

➔ TODAY'S VERSE
Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY
People who call our community their own.
What makes Craig Thurston smile? "My family," said the 49-year-old Noblesville resident. His wife's name is Ashley and he has two stepkids, Dylan, 14, and Gwen, 8, and two sons, George, 5, and Colter, 4. He was born in Kokomo and moved to Noblesville after second grade in the summer to start third grade at Hinkle Creek Elementary School. He graduated in 1991 from Noblesville High School. He started playing guitar late, at age 19, while attending Indiana University Kokomo. From there, he went to Indiana University Bloomington and studied music with Atanas Tzvetkov as his guitar instructor. Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. Craig plays ukulele, mandolin, bass, keys and harmonica. He performs regularly, on the first and third Thursday, at Grindstone Public House. His next performance is tonight. He didn't start a family or get married until he was in his 40s. He said, "My greatest achievement is my family."

And Another Thing...
1. Used bike sale and donation day Coming May 20 in Westfield

A used bicycle sale and donation day will be held Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. sponsored by Recycled Cycles at the group's repair shop at 810 E. Main Street in Westfield. The shop is located at the top of the drive, north of Big Hoffa's BBQ. Several top-condition bikes will be offered for sale at bargain prices. Payment by check is preferred. Proceeds will be used to purchase parts to repair other bikes. Last year, Recycled Cycles repaired and gave away more than 375 bicycles to deserving families who might not otherwise have afforded new bikes for Christmas. The group repairs child and adult bikes throughout the year under the sponsorship of Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County. Donations of any used bike, no matter the condition will be accepted. Parts of unrepairable bikes are salvaged to make whole bikes.

2. The Circus Is Coming to Sherida
Yes, that's right—the circus is coming to Sherida! The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus will be at Biddle Park for two performances on the evening of Tuesday, May 30. The first performance will be at 5:00 pm and the second at 7:30 pm. Advance sale tickets will be sold at various times and locations throughout the Sheridan community, but the tickets will also be sold at the Sheridan Historical Society Museum, 315 South Main Street during regular Museum hours. The Museum will be open on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1 pm to 4 pm during the month of May, and we will also be open from 5 pm to 9 pm for Sheridan First Friday on May 5. Adult tickets are \$13, and tickets for kids ages 2 to 12 and for seniors aged 65 and over are \$8.

3. Questions regarding dates on F11's mailed April 28, 2023
Form 11's (Notice of Assessment for all real property parcels) were mailed out April 28, 2023. On most forms, there is an error in the "Reason for Revision of Assessment" box. The information indicates: "ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF ASSESSED VALUE USING SALES FROM 1/1/2020 TO 12/31/2020." This statement should have indicated a sales date range from 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022. The 2023 assessed value shown is accurate and not affected by this error.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Times photo by Tim Timmons

Greg Garrison sitting in front of his Marconi Award.

A Conversation With Greg Garrison



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

It's his laugh that sets the tone. It comes out quickly and often. It's a friendly laugh, one that brings you along instead of making you wonder who

things that make him laugh. He's no Pollyanna. As a prosecuting attorney, he's witnessed plenty of bad, the seamier, dark side of what makes human beings do wrong. Like the scales of justice, the current Hamilton County Prosecutor represents, it's a balance. Garrison became the prosecutor here after cruising through last year's primary and general elections. He unseated three-time incumbent Lee Buckingham by a wide 59-41 percent margin and then won over Democrat Jessica Paxson 57-43. At age 74, he was starting a

the joke's really on. It's a laugh resulting from years of good times, weathered by inevitable challenges. Greg Garrison is the kind of stand-up guy who goes through life seeing good things, seeing

➔ See TIM Page A5

May's First Friday: Magic of the Square

Get ready to don your Hogwarts robes and wave your wands, because the Noblesville Main Street First Friday event, "Magic of the Square," on Friday, May 5th, 2023, is going to be a spellbinding celebration straight out of the wizarding world of Harry Potter! The historic downtown square of Noblesville, Indiana will be transformed into a magical realm, where you can immerse yourself in the enchanting performances of musicians who might just have a little "magic" up their sleeves. Clever street magicians will leave you scratching your head in amazement as they perform their own brand of wizardry. And of course,

our downtown restaurants will be serving up delicious treats that even Mrs. Weasley would approve of! The streets will be lit with a whimsical glow, reminiscent of Diagon Alley, creating an atmosphere straight out of the beloved books. So grab your fellow Potterheads, dust off your broomsticks, and come experience the "Magic of the Square" at Noblesville Main Street First Friday on May 5th, 2023. Accio fun! Do You Believe in Magic? Well, you will on Friday, May 5th at Magic of the Square! We have a ton of awesome activities planned for you and

➔ See MAGIC Page A5

2023 Spring Property Tax Reminder



The spring due date is Wednesday, May 10th, 2023. You may make a payment in the Treasurer's office by cash or check only. Credit/Debit cards are accepted only on the county's website with an addition 2.5% fee or by e-check for \$1.00. <https://secure2.hamilton-county.in.gov/PropertyReports/index.aspx>

The following Hamilton County Banks will start accepting payments Monday, April 10th through Wednesday, May 10th.

- BMO Harris Bank
- Community First Bank of Indiana
- Farmers Bank
- First Farmers Bank
- First Merchants Bank
- Horizon Bank
- Merchants Bank of Indiana
- Star Financial Bank

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:38 a.m.
SET: 8:42 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 70 °F
Low: 38 °F

Wacky Holiday Today
• Bird Day
• Anti-Bullying Day
• Star Wars Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1959 The Grammy is presented for the first time.
- 1953 Ernest Hemingway wins the Pulitzer Prize.
- 1904 The United States takes over the construction of the Panama Canal.

Births On This Day

- 1989 Rory McIlroy Irish golfer
- 1929 Audrey Hepburn Belgian/English actress, singer

Deaths On This Day

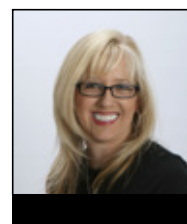
- 2014 Elena Baltacha Ukrainian/Scottish tennis player
- 1924 E. Nesbit English author



Photo courtesy of Dawn Doyle, Details Portrait Art

Fishers High School students, including Grace Mandel (left) as Grace Fryer, Ellie Adamson as Irene Rudolph/Katherine Wiley and Teagan Chandler as Kathryn Schaub rehearse for Fishers Theatre's "Radium Girls" play, which will be on stage for two performances, at 7 p.m. today and 7 p.m. Saturday at FHS.

Fishers Theatre Students Bring to Stage 'Radium Girls'



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

Fishers High School's next theater production teaches perseverance and bravery. "Radium Girls" is about the fight for justice and understanding that your action has

consequences," said Emma Rund, director of Fishers High School Theatre. The show is two nights only, tonight (Thursday) and Saturday. Both performances are at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students, with tickets available online or at the door. Rund went on to share the play's synopsis. Through the story of Grace

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➔ INSIDE TODAY

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➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Remove ticks by grasping them with tweezers as close to the skin surface as possible. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at thetimes24-7.com



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"May is green and pink and red."
-Richard L. Ratliff

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

This from a reader: God created man and woman. The Democrats created all the other genders.



➔ OBITUARIES

Anna Mae Nance
Dorothy Stoops



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank WILLIAM LYNCH for subscribing!

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

Why can't bikes enter the Indy 500? They're too tired!

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

38/70 SUNNY & WINDY THU	47/71 PT. CLOUDS, CHANCE LATE FRI	50/73 PRELIM. RAIN, WINDY SAT	53/78 WARM AND WINDY SUN	57/79 PT. CLOUDS & STORM MON	58/79 PT. CLOUDS & STORM TUE	59/78 PARTLY SUNNY WED
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Hamilton County Youth Service Awards Scheduled for May 8th

Hamilton County Youth Service Award Finalists 2023

Winner to Receive \$1,000 Scholarship The 30th Annual Hamil-

to recognize outstanding service by youth in our community.

"We are proud of each of the applicants that have chosen to lead a drug-free

Heights High School, Mrithula Karunamurtha from Hamilton Southeastern High School, Nicole Liu from Noblesville High School, Jacquellynne Bates



ISABELLA GRADY, WESTFIELD



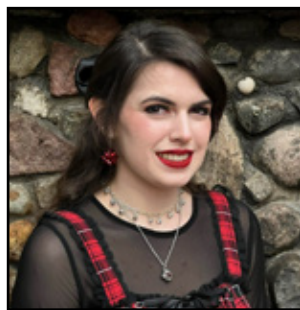
JAQUELLYNNE BATES, SHERIDAN



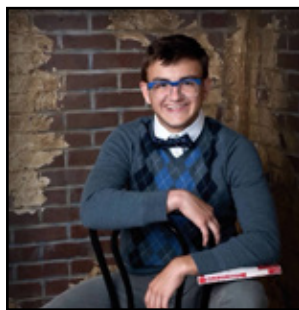
NICOLE LIU, NOBLESVILLE



MRITHULA KARINAMURTHA, HSE



VICTORIA CHAMBERS, HAMILTON HEIGHTS



LIAM COURTNEY, CARMEL

ton County Youth Service Awards ceremony will take place at the Government & Judicial Center in Noblesville on Monday, May 8th at 4:15 p.m.

The ceremony is sponsored by the Hamilton County Commissioners and the Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (HCCOAO) as part of its ongoing effort

lifestyle and contribute their time to help make positive changes in the lives of others," says Monica Greer, executive director of HCCOAO.

Each school winner was selected by their school's counseling department. This year's nominees include Liam Courtney from Carmel High School, Victoria Chambers from Hamilton

from Sheridan High School, and Isabella Grady from Westfield High School.

A selection committee made up of employees of the probation department screened the applications using a set criterion to select an overall winner of the \$1,000 scholarship. Each finalist not selected as the overall winner will receive a \$300 scholarship.



Photo courtesy of Hamilton Heights Schools

Hamilton Heights High School March Coffee Bean Award recipients (l-r): John Irion, Landon Day, Emma Trees, Rachel England, Brinley Flaherty, and Valencia Pearson. Not Pictured: Austin Warwick.

HHHS April Coffee Bean Award Recipients Named

Hamilton Heights High School would like to recognize the following students who were named as Coffee Bean Award recipients for the month of April. They include Landon Day, Rachel England, Brinley Flaherty, John Irion, Valencia Pearson, Emma Trees, and Austin Warwick. These students were among 59 who were nominated for showing extra kindness, compassion, have overcome adversity, and/or

who have been a positive light to those around them in April.

The name and award were inspired by The Coffee Bean, a book written by Jon Gordon and Damon West that delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change. All students nominated receive a certificate of recognition. At the end of the month, the names of the students who were nominated during the month are included in a drawing where

the first five- to-seven names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

The monthly award objective is to encourage more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a closer sense of community at the high school. Students and staff can nominate students. Nomination forms can be downloaded at <https://www.hhschuskiies.org/domain/82>.

Letters

Library Board Explains Policy

Dear Editor,

The undersigned members of the Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) Board of Trustees would like to correct the misinformation that is being circulated in print and in the media about the revised Collection Policy and the current review of books in the children and teen section of the library.

We are NOT censoring, NOT banning and NOT hiding any books. Nor are we telling the Librarian what books to purchase.

We are moving books that are age-inappropriate for the location that the

Librarians chose to put them. These books will be moved into the general collection of the library, which is accessible by all card holders. This policy will be used with all books purchased in the future.

The HEPL library card provides any user at any age full access to all sections of the library. It is not possible to "hide" books in the library. All books can be found in the online library catalog from the website or at computer access points in the libraries. Part of the review effort is to ensure they are correctly cataloged.

The selection criteria

for these moves have been approved by legal counsel and are in line with constitutional requirements for a public library. Equating moving books based on public, objective criteria is not censorship and case law supports this.

The cost of moving these books is the price we have to pay to correct actions that were taken in the past. These costs are currently under Board review.

Laura Alerding, President
Micah Beckwith
Tiffanie A. H. Ditlevson
Dr. Ray Maddalone,
Secretary

Aspire Deaf Services Expanding To Hamilton County

Aspire Indiana Health, the only Community Mental Health Center in Indiana with its own dedicated Deaf Services team, has expanded the program from its base in Marion County to Hamilton County.

The Deaf Services department, which has been part of Aspire for three decades, provides American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, technological services and support for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened individuals in need of behavioral health services.

Patients can be seen in-person at the Camel and Noblesville health

centers or by Video in Person (ViP) virtual appointments with an ASL interpreter present. The Deaf Services team is also available to see clients in flexible locations for skills training and case management services.

In order to begin services with Aspire, Deaf or other persons with hearing issues should call the Contact Center at (877) 574-1254. (A tele-relay system can bring an interpreter into the call if needed.)

"Deaf and Hard of Hearing Hoosiers often face obstacles in obtaining the behavioral healthcare they need due to communication barriers. Aspire



RYAN TURNER

is proud to be the only CMHC in Indiana with a permanent, dedicated team to assist them," said Ryan Turner, Program Manager of Deaf Services. "We're excited to be expanding our geographical footprint to Hamilton County and serve the Deaf community there."

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Must Watch Environmental Documentaries / Docu-series



Dear EarthTalk: I am looking for more stuff I can binge watch on my TV. Any environmental documentaries you'd recommend?

The power of film is in its capacity to transport viewers to places we might not have been able to go before. Nature documentaries in particular bring us close to ecosystems and species that are beyond most people's reach. They can reinvigorate the environmental movement, as with *An Inconvenient Truth*, or expose environmental travesties, like *Blackfish's* exposé of *Seaworld*. Here are a few recent environmental documentaries filled with incredible footage and a wealth of information.

A documentary that touches on the powerful cross section between mental health and nature, *The Scale of Hope* centers on a former White House climate advisor, Molly Kawahata, as she prepares for an intense climb in Alaska. Kawahata examines the various ways hikers, travelers and climbers can use their passion to advocate for climate conservation in this Patagonia-produced film. Or follow Alex Honnold, a free solo climber famous for his ascent of El Capitan in Yosemite, as he travels to the Amazon with National Geographic in *Explorer: The Last Tepui*. He attempts to get biologist Bruce Means to the top of a tepui while they learn why tepuis are necessary to Amazonian biodiversity. Take a deep dive into

the lives of whales with *Secrets of Whales*, a mini-docuseries, also produced by National Geographic. Each episode looks at a different whale species and at its relationship dynamics and survival techniques. Another ocean-focused documentary is *Seaspiracy*, which examines the validity of 'sustainable' fisheries and advocates for a fish-free diet to protect marine environments. The filmmakers work shines a light on illegal fishing practices and the detrimental effects of ghost nets and overfishing.

For those interested in examining how their diet can affect climate change, check out *Meat Me Halfway* with Brian Kateman, an investigative documentary about mindful meat consumption. Kateman founded the redudcetarian movement; this movie encourages viewers to reduce their meat intake, as total vegetarianism or veganism isn't realistic for everybody. *Fire of Love* is a visually stunning documentary using footage shot by the two main subjects - volcanologists Katia and Maurice Krafft. The movie follows the Kraffts' expeditions, from Mt. St. Helens in Washington to Mt. Unzen in Japan, as they perform research on active volcanoes. This documentary also highlights the importance of preparedness for environmental disasters, as they commit to informing at-risk regions about the importance of evacuations.

Against all odds, *The Year Earth Changed* found the bright side of lockdowns, isolation and travel restrictions: Certain

ecosystems thrived during the height of COVID-19 pandemic. Whales were recorded using completely new sounds, able to communicate without boat noises acting as obstacles, and female sea turtles had the benefit of empty beaches during nesting season. The documentary shows the benefits of taking a step back and offering back to nature the space that humans have dominated for decades.

And for a quick but impactful watch, try *After Ice*. This twelve-minute film compares footage of Icelandic glaciers in the twenty-first century with archival footage from the National Land Survey of Iceland. After dedicating just an hour or two toward one of the documentaries, you might find yourself looking at the environmental movement with a new perspective.

CONTACTS: *The Scale of Hope*, patagonia.com/stories/the-scale-of-hope/video-124190.html; *Seaspiracy*, seaspiracy.org; *Meat Me Halfway*, youtube.com/watch?v=ix96wVA8jd4; *Explorer: The Last Tepui*, ondisneyplus.disney.com/movie/explorer-the-last-tepui; *Secrets of Whales*, disneyplus.com/series/secrets-of-the-whales/3aH-pgiYaJTM5; *Fire of Love*, youtube.com/watch?v=p8C-DWqP5krk; *The Year Earth Changed*, <https://tv.apple.com/us/movie/the-year-earth-changed/umc.cmc.3fob3t7nf-hehpb3ilgynzxmmu>; *After Ice*, vimeo.com/504355699.

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What Exactly Is "Slow Design"



Dear EarthTalk: I recently heard the term "slow design." Can you enlighten?

Slow design is a design philosophy that emphasizes quality, longevity and sustainability. It seeks to counteract the fast-paced, disposable nature of contemporary culture by prioritizing thoughtful, intentional design over mass-produced, trend-driven products. It is about creating objects that are functional and beautiful, and that are crafted with care, using materials that are responsibly sourced and manufactured.

At its core, slow design is about taking a more holistic approach to design. It's about considering the entire life cycle of a product, from the materials used to make it to how it will be used and disposed of at the end of its life. Look for pieces that are created with sustainably harvested wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as well as "Cradle-to-Cradle" certification awarded to products produced in eco-friendly ways and that can be recycled after use. Slow design seeks to create products that are not just aesthetically pleasing, but that are also sustainable, durable and socially responsible.

One of the key principles of slow design is the idea of "localism." This means designing prod-

ucts that are made in the same community where they will be used, using materials that are sourced locally whenever possible. By doing this, designers can reduce the carbon footprint of their products, support local economies, and create stronger connections between people and the things they own.

Another important principle of slow design is the concept of "timelessness." Rather than creating products that are trendy or fashionable, slow design focuses on creating products that are classic and enduring. By doing this, designers can help reduce the amount of waste produced by the fashion and design industries, which are notorious for creating products that are quickly discarded and replaced. One example is what's been dubbed the "brown furniture revival," that being wood furnishings that were popular in days gone by but that are seeing a resurgence today due to their timeliness and sturdy quality.

Slow design also emphasizes the importance of craftsmanship and traditional skills. By working with skilled artisans and craftspeople, designers can create products that are not only beautiful and well-made, but that also support traditional forms of production and preserve cultural heritage.

Letting your home grow with you is another key to slow design. "There

are those who move into a new place, furnish it in a couple weeks, and are happy to be done decorating," say Apartment Therapy's Katie Holdefehr. "Then there are those who see their home as an ongoing project without a specific end date."

"By not rushing through the process, you can build a home that reflects your life, rather than passing trends," she adds. "Part of embracing a slower pace is being okay with things that are unfinished." As such, leave some room and blank wall space for pieces you discover in the future. "If we give ourselves permission to slow down, we may find that home isn't a static place, but it changes along with us," concludes Holdefehr.

In short, slow design emphasizes sustainability, durability, and quality over speed and disposability. By creating products that are thoughtfully designed, responsibly sourced, and made to last, slow design seeks to promote a more sustainable and ethical approach to design and consumption.

CONTACTS: *Forest Stewardship Council*, us.fsc.org; *Cradle-to-Cradle*, c2ccertified.org.

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Indiana Taxpayers Will Send Millions More To Charter Schools In New State Budget

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana lawmakers gave charter schools major funding boosts in the next state budget after advocates ramped up lobbying efforts in the 2023 legislative session to extend more benefits to the traditional public counterparts.

New appropriations for charter schools are part of a \$1.487 billion increase in tuition support for schools of all types. Much of that was shadowed, though, as Republican legislators touted new dollars to fund a nearly universal expansion of the state's Choice Scholarship voucher program — which allows families to receive vouchers to attend private schools.

Charter schools, specifically, are set to see about the same tuition support increase as traditional public schools.

But the new biennial budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 makes three significant changes to charter finances.

It increases the bonus Charter and Innovation Network School Grants they can get to \$1,400 per student — up from its current level of \$1,250.

It includes \$25 million in new capital grants for brick-and-mortar charter schools to access for facilities costs.

It funnels a portion of property tax operations funding growth to charter schools in Marion, Lake, Vanderburgh and St. Joseph counties.

In addition, lawmakers drew the greatest pushback from Hoosier school officials and traditional public education supporters with a provision in Senate Bill 391 that would force school districts in those four counties to also share referendum funding with charters.

Slice of referendum revenue goes to charter schools

Gov. Eric Holcomb has until Monday to sign or veto the Senate bill or the measure will automatically become law.

The bill requires school districts in the four counties to provide a proportional share of referenda adopted after June 30 with area brick-and-mortar charters. In other counties, sharing those funds would remain optional, at least for now.

Debate on the bill late

Thursday night noted that Allen County was left out of the sharing.

Republican lawmakers who supported the bill maintained during public testimony that those counties were chosen because, collectively, that is where a “majority” of the state’s charter school students are located.

Indiana charter schools with enrolled students who live within the boundary of school districts that get voter approval for an operation or safety referendum would receive a per-student share of the local property taxes collected.

School districts that are distressed units are exempt, per the legislation. Currently, that means the Gary Community School Corporation would not be subject to referenda sharing.

Indiana’s nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency estimates that school districts in the four counties received \$210.1 million in school operating or safety referenda revenue in 2022. If Senate Bill 391 had been law, those districts would have been required to distribute about \$23.9 million to charter schools.

About 29,000 and 29,700 non-virtual charter students are expected to be enrolled in Indiana in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, respectively.

Separately, Senate Bill 391 extends Indiana charter schools’ authorization up to 15 years. Current law allows charters to be approved by the state for up to seven years.

GOP proponents pointed to new “accountability” and “transparency” requirements that are also laid out in the bill.

For example, charter schools that take part in a district’s referendum would be required to support the campaign and promotion to get it to pass. And charters would also have to hold a public hearing on its annual budget before it is adopted and submitted to the state.

The bill further provides that school corporations that share referenda with eligible charter schools are not subject to Indiana’s existing “\$1 Law,” which requires public school districts to sell or lease vacant or unused instructional buildings for a single dollar to public charter

schools.

Increased per-student funding

Under Indiana’s current school finance system, state tax dollars are used to provide comparable per-pupil funding to district and charter schools.

Traditional public school districts can also levy local property taxes to pay off debt and for their operations funds. But charter schools can’t, putting them at a disadvantage for paying for certain expenses, like transportation or facilities costs.

Under the new budget requiring operations sharing, school corporations are estimated to lose \$9.3 million to charter schools in 2025, and another \$12.5 million in 2026, according to a legislative fiscal analysis. Over time, as levies increase, the amount school corporations transfer to charter schools will increase more.

The state also gives charter schools an extra \$1,250 per pupil to compensate for their lack of property taxes.

Bumping that amount up to \$1,400 per student is expected to increase charter school revenue by an estimated \$4.5 million — up to \$6.0 million — in both the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years.

Still, charter school critics have long argued that such schools are not obligated to serve every student in a given community — unlike those in traditional public school districts. That’s because capacity limits student enrollment.

The public charters also have private boards and are therefore not accountable to voters, opponents say.

“School choice” supporters maintain that parents deserve the right to more flexibility and customization in their children’s education. Doing so requires increased access to private schools, but also public charters.

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Over 30 Years, The General Assembly Has Changed — And Not For The Better

By Kim Dodson
Indiana Capital Chronicle

It is hard to believe that I just finished my 30th legislative session working as either a staffer for the House of Representatives, or as a lobbyist in varying capacities. And things have definitely changed.

From day one, I fell in love with the legislative process, fascinated by the relationships and strategic thought process needed to get things accomplished. Over the years, I have been fortunate to meet many wonderful people and build relationships on the Republican and Democrat side that have lasted throughout my career.

As I reflect on my first session in 1993, many things jump out at me, but at the top is camaraderie and respect. I remember watching legislators from different political parties debating issues on the floor, sometimes having fun asking questions they knew the other one didn’t know, pointing out discrepancies in a bill, or strongly speaking out against its passage. But, when all the debating was done, there was still respect for one another. Legislators regularly gave each other a pat on the back and later met for a drink at the Press Club. Colleagues conducted themselves with grace, dignity and respect so that nothing was taken personally.

Over the past 30 years, little by little, the atmosphere of mutual respect in the General Assembly has changed, and for the worse.

Long gone is the respect for differing opinions.

Where there was once civil debate, now far too often debate on critical social issues, which come with strong personal beliefs of legislators and their constituents, begins and ends with divisiveness, ill-will, and personal attacks. I understand when a legislator needs to draw a line in the sand but that seems to have become more the norm than the exception.

The supermajorities Republicans enjoy have only increased the climate of divisiveness and an unwillingness to compromise and negotiate. When the balance of power was closer legislators had to work together and, in my view, better public policy evolved.

Public policy impact
The sad part I see in all of this is how it has impacted the development of public policy. With a part-time legislature (and I am certainly not advocating for a change) it is hard to find time to connect with elected officials. The general public does not have the same access to legislators as those of us who work the hallways.

I strongly believe that it is critical for constituents to have access to their elected officials and have their voice heard. With cell phones and other technology, the need for legislators to come out into the hallway to talk has lessened and I am not sure that is a good thing.

There seems to be less interest in hearing from real people — constituents whose lives will be personally impacted by the legislation. Some committees require people who want to

testify to sign up online the night before a hearing — how does a regular citizen know they need to do that? In addition, many committees strictly limit the length of testimony.

While I understand the need for a time limit, those who work in the hallway have access to committee members outside of the meeting. What about the person who takes time off work to make the trip to the Statehouse to tell their story in hopes that it makes a difference?

Even more worrisome is the practice of some legislators who will not meet with anyone on legislative issues. Legislators are voted into office by people in their district. If, once elected, they find no value in their input, why are they there?

Sadly, Hoosiers are the ones losing in this equation. We need legislators willing to work across the aisle even if they do hold the majority of power. We need responsive lawmakers who believe and know that they work on behalf of their constituents. That means listening and being available to your constituents. Working behind closed doors does not garner trust in a system that is already deemed untrustworthy.

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BETSY From Page A1

Fryer, a dial painter who worked for the U.S. Radium Corp., during the 1920s, and Arthur Roeder the COE of the U.S. Radium Corp., we see the dichotomy of these two stories and how the discovery that Radium is poisonous affects both of these characters in different but equally horrifying ways, Rund said.

It's a gripping drama based on the true story of female laborers who were poisoned and killed by their factory's radium-based paint.

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage, until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease.

Rund chose "Radium Girls" because she read the play while in college and really enjoyed it. "When thinking about what show I wanted to choose for the play this year, it was No. 1 on my list. It is perfect for drama for high school students to perform since the content matter is not too hard or unreliable."

Inspired by a true story, "Radium Girls" traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court.

FHS senior Grace Mandel plays Grace Fryer. Mandel has been the lead for the last couple of years at Fishers Theatre, and is a four-year member of Fishers' competitive unisex show choir, Sound.

"Getting cast as Grace Fryer was a dream that I had fostered for a really long time. As a matter of fact, I had been using a monologue of hers whilst prepping for my college auditions nearly a year prior," she said.

"I had spent the summer, autumn, and winter of 2022 intimately getting to know the bravery and conviction within the life stories of Katherine Schaub, Irene Rudolph, and Grace Fryer. When it was announced at the beginning of the year that 'Radium Girls' was going to be the spring play, I was immensely drawn to the possibility of being a part of a project with such an important message to share, a timeless one; that the erasing of women's voices from history and from memory is, unfortunately, no new idea, but with the will to learn and the humanity to listen, each of us hold the power to change the world in which that tragedy rings true," Mandel said.

Why did Mandel want to portray the role of Grace? "She is a representation of what could happen to any person under the circumstance that the value of human life is weighed against the American dollar."

Description of the character? She was "a teenage girl with hopes, dreams, and aspirations just like any one of us," Mandel said.

"In actuality, Grace did not choose the life of a hero; she was simply a person who made the decision every day to be a person who cares. In many ways, I feel a true kinship with Grace. I see so much of myself in her spirit and there are even occasions (many occasions) when I'll be listening to a song

in the car and think of how much she'd love it, or I'll be reading a book and wonder if she would have gravitated towards the same genres as me." She said, "When you perform a play depicting real people, you have a responsibility to regard the story you're telling with a sizable degree of sincerity. Lifetimes of love and heartbreak and passions and disappointments are being entrusted to you with the agreement that you will validate them, regard them with care, and portray them in as genuine a light as possible."

Mandel said, "I would say to any person looking to purchase tickets (for this play), this story is one of massive importance and is sure to leave you with an enriched sense of empathy and inner strength. In my biased opinion, it is and will always be worth the watch."

After high school, Mandel plans to earn her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Rider University in New Jersey and looks forward to continuing on her theater journey. "However, I can honestly say that I would not be where I am, ready to pursue my passions and move out into the world, without the love, support, and inspiration I've derived from the community of Theatre Fishers. I will always be thankful for the joy and the memories," she said.

Mandel is among 20 FHS students cast in the production plus an additional 20 students doing crew. Auditions were three months ago, in February. "We do standard auditions where they do a monologue and then call students back to read scenes together and cast from there," Rund said.

The crew is volunteer but most students who are on the crew have been on the crew for all Fishers Theatre productions, unlike actors who change from performance to performance, she said.

The set is designed by students and made by the students in FHS's Tech One class. Andy Smith, department chair and technical director, teaches the tech classes and oversees the crew. Katelyn King is going to do all of the special-effect makeup, which should be fun to see.

Rund is a costume designer, so she oversees the costumes. "We have students who are student heads for the crew, so we have stage managers, deck captions, fly masters, props masters, grips, lighting, and sound board operators that are all students," she said.

"So it is really me and Mr. Smith who oversee all the students but the students do most of the work," Rund said.

"This production has been amazing to work on," she said. "These students have worked so hard to research and understand the lives of these women in the 1920s and really worked hard to bring these characters to life and truly tell the beautiful horrifying story."

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com



TIM From Page A1

new job, one that could include multiple terms?

"No," he shot back. "When this term is up, I'll be 79 years old. You don't even buy green bananas when you're 79."

Garrison grew up in Indianapolis in a home where his father was a doctor.

"He delivered about 900 babies in his life," Garrison said. "He made house calls. The first baby he delivered was in a house with no electricity - and he didn't get paid. I remember one of the farmers walking up our drive with a separated shoulder. Dad laid him on the pool table and said 'this is going to hurt,' and whop, he put that shoulder back in place. The farmer thanked him and walked on back to go back to work."

His mom stayed at home as moms did back then. Life was good for Garrison and his brother Chris.

"We had steaks on the grill at night. My grandmother stayed with us for a while."

Garrison learned to play piano, not that he had much choice.

"It was either learn that or sell me off to the circus," he quipped. "I was a pain in the ass. She (mom) wouldn't admit that, but it was true."

His family attended the Methodist Church and belonged to Heather Hills Country Club after it was built in 1960. It later became Maple Creek and is noted for being the first 18-hole golf course designed by the famous Pete Dye.

"I played a lot of golf," he remembered. "I'd play 36 holes a day on the weekends. We had a lot of good times."

After graduating from Warren Central, and like a lot of others in his family, Garrison headed for IU. He graduated there in 1970 and the IU law school in '73. Of course, details of his now-famous career after that are well documented.

In 1992, he successfully prosecuted boxer Mike Tyson for rape in an Indianapolis courtroom. That led to gigs with CBS News, Fox News, 60 Minutes, The Today Show, 48 Hours and others. His quick wit and affable personality far outlasted any notoriety he gathered through his work on the Tyson case. He was asked to comment on other high-profile court proceedings like the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

One thing led to another and Garrison began a radio career at WIBC that lasted two decades, 1997-2017, to the day.

"You have to under-

stand, after I was done with O.J., I had a much different footprint."

Visitors to his office today can see a Marconi award hanging on his wall, evidence of his high-quality work in radio.

"I think I was too dumb to be scared," he said. "Besides, I've got such a face for radio."

Does he miss it? "Only for a minute," he shoots back. "I don't miss that red light. It's a merciless mistress. My producers often had to stall because I don't always show up on time."

Stalling usually meant a longer version of his opening music, the energetic and lively theme from the 1960 smash Magnificent Seven by Elmer Bernstein.

"It said what I wanted to say - saddle up; let's get something done here."

Garrison has been getting something done for quite a while. The conservative Republican has a long-time friendship with former radio host, Indiana governor and vice president of the U.S., Mike Pence. He and brother Chris created a successful law practice that Chris still works at today. He's made four trips to Israel, three as guests of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

When talking with a visitor about those trips Garrison keenly observed, "There are two versions of you, the you before the trip and the you after." He adds that he tells people his boss was a Jewish carpenter.

Garrison said that he ran for office at this stage in his life because friends, family and law-enforcement encouraged him to. He repeatedly says it's the last stop, career wise.

"When this is done, I want to enjoy some things," he said. "Look, there've been times in my life when we were fat. There have been times when the receptionist made more than me. That's just life as an attorney, as an entrepreneur, as any small business owner."

The lines on his face are evidence of those times. But the crow's feet around Garrison's eyes . . . tells you that whatever comes next will involve plenty of laughter, too.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Riverview Health Hygiene Specialist Stacy Turner Honored With National Award

UMF PerfectClean recently honored Stacy Turner, Riverview Health hygiene specialist, with the annual National Hygiene Specialist Excellence Award. Stacy was nominated by Scott Smith, director of Housekeeping at Riverview Health, for her exemplary work as team lead of the hospital's environmental services department.

"Through her hard work, leadership and commitment to infection prevention, Stacy helps support our commitment to being a champion for health and wellness throughout central Indiana," said Smith. "She delivers excellence in ev-

erything she does, driving quality improvements and providing our customers throughout the hospital with exceptional care and support. When issues arise or patients need extra care, staff look to her for help. She's known for her compassionate care for our patients and her coworkers."

"We're so proud that one of our associates has received this national award," said Dave Hyatt, Riverview Health president and CEO. "The housekeeping staff and hygiene specialists play a critical role in our patients' health and safety. We're thrilled to see Stacy honored for her hard

MAGIC From Page A1

your family!

•South Alley: Balloon Artist & Face Painter

•East Alley Entertainment: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them show! An exotic animal show with our friends from Silly Safaris

•North Alley: Diagon Alley! We will have local artists and makers selling magical goods! Feeling competitive?

•Courthouse Square: Live music from Cincinnati based wizard rock band Tonks & the Aurors, and the acoustic looping music of the Kevin Jones Project.

The magic continues outside of the alleys, too! Don't miss:

•Magic Shows: The Lacy Arts Building will play host to 3 world-class magicians. Award-winning magician, Jim Turnpaugh kicks things off with his show at 6 PM! Caleb Wiles, who has been featured twice on the hit CW show Penn & Teller Fool Us, takes the stage at 7 pm. Fresh off his acclaimed performance at the Chicago Magic Lounge, Jeff Loeser brings his sophisticated brand of close-up magic to the stage

at 8 pm. We'll also have magicians Doug Jave and Ryan Siebert performing street magic on the square!

•Harry Potter Trivia: Put it to the test! Primeval Brewing and Live Trivia hosts Harry Potter Trivia from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm. Arrive early to register!

•Craft Beer & Cider: Guests 21+ years old can enjoy beverages from Bier Brewery and Ash & Elm Cider.

•Cocktail Tasting: Tell us who has the best Magical Cocktail in all of Downtown Noblesville. Visit participating merchants to see which drink casts the better spell. Voting on Facebook!

•Horcrux Hunt: Seeking all wizards with a sharp eye for treasure! Participate in the Horcrux Scavenger Hunt and see how many clues you can find! Find all 7 and be entered to win a prize!

•Costume Contest: Dress up to win \$100 through Magic Costume Contest. Dress in your best magician, wizard, or Harry Potter costume and visit the Nickel Plate Caboose, which will be transformed into the Hogwarts Express, for a photo op!

Hamilton County to Allow Cameras in its Courtrooms Presiding Judges Allowed to Set Conditions for Each Request

Hamilton County's Circuit and Superior Courts will begin allowing cameras in their courtrooms.

The Indiana Supreme Court has given trial court judges the authority to decide whether or not to accept requests for cameras in their courtrooms.

"We are constitutionally required to have open courtrooms to ensure courts don't abuse their powers" says Superior Court No. 5 Judge David Najjar. "Allowing cameras in the courtroom is another way to ensure our proceedings are public and to allow citizens to watch the work we do and how we do it."

Up until now, Indiana and Louisiana were the only two states in the nation to not allow cameras in the court.

"COVID brought cameras into just about every courtroom," Judge Najjar adds. "Live streaming became a necessity when our judicial buildings were closed to ensure we created a public forum and keep courts open to the public. So, a lot of that initial resistance to cameras in the courtroom went by the wayside. There will still be some judges who are hesitant

to the idea, but there are others who are very eager to open their courtrooms and let the media in."

Under Hamilton County's rules, the media must request camera coverage from the presiding judge at least five days ahead of the proceeding, except for court hearings in which Zoom or another Internet platform is being used. The presiding judge may then decide if they will or will not allow cameras and can set any conditions they deem appropriate. The judge can also prohibit, limit, or terminate media coverage or testimony of particular witnesses at any time and for any reason.

Media will also be forbidden to film members of the jury, juveniles, and victims of violence, sex crimes, or domestic abuse. Only broadcast and print media and their professional associations can use cameras in court. Members of the general public, including independent bloggers, are not allowed under the rule.

Those interested in requesting camera coverage in Hamilton County can find the rules and the application at <https://bit.ly/3NKJPq3>.

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Did you know that a Rochester High School mascot is the Zebra? How's that for a unique one?

I ndiana

Facts Un



Number %00 ÷ Stumpers

1. How many people in the county do not live in Rochester?
=
2. How old is Fulton County?
=
3. What is the population density of the county?
=
4. How many total schools does the county have?
=

%00 ÷

Did You Know?

- Fulton County was founded in 1836 and named after Hubert Fulton.
- Rochester, the county seat, has a total population of 6,215 residents.
- The county has 3 middle schools, 3 high schools, and 4 elementary schools.
- Rochester's motto is "The City of Friendship and Pride!"
- The county is 371.26 square miles and has a population of 20,836 residents.

Got Words?

Native Americans that previously lived in the county believed that a monster lived in Lake Manitou, so they never lived near the lake. After this many in the county called it the Devil's Lake. How do you think myths impact the way towns and events are viewed today?

Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. IIFENHRSPD
2. NFLUTO TNUCYO
3. MHYTS
4. RECESRTOH
5. DRPEI

Answer 1. Thursday, 2. Rock County, 3. Myth, 4. Recession, 5. Drive

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A7

Governor Holcomb Gives Legislators Big Thumbs Up



Gov. Eric Holcomb

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb lauded the conclusion of the legislative session that enacted his 2023 Next Level Agenda providing transformational changes to the way public health is delivered to Hoosiers, historic investments in K-12 education and workforce, pivotal contribution towards the economic development toolkit and another \$500 million dedicated to the successful READI program to enhance the quality of life of Hoosiers in every corner of Indiana.

“First and foremost, we balanced our 10th straight budget which enables us to strategically prioritize key areas in health, education and workforce that will elevate Indiana to the Next Level,” Holcomb said. “I’m proud of what was accomplished this legislative session and through collaboration and hard work we will be able to make transformational investments that will better the lives of Hoosiers and build a better today and stronger tomorrow.”

The Indiana General Assembly approved key components of Holcomb’s 2023 Next Level Agenda.

Public Health
 Dedicating \$263 million over the biennium to fulfill the recommendations of the Governor’s Public Health Commission to improve the health outcomes of Hoosiers by providing the necessary resources and delivery of services.

Of the total, \$225 million will directly go toward local public health departments that opt-in to the local/state partnership. The remaining \$38 million will be used for state resources to assist local health officials improve health outcomes. This includes integrating public health data and analytics, improving emergency preparedness through EMS training and readiness programs, increasing the state’s strategic stockpile of supplies and promoting childhood and adolescent screenings.

New legislation will provide \$100 million for mental health services and resources to more Hoosiers by expanding mobile crisis teams and crisis stabilization units and continuing to offer the 988 Crisis and Suicide Lifeline services.

The state will implement the Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide among veterans and service members to partner with communities, state agencies and veterans to come up with strategies and a prevention plan.

The state also will strategically invest the more than \$500 million the state will receive in the

coming years from the national opioid settlement to create more community substance use programs to help those suffering from addiction.

Education and Workforce K-12

The state will continue to make historic investments in K-12 education with an additional \$1.47 billion in tuition support over the next two years. The increase will empower local public schools to reach the goal of achieving a statewide average teacher salary of \$60,000.

With the General Assembly’s support, the state will remove a hidden tax on Hoosier parents by eliminating textbook and curriculum fees for more than 1 million students in traditional public and charter schools.

The state will also launch Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library statewide by investing \$6 million over the next two years to provide every child high-quality books from birth to age five. State funding will be put toward literacy initiatives to achieve the state’s goal of 95% of third-grade students indicate reading proficiency skills by 2027.

Higher Education
 Through legislation, the Commission for Higher Education will implement the governor’s goal of auto-enrolling eligible students in the 21st Century Scholarship Program.

The budget also delivered on the governor’s promise to support first-generation and

low-income minority students by dedicating \$10 million to Martin University and several other programs with similar initiatives.

Early Learning Eligibility for On My Way Pre-K will be expanded by raising the income eligibility limits for the programs from 127% to 150% of the federal poverty limit. The governor will simultaneously expand eligibility for Child Care and Development Fund vouchers to provide program access to about 5,000 more lower income working families.

Workforce
 The budget delivers on Governor Holcomb’s sustained commitment to provide Hoosiers with more opportunities to obtain the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow by investing \$58 million over the biennium in Next Level Jobs Grant programs to benefit employers and employees.

Aligned with the governor’s proposals, the enacted budget provides increases across the state’s adult education ecosystem to offer Hoosiers more opportunities to obtain skills to enter the workforce, including \$12 million to reduce waiting lists and expand capacity for adult education training programs as well as \$16.3 million to expand adult charter high schools, including the Excel Center.

Economic Development
 Thanks to the agreed upon budgets, Indiana will continue its global

reach to bring growth to our state by:

- Formalizing a deal closing fund totaling \$500 million over the biennium and an additional \$250 million-per-year tax credit cap
- Establishing an ongoing revolving fund of \$150 million for site acquisition efforts
- Doubling resources for the Manufacturing Readiness Grant Program
- Appropriating dollars to complete four capital projects: the new Westville Correctional Facility, new state archives building, co-location of the state’s blind and deaf schools and a new state park inn at Potato Creek State Park
- Investing in Indiana tourism by increasing the Indiana Destination Development Corporation’s funding

Community Development

The legislature passed the governor’s proposal of an additional \$500 million for the second round of the Regional Economic Acceleration & Development Initiative (READI). READI has become a nationally recognized innovative program that connects communities to build sustainable partnerships for growth.

The Indiana General Assembly further showed its support of community development by:

- Funding Next Level Trails to expand the state’s trails system and move even closer to the governor’s goal of becoming the most trail friendly state in the

country

- Allocating dollars for land conservation efforts
- Providing the funds to pursue more direct flights options from Indianapolis International Airport
- Appropriating dollars to provide upgrades to regional airports throughout the state
- Partnering with the state’s Food bank network by doubling funding to \$2 million a year

Good Government
 The governor’s budget supported salary increases for the Indiana State Police and other agency law enforcement officials by raising the starting salary of state police troopers from \$53,690 to \$70,000 a year.

With the support of lawmakers, the state will invest more than \$7 million in a regional firefighter training infrastructure to provide a standardized training model across the state. With the help of the Department of Homeland Security, the existing training locations will be enhanced, and new sites will be created to help cover gaps that exist in area of Indiana.

The state will dedicate \$10 million to purchase necessary equipment for volunteer firefighting organizations.

To bolster school safety, the state will increase the Secured School Safety Grant Fund to \$25 million per year and expand how schools can utilize the grant dollars. The state will invest in more free trainings for school safety specialists.

Purdue Engineering Graduate Program Ranked In The Top 2% Nationally



The 2023-24 U.S. News & World Report national graduate school rankings, released Tuesday (April 25), put Purdue’s College of Engineering at No. 4 out of 220 for the third consecutive year, with the nation’s top five as MIT;

Stanford; the University of California, Berkeley; Purdue; and Georgia Institute of Technology.

Other top-ranked programs at Purdue include Agricultural and Biological Engineering ranked No. 1 for the third straight year, and Analytical Chemistry, which has produced multiple Nobel laureates and maintains its longstanding No. 1 ranking.

Purdue’s Computer Science department continues to build on its strong upward momentum, with a new area ranking in AI; a No. 13 ranking in Programming Languages, and a rise to No. 14 in Systems. Mathematical Analysis at Purdue also

ranks No. 20.

Purdue’s newest initiative, Purdue Computes, builds on this momentum to help elevate all of Computing at Purdue into the top 10. In addition to bringing together Computer Science and Computer Engineering, it represents an immediate \$50 million investment to expand Purdue’s semiconductor facilities, and launches an Institute of Physical AI at Purdue, focusing on the areas of computing ‘where atoms meet bytes,’ which are crucial for the nation as well as the state of Indiana.

“These rankings reflect the success of our collective research enterprise

across Purdue – from record research expenditures, graduate student selectivity and numbers, along with investments in major centers,” said Arvind Raman, the John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering.

Provost Patrick Wolfe added, “Along with substantial investments in a reimagined School of Business that plays to our strengths in analytics and engineering, and an expansion into Indianapolis that is strategically focused on these same areas, these latest in a long line of strong STEM rankings highlight our relentless pursuit of scholarly excellence at scale.”

Several Purdue engineering programs continue to rank among the top 10: aerospace (No. 6); civil (No. 7); electrical, industrial and mechanical (all No. 8); and computer (No. 10). Just outside the top 10 are nuclear engineering at No. 11, environmental at No. 12 and materials at No. 13.

Purdue’s Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business continues to advance its rankings in areas of strategic importance to Purdue with, production operations ranked third, project management seventh and supply chain management ninth. Business analytics, one of the fastest-growing programs at Purdue and

nationally, now ranks 12th.

Purdue’s veterinary medicine program, which sees intense student demand and consequently plans to increase its enrollment by 50%, sees its latest ranking climb two spots to No. 11 nationwide.

“While all rankings are limited and noisy, Purdue’s excellence at scale is reflected in part in the recent graduate rankings, with top-ranked programs across multiple departments,” said Purdue President Mung Chiang. “We thank our faculty, staff and students for always aiming at ‘one brick higher’ in scholarly excellence.”



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