

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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Brought to you by:

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Noblesville Lions And Kiwanis Noon Clubs Rang Bells For Salvation Army



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Lions

On Saturday, Dec 2nd, the Kiwanis Noon Club rang bells at Walmart in the morning, and the Noblesville Lions Club rang in the afternoon. As a member of each club, Joe Arrowood was the chairman of this event. Lion members that participated included Gene Beck, Ron Williamson, Steve Shaw, Joe Arrowood, George Long, Susie Long, Kim Luckey, Dave Marsh, Jen Carr, Mark Bachar, and Cheryl Helton. The clubs thank the many Walmart customers who donated to the Salvation Army cause. Pictured; Three generations of Arrowoods included Nate Arrowood, Derek Arrowood, and Lion Joe Arrowood.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:55 a.m.
SET: 5:23 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 58 °F
Low: 42 °F



Today is...

- National Brownie Day
- Start of Hanukkah
- Official Lost and Found Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1991 Romanian Constitution comes into force. Passed through a referendum, the Constitution marked a return to democracy for Romania after 42 years of Communist rule.
- 1987 First Intifada begins. The Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories began after an Israeli army truck attacked a car and killed 4 Palestinians. The Intifada ended in 1991 after the Madrid Conference.
- 1941 U.S. enters WWII. One day after the Japanese Imperial Navy launched an attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II.



Births On This Day

- 1953 Norman Finkelstein
American academic, author, activist
- 1943 Jim Morrison
American singer-songwriter, poet

Deaths On This Day

- 2004 Dimebag Darrell
American guitarist, songwriter
- 1980 John Lennon
English singer-songwriter, musician, producer

TODAY'S VERSE

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Debbie Underwood smile? "Cute dog videos and oceans and lakes," said the 66-year-old Westfield resident. She was born in Alaska, grew up in Michigan, earned a bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from Ball State University. She is a third-grade teacher at The Orchard School in Indianapolis. She is currently playing the role of Betty Andrews in Main Street Productions' holiday comedy, "Inspecting Carol," at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse. "I am a surprise character who you might find out loves the limelight." Why does Debbie like to do theater? "I'm an introvert, and this is my way of expressing myself." She is married to husband, Rick, of 45 years, and has a daughter, Meredie, an optician who lives in Westfield; and a son, Craig, a professional actor, who lives in New York City. This is her second show with Main Street Productions, her first being "Wrinkled Reels" in the former venue. She's excited to perform her first show at the new Basile Westfield Playhouse. "I am enjoying their new space." Some of her favorite roles have been Norma in "Diviners" at The Switch Theatre, Jane in "Done to Death" at The Belfry Theatre, M'Lynn in "Steel Magnolias" with Off Main Street Players and Lenora in "Dashing Through the Snow" at The Belfry. What else? "Besides theater, I love gardening, swimming and crafting." First time on stage? "I was part of my church's drama team, and our music director and his wife (David and Joellen Young) opened a theater. I auditioned for their first show. So my first time on stage in community theater was when I was 40. I played Gruesmella the witch in "Rapunzel." After that, I was hooked and did show after show." Read a preview of "Inspecting Carol" in the Betsy Reason column in the Nov. 30 edition of The Times. For tickets to the show, visit westfieldplayhouse.org.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Natalie Piggush as Rosalind and Grant Bowen as Paul experience a comedic moment during rehearsals this week for "Moon Over Buffalo," a fast-paced hilarious screwball comedy opening tonight and continuing through Dec. 17 by Carmel Community Players at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at carmelplayers.org

First UMC Christmas Festival, NHS Choirs, Holiday Home Tour



BETSY REASON From The Editor's Desk...

music of Jennifer Mlott indoors at Spencer Farm Winery, and share your holiday wish list with Santa at the Santa House

Experience the warmth of the holidays while visiting Noblesville Preservation Alliance's Holiday Home Tour, listen to the sounds of Noblesville Choirs during two Holiday Concerts, hear live

on the Square, ice skate at the temporary Federal Hill ice plaza and more. Plus, all weekend, watch live community theater with comedies put on by Basile Westfield Playhouse and Carmel Community Players.

Here's The Times' list of 20 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Experience the music of the season during Noblesville Choirs Holiday Concerts, with a special guest, at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville High School with \$10-\$16 reserved tickets at noblesvillechoirs.org. Different soloists for each performance.
2. Enjoy live theater at Attic

Theatre's "White Christmas" musical at 7 p.m. today and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday at Ivy Tech Hamilton County Campus in Noblesville, with \$8-\$12 tickets at theatrictheatre.com

3. Experience "Moon Over Buffalo," a fast-paced hilarious screwball comedy Dec. 8-17 by Carmel Community Players at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at carmelplayers.org

4. Santa listens to gift lists at the Santa House on the Square on select dates in downtown Noblesville, courtesy of Hamilton County Historical Society, 5

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INSIDE TODAY

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TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Smoking does not relieve stress - it actually reinforces it. 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.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall!"
-Larry Wilde

TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call Rudolph with lots of snow in his ears? Anything you want, he can't hear you!

OBITUARIES

J.R. Gooch

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **TRACY and STEVEN LINE** for subscribing!



OBITUARIES

J.R. Gooch

November 19, 1959, Saturday, December 2, 2023

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of J.R. Gooch, who passed away on December 2, 2023, in Westfield, IN. J.R. was born on November 19, 1959, in Tipton, IN. to his parents Elizabeth Whicker and Howard (Gene) Gooch.

J.R. was an aviation sales professional and a past SAL Commander of American Legion Post #155 Carmel, IN. He was a colorful soul who loved to help and support veterans and dedicated his time to helping others in need.

He was the life of the party and truly loved by many for his passion for singing and dancing as well as his big heart.

He is survived by his daughter Ashley Gooch; son Desperado Johnson, daughter-in-law Crystal Johnson; brother Larry Murphy; sister Annette Nydegger; sister Kathy Jones; brother Jeff Gooch; Michael Gooch; sister Gina Watkins; and his girlfriend Stasia Schuler-Davis.

A Memorial visitation will be held Wednesday, December 13, 2023, from 5-7 pm with A Memorial Service at 7 pm. All at Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory-Fishers-Castleon Chapel 9900 Allisonville Road in Fishers, IN 46038.

We take comfort knowing that J.R.'s memory lives on through all those he touched during his life here on earth and ask that you keep him in your thoughts during this difficult time.

Please visit www.loosecares.com to place a memory of J.R. Loose Funeral Home is honored to serve the Gooch family.



ICC Honors County Leaders And Elects New Board For 2024

The Indiana County Commissioners (ICC), an association that represents the elected county commissioners in the 92 counties of Indiana, held its annual conference recently, in Indianapolis. The conference featured several workshops, breakout sessions, and awards for county leaders and staff. The ICC also elected its new executive board for 2024, led by Kellie Streeter, Knox County Commissioner, as President.

The ICC presented the following awards to recognize the outstanding contributions of county commissioners and their

support staff in various categories:

- 2023 County Commissioner Legislative Service was awarded to Kellie Streeter, Knox County.
- 2023 Outstanding Team Effort for a Board of Commissioners was presented to Jordan Brewer, Josh Uitts, and Bert Weaver, Clinton County and Christine Altman, Steven Dillinger, and Mark Heirbrandt, Hamilton County.
- 2023 County Engineer of the Year was presented to Charlie McKenzie, Elkhart County.
- 2023 County Highway Supervisor of the Year

was presented to Mike Kyburz, White County.

• 2023 Outstanding Supportive Auditor of the Year was presented to Rick Gardner, Madison County.

• 2023 Outstanding Supportive Executive Assistant of the Year was presented to Lori Dossett, Montgomery County.

"I'm exceptionally pleased to congratulate these amazing leaders representing counties across the state of Indiana and wish them continued success in their hometown communities," said Mark Heirbrandt, Hamilton County Commissioner and the outgoing ICC Presi-

dent.

President Streeter will be joined by Brian Baird, Johnson County Commissioner, as Vice President; Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner, as Secretary; and Chris Switzer, Vigo County Commissioner, as Treasurer.

"I'm honored and humbled to serve as the ICC President for 2024 and to work with such a dedicated and talented team of county commissioners and staff. I look forward to advancing the interests and needs of our counties and collaborating with our partners at the state and federal levels," said Streeter."

Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting Of The Clay Township Board

8 A.M.
Community Room
John W. Hensel Government Center 10701 N. College Avenue, Carmel
AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes from the October 17, 2023 Budget Approval Board Meeting

- V. Public Hearing
- A. Resolution No. 2023-12-12-03 Additional Appropriation from Park Capital Non-Reverting Fund #1215 in the amount of \$786,781.88, Rainy Day Fund #0061 in the amount of \$46,000.00 and Township General Fund #0101 in the amount of \$966,683.00

VI. Action Items

- A. Resolution No. 2023-12-12-01 Amending Management agreement with the City of Carmel
- B. Resolution No. 2023-12-12-02 Approving

Donation Restricting Use (Carmel Historical Society Project)

C. Resolution No. 2023-12-12-03 Approving Additional Appropriation from Park Capital Non-Reverting Fund #1215 in the amount of \$786,781.58, Rainy Day Fund #0061 in the amount of \$46,000.00 and Township General Fund #0101 in the amount of \$966,683.00

D. Resolution No. 2023-12-12-04 Transfer of Funds from Rainy Day Fund #0061 in the amount of \$65,000.00

- VII. Information Item
- A. Update on IT
- B. Township Assistance
- C. Office Holiday Closing
- D. Board meeting dates for 2024

VIII. Financial Questions from Board

- IX. Board Comments
- X. Announcements
- A. Next Meeting January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm
- XI. Adjournment

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It may be frosty outside, but inside, it's a great time to be in a new home.

16698 Birdbrook Road Noblesville • \$589,900
PENDING

Stunning 5BR, 4.5BA in Essex of Noblesville. Custom designed with in-laws quarters on main level, kitchen with quartz, butler's pantry, premium lot w/pond view, walk-out basement, 3-car garage plus storage, a must see to appreciate all this home has to offer. BLC#21949379

11256 Winding Wood Ct. Indianapolis • \$239,900
SOLD!

This open concept condo is move-in ready, 2 BR, 2 BA. Family room with gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar, tile floor, pantry, appliances stay, main BR ensuite with walk-in tile shower, large 2-car garage, patio with retractable awning. BLC#21945183

18865 Wimbley Way Noblesville • \$289,900
OPEN HOUSE 12 PM TO 2 PM SATURDAY HOSTED BY KNOX BROADHEAD

This 3 BR, 2 BA ranch is located in family friendly Fairfield Farms. Huge great room w/doors leading to covered patio & fenced backyard, kitchen w/pantry, dining area & all appliances stay, new windows, water softener & HVAC in 2020. Fence, roof & gutters 2021. BLC#21949582

10717 Upland Way Noblesville • \$349,900
PENDING

Welcome to this lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA home, kitchen with center island and newer SS appliances, spacious family room with gas fireplace, park-like backyard with maintenance free deck, auto-retractable awning, paver patio, basketball court and cute she shed. BLC#21949680

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Part 8 Of A Series Celebrating 100 Seasons Of Purdue Football At Ross-Ade Stadium



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

With these words, “we’re here to win a championship,” Joe Tiller brought hope to a fan base who wanted to forget the failures of coaches Fred Akers and Jim Colletto during the first six years of the 1990s.

Every Saturday in 1997 seemed like Christmas as the coach’s wife, Arnette, said at the time. From beating Notre Dame on national TV in his second game to an eventual 9-3 finish and an Alamo Bowl victory against Oklahoma State, Tiller became a hero in West Lafayette.

His promise of bringing a championship to Purdue would come true in 2000, with the foundation of that Big Ten title team coming from the Big Ten’s “worst recruiting class” in 1997 according to the experts.

That class included a Maxwell Award winner (Drew Brees), the first John Mackey Award winner as the nation’s best tight end (Tim Stratton) and three future NFL players in wide receiver Vinny Sutherland, linebacker/defensive end Akin Ayodele and defensive back Billy Gustin.

Best Ross-Ade games of the 1990s

Sept. 12, 1992: Purdue 41, No. 17 California 14 – The Boilermakers scored on their first six possessions and forced three turnovers on the way to a shocking 38-3 halftime

lead. “The first half was probably as perfect a football game as I’ve been around in a long time,” head coach Jim Colletto said.

Arlee Conners and Jeff Hill each scored two touchdowns in the first half.
Nov. 9, 1996: Purdue 9, No. 9 Michigan 3 – Five days after Colletto announced his resignation, the Boilermakers ended the Wolverines’ Big Ten title hopes.

Rick Trefzger’s 5-yard pass to Brian Alford with 7:20 to play accounted for the game’s only touchdown. In the aftermath, students tore down the north goal post.

Sept. 13, 1997: Purdue 28, No. 15 Notre Dame 17 – Joe Tiller’s first victory snapped a string of 11 consecutive losses to the Fighting Irish.

Billy Dicken completed 26 of 39 passes for 352 yards. Edwin Watson scored on a pair of 1-yard runs, and Kendall Matthews added a 2-yard TD. But the biggest play belonged to safety Adrian Beasley, who scooped up a Ron Powlus fumble and went 43 yards for a touchdown that made it 21-10 in the fourth quarter.

Nov. 8, 1997: No. 24 Purdue 22, Michigan State 21 – The first of coach Joe Tiller’s three consecutive victories against Nick Saban was the most dramatic.

Leo Perez blocked a field goal attempt and Roosevelt Colvin returned it 62 yards for a touchdown to bring Purdue within 21-16 with two minutes remaining. Chris Daniels

recovered the onside kick, and Edwin Watson scored the game-winning TD with less than a minute remaining. Michigan State missed a 43-yard field goal in the final seconds.

Sept. 11, 1999: No. 20 Purdue 28, No. 16 Notre Dame 23 – “Let’s blitz ‘em!”

That was the call by Joe Tiller with 16 seconds remaining and Notre Dame at the Purdue 1 on third-and-goal. Linebacker Mike Rose and a few of his close friends dropped Jarious Jackson for a 9-yard loss. Without any timeouts, the clock ran out on the Fighting Irish.

Drew Brees rallied Purdue from a 10-0 deficit, scoring on a 9-yard touchdown run and throwing a 30-yard TD to Randall Lane. Two Travis Dorsch field goals were the only points scored in the fourth quarter.

Oct. 16, 1999: No. 20 Purdue 52, No. 5 Michigan State 28 – Chris Daniels set a Big Ten record with 21 catches for 301 yards to go along with three touchdowns in Purdue’s final matchup to date with a Nick Saban team.

Drew Brees threw for 509 yards and five touchdowns. The Boilermakers forced six turnovers, including four interceptions of MSU quarterback Bill Burke.

Top players of 1990s Ross-Ade

Jeff Zgonina – More than 30 years after his final game in a Purdue uniform, Zgonina still holds school records for tackles for loss in a game (7), season (28) and career (72). Zgonina

still ranks in Purdue’s top 10 for career tackles (382) and sacks (29). The defensive tackle was the 1992 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. Zgonina went on to play 17 seasons in the NFL, earning a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams in 2000.

Mike Alstott – The only three-time Purdue Most Valuable Player, Alstott holds school records for rushing yards in a season (1,436) and career (3,635) as well as most 100-yard rushing games in a season (9 in 1995) and career (16). An All-American fullback as a senior in 1995, Alstott is the only Boilermaker to have more than 2,500 career rushing yards and 1,000 career receiving yards. His 39 career rushing touchdowns rank second to Kory Sheets’ 48.

Rosevelt Colvin – One of the stars of Joe Tiller’s first two Boilermaker teams, Colvin remains the record holder in season (15) and career (35) sacks 25 years after his final game. Colvin was the 1998 Alamo Bowl’s Defensive MVP. He went on to earn two Super Bowl rings with the New England Patriots.

Chike Okeafor – The first of two West Lafayette High School graduates to earn a place in Purdue’s Den of Defensive Ends, Okeafor recorded nine tackles and three and a half sacks in the 1998 Alamo Bowl upset of No. 4 Kansas State. Okeafor went on to play 11 seasons in the NFL.

Brian Alford – An immediate beneficiary of Joe Tiller’s passing offense,

Alford became a first-team All-American after catching 63 passes for 1,228 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior in 1997. His 31 career touchdown catches remain a Purdue record and his 3,029 career receiving yards rank fourth behind John Standeford, Taylor Stubblefield and Dorien Bryant.

Matt Light – One of many to benefit from Joe Tiller position changes, having come to Purdue as a tight end, Light became the anchor of the best offensive line the Boilermakers have seen in a generation. Light started 37 consecutive games at left tackle. As a fifth-year senior in 2000, Light was chosen first-team All-Big Ten. He would go on to earn three Super Bowl rings in 11 seasons with the New England Patriots.

Drew Brees – The face of Purdue football today, Brees set two NCAA records, 13 Big Ten records and 19 school records as a three-year starting quarterback. For leading Purdue to its second Rose Bowl appearance and most recent Big Ten title

in 2000, Brees won the Maxwell Award as the nation’s outstanding player and the Chicago Tribune Silver Football as the Big Ten’s MVP.

Noteworthy

Two former Purdue guards were among the 18 men selected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame’s Silver Anniversary team for 2024.

Darmetris Kilgore came to Purdue via South Bend Washington and Tyler Junior College. At



JOE TILLER

South Bend Washington, Kilgore led the program to its first sectional title in 32 years. He was a second-team NJCAA Division I All-American in 2001 before spending two seasons at Purdue.

Kenneth Lowe was a 1999 Indiana All-Star from Gary West. He was a three-year starter at Purdue and scored 1,079 career points. Lowe was a two-time Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. He owns the second-best career free throw percentage (86.4) in Boilermaker history.

Purdue’s Matt Painter matched Indiana national championship coach Branch McCracken with his 210th Big Ten Conference victory Monday night against Iowa. The five Big Ten coaches ahead of Painter are Indiana’s Bob Knight (353), Michigan State’s Tom Izzo (333 as of Dec. 6), Purdue’s Gene Keady (265) and Ward “Piggy” Lambert (228) and Illinois’ Lou Henson (214).

- 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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Holcomb Defends LEAP Pipeline, Prepares For Last Legislative Session

By Whitney Downard
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Gov. Eric Holcomb defended the timeline process for a water pipeline from Tippecanoe County to Boone County for a massive, high-tech development grounded by a multi-billion-dollar investment from Eli Lilly.

Other companies coming to the area haven't yet been announced but the Indiana Economic Development Corporation hopes to pipe millions of gallons of water daily from the Wabash Alluvial Aquifer — though local officials aren't sold on the idea.

"When you deal with something on an unprecedented scale, as (the IEDC is) ... I'm pleased that they were operating at the speed of business, not to the speed of what we're used to," Holcomb said. "And knowing that there may be some bumps along the way but always know that the data would drive our ultimate decision."

To verify the water supply statewide, both the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and an IEDC contractor are working on a study — though the contractor for the latter, narrower study has been moved to the Indiana Finance Authority.

Holcomb said that speed could help or hurt because being slow could mean losing the bid but thought that Indiana was "at a place, right now, (where) the interest is still there."

"No one was ever going to promise a company water if we don't have it; no was ever going to take

water away from a community if we don't have it," Holcomb said.

Rather, he believed the studies would show "an abundance of water sources" similar to neighboring states, states he said were in the best position to attract businesses in coming years.

What's ahead for 2024

Holcomb said he wasn't yet ready to unveil his final legislative agenda as governor, which is set to be revealed on Jan. 8. Lawmakers seem keen to keep session short in 2024, meaning any priorities will need to be ready when legislators convene on that same date.

He shared three generalized priorities, including: government efficacy and transparency, wrapping up outstanding or in-progress projects and increasing awareness of current government programs.

"We want to finish strong; we don't want to limp to the line," Holcomb said. "That will require us not only finishing some projects but also getting some programs (with) the structure in place."

For an example of the latter, Holcomb pointed to his initiative to send more dollars to beleaguered public health programs — an opt-in program that ultimately 86 out of 92 counties agreed to earlier this year.

"We want to make sure that the governance, the structure, the sharing of data, and expertise is actually in place," Holcomb said.

Other examples that

Holcomb said would "far outlive me," include ongoing efforts to expand access to high-speed internet and Indiana's network of trails.

Something else Holcomb wouldn't reveal until 2024: whether or not he'd endorse any of the six contenders in the Republican primary for governor.

Holcomb has worked closely with several of the candidates. Those running include U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, his Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, his former Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, Fort Wayne businessman Eric Doden, his former Attorney General Curtis Hill and mother Jamie Reitenour.

But Holcomb said he wanted to see more policy proposals from the candidates and then make the decision whether or not to endorse.

"I don't know if, quite honestly, endorsements still have the impact that maybe they did 50 years ago," Holcomb said. "I think Hoosiers are very discerning and that's been proven election after election ... so I'll judge if, A, I think it will be helpful and, B, if I want to."

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Fryin' Without: A Baconless Christmas Chronicle



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Christmas morning 2023 will be a big disappointment for me. Not one of my presents will be bacon related. I just know it. It's hard to imagine how Mary Ellen could have perused the current merchandise catalogs thick with bacony items and not realized that there should have been something under the tree that had at least a whiff of this American food addiction.

I used to belong to a bacon club where they send you a different slab of bacon each month. My wife kept trashing the package, maybe because the name of the company was The Strip Club.

Everyone loves bacon. When it's frying in the pan, you can almost hear a splattering of applause coming from the heavens. We wrap a \$50.00 filet in a strip of bacon to make it even better, and "No one has ever gone to see a Kevin Hot Dog movie," says comic Jim Gaffigan. Nor would we even know what a water chestnut is if it weren't for bacon. To get a taste of their newest gift ideas, I went to one manufacturer's website.

Their premier item is bacon shaving cream.

The company suggested ordering early to be sure customers have a festive pork-scented holiday, which apparently is every man's fantasy. The ad claims the shaving cream delivers "maximum bacon scent when you need it most." When that is, I have no idea, but they had me worked into a lather just thinking about it. By the way, the company lightheartedly warns that while using this product, "you can be eaten by bears," making some of the side effects of my Lipitor pale in comparison.

Overall, I was very impressed with the company's selection of pork-related products and their customer-friendly approach in their follow-up correspondence. They even asked if I'd prefer to not receive their frequent email solicitations, because in their words, "No one likes spam." They had a point. I'll try their Bacon-Flavored Popcorn, but the idea of Spam Lip Balm makes me a little nauseous.

How about a container of Bacon Infant Formula? The product was launched several years ago accompanied by claims that the fat in pork is very important in the development of a newborn's brain. Now, it turns out this particular promotion was nothing but an April Fool's Day joke by the manufacturers.

Yes, everyone is laughing except the 112 people who fell for this and still wait by the mailbox every day, hoping the product delivered before the baby is delivered.

Finally, my favorite (and this one is real): The Bacon-Scented Oxygen Inhaler. You've had a long day at the office; you're at the half point in a marathon, or suffer from COPD (Chronic Overt Pork Deficiency). Pick up your mini-inhaler, hold the device up to your snout and breathe in. You'll never be out of breath again, but you will experience periodic grunting.

And so, Christmas morning will come and go. There will be no bacon salt, no bacon candles, and no bacon-flavored envelopes. Not even a package of bacon-scented stickers to slap on friends who might enjoy sniffing themselves at work for a quick bacon high. I will sit at the breakfast table somewhat consoled when my wife serves a bacon quiche. I will savor several pieces. I figure she might get some gift ideas for next year if I make a pig of myself.

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

'Tis The Season For Scams: 5 Ways To Protect You And Your Family

(Statepoint) In today's hyper-connected digital universe, cyber criminals have more information than ever before, with the ability to reach you through unsecured public Wi-Fi, your email inbox, via text message, and more.

According to a Scam and Robocall Report from T-Mobile, Americans lost an estimated \$39.5 billion to phone scams in 2022. Lucky for you, there are several ways to protect and safeguard your personal information to help prevent scammers from scammin' this holiday season.

1. Avoid Public USB Ports: Traveling by plane this holiday season? The FCC warns that cyber criminals can download malware to public USB charging ports to gain access to your information. Prevent this by using an AC power outlet instead.

2. Beware of Charity Scams: It's the season of giving, but the FCC warns many cyber criminals take advantage by creating fake charities staged as real nonprofit organizations to gain access to your payment information. Woof. To prevent this, don't click on suspicious email or text links and verify the organization is registered at the National Association of State Charity Officials or Better Business

Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance before donating this holiday season.

3. Screen Your Calls: Scammers are continuously upping their game, with total robocall attempts up 75% from 2021 to 2022. Detecting whether an incoming call is a potential scam isn't always easy, but T-Mobile's Scam Shield app makes it simple. Free to all T-Mobile customers, Scam Shield enhances your scam-blocking protections so you can say goodbye to scam calls. In 2022 alone, Scam Shield identified or blocked 41.5 billion scam calls in the T-Mobile network. That's a whopping 1,317 calls identified or blocked every second. With Scam Shield, when the network detects a potential scam call, it is flagged and displayed as "Scam Likely" on your device. Customers who want even more protection can download the Scam Shield app or dial #662# from their T-Mobile smartphone to enable Scam Block, which automatically blocks any calls that match the database of scam calls. Take that, tricksters. To learn more, visit t-mobile.com/scamshield.

4. Shop Smarter Online: According to Statista, 57% of holiday shoppers plan to use their smartphone to make holiday purchases this

year, and scammers are onto them, ramping up activity during the two weeks before Christmas. To minimize any cyber Grinches trying to steal your personal info, monitor your financial accounts regularly for suspicious charges and sign up for your bank or credit card company's text or email notifications to stay on top of fraudulent activity.

5. Use Secure Tools: Safeguard your online accounts with Multi-Factor Authentication, which requires users to enter two different kinds of information to log in, like a password and one-time PIN code. It's like having a digital bouncer to make sure only you get into your accounts. Another protection is a password manager, giving you the ability to securely store passwords across multiple platforms and websites. The tool also provides an autofill password function and a new password generator.

To learn more about the industry's top fraud trends and how to stay protected from scammers year-round, check out T-Mobile's Scam Shield Report found at t-mobile.com/news.

While cyber threats are on the rise, you can sleigh scams by staying vigilant and incorporating these best practices into your life this holiday season.

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BETSY From Page A1

p.m. to 8 p.m. today and Dec. 14, 15, 21, 22; noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 16, 17, 23; noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 24. Stop by to visit Santa, snap a photo, and consider a donation that goes toward making this Santa House event possible.

5. Experience Lights Over Seminary presented by the City of Noblesville and Noblesville Preservation Alliance during this walkable light display in Seminary Park at Hannibal and 10th Street in downtown Noblesville display 5-11 p.m. nightly through December.

6. Enjoy live comedy with Chris Siemer, Tenah McDonald and Val Werner tonight and Eric Sablan, Conor Delehanty and TJ Wharry Saturday night at 8 p.m. at The Brick Room Comedy Club on Maple Avenue and Ninth Street in downtown Noblesville. Visit thebrickroom.cc for tickets.

7. Experience the magic of the 2023 Carmel Christkindlmarkt daily through Dec. 24 at Carter Green next to the Performing Arts Center of Carmel. Enjoy traditional German food, shop handmade German goods under the twinkling lights at this one-of-a-kind holiday experience, ice skate on an outdoor rink, visit German artists at work, find fun in the kids corner, enjoy live entertainment, with free admission.

8. Federal Hill Commons Temporary Ice Plaza is open through Dec. 22 in Noblesville, with hours 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday through Dec. 22; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, starting Dec. 23 through Noblesville Schools holiday break; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays; special holiday hours 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31. Rates are \$13, \$11 for ages 12 and younger. Also take private 15-minute carriage rides through downtown Noblesville.

9. Experience Merry Prairie at Conner Prairie, where visitors can explore Historic Holidays and immerse in the magic of Prairietown by candlelight 5:30-9:30 p.m. now through Dec. 17 and Dec. 21-22 at the Fishers living history park. Ride a vintage carousel, enjoy the thrill of Polar Bear Plunge tubing hill and warm by a fireplace while showing off your sock-skating skills at Frosty's Sock Skating Rink, plus pose for a selfie with Santa and hear the music of Jennifer Mlott at 7:30 p.m. today, Sunday, Dec. 16, 17, 21 at Blitzen's Bandstand Stage. Plus, reserve your seats for Breakfast with Santa this Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 16 and 17. Tickets for all at www.connerprairie.org

10. Experience live community theater during Main Street Productions' "Inspecting Carol," a holiday comedy directed by Kelly Keller of Fishers, 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse. A man who asks to audition at a small theater is mistaken for an informer for the National Endowment for the Arts, everybody caters to the wannabe actor, and he is

given a role in the current production, "A Christmas Carol." Tickets at www.westfieldplayhouse.org

11. Enjoy live music with Tyler Robbling Duo at 7:30-10:30 p.m. today, Brad Colt on Saturday and Stella Luna Duo on Sunday at Boathouse Kitchen & Swan Dive in Cicero.

12. Experience live music with Don Clarkson tonight, The Dead Squirrels on Saturday, Hill and Oaks on Dec. 16, John Beatrice on Dec. 22, Sam King on Dec. 23, Donny Coyle on Dec. 29 at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

13. Hop aboard the Nickel Plate Express for an array of excursions, including upcoming Holiday Cheers Express for 21 and older Friday nights through Christmas, Reindeer Express on Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas, tickets at nickelplateexpress.com.

14. Eat Pancakes with Santa, thanks to Noblesville Kiwanis Sunrisers, from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at Forest Park Inn in Noblesville, at \$7 per person, free to ages 5 and younger.

15. Travel to the countryside to hear live music with Jennifer Mlott at 7 p.m. Saturday at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencerfarmwinery.com. Also, enjoy live music featuring John Gilmore on Saturday, Dead Squirrels on Dec. 16, Craig Thurston on Dec. 21, Jeff Brown on Dec. 23, and Disagreeable on Dec. 30 at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville.

16. Immerse yourself in the magic of the holiday season with the return of Noblesville Preservation Alliance's Holiday Home Tour from 5-8 p.m. Saturday with dessert reception 8-9 p.m. with tickets at preservationhall.org. (Read a preview of the tour in the Betsy Reason column in Thursday's edition of The Times.)

17. Noblesville First United Methodist Church will have its annual Christmas Festival of Music & Art at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at the church, featuring the Chancel Choir, Janus Choir, Orchestra and art for sale by Janus artists.

18. Shop the Alley Art Market for works by local artists and markers 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Lacy Arts Building in downtown Noblesville.

19. Enjoy "An En Pointe Christmas" during En Pointe Indiana Ballet's holiday performances at 2 p.m. Dec. 16 and 17 at Noblesville High School with tickets at www.enpointe.yapsody.com.

20. Experience the holiday tradition of White River Ballet Co.'s 42nd annual "Nutcracker" ballet at 7 p.m. Dec. 21 and 22 at Noblesville High School, with the Nutcracker Prince performed by special guest dancer, Nick Hagelin, who trained at School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center and went on to dance internationally with Carolina Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and The Kirov. Tickets at the door.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Experience live community theater during Main Street Productions' "Inspecting Carol," a holiday comedy of a play within a play of "A Christmas Carol," through Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Noblesville First United Methodist Church music director Jeff Wright a previous year directs the chancel choir during rehearsals for the annual free Christmas Festival of Music & Art at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday at the church, featuring the Chancel Choir, Janus Choir, Orchestra and art for sale by Janus artists.



Photo courtesy of The Attic Theatre

Jenna Hobson as Betty Haynes and Olivia Carrier as Judy Haynes rehearse for The Attic Theatre's "White Christmas" musical, which is onstage at 7 p.m. today and 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday at Ivy Tech Hamilton County Campus in Noblesville, with \$8-\$12 tickets at theattictheatre.com



Photo courtesy of White River Ballet Co.

Experience the holiday tradition of White River Ballet Co.'s 42nd annual "Nutcracker" ballet at 7 p.m. Dec. 21 and 22 at Noblesville High School, with the Nutcracker Prince performed by special guest dancer, Nick Hagelin, who trained at School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center and went on to dance internationally with Carolina Ballet, American Ballet Theatre and The Kirov. Here, he dances with Clara, danced by Eden Rawlings.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Experience the music of the season during Noblesville Choirs Holiday Concerts at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville High School with \$10-\$16 reserved tickets at noblesvillechoirs.org. Different soloists for each performance.



Photo courtesy of Beth Pack

En Pointe Indiana Ballet at the Noblesville tree-lighting ceremony performed a snippet of "An En Pointe Christmas" which will be performed at 2 p.m. Dec. 16 and 17 at Noblesville High School with tickets at www.enpointe.yapsody.com.



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Experience Lights Over Seminary presented by the City of Noblesville and Noblesville Preservation Alliance during this walkable light display in Seminary Park at Hannibal and 10th Street in downtown Noblesville with display 5-11 p.m. nightly through December.

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Where Do We Go From Here?



TIM TIMMONS
 Two Cents

The little paper that could is on our 20th year. That just doesn't seem possible – until I look in the mirror and see what little hair I have left isn't the same color it was when we started. (And no, I am not planning on changing this column photo anytime soon!)

It's been a hectic couple of decades, but pretty sure the times ahead look even more so.

As I have been out and about – some of you have shared some thoughts and

suggestions on the paper you have made your own. One of the big things is that you have been appreciative of our decision not to raise prices. After all, how many businesses can say they've gone this long without a price hike?

(Sorry to say, but in 2024, that's likely to change!)

The biggest point of conversation is frequency of publication. As much as I may hate it, some of you tell me you just don't have time to read a paper every day . . . and as much as I hate to hear that, heck, I understand. I'm a newspaper guy and even I don't have time to read a paper every day.

So what to do about that? Do we reduce the number of days per week we publish our Online Edition? A few of you have suggested that – and added that adding more content and improvements on those days

would make it a better read.

I won't say I disagree – but we'd like to hear from more of you. Would you prefer fewer days with more content on the day or days we do publish an Online Edition? (Oh, fear not Print Edition subscribers – no changes are planned to the Wednesday schedule!)

If I may then, I'd like to ask a favor – let me know what you think? You can share your thoughts on our schedule, our content, the state of the Colts or any little thing you like. Whatever you write, I always enjoy hearing from you (yes, even those of you who take me to task every now and then).

Honest!

OK, before wrapping this up, let me add one more thing about feedback. Lately, some of our owners have been out

and about in the community – talking with folks, asking what we can do. Getting feedback.

I love this!

Until the last 20 years I've worked for newspapers that were owned by companies in other states. I guess there's nothing wrong with that, but it sure isn't local ownership, is it? I mean when an ad or a subscription are purchased from a newspaper owned by folks somewhere else, where does that money go? That's right – somewhere else.

Our owners are here. Right here. You buy an ad, a subscription with us and that money stays here. Right here.

It means a lot.

Truly, it's hard to understand not supporting local – but then again, I'm preaching to the choir. Folks reading this – all eight or nine of you – have been great

supporters. It's the folks who aren't reading this we need to reach.

So let me ask another favor (good gosh I am being pushy today, aren't I?).

Would you – yes, all eight or nine of you – share this column with some of your friends and neighbors? Maybe they'll take a look and say – hey! I didn't know this was a local company! Heck, I didn't know the other paper was owned by some guy in Alabama! Dang, I don't want my money going to that southern state! Alrighty then – count me in! I'll start subscribing to this paper. Right here and right now! Tell them all they have to do is e-mail me – ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com and because they are your friend – we will give them a great discount and get them started.

If all eight or nine

of you did that, think what could happen! We could add a bunch more subscribers. And more subscribers mean more eyeballs – which means more advertisers – which means more jobs created – which means more local news coverage – which means more subscribers and more advertisers – which means more money donated back into the community. Our community. They one we live in. Not some other state.

See how this works? Kind of like the shin bone connecting to the knee bone, right?

Hey, a guy can dream, can't he?

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.

www.TheTimes24-7.com



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