Local 987

Proud to make America work

Oct. 8, 2025

AFGE hosts **'Emergency Organizing Training**

"We make people think that the union is a 'third party'. The union is someone other than them. So they don't think they as part of the union have any power."

Holiday happening

What: Local 987 Christmas party **■ When:** Dec. 20, from 6-11 p.m. Cost: Members get in free and are allowed one guest for free (i.e., spouse, friend). Additional guests cost

Dress: Semiformal to formal Requirement: You will need to RSVP by calling Union Hall at 478-922-5758, Ext. 21, and confirm you will be attending to the person who answers, 🕺

or by leaving a voicemail.

Note: The Local is seeking bids for the following: Decorating crew, photographer and caterer. Obtain bid details and/or submit by calling the

above number and ask for Trustee

Jeanette McElhaney. The bid deadline

- AFGE Director of Membership and **Organizing**

By DON MONCRIEF

Editor, The Union Advocate don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org

In response to the current operating environment - the government shutdown, threats to federal workers' jobs, et cetera - AFGE hosted an "Emergency Organizing Training" Oct. 5. An alternate session was held Oct. 7. (To find out when the next "normal" training session will be, visit afge.org and follow the

"training" link. The four-hour training Oct. 5 and 7 covered: How to run effective one-on-one conversations that move coworkers to action, how to map your workplace so you can build a real network of leaders and activists and how to plan workplace actions and move people

\$25 each.

is Nov. 20.

In memory ...

Passed away

Sept, 14, 2025

Member since

Sept. 6, 2019

James Erdmanczyk

up the ladder of engagement.

Part of the reason for "emergency" being added to the title, said David Cann, Director of Membership and Organizing for the American Federation of Government Employees, was to ensure the message was immediate and heard loud and clear.

"Where does our power come from as a union," he said, spending about 30 minutes prior to that giving a history lesson on victories the union has accomplished, to include many within the past months. "The attacks we are facing are existential. They want to take away our jobs. They want them contracted. They want to privatize. They want to make sure

See HOSTS, page 3

President Everett Kelley talks about issues, future of AFGE

By DON MONCRIEF

Editor, The Union Advocate don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org

"What doesn't kill me makes me stronger."

That quote, by German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (long before Kelly Clarkson penned it in a song), is how AFGE National President Dr. Everett Kelley sees the union on the other side of this government shutdown, and on the other side of these attacks against federal workers.

"I do believe," he said, "just like the last time (when Donald Trump was President and the same thing happened) we came out bigger, better and stronger. Because it's these types of things that cause us to come together and be more unified. We're not going any place.

"They may take a contract, but guess what, that contract doesn't make a union. We were a union before we had a contract. The politicians don't make this union. Laws don't make this union. It's our solidarity in standing together in unity and that's what's going to bring us through."

Meanwhile, there are clearly challenges, Kelley said. For starters, he said this has been the worst nine months he's seen federal employees have to endure. "Everything from dismantling agencies, being called names, facing bureaucrats, to ripping up the union contracts, and now the shutdown.

And the threat to fire a bunch of employees because they (the Administration) can't get themselves together politically. And the employees will suffer behind it, but so will the American people."

Local 987 is no stranger to the name calling, facing bureaucrats – i.e. managers/ supervisors - et cetera. AFGE Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney said they are receiving calls from Bargaining Unit Members to that effect.

Said Kelley, "The union will be here to represent the employees. They might not honor our contract temporarily, but we had a contract. And we will still be able to honor those employees' contract.

See KELLEY, page 6



DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR, SAVINGS FOR SAVINGS - AFGE IS STILL THE BEST INVESTMENT!

Special Series - #2

HOME

Rocket Mortgage savings Exclusive for AFGE members: \$2,000 in Mortgage Savings from Rocket Mortgage.

Ready to buy or refinance your home? A specialized team of home loan experts will help you find the mortgage solution that best fits your unique needs. Find out in minutes if you qualify.

These special savings are available exclusively to members of AFGE:

- Receive \$2,000 off closing costs on your home purchase or refinance.
- A personalized mortgage review to compare your loan options
- VIP treatment from a dedicated team of home loan experts
- Rocket Mortgage offers a number of different home loan options, including low down payment options, VA loans, cash-out refinances and the ability to pick your term. Members can get

started now to see which

option is right for them.

The dedicated VIP team at Rocket Mortgage will guide you through the mortgage process, so you can be confident that you're making the best decision for yourself.

Along with these great incentives, you'll have peace of mind knowing that **Rocket Mortgage services** the majority of its loans. This means you can expect to receive outstanding service throughout the life of your

Real estate member benefit

The Union Home Services Real Estate Benefit Program is free for AFGE members and their families. It pays a cash rebate worth hundreds, even thousands of dollars, when you buy or sell a home or other real estate property.

It is absolutely free: there are no fees and you will never be charged or pay anything extra. All you need to do is enroll.

■ If you list and then sell

vary.

There is a 20% cash back rebate of your Union Home Services™ Inc. REALTORS® portion of commission. The example below is based on a 3% commission structure.

Note: Commissions may

Toll-free Benefits Line: (888) 844-2343 Email: Questions@afge.org Programs are subject to change.

your home for \$200,000, you will receive a rebate check for \$1,200 after closing.

- If you then buy a home for \$250,000, you will receive another rebate check for \$1,500 after clos-
- ♥ Your total rebate for real estate sale and purchase would be \$2,700!

Additional benefit features:

- This benefit is available for AFGE members, their children and parents.
- Utilize nationwide relocation services.
- The network of real estate professionals is one of the largest and most reputable in the country. No one will give you better

If at any time you encounter a problem or have concerns or questions, you will have direct access to your Union Home Services advocate who will assist you in

resolving any issues. How To enroll: As an AFGE member, you

can enroll in the Union

Home Services program in 3

simple steps: Step 1: Enroll online or by

Step 2: A Union Home Services Real Estate Professional will be assigned to you based on your personal needs and requirements within 48-72 hours of your enrollment and will work for you throughout the

transaction process. Step 3: Deposit your check: Once your real estate transaction has closed, your rebate check will be mailed directly to you within 30 days.

AFGE's Farmers GroupSelectSM auto and home insurance program

To learn more and/or free, no-obligation quotes, call 877-491-5089. Mention code

Farmers GroupSelect provides you with access to customizable insurance coverage for your needs and budget.

Policies available include:

See BENEFITS, page 3

Membership meeting Local 987 will have a membership meeting Oct. 16 at 5 p.m. It will be held at Union Hall, located at 1764 Watson Blvd. Membership will be verified. You can make updates to your contact information by calling Union Hall at 478-922-5758 or by emailing Linda Baxter at linda@afgelocal987.org or Jeanette McElhaney at

jmac@afgelocal987.org.



Harold Morrow, left, and Micah Jones, 802nd MXSS metrologist technicians, calibrate a Dowty Propellor pitch control test rig for the C-130J aircraft at Robins Air Force Base May 21. The metrology lab technicians performed on-site calibration of test measurement diagnostic equipment to ensure the overhaul and repair systems maintain sustainment standards. (U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather)

Maintaining the Maintainers: 402nd MXSG ensures readiness through depot-level support

By JOSEPH MATHER 78th Air Base Wing **Public Affairs**

At the heart of aircraft maintenance for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, lies the 402nd Maintenance Support Group, a team dedicated to ensuring the readiness and sustainability of Air Force weapon systems.

Their mission is multifaceted, providing depot-level maintenance through design, manufacture, maintenance, testing, and program management services, all in support of the complex.

"The 402nd MXSG keeps the mission moving," said Randy Broach, Mission Support Group director. "From 99% equipment uptime to rapid calibration and air ground equipment repair, our team ensures WR-ALC can deliver airpower quickly and reliably to the warfighter." The group is comprised of approximately 575

personnel across two squadrons and three branches and manages over 2.3 million production hours annually. They support a vast infrastructure of over 168

buildings and 23 aircraft hangars, in a 5.5 millionsquare-foot industrial area, demonstrating their critical role in keeping the Air Force's aircraft and equipment in optimal condition. The 402nd MXSG provides a wide array of

essential services, from industrial equipment maintenance to engineering support and laboratory testing. The group's operational reach also extends well beyond WR-ALC.

"The WR-ALC is our major customer, but See READINESS, page 3



Johnny Mack, 402nd Maintenance Support Group production machining mechanic, makes repairs to a wing grip suction anchor for a C-17 aircraft at Robins Air Force Base May 21. The wing grips received annual preventive maintance to ensure the fall mitigation system is ready to be used to support the sustainment mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather)

78th ABW commander shares people-first mentality at first all call

By LAUREN BOGGS 78th Air Base Wing **Public Affairs**

Just one day after the Air Force celebrated 78 years of airpower, Col. Johari Hemphill, 78th Air Base Wing commander, set his sights to the future, laying out his vision for the wing during his first all call at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, Sept.

The Philadelphia native and avid Eagles fan gave the wing a look into his family life and Air Force career across 25 years and 15 duty assignments before sharing plans for his command at

Hemphill most recently served as the 22nd Mission Support Group commander at McConnell AFB, Kansas, but has also commanded two logistics squadrons and been stationed abroad in Turkey and South Korea.

"I've been to some cool places and met some amazing people, just like I've already met here," Hemphill said. "At the end of the day, wherever I go, it's always about people."

Hemphill focused his vision for the future on continuing the mission success the 78th ABW has achieved so far and encouraging Airmen to lead

"There are a lot of great folks out here doing great things. I'm here to make sure we sustain the good things you are doing and help you knock down those barriers that are in the way," he said. "Being a leader, for me, means this - that you get up every day and lead yourself and those around you. The Air Force expects us to get up every day

Hemphill also emphasized the importance of resiliency, encouraging Airmen to lean on their

teammates and take care of themselves. "Take your leave. When you need it, take it," he said. "Take care of each other through difficult times. Everybody is going through difficult

Col. Johari Hemphill, 78th Air Base Wing

commander, speaks during his first all call at Robins Air Force Base Sept. 19. 78th ABW personnel listened to a presentation about Hemphill's command philosophy and plans for the wing's future. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lauren Boggs)

things in their life outside of what the Air Force, the Department of War and the world is going through."

"You are now part of my family," Hemphill added. "I'm here for you. We're here for each other. If you need something, say something."

He also celebrated some of the achievements that 78th ABW Airmen accomplished in 2025.

"You guys are crushing it. We're doing great things for the local area, for the Air Force, for our nation, for our allies and partners," said Hemphill. "And we're the best at it."

Ghost tapping; How to spot, avoid tap-to-pay scams

apping your card or phone to pay has become second nature for many. It's quick, easy, and you don't even have to hand your card to anyone. But scammers are finding ways to take advantage of this payment

One growing threat is called ghost tapping, where criminals use wireless devices to steal money without touching your card.

Ghost tapping is a scam that targets tap-topay cards and mobile wallets. Tap-to-pay works through Near Field Communication, which allows devices to exchange data at a very close range. While NFC is generally safe, scammers can exploit it in crowded or distracted situations. Unlike previous debit and credit card scams,

which required physical contact with the card, ghost tapping eliminates this need. There are occasions when scammers attempt to trick unsuspecting individuals in public places. For example, they might try: • Getting close in public spaces. Someone

might bump into you while secretly charging your tap-enabled card or mobile wallet. • Pretending to be a vendor. At events, flea

markets, or festivals, fraudsters might set up fake stands and ask for tap payments. • Charity scams. They might request a small

donation but actually charge your card for a much larger amount. • Rushing the process. Scammers count on

you tapping without checking the business name or transaction amount. In some cases, fraudsters make small with-

drawals to avoid triggering fraud detection systems, which means victims may not notice the BBB has received several reports of this scam.

One person reported this experience to BBB Scam Tracker: "An individual is going door to door in [location redacted] claiming to be selling chocolate on behalf of [redacted] to support



Kelvin Collins

special needs students. He says that he can only accept tap-to-pay to get people to pay with a card. He then charges large amounts to the card without the cardholder being able to see the amount. He got my mother for \$537... Another victim for \$1100... He changes neighborhoods frequently

to avoid getting caught.'

What are the warning signs and red flags of ghost tapping? • Bank alerts about small or unusual "test"

• A request to tap without showing you the total or offering a receipt.

• Suspicious charges after you've been in crowded areas like festivals, markets, or transit

How can you protect yourself from a tap-topay scam? • Use RFID protection. An RFID-blocking

wallet or sleeve can help stop wireless skimming. • Always confirm payment details. Before tapping your card or phone, check the merchant's

name and amount on the terminal screen. Set up transaction alerts. Many banks allow

real-time notifications for every charge. • Keep an eye on your accounts. Daily checks

can help you spot fraud faster.

• Limit tap-to-pay use in high-risk areas. When in doubt, consider swiping or inserting your card instead.

What should you do if you're a victim of a tap-to-pay scam? First, report them immediately to your bank or credit card issuer. Then be sure to freeze or cancel the affected card. Finally, report scams to BBB Scam Tracker.

For more information or to read more BBB tips, visit BBB.org.

Medal of Honor spotlight

Army Sgt. William Seay

By KATIE LANGE DoD News

rmy Sgt. William Wayne Seay risked his life numerous times to save his comrades as their convoy was ambushed during an important mission in the Vietnam War. He didn't survive the firefight to tell his story, but his selfless actions led to a posthumous Medal of

Seay was born Oct. 24, 1948, in Brewton, Alabama, to Pauline and William Seay. He had an older sister named

Known to everyone as Billy. Seay loved fishing and the outdoors, which led him to join the Boy Scouts. He spent a large chunk of his childhood in Brewton before his family moved to Pensacola, Florida,

Shortly after his freshman year of high school, Seay dropped out to join the newly created Job Corps, a Labor Department program that offered free education and vocational training to people as young as 16. He worked for the Job Corps in Montana and Texas, earning his GED along

By 1967, when he was still



Army Sgt. William Seay

was going to join the Army. According to a 2021 interview with his sister in the Andalusia Star News newspaper out of Andalusia, Alabama, they tried to talk him out of it, but he enlisted anyway. He even had a portion of his pay sent home to his mother every

After basic training, Seay was stationed in Fort Collins, Colorado, before deploying to Vietnam in October 1967 as a driver assigned to 62nd Transportation Company, 7th Transportation Battalion, 48th Transportation Group.

On Aug. 25, 1968, Seay was part of an 81-truck convoy on a critical resupply mission from Long Binh to Tay Ninh 17, Seay came home to visit in South Vietnam. The conand told his family that he voy was supported by eight

Despite not having the use of his right

hand and being weak from blood loss,

Seay stood up and used his remain-

ing hand to fire his rifle, killing all

three combatants and saving the men

around him.

Military Police gun jeeps, but poor visibility and low cloud ceilings due to the rainy season meant support from the air would be unlikely.

As the convoy passed through the village of Ap Nhi, it was ambushed by a reinforced battalion of well-concealed enemy soldiers. The first 30 trucks escaped their grasp; however, the enemy set fires near the front and the rear of the convoy, trapping the trucks in between. Soon, they were being attacked by intense rocket, machine gun

and automatic weapons fire. When Seay's truck was forced to stop, he immediately jumped out and took a defensive position behind the wheels of a vehicle loaded with highly explosive ammu-

As the enemy got to within 30 feet of the road, Seay opened fire, killing two insurgents. He then took out a sniper whom he'd spotted in a tree about one-half mile in

front of him. When an enemy grenade landed under a nearby ammunition trailer, Seay didn't hesitate to run out, grab it and throw it back — a bold move that killed four more enemy soldiers and saved several of

his nearby comrades. When another grenade landed about 10 feet from him, he again left his cover, grabbed the explosive device and threw it back.

On the way back to his position that time, Seay was seriously wounded in his right wrist, but he refused to quit the fight and instead continued to encourage and direct his fellow soldiers.

See HONOR, page 3

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

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the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited,

tos, etc to don.moncrief@afgelocal 987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforemen-

HOSTS

From page 1

it's not us. That's not going to stop. It's not going to stop for the next three and a half years. It's not going to stop under this President. "But we have established, over the

weeks, over the months, we can win that fight by organizing against it. I think that's a really important thing to recognize. That our power comes from all of us acting together. And we

need that more than we're ever needed before. And whether they choose to recognize us or not, it doesn't make a difference in our ability to protect our jobs. Because we do that by acting like Cann continued that traditionally

when the union asks people to join they pitch themselves as a sort of "job insurance. You've got to have health insurance. You've got to have life insurance, you need job insurance.

"When we do that," he said. "We make people think that the union is a

'third party'. The union is someone other than them. So that they don't think they as part of the union have any power. They think that the (union) president, the lawyers and the lobbyists, the headquarters, they're the ones who do."

Two negatives result from that way of thinking, he went on. One was that people are less likely to get involved. "I have car insurance. My car insurance asks me to get involved, to go to a rally it's because they've misunderstood the nature of our relationship.

"The other thing that we do," he

continued, "is we really deny people the power of involvement. In a practical way that's meaningful. Because what's going on right now is deeply scary. And deeply affecting. And people who are understanding what is going on in a practical, real-world way are worried about losing their job and are living in fear of it. And again, that is a healthy, natural, realistic response." "But, if we talk about the union

in a way in which people understand that they are the union. They have the power. That they're taking direct action to rally and apply political pressure, media pressure and community pressure, (it) will save their jobs. Definitively, meaningful and in a realistic way that has happened in the recent past. It's happened many times over recent years. We are giving people the acknowledgement and the understanding and the leverage, the power to be over control of the circumstances we're

This is where you come in. To get involved, contact your Local 987 at 478-922-5758.

BENEFITS

From page 1

- Homeowners
- Condo / Renter's
- Boat
- Recreational vehicle Landlord's rental dwelling
- Personal excess liability
- orotection

and more!

Member benefits Include: Special group discounts

- not available to the general
- Apply anytime throughout the year
- Free, no-obligation quotes
- **■**24/7 claim service Extended customer ser-
- vice hours ■ Value-added services that are included at no cost like, ID
- Protection Services1 Enjoy convenient payment

options: You can choose to have

your payments automatically deducted from your paychecks or bank account. With these options, insurance premiums are spread throughout the policy term with no down payments*, interest charges, or service fees. Other payment options are available.

Purchasing power

This is a program for members who need a new computer, home appliance, or other product but can't spare the upfront cash. Purchasing Power allows members to buy brand name electronics, furniture and more through payroll allotment. No upfront cash or credit check required with 12 months to pay.

And now, Purchasing Power can help AFGE members create their dream travel today, complete with car rentals, airfare, hotels and attractions. Buy now, and travel as soon as next month with easily managed fixed payments through payroll allotment. AFGE members receive a 20% discount off any luggage with a vacation purchase. Eligibility

requirements and travel terms may apply. See site for details. AFGE members pay 15% less over what other federal employees would pay. It is

the lowest price available to federal government employees. Only one promo cade may be used on the same purchase.

Products:

Computers/Tablets

READINESS

■ Travel

From page 2

Electronics ■TV/Video

- ♥ Video Games
- Furniture Appliances
- **♥** Fitness/Recreation
- Home/Outdoor
- Baby/Kids
- All-Inclusive Pricing. No

Additional Fees:

The total cost includes the product, warranty, taxes and delivery. No additional fees and no down payment required. Your merchandise is delivered directly to your door after you place an order.

To Participate in This **Benefit You Must:**

- Be at least 18 years old **■** Be an active AFGE mem-
- Have worked for the Federal Government for at least 12 months
- **■** Earn at least \$16,000 annually
- Have a credit card or a bank account to secure your order

Refer & Earn Program

Existing customers can share the word about the program to a fellow AFGE member who has never used the program before, and receive a \$50 credit for every referral they make. The credit will be added to their Purchasing Power account and they can use the accumulated balance towards any new/future purchase they make with the program. The referred member, will receive a 20% discount towards their first purchase.

Pet Insurance by MetLife

Protect your furry family members with pet insurance offered by MetLife.

Why is pet insurance important?

- A small monthly payment can help you prepare for unexpected vet expenses down the road
- More than 6 in 10 pet owners said their pet has had an emergency medical expense2
- 24% of pet parents have redit card or personal loan debt to cover pet health and vet costs3
- Average annual cost for a routine vet visit is \$212 for a dog and \$160 for a cat; and average annual cost for a surgical vet visit is \$426 for a dog and \$214 for a cat4
- Pet insurance may not cover pre-existing conditions

What is covered?

- accidental injuries
- illnesses

- exam fees surgeries medications
- ultrasounds
- hospital stays
- X-rays and other diag-
- hip dysplasia
- hereditary conditions congenital conditions
- chronic conditions
- holistic/alternative therapies
- and much more!

How does Pet Insurance work? Select and enroll in the

■ Download the mobile

coverage that's best for your

- When an unexpected accident or illness occurs, take vour pet to the vet
- Pay the bill ■ Send your claim + the bill to us via the mobile app. online portal, email, fax or
- Receive reimbursement by check or direct deposit if the claim is covered

Why Choose MetLife?

- **♥** Quick 3-step enrollment Flexible coverage options including levels of coverage6, deductible options7 and reim-
- bursement percentages5 ■ Take your pet to any licensed veterinarian, specialist or emergency clinic in the

If you're claim-free in a

- policy year, we'll automatically decrease your deductible by Obtain discounts up to 30%9 and additional offers on
- pet care, where available Multichannel support options with our experienced team of pet advocates that have been serving pet parents and their communities for

The Save My Home Hotline Facing mortgage payment problems? AFGE members should act now!

more than 15 years

If you're a home-owning AFGE member and are worried that the next change in your adjustable rate mortgage will put payments out of reach, or if you face financial trouble that may make you fall behind on your mortgage payments, the Union Plus Save My Home Hotline may be able to help.

AFGE members can arrange a confidential, free consultation with expert housing counselors who can provide advice, help you find answers

to get your financial house in order. Don't wait until it's too late. Members can call any time, day or night. Get advice designed for

and develop an action plan

AFGE members

Fully-trained, HUD-certified counselors will discuss your individual situation and offer advice and guidance that is personalized for your situation. Save My Home Hotline housing counselors can:

Provide a free budget and spending analysis to assess the current financial situation. Explain how best to

work with your lender and

- understand all of the options available to help you retain your home and prevent fore-Protect you from future credit problems before you
- get too far behind on mortgage payments. Provide a written plan of
- action you can follow. Offer referrals to other resources, including credit and bankruptcy counseling, the Legal Service and the Mortgage program, if appropriate.
- The hotline service is free and confidential.
- The counselors at Money Management International (MMI), the nation's largest and most trusted full-service nonprofit credit counseling agency, are ready to help.

In addition to telephone counseling, find face-to-face counseling at more than 100 local offices in 22 states and the District of Columbia.

AT&T Discount

- Save 15% on the monthly service charge of qualified AT&T wireless plans.
- Switch to AT&T and get up to \$650 in bill credits per
- in rebates when using a Union Plus Credit Card.
- **■** Get smartphones for \$0 down.
- Save 20% on accessories. AFGE employees, or any member who receives an AFGE check, can save 18% on their personal AT&T wireless
- AFGE Local offices can save 22% off union-billed AT&T wireless plans. They

service.

discounts on a wide range of telecommunication services. Special benefits for Union

Plus credit card holders

may also receive additional

Card holders are eligible to the purchase of a new smartphone.

Card holders can also get up to a \$150 rebate when switching from competing wireless providers like Verizon Wireless, Sprint or T-Mobile.

ENTERTAINMENT

Soleil Discounts

Through Tickets at Work, AFGE members have access to the leading travel and entertainment benefits program in the world

AFGE members can save up

to 60% on more than 80,000 nationwide offers on discounts and special offers for:

- York Cirque du Soleil in Las
- nationwide
- Hotels And much more! AFGE Members can order

Theme Parks AFGE members get access to special prices for prepaid tickets to the following theme

- parks: Adventure Island (FL)
- Busch Gardens (FL)
- Disney World (FL)
- SeaWorld (CA) SeaWorld (FL)
- Universal Studios (FL) Colonial Williamsburg

(VA)

website, Members will find a

And More...

link that allows them to purchase tickets online. **Tickets at Work** Tickets At Work and Working Advantage are now

After logging in to the AFGE

one company. Combines, they are the leading Corporate Entertainment Benefits provider, offering exclusive discounts, special offers and access to preferred seating and tickets to top attractions, theme parks, shows, sporting events, movie tickets, hotels and much more. Features of this benefit:

AFGE members are eligible

to take advantage of discounts and special offers for theme parks and attractions nationwide including: ■ Movie Tickets at 15 differ-

- ent theater chains including Regal and AMC! ■ Walt Disney World®
 - Disneyland® Park
 - ♥ Sea World® Las Vegas and New York
- City shows and performances Resorts in Florida,
- These savings are not available to the general public, however, you can order for friends and family.

Preferred Access

Tickets to the most sought-after Concerts, Sports

TicketsatWork offers members Preferred Access tickets to the most sought-after concerts, sports and major events. Search from thousands of events, teams and artists, and purchase tickets from a trusted source. Save great seats to your favorite

- ater and more! Access to thousands of high demand premium con-
- certs, sports and major events
- with all your entertainment needs in one place, through a

the MXSG's reach extends far beyond," said Tim Johnson, 402nd MXSG Production Operations Branch mission support chief. "It supports organizations across the services, including the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Defense Logistics Agency,

the entire military.' Johnson also explained the division of responsibilities across the group's squadrons and branches.

and even provides testing and analysis services for

"The 802nd Maintenance Support Squadron provides scientific engineering and calibration services, ensuring weapon systems are reliable and maintained on schedule," he said. "The engineering branch focuses on planning and executing maintenance and repair programs, while the production support branch ensures the availability of necessary materials and

Dalton Dabbs, 402nd MXSS director, emphasized

the importance of maintaining support equipment to

ensure production stays on track.

"The way I describe MXSG to people who do not work on base is that we maintain all of the equipment that is used to maintain the aircraft and aircraft components," he said. "We add value by increasing machines and equipment run time so that the production organizations can focus all their time and effort on the assets that are their primary responsibility."

'Our machine operations, tooling, metrology, calibration, and vital equipment maintenance are essential; without these services, our depot cannot return

David Foskey, 402nd MXSG deputy director,

aircraft to the warfighter," said Maddox.

Chris Maddox, 402nd MXSG control center team

lead, echoed the critical nature of the group's func-

shared the pride he feels being part of the team. "The WR-ALC does not successfully produce quality aircraft without the hard work from the MXSG team," he said. "Each person in the group should go home each day with the satisfaction and mindset that they have made a difference in the freedom that the Air Force provides to our great country."

HONOR From page 2

When Seay moved to the

relative cover of a shallow ditch, he noticed three enemy soldiers who had crept into their position and were about to open fire on his comrades. Despite not having the use of his right hand and being weak from blood loss, Seay stood up and used his remaining hand to fire his rifle, killing all three combatants and saving the men

around him. Sadly, soon after, Seay was

hit in the head by a sniper's bullet and died instantly. He was less than two months from completing his deployment. For making the ultimate

sacrifice and saving numerous soldiers, the young sergeant received a posthumous Medal of Honor. His mother accepted the award on his behalf from President Richard M. Nixon during a White House ceremo-

ny on April 7, 1970. Seay is buried in Weaver him.

Cemetery in his hometown. Seay's heroics have not been

forgotten. Numerous gathering places have been named in his honor over the years, including military parade fields, tugboats and barracks, as well as a shopping mall and a portion of a highway near his hometown. In June 1998, the Navy christened the cargo ship USNS Seay in his honor. In 2009, U.S. Transportation Command named its auditorium on Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, after

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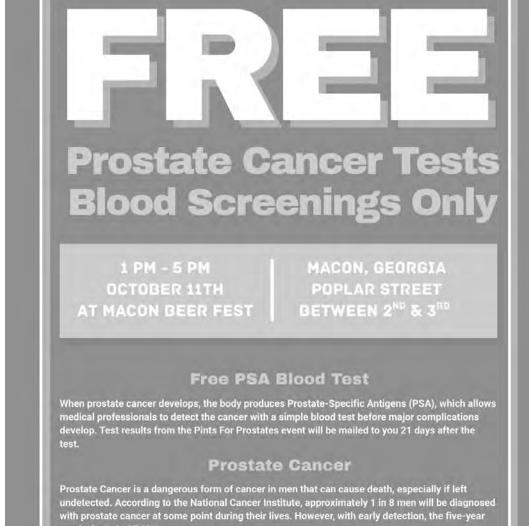
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Continued next edition



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Just for

King Crossword

ACROSS 10 1 Surrenders 14 12 13 6 Tennis match division 15 16 17 9 Cover 20 18 12 Fold 19 13 Sch. founded 22 23 24 21 by Jefferson 14 Blackbird 25 26 28 15 Shadow 30 32 33 16 Utter disaster 18 Author Lurie 37 20 Bump into 21 Soup cooker 43 38 39 40 42 23 Cowboys 44 46 45 quarterback

48

53

56

Guinness 27 Toothpaste 54 Property

47

52

55

- 31 Deceived 56 Tiara sparkler 11 Losing ven-35 Welsh pooch 37 Bargain
- 38 "Downton --41 ER workers
- 43 Quilters' get-together 44 Tragic king

Prescott

holders

intense crav-

24 Has an

ing

25 Actor

- 45 Rum cocktail 47 TV anchor
- Norville
- ist
- 53 Historic period
- 49 "Glee" guitar-
- 52 Packed away 7 Divisible by
 - two

- claims 29 Strange thing 55 Radiator
 - sound
 - 57 Stows cargo
 - **DOWN**
 - 1 PC's brain
 - 3 Battled verbally

2 Shade tree

- 4 Grey tea 5 Composed
- 6 Number puzzle

- 8 Bar bill
- 9 Shoe fasteners 10 Cove
- tures? 17 Tickled
- 19 Nymph pursuer
- 21 Kung chicken
- 22 Vintage
- 24 Floral garland 48 Rule, for short
- 28 Russian pan-
- cakes 30 Playpen item
- 32 Deducted

33 - kwon do 34 Flamenco

54

- 36 Cracker type
 - 38 Actors Robert and Alan

cheer

50

51

- 39 Borscht base 40 Innocents
- 42 Play for time
- 45 Stallion's mate
- 46 Operatic solo
- 26 Roman orator 50 Chemical suffix
 - 51 Curved letter

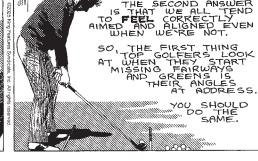






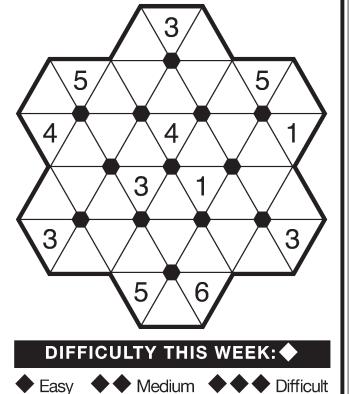
AIDJATSON Today's Word 3. Locate; 4. Perish 1. Grime; 2. Handle; uoitulos SCRAMBLERS

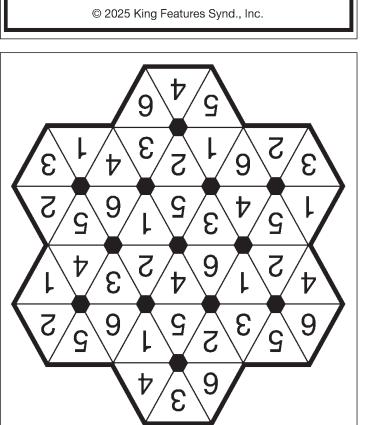




NOMELTARES by Japheth Light

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.







HITTING POTHOLES, SLOW DOWN"... I'M SURE WHATEVER I DID SHE WILL AGREE.



Answers King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

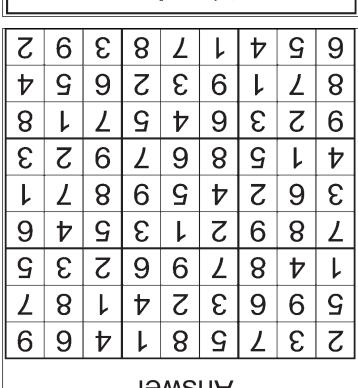
			5			4		9
		6			4	1	8	
1		8		9			3	5
7					3	5	4	
3	6		4			8		
4		5	8		7	9		3
	2			4	5		1	8
				3	2			
6				7	8	3	9	

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: ◆

♦ ♦ HOO BOY! © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging



Answer

Meekly SUDOKU

TUN











SONG LYRIC COFFEE

TALK ...

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

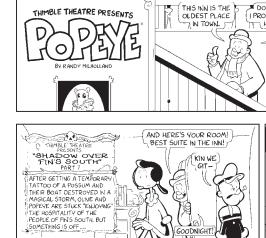
Out on a Limb

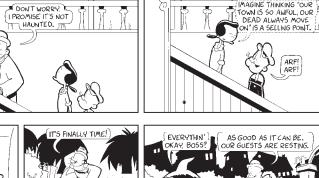




















by BUD BLAKE







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.



1 |= 11

= 16

= 52



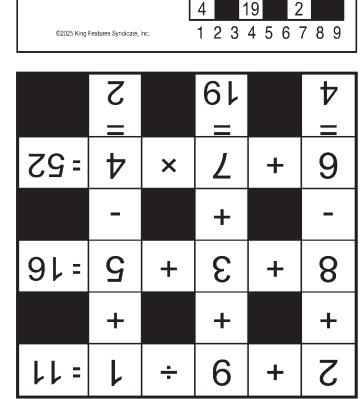
FOLLOW-THE-LEADER! STRIPE'S

THE LEADER





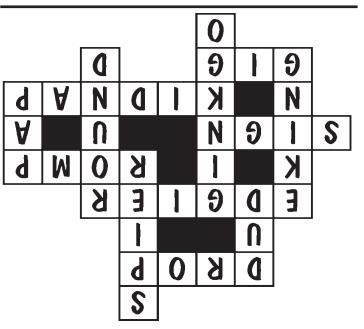
leading to the first tool belt."



SUSWERS

Go Figure!





suswer



famous for being easily tempted: Lured Byron. Celebrated Romantic-era English poet who was JƏMSUD

CryptoQuip

CryptoQuip

for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error. Clue: W equals L

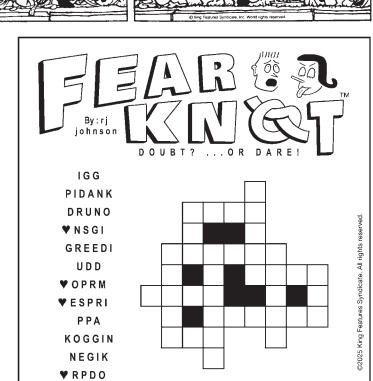
This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands

BCWCMPRICF PQLRDIGB-CPR

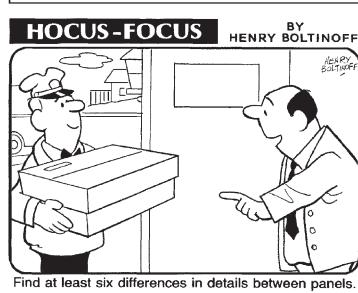
CDAWGJY VQCI OYQ ORJ KRLQSJ KQP MCGDA CRJGWT

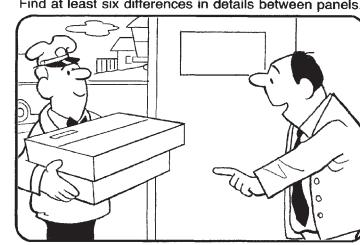
ICLVICF: WSPCF MTPQD.

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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 (f v) 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.





Differences: 1. Box is smaller. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Tie is longer.

4. Thumb is moved. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Cap is a different

Make bacon cheeseburger popcorn for a new tailgating tradition

Popcorn Board spoons bacon fat.

(Family Features) ool air settling in and football games kicking off mean it's time for tailgating, homegating and enjoying favorite snacks with your fellow fans.

Celebrate Popcorn Poppin' Month this October with a combination of two favorite tailgate foods in this Bacon Cheeseburger Popcorn

It calls for a mixture of spices that mimic the cheeseburger experience along with hearty bacon and ground beef for a filling snack that gets you ready for kickoff.

Made by combining cheese popcorn and dill pickle popcorn with hamburger and bacon, along with a dash of spices, it's a perfect game day recipe worth tackling to indulge your family's and friends' taste buds and elevate your tailgate experience.

Find more ways to enhance your tailgate or homegate with easy, popcorn-fueled snacks at Popcorn.org.

Bacon Cheeseburger Popcorn Recipe courtesy of The

Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 15 minutes Servings: 3

teaspoon mustard powder 3/4 teaspoon garlic

powder 1/2 teaspoon onion

powder 1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

slices bacon, diced

ounces ground beef

tablespoon vegetable oil

cup popcorn kernels (unpopped) tablespoons

cheese powder tablespoon dill

pickle powder green onion, thinly sliced

In small bowl, whisk mustard powder, garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper. Set

In large skillet over medium-low heat, cook bacon and ground beef 8-10 minutes, or until fat renders and mixture is golden brown and crispy.

Transfer to plate lined with paper towels to drain. Reserve 2 table-

In large, heavy-bottomed saucepan over high heat, combine vegetable oil and reserved bacon fat. Add popcorn kernels; stir to coat then spread in even layer. Cover with lid.

Shaking saucepan, cook 2-4 minutes, or until popcorn starts to pop, then shake less frequently, at about 2-second intervals, until popping sounds have almost stopped. Remove from heat. Safely open lid.

Transfer half the popcorn to large bowl and toss with cheese powder. Toss popcorn in saucepan with dill pickle powder; transfer to large bowl of cheese popcorn. Add bacon mixture and reserved seasoning; toss to combine.

Garnish with green onion.

Tips: For beefy flavor, sprinkle popped popcorn with 1/4 teaspoon beef bouillon powder or steak spice, if desired.

For extra-cheesy popcorn, sprinkle popped popcorn with 1/2 cup shredded mild or sharp cheddar cheese.

> - Source: Popcorn Board



Cheesy chicken in a one-pan solution

(Family Features) n those nights when you're just too busy to think about cooking, let a one-pan dish do the work for you. Customize this Cheesy Spinach Chicken Bake to your family's liking with broccoli or cauliflower in place of spinach, if desired, and let it bake while finishing homework with the kids or prepping for the day ahead.

Find more quick dinner ideas at Culinary.net.

Cheesy Spinach Chicken Bake Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy" Servings: 4-6

2 cups chopped rotisserie chicken

10 ounces frozen spinach, thawed and drained 15 ounces ricotta cheese 2 cups mozzarella cheese

- 1 cup Parmesan cheese 1 tablespoon Italian sea-
- 1 tablespoon garlic pow-
- 1 tablespoon onion pow
- 1 tablespoon lemon thyme

Heat oven to 375 F. Cut rotisserie chicken and spinach into bite-sized pieces. In baking dish, mix chicken and spinach with ricotta cheese. Add mozzarella, Parmesan, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, onion powder and lemon thyme. Mix well then bake 30 minutes.

Source: Culinary.net



From page 1

Maybe not under the guise of AFGE Local 987 but we'll be able to represent those employees." (Meaning at the "national" level if that's what it takes.)

As far as those employees harassed and oppressed, Kelley encouraged BUEs to "respond the way they always have. And this is the piece I'm proud of. These are very patriotic employees we represent. A third of them are just like me. They're veterans taking off one uniform and putting on another.

"I would encourage them to continue to provide the best services they can provide the American people."

At the same time, he encouraged all federal employees to call Congress. To call their senators and express to them how you feel. To express how they feel about these attacks, he said. To attend rallies and marches and make them aware they're not just going to stand by the wayside and let them

walk over federal employees, Kelley said. "We're going to fight back.

"If you remember," he continued. "This administration stripped one million employees of their bargaining rights. Of their rights to collectively bargain and be in the union. One million. The union filed a lawsuit on behalf of all of those federal employees. We won a temporary injunction because we believe what this administration is doing is completely illegal. And it proves, I think it was the Ninth Circuit in California, (that point) where they said the Administration was wrong.

"However, they appealed, the Administration, appealed the injunction, so right now it's stayed. I believe ultimately, we will win because it's right and it's a violation of the law."

He continued that it was the same thing when they fired all the probationary employees. "AFGE was right there," he said. "We were filing lawsuits. We got that overturned. They had to put those employees back to

"Just across the board AFGE is fighting, and will fight, to make sure every member of the bargaining unit has its rights. We will fight. Every time they violate the law, we will file a lawsuit to protect working Americans."

Kelley went on that what he believed was that this was a "test bed". A test bed, he said, to see if they can get away with it. If they can, he said, they will come after "all" organized labor, not just the federal system.

"And there is a reason I believe they are doing this, too," he said. "Number one is because of retaliation. Because AFGE has been the entity that has been standing up to this Administration. Pushing back and saying this is wrong, this is illegal. This Administration has begun to retaliate, to do certain things because we have been standing in the way.

"The second thing is that they want to put the federal system into a failure position. There's a reason for that. Because they want to contract out these jobs to the highest bidder so

that they can get a chance to pay back some of their buddies who supported them during the election. I'm just being quite honest with you."

The thing is, Kelley added, is AFGE did not go into this without a plan. After all, he said, this is the second time Trump has been President and they fought the same battles the first time he was in office.

To that end, Kelley said, "We had a 10-point plan for all locals on how to fight this initiative. Because we knew. We had a history with this organization. We knew what they were going to do. We knew what they were going after. So, we started preparing even before this election was done.

"We started preparing and we presented it to our membership. The thing about it is those locals who followed the plan are thriving and doing good."

Part of the plan was to get off Agency-owned land. Check. AFGE Local 987 has its own building. A second part, these were two keys to the plan, Kelley said, was to have their own equipment. Check again. Local 987 has its own.

A third part of the plan was to get off Agency dues deductions and onto eDues. Kelley said that it is working well as between January and March more than 150,000 members made the transition.

Kelley also said there was never a more important time for retirees to get involved. "This is the thing," he said. "Somebody was there for them. AFGE has been here for 93 years. It meant that people who went before fought so we could have these rights.

"So, we need everybody to stand up. We need retirees to start making phone calls and volunteers everywhere to assist their locals. I encourage all retirees to become absolutely engaged in this fight."

He added: "We've got to keep the American public aware and ask the American public to get in with us. Because the services we provide the American public are certainly going to be hindered if they keep the government like it is."



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