

**TODAY'S VERSE**

Job 27:6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

*Meet Kush*



Kush is a 7 year old female Siberian Husky that has been at the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 8/15/2021 (1,073 days / 2 years, 11 months). That is WAY too long! Let's find Kush a furrever home before she hits her 3 year anniversary at the shelter! Kush LOVES going for walks, playing fetch, running zoomies in a fenced yard, and being showered with love/treats! Kush is dog selective. Kush is spayed and up to date on all of her shots. Kush is looking for her best friend. Could that be you? Kush is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. Come say hi!!

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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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!

**Today, we take a look at a great American and the first human being to walk on the moon – Neil Alden Armstrong!**

### 8-5-30

That's the date Neil Armstrong was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He was a descendant of Clan Armstrong from his Scottish lineage.

**2** That's how old Armstrong was when he began to develop his love of being off the ground. His father took him to the Cleveland Air Races – and just three or four years later he went up in his first airplane ride in Warren, Ohio. The plane was a Ford Trimotor – which was lovingly called the Tin Goose.



### 1955

That was the year the Navy veteran graduated from Purdue. He actually started there in 1947 and was studying aeronautical engineering. However, he was called up to the Navy two years later and began flight school in Pensacola, Fla. During his military service, he saw combat action over Korea, flying 78 missions. When his service ended he went back to Purdue. He pledged Phi Delta Theta and met his wife at a party there. Not a lot of people know this, but he wrote and co-directed two musicals.

### 7-20-69

The famous date in which Apollo 11 landed on the moon and a few hours later, Armstrong stepped out of the Lunar Excursion Module and stepped foot on earth's satellite. After Armstrong and fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin blasted off the moon's surface, the LEM was left to orbit the moon. Some scientists say it is still in orbit today.

### 1985

Armstrong quietly took part in an expedition to the North Pole.

### 1986

After the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, President Ronald Reagan asked Armstrong to be part of the Rogers Commission to investigate the disaster. He was later added to another commission by Reagan to develop a blueprint for American civilian spaceflight in the 2000s.

### 2007

Purdue unveiled a statue of Armstrong that sits on campus today. Purdue's engineering school is named after the astronaut.



### 8-25-12

Armstrong passed away at the age of 82 after complications from coronary artery disease.



**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Don't watch TV before going to sleep – the bright light and activity may keep your brain awake.

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**

"I guess a small-town mayor is sort of like a 'community organizer,' except that you have actual responsibilities." Sarah Palin

**TODAY'S JOKE**

The teacher was trying to teach math, but it was a struggle with Little Johnny. So she decided to try a different approach. "If you had a dozen apples, a dozen grapes, half a dozen strawberries and 10 cherry tomatoes, what would you have, Little Johnny?" "The makings of a great salad!"

**MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will be honoring chamber members who have made outstanding achievements and contributions in their community. Award recipients are businesses, non-profits, and individuals who make up our vibrant business community. Got someone like that to nominate? Let the Chamber know by Aug. 9 at [www.crawfordsvillechamber.com](http://www.crawfordsvillechamber.com)

**THREE THINGS You Should Know**

- The state is inviting Hoosiers attending the Indiana State Fair to look into their unclaimed property. The Attorney General's booth is located in the Mercantile Building and will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day. Representatives will be available to assist Hoosiers with unclaimed property and provide information to help consumers protect themselves and their family from ID theft and other clever scams.
- Attorney General Todd Rokita and State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla are calling on IU to show proof of compliance with a clear and unambiguous state law, which prohibits the Kinsey Institute from using taxpayer funds. The law uses succinct language forbidding state funds from being used in the administration, operation, or any programs of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.
- Americans will soon be voting for the next president with the frontrunners being Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris. But wait. There's more. Literally Anybody Else is challenging the two of them. In fact, Mr. Else, formerly known as Dustin Ebey, says he is running a write-in campaign in Texas and has garnered enough votes to get him on the Tennessee ballot come November. "It's not necessarily about drawing attention to my grievances, but about giving a place for anyone who shares these grievances to come together to a focal point."

**Butch Recalls Crazy Fads From Good Ol' Days**



When I go shopping or dine out, I am always amazed at the number of people nowadays who have tattoos...both

**BUTCH DALE Columnist**

men and women. Some of these people have several tattoos, while others have perhaps one or two. All three of my sons have tattoos. Just a few years ago it was rare to see anyone sporting a tattoo. So the question arises, is this tattoo phenomenon here to stay...or is it just a passing fad?

When I think back a few decades, I can recall several fads dealing with fashion or lifestyles or toys for instance. Some lasted a few years, while others were here and gone in the blink of an eye. In the 1950s, my school conducted civil defense drills in which we had to crawl under our desk..."Duck and cover!" in the event Russia dropped an atomic bomb on our little town. Now that was crazy! The '50s was also the era of phone booth stuffing, panty raids, sock hops, drive-in theaters, 3-D movies, visits to the soda shop and fuzzy dice hanging from rearview mirrors. How many of you gals had a poodle skirt, bobby socks, cat-eye glasses, saddle oxfords or a conical bra? Did you fellows ever wear rolled-up jeans, a skinny white belt or a Davy Crockett coonskin cap? And what about those 1950s toy fads...army men, hula hoops, baking powder submarines, Tiny Tears, and of course...Barbie?

The sixties had their share of fads, too. You might recall such things as lava lamps, love beads, bellbottoms and mini-skirts. The music evolved from rock-n-roll into Beatlemania and Beach Boys surf sounds, with fads such as the twist, Watusi, the shake and go-go dancing making the rounds. Kids just had to have Hot Wheels, G.I. Joe, Chatty Cathy, Easy-Bake Ovens, Lite Brite, Etch-a-Sketch and Rock-Em-Sock-Em Robots. And of course,



The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank CATHY KING for subscribing!

➡ See BUTCH Page A3

## Way to go Catherine!

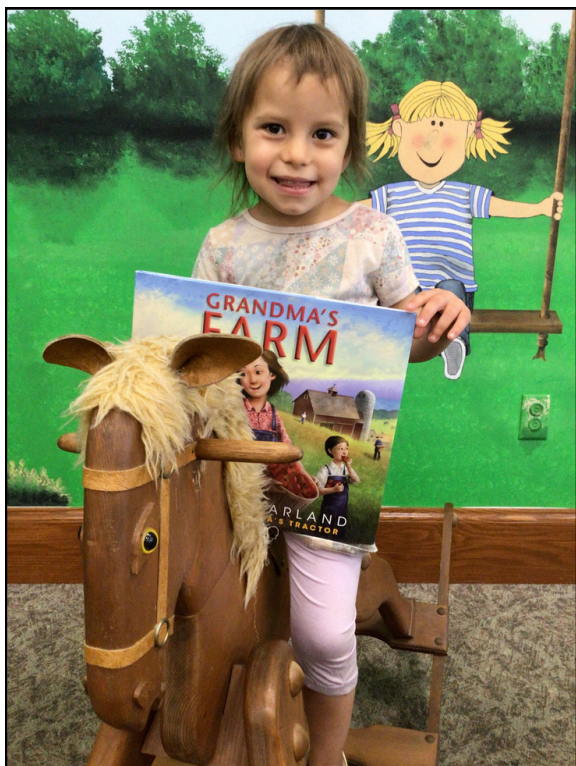


Photo courtesy Crawfordsville District Public Library

Catherine Miller, age 4, has completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" for the third time. Along with her parents, Justin and Anne Miller, she has read 3,000 books. Catherine's favorite book is Martha's House by Edith Kunhardt (which belonged to Anne when she was little.) Mom said, "We love this program. She is our fourth child to do this program. The library is one of our favorite places to go. The kind children's librarians work so hard to come up with creative ideas to keep children reading year-round, and provide a fun wholesome environment."

# Thank You For Reading The Paper



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## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This New Market Grad?

HINT:  
 She was the 1962 Homecoming Queen.

Answer on Page A3



Stampede String Band: 12:30 - 2:30 PM



The Moon Cats: 3:30 - 5:30 PM



Michael Kelsey: 7 - 9 PM



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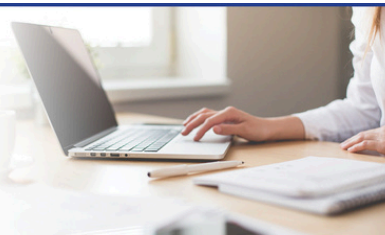
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## A Wonderful Vacation



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

Our cat, Felix, traveled up north with us for the first time, to visit my parents and their cat, Katie.

I was worried Felix might not like the long drive. My parents' home, while not enormous, has a basement and an upstairs, all connected by a spiral staircase, and I worried he would become distressed in this new place. There were a lot of new things he could mess with, and I worried he would knock over knickknacks or dig in the plants or hide. So I was anxious from the moment I piled Felix into his carrier.

It turns out, I was worried about all the wrong things.

Felix did not mind the drive at all. He fell asleep in his carrier and was a model passenger. When we arrived at my parents' house, I carried him in. I could have sworn that Katie was watching as we loaded everything into the house. But apparently not.

Felix immediately began to explore. This was a big house, filled with interesting things, and Felix hit the ground running, so I don't know the precise order of events. But somehow, Felix ended up in the sunporch that doubles as my mother's sewing room. He was investigating the sunroom when Katie, belatedly, discovered there was another cat in the house.

She screamed.

You are probably imagining that she meowed very loudly or let out a yowl, but that would not be accurate. Katie screamed as if her little kitty throat was being cut and she was dying—right that moment.

Everyone came running. Katie was puffed up to approximately twice her normal size, and she was staring, riveted, at Felix. Felix looked surprised, but not nearly dangerous enough to have provoked a scream like that.

"They will need some time!" my mother explained. We all assumed the worst was over. Then, several

minutes later, Katie returned to the sunporch, and Felix was hiding just around the corner, so she didn't discover him until she was inches from his face. There was another scream, and this time, she peed on the floor.

My father picked up Katie. My mother mopped the floor. I shooed Felix out of the sunporch. An hour passed, and Katie had almost convinced herself that Felix was gone for good. That's when he popped up from the basement, his face festooned with cobwebs.

There was a third bloodcurdling scream.

We decided they needed a time-out. There was no door to the upstairs, and so we brought up Katie's litter box from the basement and confined her to the bedroom and sunporch.

Things were quiet that night. I had gone up to bed. Suddenly, there was another scream.

"Could you come and get your cat?!" my father hollered.

"Where is he?"

I ran downstairs and there was Felix, sitting in the darkened sunporch. There was a glass window in the door to my parents' bedroom, and he had been peering into the window from the dark. Katie spotted the Night Stalker and, justifiably, freaked out.

"Now you are just being mean!" I told Felix as I took him to bed. I thought he looked pleased with himself.

For the remaining two days, while Katie spent most of her time fuming in my parents' bedroom, Felix played with Mom and Dad. He was given special treats. He caught a mouse and murdered it in the bathtub. He played with all of Katie's toys. And every time Katie caught sight of Felix, she screamed.

All in all, it was a wonderful vacation—for Felix.

Till next time,  
Carrie

### Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

**Answer:  
Gay Frame**



*for reading  
The Paper*

## Hunker Mentality



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

Survival magazines are a dime a dozen. Actually, they are more like 150 dollars a dozen, and you really can get about twelve different ones. These periodicals are intended for people who are dedicated to stayin' alive, not the 1977 Bee Gees hit, but those committed to surviving what is considered an inevitable catastrophic event. What will it be? An earthquake? A volcano? A tsunami? The next election?

These people are pretty darn sure that at some point in the near future they are going to have to hunker down with their immediate family, probably underground. So for somewhere between 5 days and 25 years, they hope to avoid just about everything that can happen to you in a Tom Cruise movie.

Most of these magazines are full of cheery articles, as evidenced by cover headlines like Surviving the World's Worst Typhoon; How to Choose a Survival Firearm; Arrange Back-up Ammunition; Post-Disaster Tools; and my favorite: The Day the Cell Phones Died, which makes me think that the Apocalypse is NOW.

My favorite feature (a poorly disguised advertisement, really) is titled: DON'T BUY SURVIVAL FOOD...UNTIL YOU READ THIS. Nuts. I had already done my apocalypse shopping and now I was stuck with 147 fruit cakes.

In the article, the writer advocates a particular brand of survival food, going so far as to say that it is "as good as or better than any survival food I've eaten." This is the kind of testimony that is hard to discount, not unlike the words of Charles Manson who once grudgingly admitted that San Quentin had the best Salisbury steak of any prison he'd ever been to. You can't buy PR like that. "The

product literally flies off the shelves," says the unidentified author. You can expect that line to show up on a lot of English teachers' lesson plans on exactly how not to use the word "literally."

In one paragraph, the author notes that "many people with good intentions are making critical food mistakes when stockpiling food." I see this a lot when I am at Golden Corral for dinner. Do people ever learn?

The writer's biggest concern appears to be that some of the MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) available in stores may only have a shelf life of five years, which is less than the lifespan of a jar of honey, but about four years, 11 months, three weeks, six days and 22 hours longer than a tub of potato salad at a picnic. We also learn that buying this product will allow you to avoid the monotony of having the same boring meals every night for 25 years, a problem Mary Ellen and I are dealing with above ground.

If you order a survival kit, which includes these meals, you get 5,550 heirloom survival seeds. Who counted these out? Whoever it was is not going to have any problem occupying himself underground for two decades.

Also thrown in with the deal are four hardcover books. They don't tell you what the books are about, but with so much time to kill, I'm not sure anyone will care—as long as they are not library books. Oh, by the way, you also get a really cool 11-in-1 survival knife. After all, when you are about to go underground for the rest of your life, you deserve a lovely parting gift.

— 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 of Montgomery County*. E-mail Dick at [Wolfsie@aol.com](mailto:Wolfsie@aol.com).

## ↓ BUTCH

From Page A1

girls who had purchased a Barbie doll when it arrived in 1959 now begged for companion dolls—Ken, Skipper and Midge. And I'll wager some of you started a Troll doll collection, too.

After the hippies arrived in the late 1960s, the next decade of the '70s brought us such fads as platform shoes, tube tops, leisure suits, go-go boots, tie-dye shirts, mood rings and hot pants as we headed out to the local disco. Of course, we bought shag carpet, waterbeds, blacklight posters and 8-track players. No true country guy or gal could be without their CB radio... "Breaker one-niner, that's a 10-4, good buddy, this is Buzzard Bobtail calling Big Mama... Turn on your bird-dog and cut the go-go juice in the double nickels... there's a Kojak with a Kodak at Checkpoint Charlie and a Smokey in a plain wrapper at the 26." I can't believe people carried on conversations like that. That's the decade I became a Smokey Bear... better known here as the local "County Mountie in a Red-Light Special."

How many of you actually purchased a pet rock? Did you buy your kids a Big Wheel, Stretch Armstrong or Holly Hobby? Of course, the '70s was also the era when we became addicted to Atari and played Pong (and later on Pac-Man), although the more intellectual minds were challenged by trying to solve the Rubik's Cube.

When I look at photos from old school yearbooks, I can pretty much figure out what decade it is just by looking at hairstyles... popular at the time, but many of which are downright hilarious when you see them today. Girls sported pony tails, or a Poodle cut, or a bouffant which was "teased" and lacquered with tons of Aqua-Net hairspray. Then there appeared curled bobs or long hair (which was straightened with a hot iron)... followed by the "wild" looks of the '80s and '90s. Boys had crew cuts, long hair, shags, Afros and mullets... just to mention a few. How many of you guys had a "ducktail?" When I was in the 6th grade, I had a Wally Cleaver "jelly-roll" haircut and used "Butchwax" to keep it in place! Nowadays it seems that anything goes... red hair, green hair, blue hair, buzz cuts on one side only, bald heads with tatoos all over, etc. etc. I can't figure it out. But hey, it's OK... people just trying to be unique, I guess.

What the heck... I think it's time for me to get another Wally Cleaver "jelly-roll." Where can I buy some Butchwax? And if any of you young folks out there are contemplating a future occupation, you might consider becoming a tattoo removal expert. I believe you may have plenty of customers some day.

*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.*

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## Montgomery Medicine: Cold Sores



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

People use the term “cold sores” to describe different types of lesions that occur on the lips or inside the mouth

I’m not sure of the origin of the term, but I presume that it came into being to describe sores that sometimes appear when a person is suffering from an illness like the common cold.

I want to focus on herpes simplex, one particular type of infection that causes these types of lesions. If you think this condition is caused by a herpes virus, give yourself a gold star – this family of viruses has previously appeared in my column on shingles.

There are two distinct types of herpes simplex viruses, HSV-1 and HSV-2. Lesions on the lips are caused by HSV-1 about 80 percent of the time. The remaining 20 percent of HSV-1 infections are found in the genital area. HSV-2 on the other hand causes about 80 percent of genital infections and 20 percent of oral infections. In adolescents, about 30-40 percent of genital infections are caused by HSV-1, probably due to the prevalence of oral sex in this group.

Approximately 80 percent of adults have antibodies to HSV-1 in their blood meaning they were infected by HSV-1 at some point in their lifetimes. Most initial infections occur in children aged six months to three years. Despite the high rate of infection, only about 30 percent of people show any outward signs of infection. Antibodies to HSV-2 are found in about 20 percent of adults.

HSV is spread through respiratory droplets, saliva, or from skin-to-skin contact. The viruses can’t invade intact skin, so there must be breach in the skin barrier for them to cause infection. The virus can also invade mucus membranes that are found inside the mouth and the genital area and also enter through abraded skin which is why HSV infection is often found in wrestlers.

Most initial or “primary” HSV infections in people with functioning immune systems are mild and often don’t cause symptoms. The incubation period from exposure to lesion appearance averages about four days.

HSV lesions start with some tingling, itching,

or burning at the site of infection. This is usually followed by swelling a day or so later and the formation of small blisters (vesicles). The virus causes skin cell death, so often the lesions become dark or even black with the eventual formation of scabs. Just as with other herpes infections, once the primary infection is over the virus enters a dormant phase inside nerve cells, waiting to possibly re-emerge at some later date.

There are various stimuli or triggers that can cause reactivation of herpes simplex. These include fever, physical or emotional stress, ultraviolet light exposure, suppression of the immune system, local trauma, and nerve injury. Recurrent infections tend to be less severe because the body mounts an immune response more rapidly.

For some people, particularly those with weakened immune systems, HSV infection can be very serious. It can lead to brain infections (encephalitis) and can also spread throughout the body infecting various organs. Herpes encephalitis kills 60 to 80 percent of its victims. Infections in newborns can be very serious.

HSV infections can be treated with oral antiviral medications like Zovirax® (acyclovir), Famvir® (famciclovir) and Valtrex® (valacyclovir). There is also a topical drug available called Abreva®. The drugs stop the reproductive cycle of the virus by inhibiting the replication of viral DNA. Despite treating the infection, there is no cure to rid the body of the virus.

Most physicians recommend starting an oral antiviral at the first sign of a recurrence. This often shortens the duration of the infection and may prevent it from progressing altogether. Some people who have frequent recurrences may need to take daily antiviral medication to prevent outbreaks.

Sufferers of recurrent herpes simplex should avoid triggers. Probably the most effective preventative measure is to stay out of the sun or at least use a lip balm containing a high SPF sunscreen. People with active infections should avoid kissing others and abstain from oral sex.

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

## Missing Millie – A Tale From the Heart



**GWYNN WILLS**  
Guest  
Columnist

I think I gained 10 pounds overnight (not from the chips, wine and Nutella cookies). It’s my heart. It started yesterday; or at least the cognitive dissonance took a pause long enough for me to let the suffering and despair of those around me sink in and not look past it for a few moments.

I was at Walmart. I usually people watch- no- people notice, for a millisecond. Then I walk on about my business. But yesterday was different. There were lots of adults with kids pushing carts. Most of them were in the school supply aisles. The adults, mostly women, had blank stares of resignation. Many of them, I judged to be struggling to make ends meet looking at their outward appearance. These questions started running through my mind: Can they afford this stuff? Will the kids have decent clothes to wear? What is it like to live when you never have enough? Should I hand them some money to help? Do I do enough to help others? Why don’t I do more? I willed myself to stop obsessing over their imagined plight and moved on. The heaviness did not go away.

All around me friends are struggling with health issues. Surgeries, illnesses, chronic pain, addiction just to name a few. I’m doing okay for a 72-year-old woman, so I have no complaints. But my heart is really heavy. So. Heavy.

And when I wake up at 3 a.m., almost every night, I grab my phone to see if we are any closer to the Rapture or the Apocalypse. Neither has surfaced yet, but they don’t feel out of the question. The humans in the world are whirling dervishes; some creating chaos, others rushing around trying to clean up messes by their standards and it seems as if no one wants to yield to the other. I am heavy, feeling the burdens of those who are unhappy with the state of the world and think exclusion is the way out. I am heavy with the burden of those who think they cannot do enough to help others when allowing them to help themselves may be the best thing they can do. I am heavy with the name calling, lack of civility and arrogance that is posted all over the media. I just want us to stop. Pause for a moment and lift up a prayer in unison to heal our weary souls and cast off our burdens.

Then today, I realized how much I miss Millie. I didn’t make a big deal of her passing. After all, she was a 15-year-old mutt and her time had come. But in remembering her, the weight lifted a little. She was an 11-pound bundle of optimism, especially when it came time to eat or go outside. She loved the simple things. She got along with all dogs and all of the cats in our space. They all deferred to her and her position. She was a gentle leader. She was a pup when I found her running wild at Milligan Park on July 4th, 2008. I asked every person in

my path if she was theirs. No one claimed her so she became a member of our family. She was goofy and playful and pranced around like she owned the world. She never met a stranger and only seemed sad the last three days of her life when eating was no longer a goal.

I wish there was a way to convince our leaders to lead with kindness. I wish some of us could do with less and figure out a way to empower others to do more for themselves. I wish the lost could be found and the sick could be healed in this life or the next. I long for the optimism that comes with enjoying the

simplest of things in life. I wish everyone could prance and dance to the music in their own soul without facing judgement and ridicule. I wish we realized in our heart of hearts that we are all children of the Creator and not to separate one another from that knowledge. Yes. I miss Millie. Today more than ever.

*Gwynn Wills is a former speech therapist, certified Amherst Writers and Artists workshop Affiliate and Leader and founder of The Calliope Writers Group. After growing up in Crawfordsville, her and her husband returned several years ago.*

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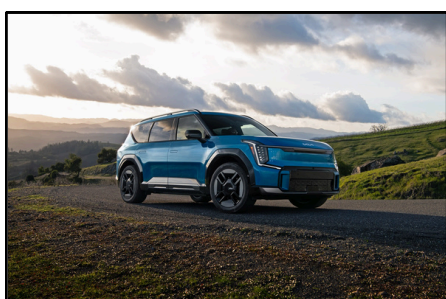
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# 2024 Kia EV9, Nissan Ariya Electrify Style in Family-Friendly Crossovers



## Nissan Ariya



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

2024 Kia EV9 GT-Line AWD

There are many electric crossovers, ranging from Chevrolet to Maybach, but none have really lit up the three-row family crossover segment. What do you do if you want to go electric, but need to carry the entire tribe to baseball games and scouting camp-outs? The answer may lie in the stylish and luxurious Kia EV9 GT-Line. Think of it as a next-generation electric Telluride.

Which is appropriate as it looks like a Telluride had relations with a moon buggy. The view starts with a wide expanse of smooth plastic where a grille would be, but isn't because it doesn't need one. Twin towers of tiny LEDs, flanked by zigging driving lights, form headlamps on either side. The tall side profile looks fortified with girders, but black plastic around the wheelwells, shielding the lower bodysides, and as sci-fi covers for the 21" wheels lend the impression of off-road capability. Power door handles retract flush when not in-use. Thin taillamps seem to spider up the pillar and grab

the hatch. It all looks radiant in Ocean Blue paint.

I drove the EV9 to pick up my daughter after a week at her grandparents' and she about lost herself over the interior. We were welcomed by an expansive flat floor, dual 12.3" screens for gauges/infotainment, and quad captain's chairs with extendable legrests. Front and middle rows are heated and cooled plus have their own sunroofs. We settled in and cranked up the Meridian audio system while she whipped through my music library.

While the interior looks like it returned from 30 years hence, it's incredibly intuitive. It's not as easy to use as earlier versions, but we quickly connected our phones through wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Charge wirelessly in the console. Kia took full advantage of the wide floors by installing an open console with under storage and a tray that slides rearward for the second row.

And, the EV9 cares for passengers with every conceivable safety system: Head-up display, adaptive cruise

with lane-centering steering, automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, and rear cross path detection with auto brake.

When you're ready to go, the EV9 packs the stats. With dual-motor all-wheel-drive, it fast-charges 10-80% in 25 minutes and can travel 270 miles before doing it again. Skip AWD to go 300 miles. Kia claims a gain of 100 miles per 10 minutes. If you do it at home on a 240v charger, a full recharge comes overnight. It's also quite swift, running 0-60 mph in just 4.5 seconds - Corvette territory not long ago. When you return home, use the key fob to autonomously back it into your tight little garage.

Yet, that's not the entire driving story. I spent about 2.5 hours on the highway to retrieve my daughter. As expected for an EV, it is whisper quiet, honey smooth, and whisks away in a wink. I flat left a pesky Camaro in my wake. The heavy battery pack and wide track put weight low down in the chassis for handling and lends a wafty weight to the driving experience. It's comfortably reassuring whether devouring asphalt or picking up

## Kia EV9

your little niblets from a week away.

All of this comes at a price, but maybe one not as dear as you feared. It's a Kia, after all. The base EV9 starts at \$54,800, or about the price of a well-equipped gas-powered Telluride. However..., our GT-Line with AWD and all the options comes to a more intensive \$78,430. If you can afford it, I think you'll drive away delighted in this family-friendly electric glide.

2024 Nissan Ariya Platinum+

There's a wide swath of families who want futuristic concept car styling that fits their techy lifestyle, but don't really need three rows of seats. They also don't want to pay Mercedes, BMW, or Cadillac prices to get one. For them, the 2024 Nissan Ariya is a worthy choice.

I find it beautiful. Where a grille would normally be is a swathy black panel adorned with the new Nissan badge, illuminated by 20 LEDs and flanked by angry headlamps. The fluid design embraces the Japanese term *iki*, which implies cutting-edge nature. I'll take that to mean it looks to be

shaped by water and microchips. It's especially fetching set over 19" slicer alloy wheels.

Interiors embrace *ma*, or a belonging to both space and time. Designers aimed for the feel of a starship lounge with minimalist space, curved twin flatscreens, wide flat floor, and center console that powers back and forth. There's no transmission tunnel, so legroom is abundant. A panoramic moonroof, crisp 10-speaker Bose audio, and heated steering wheel add luxuries.

Examine the wood panel across the dash. It's not wood and climate controls are flush integrated to the panel with capacitive haptic switches. It's like changing temperature by clicking your finger on thin timber. I doubted I'd like the bluish-gray color of the Nappa leather seats against red paint, but they feel light and are heated/ventilated up front. Wireless phone charging keeps phones humming while a head-up display focuses eyes forward.

Our vehicle delivers 267 miles, but also lays down 389 horsepower and 442 lb.-ft. of torque

through the all-wheel-drive system. Use Eco mode for the best economy. Also depress the e-Step button for regenerative braking. Recharging 10-80% on a fast charger takes 40 minutes - longer than competitors - and expect a 14-hour recharge on a 240v home charger.

Driving further into the future, our car was equipped with Nissan's ProPILOT Assist 2 system that allows for hands-off cruising on designated highways. It's not as smooth as some competitors, but it was a nice addition to the adaptive cruise control for a relaxed cup of coffee en-route. Automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and rear cross path detection with auto brake enhance safety.

Base models start at \$39,590, but our Platinum+ e-4ORCE with the larger battery pack, AWD, and Nappa leather interior topped \$60k.

*Storm Forward!*

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

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