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## TODAY'S VERSE

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (NIV)

## Meet Amelia



Amelia is a 7 month old female black/white domestic shorthair cat available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 7/31/24. Amelia is a LOVER! Amelia has won the prestigious award of ULTIMATE LAP CAT!! Amelia is playful, cuddly, and all sorts of PURRRFECT! Amelia is currently in foster care and is happy to report she's having a BLAST! Amelia will gladly keep your lap nice and warm all winter long. Amelia is SUPER ready to find her forever home before being brought back to the shelter! DID YOU KNOW? Black cats and black and white cats are the LEAST ADOPTED cats in shelters. We are LOADED with cuddly cats right MEOW!! Let's find Amelia a furrever home!



This from a reader - We live in a time where smart people are told to keep their mouths shut so that stupid people won't get their feelings hurt.

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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!

**Country & Western Superstar and native Hoosier Steve Wariner is coming back home to Indiana for an "Intimate Evening With Steve Wariner" at the Center for Performing Arts in Carmel. The show is scheduled for Feb. 21 and tickets are going fast. So in honor of our fellow Hoosier, we're taking a look at Steve, a friend of The Paper, By The Numbers!**

**14** Since hitting it big in Nashville, Steve Wariner has been nominated for Grammy Awards an amazing 14 times! He has won in 2010 for Best Country Instrumental Performance, 2009 for Best Country Instrumental Performance, 2000 for Best Country Instrumental Performance and 1992 for Best Country Vocal Collaboration.



**5** Steve has been inducted into five different Hall of Fames:

- Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame
- Musicians Hall Of Fame
- Kentucky Music Hall of Fame
- National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame
- and the Music City Walk of Fame

**1996** That was the year Steve became a member of the Grand Ole Opry

**18** How many BMI Million-Air Award songs Steve has had. The award is a recognition for songs that have reached more than 1 million U.S. broadcast performances. The award is given by BMI, a performing rights organization that represents icons like Paul McCartney, Dolly Parton, Roy Orbison and others.

**12-25-54**

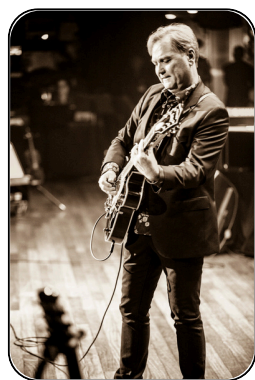
Steve was a Christmas Day Baby. His parents named him Steven Noel Wariner.

**10** The age at which he started his musical career. Although an accomplished world-class guitarist now, he began by playing drums in his father's band.



**\$35 to \$75**

Tickets start at \$35 and go up to \$75 for the February show. The 1,500-seat Palladium Concert Hall will likely sell out so those planning to go should purchase tickets soon. To get tickets online, go to <https://thecenterpresents.org/tickets-events/events/2425/c-enter-presents/steve-wariner/>



## TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're having trouble falling asleep at night, try dimming the room lights for an hour or so before retiring.

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)



## THREE THINGS You Should Know

- Attorney General Todd Rokita won a lawsuit on behalf of Hoosiers in Plymouth who were subjected to roof leaks, black mold, and unsafe electrical conditions at The Pointe Apartments. One tenant reported they were literally shocked in their own shower last summer as a result of extremely mishandled electrical problems. The landlord, RICH-MONS Group LLC, must pay a total of \$303,702 in damages and penalties, the Marshall County Circuit Court ruled. The court's decision mandates restitution for former tenants, covering damages such as mental anguish and actual losses, totaling \$214,902. Additionally, the judgment includes \$13,800 for the costs incurred by the Office of the Attorney General in investigating and prosecuting the case, as well as a \$75,000 civil penalty for violations of the Deceptive Consumer Sales Act. The lawsuit, filed by the Consumer Protection Division through its Homeowner Protection Unit, highlighted severe safety violations at The Pointe Apartments that led to the displacement of approximately 20 residents following an inspection by the City of Plymouth Building Commissioner.
- It's not often you find yourself face to face with a wild caracal cat on the loose in the US; these critters are usually found in Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia. But there it was, loose in the Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates and it appears that no one knows how it got there. When the police caught it and dropped it in a cage it went crazy and so they shot it with a tranquilizer gun, "but the drug they used wasn't potent enough to knock it out. It didn't get really groggy until it was in the cage for about 7-8 minutes," according to a neighbor who saw the hunt.
- It was a sight that slowed down traffic: a perfectly useful SUV in a dumpster in Fort Myers, FL. Scott Greenberg got a glimpse of it and told reporters that he did "a double take" when he saw the vehicle in the dumpster along with a load of trash. It turned out that the car was in the way of construction workers on the job of building a new apartment complex and so they carefully used a forklift to remove it onto the dumpster. It was eventually moved from the dumpster and carefully relocated to a parking space.

## TODAY'S QUOTE

"The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant. It's just that they know so much that isn't so."  
**Ronald Reagan**

## TODAY'S JOKE

Did you hear what the janitor yelled when he jumped out of the closet?  
**Supplies!**

## MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Each year the Crawfordsville Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce sponsors legislative breakfasts. Elected officials are invited to share with the business community updates on what is going on from the city to the county to the statehouse. The next one for state politicians is set for Feb. 8, and the next one for city/county leaders is March 7. Go to [www.crawfordsvillechamber.com](http://www.crawfordsvillechamber.com) to sign up or for more information.

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

## Butch Has A Penny for Your Thoughts



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

Last week I pulled into a fast food restaurant drive-through, and while paying at the window, the cashier dropped my change...a dollar bill and some odd cents. No one was behind me, so I pulled up and got out to retrieve it. On the ground, in addition to my change, were approximately twenty to twenty-five coins...mostly pennies, but also quarters, dimes, and nickels...which had evidently met the same fate. All in all there was almost two dollars, which I handed to the young cashier, "Here's your tip for today!" However, I kept one penny.

You see, I have lifelong habit of picking up pennies off the ground. "See a penny, pick it up, all day long you'll have good luck." I don't care if people see me do this or not. Now I realize that picking up a penny does not guarantee good luck, but it can't hurt...can it? The younger generation will not bother to pick up a penny, but you older folks know that "a penny saved is a penny earned." There isn't much of anything you can buy with a penny, but hey...they do add up. Someone mentioned to me that one day the government will likely stop making pennies, and I suppose they will become collector coins similar to the Indian head pennies.

In the good old days, a person could buy quite a few things with a penny....penny photos, penny postcards, and penny candy, just to name a few. There were penny arcades for entertainment, similar to the video games we have today. I would bet that many of you played "penny-ante poker" at one time or another. When I was in grade school, we played a game in which we flipped pennies into a circle drawn on concrete, with the closest penny to the bullseye winning the pot. One time a friend and I placed two pennies on the railroad tracks that ran next to the Darlington Farmers Feed and Grain elevator, waiting for an oncoming train to smash them. Old-timers told us that these now curved pennies would bring good luck. I can also remember that at one time downtown Crawfordsville had parking meters that took pennies.

➡ See BUTCH Page A3



## Witham Volunteer Organization Offers Boone County Scholarships



Photo courtesy Witham Health Services

From left, MaryPat Shephard, Witham Volunteer Organization Board Vice-President; Amy Mitchell, Witham Volunteer Organization Director; 2024 Recipients - Rebekah Letsinger; Ella Shepherd; Martha Sheets; Carolyn Koontz, Witham Volunteer Board President; and Denise Long, Witham Volunteer Organization Scholarship Committee.

The Witham Health Services Volunteer Organization is pleased to provide three \$1,000 scholarships to Boone County High School Seniors who are pursuing a degree or continuing education in a health-related field.

Amy Mitchell, Director of the Volunteer Organization at Witham said "these scholarships are provided annually by the Volunteer Organization to support and encourage students as they enter their secondary education."

"We are pleased to be able to continue to support the students of Boone County in this way, Mitchell said."

Scholarship applications and related information is available at each high school guidance counselor's office. Scholarship applications and all required documentation should be submitted to the school guidance counselor's office by Friday, March 7.

## Buchanan Chairs Committee Hearing



Photo courtesy Indiana Senate Republicans

State Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon) served as chair for the first meeting of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Technology recently. The committee heard two bills, one that would address local government influence on foreign media and one that would address cybersecurity regulations. Senate Bill 318 would require certain state media entities to disclose foreign ownership, funding and the use of foreign sourced or influenced content. Senate Bill 472 would hold certain public

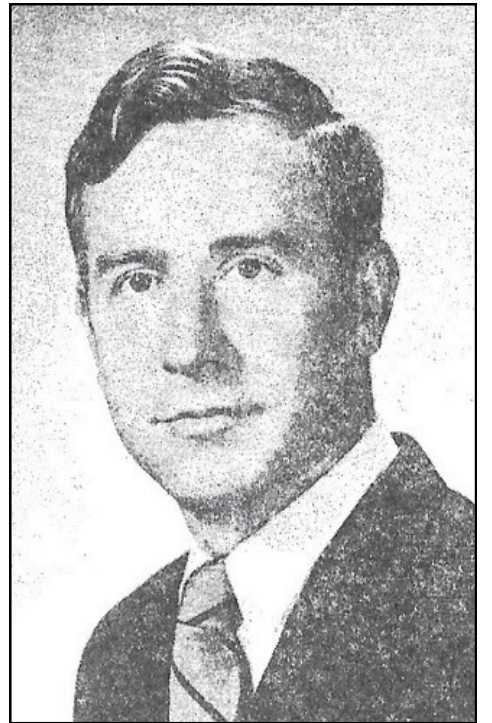
entities responsible for setting clear cybersecurity guidelines for use by political and state educational authorities. "It's an honor to serve as chair of this committee, and I hope these measures help produce a more secure future for Hoosiers as our economy and technology change in the years to come," Buchanan said. He represents Senate District 7, which includes portions of Montgomery, Boone, Clinton and Hendricks counties.

## Ladoga Student Earns Dean's List Honors

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is pleased to announce that Bailey Barker of Ladoga, IN has achieved Dean's List Honors for

the fall 2024 semester. Congratulations on earning this academic achievement, Bailey!

## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This Darlington Teacher and Coach?

HINT:  
His basketball teams were undefeated during the regular season in 1969 and 1970.

Answer on Page A3

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

Would You Like Fries With That?

The Paper of Montgomery County is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

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## The Car Wash Dress



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

My sister took me to task. "You know I was not being mean about your dress, don't you?" She meant the dress that she had said made me look like a car wash—the part of the car wash where the flappy things slap the car dry. My dress looked a lot like that, especially if I spun around. I thought this was hilarious and mentioned it in a column.

"Of course I knew you weren't being mean!" I told her.

It was not my intention to be so amusing, wearing the car wash dress. From a certain angle, it looks pretty stylish. It was some designer's idea of a good look, and because I wear a smaller size, I can usually fit into these ill-conceived but affordable cast-offs I find on the internet. Not all of them work out. But I am delighted when I can cause some unexpected merriment simply by showing up in an \$11 used dress.

My sister ought to know this. She should know that, at 62, I am not angling for some best-dressed list. I am all about having fun with clothes, trying weird and different things, and a lot of those things absolutely are not going to work out. That is fine with me. I still have the car wash dress. Unlike an actual car wash, it is black, so I could wear it to a funeral sometime when I felt a little levity might be welcomed at the end of the service.

My family has a fine tradition of teasing. I know some people find this hard to believe, and I know some people tease cruelly. That is not what I mean at all. The teasing in my family has always been delivered with a heavy dose of love. Since I was a small child, I have known that the person who got teased was loved and the more people teased,

the more love there was.

My dad and his sister were terrible to each other. My father always gave my aunt the meanest birthday cards, until one year she said, "Just once, I'd like a nice birthday card!"

The next year, my father went on a mission to find the most maudlin, absurdly sentimental, "To My Beloved Sister" birthday cards he could find. We found three, doused them in perfume, and presented them to her. (My dad also made her a rather nice set of candleholders in his woodshop that year, as I recall.)

They both laughed so hard they had to wipe away tears. She never asked for another nice card. So when my sister tells me I look like a car wash, it makes my day. I feel seen. I feel loved.

Being able to tell someone they look like a car wash means you know them well. She knows I have an oversized interest in buying dresses—too many dresses—for cheap on the internet. She knows I am not terribly self-conscious. (OK, I'm a bit of a ham.) Most of all, she knows that I know she loves me. She has supported me through every crazy and life-disturbing decision and event—through career changes, through a divorce, through moves across the country. There has never been a moment of my life when I have doubted that my sister would be there for me.

And so she gets to tease me.

I am definitely keeping the car wash dress. And it's not the last crazy dress I will buy. I figure it's my duty to give my sister something new to laugh about.

*Till next time,  
Carrie*

## Wolfsie Shares Memories



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

This is the time of year when I thank the people, places, and situations that make this column possible. As I have often explained, the key to writing a humor column is to take an actual event and blow it a little out of proportion. So, let's look back at some of my favorite pieces in the past year.

Because I kept falling out of bed, I bought a Hiccapop, a 6-foot-long pillow shaped like a giant sausage that you stick under the bottom sheet on the side of the bed. When Nettie, our housekeeper, failed to vacuum in our bedroom, I asked her why.

"Dick, someone was sleeping in your bed."

"That's my Hiccapop."

"I don't care who it is. I didn't want to wake him."

My proofreader quit last year—just as well. I was going to dump her anyway. She kept correcting me. Who needs that? Mary Ellen took over the job. That was an easy transition for her; she has been correcting me for 45 years. She is now my wife and my corrections officer.

My watch's alert system detected a possible injury when I fell out of bed. This was before I got the Hiccapop. It alerted several people on my medical emergency list, including my brother, who drives a cab in New York. I got this text minutes later. "Dick, if it's a real emergency, I can be there in 14 hours, but that's going to run you about 1500 bucks, and I refuse to come back light (This is cab talk for a driver having no passenger on the return trip).

One day my wife graciously came home early from shopping so I could use her car while mine was in the repair shop. She got out of her Prius. Then I got in and sped off. But she still had her key fob in her purse. Twenty miles

later, I exited my car and realized I couldn't turn off the engine because I couldn't turn it back on. And I certainly didn't want to leave the car running during my meeting. I also couldn't ask Mary Ellen to come get me because she had no car. I had her car. Are you laughing? I wasn't.

In an article in a survival magazine, the writer advocates a particular brand of survival food, saying 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.

Thanks to Kevin, who brought joy to our neighborhood last year. Kevin is a peacock who sauntered from yard to yard in Fishers, displaying his plumage by admiring himself in everyone's patio doors. Apparently, Kevin had already visited many neighborhoods in our area, but his origin is still unknown. He even has a Facebook page. It has 10 times more followers than I do. I wish I could be as proud as he is.

Thanks to Amy who accidentally took home my cell phone at the end of a church charity auction one night when we sat at the same table. I called her later that night on Mary Ellen's phone and told her if she got any calls for me to answer them and explain what happened. "Don't worry, Dick," she said. "I'll just say that I have your cell because we had spent the night together." I asked her to rephrase that.

*— 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

When I was ten years old, I started collecting Lincoln pennies when I received a coin book for Christmas. I went through Dad's change each week to see if I could find all of the years and mint marks. It was always interesting to find those steel pennies that were made during WWII. I never did find all of those dates, and gave up after two years. When I was a high school student in the 1960s, many of us teenagers wore brown leather "penny loafers," and placing a penny in those was supposed to bring good luck. I have also heard of people placing several pennies in a sock and then freezing it to use later as a cold pack for injuries. Others have made artwork or jewelry with pennies. And occasionally I have used a penny to turn a screw when I couldn't locate a screwdriver.

Well, I guess all things

come to an end eventually. The nickel may become the smallest type of currency in the future. I will need to think of a saying to recite when picking up a stray nickel off the ground. "Don't get in a pickle, pick up that nickel." I don't think that sounds as cool...In fact, "It's not worth a red cent!" Perhaps one of you can "put in your two cents worth" and think of a better one. And if you ever see me picking up a penny from the ground, I am not crazy. Old habits never die. I buy a lottery ticket every week. I need some good luck...and if I ever win, you'll begin picking up pennies, too.

*John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 36 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.*

**Butch Dale's  
Flashback  
Trivia  
Answer:  
Dave Nicholson**

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## Montgomery Medicine: Gout



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

Gout is a condition that has been recognized and documented for centuries, often referred to as the "disease of kings" because of its association with rich foods and alcohol. However, gout is far from a condition exclusive to royalty or indulgence. It is a form of arthritis that affects millions of people worldwide, causing significant pain and discomfort if left untreated. Understanding the causes, symptoms, and treatment options for gout is essential, as it is a highly manageable condition when properly addressed.

At its core, gout is caused by an excess buildup of uric acid in the bloodstream, a condition known as hyperuricemia. Uric acid is a byproduct of the breakdown of purines, natural substances found in certain foods and drinks, as well as in the body's own cells. Normally, uric acid dissolves in the blood, passes through the kidneys, and is excreted in urine. However, when too much uric acid is produced, or the kidneys do not remove enough of it, it can crystallize in the joints. These sharp, needle-like crystals trigger intense inflammation and pain, which are hallmarks of a gout attack.

Gout most commonly affects the big toe, but it can occur in other joints, such as the ankles, knees, wrists, and fingers. The pain during an acute gout attack is often described as excruciating and can be accompanied by redness, swelling, and warmth in the affected joint. These attacks tend to occur suddenly, often waking people from sleep, and can last for days or even weeks. If untreated, gout can lead to chronic arthritis and the formation of tophi, which are large deposits of uric acid crystals that can damage joints and surrounding tissues.

Several factors increase the risk of developing gout. Dietary habits play a significant role, with high-purine foods such as red meat, organ meats, shellfish, and certain types of fish (like sardines and anchovies) being common culprits. Sugary beverages and alcohol, particularly beer and spirits, can also raise uric acid levels. Beyond diet, genetics can predispose someone to gout, and conditions like obesity, high blood pressure, kidney disease, and diabetes increase the likelihood of hyperuricemia. Certain medications, such as thiazide diuretics (water pills) often used to treat hypertension, may also contribute to higher uric acid levels.

Diagnosing gout typically involves a combination of patient

history, physical examination, and laboratory tests. Doctors sometimes test joint fluid to confirm the presence of uric acid crystals during an attack. Blood tests may reveal elevated uric acid levels, though it's worth noting that high uric acid does not always mean someone will have gout. Imaging, such as ultrasound or X-rays, can also help identify tophi or other joint damage.

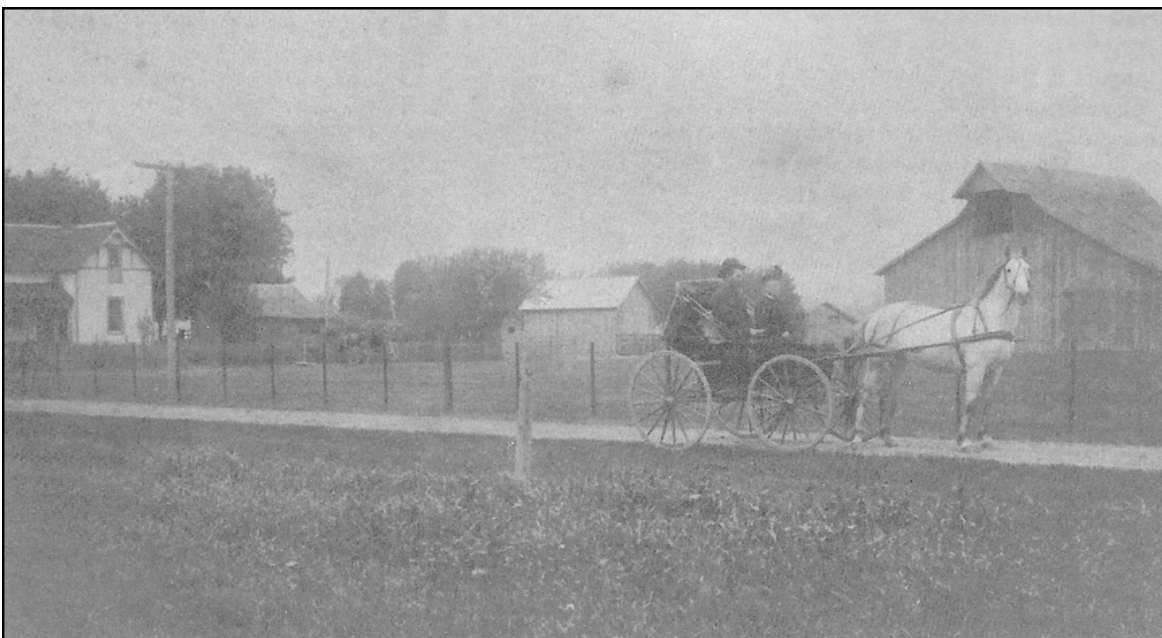
Fortunately, gout is a highly treatable condition. Acute gout attacks are managed with medications like nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), colchicine, or corticosteroids, which reduce pain and inflammation. To prevent future attacks and lower uric acid levels, doctors may prescribe medications such as allopurinol or febuxostat, which reduce uric acid production, or probenecid, which helps the kidneys remove it more effectively. Lifestyle changes are equally important in managing gout. Dietary adjustments, such as reducing intake of high-purine foods and sugary beverages, are crucial. Staying well-hydrated helps flush uric acid from the system, while maintaining a healthy weight reduces the body's overall uric acid burden. Limiting alcohol consumption and avoiding crash diets, which can temporarily raise uric acid levels, are also beneficial steps. Some research suggests that consuming low-fat dairy products and foods rich in vitamin C may help lower uric acid levels, offering additional dietary strategies for those with gout.

Recent studies have shed light on the role of chronic low-grade inflammation in gout and its association with other health conditions like cardiovascular disease and diabetes. This underscores the importance of addressing gout comprehensively, not only to alleviate joint pain but also to reduce the risk of broader health complications. Emerging treatments, including biologic medications that target specific inflammatory pathways, hold promise for those with severe or refractory gout.

It is essential to recognize the impact gout can have on quality of life and the importance of early intervention. While gout can be extremely painful and disruptive, it is a condition that responds well to treatment and lifestyle changes. By understanding the underlying causes and working closely with healthcare providers, individuals with gout can lead active, healthy lives and prevent long-term complications.

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

## Back in the Day with Butch Dale



**When all the work is done and there is no pressing concern, what do people like to do? Yes, hitch up old Dobbin to the buggy and head to town. That activity still exists today, but old Dobbin can stay home and graze as we head to town in our cars.**

## Two from Wabash in Strategic Leadership Program

Independent Colleges of Indiana has announced the members of the fifth cohort of its ICI Leadership Academy, including two members of the Wabash College staff. The year-long program specializes in the talent development needs of faculty and staff members of private college campuses.

Bailey Allen, Controller, and Victoria Gregory, Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation, will represent Wabash in the group. The criteria for

selection, according to the ICI, was that each sponsoring school identify people whose leadership will be critical to the institution's future.

“As Indiana’s private colleges navigate a rapidly evolving higher education landscape, investing in leadership at every level has never been more crucial,” said Laura Bridges, vice president and COO at ICI. “The ICI Leadership Academy is designed to equip emerging leaders with the skills and perspectives they

need to foster innovation and success on their campuses.”

Over the program, these aspiring leaders will gain an understanding of their institution holistically, and within the state and federal higher education landscape. Academy graduates are trained to view their college through multiple lenses (academic, financial, community involvement, and others) and to develop the leadership competencies needed for their institution’s and their own

professional success.

“With the launch of the fifth Leadership Academy cohort, we’re cultivating a new generation of leaders ready to drive transformation across Indiana’s private colleges,” said Dottie L. King, president and CEO of ICI. “This program empowers participants to build leadership capacity and make a meaningful impact on their institutions and the broader higher education community.”

## FOR THE RECORD

*For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Paper of Montgomery County. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Paper encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.*

### NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOL BOARD

Jan. 27

Work Session 5 p.m.; Annual Board of Finance Meeting; Regular Meeting 6 p.m.

1. Work Session
2. Year End Budget Review
3. Annual Board of Finance Meeting – 6 p.m.
4. Nominate and Approve President and Secretary of the Board of Finance
5. Approve Interest Earned Report
6. Review Fiscal Indicators
7. Adjournment
8. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
9. Public comment
10. Consent agenda
  - a. Minutes
  - b. Minutes
  - c. Monthly claims
  - d. Personnel, extra-curricular, field trips, facilities usage, contributions, gifts, superintendent stipends
  - e. Other
  - f. Consent vote
11. Artwork Recognition
12. Action items
  - a. Approve 2025-26 High School Course Guid
  - b. Approve Contract for Waste Water Management
  - c. Approve ELA Rates for 2025-26
13. Other
14. Adjournment

# KENNY THOMPSON



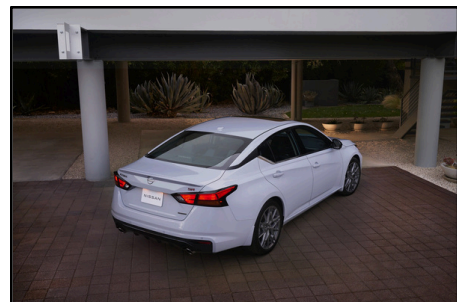
With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it’s putting what’s going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the 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!**

**THE PAPER**



# The 2025 Nissan Altima SR May Be the Snoop Dog Martha Stewart of Pleasantly Perfect Sedans



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

I have to confess one of my recent guilty pleasures has been watching the Martha Stewart documentary, “Martha”, on Netflix. She’s as perfectly pleasant and prone to details as ever, but post-prison Martha has a bit more edge, hanging with Snoop Dog and dropping F-Bombs like garden flower ordinances. I like this Martha a lot, and if she had an automotive alter ego, it may be something like the 2025 Nissan Altima SR with all-wheel-drive.

### Splendid Attitude

This angry cake gets frosted through a tall black grille with red SR logo, 19” bronze alloy wheels, more aggressive ground affects, flat body color spoiler, and rear diffuser. Lines are crisp and the roof hovers above with a broken C-pillar. Nissan designs all look sporty and there’s consistency in theme from the lowly Versa

through the compact Sentra and mid-size Altima. Crack open the trunk and flip down the rear seats to haul almost any gear you want.

Martha may appreciate styling flourishes throughout the cabin, but would be underwhelmed by its luxuries. Let’s start with the positives. I’m a big fan of the soft seats with red stitching and cloth inserts that hint at houndstooth. Red stitching on the console and doors pop. Piano black and faux carbon fiber trim pieces add panache. The touchscreen couldn’t be easier to use and has actual knobs for volume and tuning. Mad props for that. Connect devices via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The flat-bottom leather-wrapped steering wheel is perfect, but there’s a focus on value, so don’t expect automatic climate control, Bose audio, sunroof, nor adaptive cruise control. There are no heated seats either. It all looks

picture perfect, but is a bit light on substance. Safety, however, was given its due with automatic emergency braking, rear cross traffic alert with auto brake, lane departure warning, blind spot alert, and forward collision warning systems.

### Peppy Performance

While efficient and peppy, the engine is less spirited than the exuberant styling promises. Behind the sinister black grille is a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine delivering 182 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque. Routed to the all-wheel-drive system through a continuously variable transmission, that’s enough power to travel comfortably at comfortably above the speed limit, but a sports car it is not. How nice would it be with a turbo...maybe attached to the variable-displacement engine in the Rogue crossover? Even so, it is efficient, achieving 25/34-MPG city/highway.

Handling is more Martha than Mario. I suppose if you wanted to toss the Altima SR down a two-lane country road it wouldn’t embarrass itself, but the suspension and steering are more tuned for long-distance highway journeys and comfortable daily commutes. I don’t love the continuously-variable transmission that’s sleepy in its action, but it does keep the engine in the right rev range for power and efficiency and can be shifted via paddles should your inner Snoop bark. It rumbles over rough pavement with aplomb, so place that cake on the floor without worry.

If we’re being honest, the Altima SR is a bit below a highly accomplished woman known for owning a string of General Motors SUVs, Mercedes S-Class sedans, Mercedes-EQS SUV, Aston Martin DB9, and even a classic Edsel station wagon. But, maybe “new Martha” would give it a twirl.

I love the new Martha and her F-bombs, but engineers really need to drop a T-bomb and make the Altima SR a real sport sedan. Then again, it might dislodge its considerable value. Base Altimas start at \$27,000, but our fancy-pants SR came to \$34,580. Also consider the Toyota

Camry SE, Honda Accord Sport Hybrid, Hyundai Sonata N Line, Chevy Malibu RS and Kia K5 GT-Line.

*Storm Forward!*

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

## Audi Q8

### Likes

- Sporty styling
- Stylish cabin
- Solid value

### Dislikes

- Limited luxuries
- Mundane handling
- No hybrid

### 2025 Nissan Altima SR AWD

Five-passenger, AWD Sedan  
 Powertrain: 2.5-liter I4, CVT  
 Output: 182hp/178 lb.-ft.  
 Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind  
 Wheels f/r: 19”/19” alloy  
 Brakes f/r: disc/disc  
 Fuel economy city/hwy: 25/34-MPG  
 Assembly: Canton, MS  
 Base/as-tested price: \$27,000/\$34,580

# Two Girl Scouts Earn Silver Award



Photo courtesy Girls Scout Troop 4383

From left, Brooklyn Wilkins, Anna Bowers and Connie Esra who runs the Recovery Coalition.

Anna Bowers and Brooklyn Wilkins from Girls Scout Troop 4383 recently earned the Silver Award, the highest award that a Girl Scout Cadette (grades 6-8) can earn. It requires a minimum of 50 hours per girl to complete. It gives them the chance to do big things, and make their community better in the process.

Bowers and Wilkins called their project “Take What You Need,

Leave What You Can.” They both had an interest in helping the unhoused population during the winter. Together the girls planned, designed and built a donation box to leave at the Recovery Coalition in Crawfordsville. Inside the box they left a bunch of fleece hats for both adults and children that they sewed and personal hygiene kits for those who need them.

While sewing hats at their meetings they were able to talk with their younger troop members about the Silver Award and show them how they made their hats. With this knowledge the Junior girls in the Troop have decided to start their Bronze Award with hopes of earning their Silver Award when they are of age. The girls are also hoping to inspire others in the community to

consider donating clothes or other items such as hygiene items and unperishable foods in their box for the unhoused population to have.

If you are interested in making a difference in a girl's life consider signing them up to be a Girl Scout. Please call Girl Scouts of Central Indiana at (317) 924-6800 for more information.

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# Montgomery Murder Mysteries Smile Unto Thee: Part II

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

That leads us to the relationship between the killer and the killed. The murdered man was a member of one of Montgomery County's oldest families, the well-respected Dunbar family which has been active in religious and social circles for many decades.

Taylor Dunbar was a new father of his 4th child, and such a hard-working, God-loving man. He had added huckstering to his farming in order to feed those children and his most wonderful wife, Nancy. Tomorrow, Nancy will be the only woman allowed in to see Joseph Stout hang. Taylor had invited Joseph to ride with him in the huckster wagon delivering goods a few times. This was the case on the day of the fatal happening. Stout purported to have not planned to kill Dunbar. Others say the killing was long thought out since Stout took along a rifle. Joseph explained that he had done this before when riding along with Taylor. Hunting in the deep woods parallel to Sugar Creek on the Boone / Montgomery line was what Joseph enjoyed doing. Sometimes he would sell the kill to a local butcher, but mostly it was the one way he could help his parents. They purchased very little from Taylor's husker wagon, his mother getting an occasional bag of flour or thread. The Stouts were just too poor. Letting Joseph ride his route was one way Taylor, in return, could help out his neighbors in Christ. Even though the area news rags stated that the murder was planned, because of the gun, it truly began as a most normal day.

That time, the day after Thanksgiving on the 24th of November in 1882, Taylor and Joseph took forth on the pike heading southeast of Darlington. Joseph rode along for about three miles, then went to his hunting as Taylor stopped at the Needhams, Boothers and Endicott places. At Endicott's Will and his wife, Lucy did some bartering and trading, then Taylor went on his way and his day was downhill from there. Quickly, miring his team in the mud, he realized he would acquire assistance. Perhaps had he chosen to walk back to the Endicott farm, none of the affair would need be in the news, but hearing Stout's shots in the woods, Taylor Dunbar chose his fate. Taylor went toward the sound of the rifle and never returned to an earthly task.

It was about an hour before noon and Joseph was fighting pangs of hunger. As he started to sit by a tree, he heard Taylor Dunbar's "Yoohoo!" Then and only then is when Joseph perceived the foolish notion that he could steal Taylor's huckster money, bonk him on the head so that he'd be out cold for awhile, then be gone to Indianapolis, never to be found again. Of course, as with all of Joseph Stout's well-laid plans, things went awry. When Stout demanded money from Taylor, instead of offering help to unstuck the wagon, Taylor became angry and a fight pursued. When Joseph overtook the smaller and older man, he did hit him in the head several times with the gun butt ensuring Dunbar's death. Indeed, Joseph rolled Dunbar over and stole his money,



cufflinks and watch. This deed was an after thought. Not really working hard at covering his own trail, Joseph "Buck" Stout went to Indianapolis in order to bid his love farewell, as he intended to get out of the state. It took little effort to track Stout down and arrest him. Never did Stout deny his guilt. The prosecuting attorney really didn't need to call anyone to the stand, Stout freely admitted to the crime.

Romans: 4:7-8 ESV "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered: blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin!"

Tomorrow, the whole affair will end. Sheriff Musser's wife has come to love Stout as a brother and had cried many tears for him. Tomorrow, she will shed even more. Tomorrow will bring newsmen from Crawfordsville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Covington, Danville, Illinois and of course, representatives for *The Republican*, *Tribune* and *Signal*, Rockville's three papers.

Tomorrow,

boys will tour the streets of our little city selling photographs of Stout at 25 cents each. Tomorrow, all kinds of food and other venders will fill the area. Tomorrow, McCune cadets, who have been training for two weeks, will hopefully keep the peace. Tomorrow, Joseph Wilson Stout will hang. Tomorrow, his cold body will be sent to Darlington to his parents' care. His body will be entered into the plain coffin bare of ornamentation with this simple inscription: "Joseph W. Stout, born December 17, 1861 died August 8, 1883."

And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. This is the verse from Acts that Joseph Stout will take to this death. He beams each time we discuss it and tomorrow, he will smile unto thee, Oh, Lord!"

By: Stephen Kennedy Fuson

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