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# The Gleaner

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | THE GLEANER



PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



**Dredon Nunn speaks to reporters on Feb. 9. Nunn's father, Everett Nunn, was shot and killed by an Evansville police officer on Nov. 22, 2025.** HOUSTON HARWOOD/EVANSVILLE COURIER & PRESS

## Everett Nunn's son calls on local officials to 'speak out'

**Houston Harwood**  
 Evansville Courier & Press  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — An oversight commission announced on Monday it had completed a review of the internal Evansville Police Department inquiry into the Nov. 22, 2025, killing of Everett Nunn by a city police officer.

Denise Johnson-Kincaid, a member of Evansville's Police Merit Commission, briefly referenced the Nunn case during a regularly scheduled meeting, saying only that the board had "received and reviewed" the EPD's administrative investigation, which found that EPD Officer Nicholas Helfert did not violate policy or procedure when he shot and killed Nunn, 58, after responding to a domestic dispute at Nunn's East Louisiana Street residence.

According to police, Nunn held a replica firearm in the moments before Helfert opened fire at close range from inside the cramped, dimly lit home. The all-black replica turned out to have been a novelty "smoking pipe," an EPD official said in November, not a real firearm.

Helfert's body-worn camera footage, which the department published days after the shooting, appeared to show Nunn dropping the replica pistol after declaring, "It's not a gun," just before Helfert fired the first shot.

Evansville Police Chief Phil Smith an-



**Evansville Police Department spokesman Sgt. Anthony Aussieker holds the replica handgun, what he described as a smoking pipe, that 58-year-old Everett Nunn reportedly held before a city police officer shot and killed him Nov. 22, 2025.** HOUSTON HARWOOD/COURIER & PRESS

nounced the department had cleared Helfert of potential policy violations in a Feb. 3 video statement. The Merit Commission, which oversees officer discipline among other police-related affairs, has not challenged or disputed the findings of the internal investigation.

A separate criminal investigation into Nunn's killing, also conducted by EPD personnel, is now in the hands of Vanderburgh County Prosecutor Diana

Moers, whose office is tasked with determining whether Helfert could or should face criminal charges.

The parallel reviews were carried out amid substantial public interest in the case and after repeated calls from Nunn's family for the city to shift course and appoint an outside law enforcement agency, such as the Indiana

**See NUNN, Page 2A**

## Sheriff will seek to fire deputy accused of DUI

**Sarah Loesch and Houston Harwood**  
 Evansville Courier & Press  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — Vanderburgh County Sheriff Noah Robinson said he'll seek to fire a deputy arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated last weekend.

Evan Luigs, 30, was arrested Sunday and booked into the Vanderburgh County Jail after the sheriff's office and Indiana State Police responded to a two-vehicle collision near U.S. 41 and Ruffian Way. Luigs was off-duty at the time, officials said.

Luigs' arrest marked the second time in just over a year that he was found to have been involved in an alcohol-related incident, according to the sheriff's office. Following the collision Sunday, Luigs allegedly smelled of alcohol and exhibited signs of impairment.

"Luigs refused to perform standardized field sobriety tests at the scene and declined chemical testing both at the accident site and again at the Vanderburgh County Jail," the sheriff's office stated in a news release.

Under Indiana law, motorists are obligated to submit to blood-alcohol tests.

Luigs faces one count of operating a vehicle while intoxicated with endangerment, a Class A Misdemeanor, and an infraction for failing to yield right-of-way in a collision, according to court records. Superior Court Magistrate Donald Vowels ordered Luigs' license suspended for one year due to his alleged refusal to take a blood-alcohol test.

Luigs was released from jail Monday after posting a \$250 bond with an order to appear in court March 2. He has pleaded not guilty. It was not immediately clear if Luigs had retained an attorney.

Regarding sheriff's office discipline, Luigs will be suspended without pay for 15 days, according to Robinson, who said he will also file a written recommendation to the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Merit Board seeking Luigs' firing.

The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 73, which represents Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office deputies and Evansville police officers, had not issued a statement regarding the disciplinary

**See LUIGS, Page 2A**

## Coroner: Pedestrian fatally hit on interstate was 14-year-old boy

**Jon Webb**  
 Evansville Courier & Press  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE — The pedestrian struck and killed by a vehicle while walking in the roadway of Interstate 69 early Monday morning was a 14-year-old boy.

The Vanderburgh County Coroner's

office identified the victim as Nathan Thomas Snyder, of Newburgh.

According to the sheriff's office, dispatchers fielded a call about a person walking in the road just west of the Covert Avenue exit a few minutes after midnight Monday. Soon after, a 911 caller said the person had been hit.

When deputies responded to the scene, they found a white Ford Edge

parked on the shoulder. The driver cooperated with authorities and submitted to a drug and alcohol screen. No foul play is suspected in the collision.

Snyder was pronounced dead at the scene, the coroner's office stated. The Courier & Press has reached out to Sheriff Noah Robinson to ask if investigators know why Snyder was on the road.

In a Facebook post Monday, Pastor Stephen Russ of FaithWay Baptist Church said Snyder was a member of the congregation there. He's the second child at FaithWay to die after being struck by a vehicle in the past few months. In September, 12-year-old Allison Moon Lowery was fatally hit by a semi while trying to cross Indiana 66 on her bicycle.

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