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**TODAY'S VERSE**

John 8:32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Kelvin Smith and Justin Rexing smiled happily last month while hanging art at Joshua Cup for the Crawfordsville Art Walk. Great job fellas!

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** It's the season for gift giving. So if you want to give the gift that might save someone's life go 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)

**2** Speaking of around the county, have you driven over to Waynetown's Tremaine Park to look at the Christmas lights yet? We hear that the good folks in western Montgomery County have outdone themselves once again. If you can't make it tonight, no worries. You've got until Dec. 30 - and best of all, there is no admission fee! Just drive through and enjoy!

**3** There's good news and bad news. The bad? Effective Jan. 1, three Indiana county income tax rates are going up. The good? It's not Montgomery! Cass County, Madison County and Randolph counties are the three impacted, according to the Indiana Department of Revenue. These tax rates affect businesses with employees who live or work in any of those counties and have income tax withholdings. For Indiana residents on Jan. 1, 2022, county tax rates for individuals are based on the employee's Indiana county of residence on that date. For individuals who are not Indiana residents on Jan. 1, 2022, county tax rates are based on the individual's county of principal business or employment on Jan. 1.

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper **50¢**

**CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA** [WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM](http://WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM)

**Southmont Crop State winning team**

The Southmont FFA senior crops judging team placed 1st at the State Crops Contest at Purdue on Saturday December 11, 2021 giving the school its 32nd state title in crops judging. There were 49 teams and 192 individuals in the contest. The first place team members were Cole Rhoads, Levi Brush, Kylee Reeves, and Gabriel Little. Southmont also had the third place team in the state. The third place team members were: Kelsey Thompson, Caden Sixberry, Jenna Bushong, and Caden Allen. Naomi Plunkett also competed.

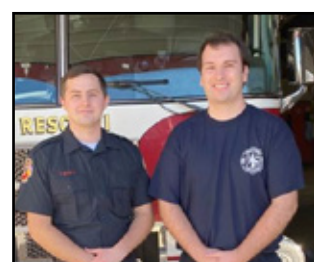


Photo courtesy of Southmont

Front to Back, Left to Right; Front: Daniel Simpson, Lennon Woods, Harmony Norton and Hunter Thompson; Middle: Helen Butcher, Trent Reeves, Kylee Reeves, Naomi Plunkett, Natalie Rhoads and Ethan Smith; Back: Caden Allen, Levi Brush, Kelsey Thompson, Gabriel Little, Cole Rhoads, Caden Sixberry and Jenna Bushong

➔ See CROP Page A5

**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!



The Crawfordsville Fire Department (CFD) is pleased to announce the addition of two new hires, Gage Corbett and Timothy Blye to the department this week. Blye is a 2017 Jefferson High School graduate from Lafayette, Ind. and Corbett is a 2017 Elwood Jr./Sr. Highschool graduate from Elwood, Ind.

**2** graduate from Lafayette, Ind. and Corbett is a 2017 Elwood Jr./Sr. Highschool graduate from Elwood, Ind.

**50th** Southmont Schools is continuing a year-long celebration of its 50th Anniversary with a Winter Reunion on Saturday, Jan. 22 at Southmont High School from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**1,181,554** According to the Indiana State Department of Health on Friday, that's how many Hoosiers have been diagnosed with the virus.

**7,645** Number of COVID-19 cases found so far in Montgomery County, according to the State Health Department.

**50,636,126** According to the CDC, that's how many Americans have been diagnosed with the virus.

**17,757** How many Hoosiers have died because of this pandemic.

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

**802,969** How many Americans have lost their lives to the pandemic

**HONEST HOOSIER**

Christmas is five days away. One of my favorite memories is knowing after I opened the underwear, socks and PJs that there were toys waiting!



**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).



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



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

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

**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Government offices closing**  
Need to do business with the city or county government offices? Do it quickly because the good folks in those offices will close on Friday for Christmas Eve and will remain closed on Monday.

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Your children need your presence more than your presents."  
Jesse Jackson

**TODAY'S JOKE**

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?  
A mince spy!

**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 8:06 a.m.  
SET: 5:26 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 43 °F  
Low: 27 °F



**Wacky Holiday Today**

- Dot Your I's Day
- Sacagawea Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 2007 Queen Elizabeth becomes the longest-living British monarch
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase completed



**Births On This Day**

- 1976 Aubrey Huff American baseball player
- 1868 Harvey Firestone American businessman

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1996 Carl Sagan American astronomer
- 1968 John Steinbeck American author

**13 WTHR** **7 DAY FORECAST**

27/43 SUNNY AND DRY MON	26/44 SUNNY AND DRY TUE	25/37 SUNNY AND CHILLY WED	26/47 WARMER THU	36/56 SHOWER CHANCE, MILD FRI	56/63 MILD AND WINDY SAT	39/42 BREEZY SUN
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## A Christmas tree that was truly worth the struggle waiting for



**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).

Yesterday I bought a Christmas tree at the hardware store. I thought it was a good day to do it both because I'd heard the rumors of Christmas tree shortages and because it would keep me away from my email for more than an hour—a near record in the last two weeks.

No one tells you, when you start writing, that it involves a lot of waiting. I have sent the manuscript of my first novel off to someone, and it feels as if 30 minutes or so should be plenty of time to read 300 pages. It doesn't seem to work that way. So I'm waiting and, while I do, I'm remembering all the times in the past when I have waited.

Life used to involve a lot more waiting. I waited for long-distance phone calls (isn't that a funny expression?) and letters (who gets those anymore?) and for people to arrive by car before they could call to say they were just around the corner.

I remember going to the mailbox more than once in a day, thinking the mail must surely have arrived before it actually did. I remember opening an empty mailbox, looking down the street for the mail truck, not seeing it, and heading back to the house to wait another hour.

Now, I am watching my email with a familiar obsessiveness and, once again, I am remembering that waiting is not fun.

Of course, incurable optimist that I am, I try to reframe it.

"Aren't I lucky to have something exciting to wait for?" I ask myself, as if I were an impatient four-year-old waiting for a marshmallow. My inner four-year-old is not fooled. I may not get a marshmallow, and I know it.

"Isn't waiting just a form of happy anticipation?" I ask myself cheerfully, willfully denying the gut-twist-

ing, sleep-defying effect the waiting has on me. My gut knows better. There is nothing pleasant about this.

So far, my attempts to make waiting fun have failed. So far, the best I can come up with is that it's better than the alternative.

We wait for births and special visits and big changes and holidays and news, both good and bad. Waiting is the bridge between then and now, between now and what happens next. Waiting is essential and, as painful as it is, it would be a very dull life if there was nothing worth waiting for.

So, I am waiting. Advent is the season of waiting, so at least my waiting seems seasonal. I decided not to drive to the hardware store, but wheeled my cart there, picked out a handsome little tree, strapped it into my cart and headed home.

I got a few surprised looks. I hadn't realized it was unusual to wheel a Christmas tree home. And while I was wheeling, a funny thing happened: I wasn't thinking about my wait at all.

I was thinking about the challenges of keeping my cart rolling in a straight line with a Christmas tree sitting catawampus in it. I was thinking of what a beautiful day it was and what a lovely tree I had found and how kind they had been at the hardware store and, most surprisingly of all, I was thinking of things I'd like to work on—other things I'd like to write.

And I realized that when this wait has ended, no matter what happens, life will still be filled with wonderful things worth waiting for.

Then I hit a bump and had to concentrate on my Christmas tree again.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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

## USDA assists local farmers, ranchers, and communities affected by recent tornadoes



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that assistance is available for communities and agricultural producers affected by the tornadoes that tore through Kentucky and five other states over the weekend.

"The devastation these tornadoes brought to our heartland, the lives they took, and the communities and livelihoods impacted are hard to measure," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "As recovery efforts continue, I want everyone affected to know that USDA is there to help, and we will deploy all resources at our disposal to help families, communities and agricultural producers rebuild their operations – for as long as it takes."

**Food safety guidance:**  
USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is helping affected residents take steps to reduce their risk of foodborne illness as they return to their homes after severe weather.

- Drink only bottled water that has not been in contact with contaminated water. Screw caps are not waterproof, so discard any bottled water that may have come in contact with contaminated water. If you don't have bottled water, learn how to safely boil or disinfect water at FSIS Consumer's Guide to Food Safety: Severe Storms and Hurricanes webpage.

- Discard any food or beverage that is not in a watertight container if there is any chance it may have been in contact with contaminated water. Containers with screw caps, snap lids, pull tops and crimped caps are not waterproof.

- Do not consume food from dented cans. Undamaged, commercially prepared foods in all-metal cans and retort pouches such as flexible, shelf-stable

juice or seafood pouches, can be saved by following the steps at the FSIS Consumer's Guide to Food Safety: Severe Storms and Hurricanes webpage.

- Thoroughly wash all metal pans, utensils and ceramic dishes that came in contact with contaminated water with hot soapy water. Rinse, then sanitize, by boiling them in clean water or by immersing them for 15 minutes in a solution of one of tablespoon unscented, liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of drinking water.

- Discard wooden cutting boards, plastic utensils, baby bottle nipples and pacifiers that may have come in contact with contaminated water – they cannot be saved.

Risk management and disaster assistance for agricultural operations:

USDA offers several risk management and disaster assistance options to help producers recover after disasters like tornadoes.

Even before disasters strike, USDA provides tools for producers to manage their risk through the Federal Crop Insurance Program, a public-private partnership between USDA's Risk Management Agency and private companies and agents. For crops that do not have crop insurance available, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is available through the local Farm Service Agency. This risk protection includes crop production loss and tree loss for certain crop insurance products. Producers should

reach out to their crop insurance agent or local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for more information.

Producers who suffer losses and are signed up for Federal Crop Insurance or NAP are asked to report crop damage to their crop insurance agent or local FSA office, respectively, within 72 hours of discovering damage and follow up in writing within 15 days.

Livestock and perennial crop producers often have more limited risk management options available, so there are several disaster programs for them. Key programs offered by FSA include:

- The Livestock Indemnity Program and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program reimburses producers for a portion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals that were killed or severely injured by a natural disaster or loss of feed and grazing acres.

- The Tree Assistance Program provides cost share assistance to rehabilitate or replant orchards and vineyards when storms kill or damage the trees, vines or bushes. NAP or Federal Crop Insurance often only covers the crop and not the plant.

- The Emergency Conservation Program and Emergency Forest Restoration Program can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore damaged farmland or forests.

It is also critical that producers keep accurate records to document damage or loss and to report losses to their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible.

Additionally, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide financial resources

through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources. NRCS can also assist local government sponsors with the cost of recovery efforts like debris removal and streambank stabilization to address natural resource concerns and hazards through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet (PDF, 1.5 MB) and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent. For FSA and NRCS programs, they should contact their local USDA Service Center.

Helping with the long-term recovery of rural communities:

USDA Rural Development has more than 50 programs available to rural and tribal communities for the repair and modernization of rural infrastructure including drinking and waste water systems, solid waste management, electric infrastructure, and essential community facilities such as public safety stations, health care centers and hospitals, and educational facilities. Visit the USDA Rural Development Disaster Assistance page for more information.

Through USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture investments, additional disaster preparedness and recovery education materials are available from the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) or your local Cooperative Extension Service office.

## 100+ stakeholders in IDEM's first Recycling Roundtable Discussion

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) hosted the first of its virtual Recycling Roundtable Discussions on Dec. 8, 2021, bringing in over 100 participants. The purpose of the discussions is to address the importance of developing public-private partnerships and to leverage different stakeholders' areas of expertise and resources. Recycling Roundtable Discussions will occur quarterly in 2022, beginning in March.

In attendance were representatives from solid waste management districts, solid waste haulers, municipalities, recyclers, manufacturers, composters,

education institutions, environmental contractors, and industry groups. Presentations included examples of successful partnerships that reduce waste and increase diversion and recovery of materials for recycling, including:

- Jackson County Recycling District's work with Rumpke Waste & Recycling.

- Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District's work with Cummins, Inc.

- Michigan's NextCycle Program, an accelerator program from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) that leverages

public and private technical assistance and investment in Michigan's recycling and waste recovery system.

"We are so pleased to have had such great attendance at this first discussion. IDEM is thrilled to bring recycling stakeholders from across the state together to work toward our common goal to reduce waste and increase recycling to promote a circular economy," said Assistant Commissioner for IDEM's Office of Program Support Julia Wickard. "The momentum to improve recycling systems and create a thriving circular economy, both on a national and state-wide

level, is stronger than ever!"

To access a recording of the meeting please visit [Recycle.IN.gov](http://Recycle.IN.gov). To register for notifications of future meetings, please visit [public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDEM/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=INDEM\\_104](http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDEM/subscriber/new?topic_id=INDEM_104).

About IDEM  
IDEM (idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and our environment.

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May 2022 be as bright and prosperous!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Dave, Haley, Kim, Lisa, Paula

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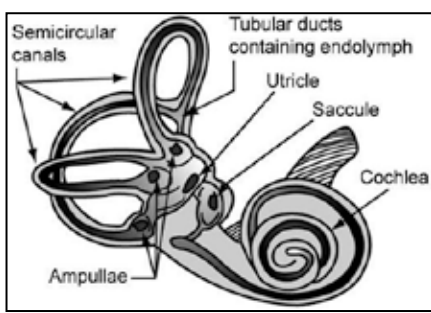
# Heads are spinning and people are starting to ask why

This week I want to address a specific variant of a condition that I've been seeing a lot of lately – dizziness. Primary Care doctors in the U.S. see about six million patients a year who complain of “dizziness.” Dizziness means different things to different people and can be a symptom of many different medical conditions. People use “dizzy” as a universal term to describe feeling faint, lightheaded, or a spinning sensation (either themselves or the world around them). This latter sensation



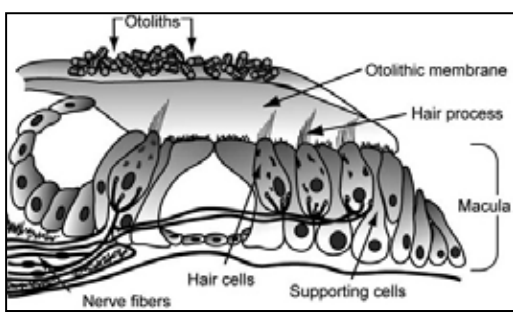
**JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.**  
Montgomery Medicine

is called vertigo, from the Latin *vertere* meaning “to turn.”



The most common cause of vertigo is benign paroxysmal positional vertigo or BPPV. Benign means the condition is not dangerous, paroxysmal indicates it occurs in a recurring pattern, and positional refers to

the vertigo typically being brought on by changes in position. I have to crack open the anatomy and physiology books to explain the cause of BPPV. Hopefully, some of you recall the vestibular



apparatus from junior high science class. It is the organ that allows us to maintain our balance and is found in the inner ear. This is a truly remarkable and complex organ. I've included a diagram to help you visualize what I'm describing.

We have a vestibular apparatus on each side of our heads. These organs, along with input from our eyes, are constantly monitoring the position of our heads in space in relation to motion and gravity. If one or both of them gives faulty or conflicting information to our brains, we can lose our sense of orientation in space.

The three semicircular canals are a key part of the vestibular apparatus and are oriented at 90 degree angles to one other. They are filled with a fluid called endolymph. When we move our heads, the fluid shifts to varying degrees inside each of the three canals, allowing us to detect motion in three different planes (head turning, nodding up-and-down, and moving forward or backward). Movement of the endolymph acts on a piece of tissue called the otolithic membrane that resides in two other parts of the vestibular system called the utricle and saccule.

The membrane sits on top of tiny hairs protruding from nerve cells that communicate with the brain. When the membrane moves, it wiggles the hair cells that in turn fire off nerve impulses, telling the brain which direction the head is moving.

Resting on top of the otolithic membrane are tiny crystals made of calcium called otoliths. These crys-

tals provide some weight on top of the membrane allowing it to stimulate the nerve cells more easily. Now that you're an expert in some inner ear anatomy and physiology, what does any of that have to do with BPPV? The cause of BPPV is a problem with the otoliths – they get dislodged from their position on top of the otolithic membrane and move into the semicircular canals. The displaced crystals move in the canals tricking your brain into thinking your head is moving. This results in the sensation of vertigo. Tilting the head, rolling over in bed, getting out of a bed or chair, looking up or down, or sudden head motion can all cause vertigo associated with BPPV.

A good patient history is usually suggestive of BPPV. There is also a simple movement test called the Dix-Hallpike maneuver that can be performed in the office to determine if one of the vestibular canals is at fault. You can see a video demonstration here: [goo.gl/HcNIDY](http://goo.gl/HcNIDY).

Most cases of BPPV resolve on their own when the otoliths move out of the semicircular canal. Sometimes medications like meclizine (Antivert®) or scopolamine are given to dull the severity of the vertigo.

For those cases of BPPV that don't resolve on their own, most can be treated in the office by undergoing either the Epley, Lempert, or deep head-hanging maneuvers. These involve putting the patient through a series of movements that attempt to move the otolith(s) out of the semicircular canals. Severe and refractory cases of BPPV occasionally require surgical correction.

*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.*

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<p>Smart Home Installations? Geeks on Site will install your WIFI, Doorbells, Cameras, Home Theater Systems &amp; Gaming Consoles. \$20 OFF coupon 42537! (Restrictions apply) 855-668-0067</p>	<p>LIVE PAIN FREE with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape &amp; more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105</p>	<p>HEARING AIDS!! Buy one/get one FREE!! High-quality rechargeable Nano hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Nearly invisible! 45 day money back guarantee! 844-932-3007</p>	<p>Attention: Oxygen Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 866-770-6849</p>	<p>New Starting Base Pay - .50 cpm w/ option to make .60 cpm for Class A CDL Flatted Drivers, Excellent Benefits, Home Weekends, Call 800-648-9915 or <a href="http://www.boydandsons.com">www.boydandsons.com</a></p>	<p>DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY! FAST FREE PICK-UP-24 HR RESPONSE! Help Children in Need, Support Breast Cancer Education/Prevention or Veterans. Tax Deduction 844-820-9099</p>
<p>DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. NO Obligation, NO risk! We've recovered millions. Let us help you!! Call 24/7, 844-284-4920</p>	<p>Looking to SELL your Home? Save time &amp; money, connect with the Top Agents in your area to get more MONEY and close FASTER! Call 317-854-9781</p>	<p>Wesley Financial Group, LLC - Timeshare Cancellation Experts - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207</p>	<p>Moving out of state in the next 30-60 days? Don't get taken for a ride! Moving APT offers a PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE and RISK FREE RESERVATIONS. Carriers are all licensed and bonded. Free quote! Call 1-844-875-1997</p>	<p>COMPUTER ISSUES? GEEKS ON SITE provides FREE diagnosis REMOTE-LY 24/7 SERVICE DURING COVID19. No home visit necessary. \$40 OFF with coupon 86407! Restrictions apply. 888-715-8176</p>	<p>Need Help with Family Law? Can't Afford a \$5,000 Retainer? <a href="http://www.familycourtdirect.com/Family/Law">www.familycourtdirect.com/Family/Law</a> - Low Cost Legal Services - Pay As You Go - As low as \$750-\$1,500 - Get Legal Help Now! Call 1-888-417-4602 Mon-Fri 7am to 4 pm PCT</p>
<p>Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758</p>	<p>SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414</p>	<p>Guaranteed Life Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043</p>	<p>FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Certified Professionals. Call 312-313-9840 or visit <a href="http://RefrigerantFinders.com">RefrigerantFinders.com</a></p>		



**C&F Fabricating**  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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We wish everyone a happy & healthy holiday season!  
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Thanks for all your support after 34 years!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
**CARPENTER'S BARBER SHOP**  
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(765) 362-9837

**FRENCH'S PLUMBING LLC**  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!  
Hope 2022 is a better year!  
765-376-7310

**DUTCHER TRENCHING INC.**  
From our family to yours:  
We wish you a very blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year  
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Sewer/Septic Install & Cleaning • Grease Trap Cleanout • Risers • Lift Pumps  
Rooster & High Pressure Jetting Service • 10WPA Septic Inspections • Camera Service • Locator Service  
IOWPA Certified and Licensed for the state of Indiana

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Happy Holidays from the Heathcliff Girls!

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**Moore's Jewelry & Repair**  
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"The Tire Professionals"  
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS:  
HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!  
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Hope you have a splashing Christmas

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May your season be merry & bright!  
Thanks for your support through the years!

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**Shop Small Shop Handmade**  
Happy Holidays!  
220 S. Main St • Linden • 765-339-4100

Merry Christmas to all of our family and friends!  
**The Neighborhood Café**  
205 Waynetown Road • Crawfordsville • 765-307-2250

**The Forum Family Restaurant**  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
We are open on Christmas 6 AM - 2 PM  
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Merry Christmas from all of us at T&S Trash Service  
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!  
Come see us for all of your scrap metal needs  
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Photo credit: Mercedes-Benz



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## 2022 Mercedes E450 All Terrain Wagon finally masters geography

Mercedes-Benz had a pretty crazy strategy when it introduced the jacked-up All Terrain E-Class wagon in Europe, home of fast cars and faster highways, and left cross-over-crazy America with the more boring Rodeo Drive version. I mean, hadn't they learned the basic lesson of the Subaru Outback? Americans want to look ready for adventure whether they're hitting the trails...or shopping mall. Mercedes mends its ways with the 2022 E450 All Terrain.

Styling tricks are familiar, but the canvas is not. In domestic form, the E-Class wagon is a sleek sled honed to make haste in the left lane of Germany's famed Autobahns, but All Terrain editions put on a face of industrial metallic grille, black plastic wheelwell extensions, 19" AMG alloy wheels, and dual exhaust outlets. LED headlamps and glitzy

chrome trim add style. All kinds of attachments for bikes, kayaks, skis, and other gear attach to the slim roof rails. It finally looks like a station wagon affluent Americans will appreciate.

The interior is pure Mercedes with curvy planks of authentic Grey Ash wood on the dash, doors, and center console. Heated leather front seats are the perfect thrones from which to command the dual-zone automatic climate control, panoramic sunroof, and saturating Bernster audio system. Connect devices via Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Bluetooth, and wireless charging. Power open the rear hatch to find two additional rear-facing "kid seats" in the cargo area, proving you don't need a full-size crossover for seven passengers.

Twin screens display driver info and infotainment. I am not a fan of

the touch pad in the console because I kept changing radio stations every time I grabbed my latte, but infotainment can also be commanded via touch and voice. Being a Mercedes, safety is beyond reproach. The basics like blind spot warning, rear cross path detection, and lane keep assist are covered - as are advanced systems like automatic emergency braking, lane following steering, and evasive steering assist that helps drivers execute emergency maneuvers. Very impressive.

Getting down the road will not be a problem. Beneath the sculpted hood is a turbocharged inline six-cylinder engine delivering 362 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque to the smooth shifting nine-speed automatic transmission. 4MATIC all-wheel-drive shifts power between wheels as needed, keeping the car moving through

### 2022 Mercedes-Benz E450 All-Terrain

7-passengers, AWD Wagon  
 Powertrain: 3.0-L T16, 9-spd trans  
 Output: 362hp/369 lb.-ft.  
 Suspension f/r: Air Ind/Ind  
 Wheels f/r: 19"/19"  
 Brakes f/r: disc/disc  
 Must-have features: Performance, Utility  
 Fuel economy: 21/28-MPG city/hwy  
 Assembly: Sindelfingen, Germany  
 Base/as-tested price: \$68,400/\$80,070

snow and muck. A light hybrid system and engine stop/start contribute to reasonable fuel economy ratings of 21/28-MPG city/highway. I guess nobody promised a frugal little Prius, which is good, because the E450 isn't one.

The engine is not even the best part of driving the E450. Air suspensions often feel chattery over rough pavement, but the E450's wafts down the highway, glides over broken asphalt, and with the flick of a switch, tightens

up for a spirited backroad cruise. The same switch configures the steering feel and throttle response through a range from Eco (numb) to Comfort (commuting), Sport (lively) and Sport+ (hang on). Being a machine with off-road ambitions, the suspension can even raise the wagon to clear off-road obstacles.

Not everybody wants a crossover. Station wagons are pretty cool, especially when you consider their interior space, improved handling, and acceleration. This one is



CASEY WILLIAMS  
Auto Reviews

especially fetching with its air suspension, body cladding, and third-row seat. However, E-Class wagons are not cheap. The base price for the E450 All-Terrain is a lofty \$68,400, but came to \$80,070 as tested. Competitors include the Subaru Outback Touring and Volvo XC70 Cross Country.

*Storm Forward!*

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

### CROP From Page A1

Each member of the 1st place team will receive a \$500 scholarship given by the Southmont FFA Chapter.

Southmont FFA had 4 members in the top 8 at the contest. Cole Rhoads placed 1st with 965 points out of 1000 points possible. Levi Brush placed 3rd, Kylee Reeves placed 4th, Gabriel Little placed 8th, Kelsey Thompson placed 13th, and Caden Sixberry placed 15th.

The senior teams went undefeated this year placing 1st at all the competitions. Their first contest was at the Triton Invitational where they placed 1st and 3rd and then at the area contest the teams placed 1st and 2nd.

The junior teams, placed 1st and 3rd at the Triton contest, placed 1st and 2nd at the Area contest.

The Southmont FFA

Junior High Crops team also won the state championship. There were a total of 13 junior teams and 58 individuals. The championship team members were: Natalie Rhoads, Helen Butcher, Trent Reeves, and Lennon Woods. Individually Natalie Rhoads placed 1st, Helen Butcher placed 2nd, Trent Reeves placed 6th, and Lennon Woods placed 7th. Southmont's team of Hunter Thompson, Ethan Smith, Daniel Simpson, and Harmony Norton placed 3rd in the state. Individually Hunter Thompson placed 11th, Ethan Smith placed 13th, Daniel Simpson 20th, and Harmony Norton 26th.

Crops judging requires participants to identify 25 crops and weed plant specimens out of a list of 68 and 25 weed and crop seeds out of a list of 70 that are com-

mon in Indiana. They also learn to grade eight grain samples according to the US grain grading standards and recognize grain diseases and damage factors that might lower grain quality and, therefore, market value. The final part of the contest consists of a multiple choice quiz over weed control, crop production practices, and pesticide application techniques common in Indiana.

The members worked very hard this year staying after school for over 2 hours every day during the season and 3 hours the week of a contest. The senior teams won every contest this year continuing Southmont's winning tradition. During the last 43 years Southmont has won the State contest 32 times and placed 2nd in the state 12 times.

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

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**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**