



William Bianco examines astronomy data on his home computer in Bloomington on Wednesday. Bianco is part of a growing online community of amateur astronomers who sift through mountains of data in search of extraterrestrial worlds.

Find new planets on the Internet

By ALICIA CHANG THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Amateur astronomer William Bianco doesn't huddle over a backyard telescope to hunt for undiscovered planets. He logs onto his computer.

Bianco, who was mesmerized by the intricacies of the universe as a young boy, is part of a growing online community that sifts through mountains of data collected by professional scientists in search of other worlds.

While Bianco has yet to make a landmark discovery, he savors the rush of teetering on the cutting edge of research.

Never before have amateur astronomers had so much unfettered access to celestial data once available only to scientists with huge telescopes. In the latest frontier of astronomy, professionals are increasingly enlisting the aid of novices with personal computers to help pore through images and data, all in pursuit of the next great breakthrough.

"We're in the golden age of astronomy," said Bianco, who keeps his day job as a political science professor at Indiana University.

Thanks to technology, novices are effectively turning from lonely skywatchers to research assistants. Even before the rise of virtual astronomy, amateurs did everything from tracking asteroids to detecting supernova explosions to eyeing new comets. In 1995, neophyte stargazer Thomas Bopp gained fame for co-discovering what would be known as Comet Hale-Bopp. Two years ago, in what was billed as the first such find by an amateur in 65 years, Jay McNeil of Kentucky took a picture of a new nebula, an illuminated cloud of gas and dust lit by what is believed to be a newborn star.

Since the late 1990s, virtual astronomy has boomed. One of the earliest online citizen scientist projects was SETI@home, which distributed software that created a virtual supercomputer by harnessing idle, Web-connected PCs to search for alien radio transmissions.

While the SETI project hums in the background as a screen saver, the newer efforts require more human thought.

Bianco belongs to an Internet project called Systemic, which boasts 750 amateur planet hunters. Astronomers have already discovered more than 200 planets in far-off solar systems using traditional methods, yet there are likely more out there.

Participants download software and rifle through data that measure the tiny gravitational wobble in a star's motions in search planets that orbit stars other than our sun. Users also try to decode simulated data of planetary systems invented by the project managers, a task that will help the professionals better understand real extrasolar planets.

To participate, users select a star, real or simulated, and adjust other variables such as planet's mass and orbital period by moving a slider back and forth on the screen. The goal is to design a planetary system that best fits the data and then publish the answer online.

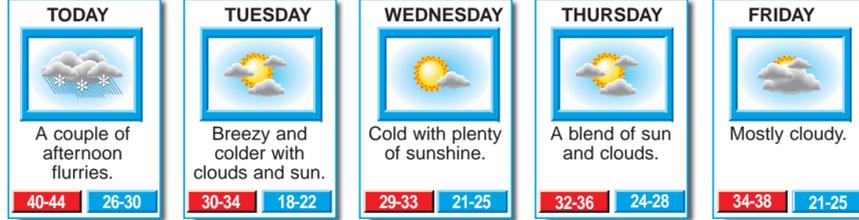
Students were introduced to their new teacher before the holiday break. Amber Ploutz taught students who needed extra help with reading at White River Elementary in Noblesville before accepting the position at Isom. Her salary for the remainder of the school year will be about \$16,500, superintendent David Edds said.

LOTTERIES

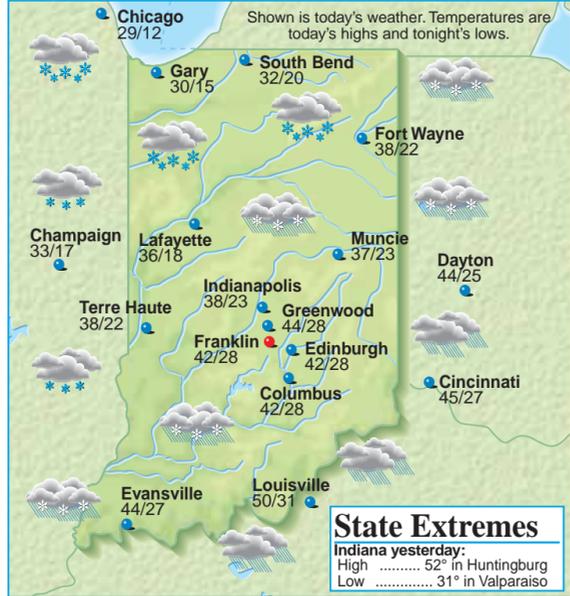
Here are the winning numbers selected Saturday:
Daily Three Evening: 7-1-3.
Daily Three Midday: 7-2-1.
Daily Four Midday: 4-1-3-4.
Daily Four Evening: 5-9-7-0.
Lucky Five Midday: 18-24-32-34-36.
Lucky Five Evening: 3-9-12-23-31.
Hoosier Lotto: 2-5-22-33-42-46.
Jackpot: \$12 million. (No winner. New jackpot: \$12.5 million.)
Powerball: 1-21-23-25-26. Powerball: 4. Power Play: 2. Jackpot: \$157 million. (No winner. New jackpot: \$180 million.)
For Sunday's Hoosier Lottery drawings, visit www.thejournalnet.com or see Tuesday's Daily Journal.

WEATHER

AccuWeather® five-day forecast for Johnson County



Regional weather



Regional summary

Indianapolis/Greenwood: Mostly cloudy today with a stray flurry; breezy. Mainly cloudy tonight. Colder tomorrow with clouds and sun. Wednesday: Mostly sunny. **Edinburgh/Franklin:** Mostly cloudy and breezy today with a rain or snow shower in spots. Mostly cloudy tonight. Colder tomorrow. Wednesday: Mostly sunny.

Today in weather history™

On Jan. 15, 1780, ice in the New York Harbor was thick enough to allow the transport of heavy cannons. While river ice can stop boat traffic, it may create possibilities.

Regional cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Tues. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Tues. Hi/Lo/W
Anderson	37/34/r	30/15/pc	Indianapolis	39/37/r	29/17/pc
Bloomington	44/42/r	33/15/pc	Kokomo	41/37/r	29/14/pc
Chicago	35/30/i	23/12/pc	Lafayette	39/35/r	28/14/pc
Cincinnati	57/45/r	33/20/pc	Louisville	63/50/r	35/23/pc
Evansville	47/45/r	29/18/pc	Muncie	37/34/r	29/14/pc
Fort Wayne	36/32/i	28/17/sf	South Bend	34/31/i	28/14/sf
Gary	37/30/r	27/16/pc	Terre Haute	42/37/r	28/19/pc

Sun and moon

Sunrise today 8:03 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:44 p.m.
Moonrise today 5:08 a.m.
Moonset today 2:07 p.m.

AccuWeather UV Index™

Highest Today in Johnson County
Values indicate the exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Weather Trivia™

One inch of rain is equivalent to how much snow?
10 inches if the temperature is between 25F and 30F

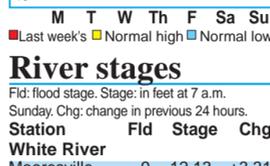
Wind Chill Today

How cold it feels based on temperature and wind speed.
8 a.m. 35° Noon 34° 4 p.m. 32°

Heating Degree Days

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero

Weekly temperatures



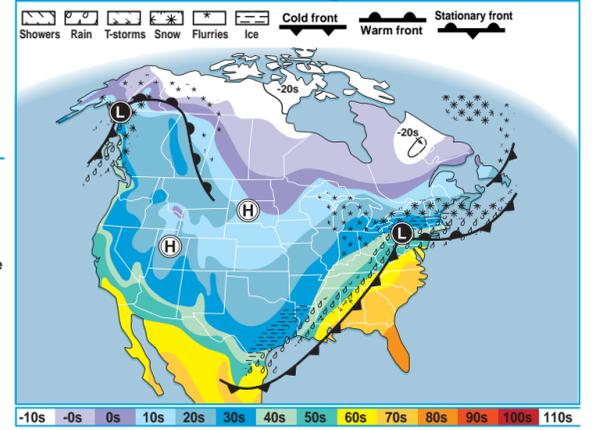
River stages

Station	Fld	Stage	Chg
White River	Mooreville	9 12.13	+3.31
White River (East Fork)	Edinburgh	12 10.93	+5.55

Almanac

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007 Statistics for Indianapolis through 5 p.m. yesterday.
Temperature
High 39°
Low 37°
Normal high 34°
Normal low 18°
Record high 65° in 1928
Record low -7° in 1957
Precipitation
24 hrs. ending 5 p.m. yest. 0.40"
Month to date 2.69"
Normal month to date 1.12"
Year to date 2.69"
Normal year to date 1.12"

National weather today



National cities

City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Tues. Hi/Lo/W	City	Yest. Hi/Lo/W	Tues. Hi/Lo/W
Albany, NY	34/26/i	29/6/sf	Houston	74/50/t	30/26/i
Atlanta	72/53/pc	49/30/r	Jacksonville	78/52/sh	70/43/r
Atlantic City	64/50/r	39/20/c	Kansas City	27/18/sn	23/8/pc
Baltimore	68/50/r	45/22/pc	Las Vegas	38/23/pc	48/27/s
Boston	43/32/r	32/16/sf	Los Angeles	59/36/s	67/40/s
Buffalo	32/29/i	22/12/sf	Louisville	63/50/r	35/23/pc
Burlington, VT	25/17/sn	21/-2/sn	Memphis	64/51/t	38/27/pc
Champaign	37/33/r	25/15/pc	Miami	80/71/pc	82/68/pc
Charleston, SC	77/56/sh	69/40/r	Milwaukee	31/26/sn	22/14/pc
Cheyenne	9/3/sf	39/9/s	Minneapolis	22/12/sf	10/6/pc
Chicago	35/30/i	23/12/pc	Nashville	69/63/t	39/25/pc
Cleveland	36/35/r	28/18/sf	New Orleans	78/65/pc	47/38/r
Columbia, SC	75/45/pc	60/37/r	New York	47/43/r	38/25/c
Columbus, GA	76/50/pc	53/32/r	Philadelphia	56/48/r	40/25/pc
Dallas	34/32/i	30/24/pc	Phoenix	45/29/s	57/36/s
Denver	11/8/sn	39/12/s	St. Louis	37/32/sn	23/16/pc
Des Moines	25/18/sn	15/5/pc	Salt Lake City	19/-1/pc	19/7/s
Detroit	34/29/sn	28/16/sf	San Francisco	47/32/s	52/39/s
El Paso	54/37/pc	39/22/c	Seattle	33/20/pc	41/31/r
Fairbanks	8/-8/pc	-4/-20/c	Tampa	81/63/pc	78/56/pc
Honolulu	79/68/s	80/69/pc	Washington, DC	66/51/sh	44/28/pc

● King

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

up a voice or voices to speak to the needs of the present day," said Johnson, installed less than a year ago at Harlem's Canaan Baptist Church of Christ. What's important, he said, is to follow the example that King and others set of working for justice.

Among Johnson's prized possessions are photographs that show King and his predecessor, the Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, being held in the jail cell in Birmingham, Ala., where King wrote his civil rights clarion call. The new generation definitely

has its work cut out in terms of reaching people who may be paying more attention to today's prosperity gospel, which focuses more on personal health and well-being.

"I think there's an enormous social justice gospel education agenda that faces this generation that succeeds some of the towering figures in the black pulpit," said Robert Franklin, professor of social ethics at Emory University. Along with Walker, a number of well-known pastors — many with ties to King — have either retired recently or announced plans to do so.

The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, one of the founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, stepped down from

the pulpit at the Greater New Light Baptist Church in Cincinnati last year. The Rev. James A. Forbes Jr., the first black senior minister at New York's Riverside Church, will retire in June.

The Rev. William H. Gray III, the third generation of his family to lead Bright Hope Baptist Church in Philadelphia, will step down next month. And the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. has announced he will step down from Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago in 2008.

"I think one of the mistakes that we make is to institutionalize a person rather than institutionalize a movement. Guys like me moving on, passing the torch to a new generation of young folk is good. That's positive," Gray said.

"In each generation people come and they affirm their commitment," Shuttlesworth said.

A new generation of leadership could also provide an opportunity, a way to make struggle for civil rights more relevant and not something that ended decades ago, said Harris-Lacewell.

"I think it's potentially really healthy for us to move away from imagining that the social gospel movement politically started with or ended with Martin Luther King," she said.

"It might actually be good to move into a new generation that has to make claims and arguments for civil rights that are not rooted in a movement that's 40 years old."

● Widow

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

gallant woman was devastating for the nation and the King Center family," said her nephew, Isaac Newton Farris Jr., who now leads the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Civil rights widow Myrlie Evers-Williams joined Andrew Young, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and the King children in paying tribute to the civil rights matriarch.

"She was a woman that we know lives on in our hearts, minds

and deeds," Evers-Williams told the audience. "Coretta Scott King ... was a queen. Let us reach out and embrace her."

The coalition, led by Franklin, that helped secure the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection last summer was also honored at the gala.

"This is the foundation of a history yet to be told in Atlanta," Franklin said of the collection — also known as the King Papers — as she accepted the Salute to Greatness award from Dexter King with Young by her side.

Recorded tributes from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Maya Angelou were also played during the dinner.

"She could so easily have been satisfied to have been the spouse ... of one of the greatest human beings to walk the planet Earth but, no," Tutu said. "She was a giant in her own right and so many of us are so much the better for being touched by her."

Yolanda King, who emceed the event, led a joyous rendition of Stevie Wonder's version of "Happy Birthday" as she stood with her siblings Dexter and Bernice and her extended family to sing for her father, who would have been 78 on Monday. Their brother, Martin Luther King III, did not attend because of a prior engagement, Yolanda King said. The gala is one of a series of

tributes to Coretta Scott King across the city.

On Friday, a group of American and African human rights activists laid a white flower wreath at the King crypt, which now houses both Kings, at The King Center's reflecting pool.

The symbolic wreath laying recalls a tradition started by Coretta Scott King to mark her husband's birthday on Jan. 15 even before the day became a federal holiday. Each year, from 1969 to 2005, she publicly remembered him at events at his tomb and at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached from 1960 to 1968, including the wreath laying.

● Classes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Students were introduced to their new teacher before the holiday break.

Amber Ploutz taught students who needed extra help with reading at White River Elementary in Noblesville before accepting the

position at Isom. Her salary for the remainder of the school year will be about \$16,500, superintendent David Edds said.

"Three or four years ago we couldn't have afforded to do something like this," he said.

Some other districts don't have the resources to support adding a new classroom, even if it would be helpful, Edds said.

The new classroom is a better learning environment for the stu-

dents, Prewitt said. In first grade, students are learning to read and write and building the foundation of their education. Larger class sizes mean less individual attention in the classroom.

The first-grade teachers have already seen an improvement since the new classroom was created and a fourth teacher added.

"It doesn't take 15 minutes to use the restroom anymore," said Christine Holcroft, a first-grade

teacher. "I don't think people realize how much time those small things took. Now there's more teacher/kid time."

The smaller classrooms mean more attention can be given to the students struggling with their studies and the students who need to be challenged, Holcroft said.

"The progress the kids have made has been great," Ploutz said. "The students are engaged and it's been wonderful."

● Home

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

way he's been," Dungy said. "Having another day of rest should help him. It's a little early to tell, but I think it's going to be fine."

The roles were reversed for Addai and Rhodes for much of the season. Rhodes would start but would see limited action after halftime. Addai would come off the bench and close.

Addai was the up-and-coming star during the regular season.

"I was proud of the way we won. We went in there, and you had to win a dogfight. It wasn't pretty. It wasn't the type of game we normally play, but we were able to get it done."

Tony Dungy
Colts coach on the team's game against the Baltimore Ravens

He ran for 1,081 yards and seven touchdowns and quickly became a crowd favorite. Rhodes, who wait-

ed patiently for years as Edgerrin James' backup, ran for 641 yards and scored five touchdowns.

When the game at Baltimore was on the line, Dungy went with his five-year veteran. Dungy said Rhodes handled losing his starting slot well and showed professionalism by stepping in and performing well.

"It wasn't a demotion, and he understood that," Dungy said. "We were just going to start the game with Joseph. Dom's ended up finishing the last two games. Dom knew he was still going to be involved. He knew he was still get a lot of carries and be in at critical times, so it really hasn't

been that much different. They both still split the carries relatively evenly."

The toughness the Colts showed to get that fifth and final field goal left one of the game's toughest players, Ravens quarterback Steve McNair, with little time to work his magic. The Colts had faced McNair twice a year when he played for the Tennessee Titans, and knew better than to give him an opportunity.

"We've been involved with Steve McNair many times," Dungy said. "You don't want to give him the ball back with a six-point lead and any time left on the clock."

Officials: Show was positive for city

The Associated Press

MUNCIE "Armed & Famous," the reality show where celebrities serve as police officer, hasn't created any image problems for Muncie, at least not yet, officials say.

Muncie Mayor Dan Canan said he was worried the show that began airing last week on CBS might have a lasting negative impact on the city's image and its economic fortunes.

But he said the show's portrayal of Muncie now makes him think it can have a positive effect, much like when Ball State University graduate David Letterman talks about Muncie or Ball State on his "Late Show" talk show.

"Even if he pokes fun, it gets the name out there," he said. Canan said there are advantages to just being mentioned before a nationwide audience.

Ball State economist Patrick Barkey agrees, saying that considering how much money is spent on branding a business, and how much money Indianapolis spends on its image, the publicity from the reality show must be worth something. "If this made Muncie seem more hip, then that's worth something," Barker said.

Adam Bruns, editor of Georgia-based Site Selection magazine, told The Star Press that big companies won't consider "Armed & Famous" when thinking about where to locate their business.

But he said the show could help attract other film or television crews to film in the city.

"If anything, (Muncie) makes itself known as a community open to being a production site," Bruns said.

Local officials and business people were fairly positive about the show and the filming experience.

Delaware County Prosecutor Mark McKinney said that overall the experience was positive. Still, he said is concerned about a Muncie police shotgun reportedly stolen while in the custody of production members.

The cast and crew for the show came to Muncie around Thanksgiving and left last week.

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