



5 menu items to start Fall for Greenville

INSIDE, 2A

Independent Mail

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Bakker, Tammy Faye built a Carolina empire

Joyce Orlando and Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Jim Bakker, who built a multi-million-dollar evangelical broadcasting empire out of the Carolinas, has died at age 86.

Bakker was a longtime televangelist who built a broadcasting empire out of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a Christian theme park in South Carolina before falling from grace amid sex and financial scandals. His death was announced by his wife, Lori Bakker, via Instagram on Monday, Oct. 5.

Before his fall, Jim Bakker rose to national prominence as a pioneer of Christian television alongside his then-wife Tammy Faye. The couple, who met at North Central Bible College in Minneapolis and married in 1961, built a television empire known as “The PTL (Praise the Lord) Club” just south of Charlotte at their complex during the 1980s and 1990s and also ran a theme park and hotel just over the state line in South Carolina.

Lori Bakker did not disclose where or how Jim Bakker died in her social media post about his death.

Jim Bakker founded the PTL organization, also known as “Praise The Lord” or “People That Love,” in 1974. Through PTL and its television programs, the couple became household names and among the most recognizable figures in evangelical media.

The now-defunct Christian-based Heritage USA theme park and hotel used to draw visitors from along the East Coast and across the nation to

See BAKKER, Page 6A



Some lawmakers have suggested expanding Medicare to ensure health coverage that currently relies heavily on employers. SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS FILE

Poll: Most Americans back ‘Medicare for all’

Voters see health care reforms as a priority

Amina Niasse
REUTERS

NEW YORK – Most Americans now favor government-paid health insurance for all, according to a new poll, as voters across party lines see major health care reforms as a priority less than a month before midterm elections to decide control of Con-

gress.

Two-thirds of U.S. adults – up from 53% in 2020 – said they are in favor of universal U.S. health insurance often referred to as “Medicare for all,” according to a poll conducted by health policy research firm KFF released on Oct. 6.

When told such a single-payer model would eliminate private insurance plans, that overall support dropped to 52% – still well ahead of the 37% favorability seen in the 2020 survey.

Medicare is the U.S. government program that

See REFORMS, Page 6A

Extra money set to hit some SC Medicare accounts

Joyce Orlando
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

President Donald Trump announced that millions of seniors in South Carolina and the United States will receive “nearly \$100” if they are on a certain Medicare plan.

In the president’s latest efforts to give some sort of cash to Americans, after more than a year of talking about possible refund checks, he has offered nearly \$100 to about 20 million seniors enrolled in certain Medicare plans. Be-

fore this, Trump issued a \$500 refund to people with health plans through the Affordable Care Act as a “refund” after claiming that people were overcharged under former President Joe Biden’s administration.

The money is being diverted from a \$2 billion Medicare Improvement Fund. Congress created it in 2008 to improve Medicare services.

“My Administration will, immediately, begin sending ‘Checks’ of nearly \$100 to over 20 MILLION wonderful Seniors to help pay for their Medicare Part B pre-

miums,” Trump wrote in a late-night announcement on his social media website Truth Social. “This money will come from the Medicare Improvement Fund, a pointless ‘Slush Fund’ that has only been used by Dumocrats in Congress to pay for the Waste, Fraud, and Abuse.”

Here’s which South Carolinians will receive a check and how to get it.

Who is eligible for the Trump Medicare checks?

Most South Carolina seniors enrolled

in Medicare Part B will receive the checks, according to a White House breakdown of the payments reviewed by USA TODAY.

Seniors are expected to receive around \$90. Medicare B recipients will either receive the money via direct deposit or, if they don’t have direct deposit, via check when they receive their benefits.

According to the breakdown, 499,000 people in South Carolina are set to receive the check.

mad city
WINDOWS & BATHS

#1 REMODELER
YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS!

PROUDLY SERVING THE MIDWEST SINCE 1998

BATH OR SHOWER REMODEL

70% Off Installation on a new bath or shower*

Zero Payments & Zero Interest for 18 Months!*

Call Now! Limited Time Offer!
864-326-1699

Our team is ready to take your call 7 days a week.

*70% Off promotion does not include material costs. Not valid with any other offer, or previous job. See representative for details. New orders only for appointments completed by 10/31/2026. Offer expires 10/31/2026. Financing available with minimum purchase and approved credit. Mad City Windows & Baths, LLC, is neither a broker nor a lender. Financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Mad City Windows & Baths, LLC, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimate only. Ask for details. New orders only. Not valid with any other offer, or previous job. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the/ by the end of the 18-month period or if you make a late payment. New orders only for appointments completed by 10/31/2026.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to independentmail.com/eNewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 127 | No. 286
Subscribe 844-900-7102
©2026 \$2.00

