



Chaos ensues, new No. 1 rises as Lions, Bills lose

SPORTS, 1B

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SOLVING THE WORLD’S MICROPLASTICS PROBLEM

‘CHEMICAL OF CONCERN’



Some microplastics are deliberately manufactured to be small, like confetti released at celebrations. Some cities, such as Boca Raton, Florida, have restricted plastic confetti. PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

4 solutions cities and states are trying after global treaty talks collapsed

Sarah J. Morath
Wake Forest University | THE CONVERSATION

Microplastics seem to be everywhere – in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat.

They have turned up in human organs, blood, testicles, placentas and even brains.

While the full health consequences of that exposure are not yet known, researchers are exploring potential links between microplastics and negative health effects, such as male infertility, inflammation, liver disease and other metabolic problems, and heart attack or stroke.

Countries have tried for the past few years to write a global plastics treaty that

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Microplastics are a daunting challenge: They come from many sources, are hard to clean up once released, and pose risks to our health and the environment.

While the full health consequences of that exposure are not yet known, researchers are exploring potential links between microplastics and negative health effects, such as male infertility, inflammation, liver disease and other metabolic problems, and heart attack or stroke.

Path out of shutdown uncertain

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – There’s no clear way out of the seemingly intractable government shutdown, now in its third week. The Senate has struck down the same budget bills more than half a dozen times. Another vote on a Republican funding measure failed on Oct. 14.

But at some point, a number of variables could start to change the equation, possibly creating a path for enough votes to reopen the government.

Here are key things to watch for – signs of whether the shutdown ends soon, or, as House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, has warned, becomes “one of the longest in American history.”

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Free flu shots and screenings offered at health clinic

Abreanna Blose
AI-assisted reporter | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Henry County Health Department, First Choice Healthcare, and Kewanee Public Library will hold a Fall Health Check Clinic on Oct. 22.

The event will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Kewanee Public Library, 102 N. Tremont St., Kewanee, according to a community announcement.

The clinic is open to adults 18 and older. Free flu shots will be available for those with Medicare or insurance coverage. Participants must bring their Medicare or insurance card to receive the no-cost shot. For those paying cash, the flu shot will cost \$60.

According to the announcement, the health department encourages everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated against the flu this year. Individuals at high risk of serious flu complications, such as young children, pregnant individuals, people with chronic health conditions, smokers, health care workers and those 65 and older, are especially urged to get vaccinated.

In addition to flu shots, the clinic will offer free health screenings, including blood pressure checks, vital signs and blood glucose screenings. Attendees also can access various health information and receive free giveaways.

This story was created by reporter Abreanna Blose, ablose@gannett.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

Trick-or-Tractor Halloween event hosted by Heritage Tractor

Abreanna Blose
AI-assisted reporter | USA TODAY NETWORK

Heritage Tractor will host a Halloween Howl event at all locations on Oct. 25.

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to noon and is open to the community, according to a community announcement.

Participants are encouraged to dress in costumes and visit their local Heritage Tractor location for a morning of Halloween-themed activities.

The event, called Trick-or-Tractor, will feature a costume contest with a chance to win a prize, sweet treats and a photo station. Heritage Tractor will give away a free John Deere toy tractor to kids in costume, while supplies last.

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The main sticking point in the government shutdown is a party-line disagreement over how to address the expiration of health insurance subsidies at the end of the year. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

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