



Hayes: SEC must end cupcake games in November

SPORTS, 1B

NEWS HERALD

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025 | NEWSHERALD.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Timing uncertain for release of Epstein files



Jeffrey Epstein accusers Lisa Phillips, Jess Michaels and Annie Farmer react as Sky Roberts, brother of victim Virginia Giuffre, speaks during a news conference on the Epstein Files Transparency Act on Nov. 18 in Washington, DC. ANNABELLE GORDON/REUTERS

Law gives DOJ 30 days; some info can be withheld

James Powel and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump announced that he signed a bill on Nov. 19 that compels the Justice Department to release all files linked to the disgraced financier and indicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein. Trump made the announcement, claiming that the growing demand for transparency on Epstein's relationships with the rich and powerful, including the president himself, was the "latest Hoax" created by Democrats. He pointed to high-profile Democrats connected to Epstein, including former President Bill Clinton and former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers.

A pair of lawmakers, Reps. Ro Khanna, D-California, and Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky, championed the legislation as Trump's initial opposition to the bill

See FILES, Page 2A



Days before President Donald Trump called on House Republicans to vote to release the Jeffrey Epstein files, he ordered the Justice Department to launch an investigation into Democrats linked to Epstein. ROBERTO SCHMIDT/GETTY IMAGES

September jobs report released

Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

After a more than monthlong delay due to the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, the Bureau of Labor Statistics on Nov. 20 released its September jobs report. The report found U.S. employers added 119,000 jobs in September, surpassing expectations. The unemployment rate rose slightly from 4.3% to 4.4%. At the same time, job gains for July and August were revised down by 33,000, portraying an even weaker labor market than believed in late summer. Health care, a steady job engine in recent years, added 43,000 jobs in September. Food services and drinking places added 37,000, and the social assistance sector added 14,000. Transportation and warehousing lost 25,000 jobs, and federal government employment continued to decline in September, shedding another 3,000 after months of mass layoffs. There was little change to employment numbers in

"As data flow resumes, our understanding of the economy may need to adjust to reality, and so will financial markets."

Mark Hamrick
Bankrate senior economic analyst

other major industries, including construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, information, financial activities, professional and business services, other services and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. The report, originally due out Oct. 3, reflects what was happening before the shutdown began. The labor market may have changed since the data was

See JOBS REPORT, Page 2A

Poll asks how people would spend a \$2,000 tariff check

Nathan Cobb
Panama City News Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

PANAMA CITY – There seems to be a growing possibility that many Americans might soon receive a check from the U.S. government. With conversations circulating nationwide of a possible \$2,000 tariff dividend check for low- and middle-income U.S. citizens, the News Herald is taking a poll on how people would use the money if it actually hits their accounts.

What are the poll options?

Options in the News Herald poll on how people would use the money are: pay down debt, health insurance/medical, holiday presents, save/invest, plan a trip, housing, donate to charity, put toward a special occasion or education.

How long will the poll stay open?

The poll is slated to stay open until noon Nov. 26. It can be accessed by clicking on this story at newsherald.com. We will report back on the results.

More on the checks

According to reports from USA Today, President Donald Trump said in a Nov. 9 Truth Social post that "a dividend of at least \$2000 a person (not including high income people!) will be paid to everyone." The checks would be funded by revenue generated from tariffs implemented by the Trump Administration. Days after Trump's social media post, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Nov. 12 that "The White House is committed to making (the checks) happen," and that the administration is "currently exploring all legal options to get that done."

Gulf Coast State trustee elected to lead Florida's Council of Trustees

DeonTay Smith
Panama City News Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

PANAMA CITY – Bill Cramer, Gulf Coast State College trustee, was unanimously elected as the inaugural chair of the Florida College System Council of Trustees at the council's organizational meeting on Nov. 4. Cramer has decades of trustee leadership under his belt with 20 years of service on the GCSC District Board of Trustees. Cramer also served as chair of the

See TRUSTEE, Page 2A



Gulf Coast State College is pictured in Panama City on Oct. 18. TYLER ORSBURN/NEWS HERALD

