

The Commercial Review

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\$1

Order seeks to boost women's health

Effort includes more research, expanded collection of data

By ALICIA DIAZ
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The Biden administration is rolling out an executive order to strengthen women's health research standards across federal agencies and prioritize its funding in an effort to close the gap on long-standing disparities.

As part of the order, the National Science Foundation and Department of Health and Human Services are instructed to research ways to use artificial intelligence toward advancing women's health research. It also directs the HHS to expand data collection on women's midlife health and launch an agenda that can guide investments toward menopause-related research.

Women's health research has faced disparities for decades, from funding to trials. Women are historically underrepresented in clinical and research trials. A 2021 study in the Journal of Women's Health concluded that the National Institutes of Health's funding pattern favors males in nearly three-quarters of the cases where a disease primarily afflicts one gender.

"While we've made tremendous progress in the last few decades, from revolutionary discoveries in certain disorders affecting women, to increasing the number of women enrolled in clinical trials, we still know too little about how to effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat a wide array of health conditions," said Carolyn Mazure, chair of the White House Initiative on Women's Health Research.

Classic quartet



Photo provided

Instant Classic — from left, Kohl Kitzmiller, Kyle Kitzmiller, Theo Hicks and David Zimmerman — will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday at Arts Place to close the 2024 Eric R. Rogers Performance Series. Hicks's wife Laura is a rural Portland native and Jay County High School graduate. Tickets for the show are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at myartsplace.org, by calling (260) 726-4809 or by visiting Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Award-winning barbershop group with a local connection will perform Thursday at Arts Place

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Theo Hicks has worked at the arts center in his wife's hometown.

He's seen many shows there. He's even performed there before.

Thursday will mark his first time on stage at Arts Place with his Barbershop Harmony International Quartet Championship-winning group, Instant Classic, which will perform at 7 p.m. in Hall-Moser Theatre.

"It's nice to be back," said Hicks, a Michigan native whose wife Laura is a Jay County High School graduate and rural Portland native. "It's nice to be there in her hometown."

"It's just great. It's kind of like just coming home to do a performance."

Instant Classic (instantclassicquartet.com) is closing the 2024 Eric R. Rogers Performance Series that also featured cellist/vocalist Gabriel Royal and magician Jon Mobley. The group will bring the barbershop style to the stage with a variety of tunes from vocal jazz to musical theatre to pop to R&B.

One of the tunes it is known for is "You Gotta Change Parts," a medley based on the tune "Heart" from the musical "Damn Yankees."

"It's just us being kind of dumb," he said. "It's really great."

Another popular song that is on the set list for Thursday night — tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at myartsplace.org, by calling (260) 726-4809 or at Arts

Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland — is the group's rendition of Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love." It also performs songs from popular musicals, Disney movies like "Toy Story" and artists including Billy Joel.

"One of the cool things about barbershop is it's a uniquely American art form," Hicks said. "So we sing a wide variety of music."

"It's a lot of different genres, but in the barbershop style. That's one of the unique things about the performance is that barbershop isn't so much a performance as it's a style. So you'll hear a lot of different genres."

Each of the members of the quartet developed a love for barbershop music at a young age and they came together when Hicks (lead vocals) was in col-

lege at Anderson University. He developed a friendship with Kyle Kitzmiller (bass) — he and his brother Kohl (baritone) were born into barbershop through their father, Scott — who had another friend in David Zimmerman (tenor). Kyle brought his friends and brother together just to sing for fun.

They joined Indianapolis barbershop chorus Circle City Sound and became part of the Barbershop Harmony Society, which has an international convention each year. Being the competitive sort, they started taking part in the Barbershop Harmony International Quartet Championship at the organization's annual international convention each summer.

In 2015, they won.

See Classic page 2



The Commercial Review/Sam Murdock

Bunny buddy

Resident Marilyn Pearson shakes hands with the Easter Bunny on Saturday afternoon. The visit was part of the annual community Easter egg hunt at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre in Portland.

Agreements banned

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Cities, towns and other governments have long entered into sister-city agreements meant to foster economic and cultural exchanges. But Indiana lawmakers this year slipped a new prohibition blocking locals from joining cooperative agreements with communities in six "foreign adversary" countries into a bill that originally dealt with property taxes.

Proponents maintain the ban is meant to be retroactive, but not everyone thinks it would invalidate the 20-plus existing agreements involving Hoosier municipalities. And it doesn't affect Indiana's own sister-state agreement with Chinese province Zhejiang.

State blocking sister cities in 'foreign adversary' countries

The proposal was finalized and signed into law just over a month after the Washington Post detailed China's renewed focus on diplomacy with local U.S. leaders — featuring a trip former Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard took to China. During that tour, Brainard ratified a sister-city agreement with Xiangyang.

Security-conscious lawmakers applauded the ban. It occupies a scant 11 lines in the 112-page House Enrolled Act 1120, which

now tackles state and local administration.

"The (Chinese Communist Party) pushes sister city agreements to get a foothold here, not to help Indiana," U.S. Rep. Jim Banks of Indiana said in a statement to the Capital Chronicle. "I'm glad that state lawmakers are focused on ridding Communist Party influence from our state, whether that means banning (agricultural) land purchases or cooperative agreements with our foremost adversary."

Deaths

Wilma Link, 83, Fort Recovery
Beverly Jeffers, 90, Albany
Wayne Bickel, 81, Geneva
Judy Baumgartner, 78, Perrysville, Ohio
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 43 degrees Sunday. The low was 34.

The forecast calls for a low in the lower 30s tonight with winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with windy conditions and a high of 40.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County High School Marching Patriots are collecting items for those impacted by Thursday's tornado in Winchester. Donations will be collected in the band room through Wednesday.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Jay School Board meeting.

Thursday — Eclipse activities are planned across the region.



Classic ...

Continued from page 1
 "Since then we've just had the joy of performing all over the world," said Hicks, a professor and director of choral activities at Anderson University. "We've just had a blast. What started as just four really good friends just singing ... We won the contest and then all these other opportunities started popping up. It's been really, really cool."

Instant Classic has performed in almost all 50 states as well as Australia, Canada, Sweden and the United Kingdom. In the fall, the group made a visit to New Zealand. Hicks, Zimmerman and the Kitzmillers also opened for the NBC show "The Sing Off" during a live show in Indianapolis and has performed on "The Today Show."

And while the group is still more of a hobby for the members — Zimmerman is a piano technician, Kyle Kitzmiller is a website designer and Kohl Kitzmiller works as an arranger, producer and sound engineer — it continues to fulfill them musically. It's also built bonds beyond friendship, with a family atmosphere in which all of the guys serve as

uncles' to the others' children, Hicks said.
 "That's been kind of the coolest thing of all is that we can make some great music with our family," he added. He's hopeful that all who attend Thursday will come with family. (Refreshments will begin being served at 6 p.m.) "It's a family show," said Hicks, who'll be bringing daughter

Nora along to visit with grandparents Pete and Lisa Vogler. "We want to encourage everybody to bring the whole family. It's a show for everywhere from 9 months to 95. I think everyone's going to have a little something in this performance. There's something for everybody. If you want a good hour of fun music, some laughs, come on by. It's going to be a good time."

CR almanac

Wednesday 3/20	Thursday 3/21	Friday 3/22	Saturday 3/23	Sunday 3/24
42/21	40/31	48/30	46/29	52/41
Wednesday's forecast shows sunny skies with wind gusts reaching up to 30 mph.	Mostly sunny on Thursday. At night, there's a chance of rain and snow.	Rain and snow could continue into Friday with a 30% chance of precipitation.	Saturday looks to be mostly sunny, with a high around 46 degrees.	Another chance of rain on Sunday. Otherwise, mostly sunny.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$645 million	51-57-58-71-74-78 Cash 5: 5-14-27-28-33 Estimated jackpot: \$121,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$875 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-9-7 Pick 4: 2-9-6-9 Pick 5: 4-5-1-2-0 Evening Pick 3: 3-2-2 Pick 4: 9-2-2-2 Pick 5: 7-6-6-9-2 Rolling Cash 5: 3-8-19-21-30 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 7-8-9 Daily Four: 2-3-5-0 Evening Daily Three: 1-1-6 Daily Four: 0-9-0-8 Quick Draw: 3-4-8-9-12-14-15-31-32-35-38-41-46-50	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.30 April corn4.30 Wheat4.17	April beans11.74 Wheat 5.13
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.36 April corn4.38 May corn4.41	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.13 April corn4.16 Beans11.71 April beans11.75 Wheat4.97
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.24 April corn4.22 Beans11.71	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.26 April corn4.26 Beans11.52 April beans11.57 Wheat4.67

Today in history

In 1860, William Jennings Bryan was born in Salem, Illinois. Bryan served as a Nebraska representative in Congress from 1891 to '95 and was known for his religious beliefs and popularity, earning him the nickname "The Great Com-
In 1918, United States president Woodrow Wilson established Daylight Savings Time when he signed the Standard Time Act.
In 1931, Nevada legalized gambling. The measure led to casinos cropping up around the state, including the development of Las Vegas' gambling scene.
In 1962, Bob Dylan released his first self-titled album. Some of his notable songs include "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are a-Changin'", which became anti-war movement anthems.
In 1996, a fire swept

through a Manila dis-copetoeque in the Philip-pines, killing 159 of the people inside. The night club was only meant to hold 35 people but had crammed 400 inside for the evening.
In 2003, the Iraq War began when United States president George W. Bush sent air strikes on Baghdad.
In 2020, during the beginning of the coron-avirus pandemic, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced all Indiana schools would be closed until May 1 in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. The same day, the Indiana High School Athletic Association also announced corresponding adjustments to the spring sport schedule. The United States Labor Department also reported 281,000 Amer-icans had filed for unemployment the week prior.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, air-port, 661 W. 100 North.	Commissioners, auditor-ium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.
Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Mooney St.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County	

Obituaries

Wilma Link

Dec. 20, 1930-March 17, 2024
 Wilma Mary Link, 93, of Fort Recovery passed away on Sunday, March 17, 2024, at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

She was born on Dec. 20, 1930, in St. Henry, Ohio, to the late Gregor and Mary (Kramer) Goettemoeller.

In addition to her parents, Wilma was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Link, whom she married on Nov. 28, 1953, and who passed away on Nov. 14, 2010; two children, Leonard (infant) and Bernard (stillborn); her granddaughter-in-law, Alica Shier; her great grandsons, Theodore Fleck and Noah Miller; her sib-
 lings, Fr. Leonard Goettemoeller C.P.P.S., Mildred and Raymond Wuebker, Harold and Dolores Goettemoeller, Alvin and Verena Goettemoeller, Edna and Norbert Kremer, Ivo and Esther Goettemoeller, and Marie and George Minnich; her in-laws, Aloys and Cleopha Link, Rudy and Mary Link, Sr. Jean Link S.F.P., Eugene and Marilyn Fullenkamp, Elmer Link, and Eugene Reinhard.



Link

Wilma is survived by her children, Mary Jane (Eugene) Homan of New Bremen, Ohio, Kathleen (James) Riethman of New Bremen, Daniel (Nancy) Link of Portland, Robert (Sharon) Link of Fort Recovery, Linda (Rich) Shier of Fort Recovery, David (Marie) Link of Fort Recovery, Teresa (Steven) Smith of Springboro, Ohio, and Carol (James) Knapke of Fort Recovery; her 40 grandchildren; 64 great-grandchildren, with two on the way; her sister-in-law, Marlene Minnich of Portland; her in-laws, Phyllis Link of Coldwater, Edna Reinhard of Plainfield; and Sr. Ade-

laide Link S.F.P. of Cincinnati; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wilma was a 1948 graduate of St. Henry High School. She spent her life as a homemaker, raising her beloved family. She was a devout Catholic and a member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, the Altar-Rosary Sodality and the Daughters of Isabella. In her free time, Wilma enjoyed cross stitching, playing games and making her "famous" homemade cinnamon rolls.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Guests may visit with Wilma's family on Friday, March 22, 2024, from 2 until 7 p.m. and again on Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery. A Daughters of Isabella prayer service will begin at 6:45 p.m. on Friday.

Memorial contributions may be given to EverHeart Hospice or the Center for Neurological Develop-
 ment.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Beverly Jeffers

Nov. 17, 1933-March 17, 2024
 Beverly S. Jeffers, age 90, Albany, died Sunday, March 17, 2024, at Morrison Woods Legacy in Muncie.

Born in Niles Township on Nov. 17, 1933, she grew up near Albany and was a 1951 graduate of Albany High School. She was an office assistant for Dr. Schindel, DDS, for 28 years and Dr. Nowakowski, DDS, for 11 years before retiring. Beverly belonged to Union Chapel Min-
 istries and was a member of Delta Theta Tau sorority.

Survivors include a son, Robert D. Jeffers, Mesa, Arizona; daughter Cheryl Hatch (husband: Jeff), Dunkirk; companion Don Romine, Albany; grandchild-
 ren Whitney Carr (husband: Nick), Bloomington, Drake Hatch (wife: Lauren), Daleville, Rob Jeffers (wife: Savina), Fresno, California, and Pearl Jeffers, Fresno, California; and great-grandchildren Hud-son Carr, Langley Carr, Drew Hatch and Avery Hatch.

She was preceded in death by her husband of nearly 56 years, Robert E. "Bob" Jeffers, who died in 2006; parents Howard and Helen (Bergdoll) Bullock; brothers Richard Bullock and Kenneth Bullock; and a sister Marjorie Selvey.

Services will be 1 p.m. Friday, March 22, 2024, at Meacham Funer-
 al Service with burial at Gardens of Memory Cemetery.

Visitation is Thursday from 5 until 7 p.m. and one hour prior to the service on Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials, in memory of Beverly, may be sent to the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences and other expres-
 sions of sympathy may be given at MeachamFuneralService.com.

Judith "Judy" K. (Caffee) Baumgartner, Perrysville, Ohio, a Geneva High School graduate, July 8, 1945-March 15, 2024. Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

Wayne J. Bickel, Geneva, July 31, 1942-March 16, 2024. Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Wash-
 ington St., Geneva.

Capsule Reports

Hit and run

A Bryant man was arrested for leaving the scene of an accident after he allegedly struck a Fort Wayne man's car along U.S. 27 in Jay County about 10:12 a.m. Satur-
 day.

Bruce H. Finke, 73, told police he was driving his 2013 Toyota Sienna north on the highway near county road 300 North when a 2006 Toyota Rav4 sideswiped his driver's side. Finke said the vehicle had been "driving recklessly at a high speed," according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, and "swerving all over the roadway into incoming traffic."

The vehicle, located in Bryant, was occupied by 38-year-old Juan Carlos Hernandez. He told police he had been drinking and he smelled of alcohol, had balance

issues and had bloodshot eyes, according to the report. Hernandez refused a blood alcohol test.

Carlos Hernandez was prelimi-narily charged with two Class B misdemeanors for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident. (According to the report, he had also been driving without a license.)

He was being held on a \$1,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

The vehicle he was driving is registered to Maurina De La Cruz Hernan of Portland. Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Pole hit

A Portland man lost control of the vehicle he was driving, caus-
 ing him to crash into a pole along

county road 150 East about 8:09 p.m. Sunday.

Jonah M. Southworth, 18, was driving north on the road just north of county road 400 North when he lost control of the back of the 2001 Ford Ranger he was driving. He told police he overcorrected, causing the vehicle to go off the east side of the road and hit a utility pole in Linda Imel's yard. The pole broke and fell into the road, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, causing power lines to fall across the road.

American Electric Power removed the pole and wires from the road. The vehicle Southworth was driving — it's registered to Kaela S. Ragon of Winchester — was towed.

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Felony arrests

Probation violation

A Redkey man was arrested Friday for violating his probation.

Thomas L. Wright, 28, 9447 W. 700 South, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to operating a vehicle as a habit-
 ual traffic offender, a Level 6 felony.

He was sentenced to 545 days in Jay

County Jail with 541 days suspended and given four days credit for time served.

A petition alleging he violated the conditions of his probation was filed in court March 13.

Wright was released from Jay County Jail on a \$600 bond.

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SERVICES

Today
Franch, Dennis: 1 p.m., Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

Wednesday
Bickel, Wayne: 10 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
Wissler, Mark: 11 a.m., Fellowship Baptist Church, 2204 S. Macedonia Ave., Muncie.

Friday
Jeffers, Beverly: 1 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Saturday
Link, Wilma: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharp-sburg Road, Fort Recovery.
Baumgartner, Judith: 2 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by **PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS**
 120 N. Meridian St.
 Portland, Indiana 47371
 (260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

There's no love lost with pregnancy labors

By **CHRIS SCHANZ**
The Commercial Review

We just want it to be over. Chrissy's pregnancy has been anything but a breeze.

Almost as expected, the morning sickness started not long after we found out we were pregnant. And "morning sickness," despite its name, isn't relegated to the time of day before noon.

It can strike at any time. It can strike often.

Such was the case during the first trimester; the first 13 weeks of gestation. It struck first after one of our more common meals.

One evening after we both returned home from work and not really in the mood to cook a full meal, we opted for the quick, Italian staple of spaghetti.

A few bites in, she ran to the bathroom. By her

Parental Ponderings



side, I did my best to console her during this initial bout. I cooled a towel and put it on the back of her neck in hopes of soothing her.

We haven't eaten spaghetti since.

Her "episodes," as I'll call them, were by no means regular. We never knew what would trigger them, either.

We learned quickly, however, lack of eating led to nausea and could cause an episode. Bumpy rides in a car might spawn them too.

It was almost like a ticking time bomb.

As we had been told by

our many other mother-friends — mind you, we're not exactly the "traditional" age, if there is one, to which people become first-time parents — the morning sickness goes away after the first trimester.

They weren't wrong. But they neglected to leave out one key detail; it's not gone for good.

My wife had a reprieve for all of about six weeks during the second trimester when there was very little morning sickness.

This time, unfortunately it came back with a vengeance.

To put it in the most sincere possible way, my wife isn't exactly gentle when these episodes strike. It's nearly debilitating for her and she'd prefer to not be seen in public. Therefore, if they happen when she's at work, she takes the rest of the day off.

Remember how I said it

can strike at any time? It doesn't care if she's at work or not. Unfortunately, it's happened quite a bit at work these last couple of months.

It's not just the morning sickness she's suffered from, either.

As Baby Schanz continued to grow, however, so too did her general discomfort with being pregnant.

By discomfort, I don't mean she was regretting being pregnant, it's just as the 40 weeks continued to progress she just became more and more uncomfortable.

Sleeping became increasingly difficult. Typically one to sleep on her back or her stomach, the latter became impossible for obvious reasons. The former was tricky too because of the pressure she experienced on her pelvis and internal organs.

When a body pillow

joined us in bed, it made her ability to sleep seem possible, but shifting from one side to the other started to be less graceful and more laborious.

No pun intended.

When we're out and about, be it grocery shopping or buying items for the baby's room, we have to take it easy. She can't walk as fast as her non-pregnant self. She's had Braxton Hicks contractions — also known as "practice contractions" — often. They generally occur when she's on her feet for long periods of time, which is 90% of her workday as a clinical athletic trainer.

As soon as she sits down in the car ride home, be it from the store or work, they go away. Once she starts moving again, they return almost immediately.

She's fed up with it. To be honest, I am too.

It's hard to put into words, but while "my job is done" in terms of the pregnancy, I feel helpless. There's only so much I can do when she has one of those episodes. I can't physically do anything when she has her Braxton Hicks contractions and I can't make her any more comfortable when trying to sleep. I am handcuffed when it comes to her general discomfort.

It's why we just want it to be over.

We're excited to be parents and meet our child. But I — we — also desperately want her discomfort to end.

.....
Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor embarking on a new journey as a father. You can reach him at christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

Freeloader constantly tries to guilt his girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: I've been with the same guy for almost five years. I was madly in love with him the first three years, but after I had my daughter, things slowly changed. We haven't been intimate in a while. I had some female issues I wanted to take care of, plus I'm not physically attracted to him anymore. He makes little comments about it to make me feel bad. He doesn't want to discuss anything, so talking to him is impossible.

Dear Abby



We broke up a few months ago but got back together. He moved all his stuff out, so now he makes me feel guilty, telling me he has nothing and our house doesn't feel like his any-

more. By the way, he doesn't pay for rent or household expenses like groceries, etc. I pay for everything because he doesn't work. Yet I have to give him money for his gambling addiction.

I don't want to be with him anymore. But the last time we broke up, he was terribly verbally abusive, and I don't want to go through that again. What should I do? — INDECISIVE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR INDECISIVE: Tell

him you no longer want to be his sugar mama; he will have to find someone else to feed him and finance his gambling addiction. Do NOT do it while the two of you are alone.

Make sure to have several friends or relatives with you for moral support and to help him collect whatever things he has at your place. If you do, it may curb his verbal abuse. After that, change the locks on your

doors and do not admit him to the house again. If he forces his way in, summon the police. If you don't rid yourself of him, he will suck you dry.

.....
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.

Contact Dear Abby at Dear-Abby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORN-

ING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For

more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E.

Sudoku

6		5	1		8	7		4
	8			6				3
		7						
4					3		6	2
	6			4	5			
7							4	9
	3	8		5				
5		1		8	9			3
9				7				8

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

9	8	7	2	4	5	1	3	6
3	1	4	8	6	7	5	9	2
2	6	5	9	3	1	8	4	7
1	3	2	6	7	4	9	5	8
5	9	8	1	2	3	7	6	4
7	4	6	5	9	8	2	1	3
6	7	1	4	5	2	3	8	9
4	5	3	7	8	9	6	2	1
8	2	9	3	1	6	4	7	5

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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TikTok has become the scapegoat

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

In a political stampede Wednesday, the House overwhelmingly approved a bill that would force the social media app TikTok to be divested from China-based owner ByteDance, or face banning. The Senate should have more sense and slow this down.

If the concern is that TikTok might become rife with propaganda, disinformation or anti-democratic junk, and the expectation is that this will be ameliorated by sale to a U.S. entity, we have some bad news. The site once known as Twitter has plunged into much of the same muck since its purchase by American billionaire and noted narcissist Elon Musk, who got rid of a huge swath of the trust and safety team and has dedicated himself

Guest Editorial

to pushing racist great replacement garbage, jettied to the top of users' feeds by an algorithm tailored to uplift his posts.

If what lawmakers fear is that enormous volumes of user data, particularly on youngsters, will be siphoned off, stored, sold off to third parties, used for marketing and political targeting and fed into AI training algorithms, then we agree wholeheartedly with that apprehensiveness.

That's why they should commit to making up for lost time

and start looking at an industry that has been allowed to grow over the last three decades into a series of dominant monopolies with little in the way of oversight or guardrails — not just ByteDance, but Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp; Alphabet, which owns Google and YouTube; Apple, with its cornering of the devices market and iron grip on its app store; and so on.

Go ahead, block rampant data collection and force transparency for opaque internal processes that affect billions of people. You don't like governments being able to utilize data from social media apps to override civil liberties? Great, stop the NSA and other federal, state and local law enforcement from simply buying up personal data that they

would otherwise need a warrant for.

Better yet, stop the widespread purchase, bundling and third party sale of granular personal data in the first place. Foster competition in an industry that fancies itself a hub of innovation but has descended into startups burning through venture cash until the exit plan of being bought by one of the tech giants. Show companies that they can't run roughshod over regulations — that the days of Uber and Airbnb openly flouting laws with little consequence are over.

If lawmakers refuse to move on any of this, then perhaps it's an indication that TikTok is an easy scapegoat because of its Beijing ownership. The Chinese Communist Party does try to interfere with U.S. elections, in violation of

American law. But the Politburo doesn't need to own the app for that mischief.

Indeed, despite the months of innuendo, lawmakers have yet to present any concrete evidence that TikTok has been used nefariously by the Chinese government, at least any more so than its U.S.-based competitors like Twitter, which was the locus of a massive disinformation campaign by Xi Jinping's government.

Maybe this equivocating is a marker of what the tech industry's gargantuan lobbying campaigns have bought — an eye-watering \$70 million on Congress alone as of 2022, outstripping stalwarts like oil and pharmaceuticals, without even counting surging state-level lobbying expenditures. For shame.

It's time to consider ranked-choice voting

By JOHN TORR

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana voters will have several qualified candidates with varying ideas in the May primary election for Governor, and I think that's a good thing. What I'm not good with, however, is that a winner could well be chosen with fewer than a quarter of the votes cast.

Theoretically, if all six of the current Republican candidates remain on the ballot, a winner could be crowned with as little as 17 percent of the party's voters. The same is true for state and federal legislative races, especially for open seats. In general elections, a third-party or independent candidate can become a "spoiler", potentially allowing a candidate to be elected by less than 35% of voters even though a majority might prefer one of the losing candidates.

We see results of such elections frequently on the nightly news, with fringe candidates elected from the far right or left who are out of step with the majority of their constituents and who intensify divisiveness, derail the legislative process and diminish democracy.

One solution would be a change in our voting system so candidates must have more than 50% of the vote in order to be elected. Run-off elections can be costly and delay the process by weeks, but Ranked Choice Voting provides an "instant run-off" that guarantees a majority vote.

Here's how it works — instead of voting for just one candidate, each voter ranks candidates in order of preference. If no candidate has 50% of the first choice votes cast, the candidate with the fewest votes is dropped. Votes for that candidate then shift to those voters' second choice and new totals are calculated. The process continues until one candidate has at least 50% of the votes cast.

Suppose there are four candidates for sheriff: Smith, Jones, Green and Miller. Your first choice is Green, and you'd consider voting for Smith or Jones, but you don't like Miller's views at all. You would rank Green first, Smith and Jones second and third, and rank Miller last (or just not select a fourth). In the initial vote the results are Green 29%,

John Torr



Smith 28%, Jones 10% and Miller 33%, so Jones is dropped and the 10% of votes would then go to the second choice of those voters. In the next round, Green gets 37%, Smith 30% and Miller stays at 33%. Miller drops off, and those votes go to the voter's next pick resulting in a final vote of Green 49% and Smith 51% with Smith declared the winner.

In the example above, Miller would have won the race with today's simple plurality even without support of a majority of the voters. While your first preference (Green) wound up losing, your second choice candidate prevailed. More importantly, a majority of voters selected the winner.

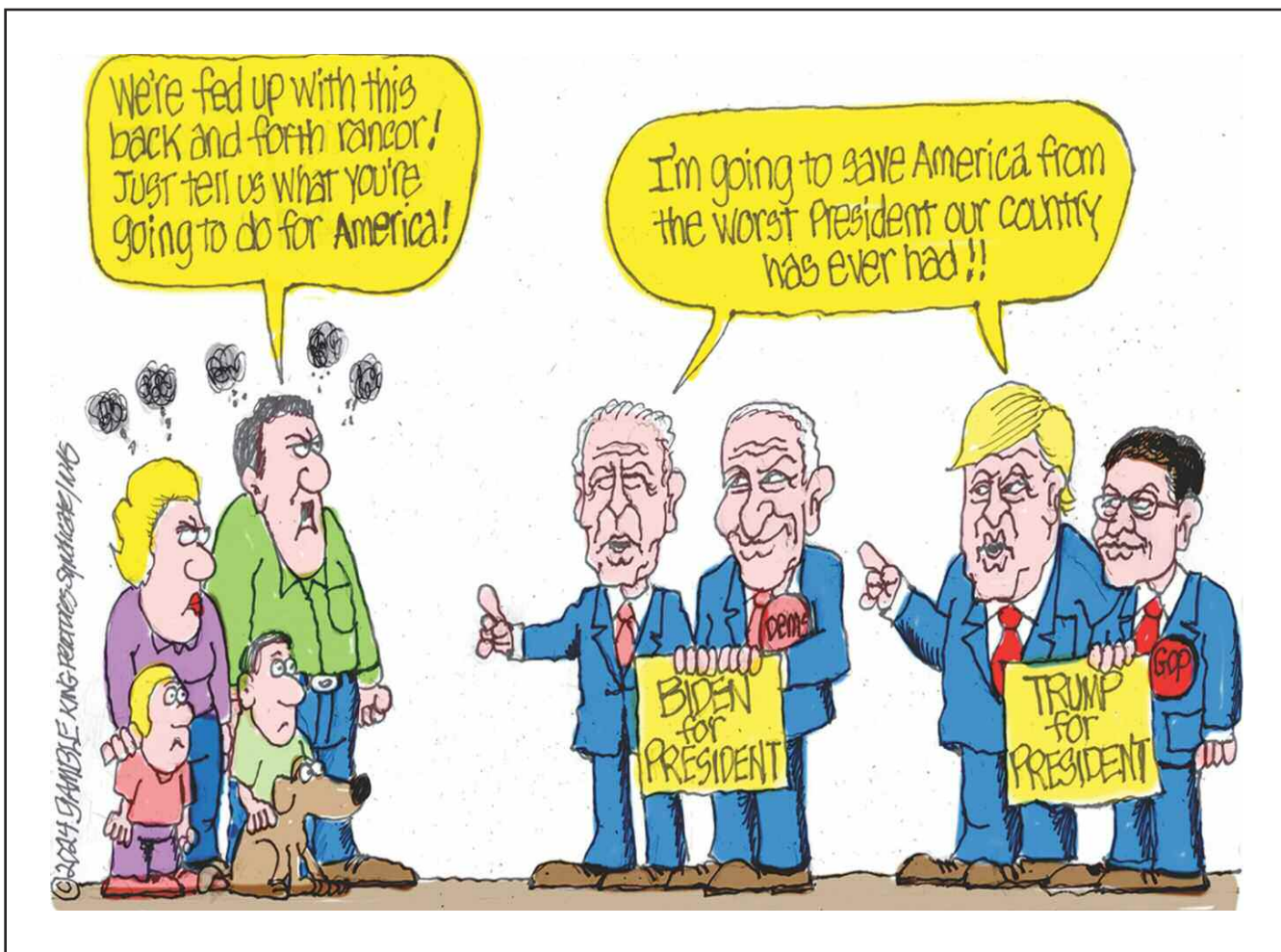
This voting method is in use statewide in Maine and Alaska, with more than a dozen states experimenting with local or municipal elections. A few state parties use a variation of this method for primary elections, including presidential primaries. While a bit confusing at first, most voters like the option once they understand it.

Our current primary system, coupled with gerrymandered districts on both sides of the aisle, increasingly results in extreme candidates from both parties being elected, thus fueling the erosion of civility in our political discourse. We need change. With ranked choice voting, candidates will more closely align with the majority of voters, and hopefully reduce divisiveness.

You might not get your favorite candidate, but we also can avoid the extreme candidates that can't win the general election, or maybe worse yet, that do wind up winning in the fall.

Torr is a longtime business consultant who previously worked for Gov. Bob Orr's campaign and assisted Lt. Gov John Mutz in the early 1980s.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Should measles revival be a concern?

By SHELDON H. JACOBSON and DR. JANET A. JOKELA

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported an uptick in the number of measles cases around the nation since early December. If the pace of infections continues to follow this trajectory, 2024's total will top the surge reported in 2014 (667 cases), or even the 1,274 cases reported in 2019. Should we be concerned?

One perception among some people is that measles is just another innocuous infectious disease that children contract, characterized by fever and a rash. The actual risks to children in contracting measles are much greater.

The CDC reports that on the order of 1 to 3 in 1,000 infected children will die from respiratory and neurologic complications. To put this into perspective, if every child 1 to 4 years old became infected, and the mortality rate was 1 in 1,000 children, then around 14,000 of these children would die from the disease.

By comparison, around 3,800 children ages 1 to 4 die every year. The leading causes of death in this age group are accidents, genetic and developmental conditions present at birth, and homicides. Without protection against measles, the disease could quickly become the leading cause of death in this age group.

Yet deaths are just one measure of the impact of measles. Complications such as pneumonia, swelling of the brain (encephalitis) and the possibility of spending time in the hospital are risks that cannot be ignored.

The best protection is a safe and effective vaccine. It has been available for more than 60 years and served as the primary factor in a reduction in measles infections to levels that has kept children safe.

What makes controlling measles so challenging is its high transmission

Guest Opinion

rate, as measured by R0, or "R naught," its basic reproduction number. The R0 is the average number of people susceptible to acquiring a disease from a single infected person. The R0 for measles is estimated to be between 12 and 18, the highest among pediatric infectious diseases. This also means that high immunity rates typically achieved with vaccination, around 95%, are needed to achieve herd immunity for measles. By comparison, seasonal influenza has an R0 of around 1.3.

The good news is that anyone who has ever had measles or been vaccinated acquires lifelong immunity.

The question that parents must ultimately ask themselves is: How much risk are they willing to assume in not protecting their child against the measles?

The number of measles outbreaks around the nation continues to grow. The absolute number of cases remains small. The uncertainty is whether each such pocket will die out or expand and whether those infected traveling around the country will seed new infections that become outbreaks.

From an epidemiological point of view, the CDC can certainly track such infections. Yet people's choices about vaccination for their children ultimately drive infection spread and outbreaks. In addition, many infections go unreported by those who choose not to vaccinate their children, unless the child becomes so ill that medical attention is required. (About 1 in 5 unvaccinated people in the U.S. who get measles end up being hospitalized.) This means that the fig-

ures the CDC is reporting are lower than the actual number of children who have been infected.

If a personal choice has no public impact, then people should certainly be afforded such freedoms. Yet when personal choices have public consequences, one must find the right balance between the two. That is why child care facilities and schools impose vaccination requirements. Without such safeguards, numerous infections would spread, affecting families and creating educational and public health chaos and risks.

As we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are consequences when schools must be closed. Remote learning was adopted as a substitute, which was necessary given the uncertainty around the infection early in the pandemic. Yet time has shown that it was a poor substitute at best.

Lessons learned over time suggest that keeping children in school should be a top priority, and vaccination is the pathway to facilitate it. The measles outbreaks around the nation are a concern because they are a marker for risk. And unless risk is managed, it can grow and become untenable.

So the current measles outbreaks are indeed a concern. Appropriate information and guidance should be shared and communicated, so that what is now a small collection of infections does not grow into widespread disease that could affect susceptible children and adults.

The best protection is always preparation and prevention, since disease avoided is a win for all. Communication and trust define the pathway to secure such protections.

Jacobson is a professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Jokela is the senior associate dean of engagement in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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Meeker is part of funding venture

An investment firm headed by a Portland native was part of a fundraising round for a company in the autonomous vehicle industry.

Business roundup

Applied Intuition, which supplies software for autonomous vehicles, announced a \$250 million financing round at a \$6 billion valuation. Lux Capital led the round.

Among the new and existing investors announced by Applied Intuition was Jay County High School graduate Mary Meeker of BOND Capital.

Applied Intuition was founded in 2017 and creates software that involves simulations to let customers test autonomous vehicles.

"When they think like, 'I have this software or AI problem,' we generally want them to think about us," company co-founder and CEO Qasar Younis told TechCrunch. "Like we want to be that first call."

Open in Japan

Invenery's Rusutsu Wind Energy Center has started commercial operations.

The facility, which has a capacity of 63 megawatts, is the company's first wind farm in Japan. It has had solar

facilities in the country for about 10 years.

"Invenery is proud to deliver another operating clean energy project in Japan," said Invenery senior vice president Masa Oya in a press release. "We are grateful for the people of Rusutsu Village, Hokkaido, the administrative agencies, GE Vernova and our construction partner Kajima Corporation for helping make this project a reality. We look forward to building on our track record to deliver more clean energy solutions in Japan."

The company is planning a solar facility in northwest Jay County.

Fair scheduled

Jay County Chamber of Commerce announced that the 2024 Jay County Career Fair is scheduled for Sept. 12 at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

Additional information about the event will be provided in the coming months. Businesses that would like to be placed on the list to participate should call the Jay Coun-

ty Purdue Extension office at (260) 726-4707.

Services added

Adams Health Network has added services to its James D. & Sara L. Briggs Medical Office Building in Geneva.

The location is now offering primary care, obstetrics, internal medicine, radiology, lab and rehabilitation services. Walk-in general x-ray exams are available as well.

Tips offered

Indiana Michigan Power offered some tips to prepare for storms as part of Indiana's Severe Weather Preparedness Week last week.

Its tips include:

- Know the safe area of your home for storm shelter.
- Have a plan for extended power outages.
- Prepare an emergency kit including non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, batteries, a battery-powered radio or TV, a portable cell phone charger, a blanket, a first aid kit and any necessary medication.
- Secure outdoor furniture and other loose items that can be caught up in strong winds.
- Stay away from downed power lines
- Ensure proper ventila-

tion if using lanterns, heaters or fuel-fired stoves.

Stores to close

Dollar Tree announced recently that it will close nearly 1,000 Family Dollar stores over the next several years.

The company, which owns Family Dollar, plans to close 600 Family Dollar stores this year. It added that an additional about 37 Family Dollar stores and 30 Dollar Tree stores will close over the next few years.

A list of stores to be closed has not yet been announced.

Airport honored

Airports Council International World named Indianapolis International Airport as the best mid-sized airport in the nation last week.

The organization surveyed more than half a million travelers in 2023 to determine its award winners. It marked the 12th consecutive year that the Indianapolis facility earned the honor.

"Indianapolis having the best airport in North America for this long of a run ... is about more than bragging rights," said Mario Rodriguez, Indianapolis Airport Authority executive director, in a press release. "This kind of recognition of

our world-class team and their special brand of Hoosier Hospitality translates directly to attracting top sporting events and conferences to the city - repeatedly."

Advance appoints

Advance Auto Parts last week appointed A. Brent Windom, Gregory L. Smith and Thomas W. Seboldt to its board of directors.

Windom most recently served as president and CEO of Uni-Select, an automotive refinish, industrial coatings and automotive aftermarket parts distributor. Smith is executive vice president of Medtronic and Seboldt spent the majority of his career with O'Reilly Automotive.

"We are pleased to welcome Brent, Greg and Tom to the Advance Auto Parts board," said Gene Lee, independent chair of the board of directors, in a press release. "These directors' automotive industry and supply chain experience will help us progress in our plan to return the company to profitable growth. With new management in place, important strategic actions underway, and an enhanced board, we are confident that Advance is on the right path to create significant

long-term value for shareholders."

Donated to programs

Subway Cares Foundation last week announced \$300,000 in donations to non-profit organizations.

Grants went to The Farmlink Project, World Central Kitchen, Folds of Honor, Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs, Boys & Girls Clubs and iMentor. They work to provide food, make higher education and vocational training more accessible and mentor children.

"We have an immense responsibility to ensure today's youth are given the guidance, assistance and opportunities needed to succeed," said Michele DiNello, executive director of Subway Cares Foundation, in a press release. "It's rewarding to expand our impact around the world with the second year of grants to organizations doing outstanding work in line with our mission."

The foundation also announced an expansion of its Subway Fresh State scholarship program to include the United Kingdom and Ireland.

.....
Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

Realtors association will pay settlement

By LIZZIE KANE

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The Chicago-based National Association of Realtors will pay \$418 million as a part of a settlement agreement to resolve litigation against the organization and its members brought on behalf of home sellers related to broker commissions.

The settlement comes after a Missouri federal jury issued a landmark \$1.8 billion verdict in October of last year, finding the National Association of Realtors and several large real estate brokerages conspired to artificially inflate commissions on home sales. The association had said it was appealing the verdict, while a similar case was expected to go on trial this year in Illinois federal court.

"NAR has worked hard for years to resolve this litigation in a manner that benefits our mem-

bers and American consumers," said Nykia Wright, interim CEO of NAR, in a Friday news release announcing the settlement. "It has always been our goal to preserve consumer choice and protect our members to the greatest extent possible. This settlement achieves both of those goals."

The settlement is subject to court approval and will fundamentally change how homes are bought and sold by removing the assumption that buyers' and sellers'

agents will split a 6% commission on home sales, which had been standard practice in the industry.

NAR has also agreed to create a new multiple listing service rule, which "prohibits offers of broker compensation on the MLS." Real estate professionals can still discuss broker compensation with their clients off of the MLS.

Additionally, NAR will require MLS participants working with buyers to enter into written agree-

ments with buyers. These agreements dictate how real estate professionals will be paid and are already in use in Illinois.

Wright said continuing to litigate would "have hurt members and their small businesses."

"While there could be no perfect outcome, this agreement is the best outcome we could achieve in the circumstances. It provides a path forward for our industry," Wright said in the news release.

Real estate firms RE/MAX and Anywhere

Real Estate (formerly known as Realogy Holdings Corp.) already agreed to settle both the Missouri and Illinois cases. Anywhere agreed to pay \$83.5 million, and RE/MAX agreed to pay \$55 million.

The litigation has come to a head amid internal turmoil at NAR, which has recently undergone a series of leadership changes. Over the past several months, NAR has seen two presidents and a CEO resign following allegations of sexual harassment against its

former president Kenny Parcell.

"NAR is focused firmly on the future and on leading this industry forward," said Kevin Sears, NAR's president, in the news release. "This will be a time of adjustment, but the fundamentals will remain: buyers and sellers will continue to have many choices when deciding to buy or sell a home, and NAR members will continue to use their skill, care, and diligence to protect the interests of their clients."



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U.S. citizens return from Haiti

By JACQUELINE CHARLES

Miami Herald
Tribune News Service

Dozens of appreciative U.S. citizens on Sunday arrived back in Miami from a volatile Haiti — where worsening violence by armed groups continues to keep millions trapped and threatens to escalate an already worrying humanitarian crisis.

Landing at Miami International Airport, the travelers, many of them Haitian Americans, were among 47 passengers onboard a charter flight arranged by the State Department for U.S. citizens and their immediate family members. Many were vacationing or visiting family, they said, when violence broke out on Feb. 29.

Days later, gangs targeted the airports, main port and orchestrated a major prison break of the country's two largest detention facilities, resulting in the escape of thousands of prisoners that include several notorious gang leaders.

Citing the ongoing civil unrest, all U.S. carriers announced the cancellation of flights on March 4, even stranding those in Haiti's second largest city, Cap-Haïtien, though there was no eruption of violence.

"It feels good to be home," said Abson Louis, 46.

Louis, who lives in Orlando, said while Cap-Haïtien, located six hours north of Port-au-Prince, has been immune from the violent attacks engulfing Port-au-Prince and its surrounding cities, life remains difficult.

"It has been real stressful. It's devastating over there," he said. "I think a lot of people are waiting to have the same opportunity to be here, to get out of the chaos. We're grateful the current administration is doing something about people getting left behind, American citizens, Haitian citizens, that are left behind. Hopefully, things will get better."

The U.S. government arranged the charter flight to help U.S. citizens evacuate Haiti amid the escalating violence. Late Saturday, armed groups continued to target key government installations and on Saturday looted several homes in a well-to-do community in the capital not far from the U.S. embassy.



Tribune News Service/Miami Herald/Carl Juste

Passengers walk through the Arrivals area after arriving Sunday on the first evacuation flight out of Cap-Haïtien, Haiti, at Miami International Airport.

The violence is spurring a wave of panic and fear, leading to the continued cancellations of commercial flights into the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in the direction of the police's headquarters. The voluntary evacuations, which are not being done by the U.S. embassy, occurred out of Cap-Haïtien's Hugo Chavez International Airport, which has also been closed to international flights until a few days ago.

Presumably thousands more Americans remain stranded in the country, unable to make it to the north, which requires crossing gang-controlled roads.

The armed gangs attack on critical infrastructure is triggering concerns regionally that the violence will spill over. Bahamas

Prime Minister Phillip Davis on Saturday announced a tightened blockade around the southeastern Bahama, telling Bahamians that "there has been a collapse of law and order in many areas of the country, and a serious humanitarian crisis is unfolding."

"Unfortunately, there are no simple or easy solutions for Haiti, and the country's disorder and instability pose a security challenge for the entire region," he said. "In The Bahamas, we must patrol thousands of square miles of water in order to protect our nation's borders."

Davis said the country is deploying "significant" Royal Bahamas Defense Force assets to establish a southern Bahamas blockade operation, comprising

of surface vessels, aircraft, and 120 highly trained RBDF personnel. Operations will focus on the northern coast of Haiti, the Old Bahama Channel, and the Windward Passage.

"As we expand our patrols in our southern waters, the United States and the United Kingdom are also working to position assets in the region. We are working with the US Coast Guard, with Turks and Caicos, and with the Cuban Border Patrol, to share critical intelligence and align our efforts," he said.

"Through these collaborative efforts, we have successfully intercepted a number of vessels originating from Haiti. The repatriation of individuals aboard those vessels will be conducted in a manner that prioritizes the

safety of our officers and respects the human rights and dignity of the passengers."

"We Bahamians are a compassionate people," he added, "but we simply cannot absorb additional burdens or security risks at home."

Major U.S. carriers and other international airlines suspended service to the Caribbean country on March 4, citing the ongoing civil unrest. Domestic service was also suspended in Haiti after armed gangs breached the perimeter of both the national and international airports.

The plane used on Sunday had 166 seats but only 47 passengers were onboard said a flight attendant. All of the passengers were required to have a valid U.S. passport, according to the State Department, which in announcing the charter flight warned Americans that "travel to Cap-Haïtien is conducted at your own risk."

Passengers said they didn't know how much the flight would ultimately cost at the time. They were asked to sign a promissory note. However, with no idea how long before regular air service resumes, passengers said they jumped at the chance to return knowing that people in the capital would not be able to make the risky journey.

Avlot Quessa, who lives in Boston, traveled from the center of the country to make the flight. He said his February 27 trip to visit his mother in Hinche in the Central Plateau was only supposed to last a week.

"I ended up staying 20-plus days" he said, as he came out of the doors at the international arrivals.

While "it's good to be back," Quessa said he has mixed emotions about leaving.

"I also need to think about the people back home," Quessa added. "Haiti is my homeland and it's very stressful to see the homeland going through this act of violence, destruction... and they are our neighbors. They are only miles away from Miami. We cannot turn our eyes back on Haiti. Look at how much we invest in Ukraine and Israel. So no one is going to tell me that color doesn't matter."

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♠ Q 6 5
♥ J 5
♦ A K J 10 5
♣ 9 3 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ 6 4 2
♦ 7 4
♣ Q 8 6 4

EAST
♠ K 4 2
♥ A K 10 8 3
♦ 9 8 6
♣ A 5

SOUTH
♠ A J 7
♥ Q 9 7
♦ Q 3 2
♣ K J 10 7

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 1♥ Pass Pass
2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
3NT

Opening lead — six of hearts.
Let's assume you get to three notrump on the bidding shown and West leads a heart. East cashes the K-A of hearts and continues with a third heart to your queen.
Superficially, your prospects look dim at this point. It seems you can make only eight tricks — even if the spade finesse you plan to take succeeds — and that East will eventually score the ace of clubs and four hearts to put you down one.

Alternatively, if East discards a heart on dummy's fifth diamond, you next lead a club toward your K-J. East scores the ace of clubs and his last heart, but he must then lead a spade to your A-J. You finesse, of course, and that gives you nine tricks.
In other words, you can make the contract even though East appears to have five invincible tricks. A defender's sure winners sometimes fade away while declarer is running a long suit, and that is precisely what happens to East in the present case. There is no way he can withstand the pressure when you run dummy's diamonds.

Tomorrow: Tender loving care.
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Peanuts

Rose is Rose

Agnes

Hi and Lois

Between Friends

Blondie

Snuffy Smith

Beetle Bailey

3-19 CRYPTOQUIP

T Z G J K - U D I O N T M E M A O U O
G K A U Q O B Q F M Q F M U J O A A
D A F M J D Q D A H Q F O S K X X O H O U

SMGEZU UWZMBO: WZMNIDXXM.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ACCLAIMED FOLK SUPERSTAR WERE REMARKABLY WEALTHY AND POWERFUL, WOULD HE BE NABOB DYLAN?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals Z

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Online craft shop
 - 5 Mosquito barrier
 - 8 Unruly kid
 - 12 Valentine border
 - 13 I love (Lat.)
 - 14 Franc replacement
 - 15 Physical
 - 16 Capable of being subdued
 - 18 Dressing ingredient
 - 20 Two-tone cookies
 - 21 Zero
 - 22 French vineyard
 - 23 Viola bow application
 - 26 Like some thrift shop items
 - 30 Longoria of TV
 - 31 Irish actor Stephen
 - 32 Signing need
 - 33 Price of horror films
- DOWN**
- 1 Hgt.
 - 2 Uber (up)
 - 3 Read quickly
 - 4 Saudi neighbor
 - 5 Fleet-related
 - 6 Mideast ruler
 - 7 Great weight
 - 8 Lebanese capital
 - 9 Hayseed son
 - 10 Woody's digits
 - 11 Low
 - 17 Iowa crop
 - 19 Martini liquor
 - 22 "Home-land" org.
 - 23 Speed
 - 24 Egg (Pref.)
 - 25 — Juan
 - 26 Kitty's doc
 - 27 PC program
 - 28 "My word!"
 - 29 Conclude
 - 31 Hosp. workers
 - 34 Beliefs
 - 35 Film lioness
 - 36 Moving vehicle
 - 37 Houston team
 - 39 Reverent
 - 40 Acknowledge
 - 41 Opulent
 - 42 Division word
 - 43 Nullify
 - 44 Worn-down pencils
 - 45 Black, in verse
 - 46 Deli loaves
 - 48 Business letters

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	R	I	A	L	A	G	B	E	R	T			
N	O	S	E	A	B	U	A	R	E	A			
A	L	A	R	D	E	L	U	D	I	N	G		
G	L	O	O	M	Y	F	A	R	C	I	N	G	
B	I	B	B	L	A	B							
D	E	L	E	T	I	O	N	P	A	S	S		
A	V	E	T	R	O	U	T	N	A	P			
M	A	T	S	D	E	L	I	C	A	C	A	C	Y
S	T	P	D	L	V	I							
A	P	P	E	A	R	S	O	N	N	E	T		
D	E	L	A	W	A	R	E						
D	E	A	L	J	E	T	E	M	M	Y			
S	K	Y	S	A	C	S							

Yesterday's answer 3-19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
21						22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30					31				32	
33		34	35				36	37		
38							39			
40	41	42			43			44	45	46
47				48				49		
50					51				52	
53					54				55	

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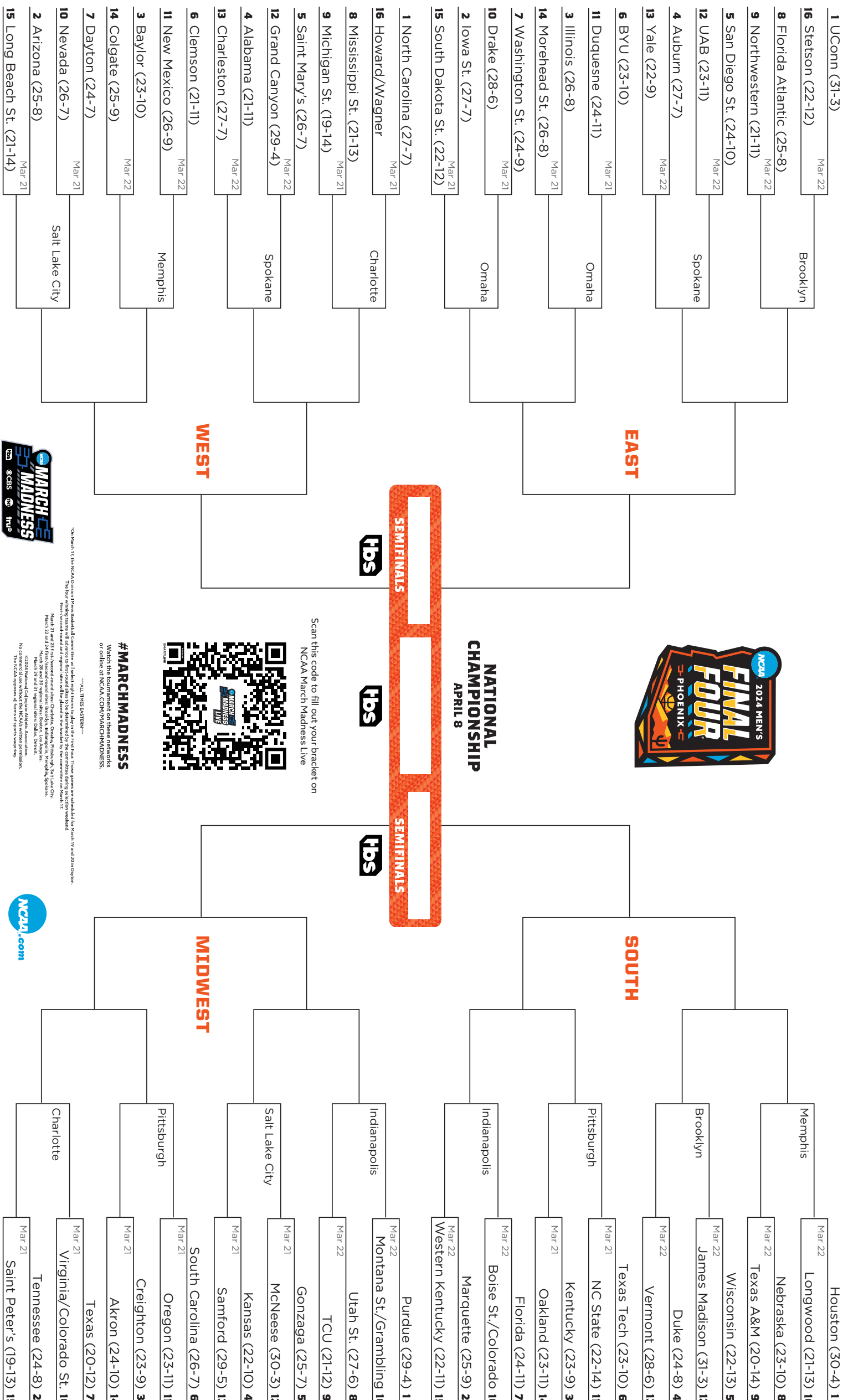
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16 Howard (18-16)	10 Virginia (23-10)	10 Dayton (19-20) MW	Montana St. (17-17) 16
16 Wagner (16-15)	10 Colorado St. (24-10)		Grambling (20-14) 16
			Boise St. (22-10) 10
			Colorado (24-10) 10



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
APRIL 8



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Caleb Garringer breaks indoor track school record, see story below

FRHS baseball travels to Van Wert for scrimmage, see Sports on tap

Sports

Ten tips for filling out your bracket

Mark Story



By MARK STORY
Lexington Herald-Leader
Tribune News Service

As you prepare to chase pool riches by filling out your 2024 NCAA Tournament bracket, there is at least one question you will have to confront:

Do you trust Purdue?

On paper, coach Matt Painter's Boilermakers should enter the 2024 edition of March Madness as one of the favorites to cut down the nets.

Alas, Purdue's recent NCAA Tournament history breeds skepticism. Over the past three NCAA tourneys, Purdue has been eliminated by a 13 seed (2021), a 15 seed (2022) and a 16 seed (last year). The shocking 63-58 Purdue loss to Fairleigh Dickinson in last season's round of 64 was only the second time in NCAA Tournament history that a No. 16 seed upset at No. 1 seed.

See **Bracket** page 8



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School sophomore Brasen Glassford launches his shot during a preseason practice in early March. During the Blue and White Relays on Saturday, Glassford's top throw of 33 feet, 7.5 inches earned 41st place.

Patriots end indoor season on good note

ANDERSON — The indoor season is coming to a close and the Patriots are dropping time and reaching further distances.

The Jay County High School indoor track team only had one top-five finish, but had five career best results and an indoor school record at the Blue and White Relays at Anderson University on Saturday.

Caleb Garringer had the highlight of the day, setting a new indoor school record in the 3,200-meter run with a time of 10 minutes, 53.53 seconds, and placed 23rd out of 47 athletes in the event.

Morgan DeHoff had the highest finish of any Patriots, placing fourth in the long jump with a distance of 15 feet, 4.25 inches.

Other top-ten finishes includes Molly Muhlenkamp and Jenna Dues with a new career best 5 feet in the high jump to tie for sixth and Matilda Mende with a time of 8.3 seconds in the 60-meter dash.

The 4x400 relay and 4x800 relay teams both placed 10th as well.

Other career bests came from Caden Gambill in the 60 dash (7.82 seconds) and Dues in the 60 dash as well (8.54 seconds).

The meet was the final of the indoor season, with the outdoor season beginning April 2 against Blackford at West Jay Middle School.

Fifth at state

MERRILLVILLE — The JC Flipsters had nine athletes compete at the Xcel

Local roundup

State Meet over the weekend.

Carlie Runkle was the Flipsters' top performer as she garnered 37.275 points to place fifth in the Xcel Bronze Junior C division. Runkle earned fourth place in the vault (9.375 points) and on the floor (9.425) while placing eighth on the bars and the beam.

Five more gymnasts finished in the single digits, three just behind Runkle in the Bronze division. Kendall Evans earned sixth with 36.975 points in Junior A.

A third-place finish pushed Emma Robinson to seventh in Child C division.

The other top-10 finish from the bronze was Brinley Steury. She had 37.125 points to take eighth in the Child B.

As the Flipsters' only Xcel Silver competitor Charli Stephens took the top spot on the bars with a score of 9.725. She finished sixth all around in the Senior A.

Bella Sarver claimed sixth place in the Xcel Gold Junior C by placing fourth on the floor (9.35) and fifth on the bars (9.075).

Other finishes include:

- Oakli Bellis - 15th in Xcel Bronze Junior C
- Jordyn Champ - 15th in Xcel Gold Junior D
- Aubree Shannon - 15th in Xcel Gold Senior B

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