



As shutdown continues, SNAP ‘well’ running dry

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East Wing erased for ballroom vision



An excavator works to clear rubble after the East Wing of the White House was demolished on Oct. 23 in Washington, DC. ERIC LEE/GETTY IMAGES

Criticism of plans grows along with cost, size

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USA TODAY

President Donald Trump’s desire to build a ballroom in the White House predates his first presidency – which began almost a decade ago – and spans three presidencies.

But concrete plans remained elusive – until late July.

Trump was ready with schematics after months of teasing ideas for a “new, big, beautiful” ballroom, like the one in

Mar-a-Lago, his oceanfront estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

On July 31, seven months into Trump’s second term as president, the White House put out an announcement, with renderings of a gold-accented lavish ballroom as well as details about the cost of construction and when it would be completed. But as Americans found out Oct. 20 when bulldozers razed the East Wing, there were gaps in the details. Here are five ways the ballroom plan changed or evolved:

1. From ‘compliments of’ Trump to additional ‘patriot donors’

On Feb. 6, as Trump stood before a crowd of elected officials, guests and children who had assembled beneath the crystal chandeliers in the East Room to watch him sign an executive order seeking to bar transgender women and girls from participating in women’s sports, he said he was reminded of an old idea.

“This room is packed,” he said, before telling the audience that he’d

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GoBus brings new routes to NW Ohio for better access

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COLUMBUS — The Ohio Department of Transportation is expanding its GoBus intercity transit network, doubling its service footprint and extending routes to previously unserved regions, including Marion and Fremont.

The expansion, in partnership with the Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program, will add four new routes, connecting more Ohioans to essential services, higher education and employment opportunities, according to a community announcement.

The new routes will extend GoBus service to western and northern Ohio, including Bowling Green, Fremont, Marion, Middletown, Oxford, Upper Sandusky and Yellow Springs.

“Transportation should never be a barrier to opportunity,” Gov. Mike DeWine said in the announcement. “This expansion provides those in rural and underserved communities reliable and affordable transportation options to access essential services.”

GoBus offers several amenities

GoBus operates with deluxe 56-passenger motor coaches featuring free wireless internet, outlets at every seat, extra leg room, an on-board restroom and a seat belt at every seat.

“By expanding GoBus routes into more communities, we’re helping Ohioans connect to jobs, health care and education — no matter where they live,” ODOT Director Pamela Boratyn said in the announcement.

GoBus, Ohio’s Rural Intercity Bus Program, was created to link rural and underserved areas to metropolitan centers that serve as hubs for essential services and onward travel. The

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Buckeye Lake karaoke shooting suspect to change plea

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Richard A. Lindgren, the man accused of fatally shooting a Mount Vernon man during a karaoke night in Buckeye Lake, is expected to change his plea, according to court records.

Lindgren’s attorney, Diane Menashe, notified the Licking County Common Pleas Court on Oct. 20 that her client intends to plead guilty as part of a plea deal, court records show. Lindgren faces charges of aggravated murder, two counts of murder, felonious assault and tampering with evidence.

Lindgren, 59, of Newark, is scheduled to appear in court at 11 a.m. Nov. 6 at the Licking County Courthouse.

Menashe declined an interview request, citing the active nature of the case.

In court documents, police allege that Lindgren shot and killed Ben Hawk from behind July 11 at Louie’s Corner House while Hawk was singing karaoke. Deputies found Hawk, 42, dead at the scene and allege that Lindgren fled the state before police arrested him on suspicion of murder a day later in Orangeburg, South Carolina, more than 500 miles from Buckeye Lake.

The Licking County Coroner’s Office ruled Hawk’s death a homicide, according to court records.

Lindgren pleaded not guilty to murder charges several days after a Licking County grand jury indicted him. A trial scheduled for Dec. 9 has been canceled, court records show.

Police extradited Lindgren back to Licking County after his arrest and booked him into the Licking County jail July 15, where he has remained since on a \$5 million bond.

Lindgren told people he wanted to harm Hawk, prosecutors allege

Prosecutors allege in court documents that Lindgren entered the bar around 9:30 p.m. with a loaded, concealed handgun and that his ex-wife and Hawk were already there. Right before midnight, Lindgren approached Hawk from behind, pulled out the gun and shot him in the head “execution style,” prosecutors allege in the records.

Lindgren’s ex-wife followed him after the shooting to confront him before he pointed a weapon at her, saying, “Don’t follow me or I will shoot you,” prosecutors allege in the records. He left in his car, and after his arrest, detectives found the firearm in the car that they allege Lindgren used in the shooting.

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Ben Hawk loved karaoke and singing. He died July 11 after a Newark man shot and killed him at Louie’s Corner House in Buckeye Lake, police allege in court documents. PROVIDED BY DAVID HAWK

