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Shutdown could hurt government services like WIC, SNAP

WHITNEY DOWARD AND CASEY SMITH
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

In the coming days, a food aid program that helps millions of mothers and young children will likely run out of money. States like Indiana must use their own dollars to keep funds flowing to families or let it lapse, a move that could cut benefits for the 157,000 Hoosiers who rely on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC.

But the Indiana Department of Health declined to share specifics about how WIC would operate in the state, saying that “funds have been identified to keep WIC operating as normal for the foreseeable future.”

“IDOH continues to monitor the situation, and WIC is operating as normal,” said Greta Sanderson, the chief communications officer for the agency.

But advocates warn of the potential impacts to Hoosier mothers — including those who are pregnant — and children relying on government services like WIC if such funds ran out.

“It’s providing nutrition to a population where nutrition is critical for development,” said Emily Weikert Bryant, the executive director of Feeding Indiana’s Hungry. “... no matter what, our member food banks will continue to be there for communities and for our neighbors who are in need of food assistance.”

Bryant said other food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, appeared to have steady funding in the coming weeks alongside WIC. However, SNAP is reportedly also running out of money even as the Trump administration explores using tariff revenue to fund WIC.

In a preliminary estimate on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s website, 156,752 Hoosiers received benefits from WIC in May 2025, the latest data available. Of those, more than half — 87,000, or 56% — were children while infants and mothers each made up 22% of Indiana’s total, or roughly 35,000.

Between October 1, 2024 — the beginning of the federal fiscal year — and May, the federal government allotted nearly \$80 million to Indiana’s WIC program, \$24 million of which went to administrative costs.

Some states are reportedly chipping in their own funds to keep the program running, including

See **SHUTDOWN** on A2

KOKOMO SON HONORED



Photos by Spencer Durham | Kokomo Tribune

Family of former professional baseball pitcher Tom Underwood reveal a new street sign, “Tom Underwood Boulevard,” on Saturday at Highland Park. Underwood pitched 11 seasons in Major League Baseball.

City honors former MLB pitcher Tom Underwood with street renaming

SPENCER DURHAM
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

The Philadelphia Phillies had Tom Underwood slated as its fifth-round draft pick in 1972.

The Kokomo kid had impressed plenty during his years with the Wildkats and the Post 6 American Legion team.

However, Underwood didn’t have his best game when a team scout saw him pitch. Underwood still got the win, but it wasn’t the dominant performance one would have liked in front of a Major League Baseball scout.

Still, Underwood left an impression and shot up the Phillies draft board.

“It just goes to show, that when I don’t have my best stuff, I find a way to win,” Underwood told the scout.

That comment led the Phillies to take Underwood in the second round.



Family of Tom Underwood traveled from Columbus, Ohio, and West Palm Beach, Florida, for Saturday’s ceremony on Highland Park.

It was one of the stories Underwood’s younger brother Pat told last Saturday afternoon during a ceremony in Highland Park where the city unveiled an honorary street sign renaming part of Stadium Drive to Tom Underwood Boulevard.

Friends and family attended the

unveiling for the late Underwood who spent 11 seasons pitching for the multiple teams including the Phillies, Toronto Blue Jays and New York Yankees.

“We are honoring one of Kokomo’s favorite sons,” said Ray Collins, city council president.

Underwood’s family, including children, grandchildren and his wife Christina Morra, a former professional golfer, made the trip from Columbus, Ohio, and West Palm Beach, Florida.

“He’d think it’s pretty cool,” said Underwood’s daughter, Dani Bennett.

Bennett said growing up with a father who was a professional ball player had some perks — like meeting MLB players and all the best youth players wanting to be on the teams Underwood coached.

“He was so humble, you wouldn’t

See **STREET** on A2

Two-vehicle crash closes roadway and injures four

STAFF REPORTS

One man suffered life-threatening injuries in a collision Sunday night at the intersection of U.S. 35 and Delaware Road in Cass County.

Cass Central Dispatch received a 911 call for a crash at the intersection involving two vehicles shortly before 8:30 p.m. Occupants in both vehicles were entrapped when responders arrived.

According to a press release from the Cass County Sheriff’s Office, Michael Acosta, 24, of Logansport, was driving a 2018 Nissan passenger car westbound on Delaware Road when the vehicle failed to stop at a stop sign at U.S. 35.

As a result, the Nissan was then struck by a 1995 Chevrolet truck traveling northbound on U.S. 35. The truck was driven by Catherine Gruszczczyk, 36, of Royal Center, with passengers Timothy Johns, 39, and a 3-month-old infant.

Cass County Fire District No. 1 and Logansport Fire extricated occupants from both vehicles that had rolled over after impact. Acosta was transported to Parkview Logansport by Cass EMS and then later flown by Samaritan helicopter to Parkview Fort Wayne with life-threatening injuries. He was not restrained at the time of the crash, according to the press release.

Gruszczczyk and her passengers were taken to Parkview Logansport by Cass County EMS for non-life-threatening injuries. All occupants were wearing restraints at the time of the crash.

The roadway was closed for about two hours while crash reconstructionists from the Cass County Sheriff’s Office and Logansport Police Department investigated the crash.

Cass County Sheriff’s Deputy Bryce Hamilton led the investigation. The crash is still under investigation pending toxicology reports.

WEATHER



Partly cloudy.
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Full forecast on A3.

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