

Rally



AFGE Local 987 will hold a rally Thursday, March 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. out front of the Union Hall, located at 1764 Watson Blvd.

The rally, said AFGE Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney will be informative in nature - for instance, to encourage workers not to ignore the text messages and emails AFGE is sending out. Also, “To get people involved and supporting federal workers,” she said. District 5 representatives will also be on hand, she said (in fact they’re bringing the signs).

Volunteers are needed for the following committees:

YOUNG Publicity
Women and Fair Practices
Constitution and Bylaws Retirees
Veterans Sick and Welfare
Membership Entertainment

Call Union Hall at 478-922-5758 and ask for Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney for more information or to sign up.

Notice: AFGE members. Please use the email address eonotices@afge.org when you receive EO notices from Management. This is to ensure that AFGE is consistently updated on the actions across all agencies. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Local 987 at 478-922-5758 or the District 5 office at 770-907-2055.



Membership meeting

Local 987 will have a membership meeting March 20 at 5 p.m. It will be held at Union Hall, located at 1764 Watson Blvd. As always, membership will be verified before admittance into the meeting. You can make updates to your contact information - address, phone, email - by calling Union Hall at 478-922-5758 or by emailing Linda Baxter at linda@afgelocal987.org or Jeanette McElhaney at jmac@afgelocal987.org.

Representation

Local calls for responsible response from former elected leaders, staff

By **DON MONCRIEF**
Editor, The Union Advocate
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Do the right thing.

That is the heartfelt desire, the outcry, the plea, of AFGE Local 987 in regard to those who have come before – the former elected leaders and full-time stewards in some cases - and in particular as it relates to “representation”.

Said AFGE Local 987 Acting President Ron Hill: “Even though we’re under Trusteeship, your representative is still your representative. We only own the grievance process.”

What does that mean?

It means, Hill said, that “we

“When it comes to EEOs and MSPBs, only the person you assigned or you requested to be your representative is the person who has access to that information.”

- AFGE Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney

have people coming up here to reach (former President) Marion (Williams) or (former Executive Vice President) Henry (Brown) or (Full-time Steward) Sam (Berry) asking about their case (specifically their EEO [Equal Employment

Opportunity] or MSPB [Merit Systems Protection Board] case) and that’s outside the grievance process, so we can’t help them.”

AFGE Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney offered further explanation.

“When they were here there were multiple EEOs they were handling or multiple MSPBs they were handling. Well, if a person calls here now to ask about the status of their case. We can’t give it to them. The people that’s here now can’t give it to them, because we don’t have that information. We’re not (were not) their representative, so we don’t have access to that information.

“When it comes to EEOs and MSPBs, only the person you assigned or you requested to be your representative is the person who has access to that information. So, if they had Marion or Henry or Sam or

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Local reps: Direct Dues preferred

By **DON MONCRIEF**
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Payroll deduction. E-Dues. Direct Dues.

Three terms, three processes, you might have heard/come across. Local 987’s preference: Direct Dues.

“It’s (Direct Dues and e-Dues) basically the same thing,” said AFGE Local 987 Bookkeeper Linda Baxter. “But e-Dues is online. With Direct Dues, they sign up through me. Same form, she said, Form 1187 (but e-dues also has an additional form, Form 1188). “On back (of the 1187) they provide me with the banking information and then I draft it out of their personal checking account.”

The reason the Local prefers Direct Dues, Baxter and AFGE Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney said, was because it provides a better route for them to be able to answer any questions the bargaining unit members might have, as well as offers them more control – versus that of the National controlling it.

“Right now,” Baxter said, “If they drop you (under payroll deduction) or they didn’t

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Buckle up, AFGE family!

It’s time to hit the road towards our milestone of 325,000 members by the end of 2025!

Whether you’re cruising along as a leader or navigating new territories as a member, this is your one-stop shop for driving our union forward.

www.afge.org/DriveTo325

Together, we can steer AFGE to new heights and pave the way for stronger representation, better contracts, and a louder collective voice.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Contact your Congressman - your voice is needed

By **DON MONCRIEF**
Editor, The Union Advocate
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Your voice is needed. Especially, said AFGE Local 987 Acting President Ron Hill, as it pertains to “these executive orders that are coming out,” he said. “A lot of people are depending on AFGE, ‘Hey, what are you doing for me?’ but with litigations and negotiations, it takes us some time to get into these places and to catch a ear,” so to speak.

“But if you go out and catch your Congressman on things like that, you can get to them a lot faster than that in numbers. Let them know these executive orders aren’t right. They need to put a stop to them.”

“Numbers” is the key, Hill inferred, as did AFGE Local 987 Trustee and Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney. They need to hear from all, she said, but somewhat in particular “veterans” and those on Social Security.

“Those are the people really being affected by it,” she said. “Because of them closing things and doing things to the

District	Name	Phone	Committee Assignment
1st	Earl Carter	202-225-5831	Budget Energy and Commerce
2nd	Sanford Bishop	202-225-3631	Appropriations
3rd	Brian Jack	202-225-5901	Oversight and Government Reform Rules Small Business
4th	Henry Johnson	202-225-1605	Judiciary Transportation and Infrastructure
5th	Nikema Williams	202-225-3801	Financial Services
6th	Lucy McBath	202-225-4501	Education and Workforce Judiciary
7th	Richard McCormick	202-225-4272	Armed Services Science, Space, and Technology
8th	Austin Scott	202-225-6531	Agriculture Armed Services Intelligence Rules
9th	Andrew Clyde	202-225-9893	Appropriations Budget
10th	Mike Collins	202-225-4101	Natural Resources Transportation and Infrastructure Science, Space, and Technology
11th	Barry Loudermilk	202-225-2931	Financial Services House Administration
12th	Rick Allen	202-225-2823	Education and Workforce Energy and Commerce
13th	David Scott	202-225-2939	Agriculture Financial Services
14th	Marjorie Greene	202-225-5211	Oversight and Government Reform Homeland Security

VA centers and cutting back on them.

“The retirees with their Social Security and their retirement checks. (Note:

McElhaney said retirees should be looking for correspondence from the Local on other ways they can get involved in their union, et cetera.) You’ve got to

have someone in those areas to process those checks because if those people go, who’s going to process your check? So, yes, we need that (people to call).



Two U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft, assigned to 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, taxi in after a mission during Red Flag-Nellis 25-1, Jan. 27 at Nellis AFB, Nevada. Red Flag provided participants the opportunity to plan and employ together in the air domain, supported by space and cyber, in a contested, degraded and operationally limited environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Michael Sanders)

Robins 461st ACW, 78th SFS show up in force for Red Flag 25-1

By JERRY FOLTZ and PATRICK SULLIVAN

Forty members from the 461st Air Control Wing and 13 members from the 78th Security Forces Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, recently participated in Red Flag 25-1, a two-week advanced aerial combat training exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Jan. 14 to Feb. 8, 2025.

Since 1975, Red Flag has provided warfighters with realistic training, helping them hone the technical skills and mental fortitude needed to combat ever-increasingly sophisticated adversaries.

The exercise focuses on overcoming the complexities of strategic competition by integrating air, space and cyber capabilities to counter advanced threats in contested and degraded environments.

During the exercise, 78th SFS Master Sgt. Marcus McCombs, who served as Red Flag Operations superintendent, validated objectives such as sustaining a lean loadout, evaluating squad leaders' ability to operate in a joint environment, and employing joint resources and equipment.

"This was a big learning experience for me as it was my first time running the show during the exercise," McCombs said.

Blue Force security force team members, consisting of friendly units, engaged hostile Red Force team members in realistic combat situations. The scenario was designed to maximize combat readiness, capability and surviv-

ability of participating units, providing realistic, multi-domain kinetic training in a combined air, ground, space and electronic threat environment.

Undertaking a 24-hour operational cycle, security force members safeguarded vital resources from potential threats, dug in-battle positions, established machine gun nests in the desert, and protected personnel and assets from indirect fire and mortar threats. These efforts ensured a secure operational environment that allowed participants to focus on training objectives without significant disruption.

"Being able to bring teams together from all 11 different squadrons allowed us to modernize the way we fight when we couple that with the air defense and the fighter pilots," McCombs said.

The 78th SFS, working with Defenders from the 316th Security Forces Group from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, the 926th SFS from Nellis AFB, Nevada, and the 375th SFS from Scott AFB, Illinois, contributed to the development of a more lethal and effective joint force.

"This exercise opened the door for us to get an understanding of what they do. And secondly, it allows us to shift our metrics and just how we operate in theater," McComb said.

At the 461st Air Control Wing, 32 members from the 728th Battle Management Control Squadron, and eight members from the 461st Air Control Network Squadron and 53rd Combat Airfield Operations Squadron, supported combat

airfield operations by monitoring real-time radar surveillance, airspace deconfliction, air-refueling positioning and tactical reconnaissance.

The 461st ACW members integrated their combat and control systems and tactics not only with U.S. Air Force assets, but with joint and coalition allied partners, including the Royal Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force.

"Red Flag gives our unit valuable hands-on experience implementing command and control in a realistic and high-pressure environment," said Lt. Col. Joshua Gulbranson, 728th BMCS commander.

The annual exercise covered more than 12,000 square miles of airspace and 2.9 million acres of land on the Nevada Test and Training Range. It offered realistic air-combat training for military pilots and other flight crew members from the U.S. and allied countries, while also incorporating security forces integration to assess and validate air base defense tactics, techniques and procedures in support of aerial operations.

"This exercise helped us improve decision-making, validated our ability to coordinate with joint and allied partners, identify and close any gaps in communications and technology, and manage air operations under realistic combat conditions," Gulbranson said. "Our Airmen left Red Flag with a sharpened ability to execute the mission effectively, ensuring we are ready to support operations anytime, anywhere."

Sending your support to U.S. military members

(StatePoint) A simple message of support can go a long way. That's why to celebrate its 84th birthday, the USO announced its birthday wish is to collect 2 million messages of support this year to honor the more than 2 million people serving in the U.S. military and the families who stand by their side.

"A simple note of support can boost morale and remind service members and military families that they're not alone, no matter where they serve," said J.D. Crouch II, CEO and president of the USO.

The messages will be displayed at over 250 USO centers worldwide in high-traffic, visible locations where service members are most likely to see them, ensuring every sentiment makes an impact.

Generating widespread support back home for the people serving in our nation's military all over the world, and fostering strong connections between service members and country and



PeopleImages / iStock via Getty Images Plus

home, aligns with the USO's long-time mission.

Since 1941, the USO has been the leading nonprofit dedicated to strengthening the well-being of the people serving in America's military and their families.

The USO goes where service members go throughout their time in uniform, providing support from the moment they join the military, through deploy-

ments and as they transition back to their communities.

To celebrate the USO's birthday and send a message of support to service members, and to learn about other ways you can take action, visit USO.org/2MillionMessages.

For service members around the globe, feeling supported and appreciated by Americans can make a big difference.

How to spot a fake ‘going out of business’ sale

With the news that retailer JOANN Fabrics declared bankruptcy and announced the closure of all physical store locations, scammers are wasting no time setting up fake going out of business and liquidation websites.

The scam works when you see an online ad on social media for a JOANN "going-out-of-business" sale. You click on the ad, which takes you to a website that looks quite identical to the real JOANN website with the company's real logo and images. There, you see that their merchandise is extremely discounted to 80-90% off. The products being sold are products that you are familiar with purchasing at JOANN, so the sale seems legitimate.

As you start to add items to your cart, you may also be offered an additional promotional discount that brings prices down even more.

If you look more closely, you will notice that the website's URL is not for the real JOANN website. Instead, you're on a fake website created by a scammer who is trying to steal your personal or financial information.

BBB has received numerous reports on BBB Scam Tracker about these fake closeout sales. One person shared their experience, "We saw an ad for Joann Fabrics "bankruptcy" going-out-of-business sale, which led to a website (joann-us.com) advertising 80-90% off of various things.

We selected a dozen items in a shopping cart and then noticed an additional "promotional discount" added. At that point, we noticed the website name was not Joann's real website, compared the two online, and shut down the fake website without providing any information."

Another person shared, "They duplicated the Joann website and products, then marked the prices way down to pennies on the dollar. I almost ordered until I saw a message "so-and-so just purchased" and I know the real Joann doesn't do that."

How to avoid fake "going out of business"



Kelvin Collins

sale scams
Always confirm the website's URL. Scammers love to build fake websites that look like the real thing. These fake websites can be very convincing, so take extra steps to confirm what website you are on. Often, the URL is either off by only a letter or two or it may add extra words that still look convincing. JOANN's official website is joann.com.

Instead of clicking on ad links, go directly to the official website. In addition to fake websites, scammers can create fake social media ads. Instead of clicking on ads for extremely discounted products, go to your web browser and visit the store's official website on your own.

Be wary of deals that sound too good to be true. These liquidation scams play on people's desire to get a good deal. Even for a liquidation sale, if the price seems too good to be true, it probably is. Verify the source and the deal before making a purchase online.

Use your credit card for online purchases. Credit cards offer additional fraud protection that debit cards don't. If you accidentally purchase something from a fake website, your credit card company may allow you to contest the charge and get your money back.

Be careful with what information is being asked of you. If you're checking out when shopping online and are suddenly asked for additional personal information like your Social Security number, take that as a red flag for a scam.

A similar scam targeted consumers when Bed Bath & Beyond declared bankruptcy.

If you've been the victim of an online shopping scam, share your experience at BBB Scam Tracker. Your report helps protect other consumers from falling victim to similar scams.

Medal of Honor spotlight Army 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith Jr.

By KATIE LANGE

DoD News

Of all the men who fought and died on D-Day, Army 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Monteith Jr.'s actions might have been the most crucial toward the Allies gaining a foothold in Europe.

Through the chaos that ensued on Omaha Beach, Monteith led his soldiers through minefields and heavy fire, fighting their way up steep bluffs to cut past German defenses until they reached vital inland positions. Monteith didn't survive the day, but his efforts earned him the Medal of Honor.

Monteith was born July 1, 1917, in rural Low Moor, Virginia, to Caroline and James Monteith Sr. He had two older siblings, Robert and Nancy.

When Monteith was 9, his family moved to the state capital, Richmond. Growing up, he was an active student who was involved in several clubs, and his 6-foot-2-inch frame made him good at sports like basketball and football.

After graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1937, Monteith attended Virginia Tech University,



Photo courtesy defense.gov

Army 1st Lt. Jimmie Monteith Jr.

where his father and brother both went. He studied mechanical engineering and was a member of the Corps of Cadets, where he was known to have a good sense of humor. However, after two years, he decided he didn't want to pursue college anymore, so he dropped out and went to work at a coal company where his father served as vice president.

A little more than two years later, in October 1941, Monteith was drafted into the Army. He earned a commission as an infantry officer by June 1942 and was sent to serve at Fort McClellan, Alabama. While there, he learned that

his father had died and that his brother had received a commission into the Navy.

In April 1943, Monteith was shipped overseas to Algeria with the 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. Within a few days, though, enemy troops in Africa surrendered, ending the campaign there. A short time later, Monteith's unit was sent to fight in Sicily, where Monteith received a promotion to first lieutenant.

By December 1943, the 1st Infantry Division was on its way to England to prepare for the Invasion of Normandy — an effort that would include more than 160,000 Allied forces to become the largest air, land and sea assault ever executed.

On June 6, 1944 — D-Day — Monteith landed in the initial wave of troops near Colleville-Sur-Mer, France, known as Omaha Beach. But a lot of problems hampered their arrival.

Omaha Beach was the most heavily defended of the five beaches attacked by Allies that day. Its cliffs and high bluffs were expected to be difficult for troops to traverse, but it turned out to be even worse than expected. Soldiers encountered pillboxes surrounded by barbed wire and were hammered by artillery, machine guns and flamethrowers as they tried to gain a foothold on the beach.

According to the Medal of Honor Museum, of the 36 amphibious tanks sent to support the 16th Infantry

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Please submit articles, photos, etc to don.moncrief@afge-local987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforementioned.



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Know your family's heart history

(Family Features)
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day, observed every year on the last Wednesday of February, is a chance to shine a light on a heart condition that runs in families but often goes undiagnosed. Knowing your family’s heart history could help prevent sudden cardiac death.

What is HCM?
HCM is the most common inherited heart disease, affecting 1 in 500 people in the U.S., according to the American Heart Association. It causes the heart muscle to thicken, making it harder for the heart to pump blood. Some people with HCM feel symptoms like fatigue, dizziness, chest pain or shortness of breath while others may not notice anything at all. Because HCM runs in families,

first-degree relatives - including parents, siblings and children - should be screened if a family member has been diagnosed.

An echocardiogram or genetic testing can catch HCM early, helping prevent complications and guide treatment.

Why does this matter for young athletes?

HCM is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young athletes, sometimes with no warning signs. Research shows Black male athletes in high-intensity sports like football and basketball may be at higher risk.

In the past, athletes with HCM were often told to avoid intense exercise. Today, AHA/ACC/AMSSM/HRS/PACES/SCMR Guideline for the Management of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy have found many

people with HCM can safely stay active.

Each athlete should work with a doctor who understands HCM to create a safe exercise plan.

Where can you find support?

Living with HCM can be overwhelming, but no one has to go through it alone. For example, the American Heart Association’s Support Network connects people with HCM, caregivers and loved ones so they can share experiences, ask questions and find encouragement from others.

If you have a family history of heart disease, cardiac arrest or HCM, talk to a doctor about getting screened. To learn more about HCM and resources for student-athletes and young adults, visit heart.org/HCMStudentAthlete.

- Source: American Heart Association

REPRESENTATION

From page 1

anyone else, those people technically are still their representative, and if they call us to ask about their case, we don’t have access to their information.

“They have to contact those persons.”

The further problem, Hill and McElhaney said, is that they are contacting them, but that none of the aforementioned are responding. (Hence why they’re coming up to the Union Hall.)

Could they change representatives?

“You can make a change,” Hill said, “but you’re not doing yourself a service if they’ve been handling the case all this time.” (There’s also the issue, they said, of contacting their representative to request a

change in representatives, when their current representative is not responding to any of their requests to start with.)

Added McElhaney: “You might have been on this case for a year. And now if you’re changing in the middle of the stream it’s like starting over.”

She continued: “Say I had a grievance, and one of them was representing me. Now they’re gone. They’re not getting in touch with me. They’re not responding to me and I come and ask Ron, (well) I’d have to put together all that has happened the year before. I should have that information but a lot of times it depends on their representative knowing what needs to be done.”

Continued Hill: “So at this stage some people are coming here and asking and we don’t have it. We reached out, they’re

not responding. Judges and everything call. We’re supposed to be on this call this morning. We’re supposed to have this case this morning. Nothing.

“So then they come up here mad and we’re like we don’t have it. If I call EEO and ask about this case (their response will be) ‘You’re not their representative.’ They won’t give me that information.

“It’s really unfair to them. Whatever they send in the mail their representative gets, too. The stuff they get at home. They know their representative is getting, too. They just aren’t responding.

That again is something McElhaney, he and the rest of the Local will change. That they will hold themselves accountable and again do what’s right for the members they once said they faithfully served.

DUES

From page 1

pay their dues. I don’t know why.”

“Until afterward,” McElhaney said. “You don’t know why ever, but you don’t know why they dropped until afterward, and it’s

the next pay period.”

Right now, McElhaney said, there are more than 2,000 members who are using payroll deduction. They would obviously like to change that. To that end, they are offering an incentive to current members – e-dues is offering the same – of \$50 to convert. (\$200 to become a

member, but some conditions are required; i.e. you can’t just stop being a member one week and sign back up the next.)

To sign up for direct dues, visit Union Hall at 1764 Watson Blvd. For any additional questions you might have, contact Baxter or McElhaney at 478-922-5758.

Kelley issues guidance on 'What did you do last week Part II?'

By EVERETT KELLEY
AFGE National President

Many of you have already received, or will soon receive, another email titled “What did you do last week Part II?” This email may come from a U.S. Office of Personnel Management (“OPM”) email address, hr@opm.gov, or from your agency directly.

The email requests federal employees to respond with approximately five bullet points detailing their work over the past week.

The email also may ask employees to report their weekly activities each Monday by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. No explanation has been provided

regarding how this information will be used or why it is being requested.

AFGE strongly believes that OPM lacks the authority to direct the assignment of work to agency employees in this manner. In the meantime, AFGE continues to advise all federal employees to seek guidance from their supervisor on whether and how to respond, including the type of information that may be disseminated to OPM.

If you received the email directly from your agency, you should comply consistent with the email, unless directed otherwise. If you received the email from OPM, you should comply if directed by your supervisor

or other agency management in your chain of command, consistent with any guidance provided by your agency.

If your agency has informed you that you should not respond, you should comply with that directive. Similarly, if you have not received any guidance from your agency, we reiterate our advice from last weekend that you should ask your supervisor whether you should respond and, if so, how. Until you receive a response or other agency directive to respond, we do not believe you have any obligation to respond to an email from OPM.

AFGE will continue to monitor the situation and provide further updates as necessary.

HONOR

From page 2

Regiment’s assault, only five made it to the beach. Heavy seas and various underwater obstacles threw off the landings, and many men were killed by the barrage of gunfire before they made it to shore. A lot of the supporting equipment, including tanks, were swamped in waist-deep water.

Monteith and his fellow soldiers in L Company were on one of the boats that didn’t hit their mark, instead landing 500 yards to the left of its targeted landing zone. However, according to the museum, the company was still one of only eight in that initial wave to remain operational as a unit. And under Monteith’s leadership, they excelled despite the odds.

As soon as they landed, Monteith disregarded his own safety to move up and down the beach, reorganizing men before leading an assault through heavy fire over a ledge and across exposed terrain before reaching the comparative safety of a cliff. A letter from a soldier in Monteith’s platoon later said that the first lieutenant led them through heavy barbed wire and two minefields to get there.

As those men regrouped, Monteith retraced his steps across the field to the beach, where he saw two operational Sherman tanks being bombarded by enemy artillery and machine gun fire. Monteith made his way to them and banged on their sides, telling the men inside to follow him. Despite intense fire, he led them on foot through a minefield and into firing positions, where they were able to destroy an enemy pillbox and two machine gun nests.

From there, Monteith rejoined his company and led them on an assault on a German strongpoint leading off the beach. After heavy fighting, his men captured an important position on a hill.

According to his Medal of Honor citation, Monteith supervised the defense of the position against repeated counterattacks, and continuing to ignore his own personal safety, he repeatedly crossed several hundred yards of embattled open terrain to strengthen links in his company’s defensive chain and fight off new threats.

Eventually, enemy troops completely

surrounded the unit. While leading the fight out of the situation, Monteith was struck by machine gun bullets and killed.

Monteith’s intense valor and will to lead in a dire situation helped the Allies find an important pathway to push further into Normandy and seize inland objectives. His Medal of Honor citation said his gallantry and courage were “worthy of emulation.”

On D-Day, American troops suffered the worst losses of all the Allied troops involved. About 2,400 casualties were reported on Omaha Beach alone — more than the other four beachheads combined.

According to a collection of records regarding Monteith’s life kept at Virginia Tech’s archives, Monteith was initially slated to get the Distinguished Service Cross. However, when Army Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower — the Allied supreme commander during World War II who led the Normandy invasion — was given Monteith’s recommendation, the honor was adjusted.

“I must say that the thing looks like a Medal of Honor to me. This man was good,” Eisenhower wrote his chief of staff about Monteith.

The Medal of Honor was presented to Monteith’s mother during a ceremony at her home in Richmond on March 19, 1945. Afterward, his mother hung the medal across a picture of her son on her mantel. Monteith’s brother, who served in the Navy, survived the war and went on to become an electrical engineer.

Monteith is buried in the Normandy American Cemetery in France, which overlooks Omaha Beach and the English Channel.

Monteith’s memory lives on. When the war ended, a 15,000-seat amphitheater at Fort McClellan, where Monteith initially served, was renamed in his honor. Barracks for housing at the 16th Infantry Regiment headquarters in Furth, Germany, were also given his name.

In 1949, Virginia Tech named a new residence hall Monteith Hall. Other places that bear his name include a road at Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning) and an Army Reserve center in Richmond. As recently as 1999, a Kosovo Security Force base taken over by U.S. Marines was named Camp Monteith in his honor.

Monteith’s Medal of Honor is on display at Virginia Tech’s Corps of Cadets Museum.



The vernal equinox



ARTIST'S DEPICTION - NOT TO SCALE

- The first day of spring arrives Thursday, March 20, 2025.
- This day is known as the “vernal equinox.” In Latin, *ver* means “spring,” *aequus* means “equal” and *nox* means “night.”
- On this day, Earth’s position allows the northern and southern hemispheres to receive the sun’s rays equally; night and day are nearly equal in length. Spring comes to the northern hemisphere and autumn to the southern hemisphere. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: earthsky.org, almanac.com, vocabulary.com, @NWSNorman



Moments in time

On March 17, 1905, future president Franklin Delano Roosevelt married Eleanor Roosevelt, his fifth cousin once removed, in New York. Former President Theodore Roosevelt gave away the bride.

On March 18, 1911, composer Irving Berlin obtained the copyright for “Alexander’s Ragtime Band,” a multimillion-selling hit that helped turn American popular music into a major international phenomenon.

On March 19, 1957, Elvis Presley arranged to purchase the Colonial mansion on the outskirts of Memphis called Graceland for \$102,500, with a cash deposit of \$1,000. It is still preserved exactly as Elvis left it when he died in 1977 and is one of America’s most popular tourist attractions - second only to the White House.

On March 21, 1980, President Jimmy Carter announced that the U.S. would boycott the Olympic Games scheduled to take place in Moscow that summer, after the Soviet Union failed to comply with his Feb. 20, 1980, deadline to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

A Spanish civil servant went unnoticed for six years after he stopped showing up for work until someone tried to give him an award for his long service.

The Spangler Candy Company named their famous lollipops “Dum Dums” because it was a word that was easy for any kid to say.

In the 1960s, the Goodyear tire company tested the bright idea of lighted tires, to be available in a range of colors. They looked pretty cool in the dark, but their unfortunate tendency to melt under heavy braking and poor performance in wet conditions doomed the concept to the dustbin.

A 2016 study revealed that only 27% of the words spoken in the biggest movies were uttered by women.

National Donut Day originally started as a way to honor Salvation Army volunteers who served donuts to soldiers in World War I.

When a man allegedly found a dead mouse in his can of Mountain Dew, Pepsi had an expert claim in an affidavit that the drink was so acidic it would have dissolved the mouse after 30 days.

Fun Fact



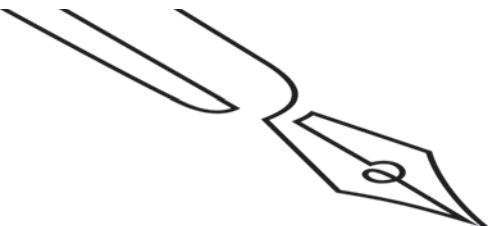
The Koenigsegg Jesko Absolut is the fastest car in the world. Its top reported speed is **256 miles per hour**. The company’s founder, Christian von Koenigsegg, claims the Jesko Absolut is capable of reaching 330 miles per hour. He named the car after his father Jesko as a tribute to his life and legacy.

Sources: www.carwow.co.uk, caranddriver.com, koenigsegg.com



1. **Captain America: Brave New World** (PG-13) Anthony Mackie, Harrison Ford
2. **The Monkey** (R) Theo James, Tatiana Maslany
3. **Paddington in Peru** (PG) Hugh Bonneville, Emily Mortimer
4. **Dog Man** (PG) Pete Davidson, Poppy Liu
5. **Heart Eyes** (R) Alex Walker, Lauren O'Hara
6. **Chhaava** (NR) Vicky Kaushal, Akshaye Khanna
7. **Mufasa: The Lion King** (PG) Aaron Pierre, Kelvin Harrison Jr.
8. **The Unbreakable Boy** (PG) Zachary Levi, Meghann Fahy
9. **Ne Zha 2** (NR) Joseph, Mo Han
10. **One of Them Days** (R) Keke Palmer, SZA

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King Crossword

ACROSS

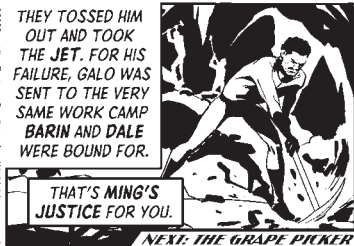
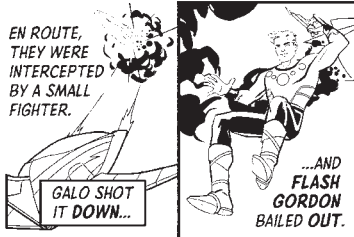
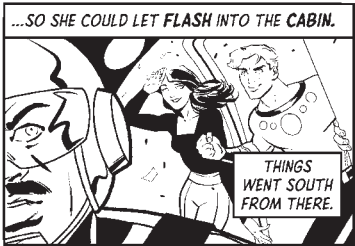
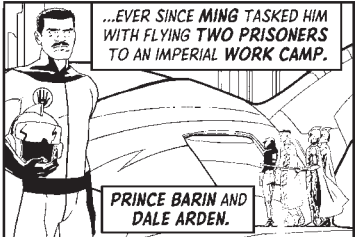
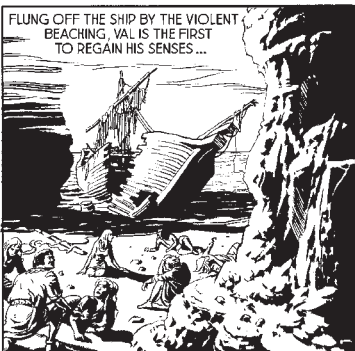
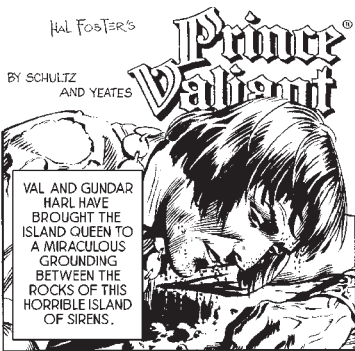
- 1 Rug cleaner, briefly
4 500 sheets
8 Nursery cry
12 — -de-France
13 "Prometheus" actor Idris
14 Tehran's country
15 Pottery
17 Dweeb
18 Ecol. watch-dog
19 Church meet-ups
21 Mellow yellows
24 Calendar abbr.
25 Train unit
26 Actress Cattrall
28 Rural build-ings
32 Pharmaceut-ical
34 Crosses (out)
36 Cranny
37 "The Stranger" author
39 Drone
41 Roman 1006
42 Judge in 1995 news
44 Polite denial
46 Height
50 Sunbather's goal
51 Part of N.B.
52 Mob bully

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
			18				19		20			
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32				33		34		35		36		
37				38		39		40		41		
				42		43		44		45		
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 56 Composer Stravinsky
57 Baltic feeder
58 Big bird
59 Brady and Hanks
60 Scatters seeds
61 Filch
- 6 Grade-school basics
7 Brick worker
8 SUV's kin
9 Location
10 Crumbly earth
11 Common conjunctions
16 Mimic
20 Male swan
21 Outlet letters
22 Actress Kate
23 Half dozen
27 "Whatever"
29 Lothario
30 PBS science show
31 Nonfat
- 33 Fender instru-ments
35 Heat source
38 "Rugrats" dad
40 Engines
43 Two-tone cookies
45 Scratch
46 Tizzy
47 Takeout request
48 Physics bit
49 Within (Pref.)
53 Hardly any
54 Punk-rock subgenre
55 Massage

DOWN

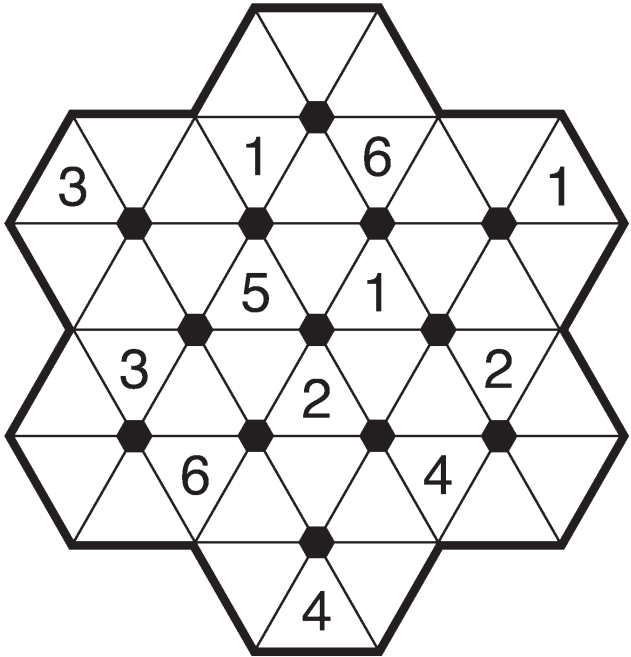
- 1 London's Old —
2 Pub serving
3 Part of the brain
4 Comment
5 Inventor Whitney



SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦
♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦♦ Difficult

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Americanisms



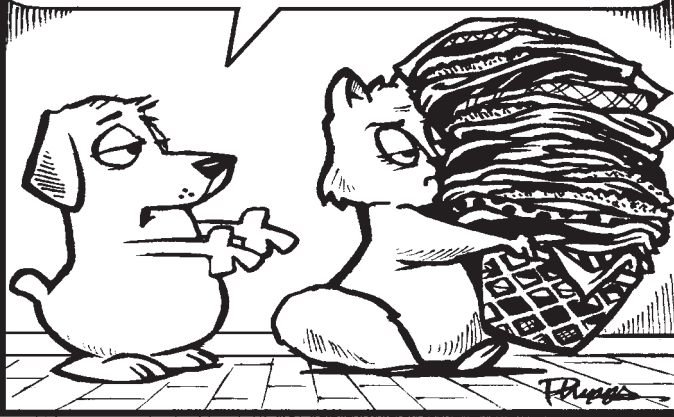
"I always wanted to be someone better the next day than I was the day before."
— Sidney Poitier

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

I GET IT. YOU SAID TO DO THE LAUNDRY WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, BUT TO BE FAIR, I DID MANAGE TO FIND ONE LAST CLEAN SHIRT.



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

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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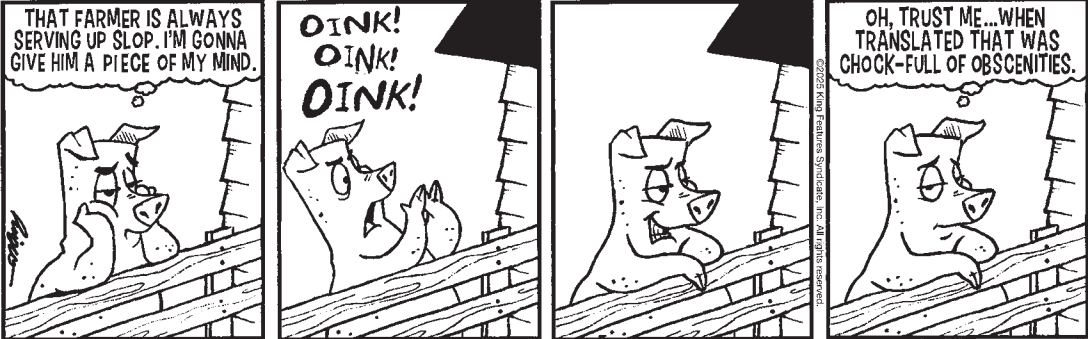
5	9	7	3	4	1	8	2	6
6	8	1	2	9	5	4	7	3
9	8	1	2	6	5	4	7	3
4	2	3	7	9	8	5	1	6
3	7	4	9	1	2	9	8	5
8	5	2	6	3	7	9	4	1
1	9	6	5	8	4	7	3	2
2	1	9	8	7	6	3	5	4
6	4	8	1	5	3	2	9	7
7	3	5	4	2	9	1	6	8

Answer

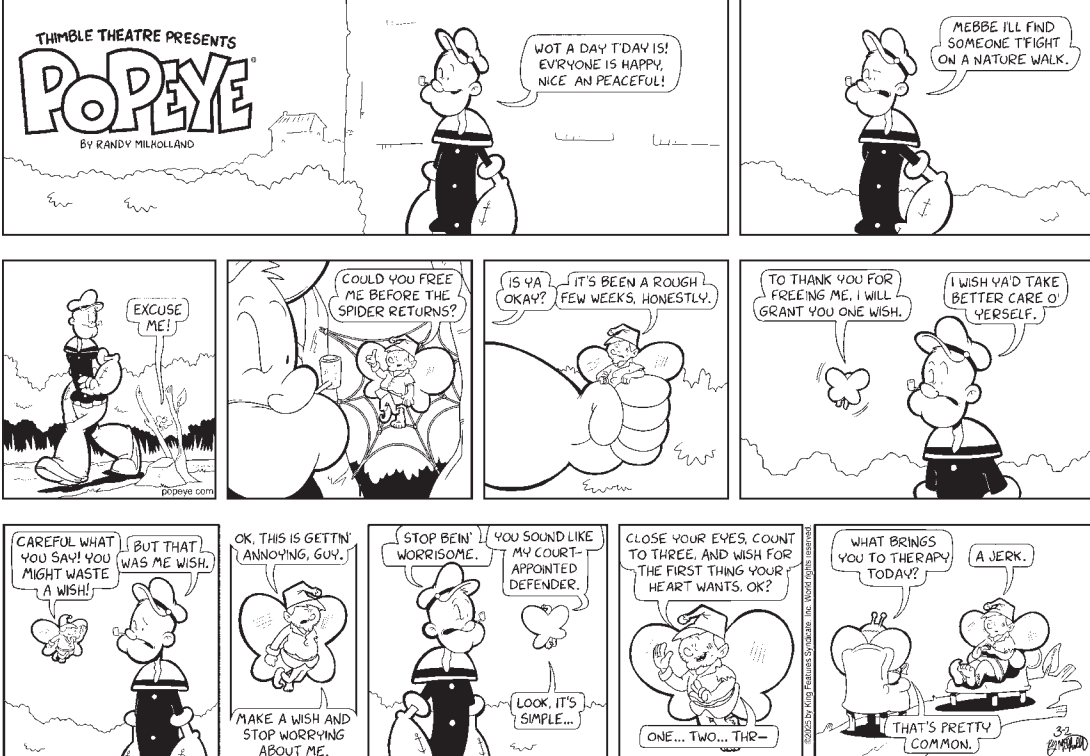
Weekly SUDOKU

fun

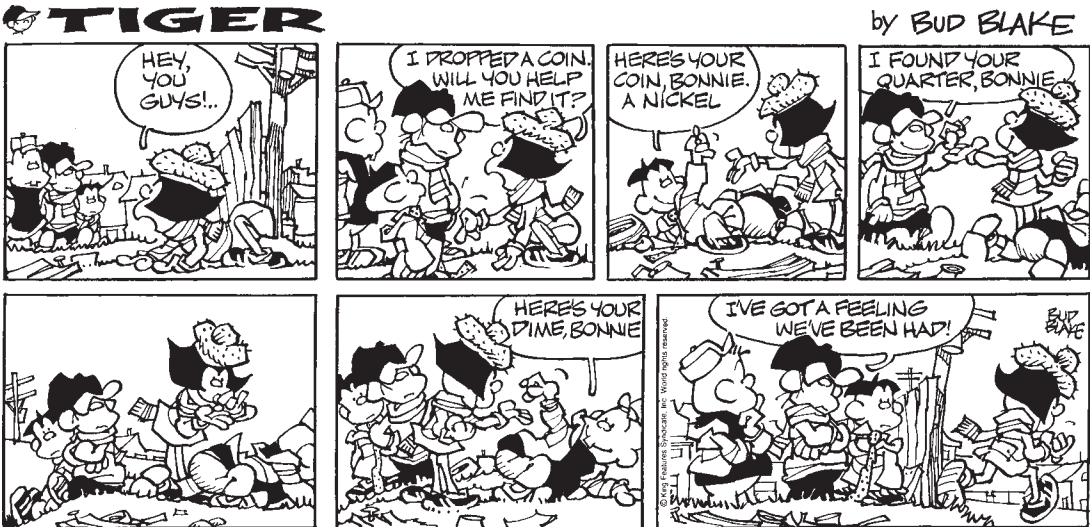
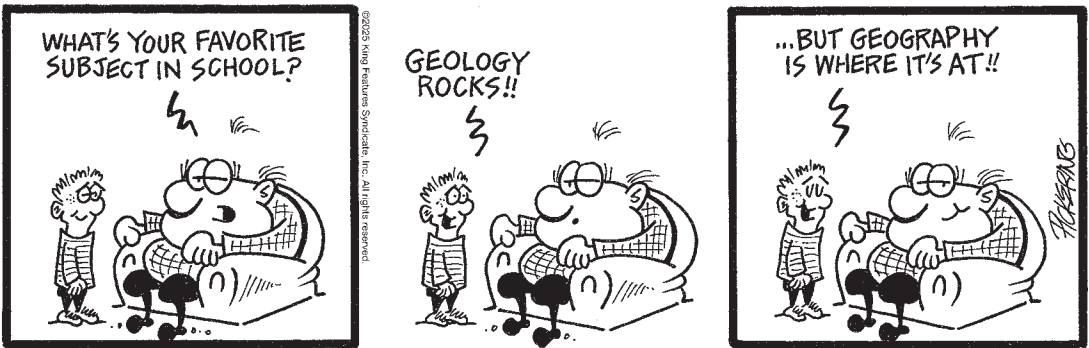
Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



The Spats



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GO FIGURE!

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

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

	-		+		=	4		
-		+		+				
	+			+		= 11		
+		x		+				
	+		÷			= 1		
=		=		=				
10		40		20				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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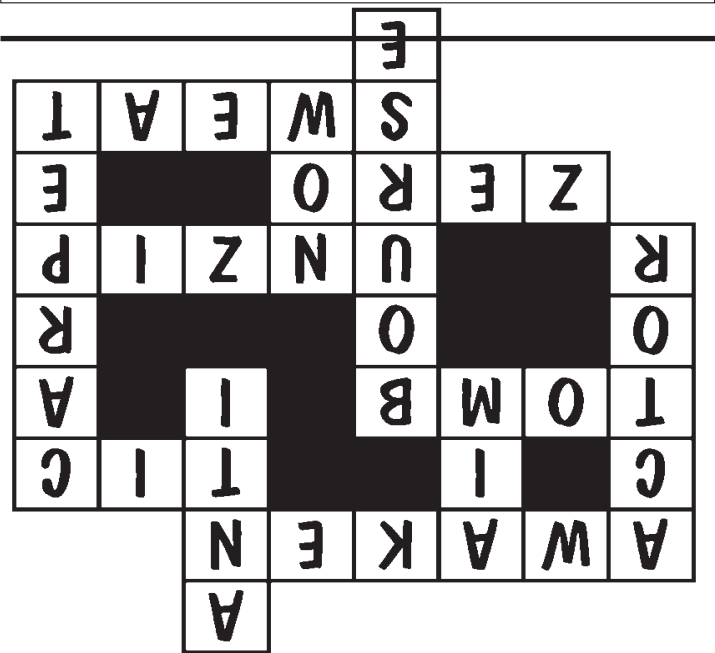
FEAR & KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

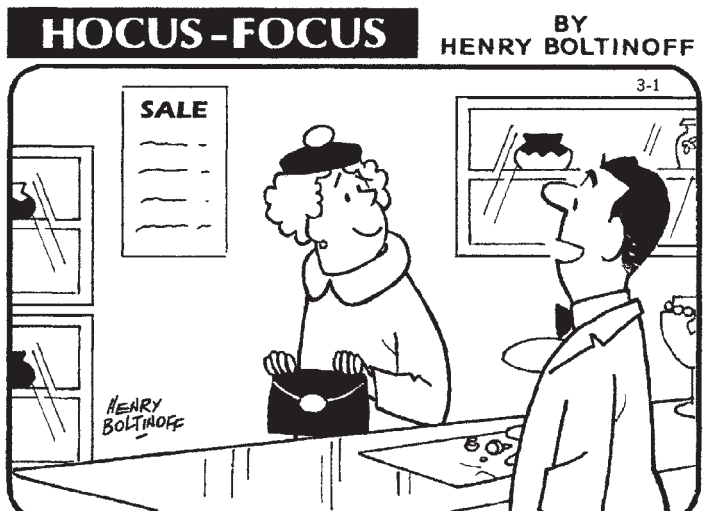
ICT
RUBESO
♥EWSTA
ORZE
KANEWA
MIA
NIAT
COTRA
♥WNO
TRECPA
PINZU
OBTM

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.



	20		40		10	
=		=		=		
1	=	6	÷	5	+	4
	+		x		+	
11	=	8	+	2	+	1
	+		+		-	
4	=	3	+	6	-	7

answers



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: A equals G

MW Q BGSL YQEE EGAH
DYSVRYVSG MD YHCCEMTA
HBGS, M DVCCHDG WHEXD UQL
GTRHVTYGS YVUNEMTA NEHRXD.

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CryptoQuip

If a very tall Lego structure is toppling over, I suppose folks may encounter tumbling blocks.

answer

FEAR & KNOT

The Muffuletta

A New Orleans classic you can make at home

By PATTI DIAMOND

Laissez les bon temps rouler! Mardi Gras is here, and what better way to celebrate than with a taste of New Orleans? Enter the Muffuletta -- a Big Easy classic that's as indulgent as its birthplace.

A true Muffuletta (or Muffaletta, depending on who you ask) starts with a wide, round Sicilian loaf, topped with sesame seeds and a soft texture like focaccia or ciabatta. But the real magic happens inside. This sandwich is a symphony of Italian cold cuts, provolone cheese, and the piÃce de rÃ©sistance: a briny, garlicky olive salad that soaks into the bread, making every bite unforgettable.

If you can eat a Muffuletta without a little oil running down your arm, I hate to say it, but it wasn't made right! The Muffuletta was created in 1906 at Central Grocery on Decatur Street in New Orleans when a Sicilian deli owner suggested combining cured meats, cheeses and preserved vegetables inside bread instead of serving them separately. Today, it's a beloved New Orleans staple.

One of the best things about a Muffuletta? It gets better with time. As it rests, the olive salad seeps into the bread, enhancing every layer. That's why it's ideal for parties -- make a few, wrap them up and slice them open as needed. Late-arriving guests? No problem! They might just get the best slice.

A Sandwich with Personality

What makes a Muffuletta truly shine is the olive salad -- it's the heart and soul of this sandwich. If you plan

ahead, let the salad sit overnight in the fridge. This extra step allows the flavors to meld, giving you an even more robust bite. And if you fall in love with it (which you will), make a big batch! Stored under a thin layer of olive oil in a sealed container, it'll keep in the fridge for months, ready to transform your next sandwich, salad or even pasta dish.

While an authentic Muffuletta can be pricey at a deli, making one at home is easy and economical. Here's how to get that signature flavor without breaking the bank:

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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A Mardi Gras classic with Italian cold cuts and briny olive salad (photo courtesy: www.JasonCoblentz.com.)

MUFFULETTA SANDWICH
Yield: 4-6 servings
Total Time: 1 hour 15 mins. to overnight
1/2 cup marinated mixed olives
1/4 cup roasted red peppers
1/2 cup Italian giardiniera mix (pickled vegetables)
1/2 teaspoon dried Italian herbs
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 cup Italian dressing, or oil and vinegar
1 (9 inch-10 inch) round loaf of Italian or French bread
1 1/2 pounds mixed Italian deli cold cuts, like salami, bologna, soppressata, ham
1/2 pound sliced provolone cheese
In a small food processor, mince the olives, peppers, giardiniera, Italian herbs, garlic and Italian dressing.
Slice the bread in half horizontally and gently press inside to make

room for the filling.

Generously spread the olive mixture on both sides of the bread. Artistically layer the cold cuts and provolone inside the bread. Place the top back on the sandwich and press down.

Wrap the sandwich tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least one hour, or preferably overnight for maximum flavor. Slice it into wedges and serve while playing Dixieland jazz (optional but highly recommended).

Variations to Suit Your Style

-- Heat Lovers: Use jalapeno-stuffed olives or add a dash of red pepper flakes.

-- Vegetarian Option: Swap out the meats for grilled eggplant, zucchini and roasted red peppers.

The Muffuletta isn't just a sandwich, it's a celebration of bold flavors and rich history. Whether you're celebrating Mardi Gras or just craving something amazingly delicious, this New Orleans classic brings festivity to your table year-round. Don't forget the napkins!

For St. Patrick's, every day - take time for tea

By DONNA ERICKSON

When you think of "tea time," the image of sipping a relaxing cup of tea with friends may come to mind, but when these words bounce off the walls in my house, the teapot isn't whistling. Instead, my husband and sons are racing out the door to make their "tee time" at the golf course.

When my Irish-born friend Margaret moved to the United States more than 10 years ago, she couldn't help but notice our always-on-the-go, hectic, and hurried lifestyle. She was determined to show Americans that it is possible to pause and enjoy friendship like the Irish tend to do. So, she not only makes a daily event of tea time for herself, but she also shares the tradition with her children and friends.

With St. Patrick's Day coming up on March 17, make a family resolution to slow down and enjoy simple moments together like tea time. As Margaret observes, "By the time everyone sips some tea, slathers scones with jam and butter, and pours more tea, can you imagine the wonderful one-on-one discussions a person can have with their children, family and friends?"

Here are some ideas to get started: Kids can help by setting up the "tea tray," a necessary component for tea time. You'll need a sugar

bowl, a pitcher for milk, and a small plate with sliced lemons. Cover the coffee table or dining room table with a white lace cloth. (She collects hers at tag sales.) Then place cups, saucers, spoons and napkins around the table. Each person can be given a dessert plate and a butter knife to cut scones or cake into pieces, or for spreading butter and cream.

When it's time to sit down, let the children be responsible for passing the milk, sugar, cake or scones.

How to brew a proper pot of tea: Boil a kettle of water. Pour 1 inch of hot water into a china or silver teapot. Swirl to warm, then pour it out.

Into the pot, measure 1 teaspoon of tea per person and 1 extra teaspoon for the pot. Add rapidly boiling water to the pot and steep for 5 minutes. Strain tea into teacups.

Dispose of used tea leaves in a compost pile or scatter them around your growing roses.

Serve with whole milk if you wish. It gives the tea a nice color and rounds out the flavor. Children tend to prefer it this way.

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at www.donnaerickson.com.

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(Photo courtesy Donna Erickson)

YOUNG

Young Organizing Unionists for the Next Generation

The AFGE Young Organizing Unionists for the Next Generation program seeks to mobilize young union members to become leaders and activists for social change within AFGE and the Labor Movement.

AFGE members who are under the age of 40 and those mentors that are over 40 will work together to include younger workers into the union structure and keep them engaged in what's at stake for working class Americans.

AFGEYOUNG intends to provide young members with networking opportunities and resources to engage in mobilizing other young workers into AFGE, union training to promote leadership skills, innovative social gatherings, AFGE conference meetings, and other engaging events.

In doing so, AFGE YOUNG participants work to build lasting labor solidarity, advance issues of social and economic justice, and find more inclusive ways to engage the current and future generations in the Labor Movement.

For more information, or to get involved at the AFGE Local 987 level, call 478-922-5758.