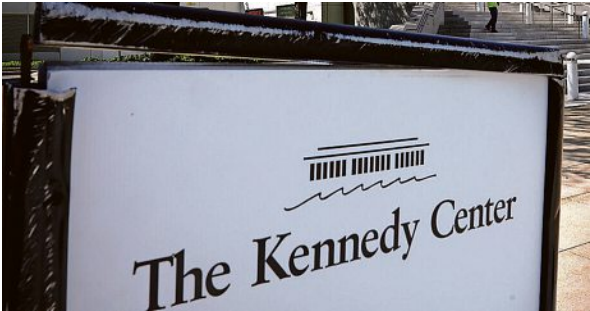




Damage renews calls to overhaul Kennedy Center

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ANALYSIS

UNPLUGGED



Schools rethink technology use in the classroom, examine student screen time

Janice Mak
Arizona State University | THE CONVERSATION

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced in-person classroom instruction to go virtual, students suddenly needed to have their own laptops or tablets in order to interact with teachers and complete assignments.

Most states used federal pandemic funding to address the digital divide. This refers to the gap between students and families who had their own tablets, computers and high-speed internet, and those who did not.

While most schools resumed in-person classes by 2021, many of them continued to rely heavily on online platforms and apps to help their students do their work.

Today, however, more and more schools are reconsidering how technology fits into teaching and learning, with many districts establishing clearer expectations about when technology should be used, for what purpose and at what ages.

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 2A



Research shows students learn the most when they use tech actively rather than passively.



Experts say students need to learn more than how to use a laptop or an artificial intelligence chatbot; they should also understand how data is collected and used, how AI and other computing systems work and how technology affects people and society. PHOTOS AND ART BY GETTY IMAGES

For older students, technology may remain central to learning, particularly when students are using it to program, analyze data, model complex systems and critically evaluate information.

Council likely to OK 2027 budget

Changes would increase local income tax

Ron Wilkins
Lafayette Journal & Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

LAFAYETTE — The proposed 2027 county budget plans to give employees a 5% pay increase next year, if the budget is adopted next week.

In 2026, county employees received a 3% pay increase, Tippecanoe County Auditor Jennifer Weston said during Wednesday’s Tippecanoe County Council meeting to recap the proposed budget.

The 2027 budget proposes to spend \$73.7 million from the general fund, but the expected revenue to the fund is \$71.6 million.

“We know from history that our spend rate usually comes in anywhere from 95% to 98%,” Weston said. “We settled on a 97% spend rate.”

That lower spending rate will leave \$49,163 in the black for the general fund, Weston said.

The council meets at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, to adopt the 2027 budget.

See **BUDGET**, Page 2A

BMV: Mobile driver’s licenses coming

Kayla Dwyer
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Many Hoosiers whip out their smartphones to pay for a latte or a drink at a bar. Soon, when the bartender asks for ID, that smartphone could be all they need.

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles has been exploring the concept of a mobile driver’s license for years — since state lawmakers passed a law in 2019 allowing them to — and now the department is telling legislators that Hoosiers should be able to get these verified credentials on their phones within the next 18 months.

These are not a replacement for physical ID cards, but an extra, no-cost option for those who just want the bartender to know they’re of age and not necessarily know where they live, for example.

“We definitely think the (mobile driver’s license) is a step forward for privacy for Hoosiers,” BMV general counsel Matt Kestian told lawmakers on the roads and transportation study committee that met Sept. 2.

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