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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025


WESTPORT
Area Business Association

From the desk of the President



I am incredibly honored to serve as the new president of the Westport Area Business Association. Sitting in this role is a privilege, and I'm excited about the opportunities ahead for our members and our community. One of my primary goals as president is to help

spread the word about the amazing businesses we have here in Westport. I want to see our members grow and thrive, and I'm committed to doing everything I can to make that happen.

Exciting News: Our New Website!

I'm thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new website, (<https://westportindianabusineses.org>) designed to better serve our members and help them expand their presence online. This platform is all about convenience, visibility, and customization. One of the most exciting features of the website is the personalized online directory.

Members now have the ability to create and maintain their own directory pages, effectively turning them into mini personal websites. You can add photos, pricing lists, business hours, and more. Customers can even leave reviews directly on your page, giving your business valuable feedback and credibility.

This directory gives your business a platform to shine, all in one place. It also makes it easy for customers to connect with you—they can call you with just a click or learn everything they need to know about your services right from your page.

Our goal with this website is to give our members a stronger online presence and more tools to connect with customers.

It's an exciting step forward, and I can't wait to see how it helps our businesses grow.

New Projects for Westport

In addition to the website, we've been hard at work on some major developments. The association has purchased three properties in the Westport area, and I'm so excited about what's to come!

Community Property:

- The first property is being renovated with plans to rent it out and bring more businesses into the area.
- The second property will undergo remodeling and is planned for sale, allowing us to reinvest in other community projects.
- As for the third property, we're exploring several exciting ideas. Whether it becomes a new business hub or something entirely different, we're committed to making it a valuable asset for our community.

These projects are a testament to our commitment to Westport's growth and prosperity. I'll be sharing updates as we make progress, so stay tuned!

Looking Ahead

As I step into this role, I'm filled with optimism and determination. I want to thank all of you—our members, our community, and our supporters—for trusting me to lead this association. Together, we have the power to make Westport an even better place to live, work, and do business.

Here's to a bright future for the Westport Area Business Association and all of its members!

Warm regards,



President, Westport Area Business Association

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Happy New Year!

Community Services

Westport Police
(812) 591-3953

Westport Fire Department
All Emergencies: Dial 911

Westport Water & Sewage
(812) 591-3500

Electricity - Duke Energy
(812) 521-2232

GAS - Center Point Energy
(800) 227-1376 (Option 6)

Westport Clinic
(812) 591-3452

Daycare / Preschool
(812) 591-9224

South Decatur Elementary
(812) 591-3115

South Decatur Jr. / Sr. High
(812) 663-4595

Westport Post Office
(812) 591-3310

Napoleon State Bank
(812) 815-8000

Great Plains Communication
(800) 222-1000

Frontier
(888) 237-0588

Dish Network
(812) 521-2232

Xfinity
(812) 588-2464

For more information please visit
westportindianabusineses.org

All Emergencies: Dial 911

BUSINESS DIRECTORY (A to F)

APARTMENTS

Westport Terrace Apartments 812-591-2655

GS Courtyard Community 502-419-0253

ASPHALT

Globe Asphalt 812-591-2797

ATV

Gary Cunningham Racing 812-591-3656

AUTOMOTIVE

Johnson's Auto Body 812-591-3190

BANKS

Napoleon State Bank 812-815-8000

BOUTIQUE SHOP

Balsam & Light 812-371-6308

CAMPS

Southeastern Baptist Camp 812-591-2515

CARPET CLEANINGS

Watkins Hydra Steam 812-663-2195

CHILDCARE

Barb's Babes 812-591-9224

CHURCHES

Mt. Aerie Community Church 812-614-5661

Rock Creek Baptist 812-552-1126

Sardinia Baptist Steve Gross 812-390-8164

South Decatur Baptist 812-260-6590

CHURCHES (Cont)

Westport Baptist 812-591-3721

Westport Christian "The Port" 812-591-3807

Westport Methodist 812-591-2033

Westport Wesleyan 765-674-4968

COMMUNICATIONS

Great Plains Communications 812-382-4968

CONSTRUCTION

Lakefront Construction, Greg Bell 812-591-2042

CUSTOM INTERIORS

Interiors by Kara 812-344-7022

ELECTRONICS

Baltus Electronics 812-591-2412

FINANCIAL

Patrick H. Baltus 812 953-5965 or 812-662-4257

Ila Cottone Certified Fin Coach 812-614-8178

FLORIST

Bailey's Flowers 812-591-3049

FOOD & BEVERAGES

Dairy Queen 812-591-2452

Pavey's Mini Mart 812-591-0270

Pizzalicious 812-591-3362

Rocco's Midway Liquors 812-591-3000

Rocco's Liquors Depot - Holton 812-321-4502

Stone's Family Restaurant 812-591-2435

BUSINESS DIRECTORY (F to R)

FUNERAL SERVICES

Bass & Gasper Funeral Home 812-591-2571
Gasper Monuments 812-591-2571

GAS & OILS

Ellis Gas & Oil 812 346-2340 or 812-592-9837

GOVERNMENT

Community Building-Connie Davis 812-614-9764
Sand Creek Trustee, Dan Wenning 812-591-2037
Westport Library 812-591-2330
Westport Post Office 812-591-3310
Westport Town Hall 812-591-3500
Westport Town Marshall 812-591-2651

HARDWARE & FARM SUPPLY

Kova Farm Supply 812-591-2953
Letts Hardware & Equipment 812-591-2221

HEALTHCARE

Decatur County Memorial Hospital &
Westport Clinic 812-591-3452
Clear Choice Hearing 812-591-6164
Our Hospice Palliative Care 812-314-8083

HEATING & COOLING & ELECTRICAL

Fields Heating & Cooling 812-344-3745
Milburn Mechanical Services 812-614-3661
Louden Heating & Air 812-614-3565

INDUSTRIAL

Nipro PharmaPackaging 812-591-2332

INSURANCE

State Farm, Dana Witkemper 812-662-8855
Elliott Insurance, John Elliott 812-662-6242
Johnson-Witkemper, Terry Green 812-341-7973

IN Farm Bureau:

Jake Mattox 812-663-3596
Jannie Jackson 812-614-7092

LAWN CARE

ARG Landscaping LLC 812-614-7824
Double D Lawn Service 812-614-8484
KUNZ Stump Grinding 812-614-1071
Mullins Outdoor Services 812-718-6791

MEAT PROCESSING

Sugar Rock Farms Locker 812-591-3033

PETS & SUPPLIES

Stay Put Doggy 812 525-0121 or 812-591-8232

QUILT & SEWING SUPPLIES

Tree City Stitches 812-222-0920

REALTOR

Keller Williams Realty - Donju Taylor 812-603-2193
RE/MAX - Morgan Eden Westmeyer 812-614-9168
Coldwell Bankers - Jackie Robbins 812-767-5225
Maximum Realty - Jennifer Louden 812-662-4018

BUSINESS DIRECTORY (R to Z)

RECYCLING

Decatur County Solid Waste 812-663-0960

RENTALS

Bell Rental Properties 812-591-2042

Mattox Machine Rentals 812-614-0378

SCHOOLS

South Decatur Elementary School 812-591-3115

South Decatur High School 812-591-3330

TAX SERVICE

Laurel Fry 812-525-1024

Roscoe's Tax Service 812-591-3775

THRIFT STORE

Stuff N Things 812-591-2033

VENUES

Venue on Three 812-651-8105

WATER HAULING

Clayton Carder 812-614-9100

Ron Oliver 812-498-1798

WEB DEVELOPMENT

Silent3Partners 812-603-2097

MLT Technologies 812-552-9087



Women of High Impact

Celebrating Ila Cottone:



For the past four years, Ila Cottone has been an extraordinary leader as the President of the Westport Area Business Association.

Her tenure has been marked by transformative growth, strengthened local businesses, and a deep commitment to fostering community connections. Today, we take a moment to honor and thank Ila for her outstanding contributions. Under Ila's leadership, the Westport Area Business Association has flourished. Her vision and dedication have helped local entrepreneurs thrive, bringing new energy to the area and strengthening the ties between businesses and the community. Her ability to lead with compassion and innovation has inspired countless members to collaborate, grow, and support one another.

In addition to her remarkable role with the association, Ila is a successful entrepreneur. She is the founder and owner of Venue on 3, a premier event space that has become a cornerstone for memorable gatherings in the community. From weddings to corporate events, Venue on 3 exemplifies Ila's passion for creating spaces where people come together.

Beyond this, Ila also owns Rocco's Liquor Stores, a trusted name in the region known for quality service and selection. Her ventures are a testament to her entrepreneurial spirit, perseverance, and commitment to excellence.

Ila's impact goes beyond business achievements—her leadership has left a lasting legacy on the Westport community. Her tireless efforts, innovative ideas, and steadfast support have made Westport not just a great place to do business, but also a better place to live.

On behalf of the Westport Area Business Association and the entire community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ila Cottone. Thank you for your years of service, your dedication, and your unwavering commitment to our community. You have made an indelible mark on Westport, and we look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in the future.

Here's to Ila Cottone—a true leader, innovator, and community champion!



Chicken Cacciotori

Ingredients

- 1 broiler/fryer chicken (3-1/2 to 4 pounds), cut up
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, sliced
- 1 large green pepper, cut into strips
- 1/2 pound sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 can (28 ounces) tomatoes, drained and chopped
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
- 1 cup dry red wine or water
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Hot cooked pasta
- Grated Parmesan cheese



Directions:

1. Dust chicken with flour. Season with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, brown chicken on all sides in oil and butter over medium-high heat. Remove chicken to platter.
2. In the same skillet, cook and stir the onion, celery, pepper and mushrooms for 5 minutes. Stir in the tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, wine, herbs, garlic and sugar. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Return chicken to skillet. Cover and simmer for 45-60 minutes or until chicken is tender. Serve over pasta and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.



Women Who Mean Business

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Ayrika Maschino

Agency Producer

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By Tami Wenning for Jan/Feb 2025

Well, hello and welcome to 2025. Can you believe we are 25 years into 2000? As I type this, my nose, toes and fingers are cold and I'm thinking the furnace may not be working. I guess the reason it never quits working in the summertime is because we don't use it then?!!! (Same reason we don't notice the air conditioning isn't working in the winter...folks, you are dealing with a mental giant right now!) Now that we have the question of my intelligence answered, we'll forge ahead.

Wintertime always makes me think of trudging onward through tough times. I still cannot imagine traveling by wagon and trying to keep warm. I don't have livestock but just an outside water bowl is hard to maintain. When I was dating Danny and he was still working on the family farm, I was pretty sure he was going to freeze his ears off driving a tractor down the road to go thaw waterers in the hog barns. No cab on the tractor, just a cap on his head and all sorts of dire warnings on the news about frostbite. I just knew his ears were going to freeze and break off. It didn't happen but maybe that's why he doesn't hear me sometimes?



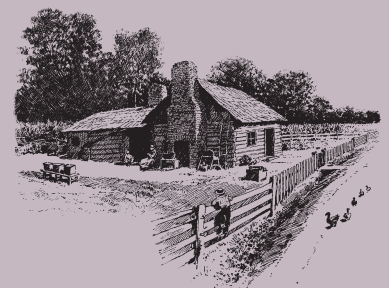
Oh, the good old days. I'm pretty sure we forget that there were hard times and just think back on the good times. There is nothing wrong with doing that, either. I remember when we were little kids, some of the houses we lived in were big and cold. Instead of heating the whole upstairs, Mom and Dad would hang a blanket on the stairs so the heat wouldn't go up there and all four of us kids would "camp" on a mattress on the floor.



It was sort of an adventure but you were sure sorry if you hadn't brought your school clothes downstairs the night before because it was COLD up there! My point is, as kids, we thought it was great fun. I'm sure to Mom and Dad, it was much harder to deal with.

We lived in St. Paul when I was in the 8th grade. That was the big blizzard of '78 and we lived in a newer little house in a subdivision that was totally electric. The fire station came down and evacuated houses so they could take people up to the fire station to stay warm. Not my dad! We heated soup on a kerosene heater and toughed it out at home. That particular time is when I realized that it would always be important to own more than one type of can opener. We only had an electric can opener so Dad had to bang the cans open with a knife. Again, it was an adventure. Somewhere, I have pictures of snow drifts that went up to the gutters on our home. No matter what sort of times you may be going through, I hope that you can find the silver lining.

We always thought fried bologna was a treat and that everyone grew up eating field corn. We turned out almost normal! 😊 Also, there is no such thing as normal. You can tell yourself there is but if you really think about it, every family has their stories! If they say they don't, well, their secrets are probably deeper and darker than most! Behave and say "hey" when you see me out and around. I'll give you a hug if you need it!



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2025

Westport Area Community Calendar



January






Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6 Food Giveaway Christian Church 4PM DCCS Teacher Records Day	7 DCCS Students return to class	1 Happy New Year!	2 Kiwanis 6:30PM @Community Bldg.	3	4
12	13 Westport Town Council 6:30PM @ Comm Bldg Food Giveaway Christian Church 4PM	14	8 Business Association 5:30PM Supper 6:00PM Meeting @Community Bldg.	9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day 	10	11
19	20 MLK Day DCCS No School OR snow make up day Food Giveaway Christian Church 4PM	21 National Hugging Day 	22	23	24 National Peanut Butter Day 	25
26	27 Food Giveaway Christian Church 4PM	28	29 National Puzzle Day 	30	31	

2025

Westport Area
Community Calendar



February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	 <p>Diabetes Education February Classes <small>Provided By: Decatur County Memorial Hospital</small> 10:00am - 12:30pm</p>	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13		15
16	 Washington's Birthday	18	19	20	21	 <p>2025 Ag Day Breakfast <small>Presented By: GOC Chamber of Commerce</small> 7:30am - 9:30am</p>
23	24	25	 <p>2025 Weigh Beyond Program Session 1 <small>Presented By: Decatur County Memorial Hospital</small> 5:00pm - 6:00pm</p>	27	28	

**Congratulations to Decatur County's
2024-25 Lilly Endowment
Scholarship Finalists!**



Left to right: Cooper Parmer, Makayla Somers, Christopher Mains, Savannah Danforth, Chase Tekulve

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**Decatur County Community Schools
2024-2025 School Calendar**



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Sectional Champs

South Decatur volleyball boasts the best season since the early 1990s.

Sectional Champs

By Paul Schotterman

Head Coach Devin Sutliff started her volleyball coaching career at South Decatur eight years ago, and she and her teams have flipped the script since then, ending the 2024 season as both Mid-Hoosier Conference and Sectional 59 Champions. The Lady Cougars took the sectional title for the first time since 1998, and had several players named to the All-MHC and All-Sectional teams. Sutliff was also named MHC Coach of the Year. The program has seen a big culture shift since Sutliff took over as head coach five years ago.

With players like seniors Makayla Somers, Paige McQueen, Lydia Winkler, and Anniston Bostic, the team had plenty of leadership to help guide them to victory.

"I have worked with Makayla, Paige, and Lydia for four years, but I have been watching them play since they were 7th graders," she said. "Seeing their growth on and off the court has been amazing."

Sutliff only worked with Bostic for one year, but watched her and coached against her at Hauser prior to this season.

"Replacing the seniors is going to be hard," Sutliff said, "and moments in my classroom are going to be somber if not next year."

Reminiscing about the historical season, Coach Sutliff recalls one of her favorite memories. She admits one bright spot was the takedown of rival North Decatur.

"When [the girls] beat North for the first time, I couldn't help but cry tears of joy because of the happiness radiating from them," Sutliff said.

"They were so proud of what they accomplished, and they became the team I always knew they could be."

*"For the first time in four years, they were able to truly believe in themselves."
Coach Sutliff*

Sutliff saw this not only as a powerful moment in their season, but also as the time the players finally started to believe in themselves.

"As we went on to win the conference and sectionals, their pride and happiness blossomed even more. For the first time in four years, they were able to truly believe in themselves."

One cannot single-handedly shift the culture of a volleyball program, and Sutliff has surrounded herself with exceptional assistant coaches who help better the team. Sutliff credits Tyler Ewing, Zoey Alexander, and Lisa Bennett as key pieces to the recipe for success.

"Tyler showed the girls that they were worthy of greatness," she said about her first assistant coach. "He provided the insight our girls were often too driven through the night to root for the girls during Regionals this year."

Sutliff said Coach Alexander reminded herself when she first began coaching.

"Zoey embodies pride for both the team and the school," she stated. "She is determined to push forward and settle for nothing less than excellence."

Sutliff credits Lisa Bennett, who has never wavered in her faith in what the team could achieve, with making her the coach she is today.

"She has taught me how to balance intensity with fun, serving as the yin to my yang in coaching," she said. "Lisa has always believed in me, especially during my moments of self-doubt. She always reassured me that things were working the way they were supposed to."

The promise of striving for greatness will continue in a lasting program full of accolades for years to come. Sutliff will look to some of the younger players with bright futures to continue the success of the program.

"I have plenty of girls growing and more coming in as freshmen," she said. "We're planning on more smiles, laughs, jokes, and fun. The Lady Cougars are just getting started."

Photo by Ashleigh Shouse

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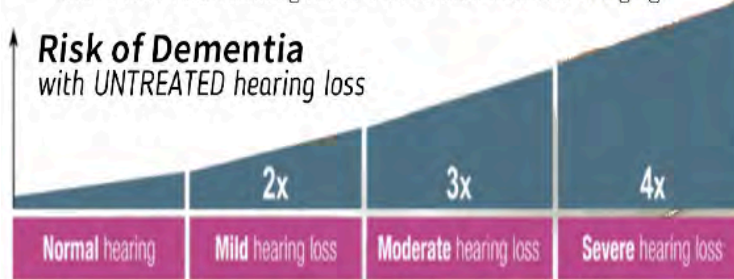
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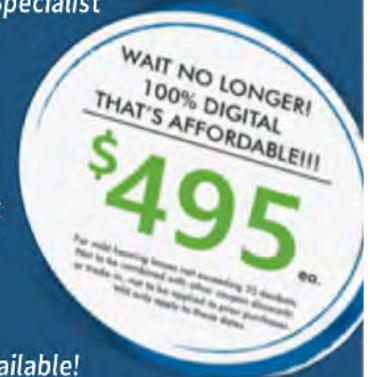
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Masters of the Trade

Tree stumps can be more than just unsightly remnants in your yard; they can pose safety hazards, attract pests, and hinder landscaping efforts. Recognizing when to address these stumps is crucial for maintaining a safe and aesthetically pleasing property. Here are key indicators that it's time to call Matt owner of Kunz Stump Grinding in Westport, IN:



Tips: From a Man's Point of View

1. Safety Concerns

- **Tripping Hazards:** Stumps, especially those hidden by grass or foliage, can cause trips and falls, posing risks to children, pets, and visitors.
- **Obstacles to Maintenance:** Protruding stumps can interfere with lawn care equipment, potentially causing damage to mowers and posing injury risks to operators.

2. Pest Infestation

- **Insect Attraction:** Decaying stumps can become breeding grounds for pests like termites, ants, and beetles, which may eventually spread to healthy plants or even your home.

3. Aesthetic Improvement

- **Visual Appeal:** Removing stumps enhances the overall appearance of your landscape, providing a clean and polished look.
- **Space Utilization:** Clearing stumps frees up space for new plantings, garden features, or other landscaping projects.



4. Preventing Regrowth

- **Unwanted Shoots:** Some tree species can sprout new growth from stumps, leading to unwanted saplings that require additional maintenance.

5. Preparing for New Landscaping

- **Replanting:** If you're planning to plant new trees or shrubs, removing old stumps ensures the new plants have ample space to establish healthy root systems.
- **Construction Projects:** Stumps can obstruct construction or landscaping projects, making their removal essential for progress.

By addressing these issues promptly, you can maintain a safe, attractive, and functional outdoor space. Kunz Stump Grinding offers professional stump removal services tailored to your property's needs, ensuring efficient and thorough solutions.

Written by Matt Kunz



Owner
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Valentine's Day
14 February




"If January is the month of change, February is the month of lasting change. January is for dreamers... February is for doers."

-Marc Parent

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— TEMITOPE IBRAHIM

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– Lou Holtz

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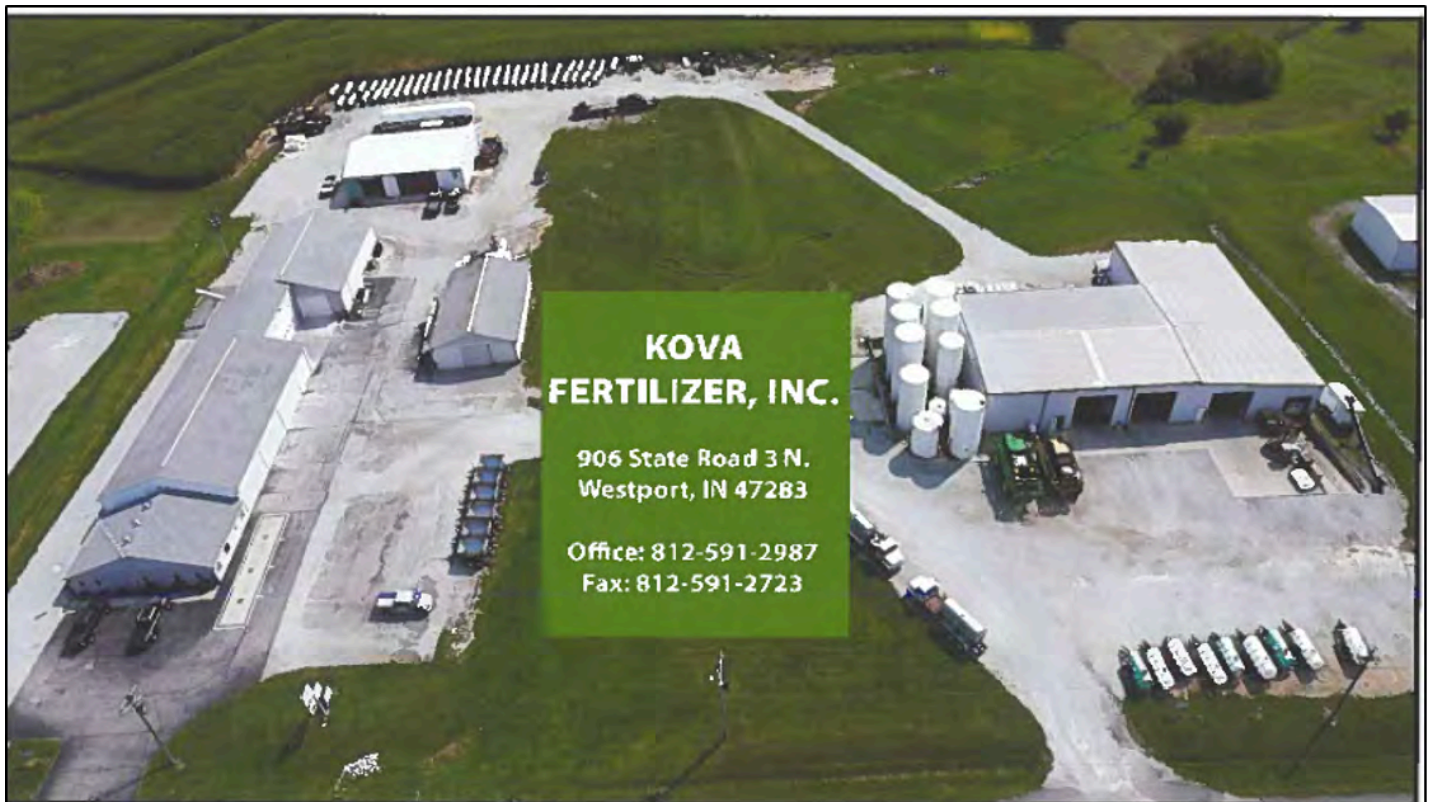
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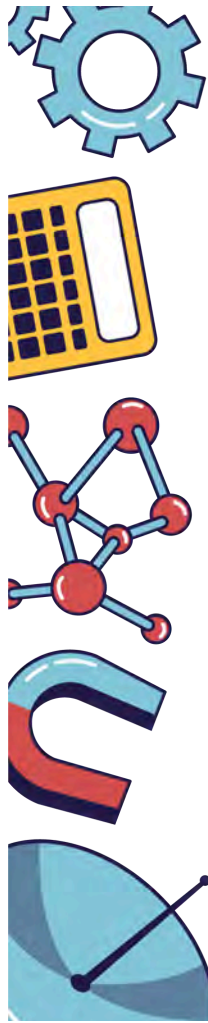


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Church Phone: 591-2902



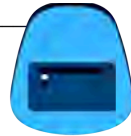
People get so caught up in the fact that they have limits that they rarely exert the effort required to get close to them.

-James Clear



Name _____

School Word Search



S	C	O	K	A	E	P	O	S	S	E	C	E	R
A	L	D	C	S	D	E	T	L	O	O	H	C	S
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I	S	R	P	I	S	T	A	T	O	N	P	S	U
C	E	C	K	S	N	K	M	N	A	R	P	T	D
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E	N	R	A	D	P	A	P	E	R	E	P	L	N
P	A	C	B	E	I	S	O	L	D	L	E	A	T



SCHOOL	TEACH
DESK	STUDENT
PENCIL	ERASE
PAPER	LEARN
BACKPACK	RECESS



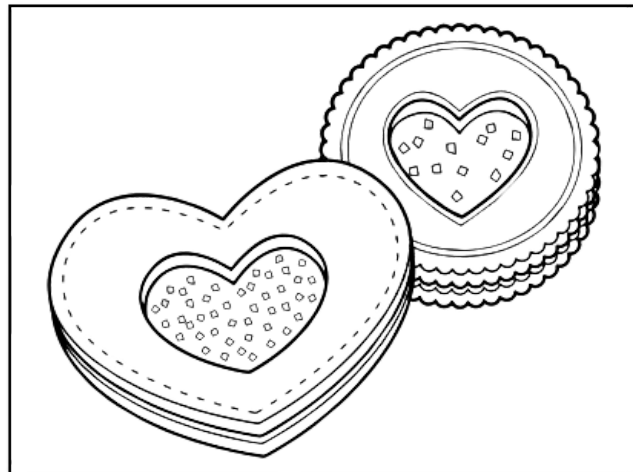
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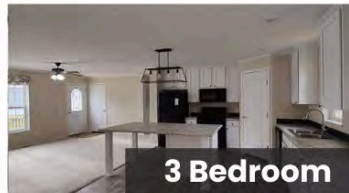
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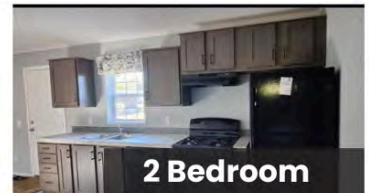
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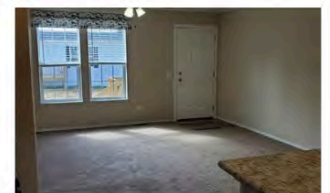
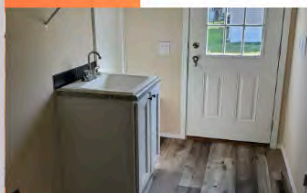
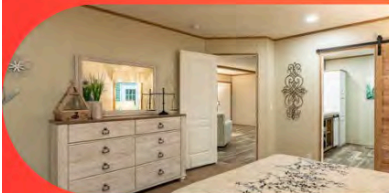
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