Aug. 20, 2025 Local 987 Proud to make America work

AFGE offers series

on mold

By AFGE Leadership

Is your work environment making you sick? And no, we're not talking about our current political climate – the air you breathe at work could be hazardous to your health.

Mold is a naturally occurring fungi that is prevalent across the world.

But when it begins to grow indoors, the results can be harmful to our health.

That's why AFGE has developed a new training series about mold - from what it is to how it could affect your health. AFGE began rolling out the training series last fall, and now all four modules are online at AFGE Learn.

Here are details on each module:

Module 1 Title: What is mold?

Description: This course defines mold, details the life cycle of mold spores, and explains how mold finds its way into our workplaces.

Module 2 Title: How does mold affect the environment? Description: This course dis-



cusses the perfect breeding ground for mold and what is the ideal relative humidity for the workplace.

Module 3 Title: How does mold affect me?

Description: This course explores how mold grows in the environment and its impact on human health. Participants will learn how to recognize signs and symptoms of mold exposure, document and assess mold in the workplace, and understand how environmental mold can affect both indoor air quality and overall well-being.

Module 4 Title: How to assess and control mold conditions?

Description: This course

provides essential training on identifying, assessing, and controlling mold in occupational settings. Participants will learn about investigating mold problems, measuring and testing for mold, and applying appropriate remediation strategies. The course also covers mold prevention techniques and highlights the union's role in protecting workers' health.

Simply visit www.afgelearn. org and either sign in or create an account to get started. It's that easy!

Questions? Contact AFGE Health and Safety Specialist Milly Rodriguez at rodrim@ afge.org.



Don't forget

'Labor' kick off to Labor Day

Organizations join forces to host candidate 'meet, greet'

By DON MONCRIEF

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

You can wait until the last minute, or you can begin getting ready now. That's the premise behind the "meet and greet" with local and state candidates slated for Aug. 30 in the parking lot of AFGE Local 987; located at 1764 Watson Blvd.

"So, it's a great opportunity to get to know them before you go to the voting booth," said AFGE Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney, who has taken the lead in setting up the event. It is hosted by the Middle Georgia Central Labor Council and AFGE. Richard Hollar and the Central Labor Council are also cosponsors. It is a "labor" event heading into Labor Day, she said, and part of the Georgia AFL-CIO's weekend of events: Saturday in Warner Robins, Sunday in Savannah and Monday in Atlanta.

It is designed, McElhaney said: "To know what they stand for." As of Aug. 15, 39 candidates had been invited (and the list continues to grow). That includes Congressmen and women and senators, nine who are running for governor, eight for lieutenant governor, three for secretary of state, three for attorney general, public service commissioners and a number of local councilmen and women. "All of Perry, Warners and Centerville," she said, with Warner Robins Mayor LaRhonda Patrick and Centerville Mayor Micheal Evans among those already confirmed they would attend, she said. (Note: Anyone running for office who would like to be a part of the event, please contact McElhaney via phone at 478-397-0212 or by email at jmac@ afgelocal987.org.

She continued as far as the importance of getting a head start: "You get a chance to hear what they're saying now," - in particular those bidding for a



YOU'RE INVITED! MEET & GREET WITH LOCAL AND STATE CANDIDATES



Hosted by Middle Georgia Central Labor Council & AFGE

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: AFGE Local 0987, 1764 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, GA 31093

Join us for a community-wide meet & greet with candidates running in the November 2025 local election and the 2026 state elections. All known candidates have been invited!

This event is an opportunity for community members and organizations to: Ask questions, share concerns, connect with candidates and learn about local organizations and services.

Special Features:

Free food, Educational table presentation by GA AFL-CIO, Entertainment and activities for children.

Contact: jmac@afgelocal987.org

LET'S COME TOGETHER, GET INFORMED, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

state position, which will be held until it's coming time for elec- anything, but chances are you year, and if they're changing their platform constantly.

"Then you know once they get elected, they're going to be changing their mind, too."

She added: "Because we really don't pay attention to them

in 2026, she said, "and to watch tions. Well, now you have the have uncles, parents that probtheir platform and see if they're opportunity to watch them, start ably utilize some portions of keeping their word during that contacting them, contact their staff because everybody has a staff, to find out what their inten-

"So, when it comes time for you to vote in 2026 you feel comfortable about your vote and vou're not asking anybody who to vote for. You know."

Not only have candidates been invited, but a wide range of groups. Those include: Voters Matter, the Democratic Party, the Republican, Rebuilding Warner Robins. Representatives from the A. Philip Randolph Institute as well as the NAACP have been invited to set up a table, she said. The Georgia AFL-CIO will also be there, she said, with an "education piece, so people will know more about what's going on.

"People hear about they're cutting back on the CDC or how they're doing this to the VA, but they need to know what effect that has on them. Because, sure, you might not go to the VA for that VA.

"The CDC affects all of us. Because now you know they're saying you don't need vaccinations for this. You don't need that. But there's nothing telling you why you don't need it, versus why you need it.

"If I needed it all these years, why are you going to all of a sudden take it away from me because you've said I don't need

"So were' hoping that all of the people in the middle Georgia area and statewide will come out and ask questions and interact with all of them."

Also, for children - just as much for parents, McElhaney said, so that they don't have to worry about a babysitter and miss the event - there would be a water slide, bouncy castle and other activities. Children were also in mind for the menu, she said. Hence: Hamburgers, hot dogs and chips.

"You get a chance to hear what they're saying now and to watch their platform and see if they're keeping their word during that year, and if they're changing their platform constantly. Then you know once they get elected, they're going to be changing their mind, too."



- AFGE Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney

Grandparents Day Sept. 7

LOCAL SUPPLEMENT AGREEMENT

Robins Air Force Base and AFGE Local 987

Installment 7: Join us each issue as we do a refresher/reminder of the rights BUEs have under the Local Supplement Agreement.

Article 11

Last Chance Agreements

11.1 In the interest or clarifying the combast Last Chance Agreements (LCA) the In the interest of clarifying the term of parties agree LCAs will not exceed one year from the date of signatures.

Article 12

Union Facilities

In the interest of enhancing the privacy of employees and stewards, reducing Official Time travel to and from the off-base AFGE Office, and resolving conflict at the lowest level, the parties agree to establish one Satellite AFGE Office in the

vicinity of building 140 and one in the vicinity of

Know your rights. Know your LSA.

Special

building 125.

The expected benefit of this Article is ber of

grievances / complaints which are filed. The baseline grievance / complaints data for comparative purposes is the FY13 end-of-year grievance data.

12.3 The parties understand the stewards who use the offices are subject to the MLA's Official Time procedures and are expected to be on approved 949s. Management may check the 949s for non-full time stewards at any time

relative to Satellite Office usage. The steward will enter into the 949 remarks section that a grievance / complaint was avoided as appropriate.

The parties agree AFGE's stewards will log office usage to help determine the agency's Return on Investment by placing a copy of the AFMC Form 949 in the log book. The installation labor relations office, will track the logbook on a monthly basis

to quantify the return.

12.5 The initial furnishings for each office will be commensurate with other administrative office furnishings. This includes two networked computers, a networked printer, two local / DSN phones, two desks, four chairs, and one 5-drawer lockable file cabinet. AFGE Local 987 will provide consumable office items such as paper,

See LSA, page 3

Local 987 will have a membership meeting Aug. 21 at 5 p.m. It will be held at Union Hall, located at 1764 Watson Blvd. Membership will be verified. You can make updates to your contact information by calling Union Hall at 478-922-5758 or by emailing Linda Baxter at linda@ afgelocal987.org or Jeanette McElhaney at

jmac@afgelocal987.org.

Membership

meeting



Stephen Danko, 78th Medical Group Healthcare Operations Squadron Biomedical Equipment Technician medical equipment repair technician, runs diagnostic testing on an electrocardiogram machine, or EKG, at Robins Air Force Base July 31. After testing, a defective internal wire was replaced, restoring the EKG machine to full operational capacity. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jerry Foltz)

From thermometers to ventilators -78th **BMETs help save lives**

By JERRY FOLTZ 78th Air Base Wing **Public Affairs**

Amid the beeping monitors and the hurried footsteps of medical personnel, a team of unsung heroes ensures the 78th Medical Group at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, can deliver critical care: the 78th Healthcare Operations Squadron Biomedical Equipment Technicians. These technicians work behind the scenes to keep every piece of medical equipment, from basic thermometers to sophisticated ventilators, fully functional and ready where split second decisions make all the difference in patient care.

Often working out of the spotlight, BMETs possess a deep understanding of both the technical and clinical aspects of medical equipment. Their expertise is critical to maintaining the health and readiness of Airmen, at home and

"The primary purpose of BMET and healthcare technology management is the safety of patients inside the medical facility," said Tech. Sgt. Brandon Musgrave, 78th MDG BMET healthcare technology manager. "The primary way that we accomplish that is by maintaining medical equipment from the moment it enters our doors until the day it leaves." BMETs tackle a diverse workload, ranging from

routine maintenance and calibration to complex troubleshooting and repair. Their responsibilities include installing and inspecting new equipment to meet stringent medical and technical standards, performing preventive maintenance to prevent breakdowns, calibrating equipment for accurate performance, repairing malfunctions, and conducting safety inspections.

Training to become a BMET involves nearly

See 78th BMETs, page 3

Creating a safe workplace through Safe + Sound challenges

By LISA GONZALES Air Force Safety Center

FORCE BASE, N.M. -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's annual Safe + Sound Week starts August 11th and runs through the 17th. The campaign emphasizes three core elements: Management and Leadership, Worker's Participation, and a systematic approach to Finding and Fixing Hazards. Each year, challenges highlight workplace safety and help organizations build and maintain effective safety and health programs. This year, the Department of the Air Force will highlight the "Hazard Huddle" and "Response-Ready" workplace challenges.

"Hazard Huddle" falls under the Management Leadership element. It recognizes that a safe workplace requires open communication about hazards. Employers are encouraged to conduct discussions with their employees to identify hazards and use job hazard analysis as part of a comprehensive risk management process. This



involves identifying potential hazards, assessing the risks they pose, and implementing appropriate controls. Supervisors are encouraged to discuss potential procedural updates with employees before implementing changes, ensuring that risk management decisions are made with input from those directly affected.

"Response-Ready Workplace" emphasizes Worker Participation. It encourages employees to be familiar with emergency action plans

and to actively participate in making them more effective. The challenge lists examples of emergencies to plan for, such as weather-related disasters, hurricanes, tornados, fires, chemical spills, or explosions. It also suggests holding safety meetings to go over key points of the EAP and work through different types of emergencies that might occur. The challenge also encourages EAPs to be reviewed periodically to focus on different emergencies.

See SAFE, page 3

5 facts about sexual dysfunction in women, how to get help

(StatePoint) Forty-two percent of women experience sexual dysfunction - and Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder - characterized as frustrating low libido, is the most common form of it. It is estimated that about one in 10 women have this condition.

The good news? Low sex drive in women can be treated. Clinically proven options are helping hundreds of thousands of women address HSDD. In fact, as of May 2025, over 25,000 healthcare providers are prescribing Addyi, a particularly effective hormone-free drug sometimes referred to as "female Viagra" or "the little pink pill." Here are five facts

to know about HSDD and how medication can help treat it:

1. HSDD is caused by an imbalance of chemicals in the brain and its effects can extend well beyond the bedroom. HSDD can also cause feelings of frustration and create tension in relationships.

2. For the last 10 years, Addyi has been the number one prescribed treatment for HSDD in women who have not gone through menopause, who have not had problems with low sexual desire in the past, and who have low sexual desire no matter the type of sexual activity, the situation, or the sexual

3. While many prescription

drugs are unaffordable, Addyi is often covered by insurance and can cost as low as \$20 a month.

4. Addyi is well-tested. Sprout Pharmaceuticals conducted the largest ever clinical trials in women's health for its FDA filing, submitting evidence from over 13,000 patients, three times as much data as any male sexual health drug. In pooled data from three pivotal trials, Addyi significantly outperformed the placebo across all six Female Sexual Function Index domains: orgasm, lubrication, arousal, desire, satisfaction, pain reduction, as well as met all measurements of effectiveness required by the

See HELP, page 3

Here's what to know about free trials or subscriptions

Tree trials have become a go-to marketing strategy—especially for subscription-based services—and for good reason. When you shop online, you don't get to touch, test, or experience a product firsthand. That's where free trials offer a low-risk way to try something out before committing. It's a win-win: sellers get to showcase their product, and buyers can make more confident decisions. But before you click "start your free trial,"

there are a few important things you should know to avoid unexpected charges and post-tri-Here's what to look out for:

Investigate the offer. Before signing up,

find out how long the trial period lasts, what exactly you are agreeing to, and how and when you would cancel should you decide you don't want to subscribe. If this information is confusing or unavailable, it's best to take your business elsewhere. Review the signup form and look for

pre-checked boxes. If you sign up for a free trial online, look for boxes that have already been checked, advises the Federal Trade Commission(FTC). The FTC warns that the checkmark "may give the company the green light to continue the offer past the free trial or sign you up for more products.' Mark your calendar. Your free trial proba-

bly has a time limit. Once that passes, if you haven't canceled your "order," you may be on the hook for more products. Be sure to either notify the company early of your decision to cancel or track the cancellation date on your

Always review your credit and debit card statements. This will help you know immediately if you are being charged for something you didn't order. If you see charges you disagree with, contact the company directly to sort out the situation. Call your credit



Kelvin Collins

card company to dispute the charge if that doesn't work. Ask the credit card company to reverse the charge because you didn't actively order the additional merchandise.

Aug. 20, 2025

Research the company online. You can check reports with bbb.org and do other online searches

to see what other people say about the company's free trials — and its service. The FTC points out that "complaints from other customers can tip you off to 'catches' that might come with the trial." Also do general research on the company.

See if you can find them on social media and review their account. In addition to checking with BBB, consider doing an online search of the company and include the words "scam" or "complaint," to reveal red flags you should be Find the terms and conditions for the **offer.** Even if you heard about an offer through

a radio, TV, or print ad, the company should still provide the details on its website. As many BBB Scam Tracker reports show, you shouldn't sign up if you can't find the terms and conditions or understand exactly what you're agreeing to. Always protect your personal information online. When you sign up for a free trial online,

you'll likely need to provide some basic personal information and your credit card number. Before you hand over your information, review the site's privacy policy and ensure the website is secure, that is, it starts with "https://" and has a lock icon on the sign-up page.

Want to subscribe past the free trial? Understand how to cancel future shipments

See FREE, page 3

Medal of Honor spotlight

Marine Corps Pfc. Robert Wilson

By KATIE LANGE DoD News

"Honor before self" is a core value of the Marine Corps. It's one Pfc. Robert Lee Wilson took to heart.

During the World War II battle for Tinian Island in the Pacific, Wilson gave his life so that three of his comrades could live. His selfless actions led to him posthumously receiving the Medal of Honor.

Wilson was born May 21, 1921, in Centralia, Illinois, to Joseph and Anna Wilson. He was one of eight children and was considered extremely helpful to his father when tending to their farm.

"He was one of the best workers I ever saw," his father once said.

As World War II raged in Europe and the U.S. grew increasingly closer to getting involved, three of Wilson's brothers volunteered to join the military. Wilson himself was no exception; he enlisted in the Marine Corps on Sept. 9, 1941, three months before the U.S. officially entered the

After training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Wilson was deployed to the Pacific, initially serving with the 1st Marine Division. He took part in assaults on strongly defended enemy positions across the Solomon Islands, including at Guadalcanal, where the divi-



Marine Corps Pfc. Robert Wilson

sion routed all enemy forces and seized a valuable airfield. Wilson also fought in the were the nights we sat around bloody battle for Tarawa in in our foxholes listening to the Gilbert Islands. For these campaigns, he received two Presidential Unit Citations.

During the invasion of the Mariana Islands, Wilson served with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division. The unit was fighting enemy forces on Tinian Island on Aug. 4, 1944, when Wilson made the ultimate sacrifice for his com-

On that day, Wilson and a group of Marines were tasked with advancing through heavy underbrush to neutralize isolated points of resistance. Despite the obvious dangers, Wilson moved ahead of the group to check out a pile of rocks where Japanese troops were supposed to be hiding.

As he did so, he saw an enemy grenade get tossed

right into the middle of a tightly assembled group of three Marines in the rear.

Wilson quickly shouted out a warning. Then, without hesitation, he threw himself on top of the device before it exploded. Wilson sacrificed his life so that others could survive.

One of the men Wilson saved was Marine Corps Sgt. Harry H. Lehman, who later told The Times Record newspaper out of Brunswick, Maine, that Wilson had joined their company only three weeks before his death.

"What I remember most his jokes," Lehman said of Wilson. "They were terrible, but any humor was appreciat-

Lehman said he and the other two men who Wilson saved later wrote a letter to Wilson's family, explaining how he'd given his life for them. The trio was also integral in nominating the fallen Marine for the Medal of

On July 26, 1945, Wilson's parents were presented with the nation's highest medal for valor on their son's behalf during a ceremony at an American Legion in their hometown of Centralia.

Wilson was initially buried in a military cemetery on Tinian; however, in 1948, his body was flown home and laid to rest in Centralia's Hillcrest Memorial Park.

To honor him, the Navy commissioned the destroyer USS Robert L. Wilson in 1946 a ceremony that Wilson's mother and Lehman attended. The ship served nobly until its decommissioning in 1980.

himself on top of the device before it exploded.

... without hesitation, he threw

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the purchaser, user or patron.

Please submit articles, photos, etc to don.moncrief@afgelocal 987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforemen-

BMETs

From page 2

a year of intensive technical instruction that combines classroom learning with hands-on lab work, located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"What we learn primarily is clinical applications various types of medical equipment and troubleshooting," Musgrave said. "So it's a ton of practical application, designed to ingrain that much needed muscle memory in order to diagnose, troubleshoot, and repair equipment under crucial deadlines and hectic conditions."

The work of the BMETs demands close coordination with a variety of entities, including medical staff, logistics personnel, medical equipment manu-

FDA with statistical significance. The

• 75% increase in satisfaction with sexual

• 50% reduction in the stress women

5. Wide-ranging organizations see the

value of this medication for women's health

and well-being and supported its FDA

approval, including The National Council of

Women's Organizations, the Black Women's

Health Imperative, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, National Consumers League, and the American

You can find out if you're a good candidate for treating HSDD with medication by

bringing it up with your existing healthcare

professional. To find a provider in your area,

to learn more, or to access Addyi via tele-

• 50% increase in desire for sex

struggling with HSDD feel

Sexual Health Association.

health, visit https://addyi.com.

or services first. Know the pol-

icies for canceling or pausing

your subscription. Do you need

to respond or cancel by a certain

Subscription services can be

perfect for busy individuals and

can make great holiday gifts (it's

the gift that keeps on giving!)

But picking the right option can

be hard with so many options

Video and music streaming

services are hugely popular.

Meal delivery services provide

fresh, pre-measured ingredients

and easy-to-follow recipes on a

FREE

From page 2

time each month?

and price points.

HELP

From page 2

facturers and even other military installations like the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins AFB, Georgia.

"We try and do as much in house in our shop with our own tools as we can," Musgrave said. "But we frequently have to work with manufacturers across the

A crucial aspect of their mission is supporting deployed forces. BMETs provide essential support by ensuring equipment used in field hospitals and clinics is fully operational.

"We take care of the 94th," Musgrave said. "They've got equipment that is deploying all the time. And the equipment they've got is a lot closer to what we would see in the deployed environment, like ventilators and aspirators."

This operational readiness mindset is key at the 78th MDG to getting service members ready to deploy.

"If, let's say, the dental clinic's sterilizers went down, their ability to get deployers ready to go decreases to zero," Musgrave The increasing complexity

of medical equipment, coupled with difficulties in obtaining proprietary parts, can create challenges for the team. Nevertheless, the 78th HCOS

BMETs remain dedicated to their mission, ensuring the 78th MDG is ever ready to provide the best possible care to Airmen, both at home and deployed around the globe.

This dedication isn't just a matter of technical proficiency; it's rooted in a profound understanding of the impact their work has on the lives of those they serve.

"For me, it's being able to see the direct results of my actions," said Stephen Danko, BMET medical equipment repair technician. "Whether it be gaining a new capability from the medical side or getting a piece of equipment back up and running to have their operations still going, is probably the most satisfying aspect of my job."

It is this attention to detail that proved vital to their recent accreditation from The Joint Commission, a non-profit organization that accredits and certifies healthcare organizations. "This happens every three

years and ensures that we're delivering healthcare in a safe and legal environment that patients can come in and know that the care they're going to get is consistent and safe," said Musgrave.



Three guilty of pandemic fraud

by Dave Williams - Capitol Beat News Service

A Southwest Georgia man was convicted in federal court this week of wire fraud resulting from a pandemic fraud scheme involving family members.

Tyreek Brown, 28, of Pelham faces a maximum of 30 years in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release and a \$1 million fine. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Two codefendants in the case – Sherronica Jackson, 38, and Alan Brown, 52, also from Pelham – previously pleaded guilty and will be sentenced on Nov. 12.

According to court documents and statements made in court, Jackson received a U.S. Small Business Administration loan for \$20,207 through the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in March 2021. As part of the application process, she claimed a gross income for 2019 of \$97,000, which she did not earn.

Jackson also helped her stepfather, Alan Brown, and her stepbrother, Tyreek Brown, obtain fraudulent PPP loans totaling \$20,833. Alan Brown falsely claimed loans for a non-existent contracting business, while Tyreek Brown applied for two loans as sole proprietor of another business that didn't exist.

After receiving the two loans, he sent Jackson money from a joint account he shared with Alan Brown amounting to \$3,000.

Tyreek Brown was found guilty on one count of wire fraud and not quilty on a second count.

Georgia unemployment rate down to 3.4%

by Dave Williams - Capitol Beat News Service

Georgia's unemployment rate fell slightly to 3.4% last month, down from 3.5% in June, the state Department of Labor reported

Georgia joblessness was eight-tenths of a point lower than the national unemployment rate of 4.2%. "More Georgians are stepping into the workforce and securing

obs - a trend that's held strong for two consecutive months, Georgia Commissioner of Labor Barbara Rivera Holmes said. "These gains reflect the power of putting workers first and building strong partnerships across Georgia."

Despite the decline in unemployment, the number of jobs in Georgia decreased by 500 last month to just short of 5 million.

Job sectors posting the largest gains during the month were health care and social assistance, which added 2,800 jobs; durable goods manufacturing, which gained 2,700 jobs; and construction, with a gain of 2,100.

The sectors with the biggest job losses were accommodation and food services, which declined by 4,500 jobs; and transportation, warehousing and utilities, which posted a loss of 1,400.

Georgia's labor force rose by 732 in July to nearly 5.4 million. The number of employed Georgians increased by 1,702 to nearly 5.2 million, while the ranks of the unemployed fell by 970 to 185,351.

Initial jobless claims increased by 5,073 during the month to

Appellate court hears election law challenges

by Dave Williams - Capitol Beat News Service

Lawyers representing the state and the Republican National Committee asked a federal appellate court Wednesday to reverse a lower court order blocking two provisions of a controversial election reform law the GOP-controlled General Assembly passed

A U.S. District Court judge granted a preliminary injunction in 2023 to civil rights and voting rights groups challenging a provision in Senate Bill 202 that prohibited volunteers from providing food and water to voters waiting in long lines within 150 feet of a polling place. The judge also threw out a second provision requir-

ing voters to include their birthdate on absentee ballot envelopes. The legislature's Republican majorities passed Senate Bill 202 in the aftermath of a Democratic surge in 2020 that saw Joe Biden become the first Democrat to carry Georgia in a presidential election since 1992, followed in short order at the start of 2021 by the elections of Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock to the

Legislative Democrats opposed the bill, calling it an effort by the GOP to suppress the vote in Georgia.

On Wednesday, Georgia Solicitor General Stephen Petrany argued before the 11th District U.S. Court of Appeals that the 150foot buffer zone established by the law was aimed at protecting voters in line at the polls from intimidation and to prevent voter

"States have been doing this for over 100 years, trying to protect voting lines," he said. "Just the commotion ... might be enough to dissuade some people from getting in line."

But Davin Rosborough, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project, said the volunteers who provided food and water to voters in line at polling places were not attempting to intimidate them. They simply were encouraging them to stay in line, he said. "Long lines in Georgia are notorious, six hours, eight hours,"

Rosborough said. "The intent of groups showing up and providing support to people standing in line was to deliver the message that participation (in voting) is important, despite the obstacles." Gilbert Dickey, a lawyer representing the Republican National

Committee, told the appellate court panel the provision in Senate Bill 202 requiring voters to include their birthdate on absentee ballot envelopes was necessary to establish their identity. "The state is entirely within its rights to confirm identification,"

he said. The birthdate is a way to do that." But Laurence F. Pulgram, a lawyer for the NAACP, argued that

throwing out an absentee ballot because the voter provided an incorrect birthdate or failed to provide a birthdate reduces the number of votes that end up being counted. He said 74% of the ballots rejected in Gwinnett County in 2022 were due to the birth-Pulgram said requiring birthdates on absentee ballot envelopes

is unnecessary because voters already are required to establish their identification through the state's photo ID requirement under another provision of Senate Bill 202.

"We don't want anyone not qualified to vote to cast a ballot," he said. "(But) if it's not material, a (birthdate) error must be over-

Voting rights advocates and civil rights groups also are challeng-

ing other provisions of Senate Bill 202. Oral arguments in those

cases are due to be heard this fall.

Walkowiak, chief of the Department of Air Force, Occupation Safety, Air Force Safety Center. "Together, we're sending a clear message: safety is key to healthy and productive lives, and we're dedicated to JOIN, PAY DUES, STAND UNITED.

fostering a culture where everyone returns home safely every day.' For more information on the Safe +



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) People! around sexual function have caught up with

"Living with HSDD can be challenging. Fortunately, the regulations around drugs that can help women address their concerns

the need," says Cindy Eckert, founder and CEO of Addyi.

of snacks, clothing, personal grooming products, makeup, vitamins, pet toys, wine, and the list goes on. Here's some things to know or gather about a subscription

service before you sign up:

subscription basis. You can also

sign up for regular shipments

Understand how auto-renewal works. Auto-renewals are a convenient way to keep your subscription current if you like the service. The company charges your credit or debit card on the expiration date, and the subscription renews for another

Periodically review your active subscriptions. If you aren't careful, you could lose

track of what subscription services you are paying for. To maintain your financial health, Forbes reminds consumers to determine how much they spend on subscriptions. Periodically review your subscriptions to make sure you're still using them. If you are signed up for multiple subscriptions, a subscription management app can help you keep track of and manage them.

Always check your bank and credit card statements to ensure the cost is what you expect. If you notice a price jump, it could be that you were signed up for a promotional period that ended.

Watch out for scams.

Scammers may offer you free trials or deals on subscriptions that seem too good to be true, hoping you'll sign up and hand over your credit card number. Don't believe deals that seem outrageously good. In addition, if you receive a "renewal notice" that asks you for your credit card information, think twice before you reply. It's likely the message is a scam. Renewal notices are reminders from a company that already has your payment information. Always contact the company directly to verify suspicious messages.

You can get more tips from your BBB about ways to safely shop online by visiting BBB.

From page 2

This aligns with the risk management principle of ensuring workers understand and are prepared for potential emergencies, thereby reducing overall risk. Since its inception in 2017, the DAF has

partnered with OSHA in the Safe + Sound Week campaign. Over the years, these challenges have helped integrate risk management practices into the daily operations of Airmen and Guardians, ensuring that risk management is not just a compliance exercise but a vital part of their culture. Partnering with OSHA enables the DAF

to continuously evaluate and improve its risk management processes, pushing updated guidance across MAJCOM/FLDCOMs. This ensures that Airmen and Guardians can perform risk assessments and make informed decisions in complex environments, ultimately reducing injuries and enhancing mission success.

As the DAF transforms how we employ combat power and integrates risk management across all training and operations, the Safe and Sound campaign is another way for Airmen and Guardians to utilize and implement risk management and assessments at every level and in every environment. Airmen and Guardians must be prepared for the evolving, complex, and dynamic environments where they must make risk-informed decisions to complete the mission safely. In 2024, the DAF recorded a 7% reduc-

tion in on-duty injuries compared to the previous year. This success highlights how integrating hazard identification and risk management into daily operations fosters a safer, more resilient workplace.

"Partnering with OSHA in this national campaign amplifies our commitment to workplace safety across the Department of the Air Force." said William "Bill"

Soung week campaign: https://www.safety.af.mil/Divisions/Occupational-Safety-Division/Safe-Sound/

🤍 WHY UNION DUES MATTER — AND WHY YOU NEED TO JOIN NOW 🕡 Protect Your Job. Protect Your Voice. Protect Your Rights, AFGE | American Federation of Government Employees

What Your Union Dues Do:

Union dues aren't just a fee — they're your investment in power. They fund the tools we need to fight for YOU:

Contract Negotiations Better wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Legal Defense

Protection against unfair treatment, removals, and policy violations. Training & Education

Know your rights. Strengthen your workforce skills.

Political Advocacy

We push back on laws and executive orders that hurt federal workers. Operational Strength

Your union stays ready, responsive, and resourced. THE URGENCY IS NOW

TRUMP'S MARCH 27 EXECUTIVE ORDER + OPM MEMORANDUM

This administration is:

Slashing official time for union reps Weakening grievance and appeal rights

Number Transport of the Control of t

Eroding employee protections

This is a direct attempt to silence your voice in the workplace.

₩ WHAT CAN STOP THIS? MEMBERSHIP. SOLIDARITY. PARTICIPATION.

When we stand together, we protect one another.

Visit AFGE.org to JOIN or CONTACT your local AFGE union office. Don't wait until your rights are stripped away.

Join your union today. Protect your tomorrow.

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30 Redact

31 Congers

lusk

45 Despot

48 Weak

40 Fib

35 Edible mol-

38 Food seller

42 Small battery

47 Slightly open

49 Eyelid woe 50 Billboards

51 Tube top

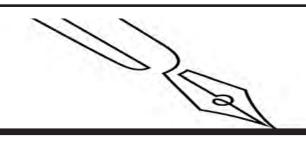
name

52 Capote nick-

29 Go by subway

17

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Just for

King Crossword

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ACROSS 1 AWOL pursu-

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55 Protrude

56 Challenge

57 — Domini

58 Whatever

59 Egg on

60 Harvest

61 Reuben

DOWN

bread

1 Calico's call

3 Ivory, for one

4 "The Silence

of the Lambs"

30

52

- 8 Beach crawl-
- 12 Fair-hiring let-
- ters 13 Corporate
- symbol
- 14 Aware of
- 15 pro nobis 16 Long-haired
- feline
- 18 Windshield
- cleaner 20 Hide-hair
- insert
- 21 Elite alternative
- 24 Bar legally
- 28 Three digits after 1
- 32 Lighten 33 Auction

action

- 34 Tools for duels
- 36 Na Na 37 Beatnik's
- assent
- 39 "The danger has passed"
- 41 Aquarium favorite
- 43 Morales of "Jericho"

- 50 "Play it cool"
- 46 Bounds
- 44 Non-dairy milk type

role

5 Sweetie

- dient

- 28 Slightly

- stun gun

- 7 Earth circler 8 Sandpaper
- 17 Caviar
- dog
- It" singer

- type

- song
- 25 Hit with a

- 11 Droid
- 19 Ecol. watch-

- 6 Custard ingre- 27 Dessert fruit

- 22 Nightclub of

- org.

- 9 GOP org.
- 10 glance

- 26 Job-safety

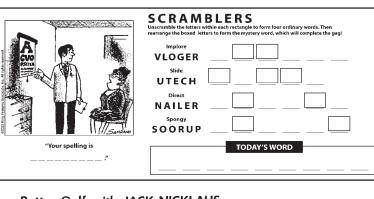
- 2 Actress Gilpin 23 "Rumour Has
 - - 53 French article 54 Navarro of
 - "The View"



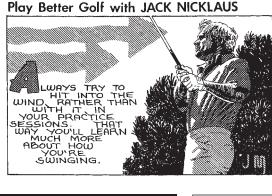


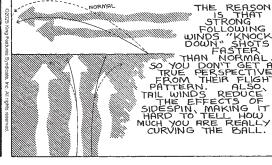






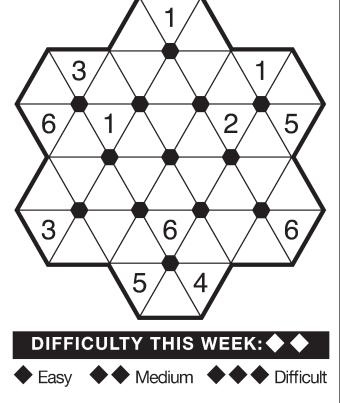
SUOIDORTA Today's Word 3. Linear; 4. Porous 1. Grovel 2. Chute; uoitulos SCRAMBLERS

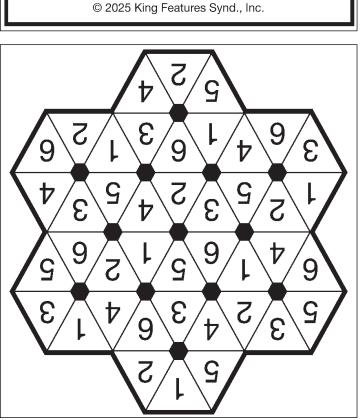






There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.











Answers

King Crossword

Weekly **SUDOKU**

8

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

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:** ◆

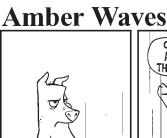
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way

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♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging

♦ HOO BOY!

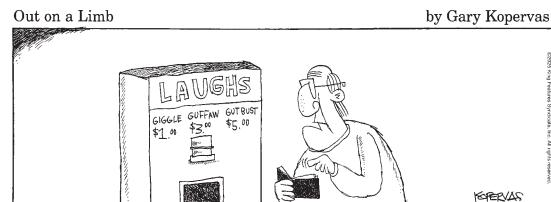
Meekly SUDOKU

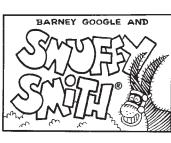












HOWDY, FELLERS, I'D LIKE T'MAKE A RESERVATION FER

MY GALS !!





THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS



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LIFE IN SOCH A WAY
THAT ALLOWS
OTHERS TO ACT LIKE
THEY'RE BETTER
THAN ME WHILE
ALSO SUPPORTING
ME FINANCIALLY



AU CONTRAIRE, THE SMUGNESS MY FRIEND. THERE OF OTHERS ISN'T ARE MANY LIMITED ONE OF THEM.











MEOWT.

Mulmmy J





















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A

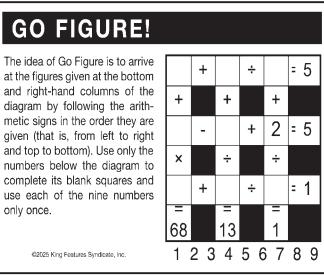
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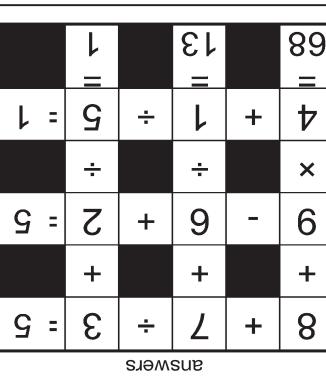
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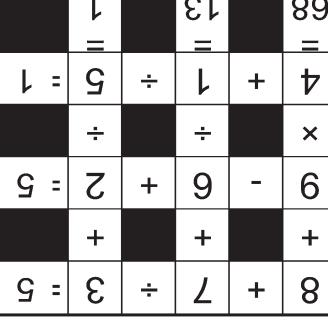
K

J

U









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: T equals F

LEAZ JXH'OA RXOA PRMKPQGA

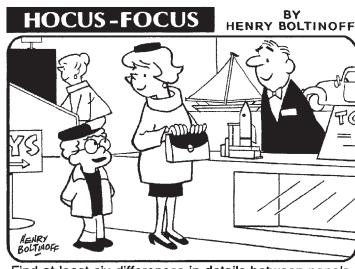
NX BAXBGA LEX GXXW HB

TPKNV MZ QXXWV, MV NEPN

OATAOAZNMPG NOAPNRAZN? ©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

PGY SLINYO ORCAP ♥ EIAD MOYPEN RYAEANO MIGNA **♥** EAP ♥ SUDCER IGPNI **♥** YPER 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.



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

smaller. 4. Skirt is longer. 5. Pocket is added. 6. Boy is moved. Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Sign is lower. 3. Sailboat is

SUSWEL

M



facts in books, is that the referential treatment? When you're more amicable to people who look up

CryptoQuip

4 Everyday Ways to Keep Your Brain Sharp

taying in shape goes beyond physical fitness—keeping your brain health top of mind is crucial for your overall well-being, too. To sharpen your mind, consider these everyday ways for prioritizing brain health.

Stimulate Your Mind

While "exercising" typically refers to running, walking or biking, remember you can give your brain a workout as well. Provide a boost for your brain with easy and enjoyable activities like reading, puzzles, math games like sudoku or artistic challenges such as drawing or crafting.

Eat Healthy Foods

Establishing a strong foundation for brain health can start in the kitchen by preparing healthy foods. Adding whole grains, fish, legumes, healthy fats and fruits and vegetables, including grapes and leafy greens, can encourage better brain wellness.

Research suggests grapes help maintain a healthy brain. UCLA researchers, in a human study of elderly subjects with mild cognitive decline, found consuming 2 1/4 cups of grapes every day preserved healthy metabolic activity in regions of the brain associated with early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

This Walnut Sunflower-Crusted Salmon with Honey-Lemon Grapes is a flavor-packed way to add California grapes to the menu while simultaneously supporting brain and heart health. Salmon, rich in omega-3s, is topped with a crunchy walnut-sunflower seed crust for a savory, nutty bite. Pair with juicy grapes and onions marinated in honey and lemon for a burst of sweetness and tang to balance the rich salmon in this nutritious meal.

Prioritize Mental Health

Reducing anxiety may be easier said than done, but it starts with healthy everyday habits. Practice mindfulness by meditating or simply turning off distractions like social media. Get outside for fresh air or find a hobby you enjoy. Join a support group, reach out to loved ones and, if you feel you're experiencing negative mental health systems, talk with a mental health professional.

Exercise Regularly

Physical activities that increase your heart rate also increase blood flow to the brain and throughout your body. It doesn't have to be rigorous or strenuous – go for a walk around the neighborhood, dance in the living room, tend to your garden or enjoy a bike ride when the weather cooperates. Remember to replenish your energy and hydration – California grapes are an easy way to deliver both.

Find more information on the connection between grapes and heart health, and discover more nutritious recipes, by visiting GrapesfromCalifornia.com.



Walnut Sunflower-Crusted Salmon with Honey-Lemon Grapes

Servings: 4

Honey-Lemon Marinated Grapes:
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

3 tablespoons lemon juice

1 tablespoon honey 1 tablespoon fresh basil

1/4 teaspoon sea salt

freshly ground pepper, to taste

3 cups halved red Grapes from California 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion

1 small handful arugula

Salmon:

3/4 cup walnuts, chopped

2 tablespoons roasted, unsalted sunflower seeds 2 teaspoons honey

2 teaspoons spicy brown or Dijon mustard 1/4 teaspoon sea salt

4 salmon fillets (6 ounces each)

Heat oven to 350 F and line baking sheet with parchment paper or lightly oiled foil.

To make honey-lemon marinated grapes: In medium bowl, whisk oil, lemon juice, honey, basil, salt and pepper, to taste. Stir in grapes, onion and arugula; set aside.

To prepare salmon: In small bowl, stir walnuts, sunflower seeds, honey, mustard and salt until thick paste forms.

Place salmon on prepared baking sheet, skin side down, and press equal amounts walnut mixture over surface of each. Bake 20 minutes, or until salmon flakes easily with fork.

Set salmon on plates; using slotted spoon, spoon marinated grape and onion mixture over salmon and around plates.

Nutritional information per serving: 640 calories; 39 g protein; 31 g carbohydrates; 41 g fat (58% calories from fat); 7 g saturated fat (10% calories from saturated fat); 95 mg cholesterol; 390 mg sodium; 3 g fiber.

Give Backyard Barbecues a Boost with Easy

Crowd-Pleasers

AMILY FEATURES

lassic burgers and hot dogs might get the spotlight during backyard barbecues, but tasty sides and twists on tradition are what take your cookout to the next level.

Bush's Baked Beans, chef James Briscione turns to these hearty Hamburger Baked Beans, which provide a twist on a cookout favorite with seasoned ground beef combined with baked beans. Simply cook ground beef with onions then add ketchup, mustard and baked beans, stirring everything together until heated through.

Since no meal is complete without

With their sweet and savory flavor, Bush's Baked Beans perfectly complement whatever is on the table, whether you're hosting a backyard barbecue or heading to a neighborhood potluck. They make it easy to bring big flavor and a dish that everyone will enjoy – no extra prep required.

Varieties like Original and Brown Sugar Hickory are musts for your next cookout, and the Vegetarian version makes Briscione's go-to Grilled Chile Rellenos a new grilling favorite. It's an easy vegetarian recipe with some zing, as poblano chiles are stuffed with baked beans, peppers and onions then covered with cheese and grilled.

"Bush's Baked Beans bring a depth of flavor and texture that works with anything on the grill," Briscione said. "They hold their own next to barbecue and can also be the base for easy, delicious dishes that bring people together."

To complete your cookout and please potluck crowds with more delicious recipes, visit bushbeans.com.



Hamburger Baked Beans

2 91 1 CL 9 D II

Grilled Chile Rellenos Prep time: 20 minutes Cook time: 40 minutes Servings: 6

6 large poblano chiles
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 jalapenos, seeded and chopped
1/2 red bell pepper, finely chopped
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

1 teaspoon cumin 1 can (28 ounces) Bush's Vegetarian Baked Beans, drained 1 1/2 teaspoons hot sauce

to taste

12 ounces pepper jack or Monterey Jack cheese, coarsely grated, divided salt, to taste freshly ground black pepper,

Cut poblano chiles in half lengthwise to create boats for filling, scrape out seeds.
In nonstick skillet, heat olive oil.

Add onion, garlic, jalapenos, red bell pepper, cilantro and cumin; cook over medium heat until golden brown, about 4 minutes.

Remove pan from heat and stir in vegetarian baked beans, hot sauce and 8 ounces cheese. Add salt and pepper, to taste.

Spoon mixture into hollowed chiles and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Preheat grill to medium heat.

Arrange chiles on grill away from heat. Cook until chiles are tender and cheese is browned and bubbling, 30-40 minutes. Remove from grill and serve.



Grilled Chile Rellenos

Hamburger Baked Beans

Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 5 minutes Servings: 4

> 1/2-1 pound ground beef 1/2 small onion, diced

2 tablespoons ketchup

1 teaspoon spicy mustard 28 ounces Bush's Original

Baked Beans
In skillet over medium heat, cook

ground beef with onion.

Drain fat. Add ketchup, mustard and baked beans. Stir together until

and baked beans. Stir together until heated through.



CALL 478-733-9772