

# 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 disabilities.

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 afford college.

In addition, Education employees provide professional development for teachers,

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# Do not drink the water

Some lines identified as ‘galvanized’ and needing replacement

By DON MONCRIEF  
Editor, The Union Advocate  
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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.”

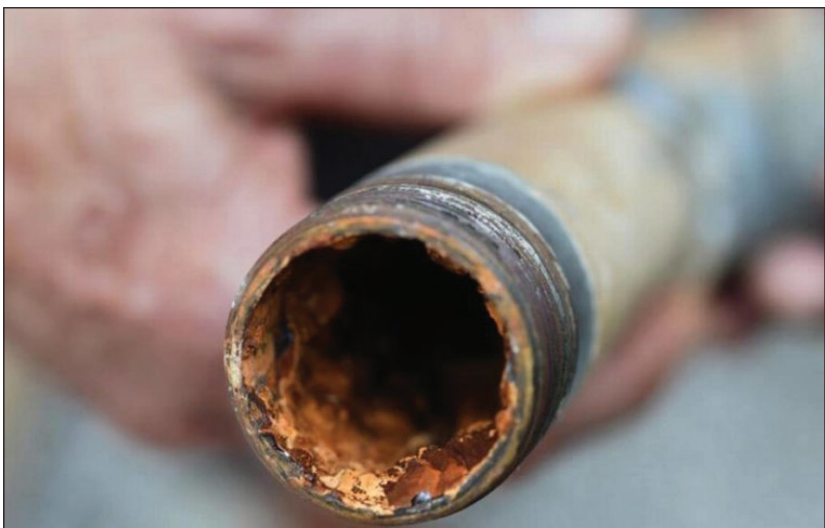
The notice continued that Robins

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.mil.

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



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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 wear and tear, this galvanized/zinc coating diminishes, and corrosion sets in.

“And the worst part is that the rust

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**

**AFGE Local 987 wishes you and yours the best this holiday season and a safe, healthy and happy New Year!**

# Preparing for winter weather

By DON MONCRIEF  
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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 trained to:
  - Wear footwear that has good traction and insulation (i.e. insulated and water resistant boots or rubber over-shoes with good rubber treads).
  - 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:

**First day of winter: Jan. 21**

- 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 surfaces).
  - Using extreme caution when working near power lines.
  - Preventing harmful exposure to cold temperatures and physical exertion.
- See WINTER, page 3**

**Working safely**

Follow these work practices to stay safe in cold weather:

- Know the symptoms of cold stress; reddening skin, tingling, pain, swelling, leg cramps, numbness, 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





Jacob Wackerhausen / iStock via Getty Images Plus

# 10 health recommendations for the New Year

(StatePoint) Looking to improve your health in 2025 and beyond? Check out these recommendations from the American Medical Association:

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

**Get active:** A recent study 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 habits. Adults should get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.

**Get up-to-date:** Get your vaccines in advance of respiratory virus season—including the annual flu vaccine and the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for everyone six months and older, as well as pregnant people. People 65 and older and those

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 nationwide. 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 sick.

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

See RECOMMENDATIONS, page 4

**“The best way to address the post-holiday 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

## Cease the grease Never pour oils, greases down the drain

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 disposed of down the drain. 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 wastewater treatment plant, or anywhere in between. Pipe backups can lead to sewer capacity reduction, increased maintenance costs, shortened infrastructure lifespan, treatment plant upsets, facility closures, harm to fish and plants, odors, human health hazards, and fines levied against Robins Air Force Base. 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



Courtesy photo

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 time and money to repair. 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

See DRAIN, page 4

## 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." Services over goods The service-based economy 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

# BBB warning: Avoid these holiday scams

Santa 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 scams:

**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 well-known 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 the card.

**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 are legitimate.

**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

Never send money unless you confirm with another family member that it's true.

**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 is hiring.

**Unusual forms of payment:** Be wary of anyone who asks you to pay for holiday purchases 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 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. But it's just a variation on a pyramid scheme and it's illegal.

Make your holidays merry and bright by becoming informed on holiday scams and keeping 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

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



Photo courtesy defense.gov

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 heavy fire. 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.

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.

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# Festive foods for your dog this holiday season

(Family Features)

Bring 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 pup- and 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 vegetables:**

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 sugar-coat 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,



Source: Petcurean

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](https://nowfresh.com) to find personalized nutrition crafted for your pet.

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

FAMILY FEATURES

Respiratory 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](https://vaccines.gov). Your state or local health department may also be able to tell you where you can get vaccinated in your area.

Photos courtesy of Shutterstock

**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.

To explore insurance options and affordable health plans, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://HealthCare.gov) or see if you can get covered through Medicare or your state’s Medicaid program.

**Get Vaccinated Now**

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.

Visit [cdc.gov/RiskLessDoMore](https://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](https://COVIDTests.gov). Talk to your doctor about which vaccines are right for you or visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to get started today.

**INDEX**

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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

Prostock-Studio / iStock via Getty Images Plus

Swans remained flat online in 2024.

For more information on the index, individual gifts and a 41-year tradition, visit [pnc.com](https://pnc.com).

“Buying the same gifts year after

**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 wastewater.

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.



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1	4					3	6
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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

CASABLANCA  
X R H D J P S M M G Z M  
Q J D X M G R A N D H O T E L I A N T A W S  
H U L F R A N K E N S T E I N L O V R B E Q  
K Q X S Z W H I G H N O O N L T Q T E Q N X  
O K S N P I I N Q I I R H A O C N A H B A D  
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L F A N T A S I A Y W Q O H C Y S P M D Z G

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BEN HUR  
DUCK SOUP  
FRANKENSTEIN  
HIGH NOON  
NOTORIOUS  
REBECCA  
SHANE  
VERTIGO

CASABLANCA  
ET  
GODFATHER  
JAWS  
PSYCHO  
RED RIVER  
SNOW WHITE  
WILD BUNCH

A little humor ...

Question: How were Adam and Eve prevented from gambling?  
Answer: Their pair-o-dice [paradise] was taken away from them!

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 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 home.”

You know what I like about 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 19:26

A teacher was telling his Children’s Church class that Lot’s wife had looked back and had turned into a pillar of salt.  
“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.

STR8TS

No. 705

Medium

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

Previous solution - Tough

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

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: AT THE RESTAURANT

ACROSS

1. Bet’s predecessor  
6. Ogre-like creature  
9. Attorney’s bargain  
13. Old but in  
14. \*Restaurant waiting area?  
15. Located near cran-nies?  
16. List of Catholic saints  
17. Down Under runner  
18. White heron  
19. \* \_\_\_\_ meal, or staff meal  
21. \*Meat and fish, in Italian restaurant  
23. Singer/songwriter Yoko  
24. \*What appetizers do to appetite  
25. \*Deuce  
28. Like a reliable move  
30. Not a desktop  
35. “My bad!”  
37. Painter Chagall  
39. Beyond suburban  
40. Wisecrack  
41. \*Nigiri, e.g.  
43. \*Middle Eastern bread  
44. Of an arm bone  
46. That time  
47. Let it stand, to proof-reader  
48. Swellings  
50. Chancy  
52. Between E and NE  
53. Stomach reflex  
55. \*Fish eggs  
57. \*Second C in CDC  
61. \* \_\_\_\_ d’hotel  
64. Not mainstream, as in art  
65. “To His \_\_\_\_ Mistress”  
67. Bracelet add-on  
69. Covers with gold  
70. Stiff grass bristle  
71. Irving of Dallas Mavericks

DOWN

72. Eyelid affliction  
73. Fairytale princess test  
74. Winter driving hazard

1. Curved one  
2. Table extender  
3. Sicilian erupter  
4. Movie trailer, e.g.  
5. Perfecting, as in skill  
6. Toe the line  
7. Popular pickup  
8. Puppy love  
9. Jumping stick  
10. Forsaken  
11. Barely got by  
12. Spumante-producing town  
15. Greek god’s libation  
20. Rumpelstiltskin’s machine, pl.  
22. \*Freshwater staple in sushi restaurant  
24. Idolize  
25. \*Chef’s hat  
26. Modified “will”  
27. Offer two cents  
29. Drawn tight  
31. Baby porcupines  
32. Commonplace  
33. Like Cheerios  
34. \*Blue- \_\_\_\_ special  
36. Unsubscriber’s focus  
38. \* \_\_\_\_ de partie, or line cook  
42. \_\_\_\_ structure or \_\_\_\_ red  
45. Cujo’s disease  
49. Ray shooter  
51. Foxhunter’s call to hounds  
54. Short version  
56. C2H5  
57. Marlboros or Camels, slangily  
58. Army group  
59. Lazily  
60. \*Complimentary dish  
61. Asian starling  
62. \*Steak choice  
63. Great Lake  
66. Be in the red  
68. Were introduced

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
	19					20			21	22			
				23				24					
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41				42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48				49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56		
57	58	59	60					61			62	63	
64						65	66			67			68
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

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

"So crying and pouting are off the table. 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?”

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



# Learning from voices of war

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

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

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 anniversary 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 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](https://loc.gov/vets).

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 floor."

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








**"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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