

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 43:1-3 Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Greg Nordhoff smile? "My family," said the 50-year-old Noblesville resident. He was found on Election Day working the polls, as a trained inspector at the First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville polling site. Election traffic? "Steady but not heavy. We had about 10 people come in right at 6 (a.m.) But outside of that, it's been a slow trickle." He is a sports marketing CFO. Born in Jasper, Ind., he moved to Noblesville for a job. He has a wife, Melissa, and two sons in college, Chris and Alex, at Purdue and Indiana universities. Hobbies? I play golf, not very well." Why he wanted to be an Election worker? "My dad ran the elections in southern Indiana when I was growing up. At this point, we're empty nesters, so I thought it would be a great time to start."

And Another Few Things...

1. Santa in Sheridan

It's that merry time of year! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting the Sheridan Public Library from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. next Saturday at 103 W 1st St. Bring your list and enjoy some Christmas cheer! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be handing out craft bags with wooden toys (available while supplies last). The Carmel Kiwanis is responsible for donation of these toys.

2. Fishers Parks

Head downtown as Fishers Parks lights up the night on the Nickel Plate Trail! Through the month of December, enjoy NPT Night Lights, a new light display along the downtown portion of the Nickel Plate Trail, presented by Centier Bank. Access to the Nickel Plate Trail and NPT Night Lights is free.

Come out to the trail from 6 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 2, 3, 9 or 10 to enjoy food trucks and live music.

3. Shopping Scams

Attorney General Todd Rokita is warning Hoosiers of Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping scams this holiday season. While everyone wants to find great deals, make sure to use caution and do some research before spending your hard-earned money.

According to the Better Business Bureau, financial fraud and identity theft reports increase at this time of year, largely due to online scams. In 2021, the BBB revealed 35% of fraud reports were the result of an online scam.

Rokita issued the following tips to help Hoosiers shop safely:

- If a product is advertised at an unbelievably low price that sounds too good to be true, it likely is.
- Be extra cautious when booking through an unfamiliar company. Check the Better Business Bureau ratings and reviews of the company to see if there have been any allegations of scams.
- The other party insists on immediate payment, or payment by electronic funds transfer or a wire service. They may insist that you pay up-front for vouchers before you can access a cheap deal or a giveaway.
- The social media-based store is very new and selling products at very low prices. The store may have limited information about delivery and other policies.
- An online retailer does not provide adequate information about privacy, terms and conditions of use, dispute resolution or contact details. The seller may be based overseas, or the seller does not allow payment through a secure payment service such as PayPal or a credit card transaction.

Hoosiers are encouraged to contact the Attorney General's office regarding any suspected scams or scam attempts. You can file a complaint online by visiting indianaconsumer.com or by calling (800) 382-5516.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty - For Some Simple Guidance About Medicare

Dear Rusty: I'm nearing 68 years old, have never signed up for Medicare but thinking that I should look into it. I'm currently covered by my wife's health insurance through her employer. I would greatly appreciate some simple guidance regarding Medicare. I've tried watching some videos about the subject, but it was always so boring that I never finished watching. I get lost in all the Part This & Part That. I would just like some solid insight into the coverage that I truly need & the cost. Signed: Confused

Dear Confused: Medicare is, indeed, a confusing topic, but



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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I'll try to clear it all up for you. Think of it this way - Medicare has two main parts - one which provides coverage for in-patient hospitalization services (that's called Part A) and another which covers outpatient services like doctors, medical tests, etc. (that's called Part B). Part A is usually free (if you're getting

or will get Social Security), but there is a monthly premium for Part B. For 2023, the monthly Part B premium will be \$164.90, and that's either deducted from your Social Security payment, or paid directly to Medicare if you're not yet

➔ See RUSTY Page A6

How to Prevent Scams and Fraud This Holiday Season

(Statepoint) Scams and fraud are more deceiving these days, reaching you in more ways than ever before. The FTC reported 2.8 million fraud reports from consumers in 2021 alone, with reported fraud losses increasing 70% from 2020 and more than \$5.8 million.

Scammers begin their traditional uptick at the start of the holiday season, and identity theft protection expert Carrie Kerskie says being aware of what new cyber and phone fraud trends to look out for is your biggest defense against unwanted fraud.

"The more that we can get this information out there the better," Kerskie recently told T-Mobile Stories, "Unfortunately when it comes to technology, privacy and identity theft, the same old advice that was given 10, 15 years ago is still the gospel of what you're supposed to do. And that is outdated. None of it works. It's not true, it's not relevant anymore."

Scammers have expanded from targeting consumers with only traditional email and phone calls. The most recent trending

➔ See SCAM Page A6

5 Heart Health Tips to Keep You Enjoying the Holidays

(Family Features) Food, drinks, gifts and time with family make the holidays a merry occasion for people across the country. However, all that celebrating can sometimes become a distraction from maintaining heart health.

In fact, the joys of the season can become marred for many as research shows an uptick in cardiac events and heart attack

➔ See HEART Page A6

21-Year-Old Singer, Songbook Academy Student, has 8 Shows at Christkindlmarkt



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

We've been following Peter Fulton's singing career since he was a Hamilton County 4-H'er with my daughter.

Ron and Carmen Fulton have always let us know when their son has a singing performance.

Peter Fulton is now 21. Actually, his 21st birthday was Friday. So Happy 21st birthday

Peter Fulton!

What a way to celebrate this weekend, as he kicks off the first of eight vocal performances at the Carmel Christkindlmarkt.

He'll perform at 6 p.m. today, followed by performances at 6 p.m. Sunday, 5 p.m. Dec. 20, 8 p.m. Dec. 21 with the Songbook Academy, 2 p.m. Dec. 22, 5 p.m. Dec. 27 and 29 and 8 p.m. Dec. 30 at the market. Admission is free.

It's Peter Fulton's third year to sing at the Christkindlmarkt, each year submitting an audition video with an application. His first year was in 2019; the event was canceled in 2020, then it was back in 2021. He will sing a list of Christmas songs on rotation but mostly Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, Songbook Academy-type music. He's required to sing holiday music or Germanic music. "Most of the songs I've chosen are holiday songs from the 1930s to the

1960s, some of which are from classic American movies," Peter Fulton said this week.

"For the Christkindlmarkt, I bring a repertoire that I'm already familiar with," he said. "Every now and then, I substitute new songs into my set, but in general, I'm familiar enough with all my songs that I can sing them whenever I need to."

One of his eight performances will be with the Songbook Academy Indiana alumni, which includes Lauren Sciaudone, a senior at Guerin Catholic High School in Noblesville and who also competed at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair Talent Show, who is singing at Carmel Christkindlmarkt and who attended Songbook Academy in 2022. In 2018 and 2019, Peter Fulton attended the Songbook Academy, a weeklong national summer music intensive in Carmel that

➔ See BETSY Page A6

Day Five from the Manger in Bethlehem



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents from the Holy Land

As our trip reached its penultimate day, we are finally getting to the major sites in the life of Jesus Christ.

Today began with a trip to the Mount of Olives - a place with so very many important historical events. It's from

➔ See TIMMONS Page A6

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Happy early birthday to Carmel grad and sports media personality Sage Steele! The extraordinarily talented TV star turns 50 Monday!

➔ INSIDE TODAY

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➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Cut back on your exercise if you're running a fever. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



➔ OBITUARIES

Marie (Weintraut) Mattingly
Charles Franklin Rush
Gilly R. Snyder

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen."
- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What's faster than great deals rushing out of the store on Black Friday?
The credit card bills coming in the mail!

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank RANDALL & ROBERTS for subscribing!



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

30/56 A.M. FOL. THEN WINDY & SUNNY	45/52 BARRY AND BREEZY	36/47 CLEARING, COOLER	37/58 WINDY, MILLS FIN SHOWERS	58/38 WET, BARRY, TEMPERATE	25/38 WINDY & BARRY, COOLER	29/50 BRIGHT AND WINDY
SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

OBITUARIES

Marie (Weintraut) Mattingly March 3, 1950-November 21, 2022

Marie (Weintraut) Mattingly, 72, of Westfield and formerly of Mt. Vernon, passed away on Nov. 21, 2022.

She was born on March 3, 1950, in Evansville to the late Lawrence "Bud" and Pauline (Woods) Weintraut.

Mrs. Mattingly was a veteran sergeant of the U.S. Air Force, serving from 1968-1971. She received an Air & Space commendation medal for her meritorious achievement and service. She retired from General Electric after 26 years. Mrs. Mattingly enjoyed indoor and outdoor gardening. Marie loved spending time with her family, especially her grandkids who affectionately referred to her as Gri. She was a member of American Legion Post #5.

She was preceded in death by nephew Clint Weintraut.

Survivors include her husband of 35 years Rob Mattingly; daughter Rachel (Jason) Redman; son Rhett (Seneca) Lynaugh; 5 grandchildren Emma Lockhart, Carlton Redman, Savannah Lynaugh, Maeve Lynaugh and Max Lynaugh; 3 brothers Larry Weintraut, Jeff Weintraut and Andy (Becky) Weintraut; brother-in-law Chris (Kelli) Mattingly; sister-in-law Paula Majors; 12 nieces Chelsea Manica, Abbey Weintraut, Paige Weintraut, Alex Schroeder, MaKenzie Weintraut, Jessica Banks, Sarah Mattingly, Deborah Mattingly, Faith Mattingly, Tori Heberer, Kayla Rae and Carly Davidson; 3 nephews Seneca Weintraut, Stephan Mattingly and Matt Mattingly; 3 great-nieces Annie Manica, Astrid Weintraut-Herrmann and Edith Weintraut-Herrmann; and 3 great-nephews Camden Manica, Garner Weintraut and Arlo Weintraut-Herrmann.

A Memorial visitation is scheduled to be held from 1-3 p.m. on Nov. 27, 2022 at Schneider Funeral Home, 512 Main St., Mt. Vernon, with Military rites presented by American Legion Post #5 Honor Guard at 3 p.m.

Arrangements are entrusted to Bussell Family Funerals.



Don't Talk Louder, Talk Slower



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

I had my hearing tested recently and this week I got my new hearing aids. My wife has been bugging me to do this for a long time. I heard her, but I wasn't really listening.

Hearing loss runs in my family. My grandmother was born nearly deaf. When she finally got hearing aids in the 1950s, they did little more than raise volume, which is seldom of much help. "Don't speak LOUDER," she would tell everyone. "Speak s l o w e r." But Mum-Mum (that's what we called her) had selective hearing. At dinner she would constantly ask each of us to repeat things. But

when she said something to annoy my father, he'd whisper under his breath to my mother, "What a pain in the butt Mildred is tonight." Then Mum-Mum would glare at him and say: "You're a pain the butt, too."

When I give a presentation about humor, I tell this joke:

A man reports to his doctor that his wife is hard of hearing but is in denial. The doctor tells him to go home and see how close he has to get to her for her to hear him. That night, he calls from the front door: "I'm home, honey. What's for dinner?" No response, so he tries calling from every room "Honey I'm home. What's for dinner." Nothing. It's worse than he thought. Finally, he goes in the kitchen and screams near her ear. "HONEY, I'M HOME. WHAT'S FOR DINNER?"

Wife: "FOR THE FIFTH TIME, EDGAR: POT ROAST!"

This joke is particularly funny to older women

with stubborn hubbies who refuse to face reality about their hearing, claiming the loss is just a part of aging and nothing can be done about it. That's kind of what I did. This week was an eye opener, if you'll excuse a mixed metaphor. Here's what I discovered...

The turn signal makes a clicking noise when you hit the lever.

Leaves do rustle when you step on them.

At night, rain on the roof can wake you up.

I'm kidding with that list, of course. My hearing loss was moderate and easily corrected with the appropriate devices. For people with severe hearing loss, it is devastating and life altering. Helen Keller once said, "If you are blind, you are cut off from things. If you are deaf, you are cut off from people."

I did a story on WISH-TV was about a racecar driver born deaf. He had never experiences the roar of the engines—or the roar of the crowd, for that matter. He was about to

have a surgical procedure to repair the congenital defect that prevented him from hearing. After the operation, I took a camera crew to tape his first trip back to the track so he could watch (and hear) trials at the Indy 500. Oh, the expression on his face that afternoon.

For the last week or so, I have been bragging to everyone about how great these hearing aids are. I took one out of my ear and showed it to my friend Bob.

"What kind is it?" he asked.

"About 4:30," I told him.

It was a very old joke, but I've waited my whole life to find a way to use it.

p.s. Did you know bacon makes a sizzling noise when you fry it?

Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Times of Noblesville. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

Charles Franklin Rush April 5, 1961-November 22, 2022

Charles Franklin Rush, 61, of Westfield, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

He was born on April 5, 1961 to Robert and Phyllis (Meter) Rush in Morris, Illinois.

Mr. Rush enjoyed fishing and watching movies

Survivors include his 3 siblings Deborah (Terry) Corzine, Kathy Rush and Robert L. Rush; and 3 nieces and nephew Amber (Lucas) Dickson, Joel (Kelly) Corzine and Lea (Daniel Casillas) Corzine.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his longtime companion Nancy Chalfant in June of 2022.

A celebration of life is being planned for a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Salvation Army, 6060 Castleway West Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46250 centralusa.salvationarmy.org/indiana or Castleton Church of the Nazarene, 7848 Allisonville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Online condolences may be made at randallroberts.com

Gilly R. Snyder April 2, 1944-November 21, 2022

Gilly R. Snyder, 78, of Anderson, passed away on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, at Community Northview Care Center in Anderson following an extended illness.

He was born on April 2, 1944, in Perkinsville, Indiana to Harold L. and Gertrude Snyder.

Mr. Snyder retired from the assembly line at Guide Lamp Division of General Motors. He loved spending time with his grandkids. He enjoyed fishing, Nascar and Pacers basketball.

Survivors include his 2 children Shelby Snyder and Kevin Snyder; brother Larry Snyder; and 6 grandchildren Cody Snyder, Alex Snyder, Katie Snyder, Landon Stephens, Kayden Bittner and Layla Snyder.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Paula Snyder.

Cremation will take place.

Hersberger-Bozell Funeral Home has been entrusted with his care.

Condolences may be made at hersbergerbozell.com



The City of Noblesville, Noblesville Chamber of Commerce, Noblesville Main Street and Nickel Plate Arts have numerous events for the upcoming holiday season in the downtown district, including Federal Hill Commons, the Courthouse Square and Seminary Park.

"The City of Noblesville is a wonderful place to be during the holidays and these groups work together to create festive ways to expand the holiday experience and create memories for our residents and guests," said Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen.

The holiday season kicks off with Small Business Saturday on Saturday, November 26. Noblesville Main Street is providing free gift wrapping inside the Lacy Building (former Kirk's Hardware space), and is hosting a Window Decorating Contest. Votes can be made for your favorite window on Main Street's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NoblesvilleMainStreet). Live music will be performed by White River Sound Chorus and other local groups.

Nickel Plate Arts will open Gifted, an exhibit-turned-gift-market featuring locally made art and crafts that make great holiday gifts. Shop early for holiday cards, ornaments, gifts, and more at the Judge Stone House, 107 S. Eighth St. Choose from the wide selection of pottery, woodenware, jewelry, hand-knit items, home décor, holiday art, and more. Don't miss out on getting a free print (with purchase) from showcase artists Stuart Sayer and Aili McGill at Nickel Plate Arts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit will remain until December 31 and is available Wednesday through Saturday. For information, visit nickelplatearts.org.

After you have visited all your favorite merchants on Small Business Saturday, join the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce and Hamilton County as they present the annual pre-lighting program in the Judicial Center atrium. At the conclusion of the entertainment, attendees will move outside for the annual lighting of the Courthouse Square.

Gathering begins at 6

p.m. with the program starting at 6:30 p.m. before moving outside for the lighting at 7:15 p.m. Tens of thousands of twinkling lights will illuminate trees and buildings, ushering in the magic of Christmas. For information about the tree lighting ceremony, contact the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce at (317) 773-0086.

The fun continues with First Friday - Deck the Downtown events on December 2. Jump on the trolley to visit four amazing destinations throughout the evening. Midnight Madness shopping downtown, Lights Over Seminary, Federal Hill Ice Skating and Holiday Lights Tour, Nickel Plate Arts First Friday and the Hamilton County Artists Association will all have wonderful events taking place this evening.

Lights Over Seminary presented by Noblesville Preservation Alliance and Duke Energy is a free, walkable, holiday lights display in Seminary Park. The opening night event is 5:30-7:30 p.m. with the official lighting taking place at 6 p.m. next Friday. Enjoy carolers, hot chocolate, and a reading of "Twas' The Night Before Christmas" by Mayor Chris Jensen. New for 2022, visit the park to see Indiana's largest live decorated tree. Lights Over Seminary runs 5 to 11 p.m. nightly throughout December.

Santa will be traveling across Noblesville to bring holiday cheer to your neighborhood during the Home for the Holidays Tour. Parade routes are Dec. 3 and 4 and total 90 miles. New this year, the tour has partnered with Noblesville Schools to setup viewing areas at facilities along the route. The public is invited to park at North, Hinkle Creek, Hazel Dell and Noble Crossing Elementary Schools and West Middle School as the tour passes or circles the school at a slower pace. For more information and exact routes, visit cityofnoblesville.org/

Holiday Events Begin Today in Downtown Noblesville, Run Through Start of 2023



Mayor Chris Jensen

SantaTour.

The traditional parade route through downtown will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 3. The parade will begin at the corner of 16th Street and Harrison Street and will travel south on 16th to Logan Street; west on Logan to 9th Street; north on 9th to Monument Street; and east on Monument to 16th Street where it will end. Community groups and nonprofits are invited to participate in the parade. To enter your group, visit cityofnoblesville.org/parade.

Noblesville Parks invites the community to join them for Holidays at the Hill featuring the ice skating rink. The 56-foot by 96-foot ice rink is open 5-9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Starting Dec. 24, hours will be extended to 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except on Christmas Day, for enjoyment during Noblesville School's winter break. Additional special hours are available by visiting noblesvilleparks.org/314/Ice-Skating.

In addition to skating, Federal Hill will be adorned with a beautiful, walkable light display perfect for photo opportunities. Back by popular demand, families can reserve a unique, private carriage ride through downtown Noblesville

presented by Gaylor Electric. Reservations for carriage rides must be made in advance on the Noblesville Parks website, www.noblesvilleparks.org/holidaysatthehill.

Noblesville Main Street will host its Winter Market at Holidays at the Hill from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Saturday. The market includes many unique vendors and food trucks to shop from. More information is available at www.noblesvillemainstreet.org.

Mayor Jensen has announced the return of free downtown parking during the holidays. This year, the Gold and Orange parking lots, the Levinson Parking Garage and the "2-hour parking" zone will not have time restrictions or payments due.

Jensen said this initiative's goal is to continue to encourage downtown shopping during the holiday season so guests can explore the numerous shops, restaurants and arts venues that Downtown Noblesville has to offer. Free parking began yesterday and runs through the remainder of 2022.

To watch the City of Noblesville's Holiday Video, visit you.tube/k4je5dtsQ6o

For more information on holiday events, visit cityofnoblesville.org/holidays.

About the City of Noblesville:

Noblesville is the 10th largest city in Indiana, home to more than 69,600 residents and is the county seat in Hamilton County, Indiana. Just north of Indianapolis, the growing city is known for its nationally recognized public schools, extensive public park system and is home to Hamilton Town Center and the outdoor music venue Ruoff Music Center.

Dreaming of a new home?

find it here!
the times

Employment Opportunity

The Town of Sheridan, Indiana is seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Street Superintendent**. This position is a department head level position comprised of several upper-level management and leadership duties. Candidates should have knowledge, skill, and experience in leading, planning, controlling, and managing operations of municipal streets and public works. The full job description is available at www.sheridan.org.

The Town of Sheridan offers benefits of health, vision, and dental insurances along with pension and deferred compensation retirement programs. The salary range for this position is \$56,000 to \$58,000.

Interested applicants can submit a cover letter and resume to Todd Burtron at tburtron@taftlaw.com or via United States Postal Service to Town of Sheridan, 506 South Main Street, Sheridan, Indiana 46069 Attn: Street Department job posting. Please submit resumes no later than close of business on Friday, December 2, 2022.



The Times photo courtesy of Tim Timmons

The Wailing Wall has two sections – one for men and the other for women.

Day Four Unlike Any Thanksgiving Before



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents from the Holy Land

Thursday marked the most untraditional of Thanksgivings. But what a day to be thankful for.

Our first stop after leaving the Dead Sea was Masada. If you don't know the story, you would be hard pressed to find one with more drama, courage and sacrifice. If you do know the story and have never been, it's this reporter's opinion it is worth adding to the bucket list.

Briefly, Masada was a fortress on top of a mountain in the Judean Desert of southern Israel. Herod, as in Herod the Great, built a royal citadel on it for his family. However, after he died, the Jews took back the mountain in a surprise attack and held on to it for years. But when Rome decided to retake the mountain, the almost 1,000 on top had a choice to make. It was clear they could hold on for a while, but at some point, Rome was going to win.

Elazar Ben Yair, according to multiple records, gave a stirring speech about the choice to live (and die) in freedom, or to live as slaves to the Romans. The Jewish people of Masada chose Freedom. So 10 numbers were drawn and the 10 men chosen were tasked with taking the lives of their fellow citizens. When that was done, lots were cast again and one man killed the other nine and then took his own life. When the Roman soldiers arrived the next day, they found almost 1,000 bodies and the Jewish people had a story for the millennium. Some two thousand years later, our tour guide said the Israeli military still says, "Masada, never again."

From there it was a bus ride through the desert. We passed Bedouin encampments, a herd of perhaps 20 or 30 camels, multiple shepherds herding sheep and goats and even a small ibex – a relative of the deer family, from the looks of it.

We made a short stop at the Oasis of Ein Gedi,



The Times photo courtesy of Tim Timmons

The tunnel at the base of the Western Wall is fascinating.

a place where David hid from Saul (Samuel 23) and wrote several Psalms while doing so.

We next went to Qumran, the area where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found – another breathtaking site. In 1947 ancient biblical texts were found inside old pottery in caves. The discovery changed – and confirmed – much of what we knew of the Bible. We were going to take a hike through the oasis, but a prediction of rain closed the area. Apparently, in the area there, it does not take a lot of rain to create flash floods down the mountain. A group of nine college kids were killed exactly that way in 2018.

Had the day ended there, it would have been a great one. It didn't. Less than an hour later we went over a hill and there, in all its splendor, was the Holy City, Jerusalem – one of the oldest cities on the planet. We will spend the remainder of our trip here – and still not get to see everything. When you think about it, it's the site Abraham thought he was supposed to sacrifice his son Isaac. David took the city with his army around 3,000 years ago. Jesus came into the city in a celebration that we now know as Palm Sunday. Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to die there – and indeed it is the city where he was crucified. The Jews built their temple there. The Muslims took over.

The events. The history. The magnitude.

Even the day before we arrived an incident of terrorism took place as a

bomb killed a young teen and wounded almost two dozen others.

So with security heightened, we made our first stop the Western Wall – also known as the Wailing Wall. The base of the wall sees people – many Jews, yes, but people from all over – praying and leaving notes to God. And at the top lies at worst an enemy and at best an uneasy relationship with a neighbor, the Muslims. We were given time to pray if we wished – I did – and then went on a fascinating tour of the Western Wall Tunnels, a long and ancient tunnel that lies at the base of the Western Wall.

Hard to say if there are any non-believers in our tour group. But if there were, it'd be a bigger challenge to remain that way after everything we've seen. This visit takes events off the pages of the bible and makes them real. It's history, plain and simple.

We have a little over two days left. We'll visit Bethlehem where Jesus was born as well as explore further into the Old Town section of Jerusalem where Pilate's order to crucify Jesus was carried out. As our guide said, all these amazing things happened and came together right around the time Jesus was here – it has to mean something, doesn't it?

Sagamore News Media's Tim Timmons is on a pilgrimage to Israel and the Holy Land. He will be writing occasionally during the trip. Timmons can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Indiana American Water Provides 5 Tips to Help Properly Dispose of Holiday Fats, Oils and Grease

With the holidays here, Indiana American Water is reminding customers not to invite FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) clogs to your gatherings. The day after Thanksgiving, which plumbers call Brown Friday—named after the color of sewage—is typically the busiest day of the year for them.

Along with turkey, gravy, and all the trimmings come fats, oils, and grease that, if poured down the drain, can adhere to the insides of pipes, causing clogs that lead to sewer overflows and backups.

Neither dishwashing detergents nor garbage disposals can properly break down these materials, which build up over time. This buildup of grease can restrict the flow of wastewater, or worse yet, block the homeowners' or utility's sewer pipes.

"As many of us are celebrating with family and friends this holiday season and spending more time in the kitchen over the next several weeks, we encourage our customers to be very careful about what they are putting down their drains," said Indiana American Water President Matt Prine.

"FOG can cause costly backups in home drain and sewer systems and also adversely affect the environment if the overflow enters rivers, lakes, and streams."

The good news is that blockages caused by grease are preventable. Customers can reduce blockages by properly disposing of FOG and not washing it down the drain. Defend your drains and prevent FOG clogs by following these simple tips:



- Never pour grease into sinks, toilets, or down drains.
- Allow the grease to cool and use a rubber scraper to remove the fat, oil, and grease from cookware, plates, utensils, and cooking surfaces. Then place the grease in a sealed container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Install baskets/strainers in the sink drain to catch food scraps and empty them into the garbage.
- Please keep in mind that garbage disposals do not prevent grease from washing down the drain. Also, detergents that claim to dissolve grease may pass it down the line and cause problems in other parts of the wastewater system.
- Finally, the holidays typically mean more guests in the home and trips to the bathroom. Flushing baby wipes (even those that are labeled flushable or biodegradable) and paper towels down the toilet has become an issue in some areas. Wipes should be tossed in the trash.

on Facebook or Twitter or visit their website, indianaamwater.com or view a video on avoiding FOG clogs at youtu.be/YnBCMd3-IRc.

Additional information for restaurants is available on their website at bit.ly/3U4NFdb or from the National Restaurant Association at conserve.restaurant.org/Downloads/PDFs/FOG/FOG-ToolkitFinal3.aspx.

About Indiana American Water: Indiana American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and wastewater services to approximately 1.3 million people. With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company.

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Kenny Talks Start of Hoops, End of Football for Boilermakers

Purdue guard Braden Smith earned the first of what could be several Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors Monday for his role in the 75-70 victory against Marquette in the Gavitt Games.

The Westfield graduate and reigning Indiana Mr. Basketball scored a co-team-high 20 points to go with three assists and two rebounds. Smith was 6 of 8 shooting from the field, including 3 of 4 from 3-point range, and 5 of 6 at the free throw line.

More notably, he was turnover-free for the final 38 minutes. Smith put up 15 points in the second half, nine coming in the final five minutes during Purdue's rally.

Surprisingly, no Purdue basketball player has ever won Big Ten Freshman of the Year, an award launched in 1986. Indiana had four of the first six winners, Dean Garrett (1987), Jay Edwards (1988), Eric Anderson (1989) and Damon Bailey (1991).

The Hoosiers have had 10 Big Ten Freshmen of the Year with A.J. Guyton (1997), Jared Jeffries (2001), D.J. White (2005), Eric Gordon (2008), Cody Zeller (2012) and Noah Vonleh (2014) also winning the award.

Purdue (3-0) entering Thursday night's game against West Virginia in the Phil Knight Legacy, was ranked 24th in this week's Associated Press poll.

Laying the foundation

One reason Purdue football is in position to win a share of the Big Ten West Division championship is the impact of its 26th ranked recruiting class in the 247 Sports composite ratings for 2019.



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

While the top two members of that class – defensive end George Karlaftis and wide receiver David Bell – are cashing NFL paychecks this season, this was more than a two-person class for coach Jeff Brohm and his staff.

Linebacker/safety Jalen Graham is probably the mostly likely senior to be drafted from this class. Graham is Purdue's second-leading tackler this season with 40 despite missing four games with an injury.

Offensive guard Spencer Holstege is a three-year starter who has another season of eligibility. Fellow lineman Cam Craig had his 2022 season ended prematurely by injuries but was regarded as one of Purdue's best.

Another three-year starter is safety Cam Allen, the No. 3 tackler with 38 stops to go along with three interceptions. Redshirt junior linebacker Jacob Walhberg is sixth with 28 tackles and an interception. Both have eligibility remaining.

Redshirt junior wide receiver T.J. Sheffield has 33 receptions for 351 yards and three touchdowns as the No. 3 option for quarterback Aidan O'Connell. Running back King Doerue had been a three-year starter before an injury kept him



Braden Smith, Purdue freshman and Westfield graduate

on the sidelines for much of 2022. Doerue has his COVID year of eligibility available.

Another promising player, tight end Garrett Miller, was lost for the season with a torn ACL. He's expected back in 2023.

Of the 25 players Purdue lists as seniors on its roster, seven sixth- or seventh-year players will have exhausted their eligibility following the bowl game: quarterbacks O'Connell and Austin Burton, wide receiver Charlie Jones, linebackers Kieren Douglas and Semisi Fakasiiteiki, defensive tackle D.J. Washington and long snapper Nick Zecchino.

Purdue's best bets for selection in the NFL Draft – Graham, cornerback Cory Trice and tight end Payne Durham – will

probably pass on their extra year of eligibility due to COVID.

Starting cornerback Reese Taylor, kicker Mitchell Fineran and defensive end Scotty Humpich are using their extra COVID year in 2022 and will be moving on.

Six starters are among the Boilermakers who could use their COVID year in 2023: Allen, wide receiver Tyrone Tracy, tackle Eric Miller, defensive tackles Branson Deen and Lawrence Johnson and defensive end Jack Sullivan.

Key regulars who also have that COVID year include cornerback Jamari Brown, injured wide receiver Broc Thompson, safety Bryce Hampton and offensive linemen Sinone Finau and Daniel Johnson.

Title implications

Purdue and Indiana's

season finale for the Old Oaken Bucket has seldom meant more than bragging rights for a year. This year it could also mean a share of the Boilermakers' first Big Ten West Division championship.

The Hoosiers have just two Big Ten Conference championships in their history. Both times those seasons have ended with victories against the Boilermakers. In 1945, IU wrapped up a 5-0-1 conference slate with a 26-0 victory against Purdue in Bloomington. That victory led university president Herman B. Wells to call off classes on Monday.

Indiana's lone Rose Bowl appearance came in 1967 after earning a tie with Purdue and Minnesota by defeating the Boilermakers 19-14 in Bloomington.

The Boilermakers have eight Big Ten championships but the first chance Indiana had to play spoiler was 1929. Purdue came to Bloomington with a 7-0 record and left with a 32-0 victory and its second league title.

Indiana was but a speed bump to Purdue's 1931 and 1932 championship seasons, losing 19-0 in Bloomington and 25-7 in West Lafayette.

The Hoosiers provided one of the few challenges to the 1943 undefeated Boilermakers. The lone touchdown came in the first quarter on a Sam Vacanti pass to Frank Bauman. A goal line stand in the final minute preserved the 7-0 victory.

Purdue had a shot at its first Rose Bowl appearance in 1952 but needed a victory against Indiana to secure a tie with Wisconsin. The Hoosiers led 16-14 but

Dale Samuels led a 66-yard scoring drive in the fourth quarter, ending with Rex Brock's 24-yard touchdown run with 4:22 to play.

The championship was Purdue's but not the Rose Bowl. Wisconsin won the secret vote of the league's athletic directors. However, the Badgers went on to suffer the Big Ten's first Rose Bowl loss, 7-0 to USC.

It was 14 years before Purdue had another shot at the Rose Bowl, and it punched the ticket to Pasadena with a 51-6 victory over Indiana at Ross-Ade Stadium. A 34-point second quarter left no doubt about the outcome.

After the Hoosiers' 1967 Rose Bowl trip, the era of "the Big Two and the Little Eight" began. Purdue had a few brushes with cracking the Michigan-Ohio State dynasty (1969, 1972, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1984) before breaking through in 2000 with Drew Brees quarterbacking the Boilermakers back to Pasadena.

A sold-out Ross-Ade Stadium celebrated the 41-13 victory against Indiana that clinched a share of the Big Ten title.

Purdue will know by Saturday's 3:30 game time if it has a chance to be cannon fodder for Michigan or Ohio State in the Big Ten Championship game. A victory by Iowa at home on Friday against Nebraska sends the Hawkeyes to Indianapolis.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

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BETSY

From Page A1

provides pre-professional training for high school students who love to sing. Carmen Fulton said the 40 selected students from around the United States stayed in the Butler University dorm with Songbook Academy chaperones and rode a bus to The Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel for music classes and rehearsals every day. There were solo performances during the week and there was also a big group performance at the end of the week, in tuxedos and gowns, she said.

"It was hard to get into Songbook," his mom said. "Lots of talented applicants. I think he got in on the third try." She said, "He really loved being part of Songbook for two summers."

Peter Fulton said at the Songbook Academy's Christkindlmarkt performances, a bunch of alumni from the Academy come out to sing Christmas solos from all eras of music. He'll be singing "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm," as well as a duet of "White Christmas" with Sciaudone. "Even more alumni signed up this year compared to last year, so I'm excited to see what



Photo courtesy of Peter Fulton

Peter Fulton, 21, Fishers, was the 2022 Hamilton County 4-H Fair Senior Vocal Solo division winner with the song, "Heaven's Light" from "Hunchback of Notre Dame," and went on to win first place in Male Vocal Solo category and second place in Overall Vocal at the Indiana State Fair.

songs they choose."

He said, "I enjoy how relaxing it is to sing at the Carmel Christkindlmarkt. I don't need to put on a spectacle or sing perfectly; I just need to spread the holiday cheer."

Peter Fulton said, "Singing for long periods of time has forced me to sing healthily, and encouraged me to push the variety in my sets. And singing in front of so many people has forced me to improve my connection with the

audience and become a better storyteller."

Peter Fulton's best advice for young singers?

"When you're performing, don't focus on sounding 'good.' Focus on telling the audience a story. If you try to sing perfectly, you'd be putting too much pressure on yourself. But if you try to tell a story, you'll be letting the lyrics do the work for you, and you'll leave the audience with something to think about," said the Fishers

Want TO GO?

What: Peter Fulton, 21, Fishers, will sing at the Carmel Christkindlmarkt. **When:** 6 p.m. today, 6 p.m. Sunday, 5 p.m. Dec. 20, 8 p.m. Dec. 21 with the Songbook Academy, 2 p.m. Dec. 22, 5 p.m. Dec. 27 and 29 and 8 p.m. Dec. 30. **Where:** 10 Carter Green, Carmel, between The Palladium and The Tarkington Theater. **How much:** free admission and free parking. **Info:** Visit carmelchristkindlmarkt.com

resident who competed in the 4-H Fair's Talent Show for 10 years.

"Singing is a nice outlet. The more opportunities I get to sing in front of an audience, the better. It feels fulfilling," he said.

Peter Fulton's first public performance was at age 8. It was from a summer music program at King of Glory Church Lutheran Church in Carmel, said his mom, who "dug up an old video" from 13 years ago. Peter and his older sister, Katy, were in the musical, "Jailhouse Rock." The mom said, "It was a fun time for the kids memoriz-

ing songs and doing their hand motions."

She said, "They did a Christmas musical then another summer musical the year after at King of Glory."

The mom said, "Even at an early age, he sang with feelings."

When he was 11, in 2013, he portrayed the King in The Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players' youth production of "Sleeping Beauty" musical with my then 7-year-old daughter, who was a Goon.

Just a week prior was the first year that Fulton participated in the county 4-H Fair's Talent Show in 2013, and was named Junior Grand Champion. He went on to win Senior Grand Champion various years and was the Senior Division Overall Winner in 2019 at the Indiana State Fair with Frank Sinatra's "I'm Gonna Live 'Til I Die."

In 2022, Fulton won second place Overall Vocal in the Indiana State Fair's Senior Division of the 2022 Youth Talent Contest, with his song, "Heaven's Light" from "Hunchback of Notre Dame." He was also named first place in Male

Vocal Solo.

He likes talent shows, which he said, "help build my confidence and communication skills. They're also a great way to meet other local musicians."

Fulton is in his senior year of college and majoring in 3D Art and Video Game Development and is also learning Japanese. This year, he will be one of the musical directors for IUPUT's acapella group, On a Side Note. "That means I'll be arranging music, leading practices and giving musical feedback to the group members," he said.

Besides singing at Christkindlmarkt, which is open daily (except Christmas Day) through Dec. 30, Peter Fulton is also working at the market, selling gift items hand-crafted from Germany, helping his older brother, Nathan Fulton, who was helping operate some of the booths. At Christkindlmarkt, there are 11 unique huts with German hand-crafted products from the Black Forest, nutcrackers, smokers, pyramids, cuckoo clocks, Nathan Fulton said.

Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com

TIMMONS

From Page A1



The Times photo courtesy of Tim Timmons

A rainbow seemed symbolic over the town of Bethlehem.

here that Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1). Right across the Kidron Valley is visible the Eastern Gate to Jerusalem where Jesus triumphantly rode a donkey on palm leaves in what we now know as Palm Sunday. We visited Dominus Flevit where "the Lord wept" as he gazed over the Holy City. We continued on Palm Sunday Road to the Garden of Gethsemane that has some olive trees reported to date back to the time of Christ.

If only these trees could tell their tale. Did they witness Jesus praying before his arrest, asking if His Father could take this cup off his shoulders? Did they hear Jesus' frustration when he asked the sleeping disciples "Could you not watch with me one hour?"

(Matthew 26)

This is the place where Peter fulfilled the prediction by denying he knew Jesus not once or twice, but three times – before the rooster's call brought him to shame.

It's a place just steps away from the Upper Room where the Last Supper was held. It's the spot where Judas betrayed Jesus and soldiers took him away.

One place, so much to take in. And it wasn't even the highlight of the day. We headed to Bethlehem to visit the Church of the Nativity – the site where the Christ child was born. Our guide told us we were lucky because the line was short, very short. Of course the pouring rain might have had something



The Times photo courtesy of Tim Timmons

Where did this path lead in the Garden of Gethsemane?

to do with it.

Didn't matter. This was one highlight of the trip everyone was looking forward to.

Or so I thought.

One of the most ironic things I've ever experienced in my life happened next.

As our group was getting ready to enter the very small entrance to the church, another tour group cut in front of us. And by cut, I mean jostled and

shouldered their way in. For the next half hour or so, two tour groups were crammed together with few feeling the love of goodwill to their fellow man.

The other tour group continued to elbow their way in, out, through and around our group. As our tour guide talked, theirs talked louder. It wasn't just one quick incident that was over five minutes later. This went on and on



The Times photo courtesy of Tim Timmons

The sun silhouettes the steeple at the Church of the Nativity.

and on.

Here we were at this most holy of places. We were minutes away from kneeling down and actually touching the spot where Jesus Christ, the Son of God, entered this world – and, speaking only for myself, my blood pressure and temper were through the ancient wooden roof over our heads. Later, as I thought back, I was astounded that Jesus could

forgive the soldiers who nailed him to a cross and I was angry over a place in line.

The lessons today did not stop with the tour guide.

Sagamore News Media's Tim Timmons is on a pilgrimage to Israel and the Holy Land. He will be writing occasionally during the trip. Timmons can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

RUSTY

From Page A1

collecting Social Security.

There are deductibles and copays for both Part A and Part B, so they don't cover 100% of your healthcare expenses - they generally cover about 80% of specific types of medical services, after deductibles are satisfied. The deductibles aren't high - \$226 for Part B and \$1600 for Part A - but that still leaves you with some uncovered healthcare costs under Medicare. And for those uncovered costs, many people choose to get additional private coverage, known as a "Medigap" (or Medicare Supplement) plan, or a Medicare Advantage plan (which is usually called Medicare "Part C"). This additional coverage isn't mandatory, but usually prudent to have.

The standard age for enrolling in Medicare is age 65, but if you have other "creditable" healthcare coverage from your wife's employer you can defer enrolling in Medicare until that employer coverage ends or is about to end. Having that "creditable" employer coverage after age 65 protects you from incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare after age 65. From what you've written (assuming your employer coverage is "creditable") you can enroll in Medicare at any time now without a penalty for enrolling after 65. You can enroll online at ssa.gov/medicare, or by calling Social Security at 1 (800) 772-1213.

Medicare Part A and Part B do not include coverage for prescription drugs. For that, you

would need to acquire a private Prescription Drug plan (called Medicare Part D), if you wish such coverage after age 65 and after your employer drug coverage ends. Part D plans aren't usually expensive - in the \$15 - \$50 per month range - depending on the specific plan and drug "formulary" (the amounts the plan pays for each type of drug). To sort all of this out and figure out your best options for additional coverage, you may wish to contact AMAC's Medicare department (amac.us/medicare) and speak with a Medicare insurance specialist.

To recap, in your personal circumstances you are eligible to enroll in Medicare without penalty, even though you're now 68, because you have had "creditable" healthcare coverage through your wife's employer since you were 65 ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants). You can also simply stay on that employer plan if you wish, and only enroll in Medicare when your employer coverage ends or is about to end. At that time, you will enter a Medicare Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a late enrollment penalty. The bottom line? If your current coverage from your wife's employer is creditable and suits your current needs, you can wait until that coverage ends to enroll in Medicare. The only caveat is that you must take free Medicare Part A if you collect Social Security after age 65.

HEART

From Page A1

deaths during the final week of December. According to a study published in the American Heart Association journal, "Circulation," more cardiac deaths occur on Dec. 25 than any other day of the year, followed by the second largest number on Dec. 26 and third largest on Jan. 1.

"The holidays are a busy, often stressful time for many of us," said American Heart Association Chief Clinical Science Officer Mitchell S.V. Elkind, M.D., M.S., FAHA. "Routines are disrupted. We may tend to eat and drink more and exercise and relax less. We're getting too little sleep and experiencing too much stress. While we don't know exactly why there are more deadly heart attacks during this time, it's important to be aware that these factors can snowball, increasing the risk for a deadly cardiac event."

Being aware of this annual phenomenon and taking a few important, heart-healthy steps can help save lives. Consider these tips from Dr. Elkind and the experts at the American Heart Association.

• Know symptoms and take action. Heart attack signs vary in men and women, but it's important to recognize them early and call 9-1-1 for help. The sooner medical treatment begins, the better chances of survival and preventing heart damage.

• Celebrate in moderation. Eating healthfully during the holidays doesn't have to mean depriving yourself. There are ways to eat smart, such as by limiting sodium intake and looking for small, healthy swaps so you continue to feel your best while eating and drinking in moderation.

• Practice goodwill toward yourself. Make time to take care of yourself during this busy season. Reading a favorite book, meditating or even playing with pets are productive ways to reduce stress from the family interactions, strained finances, hectic schedules, traveling and other stressors that can be brought on by the holidays.

• Keep moving. The hustle and bustle of holiday preparation often pushes exercise to the side, but it's important to stay active as much as possible. Get creative to keep moving by going for a family walk or playing physically active games with loved ones.

• Stick to your medications. Busy schedules can cause some people to skip medications, sometimes even forgetting them at home or not getting refills in a timely manner. Try using a medication chart as a reminder, and be sure to keep tabs on your blood pressure numbers.

Discover more ways to live heart-healthy during the holidays and throughout the year at heart.org.

SCAM

From Page A1

scams are occurring using person-to-person payment platforms or P2P, remote access software and even public Wi-Fi.

Kerskie says the most desirable accounts to criminals include bank accounts, mobile phone accounts, credit card accounts and Amazon accounts. Now, with P2P payment platforms, criminals can get access to your bank account and use it to transfer money within moments.

The latest tactic that concerns Kerskie is using remote access software to gain access to everything on your computer without having to directly ask you for things like your social security number, bank account or credit card number. While many workers use remote access software safely from their companies' IT departments, criminals are also using this software in their scams.

Criminals also try to access your information in settings like coffee shops or libraries using public Wi-Fi. A laptop or smartphone using public Wi-Fi can easily fall victim to scams. An easy fix is to use your smartphone's wireless data and hotspot to help keep your personal information secure.

Kerskie says there are ways to keep scammers and fraud at bay ahead of the holiday shopping season.

Prioritize Privacy:

Kerskie says, if it's easy for you, it's easy for a criminal. Privacy means having strong and unique passwords with a minimum of 12 characters, and for pins using random numbers and taking advantage of extra security. Enabling multi-factor authentication on your various apps and accounts will also protect yourself from potential threats.

Use Available Resources: Take advantage of the free anti-fraud safeguards offered by your mobile carrier. In the case of T-Mobile's Scam Shield, services include enhanced caller ID, scam ID and blocking, which flags suspicious calls and gives customers the option of blocking those numbers. Additionally, customers can get a free second number to keep their personal number personal, or even change their primary number completely.

Validate or Eliminate: Whatever potential threat you come across via email, text message, letter or even a phone call, try to validate the information. If you cannot confirm the information is true or confirm the senders' validity, throw it away, block the phone number or email address and report it as spam or junk mail.

Understanding how potential cyber threats and fraud work will help protect you this holiday season and beyond.

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Brighten the Holidays with Colorful Plants

By Melinda Myers

Garden centers, florists and grocery stores are filling their shelves with a variety of holiday plants; a sure sign the holidays are approaching. This is the time of year to give, receive or fill your home with colorful poinsettias, Christmas cactus, cyclamen, and other holiday plants. Extend their beauty and longevity with proper care.

Start by selecting healthy plants that have been receiving proper care. The plants should be free of insects, disease and have no yellow leaves, brown leaf edges and spots. Flowering plants should have just a few open flowers, some buds showing color, and the rest healthy plump buds. You will enjoy watching the flower buds open, blooms expand, and a longer flowering period.

Always protect your gift plants from the harsh outdoors. Professional florists and garden center staff should provide a care tag and wrap your plants in a plastic or paper sleeve for the ride home.

Carefully remove the wrap as soon as you get home. This is especially important when caring for poinsettias. The upturned leaves emit ethylene, a ripening hormone that can shorten the longevity of your poinsettia's colorful display.

Rewrap your holiday plant anytime you move it outdoors and never leave it sitting in a cold car while running errands. A chilled plant looks fine until it warms. By the next day, the plant turns grayish-green, wilts and may die. Not such a nice gift or addition to your holiday décor after all.

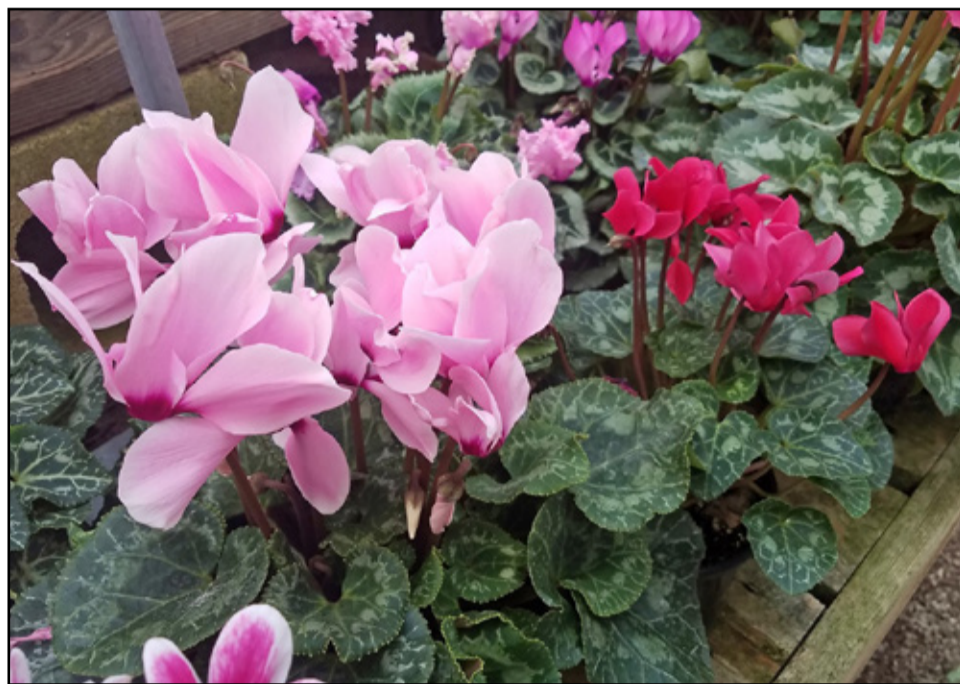


Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

Cyclamen plants have uniquely shaped flowers, come in a variety of colors, and stand above attractive variegated leaves.

Once home, place it in a cool, brightly lit location. The cool temperatures and indirect light help the blooms last longer. Remove or fold down the foil wrap, if present, to allow sunlight to reach all the leaves. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air. These can dry or chill the plant resulting in leaf and blossom drop.

Check the tag for watering instructions. Most holiday plants prefer moist but not wet soil. Use your finger as a moisture meter. Water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist or according to the directions on the care tag.

Pour out any water that collects in the foil, basket, decorative pot or saucer. Or place pebbles in the bottom of these or the saucer to elevate the plant above sitting water. This reduces the risk of root rot and makes care much easier.

Lengthen the time between watering and increase success by amending the potting mix with a moisture-retaining product like wool pellets (wild-valleyfarms.com). This organic and sustainable product reduces watering by up to 25%. Just spread it over the soil surface and push it into the soil around the plant.

Keep your floral display looking its best by removing spent flowers from azaleas, Christmas cactus, cyclamen and kalanchoes. This keeps the plant looking fresh and often encourages more blooms.

Once the holidays have passed, keep enjoying these plants through the gray days of winter. Move the plants to a sunny window, fertilize with a dilute solution of complete or flowering plant fertilizer, and water as needed.

Add some artificial berries, cut flowers in water picks, or silk blooms to replace the faded flowers.

Use colorful stakes or natural twigs for added beauty and to support floppy leaves and stems.

Boost your spirits and those of family and friends this holiday season with a few colorful plants. Giving them as gifts and using them to decorate your home is guaranteed to brighten your holiday celebrations.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



As Temperatures Drop, CenterPoint Energy Offers Tips to Save Energy and Stay Safe While Keeping Warm

As temperatures drop below freezing this week, CenterPoint Energy is reminding its customers about simple energy-saving and safety steps they can take to help lower their heating bills while continuing to stay safe and warm in the cold weather.

Energy-Saving Tips

- Make sure your heating system is operating safely and efficiently. An annual inspection and tune-up by a qualified technician is recommended.

- Change or clean your furnace filter regularly. Good air flow is essential for maximizing the efficiency and life of your furnace.

- Turn down the thermostat. Lower it by 10 degrees at night or when you're away for at least eight hours. You can potentially save 10% on your space heating costs. With a programmable thermostat, it's easy to have your heating system work around your schedule.

- Make your home more airtight to keep warm air in and cold air out. Use caulk or weatherstripping to seal leaks around doors, windows and other openings such as pipes or ducts. Close fireplace dampers when not in use so you don't lose heat.

- Keep curtains and blinds open during the day to allow the sun's heat to warm your house. Close curtains and blinds at night so you don't lose heat when the sun goes down.

Safety Tips

- Use space heaters safely. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off, and keep children, pets and all items at least three feet

away. A space heater that uses gas, propane or wood should be vented to the outside. Stoves and ovens should never be used for space heating.

- Test your carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke alarms to make sure they work properly. Change batteries regularly. Alarms don't last forever, so replace according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- Know the signs of CO poisoning. Early symptoms such as headache and fatigue are similar to the flu, but without a fever. Continued CO exposure can lead to more severe headaches, dizziness, nausea, difficulty thinking clearly and fainting. If everyone in a household is experiencing symptoms, it may be CO poisoning. Get fresh air immediately and call 911.

- Immediately report a suspected natural gas leak. If you smell the "rotten egg" odor of natural gas, immediately leave on foot, go to a safe location and call both 911 and CenterPoint Energy at 800-227-1376. Don't use electric switches/outlets, phones (including cell phones), drive or start a car inside or close to the location, or do anything that could cause a spark.

Customers who believe they may have trouble paying their heating bills this winter should contact CenterPoint Energy to set up a payment arrangement and find out if they are eligible for energy assistance that can help pay their bills. To learn more, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/EnergyforIndiana.

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Get Smart About Sustainability



Tips for teaching kids earth-friendly habits

FAMILY FEATURES

For many parents, their interest in sustainability and earth-friendly living is driven by a desire to create a better world for their children. Taking personal action and responsibility are part of the solution but teaching the next generation to be environmentally conscious is an important part of the equation, too.

Connecting lessons about sustainability to familiar aspects of your child's daily life, like school, can make it easy for him or her to understand and establish earth-friendly habits from a young age. Here are some ideas for promoting sustainable behaviors this school year:

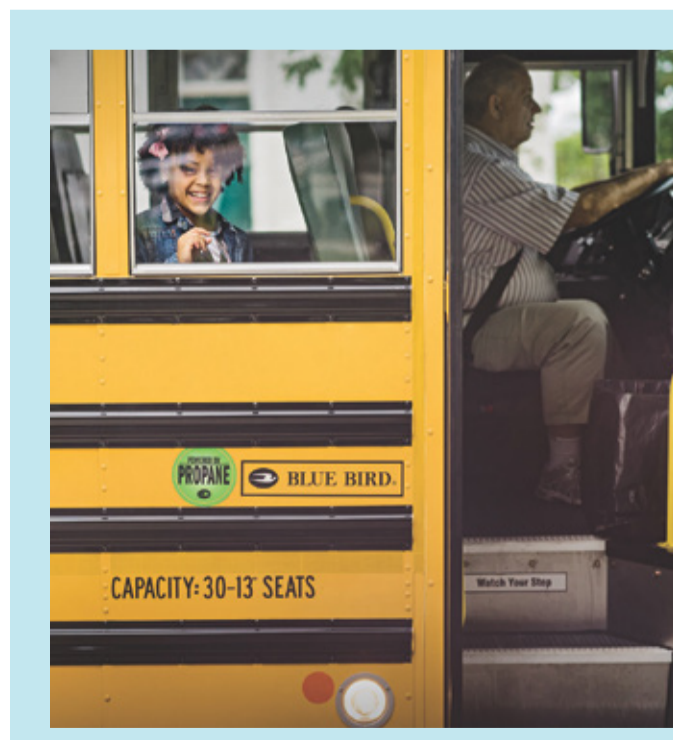
Be smart about supplies. Before restocking your student's supplies, take inventory of what you have left over from last year. Your student probably had several items with plenty of life left, or things that were bought as backups, so you can avoid waste and save a little money while reducing your consumption of unnecessary goods.

Model good habits. Kids learn by example, so know they're watching and internalizing your behaviors. If you're not already practicing these habits, make an intentional effort to turn lights off before you leave the house each morning, turn off the water while brushing teeth, use alternate energy sources around the house and encourage your school district to adopt sustainable practices, such as propane-powered buses.

Reduce food-based waste. Convenient, single-serve packaging makes assembling school lunches a breeze, but all that extra wrapping is waste that ends up in the landfill. Other options, like buying in bulk and sending treats in reusable plastic bags, is a more earth-friendly approach. Bento-style boxes with compartments for different foods are another option to help make lunchtime more sustainable. Similarly, encourage your child to carry a water bottle at school each day, which reduces water fountain waste (and cuts back on his or her exposure to germs).

Enjoy nature together. As temperatures cool, it's a terrific opportunity to spend quality time outdoors as a family. Showing your child reasons to appreciate nature can make it easier for him or her to understand and provide motivation to make choices that protect the earth.

Reinforce with reading. Multiple studies reinforce the benefits of reading with and to young students. Selecting books with earth-positive messaging helps them explore new ideas for sustainable living and see how beloved characters embrace values similar to those your family shares.



Safer, Smarter Bus Transportation

The way kids ride to school today is very much the way children traveled to school 25 years ago: in aging diesel school buses. However, diesel school buses are not only expensive to operate, but they pose risks to children's health, the community and the climate.

Today, there are two main options for clean student transportation: propane and electric. While both can reduce emissions, propane can do it at a fraction of the cost.

Every day, 1.3 million American children ride to school in 22,000 propane-powered school buses. Propane buses are currently in 1,000 school districts in 48 states. That's only about 5% of the nation's total buses, but the number is growing. These are some of the reasons more districts are moving to propane-powered transportation:

Student Health and the Environment

The cloud of black smoke that comes from the tailpipe of a diesel bus contains harmful emissions that are classified by the World Health Organization as a carcinogen and are known triggers for issues like asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory problems, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Propane school buses lower those emissions to near-zero levels, which improves air quality and eliminates concerns about breathing-related issues. In fact, according to a study by Georgia State University, students who ride to school on a low-emissions bus, like propane, had higher test scores than those who rode on diesel buses.

Compared to electric, propane buses provide a lower lifetime carbon option. That includes emissions that take place before the

wheels start turning on the road, like charging a bus using the electric grid versus refueling it with propane. Coal and natural gas are still America's primary sources of energy for electricity generation and drive up emissions.

Cost Savings

Three times less expensive than electric buses, the cost of a propane school bus and its refueling infrastructure is one of the most affordable options for school districts.

School districts can save money throughout the lifetime of propane buses, which cost 30-50% less per mile to operate than diesel, according to the Propane Education & Research Council. What's more, a World LP Gas Association study found replacing diesel buses with propane buses would save enough money to hire 23,000 new teachers.

Reliability

While electric vehicles make sense for several uses, propane has the fuel range and performance needed for large vehicles that drive long distances without stopping to recharge or refuel. A typical propane school bus can drive more than 2.5 times farther on a full tank than a comparable electric school bus can drive on a full charge.

Find more information about clean school bus operation at BetterOurBuses.com.

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BAKEcation Warms Holiday and Winter Travel in Ohio's Hocking Hills

Explore Hocking Hills today launched its new BAKEcation, a one-of-a-kind travel experience that capitalizes on the warm winter escapes offered by area's cozy cabins and luxury lodges, tree houses and other unique accommodations. Most feature full kitchens that invite families and groups of friends to gather and create together. Ideal for multi-generational families, groups of girlfriends, couples, mother/daughter and sister groups, among others, travelers can call 1-800-Hocking (800-462-5464) to reserve their BAKEcation kit in advance after booking a Hocking Hills cabin.

Upon arriving in the Hocking Hills, BAKEcationers stop by the Hocking Hills Regional Welcome Center, 13178 OH-664, en route to their cabin, where they can

borrow – at no charge – a basket loaded with tools they'll need for holiday and winter baking. Kits include everything from a mixer, spatulas, baking sheets and pans to a mixing bowl, rolling pin, cookie cutters and stamps, and cooling racks. Travelers are required only to show their lodging confirmation and a driver's license and credit card to ensure they return the BAKEcation kit to the Welcome Center for the next visitor to enjoy. Details are available at Hockinghillsbakecation.com, along with links to cabins and other lodging, dining options and all there is to do in the Hocking Hills, with additional traveler information found at ExploreHockingHills.com.

"So many of our holiday and winter guests get together with friends and family in the gorgeous

cabins and lodges around the Hocking Hills to bake together," said Explore Hocking Hills Executive Director Karen Raymore. "We wanted to make it extra easy for them to have just about every tool they might possibly need right at their fingertips, without having to load up the car with everything but the kitchen sink."

Raymore added that her team has included favorite family recipes from Hocking Hills residents, along with a list of nearby stores and shops where visitors can pick up any forgotten ingredients. Hocking Hills BAKEcation is offered throughout the holidays and beyond, with recipes changing seasonally. All recipes are available online at Hockinghillsbakecation.com so visitors have an ingredient shopping list.

Located 40 miles

southeast of Columbus, Ohio's Hocking Hills is home to loads of affordable accommodations, from cabins, cottages, hotels and country inns, to treehouses, yurts, geodomes, hobbit houses and more unusual lodging. Miles and miles of wooded trails marked by gorgeous rock formations deep gorges and waterfalls offer stunning winter hikes. Unique galleries, gift and antique shops are home to wonderful locally crafted treasures and holiday gifts. A salt cave, woodland spas and sauna pods and a visit to John Glenn Astronomy Park add to the allure of the Hocking Hills as the perfect place to unplug during holiday time and throughout the winter. Complete traveler information is available ExploreHockingHills.com or 1-800-Hocking (800-462-5464).

Popular Dazzling Christmas Light Show Returns to the Indiana State Fairgrounds

Indy's favorite holiday tradition returns to the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center this fall and it's bigger and brighter than ever! Along with singing snowmen (over 20' tall), a life-sized Nativity, Candyland, a giant American flag and a spectacular 240 ft. wall of lights, Christmas Nights of Lights has added their most creative and colorful light display- The Field of Lights. This dazzling light display will be open from 6-10 p.m., Nov. 11 through Jan. 1, 2023 – rain, shine or snow!

This family-friendly event features a 2-mile car ride through millions of LED lights, hundreds of computers, and miles of wires, making it the largest synchronized show in Central Indiana. The entire show is synchronized to traditional and more modern Christmas music. Even more music has been added this year. Visitors of all ages will be awed by the display's RGB technology that creates larger-than-life trees, glowing snowflakes, dancing candy canes, mischievous elves, enchanting tunnels of lights, and much more. In the warmth of their own vehicle, guests tune their radio dial to a dedicated signal and sing along to the sounds of the season synchronized to holiday lights.

Important ticket re-

minder: tickets must be purchased in advance, online at <https://www.christmasnightsoflights.com/indianapolis>. Cost is \$30 per carload, up to 8 people; \$50 per carload, 9-15 people and \$75 per carload, 16-35 people. Tickets will be honored in two timeslots – guests may either enter the show anytime between 6-8 p.m. or 8-10 p.m. Height of vehicles must be NO MORE than 11 ft. tall to drive through the light display. Guests should enter the Indiana State Fairgrounds at Gate 12, 1698 E. 42nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.

"We're thrilled to return to the iconic Indiana State Fairgrounds," said Richie King, owner, Titan Light Shows, Inc. "The Fairgrounds has been a popular family venue for a remarkable 130 years and we're thrilled to work with their outstanding team again. We're honored to be able to celebrate the true spirit of the season by supporting local charities."

The Arthritis Foundation, Special Olympics, Indy Humane, Salvation Army are among local charities to benefit from a portion of the event's proceeds.

The holiday light show is produced by Titan Light Shows, Inc., Bluff City, Tennessee.

The SALI SUPER CHRISTMAS SALE

The SALI SUPER CHRISTMAS SALE at the Southside Art League Off Broadway Gallery. Our member artists will be exhibiting a special collection of original art works this Christmas season. Many pieces are small and perfect for gift giving. Gift Certificates can be issued in

any amount for anything at SALI, such as purchasing artwork, taking classes or paying dues. A Layaway plan is also available. A wide variety of styles, subjects, media and prices will be shown, including matted giclee prints, original framed and unframed art, ceramic sculpture, paper

sculpture, greeting cards and more.

The SALI SUPER CHRISTMAS SALE will be exhibited from Nov. 30 - Dec. 31, 2022 at The Southside Art League, Inc. (SALI) Off Broadway Gallery is located at 299 E. Broadway St., Greenwood, IN 46143, 2 blocks north of

Main St. and 6 blocks east of Madison Ave. in historic Old Town Greenwood. Come and enjoy the art work during regular hours Wed. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Closed Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday. Please call SALI to arrange for viewing by appointment at any other time.

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