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Lebanon Daily News

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ANALYSIS

Trump funding cuts axed nutrition program



SNAP-Ed taught people how to identify healthy food patterns, keep food safe and navigate a complex food environment. It also taught low-income Americans how to improve their budgeting and planning for meals that balance cost and nutrition. GETTY IMAGES

SNAP-Ed saved money, helped Americans eat healthier

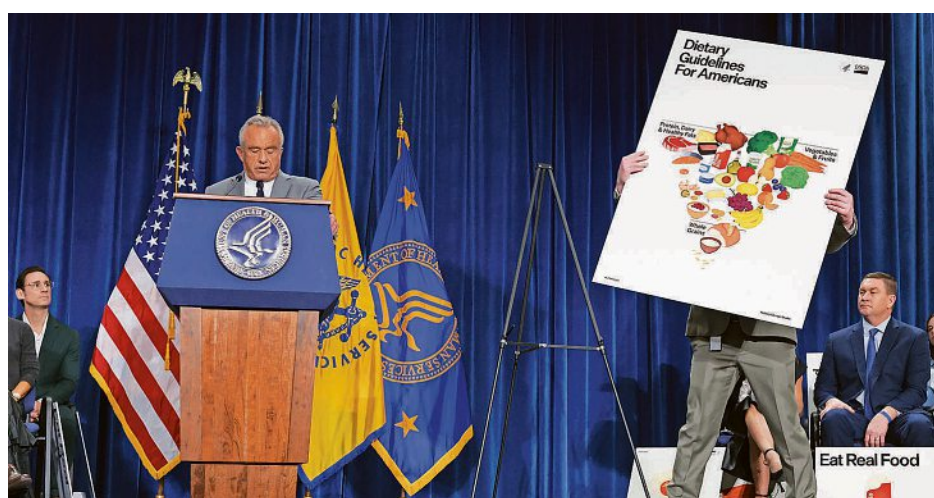
Diane Cress
Wayne State University
THE CONVERSATION

If the government had found a way to save \$10 for every dollar it spent helping low-income people get healthier, wouldn't it make sense for it to keep doing that?

Well, that's exactly what the U.S. government did when it piloted the SNAP-Ed program in 1977. This U.S. Department of Agriculture program persisted for nearly 50 years until the Trump administration shuttered it in 2025.

SNAP-Ed served as the nutrition education arm of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which helps more than 40 million Americans buy groceries.

SNAP-Ed complemented SNAP by teaching people who get those benefits how best to use that government assistance. It paid for nutrition educators to teach lessons at schools, community centers and university extension offices. The educators led grocery store tours, taught label reading and budget comparisons, and taught cooking classes. And they offered a mix of printed and



Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and the Make America Healthy Again movement have embraced a core principle: Healthy habits prevent chronic disease. Yet the Trump administration stopped funding SNAP-Ed, which helped boost health in at-risk communities. ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

online resources to support good nutrition in the home.

While the federal government fully funded the program, the states, along with Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, administered and implemented SNAP-

Ed through local community programs, often partnering with nonprofits. It cost only one penny for every SNAP dollar spent, and it worked.

See CUTS, Page 5A

Poultry could help land under panels

NY farmer will test vision for clearing solar fields

Thomas C. Zambito
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Caleb Scott spent years convincing folks that his pigs and sheep do a better job clearing the land beneath solar panels than lawn mowers and weed whackers.

Could chickens and turkeys be next?

"Why stop at pigs?" said Scott, a farmer and shepherd from the upstate New York town of Caroline. "Why not pasture poultry?"

Yes, why not? There's already something called a chicken tractor, which keeps chickens cooped and safe from predators while they move about a field, pecking away at weeds and grass.

The state of New York is putting up \$750,000 to find out if Scott's vision for teams of poultry peckers and other innovations could work for farmers across the state.

See POULTRY, Page 2A

Authorities: 'Narco sub' aided drug lord's work

Marc Ramirez and Robert Snell
USA TODAY

An Albanian drug kingpin with a lavish lifestyle was sentenced for plotting with a Detroit-area businessman to build a cocaine-smuggling submarine that helped power a multimillion-dollar narcotics operation, authorities say.

U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood on March 31 sentenced Ylli Didani, 48, to 25 years in prison following a three-month trial in 2025 featuring testimony and court documents rife with details about maritime drug trafficking and photos of Didani posing alongside mounds of cash.

A federal jury convicted Didani of conspiracy to distribute cocaine, conspiracy to launder monetary instruments and conspiracy to distribute cocaine aboard a vessel subject to United States jurisdiction.

The case illustrates the growing problem of so-called "narco submarines," low-profile, semi-submersible vessels increasingly used by drug

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