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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

Much to do in House, but nothing doing

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — Despite the federal government shutdown, senators from both parties began arriving back at the Capitol late Monday afternoon, and the hallways soon were buzzing with activity at the start of another week of crucial work as the calendar year winds down.

The House side of the building was quiet and mostly deserted.

It's been this way since Sept. 19, when the Republican majority approved a short-term government funding bill. With the Senate still unable to pass the bill because of Democratic opposition, Speaker Mike Johnson

declared this week another "district work period" for House members to continue to remain back home (although he's been advising since early October they could be called to Washington on 48 hours' notice).

As the shutdown drags into its fifth week, unfinished work keeps piling up outside the heavy wooden doors of the closed House chamber.

"You can't do legislative business if you're not here. . . . There are no negotiations going on. There are no talks. There are no hearings. Nothing," said Representative Jim McGovern, a Worcester Democrat. "I don't know how long he can keep his vacation going."

HOUSE, Page A10

SHUTDOWN
DAY 29

10
Failed Senate votes

Sept. 19
Date of last session

594,048
Workers furloughed

35 days
Longest-ever shutdown

Mass. and other states battle in court to save SNAP funding

Healey pressed to use the state's rainy day fund

By Travis Andersen
GLOBE STAFF
and Katarina Schmeiszer
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Massachusetts and Democratic officials from two dozen other states went to court Tuesday to try to force the Trump administration to pay food benefits set to run out on Saturday, while pressure mounted on Governor Maura Healey to tap the state's "rainy day" fund as a stopgap to feed the more than 1 million residents who depend on the program.

The lawsuit in federal court in Massachusetts accuses the US Department of Agriculture of "unlawfully" suspending the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, during the government shutdown despite having billions of dollars in contingency funds available.

The looming loss of food benefits for some 42 million people has emerged as one of the most serious consequences of the standoff in Washington, D.C. With the shutdown entering its fifth week and food benefits soon to expire, advocates are making in-

creasingly desperate appeals for donations from the public and backstop measures from state houses if no resolution emerges from Washington.

The Agriculture Department notified states last week that it would not provide the \$8 billion to fund SNAP benefits for November. But the lawsuit from the states asserts that the department has access to more than \$28 billion that could be used to cover benefits.

"It is an inhumane and cruel decision to suspend SNAP benefits for millions of Americans," Massachusetts Attorney General

SNAP, Page A10

WHEN THE FLOODS COME

On Morrissey Blvd., a long, wet ride

The roadway, a stark example of the impact of climate change, is inundated multiple times a year

First in a series

By Erin Douglas
GLOBE STAFF

It was time for school, and the road to get there was underwater.

Ryan Murphy's wife, Eva, called him from the car. She and their then-7-year-old son had been stuck on Morrissey Boulevard for over an hour, she said, during what's typically a 10- or 15-minute commute to South Boston. There was nothing she could do but wait for the gridlocked traffic to crawl or the king tide to fall — whichever came first. By the time Murphy's son got to school that morning in 2024, they had spent three hours maneuvering through the flooded roadway.

Morrissey Boulevard is one of the starkest examples of Boston's vulnerability to climate change. With sea level rise, the 100-year-old road along Malibu Beach near Savin Hill is no longer high enough to stay above water during king tides and increasingly unpredictable storms.

A Boston Globe analysis found that the boulevard has been partially or fully closed due to coastal flooding at least once every year since 2011. Increasingly, flooding hits several times a year. In 2024, for example, the road flooded at least four times — in January, February, September, and October, according to news reports and State Police announcements.

"It's one of our most visible signs of regular flooding and what that might

FLOODING, Page A6



ESSDRAS M. SUAREZ/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

A driver braved knee-deep water on Morrissey Boulevard, passing another vehicle that had gotten stuck in the water in June 2006.

Israel orders strikes but truce is holding

By Liam Stack, Aric Toler, and Arijeta Lajka
NEW YORK TIMES

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the Israeli military to conduct strikes in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday as the government accused Hamas of violating the cease-fire agreement by firing

and then informed President Trump "before the action was taken."

The decision "to immediately carry out forceful strikes in the Gaza Strip" was announced in a statement by Netanyahu's office. It later said the prime minister had made the decision with the Israeli military,

and then informed President Trump "before the action was taken."

Israeli and Arab media reported strikes in Gaza, explosions could be seen over the enclave's skyline, and Gaza's civil defense said several people had been killed. But the Israeli military did not confirm

that it had carried out any attacks.

A spokesperson for Netanyahu, David Mencer, said Tuesday night that "Hamas have violated the framework by not returning hostages and attacking our forces."

Hamas denied involvement
GAZA, Page A4

'No one should have to choose between serving their community and protecting their life.'

GLADYS VEGA, head of La Colaborativa

Fighting for immigrants, they face harassment

By Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio
GLOBE STAFF

It was late February near the steps of Chelsea City Hall when Gladys Vega, the head of Chelsea-based La Colaborativa, one of the most influential groups serving immigrants and Latino residents in Greater Boston, heard her first and last name being called out. A man she did not recognize began to shout swear words at her, and said it was her fault that migrants were coming to Massachusetts, Vega said.

"Your days are numbered," Vega remembers the man saying. "I'm coming after you." Advocates and public officials were set to announce a lawsuit against the Trump administration for what they alleged was an unconstitutional

attack on so-called sanctuary cities, and Vega — along with others from La Colaborativa — was there to show support.

None of them was expecting this. "I went up the stairs shaking," Vega said.

And since then, the threats have only intensified, according to La Colaborativa leaders. They've caught the same man on security cameras taking photos and videos of their employees, vehicles, and entrances and exits to their buildings. Vega recently obtained a 10-day harassment prevention order from a judge against the man.

It's not just him, either, Vega and other advocates said. Immigrant advocacy organizations in Massachusetts such as La Colaborativa said they are facing an increase in similar
HARASSMENT, Page B4

Today's weather

Wednesday: Drizzle, cool. High 51-56. Low 45-50.

Thursday: Heavy rain late. High 53-58. Low 51-56.

High tide: 5:23 a.m., 5:29 p.m.
Sunrise: 7:14 Sunset: 5:41

Weather and Comics, G6-7.

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ISLANDS TAKE A HARD HIT



YAMIL LAGE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Hurricane Melissa made landfall Tuesday in Jamaica as a monster Category 5 storm, while in Cuba (above), residents of Playa Siboney evacuated as the storm neared. A3, B1.

Matthew Farwell, accused of killing Sandra Birchmore, now faces prosecution in the death of the male fetus she was carrying. B1.

Rent control backers in the state now have some potent allies — several of the most politically powerful labor unions. B1.

The US military carried out strikes in the eastern Pacific Ocean on four boats accused of carrying drugs, killing 14 people. A2.

What's the weirdest Halloween candy this year? Check out our rankings. G1.

