



## Five NFL teams that could stumble early

SPORTS, 1B

# The Register-Mail

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## HE WAS HAILED A HERO



Mark Winger, second from right, is arrested by Springfield Police Officer Rodney Groth, Sgt. Doug Williamson and Det. Jim Graham in August 2001. THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER FILE PHOTO

## Then Mark Winger flipped the script

**Steven Spearie**  
Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – State Journal-Register courts reporter Chris Dettro was in the newsroom on Aug. 29, 1995, when he heard first details of a shooting in a quiet neighborhood on Springfield’s near west side.

It involved Mark Winger, who had

shot to death an intruder who was purportedly beating his wife in the head with a hammer.

“I’m (thinking), that’s a little bit like a TV movie, isn’t it?” Dettro recalled. “Of course, when it flipped, it’s like, there’s a TV movie.”

That “flip” happened when Winger, a nuclear engineer for the State of Illinois, later became a suspect in the deaths of his wife, Donnah Winger,

and limousine driver Roger Harrington.

Winger was charged with the murders in 2001 and convicted the next year. He is serving a life sentence at a prison in Mt Sterling.

The sensational case, which had a number of plot twists and turns, did become fodder for a parade of TV shows, including “48 Hours Mystery,” “Forensic Files,” “Final Witness” and “20/20,” which aired a two-hour spe-

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## Lawmaker: Epstein briefing will be ‘explosive’

Says accusers’ accounts will force vote on files

**Maureen Groppe**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – An upcoming news conference with accusers of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein could be “explosive,” predicts one of the congressmen pushing for full release of the files on Epstein.

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-California, said the accusers’ accounts will force lawmakers to vote on a bill requiring the Justice Department to release its files.

Khanna and Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky – who are co-leading the effort – need 218 signatures to make that happen. With all 212 Democrats backing the effort, only six Republicans need to sign on, Khanna said on NBC’s “Meet the Press with Kristen Welker.”

“What will be explosive is the Sept. 3 press conference that both of us are having with 10 Epstein victims, many

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Khanna



Massie

## Man wanted in Shafer’s murder arrested in Mexico

**Steven Spearie**  
Springfield State Journal-Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Mexican national wanted in connection with the 2023 murder of a well-known Springfield activist and community organizer has been apprehended in Mexico.

Sangamon County State’s Attorney John Milhiser, the Springfield Police Department, and the U.S. Marshals Ser-



Shafer

vice announced via a news release on Aug. 28 that Gabriel Calixto-Pichardo, 27, was caught. Calixto-Pichardo was indicted by a grand jury on three counts of first-degree murder and one count of aggravated domestic battery for the fatal stabbing of Emma Shafer, 24, at her apartment in the 1000 block of South Eighth Street on July 11, 2023.

Milhiser, reached by The State Journal-Register Thursday afternoon, would not say specifically where Calixto-Pichardo was caught.

The Sangamon County State’s Attorney’s Office is working with federal authorities to coordinate extradition proceedings.

Milhiser did not immediately lay out a timeline for when Calixto-Pichardo might return.

Calixto-Pichardo was Shafer’s for-

mer boyfriend who shared a residence with her at the time of the stabbing.

“Relieved,” was how Shafer’s mother, Cathy Schwartz, felt, speaking to the SJ-R, heading into a Routed in Springfield meeting, a non-profit organization started in Shafer’s memory.

Routed in Springfield provides fresh, affordable food to Springfield economically-challenged areas on the east side,

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