

Vincennes University Trailblazer Speech Tournament (Saturday, Feb. 10th, 2024): Broadcasting Rounds 1 and 2-News Program (5 minutes): Students will select 3 news stories (international, national, local) with music selection and commercial prompt to create a 5 minute News Program. Weather is optional. You may cut portions, or even all, of a story, but you may not update or paraphrase the news copy. Your edited newscast should consume about 3 to 3.5 minutes of your 5-minute News Program. The material below is the only allowable subject matter for the Sectional Tournament.

Round 3-Breaking News (2 minutes): Students will have 2 minutes to sight-read a news story that they will be “breaking news live.” Students are encouraged to have an intro/outro that results in no more than 30 seconds. The total performance time is 2 minutes.

Round 4-Editorial (2 minutes) with 30 minutes prep. Topic released on the day of the tournament.

News Program – Music Genres & Artists

Choose one of the music genres below and use the artists listed to write your original music lead-in and lead-out segments. Your original music lead-in and lead-out should consume about 30 seconds-1 minute (total) of your 5-minute News Program. The options below are the only allowable subject matter for the invitational.

Country

Chris Stapleton
Lainey Wilson

Pop

Billie Eilish
Miley Cyrus

Alternative

boygenius
Lana del Rey

Música Urbana

Karol G
Rauw Alejandro

News Program – Original Commercial

Use the information below to create your original commercial. Your original commercial should consume about 30 seconds-1 minute of your 5-minute News Program. Please follow the guidelines for the invitational.

Prompt: Choose a local bookstore/gift shop that you wish to promote in your commercial to celebrate International Book Giving Day on February 14th. Consider the following information:

- Bookstore/Gift Shop Name
- Store location and hours
- Quotes from owners/patrons
- Store slogan
- Online storefront/curbside pickup/delivery options
- Shopping in a local business/supporting the local community
- How the store can help promote/create an event around “International Book Giving Day” on February 14th

News Program – News Copy Selection

International

NEW YORK (AP) — TikTok may look (or sound) a little different when you scroll through the app going forward. Earlier this week, Universal Music Group — which represents big-name artists like Taylor Swift, Bad Bunny and Drake — said that it would no longer allow its music on TikTok following the Wednesday expiration of a licensing deal between the two companies.

The takedown of UMG-related music began overnight, ByteDance-owned TikTok confirmed to The Associated Press. As of early Thursday, a vast roster of popular songs had disappeared from the social media platform's library. The complete removal of UMG-licensed music might not be immediate — but chances are, avid TikTokers are already seeing the effects. Here's a rundown of where things stand.

The songs getting pulled from TikTok are those that are licensed by UMG — which carries an enormous reach across the music industry and, consequently, our digital diet today.

“Universal Music Group is literally the largest record label ... in the history of the music industry,” said Andrew Mall, an associate professor of music at Northeastern University. An “uncountable number of tracks and sounds” would be impacted on TikTok, he added, significantly limiting options for creators.

TikTok users signing on Thursday will see that they are no longer able to search for many popular songs — including music from Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Olivia Rodrigo and more — under the “sounds” tab. In addition to users no longer having the option of adding these songs to next dance craze and other trending content, past videos featuring UMG-licensed music will also be scrubbed. According to a UMG spokesperson, whether these existing videos are muted or taken down entirely will be up to TikTok.

Artists will also not be able to post the audio of their UMG-licensed songs on TikTok. If the music has a UMG license, it should be muted, the spokesperson said — noting the company will protect its copyrights. Complete removal will likely be a process, so it may take a few days for TikTokers see the full effects.

It's also important to note that music licensing is a complicated business and artists often have different songs that move through different labels. While a singer's UGM tracks will be removed, songs licensed exclusively with other music giants (like Warner and Sony-owned labels, for example) shouldn't be impacted.

UMG said that TikTok proposed paying its artists and songwriters at a rate that's a fraction of the rate that other major social platforms pay, adding that TikTok makes up only about 1% of its total revenue. The music giant also took issue with TikTok's promotion of AI music creation — which UMG says poses risks to human artists — and the platform's record with what it says is hate speech, bigotry, bullying and harassment.

TikTok pushed back against claims by UMG, saying that it has reached “artist-first” agreements with every other label and publisher.

“It is sad and disappointing that Universal Music Group has put their own greed above the interests of their artists and songwriters,” TikTok said. Despite the licensing deal's expiration, experts note that we're still [at a] moment of negotiation between UMG and TikTok — and it probably won't last forever.

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Europe may have to deal with a new flow of Sudanese migrants if a cease-fire agreement isn't signed soon between Sudan's warring sides and relief efforts aren't strengthened, the head of the United Nations refugee agency said Monday.

"The Europeans are always so worried about people coming across the Mediterranean. Well, I have a warning for them that if they don't support more refugees coming out of Sudan, even displaced people inside Sudan, we will see onward movements of people towards Libya, Tunisia and across the Mediterranean," Filippo Grandi said. "There is no doubt."

More than 9 million people are thought to be internally displaced in Sudan, and 1.5 million refugees have fled into neighboring countries in 10 months of clashes between the Sudanese military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, a powerful paramilitary group commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo.

The conflict erupted last April in the capital, Khartoum, and quickly spread to other areas of the country.

Grandi said several countries neighboring Sudan — Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia — have their own "fragilities" and will be unable to give refugees enough assistance. He said refugees will move further toward northern countries like Tunisia, where some have been documented planning to cross to Europe. "When refugees go out and they don't receive enough assistance, they go further," Grandi said.

He said the war in Sudan is becoming fragmented, with a number of militias controlling areas. "Militias have even less hesitation to perpetrate abuse on civilians," he said, suggesting that it would create even more displacement.

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Firefighters wrestled Sunday with massive forest fires that broke out in central Chile two days earlier, as officials extended curfews in cities most heavily affected by the blazes and said at least 112 people had been killed.

The fires burned with the highest intensity around the city of Viña del Mar, where a famous botanical garden founded in 1931 was destroyed by the flames Sunday. At least 1,600 people were left without homes.

Several neighborhoods on the eastern edge of Viña del Mar were devoured by flames and smoke, trapping some people in their homes. Officials said 200 people were reported missing in Viña del Mar and the surrounding area. The city of 300,000 people is a popular beach resort and also hosts a well-known music festival during the southern hemisphere's summer.

On Sunday morning, Chilean President Gabriel Boric visited the town of Quilpé, which was also heavily affected by the fires and reported that 64 people had been killed. Late Sunday, Chile's Forensic Medicine Service updated the confirmed death toll to 112 people.

Boric said the death toll could rise as rescue workers search through homes that have collapsed. Some of those arriving in hospitals were also in critical condition.

Rodrigo Mundaca, the governor of the Valparaiso region, where Viña del Mar and other affected cities are located, said Sunday he believed some of the fires could have been intentionally caused, echoing a theory that had also been mentioned Saturday by Boric. “These fires began in four points that lit up simultaneously,” Mundaca said. “As authorities we will have to work rigorously to find who is responsible.”

The fires around Viña del Mar began in mountainous forested areas that are hard to reach. But they have moved into densely populated neighborhoods on the city’s periphery despite efforts by Chilean authorities to slow down the flames.

On Saturday, Boric said that unusually high temperatures, low humidity and high wind speeds were making it difficult to control the wildfires in central Chile, which have already burnt through 8,000 hectares (30 square miles) of forest and urban areas.

Boric flew over some of the areas burned by the fires Sunday and visited a school that has been turned into a shelter for the displaced. He said that a presidential vacation home on the shores of Viña del Mar that is surrounded by large gardens would be temporarily converted into a leisure center for the children of families affected by the fires. The president declared two days of national mourning.

National

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — A woman fell into a dumpster while throwing out her garbage and was later rescued from a trash truck that had compacted the contents while she was inside, fire department officials in New Hampshire said.

Luckily, neighbors heard her screams and the trash compartment was equipped with a camera. The driver spotted the woman stuck inside and called 911. By then, the driver “had reportedly compacted the garbage up to four times,” the Manchester Fire Department said in a news release.

Rescuers used a basket ladder to reach the top of the truck and lift her out. By then, she was “standing/talking/yelling, but was not alert enough to answer questions,” the news release said.

The woman was taken to a hospital after Monday’s misadventure. Her name was not released.

“In 32 years, I’ve never seen anything like this my whole career,” Battalion Chief Bob Beaudet told WMUR-TV. “It’s alarming, because you don’t really think it’s true.”

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Supreme Court said Thursday that 10 Republican state senators who staged a record-long walkout last year to stall bills on abortion, transgender health care and gun rights cannot run for reelection.

The decision upholds the secretary of state’s decision to disqualify the senators from the ballot under a voter-approved measure aimed at stopping such boycotts. Measure 113, passed by voters in 2022, amended the state constitution to bar lawmakers from reelection if they have more than 10 unexcused absences.

Last year's boycott lasted six weeks — the longest in state history — and paralyzed the legislative session, stalling hundreds of bills.

Five lawmakers sued over the secretary of state's decision — Sens. Tim Knopp, Daniel Bonham, Suzanne Weber, Dennis Linthicum and Lynn Findley. They were among the 10 GOP senators who racked up more than 10 absences.

“We obviously disagree with the Supreme Court's ruling,” said Knopp, the Senate minority leader. “But more importantly, we are deeply disturbed by the chilling impact this decision will have to crush dissent.”

Democratic Senate President Rob Wagner welcomed the decision. “Today's ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court means that legislators and the public now know how Measure 113 will be applied, and that is good for our state,” he said in a statement.

During oral arguments before the Oregon Supreme Court in December, attorneys for the senators and the state wrestled over the grammar and syntax of the language that was added to the state constitution after Measure 113 was approved by voters.

The amendment says a lawmaker is not allowed to run “for the term following the election after the member's current term is completed.”

The debate was over when that ineligibility kicks in: If a senator's term ends in January 2025, they would typically seek reelection in November 2024. The “election after the member's current term is completed” would not be until November 2028, the Republican senators argued, so they could run for reelection this year and then hold office for another term before becoming ineligible.

LOS ANGELES, Cal. (AP) — President Joe Biden recently traveled to North Carolina to promote his goal of affordable internet access for all Americans, but the promise for 23 million families across the U.S. is on shaky ground.

That's because a subsidy that helps people with limited resources afford internet access is set to expire this spring.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides \$30 a month for qualifying families in most places and \$75 on tribal lands, will run out of money by the end of April if Congress doesn't extend it further.

“I think this should be high priority for Congress,” North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, a Democrat who has worked with a bipartisan group of governors to promote the program, said in a phone interview. “To many families, \$30 a month is a big deal.”

It matters a lot to Shirleen Alexander of Charlotte, who said the money she saves through the ACP goes toward her grocery bills. It also offsets some of the stress she feels over medical bills.

“If they took (ACP) away, it would be like taking food out of my mouth,” said Alexander, a senior citizen on a fixed income. “I need the service, and some of my senior citizen friends need it, as well.”

The program is key to the Biden administration’s plans to make the internet available to everyone, which the president has touted repeatedly as he has ramped up his reelection campaign. He has likened it to the Rural Electrification Administration, the New Deal program that delivered electricity to much of rural America in the 1930s.

“Our goal is to connect everyone in America to affordable, reliable high-speed Internet by the year 2030, everyone in America, just like Franklin Roosevelt did a generation ago with electricity,” President Biden said in Raleigh last month.

So far, only 43% of eligible households nationwide have signed up for the ACP subsidy. But the program has enabled people who have signed up to avoid the kinds of financial trade-offs Alexander described, said Brian Vo, chief investment officer of Connect Humanity, a nonprofit promoting widespread internet access. It also gives them access to vital services such as telehealth, remote schooling and work, he said.

“If you put ACP and affordability in the context of the social determinants it drives and the economic value created, the benefits far outweigh the cost of \$30 per household,” Vo said.

If the program expires, participating families, including nearly 900,000 in North Carolina, will either lose internet access or have to pay more to stay connected.

North Carolina is among the top states in the country when it comes to taking advantage of the ACP, according to an AP analysis of the program. More than 50% of eligible households in the state are enrolled in the program.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers recently proposed a bill to sustain the ACP through the end of 2024 with an additional \$7 billion in funding — one billion more than what Biden asked Congress to appropriate for the program at the end of last year. However, no votes have been scheduled to move the bill forward and it’s unclear if the program will be prioritized in a divided Congress.

Local

VINCENNES, Ind. (WTHI) — The Vincennes University Center for Applied Robotics and Automation (CARA) has taken a significant leap into the future of education and technology by deploying 12 collaborative robots across eight Early College career centers in Indiana.

These cobots mark the beginning of an initiative to bring more Industry 4.0 technologies to high school students in Indiana. The Area 31 Career Center in Indianapolis received three cobots from the CARA in mid-January, and CARA Technical Advisor Morgan Chang trained five instructors and staff.

Cobots are being used immediately in the classroom and were featured in a showcase during an open house on Jan. 25. VU leads the largest cobot educational project in the United States with the support of a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant and in partnership with Telamon Robotics.

The following centers will receive cobots, and the University hopes to expand the number in the future:

- Grant Regional Career Center, Marion
- Heartland Career Center, Wabash
- Elkhart Career Center, Elkhart
- Hinds Career Center, Elwood
- Area 30 Career Center, Greencastle
- Area 31 Career Center, Indianapolis
- East Allen Career Center, New Haven
- Warsaw Career Center, Warsaw

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (Courier Press) — The state of Indiana wants to change its rules for deer hunting, but first it wants your input. The Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has opened a public comment period for proposed changes to the rules before its members vote on final adoption of the proposed changes. Most proposed changes intend to simplify Indiana’s deer hunting rules to make them easier to understand.

Proposed changes include:

- A statewide bag limit of six antlerless deer.
- A newly created county antlerless bag limit instead of season antlerless bag limits. Because of this change, the bonus antlerless license would be the multiple-season antlerless license that could be used in the archery, muzzleloader, and firearms seasons.
- Hunters would not be able to harvest an antlerless deer on fish and wildlife properties with a firearm.
- The use of crossbow equipment would be allowed with the archery license.
- The minimum caliber for a muzzleloader would be reduced from 0.44 inches to 0.40 inches.
- If a deer is unfit for human consumption, DNR staff would be able to issue an authorization to take an antlerless deer in its place that will not count toward the statewide bag limit or county limit.
- Adding the deer Reduction Zones and County Antlerless Bag Limits.
- Removing the Special Antlerless Firearms season.

Public comments can be submitted online at [IN.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket/](https://www.in.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket/) via the “Comment on this rule” link in the Rulemaking Docket for the Deer Hunting Amendments.

The deadline for public comments is March 20. A public hearing will take place March 20 from 4 to 8 p.m. Eastern at the Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis; you can attend in person or online anytime during that [time frame].

For more information on the proposed rule changes, visit wildlife.IN.gov/rule-regulation-changes/.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (Courier Press) — Warrick Literacy and Educational Connections will be hosting the annual “For the Love of Books Celebration” on Saturday, Feb. 17, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Friedman Park Event Center. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and include your meal and a visit from award-winning children’s book author Shannon Anderson. A cash bar will be available.

Proceeds and additional sponsorships will benefit the Warrick County Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides over 2,200 children in Warrick County with free books every month. Since 2018, the organization has gifted over 90,659 books to Warrick County children.

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact warrickliteracy@gmail.com or visit warrickliteracy.org. The Friedman Park Event Center is at 2700 Park Blvd. in Newburgh.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (The Shield) — The University of Southern Indiana’s Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education is hosting its second annual Be a Teacher Day on Wednesday, February 28 on the USI campus. The event will highlight the importance of the profession of education, allow students to meet current teaching professionals and teacher education students, as well as ask questions about the profession. The day will kick off with a staggered check in for Eastern and Central time zone schools from 8 to 9:20 a.m. at the Fuquay Welcome Center and then move to the USI Performance Center. Registration is open through February 14.

The event will include a panel discussion with a superintendent, a principal, a special education teacher, a first-year teacher, and current USI teacher education students; a keynote presentation; a major matching event; a classroom experience; and a tour of campus.

Last year's event was a huge success, drawing more than 350 high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors from the Tri-state area. USI’s Teacher Education Department was thrilled with the outpouring of interest and is looking to provide prospective students with a unique, engaging experience.

“Last year’s event exceeded our expectations, drawing students who were genuinely excited about education,” says Dr. Tori Colson, Assistant Dean of the Pott College and Interim Chair of Teacher Education. “We’re confident this year’s event will surpass that success with a full day of engaging activities to spark student interest in the teaching profession.”

The keynote presentation this year will be given by Hal Bowman, a speaker, author and thought leader in revolutionizing classroom and campus culture. Bowman was a former teacher who spent over two decades in the classroom and now works to help teachers and school leaders create the most effective environment for student success and teacher retention. “Hal Bowman is an inspiration to educators across the country and will impart a hunger for teaching in these aspiring educators,” says Dr. William Elliott, Interim Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education.

USI’s Teacher Education Department offers a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science through the following majors:

- Early childhood education
- Elementary education
- Special education

The teacher education minor in secondary/P-12 education may accompany any of the following majors to prepare discipline-specific teachers:

English teaching

- History teaching
- Mathematics teaching
- Science teaching
- Earth/space science, chemistry, life science, physical science, physics
- World languages and cultures teaching (P-12)
- Physical education (P-12)
- Visual arts teaching (P-12)

Be a Teacher Day is made possible through generous support of the USI Foundation. For more information and to register, visit the USI Teacher Education website. For questions, contact Elise Murray, Instructor in Education, at ecweatherh@usi.edu.

WEATHER

Today — Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 57F. Winds WSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight — Mostly cloudy during the evening. A few showers developing late. Low 39F. Chance of rain 30%.

Tomorrow — Showers in the morning, then cloudy in the afternoon. High 49F. Winds WSW 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Tomorrow Night — Partly cloudy skies early will give way to cloudy skies with light rain and snow developing overnight. Low 34F. Chance of precip 40%.

Monday — Rain or snow showers in the morning will give way to partly cloudy skies in the afternoon. High 46F. Chance of rain 30%. Low around 30F.

Tuesday — Some sun in the morning with increasing clouds during the afternoon. High 46F. Low 29F.