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In today's paper

SPORTS: Falcons will need a strong Penix-to-London connection this season. **Commentary, 1B**

Ledger-Enquirer

Local organization to receive \$300k to fight opioid crisis

BY KELBY HUTCHISON
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Georgia's two senators have announced a Columbus organization will receive a \$300,000 grant to help fight the opioid crisis.

Sen. Jon Ossoff and Sen. Raphael Warnock announced Thursday \$900,000 in federal funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration to three Georgia organizations, including the New Horizons Community Service Board in Columbus

"Like so many Georgians, I've lost friends to the opioid epidemic," Ossoff said in a news release.. "These resources, which I've secured with bipartisan support, will fund efforts to prevent and treat addiction, save lives, and help address the opioid crisis."

"As a pastor, I've sat with families as they've struggled with the anguish of a loved one suffering from addiction," Warnock said in the release. "So I understand how the opioid epidemic has devastated communities across the country and impacted countless families right

here in Georgia. That's why I fought alongside Senator Ossoff to secure these federal funds to give our healthcare and treatment agencies all the tools they need to combat this epidemic."

The Hospital Authority of Jenkins County and Medlink Georgia were awarded the other \$300,000 grants.

The federal funding will support a broad range of activities to address critical gaps in overdose prevention, treatment and recovery services for individuals struggling with opioid addiction, according to the release.



DANIEL DELOACH Utica Observer-Dispatch/USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) announces a new bill to reverse Republican Medicaid cuts outside of the Wynn Hospital in Utica, N.Y., on Aug. 14.

Schumer faces new test amid Democratic fury

BY ANDREW STANTON
Newsweek

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, will be facing a political test as Congress reconvenes and lawmakers start considering a new funding bill to avoid a government shutdown.

Newsweek reached out to Schumer's office for comment via email.

Democratic voters across the country have become increas-

ingly frustrated with what they view as a feeble response from congressional leaders to President Donald Trump's agenda amid his second term in office. Democrats in Congress lack a majority in the House and Senate, limiting their ability to block his agenda from passing, but voters have pushed for stronger action from elected officials.

Schumer faced a tsunami of Democratic backlash in March after he declined to block a Republican-led stopgap bill to avoid a government shutdown.

Schumer and eight other Democrats voted in favor of a procedural motion to allow debate on the bill but ultimately voted against its passage. That vote, however, allowed it to pass the filibuster and become law, Democratic critics say.

Congress has until October 1 to pass a series of bills to fund the government through fiscal year (FY) 2026. Republicans have slim majorities in both chambers — a 219-212 advantage in the House and a 53-47 advantage in the Senate — meaning any vote on the

package may again prove to be a tight vote.

This presents challenges for both parties — Republican leaders will have to appease both swing-district moderates and Make America Great Again (MAGA)-aligned conservatives.

However, Democrats like Schumer will also be facing a test as they seek to appease the Democratic voter base, while also working with Republicans to get some concessions in the bills.

In March, Democrats from across the spectrum expressed frustration with Schumer and other Democrats advancing the spending bill despite a lack of concessions made by Republicans to earn his support on the bill, which critics argued

SEE SCHUMER, 2A

Mueller's testimony on Epstein excused for medical reason

BY CHRIS BENSON
UPI.com

Former special counsel Robert Mueller will not testify this week before a congressional committee on the Jeffrey Epstein document saga due to Mueller's worsening health conditions related to Parkinson's disease.

The Republican-led House Oversight Committee on Sunday withdrew its official request for Mueller to give scheduled testimony on Tuesday as part of the committee's widened investigation into the court files of convicted sex-trafficker Epstein.

"We've learned that Mr. Mueller has health issues that preclude him from being able to testify," read a committee statement.

He was subpoenaed by Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer, R-Ky., relating to the now 81-year-old's former role leading the FBI's top brass.

Mueller's family told The New York Times the former FBI head was battling Parkinson's and that he would not be able to appear due to its growing effects.

"Bob was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the summer of 2021," his family told the Times in a statement.

They went on the say that Mueller retired from private law practice at the end of 2021 before teaching at his law school alma mater until his official retirement in the fall of 2022.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the nerve-damaging Parkinson's causes parts of the brain to weaken, "become damaged, and die, leading to symptoms that include problems with movement, tremor, stiffness," impaired balance, and difficulty talking and walking as symptoms progress.

Mueller, who served both Republican and Democratic presidents as FBI chief from 2001 to 2013, led the nearly two-year \$32 million investigation into claims of Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Meanwhile, the subcommittee approved the depositions of former U.S. President Bill Clinton and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Others also targeted for subpoenas include former FBI Director James Comey and former U.S. Attorneys General Eric Holder, Loretta Lynch, Albert Gonzales and Jeff Sessions.

On Sunday, Mueller's family asked that "his privacy be respected."

Popular local Mexican restaurant announces sudden closure

BY JORDYN PAUL-SLATER
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Pure Taqueria, 8186 Veterans Parkway in Columbus, will be open for only one more week, the Mexican restaurant announced on its Facebook

page. "The final days of Pure Columbus are here - Come visit us one last time before we close our doors on September 7," the post says. "With love, the Pure Taqueria team."

Many customers flooded the comments with their reactions,

expressing sadness and confusion about the news.

One commenter, Janmaine Fessler, wrote: "Nooooo, my favorite restaurant in Columbus."

Another commenter, Todd Baggett, wrote: "Rip to the best margaritas I've had in Colum-

bus so far!"

Pure Taqueria opened its first location in 2005 at the site of a 1920s-era Pure Fuel Oil station in Alpharetta, Georgia, according to their website. The Columbus location is one of the restaurant's seven in Georgia.

Representatives at Pure Taqueria did not respond to the Ledger-Enquirer's request for comment before publication.



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