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HOOTING FOR HEALTHCARE

Yesterday, Governor **Josh Shapiro** visited Temple University Health System to highlight investments for nursing in his budget proposal. The Governor has proposed \$5 million to create the Nurse Shortage Assistance Program intended to help hospitals partner with universities with nursing programs to cover tuition costs for students who work in a PA hospital three years after graduation. He stated, "By expanding education programs, providing tuition assistance, and strengthening workforce pipelines, we can ensure hospitals have the skilled professionals they need to deliver high-quality patient care."

SURE TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT

Pennsylvania is shelling out over \$10 million to upgrade its election infrastructure, replacing its outdated voter registration database with a new all-in-one election management system. The Civix system, announced by Secretary of State **Al Schmidt**, will handle voter registration, election night results, campaign finance filings, and lobbyist registration. Expected to be fully operational by the 2028 presidential election, this upgrade is a big deal in Pennsylvania—a swing state where every edge counts and both major parties keep a close watch on election management.

PRELIMINARY REPORT

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has released its preliminary report on the tragic plane crash that took place in Northeast Philadelphia. NTSB found the black box from the plane, but it was not recording at the time of the crash. The report also notes the device most likely was not recording audio for years. In addition, the flight crew was in contact with air traffic control at the time of crash but there was no distress call. While this report did not include the cause of the crash, it is expected to be included in the NTSB's final report. The crash resulted in seven fatalities and 24 injuries.

NO DEAL

Yesterday, President **Donald Trump** announced a one-month delay on tariffs for certain Mexican goods, granting a temporary exemption for products compliant with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The decision follows a conversation between

Trump and Mexican President **Claudia Sheinbaum**, highlighting cooperation on border security and trade. Notably, 99% of trade between the U.S. and Mexico falls under the USMCA. Commerce Secretary **Howard Lutnick** suggested the delay could also extend to Canadian goods at a later date.

CROZER CLOSURE

Prospect Medical announced yesterday that it will begin the process of closing the Crozer Hospitals. Prospect said the decision to close is not final, however they are on track for a full closure by Friday, March 14. The hospitals have been kept open since mid-February after a deal was struck by the Commonwealth and Delaware County providing a total of \$20 million to FTI Consulting to manage the hospital.



Happy Birthday

Today:

- Former State Senator **David W. Heckler**
- **Jason Altmire**, Senior Advisor, Avalere Health; Former U.S. Congressman
- **Terry Murphy**
- **Samuel R. Marshall**
- **Lisa Davis**, Director, Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health
- **Andy Hilt**, SEIU Local 668
- **Marios Kritiotis***, Lobbyist, Salvo Strategies

Saturday:

- Former State Representative **Kevin J. Schreiber**, President & CEO, York County Economic Alliance
- State Representative **Perry Stambaugh**
- **Pam Lewis**
- **Michael P. Thomas**, Partner, MacDonald Illig Attorneys

Sunday:

- State Representative **Robert L. Freeman**
- **Alan Cohn**
- **Mark Vergenes**, President, Mirus Financial Partners; President, PA Parking Association
- **Jessie L. Smith**, Co-Chair, Commission on Women in the Profession Committee, PA Bar Association



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