



## Town hall

**AFGE Local 987 and community leaders will host their second Town Hall April 16 at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center. Discussion will include issues affecting federal employees and the community.**

## FEEA launches layoff loan program

By AFGE Leadership

During this incredibly difficult time for federal workers the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund has launched its Layoff Loan Program.

Even with careful planning, federal employees facing recent layoffs can find themselves in a vulnerable financial position. Unplanned, out-of-pocket expenses can lead to significant hardship, potentially forcing them to rely

**See PROGRAM, page 3**

# AFGE issues strong rebuke to EO targeting unions

By AFGE Leadership

American Federation of Government Employees National President Everett Kelley today issued the following statement in response to President Trump's latest executive action attacking the collective bargaining rights of over one million federal employees:

"President Trump's latest executive order is a disgraceful and retaliatory attack on the rights of hundreds of thousands of patriotic American civil servants—nearly one-third of whom are veterans—simply because they are members of a union that stands up to his harmful policies.

"This administration's bullying

**"This administration's bullying tactics represent a clear threat not just to federal employees and their unions, but to every American who values democracy and the freedoms of speech and association."**

**- AFGE President Everett Kelley**

tactics represent a clear threat not just to federal employees and their unions, but to every American who values democracy and the freedoms of speech and association. Trump's threat to unions and working people across America is clear: fall in line or else.

"These threats will not work. Americans will not be intimidated or silenced. AFGE isn't going anywhere. Our members have bravely served this nation, often putting themselves in harm's way, and they deserve far better than this blatant attempt at political punishment.

"AFGE is preparing immediate legal action and will fight relentlessly to protect our rights, our members, and all working Americans from these unprecedented attacks."

**Fast facts: Federal sector collective bargaining:**

**1. Federal unions cannot negotiate over pay, benefits, or hiring/firing decisions.**

Unlike private-sector unions, federal unions are limited to bargaining over conditions of employment—not wages, benefits, or classifications, which are set by law and Congress.

**2. Federal employees are prohibited by law from striking.**

**See REBUKE, page 3**

# Working hard for you!

By DON MONCRIEF

Editor, The Union Advocate  
don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org

The times are uncertain but the dedication of your Local 987 staff is not. They continue to work tirelessly and do the due diligence in representing you.

Pictured - with not all staff members shown - from left are: **Office Manager Antonio Lumpkin**. Lumpkin has served in this position for two years. In it, he manages all correspondence with the Agency from Local 987. "I represent BUEs in EEO, FLRA, MSPB and in the grievance process," he said. He has been a member of AFGE for 10 years, joining to "represent people who can't represent themselves and for the education and growth (opportunities it offers)."

Next, second from left, is **Full-time Steward David Dunn**. Dunn has been in this position for a month. In it, he works grievances, researches and reviews arbitration cases. He also assists with phone calls and walk-ins, researches and submits information requests coordinates DTBs and does miscellaneous organization/filing of case files and related documents. He studies and reviews policies, procedures, guidance and laws and does other duties as assigned.

Dunn also serves members by providing representation to



member during various processes - grievances, proposals, et cetera - providing information from the Local/District/National as it is made available, offering assistance and guidance to questions from members about policies, procedures, news and more.

He has been a member of AFGE for three years, joining because, "I felt it was important

to contribute to the work that AFGE was doing to protect us workers, and I also wanted the opportunity to help in any way I could."

Center is **President Ron Hill**. Hill has been in this position for five months, but he also served in it once before for a year and nine months.

In his position, he said he oversees Local matters and rep-

resents BUEs. That includes negotiating the Master Labor Agreement. He has been a member of AFGE for more than 20 years, joining after seeing its results first hand. "I filed a grievance and won on overtime. I was happy with the representation and was asked to be a steward. I said, 'Yes'."

To his left is **Vice President of Maintenance James**

**Watson**. Watson has been in that position for a year.

As VP of Maintenance, he said his duties are to "advise and assist the president and vice president in discharging their duties." He is in charge of Labor-Management relations and "shall attempt to settle all disputes in maintenance areas.

"I'm also responsible for appointing stewards in maintenance areas," he said, "and all bargaining and grievances in the maintenance area."

He serves by "defending the contract and laws that are in place to protect peoples' rights. I represent them in collective bargaining, grievance procedures, arbitrations, MSPBs and EEOs ... By being an educator, organizer, mobilizer and

**See WORKING, page 3**



## Membership meeting

**Local 987 will have a membership meeting April 17 at 5 p.m. It will be held at Union Hall, located at 1764 Watson Blvd. As always, membership will be verified before admittance into the meeting. You can make updates to your contact information - address, phone, email - by calling Union Hall at 478-922-5758 or by emailing Linda Baxter at linda@afgelocal987.org or Jeanette McElhaney at jmac@afgelocal987.org.**

## WFP webinar focuses on women's mental health

By DON MONCRIEF

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With March being Women's History Month, the AFGE Women and Fair Practices Department hosted three workshops. The last of those was focused on women's mental health. It featured Alicia Loncar as its guest speaker. Loncar, who serves as a Labor Liaison and National Well-being Lead for Kaiser Permanente, began by soliciting from those in attendance the things that cause them stress. (Note: She has served in this role for nine years. Prior to that, she worked for 18 years in the labor movement with SEIU Local 99, a union that represents LAUSD classified school employees, and the California State Employees Association. She also has an MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management.) Their answers ranged from one woman



dering if she would get Social Security (with reports in the media of politicians warning it was in jeopardy) to uncertainty to "adulting" to the news.

Another said constant changes in life and at work were causing her stress. For another it was the "destructive" policies of the Trump administration and DOGE.

Signs of stress, Loncar said, included: Experiencing their heart racing, headaches, not enough sleep, being unable to sleep, migraines, tension/aches

in the stomach, being grouchy, "zoning out", being in a bad mood, "outbursts", eating too much, et cetera.

"Why is it important we notice this," she asked. "It's important you know what your stressors are. It's different from one person to the next but what are you stressed about? How do you know that you're stressing out."

Because, she continued, "Sometimes when we're consumed we may not be able to notice. And it's important we be

able to notice these things? It's change. We have to know when to tap out. This is the body's way of raising that red flag and saying to you that you need some help. Either you need to help yourself or reach out and get some help."

Letting it go unchecked, and then letting it continue to affect you, she said, could/would lead to long-term affects.

"Women have a higher rate of depression and anxiety and other psychological disorders," she said. "Stress increases your blood pressure and your heart rate and headaches and migraines. Which are more common in women than men. Women are more prone to gain weight gain than men (when stressed). To incur bowel problems, like Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Women can have a harder time getting pregnant. Premenstrual syndrome is more intense when you

**See HEALTH, page 3**



## REBUKE

From page 1

Under 5 U.S.C. § 7311, federal workers are legally barred from striking, and doing so can result in termination and a ban from federal employment.

### 3 Nearly one-third of federal employees are veterans.

Many federal workers are former service members who bring leadership, discipline, and mission commitment to their civilian roles. Stripping their bargaining rights is a betrayal of that service.

## WORKING

From page 1

political activist.”

He has been a member of AFGE for 17 years, joining because, “I believe the Union gives you a voice and helps pro-

## HEALTH

From page 1

have increased stress levels. And it could decrease sex drive. That could happen with long-term stress.”

Not all stress is bad, she added, but also added it was important to know. She also said they were not alone. In a 2023 survey by the American Psychologist Association of both men and women, women rated their stress level on average to be 5.3. For men it was 4.9.

Women are also more likely to report needing more support to manage stress. Women ages 18 to 23 are also more likely to feel completely overwhelmed by stress.

“So you’re not alone,” she said. “Women do have more stress than men. The source of stress? Well women have to juggle a lot of roles such as caregiver and homemaker. Women are often not only expected to manage their own emotions but also the emotions of those around them. Which can be exhausting and stressful.

“Women also experience gender discrepancies and pay gaps and limited career advancement opportunities, and in terms of financial concerns, women are more likely to report health and stress to these issues and they often feel consumed by many worries and family responsibility.”

She continued: “Women tend to internalize stress where men externalize stress. And then there are social expectations. Your family has expectations. You have expectations and that balancing of those expectations can cause a lot of stress. Women wear a lot of hats and that can be stressful.”

Again, she said, it was important to know what the stress points were because it was your body’s way of saying pay attention. Something’s not going right and you need to do something.

“When these things arise we often want to do something about them, but it’s important to note that noticing is taking action. It’s but the first step. Because like I said before it is important to notice.”

Loncar continued with a list of aids helpful in dealing with stress.

Resiliency was one. Resiliency is some-

### 4 Collective bargaining is governed by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

This bipartisan law created a structured process for federal workers to address workplace issues without disrupting government operations.

### 5 Unions improve agency performance—not hinder it.

Collective bargaining helps resolve conflicts early, reduces costly litigation, improves retention, and boosts morale—all of which support better public service.

### 6 Removing bargaining rights opens the door to abuse.

tect you from unfair and unlawful practices from Management. It also give you a seat at the table, which brings me to one of my favorite quotes: ‘If you don’t have a seat at the tabe, you’re probably on the menu’.”

Finally, is **Vice President At-Large Michael Ferguson.**

He has been in that position for six years. His duties include helping members in six areas on Robins AFB: AAFES, DeCA, DHA, NAF and Admin areas (i.e. Bldg. 300, 301) and AFRC.

He also serves by helping members on grievances, EEOs MSPBs and with helping them

Without union representation, employees—especially whistleblowers and veterans—lose vital protections from retaliation and political interference.

### 7 Federal unionism has broad historical support.

Presidents from both parties—Reagan, Clinton, Bush, Obama—have upheld the right of federal workers to union representation.

###

The American Federation of Government Employees is the largest federal employee union, representing 820,000 workers in the federal government and the government of the District of Columbia.

“see the benefits of being a member,” he said.

He has been a member of AFGE for 16 years. In fact, he was a member of a trade union even before he became an employee on Robins AFB. “I just like helping people,” he said matter-of-factly.

thing that helps women recover from stress, she said, repeating what she said was a favorite phrase of hers: “Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you respond to it. It’s not that you get knocked down but do you get back up?”

“And resiliency is something that helps us recover. It’s the capacity to recover from stress and trauma but also not just on the individual level. As a community. You’re in community right now (on the webinar) and in work you’re in community. It’s so important to come together help each other.”

Elements of resilience, she said, include mindfulness and stress awareness. There’s also sense of purpose and meaning, self-care and personal relationships. “Resilient people don’t let adversity define them. They find resilience in moving toward a goal beyond themselves by perceiving pain and remaining hopeful. That difficult times are temporary. There are options.”

Attributes is another aid. She defined it as being flexible and adaptable by viewing change as an opportunity and a challenge instead of seeing them as a threat.

“If you view something as a threat, even if it isn’t, you’re more likely to experience a sense of fear in response. Fear prevents us from challenging ourselves and growing.”

Purpose is also an aid, especial during this difficult time, she said. “Purpose can help and it comes from knowing your core values. Do you believe in honesty, courage? It’s important to tap into these core values.

“What do you believe in? Do you believe in gratitude, courage? So it’s imp to tap into these. No two people have the same. It’s really based on your life experience, cultural, it’s something that motivates you.

“And so, what are the things that motivate you? I should do this. I should do that. Make sure they’re in with your core values. Connection. This is where community is so imp. Having that connection with friends, family, groups, a higher power. And it’s not necessarily about quantity but quality. Also, you may want to exit some friendships. Some friendships may not be feeding you.”

Lastly, the biggest one is having hope.

Hope, she said, is to motivate, to persevere toward a goal. Even, she said, if you were skeptical that that positive outcome is likely.

“Psychologists tell us hope involves an activity and a can-do attitude. To believe that we have a pathway to our desired outcome. So positivity is important. It’s also important to fight to keep yourself motivated to fight especially with all the uncertainty you’re experiencing.”

Ways to prevent stress, she continued, was to eat right and exercise. “Get moving,” she said. “One doctor said, ‘I don’t even call it exercise. Just start moving.’ Endorphins can really help.

Sleep, seven to nine hours, will also help, she said. As will stretching, taking time for yourself, listening to music, reading, getting organized.

“Reflection” is also important, she said. “Reflect on what are your sources, maybe even journal about it. Reflect on what you’re grateful for. Studies have shown that concentrating on gratefulness can really change your outlook and can really make you happy.

Add “perspective” to the list, she went on. “Focus on the present. Stay in the present. Practice accepting what can’t be changed. If you can’t change the situation, change how you react to it. Be kind to yourself. Don’t allow yourself to dwell on the negative. Sometimes tune out so you’re not stressed out.”

Read out to others if you need to, she added. “If you keep doing all the things we talked about and are still having problems, reach out. Reach out to family or professionals and get help.”

Finally, REST, and acronym that stands for Reward, Establish, Share and Trust. Do something for yourself, reward. Establish, or set boundaries. “It’s important to say no to a request outside of your boundaries,” she said. “Off duty. If you’re off duty (for example), say no. Be respectful but don’t be apologetic.”

Share your concerns and frustrations with a friend, she said, or partner or professional and then finally, “trust your support network and refer people elsewhere if you’re too tired or emotional and trust yourself.”

## PLANTS

From page 2

trees in Sarasota, Florida, not Saginaw, Michigan. When it comes to perennials, it’s not about when the first frost is, but how cold it gets, and whether that plant can survive and thrive through winter.

Plant hardiness zones are less important however when it

comes to annuals. Because these plants are only meant to last one growing season; waiting until after the average first frost date will save you from having to re-plant. Know that even if your plant survives the frost, it may never match the photo you saw advertised at the nursery.

### Planting zone rule of thumb

Plant hardiness zone maps are, well, all over the map.

Consider the number assigned to your zip code as a starting point. You may live right at the break between one zone and the other. When in doubt, guess too low, rather than too high. In the South, the heat stress a plant not made for the conditions. Your particular geography can also affect your hardiness zone, like if you live on a hill or in a valley.

For more insights, check

out the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, and watch “Find Your Plant Hardiness Zone,” an episode of “Backyard Smart,” an original series from lawn care equipment manufacturer, Exmark. To watch the video, visit Backyard Life, which is part of a unique multimedia destination with a focus on helping homeowners improve their outdoor living spaces.

## WALKING

From page 2

physical activity are less likely to experience depression. Regular physical activity enhances your mood, sharpens your mind, improves sleep and boosts overall well-being, all while reducing the risk of disease and depression and increasing both the quality and longevity of life.

### How to be more physically active

Exercise as simple as a brisk walk can put a major spring in your step. It can even energize you to finish other tasks at hand, whether it’s cooking or running errands. Give your daily physical activity level a

boost with these tips:

Exercising outdoors is a great way to get moving. Spending time outdoors has been shown to reduce stress, promote a sense of belonging and improve mood. It’s even better if you can enjoy the sunshine outside, which can improve mood, boost your immunity and help you get some vitamin D.

Invite a family member or friend along with you. It’s good for them, it’s good for you and it’s good company all around.

Instead of wondering if you’ll move today, explore how you’ll move. A walk, a dance or a stretch all count.

### Getting pets involved

Pets are part of your family, and they can help you get healthy together. Pets provide a

fun reason to spend more time outside and get the exercise needed to reduce the risk of disease later in life.

Getting moving along with your pet adds more exercise to your routine, which means living longer, reducing risk of dying from heart attack or stroke, reducing risk of diabetes, reducing stress and even boosting your overall happiness and well-being.

Exercising with your pet can also mean enjoying more socializing. You may find yourself meeting other dog owners in your area on a walk or at the dog park.

Learn more about how simple habits like walking can support your overall health at [heart.org/MoveMore](http://heart.org/MoveMore).

Source: American Heart Association



### Cellphones banned in public elementary, middle schools by Ty Tagami

ATLANTA – Children and adolescents won’t be able to use personal cellphones in public schools starting next fall after the General Assembly overwhelmingly supported banning the devices in elementary and middle schools.

House Bill 340 passed the Georgia Senate Tuesday 54-2 after the state House of Representatives passed it with strong bipartisan support in early March. Gov. Brian Kemp will soon decide whether to sign the measure. So kids and parents will need to mentally prepare for the technology that tethers them to each other be severed during the school day.

The “Distraction-Free Education Act” requires schools to develop policies that allow parents to reach their kids, for instance, by calling the principal’s office, and it provides exemptions for students with disabilities or medical conditions that require them to use a cellphone for learning or for health reasons, such as checking their glucose level.

But starting in July 2026 all other kids would have to hand over or lock up their device from the first bell of the school day until the final ring. The ban applies even during emergencies, when experts testified that cellphones pose a dangerous distraction, even if parents wish they could still contact their children during, say, a mass shooting.

The crackdown comes amid growing global concerns about the effect of technology and social media on children.

### State Senate gives locals extra leeway on property tax relief by Dave Williams

ATLANTA – Legislation giving Georgia cities, counties and school districts until April 30 to decide whether to opt out of offering a property tax break voters approved last fall cleared the state Senate Tuesday. Georgians passed a constitutional amendment last November prohibiting local governments and school districts from raising residential property assessments in a given year by more than the annual rate of inflation, even if a home’s market value has gone up more.

Supporters argued the constitutional change would offer homeowners more certainty in their property tax liability year to year. But the legislation prompted concerns among local government and school district officials anxious to protect a key revenue source funding their operations.

Last year’s measure gave those local governments the ability to opt out of the measure if they filed an opt-out resolution with the Georgia secretary of state’s office by March 1 and held at least three public hearings. This year’s House Bill 92, which the Senate passed 52-2 on Tuesday, extends that deadline to the end of next month.

The House passed the bill last month with just one “no” vote. But it went through a series of changes when it got to the Senate.

House Bill 92 moves back to the House next to weigh in on the changes made by the Senate.

### Senate transgender sports bill advancing through House by Ty Tagami

ATLANTA – Transgender student athletes would be banned from female sports under two bills in the Georgia legislature, and the version from the state Senate has taken the lead.

A committee of the Georgia House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 1 Tuesday after it was amended to mirror some elements of the version from the House of Representatives, which awaits a Senate hearing. Both measures passed their own chambers largely along party lines.

The Senate version now carries the same title as House Bill 267, which was named after Riley Gaines. She became a flag bearer for the movement to ban transgender athletes born male from female sports after she lost a swimming championship to a transgender athlete in 2022. SB 1 was not amended to copy HB 267 in one very big way though: the House bill would alter most of Georgia law to read “sex” where the word “gender” is used. SB 1 would only do that in relation to school and college sports.

Rep. Josh Bonner, R-Fayetteville, the chief sponsor of HB 267, signaled House collaboration with the Senate when he called the new version of SB 1 a “commonsense compromise.”

Before the vote, the committee took public testimony that was consistent with what lawmakers have heard previously. A lawyer for Frontline Policy Action, a Christian advocacy group, testified that her organization helped write both the House and Senate versions of the legislation and supported SB 1, as did a representative of the Georgia Faith and Freedom Coalition.

Transgender people are an exceptionally small demographic. The Williams Institute at the UCLA law school estimates there are 1.6 million transgender people ages 13 and older in the United States, including nearly 22,000 in Georgia, of whom 3,400 are minors.

### State Senate panel sets deadline for Willis to testify by Dave Williams

ATLANTA – The state Senate committee investigating Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis’ role in prosecuting President Donald Trump for interfering in Georgia’s 2020 presidential election is giving her until May 10 to testify before the panel.

The Senate Special Committee on Investigations’ Republican majority voted 5-2 along party lines Wednesday to set that deadline for Willis to comply with a subpoena to appear as a witness. If she fails to appear, the committee plans to ask a judge to set a deadline for her to testify.

The committee initially subpoenaed Willis last spring, but she argued the subpoena was unlawful and went to court to block it. A Fulton Superior Court judge upheld the legality of the subpoena in December.

Josh Belinfante, a lawyer hired by the panel, told committee members Willis’ lawyer – former Gov. Roy Barnes – has said she wouldn’t be available to testify until late next month or early in May, citing her travel and trial schedule. While lawyers for the two sides agreed March 10 that she would submit documents the commission requested, Belinfante said he has yet to receive them.

Barnes argued during a court hearing in December that Senate Barnes further asserted that the committee lacked the authority to subpoena Willis, a power he said rests only with the full General Assembly. He also contended the subpoenas did not serve any legitimate legislative purpose.

Belinfante countered that investigating Willis’ handling of the election interference case might show existing state laws governing the hiring and compensation of district attorneys in Georgia are inadequate and need changing.

## IMPOSTOR

From page 2

their business.

Doug reached out to search engines in an attempt to stop the website from showing up when customers looked for his business, but he struggled to get the website taken down.

In the following months, Doug received thousands of emails

from frustrated customers who believed he had scammed them. The scammers also inundated him with threatening messages and calls. Doug said it is impossible to calculate the loss of business and is now planning to close the business, in large part due to the stress and difficulties related to the incident.

### Know the red flags of vehicle and equipment seller scams:

The price is significantly

below market value

Owner cites an overly personal reason they need to get rid of a vehicle

A seller will not allow you to see the vehicle and insists upon vehicle delivery

Money must be sent to a third-party recommended by seller

### BBB tips to avoid vehicle and equipment seller scams:

Be wary of too-good-to-be-

true prices

Pick up a vehicle yourself whenever possible

Call a business and ask if you can see the car in person

Resist high-pressure tactics urging quick action

Use secondary sources to research a business’ legitimacy

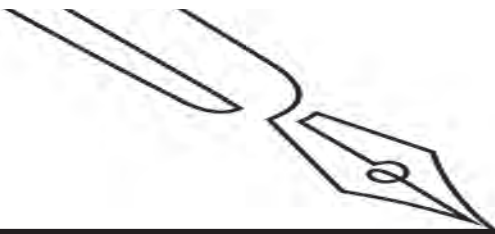
Avoid sharing personal information with unknown sources

While FEEA can’t replace lost income on a long-term basis, it can offer eligible federal employees confidential, no-fee, no-interest loans to help temporarily with basic needs.

Since 1986, FEEA has provided over

13,000 no-fee, no-interest loans to help feds make ends meet during hardships, and we’re here to support those recently affected by layoffs.

Visit <https://feea.org/our-programs/lay-off-loans/> for application instructions.



# Just for

## King Crossword

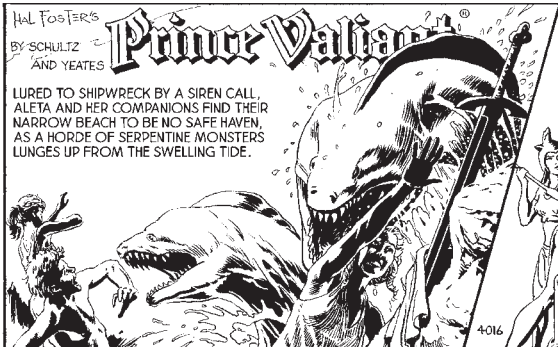
ACROSS

- 1 Menagerie  
4 Embedded spies  
9 "Frontline" ailer  
12 Year in Spain  
13 Empathic words  
14 Land in la mer  
15 Unfortunate soul  
17 "Wham!"  
18 Ga. neighbor  
19 Tabloid sub-jects  
21 Cal — (base-ball's "Iron Man")  
24 Scored 100 on  
25 Buckeyes' sch.

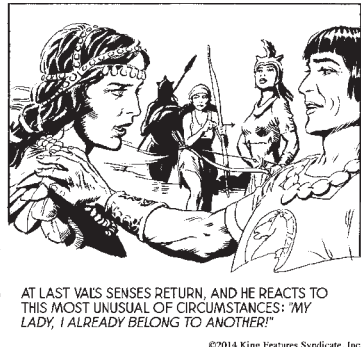
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- 54 Fiddle stick  
55 Ten — (long odds)  
56 Flying saucer  
57 New England cape  
58 Trudges  
59 Apply cream
- DOWN
- 1 Microwave  
2 Yoko from Tokyo  
3 Tic-tac-toe win  
4 Bette in "Beaches"
- 5 South Pacific region  
6 Restroom, for short  
7 Writer Jong  
8 Choose  
9 Fantasy  
10 Shapeless mass  
11 Stitches  
16 '60s Atty. General  
20 Lusty look  
21 Meander  
22 Actress Fisher  
23 Earns
- 27 Speedometer stat  
29 Biblical king  
30 Jittery  
32 Poses  
34 Imploring  
37 Conforms  
39 Locales  
42 Pub seat  
44 Employ  
45 Exile isle  
46 Inert gas  
50 Brit's restroom  
51 Flop  
52 One — kind  
53 Sailor

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VAL FINDS HIMSELF IN PERIL OF A DIFFERENT SORT. THE FEMALE PHANTOM WHO, A MOMENT BEFORE, WAS ABOUT TO END HIS LIFE, NOW PASSIONATELY CLAIMS HIM AS HER "CHOSEN ONE!"



AT LAST VAL'S SENSES RETURN, AND HE REACTS TO THIS MOST UNUSUAL OF CIRCUMSTANCES: "MY LADY, I ALREADY BELONG TO ANOTHER!"

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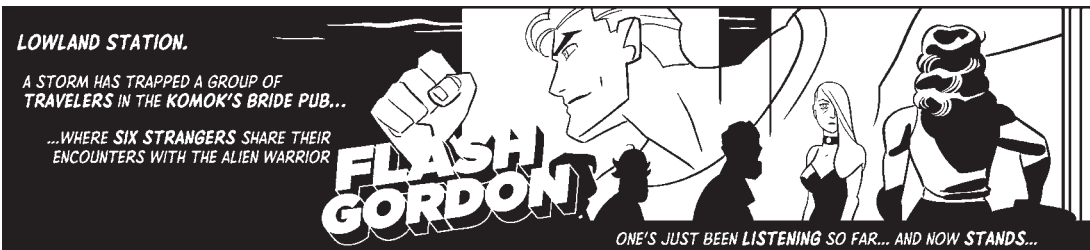


THAT, APPARENTLY, IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE REACTION. "YOU HAVE WRECKED YOUR SHIP ON MY SHORES AND I AM QUEEN HERE, YOU ARE INDEED MINE..."



AND, AS TO YOUR COMPANIONS, BE AWARE THAT BETWEEN THE SCYLLA AND THE INCOMING TIDE, THEY ARE LOST! NEXT: *Ulysses!*

YEATES 1/24/14



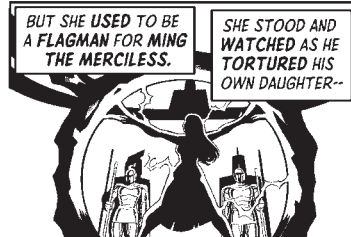
LOWLAND STATION. A STORM HAS TRAPPED A GROUP OF TRAVELERS IN THE KOMOK'S BRIDE PUB... ...WHERE SIX STRANGERS SHARE THEIR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ALIEN WARRIOR

FLASH GORDON

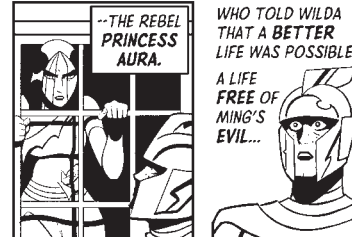
ONE'S JUST BEEN LISTENING SO FAR... AND NOW STANDS...



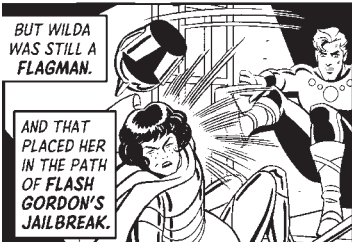
THIS IS WILDA -- AND FOR YEARS NOW, SHE HASN'T HURT A FLY. NOT SINCE SHE MET FLASH GORDON.



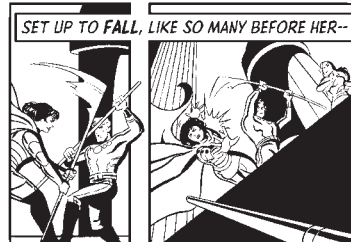
BUT SHE USED TO BE A FLAGMAN FOR MING THE MERCILESS. SHE STOOD AND WATCHED AS HE TORTURED HIS OWN DAUGHTER--



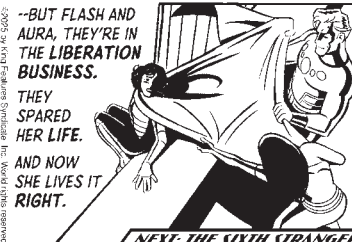
--THE REBEL PRINCESS AURA. WHO TOLD WILDA THAT A BETTER LIFE WAS POSSIBLE. A LIFE FREE OF MING'S EVIL...



BUT WILDA WAS STILL A FLAGMAN. AND THAT PLACED HER IN THE PATH OF FLASH GORDON'S JAILBREAK.



SET UP TO FALL, LIKE SO MANY BEFORE HER--



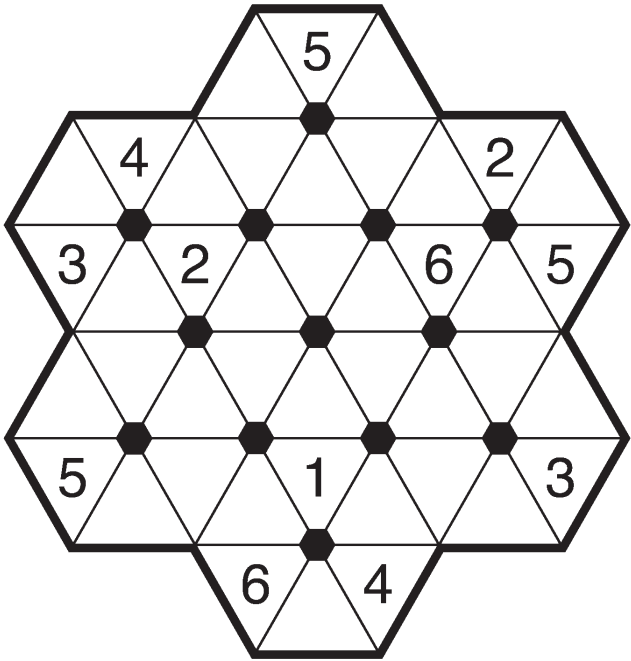
--BUT FLASH AND AURA, THEY'RE IN THE LIBERATION BUSINESS. THEY SPARED HER LIFE. AND NOW SHE LIVES IT RIGHT.

NEXT: THE SIXTH STRANGER

## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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## Americanisms

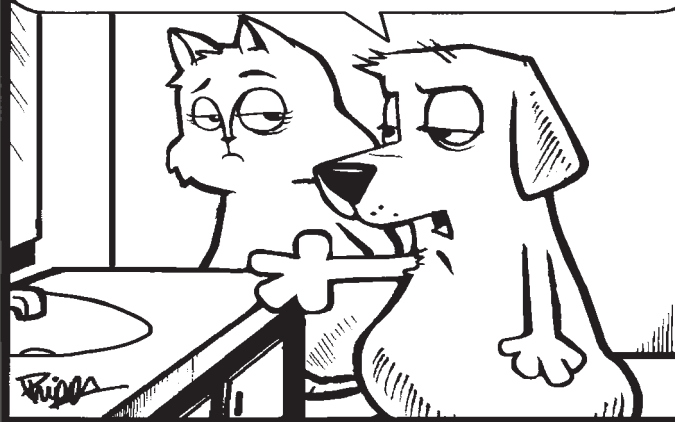


"Any fool can make a rule, and any fool will mind it."  
— Henry David Thoreau

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

IN MY TWENTIES I LOOKED SO MUCH BETTER! NOWADAYS MY REFLECTION LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING IN A FUNHOUSE MIRROR.



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

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

## King Crossword

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

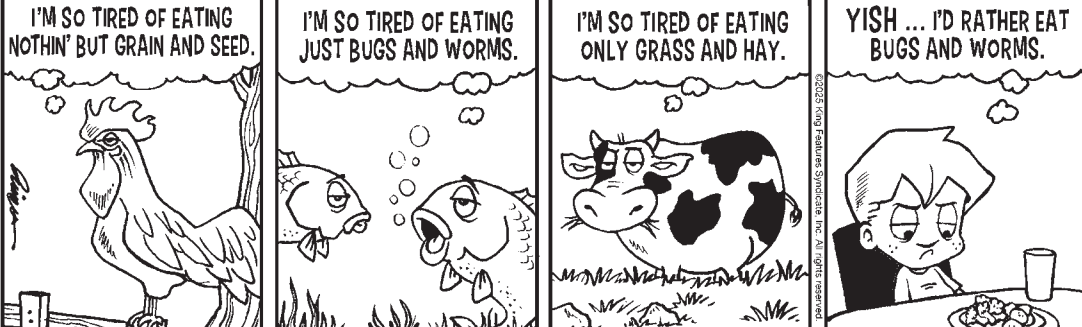
Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

# fun

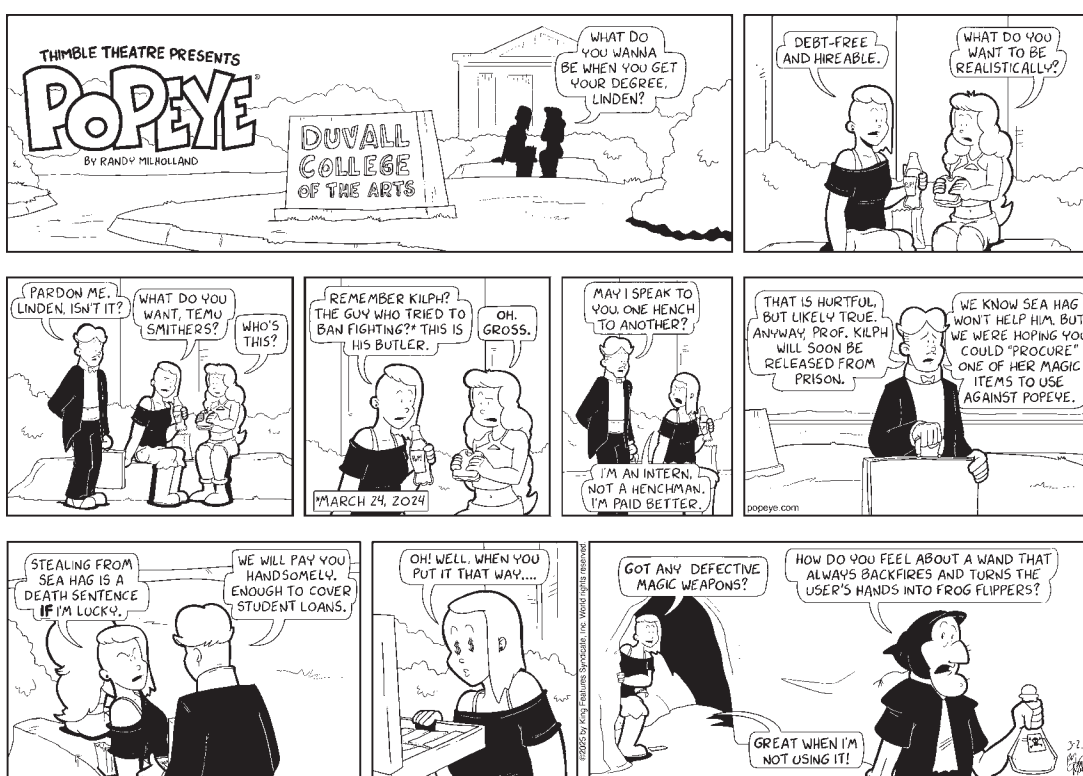
## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



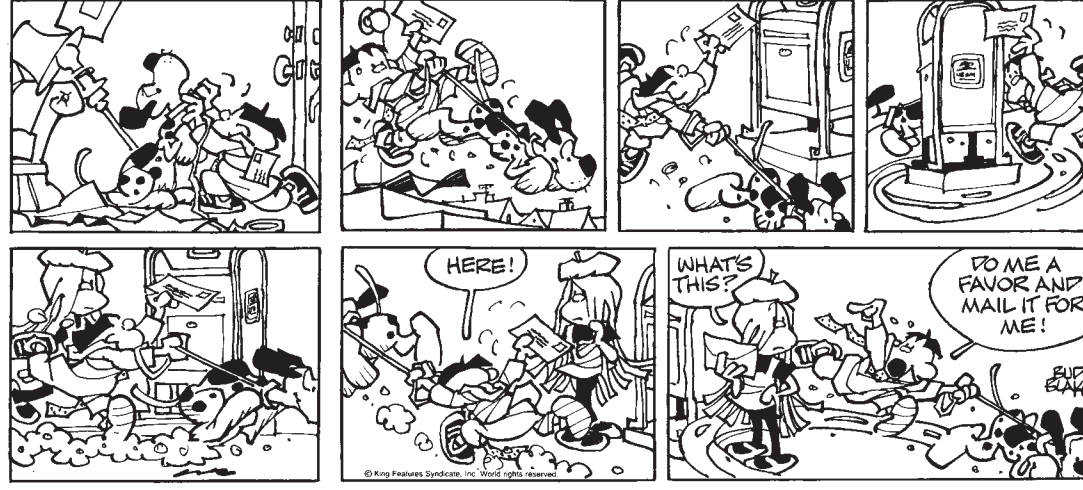
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

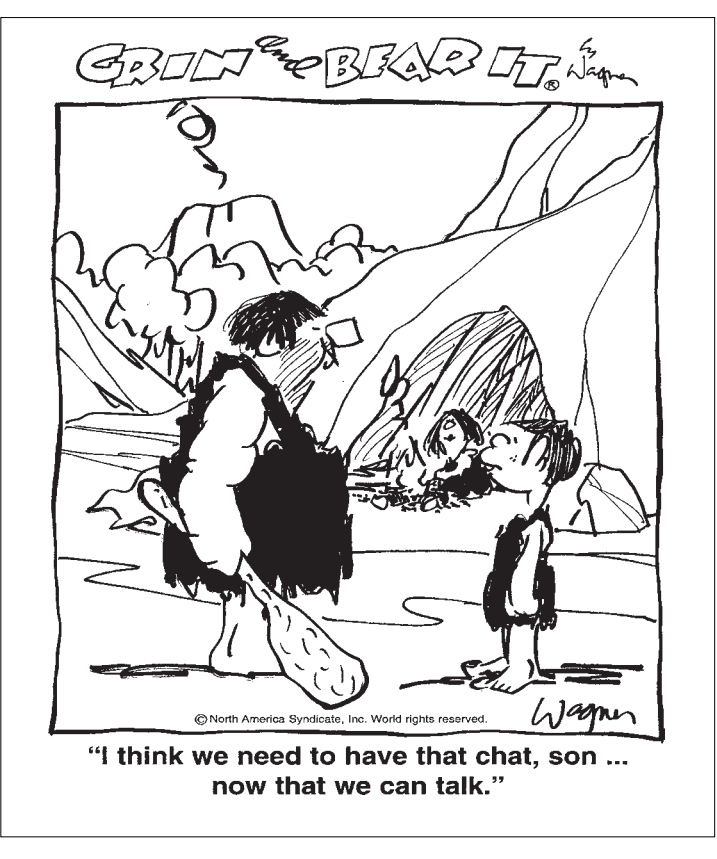


## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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### GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	-		x	7	=21			
+		+		-				
	+		-		= 9			
-		x		-				
	+		x		=51			
=		=		=				
1	48		2					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

### FEAR & KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

NEH  
PUMEST  
♥LERFI  
MEAF  
PEMCAN  
♥RMA  
ECFL  
♥ERN SO  
♥EAL  
HEIRUM  
♥ATHEC  
♥ITNH

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE ). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked ( ♥ ) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART ). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

### CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: I equals Y

ITE FGOQQI HOS'M JZUU MWOM

WGOCI, JEUHEQOF VEI

UZMMZSV TCGF MWGFG.

WG'U DEFQI FGHTVSZAODQG.

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### Go Figure!

answers

	2		48		1
=			=		=
51 =	3	x	8	+	9
	-		x		-
9 =	2	-	5	+	6
	-		+		+
21 =	7	x	1	-	4

### HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Drawer handle is different. 2. Picture is reversed. 3. Stripes on sleeve are higher. 4. Spot on dog's back is smaller. 5. Curtain is shorter. 6. Design on lamp is different.

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