



NEWS

Federal funding cuts to impact local museums and libraries

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ROCHESTER, N.Y. (WROC) – On Monday, The Trump Administration’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) announced their plans to cut funding from both the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Both of these agencies supply funding to museums and libraries across the country, which goes towards history preservation and expansion.

At the Livingston County Historical Society, Museum Administrator Anna Kowalchuk said the organization was promised two separate grants from IMLS, totalling \$200,000. With their organization no longer slated to receive these funds, she called the decision “frustrating”.

“Part of these funds were going towards improving a huge building project we’re doing. We’re also understanding how we’re a large part of tourism in our region, so I think these federal cuts are going to have an impact on potential economic dollars in the future,” Kowalchuk said.

The organization’s building project has been in the works for a while now, which would expand the museum’s artifact storage space and allow the organization to purchase a variety of equipment for properly storing all different types of artifacts which aren’t on display.

Kowalchuk explained the organization had already begun this project, as NEH and IMLS grants are awarded on the basis of reimbursement. With the Livingston County Historical Society having already fronted the money for some of this project and then learning these promised grants would no longer be dispersed, Kowalchuk says the entire project is now on hold.

“We had to put a pause on purchasing collection and storage equipment specifically, because we thought we had the funding in order to do that,” Kowalchuk said. “We love our history, everybody around here supports the history. But the dollars that go into preserving it are in

jeopardy.”

Alongside the Livingston County Historical Society are many other organizations facing similar challenges as a result of this federal decision.

“It’s these kinds of grants that support activities and projects outside of our general operating support and allows for us to grow,” Kowalchuk said. “This has tempered our ability to go forward in some ways.”

Other organizations in the Rochester area who have received funding from NEH and IMLS in the past and may be impacted by these funding cuts include the Rochester Museum and Science Center, The George Eastman Museum and the Genesee Country Village and Museum.

There is currently a lawsuit filed by Attorneys General of 20 states across the nation, including New York, challenging these funding cuts.

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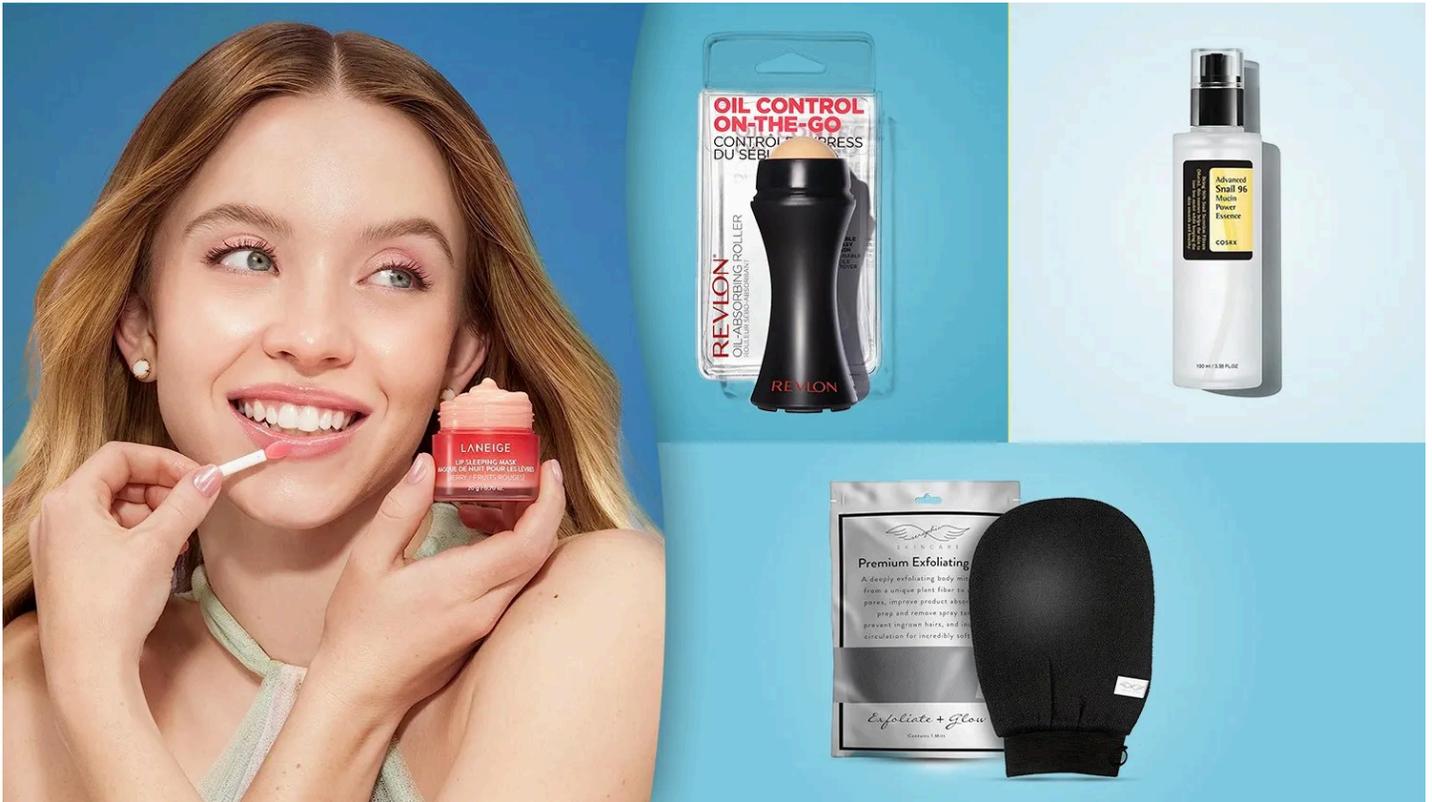
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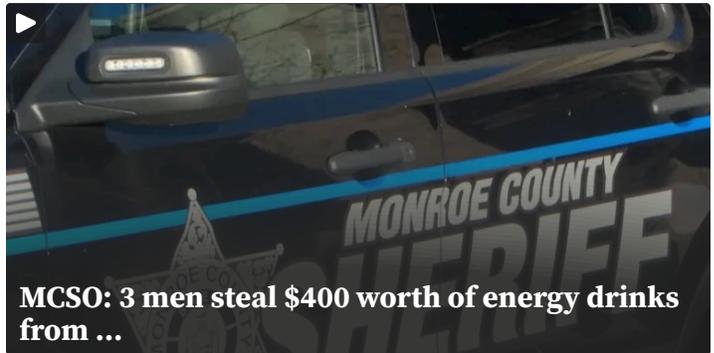
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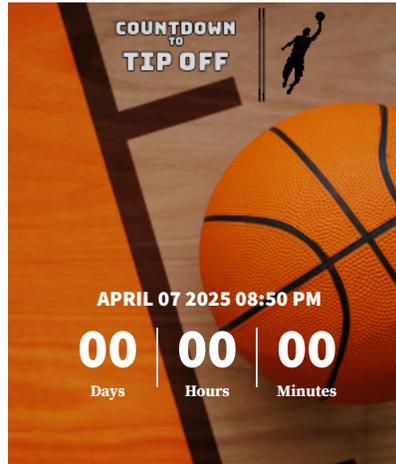
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