

The Boston Globe

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

A subtle shift in D.C. with the pressure building

Lawmakers take note as constituents call for action

By Tal Kopan, Jim Puzzanghera, and Julian E.J. Sorapuru

GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — The federal government shutdown has reached the one month mark, and the pain is mounting on everyday Americans. Lawmakers are starting to feel the pressure as a result, generating a cautious optimism there could be an end to the protracted stalemate.

SHUTDOWN DAY 32

10

Failed Senate votes

Sept. 19

Date of last session

594,048

Workers furloughed

35 days

Longest-ever shutdown

There is still no deal at hand, or even close. But late this week, senators said they perceived a shift in atmosphere, caused by an uptick in bipartisan conversations between rank-and-file lawmakers. Though the talks have yet to reach the level of party leadership or engage the House or the Trump administration, the changing sentiment speaks to the extent to which the shutdown's consequences are starting to hit home across the country, and how that rising strain is in

turn affecting Washington.

"We are all getting more calls from constituents," said Democratic Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, who cited concerns about health insurance premiums for the coming year, benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as SNAP, and the fear of

SHUTDOWN, Page A6

Hope, confusion on SNAP

Judges affirm Trump administration's obligation, but next step uncertain

By Edward Fitzpatrick and Sean Cotter

GLOBE STAFF

PROVIDENCE — The fate of food benefits for 42 million low-income and disabled people remained uncertain after a federal judge in Rhode Island blocked the Trump administration Friday from suspending the assistance through November.

Chief Judge John J. McConnell

Jr. of US District Court in Rhode Island ordered the government to tap into contingency funds to continue providing benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP. The program's administrator, the US Department of Agriculture, had told states not to distribute the monthly benefits beginning Saturday because of the ongoing government shutdown.

His ruling was the second of two Friday afternoon over suspension of the program. In a separate lawsuit brought by Massachusetts and two dozen other states, federal Judge Indira Talwani in Boston indicated the plaintiffs were "likely to succeed" in their request to revive SNAP funding and directed the administration to report by the end of Monday whether it will cover at

least some SNAP benefits.

What happens next, though, is unclear.

On Friday, President Trump said on social media that he had "instructed our lawyers to ask the Court to clarify how we can legally fund SNAP as soon as possible," adding: "If we are given the appropriate legal direction by the Court, it will BE MY HONOR to

RULING, Page A7



Chinatown doesn't want this dance

Strip club aims to move closer, saying it's a good neighbor

By Danny McDonald

GLOBE STAFF

Monet doesn't see what the big deal is. Neither does her fellow exotic dancer, Lexy, nor the host named Jimmy. After all, Centerfolds Boston, one of two remaining strip clubs in downtown Boston, is trying to move just a block away.

But the proposal is raising alarms in nearby Chinatown, where decades-old memories of the defunct and notorious red light district known as the Combat Zone, and the sleaze, crime, and corruption that went along with it, are still raw.

Some residents and community leaders view plopping a strip club onto a main thoroughfare as another burden the neighborhood would have to bear. They are concerned about noise and drunken buffoonery, they say, but they also worry the move could represent a backslide to a time they would rather forget.

But for employees of the downtown nightlife staple, they don't see the fuss.

"We come in peace," said Monet, a

CENTERFOLDS, Page A10



PHOTOS BY ERIN CLARK/GLOBE STAFF

Kelly Russell and her 14-year-old daughter put groceries away after visiting a food pantry. There's less margin than ever for unexpected expenses.

'I don't know what I'm going to do' SNAP recipient is pushed even closer to the edge

By Mara Kardas-Nelson

GLOBE STAFF

Kelly Russell was on the hunt for food to feed herself and her two children.

Her first stop on Wednesday, just days before SNAP benefits were expected to be paused for 1 million Massachusetts residents because of the government shutdown, was to DISH, the food pantry at Bunker Hill Community Col-

lege, where she studies liberal arts.

Through their online portal, she secured a bit of canned vegetables, some proteins.

On Thursday, she stopped by ABCD North End/West End Neighborhood Service Center, where she received two bags of staples: rice, canned tomatoes, some chicken, canned green beans.

The food would help her family of

SNAP, Page A7

Food banks can't keep up with rising demand

By Katie Muchnick

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The soup kitchen at My Brother's Table in Lynn runs like an assembly line. Staff dart between a hot kitchen and bustling dining room, prepping ingredients for the day's rotation of protein, starch, and vegetables.

Mary Magner, a longtime volunteer, was working in an adjoining office on Wednesday, sorting bags of sandwiches donated by the Lynn Knights of Columbus. My Brother's Table makes it a priority to always have some food on hand to serve, Magner said, so she likes to keep the bags in the office until the sandwiches are needed.

Last Sunday, the kitchen staff burned through the main meal, a backup meal, and another backup meal.

Already serving one million meals a year, the facility is facing a possible flood of additional hungry families starting this weekend, when the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program could run out of funding on Saturday due to the government shutdown. The budget standoff in Washington, already the second-longest on record, is now threatening to overwhelm the food support network for the most vulnerable residents, not just in Lynn but nationwide.

In Lynn, a working-class city north of Boston, more than one out of four residents receive SNAP benefits, the fourth-highest ratio in the state.

My Brother's Table already sees about 10 percent of the city's 101,000 residents in a year. Executive director Dianne Kuzia Hills

FOOD BANKS, Page A7



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

SEASON OF THE WITCHES

Pat Pagnini and Kathleen Fitzgerald got into the Halloween spirit as they waited for costumed children to visit them at the Edelweiss Village Assisted Living facility in West Roxbury. The kids are from St. Theresa of Avila School. **More on the Halloween festivities, B1-2.**

Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned countries not to join the United States in reducing the world's reliance on Chinese supply chains. **A3.**

A former aide to Governor Maura Healey will be held without bail after authorities said they seized nearly 18 pounds of cocaine. **B1.**

Daylight Saving Time starts at 2 Sunday morning. Turn back clocks an hour.



Day of the dead leaves

Saturday: Windy, pleasant. High 55-60. Low 38-43.

Sunday: Calming down. High 50-55. Low 38-43.

Sunrise: 7:18 Sunset: 5:37

Weather and Comics, D4-5.

VOL. 308, NO. 124

Suggested retail price \$4.00



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