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Trump pulls back on dire Iran threat

Tehran council says it will accept 2-week ceasefire amid talks

By Bassem Mroue, Jon Gambrell, Mike Corder and Samy Magdy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — President Donald Trump said late Tuesday he's pulling back on his threats to launch devastating strikes on Iran, swerving to deescalate the war less than two hours before the deadline he set for Tehran to capitulate or else a "whole civilization will die

tonight." Trump said he was holding off on his threatened attacks on Iranian bridges, power plants and other civilian targets, subject to Tehran agreeing to a two-week ceasefire and reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the pivotal waterway through which a fifth of the world's oil is transported during peacetime. He also said Iran has proposed a "workable" 10-point peace plan that could help end war the U.S. and

Israel launched on Feb. 28. Iran's Supreme National Security Council said it has accepted a two-week ceasefire in the war and that it would negotiate with the United States in Islamabad beginning Friday. "It is emphasized that this does not signify the termination of the war," the council's statement said. In a post on his social media site, Trump said that provided Iran agreed "to the COMPLETE,

IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz" he would "suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks." Since the war began Feb. 28, Trump has repeatedly backed off of deadlines just before they expire. In doing so again Tuesday, Trump said he had come to the decision "based on conversations" with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Gen. Asim Munir, Pakistan's powerful army chief. Sharif, in a post on X hours earlier, urged Trump to extend his

deadline by two weeks to allow diplomacy to advance. He used the same post to ask Iran to open the strait for two weeks. The president said in his social media post that Iran has presented "a workable basis on which to negotiate." "Almost all of the various points of past contention have been agreed to between the United States and Iran, but a two week period will allow the Agreement to be finalized and consummated," Trump said.

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Will luxe mansion of magic save Mag Mile?

The Hand & The Eye entertainment, dining complex to open soon

By Chris Jones
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Glen Tullman made his fortune in the health care industry, especially from business ventures in the world of electronic prescriptions. But on this March morning, the 66-year-old is staring at a beautiful piano in a transformed place where waiters once spun salads and generations of Chicagoans ate prime rib served on silver carts with Yorkshire pudding. "Maybe you'll just talk to the piano," he says with a wink, like a child with a fabulous new toy, "and it will play any song you ever imagined."

There are a lot of maybes involved in The Hand & The Eye, the 36,000-square-foot magic-themed entertainment and dining complex set to open this month inside the distinctively eccentric McCormick Mansion on the corner of Ontario and Rush streets alongside the struggling Magnificent Mile. The castle-like mansion is best remembered as the throw-back home of Lawry's the Prime Rib, which closed in 2020 after a 46-year run, but further back in the 20th century, it was also the home of The Kungsholm, a renowned Scandinavian smorgasbord with its own improbable puppet opera theater. Tullman, a magic geek since he

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INSIDE



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE

Another 'punch in the face' for Cubs

For a second consecutive April, the Cubs must navigate losing arguably their best starting pitcher as right-hander Cade Horton will need to undergo season-ending surgery. **Sports**

Judge: Prosecution was not vindictive

Federal judge won't compel prosecutors to produce White House communications in Broadview Six case. **Chicagoland, Page A3**

Leaving troubles at door to share a meal

Restaurants embrace the return of communal tables as diners look for deeper connections when eating out. **Food & Health**



David Diller, a member of the Illinois State Rifle Association board of directors, fires a Glock 17 Gen. 5 next to Mandi Ehler, behind him, the ISRA director of education and training, who fires a Glock 43 at the Illinois State Rifle Association range in Bonfield on Monday. **JOSH BOLAND/TRIBUNE**

Firearms companies again in state legislature's sights

Bill would force gunmakers to redesign pistols that can be converted to automatic weapons

By Jack O'Connor
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SPRINGFIELD — Three years after Illinois passed a sweeping assault weapons ban in the wake of Highland Park's Fourth of July mass shooting, state lawmakers are weighing another measure aimed at the firearms industry: requiring some gun manufacturers to redesign pistols so they can't be easily converted into automatic weapons.

The latest effort by Illinois, long a national leader on gun control, mirrors legislation California passed last year and

comes as lawmakers in New York, Connecticut and Maryland consider similar bills.

While supporters say the proposal would make it harder for criminals to obtain fully automatic firepower, gun rights advocates are already lining up to counter that it unfairly punishes manufacturers for the actions of people who illegally modify weapons.

The legislation focuses largely on Glock-style pistols, said Alison Shih, senior counsel for Everytown for Gun Safety. Compared with other brands, Glocks and similarly designed firearms are particularly prone to being

manipulated with machine gun conversion devices, also known as "switches" or "auto-sears" — small devices attached to the back of handguns that transform them into automatic weapons. With "15 minutes and common household tools," Shih said, a person can convert a semiautomatic pistol into one capable of firing multiple rounds with a single pull of the trigger.

Though the switches or auto-sears used to help convert pistols to automatic weapons are already illegal to own under state and federal law, Shih said they can still be purchased overseas or

produced with 3D printers using designs readily available online.

"It's a pretty minor adjustment for them to make," Shih said.

"It is really akin to being like 'Please put some seat belts in your car before you sell the vehicle,'" she said of the proposed legislation. "We know this can save lives and sometimes industry needs a little bit of a nudge."

National Rifle Association spokesperson Justin Davis said the gun industry shouldn't be responsible for the illegal activity of others.

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In lawsuit, couple alleges intimate exchange was recorded



Clint and Georgia Litle stand outside their former residence, Trump Tower, on March 30 in Chicago. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Former Trump Tower residents say recording was shared with others

By Rebecca Johnson
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Georgia Litle and her husband, Clint Litle, huddled in the bathroom of their lavish condo at Trump Tower and turned on the shower.

They hoped the running water would drown out their "highly personal and sexual" conversation last May after a neighbor complained about the noise. But what happened next crossed the line, the couple alleged.

A neighbor allegedly recorded the intimate exchange and shared

it with building employees, who then passed it on to other residents, according to a federal lawsuit filed last month against Tower employees, the 401 North Wabash Avenue condo association and Trump Chicago Residential Manager LLC.

"I felt very violated, very uncomfortable," Georgia Litle, 36, said. "I started to feel panicked by that interaction in some respects."

The Litles detailed in the complaint and in an interview with the Tribune how their frisky escapades, appearance and young children seemed to increasingly agitate residents and staff. The saga, which the suit claimed amounted to a "continuous

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