

**TODAY'S VERSE**

*John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. A made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

*Meet Elmo*



Elmo is a 2 month old male orange tabby kitten available for foster to adopt at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 5/26/24 (stray/public drop off). Elmo is ready to find a furrever home with a kitty tree, wet food, and lots of cat toys! Elmo is a super snuggler that will gladly keep your lap nice and warm. FUN FACT: One unsprayed cat and her offspring can lead to over 11 million new kittens. Crawfordsville, we have a problem!! A fixed cat can help avoid overpopulation. Kitten season is here and AWL is LOADED with adorable kittens and pregnant mom cats available to foster to adopt. There has never been a better time to consider fostering and/or adopting. AWL has 2 community cat rooms full of snuggly kitties looking for their furrever homes. AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

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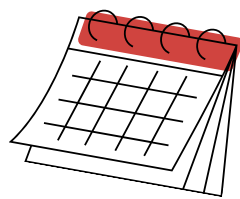
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## BTN

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!

Last week, we took a quick look at summer weather by the numbers. A lot of people asked about other relevant summer numbers, so today we're taking a look at the overall wonderful world of summers!

**94** The number of days of summer this year. It began on June 20 – less than a month ago – and comes to an end on Sept. 22.



**69**

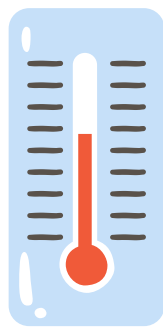
That's the number of days we have left until that first day of fall.



**23** The number of days until the first day of school for Montgomery County students – Aug. 7.



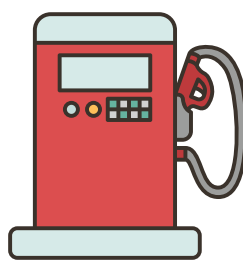
**50** Sorry to tell you this kids, but back in the day, this would be the number of days until the first day of school. We used to go back on the day after Labor Day – which would be Sept. 3 this year.



**86** The average high temperature in both July and August in central Indiana.

**\$3.92**

Average price of gallon of gas in Indiana now – just in case you are getting ready to hit the road for a summer vacation getaway!



**3** According to our friends at Tripadvisor, the top three international summer vacations this year are Cancun, Cabo San Lucas and Punta Cana. And in the U.S., U.S. News & World Report says it's Glacier National Park, Yellowstone and San Diego. We're wondering, what happened to Brown County?

**6** For those who aren't fans of the summer weather – this is how many months until January when the average high temperature is a chilly 34 degrees!

## Butch's Favorite Childhood Year . . . 1958



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

My teaching career was comprised of several subjects and grade levels, all the way from third grade students to seniors. I enjoyed all of my students, but the easiest ones to teach were the 4th and 5th grade kids, ages 9 to 11. For the most part, children at that age just seemed happier, contented and more willing to listen and learn. In thinking back on my youth, that's the way I was, too . . . at age 10 . . . a 4th grader in 1958.

My teacher that year was Audrey Cox, a very sweet and caring person whom I dearly loved. I wanted her to be proud of me, and I became a much better student that year, earning all A's for the first time. Raymon Brown, the 6th grade teacher, organized the 3rd and 4th grade boys into teams, and we played basketball against each other during the noon lunch hour in front of the high school students. I wanted to be as good as my high school heroes . . . Bob Mullen and Ronnie Threlkeld. The coach was Al Niswonger, my Dad's high school buddy. I really enjoyed watching the Darlington Indians play against the other small schools in the county, and the gym was always packed on game nights.

Yes, I had a girlfriend in 1958...sort of. I gave her my bracelet with my name on it, and she gave me her necklace with her name on it. Sometimes we sat together at the basketball games, and I actually held her hand a few times. That was pretty much the extent of our budding romance. I didn't want girls to ruin my athletic career!

During the summer, I helped Dad on the farm and accompanied him just about everywhere he went. He usually drove the old truck to town every afternoon and made stops at the filling station, restaurant, pool room, drug store, or elevator. Of course, he gave me a nickel or dime to buy an ice cream cone, Coke, candy bar, or peanuts...and many times I would head to the drug store

## 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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com)



## TODAY'S QUOTE

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."  
Thomas Edison

## THREE THINGS You Should Know

- Companies prioritizing DEI in their mission and values are encouraged to apply for the 2024 Jackson Lewis Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion Award. The recognition is part of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit. Companies can apply through Aug. 29 at [www.indianachamber.com/deiaward](http://www.indianachamber.com/deiaward).
- Pork Riblets have been named Indiana Pork's "Taste of the Fair" food at the 2024 Indiana State Fair. They will be served at the three Indiana Pork tents for \$11 from Aug. 2-18. The signature food, which features a smaller portion of traditional pork ribs, is paired with three unique sauces: Hot Honey, Nelson's Red Sauce, and Citrus Explosion. Indiana Pork has three tents located on the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Tents can be found in front of the West Pavilion, Indiana Farm Bureau Fall Creek Pavilion, and near Pioneer Village.
- Organizations and communities can now apply for grants to support developing and expanding public rifle, handgun, shotgun, or archery ranges through the DNR's Shooting Range Grant program. Projects may include new range construction or expansion of existing range facilities. The deadline is Oct. 1. Grants are awarded based on the respective letters of intent. Applicants selected must provide 10% of the total project cost. Letters of intent must be emailed to Sam Whiteleather at [swhiteleather@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:swhiteleather@dnr.IN.gov).

## TODAY'S JOKE

What do world-class sprinters eat before the finals?  
Nothing. They fast.

## MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Montgomery County drivers who venture up north may want to know that INDOT has an upcoming project that will temporarily close the Interstate 65 northbound exit ramp at State Road 38 (exit 168) near Dayton. The closure will be in effect 24 hours a day and is expected to last until early September.



The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **KIM SKIBBE** for subscribing!

➡ See BUTCH Page A3

## Wabash Ranked 2nd in Nation

When it comes to the value and support its students receive, Wabash College continues to rank among the best institutions nationally.

In its annual college guide, *The Best Value Colleges*, The Princeton Review rated Wabash second nationally for Best Schools for Internships, No. 4 for Best Alumni Network, and No. 33 in Best Value Colleges among private colleges and universities.

According to *The Princeton Review*, the 209 Best Value Colleges for 2024 comprise only eight percent of the nation's four-year colleges and feature each of the following attributes: outstanding academics; affordability, through low costs or generous financial aid; and strong career prospects for graduates. The college admissions services company said, "We commend administrators, faculties, staff, and alumni for all they are doing to educate their students and guide them to success in their careers. These colleges are also exceptional for the generous amount of financial aid they award to students with need and/or for their comparatively low cost of attendance."

"We're honored to be among the best value colleges in the United States," said Wabash President Scott Feller. "Wabash is a mission-driven, student-focused institution, and we work very hard to make a Wabash education possible for students regardless of their financial

situation. Much of this is made possible by our amazing alumni network, who give passionately of their time, talent, and treasurer to provide for future generations of Wabash men."

*The Princeton Review* chose the Best Value schools based on return on investment (ROI) ratings it tallied for more than 650 schools under consideration last year. The selection process considered more than 40 data points, broadly covering academics, financial aid, and cost.

"Wabash has a long tradition of offering generous scholarship support to our students and I am especially proud of the need-based aid we award," said Nathan Lohr, director of financial aid. "Through programs such as our Pell Promise, which provides significant institutional funding to federal grant recipients, we are able to make higher education possible regardless of a family's financial circumstances. The support of our alumni donors and the College's commitment to affordability ensures that finances are not a barrier to receiving a Wabash degree."

Wabash stood strong in rankings associated with faculty accessibility and interest, receiving scores of 97 and 95, respectively. The College also received an overall academic rating of 89 and a financial aid rating of 92. The College's return-on-investment rating was 92.

According to [payscale.com](https://payscale.com), a Wabash graduate with



Photo courtesy Wabash College

**Rising sophomore Zach Geleott participates in the Business Immersion Program as part of Wabash College's Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship summer programming.**

a bachelor's degree can expect an early career median salary of \$78,700 with a mid-career median salary of \$159,900.

"It's no coincidence that Wabash is highly regarded for both our alumni network and internship programs," said Cassie Hagan, director of professional development and the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship. "Our alumni are fiercely supportive of our students when it comes to professional development, whether offering career advice, making connections to opportunities, or directly supervising an intern. When alumni create a professional network invested in the development of the next generation, that cycle and culture carry forward. Our students are fortunate to benefit from that investment and leave

Wabash well-prepared for success in any professional setting."

Last month, Wabash College ranked 47th among the best national liberal arts colleges who offer great value for international students, according to Study Abroad Aide, an organization that strives to give prospective college students a broad range of guides that are factual and useful in order to make the college selection process easier.

In its ranking of liberal arts colleges according to performance, value, and affordability, Study Abroad Aide highlighted Wabash as one of the 50 most outstanding liberal arts colleges throughout the country that provides both high-quality and budget-friendly education for students around the world.

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## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



**Do You Recognize This Person?**

**HINT:**  
**She graduated from Alamo in 1967 and was president of her class.**

**Answer on Page A3**



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# KAREN ZACH



Think writing a column on genealogy is easy?  
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Each week Karen Zach pores over page after page after page of historical records just so she can bring the readers of *The Paper of Montgomery County* the absolute latest . . . well, it's historical, so it's not exactly . . . so she can bring you the most up-to-date . . . oh, you know what we mean!

**Catch Karen every Friday, only in *The Paper of Montgomery County*!**



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# Rewriting My Story



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

I've been working on a script with a producer named Eli.

I'm going to perform a

show made from pieces of columns I've written over the years. I've been looking for themes and ideas and stringing them together, and I thought I'd done a pretty good job, so I sent off a draft to Eli.

"This is not what we talked about!" Eli told me.

I was hurt. When we first spoke, I wasn't sure what to write. I had a lot of ideas about different things. But, since then, I'd read a bunch of books about how to write a script properly, and everything I read said I needed to be focused. I needed to know exactly what topic I wanted to talk about and stay on track.

Staying on track is sometimes hard for me when there are so many enticing bunny trails along the way. So I'd spent the last few weeks tossing out all the stray ideas. I made the whole thing one streamlined thesis, and I was pretty pleased with myself—until I talked to Eli.

"You were going to write about all kinds of things, not just one subject!" he went on, not sounding happy with me at all.

"Well, yes," I admitted, "but that was before I understood how important it was to find one main topic and stick to it and..."

"I like the other idea better!"

I didn't know what to say. I don't know Eli very well, but I respect him a lot. I thought he'd be pleased I had done all this research and was so much better organized.

"But the 'other idea' wasn't really an idea!" I told him. "I just had a picture in my head of a lot of stories about different things that may or may not be

connected."

"I like that better!" he said.

So then I had to think. And I've been thinking ever since.

Because Eli wants this script to be something bigger than a few funny stories. He doesn't want a single, easy-to-digest theme. Eli wants the whole shebang. He wants me to tell a story about how I see the world and why. He wants me to take the happy and funny and sad and the painful and mix them in a way that makes sense of them as a whole.

And he's made me realize that we are all storytellers, telling ourselves our story every day.

We take stories from our youth and struggles we've had as adults and heartache and disappointments and moments of indescribable joy, and we make sense of them in a way that defines us—to ourselves. All the happiest parts and all the hardest parts and every part in between, all the things that happened to us and what we thought about them afterward and how they changed us and become the story of who we are.

And Eli is right.

There is no point in trying to tell one piece of the story. The advice from the books I read would be great if I had some terrific new idea about how to do something faster or cheaper or more efficiently—but I don't have any ideas like that.

I just have this idea that it's good to embrace our stories—because they are ours, because we have the power to tell them in a way that allows us to change and grow. We can use our stories to make the rest of our lives a little better and more compassionate.

So now I'm rewriting my story for Eli—and for me.

*Till next time, Carrie*

# Wolfsie's Pillow Talk



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

About this time last year, Mary Ellen and I spent our anniversary downtown at a charming little bed and breakfast. It was our way of celebrating 43 years since we fell in love. To commemorate this, I fell out of bed.

I did not expect it to happen again, but it has occurred several times in the last year or so—once with me almost ending up in the ER after hitting my noggin. This confirmed Mary Ellen's longtime assertion that I should have my head examined. After my most recent crash landing, we knew something had to be done.

Mary Ellen purchased an inflatable bed bumper rail from a company called hiccapop. When the box arrived, I thought hiccapop was one of those fancy energy drinks my wife buys. By the way, I know the "h" in hiccapop should be upper case, but no words in their instructions are capitalized. not one. they think that is clever. i don't. i think it's pretentious.

The hiccapop bed rail is a five-foot-long cylindrical pillow. When you blow it up, it looks like a long white log. You stick it under your fitted sheet on the side of the bed to prevent your potential plummet to the floor. The accompanying instructions make it clear that this is really intended for toddlers who have made the transition from a crib to a real bed, a transition I made during the Truman administration.

One woman writes on Amazon: The hiccapop keeps my son safe. I no longer have to worry about the little guy falling out of bed. It's a relief to know my six-year-old is protected.

(Note to readers: Reread that review and substitute the word husband for son, then substitute old man for little guy. Then, replace the number six with the number 77. See how

humiliating this whole predicament is for me?)

Nettie, our housekeeper, came this week. She told Mary Ellen she wasn't going to clean in the bedroom because it looked like I was napping.

"Oh, that's not my husband. That's his hiccapop."

"Well, whoever he is, I can't vacuum until he gets out of bed."

The hiccapop business is very consumer oriented. "If you ever need parts, we will send them to you free of charge," the company declares in its instructions. Question: Have you ever needed to replace parts in a pillow? They provide a warranty for the pillow "...even if your dog chews it accidentally." I have no clue what that means. Barney, our old Beagle, once chewed up Mary Ellen's brand-new shoes. "Why don't you scold him?" Mary Ellen asked me.

"Because it wasn't his fault. He ate them accidentally."

Finally, concerned about having their other baby hiccapop product ideas ripped off, the company issued this warning in their accompanying brochure: "To you beef-witted design pirates, do NOT copy our stuff, or we will sue you." I have never heard that expression, but there's nothing more threatening than a well-placed meat metaphor.

By the way, the product really works. I have not rolled off the side of the bed since we installed the bumper, but I may have to return it and get a new one. I'm still a restless sleeper with a lot of nervous energy. Because of that, I chewed into my hiccapop one night while sleeping and it deflated.

Mary Ellen forgave me. I told her it was an accident.

— Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in *The Paper*. E-mail Dick at [Wolfsie@aol.com](mailto:Wolfsie@aol.com).

# ↓ BUTCH

From Page A1

to buy a pack of Topps baseball cards. At all of these places, I listened to the men tell jokes and talk about anything and everything...and yes, a few things that I probably should not have heard. That was a whole other education besides what I learned in school!

Marion "Runt" Maxwell was my Little League baseball coach. I became my team's pitcher that year, and I tried to emulate major league players such as Warren Spahn and Lew Burdette of the Milwaukee Braves, who had won the 1957 World Series. In 1958, I began listening to rock-and-roll music on American Bandstand. Elvis was still the king, but he was drafted into the army that year. Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, Frankie Avalon and Dion were also my favorites.

There were many TV shows that I watched in 1958, including Ozzie and Harriett, the Donna Reed Show, The Real McCoys, Leave It to Beaver and many, many westerns. The Sunshine theater, located on Main street, showed mostly "B" rated westerns, comedies and science fiction movies, but for 25 cent admission and a dime for popcorn, it was great entertainment for us kids. And after the movie, we headed to the drug store for a

sundae and a fountain drink...a fun night on the town!

At that age I was not concerned with any national problems or politics. I was aware that there was a "cold war" with Russia going on, but I knew President Eisenhower and our military would protect us. I made a trip every week to the library, where Mrs. Delano helped me choose another biography to read. I went to Sunday school and earned my three-year perfect attendance pin in 1958. And most all of the kids, including me, attended vacation Bible school. That summer I memorized all of the books of the Bible in order.

Yes, I know that sometimes we tend to view the past through rose-tinted glasses, but for me 1958 was a great year, and I will always cherish those memories! There is only one thing that I did not enjoy...our family's pink and white Buick...ugggh!!! Now think back to your childhood...What was your favorite year?

*John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 35 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.*

## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

**Answer:  
Dorothy "Dotti"  
Hedrick**

## State Road 32 Lane Closures Start July 29th

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces temporary lane closures on State Road 32 between Shannondale and Lebanon.

Beginning on or after Monday, July 29, crews will begin flagging operations between County Road 1175 W and I-65. This will be the first phase of a project that will involve road resurfacing and shoulder

strengthening.

Work on this phase of the project is expected to last until October but is weather permitting and subject to change.

INDOT encourages all drivers to use caution while traveling through this and all work zones, especially with work taking place near Western Boone Jr./Sr. High School.

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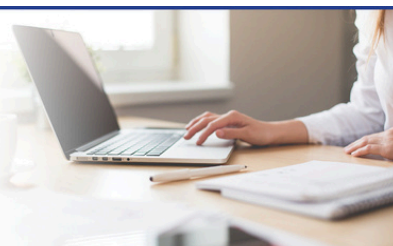
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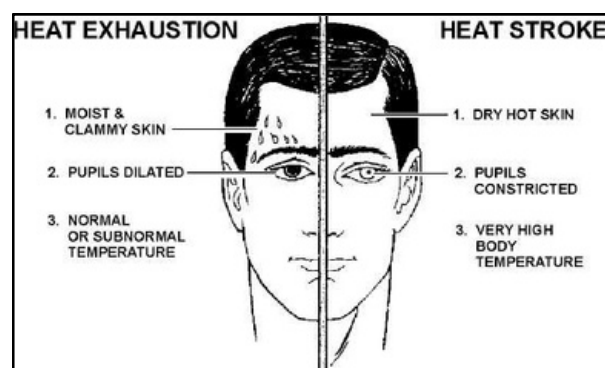
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## Montgomery Medicine: Heat Illness



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

With temperatures rising in Indiana, it's time to start thinking about the dog days of summer.

We are already seeing patients suffering from heat illness coming into urgent care and emergency departments.

Heat illness accounts for tens of thousands of visits each year. Deaths from heat-related illness in America range from 300 to several thousand each year and are increasing. Climate change is the likely cause of the increasing number of severe heat waves in the U.S. and around the globe.

The main risk factors predisposing a person to heat-related illness include being elderly, very young, or obese. Certain prescription and non-prescription drugs including antihistamines, beta blockers, diuretics, ADD/ADHD medications, psychiatric medications, and alcohol all increase the risk. Workers like firefighters who must wear heavy clothing are at very high risk.

Absorbing too much heat from the environment or producing too much heat internally leads to heat illness. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are the two main types of heat illness.

Heat exhaustion is caused by excessive loss of body water and electrolytes. Heat exhaustion usually comes on slowly and is characterized by fatigue, weakness, nausea, vomiting, headache, muscle aches, cramping, dizziness, and irritability. Victims are usually pale, sweating profusely, have clammy skin, and a weak, rapid pulse. Low blood volume from dehydration results in circulatory shock, reducing blood flow to critical organs.

The first thing to do for someone with heat exhaustion is to remove them from the hot environment. Standard treatment for shock should then be administered. Elevating the legs above the level of the chest helps get blood to the vital organs and brain. Sports drinks such as Gatorade® or Powerade® are an excellent way to replace water and lost electrolytes.

If a victim shows signs of confusion or lethargy, or is not responding to treatment, rescuers should contact 911 or immediately take the victim to an emergency department. The prognosis for heat exhaustion is usually very good.

Heat Stroke is a different story. It is caused by malfunctioning temperature regulating mechanisms, resulting in an inability to transfer internal body heat to the environment. This can cause dangerously high internal body temperatures, sometimes as high as 105-106 °F.

Symptoms of heat stroke usually come on rapidly and include headache, dizziness, fatigue, and lethargy. Physical findings can include confusion, hot and dry skin, decreased sweating, rapid pulse, vomiting, loss of consciousness and occasionally seizures.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency requiring immediate medical care by calling 911. While waiting for EMS to arrive, remove the person from the hot environment and place the person in a bathtub or other tub filled with very cold water, preferably with some ice. Emergency services will usually observe the patient on-site until his or her core temperature has dropped below 102-103 °F. If a tub is not available, place ice packs over the armpits, groin, neck and abdomen to help cool the patient down. Running a fan on the patient and spraying them with cool water can also be very effective in lowering their temperature.

As with most potential serious medical problems, prevention goes a long way. When you're in the sun or a hot environment for an extended period, be sure to maintain your hydration. Water will do just fine unless you're involved in intense physical activity for more than an hour. If that's the case, consider adding in sports drinks. Salt tablets are not recommended.

Sometimes, hydrating can't prevent heat illness. We are seeing more stories of people hiking or doing other activities in very high temperatures that are found dead, usually off the trail. The brain gets overheated, leading to confusion and wandering off with the

brain eventually shutting down.

You should drink roughly 16 ounces of fluid about two hours before outdoor activity if possible. Drink 4 to 8 ounces every 20 minutes during activity. A crude measure of adequate hydration is the color of your urine – clear or pale yellow is what you're looking for.

Make sure young children and elderly family or friends stay out of the heat. Also make sure the elderly have a functioning cooling system in their home or apartment and that they have access to fluids.

If you take prescription medication, be sure to heed the warnings on the label or from your pharmacist to determine if it might affect your sensitivity to heat. Tell someone if you develop any of the symptoms outlined above and get to a cool environment immediately.

– Dr. John Roberts is a retired member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine.

# KENNY THOMPSON



With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

Catch Kenny every Friday  
in The Paper of Montgomery County!

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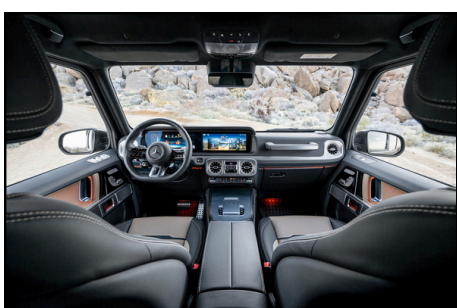
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# 2024 Mercedes-Benz G550 is Absolutely Ridiculous – And Charmingly Glorious for It



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

The Mercedes-Benz G550 is absolutely ridiculous! Originally introduced forty-five years ago as the military-ready Geländewagen, it looks like a Jeep, pampers like an S-Class and costs more than a Maybach. It has steel cargo plates on its roof, for goodness sakes! G-Wagens found favor with celebrities like Cindy Crawford and Tina Turner. One even carried The Pope. But, what does my family think of it?

We're on our way from Indianapolis to Clifty Falls State Park, near the Ohio River to find out.

The G550 looks like the shipping container an EQE electric crossover rides in, but gleams with round LED headlamps, 18-inch matte black wheels, black logos, and rear-mounted spare tire. My eyes flutter in disbelief as we sling our weekend luggage and imbibes onto the cargo compartment's cherry wood floors. We clink shut the vault and go around front.

The flat doors click open to opulence glorified by Nappa leather, twin

screens, ash wood, and the reek of wealth. My daughter conjures "The 10 Spot" on satellite radio, powers open the sunroof and rocks out to the deep Bermester audio system. It's pretty sweet. There's no wireless Apple CarPlay, and I only find old-school USB-B ports, so connecting my new iPhone proves tricky. Daughter doesn't care as she discovers our heated and ventilated seats with massagers. I have a heated steering wheel too. This is going to be a good ride.

Navigation routes us out of our neighborhood, across city streets, and onto I65 South. It's been 22 years since I last drove a G-Wagen. It looks the same, but is slightly wider for side impact performance. It also gained an independent front suspension, rack-and-pinion steering, and an air suspension. Three locking differentials remain should we confront a goat. Automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and blind spot warning systems protect our flanks.

It's surprisingly sublime on the Interstate, but we soon route through tight two-lanes to the state

park. This is not a conveyance you toss into a corner casually. This witch will twitch if you go in hot, but driven with respect, it won't embarrass its patron. It simply pulverizes rough pavement while occupants hover on an electronically controlled cushion of air.

I cackle when I step into the 416 horsepower 4.0-litre Biturbo V8 engine, sending its fortitude to the four-wheel-drive system through a 9-speed automatic transmission. It makes quick work of short straights, tossing carnal luxuries from curve to curve with indecent vigor. There's always a yearning rumble beneath your feet, but brace yourself for 13/16-MPG city/highway.

Having finally arrived, the G550 looks natural lurking through forest and resting outside the inn. It's exactly the kind of ride you should take to a rustic inn as it gets you there in comfort and welcomes adventure. You sense the inherent tight maneuvering and excellent visibility for off-roading translate to tight garages too.

It's all a bit weird. Closing the door sounds

like a 1970 S-Class. Clink! The engine channels AMG. Roar! Its tippy in corners, but the chassis delights. Wafy! It's all so endearing. I look at my daughter as we drive to a nearby café. She's rocking out with wind in her hair, looking like a YouTube influencer. She grins at me, "Slay!" I think that means the G550 has her approval.

It should. The G550 starts at \$143,000, but two packages that include massage seats, leather-wrapped dash, black logos and...Cherry wood floor add nearly \$38,000! All in, this specimen snatches \$188,650 - more than a Maybach GLS three-row SUV. But unlike vehicles they may lease and toss, I suspect owners will keep and cherish their G550s.

*Storm Forward!*

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

### Likes

- Endearing charm
- Hedonistic comfort
- Biturbo V8

### Dislikes

- Phone connections
- Fuel economy
- Breathtaking price

**2024 Mercedes-Benz G550**  
Five-passenger, 4WD SUV  
Powertrain: 4.0-liter TTV8, 9-spd trans  
Output: 416hp/450 lb.-ft. torque  
Suspension f/r: Adaptive Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy  
Brakes f/r: disc/disc  
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Assembly: Graz, Austria  
Base/As-tested price: \$143,000/188,650

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