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Dems urge DeSantis to use emergency funds for SNAP

Gray Rohrer
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Funding authority for a food benefits program is set to expire Nov. 1, and Florida Democrats want Gov. Ron DeSantis to declare a state of emergency and use state money to pay for it.

All 43 Democrats in the Legislature signed a letter Oct. 28 urging DeSantis to prevent delays in benefits for recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, also known

as food stamps.

“Florida has the fiscal strength to respond,” the letter states. “What’s needed now is the moral will to act. No parent should have to choose between paying rent and feeding their kids. No child should go hungry because politicians in Washington can’t agree. We urge you to act immediately.”

SNAP provides money for groceries to low-income families, is funded by the federal government, but is administered by the states. Unless a recipient is dis-

abled, taking care of a child under 6, in a drug treatment program or in school or job training, they are required to work to receive SNAP benefits.

There are nearly 42 million SNAP recipients nationwide, including 2.8 million in Florida. Only households earning below 200% of the federal poverty line (\$64,300 for a family of four) can qualify for SNAP, although assets also factor into eligibility. The maximum monthly

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Gov. Ron DeSantis has used emergency powers this year to provide funding for immigration enforcement.

ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT FILE

Bartow annexes airport despite residents’ concerns

Some say new housing developments will alter wetlands, destroy their quality of life

Paul Nutter
Lakeland Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

Despite opposition by vocal residents, the Bartow City Commission by unanimous vote has cleared the annexation of the Bartow Executive Airport.

In a 5-0 vote, the commission approved bringing the airbase into its confines on Oct. 20, despite resident concerns that the geopolitical decision will usher in new housing developments to the surrounding area, clog local roadways, alter wetlands, threaten wildlife, delay police and fire response in the area and destroy their quality of life.

In the end, commissioners said the increase in the city’s tax base would outweigh the potential negatives raised by residents. All while residents and some elected officials have questioned the timing of the airport annexation, linking it to several pending subdivision proposals.

The airport is located on the east side of U.S. 17 and 91 Mine Road, and south of Bomber Road. The northeast corner of the airport touches the city limit of Eagle Lake. The southeast and southwest corners of the airport adjoin the city limits of Bartow.

The proposed subdivisions on hundreds of acres in east Bartow and unincorporated Polk County on rural land could include Wellington Court, Emilie East and Emilie West (or Emilie at Bartow).

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The Bartow Executive Airport was annexed by Bartow during a meeting on Oct. 20. ANDY KUPPERS/THE LEDGER

Norman Grim put to death

Convicted of brutal 1998 East Milton murder

Tom McLaughlin
Pensacola News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Norman Grim, who in 1998 ruthlessly killed attorney Cynthia Campbell by beating and stabbing her during the commission of a sexual assault, was executed Oct. 28.

Grim previously waived any effort to fight his death sentence and became the 15th person in Florida to be put to death this year.

Other than a smattering of protesters outside Florida State Prison in Raiford – which is typical of state executions – Grim’s death penalty was carried out with little fuss or complication.

During a press conference outside the prison before the execution, Florida Department of Corrections Director of Communications Ted Veerman said Grim got up at 6 a.m. and had been “compliant” throughout the day.

He ate a last meal of fried pork chops, mashed potatoes and gravy, Brussels sprouts, a chocolate milk shake, banana cream pie and a soda, according to Veerman.

Once in the execution chamber, Grim was asked if he had any last words and simply replied, “No sir.” He was officially pronounced deceased at 6:14 p.m. EST.

Grim and Campbell were next door neighbors and were together at

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Grim

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