Local 987

Proud to make America work

Dec. 18, 2024

### **AFGE** pushes back against cuts to Federal workforce

**AFGE Leadership** 

AFGE President Everett Kelley pushed back on the incoming administration's plan to drastically cut the federal workforce and agencies without analyzing the impact they have on the American people.

Appearing on C-SPAN Nov. 22, Kelley responded to recent statements by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy that 75% of the federal workforce and agencies need to be cut in addition to the use of reduction in force and moving federal agencies outside Washington, D.C. The business duo, who have no previous experience in government, have been tasked by Trump to lead the newly created Department of Government Efficiency.

"First of all, when you say you want to cut them without further analyzing and see what our government really needs, I think is misguided," Kelley said. "I welcome an opportunity to sit down and talk about how we can make the government more efficient. To think that you can take the federal employees inside of D.C. and send them out into the states to work, well guess what? Only 15% of federal employees work inside of D.C. They're already dispersed throughout the United States. I just think that they need to educate themselves on what federal employees really do and where they are located."

To make the government more efficient, Kelley pointed to Medicare, which has an opportunity to save \$60 billion by combating fraud. Tax evasion also cost the government \$1 trillion this year alone.

The AFGE president took issue with Musk and Ramaswamy calling federal workers "bureaucrats," reminding them that these employees are Veteran Affairs doctors and nurses taking care of our country's veterans, Transportation Security Officers who keep our skies safe, the meat inspectors who make sure the food we eat is safe,

See CUTS, page 3

### **AFGE opposes Department** of Education elimination

By AFGE Leadership

Two weeks after Donald Trump was reelected president of the United States, Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota introduced legislation that would carry out one of Trump's signature campaign promises: eliminate the Department of Education.

Even though it has the fewest employees of all 15 Cabinet-level agencies, the Education Department provides essential support to America's students and 13,000 schools nationwide. Just 4,200 employees work for the department -2,800 of whom

are represented by AFGE Local 252. "Sen. Rounds' bill is callous and detrimental. Our members and colleagues provide crucial services for his constituents and all citizens. In fact, because of remote work, some of our members live in South Dakota and are livid that Senator Rounds is threatening their employment for his personal political advancement," Local 252 President Sheria D. Smith said.

While funding and policy decisions for individual schools are made largely at the state and local levels, the department provides crucial financial support to low-income students and families across the country. It also helps cash-strapped school districts provide programs and services that they would otherwise struggle to provide, particularly those benefiting students with

The department reaches more than 800,000 preschool-aged children through its Head Start program. Employees in the department's Federal Student Aid office administer billions in financial assistance annually that millions of students rely on to

disabilities.

In addition, Education employees provide professional development for teachers,

See EDUCATION, page 3

# Do not drink the water

### Some lines identified as 'galvanized' and needing replacement

By DON MONCRIEF

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

Do not drink the water!

That is the warning of AFGE Local 987 officials. It is in response to a notice Robins Air Force Base officials sent out to "Team Robins Facility Occupants," dated Oct. 25.

The notice, according to its content, was to inform facility occupants of properties listed (see page 3) that "the service line providing potable water has been classified as 'Galvanized Requiring Replacement Service Line'." It continued: "This means that some or all of the service line contains galvanized piping that was or could have been downstream from a lead source. Lead scale can build up on the interior of the galvanized piping and later release into drinking water even after the original source of lead is replaced. Therefore, water supplied through a galvanized requiring replacement service line has the potential to increase your risk of exposure to lead."

The notice continued that Robins

AFB was routinely monitoring the water quality and any necessary corrosion control techniques and is preparing to replace all lead or galvanized service lines as "quickly as possible".

Detailed information on the installation's lead service line inventory and replacement plan can be obtained by contacting Environmental Management at 478-926-1176 or via email at 78ceg.cev.frontofc@us.af.

In the interim, AFGE Local 987 officials want all to understand the seriousness of the situation. Galvanized pipes, according to WHITT Inspections, LLC - just one of a good number of websites raising the alarm and providing information on the danger – galvanized pipes are steel pipes dipped in zinc coating. "This practice," its website (www. whittinspections.com) reads, "came to be once we discovered that the lead piping leads to - you guessed it - lead poisoning.'

To correct more than 70 years' worth of municipal lead piping, city builders turned to galvanizing. The

problem? "Unfortunately, we soon found out that this is like putting a bandaid over a stab wound. "To be fair, these pipes did perform fine for a few years. However, we soon discovered that after decades of

coating diminishes, and corrosion "And the worst part is that the rust

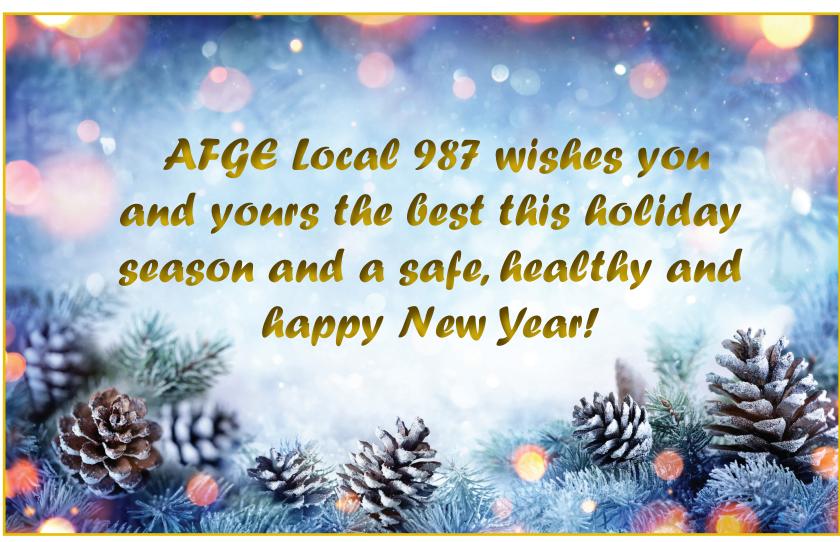
wear and tear, this galvanized/zinc

often goes unseen because it starts from the inside. The pipes also can collect small deposits of lead particles, which can enter your drinking water."

Exposure, per the Robins AFB notice, can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children, the notice reads, can

See WATER, page 3





# Preparing for winter weather

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

Saturday will mark the first day of winter, and although Georgia doesn't have to endure the conditions as those further up north, it still has its threats.

For example, during the week of Christmas, according to the National Weather Service, Georgia has a 70 percent chance of seeing a winter storm. A "winter storm" by their definition could include rain, snow or sleet. (The good news unless you're hoping to get out of school or work - is during the winter season the NWS does not predict us having a snow storm.) During the week of New Year's, the NWS has us with a 48-50 percent chance of seeing a winter storm and during the first week of January, that goes up to 75-80 percent. From the second week on until the final week, Georgia's chance of seeing a winter storm hover around the 50 percent mark, but during that final week it jumps up again to the 75-80 percent range.

Feb. 6 also sees an 80 percent chance while most of February is around 30-40 percent; minute Feb. 11 and 12, which is around 50 percent. (Feb. 22 and 23 see a 50 percent chance of rain.)

As far as safety and prevention, representatives of the Occupational

Safety and Health Administration recommend the following to prevent

- slips on snow and ice: ■ For starters, employers should ensure snow and ice is cleared from walking surfaces "as quickly as possible after a winter storm."
- When walking on snow or ice is "unavoidable", workers should be
- O Wear footwear that has good traction and insulation (i.e. insulated and water resistant boots or rubber over-shoes with good rubber
- O Take short steps and walk at a slower pace to react quickly to

changes in traction. Per OSHA, "employers should consider options to avoid working on roofs or elevated heights," and 'plan ahead for safe removal." (See OSHA's hazard alert at https://osha. gov/sites/default/files/publications/ OSHA-3513roof-snow-hazard.pdf) That must include:



- Providing fall protection and training when working on the roof or elevated heights.
- Ensuring ladders are used safely (i.e. clearing snow and ice from
- Using extreme caution when working near power lines.
- Preventing harmful exposure to cold temperatures and physical

See WINTER, page 3

#### Working safely

Winter weather can expose outdoor workers to frostbite, hypothermia, and cold stress, all of which can be fatal. It is important to know the wind chill temperature to better prepare and perform the work safely.

Follow these work practices to stay safe in cold weather:

- Know the symptoms of cold stress; reddening skin, tingling, pain, swelling, leg cramps, numb-
- ness, and blisters. ■ Dress properly; wear at least three layers of loose-fitting clothing, insulated gloves and boots,

and cover your head.

- Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers.
- Stay dry and pack extra clothes; moisture can increase heat loss from the body.
- Take frequent breaks in warm, dry areas.
- Drink warm liquids.
- Source: OSHA. gov

### 10 health recommendations for the New Year

improve your health in 2025 and beyond? Check out these recommendations from the

Make nutritional tweaks: Reduce your intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and processed foods, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Drinking sugary beverages, even 100% fruit juices, is associated with a higher mortality risk, according to a study published in JAMA Network

Drink water and choose nutritious, whole foods including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, low-fat dairy products, and lean meats and poultry.

Cease the grease

posed of down the drain.

Robins Air Force Base.

By 78th Civil Engineering Group

When you finish cooking bacon or sauteing

vegetables, it is easy to dump the excess oil and

grease down the drain without a second thought.

However, oils and grease should never be dis-

Even a small amount of these materials (e.g.,

fuels, motor oil, lubricating oil, hydraulic oil,

cooking oil, or animal derived fats [such as bacon

grease]), dumped down the drain can build up over the years and ultimately cause backups in

the pipe system within your home, at the waste-

Pipe backups can lead to sewer capacity reduc-

tion, increased maintenance costs, shortened

infrastructure lifespan, treatment plant upsets,

facility closures, harm to fish and plants, odors,

human health hazards, and fines levied against

What happens if the pipes back up? Back-ups

in pipes may lead to floods within your home or

the environment. Back-ups in the environment

allow the oil and grease to be washed into storm

water runoff systems, which eventually lead to

water treatment plant, or anywhere in between.

published in JAMA found that putting down the TV remote and going for a walk can improve healthy aging—highlighting the importance of small everyday

tensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity Get up-to-date: Get your vaccines in advance of respi-

ratory virus season—including the annual flu vaccine and the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for everyone six months and older, as well as

who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a second dose of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months later.

RSV can be dangerous for older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend those 75 and older, and 60 and older at high risk for severe RSV, get vaccinated. Immunizations are also available to protect babies from getting very sick from RSV.

This is important because RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization nation-

If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including GetMyFluShot.org. You can also reduce the spread of respiratory viruses by covering coughs and sneezes, frequently washing your hands, wearing masks, improving air quality, and staying home if you are

Get screened: Make an appointment for preventive care, tests and screenings to help your doctor spot certain conditions before

See RECOMMENDATIONS, page 4

### (StatePoint) Looking to Get active: A recent study American Medical Association:

"The best way to address the post-holi-

day doldrums is to do something good

for your health. Even small, positive

choices you make now can have a big

impact on your long-term wellbeing."

- M.D, president of the AMA, Bruce Scott

Adults should get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-in-

pregnant people. People 65 and older and those

Never pour oils, greases down the drain

BBB warning: Avoid these holiday scams

anta isn't the only one keeping track of who is naughty and who is nice! The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers to beware of these common holiday

Be cautious shopping online. Because many retailers now have chip card readers, fraud at bricks-and-mortar stores is down, so scammers have shifted their efforts online. Use a credit (not debit) card online and only shop on secure websites. Look for https in the address (the extra "s" is for "secure") and look for a lock symbol.

Look-alike websites: When shopping online, make sure to use only legitimate websites. Watch out for URLs that use the names of wellknown brands along with extra words.

Fake shipping notifications: These can have

attachments or links to sites that will download

malware on your computer to steal your identity and your passwords. Don't be fooled by a holiday phishing scam. E-cards: Electronic cards can be great fun, but be careful. Two red flags to watch out for

are: the sender's name is not apparent; you are required to share additional information to get

Letters from Santa: Several trusted companies offer charming and personalized letters from Santa, but scammers mimic them to get personal information from unsuspecting parents. Check with bbb.org to find out which ones

Emergency scams: Be cautious if you get a call from a family member or friend claiming to be in an accident, arrested, or hospitalized while traveling in another country or out of state.



**Kelvin Collins** 

you confirm with another family member that it's

Phony charities: Everyone is in a generous mood at the holidays, so scammers take advantage of that with fake charity solicitations in email, on social media sites, and

even by text. Check out charities at give.org before donating.

Temporary holiday jobs: Retailers and

delivery services need extra help at the holidays but beware of solicitations that require you to share personal and/or financial information online or pay for a job lead. Apply in person or go to retailers' main websites to find out who Unusual forms of payment: Be wary of any-

using prepaid debit cards, gift cards, wire transfers, third parties, etc. These payments cannot be traced and cannot be undone. Free gift cards: Pop-up ads or emails offering free gift cards for surveys are often just a

one who asks you to pay for holiday purchases

ploy to get your personal information that can later be used for identity theft. Social media gift exchange: It sounds like a great deal; buy one gift and get 36 in return.

and it's illegal. Make your holidays merry and bright by becoming informed on holiday scams and keep-

But it's just a variation on a pyramid scheme

ing your hard-earned money in your pocket. For more holiday tips from the BBB, visit bbb.org.

### Medal of Honor spotlight

### Army Pvt. 1st Class Noah Knight

By KATIE LANGE DoD News

are legitimate.

When Army Pfc. Noah Odell Knight saw three enemy soldiers carrying explosives that could have annihilated several members of his company, he didn't think twice about trying to stop them.

Knight lost his life in that endeavor, but his heroics led to a posthumous Medal of Honor.

Knight was born on Oct. 29, 1929, in Chesterfield County, South Carolina. He was one of eight children raised by Jarvis and Sophronia Knight. Few other details about his youth have been published.

Knight enlisted in the Army in October 1948. After training in the U.S., he was sent to Korea in August 1951 to serve with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

In November 1951, Knight was with Company F, which was occupying a key position along a defensive perimeter set up near Kowang-San — an



Army Sgt. 1st Class Sammy Davis

area also known as Hill 355, which United Nations troops had taken from the enemy nearly two months prior.

On the afternoon of Nov. 23, a large Chinese force tried to take the hill back, sending waves of enemy troops toward Company F's position. Enemy artillery scored two direct hits on Knight's bunker, demolishing it and wounding him with shrapnel.

Knight quickly positioned himself in a shallow depression to get a better vantage

point for firing his weapon. When that proved to be ineffective, he left that shelter and pushed his way through

In full view of the enemy, he fired into the enemy's ranks, inflicting enough casualties to momentarily stem the tide of

Later, when Knight saw another enemy squad infiltrating U.S. defenses, he jumped into action, killing or wounding the entire group.

Just as Knight ran out of ammunition, he noticed three enemy soldiers with demolition charges breaching a friendly position. Knight knew they were going to try to blow the explosives and kill his comrades, so, disregarding his own safety, he rushed forward and knocked out two of the enemy soldiers with the butt of his rifle. He tried to get to the third man, but before he could do so, that man exploded one of the devices. All three enemy soldiers were killed, and Knight

was mortally wounded. For his fearlessness and valor, Knight received a posthumous Medal of Honor. His widow, Bechey Knight, who he married shortly before deploying to Korea, received the award on his behalf during a Pentagon ceremony on Jan. 7, 1953. His father and at least one of his brothers were in attendance.

Knight is buried at Union Hill Baptist Church in Pageland, South Carolina.

Knight's Medal of Honor is on display at the U.S. Army Basic Combat Training Museum at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

In full view of the enemy, he fired into the enemy's ranks, inflicting enough casualties to momentarily stem the tide of the attack. Later, when Knight saw another enemy squad infiltrating U.S. defenses, he jumped into action, killing or wounding the entire group ... He tried to get to the third man, but before he could do so, that man exploded one of the devices. All three enemy soldiers were killed, and Knight was mortally wounded.

### Christmas Price Index 2024 reflects wage growth, rising service prices

(StatePoint) On the first day of Christmas, holiday gift giving begins with the traditional gift of a Partridge in a Pear Tree. By the first day of January, True Love pays the bill.

Each holiday season, the PNC's Christmas Price Index tabulates the price to gift all the items in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," and this year, that figure amounts to \$49,263.47, a 5.4% increase from 2023.

PNC's Christmas Price Index mimics the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, which measures the average change in prices consumers pay for goods and services over time. Notably higher in 2024 than the BLS' CPI, which increased 2.4% year over year, PNC's index reflects wage growth in the service industry as the primary driver of the overall higher price tag.

"Believe it or not, we're still seeing the cause and effect of the pandemic-inflation hangover, even nearly five years later," says Amanda Agati, chief investment officer of PNC's Asset Management Group. "With years of steep price increases, we'd think inflation

has nowhere to go, but we'd be wrong."

See DRAIN, page 4

Services over goods The service-based economy

our ponds, lakes, creeks, and rivers. Only a small

amount of oil or grease is required to contaminate

a large body of water. Backups cost significant

Why can't the Industrial Wastewater Treatment

Plant or Sanitary Treatment Plant treat oils and

greases? At Robins AFB, the IWTP pre-treats

metals from wastewater before it enters the STP.

At the STP, biological processes require

time and money to repair.

is represented by the last four gifts in the index – the Ladies Dancing, Lords-a-Leaping, Pipers Piping and Drummers Drumming. They're traditionally priced based on the cost to hire various performers and musicians. The Ten-Lords-A-Leaping, at \$14,539.20, is the highest priced gift in the index

for the third straight year. Overall, the service-sector See INDEX, page 3

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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 aforementioned.

#### WATER

#### From page 1

have decreases in IQ and attention span. "Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems."

Steps the Environmental Protection Agency recommends for reducing exposure to lead in drinking water include (see the Robins AFB response plan following the recommendations): Running your water to flush

out the lead. "If the water hasn't been used for several hours, run the water for 15-30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or run it until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking." ■ Use cold water for cooking and

preparing baby formula. ■ Do not boil water to attempt to remove lead.

■ Look for alternative sources or treatment of water (such as bottled

water or water filters).

■ Re-test your water for lead peri-

■ Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.

Per the Robins AFB notice: "Robins AFB continues to provide routine monitoring of the water quality and corrosion control techniques to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and State of Georgia drinking water regulations. Robins AFB has a Lead Service Line Replacement Plan which includes a prioritized approach to replace any identified lead or galvanized service lines and will continue working to resolve those service lines that are currently unknown pipe mate-

The Robins AFB notice also goes on that current water sampling data for lead in drinking water has been below the acceptable limits for consumption. The data, it reads, is published every year in the Consumer Confidence Report and can be found at https:// www.robins.af.mil.

To learn more about the sampling program, you can contact Bioenvironmental Engineering at 478-327-7555 or email them it at usaf.robins.78-mdg.mbx. sgpb-bio@health.mil. As a minimum, or perhaps in summa-

tion, take the advice/wisdom of AFGE Local 987 officials. If you're in any of these affected ares: Do not drink the more information, contact

Executive Vice President Tom Scott at 478-922-5758.

#### Facilities requiring replacement of galvanized service lines:

1010 Marchbanks Drive, Bldg. 1401 1025 Pistol Range Road, Bldg. 1172 1364 Fourteenth Street, Bldg. 4053 155 Afterburner Way, Bldg. 39 205 Beale Drive, Bldg. 10 250 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bldg. 282

275 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bldg. 270

417 Beale Drive, bldg.. 4540 423 Beale Drive, Bldg. 2089A 423 Beale Drive, Bldg. 2089

475 Cordele Street, Bldg. 608 580 Tenth St., Bldg. 950 710 Ninth St., Bldg. 936

730 Macon St., Bldg. 982 794 Ninth St., Bldg. 794 840 Fourteenth St., Bldg. 4053

85 Stealth St., Bldg. 81 89 Starlifter Drive, Bldg. 89

955 Robins Parkway, Bldg. 660

#### WINTER

#### From page 1

Should we get snow, per OSHA, it "can be a strenuous activity, particular because cold weather can be taxing on the body. There is a potential for exhaustion, dehydration, back injuries, or heart attacks. During snow removal in addition to following the tips for avoiding cold stress, such as taking frequent breaks in warm areas, there are other precautions workers can take to avoid injuries."

Workers, per OSHA, should:

■ Warm-up before the activity. ■ Scoop small amounts of snow at a time and

where possible, push the snow instead of lifting it. "The use of proper lifting technique is necessary to avoid back and other injuries when shoveling snow: keep the back straight, lift with the legs and do not turn or twist the body."

#### Winter driving Although employers cannot control roadway con-

ditions, they can promote safe driving behavior by ensuring workers: recognize the hazards of winter weather driving. Employers should set and enforce driver safety policies. Employers should also implement an effective maintenance program for all vehicles and mechanized equipment that workers are required to operate. Crashes can be avoided. Employers should ensure properly trained workers'

inspect the following vehicle systems to determine if they are working properly: ■ Brakes: Brakes should provide even and balanced

braking. Also check that brake fluid is at the proper ■ Cooling System: Ensure a proper mixture of

50/50 antifreeze and water in the cooling system at the ■ Electrical System: Check the ignition system and

make sure that the battery is fully charged and that the connections are clean. Check that the alternator belt is in good condition with proper tension. ■ Engine: Inspect all engine systems.

■ Exhaust System: Check exhaust for leaks and that

all clamps and hangers are snug. ■ Tires: Check for proper tread depth and no signs

of damage or uneven wear. Check for proper tire ■ Oil: Check that oil is at proper level. ■ Visibility systems: Inspect all exterior lights,

defrosters (windshield and rear window), and wipers. Install winter windshield wipers. **Work Zone Traffic Safety** 

309 Chandler Rd., Bldg. 96

325 Milledgeville St., Bldg. 327

Workers being struck by vehicles or mobile equip-

ment lead to many work zone fatalities or injuries annually. Drivers may skid, or lose control of their vehicles more easily when driving on snow and/or ice covered roads. It is therefore, important to properly set up work zones with the traffic controls identified by signs, cones, barrels, and barriers, to protect workers.

Workers exposed to vehicular traffic should wear the appropriate high visibility vest at all times, so that they can be visible to motorists.

Stranded in a vehicle If you are stranded in a vehicle, stay in the vehicle.

Call for emergency assistance if needed.. Notify your supervisor of your situation. Do not leave the vehicle to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and get lost in blowing and drifting snow.

Display a trouble sign by hanging a brightly colored cloth on the vehicle's radio antenna and raising the hood. Turn on the vehicle's engine for about 10 minutes each hour and run the heat to keep warm.

Also, turn on the vehicle's dome light when the vehicle is running as an additional signal. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Do

minor exercises to maintain good blood circulation in your body. Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally.

Try not to stay in one position for too long. Stay awake, you will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems. Use blankets, newspapers, maps, and even the removable car mats for added insulation. Avoid overexertion since cold weather puts an added strain on the heart. Unaccustomed exercise such as shoveling snow or pushing a vehicle can bring on a heart attack or make other medical conditions worse. - Source: OSHA.gov

#### Lead status unknown

SE 12th St./Scout Lake Dr., Bldg. 100 Robins Parkway, Bldg. 190 1000 Marchbanks Drive, Bldg. 1400 1025 Pistol Range Rd., Bldg. 1172 1045 Pistol Range Rd., Bldg. 1165 105 Hercules St., Bldg. 45 1055 Perimeter Rd., Bldg. 1303 1060 Macon St., Bldg. 1504 1080 Macon St., Bldg. 1505 1085 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 1348 120 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 194 123 Eagle St., Bldg. 20128 125 Beale Dr., Bldg. 1 125 Eagle St., Bldg. 20129 130 Eagle St., Bldg. 187 1316 FamCamp Rd., Bldg. 1316 1364 Fourteenth, Bldg. 4053 1371 Marchbanks Rd., 1371 1375 Marchbanks Rd., 1375 140 Afterburner Way, Bldg. 203 140 Hercules St., Bldg. 23 140 Milledgeville St., Bldg. 20180 142/144 Sweeney, Bldg. 540 150 Cochran St., 20166 150 Milledgeville St., Bldg. 171 150 Ocmulgee Dr., Bldg. 94 155 Byron St. Bldg. 160 155 Eagle St., Bldg. 146

155 Marchbanks Rd., Bldg. 210

170 Milledgeville St., Bldg. 201

155 Phantom St., Bldg. 127

160 Byron St., Bldg. 166

160 Hercules St., Bldg. 30

175 Butler Dr., Bldg. 371

180 Butler Dr., Bldg. 200

180 Page Rd., Bldg. 211

175 Cochran St., Bldg. 163

180 Ocmulgee Dr., Bldg. 97

185 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 196

190 Cochran St., Bldg. S-177

190 Afterburner Way, Bldg. 36

190 Ocmulgee Dr., Bldg. 98 192 Cochran St., Bldg. 206 1948 Heritage Blvd., Bldg. 1501 1948 Heritage Blvd., Bldg. 1524 195 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 189 195 Warhawk St., Bldg. 19 200 Joint Stars St., Bldg. 2 200 Viper Dr., Bldg. 19 200 Warhawks St., Bldg. 425 201 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., Bldg. 272M 205 Beale Dr., Bldg. 10 205 Perry St., Bldg. 228 210 Hercules St., Bldg. 20031 210 Warhawk St., Bldg. 449 215 Page Rd., Bldg. 215 220 Third St., Bldg. 231 225 Beale Dr., Bldg. 9 229 Creek Court, Bldg. 107 232 Creek Court, Bldg. 74 235 Beale Dr., Bldg. 8 235 Milledgeville St., Bldg. 308 240 Hercules St., Bldg. 131 242 Creek Court, Bldg. 106 250 Byron St., Bldg. 225 250 Eagle St., Bldg. 115

250 Eagle St. Bldg. 110

250 Warhawk St., Bldg. 32

252 Creek Court, Bldg. 105

260 Reynolds Dr., Bldg. 315

275 Reynolds Dr., Bldg. 314

280 Warhawk St., Bldg. 120

282 Creek Court, Bldg. 101

286 Creek Court, Bldg. 100

275 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 313

280 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 261

300 Richard Ray Blvd., Bldg. 300

3020 Perimeter Rd., Bldg. 1174

265 Viper Dr., Bldg. 198

280 First St., Bldg. 155

Bldg. 270

250 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 263

255 Richard Ray Blvd., Bldg. 220

275 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.,

260 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 262

325 Robins Parkway, Bldg. 302 330 Richard Ray Blvd., Bldg. 301 335 First St., Bldg. 125 350 Falcon St., Bldg. 114 350 First St., Bldg. 158 350 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., Bldg. 380 355 First St., bldg.. 130 355 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 340 357 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 333 375 Robins Parkway, Bldg. 377 380 Laundry Dr., Bldg. 676 390 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 341 400 Laundry Dr., Bldg. 676 390 Peacekeeper Way, bldg.. 341 400 Laundry Dr., Bldg. 675 400 Mustang Rd., Bldg. 2374 400 Mustang Rd., Bldg. 2370 410 Laundry Dr., Bldg. 670 415 Beale Dr., Bldg. 2090 417 Beale Dr., Bldg. 4540 422 Beale Dr., Bldg. 2074 423 Beale Dr., Bldg., 2089 44 Eagle St., Bldg. 44 450 Danville St., Bldg. 610 450 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., Bldg. 385 450 Third St., Bldg. 328 452 First St., Bldg. S168 455 Beale Dr., Bldg. 2086 455 First St. Bldg. 140 455 Laundry Dr., Bldg. 2251 460 Laundry Dr., Bldg. 672 460 Quartermaster Rd., Bldg. 667 465 Beale Dr., Bldg. 2064 465 Danville St., Bldg. 606 465 Danville St., Bldg. 607 475 Cordele St., Bldg. 608

515 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2065 515 Page Rd., Bldg. 286 520 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2061 525 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2067 525 Borghese Dr., Bldg. 2079 525 Third St., Bldg. 306 530 Allentown Rd., Bldg. 763 535 Page Rd., Bldg. 293 539 Page Rd., Bldg. 291 540 Allentown Rd., Bldg. 8464 545 Page Rd., Bldg. 269 550 Allentown Rd., Bldg. 2200 550 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2053 550 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 595 555 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2066 555 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 555 560 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2071 560 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 591 565 Hannah Rd., Bldg. 808 565 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 596 570 Borghese Dr., Bldg. 2063 580 Helen Dr., Bldg. 2057 580 Tenth St., Bldg. 949 580 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 598 581 Borghese Dr., bldg.. 2075 585 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2062 585 Warner Robins St. Bldg. 597 595 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 827 605 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2077 620 Tech Rd., Bldg. 635 625 Ninth St., Bldg. 761 635 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2051 635 Tech Rd., Bldg. 628 640 Page Rd., Bldg. 640 640 Tech Rd., Bldg. 642 641 Page Rd., Bldg. 641 645 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2048 65 Viper Dr., Bldg. 46 650 Macon St., Bldg. 765 650 Ninth St., Bldg. 914

675 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2059 680 Ninth St., Bldg. 909 690 Blunk Dr., Bldg. 2031 690 Ninth St., Bldg. 908 695 Joint Stars St., Bldg. 2043 70 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 141 700 Joint Stars St., Bldg. 2039 705 Joint Stars St., Bldg. 2041 710 Ninth St., Bldg. 936 710 Page Rd., Bldg. 621 710 Page Rd., Bldg. 25 720 Ninth St., Bldg. 937 720 Page Rd., Bldg. 630 726 Page Rd., Bldg. 622 730 Page Rd., Bldg. 631 740 Macon St., Bldg. 910 740 Page Rd., Bldg. 645 75 North Perimeter Rd., Bldg. 43 750 Club Dr., Bldg. 557 750 Macon St., Bldg. 910 740 Page Rd., Bldg. 645 75 North Perimeter Rd., Bldg. 43 750 Club Dr., Bldg. 557 750 Macon St., Bldg. 911 750 Page Rd., Bldg. 644 750 Third St., Bldg. 350 755 Tenth St., Bldg. 942 755 Warner Robins St., Bldg. 1011 756 Seventh St., Bldg. 756 758 Seventh St., Bldg. 758 759 Seventh St., Bldg. 759 760 Bachelors Circle, Bldg. 553 760 Tenth St., Bldg. 984 765 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 354 770 Page Rd., Bldg. 633 770 Tenth St., Bldg. 985 775 Page Rd., Bldg. 947 887 Eleventh St., Bldg. 977 89 Starlifter Dr., Bldg. 89 92 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 140 95 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 150 955 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 660

### **AFGE** seeks activists for its digital network

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

AFGE wants you! Not only

to be a member, but also to become an activist for its digital network. "Union popularity is at a

near all-time high," reads an AFGE release, "with 70 percent of Americans approving of labor unions. Workers know the value of sticking together and fighting against bad bosses on the job.'

It continues: "As union members it's on us to keep the momentum up to organize, mobilize and engage with our communities about the power of worker solidarity."

That's where the activism comes in. It is a place, per the

release, where union members share digital news and social media content that you, per them, can share on your own pages to help "spread the word about the importance of government workers and dispel misinformation when it comes to the valuable work of public servants. "Here at AFGE we are

taking on big challenges and uniting workers across government service."

Those joining, according to the release, will be "regularly" contacted via email and/or text messages.

To join visit https:// actionnetwork.org/forms/ join-the-afge-digital-activist-network.

#### **CUTS**

#### From page 1

**EDUCATION** 

From page 1

protect their communities, Social Security Administration workers who cut checks to seniors, and the list goes on. "It's a little patronizing to even think about

Bureau of Prisons correctional officers who

475 Eleventh St., Bldg. 655

506 Hinton Ln., bldg.. 397

510 East Dr., Bldg. 2072

475 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 368

500 Robins Pkwy., Bldg. 8455

conduct key educational research and inno-

vation grants, and administer key assessment

and data collection - critical to ensuring

accountability and allowing good schools to

the possibility of cutting 75% of the federal workforce. I see it as a direct attack against veterans. I am a veteran myself. Of the workforce, about 642,000 of that workforce are veterans, so when you say you're gonna cut 75%, that means it's a direct attack on veterans and I am appalled by that," Kelley added. He also doesn't think the new administration is trying to make the government more effi-

655 Ninth St., Bldg. 769

660 Macon St., Bldg. 767

665 Page Rd., Bldg. 646

665 Page Rd., Bldg. 620

665 Seventh St., Bldg. 707

federal employees. As a federal contractor, Musk himself has benefited from taxpayers' dollars. "It's not a matter of not their patriotism of people that I represent. It's about the bottom line. It's about making the dollar," Kelley said.

97 N. Perimeter Rd., Bldg. 80

cient. Rather, they want to drive away workers

so they can give the jobs to contractors who

are two to three times more expensive than

"Public education has always been crit-

ical to the economic, political, and social

welfare of the nation and the Department of

Education plays a crucial role supporting our

schools, universities, students and their fam-

ilies. We urge you to do everything possible

to support the department in achieving its

important mission and reject any attempts to

985 Macon St., Bldg. 664

On Dec. 5, AFGE Legislative Director Julie Tippens sent a letter to the chair and ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee - Sens. Bernie Sanders and Bill Cassidy, respectively - asserting AFGE's strong opposition to Sen. Rounds' bill or any legislation that would eliminate the Department of Education.

#### become great schools. **Drink only in moderation:** If consuming RECOMMENDATIONS alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the

From page 2

vision loss.

Know your blood pressure numbers:

they become more serious.

Doing so will reduce your risk of heart attack and stroke.

Learn your type 2 diabetes risk: Takea 2-minute self-screening test at DoIHavePrediabetes. org. Steps you take now can help prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes, which carries

a higher risk of heart disease, kidney disease and

U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans—up to

one drink per day for women and two per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age. Quit tobacco and nicotine: Ask your doctor for resources and guidance for quitting tobacco

and nicotine. Declare your home and car smokefree to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure. Follow dosage instructions: When taking prescription medications, store them safely to prevent diversion or misuse, and properly dis-

pose of any leftover medication. If you're pre-

scribed antibiotics, take the full course to prevent

eliminate it," Tippens wrote.

antibiotic resistance. Manage stress: Good mental health is part of good overall health. Get sufficient sleep (at least 7.5 hours per night), exercise and ask for help from a mental health professional when you need it.

More health resources and tips can be found by visiting ama-assn.org.

"The best way to address the post-holiday doldrums is to do something good for your health," said Bruce A. Scott, M.D., president of the AMA. "Even small, positive choices you make now can have a big impact on your longterm wellbeing.'

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# festive foods for your dog this holiday season

(Family Features) ring on the list-making, gift-giving, party-going time of year. The holiday season would also feel incomplete without delicious dishes to keep everyone feeling merry and bright. By everyone, that includes canine companions, too.

Consider this list of pupand pet-parent-approved festive foods, as well as those to avoid, from the experts at Petcurean, makers of premium quality, nutrient-rich food for pets:

#### **Enjoy steamed vege-**

Holiday feasts are all about the side dishes. Dogs can savor their own sides with plain vegetables like steamed green beans or carrots, making for a flavorful, nutritious addition to their meals. Vegetables are packed with vitamins and minerals, and steaming them allows more of

the nutrients to be retained while also supporting proper digestion. Be sure to chop veggies into small pieces and stay clear of seasoning or sauce.

#### **Avoid chocolate:**

There's no way to sugarcoat it - chocolate is a no-go for dogs. The presence of both caffeine and a chemical called theobromine makes chocolate toxic to dogs because they aren't able to metabolize them the way humans can. If ingested, chocolate can lead to a spike in heart rate and blood pressure, as well as vomiting, diarrhea, agitation, seizures and more. If ingested, pet parents should monitor their pup closely and check with a veterinarian.

#### **Enjoy fresh meats:**

When cooked, fresh meat such as chicken, turkey, pork or beef can satisfy cravings while also offering pups a nutritious meal that

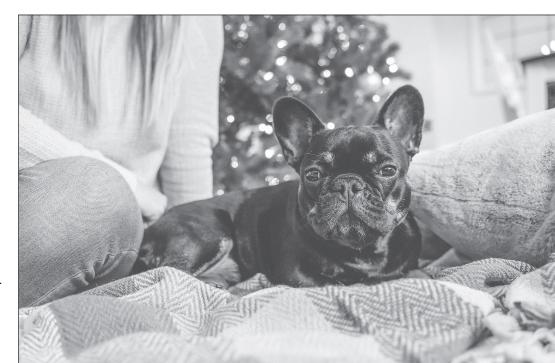
is easy to digest. Pet parents can also choose a kibble made with fresh meats as a convenient option that supports dogs' overall wellness, such as Now Fresh Good Gravy, which is made with easily digested fresh meats and nutrient-dense fruits and veggies, and by adding water, a delicious bone broth gravy is created for your pup to enjoy.

#### **Avoid table scraps:**

For many reasons, it's best to skip the table scraps. Not only could an allergen or toxin be present that pet parents may not be aware of, there are several other health risks associated with feeding dogs table scraps, such as digestive issues (vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) and even more serious problems like pancreatitis. Plus, giving dogs calorie-dense food can contribute to obesity.

#### **Enjoy pumpkin:**

A staple of holiday feasts,



pumpkin is not off the table for pups to enjoy. In fact, pumpkin is a superfood full of nutrients. Feeding dogs cooked or plain canned pumpkin can also be beneficial for their digestion because pumpkin contains

fiber - just be sure to serve it free of seasonings like sugar and spices.

Just like their pet parents, pups deserve to indulge a little over the holidays, but it's important to ensure what

they eat leaves them feeling great. Remember to always check with a veterinarian about any concerns, especially when introducing new foods, and visit nowfresh. com to find personalized nutrition crafted for your pet.

### How to Get Free Vaccines for Flu, COVID-19 and RSV

espiratory viruses are common in the fall and winter months. Flu, COVID-19 and RSV can surge during the cooler weather and keep people from gathering with family and friends. They cause many people to get very sick or even to be hospitalized.

"We know that getting vaccinated is the best defense against

severe illness and death caused by flu, COVID-19 and RSV," said Nirav D. Shah, MD, JD, principal deputy director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Respiratory virus season is here and now is the time to get your updated vaccines so you can focus on what matters most: spending quality time with friends and family. Vaccines help people risk less serious illness, so they can do

more of what they enjoy. Everyone 6 months old and older should get this season's flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Adults ages 75 and older, adults 60-74 years old who have certain health conditions and adults age 60 and older who live in nursing homes should get an RSV vaccine if they have never been vaccinated against RSV. Pregnant people should also get an RSV vaccine to protect their babies from severe RSV disease in their first six months.

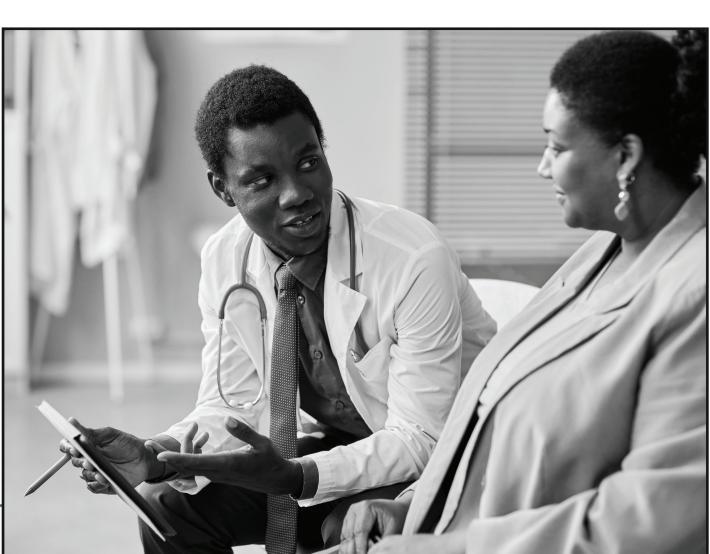
Getting vaccinated can be easy, and in many cases, it's free.

Here's what you need to know.

#### Where Can You Get Vaccinated?

There are many places to get vaccines against flu and COVID-19, as well as RSV if you're eligible. It's OK to get all of these vaccines in one visit.

You can get vaccinated at some doctor's offices, local health centers or most pharmacies. To find pharmacies near you, visit vaccines.gov. Your state or local health department may also be able to tell you where you can get vaccinated in your area.



Are the Vaccines Free?

If you have insurance: If you're covered by Medicaid, or if you qualify for it, you can get the vaccines at no cost. People with Medicare (Parts B and D) or Medicare Advantage can also get the vaccines for free.

If you have private insurance through your job or your state's marketplace, most plans fully cover the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines through in-network doctors.

If you are uninsured: If you don't have health coverage, your state or local health department or a local community health center may offer the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines at no cost. Companies that make these vaccines may also offer them for free or at a lower cost through their patient assistance programs. Look for information on their websites.

Photos courtesy of Shutterstock To explore insurance options and affordable health plans, visit HealthCare.gov or see if

#### **Get Vaccinated Now**

your state's Medicaid program.

Vaccines give you the best protection against getting very sick from flu, COVID-19 and RSV. Getting vaccinated soon means you'll be ready for upcoming winter gatherings.

you can get covered through Medicare or

Visit cdc.gov/RiskLessDoMore to learn more about the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines. Also, you can order free COVID-19 test kits (four per household) at COVIDTests.gov. Talk to your doctor about which vaccines are right for you or visit vaccines.gov to get started today.

### INDEX

From page 2

gifts rose in price by 7.9% in 2024.

This rise of service-sector prices reflects a long-term evolution away from a focus on manufacturing in the U.S. economy since PNC's index launched in 1984. At that time, goods comprised 70% of the Consumer Price Index, while today that number stands at just 35%.

Many of the gifts in the index representing goods remained unchanged in price in 2024 – the Turtle Doves, Calling Birds, Gold Rings and Swans all stayed flat, though still expensive year over year. The French Hens and Geese were the avian exceptions, with the latter representing one of the most volatile gifts in this year's index, growing by more than 15%.

Housing still high

The most volatile gift in the 2024 index is the first one – the Partridge in a Pear Tree - which rose in price by 17.1%. The least volatile gift, the Eight-Maids-a-Milking, has remained unchanged since 2009.

The Christmas Price Index also calculates the "True Cost of Christmas," which is the cost of purchasing all of the gifts as they repeat in the verses of the song. That cost increased by 3.6% to \$209,272 in 2024, crossing the \$200K threshold for the second year in a row.

If you prefer to shop online, you'll pay nearly \$5K more for the convenience, and of course the packaging and shipping that gifts of birds require. PNC's online Christmas Price Index cost rose by 3.9% in 2024 to a total of \$54,073.69. Most of the gifts commanded an increase for internet shopping, but if you're looking for bargain buys based on last year's budget, the price of the Calling Birds, Gold Rings and



Swans remained flat online in 2024.

'but keeping track of changes in For more information on the your spending enables you to be index, individual gifts and a 41-year more brilliant with your money, tradition, visit pnc.com. which is what I think the Christmas "Buying the same gifts year after Price Index sets out to do.'

year may seem boring," says Agati,

#### **DRAIN**

#### From page 2

microorganisms to break down organic material in the water. Oil and grease kill these microorganisms so the treatment plant cannot properly treat the

What should I do instead? Used fuel, motor oil, lubricating oil, and hydraulic oil from domestic or official functions should be disposed of at an appropriate location. For example, oils can be recycled at an oil change business or at a permitted hazardous waste facility. Building 359 has tanks for storage of used oil from industrial operations. Contact your local environmental, health, or

solid waste agency for household waste disposal.

Be sure to label your containers with information about the material that requires disposal. Domestic cooking oils should be poured into a container and disposed of in the trash. Base restaurants are

equipped with edible oil tanks for recycling. Spill kits should be used to help clean up spills that occur at the workplace. Soiled rags and other contaminated materials should be containerized and

properly disposed

72. Eyelid affliction

DOWN **I** 

1. Curved one

6. Toe the line

8. Puppy love

10. Forsaken

machine, pl.

24. Idolize

sushi restaurant

25. \*Chef's hat

29. Drawn tight

26. Modified "will"

27. Offer two cents

31. Baby porcupines

36. Unsubscriber's focus

\_\_structure or

special

de partie, or line

32. Commonplace

33. Like Cheerios

34. \*Blue-

red

45. Cujo's disease

51. Foxhunter's call to

57. Marlboros or Camels,

60. \*Complimentary dish

49. Ray shooter

54. Short version

58. Army group

61. Asian starling

62. \*Steak choice

63. Great Lake

66. Be in the red

68. Were introduced

WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM

cook

hounds

56. C2H5

slangily

59. Lazily

7. Popular pickup

9. Jumping stick

11. Barely got by

12. Spumante-producing

15. Greek god's libation

22. \*Freshwater staple in

20. Rumpelstiltskin's

2. Table extender 3. Sicilian erupter

Movie trailer, e.g.

5. Perfecting, as in skill

73. Fairytale princess test

74. Winter driving hazard

# JUST FOR FUN

**STATEPOINT** 

**CROSSWORD** 

THEME: AT THE

1. Bet's predecessor

6. Ogre-like creature

9. Attorney's bargain

14. \*Restaurant waiting

15. Located near cran-

16. List of Catholic saints

meal, or staff

17. Down Under runner

21. \*Meat and fish, in

23. Singer/songwriter

24. \*What appetizers do

28. Like a reliable move

43. \*Middle Eastern bread

47. Let it stand, to proof-

52. Between E and NE

57. \*Second C in CDC

64. Not mainstream, as

67. Bracelet add-on

69. Covers with gold

70. Stiff grass bristle

71. Irving of Dallas

d'hotel

Mistress"

53. Stomach reflex

30. Not a desktop

37. Painter Chagall 39. Beyond suburban

44. Of an arm bone

18. White heron

Italian restaurant

to appetite

25. \*Deuce

35. "My bad!"

40. Wisecrack

41. \*Nigiri, e.g.

46. That time

48. Swellings

55. \*Fish eggs

50. Chancy

reader

61. \*

in art

65. "To His

Mavericks

RESTAURANT

ACROSS ■

13. Old but in

area?

nies?

19. \*

meal



Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

What starts with "e" and ends with "e" and only has one letter in it? Envelope.

What do you call a fictional country? Imagine-nation.

#### Classic Movies

C A S A B L A N C A X R H D J P S M M G Z M QJDXMGRANDHOTELIANTAWS HULFRANKENSTEINLOVRBEQ K Q X S Z W H I G H N O O N L T Q T E Q N X OKSNPII NQII RHAOCNAHBAD RJEOMLYGQPYLBROJAXTIKU X A A W G D A K O I J O I D Y Z M I A L N C WZ R W V B R O M G U O S L Q E T D F N E K YLCHSUJNOTUTCASGERDKZS V C H I M N T G E S H A N E S M I I O M I O METSCSVERTI GOLNUVGNTU QDREYHERSREBECCAQEMTIP GI STBENHUREVI RDERRTECT L F A N T A S I A Y W Q O H C Y S P M D Z G

ALL ABOUT EVE CITIZEN KANE **FANTASIA** GRAND HOTEL KING KONG QUIET MAN SEARCHERS

TAXI DRIVER

gambling?

from them!

No. 705

6

A little humor ... Question: How were Adam

and Eve prevented from

Answer: Their pair-o-dice

A little boy in Children's

Church after hearing the story

about the fall, drew a picture

of a man and woman in the

back seat of a chauffeur driv-

en limousine. The chauffeur

[paradise] was taken away

BEN HUR DUCK SOUP FRANKENSTEIN HIGH NOON **NOTORIOUS** REBECCA SHANE

VERTIGO

CASABLANCA ET **GODFATHER JAWS PSYCHO** RED RIVER SNOW WHITE WILD BUNCH

had a long white beard.

When asked what the picture was about, he replied, "That's God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden."

Question: What was the license number of the car that drove Eve out of the garden? Answer: ADAM-812.

Question: How did Adam and Eve feel when expelled

Medium

from the Garden of Eden? Answer: They were really put out.

After the fall in the Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel.

They passed by the Garden of Eden. One of the boys

asked, "Dad why did you ever leave such a beautiful place?" Adam replied slowly, "Well,

you might say your mother

and I ate us out of house and

You know what I like about

"All I'm saying is we could be collecting more data

than just naughty and nice."

the story of Sodom and Gomorrah? It comes right out and names names! Teacher: "Lot was warned

to take his wife and flee out of the city. Sadly, she looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." Little girl: "What happened to the flea?" [insect] Genesis

A teacher was telling his

Children's Church class that Lot's wife had looked back and had turned into a pillar "That's nothing," exclaimed

Little Holden, "Just last week when my mother was driving her car she looked back and

turned into a telephone pole!" When Lot's wife looked back," said the Children's

Church teacher, "what happened to her?" "She was transmuted into

chloride of sodium," answered the boy with the glasses.

"I have something to tell you, Abraham," said Sarah

expectantly

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What about passive aggression?

#### A woman went to doctor's office. She was seen by one of the new doctors, but after about 4 minutes in the examination room, she burst out, screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped

and asked her what the problem was, and she explained. He had her sit down and relax in another room. The

older doctor marched back to the first and demanded,

"What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?" The new doctor smiled

smugly as he continued to write on his clipboard. "Cured her hiccups though, didn't it?"

8

9 8 3 7 6 6 9 † 6 6 9 t 6

9

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

3

You can find more help and strategies at www.str8ts.com along with more puzzles, Apple apps and books.

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

Previous solution - Tough

5 4 7 6 8 9 2 1 3 8 9 5 7 6 1 3 4 1 1 4 3 5 7 6 3 4 7 8 9 How to beat Str8ts -Like Sudoku, no single number can

repeat in any row or column. But.. rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A straight is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

# Learning from voices of war

## Honoring the 80th anniversary of World War II's final major battle

(Family Features) he Ardennes Offensive, commonly known as the "Battle of the Bulge," stands as the single bloodiest battle fought by the United States during World

Waged in the bitter cold of mid-December 1944, it took the Allies a month to secure victory. The cost was staggering: nearly 20,000 Americans were killed in action, close to 50,000 wounded and another 20,000 captured. In honor of the 80th anni-

versary of this pivotal battle, the Library of Congress Veterans History Project has launched an online exhibit to commemorate the milestone. While the battle itself is etched in the annals of history, the personal stories from those who endured it remain one of the most powerful testaments to its impact.

The online exhibit, "Serving Our Voices," features accounts from 12 Battle of the Bulge survivors, part of the thousands of narratives preserved by the project. These stories ensure future generations can gain deeper understanding of veterans' service and sacrifice.

One such story includes Eliot Annable, a 20-year-old radio operator serving with



Photos courtesy of Library of Congress Veterans History Project

the Army's 106th Infantry Division. Just days after arriving at the western front, Annable found himself under German artillery barrages on. Dec. 16, 1944. He recalled the assault in his oral history, describing

the intensity as "almost enough to knock you on the

The following five days became the most harrowing days of Annable's military service. While on a communications mission, he became stranded behind enemy lines and spent nearly a week evading the enemy in the Ardennes Forest without food, shelter or appropriate winter clothing. After traveling more than 30 miles, he eventually safely rejoined the remnants of his unit.

Back home, Annable's parents were gripped by uncertainty. On Dec. 31, 1944, his father wrote a letter expressing the family's anguish and love for their son, regardless of what happened. The moving letter, coupled with Annable's oral history, provides an

intimate view into one soldier's Battle of the Bulge experience.

Another featured veteran in the exhibit, Guy Martin Stephens, also served with

the 106th Infantry Division. Unlike Annable, Stephens was captured by the Germans during battle. In his oral history, he recounted the surreal feeling of combat, the relentless hunger he endured as a prisoner of war and the lingering effects of his time in captivity.

"It's hard," Stephens said "It's something you can't ever ... your mind is just like a video, or camcorder, I guess. You put it in there. You get busy and get married. You get home, and you get an education, and get a job, and raise your family and everything like that. You can kind of gloss it over or try to push it back, but it's always there, you know?"

Veterans who served during the 20th or 21st centuries are invited to establish a collection, including interviews (video or audio), letters and original photographs, even if they did not see combat. Families can also submit collections posthumously to honor their loved ones. To explore more veterans' stories and learn how you can contribute to the program, visit loc. gov/vets.



"It's hard. It's something you can't ever ... your mind is just like a video, or camcorder, I guess. You put it in there. You get busy and get married. You get home, and you get an education, and get a job, and raise your family and everything like that. You can kind of gloss it over or try to push it back, but it's always there, you know?"

- Guy Martin Stephens, veteran of the 106th **Infantry Division** 

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Aflac Critical Illness: Pays Benefits up to \$30,000 upon the occurrence of cancer, heart attack, stroke, and many other Critical Illnesses.



- Pays benefits for off-job accidents, sickness (covid included), surgery, & maternity.
- No health questions asked to enroll.
- Benefit amounts up to \*\$6,000 per month.
- It can be used with leave, or independently.

\*Max Benefit of \$6,000 per month.

**Nick Wells** 

Cell: (478) 538-1652

Emal: NWells@Benefitarchitects.com

