



U-M STILL UNBEATEN

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HOCKEY TEAM IMPROVED TO 7-0 FOLLOWING A 4-0 WIN OVER NO. 2-RANKED WESTERN MICHIGAN THURSDAY AT YOST ICE ARENA. B1

WASHINGTON

Millions may lose food stamp benefits if the shutdown continues



A sign at a store in Syracuse, New York, tells customers it takes food stamps, or what are now called SNAP. Post-Standard file

States including N.Y., N.J. and Pennsylvania have issued warnings in recent days.

Kelly Kasulis Cho Washington Post

Millions of Americans are at risk of losing food stamp benefits before the end of this month if the government shutdown continues, officials in several states have warned, signaling further financial stress for lower-income families facing slashed federal food program budgets and rising food costs. Officials from several state offices and agencies — including those in New Jersey, Texas, Illinois, Oklahoma, California, Pennsylvania, New York, Missouri and Minnesota — have issued the alerts in recent days that people may lose benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, by November due to an inability to access federal funds. Instituted in 1939, SNAP provides food assistance to lower-income families to supplement their grocery budget to maintain adequate nutrition and health. First distributed as food stamps, it changed to a debit card-like system years ago. Some states have said November SNAP benefits will be disrupted or not issued at all if the shutdown continues past Oct. 27. Others — including Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Illinois — have outright said November benefits would not be paid. “You’re talking about millions and millions of vulnerable families — of hungry families — that are not going to have access to these programs because of this shut-

SNAP NUMBERS
42 MILLION
people receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. That’s 12.3% of U.S. residents.
\$332
That’s the average benefit per month per household, or \$177 per person.
LESS THAN \$6 PER DAY
That’s how much the average SNAP recipient would get.
Sources: USDA, Washington Post

down,” U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said last week. SNAP benefits are fully funded by the federal government, though the GOP’s One Big Beautiful Bill laid out a plan for some states to begin sharing a portion of the costs starting in the 2028 fiscal year. The move sparked widespread criticism from Democrats and advocacy groups. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projected that it would decrease household resources for lower-income families. The bill’s passing in July marked the largest cut to the U.S. safety net in decades. Under SNAP, supplemental funds for food and groceries are distributed through an Electronic Benefits Transfer — or EBT — card each month. The amount allotted depends largely on household income, and all eligible recipients have to meet a certain low-income threshold informed by federal poverty guidelines.

‘DEVASTATING IMPACT’
More than 42 million people receive SNAP benefits, according to government data from August. In 2024, 12.3% of U.S. residents received them. SNAP benefits are unlikely to cover a household’s entire monthly food budget, though they certainly make a difference for lower-income families. The average SNAP benefit in Fiscal Year 2023 was around \$332 a month per household, or \$177 per person, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service said this year. For an average SNAP recipient, that is less than \$6 in food assistance per day. “SNAP is the largest and most effective hunger prevention program in the country,” said Barbara C. Guinn, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance commissioner. “To permit monthly benefits to halt would be unprecedented and have an immediate and devastating impact,” Guinn said.

ISING FOOD COSTS
Food prices in the United States have been rising faster than the pace of overall inflation, whether at the supermarket or in restaurants, according to the consumer price index released by the USDA Economic Research Service. “In 2025, overall food prices are anticipated to rise faster than the historical average rate of growth,” the CPI projected in September. The CPI for all food increased 0.4% from July to August 2025, and food prices in August 2025 were 3.2% higher than in August 2024. Food insecurity in the country has also been on the rise.

IMMIGRATION

Pardoned refugee in ICE detention could still get deported

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer granted a pardon to a Hmong refugee who has lived in the United States for 46 years.

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LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer this week pardoned Lue Yang, a Hmong refugee who was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement over a decades-old conviction that had been expunged from his record. Despite that, Yang, who was born stateless in a Thailand refugee camp and has lived in the United States since he was a baby, could still be deported to Laos, a country he’s never known. Yang, a married father of six and Hmong community leader in Clinton County, was put on an ICE flight Wednesday evening that was scheduled to leave for Laos, according to his family and immigration advocates. “My family and I need Lue to return home where he belongs. This pardon shows the power of humanity and community,” said his wife, Ann Vue. “So many people stood with us, checked in on us, and refused to allow us to give up. We applaud and thank Gov. Whitmer for her courage in granting Lue this pardon. Now we demand ICE and DHS to bring Lue home to Michigan.” ICE did not respond to a request for comment. Yang was barely a year old when his family legally moved to the United States in 1979. As Hmong refugees, they were fleeing persecution from a communist government in Laos, their home country in Southeast Asia. His father, alongside others of the Hmong ethnic group, helped the United States military wage a “secret war” during the Vietnam War era. In 1997, Yang was arrested for an attempted home invasion. He took a plea deal and served 10 months in prison. **SEE IMMIGRATION, A3**



Lue Yang is a father of six and Hmong community leader in Clinton County. He has lived in the United States since he was a baby. Submitted by the Yang family

GOP lawmakers push to reject new health ed standards

Gender identity and sexual orientation details criticized.

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LANSING — Republican state lawmakers are continuing a push against health education standards for Michigan schools after newly included gender identity and sexual orientation details drew criticism from some parents. Several Republican members of the state House announced the introduction of a resolution on Thursday asking the Michigan Department of Education and State Board of Education to reject the proposed standards. “Parents, not bureaucrats, have the fundamental right to direct the moral and

educational upbringing of their children,” state Rep. Gina Johnsen, R-Portland, said Thursday. The GOP move comes just days before a public hearing on the standards, set for Tuesday, before the House Oversight Subcommittee on Child Welfare. First presented to the state board in September, an initial public input period ended Oct. 10 for the drafted revamp of the “Michigan Health Education Standards Framework.” The update tackles everything from recognizing abuse and safety in sexual health to reducing the risk of disease and pregnancy. But what Johnsen referred to as a call

for “accountability, parental rights and the rule of law,” some school board Democrats last week said came from misinformation about the role the Education Department’s health education guidelines play in local schools. Members rejected another opposition resolution from Nikki Snyder, one of two Republicans on the state school board, at its Oct. 14 meeting despite a long list of parents and officials who spoke up with concerns. The chief concern, they said, was their right to keep gender and orientation discussions at home. **SEE EDUCATION, A3**

