

TRANS

FROM **PAGE A5**

campus or being regularly misgendered or singled out by professors.

Multiple trans or non-binary athletes who spoke to The Associated Press said they pondered quitting following last fall's election, despondent over what at times feels like an increasingly hostile environment toward their community.

None did. One viewed stepping away as ceding power over a part of who they are to someone else. Another pointed to the social aspect of gymnastics and how vital the feeling of acceptance in their home gym was to maintaining proper mental and emotional health.

"Part of my identity is as an athlete and to see myself as strong and able to do hard things," said Wes Weske, who is non-binary and previously competed in the decathlon before recently graduating from medical school. "I think (gymnastics) really helped my self-image and was just an important part of understanding myself."

A sense of normalcy That sense of belonging was everywhere at the NAIGC's national competition in early April. For three days, more than 1,700 athletes, including a dozen who registered their gender as "other," turned a convention center hall in downtown Pittsburgh into what could best be described as a celebration.

Not just of gymnastics. But of diversity. And inclusion.

There were no protests. No performative grandstanding. It all looked and felt and sounded like any other large-scale meet. Cheers from one corner following a stuck dismount. Roars from another corner encouraging a competitor to hop back up after a fall.

It felt normal. That's the NAIGC's point. Gymnastics is for everyone.

For Hung and the 11 "other" competitors allowed to choose whether to compete in the men's or women's divisions, nationals provided the opportunity to salute the judges and stand alongside their teammates while being seen for who they really are.

When Hung dismounted from his uneven bars routine, several members of Jurassic Gymnastics, the all-adult competitive team based in Boston that Hung joined, came over to offer a hug, pep

talk or both.

The group included Eric Petersen, a 49-year-old married father of two teenagers who competed on the men's team at the Air Force Academy 30 years ago. He now dabbles in women's artistic gymnastics alongside Hung at Jurassic, one of the largest adults-only gymnastics club in the country.

Petersen has heard all the noise about transgender athletes. It does not jibe with the reality he experiences in the gym.

"Certain people want to convince people that this is a big issue and people are losing their (minds)," he said. "But it's not like that. Other groups can be uptight about that if they want. But in this group, it's about the love of the sport. If you love the sport, then do the sport and have fun, no matter who you are."

FINDING THEIR WAY

Ten Harder got into gymnastics after being inspired by watching Gabby Douglas win

gold at the 2012 Olympics. They spent their childhood competing as a woman but became increasingly uncomfortable at meets as they grew older.

"Everyone is, like, fitting into the binary gender roles of being super feminine or being very masculine," said Harder, 22, now a Ph. D. student at Boston University who identifies as non-binary/trans masculine. "You're sort of, like, unsure of where your place is and how you can fit into it."

Harder felt like they had to make their own path. So they did. They connected on TikTok with a non-binary gymnast from the Netherlands and started competing in a uniform that felt more natural, a practice leotard similar to a tank top and shorts. Over the last couple of years, they have run across other non-binary or queer athletes, easing their sense of loneliness.



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Fiduciary appointments have been made by the Trigg District Court as follows: Case No. 25-P-00037 appointed June Barlow as Executor for the Estate of Leslie f Clark, deceased on March 25th, 2025, 92 Rockin R Road, Cadiz, Ky 42211 Attorney for Estate: H.B. Quinn, P.O. Box 1549, 14 Court St. Cadiz, Ky 42211-1549 All persons having claims against said estates are notified to present them to the Fiduciary verified according to law not later than six (6) months from date of qualification of personal representative. This 4th day of April, 2025 /s/ William Clay Stevens, Deputy Clerk Trigg District Court 41 Main Street Cadiz, KY 42211 270-522-6270



Notice

Fiduciary appointments have been made by the Trigg District Court as follows: Case No. 25-P-00031 appointed Andrew M. Wood as Executor for the Estate of Cyrus O. Wood, deceased on February 19th, 2025, 351 Main St, Cerulean, Ky 42215 Attorney for Estate: Lee T. White, White, White & Crenshaw, PLLC, P.O. Box 2, Hopkinsville, KY 42241 All persons having claims against said estates are notified to present them to the Fiduciary verified according to law not later than six (6) months from date of qualification of personal representative. This 4th day of April 2025 /s/ William Clay Stevens, Deputy Clerk Trigg District Court 41 Main Street Cadiz, KY 42211 270-522-6270



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Fiduciary appointments have been made by the Trigg District Court as follows: Case No. 25-P-00038 appointed Timothy Startz and Theresa Startz as Co- Executors for the Estate of James Blankenship, deceased on March 17th, 2025, 200 Cherokee Court, Cadiz, Ky 42211 Attorney for Estate: H.B. Quinn, P.O. Box 1549, 14 Court St. Cadiz, Ky 42211-1549 All persons having claims against said estates are notified to present them to the Fiduciary verified according to law not later than six (6) months from date of qualification of personal representative. This 4th day of April 2025 /s/ William Clay Stevens, Deputy Clerk Trigg District Court 41 Main Street Cadiz, KY 42211 270-522-6270



PUBLIC NOTICE

BUDGET HEARING REGARDING PROPOSE USE OF COUNTY ROAD AID AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA) FUNDS. A public hearing will be held by Trigg County in the fiscal court meeting room on April 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments regarding the possible use of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds. All interested persons in Trigg County are invited to the hearing to submit verbal or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA Funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing but wish to submit comments, should call the office of the County Judge/Executive at 522-8459 by April 12, 2025 by 3:00 PM so the arrangements can be made to secure their comments.



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Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Periodic Settlement of the Estate of Curtis Edward Blanc, deceased on March 20th, 2020, Case No. 20-P-00038, has been filed with the Trigg District Court, by Karen A. Blanc, Executrix of the Estate. Attorney for the Estate: Stanley K. Spees, P.O. Box 2806, Paducah, KY 42002-2806. This the 31st day of March 2025 /s/ William Clay Stevens, Deputy Clerk Trigg District Court 41 Main Street Cadiz, KY 42211 270-522-6270

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