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TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

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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!

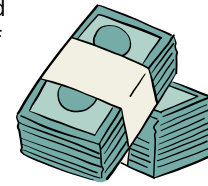
The Department of Government Efficiency - or DOGE - has certainly been in the news of late. Supporters and critics alike are paying attention to the department that President Donald Trump tasked businessman and billionaire Elon Musk to run. Love it, hate it or somewhere in the middle - there's no denying that the new department is all about the numbers.

\$840 Billion

Do we need DOGE? The debate continues. But the reality is that the U.S. Treasury Department reports that so far the federal government's fiscal year 2025 spending exceeds its revenues by \$840 billion.

\$4.92 Trillion vs. \$6.75 Trillion

The Treasury folks report that in fiscal year 2024 our government collected \$4.9 trillion and spent \$6.7 trillion, creating a deficit of \$1.8 trillion.



2001

In the last half century, the U.S. has experienced a fiscal year-end budget surplus four times. The last one was in 2001. The president then was George W. Bush.

When spending and money collected are the same, the budget is considered balance. But also remember that there is a difference between our national debt and our national deficit. The Treasury Department explains it like this: To pay for a deficit, the federal government borrows money by selling Treasury bonds, bills, and other securities. The national debt is the accumulation of this borrowing along with associated interest owed to the investors who purchased these securities. As the federal government experiences reoccurring deficits, which are common, the national debt grows.

2009

That's the year our federal deficit topped \$1 trillion for the first time, finishing at \$1.42 trillion. Since then, it has bounced around with 2020 being the biggest year at \$3.1 trillion.

12

How many zeroes are in a trillion.



1,000 to 1,000,000,000,000

To put numbers that can be hard to understand in perspective, people often use time. If we look at it in seconds instead of dollars, here's how long a thousand seconds are compared to others. One thousand seconds was 16 minutes and 40 seconds ago. You know, about the time you were having a cup of coffee.

One million seconds is 11 days, 13 hours 46 minutes and 40 seconds. Brrrr. It was cold that day!

One billion seconds is 31.5 years. Ah, youth! We remember what that felt like!

One trillion seconds is 31,688 years. We were in an ice age (and boy was it cold THAT day!) and Neanderthals well may have been wandering around.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Learn to read food labels and watch for ingredients that end in -ose, that means it's a form of sugar.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Failure is not the opposite of success: it's part of success." Arianna Huffington

TODAY'S JOKE

Do clouds wear shorts? Sure! Thunderpants!

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The deadline for the Beverley Turner Servant-Leader Award is 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1. Any high school student, from any grade-level, may apply. One may access the application by visiting https://www.vmhmc.org/. Applications are blind-screened by individual reviewers. The recipients will be awarded a cash prize, and an individual plaque. Questions may be directed to Denise Booher Walker via e-mail: dbw@vmhmc.org

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

THREE THINGS You Should Know

1 Music icons Bret Michaels and The All-American Rejects will rock fans at the Miller Lite Carb Day Concert on Friday, May 23 at the iconic Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Miller Lite Carb Day is a full day of on- and off-track action and entertainment. All general admission, concert pit and VIP Deck concert tickets include admission to the concert and to on-track activities. Tickets are on sale now at IMS.com.

2 While we're on the subject of the track, Indiana Fever guard Lexie Hull will join IMS and NTT Indycar Series President J. Douglas Boles to raise an NTT INDYCAR SERIES flag above the Pagoda at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. The annual ceremony marks the start of the 2025 NTT INDYCAR SERIES season and is an important milestone in the countdown to the 109th Indianapolis 500. The first race of 2025 is Sunday's Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.

3 House fires are unpredictable and can happen anywhere - but which cities are most vulnerable when disaster strikes? According to our friends at Home Gnome, Pomona, Calif. Is the most vulnerable city in the U.S. with Sacramento as the least. Thankfully, at least for the vulnerable list, no Indiana cities made the ranking. Others in the top five were Detroit, El Paso, Oxnard, Calif. And Wichita. Home Gnome compared the 200 biggest U.S. cities based on fire risk, access to career and volunteer firefighters and the percentage of homes using gas for heating.

Butch Names Our County's Greatest Basketball Superstar



In 1975, I wrote a book entitled, "The Golden Era of Montgomery County Basketball-- 1947-1971." I interviewed

BUTCH DALE Columnist

several former players and coaches, and compiled hundreds of statistics. In addition, the public voted for the all-time best players from this era and also the early years 1911 to 1946. The top five in the modern era were Charlie Bowerman (Alamo), Daryl Warren (Linden), Don Threlkeld (Darlington), and Bill and Keith Greve (Waveland). The top five from the early years were Homer Stonebraker (Wingate), Howie Williams (New Ross), Pete Moore (Waynetown), Ray Greve (Waveland), and Leland "Bill" Melvin (Alamo).

I had several people ask me who I considered as the all-time best player. Difficult decision, as quite a few went on to play in college ... some even being named MVP on their college teams. But as far as I know, only one ended up playing professional basketball, and he is considered by many experts to be Indiana's first great superstar ... Homer Stonebraker, who led the Wingate Spartans to the state championship in both 1913 and 1914.

Homer Stonebraker was born in 1895, just a couple of years after the game started up in Montgomery County. He loved the new game, and nailed up a metal ring about half the size of a regulation goal on a woodshed in the barnyard. Using a rubber ball about the size of a tennis ball, he began shooting the ball at the metal ring. In an interview during his later years, Homer told a sportswriter that people passing by thought he was crazy, but "I got to the point where I could put that ball in that ring from any damn place ... I also practiced close to the ring and learned to shoot with both hands ... I could make them either way, right-handed or left-handed."

Wingate High School didn't even have a gym, so the boys traveled seven miles to New Richmond to practice once or twice a week. With an enrollment of only 55 in high school, the Spartans finished the 1913 season

See BUTCH Page A5



The good folks screaming about losing DEI mean well. They're just D-E-A-D wrong.

Thank You For Reading The Paper



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One Great Read!



Photo courtesy Kathie Watkins

The mission of the Montgomery County Education Foundation is to promote excellence in primary and secondary education in Montgomery County by encouraging and supporting program enrichment, educator development, and community involvement. These goals are achieved by awarding grants, supporting professional development of educators, implementing and supporting innovative programs and activities, and encouraging participation by all in public education. MCEF funds the One Great Read program by promoting literacy throughout the county as all fourth grade students read the same book. The book chosen this year was *Echo Mountain* by Lauren Wolk. Kathie Watkins, the Director of the Linden Carnegie Public Library and a first-year member of the MCEF and her assistant at the library Amy King traveled the county delivering One Great Read books to all the fourth grade graders. A total of 503 books were delivered. Pictured is fourth grade teacher Mrs. Emily Brooks and her class at Pleasant Hill Elementary. The children were excited to receive the books and are looking forwarding to reading the book together and doing story related activities.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1959 Crawfordsville Grad?

HINT:
 She married a 1955 Darlington grad, and worked many years as a school secretary.

Answer on Page A3

Wabash Gets \$14.7 Million Gift

Wabash College President Scott Feller has announced a \$14.7 million gift that will continue the work of the Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism. The gift from Richard J Stephenson '62, his wife, Dr. Stacie J. Stephenson, and their family, including Christopher '87 and Jamie Stephenson and Shawn '98 and Morgan Stephenson, will build on an already robust and successful record of programming that produces scholarship and coordinates educational and research programming in the intellectual tradition of classical liberalism.

Launched with a \$10.6 million gift from the Stephenson family in October 2021, the Institute has become a strong presence on Wabash's campus through public presentations, workshops, seminars, visiting scholars-in-residence, internships for Wabash students and summer programming for college students to study critical ideas at the intersection of the liberal arts and classical liberalism.

"As one of the premier private colleges in the United States, Wabash is a vibrant institution deeply committed to providing a classical liberal arts education to the young men of our nation," said President Feller. "While we are fast approaching our 200th anniversary,

Wabash is also an innovative and dynamic place—preparing our graduates to meet the needs of a pluralistic society. The Stephenson Institute helps us do exactly that."

The Institute, directed by Dr. Daniel D'Amico, has embraced the classical liberal tradition with a focus on individual liberty and a free society, investigating enduring questions such as: What are the political, economic, and social conditions necessary for individual liberty to thrive? What are the pressing threats and obstacles to human freedom and flourishing in the fast-changing modern world? How can freedom and prosperity be better promoted and protected now and into the future?

"The Stephenson Institute complements and builds on Wabash's strong foundational legacy and role within the American classical liberal tradition," said Dr. D'Amico. "We have fast solidified the Institute and Wabash as a major opportunity hub for classical liberal intellectual pursuits at the undergraduate level. The Stephensons' extraordinary generosity will help the Institute be recognized as the premier undergraduate-focused institute of its kind in the nation, if not the world."

Goals for the new funding include



Photos courtesy Wabash College

Richard J Stephenson '62, his wife, Dr. Stacie J. Stephenson, (fifth and six from left) and family members help cut the ribbon at the Stephenson Institute.

continuing to strengthen, grow, and expand existing student-focused programs including campus guest lectures, on- and off-campus co-sponsorships, scholarly residencies, student internships, and summer seminars. The Institute also supports faculty positions and professional development. Longtime Wabash College faculty Dr. Lorraine McCrary, Dr. V. Daniel Rogers, and Professor Scott Himsel have been named Stephenson Fellows. Dr. D'Amico and his staff also produce original scholarship and a broad-based, international research agenda.

Wabash students travel the world to conduct research and study the principles of classical liberalism with Stephenson Institute funding. Lucas Carpenter '26 studied in Vienna at the Austrian Economics Center in Vienna and played a key role in the Center's research agenda. "Having the chance to do research directly for



Stephenson Institute Director Daniel D'Amico

the Vice Chancellor of the Austrian Central Bank was not a task I expected but is one that I will forever be grateful for," he said.

"We aspire for Wabash and the Stephenson Institute to be viewed as among the most serious and vibrant opportunities for undergraduate men to study freedom, for senior scholars to visit, and for freshly minted Ph.D.s to start their careers by pursuing research and teaching here at Wabash," added Dr. D'Amico.

Grounded in a nearly two-

➔ See GIFT Page A3

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Talking to a Friend



Yesterday, I got to talk with an old friend.

CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I used to see Cheryl almost every day. But for the last several years, we have seen each other once a year, at most. She's going to direct my show, so we'll be working together again. We had coffee and soup on a very cold day, and I had this strange feeling I had slipped back in time. I didn't need to explain a thing, talking to this old friend. I knew her and she knew me, and I lost track of the number of times we finished each other's thoughts.

"If we can't find a chair that looks good..." I began.

"You could bring a throw to toss over it," she finished.

"Exactly," I said.

We did that all afternoon.

This is also the week my editor, Patty, is retiring. Patty has been editing my columns for most of the time I've been writing The Postscript. She's repaired my fractured sentences and added literally thousands of missing commas to my writing, as she has for writers for the last 44 years, and if anyone deserves a restful retirement from all that bad punctuation, it is her.

But I can't imagine not talking with my friend Patty every week because—although I'm sure she is one of the best editors in the business—that is not what makes her really special. What makes her special is that every week she says something nice about my column. There is no need for her to do this, but it means the world to me. She does this every single week, and I will miss her terribly.

But I somehow feel that Patty will remain in my life, just as Cheryl drifted away for a bit and circled back. The

people who are meant to be in my life have a way of staying there, in some form or another, sometimes taking a step back to make room for the new friends in my life.

And sometimes friendships end. I had a friend who ghosted me years ago. She did it three times and, finally, I decided I would stop reaching out to her except on her birthday. One year, on her birthday, she responded. She said she was sorry she had ghosted me. She said she had a lot going on in her life that made her anxious and insecure, and this was how she dealt with it.

I've learned that almost always, when people do something that hurts me, it has much more to do with their own hurts than me. And those hurts were usually there long before I met them. We had a good time, while we were friends, and the memory of her leaving is forgotten, replaced by memories of the lunches and laughter we shared.

Relationships change. One thing leads to another and, before I know it, I'm spending my time with new people, talking to new friends, without realizing how much has changed. I've met a couple of people in the last few months that I suspect (and hope!) will be friends in the future. And I know, as I grow older, keeping in touch with old friends and making new ones is important.

My grandmother lived to be 100 and outlived all her old friends. So she made new old friends. By the time she passed, many of her friends were closer in age to her children than to her, but she always seemed to have someone to talk to. And that is what matters.

We all need someone to talk to.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Time for Change



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

I believe in change as much as the next person. I believe in change so much that I have an old pickle jar in my home office filled with quarters, nickels, dimes and pennies. Also, some golf tees, safety pins, and wintergreen Lifesavers.

When I was a kid, I saved the very same way. The thrill of this incremental approach never wore off for me. Well, not until recently. That container in my office has held the nest egg of the past 18 months, about \$200.00, I estimated, which translated into a nice infusion of cash for the vacation my wife and I are planning for our upcoming trip to Iceland. I took the sealed jar into my bank, hugging it tightly. I assumed the friendly teller would toss my hard-earned change into a high-tech coin counter and then sweeten my bank account with this windfall. Instead, I got the bad news. "Sorry, Dick, we no longer count change that way."

"Whatya mean you don't count change that way?" I said. "You're a bank. How could you not count my money?" Then I started waving my arms in the air like Jerry Seinfeld when he was informed that the rental company did not have a car for him even though he had a reservation.

I went to another bank.

"Mr. Wolfsie, we can count this for you, but we'll have to subtract three percent from your deposit for administrative costs. You know, wear and tear on our counting machine."

"Wait a second. You're going to charge customers to count their own money that they will put in your bank. Are your customers that dumb?"

"Apparently. That's why it's called chump change."

I told my wife about the problem and she

suggested that we have the young man across the street count it, put it in rolls, and we'd give him 2 percent of the total, a savings of several dollars over the bank's fee. Okay, a couple of dollars."

"They're not going to take the word of just some kid in our neighborhood," said Mary Ellen.

"Well, they don't know what an honest young man he is. His mom said he got an A in math and citizenship."

At this point, I just dumped the money on the carpet and started adding it all up. An hour later, I'd calculated a total of \$232.50. Now, I knew exactly how much change I had, but I was in the identical predicament I was in before I counted it. Nobody wanted my change. Of course, Kroger would take it, but their machine has a seven percent charge. And it's right next to the lottery ticket machine, so I seldom walk out of there ahead of the game.

Then, I wondered if I could sell the money on Craigslist or eBay. But how would I word the ad?

FOR SALE:
ABOUT 200 DOLLARS
IN CHANGE

\$178.00 or Best Offer.

Some scratches, but worth every penny.

Hand counted.

(CASH ONLY PLEASE,
NO COINS)

I spent the better part of one afternoon investigating several other bank branches. It was a lost cause, and I was tired of toting around a 20-pound jar of coins.

And to make matters worse, I got a parking ticket. The meter had expired.

— 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.

Buchanan Bill Adds Transparency to IEDC

A bill authored by State Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon) that would establish the Office of Entrepreneurship & Innovation within the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) unanimously passed the Indiana Senate today.

Senate Bill 516 would also require IEDC to notify local officials of a land purchase over 100 acres. The bill would also require notifications regarding Innovation Development Districts (IDDs) to local units of government affected by the IDD.

"In recent years, the IEDC has brought record-breaking investment in Indiana," Buchanan said. "However, many Hoosiers have expressed concerns about large purchases of land without local officials' knowledge. SB 516 would ensure the state is working with locals to bring the kind of businesses communities want."

Beckwith and OCRA Passing Out \$9.4 million

The Office of Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced 15 rural communities will receive more than \$9.4 million in federal grant funding to expand community facilities, improve water infrastructure and eliminate blight. "Hoosiers deserve a safe and vibrant place to live, work, and thrive," Lieutenant Governor Beckwith said. "Blighted properties lead to lower property values, increased crime rates, and poor economic development, but these grants can help these communities turn the corner. They will improve our neighborhoods, making them a more attractive place for both families and businesses."

OCRA distributes Community Development Block Grant funds to rural communities, which assist units of local government with various community projects such as infrastructure improvement, downtown revitalization, public facilities and economic development. "Congratulations to these 15 communities for earning funds for much needed local improvements," said OCRA Executive Director Fred Glynn. "Each project will improve the quality of life for their residents and I applaud these leaders for taking action."

The Blight Clearance Program strives to encourage Indiana

The bill would also make changes in the structure of IEDC's leadership to better align with the structure implemented by Gov. Braun and would bring more transparency to economic development initiatives in Indiana.

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

Buchanan encourages residents of Senate District 7 to contact him with any questions or comments they may have. Buchanan can be reached by filling out a "Contact Me" form online at www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Buchanan or by phone at (800) 382-9467.

Buchanan represents Senate District 7, which includes portions of Boone, Clinton, Hendricks and Montgomery counties.

communities with blighted properties to focus on long-term community development and revitalization through improving quality of place, generating jobs and spurring economic revitalization. Eligible projects to receive grant funding through BCP are deteriorated or abandoned downtown buildings or vacant and unusable industrial sites.

Projects receiving funding include:

- Benton County \$468,500
- Jonesboro \$375,000
- Shadeland \$150,000
- Warsaw and Fellowship Mission \$500,000
- Morgan County \$610,450
- Seelyville \$750,000
- Brazil \$750,000
- Camden \$750,000
- Claypool \$750,000
- Earl Park \$600,000
- Hope \$750,000
- Hymera \$750,000
- LaCrosse \$750,000
- Odon \$750,000
- Scottsburg \$750,000

Funding for OCRA's CDBG programs originates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program and is administered for the State of Indiana by OCRA. For more information, visit in.gov/ocra/cdbg.

↓ GIFT From Page A2

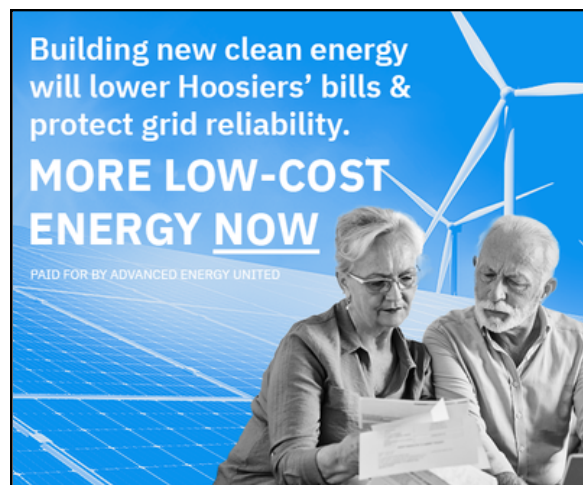
century tenure of liberal-arts higher education in Indiana, Wabash's Stephenson Institute draws on a long tradition of classical-liberal teaching. Well-known Wabash alumnus and trustee, Pierre Goodrich (1894-1973, Class of 1916), was a passionate advocate for thinkers and writers who best exemplified the idea of liberty. Goodrich also went on to found Indiana's Liberty Fund, which "encourages the study of the ideal of a society of free and responsible

individuals." Ben Rogge, Professor of Economics and Dean of the College at Wabash, was a highly regarded scholar of classical liberalism who wrote and spoke broadly on the classical liberal tradition during his 31-year teaching career from 1949 through 1980.

The Stephenson Institute is housed in a beautifully renovated home directly across from the main entrance to the Wabash campus.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer:
Sandy (Martin) Holt



Artificial Intelligence



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Montgomery Medicine

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming medicine at an astonishing pace. From improving diagnoses to streamlining administrative tasks, AI has the potential to make healthcare more efficient and accessible. While AI will never replace doctors, it is quickly becoming a powerful tool that enhances human decision-making and improves patient outcomes. In his book *Deep Medicine: How Artificial Intelligence Can Make Healthcare Human Again*, Dr. Eric Topol explores how AI is not just improving medical accuracy but also allowing doctors to focus more on compassionate, patient-centered care by reducing the burden of administrative and repetitive tasks.

One of the most exciting applications of AI in medicine is in medical imaging. AI-powered programs can analyze X-rays, MRIs, CTs, and other scans with remarkable accuracy, sometimes detecting diseases that even experienced radiologists might miss. A study published in *Nature* found that an AI model outperformed human radiologists in detecting breast cancer from mammograms, reducing false positives and false negatives significantly. By assisting radiologists in identifying abnormalities more quickly and accurately, AI can lead to earlier diagnoses and better treatment outcomes.

AI is also revolutionizing how doctors diagnose and manage diseases. Algorithms can analyze vast amounts of patient data, spotting patterns that might be invisible to human physicians. For example, AI models can predict which patients are at risk of developing conditions like diabetes or heart disease by analyzing electronic health records. In cardiology, AI has been used to detect atrial fibrillation from smartwatch data, alerting patients to potential heart issues before they become serious.

In addition to diagnosis, AI is playing a crucial role in drug development. Traditionally, creating a new medication takes years and costs billions of dollars. AI speeds up this process by rapidly analyzing chemical compounds and predicting which ones are most likely to work against a given disease. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AI helped researchers identify potential treatments and vaccine targets in record time. This ability to process massive datasets faster than human researchers can dramatically accelerate the discovery of new therapies.

AI is also making healthcare more personalized. By analyzing a patient's genetics, lifestyle, and medical history, AI can recommend the most effective treatments with fewer side effects. Precision medicine, which tailors treatments to the individual rather than

using a one-size-fits-all approach, is becoming more feasible thanks to AI. For example, AI can help oncologists determine the best chemotherapy regimen for a patient based on their specific tumor profile. Books like *The AI Revolution in Medicine: GPT-4 and Beyond* by Peter Lee, Carey Goldberg, and Isaac Kohane further discuss how AI is reshaping medicine by offering personalized, data-driven treatments that improve outcomes.

Beyond direct patient care, AI is improving the efficiency of hospitals and clinics. Many administrative tasks in healthcare, such as scheduling appointments, processing insurance claims, and managing electronic health records, can be automated with AI. Virtual assistants and chatbots are now being used to answer common patient questions, freeing up healthcare workers to focus on more complex cases. AI-driven systems also help reduce medical errors by flagging potential prescription interactions or reminding doctors about necessary screenings.

Despite these advances, AI in medicine is not without challenges. One major concern is bias in AI algorithms. Since AI systems learn from existing data, they can sometimes inherit human biases present in that data. If an AI model is trained mostly on medical records from a particular demographic group, it may be less accurate when diagnosing patients from other backgrounds. Researchers are working to address this by ensuring AI systems are trained on diverse and representative data sets.

Another issue is the question of accountability. If an AI system makes a mistake, who is responsible – the doctor, the hospital, or the developers who designed the algorithm? Because AI is still a relatively new tool in medicine, ethical and legal guidelines are still being developed to clarify these concerns.

Privacy is also a significant consideration. AI relies on vast amounts of patient data, raising concerns about how that data is stored and protected. Ensuring that AI systems comply with privacy laws and maintain strict security protocols is crucial to maintaining patient trust.

Despite these challenges, the future of AI in medicine is promising. AI is not replacing doctors—it is making them better. By handling time-consuming tasks, analyzing data more efficiently, and assisting in diagnoses, AI allows physicians to spend more time focusing on their patients. As technology continues to improve, AI will become an even more valuable tool in the fight against disease, helping doctors save more lives and improve healthcare for everyone.

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

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Most little towns had summer Bible school for the children back in the day. Shown above is the Darlington Bible School in 1924. All four of the ladies helping out later became teachers. On the left is Audrey Wisheart Cox and Marian Brainard. On the right is Naomi Shannon Peterson and Ramona Rhoads Ainsworth. Audrey, Marian and Naomi were my grade school teachers in the 1950s. Ramona taught high school at Ladoga and Darlington.

Boone Eagles Step Up!



Photo courtesy Witham Health Services

Witham's Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Department has recently acquired new equipment thanks to the Fraternal Order of Eagles #2062. To date, the Eagles have donated more than \$100,000 to the Witham Health Services Foundation to support Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation at Witham through their annual Heart Fundraiser which is held annually in February. "Thanks to the generous support of the Lebanon Eagles we have upgraded several machines in our Cardiopulmonary Rehab Department," said Chris Gray, Director of Rehabilitation Services at Witham Health Services, "some of the new purchases include a state-of-the-art low profile treadmill and new recumbent cross training devices all of which are easier to access and improves patient safety."

KENNY THOMPSON



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

Catch Kenny every Friday in The Paper of Montgomery County!

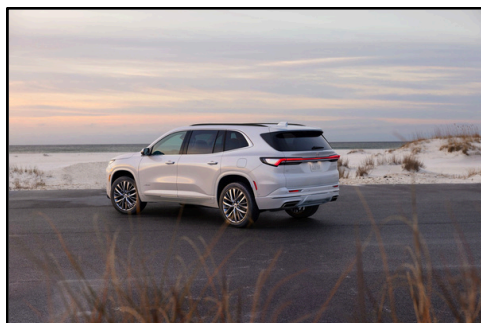


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2025 Buick Enclave Avenir Three-Row Crossover is About Refined Style and Attainable Luxury – And it Can Even Drive Itself



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

With rare exceptions, Buicks are about refined style and attainable luxury. Designs look as though they could come straight from a concept car and models offer Cadillac features at more affordable prices. And, the brand has a long history of putting all of that in family-friendly wagons and crossovers. It's never been better than with the redesigned 2025 Buick Enclave Avenir.

Concept Car Styling

Styling cues like the large grille and eyebrow driving lamps are taken straight from the recent Wildcat concept car but they translate well onto this large barge of a crossover with neatly creased fenders, flashy chrome window surrounds, and 22" nickel alloy wheels on Avenir trim. Brushed aluminum roof rails and brightwork along the sills gracefully cloak the tall bodysides.

Power open the rear

hatch, flip down second- and third-row seats with convenient buttons and free up enough space to harbor a couple of bicycles or luggage for an empty nester's grand tour.

Step inside where 30 inches of curved screenwork kisses a dashboard layered with stitched surfaces and aluminum-look trim. Bronze accents the console and doors. I especially like the blue dashtop and thick leather-wrapped steering wheel. We need more color in cars! The console seemingly hovers in mid-air, but contains deep cubbies within and beneath. Even tailored stitching in the seatbacks show a concern for every detail.

Cuddle up for long drives with heated, ventilated and massaging front seats. Middle row captain's chairs get their own heat. Avenir's 16-speaker Bose Performance Series audio is one of the industry's best with full, crisp sound whether you're relaxing to

Pavarotti or rocking out to Taylor Swift. Connect easily with wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and console charging. Everyone rides beneath a twin-panel panoramic sunroof.

Wholly Competent Performance

Classic Buick wagons came with big V8 and V6 engines, but this one goes forth with a 2.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder delivering 328 horsepower and 326 lb.-ft. of torque. Especially given the eight-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel-drive, it makes good use of that power and does so relatively efficiently with 19/24-MPG city/highway. It's no speed wagon, but is wholly competent to move kids and crew.

Attention to safety starts with a head-up display and continues to standard automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, lane departure warning, and blind zone steering assist.

Ride and handling would

embarrass classic Buick wagons given its four-wheel independent suspension with continuous electronic damping control. In Tour mode, it soaks up rough pavement, but drivers can also put it in Sport mode for firmer responses. The big wheels thunk over bigger bumps, but are tame on most roads.

I was lucky enough to have the Enclave during a recent 8-inch snowfall in Indianapolis. It took time to wipe away all of the snow from its big body, but the all-wheel-drive system barely let a wheel slip. When the snow stopped, I hit the highways with Enclave's new hands-off Super Cruise driving system. Turn on cruise, waited for a green light across the steering wheel and lift off. Easy. A monitor watched me watching the road, so no reading or napping! Unlike in other vehicles with Super Cruise I've tested, the Enclave felt uneasy through curves. Hopefully it was just a fluke.

You don't need fancy

brands for luxury, elegance and performance; the 2025 Buick Enclave Avenir was styled by the best designers in the business, spoils passengers, moves quickly and offers it all at an attainable price. Enclaves start at \$45,000, but came to \$65,125 for our Avenir. Competitors include the Lincoln

Nautilus, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Mazda CX-90, Kia Telluride, Hyundai Palisade, and Lexus TX.

Storm Forward!

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

Likes

- Concept car styling
- Layers of luxury
- Peppy turbo power

Dislikes

- No engine options
- Sometimes thunky suspension
- Unsettled Super Cruise

2025 Buick Enclave Avenir
Seven-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.5-liter T4, 8-spd trans
Output: 328hp/326 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Elect. Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 22"/22" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 5,000 lbs.
Fuel economy: 19/24 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Lansing, MI
Base/As-tested price: \$45,000/\$65,125

↓ BUTCH From Page A1



Photo courtesy Butch Dale

Wingate . . . 1914 State Champions
Front row, from left: Leland Olin, Jesse Graves, Homer Stonebraker, John Blacker, Lee Sheridan. Back row, from left: Superintendent M.Z. Coons, Paul Swank, Cuyler Brown (manager), Lee "Pete" Thorn and Coach Leonard Hehman.

with a record of 22-3 ... and this included playing against several large schools. The team recorded scores of 75-7 against Waveland, 85-9 against Cayuga and 108-8 against Hillsboro. In the latter game, Homer scored 80 points. They went on to win the state championship, beating South Bend in overtime 15 to 14 ... having played five games total on the last day!

During the 1913-14 season, the team averaged 38 points per game, which was amazing in those days, and Homer averaged 25 points per contest. Wingate also went on

to win the state championship that year, defeating Anderson in the final game 36 to 8. Homer had half of the team's points, and collapsed from exhaustion near the end of the game. He recalled, "I couldn't dress after the game. I had two broken fingers and three broken ribs ... It was rough under the basket!"

After graduation, Homer went on to play for Wabash and was part of the "Wonder Five." The Little Giants had a record of 19-2, and defeated Purdue, Illinois, Indiana, Notre Dame and the Indianapolis Emroes, a famous semi-pro team at that time. He then

played semi-pro ball for the Emroes, and then professional ball for 10 years in the American Basketball League as a member of the Fort Wayne Hoosiers and the Chicago Bruins. In one game, Homer's team was down by one point with time running out. He let it go from the opposite basket. The ball went over two beams near the top of the gym roof and hit nothing but net!

At 6-4, Homer was quite tall compared to others at that time. He grabbed many rebounds and usually got the tip-off, which was held after every basket. But just how good was he as a

shooter? He often shot from the MIDDLE of the floor and made the shots without much trouble, even with two players guarding him. And in one game, 11 of his baskets were made from BEYOND the mid-court line. I'd say that was pretty darn good, wouldn't you! Many basketball experts consider Homer Stonebraker as one of the all-time greatest players in history, and

they believe that pro basketball became popular because of him.

Homer went on to become coach at Hartford City and Logansport high schools. He also served two terms as Cass County sheriff. He was a charter member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, and passed away at age 82 in 1977. Yes,

Montgomery County has had some outstanding basketball players through the years, but I consider Homer Stonebraker to be the best ever!

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.

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Picture: Daughter, Ava Dale Barrel Racing

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Montgomery Murder Mysteries: Meet Me In Heaven

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

My name is Delia.

Tomorrow, my brother, John Coffee will hang for a double murder. He didn't do it. In my heart, I know John didn't do it.



The adage, tall, dark and handsome portrays my brother, John. We were both born in Kentucky but after his father was killed toward the end of the Civil War, our dear mother decided to marry my father, George Matthis. I was their only child and they came on to Montgomery County, in Central Indiana. Our two brothers, Christian and Zeke and my father, all died of fever shortly after our arrival in Indiana. It just about killed mother too but knowing she was all John and I had left she fought for survival. Life was good for awhile, except we never had enough money. We were always the recipients of the poor baskets at the M.E. Church. I always wondered if that was why John joined church in 1876. It's not that John didn't believe, because he is a believer in the Lord, Heaven and Hell. In fact, he's firmly convinced that he will soon see our Mother in the great beyond, as she passed there three years ago. I think that's all that's kept John going these last few days.

Reasons pile high pointing to my brother being not guilty of murder. I'll name a few and you see if you agree. For one, James and Mary (Hutchinson) McMullen were shot. My brother would never have used a gun. He's too soft-hearted. John loved to go hunting for the camaraderie of being with Christian and Zeke but Christian would shake his head and say, "What good are ya' brother John, you wouldn't shoot a bear if he was attacking you. You're too tender-hearted for hunting."

John never owned a gun in his life. We had a lever-action rifle his father had left at home that we used to hunt for food but when the fever took the boys and my father, Mother sold it knowing that John would never hurt anything or anyone. He told me that the Rankins insisted that he shoot Mrs. McMullen, "She ain't dun nuthin' to me. I won't do it," he told them. I have no doubt that happened.

Another top reason is that the sheriff, doctors, lawyers and everyone involved says that

this was a well-planned infraction of the law. I love John very much, but he's shy in brains and could never be a master plotter. Definitely, he's not the instigator! John in school could barely read and write and ciphering was out. Each night, I had to reteach him everything the school master had taught us, even though I'm five years the younger. Nope, John could never have planned such a horrendous tragedy.

Here's another. John's nye on lazy. The misdeed described at John's trial took much energy. Bashing in Jim McMullen's head, chasing down and shooting Mrs. McMullen, then executing Jim to finish him off, stealing their goods and firing their beautiful oak wood home is way too much work for my laid-back brother.

Another thing is that John had no money and it was a proven fact that Jim McMullen always had a great deal of money in the bag that his wife had made special for keeping his cash. McMullen had even more than usual as he'd sold stock at Wingate the day before. If John had done the deed, why did they never find coins or cash on him or in his belongings? Simple. There was none given to him, nor did he steal any. Well, okay, he admits to taking a quarter from a table.

Probably the most damaging evidence against John is that he had a pair of boots of Jim McMullen's. Jim was a tiny man with feet to match. My brother is thin and tall but his feet reflect his brain not his length. The boots fit to perfection. I'd not be in my right mind to try to convince you that John wasn't there the night of the McMullen tragedy, but no one could ever induce me that John pulled the trigger to end those poor soul's lives, so why should he hang?



John helped put the noose around his own neck really by telling three different stories. There's reason for that too – a four-letter word – spelled F E A R and the fear-factor is James Dennis. The McMullen's neighbor, Peter Manson, said that there were two sets of tracks going by his home. That's proof that my brother could not have done the whole of the outlandish deeds alone, yet he's the only one to hang tomorrow, the only one to pay, and I'm more than sure that

John's, the ... what's the word ... scapegoat for the Rankin gang, including their son-in-law James Dennis.

Dennis, according to John, (and I believe him) after shooting the McMullens, pointed the gun at John, threatening, "If you tell, I'll kill you, too!" John had just witnessed proof that Dennis would indeed take a life. That's why John's first confession was that he'd worked alone. Later he added Dennis and still later indicated others. John was petrified with the thought that Dennis might be put in the same rotating jail cell with him. If the rotation of the large rotator mechanism with eleven cells was in the back corner where the deputies could not see, there would be plenty of time to kill John, but Sheriff Harper has gotten to know John in the last few weeks and I think he believes him and certainly didn't want another murder on his hands. Dr. Coulter of Wabash College had some fancy microscope that proved the spots on Dennis' trousers were human blood. Too bad the impressive scope couldn't prove whose blood. Dennis said that he cut himself shaving and wiped it on his pant leg. Odd, he has a beard – looked to me to be at least a year old – but no one questioned that, either.

There was much speculation about Dennis' suspenders but his brother-in-law lied and said that he was with Dennis when Dennis had purchased 'em back in '83; yet, McMullen's brother-in-law, Ben Hutchinson, one fine man, pointed the suspenders out saying that Jim McMullen had a pair just like them and that he wore them under his Sunday suit. The suspenders had white pearls. They were very different than any man's in the court room that day, purchased by someone with some money, and that's not Dennis. Again, no one questioned it.

An inmate with Dennis stated that Dennis said that he did the work while John Coffee looked on. Dennis told James Morgan that they went to the house to talk, then he told McMullen to give him money. Only when Dennis told Jim McMullen that he'd kill him did McMullen hand over \$43. Dennis beat him to where McMullen passed out, then went after Mary McMullen. The inmate, Morgan, verified that Dennis said that my brother was "too chicken to kill her," so why is it that Dennis' family verified his

being away from home yet they lied where he was to let him go free while tomorrow my brother will die for a crime committed by others?

I don't feel John's lawyers tried very hard. Dennis' worked day and night, calling in all types of witnesses sprouting about how nice Dennis was and how he was on his way to Indianapolis to see his poor wife who is in the insane asylum there. I suppose this was to purport his family ties. Well, I wish they'd ask why she's in there! Maybe she too is afeared of him! He's even more handsome than John, but about 10 years older. Taller, too, ranging to maybe 6'. Slightly graying with a bit of his temples shining while his otherwise midnight black hair is cut to perfection. His pin striped red and white shirt with his little bowed tie and black suit and charming smile put him one up on my poor brother who even with his good looks could never afford such a marvelous get-up.

John's lawyers called no one even after me and my husband and some neighbors and the ME Minister all begged for the stand. I was quite proud of John, though. The defense lawyers were merciless in their badgering. John looked to them in the eye and never varied his stare. He answered their questions in truth. The verdict I'm sure did not surprise John. He's not afraid of being punished as his body was at the McMullen's home that night without a doubt, but he did not kill them, he did not steal but a pair of boots, and his one coin of the more than \$300 said to be taken. Is hanging justice for that?

John's taking a nap, so I've been able to set my feelings to paper, but he's awakening, giving me a faint smile. I'll write more tomorrow after I've seen my brother one last time.

=====
There's another adage, "The third time's the



charm." Not that seeing them try to hang my brother three times was a charming thing. In fact, it was the most horrible thing imaginable. John walked right up on the scaffolding to face his maker. A little of his bravery could be because of the soporific that Dr. Montague mixed up for him. He was happy that he got to play one last song on his harmonica, and play he did! I think all of Crawfordsville heard *Abide with Me!* John resisted quite a bit after his cell was rotated and he was lead out, but once in the open, he knew Mother would be watching and he listened to Elder Phillips' prayer. In the prayer, Phillips asked the Lord to listen mercifully because John professed himself not guilty! The Lord did listen but the Sheriff and his posse weren't hearing or choosing to see what was happening.

The first indication was that very few refused to sign a petition of respite. This enlightened John. This was the time when he stated that he'd be happy to go to the gallows if the other four who were guilty went too. It did no good to have four-fifths of Montgomery County's signature on that document asking for a reprieve for John, because Governor Albert G. Porter still refused it. Yet, how anyone could doubt John's innocence after the fool-proof one inch thick rope broke the first time is beyond my belief. Sherriff Alexander Harper had told the *Crawfordsville Star* that there was no danger of breaking as the noose had been made by Bontes in Cincinnati. Griffith's made the scaffolding and it too was guaranteed. Several times the Sheriff's men tested the drop with large bags of sand while my brother John eyed them with interest. Over 200 invitations were sent

by Sheriff Harper. Can you imagine spending our money to send out invitations for a hanging? They say it was simple, "Execution of John W. C. Coffee, at Crawfordsville, Indiana Friday 16 day of October 1885 Admit ... (signed by): Alexander Harper, Sheriff MC Ind." I didn't get one of those little pieces of paper, but John requested me to be there, so they could not bar me from the scene. Of course, now, I wish I'd not have gone. John was a shadow of his usual emaciated frame, looking like a skeleton marching to its final doom. When they placed his neck in the noose and dropped the bottom, John fell to the ground. The rope had broken. Blood oozed from his ears and I tried to go to him but was held back. When John came into consciousness and realized he was still alive, he asked to say some words, but the Sheriff would not allow it. This time, they had to drag John to the rope and again, it broke. Lord, have Mercy! Governor Porter, can't you see? Sheriff isn't it obvious? The crowd of not only the 200 invited guests but of the hundreds lining the streets began to jeer and ask for John to be taken down, but Harper knew it had to be done. Again, his assistants lifted John up by the arms, fixed the rope the third time and dropped John. Usually it takes just a few seconds to kill a man by hanging, whereas John dangled for almost ¼ of an hour before he finally stopped jerking and was peacefully asleep.

The last words my brother spoke to me reflected the same thought of our mother's last words, "Live right so I can meet you in Heaven." I truly believe I will indeed see them both there as Mother was the best of souls and John's soul has more than paid for him being in the wrong place, with the wrong people at the wrong time. John Wesley Christopher Coffee, I will meet you in Heaven with our Mother and Fathers!

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