



## U.S.-Iran peace hopes fade as Trump abandons talks

INSIDE, 3A

# AmericanNews

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026 | ABERDEENNEWS.COM

ABERDEEN, S.D. | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

### ANALYSIS



A Houston resident who is a SNAP beneficiary holds her ID card for the program. The average SNAP benefits, which many people refer to as food stamps, as of 2025 are \$188 per person per month, which comes to about \$6 a day. About 42 million low-income Americans receive them. MOISES AVILA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Blanche: Gunman 'likely' targeted Trump

Suspect to be arraigned on at least 2 charges

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche on April 26 said the gunman who opened fire at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner appears to have targeted President Donald Trump and officials in his administration.

"It does appear that he did, in fact, set out to target folks that work in the administration, likely including the president," Blanche said in an interview on NBC News' "Meet the Press," adding that authorities are still investigating the suspect's motive.

The man taken into custody in connection with the shooting has not been identified officially by authorities, but a federal law enforcement official told USA TODAY on April 26 that he is Cole Tomas Allen, 31, of Torrance, California. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation being conducted by the FBI, Secret Service and other agencies.

Officials say the suspected shooter – armed with multiple guns and knives – charged a security checkpoint at the Washington Hilton before gunshots rang out, sending the glamorous event into chaos as journalists, politicians and celebrity guests dove to the floor. Trump, along with the first lady and top Cabinet officials, was quickly whisked away. One Secret Service agent was shot but was saved by a bulletproof vest. Nobody else was injured in the incident.

The suspect will be arraigned April 27 on charges of assaulting a federal officer and discharging a firearm with intent to kill a federal officer, Blanche said.

In an interview with CBS News' "Face the Nation" on April 26, Blanche said law enforcement is still collecting information about how the shooter obtained the guns found on him at the hotel, and that the suspect was "not actively cooperating" with authorities.

### Suspect stayed at hotel

Blanche said authorities believe the attacker took a train from Los Angeles

See SHOOTING, Page 3A

# Food aid doesn't make people loafers

## Research: Benefits help people find jobs

Claudia Strauss

PITZER COLLEGE | THE CONVERSATION

Millie Morales believes in hard work. "I feel that as an American citizen, we all have a great opportunity to be able to improve our life," the 58-year-old woman explained in an interview I conducted with her in 2025. "Are you willing to put in the work, or are you not?" Morales, whose name I changed to protect her privacy, was a stay-at-home mom devoted to caring for her large family. After her divorce, she worked at social service agencies and enrolled at a local college. Then her ex-husband stopped paying for child support, and she and her eight children faced eviction.

She said she is very grateful for the government benefits she received for the first time, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which helps low-income Americans buy groceries.

Those benefits made it possible for her to keep putting food on the table and remain housed until she earned a college degree and obtained jobs that could pay those bills. Now she assists families dealing with difficult medical decisions, a job that makes her feel she is able to help others through hard times in their lives.

### Learning how people think about work

Morales is one of more than 100 Americans I have interviewed for my research on how people think about work and about government assistance.

Currently, I am updating the research on how Americans think about government assistance, which is how I met Morales. Not all of the participants in these projects received SNAP benefits before or after these interviews.

But among those who had, I found her experience typical: SNAP provided a crucial source of support while they looked for work. With the exception of a few in their late 50s and 60s who faced age discrimination and eventually retired, all persisted until they found another job.

My research highlights that most of the people who get benefits through SNAP and other government programs want to work. And SNAP supports their work ethic.

See BENEFITS, Page 2A

# Democrats try to stop Trump from invading Cuba

Francesca Chambers  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – With the clock ticking down on the Trump administration's ultimatum to Cuba's government, congressional Democrats are scrambling to stop President Donald Trump

from starting another military conflict.

Democratic Reps. Jonathan Jackson of Illinois and Pramila Jayapal of Washington told their colleagues on April 21 during a closed-door meeting of the Congressional Progressive Caucus that they need to apply more pressure, the lawmakers told USA TODAY in inter-

views.

The group agreed to back a resolution that would prohibit Trump from unilaterally launching an invasion and a bill that would prohibit him from using federal funds for an operation. They also threw their support behind legislation that would repeal the U.S. trade embar-

go on Cuba. The measures must receive final sign-off from the caucus, Jayapal said, but that's usually a routine process.

Efforts by Democrats escalated after USA TODAY reported that senior State

See CUBA, Page 2A

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [aberdeennews.com/enewspaper](http://aberdeennews.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 140th | No. 215  
To subscribe 888-561-3226  
©2026 \$1.50



6 51724 00050 2