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Things to look forward to this year

DUMP

Steve

Garbacz

First off, where did 2022 go? I mean, 2020 was an agonizing slog. Then 2021 kind of slipped by, but the concept of "month" still felt like it had meaning. Then 2022 ended before I ever really remember it starting.

I blame it on the combination of busy work life plus busy home life with a pre-schooler plus some sort of slipstreaming into a temporal vortex probably caused by Hunter Biden's laptop and woke indoctrination.

(I did certainly lose 20-minute chunks of my life I'll never get back once or twice a month every time I had to sit through public comment at East Noble School Board meetings listening to the

same cadre of characters ranting about porn, critical race theory and transgenderism.)

OK, now that I've got my couple of weekly snark shots in, let's take a look at a list of things to actually look forward to in 2023:

• Kendallville's \$2 million streetscape project should get underway.

The mayor is understandably nervous about what bids will look like when they come back this month, but even if costs have risen, the city should still likely be able to get around 10 GARBACZ facades overhauled.

I was working in Franklin when the first couple phases of their downtown revitalization started taking shape and seeing the transformation some of their old, worn-out, looking-like-Kendallville buildings got second lives and how that momentum only kept building afterward.

The city has already made big strides — you can't visit the downtown pocket park without hearing people gush, and rightfully so because it's pretty sweet

- and is taking its next big step this year. • City elections that actually matter this year.

Both Mayor Suzanne Handshoe in Kendallville and Mayor Patty Fisel in Ligonier are retiring from office. Kendallville City Council mainstay Jim Dazey is also retiring. Mayor Dick Hickman in Angola is retiring. and Mayor Mike Ley in Auburn has notched some noteworthy accomplishments but also had his fair share of drama next door in DeKalb County.

No offense to anyone who has run in the past, but municipal elections have been snorefests for a long time because we've had long-time leaders who have dominated the scene.

But with those leaders leaving, I'm interested to see who is ready to step up and what they're offering to their communities.

• A good session from the Indiana General Assembly? Inflation is bad, but it's been good for the state's tax revenue. Indiana lately has looked like Uncle's Scrooge's money vault from the hit '90s cartoon "Duck Tales" — a literal swimming pool of gold coins.

Indiana has been trying its darnedest to live up to the derogatory description of "middle finger of the South," with economic and cultural trajectories looking more like Mississippi and Alabama than its Midwestern peers in recent years.

Now flush with cash, the state could start making some serious commitments to invest in itself and make up for years of nickel-and-diming itself into deceleration vs. its peers.

I'm interested to see whether lawmakers keep putting Band-Aids on bullet holes or start getting much more aggressive about trying to reverse downward trends (educational attainment, rural population decline, etc.) we're seeing in the state's future prospects.

• Totally dysfunctional federal government.

Welcome back to a split federal government, with a GOP House, Democratic Senate and President Joe Biden still in the White House.

Considering federal politicians can barely function even when they control all three columns (remember Sen. John McCain torpedoing the Obamacare repeal, while Sen. Joe Manchin dumped on just about every Democratic policy package the last two years?), expect to see literally nothing productive happen this

Republicans won the House campaigning on gas prices and the border and inflation and then as soon as they won, no joke, one of first press conferences they held in victory was to swear a deep probe into Hunter Biden's laptop.

Maybe Hunter has a policy paper on immigration reform on there next to half-nude selfies of himself. If not, I don't suspect we'll see any legislation that actually benefits anyone.

Look for Congress to be as useless and intentionally divisive as it was when it was split during 2011-16 under Obama and 2019-2020 under Trump.

An end to the war in Ukraine?

Back in March, I was admittedly pretty pessimistic about Ukraine's chances. Time to admit I was wrong. The war has been as barbaric and brutal as all pointless conflict is, but Ukraine has managed to hold its own and throw back its former overlords in spots and places.

We've recently heard conversations about peace talks and although prospects look as cold as Siberian winter right now, Russia has got to be second-guessing the cost it's paying in Ukraine. And for what?

Modern-day conflicts tend to span years and years, so it's probably naive to think Ukraine settles in less than two. But we can hold out hope.

And, lastly, one personal one for myself:

• Luke turning 4.

My kiddo's birthday is just two weeks away on Jan. 18. Add that to the "Where has the time gone?" files, as I swear I was just writing about him being born a few months ago.

Santa brought him a new Spider-Man baseball cap for Christmas and when he wears it it makes him look like he's 8

He's getting his first bicycle with training wheels for his birthday. Maybe his first baseball mitt this summer. Is he going to master his letters this year? Learn the write his name? Get better

And, most importantly, will he finally, finally learn to go poop

2023 will be a massive success in my book if that one finally

STEVE GARBACZ is executive editor for KPC Media and editor of The News Sun. Will he take some time off work this year? That really never panned out in 2022. Email him at sgarbacz@ kpcmedia.com.



Letter to the Editor

Woke believe they are wiser than their ancestors

To the Editor:

I would like to thank former teacher John Stevens for admitting he believes critical race theory is true. I plan to address other disagreements with his views, in principle, in future submissions.

Parents, woke teachers don't care about your values, especially if they reflect conservative or biblical values. You need re-education, according to woke elite.

Christopher Rufo, an investigative reporter, has a great Youtube video called "Critical Race Theory" to understand wokeness and its encroachment upon education.

I will describe wokeness from a Christian perspective.

Karl Marx is the father of Marxism. Wokeness is a modern variant. Marx viewed society as composed of oppressor and oppressed classes. He thought the State would naturally evolve towards utopia through clashes between oppressor and oppressed.

Marx was a chronically unemployed, neglectful parent. He was an alcoholic, racist and anti-Semite, despite Jewish ancestry ... hardly someone to respect as an authority figure. Two daughters, influenced by his dark poetry, committed suicide.

Subsequent Marxists surpassed him, applying his theory by provoking violent conflict between classes to accelerate societal advancement.

For example, Soviets provoked violent conflict between peasants

and kulaks (minor property owners), appealing to envy and resentment. Mao provoked violent conflict between the Red Guards and elders, using these indoctrinated students to cancel the Four Olds (customs, culture, habits, ideas).

The current generation of Marxists call themselves Progressives. I prefer the terms woke or Neo-Marxist.

The woke believe they are wiser than their ancestors, whose influence and values must be deconstructed (destroyed).

Instead of economic class, the woke define classes according to intersections of race, sex, gender, religion, and ability. A white, heterosexual, cisgender (non-transgender), able-bodied Christian male is deemed to be the most oppressive and the black, lesbian, transgender, disabled, non-Christian female is deemed to be the most oppressed under intersectionality.

The woke exercise hatred and discrimination towards the alleged oppressor class. They deceptively call this anti-racism. Additionally, they imitate the aforementioned Soviet and Maoist strategies.

Humans are made in the image of God. This image includes the capacity for virtue (moral) systems. The contrived virtue system of the woke is "diversity, equity, inclusion".

Diversity, equity, and inclusion as defined by the woke is deceptive. Diversity, for example, does not include diversity of thought. Equity means all people deserve equal outcomes in life regardless of personal initiative or merit. This justifies seizing others' property and redistributing it. Inclusion is intolerant of beliefs like Christianity conflicting with

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editor.

woke orthodoxy. The woke accuse critics of white supremacy or racism. If a non-woke person with white skin tone has never treated a person of a different skin tone with disrespect, he is still deemed to be a white supremacist, because he benefits from the system of oppression.

What motivates the woke to accuse others of racism or bigotry?

In the sixties, university students challenged the moral authority of previous generations, accusing them of racism and materialism, while engaging in sexual anarchy and drug abuse themselves. Their contrived virtue system allowed them to pursue their lusts, while claiming moral superiority over authority

The woke, including Democrat leadership, accuse others of racism and bigotry to maintain an illusion of virtue while approving of abominations like abortion, sexual anarchy, gender ideology and sexualization and indoctrination of youth. They even consider it bigotry to use the term pedophile, insisting upon the more inclusive term "minor attracted persons".

Ultimately, morality is defined by God's law, expressed in Scripture. True virtue or goodness is defined by God's nature. God defines truth, not the woke.

Accusations of racism and bigotry are smoke screens meant to hide their immorality and to assert their moral superiority and authority.

Robert Sparkman Rome City

There is every reason to embrace winter

January arrives wearing galoshes and a buttoned-up raincoat. Not a speck of snow remains from last week's blizzard and the cold and snow. I am thinking of pulling the bike back out of the garage, and hanging laundry on the line. Aside of abnormally warm temperatures and a neighborhood that looks a lot like March, what else is happening?

Thank you for asking. First of all, I was fortunate to spend New Year's Eve with lovely friends in Indianapolis. We celebrated with a Hogmanay theme which is how this night is celebrated in Scotland. The origin or Hogmanay is thought to have come when the Vikings invaded Scotland in the early 8th Century. These Norsemen always paid attention to the Solstice and celebrated the arrival of that event! There are so many traditions with Hogmanay. It is always time to clean out the ashes in the fireplace, and always clear all your debts before midnight. (That might be a bit late for some of you!) We also opened all the doors at midnight to let out the old and let in the new. And, of course, we sang "Auld Lang Syne."

There are two wonderful events this week that coincide with the first week of January. The first full moon of January will happen at 6:09 on Friday evening. This full moon is labeled as a Micromoon which means it is at its farthest point from Earth. This is completely opposite of the Supermoon. January's moon is known as the Wolf Moon. During January, the wolves begin to get hungry and circle the villages waiting for food. Another name for this moon is the Center Moon. This moon was aptly named by the Assiniboine people. Supposedly the Center Moon is half way through the cold season. Of course, traditionally, January was the cold month so the other names such as Freeze Up Moon, Severe Moon, Canada Goose Moon and Spirit Moon have also been noted. Of course, it is hard to believe we have



LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR

such cold names for the moon this week as I see my laundry

> fluttering on the clothesline. This warm springlike weather has me a bit worried about early buds on trees or the fact that the crocuses might be betrayed. So now you know. Whatever you want

to call this full moon,

make sure you do not

miss it, and if you feel a bit chilly while watching, remember it is January. My grandmother used to say, "When the days begin to lengthen, the cold begins to strengthen.'

The other event I celebrate is the ending of Christmas. On Friday, the same day as the full moon, we celebrate Epiphany which is the 12th day of Christmas. This day marks the visit to the Christ Child by the Magi, or the three kings. During the Epiphany, the three kings brought gifts to the Christ Child. However, some scholars now believe they were actually early astronomers who followed the Star of Bethlehem. In December 2020, the star was visible. Unfortunately for some of us, the next Star of Bethlehem will not be seen again until 2080. I guess I will just have to be glad I saw it in 2020!

I do celebrate Epiphany by inviting friends over to eat the king cake. Well, actually it is a coconut cake in which I have placed a token. Whoever, gets the token will be the reigning king or queen whenever they visit my house! Friday night will be the last night I light my tree. One more time to enjoy the beauty of a candlelight-filled house. I shut off every light in the house to enjoy the candles. Such beauty only exists in fairy tales or in my pretty little storyteller's cottage. After I blow out all the candles, it is time to take the tree down. Sigh. This year's tree was absolutely the most beautiful of all. Maybe I say that every year, but this year I mean it. It has been enchanting, and I will miss it.

But then again time to move on. So many other wonderful events coming up this winter. Burns Night. Chinese New Year. Valentine's Day. So, there is every reason to embrace the winter, especially these temperatures.

In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter.

LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR lives in

Angola at the White Picket Gardens where you can find her gardening or writing late into the night under the light of her frayed scarlet lamp. She is a storyteller, teacher, writer, actress and a collector of front porch stories. She can be contacted at locketoftime@ aol.com.