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# Times News

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

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## ‘World-class’ climbing cliffs



### Ghost Town rock to open to public

**George Fabe Russell**  
Hendersonville Times-News | USA TODAY NETWORK

A “world-class” Western North Carolina rock climbing spot is set to open to the public for the first time in decades, after two outdoor recreation land trusts purchase 16.5 acres adjoining Chimney Rock State Park.

Carolina Climbers Coalition and the climbing nonprofit Access Fund bought land on the lower flanks of a mountainous area known as Ghost Town. It’s named after a wild west-themed amusement park, Silver City, that used to operate nearby when the spot first became popular with climbers in the 1970s, according to a Nov. 5 news release.

Rumbling Bald, nearby in Chimney Rock State Park, is “one of the most celebrated climbing areas in the Southeast and Ghost Town is certainly of that same caliber,” Daniel Dunn, eastern regional director and policy analyst at Access Fund, told the Times-News Nov. 12.

See **CLIMBING**, Page 8A

**A cliff at Lower Ghost Town, next to Chimney Rock State Park, which was bought by two land trusts to reopen to the public for climbing after 25 years off-limits.**  
PROVIDED BY CAROLINA CLIMBERS COALITION

## Impacts of shutdown likely to linger

**Joey Garrison, Zachary Schermele  
and Zac Anderson**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The federal government is back open after a record-breaking 43-day shutdown – but the effects from the nation’s longest-ever shutdown could linger.

Late on Nov. 12, President Donald Trump signed the bill to fund the government through Jan. 30, 2026, shortly after the legislation cleared the House of Representatives by a 222-209 vote.

Shuttered preschool and food benefit programs will reopen. So will federal agencies and national parks and other landmarks. Furloughed federal workers will return to work. Government data crucial to understanding the American economy will start circulating again.

See **SHUTDOWN**, Page 8A



**President Donald Trump, flanked by Republican lawmakers, signed the funding bill to end the longest government shutdown in U.S. history late Nov. 12.** KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

## Johnson: House will hold vote on Epstein files next week

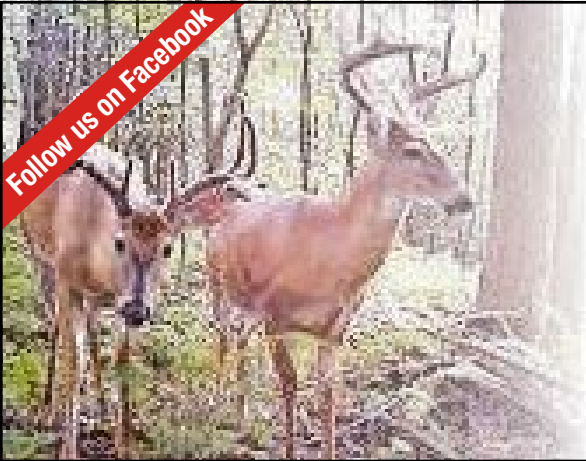
**Joey Garrison and Kinsey Crowley**  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Even in the hours before the federal government reopened Nov. 12, the controversy over the late sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein was already back in the spotlight.

Speaker Mike Johnson said the House will vote the week of Nov. 17 on a bill that would compel the Justice Department, within 30 days, to release all files related to the investigation into the convicted sex offender.

“We’re going to put that on the floor for a full vote when we get back next week,” Johnson, R-Louisiana, told reporters Nov. 12.

See **EPSTEIN FILES**, Page 8A



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