

# THIS WEEK'S SHOPPING NEWS

Sunday, December 22, 2024 Volume 49 Number 61

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until it becomes *A Memory*



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May the glory of God's love and light shine in your heart and illuminate your Christmas season!



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**8TH HOUR**  
taking the stage  
8pm-12am

**New Years Day Events**  
Open 9am - 6pm **BINGO AT 3**

Serving **PANCAKES & SAUSAGE**  
9am-11am  
(free for current members & family, \$5 for non-members)

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2pm-5pm



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# HOLIDAY CACTI

By Bev Johnson, WOT Master Gardener

Petunia has always envied her Mother in Law's ability to grow Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus. They are huge, the size of a bushel basket and she gets them to bloom at the proper time. Petunia finally got up the courage to ask Alma (she is quite a formidable woman) if she could have a slip of the Christmas cactus. Not only did she get a slip. She also got a lesson in how to grow it and how to tell them apart. This is what she was told.

The way to tell the 2 apart is to look at the segments, more properly called phylloclade's. The Christmas cactus, as is fitting, has pointed lobes on the edges of the segments, like spruce needles. The thanksgiving cactus segments are rounded and smooth. Just to make things more confusing, there is also a cactus that blooms in the spring-the Easter cactus. Why then, since the first two are cousins, do they bloom at different times of the year, the Thanksgiving plant 6 weeks earlier than the Christmas one? It is all due to the length of the day, which is how much light the plant gets. The Thanksgiving cactus needs 12 hours of light during late summer and early fall to trigger flowering. The Christmas cactus has a shorter critical need for hours of light.

These cacti are native to Brazil and in their native environment grow on trees like orchids and other bromeliads. One would think then that they would require warm temperatures until you hear that they grow at 3,200 to 5,500 feet in the mountains. This is why they want house temperatures between 65 to 72 to bloom. That is why grandma was able to grow them so successfully.

She had single pane windows and not much insulation. She probably did not stay up to watch Jimmy Kimble or Stephen Colbert either so the 8 hours of dark the plants required to bloom weren't a problem. If you like to watch late night T.V. and want to ensure your new baby blooms, in mid -September, put the plant in a room or closet that has no light on during sunup and sunset. Bring them out in April and they should bloom at the proper time. Another tip, put them outside in the summer in the shade. Leave the plant out until the temperatures fall to 50 degrees. Bring it in and put it in an east or west window. Keep the temperature at about 57 degrees.

Now to propagation. Fill a 4-inch pot with damp soilless mix. Remove about 3 or 4 segments from the mother plant that are at least an inch long and poke them about 1/2 way their length into the medium and cover with a transparent plastic bag. When you see new growth, repot, and begin to fertilize as you would any house plant. Add a teaspoon of 20-10-20 houseplant fertilizer to a gallon of water for early spring and when you bring them in in the fall. Reduce the dose to 1/2 a teaspoon for every time watering during the winter.

Do not over water this plant. if the segments are full and soft, they don't need water. If they look a bit wrinkled, water. More house plants are killed by overwatering than any other cause.

Unfortunately, Petunia has 10 brown fingers. Her cactus bit the dust 2 months later.

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**WORD SEARCH**

**Holiday ROUNDUP**

D E I N V I T A T I O N N I Z R K W G S  
S G C E L E B R A T E L P Z P O S B K A  
O X N E N E W Y E A R S D A Y C U U V M  
F B C P S Z V H R X M H O L I D A Y S T  
U D B I W U Z E E U A D I N I N G N O S  
D F E S T I V E O K N O I T A C A V W I  
W Z X S N O P V U O E C D F B P S G D R  
A G O T S M A N C C T C I M O K M F T H  
T I P S Y N A X N L X N R E D U V O B X C  
W T A A S H H E I T D R E Y X R V R H S  
G P T E C K E P R E V R T O G E T H E R  
U R W F H W R D P E X C I T E M E N T D  
E W G X O E X E O N N S K R O W E R I F  
S E I L S L N U S O E R E T S A E X H F  
T E L E V D F L L W F R V G H S I I K V  
S A N X E W F R I E N D S C F E M A X G  
H T B N G S V G A Z M C G F W X C Y T L  
S T C M T I P R G N I V I G S K N A H T  
V E P F Z T E A A Z N A W K A O E X U G  
X K Y U B N I F Y V G A M E S Y O Z R I

**WORDS**

CELEBRATE  
CHANUKAH  
CHRISTMAS  
DINING  
EASTER  
EXCITEMENT  
FEAST  
FESTIVE  
FIREWORKS  
FOOD  
FRIENDS  
GAMES  
GUESTS  
HALLOWEEN  
HOLIDAYS  
INDEPENDENCE  
INVITATION  
KWANZAA  
NEW YEAR'S DAY  
PASSOVER  
PRESENTS  
THANKSGIVING  
TOGETHER  
VACATION

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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**HOLIDAY MAZE**

Help Santa find his way to the chimney.

START

FINISH

**Fun FACT:**

This popular party decoration was created in 1824 by Michael Faraday during experiments with various gases.

Answer: Balloon

**BOWLING NEWS**

**Trivia**  
What US State produces the fewest potatoes?  
Hawaii Maine Alaska

**High Bowling Scores for the week**

Jim Winter	259	245	267	771
Dom Hemingsen	257	-	-	705
Gary Sundby	267	-	-	681
Sam Aschnewitz	269	-	-	677
Shaun Steinbach	243	-	-	667

**Trivia**  
The movie Its A Wonderful Life starring Jimmy Stewart aired in what year?  
1944 1946 1951

**Trivia**  
The toy the Tonka Truck was first made in what year?  
1946 1956 1960

**1x2**  
 Sound like multiplication? Guess again.  
 It's newspaper talk for a 1-column by 2-inch ad. Too small to be effective? You're reading this one!

**M-R Sign FULL-TIME Production Help**  
 M-R Sign Co. in Fergus Falls, MN is looking for full-time production help (with benefits) 40 hours/week (Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm) By law, must be 18 years old. Must be able to lift 50 lbs repeatedly.  
 For application and question apply at M-R Sign Co. 1706 1st Ave North Fergus Falls, MN

*Winter is here...*



Please clear the snow off your sidewalk and steps for better delivery of **THIS WEEK'S SHOPPING NEWS!**  
 Also, please don't forget to clean around your Midweek box. You don't want to miss an issue of the paper.  
**Thank You!**

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**OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY**

**Project Coordinator**  
 Location: Fergus Falls, Minnesota

**Description**  
 At Otter Tail Power Company, our employees support the communities we serve by producing reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity. Everyone has an important role in accomplishing these objectives! In the Project Coordinator role, the following activities are performed:

- Coordinate cost estimate and forecasts for internal and external projects
- Facilitate required meetings
- Track deliverables for each project identifying, and making recommendations to mitigate any risks associated with schedules, resources, filings

To be successful in this role, we're looking for candidates who possess the following skills and traits:

- There's a lot of innovation in our industry and we want positive, can-do people who are resilient through the challenges that sometimes come with change.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal relationship as you partner with various internal and external teams and stakeholders.
- A bachelor's degree or equivalent experience required; a degree in business or engineering is a plus.
- Project and contract management experience utilizing tools and/or techniques in developing, managing, and implementing multiple projects and contracts concurrently.
- Experience leading and coordinating cross-functional teams and projects and setting priorities in a constantly changing environment.
- Experience with Project Management or Data Visualization software preferred.

Selected candidates will be required to complete a pre-interview assessment.

**Offering**  
 We believe employment is a partnership and we expect excellence from our talented employees. To support our employees and help them thrive in their career experience and goals, we offer:

- Competitive wage & benefit package.
  - o Employee Stock Ownership options
  - o Retirement Savings Fund with employer match
  - o Health insurance plan options
- Training – our employees are provided training and development opportunities each year! This includes safety – one of our 5 values and key to our success –, technical, compliance and developmental training.
- Career development is critical to our long-term success. Otter Tail Power employees have opportunities to participate in various leadership development programs, gain access to an a la carte online leadership course catalog, receive mentorship from current leaders and more!
- Access to mental health support from the experts at SupportLinc.

**If this sounds like a great fit for you, apply today. Don't wait too long though! To apply, visit our careers page at www.otpco.com. We'll accept applications through January 3, 2025.**  
 All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

**OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY**

**Business Specialist**  
 Fergus Falls, Minnesota with hybrid remote work opportunities available

**Description**  
 At Otter Tail Power, our employees help us to serve the communities we support by producing reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity. Everyone has an important role in accomplishing these objectives! In the Business Coordinator role, you will lead and support various processes across a variety of projects.

Some examples of those activities include:

- Updating and maintaining project-related records, costs, databases, and systems.
- Support contract management by tracking deliverables and change orders and appropriately taking action to keep the project moving.
- Lead and organize meetings to sustain project controls and ensure projects meet quality, budget, and timing expectations.
- Produce written reports and presentations regarding project progress.
- Coordinates with internal and external project stakeholders to communicate progress and potentially raise risk concerns as appropriate.

To be successful in this role, we're looking for candidates who possess the following skills and traits:

- There's a lot of innovation in our industry and we want positive, can-do people who are resilient through the challenges that sometimes come with change.
- Must have demonstrated experience with typical office software such as Outlook, Excel, Word, and PowerPoint.
- This role is heavily collaborative, so someone who is team-oriented with exceptional communication and interpersonal skills is most likely to succeed and enjoy the role.
- You'll love this role if you're detail-oriented while able to see the big picture.
- Project and contract management experience utilizing tools and/or techniques in developing, managing, and implementing multiple projects and contracts concurrently.
- A bachelor's degree in business or accounting preferred but we'd be excited to hear about any relevant work experience.

Selected candidates will be required to complete a pre-interview assessment.

**Offering**  
 We believe employment is a partnership and we expect excellence from our talented employees. To support our employees and help drive their career experience and goals.

- Competitive wage & benefit package.
  - o Employee stock ownership options
  - o Retirement savings fund with employer match
  - o Health insurance plan options
- Training – our employees are provided training and development opportunities each year! This includes safety – one of our 5 values and key to our success – technical, compliance and developmental training.
- Career development is critical to our long-term success. Otter Tail Power employees have opportunities to participate in various leadership development programs, gain access to an a la carte online leadership course catalog, receive mentorship from current leaders and more!
- Access to mental health support from the experts at SupportLinc.

**If this sounds like a great fit for you, apply today. Don't wait too long though! To apply, visit our careers page at www.otpco.com. We'll accept applications through December 27, 2024. Selected candidates will be required to complete a pre-interview assessment.**  
 All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.



# HARK!

## THE HERALD ANGELS SING.

*"Glory to the  
Newborn King!"*

From our home to yours, tidings of comfort, joy, peace and harmony at Christmas time! We hope the spirit of the season inspires and uplifts you, filling your soul with hope, happiness and renewed faith.

As we pause to reflect on our year, we can't help but be moved by the goodwill and generosity of this community. We feel blessed to have friends and neighbors like all of you, and we thank you for giving us so much to celebrate.

With a prayer for peace and gratitude in our hearts,  
glory to God and

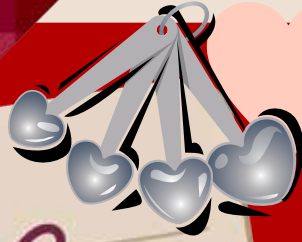
*Merry Christmas to All!*

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# Recipe Corner



Each week we will be featuring recipes provided by our readers.

TO SUBMIT A RECIPE YOU CAN EMAIL THEM TO [results@themidweek.com](mailto:results@themidweek.com)

OR DROP THEM OFF AT  
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## Easy Cranberry Brie Bites

All-purpose flour, for dusting  
8 oz. crescent dough sheet (or crescent rolls)  
8 oz. wheel of Brie  
1 cup whole berry cranberry sauce (not jellied)  
Fresh rosemary sprigs

1. Preheat oven to 375 and spray a mini muffin tin with cooking spray.
2. Lightly dust the counter with flour, then roll out the crescent dough sheet. If using crescent rolls, pinch the seams together to form a single sheet.
3. Cut the dough into 24 equal sized squares and place them into the muffin tin.
4. Cut the brie into small pieces and place one piece inside each dough square.
5. Top each with a generous spoonful of cranberry sauce and a small sprig of rosemary.
6. Bake for about 15 minutes or until the crescent dough is golden brown.
7. Serve warm

## Cranberry Pecan Cheese Ball

16 oz. cream cheese, softened to room temperature  
1 3/4 cups shredded sharp white cheddar cheese  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives, divided  
2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley  
1 teaspoon brown sugar  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
3/4 cup finely chopped dried cranberries, divided  
3/4 cup finely chopped pecans

1. Beat the softened cream cheese on medium-high speed until the mixture is smooth and creamy.
2. Add in the shredded cheese, 1 tablespoon chives, chopped parsley, brown sugar, garlic powder, salt, pepper, half of the cranberries and half of the pecans. Mix until well combined. Form the mixture into a ball.
3. In a small bowl, stir together the remaining chives, cranberries, and pecans. Sprinkle the coating onto a large plate, roll the cheese ball into the mixture to evenly coat.
4. Wrap the cheese ball tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, and up to five days.
5. To serve, let the cheese ball sit out at room temperature for 20-30 minutes to slightly soften up. Unwrap cheese ball and serve.



# Season's Sweetings

## Holiday Cookies & Desserts

### Christmas Biscuits

Makes approximately 24 cookies



#### For the dough:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted, plus extra for dusting  
1 1/3 cups confectioner's sugar, plus extra for dusting  
3/4 cup almond meal  
1 cup unsalted butter, cold and cubed  
1 large egg yolk  
1 tablespoon cold water  
1/2 teaspoon fine salt

#### For the icing and decoration:

4 cups confectioner's sugar  
3 tablespoons meringue powder  
7 tablespoons warm water, combined with 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, assorted food color (e. g., red, pink and turquoise), assorted colored sugar crystals (e. g., red, pink and white)

1. For the dough: Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease and line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Combine flour, confectioner's sugar and almond meal in a large mixing bowl. Stir well to mix.
3. Add butter, egg yolk, water, and salt, and mix well with an electric mixer with spiral attachments until mixture starts to come together as a dough.
4. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead briefly until even. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes.
5. After chilling, roll out dough on a lightly floured surface to approximately 0.25" thickness.
6. Use assorted star-shaped cookie cutters to cut out approximately 23 variably sized star shapes. Arrange between prepared sheets, spaced apart.
7. From remaining dough, cut out one teardrop and two semi-circles of dough, using appropriate cutters or working freehand with a paring knife. Arrange on one of the baking sheets.

8. Bake cookies for 12 to 15 minutes, until golden and dry to the touch. Remove to cooling racks to cool.
9. For the icing and decoration: Thoroughly stir together confectioner's sugar and meringue powder in a large mixing bowl.
10. Gradually beat in warm water and vanilla extract mixture using an electric mixer until icing is smooth and of a flooding consistency; you may not need all of the water.
11. Divide icing between three bowls. Color two bowls pink and red, respectively, by beating in enough pink and red coloring to achieve uniform colors. Leave the third bowl uncolored.
12. Spoon pink and red icing into separate piping bags fitted with small, round-tip nozzles.
13. To ice the cookies, pipe around their perimeters with the icings to create borders. Fill in middle of cookies with more icing; you can use a damp, warm offset palette knife to spread out icing to an even finish.
14. Carefully transfer iced cookies to cooling racks, decorating with the sugar crystals in festive patterns.
15. Using same technique as in steps 13 and 14, ice teardrop cookie with red and white icing for Santa's hat and beard, respectively. Ice the two semi-circle cookies with white icing.
16. Before icings have set, carefully attach semi-circle cookies to teardrop cookie to fashion Santa's mustache. Color any remaining white icing with turquoise coloring and then dab onto teardrop cookie for Santa's eyes. Pipe some pink icing below eyes for his nose.
17. Let cookies set and harden before serving.

Tip: Flooding consistency should be similar to the consistency of toothpaste. If your icing is too thick, thin it out with some warm water, mixing it into the icing in drops

Preparation time: 1 hour, 20 minutes  
Cooling time: 30 minutes

### Add A New Offering To Your Christmas Cookie Lineup

The holiday season doubles as cookie season. Indeed, there's no shortage of baking opportunities in December. Various cookies make the rounds, and if you are tasked with bringing cookies to a function, you might be interested in something a little different.

"Santa's Whiskers" likely get their name from the coconut on these cookies, which resemble Santa's beard. Maraschino cherries add some jolly red to the cookies as well, making them perfect for Christmas. Try this recipe from "Butter, Flour, Sugar, Joy" (Sourcebooks) by Danielle Kartes.

### Santa's Whiskers

20 to 24 cookies

1 1/2 cups confectioner's sugar  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 12-ounce jar pitted maraschino cherries, strained and stemmed  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 cups sweetened shredded coconut



In a stand mixer, with a hand mixer, or by hand, cream the sugar and butter until light and fluffy.

Add the cherries, vanilla, almond extract, and salt. Mix thoroughly. Fold into the flour and mix until it forms a crumbly but moist dough.

Lay a 16-inch sheet of parchment paper onto the counter. Sprinkle 1 cup of the coconut on the center in a loose rectangle, making sure it does not reach the edge of the parchment. Place the cookie dough on top, flattening a bit with your fingers, and sprinkle the remaining coconut over the top of the dough.

Form the dough into a 12- to 14-inch log, about 3 inches thick. Evenly press the coconut around the log and roll to make the log an even cylinder.

Roll the parchment up with the dough inside and twist the ends. Chill for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Slice cookies in 1/4- to 1/2-inch rounds, place on the prepared baking sheet, about 2 inches apart, and bake 12 to 15 minutes. Allow to cool before serving. Store in an airtight container.



**Join us for Christmas Services**

Join us in person or live streamed

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**Faith Family Worship • 5pm**

**Candlelight Service with Communion • 11pm**

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**BOWLING NEWS**

**Trivia Answers**

Alaska  
1946  
1946

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**OBITUARIES**

**Kathryn A. Thoreson**  
Age: 61  
From: Ottertail, MN  
Passed Away: Thurs., Dec. 12  
Services Pending  
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home  
Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

**William "Billy" E. Steinbach**  
Age: 79  
From: New York Mills, MN  
Passed Away: Fri., Dec. 13  
Where: Perham Living, Perham, MN  
Visitation: Tues., Dec. 17, 4-7pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, New York Mills, MN, and one hour prior to the service at the church  
Prayer Service: Tues., Dec. 17, 6pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, New York Mills, MN  
Funeral Service: Wed., Dec. 18, 11am  
Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, New York Mills, MN  
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home  
Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

**Richard Tervola**  
Age: 87  
From: New York Mills, MN  
Passed Away: Tues., Dec. 17  
Where: Vitality Living, New York Mills, MN  
Visitation: Sat., Dec. 21, 10-11am at Apostolic Lutheran Church, New York Mills, MN  
Funeral Service: Sat., Dec. 21, 11am  
Location: Apostolic Lutheran Church, New York Mills, MN  
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home  
Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

**Frances I. Greenwaldt**  
Age: 91  
From: Deer Creek, MN  
Passed Away: Thurs., Dec. 12  
Where: At her home  
Visitation: Sun., Dec. 15, 5-7pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Deer Creek, MN, and one hour prior to the service at the church  
Prayer Service: Sun., Dec. 15, 6:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Deer Creek, MN  
Funeral Service: Mon., Dec. 16, 11am  
Location: Trinity Lutheran Church, Deer Creek, MN  
Burial to follow at Inman Cemetery, Henning, MN  
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home  
Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

**Harlan Umland**  
Age: 88  
From: Wadena, MN  
Passed Away: Sun., Dec. 15  
Visitation: Sat., Dec. 21, 11am-12:30pm at Karvonen Funeral Home, Wadena, MN  
Funeral Service: Sat., Dec. 21, 12:30pm  
Location: Karvonen Funeral Home, Wadena, MN  
Burial to follow at Karvonen Funeral Home, Wadena, MN  
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home  
Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

**Lauren Morlock**  
Age: 74  
From: Wadena, MN  
Passed Away: Sat., Dec. 14  
Where: At his home  
Services will be held at a later date  
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home  
Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

**Wayne Wolfe**  
Age: 67  
From: Richfield, MN  
Passed Away: Sat., Dec. 14  
Services Pending  
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home  
Online condolences may be sent to www.karvonenfuneralhome.com



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**How To Prepare For Winter Storms**

Winter arrives with fanfare as Christmas, Chanukah and New Year's Eve all take place within days of the first day of the season. Parties and shopping may distract people from the weather around them, but after resolutions are made and the decorations are packed away, it's not long before it's time to confront winter's wrath.

Storms are common place in January and February in many parts of the world, and even March storms are not unheard of. Knowing how to prepare for storms can keep people safer and prevent home damage. If a storm is forecasted, follow these guidelines.

- Charge a mobile phone and other electronic devices to full battery in advance of the storm in case power goes out.
- Stock the home with extra batteries for flashlights and battery-powered devices, such as a portable radio.
- Invest in a car charger to charge devices if the power is out for some time.
- Keep a supply of canned or boxed nonperishable items, as well as convenience foods that do not need to be cooked, like granola bars.
- Periodically check to ensure that the first aid kit is stocked with items that have not expired.
- Refill medications so that they are on hand in the event weather makes it challenging to get to the store.
- Keep emergency supplies of bottled water. If you forget this, fill the bathtub up with fresh water. Extra water will be needed for toilet flushing if yours is a septic system.
- Have warm blankets on hand and sleeping bags for each person in the home.
- Unplug all electronic devices if the power goes out to protect against a surge and damage when the power is restored.
- Exercise caution when burning candles, opting for flashlights and lanterns instead.
- If it's very cold outside, move refrigerated and frozen items outdoors so they do not spoil in an unpowered refrigerator.
- Do not use gas stoves, charcoal grills or other open-flame heat sources for warmth indoors. Carbon monoxide gas can build up inside and prove deadly.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a backup generator for power.
- Stock up on gasoline for vehicles and to power gas-driven generators.
- Use power company websites and apps to report outages and stay apprised of restoration status.
- Be cautious of downed power lines in the area when driving or walking.

Winter storms can be beautiful but dangerous without ample preparation.



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May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with faith, your home with hope, and your life with love. **Merry Christmas!**

Here's to a bright and prosperous New Year, together!

If you have a home, we can help - thank you for letting us be part of your story in 2024.

**See you in 2025!**

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4.7CF PET PRO TOP LOAD WASHER WHITE  
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