

The News - Banner

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A Year in Review: Jefferson Township is top story

By HOLLY GASKILL, MARK MILLER & RYAN WALKER

There were quite a few notable stories in Wells County this year — many of which followed contention between both elected and appointed boards and elected officials.

Perhaps the best representation of which is the ongoing issue of Jefferson Township fire protection, which topped the News-Banner's editorial staff's annual review of the year's most significant stories. To determine this ranking, staff reviewed all 2024 editions, compiling a list of significant moments and stories that marked the year and impacted the community.

A mere four votes separated the five top stories and two stories tied for fourth.

The following are summaries of the top 10 stories, as determined by the News-Banner's editorial staff.

1. Jefferson Township fire protection.

For nearly eight months, the advisory board for Jefferson Township feuded among themselves, and with the town of Ossian and the Ossian Volunteer Fire Department about future fire protection.

The parties differed on the division of costs, who would cover which expenses, how it would be billed, and, ultimately, a 2025 fire protection agreement. The often emotionally-charged discussions were accompanied by large audiences interjecting with their own frustrations.

On one such occasion, township board member Tim Baker walked out of the meeting. Several months later, a police officer repeatedly intervened to remind the board members to "act like men" after the discussion devolved into screaming.

A 2025 agreement was ultimately approved on Oct. 22 — but not without its own snags.

The approved agreement included a township fire department budget. However, on Oct. 28, the township board members approved a different budget for the fire department, with Baker saying the township needed to prepare if the town of Ossian did not adopt the fire agreement.

In December, Baker alleged misconduct because township trustee Larry Heckber submitted the earlier approved version of the budget to the Department of Local Government Finance.

Additionally, Baker and fellow board member David Haiflich have continued to discuss the agreement as a temporary placement — possibly until the township can



In an August meeting, Jefferson Township board member Tim Baker left the meeting after yelling back and forth with audience members about plans for fire protection in the township. At right, sisters Lily, Kenzie and Brody Morgan watch the solar eclipse from the football field at Bluffton High School. (News-Banner file photos)



begin a separate fire department.

2. Anthony Castleman sentenced.

Anthony Castleman was sentenced to 85 years in prison for first-degree murder and a habitual offender charge on Nov. 12 — the first anniversary of when the body of Bernice "Dianna" Eubank's body was found outside her rural Markle home.

Castleman was Eubank's grandson and lived with her at the time of the murder. A warrant for his arrest was issued on Nov. 13, 2023, and he was located over a month later in Rochelle, Georgia.

Castleman was eventually extradited to Huntington County in February 2024, and a five-day trial followed in October.

The prosecution called 26 witnesses, including Castleman's family members, crime scene investigators and forensic

stand.

The jury found Castleman guilty after less than 30 minutes of deliberation. They then heard additional evidence for the habitual offender charge and found Castleman guilty in just nine minutes.

Special Judge Samuel Conrad issued the maximum sentence for both charges, calling the brutal murder a "shocking and heinous crime."

3. Solar Energy.

A zoning petition from Paddlefish Solar triggered a countywide debate over farmland use.

The company has secured leases for approximately 3,000 acres in southern Wells County, as well as agreements with the county government for a 10-year tax abatement, road use and decommissioning. Their petition for a "zoning layer" on the agricultural land, however, received a unanimous "do not pass" recommendation from the Area Plan Commission in March after the board heard overwhelming dissenting public comments.

Hundreds flooded the following Wells County Commissioner meeting, where the commissioners were expected to either uphold or differ from the APC's recommendation. The decision was ultimately postponed for over a month, as those opposing and supporting the solar farm showed up in droves to board meetings and those opposed protested at a primary candidate forum.

Paddlefish representatives then informally rescinded the petition as they decided to "regroup." Other companies have secured land leases in northern Wells County, but none have applied for zoning or other agreements.

Paddlefish Solar can re-apply for the zoning layer on or after March 8, 2025. In September, representatives appeared before the APC in preparation to re-apply.

It was subsequently revealed that at least two commissioners had received death threats regarding the issue.

4. Wells County Chamber of Commerce seperates from the Economic Development Commission.

After months of discussion with local officials, the Wells County Chamber of Commerce dropped its partnership for economic development after the resignation of former executive director Chad Kline.

Initially, the county government deferred approval of a contract renewal with the

(Continued on Page 2)

Naked man believed to be on drugs breaks into 2 apartments, resists arrest

By HOLLY GASKILL

A Bluffton man was arrested Saturday evening for allegedly breaking into and entering two apartments at Premier Flats. The man was reported to be naked and on drugs.

Jeremiah Charles Wrestler, 39, Bluffton, was arrested for residential entry, a Level 6 felony, and burglary, a Level 5 felony. He is also charged with seven misdemeanors: disorderly conduct, battery, public intoxication by drugs, resisting law enforcement causing bodily injury, public nudity and two counts of criminal mischief. Bond has not been set.



Jeremiah Wrestler

According to a probable cause affidavit, Wrestler broke into an apartment around 8 p.m., dragging the woman inside to the bedroom and shoving her onto the bed before being chased out by the woman's boyfriend. A second witness reported that he heard Wrestler arguing down the hallway, and then Wrestler broke through the witness's door and ran to the bedroom. The man was able to remove Wrestler from the

apartment. Damage was later identified on a third apartment door, believed to have been caused by Wrestler.

The affidavit states that the Bluffton Police Department responded to the scene and found Wrestler knocking on a door on the second floor of the building. He appeared to be "clearly in an altered state" and reportedly refused to get down, repeatedly flipping off the officers as they issued a taser warning. A taser was then used to subdue Wrestler.

Wrestler was transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center to be medically cleared. At the hospital, officers asked about the "open apartment" and Wrestler reportedly responded, "You mean the one I smashed the door through to kill."

According to the affidavit, Wrestler was belligerent to hospital staff, including grabbing a nurse's wrist and having to be pulled off by an officer. Wrestler also allegedly attempted to break off his handcuffs multiple times.

holly@news-banner.com

One-time bonus — but no pay raise — for state employees

By NIKI KELLY
The Capital Chronical

Gov. Eric Holcomb is giving a one-time bonus to all state employees, but no pay raises this year after a modest revenue forecast.

"It is important to recognize your efforts to improve the lives of Hoosiers but also in a way that our current state biennial budget, which ends June 20, 2025, will support," he said in a letter sent to state employees Monday morning.

"In most years, we have been able to provide employees with a base-building salary adjustment; this time, full-time employees of the executive branch employed on or before Dec. 20, 2024, will receive a one-time, non-base building stipend of \$1,250 in their Jan. 15, 2025, paycheck. Part-time and intermittent employees will receive \$650."

That stipend will cost state coffers between \$20 million and \$22 million, according to budget officials.

Indiana has about 32,000 full-time state employees — the highest in recent memory. The number has grown steadily except for a dip around the pandemic.

Last year, state employees received a performance-based bonus between \$500 and \$1,500 as well as a 3% cost-of-living adjustment or pay raise.

To address low pay, Holcomb previously

implemented a \$1,300 salary increase, followed by a 2.5% salary increase for all state employees in January 2022; this salary adjustment resulted in an average increase of 5% for employees and was the first general salary increase in Indiana since 2008.

The move to deny pay raises comes as statewide elected officials will receive substantial hikes starting in January. Lawmakers included the increases in the current budget. For instance, the governor's pay will jump from about \$133,000 to \$221,000. Similar hikes were included for lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, treasurer and secretary of state.

After back-to-back years of explosive revenue growth, fueled by federal dollars and an uptick in consumer spending, Indiana's incoming dollars have slowed to pre-pandemic levels. Budget writers have urged their fellow lawmakers to tighten funding requests and prepare themselves for a lean two-year cycle.

In the letter to employees, Holcomb praised the significant contributions state employees made to improve the lives of Hoosiers.


"It was my great honor to cut the ribbon on the final leg of I-69 from Evansville to Indianapolis this summer, opening even greater opportunities for us from border to

(Continued on Page 2)



Gov. Eric Holcomb

Inside
 Local/Area
 Obituaries 3
 Police Notebook . . . 3
 Opinion
 George Will 4
 Also...
 Sports 6-7
 Classifieds 9
 Diversions 8

Outside

 A rainy end to 2024 before a bit of a chill

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 40	High 33	High 31
Low 29	Low 2	Low 20

 More Weather on Page 2

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

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 Bluffton, Indiana
 125 N. Johnson St. • 260-824-0224 • www.news-banner.com

How to contact us:
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 or 1-800-579-7476
 email@news-banner.com
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Above left: A large group protested solar farms on farm ground prior to the Republican Party candidate forum in April. Above right: The Wells County health board held a hearing to remove Dr. Kay Johnson as health officer. The hearing continued for over four hours as the board members, Johnson and public weighed in on leadership with in the health department. (News-Banner file photos)

Top stories of 2024

(Continued from Page 1)
chamber after the chamber board had moved to downsize its boards members, eliminating some representation from local officials. In the aftermath, the parties went back and forth on a list of key performance indicators for reporting activities and measuring success.

Though a resolution appeared near, so did the end of the first quarter without financial backing from local municipalities. The city of Bluffton and the county governments agreed to continue funding through June as the parties continued to negotiate the contract.

However, Kline ultimately announced his resignation on March 19. An email from the chamber to its members the same day added, "We will work with the Wells County Commissioners, city of Bluffton and our member towns and governmental entities in an effort to have the economic development services historically provided by the Chamber instead be provided with the leadership of local government."

In October, the city of Bluffton, town of Ossian and Wells County governments partnered together to hire Jessica Beste as economic development director. An interlocal agreement to house the Economic Development Commission has not yet been signed.

4. Health officer resigns.

Issues at the Wells County Health Department — the N-B's top 2023 story — continued into 2024, beginning the year with a Jan. 10 hearing to remove Dr. Kay Johnson from the role of health officer.

During the 4.5-hour hearing, health board members claimed that Johnson had failed to perform her statutory duties, particularly regarding staffing issues at the department. Johnson asserted that there were never complaints about her leadership prior to the board's unanimous vote to initiate the process for her removal. She also alleged county officials had instigated the staffing issues by overstepping their leadership.

The hearing was heavily attended by the public, who split between recognizing the need for more leadership within the department and that the matter had not been handled properly.

Immediate action was deferred, and on Feb. 16 it was announced that the county had reached a settlement with Johnson. She voluntarily resigned from her role as health officer but retains her full salary through 2026 as an as-needed consultant to the department.

Dr. Brandon Huggins was later appointed to fill the health officer vacancy.

6. Juvenile kidnapped from Zanesville.

On the cusp of the New Year, an 11-year-old girl was taken from her Zanesville home by three adults from South Dakota. They were

found in Iowa County, Wisconsin, using license plate readers and reports tracing their location to a Kwik Trip convenience store.

Zachary Delozier, Sara Gaudino and Isaiah Schryvers were eventually extradited to Wells County and charged with kidnapping, a Level 5 felony. Gaudino and Schryvers took plea deals, each receiving three years in prison for the charge.

Delozier, who has been referred to as the leader of the group, was also charged with child molesting, a Level 1 felony. He was later indicted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana and local charges were dropped without prejudice. Delozier is charged with transportation of a minor with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Delozier is currently scheduled for a jury trial in April if a plea deal is not met.

7. Lutheran Health Network, Meridian Health Services downsize.

Over the span of three months, Lutheran Health Network and Meridian Health Services announced the closure of three services in Bluffton — RediMedi, Bluffton Regional Medical Center's labor and delivery unit, and Meridian Women's Health Clinic.

For the labor and delivery unit in particular, LHN attributed the closure to trends in lower birth rates at rural hospitals.

"The smaller numbers of births occurring in the region and at our hospital have made it difficult to secure and retain the specialized staff and providers necessary to provide this service," said Chief Administrative Officer Julie Thompson in a May 14 press release. "Our child-birth programs have been high performing through the years, but with the impact of fewer and fewer births here, we are taking this action now — always keeping what is best for our patients front and center."

The women's health clinic, which was jointly run by LHN and Meridian Health Services, announced its closure in a Facebook post the following day.

RediMed's closure was referred to as a consolidation of LHS services in a press release. The building in northern Bluffton has since been bought by Parkview Health for family medicine and OB/GYN services.

8. Norwell girls' basketball wins semi-state title.

The 2024 season for Norwell girls' basketball will be one they will never forget.

On Feb. 17, the Knights took down the No. 1 Hamilton Heights Huskies 64-50 to advance to the state's semi-state championship later that night. Then, it was over within a few minutes as the Knights crushed Bre-



Dakota Hubble hoists the girls' basketball semi-state plaque above the Norwell High School student section. (News-Banner file photo)

men 64-20.

For Norwell, it was the second time appearing in the state championship game in school history, and first since 1977.

Norwell ended up falling 63-60 to No. 3 Gibson Southern in the final but this did not overshadow the accomplishments the team had to get there.

"This incredible group," Norwell head coach Eric Thornton said after winning the semi-state. "I can't put it into words right now what this team means to me. You have a lot of dreams as a coach to be a part of a team that can go to the state championship."

9. Fatal crashes.

Wells County had the highest number of fatalities in vehicle accidents in 2024 since 2018. Five people lost their lives in four incidents.

Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday shared statistics dating to 2003. While this year was higher than most, Holliday remembers 2007, the highest total since 2003 when 10 people died.

"I remember that year," he said. "There were at least a couple multiple-fatality accidents."

This past year's only multiple-fatality accident occurred March 17 and involved a dirt bike, an ATV and a passenger vehicle. It claimed the lives of two teenagers, Keaton Osmun and Lillian Ellenberger.

Clarence Cantrell, 91, was struck while crossing Main Street at the Washington Street intersection in the early morning hours of June 7 while another teen, Aiden Nunley, died of injuries sustained in a head-on crash on S.R. 116 near County Road 200 West July 19.

Another accident on S.R. 116, this one on Bluffton's southeast side, occurred

Oct. 30 and took the life of eight-year-old Rose Irwin. No criminal charges came from any of the accidents.

10. Solar eclipse.

It hadn't happened since 1809, and will not happen again until 2099: a total solar eclipse in Wells County. Hence, at least for three minutes on April 8, 2024, virtually everyone in the county was doing the same thing — gazing at the sky.

Local officials were told to expect at least 20,000 visitors. Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday reported that the county's license plate reading cameras registered approximately 12,000 vehicles entering the county, much more than double any previous day's tally.

Schools closed and the roads came to a standstill. Ouabache State Park was filled to capacity by noon, the local YMCA hosted a watch party which filled the parking lot and large field, and an estimated 800 people filled Ossian's Archbold-Wilson Park. Since the county was on the northern edge of the total eclipse path, traffic from the north was particularly heavy. But visitors had also traveled from across the nation and as far away as England, Ireland and Italy.

Bluffton-Harrison Middle School also participated in a special weather balloon, carrying equipment to photograph the eclipse's shadow on Earth. Blessed by good weather, the day was marked as a success as the balloon eventually landed just 10 minutes north of Bluffton, Ohio.

Altogether, the day was marked as a success, putting a national spotlight — or more accurately, a lack thereof — on Wells County for a day.

newsroom@news-banner.com.

Weather

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:59 p.m. Monday)

High: 45; Low: 35; Precipitation: .05 inches (rain)

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.06 feet at 2:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Tuesday: Rain before 3 p.m., then rain and snow. High near 40. East wind around 15 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Tuesday Night: Rain and snow before 2 a.m., then a slight chance of snow between 2 and 4 a.m., then a slight chance of rain and snow. Low around 29. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

New Year's Day: A 10% chance of rain before 7 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 31.

Thursday Night: A 30% chance of snow before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 25.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high near 24.

Saturday Night: A 20% chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.

Sunday: A 40% chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27.

Sunday Night: Snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Monday: A chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27.



Closures listed for New Year's holiday

New Year's on Wednesday brings with it a host of closures.

The offices of the City of Bluffton and Wells County governments will be closed. The Ossian and Bluffton locations of the Wells County Public Library are closed Wednesday, Jan. 1.

There is no mail delivery and The News-Banner does not publish Wednesday. The office will not be open. Normal publication and office hours will resume Tuesday.

One-time bonus

(Continued from Page 1)
border. The Department of Health is finishing the first year of Health First Indiana, bringing more resources to local communities to improve the health of their residents. And I've traveled across the state to see the progress we're making on capital projects that will impact Hoosiers in a

variety of ways, from the Indiana Archives building in downtown Indianapolis to the new lodge at Potato Creek State Park and a state-of-the-art facility for the Department of Correction at Westville that will be known as the Northwest Indiana Correctional Facility. I'm so proud of these efforts and so many more that you are working to execute each and

The world population will be 8.09 billion on New Year's Day

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

The world population increased by more than 71 million people in 2024 and will be 8.09 billion people on New Year's Day. Estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Monday show that the world population increased by almost 0.9% in 2024. That's a slight slowdown from 2023, when it increased by 75 million people. In January 2025, 4.2 births and 2.0 deaths were expected worldwide every second, according to the estimates. The Census Bureau says the United States grew by 2.6 million people in 2024. The U.S. population will be 341 million people on New Year's Day.

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OBITUARIES

Marjorie "Marge" Jones, 86

Marjorie Louise "Marge" Jones, 86, of Jackson Township in Warren, Wells County, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024, at Heritage Pointe in Warren.



Marge was born on Aug. 2, 1938, in Marion to Carl L. and Mary Jane (Lee) Scott. She graduated from Mississinewa High School in Gas City, and married James R. Jones on Nov. 27, 1957, in Marion. Marge lived an incredibly full life and was always quick to feed any family member who came through her door (including keeping the cookie jar in the cabinet well stocked for her voracious grandchildren).

A member of McNatt Church, Marge retired from Sears in Marion in 2004 after 30 years, and had previously worked for Weight Watchers in Bluffton. She was a member of the Jackson Township Euchre Club, the Friendship Circle at McNatt, and the Jackson Township Tip Toppers Home-Ec Club. Marge enjoyed sewing, gardening, teaching her unruly grandchildren how to make her world-famous noodles, and riding her bicycle. She was a proud collector of all things flamingo and adored celebrating every holiday with a different pair of festive earrings.

Marge was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Mary Scott, and brother, Phillip Scott.

Loving survivors include her husband of 67 years, James R. Jones of Warren; children, Rhonda (Larrie) Stoffer of Warren, DeWayne (Kelly) Jones of Warren, and Diane Jones of Noblesville; seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. All will miss her dearly and will think of her always when we see flamingos.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home, 203 N Matilda St. in Warren, and again from 10-11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025. A funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. Friday with the Rev. Harold Jones officiating. Burial will follow at Jones Cemetery in rural Wells County, Jackson Township.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: Jones Cemetery for the maintenance fund.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Warren, Indiana.

Indiana's Spartz makes demands on Johnson after Trump endorsement

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump on Monday endorsed House Speaker Mike Johnson, providing crucial backing for the Louisiana Republican as he prepares for what is expected to be another contentious speakership race this week.

Trump said in a post on his social media platform that Johnson "is a good, hard working, religious man" and said he "will do the right thing, and we will continue to WIN."

"Mike has my Complete & Total Endorsement," he wrote.

Johnson thanked Trump for the endorsement and added, "The American people demand and deserve that we waste no time. Let's get to work!"

The signal of support from Trump comes despite his frustration with a spending deal Johnson pushed through the House days before Christmas that failed to achieve his central goal of raising the debt limit.

But other Republicans have been less forgiving. Far-right criticism over the spending ordeal has left Johnson's continued leadership of the incoming GOP majority once again in jeopardy. Though a deal was reached, averting a holiday shutdown, Johnson had to rely on Democrats to keep the government running,

highlighting the limits of his influence and exposing cracks in his party's support.

The speaker's first two funding plans collapsed as Trump, who does not take the oath of office until Jan. 20, interceded with calls to suspend or lift the government debt ceiling.

Johnson, who has worked hard to stay close to Trump over the last several months, convinced the president-elect that he would meet his demands to raise the debt limit in 2025.

Trump had remained quiet about Johnson's fate before a Jan. 3 leadership vote for over a week, even as some Republicans signaled that they may not support Johnson for the role.

Rep. Victoria Spartz, one of the Republicans who opposed Kevin McCarthy's initial bid for the speakership, said in a statement Monday that "our next speaker must show courageous leadership to get our country back on track."

The Indiana lawmaker went on to make a series of demands for the next leader of the GOP majority, which included major spending reform. Rep. Andy Harris, who is the chair of the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus, had also indicated that Johnson's future as speaker is not guaranteed before the holidays.

Army National Guard soldier from Indiana dies in non-combat incident in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 34-year-old soldier serving with the Indiana National Guard in Iraq has died in a non-combat incident, the Army said Monday.

Capt. Eric Richard Hart, 34, of Indianapolis, Indiana, died Saturday in Iraq, the Army National Guard said in a statement. Hart was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion of Indiana's 38th Infantry Division in Iraq. His death is under investigation.

While all combat operations have ceased for U.S. forces in Iraq, the U.S. maintains a presence of 2,500 troops to assist the Iraqi military in counter-Islamic State operations and training. Those forces have repeatedly come under attack in the 14 months since Hamas attacked Israel, spurring a wider, deadly response from Tel Aviv.

During the last year, Iranian-backed forces have launched one-way attack drones, rockets and missiles at U.S. facilities in Iraq in

response to Israel's military operations in Gaza and Lebanon.

In September, the U.S. announced an agreement with the Iraqi government to wrap up the American-led coalition's military mission against the Islamic State group in Iraq by 2025. U.S. troops have departed some bases that they have long occupied during a two-decade-long military presence in the country.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Friday, 4:27 p.m., 600 block of South Marion Street. Report of a hit skip.

Friday, 5:15 p.m., 200 block of South Jersey Street. Two calls regarding a domestic verbal altercation. One party warned for trespassing.

Friday, 6:27 p.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Report of drugs, collected by officer.

Friday, 9:45 p.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Report threatening messages.

Friday, 11:03 p.m., 1000 block of South Adams Street. Semis backed up on roadway.

Saturday, 6:51 a.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Caller reported man threatened to have dog attack the caller.

Saturday, 8:52 a.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Report of dog bite.

Saturday, 9:15 a.m., Washington and Morgan streets. Report of fighting, one transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Saturday, 10:40 a.m., 400 block of Westfield Drive. Verbal altercation.

Saturday, 3:58 p.m., Main and Wabash streets. Crash, report to follow.

Saturday, 5:18 p.m., Main Street and S.R. 124. Traffic stop. Tyler Wayne Boxell, 29, Portland arrested for driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Saturday, 8:09 p.m., Main Street and Willowbrook Trail. Driving complaint, vehicle swerving slowly through traffic. Vehicle located, driver hit fire hydrant and reportedly planned to call about the crash after returning home.

Saturday, 10:32 p.m., 1500 block of South Wayne Street. Noise complaint, provided copy of noise ordinance.

Sunday, 1:41 a.m., Washington and Williams streets. Driver cited for expired plates.

Sunday, 3:20 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites. Caller reported it felt like floor was

moving, officer verified the building was indeed not collapsing.

Sunday, 5:35 a.m., 100 block of East Silver Street. Report of theft.

Sunday, 12:19 p.m., 500 block of S. Morgan Street. Report of missing person.

Sunday, 12:32 p.m., 200 block of North Bond Street. Report of cash stolen from vehicle.

Monday, 3:18 a.m., Premier Flats. Report of stray dog, owner retrieved dog.

Monday, 10:03 a.m., Wendy's. Report of stolen medicine.

Monday, 12:27 p.m., Airplane Express. Recovered vehicle.

County:
Friday, 12:27 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served. Maurice Montell Anderson, 44, Fort Wayne, arrested for possession of a controlled substance and operating a vehicle while suspended — prior, both Class A misdemeanors, and operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.

Friday, 1:30 p.m., 7482 E 1200 N, Ossian. Report a naked woman walking around. Unable to locate.

Friday, 5:22 p.m., AutoZone. Driver cited for no seat belt.

Friday, 6:30 p.m., Taco Bell. Vehicle passenger observed without seat belt, then appeared to be hiding from window. Traffic stop initiated and passenger quickly shut glove box when officer approached. K-9 alerted, and THC vape and bottle of pee was found. The passenger said the vape was hers but that the bottle of pee belonged to neither her nor the driver. The driver, who is on parole, was cited for insurance violation. The bottle and vape were destroyed.

Friday, 7:06 p.m., S.R. 116 and 300 W, Markle. Car vs. deer, report to follow.

Friday, 9:33 p.m., 4000 block of County Home Road, Bluffton. Report of a physical domestic altercation, man had reportedly threatened to kill his family. Aaron Leonard Mason,

43, Bluffton, was arrested for intimidation, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000. A warrant was also requested for domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor.

Saturday, 5:37 a.m., Christian Care Retirement Community. Driver cited for driving while suspended.

Saturday, 2:49 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served. Luis Vera Labarca, 30, Bluffton, arrested for altering an interim license plate, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

Saturday, 3:34 p.m., Airplane Express. Driver cited for no seat belt.

Saturday, 4:11 p.m., 314 S Jefferson St., Ossian. Driver cited for no seat belt.

Saturday, 4:36 p.m., Jefferson and Young streets, Ossian. Driver cited for no seat belt.

Saturday, 5:08 p.m., Mill and Jefferson streets, Ossian. Driver cited for no seat belt.

Saturday, 8:53 p.m., Meridian Road and C.R. 800 N, Uniondale. Truck reported to have run stop sign and then went into ditch. Driver Tyler Ryan Cullar, 31, Uniondale appeared to be intoxicated and failed field sobriety tests. Cullar was transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center for a blood draw. He was then arrested for operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500. Bonded.

Sunday, 2:03 p.m., 4371 W Oak Rd., Markle. Vehicle slid off roadway, report to follow.

Sunday, 2:15 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served. Marsha Leanne Biehl, 59, Fort Wayne, arrested for possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000. Bonded.

Sunday, 5:25 p.m., S.R. 116 and Meridian Road, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

Sunday, 10:36 p.m., 4478 N S.R. 1, Ossian. Vehicle partially in southbound lane with hazards lights on. Towed from scene.

Sunday, 11:25 p.m., U.S.

224 and Meridian Road, Uniondale. Tree across roadway. Officers and motorists able to pull it off the road.

Monday, 10:10 a.m., Wells County Courthouse. Man under oath for a hearing stated he was unemployed, but is registered with a former employer. Warrant requested for failing to register as a sex offender.

ACCIDENTS

County:
Friday, 8:50 a.m., Jeff Road at C.R. 600 W, Chester Township. Jan E. Wrestler, 72, Montpelier, was driving 2019 Ford Escape northbound on C.R. 600 W and, not seeing any oncoming vehicles at the intersection of Jeff Road, she did not completely stop. The Escape struck a 2014 Ford F150 driven by Mike Murray, 67, Warren. The Escape was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Friday, 4:48 p.m., S.R. 1 at Industrial Parkway, Ossian. Darlene F. Habegger, 72, Bluffton, was driving a 2005 Buick LaSabe southbound on S.R. 1 and rear-ended a stopped 2020 Toyota Highlander driven by Chad C. Johnson, 50, Plainfield. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Sunday, 2:04 p.m., Oak Road near C.R. 400 W, Markle. Teresa Beck, 52, Markle, was driving a 2018 Chevrolet Equinox westbound on Oak Road and lost control of the vehicle in rainy conditions, leaving the roadway on the north side and entering the yard of 4371 W Oak Rd. The vehicle crossed back over the roadway and went off the road on the south side, striking numerous small trees before coming to a stop. The vehicle was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Sunday, 5:45 p.m., S.R. 116 at Meridian Road, Uniondale. Anne Bushee, 46, Huntington, was driving a 2016 Chrysler Town and Country and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

ARRESTS

Nathaniel Bradley Kahn, 20, Ossian; disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Three more gubernatorial cabinet secretaries also named agency heads

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

The Capital Chronicle
Three more secretaries in Gov.-elect Mike Braun's cabinet will also lead agencies, bringing the total number of people serving dual roles to five.

Braun unveiled a new cabinet structure earlier this month where eight appointed secretaries will oversee "verticals," or related agencies. Each would get a salary and have the power to hire additional staff, adding new positions under Braun's administration.

The three additional secretaries also serving as agency heads now includes: Mike Speedy, the secretary of Business Affairs, will also lead the Department of Labor; David Adams, the secretary of Commerce, will also lead the Indiana Economic Development Corporation; and Jennifer-Ruth Green, the secretary of Public Safety, will also be the director of Homeland Security.

They join Katie Jenner, who will be both the secretary and agency head of education, and Lisa Hershman, the secretary of Management of Budget who is also the director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Suzanne Jaworowski, Gloria Sachdev and Matthew Ubelhor will also serve as the secretaries of Energy and Natural Resources, Health and Family Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, respectively. They will not also serve as agency leaders.

The final cabinet members include Anthony Scott as the superintendent of the Indiana State Police, Brigadier General Lawrence Muennich as the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard, Lt. Gov.-elect Micah Beckwith and Chief of Staff Joshua Kelley.

Braun previously said this layer of management would create government efficiencies and be "entrepreneurial" and "accessible." In contrast, Gov. Eric

Holcomb had nearly two dozen members of his cabinet.

In addition to Kelley, three others have been named as part of Braun's office: Jason Johnson, the deputy chief of staff who will oversee legislative affairs; Jessica Wedgewood, the deputy chief of staff who will oversee operations; and

Patrick Price, who will be the governor-elect's legal counsel.

Twenty others will lead various agencies under Braun alongside the secretaries included above. In addition to Jenner, who will spearhead education efforts, Braun retained ten agency leaders previously appointed under Gov. Eric Holcomb.

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On improving elections, Americans take a pass

One of the things I've always appreciated about American elections is that the results are always fascinating — a glimpse into our communal likes, dislikes, and moods. Sometimes, though, they're also perplexing, a reason to step back and wonder why the results turned out as they did. That's where I found myself after this year's general elections — not so much because of who got elected, but because of how voters decided to approach the electoral process itself.

Year after year, Americans tell pollsters that they don't like partisanship and, overall, prefer candidates who are moderate rather than extreme. These characteristics have been harder to find in recent decades, for any number of reasons. Districts drawn every ten years to pack Republicans into some districts and Democrats into others produce nominees who tend toward the extremes. Winner-take-all primaries tend to attract the most motivated voters. Head-to-head matchups in the general election give voters a binary choice that often doesn't meet their desires.

As it happens, there were a raft of ballot initiatives this year that offered voters a chance to address some of these issues, especially by re-jiggering the system to make it more likely that candidates would have to appeal to voters beyond their base. And in state after state, they went down to defeat.

It wasn't universal. Bucking the trend, for instance, a few cities — including Washington, DC and Bloomington, Minn. — decided to try ranked-choice voting, in which voters rank their candidates from most to least favorite. But at the state level — in Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Nevada, and Oregon — voters said they weren't interested. The one state-level exception was Alaska, which has had ranked-choice voting since 2022; the system survived an attempt to repeal it by just a few hundred votes, with its support in Native Alaskan communities making all the difference. Similarly, efforts to install open primaries, in which the top vote-getters would advance to the general election regardless of party, also went down to defeat in state after state.

In Ohio, where an anti-gerrymandering initiative was on the ballot in the form of a proposal to create a citizen-led redistricting committee rather than leave the process to legislators, some 53 percent of voters cast their ballots opposing it. To be sure, reform advocates charged both before and after the election that the description of the initiative adopted by the state's Ballot Board was confusing, and that some voters who thought they were voting for a commission mistakenly wound up voting against it.

But for the most part, the failure of election reform efforts this year can't be laid at the feet of poor wording. Instead, they fell victim both to this year's highly charged political climate and to strong opposition from the Republican and Democratic parties, which had no interest in seeing their power watered down. "I think these initiatives were largely swept up in a highly polarized climate in which any suggestions of changing voter rules were met with suspicion among voters," the leader of one national reform group told NPR right after the election. "And then that's amplified by the fact that you have both political parties and their aligned special interests fighting tooth and nail against these initiatives and planting doubt among voters."

Changes to the electoral system are hard to sell. Even in the best of times, the mechanics of ranked-choice voting are difficult to explain; and while open primaries might be embraced by independents and other non-affiliated voters, party faithful are more likely to look at them with suspicion.

Still, many voters are tired of the extreme partisanship and legislating-from-the-margins they've witnessed over the last decade and more. Making changes to the electoral process in ways that would strengthen the political middle is a legitimate way to approach the problem. But it's clear that before that can happen, reformers will have to clarify the benefits — and find a way to reassure voters they're not trying to throw the advantage to one party or the other.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2024. This is New Year's Eve.

Today in history: On Dec. 31, 1879, Thomas Edison first demonstrated his electric incandescent lights for the public by illuminating some 100 bulbs in and around his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

Also on this date:

In 1904, New York's Times Square saw its first New Year's Eve celebration, with an estimated 200,000 people in attendance.

In 1972, Major League baseball player Roberto Clemente, 38, was killed when a plane he had chartered and was traveling on to bring relief supplies to earthquake-devastated Nicaragua crashed shortly

after takeoff from Puerto Rico.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six others were killed when fire broke out aboard a plane that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1995, the syndicated comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes," created by Bill Watterson, came to an end after a 10-year run.

In 1999, Russian President Boris Yeltsin resigned, making Prime Minister Vladimir Putin acting president.

In 2019, the health commission in the central Chinese city of Wuhan announced that experts were investigating an outbreak of respiratory illness which would eventually be known as COVID-19.



Lee Hamilton

Hoosier Opinions



Thanks for the laughs, 2024, you ridiculous year

Viewed in a bemused spirit, 2024 provided (in Mark Twain's words) "not merely food for laughter," but "an entire banquet." Begin with the Texan who, preparing to run for president, changed his name to Literally Anybody Else. John F. Kerry, the Democrats' 2004 nominee and, in 2024, the State Department's designated climate worrier, said people would "feel better" about the war in Ukraine if Russia would "make a greater effort to reduce emissions." War criminals should minimize their carbon footprints.

A whistleblower charged that a federal supervisor directed workers responding to hurricanes Helene and Milton to "avoid homes advertising Trump." Miss Sassy, the Springfield, Ohio, cat who police were told might have tempted hungry Haitian immigrants, was found healthy in her owner's basement. Online applicants for some positions in Kamala Harris's campaign were invited to say whether they are "he/him," "she/her," "they/them," "xe/xem," "ze/hir," "ey/em," "hir/hir," "fae/faer" or "hu/hu." At a post-election seminar, a senior official of the campaign pronounced it "flawless." The day after the election, various universities provided milk, cookies, coloring books, Legos, "reflection spaces" and "destress sessions" for young adults "struggling" with the election results.

A Page 1 New York Times headline announced a discovery: "Progressive Ideals Losing a Grip on the Country." The story did not disclose when the country was in this grip. Rwanda, unlike America, evidently is not polarized: Paul Kagame, president since 2000, won reelection with 99.18 percent of the vote. South Dakota Republican Gov. Kristi L. Noem, asked about her memoir claiming that she had once met with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, said this "anecdote" has since been "adjusted."

According to Democratic vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz, socialism is "neighborliness." Cuba, where neighborliness is strict, cut from 80 grams to 60 grams (2.1 ounces) its subsidized daily ration of bread. When German troops volunteered to help Poland recover from flooding, Poland's prime minister told his nation, "If you see German soldiers, don't panic." It was learned that in 2023 Amtrak lost \$1.7 billion but scraped together "incentive" bonuses of more than \$200,000 each for 14 executives.

In his 1867 poem "Dover Beach," noting the decline of religion, Matthew Arnold evoked "the sea of faith" retreating with a "long, withdrawing roar." In 2024, the ersatz religion of "diversity, equity



George Will

and inclusion" emitted a long, withdrawing whimper. Many corporations (e.g., Walmart, the nation's largest private-sector employer) reconsidered the employee indoctrination and racial spoils system dictated by DEI orthodoxy. Even academia, always the last to learn, awakened to the obvious: Wokeness, including mandatory statements of DEI groveling by faculty applicants, is incompatible with intellectual freedom. A federal judge handling litigation concerning the crashes of two Boeing 737 Max jets that killed 346 people was unamused by the Justice Department's "diversity and equity" provisions when choosing the monitor of Boeing's compliance with its plea deal. Eighty-four percent of San Francisco voters supported restoring algebra to middle schools, it having been banished to serve "equity." A Virginia school district paid \$575,000 recompense to a teacher fired for mispronouncing. When the New York-New Jersey region experienced an earthquake, the Green Party candidate for Senate in New Jersey said: "We never get earthquakes. The climate crisis is real."

Illinois' legislature passed a bill renaming some "offenders" as "justice-impacted individuals." Five crime-busting Mississippi cops arrested a 10-year-old for peeing behind his mother's car. He was sentenced to three months' probation, with drug tests at his probation officer's discretion. Embracing today's rule "Never miss an opportunity to criminalize something," an Ohio legislator, incensed not by the rioters but by their excuse for rioting, proposed legislation making it a felony to plant a visiting team's flag at the center of Ohio State's football field. Elsewhere in education, Chicago's teachers unions (a.k.a. the city's government) pronounced it "misogynistic" to report that 4 in 10 Chicago public school teachers (median salary: \$95,000) were "chronically absent."

Brooklyn's PS 261, where the "Arab Cultural Arts" program is funded by Qatar, had a map of the Middle East with Israel omitted. An Amnesty International report this year began: "On 7 October 2023, Israel embarked on a military offensive..." One wonders why. The New York Times reported that on Oct. 9, 2023, "senior administrators at Harvard University" removed the word "violent" from the description of Hamas's attacks because a dean explained that it "sounded like assigning blame."

In Bolivar, Missouri, Bill Pool, who was born when his father was 80, will turn 100 in January. Bill, reportedly the last living son of a Civil War veteran, survived 2024, perhaps laughing all the way.

georgewill@washpost.com.

Can we learn from the lessons of 1925?

Political and other prognosticators are busy as usual predicting the future. Never mind calculating how wrong they have been in the past, our desire to know what's coming sometimes overcomes sound thinking, ignorance of history and an understanding of human nature.

Recall the number of times climate alarmists predicted we would either freeze or burn to death by certain dates and religious mouthpieces forecasting the end of the world on dates that failed to materialize. Cars and electricity were declared a "fad" when they first appeared. The list of outlandish predictions is long.

More can be learned from the past than by trying to predict the future. As Doris Day sang in the film "The Man Who Knew Too Much": "Whatever will be will be. The future's not ours to see, que sera, sera."

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge was elected to a full term after serving out the term of Warren Harding, who had died in office. Coolidge's good character should serve as an example to modern politicians at a time when sex scandals and other violations of what once were called moral norms seem to have mostly evaporated. Coolidge believed



Cal Thomas

in small government, low taxes, balanced budgets (he left office with a smaller federal government than when he arrived and was wrongly blamed for the Great Depression) and personal responsibility. Sound economic and moral principles were taught in schools in 1925, but not so much today and many feign surprise at the inevitable results. Who decided right and wrong are individually determined?

Some future events were predictable if only people had paid attention. The "Roaring '20s" focused on profit and pleasure, overlooking the rise to power of Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and the coming German dictator Adolf Hitler, whose book, "Mein Kampf," published that year, should have warned the world about his goals. Those included world domination and the elimination of the Jewish people. Why don't we listen and act accordingly when evil people announce what they intend to do?

The "Scopes Monkey Trial" intensified the evolution vs. creation debate that continues today.

The year saw as many as 40,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan march on Washington. Today's rise in anti-Semitism shows we have learned little about the scourge of hate and how it must be opposed,

or it will grow. The first stirrings of what would become the modern civil rights movement occurred in Harlem, New York, with the formation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

On Sept. 5, 1925, the temperature climbed to 114 degrees in Centreville, Alabama. People called it weather and not today's climate change hysteria.

Humiliated by its defeat in World War I, in 1925, Germany agreed to their frontiers with France and Belgium and announced their intention to apply for membership in the League of Nations. Neither the League, nor German promises, would last long (see above).

Many good things came out of 1925, from serious jazz musicians like Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, to sports, and literary achievements by the likes of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Virginia Woolf.

Given the economic challenges that were to come, along with a second world war that killed more than 400,000 Americans, the "roar" of 1925 would soon be drowned out by the roar of global conflict.

What can we learn from 1925? Plenty, if we will. As Confucius observed: "Study the past if you would define the future."

Will we learn from him and from history in 2025? We will soon find out.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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Josh VanMeter to speak at Boys & Girls Club banquet

The 8th annual "Making a Difference" banquet, a fund raiser for the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club, will be held on Monday, Jan. 20, at the club at 1410 S. Wayne St. in Bluffton.

Guest speaker will be Josh VanMeter, former Major League baseball player and Norwell High School graduate. VanMeter, from Ossian, graduated from Nowell High School and went on to Major League Baseball where he played as an infielder and outfielder. He was drafted in the fifth round of the 2013 MLB Draft by the San Diego Padres.

VanMeter explains, "My MLB debut was made by the Cincinnati



Josh VanMeter

Reds on May 5, 2019, and I later played for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Pittsburgh Pirates. Known for my versatility, I have played multiple infield and outfield positions throughout my career. Recently in 2024,

I was with the New York Yankee organization."

Reservations are needed to attend the dinner and auction. To make a reservation call the Club at 260-824-5070 or e-mail Gene Bell at genebell.wellsbgc@gmail.com.



DAR donates to Grace and Mercy

Dianne Burk, at left, representing the William Wells Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, presents gifts to Krista Masoner, office manager for children and mothers at Grace and Mercy Transitional Housing. (Photo provided)

Sponsors of Boys & Girls Club programs



First Bank of Berne, represented by the Branch Manager Erica Bennett, at right, will also be one of the sponsors for the Jan. 20 fundraiser banquet. At the left is Club Director Vicki Bell. (Photos provided)



Among the groups assisting with the sponsorship of the Wells Community Boys & Girl Club's "Making a Difference" banquet to be held on Monday, Jan. 20, will be the members of the Dale, Huffman & Babcock law firm. Left to right are Kristin O. Steckbeck, Brianna Shenefield, Ashley Payne, Michael J. Huffman, Keith P. Huffman, Bryant A. Barger, Deedra Bercot, Timothy K. Babcock and Sheila Faeth.

Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

As the year winds down there is way too much to get ready for 2025! Getting a new calendar is one of them. I bought a large one this time as I have too many notes to make on it as I don't want to miss out on family happenings and appoint-

ments!

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and will also have a Happy New Year.

Please keep all the sick in your prayers as there are many around this area. Also be very careful and stay healthy.



Above, taking top place honors in the Wells County Public Library's Gingerbread Contest was the entry from the Administration Department featuring the North Pole Library and a nearby pond with penguins frolicking. Library patrons voted for their favorites. Below right, second place honors went to the Material Services Department for their "We Live Our Library" entry featuring Santa on the library's chimney and "pretzel" outdoor furniture in the front yard. Below left, taking third place was the entry from the Ossian Library staff that found Santa relaxing at a seaside resort beside a sandy beach. (Photos provided)



Friends who Care seeking items for Gospel Concert & Auction on Jan. 6

The 12th Annual Gospel Concert & Auction, sponsored by the Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4, 5:30-8 p.m. at the 4-H Community Building.

Doors will open at 4 p.m. for the silent auction and for concessions from Uncle Matt's BBQ. Seven local singing groups will

provide the entertainment and an active auction also will be held.

There is no admission charge to attend, however sponsors are now being acquired for five levels of giving (Diamond (\$5,000), Platinum (\$2,500), Gold (\$1,000), Silver (\$500) and Bronze (\$250). (For more information contact Steve

Gerber at (260) 824-5189.)

Items for both the silent and active auctions also are being collected and may be brought to Bluffton's NAPA, Family Ford of Bluffton or Outdoor Concepts.

The Friends Who Care organization assists folks who live in Wells County and who have cancer.

Free tickets to FW Phil's family concerts

Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor admission to the Family Series concerts by the Fort Wayne Philharmonic will be free for the next three events. These sensory-friendly concerts are geared for kids ages 2 to 12.

The 2024-2025 series includes:

We Are One: Jan. 25, 11 a.m., Auer Performance Hall
Across the Stars: Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. at the Auer Performance Hall.

Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra: March 22 at 11 a.m. at the Auer Performance Hall

To secure free tickets go to tickets@fwphil.org or call 260-422-4226.

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Sports Roundup

Knights beat Panthers at Noblesville Tournament

Game 2 vs. Snider

In the consolation match of the Noblesville Holiday Tournament, Norwell defeated Snider 68-58.

With the win, the Knights improved to 10-5, the Panthers dropped to 9-7.

Vanessa Rosswurm had 27 points, totaling 55 points for the tournament.

NORWELL 68, SNIDER 58

At Noblesville

SNIDER (9-7): Janaya Cooper 10-19 9-12 30, Kyra Parker 4-13 2-3 12, Saniah Sandlin 4-9 2-4 10, Zyan Phinezy 1-5 0-0 3, Gabriella Barnes 1-1 0-0 3, Mylee Hurse 0-3 0-0 0, Brooklyn Robinson 0-0 0-0 0, Kiara Smith 0-1 0-0 0, MacKenzie Carter 0-1 0-0 0, Nella Mattila 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 20-54 13-19 58.

NORWELL (10-6): Vanessa Rosswurm 11-22 4-7 27, Macie Saalfrank 5-11 2-6 12, Jada Dale 5-12 2-2 12, Addison Norris 3-6 1-2 7, Alivia Green 2-4 1-2 5, Ashley Waldman 1-5 0-0 3, Isabella Swineford 1-2 0-0 2, Ryland Graff 0-0 0-0 0, Larkin Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Haley Williamson 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 28-62 10-19 62.

Norwell 19 16 21 12 — 68
Snider 15 9 22 12 — 58

Three-point Shooting: Snider 5-18 (Parker 2-10, Cooper 1-2, Phinezy 1-3, Barnes 1-1, Mattila 0-1, Smith 0-1), Norwell 2-13 (Waldman 1-4, Rosswurm 1-2, Dale 0-3, Saalfrank 0-2, Norris 0-2). Rebounds: Snider 33 (Cooper 9, Sandlin 9, Barnes 4, Parker 3, Hurse 2, Carter 1), Norwell 36 (Rosswurm 8, Green 6, Dale 5, Norris 4, Saalfrank 3, Waldman 2, Swineford 2). Turnovers: Snider 23, Norwell 14. Fouls: Snider 19, Norwell 22. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None.

Raiders finish 30th at the Connorsville wrestling classic

Southern Wells finished 30th in the 38-team field in the Connorsville Spartan Classic in wrestling on Friday and Saturday.

The tournament featured a seeded bracket for each weight class. Teams earn more points depending on how well their wrestler does. The Raiders finished the weekend event with 52 team points. The team champion, Fishers, 241 points.

Jarin Frauhiger put on the best performance for the Raiders in the 132 weight class, winning three matchups and finishing in fifth place. He awarded his school 21 points.

Southern Wells' next meet will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 at Northfield.

Individual results:

- Briggs Fiechter lost in the first round by fall at 106.

- Kaleb Boots won by forfeit in the first round, then lost by fall at 113.

- Aiden Carroll lost in the first round by fall at 120.

- No one competed at 126.

- Jarin Frauhiger received a bye in the first round of 132, then won by technical fall 18-2 in the second round. Won by technical fall in the third round 15-0. Won by major decision in the fourth round 12-2. Lost by fall in the semifinal. Trackwrestling.com placed Frauhiger fifth overall.

- Colton Boone won by fall in the first round, then lost by fall in the second at 138.

- Jonathan Perez forfeited at 144.

- Lyrik Maddox lost by fall in the first round at 150.

- Ryker Dollar received a bye in the first round and lost by fall in the second at 157.

- Malaki Capper received a bye in the first round and won by fall in the second before losing by fall in the third round at 165.

- Bryson Williams received a bye in the first round and lost by fall in the second at 175.

- Kaiden Bercott lost by technical fall in the first round 22-6 at 190.

- Blayden Schomber lost by fall in the first round at 215.

- Ian James lost by fall in the first round at 285.

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, DEC 31

No events scheduled.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 1

No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, JAN 2

No events scheduled.

FRIDAY, JAN 3

BOYS' BASKETBALL: Norwell at Elkhart

Christian, 10 a.m.; Union City at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN 4

BOYS' BASKETBALL: Lakewood Park at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Bellmont, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Randolph Southern, 7:30 p.m.

Riley Leonard's passing game key for Notre Dame vs. Georgia

By CURT RALLO

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind.

(AP) — When quarterback Riley Leonard transferred from Duke to Notre Dame for the 2024 season, he immediately went to work building chemistry with his new teammates.

He brought six Fighting Irish receivers to his home in Fairhope, Ala., to get to know each other and train with former NFL great Philip Rivers before hitting the field for the season opener.

Jayden Thomas was one of the receivers on the trip, and talked about Leonard taking the receivers sport-fishing.

"I didn't catch anything," Thomas lamented.

It's a different story now that Thomas is on turf instead of water. Thomas caught a 5-yard TD strike from Leonard in Notre Dame's 27-17 victory over Indiana in the opening round of the College Football Playoffs.

That victory earned the seventh-seeded Fighting Irish (12-1) a match against second-seeded Georgia (11-2) in the CPF quarterfinal round on Wednesday in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans.

Notre Dame has been lighting up the scoreboard this season (38.8 points a game, fourth in the nation) largely due to a running game that boasts the punishing explosiveness of running backs Jeremiyah Love and Jardarian Price, mixed in with the elusive running of Leonard.

While the Fighting Irish rushing offense is ranked 11th in the nation (222.4 yards a game), the passing offense is ranked 100th (196.8).

Stepping up the passing game will be a key component of Notre Dame's plan for Georgia, and the Fighting Irish have been headed in that direction thanks to Leonard's chemistry-building activities.

Leonard didn't find his footing right away with the receivers. He threw 115 passes before he connected for a touchdown — in the second quarter against Miami of Ohio in Notre Dame's fourth game of the season.

In the first four games, Leonard was 73-117-2 (63.1 passing percentage) for 587 yards. Notre Dame scored 131 points in those four games, which were against No. 20 Texas A&M, the 16-14 upset loss to Northern Illinois, Purdue and Miami of Ohio. Sixty-six of the points came against a one-win Purdue team.

In his last four games, Leonard is 72-100-3 (72 passing percentage) for 718 yards and eight touchdowns. Notre Dame piled up 160 points against Virginia, No. 18 Army, Southern California and No. 9 Indiana.

Leonard's quarterback rating his last four games is 106.2, as opposed to a 70.7 quarterback rating his first four games.

One of five Power 4 quarterbacks this season to pass for more than 1,900 yards

and rush for more than 700, Leonard said that developing chemistry, trust and confidence has fueled the impressive improvement.

"I think my relationship with those guys off the field is kind of the thing I'm most proud about," Leonard said. "I've grown so much, but I think that they're, like, the most mature, probably, group

of receivers that I've been around when it comes to communicating defenses. They really understand it."

While taking command of the line of scrimmage has been the key to Notre Dame's success this season, the Fighting Irish will be tested by a talented Georgia defense. Winning the one-on-one matchups in the receiving game and spreading out the field is vital, according to Leonard.

Avoiding sacks and staying ahead of the chains will also be critical for Leonard and Notre Dame's passing.

Georgia has been challenged by mobile quarterbacks this season — Jalen Milroe ran for more than 100 yards in the Bulldogs' loss to Alabama, Jaxson Dart ran for 50 yards the the Bulldogs' loss to Mississippi, and Haynes King ran for 110 yards in Georgia's 44-42 eight-overtime victory over Georgia Tech.

Leonard's running could set up the passing game and cause trouble for Georgia.

"I never really forced the running thing with my legs," Leonard said. "It kind of just, you know, it happens. It happens. I don't think that's good for me as, like a quarterback, really, to be like, 'All right, I got to run, if we're going to win, I got to run.'"

Leonard isn't shy about taking off, though.

"It's kind of a lost cause," Leonard joked about coaches telling him not to run in order to protect himself. "If you got to put your shoulder down, you know, you got to put your shoulder down."

Leonard impressed Indiana head coach Curt Cignetti with his dual-threat talents.

"I do remember us having Riley Leonard in our grasp and him still being able to complete the throw with the receiver making a nice catch to extend drives," Cignetti said after the game. "There was a point in the game it appeared we were starting to put some pressure on Riley Leonard, near the end of the first half, we were getting closer and closer.

"But, again, I give him a lot of credit," Cignetti continued about Leonard. "He's a really good athlete with a quick release that played a lot of football. He's got body quickness and twitch. And he's able to get rid of that ball and throw the check-down to the running back and get a positive play. Not everybody who plays that position can make that play."

It's that ability that Notre Dame will be counting on to advance in the CFP.

Colts face big offseason questions after latest loss with the Giants; eliminating them from playoffs

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

Indianapolis Colts coach Shane Steichen tried to provide answers after Sunday's embarrassing playoff-eliminating loss to the New York Giants.

His responses only created more questions.

After seeing his injured starting quarterback sit out again and the defense turn in yet another baffling performance, Indy's second-year coach struggled to explain what went wrong in the 45-33 loss — and what solutions exist.

"It's hard to explain," he said. "Obviously, we've got to play a complete game, we haven't done it all year. We've all got to be on the same page. That (performance) is not good enough."

Changes almost certainly will be part of the long-term solution now that the franchise playoff drought has reached four years.

Steichen didn't discuss Anthony Richardson's back injury until after Richardson appeared on Wednesday's injury report. At that point, Steichen called it back soreness. So when Richardson was ruled out Saturday, fans naturally started wondering whether this was similar to the game in which Richardson took himself out because he was tired.

Steichen clarified what happened Sunday, saying he should have been clearer about the spasms that were so severe, Indy needed to protect the 22-year-old quarterback. So the 39-year-old Joe Flacco started the must-win game.

Richardson's absence might have been the least of Indy's problems. The way it played out, though, prompted fans and former players such as Pat McAfee to question whether Indy's locker room needs a culture change and whether players arrived late to meetings and injury treatments.

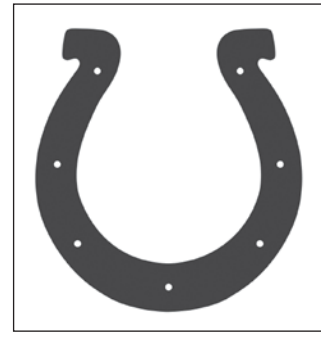
"I think with any team not everyone's going to be on time every time, but there is accountability and guys are held to a standard," Steichen said Monday. "When the standard is getting in the playoffs, it's frustrating. It's frustrating to a lot of people, myself included, and that's why we talk about the standard being raised so we're not in these situations."

Sunday's game again exposed plenty of problems for the Colts (7-9).

They started slowly, couldn't get off the field against the league's lowest-scoring offense and allowed a 100-yard kickoff return to start the second half that left Indy in a 28-13 hole, sapping any momentum for a potential second-half rally.

And for the second time in three weeks, Steichen's play-calling drew questions, too.

Indy ran the ball on third-and-long before sending kicker Matt Gay onto the field for a 54-yard field goal that drifted wide right. Jonathan Taylor came up short on a fourth-and-1 play, dropped the ball on a trick play 2-point conversion try that would have tied the score and had a potential TD pass



bounce off his helmet when he didn't turn in time.

But for a defense that allowed 45 points in a crucial game, one thing is obvious — changes are coming.

"The offense scored 33 points, and we couldn't stop a nosebleed on defense. That's very frustrating," Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner said Monday. "Like I said, this off-

season, there's going to be some changes and some of those changes are going to be uncomfortable for people. There are going to be some uncomfortable conversations, and we're going to make those changes for the better.

What's working

The playmakers. Despite Taylor's continuing miscues, he and Michael Pittman Jr. kept the Colts in this game. Taylor finished with 125 yards rushing and two more TDs, giving him 443 yards and five TDs over the past two weeks. Pittman had his best game of the season with nine catches for 109 yards and one TD.

What needs help

Everything else. Flacco threw two interceptions, the defense allowed 389 yards, missed a plethora of tackles and couldn't get stops. Gay missed the long field-goal attempt, and the Giants had their first kickoff return for a TD to start the second half since 1949.

Stock up

Kylen Granson. It's been a tough season for Colts tight ends, but Granson, finally, provided a bright spot Sunday when he caught a season high-tying three passes for 34 yards. It was his third-best yardage total of the season.

Stock down

Gus Bradley. The Colts defensive coordinator has been criticized most of this season and the cries are only going to grow louder now. After building a seemingly safe 38-7 lead midway through the third quarter against Tennessee last week, Indy gave up 23 points and had to reinsert its starters. Then came Sunday's debacle. A decision on Bradley's job status should come soon shortly after next week's season finale.

Injuries

The Colts reported no new injuries following the game. It's still unclear whether Richardson can return for what is now a meaningless season finale against Jacksonville — or whether Flacco likely closes out his career in Indy with one more start.

Key number

Minus-3 — Indy lost one fumble in addition to Flacco's two interceptions, leaving the Colts at minus-3 in Sunday's turnover battle.

Next steps

With this season's fate already sealed, preparations for next season can begin in earnest. Yes, the Colts still face the Jacksonville Jaguars (4-12). But the debate over who returns and who does not among other changes for 2025 will dominate the discussion this week.

Corbin Burnes, Diamondbacks finalize \$210 million, 6-year deal that's the richest in team history

By DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Four-time All-Star pitcher Corbin Burnes and the Arizona Diamondbacks have finalized their \$210 million, six-year contract.

The team made the announcement on Monday night, two days after news broke that the 2021 NL Cy Young Award winner had agreed to terms, pending a successful physical. The deal includes a potential opt-out for Burnes following the 2026 season.

The right-hander joins a starting rotation that includes Zac Gallen, Merrill Kelly, Brandon Pfaadt and Eduardo Rodríguez, which could be one of the best in baseball. Burnes' deal is the richest contract in franchise history.

The 30-year-old Burnes was perhaps

the top free agent pitcher on the market after going 15-9 with a 2.92 ERA for Baltimore last season, when he earned a \$15,637,500 salary. The Orioles acquired the right-hander in a February trade after he spent his first six major league seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers.

It's no shock Burnes landed a big contract, but the destination was a surprise. Arizona's payroll usually ranks in the middle of the pack among big league teams.

Arizona is spending in an effort to compete with the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West. The Diamondbacks, who barely missed the playoffs this year, reached the World Series in 2023 before losing to the Texas Rangers in five games.

Goldschmidt and Yankees agree \$12.5 million, one-year contract

NEW YORK (AP) — First baseman Paul Goldschmidt and the New York Yankees finalized their \$12.5 million, one-year contract on Monday.

Goldschmidt's deal had been agreed to on Dec. 21 subject to a successful physical.

He became the Yankees' fourth significant addition since Juan Soto's departure for the New York Mets, after left-hander Max Fried, closer Devin Williams and outfielder/first baseman Cody Bellinger. The arrival of Goldschmidt likely means Bellinger will be primarily an outfielder.

A seven-time All-Star, four-time Gold Glove winner and the 2022 NL MVP, the right-handed Goldschmidt joins fellow MVPs Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton and Bellinger on the Yankees. Goldschmidt became a free agent after completing a \$130 million, five-year contract with St. Louis.

He spent his first eight seasons with Arizona and his last six with the Cardinals, slumping to a career-low .245 batting average last season with 22 homers and 65 RBIs. He revived his numbers late in the season, hitting .283 with seven homers and 25 RBIs from July 28 on.

Goldschmidt hit .295 with five homers, 16 RBIs and an .839 OPS in 167 plate appearances against left-handers this year and .230 with 17 homers, 49 RBIs and a .675 OPS in 487 plate appearances against righties.

He is a .289 career hitter with 362 homers and 1,187 RBIs for the Diamondbacks (2011-18) and Cardinals (2019-24). Goldschmidt batted .317 with 35 homers, 115 RBIs and a .981 OPS in 2022.

New York still might be looking for a third baseman along with left-handed relievers; there are no lefty relievers on its 40-man roster.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

y-Buffalo	13	3	0	.813	509	345
Miami	8	8	0	.500	325	332
e-N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	306	384
e-N. England	3	13	0	.188	266	401

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Houston	9	7	0	.563	349	358
e-Indianapolis	7	9	0	.438	351	404
e-Jacksonville	4	12	0	.250	297	409
e-Tennessee	3	13	0	.188	297	437

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Baltimore	11	5	0	.688	483	351
x-Pittsburgh	10	6	0	.625	363	328
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	453	417
e-Cleveland	3	13	0	.188	248	400

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
*-Kansas City	15	1	0	.938	385	288
x-Chargers	10	6	0	.625	368	281
Denver	9	7	0	.563	387	311
e-Las Vegas	4	12	0	.250	289	400

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
y-Philadelphia	13	3	0	.813	443	290
x-Wash.	11	5	0	.688	462	372
e-Dallas	7	9	0	.438	331	445
e-N.Y. Giants	3	13	0	.188	260	395

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Tampa Bay	9	7	0	.563	475	366
Atlanta	8	8	0	.500	351	379
e-N. Orleans	5	11	0	.313	319	371
e-Carolina	4	12	0	.250	297	496

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
x-Minnesota	14	2	0	.875	423	301
x-Detroit	14	2	0	.875	533	333
x-Green Bay	11	5	0	.688	438	314
e-Chicago	4	12	0	.250	286	348

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
L.A. Rams	10	6	0	.625	342	356
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	345	343
e-Arizona	7	9	0	.438	353	355
e-S. Francisco	6	10	0	.375	365	389

Wednesday's Games

Kansas City 29, Pittsburgh 10
Baltimore 31, Houston 2

Thursday's Games

Seattle 6, Chicago 3

Saturday's Games

L.A. Chargers 40, New England 7
Cincinnati 30, Denver 24, OT
L.A. Rams 13, Arizona 9

Sunday's Games

Buffalo 40, N.Y. Jets 14
Jacksonville 20, Tennessee 13
Las Vegas 25, New Orleans 10
N.Y. Giants 45, Indianapolis 33
Philadelphia 41, Dallas 7
Tampa Bay 48, Carolina 14
Miami 20, Cleveland 3
Minnesota 27, Green Bay 25
Sunday Night Football: Washington 30, Atlanta 24, OT

Monday's Games

Monday Night Football: Detroit 40, San Francisco 34

College

College Football Playoff Quarterfinals Dec. 31

Fiesta Bowl

Glendale, Ariz.
Penn St. vs. No. 3 Boise St., 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Jan. 1 Rose Bowl

Pasadena, Calif.
Ohio St. vs. No. 1 Oregon, 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Peach Bowl

Atlanta
Texas vs. No. 4 Arizona St., 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)

p.m. (ESPN)

Sugar Bowl

New Orleans
Notre Dame vs. No. 2 Georgia, 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)

Bowl Games Dec. 27

Las Vegas Bowl

Las Vegas
Southern California 35, Texas A&M 31

Liberty Bowl

Memphis, Tenn.
Arkansas 39, Texas Tech 26

Holiday Bowl

San Diego
Syracuse 52, Washington St. 45

Armed Forces Bowl

Fort Worth, Texas
Navy 21, Oklahoma 20

Birmingham Bowl

Birmingham, Ala.
Vanderbilt 35, Georgia Tech 27

Dec. 28 Fenway Bowl

Boston
UConn 27, North Carolina 14

PinStripe Bowl

New York
Nebraska 20, Boston College 15

New Mexico Bowl

Albuquerque, N.M.
TCU 34, Louisiana 3

Pop-Tarts Bowl

Orlando, Fla.
Iowa St. 42, Miami 41

Arizona Bowl

Tucson, Ariz.
Miami (Ohio) 43, Colorado State 17

Military Bowl

Annapolis, Md.
ECU 26, NC State 21

Alamo Bowl

San Antonio, Texas
BYU 36, Colorado 14

Independence Bowl

Shreveport, La.
Army 27, Louisiana Tech 6

Dec. 30 Music City Bowl

Nashville, Tenn.
Missouri 27, Iowa 24

Dec. 31 ReliaQuest Bowl

Tampa, Fla.
Michigan vs. Alabama, 12 p.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl

El Paso, Texas
Louisville vs. Washington, 2 p.m. (CBS)

Citrus Bowl

Orlando, Fla.
Illinois vs. South Carolina, 3 p.m. (ABC)

Texas Bowl

Houston
Baylor vs. LSU, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Austin 83, Victory 53

Third Place
Borden 51, Alexandria 43
Elkhart Tournament
First Round
Elkhart 72, Twin Lakes 43
Ft. Wayne North 52, Mishawaka 43
Third Place
Mishawaka 59, Twin Lakes 55
Grant 4 Tournament
First Round
Eastbrook 43, Oak Hill 38
Mississinewa 53, Madison-Grant 39
Greenwood Tournament
First Round
Columbus East 61, Yorktown 60
Greenwood 61, Triton Central 54
Third Place
Triton Central 57, Yorktown 38
Hall of Fame Tournament
Championship
Fishers 85, Greenfield 80
First Round
Fishers 54, Warsaw 51
Greenfield 69, Jeffersonville 66
Third Place
Jeffersonville 51, Warsaw 44
Harrison Classic
S. Bend Washington 87, Hobart 51
Highland Tournament
Fifth Place
Griffith 56, Boone Grove 45
Seventh Place
Calumet 78, Whiting 45
Third Place
Andreas 55, Highland 48
Homestead Tournament
Championship
Zionsville 76, S. Bend St. Joseph's 61
Fifth Place
Homestead 47, Valparaiso 42
Pool A
East Chicago Central 59, Penn 55, 20T
Zionsville 54, Homestead 48
Pool B
Hamilton Southeastern 61, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 45
S. Bend St. Joseph's 72, Valparaiso 52
Seventh Place
East Chicago Central 56, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 47
Jefferson County Tournament
Championship
Brownstown 73, Southwestern (Hanover) 57
Fifth Place
Madison 61, Clarksville 40
Third Place
Purdue Poly (Englewood) 59, Christian Academy 53
Kokomo Tournament
Championship
Kokomo 76, Warren Central 71
Fifth Place
Plainfield 81, New Haven 55
Semifinal
Kokomo 80, Merrillville 63
Warren Central 55, Portage 37
Seventh Place
Greensburg 52, Hanover Central 45
Third Place
Portage 64, Merrillville 40
Lakeland Christian Tournament
Fifth Place
Illiana Christian High School 54, Lakeland Christian (IN) 37
Third Place
Bethany Christian 65, DeMotte Christian 52
Wabash County Tournament
Third Place
Northfield 46, Wabash 38
Wabash Valley Tournament
Consolation
Cloverdale 65, Robinson, Ill. 60
Linton 71, S. Vermillion 61
Parke Heritage 60, Edgewood 49
Shakamak 58, Marshall, Ill. 41
Sullivan 48, Casey-Westfield, Ill. 38
W. Vigo 50, Greencastle 39
Semifinal
Northview 67, Bloomfield 64, OT

Saturday Girls' Scores

Bremen 65, Mishawaka Marian 23
Clinton Central 51, Clinton Prairie 25
Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 56, Ft. Wayne North 54
Huntington North 59, Mississinewa 33
Indpls Pike 83, Ft. Wayne Northrop 49
Indpls Secina 52, Indpls Tindley 21
Lawrence North 76, Mt. Notre Dame, Ohio 68
Morgan Twp. 29, N. White 28
Pekin (IL), Ill. 52, Lake Central 36
Prairie Heights 40, W. Noble 25
Rising Sun 57, New Washington 45
Wawasee 54, Central Noble 45
Westville 51, Kankakee Valley 48
Brebeuf Jesuit Classic
Championship
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 51, Michigan City Marquette 47, OT
First Round
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 48, Lafayette Harrison 35
Michigan City Marquette 48, Tippecanoe Valley 34
Carroll (Flora) Tournament
Championship
Cass 39, University 31
Central Christian Tournament
Third Place
Indpls Lutheran 50, Central Christian 20
East Noble Tournament
Championship
E. Noble 53, Ft. Wayne Luers 35
First Round
E. Noble 58, Garrett 44
Ft. Wayne Luers 46, Glenn 39
Third Place
Glenn 46, Garrett 42
Franklin Tournament
Championship
S. Bend Washington 60, Carmel 53
First Round
Jennings Co. 58, Carmel 45
S. Bend Washington 75, Franklin 43
Third Place
Jennings Co. 58, Franklin 35
Gibson County Tournament
Championship
Evansville Reitz 56, Danville 53
Fifth Place
Gibson Southern 68, N. Posey 63
Seventh Place
N. Harrison 60, Princeton 33
Third Place
Jasper 58, Wood Memorial 42
Hammond Morton Tournament
Fifth Place
Gary West 29, River Forest 28
Third Place
S. Bend Riley 59, Hammond Noll 48
Hauser Tournament
Championship
Madison 58, Southwestern (Hanover) 30
Fifth Place
Paoli 42, Columbus East 36
Seventh Place
S. Decatur 49, Greenwood Christian 36
Third Place
N. Decatur 45, Hauser 23
Logansport Tournament
Championship
Northwestern 46, Logansport 20
First Round
Logansport 38, Argos 33, OT
Northwestern 62, Wheeler 39
Third Place
Argos 45, Wheeler 36
Miami County Tournament
Championship
Peru 51, Maconaquah 45, OT
Third Place
N. Miami 56, Caston 35
Noblesville Tournament
Championship
Noblesville 43, Valparaiso 37
First Round
Noblesville 73, Norwell 71, OT
Valparaiso 59, Ft. Wayne Snider 41
Third Place
Norwell 68, Ft. Wayne Snider 58
North Central Classic
Silver Creek 72, Decatur Central 65
Northeastern Tournament
Fifth Place
Brownstown 47, Ft. Wayne Wayne 33
Seventh Place
Tri 39, Shelbyville 33
Third Place
Lafayette Central Catholic High

Seymour 59, Borden 51

Fifth Place
Seymour 59, Batesville 40
Seventh Place
Borden 59, Bedford N. Lawrence 37
Third Place
Scottsburg 54, Eastern (Pekin) 44
Twin Lakes Tournament
Consolation
Crown Point 69, Faith Christian 37
Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 68, Twin Lakes 31
Fifth Place
Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 59, Crown Point 37
Semifinal
Columbia City 66, Indpls Chatard 60
McCUTCHEON 52, Munster 46
Seventh Place
Twin Lakes 45, Faith Christian 37
Third Place
Indpls Chatard 62, Munster 40
Vincennes Rivet Tournament
Championship
Castle 47, Corydon 42
Wabash County Tournament
Third Place
Northfield 42, Southwood 32

North 54

Huntington North 59, Mississinewa 33
Indpls Pike 83, Ft. Wayne Northrop 49
Indpls Secina 52, Indpls Tindley 21
Lawrence North 76, Mt. Notre Dame, Ohio 68
Morgan Twp. 29, N. White 28
Pekin (IL), Ill. 52, Lake Central 36
Prairie Heights 40, W. Noble 25
Rising Sun 57, New Washington 45
Wawasee 54, Central Noble 45
Westville 51, Kankakee Valley 48
Brebeuf Jesuit Classic
Championship
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 51, Michigan City Marquette 47, OT
First Round
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 48, Lafayette Harrison 35
Michigan City Marquette 48, Tippecanoe Valley 34
Carroll (Flora) Tournament
Championship
Cass 39, University 31
Central Christian Tournament
Third Place
Indpls Lutheran 50, Central Christian 20
East Noble Tournament
Championship
E. Noble 53, Ft. Wayne Luers 35
First Round
E. Noble 58, Garrett 44
Ft. Wayne Luers 46, Glenn 39
Third Place
Glenn 46, Garrett 42
Franklin Tournament
Championship
S. Bend Washington 60, Carmel 53
First Round
Jennings Co. 58, Carmel 45
S. Bend Washington 75, Franklin 43
Third Place
Jennings Co. 58, Franklin 35
Gibson County Tournament
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Evansville Reitz 56, Danville 53
Fifth Place
Gibson Southern 68, N. Posey 63
Seventh Place
N. Harrison 60, Princeton 33
Third Place
Jasper 58, Wood Memorial 42
Hammond Morton Tournament
Fifth Place
Gary West 29, River Forest 28
Third Place
S. Bend Riley 59, Hammond Noll 48
Hauser Tournament
Championship
Madison 58, Southwestern (Hanover) 30
Fifth Place
Paoli 42, Columbus East 36
Seventh Place
S. Decatur 49, Greenwood Christian 36
Third Place
N. Decatur 45, Hauser 23
Logansport Tournament
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Northwestern 46, Logansport 20
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Logansport 38, Argos 33, OT
Northwestern 62, Wheeler 39
Third Place
Argos 45, Wheeler 36
Miami County Tournament
Championship
Peru 51, Maconaquah 45, OT
Third Place
N. Miami 56, Caston 35
Noblesville Tournament
Championship
Noblesville 43, Valparaiso 37
First Round
Noblesville 73, Norwell 71, OT
Valparaiso 59, Ft. Wayne Snider 41
Third Place
Norwell 68, Ft. Wayne Snider 58
North Central Classic
Silver Creek 72, Decatur Central 65
Northeastern Tournament
Fifth Place
Brownstown 47, Ft. Wayne Wayne 33
Seventh Place
Tri 39, Shelbyville 33
Third Place
Lafayette Central Catholic High

Seymour 59, Borden 51

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Tri 39, Shelbyville 33
Third Place
Lafayette Central Catholic High

Seymour 59, Borden 51

Fifth Place
Seymour 59, Batesville 40
Seventh Place
Borden 59, Bedford N. Lawrence 37
Third Place
Scottsburg 54, Eastern (Pekin) 44
Twin Lakes Tournament
Consolation
Crown Point 69, Faith Christian 37
Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 68, Twin Lakes 31
Fifth Place
Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 59, Crown Point 37
Semifinal
Columbia City 66, Indpls Chatard 60
McCUTCHEON 52, Munster 46
Seventh Place
Twin Lakes 45, Faith Christian 37
Third Place
Indpls Chatard 62, Munster 40
Vincennes Rivet Tournament
Championship
Castle 47, Corydon 42
Wabash County Tournament
Third Place
Northfield 42, Southwood 32

North 54

Huntington North 59, Mississinewa 33
Indpls Pike 83, Ft. Wayne Northrop 49
Indpls Secina 52, Indpls Tindley 21
Lawrence North 76, Mt. Notre Dame, Ohio 68
Morgan Twp. 29, N. White 28
Pekin (IL), Ill. 52, Lake Central 36
Prairie Heights 40, W. Noble 25
Rising Sun 57, New Washington 45
Wawasee 54, Central Noble 45
Westville 51, Kankakee Valley 48
Brebeuf Jesuit Classic
Championship
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 51, Michigan City Marquette 47, OT
First Round
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 48, Lafayette Harrison 35
Michigan City Marquette 48, Tippecanoe Valley 34
Carroll (Flora) Tournament
Championship
Cass 39, University 31
Central Christian Tournament
Third Place
Indpls Lutheran 50, Central Christian 20
East Noble Tournament
Championship
E. Noble 53, Ft. Wayne Luers 35
First Round
E. Noble 58, Garrett 44
Ft. Wayne Luers 46, Glenn 39
Third Place
Glenn 46, Garrett 42
Franklin Tournament
Championship
S. Bend Washington 60, Carmel 53
First Round
Jennings Co. 58, Carmel 45
S. Bend Washington 75, Franklin 43
Third Place
Jennings Co. 58, Franklin 35
Gibson County Tournament
Championship
Evansville Reitz 56, Danville 53
Fifth Place
Gibson Southern 68, N. Posey 63
Seventh Place
N. Harrison 60, Princeton 33
Third Place
Jasper 58, Wood Memorial 42
Hammond Morton Tournament
Fifth Place
Gary West 29, River Forest 28
Third Place
S. Bend Riley 59, Hammond Noll 48
Hauser Tournament
Championship
Madison 58, Southwestern (Hanover) 30
Fifth Place
Paoli 42, Columbus East 36
Seventh Place
S. Decatur 49, Greenwood Christian 36
Third Place
N. Decatur 45, Hauser 23
Logansport Tournament
Championship
Northwestern 46, Logansport 20
First Round
Logansport 38, Argos 33, OT
Northwestern 62, Wheeler 39
Third Place
Argos 45, Wheeler 36
Miami County Tournament
Championship
Peru 51, Maconaquah 45, OT
Third Place
N. Miami 56, Caston 35
Noblesville Tournament
Championship
Noblesville 43, Valparaiso 37
First Round
Noblesville 73, Norwell 71, OT
Valparaiso 59, Ft. Wayne Snider 41
Third Place
Norwell 68, Ft. Wayne Snider 58
North Central Classic
Silver Creek 72, Decatur Central 65
Northeastern Tournament
Fifth Place
Brownstown 47, Ft. Wayne Wayne 33
Seventh Place
Tri 39, Shelbyville 33
Third Place
Lafayette Central Catholic High

Seymour 59, Borden 51

Fifth Place
Seymour 59, Batesville 40
Seventh Place
Borden 59, Bedford N. Lawrence 37
Third Place
Scottsburg 54, Eastern (Pekin) 44
Twin Lakes Tournament
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Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 59, Crown Point 37
Semifinal
Columbia City 66, Indpls Chatard 60
McCUTCHEON 52, Munster 46
Seventh Place
Twin Lakes 45, Faith Christian 37
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Indpls Chatard 62, Munster 40
Vincennes Rivet Tournament
Championship
Castle 47, Corydon 42
Wabash County Tournament
Third Place
Northfield 42, Southwood 32

North 54

Huntington North 59, Mississinewa 33
Indpls Pike 83, Ft. Wayne Northrop 49
Indpls Secina 52, Indpls Tindley 21
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East Noble Tournament
Championship
E. Noble 53, Ft. Wayne Luers 35
First Round
E. Noble 58, Garrett 44
Ft. Wayne Luers 46, Glenn 39
Third Place
Glenn 46, Garrett 42
Franklin Tournament
Championship
S. Bend Washington 60, Carmel 53
First Round
Jennings Co. 58, Carmel 45
S. Bend Washington 75, Franklin 43
Third Place
Jennings Co. 58, Franklin 35
Gibson County Tournament
Championship
Evansville Reitz 56, Danville 53
Fifth Place
Gibson Southern 68, N. Posey 63
Seventh Place
N. Harrison 60, Princeton 33
Third Place
Jasper 58, Wood Memorial 42
Hammond Morton Tournament
Fifth Place
Gary West 29, River Forest 28
Third Place
S. Bend Riley 59, Hammond Noll 48
Hauser Tournament
Championship
Madison 58, Southwestern (Hanover) 30
Fifth Place
Paoli 42, Columbus East 36
Seventh Place
S. Decatur 49, Greenwood Christian 36
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N. Decatur 45, Hauser 23
Logansport Tournament
Championship
Northwestern 46, Logansport 20
First Round
Logansport 38, Argos 33, OT
Northwestern 62, Wheeler 39
Third Place
Argos 45, Wheeler 36
Miami County Tournament
Championship
Peru 51, Maconaquah 45, OT
Third Place
N. Miami 56, Caston 35
Noblesville Tournament
Championship
Noblesville 43, Valparaiso 37
First Round
Noblesville 73, Norwell 71, OT
Valparaiso 59, Ft. Wayne Snider 41
Third Place
Norwell 68, Ft. Wayne Snider 58
North Central Classic
Silver Creek 72, Decatur Central 65
Northeastern Tournament
Fifth Place
Brownstown 47, Ft. Wayne Wayne 33
Seventh Place
Tri 39, Shelbyville 33
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Somatic therapy could help with trauma

Dear Annie: I'm a 45-year-old male and have had many traumatic events in my past, including abuses too bad to name. My problem is, as I was growing up, I was so mistreated that I never learned how to feel. I had to suppress everything I was feeling and disconnect from my emotions and body to survive.

Now that I'm grown and have been seeking mental help for almost 17 years, I still can't connect with anything inside. This has led to relationship failures, lost jobs and more. I live every day on a flat plain of numbness, and yet I believe that I am worthless and undeserving of anything I receive from anyone. That includes kindness, love, help or gifts.

I have been through five therapists and as many psychiatrists. No one has been able to diagnose or help in any way. Each and every one of them has come up empty-handed and told me that I should seek help from "someone better" without giving referrals or suggestions as to whom I should be talking to.

As a result, I have begun to distrust the world of psychological treatment.

All I want is to live a "normal" life and not run everybody out of it. — Numb and Lost

Dear Numb and Lost: Thank you for writing to me. First off, no one has a "normal" life. Everyone has stuff. But what you want is to be out of pain. I am sorry that you had to endure all sorts of abuse. No person or child should ever have to. The question is, how do you heal from that?

Congratulations on trying to find help. It looks like the five therapists you saw were probably not trained in trauma. You might try and find a somatic therapist. Somatic therapy is

a type of therapy that helps treat post-traumatic stress by releasing bodily sensations that come up in everyday life. The therapist works from the inside out, starting with your body instead of just talking and reliving the traumas over and over again. I would recommend reading Dr. Peter Levine's book, "Waking the Tiger." Another good book for trauma is "The Body Keeps the Score" by Bessel van der Kolk. Both could be great resources on your journey toward feeling better. It's a cinch by the inch and hard by the yard.

Dear Annie: What an amazing soul you are, and your duty to do for others before yourself speaks loudly of your ability to be truly unselfish. Thank you for the experiences and advice you have shared with the world. It surely is a beautiful light to help guide those who struggle through the dark paths. — Grateful

Dear Grateful: Thank you for the kind words. It is an honor that so many readers share their stories each week.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

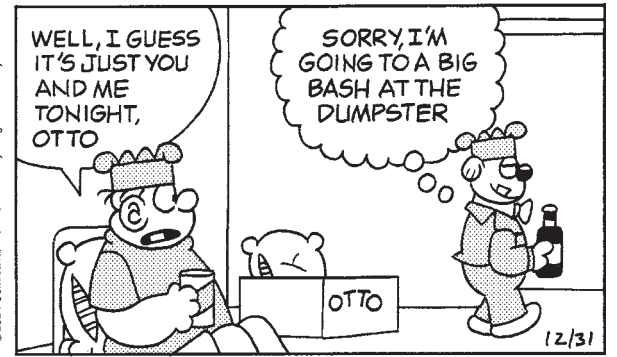
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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



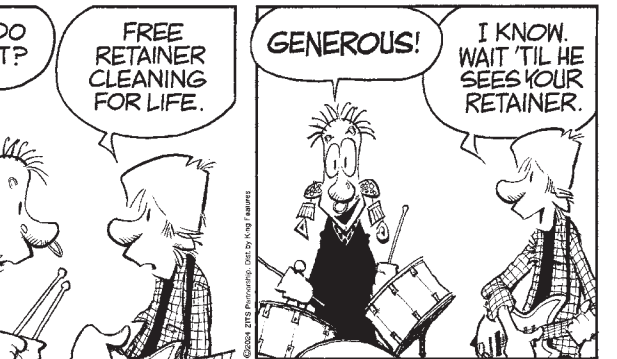
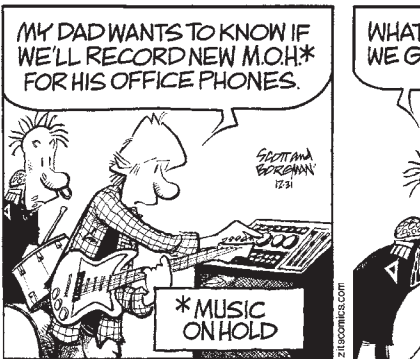
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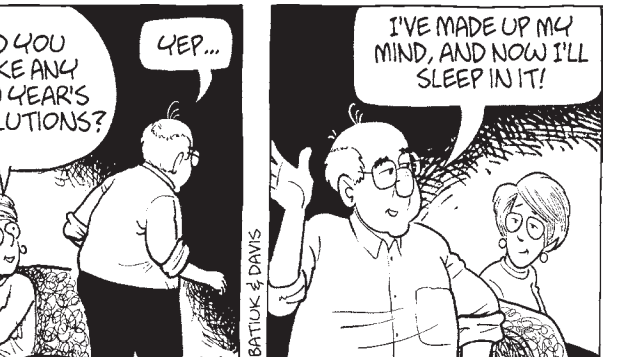
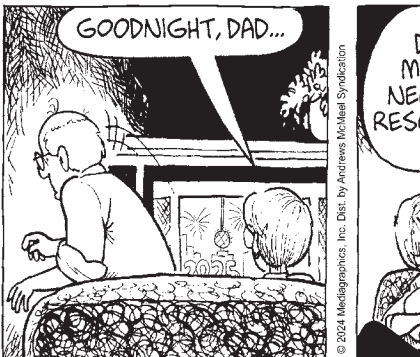
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"You'd wear a hood too if you had brothers who put snowballs down your neck."

The LOCKHORNS



"LEROY ALWAYS DROPS BEFORE THE BALL DOES."

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Christ is the ark of salvation

Question: The world is so dark these days and it is hard to be optimistic as a year passes and another year begins. Is there anything to look forward to? — L.F.

Answer: The bright spot on the horizon is the promise of the coming again of Jesus Christ. This is God's message, and this is the message that Christ's church is commanded to proclaim. The church is not bound in a building or in a denomination. The church — represented by the people of God — has been given the task of sounding the alarm for humanity to repent and turn from the sin that reigns in human hearts,

just as Noah did in ancient days.

Just as God told Noah to make a window for the ark for light to come in, He also told Noah to put only one door to enter in. We must not miss the symbolism of this marvelous picture. Christ is the ark of salvation. He is the light of the world. And Jesus also said, "I am the door" (John 10:9, NKJV) — the only way to salvation.

Just imagine being aboard the ark during a 40-day monsoon and riding the surges and breakers for months before feeling the boat rest on dry land. Over the course of a year or more, Noah's family of eight experienced the faithfulness of God's protection, realized the fulfillment of

God's prophecy, and then beheld the favor of God's promise — a rainbow — to signify that the Earth would never again be destroyed by water.

We have the advantage of looking back at history on what was to come and did come to pass, yet we turn a blind eye to what is happening and a deaf ear to warnings of what is yet to happen. A British reporter said, "The world is on a collision course with disaster." God says, "Come all you who are weary and I will give you rest."

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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12/31	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Washington Watch With Tony Perkins	News-at-5	News-at-6	CBS News (N)	Creflo Dollar	Turning Point	TCT Today	Joyce Meyer	Vindication	Life Today	Robert Jeffress	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		Mysteries	
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	College Football	News at 6 (N)	News at 6 (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy!	Chicago Fire	New Year's A celebration of the new year with performances by some of the biggest artists in country..				TBA	New Year's A celebration of the new year with performances by some of the biggest artists in country music. (L) (N)					
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Chicago Fire "Put White on Me"	Chicago Fire "When They See Us Coming"	Chicago Fire "Where I Want to Be"	Chicago Fire "The Strongest Among Us"	Chicago Fire "The Uninvited Standard"	Chicago Fire "One for the Ages"	Chicago Fire "The Grand Gesture"	Chicago Fire "A Closer Eye"									
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	College Football Bowl: South Carolina vs. Illinois (L) (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC World News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Dick Clark's Ryan Seacrest & Rita Ora host New Year's Eve festivities from New York's Times Square.	Dick Clark's "Part 2" (L) (N)	Dick Clark's "Part 1" (L) (N)	Dick Clark's "New Year's Rockin' Eve-2025" "Part 1" (L) (N)									
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	Family Feud	St. Denis Medical	Night Court	To Be Announced		The Irrational	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)			
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	Bob Hearts Abishola	Bob Hearts Abishola	Modern Family	News (N)	Plat Man	Last Man Standing	Suits "I Want You to Want Me"	Suits "Unfinished Business"			Seinfeld	Seinfeld "The Cafe"	The Conners	The Conners	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)			TMZ (N)	True Crime News (N)	WWE NXT WWE Superstars compete to prove they've got what it takes. (L) (N)			Friends	Friends	TMZ (N)	Dish Nation (N)	True Crime News P.D.			
PBS WFVA (39)	13	5	39	39	Victoria & Albert: The Wedding	PBS News Hour (N)			BBC News America	Healthline	NEXT at the Kennedy Center (N)	NEXT at the Kennedy Center			Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	NEXT at the Kennedy Center				
PBS WFVA (49)	3				Victoria & Albert: The Wedding	Context	Context		PBS News Hour (N)	NEXT at the Kennedy Center (N)	NEXT at the Kennedy Center	NEXT at the Kennedy Center			Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	NEXT at the Kennedy Center				
FOX WFTT (55)	6	5	55	55	WFFX Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFX Fox News at 6 (N)			Big Bang	Big Bang	Kitchen Nightmares	Kitchen Nightmares			FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor		
CABLE CHANNELS																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	The Rookie	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	(05) Castle	(05) Castle	Castle								
FX	24	132	136	148	Thor: Love and Thunder	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	Chris Pratt.	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	Chris Pratt.	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	Chris Pratt.	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	Chris Pratt.	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	Chris Pratt.	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	Chris Pratt.	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	Chris Pratt.	Guardians of the Galaxy (14)	
TVLAND	25		106	304	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
E!	26	142	114	236	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
PARMT	30		241	241	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	Football Bowl	
FDMW	33		418	671	All Blacks	All Blacks	FIBA Basketball	The Card Life Kansas	NASCAR 2023 Atlanta Quaker State 400	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	FIBA Basketball	Sports Stars	All Blacks	The Card Life Kansas			
USA	34	133	105	242	Law & Order: SVU	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	Law-SVU "Murdered at a Bad Address"	
DISC	35	72	182	278	Master Distiller	Moonshiners "Backlash from the Backwoods"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	Moonshiners "Code Enforcement"	
TLC	36	73	183	280	Last Resort	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	Last Resort (N)	
HST	38	77	120	269	Unbelievable	"Astonishing Bodies"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	Unbelievable "Unusual Places"	
ARE	39	134	118	265	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	Road Wars	
HALL	40	117	185	312	Five Gold Rings	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	My Sweet Austrian Holiday	
SYFY	41	135	122	244	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	Twilight Zone	
TBS	43	130	139	247	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	
TNT	44	131	138	245	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	NHL Hockey	
AMC	45	131	154	254	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	Caddyshack	
COM	47	107	249	Seinfeld	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
FS1	48	64	150	219	Speak (L) (N)	College Basketball Marquette at Providence	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	NHRA Drag Racing Super Grip NHRA Thunder Valley Nationals	
WGN	53		307	Vargas Report (L) (N)	The Hill (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	
WE	57		128	260	9-1-1	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	9-1-1 "Pay It Forward"	
FOOD	59	153	110	231	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	
BRavo	60	140	129	237	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	
NICK	68	170	299	SpongeBob	Fairy Odd	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	
DISN	69	30	172	290	ZOMBIES	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	At the Edge	
FREEFORM	70	32	180	311	Santa Clause 3: Escape Clause	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	Home Alone	
HBO	301		300	501	Wonder Woman 1984	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	The Batman	
MAX	325		310	515	The Devil Wears Prada	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	Black Swan	
PARSHO	351	851	318	545	Braveheart	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	The Fabulous Four	
TMC	375	859	327	553	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	The Last Voyage of the Demeter	

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 One-named super-model
 - 5 Sub shop
 - 9 Sit-up targets
 - 12 Crèche trio
 - 13 Ms. Brockovich
 - 14 Chou En-
 - 15 Settings for dishes
 - 17 Rapper — Kim
 - 18 Mr. Kringle
 - 19 Immune system agent
 - 21 Bagel features
 - 24 Cabinet dept. head
 - 25 Gas co., for one
 - 26 Unusual
 - 30 Tyler of "Ad Astra"
 - 31 Golf clubs
 - 32 Carte lead-in
 - 33 Log-on need
 - 35 Harrow rival
- DOWN**
- 1 Little rascal
 - 36 Furnace fuel
 - 37 Edition
 - 38 Some Pacific salmon
 - 40 Big D.C. employer
 - 42 Actress
 - 43 New Year's Eve headwear
 - 48 J.D. holder
 - 49 Buckeye State
 - 50 Way out
 - 51 Refusals
 - 52 Fork prong
 - 53 "Ratatouille" rat
 - 2 — de mer
 - 3 Khan title
 - 4 Buffalo coin
 - 5 Singer Lovato
 - 6 "Taylor Swift: The — Tour" (2023) concert film)
 - 7 Set afire
 - 8 Shoe parts
 -

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

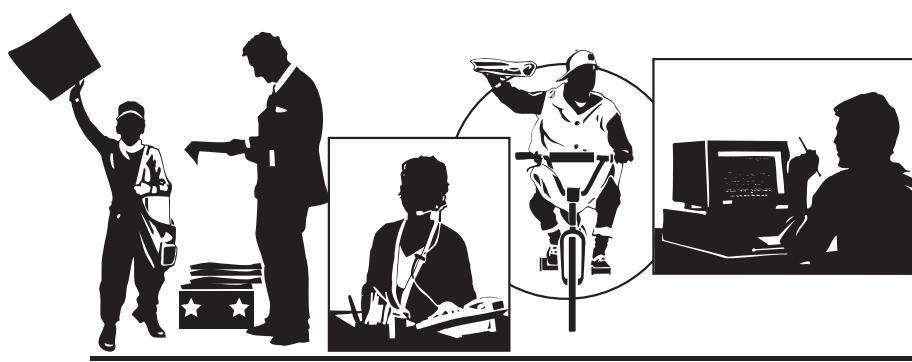
King Classic Sudoku

1		4		6	9	8		
				1		6	2	
5	6				4		7	
	4	5						3
7		8				1	4	
6		1		9		2		8
4	1		6		8			2
2		7					8	6
8	9	6		2			1	7

Difficulty: ★★

12/31

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Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 4-6-35-40-43

Cash4Life — 10-24-26-

34-35, Cash Ball: 4

Quick Draw Midday —

5-17-22-26-27-31-35-38-

42-46-48-53-54-55-59-62-

66-67-70-77, BE: 62

Daily Three-Midday —

2-8-1, SB: 0

Daily Three-Evening —

2-7-0, SB: 8

Daily Four-Midday —

5-6-1-8, SB: 0

Daily Four-Evening —

4-7-0-7, SB: 8

Quick Draw Evening —

6-10-13-21-26-29-30-

32-36-43-48-50-51-56-67-

68-70-73-76-77, BE: 29

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated

jackpot (for Wednesday): \$34.8 million

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Estimated jackpot (for

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POWERBALL

9-19-33-38-39 Power-

ball: 1; Power Play: 3

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Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS DECEMBER 31 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Richard Gerken and others, sellers. "Outstanding year end auction." Very high quality art deco, Lladro collection art, mid century modern and Art Nouveau home furnishings, International Harvester collection, 2011 Platinum Ford F150 in pristine condition, high quality antiques, 3,500 record albums, vintage Schwinn bicycles, lawn mower, tools, advertising memorabilia, Coca Cola collection, antique gas pump, country primitives, military patches & pins, and more. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.

BIDDING OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JANUARY 2 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only) - MD Landscaping LLC, owner. Over 170+ Lots. John Deere 5525 W/ Belly Blade, Bobcat Dozer 96" Blade, 2016 International 4300 Box Truck, 2003 Wells Cargo Enclosed/Office Trailer, 84" 3-Point Cultivator, 2008 Ford F-350 W/ Boss Snow Plow, 2007 Jeep Wrangler w/J Truck Bed, Volvo ECR88 Excavator Kawasaki 65TMVB Wheel Loader, Kubota SCL 1000 Mini Skid Steer, Skid Loader Attachments, Hardscape Stone, Walnut Slabs, Assorted Lawn Tools, Power Tools and much more. 3883 US HWY 33 Decatur IN, 46733. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING ENDS JANUARY 5 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Eldrid Tinkel, seller. Large antique and collectible auction. Country primitives, early metal toys including vintage tractors, farm implements, trucks, boats, more, antique furniture, cast iron col-

lection, antique brass cash register, antique stoves, large and rare collection of vintage graniteware, Fenton, Marion advertising memorabilia, vintage beer signs, crocks, long guns, coins, more. Open house Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, The Steffen Group Inc., Steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

BIDDING ENDS JANUARY 7 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only) - Wayne Metals LLC Machining Division, owner. Offering over 200+ Lots. Roskelley 1440 Lathe, 2007 Haas SL-40T CNC Turning Lathe, Hardinge CHNCI Precision CNC Machine, Delta Floor Drill Press, Omni Turn GT-75 CNC Lathe, Targa Surface Grinder, Acer Milling Machine W/ Phase-2 3 Jaw Chuck, Abex Denison Stamp Machine, OOYA RE-1225H Drilling & Tapping Radial Arm Drill, Cincinnati Milacron Hawk 150 A2100 CNC Lathe, Welders, Tooling Cabinets, Large Selection of pallet racking, Power & Hand Tools and much more. 9312 Avionics Drive, Fort Wayne IN 46809. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

SUDOKU ANSWER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	8	6	1	7	6	2	9	7
7	6	9	8	2	9	1	7	8
8	9	7	2	6	7	1	8	9
6	7	1	9	9	8	2	2	2
8	9	2	8	1	9	7	6	8
1	2	6	7	8	8	7	9	9
7	7	9	9	1	2	6	8	8
9	8	8	6	9	7	7	2	1

In 2024, artificial intelligence was all about putting AI tools to work

By MATT O'BRIEN and SARAH PARVINI
AP Technology Writers

If 2023 was a year of wonder about artificial intelligence, 2024 was the year to try to get that wonder to do something useful without breaking the bank.

There was a "shift from putting out models to actually building products," said Arvind Narayanan, a Princeton University computer science professor and co-author of the new book "AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can't, and How to Tell The Difference."

The first 100 million or so people who experimented with ChatGPT upon its release two years ago actively sought out the chatbot, finding it amazingly helpful at some tasks or laughably mediocre at others.

Now such generative AI technology is baked into an increasing number of technology services whether we're looking for it or not — for instance, through the AI-generated answers in Google search results or new AI techniques in photo editing tools.

"The main thing that was wrong with generative AI last year is that companies were releasing these really powerful models without a concrete way for people to make use of them," said Narayanan. "What we're seeing this year is gradually building out these products that can take advantage of those capabilities and do useful things for people."

At the same time, since OpenAI released GPT-4 in March 2023 and competitors introduced similarly performing AI large language models, these models have stopped getting significantly "bigger and qualitatively better," resetting overblown expectations that AI was racing every few months to some kind of better-than-human intelligence, Narayanan said. That's also meant that the public discourse has shifted from "is AI going to kill us?" to treating it like a normal technology, he said.

AI's sticker shock

On quarterly earnings calls this year, tech executives often heard questions from Wall Street analysts looking for assurances of future payoffs from huge spending on AI research and development. Building AI systems behind generative AI tools like OpenAI's ChatGPT or Google's Gemini requires investing in energy-hungry computing systems running on powerful and expensive AI chips. They require so much electricity that tech giants announced deals this year to tap into nuclear power to help run them.

"We're talking about hundreds of billions of dollars of capital that has been poured into this technology," said Goldman Sachs analyst Kash Rangan.

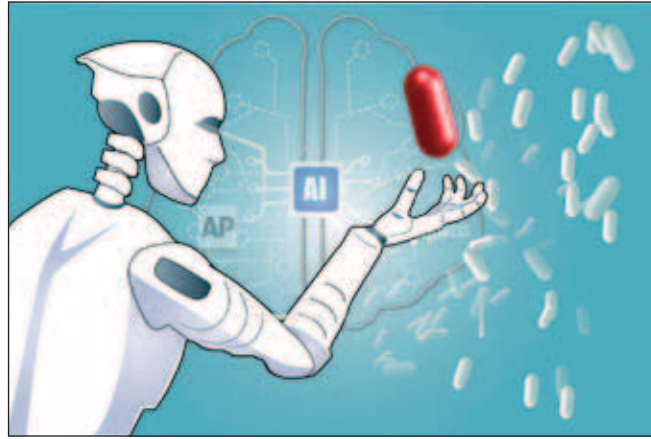
Another analyst at the New York investment bank drew attention over the summer by arguing AI isn't solving the complex problems that would justify its costs. He also questioned whether AI models, even as they're being trained on much of the written and visual data produced over the course of human history, will ever be able to do what humans do so well. Rangan has a more optimistic view.

"We had this fascination that this technology is just going to be absolutely revolutionary, which it has not been in the two years since the introduction of ChatGPT," Rangan said. "It's more expensive than we thought and it's not as productive as we thought."

Rangan, however, is still bullish about its potential and says that AI tools are already proving "absolutely incrementally more productive" in sales, design and a number of other professions.

AI and your job

Some workers wonder whether AI tools will be used to supplement their work or to replace them as the technol-



ogy continues to grow. The tech company Borderless AI has been using an AI chatbot from Cohere to write up employment contracts for workers in Turkey or India without the help of outside lawyers or translators.

Video game performers with the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists who went on strike in July said they feared AI could reduce or eliminate job opportunities because it could be used to replicate one performance into a number of other movements without their consent. Concerns about how movie studios will use AI helped fuel last year's film and television strikes by the union, which lasted four months. Game companies have also signed side agreements with the union that codify certain AI protections in order to keep working with actors during the strike.

Musicians and authors have voiced similar concerns over AI scraping their voices and books. But generative AI still can't create unique work or "completely new things," said Walid Saad, a professor of electrical and computer engineering and AI expert at Virginia Tech.

"We can train it with more data so it has more information. But having more information doesn't mean you're more creative," he said. "As humans, we understand the world around us, right? We understand the physics. You understand if you throw a ball on the ground, it's going to bounce. AI tools currently don't understand the world."

Saad pointed to a meme about AI as an example of that shortcoming. When someone prompted an AI engine to create an image of salmon swimming in a river, he said, the AI created a photo of a river with cut pieces of salmon found in grocery stores.

"What AI lacks today is the common sense that humans have, and I think that is the next step," he said.

An 'agentic future'

That type of reasoning is a key part of the process of making AI tools more useful to consumers, said Vijoy Pandey, senior vice president of Cisco's innovation and incubation arm, Outshift. AI developers are increasingly pitching the next wave of generative AI chatbots as AI "agents" that can do more useful things on people's behalf.

That could mean being able to ask an AI agent an ambiguous question and have the model able to reason and plan out steps to solving an ambitious problem, Pandey said. A lot of technology, he said, is going to move in that direction in 2025.

Pandey predicts that eventually, AI agents will be able to come together and perform a job the way multiple people come together and solve a problem as a team rather than simply accomplishing tasks as individual AI tools. The AI agents of the future will work as an ensemble, he said.

Future Bitcoin software, for example, will likely rely on the use of AI software agents, Pandey said. Those agents will each have a specialty, he said, with "agents that check for correctness, agents that check for security, agents that check for scale."

"We're getting to an agentic future," he said. "You're going to have all these agents being very good at certain skills, but also have a little bit of a character or color to them, because that's how we operate."

AI makes gains in medicine

AI tools have also streamlined, or lent in some cases a literal helping hand, to the medical field. This year's Nobel Prize in chemistry — one of two Nobels awarded to AI-related science — went to work led by Google that could help discover new medicines.

Saad, the Virginia Tech professor, said that AI has helped bring faster diagnostics by quickly giving doctors a starting point to launch from when determining a patient's care. AI can't detect disease, he said, but it can quickly digest data and point out potential problem areas for a real doctor to investigate. As with other arenas, however, it poses a risk of perpetuating falsehoods.

Tech giant OpenAI has touted its AI-powered transcription tool Whisper as having near "human level robustness and accuracy," for example. But experts have said that Whisper has a major flaw: It is prone to making up chunks of text or even entire sentences.

Pandey, of Cisco, said that some of the company's customers who work in pharmaceuticals have noted that AI has helped bridge the divide between "wet labs," in which humans conduct physical experiments and research, and "dry labs" where people analyze data and often use computers for modeling.

When it comes to pharmaceutical development, that collaborative process can take several years, he said — with AI, the process can be cut to a few days.

"That, to me, has been the most dramatic use," Pandey said.

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A Talk with Tego



Patches is a nine-month-old, dilute tortieshell female.



Birch is a one-year-old, domestic long hair, neutered male.



Rusty is a five-month-old, domestic short hair male.



Tego

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South Korea to inspect Boeing aircraft as it struggles to find cause of plane crash

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean officials said Monday they will conduct safety inspections of all Boeing 737-800 aircraft operated by the country's airlines, as they struggle to determine what caused a plane crash that killed 179 people a day earlier.

Sunday's crash, the country's worst aviation disaster in decades, triggered an outpouring of national sympathy. Many people worry how effectively the South Korean government will handle the disaster as it grapples with a leadership vacuum following the recent successive impeachments of President Yoon Suk Yeol and Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, the country's top two officials, amid political tumult caused by Yoon's brief imposition of martial law earlier this month.

New acting President Choi Sang-mok on Monday presided over a task force meeting on the crash and instructed authorities to conduct an emergency review of the country's aircraft operation systems.

"The essence of a responsible response would be renovating the aviation safety

systems on the whole to prevent recurrences of similar incidents and building a safer Republic of South Korea," said Choi.

The Boeing 737-800 plane operated by South Korean budget airline Jeju Air aborted its first landing attempt for reasons that aren't immediately clear.

Then, during its second landing attempt, it received a bird strike warning from the ground control center before its pilot issued a distress signal. The plane landed without its front landing gear deployed, overshot the runway, slammed into a concrete fence and burst into a fireball.

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