

# The Boston Globe

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MARCH TO 250

## REFLECTION OF OUR PAST AND FUTURE



CRAIG F. WALKER/GLOBE STAFF

An American flag hanging on City Hall was reflected in the windows of a shop at the Faneuil Hall Marketplace. The nation celebrates its 249th birthday today amid sharp political divisions.

## A VITAL AMERICAN UNITY

Washington's plea to bridge our divisions sounds a note for today

By Brian MacQuarrie  
GLOBE STAFF

When General George Washington arrived in Cambridge 250 years ago this week, he found a motley army of about 15,000 men, many of them from Massachusetts, who considered the recent battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill to have been a family affair against a distant, overreaching government.

Fighting for something called America? Not so much. A single, unified country was not a common goal among far-flung colonies separated by daunting geography and differing politics.

But when Washington issued his first substantive orders on July 4, 1775, to what he called "the troops of the United Provinces of North America," he summoned a deep sense that Colonial unity was indispensable in the fight against the mighty British Empire.



HUM IMAGES/UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP VIA GETTY IMAGES

George Washington took command of the army on July 3, 1775.

ish Empire.

"It is hoped," Washington continued, "that all distinctions of colonies will be laid aside, so that one and the same spirit may

animate the whole, and the only contest be who shall render, on this great and trying occasion, the most essential service to the great and common cause in

which we are all engaged."

Those orders — a plea, really — still resonate 250 years later as American politics have become fractured and polarized. The country is split along regional, racial, and cultural lines; divided by President Trump's aggressive policies; and at odds over what the nation is, was, and should be.

"I find it horrifying to hear people talk about having blue states secede, red states secede," said Robert Allison, a Suffolk University history professor and chair of Revolution 250, a Massachusetts nonprofit group.

"This is something that Washington understood, that Lincoln understood, that the liberties we have are something that we need to be unified for. Otherwise, the states will be at war with each other."

FOURTH, Page A7

## Trump's bill passes House on close vote

Decision follows hours of squabbling; Democratic leader cites 'abomination'

By Michael Gold, Robert Jimison, and Megan Mineiro

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday narrowly passed a sweeping bill to extend tax cuts and slash social safety net programs, capping Republicans' chaotic months-long slog to overcome deep rifts within their party and deliver President Trump's domestic agenda.

The final vote, 218-214, was mostly along party lines and came after Speaker Mike Johnson spent a frenzied day and night toiling to quell resistance in his ranks that threatened until the very end to derail the president's marquee legislation. With all but two Republicans in favor and Democrats uniformly opposed, the action cleared the bill for Trump's signature, meeting the July 4 deadline he had demanded.

The legislation extends tax cuts enacted in 2017 that had been scheduled to expire at the end of the year, while adding new ones Trump promised during this campaign, on some tips and overtime pay, at a total cost of \$4.5 trillion. It also increases funding for defense and border security and cuts nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid, with more reductions to food assistance for the poor and other government aid. And it phases out clean-energy tax credits passed under former president Joe Biden that Trump and conservative

LEGISLATION, Page A6

## Medicaid and SNAP changes spark worry

Beyond aid cuts, added paperwork will be a new hurdle, advocates warn

By David A. Lieb and Geoff Mulvihill

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Supporters of the sweeping tax and spending legislation that Congress has sent to President Trump say the changes to Medicaid, food aid, and other programs will encourage personal responsibility and halt those scamming the system.

Critics of the bill, given final congressional approval Thursday, say the requirements will upend lives.

Here's a look at what people are saying. To enroll and stay on Medicaid, many ages 19 through 64 would be required to work, go to school, or perform at least 80 hours of community service a month.

The Medicaid work requirement would apply to people in 40 states who are enrolled through expanded access that states agreed to put in place since 2014. Ten states, including Texas and Florida, did not expand the program.

For the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-

CUTS, Page A6

## Defendants to be freed during lawyers' work stoppage

'It affects both the rights of defendants and the rights of the Commonwealth, but here we are.'

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JONATHAN TYNES

By Sean Cotter  
GLOBE STAFF

A Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court justice on Thursday invoked an emergency protocol that would allow judges in two counties to release indigent defendants or dismiss their cases outright if they do not have legal representation because of a work stoppage by court-appointed attorneys.

With the work stoppage now in its second month, the first hearings under the emergency protocol are expected to begin in Suffolk County on Monday and in Middlesex County on Wednesday. Judges in both counties now have the power to release qualifying defendants who have been held in jail for more than seven days without access to a lawyer.

In some cases, the judges could determine whether to outright dismiss prosecutions.

Known as bar advocates, the more than 2,500 court-appointed attorneys represent about 80 percent of the state's indigent criminal defendants. They are seeking a raise of at least \$35 an hour. It's unclear how many have stopped taking new

RELEASE, Page A10

## Spreading the word on early breast cancer

As younger patients tell their stories online, they get support and others get the message

By Emily Spatz  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

When Katie Thurston, the 34-year-old former star of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," told her nearly 800,000 followers that she had breast cancer, she shared that one of the first things she did was research stories like hers.

"All of their stories helped," she wrote in a February post on Instagram. "So I intend to be the same for others."

Thurston is one of a growing number of women — both celebrities and everyday people — taking to social media with a message: Breast cancer can affect the young, and you don't have to go through it alone.


In the past several years, numerous high-profile women — including Thurston, 44-year-old actress Olivia Munn, and, most recently, 37-year-old singer Jessie J — have gone public with their

AWARENESS, Page A10



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Bethy Atkins was diagnosed with breast cancer at 31. A friend's openness about a similar diagnosis was valuable to her.



Sparkler of a day

**Friday:** Sunny, nice.  
High: 81-86. Low: 62-67.

**Saturday:** Sunny, some clouds.  
High: 82-87. Low: 68-73.

Sunrise: 5:13 Sunset: 8:24

Comics and Weather, **G6-7.**

Obituaries, **C8-9.**

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**The Supreme Court agreed to hear a case over state restrictions** on which school sports teams transgender students can join. **A2.**

**Pope Leo XIV will be vacationing in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, for two weeks,** sparking excitement, relief, and a burst of last-minute renovations. **A4.**

**Friends mourned a UMass Amherst student** who was fatally shot in Washington, D.C., where he was an intern on Capitol Hill. **B1.**

**A major Massachusetts cannabis testing laboratory was ordered to cease operations,** following a suspension order from the Cannabis Control Commission. **B5.**

