

Air travel, SNAP benefits, back pay at issue as federal government slowly reopens

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Kentucky Lantern

The record 43-day government shut-down that ended Wednesday night scrambled air travel, interrupted food assistance and forced federal workers to go without a paycheck for weeks. It also cost the U.S. economy about \$15 billion per week, White House Council of Economic Advisers Director Kevin Hassett told reporters Thursday.

As the government began to reopen Thursday, officials were working to untangle those issues and others. But in some areas, the processes for getting things back to normal after such a lengthy shutdown will also take time. President Donald Trump on Wednesday night signed a package passed by Congress reopening the government, which closed on Oct. 1 after lawmakers failed to pass a stopgap spending bill.

FLIGHTS BACK ON SCHEDULE BY THANKSGIVING?

The Federal Aviation Administration's shutdown plan, announced last week by Administrator Bryan Bedford and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, was to reduce flights to 40 major airports by 10%.

As of Thursday afternoon, the FAA had not lifted the order restricting flights. But the agency did stop ramping up the percentage of those affected. The FAA started by asking airlines to cancel 4% of flights Nov. 7. A Wednesday order halted the rate at 6%.

That was enough to cause major disruptions to travel, and it remained unclear Thursday how long it would take to resume normal operations.

In a statement, Airlines for America, the trade group representing the nation's commercial air carriers, welcomed the end of the shutdown but was vague about how much longer air travelers would see disruptions. The statement noted the upcoming holiday as a possible milestone. "When the FAA gives airlines clearance to return to full capacity, our crews will work quickly to ramp up operations especially with Thanksgiving holiday travel beginning next week," the group's statement said.

The FAA and Transportation Department did not return messages seeking updates Thursday.

The reduction in flights was meant to ease pressure on air traffic controllers, who worked through the shutdown without pay.

Many missed work as they pursued short-term jobs in other industries. Duffy said that left the controllers on the job overstressed and possibly prone to costly

mistakes.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem sought to reward other federal workers at airports, those employed by her department's Transportation Security Administration, with \$10,000 bonuses if they maintained high attendance records during the shutdown.

Noem handed out checks to TSA workers in Houston on Thursday and said more could come.

FEDERAL WORKERS RETURN, WITH BACK PAY ON THE WAY

Hundreds of thousands of federal workers who had been furloughed returned to the office Thursday and those who had been working without pay will continue their duties knowing their next paycheck should be on time.

All workers will receive back pay for the shutdown, in accordance with a 2019 law that states employees "shall be paid for such work, at the employee's standard rate of pay, at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations, regardless of scheduled pay dates."

A spokesperson for the Office of Management and Budget said the White House has urged agencies to get back pay to employees "expeditiously and accurately."

Agencies will need to submit time and attendance files, and payroll processors can then issue checks. According to the spokesperson, agencies have different pay schedules and payroll processors, and "discrepancies in timing and pay periods are a result of that."

The office estimates that workers will receive a "supercheck" for the pay period from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1 on the following dates:

- Nov. 15
General Services Administration
Office of Personnel Management
- Nov. 16
Departments of Energy, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs and Defense
- Nov. 17
Departments of Education, State, Interior and Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
NASA
National Science Foundation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Social Security Administration
- Nov. 19
Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor and Treasury.

PIONEER

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Along with showtime adjustments, the Playhouse is restructuring its traditional pre-show dinner service. Meals will now be served at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings only, eliminating dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The revised schedule, officials said, is intended to streamline operations during the busiest performance days while maintaining the long-standing dinner-and-a-show experience for weekend crowds.

The menu for 2026 has also been refreshed. Guests will be offered a choice between beef or chicken shish kabobs served with rice, salad,

bread and a homemade dessert. Complimentary tea or lemonade will accompany the meal, continuing the theater's emphasis on offering a family-friendly and affordable dining option.

The Playhouse's upcoming season features a diverse slate of productions. The theater plans to open with a widely acclaimed international comedy, followed by a new Kentucky Voices original celebrating America's approaching 250th anniversary. Midseason programming will spotlight a lively 1960s-era favorite, tapping into the theater's tradition of showcasing lighthearted, nostalgia-driven entertainment. The season will conclude with musical tributes

honoring icons such as Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn — shows that have historically drawn some of the largest crowds to the Danville venue.

As the Playhouse looks ahead to its next summer, officials also noted that patron passes are currently available at a discounted holiday rate through Jan. 16. The passes are promoted as a popular gift option and provide flexible admission throughout the season.

Tickets for all shows are on sale now. The box office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and purchases may be made by calling 859-236-2747 or by visiting pioneerplayhouse.com.

TOLIVER

Continued from 1A

process, a multidisciplinary team consisting of families, teachers and administrators used a self-assessment tool to eval-

uate the school's family engagement performance. The team evaluated the school's practices, identified key areas for improvement, and integrated new practices designed to elevate its family-friendly

rating.

For more details on the Family Friendly Schools Certification, visit prichardcommittee.org/familyengagement. The next certification window will open on May 1, 2026 and close on Oct. 1.

Birth Announcements

Staff Report

Oct. 26 A girl, Aurora Rose Galligan, was born to Alexis and Michael Galligan of Danville.

Oct. 30 A boy, Rowan Lynn Morris, was born to Breeanna Sue Halcomb and Christian Gauge Morris of Harrodsburg.

Oct. 31 A boy, Everett William Meeks, was born to Kayla Bernhardt and Russell Meeks of Danville.

A boy, Carson Jack Poynter, was born to Kaitlin and Christian Poynter of Stanford.

Nov. 10 A boy, Scott Michael Richardson, was born to Rebecca and Shane Richardson of Crab Orchard.

A girl, Sylvia Opal Wilson, was born to Diamond St. Andrew and Anthony Wilson of Danville, Ky.

Nov. 12 A boy, Hudson

Creed Withrow, was born to Lauren and Tyson Withrow of Stanford, Ky.

Nov. 13 A boy, Charles Thorpe Martin VIII, was born to Skylar Renea Stacy and Charles Thorpe Martin VII of Perryville.

Nov. 14 A boy, Noah Powell Cecil, was born to Skylar and Lucian Cecil III of Danville.

A boy, Beckett Wade Pleasants, was born to Lily Cress of Stanford.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Staff at the Salvation Army accept boxed lunches delivered as part of Boyle County ASAP's annual "First Responders Thank You Lunch" effort on Nov. 13.

BOYLE

Continued from 1A

misuse and addiction, and the related mental health issues, is best

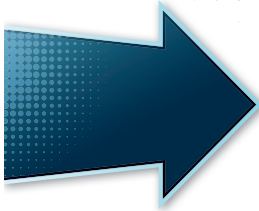
done together at the grassroots level.

The next meeting of ASAP is December 5, at 8:30 AM, at the Boyle County Health Department. Community

members are always welcome to attend and participate in Kentucky's first "Certified Recovery Ready Community".



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