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TODAY'S VERSE

Jeremiah 33:3 *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Tonight's the big night for the big guy! Santa Claus begins his world-wide trek and will be bringing Christmas joy - and more importantly PRESENTS - to good little girls and boys! If you want to follow Santa on radar, just go to www.thepaper24-7.com and click on our NORAD tracker!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 No white Christmas - no problem! For all the good little boys and girls who might be worried that Santa and his sleigh won't be able to get around Crawfordsville and Montgomery County without snow, don't fret one bit! Remember, Santa delivers all over the world, including to places where it's always warm. So Santa's sleigh has special equipment that works just as well in snow or dry land (and even water).

2 Tonight's the big night for Santa and his flying reindeer! Don't forget that you can track Santa through the NORAD - North American Aerospace Defense Command - radar that can be found on your favorite Montgomery County edition's website - www.thepaper24-7.com. And don't forget to leave out the cookies and milk!

3 Like the city and county offices, The Paper offices are closed today as well as Monday, Dec. 27. In order to give our employees some time off with their families, we published our special Christmas edition today, but won't have another edition until our Online Edition resume on Tuesday, Dec. 28. All Indiana BMW offices will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. A few other branches (not Crawfordsville) will be closed on Thursday.

The Paper
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper 50¢

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MERRY
CHRISTMAS

From Butch . . .

Like the rest of you "Baby Boomers," my Christmas wish list has certainly evolved through the years. As a small fry, I wanted toys, such as a cowboy capgun and a Lionel electric train set. Then just a few years later I hoped to receive sports related items like a basketball, a Warren Spahn baseball mitt, and a Red



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

See BUTCH Page A5

From Tim . . .

To all our wonderful customers, By now you are used to your favorite Montgomery County daily doing things a little bit differently. It's been a long (and short) 17 years since the little company that could was founded. Of course we never would have survived any of those 17 years if not for you. For that, and so much more, you have our eternal thanks! So today, as so much of the world gets set to celebrate one of the biggest holidays, we again bring you a little something different. On this page and inside this edition you will hear from some of our owners, some of our employees and a lot of the columnists and writers you love. This is a special treat for me, because I get to tell you how special and important all of these people are, not just to me, but to our entire company. I hope you enjoy today's special Christmas message. More than anything though, all of us at the little paper that could want to say thank you for reading, subscribing and advertising! We appreciate all of you! From our hearts to yours - Merry Christmas!



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Tim Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at timmons@thepaper24-7.com.

Christmas tree - always thought that was funny but son didn't notice) and talked to him then when Santa left he had parked on a small hill by our house on the dirt road and he had one of his tail lights out - easily seen as Rudolph leading the way, so Jay believed one more year. Loved watching them play with their toys and they learned to share so well with just the two of 'em. Going to my grandmother's for the most wonderful Italian (and she had the turkey, dressing, ham,

See KAREN Page A5

From Phil . . .

I want to take this opportunity to wish our subscribers, and advertisers, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year of 2022. I, and the other local owners of the Paper of Montgomery County and the Times of Noblesville, very much appreciate your support and hope that you have enjoyed reading our content. We look forward to serving our communities well into the future. Phil Boots"



PHIL BOOTS
State Senator

Sen. Phil Boots represents Montgomery, Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties and a portion of Boone County. He is one of the shareholders of Sagamore News Media.

From Jeff . . .

Thank you for your loyalty and support for our local newspaper over the years. I don't think it has ever been more appreciated than during the last couple of years when all of us have been challenged in so many ways. It's times like these when I appreciate even more the special bonds that are formed in



JEFF BIRK
Shareholder

Jeff Birk is one of the shareholders of Sagamore News Media

See JEFF Page A5

From Karen . . .

Ahhh, those Christmases past! Do you have special ones? I sure do! Overall memories, too, like when my dad was the rural mail carrier at Waveland and we'd have the table completely full of homemade gifts (Mitchell's cherry pie the best ever every holiday), the year our son didn't believe and one of the greatest Santa's ever (Fred Z) came to our house, called him by name, had a special present to put on the tree (with his wife's initials PZ on the back as she had made the ceramic



KAREN ZACH
Around The County

Karen Zach is the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. She also pens a weekly column, Around the County. You can reach her at Karen@thepaper24-7.com.



Going to my grandmother's for the most wonderful Italian (and she had the turkey, dressing, ham,

See KAREN Page A5

HONEST HOOSIER

Christmas is a day away. One of my favorite memories is trying to sneak to a spot where I could catch a glimpse of Santa Claus. Never did though.



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're over 60, talk to your doctor about getting a shot to prevent shingles.

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.



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Classifieds.....A4
HIVE Realty.....A2
Parrish Heating.....A2
Obituaries.....A2

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Want to help tomorrow?

If you don't have plans tomorrow, then you might consider helping out a Montgomery County tradition, the Community Christmas Dinner. As late as this week there was still a need for volunteers. Give organizer Joyce Fitzwater a call at (765) 366-2341.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."
Clement Clarke Moore

TODAY'S JOKE

What did Adam mistakenly say to his partner today?
It's Christmas, Eve.

OBITUARIES
NONE



8 51246 00100 5

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



13 WTHR **7 DAY FORECAST**

47 INCREASING CLOUDS, MILD	43/58 BREEZY, MILD, SPOTTY RAIN	54/61 NEAR RECORD WARMTH, SCATTERED RAIN	34/50 MILD, PM RAIN CHANCE	40/52 RAIN POSSIBLE, MILD	40/50 WET AT TIMES	39/48 RAIN CHANCE LATE
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

From John . . .

'Twas the night before Christmas, and I was a grouse
The question occurring: Am I man or a mouse?
You see I'd forgotten, my deadline was due
To my office I sprinted, taking stair-steps by two
Away to my keyboard I ran with a flash
To find that my hard drive had eaten my cache
So I took out my iPhone, and turned on a light;
Then it struck me quite sudden, I had nothing to write
My brain I was wracking, yet nothing bright came
I had written all year, so the subjects I named:
I wrote of History and Jump Ropes and COVID, the bane
My Toothache, McDonald's, and COVID again
On Vaccines, on Diets, on Computers, and Ants
On Luggage, on Scout Camp, and Middle School Bands
Insurrections, Supply Chains, Garage Builds and more
On Night Shifts and Socks and Pronouns times four
On Rope Climbs and Mask blame, Afghanistan shame
On my good friend, named Amber, fighting cancer again
On Lying, On Mulch, and even on Guns
You're eating alone if a girl calls you 'Hon
On fun stuff and serious, the departure of Bert;
The passing of Brave Sweetie, the loss I still hurt.
I must stop rehashing the work I amassed,
'cause my deadline is nearing; Oh no! It went past.
I tho't of Maw in her kerchief, and I in my cap
But realized quickly that was nothing but disappointing
Then out on my lawn, not an elf or reindeer,
but a Peacock named 'Ed' was inclined to appear
And that's when it struck me, what needed expressed to all my dear readers, you are surely the best.
For your patience, appreciation, of what I do write
Let me wish "Merry Christmas, and to all a good night!"



JOHN MARLOWE
With the Grain

John Marlowe is an award-winning columnist for Sagamore News Media.

From Helen . . .

Dear Readers of The Paper of Montgomery County, Just before the joy and light of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and beyond, we have the shortest days and longest nights of the year. Many dread those days. I've always relished them: the somber light, the crisp air, the skeletal trees and those pink fire sunsets guttering in the west—before supper-time. In 2021, the Darkest Days seem to be freighted for us all with the pandemic still very much here, with things costing more, and, on December 15, earth-worms dying on the CHS tarmac (on that 60-degree day). These things are unsettling. Yet we humans persist. We communicate, we read and think and take care of each other. Thank you, for reading The Paper



HELEN HUDSON
Guest Columnist

Helen Hudson is the co-president of the League of Women Voters in Montgomery County. She has written multiple articles for local media.

of Montgomery County. We're so thankful for editor Tim Timmons and League of Women Voters of Montgomery County columnist Maria Weir for being such excellent journalists, giving us nourishing food for thought each week along with news. For us citizens, responsible journalism is a true gift of every season. Thank you, Friends, and do keep reading and thinking about issues and about how we craft the good life here in Montgomery County.
Helen Hudson

From Dick . . .

I began writing this weekly column in December of 1999, crafting almost 1,100 essays over 22 years. One of the great pleasures in my life is to receive a note from a reader thanking me for giving them a smile. Some forward my column to friends around the country, but my favorite compliment is when I am told the column ended up behind a magnet on the fridge door. "I wanted my husband (or wife) to see this because we



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Dick Wolfsie is a long-time television personality and author. His columns appear here weekly.

Regards,
Dick Wolfsie

often deal with similar issues." Thank you for checking out my observations each week. I wish for you a safe and happy New Year. Keep reading. And, of course, keep smiling.

From Carrie . . .

I walk around my neighborhood later in the evening these days, mostly so I can see the lights.

There are some impressive houses just a mile or so away, and I walk down the sidewalks and see what has appeared on the lawns and in the windows now, right before Christmas.

Some of the houses clearly had outside assistance. There are lights hung in places that only a cherry picker could reach. One house had four such enormous trees in a row, all in uniform white lights, until the top half of one of them went out (which completely spoiled the look) and all four trees have been dark ever since.

I see florist vans parked outside some houses as elaborate arrangements of pine and birch and colored berries are delivered. The result is splendid, if a little predictable. Some houses have an electric candle in every window—and there are a lot of windows. Some have put a lit Christmas tree in the attic window. One house has matching trees shining out of two windows on the second floor, decorated in brilliant red lights. It's a stunning sight.

But the thing that stopped me in my tracks the other night was a single small tree and a woman stringing lights just before Christmas.

It was dark, and I was across the street. The house was large and old and on the porch was a skinny tree—a live Christmas tree—and there was a woman stringing lights around it. The woman was also old. Her movements were slow, and I could see she was a little bent over. But she was determined to decorate this little tree, standing to the side of her front door, and I watched as the lit bulbs were wound with infinite care around the narrow tree



Carrie Classon
Columnist

Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear here weekly.

frame. Progress was slow. But it was a warm night and the action, for some reason, transfixed me. The woman had large golden bulbs wound around the center of the tree from the bottom to the top, and now she

was winding smaller golden lights around the exterior of the branches. The lights were nested densely together, and it looked as if the tree was ablaze with warm yellow light. It was the only decoration in the front of her big house, and I could tell she was determined to get it exactly right. And, by the end, it was. Her little tree, covered in golden lights of different sizes, was this small, perfect thing, blazing from her porch, visible up and down the street.

Something about that tree made my heart hurt.

I wanted to tell that woman how much at least one passer-by appreciated her small, bright tree, and how I knew how long and hard she'd worked to get it right. I wanted to tell her that, while the season is short, I will enjoy her tree every time I walk by it, and I will remember it long after it is taken down.

But it was more than that. I wanted to be like that woman who did this one beautiful thing so well. I wanted to be like her tree that shone so brightly from the porch, creating a sort of magic that stopped me on the sidewalk. I wanted to lift someone's spirits in the way that tree lifted mine and be a reminder of the small, bright things that fill our lives if we only stop long enough to enjoy them.

But the best I can do is to tell you about it. And so I have.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of New Market that the Town Council will meet at the Town Hall, 101 W Main Street, New Market IN at the hour of 6:30 p.m. (local time) on January 12, 2022, to consider the following additional appropriations. The Council considers such additional appropriations necessary to meet the need existing at this time.

Fund Name: General Fund #0101	
Major Budget Classification: Supplies	Amount \$ 10,000.00
Major Budget Classification: Other Services & Cgs	Amount \$176,850.00
Total for General Fund #0101:	\$186,850.00

The foregoing appropriations are in addition to all appropriations provided for in the existing budget and tax levy, and a need for such appropriations exists. Taxpayers of the Town appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard in respect to the additional appropriations. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations.

Dated this 22nd day of December 2021.
Darlene K Services, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of New Market

PL4234 12/24 1t hspaxip

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Superior Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 54D01-1904-MF-000427, wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, was Plaintiff, and J D Spencer, Janielle D. Spencer, was/were Defendant(s), requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 12th day of January, 2022, at the hour of 10:00am or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

Lot Numbered 8, except the South 40 Feet thereof, as the same is known and designated on the recorded Plat of H.E. Green's 1st Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, in Montgomery County, Indiana, as the same appears of record in Deed Record 159 Page 73, in the Recorder's Office of Montgomery County, Indiana.

More Commonly Known As: 1551 Darlington Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
54-07-33-331-001.000-030

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

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Sheriff of Montgomery County

Jennifer L. Snook,
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The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.
Type of Service: Personal

JD Spencer
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NOTICE
MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
PL4220 12/10 12/15 12/17 12/22 12/24 12/29 3t hspaxip

From Kenny . . .

Christmas has always been my favorite time of year, and thanks to the readers of The Paper and The Times, I'm celebrating my third holiday season



KEN THOMPSON
Columnist

Kenny Thompson is an award-winning journalist who writes weekly column that appear on these pages.

writing a sports column for you. You have given me a gift that keeps on giving. Just a few months after leaving the Lafayette Journal & Courier, I was looking for an outlet to write about Purdue and college / high school sports. Luckily for me, a fellow Journal & Courier alumnus was looking to broaden The Paper's sports report.

A couple of meetings with Tim Timmons and not only was I contracted to write a weekly column, I also had the pleasure of covering high school football, as well as boys and girls basketball.

Thanks to our readers, I regained my passion for high school sports. I had

missed making the short drives to places like Lebanon, Frankfort and Attica. Hoosier Hysteria may not be what it was in our youth but it still matters in every corner of Montgomery and Hamilton counties.

While this seemingly never-ending pandemic has kept us out of high school gyms and football press boxes the past two years, I've been able to keep writing for you. I miss not getting feedback in person but the encouragement I've received from those in the office, as well as my wife - who's happy that I'm still writing while making a less stressful living outside of journalism - make even difficult times manageable.

Hopefully in 2022 Purdue basketball fans can unwrap a long-awaited gift like the Red Ryder air rifle Ralphie dreamed of in "A Christmas Story:" an NCAA championship. For our high schools in The Paper and The Times coverage areas, I wish for your teams to realize that not everyone can win a sectional or even a state title but the lessons learned from athletics will stay with you the rest of your life.

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Dave, Haley, Kim, Lisa, Paula

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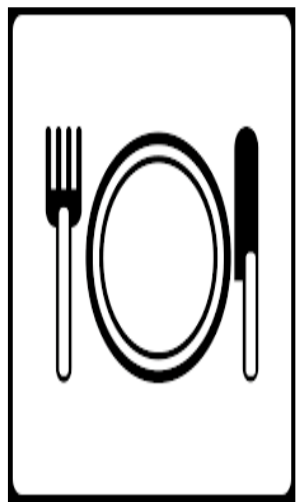
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& Happy New Year



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Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year



From Casey . . .

Being an auto enthusiast, many of my fondest Christmas memories center around four-wheeled experiences – usually involving one of my grandparents. Some of my fondest were driving my grandma to Christmas Eve services in her Mercedes or riding with my grandpa to pick up presents in his 1980s pickup. It wasn't until I was a little older that I really appreciated the time spent with loved ones.



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

Casey Williams writes a weekly car review that appears on these pages.

Christmas songs, and take our own tour of lights. We drive down Meridian, past mansions aglow, and around Monument

Circle downtown, then stop at a coffee shop to grab hot chocolates.

I only wish our grandmother was with us.

I remember another Christmas Eve when it snowed so hard we couldn't make it ten miles to my grandparents' for dinner and presents. Like a modern-day Rudolf, my uncle blasted through blowing snow in his four-wheel-drive Chevy pickup, piled us all in the front seat, and delivered my family to the festivities. As we plowed up the drifting driveway, my grandfather stood next to his spruce tree with antique colored lights smiling ear-to-ear. We made it. Christmas was saved.

I wonder what my daughter will remember. Will it be long hours in the back of our new Subaru Outback Wilderness through snow and fast highways to visit relatives in Kokomo and Dallas, Texas? Or, maybe riding with her grandpa in his pickup truck to choose a Christmas tree or load up some firewood? Whatever it is, I hope her holiday memories are as fond as mine.

And, I hope you'll take some time this holiday season to make your own memories with family and friends. Go for the drive. Stream some Christmas songs. Enjoy all the lights. Grab a hot chocolate. It is the most magical time of the year, so send up a toast to Santa and enjoy it! Storm Forward!

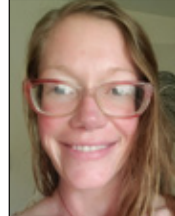
During much of the 1990s, I was a student at General Motors Institute in Flint, Mich. There were long semesters, taking massive credits under constant stress. Beyond coursework, I was auto editor for the school newspaper. I remember one semester, after finals, standing in the snow taking a long sigh that it was finally over. I could not wait to pack up my little Geo Spectrum and drive to my grandmother's in Marion.

Later that evening, my grandmother and I would drive through the Walkway of Lights along the Mississinewa River in Marion. We'd have a quick dinner along the way and enjoy hot chocolate in Matter Park. Nothing made me happier than spending that time with her. The next day, my parents and extended family would arrive for the holiday, but that night was just between my grandmother, myself, and her glitzen' Benz.

My grandmother passed in 2011, but she gave me her Mercedes C220 when she quit driving a few years before. I now have a seven-year-old daughter who never met her great-grandmother, but every year we back the Mercedes out of the garage, flip in a tape of

From Jessica . . .

Snowy mornings, Jolly days, All the smiles you give, To you, All the praise, Happy hearts, Joyful minds, Together we make Montgomery County shine, With lights a glow, And starry night, Meeting each of you, Is a true delight! Merry Christmas to all, And to all, A good night! All my love, Jessica Leahy



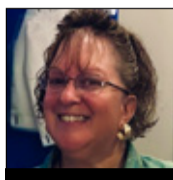
JESSICA LEAHY
Photographer

Jessica Leahy is an independent photographer who sometimes takes photos for The Paper of Montgomery County

From Judi . . .

Merry Christmas to all my customers!

I appreciate each and every one of you. I know I call a lot (hey, that's what telemarketing is) and you are all so kind and understanding – well, OK, most are. But even the ones who can get a little grumpy once in



JUDI WOOTTON
Photographer

Judi Wootton is in sales / marketing for Sagamore News Media

a while aren't all that bad.

I thank all of you for your support through the year. I appreciate each and every one of you. And I hope that 2022 is even better for you, your business and all of us!

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From Glenn . . .

This Christmas give somebody the gift of mercy and forgiveness. Be broad with your giving and generous. We all need a lot of both. For such a joyful holiday of cheer, giving and yuletide merriment there is much to be stressed about.

Typically, people have been stressed about all the holiday parties, gatherings and Christmas scheduling. This year there is more stress related to sickness, masks, vaccinations, Omicron, natural disasters, filled hospitals, massive numbers of funerals and inflation. The last couple of Christmases have not been life as usual for most of us.

You may have watched Chevy Chase in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. He becomes over the top stressed out when his Christmas lights won't work and he literally kicks, stomps and curses a blue streak across his yard. It's a funny scene. Mostly because in some way we've all been there a time or two.

Most of us enjoy giving if we can. We enjoy giving to the people we love. Christmas trees, decorating, eating and gatherings are all a part of the season. However, we become frustrated when we lose sight of the big picture. The big picture includes looking around and beyond our Christmas pain. Millions of people would simply be thrilled to have the problems that some of us have. Many people are in the nursing home and will never go to the mall again. Some have a terminal disease and this may be their last Christ-



GLENN MOLLETTE
Guest Columnist

Glenn Mollette is the author of 13 books and his column is published weekly in more than 600 publications in all 50 states.

mas. Depression will weigh heavy on many who have lost their homes, buried loved ones or experienced financial devastation from medical care or natural disasters. Most of these people would love to have a house to decorate or gifts to buy for a loved one.

Celebrate Christmas this year. Give away some special gifts. Give gifts that money can't buy or time cannot fade. Give love, give forgiveness and give some mercy. Extend these generously to yourself. If you can't give them to yourself it's impossible to give them to others.

The little baby that Christmas celebrates became a man and taught people that we should love God and love others as we love ourselves. Herein is part of the rub. Too often people stop loving themselves. Life becomes imperfect, we fail, get hurt or mad and we kick Santa or the reindeer across the yard. Unfortunately, we don't stop there. We go into Ebenezer Scrooge bah humbug mode. We don't get our groove back and miss out on some of Christmas' most wonderful characteristics- mercy and forgiveness.

The Christmas story is about a child who came to show us the way. He showed us how to love, forgive and be merciful. Some of the people in your life probably need it more than you know. Give generously and start with yourself.

KAREN

From Page A1

potatoes etc. as the more traditional meal, as well) dinner.

When I was young the neatest Christmas I remember was the year my brothers actually kept a present secret (and it was way up in their closet too) -- they'd tell me - oh, it's big, or you're gonna' love this! Finally, it was Christmas Day and I got

to see my gonna'-love-it-big-present and boy, did I. Slept with my Teddy Bear bigger than me for years (a friend, thanks Sandy, revamped him and I gave it to my granddaughter on I think her 10th birthday as that's when I got it for that 10th year - he's 62 years old now).

How many of you have had a Christmas Card with

a family photo on it? We had one almost every year when I was a kiddo.

Well, there are just so many other memories, such as Midnight Mass, so sleepy and tired, yet so awed at the beauty and the meaning.

Do want to encourage you to sit down and write not only about your Christmases but about your

life - let those kids, grands, nieces, nephews, and even your friends enjoy your life a bit!

Now, regarding this article, my readers will think - is this it? All Karen's saying - shortest thing she's ever written, but alas, I'll leave you with this . . . Merry Christmas and hoping 2022 will be a great year!!

BUTCH

From Page A1

Ryder B-B gun. Of course, as a teenager, I started to think about clothes, Beatles and Beach Boys records, and a Cushman motor scooter. I knew old Santa couldn't bring me a car. I was stuck with our family station wagon for dates!

Then came high school graduation, college, and marriage . . . and my wish list switched over to nice things that I could afford to buy for my wife on a skimpy college budget. And then as the years passed and we welcomed our four children into our family, it became my wish to buy them the things they wanted . . . bikes, toys, dolls and sports gear . . . and to see their smiling faces on Christmas morn-

ing. Oh, the things I went through to find a Cabbage Patch doll!

And through all of these years, our main wish has been for all of our family . . . our kids and their spouses . . . and our grandkids . . . to be safe and healthy and happy. And of course, this remains as our first and foremost Christmas wish today.

But now, Santa, I would add three more wishes .

. . . I want all of the kids in America to enjoy life and have a happy childhood like I did when I was growing up in the 1950s and early 1960s . . . I want to see my hometown and all of the little towns in Montgomery County to go back to what they used to be, with family businesses lining Main Street and people socializing in person, not through E-mails and texts . . . and I want to see

the citizens of our country . . . all of our citizens . . . get along with each other and be proud to live in the greatest country in the world.

I will keep my fingers crossed, and perhaps someday, even if I am not around, my wishes will come true. To all of my readers and to all of the people in Montgomery County, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

JEFF

From Page A1

a community like ours and the importance that a local newspaper can have to strengthen those bonds in tough times. Christmas has always been the most special holiday in our family; a time when we always spend more time with more family members than at any other time of the year. It is a time when we celebrate together the greatest gift our world has ever known, the birth of Jesus Christ. May all of you enjoy the blessings of the season with family and friends. Merry Christmas!

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