Local 987 Proud to make America work June 25, 2025



#### **Celebrations: Warner Robins**

Date: Saturday, June 28.

Activities: Food trucks - more than 20, face painting, balloon animals and a host of other happenings. Music by Sheila E. and Reputation: A Tribute to the Music of Taylor Swift. Plus, music from Macon local, AJ The DJ Entertainment, kicking off the pre-concert festivities. The grand finale will feature a "spectacular" fireworks display. Gates open at 6 p.m.

#### Centerville

Date: Friday, June 27, 6-10 p.m., in Center Park (103 East Church St.)

Activities: Food trucks, yard games, CM Music Factory spinning the hits, live music by A2Z and a fireworks show over Center Park to finish off the evening. Free admission and parking.

#### **Perry**

Date: Friday, July 4 from 7-10 p.m. in historic downtown. Activities: Food trucks, entertainment, games and activities for all ages, capped off by fireworks.

Here are some tips - courtesy of OSHA - to keep you and your family safe this holiday weekend;

- Secure firework facilities
- Be aware of your surroundings keep exits accessible and free of debris
  - Know emergency procedures ■ Note the location of fire extinguisher and how to
  - Always keep fireworks in view
  - Dispose of fireworks properly
  - Remove loose powder quickly

  - Do not smoke around fireworks (50ft)

# Juneteenth celebration

By DON MONCRIEF

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

"Just remember. This time is unity in the community." So said Dr. Antuanette Davis, CEO of Obsidian Hope, in her short opening to the Juneteenth celebration held June 19 at the North Houston Sports Complex. This, with Obsidian and the City of Warner Robins being the sponsors, marked the fourth year of the event. It featured more than 60 vendors, 11 food trucks and was attended by hundreds.

Perhaps the pastor who opened the event "prayed" its heart the best: "Thank you God because yesterday's troubles are not today's sorrows. Thank you God because we do not have to continue to be separate and enslaved as we once

were. Not just by law, but even in our minds.

"So forgive us now of our sins and bless us as we forgive those who sin against us. Bless this time as we gather and celebrate as a community, to reflect and then to speak forward into the world how freedom must continue to speak up from every mountaintop and from every low place. Freedom must continue to speak up because there are people who can't speak for themselves. Freedom must continue to speak up and we can do that God by the way you empower us and increase our understanding of what we must do.

"Even in difficult days when there are voices rising against freedom we must continue to speak up because we are free and free indeed. Because your Word declares: who you have set free is truly free indeed."

More photos page 6



One June 19th we commemorated a pivotal moment in American history. This date in 1865 marked the announcement of the abolition of slavery in the state of Texas and more broadly, the emancipation of enslaved **Black Americans through**out the Confederate South. Juneteenth, as it has come to be known, is a day of joy and celebration, but also of reflection and remembrance. It is a time to honor the strength, resilience, and contributions of Black Americans. This is a time to reaffirm our commitment to fight against systematic injustices that still persist.

As a union, AFGE has always been on the forefront of advocating for equality and fairness. We believe in the dignity and worth of every worker.

Let's remember that the fight for civil rights and workers' rights are interconnected. Let's celebrate the progress we've made, but also be mindful of the work still ahead of us. Let's honor the legacy of those who came before us by continuing to stand up for equality and justice, not just in our workplace, but in our communities across the nation.

In Solidarity, - Everett Kelley, AFGE National

President - Eric Bunn, Sr., AFGE National Secretary-Treasurer

- Kendrick Roberson, AFGE **NVP for Women and Fair** 



Visit Join.afge.org or Join.afge.org/L0987 or local987.com to sign up today!

#### **Notice:**

Per AFGE Local 987 administration officials: If you have received any communication from the AFGE National office - letter, text, email - about your membership status and you currently pay your dues via Direct Dues, E-Dues or for WG employees, payroll deductions, you do not have any reason to fear or have concern about the status of your membership. As explained by Local 987 Trustee/Treasurer Jeanette McElhaney and Local 987 Bookkeeper Linda Baxter, the National office inadvertently sent out the communication to those whose names they did not have on file. That has since been corrected by Local 987 sending the National its list of members. "So there should be no more letters (etc) coming to you," they both said, adding: "However, if you do, please contact us at the Main Office at 478-922-5758."



# Hundreds attend 'No Kings Day' event

**Courtesy SANDRA HERNANDEZ** Army's 250th birthday and cel-crowd or lower their chants.

Houston Home Journal Staff Writer

were held, and people united at Perkins Field June 14 for a nationwide "No Kings Day" movement to speak out against President Donald Trump's administration and policies.

No Kings Day coincided with the Military Parade held in Washington, D.C., to mark the

ebrate Trump's 79th birthday. Press, approximately 2,000 people returned, according to aire rule" and the idea that any Chants were heard, signs protests were scheduled across Kristen Kiefer, protest organizthe country. According to NPR, over five million people participated in nationwide protests.

Receive stories from Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins straight to your inbox.

Here in Warner Robins, a thunderstorm did not deter the

Delivered weekly.

Before the storm, 300 people According to the Associated were at Perkins Field, and 71 er and chair of the Houston County Democrats.

Kiefer said the basic idea of the rally was to reject Authoritarianism – a political system where one person has all the power, which suppresses political freedom. She said people across the nation believe

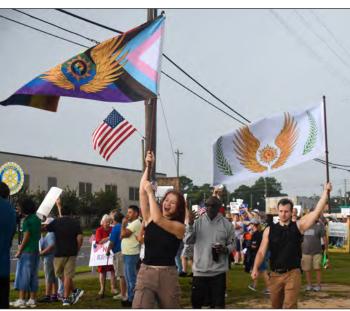
this is where America is headed. Another goal of the move-

ment was to reject the "billionperson, including the President, is above the people, Kiefer said. "While he hosts his hun-

dred-million-dollar birthday parade in [Washington] D.C., people will gather in cities across the country to remind him that we don't have kings in America," she said.

See EVENT, page 3





Protesters display signs and flags - including those symbolizing the LGBTQ+ community (right) - at the "No Kings Day" event held June 14 at Perkins Field in Warner Robins. (Sandra Hernandez/HHJ)

### **LOCAL SUPPLEMENT AGREEMENT**

### **Robins Air Force Base and AFGE Local 987**

Installment 4: Join us each issue as we do a refresher/reminder of the rights BUEs have under the Local Supplement Agreement signed between Robins Air Force Base officials and Local 987 officials. (Note: The entire LSA can also be found at local987. com.)

#### **Article 4**

**Voluntary Early Retirement Authority** / Voluntary Separation Incentive **Program** 

Management and the Union 1 agree that the Agency will

#### **Special Know your rights. Know**

your LSA.

advise the workforce at the appropriate time of the scheduled windows for VERA/ VSIP activity.

Further they agree to a 14 calendar day window to accept applications. The agency will notify all employees, through available means, of the VERA/VSIP eligibility criteria at the time of announcement, including who may or may not be included or excluded.

The agency will identify eligible employees with as much specificity as necessary to reasonably determine if they are eligible for the program. The Agency will consider employees within the same series and grade equitably in accordance with rules and regulations. The Agency agrees to keep the Local President informed as information becomes available with respect to

See LSA, page 3

# What to do during times of economic uncertainty

(StatePoint) From layoffs in the federal government to a growing number of companies handing tasks off to artificial intelligence, today's rapidly shifting job market is rightfully stoking concerns for many Americans. On top of that, the overall economic climate has lately been affected by market volatility, tariffs and inflation.

According to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® professionals, you can face times of economic insecurity head-on with a plan.

Job Insecurity

If you have recently lost your job, or are concerned you might,

here are steps you can take now: Get the picture: Take an inventory of your full financial picture, including income, average monthly expenses and assets. Understanding how much it costs you to live, minus discretionary spending, can give you an idea of how long you can survive on your liquid

This is also a good time to consider what spending you can cut back on and, if possible, how to build your emergency

Act wisely: Whether you're a federal employee with a Thrift Savings Plan or you work in the private sector and have an



employer-sponsored retirement plan, it's important to act with caution, not fear. If you lose your job and take a full distribution from your retirement account, that full distribution can come with tax penalties and leave you ill-prepared for the

Instead, if you suffer a job loss, consider leaving your retirement accounts untouched or rolling them over into an IRA. Federal employees should also reach out to the Office of Personnel Management or their specific agency to learn what benefits they're eligible for.

Plan for health insurance: During a job transition, determine whether you will opt for COBRA coverage of your existing health plan or join a spouse or domestic partner's plan. Keep in mind that COBRA coverage is temporary and often more expensive. You could also look for coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace at HealthCare.gov.

Get help: Affordable help may be available to you. More than 200 CFP® professionals have volunteered to offer no-cost or reduced-rate services to federal government employees. Visit https://www.cfp.net/ fedworkers to find help near

> Market Volatility Market volatility can

See TIMES, page 3

# 3 seasonal prep tips to help homeowners weather storms

(StatePoint) From unexpected downpours to damaging winds, homeowners should be prepared for emergency repairs when storms appear this sum-

A recent nationwide survey of 1,000 homeowners by T-Rex Tape, a leading maker of premium repair tapes, revealed that 100% of respondents have experienced damage requiring immediate attention following extreme weather events, with summer leading as the season with the most extreme weather events (37%).

Although nearly two-thirds of them (64%) report they're not fully prepared to make emergency fixes, all still attempted a DIY repair when it was needed. With the right tools and knowledge, quick action can help minimize damage and buy valuable time before pro-

fessional repairs are possible. To help homeowners manage emergency storm cleanup and repairs, Kerry Haugh, director of product marketing for T-Rex Brand, shares some proactive strategies:



Take Preventative Precautions According to the survey, high winds (49%) topped the list of weather-related culprits, followed by falling limbs and roof damage (42%), clogged gutters (32%), and structural issues from debris (28%). Water leaks also frequently occur inside the home and affect a sizable number of homeowners (30%).

Haugh suggests that preventative maintenance is one of the most effective ways to reduce emergency damage. "Homeowners should regularly check roofs and siding for any signs of wear and ensure sump pumps and other plumbing fixtures are working and free of clogs," she explains. "It's also important to clean out gutters

See TIPS, page 3

# Make fire safety a priority this National Homeowners Month

(StatePoint) Home fires today are burning hotter and faster and causing more damage than ever before, according to National Fire Protection Association data. This is why every second counts when it comes to a fire emergency.

June is National Homeowners Month, which is a great opportunity to evaluate your home safety devices and make upgrades where necessary.

A new partnership between Kidde, a trusted leader in fire safety for more than 100 years, and Ring, has delivered a cutting-edge collection of Smart Smoke and Combination Alarms (Smoke + CO) featuring seamless integration into the Ring app.

Combining Kidde's advanced smoke and carbon monoxide sensors that provide quicker, more accurate alerts (29% faster average smoke detection based on internal testing of smoldering wood fires for Kidde 9th Edition vs. leading competitor

8th Edition products) with built-in smart technology, you can better protect your home from anywhere. Whether you're at home, at work, or on vacation, you'll receive instant notifications through the Ring app if unsafe levels of smoke or carbon monoxide are detected, allowing you to take immediate action. Ring also offers an optional 24/7 Smoke & CO Monitoring subscription service (\$5/month), where trained agents can request emergency help and alert your emergency contacts in the event of an alarm.

"We believe these alarms represent a major step forward in whole home safety, and we're excited to get them into the hands of consumers," says Isis Wu, president of Global Residential Fire & Safety at Kidde.

Additional features can ensure smooth operation of your home safety equipment. For

See SAFETY, page 3

UNION MEMBERSHIP IS LIKE A GYM MEMBERSHIP. DUES ARE PAID TO BE PART OF THE GROUP WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS AND GOALS. BUT, JUST LIKE A GYM, IF WE DON'T SHOW UP, INVEST OUR TIME - OR PARTICIPATE, WE DO NOT GET STRONGER!

# Online orders delayed by 'tariffs'? It could be a scam

rdering online has never been easier - and scammers know it. If you've shopped from a sponsored ad or unfamiliar website and were later told your package is stuck in customs due to tariffs, be cautious.

Reports to BBB Scam Tracker show this excuse is increasingly being used by scammers to delay or ignore refund requests.

Imagine you see an ad online for something you want, and you proceed to the seller's website. The site looks professional, the price seems reasonable, and checkout is quick and easy. But then, your order never arrives.

When you follow up with the seller, you might get vague, automated emails urging you to "be patient." Then comes the explanation: your package is stuck due to tariffs, customs delays, or new international shipping regulations. In some cases, the company says you now owe additional money to release the package.

Other times, they provide a tracking number showing the item was delivered — but to a completely different state.

One consumer reported to BBB Scam Tracker, "After 2 months of not receiving my product I have emailed this company multiple times and each time the reply is my package is stuck in customs due to... tariffs. I have requested a refund multiple times. I have no longer gotten any replies from this apparently fake company."

Another consumer reported, "The Instagram ad from gotosleeps.com advertised a product that I purchased. A tracking number was provided by tracking-hub.com. The order never arrived... the email response has numerous grammatical errors and blamed 'Trump Tariffs' as to why the product is delayed."

#### Common red flags

- The seller blames tariffs or customs for excessive delays.
- You're asked to pay more money after placing your order.
- Tracking numbers are fake or show delivery to the wrong location.
- Customer service is unhelpful, scripted, or stops responding entirely.

**How to shop with caution online and avoid** BBB Scam Tracker.



■ Look beyond the ad. Scammers can pay for sponsored ads on social media or search engines just like legitimate businesses. Always research a company first, especially if you haven't heard of them. Learn more about avoiding sponsored ad scams on

social media on BBB.org. ■ Check the reviews — all of them. Don't rely only on what you see in the ad's comment section. Look up the business name with words like

'scam" or "complaint" and see what pops up. ■ Inspect the website carefully. Look for misspellings, poor grammar, or URLs that are suspicious. A site that looks polished can still be fake, especially if it is advertised through a sponsored social media post. Learn how to identify a fake website.

■ Use a credit card for online purchases. Credit cards often offer stronger fraud protection than debit cards or payment apps. If you don't receive your product, you're more likely to be able to dispute the charge successfully. ■ Avoid paying extra fees after checkout.

Once you've completed a purchase, legitimate sellers won't ask for additional shipping or customs payments. If they do, stop communication, contact your credit card provider, and report to BBB Scam Tracker.

■ Be suspicious of tariff-related excuses. U.S. consumers are not typically required to pay tariffs after placing an order. If a company says your package is stuck in customs or asks for additional payment due to tariffs, that's a major red flag.

■ Save copies of order details. Keep screenshots of the ad, confirmation email, and tracking info in case you need to file a dispute with your credit card company or report the scam.

#### For more information

Read BBB's tips for smart online shopping and learn how to tell if a sponsored ad is a scam or legitimate on BBB.org. If you think you've experienced an online shopping scam, report it to

## Medal of Honor spotlight

# **Navy Lt. John J. Powers**

By KATIE LANGE DoD News

Navy Lt. John James Powers knew that dive-bombing ships was a dangerous way to deploy explosives against the Japanese during World War II.

The maneuver went above and beyond the call of duty, but he wanted to ensure the success of his missions. Powers lost his life while using the tactic and received a posthumous Medal of Honor for his bravery and leadership.

Powers was born July 13, 1912, in New York City to Joseph and Maria Powers. He had two sisters, Maria and Betty. His brother, William, also served during World War II in the U.S. Merchant Marine.

As a Catholic, Powers grew up singing in his church's choir. He was also in the Boy Scouts. After high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, graduating in 1935. His first five years on active duty were spent at sea, including serving three years on a fleet ship in China. Powers then went into flight training. In January 1941, shortly after earning his wings, the lieutenant joined Bombing Squadron 5



Navy Lt. John J. Powers

attached to the USS Yorktown.

In 1942, after the U.S. became involved in World War II, the Yorktown sailed to the Pacific, where the fleet was tasked with preventing further Japanese expansion in the Solomon Islands. One of the first major engagements was during the Battle of the Coral Sea. It was the first naval battle in history in which opposing ships never sighted or fired at each other it was fought between aircraft

During the first several days of May 1942, Powers and his squadron took part in five engagements against Japanese

Powers pressed home his attack. He dove almost to the level of the Shokaku's deck before releasing his bomb ... and caused horrific damage ...

On May 4, near the island of Tulagi, Powers dropped bombs against enemy objectives during three missions, one of which scored a direct hit that instantly destroyed a large enemy ship. Powers was also credited with two close misses: one seriously damaged a large enemy aircraft tender, while the second damaged a 20,000-ton transport

Despite heavy enemy antiaircraft fire, Powers used all his ammunition to attack a gunboat, which ended up fleeing with a heavy oil slick in its wake. The damaged ship was later seen

beached on a nearby island. The main battle began, May 7, 1942. That day, Powers led three dive-bombers in an attack on a Japanese carrier. In the face of antiaircraft fire, Powers purposely dove to an altitude well below what was considered safe, risking his life and his aircraft so he could bomb a vital section of the ship.

Other pilots and observers noted that his dive-bombing run caused a massive explosion. engulfing the ship in flames, smoke and debris. It sank soon

During a meeting that evening, Powers lectured his squadron on how to perform point-ofaim and diving techniques like his. He advocated for dropping bombs at a lower altitude to ensure greater accuracy, but he stressed the dangers involved, including heavy enemy fire, the inability to pull back up and being hit by the bomb's

See HONOR, page 3

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the purchaser, user or patron.

Please submit articles, photos, 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-

the editor and/or president.

#### TIMES

#### From page 2

be nerve-racking for investors, but CFP® professionals say these tips can help you weather periods of uncertainty:

Understand the history: Historic events such as Black Monday in 1987 and the COVID-19 crash in 2020 bear a consistent pattern. After a period of downturn, markets generally have rebounded with resilience. So, when the market declines, stay the course and

to only make significant changes to your financial strategy when your situation changes, not when the world does. While this can be easier said than done, avoiding sensational financial news and social media chatter can reduce anxiety. If you have concerns, lean on reputable sources for guidance, such as your CFP® professional.

recover. A good rule of thumb is

**Diversify:** A diversified portfolio is more durable during tough financial times. Make sure your assets include a bal-

give investments a chance to ance of investments that works well in different market environments.

Seek expert guidance: A recent CFP® professional-led webinar "The Power of a Plan: Navigating Market Uncertainty With Confidence," which delved into the current state of the markets and provided general educational tools for investors, is available to all online.

Concerned about your finances? You're not alone. During periods of uncertainty, lean on reliable resources to make a smart financial plan.

#### TIPS From page 2

to ensure water flow and prevent backup that can cause problems."

Fill Your Toolbox

In urgent situations, some homeowners reported resorting to improvised, unreliable solutions like towels (39%), clothing (18%) or even newspapers (15%) to plug leaks.

It's crucial to keep essential emergency repair supplies on hand in one easily accessible location. A standard toolkit should include useful items, such as hammers, nails, tarps, sealant and strong waterproof repair tape specifically designed to hold up under tough conditions.

"Extreme weather is inevitable, and having the right tools on hand can help safeguard the home," Haugh says.

#### Make Quick, Post-Storm Repairs

Once it's safe to go outside, homeowners should assess any risks and utilize items in their toolkit to help prevent damage in and outside the home, looking for any interior or exterior issues or leaks that could cause damage if not addressed. Haugh suggests using those key toolbox items as an effective temporary solution.

"Most individuals expect a temporary repair to last a few hours to a few days, but more than 65% of homeowners were surprised by the strength and durability of products like waterproof tape when addressing storm-related leaks," she states. "We've learned waterproof and repair tape should be included among other DIY repair staples, like a hammer and nails."

With the right tools in your toolbox, homeowners can stay prepared to weather winds, rain and other extreme conditions this summer.

### **SAFETY**

#### From page 2

example, the Ring app notifies you when your devices' batteries are low approximately seven days prior to the device chirping, so you can ensure operation with no down time. And Kidde's enhanced sensing technology reduces false alarms often caused by cooking—a leading reason people disable their devices. And it doesn't stop there. Once you install one of these smart alarms in your home, you can receive real-time alerts from your other eligible hardwired Kidde products to create a connected home that helps keep you and your family

Remember, having working smoke alarms in the home can double the likelihood of safely escaping a house fire in the event of an emergency and are there to help protect you

Kiefer wanted to bring this

movement to her city because

she believes people are seeing a

lot happening across the coun-

try. She said she felt it was time.

Personally, Kiefer shared

she has been following discus-

sions about cuts made to health

programs, such as Medicaid.

Without Medicaid, she believes

she would not be here to orga-

nize the rally, and the insurance

program is the reason she is

"That's why I'm here. It just

seems unfair to the American

people that we need to make

these huge cuts to the pro-

grams, like Medicaid, that we

pay into, but we can have [a]

hundred-million-dollar parade,"

Kiefer believes the country

has a president who is ignoring

court orders, cutting programs,

and using anti-immigration pol-

icy to detain American citizens

**EVENT** 

alive.

she said.

From page 1



round-the-clock. That's why it's important to install them throughout the house, including the living room, kitchen, bedrooms, hallways, basement and garage. As an additional safety measure, you should also be prepared to tackle small fires quickly. Keep fire extinguishers in key areas, including the kitchen, basement and garage.

"Humans are flawed. We forget things, we mess up, and we assume a home fire and other emergencies will never happen to us," says Wu. "Unfortunately, no home is impervious to an emergency, making the proper safety precautions essential for every household."

and that it has gone too far.

She believes the public should be aware, especially in a military community like Warner Robins. Kiefer said Robins Air Force Base employs many civilians, but federal job cuts have affected the lives of her friends, neighbors, and family members.

"I feel like we should all be paying attention to what's happening because it deeply affects our community," she said.

Kiefer clarified that the rally was not to protest against the Army celebrating its birthday. As a child of a military parent, she has strong support for the military, and she believes Trump should have also celebrated the Navy and Marines, which had their 250th birthdays this year.

"It is specifically about the authoritarian-esque action. We're going to see tanks roll down Constitution Avenue in front of the White House. That's not a thing here," she said.

Kiefer anticipated a peaceful demonstration. She received a

permit from the city and coordinated with the Warner Robins Police Department to ensure its safety.

Kiefer clarified she had an excellent working relationship with law enforcement and did not expect any issues similar to those that occurred in Los Angeles, which had been a concern leading up to the rally. She said they wanted people to come out and bring their voices,

which they did. "The goal is just to amplify our collective voices but do so in a way that is safe and peaceful," she said.

Kiefer hopes the demonstrations send a message to the government to work for the people.

"We want our government to hear us. Things like Social Security, Medicaid, SNAP and Medicare, that is what we want our tax dollars to pay for," she said. "We want our government to uphold the rule of law and we want essentially to restore accountability and to put the American people first.'

#### LSA From page 1 to the servicing personnel eligible applicants and selection criteria for the VERA/VSIP.

The Union will be given the opportunity to meet with management prior to the implementation of the program to discuss the criteria for selection of applicants. If requested, the Union will

be provided the criteria / selection process and number of VERA/VSIP positions.

 $\textbf{4.2}^{\text{Employees eligi-}}_{\text{ble for the VERA/}}$ VSIP program who are TDY, on enforced leave, on suspension, on extended annual or sick leave, and/or do not have computer access shall be made aware of the opportunity to apply for VERA/VSIP by his or her supervisor.

Employees will need to work with their supervisor to ensure

their VERA/VSIP application is properly and timely submitted office. The employee's supervisor will maintain documentation to support the notification of these employees to apply for the program.

**4.3** Employees with a valid Robins address will receive e-mail notification concerning the program. Employees who do not have an address will receive written notification. The supervisor should obtain signature confirmation that the employee received the notification and must provide a copy of this to the employee.

4.4 Only those employees who apply within the window of opportunity will be considered unless the reason set forth in the agreement did not occur. If so validated, said employee(s) will be placed per the appropriate process. It

is understood the employee bears the burden to prove this situation occurred.

 $\textbf{4.5}^{\text{Employees will be}}_{\text{given seven-calendar}}$ days from receipt of an offer to either accept or decline the VERA/VSIP offer. Failure to respond within the required time will be considered a declination. The Agency agrees to be fair and equitable with respect to employees who fail to accept or decline the VERA/VSIP offer. The Agency will address any request for extensions due to emergency circumstances on a case by case basis. If employees are unable to be contacted, the servicing personnel office will contact the supervisor and the supervisor will use emergency contact procedures to secure acceptance or declination but the final validation for acceptance will be the employee's signature.

#### **HONOR** From page 2

own blast.

The next day, as the squadron readied their planes, Powers inspired the pilots by saying, "Remember, the folks back home are counting on us. I am going to get a hit if I have to lay it on their flight deck." From an altitude of 18,000

feet, Powers led his section of dive-bombers to their target, the Japanese carrier Shokaku. They pushed through a wall of bursting antiaircraft shells and right into the face of enemy fighter planes. Disregarding his own safety,

Powers pressed home his attack. He dove almost to the level of the Shokaku's deck before actions likely prevented the loss releasing his bomb, which nearly hit dead center and caused horrific damage, including several massive fires that killed more than 100 Japanese sailors, according to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Powers' aircraft then plunged into the sea. He was initially listed as missing in action before being officially declared dead about a month later.

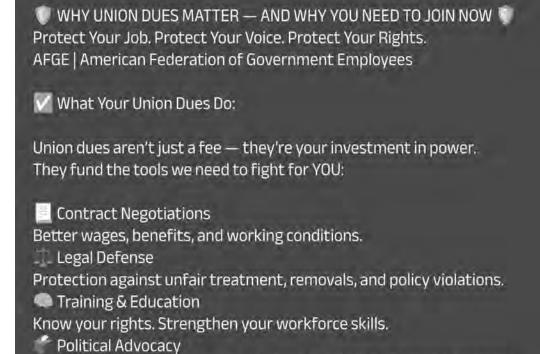
Naval historians said that while another bomb was dropped on the Shokaku, it was Powers' bomb that knocked the ship out of action for the rest of the battle. The damage left it unable to recover aircraft and participate in the more decisive Battle of Midway one month later. Historians said Powers'

of the Yorktown and changed the outcome of two critical World War II battles.

For going above and beyond the call of duty and giving his life for the cause, Powers received a posthumous Medal of Honor. His mother accepted it on his behalf on Sept. 7, 1942, during a ceremony in Washington.

Powers was honored by the Navy again in February 1944, when the destroyer escort USS John J. Powers was commissioned into the fleet.

Powers' name is listed on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. A marker is also dedicated to him at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York City.



We push back on laws and executive orders that hurt federal workers,

TRUMP'S MARCH 27 EXECUTIVE ORDER + OPM MEMORANDUM

Your union stays ready, responsive, and resourced.

Operational Strength

THE URGENCY IS NOW

This administration is:

Slashing official time for union reps

Weakening grievance and appeal rights

Undermining dues deduction

Eroding employee protections

This is a direct attempt to silence your voice in the workplace.

₩ WHAT CAN STOP THIS?

MEMBERSHIP, SOLIDARITY, PARTICIPATION.

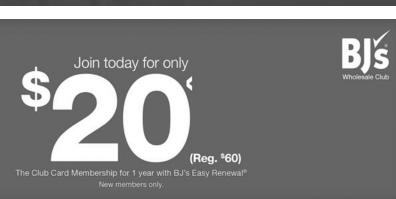
When we stand together, we protect one another.

JOIN. PAY DUES. STAND UNITED.

Visit AFGE.org to JOIN or CONTACT your local AFGE union office.

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New members The Club+ Card Membership: \$40° when you purchase a 1-year The Club+ Card Membership with BJ's Easy Renewal.

The Club+ Card members receive 5¢ off/gal? at BJ's Gas® every day and earn 2% back1 in rewards on most BJ's purchases, plus two FREE same-day deliveries on eligible orders of \$50 or more during each annual membership period?

the above toll-free number

**Existing members:** Renew The Club Card Membership with BJ's Easy Renewal for \$50. To renew at this discounted offer, you must call

Renew The Club+ Card Membership with BJ's Easy Renewal for \$100. To renew at this discounted offer, you must call

BJ's Membership Sales Representative: Kim Sbrogna Email: ksbrogna@bjs.com

Offer expires: JULY 31, 2025

l agree to BJ's membership terms, available in-club and on BJs.com/terms, and agree to receive membership communications electronically. Membership expires last day of month/year shown on your receipts and B/s.com account. Membership renewed within 2 months of expiration extend 12 months from expiration date; otherwise extend 12 months

'B/S Easy Renewal enrollment required; you authorize B/S to charge any payment method on record, an annual recurring charge in the amount of the then-current membership fee for all memberships on your account, plus applicable tax, starting the first day of the morth your membership expires ("Start Date"), without notice unless required by law. Visit your Bis.com account, a member services desk, or call 800-815-CLUB to manage or cancel B/S Easy Renewal; cancel before the Start Date to avoid being charged. Not combinable or redeemable for cash. Sales tax may apply. In order to renew at the Corporate Partnership Program discounted membership offer, you must renew via your B/S Membership Sales Representative. Expires: 7.1/31/25

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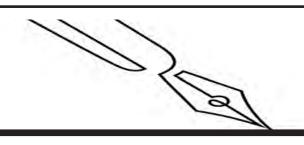
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34 July birth-

stones

35 Panache



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# Just for

# King Crossword

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#### **ACROSS** 1 Wax-coated

- cheese
- 5 Jug handle
- 8 Thinker
- **Descartes** 12 The Big Easy
- acronym
- 13 "No seats"
- sign
- 14 Squad
- 15 French per-
- fume brand
- 16 Western top-
- 18 Treeless
- plains 20 Thoreau
- piece 21 Remiss
- 22 Boxing legend
- 23 Stupefies
- 26 Spy's asset 30 Compass dir. 52 Work on
- 31 Actress Tyler 32 Tic-tac-toe
- win 33 Sound sys-
- tems
- 36 Ridicule
- 38 Last (Abbr.) 39 Airline to
- Sweden 40 Ballroom
- dance 43 First-rate
- 47 Big name in
- pianos
- 49 Architect

- 50 Memo 51 100%
- proofs
- 53 Hot tubs 54 Hwy.
- 55 Cushions

#### 1 Goals

DOWN

- 2 "Act now!"
- 3 Lotion addi-
- Jane
- 6 and crafts 29 Sizzling

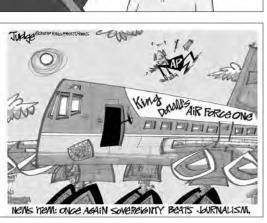
- land 9 Son of Seth
- 10 Pinta's companion
- 11 Online crafts site
- 17 Far (Pref.) 19 — de deux
- 22 Off-roader
- (Abbr.)
- 23 Moines 24 Busy insect
- 4 Christie sleuth 25 Wye follower
  - 26 Bro's sib
- 5 English coun- 27 Singer Rawls
  - 28 Heavy weight 48 Series of bat-

- 8 Moscow's
  - 36 Menlo Park
  - 37 In dreamland 39 Fashion
    - 40 Taxpaver IDs
      - 41 Perched on
      - 42 Self-referential 43 Popcorn sea-

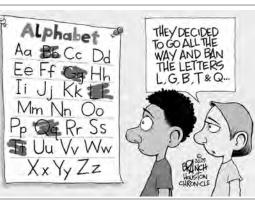
monogram

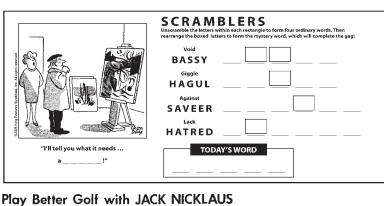
- soning
- 44 Castor's mother
- 45 Desertlike
- 46 Decays
- tles

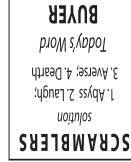




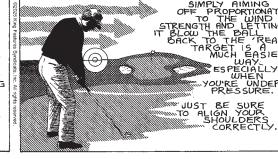






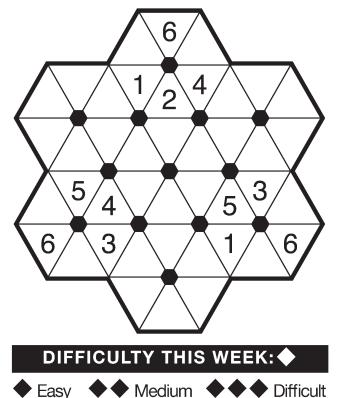


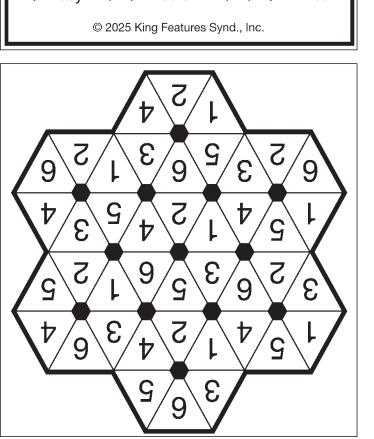






There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.







YOU KNOW, IT WOULD REALLY BE GREAT IF YOU COULD STOP REARRANGING THE FURNITURE EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND.

				_								
S		A	Ь		П	$\perp$	Ш		S	A	Ы	S
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Я	A	٦	$\neg$	$\exists$	Τ	S		A	В	M	A	S
			S	A	S		Ι	7	$\cap$			
Τ	Ν	$\cap$	A			S	0	$\exists$	Я	$\Box$	Τ	S
0	0	0			٨	Π	٦			$\Box$	Ν	$\exists$
Н	Ι	٦	A	$\exists$	Τ	S		S	3	Z	A	П
				٦	A		Χ	A	٦			
人	A	S	S	$\exists$		S	Ξ	Ь	Ь	$\Box$	Τ	S
S	Ν	0	S		$\exists$	T	S		Я	0		П
Τ		N	$\subset$		0	Я	S		A		0	Ν
3	N	3	Я		Я	A	3		M	A	П	$\exists$
.emm cz .emm monuloc												
Solution time: 23 mins.												

Answers King Crossword



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

that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

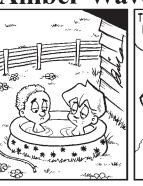
**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆

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**19wenA** 

**Meekly SUDOKU** 





















BRUTUS, WO









THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS "BUMMER SLAM" PART 10





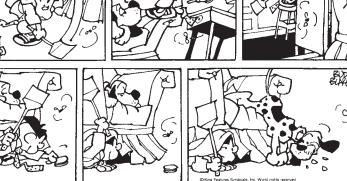


















...I HOPE IT'S NOT A "FIRING" ONE.



= 2

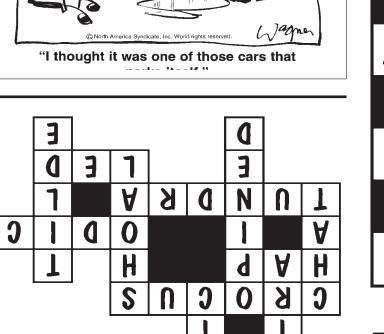
21











### ansmer



ward or backward, it crows both ways. If a rooster is annoyingly noisy whether walking for-JƏMSUD

CryptoQuip

### **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.

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|= 17 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

5

X

	9		L		3
			=		=
<b>ムレ</b> =	2	+	6	+	9
	÷		÷		-
12=	L	×	G	-	8
	+		+		+
2 =	3	-	7	+	l

**SUSWERS** 

Go Figure!

# **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: P equals W

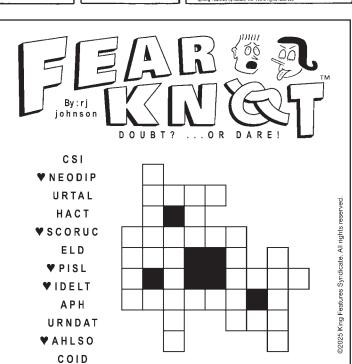
This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands

MO Z JNNCGHJ MC

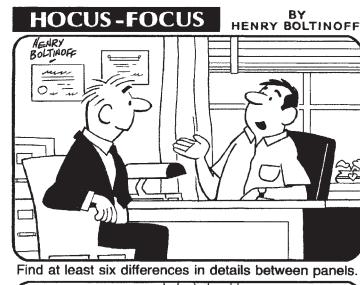
ZEENQMEBRQ ENMCQ PFHGFHJ

PZRLMEB ONJPZJS NJ IZYLPZJS,

MG YJNPC INGF PZQC. ©2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex.  ${f HAGNEC}$  becomes  ${f CHANGE}$  ). 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.





higher, 4. Pocket is moved. 5. File cabinet is taller. 6. Desk lamp Differences: 1. Desk is wider. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Blinds are

















# **Protein-Packed Summer Sweet Treats**

Bring joy to your health journey with quick and easy summer recipes



FAMILY FEATURES

each vacations, backyard barbecues and long road trips make summer a season of spontaneity. Often cited as memory-making moments, these unplanned adventures can also make it a challenge to stay on track with your health. This summer, sticking to your wellness goals doesn't have to mean missing out on delicious, sweet treats.

When summer throws you off your routine, reach for convenient sources of high-quality protein, like Premier Protein High Protein Shakes. With 30 grams of protein, 160 calories and 1 gram of sugar, you don't have to choose between summer fun and nutrition. These summer shakes bring joy back to the health journey as easy and delicious grab-and-go solutions, putting a healthier, happier lifestyle within reach. Not to mention the shake's 24 vitamins and minerals, including vitamins C and E, which help support a healthy immune system as

part of a healthy diet and lifestyle. The fan-favorite shakes are best enjoyed as part of a nourishing breakfast, afternoon snack, post-workout boost or as an ingredient in a protein-packed recipe. There's something for every taste bud, with more than 12 flavors including fan-favorites Chocolate, Vanilla, Caramel and Cafe Latte. If you're interested in trying summertime recipes that taste indulgent and pack a protein punch, consider these tasty treats.

When the sun is beating down and the only reprieve is an ice cold refreshment, let this twist on frosted lemonade be your escape from the heat. With fruity flavor and added protein, Frosted Peach Lemonade allows you to travel to a

tropical island from the comfort of home. From hot days to cool nights, Premier Protein delivers the perfect solution

for the classic bonfire indulgence with

Protein Marshmallow S'mores. Your new summer classic, this unexpected s'more hack lets you embrace a sticky treat without sacrificing your nutritional goals.

With nutrition that works for you, delicious recipes and nutrition tools help make the ride smoother and more enjoyable as a fun reminder the health journey doesn't have to be daunting. With easy-to-understand nutritionals, Premier Protein High Protein Shakes deliver tasty fuel for whatever comes next, giving you the confidence to reach your goals and be the best version of yourself without missing summer's special moments.

To find more information and proteinpacked recipes that'll help keep your summer health goals on track, visit PremierProtein.com.

### Protein Marshmallow S'mores

- 2 cups Premier Protein Vanilla High
- Protein Shake tablespoons gelatin
- scoops Premier Protein Vanilla Milkshake 100% Whey Protein Powder
- graham crackers 3 chocolate bars

Add protein shake to small saucepan and layer gelatin on top. Let set 5-10 minutes (gelatin will start to "bloom").

Over low heat, whisk mixture periodically until consistency thins.

Pour into mixing bowl and allow to cool 5-10 minutes until mixture is warm, not hot. Add protein powder; whisk 10-20 minutes, or until light and fluffy. Mixture should not break and

fall immediately when whisk is lifted. Pour mixture into lined pan and allow to set in

refrigerator.

Slice and serve alone or with graham crackers and chocolate bars.



#### Frosted Peach Lemonade

- 2 scoops Premier Protein Vanilla Milkshake 100% Whey Protein Powder
- 1 cup lemonade 1 cup frozen peach slices

In blender, blend protein powder, lemonade and frozen peach slices until smooth.