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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 | POCONORECORD.COM

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Deadline looming for DHS reforms

White House, Congress continue negotiations

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Congress and the White House are locked in negotiations over potential reforms to the Department of Homeland Security as a deadline to shut down the agency approaches.

Lawmakers have until the end of Feb. 13, to reach an agreement or risk jeopardizing funding for the Transportation Security Administration and U.S. Coast Guard, among other divisions of the 9/11-era Cabinet agency that could be impacted by yet another lapse in appropriations.

Unlike during the record-breaking government shutdown in the fall,

Trump administration officials have been engaged in the last few weeks in serious talks with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. The ongoing discussions reflect a bipartisan unease over the tactics of federal agents in President Trump's nationwide immigration enforcement surge, especially after Alex Pretti's killing by federal officers in Minnesota in January.

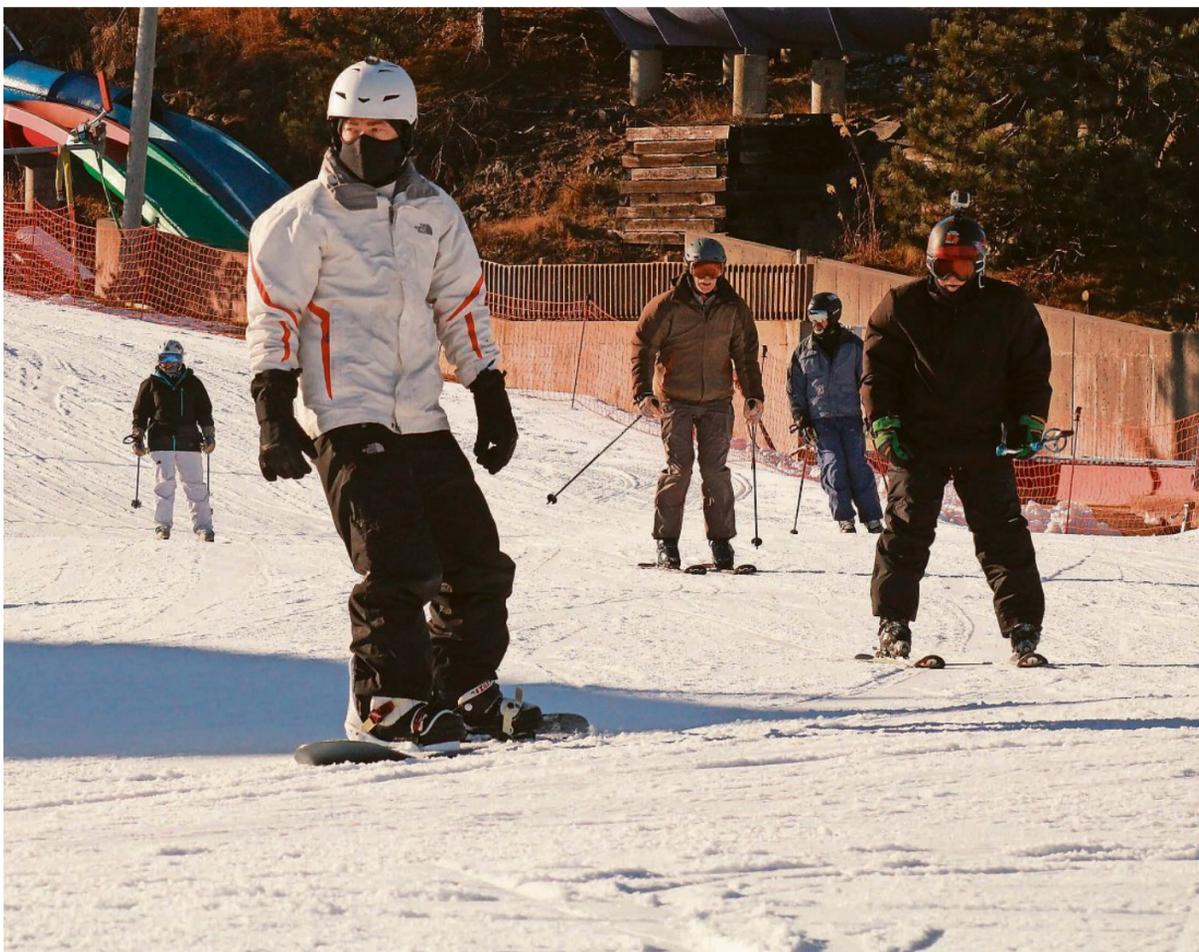
Last week, House and Senate Democrats released a list of 10 demands to curb DHS, which oversees Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection. Those wishes included a ban on mask-wearing for federal agents, stricter use-of-force standards and prohibiting immigration enforcement operations in "sensitive locations" such as schools and churches.

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The Department of Homeland Security is on the brink of losing funding if Congress and the White House can't come to an agreement on reforming Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection policies. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

CAMELBACK RESORT



Skiers and snowboarders hit the slopes at Camelback for the resort's opening day and 60th anniversary celebration on Dec. 15, 2023. PROVIDED BY KATHRYNE RUBRIGHT

Ski season expected to break resort record

Emmanuella Pierre
Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

With winter holding on, Camelback Resort says favorable weather and the resort's snowmaking abilities have set the stage for an extended ski season into spring.

According to a press release from Camelback, daily skiing and riding are scheduled to continue through April 12, followed by weekend operations

through the first weekend of May, weather and conditions permitting. The extension would surpass Camelback's previous season record of April 9, 2009.

Camelback Vice President and General Manager Jason Bays said the milestone highlights the resort's long-standing commitment to being a true four-season destination.

"Offering spring skiing in May is not only huge for Pennsylvania, but it also gives New Yorkers and Mid-Atlantic skiers an incredible and closer alternative

to the long drive north to Vermont," Bays said in the press release.

As of Feb. 5, Camelback reported snow depths of approximately 30 feet on Cliff Hanger and 20 feet on Nile Mile, providing "strong coverage" for spring skiing conditions. The Stevenson Lift is expected to service designated spring trails during late-season operations.

Camelback also said snow tubing will remain open daily through April 12.

Reach Emmanuella Pierre at epierre@gannett.com.

Police say man tried to deposit \$44K that wasn't his

Charged with forgery, receiving stolen property

Max Augugliaro
Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Tunkhannock Township man has been arrested on charges of forgery, a third-degree felony, and receiving stolen property, a third-degree misdemeanor, after police say he tried to deposit a check that was not his.

According to the criminal complaint, a compliance specialist for the former NE PA Credit Union (now part of Utilities Employees Credit Union), notified Stroud Area Regional Police Department Detective Robert Transue, the complaint's affiant, on April 7, 2025, that a fraudulent United States Treasury check was brought in by a customer four days earlier.

According to the complaint, Joe-Farentz Louis XVI, 24, provided his license and signed the \$43,645.99 check when he attempted to deposit it at the credit union's Clay Avenue location in Stroud Township.

Transue wrote in the complaint that he obtained video footage of the transaction and verified with the Internal Revenue Service that the check was not issued to Louis. No monetary loss occurred, as the money was not released because the check was found to be fraudulent.

Magisterial District Court Judge Paul Gasper issued an arrest warrant for Louis on Nov. 6. Louis was arrested on the warrant on the morning of Jan. 30 by the Scranton Police Department.

A preliminary hearing in front of Magisterial District Court Judge Michael Wolbert is scheduled for Feb. 11.

Max Augugliaro is the public safety and government watchdog reporter at the Pocono Record. Reach him at MAugugliaro@gannett.com.

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Volume 132 | No. 185
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