

Why Would Someone Risk Their Life...?

“Why would someone risk their life...to organize?” (To organize is to create and or assist in forming a Union). This was a question I asked, to one of the International Organizing Members, Mike Griffin, in a casual conversation; without missing a beat, he replied, “Through sacrifice comes change and everyone should have the same freedoms and liberties that we have been afforded as a Union and as people”. Recently our Local contributed endless and tireless efforts in attempting to organize “EBI”. This effort was initiated by employees of the company with concerns of unfair treatment, discrimination, less desirable shifts for the expression of opinions and in most cases, termination. Local 831’s Organizing team rallied together to untangle a web of mayhem. With the full support of our International Union, and the crafted guidance of President Danny Barber; Sylvester Mayo and colleagues charged the way down the road to fair and equal treatment for employees of EBI. From phone calls and hosting meetings, to knocking door to door; our brothers and sisters pressed hard to help organize a Union. However, the end result of these efforts has concluded to be a vote favoring, the unfavorable, “NO”. Unimaginable, in my opinion. How does one attribute to not wanting change, by the very same people who are mistreating them? While the answers aren’t simple, I will simplify the best way I can; “Manipulation and Deception”. While some may consider this a loss or “Rejection”, for the Union, I certainly consider it a win. If these organizing efforts allowed this company to change one thing for



Local 831’s Organizing team pictured above: Pedro Jaimes, Ricky Miles, Mike Griffin, Louis Mendoza, Sylvester Mayo, Buford Coleman, Scott Davis, Richard Bannister, Carlos Cope and Henry Stowe. Not pictured Brenda Miles and Monica Gray.

the better, this Local’s organizing committee was successful!

Joshua Moyer

Patriot Day

In New York City, on September 11, 2001, two hijacked civilian airliners were flown into the twin towers at the World Trade Center. Another airliner was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth commercial aircraft crashed in a field in Pennsylvania as passengers attempted to wrest control in order to thwart another unscrupulous attack on our symbols of freedom and democracy. Thousands lost their lives that day. For the first time in many years, the American people embraced one another.

On September 11, we will observe Patriot Day in our country. Patriot Day was signed into law in December of 2001, thus memorializing those who lost their

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The meeting was called to order by President Jack Dodson. All Board members present. There were 118 members present.

Opening prayer led by Joel Bryant followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The name of Glenda Garland was called for the attendance prize. She was not present, therefore, the total for September drawing will be \$60.00.

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved.

New members are Ronald and Sandra Barksdale.

J. C. Hudson was presented with a plaque for a job well done as a Trustee for many years.

Brenda Scarce announced she has a trip planned for December going to Selma, N. C. to the Christmas show and to the Southern Supreme Fruitcake factory. See Brenda for reservations.

President Jack Dodson questioned members whether or not they want to continue making brunswick stews as a fund raiser. The majority stated that they do want to continue with the stews and that they would help to make it a success. The stewpot is owned by The Church of God and it has been discussed that we purchase our own pot. Members favored the Board look into purchasing such a pot.

Door prizes won by the following:

Oil, lube change & tire rotation - Piney Forest Store - Jerry Snead.

Oil, lube change & tire rotation - Mt. Cross Rd. Store - Robert Blackwell.

50-50 - J. J. Davis.

Motion made by Brenda Scarce to adjourn seconded by Willie Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Guill, Secretary

PENSION & INSURANCE

By Gloria Gravely

EXPRESS SCRIPTS/MEDCO

In a statement released last month by Express Scripts, the prescription drug company has announced they are merging with Medco. The release stated that the combined companies will blend their collective expertise to accelerate the solutions required to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable for more than 100 million Americans.

At this time, no changes have been made in the benefits for retirees and active employees. Goodyear and the VEBA has informed the Benefits Representative that the merger is in the early stages and it is too soon to know if any changes will occur. As soon as information comes available on this merger, it will be communicated to all our members.

J P MORGAN - 401K

Letters were sent out to all participants in the 401k from J P Morgan concerning transactions from one stock fund to another. A 30 day rule has been placed on transferring funds from one investment fund to another. (ex. S&P 500 and Large Cap funds) The letter states if you move money out of one fund to another, then you will have to wait 30 days before you can transfer funds from that same account.

There have been some concerns over this 30 day implementation from our members and it is being addressed with Goodyear Akron. Information will be communicated to our members as soon as the company addresses the Union's concerns.

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Patriot Day

lives as a result of these attacks of terror in our country.

On Patriot Day, Americans should fly their flags at half-staff and observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m., marking the time that the first plane flew into the Twin Towers.

God bless the families of those who died the day that the most heinous atrocity on American soil was committed. God bless those who continue to fight for our freedoms today and their families, who miss them greatly.

God Bless the United States of America.



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Be Safety Conscious

Safety should be a major concern for everyone. From the wearing of safety glasses to steel toed shoes, we all are ultimately responsible for our own, individual safety. When we get hurt, not only do we experience the pain but also those that we love and support.

Even if we don't think that our safety is a priority for the Company, we must make it a priority for ourselves. It's easy, after a couple of days off to lose that 'mind for safety' attitude. But remember, the issues associated with injury have a direct affect on our families and us.

Whether at home or on the job, be safety conscious. Always.

Kathy Crawley



Further your education with your union negotiated benefits. Contact the CDC today!
(434) 792-1670.

Union Yes !

This editorial was printed in the Danville Register and Bee in response to anti union comments printed 7/24/11 by their editorial staff.

The media group that owns the Danville Register and Bee has finally put in print what everyone always knew.... "This newspaper has never been a supporter of labor unions." What a revelation! Who would have ever thought that a large company, that would most likely see smaller profits if it's own workforce were unionized, would come out of the closet as a non-supporter of unions?

The Editorial Board of the paper states that it is "our wish that the workers vote no". It is the "wish" of the workers at Swedwood to be treated fairly and with respect. Workers can achieve that wish with a "YES" vote. Only when pressed with this type of publicity will a company make an effort to "address" the many problems at the plant- nepotism, favoritism, mandatory overtime, \$8/hour wages, unsafe working conditions, yelling at workers and discrimination. The company calls these behaviors "startup challenges". Have they never opened a new facility before or is this perhaps standard operation for this company? Employers will often temporarily fix issues right up until when workers vote on unionization. Only with the potential of unionization have they owned up to the wrongs committed at the Danville facility.

I have been a proud and active union member for 22 years. I have seen how workers are treated that are unionized as opposed to treatment by non-union employers like the Danville Register and Bee. And yes, I have worked for the local paper in question so I am qualified to speak on the matter. Being a union member gives you an enforceable contract, a set of work rules if you will, that both sides must abide by. Being a union member gives you a voice on the job, the chance to bargain collectively for wages, benefits, job security, fair and safe working conditions etc, in addition to the impact a stable and fairly compensated workforce has on a community. The union is not a big green monster coming in to take over. The union is just the people of the facility united with one voice. A voice that must be heard and given consideration.

You see, this is not just about a few jobs; it is about all jobs in this area. Raising the people of Swedwood up will raise up everyone in this community, just as the good paying union jobs at Goodyear, Miller Brewing and others have done. As for my wish... I anticipate a surge in subscription cancellations by my union brothers and sisters.

Mike Fox, Proud 22 Year Member USW Local 831

Topeka Fatality Not Directly Linked To Heat Stroke

An employee at the Goodyear plant in Topeka who died after collapsing while at work had a history of heart-related problems that contributed to his death, the Shawnee County coroner has determined.

The worker was identified as Darrell Wayne Davis, 45, of Netawaka. He died Tuesday after being taken from the plant.

Erik Mitchell, the Shawnee County coroner, said in a preliminary report issued Tuesday that an autopsy showed Davis had "severely intrusive, partially calcific plaque" in the left anterior coronary artery. Visible scarring around the heart indicated a previous heart attack, Mitchell determined.

The cause of death was listed as focal, severely intrusive, coronary atherosclerosis.

Several of Davis' co-workers reported he wasn't feeling well and had taken a break. He later returned to work but then collapsed.

Some speculated that heat in the plant contributed to his death.

Cindy Sleeper, a medical investigator in the Shawnee County Coroner's Office, emphasized that Davis didn't die of heat stroke. But she also acknowledged that the extreme heat of the past several days "is an assault on the system of any body, no matter how healthy you are," but can be even more threatening to people with heart disease.

Goodyear Denied Injunction In Trade Secrets Case

A Kansas district court judge has denied Goodyear's motion for a preliminary injunction against Continental Tire the Americas L.L.C. and former Goodyear employee David Young in a trade secrets case. Akron-based Goodyear originally filed the complaint June 14 before the Cleveland federal district court.

Judge Kenneth G. Gale issued a "text order" July 13 denying the Goodyear motion, according to Bryan W. Smith, the Topeka attorney representing Young. Smith said he expected Gale to issue a full written order, but did not know when he would do so. "Your guess is as good as mine," he said.

As a manager at Topeka, Young had constant access to the inner workings of Goodyear's manufacturing processes, including its proprietary "lean manufacturing" process, Goodyear said in its suit.

Goodyear's non-disclosure agreement forbade Young from taking a job with any other tire maker for two years after leaving Goodyear. When Young requested a waiver from the agreement in May 2011 to take a position with Conti at its Mount Vernon, Ill., facility, Goodyear denied it. However, Goodyear offered to hold Young's job open at its Topeka plant.

The following month, Young's attorney notified Goodyear of Young's intention to join Conti. A day later, Goodyear sent Conti a letter informing them of Young's still binding, nondisclosure agreement. Conti replied that Young had already taken a position with the company.

Goodyear filed suit for a court order banning Conti from hiring Young before May 21, 2013, and ordering Conti to pay an unstipulated sum for damages, attorneys' fees and court costs.

In his brief before the Kansas court, Young said Goodyear forced him to sign the non-disclosure agreement.

"The restriction upon (Young's) employment for a period of two years with any entity that (Goodyear) deems to be a conflicting business is against public policy and is an undue restraint upon the freedom to contract for future employment," Young's brief said.

All the legal actions, including Goodyear's suit filed in Cleveland, have now been combined before the Kansas court, according to Smith.

"Mr. Young felt very strongly he had not done anything wrong," Smith said. Unless otherwise resolved, the case should now proceed to discovery and trial, he said.

Goodyear Reports More Profits

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company saw a profit of \$159 million or 65 cents per share (excluding special items) in the second quarter of the year, which was more than fivefold from \$31 million or 12 cents per share (excluding special items) in the same quarter a year ago.

The profit significantly exceeded the Zacks Consensus Estimate of 27 cents per share. The higher profit was led by strong price/mix, offset partially by lower tire unit volume due to weaker North American market.

Sales in the quarter increased 24% to \$5.62 billion, higher than the Zacks Consensus Estimate of \$5.22 billion. Tire unit volumes dipped 2% to 42.9 million, reflecting weaker industry volumes in the North American consumer tire market.

Improved price/mix improvements drove revenue per tire to increase 18% from the prior-year quarter, excluding the impact of foreign currency translation. Sales were also favorably impacted by a \$221 million increase in sales in other tire-related businesses, primarily in North America, and favorable foreign currency translation of \$348 million.

Goodyear had operating income of \$382 million compared with \$163 million in the year-ago quarter. The improvement reflected positive impact of \$554 million due to better price/mix, which was more than offset by negative impact from higher raw material costs of \$428 million (or \$381 million, net of raw material cost reduction actions).

USW Local 831 CREDENTIALS

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Associate Editor
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EDITOR'S COLUMN...

Let's Stop the Insanity



With change comes progress. With growth comes prosperity. The question is, has our great nation failed to prepare us for the way time and technology has "downgraded" our ability to live the American dream? We've all heard over the course of the past several months that our grandchildren will be shouldered with the responsibility of repaying our national debt. This same statement, or some semblance of it, has been made in the past. Yet, we continue to swirl in this great spiral of debt due to our having elected the same types of people over and over again to do a job that hasn't been done. That is to consider the livelihoods of the people living in this great land. It's the hypocrisy of saying whatever it takes to get elected, then finding that you didn't know as much as you thought you did. We are suffering a crisis in the country with mounting debt mostly due to our wanting to play big brother to the world. All the while seemingly, ignoring the problems here in our own backyard. To some more educated, and to some degree, mature than I, this seems to be the ranting of one who is out of touch. It's not that at all. This is the ranting of a citizen of the United States of America who feels that it is time that we right the ship and concern ourselves with the growth and prosperity of those who live in our country.

S&P (Standard & Poor) began back in April, warning that the U.S. credit rating was at risk if Washington could not agree upon a plan to reduce the national debt by \$4 trillion dollars over the next 10 years. So, they did it. They reduced our rating. The esteemed AAA credit rating that the U.S. has carried for many years has been downgraded to AA+. We may think that's one agency. Moody's is still making their evaluations and Fitch Rating has said that S&P may have been premature while not saying that it wasn't necessary.

In a statement from the ratings firm that said in essence that they felt the new agreement fell short of what "would be necessary to stabilize the government's medium term debt dynamics. This is spin for "that's not enough to get us out of trouble". The U.S. Treasury made an attempt at getting S&P to reconsider based on, what they believed, a flawed analysis of the nation's debt deal of over \$2 trillion in reductions. The ratings agency made an adjustment to their analysis, but it did nothing to change the outcome. Was S&P premature in their decision? Don't know. That's above my pay grade. But I do know a household cannot survive if it spends more than it takes in. I do know that when all else fails, it's the consumer that foots the bill. It's the working men and women of this country that shoulder the burden for poor decision-making. Not poor due to lack of diligence. Poor due to lack of compromise.

"We, the people," are in the fight of our lives. We're struggling with a bad economy, plant closures and other detriments to our families that cause us to be creative in the way that we "pay the bills". We live in the greatest country in the world whose largest creditor is China. What's wrong with that picture? We build technologically advanced hospitals in foreign lands and people in our own country can't afford basic healthcare. Right here in the city in which we live, our elderly and disabled must pay for the privilege of having their garbage removed from their backyards. Folks who served in our nation's military through retirement, suffer cuts to the benefits owed to them because they make too much money. Now, where we work, there is a perceived notion that more focus is placed on how we behave than providing what we need to build the product that they pay us to build. The actuality is that we are doing our utmost to make the best tire in the world for the best tire producer in the world.

Maybe it's time to take back what is ours. Maybe it's time for a resurgence of that passion that made this country great.

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Questions & Answers

If anyone has a question for The Informer, please submit it to Danny Travis, Butch Robinson, Joshua Moyer or your Division Chairman.

What is the schedule for the Labor Day holiday?

According to the general notice posted in the plant, for those on continuous scheduling the holiday will begin at 7:00 a.m. on September 5th and conclude at 7:00 a.m. on September 6th. For those on traditional scheduling, the holiday begins at 11:00 p.m. on September 4th and concludes at 11:00 p.m. on September 5th.

Any exceptions will be handled on an individual departmental basis.

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Let's Stop the Insanity

The definition of insanity is doing the same things over and over again expecting a different outcome. I know its cliché but let's get back to basics. It's imperative that we take care of our own. Some day may be too late.

Butch Robinson

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

to purchase Picnic Raffle Tickets. Don't miss out on your chance to win great prizes. Contact a Picnic committee member for details, or call the Union Hall.



Note: There was no raffle drawing this month. There will be two names drawn in September.

Emergency Response Brigade

Myself and the entire membership would like to say thank you to the Danville Emergency Response Brigade (Oscar Grimes, Teresa Long, Seasar Stewart, Mike Wood, David Rodgers, Mike Jones, Barry Bridgen Jr., Tim Holman, Jerry Thacker, Darrell Altizer, Jeff Mason, Barry Hodges, Jimmy Williamson, Joe Dehart, Eddie Marilla, Jessie Carty, Clifton Rowland, Joe Cash, Sylvester Mayo, Tracy Reese, Layne Hall, Richard McAlexander, James Adams, Scott Wallace, Jerry Allen, Tim Davidson, Malcolm Ragans, Jeff Harris, Brian Elliott, Mark Martin, Jonathan Marshall, Ric Rekowski, Herman Adkins, Steve Cook, Doug Knowles, Thomas Green, Roger Rigney, Roscoe Reynolds, Jeff Yarbrough, Tommy Bowling, Ronnie Setliff II, Howard Wood, James Moser Jr., Jimmy Eanes, Robert Gardner, Steve Ricketts, Doug Troxler Jr.) and ACLS provider Slim Eldridge for their response to a critical situation that occurred at the plant on August 12, 2011. The Local Union and the people that work at the Danville plant feel honored to have such trained professionals as our emergency care takers.

In Solidarity, Danny M. Barber

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If you enjoy the low loan rates and fees, convenient, friendly services, and higher savings rates you get from your credit union, share us with your family. Mom, Dad, Sister, and Brother are eligible to join, too!

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FEEDBACK Report

“Ma’am, tell that man if he does not stop running off at the mouth, we will cut out his tongue.”

An anonymous caller recently made this threat to the wife of a union member in Colombia. The husband had just returned home from a contract negotiating session. It serves as an example of the brutal reality for trade union members in Colombia. **Fifty-two were murdered last year.** At least 17 have been killed this year. And, now that a disastrous deal over the debt ceiling is done, there is news that the free trade agreement with Colombia, along with others involving Korea and Panama, will be brought up after the August Congressional break.

Take Action to Oppose the Trade Agreements

- Lawmakers are back at home now. Make sure your local is taking part in the national action on trade and generating letters to your U.S. Representatives. Our pressure has already helped to move many lawmakers' positions. This is the time to fight back.
- View the national action on the pending free trade agreements here: <http://bit.ly/iWlrpM>
- **It is critical that we know what activity is happening.** We have reports of hundreds of locals that are already taking action, but we need every local to participate. Please report any activity done by your local to your District Coordinator (in PA, alert your Congressional District Coordinator). Not sure how to reach him or her? Call us toll-free at 1-866-297-3817.

About the Debt Ceiling Agreement

We avoided the rampant economic devastation that some predicted – at least for now – but are left with a bad deal that can ultimately inflict tremendous pain on those who can least afford it. An initial round of budget cuts will focus on government agencies' spending over the next ten years. A bipartisan committee of twelve lawmakers from the House and Senate will be tasked with finding an additional \$1.5 trillion in cuts before Thanksgiving. Social Security, Medicare and more will be on the table. If the ugliness and extortion that characterized the debt ceiling fight is any indication, we are in for a real struggle.

State Unemployment Rates

The unemployment rate in the United States is 9.2%. According to a list comprised of the unemployment rates per state, Virginia comes in at 6.1% of its residents who are unemployed. North Carolina's rate is a staggering 10.1%. Job growth has a direct impact on the growth of the economy. Here you will find the unemployment rates, nationwide as of July 2011 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a unit of the U.S. Labor Department.

Alabama 10.0%(p)	D.C. 10.8%(p)	Kansas 6.5%(p)	Mississippi 10.4%(p)	New York 8.0%(p)	Rhode Island 10.8%(p)	Washington 9.3%(p)
Alaska 7.7%(p)	Florida 10.7%(p)	Kentucky 9.5%(p)	Missouri 8.7%(p)	North Carolina 10.1%(p)	South Carolina 10.9%(p)	West Virginia 8.1%(p)
Arizona 9.4%(p)	Georgia 10.1%(p)	Louisiana 7.6%(p)	Montana 7.7%(p)	North Dakota 3.3%(p)	South Dakota 4.7%(p)	Wisconsin 7.8%(p)
Arkansas 8.2%(p)	Hawaii 6.1%(p)	Maine 7.7%(p)	Nebraska 4.1%(p)	Ohio 9.0%(p)	Tennessee 9.8%(p)	Wyoming 5.8%(p)
California 12.0%(p)	Idaho 9.4%(p)	Maryland 7.2%(p)	Nevada 12.9%(p)	Oklahoma 5.5%(p)	Texas 8.4%(p)	
Colorado 8.5%(p)	Illinois 9.5%(p)	Massachusetts 7.6%(p)	New Hampshire 5.2%(p)	Oregon 9.5%(p)	Utah 7.5%(p)	
Connecticut 9.1%(p)	Indiana 8.5%(p)	Michigan 10.9%(p)	New Jersey 9.5%(p)	Pennsylvania 7.8%(p)	Vermont 5.7%(p)	
Delaware 8.1%(p)	Iowa 6.0%(p)	Minnesota 7.2%(p)	New Mexico 6.7%(p)	Puerto Rico 15.5%	Virginia 6.1%(p)	

USW Increases Pressure On Infinity

The United Steelworkers union has launched a new campaign against Infinity Rubber Technology Group Inc. to try to end the impasse—now well into its second year—between Infinity management and the company's 65 striking workers.

Members of USW Local 526L walked off the job at Infinity's Etobicoke plant Dec. 2, 2009, after management demanded that workers accept a \$5-per-hour pay cut (25 percent of wages) and pay for 50 percent of their group insurance benefits.

The plant has operated with replacement workers since then, according to Wayne Fraser, director of

USW District 6. He said management has refused to negotiate a real compromise since the walkout.

"We tried going back to the bargaining table a couple of times, but without success," Fraser said. "So now we're ramping up our campaign to a new level."

The average age of striking workers at Infinity is 55, and most are suffering major economic hardships and poor prospects for other employment, according to Fraser.

Among other tactics, the union is alerting Infinity customers and suppliers of the issues surrounding the strike, including union allegations of poor product quality.

"Truck drivers have said they're hauling return loads of Infinity prod-

ucts that were rejected for poor quality," Fraser said.

The union also is talking to local officials and provincial legislators, but so far success in that area has been limited because the Ontario legislature is out of session until October, Fraser said.

Formerly known as Biltrite Rubber (1984) Inc., the custom mixing business was facing bankruptcy in July 2009 when a group of investors and Biltrite executives led by Biltrite CEO James Chung acquired it, changing the name to Infinity Rubber. Chung is president and CEO of Infinity.

According to a USW press release, Chung and his group paid \$7.5 million for \$21.5 million worth of assets in the acquisition.

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RETIREES

Congratulations to the following retirees. We wish them much success in their future endeavors and hope they can fully enjoy their union negotiated retirement benefits.

Ronald Barksdale Dept 431/CC 1677

Alvis White Dept 1110/CC 4481

Anthony "Tony" Ratliff Dept 1411/ CC 5878

Michael Motley Dept 1320/CC 4869

Robert Pankey Dept 2541/CC 4284

Kenneth R. Vernon Dept 4040/2261

We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

Travis Barfield, Carolyn Brooks, Cathy Barker, Jeffrey Conner, Troy Deshazor, Glenn Dickerson, Herbert Echols, Ernestine Edwards, Earnest Ephriam, Christopher Farmer, Thomas Geiger, Anthony Gravely, David Greene, Jarris Gunn, Herman Guy, Diana Hughes, Cortez Inge, Michael Jones, Richie Lakey, James Lee, Tabitha Martin, Anthony Morrison, Jimmy Motley, Mike Myers, Bennett Oakes, Paul Pounds, William Runyon, Christopher Saunders, Harriet Smith, Lisa Spicer, James Spicer Jr., Rodney Stokes, Deborah Turner, Loretta Valentine, David Vernon, Jimmy Webster, Michael Wells, William Wood

Condolences to the Family of Retirees:

John W. McCain, William H. Holt, Larry P. Childers Sr.

U.S.W. Local 831

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SEPTEMBER 2011 CALENDAR						
				1 AC	2 BD	3 BD
4 BD	5 AC Plant Holiday Labor Day	6 AC Exec. Board Meeting 7:30 AM	7 BD SOAR Exec. Board Mtg 1:00 PM	8 BD Union Meeting 7:30 AM 7:30 PM	9 AC	10 AC
11 AC Patriot Day	12 BD	13 B/D	14 A/C SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	15 A/C	16 BD	17 BD
18 BD	19 AC	20 AC	21 B/D	22 B/D	23 AC	24 AC
25 AC	26 BD	27 BD	28 AC	29 AC	30 BD Autumn Begins	