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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Feds kill another \$100M in Ill. grants

Funds cut for EV chargers, secretary of state's office

By Talia Soglin
Chicago Tribune

The Trump administration says it's revoking more federal grant dollars in Illinois — this time for electric vehicle charging stations.

On the chopping block in Illinois is a \$100 million grant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for electric vehicle charging stations and a \$3.6 million grant to the secretary of state's office, the White House's Office of Management and Budget said.

The White House confirmed it was rescinding a total of more than \$943 million in U.S. Department of Transportation funds from Illinois, Colorado, California and Minnesota, all of which are led by Democrats. The cuts, which were first reported by the New York Post, come alongside a planned \$602 million in cuts to health care grants in the same states, though a federal judge has temporarily blocked the administration from rescinding those grants.

The Illinois secretary of state's office said it had signed a contract for the execution of the \$3.6 million grant with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, part of the federal transportation department, and had not been notified the grant was being rescinded.

Scott Burnham, deputy secretary of state, said the grant was intended to fund three priorities related to commercial driver's licenses in Illinois: studying the prevention of traffic crashes and fatalities related to large trucks and buses; implementing a new test proctoring program that would mitigate fraud on the written CDL exam; and translating the written CDL exam into Spanish.

Turn to Cuts, Page 2

INSIDE Health care grant cuts temporarily blocked

A federal judge has temporarily blocked the Trump administration from cutting more than \$600 million in health care grants meant for Illinois and three other states. Dollars at risk in Illinois include \$86 million slated to go to the Illinois Department of Public Health for public health efforts and prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, and more than \$61 million for the Chicago Department of Public Health for similar work. **Chicagoland, Page 3**



'HE'S GOING TO RESPOND'
How lefty Shota Imanaga and the Cubs are planning to tweak his arsenal for a bounce-back season. **Chicago Sports**

DHS shutdown looms

Democrats say they won't OK funding unless reforms made

By Meg Kinnard
Associated Press

Another shutdown for parts of the federal government is expected this weekend as lawmakers debate new restrictions on President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement agenda.

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security is set to expire early Saturday. Democrats say they won't help approve more funding until new restrictions are placed on federal immigration operations after the fatal shooting of Alex Pretti and Renee Good last month in Minneapolis.

The White House has been negotiating with the Democrats, but the two sides failed to reach a deal by the end of the week, guaranteeing that funding for the department will lapse.

The Capitol emptied out Thursday, a full day before the midnight Friday deadline. Lawmakers who were deadlocked jetted off to Munich for a security conference or headed home for a weeklong recess, seemingly unconcerned with the looming closure. It was a stark change from the past, when lawmakers were reluctant to seem like they were giving up for even a moment before time ran out for a deal.

Turn to Shutdown, Page 4

Hundreds of city students join national movement to protest ICE



A WAVE OF WALKOUTS

By Laura Turbay
Chicago Tribune

Kendle Coleman had planned to use her painted orange banner for "senior sunrise" — a popular high school tradition among seniors — at the beach last summer.

Months later, she repurposed it for Friday's school walkout protesting the Trump administration's continued mass deportation campaign.

"Nobody is illegal on stolen land," said Coleman, 17, a senior at Our Lady of Tepeyac High School in Little Village.

Coleman was among hundreds of students who left their classrooms Friday afternoon,

Senn High School student Kristina Williams, 16, cries during the walkout and protest against federal immigration enforcement on Friday afternoon in Chicago's Daley Plaza. It was the latest in a series of school walkouts that have taken hold of Chicago in recent weeks. **JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

some walking, others taking public transportation, to gather in downtown's Federal Plaza to protest recent immigration enforcement actions.

The students rallying at Federal Plaza were among those expected to leave school on Friday in other cities, including Los Angeles, New York and Austin, Texas.

"We called this nationwide walkout ... because the first thing is being able to step up and fight ICE. We need to do that collectively," said Lauren Valice, 28, who helped organize the walkouts in roughly 11 Chicago high schools with the activist group Dare to Struggle.

Turn to Walkouts, Page 4

AGENTS PLACED ON LEAVE: Federal authorities have opened a criminal probe into whether two immigration officers lied under oath about the shooting of a Venezuelan man in Minneapolis last month. **Nation & World in Business, Page 4**



Katie Kraus, vice president of the Lincoln Square/Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, met her husband, Jason Kraus, while she was a waitress at Chicago Brauhaus and he worked across the street at Martin's Big & Tall. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Love is in the Square

This Valentine's Day, couples share how their stories started at small businesses in North Side neighborhood

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

Katie Kraus was wearing a dirndl when she met her now-husband. For her, the traditional German dress with a tight-fitting bodice and apron couldn't have been more "embarrassing."

It was 2003 and she was waitressing during German Fest at Chicago Brauhaus, a Lincoln Square staple. She snuck glances at a "really cute" man who showed up that night with his friends. She'd seen him around the neighborhood before since he worked across the street at his family's clothing store, Martin's Big & Tall. Katie got the feeling that the man, Jason Kraus, was checking her out too. They even both mentioned each other to another waitress, who helped make the

introduction, she said.

"He was on his way out the door, and (the other waitress) literally put her hand on his shoulder, and said, 'Where do you think you're going? You're not leaving without meeting Katie,'" she said. "So he turned around, came and introduced himself and the rest is history."

Though the Brauhaus is now closed, they are still together decades later, recently celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary.

Katie, the associate director at the Lincoln Square/Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, wondered how many other love stories started at local small businesses.

Valentine's Day seemed like the perfect time to find out.

Turn to Love, Page 2

