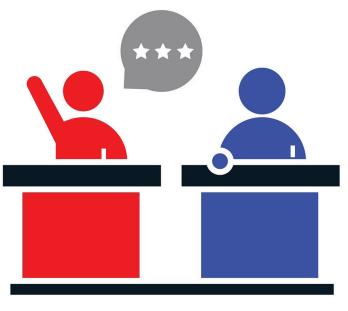


Presidential Debate Watch Party



AFGE Local 987 will play host, and is part-sponsor, to a Presidential Debate Watch Party. Also sponsored by Houston County Democrats, it will be held in the Union Hall parking lot June 27. It will run from 7:30-10 p.m. The Hall is located at 1764 Watson Blvd.

Per Kristen Kiefer, Chair, Houston County **Democrats: "Candidates from both parties** have been invited and all are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!"

Local leaders address **Presidential debate**

From staff reports

AFGE Local 987 and its leaders were featured on 42 NBC News and WGXA News Fox 24 Tuesday as part of a press conference to discuss the June 27 debate between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump.

"As a Union leader and activist," AFGE Local 987 President Marion Williams said in a statement. "I am looking forward to watching the debate stage this Thursday to hear the issues being discussed by the candidates. There is a lot more at stake in this election than just who is running for office."

potential to create disastrous consequences for federal workers, such as reinstating Schedule F in the federal workforce, (as well as) dismantling the Federal Agencies which support Unions and Protect Federal Workers rights and benefits.

"I think it is important for all working people to understand how the candidates' policies will impact you, whether or not they: empower Unions, Labor and working families to create a safer workplace, provide sustainable wages for it

Local wins AFGE newspaper, communication awards

By DON MONCRIEF Editor, The Union Advocate

don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org AFGE Local 987 won three newspaper awards at the 2024 AFGE Local Communications Awards Contest. The Local won the Best Feature Story for the article "For one Local member ... When it comes to archaeology, it's all about the 'Gray' area". It won the Best News Story for its article "United Steelworkers aiding Blue Bird

employees to Unionize". It also won the Best Union February 2023 Union Advocate issue.

In addition, with contributions from its elected leaders, to include (Note: For some of the names listed, they are positions they held during the period of the contest): Marion Williams, President; Henry Brown, Executive Vice President; Jeanette McElhaney, Treasurer; Gregory Collins, Vice President of Maintenance; Mike Ferguson, Vice President At-Large; Teresa Freeman, Vice

Publication (Locals) for its President of DLA, as well as others: I.e. Full-time Stewards Sam Berry and James Watson and staff, Don Moncrief and Linda Baxter, the Local earned the Clyde M. Webber award.

> The Clyde M. Webber award, per AFGE, AFL-CIO Communications Specialist Chelsea Bland, is the "most prestigious award in communications achievement that AFGE offers, presented triennially to one local, caucus, council or district that demonstrates outstanding achievement in labor

communications.

"Your overall excellence in communicating and distributing information to the membership is evident through your newspaper, photos, feature writing, and other endeavors," she wrote. "Our judges were extremely impressed with the depth and substance of your entries and the exceptional member engagement it facilitates."

The Local will receive the awards at AFGE's 43rd National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 12-16.



Election reminder/volunteer request

AFGE Local 987 is gearing up to rerun the election for all of its officers and delegates. The new election will be conducted by

secret mail ballot to provide a convenient and secure way to cast your vote and the ballots will be tallied on Monday, July 8.

Monday, June 10. In the packet you will find

instructions detailing how to properly cast a

Election packets were mailed out on

the election announcement, ballot, and

vote. If you have not receiveed an election packet you can reach out to confirm your address at AFGEL987EC24@GMAIL.COM. Make sure to vote and return your ballot as soon as possible to ensure it is received by 9 a.m. Monday, July 8. **Casie Flowers Nation National Representative** District 5 AFGE, AFL-CIO

He continued: "The proposed 'Project 2025' has the

workers, with healthcare that is affordable."

Williams continued that Unions have made

See DEBATE, page 4

PTSD basics

Who Develops PTSD?

Anyone can develop PTSD at any age. Some factors can increase the chance that someone will have PTSD, many of which are not under that person's control. For example, having a very intense or long-lasting traumatic event or getting injured during the event can make it more likely that a person will develop PTSD.

PTSD is also more common after certain types of trauma, like combat and sexual assault.

Personal factors - like previous traumatic exposure, age and gender - can affect whether a person will develop PTSD.

What happens after the traumatic event is also important. Stress can make PTSD more likely, while social support can make it less likely.

What are the symptoms of PTSD?

PTSD symptoms usually



June is PTSD Awareness Month

start soon after the traumatic event, but they may not appear until months or years later. They also may come and

See PTSD, page 3

In memory ...

Barry Hill Member since May 2005 Passed away May 28, 2024

Aaron Michael Valasky Member since June 14, 2024 Passed away June 22, 2024

By GREG COLLINS Executive VP, AFGE Local 987 greg.collins@afgelocal987.org e bring you the story of an extraordinary individual who hails from the vibrant city of Brooklyn, Philadephia. Reginald Carrington, a name

that is sure to resonate with those seeking inspiration and a glimpse of true determination. For those unfamiliar with this remarkable gentleman, allow us

to present a brief introduction to his life and accomplishments. Born and raised in Brooklyn during the nascent years of rap music, Carrington's eclectic

taste in music blossomed. While he cherished the beats

of the Sugar Hill Gang, he also recognized the genius of musical icons like Michael Jackson. This early exposure to diverse music genres ignited within him a deep passion for the arts.

In 1993, Carrington embarked on a new chapter by enlisting in the Air Force. His initial assignment led him to the sunny landscapes of Florida, followed by the rugged terrains of Alaska.

Serving his country with unwavering dedication, he decided to extend his military

Carrington ventured to Saudi Arabia, where his expertise in aircraft maintenance became invaluable. As a contractor, he trained foreign nations, imparting his knowledge and skills.

This experience laid the foundation for his subsequent career at Robins Air Force Base, where he became a member of the esteemed American Federation of Government Employees.

he swiftly ascended to the role of a work leader, proving his worth to the agency.

and contribute to his new community, Carrington relocated to Georgia, accompanied by his three cherished sons - Reggie, Rashone, and Raquane.

It was in Georgia that he found love and companionship in his wife, Lanesia, and together they welcomed a beautiful daughter named Jada into their lives.

Seeking camaraderie and shared passions, he joined a group of like-minded individu-

Volunteers are needed to help open envelopes for this election. If you would like to volunteer, contact Casie Flowers Nation via email at casie.nation@afge.org or by phone at 256-458-8127.

A man of distinction: **Reginald Carrington's inspiring journey**

journey by joining the National Guard, where he served for an honorable four-year term. Post his military service,

Recognizing his capabilities,

Eager to make a difference



Reginald Carrington stands with his wife, La'Nessia and daughter Jaydah. (Courtesy photo)

als known as the Ruff Riders. This tight-knit motorcycle riding community not only satisfied his thirst for adventure but also shared a deep commitment

to family values and community service.

Inspired by the dedication of the Ruff Riders to stand up See JOURNEY, page 4

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Truth, Lies and Alibis

I am quite sure you've seen the flyers and letters floating around that some esteemed "members" and newly "Elected Officials" are putting up all over the installation. The message implies that Marion Williams, President of AFGE Local 987 was found guilty recently of mismanaging \$78,000 dollars. That can't be further from the truth. If that "lie" had any inkling of truth to it, I would have been suspended from office, expelled from membership, and most definitely placed in jail.

The truth of the matter is, they did not tell you the truth. I was found guilty of "not' sending a notification (a letter) to the District 5 office, concerning a vote held on November 21 of 2019 by the membership to amend some parts of our local bylaws.

The second incident was for adjusting the dates our law firm would come to the Union Hall to meet with members. I made the decision to adjust the days the firm would come to the Hall from just Fridays to match whatever days of the week the members were available to meet with the new attorney's.

Both incidents were for the "greater benefit" of the members of Local 987. It had absolutely nothing to do with money as these people would mislead you to believe. But as she stated (Alexandria Williams), "They have receipts" tell them to show you the receipts!!

It's ironic that the only time these vultures show up with this mess is during an election. The people posting these things are always "throwing rocks", then trying to "hide their hands". Please do not be fooled by their lies or deceptions. If they believe what they are posting or putting up, then "put your name on it, do something to identify who you are and that you said it". If you are a member and you want to read or see the arbitrator's decision, it is available to you along with the 12 pages of allegations filed by one of the elected officials posting and passing out these misleading flyers. I would be more than happy to provide the information to any member that asks.

> I have nothing to hid or be ashamed of. But they do if you see the cost these lies are costing the Local in trial fees.

If these individuals will lie and twist the truth, to destroy a person's life, character and honor, just to steal your vote (not earn it), just think what they would do behind closed doors to you.

I am Marion Williams:

•A proud Veteran of the United States Air Force.

•36+ years of unblemished Civil Service on Robins AFB with the Department of Defense.

•30+ years of unselfish service in AFGE as a Union Steward, Group steward, and now serving as the Local President. I am proud to say I am serving my third term as President of Local 987 and I have not accepted one dime for your service to the members.

> •I am serving my two terms as the Executive Vice President of the 5th District for the State of Georgia, in the AFL-CIO.

I am proud of my accomplishments, my service, and am honored to serve as your President.

I stand proudly by this letter and its contents and my hard, unwavering, dedication to you.

May God continue to bless and protect all of you for your service.

Support Team Marion Williams: **President Marion Williams Executive Vice President Henry Brown** Treasurer Monica Davis VP of DLA Gwen King VP of Maintenance James Watson VP at Large Mattrew Hawkins Sgt at Arms Sam Berry **Trustees** Teresa Freeman **Curtis McCants Ramonia Higgins**

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Tips to have a safe, healthy summer

(StatePoint) Summer is a great time to try new activities and get outdoors, but the season also brings with it unique risks, according to medical experts.

"Regardless of where you are in your fitness journey, the warm weather months offer opportunities to reevaluate your wellness goals for the remainder of the year. But as you and your family get active, it's important to prepare.

Understanding water safety and sun safety, and recognizing the signs of heat-related conditions are all critical," says Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, M.D., M.P.H, president of the American Medical Association.

To help you enjoy a safe and healthy summer, the AMA offers these tips:

Be smart about sunl screen. When shopping, look for a broad spectrum sunscreen of at least SPF 30. Also, understand that no sunscreen is waterproof, and you'll need to reapply it every couple of hours and after exposure to water or sweat.

2. Make sure your fami-ly is up-to-date on their vaccines. Before summer travel or camp season, double check everyone's vaccine status. If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including getvaccineanswers.org.

3. Prioritize water safe-ty. Ensure everyone in your family achieves water competency skills. Teach children to ask permission before going near water, have them and inexperienced swimmers or boaters wear U.S. Coast Guardapproved life jackets, and, at the beach, always swim in lifeguarded areas.

Reduce your intake of 4. processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Eat less red meat and processed meats, and add more plant-based foods to your diet, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, olive oil, nuts and seeds.

Also reduce your consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and drink more water instead. Drinking sugary beverages, even 100% fruit juices, is associated with a higher allcause mortality risk, according to a study published in JAMA Network Open.

Take advantage of warm-5. er weather and find ways to be physically active. Exercise is essential for your physical and mental health. Adults should get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity each week.

While exercise is import-6. ant, it's essential to be smart about it. If exercising outside, avoid the early afternoon (noon to 3 p.m.) when it's hottest. Drink water before, during and after physical activity, and wear light-colored, lightweight, moisture-wicking clothing.

Be on the lookout for signs of heat exhaustion, including cool, moist, pale skin, heavy sweating, headache, nausea and dizziness. CDC's Heat Risk Dashboard informs on how best to protect yourself when temperatures can impact

See TIPS, page 4

Reasons men should talk about their health

(StatePoint) American men may be neglecting their health and wellness, particularly when it comes to their urological health.

But an open line of communication between men and their healthcare providers, and among family members, can lead to better care.

A Cleveland Clinic survey found that only 3 out of 5 men get annual physicals and 55% do not get regular health screenings.

What's more, many men shy away from the subject of their health, with 77% reporting that they don't know their complete family history when it comes to urological issues.

"There is a clear need to fill care gaps and destigmatize men's health issues," says Shaun Noorian, CEO and founder of Empower Pharmacy, a compounding pharmacy that supports patients with men's health concerns such as testosterone, sexual wellness, prostate health and gynecomastia. Fortunately, innovations in the health care industry that are expanding access to tailored care are helping fill these gaps and helping health care providers support their patients' needs more effectively.



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) JackF / iStock via Getty In

pounded medications after a health and wellness check of his hormones.

The compounded medications provided the exact dosage and strength prescription he needed, which can't always be found through traditional medicines.

ings

Destigmatize men's health issues by talking to male family members about prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for men in the United States and a man is two to three times more likely to get pros tate cancer if his father, brother or son had it. You should also talk to your primary care doctor or urologist about having a blood test and examination, particularly if you have a family history of the disease. □ Erectile dysfunction affects nearly 30 million men of all ages across the United States, according to the Indiana University School of Medicine,

BBB tip: Your guide to hassle-free returns for online purchases

nline shopping is growing, which means online returns are increasing, too. However, policies and processes vary from store to store.

Figuring out how to get your item back to the seller and your refund in the bank isn't always easy. To make the process as smooth as possible, BBB recommends the following.

Check store policies before you buy. This is the number one way to avoid an unsatisfactory return experience. Usually, retailers are not required to have a specific refund, credit, or exchange policy.

It's up to you to find out what refund rights you have. Search the retailer's website for their return and refund policy to determine your options. If the retailer doesn't have one, consider it a red flag.

Read the fine print. Even if a store has a reasonable return policy, it might not be free. Some stores charge a restocking fee or make you pay the cost of return shipping. Find out what will be required of you if you want to return a product before you purchase by carefully reading the entire return policy.

■ Verify the seller. Some online retailers allow third-party sellers on their platforms. So, if you are purchasing from Amazon, double-check to see if the product is coming from Amazon or a different seller. If you discover you'll be purchasing from a third party, research their return policies before you buy.

Read consumer reviews. Search consumer reviews for any experiences with returns or refunds. If you find several customers had difficulty returning or receiving a refund, know that you run the same risk.

You can look at reviews on the seller's website but be sure to check other sources, too, like BBB.org.

Check the return policy before using an alternative payment method. Check the fine print before paying through PayPal or a "buy now, pay later" installment service. For exam-



ple, you may be unable to return those online purchases to a store. Save your order con-

firmation number and receipt. Keep these documents and store them in a safe place for the time your purchase is eligible for a return.

Kelvin Collins

You may need them when dealing with customer service later.

ave the packaging. Even if an open item can be returned, keep the packaging, including tags, manuals, and other paperwork. These extras may be required if a store only accepts "like new" or "original" condition items for return.

Check before returning an item to the store. Many stores allow you to return something you bought online to a brick-and-mortar location - but not every retailer and product. Some retailers only allow certain items to be returned in-store, while others must be returned by mail

■ If you need help with a problem, contact customer service. Reputable businesses want to keep their customers happy. If you are having trouble with a return, contact the customer service department or a manager and calmly ask for help. They may be willing to work with you even if an issue with your product arises after the return policy expires.

Watch out for scams. If you purchase from a fraudulent seller, you won't be able to exchange your product or get a refund. Some legitimate-looking websites con consumers by offering tracking numbers on PayPal purchases but never deliver the promised product. Keep an eye out for fake websites and steer clear.

For more information, read the BBB Tip: Smart Shopping Online for more tips on online purchases at BBB.org. In addition, review BBB's tips for the safe delivery of your online purchases.

Medal of Honor spotlight **Army Tech 5th Grade John Pinder**

By KATIE LANGE DoD News

June 6, 1944, was a monumental day for Army Technician 5th Grade John Joseph Pinder Jr. Aside from it being his 32nd birthday, it was also when he joined thousands of other Allied troops to storm the beaches of Normandy, France, on D-Day.

Omaha Beach was hell on earth for soldiers that day, but Pinder carried out his mission



known as Hal, who had also been drafted as a bomber pilot in the Army Air Corps.At that time, the brothers hadn't seen each other in two years, a 1945 Pittsburgh Press article said.

While overseas, Joe Pinder took part in various combat campaigns, including those in Africa and Sicily, before being tapped to take part in D-Day - the biggest land, air and sea invasion in history that finally gave the Allies a foothold in Nazi Europe. By this time, Pinder had worked his way up to the rank of technician 5th grade, the equivalent of a corporal. On June 6, 1944, Pinder's unit was in the first wave of Allied troops to assault Colleville-sur-Mer — better known as Omaha Beach. Unfortunately, the Germans were ready for them and immediately began pummeling transport ships before troops were able to land near shore. An artillery shell landed near Pinder's boat and tore holes in it, killing some men immediately and causing chaos among those left inside. As the vessel began to fill with water, its ramp opened to let the men out about 100 yards offshore. Devasting machine gun and artillery fire rained down on them as they tried to wade their way to land in waist-deep water. Many were killed before they even got to shore. As Pinder struggled through the waves, he carried vitally important radio equipment See HONOR, page 4

Noorian's own story shows how a compounding pharmacy helped him optimize his health. His doctor recommended com-

But compounding goes beyond hormones. Noorian discovered it could also address various men's health concerns like testosterone, sexual wellness, urology and dermatology.

Noorian says that men can use these tips for a happy, healthier life:

Don't wait until you have a serious medical condition to see your doctor. Schedule annual physicals and all recommended health care screen-

See HEALTH, page 4

Almost 2/3s of home fires are due to human error. Here how to prepare

(StatePoint) The threat of a home fire is greater than most people think. In fact, 40% of people believe they are more likely to win the lottery or get struck by lightning than experience a home fire, yet residential fires are the most common disaster people face in the United States, according to the American Red Cross.

Here's how to help prevent fires, and how to prepare for the worst:

Be Informed: The National Fire Protection Association reports that 60% of home fires are due to human error. It's important to realize that humans are flawed. We forget things, we mess up, and we're often distracted. Accepting the fact that a house fire is a real possibility is an important step in the right direction. There are simple actions you can take to help prevent accidents.

For starters, cooking is the leading cause of house fires. Never leave cooking unattended. Keep the cooking area free of flammable items such as potholders, towels and packaging, and always maintain a 3-foot safety zone free of

See FIRES, page 4



PHOTO SOURCE: (c) JackF / iStock via Getty Images Plus

with honor before succumbing to his many wounds. His valor earned him a posthumous Medal of Honor.

Pinder was born June 6, 1912, in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, to Laura Belle and John Pinder Sr. He had two younger siblings, Martha and Harold, and he went by his middle name. Joe.

Pinder's father worked in the steel industry, which caused the family to relocate within the state a few times. Their first move was about a halfhour away, to Burgettstown, before relocating again about an hour north to Butler, where Pinder graduated as the valedictorian of his high school class in 1931.

Pinder excelled at base-

Omaha Beach was hell on earth for soldiers that day, but Pinder carried out his mission with honor before succumbing to his many wounds.

Army Tech 5th Grade John Pinder

ball and played in the minor leagues for about seven years. He was a pitcher in Georgia and Florida for farm teams that fed players to the New York Yankees, Washington Senators and Cleveland Indians.

During his time in the South, Pinder met and got engaged to a woman named Ruby Gillian. Unfortunately, the two weren't able to marry before Pinder was drafted into the Army in January 1942. He was a radio operator assigned to the 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division.

Later that year, the unit left for England where, in 1943, Pinder was able to meet up with his younger brother,



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Printer Houston Home Journal Editor/layout and design **Don Moncrief**

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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@afgelocal 987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforementioned.

replaced it was named Pinder

Park.

HONOR From page 3

on his shoulder — and back then, radios used in war weighed about 80 pounds. He was only a few yards from his boat when he was hit twice by enemy fire, with one hit tearing into the left side of his face. Witnesses said Pinder continued forward holding the equipment in one arm and the flesh from his face with the other hand.

Refusing to take cover or get medical attention, Pinder delivered the radio to the shore. He then turned around and went back into the fire-swept surf to gather more parts and equipment. He knew setting up communications was crucial to directing naval and air support that could take out the German installations decimating the shoreline. It was the only way they would survive the ordeal. Pinder ran back into the surf

twice that day, despite the fierce pain he suffered. On the third trip, he was hit a few times by a machine gun, but he still refused to stop. He got back to the beach and helped troops set up the communications equipment before passing out from

blood loss. He died later that dav.

Meanwhile, in January 1944, Pinder's pilot brother crashed in Belgium during a raid over Germany and was taken prisoner. Pinder had worried about his brother for months and never got to find out if he survived. Hal Pinder spent 14 months in a prisoner-of-war camp, which is where he learned of his older brother's death. He was finally released and sent home when the war ended.

Of the five beaches on which the Allies landed on D-Day, Omaha Beach was the largest, and its troops suffered about 2,400 casualties — more than the other four beachfronts combined. Joe Pinder's bravery during the chaos served as huge inspiration for those who survived.

For his valor, Pinder was awarded the Medal of Honor. Pinder's father received the honor on his son's behalf on Jan. 26, 1945, during a ceremony at the 5th Regiment Armory in Baltimore. Pinder was one of 12 soldiers who took part in the D-Day landings to receive the nation's highest honor. Of the 12, nine received the award

posthumously.

Pinder was initially buried at a U.S. military cemetery in Normandy, but his family chose to bring him home in 1947. He now rests in Grandview Cemetery in Burgettstown, Pennsylvania, where a monument was dedicated to him in 2000. There's also a plaque dedicated to the fallen corporal at the McKees Rocks War Memorial.

Pinder Barracks, a U.S. military post near Nuremberg, Germany, stood in his honor from 1945 to 1995. After it was torn down, the park that

Pinder's Medal of Honor was donated by his family to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum in Pittsburgh, along with letters he wrote home and the contents of his wallet that were recovered in Normandy, according to a 2019 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article. The museum said Pinder's medal is part of its permanent collection, but it is currently on loan to the National Museum of the United States Army for the upcoming 80th commemoration of D-Day.

a few weeks. Talk to a doctor or mental

health care provider (like a psychiatrist,

psychologist, counselor or social worker)

"Getting better" means different things

for different people. There are treatment

options for PTSD. For many people, these

treatments can get rid of symptoms alto-

gether. Others find they have fewer symp-

toms or feel that their symptoms are less

intense. Your symptoms don't have to

interfere with your everyday activities and

Both trauma-focused psychotherapy

(sometimes called counseling or talk ther-

apy) and medication are proven to treat

PTSD. Sometimes people combine psy-

A few trauma-focused psychotherapies

are the most highly recommended treat-

ments for PTSD. "Trauma-focused" means

that the therapy focuses on the memory of

the traumatic event or its meaning. The

three most effective types of trauma-fo-

you learn skills to understand how trau-

ma changed your thoughts and feelings.

Changing how you think about the trauma

Prolonged Exposure where you talk

• Cognitive Processing Therapy where

Trauma-focused psychotherapy

chotherapy and medication.

cused psychotherapy are:

can change how you feel.

What treatments are available?

• Last longer than a month

• Are very upsetting

• Disrupt your daily life

if your symptoms:

relationships.



JOURNEY From page 1

for justice, Carrington decided to channel his passion for advocacy even further within AFGE.

Witnessing numerous instances where rules were brazenly disregarded, he observed a lack of awareness among bargaining unit employees regarding their rights and the process of reporting violations.

This realization propelled him into a deep dive into the intricate web of regulations governing civilians, from local supplements to master supplements, DOD Instructions, and Air Force Instructions. Although he humbly admits that he continues to learn, he remains unwavering in his commitment to championing the rights of workers and ensuring their voices are heard.

DEBATE From page 1

great strides in the last four years, as they have negotiated record contracts for not only Union workers, but all workers in this country. It has fought and won to increase the federal hourly wage to \$15 per hour, he said. "Here in Middle Georgia is a perfect example in Blue Bird, where workers now have a Union that has negotiated higher wages, better healthcare and vacation time.

(Courtesy photo)

Guided by the invaluable life lessons bestowed upon him by his parents, Ann and Reginald, he carries with him a profound appreciation for doing things right the first time, maintaining cleanliness in all endeavors, and embracing continuous process improvement.

As Carrington continues to navigate his personal and professional journey, he serves as a beacon of inspiration to all who cross his path. His multifaceted background, unwavering principles, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact render him an invaluable asset to both his community and the workforce.

With each step he takes, he leaves an indelible mark, reminding us all to strive for excellence and embrace the continuous process of improvement.

coffee shops to manufacturing industries.

"When it comes right down to it, this election is about whether or not our future is one that encourages strong Union participation, better wages, affordable healthcare, and secure retirement for it workers. "It's about whether or not we are going to build a stronger America, increase American made products and bring back the millions of jobs that were outsourced. We have the power and ability to make this change and support Unions, Labor and working families."

PTSD From page 1

go over many years.

If the symptoms last longer than four weeks, cause you great distress, or interfere with your work or home life, you might have PTSD.

There are four types of PTSD symptoms. To be diagnosed with PTSD, you need to have each type. That said, everyone experiences symptoms in their own way.

Reliving the event (also called re-ex-**L** • periencing symptoms). Memories of the traumatic event can come back at any time. They can feel very real and scary. For example:

• You may have nightmares.

• You may feel like you are going through the event again. This is called a flashback.

• You may see, hear or smell something that causes you to relive the event. This is called a trauma reminder, cue or trigger. News reports, seeing an accident, or hearing fireworks are examples of trauma reminders.

Avoiding things that remind you 2. of the event. You may try to avoid situations or people remind you of the trauma event. You may even avoid talking or thinking about the event. For example:

• You may avoid crowds because they feel dangerous.

• You may avoid driving if you were in a car accident or if your military convoy was bombed.

• If you were in an earthquake, you may avoid watching movies about earthquakes.

• You may keep very busy or avoid getting help so you don't have to think or talk about the event.

Having more negative thoughts and \mathfrak{I} feelings than before the event. The way you think about yourself and others may become more negative because of the trauma. For example:

• You may feel numb—unable to have positive or loving feelings toward other people—and lose interest in things you used to enjoy.

• You may forget about parts of the traumatic event or not be able to talk about them.

You may think the world dangerous, completely is

and no one can be trusted.

• You may feel guilt or shame about the event, wishing you had done more to keep it from happening.

4 Feeling on edge or keyed up (also • called hyperarousal). You may be jittery, or always alert and on the lookout for danger. You might suddenly become angry or irritable. For example:

• You may have a hard time sleeping.

• You may find it hard to concentrate. • You may be startled by a loud noise or surprise.

• You might act in unhealthy ways, like smoking, abusing drugs or alcohol, or driving aggressively.

What are the symptoms of PTSD in children?

Children may have symptoms like those above or other symptoms. As children get older, their symptoms are more like those of adults. Here are some examples of PTSD symptoms in children and teens:

• Children under 6 may get upset if their parents are not close by, have trouble sleeping, or act out the trauma in their

out the trauma through play, drawings or stories. Some have nightmares or become more irritable or aggressive. They may also want to avoid school or have trouble with schoolwork or friends.

• Children ages 12 to 18 have symptoms more similar to adults: depression, anxiety, withdrawal, or reckless behavior like substance abuse or running away.

Do people with PTSD get better?

After a traumatic event, it's normal to think, act, and feel differently than usual--but most people start to feel better after

ty, and like many technologies, today's smoke and carcome a long way.

less than 2 minutes to safely escape a house fire, so every second counts. smoke alarm can double the chance of escaping from a It's also important to create a

For more fire safety tips upgrade your devices, visit Kidde.com. While many people assume that a fire can't happen to them, the truth is that everyone makes mistakes. Having the right life-saving tools can help protect you and your family.

bon monoxide detectors have Edition vs. leading competitor resource to help families prea critical improvement, as sta-Detect devices provide over tistics show that people have and information on how to

internal testing for Kidde 9th fire safety toolkit is a great 8th Edition products). This is pare for a fire emergency. Be Prepared: A working home fire safely, but that's just the first line of defense.

play.

• Children ages 7 to 11 may also act

about your trauma repeatedly until memories are no longer upsetting. This will help you get more control over your thoughts and feelings about the trauma. You also go to places or do things that are safe, but that

you have been staying away from because

they remind you of the trauma. Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, which involves focusing on sounds or hand movements while

you talk about the trauma. This helps your brain work through the traumatic memories.

- Source: https://www.ptsd.va.gov. (For more information, visit this website.)

obscuration rate, based on home fire escape plan. Kidde's

"Other sector's Unions have organized companies from pets and kids. Update Detection Devices: While

taking safety precautions is critical, having the latest fire safety technology can provide an extra layer of detection.

Your

Smoke

Pioneers in the home safety field are providing new solutions that give homeowners more control over their safe-

In fact, the new Kidde 25% faster smoke detection (29% faster average smoke detection based on internal testing of smoldering wood fires for Kidde 9th Edition vs. leading competitor 8th Edition products) that's three times more precise (in terms of consistency and range of

TIPS From page 2

your health.

 7_{\bullet} If consuming alcohol, do so in mod-eration as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans-up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

Know your blood pressure numbers. 8. Visit Manage Your BP.org to better understand your numbers and take necessary steps to

HEALTH From page 3

which notes that it could be the sign of another underlying health issue. Your urologist can help rule out causes, like heart disease and high blood pressure.

□ When dealing with men's health issues, talk to your healthcare provider about all available treatment options, including the potential benefits of using a compounding pharmacy. Compounded medicine enables healthcare providers to prescribe treatments that are specifically tailored to individual biomarkers (biological molecules found in body fluids or tissues that are a sign of a condition or disease) by dosage and formulation.

By analyzing biomarker data, compounded medications can be formulated with precise dosages and combinations of more than one active pharma-

get high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, under control. Doing so will reduce your risk of heart attack or stroke.

FIRES

From page 3

Check your community's outdoor air • quality using the Air Quality Index. Smoke from wildfires and degraded air quality can irritate your eyes, nose, throat and lungs. Children, pregnant people and those with certain chronic conditions must be especially careful.

"If you have questions or concerns about summer-related health issues, now is a great time to talk to your physician," says Ehrenfeld.

> ceutical ingredient, optimizing therapeutic outcomes for a wide range of health conditions.

To learn more about how compounding pharmacies can support men's health, visit empowerpharmacy.com.

"For the best care possible, men should be proactive about their health, and providers should explore with their patients all available treatment options, including personalized solutions," says Noorian.

JOIN AFGE IN 4 EASY STEPS STEP 1: Go to www.joinafge.org



Fill out the one-page membership form and click "Join"



Select your Agency and **Local Number**

ΕP



STEP 4: If you're a new member, select a rebate campaign and fill out the brief form (local participation may vary)

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	Data your signature	

Advertise with us. Call 478-733-9772

JUST FOR FUN



Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

What do you call a Japanese cover band playing 70s music? Mitsubeegees

Refore you get angry with someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way you'll be a mile away and have his shoes.

Starts With L

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: Things with wheels

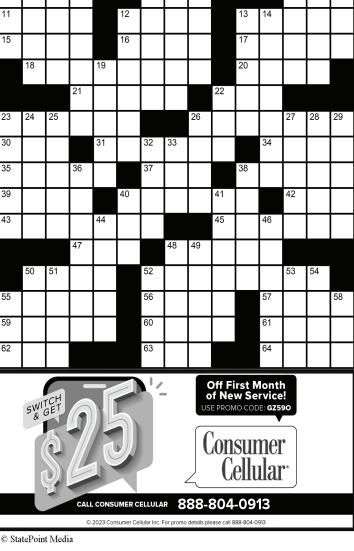
ACROSS I

- 1. Unfledged hawk 5. The
- Gala, haute couture fundraiser
- 8. Ballet step
- 11. Sasquatch's cousin
- 12. Prefix in levorotary
- 13. DVD player button
- 15. What Tylenol and xyle-
- nol have in common
- 16. Seaport in Yemen
- 17. With ample space
- 18. *Rumpelstiltskin's
- wheel
- 20. Viking writing symbol
- 21. Musical finales
- 22. In favor of
- 23. Source of tapioca
- 26. Smith, e.g.
- 30. "Stand and Deliver" singer
- 31. Live-in helper (2 words)
- 34. Et alii, abbr.
- 35. Nephew's sister
- 37. Tire depression
- 38. Turkey's southern
- neighbor
- 39. Same as ayah
- 40. Engage in a pursuit (2 words)
- 42. Bed-and-breakfast, e.g.
- 43. Tibetan Buddhism
- 45. Pinched
- 47. Sing like Public Enemy
- 48. Mother-of-pearl
- 50. Cripple
- 52. *Wheel in Vegas
- 55. Chocolate substitute
- 56. Egg on
- 57. Capri or Catalina
- 59. Olden days violin maker
- 60. Croaks
- 61. "Run Away to Mars"

- singer 62. Jump key
- 63. Corncob
- 64. Gaelic

DOWN I

- 1. *London tourist attraction
- 2. Hankerings
- 3. At the summit of
- 4. Glass ingredient
- 5. TV and radio
- 6. Not odds
- 7. Chinatown gang
- 8. Low-ranking worker
- 9. Pinnacle
- 10. Pig's digs
- 12. *Royal procession carriage
- 13. E in baseball box score 14. *"Wheel in the Sky"
- band
- 19. Star bursts
- 22. " Elise"
- 23. Suez or Panama
- 24. Carl Jung's inner self 25. *Type of locomotive
- 26. Surfer's stop
- 27. Like anchor aweigh
- 28. Easternmost state
- 29. Serengeti grazer
- 32. *Perambulator, for short 33. Black and white sea bird
- 36. *Ancient Greek ride
- 38. Top of a steeple
- 40. Kitchen meas.
- 41. Reunion attendees
- 44. Poets' feet
- 46. Smaller size than small 48. *a.k.a. water wheel
- 49. Hole-borer
- 50. Baby's first word?
- 51. Speedy steed
- 52. Boorish
- 53. Russian autocrat 54. 90-degree pipes, e.g.
- 55. "Peace Train" sing-
- er-songwriter
- 58. Increase



CROSSWORD



WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



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"So you both think I need a haircut?"

A little humor ...

On his first visit to the zoo, a little boy stared at the caged stork for a long while. Then he turned to his father and exclaimed, "Gee, Dad, he doesn't recognize me."

Mother: "What do you think of your new little brother, dear?" Brother: "I wish we'd thrown him away and kept the stork instead."

St. Peter An exasperated mother whose son was always getting into mischief finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out.'

We like the fellow who says he is going to make a long story short-and does.

The dull thing about going down the straight and narrow path is that you so seldom meet anybody you know.

Two men drove their cars toward each other on a narrow street—neither could pass. One leaned out and shout-

ed, "I never back up for a stupid idiot!"

"I always do!" shouted the other man, shifting into reverse.

Ben: "One of our little pigs was sick, so I gave him some sugar."

Dan: "Sugar! What for?" Ben: "Haven't you ever heard of sugar-cured ham?"

Son: "Dad, did you go to Sunday school when you were young?"

Dad: "Never missed a Sunday."

Son: "Bet it won't do me any good either."

Father: "Can you support her in the way she's been accustomed to?"

Prospective son-in-law: "No, but I can support her in the way her mother was accustomed to when she first married."

"If you refuse to marry me, I'll die," said the young romantic. And sure enough, 50 years later, he died.

Cheerful people, the doctors say, resist disease better than the glum ones. In other words, the surly bird catches the germ.

A tribal chieftain's daughter was offered as a bride to the son of a neighboring potentate in exchange for two cows and four sheep.

The big swap was to be effected on the shore of the stream that separated the two tribes.

Pop and his daughter showed up at the appointed time, only to discover that the groc

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on the other side of the stream.

The father grunted, "The fool doesn't know which side his bride is bartered on."

System Advertising manager: "Where did you get this wonderful follow-up system? It would drag money out of anybody."

Assistant: "I'll say it would. It's compiled from the letters

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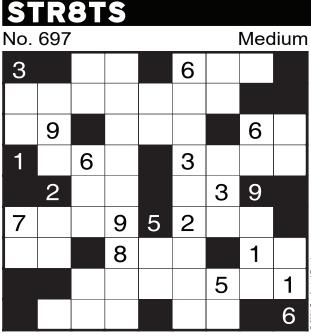
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You can find more help and strategies at www.str8ts.com along with more puzzles, Apple apps and books.



Previous solution - Tough

1	2	3	9	1	8		4	5	
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How to beat Str8ts -

Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.



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When the members speak

As members of Local 987 what you have come to expect from team Marion Williams is knowledge with the understanding that you deserve world-class representation.

I think you always see that. What you have in this team has been dedication to steadfast representation across the entire spectrum of issues.

I would like to take a line or two to clear up some of the things our opponents are trying to get across as facts. It's being said that I was caught on a recording using racial epithets. What's not being said is that a member involved in the recording incident admitted to it being made to discredit me as an opponent.

I appeared before an arbitrator where a professional witness appeared, all of whom testified against me. The arbitrator ruled that their testimony was not credible in essence "purgery" (Liars). Suffice it to say, I was found innocent of the charge.

The same cannot be said of one of the members running for a position. She was found guilty and suspended from the Local for thirty days, thereby rendering her ineligible to run for office. How does she even appear on the ballot? I can only surmise that she has friends in high places that turn a blind eye to the rules for her to run. She should have never been allowed to run. Let's do what the powers that be will not do in a loud and clear voice by declaring with your vote that we will hold her accountable to the letter of the law.

This lady is a bully of the first degree and I have personally watched her bully those in the workplace who did not give her what she wanted and did not deserve. Send her packing to her online business ...

Up and down their ballot, it is filled with a bunch of cica-

How can you stand up and tell the membership that you would not accept any funds to represent them. Another bald-face Lie! The following day they were sworn in they had to use an extinguisher to put out the flames from their boots as they beat a path to the bookkeeper's office to apply for the executive vice president stipend. I have worked in that capacity for the past six years and have never accepted a penny from our members.

To add insult to injury, he and his cronies, the newly elected Executive Board, voted him a trip to San Diego for him and his girlfriend under the guise of EEO training. I am certain of his telling everyone of his EEO prowess and how he has represented members. You just can't make this stuff up. Lies roll off his tongue in the old adage in the manner of fork tongue.

Then the Executive Board voted themselves a stipend for attending the Executive Board Meeting. Keep your eye on the money when it comes to the entire team. We almost lost Local 987 to these bunch of money grubbers. My question is what are

you paying him for, certainly not to represent you. You can find him in his office with the door closed to you unless you happen to be a friend who doesn't know any better.

I marvel at the fact of how he can lie to you the member and tempt you to swallow it up hook line and sinker. Save yourself from him and his lies. Send him packing. The man sent an email extolling the agency that the "kidders" you got it, can anyone tell me what a "kidder" is. Now that is a far cry from a "KITER" could be moved with the exception of his personal friends. He was instrumental in terminating the movement of personnel because a family member did not want to move.

Sending him packing back to a tool box is too good for him. Besides, no one in the 402nd wants him back. The agency is trying to turn our Local 987 into a dumping ground. Your hard-earned money is going to someone who cannot only not represent you, but, makes a mockery of you and the member with his lies.

With great enthusiasm I am writing on the behalf of MR. Marion Williams and MR-Henry Brown, Presiden and Vice President of Local 987. We haved worked alongside MR. William and MR Brown on several cases doing our course as union stewards. Working with Nr. Brown and MR. Williams these cases we were impressed by their ability to meet and handle difficulity deadlines and unseen Situation, while maintaining such a high quality of work ethic, there suggested Solutions were always elegant and efficient. Mr Williams and M& Brown both are very intelligent and proffessional When it came to handling management, employers and employees. I have found MR. Williams and MR. Brown are excellent Aresident and Vice President, I am confident in their capabilities. The Staff at the Child Development Center Spoke Very highly of them both, we appricate all they done for us all. The skills and traits I have observed make MR. William and MR. Brown great example for President and Vice President. Sincerey... Ms. Kathryn Spivey N.S. Danielle Miliner

Sincerely, - Henry L. Brown Jr

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my heartfelt appreciation for the outstanding service and support Mr. Henry Brown has provided as my union representative. Mr. Brown's dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment have made a significant positive impact on my experience and well-being at work.

From the start of his tenure as my union representative, Mr. Brown has demonstrated an exceptional ability to listen to my concerns and advocate on my behalf. His approach to problemsolving is both proactive and effective, ensuring that any issues I face are addressed promptly and fairly. Mr. Brown's deep understanding of labor laws and union policies has been invaluable in navigating complex situations and securing the best possible outcomes for me.

One of the most commendable aspects of Mr. Brown's service is his unwavering dedication to transparency and communication. He has consistently kept me informed about important developments and any changes that may affect me. This open line of communication has fostered a sense of trust and unity, and I always feel confident that my voice is heard and my interests are protected.

Mr. Brown's efforts in improving working conditions and ensuring that our rights are upheld have been exemplary. His strategic thinking has resulted in tangible benefits for me including better working conditions and enhanced job security. Mr. Brown's commitment to my well-being is evident in every action he takes, and I am deeply grateful for his tireless advocacy.

Moreover, Mr. Brown's genuine care and empathy for each member have made a significant difference in our lives. He has been there to provide guidance and support during difficult times, and his willingness to go above and beyond to help individuals in need has not gone unnoticed. Mr. Brown's positive impact extends beyond the workplace, and he has truly made a difference in the lives of many, including myself.

In conclusion, I cannot express enough how fortunate I feel to have Mr. Brown as my union representative. His dedication, integrity, and passion for advocating on my behalf is truly inspiring. I extend my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks for everything Mr. Brown has done and continues to do for me.

Sincerely,

Sarita Everett

Dear Mr. Brown,

I am writing to express my profound gratitude for your unwavering support and exceptional representation as my Robins Air Force Base union representative. Since 2019, I have faced significant challenges due to discriminatory practices, and your professionalism and insight have been pivotal in navigating these adverse conditions.

Your dedicated efforts have exposed the biases I encountered and played a crucial role in securing my job despite numerous battles. I deeply appreciate your consistent support, often provided at a moment's notice. Your willingness to address my concerns, regardless of timing, has been a source of immense reassurance during these difficult times.

Your meticulous approach, including providing copies of your written responses to me and the relevant authorities, exemplifies your thoroughness and commitment to fair representation. Because of your dedication, I have been able to continue my career at the base-something I might not have achieved without your steadfast support.

I am eager to share my positive experiences with the broader membership. You have represented me on several critical occasions, each time reinforcing my confidence in your capabilities and dedication. I strongly believe that no one else could represent us better, and I urge our fellow members to recognize the invaluable service you provide.

Thank you once again for everything you have done. Your tireless work and dedication have made a significant impact on my life and career.

Sincerely.

Santt [] foron Garrett T Jefferson

Good morning,

das. They appear every three years with lies and illusions of grandeur of their ability to represent you. They have no credibility both as members and human beings. They have not met a lie they won't tell. Case in point: You had someone telling you of their ability to renegotiate your fitness leave. A lie! Fitness leave was an incentive program provided in an effort to increase production. The Air Force Sustainment Center was hemorrhaging money to the tune of \$300 million per month both in terms of production and participation in the program.

A major contributor to that loss is the individual who had signed out on fitness leave and was involved in a motorcycle accident miles away from any gym. Guess who? I'll give you two guesses and the first one doesn't count.

To whom it my concern,

I'm writing on behalf of Mr. Henry Brown, who is an AFGE Local 987 Representative. He has worked tirelessly for those who need help when there is a disagreement within the work place. He is a very dependable

Representator. Whenever I call, he is always there to hear my concern. I give him my full support and I know he will continue to work hard for all those who need his help, and will continue to play a vital part to make Local

987 an awesome team.

Ms. Tracy Scott, AFGE Local 987 Member

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my profound appreciation for Mr. Henry Brown's contributions during his tenure. Mr. Brown's advocacy for continuous professional development has led to the introduction of new training courses at the center, equipping our staff with the skills necessary to better serve our youth. His efforts have enhanced the quality of our programs and created a more enriching environment for both the youth and the staff.

In conclusion, Mr. Brown's contributions have been pivotal to the success of the Youth Development Center at Robins Air Force Base. His vision and tireless work have left a lasting legacy that will continue to benefit the Robins Air Force Base community for years.

Sincerely,

Justin R. Fuller Green

Good afternoon.

A couple of years ago, I met Mr. Henry Brown during a very difficult time in my life and career. Since then, he has stood by me with a fierce determination to acquire justice. He represents me, himself, and our Union with knowledge, dignity, and honor.

Thank you,

Christopher Dorr

I am writing this letter to acknowledge Warner Robins local union chapter 987. The O'Neal family would like to extend our warmest regards for the care and love that was shown to us in our time of sorrow by losing our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Carl J O'Neal. The union immediately reached out to our family and gave their deepest sympathies and let us know that they are and would always be there if we needed anything. AFGE 987 is an extended part of our family and we couldn't ask for a better friends/family. Mr. Henry Brown and Mr. Marion (insert last name) provided guidance and information even pertaining to the military side To assist with ensuring Carl received every benefit he deserved. Our family appreciates the union and how they genuinely Jumped right in and extended a helping hand And solidified the fact that Carl was just as important to them as he was/is to us. Again, we the O'Neal family are so appreciative of AFGE local union 987.

Sincerely. The O'Neal Family

I am writing to express my strong support for representative Mr. Henry Brown, who has demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to being the 987 representative. As a member of AFGE Local 987, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the outstanding work and positive impact brought about by Mr. Henry Brown during his tenure as our representative.

Sincerely,

Carl Scott, Jr

From: Sent: To: Subject:

Tammy Horton <tammyh488@gmail.com> Monday, June 17, 2024 11:41 AM Henry Brown Words of Appreciation

Mr. Brown.

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your dedication to working to improve the lives of and working in the best interest of the marginalized workers at Robins Air Force Base. Your commitment has been especially impactful and I am thankful for your efforts. Your vast knowledge of the rules and regulation is greatly appreciated and I can rest a little easier knowing you have our best interest in mind. It is reassuring to have someone dedicated to improving the lives of others. Once again, thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am grateful to have you representing the interest of the people.

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