



AFGE members persevere in 2025 despite historic challenges

By AFGE Leadership

To say that this was a challenging year for federal workers would be an enormous understatement. From forced layoffs and defunding of critical programs to a top-down assault on collective bargaining rights and the longest ever government shutdown, federal employees have endured one hardship after the other.

Yet throughout it all, America's civil servants continued to serve the American public with honor and distinction – protecting the nation and securing our borders, processing Social Security payments and other vital benefits, safeguarding the food we eat and the air we breathe, caring for veterans, responding to disasters, and so much more.

And despite it all, AFGE remains committed to serving our members while fighting to defend our nation's democratic principles and non-partisan civil service.

Here's a brief look back at the past year:

AFGE challenges administration's attacks on federal workers in court

Hard-fought victories:

- ✓ Government shutdown becomes longest in U.S. history
- ✓ Labor nets major win in effort to regain collective bargaining rights
- ✓ Trump politicizes federal job postings with 'loyalty question'
- ✓ Anti-worker provisions stripped from Trump priority legislation
- ✓ Long-delayed raises approved for Wage Grade workers
- ✓ AFGE retains members thanks to E-Dues conversion
- ✓ AFGE leaders, staff recognized nationally

President Trump began his second term in office by issuing a flurry of executive actions designed to dismantle the federal government and silence workers' voices. These actions were an assault on our Constitution, our democracy, our justice system, our country's diversity, and our individual rights and protections.

Just as quickly as President Trump issued his

destructive orders, AFGE and likeminded organizations set out challenging the legality of his executive actions in court.

As he was taking the oath of office on Jan. 20, AFGE joined Public Citizen and the State Democracy Defenders Fund in suing President Trump and the Office of Management and Budget over the creation of the so-called Department of

Government Efficiency.

We filed subsequent lawsuits challenging the administration's illegal RIFs both before and during the government shutdown, removing collective bargaining rights for two-thirds of the federal workforce on national security grounds, the mass termination of probationary employees at multiple agencies, efforts to shut down agencies including the U.S. Agency for International Development and Voice of America, the mass reclassification of tens of thousands of federal employees into at-will positions, and many others.

In many cases, we have won court injunctions intended to prevent the administration from moving forward with its plans – at least temporarily – as our lawsuits work their way through the legal system.

Government shutdown becomes longest in U.S. history

A challenging year for federal workers became almost unbearable when Congress failed to pass a spending bill to keep the federal

See CHALLENGES, page 3

Court reverses firing of federal workers during shutdown

By AFGE Leadership

A federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to nullify the terminations of federal employees at four federal agencies, saying they were implemented in clear violation of the bipartisan law that ended the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

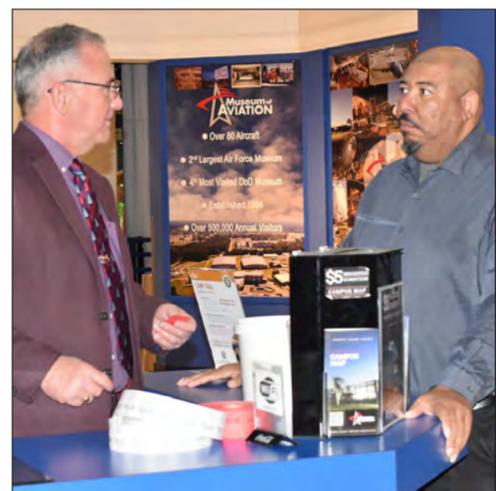
In a hearing Dec. 17, Judge Susan Illston of the U.S. District Court for Northern California agreed with the American Federation of Government Employees, the American Foreign Service Association, and the National Federation of Federal Employees that Section 120 of the continuing resolution passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on Nov. 12 prohibits federal agencies from initiating, implementing, or carrying out any reduction-in-force (RIF) for the duration of the law, which currently runs through Jan. 30, 2026.

Judge Illston's order requires the administration to rescind reduction-in-force (RIF) notices issued to civil servants at the Small Business

Administration, General Services Administration, and the State Department who received RIF notices that were implemented or carried out during and after the government shutdown. The order also forces the administration to halt planned RIFs at the Department of Education and the State Department. AFGE and

See COURT, page 3

LOCAL 987 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



MORE PHOTOS PAGE 6 AND ON OUR WEBSITE AT LOCAL987.COM

SAVE THE DATE

Membership meeting

Local 987 will have a membership meeting Jan. 15 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@afglocal987.org or Jeanette McElhany at jmac@afglocal987.org.



iStock via Getty Images

5 advances in Alzheimer's care, treatment in 2025

(StatePoint) For the millions of Americans touched by Alzheimer's disease, 2025 brought major advances in understanding of brain health and progress in diagnosis and treatment. Here are the year's biggest advances, along with how you can take action with this knowledge in 2026:

1) A structured plan can sharpen brain health.

In a major U.S. clinical trial of older adults at risk for cognitive decline, two healthy lifestyle plans in the Alzheimer's Association's U.S. POINTER study improved memory and thinking skills over two years. Both interventions included exercise, brain-healthy nutrition, cognitive training and heart health monitoring. However, participants in a highly structured program that also included regular coaching and peer support showed significantly greater brain health gains, demonstrating that when brain-healthy habits are organized and supported, people stick with them and thinking skills benefit.

Next steps for families: Start small but structured: aim for 150 minutes of weekly exercise of at least moderate intensity, Mediterranean-style meals, 7-8 hours of sleep per night, and 2-3 short brain-training sessions each week. Put goals on a shared calendar, find an exercise or brain-health buddy, and schedule regular check-ins with your clinician or healthcare professional.

2) Simple blood tests can help spot changes earlier.

In 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared two blood tests that detect Alzheimer's-related brain changes, offering a less invasive, less expensive option for those experiencing memory changes to support diagnosis and potentially reduce the need for PET scans or spinal taps. Blood tests are not stand-alone diagnostic tools, but their use can help guide next steps for testing, treatment and planning. The Alzheimer's Association has developed clinical guidelines to help specialists determine when to use blood tests alongside established "gold standard" tests and clinical judgment.

Next step for families: Ask your health care team whether an Alzheimer's blood test makes sense for you or a loved one, and how your results would affect lifestyle and health care plans. If they recommend testing, ask them to refer you to a specialist who can explain the results and next steps.

3) Americans want to know and act sooner.

A recent Alzheimer's Association national survey of adults 45 and older found most want to learn early if they have Alzheimer's before

See **ADVANCES**, page 3

5 sugar intake tips to prevent cavities in 2026

(StatePoint) Holiday celebrations often feature lots of great food and drinks, including sweet treats to indulge in. But too much sugar in your diet can weaken your teeth, leaving your smile vulnerable to cavities. After a sweet holiday season, follow these five sugar intake tips so you can prevent cavities and improve your oral and overall health in 2026.

Restore the balance. If your holiday season was filled with candy canes, hot cocoa and cookies, now is the time to revive a balanced diet with a variety of healthy foods from each of the five major food groups. Fill your plate with whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean proteins and low-fat dairy foods.

Sugary beverages like soda and juice should be served sparingly, as healthier options like water and plain milk have far more nutritional value. "Water is the best beverage for your teeth," said American Dental Association (ADA) dentist, Mirissa Price, D.M.D. "Not only does water help wash away cavity-causing bacteria and weaken the acids in your mouth, but water with optimal levels of fluoride strengthens your teeth against cavities.

Be picky if it's sticky and watch out for starch. You might think dried fruit is a healthy choice, but raisins and dried cranberries often stick to your teeth, giving the bacteria in your mouth more time to feast on the natural sugars. Meanwhile, starchy foods like chips and cakes often get trapped between your teeth where cavities also form. "If you choose these foods, pair them with water, and make sure to brush and floss thoroughly," said Dr. Price.

Resolve to maintain your dental routine. Speaking of brushing and flossing, it's important to keep up with your dental care routine no matter what your diet looks like. That means brushing your teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste and cleaning between your teeth once a day. Choose dental products with the ADA Seal of Acceptance and see your dentist regularly for valuable check-ups. Appointments can fill up fast after the holidays, so schedule them far in advance to avoid delays.

Timing matters. Instead of eating sweets on their own, pair them with meals or eat them short-



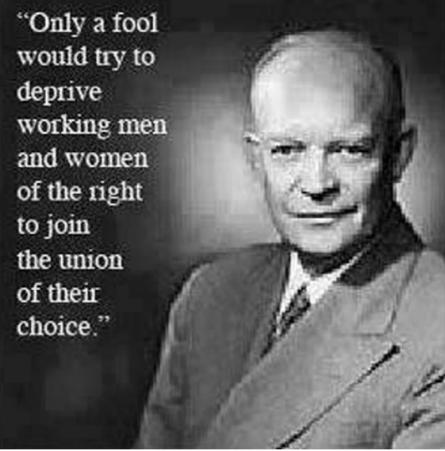
iStock via Getty Images

ly after mealtimes. During a meal, your mouth releases more saliva, which is another tool in the fight against tooth decay, canceling out acids and washing away food from teeth and gums. Saliva also contains minerals to repair weakened teeth. For snacks between meals, choose a healthy option like fruit, vegetables or cheese. "If you find yourself enjoying a sweet treat apart from a meal, chewing sugar-free gum with the ADA Seal of Acceptance after can increase saliva and may help counter acidity," said Dr. Price.

Set a good example. It's no surprise that most kids also want to enjoy a sweet treat now and then, but remember that cavities are the most common chronic childhood disease. Provide children with foods and drinks that are healthy and low in sugar, remind them about regular at-home dental care, and set a good example by modeling all the tips above. To learn more about how nutrition affects your teeth, visit MouthHealthy.org/nutritionsimpact. For help keeping your child's dental routine on track, visit MouthHealthy.org/calendar to download a free 12-month brushing and flossing calendar.

"Making choices to keep your mouth healthy doesn't stop you from enjoying good food," said Dr. Price. "Finding a balance is key, and the start of a new year is a great time to focus on healthy behaviors to benefit your dental and overall health."

"Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice."



"The American Labor Movement has consistently demonstrated its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all America."



10 resolutions for a safe, scam-free new year

The start of a new year is the perfect time to resolve to protect your personal and financial information. BBB presents the following 10 New Year's resolutions to fight scammers, prevent identity theft, and save money in 2026.

1. Check Your Credit Report
You are now entitled to a free credit report each week from each of the three main Credit Reporting Agencies: Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. You can order the reports through annualcreditreport.com. Once you receive your credit report, carefully review all the information. If you see any inaccurate information, then you should file a dispute with any bureau reporting the error. Checking your credit report helps you catch signs of identity theft early.

2. Sign Up for the Do Not Call Registry
The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls. To add your number to the Registry, you can call 1-888-382-1222 or register online at ftc.gov/donotcall. Registration is free for your home and mobile phone. You still may receive political, charitable, debt collection, informational and telephone survey calls. Also note that scammers don't adhere to the Do Not Call Registry.

3. Always Read the Fine Print
When shopping online, signing a contract and especially for "free" trial offers, be sure to take your time, and read the fine print before handing over your credit or debit card information. Find the terms and conditions for the offer. That includes offers online, on TV, in the newspaper or on the radio. If you can't find them or can't understand exactly what you're agreeing to, don't sign up.

4. Keep Your Computer Safe
Keep a clean machine by installing a firewall, anti-virus and anti-spyware software. Check for and install the latest updates and run virus scans regularly. Don't open attachments or click on email links unless you can confirm the email came from someone you trust. Choose passwords that incorporate a combination of numbers, capital letters and symbols. Avoid using the



Kelvin Collins

same password for all your accounts, and never share your passwords with anyone else.

5. Fight Identity Theft
Make sure you shredded any documents that have your bank account information, Social Security number or other personal information.

These include credit card applications, insurance forms, financial statements, health forms and billing statements from utility services. Be suspicious of any unsolicited communication asking you for personal information. They may really be scammers looking to steal your identity.

6. Never Send Money to Someone You Don't Know

Many scams require that the victim send money back to the scammers. Scammers know that tracking money sent via wire services and many digital apps is extremely difficult. Even more troubling for victims is the fact that it's nearly impossible to get your money back. The same goes for pre-paid debit cards or gift cards.

7. Get Everything in Writing
Don't just take a company's word for it. Get every verbal agreement in writing to limit miscommunication and misunderstandings between your expectations and what the business delivers. Make sure that you read and thoroughly understand an agreement and don't sign a contract with blank spaces that could be altered or changed. Finally, once the contract is signed, keep a copy of it for your records.

8. Fight Fake Check Fraud
Thanks to advances in printing technology, scammers can create very real-looking phony checks. Educate yourself on the common types of check fraud and be extremely wary of checks that come with claims that you've won the lottery, are eligible for a government grant or have landed a job as a secret shopper.

Medal of Honor spotlight

Navy pilot Francis Ormsbee Jr.

By **KATIE LANGE**
DoD News

While naval aviation was still in its infancy, Navy Chief Aviation Pilot Francis Edward Ormsbee Jr. was ready and willing to take to the skies for his country. Before he officially became a pilot, however, he helped rescue a fellow sailor from a plane crash. His heroics earned him the Medal of Honor.

Ormsbee was born on April 30, 1892, in Providence, Rhode Island, to parents Francis Sr. and Sarah Ormsbee. He had at least one sibling — a brother named Harry — but otherwise, little else has been published about his childhood.

Ormsbee joined the Navy in 1917, the same year the U.S. entered World War I. Naval aviation was just getting off the ground, so to speak, and Ormsbee was interested in becoming a pilot. So, after basic training, he was sent to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, where flight training activities were operating at a fever pitch in preparation for fighting overseas.

By fall of 1918, Ormsbee was a chief machinist's mate



Photo courtesy defense.gov

Navy pilot Francis Ormsbee Jr.

who was taking part in flight training. On Sept. 25, 1918, he was in a seaplane above Pensacola Bay with Ensign J.A. Jova when they saw another aircraft go into a tailspin and crash about three-quarters of a mile away. That aircraft was piloted by Ensign Thomas McCarthy and Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul Parsons.

Jova and Ormsbee quickly hopped into action. Jova landed his aircraft on the water nearby and taxied to the wreckage. Ormsbee then dove overboard to scour for survivors in the aircraft, which was underwater except for its wing tips.

Ormsbee succeeded in pulling Parsons far enough to the

surface that his head was out of the water. He was able to hold Parsons in that position until a speedboat arrived to extricate him. Ormsbee then went back into the aircraft repeatedly, injuring his hands in the process, to try to dislodge McCarthy. Unfortunately, Ormsbee wasn't able to save him.

Ormsbee was initially awarded the Navy Cross, but that was upgraded to the Medal of Honor on Dec. 7, 1918, according to an article in the Atlanta Journal. He eventually learned to fly, receiving his wings of gold as the Navy's 25th naval aviation pilot — a designation that, at the time, was given to enlisted men who completed the flight training program.

Ormsbee left the Navy in 1929, but not aviation. The now-accomplished flier became a pilot for Pan American Airways on its inaugural mail routes. According to the U.S. Navy Memorial website, Ormsbee was transferred from Miami routes to the Panama Canal Zone at some point to help alleviate a chronic shortage of experienced pilots.

Naval historians said Ormsbee helped establish Pan Am's routes in Central and South America, including accompanying famed aviator Charles Lindbergh in his survey of those areas. Ormsbee even flew the world's longest airmail route at the time, which was from Miami to Santiago, Chile.

In 1935, Ormsbee went to work for the Department of Commerce as an air

See **HONOR**, page 3

THE UNION ADVOCATE

Published by the American Federation of Government Employees Local 987, Warner Robins, Georgia.

Contents of The Union Advocate are not necessarily the official view of AFGE Local 987, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of the Air Force or The Document Company.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement by The Union Advocate, AFGE Local 987 or

Printer
Houston Home Journal
Editor/layout and design
Don Moncrief

the Department of Defense.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, nationality, age, marital status, physical or mental health, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor for

the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by AFGE Local 987. Submitted news and editorial content/photographs are welcome - applicability to AFGE Local 987's mission to be determined by the discretion of the editor and/or president.

Please submit articles, photos, etc to don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforementioned.

CHALLENGES

From page 1

government operating past Sept. 30, resulting in the longest-ever U.S. government shutdown.

Making matters worse, the Trump administration launched an effort to illegally fire mass numbers of federal employees during the government shutdown – an action we successfully challenged in court.

The long stalemate over funding the government reached an end when a bipartisan majority in the U.S. Senate passed a continuing resolution on Nov. 9 that funds the government through Jan. 30. The bill passed the House and was signed into law by the president on Nov. 12.

A group of seven Senate Democrats spearheaded by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., fought to include critical federal worker protections advocated by AFGE in the final bill, including guaranteed back pay for the shutdown, reversal of thousands of reductions-in-force actions issued during October, and a moratorium on future RIFs for the duration of the continuing resolution.

Labor nets major win in effort to regain collective bargaining rights

The months-long effort to roll back President Trump's executive orders blocking collective bargaining rights from more than a million federal workers got a significant boost in December, when a bipartisan majority of lawmakers in the U.S. House approved legislation to restore workers' union rights.

The House voted 231-195 on Dec. 11 to approve the Protect America's Workforce Act (HR 2550), which would rescind the executive orders President Trump issued in March and August that banned collective bargaining for most of the federal workforce.

"By voting to approve the Protect America's Workforce Act, 231 members of Congress have demonstrated their support for the nonpartisan civil service, for the dedicated employees who serve our country with honor and distinction, and for the critical role that collective bargaining has in fostering a safe, protective, and collaborative workplace," AFGE National President Everett Kelley said.

Following the House victory, all eyes turned to the U.S. Senate, which has introduced its own bill (S. 2837) to restore federal workers' collective bargaining rights. As of this writing, every member of the Democratic caucus has cosponsored this bill, as well as Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine. We need additional bipartisan support to ensure its passage.

Trump politicizes federal job postings with 'loyalty question'

In defiance of multiple federal laws including the U.S. Constitution, the Trump administration began asking prospective job applicants to illustrate their allegiance to the administration through the use of a "loyalty question."

The question, which has appeared in more than 9,200 federal job listings since May 1, 2025, prompts applicants to submit an essay on which of the Trump administration's "Executive Orders and policy priorities" they support and "how [they] would help implement them if hired."

On Nov. 6, AFGE sued the administration over the "loyalty question" along with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE). In our lawsuit, we

assert that the essay question is not only a clear violation of the First Amendment's protections against political patronage, compelled speech, self-censorship, and viewpoint discrimination, but also violates the Privacy Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

Anti-worker provisions stripped from Trump priority legislation

In most cases, it's easier to prevent something bad from happening rather than trying to undo something that's already occurred. That's why AFGE and our labor allies worked tirelessly in the days and hours leading up to the vote on President Trump's signature economic legislation, dubbed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," to remove anti-worker measures from both the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Provisions stricken from the final bill passed by Congress would have:

- Made future federal employees at-will and forced them to pay an extra 5% in retirement contributions to retain their civil service protections;
- Required all federal workers, regardless of when they were hired, to contribute 4.4% of their paychecks to the Federal Employees Retirement System;
- Significantly reduced federal pension payments by basing pension calculations on an employee's five highest paid years instead of the current three highest paid years;
- Imposed a 10% tax on all union dues collected through payroll deduction;
- Required unions to pay the entire cost of official time for union representatives – including salary and benefits, union office space, and resources – or else be debarred;
- Imposed a \$350 filing fee for claims and appeals filed with the Merit Systems Protection Board; and
- Allowed the administration to unilaterally reorganize and shut down agencies created by Congress without congressional approval.

Thanks to bipartisan support from lawmakers in both the House and Senate, all of these provisions were dropped from the final version of the bill, which narrowly passed both chambers and was signed into law on July 4.

Long-delayed raises approved for Wage Grade workers

For the tens of thousands of federal workers paid hourly under the Wage Grade system, 2025 likely will be remembered for what almost happened: going yet another year without a pay raise.

More than 118,000 Defense Department employees in both appropriated and non-appropriated positions were paid under the Federal Wage System as of September 2024. The last pay adjustment they received was in 2023.

The reason for the delay? Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth paused all meetings of its advisory committees in March pending a larger review – including the one committee responsible for approving the Wage Grade pay adjustments.

But on Nov. 25, the Department of Defense Wage Committee finally met and approved publication of 2024 updates to about 1,600 wage schedules covering 250 wage areas. It was the first meeting in 2025 of the five-member committee, on which AFGE holds one of the two labor seats.

All employees should receive their raises by the end of this month. They will be retroactive to when they should have taken effect in 2024.

AFGE retains members thanks to E-Dues conversion

Converting our members to E-Dues has

been critical for AFGE's survival in the face of the Trump administration's assault on federal workers' jobs and workplace rights.

Members on E-Dues have retained their union membership – and the benefits that come with union membership – despite the administration ordering many agencies to stop taking union dues out of federal workers' paychecks.

AFGE began the year with just north of 31,000 members on E-Dues, and now nearly 142,700 members are enrolled – roughly two-thirds of our active membership.

AFGE E-Dues is the only way for employees to retain their union membership and benefits no matter what happens. New and existing members can sign up on AFGE E-Dues from any device. The process takes just minutes and is secure and confidential.

AFGE leaders, staff recognized nationally

The efforts of our union leaders and staff to highlight the critical work performed by federal and D.C. government workers, along with the labor rights and job protections that are essential to their success, were recognized this year across multiple national platforms.

For at least the second year running, AFGE National President Everett Kelley and AFGE Public Policy Director Jacqueline Simon in May were named to Washingtonian's list of the 500 most influential people in D.C.

In early November, President Kelley was featured by online magazine The Root as one of the top influencers in the country when the magazine released its annual Root 100 list. In a subsequent list published Nov. 25, Kelley was singled out as one of the country's top Black political changemakers – along with leaders including former Vice President Kamala Harris, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, and Maryland Gov. Wes Moore.

In naming President Kelley to the Root 100 list, the magazine cited his leadership in fighting to secure full collective bargaining rights for transportation security officers, opposing Project 2025, and fighting the Trump administration's efforts to fire mass numbers of federal workers.

"The Alabama native continues to advocate for more than 800,000 federal workers amid major institutional challenges, cementing his role as the necessary and unyielding voice defending the integrity of America's public service," the magazine said.

AFGE's Communications Department received five awards from the International Labor Communications Association in October for work produced in 2024. The largest competition of its kind, the annual ILCA awards recognize the important work of labor journalists and unions in amplifying the voices of workers, shining the spotlight on injustice, and celebrating organizing victories.

Among the awards AFGE received was the Saul Miller Award for Political Action, for an article highlighting the union's action to address staffing and safety concerns at correctional facilities managed by the Bureau of Prisons, including an investigative report by 60 Minutes and an op-ed published in The Hill newspaper.

In December, influential Capitol Hill publication The Hill named AFGE Legislative Director Daniel Horowitz and AFGE Legislative Representative Elliot Friedman to their annual list of top lobbyists. Chosen from more than 1,800 nominations submitted this year alone, recipients were selected for making measurable impacts in policy and politics.

COURT

From page 1

AFSA previously secured a temporary restraining order to block 250 terminations at State that were set to take effect on Dec. 5.

The order is an important milestone in an ongoing lawsuit brought by a coalition of

unions challenging the administration's unlawful mass firings of federal employees during or because of the government shutdown. Those firings are being similarly blocked by a preliminary injunction. AFGE, AFSA, and NFFE are represented in this action by Democracy Forward, Altshuler Berzon LLP, and Democracy Defenders Fund.

In a joint press statement issued after the ruling, AFGE National President Everett Kelley said the decision represents another victory for federal employees and for the rule of law.

"When Congress voted to end the longest government shutdown in history, it spoke clearly and unambiguously that further reductions-in-force were

prohibited, and any RIFs that occurred during the shutdown were required to be reversed. The administration's continued defiance of that mandate is part of a troubling pattern of egregious actions against federal employees and the American public. We are grateful to the court for stepping in to uphold the law and protect federal workers," Kelley said.

Sadly, he died in a plane crash about a year later, on Oct. 24, 1936. Official reports of the crash stated that he was flying from Washington, D.C., to Fort Worth, Texas, when the weather took a turn for the worse.

He tried to land in Ardmore, Oklahoma, to wait out the storm, but he crashed into a mountain north of the town.

Ormsbee was buried in St. Francis Cemetery in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

HONOR

From page 2

navigation inspector.

ADVANCES

From page 3

symptoms impact their lives, and 9 out of 10 would take a simple test, if available, to clarify next steps. Nearly 3 in 5 respondents said they would accept a moderate or high level of risk to take medication that could slow the disease's progression.

Early awareness unlocks time to live healthfully, organize support, consider treatment options, and plan finances and care preferences.

Next step for families: Bring your top concerns, what's changed (memory, mood, function), and goals for the next three months to your next appointment.

4) Treatment can be easier to take.

The August 2025 FDA

approval of Leqembi for delivery via weekly subcutaneous injections may ease treatment for some patients. Those who complete initial infusion treatments as directed for 18 months can now receive their subsequent weekly treatment using at-home autoinjectors.

Fewer infusion clinic visits can mean less travel and lower caregiver burden, making it easier to stick to treatments for eligible patients. Decisions depend on eligibility, monitoring requirements, side-effect profile, and your clinician's judgment.

The Alzheimer's Association encourages clinician participation in ALZ-NET, a nationwide program collecting real-world data on Alzheimer's treatments.

Next step for families: If treatment is on the table, ask whether at-home injections might be an option after the initial phase, and what monitoring

you'd still need.

5) A new clinician hub helps care teams stay current.

When clinicians have fast access to evidence-based resources, patients get clearer answers and more consistent care. The new centralized professional portal, ALZPro, launched by the Alzheimer's Association, now curates practice guidelines, professional training, and point-of-care tools for earlier detection, appropriate test use, treatment eligibility and safety monitoring.

Next step for families: Let your health care professional know that the Alzheimer's Association has new research, training and support materials for professionals.

For information, support, research and public policy, visit The Alzheimer's Association at alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

From new diagnostic tools

and treatments to proven lifestyle plans, major advances in Alzheimer's in 2025 can change how you manage the disease in 2026.

Buy. Sell. Swap.

For members only. If you've been looking to sell something - or a number of items - or swap for something in particular, AFGE Local 987 is here to help. You can advertise those items and/or what you are searching for in The Union Advocate. Email the particulars to theunionadvocate@gmail.com. (Membership will be validated upon receipt.)



Georgia gets nearly \$219 million for rural healthcare

by Ty Tagami - Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The federal government will give Georgia nearly \$219 million to bolster health care in 126 rural counties, under a program established by President Donald Trump's signature budget reconciliation bill passed in July.

The distribution, announced Monday, is part of a \$10 billion allotment to the 50 states during the federal fiscal year that began in October, with another \$40 billion to be divvied among them in equal installments during the following four fiscal years.

Half of the money is being distributed equally, meaning less populous states will get more per person. The other half is being split based on a variety of factors, including rural population, the proportion of rural health facilities and "the situation of certain hospitals" in each state, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Georgia got more than all neighboring states, with the seventh largest sum nationally — \$333,000 ahead of Nebraska and \$3 million behind Kansas. Texas got the most money at over \$281 million.

Georgia's application by the Department of Community Health targeted 126 of the state's 159 counties, excluding the Atlanta metro area and other populous regions, such as Athens, Dalton, Macon, Rome, Savannah and Valdosta.

The application said the state's initiative — the Georgia Rural Enhancement and Transformation of Health program — would focus on "root causes" of disease and on "strengthening the continuum of care" in rural areas.

"This funding will help move us forward in strengthening our rural providers while bringing cost-saving innovations to the state's health system," Gov. Brian Kemp said in a statement.

The federal Rural Health Transformation program was authorized by Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act. A government description says the money must be used for things like "evidence-based, measurable interventions," "consumer-facing, technology-driven solutions" for chronic disease, or training for use of "technology-enabled solutions" for delivering care.

Program goals include more "efficiency and sustainability," encouraging "the growth of innovative care models" and fostering "innovative technologies that promote efficient care."

The money comes as thousands of Georgians will see a spike in their premiums under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Democrats criticized the One Big Beautiful Bill for its impact on that program and on Medicaid — and on rural health care. U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock visited Evans Memorial Hospital in Claxton in August because, his office said, the hospital had to cut \$3.3 million a year due to the budget reconciliation bill. The Georgia Hospital Association warned in a letter to Republican leaders in the U.S. Senate in June that the bill as it was written then would "devastate" rural health care, putting dozens of rural hospitals at risk of closure.

The White House pushed back in a memo about the new funding, blaming presidents Joe Biden and Barack Obama for expanding enrollment in government-funded health care, saying only a fraction of Medicaid spending was reaching rural hospitals as a result. The memo said CMS would hold states accountable for their use of the new money "to ensure resources are delivered to the most deserving care providers and their patients, not the most politically well-connected."

New laws will address professional services, homeowner protections, car owner and more

ATLANTA — Most new laws from this year's legislative session took effect in July, but a handful of significant bills become law on New Year's day. They address shortages in accounting and dentistry, and they increase homeowner protections. They update campaign finance and vehicle licensing requirements. One adds a new look for car tags.

House Bill 148, The Public Accountancy Act of 2025, was brought by Rep. John Carson, R-Marietta, a certified public accountant trying to address a shortage of accountants. It updates a licensing framework established nearly three decades ago by offering new paths to becoming a certified public accountant. It also lets accounting firms do some work in Georgia without having an office in the state.

House Bill 551 by Rep. Jason Ridley, R-Chatsworth, updates rules for owning and operating a motor vehicle, adding numerous new requirements around the issuance of temporary operating permits and setting standards for a new electronic system for issuing them. It also lets permitted property owners install an immobilization device on trespassing vehicles rather than just having them towed.

House Bill 567 by Rep. Katie Dempsey, R-Rome, address regional shortages in dentistry, authorizing licensed dentists to practice online, with regulation by the Georgia Board of Dentistry. It also permits coverage of teledentistry by dental benefits plans. "Geography should not be a barrier to dental care," Kristen Morgan, the Georgia Dental Association executive director, said in May when Gov. Brian Kemp signed the bill into law.

Senate Bill 35 by Sen. Larry Walker, III, R-Perry, gives homeowners more time to prepare for loss of insurance. It doubles the minimum notice period for nonrenewal of certain residential policies to 60 days, from 30.

Senate Bill 112 by Sen. Clint Dixon, R-Buford, requires that manufacturer warranties of residential HVAC systems transfer to home buyers. It also requires that warranties take effect on the date a system is installed by a licensed contractor and prohibits requiring product registration as a condition of warranty.

Senate Bill 199 by Sen. Sam Watson, R-Moultrie, prohibits the State Ethics Commission initiating investigations of candidates within 60 days of their election. It also requires that local elected officials file mandatory financial disclosures with the Commission rather than locally. And it requires that political action committees maintain bank accounts with detailed reporting when they contribute to candidates in the state. It also establishes uniform reporting dates for campaigns for all levels of office and requires redaction of home addresses from any records the Commission makes available to the public.

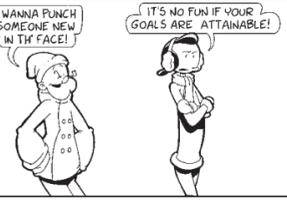
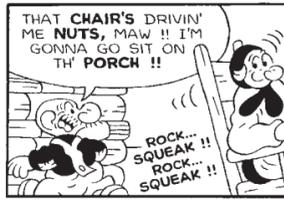
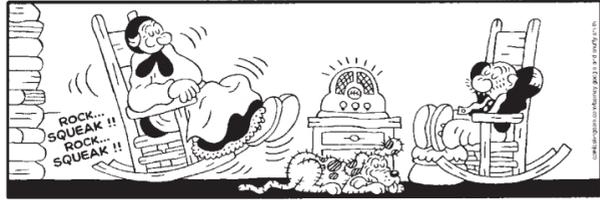
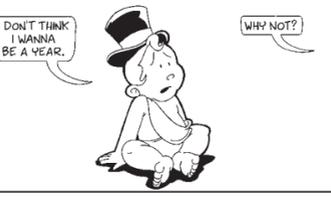
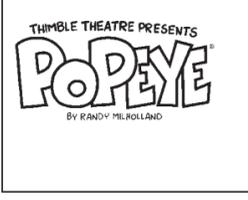
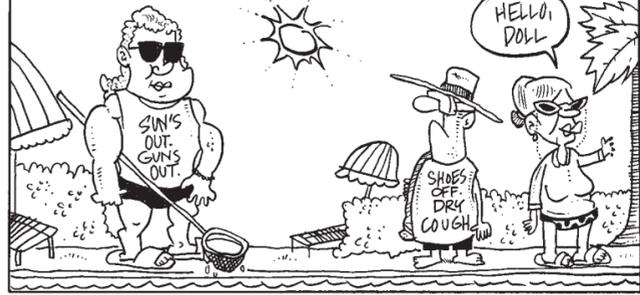
Last but not least is America First: Senate Bill 291. The act, by Sen. Steve Gooch, R-Dahlonega, establishes a special license plate featuring the American flag and the words "America First." Funds raised from the sale of this plate will go to the state general fund. Gooch pushed the bill through as Senate majority leader, a post he left after the legislative session to run for lieutenant governor.

fun

Amber Waves



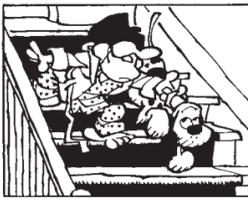
Out on a Limb



The Spats



TIGER



Sponsor this page. Call 478-733-9772.

GRIN & BEAR IT



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		10
+		÷		+	
	+		-		9
÷		+		-	
	+		÷		6
5		10		7	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

© 2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

	7		10		5
9	2	÷	9	+	3
	-		+		÷
9	4	-	9	+	7
	+		÷		+
10	5	x	6	-	8

ANSWERS

Go Figure!

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: L equals X

HQGI JNEGAQSID JPKKGIVB

DNGJ GLASIYA WNX IN

ZOOZXGIA XGZJNI, HQZA

ESDQA BNP YZVV AQZA?

ONNW NW GLSJAGIYG.

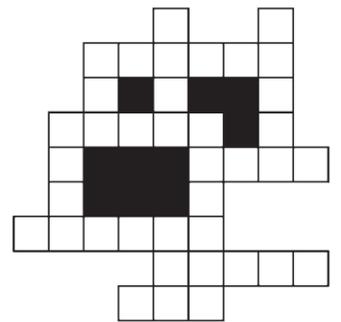
©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

FEAR & KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

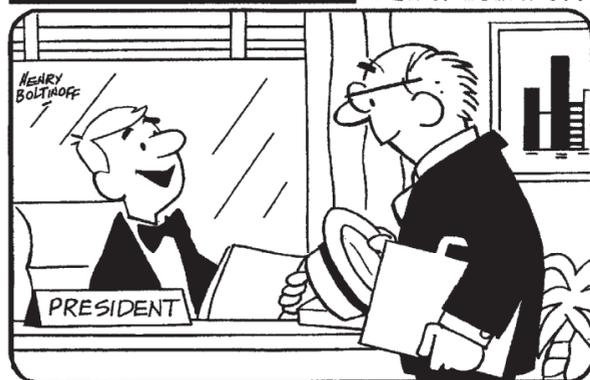
- OBO
- WENIUS
- DUMIO
- RTWI
- DEMPIE
- ♥EWO
- ♥NCIO
- ♥WEDNO
- WOS
- ENRAMB
- TACIO
- WMNO



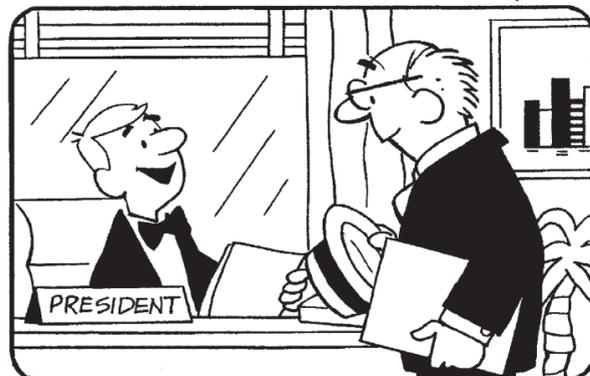
Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down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

HOCUS-FOCUS

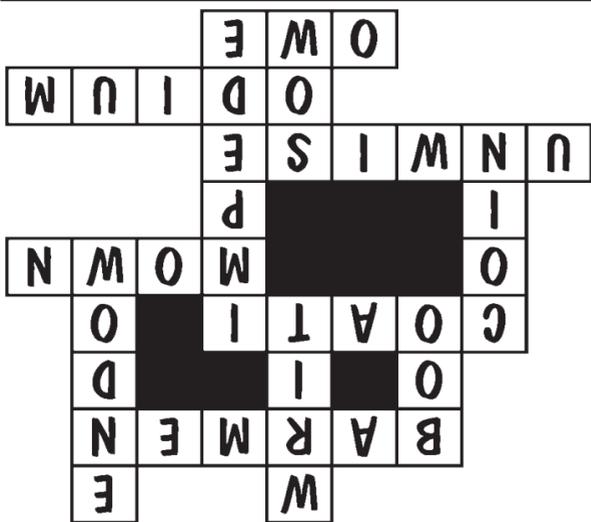
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Band around hat is wider. 2. Blinds are different. 3. Chart is different. 4. Plant is taller. 5. Briefcase handle is missing. 6. Thumb is moved.



answer

FEAR & KNIGHT

When something suddenly goes extinct for no apparent reason, what might you call that? Poof of existence.

ANSWER

CryptoQuip

