

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



## Top 10

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Downed trees block High Street on the east side of Portland on the morning of July 29. A storm that blew through Jay County early that day left a swath of damage in its wake. Trees and branches caused damage mainly in the corridor between High and Race streets, falling on houses and vehicles. "I've never seen so many vehicles getting crushed by storms like this one," said Bubba Swoveland of Portland Street Department.

## Storms lead list of 2023 stories

By RAY COONEY and BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

This year was notable for both what it was and what it was not.

For the first time in three years, the coronavirus pandemic will not appear in our annual top 10. (It accounted for five of our top 10 stories of 2020, was No. 1 again in 2021 and appeared at No. 7 on last year's list.)

While worries about COVID-19 had drifted, there was still no shortage of important local stories. There were major infrastructure projects, progress toward opening an early learning center and several murder cases.

Unlike in pandemic times, there was no clear choice for No. 1, no consensus top pick from our staff. Strong arguments could be made for almost any of the stories we have listed below, as well as a few that we had on our sports top 10 list Friday.

In the long run, we selected the multiple wind storms — two confirmed tornadoes in April and a damaging derecho in July — as the top story in The Commercial Review's circulation area in 2023.

The rest of the top 10 stories for 2023 are as follows:

2. Two murder cases conclude and FCC employee found dead
3. Pair of infrastructure projects shuts down highways in Portland
4. The Portland Foundation moves forward with Jay County Early Learning Center
5. Dilapidated Bailey Building demolished, second structure may follow
6. Massive fire causes extreme damage at JR Industries
7. Jay County Humane Society opens new facility
8. Conflict continues between commissioners, JCDC



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Major construction projects impacted Portland through the second half of 2023, with Water Street (Indiana 26) shut down on the east side of the city for bridge replacement and sections of Meridian Street (U.S. 27) closed for months for storm sewer work.

9. The Dunkirk Foundation merges into The Portland Foundation
10. Graphic Printing Company buys newspapers, sells building

### 1. Winds ravage

Portland residents woke up to a swath of damage July 29, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage.

Downed trees and branches landed on homes and cars, and pieces of outdoor furniture and roofing material were strewn across neighborhoods, with the bulk of the damage in the area of Race and Walnut streets. Within

just over 24 hours, Jay County Emergency Management Agency reported it had assessed damage to 60 residences and businesses in Portland as well as nine rural properties.

The July storm followed two confirmed tornadoes on April 1, damaging barns and grain bins.

### 2. Convicted, charged

Court proceedings for two Portland residents charged with murder concluded, and a Muncie resident was charged with the murder of an FCC employee.

Chelsea Crossland, 28, was sentenced in August to life in

prison for killing her 5-year-old son. Testimony indicated she starved and beat her son over 74 days.

Jeremy Kelly, 51, received a 30-year sentence in July for beating his father, Gary Kelly, to death. He pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter, a Level 2 felony.

Ceaser Curtis, 50, was charged in September with the murder of Marcia Curtis, whose remains were found in Delaware County.

### 3. Projects close roads

Two major infrastructure projects shut down main thoroughfares in Portland this year.

First, the Water Street (Indiana 26) bridge of the Salamonie River on the eastern edge of the city was shut down beginning in late June. The previous steel truss bridge has been replaced with a new concrete structure, which opened Wednesday afternoon.

A little over a month later, the first section of U.S. 27 (Meridian Street) was shut down for a project to add a storm sewer line from the area just north of Arch Street to the Salamonie River.

### 4. Making progress

After putting out a request for proposals early in the year, The Portland Foundation in May announced that it had entered into an agreement with Westminster Preschool of Marion to operate Jay County Early Learning Center.

To be housed in the former Judge Haynes Elementary School on Portland's west side, the facility is expected to serve about 150 children from infant to age 5. The facility is targeted to open in August.

Pioneer Warehousing is also in the process of constructing a new child care facility on the city's north side to serve 48 children.

### 5. One down

In September, Portland Board of Works took a big step in a lengthy process when it opened the lone bid for the demolition of the city-owned Bailey Building, 201 through 205 W. Main St. JAShroyer Group began the work of taking down the dilapidated building in November with some of the rubble still remaining to be removed.

The board of works also affirmed an unsafe building order for 208 and 210 N. Meridian St. and pursued bids to demolish it. In November, it agreed to delay demolition in order to allow Portland Redevelopment Commission to study the structure.

### 6. Fire damaged

A massive fire burned at JR Manufacturing, 900 Industrial Drive, Fort Recovery, beginning early on the evening of Saturday, April 22.

The fire continued through the rest of the night, with at least a dozen fire departments including Southwest Mercer, Portland and Salamonie called to assist. By 9:30 p.m., there was enough manpower, but calls continued to go out for more tanker trucks to help bring water to the site.

Despite the extensive damage, the company moved quickly to recover, with two cells at the site back up and running about two weeks later.

### 7. New facility complete

Jay County Humane Society opened the doors to its new facility at 1376 W. Votaw St., Portland, the former home of Fastenal. The organization raised at least \$1 million in the last few years — Jay County also contributed \$275,000 — for the nearly \$1.2 million purchase and conversion into an animal shelter.

See Top page 2

### Deaths

Gladys Bell, Pennville  
Clara Young, 88, Anderson  
Stanley Hart, 75, Bluffton  
Marsha Morrical, 69, Dunkirk  
Susan Eicher, infant, rural Decatur  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 37 Friday.  
Today's forecast calls for a high in the lower 40s with mostly cloudy skies. Expect mostly cloudy skies again Sunday with a chance of snow showers in the afternoon and gusty winds.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will team to host a free food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds.  
Income verification is not required.

### In review

There will be no newspaper Tuesday.  
We will resume our regular publishing schedule Wednesday.



Obituaries

Gladys Bell

Gladys (Middaugh) Bell, Pennville, died Thursday at her home.

Arrangements are pending at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, Montpelier.

Clara Young

Aug. 2, 1935-Dec. 25, 2023
Clara Alice Young, 88, of Anderson passed away on Dec. 25, 2023, surrounded by her family.

She was born on Aug. 2, 1935, to the late Scoot and Edith (Jones) Maxwell.



Young

Clara had an extremely giving heart. She was a wonderful cook, baker and candy maker, especially during the Christmas season. Clara was very social and she never knew a stranger. Most importantly, she

loved her family; they were everything to her.

Clara will be dearly missed by her sons, Rock (Kathy) Fuqua and Rick Fuqua; brother-in-law John Claxon; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and sister, Donna Olvey.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband William "Bill" Young; ex-husband Lowell Fuqua; daughter Kindra Claxon; and siblings Sue, Tillie, Bud and Butch Maxwell.

The visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at Brown-Butz-Diedring Funeral Service & Crematory, 515 E. 53rd St., Anderson, Indiana. The funeral service will begin at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be at Anderson Memorial Park Cemetery.

Stanley Hart

April 28, 1948-Dec. 20, 2023
Stanley "Tom" Hart, 75, of

Bluffton, Indiana, passed away at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at Ossian Health & Rehab Center in Ossian, Indiana.

He was born on Wednesday, April 28, 1948, in Decatur, Indiana. Tom was a graduate of Geneva High School. After graduating high school, he began working at Franklin Electric in Bluffton, Indiana. He saw many changes while there, including the name changes to Bluffton Motor Works and currently to WEG. He retired after nearly 50 years there.

Tom had also been a union president of I.U.E. local #802 for several years, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Anyone who knew Tom knew he was an avid book reader and collector. He attended many conventions over the years meeting his favorite authors.



Hart

Tom was a big history buff and would never miss the chance to give you a lesson about something if the time was right.

Let's not forget those Hoosiers. In the words of his daughter, "Dad was a gigantic IU fan!" But, his biggest hobby was spending time with his grandkids when he could. There were fun vacations, family meals and lots of trips to the zoo.

Loving survivors include his daughter Sheri (Brian) Crickard of Bluffton, Indiana; son Jason Hart of Eugene, Oregon; daughter Tomi Cardin of Fort Wayne, Indiana; granddaughter Cassandra Crickard of Bluffton, Indiana; and grandson Cody Crickard of Bluffton, Indiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents Marvin E. and Nema (Stanley) Hart.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, on

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, from 2 to 8 p.m.

A service to celebrate Tom's life will be at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, with the Pastor Steve Rogers officiating. Interment will follow in the Riverside Cemetery in Geneva.

Preferred memorials may be sent to The American Diabetes Association, 6415 Castleway W. Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Condolences may be expressed at glancyfuneralhomes.com.

Marsha L. Morrill, Dunkirk, Dec. 4, 1954-Dec. 26, 2023. Private services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Susan S. Eicher, rural Decatur, Dec. 28, 2023-Dec. 28, 2023. A graveside service was held Friday at Schwartz Cemetery in Adams County.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Sunday 12/31, Monday 1/1, Tuesday 1/2, Wednesday 1/3, Thursday 1/4. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

Lotteries

Hoosier Midday, Daily Three, Daily Four, Quick Draw, Powerball, Mega Millions. Includes pick numbers and estimated jackpots.

Markets

Table listing market prices for Cooper Farms, ADM Montpelier, POET Biorefining, and The Andersons.

Today in history

In 1803, the British and Maratha chief Daulat Rao Sindhia signed the Treaty of Treaty of Surji-Anjangaon during the Maratha Wars in India. In 1847, Progressive reformer John Peter Altgeld was born in Germany. In 1972, seven were injured in a four-vehicle collision at the intersection of Indiana 67 and county road 700 West.

Citizen's calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. - Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. - Portland City Council, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. - Pennville Town Council, town

Top ...

Continued from page 1
The new facility boasts two free-roaming cat rooms as well as a large room for cat cages, nearly 40 kennels and outdoor runs for dogs and other amenities.

8. Dispute continues

A conflict between county government officials and Jay County Development Corporation that began in earnest in fall 2022 continued throughout this year. Local officials have verbally sparred at county government and JCDC meetings.

County commissioners this summer hired a community coordinator

to replace the previous Jay County Community Development position that fell under JCDC.

The conflict continues, with JCDC's board inviting the public to a presentation about its finances at its meeting next week.

9. Foundations merge

The Dunkirk Foundation in early June shared plans to merge into The Portland Foundation after having discussed the possibility on and off for about 30 years.

Discussions were revived in earnest in fall 2022. The merger would provide The Dunkirk Foundation's funds with a full-time staff to handle management and administrative work.

The boards of both foundations approved the merger in late June, and on June 1 The Dunkirk Foundation's 14 funds totaling just over \$2 million were shifted to The Portland Founda-

tion. Dunkirk Community Advisors now make recommendations on grants and scholarships from The Dunkirk Foundation's funds.

10. Purchased, sold

It's been a year of change for The Graphic Printing Company, beginning with the purchase of several publications from Community Media Group on May 1. The company, which already published The Commercial Review and The News and Sun, bought The News-Gazette of Winchester, The News Times of Hartford City and the regular advertising publication Red Ball.

Then, in December, Portland Redevelopment Commission approved the purchase of the Hood Building from The Graphic Printing Company. Plans call for the company to lease the basement and first floor of the building while the upper three floors are offered for housing development.

No. 1s from the last 10

The top 10 stories have been the year-end fixture in The Commercial Review for decades. Below is a look at the No. 1 stories from each of the last 10 years.

- 2022 - Jay County Fair celebrates 150 years
2021 - Coronavirus pandemic continues impact, vaccines introduced
2020 - Coronavirus pandemic results in 20 deaths, 1,500 cases
2019 - The murders of twin brothers Zayne and Wayne Burroughs
2018 - Jay School Board approves reconfiguration of schools
2017 - Jay County Hospital integration with IU Health approved
2016 - Portland Water Park opens, draws more than 33,000 visitors
2015 - Residents arrested for four murders in three separate incidents
2014 - The debate about funding and design for Portland Water Park
2013 - Arrests made in murders of two rural Fort Recovery residents

Russian missiles kill 26 Ukrainians

By ALIAKSANDR KUDRYTSKI and OLESIA SAFRONOVA

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
Russian forces pounded mostly civilian targets in Ukraine with the largest missile and drone barrage of the 22-month invasion, killing at least 26 people, days after Moscow blamed Kyiv for a strike on a military ship in Crimea. The bombardment hit

homes, schools, a shopping mall and a maternity center, among other targets, and sparked international condemnation. A stray missile briefly entered the airspace of neighboring Poland, a NATO and European Union member. The UK said it would shore up Ukraine's air defenses in the wake of the attack.

The most recent strikes on a similar scale happened in November 2022 when Russia fired nearly 100 missiles as part of repeated attempts to damage Ukraine's energy infrastructure. This time little harm was reported to the power grid. Ukraine's air defense downed 114 out of 158 aerial targets overnight into Friday, commander-in-chief General Valeriy Zaluzhnyi said on Telegram. The strikes involved more than 120 missiles, 87 of which were downed, he said.

The attacks resumed in the afternoon, when missiles hit 12 residential buildings in the small town of Smila in the central Cherkasy region, injuring six, local governor Ihor Taburets said on Telegram.

"We will certainly respond to terrorist strikes," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X, formerly Twitter. The Ukrainian leader said targets had been struck by Russia from Kharkiv in the northeast to Lviv in the far west, hundreds of miles from the front lines.

In addition, more than 132 people were wounded across the country, Ukraine's Interior Ministry said on Telegram.

SERVICES
Saturday
Moses, Barbara: 2 p.m., Williamson, Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 190 S. Union St., Pennville.
Sunday
Graber, Henry: 9 a.m., Daniel Shetler residence, 6336 N. 375 West, Bryant.
Tuesday
Hart, Stanley: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.
Wednesday
Young, Clara: 1 p.m., Brown-Butz-Diedring Funeral Service & Crematory, 515 E. 53rd St., Anderson.
Jan. 14
Williams, Helen: 4 p.m., New Life Ministries, 415 S. Helen St., Portland.
Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

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# Rising costs force parents to make more \$\$\$

By **KELSEY BUTLER**  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

A dramatic increase in child care costs since the pandemic is forcing parents to find new ways of making ends meet, from working part time at a daycare for a discount to driving for a ride-share service on weekends.

In a sign of how extraordinary the financial pressure has become — at a time when housing, groceries and other everyday items have also grown more expensive — even workers with full-time positions at the likes of big banks and tech firms are among those embracing such solutions, according to interviews with nearly two dozen parents.

The measures show how child care costs are shaping the labor market and straining even relatively high earners. Monthly payments for child care were 32% higher in September than the pre-pandemic average, according to an analysis by the Bank of America Institute of the lender's customer data. There are ripple effects to the wider economy from the child care squeeze: Families shelling out for this service have been spending at a slower pace than other households and dipping into savings at a faster rate, the think tank found.

The average cost in the U.S. for full-time, in-home infant care like a nanny is around \$39,270 per year,

## Increases in child care prices lead guardians to get second job

according to Care.com data, and is even higher in cities like New York and San Francisco, where the expense can top an eye-watering \$45,000 or \$56,000, respectively. Center-based care can also be pricey: In cities like Washington, care for a toddler at a center can exceed \$24,000 annually.

"People are having to make tough choices and really get creative," said Raena Boston, co-founder of Chamber of Mothers, a nonprofit advocating for paid leave and affordable and accessible child care. In the last year, Boston says she's increasingly heard stories of parents working opposite shifts from their partners — and one case of someone tapping their home equity line of credit to cover the cost.

Rachel Rhyme-Flemings finishes up her corporate job at an S&P 100 company early so she can work several days a week at the daycare her children attend. The second job only pays \$14 an hour, but provides a greater financial reward: a hefty discount on care for her infant and two toddlers. She ends up paying about

\$1,425 per month, saving about \$3,500 each month in tuition. After Rhyme-Flemings and her husband handle dinner and bath time, she fires up her computer and finishes tasks for her day job.

"It's a conversation all the time where my husband and I say, 'it would be so much easier if you didn't have to work at the daycare,'" said Rhyme-Flemings, who lives in the Phoenix area. "One of us could cook dinner and one of us could pick up the kids, how nice would that be? And then I look at the numbers and go, 'Gosh, \$3,500 a month.'"

Such costs, shouldered along with other financial burdens, are taking an economic toll.

"With rising child care costs, persistent inflation, student loan payments resuming — all these factors combined, they will mean consumers will continue to slow down their pace of spending," said Anna Zhou, an economist at Bank of America Institute. "In terms of the labor market, I do think if child care costs continue to rise,

it would be a negative risk factor for the female labor force participation rate."

Rhyme-Flemings is not alone in putting in work at a daycare center as a trade-off for more manageable costs.

Heela Rasool, 41, and her husband pitch in 10 hours a month to handle payroll and assist in class at the cooperative preschool their two daughters attend in Vienna, Virginia. Because of this kind of parent help, the provider charges what it estimates is 25% less than other centers in the area.

The preschool is only part-time, though, so Rasool uses an au pair to cover the gaps. Overall, Rasool estimates her family pays roughly \$35,000 to \$45,000 a year in care.

The couple, who earn a combined \$400,000 a year, are putting off big vacations right now. Rasool says if someone had told her a decade ago she'd feel financially overextended making this much, she wouldn't have believed them.

"We're in a pretty comfortable income bracket and I still feel stretched," said Rasool, who works at a

think tank. Families across the U.S. are likely not in for a reprieve any time soon. In an October survey of 1,000 parents, some 29% of respondents reported that their child care tuition had increased in the past month. Some \$24 billion in pandemic aid to child care providers expired at the end of September, a dynamic that may push those businesses to hike prices.

Social media posts offer a window into the kind of arrangements parents are using to make it work. In October and November alone, videos on TikTok tagged #wfhmom — for parents who work from home and watch their children at the same time — garnered at least 36.7 million views, according to the social media company.

On the app, friends Daisha Davis and Mercedes Hammonds share their experience multitasking work and watching their toddlers through their joint account "2 WFH Moms View." They field questions from parents who want to do the same.

Dallas-based Davis, 27, says working West Coast hours for her fintech job allows her to juggle both. Nap time gives her another two- or three-hour window to power through tasks. She makes \$50,000 a year plus bonuses, and says full-time child care would run her and her partner at least \$1,000 a month.

"If I was not working from home, I would proba-

bly have to get a part-time job and just barely float by," Davis said.

Just 4% of employers offer access to subsidized child care, according to the Society for Human Resource Management, which tracks employee benefits. Even for the small number of workers who have that benefit, it's not always enough.

Stephanie Rosario, a mom and part-time student in Bridgeport, Connecticut, makes roughly \$52,000 a year working at a preschool. As an employee, she's entitled to an 18% discount on tuition for her four-year-old daughter, but still has to fork over \$1,600 a month.

"After rent, car note, car insurance, gas, utility bills, food — which is ridiculously expensive right now — I was at the point where I was left with \$7 to myself," Rosario said.

She now taps her mom to care for her daughter while she makes extra money driving for Lyft Inc. on the weekends.

Rosario, 38, is hoping once she completes her master's degree in June, things will improve financially. But there will be new child care puzzles to solve: In August, her daughter will start kindergarten, and Rosario will have to arrange for care before and after school.

"I'm stressed about it right now," Rosario said. "I worry about how I am going to make it."

# Man's true thoughts about marriage come to light

DEAR ABBY: Our son "Ted" met a young lady, "Gina," who I really like. She told him she had polycystic ovary syndrome and would have a hard time conceiving. Well, she got pregnant and they ended up, spur of the moment, going to the courthouse to get married.

When Gina went into labor, we drove three hours to be with them and stayed in a hotel, only to be told she didn't want company. She'd had a horrible three-day labor that ended with a C-

**Dear Abby**



section. I sort of understand her not wanting to see anybody, but we dropped everything and weren't able to even see our grandchild.

My husband, "Peter," has a lot of resentment toward Gina and Ted. My problem is, when Peter and I married, I was three months pregnant. He has it stuck in his head that Gina "trapped" Ted into getting married. When Peter and I went through a rough patch, he made that comment about us a couple times.

When Ted and Gina come here, which isn't often, my husband makes no effort to get to know Gina, only to judge her. I

try to text or FaceTime them every week or so to check in. I work the night shift, so I sleep during the day and am back up when they are asleep. How can I help my husband to see that they really do love each other and to help make Gina part of the family? — TORN MOTHER-IN-LAW

**DEAR TORN:** It appears your husband still has some unresolved issues regarding the circumstances of your marriage that he has projected onto your daughter-in-law.

**Point out to him that this hasn't escaped your notice, and suggest that if he wants anything resembling a healthy relationship with his son, Gina, that baby AND YOU, he must start talking with a licensed therapist. It may also require some sessions with a counselor who specializes in family therapy, if Ted and Gina are willing. Cross your fingers. If your husband won't agree to it, go without him.**

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

**Today**  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

**Tuesday**  
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE — BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call

(567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.  
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

**Wednesday**  
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the

east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.  
SINGLES AND SEPA-

RATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m.

the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

## Sudoku

		1	3					
	5		7			4	8	
6			1					
			2	4	3			5
		1		8		7		
	8					5		
	6	8	3	9	2			
	2			7				9

Level: Advanced

### Friday's Solution

1	2	7	6	3	5	9	8	4
4	3	5	2	9	8	6	7	1
8	9	6	4	1	7	2	3	5
5	1	2	9	8	6	7	4	3
9	4	3	5	7	1	8	6	2
6	7	8	3	4	2	5	1	9
7	6	9	1	2	4	3	5	8
2	8	1	7	5	3	4	9	6
3	5	4	8	6	9	1	2	7

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

### For Jay County Schools January 3-6

**Monday: No School**

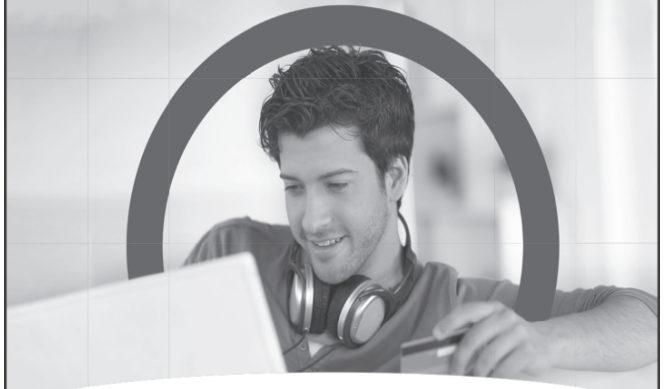
**Tuesday: No School**

**Wednesday: Main Entrees:** Whole grain waffles, turkey sausage link, syrup **Alternate Entrees:** Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Tater tots

**Thursday: Main Entrees:** Soft whole grain tacos, shredded lettuce, shredded cheddar cheese, salsa **Alternate Entrees:** Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned black beans

**Friday: Main Entrees:** Classic pepperoni pizza **Alternate Entrees:** Build your own pizza fun lunch, chicken salad with cheese, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Savory green beans


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# Become a community contributor

Expand your horizons. This is the time of year many are looking at making changes. Whether it's New Year's Resolutions or simply turning over a new leaf, it's a time to think about bettering ourselves.

Those most frequently talked about lifestyle changes involve health — exercising more, improving diet, losing weight, etc. Some last, some fall apart before January is over.

Other popular New Year's resolutions include stopping a

## Editorial

bad habit (smoking, drinking), spending more time with family, traveling more often and reading more frequently.

We'd like to make our own suggestion for new year's resolutions for our readers in east

central Indiana and west central Ohio:

Contribute to your community.

Finding a way to get involved isn't difficult. There are so many opportunities. Here are just a few suggestions:

•Coach. Local leagues are always looking for coaches across a wide range of sports.

•Join a service club. It's no secret that membership in service clubs across the nation is waning (and aging). From Rotary to Lions to Optimists to

Eagles to Elks, there are many, many opportunities.

•Contribute your time to a charity. There are so many out there, from Jay County Cancer Society to United Way of Jay County to Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County, and so many more.

•Become involved with a not-for-profit or school-based group. Band, theatre, athletic boosters. Take your pick.

There are all kinds of other opportunities, from helping out at a church, walking dogs for

Jay County Humane Society or volunteering at a local museum.

Maybe you'll try something and it won't work out. That can happen.

But you might find something that becomes your new passion, that builds new friendships, that simply becomes a part of who you are.

Either way, if you can look back at the end of 2024 and say you did something to make your community a better place, your year will have been a success. — R.C.

## Hope gives us the courage to continue

By SHAILLY GUPTA BARNES  
OtherWords

Shailly Gupta Barnes



After a year of economic hardship, climate disasters, and war, few could be blamed for feeling like our leaders have let us down. As we look ahead to a new year, I find it helpful to remember examples of those who not only saw the problem clearly, but brought people together to find solutions.

In 1967, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called for a "radical redistribution of political and economic power" to address poverty, war, and racism. To do so, he turned to those who were on the frontlines of these crises, not those who perpetrated them.

He worked tirelessly to organize the original Poor People's Campaign, bringing together welfare advocates, farm workers unions, antiwar advocates, and Native, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and poor white organizers together with the civil rights movement.

King never wavered in his commitment to unite those who'd been divided for too long by politics, race, religion, and geography. "It has been one of my dreams that we would come together and realize our common problems," he said just a few weeks before his assassination, and to "make the power structure of this nation say yes, when they may be desirous to say no."

More than 50 years later, the power structures of our nation are invested in systems and structures that are destroying our lives and our planet.

A new report from Oxfam USA, for example, blames the wealthiest people in the world for our climate breakdown — not only because of their lavish lifestyles, but also their influence on politics, media, and the economy. Every year their emissions cancel out the carbon savings of some of the best green technologies we have. The report calls for a "radical increase in equality" to save our planet.

We know that those invested in the status quo won't come forth with solutions to these crises that compromise their interests. That's true whether we're talking about the climate, inequality, poverty, or war. The answers will come from those who are confronting these systems directly.

And that's the good

news. In many places, people standing up against injustice are shifting what's possible.

This fall, the United Auto Workers went on strike for six weeks, targeting each of the "Big Three" auto manufacturers.

To confront these corporate behemoths, who've extracted nearly \$250 billion in profits over the past decade by exploiting workers, the UAW called on specific locals to "stand up" and strike, while others continued to work even with expired contracts.

President Shawn Fain rallied their members over social media, reminding them they weren't trying to wreck the economy, but to wreck "their" economy — the economy of the Big Three and Wall Street.

This clarity helped maintain the union's united front. It shaped their demands for higher wages, better benefits for all workers, and an end to tiered wages. Significantly, it opened the door for workers to influence the electric vehicle market — breaking new ground for labor to find common cause with the climate movement. The union's wins were nothing short of historic.

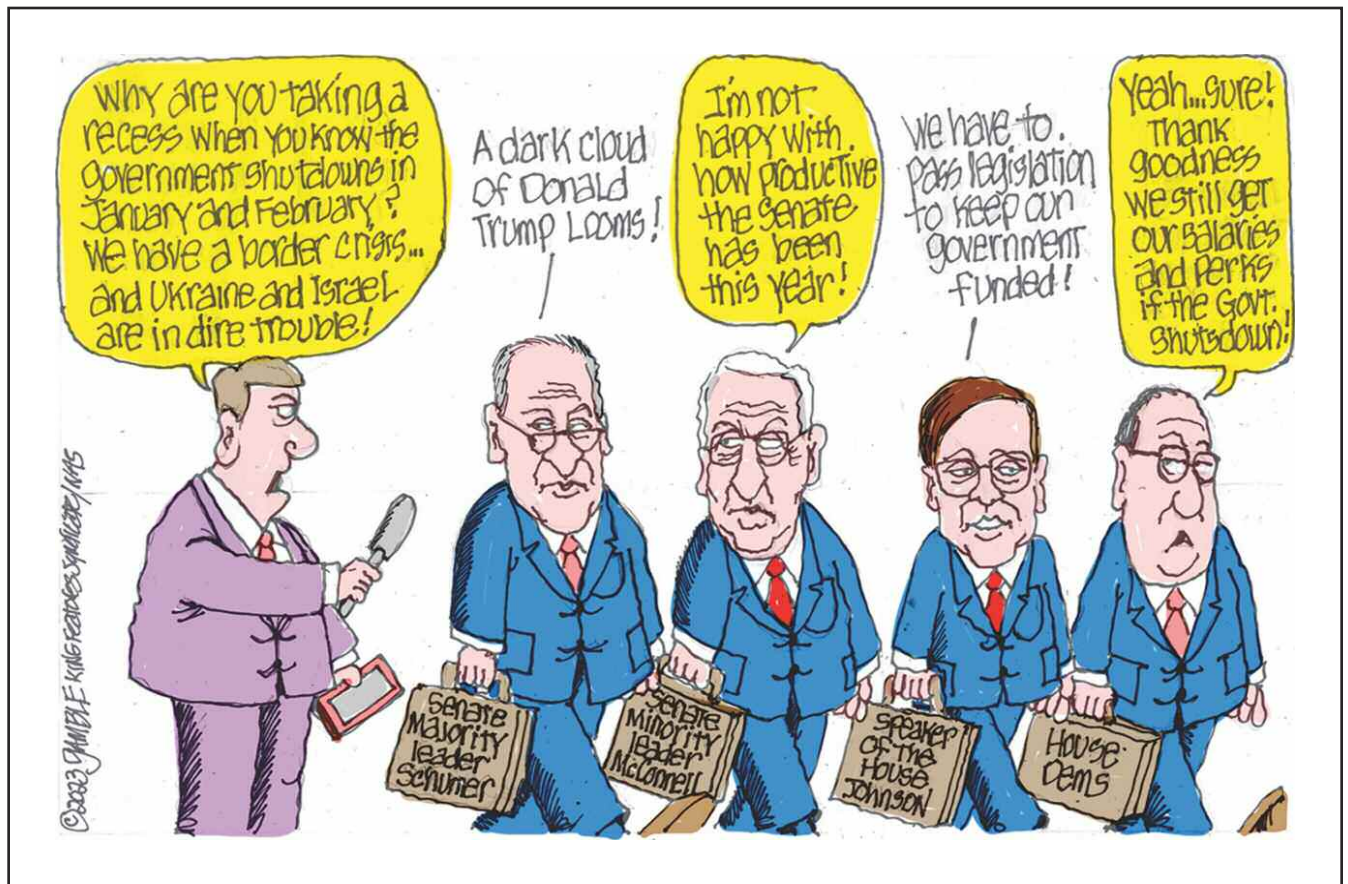
More recently, the UAW became the largest union to join the call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. This is not just a testament to the union, but to the many, many others who are coming together across politics, race, religion and geography to demand peace, life and freedom for Palestinians as well as Israelis.

This is what hope looks like in times of great crisis, war and inequality.

It's not foolishly romantic to celebrate this hope. It's what gives us the courage and compassion to stand up another day, to find each other, and to make what seems impossible, possible.

.....  
*Barnes is the policy and research director for the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice.*

*OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.*



## We need more conversation

By LISA JARVIS

Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Lisa Jarvis



*The US doesn't have a great track record when it comes to investing in prevention or the social determinants of health.*

This year, the incredible potential of obesity medicines like Novo Nordisk's Ozempic and Wegovy and Eli Lilly's Zepbound started to come into view. The drugs work so well for so many that it's starting to look like they could change the literal and metaphorical shape of society — starting with our waistlines and extending to our overall health and our habits around food and alcohol.

And yet the way we talk about these drugs remains stuck in frustrating binaries. The drugs are either a panacea or an overpriced Band-Aid; they will either solve one of the biggest problems in health care or burden the system with hundreds of billions of dollars in unjustified cost. The extremes keep us from honestly addressing some fundamental questions about these drugs. Most pressingly: What role should they play in addressing a sicker, fatter society?

There are many obstacles to starting to address that necessary question. One is the still-widespread attitude that the drugs make weight loss too easy — that the only meaningful pounds shed are those earned through diet and exercise. Another is the hardened position of some body positivity activists, who refuse to acknowledge any connection between weight and health. Same goes for the clickbait headlines that either hype the drugs' miraculous abilities or foster fear about their potential dangers.

Meanwhile, there's the faction that sees these drugs as a costly and superficial solution to the societal ills that have contributed to a more obese, sicker country. They'd rather the money be spent on correcting some of the root causes of the problem, starting with glaring inequities in access to healthy food and preventive health care.

Then there's the pharmaceutical industry's eagerness to convince the world that all overweight people — in the US, some 100 million — will benefit from an expensive

drug that they'll likely need to take for life. That's not helping to foster an especially nuanced, constructive conversation. Nor are the analysts practically salivating over a market that could be worth upward of \$100 billion per year — a cost that, depending on whom you ask, will blow up health-care budgets or save billions.

In the end, none of these extreme positions feels quite right. Worse, the cacophony doesn't allow us to appropriately address the most important questions: Who should get these drugs and for how long? And how we can pay for them without exacerbating health inequities or bankrupting the health-care system?

One way through would be to start by admitting what we do and don't know about the drugs, and dig into the nuanced way — good and bad — they could affect individuals and society.

Ozempic, Wegovy and Zepbound are unquestionably revolutionary. Beyond the stunning weight loss they cause, there's growing evidence that they can affect harbingers of many other diseases. As the number on the scale goes down, often blood pressure, blood sugar and lipid levels drop, too, sometimes so much that they can taper or stop other medications. And many people see benefits that are less easily measured, but deserve to be part of the conversation. For the first time, they are free of the "food noise," the constant buzz of a brain convinced it is hungry. Or they've finally found relief from knee or joint pain; they can now get down on the floor with their kids or hike that trail that has always eluded them.

And yet, there is also so much we still need to learn about these drugs and how they will be used. The wild prognostications about

how GLP-1s will affect societal health, not to mention the range of downstream consequences on things like food and beverage consumption, hinge on their long-term use. But given their real side effects and steep cost, it's not clear how many people will take these drugs even for a year or two, let alone for life. And we will eventually need to better define whose weight puts them at risk of disease, and who is perfectly healthy in their bigger body — and then decide whether it makes sense to pay for the drug for anyone who wants it.

We also need to talk more about what created the modern obesity problem in the first place. The U.S. doesn't have a great track record when it comes to investing in prevention or the social determinants of health. But we have to imagine a world where both the quick fix and the slower, structural solution can coexist.

This year, the extraordinary possibilities brought by these obesity drugs have become clear. Next year, we need a frank, nuanced conversation about how they should be equitably and responsibly used.

.....  
*Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.*

# The Commercial Review



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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."  
—Thomas Jefferson

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## 12-30 CRYPTOQUIP

CT V WMSJPA BPOHR QICAD  
OW V WHPQ TPS V FPPD PT  
TCBQCPA, C FMHCMKM QIVQ'R  
FM V APKMH CRMV.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHAT WOULD BE A FITTING WAY TO WEIGH MEMBERS OF TODAY'S MILLENNIAL GENERATION? IN INSTA-GRAMS.  
**Today's Cryptoquip Clue:** W equals P

### Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

#### New year, new questions

- 1) With what Dolly Parton song did another artist top the music charts in 1992?
- 2) What mystery writer holds the Guinness World Record for the most translated works?

Answers: (1) I Will Always Love You (Whitney Houston) (2) Agatha Christie

## 1-1 CRYPTOQUIP

JW RYECYMC SNJCG SY  
NHGCDZ OHS JM IQJDC J IPR  
RDYI-GPMOJMB, J'G RQYHS  
"BCS YHS YW EZ RIPZ!"  
**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** IF A PERSON COULD THINK UP A PLOT FOR A BOOK OF FICTION, I BELIEVE THAT'D BE A NOVEL IDEA.  
**Today's Cryptoquip Clue:** B equals G

### CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to winter holidays. Each number corresponds to a different letter. (Hint: 4 = a)

**A. 26 14 20 9 21 19 12 4 21**  
Clue: Christian holiday

**B. 26 14 4 18 1 24 4 14**  
Clue: Jewish holiday

**C. 26 4 18 22 17 11**  
Clue: Wax illumination

**D. 20 5 4 21 19**  
Clue: Meat dinner

Answers: A: Christmas B: Chanukah C: candle D: meat

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the word to spell something pertaining to giving.

SPTEREN

Answers: Present

### Guess Who?

I am a British singer born on December 30, 1986. I won The Critics' Choice BRIT Award in 2010 for my song that would later top the charts.

Answer: Ellie Goulding

### kids' corner

### FOOD FACT!

THIS BACTERIA CAN BE PRESENT IN RAW FOODS AND CAUSE STOMACH UPSET IF INGESTED.

ANSWER: SALMONELLA

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Safety  
**SPANISH:** Seguridad  
**ITALIAN:** Sicurezza  
**FRENCH:** Sécurité  
**GERMAN:** Sicherheit

### Maze Craze

Find your way through the maze.

### THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

• 1786: THE ASSEMBLY OF NOTABLES IS CONVENED DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.  
• 1851: THE FIRST AMERICAN YMCA OPENS IN BOSTON, MA.  
• 2003: THE LAST KNOWN SPEAKER OF AKKALA SAMI DIES, RENDERING THE LANGUAGE EXTINCT.

### New Word

**CAUTION**  
taking care to avoid danger

### HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Z F A M I L Y I U G N I K O O C S E H M  
M U S I C D F S S K W A N Z A A R L X F  
V C X K P N E R D L I H C B C E I T R X  
E D O G R G W Y T R A P W B H H I C E  
M R C R E O W A S Z T W X P B A E E B I  
I K H U S N G P P E T L S K N N L E F E  
T U A S E O U P Z R L O T K D E D T R Y  
R G N L N I E R E J M D F S B Z F W X A  
E A U I T T S E S T K U N R E O L F I D  
T K A S A T C A A L I A A D J E N D G  
N H A T B T S I G I M T T A C A J E H N  
I E H K N I R A A N I T N C S C C W E I  
W R T C W V S T Y O I C S T H E J Y Z X  
A I N O W N R I N R I R A I M E L E I O  
A N V C J I E O M N A I A B R D N A L B  
E G W R P R K N G G K U E H B H U R A N  
A D E S S E R I T O N I R N D S N C S I Z  
W S U R P R I S E S A F W A W E B D C B  
S G N O S C Z P T F G N T P J S M A O L  
U M H S S N O I T A R O C E D H S Y S F

### WORDS

APPRECIATION GATHERING  
ATMOSPHERE GIFT  
BOXING DAY GUESTS  
CANDLES INVITATION  
CELEBRATION JANUARY  
CHANUKAH KITCHEN  
CHEER KWANZAA  
CHILDREN MUSIC  
CHRISTMAS NEW YEARS DAY  
COCKTAILS PARTY  
COOKING PRESENTS  
DANCING SHARING  
DECEMBER SOCIALIZE  
DECORATIONS SONGS  
DESSERT SURPRISES  
FAMILY THANKFUL  
FEAST TREE  
FRIENDS WINTERTIME

### Did you know?

THE FIRST MODERN FIRE EXTINGUISHER WAS INVENTED BY GEORGE MANBY IN 1818. IT USED PRESSURIZED AIR AND PEAR ASH.

### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SMOKE ALARM

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 High-five sound
- 5 Film fragment
- 9 Gratuity
- 12 Nursery cry
- 13 Feels unwell
- 14 Glass of public radio
- 15 Friendly leader?
- 16 "— 18" (Uris novel)
- 17 Petty peeve
- 18 Ms. Rowlands
- 19 Trench
- 20 Ritzy
- 21 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 23 Sony rival
- 25 Autumnal drinks
- 28 Seuss title character
- 32 Maxim
- 33 Leslie of "Gigi"
- 34 Cream-pie flavor
- 36 "Hard as nails," for one
- 37 Conducted

**DOWN**

- 38 Flamenco cry
- 39 "West Side Story" gang
- 42 New England cape
- 44 Facts and figures
- 48 Praise in a law firm
- 49 Actor Richard
- 50 Infamous tsar
- 51 Heavy-weight champ Norton
- 52 Low-calorie
- 53 New York's — Field
- 54 Tolkien creature
- 11 Lane
- 20 Some first responders
- 22 Peace goddess
- 24 Director DeMille
- 25 Urban carrier
- 26 Journalist Tarbell
- 27 Quarter-back Marino
- 29 Prefix with athlete
- 30 Texter's chuckle
- 31 Chemical suffix
- 35 Slowly, in music
- 36 Shakespeare verse
- 39 Gag
- 40 Genesis garden
- 41 Camper's shelter
- 43 Post-WWII alliance
- 45 Athletic shoe brand
- 46 Makes lace
- 47 Black birds
- 49 Golfer Ernie

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 12-30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18				19				20			
			21	22		23	24				
25	26	27				28		29	30	31	
32							33				
34				35		36					
			37			38					
39	40	41		42	43			44	45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			
54				55				56			

## Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

### Reducing the risk factor

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ A 3  
♥ A J 9 4  
♦ A 9 8 5  
♣ J 6 2

**WEST**  
♠ K 6 2  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ K 10 7 2  
♣ 10 9 8

**EAST**  
♠ 5  
♥ Q 10 8 3 2  
♦ J 6 4  
♣ 7 5 4 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 4  
♥ 7  
♦ Q 3  
♣ A K Q

The bidding:  
South West North East  
4♠ Pass 6♠  
Opening lead ten of clubs.

At times, a high degree of foresight may be required to achieve the best possible result. Take this deal where West led a club against six spades. Declarer won with the ace, played the queen of spades and finessed. Had South next played another spade, hoping West had started with the doubleton king, he would have gone down one.

But rather than put all his eggs in this one basket, South temporarily abandoned further trump leads in

order to first play a heart to the ace and ruff a heart. Now he led a trump to the ace, and when the king did not fall, South continued his long-range plan by ruffing the nine of hearts and cashing the K-Q of clubs.

South then made his bid for fame and fortune by exiting with a trump. West won with the king but, having been shorn of spades, hearts and clubs, he had to return a diamond from the king, handing South the contract.

The hand presents an excellent example of planning the play. Having noted at trick one that his main hope of making the slam was to find West with the singleton or doubleton king of trump, South sought and found a way to add to his chances by setting the stage for a potential endplay against West if he had the guarded king of spades.

When the primary chance failed, the secondary chance came to South's rescue at the end. South was lucky to find West with the king of diamonds and only three hearts and three clubs, but this is the kind of luck that can save the day for a declarer who takes the time at the outset to formulate a contingency plan.

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## Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

### Famous Hand

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ —  
♥ A K 2  
♦ A K J 8 6 2  
♣ 9 8 5 4

**WEST**  
♠ Q 8 6 5  
♥ Q 9 6  
♦ Q 7 3  
♣ A J 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 7 4  
♥ J 10 8 5 3  
♦ 5  
♣ Q 10 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 9 3 2  
♥ 7 4  
♦ 10 9 4  
♣ K 7 6

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1♦ Pass 1♠  
Pass 2♦ Pass 3♦  
Pass 3♥ Pass 3NT

Opening lead — six of hearts.

France won the 1992 World Team Olympiad, defeating the United States in a 96-deal final. Today's deal provided the French with a substantial pickup in that match.

When France's Alain Levy and Herve Mouiel held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown, and West led a heart. No doubt many declarers would have taken the first heart and played the A-K of diamonds without giving the matter much thought. But when the diamond queen failed to fall and the club ace later proved to be

offside, they would have gone down, unable to reach the A-K of spades in the closed hand.

However, this was the final of the world championship, and Mouiel, as would be expected, found the winning line of play. After taking the first heart, he led the diamond deuce to his ten. This lost to West's queen, but the diamond nine was established as an entry to the closed hand, so the defenders could not stop South from scoring five diamonds, two hearts and two spades for a total of nine tricks.

At the other table, the U.S. North-South pair of Michael Rosenberg and Seymon Deutsch reached five diamonds. Rosenberg, North, won the opening heart lead and played the A-K of trump. He then cashed his other high heart and ruffed a heart in dummy. Next came the A-K of spades, declarer discarding two clubs, followed by a spade ruff. Rosenberg then exited with a diamond to West's queen.

Had West started with precisely a 3-3-3-4 pattern, he would have been forced to return a club at this point, allowing dummy's king to score the game-going trick. As it was, though, West was able to exit with his last spade. Rosenberg had no choice but to ruff and lead a club to the king, and when West produced the ace, the contract was down one, giving the French a 12-IMP gain.

Tomorrow: An unusual safety play.  
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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

- 1 Dalai — trees
- 5 Happy hour venue
- 8 Basra resident
- 12 Some pots and pans
- 14 Tubular pasta
- 15 — Day (fresh start)
- 16 Sheltered
- 17 Uplands, for short
- 18 Noted Jewish scholar
- 20 Mexican snacks
- 23 "Maureen" singer
- 24 In — (lined up)
- 25 Shows up
- 28 "The Matrix" role
- 29 Chimney ducts
- 30 Motorist's org.
- 32 Eager to listen
- 34 Melodies

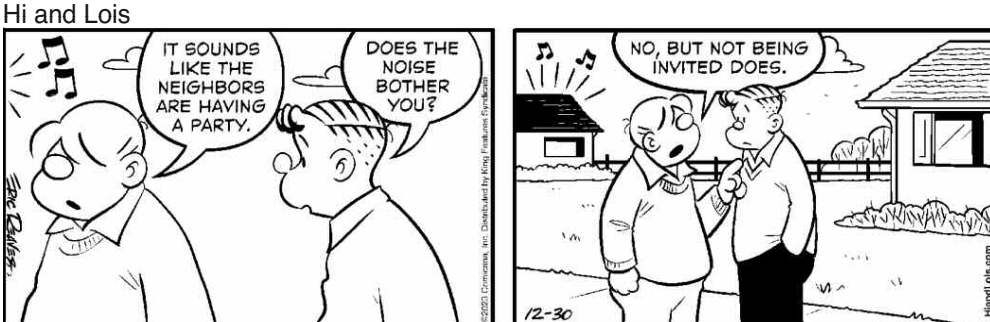
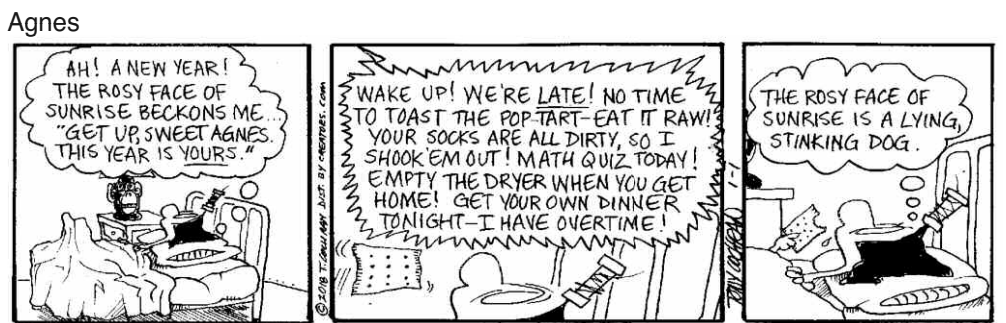
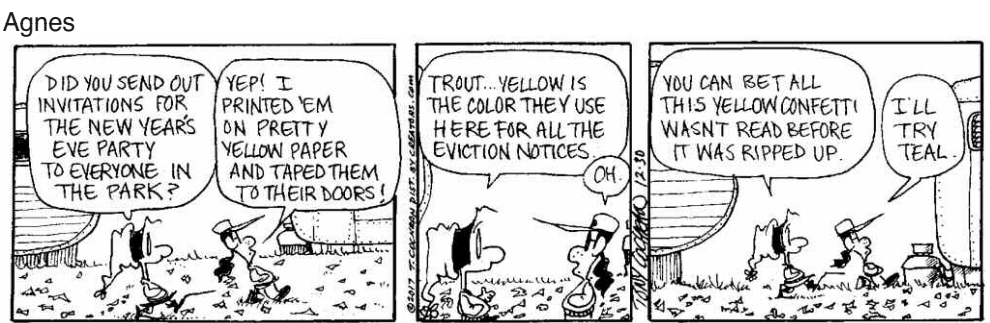
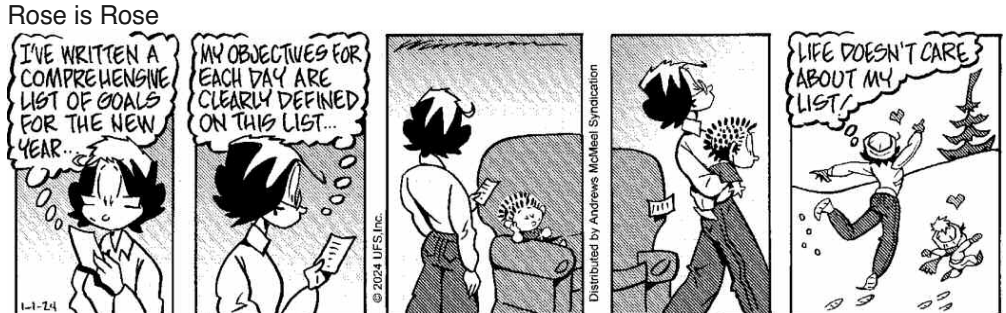
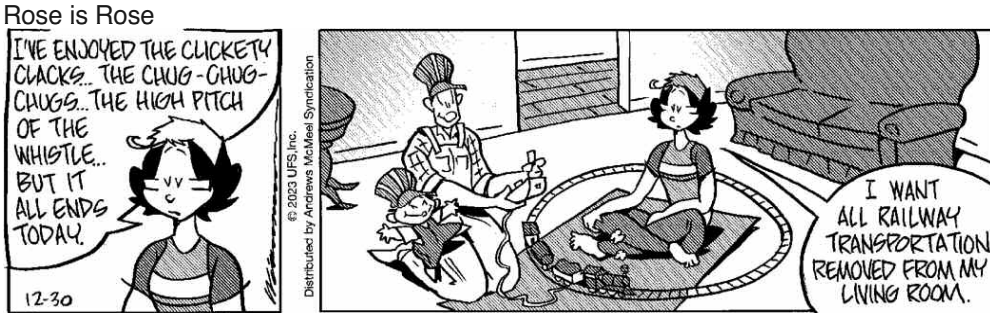
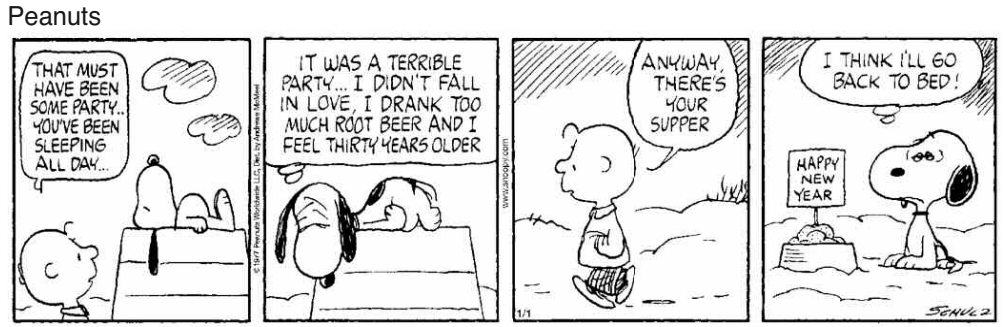
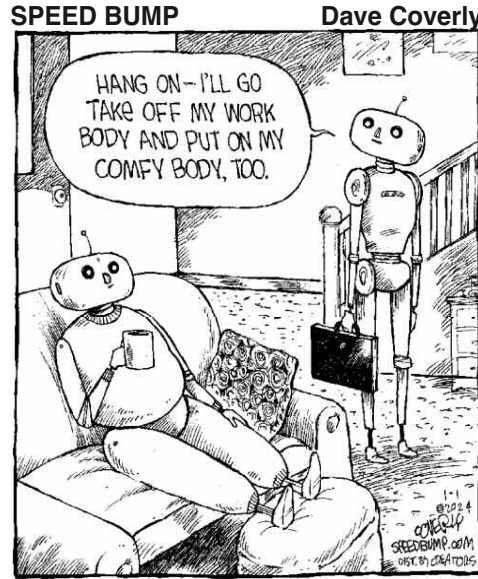
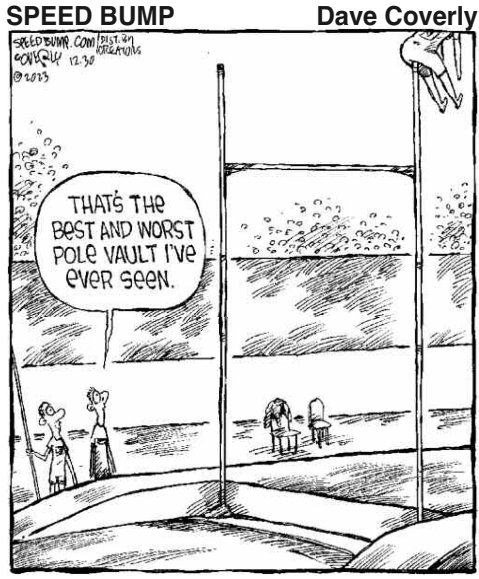
**DOWN**

- 1 —
- 2 Verb for you
- 3 Cut the lawn
- 4 Regardless
- 5 Sheepish remarks
- 6 Schedule abbr.
- 7 Molds anew
- 8 Showy shrub
- 9 Streamlet
- 10 Suit for
- 11 Actress Jessica
- 13 Saturates
- 19 March time
- 20 Sun-bather's goal
- 21 Location
- 22 "Neato!"
- 23 Eggs on
- 25 Tree-lined prom-enades
- 26 Banister
- 27 Rani's wrap
- 29 Pool table surface
- 31 "Do — say!"
- 33 Alliance
- 34 Entry
- 36 BLT spread
- 37 "Como — usted?"
- 38 Break suddenly
- 39 Vats
- 40 Baseball VIPs
- 43 Halloween mo.
- 44 Consumed
- 45 Crater edge
- 46 High school subj.

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

Saturday's answer 1-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15								16			
			17			18	19				
20	21	22				23					
24						25		26	27		
28				29				30	31		
		32	33					34			
			35					36			
37	38	39				40					
41						42	43		44	45	46
47						48					
49						50			51		



**We Deliver**

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

**Laughter**

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*







## Game ...

Continued from page 10  
St. Henry also had two big inside weapons to use against Fort Recovery. Luke Beyke had a strong first half, hitting five baskets, while Evan Bowers had a slower start, but ultimately matched that throughout the game.  
"When they get it that deep, we try to wall up, and if you get it that close you probably should score," Leverette said. "I think our defensive effort was fine. We'll probably change some things up for the next time we see them, but overall I'm proud of the guys."  
Beyke also added a 3-point shot and hit 6-of-7 free throws to earn a game-high 19 points. Bowers hit both of his attempts to add 12 to the board for St. Henry.

Bowers was just one rebound short of a double-double as he led all players with nine rebounds. Three of the nine boards he snagged were offensive rebounds. The Indians ended with one more offensive rebound than St. Henry with 13.  
Overman provided the biggest lift for Leverette's team. The junior came off of the bench with an aggressive mindset, looking to get downhill and attack the rim by finding small seams in the defense.  
"He's the only guy on our team right now that can create off the dribble and create his own shot," Leverette said. "He's starting to get things going. He's starting to understand the physical-

ty of the game, being a JV guy last year, he's starting to figure things out. We're very proud of him."  
The Indians played the strongest in the second quarter and the third. In the second, the Tribe matched SHHS with 13 points apiece, while out-sourcing it 13-10 in the third. The Indians got the ball inside a lot easier during the two quarters, while also making more trips to the free throw line. They also turned the ball over the least amount of times in the third quarter, only coughing the rock up three times.  
The Indians did shoot better from the outside than St. Henry because of Reece Guggenbiller. The senior led the shoot-

ing effort with 3-of-5 from distance, while Beyke only hit one shot from beyond the arc.  
Guggenbiller finished the game as the Indians' second-leading scorer with nine points. No one else scored more than five.  
Overall, Leverette was happy with his team's defensive effort in the game and is looking forward to when it will match up with St. Henry on Feb. 2 on the Indians' home court.  
"Kudos to them, they had some good movement offensively," Leverette said. "I'm very proud of our defensive effort. These guys just scored 80 the other night at Marion Local so to hold them to 53 at home is a pretty good effort on our part."

Box score			
St. Henry vs. Fort Recovery Indians		Score by quarters: Ft. Rec. 5 13 13 9 - 40 St. Hen. 16 13 10 14 - 53	
Fort Recovery (4-4)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Overman 6-9	2-3	14	
Siefring 0-0	0-0	0	
Guggenbiller 3-7	0-0	9	
Dues 1-6	0-1	2	
Homan 2-4	0-0	4	
Leverette 2-10	1-2	5	
Diller 0-0	0-0	0	
Evers 1-2	0-0	2	
Lennartz 0-2	0-0	0	
Faller 1-3	2-2	4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16-43</b>	<b>4-8</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>.372</b>	<b>.500</b>	
Def. rebound percentage: .630			
St. Henry (4-3)			
FG-FGA	FT-FTA	PTS	
Broering 0-0	0-0	0	
Delzeith 0-1	3-4	3	
Puthoff 0-2	0-0	0	
Bergman 2-6	0-0	4	
Bowers 5-12	2-2	12	
Boeckman 0-3	4-8	4	
Link 3-6	0-0	6	
Huelsman 0-1	0-0	0	
LaGuire 2-2	1-1	5	
Beyke 6-12	6-7	19	
Schwartz 0-0	0-0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18-45</b>	<b>16-22</b>	<b>53</b>
	<b>.400</b>	<b>.727</b>	
Def. rebound percentage: .593			
<b>3-point shooting:</b> Fort Recovery 3-13 (Guggenbiller 3-5, Overman 0-1, Lennartz 0-1, Leverette 0-2, Dues 0-3). St. Henry 1-8 (Beyke 1-3, Link 0-1, Huelsman 0-1, Bowers 0-3).			
<b>Rebounds:</b> Fort Recovery 30 (Faller 6, Leverette 5, Team 5, Guggenbiller 4, Homan 3, Lennartz 3, Evers 2, Overman, Diller). St. Henry 28 (Bowers 9, Beyke 7, Puthoff 3, Boeckman 3, Team 3, Delzeith, Bergman, Huelsman).			
<b>Assists:</b> Fort Recovery 4 (Homan 2, Siefring, Faller). St. Henry 3 (Delzeith 2, Link).			
<b>Blocks:</b> Fort Recovery 5 (Lennartz 2, Dues, Homan, Evers). St. Henry 2 (Bergman, Bowers).			
<b>Personal fouls:</b> Fort Recovery 16 (Leverette 5, Homan 3, Faller 3, Overman 2, Guggenbiller 2, Dues). St. Henry 13 (Bowers 3, Puthoff 2, Boeckman 2, Link 2, LaGuire 2).			
<b>Turnovers:</b> Fort Recovery 16. St. Henry 10.			



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# Sports

## Big mans' game



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School senior Rex Leverette rises up for a jump shot in the Indians' 53-40 loss at St. Henry on Friday.

### St. Henry forwards combine for 31 points in 13-point win over Fort Recovery

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review  
ST. HENRY, Ohio — Fort Recovery didn't put forward its best foot on Thursday night in a 61-34 loss to Marion Local.

Without any time to digest what happened, it was thrust into another matchup with a familiar opponent. The immediate response wasn't what it would have liked, but the Indians picked up traction as the game went along to keep things close.

They just didn't have enough to complete the comeback.

Fort Recovery High School's boys basketball team nearly erased a 12-0 deficit, but strong free throw shooting from St. Henry's basketball team led to a 54-40 defeat Friday night.

"I think that blowout loss is a bit deceiving because we had two starters in foul trouble from the second quarter on," FRHS coach Bob Leverette said. "I'm not going to read too much into that game. But, that being said, I like our chances

for playing both of these teams for our league play."

St. Henry (4-3) was able to take control early in the game with a 12-0 run to start the first quarter. Two keys to building the lead were the offensive pace and inside play for St. Henry.

Of the five initial baskets, two came in transition and two were off of offensive rebounds — one of those was the same shot when Evan Bowers had a putback off of a missed shot in transition.

The Indians (4-4) ended the dry spell with 2 minutes, 12 seconds left in the opening period, when Briggs Overman came in off of the bench, drove to the hoop and converted a 3-point-play.

Six of St. Henry's 18 field goals either came off of steals or manufactured transition opportunities, where it would rip the ball down after a missed or made shot and hustled down the floor to put pressure on Fort Recovery's defense.

"We wanted to get stops

and then we thought we could run," SHHS coach Eric Rosenbeck said. "We're trying to get as many live ball turnovers as we can get. ...

"It's a defensive grind, because it was a lot slower pace than our normal. We're going to see that throughout the year. We probably have another three or four teams on our schedule that're going to slow us down. We have to have the grit, the toughness, and the want to work to be able to execute and get a win in a low scoring game."

St. Henry ended up forcing the Indians to commit 16 turnovers in the game.

The closest FRHS came to St. Henry's lead came late in the third quarter.

Rex Leverette took the ball from coast-to-coast with one minute left in the third to cut the deficit down to six. After that, SHHS took control at the free throw line, knocking down 13-of-18 foul shots in the final nine minutes of play.

See Game page 9

## Fort Recovery girls can't get offense started

Indians offense stalls in the first and third quarters, only managing two buckets between the two

By **ANDREW BALKO**

The Commercial Review

ST. HENRY, Ohio — The Indians don't boast a roster that is blessed with an abundance of experience.

When those who have experience struggle to score, it can be tough times for the Tribe.

Offensive struggles in the first and third quarters held the Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team back as St. Henry walked away with a 43-21 victory Friday.

The Indians (2-7) struggled early as St. Henry raced out to an 11-0 lead. FRHS battled back late in the first quarter, finishing on a 7-2 run. Makenna Huelskamp and Karlie Niekamp got the offense jump started with a three and a layup respectively while Cali Wendel and Saige Leuthold both hit 1-of-2 free throws.

Fort Recovery matched St. Henry (8-1) with eight second-quarter points. Niekamp hit three shots while Huelskamp added another. Things fell apart

for the Indians in the third period. St. Henry's ball pressure became too much as FRHS could barely get shots off before the ball would get swiped away and taken down to the other end of the floor.

Fort Recovery's only point came on a free throw from Leuthold midway through the period. Five players from SHHS scored in the third period to total 12 points. St. Henry held a 33-16 lead entering the final period. Lauren Thieman had the only basket for SHHS in the final period as she hit a three, but it still put up another seven points from the charity stripe.

Morgan Baumer was the leading scorer in the game, putting up 13 points for St. Henry. Thieman was next with eight.

Niekamp led the way for Fort Recovery with eight. Huelskamp was held quiet in the second half to only score five.


Leuthold, Kennedy Muhlenkamp and Wendel rounded out the scoring with four, three and one point, respectively.




The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko


FRHS senior Karlie Niekamp drives in on St. Henry on Friday night in a 43-21 loss. Niekamp led the way for Fort Recovery with nine points.

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## On tap

### Local schedule

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Girls wrestling IHSWCA regional at Jay County — 9 a.m.; Boys basketball at Muncie Central — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls bowling vs. New Bremen at Plaza Lanes — 9:15 a.m.; Boys bowling vs. New Bremen at Celina — 1 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Lincolnview — 6 p.m.; Freshman boys basketball at Coldwater — 10 a.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Swim at Belmont — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball vs. Concordia Lutheran — 6 p.m.; Girls wrestling at Coldwater — 7 p.m.; Junior high wrestling at Coldwater — 7 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Swim dual-meet at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.; Boys basketball vs. Arcanum — 6 p.m.

### TV sports

**Tuesday**  
7:30 a.m. — Premier League: Chelsea at Luton Town (USA)

10 a.m. — Premier League: Burnley at Aston Villa (USA)

12 p.m. — College football Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl: Ole Miss vs. Penn State (ESPN)

12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Stonehill at Rutgers (BTN); Hofstra at St. John's (FS1)

12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Ohio State at Michigan (FOX)

12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Manchester United at Nottingham Forest (USA)

2 p.m. — College football Transperfect Music City Bowl: Auburn vs. Maryland (ABC)

2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Creighton at Marquette (CBS); Virginia Tech at Wake Forest (ESPN2); Indiana State at Michigan State (FS1)

2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Minnesota at Iowa (BTN); Baylor at Texas (FOX)

4 p.m. — College football Capital One Orange Bowl: Georgia vs. Florida State (ESPN)

4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Wichita State at Kansas (ESPN2); UCLA at Oregon (CBS); Chicago State at DePaul (FS1)

4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Michigan State at Penn State (BTN)

6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Wisconsin at Purdue (BTN)

7 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

Ohio State at West Virginia (FOX)  
8:15 p.m. — NFL: Detroit Lions at Dallas Cowboys (ABC)

**Sunday**  
9 a.m. — Premier League: AFC Bournemouth at Tottenham Hotspur (USA)

12 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Illinois at Indiana (BTN)

1 p.m. — NFL: Las Vegas Raiders at Indianapolis Colts (CBS)

2:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland at Nebraska (BTN)

4 p.m. — NFL: Pittsburgh Steelers at Seattle Seahawks (FOX)

4:25 p.m. — NFL: Cincinnati Bengals at Kansas City Chiefs (CBS)

8:20 p.m. — NFL: Green Bay Packers at Minnesota Vikings (NBC)

**Monday**  
12 p.m. — College football Reliquet Bowl: Wisconsin vs. LSU (ESPN2)

1 p.m. — College football bowl games: Liberty vs. Oregon (ESPN); Iowa vs. Tennessee (ABC)

3 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Seattle Kraken (TNT)

3 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at Liverpool (USA)

5 p.m. — College football Rose Bowl Bowl: Alabama vs. Michigan (ESPN)

8:45 p.m. — College football Allstate Sugar Bowl: Texas vs. Washington (ESPN)

**Tuesday**  
7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: North Carolina at Pitt (ESPN); Iowa at Wisconsin (BTN)

8:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Butler at St. John's (FS1)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Northwestern at Illinois (BTN); Charlotte at SMU (ESPN2)

10:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: New Mexico at Colorado State (FS1)

**Local notes**

**Tryouts scheduled**  
Tryouts for A League of Our Own Independent Baseball League is hosting a tryout at the Mojo-Up Sports indoor Complex in Noblesville on Jan. 30.

Anyone 19-years-old or older can try out.

The league begins play on Aug. 31 and runs through Oct. 19, playing 50 games in 50 days.

To sign up or for more information on the league, visit [www.aloooc247.com](http://www.aloooc247.com), call (205) 264-1468.