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BUSINESS, 4A

Sturgis Journal

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025 | STURGISJOURNAL.COM

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ANALYSIS

How shutdown could influence voters

ACA lapse may spell disaster for Republicans

Susan Page
USA TODAY

What will voters remember next November?
President Donald Trump claimed total victory in the deal that ends the record-breaking 43-day shutdown of the federal government, and Democrats are directing their fire at one another over the compromise that some

senators struck without achieving their avowed goal of helping on health care costs.
But almost precisely one year from today, when crucial midterm elections are held, history says the shutdown will be old news while the costs of health care will still be front and center.
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Patients, medical workers and caregivers protest health care cuts. Democrats' wish to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies was a major reason for the lengthy government shutdown.
SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS FILE

Fifteen years later



John Skelton of Morenci — whose three sons vanished around Thanksgiving 2010 — has been charged with three counts of open murder just weeks before his scheduled release from prison. USA TODAY NETWORK FILE PHOTO

John Skelton charged with murder of three sons

Corey J. Murray
The Daily Telegram
USA TODAY NETWORK

John Skelton of Morenci — whose three sons vanished around Thanksgiving 2010 — has been charged with three counts of open murder just weeks before his scheduled release from prison, where he's served nearly 15 years for unlawful imprisonment in connection with his children's disappearances.
Instead of being released from prison Nov. 29, Skelton will be transported to the Lenawee County Jail and booked on charges of open murder, which leaves a jury to decide whether Skelton is guilty of first or second-degree murder if convicted, and three counts of tampering with evidence.

Skelton will be arraigned in Lenawee County District Court.
The brothers — Andrew, Alexander and Tanner (9, 7 and 5) — were last seen at Skelton's home in Morenci on Thanksgiving Day 2010.
Their mother, Tanya Zuvers, had sole custody, but allowed the brothers to spend the holiday with their father. She never saw them again.
In the years since, Skelton has offered conflicting accounts, claiming he gave his sons to an underground group to protect them from alleged abuse by their mother, that he'd given them to a woman named Joann Taylor and, separately, that he'd sent them to live with an Amish family. None of those stories were ever substantiated.
Skelton was convicted on three counts of unlawful imprisonment in

2011, but authorities lacked physical evidence to charge him with murder. In 2023, the Michigan Parole Board permanently denied his parole, citing public safety concerns and a lack of cooperation.
MSP detectives never ceased their investigation, searching fields and wooded areas within 30 minutes of Morenci as recently as 2025.
The brothers were declared legally dead in March.
At the time, Judge Catherine Sala said — while investigators believe Skelton killed his sons — evidence remains insufficient to legally declare murder.
Contact reporter Corey Murray at cmurray@lenconnect.com or follow him on X, formerly Twitter, at @cmurrayhdn.

Giant U.S. flag gets scrutiny in Coldwater

Don Reid
Coldwater Daily Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

COLDWATER — The giant 40-by-80-foot American flag flying along N. Wil-lowbrook Road on a 130-foot pole drew the attention and a violation notice from the city.
Coldwater Planning and Zoning Director Robert Hawley said Thursday, Nov. 13, he was aware of the flag and issued a notice of violation of the zoning ordinance to Camping World.
The giant 100-pound flag went up last month.
The flag first came before the Coldwater Planning Commission in October 2017, when then-Planning Director Dean Walrack asked the commission how to handle a request from an unnamed company seeking to erect a giant flag at the location.

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The city of Coldwater noticed Camping World after it erected a giant 80-by-40-foot American flag without a permit. It may have violated city ordinances. DON REID/COLDWATER REPORTER

