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Last Week's News

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

Because we've been on vacation for a couple of weeks, this **Last Week's News** actually covers news and current events that have occurred since mid-December.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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QUESTIONS

1. As 2025 came to a close, the Pacific Northwest and western Canada experienced disastrous flooding due to a meteorological phenomenon called “an atmospheric ...” What?
2. Can you name two of the three US cities where President Trump had to remove federal troops due to several court rulings that the deployments were illegal?
3. Why are an increasing number of musicians, dancers, and actors cancelling show dates they were previously committed to in Washington DC.?
4. In a mid-December antisemitic terror attack, fifteen people were killed and dozens were injured as they were celebrating the first night of Hanukkah on this Australian beach.
5. The 32-year-old son of this beloved film director is being held without bail in connection with the murder of his parents at their home in the Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles.
6. The body of a man believed to have carried out the mass shooting at Brown University was discovered in a storage locker in this state, about 85 miles north of Providence.
7. In an explosive series of interviews, published in *Vanity Fair* in late December, this highly trusted White House insider said that the president had an “alcoholic’s personality,” and that the vice president was a conspiracy theorist.
8. Anthony Geary died in December at the age of 78. He was one-half of the supercouple Luke and Laura on this daytime soap opera.
9. A fast-moving fire swept through a bar during New Year’s Eve celebrations in this country, killing at least 40 people.
10. This French actress, sex symbol, and ultimately, a dedicated animal rights activist, died in Saint-Tropez last week at age 91.
11. New York City’s new mayor, Zohran Mamdani, was sworn in twice – first in a private ceremony on New Year’s Eve, and then in a public ceremony on New Year’s Day. Can you name one of the two officials chosen to swear Mamdani in?
12. American troops staged a raid in this Venezuela capital city capturing President Nicolas Madura and his wife.

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ANSWERS

1. River. An atmospheric river is a narrow, elongated band in the atmosphere that transports very large amounts of water vapor from the tropics toward the poles. They are crucial for replenishing water supplies, but can (and do) cause severe flooding.
2. Los Angeles, Chicago, and Portland (OR)
3. The artists are protesting the unilateral decision of the Trump-installed board of directors to change the name of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to add Donald Trump's name.
4. Bondi Beach in Sydney
5. Rob Reiner. Nick Reiner, who is accused of stabbing to death his father and mother, Michele, appeared in court in mid-December but did not enter a plea. His arraignment is scheduled for January 7, 2026.
6. The shooter's dead body was found in Salem, New Hampshire. He was also connected to the December 2025 murder of an MIT physics professor just outside of Boston, MA.
7. Susie Wiles, the White House Chief of Staff
8. *General Hospital*
9. Switzerland
10. Brigitte Bardot
11. Letitia James, the Attorney General of New York swore Mamdani in at the private ceremony. Senator Bernie Sanders swore him in at the public ceremony outside of New York's City Hall on New Year's Day.
12. Caracas