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**TODAY'S VERSE**

Isaiah 40:31 *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Amanda Ellenberger (who was one of *The Paper's* roving photographer's elementary teachers) smiled brightly at her former student. Thanks for the smile, and the many lessons!

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton's 104th monthly meeting with the public is scheduled for this afternoon from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the city building, 300 E. Pike St. This will be the last community forum for 2021. Barton told citizens he would have these monthly meetings when he first ran for mayor. This is the 10th year, with the only months missed were from March of 2020 through July of 2021 because of the pandemic.

**2** Want to do something that might save someone's life? Then head over to Waveland on Jan. 7 and donate blood. The Waveland Library, located at 115 E. Green St. in Waveland, has a blood drive scheduled from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. that day in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Contact the library for more details at (765) 435-2700 or e-mail them at [director@waveland.lin.in.us](mailto:director@waveland.lin.in.us)

**3** It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, especially at the home of the appropriately named Gay family, of Lagrangeville, N.Y., says the Association of Mature American Citizens. The Gays topped the Guinness World Record for the most lights on a residential property the first time in 2012 bright-lighting their neighborhood with 346,283 multi-colored Christmas lights. They did it again with a 601,736 bulb display in 2014 and this year they called Guinness in once more to show off their 2021 Christmas display that lights up their quarter of their community with no less than 687,000 holiday lights.

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**BTN**

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!



**16** Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF) presented 16 grants to local nonprofit agencies Thursday afternoon at Fusion 54. MCCF Chief Executive Officer, Kelly Taylor welcomed everyone and thanked the nonprofit leaders for their leadership this past year as the pandemic lingered. The grants fell into these areas of interest, Early Childhood Education, Education, Health, History, Arts & Culture, Human Services, and Youth.



Vermillion, Vigo and Warren counties. The IACC is represented by six districts in the state.

**6** Montgomery County Commissioner John Frey was elected by his peers to be the President of the Indiana Association of County Commissioners West Central District during their annual conference last week. As district president, Frey will represent the elected county commissioners in Boone, Clay, Clinton, Fountain, Hendricks, Montgomery, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Tippecanoe,

**U.S. 231**

Drivers who normally take 231 through Crawfordsville will have to find an alternate route for a few days.



Beginning today at 8 a.m., the Indiana Department of Transportation will close Washington Street / U.S. 231 at the railroad tracks. CSX Railroad will be on hand to make repairs. The closure should last until Friday at noon.

A detour will be set up that follows U.S. 231 south to east on Wabash Avenue, and then south on Mill Street and west on South Boulevard and back to U.S. 231. Traffic traveling in the opposite direction will use the same detour in reverse.

Wabash College's gain is the Chamber of Commerce's loss. Cassie Hagan, the most recent executive director for the Crawfordsville Chamber, will be the new Director of Professional Development and Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship effective Jan. 3. This is Hagan's second stint at Wabash. She previously served as Associate Director of Career Services.



**1-3**

**\$20,000** Valero's Linden Ethanol Plant distributed a total of \$20,000 to charities in Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties from money raised through the Valero Texas Open and Valero Benefit for Children. The 2021 Valero Benefit for Children local recipients included the Boys and Girls Club of Montgomery County, Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau, Food Finders Food Bank Backpack Program and Helping Challenged Children.

**1,150,899** According to the Indiana State Department of Health on Friday, that's how many Hoosiers have been diagnosed with the virus.

**7,397** Number of COVID-19 cases found so far in Montgomery County, according to the State Health Department.

**49,748,387** According to the CDC, that's how many Americans have been diagnosed with the virus.

**17,400** How many Hoosiers have died because of this pandemic.

**123** How many people in Montgomery County who have lost their lives to the pandemic.

**793,937** How many Americans have lost their lives to the pandemic

**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 8:02 a.m.  
SET: 5:23 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 51 °F  
Low: 32 °F



**Wacky Holiday Today**  
• Green Monday  
• National Violin Day



**What Happened On This Day**  
• 2003 Saddam Hussein Captured  
• 1972 Last human landing on the Moon



**Births On This Day**  
• 1989 Taylor Swift  
American singer-songwriter  
• 1818 Mary Todd Lincoln  
Wife of Abraham Lincoln

**Deaths On This Day**  
• 2010 Richard Holbrooke  
American journalist  
• 2005 Stanley Williams  
American gang leader

**HONEST HOOSIER**

Christmas is a week and five days away. One of my favorite memories is listening to Christmas carols on the streets around downtown.



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

CEL&P.....A1  
Public Notices.....A4  
Classifieds.....A3  
Belton.....A2

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

If you feel overwhelmed, write down your to-do list and prioritize it. Simplify large tasks into smaller ones. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in *The Paper* and online at [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Detour today!**

Don't forget that U.S. 231 in Crawfordsville is closed until Friday at noon. At 8 a.m. this morning, the Indiana Department of Transportation was scheduled to close Washington Street / U.S. 231 at the railroad tracks. CSX Railroad will be on hand to make repairs. A detour will be set up that follows U.S. 231 south to east on Wabash Avenue, and then south on Mill Street and west on South Boulevard and back to U.S. 231. Traffic traveling in the opposite direction will use the same detour in reverse.

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling."  
Edna Ferber

**TODAY'S JOKE**

Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?  
Their days are numbered!

**OBITUARIES**

NONE



8 51246 00100 5

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank John Edie of Crawfordsville for subscribing!



**7 DAY FORECAST**

32/51 SUNNY MON	34/53 PARTLY SUNNY TUE	51/63 WARMER, SPOTTY SHOWERS WED	61/64 RAIN STORM LIGHT, FALLING TEMPS THU	31/47 COOLER FRI	32/38 CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS, BLUSTERY SAT	20/38 CHILLY SUN
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## Fifty shades to look through and fifty shades to choose from



Carrie Classon  
Columnist

### Want MORE?

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn: A Memoir About Loss, Letting Go, & What Happens Next" is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other fine stores. Learn more at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).

My husband, Peter, is a man of few colors—black and gray, to be exact.

He has always been this way, as far as I know. Peter is not opposed to color, but I think it makes him a little nervous. He worries that one color might not go with another or that there might be too much color in one place—especially if that one place is on him.

So he goes the other route and opts for no color at all—unless you call 50 shades of gray a color, which I don't.

We've been remodeling our house lately. It had been freshly painted when we bought it: The walls were a pale gray, which I didn't mind, and which immediately put Peter at ease. Our living room furniture predates our marriage and belonged to Peter before I met him, so it is black. Lately, I've been adding some color. Peter has been quite tolerant—but he does have his office, which is also the guest room, in which he can take refuge.

The carpeting in his office is gray, and he bought new office furniture in black. Then he bought a gray couch which turns into a guest bed. Finally, to complete the look, he hung a beautiful Ansel Adams print on the wall and it is, naturally, black and white.

Now, when I go looking for Peter in the evenings, he is dressed in a black sweater and gray jeans, sitting in his black chair in his gray room.

In low light, he can be difficult to locate. But I know this is calming to him, and I'm not complaining. I just call out to him until he answers.

Color affects us all differently. I didn't used to be a person who wore a lot of color. For a while, I worked in business and traveled a lot, and I heard it was a good idea,

when traveling, to wear black so everything would match and stains wouldn't show. I took the advice to heart and had a closet full of black suits and black shoes that I would wear under a black trench coat as I made my way to the airport with my black briefcase and black luggage. I didn't worry about matching or stains in my monochromatic get-up, but after a while, it became rather dull.

When I left business, I decided to leave black clothing behind, and I started wearing colors. For a while, I refused to wear anything black. I've softened my stance with time and now occasionally wear black, but I still like a pop of color.

I like bright blues and greens and the occasional deep yellow. I like reds if they are not too orange, and deep pinks and fuchsia. I always have flowers on my desk, and sometimes just looking at the colors is enough to remind me that my mood is unreasonably dark, or that I am forgetting all the reasons I have to smile.

This is the time of year when color is more important than ever. We go out of our way to bring color and light into our homes to contrast the gray of outdoors, to brighten the shorter days. I've got some fairy lights and red branches to brighten up the balcony, I'm making plans to decorate a tree, and am thinking of putting something colorful and cheerful on the front door.

I've told Peter all about all of this, of course, and he is agreeable—as long as he has his gray room to retire to.

Till next time,  
Carrie

*Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each Wednesday.*

## Salvation Army kicks off five-day Angel Tree distribution

Monday marks the first of five distribution days for The Salvation Army's expansive Angel Tree program, which will serve around 5,000 children from across Central Indiana this Christmas.

Distribution week is split between two Salvation Army locations and will once again feature a drive-thru model. Introduced in 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, system allows families picking up gifts to remain in their vehicles while volunteers in retrieve each Angel's bag from inside and load them into the waiting vehicles.

The Salvation Army is also in the process of delivering hundreds of filled Angel Tree bags to agencies across Central Indiana. These agencies will then ensure the safe delivery of all gifts to families before Christmas.

- December 13, 14, & 17:

Location -The Salvation Army Fountain Square Corps Community Center, 1337 Shelby Street, Indianapolis IN 46203

Time - Angel Tree families arrive at scheduled appointment times between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

- December 15 & 16:

Location - The Salvation



Army Eagle Creek Corps Community Center, 4400 N. High School Road, Indianapolis IN

Time - Angel Tree families arrive at scheduled appointment times between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Families must financially qualify for the Angel Tree program. Back in October, The Salvation Army sat down with parents to determine their child's Christmas wishes and create a list of needs, like diapers, winter clothing, or shoes. Angels were then made available for "adoption" online by donors. Angel Tree tags hanging of special trees at local malls, select Walmart stores, and at the Indiana Historical Society's Festival of Trees featured Angel tags with easily scanned QR codes to quickly connect donors with lists of Angels to adopt.

Many local companies, churches, and other



Photo courtesy of The Salvation Army

**All returned gifts from The Salvation Army's Angel Tree donors have undergone extensive quality checks by volunteers and are now ready to go home and make Christmas special for 5,000 local children.**

organizations also gave back to the community by adopting large numbers of Angels. The top adopter for 2021 was MavPak, which adopted and shopped for 500 Angels. More than half of the Angels available this year were adopted by organizations excited for an opportunity to make Christmas special for local children in need.

All returned gifts from The Salvation Army's Angel Tree donors have undergone extensive quality checks by volunteers and are now ready to go home and make Christmas special for 5,000 local children. Volunteers also helped to shop for "Forgotten Angels" whose bags were never returned. Thanks to cash donations to the Angel Tree program, toys donated by the Circle City Toy Run and Pacers, and books and

clothing given by additional donors, every Angel will have gifts under the tree on Christmas morning.

It takes thousands of donors and volunteers to make Angel Tree possible. There is still time to sign up and volunteer. Just visit [SalvationArmyIndiana.org/AngelTree](http://SalvationArmyIndiana.org/AngelTree) for more information.

The Salvation Army annually helps more than 23 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction and economic hardships through a range of social services. By providing food for the hungry, emergency relief for disaster survivors, rehabilitation for those suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, and clothing and shelter for people in need, The Salvation Army is doing the most good at 7,600 centers of operations around the country.

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# Learning more about GERD and its complications – part 2

I left you hanging last week wondering about the treatment of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD). First, a quick review. Recall that acid from the stomach (gastro) is found in the tube that connects the mouth and stomach (esophagus) and goes in a backward direction (reflux).

When I see someone complaining of GERD symptoms in my office I review my patient's history to try and identify any risk factors for GERD such as decreased tone of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES), loss of normal muscular function of the esophagus, excess production of stomach acid, delayed emptying of the stomach and overeating. Fatty or fried foods, coffee, tea, caffeinated drinks, chocolate and mint are all foods that can cause or worsen GERD. Alcohol and cigarette smoking are also risk factors.

Many patients immediately request medication to help control the symptoms rather than try to control the underlying cause(s) of the GERD. Direct-to-consumer advertising has been extremely effective in selling medications to treat this common problem. If you ask any medical insurance company what it's largest drug expense is, it's often a class of medications called PPIs or Proton Pump Inhibitors (more below).

Simple lifestyle modifi-

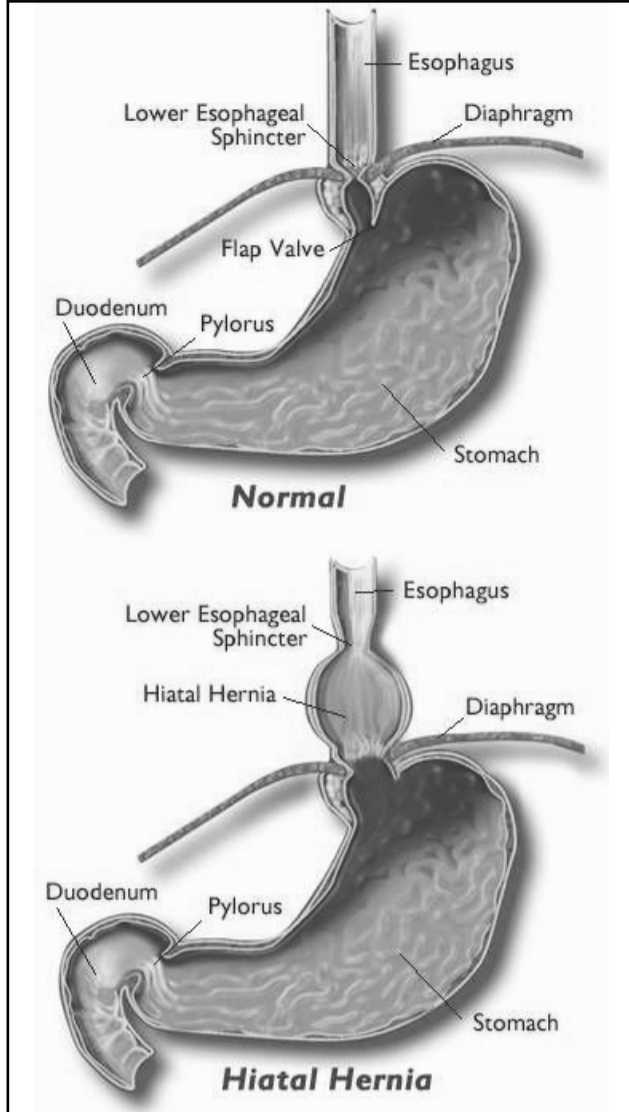


**JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.**  
Montgomery Medicine

cations are the foundation of treatment for GERD. Weight reduction is a primary goal. This can usually be accomplished by reducing fat in the diet and stressing the importance of not eating large, fatty meals just before bedtime. Avoiding tight fitting clothing, reducing alcohol consumption, and smoking cessation are also important.

For people who wake up at night with reflux symptoms, I recommend raising the head legs of the bed. The easiest way to do this is to either buy commercial plastic bed risers, cut a 4X4 post into blocks, or nail two 2x4s together. Many people tell me they raise their head by sleeping on a number of pillows but this bends the body at the waist and can increase pressure in the abdomen leading to worsened reflux.

Medications may be needed for those who don't respond to lifestyle modifications. Patients' response



to the treatment of heartburn, the most common symptom of GERD, is much less predictable than treatment for esophagitis that I wrote about last week. Patients may or may not respond to medications and may need to try different medications from

various classes to find one that may work for them.

The oldest medications on the market are called histamine antagonists. They block the release of histamine that leads to stomach acid production. The most common ones available include Tagamet

(cimetidine), and Pepcid (famotidine). They are available over the counter and are effective for most people.

The newest class of anti-GERD medications are the Proton Pump Inhibitors or PPIs. These are extremely powerful blockers of acid production. Names that most people recognize (due to very successful marketing) include: Prilosec®, Protonix®, Aciphex®, Nexium®, Zegerid®, Dexilant® and Prevacid®. Why so many? Because they make pharmaceutical companies wheelbarrows of money.

These medications are safe and effective for short-term use, but are associated with a slight increased risk of hip fractures in those over age 50, probably due to reducing absorption of calcium in the gut. Many people take PPIs for years thinking they need them because their symptoms return when they stop them. Most of these people suffer from "rebound" reflux. Some call this an "addiction" to PPIs. Once the initial symptoms of GERD are controlled, often they can be controlled with medications that are not as powerful as PPIs. Ask your doctor about ways to try stopping PPIs if you've been on them more than a few months.

I get a lot of questions about the "two week warning" found on boxes of

GERD medication. It advises people to contact their physician if they have to use the medication longer than two weeks to control their symptoms. This is an important reminder for people to come in and discuss risk factors and develop a game plan to manage their GERD. It's also important to see a doctor to assess your risk for other more serious complications of GERD that I discussed last week.

The treatment of last resort is surgery. The laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication is the most commonly performed procedure. This involves using minimally invasive endoscopic surgery to take the top portion of the stomach and wrap it around the bottom of the esophagus to act as a valve to keep stomach acid from refluxing. It's very important to see a gastroenterologist and/or surgeon who is very familiar with the procedure to make sure you are a candidate. A newer procedure called the EsophyX TIF allows reconstruction of the lower esophageal sphincter via an endoscope passed through the mouth into the esophagus.

*Dr. John Roberts is a member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine as well as the Deputy County Health Officer in Montgomery County.*

## American Red Cross deploys volunteers to Kentucky to assist with recovery efforts after tornado

The Indiana Region of the American Red Cross is deploying three volunteers to Mayfield, Ky. to assist with recovery efforts after deadly tornadoes went through the town Friday night.

The volunteers will assist with mental health services, feeding assistance, and deployment support. More volunteers may deploy from the Indiana Region in the coming days as Red Cross teams continue to identify needs across the affected regions. How to help:



**American Red Cross**

Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), call 800-RED-CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donations enable the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from these disasters. This includes providing food, shelter, relief supplies, emotional support and other assis-

tance. Eligible blood donors in parts of the country unaffected by the storm are encouraged to give blood to help ensure a sufficient blood supply. Through our national inventory system, the Red Cross can move blood around the country to wherever and whenever it is needed most.

Red Cross continues to search for disaster action team (DAT) volunteers. As a DAT volunteer, you'll provide emotional support, financial assistance, and information to help families begin the process of recovery. Volunteers will be trained to respond to these emergencies. Those interested in volunteering can sign up at [redcross.org/dat](http://redcross.org/dat).

About the Indiana Region of the American Red Cross: The Indiana Region serves 104 counties across Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky,

and Illinois through its six-chapter areas: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Greater Indianapolis (Regional Headquarters). For more information on the Indiana Region: [www.redcross.org/indiana](http://www.redcross.org/indiana). Follow the Indiana Region on Twitter at: @INRedCross, on Instagram at: @indianaredcross or [www.facebook.com/INRedCross](http://www.facebook.com/INRedCross).

About the American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotion-

al support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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# 2021 Ford F-150 Raptor is not made with Paris in mind

Two of my dearest friends came to visit from Paris this week. One of them was a marketing manager for Peugeot Citroen in Paris for years, so when he saw the redesigned Ford F-150 Raptor, he clearly knew he wasn't in France anymore. But, he was impressed with all

of the changes made to Ford's big bad desert runner (and to more rational F-150s) for 2021. Think of it as a brute that's spent some time in finishing school.

Neither Peugeot nor Citroen ever built a clawed beast like this. I mean, look at its jacked up

ground clearance, wide black grille with FORD in block letters, and giant finned air extractor in the hood. Military grade aluminum panels are protected by ample black plastic around the wheels, across the rear, and wedged between the front fenders and doors. The long four-door

Crew Cab body promises an expansive cabin and looks especially fetching in orange paint with black decals. Nobody could miss seeing it on hunting grounds – or your favorite stomping grounds.

Big changes include the F-150's new widescreen infotainment system, flatscreen gauges, and B&O audio system. Deeply bolstered sport seats are supportive and comfortable with suede/leather upholstery and heat/ventilation up front. A thick heated leather-wrapped steering wheel, dual-zone automatic climate control, and carbon fiber package further dress the cabin. Power-stow the gear selector, flip open the center work surface, plug into the household outlet, and connect to 4G Wi-Fi to work on the go. Providing wake around this ship are adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, 360-degree camera, lane keep assist, and rear cross path detection.

In context of fuel-efficient French compacts, the Raptor's powertrain is comical...but seri-

### 2021 Ford F-150 Raptor

5-passengers, 4WD Pickup  
Powertrain: 3.5-L TTV8, 10-spd  
Output: 450 hp/510 lb.-ft.  
Suspension f/r: Elect Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 17"/17" alloy  
Brakes f/r: disc/disc  
Must-have features: Style, Capability  
Fuel economy: 15/18-MPG city/hwy  
Assembly: Dearborn, MI  
Base/as-tested price: \$64,145/78,545



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Auto Reviews

ous. Nestled beneath the snarling hood is a 3.5-liter twin-turbo V6 bellowing 450 horsepower and 510 lb.-ft. of torque, routed to the four-wheel-drive system through a 10-speed automatic transmission. Feel free to configure the Terrain Management System for modes like Slippery, Sport, Tow/Haul, and Baja. Fuel economy, of course, is horrendous at 15/18-MPG city/highway. The new V8 option for 2022 is sure to make it even more disgusting. Sounds good to me.

More than deep lungs, a bird of prey needs tools to kill. This one rides with a five-link rear suspension and protects its delicate bits with skid plates. Active shock damping provides a comfortable pavement ride and can transform to knock the clips off of rough trails. Off-road tires cuddling 17" wheels are a

soft cushion no matter the driving surface. Especially on city streets, the truck's size is apparent, but it turns sharp and is bolstered by a full array of cameras and lane keeping tech. It doesn't even fit in American parking spaces well, but it's not difficult to drive...provided you aren't smashing up Renaults on the side streets in Paris.

As you could have guessed, the sticker price is more appropriate for a Lincoln than Peugeot. Raptors start at \$64,145, but came to a desert-churning \$78,545 as tested. Competitors include the equally angry Chevy Silverado ZR2 and Ram TRX.

*Storm Forward!*

Send comments to Casey at [AutoCasey@aol.com](mailto:AutoCasey@aol.com); follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

*We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy & blessed New Year!*

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