

## **SWIFA: Broadcasting (BRO) News Program**

**Rounds 1 and 2-News Program (5 minutes):** Students will select at least three (3) news stories (international, national, local) with music selection and commercial prompt to create a 5 minute News Program. Weather is optional. You may cut portions, or even all, of a story, but you may not update or paraphrase the news copy. Your edited newscast should consume about 3 to 3.5 minutes of your 5-minute News Program. The material below is the only allowable subject matter for the tournament.

**Round 3-Breaking News (2 minutes):** Students will have 2 minutes to sight-read a news story that they will be “breaking news live.” Students are encouraged to have an intro/outro that results in no more than 30 seconds. The total performance target time is 2 minutes. Students will prep on the day of the tournament.

**Round 4/Final-Editorial (2 minutes) with 30 minutes prep.** Topic released on the day of the tournament.

### **Broadcasting**

#### **News Program – Music Genres & Artists**

Choose one of the music genres below and use the artists listed to write your original music lead-in and lead-out segments. Your original music lead-in and lead-out should consume about 1 minute (total) of your 5-minute News Program. The options below are the only allowable subject matter for the USI Tournament.

#### **70’s**

Eagles  
Pink Floyd

#### **90’s**

Green Day  
Nirvana

#### **80’s**

Michael Jackson  
Queen

#### **00’s**

Coldplay  
Linkin Park

#### **News Program – Original Commercial**

Use the information below to create your original commercial. Your original commercial should consume about 1 minute of your 5-minute News Program. The product below is the only allowable commercial product for the USI Tournament.

#### **Yeti Ramblers Tumbler**

- **Product Description**
  - Comes standard with YETI MagSlider Lid
    - The only drink lid that uses the power of magnets
  - BPA-free
  - Dishwasher safe
    - No Sweat Design to make sure your hands stay dry
  - Duracoat
    - Durable coat of color that won't fade, peel, or crack
    - Provides additional grip to the Rambler's exterior
  - Double-wall insulated tumblers with a stainless steel body
    - Drink keeps its temperature - hot or cold
- **Most Popular Sizes**
  - 14 ounces
  - 20 ounces
  - 26 ounces
- 30 ounces
- **25+ Colors, Including:**
  - White
  - Seafoam
  - Sagebush Green
  - Prickly Pear
  - Peak Purple
  - Ice Pink
  - Harvest Red
  - Aquifer Blue
- **Valentine’s Day Edition:**
  - Colors:
    - vibrant Power Pink
    - soft Cherry Blossom
    - bright Tropical Pink
    - deep Rescue Red
  - Order on Yeti.com and order \$50 or more of product to earn free shipping in time for your loved one’s perfect Valentine’s Day gift.

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### **News Program – News Copy Selection**

Use the following material to create your edited newscast. Adding your contestant number, a national sponsor, station identification, and/or transitional material is allowed. You may cut portions, or even all, of a story, but you may not update or paraphrase the news copy. Your edited newscast should consume about 3 minutes of your 5-minute News Program. The material below is the only allowable subject matter for the USI Tournament.

#### **International**

**CORTINA D’AMPEZZO, Italy (AP)** — Ukrainian skeleton athlete Vladyslav Heraskevych, a likely medal contender at the Milan Cortina Games, was barred from racing Thursday after refusing a last-minute plea from the International Olympic Committee to not use a helmet that honors more than 20 athletes and coaches killed in his country’s war with Russia.

The decision came roughly 45 minutes before the start of the competition and ended a three-day saga where Heraskevych knew he was risking being pulled from the Games by wearing the helmet, one that the IOC says breaks rules against making statements on the field of play.

The International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation said his decision to wear the helmet was “inconsistent with the Olympic Charter and Guidelines on Athlete Expression.” He wore the helmet in training, but the IOC asked for him to wear a different helmet in races. It offered concessions, such as wearing a black armband or letting him display the helmet once he was off the ice.

“I believe, deeply, the IBSF and IOC understand that I’m not violating any rules,” Heraskevych said. “Also, I would say (it’s) painful that it really looks like discrimination because many athletes already were expressing themselves. ... They didn’t face the same things. So, suddenly, just the Ukrainian athlete in this Olympic Games will be disqualified for the helmet.”

IOC President Kirsty Coventry, who was slated to be in Cortina d’Ampezzo to see Alpine skiing, went to the sliding center instead to meet Heraskevych. She was waiting at the top of the track when he arrived around 8:15 a.m., and they met privately. After about 10 minutes, Coventry was unable to change Heraskevych’s mind.

“We didn’t find common ground in this regard,” Heraskevych said.

Tears rolled down Coventry’s face after the meeting. The Olympic champion swimmer made clear that she wanted a different outcome, and the IOC said the decision was made with regret.

“As you’ve all seen over the last few days, we’ve allowed for Vladyslav to use his helmet in training,” Coventry said. “No one, no one — especially me — is disagreeing with the messaging. The messaging is a powerful message. It’s a message of remembrance. It’s a message of memory and no one is disagreeing with that. The challenge that we are facing is that we wanted to ask or come up with a solution for just the field of play.”

Coventry and Heraskevych agreed that the helmet isn't clearly visible during races anyway, given that sliders are zipping down the icy chute at around 120 kph (75 mph). That, the IOC hoped, was the window to a compromise. Heraskevych would not budge.

“Sadly, we’ve not been able to come to that solution,” Coventry said. “I really wanted to see him race today. It’s been an emotional morning.”

Heraskevych said he would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, but the race went on without him. The first two runs were Thursday, the last two are Friday. Regardless of what CAS says, if anything, his chance to race in these Games is gone. The IOC is letting him keep his credential, meaning he can remain at the Olympics as an athlete — just not a competing one.

About a dozen Russian athletes are being allowed to compete at the Olympics as neutral individuals along with seven Belarusians. They are not allowed to compete under their national flag or anthem. Heraskevych has spoken out several times about why he believes they shouldn't be at the Olympics and said the IOC's decision “plays along with Russian propaganda.”

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The United Nations said Monday it's waiting to find out how much of the nearly \$4 billion the United States owes the world organization the Trump administration intends to pay and when the money will arrive.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned last week that the world body faces “imminent financial collapse” unless its financial rules are overhauled or all 193 member nations pay their dues, a message clearly directed at the United States.

The U.S. owes \$2.196 billion to the U.N.'s regular operating budget, including \$767 million for this year, according to a U.N. official. The U.S. also owes \$1.8 billion for the separate budget for the U.N.'s far-flung peacekeeping operations, and that also will rise.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations confirmed that U.S. Ambassador Mike Waltz said the Trump administration planned to make a significant down payment on its arrears in a matter of weeks, with the final amount still to be determined. His comments were first reported by Reuters.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters Monday that Guterres has been in touch with Waltz “for quite some time,” and the U.N.'s controller also has been in touch with U.S. officials.

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico's most populous state said Monday it was stepping up health screening at schools and recommended the use of face masks for students and staff as the country confronts a growing measles outbreak.

The decision by Mexico state followed similar measures announced last week in the western state of Jalisco, site of the country's largest outbreak, where masks are now required in the schools of its capital Guadalajara, Mexico's second-largest city.

Through Feb. 6, there were 2,143 confirmed measles cases nationwide and nearly 6,000 suspected cases. Jalisco was home to more than half of Mexico's confirmed cases, but there are confirmed cases from Mexico's northern border to its southern border.

The health department of Mexico state, which hugs Mexico City on three sides, said students' temperatures will be taken at school entrances and the state will push a vaccination campaign.

Measles cases began surging last year in the northern border state of Chihuahua. Officials traced that outbreak that began in March 2025 to an 8-year-old unvaccinated Mennonite boy who visited relatives in Seminole, Texas — at the center of the U.S. outbreak.

The Chihuahua outbreak has since been controlled, but there are confirmed measles cases now in all of Mexico's 32 states.

Mexico state Health Secretary Macarena Montoya Olvera said Monday that the outbreak in the state is under control and that the cases have so far been light. The federal government has confirmed 40 cases there.

Neighboring Mexico City has launched an aggressive vaccination campaign. As of last Friday, there were 166 confirmed cases.

The Pan American Health Organization issued an epidemiological alert last week following a surge of measles cases across the Americas.

Canada lost its measles-free status in November and the same could happen to the United States and Mexico.

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Bad Bunny's Super Bowl halftime performance translated into an immediate surge in global listening, with new data from Apple Music showing sharp gains across streaming charts, playlists and music discovery platforms in the hours following the show.

Apple Music, a Super Bowl halftime show sponsor, said Monday that Bad Bunny's show playlist became the most-played set list on the music streaming platform shortly after the performance. The Puerto Rican superstar went on to dominate the Apple Music Daily Top 100 Global chart, landing 23 songs in the Top 100, including nine in the Top 25 and five in the Top 10. His track "DtMF" rose to No. 1.

Several of the charting songs marked notable returns. Six of the 23 tracks re-entered the daily Top 100 Global for the first time since at least February 2025. His collaboration on the song "I Like It" with Cardi B and J Balvin re-entered the chart for the first time since January 2020.

Apple Music data also showed widespread international momentum. On Monday, Bad Bunny's album "Debí Tirar Más Fotos," appeared on album charts in 155 countries, reaching the Top 10 in 128 countries and hitting No. 1 in 46, including Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, Germany, France and Spain.

In the United States, Apple Music reported that the top cities for Bad Bunny listening over a six-day span were Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Dallas.

Music discovery platform Shazam reflected a similar spike in engagement. Apple Music said his performance Sunday marked the biggest day ever on Shazam for any Latin or non-English-language artist. Across Bad Bunny's catalog, Shazam recognitions increased by more than 400% during and immediately following the halftime show compared to the daily average.

Among the most-Shazamed moments during the performance were "Die with a Smile" featuring Lady Gaga and "Lo Que Le Pasó a Hawaii," with Ricky Martin.

While streaming platforms such as Spotify also report post-event listening trends, Apple Music's data reflects immediate listening and discovery activity captured in the hours following the halftime show. The figures combine streaming behavior with Shazam recognition and geographic patterns, offering an early look at how the performance translated into audience engagement, ahead of broader industry reports that typically follow later.

The surge follows years of growth for Bad Bunny on the platform, according to Oliver Schusser, vice president of Apple Music and Beats.

"We have had the pleasure of working with Bad Bunny since 2016, and watching him grow into this massive global superstar has been incredible and exciting, but not at all surprising," Schusser said. "His fans on Apple Music are very engaged, and I think these numbers reflect his huge influence and impact on music culture."

### **National**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The heads of the agencies carrying out President Donald Trump's mass deportation agenda are testifying in Congress Tuesday and faced questions over how they are prosecuting immigration enforcement inside American cities.

Trump's immigration campaign has been heavily scrutinized in recent weeks, after the shooting deaths in Minneapolis of two protesters at the hands of Homeland Security officers. The agencies have also faced criticism for a wave of policies that critics say trample on the rights of both immigrants facing arrest and Americans protesting the enforcement actions.

Todd Lyons, the acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Rodney Scott, who heads U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Joseph Edlow, who is the director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, will speak in front of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

This is the first time all three have appeared in Congress since the department received a huge infusion of money from Congress last summer and since immigration enforcement operations intensified across the country. The officials are speaking at a time of falling public support for how their agencies are carrying out Trump's immigration vision.

Under Lyons' leadership, ICE has undergone a massive hiring boom and immigration officers have deployed in beefed-up enforcement operations in cities across the country designed to increase arrests and deportations. The appearance in Congress comes as lawmakers are locked in a battle over whether DHS should be funded without restraints placed over its officers' conduct.

The administration says that activists and protesters opposed to its operations are the ones ratcheting up attacks on their officers, not the other way around, and that their immigration enforcement operations are making the country safer by finding and removing people who've committed crimes or pose a threat to the country.

Lyons is likely to face questioning over a memo he signed last year telling ICE officers that they didn't need a judge's warrant to forcibly enter a house to arrest a deportee, a memo that went against years of ICE practice and Fourth Amendment protections against illegal searches.

During Scott's tenure, his agency has taken on a significant role in arresting and removing illegal immigrants from inside the country. That increased activity has become a flashpoint for controversy and marks a break from the agency's traditional job of protecting borders and controlling who and what enters the country.

Under commander Gregory Bovino, a group of Border Patrol agents hopscotched around the country to operations in Los Angeles, Chicago, Charlotte and New Orleans where they were often accused of indiscriminately questioning and arresting people they suspected were in the country illegally. Bovino says his targets are legitimate and identified through intelligence and says that if his officers use force to make an arrest, it's because it's warranted.

A Border Patrol agent and Customs and Border Protection officer both opened fire during the shooting death of Alex Pretti, one of two protesters killed in Minneapolis in January. The other protester, Renee Good, was shot and killed by an ICE officer.

After the Pretti shooting, Bovino was reassigned and Trump sent his border czar Tom Homan to Minneapolis to assume control.

USCIS has also faced criticism for steps it has taken including subjecting refugees already admitted to the U.S. to another round of vetting and pausing decisions on all asylum cases.

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A group of Buddhist monks — bearing a message of peace — walked into the heart of Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, greeted by large, joyful crowds as they completed their 15-week trek from Texas.

In their saffron and maroon robes, the monks became fixtures on social media as they made their way through the southeastern United States, along with their rescue dog Aloka.

Their simple mission, to advocate for peace, has resonated across a beleaguered country — and appeared especially welcome in a city at the center of political strife and power.

Thousands gathered along icy sidewalks to watch the monks' quiet procession that began in late October.

In the afternoon, the monks stopped at the Washington National Cathedral, where they were joined by more than 100 other Buddhist monks and nuns.

“It is overwhelming for us,” said the Venerable Bhikkhu Pannakara, the group’s charismatic and soft-spoken leader, on the steps of the cathedral.

Flanked by dozens of faith leaders across traditions — including Washington Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde, who helped host the interfaith gathering — Pannakara was visibly moved by their shared cause for peace.

“This is the moment I will remember for the rest of my life,” he said. “And I hope you do the same.”

**EL PASO, Texas (AP)** — The Pentagon allowed U.S. Customs and Border Protection to use an anti-drone laser earlier this week, leading the Federal Aviation Administration to suddenly close the airspace over El Paso, Texas, on Wednesday, according to two people familiar with the situation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details.

The confusing arc of events began as the FAA announced it was shutting down all flight traffic over the city on the U.S.-Mexico border for 10 days, stranding some travelers, but the closure ended up only lasting a few hours. The Trump administration said it stemmed from the FAA and Pentagon working to halt an incursion by Mexican cartel drones, which are not uncommon along the southern border.

One of the people said the laser was deployed near Fort Bliss without coordinating with the FAA, which decided then to close the airspace to ensure commercial air safety. Others familiar with the matter said the technology was used despite a meeting scheduled for later this month between the Pentagon and the FAA to discuss the issue.

While the restrictions were short-lived in the city of nearly 700,000 people, it is unusual for an entire airport to shut down even for a short time. Stranded travelers with luggage lined up at airline ticket counters and car rental desks before the order was lifted.

Normal flights resumed after seven arrivals and seven departures were canceled. Some medical evacuation flights also had to be rerouted.

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — Tony Stewart is breaking his NASCAR retirement to drive a Ram truck for the first time at Daytona. UFC boss Dana White is along for the ride.

Also on board? The winner of a competition-based reality show in which drivers competed for a seat at Kaulig Racing in NASCAR’s Truck Series.

Ram’s re-entry to NASCAR for the first time since 2012 is certainly about competing for wins, testing the waters for a Cup Series return and plugging the product.

For Ram CEO Tim Kuniskis, the comeback is just as much about the “craziness we’re trying to bring to the table.”

Ram will race in the third-tier Truck Series alongside rivals Ford, Chevrolet and Toyota. Ram becomes the first new manufacturer to enter NASCAR at the national level since 2007. Kaulig Racing will be Ram’s anchor partner this season, which opens Friday night at Daytona International Speedway.

Ram eschewed the traditional path toward finding a driver for its lineup as it promoted its path back to NASCAR.

Ram and Kaulig launched “Race for the Seat,” an eight-episode reality series that featured 15 drivers competing for a spot on the race team. Ram also announced a partnership with TKO Group — better known as the parent company of UFC, WWE and PBR.

White said he’s pitched almost daily to partner up with some entrepreneurial start up or to have his One Thrill company help raise brand awareness. He almost always says no.

When Kuniskis reached out to White early last year, the idea of a reality show seemed appealing: UFC’s growth early this decade was spurred in part by the “The Ultimate Fighter’s” success and other shows such as the “Contender” series have played a crucial role in turning the MMA company into a billion-dollar business.

White said it was a no-brainer to bring the concept to NASCAR.

“The best always rise to the top,” White said. “The format works. You always find the best guys in the world when you’re doing it. That’s basically what I sold Tim on.”

## **Local**

**EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WFIE)** — USI launched a new app to encourage improved safety on campus.

Officials say the ‘Screagle Watch’ app offers upgraded safety measures. Its main feature is a red emergency help button that when pushed it will alert campus safety officers right to your location. They say the University now has Wi-Fi all across campus making it easier for people to access the app.

Public safety officials say the new app allows them to respond to incidents much faster than before.

“We can be anywhere [on] campus in less than three minutes,” [said] Nathan Devillez, assistant director of USI Public Safety. So we challenge any small city, as we say in a lot of our orientations, to have EMS or law enforcement to your location in less than three minutes and with this app it gives us the ability to do that even faster.”

Before [the] Screagle Watch app, the main way to reach Public Safety was to use blue public safety poles located across campus.

Public Safety officials say they have already seen more people using the app than the public safety poles.

“So we did some research and we did not have one emergency push button on those poles in three years, where daily we’re having someone use the app,” Devillez said.

One student says the app is much more convenient than the public safety poles.

“The old blue poles, you know, you [have] to get to a location, to get to it,” says Caedon Poe. “The phone, if you’re on the ground, if you’re in trouble you can just click it right off the app.”

He says he also likes how the new app consolidates a lot of the features used in previous campus apps.

“I think the new public safety app works really well. Obviously they have the big red button if you’re in trouble. But I think part of that is integrating all the features we used to have with the Rave Alert and the Rave Guardian, putting it all in one feature,” Poe said.

The app also includes many other features such as a friend walk feature.

It allows students to share their location with friends who can track them across campus in real time.

**EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WFIE)** — The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation also held a board meeting Monday night.

The different topics of discussion included a proposal meant to enhance their existing conflict of interest policy.

The board member who proposed it says it’s meant to protect the integrity of the EVSC board by preventing personal, financial, and other interest from influencing official actions.

If a conflict is identified, the affected board member would not be able to discuss, deliberate, or influence the matter.

When the policy went through motion, no one ‘second-ed’ it for it to pass through.

“What I’ll do from here as well, I will probably use some soft diplomacy to see if we can get a better policy that we have already,” says David Hollingsworth, EVSC board member.

He stated he wanted to push for this policy because he promised when he got elected that he would push for more integrity.

**EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WNIN)** — The city of Evansville and several partners have launched a program to improve reading skills. WNIN’s John Gibson has more:

The We Read program was launched yesterday (Wed) on World Read-Aloud Day.

Mayor Stephanie Terry says the goal of the initiative is to help more children read at grade level by the end of the third grade.

Partners include the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, Mattingly Charities, the Mayor's Education Roundtable, and the Evansville Promise Neighborhood.

Mattingly Charities and the YMCA will provide a grant to Promise Neighborhood kids for 13 books.

Terry says We Read is also [supporting] families, churches, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals.

**EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WEVV)** — Evansville Animal Care and Control officials say they are seeing an increase in abandoned pets across Vanderburgh County and are reminding the public that dumping an animal is a crime.

According to shelter officials, several pets have been left in random locations throughout the county. In one recent case, an elderly dog was found abandoned while still wearing its coat and collar. No one ever came to claim the animal.

Under Indiana law, intentionally or recklessly abandoning a vertebrate animal is a Class A misdemeanor. The charge can be elevated to a Level 6 felony for repeat offenders.

“And that is against the law — you can't abandon your pet,” said Missy Mosby, director of Evansville Animal Care and Control. “If for some reason you can't keep your pet and you do need to surrender it, you just need to call us and set up an appointment.”

Mosby said there are safe, legal options for surrendering animals, but leaving them outside the shelter is not one of them.

“Lately it's just been a lot,” Mosby said. “About six or seven weeks ago we pulled up outside here and there was a little cat kennel right there and there was a kitten inside. It had its name and it said, ‘Please take care of this kitten for us.’ And it was just dumped.”

She said even well-intentioned drop-offs can be dangerous for animals.

The shelter is also asking people not to take lost pets home without reporting them. In one case, a dog that went missing in Henderson ended up in Evansville, delaying the reunion because the owner did not know where to look.

“Please don't just house it at your home and not let anybody know,” Mosby said. “You need to make sure you're posting it, letting people know, and we also have a lost and found board here.”

Animal Care and Control offers assistance for pet owners, including pet food, low-cost vaccines, microchipping, and spay and neuter services. The shelter also hosts discount adoption events. An upcoming Valentine's Day special will offer some pets for a \$14 adoption fee.

“And you know, we’re glad to sit down and try to help you with your situation,” Mosby said.

Mosby said anyone who sees someone dumping an animal should take photos if possible and call 911.

Residents interested in adopting a pet, scheduling vaccinations, or seeking pet food assistance can contact Evansville Animal Care and Control directly.

**SPENCER CO., Ind. (WFIE)** — Holiday World says a popular attraction is getting some upgrades this winter.

They shared some rare snowy videos of The Raven - one of their popular wooden roller coasters.

Holiday World officials say about 500 feet of new track is being placed between the fifth drop and the break run.

They say they can’t wait for The Raven to [fly] again.

There are just a few more months until the summer 26 season begins.

Opening day is May 2.

## **WEATHER**

Today — Cloudy with rain developing later in the day. High 52F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 80%

Tonight — Periods of rain. Low 42F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 90%. Rainfall around a half an inch.

Tomorrow — Light rain early. Breaks of sun in the afternoon. High near 55F. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 70%.

Tomorrow Night — A few clouds. Low 32F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

Monday — Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 63F. Nightfall mostly cloudy skies. Low 42F.

Tuesday — Cloudy. High 66F. Low around 55F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.