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State not willing to step in for SNAP

Lee, others say TN won't fund program in Nov.

Vivian Jones

Nashville Tennessean

USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Tennessee officials say they will not use state money to replace federal food aid benefits that will not be coming to 690,000 Tennesseans reliant on them if the federal government shutdown continues, despite maintaining more than \$2 billion in emergency reserve funds.

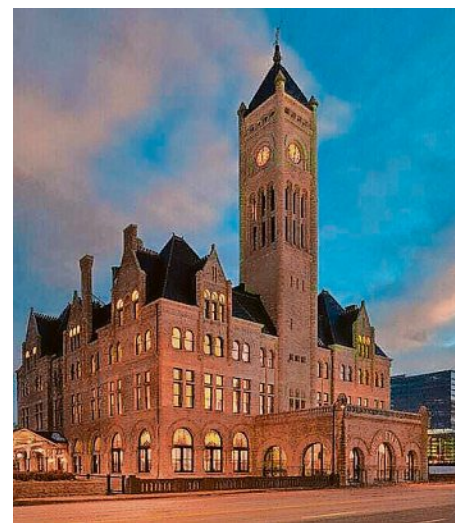
One in 10 Tennesseans relies on the federal Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program to keep food on the table. Benefits are available to families making less than \$3,500 monthly, and the average family receives \$340 per month. A federal agency notified states this week that November SNAP benefits will not be paid if the federal government shutdown continues past the end of this month.

Tennessee has amassed more than \$2 billion in a rainy day fund, designed to be used to accommodate unexpected shortfalls in state revenues, and amid emergencies such as natural disasters and recessions.

Gov. Bill Lee and other top Republican leaders say it's up to the federal government to issue the benefits and Tennessee won't consider covering about \$146 million in food aid payments for November that families will not see if the shutdown continues.

"The governor shares the frustration of Tennesseans who will be impacted by this temporary lapse, and sincerely hopes Democrats will choose to put the American people ahead of

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Most haunted places in Middle TN

THE TICKET, 1C

VANDERBILT FOOTBALL



Vanderbilt Coach Clark Lea celebrates Oct. 18 with his team after the game between Vanderbilt University and Louisiana State University at FirstBank Stadium in Nashville. NICOLE HESTER/THE TENNESSEAN

Long game pays off for Lea, Commodores

Old friends and patient bosses lead to special year

Paul Skrbina

Nashville Tennessean

USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Vanderbilt football's rise-from-the-ashes revival was born in a Sunday school classroom inside a 131-year-old church on Broadway when Clark Lea was in sixth or seventh grade.

Christ Church Cathedral, which seems a Diego Pavia Hail Mary away from FirstBank Stadium, is where the Commodores' fifth-year football coach met a boy named Barton Simmons.

A boy who grew to become a close friend, confidant and teammate of Lea's at Montgomery Bell Academy.

A boy Lea hired going on five years ago to be the Robin to his Batman, to be his program's general manager.

The two have become closer than two coats of paint since that day they met in that Sunday school classroom. A long-ago trip to Krystal on their way home from a Nashville Sounds game captured their relationship in a nutshell, and showed Simmons what kind of

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Lea questions an official about a call during the third quarter at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, Virginia, during Vanderbilt's Sept. 6 game against Virginia Tech. BRIAN BISHOP / IMAGN IMAGES

Inside

Athletic director Candice Storey Lee discusses Clark Lea's future. **1B**

'College GameDay' to focus all eyes on Nashville, campus

Alex Daugherty

Nashville Tennessean

USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

For only the second time, Vanderbilt will host ESPN's "College GameDay" and in doing so places Nashville on college football's biggest stage.

No. 12 Vanderbilt (6-1, 2-1) takes on No. 14 Missouri (6-1, 2-1) at FirstBank Stadium on Oct. 25 (2:30 p.m. CT, ESPN). A win for the Commodores would inch them

closer to earning a berth in the College Football Playoff for the first time.

The hype surrounding Vanderbilt, and in particular quarterback Diego Pavia, has drawn the attention of ESPN's marquee college football preview show for the second time this season. "College GameDay" was in Tuscaloosa for Vanderbilt's game against Alabama on Oct. 4. The Crimson Tide won, 30-14, for Vanderbilt's

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Volume 121 | No. 251
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