



UConn, UCLA, Texas and South Carolina are top contenders

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VENTURA COUNTY STAR

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Senate fails to agree on funds

GOP suggested reforms unpalatable to Democrats

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Senate on March 25 once again voted against moving forward with a proposal to fund the Department of Homeland Security, a sign that momentum from earlier in the week to end the tumultuous shutdown has slowed.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-South Dakota, said ahead of the vote that it would reflect the GOP's latest offer to fund all of DHS except for Immigration and Customs Enforcement's enforcement and removal division. Democrats dug in their heels, uniformly refusing to advance legislation after

expressing frustration that a Republican proposal didn't include more immigration enforcement reforms that were recently agreed to by the White House.

Ahead of the vote, a bipartisan group of senators — among them Katie Britt, the Alabama Republican who's been a key negotiator in the talks to end the DHS shutdown — huddled on the floor of the Senate chamber. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Michigan, left the encounter shaking his head, telling reporters he was frustrated.

Also in the huddle was Maine Sen. Angus King, an independent who caucuses with the Democrats. He said afterward that one of the primary sticking points is that under the GOP's proposed framework, Homeland Security could still use other agents to conduct ICE's enforcement operations.

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Transportation Security Administration officers continue to go without pay as a deal to fund the Department of Homeland Security remains elusive.

ANTRANIK TAVITIAN/REUTERS

Envoy: U.S. has sent 'action list' to Iran



First responders are seen at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a southern Lebanese village on March 26. An Israeli soldier was killed in fighting in south Lebanon on March 26, the military said. ABBAS FAKIH/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Pakistan says 'indirect' talks are taking place

USA TODAY

The Trump administration on March 26 confirmed for the first time that it has passed a 15-point "action list" to Iran through Pakistani officials to end the war.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff confirmed the diplomatic efforts at a Cabinet meeting, saying the initiative has "resulted in strong and positive messaging and talks."

"We will see where things lead, and if we can convince Iran that this is the inflection point with no good alternatives for them other than more death and destruction," Witkoff said. "We have strong signs that this is a possibility, and if a deal happens it would be great for the country of Iran, for the entire region and the world at large."

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A family member mourns over the coffin of Ahmed Al-Jubouri, a member of Iraq's Ministry of Defense who was killed in an aerial attack at the Habbaniyah military base, on March 26 in the southern city of Najaf, Iraq.

QASSEM AL-KAABI /AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

VENTURA COUNTY

Multiple reports of rattlesnake bites, 1 fatal

Cheri Carlson

Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ventura County authorities received at least two reports of people bitten by rattlesnakes in the Thousand Oaks area within a week and one person has died, officials said.

A Moorpark woman died on March 19 from a rattlesnake bite, according to the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office. Her cause of death was listed as rattlesnake venom toxicity. She was 46.

Local officials said rattlesnake bites do happen in the area but are far from common. Fatal bites are rare.

The medical examiner's office said a preliminary search identified no prior local deaths related to rattlesnake bites. The search, however, was limited to digitized records and older paper files may contain additional information.

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Moorpark student, parents detained by ICE, officials say

Tom Kiskan

Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Moorpark middle school student and the student's parents have been deported to Tijuana after being detained by federal immigration agents on March 23, school district officials said.

Daniel Wolowicz, spokesperson for the Moorpark Unified School District, said in a written statement the Moorpark family was detained during an appointment at a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in Camarillo.

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