

The Commercial Review

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Centenarian celebration



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Mac Kelly celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 8. The longtime Portland resident married Patty Jo Derringer and worked at Sheller-Globe for 43 years. Pictured above, Kelly sits at American Legion Post 211 in Portland while his family sings to him at a surprise party Saturday.

Kelly marked his 100th birthday Feb. 8

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

It's not every day someone turns 100 years old.

Mac Kelly, a longtime resident of Portland, became a centenarian Feb. 8.

"I can remember a lot of things," said Kelly, whose long-term memory is still sharp.

Kelly was born in Michigan. In his youth, his family moved to Celina, Ohio, for his father to pursue a job in the fox farm business. He attended a school in a rural area for four years, later switching to schools in St. Marys and then Celina before dropping out at age 16.

He jumped into the Marines in

1940, serving for just over two years as a driver. He recalls operating the Jeeps outfitted with large radios they used while traversing areas near the South Pacific during World War II.

Mac Kelly married Patty Jo Derringer on Nov. 3, 1945. They had two children, Gary and Edward Kelly — Eddie was delivered "a year and a day" after their first anniversary, recalled Mac — and eight grandchildren before Patty's death in 2002.

In 1946, Kelly took a position at the Sheller-Globe factory in Portland and moved to the city.

"At that time, you couldn't hardly buy a good car. I had to either move or change jobs," he

recalled. "I just moved to Portland."

Kelly worked in the press room and later with the screw machine, putting together steering wheel hubs out of 11-foot metal bars. He worked at the company for 43 years — he moved to different facilities as the industry shifted gears, ultimately ending up at the location in Harlan — before he retired from what was then United Technology.

For 60 years, he spent his weekends fishing and swimming at Dewart Lake near Syracuse. His 77-year-old son, Eddie, remembers how they used to water ski.

"We could take him water skiing, and he'd never get wet," Eddie said.

Over the years, Kelly's vision and hearing abilities have deteriorated. (His grandson, Michael, noted screw machines were extremely loud and hearing protection wasn't enforced in Mac's time, likely contributing to his hearing disability today.)

But physically, he's still mostly independent. He keeps busy doing chores around his home.

"I'm still doing my own housework — that's why it (doesn't) get done too (well)," he said with a laugh.

See **Celebration** page 2

Proposals receive extensive comment

Holdman, Lehman bills discussed in committee

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Two bills authored by local legislators saw extensive discussion in committee Wednesday.

State Sen. Travis Holdman's Senate Bill 61 regarding tourism improvement districts was subject to about 40 minutes of testimony and questions in the Indiana House Ways and Means Committee while State Rep. Matt Lehman's House Bill 1160 regarding civil proceeding advance payment contracts heard more than an hour of discussion Wednesday by the Indiana Senate Judiciary Committee.

Holdman's Senate Bill 228, which addresses various tax matters, also came before the Ways and Means Committee with no questions or testimony.

All three could be brought to a committee vote next week.

SB 61 from Holdman (R-Markle), who represents all of Jay, Blackford, Adams and Wells counties as well as part of Allen County, would allow for petitions to create tourism improvement districts that would utilize a tax rate to generate funds for marketing and/or development. The senator noted various "guardrails" in the legislation, including that it does not include residential properties, has a 10-year sunset, is not renewable and requires signatures of 65% of business owners and assessed value within the proposed district in order to move forward.

He noted that 23 states already offer such districts, with Texas and California leading the way.

"It's been interesting to look because there's a good mix of red states and blue states," Holdman said.

See **Comment** page 2

Literacy bill moves

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

House lawmakers are moving forward with a bill that seeks to remedy Indiana's literacy "crisis" despite mounting pushback against a provision that could require thousands of students to repeat third grade.

Senate Bill 1, authored by Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, would require schools to administer the statewide literacy test — IREAD — in second grade, a year earlier than current requirements, and would exempt successful takers from sitting the exam again. Students who don't pass would receive targeted support to improve their reading over the summer and through third grade and would have three chances to pass the exam.

If third graders still

Measure clears committee despite retention concerns

can't meet the IREAD standard, legislators want their school districts to retain them.

The bill advanced from the House Education Committee along party lines on Wednesday and now heads to Ways and Means. Republicans supported the measure and Democrats opposed.

"Indiana is blessed with great educators, and I am confident they will rise to this challenge — along with parental involvement — to help us meet our statewide goal of 95% reading proficiency," Rogers said. "We owe this to every Hoosier child."

Exceptions are carved out in Rogers' bill for students who have been retained in third grade before, special education students, certain English language learners, and students who pass the math portion of the statewide assessment and receive remedial reading instruction.

Last year, 13,840 third-graders did not pass IREAD, according to test data.

See **Literacy** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Saxophone sounds

Ayden Teer and Dougie Cox play tenor saxophone Sunday during the Jay County Junior-Senior High School Winter Pops Concert. Pieces performed during the concert included "Skyfall," selections from "La La Land" and "Crazy for Cartoons."

In review

Cellist and vocalist Gabriel Royal will perform at 7 p.m. tonight at Arts Place in Portland.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and are available at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., at myartsplace.org or by calling (260) 725-4809. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages are included.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 43 degrees Wednesday. The low was 32.

Tonight's low will be 19 with a 50% chance of snow but little or no additional accumulation. Expect mostly sunny skies Saturday with a high in the upper 20s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Redkey Town Council meeting.

Tuesday — Results from the IHSAA Wrestling State Finals in Evansville.



Comment ...

Continued from page 1
Representatives of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Restaurant and Lodging Association and Indiana Tourism Association testified in favor of the measure, with Natalie Robinson, state director for the National Federation of Independent Businesses, spoke in opposition.
Those in favor said tourism improvement districts would serve to support tourism and provide a new funding source for quality of life and quality of place improvements. Robinson expressed concern that such districts and their related taxes would be a burden on small business owners, not all

of whom would benefit from them.
“These districts essentially create a tax on top of a tax,” she said.
There were also some questions from legislators regarding Marian County, which is currently exempt from the legislation because it is addressed in other measures.
Rep. Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn) suggested that an alternative would be to increase caps on already existing taxes such as the innkeepers tax and food and beverage tax. Patrick Tamm of the restaurant and lodging association cautioned that hotel taxes in Indiana are already among the highest in the nation.
Lehman (R-Berne), who repre-

sents the northern third of Jay County along with Adams and Wells counties, said HB 1160 has three main goals:
•to keep foreign money out of litigation process
•to prohibit funders from having access to proprietary data
•to bar funders from influencing direction of a suit
Representatives from the Insurance Institute of Indiana, Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Indiana Manufacturers Association testified in favor of the bill while Brent Huber of Indianapolis law firm Ice Miller testified against.
Those in favor said the bill will regulate commercial financing of lawsuits and ensure that the system is not being misused. Huber

proposed that the legislation be narrowed to address only “foreign entities of concern” as determined by various federal agencies.
Sen. Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis) also questioned the wisdom of legislation that would prevent a plaintiff from sharing information regarding the suit if they so desire.
Lehman ultimately expressed concern that lawsuits are seen as an investment opportunity.
“We’re talking about the judicial branch of our government,” he said. “When did the judicial branch or our government become a financial hedge? That’s what I’m trying to prevent here.”
SB 228 has five major provi-

sions: removing a transaction threshold for out-of-state retail merchants as a requirement for registering with the state department of revenue; eliminating the requirement for a utility study as part of the requirement to apply for a utility sales tax exemption; clarifying the statute of limitations of periodic taxes; requiring that taxes collected by sheriffs through tax warrants be distributed by electronic transfer; and allowing the department to share certain private information with tax preparers and software companies in cases in which the department believes fraudulent returns have been filed.
All proposed state legislation can be reviewed at iga.in.gov.

CR almanac

Saturday 2/17	Sunday 2/18	Monday 2/19	Tuesday 2/20	Wednesday 2/21
27/22	40/24	47/33	50/37	56/40
Saturday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with temperatures in the 20s.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Sunday, when the high will be 40 degrees.	Monday looks to be sunny with a high of 47 degrees. Slight chance of rain late.	Mostly cloudy skies are expected Tuesday when the high will be 50 degrees.	There's a slight chance of showers on Wednesday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.

Lotteries

Powerball 1-4-45-47-67 Power Ball: 18 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$306 million	Daily Four: 4-5-6-0 Quick Draw: 4-7-8-13-16-21-26-28-34-37-43-55-57-58-59-61-62-65-74-75 Cash 5: 26-36-38-40-41 Estimated jackpot: \$393,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$457 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 2-8-1 Pick 4: 5-4-9-4 Pick 5: 5-5-4-9-5 Evening Pick 3: 6-8-6 Pick 4: 1-8-7-7 Pick 5: 3-6-9-6-5 Rolling Cash: 15-26-32-34-39 Estimated jackpot: \$474,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 1-2-5 Daily Four: 4-8-9-2 Quick Draw: 5-17-18-19-24-26-27-41-43-52-55-57-59-60-65-73-75-76-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 3-4-7	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.27 March corn4.27 Wheat4.49	March beans11.51 Wheat 5.38
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.26 March corn4.28 April corn4.30	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.10 March corn4.12 Beans11.54 March beans11.57 Wheat5.39
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.16 March corn4.16 Beans11.51	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.24 March corn4.32 Beans11.31 March beans10.85 Wheat5.08

Today in history

In 600, Pope Gregory the Great declared “God Bless You” as the appropriate response to a sneeze.
In 1923, Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun’s burial chamber was opened. Uncovered by Howard Carter, the discovery is one of the most well known feats of archeology.
In 1937, Wallace Hume Carothers of DuPont patented nylon. The new thread replaced silk in several products and cut down on costs.
In 1959, Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba after he defeated dictator General Fulgencio Batista’s forces. Castro led the country as it transitioned into the first communist state in the western hemisphere.
In 1968, George Harrison and John Lennon of the Beatles traveled to India for transcendental meditation study.
In 1978, China and Japan signed a \$20 billion trade pact.
In 2005, the National Hockey League canceled an entire season after its agreement between owners and the players’ union ended.
In 2015, Jay School Board agreed to hire CSO Architects of Indianapolis to examine school buildings. The board was weighing its options in the face of declining student enrollment.
—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Monday 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
Tuesday 10 a.m. — Dunkirk Police Pension Board, city building, 131 S. Main St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland	Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Celebration ...

Continued from page 1
Despite hitting triple digits, Kelly maintains his own yard with his John Deere riding mower and two push mowers.
He gets around town on his trusty golf cart.

“He’s resilient. He stays busy when it would be easier to not stay busy,” said Michael Kelly, noting his active lifestyle. “He’s stubborn, but I think, some of the stubbornness is why he’s done so well.”
Most of the family now lives in

Ansonia, Columbus and Dayton, Ohio. They surprised Kelly with a birthday party Saturday at American Legion Post 211 in Portland.
“He’s fun — he cracks me up,” said Eddie Kelly. “You can always depend on Dad.”

Literacy ...

Continued from page 1
Of those students, 5,503 received an exemption and 8,337 did not. But about 95% of students without an exemption moved onto 4th grade and just 412 were retained.
Multiple education experts emphasized that third grade is a critical year for literacy because it’s at that time students shift from learning to read toward reading to learn.
Rogers has repeatedly said, however, that her proposal is not a “retention bill,” and holding Hoosier kids back in school should “be a last resort.” She maintained, too, that if lit-

eracy supports and remediation in Senate Bill 1 are properly implemented, “we will not have to retain any children.”
Even so, tensions ran high at the Statehouse on Wednesday.
Numerous parents and educators who testified said that although they support efforts to identify and assist struggling readers earlier, they remained opposed to the legislation due to the mandatory retention provision.
“It’s possible to cherry pick a study here and there showing positive effects. But no review of the entire literature has

concluded that retention has any positive long term benefits,” said Russ Skiba, professor emeritus at Indiana University, also representing the University Alliance for Racial Justice.
Skiba additionally said retention is “likely to cause serious, long-term effects for students,” including failure to complete high school, failure to advance to college, “and even increased crime.” Negative effects of retention “fall hardest” on Black and Latino students, he continued.
“The \$57 million that could be saved by eliminat-

ing retention from this bill could be applied to the many positive and preventive strategies identified in the bill,” Skiba told lawmakers. “Do what works. Avoid what doesn’t. Take the resources wasted on ineffective and harmful strategies like retention and use it to implement positive and proven, effective literacy strategies. That would be a real science of reading that would truly benefit the students of Indiana.”

This story was edited for length. To read the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Felony arrests

Dealing drugs
A Portland woman was arrested Wednesday for dealing methamphetamine and related charges.
Mindy J. Weaver, 33, 4337 N. U.S.

27, was preliminarily charged with a Level 2 felony, along with a Level 5 felony for dealing cocaine or a narcotic drug, two Level 6 felonies for possession of methamphetamine

and maintaining a common nuisance, and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia.
She was being held on a \$57,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

JCHS team wins two
Jay County High School’s Academic Team picked up two first-place finishes as it finished in the middle of a five-team Eastern Indiana Academic League meet Tuesday at Randolph Southern.
The English and social studies teams won their competitions for JCHS, which was third overall.
Competing for the winning English team were Tinatin Japaridze, Jovana Markovic, Ella Stockton and Izzy Winkles. Carla Alashkar, Labibah Awliy, Corbin Bishop and Winkles made up the winning social studies team.
Adding a second-place result in math were Hannah Boggs, Anis Edi, Trenten Hamilton and Alashkar.
Jay County’s next competition will be the Eastern Indiana Academic League conference tournament Feb. 26 at Knightstown.

Jay County about 5:22 a.m. Monday.
Brandi Leeson, 46, was driving her 2013 Toyota Prius south on the highway near county road 250 North when a deer ran in front of her, according to a Jay County Sheriff’s Office report. She wasn’t able to avoid striking the animal, causing disabling damage to her car.
Leeson sustained a cut on her finger. She refused medical treatment at the scene.
Her vehicle was towed.

SERVICES

Friday
Link, Mary: 10 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.

March 2
Meier, Nancy: 4:30 p.m., Kuhn’s Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by
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Dan’s All-You-Can-Eat Fish & Tenderloin Dinner

Sat. Feb. 17th
4:00 - 7:00
At the Bryant Community Center

\$14 per meal **Dine-In**
Dessert \$2.00 **Drive-thru**
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Inaugural splash made big impact

To the editor:
Splashin' with a Passion: Peggy's Plunge was held in memory of long time community volunteer Peggy Atkinson.

Peggy was the person behind the scenes that made things happen. She was always there in your time of need and she was there watching us from above with her great, big, beautiful smile and laughing as people took to the water.

Thirty-six brave souls splashed in the freezing waters on Feb. 3 to help raise awareness and money for the United Way of Jay County. Thanks to these brave souls, over \$11,000

Letters to the Editor

was raised to help those in need in Jay County.

We are truly appreciative of the many sponsors who helped make the event a success: Matt Aker Memorial Fund, Pioneer Packaging, Tyson Foods, Display Craft, Loy Real Estate, Lutes Septic, TJ's Concrete, 10-23 Mobile Detailing, Arm's Auto Body, Chuck Denney fam-

ily, Clear Chiropractic, FCC, Hole in the Wall, In Memory of Rog Durham, Jay Community Center, Jay County Chamber of Commerce, Jay County Development Corporation, Jay County Fair, KBL Transport, Moser Engineering, Patriot Fitness, Portland Insurance, Schoenlein Farms, Strohl Appliance, US Aggregates, Walmart and Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home. These wonderful businesses and individuals helped offset the cost of the event and provided individual prizes for most money raised and best costume. We are forever grateful for your kindness. The biggest splash was made

by the Portland Fire Department. Their help was incredible. Chief Mike Weitzel, Travis Theurer and Chuck Denney along with all the great firefighters of the Portland Fire Department made the splash happen and they ensured the safety of the splashers. To all of the volunteers who helped make this special event occur, thank you.

The United Way of Jay County impacts every person in Jay County from the local community centers in Bryant, Dunkirk, Pennville and Portland to Special Olympics, Jay County Cancer Society, Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts, Homeless

Shelters and Humane Society. Any non-profit can apply for special grants.

The United Way supports disaster relief in our community. It is also only one of two organizations that can apply for matching funds from the Lilly Foundation. You can still donate online to the splash at unitedwayjaycounty.org through February.

The first annual Peggy's Plunge made a big impact on those in need. Thank you and hope to see you Splashin' with a Passion next year.

Cindy Denney
Special events chair
United Way of Jay County

Work legislation deserves scrutiny

By LAUREN MURFREE
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Sciatic nerve damage. That is what I was told at 16 was causing pain like a bolt of lightning down my back and my legs, keeping me up all night. Sixteen-year-olds are not supposed to have this condition, but thanks to being employed by an unscrupulous employer, I was injured on the job, landing me weeks of prescription medications and physical therapy.

Before the injury, I balanced my shifts at the restaurant with my high school classes, needing to contribute to my household to keep us afloat despite receiving Section 8 housing, SNAP, and WIC. My age, gender, and family's poverty status all increased my vulnerability in the workplace, a power difference my employer exploited in its quest for profits.

At night, those of us who were minors at my place of work would be told to clock out before cleaning — a form of wage theft. We all knew if we spoke up, we would likely be fired and replaced with other youth in poverty from our area. Experiences like mine are part of the reality that should be shaping the debate about child labor laws in Indiana.

In Indiana, there has been a significant increase in child labor violations within the last decade. Young workers are three times more likely to suffer wage violations than other workers. Claims have been made in committee hearings this session on child labor legislation, such as Senate Bill 146, that these child labor violations are due to youth workers missing clock-out times by a few minutes, but a more complete exploration of the data is warranted.

While we know that most violations in the food service industry — where most youth work — are from hour violations for 14-15-year-olds (overworking) or hazardous work (operating dangerous kitchen equipment), we don't have a complete picture. What we do know is that penalties for violations in Indiana are trivial, with most first violations (including hazardous conditions for children) receiving warnings and second violations fines of \$50-100 dollars.

Amid these concerns, a deeper issue arises in the context of current child labor legislation discussions. The absence of strong regulations and enforcement places the onus on the youth in these contexts to speak up and push back against employ-

Lauren Murfree



ers that take advantage of them. Legislators neglect to recognize that adults retain the most power and can cause the most harm.

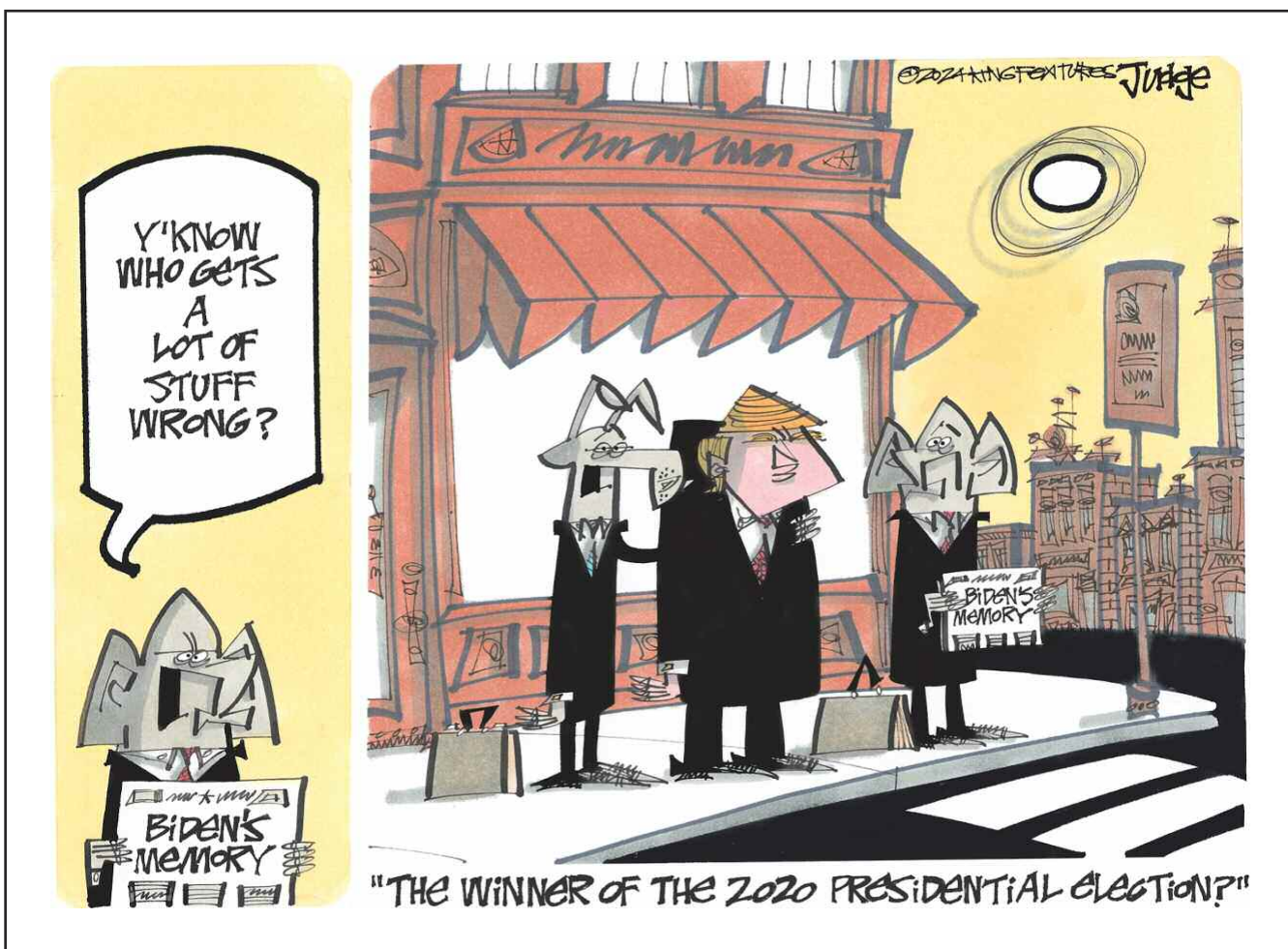
We are stealing from the futures of our youth for the profits of these businesses when we loosen protections on youth employment. As a teenager, I was overscheduled, overworked, and consequently exhausted during my school days, which was reflected in my classroom engagement and the grades I received.

My own experiences mirror national comprehensive research that shows excessive workloads for students negatively impact educational outcomes. Being overworked during my youth negatively impacted my ability to compete for opportunities to pursue higher education, which placed me in a deeper hole of poverty that I had to crawl my way out of over multiple years.

As Hoosiers, we value excellence in all we do, and supporting businesses that places profits over children's well-being contradicts this value, allowing mismanaged organizations to flourish. Regulations exist to protect against predatory employers, not those who are supportive of minors and do their due diligence. Sadly, in my case, those who employed me during my youth did not have my health in their thoughts and further attempted to dissuade me from claiming workers' compensation when I was injured on the job.

These are the kinds of employers labor laws and penalties are meant to address. Removing child labor restrictions is not, as one legislator expressed, the best workforce development policy in Indiana; this is one of the most harmful, and steals away the future of minors, particularly those experiencing poverty. We should instead end child poverty and ensure that we have the regulations, information, and tools needed to protect our youth, who are the future of our state.

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Murfree is a Policy Analyst for the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Bottom-feeders need to go

By STEVE CORBIN
The Fulcrum
Tribune News Service

As a regular op-ed contributor to newspapers in 39 states, I read a lot of various and sundry topics, seeking opportunities to craft a research-based message that might be of interest to readers.

A while back I read that 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. Soon after, a friend referred me to a 2013 Huffington Post article by Diane Dimond titled, "There ought to be a law against an 'incompetent' Congress."

After reflecting on these two topics — endangered species and an incompetent Congress — a little humor entered the noggin, research ensued and a serious column came to fruition. Let me explain.

The ESA has saved 99% of our 2,300 endangered wildlife species and their habitats (e.g., bald eagle, peregrine falcon, gray wolf, etc.). Congress last reauthorized ESA funding in 1992. But doing so again would be a challenge because reauthorization would require a competent Congress to take action. As Hamlet would say, "ay, there's the rub!"

Despite rising polarization in Congress, researchers with the Center for Effective Lawmaking found, in longitudinal studies, legislative effectiveness is heightened when bipartisanship exists. Historians reveal we've had many competent members of Congress touted for their bipartisanship, including Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Robert La Follette, Robert Taft, Ted Kennedy, Margaret Chase Smith, Nancy Kassebaum, William Proxmire, Henry Cabot Lodge, Sam Rayburn, and — saving the best for last — John McCain and Tip O'Neill.

Truly bipartisan lawmakers are becoming extinct. It's time for citizens to petition the government to enact the Endangered Competent

Steve Corbin



Congress Act of 2024. But, we'd need a competent House, Senate and president to take action; we've not witnessed such a breed in decades.

A June 2013 Gallup survey found only 17% of their respondents approved of Congress' performance. How's Congress performing 10 years later? At the end of 2023, Congress' approval rating stood at a mere 15%.

How bad is Congress? Here are some December 2023 headlines that sum it up: "America and the terrible, horrible, no good very bad Congress" (Fox News). "Worst Congress Ever?" (The Fiscal Times). "Farewell to one of the dumbest years in Congressional history" (Politico). "Worst. Congress. Ever." (The Washington Post). "Capitol Hill stunner: 2023 led to fewest laws in decades" (Axios). "A look back at how awful politics was in 2023" (The Wall Street Journal). "This horrible Congress is even worse than you thought" (The New Republic).

Ten years ago, Dimond noted the average salary for most members of Congress was \$174,000 per year plus each lawmaker received over \$1.3 million per year for office expenses. She wrote, "Now, let's multiply that by the 535 members of lackluster, partisan-paralyzed Congress and you get a grand total that tops \$818 million. So, what do you think? You think we're getting our almost billion dollars' worth of leadership? Yeah, me neither."

Today, congressional salaries and allowances amount to \$975,540,000. The average American works 240 days a year; the House was sched-

uled to meet for 117 days in 2023 while senators worked 154 days.

To regain trust and confidence in our representatives to D.C., plus force them to work together on behalf of their constituents (hey, that's a novel idea) and create a more effective Congress, we must begin by reelecting those willing to pursue bipartisan solutions and de-hiering the bottom of the barrel.

Check out the nonpartisan Bipartisan Index produced by the Lugar Center and McCourt School at Georgetown. Bipartisanship scores for members of the Senate and House are listed in rank as well as alphabetical order. Reflect on the ranking of your two senators and House members, plus the lowest ranking legislators in both chambers.

Not surprisingly, lawmakers in the top tier of both chambers' rankings are about equally divided between Democrats and Republicans. Names of the least bipartisan will be quite familiar; extremists, rabble rousers and whiners to a fault.

Before the Nov. 5 election, let's campaign to get rid of 20% of the bottom-feeder and least cooperating members of Congress — regardless of their party affiliation. They've proven they can't or won't work across the aisle. "Party before people" and "After me, you come first" are their mantras. If we cleaned the deck of congressional bottom-feeders, politicians and party leaders would quickly get the message. Bipartisanship would ensue to restore an effective and productive legislative body.

Are you with me or against me in having a more functional and productive Congress? You get to decide on Nov. 5.

.....
Corbin is professor emeritus of marketing at the University of Northern Iowa.

The Commercial Review



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

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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Team develops new protocol

By NANCY ALEXANDER
Purdue Ag News

Say you're an agricultural scientist, and you know there's technology out there that could be a game-changer in your research. But its application in agriculture is still relatively new, so finding someone who can help you use it is challenging.

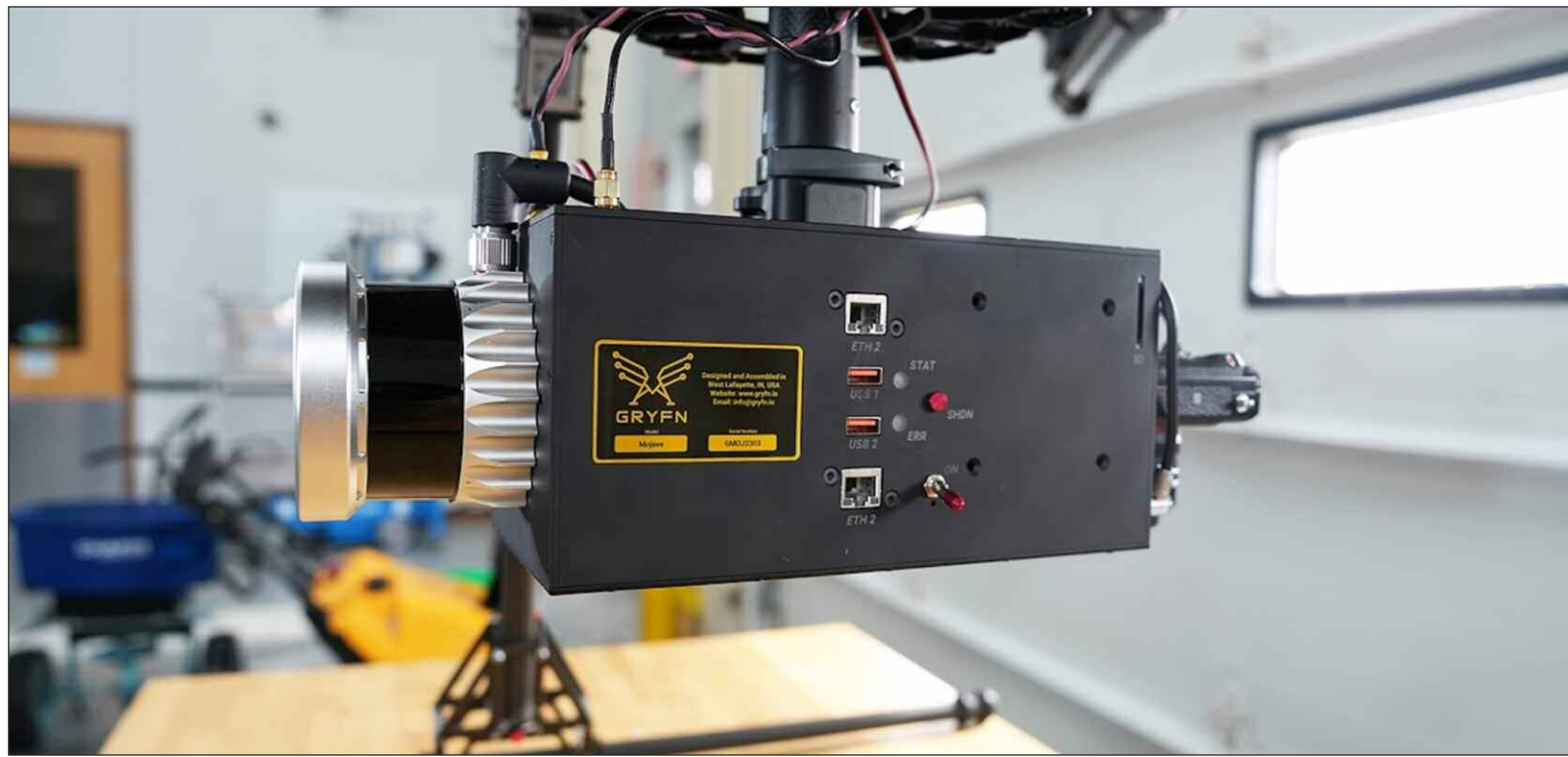
That's the case with thermal remote sensing technology — equipping UAVs with thermal sensors that produce images of fields based on temperature, and processing that data for researchers to analyze and apply.

Purdue's Plant Sciences team has now established a protocol to enable application of UAV-based remote sensing thermal imaging. The protocol takes advantage of the innovative UAV technologies provided by GRYFN, a company founded at Purdue, and is capable of providing information-rich data for scientists in different disciplines.

"Our goal is to establish a protocol that agriculture researchers can rely on," says Sungchan "Sun" Oh, computational infrastructure specialist on the Plant Sciences team led by Mitch Tuinstra, Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research and scientific director of Purdue's Institute for Plant Sciences, and Yang Yang, director of digital phenomics.

Many agricultural researchers have adopted remote sensing technologies in which UAVs carry sensors that allow them to not only view fields from the air but also measure the structural and functional characteristics of crops. Their usefulness is applicable to a wide range of areas that the researchers study — plant varieties, irrigation, different fertilizers or pesticides, and many more.

For applications in agriculture, reliable processing protocols have made RGB and LiDAR the go-to UAV-based sensors. From RGB remote sensing, measurements show how green the plot is. LiDAR measures detailed geometric properties, like plant height or volume. However, apply-



Purdue Ag News/Tom Campbell

Purdue University's Plant Sciences team has established a protocol to enable application of UAV-based remote sensing thermal imaging. It utilizes technology from GRYFN (pictured) that is used to deliver data and analytics for field research.

ing thermal sensors to reliably measure the surface temperature of a target, which cannot be assessed by visual observation, has been more challenging.

Thermal properties of a crop cannot be extracted from other remote sensors such as the RGB imager or LiDAR. Thermal images also look different, so transforming the raw thermal data into a human-friendly format requires carefully established processes.

"After several intricate steps, we can finally measure temperature using the acquired thermal images of a target. Think of it like measuring temperature with your eyes," Oh explains. "Brighter colors like orange mean higher temperatures, while darker ones such as indigo or purple represent areas of lower temperatures. We just do it almost automatically with our processing algorithm."

Based on the thermal measure-

ments, a researcher investigates the correlation between their interests of research — for example, amount of fertilizer or different corn varieties — with temperature.

Temperature information is crucial because it is closely related to a plant's health status and performance. "It can be associated with a corn plant's height, leaf size, growth rate, yield, and even taste. Temperature could also be the key to reveal underlying reasons why some varieties do well in a certain difficult conditions, while others don't," Oh explains.

Researchers are still learning how to apply thermal data to their own studies. "Our Plant Sciences team is trying to become a bridge between the agricultural scientist and the technologies behind the scene," Oh says. "We're trying to provide accurate, usable, actionable data for agricultural researchers."

Their goal is not a sophisticat-

ed product, he adds: "Our protocol is trying to create a thermal data product that researchers can easily use with prior knowledge and skills."

At Purdue, users and potential users are mostly scientists in Purdue Agriculture or third-party companies that do not have remote-sensing platforms and sensors. "However, we are ready to work with anyone who wants to figure out how plants adjust to the changing environment," Oh says.

To create thermal data products for users, the Plant Sciences team first flies drones over the research plots and brings the raw data from the UAV to a computer work station. Data processing converts raw data into thermal properties in image format. The next step is extracting thermal information from each plot and summarizing it as a table. The team then advises the researcher how to

use the data products for their analysis.

GRYFN is critical to the protocol, Oh says. "GRYFN uses high-end sensors for accurate measurement. When we load the data product from the GRYFN platform, it accurately co-registers with Google maps or satellite images, and it makes it easy to monitor thermal properties of a plot during the season."

Researchers at different universities and research institutes are also developing thermal remote sensing protocols, Oh says. "We are one of them, because there's no golden standard method to processing data yet."

GRYFN, too, is developing its own protocols, not only with thermal but also with RGB or other remote sensors. "We're actively discussing how our team and the GRYFN team can work together to make the thermal sensing protocol more user-friendly," Oh says.

Control erosion using cover crops

By SARAH FRONCZAK
and MADELYN CELOVSKY

Michigan State
University Extension

As a farmer, one of your most valuable assets is your land.

The topsoil of the land is what can make or break the yield on a field. Protecting this resource and keeping it in place should be a priority for every farm.

In the past, farmers used cover crops for a few reasons like forages and erosion control. There are different times of year erosion can occur more intensely: wind erosion in the winter and water erosion in the fall and spring.

Cover crops are a great tool farmers can use to minimize soil movement off the field. Active roots in the soil hold the soil from water erosion while above ground growth shields soil movement from wind erosion. Covering the soil also protects the soil from rainfall splatter. When it rains, water hits the soil at a great impact causing soil to be displaced.

Sheet and rill erosion occur when infiltration is slow and water is able to move quickly over the surface. It carries soil particles and nutrients with it. It can occur any time there is bare soil and significant precipitation events, especially post-fall harvest and before spring planting. Fields with poor infiltration because of compaction are especially susceptible.

Wind erosion occurs when bare soil allows high winds to carry topsoil away. Soils are most susceptible when they begin to dry in early spring, but wind erosion can also happen throughout the winter. Just think about all the dirt-filled snowbanks you see around field edges and in windbreaks.

You can customize your cover crops based on the

type of erosion that is causing you the most problems in a specific field. Some cover crops are more suitable to prevent one kind of erosion or the other.

Following small grains, corn silage, dry bean and some vegetable crops, plant a mix of warm season and cool season grasses, legumes and brassicas. Harvesting July and August can leave a large window in which ground is exposed to late summer and fall washouts. This is a great time to get high diversity cover crop mixes planted that will protect soil from late summer and fall rains. Many farmers choose species that will not overwinter to avoid any necessary termination in the following spring. Even if the mix winter kills, the extra residue on the surface can slow down water and wind all winter.

Following corn and soy bean harvests in late fall, there is still often time to plant cereal rye, a farmer favorite. Even with minimal fall growth, cereal rye can provide crucial protection from spring washouts and wind. It is not recommended to plant cereal rye later than one week after the 50% frost date. Interseeding cereal rye into your cash crop at V3 - V7 corn or at leaf drop for soybeans by highboy seeder, drone or airplane can also ensure your cover crop gets planted even if harvest gets delayed. To find planting date and seeding rate recommendations for your county, check out the Midwest Cover Crop Council Row Crop Selector Tool.

For more information or to help decide what cover crop will be best for your farm, contact your local Michigan State University Extension educator. More information can also be found at the Midwest Cover Crop Council website.

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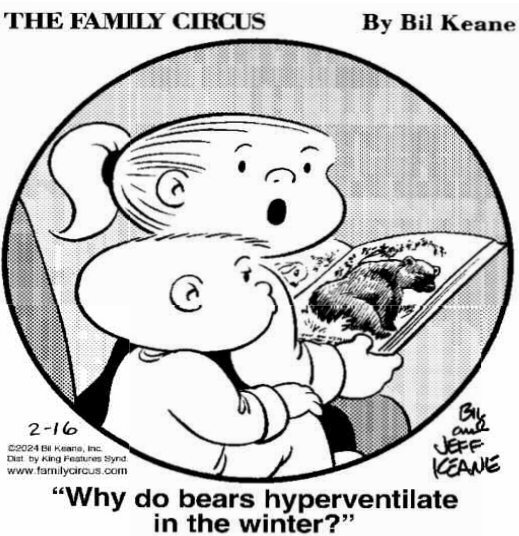
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South and have the following hand:
♠ KQ10942 ♥ 9 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ A7
1. Partner opens One Club, you bid One Spade, and partner bids Two Spades. What would you bid now?
2. East bids One Club, you overcall with One Spade, and your partner bids One Notrump. What would you bid now?
3. Partner opens One Heart, you respond One Spade, and partner bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?

1. **Four notrump.** A small slam is nearly certain — about all you need from partner are two aces and a king — and Blackwood is the ideal way to find out what you need to know.
If partner responds five diamonds, showing one ace, you sign off at five spades; if he bids five hearts, showing two aces, you bid six spades. If he bids five spades, showing three aces, you can next bid five notrump, asking about kings. Although it is unlikely partner could have a king since he didn't open one notrump or jump to three spades at his second turn, it doesn't hurt to ask; should he happen to bid six diamonds, showing one king, you can confidently

bid a grand slam.
2. **Four spades.** Partner was not obliged to respond to your overcall, and by doing so he evinced a mild interest in game. Since you have an exceptionally sound overcall, you should conclude that game is very likely. It would be wrong to hedge by bidding three spades, which partner might pass. Nor is there any advantage in bidding diamonds since you don't want to play in that suit.
High-card point count takes a back seat in hands of this type. It is true that you have only 15 points in high cards, but that would not be the right way to evaluate your hand. Contracts are made by tricks, not points, and in this case, it is hard to imagine losing more than three tricks after partner voluntarily bids one notrump.

3. **Three diamonds.** With an opening bid opposite partner's opening bid, you must make a forcing bid at this point. In view of partner's minimum rebid, slam is not likely, though still possible, but for the moment the problem is to find the best game contract. Three diamonds leaves room for all kinds of exploratory sequences at a safe level. What you do next will depend on partner's response to three diamonds.

Tomorrow: Unwelcome assignment.
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2-16

CRYPTOQUIP

YFLA BMIFA KCV HLZZ L
TCXAK-RCBDAFMEI YFC LRRMRAR
YCBDE GVXMEI HFMZGJMXAF?

L BMGZMTD BMGYMTD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE TERM "TSUNAMI" IS PART OF THE NAME OF A FILM OR NOVEL, I SUPPOSE IT'S A TITLE WAVE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals W

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Sweetie
4 Invitation letters
8 Book after Joel
12 "Mad Men" network
13 Lamb alias
14 X-ray doses
15 Discover anew
17 Former mates
18 Shoe part
19 Actress Lupino
21 Stir-fry pan
22 Resurrection Sunday
26 Senate broadcaster
29 Whatever
30 Egg (Pref.)
31 Depend (on)
32 HIV-treating drug
33 Tech news website
34 Year in Spain

35 Dynamic
36 Dijon darling
37 Tony-winning
39 Bikini top
40 Felon's flight
41 Down Under denizen
45 Tater
48 Right of passage
50 Russell of "Waitress"
51 Russian refusal
52 Green prefix
53 Harvard rival

54 Turner and Danson
55 Skillet

DOWN
1 Mata — quality
2 Warning sign
3 Mark Harmon
4 Cosmetics giant
5 Streamlined type
6 Coq au —
7 Extra on "Grey's Anatomy"
8 Locales
9 Upper limit
10 Lyric poem
11 Hot wok sound
16 "Dream on!"
20 24 hours
23 Vocal quality
24 Always
25 Indian flatbread
26 Grouch
27 Transmit
28 Turn the soil
29 Dye type
32 Enlarge
33 Deep gorge
35 "CSI" evidence
36 Vinegar bottles
38 "Golden" song
39 Founded (on)
42 Ooze
43 Bygone Peruvian
44 Thames town
45 Cloud setting
46 Soup legume
47 Internet address
49 Nay undoor

Solution time: 25 mins.
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER: 2-16

	2	3		5	6	7		9	10	11			
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Let Me Badger You



Shot clock wouldn't hurt high school basketball

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review
"Boring, boring, boring ..."

That was what the Jay County High School student section chanted at the girls IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 championship basketball game Feb. 3, and it hit the nail on the head.

Now, I'm no stranger to boring basketball. I obviously grew up watching the Wisconsin Badgers, who play a strict pack-line defense system that doesn't force a lot of turnovers but also doesn't allow many great shots. The Badgers historically haven't attacked in transition, and often used the full time of the shot clock.

Dick Bennett started what would become known as "Badger basketball" as he is recognized for devising the pack-line before Bo Ryan and Greg Gard continued the system.

My high school coach was a student manager on Bennett's team that made the Final Four in the 1999-2000 season and implemented most of what he learned under the Wisconsin legend at Oak Creek High School.

We were hated in our conference for how patient we were on offense, only shooting layups or threes off of paint touches. We even had opposing student sections chant similarly at us, or they would count our passes. The highest number we hit was 50 passes at Indian Trail Academy, but the Hawks' student section gave up.

See **Badger** page 7



Special to The Commercial Review/Kim Wendel

Sectional swim

Paige Guggenbiller swims the breaststroke during the Division II sectional swim meet at Ayersville Jan. 10. Guggenbiller along with five other Indians will compete at the district meet today held at Bowling Green State University.

OHSAA board approves expansion

The Indians will have less teams to fight through in future postseasons.

Thursday morning, the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt a new formula to determine how many divisions would be offered for postseason tournaments in volleyball, bas-

ketball, baseball and softball for the 2024-25 season.

The change will expand volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball to seven divisions, while soccer will increase to five divisions.

For the 2023-24 athletic seasons, Fort Recovery High School's volleyball team fell in

Division III, boys basketball in Division IV, girls basketball in Division III, baseball in Division IV and softball in Division III.

The proposal calls for the largest 64 schools to be placed in Division I, the next 64 schools in Division II and for the remaining to be divided evenly among the other five divisions.

The proposed changes will not affect individual sports such as bowling, cross country, golf, swim or track. There is discussion of expanding additional sports, particularly track, but

Any changes for competitive balance would need to be voted on during the annual referendum voting process.

Rammel's time goes back up

Cale Rammel only saw the floor for three minutes on Jan. 30's loss to Point Park.

That number has since gone back up.

The 2023 Fort Recovery High School graduate scored two points on 1-for-7 shooting from the field as the Ohio Christian University men's basketball team split a pair of games.

In the Trailblazers' 16-point win at Rio Grande Jan. 10, Rammel pulled

Collegiate check-up

down six rebounds, scored two points and dished out one assist.

His numbers fell as West Virginia University Institute of Technology held on for a three-point victory.

Rammel had two rebounds, while being blanked from the field on three shots.

Renna Schwieterman Jay County — 2023

Recorded a steal in her return to the floor for the Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team.

After not playing in the Mastodons' 68-65 win at IUPUI, Schwieterman logged eight minutes in the 70-66 loss at Wright State Jan. 10.

The Jay County graduate only recorded one steal while firing four shots that missed the mark in the contest, three of which were threes.

Olivia Patch FRHS — 2020

Returned to the floor Jan. 10, for the Hillsdale College women's basketball team.

Patch played eight minutes in the 69-52 win over Lake Erie. She had one

assist and an offensive rebound in the contest.

Ali Vaughn FRHS — 2021

Played four minutes in the Indiana University - East women's basketball team's 73-68 loss to St. Mary-Woods on Jan. 8.

The Fort Recovery graduate played four minutes, in which she grabbed a defensive rebound and committed two personal fouls.

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