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LIFESTYLE

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LIFE IN BRIEF



Easy veggies

Planned correctly, the most basic vegetable garden takes little time or effort.

LOCATION, LOCATION

First, the site. For the plants' sake, full sun — at least six hours daily — and well-drained soil are a must. If water stays puddled on the ground more than a few hours after rain has stopped, roots will suffocate.

EASY BEGINNINGS

The traditional way to create the garden is to till the soil a couple of times, wait a couple of weeks, till again, wait again, and then plant in rows, between which you till or hoe through the season.

The quickest and easiest way to start a garden is to merely smother the existing lawn or weeds. One reason most gardeners till is to aerate the soil, but your soil won't need aeration if you lay it out in permanent planting beds, each 36 inches wide, and paths, each 18 inches wide. Make a plan on paper, and keep the beds and paths in the same place year after year. Walk only on the paths; never set foot in a bed.

After you have mapped out your garden, search the Internet or Yellow Pages for local "Compost" and "Arborists." You want compost for the planting beds, and wood chips from an arborist for the paths between the beds. (Some recycling centers give these valuable materials away free for the hauling.) Plan on spreading a 3-inch depth of either of these materials, which works out to about a cubic yard for every 100 square feet needed.

Before you lay down the chips and compost, mow or knock down existing weeds or lawn, then smother them beneath paper. Wet the paper as you lay it down to soften it and keep it from blowing, and overlap the edges. Before the end of the season, the grass or weeds will be dead, and your plants' roots will have grown into and through the nearly decomposed paper. The paper is needed only to start your garden, not in future years.

PLANT

Now plant, right into the compost. When planting in beds, space the plants closer together than usually recommended. You can crowd three or four rows down each bed because you'll be doing all your weeding and harvesting from the paths, rather than having to walk between the rows.

As soon as you lay down your compost, while the weather is cool, plant pea, radish and spinach seeds, onion sets, and small plants of broccoli, lettuce and parsley. When the weather turns reliably warm, about when honeysuckle, wild cherry and locust trees bloom, set out tomato and pepper plants, and plant seeds of cucumbers and bush green beans. In early summer, make another planting of green beans and cucumbers, and in late summer, plan for fall by sowing lettuce again, along with beets and turnips.

— Associated Press



ALTON STRUPP | THE REPUBLIC

Above: Terry Clark performs his Buffalo Bill act in Bartholomew County Public Library's Red Room. **Below:** A crowd of 120 people gathered for Clark's performance of tales and tunes.

Back in the saddle

Clark uses stories, songs to bring Buffalo Bill to life

By BRIAN BLAIR
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THE Red Room of the Bartholomew County Public Library grew nearly as hot as the Western plains when an American icon recently attracted an overflow crowd of 120 people.

Yet, one of Buffalo Bill Cody's most sizzling topics focused on his rawhide toughness during his Wild West Shows of the late 1880s.

Cody, portrayed by Columbus actor/musician Terry Clark, remembered coming to Indianapolis back then and riding a bucking bull named Monarch for the crowd.

"He was a great big ol' cantankerous shaggy," said Clark.

During the Indy demonstration, the rebellious beast threw Cody like a wayward tumbleweed. He landed in Indianapolis City Hospital for two weeks with his sizable ego as bruised as his body.

But his health returned with the help "of ol' Doc Wishard and a couple o' really fine Hoosier nurses," as he put it.

In an hour-long performance of tales and tunes at the library, Clark's homespun demeanor made Cody, once considered one of the world's most recognized celebrities, appear colorfully human.

"I want my friends and patrons to know that the old scout is still alive and active," said Cody as the audience broke into applause.

Clark, the information and technology director at The Republic, wants to bring the



Bill Cody show

PRESENTED BY: Local actor/musician Terry Clark, imitating William F. Cody around 1907, telling stories and singing songs from about the 1860s onward.

HIGHLIGHTS: Cody's subject matter is as broad as his wide-brimmed Stetson, from his sometimes-

possessive wife, Lulu, to his loyal rifle.

RIDING HIGH AND LOW: Clark shows Cody's extensive success — he once was worth some \$250,000 near the early 1900s — and his struggle with gambling and bad business decisions.

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just-polished presentation to schools, other libraries, nursing homes, senior centers, you name it.

He grew up here as a lover of history and the West, from Cody to Roy Rogers. Last year, he took the reins of his knowledge of the past and his contemporary musical and vocal talent and began merging fact, folklore and folk songs that he could link to Cody's high-profile life.

That life included stints as a Pony Express rider, a scout

in the Civil War, and a buffalo hunter to feed the Kansas Pacific Railroad workers.

That last effort duly earned him his nickname.

In Clark's library performance, stories flowed like good whiskey — a bottle of Coke mixed with lemon juice masquerading as old-style Buffalo Trace liquor sat on a nearby table — for the character who was indeed a character.

His sold-out exhibitions worldwide unfolded before

“presidents and popes and potentates and princes,” as Cody described his audiences.

Clark used a modern electric keyboard resting in an old, wooden, piano frame he built for the show to perform songs such as “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which Cody always used to open his exhibitions, and “Buffalo Skinners” with a distinct, Indian rhythm.

Near the end of the show, Cody, long known as a supporter of Indian tribes, called the modern, 80 percent unem-

ployment rate at the sprawling Pine Ridge (S.D.) Reservation “a real shame.”

Clark's audience, from schoolchildren to grandparents, seemed to feel equal measures of Cody's pain and pride.

Christa Sturgeon brought elementary school daughter Ashley, who had just done a school report on Sacagawea, a guide for explorers Lewis and Clark.

“So I thought this would be kind of interesting for her,

being at least sort of close to the same era,” said Christa. “I'm really glad we came. We thought it was very entertaining.”

Third-grader Joshua Clendenen said he had heard of Cody from his school social studies classes.

“I really liked the songs and the jokes,” said Clendenen.

Jim Darnell arrived fairly acquainted with Cody.

“I'm a history buff who has seen a lot about him on the

History Channel,” said Darnell. “But I still learned a lot. He really personified him.”

So Buffalo Bill rides again, with Clark taking aim at his subject as carefully as Cody aimed at bison with his 1866 Springfield rifle.

“When that 50-caliber spoke,” said Cody, “those buffalo listened.”

Eventually, so, too, did the rest of the world. And Clark stands determined that the man's shots and stories will echo for years to come.