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Burlington County Times

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 | BURLINGTONCOUNTYTIMES.COM

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President Donald Trump shows the signed bill package to reopen the federal government in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 12. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Optum Care to close offices

All four primary care sites in South Jersey will be affected

Jim Walsh
Cherry Hill Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Optum Care is closing its four primary care offices in South Jersey. The shutdowns are to take effect Dec. 1 at Optum sites in Cherry Hill, Medford, Mount Ephraim and Runnemede. They are part of larger cutbacks expected to end more than 550 jobs at Optum facilities across the state, according to information provided to the New Jersey Department of Labor. “We are deeply saddened by this turn of events,” says a sign at an Optum primary care office on Route 38 in Cherry Hill. “Thank you for allowing us to care for you and your families.” The changes follow a review of Optum’s “services, footprint and staffing levels to ensure they meet the needs of the people we serve, our business and evolving market dynamics,” the Minnesota-based health care firm said in a statement. “We will continue to provide pediatric, primary care, cardiology, rheumatology and urgent care in certain locations across New Jersey,” it added. “We are providing clear information and support to our patients to ensure uninterrupted care.” The company’s “locations” search function indicates closings are not planned for Optum’s remaining sites in South Jersey — a cardiology office in Cherry Hill and two urgent care centers in Vineland.

See OPTUM, Page 2A

BACK TO WORK

What does the government reopening mean for SNAP, airports, healthcare?

Risha Inaganti
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USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

The longest government shutdown in United States history has finally come to an end after 43 days. President Donald Trump signed a bill to fund the government through Jan. 30 late on Nov. 12, after the legislation passed in the House of Representatives. The bill formed in the Senate earlier in the week, where it passed in a 60-40 vote. The House voted yes in a 222-206

split, with six Democrats joining the Republicans in voting yes and two Republicans joining the Democrats in voting no. With the government officially reopen, questions swarm the country as people ask, ‘What happens next?’

SNAP funding restored

Over 42 million Americans lost access to SNAP benefits once the government shutdown hit November. This led to a loss of affordable food, strain on

food banks and many going hungry. With the government now reopen, SNAP payments should reach most states within 24 hours. Although the legislation only funds the government through January 2026, full funding is guaranteed for SNAP through September 2026.

Federal employees return to work

Federal agencies have been directed to open and furloughed workers can return to work starting Nov. 13. Furloughed workers and those working without pay will receive back pay for

See REOPENING, Page 2A

Court rejects Willingboro man’s murder conviction appeal

Jim Walsh
Cherry Hill Courier-Post
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A Willingboro man’s conviction for murder will not be overturned because jury members saw a “gory and extremely graphic” photo of his victim, a state appeals court has decided.

Marvin A. Coleman, 27, is serving life without parole for the slaying of Maribely “Bely” Lopez of Lindenwold. The 21-year-old woman had driven to Willingboro on the night of March 6, 2019, expecting to sell a cellphone to a stranger through OfferUp, an online marketplace. The ruling said Lopez arrived on time

for a 10 p.m. meeting outside a vacant home in Willingboro, then “shared a tense back-and-forth text message exchange (with Coleman) in an attempt to finalize the transaction.” It said Lopez, a Lindenwold High School graduate, called 911 at approximately the same time she was shot on Medley Lane. The 911 call, “although

containing no words, captured the ringing of car door chimes,” said the Nov. 12 ruling. A Medley Lane woman, who’d heard “a popping sound she associated with gunshots,” found Lopez dead the next morning in her still-idling vehicle.

See APPEAL, Page 2A

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Volume 67 | No. 37
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