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FINAL

JUDGES: COVER COSTS FOR SNAP

Administration ordered to use emergency funds for U.S. food aid program

By Michael Casey, Geoff Mulvihill and Kimberlee Kruesi
Associated Press

Two federal judges ruled nearly simultaneously on Friday that President Donald Trump's administration must continue to pay for SNAP, the nation's biggest food aid program, using emergency reserve funds during the government shutdown.

The judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island gave the administration

leeway on whether to fund the program partially or in full for November. That also brings uncertainty about how things will unfold and will delay payments for many beneficiaries whose cards would normally be recharged early in the month.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture planned to freeze payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program starting Nov. 1 because it said it could no longer keep funding it due to the shutdown. The program serves about 1 in 8 Americans and is a major piece of the nation's social safety net. It costs about \$8 billion per month nationally.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat and the ranking member of the

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Matt Rourke/Associated Press
Gov. Josh Shapiro's declaration will direct \$5 million to food banks across Pennsylvania.

Pa. governor signs disaster declaration to help food banks

By Ford Turner
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

With the clock ticking toward the possible stoppage of funding for an important federal food program, Gov. Josh Shapiro on Friday signed a disaster declaration to quickly drive out \$5 million to food banks across the state.

Mr. Shapiro's announcement came soon after a pair of federal

court rulings indicated a possible temporary end to the political fight concerning the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP. But Mr. Shapiro said it wasn't clear whether the administration of President Donald J. Trump would appeal the court rulings, and if it did, the problems for SNAP recipients would remain.

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TREATING FANS TO TUNES



Justin Guido/Post-Gazette

Members of the New Castle High School marching band, dressed for Halloween, perform before Friday's WPIAL Class 4A first-round playoff football game against Montour at Taggart Stadium. New Castle won, 14-13. **More coverage in Sports, B-1**

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

GOP rejects Trump's demand

Party leaders decline to scrap the filibuster

By Lisa Mascaro and Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Back from a week abroad, President Donald Trump threw himself into the shutdown debate, calling on the Senate to scrap the filibuster and reopen the government, an idea swiftly rejected Friday by Republican leaders who have long opposed such a move.

Trump pushed his Republican Party to get rid of the Senate rule that requires 60 votes to overcome objections and gives the minority Democrats a check on GOP power. In the chamber that's currently split, 53-47, Democrats have had enough votes to keep the government closed while they demand an extension of health care subsidies. Neither party has seriously wanted to nuke the rule.

"THE CHOICE IS CLEAR — INITIATE THE 'NUCLEAR OPTION,' GET RID OF THE FILIBUSTER," Trump said in a late night social media post Thursday.

Trump's sudden decision to assert himself into the shutdown now in its 31st day — with his highly charged demand to end the filibuster — is certain to set the Senate on edge. It could spur senators toward their own compromise or send the chamber spiraling toward a new sense of crisis. Or, it might be ignored.

Republican leaders responded quickly, and unequivocally, setting themselves at odds with Trump, a president few have

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One couple's high school football odyssey

By Mike White
For the Post-Gazette

It started in the early 2000s, when a longtime newspaperman and his non-football fan wife decided to start attending North Allegheny High School football games because their daughter was a cheerleader.

That lit the spark that led eventually led this couple on a two-decade-plus odyssey that has taken them to every high school football stadium in the entire WPIAL but one.

Meet Bill and Alayne Lowenberger, the stadium chasers.

High school football is part of the fabric of Western Pennsylv-

nia sports, but it's not just all about the teams, players and coaches. Over the years, everyone from fans, media members and even statisticians have become threads in that fabric, providing rare and interesting stories that make Western Pennsylvania football special. Count the Lowenbergers as one of those

special stories.

The WPIAL has 116 football-playing schools this season. The Lowenbergers have either attended a game or visited the stadium on their own at all of the schools except South Allegheny — and that's only because South

SEE FANS, PAGE A-2

Penn State reports healthy main campus enrollment

Branch campuses down 6%

By Maddie Aiken
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Penn State's main campus has one of its largest first-year enrollments to date this fall, while the commonwealth campuses continue to see drops in their student populations.

The University Park campus currently enrolls more than 9,100 first-year students — the

second-highest incoming class in school history.

Overall, University Park enrollment stands at over 49,200, a stable figure compared to last year's enrollment, Penn State officials reported this week. International student enrollment fell 3% at the main campus, a phenomenon not seen at other universities this semester.

The 19 commonwealth campuses, meanwhile, saw a nearly 6% dip in students, from

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Sebastian Foltz/Post-Gazette

Early voting advocate

Lt. Gov. Austin Davis greets Allegheny County elections staff as he turns in his mail-in ballot at the County Office Building, Downtown, on Friday. Mr. Davis spoke to media, emphasizing the importance of getting out to vote. He also expressed his confidence in election security.