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Local food pantries dealing with surging demand amid shutdown-related SNAP uncertainty

By GILLIAN 'GUS' **ANDREWS**

The Daily Courier

government for cutting off SNAP benefits — nutrition as food stamps that ensure almost every kid in Mayer. American families have enough to eat.

eral Kris Mayes is among sure their neighbors have those who have filed lawsuits. SNAP benefits are in Courier asked some queslimbo as Congress has not tions about where the need passed a federal budget.

Judges ruling on the suits Friday, however, have given the administration contingency funds.

But even before the looming cutoff, which now appears might only be a delay, Yavapai County nutrition support resources — like food banks, pantries and community meal servers — had seen increasing

numbers of people asking for help. The number of kids eligible for free or low-cost school lunches in Twenty-six states are local districts was already currently suing the federal high, ranging from a little over one in three kids in Prescott, to two in three in support formerly known the Humboldt district, to

How are Yavapai County communities going to Arizona Attorney Gen- fill in these gaps to make the food they need? The is greatest, why this is happening, how local organizations ensure everyone gets adequate nutrition, until Monday, Nov. 3, to and what government release SNAP's existing funds might be available to provide that nutrition?

> WHY DO MORE YAVAPAI **COUNTY RESIDENTS NEED HELP GETTING FOOD?**

"Wages are not keeping

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Residents of the Good Samaritan Village Tower have a look at the fresh watermelon, tomatoes, and grapes brought to them by Real Hope's food rescue service on July 15, 2025. (Gillian "Gus" Andrews/Courier)



Jennie Tutone. (Natural History Institute/Courtesy)

Natural History Institute names new executive director

By PARKER JONES

The Daily Courier

as the executive director of the Natural History Institute (NHI) in Prescott.

After longtime executive director Bob Ellis retired from the NHI in July, the organization's board selected a familiar face to take his place. Tutone, who has held several positions at the nonprofit over the past four years, became executive director on Oct. 13 following a brief period as interim director.

dedicated to making "natural history engaging and relevant by blending art,

science, and the humanities," as stated

on the institute's website.

Tutone, born and raised in Prescott, Jennie Tutone has begun a new role first learned about the NHI back when it was a program at Prescott College in 2015. She said she attended lectures and started to build knowledge of the programming that the institute offers.

After some time at Northern Arizona University, she worked with the Prescott National Forest before finding her way back to the NHI.

"Nature has always been the thing that keeps me here and makes me love The NHI is an education nonprofit our area," Tutone said. "I got a position

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A 'Spooktacular' Halloween in Quad Cities



Halloween brought out the annual streetful of trick-or-treaters on Mount Vernon Avenue in Prescott. For a photo gallery, visit dCourier.com. (Chris Ortiz/Courier)

Lincoln Elementary School celebrates annual Halloween parade

By ABIGAIL CELAYA

The Daily Courier

Elementary school students from Lincoln, Prescott Unified School District's oldest school, marched downtown to the courthouse plaza for their annual Halloween parade on Friday, Oct. 31.

Though the school is unsure of the exact number of years, Lincoln in this age-old tradition

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has been participating Students from Lincoln Elementary School high-five an officer from the Prescott Police Department at the Halloween parade on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025. For a photo gallery, visit dCourier.com. (Abigail Celaya/

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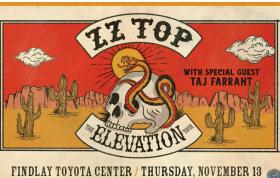
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