



Food programs turning to contingency plans

NEWS, 3A

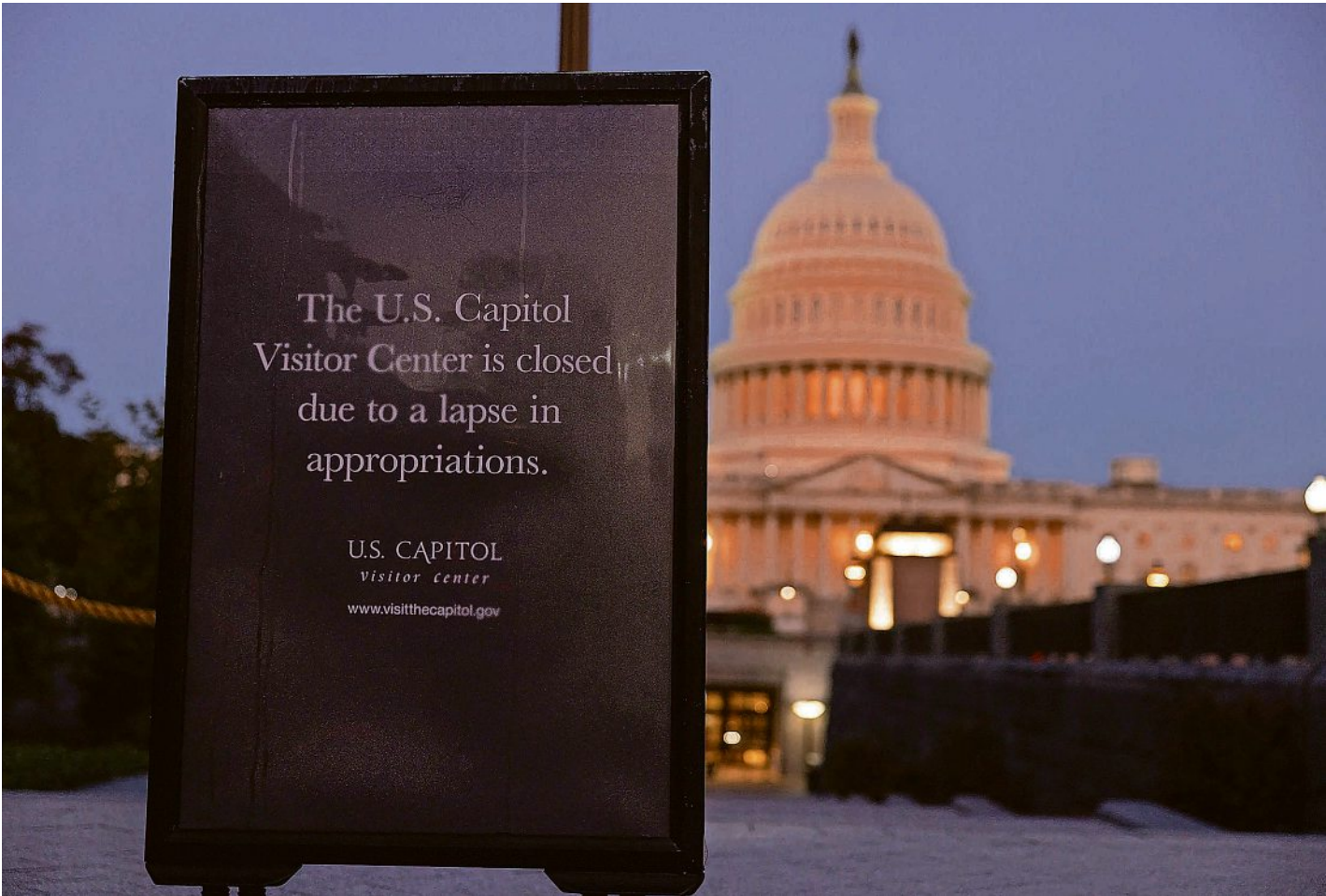
PANAMA CITY NEWS HERALD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025 | NEWSHERALD.COM

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ANALYSIS

U.S. lawmakers play blame game



Lawmakers have been focusing on blaming the opposition for failed negotiations that led the government to shut down. ANNA ROSE LAYDEN/REUTERS

Trump targeting jobs, grants through shutdown

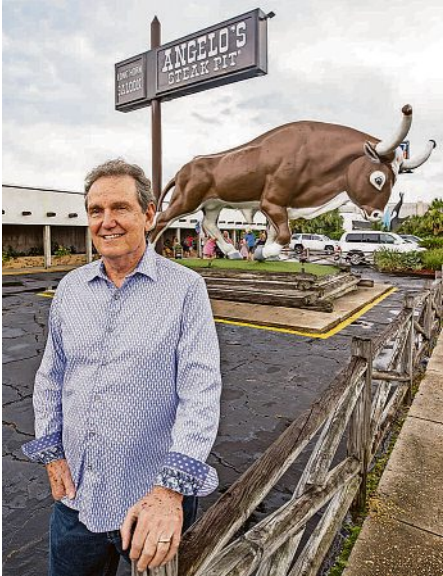
Susan Page
USA TODAY

And on the fifth day, nobody rested. Not that Washington was consumed on Oct. 5 with trying to reopen the federal government. The Sunday airwaves were afire instead with efforts to assign the blame. While budget showdowns have headed off this fiscal cliff before, this current version is the nuclear war of shutdowns – with more explosive impact on the government and more in-

tense incentives to keep it going. House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York called President Donald Trump’s tactics during the shutdown “outrageous” and “unhinged.” “The American people deserve better than lies, than attacks, than deep-fake videos and the president spending all of his time on the golf course,” he said on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” “We need serious leadership.” But House Speaker Mike Johnson replied that Democrats were responsible for empowering the administration to

cut federal jobs and freeze grants. “In a situation like this, where the Senate Democrats have decided to turn the keys to the kingdom over to the White House, they have to make tough decisions,” the Louisiana Republican told NBC. He said Russell Vought, director of the Office of Management and Budget, now has to “determine what are essential programs, policies, and personnel. That’s not a job that he relishes. But he’s being

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Gus Butchikas, owner of Angelo's Steak Pit in Panama City Beach, died Sept. 21 at age 80. MIKE FENDER/THE NEWS HERALD

Owner of Angelo's Steak Pit dies at 80

DeonTay Smith
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PANAMA CITY BEACH – Gus Butchikas, owner of Angelo's Steak Pit, has died at age 80. Gus Butchikas died on Sept. 21 at Lisenby Hospital in Panama City, according to his obituary. Gus' Father, Angelo Butchikas, founded Angelo's Steak Pit in 1954 at 711 W. Beach Drive. Previously, he had opened his first restaurant at 29 E. Fifth St. in downtown Panama City in 1951. In 1958, he built the current restaurant at 9527 Front Beach Road. After Angelo Butchikas died in 1963, he passed the restaurant to his four children. Gus Butchikas bought out his brother Chris' share of the business in 1989, making him the sole owner. Butchikas was known for his cooking and is credited with creating the restaurant's signature recipes.

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HCA Florida Gulf Coast to build new emergency room

Tyler Orsburn
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

HCA Florida Gulf Coast Hospital is making a \$25 million investment to improve emergency care for Bay County residents. Plans include building a brand-new emergency room in Callaway, while expanding their current facility on U.S. 231. Both sites are slated to open in late 2026. Callaway's location on the corner of 11th Street and Tyndall Parkway will create approximately 21 full-time positions, feature 12 emergency exam rooms, CT scan, general X-ray, on-site laboratory services, and be capable of caring for children, the press release

stated. The U.S. 231 locale, meanwhile, will add 4,900 square feet and eight additional treatment rooms, the release said. Hospital leaders say the upgrades are part of a long-term commitment to deliver high-quality, compassionate care to every patient. “At HCA Florida Gulf Coast Hospital, our mission is to care for our community,” Chase Christianson, chief executive officer of HCA Florida Gulf Coast Hospital, said in the release. “These investments in Callaway and Panama City reflect our commitment to meeting the healthcare needs of a rapidly growing region and ensuring that emergency care is close to home when seconds matter.”



Panama City's expanded HCA Florida Gulf Coast Hospital emergency room is seen in this image render. It is slated to open in late 2026. IMAGE PROVIDED BY HCA FLORIDA GULF COAST HOSPITAL

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