seen around 3 a.m. on August 17 in the 100 block of Jonquil Lane, wearing a black and gray Puma Dri-FIT shirt, black shorts, and white Puma sneakers.

Hampton police said he was experiencing severe personal stress at the time, and his family was deeply concerned for



Caver

his health and well-being.

On August 18, Hampton police found Caver deceased in the 1st block of Fox Hill Road, about 1.5 miles from where he was last seen News 5 Cleveland. There is no indication of foul play News 5 Cleveland+1. Police said a family member reported him missing at 11 a.m.

that morning, and he was visiting his son, a freshman at Hampton University.

GCRTA expressed condolences to Caver’s family and colleagues, noting his role as a trusted leader and friend. Police Chief Deidre Jones of GCRTA said the agency is “awaiting news” on developments

Dr. Floun’say Caver has over 15 years of diverse experience at the Greater Cleveland

Regional Transit Authority, previously serving as the Assistant to the Deputy General Manager for Operations, Director of Hayden Bus District, Director of Service Quality, Assistant Budget Director/Organizational Performance Leader, Manager of Budgets, and Budget Management Analyst. Dr. Caver holds a Bachelor’s degree in Management with a concentration in Accounting & Finance from Hiram College (Magna Cum Laude), a Master’s of Public Administration from the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, and a Ph.D. in Public Affairs

with a concentration in Public Management from the University of Texas at Dallas. Outside of his responsibilities to RTA, Dr. Caver is an Adjunct Professor of Public Administration at Ohio University and Cleveland State University, and he is a board member for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Levin College of Urban Affairs Visiting Committee Member, volunteer with the Salvation Army-East Cleveland Corp., Youth Coach at Hawken School, and former board member and former treasurer for the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

Former Cambridge Professor Jason Arday found dead

Former University of Cambridge professor Jason Arday, who became the university’s youngest Black professor in 2023, was found dead in London on August 14, 2026, just nine days after resigning amid plagiarism allegations

Emergency services were called to Daley Thompson Way, Battersea, where Arday lived, after reports of a man found unresponsive. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The Metropolitan Police said the death is being treated as unexpected but not suspicious, with no in-



Arday

dication of foul play

Arday, 41, was appointed Professor of Sociology of Education at Cambridge in 2023. He resigned on August 5, 2026, following weeks of intense scrutiny over alleged plagiarism in his academic work and inconsistencies in public claims about his career

and achievements Yahoo+1. The allegations began when a former Cambridge researcher flagged passages in his 2015 PhD thesis as matching another scholar’s work. The Times of London later published a review describing several passages as “identical or near-identical” to earlier research Yahoo. Liverpool John Moores University, which awarded him his doctorate, found no deliberate plagiarism but noted an honest mistake.

Arday’s family, through his publisher Simon & Schuster UK, condemned

the “campaign of sustained abuse” and “misinformation” they said targeted him for over three years. They described him as “a gentle man who always wanted to see the best in everyone” and urged the press to stop the harassment

Cambridge Vice-Chancellor Deborah Prentice and UK Education Secretary Lucy Powell expressed deep sadness and condolences

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan called the public hounding “unacceptable” and a “pernicious public shaming”

The univer-

sity’s inquiry into Arday’s academic record was still open at the time of his death, leaving unresolved questions about his case Yahoo. Supporters, including academics and politicians, had described the plagiarism allegations as a “smear campaign”

Arday was also known for his work on race, inequality, and education, and for being neurodivergent, having been diagnosed with autism as a child NBC News. His memoir Great and Unfortunate Things was released in 2026 despite the controversy

2026

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Can Mayor Bibb see the naked truth about Shaker Square?

By PAT WHITE

Mayor Justin Bibb and his entourage made a surprise visit to Shaker Square on Tuesday afternoon.

In a Facebook post, his aide wrote “Hey, Cleveland! Come shopping with me tomorrow at Shaker Square from 5 to 7:30 PM.”

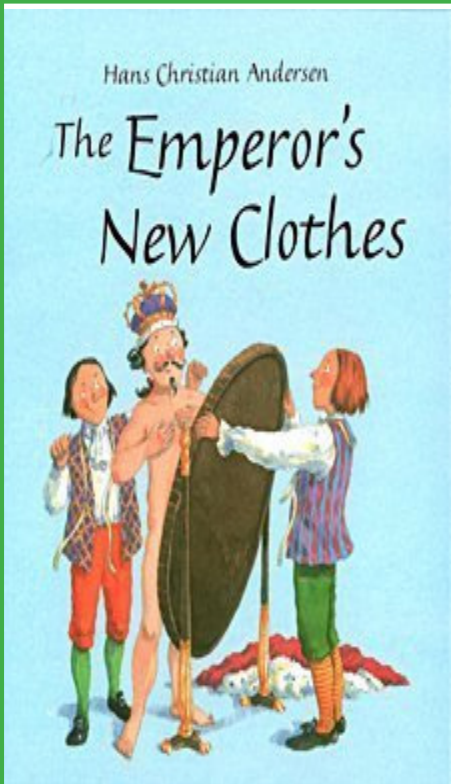
As the mayor was being led around the Square, did he trip over the broken pavement and curbs?

(If he had visited on Sunday, he would have had to be carried over the newly paved pedestrian crossing by Dave’s Market. Due to the improper grading on the roadway, huge puddles of water pool in the crosswalk rather than drain into the drain when it rains.)

Luckily, on Tuesday, the sun was shining. The new front window of Dave’s Market sparkled. The window had recently been replaced because it had been smashed at about 3:00 a.m. the week before. The perpetrator had entered Dave’s and he was helping himself to baked goods before being scared off by frightened store employees. CNP/ BBC allegedly placed 60 security cameras around the Square. Is anyone watching these cameras? No suspects have been apprehended.

FACADES: \$688,762.00
If the mayor looked around, he might have noticed the chipped and peeling paint, and thought to himself, “A fresh coat of paint would really spruce up the Square.”

Yes, it would. The mayor might be surprised to know that Ms. Menesse allocated \$688,762.00 to paint the facades. Did she hire a licensed and bonding painting company? Was the project bid out? Could she publish the receipts for that very specific amount? What residents and customers witnessed



“The Emperor’s New Clothes” is fairy tale written by Hans Christian Andersen. The tale is about an emperor who has an obsession with fancy new clothes, and spends lavishly on them at the expense of state matters. One day, two commoners visit the emperor’s capital. Posing as weavers, they offer to supply him with magnificent clothes that are invisible to those who are either incompetent or stupid. The gullible emperor hires them, and they set up looms and pretend to go to work. A succession of officials, starting with the emperor’s wise and competent minister, and then ending with the emperor himself, visit them to check their progress. Each sees that the looms are empty but pretends otherwise to avoid being thought a fool. Finally, the “weavers” report that the emperor’s suit is finished. They mime dressing him and he sets off in a procession before the whole city. The townsfolk uncomfortably go along with the pretense, not wanting to appear inept or stupid, until a child blurts out that the emperor is wearing nothing at all. The entire town then realizes the truth of the observation and repeats the child’s cry. The emperor awkwardly continues with the procession, unwilling to admit that he has been duped.

The moral of the story: Mayor Bibb, please demand a forensic accounting of the taxpayer money given to Joy Johnson (BBC) and Tania Menesse (CNP). Transfer the historic Shaker Square out of the hand of BBC, CNP and Village Capital. If the funds cannot be accounted for... heads should roll! (Not literally)

were individuals painting without having done any preparation. No taping of plastic sheeting over windows, doors and lighting.

THREE THINGS
RESIDENTS/TENANTS/ CUSTOMERS
DO NOT WANT

1. Murals -CNP painted murals on the deteriorating buildings all along Buckeye Road rather than renovate the buildings

2. Parking on both sides of the street
This is a stupid revenue generating scheme to charge customers additional parking fees. Parking on both sides is a huge safety issue.

3. Building apartments on the parking lots to “generate revenue” for CNP.
CNP/New Village Corporation is buying houses in Cleveland under the Local Focal LLC (Briana Perry’s LLC - She’s the CNP point person on Shaker Square as Joy Johnson has left BBC under a cloud, and Tania Menesse is leaving CNP). New Village Corporation, which Perry is also the president, then grants Perry’s LLC a \$1.5M open-ended mortgages on a homes valued at less than \$150,000? What is going on?

Can Bibb (or the Feds) Follow All the Missing Money?

Funds provided in grants and loans to revitalize the historic Shaker Square: Tania Menesse should release the financial records to the taxpayers of Cleveland:

\$12,000,000	City of Cleveland
\$ 2,000,000	Cuyahoga County
\$ 1,000,000	Cle Develop Advisors
\$ 1,000,000	Cle Foundation
\$ 500,000	Gund Foundation
\$ 500,000	Capital Village
\$ 800,000	Federal (Shontel Brown)
\$ 250,000	St. Lukes Foundation

TOTAL OF FUNDS REPORTED: Is \$18M+
***There are no public records after 2023 for the grants and private donations. Including tenants rents the figure may be as high as \$30M from 2023-2026**

Failed Projects of BBC/CNP
Arbor Park Plaza
Britt Oval
Box Spot
Scofield Mansion * Total destruction of this historic property
St. Luke’s Playground
Buckeye Road Revitalization
Shaker Square - Specifically
Shaker Square - No bid contracts
Contractors not licensed or bonded
Terri-Hamilton Brown, consultant
Joy Johnson, BBC
Tania Menesse, CNP
Briana Perry, CNP

How much of the more than \$18M was spent on renovating the historic Shaker Square?

A 2024 article reported that less than 1/3 of the funds about \$6M had been spent on renovations: \$4.5M for:

- \$1.6M on roofing (\$70,000 for iconic slate roofs, wrought iron lighting fixtures)
- \$1.1 electrical and heating-ventilating-air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades
- \$ 415,000 to repair woodwork
- \$ 278,000 on new lighting
- \$ 250,00 to pave and strip parking lots
- \$ 150,000 repairing stone and brick masonry.
- \$ 130,000 to paint and for canopies.
- \$ 50,000 to replace pediments and columns.
- \$ 80,000 on plumbing and sewer maintenance.

Using numbers above, BBC/CPN spent not \$4.5M, not \$6M, but \$4M on repairs with \$500,000 not accounted for in public records.

No power washing or scrubbing the facade surface to remove dirt.

No scraping and sanding away peeling old paint.

No repairing and caulking.
No PRIMING the bare wood

No using painter's tape until the last quadrant.

No second coat for complete protection.

If the company is in fact licensed and bonded, the management company (or whomever hired the painting contractor) should sue. Did Mayor Bibb see the peeling paint, especially on the columns in front of CVS? Will he do anything?

(Here is a suggestion: set-up a task force tasked with follow the money.)

ROOFS: \$4,351,033
Considering that the roofs on all quadrants as of 2026 are leaking and the gutters are broken, CNP broke down the amount spent this way:

2023	\$2,119,030
Who was the contractor and what roofs were fixed?	
2024	\$1,119,601
Who was the contractor and what roofs were fixed?	
2025	\$570,189
Who was the contractor and what roofs were fixed?	
2026	\$520,795
Who were the contractors and what roofs were fixed?	

Customers and residents saw a crew on the roof of Dave’s Market in 2024 after the city of Cleveland specifically allocated \$250,000 to upgrade Dave’s Market to keep the grocery store at Shaker Square through 2029. Who paid the roof contractors who worked on Dave’s roof? (To be continued in August 28, 2026 issue.)



Where are the funds to renovate Shaker Square going? The gutters (and roof) have not been fixed at CVS. When it rains, the water pours down on the columns. The paint has peeled exposing wood that will rot due to the moisture. The paint is chipped and peeling. The “new” lights were old broken lights.

‘Survival mode’: Indiana residents endure a ninth day without power

Tens of thousands of residents in northwest Indiana were in survival mode Thursday as they endured a ninth day without power, throwing out spoiled food, lining up for hot meals and searching for places to charge their phones.

In Gary, Indiana, schools remained closed after the deadly August 11 storm downed trees and power lines. Residents turned to social media to find open laundromats and working Wi-Fi, while others sought food, diapers and cleaning wipes for low-income neighbors.

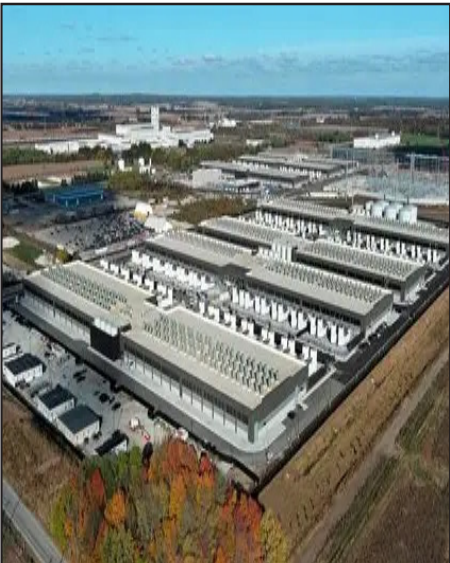
Northern Indiana Public Service Co. said 68,000 customers were still without power as of Thursday morning, the majority of them in Lake County beside the Illinois border. The utility said it has restored power to 306,500 others since Aug. 11. But power is not expected to be fully restored until Tuesday in some places, including Gary.

Indiana has become a target for development partly because of generous tax incentives, including a sales tax exemption on electricity used by data centers which could save a large



A person prays before receiving a free boxed lunch at City Life Center in Gary, Ind., on Thursday, more than a week after a deadly storm passed through the area. Nam Y. Huh/AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh/AP

facility hundreds of millions of dollars. At the same time, Carpenter said, Indiana ranks last



Amazon-15-billion-indiana-data-centers-nipsco-energy-partnership

oversight. Did the stress on the grid exacerbate the problem?



Indiana ranks last in the nation for environmental protections, and recent legislation has weakened regulatory oversight.

Amid intense backlash, people are vandalizing Flock surveillance

A few times a week, Brady O'Rourke walks to the busiest street near his house in Crystal, Minn., carrying a long metal pole with a bright yellow sign taped to the end.

It's a roof rake, normally used to scrape snow off a house, but O'Rourke has different plans for this one. At the intersection, he stops at a Flock camera, an automated license plate reader that police use to track vehicles.

Normally, this camera records everyone who drives down this street. But not right now: O'Rourke lifts his rake into the air and blocks the camera with his sign. He waves at passing cars. Some drivers smile and wave back. A few people honk their horns.

"I don't want to pay to be surveilled," O'Rourke says. "My tax dollars are funding cameras at the end of my block. I don't want to live like that. I don't think anybody should have to live like that."

O'Rourke, inspired by a man in Florida who used a pool skimmer to do the same thing, is part of a growing movement against automated license plate readers like Flock.

What Flock cameras do This week, Flock Safety, the Atlanta-based maker of the cameras, held its annual conference amid intense backlash.

According to the company, more than 5,000 law enforcement agencies use its technology. More broadly, there are more than 130,000 AI-powered automated license plate readers on American streets, according to DeFlock, an advocacy group that tracks the cameras.

Every month, those cameras capture billions of license plates and other details about cars, including makes, models, colors and any alterations. That allows police to see where drivers have been over time.

"They monitor, quite simply, when we go to and from work, where we go to the doctor, where we drop our kid off at daycare. What we've enabled in practical reality is law enforcement to go back and look at where any of us was at any given



Someone vandalized this Flock camera near Washington Avenue and Westcott in Houston.

point in time," says Clare Garvie, deputy director of technology law and policy at New York University's Policing Project.

Police leaders say Flock cameras help them locate stolen vehicles and missing people, and a recent preliminary study suggests that Flock cameras can deter car theft.

"There's no question that license plate readers can be very helpful tools for law enforcement," says Jeff Potts, executive director of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association.

But the expansion of the technology — combined with advancements in AI and the centralization of data in cloud networks — has increased the risk of abuse, says Jay Stanley, senior policy analyst with the Speech, Privacy and Technology Project at the ACLU.

And the technology has been misused: Some police officers, for instance, have used it to stalk ex-partners, or accessed the data for immigration enforcement purposes without a local government's consent. A sheriff's office in Texas used it to track a woman who may have had an abortion.

"The potential for police fishing expeditions is unlimited," says Stanley. "What a lot of these AI, big data techniques do is they try to boil the ocean, to reduce huge amounts of data down to various people who they think could be involved. The problem with that, of course, is it sweeps up potentially enormous numbers of innocent people."

And sometimes, the data is wrong: A 2024 analysis by a police department in

California found Flock misread license plates in 71% of the alerts it sent to police.

The indiscriminate nature of the data collection, Garvie says, also raises concerns that the cameras violate the Fourth Amendment, which protects people from being searched unreasonably.

"We did not set up a system of governance in this country that says, 'Just don't do anything wrong and you won't have anything to worry about.' What we said is, 'No, actually, law enforcement is affirmatively restricted against getting up in our business as we go about our daily lives,'" she says.

Garvie says she wants to see more oversight of the technology from lawmakers.

Last week, Flock changed some of its features to help prevent abuse, including shortening how long it recommends data be stored and cutting off access to officers who appear to be misusing the tool.

"We are so transparent about the business. We don't own this data. We don't sell this data. Cities have control over how long it's stored. And who it's shared with," Garrett Langley, the CEO of Flock, told NPR.

The CoreCivic, Inc. California City Immigration Processing Center stands in the Kern County desert awaiting reopening as a federal immigrant detention facility under contract with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in California City, California on July 10, 2025.

Immigration An increasing number of people are combating the technol-



Brady O'Rourke in Crystal, Minn., holds a sign he made to block the view of a Flock camera, which tracks vehicles driving along the road. It's one of several actions Americans are taking to oppose this police surveillance technology.

ogy in both legal and illegal ways. According to an NPR review of local news reports, Flock cameras have been vandalized in at least 36 states.

People have stolen the cameras, sawed them down, crashed into them with cars, covered them in paint and stickers, and shot at them.

Social media is filled with tongue-in-cheek how-to videos, instructing viewers on things like how to discreetly saw through a metal pole.

The comments on Facebook posts from local news stations about the vandalism are rife with snark: "Not all heroes wear capes," one commenter wrote.

"These are people being amped up to go do something. And I don't think they're being given the level of information they should that they're also committing a felony," Langley says.

Langley says if people have concerns with his company's technology, they should take it up with their city council.

And many people have. According

to DeFlock, at least 100 cities have deactivated the cameras or canceled contracts with Flock or similar companies.

Stanley, of the ACLU, says there's a deep well of dislike in the U.S. for the notion of being surveilled by the government.

"We're seeing opposition from the left. We're seeing opposition from MAGA Republicans. We're seeing opposition from mainstream Republicans, from centrists. And so it really is a nonpartisan issue," he says. "This grassroots uprising is just really remarkable. At the end of the day, it's not like anything I've seen in my 20-plus years as a privacy advocate."

Organizers with DeFlock are holding a National Week of Action through Saturday. They say more than 25,000 people are registered for events around the country — things like protests and education sessions — that offer people a legal way to use their voice. A group of activists demanded that the city of Cleveland not renew their contract with Flock. Cleveland city council voted to renew the contract for 6 months.

Annual Recognition for John P. Green
by the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, Cleveland Chapter

Saturday, September 5, 2026 | 10-11 a.m.

Presenters:
Judge Charles Patton: Legacy of John P. Green
David Bernatowicz: Importance of Labor Day to Workers
Andre Washington: A. Philip Randolph Institute

Woodland Cemetery, between East 68th St and 71st St. Entry through Quincy gate.
John P. Green site is at Section 49 to your right after entering from Quincy gate.
(Near green port-a-potty)

For further information: Contact Dr. Dorothy Salem,
Educational Outreach Coordinator at Woodland Cemetery Foundation,
dorothy@salem@aahoo.com or 216-337-9217

Michelle A. Day, Chairwoman/President
Historian for Woodland Cemetery

Woodland Cemetery Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio
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216.319.2691

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