



Martin Luther King, Jr. - his life, legacy

When Was Martin Luther King Jr. Born?

Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. Originally, his name was Michael Luther King Jr. after his father. Michael Sr. eventually adopted the name Martin Luther King Sr. in honor of the German Protestant religious leader Martin Luther. In due time, Michael Jr. followed his father's lead and adopt the name himself to become Martin Luther King Jr. His mother was Alberta Williams King.

The Williams and King families had roots in rural Georgia. Martin Jr.'s maternal grandfather, A.D. Williams, was a rural minister for years and then moved to Atlanta in 1893. He took over the small, struggling Ebenezer Baptist Church with around 13 members and made it into a forceful congregation. He married Jennie Celeste Parks, and they had one child who survived, Alberta.

Martin Sr. came from a family of sharecroppers in a poor farming community. He married Alberta in 1926 after an eight-year courtship. The newlyweds moved to A.D.'s home in Atlanta. Martin stepped in as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church upon the death of his father-in-law in 1931. He, too, became a successful minister.

A middle child, Martin Jr. had an older sister, Willie, and a younger brother, Alfred. The King children grew up in a secure and loving environment. Martin Sr. was more the disciplinarian, while Alberta's gentleness easily balanced out their father's strict hand.

Although they undoubtedly tried, Martin Jr.'s parents couldn't shield him completely from racism. His father fought against racial prejudice, not just because his race suffered, but also because he considered racism and segregation to be an affront to God's will. He strongly discouraged any sense of class superiority



in his children, which left a lasting impression on Martin Jr.

His baptism in May 1936 was less memorable for young King, but an event a few years later left him reeling. In May 1941, when King was 12 years old, his grandmother Jennie died of a heart attack. The event was traumatic for the boy, more so because he was out watching a parade against his parents' wishes when she died. Distraught at the news, he jumped from a second-story window at the family home, allegedly attempting suicide.

Education
Growing up in Atlanta, King entered public school at age

5. He later attended Booker T. Washington High School, where he was said to be a precocious student. He skipped both the ninth and eleventh grades and, at age 15, entered Morehouse College in Atlanta in 1944. He was a popular student, especially with his female classmates, but largely unmotivated, floating through his first two years.

Influenced by his experiences with racism, King began planting the seeds for a future as a social activist early in his time at Morehouse. "I was at the point where I was deeply interested in political matters and social ills," he recalled in *The Autobiography*

of Martin Luther King, Jr. "I could envision myself playing a part in breaking down the legal barriers to Negro rights."

At the time, King felt that the best way to serve that purpose was as a lawyer or a doctor. Although his family was deeply involved in the church and worship, King questioned religion in general and felt uncomfortable with overly emotional displays of religious worship. This discomfort had continued through much of his adolescence, initially leading him to decide against entering the ministry, much to his father's dismay.

But in his junior year at

MLK, Jr. virtual panel discussion

AFGE BLACK will host a virtual panel discussion honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. under the theme "Dream, Lead, Serve: Advancing Dr. King's Mission in a New Era."

This discussion will center on leadership, equity, and public service within the labor movement and the federal workforce.

Event details:
Date: Jan. 21
Time: 7 p.m. Eastern time
Format: Webinar
https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_joPGSULkQsWW-gvotRolljg?

Morehouse, King took a Bible class, renewed his faith, and began to envision a career in the ministry. In the fall of his senior year, he told his father of his decision, and he was ordained at Ebenezer Baptist Church in February 1948.

Later that year, King earned a sociology degree from Morehouse College and began attending the liberal Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. He thrived in all his studies, was elected student body president, and was valedictorian of his class in 1951. He also earned a fellowship for

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2026 scholarship applications - now open

If you are a member of RobinsFinancial Credit Union you might be interested in this. It is now accepting online applications for its 2026 Scholarship Program. The program, accordwas designed to provide financial assistance to graduating high school seniors within its 45 counties of membership who are interested in furthering their education at a college, university, technical or trade school in the State of Georgia. New this year, they are offering three tiers of scholarship opportunities, allowing recipients to receive a one-time scholarship of up to \$5,000.

For more information, to view requirements, and apply online, visit their website at www.robinsfcu.org. The deadline to submit applications is March 13 at noon.

AFGE E-Dues

Sign up for E-Dues or direct dues.
Visit Join.afge.org
or Join.afge.org/L0987
or local987.com

SAVE THE DATE

Membership meeting

Local 987 will have a membership meeting Feb. 19 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.

Date: 15 JAN 2026

AFGE LOCAL 987 NOMINATION AND ELECTION NOTICE FOR DELEGATES TO DISTRICT CAUCUS

In accordance with the AFGE National Constitution, unless it already has done so, every local must hold a meeting **with 15 days advance notice to every member at his/her last known home address** to vote on the following matters:

- (1) Whether the local will participate in the District Caucus in May, 2026, where the delegates will elect the National Vice President, National Fair Practices Affirmative Action Coordinator, and National Women's Advisory Coordinator;
- (2) Whether the local will be represented by delegate(s), alternate delegate(s), OR a proxy delegate (all of whom must be elected by name by a secret manual or mail ballot election and by plurality vote);
- (3) Whether the local will: (a) authorize only its existing delegate(s) to cast the local's full membership strength at the District Caucus; OR (b) elect delegates up to its full complement, in addition to the existing delegates.

At this meeting, the members also will vote on whether to fund expenses of the delegate(s) and/or alternate delegate(s) participating in the District Caucus.

1. FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS AT THE SAME MEETING: A combined meeting for nominations and election will take place on Feb 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the local union office, 1764 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, GA, for the office of delegate(s) and alternate delegate(s) to the District Caucus in May 2026.

Qualifications: be a member in good standing; be a member for one year of an AFGE local, immediately preceding the closing of the nomination process; and must not be a member in any labor organization not affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

Each candidate may have a reasonable number of observers, who are members, present throughout the election process. Members who unavoidably are absent from the nomination/election meeting may make and accept nominations by way of a letter to the AFGE Local 987 Election Committee at PO Box 6009, Warner Robins, GA, 31095.

We urge all members to participate. Elections are governed by the AFGE Rules of Conduct for an Election, Appendix A of the AFGE National Constitution.

Michael Martin
//Signed//
Michael Martin
AFGE National Representative
L987 Election Committee Chairman



iStock via Getty Images

USO programs support U.S. military community

(StatePoint) When you think about the USO, you likely think about entertainment tours or airport lounges, but the organization's scope is much wider than that.

USO programs support service members and their families stationed in the United States and overseas, as well as service members training in isolated locations or deployed to areas around the world. Each program meets a specific need to ease the isolation and loneliness of military life — during times away from loved ones, during moves and deployments, and when returning to civilian communities.

With more than 250 locations worldwide, including on military installations, at airports, and on board Navy ships, USO Centers offer ways for service members to connect with each other and with their families far away. These centers provide free Wi-Fi, computers, televisions and gaming equipment, and organize events and activities designed to strengthen morale.

For example, through the USO Reading program, service members can record themselves reading a book for the children in their lives.

For service members and military families who are stationed or deployed in remote locations, Mobile USO vehicles travel thousands of miles to provide many of the services of a traditional, brick-and-mortar USO Center.

Examples of USO programs include:

The USO Canine Program

The USO Canine Program acknowledges the

strong bond between humans and animals, and the critical role dogs play within the military community, addressing diverse mental, emotional and physical needs.

Through interactions with certified therapy dogs at USO events and USO Centers, service members and their families experience the profound emotional support that only a four-legged friend can offer. The USO Canine Volunteer of the Year competition recognizes outstanding contributions from USO therapy dogs and their handlers.

USO Gaming

The USO Gaming Program allows service members to forge bonds with fellow service members, stay connected to loved ones back home and take time to recharge through the simple act of playing a video game.

Many USO Centers are outfitted with top-of-the-line screens and consoles, designed specifically so that groups of service members can play games and bond together. The USO also hosts gaming tournaments like the annual USO-NFL Salute to Service Tournament, in which service members around the world compete in EA SPORTS Madden NFL video games, with the winners receiving tickets to attend the Super Bowl.

To learn more about these and other USO programs, visit <https://www.uso.org/programs>.

With military life comes many challenges. However, these programs strengthen and support service members and their families at every step of their military journey.

Don't 'fall' for myth of seasonal heartworm prevention

(StatePoint) The world's deadliest animal isn't a lion, tiger, bear or venomous snake. It's a tiny but bloodthirsty insect: the mosquito. And the assumption of many pet lovers that mosquitoes are just a seasonal threat may be putting their four-legged family members at risk.

Mosquitoes harbor and transmit a variety of life-threatening diseases to people and their pets, thus earning the "world's deadliest" designation. One of the most serious and prevalent mosquito-borne diseases in pets is heartworm disease—a disease characterized by foot-long worms that obstruct the lungs and arteries of pets, causing issues that range from coughing and vomiting to serious breathing problems and heart failure.

Pitfalls of "Seasonal" Heartworm Prevention

While heartworms can be easily prevented with medications prescribed by veterinarians, the American Heartworm Society (AHS) notes that more than a million pets in the United States have heartworms.

A recent survey conducted by the organization revealed a leading reason: many pet owners stop giving their pets heartworm preventives during the fall and winter, unknowingly putting their pets at risk. In fact, while more than 9 in 10 veterinarians surveyed by the AHS reported they recommend year-round heartworm prevention, 7 in 10 cited the failure of pet owners to follow this recommendation as a leading cause of heartworm infection.

The mistake many owners make is to assume the risk of mosquitoes transmitting heartworms ends with the change of season. Following are three reasons this thinking is flawed:

- Weather patterns are warming and unpredictable. In recent years, winter temperatures have reached the 60s—and occasionally even the 70s—in cold-weather regions like the Midwest and Northeast.

- While mosquitoes are dormant during cold



iStock via Getty Images

weather, they can become active again on warm days.

- Mosquitoes come indoors and continue to feed on pets. Like us, these insects know to come in from the cold. They often congregate near doorways or in garages, waiting for their chance to sneak inside.

- Once in your house, it's possible for female mosquitoes—which feed on blood to reproduce—to survive for up to a month or more.

- Urban and suburban areas foster the development of protected "heat islands," where temperatures can be up to 20 degrees warmer than the surrounding countryside. Buildings, vehicles and concrete surfaces trap heat during the day, keeping temperatures well above normal. This allows mosquitoes to stay active and dangerous well into the cool-weather months.

Rather than asking pet owners to guess when the world's deadliest animal is no longer "in season," the American Heartworm Society recommends giving pets heartworm prevention year-round. It's a simple step that can make a life-and-death difference.

Avoid gym or purchasing at-home equipment scams

The beginning of a new year is often associated with increased interest in gym memberships, at-home workout equipment, and programs designed around living a healthier lifestyle. As consumers recover from holiday celebrations, including holiday dinners typically more robust than the standard fare, the new year offers plenty of opportunities to help shed those extra servings of stuffing.

However, it is important to remain mindful of con artists who take advantage of shopper trends for their own gain and keep realistic fitness goals that consumers can carry throughout the year.

Rather than signing up for fitness classes at a local gym, many consumers may decide to purchase at-home equipment to exercise. For the past five years, Internet searches for 'workout equipment' peak during January. As is typical in the new year, BBB is expecting an increase in reports of fraudulent businesses advertising the sale of workout equipment that is either never received or of poor quality.

One consumer reported a loss of \$2,100 when purchasing an elliptical workout machine online. After paying for the equipment via Amazon Pay, the consumer reported they "received no confirmation or contact of any kind. I received no response when emailing the company."

In addition to the challenges presented by unethical and fraudulent businesses, consumers interested in improving their physical health in the new year must also assess their fitness goals and determine their priorities when choosing a gym membership or at-home system.

BBB provides the following tips to get the most out of your new year fitness goals:

- Ask questions about limited free trials. Gyms often give a one-week free pass for potential members, and at-home programs provide a trial period to allow consumers to determine if it is the right fit for their fitness goals. If interested in a gym membership, spend the time to realistically determine what time of the day you would be available to dedicate toward exercise and visit the gym during these times to see how crowded it is or if there is



Kelvin Collins

a wait for equipment you would typically use in your workout routine. Check to see if limited trials are offered for any classes or specialized programs.

- Don't feel coerced. Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics to join a workout program immediately or make a purchase online without first researching the seller or business. A reputable gym or program will give you enough time to read the contract thoroughly, tour the facilities and make an informed decision. Be especially wary of claims that seem too good to be true, such as a guarantee of losing a large amount of weight extremely quickly.

- Calculate the trust costs. Gyms and at-home workout programs often use introductory offers to encourage new members, especially in the new year. However, the price could go up more than you budgeted once the initial period is over. Make sure to read the contract carefully and understand the regular monthly fees and what they include.

- Take a tour. If choosing a gym membership, take the time to tour the facility and make sure the gym has the equipment, classes and trainers you need or expect. Pay attention to the things that are important to you, whether that is the cleanliness of the showers or the availability of Wi-Fi. Ask questions and make sure you understand the gym's policies, procedures and how they maintain their equipment.

- Determine your fitness goals. Determining realistic fitness goals allows you to choose a facility or workout program that is most appropriate for you and will prevent you from failing to follow through with your workout resolution for the rest of the year. Be sure to consult with the physician before embarking on a new fitness regimen, especially if there are medical conditions that might be of concern.

- Figure out your priorities. What exactly

See SCAMS, page 3

Medal of Honor spotlight

AF Master Sgt. John Chapman

By KATIE LANGE
DoD News



Photo courtesy defense.gov

AF Master Sgt. John Chapman

Air Force Master Sgt. John Allan Chapman fought until his last breath to fend off insurgents during a reconnaissance-turned-rescue mission on an unforgiving mountaintop in Afghanistan. Chapman is credited with saving the lives of the men who came to rescue his team. To this day, he is the only Air Force Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War.

Chapman was born July 14, 1965, in Springfield, Massachusetts, to Eugene and Terry Chapman. He had a brother named Kevin and two sisters, Lori and Tammy.

Chapman and his siblings grew up over the Massachusetts border in nearby Windsor Locks, Connecticut. According to his friends and family, Chapman made just about everything he did look effortless. He made Windsor Locks High School's varsity soccer team as a freshman, was a record-setting diver, and even rebuilt and maintained an old Pontiac GTO during those years.

In 1983, Chapman gradu-

ated high school. Two years later, he joined the Air Force as an information systems operator. However, he wanted to contribute more, so, in 1989, Chapman cross-trained to become a special operations combat controller. The training takes more than two years and is considered among the most rigorous in the U.S. military.

During training in western Pennsylvania, Chapman met Valerie Nessel, who he married in 1992. They had two daughters, Madison and Brianna.

Over the next decade, Chapman served a few years in Okinawa, Japan, before taking on a special duty assignment as a team leader preparing per-

sonnel within the 24th Special Tactics Squadron for missions.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the U.S. launched a retaliatory campaign against al-Qaida, which took responsibility for the atrocities. That campaign took U.S. special operators to Afghanistan to root out the terrorists hiding there.

On March 4, 2002, then-Tech Sgt. Chapman was attached to a six-man Navy SEAL team conducting reconnaissance on the top of Takur Ghar, a 10,000-foot mountain near Ghazni, Afghanistan. Their mission was to set up an over-watch post where they could support conventional forces in the valley below and report on the movement of terrorists in the region.

"This was a very high-profile, no-fail job, and we picked John," said retired Air Force Col. Ken Rodriguez, Chapman's commander at the time. "In a very high-caliber career field, with the highest quality of men — even then, John stood out as our guy."

Early that morning, as the team's Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter tried to insert them on top of the mountain, they were ambushed by between 40 and 100 al-Qaida fighters. The helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, jolting the Chinook and causing Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts to fall to the ground among a large group of enemy combatants.

The chopper was still flying but too damaged to continue, so the pilot completed a

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THE UNION ADVOCATE

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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.

In a healthy workplace, it is very important that there be some system of checks and balances.

George P. Schultz on unions

U.S. Sec. of Labor (Nixon Administration),
U.S. Sec. of State (Reagan Administration)

"Union membership in the United States is not declining because workers no longer want or need unions.

Instead, falling union density is directly related to employers' near universal and systematic use of legal and illegal tactics to stymie workers' union organizing."

— Report from the University of Illinois, Chicago

KING

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graduate study. Even though King was following his father's footsteps, he rebelled against Martin Sr.'s more conservative influence by drinking beer and playing pool while at college. He became romantically involved with a white woman and went through a difficult time before he could break off the relationship. During his last year in seminary, King came under the guidance of Morehouse College President Benjamin E. Mays, who influenced King's spiritual development. Mays was an outspoken advocate for racial equality and encouraged King to view Christianity as a potential force for social change.

After being accepted at several colleges for his doctoral study, King enrolled at Boston University. In 1954, while still working on his dissertation, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama. He completed his doctorate and earned his degree in 1955 at age 25. Decades after King's death, in the late 1980s, researchers at Stanford University's King Papers Project began to note similarities between passages of King's doctoral dissertation and those of another student's work. A committee of scholars appointed by Boston University determined that King was guilty of plagiarism in 1991, though it also recommended against the revocation of his degree.

Philosophy of Nonviolence First exposed to the concept of nonviolent resistance while reading Henry David Thoreau's "On Civil Disobedience" at Morehouse, King later discovered a powerful exemplar of the method's possibilities through his research into the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Fellow civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who had also studied Gandhi's teachings, became one of King's associates in the 1950s and counseled him to dedicate himself to the principles of nonviolence.

As explained in his autobiography, King previously felt that the peaceful teachings of Jesus applied mainly to individual relationships, not large-scale confrontations. But he came to realize: "Love for Gandhi was a potent instrument for social and collective transformation. It was in this Gandhian emphasis on love and nonviolence that I discovered the method for social reform that I had been seeking."

It led to the formation of King's six principles of nonviolence:

- Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people.
- Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding.
- Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.
- Nonviolence holds that suffering for a just cause can educate and transform.
- Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate.
- Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice.
- Understanding the Through Line

In the years to come, King also frequently cited the "Beloved Community"—a world in which a shared spirit of compassion brings an end to the evils of racism, poverty, inequality, and violence—as the end goal of his activist efforts.

In 1959, with the help of the American Friends Service Committee, King visited Gandhi's birthplace in India. The trip affected him in a profound way, increasing his commitment to America's civil rights struggle.

Civil Rights Accomplishments Led by his religious convictions and philosophy of nonviolence, King became one of the most prominent figures of the Civil Rights Movement. He was a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and played key roles in several major demonstrations that transformed society. This included the Montgomery Bus Boycott that integrated Alabama's public transit, the Greensboro Sit-In movement that desegregated lunch counters across the South, the March on Washington that led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and the Selma-to-Montgomery marches in Alabama that culminated in the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

King's efforts earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 when he was 35.

Montgomery Bus Boycott King's first leadership role within the Civil Rights Movement was during the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955–1956. The 381-day protest integrated the Alabama city's public transit in one of the largest and most successful mass movements against racial segregation in history.

The effort began on December 1, 1955, when 42-year-old Rosa Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus to go home after work. She sat in the first row of the "colored" section in the middle of the bus. As more passengers boarded, several white men were left standing, so the bus driver demanded that Parks and several other African Americans give up their seats. Three other Black passengers reluctantly gave up their places, but Parks remained seated.

The driver asked her again to give up her seat, and again, she refused. Parks was arrested and booked for violating the Montgomery City Code. At her trial a week later, in a 30-minute hearing, Parks was found guilty and fined \$10 and assessed \$4 court fee.

On the night Parks was arrested, E.D. Nixon, head of the local NAACP chapter, met with King and other local civil rights leaders to plan a Montgomery Bus Boycott. King was elected to lead the boycott because he was young, well-trained, and had solid family connections and professional standing. He was also new to the community and had few enemies, so organizers felt he would have strong credibility with the Black community.

In his first speech as the group's president, King declared:

"We have no alternative but to protest. For many years,

we have shown an amazing patience. We have sometimes given our white brothers the feeling that we liked the way we were being treated. But we come here tonight to be saved from that patience that makes us patient with anything less than freedom and justice."

King's skillful rhetoric put new energy into the civil rights struggle in Alabama. The Montgomery Bus Boycott began December 5, 1955, and for more than a year, the local Black community walked to work, coordinated ride sharing, and faced harassment, violence, and intimidation. Both King's and Nixon's homes were attacked.

In addition to the boycott, members of the Black community took legal action against the city ordinance that outlined the segregated transit system. They argued it was unconstitutional based on the U.S. Supreme Court's "separate is never equal" decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954). Several lower courts agreed, and the nation's Supreme Court upheld the ruling in a November 13, 1956, decision that also ruled the state of Alabama's bus segregation laws were unconstitutional.

After the legal defeats and large financial losses, the city of Montgomery lifted the law that mandated segregated public transportation. The boycott ended on December 20, 1956.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Flush with victory, African American civil rights leaders recognized the need for a national organization to help coordinate their efforts. In January 1957, King, Ralph Abernathy, and 60 ministers and civil rights activists founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to harness the moral authority and organizing power of Black churches. The SCLC helped conduct nonviolent protests to promote civil rights reform.

King's participation in the organization gave him a base of operation throughout the South, as well as a national platform. The SCLC felt the best place to start to give African Americans a voice was to enfranchise them in the voting process. In February 1958, the SCLC sponsored more than 20 mass meetings in key southern cities to register Black voters. King met with religious and civil rights leaders and lectured all over the country on race-related issues.

Greensboro Sit-In By 1960, King was gaining national exposure. He returned to Atlanta to become co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church but also continued his civil rights efforts. His next activist campaign was the student-led Greensboro Sit-In movement.

In February 1960, a group of Black students in Greensboro, North Carolina, began sitting at racially segregated lunch counters in the city's stores. When asked to leave or sit in the "colored" section, they just remained seated, subjecting themselves to verbal and sometimes physical abuse.

1963 March on Washington

By the end of the Birmingham campaign, King and his supporters were making plans for a massive demonstration on the nation's capital composed of multiple organizations, all asking for peaceful change. The demonstration was the brainchild of labor leader A. Philip Randolph and King's one-time mentor Bayard Rustin.

On August 28, 1963, the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom drew an estimated 250,000 people in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. It remains one of the largest peaceful demonstrations in American history. During the demonstration, King delivered his famed "I Have a Dream" speech.

Inside the Speech The rising tide of civil rights agitation that had culminated in the March on Washington produced a strong effect on public opinion. Many people in cities not experiencing racial tension began to question the nation's Jim Crow laws and the near-century of second-class treatment of African American citizens since the end of slavery. This resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, authorizing the federal government to enforce desegregation of public accommodations and outlawing discrimination in publicly owned facilities.

"I Have a Dream" and Other Famous Speeches

Along with his "I Have a Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches, King delivered several acclaimed addresses over the course of his life in the public eye:

- "Give Us the Ballot" Speech
- Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech
- "Our God is Marching On (How Long? Not Long)" Speech
- "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence" Speech

While working on his doctorate at Boston University, King met Coretta Scott, an aspiring singer and musician at the New England Conservatory school in Boston. They were married on June 18, 1953, and had four children—two daughters and two sons—over the next decade. Their oldest, Yolanda, was born in 1955, followed by sons Martin Luther King III in 1957 and Dexter in 1961. The couple welcomed Bernice King in 1963.

Legacy King's life had a seismic impact on race relations in the United States. Years after his death, he is the most widely known Black leader of his era. His life and work have been honored with a national holiday, schools and public buildings named after him, and a memorial on Independence Mall in Washington D.C.

Over the years, extensive archival studies have led to a more balanced and comprehensive assessment of his life, portraying him as a complex figure: flawed, fallible, and limited in his control over the mass movements with which he was associated, yet a visionary leader who was deeply committed to achieving social justice through nonviolent means.

- Source: *Biography.com*



Kemp to build roads, bridges during final year as Georgia governor

by Ty Tagami - Capitol Beat News Service

Gov. Brian Kemp will take a hammer to gridlock during his last year in office, spending more than \$2 billion to upgrade major highways south and east of Atlanta.

The term-limited Republican governor, entering the end of his second four-year term, told a large crowd at the Georgia Chamber of Commerce's annual Eggs and Issues event at Mercedes-Benz stadium Wednesday that a conservative approach to budgeting had allowed the new investments in road infrastructure, which he said brings the total upgrades to transportation, water and energy during his tenure to \$6 billion.

His budget includes \$1.8 billion for new dedicated express lanes on I-75 in Henry County and \$200 million to add interchanges and overpasses along Georgia 316 from Athens to Gwinnett County, converting it to an expressway. He is also allocating \$250 million to grants for local road projects, \$100 million for rural bridge improvements and \$35 million for natural gas delivery projects.

One new investment is coming ahead of the World Cup events in Atlanta, when visitors across the country and the globe will visit the state. Kemp is putting \$50 million into a one-time grant to address homelessness in the capital city and other urban areas.

Georgia Senate bans local gun storage laws with first bill passed in 2026

by Mark Niesse - Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia Senate voted along party lines Tuesday to ban cities from requiring gun owners to lock up their guns in cars, the first bill approved in this year's legislative session.

The bill is a response to a Savannah ordinance that outlawed leaving handguns, rifles or shotguns in unattended vehicles unless they're securely stored. A Chatham County judge ruled in November that the ordinance is unconstitutional.

The legislation now heads to Gov. Brian Kemp for his signature or veto. The Senate approved the bill 32-21 on Tuesday after it passed the state House on the final day of last year's legislative session.

State Sen. Colton Moore, a Republican from Trenton, said the bill would protect the rights of gun owners. In Savannah, 41 people received citations under the city's ordinance, which comes with a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 fine and 30 days in jail.

Savannah's ordinance required guns left in vehicles to be securely stored in a glove compartment, console, locked trunk, or behind the last upright seat of a vehicle without a trunk. The ordinance also mandated that unoccupied vehicles must be kept locked when there's a gun inside.

The bill also allows weapons carriers who receive citations to sue local governments for \$25,000 plus attorney fees.

Georgia GOP senators target Raffensperger over voter registration lists

by Mark Niesse - Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Several Georgia Republican senators introduced a resolution Tuesday demanding that Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger comply with the Trump administration's pursuit of the state's unredacted voter registration list.

Raffensperger objected to the effort, saying state law prevents sharing voters' private information such as full Social Security numbers, dates of birth and driver's license numbers.

The U.S. Department of Justice has requested voter lists from all 50 states in recent months, saying it wants to ensure accurate registration information. The DOJ sued Georgia for the statewide voter list last month.

The Senate resolution comes from allies of Republican Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, who is running for governor against Raffensperger. The resolution is largely symbolic and doesn't carry the force of a law.

It accuses Raffensperger of "willful and persistent obstruction" after his office provided a public version of Georgia's voter list to the U.S. Department of Justice. Raffensperger's office said it has already complied with the DOJ's request "to the fullest extent of state law," citing concerns that private voter information could be shared by the DOJ with outside parties.

Besides Georgia, the Department of Justice has also sued several Democrat-run states that have refused to comply with the DOJ's request for voter records. Republican-controlled states such as Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee have agreed to provide full voter registration lists.

The DOJ's lawsuit against Georgia is scheduled for a hearing in federal court in Macon later this month.

Georgia Democratic lawmakers try to rein in ICE

by Ty Tagami - Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Democrats in the state Senate fired a political volley at President Donald Trump Tuesday, with a package of bills aimed at the way his administration has enforced the laws, particularly for immigration. Labeling his administration "rogue" and a "regime," they called on state Republicans to back legislation that would limit the president's authority to deploy military reserve units and rein in Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, one of whom shot and killed a mother in Minneapolis last week.

The Trump administration has defended the action, saying the officer feared for his life after previously being injured by a vehicle during an enforcement action. Minnesota sued the Trump administration to block ICE deployments.

Sen. Josh McLaurin, who is running for lieutenant governor, introduced Senate Bill 397, which would allow citizens to sue ICE officers for alleged violations of civil rights.

Another bill, Senate Bill 391, would require authorities to obtain a judicial warrant before taking immigration enforcement actions at certain locations, including churches, hospitals, libraries and schools. A third, Senate Bill 390, would require the Georgia governor's permission for entry of National Guard forces from other states. Finally, Senate Bill 389 would require ICE officers to wear a badge and remove their masks.

Federal officials say the masks are necessary to protect officers against personal threats, such as "doxing" when personal information is maliciously distributed online and "swatting" when police are called to homes on false pretenses.

That last bill was by Sen. Kim Jackson, D-Stone Mountain, who noted that lawmakers do not wear masks despite having been doxxed and swatted. And brimmed hats are the only apparel on Georgia State Patrol officers' heads.

HONOR

From page 2

controlled crash into the valley below. The team quickly learned that Roberts was still alive, so they didn't hesitate to board another helicopter to return to the top of the snow-capped mountain to rescue him.

Despite more intense enemy fire, that helicopter landed, dropping the remaining men into the heart of the enemy stronghold. Chapman stepped off the chopper and immediately engaged, pushing his way uphill through thigh-deep snow toward the closest enemy position. Despite taking fire from multiple directions, Chapman fearlessly charged the enemy bunker, taking out all enemy combatants inside.

Almost immediately, the team started taking machine-gun fire from another fortified position about 40 feet away.

The situation was precarious, but Chapman didn't hesitate. He quickly moved into the open to attack the second bunker. As he did, he was struck by enemy fire, leading to severe injuries that caused him to fall unconscious.

Chapman's team reported that they thought he was dead, so in the continuing chaos, they moved down the mountainside and continued to fight off enemy gunfire.

Despite Chapman's severe wounds, however, he was still alive — something military investigators discovered after a 30-month

investigation that included aerial video footage of the operation. When Chapman regained consciousness, he continued to fight multiple enemy combatants relentlessly for over an hour before he succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile, the rest of the team that had moved down the mountain continued to fight for about 14 more hours until they were rescued by an Army Ranger quick reaction force.

During the intense battle, six other men died: Roberts, who they originally returned to rescue; Air Force Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, Army Sgt. Philip Svitak, and three Rangers: Army Cpl. Matthew Commons, Army Sgt. Bradley Crose and Army Spc. Marc Anderson.

Chapman was credited with saving the lives of numerous men who came to his rescue that day. He initially earned the Air Force Cross for his actions.

"John was always selfless. It didn't just emerge on Takur Ghar. He had always been selfless and highly competent," Rodriguez said after the battle. "He could have hunkered down in the bunker and waited for the and team to come in, but he assessed the situation and selflessly gave his life for them."

When his body was returned home, Chapman was buried in St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church Cemetery in Windber, Pennsylvania.

In the mid-2010s, the records of numerous Air Force Cross recipients were reviewed

to determine if any had been passed over for the Medal of Honor. The secretary of the Air Force at the time recommended that Chapman's award be upgraded, and it was approved.

On Aug. 22, 2018, Chapman's widow received the Medal of Honor on her husband's behalf from President Donald J. Trump during a White House ceremony. Chapman was also posthumously promoted to master sergeant and inducted into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, which is customary the day after a Medal of Honor ceremony.

"John died exactly the way he lived — doing anything in his power he could to help those in need," said then-Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright during the induction.

Chapman's legacy continues to build across the military. In 2005, a Navy cargo ship, Motor Vessel TSgt. John A. Chapman was named in his honor. On Oct. 26, 2018 — shortly after Chapman received the Medal of Honor — a new aircraft at Hurlburt Field, Florida, was dedicated to him. That same day, Chapman's name was unveiled on the base's special tactics wall of honor.

In May 2019, a life-sized figure of Chapman, a portrait and a replica of his Medal of Honor were unveiled and put on permanent display at Pope Army Airfield's nationally recognized museum. In March 2020, the Chapman Training Annex was renamed in his honor at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

the country that you can go to while traveling? Answering these questions will help you determine the best fit for your lifestyle and fitness goals.

- Understand the terms. Read the contract carefully before signing and make sure that all verbal promises made

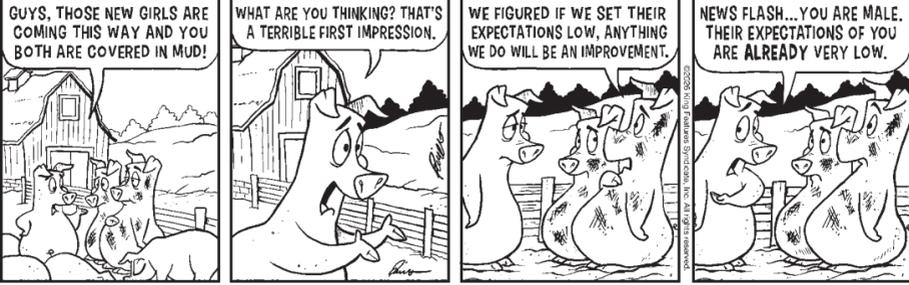
by a salesperson are in writing. Pay close attention to the cancellation and renewal policies. Some gyms may charge a cancellation fee if moving or will automatically renew your contract at the end of its term.

- Use a credit card when shopping online. BBB strongly

recommends using a credit card for all online purchases rather than a debit card, wire transfer or mobile banking app transaction. In case of a fraudulent seller or business purchase, credit cards offer additional protection and the ability to cancel charges than other forms of payment.

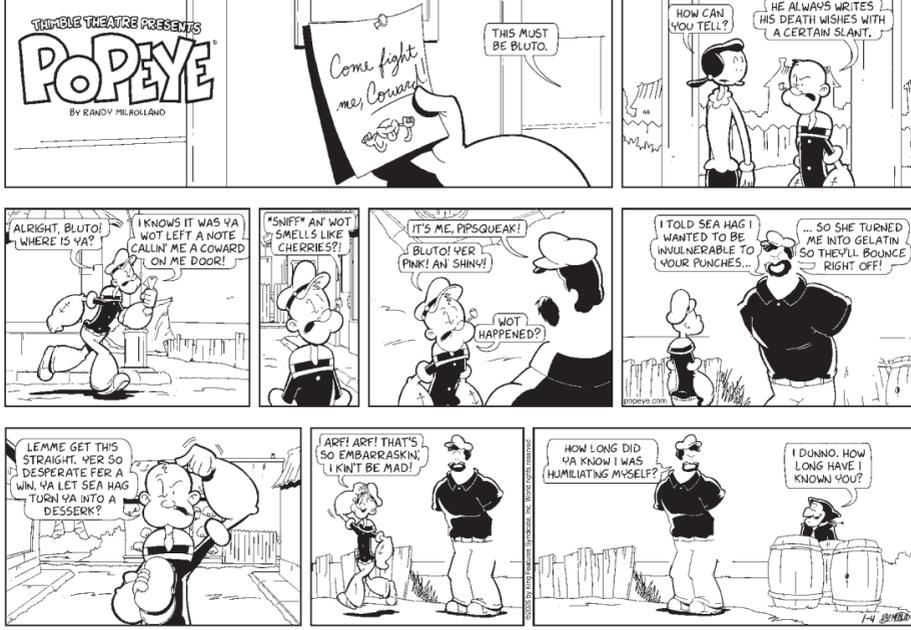
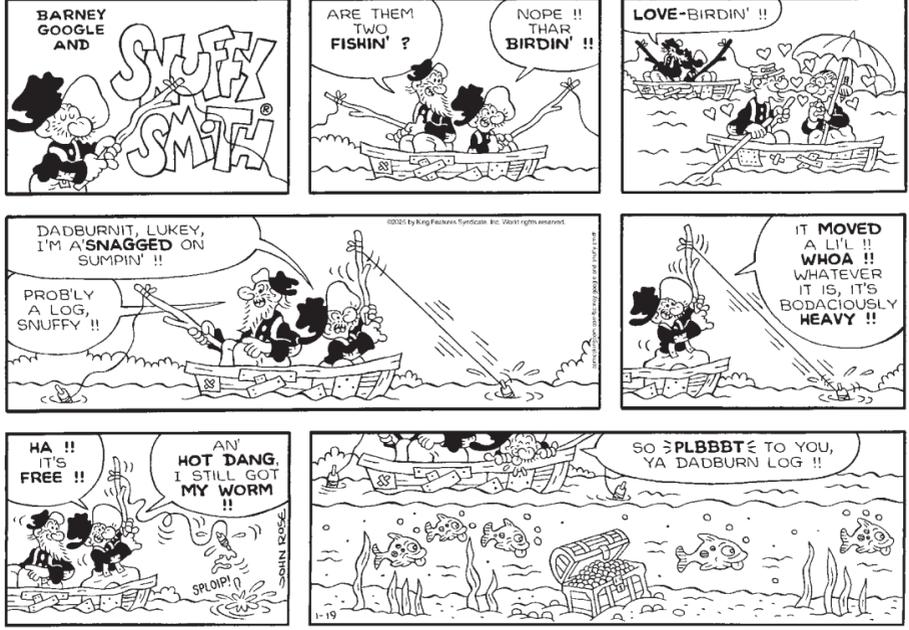
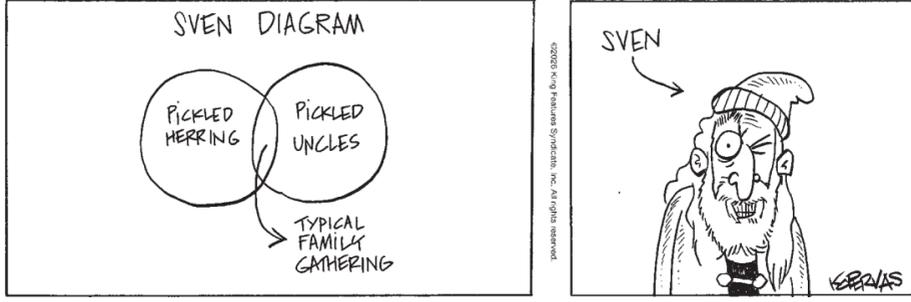
fun

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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GRIN & BEAR IT



GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

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.

	÷		+		11			
+		x		÷				
	x		+		11			
x		-		+	13			
10		10		10				
1	2	3	4	4	6	7	8	9

DIFFICULTY: ★★★
 ★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

	10				10
13	7	+	9	x	1
	+		-		x
11	3	+	4	x	2
	÷		x		+
11	9	+	4	÷	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.

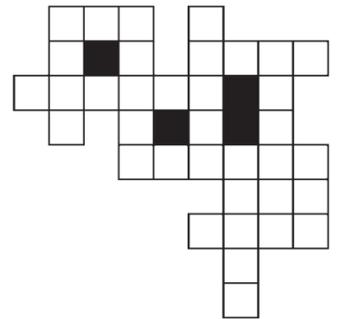
Clue: H equals S

VPHHSDK VKUWICITSH ZJIQJ
 YIW SUH ORWSIRH MREK
 CICRTPUSIJ IY HMPEEX NPNX
 NIDSJKH: JKQ XPZ OSUX.

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FEAR & KNOT

By: rj johnson



- SMI
- AMPIOT
- ♥PETUS
- TAFI
- PACINT
- UEM
- NOTI
- ♥INHEG
- ♥TPU
- ENASTO
- CAMNI
- ♥OPMR

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

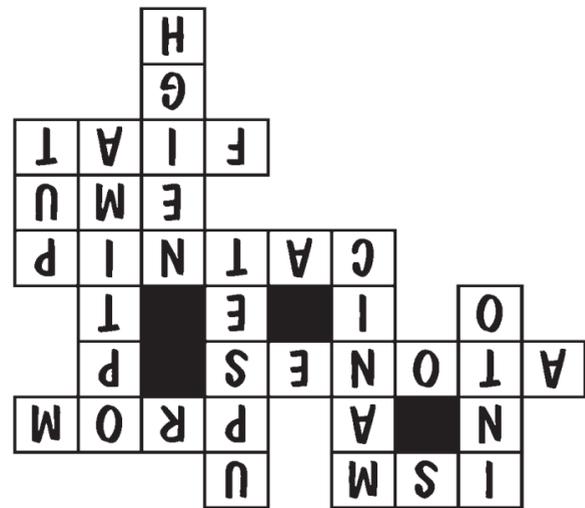
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is shorter. 2. Windowsill is higher. 3. Bow is larger. 4. Paper is longer. 5. Lampshade is different. 6. Sleeve is different.



ANSWER

FEAR & KNOT

Massive metropolis known for its curious huge population of shaggy baby bovines: New York City

ANSWER

CryptoQuip

Mix a Little Luck into Your Big Game Menu

FAMILY FEATURES

Picture this: Your team is down three points, but the taste of victory is just one field goal away.

Sometimes, all you need is a little luck and a whole lot of guac.

After all, an estimated 250 million pounds of avocados are consumed during the Big Game each year, according to Hass Avocado Board Volume Data. That's enough to fill 30 million football helmets with guac – but filling your belly instead is a win-win for good luck and great flavor.

Dip into good fortune this football season with help from Avocado From Mexico's Guac Guru, Rob Riggle, whose visionary Good Luck Guac recipe is ready to share just in time for the Big Game.

Whether you're in it for the football, the commercials or the snacks, this recipe can score major points with your entire crew.

Crafted for fans of every team, this bold, golden twist on a favorite football snack is infused with ingredients associated with good luck – edible gold flakes and pomegranate seeds – to get you through the most nail-biting moments of the game. The star ingredient is fresh, high-quality Avocados From Mexico that offer good taste, good nutrition, and good times.

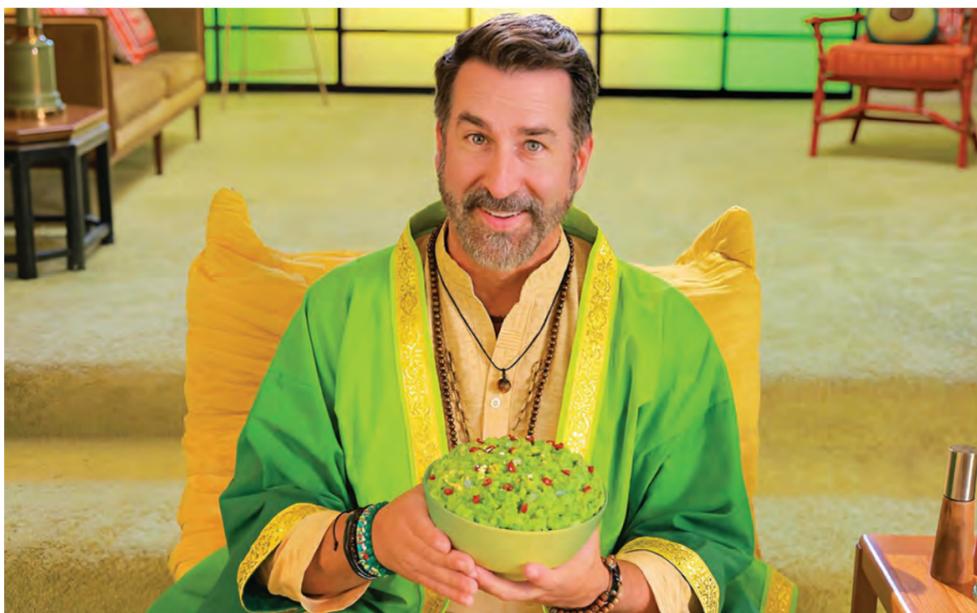
Beyond delicious dips, chips and lots of fun, hosting a watch party can also be a lot of work. Make sure your hosting duties don't create interference or put you on the sidelines with these tips:

Get a jumpstart on party prep. The day before the game, tidy up your space and prepare as much of the food as you can. For dishes best served fresh – like guac – take care of the ingredient prep, like chopping veggies.

Create comfortable seating and viewing areas. For a watch party, you'll want plenty of room for guests to sit comfortably where they can see the screen and have easy access to the guac. If there's not enough space in the living room to fit everyone, consider bringing a TV to the kitchen so people can snack and watch at the same time.

Know your guests. From non-alcoholic beverage options to additional entertainment like board games and kid-friendly activities, become a next-level party host by providing a setup tailored to your guests' needs. One thing almost everyone can agree on: Guac made with Avocados From Mexico can be the star of nearly any party's snacking lineup.

Make it your team's lucky day with more game day recipes at AvocadosFromMexico.com/recipe.



Good Luck Guac

Recipe courtesy of Rob Riggle on behalf of Avocados From Mexico

4 Avocados From Mexico, halved, pitted and peeled
1 tablespoon lime juice
1 tablespoon onion, minced

3 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 pinch edible gold leaf flakes

In large bowl, mash avocados until chunky-smooth. Fold in lime juice, onion, pomegranate seeds and salt until well combined. Garnish with edible gold leaf flakes.

A RECIPE THAT'S GREAT FROM TOAST TO TOAST

Photo and story by **DONNA Erickson**

"I'd like to make a toast!" said my friend at a happy family celebration. Without missing a beat, her nephew burst out, "Don't we need to get the toaster first?"

With all the toasting to 2026, I thought that I'd get literal and stretch the meaning, just like that spontaneous child, and welcome this new year with two recipes using toast. So, "here's a toast to toast!"

AVOCADO TOAST

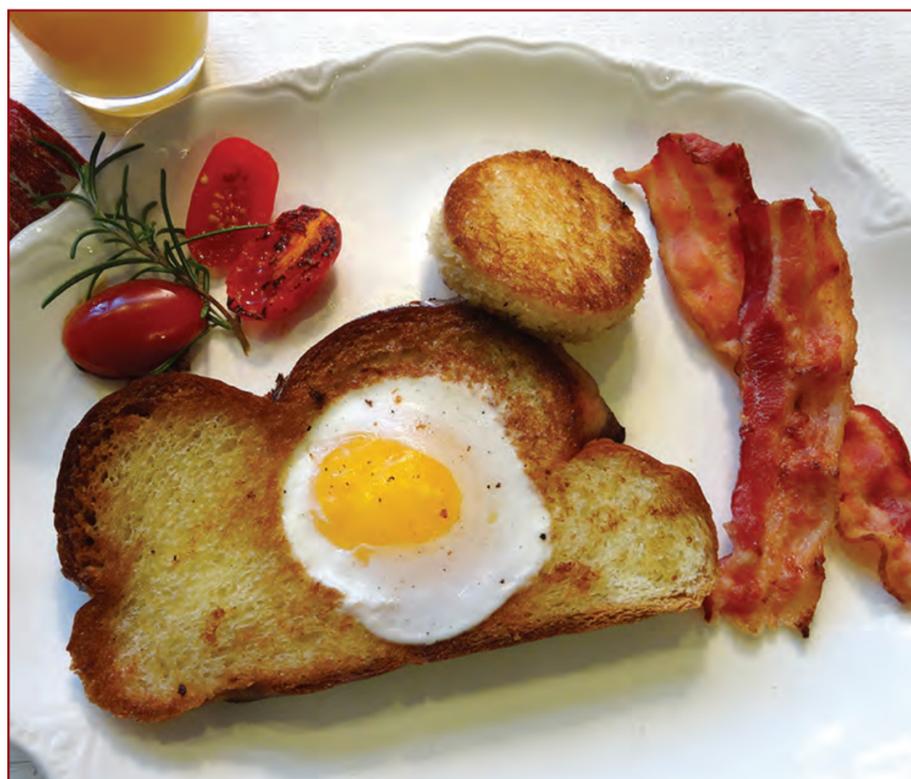
I keep a stash of avocados in different stages of ripeness on my kitchen counter, never knowing when I'll need one to slice on a bed of fresh greens or mash, season and spread on toast for a tasty morning energy boost.

I've been making the latter for years, so no wonder I was surprised while whiling away time on Instagram to find that avocado toast is "on trend," with multiple ways to enjoy it.

Here's how to prepare "Avocado Toast" for two:

Peel and pit a ripe avocado. Mash in a bowl with a fork, leaving some chunks. Add a pinch of sea salt and juice from half of a lemon.

Toast two slices of your favorite bread. Spread half of the mixture on each slice, and garnish with some red pepper flakes and a drizzle



of good olive oil (optional).

Cook's Tips: Get creative by topping the spread mixture with chopped, cooked bacon, goat cheese, salsa, and crushed tortilla chips -- or cracked pepper, sliced cherry tomatoes, and basil.

EGG IN A HOLE

Create memorable family traditions with your kids and grandkids, starting at breakfast with this whimsical presentation of eggs and toast.

Some families call it "Toad in the Hole" or "Bird in a Nest" -- the list goes on. It's really nothing more than an egg cooked in the cut-out center of a piece of pan-made toast, but it's the off-kilter presentation that fancies it up.

Here's how to make one "Egg in a Hole":

Use a 2-inch circle biscuit cutter or a similar sized metal cookie cutter to cut out the center of a slice of

bread.

In a well-buttered pan, toast one side of the slice and cut-out piece for about 1 1/2 minutes. Flip. Add more butter to the pan.

Crack egg in the open center of the slice. Cover pan and cook slowly until whites are set and yolk thickens, about 3 1/2 to 4 minutes.

Season with salt and pepper. Serve with the toasted cutout. Pair with bacon or sausage.



Take sweetness to new heights in the new year

(Family Features) Whether you can't quite give up on the holiday treats or the festivities are continuing into 2026, these Easy Lemon Blueberry Bars offer a light, fruity bite. The melted white chocolate drizzle is just what gatherings with loved ones call for. Visit Culinary.net for more delicious desserts to enjoy this year.

Easy Lemon Blueberry Bars
 Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

1 stick butter, melted
1 box lemon cake mix
2 eggs
1/3 cup fresh blueberries
2/3 cup white chocolate chips, divided
1/3 cup chopped pecans

Heat oven to 350 F.

In bowl, combine butter, cake mix, eggs, blueberries, 1/3 cup white chocolate chips and pecans.

Butter 7-by-11-inch pan and spread mixture evenly into pan. Bake 30-35 minutes. Let cool then melt remaining white chocolate chips and drizzle over bars.

Tip: If melted white chocolate chips are too thick, add a little oil before drizzling.

#17782

Source: Culinary.net



Got a recipe you want to share with our members?
 Email it to theunionadvocate@gmail.com and
 let's get to cooking and eating!