

# Register-Star

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Volume 233, No. 196

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

Single Copy \$3.00

## RED HOOK

### Devereux worker charged after alleged abuse

BY MARY DEMPSEY

A staff member at Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health was arrested and charged Monday in connection with allegedly hitting a resident of the facility, New York State Police said Tuesday.

Samuel I. Ezechukwu, 49, of Red Hook, was charged first-degree endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person, a class E felony, after police re-

ceived a report on Monday of alleged physical abuse by a staff member at the facility, located at 40 Devereux Way in Red Hook.

"The investigation conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation determined that staff member Samuel I. Ezechukwu, 49, of Red Hook, New York, struck a resident, the victim, in the back and held the resident's head down while transporting facility residents," state police said in a press release.

Ezechukwu was released on an appearance ticket returnable Oct. 8 to Rhinebeck town court.

The Devereux facility focuses on providing "educational, clinical, residential and community-based programs and services to children and adults - ages 5 to 21 - with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, emotional and behavioral differences, and dual diagnoses," according to its website.



FILE PHOTO

A state police car.

## COPAKE

### State: Hecate application is complete for Shepherd's Run

BY SHAWN NESS

Hecate Energy has completed its application for the Shepherd's Run Solar Project, clearing the way to apply for a draft permit.

Hecate's initial application for the solar project — a 60-megawatt solar project on a 265-acre parcel of land — was rejected in 2024 after the company lost access to a 60-acre parcel of land that would have held an access road and solar panels.

The company reapplied for a smaller 42-megawatt project with the state Office of Renewable Energy Siting in December 2024. The company has received two notices of incomplete application, the first in February, and the second in June.

Hecate received notification of a complete application from the state Office of Renewable Energy Siting on Sept. 19, according to a Department of Public Service letter addressed to the energy company.

But the Sensible Solar for Rural New York, a local community group against the project, said the application did not contain an evacuation plan for the Taconic Hills Central Schools in Copake.

"We are dismayed that ORES has deemed the Shepherd's Run application complete without requiring



FILE PHOTO

Site of the proposed Shepherd's Run Solar Project in Copake.

an evacuation plan for the Taconic schools in the event of fire," the group's Sara Traberman said in a statement Sept. 21. "We urge ORES to issue a permit denial, rather than a Draft Permit, in the next 60 days."

The district had just over 1,000 students during the 2023-24 school year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

An evacuation plan for the farm's staff was included in the application that included a section dedicated to "public safety, health, and security," according to the application.

There was no evacuation plan included for the surrounding community.

"Project equipment and systems do not present a hazard to the neighboring community, and therefore, community evacuation would not be required," according to the application.

The application's onsite evacuation plan states onsite staff must quickly leave the area when ordered to do so, report to designated checkpoints and not return to the site until receiving

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### Trump calls for using US cities as 'training ground' for armed forces

BY BEN FINLEY, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN AND EVAN VUCCI

QUANTICO, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday proposed using American cities as training grounds for the armed forces, with U.S. military might being deployed against what he described as the "invasion from within."

Addressing an audience of military brass abruptly summoned to Virginia, Trump outlined a muscular and at times norm-shattering view of the military's role in domestic affairs. He was joined by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who declared an end to "woke" culture and announced new directives for troops that include "gender-neutral" or "male-level" standards for physical fitness.

The dual messages underscored the Trump administration's efforts not only to reshape contemporary Pentagon culture but enlist military resources for the president's priorities and in everyday American civic life, including by quelling unrest and violent

crime on city streets.

"We should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military," Trump said. He noted at another point: "We're under invasion from within. No different than a foreign enemy but more difficult in many ways because they don't wear uniforms."

Hegseth called hundreds of military leaders and their top advisers from around the world to the Marine Corps base in Quantico without publicly revealing the reason. His address largely focused on his own long-used talking points that painted a picture of a military that has been hamstrung by "woke" policies, and he said military leaders should "do the honorable thing and resign" if they don't like his new approach.

Though meetings between military brass and civilian leaders are nothing new, this gathering had fueled intense speculation about its purpose given the haste with which it was called and the mystery surrounding it. The fact that

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### US gov't on brink of first shutdown in almost 7 years

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO AND STEPHEN GROVES

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a government shutdown just hours away, Democrats and Republicans angrily blamed each other and refused to budge from their positions Tuesday, unable to find agreement or even negotiate as hundreds of thousands of federal workers stood to be furloughed or laid off.

The partisan standoff over health care and spending is threatening to trigger the first U.S. government shutdown in almost seven years at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday. To avoid it, the Senate would have to pass a House measure that would extend federal funding for seven weeks while lawmakers finish their work on annual spending bills. But a resolution appeared far off as tempers flared, increasing the odds of a shutdown by the hour.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Republicans are trying to "bully" Democrats by refusing to negotiate on an extension of health care benefits and other priorities.

"It's only the president who can do this. We know he runs the show here," Schumer said Tuesday morning, after a bipartisan White House meeting the day before yielded little progress.

"Republicans have until midnight tonight to get serious with us," Schumer said.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE — AP

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., center, flanked by Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., left, and Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., arrives to speak on the steps of the Capitol to insist that Republicans include an extension of expiring health care benefits as part of a government funding compromise, in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025.

President Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans say they won't entertain any changes to the legislation, arguing that it's a stripped-down, "clean" bill that should be noncontroversial.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said Republicans "are not going to be held hostage" by the Democrats' demands. The GOP-led House was on a weeklong recess, unavailable for immediate votes even if the Senate did find bipartisan agreement. And far from

entering into negotiations, Trump instead posted a fake, mocking video of Democrats on Monday evening after the White House meeting.

On Tuesday, Trump threatened retribution, saying a shutdown could include "cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like."

It was still unclear if either side would blink before the deadline.

**BLAME GAME**

#### ESCALATES

While partisan stalemates over government spending are a frequent occurrence in Washington, the current impasse comes as Democrats see a rare opportunity to use their leverage to achieve policy goals and as their base voters are spoiling for a fight with Trump. Republicans who hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate would likely need at least eight votes from Democrats to end a filibuster and pass the bill with 60 votes, since Republican Sen.

Rand Paul of Kentucky is expected to vote against it.

Still, Schumer said Trump and Republicans would be to blame if the government shuts down.

A handful of Democrats said they were still deciding how to vote, holding out for a last-minute compromise. Thune said he is "hoping there are Democrats out there who are reasonable and understand what's at stake here."

The last shutdown was in Trump's first term, from December 2018 to January 2019, when he demanded that Congress give him money for his U.S.-Mexico border wall. Trump retreated after 35 days — the longest shutdown ever — amid intensifying airport delays and missed paydays for federal workers.

#### DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE ASKS

Millions of people could face higher insurance premiums if the health care subsidies expire at the end of the year. Congress first put them in place in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, to expand coverage for low- and middle-income people who purchase health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

Democrats say they want the subsidies immediately extended. They have also demanded that Republicans reverse the Medicaid cuts that were enacted as a

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Olana Partnership to host talk on Petra historic site

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Sunny and cooler  
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