



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.”
- AFGE Director of Membership and Organizing

By DON MONCRIEF
 Editor, The Union Advocate
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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

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
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“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

YOUR MEMBERSHIP



YOUR BENEFITS

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

Special Series - #2



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 loan.

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.

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 vary.

♥ If you list and then sell

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 closing.

♥ 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 service.

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 phone.

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 BSF.

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

Policies available include:

♥ Auto

See BENEFITS, page 6

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 \$25 each.

■ **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 is Nov. 20.

In memory ...

James Erdmanczyk
Passed away
Sept, 14, 2025
Member since
Sept. 6, 2019



SAVE THE DATE

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.

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

BENEFITS

From page 1

♥Homeowners
♥Condo / Renter’s
♥Boat
♥Recreational vehicle
♥Landlord’s rental dwelling
♥Personal excess liability protection and more!

member benefits include:

♥Special group discounts not available to the general public

♥Apply anytime throughout the year

♥Free, no-obligation quotes

♥24/7 claim service

♥Extended customer service 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 pay-checks 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 code may be used on the same purchase.

Products:

♥Computers/Tablets

♥Travel

READINESS

From page 2

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, and even provides testing and analysis services for the entire military.”

Johnson also explained the division of responsibilities across the group’s squadrons and branches.

“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 tools.”

Dalton Dabbs, 402nd MXSS director, emphasized the importance of maintaining support equipment to

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

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 a union.”

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

♥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 member

♥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 credit 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

‘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

♥exam fees
♥surgeries
♥medications
♥ultrasounds
♥hospital stays
♥X-rays and other diagnostics

♥hip dysplasia

♥hereditary conditions

♥congenital conditions

♥chronic conditions

♥holistic/alternative therapies

♥and much more!

How does Pet Insurance work?

♥Select and enroll in the coverage that’s best for your pet

♥Download the mobile app

♥When an unexpected accident or illness occurs, take your pet to the vet

♥Pay the bill

♥Send your claim + the bill to us via the mobile app, online portal, email, fax or mail

♥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 reimbursement percentages5

♥Take your pet to any licensed veterinarian, specialist or emergency clinic in the U.S.

♥If you’re claim-free in a policy year, we’ll automatically decrease your deductible by \$25 or \$508

♥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 more than 15 years

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

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

and develop an action plan 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 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 foreclosure.

♥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.

may also receive additional discounts on a wide range of telecommunication services.

Special benefits for Union Plus credit card holders

AFGE Union Plus Credit Card holders are eligible to receive up to a \$100 rebate on 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.

And More...

After logging in to the AFGE website, Members will find a link that allows them to purchase tickets online.

ENTERTAINMENT

Broadway & Cirque Du Soleil Discounts

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

Features of this benefit:

AFGE members can save up to 60% on more than 80,000 nationwide offers on discounts and special offers for:

♥Broadway shows in New York

♥Cirque du Soleil in Las Vegas and nationwide

♥Popular theme parks and entertainment attractions nationwide

♥Sporting events

♥Movie tickets

♥Hotels

♥And much more!

AFGE Members can order tickets directly in the member only section or by phone.

Theme Parks

AFGE members get access to special prices for prepaid tickets to the following theme parks:

♥Adventure Island (FL)

♥Busch Gardens (FL)

♥Busch Gardens (VA)

♥Disney Land (CA)

♥Disney World (FL)

♥Knott’s Berry Farm (CA)

♥LEGOLand California

♥Medieval Times (NJ)

♥SeaWorld (CA)

♥SeaWorld (FL)

♥SeaWorld (TX)

♥Sesame Place (PA)

♥Universal Studios (FL)

♥Colonial Williamsburg (VA)

Tickets at Work

Tickets At Work and Working Advantage are now 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 different theater chains including Regal and AMC!

♥Walt Disney World® Resort

♥Universal Studios®

♥Disneyland® Park

♥Sea World®

♥Las Vegas and New York City shows and performances

♥Resorts in Florida, Chicago, Tampa, Orlando, California

♥Ski resorts

♥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 and Major Events!

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 time and money and with find great seats to your favorite sporting events, concerts, theater and more!

♥Access to thousands of high demand premium concerts, sports and major events

♥Buy with confidence – 200% Guarantee.

♥Save time and money with all your entertainment needs in one place, through a trusted and familiar source.

- Continued next edition

FREE

Prostate Cancer Tests
Blood Screenings Only

1 PM - 5 PM
OCTOBER 11TH
AT MACON BEER FEST

MACON, GEORGIA
POPLAR STREET
BETWEEN 2ND & 3RD

Free PSA Blood Test

When prostate cancer develops, the body produces Prostate-Specific Antigens (PSA), which allows medical professionals to detect the cancer with a simple blood test before major complications develop. Test results from the Pints For Prostates event will be mailed to you 21 days after the test.

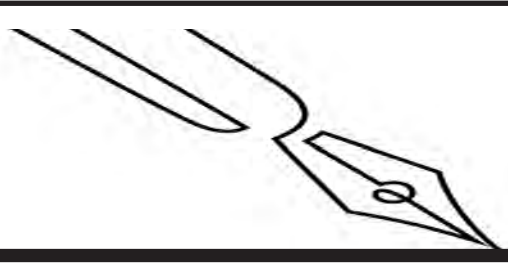
Prostate Cancer

Prostate Cancer is a dangerous form of cancer in men that can cause death, especially if left undetected. According to the National Cancer Institute, approximately 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point during their lives. However, with early detection, the five-year survival rate is 97.9%.

DPH

Georgia Department of Public Health
North Central Health District

MACON-BIBB COUNTY
Health Department
Serving the Community Since 1882



Just for

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Surrenders
- 6 Tennis match division
- 9 Cover
- 12 Fold
- 13 Sch. founded by Jefferson
- 14 Blackbird
- 15 Shadow
- 16 Utter disaster
- 18 Author Lurie
- 20 Bump into
- 21 Soup cooker
- 23 Cowboys quarterback Prescott
- 24 Has an intense craving
- 25 Actor Guinness
- 27 Toothpaste holders
- 29 Strange thing
- 31 Deceived
- 35 Welsh pooch
- 37 Bargain
- 38 "Downton —"
- 41 ER workers
- 43 Quilters' get-together
- 44 Tragic king
- 45 Rum cocktail
- 47 TV anchor Norville
- 49 "Glee" guitarist
- 52 Packed away
- 53 Historic period

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				

- 54 Property claims
- 55 Radiator sound
- 56 Tiara sparkler
- 57 Stows cargo
- DOWN**
- 1 PC's brain
- 2 Shade tree
- 3 Battled verbally
- 4 — Grey tea
- 5 Composed
- 6 Number puzzle
- 7 Divisible by two
- 8 Bar bill
- 9 Shoe fasteners
- 10 Cove
- 11 Losing ventures?
- 17 Tickled
- 19 Nymph pursuer
- 21 Kung — chicken
- 22 Vintage
- 24 Floral garland
- 26 Roman orator
- 28 Russian pancakes
- 30 Playpen item
- 32 Deducted
- 33 — kwon do
- 34 Flamenco cheer
- 36 Cracker type
- 38 Actors Robert and Alan
- 39 Borscht base
- 40 Innocents
- 42 Play for time
- 45 Stallion's mate
- 46 Operatic solo
- 48 Rule, for short
- 50 Chemical suffix
- 51 Curved letter



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag.

Fifth **MIRGE**

Grasp **HALEND**

Find **ELTACO**

Expire **RESHIP**

TODAY'S WORD

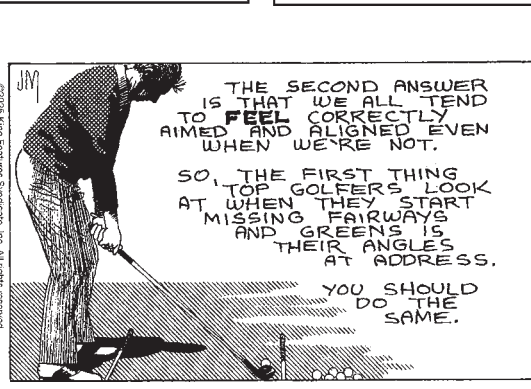
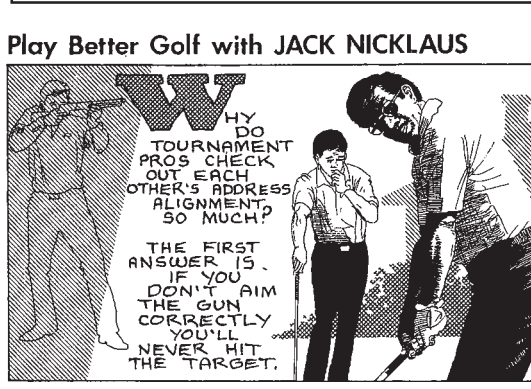
SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

1. Grime; 2. Handle; 3. Locate; 4. Perish

solution

NOSTALGIA



SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

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Americanisms

"Anger can teach us forgiveness, hate can teach us love, and war can teach us peace."
— Le Ly Hayslip

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

"IT'S TOO HOT, TOO COLD, I KEEP HITTING POTHOLES, SLOW DOWN".... I'M SURE WHATEVER I DID SHE WILL AGREE.

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: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

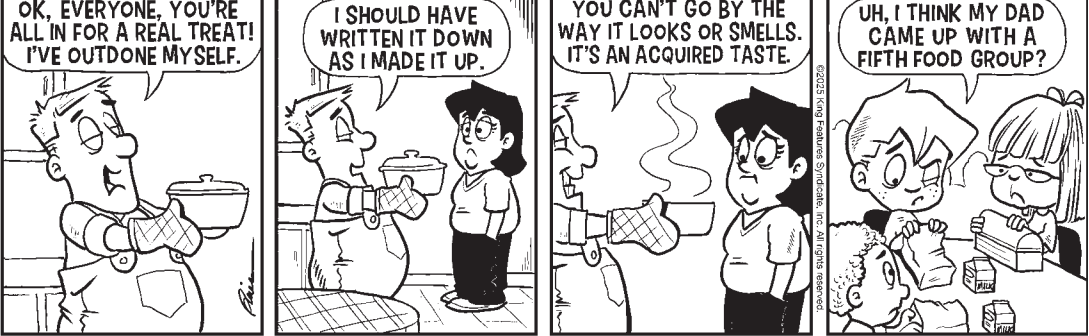
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

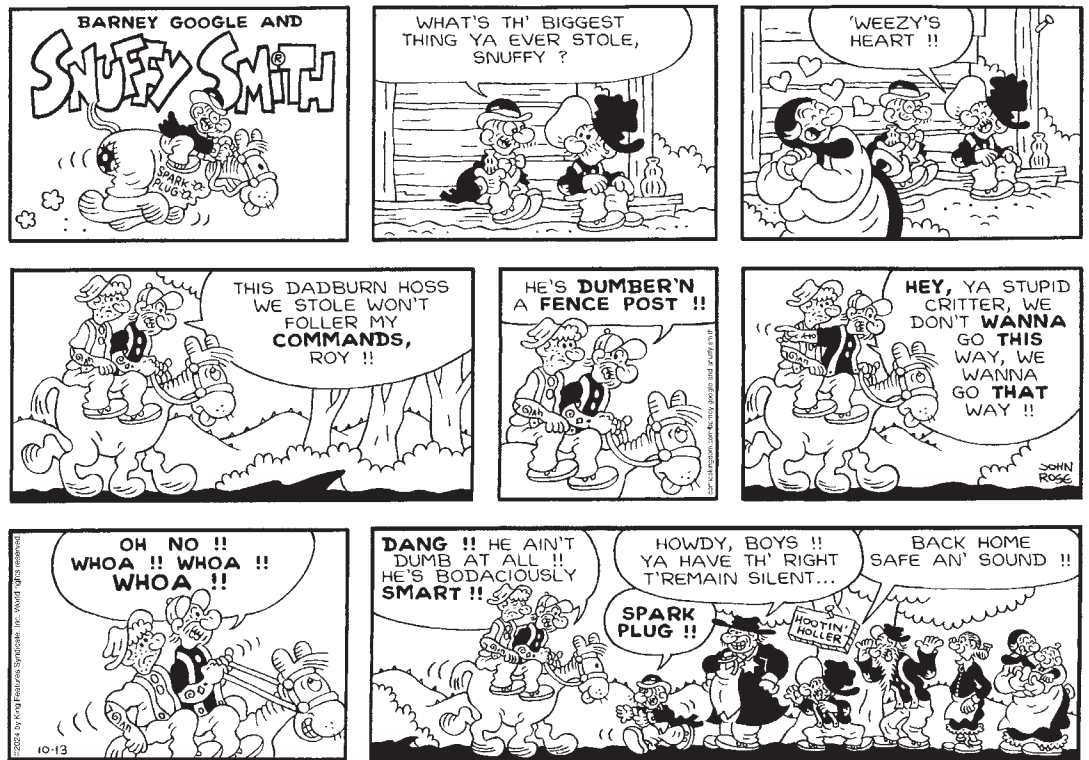
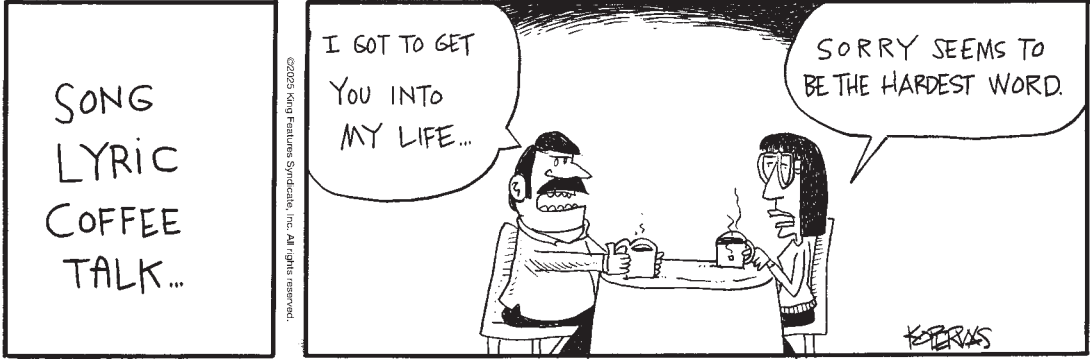
2	3	7	5	8	1	4	6	9
5	9	6	3	2	4	1	8	7
1	4	8	7	9	6	3	5	2
6	4	5	3	2	1	9	7	8
3	2	9	7	6	8	5	1	4
8	1	7	5	4	6	3	2	9
4	5	6	2	3	9	1	7	8
9	8	3	7	1	4	6	5	2
7	8	6	5	4	2	9	3	1

fun

Amber Waves



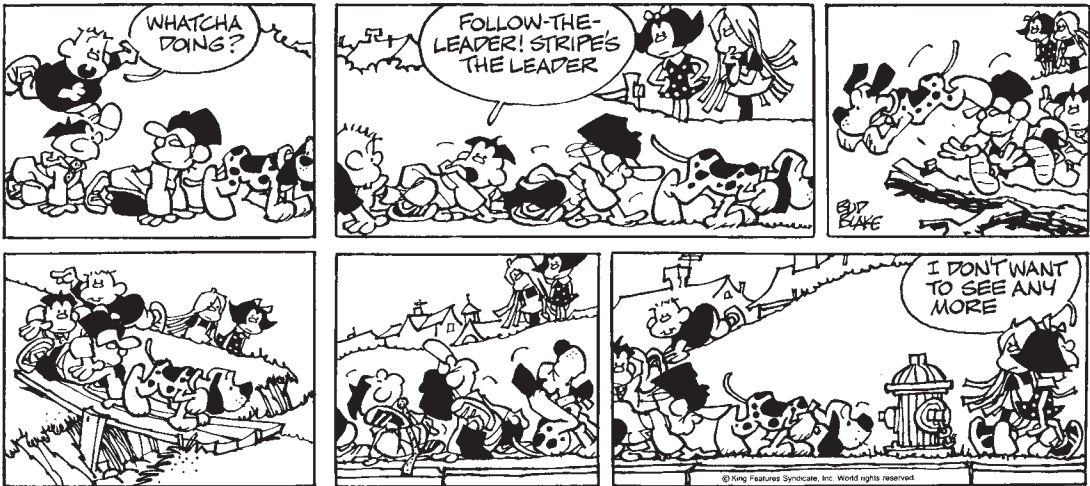
Out on a Limb



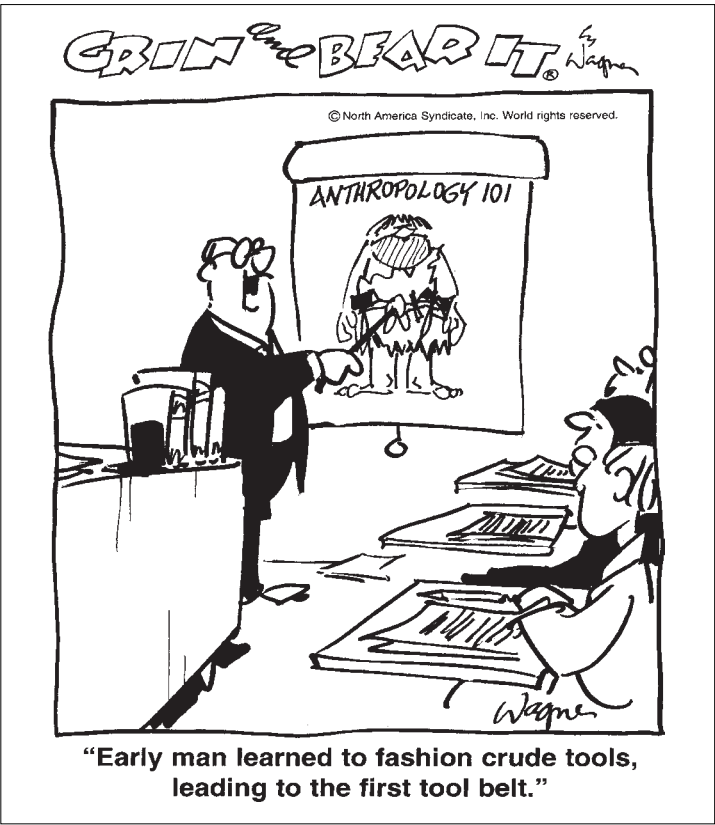
The Spats



TIGER



Sponsor this page. Call 478-733-9772.



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		
-		+		-				
	+		x		=	52		
=		=		=				
4		19		2				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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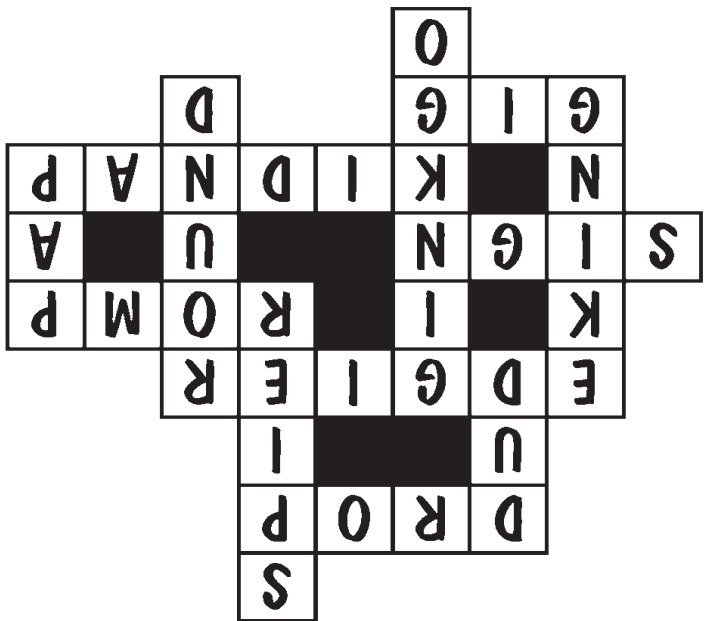
FEAR & KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

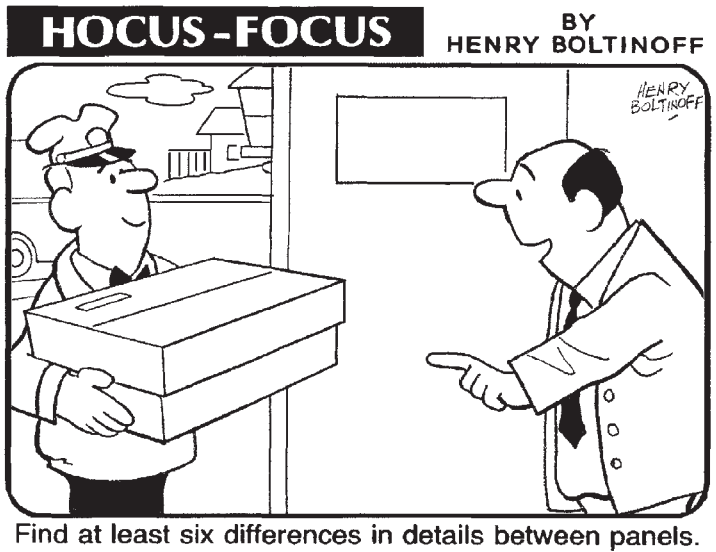
IGG
PIDANK
DRUNO
♥NSGI
GREEDI
UDD
♥OPRM
♥ESPRI
PPA
KOGGIN
NEGIK
♥RPDO

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.



	2		19		4
=	=		=		=
25 =	4	x	7	+	6
	-		+		-
16 =	5	+	3	+	8
	+		+		+
11 =	1	÷	9	+	2

answers



CryptoQuip

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

ANSWER

FEAR & KNOT

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: W equals L

BCWCMPRICE PQLRDIGB-CPR
CDAWGJY VQCI OYQ ORJ
KRLQSJ KQP MCGDA CRJGWT
ICLVICF: WSPCF MTPQD.

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