

Budget-friendly bath updates without remodeling

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IWU-Chicago clash emotional and action-packed

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HOLIDAY HELP

‘FELLOWSHIP, GOOD FOOD’



Local residents collect food items during a Thanksgiving food giveaway Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church.

CLAY JACKSON PHOTOS, THE PANTAGRAPH

Mt. Pisgah, Pantagraph Goodfellow Fund provide Thanksgiving fare

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BLOOMINGTON — With each November comes Thanksgiving, and every year it brings family and friends together to share in the spirit of gratitude and thankfulness to one another.

While the holiday can also mean a spread of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, and the rest on the dinner table, this year has proven more difficult as families grapple with inflation and delays in the federal food assistance.

“People have kids and everything else to worry about; they probably can’t afford a turkey, ham or anything like that for the season,” Bloomington resident Aretrice Caldwell said Wednesday. “It’s not just food that went up; everything else, like utilities and taxes, has gone up.”

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Volunteer Thomas Johnson picks up a turkey during a Thanksgiving food giveaway Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church.

US ECONOMY

Experts: Job data solid but troubling

119K added in September; unemployment up to 4.4%

PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers added a surprisingly solid 119,000 jobs in September, the government said Thursday, issuing a key economic report that was delayed for seven weeks by the federal government shutdown.

The increase in payrolls was more than double the 50,000 economists had forecast.

Yet there were some troubling details in the delayed report.

Labor Department revisions showed the economy lost 4,000 jobs in August instead of gaining 22,000 as originally reported. Revisions shaved 33,000 jobs off July and August payrolls. The economy shed jobs in June, the first time since the 2020 pandemic that the monthly jobs report has gone negative twice.

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ILLINOIS

University enrollment growing

PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Enrollment at public universities in Illinois grew to a 10-year high of 189,791 students, a 2.3% increase over last year, according to figures released by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

The numbers were driven mainly by growth in undergraduate enrollment, particularly among incoming freshmen, which was up 6.8% from the previous year. They also reflect large increases in underrepresented student populations including Black student enrollment, which was up 9.7%, and Latino enrollment, which grew 8.3%.

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