

# Current

noun | *cur-rent*: flow marked by force or strength.

Who Actually  
Controls The Gas  
Prices

6-7

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THE CURRENT IS THE  
OFFICAL STUDENT  
PUBLICATION OF THREE  
RIVERS COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE. THE  
CURRENT IS WRITTEN,  
EDITED, AND DESIGNED  
SOLEY BY STUDENTS.

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# Covid-19 Booster Shots:

## What You Need To Know About Getting another jab

Written  
by Kaycee  
Gagnier

Since the first shot has been released to the public, an estimated 192 million people have been fully vaccinated in the US. This number of people fully vaccinated is mostly attributed to how easily places have made the vaccine to get. In places where people are more skeptical about getting vaccinated, state governments have offered to enter people into a \$1 Million lottery if they get vaccinated.

The state of Connecticut doesn't need incentives, as our state is 70% fully vaccinated, but residents should start to consider the booster shot.

As more people get vaccinated, it's become apparent that some groups of people are still at risk, and need to get booster shots. On October 21st, the CDC released an expanded eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots. For people who are 65 years and older, 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings, have underlying medical conditions, or work in high-risk settings, the CDC recommends you take a booster shot. If you have taken the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you should also look into getting a booster shot.

Since the release of the booster shots, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has released a statement announcing that it is OK to mix-and-match your booster shot. You can now choose between Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson booster shots, even if it's different from the original doses you received. Experts have approved the mixing and matching of shots because it will boost the amount of people who get vaccinated. Say you were fully vaccinated under Moderna, but your local Walgreens was only using Pfizer booster shots. You'll be able to get the Pfizer shot, and not have to wait until the Moderna shot is around on a certain day.

With that information released, people are wondering which booster shot is best... but studies haven't shown a clear winner. Part of the reason there hasn't been any official statement on which shot is best, is because people have a right to choose which shot they think will be best for their body.

All of the available booster shots have been tested and are highly effective in reducing the risks of COVID-19, and even has been proven to be effective against the Delta variant. The Delta variant is more contagious, spreading as fast as 2 times the original COVID-19 strain, and might have nastier effects on those who catch it. Fully vaccinated people with Delta variant infections can spread the virus to others. However, vaccinated people spread the virus for a shorter time than the unvaccinated.

If you're having trouble choosing which booster shot you think is best for you, talking to your doctor is a sure way to go. Discussing any health issues or concerns you may have will help narrow down which shot is best for you.

Getting a booster shot isn't mandated in any way. If you aren't interested in a booster shot, or any of the original COVID-19 shots, wearing your mask, keeping your distance from others, and washing your hands has been proven to be the most effective way of reducing the spread of COVID without getting the shot. It's good to be mindful of others, and if you have the chance to do so, getting vaccinated is the best way to protect those who are unable to get vaccinated, such as the immunocompromised population or small children.



## WHO ACTUALLY CONTROLS THE GAS PRICES?

### LOOKING DEEPER INTO THE HIGHER PRICES

WRITTEN BY  
KAYCEE GAGNIER



Pumping Gas by Kaycee Gagnier

If you own a car and pump your own gas, you've probably noticed the higher prices that are displayed at the pump. In Connecticut, the average gas price now sits at \$3.50. But in states like California, the average price of gas is about \$4.50. What is causing these ridiculous prices?

Despite popular belief, the President does not control gas prices. Recently, people have been believing that President Biden has raised the gas prices, and Donald Trump was the reason they were lower, when this isn't true. Sure, every politician wants to say they have control over the prices when they are low, but when it comes down to it, gas prices are controlled by a number of factors like taxes, refining, distribution, and crude oil prices.

Since the 1980's, the demand for crude oil has only risen, and is expected to continue increasing each year well into the 2030's. Who controls that supply for the demand? The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a cartel made up of 12 countries that control just about 78% of the world's oil. And since the demand for oil is so high, the OPEC can just pretty much set their price without negotiation.

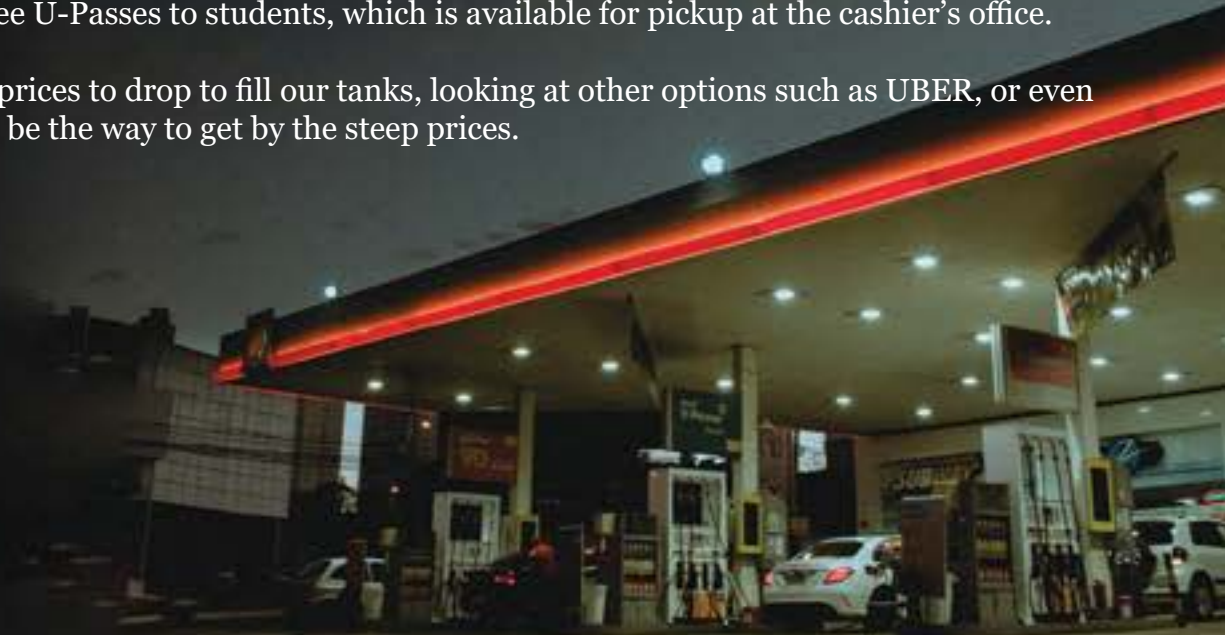
Watching the supply and demand helps control the prices. When the pandemic had sent us into a two-week 'lockdown,' we saw gas prices drop dramatically, to under \$2 a gallon. This is because the companies in control saw that no one was driving anywhere, and so the demand dropped. But now, as the country pushes to reopen and return to normalcy, we see that the demand is higher and so are the prices.

Besides supply and demand, a steady price tag added to gas are the taxes placed on it. In Connecticut, there's a 35.75 cent tax on gasoline, and 44.60 cent tax on diesel, making Connecticut the 15th highest gas tax in the United States. California sits as the reigning king of gas tax, though. The Golden State has a 66.98 tax on gas.

Since the consistent rise in gas prices doesn't look like it's going to stop anytime soon, some people have looked into electric cars. With a constant charging station in your house, your car will be fully charged in the morning when you go to work, and you'll save any trips to the gas station. The average price to charge an electric car at your home is around \$25 a month, which is a huge difference from fuel.

Considering a different way of transportation isn't out of the question, either. Buses, trains, biking, or even walking can be a lot cheaper than the current price of a full tank. But, if you don't live in a city or urban area, using a bike everywhere you go just seems unrealistic.... For now. In Connecticut, there has been a huge push to make things easier on those who need to be places. Connecticut College, for example, has partnered with the app LYFT to provide students with heavily discounted rides. Three Rivers also offers a Free U-Passes to students, which is available for pickup at the cashier's office.

While we wait for the prices to drop to fill our tanks, looking at other options such as UBER, or even carpooling, might just be the way to get by the steep prices.



Gas Station by Kaycee Gagnier



Unsplash  
Photo by  
Priscilla Du  
Preez



# Tesla Recall on New Cars

Newer doesn't always mean better.

Written by Lauren Susi

The future of travel looks bright, especially with all the new technologies and options out for car options and Tesla is one of the most futuristic around.

Not only do they look futuristic and clean but they are clean powered as well. Tesla makes clean, all-electric cars that use cleaner energy than gas-powered.

As well as clean energy all their cars also come standard with an autopilot feature. Though this isn't fully autonomous yet, this seems to be the first step in that direction of not even having to drive your car yourself at all.

But you will pay a pretty penny for one of these advanced cars. A Tesla will cost you anywhere from \$39,990 - \$129,990.

However just because they are advanced, expensive, and futuristic doesn't mean they are without their problems. Tesla is recalling nearly 3000 cars due to suspension issues. The models on the recall are the Model 3 (2019-2021) and Model Y (2020-2021).

The recall with the car is with the front suspension lateral link fasteners. They may become loosened which can happen when driving and cause a major accident. This greatly impacts the safety of the vehicle.

Owners of the recalled cars will be getting a recall letter which won't be sent out till December 24th. If you are not sure if your Tesla is a part of this recall you can check your car's VIN number on the Tesla VIN Recall search or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration database of recalls (<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls>).

You can take your car to Tesla Service and they will tighten or replace the fasteners free of charge.



Unsplash Photo Model 3 Sunset by Vlad Tchompalov



Charging Station by  
Lauren Susi



Unsplash Photo Tesla Model 3  
supercharging by Vlad Tchompalov



## THE WEAK AND THE STRONG

### WHERE DO THE EMOTIONALLY DEPRESSED GO NOW?

*Written By Adam Browne*

This will be a question everyone seems to ask around nearby towns. Recently, a Connecticut mental health facility facing hard times has been on the edge of unfortunately closing its doors. In Hartford CT, a mental health facility is set to be closed next month. According to CT Insider, the facility is for 18-25 year-olds and by closing it will reduce availability for young adults seeking mental health help by 30%.

By next year it could rise or even double by next fall semester. The sad fact is by reducing the number of beds. It means less patients are helped and seen for their issues. Sooner or later sometimes, they fall back into their vices that helped them self medicate before trying to get help.

The reason for this is because of the way state funding works as a domino effect. When a facility funding like this seems to go well. Each surrounding area sweeps to seek a purpose, perhaps being overfilled by those neighboring patients.

Tomorrow is never predictable yet, one thing is for certain it has to stop before it begins. The 18 to 25 year olds seek answers to why we have issues and if they have mental health. We soon find out why and how to fix these flaws we ignore often in life.

When asked why this is a huge important issue in Connecticut right now, Rob Baril, the president of SEIU 1199 responded by saying, "This is taking place at the exact moment that anxiety, depression disorders, suicidality are skyrocketing." There may be some concern shown in the state government. It appears past times are behind us or so it may seem.



# Community

The saying goes in with the new and out with the old. It's reported that the 10-bed Hilltop Residential Program in Hartford's North End did not renew its lease. It is still unsure as to why they did not renew the lease.

At the end of the day, the five resident patients there to be relocated to similar programs in the city. This comes in hopes that the place they go, they will receive the same clinical services. Yet as we all know within times of replacement, comes improvement in services.

The department of Mental Health is hoping to "plan to establish 10 new residential placements at a higher level of care so there is no reduction of mental health services for the 18-25-year-old

population," DMHAS spokesperson Arthur Mongillo said.

For the state of Connecticut's sake we can only pray that Arthur Mongillo's statement surfaces to be true. Many jobs have already been lost in the career field of Mental health. It isn't a certainty of what will happen to the residential patients of these closing health facilities.

For staff members, it isn't much of a concern of finding a job due to the possibility of being transferred to a new office. However, it is a big concern for the patients at the center and if and where they will get help next. Who will keep these patients so that they may one day be able to say they have successfully been helped? On the downside of all of this not only are facilities being impacted.

The closure comes at an inopportune time because of short staffing in the health and medical field, as well as mental health facilities both public and private. The State of Connecticut's DMHAS helps nearly 1,500 people through the statewide Young Adult Services program every year. The same patients who weren't thought of when considering the renewal of this building.



Capitol Region Mental Health Center Sign by Sabrina Tyree



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## Course Review: Intro To Nutrition

(With Professor Carol Emmerthal)

Learning about Nutrition, Food  
Choices, and your Health

*Written by Kaycee Gagnier*

To fill in one of my science electives, I decided to take Intro To Nutrition online this semester. When I was signing up for classes in August, I figured that this one would be an easy, Straight A's course that I can breeze right through... which was not the case.

I've always been interested in learning about my health and how certain foods can affect me. And this course is doing just that! You start off with learning about the basics of your health: your diet, and how it affects you. The course requires you to buy an access code that includes the book you'll need to read from, and as a bonus, includes free access to a website called NutritionCalc Plus. NutritionCalc Plus allows students to be able to log what they eat, how many calories it might be, and if they are getting the recommended amount of nutrients they need a day.

While all of the assignments and discussions are easily organized under the syllabus page, I felt as though the deadlines have been sneaking up on me. Maybe it's because of the work I do for my other courses and my jobs outside of school, or maybe it's because the course was online, so I can't say it's going to be hard work for every other student.

The course might not be a great fit for people who run tighter schedules, because the tests are assigned and only open on certain days, and have a two hour time limit to take them. Speaking from experience, they will take you just about the full two hours to complete them. The quizzes and tests are very thorough, so make sure you read through the assigned readings before you take the tests.

If I could restart the course, I would have definitely paid more attention to those pesky deadlines, or even looked more into an in-person alternative. I've found that as the pandemic goes on, I don't exactly thrive under the online class deadlines.

Even though I felt a bit overwhelmed, it's a good class! You learn plenty about what your body needs to stay healthy, and the course even covers different types of vegan/vegetarian diets that might benefit you. If you plan to take this course, I recommend that you start the readings early. There's a lot you'll have to learn in order to make it through the tests. I also suggest that you keep track of the discussion questions, as there are plenty you'll need to complete by the deadlines.



## MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND EDUCATION

### Why Service Members Still go to School

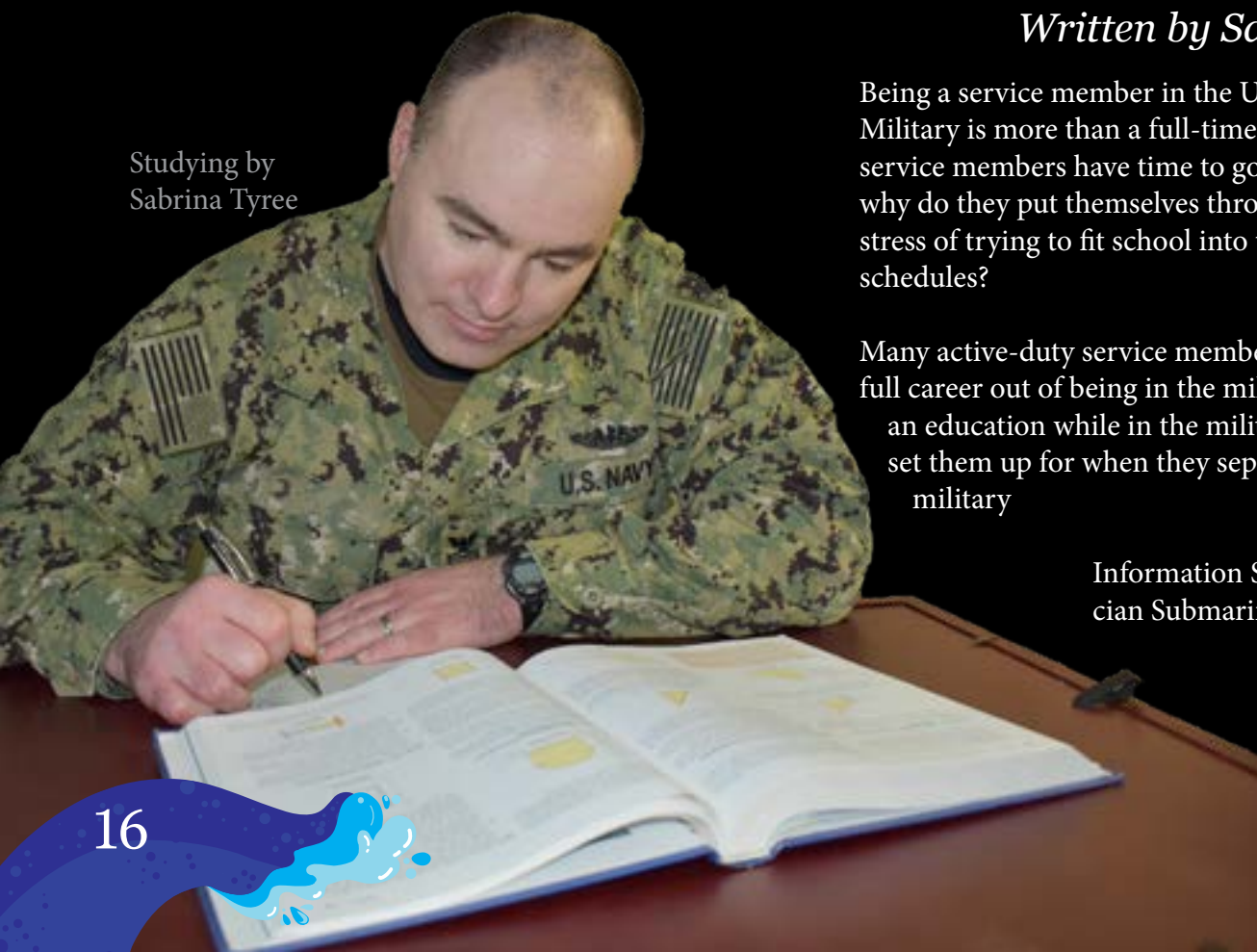
*Written by Sabrina Tyree*

Being a service member in the United States Military is more than a full-time job. So how do service members have time to go to school and why do they put themselves through the extra stress of trying to fit school into their already busy schedules?

Many active-duty service members do not make a full career out of being in the military, so getting an education while in the military will help to set them up for when they separate from the military

Information Systems Techni-  
cian Submarines First Class

Studying by  
Sabrina Tyree



(ITS1), John Meeds is planning on separating from the military next summer when his contract is up and is pushing himself to complete his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

One of the benefits that active-duty military are offered is tuition assistance. Tuition assistance will pay up to \$4,500 a year to go toward a service member's tuition cost.

"Having tuition assistance has made it much more affordable for me to pursue my degree without greatly impacting my family's already tight budget," Meeds explained.

The military does not only offer its active-duty service members benefits. They also offer active duty and veterans assistance in the form of the Montgomery or Post 9-11 GI Bills. These allow even veterans reimbursement for school costs and, depending on the type of GI bill used, additional housing allowance.

Although these benefits have helped many of our service members, there are many more benefits provided by more than just our military.

There are many colleges that are very military friendly. These colleges offer additional grants and scholarships for military members of veterans. It is also common that they offer credit for military training and experience.

Where some military members go to school at a local campus, like UCONN or Eastern Connecticut University, many take their classes online for ease of schedule.

Meeds stated, "I can only do online classes and at University of Florida, I can complete my entire degree online."

Having the flexibility of completing everything online is very important to Meeds. With his current active-duty status and a family of four to take care of at home, using his GI benefits, Tuition assistance with the online coursework has made it extremely accessible for him to get his education.

"Getting a degree before I get out will help increase my chances of getting a similar paying job, which will help with the transition," Meeds explained.

The only benefit that Meeds was unable to take advantage of is the Connecticut VA benefits for veterans going to school in Connecticut. This allows veterans to go to school in Connecticut, as long as they are a Connecticut resident, tuition free.

All of these available benefits make it completely possible to serve in the military and receive an education.



## U.S. Nuclear Sub Crashed into Underwater Mountain in South China Sea

“Washington being accused by Beijing of  
no prior warning”

*Written By Nicholas Niedojadlo*

On October 2nd, 2021, the nuclear powered submarine USS CONNECTICUT struck a previously unknown underwater object, which has now been revealed as an uncharted underwater mountain through investigations by the 7th Fleet, which operates in the western Pacific ocean. This happened while the sub was traveling through the contested waters of the South China Sea.

Regularly conducted operations by the U.S. Navy involve challenging China’s disputed territorial claims over the South China Sea. Claims of these waters are almost entirely by Beijing, but other sections are claimed by four different Southeast Asian countries, as well as a section claimed by Taiwan.

However, Beijing has now accused Washington of failing to provide details of the incident in a timely manner, arguing that there is a lack of transparency and responsibility from the U.S. Wang Wenbin, foreign ministry spokesman, said that China urges the U.S. to provide details on the submarine’s navigational intentions, specific accident of the location, whether it was in an economic zone or a territorial zone of the sea and if any sort of nuclear leak occurred. China is currently accusing the U.S. of being deliberately vague in the details of the crash.

Wenbin continued by saying these types of actions by the U.S. should end, otherwise accidents like this will only become more frequent. This comes during a sensitive time between Beijing and Washington, as this is only weeks after the U.S. and Britain signed a deal to supply nuclear-powered submarines to the Australian military. This event is also only days after China sent a record fifty-six military planes into the airspace of Taiwan, a U.S. ally.

Currently, it has been confirmed that only crew members only suffered moderate injuries, nothing life-threatening, and were able to get medical assistance by those on the vessel itself. Some damage occurred to the USS CONNECTICUT, but the ship’s nuclear plant remained undamaged. After the accident, the vessel found its way to Guam for repairs.



## MR. BEAST AND MARK ROBER

### TEAM UP FOR THE BIGGEST SEA CLEANUP IN HISTORY



#TEAMSEAS

WRITTEN BY PHILIP JASON AVISAN

MrBeast and Mark Rober, two popular YouTube creators, are back with another hype-tastic, eco-friendly charity collaboration.

On Friday, the duo started #TeamSeas, a crowdfunding drive to gather \$30 million in order to remove 30 million pounds of plastic and waste from the world's seas, rivers, and beaches.

MrBeast (aka Jimmy Donaldson) and Rober, both viral-video masterminds, want to make money by doing good: Aside from helping a great environmental cause, they stand to gain a larger audience and create a flood of video views.

In a video promoting #TeamSeas, MrBeast offers to help clean up 60,000 pounds of debris from filthy beaches. "For every one dollar you guys donate... one pound less of trash will be in the ocean," he says.



According to MrBeast, YouTube Originals will match the first \$400,000 in donations to #TeamSeas.

MrBeast (above left) and Rober (above right) previously collaborated in 2019 to create one of the largest creator-led fundraising efforts, #TeamTrees, in collaboration with the Arbor Day Foundation. The initiative's objective was to earn \$20 million in order to plant 20 million trees, but it ended up raising more than \$23

million and generating more than 1 billion video views in total. Even after two years, teamtrees.org still receives enough money to plant 2,600 trees every day.

The YouTubers chose the non-profit organizations Ocean Conservancy and the Ocean Cleanup as their partners for #TeamSeas. Donations can be made at teamseas.org. According to Rober's introduction video, half of the money donated will go toward volunteer beach-cleanup initiatives through Ocean Conservancy, while the other half will support Ocean Cleanup's "50-ton trash-eating robot" barges that gather waste in rivers that flow into seas.

The organizers of #TeamSeas have sought the help of thousands of content producers from 145 countries, totaling more than 1 billion followers, to support the initiative. AzzyLand, DanTDM, TommyInnit, LinusTechTips, TierZoo, LEMMiNO, The Infographics Show, Hannah Stocking, Dhar Mann, and Marques Brownlee (aka MKBHD) are among the participants. Furthermore, #TeamSeas enlisted BEN and sibling business TubeBuddy to promote the campaign through their 8 million worldwide artists' network.

According to the Ocean Conservancy, over 150 million metric tons of plastic are currently present in marine habitats. According to researchers, up to 11 million metric tons of waste reach the ocean each year. If #TeamSeas meets its financial target, the initiative will clear enough plastic garbage to fill 85 football fields one foot deep.

The donation drive will run until January 1, 2022, but the YouTubers will keep the site up and running for three years to clear up the rubbish.

Users may give on MrBeast's and Rober's YouTube videos that have been tagged for the campaign, as well as in the TikTok app via a quick-donate sticker (which users can apply to their profiles or videos) enabled by fundraising platform Tiltify.

MrBeast, who has over 72 million YouTube subscribers, is known for his big-money giveaways and pranks, and he's also raised tens of millions of dollars for charitable organizations. MrBeast is the most nominated person for the 2021 YouTube Streamy Awards, with seven nominations.

Mark Roberts This Robot Eats Trash





# Credit Cards That Can Make You Money

## Start Getting Free Trips as a Student

Written By Philip Jason Avisan

Earning rewards, particularly cash back incentives and large signup bonuses, is the simplest method to make money with credit cards. You're getting free money back if you use a cash back credit card for purchases you'd make anyway and then pay your account in full to avoid interest. The same is true for credit card signup bonuses: as long as the spending criteria is money you would have spent anyhow during that time period, the bonus is free money.

Peer-to-peer lending is another method to generate money with credit cards, at least indirectly. Taking full advantage of incentives, on the other hand, remains the simplest and most dependable way to make money with credit cards, as you can see in further detail below.

### How to Make Money using Credit Cards:

Get a credit card that gives you cash back.

Any rewards credit card will lower the cost of your purchases, but cash back credit cards make it easier to earn money. Cash rewards cards provide cash back on purchases, which may be redeemed for statement credits, personal checks, and/or bank account deposits. You may also set up automatic cash back redemption so that when your earnings reach a specific threshold, they are paid out based on your preferences.

The typical cash back credit card offers little more than 1% cash back on purchases, although there are cards with greater earning rates available. Examine the best cash back credit cards to find which one would save you the most money.

### Beginner Card Recommendations:

Discover It Student Cash Back

#### 5% cash back at places you love to shop

Students earn 5% cash back on everyday purchases during the school year (and all year long) at different places each quarter, such as

- Amazon.com
- Grocery stores
- Restaurants
- Gas stations
- When you pay using PayPal

And all your other purchases still earn 1% cash back automatically, with no limit.

- Earn a sign-up bonus for a credit card. Many of the top rewards credit cards provide large signup bonuses in exchange for reaching a certain spending criterion in the first 1-3 months. For example, by using the appropriate card, you may earn \$150 to \$500+ in rewards incentives while spending no more than you would otherwise.

Once you've earned the signup bonus, you may use it immediately to your credit card statement to reimburse transactions you've made. If you'd prefer to save money in another manner, you may be able to redeem your card for a check, bank account deposit, gift cards, travel, products, and more, depending on the card.







## Beginner Card Recommendations:

Chase Freedom Flex

### EARN \$200

Earn a \$200 bonus after you spend \$500 on purchases in the first 3 months from account opening.

opens overlay\*, opens overlay\*\*

5% on up to \$1,500 in combined purchases in bonus categories each quarter you activate

5% on Chase Travel purchased through Chase Ultimate Rewards

3% on dining at restaurants, including takeout and eligible delivery services

3% on drugstore purchases

1% on all other purchases

- Credit card points/miles can be cashed in.

The simplest approach to cash in your points or miles is to use them to pay for transactions made with your credit card. Those purchases are effectively free. Most credit card companies will allow you to apply your rewards to previous transactions, generally at a rate of little more than one penny for one point/mile.

You may also redeem your points for gift cards to the stores where you purchase the most. Another way to get money is to sell your prizes to friends or family members, although this is a little more difficult.



## Beginner Card Recommendations:

Bank of America® Travel Rewards Credit Card for Students

- **Flat 1.5-point earning rate:** The Bank of America Travel Rewards Credit Card for Students earns an unlimited 1.5 points for every dollar spent with the card. Points never expire and can be applied toward any airline or hotel with no blackout dates.
- **Sign-up bonus:** You can earn 25,000 online bonus points if you make at least \$1,000 in purchases in the first 90 days of your account opening. These points can be redeemed for a statement credit toward travel expenses such as flights, hotels, rental cars and other travel costs, or dining expenses.
- **No additional fees:** There is a \$0 annual fee and no foreign transaction fee.
- **Introductory APR:** The card offers a 0% introductory APR for 15 billing cycles on purchases. After that, the variable APR is 13.99% - 23.99% Variable APR on purchases and balance transfers.
- **Free credit score:** The Bank of America Travel Rewards Credit Card for Students offers monthly FICO credit score access for free to help students build good credit.

All cards have \$0 Annual Fee and are easily approved for starters like students.



**Looking to support your town or community as a volunteer?**

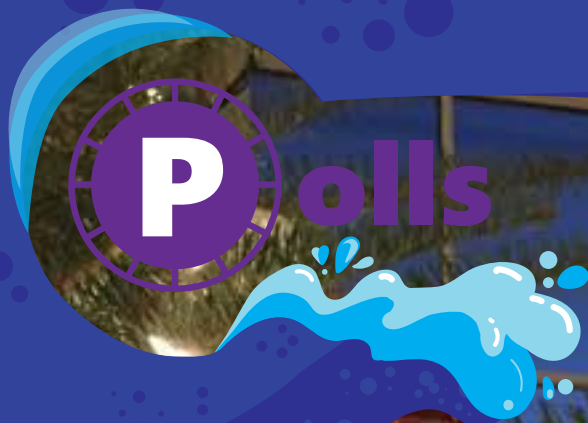
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# When Do You Decorate for Christmas? A Travelers Poll

Written By Sabrina Tyree



Decorating your home for Christmas can be the beginning of many holiday traditions that your family might partake in. The question is, how soon is too soon?

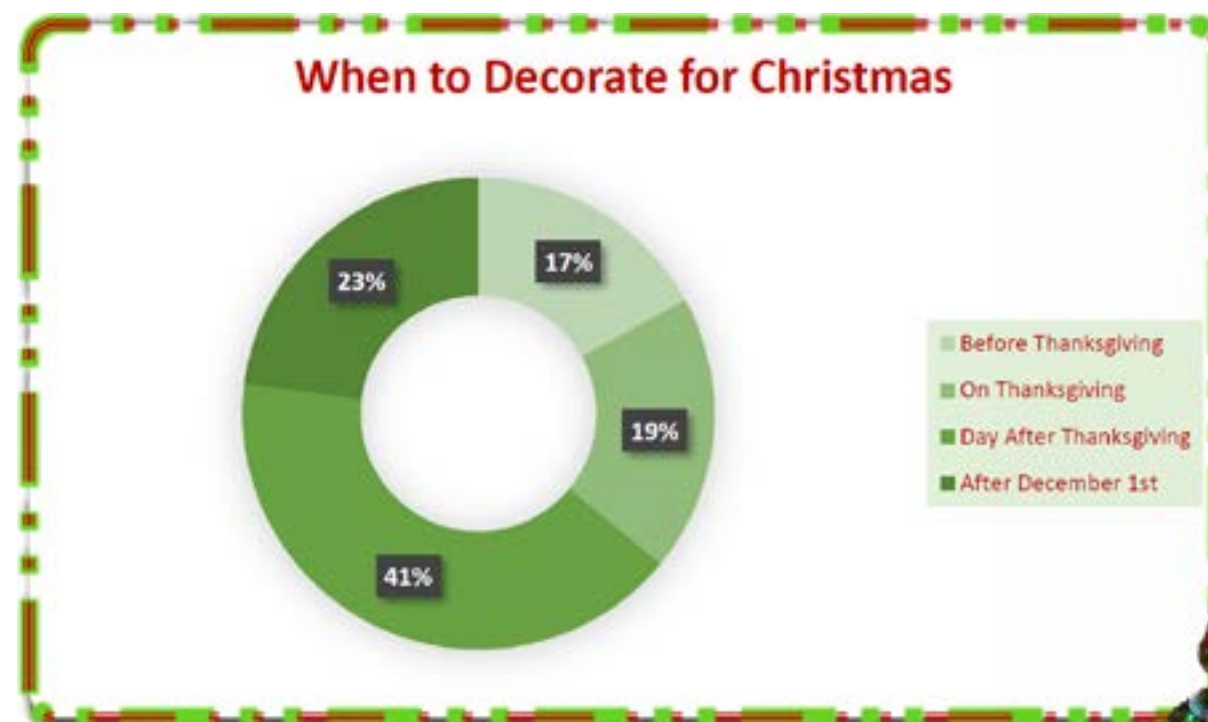
Many travelers spend much time away from home, but they still manage to take the time out of their busy schedules to decorate with their families.

When asked when they decorate for Christmas, many travelers agreed that the time they normally would begin decorating is between the day after Thanksgiving and the first of December. This time frame is the most common time to decorate because usually, even people who travel for work are home for the holiday and don't report back to work until the week after Thanksgiving. Also, the children are on break from school, so it turns out to be one of the few times that everyone is home and they like to make it count.

With 41 percent of polled travelers decorating after thanksgiving, they make up for the majority. However, out of the 100 votes accounted for, there is still 23 percent that will decorate after the first of December. Meaning that only 36 of 100 travelers begin to decorate for Christmas on, or before, thanksgiving.

The overall consensus is that the majority rules in favor of waiting until at least after thanksgiving, making any time prior to turkey day too soon to decorate for Christmas.

*\*Only those who celebrate Christmas and opted to take part in the poll were included in the 100 results.*



Infographic and Tree Photo by Sabrina Tyree





## History of the Cornucopia

“What Exactly is its purpose?”

*Written By Nicholas Niedojadlo*

Have you ever seen a Thanksgiving scene in a movie or show, went to someone else's house for the holiday, or have just been out and about during the autumn season, and noticed that cone-like decoration stuffed with plastic fruits or pumpkins? Have you ever wondered what exactly that even is?

Well if you didn't know, they are referred to as cornucopias, and have become a staple Thanksgiving decorative centerpiece for a lot of different households. Some may believe that it was first introduced in what some people refer to as “The First Thanksgiving”, but it goes way back to Greek and Roman roots at about 3,000 years ago.

The word comes from the Latin word cornu copiae which translates to “horn of abundance” or “horn of plenty.” It is assumed that the origin of this symbol is most likely related to the Greek Zeus. As a baby, Zeus needed to be hidden away from his father Kronos, as he would consume all of his children. Zeus was hidden away in a cave with a goat named Amalthea, who fed him. Zeus happened to break off one of Amalthea's horns by accident, but the horn was gifted with the power to provide endless food.

This is when the symbol first came to be a sign of prosperity, wealth, abundance and a plentiful harvest. The cornucopia would further be depicted in works of art and literature that involved other gods associated with harvest and prosperity. Two of these include the Greek Fortuna, goddess of luck and the Roman Annona, goddess of the Roman grain supply.

How exactly did the cornucopia continue its presence into today? Well as the symbol stands for an abundance of harvest, and the holiday Thanksgiving also stands for the same, the two have become connected over time. This pagan symbol was later adopted by Christians and used at European harvest festivals to celebrate a bountiful crop yield.

Interestingly enough however, it is unknown how the symbolic horn found itself into the American celebration of the holiday. Historians have presumed it possible that the use of cornucopias today harkens back to remembering old European harvest festivals, but it would have to have happened after the first Thanksgiving, as there is no actual record of a cornucopia's appearance there.

Today, cornucopias are exclusively used as Thanksgiving decorations and sometimes craft projects for children at schools. You can make your own by buying one of these horns and filling it with plastic fruit, pumpkins, or anything that gives off a relaxing and organic autumn vibe.





# A LOOK AT HOW RETAILERS WILL HANDLE BLACK FRIDAY IN 2021

Due to the epidemic, many stores are altering their Black Friday plans to allow customers more time to complete their holiday shopping.

*Written By Philip Jason Avisan*

**Black Friday 2021, like the previous year, appears to be unique.**

Many big retailers are kicking off the Black Friday shopping frenzy early this year, with many offers beginning in early November. This is partly due to the ongoing epidemic, with merchants reacting to supply chain disruptions and product shortages by giving customers additional time to complete their holiday shopping. Many retailers are also following the lead of last year's tradition of closing their stores on Thanksgiving Day to thank their employees and prevent COVID-19 spread.

## Amazon

Amazon is continuing its practice of extending its holiday sales period, which began in early October. The discounts can be found on Amazon's "Epic Deals" website and cover nearly all of the company's categories, including fashion, cosmetics, home, electronics, and more.

During the months of October and November, Amazon will offer even better deals on select items. It is presently running its Holiday Beauty Haul savings event, which is the company's first beauty-specific shopping event, with up to 40% off on skin care, hair care, color cosmetics, and fragrance products.



## Best Buy Inc.

Best Buy Inc. is kicking off the Christmas shopping season a week early, starting with Black Friday offers on Nov. 19, a week before the actual Black Friday.

Many of the retailer's goods are on sale, including smart TVs from Samsung, LG, and Sony, as well as Apple devices like the new iPhone 13 and iPad.



## Walmart

Starting Nov. 3 and running through the end of the month, Walmart will host its second annual "Black Friday Deals for Days" event. Customers can save money on gadgets, toys, appliances, household products, apparel, and more as part of the campaign.

The shop will provide discounts throughout the month, with the best deals coming on Nov. 3 and Nov. 10. Other deal days have yet to be announced.





## What is Closed?

### What stores are closed on Thanksgiving 2021

*Written by Lauren Susi*

Thanksgiving is usually associated with food, family, and football but it can also mean great shopping deals as well.

Over the years Black Friday shopping seemed to get earlier and earlier each year encroaching on family's Thanksgiving time. Some Stores would be open as early as 2pm on Thanksgiving day. However in 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, a lot of stores decided to stay closed until it was actually the Friday after the holiday.

Many retail workers, for the first time in a while, got to spend the holiday with friends and family instead of getting trampled by customers looking for deals. This year it looks like stores are following the same idea of staying closed for Thanksgiving.

A lot of stores have determined their actually hours for Black Friday yet, however here are some stores that are definitely closed on Thanksgiving 2021:

- **Belk**
- **Best Buy**
- **BJ's Wholesale Club**
- **Costco**
- **Dick's Sporting Goods**
- **JCPenney**
- **Kohl's**
- **Macy's**
- **REI**
- **Target**
- **Walmart**
- **Sam's Club**
- **Simon Malls**



Pexels Photo Sorry we're closed by RODNAE Productions

No need to worry about missing out on all the good deals this Thanksgiving. Sit back, relax, watch some football and eat some turkey and mashed potatoes. It can wait till Black Friday!



## CARAMEL APPLE PIE MOCKTAIL

WRITTEN BY LAUREN SUSI

Looking for the perfect drink to serve at thanksgiving or “friends”giving this year? Or not good at baking your own apple pie? That’s okay because here is a great mocktail recipe to enjoy by yourself or with loved ones that tasted like an apple pie in a glass.

**Total Time:** 25min

### Ingredients:

- 6 cups apple cider
- 1/2 cup caramel syrup
- 3 cups sparkling water
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 apples
- Rosemary sprigs, about 6
- Brown sugar (rim garnish)
- 1 Large pitcher or large punch bowl
- Drink glasses
- 2 small bowls



Apples In Tree by Lauren Susi

### Steps

1. In pitcher or bowl mix apple cider, caramel syrup, and add cinnamon.
2. Cut apples into thin slices and add them to mixture. Add rosemary sprigs and let sit for 20 minutes.
3. After 20 minute, pour sparkling water into the pitcher and mix.
4. Pour some more caramel sauce into a small bowl and brown sugar into another small bowl.
5. Dip rim of glasses into caramel sauce first, then dip into the brown sugar to coat.
6. Pour the caramel apple pie mocktail into the glasses.
7. Make sure to get some apple slices in your drink and add a cinnamon stick to really make it fancy looking. Serve room temperature or cold. But store leftover drink in the fridge.

Your guests will be impressed by your presentation! Enjoy your cozy and delicious apple pie drink!

Recipe by Merry Kuchle from Merry About Town find more recipes  
[merryabouttown.com](http://merryabouttown.com)

A DELICIOUS AND COZY DRINK FOR THE FALL/  
WINTER SEASONS

Pexels Photo Pile of Red Apples by Pierpaolo Riondato

Unsplash Photo Mulled apple  
cider by Jennifer  
Schmidt





Chicken Tortilla Soup by Sabrina Tyree

# Chicken Tortilla Soup

*A Hearty Recipe for the Family*



**A recipe to keep you and your family warm this season.**

*Written By Sabrina Tyree*

As we head into the winter season, nothing goes down better than a hot and hearty soup. This soup will not need any side dishes as it is filling all on its own. Is there a better way to get your kids to eat their vegetables than a colorful, delicious soup?

## INGREDIENTS:

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts  
10 – 14.5oz cans of chicken broth  
3 carrots, diced  
2 baking potatoes (AKA Russet Potatoes), diced  
1/2 cup tomato paste  
1 bay leaf  
2 garlic cloves, chopped  
3 jalapeno peppers, seeded and diced  
2 serrano peppers, seeded and diced  
1 teaspoon dried Mexican oregano  
1/8 teaspoon cumin  
Salt, to taste

Black pepper, to taste  
1 zucchini, cubed  
1 yellow squash, cubed  
1/2 red bell pepper, diced  
1 lime, juiced  
2 tablespoons sweet sherry (preferably Harvey's Bristol Cream)  
1 tablespoon fresh cilantro, chopped  
1 tablespoon of fresh mint, chopped  
16oz Monterey Jack Cheese  
1 pack Mission Yellow Corn Tortillas

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Poach chicken breast in simmering chicken broth until done through, (NO PINK CHICKEN!)
2. Set aside until cool enough to handle and shred.
3. Combine chicken broth, chicken, carrots, potato, tomato paste, bay leaf, garlic, jalapeno chilies, oregano, cumin and salt and pepper in large soup pot.
4. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes.
5. Correct seasoning, if necessary.
6. Add zucchini, squash, pepper, lime juice and Sherry.
7. Bring back to boiling.
8. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes.
9. Add cilantro and mint.
10. Stir, then remove from heat.
11. To assemble, cut and fry tortilla strips in hot oil until crisp. Drain on paper towels and set aside.
12. Ladle soup into each bowl.
13. Sprinkle with shredded cheese and tortilla strips



Squash by Sabrina Tyree



## Cranberry Orange Relish

*Update your cranberry sauce this  
Thanksgiving*

*Written By Nicholas Niedojadlo*

**This cranberry orange relish recipe is perfect to switch it up for this Thanksgiving, or to have as a nice treat during autumn. It's important to note that this is much different from cranberry sauce, and has a flavor which is a bit more tart, but it is well worth the try.**

### **Ingredients:**

1 Unpeeled Orange, cut into eighths and seeds removed.  
1 12-ounce package of frozen cranberries, rinsed and drained.  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 cup of sugar.

This recipe makes about 3 cups worth of cranberry orange relish, though you can multiply the recipe as needed for however many you want to make.

### **Directions:**

1. Place half of your cranberries and half of your orange slices in a food processor container
2. Process until mixture is evenly chopped.
3. Transfer to a bowl.
4. Repeat with remaining cranberries and orange slices.
5. Stir in sugar.
6. Store in the refrigerator or freezer.

**Now you have the perfect servings worth of cranberry orange relish to serve at your next Thanksgiving meal or to have as a refreshing treat.**







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