



What we know – and don't – about COVID five years later
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January 3, 2025

Police contend with vehicle break-ins

By JUSTIN STORY
Daily News

Area law enforcement are urging people to protect their valuables in the wake of a rash of thefts that have been reported from parked vehicles in mul-

tiple neighborhoods in recent weeks. Multiple thefts and attempted break-ins into vehicles were reported in the North Ridge subdivision overnight during Dec. 19-20 and investigated by the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Later on Dec. 20, WCSO investi-

gated the theft of a 2014 Honda Civic from Ivan Downs Boulevard. The vehicle was recovered later that day, but deputies were also called to investigate the theft of a 2015 Acura MDX from Pennyroyal Lane. Theft of vehicles and valuables kept

in vehicles parked in the Ivan Downs, North Ridge and Stagner Farms neighborhoods have kept law enforcement busy during the holidays.

"We've seen an increase (of

See **POLICE, 3A**

Police offer safety tips amid rash of thefts

NEW ORLEANS RAMPAGE



Matthias Hauswirth of New Orleans prays on the street near the scene where a vehicle drove into a crowd on New Orleans' Canal and Bourbon streets Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE WALKER IV / AP

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Legislators to look at testing, license renewals

By DAVID MAMARIL HOROWITZ
Daily News

This is part two of a two-part roundup of several bills planned for Kentucky's 2025 legislative session by legislators in Southcentral Kentucky.

'GROWTH' OVER 'CHANGE'

Rep. Kevin Jackson, R. Bowling Green, plans to sponsor a bill that'll adjust Kentucky Department of Education assessment and accountability testing so test scores follow individuals one year after another.

This additionally raises the opportunity for new English learners to get a second year in school before their test scores are counted against them and the district, Jackson added.

Currently, KDE assessment and accountability testing compares scores for a subject among one grade of students at a given school with the same grade of students the following year – despite the original class progressing to the next grade after one year. Jackson's bill would cause scores to follow a class from one grade to the next – indicating "growth" instead of "change."

"Change is comparing last year's third graders against this year's third graders ... apples to oranges," he summed up. "If you go to growth, you're comparing Little Johnny last year to Little Johnny this year."

As official July 2024 KDE documentation states, "Whereas Growth measures the progress of individual students, Change measures the performance of the population of students in the school from year to year.

Measuring growth additionally presents the opportunity for new English learners to get a second year in school before they're accountable for a score – when currently, they have one year.

"We want to help our (English learner) students be able to have teaching and learning a year longer, before their scores are actually counted against them and the district," Jackson said.

This additional year would be granted through a federal waiver, said Sarah Johnson, assistant superintendent at Warren County Public Schools.

"The federal government requires there to be accountability for education, and then our state has additional requirements – and so, when you look at federal designations in terms of if a school's performing at a certain level, that's federal," Johnson explained.

So, Johnson said, when the accountability system is based on growth, KDE could request a



KEVIN JACKSON

FBI now says driver acted alone

By ERIC TUCKER, JIM MUSTIAN, KEVIN MCGILL and JACK BROOK
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army veteran who drove a pickup truck into a crowd of New Year's revelers acted alone, the FBI said Thursday, reversing its position from a day earlier that he likely worked with others in carrying out the deadly attack, which officials say was an act of terrorism inspired by the Islamic State group.

The FBI also revealed that the driver, Shamsud-Din Jabbar, a U.S. citizen from Texas, posted five videos on his Facebook account in the hours before the attack in which he aligned himself with IS and told viewers that he had joined the militant group before last summer.

"This was an act of terrorism. It was premeditated and an evil act," said Christopher Raia, the deputy assistant director of the FBI's counter-terrorism division.

The attack killed 14 people, including an 18-year-old woman who had ambitions of becoming a nurse. Authorities initially put the death toll at 15, which included Jabbar, who was fatally shot in a firefight with police.

INSIDE:

Man who died in Tesla explosion outside Trump hotel was active-duty Green Beret.

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Officials had said Wednesday that they were seeking additional potential suspects in the attack, which occurred when Jabbar steered around a police blockade and plowed into a crowd.

But Raia said the current assessment is that he acted alone, without any conspirators.

Authorities recovered a black flag of the Islamic State in the truck, and President Joe Biden said he was told by the FBI that Jabbar, a U.S. citizen from Texas, had posted videos to social media hours before the carnage that showed he was motivated by the militant group and expressed a desire to kill.

He was shot to death by police, and the FBI said Wednesday that it believed he did not act alone. Investigators found guns and what appeared to be an improvised explosive device in the vehicle, along with other explosive devices elsewhere in the French Quarter.



Flowers are seen near where a vehicle drove into a crowd on New Orleans' Canal and Bourbon streets Wednesday.

Officials fanned out to serve search warrants and spent hours at a Houston-area home thought to be connected to the investigation. But as of Thursday morning, no additional arrests were known to have been made, and it was unclear if the FBI was still actively looking for more suspects.

See **ALONE, 3A**

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