

Local 987 placed in Trusteeship

By **DON MONCRIEF**
Editor, The Union Advocate
don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org

Local 987 has been placed in Trusteeship. It was effective Oct. 29, 2024 according to AFGE National President Everett Kelley in a letter sent to members. It was done, according to Kelley in the letter in accordance with Article IX, Section 5(a) and 5(b)(4) of the AFGE National Constitution and approval of the NEC. “I imposed trusteeship on the local to safeguard and protect the local, by taking immediate charge of all equities and properties, tangible and intangible, acquired and/or possessed by the local, and to otherwise carry out the legitimate duties and objectives of the local,” Kelley wrote.

The specific reasons for the trusteeship were also outlined in the letter. (If you did not receive one, contact the local by phone at 478-922-5758 or visit the local headquarters at 1764 Watson Blvd.)

Kelley continued that it was “essential that proper financial controls and democratic principles be restored and maintained.” To oversee that, he has appointed Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney as Trustee of the local.

Her initial duty, according to the

“I hope that everybody will come together and work for the good and betterment of Local 987. There are no sides. There are no teams. There is a family. There is a body. And that body is the BUEs of Local 987.”

- Trustee Jeanette McElhaney

letter, was to take immediate possession of the local’s property, both tangible and intangible, instruct financial institutions to transfer authority over to her, have all checks countersigned by the secretary-treasurer – the letter authorizes her to appoint one as well as any other officers she deems necessary to assist her/them.

As far as those officers: “Some people who were here were asked if they wanted to stay,” she said. “Some said yes and some did not. And some didn’t give an answer.”

Three of those who answered yes were James Waston, Mike Ferguson and Antonio Lumpkin. Watson remains as vice president of maintenance. Ferguson was appointed to serve as vice president at-large and Lumpkin has been appointed to continue his full-time duties. Two trustees continue on, Tommy Gibson and Curtis McCants and Ron Hill has been appointed as acting president, while Tom Scott has been appointed acting executive vice president and Jerry Galloway has been appointed secretary.

“So, three of the five were already here,” she said, adding she is welcoming suggestions to fill the others. “We’re looking for people from different walks of life,” she said. “Not necessarily from the same team. Asking them to come and work together to get our union on track. As one.”

Her heart/overall vision: “I hope that everybody will come together and work for the good and betterment of Local 987. There are no sides. There are no teams. There is a family. There is a body. And that body is the BUEs of Local 987.”

Per the letter, under “longstanding AFGE practice, trusteeships are to be terminated as soon as possible, once the irregularities that caused the trust-



Jeanette McElhaney, AFGE Local 987’s Treasurer, has been appointed Trustee by AFGE National President Everett Kelley during the period the local is in Trusteeship. (Don Moncrief/AFGE Local 987)

eeship have been cured and no longer exist.”

To that end, Kelley writes, addressing those irregularities are a “priority.” In addition, he writes, “The local will elect officers prior to my lifting

the trusteeship and the officers will be installed at the end of the trusteeship.”

He added: “To restore autonomy to the local as soon as possible, I urge all members to assist and cooperate with the Trustee.”

Most Feds to receive Diet COLA – again – in 2025

By **AFGE Leadership**

The 2025 cost of living adjustment was announced recently, and most federal workers will again receive a reduced COLA due to a flawed rule in the current law.

For 2025, Social Security beneficiaries and Civil Service Retirement System retirees are expected to receive a 2.5% COLA, while Federal Employees Retirement System retirees, those hired in 1984 or later, will only get a 2% increase.

Under the current law, the COLAs for Social Security, CSRS, and FERS are all calculated based on the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. If CPI is 2% or less, the FERS COLA is the same as the CSRS and Social Security COLA. But if the CPI is between 2.01% and 3%, the FERS COLA is 2%. If the CPI is greater than 3%, then the COLA for FERS is 1% less

than the CSRS COLA.

For a FERS retiree it means they will lose \$128 a year just for 2025, assuming the same average pension. But for those who retired four years ago with the same average pension, their pension would have lost more than \$1,000 to rising costs because the losses are compounded. This unfair penalty places FERS retirees further away from keeping pace with the cost of living.

That’s why AFGE supports the Equal COLA Act (S. 3194 introduced by Sen. Alex Padilla and H.R. 866 introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly) which would eliminate this unfair penalty. The legislation would also eliminate the arbitrary pension cost of living reduction federal employees face in high inflation years.

“Our nation’s public servants shouldn’t see their hard-earned retirement benefits eroded by a COLA set at the start to be arbitrarily lower the real inflation rate,” said AFGE Legislative Director Julie Tippens.

Nov. 11

Veterans Day

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

WE SALUTE YOU!

- AFGE LOCAL 987



Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars, and Veterans Day 2024 will occur on Monday, November 11. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as “the Great War.”

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

Armistice Day

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, marking the official end of World War I. Nonetheless, the armistice date of November 11, 1918, remained in the public imagination as the date that marked the end of the conflict.

One year later, in November 1919, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The day’s observation included parades and public gatherings, as well as a brief pause in business and school activities at 11 a.m.

On November 11, 1921, an unidentified American soldier killed in the war was buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. On the same day the previous year,

unidentified soldiers were laid to rest at Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a resolution that the “recurring anniversary of [November 11, 1918] should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations,” and that the president should issue an annual proclamation calling for the observance of Armistice Day.

By that time, 27 state legislatures had made November 11 a legal holiday. An act approved May 13, 1938 made November 11 a legal Federal holiday, “dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as ‘Armistice Day.’”

In actuality, there are no U.S. national holidays because the states retain the right to designate their own, and the government can only designate holidays for federal employees and for the District of Columbia. In practice, however, states almost always follow the federal lead.

From Armistice Day to Veterans Day

American effort during World War II saw the greatest mobilization of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force in the nation’s history (more than 16 million people); some 5.7 million more served in the Korean War.

In 1954, after lobbying

efforts by veterans’ service organizations, the 83rd U.S. Congress amended the 1938 act that had made Armistice Day a holiday, striking the word “Armistice” in favor of “Veterans.” President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954. From then on, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

The next development in the story of Veterans Day unfolded in 1968, when Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which sought to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees—and encourage tourism and travel—by celebrating four national holidays (Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day) on Mondays.

The observation of Veterans Day was set as the fourth Monday in October. The first Veterans Day under the new law was Monday, October 25, 1971; confusion ensued, as many states disapproved of this change, and continued to observe the holiday on its original date.

In 1975, after it became evident that the actual date of Veterans Day carried historical and patriotic significance to many Americans, President Gerald Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11th beginning in 1978. If November 11 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the federal government observes the holiday on the previous Friday

or following Monday, respectively. Government offices are closed on Veterans Day.

Remembrance Day

Great Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November).

In Europe, Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

Veterans Day Traditions

In the United States, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held each Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, while parades and other celebrations are held in states around the country.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

- Source: History.com

In memory ...

Jercardo Jackson

Member since Sept. 18, 2019

Passed away Oct. 20, 202

MONTH

Save the date

2

Membership meeting

Local 987 will have a membership meeting

Nov. 21 at 5 p.m. (Doors open at 4 p.m., with refreshments/available.) It will be held at Union Hall, located at 1764 Watson Blvd. (It will also be on Zoom.) 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.



U.S. Air Force Col. Larry Fenner Jr., 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing commander, left, passes the guidon to U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Middents, 950th Spectrum Warfare Group commander, right, during the 950 SWG and 17th Electronic Warfare Squadron assumption of command ceremony at the Museum of Aviation, Robins Air Force Base Oct. 29. An assumption of command is a military tradition that represents a formal transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit to a commanding officer. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Anna Smith)

950th Spectrum Warfare Group, 17th Electronic Warfare Squadron activate at Robins AFB

By Senior Airman Anna Smith
350th Spectrum Warfare Wing
Public Affairs

The 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing out of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, activated the 950th Spectrum Warfare Group and the 17th Electronic Warfare Squadron in an assumption of command ceremony held at the Museum of Aviation at Robins AFB Oct. 29, a full three years ahead of schedule.

Col. Michael G. Middents assumed command of the group, and Lt. Col. Christopher R. Cox assumed command of the squadron, both of which will be headquartered at Robins.

“We don’t know how much time we have before the Air Force is ordered into large-scale combat again, but if we look at history it is only a matter of time,” said Middents. “...the team that dominates the spectrum will have the upper hand in the modern fight.”

This time last year, the 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing, Detachment 1, and the 87th Electronic Warfare Squadron, Detachment 1, were activated at Robins, both under the command of Cox. Personnel under the command of the 350th SWW, Det. 1, transitioned to become the group staff, and personnel under the command of the 87th EWS, Det. 1, transitioned to make up the 17th EWS.

“As we execute and celebrate these activations and assignments, we cannot forget the monumental task that lies ahead for our organization and for our continued dedication to the unwavering commitment to securing our nation’s future,” said Col. Larry Fenner Jr., 350th SWW commander.

The group will be responsible for four mission essential functions: developing electromagnetic warfare assessments; executing EW assessments for all aircraft in the Air Force inventory; integrating approach to improve current capabilities and mature and facilitate operationalization of future capabilities; and conducting assessments of large force exercises and combat operations across the globe.

“We will now focus solely on building our organization over the next two years...simultaneously executing our mission while building our capabilities, and we will gratefully do so in support of everyone here today,” said Middents.

The activation of the 950th SWG and 17th EWS brings the number of units the 350th SWW has activated since it stood up in 2021 to five, reinforcing the Air Force’s commitment to invest in EW.

The 950th SWG and its units will allow the Air Force to grow its ability to conduct EW assessment beyond its Combat Shield

mission, which assesses EW capabilities onboard Air Force platforms and is operated by the 87th EWS – an already existing squadron that will remain at Eglin but will now be part of the 950th SWG.

“We are going to evolve Combat Shield into a true weapons system evaluation program and assess cradle-to-grave electromagnetic spectrum operations to inform commanders and units of their EMSO capabilities and senior leaders of the EW health of the force,” said Middents.

Before its formal activation, the group was already supporting the Air Force through its participation in the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center’s Bamboo Eagle 24-2 exercise, providing assessment expertise to participants in areas ranging from EW systems’ effectiveness to the quality of the replicated threat environments and more.

Both units pull from historical units that are being reactivated under the EW-focused wing.

The 950th SWG, originally the 950th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Systems Group, and later the 950th Electronic Systems Group, has evolved its original mission of ISR integration and acquisition, to overseeing the assessment of Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations at a Department

See ACTIVATE, page 3

Zombie debt - BBB warns of its horrible return

As Halloween approached the air filled with excitement and eerie anticipation, with costumes and candy creating a festive atmosphere. However, amid the ghostly ghouls and spine-chilling decorations lurked another kind of horror: zombie debt.

This term refers to old debts that have reemerged to haunt consumers, often past the statute of limitations, yet still pursued by collectors. It could even be something you never owed at all.

These financial burdens can cause anxiety and confusion, so it’s essential for you to understand your rights and take steps to protect yourself should someone reach out to you about a questionable debt.

So how does this work?

When a person doesn’t pay a debt, the lender will take action – by phone, letter, or even a court case – to collect the money they are owed. In some cases, though, the debtor simply can’t pay or can’t be found. In other cases, the debtor files for bankruptcy and, depending on the kind of debt owed, the debt may be put on hold, renegotiated or discharged completely.

But ... sometimes, this old debt comes back to life unexpectedly.

Some of the most common scenarios of zombie debt are the following:

Unpaid debts that are beyond the statute of limitations when you can be taken to court for payment

Unpaid debts you owe but forgot about

Unpaid debts wiped out with bankruptcy

Debts you already settled with the creditor

Fraudulent charges from identity theft

Fake debts “creditors” claim you owe as part of a scam

How does debt come back to life?

Creditors often remove old debt from their ledgers and sell it to third-party collectors. In some cases, the debts are legitimate, but in other



Kelvin Collins

cases, they aren’t. When debts are sold and re-sold, the records may be incomplete or inaccurate. Think of it as a game of “telephone.” The more times a debt is passed around, the more chance that the related information is wrong.

When debt collectors call

The legal treatment of old debt will depend on where you live and the type of debt in question. Depending on the law, debt collectors are not allowed to sue for old debt if the statute of limitations has expired, however, they are still allowed to contact you and ask to pay off the old debt. Check the statute of limitations for each U.S. state for more information.

However, if you start to make payments or acknowledge the debt in some way, the action may restore the collection agency’s legal right to take the matter to court. Never agree to make a payment on a debt you aren’t sure about, even if the collection agency puts pressure on you for payment.

The best way to start is by doing a thorough investigation. Search through old records to find bank statements and notices of payment. Gather as many facts as possible about the debt in question. Next, within 35 days of initial contact and without acknowledging the debt is yours, ask the creditor for a debt validation letter. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires the debt collection agency to provide you with written proof of the debt’s validity or a judgment against you, as well as the name and address of the original creditor if the debt was resold. Once this information is gathered, determine if the debt is really yours and if it still needs to be paid.

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Medal of Honor spotlight Army SSgt. Kazuo Otani

By KATIE LANGE
DoD News

Friends of Army Staff Sgt. Kazuo Otani knew that he would do anything to help others and prove his allegiance to the United States. So, it was no surprise to many that Otani gave his life during World War II to protect fellow soldiers who were pinned down by enemy fire. His efforts garnered accolades then, but it wasn’t until decades later that his heroics were truly recognized as he was bestowed with the Medal of Honor.

Otani was born on June 2, 1918, in Sanger, California, to parents Yoichi and Shizuo Otani, who had emigrated from Japan in the early part of the century. He had two brothers, Ted and Tom.

The family eventually moved about an hour south to Visalia, where the boys grew up. Otani graduated from Visalia Union High School in 1937. He was working on a citrus farm when the Pearl Harbor attacks happened and the U.S. joined World War II, according to a Fresno Bee newspaper article.

Since the Japanese were behind the Pearl Harbor attacks, suspicion and fear regarding Japanese Americans, known as Nisei, became per-

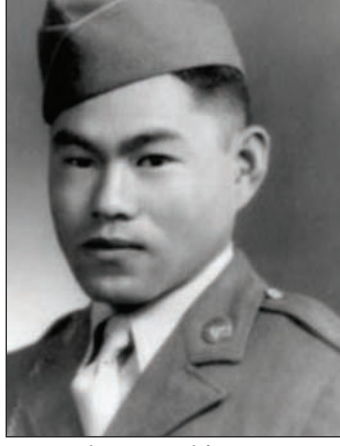


Photo courtesy defense.gov
Army SSgt. Kazuo Otani

vasive in the U.S., growing to the point where Nisei were considered enemy aliens and barred from military service. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese American civilians were also relocated into internment camps out of distrust. Otani’s family was forced to move to the Gila River War Relocation Center in Arizona.

About a year later, the Army activated the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion, segregated units that were created so Japanese Americans who wanted to prove their allegiance to the U.S. could fight in the European theater of war. Otani volunteered to join the 442nd and trained at Fort Shelby, Mississippi, before

deploying to Italy in June 1944. Before he left, he was able to visit his family at the internment camp in Arizona, according to a 2000 Fresno Bee article.

“He was glad to go , in fact. He figured he’d fight for his country,” his brother, Ted, said in the article. “He couldn’t visit us, not until two weeks before he went overseas. That was the last time we saw him.”

When Otani arrived in Italy, the 442nd joined with the 100th in fierce fighting that earned the units several accolades. Over the next two months, soldiers in the 100th received three Distinguished Service Crosses while soldiers in the 442nd received nine — including one for Otani.

On July 15, 1944, Otani was with the 442nd’s 2nd Battalion, Company G, near Pieve di Santa Luce when his platoon was pinned down in a wheat field by enemy sniper and machine gun fire. Realizing the danger they were in, Otani left his cover so he could shoot and kill a sniper that was wreaking havoc on the platoon.

He then dashed across the open field toward the foot of a cliff, despite being followed by a hail of machine gun fire. Once he arrived at the cliff, he directed his men to crawl to it for cover. When their movement drew more enemy fire, Otani ran alongside the cliff, exposing himself to draw the fire away from his men, which helped many of them reach cover.

After organizing the men who made it to the cliff to guard against a possible

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Anyone can be a victim of a cybercrime. Here’s what to know

(StatePoint) Even the most skilled cybersecurity expert can fall prey to today’s incredibly sophisticated phishing attempts.

Phishing can take place in a variety of ways, but recognizing these “lures” is a powerful way to defang cybercriminals:

Phishing: Traditional phishing comes in the form of a fraudulent email that encourages recipients to click on a link and provide personal data. Often the subject lines are designed to entice the receiver with an interesting headline, timely topic or urgent request.

Smishing: An attacker sends a text prompting the recipient to click a link or call a number for more information. If the link is clicked, the user downloads malicious software to their phone.

Vishing: An attacker uses the telephone—or voice—to gain access to sensitive information for financial gain. The criminal usually poses as someone they are not, such as another employee, technical support person or someone representing a government agency.

Quishing: An attacker creates a fake QR code and uses it to direct victims to a malicious website that prompts them to enter their personal or financial



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

information.

Ultimately, the easiest way for a cybercriminal to steal your information is to trick you into sharing it. Their fraudulent communications will often look official and appear to have come from a trusted source. However, there are warning signs to watch out for. Pause and ask yourself the following questions before responding:

Do you know the person who sent you the message? The source of an email or text can easily be forged, making it seem that a request is coming from someone you know. If something seems off or if the sender is asking for money or per-

sonal information, contact them through a different channel than the original message to confirm the message came from them.

Does the message create a sense of urgency? Criminals will often try to rush you into making an unwise decision. An example of such a message may read, “confirm your login details in the next 24 hours using the link below or your account will be suspended.” Always take the time necessary to think through your response and confirm legitimacy.

Does the offer seem too good to be true? Treat any messages announcing you’ve won

See CYBERCRIME, page 3

THE UNION ADVOCATE

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

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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@afge-local987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforementioned.



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

Lasers: A safer alternative to weight-loss drugs?

(StatePoint) Weight-loss drugs have skyrocketed in popularity because of their quick results and use among celebrities and influencers. J.P. Morgan predicts that by 2030, 30 million Americans will use them.

However, some medical providers say the drugs’ hidden health risks may not be worth their benefits.

“Weight loss is so often prescribed to improve health,” said Dr. Cesar Lara, a board-certified medical bariatric physician. “The irony is that many of today’s weight-loss medications bring forth their own set of serious risk factors.”

Hidden risks

A growing number of weight-loss drug users report side effects

including nausea, vomiting, tachycardia, fatigue, depression and suicidal ideation.

And because these drugs are relatively new for weight-loss purposes, questions linger about their long-term impacts.

Lara said patients considering the drugs should know their potential side effects and alternative options.

“I would advise any patient of mine who needs or desires to lose weight to investigate safe options, like low-level lasers, and to understand the risks of taking medications that could potentially compromise their health,” Lara said.

Safer alternatives

Low-level lasers are a non-invasive, pain-free option for people

seeking safer weight-loss treatment.

For example, the Emerald Laser, an FDA-cleared low-level laser for fat loss and body contouring, is additionally FDA-cleared for treating obesity, making it a good choice for those with a lot of weight to lose.

The Zerona, also an FDA-cleared low-level laser for fat loss and body contouring, has over-the-counter clearance for overall body circumference reduction, providing a way to quickly target stubborn areas of fat.

Both lasers create temporary tiny pores in fatty cells to release fat, which the body’s lymphatic system naturally removes. Ultimately, the lasers shrink fat

cells without damaging them.

This controlled approach helps ensure optimal results in target areas such as the waist, chest or back and requires no recovery time.

Unlike many other weight-loss treatments, lasers do not elevate plasma lipids, triglycerides or cholesterol. They also don’t cause bruising or swelling.

Fat-loss laser treatments are often available at doctors’ offices, chiropractors, spas, health centers and fitness centers. To find a location near you or to offer a laser service at your business, visit fatlosslasers.com.

When considering your weight-loss options, prioritize safe, non-invasive treatments with no side effects.

DEBT

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If you determine the debt was yours, but you already paid it, write a letter to the collections agency and demand that they cease contact. Include proof of payment if available. The collections agency is legally required to stop contacting you under the FDCPA.

If you determine the debt is not yours or is invalid, write a letter challenging its validity. Where applicable, include any proof you may have.

If you determine you do owe the funds and you can pay the debt, resolve the issue by first getting a payment agreement in writing and then eliminating your unresolved debt.

If you determine you do

owe the funds, but you can’t pay the debt, a good next step is to secure credit counseling services. Find Better Business Bureau Accredited credit counseling service providers at BBB.org

When deciding what route to take, keep in mind that once a debt is past the statute of limitations, collectors can no longer sue you to get payment. In addition, the FDCPA stipulates that any unpaid debts should be removed from a person’s credit score after seven years. If you decide to begin paying or pay in full an old debt, it could restart the statute of limitations and affect your credit.

If you need to contact a collection agency to dispute a debt, request a debt validation letter or ask the collection agency to cease contact, you can use these

templates on Consumer.gov. Remember that while most debt collection agencies are legitimate, there may be times when a scammer is phishing for information. For more

information on how to avoid this scheme, visit BBB.org/AvoidScams. If you’ve been targeted by a debt collection scam, be sure to report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker.

HONOR

From page 2

counterattack, Otani again made his way across the open field, shouting instructions to the rest of the stranded platoon as he continued to draw enemy fire.

When Otani got to the rear of the platoon’s position, he took partial cover in a shallow ditch and directed cover fire for the remaining men who had begun to move toward the cliff.

During that moment, one of the men became seriously injured and was trapped out in the open in full view of the enemy. Otani ordered the rest of the men to take cover, then crawled to the wounded soldier and dragged him to a shallow ditch, where he began first aid.

Otani was shot by machine gun fire as he was doing so and died.

Otani’s extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were honored with the Distinguished Service Cross, which his parents received while still at their detention center in March 1945. The family wasn’t released from the camp until about five months later.

When Otani’s remains were repatriated to the U.S., he was buried in the Veterans Liberty Cemetery in Fresno, California.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was one of the most decorated units in U.S. military history, but very few of the men who served in it initially received Medals of Honor for their actions. In 1996, legislators called for a review of the service records of Asian-American service mem-

bers from World War II who had received the Distinguished Service Cross. They wanted to determine if any of those men had been passed over for the Medal of Honor due to discrimination of the time.

The investigation revealed prejudice did play a role in the awards selection process. To rectify that injustice, 22 Nisei soldiers were upgraded to the Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the White House on June 21, 2000.


Fifteen of the 22 medals presented were done so posthumously. For those who were no longer living, their families received the nation’s highest honor for valor on their behalf, including Otani. His brother, Ted, received the medal from former President Bill Clinton.

A few months after the ceremony, a new grave marker was dedicated at Otani’s burial site.

“He would do anything for anybody,” said Ken Miyamoto, a friend of Otani’s who went through basic training with him and attended the grave dedication. “If anybody needed help, or something to be done, he would do it.”

Otani’s family eventually donated his medal to the Veterans Memorial Museum in Fresno.

In December 2011, more than 450 Japanese American soldiers from World War II were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal for their heroic actions and loyalty in the face of ethnic discrimination. The medal is the highest award for service that the U.S. can bestow on a civilian.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SUSTAINMENT CENTER (AFMC)
TINKER AIR FORCE BASE OKLAHOMA

MEMORANDUM FOR UNION PRESIDENTS OF AFSC EMPLOYEES

FROM: AFSC/CC
3001 Staff Drive
Tinker AFB OK 73145-3303

SUBJECT: Extension of Temporary Suspension of AFSC Civilian Fitness Activities

References: (a) DAFI 31-118, *Security Forces Standards and Procedures*

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notice of the Air Force Sustainment Center is extending the temporary suspension of excused absence for civilian fitness activities authorized in Memorandum for ALHQCTR/CC/CL/ALHQSTAFF, dated 26 Apr 2022, Subject: AFMC Policy on Civilian Physical Fitness and Wellness Activities. The extended temporary suspension of civilian fitness activities is necessary due to mission requirements. AFSC will continue to review this on an annual basis.

2. In efforts to better align with the National Defense Strategy and more intently focus resources on generating cost-effective readiness, AFSC employees will not be authorized excused absence for the purpose of physical activity. AFSC’s support to Great Power Competition and the mission require all resources be focused on providing support to readiness through maintenance, supply, and operational activities. The intent of this suspension does not include physical fitness activities for those employees in our Police Departments (per DAFI 31-118) and Fire Departments (per collective bargaining agreement), who must meet stringent fitness standards to ensure the safety and welfare of our installation and personnel.

3. Please contact Ms. Dana Crowe at DSN 884-5541, or via email at dana.crowe@us.af.mil, should you have questions regarding this memo. Local Labor Relations Officers will ensure all local notification requirements, where applicable, are met.

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Date: 2024.10.18 14:27:42 -05'00'

STACEY T. HAWKINS
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander

Attachments:
1. AFSC/CC Memorandum - Temporary Suspension of AFSC Civilian Fitness Activities 2019
2. AFMC/CA Memorandum - AFMC Policy on Civilian Physical Fitness and Wellness Activities 2022

ACTIVATE

From page 2

of the Air Force level.

Likewise, the 17th EWS pulls from a rich heritage dating back to WWII of supporting warfighters that rely on mastering the electromagnetic spectrum to overcome adversarial challenges.

“In the 1950s, the 17th took on a new role of training up our ground forces and our aviators on how bad a war could be... by equipping B-25 Mitchells, B-29 Superfortresses and B-57 Canberra with as many jammers as possible, so they could fly near the enemy forces and harass them,” said Cox.

The unit’s prior mission of evaluating flying electromagnetic spectrum tactics, techniques and procedures were decisive reasons to be chosen for activation.

“The 17th was reactivated to ensure that we know what

it takes to win...to ensure we are training effectively to reach those criteria for victory,” said Cox. “This reactivation is a sign of turning tides.”

The assessment of Air Force EW capabilities, tactics, techniques and procedures is critical to ensuring the readiness of forces for joint force commanders. Providing assessments to warfighters and commanders about how the EW-enterprise is used in both exercise and real-world operations provides critical feedback that will increase the lethality of warfighters.

“The establishment of the 950th Spectrum Warfare Group and its squadrons is pivotal to expanding our capacity to assess the electromagnetic systems of our platforms,” said Fenner. “It is driven by the need for a dedicated spotlight on ensuring our weapons systems will achieve combatant commanders’ intent when it matters most: in combat, as a unified fighting force.”

CYBERCRIME

From page 2

money, a prize or the opportunity to purchase an item at a significant discount as suspicious.

Does the message ask you to click on a link or open an attachment? Be particularly wary of emails from people or organizations you don’t know urging you to click on a link or open an attachment. Doing so can lead to malware being installed on your device.

Does the telephone call ask for personal or financial account information? If you receive a call that just doesn’t feel right, trust your instincts. Hang up and call the customer service line from their official company website.

Does the message ask you to scan a QR code? As QR codes become more common in daily transactions, utilize these tips when scanning a code:

First, check to determine that the QR code has not been tampered with, such as a sticker placed on top of the original

code.

Check the URL to make sure the code is sending you to the intended site and that the site looks authentic. Look for typos or misplaced letters.

Exercise caution when entering information on a site accessed via a QR code and avoid making payments; manually enter a secure URL to complete a payment.

Do not download an app from a QR code. Instead, search for the app via your device’s app store.

If you receive a QR code from someone you know, reach out to them through a known number or address to verify that they sent you the code.

To learn more about cybersecurity best practices, visit PNC Bank’s Security & Privacy Center at pnc.com.

Don’t assume your tech savviness will protect you from today’s cybercrimes. In the face of increasingly sophisticated scams, an ounce of prevention can go a long way in helping you to protect yourself.



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Handy Hacks to Take the Stress Out of *Holiday Hosting*

FAMILY FEATURES

Hosting is a big responsibility, especially during the holidays when the pressure is on to create a magical and memorable experience. Planning a menu and decorating for the occasion is just the start. Hosting also means ensuring all dishes are cooked to perfection and kept warm until serving time, guests’ dietary needs are considered and table conversation topics are ready. Then, of course, there’s the post-dinner cleanup.

This holiday season, consider these tips to help tackle your hosting duties with grace and create an event you can enjoy, too.

Request RSVPs

Planning a party is even more complicated when you don’t know how many guests you’ll be entertaining. If you create a guest list and ask invitees to let you know their plans, you’ll have a better idea whether you should double your favorite dishes. You’ll also know who has special dietary needs and be able to plan a seating chart that puts everyone at ease. Be sure to include a date that gives guests a specific RSVP deadline and plenty of time for you to adjust your plans before the big day.

Meal Prep as Much as Possible

Get as much of the food preparation out of the way ahead of time as you can. Some dishes can be prepared and even cooked ahead of time so you’re just reheating, but you can also save a lot of time by organizing ingredients for the dishes that must be prepared the day of the event. A good rule of thumb: If it doesn’t have to wait until the day of the party, do it before. That frees up your time so you can handle any unexpected hiccups that arise without piling on more stress.

Simplify the Cleanup Situation

Rely on tried-and-true products that do the heavy lifting for you when it’s time to clean up after the meal. An option like Finish Ultimate Dishwashing Detergent cleans dishes in tough conditions, even without pre-rinsing, so you can focus on what matters during this time of year: spending more time with your loved ones. It removes tough stains like grease and cheese, as well as common holiday dishes like apple pie and mac and cheese. An added bonus: Since you don’t need to pre-rinse, you’ll save up to 20 gallons of water per dishwasher load.

Create Designated Spaces

Guests are likely to arrive with items in hand that need a place to go, like coats, shoes, handbags and gifts. Avoid clutter by determining ahead of time where you want to put these items. If you have a coat closet with space, that’s a good solution, but a nearby bedroom may also be an option. Especially if you’re hosting a potluck meal, be sure to plan ahead for where each course should go, with appetizer bars, dessert tables and a countertop with protective pads for warm foods.

Send Guests Off with a Parting Gift

A memorable event can be made even more so when guests have a token to take with them. Send everyone home on a happy note with a simple gift like a prewrapped holiday treat. Be sure to tuck these away someplace near the door so they’re a pleasant surprise you can access easily when guests begin to make their exits.

Find more ways to tackle holiday messes and make hosting duties a breeze by visiting finishdishwashing.com.



Jalapeno Cornbread Mac and Cheese

- Jalapeno Cornbread:**
- 1/2 cup butter, melted, plus additional for greasing pan
 - 1 cup medium grind cornmeal
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 - 3/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup buttermilk
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 cup corn
 - 1/2 cup chopped jalapeno (about 2 large jalapenos)

- Mac and Cheese:**
- 1/2 pound dry macaroni
 - 2 tablespoons butter, plus additional for greasing pan
 - 3 tablespoons flour
 - 2 cups milk
 - 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 - 12 ounces shredded cheese
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - pepper, to taste

To make jalapeno cornbread: Preheat oven to 400 F. Butter 8-by-8-inch baking pan. In mixing bowl, combine cornmeal, flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In another bowl, whisk butter-milk, eggs, 1/2 cup melted butter, corn and jalapeno. Add half the liquid ingredients to dry mixture, stirring just until

blended. Add rest of liquid and stir until just blended. Pour batter into prepared pan and bake 30-35 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Set aside to cool. To make mac and cheese: Bring large pot of water to boil. Add macaroni and cook according to package directions. Drain under cold water and set aside. Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter 9-by-9-inch square baking dish. In heavy saucepan, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add flour and whisk over low heat 3-5 minutes, making sure not to brown. Whisk in milk and cook over medium heat, whisking often until mixture thickens, about 5 minutes. Stir in mustard and cheese. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Add macaroni and stir until noodles are coated with cheese mixture. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Use back of spoon or spatula to even out mixture in pan. Bake 25 minutes until mixture is bubbly. Remove from oven, turn oven to broil and place rack on second from top. Break up about 1/3-1/2 of the cornbread into small pieces; place even layer of broken-up cornbread over top of mac and cheese. Put mac and cheese under broiler until lightly browned. Serve immediately with remaining cornbread or make ahead and warm before serving. **Tip:** For spicier cornbread, keep some jalapeno seeds intact.

POST-PARTY CLEANING TIPS

1. Don't be afraid to ask for help, especially from your partner or children.

2. Prep your table the night before. Get sparkling dishes and glassware by using a product such as Finish Jet-Dry Rinse Aid, which assists in drying and helping your dishes shine when used in the rinse cycle.

3. Start by collecting trash and clutter. Throw trash away and create piles of items that need returned to their proper places. Remember that taking a few extra minutes to organize things like seasonal decor as you go can help make next year's event easier.

4. Complete each job before moving to the next. Some prefer to tackle a room at a time while others prefer to finish a specific chore, like sweeping the floors throughout the house, before moving on.

5. Be realistic about what must be done before you sleep. Some tasks really do need immediate attention, like collecting and emptying glasses that could be spilled and safely storing leftover food. The rest can likely wait until after you get some rest.

A black and white photograph of a family of five in a kitchen. A man, a woman, and three children are gathered around a table, cleaning up. The man is holding a plate, and the woman is wiping the table. The children are also helping. The kitchen has a tiled backsplash and various kitchen items on the counter.

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

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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.

Not saying I live in a rough area but just bought an advent calendar and half the windows are boarded up!

Math Teacher: “If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?”

Student: “A drinking problem.”

6 Letter Words

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

ABROAD

BARBER

CAMPER

DECADE

EARWAX

ENOUGH

FIELDS

HAZARD

ABSENT

BEAVER

CANCER

DIFFER

EDIBLE

FARMER

GARDEN

HUMMER

BANKER

CALLER

DATING

DOUBLE

ELEVEN

FAVORS

GUITAR

KAHUNA

A little humor ...

What is another name for a nursery? Bawroom.

What do you call a monkey that sells potato chips? A chipmonk.

In what month do people talk the least? February.

What do you get when you cross an elephant with a computer? A 5,000-pound know-it-all.

Why do people laugh up their sleeves? Because that's

where their funny bones are.

How can you jump off a 50-foot ladder and not get hurt? Jump off the first rung.

What machine scares the daylights into you? An alarm clock.

What's the difference between a mental institution and a college? In the mental institution you must show improvement to get out.

If you have seven apples

STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD

THEME: FAMOUS
ACTORS

ACROSS

- 1. QA's focus, pl.
- 5. "Swan Lake" steps
- 8. Evite request, acr.
- 12. Long stories
- 14. Final, abbr.
- 15. Opposite of neo-
- 16. Synagogue scroll
- 17. Poseidon's domain
- 18. One-eighty
- 19. *Mary Poppins and Maria von Trapp
- 21. *Vivian Ward and Erin Brockovich
- 23. Kum Ba fowler
- 24. Cry out loud
- 25. Stolen, slangily
- 28. Greek salad cheese
- 30. Popular clubs of the 1970s
- 35. Chimpanzees, e.g.
- 37. Porcine fat
- 39. Great divide
- 40. Cat o'how many tails?
- 41. Podium, pl.
- 43. Dead against
- 44. Work the dough
- 46. Urban haze
- 47. Manner of walk
- 48. Parlor piece
- 50. Riyadh native, e.g.
- 52. Sixth note
- 53. Common fairway club
- 55. Brewed beverage
- 57. *"Red" Redding and Nelson Mandela
- 61. *Ricky Bobby and Buddy
- 65. Beat the Joneses
- 66. Outrage
- 68. Adjust, as laces
- 69. Tears violently
- 70. Anointment liquid
- 71. Talks and talks and talks
- 72. a.k.a. Operation Neptune
- 73. "Just kidding!"
- 74. Billy Joel's "____ Always a Woman"

DOWN

- 1. Between Phi and Kappa
- 2. Second word in a fairytale
- 3. Encircle
- 4. Like Freddy Krueger, e.g.
- 5. Boot-wearing feline
- 6. Draft pick
- 7. Impolitic look
- 8. Miles per hour, e.g.
- 9. Insult
- 10. Between bleu and jaune
- 11. Connection between brain and spinal cord
- 13. Bundle of wheat
- 15. Like certain libraries
- 20. Pup
- 22. Hemingway's "The ____ Man and the Sea"
- 24. Railroad worker
- 25. *Forrest Gump and Jimmy Dugan
- 26. Offer two cents
- 27. Doctrine
- 29. New Mexico town
- 31. Deep pile carpet
- 32. Atlantic Ocean/Pacific Ocean waterway, e.g.
- 33. Ostium, pl.
- 34. *Violet Crawley and Minerva McGonagall
- 36. Center of authority
- 38. "The New Look" main character
- 42. September stone
- 45. Phobos' brother, Greek mythology
- 49. Time period
- 51. *Catwoman and "Jinx" Johnson
- 54. Vidalia one
- 56. Regions
- 57. *Han Solo and Indiana Jones
- 58. Wished undone
- 59. Europe's highest volcano
- 60. *Nelson, star of 8 films with Jeanette MacDonald
- 61. Matted wool
- 62. Write on tombstone, e.g.
- 63. Facebook button
- 64. More is ____?
- 67. Duran Duran's 1982 album

CROSSWORD

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				62	63	64	
65					66	67			68					
69					70				71					
72					73					74				

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

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a) True

b) Also true

c) Two things can be true at the same time

d) All of the above

ANDERSEN

STR8TS

No. 702

Easy

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

Previous solution - Medium

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

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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There was an earthquake recently that frightened the inhabitants of a certain town.

One couple sent their little boy to stay with an uncle in another district, explaining the reason for the nephew's sudden visit.

A day later the parents received this telegram, "Am returning your boy. Send the earthquake."

Johnny: "Will I get everything I pray for, Mama?"

Mother: "Everything that's good for you, dear."

Johnny: "Oh, what's the use, then? I get that anyway."

"Mother, do give me another piece of sugar," little Helen requested. "But you've had three already," her mother pointed out.

"Just one more, please."

"Well, this must be the last."

"Thank you, Mother ... but I must say, you have no will-power."

Bobby had been to a birthday party, and, knowing his weakness, his mother looked him straight in the eyes and said, "I hope you didn't ask for a second piece of cake."

"No," replied Bobby. "I only asked Mrs. Jones for the recipe so you could make some like it, and she gave me two more pieces of her own accord."

Little boy (calling father at office): "Hello, who is this?"

Father (recognizing son's voice): "The smartest man in the world."

Little boy: "Pardon me; I

must have the wrong number."

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

Prospective son-in-law: "No, I can't support her in the manner she has been accustomed to, but I can support her in the way her mother was accustomed to when she was first married."

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

Quick, Delicious Breakfasts to Start Your Day with a BANG

FAMILY FEATURES

If you're looking for a little motivation to take on a busy day or fueling up for an adventurous weekend with the family, there's no better way to start the morning than with a filling breakfast. However, not everyone takes full advantage of this ever-important opportunity to prepare for the day ahead.

For some, skipping breakfast is due to a lack of time in the morning. For others, it isn't about a lack of hunger or time; it's boredom from quick solutions like cereal or a bagel.

Take your breakfast to a whole new level – without sacrificing too many precious morning minutes – with recipes you can get excited about like Basmati with Apricots, Walnuts, Yogurt and Honey. Jam-packed with flavor, it takes 5 minutes to prepare so you can serve your whole family a nutritious, filling meal even if you're in a rush.

A long-grain rice that's common in India, basmati is fragrant with a nutty flavor and fluffy texture that pairs well with the sweetness of dried fruits like raisins, cranberries, apricots and dates for

a combination of flavor and nutrition at the breakfast table. Better yet, you can enjoy it during busy mornings with Minute Instant Basmati Rice, which is ready in just 5 minutes on the stove or in the micro-wave for quick, delicious, aromatic dishes.

When you're in need of a single-serve meal that's big on flavor but short on prep time before heading to the office, it's hard to top a comforting breakfast scramble. This Tomato, Bacon, Onion and Cheddar Scramble is sure to awaken your taste buds while providing the energy you need to take on the day.

Fully cooked Minute Chicken & Herb Seasoned Rice Cups offer homestyle taste with carrots, onion and garlic. Ready in only 1 minute, the delicious combination of chicken, vegetables and herbs with hearty rice serves as a perfect base for savory omelets and scrambles. Plus, the BPA-free cups are a great option for an on-the-go power-up. For an even easier solution, you can eat the flavored rice right out of the cup so the breakroom or kitchen will stay clean while you enjoy a pick-me-up.

Discover more recipes that can fuel your mornings at MinuteRice.com.



Basmati with Apricots, Walnuts, Yogurt and Honey

Prep time: 3 minutes
Cook time: 2 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1 cup Minute Instant Basmati Rice
- 1/3 cup dried apricots, diced

- 1/3 cup walnut pieces
- 1/4 cup plain yogurt
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/3 cup fresh apples, diced (optional)

Heat rice according to package directions. In cereal bowl, mix rice with apricots, walnuts and yogurt. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with cinnamon. Top with diced apples, if desired, and serve.



Tomato, Bacon, Onion and Cheddar Scramble






Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes
Servings: 1

- 1 Minute Chicken & Herb Seasoned Rice Cup
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/8 cup diced onion
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled

- 1/4 cup diced tomato
- 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- sliced scallions or parsley, for garnish (optional)

Heat rice according to package directions. In medium, nonstick saute pan over medium heat, heat butter. Add onion and saute 1 minute. Add egg to pan and cook, stirring frequently, until scrambled and cooked through. Add rice, bacon and tomato to pan; stir to combine until heated through. Stir in cheese. Garnish with scallions or parsley, if desired, and serve.

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