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Trump signs order to pay TSA

President follows through after House rejects bill to fund DHS, end shutdown driving airport chaos

By Lisa Mascaro, Mary Clare Jalonick and Kevin Freking
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday signed a promised executive action that will pay Transportation Security

Administration employees, after a deal that sought to do the same stalled in Congress.

Trump signed the action with an eye toward easing long security lines at many of the nation's top airports.

"America's air travel system has reached its breaking point," Trump

said in the memo authorizing the payments.

He added, "I have determined that these circumstances constitute an emergency situation compromising the Nation's security."

Trump said his administration would use "funds that have a reasonable and logical nexus to TSA operations" for the payments.

In a statement Friday, Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said TSA workers "should

begin seeing paychecks as early as Monday."

On Thursday night, as lawmakers grappled with the issue, a senior administration official said the money would come from the tax bill Trump signed last year.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official compared the move to actions Trump took during a past shutdown to pay troops.

Trump's action came after House

Republicans rejected a Senate-passed bill to fund most of the Department of Homeland Security, a revolt that risked delaying a resolution to the funding impasse now in its 42nd day that has created long lines at many of the nation's airports.

"This gambit that was done last night is a joke," House Speaker Mike Johnson said Friday.

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JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A 'commitment to justice'

People walk past a mural of United Farm Workers co-founder Dolores Huerta on Cafe Tola in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood on Friday. Earlier in the week, a mural of Cesar Chavez was replaced by Huerta, who is one of the many women and girls that Chavez allegedly sexually assaulted while leading the farmworkers movement in the United States, according to a New York Times investigation. The allegations have rippled through the nation, and in Illinois, lawmakers passed resolutions this week to replace Cesar Chavez Day with Farmworkers Day on March 31 and declare Dolores Huerta Day on April 10 throughout the state. **Chicagoland, Page A3**

LOYOLA STUDENT SHOOTING

Judge keeps suspect jailed

Man was bused from Texas despite wishes, public defender says

By Madeline Buckley
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A Cook County judge on Friday denied the release of a man accused of killing Sheridan Gorman, the 18-year-old Loyola University Chicago student whose shooting death became a lightning rod in the polarizing debate over immigration policy.

José Medina, 25, who is charged with murder and other felonies, appeared remotely for a detention hearing at the Leighton Criminal Court Building that shed more light on the man's background as attorneys laid out additional elements of the shooting and detailed how he came to be in Chicago.

Medina, a Venezuelan national, shot and killed Gorman while she took in the skyline with friends on a pier around Tobeys Prinz Beach Park in Rogers Park around 1 a.m. on March 19, prosecutors alleged. The tragedy made international news when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced it had lodged a detainee request asking Illinois officials not to release Medina, who, according to the agency, was apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection on May 9, 2023, and "released into the country" under the administration of President Joe Biden.

But Medina's public defender Julie Koehler said that after he turned himself in to authorities in Texas in 2023, Medina was held in a detention center and asked to be returned to Colombia, where he had been living. Instead, Koehler said, he was "placed on a bus and sent to Chicago."

Texas during that period was sending thousands of migrants from the border to "sanctuary cities" in what many criticized as a political move.

Gov. JB Pritzker's office made no immediate comment

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AI school is coming to Chicago

\$55K tuition set for teacher-free campus

By Kate Armanini
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

On an unseasonably warm day in Chicago, Blake Mohseni stepped out for a walk and fielded a call about a school his 3-year-old daughter is still too young to attend. Mohseni — who works in finance and describes himself as "deep in AI" — is among the fervent followers of Alpha School, a network of AI-based private schools soon opening a K-8 campus in the Loop.

There are no teachers, just "guides" to motivate students. Lessons, delivered through AI-powered software, are condensed into two hours. The rest of the day, students engage in an array of workshops, from building robots to scaling obstacle courses. It comes with a hefty price tag: \$55,000 a year.

Mohseni and his wife plan to enroll their daughter when she turns 4.

"I'm a firm believer that this is the future," said Mohseni, who lives in Bloomingdale. "At

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OAK PARK

Deal to reopen hospital on table

By Lisa Schenker and Cam'ron Hardy
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A deal might be in the works to keep West Suburban Medical Center open, after the Oak Park hospital abruptly announced it was suspending patient care this week.

Reddy Rathnaker Patlola, who owns the hospital property and is a minority partner in Resilience Healthcare, which operates West Suburban, said in a statement Friday that he reached out to Insight Hospital & Medical Center in Chicago "to explore whether they can play a constructive role in stabilizing operations at West Suburban."

Insight President and CEO Atif Bawahab confirmed to the Tribune on Friday that he's been in discussions with Patlola, and that the nonprofit Insight could be an interim operator and manager of the hospital, allowing it to reopen. Insight would also be open to operating the hospital in the long term, if it can get the necessary approv-



Workers cover an "Emergency" sign at West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park on Thursday. **CAM'RON HARDY/PIONEER PRESS**

als, Bawahab said.

"We are looking to stabilize the hospital and the services there just to ensure that the community still has a hospital and a health care center there, both in the short term, immediate sense as well as long term," Bawahab said.

"Right now our immediate priority and goal is just to support the hospital and the current staff and the current patients and ensure there's continuity of care for the patients," Bawahab said.

Insight has experience dealing with hospitals in crisis. In 2021, Insight Chicago paid \$1 to buy Bronzeville's Mercy Hospi-

tal, which was otherwise slated to close. Insight then renamed Mercy to Insight Hospital & Medical Center.

Patlola said he's also open to talking with other organizations "that may be willing to assume management and clinical operations at West Suburban Medical Center."

Typically, the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board must approve a new interim operator for a hospital, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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INSIDE

Howdy, neighbor

I When the Illini take the court in Houston tonight with a chance to advance to their first Final Four since 2005, they'll do so while staring down a familiar foe — Big Ten rival Iowa, which is making its first Elite Eight appearance in more than a quarter century. **Sports**

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