

Millions in state losing SNAP benefits



Carl Treece jumps off a forklift besides pallets of produce at the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank warehouse Wednesday in S.F. With SNAP funding set to expire in November due to the government shutdown, food banks are bracing for higher demand.

Low-income residents panic as progress lags on shutdown

By Joe Garofoli and Alexei Koseff
STAFF WRITERS

More than 5 million Californians will stop getting federal SNAP benefits, formerly known as food stamps, on Saturday — at the same time health care premiums will be spiking — creating a perfect storm that could shred the social safety net that protects low-income Americans.

The planned benefit cutbacks and price spikes come as lawmakers in Washington, D.C., have made no progress toward ending a nearly month-old government shutdown. As the funding lapse drags on, federal workers have begun to miss paychecks and grants for Head Start preschool programs are expiring, thrusting many Californians toward a financial cliff.

Concerns about the imminent cuts to food programs have injected fresh recrimina-



Oakland airport TSA agents Damian Leon Cazares, left, and Leandro Banuelos Jr. unload eggs and other food for the federal workers going unpaid during the shutdown.

MORE COVERAGE

Area businesses brace for cuts to food assistance. **A10**

How to find resources. **A10**

Judge questions officials on halting SNAP benefits. **A13**

tions into the political stalemate in Washington, but on Tuesday, both sides were more focused on blaming the other for using hungry Americans as leverage rather than finding a solution. Democrats have re-

fused to support a spending plan that doesn't include an extension of health care subsidies. Without them, many Americans' health care costs will skyrocket. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said he would not support passing one-off funding bills for SNAP or other affected programs, only fully reopening the government.

"Under President Trump and Republicans' failed leadership, it is just one crisis after ***SNAP continues on A11***

Restaurants will provide meals to Bay Area families needing support

By Elena Kadvany
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of news that funding for the federal food stamps program will run out on Saturday due to the government shutdown — a distressing loss for more than 40 million Americans — one Bay Area restaurant decided to act.

The owners of Tony & Alba's announced on Instagram last Friday that the neighborhood Italian restaurant in San Jose would give free meals to children who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It sparked a domino effect, with at least six more local restaurants following suit, including Shrimp'n Ain't Eazy in San Jose, Al Pastor Papi in San Francisco, and Monster Pho and Puerto Rican Street Cuisine in Oakland. Most are offering free food for children and discounts for their parents for November when they pres-

Meals continues on A11

Animal rights activist convicted

UC Berkeley student guilty of conspiracy in chicken 'rescue'

By Connor Letourneau
STAFF WRITER

A UC Berkeley senior has been found guilty of taking four chickens valued at around \$24 from a Petaluma-area poultry processing facility, a verdict that figures to send shock waves through America's animal rights movement.

On Wednesday afternoon, after about 3½ hours of deliberation, jurors convicted Zoe Rosenberg on all charges: felony conspiracy and three misdemeanors. The 23-year-old San Luis Obispo native faces up to five years in jail when she returns for sentencing on Dec. 3, though probation remains a possibility.

Wednesday's decision represents a significant blow for Rosenberg's controversial Berkeley-based group, Direct Action Everywhere, or DxE, which has a stated mission of "total animal liberation." By spurning a plea agreement in favor of a high-stakes trial, Rosenberg had hoped to make DxE's most compelling case yet that the organization's brazen tactics known as "open rescues" are justifiable. Instead, she now faces the prospect of years behind bars for her role in a June 2023 incursion at Perdue subsidiary Petaluma Poultry.

Meanwhile, many Sonoma County residents are celebrating what they consider a monumental victory in a long-simmering conflict with DxE activists. For well over a decade, farmers there have felt scapegoated by the organization's highly visible protests, which range from activists dressing up as dead birds at local grocery stores to hooking themselves to conveyor belts where ducks had been hanging. After watching one of their most prominent members get convicted, DxE might be less inclined to continue targeting Sonoma County processing facilities.

"This verdict affirms that no one is above the law," District Attorney Carla Rodriguez said in a news release. "While we respect everyone's right to free expression, it is unlawful to trespass, disrupt legitimate businesses, and endanger workers and animals in pursuit of a political or social agenda."

"I'm disappointed," Chris Carraway, one of Rosenberg's at-

Conviction continues on A12

Fans ask for, get manager out of left field

Buster Posey is making it tough on the Lunatic Fringe. That became clear Thursday morning, when Posey introduced Tony Vitello as the new manager of the San Francisco Giants — a college guy who had achieved big things at Tennessee.

You could almost feel the disappointment around the Bay. Not because Posey went off-road by hiring a college coach with zero professional baseball experience. Or because the new hire isn't likable. The disappointment comes with the fans being deprived of a chance to vent their pent-up frustration and fed-up move.

This move is hard to get mad at. It's super unconventional, but if there was one



You can't hate new Giants manager Tony Vitello, Scott Ostler writes. Vitello was introduced Thursday at Oracle Park.

thing the fans were begging Posey to do, it was to do something different. Box checked.

The Giants have been mired in mediocrity for a decade now, a depressingly-eh 81-81 last season, and the long-suffering fans deserve a new manager they can sink their

MORE COVERAGE

How Giants, Posey decided to hire new manager Vitello. **B1**

fangs into. They want to rage around the water cooler and on talk radio about Buster hiring a retread, or a guy with no experience, too old or too young, too tall or too short.

Buster threw us a change-up. He hired the one guy that we can't rip. Meet Charming Tony.

Based on what we saw Thursday, you can criticize Vitello, you can conjure up scenarios about how he'll clash with pro baseball players, or how his college skills won't translate to the real world. But you can't hate the guy.

"All's I want to do is a good job," Vitello told the media,

Ostler continues on A12