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The Olympian

Trump threatens to withhold SNAP payments

BY TONY ROMM
NYT News Service

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump threatened Tuesday to deny food stamps for roughly 42 million low-income Americans until the end of the government shutdown, even though a federal court ordered the administration to continue the aid payments into the month.

In a post on social media, Trump charged that benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, “will be given only when the Radical Left Democrats open up government, which they can easily do, and not before!”

The president’s comments carried great political, legal and economic significance and raised concern that the administration might be violating a judge’s order requiring the government to keep funding SNAP payments.

The administration’s lawyers told two separate courts a day earlier that it would make partial payments to the roughly 1 in 8 poor Americans who receive aid under SNAP. That alone had proved insufficient for cities and nonprofits, which had initially sued in a bid to release the funds. They returned to court earlier Tuesday to try to secure swift and full aid for millions of recipients.

“This is immoral. See you in court,” Skye L. Perryman, president of Democracy Forward, a legal organization representing one of the lawsuits that has repeatedly challenged the Trump administration, said in a post on social media.

The White House declined to elaborate on Trump’s plans and whether he intended to violate a court order.

In the original order, pub-

SEE TRUMP, 3A

Report says WA ranks high in work stress, job opportunities

BY SIMONE CARTER
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Some of the top companies to work for in the U.S. call Washington home. So where does the state land in a ranking of the best and worst states for jobs?

Overall, Washington scored No. 16 on the list of the best states to find a job, according to a report published last week by personal finance company WalletHub. Massachusetts ranked first and West Virginia came up last.

But drilling down into the metrics provides a sort of split-

screen effect in terms of Washington’s economic environment and job-market rankings.

For instance, Washington was No. 1 on WalletHub’s economic-environment ranking, which considered factors including median annual income, share of workers living in poverty and commuter-friendly jobs. Yet it took 43rd place in the report’s job-market ranking.

The state lagged in certain specific areas.

Washington earned No. 47 when it comes to job opportunities. It also ranked No. 47 in WalletHub’s unemployment-rate category.

The U.S. unemployment rate stayed steady between 4% and 4.3% over the past year. Meanwhile, that rate in Washington has remained at about 4.5% this year.

And when considering stress load, Washington apparently has work to do: The state counts some of the highest work-related stress, coming in at No. 46 on WalletHub’s report.

Employees who call higher-ranked states home often benefit from stable conditions in the long term, noted WalletHub analyst Chip Lupo. They’re also positioned to withstand economic fluctuations.

“The best states for jobs make it easier for residents to find and retain jobs, and employers in these states also offer very competitive compensation and benefits,” Lupo said in a statement. “In addition, the top states are great places for people looking to raise a family, ranking among the best states for working parents.”

Another WalletHub report from January showed where some Washington cities scored in a ranking of the best places to find jobs. Seattle landed at No. 30 while Spokane came in at No. 88, Tacoma at No. 129 and Vancouver at No. 162.



RICHARD MALSED Courtesy

A fatal house fire near Steamboat Island in Thurston County destroyed a home on Overlook Drive NW, killing one person. Griffin Fire and mutual aid partners are investigating.

Fatal house fire near Steamboat Island under investigation

BY TY VINSON
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The cause of the house fire that killed a woman near Steamboat Island in Thurston County on Saturday is under investigation, Griffin Fire Chief Corey Rux said Tuesday.

Rux said in a news release that the Griffin Fire Department, along with multiple Thurston County mutual aid part-

ners, were dispatched at around 6 p.m. Nov. 1 to reports of a residential structure fire in the 9000 block of Overlook Drive Northwest.

Upon arrival, crews found a single-family home on fire with flames showing and fire extending to a neighboring home. Despite efforts to suppress and contain the blaze, the primary residence was a total loss. Damage to the neighboring house was minimized.

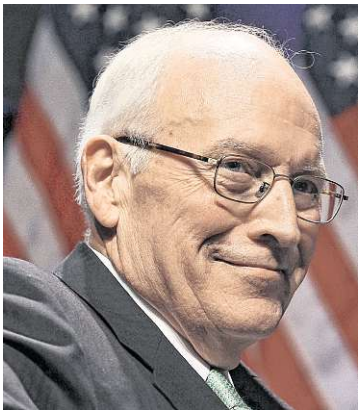
The sole occupant of the home was located inside and did not survive. She was earlier identified by the Thurston County Coroner as an 83-year-old woman; however, her name has yet to be released to the public.

Rux said the cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Griffin Fire Department and partnering agencies.

“Griffin Fire extends its deepest condolences to the

family and friends affected by this loss,” Rux said in the release.

Griffin Fire was assisted by Lacey Fire District 3, Olympia Fire Department, Tumwater Fire Department, McLane/Black Lake Fire Department, South Bay Fire Department, East Olympia Fire Department, West Thurston Regional Fire Authority, and South Mason Fire & Rescue.



MARK WILSON Getty Images

Former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney attends the Conservative Political Action conference (CPAC), on Feb. 10, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

DICK CHENEY, 1941-2025

Powerful vice president was war advocate, Washington insider

BY JAMES OLIPHANT AND JAMES GERSTENZANG
Los Angeles Times

Richard B. Cheney, the former vice president of the United States who was the architect of the nation’s longest war as he plotted President George W. Bush’s thunderous global response to the 9/11 terror attacks, has died.

Vexed by heart trouble for much of his adult life, Cheney died Monday night due to complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, according to a statement from his family. He was 84.

“For decades, Dick Cheney served our nation, including as White House Chief of Staff, Wyoming’s Congressman, Secretary of Defense, and Vice

President of the United States,” the statement said. “Dick Cheney was a great and good man who taught his children and grandchildren to love our country, and to live lives of courage, honor, love, kindness, and fly fishing. We are grateful beyond measure for all Dick Cheney did for our country. And we are

SEE CHENEY, 2A

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