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## District Knew Of Allegations

Babylon parent reported teacher's conduct years earlier, records show  
**A6-7 | VIDEO AT NEWSDAY.TV**



Ex-Babylon teacher Timothy Harrison

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## Seniors Who Stay on LI

What keeps them here despite lure of cheaper, warmer spots  
**LI REAL ESTATE**

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# GOV'T SHUTDOWN, DAY 16 FOOD BENEFITS IN PERIL

**SNAP** payments will be delayed next month if stoppage drags on, officials say, affecting **160,000 Liers**



More than 3 million New York State residents rely on the program, officials say.

**A2-4 | VIDEO AT NEWSDAY.TV**

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## SOURCES: NYS GOP TO DISBAND YOUNG REPUBLICANS OVER TEXTS

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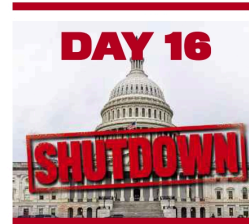
**TOP STORIES**

**SHUTDOWN MAY HOLD**

**WH tells states to stop issuing SNAP benefits**

**FIRST IN NEWSDAY**

**BY BILLY HOUSE AND TIFFANY CUSAAC-SMITH**  
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WASHINGTON — Food assistance relied upon by nearly 3 million New Yorkers — and more than 160,000 Long Islanders — could be delayed next month if the U.S. government shutdown continues, state officials are being warned.

The Trump administration is directing states to stop the

process of issuing monthly food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the name for the program previously known as food stamps.

If the ongoing lapse of federal appropriations to agencies and programs continues, “there will be insufficient funds to pay full November SNAP benefits for approximately 42 million individuals across the nation,” a memo

to states from the Food and Nutrition Service warns.

In New York, Gov. Kathy Hochul on Thursday criticized “Washington Republicans” for “playing political games” with a vital program she said lives depend on, “to inflict pain on millions of hardworking American families.”

On Long Island, the program is instrumental in placing fruits, vegetables and other food on the table of many vulnerable families and generating tens of millions of dollars in revenue for groceries and other food providers each month, multiple area food banks said in phone interviews Thursday.

Losing out on benefits for even a month, they warn, will place undue pressure on local food banks and soup kitchens at a moment when those places

**Top NY Dems vow to**

**BY LAURA FIGUEROA HERNANDEZ**  
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The White House has “terminated” funding for \$16 billion Gateway.

WASHINGTON — Top New York Democrats on Thursday vowed to fight for the restoration of funding for the \$16 billion Gateway Tunnel project, a day after President Donald Trump declared federal dollars for the massive infrastructure project “terminated.”

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, in a Senate floor speech, decried Trump’s announcement, calling it “petty revenge politics” that would “choke off our economy, and kill good-paying jobs,” and Gov. Kathy Hochul signaled the state would challenge any funding halt in the courts.

“We will fight the president on this in every way to preserve this crucial, vital infrastructure project, crucial and vital to New York, New Jersey, the Northeast economy and the whole American economy,” Schumer said.

Trump, speaking to reporters in the Oval Office on Wednesday, said the yearslong project to build a new rail tunnel connecting New York and New Jersey via the Hudson River would be among the “Democrat projects” nixed by his administration during the ongoing fed-

eral government shutdown. “The project in Manhattan, [the] project in New York, it’s billions and billions of dollars that Schumer has worked 20 years to get. It’s terminated. Tell him it’s terminated,” Trump said.

Despite Trump’s remarks, work at the Hudson Yards work site in Manhattan continued on Thursday, according to footage captured by CBS News. A Department of Transportation official told Politico the agency has no plans to kill funding for the tunnel or the Second Avenue Subway extension in Manhat-

tan, two recent targets of the Trump Administration.

Earlier in the week the president said he planned to unveil a list of “Democrat projects” on Friday that would be canceled in response to the funding impasse.

Congressional Democrats and Republicans have failed to pass a short-term spending bill to reopen the federal government, which has been shut down since Oct. 1. Democrats have been withholding their support from a Trump-backed spending bill in an effort to get Republicans to agree to an extension on soon-

# UP FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR 160K ON LI

are already seeing a marked increase in demand. For instance, Long Island Cares — The Harry Chapin Food Bank said they're seeing a 30% average increase in demand across their member kitchens and food pantries this year.

"If people that were able to buy groceries because they received SNAP benefits no longer are able to make do, they're going to overload the system," said Michael Haynes, Long Island Cares' vice president of government relations, advocacy and social policy. "They're going to be going to our pantries, our kitchens in record numbers."

In New York, SNAP benefits using electronic transfers are typically deposited into recipient accounts during the first week of the month. The total dollar amount that would nor-

mally go out to New Yorkers in November was not available. But the latest available monthly total was \$642 million, dating from July, according to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Hochul asserted the federal government should be doing everything in its power to keep this funding flowing. She said the state cannot backfill the federal funded food program using state dollars.

Rep. Laura Gillen (D-Rockville Centre) called Republicans "shameful and cruel" for not keeping the food aid going. "Thousands of Nassau County seniors, veterans and families count on SNAP to put food on the table," Gillen said. "The Administration should reverse course and release the funds that New York

state is owed immediately."

But Republicans blamed Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) for jeopardizing food assistance. "While Senator Schumer cynically said that 'every day gets better for us,' his shutdown is making every day worse for New Yorkers," Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-Bayport) said in a statement.

The news of the federal alert to halt SNAP assistance came as the government shutdown was in its 16th day on Thursday — and on Friday will officially become the second-longest federal closure in history.

Already, SNAP recipients often don't receive enough benefits to cover monthly food cost and can find themselves also using food pantries to tide them over from month to month, experts say.

Even a temporary pause in those food benefits, they say, will make the math of food insecurity intensely more difficult.

"It's a delicate balance between SNAP, their own income and then using the emergency food system — food banks and food pantries," Haynes said. "And, if you take off one leg of that triangle, it gets hard."

Randi Shubin Dresner, president and CEO of Island Harvest Food Bank, noted the government's decisions are having a "cascading ripple effect" at a time when more people in need are turning to nonprofits that might have had their government funding slashed. In the past few months, she said Island Harvest Food Bank has lost at least \$4 million in government cuts for various programs. Officials there are expecting more.

## WHAT NEWSDAY FOUND

- **Food assistance** relied upon by nearly 3 million New Yorkers — and more than 160,000 Long Islanders — could be delayed next month if the government shutdown continues.
- **The Trump administration** is directing states to stop the process of issuing the monthly food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.
- **Gov. Kathy Hochul** on Thursday criticized "Washington Republicans" for "playing political games" with a vital program she said lives depend on.

# fight WH for Gateway tunnel funds



The Gateway project is building a new Hudson River crossing after the original, century-old tunnel was damaged during Superstorm Sandy.

to-expire health care subsidies they contend will raise insurance premiums for millions of Americans if not renewed.

The White House Office of Management and Budget and Department of Transportation did

not return requests for comment on whether the Gateway project is on the list of projects set to be axed by Trump on Friday.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) in a statement said "the Gateway project has been

in the works long before President Donald Trump and will serve New Yorkers long after President Donald Trump."

She noted that in May she received assurances from Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy

during a Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing that he did not have plans to cancel funding for the Gateway project.

Hochul, in a Wednesday night interview with MSNBC, signaled the state is prepared to

sue should funding be withheld, telling interviewer Chris Hayes, "We'll always win in court."

"The Gateway Tunnel, this and the Second Avenue Subway have been talked about for decades," Hochul said. "We finally get them over the finish line — \$18 billion worth of projects and 15,000 union jobs, good paying union jobs — and they don't give a damn about them."

On the first day of the government shutdown, Trump's chief budget director Russell Vought announced in a social media post that \$18 billion in federal funding for Gateway and the Second Avenue Subway extension would be withheld citing "unconstitutional DEI principles," referring to the administration's stance against diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

The Gateway project, which looks to provide an alternative to the century-old North River Tunnel that was badly damaged during Superstorm Sandy, is being funded by a mix of local and federal dollars, including funding from New York, New Jersey and regional transit authorities.

The Gateway Development Commission, which oversees the project, in an email to Newsday declined to comment on the status of the project's funding.