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TODAY'S VERSE

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Meet Carson



Carson is a 2 year old male grey/white domestic shorthair cat available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 9/28/24. Carson is friendly, playful, and will gladly keep your lap nice and warm all winter long! Carson is neutered, dewormed, and up to date on all of his shots! Carson's adoption fee is \$35.00. Carson is located in the community cat room (Cat Main) at AWL and is eagerly awaiting your arrival!! Come say hi! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p.

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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!

Ready or not, 2025 is here! Here's a quick glance at the year ahead . . . by the numbers!

2.5 percent

The good / not-so-good news for Social Security recipients in 2025 is that there will be a cost-of-living-allowance increase. It will be 2.5 percent, which is better than nothing . . . but worse than the 3.2 percent increase last year. (Also on the not-so-good side, there will be a small bump in costs for Medicare when the monthly base for Part B goes up a little less than \$10 a month.)



3

Want to know when the other three seasons start? Wonder no more! Summer begins on Friday, June 20. Fall gets kicks off on Monday, Sept. 22 and we're back to winter on Sunday, Dec. 21!

2

For stargazers, this month is not just the start of a new year, but a great opportunity for two events. Tonight is the Quadrantid meteor shower. The Quads come from a dormant or extinct comet, scientists believe. It comes around every five or so years. The second event is what's called a "Parade of Planets." This takes place after sunset on Jan. 10. What is that, you ask? Well, according to one of the best sources of information in the entire world - the Farmers Almanac - the Parade of Planets is where multiple planets come together in close proximity. The first one this year begins next Monday.

11

One more bonus for stargazers. There are 11 meteor showers on tap this year. In order, they are: The previously mentioned Quads, the Lyrid shower April 21-22, Eta Aquariid May 4-5, Southern Delta Aquariid July 29-30, Perseid Aug. 11-12, Draconid Oct. 8, Orionid Oct. 21, Taurid Nov. 12, Leonid Nov. 17, Geminid Dec. 14 and Ursid Dec. 22.

10

That's the number of U.S. Postal Service holidays we have left this year. They are:

- Jan. 20 Monday - MLK Birthday
- Feb. 17 Monday - Washington's Birthday
- May 26 Monday - Memorial Day
- June 19 Thursday - Juneteenth
- July 4 Friday - Independence Day
- Sept. 1 Monday - Labor Day
- Oct. 13 Monday - Columbus Day
- Nov. 11 Tuesday - Veterans Day
- Nov. 27 Thursday - Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25 Thursday - Christmas



\$19,000

For those wonderful people who give charitably, the annual gift exemption allowed by the IRS is increasing to \$19,000 this year. Of course, not only do those people help others, they also can take advantage of potentially helpful tax strategies.

1

All in all, a new year is one more opportunity to live your best life, be your best self, help make a difference in our one world, do one good deed a day, take things one day at a time . . . and, well, you get the idea!

Happy New Year and here's to the best for everyone!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

To improve sleep, keep your bedroom cool, dark and quiet.

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



THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1** Usher in 2025 with other outdoor lovers at one of the many First Day Hikes offered Jan. 1 at Indiana's state parks and lakes. First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start the new year. They offer a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature, and connect with friends. Find one near you at on.IN.gov/INStateParkEvents. The hikes are organized by Indiana State Parks in cooperation with America's State Parks. They will take place in all 50 states. For more information, visit America's State Parks website at stateparks.org.
- 2** Our friends at Grunge Gourmet polled 3,000 people in search of the best dive bars for food - and three in the Hoosier State finished among the national leaders. At No. 58 was the Dugout Bar in Indianapolis - a local dive with comfort food. The circle city also had No. 98 with the Whistle Stop and its classic bar food like burgers sandwiches and salads, with some intriguing dishes like duck wings and brisket fries. And up in northern Indiana, the Five Star Dive Bar in Elkhart finished 108th. The Vortex in Atlanta, Rudy's Bar & Grill in New York and Flora-Bama in Perdido Key, Fla. were the top three in the U.S.
- 3** Dr. Jerry Pattengale, a distinguished Indiana Wesleyan University professor and administrator, has been named a Sagamore of the Wabash by Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb for his lifetime achievements and commitment to the Hoosier state. The award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in service to the state or the governor and embody Hoosier values such as hospitality, wisdom and dedication to their community.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential."
Ellen Goodman

TODAY'S JOKE

My one and only New Year's resolution? I want to be good friends with luck all year!

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Just a reminder, there will be no Paper of Montgomery County Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. The Paper will publish the regular Monday and Friday Online Editions.



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

Butch Honors A Truly Great Prep Cager



BUTCH DALE Columnist

As many of you are aware, Daryl Warren, a 1971 Linden High School graduate, recently received the needed votes to be inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be held in March of this coming year. I spoke with Daryl recently at a North Montgomery game in which he was recognized for the honor. My first words were, "It's about time!" Daryl, ever so humble, just grinned and thanked me.

Daryl was a four-year starter for the Bulldogs and led the team in scoring each year. He averaged 16.3 as a freshman, 21.7 as a sophomore, 29.7 as a junior, and 29.5 as a senior . . . for a total of 2,083 total points during his high school career . . . the most of any player in Montgomery County basketball history. Daryl was voted to the All-County tourney team all four years. During his last three years, his team had a record of 44-17, and one must remember that all games were played away, as the Linden gym was too small.

➡ See BUTCH Page A3

One Last Rant Before End of Year



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

Let's jump on the soapbox one last time before we bid adieu to the madness that has been 2024.

(You know, it kind of feels like I've been on the soapbox more this year than any other. Maybe I've just become the old guy yelling at the kids to get off his lawn. I told a friend that the other day and he said yes, I am, but that the world has also changed and we need more people on soapboxes. Not sure what that means, but there you go.)

Anywho, did you see the exchange between Sen. Josh Hawley and NCAA President Charlie Baker earlier this month? Baker used to make \$185K a year as the governor of Massachusetts. His salary now isn't public, but we're told his predecessor Mark Emmert pulled down just a tad less than \$3 mill a year.

➡ See TIM Page A4

Sen. Deery Has Survey



SPENCER DEERY
 Guest Columnist

In years past, senators have mailed constituents surveys before the legislative session.

inspect your vehicle, leave plenty of time to reach your destination and keep a basic survival kit in your car with items like winter travel gear, ice scraper/snow brush, jumper cables and road flares.

This year, the survey will only be offered online, so there is no need to wait for the survey to arrive in the mail — you can complete it today.

Outside the legislative session, I spend the entire year traveling the district meeting with folks to hear their views. As such, there are rarely surprises in the results of these surveys, but they are still a highly valued data point as I attempt to gauge your thinking.

The presence of a question should not be interpreted as my support for or opposition to any given policy or proposal. I simply am eager to hear your viewpoints on some of the issues I expect to be debated in the coming months.

To take my 2025 survey, click [here](#).

DRIVE SAFE THIS Winter

With the arrival of winter weather in Indiana, road conditions are likely to become a factor in our daily commutes to work, taking kids to school and running errands.

During a winter weather event, snowplows will be out to clear snow and ice from roadways.

The Indiana Department of Transportation asks motorists to follow these safety measures when driving near a snowplow.

- Give plows room to work.
- Be patient, as snowplows travel below the posted speed limit.
- Keep an eye out — while you may see snowplows, they may not always see you.

When winter weather hits, motorists are asked to clear snow and ice from your car,

Baird Votes For American Relief Act



Congressman Jim Baird, R-IN, represents District 4, which includes Montgomery County. He released the following statement after voting for H.R. 10545, the American Relief Act: "While this government funding bill is not perfect, I voted for the *American Relief Act*. This funding package contains funding for agricultural disaster assistance, \$10 billion in economic assistance to farmers, and a one-year Farm Bill extension, giving our farmers some economic certainty while Congress negotiates a full reauthorization that puts our farmers first. This bill contains much-needed relief for Americans hit hard by natural disasters, such as Hurricanes Milton and Helene. With these provisions, House

Republicans are providing Americans impacted by the recent natural disasters with the support they need. This package also continues to place certain fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs at a time when record amounts of fentanyl have been trafficked across our open borders under the Biden-Harris Administration and devastated our communities. Finally, this legislation also removes many of the pork-filled, Christmas tree provisions of the previous package and will fund the government until March 2025 when Republicans will have more control over the funding decisions and deliver on the mandate of the American people."

PROTECTING Intellectual Freedom

Earlier this year, Senate Enrolled Act 202 was signed into law. I designed the bill aiming to restore faith in higher education, protect intellectual freedom and establish a culture that values viewpoint diversity at our public universities.

I was recently invited to participate in the CEEPing Up with Education podcast, hosted by the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at Indiana University to answer questions on the law.

I was eager to take the opportunity to talk directly to people.

ATTENTION LOCAL Students: Page for the Indiana Senate

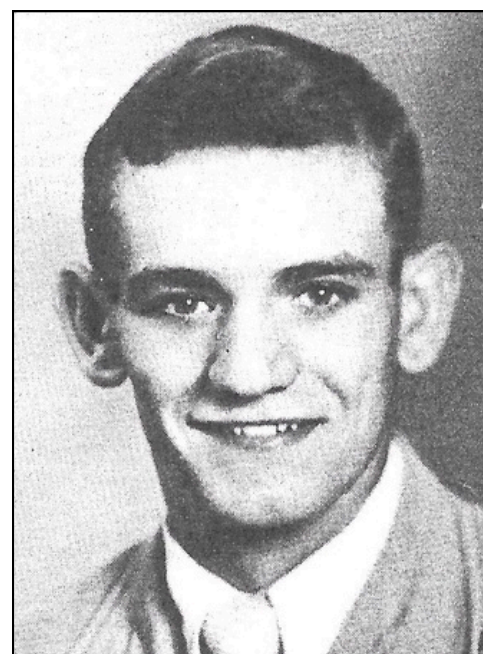
The Indiana Senate is accepting applications for the 2025 Senate Page Program.

Through the full-day program, students in grades six through 12 have the opportunity to tour Indiana's Statehouse, including an executive branch office, listen to debates from the Senate floor, help staff with age-appropriate tasks, and meet their state senator. The Senate Page Program begins in January and will run through early April. Positions fill quickly, so it's important to apply early.

For more information or to submit an application, go to <https://www.indianasenatepublic.com/deery>.

State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1954 Darlington Grad?

HINT:
 He was the top scorer on the basketball team which won Darlington's first County Tourney.

Answer on Page A3



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thepaper24-7.com

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One More Sun



It is an unusual living situation, in many ways.

CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

My husband, Peter, and I spend

almost half the year down in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. We had a terrible experience in another town (an absentee American owner with a filthy rental) and we came running back to San Miguel, desperate to find a place to stay—any place that was clean and halfway affordable. And that is how Jorge found us.

"I have an apartment on Loreto that is available for the month," he wrote, in response to my frantic post on the San Miguel Facebook page.

"That will be expensive," I warned Peter.

Jorge told us the price. It was not expensive.

"That will be a dump!" I warned Peter.

It was not. It is a small apartment in a small hotel called "House of the Suns," and has (according to Jorge) nearly 3,000 suns painted on various surfaces and hung from all the walls. Most of these were painted by Fabrizio, the artist Jorge keeps on more-or-less permanent retainer.

Our apartment is not fancy, and it is not large, but we are happy. All our friends either own their own homes here or rent something much larger and fancier. I sometimes admire their space (and their bathtubs!) but I cannot imagine leaving Jorge.

Every time we are down here, I buy another painting at an art gallery and hang it on the wall. Peter buys another cooking gadget. We buy more pillows, and the cupboards fill with our brightly colored dishes from the market and... we leave all of it, right where it is. Our apartment is rented out to other people while we are away, but Jorge does not mind.

Even so, I was reluctant to broach the subject of the table.

There is nothing wrong with our kitchen table. It's heavy and round and built for the

outdoors, so it did not start its life expecting to be a kitchen table. That is not a serious problem. But it occupies a large percentage of our small kitchen and has awkward legs. And so (because I have a far-too-busy brain), I had been agitating about this table.

"I think we need a new table," I told Peter.

"You better ask Jorge."

Peter's No. 1 concern is keeping Jorge happy, and I share this concern. But I also wanted a new table. So I waited for the appropriate time, and I sprung.

"I have a very serious question for you," I told Jorge—letting him know this might not be as serious as my words implied.

Jorge smiled. "Yes?" Jorge is always patient with my Spanish.

"I saw a table. It is square and painted, and I think it would be nice in the apartment. I wonder if I could buy it." I did not think Jorge would need much convincing, but I wanted to seal the deal. "And perhaps I could pay Fabrizio to paint a sun on the table."

Jorge smiled. Adding one more sun to our kitchen table certainly could not hurt.

"No problem," Jorge said.

"For sure?" I asked.

"For sure," he said.

So I went out the next day, and I bought the used blue and green painted table, and I carried it home. And the very next day, Fabrizio painted a magnificent sun on the top.

I don't know if this is how hotels are supposed to operate—letting us put our art on the walls and swap out the furniture—but it seems to work for all concerned.

And now, I am looking at the chairs...

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Who is the Mystery Shopper?



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Every year during holiday time, I pick a favorite Christmas column from the past 25 years that I particularly liked and thought you'd like to read again. Or for the first time. Or maybe the second time, but you do not remember the first time. Any of these work for me.

This story begins several years ago when the UPS truck pulled up to the curb at our house. We saw the driver struggle with a huge carton the size of a big-screen TV. He maneuvered it to the front porch and left it leaning against the door. I went outside to look at it.

"Who's it for?" asked Mary Ellen.

I checked the label, which was addressed to me, but sometimes that sticker is misleading. Some of our credit cards are in my name; some are in Mary Ellen's, so when a delivery is made, we are not sure who ordered it and who the gift is ultimately for. If the wrong person opens it, there goes the surprise on Christmas morning.

"It says it's for me," I told her, "but I have no recollection of ordering anything so big. Maybe you ordered it, Mary Ellen."

My wife thought for a moment and so began the weirdest conversation in our 45-year marriage. "Dick, I know what it is. It's that special item I mentioned two months ago that I wanted for Christmas. You said you found it in a catalog. Don't you remember? I am so excited! Thank you."

"I have absolutely no memory of what it is. Can you give me a hint?"

"No, I can't give you a hint. That would ruin the surprise."

"Ruin the surprise? Ruin

the surprise? The gift is for you! It's supposed to be your surprise. But you already know what it is. I'm the one who doesn't have a clue."

"It doesn't seem right to tell you. That's not in keeping with the spirit of giving, Dick."

"Okay, how about if you whisper softly in my ear and I promise I won't tell you what you said."

It scared me a little that this made sense for a brief moment. It was driving me crazy that I had no memory of what I bought her.

"Is it a high-tech item?" I asked.

"Not really," said Mary Ellen.

"Do you plug it in?"

"No."

"Is it artwork?"

"No, not even close. But I don't want to play anymore. If you guess it, I'll have nothing to look forward to on Christmas morning. I want to see the expression on your face when I open it and you see what you got me."

Later that morning when Mary Ellen went out grocery shopping, I opened the box. Let me tell you, it was a really neat present. I don't think I have ever been happier with something I bought my wife. Before Mary Ellen got home, I resealed it, then gift-wrapped it and placed it under the tree. Of course, now we both knew what was in the package. It will still be a surprise on Christmas morning, as long as we can both keep a secret.

— 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.

↓ BUTCH From Page A1

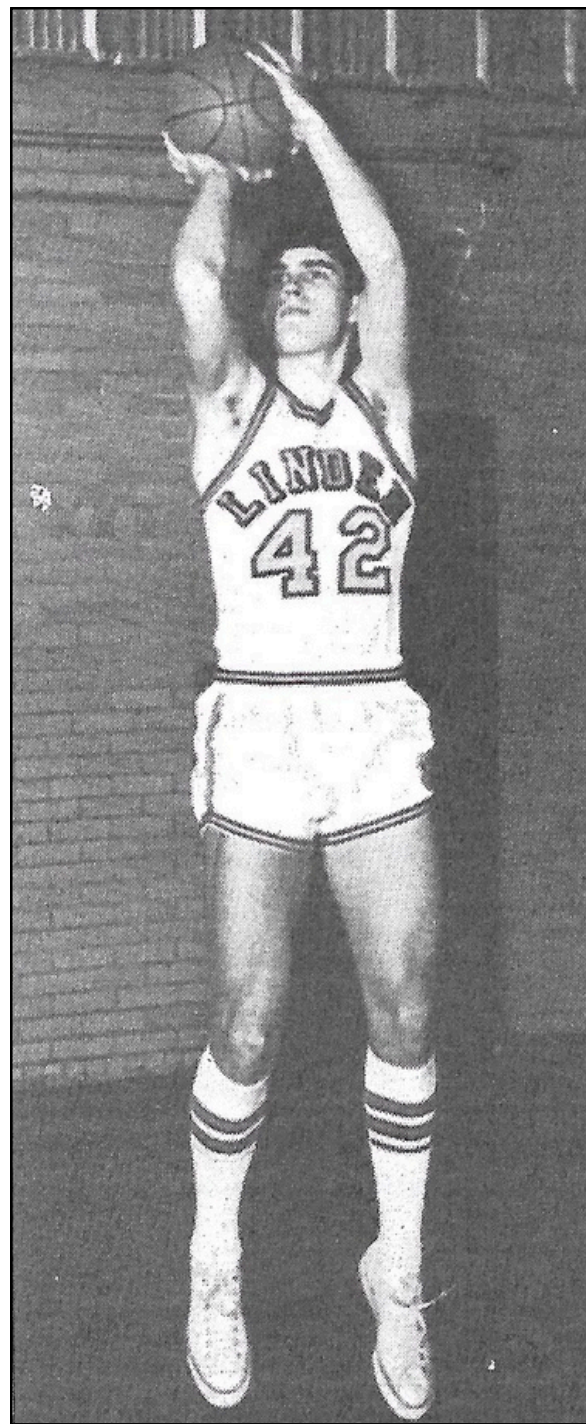


Photo courtesy Butch Dale

Fittingly, Daryl Warren is going in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

I watched Daryl play in 1969 and 1970 when they went up against Darlington. He had a "soft touch" and could hit the basket from anywhere on the floor. If there had been 3-point baskets back in those days, I honestly believe he could have averaged close to 40 points per game. But he was also unselfish and could hit the open man when the other team put two players guarding him.

The gym for the Linden vs. Darlington games was always packed. Daryl's father, Jack Warren, graduated from Darlington in 1940. Jack's brother, Damon "Mutt" Warren, graduated from Darlington in 1941. Jack and Mutt were excellent players on the Indian's teams. My father, Bill Dale, was the starting guard on those same teams. Mutt's two boys, Fred and Charlie, and my brother Gary were on those great Darlington teams of the late 1960s, and competed against Daryl. The competition was fierce, with Darlington usually victorious; however, Linden was able to pull off a great victory and wrestle the "County Keg" away from the Indians in a 4-way tourney in 1971, after the Indians had held on to the Keg for nearly three years. In that game, Daryl hit the basket for 38 points, and the Bulldog fans went wild! The team also managed to win the last County Tourney his senior year... a fitting end to a great career.

After graduation, Daryl headed to Indiana Central College (now the University of Indianapolis) where he played all four years, was named MVP and team captain, and finished in the top 10 in scoring with 1,365 points.

In his address to the crowd at North Montgomery, Daryl was his usual self, giving credit to his teammates and coach Tom Speaker. "I had a great coach and talented teammates. We worked well together as a team, and they had confidence in me, and let me shoot the ball," he said with a big smile.

Montgomery County has certainly had many great players since the early 1900s... Charlie Bowerman, Bill and Keith Greve, Donnie Threlkeld, Dick, Phil, and Ronnie Haffner, Howie Williams, Pete Moore, and of course Homer Stonebraker... just to name a few, but none of those ballplayers ever came close to scoring as many points as Daryl Warren. He was the "Jimmy Chitwood" of Linden. Thanks, Daryl, for making Montgomery County basketball such a thrill to watch!

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.

A Christmas Miracle!



Photo courtesy OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center

Sacred Heart Medical Center in Danville, Ill. welcomed twins on Christmas day – something you don't see often! Baby girl A was born at 4:29 a.m., weighing 4 pounds 12 ounces and 18 inches long. Baby girl B was born at 4:31 a.m., weighing 4 pounds 11.5 ounces and 17 inches long. Mom Ashley and her new family members are doing great and were gifted Christmas onesies from OSF Mission Partners (employees).

THE PAPER

**Butch Dale's
Flashback
Trivia
Answer:
Darrell Maxwell**

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↓ TIM

From Page A1

Is Baker in the same ballpark? Probably. Hopefully he's not a lot higher. Because anyone making \$57,000 a week or about \$1,445 an hour ought to have answers. Not some of the answers. Capital A, capital L, capital L – ALL the answers.

But when he was being grilled by Hawley during a committee hearing about the impact of legal sports betting on college athletics, he had darn few.

(So long as I'm the old guy yelling at kids about the grass, let me add in here that nothing good comes from the now-legal practice of sports betting. The hypocrisy with baseball alone probably has Shoeless Joe Jackson and Pete Rose turning over in their graves).

I digress.

Hawley, a Republican Senator from Missouri, got in Baker's face about transgenders in college athletics. Maybe it's because I'm a father of two daughters, albeit it was a ways back? Maybe it's because I THINK I have an ounce of common sense still left in my aging gray matter? Maybe it's because I want those pesky kids off my lawn? Whatever the reason, how in the world is this an issue?

How did the word biological get added before saying male or female in today's world? Is there another kind? Did God go and create a non-biological female . . . and instruct them to disrupt girls' and women's sports?

Here's the deal. There were several instances this past volleyball season where teams forfeited matches instead of playing against San Jose State – a team that had a male playing on the women's team.

Maybe it was a protest? Maybe it was safety? Maybe it was fear of a lawsuit?

Think about that one for a second. Baker all but said to Hawley that denying a male athlete the ability to play a female sport – and dress and shower with females in the locker room – could result in a lawsuit.

I wonder what the liability is if a male seriously injures a female during athletic competition? Let's go a step farther? What's

the exposure for the NCAA if a male commits a crime against a female athlete in the locker room?

Let's go back to me being a dad of female daughters who were high school and college athletes. There is no part, not one tiny iota of my being that would have been OK with a male dressing, undressing, showering, etc. with my daughters.

What parent would be OK with that?

It seems to me that the NCAA – and much of the world – is so afraid of a lawsuit or ticking off this group or that one that we have lost our minds.

And no, this is not some old narrow-minded guy denying anyone in the LGBTQIA+ community anything. You folks can keep adding all the letters you want, live the way you want, participate in any sort of relationships you desire. It's your life. And the limits on my life are such that I don't get to tell you how to live. But the opposite is true, too. You don't get to extend your rights to the point where they infringe on others.

The NCAA needs to find a little backbone and fortitude and start standing up for all their athletes, not just the ones they are afraid of.

It's maddening because it's all part of this "woke" world we live in today. A friend of mine pointed out that he sees "woke" as simply being aware -- conscious of the needs of others and actively try to help; recognizing the diverse needs within society and doing what he can to support them.

I wish everyone looked at it that way.

I also wish that if you disagree with the folks who take wokeness to a whole other level that the debate wouldn't turn into WW III. But that's the reality in today's world, isn't it. Many on the woke side aren't as level-headed and caring as my friend. They have their view and Katy bar the door if anyone sees things differently. It's been said in this space multiple times that our world has turned into two groups, you're

either with us, or agin' us.

That's sad – and it's getting us nowhere.

OK, let me get one more rant off my chest before we close the book on 2024.

This unfolding story about drones is fascinating to me. (Anyone want to guess when we'll hear about them near Camp Atterbury in southern Indiana?)

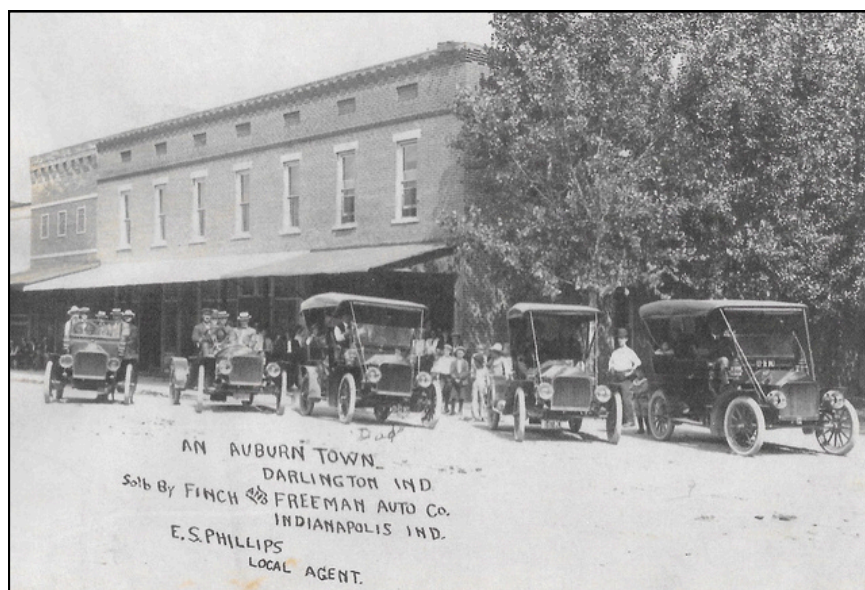
It's been said by many that the federal government's position – we don't know what they are, but they do not pose a threat – is insane. If we don't know what they are, how would we know if they're a threat or not?

By the way, this is the same federal government that couldn't shoot down a balloon as big as a school bus traveling slowly across the United States until after it floated near enough to military locations to record who knows what kind of sensitive data and information.

How many presidents have warned us of what our government could become? Just in my lifetime we have heard Eisenhower and Reagan famously speak up. Remember what Reagan said: "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'" Or when he said: "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." Whether we are talking exploding crime and homelessness in some of our major cities, open borders, a president pardoning his own son, balloons, drones, statements that make no sense . . . this list could go on a while . . . the reality is we live in a world turned upside down. It does not appear that it's going to right itself anytime in the near future either. Buckle up, Buttercups! Twenty-twenty four was a wild one. Lord knows what 2025 will bring.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Many people believe that only Ford vehicles were owned by people around here in the old days . . . Not so! There were numerous makes of cars, one of which was the Auburn, as this picture shows with these Darlington residents in 1916.

Gov.-elect Braun Sets Key Appointments

Gov.-elect Mike Braun today announced 20 appointments to lead various state agencies and departments as his administration prepares to take office in January 2025.

The appointments include:

- Steve Russo, Executive Director of the Indiana Public Retirement System
- Holly Lambert, Insurance Commissioner
- Lindsay Hyer, Executive Director of the Professional Licensing Agency
- Thomas Fite, Director of the Department of Financial Institutions
- James Michaels, Superintendent of the Indiana School for the Blind
- Dr. David Geeslin, Superintendent of the Indiana School for the Deaf
- Dr. Lindsay Weaver, Commissioner of the Indiana State Department of Health
- Steve Cox, Director of the Indiana Broadband Office
- Dan Huge, Chairman of the Indiana Finance Authority
- Don Lamb, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- Lloyd Arnold, Commissioner of the Department of Corrections
- Alan Morrison, Director of the Department of Natural Resources
- Kevin Garvey, Commissioner of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Mitch Roob, Secretary of the Family and Social Services Administration
- Jake Adams, Department of Veterans Affairs

- Fred Glynn, Executive Director of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs
- Brandon Clifton, Indiana Department of Administration Commissioner
- Pete Miller, Executive Director of the Indiana Management Performance Hub
- Kent Abernathy, Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner
- Adam Krupp, Director of the Department of Child Services

These appointments are in addition to the previously announced cabinet members:

- Secretary of Business Affairs, Mike Speedy, will also serve as the head of the Department of Labor
- Secretary of Commerce, David Adams, will also serve as head of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation
- Secretary of Education, Dr. Katie Jenner, will also serve as head of the Department of Education
- Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources, Suzanne Jaworowski
- Secretary of Health and Family Services, Dr. Gloria Sachdev
- Secretary of Management and Budget, Lisa Hershman, will also serve as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- Secretary of Public Safety, Jennifer-Ruth Green, will also serve as the Director of Homeland Security

- Secretary of Transportation and Infrastructure, Matthew Ubelhor
- Superintendent of the Indiana State Police, Anthony Scott
- Adjutant General of Indiana, Brigadier General Lawrence Muennich
- Lieutenant General, Micah Beckwith
- Chief of Staff, Joshua Kelley

The following senior staff positions have also been named:

- Jason Johnson, Deputy Chief Of Staff, Legislative Affairs
- Jessica Wedgewood, Deputy Chief Of Staff, Operations
- Patrick Price, Governor's Legal Counsel

About Governor-elect Mike Braun: Governor-elect Mike Braun of Jasper, Indiana, is a homegrown entrepreneur who has spent his life creating opportunities and getting results for Hoosiers. Mike believes deeply that personal freedom and opportunity will create a pathway to prosperity for all Hoosiers. As Indiana's 52nd Governor, Mike Braun is developing a team to help him build an administration that puts Hoosiers in the driver's seat and limits government to its proper role.

Mike Braun is a Main Street job creator, husband to Maureen (48 years), father of four and proud grandfather of seven. When Mike is not hard at work for the people of Indiana, he enjoys spending time on his tree farms where he also focuses on his passion for conservation.



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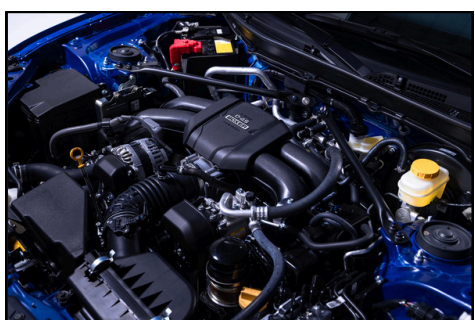
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2024 Subaru BRZ tS Proves Some of the Greatest Cars Come from the Craziest Mix of Parents



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

Some of the greatest cars have been birthed by the craziest mix of parents. Who would have thought Toyota and Subaru could conjure one of the all-time best sports cars with a delightful brew of classic Celica, modern Supra, WRX rally car, and a pinch of Porsche Cayman. There's even a little back seat to get the kiddies to school. It's the 2024 Subaru BRZ tS.

Its front fascia, boomerang taillamps, and WR Blue Pearl paint are pure Subaru. I like the aggressive side sills, body color spoiler, and dual exhaust outlets that add drama out back. But it doesn't take long to see some Toyota Supra in the bubble coupe profile. It's not surprising since the BRZ and Toyota GR86 are essentially the same car. Look closer and there's a bit of Porsche Cayman in there too. It all works well planted over dark 18" wheels fronting gold

brake calipers. An optional convertible top would make it even better.

There's a blending of styles and parts inside too. The leather-wrapped steering wheel and touchscreen are from Toyota, but the controls and seats channel Subaru. Given the finicky operation of Subaru's tablet touchscreen, I'll take the simpler screen in the BRZ. While it does have Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, they are not wireless and USBs are not compatible with Apple's latest format. Digital instruments add a modern touch and are easy to read when you're driving earnestly.

Cars like this tend to have super hard seats, tight legroom, and manual everything. Not the BRZ. Sueded seats are grippy, but also heated and thickly padded. Suede and blue stitching dress the cabin while automatic climate control and deep audio ease the drive. There's

even a large dead pedal on the left and adaptive cruise so drivers can relax. Automatic emergency braking blind spot warning, and rear cross path detection add margins of safety no matter where you're going.

None of this is surprising since even the high-performance Subaru WRX rally car is comfortable during daily driving, but unlike other Subarus that come standard with all-wheel-drive, the BRZ is only rear-drive for that flick-wrist sports car feel. A good set of winter tires plus standard stability control should set you straight for most inclement weather.

You have to rev the snot out of it, but the Subaru-sourced 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine delivers 228 horsepower and 184 lb.-ft. of torque. That's enough to run 0-60 mph in 5.8 seconds, but dropping in the WRX' turbocharged engine would light this party

properly and provide a raft of torque to relax daily driving. Besides, it really couldn't make the current 20/27-MPG city/highway much worse. This car really needs a taller sixth gear in the snick-snick manual transmission for highway cruising.

The chassis with STI-tuned suspension and limited-slip rear differential could certainly handle more power. It feels welded to the road on fast asphalt, but also glides over rougher pavement. Magical. But it's the engine that makes it all possible. As with Porsche, Subaru engines have horizontally-opposed cylinders that enable the engine to be placed low in the chassis for the balanced handling one expects in a sports car. It also allows a very low hoodline for excellent visibility that reminds me very much of the Cayman.

Some drivers will buy the BRZ as a fun way to get to get groceries

while others will savor every curvy road and hot on-ramp. No matter who you are, I think you'll agree strange parenting made a pretty special car. And, it's also relatively affordable with a \$31,095 base price, rising to \$36,465 as-tested. Also consider

the Mazda MX-5 Miata, Nissan Z, and similar Toyota GR86.

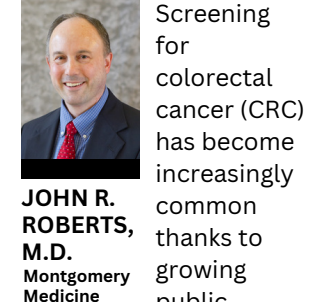
Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

Likes	Dislikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced handling Cozy interior Everyday usability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No turbo No convertible Fuel economy

2024 Subaru BRZ tS
 Four-passenger, RWD Coupe
 Powertrain: 2.4-liter I4, 6-spd
 Output: 228hp/184 lb.-ft.
 Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
 Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy
 Brakes f/r: disc/disc
 0-60 mph: 5.8s
 Top speed: 140 mph
 Fuel economy city/hwy: 20/27-MPG
 Assembly: Ota, Gunma, Japan
 Base/as-tested price: \$31,095/\$36,465

Montgomery Medicine: Colorectal Cancer Screening



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Montgomery Medicine

Screening for colorectal cancer (CRC) has become increasingly common thanks to growing public awareness and campaigns like the CDC's Screen for Life Action Campaign. Each year, over 150,000 new cases of CRC are diagnosed, and about 53,000 people die from the disease. This makes CRC the third deadliest cancer in men, after lung and prostate cancers, and in women, after lung and breast cancers. The good news is that when CRC is caught early, while still localized to the colon, 90 percent of patients survive for at least five years. Unfortunately, only 39 percent of cases are diagnosed at this early stage.

Over the past decade, the rates of new CRC cases and deaths have stabilized, likely due to improved screening practices and possibly other factors. However, a concerning trend has emerged: CRC is increasingly being diagnosed in younger individuals. Between 2012 and 2016, new cases of CRC in people under 50 rose by more than 2 percent annually. Actor Chadwick Boseman, for example, tragically passed away from CRC at just 42 years old.

Recognizing the warning signs of CRC is crucial. These include blood in the stool, persistent abdominal

pain, changes in bowel habits (such as narrower stools), unexplained weight loss, and iron-deficiency anemia. However, CRC often presents without symptoms in its early stages. A memorable New York Times advertisement once highlighted this fact with the message: "You feel great; You have a healthy appetite; You're only 50." This served as a powerful reminder that feeling healthy doesn't mean CRC isn't a possibility.

Age is the most significant risk factor for CRC, with 93 percent of cases occurring after age 50. A family history of CRC or colon polyps increases the risk, but it's important to note that 75 percent of cases occur in people without a family history. Other risk factors include inflammatory bowel diseases like Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, lack of regular exercise, diets high in fat and low in fiber, smoking, obesity, and excessive alcohol consumption.

CRC typically begins as small clusters of abnormal cells in the colon's lining. These cells may develop into polyps, which are finger-like growths inside the colon. While most polyps are not cancerous, adenomatous polyps have the potential to become cancerous over time. Hyperplastic polyps, on the other hand, do not carry this risk.

The primary goal of CRC

screening is to identify abnormal cells before they turn cancerous or to detect cancer when it is still small and treatable. Several screening methods are available, and recommendations vary among professional groups. Tests that can detect adenomatous polyps and cancer include flexible sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, double-contrast barium enema, and virtual colonoscopy. Both flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy offer the added advantage of allowing physicians to biopsy and remove polyps or suspicious lesions during the procedure. Colonoscopy is considered the gold standard for CRC detection, but some patients are hesitant due to the prep and its invasive nature.

Less invasive screening options include high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) and fecal immunochemical testing (FIT). FOBT requires dietary restrictions and multiple stool samples, which has made it less popular over time. FIT, which has largely replaced FOBT, is more convenient as it doesn't require dietary restrictions and only needs a single stool sample. Additionally, FIT specifically detects human blood proteins, reducing the likelihood of false positives caused by dietary factors. However, if either test yields a positive result, a

colonoscopy is typically recommended to locate the source of bleeding.

The newest screening tool, Cologuard®, combines FIT with a DNA test for cancer-specific markers. While promising, it has a higher false positive rate (13 percent) compared to FIT alone (5 percent). Despite these limitations, Cologuard® offers another option for those hesitant to undergo traditional screening methods.

If you're over 45 or

have other risk factors, it's essential to discuss CRC screening options with your health care provider. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends CRC screening for individuals aged 50 to 75, giving it their highest "Grade A" rating. It also recommends starting screening at age 45, with a "Grade B" rating. Screening for those over 75 is generally not advised unless specific circumstances warrant it.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies must cover recommended CRC screenings without requiring patients to pay co-pays or deductibles. However, if a procedure like a colonoscopy results in the removal of a polyp, patients may incur additional costs for the biopsy and pathology.

For more information, visit bit.ly/41s99Wg to access the latest Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures.

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Montgomery Murder Mysteries

“It’s part of being a boy, Lizzie!”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Karen Zach, a 50-year-local history writer, presents her Montgomery Murder Mysteries – historical fiction, based on fact – of the first 13 or so murders in our county. Karen has written a weekly column for The Paper of Montgomery County and was the editor of Montgomery Memories, a monthly publication from The Paper for many years. Now that she is retired, she is sharing these stories and The Paper is very pleased to continue working with Karen and her talented writings.



KAREN ZACH
Montgomery Murder Mysteries

Two o’clock February 15, 1870. Five years ago today upon this hour, my husband and our

favorite nephew were murdered. I fear I was very much at fault. Mother told me many times not to have one child that it stirred trouble, but we tried for 12 years before we finally got Milton. I was 30 and Frederick was 33. Never did I conceive again. As Frederick always said, “It weren’t for lack a tryin’!” We’d very much loved to a had many more but the Lord never saw fit, so you can see why Milton was so important to us. But, something went bad in his raising!

He was such a good boy from time of conception. I was never sick and the laboring was of no importance. Never was there a more gentle and reverent child. These things made it so hard for us to believe that about the time he turned 28, things just soured. No, way before that, but only occasionally did the ugly head of meanness rear before then. One thing I’m sure of is it all began with that gun. Frederick gave it to Milton for his 18th birthday. Shoot, I don’t even know what kind it was because I hate guns, but for quite some time, Frederick and the boy were inseparable. Father taught son too well, I fear, as it was that very gun that took my dear husband’s life. For Milton’s 15th birthday, Frederick had gone to Chicago on his first train trip. He took Milton with him to buy a highly-bred Beagle dog. They had quite a stir with the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Railroad folk gettin’ Little Dan home. At first they made Milton put the dog in a baggage car but both Milton and the animal put up such a fuss that a car porter gave in to the noise to keep peace with the riders. Guess Little Dan slept the rest of the way home on Milton’s lap. Ponderin’ back, it was just another of the thousands of times Milton got his way, though. I thought it quite a waste of money to make that train trip, but I do say that I was pleased with the lovely fragrance my men brought back to me from Marshall-Fields Big Department Store.

Why, as I think on it, even Little Dan’s name was one of Milton’s ploys. Frederick wanted to name the dog Sam after his Irish Setter of long ago while Milton had chosen Wavy because of all the colors melded together in the dog’s coat. Finally, it was a once-in-



Photo from dogbreedinfo.com

a-lifetime compromise on the name, Dan, which was after Fred’s brother and Milton’s favorite uncle. So as not to get the two confused, the dog became Little Dan.

Milton and Little Dan were never apart, especially after Milton got that long hunk of metal on his 18th birthday. I suppose it had its good purposes what with never needing food for the table, yet I worried that Milton was a bit over zealous as he shot birds, cats, snakes, turtles, rabbits or anything just to be shooting something. I complained ever so much to Frederick but he’d just say, “It’s part of being a boy, Lizzie!”

Little Dan, Milton and the gun would be gone for days. When I worried and fretted, Frederick would use that seven word answer over and over, “It’s part of being a boy Lizzie!” I came to hate that saying as I came to hate that gun and my son.

About the time Milton got the gun, he ever after refused to attend church. As I think back, many times from about age ten on, he feigned poorly and we went to the Old Union Church services without him. Frederick and his brothers and several cousins had built the large white-washed church and Frederick was quite proud. Milton was never impressed. Seems Milton rejected God and the church’s teachings early on, but I’m thankful that on Frederick’s dying day we believed he would join our Savior and of that I have no doubt.

We never had the trouble with Milton going to school as with church. Even with his sassin’ a school Marm or two, Milton seemed to revel in his learning. Reminded me of the stories of how Abe Lincoln read by fire light. Milton would flop on his belly and devour the books that had come from his Grandfather Wineland’s. Frederick was born on the seventh day of the sixth month in the last year of the 1700s near Cumberland, Maryland on the large Wineland Estates to Jacob Fredrick and Maria Sies Wineland. Wonderful folks. Frederick had tried to incorporate his parents’ strong ethics, love of the Lord and

high moral standards upon Milton daily. It just never took root. Frederick was a fine example. He treated me with such care and devotion and yes, I him. From the time it was built until the day he passed, he was a deacon in the church. Each and every time he dealt in his crops or hogs, he never cheated another. His only crime was his constant indulgence with Milton. Think I was a bit better than Frederick, but not much. I tried to woo Milton with his favorite dishes, Corn Pudding or my famous Double Pineapple Casserole each time he’d have one of his mean spells. Oh, occasionally, I would tell Milton no, but then there’d be Hell to pay with his temper rearing that often I, too, would back down. Milton was so sweet when he got his way. Mother had probably been right; we’d not have had time to ruin our children had we had more than just Milton. Of course, none of my friends knew how to raise one child only, as all of them had a house full.

We did have some experience with raising a niece, Samantha, when my sister, Mary, died at age 28. Samantha was 11 when she lost her ma. She turned-out quite well, if I do say so, but we had her a mere six years before she married James Mullikan. Thinking on it now, I wonder if Milton made her life miserable and she was glad to be away. I never noticed any strife with them, yet I heard her tell him she didn’t want him at her wedding. He didn’t go, neither! Didn’t think it was too odd at that time, but it sure makes me wonder now. Perhaps I’ll ask Samantha about it sometime. To be sure, as fairy tales go, Samantha has lived happily ever after! Not so for me!

Both Frederick and I are small in stature whereas Milton takes after the Sies side of the family. All the Sies men are large as was Frederick’s mother. Milton at full height was one of the highest men in our area, towering over everyone by three or four inches. If his height didn’t make

people notice him, his good looks did. His eyes were most unusual, almost like that of a wild animal, a steel gray that heightened when angered. His hair was curly and sandy colored. His face was long and sharp. Complexion was always glowing. One of the few good things I remember about my son is that his laughter was loud and contagious. We didn’t hear it often enough, but when we did, it made me smile and join in the fun. The laughter really began to seize when Milton married Mary Hamilton. Their five children were so precious, Mary, Henrietta, Frederick named for his grandfather, Julia and little Milton. The oldest was just over ten and little Milton wasn’t even five when Milton completed his madness. It began when he left home at the time of his marriage in 1854. Frederick couldn’t do all the work around here. My nephew, Ben VanCleave, was just ten and such a hard-working, reliable boy that we decided we’d see if he’d like to live with us. He wasn’t at all happy living with his uncle, John VanCleave, so he joined his Aunt Lizzie and Uncle Fred as he loved to call us. I think I was the happiest I’d been in a long time, as was Frederick. Ben, too. We just all lived such a pleasant life. Ben would not let Frederick do hardly anything “seein’ as he’s 50ish,” Ben always said. Ben was full of energy. We both insisted he go to school and he did, but not with the enthusiasm Milton had shown. He did well in his studies, however and was in the middle of his last term when he was murdered. Ben was a handsome boy, too, and had many friends and girls who adored him. He was never moody as Milton had been, never trying to get his way. His appreciation for our “takin’ me in,” as he said was never ending. When Milton approached the subject that Ben was “using us,” as he said, we couldn’t believe it. Purely and simply, Milton was jealous, and he a grown man at that time with boys of his own. The fussing about Ben got so bad that Milton and Mary finally moved over near Paxton in Ford County, Illinois. I missed my darling grandchildren and Mary some too, but never did I miss Milton as bad as he’d become.

To be continued....

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