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The Herald-Times

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Shutdown impact on food bank not known



Julio Alonso, executive director of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, carries boxes of food for distribution during the June 11, 2021, Fresh Friday event in Bloomington. RICH JANZARUK/HERALD-TIMES

Carol Kugler
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

This story has been updated because an earlier version included an inaccuracy.

Providing food for Hoosiers in six south-central Indiana counties keeps Julio Alonso, director of Hoosier Hills

Food Bank, busy but lately it's been more difficult.

The federal government shutdown, which began on Oct. 1, is the latest event that's added to the potential decrease in funds and food.

"It's really kind of early to tell what the impacts are going to be," Alonso said on Friday, Oct. 3.

On Monday, Oct. 6, there were still no

sign of Congress ending the shutdown.

"The question is how long is this going to be," Alonso said. "The longer it goes, the more of a problem it's going to be for agencies like ours and the people we serve. There are so many people out there that are already living on the margins."

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Food service plant to close next month

200 jobs will be eliminated

Boris Ladwig
The Herald-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A South Bend-based food distribution business with decades-old operations in Bloomington and ties to local entrepreneur Charles Beasley is shutting down and eliminating 200 jobs.

Filings with the state indicate that Raydia Food Group plans to close the Bloomington plant, at 4863 W. Vernal Pike, on Nov. 26, along with plants in Mishawaka and South Bend.

The plants combined employed 200, but a breakdown wasn't immediately available. Pam Zarazee, the company's vice president of human resources, did not reply to a voicemail.

State filings show the South Bend operations employed at least 135, while the Bloomington plant employed at least 35.

Some of the Bloomington employees were represented by the Teamsters union in Indianapolis, but the local president was traveling and not available for an interview.

Jerod Warnock, vice president of Teamsters Local 364, which represented some of the South Bend workers, said some of the workers had left their jobs already, though about 20 remained on the job in South Bend as of late last week to load and unload trucks as well as drive products to local customers.

Warnock said the business primarily delivered food supplies to smaller grocery stores and restaurants as well as some institutional clients such as

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Peace deal with Israel hailed, but details still murky

James Powel, Francesca Chambers and Kim Hjelmgaard
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump announced Oct. 8 that Israel and Hamas have agreed to implement the first phase of a peace deal aimed at ending the two-year conflict in the Gaza Strip.

"This is a GREAT Day for the Arab and Muslim World, Israel, all surrounding Nations, and the United States of America," Trump said in a Truth Social post.

Leaders from Israel, Hamas and mediator Qatar subsequently confirmed the deal.

"An agreement was reached on all the provisions and implementation mechanisms of the first phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, which will lead to ending the war, the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of aid," Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Majed al-Ansari wrote on X.

The agreement comes after multiple failed attempts to defuse the 2-year-old war that began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas militants attacked Israel and killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people hostage.

Israel's response to the attack has drawn criticism worldwide, including a United Nations report issued in September that concluded Israel committed genocide in Gaza. Israel's military campaign in response has killed more than 66,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Al-Ansari wrote on X that details of the deal would be announced at a later date.

The first phase of Trump's plan called for the release of Israeli hostages within 72 hours in exchange for Palestinians jailed in Israel.

Once every hostage has been released, Trump's plan said Hamas

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Palestinian children celebrate Oct. 9 at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, after President Donald Trump announced that Israel and Hamas agreed on the first phase of a Gaza ceasefire. DAWOUD ABU ALKAS/REUTERS

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