

Chicago Tribune



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mayor asks district CEO to resign

Martinez, who is facing increasing pressure from the teachers union, has also clashed with Johnson over refusal to take on loans to fill budget gap

MARTINEZ DENIES CLOSURE PLANS: The Chicago Teachers Union has accused Chicago Public Schools leadership of plotting potential mass school closures in the city, while Chief Executive Officer Pedro Martinez has vehemently denied these allegations, calling them “misinformation.” A statewide moratorium on school closures will expire in January next year. **Page 4**

By Sylvan Lebrun and Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson asked Chicago Public Schools CEO Pedro Martinez to step down this week, several sources close to the matter confirmed with the Tribune Friday. Martinez does not currently plan to resign, a source with knowledge of the conversation told the Tribune. The news of Martinez’s possible ouster was first reported by the Chicago Sun-Times and WBEZ.

The mayor’s alleged move is a result of Martinez’s refusal to take on costly loans to fill the district’s budget gap, the source said. In addition to his opposition to the loan plan, Martinez has also clashed with Johnson and the City Council over whether CPS should foot the bill for a city pension payment plan that includes CPS retirees. Martinez has faced increasing pressure and public criticism from the Chicago Teachers Union over

Turn to CPS, Page 4



Chicago Public Schools CEO Pedro Martinez has been asked to step down from his position, sources say. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

In Chicago, a resilient and strong Haitian community celebrates its contributions to a city founded by a native of the Caribbean island



DEEPLY ROOTED

By Nell Salzman and Laura Rodríguez Presa | Chicago Tribune

Chicago was founded by a Haitian. Chef Daniel Aurel, 26, wants people to know that. There is a large, vibrant mural of Jean Baptiste Point DuSable — the city’s founder — on the outside of his family-owned restaurant Lior’s Cafe in the Washington Heights neighborhood, one of the few restaurants where customers can sit and be waited on in the area. Haitians have been coming to the city for centuries, Aurel said. His grandfather came to Chicago from Haiti in 1962, and brought his family with him.

The restaurant, which opened in May 2023, attracts people from all over the city for Aurel’s famous oxtails, goat pot pie and shrimp stew. “Haitian food is soul,” he said. “It’s family.” So when former President Donald Trump brought up the unsubstantiated claim in the presidential debate earlier this month that Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, are stealing pets to eat, Aurel, like other Haitians in Chicago, called the rhetoric upsetting. But they said they would refuse to let Trump’s continuing unfounded attacks define their values. Haitian culture is deeply rooted and showcased throughout the city. Chicago’s Haitian community has been stung by Trump’s language, but it has also reminded them of everything they have to be proud of, according to interviews with Haitian leaders, workers and recently arrived immigrants. Although there have not been widespread reports of threats or harassment in Chicago, the community plans to show support for the Haitians in Ohio with a “Stop the Haitian Hate” rally at 2 p.m. Sunday in Federal Plaza.

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Top: Antonio Fenner, 48, cleans the sidewalk next to a mural of Jean Baptiste Point DuSable, Toussaint L'Ouverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines outside Lior's Cafe in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Chicago on Thursday. Born in Haiti, DuSable established a successful trading post in the late 18th century in what is now Chicago. L'Ouverture was a leader of the slave rebellion in Haiti, and Dessalines was a leader of the Haitian revolution. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Back to school, under threats

Violent social media posts lead to chaos in city and suburbs

By Sylvan Lebrun
Chicago Tribune

Threats of violence have sparked chaos at dozens of schools in Chicago and surrounding suburbs since the beginning of the school year, leading to lockdowns, security screenings and days of remote learning. Over the past two weeks, a series of anonymous posts circulating on social media have warned of shootings and other acts of violence at local schools. Police department officials say that most of these threats have not been found to be credible after investigation. However, they have had a significant impact on the daily lives of students across the Chicago area, causing school closures and widespread panic among parents on social media. These recent threats reflect a nationwide trend. Since the Sept. 4 shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, which killed two students and two teachers, “guns on campus and school shooting threats are erupting across the country,” according to a report by national advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety. Following the Apalachee shooting, at least four guns have been confiscated in Iowa schools alone, while school shooting threats have led to lockdowns in Florida and Georgia, among other states. At least seven minors have been arrested in Northern California for social media threats against schools. Meanwhile, social media posts warning of shootings led to the closure of over 20 schools in the southwest suburbs of Chicago as students planned to return to class this

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Secret Service report details lapses in keeping Trump safe

By Rebecca Santana, Eric Tucker and Alanna Durkin Richer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Communication breakdowns with local law enforcement hampered the Secret Service’s performance ahead of a July assassination attempt on

former President Donald Trump, according to a new report that lays out a litany of missed opportunities to stop a gunman who opened fire from an unsecured roof. A five-page document summarizing the Secret Service report’s key conclusions finds fault with both local and federal law enforcement, underscoring the cascading

and wide-ranging failings that preceded the July 13 shooting at a Butler, Pennsylvania, campaign rally where Trump was wounded in the ear by gunfire. Lawmakers have been scrambling to ensure the Secret Service has enough money and resources to keep the nation’s presidential candidates safe. It’s unclear,

though, how much they can do with only weeks before the election, or if additional dollars would make an immediate difference. The House on Friday overwhelmingly passed bipartisan legislation 405-0 to require the agency use the same standards when assigning agents to major presidential candidates as they

do presidents and vice presidents. The agency has told Congress that it has already boosted Trump’s security, but House lawmakers want it put into law. Though the failed response on July 13 has been well-documented through congressional testimony,

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