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JUDGE ORDERS FULL SNAP PAYMENTS: 'PEOPLE WILL GO HUNGRY,' HE SAYS, CHIDING TRUMP'S USDA. **A2**

The Minnesota Star Tribune

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025 H: 46° L: 31° | RAINY; FLURRIES SUNDAY?

U.S. layoffs reach levels typical of recessions

Recent spate at major companies such as UPS, Amazon and Target adds to concern about labor market slowdown.

By ABHA BHATTARAI
The Washington Post

Layoffs accelerated in October, pushing 2025 job cuts to levels typically seen in recessions, according to newly released data from Challenger, Gray & Christmas, a private firm that tracks workplace reductions.

U.S. employers have announced 1.1 million layoffs so far this year – the largest reading since the pandemic recession and on par with 2008 and 2009 job cuts during the Great Recession, the firm's figures show. The data includes a recent spate of layoffs at major companies such as UPS, Amazon and Target, and adds to growing concern about a labor market slowdown.

Employers cited cost-cutting and artificial intelligence as the top two reasons for job reductions in October.

"We're entering new territory with these layoffs in October," said John Challenger, CEO of the consulting firm that tracks job losses. "We haven't seen mega-layoffs of the size that are being discussed now – 48,000 from UPS, potentially 30,000 from Amazon – since 2020 and before that, since the recession of 2009. When you see companies making cuts of this size, it does signal a real shift in direction." (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns the Washington Post.)

Recent layoffs, the data shows, have been concentrated in technology, retail, service and warehousing jobs. Employers announced more than 153,000 job cuts last month, a 183% increase from the month before, marking the worst October for layoffs since 2003, the Challenger report said.

The government shutdown,

SEE LAYOFFS ON A4 »

Musk, the first trillionaire?
Tesla shareholders approve a huge pay package for CEO. **D1**

Fairview may leave UHC's network

Impasse could prevent 125K from scheduling doctor appointments.

By CHRISTOPHER SNOWBECK
The Minnesota Star Tribune

In the second public contract impasse in a month's time, Fairview Health Services says it might leave UnitedHealthcare's commercial network next year, which would affect tens of thousands of people who get health insurance through their employers.

The latest dispute would prevent about 125,000 patients with employer-sponsored coverage from scheduling appointments with their M Health Fairview doctors beginning in January, according to a disclosure provided to the Minnesota Star Tribune.

The public fight is distinct from the now-resolved contract impasse between the prominent health system and the nation's largest health insurer over Medicare Advantage patients.

Fairview says it will start mailing letters early next week alerting patients to the possible insurance disruption.

The health system says UnitedHealthcare's payment rates over the past five years have not kept pace with Fairview's cost pressures from inflation, worker shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic. The insurer's contract demands would force service cuts and limit access for patients, Fairview says, while adding layers of administrative complexity that delay or deny payment for medically necessary care.

Eden Prairie-based UnitedHealthcare says Fairview is demanding a 23% price hike that would boost overall costs, delivering a financial blow to employers and workers. Twelve employers would see their costs increase by $1 million or more each, UnitedHealthcare says, arguing that Fairview's price hikes would make it significantly more expensive than other health systems in the Twin Cities.

Fairview said its proposed 23% increase would be spread across three years.

Contract disputes between health insurers and providers over network terms have been growing in recent years, said Citseko Staples Miller, a managing

SEE HEALTH ON A10 »

FAA reduces flights, including at MSP

SETH WENIG • The Associated Press
Newark (N.J.) International Airport, with the New York City skyline in the background Thursday, is among the 40 U.S. airports facing cuts.

Agency says cuts will aid fatigued air traffic controllers amid shutdown.

By BILL LUKITSCH
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is among the 40 airports nationally slated to see air traffic reductions because of the ongoing federal government shutdown, a move that analysts predict will cause wide disruptions.

As the government works to cut 10% of air traffic at the 40 airports starting Friday, Delta Air Lines is preparing to scale back operations at MSP to align with the new safety directive tied to the shutdown.

On Friday, Delta, which runs 5,000 departures per day, is canceling approximately 170 flights across its network. Saturday's cancellations are expected to be fewer because of less travel demand.

The airline is canceling flights a day in advance to avoid customers finding out at the airport.

Following suit with other major airlines, Delta said Thursday it would work with customers to minimize impact and said the "vast majority" of its flights, including international, would operate as scheduled across its network, including its major hub at MSP.

The airport's dominant airline is offering customers the opportunity to change or cancel for free any flight affected by the mandate.

As of Thursday afternoon, the flight-tracking website FlightAware counted 17 canceled flights, including 12 for Delta and its wholly owned subsidiary Endeavor Air. Flight cancellations were affecting inbound and outbound traffic connecting with Duluth; Minot, N.D.; Green Bay, Wis.;

SEE FLY ON A10 »

JEFF CHIU • The Associated Press
Travelers at a security checkpoint Thursday at San Francisco International Airport, one of 40 U.S. airports facing flight cuts.

Cancellations grow
Airlines begin canceling hundreds of flights at the nation's busiest airports, which will disrupt travel at smaller airports too. **A10**

ELECTION 2025

Why did Mpls. trail in race to tabulate?

In similar mayoral elections, St. Paul knew its winner much sooner.

By GRETA KAUL
The Minnesota Star Tribune

St. Paul voters knew that state Rep. Kaohly Her was their new mayor around midnight, just hours after the polls closed.

Minneapolis voters had to wait another 12 hours before the city announced Mayor Jacob Frey had won a third term midday Wednesday.

Both cities use ranked-choice voting, which lets voters rank their preferences and – unless one candidate wins a majority of first-choice votes – requires election administrators to reallocate votes from additional rounds.

That happened in both cities this week. So what accounts for the seemingly long wait for results in Minneapolis?

Turns out, even in elections under similar circumstances, there's more than one way to count the ballots. Minneapolis wrote its ordinance in a way that requires human intervention. Ramsey County, meanwhile, had fast results for St. Paul thanks to technology.

The differences illustrate how the complex, carefully controlled processes elections officials use vary based on which city or county you're in – even if the result is the same.

"Accuracy is the most important," said Aaron Grossman, Minneapolis' election administration manager. "However, we totally understand that members of the public, candidates especially, [and] others are really eager to get the results."

Ramsey County switched to using electronic tabulation software this year, delivering a speedy result. Plus, the county administers the city's election, meaning everything's at their fingertips after data arrives from the precincts.

The county started the electronic tabulation process around 11:30 p.m. on Election Day and posted results to its website at 11:58 p.m., Ramsey County Elections Manager David Triplett said in an email.

Before this election, St. Paul

SEE ELECTION ON A10 »

Makers of obesity drugs to cut price, widen coverage under Trump deal

By TOM MURPHY, AAMER MADHANI and JONEL ALECCIA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump unveiled a deal Thursday with drugmakers Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk to expand coverage and reduce prices for the popular obesity treatments Zepbound and Wegovy.

Known as GLP-1 receptor agonists, the drugs have soared in popularity in recent years but patient access has been a consistent problem because of their prices – about $500 a month for higher doses – and insurance coverage has been spotty. More than 100 million American adults have obesity, according to federal estimates.

Coverage of the drugs for obesity will expand to Medicare patients starting next year, according to the administration, which said some lower prices also will be phased in for patients without coverage. Starting doses of new, pill versions of the treatments also will cost $149 a month if they are approved.

"[It] will save lives, improve the health of millions and millions of Americans," said Trump, in an Oval Office announcement in which he referred to GLP-1s as a "fat drug."

Thursday's announcement is the latest attempt by the Trump administration to rein in soaring drug prices in its efforts to address cost-of-living concerns among voters. Pfizer and AstraZeneca recently agreed to lower the cost of prescription drugs for Medicaid after an executive order in May set a deadline for drugmakers to electively lower prices or face new limits on what the government will pay.

As with the other deals, it's not clear how much the price drop will be felt by consumers. Drug prices can vary based on the competition for treatments and insurance coverage.

The obesity drugs work by targeting hormones in the gut

SEE OBESITY ON A4 »

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