

# News Stories for Game 6: Break the News to Me So Gentle (5/3/2025)

## JOSIAH WOLFCHAPEL CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OR HELLFIRE

[Land of the Sky News Network \[Tabloid News\] — 4/28/2025 at 8:58 AM](#)

Prominent Evangelical Rev. Josiah Wolfchapel has recently moved to AVL in the aftermath of a number of natural disasters and freak accidents. The television personality has spoken out against the intermittent nature of government aid in the last year and the lack of harsh convictions in the ongoing tragedies that have beset the local community. The southern preacher of humble origins is well known for his popular on TV antics, as well as his flash mob-like congregations. Josiah's entry to the Asheville scene involved a scathing rebuke of local politicians for sitting on their hands, and a reminder that hellfire does not spare the rich or the politically powerful.

## [Content warning: water disruption, boil advisory](#)

This is a City of Asheville Water Department notification. The City of Asheville Water Department is issuing a Boil Water Notice for all City of Asheville Water Department customers.

A Boil Water Notice means there is low pressure in distribution pipes within the City of Asheville Water Department distribution system that increases the risk of airborne bacteria resulting in unsafe drinking water.

It is Required for customers to vigorously boil tap water for 1 minute before consuming it. Once laboratory testing of the system confirms the possibility of risk is not present, customers will receive notification that the boil water notice has been lifted via the same method you received this notice.

## Vandalism at NCSU Lab Sparks Chemical Fire, Kills Guard

[Blue Ridge Observer \[Newspaper\] — 4/29/2025 at 7:21 AM](#)

Dateline: 2024-04-05

GREATER ASHEVILLE, NC – Extensive damage and the death of a security guard resulted from an overnight incident at North Carolina State University's Minerals Research Laboratory (MRL). Authorities responding to automated alarms discovered widespread vandalism throughout the facility, culminating in a significant fire believed to have been accidentally started by the perpetrators. Firefighters battled the blaze, which caused substantial fire and subsequent

water damage from sprinklers, particularly in sensitive research areas. Graffiti attributed to the Appalachian Earth Liberation Front (AELF) was found amidst the destruction.

Investigators are exploring the sequence of events, suggesting that reckless destruction of equipment and chemical storage likely led to an uncontrolled reaction, igniting the fire. The primary motive appears to have been disruption and property damage, targeting specific projects. Attention is focusing on the AELF and several recently dismissed MRL employees who had conflicts with the lab's management regarding its environmental practices and the University's corporate affiliations. The targeted nature of the initial vandalism suggests insider knowledge may have played a role in accessing and damaging key assets before the situation escalated.

The security guard, Dale Henderson of Blue Ridge Security Solutions, was found deceased within the facility. Evidence suggests he confronted the individuals during their act of vandalism and was overcome either in an altercation or by the subsequent fire and fumes. "This is a tragedy born from recklessness and criminal disregard for safety," commented a Blue Ridge Security spokesperson. "Dale Henderson was simply doing his duty. We are working closely with investigators."

The MRL is closed indefinitely while NCSU assesses the damage, ensures the site's safety, and plans for repairs. Local, state, and federal agencies are collaborating on the investigation, treating it as a major crime potentially involving domestic extremist elements. The incident underscores the dangers of unsecured chemicals and the potentially lethal consequences of politically motivated vandalism, leaving the university and local community deeply concerned.

The Appalachian Earth Liberation Front (AELF), previously noted for its fringe online presence and somewhat whimsical 'forest elf' mascot, has now captured serious federal attention. Authorities reported that the final message appearing on the group's website before it was taken offline stated: "Even the stones cry out when they're broken, and the mountain remembers every wound. The lab needed a time-out while they reconsider their use of shovels and pickaxes." In light of the deadly incident at the MRL, the FBI has officially designated the AELF a domestic terrorist group. Law enforcement sources confirm they are actively seeking the purported leader, identified as Silas "Greenwood" Vance, for questioning. Vance and other key figures associated with the AELF are believed to have absconded as the investigation ramps up.

## [AVL Fringe \[Podcast\] — 4/29/2025 at 4:56 PM](#)

"Listeners, I've been hearing strange things happening out in Leicester. Our usually sleepy town has been far more active than usual for a period when Mercury isn't retrograde and the fire signs are inactive. Despite that rumors have reached this news network's desk that there was a tornado in Leicester. And it wasn't just any tornado, it was a fantasma tronada."

The AVL Fringe Cast intro music plays.

“This week, I’m joined by Calvert Cooke, calling in from Berkley, CA. Calvert, are you on the line.”

“Yes, I am, I’m here, thanks for having me. I’ve been listening to AVL Fringe Cast for a long time, it’s a thrill.”

“Right back at you, it’s a thrill to speak with an expert such as yourself. I’ll skip your bona fides and link to your CV and website in the show notes. Let’s just dive right into what happened here last month.”

“Yeah, for sure. So I happened to be visiting the area to do some field work on Chicken Alley with my brother-in-law, who is a storm chaser. He told me that something was happening out in Leicester, and he asked if I wanted to come along. I’ve never storm chased before, so it was supposed to be a bonding thing. Well when we got out there it was clear that it was more than just a storm, it was a fantasma tronada. We actually saw lightning in the shapes of human spirits and ghosts stretched out like lightning bolts inside of what would have otherwise been a remarkable tornado all on its own.”

“You say it was remarkable all on its own. What do you mean?”

“Well, there was no preceding event that would have formed the tornado. In fact, my hypothesis is that the ghosts made the tornado, rather than meteorology kicking up the spirits. It’s happened before, but it’s rare.”

*The podcast devolves into personal anecdotes and questionable science.*

## Challenge Accepted! Utilities Compete in Softball Tournament

[Land of the Sky News Network \[Tabloid News\] — 4/30/2025 at 5:32 PM](#)

ASHEVILLE, NC - Four Western North Carolina utility companies will compete head to head to head to head in a softball tournament held at Memorial Stadium downtown on May 3, 2025.

Duke Energy, City of Asheville Water Department, Enbridge Gas, and Skyrunner Internet will square off in what some are calling the Tournament of ‘Tilities. The contest is sponsored by Enbridge Gas as they take over the regional natural gas distribution.

“Asheville is a beautiful city with a rich heritage, and we wanted to introduce ourselves to the city with a little whimsy and fun,” said Stacey Silverwater, spokesperson for Enbridge. “We’re bringing our best to WNC, and we’re bringing the heat this Saturday.”

Residents have been lukewarm to the idea, and several joke at the companies’ expense. Popular themes include whether or not ticket prices to the tournament will increase without warning or justification, whether the City of Asheville Water Department will text, email, and call residents with play by play, and whether Duke Energy will bribe the umpire.

“I’m just glad people finally think of internet as a utility,” said the most upvoted comment on Asheville’s subreddit.

## [AVL Fringe \[Podcast\] — 5/1/2025 at 7:12 AM](#)

"Listeners, we've been listening to the messages you send, reading tea leaves, and consulting the bones. It seems that most of the citizens in our fair city are worried about crime. There's a lot of crime out there, and people want answers. Some want justice, but our listeners are known to prioritize discovery and truth. That's why today we're going to talk about Big Foot."

"When we look at the evidence, it's clear that Big Foot is at the root of all of these issues we've seen in our town. Turned over trash cans, especially this time of year, are consistent with the creatures being hungry and roaming for food. The broken up cars and motorcycles are clearly reflective of our society encroaching on their natural habitat. The broken down streetlights are a little tougher to explain, but one listener recently sent in the hypothesis that the lights are affecting their movement and navigational abilities."

"Why is the city wasting our tax dollars on anti-crime initiatives, when the solution is not only simpler, but also more humane? Why won't our local politicians acknowledge the truth? We don't need armed police officers roaming our streets and disrupting the crepuscular patterns of local fauna."

"To comment on this, we're joined by Carlile Swimming to discuss alternatives to policing and how to set up a community watch so that you can ensure that these harmless animals are not disrupting your communities with their perfectly natural patterns."

## Construction Permits Reveal O'Tolley's Coming to Asheville

### [Land of the Sky News Network \[Tabloid News\] — 5/1/2025 7:03 PM](#)

Popular fast food chain O'Tolley's is coming to Biltmore Village. After a tip on the r/Asheville subreddit said that the city issued a construction permit for an O'Tolley's, locals quickly figured out the address and future home of the fast food giant. Mere days later, a sign was put up declaring to all who drove and walked by that they would soon have even more options in their dinner routines.

Everyone on social media is hungry for O'Tolley Burgers, Big O's (onion rings), The Belle Tolls (grilled chicken salad), O'Tolley's Floats (soft serve ice cream with cola, orange soda, or seasonal flavors like ginger ale), and much more.

"Please O'Tolleys!!!" read one social media post, "it's one of my secret personal loves..."

"oh lordy! O'Tolleys!!! Great" read another.

The excitement is palpable, and residents are already wondering what other businesses are looking to enter the area.

"I am surprised Kings isn't skulking about."

# Man Found Dead at Work, Silver Poisoning

[Blue Ridge Observer \[Newspaper\] — 5/2/2025 at 7:17 AM](#)

ASHEVILLE, NC - Anthony Louis Mandrea, 54, was found dead at this South Asheville store from an apparent silver poisoning. Mandrea had owned and operated Silver Linings Silversmithy on Hendersonville Road for more than 30 years.

“He was prolific,” said Benjamin Erisoglu, who manages the neighboring David’s Bridal. “We would send him clients every few days, and everyone who went to see him was always amazed at how quickly he was able to turn things over. He had a knack for working out of his inspiration and moving on to the next artistic piece. He never lingered on work.”

Silver poisoning is rare, but it can occasionally happen after an increased exposure to the metal. According to the Mayo Clinic, acute silver poisoning is rare and requires ingesting of large amounts of silver, but chronic exposure can lead to a build up that becomes toxic to the body.

Mandrea’s family are planning an exhibit and auction in the River Arts District next month to raise funds for the family and employees of Silver Linings Silversmithy. “Jewelry jobs in Asheville are scarce, even for an artistic town,” said Brittany Nantes, assistant store manager. “Retail’s always an option, but we’re skilled when it comes to silver. Who else did what Anthony did?”

Mandrea is survived by his wife and three children. In lieu of flowers, the family requested friends and loved ones donate to Habitat for Humanity of Asheville.