



A ROUGH DEFEAT

BUFFALO BILLS QUARTERBACK JOSH ALLEN ACCOUNTED FOR FIVE TOUCHDOWNS IN A 41-31 VICTORY OVER THE DETROIT LIONS THURSDAY NIGHT AT HIGHMARK STADIUM. **G1**

WASHINGTON

How to avoid a Social Security cut? Lawmakers are floating ideas.



Advance Local; Shutterstock

Two senators who are set to retire have embarked on a mission to save benefits.

Kevin Freking Associated Press

With the few months they have left as senators, Democrat Dick Durbin and Republican Bill Cassidy have embarked on a mission to save tens of millions of Social Security beneficiaries from a projected 22% cut in their benefits, starting in just six years. It is one of the most perilous political efforts that a member of Congress can undertake, so it is telling that the push is being led by two lawmakers who have little to lose at this stage of their careers. “We’ve been at this six years, eight years. It’s incredible how long I’ve been at it,” Cassidy said. “But Durbin came up to me and he goes, ‘Bill, I’m leaving the Senate soon. We need to take a ride at it.’” Their idea to extend Social Security’s solvency is one of a few that have been formally offered this Congress. None has gained much traction, but it’s a start as more lawmakers weigh in on a problem that will likely confront the senators elected this fall as well as the next president. Pressure for action is sure to grow as 2032 draws closer. The measure that Durbin, D-Ill., and Cassidy, R-La., are pushing would not dictate



Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., speaks with reporters at the U.S. Capitol. Getty Images

an outcome, but instead set up a process for Congress to take action. It calls for the bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board to collect public input and submit draft legislation to Congress that would keep the program’s retirement trust fund solvent for at least 50 years. The resulting bill would then be introduced by the majority leaders of the Senate and House. If they do not want to go along, any member could sponsor the bill. It would then be referred to the two committees with

jurisdiction over Social Security — the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. Both committees would have the chance to debate the bill and amend it if they wish. If not, the original bill drafted by the advisory board would be placed on the Senate and House calendars for consideration. Lawmakers could offer substitute proposals, with final votes after 100 hours of debate. Passage would require a three-fifths vote in the 100-member Senate and a simple majority in the 435-member House. Even though the bill does not prescribe a solution for replenishing Social Security, sponsors have struggled to win support. Cassidy voiced exasperation in a recent floor speech. “For some people, the time to do Social is never,” Cassidy said. “Don’t disturb Congress. They don’t want to take a tough vote. Even if that vote only sets up a process.” AARP has come out against the bill, saying that the effort amounts to “fast-tracking” Social Security changes through a process that limits what type of amendments are offered and sets arbitrary procedural deadlines. Separately, Cassidy has a proposal with Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., that calls for the creation of a \$1.5 trillion fund that would be invested in stocks and other higher-risk assets over 75 years. **SEE BENEFITS, A3**

MICHIGAN PLANE CRASH

Neighborhood becomes an evacuation zone after F-16 crash

Witnesses heard explosions, saw black smoke and watched emergency crews swarm after the military jet went down.

Garret Ellison and Sheri McWhirter MLive.com

GRAWN — Nadiia Bayley was vacuuming inside her Grand Traverse County home Thursday when the explosions started. The home sits along County Road 633, not far from the site where a Texas Air National Guard F-16 crashed in Blair Township, south of Traverse City, about 2 p.m. Thursday. “I just rushed home because I didn’t know what was going on,” said her husband, Zachary Bayley, who could see a huge plume of black smoke rising in the distance. “It was in the direction of my house — and she’s panicking, calling, saying things are exploding.” Bayley raced home past police and emergency crews swarming the area as the fighter jet crash transformed a quiet section of Blair Township into an emergency zone, sending residents fleeing their homes and drawing firefighters, sheriff’s deputies, state police and military responders. Authorities first ordered people to shelter indoors, then evacuated homes within a mile radius. The evacuation order was lifted at 9:45 p.m. after about six hours. Munson Medical Center in Traverse City said some first responders and residents were exposed to a hazardous jet chemical called hydrazine, which can cause breathing issues. “As a result, Munson Medical Center has become the local decontamination site, utilizing an outdoor treatment area to evaluate and decontaminate individuals,” the hospital said. **SEE MICHIGAN PLANE CRASH, A3**



A Texas Air National Guard F-16 fighter jet crashed Thursday in a Blair Township neighborhood near Traverse City. Submitted by Thomas Fabatz

Advice, M1 Classified, C3 Comics, K1 Sports, G1 Weather, A2 News: mlive.com/news Sports: mlive.com/sports 189th year. No. 186 © The Jackson Citizen Patriot Feedback: comments@mlive.com



JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT ONLINE

Move & win

Your daily newspaper is moving online.

Switch your subscription to the online newspaper by Oct.10 and save up to 40% off your current rate, and be automatically entered to **WIN 1 of 25 Apple iPads***

*For complete rules: advancelocalsweepstakes.com/mi

Make the move by calling us at (517) 768-4830