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Keeping it cozy



Jay and Alexis Lessig stand by the sign for Gogo's Cozy Corner on June 30. PHOTOS BY KATHRYNE RUBRIGHT/POCONO RECORD

New owners bring back a Pocono Township favorite as Gogo's Cozy Corner

Kathryne Rubright
Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

A beloved restaurant in Pocono Township is opening again, this time as Gogo's Cozy Corner.

Jay and Alexis Lessig are reopening the spot first known as Hallet's Cozy Corner when it opened in 1990 and then as The Cook's Corner. Their first day in business was set for July 9.

Jay Lessig recalled coming to Hallet's Cozy Corner as he grew up in Henryville. "It was always my mom's favorite place,"

he said, not just because of the food, but because it was the hometown spot, where she would always see people she knew.

Known as Gogo by her grandchildren and nieces and nephews, Joanne Lessig died in May 2025. Her nickname appears in her own handwriting on the new sign at 3150 Route 715, Henryville. The black squirrel on the sign is also for her: "My mother-in-law always said that the black squirrels were special," Alexis Lessig said.

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The original booths are still in place at what is now Gogo's Cozy Corner at 3150 Route 715, Henryville, on June 30.



After Graham Platner's withdrawal from Maine's Senate race, Democrats face a short window to find a new nominee to replace him by the end of business on July 13.

CJ GUNTHER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Platner exit leaves Dems in disarray

Maine Senate seat vital for congressional control

Phillip M. Bailey and Terry Collins
USA TODAY

Democrats are racing for the reset button in the pivotal U.S. Senate battle in Maine after Graham Platner announced he will suspend his campaign, throwing the party into a frantic search for a replacement nominee to take on Republican incumbent Susan Collins this fall.

The decision comes after Platner faced a broad chorus of calls from fellow Democrats to exit the race following a new allegation that he sexually assaulted an ex-girlfriend nearly five years ago. Platner has denied the accusation, saying any claims about "non-consensual behavior" are "categorically untrue."

"We believe that for the movement to continue, it can't be me. And for that reason, we are suspending campaign operations," Platner said in a July 8 video message.

Platner's withdrawal caps days of turmoil that had engulfed his campaign and intensifies pressure on

See **PLATNER**, Page 5A

PA SNAP errors drop but still risk \$400 million in new costs

Bethany Rodgers
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pennsylvania has brought down its error rate for issuing food stamps over the past year, but its reported mistakes could still put the commonwealth on the hook for more than \$400 million in ad-

ditional annual program costs.

These mistakes happen when officials either underpay or overpay recipients, and while advocates say they usually involve small amounts, President Donald Trump's administration has cracked down on them and plans to begin penalizing states for them in 2027.

Historically, the federal government has fully funded benefits delivered through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which feeds nearly two million Pennsylvanians each year.

But under H.R. 1, or the "big, beautiful" tax bill passed by Congress in 2025, states that make too many administra-

tive errors will have to shoulder a portion of this spending.

These recent changes "created new pressures and rules that jeopardize SNAP funding and has destabilized this program, leaving vulnerable people

See **SNAP**, Page 2A

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