

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Aug. 20

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, 3 bean salad, pineapple/strawberry ambrosia, dinner roll.

Faculty Inservice, 8 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council meeting, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Girls Soccer: Garretson in Groton, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 21

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, mixed vegetables, muffin, pears.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Cheese stuffed breadstick with marinara sauce.

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

First day of school

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Aug. 22

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, oriental blend vegetables, baked apples, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg omelet

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes.

Boys golf at Milbank, 10 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 23

Senior Menu: BBQ riblet on bun, scalloped potatoes, tomato spoon salad, watermelon, cookie.

School Breakfast: Pancake on a stick.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, green beans.

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

Santos Pleads Guilty

Former US Rep. George Santos pleaded guilty yesterday to two charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft after being indicted on 23 federal felony counts in 2023. The plea deal allows Santos to avoid a September trial but means the 36-year-old will likely face at least six years in prison. He owes at least \$370K in restitution and \$205K in forfeiture. He faces sentencing Feb. 7.

The New York Republican had been at the center of a scandal since beginning his first and only term in office in 2022 when reports revealed he allegedly embellished his background, including his college degree and Wall Street career. In December 2023, the House voted 311-114 to oust Santos from Congress. He became the sixth House member to be expelled in US history and the first to be removed without being convicted of a crime or supporting the Confederacy.

Separately, the FBI arrested a Washington, DC, council member—who unsuccessfully ran for mayor in the nation's capital in 2022—on a federal bribery charge.

From AMD to ZT

California-based chipmaker AMD agreed yesterday to acquire New Jersey-based ZT Systems for \$4.9B. The cash-and-stock deal comes as AMD trails California-based Nvidia as the world's second-largest AI chipmaker.

AMD says the acquisition will expedite its testing and rollout of graphics processing units—high-performance chips that companies like Microsoft rely on to power generative AI software. ZT Systems designs data center and storage infrastructure systems, counting cloud businesses like Microsoft's Azure among its clientele, and generates annual revenue of \$10B. Companies like Microsoft are increasingly relying on Nvidia and AMD as one-stop shop solutions to support infrastructure for power-hungry AI systems. AMD says it plans to sell ZT's server manufacturing business amid the Biden administration's crackdown on mergers.

Nvidia controls roughly 95% of the world's specialist AI chip market; AMD is believed to control the majority of the remaining 5%. AMD's acquisition is expected to close in the first half of 2025.

Superyacht Sinks

A luxury superyacht carrying 22 passengers sank off the coast of Sicily early yesterday, leaving one person dead and six people missing. Fifteen people were rescued, including a one-year-old child. British tech entrepreneur Mike Lynch—acquitted in the US in June of fraud—and his daughter, Hannah, are among those who remain unaccounted for.

The 184-foot yacht named Bayesian was caught in severe weather conditions, including a waterspout, which caused it to capsize around 5 am local time. The ship was anchored roughly a half-mile off the port of Porticello when the storm caused the vessel to tip over. Its mast—the world's tallest aluminum mast in the world at 246 feet—then quickly pulled the ship underwater causing the yacht to sink to about 164 feet deep.

According to the US Coast Guard, there were 3,844 recreational boating accidents in the US in 2023, resulting in 564 deaths.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Phil Donahue, nine-time Daytime Emmy-winning talk show host and Presidential Medal of Freedom winner, dies at 88.

Oprah Winfrey and other TV personalities react to Donahue's death.

Ohio State leads all schools with four players selected to college football's AP preseason All-America team with the regular season set to begin this Saturday.

"Boy Meets World" star Danielle Fishel reveals breast cancer diagnosis.

Disney taps "World News Tonight" producer Almin Karamemedovic as president of ABC News.

Science & Technology

Self-driving car company Waymo reveals details on its "generation 6" vehicle, offering more passenger space and the ability to handle a wide range of weather conditions.

Airline Lufthansa demos the use of a thin material on plane body mimicking shark skin in an effort to save fuel; the microstructure on sharks is estimated to reduce drag by up to 10%.

Scientists identify potential sources of the *Nematostella vectensis* sea anemone's exceptionally long life.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close higher (S&P 500 +1.0%, Dow +0.6%, Nasdaq +1.4%); S&P 500, Nasdaq extend winning streak to eighth consecutive session ahead of Federal Reserve's Jackson Hole Economic Symposium.

Japanese 7-Eleven owner receives preliminary takeover bid from Canada's Alimentation Couche-Tard, which owns Circle K; shares of Japan's Seven & i rise roughly 27% on the news, valuing company at \$38B.

General Motors to lay off around 1,000 salaried employees in software and services unit.

Activist investor Carl Icahn to pay \$2M to settle charges from US Securities and Exchange Commission alleging Icahn failed to timely disclose various personal loans he secured by using his stock in Icahn Enterprises as collateral.

Politics & World Affairs

Democratic National Convention gets underway in Chicago; see updates from the first day.

Republican-led House Oversight, Judiciary, and Ways and Means committees release impeachment report on President Joe Biden, stop short of formally calling on impeachment vote.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad claim responsibility for Sunday bomb blast near synagogue in Tel Aviv; at least one person wounded.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly accepts US-led cease-fire and hostage-release proposal for Israel-Hamas war in Gaza; Hamas urged to accept deal.

Ukraine destroys third bridge in Russia's southwestern Kursk region in bid to disrupt supply routes.

Ukraine orders evacuation of eastern city of Pokrovsk in its Donbas region amid Russia's advances.

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Pictured left to right area Jace Johnson, Carter Simon, Brevin Flihs, Logan Pearson, Jarrett Erdmann and Jayden Schwan. (Courtesy Photo)

Three are medalists at Sioux Valley Boys Golf Meet

The first boys golf meet was held Tuesday at Sioux Valley (Volga) with a very competitive field of golfers taking to the course. Only four points separated the top three teams as Sioux Valley Blue won the meet with 318 points followed by Roncalli with 321, Groton Area with 322, Milbank with 326, Madison with 345, Sioux Valley Gold 360, Sisseton 375 and Redfield with 386.

Groton Area had three medalists (placing in the top 15). Brevin Flihs placed fifth with a 76, Carter Simon placed seventh with a 77, Jace Johnson placed 12th with an 83, Logan Pearson placed 18th with an 86, Jayden Schwan placed 24th with a 91, Jarrett Erdmann placed 36th with a 99.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Biden delivers late-night farewell to Democrats as he passes the torch to Harris

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - AUGUST 20, 2024 12:46 AM

CHICAGO — After waiting nearly an hour to deliver a scheduled-for-prime-time speech that was pushed to nearly 11:30 p.m. Eastern time, President Joe Biden waited an extra three minutes at the lectern on the first night of the Democratic National Convention as chants from party faithful drowned out his attempts to begin.

When planning for the convention began, Biden was expected to speak, as the party's nominee, on the final night.

Instead, he spoke Monday as a leader a few months away from retirement, and as a bridge to new Democratic leadership.

"I love my job," he said as he approached the end of his remarks. "But I love my country more."

In the final minutes of perhaps the final major political speech in a half-century-long career, Biden quoted a song by Gene Scheer.

"America, America, I gave my best to you," he said.

Early and often as he spoke, the thousands of Democratic delegates at the United Center voiced their appreciation, delaying and interrupting him with chants of "We love Joe."

Hours after another crowd, protesters opposed to Biden's handling of Israel's war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, gathered outside the convention hall, Biden gave his strongest remarks to date on the conflict, calling for a cease-fire. He conceded the protesters "have a point."

Biden's address provided a glimpse of what an acceptance speech for a second Democratic nomination might have looked like. But instead of promising what he would do in a second term, he said Vice President Kamala Harris would continue the administration's work.

Biden endorsed Harris as his replacement on the Democratic ticket when he withdrew from the race last month under pressure from Democratic leaders, following his debate performance in June.

In a moment that seemed to surprise Biden, Harris and second spouse Doug Emhoff joined the president and first lady on stage directly after the speech.

'The best volunteer'

Throughout the address, Biden promoted his own record and said Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, possessed the same values and character that would lead to policies Democrats want.

"I promise I'll be the best volunteer the Harris and Walz campaign has ever seen," he said.

Much of his remarks were also focused on the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump, whom Biden defeated in the 2020 election.

Biden's appearance was bumped out of the prime-time block, as scores of earlier speakers and performers forced Democrats' debut night further and further off schedule. Some had to be rescheduled.

"Because of the raucous applause interrupting speaker after speaker, we ultimately skipped elements of our program to ensure we could get to President Biden as quickly as possible so that he could speak directly to the American people," convention officials said in a statement.

"We are proud of the electric atmosphere in our convention hall and proud that our convention is showcasing the broad and diverse coalition behind the Harris-Walz ticket throughout the week on and off the stage."

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Infrastructure, gun safety, prescription drugs

Biden promoted his record over nearly four years in office. The country was no longer in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

He said wages were trending up and inflation was moving down, though he noted there was still more to do on those issues.

He delivered a massive infrastructure bill, signed a bipartisan gun safety law and worked to bring costs of prescription drugs down.

Promoting the successes of his administration, Biden highlighted Harris' role.

When he mentioned the passage of a major Democratic bill in 2022 to boost clean energy production, cap some prescription drug costs and other measures, the crowd responded with a chant of "Thank you, Joe."

"Thank you, Kamala, too," Biden replied.

Middle East

Biden also said he had much still to do and addressed an issue that has divided Democrats during the past year of his presidency: Israel's war in Gaza.

He said his administration was working to get humanitarian aid into Gaza.

"And finally, finally, finally deliver a cease-fire and end this war," he said, pounding the lectern with his fist. "Those protesters out in the street, they have a point. A lot of innocent people are getting killed on both sides."

On other issues, he said Harris and Walz would continue his work.

"Kamala and Tim will make the child tax cut permanent," he said, referring to a COVID 19-era provision that increased a tax credit for families.

Contrast with Trump

Biden called Trump a tool of authoritarian leaders, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Biden repeated a story he told throughout the 2020 campaign that he decided to run for president and challenge Trump's reelection after Trump excused a deadly rally of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Biden rejected political violence and professed a commitment to enduring democracy, a theme he sounded in his 2020 campaign that only gained more relevance after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters who sought to keep him in the White House.

Trump has again not said he would accept the results of an election loss, Biden said.

Electing Harris was a necessary step in protecting democracy, he said.

"Democracy has prevailed, democracy has delivered," he said. "And now, democracy must be preserved."

Union message

As he has through much of his half-century in national politics, Biden appealed to union members, a traditional Democratic constituency.

"Wall Street didn't build America," he said. "The middle class built America, and unions built the middle class."

He said he was proud to have walked the picket line with striking member of the United Auto Workers.

Earlier in the evening, UAW President Shawn Fain in remarks to the crowd praised Biden for making history as the first president to walk a picket line.

Passing the torch

Speakers throughout the evening praised Biden for his record in office and for passing the torch to Harris.

Delaware Sen. Chris Coons, a Biden ally who took Biden's seat in the Senate after Biden was elected vice president, said Biden helped the nation recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Jan. 6 attack.

"On behalf of our nation, Joe, for your courage in fighting for our democracy, we thank you," Coons said.

"On behalf of our Democratic Party, for fighting for our Democratic values, we thank you."

First lady Jill Biden said the president worked for causes larger than himself, which she was reminded of as she saw him "dig deep into his soul and decide to no longer seek reelection and endorse Kamala Harris."

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the third-ranking Democrat in the House for years, also praised Biden's decision to make Harris his running mate, and to endorse her when he dropped out.

Talking to reporters after his official remarks, Clyburn said a Harris victory in November would book-end Biden's role in Black presidential history. After serving eight years as vice president to the first Black president, Clyburn said, Biden chose the first Black vice president, Harris.

If Harris wins the November election, Clyburn said, "Joe Biden goes down in history as probably the most transformational president this country's ever had."

Jacob covers federal policy as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

'Illegal cannabis' cuts into medical marijuana sales, growers tell committee

State panel considers recommending a legislative summer study on the topic

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - AUGUST 19, 2024 5:28 PM

The state's legislative oversight committee on medical marijuana was thrust into the world of synthetic THC on Monday as members heard complaints about how loosely regulated, hemp-derived products are affecting South Dakota's medical marijuana industry.

The Medical Marijuana Oversight Committee heard from business owners and the State Public Health Laboratory director during a meeting in Pierre. They're concerned about the growth in synthetically altered, hemp-derived products, sold under terms including delta-8 THC and delta-10 THC, which are compounds that can produce a high similar to marijuana. The compound that gives marijuana its high is delta-9 THC.

As with marijuana, the synthetic products take the form of smokable flower, pre-rolled joints, vape oil and edibles. Unlike marijuana, the companies that produce them aren't subject to the testing, security and labeling requirements attached to the state's legal medical cannabis market.

Alternatives not only pose a health risk, the witnesses told the oversight committee, but can cut into demand for medical marijuana since the products can be purchased without a medical marijuana patient card and can be loaded with large enough quantities of THC variants to act as a stand-in for marijuana.

Congress authorized hemp growing with the 2018 farm bill, and South Dakota has become the largest producer of hemp in the country after legalizing it four years ago. In that time period, the availability and variety of hemp-derived marijuana alternatives has exploded.

The Legislature passed House Bill 1125 last winter to address the "diet weed" market. The law, which went into effect in July but is being challenged in court, bans the creation or sale of some products created through chemical modification of hemp. Possession of the products is still legal.

The new law bans four THC variants, State Public Health Laboratory Director Tim Southern told the committee, but several others remain available. THC-A products, for example, remain widely available in smoke shops that had previously sold other products that are now illegal to sell.

Med card slowdown, legislative summer study proposed

South Dakota's medical marijuana program has seen a drop in patient cardholders since the beginning of the year, which business owners blame in part on the state's lack of regulatory enforcement of the THC-A products found on store shelves.

Those stores are "illegal dispensaries selling cannabis under the guise of hemp," Dakota Herb CEO Dalton Grimmus told South Dakota Searchlight after the meeting.

One problem, said committee members who work in law enforcement, is testing capacity in the state.

Dakota Herb's Alan Welsh told committee members that the dispensary has had to cut prices of their

tested, state-approved product below non-regulated competitor prices to incentivize patients to purchase through legal channels and retain their medical marijuana cards.

Welsh added that he's privately tested two "hemp" products sold in Sioux Falls. Not only did they have more contaminants than the state allows for medical marijuana, Welsh said, but they also contained more than .03% THC by weight – the legal threshold for hemp.

"We wouldn't have been allowed to sell that product in our store, and yet we're forced to compete with that," Welsh said. "It's ridiculous."

The committee did not take action on the concerns raised at the meeting. Instead, its members suggested that the committee should recommend a legislative summer study. That would have to wait until the summer of 2025, because this summer's study committees are underway.

Lawmakers on the committee are concerned any policy recommendations outside of the medical marijuana industry would overstep their own committee's jurisdiction. The committee may make an official decision and recommendation at its October meeting.

Law enforcement, lobbyists, health lab leader: Legislature playing 'whack-a-mole'

Jeremiah Murphy, a lobbyist for the state's cannabis industry, said legalizing "everything" would offer an opportunity for better regulation and licensing of the products.

Voters will have the opportunity to do that through a recreational marijuana ballot measure in November.

Sioux Falls Police Chief John Thum compared policing and regulation of the drugs, such as THC-A, to "whack-a-mole." Southern agreed.

The health lab director was among several witnesses – and committee members – who suggested that a federal fix is necessary. Congress is currently working through a new farm bill, and committee members suggested reaching out to South Dakota's congressional delegation to ask that the bill's legal hemp provision clarify that the crop isn't meant to be used for the production of intoxicants.

Until the federal government takes action, Southern said, South Dakota should be ready to harness the expertise of its agriculture, health and law enforcement agencies to craft laws around fake pot and its purveyors across the state.

"I think this is something we do legislatively, with very smart, well-written legislation that doesn't allow modern garage chemists to wiggle out from under a law," Southern said. "Otherwise, it will be nothing but a game of whack-a-mole now and forever more."

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She's spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.

Bennett County agrees to open satellite office for Native Americans after voting rights probe

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - AUGUST 19, 2024 2:39 PM

Bennett County in South Dakota has agreed to open a satellite office to resolve claims that it violated the voting rights of Native Americans.

The U.S. Justice Department announced the agreement Monday and said it was prompted by claims that the county failed to make its registration and early voting opportunities equally open to Native American voters.

Under the terms of the agreement, Bennett County will operate a satellite office in Allen. It will provide in-person registration and absentee voting services during regular business hours for the full state-mandated 46-day absentee voting period prior to federal, state and county elections.

The Justice Department said equal registration and early voting opportunities are required by the federal Voting Rights Act.

Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, of the department's Civil Rights Division, commented on the

agreement in a news release.

"It is time to eliminate all barriers standing between Native American voters and the ballot box across our country," Clarke said. "An inclusive democracy must provide all of its eligible voters access to the full range of voter registration and early voting opportunities required by law."

The U.S. attorney for the District of South Dakota, Alison Ramsdell, also commented in the news release. "The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, but that right is hollow without access to registration and early voting opportunities," Ramsdell said. "We are grateful Bennett County has agreed to improve voting access for Native Americans in South Dakota by adding and staffing a satellite office in Allen."

The Justice Department's investigation found that Native Americans living on tribal lands in the county disproportionately lacked the ability to travel long distances to the county seat of Martin for in-person voting services. Since 2015, the state has made Help America Vote Act funds available to counties like Bennett to establish a satellite office on tribal lands.

What to know about the Democratic National Convention

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - AUGUST 19, 2024 6:00 AM

Democrats will gather in Chicago for their once-every-four-years convention, beginning Monday. Here's a rundown:

What is it?

National political conventions are large gatherings of party officeholders, candidates and allies. They meet every four years to officially nominate candidates for president and vice president; to adopt a party platform, the list of policy proposals most party members agree on; and to celebrate and network.

This year, Vice President Kamala Harris has already been officially nominated through a virtual roll call vote earlier this month. A ceremonial roll call is still expected to be a part of the convention, and Harris will officially accept the nomination.

When should I tune in?

The convention runs from Monday, Aug. 19 to Thursday, Aug. 22.

Major news networks and a host of streaming platforms will broadcast the nightly events — usually speeches from high-profile members of the party — live. The prime-time program runs from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Full schedules for prime-time speeches have not been disclosed, but the vice presidential candidate usually accepts the nomination on Wednesday night and the presidential nominee's acceptance speech closes out the convention on Thursday night.

Former presidents and presidential nominees are also likely to have speaking roles.

During the day, delegates and party officials will hold various events and meetings, only some of which will be broadcast or even open to reporters, as the convention doubles as a huge networking event for Democratic politicians, strategists, activists and others.

How can I watch?

Network and cable news TV stations generally air the prime-time programming from start to finish.

National Public Radio will also broadcast much of the convention.

Convention organizers will also be livestreaming the event on a host of platforms, including YouTube, X and TikTok. A full list of official livestreams is available [here](#).

Where is the convention this year?

Chicago is hosting the Democratic convention for the 12th time, the most of any city.

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The major addresses in the evening will be at the United Center, an arena that fits tens of thousands for the city's professional basketball and hockey teams, concerts or other events.

Daytime activities will be more spread out, with locations at McCormick Place, about 6 miles southeast of the United Center, and the River North neighborhood, about 2 ½ miles to the northeast.

How many people will be there?

About 5,000 Democratic delegates, who have the formal duty of voting to approve the nominees for president and vice president, are expected to attend.

A total of about 50,000 people could be in town for the event, according to the city.

Will any celebrities be there?

The 2016 Democratic National Convention — the last in-person convention Democrats held, since they moved the 2020 version online in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic — that nominated Hillary Clinton featured celebrities including singer Katy Perry and screenwriter/actor Lena Dunham.

The Republican National Convention in July included appearances by musical artist Kid Rock and professional wrestler Hulk Hogan during prime time.

A full list of participants for the Democratic convention this year has not yet been shared, but that has not stopped some fans of major music acts from wishing they'll see their favorites at the event.

Where can I find fair, fearless and free reporting about the convention?

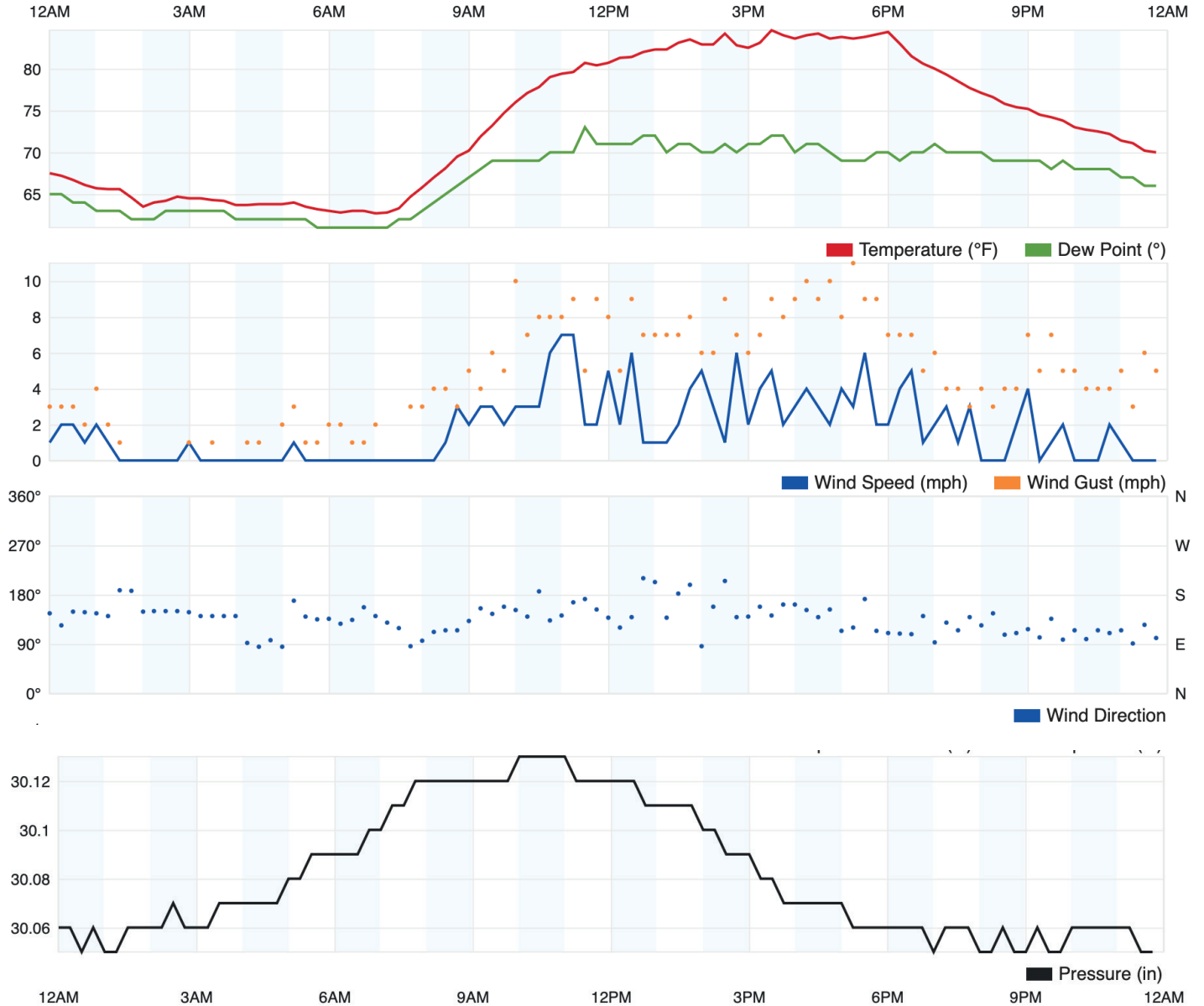
Right here! And from your state's newsroom, which you can find on this map. States Newsroom is sending multiple reporters to cover the convention and will have in-depth coverage of the major events and more.

Jacob covers federal policy as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

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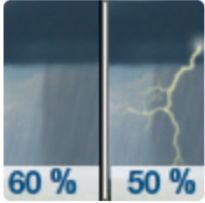
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 71 °F

Showers
Likely then
Chance
T-storms

Tonight



Low: 60 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms then
Mostly Cloudy

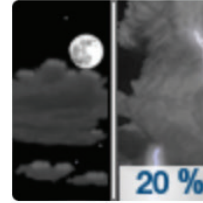
Wednesday



High: 81 °F

Mostly Sunny

**Wednesday
Night**



Low: 66 °F

Partly Cloudy
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

Thursday



High: 86 °F

Slight Chance
T-storms

Cooler Today With Rain Potential

Key Takeaways:

- (heavy) Rain potential transitions from the Missouri River valley this morning to northeast South Dakota by early afternoon
- Marginal Risk (1 of 5) for severe thunderstorms central South Dakota Wednesday; central and northeast South Dakota Thursday
- After today, temperatures to warm into the mid 80s to mid 90s most areas, most of the 7-day forecast

Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)

	8/20 Tue											8/21 Wed												
	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	12am	1am	2am	3am	4am	5am
Aberdeen	30	40	60	65	50	50	45	45	40	40	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Britton	0	5	15	20	30	40	45	50	50	50	40	35	30	25	20	15	15	10	10	5	5	0	0	0
Brookings	5	10	20	25	30	35	40	40	40	40	45	45	40	30	25	20	25	25	25	25	20	20	15	10
Chamberlain	80	75	60	50	35	25	20	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0
Clark	25	55	55	55	55	55	55	45	45	50	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	15	10	10	10	5	5	0
Eagle Butte	50	30	30	30	10	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Ellendale	10	15	35	40	45	50	50	40	40	35	35	30	25	20	15	15	15	15	10	10	5	5	0	0
Eureka	40	50	55	50	45	40	35	30	30	25	20	15	10	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gettysburg	75	60	60	55	30	20	15	10	10	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huron	90	80	65	70	55	45	40	35	30	25	25	25	20	15	15	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5
Kennebec	60	50	50	40	20	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McIntosh	40	45	35	30	20	15	10	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milbank	0	0	5	10	20	25	30	40	45	50	50	45	40	30	25	25	30	30	35	35	35	30	20	15
Miller	90	85	75	65	55	45	35	25	20	15	10	10	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobridge	50	50	45	35	20	15	15	15	15	10	10	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murdo	35	25	25	25	5	5	0	0	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Pierre	65	45	40	30	15	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redfield	80	80	70	75	60	55	45	35	35	30	25	25	20	15	10	10	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
Sisseton	0	0	5	5	15	25	30	40	45	45	45	45	40	35	30	30	30	25	20	20	20	15	10	5
Watertown	5	10	20	30	40	50	50	45	40	45	50	50	40	30	25	25	30	35	30	30	25	15	10	10
Webster	0	10	20	35	50	55	55	55	55	45	40	40	35	30	25	25	25	20	15	10	5	0	0	0
Wheaton	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	15	15	20	30	30	35	35	35	35	35	30	25	20	20	15	10	10

Created: 4 am CDT Tue 8/20/2024 | Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Check out your specific forecast at
weather.gov/aberdeen



There is a 40-80% chance for showers and thunderstorms today, as well as the possibility for storms overnight Wednesday into Thursday. Temperatures will increase through the week, with high temperatures reaching the low 90s to mid 90s for some late in the week and into the weekend.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 3:32 PM

Low Temp: 63 °F at 6:59 AM

Wind: 12 mph at 3:33 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 53 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1976

Record Low: 33 in 1950

Average High: 82

Average Low: 56

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.44

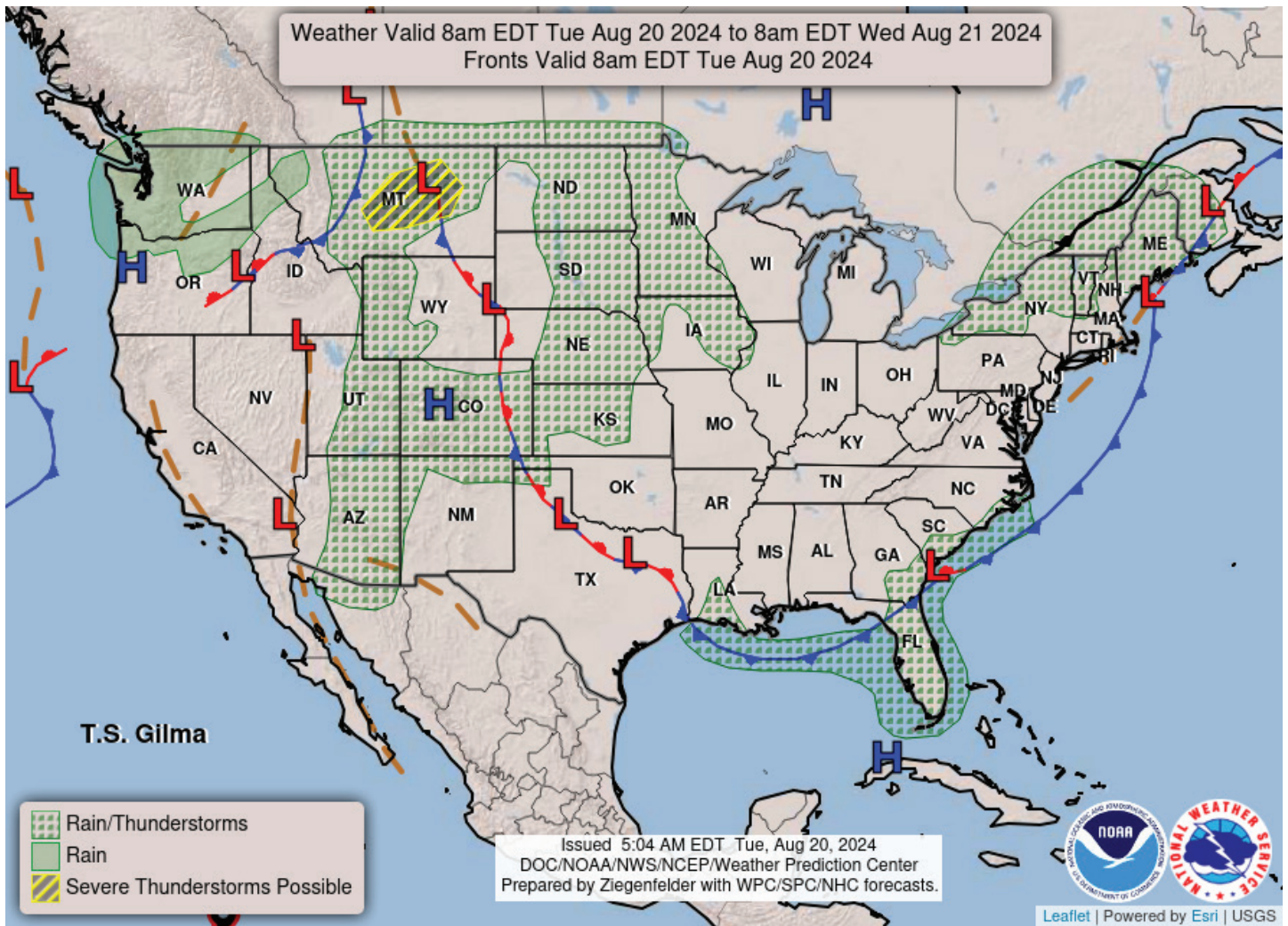
Precip to date in Aug.: 4.13

Average Precip to date: 15.54

Precip Year to Date: 19.02

Sunset Tonight: 8:32:26 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:39:59 am



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Today in Weather History

August 20, 1904: A destructive, estimated F4 tornado moved ESE from 7 miles WNW of Willow Lake, through the town, and on into Bryant in Hamlin County, South Dakota. Most of the damage occurred in those two towns. All buildings on at least three farms were blown away. One woman died in Bryant as the tornado swept across the residential west side of town. Another man was killed just west of Willow Lake, as his farm house was scattered for miles.

1886: The 1886 Indianola Hurricane destroyed the town of Indianola, Texas and as such had a significant impact on the history and economic development of Texas. The storm ended the rivalry between Galveston and Indianola as the chief port of Texas. With the abandonment of Indianola and the unwillingness of the former residents to rebuild close to shore, Galveston became the essential Texan port until the 1900 Galveston Hurricane led to the rise of Houston as a major port. It was the fifth hurricane of the 1886 Atlantic hurricane season and one of the most intense hurricanes ever to hit the United States.

1910: The Great Fire of 1910 finally came to an end in Idaho. A record dry August fueled 1736 fires that burned three million acres destroying six billion board feet of timber. The fires claimed the lives of 85 persons, 78 of which were firefighters, and consumed the entire town of Wallace. The smoke spread a third of the way around the world producing some dark days in the U.S. and Canada. The forest fires prompted federal fire protection laws.

1928: A tornado estimated at F4 intensity initially touched down in Winnebago County, Iowa, moved to Freeborn County, Minnesota, and hit the south side of Austin, MN. Five of the six deaths were in Austin with 60 injuries.

1987 - Half a dozen cities in the Central Plains Region reported record high temperatures for the date, including Pueblo CO with a reading of 102 degrees, and Goodland KS with a high of 104 degrees. Hill City KS reached 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sheridan, WY, reported a record hot temperature reading of 100 degrees. Evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail near Fortuna ND, and wind gusts to 70 mph near Webster SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms produced heavy rain in southeast Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma, with up to six inches reported around Tulsa OK. Some roads in the Tulsa area were closed by water 10 to 12 feet deep. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph in Major County OK, and hail two inches in diameter at Jennings KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



TAKE CARE, GOD!

Little Margie was saying her prayers before getting into bed. Her mother stood at her door and listened as she honestly expressed her faith and dependence on God.

"Dear Lord, You know I really had a bad day. Thanks for getting me through everything OK. I don't know what I would have done without You. So I really want You to take care of Yourself – cause if anything happens to You, I don't know what I'd do!"

Being dependent is sometimes difficult. It is normal and natural to want to be self-reliant, believing that we can do all things in our own strength and wisdom. We take great time and go to great lengths to prepare ourselves to meet and overcome the demands of life. But in the end, when facing the real difficulties of life, we know that sooner or later, we'll need God's help.

How fortunate for those who know they can be mighty because God is mighty. Our God who created the universe has arms that can reach us wherever we are or whatever our situation may be. Nothing is beyond Him, nothing escapes Him, nothing overwhelms Him, and nothing frightens Him. If it concerns us, it concerned Him first.

God will make us equal to every challenge He brings into our life. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul: "Our sufficiency is from God!"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You know when we need to be convinced that we can't make it without You. Help us to see You at work in our lives to make us depend on You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Psalm 139:23-24

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.16.24

22 38 48 51 61 5

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$498,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 41 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.19.24

16 21 41 48 49 4

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$7,340,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 14 Hrs 56 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.19.24

15 17 35 40 45 6

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 11 Mins 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.17.24

12 16 25 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 11 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.19.24

22 48 50 57 69 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 40 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.19.24

1 2 15 23 28 10

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 15 Hrs 40 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

- 07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
- 07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
- 07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
- 07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
- 07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
- 08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
- Cancelled:** Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
- 08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
- 08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
- 08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
- 09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Joe Biden's exit, talk of the glass ceiling, a nod to Gaza protesters. Takeaways from DNC's Day 1

By WILL WEISSERT and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Democratic National Convention's first night showcased speeches from the last Democrat to lose to Donald Trump and the last one to beat him.

Hillary Clinton spoke hopefully of finally breaking the "glass ceiling" to elect a female president. Joe Biden laced into Trump and directly acknowledged the concerns of protesters against the war in Gaza who demonstrated a few blocks from the convention hall.

Here are some takeaways from the first night of the convention.

Biden begins long political exit

President Joe Biden wrapped up the convention's opening night by beginning his long political farewell with an address that both framed his own legacy and signaled he was ready to start ceding control of the party to Vice President Kamala Harris.

He took the stage to a long, raucous ovation from delegates hoisting "We love Joe" placards and told them in turn, "I love you!" After the affectionate opening, Biden spent long stretches of his 50-minute speech hitting Trump, returning to a key theme of the reelection campaign he's no longer running.

Biden ticked through many of his administration's achievements, including a major public works package and climate program, and shared the credit with Harris. He said picking Harris as his running mate was the best decision he ever made and promised to be the "best volunteer" that Harris and running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz have ever seen.

His closing message to those still listening as the convention stretched late into the night: "I gave my best to you for 50 years."

A surprise Harris appearance to pay tribute to Biden

The vice president made an unscheduled appearance onstage to pay tribute to Biden ahead of his own address to the convention. She told the president, "Thank you for your historic leadership, for your lifetime of service to our nation, and for all you'll continue to do."

On a night meant to honor the president who stepped aside to make way for Harris, the vice president added, "We are forever grateful to you."

Gaza gets little attention inside DNC hall — except from Biden

Thousands of marchers churned through Chicago's streets protesting U.S. support for Israel during the war in Gaza. But inside the convention hall, the combustible issue went largely unmentioned until Biden got to the microphone.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez got cheers when she praised Harris for working "tirelessly to get a cease-fire in Gaza and get the hostages home." Sen. Raphael Warnock of Georgia made a brief allusion to the conflict.

A handful of delegates who ran on an "uncommitted" ticket protesting Biden's position on the war unfurled a banner during his speech that read "Stop Arming Israel." But it was blocked by supporters waving Biden signs before it was wrestled away and the lights over that section of the audience were shut off.

Biden himself addressed the issue head-on, saying he'd keep working to "end the war in Gaza and bring peace and security to the Middle East."

"Those protesters out in the streets have a point," Biden said. "A lot of innocent people are being killed, on both sides."

The crowd cheered, and for a moment the war didn't seem like it was dividing the party at all.

Clinton revives talk of breaking that 'glass ceiling'

Clinton was greeted with wild and sustained applause that lasted for more than two minutes before she quieted the crowd. She delivered a fiery speech hoping that Harris could do what she could not — become

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the first woman president by beating Trump.

Clinton evoked her 2016 concession speech by referencing all the “cracks in the glass ceiling” that she and her voters had achieved. And she painted a vision of Harris “on the other side of that glass ceiling” taking the oath of office as president.

She closed her speech with a striking desire for someone who’s stood at the pinnacle of American politics and power: “I want my grandchildren and their grandchildren to know I was here at this moment. That we were here and that we were with Kamala Harris every step of the way.”

Clinton dipped into traditional political attacks in her speech, including mocking Trump’s criminal record. That led to chants of “lock him up” — mirroring the ones that Trump’s supporters directed at Clinton in 2016.

Tracing a line from Jesse Jackson to Kamala Harris

An early theme of the evening was celebrating the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a longtime civil rights leader in Chicago and former presidential candidate in 1984 and 1988. Many Democrats credit him with blazing a trail that helped Barack Obama win the White House in 2008 and Kamala Harris become the first woman of color nominated for the presidency.

Jackson was saluted from the stage by several speakers, including Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and California Rep. Maxine Waters. There was a video montage of Jackson’s career and legacy that played before the 82-year-old Jackson himself came to the stage in a wheelchair, thrusting his arms skyward and grinning. Jackson has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease.

During the 1984 Democratic convention in San Francisco, Jackson gave a speech declaring that America is “like a quilt: Many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven and held together by a common thread.” The address became known as the “Rainbow Coalition” speech, and Jackson used momentum from it to seek the Democratic nomination again in 1988.

Harris has called Jackson “one of America’s greatest patriots.”

Remember COVID? Democrats don’t want voters — or Trump — to forget

Democrats opted to shine the convention spotlight on the harrowing subject of the coronavirus pandemic.

It was a reflection of Democratic frustration at how Trump has portrayed his tenure in office as a golden age for the country, even though hundreds of thousands of Americans died of COVID-19 during the last year of his term.

There are plenty of risks for Democrats in hammering the pandemic. Even more people died of the virus during Biden’s presidency than during Trump’s, voters have shown an eagerness to move on and some preventative measures championed by Democrats — like school closures and masking — are not popular in retrospect.

Still, the lineup of early speakers focused on Trump’s performance during the pandemic. Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan recalled how her brother was the second person in Tennessee to die of the disease and how she couldn’t visit him or hold a memorial service. Rep. Lauren Underwood of Illinois, a nurse, said of Trump: “He took the COVID crisis and turned it into a catastrophe. We can never ever let him be our president again.”

Rep. Robert Garcia, whose mother and stepfather died of the disease in 2020, recalled Trump’s missteps and concluded with one of the slogans of Harris’ young campaign: “We are not going back.”

Democrats one-up Republicans on labor

Trump’s convention last month featured a rare appearance from a union leader at such a GOP event: Teamsters President Sean O’Brien. That’s reflective of how Trump’s populism has cut into Democrats’ advantage with union households.

In that speech, O’Brien did not endorse Trump. But he criticized both major political parties for not doing enough to help working people.

Democrats didn’t invite O’Brien to their convention, but they countered with a half-dozen other union leaders onstage Monday. And then Shawn Fain, head of the United Auto Workers, led a blistering chant of “Trump’s a scab!” while wearing a red T-shirt emblazoned with those words.

Fain noted that Biden visited a UAW picket line last year and, when autoworkers struck in 2019, Harris, not Trump, walked the picket lines. “Donald Trump is all talk and Kamala Harris walks the walk,” Fain said.

Obama and Emhoff are to headline the Democratic National Convention on Tuesday

By ZEKE MILLER, JONATHAN J. COOPER, AAMER MADHANI and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press CHICAGO (AP) — Former President Barack Obama and second gentleman Doug Emhoff will speak Tuesday on the second day of the Democratic National Convention, turning the party's attention toward Vice President Kamala Harris and her faceoff against Republican Donald Trump.

The pivot toward the presidential campaign's final 76 days follows an opening night that was designed to give a graceful exit to the incumbent president, who was greeted with a hero's welcome for stepping aside for Harris.

Speaking clearly and energetically, Biden appeared to relish the chance to defend his record, advocate for his vice president and assail Trump. His delivery was more reminiscent of the Biden who won in 2020 than the mumbling and sometimes incoherent one-time candidate whose debate performance against Trump in June sparked the downfall of his reelection campaign.

Biden, in his remarks, repeated his 2020 theme that "we're in a battle for the very soul of America," and pressed the case for why Harris and her running mate Tim Walz were best prepared to wage it.

"Because of you, we've had the most extraordinary four years of progress ever, period," Biden declared. And then he interjected, "I say 'we,' I mean 'me and Kamala,'" sharing the credit for his most popular successes with the vice president to whom he handed over his political operation.

Harris made a brief, unannounced appearance at the convention on Monday to thank Biden for his leadership. She later joined him on stage, where the two spoke and hugged.

"Joe, thank you for your historic leadership, for your lifetime of service to our nation, and for all you'll continue to do," she said. "We are forever grateful to you."

The opening day ran more than an hour behind schedule and forced some planned speakers, including musician James Taylor, to be dropped from the program, which convention organizers attributed to sustained applause for speakers.

Harris will travel Tuesday to Milwaukee for a rally in the swing state of Wisconsin before returning to Chicago late in the evening.

The Harris campaign said Tuesday that it will spotlight "trusted messengers" from key battleground states over the convention's three remaining days. They include Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada; Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Sen. Gary Peters and Rep. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan; Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin. From Arizona, Sen. Mark Kelly will speak along with John Giles, the Republican mayor of Mesa.

Gov. Roy Cooper of North Carolina will be the last speaker before Harris accepts the Democratic nomination on Thursday.

Israel recovers bodies of 6 hostages from Gaza as Blinken tries to advance cease-fire deal

By JULIA FRANKEL The Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military said Tuesday that it recovered the bodies of six hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that started the war in Gaza, as U.S. and Arab mediators tried to advance an agreement to halt the fighting and release scores of other militant-held captives.

The military said its forces recovered the bodies in an overnight operation in southern Gaza, without saying when or how the six died. A forum for hostage families said they were kidnapped alive. Hamas says some captives have been killed and wounded in Israeli airstrikes.

An Israeli airstrike on Tuesday killed at least 10 people at a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City, in what the military said was a precise strike on a Hamas command center. Another strike killed a mother and her five children in central Gaza.

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The recovery of the remains is a blow to Hamas, which hopes to exchange hostages for Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli withdrawal and a lasting cease-fire. But it was also likely to increase pressure on Israel's government to reach a deal to free dozens of hostages who are still believed to be alive.

The military said it had identified the remains of Chaim Perry, 80; Yoram Metzger, 80; Avraham Munder, 79; Alexander Dancyg, 76; Nadav Popplewell, 51; and Yagev Buchshtav, 35. Metzger, Munder, Popplewell and Buchshtav had family members who were also abducted but freed during a November cease-fire.

Munder's death was confirmed on Tuesday by Kibbutz Nir Oz, the farming community where he was among around 80 residents who were taken captive. It said he died "after enduring months of physical and mental torture." Israeli authorities had previously determined that the other five were deceased.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the recovery effort and said "our hearts ache for the terrible loss."

"The State of Israel will continue to make every effort to return all of our hostages — both alive and dead," he said in a statement.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant also praised the operation, which he said had been carried out inside Hamas' vast tunnel network. There were no immediate reports of any casualties among Israelis or Palestinians in the recovery operation.

Hamas is still believed to be holding around 110 hostages captured in the Oct. 7 attack. Israeli authorities estimate around a third of them are dead.

Blinken, who is on his ninth visit to the region since the start of the war, said Monday that Netanyahu has accepted a proposal to bridge gaps in the cease-fire talks, which have dragged on for months, and called on Hamas to do the same.

Hamas has accused the United States of embracing Israeli demands and trying to impose them on the militant group. There still appear to be wide gaps between the two sides, including Israel's demand for lasting control over two strategic corridors in Gaza, which Hamas has rejected.

Hamas-led militants burst through Israel's defenses on Oct. 7 and rampaged across the south, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage. Over 100 hostages were released in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned in Israel during a weeklong cease-fire last year.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were militants. Air and ground operations have caused widespread destruction and forced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million residents to flee their homes, often multiple times. Aid groups fear the outbreak of diseases like polio.

The Palestinian Civil Defense, first responders operating under the Hamas-run government, said the strike on the Mustafa Hafez school in Gaza City killed at least 10 people and that they were still searching for survivors. It said around 700 people were sheltering at the school when it was hit.

The Israeli military said the strike targeted Hamas militants who had set up a command center inside the school and were planning and launching attacks.

An Israeli airstrike in central Gaza killed five children and their mother, according to the nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where an Associated Press reporter counted the bodies. The hospital said the father, Alaa Abu Zeid, a schoolteacher, has been in Israeli detention for the last nine months.

The mediators have been trying to finalize a proposal for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all the hostages in return for the release of more Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli withdrawal from the territory and a lasting truce.

Blinken traveled to Egypt on Tuesday and was also expected to hold talks in Qatar. The two Arab countries have played a key role in mediating with Hamas.

Powell may use Jackson Hole speech to hint at how fast and how far the Fed could cut rates

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve officials have said they're increasingly confident that they've nearly

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tamed inflation. Now, it's the health of the job market that's starting to draw their concern.

With inflation cooling toward its 2% target, the pace of hiring slowing and the unemployment rate edging up, the Fed is poised to cut its benchmark interest rate next month from its 23-year high. How fast it may cut rates after that, though, will be determined mainly by whether employers keep hiring. A lower Fed benchmark rate would eventually lead to lower rates for auto loans, mortgages and other forms of consumer borrowing.

Chair Jerome Powell will likely provide some hints about how the Fed sees the economy and what its next steps may be in a high-profile speech Friday in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at the Fed's annual conference of central bankers. It's a platform that Powell and his predecessors have often used to signal changes in their thinking or approach.

Powell will likely indicate that the Fed has grown more confident that inflation is headed back to the 2% target, which it has long said would be necessary before rate cuts would begin.

Economists generally agree that the Fed is getting closer to conquering high inflation, which brought financial pain to millions of households beginning three years ago as the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession. Few economists, though, think Powell or any other Fed official is prepared to declare "mission accomplished."

"I don't think that the Fed has to fear inflation," said Tom Porcelli, U.S. chief economist at PGIM Fixed Income. "At this point, it's right that the Fed is now more focused on labor versus inflation. Their policy is calibrated for inflation that is much higher than this."

Still, how fast the Fed cuts rates in the coming months will depend on what the economic data shows. After the government reported this month that hiring in July was much less than expected and that the jobless rate reached 4.3%, the highest in three years, stock prices plunged for two days on fears that the U.S. might fall into a recession. Some economists began speculating about a half-point Fed rate cut in September and perhaps another identical cut in November.

But healthier economic reports last week, including another decline in inflation and a robust gain in retail sales, have largely dispelled those concerns. Wall Street traders now expect three quarter-point Fed cuts in September, November and December, though in December it's nearly a coin-toss between a quarter- and a half-point cut. Mortgage rates have already started to decline in anticipation of a rate reduction.

A half-point Fed rate cut in September would become more likely if there were signs of a further slowdown in hiring, some officials have said. The next jobs report will be issued on Sept. 6, after the Jackson Hole conference but before the Fed's next meeting in mid-September.

Raphael Bostic, president of the Fed's Atlanta branch, said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press that "evidence of accelerating weakness in labor markets may warrant a more rapid move, either in terms of the increments of movement or the speed at which we try to get back" to a level of rates that no longer restricts the economy.

Even if hiring stays solid, the Fed is set to cut rates this year given the steady progress that's been made on inflation, economists say. Last week, the government said consumer prices rose just 2.9% in July from a year ago, the smallest such increase in more than three years.

Bostic noted that the economy has changed from just a couple of months ago, when he was suggesting that a rate cut might not be necessary until the final three months of the year.

"I've got more confidence that we are likely to get to our target for inflation," he said. "And we've seen labor markets weaken considerably relative to where they were" last year. "We might need to shift our policy stance sooner than I would have thought before."

Both Bostic and Austan Goolsbee, president of the Fed's Chicago branch, say that with inflation falling, inflation-adjusted interest rates — which are what many businesses and investors pay most attention to — are rising even as inflation has slowed. When the Fed first set its key rate at its current 5.3%, inflation — excluding volatile energy and food costs — was 4.7%. Now, it's just 3.2%.

"Our policies are getting tighter with every moment in that type of situation," Bostic said. "We have to be concerned" that rates are so high they could cause an economic slowdown.

Still, Bostic said that for now, the job market and the economy appear mostly healthy, and he still expects a "soft landing," whereby inflation falls back to the Fed's 2% target without a recession occurring.

With the economy's outlook unclear and the Fed focusing heavily on what future data shows, there may be only so much Powell will be able to say Friday about the central bank's next steps.

Given the Fed's focus on how the economic data comes in, "it will be difficult for Powell to pre-commit to a particular trajectory at Jackson Hole," Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank, said in a research note.

A massive fire rages for a third day at a Russian oil depot targeted in a Ukrainian drone attack

By ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian authorities struggled Tuesday to put out a massive fire in the southern Rostov region for a third consecutive day after an oil depot was hit by Ukrainian drones as Ukrainian forces push into Russia's Kursk region.

The fire at the depot in the town of Proletarsk burned across an area of 10,000 square meters, according to Russian state news agencies. There are 500 firefighters involved in the operation, and 41 of them already have been hospitalized with injuries, according to the Russian state-owned news agency TASS, citing local officials.

Ukraine's Army General Staff claimed responsibility Sunday for attacking the oil depot, which was used to supply the needs of Russia's army, calling it a measure "to undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian Federation."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the daring Kursk incursion has allowed his army to capture a significant number of prisoners who could be used in exchange for captured Ukrainians, expanding on Kyiv's objectives for the mission launched two weeks ago. He earlier said that Ukraine sought to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border, especially with long-range artillery, missiles and glide bombs.

"Overall, this (Kursk) operation became our largest investment in the process of freeing Ukrainian men and women from Russian captivity," Zelenskyy told diplomats Monday, according to a statement published on Telegram late in the day. "We have already captured the largest number of Russian prisoners in one operation."

Zelenskyy said the Ukrainian army has captured 1,250 square kilometers (480 square miles) and 92 settlements of Russia's Kursk region.

Ukraine's incursion into Kursk, the largest attack on Russia since World War II, has exposed Russian vulnerabilities.

"Our defensive actions across the border, as well as (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's inability to defend his territory, are telling," Zelenskyy said. "Our proactive defense is the most effective counter to Russian terror, causing significant difficulties for the aggressor."

But as he hailed successes in Kursk, his troops face a bleak situation in the Donbas region, where Russia is bearing down on the city of Pokrovsk and forcing Ukrainian forces to pull back and Ukrainian civilians to flee their homes.

Russia's relentless six-month slog across Ukraine's Donetsk region following the capture of Avdiivka has cost Ukraine heavily in troops and armor. Ukrainian defenders have no choice but to pull back from positions blown to pieces by Russian artillery, missiles and bombs.

Pokrovsk is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the entire Donetsk region.

Russia wants control of all parts of Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk, which together make up the Donbas industrial region.

12-minute search shifts resume for 6 from sunken yacht off Sicily, including tech giant Mike Lynch

By ANDREA ROSA and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

PORTICELLO, Sicily (AP) — Police divers resumed searching Tuesday for six people, including British tech magnate Mike Lynch, believed trapped some 50 meters (164 feet) underwater in the hull of a superyacht that sank in a storm off Sicily.

Divers in wetsuits and oxygen tanks returned to the site off Porticello, near Palermo, to tag-team in 12-minute underwater search shifts where the luxury sailboat went down. Fire rescue crews reported that divers only made it to the bridge during a first search, and were unable to access the below-deck cabins because they were blocked by furniture that had shifted during the violent storm that toppled the vessel early Monday.

Fifteen people survived, including a mother who reported holding her 1-year-old baby over the waves to save her. One body has been recovered, identified as the on-board chef, officials said.

The Bayesian, a 56-meter (184-foot) British-flagged luxury yacht, had been moored about a half-mile off Ponticello when a storm rolled in around 4 a.m. Monday. Civil protection officials said they believed the ship was struck by a tornado over the water, known as a waterspout, which had passed through the area.

The search for the six missing passengers has been slow because the Bayesian is resting at a depth of 50 meters, where divers can stay for only 12-minute shifts, the fire rescue team said in a statement Tuesday.

The rotating search teams, each made up of two specialized cave divers, were working Tuesday to open up other access points to get inside of the wreckage. Rescue crews said they assume the six passengers will be found in the below-deck cabins, given the time of the shipwreck, but that they have not managed to verify their presence there through portholes.

The statement referred to the six as "missing." Fire rescue officials have said the six will be considered missing until they are located in the wreckage.

Fifteen of the Bayesian's 22 passengers and crew managed to escape on a lifeboat before being rescued by a nearby sailboat that was also moored offshore to ride out the storm, Karsten Borner, the sailboat's captain, told reporters at the scene.

Among those missing was Lynch, who was once hailed as Britain's king of technology. He was cleared in June of fraud and conspiracy charges in a U.S. federal trial related to Hewlett Packard's \$11 billion takeover of his company, Autonomy Corp. His wife, Angela Bacares, survived.

The sailing vacation appeared to be something of a celebration after Lynch's acquittal, since fellow passengers included some of the people who had stood by Lynch throughout the ordeal. Among those unaccounted for, according to the civil protection agency, were one of Lynch's U.S. lawyers, Christopher Morvillo of Clifford Chance, and Morvillo's wife.

Also missing was Jonathan Bloomer, a chairman at Morgan Stanley International and the former head of the Autonomy audit committee who testified at Lynch's trial for the defense, and his wife. Lynch appointed Bloomer to Autonomy's board of directors in 2010, where he served as chairman of the audit committee at the time of the HP deal.

International insurance company Hiscox Group, where Bloomer was chairman, was "deeply shocked and saddened by this tragic event," Hiscox Group CEO Aki Hussain said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with all those affected, in particular our Chair, Jonathan Bloomer, and his wife Judy, who are among the missing, and with their family as they await further news from this terrible situation."

Among the survivors was Charlotte Golunski, who said she momentarily lost hold of her 1-year-old daughter Sofia in the water, but then managed to hold her up over the waves until a lifeboat inflated and they were both pulled to safety, Italian news agency ANSA reported. The father, identified by ANSA as James Emslie, also survived.

The yacht, built in 2008 by the Italian firm Perini Navi, was carrying 12 passengers and 10 crew. According to online charter companies, it has been available for charter for 195,000 euros (about \$215,000) a week and is notable for its massive 75-meter tall aluminum mast, one of the tallest in the world.

Biden gets a rousing ovation from Democrats as he gives Harris an enthusiastic endorsement

By ZEKE MILLER, JONATHAN J. COOPER, AAMER MADHANI and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press CHICAGO (AP) — President Joe Biden delivered his valedictory address to the Democratic National Convention on Monday night, saying, “I gave my best to you” and basking in a long ovation that reflected the energy released by his decision to cede the stage to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Biden, 81, received a hero’s welcome weeks after many in his party were pressuring him to drop his bid for reelection. One month after an unprecedented mid-campaign switch, the opening night of the convention in Chicago was designed to give a graceful exit to the incumbent president and slingshot Harris toward a faceoff with Republican Donald Trump, whose comeback bid for the White House is viewed by Democrats as an existential threat.

On Monday, Biden insisted he did not harbor any ill will about the impending end of his tenure — despite reports to the contrary — and called on the party to unite around Harris.

“I made a lot of mistakes in my career, but I gave my best to you,” Biden said.

Speaking clearly and energetically, Biden relished the chance to defend his record, advocate for his vice president and go on the attack against Trump. His delivery was more reminiscent of the Biden who won in 2020 than the mumbling and sometimes incoherent one-time candidate whose debate performance sparked the downfall of his reelection campaign.

Visibly emotional when he took the stage, Biden was greeted by a more than four-minute-long ovation and chants of “Thank you Joe.”

“America, I love you,” he replied.

He called his selection of Harris as his running mate four years ago “the very first decision I made when I became our nominee, and it was the best decision I made my whole career.”

“She’s tough, she’s experienced and she has enormous integrity, enormous integrity,” he said. “Her story represents the best American story.”

“And like many of our best presidents,” he added in a nod to his own career, “she was also vice president.”

Harris and second gentleman Doug Emhoff came out after his address to embrace him and his family.

“Joe, thank you for your historic leadership, for your lifetime of service to our nation, and for all you’ll continue to do,” she said earlier in the evening. “We are forever grateful to you.”

The president touted his proudest accomplishments

Biden’s speech, billed as the marquee event of the evening, was pushed into late night as the convention program lagged more than an hour behind schedule. The delay led convention organizers to cancel a performance from legendary musician James Taylor.

He celebrated the successes from his administration, including a massive boost in infrastructure spending and a cap on the price of insulin. The spending resulted in more money going to Republican-leaning states than Democratic states, he said, because “the job of the president is to deliver for all of America.”

The president recalled the 2017 “unite the right” rally, when torch-carrying white supremacists marched in Charlottesville, Virginia, an episode he cites as cementing his decision to run for president in 2020 despite his ongoing grief over the death of his son Beau Biden.

First lady Jill Biden alluded to her husband’s wrenching decision to leave the race in her remarks minutes before Biden took the stage. She said she fell in love with him all over again “just weeks ago, when I saw him dig deep into his soul and decide to no longer seek reelection and endorse Kamala Harris.”

Monday’s speakers tried to boost both Biden and Harris

A long list of high-profile speakers tried to connect both Biden and Harris to what the party sees as the governing pair’s most popular accomplishments.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was greeted with prolonged applause, saluted Harris while noting her potential to break the “highest, hardest glass ceiling” to become America’s first female president. Clinton was the Democratic nominee in 2016, but she lost that election to Trump.

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"Together, we've put a lot of cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling," Clinton said, invoking a metaphor she referenced in her concession speech eight years ago. "On the other side of that glass ceiling is Kamala Harris taking the oath of office as our 47th president of the United States. When a barrier falls for one of us, it clears the way for all of us."

Clinton also saluted Biden for stepping aside, saying, "Now we are writing a new chapter in America's story."

Highlighting the party's generational reach, Clinton, 76, followed New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, 34, who endorsed Harris while delivering the first mention of the war in Gaza from the convention stage, addressing an issue that has split the party's base ever since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack and Israel's resulting offensive.

Biden tells antiwar protesters they 'have a point'

Outside the arena, thousands of protesters descended on Chicago to decry the Biden-Harris administration's support for the Israeli war effort.

Israel's counterattack in Gaza after more than 1,200 were killed and about 250 taken hostage on Oct. 7 has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. Pro-Palestinian activists held a panel earlier Monday in which they discussed the plight of Gaza, in what organizers called a first for the DNC.

A couple of protesters from the Abandon Biden movement unfurled a protest sign late Monday that read, "STOP ARMING ISRAEL" a few minutes after Biden began his speech.

The sign was quickly wrestled away from the protesters and the lights in that section of the convention were turned off. Others in the hall responded to the protest by chanting "We love Joe" and holding up their banners in support of the president.

Biden acknowledged the protests as he spoke, saying, "Those protesters out in the street have a point. A lot of innocent people are being killed on both sides." He reiterated his push to get Israel and Hamas to agree to a cease-fire deal that would also see the release of hostages taken by Hamas on Oct. 7.

Democrats presented a giant version of 'Project 2025'

Meanwhile, Democrats also looked to keep the focus on Trump, whose criminal convictions they mocked and who they asserted was only fighting for himself, rather than "for the people" — the night's official theme.

Michigan State Sen. Mallory McMorrow hoisted an oversized copy of "Project 2025" — a blueprint for a second Trump term that was put together by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank — onto the lectern and quoted from portions of it.

Democrats kept abortion access front and center for voters, betting that the issue will propel them to success as it has in other key races since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago. Speakers Monday included women whose healthcare suffered as a result of that decision, and one woman who was raped and became pregnant by her stepfather attacked Trump for trying to roll back access to abortion. The convention program included a video of Trump praising his own role in getting *Roe* struck down.

The convention program also honored the civil rights movement, with an appearance from the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the founder of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition, who is ailing with Parkinson's disease. There were several references to Fannie Lou Hamer, the late civil rights activist who gave a landmark speech at a Democratic convention in 1964.

Hamer was a former sharecropper and a leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, a racially integrated group that challenged the seating of an all-white Mississippi delegation at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Hamer spoke on Aug. 22, 1964 — exactly 60 years before Harris is set to accept the Democratic nomination and become the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to be the presidential nominee of a major party.

India's top court creates task force on workplace safety after doctor was raped and killed

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's top court on Tuesday set up a national task force of doctors who will make recommendations on safety of health care workers at their workplaces, days after the rape and killing of a trainee doctor that sparked outrage and nationwide protests.

The Supreme Court said the doctors' panel will frame guidelines for ensuring safety and protection of medical professionals and health care workers across the country.

"Protecting safety of doctors and women doctors is a matter of national interest and principle of equality. The nation cannot await another rape for it to take some steps," Chief Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud said.

Doctors and medics across India have been holding protests, candlelight marches and even temporarily refused care for non-emergency patients since Aug. 9 when the killing in the eastern city of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state. The doctors say the assault highlights the vulnerability of health care workers in hospitals and medical campuses across India.

The court also asked the federal agency investigating the killing to submit a report on Thursday on the status of its investigation. A police volunteer has been arrested and charged with the crime, but the family of the victim alleges it was a gang rape and more people were involved.

The suspension of work by doctors has affected thousands of patients across India. They are demanding more stringent laws to protect them from violence, including making any attack on on-duty medics an offense without the possibility of bail.

The rape and killing of the 31-year-old trainee doctor at Kolkata city's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital has also focused rage on the chronic issue of violence against women.

Thousands of people, particularly women, have marched in the streets of Kolkata and other Indian cities demanding justice for the doctor. They say women in India continue to face rising violence despite tough laws that were implemented following the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in Delhi in 2012.

That attack had inspired lawmakers to order harsher penalties for such crimes and set up fast-track courts dedicated to rape cases. The government also introduced the death penalty for repeat offenders.

Despite tougher legislation, sexual violence against women has remained a widespread problem in India.

In 2022, police recorded 31,516 reports of rape — a 20% jump from 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

August's supermoon is the first of four lunar spectacles

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Monday's supermoon is the first of four this year.

During a supermoon, the full moon inches a little closer than usual to Earth. A supermoon isn't bigger, but it can appear that way in the night sky, although scientists say the difference can be barely perceptible.

September's supermoon will coincide with a partial lunar eclipse. October's will be the year's closest approach, and November's will round out the year.

More a popular term than a scientific one, a supermoon occurs when a full lunar phase syncs up with an especially close swing around Earth. This usually happens only three or four times a year and consecutively, given the moon's constantly shifting, oval-shaped orbit.

Why is Israel demanding control over 2 Gaza corridors in the cease-fire talks?

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

Israel's demand for lasting control over two strategic corridors in Gaza, which Hamas has long rejected,

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threatens to unravel cease-fire talks aimed at ending the 10-month-old war, freeing scores of hostages and preventing an even wider conflict.

Officials close to the negotiations have said Israel wants to maintain a military presence in a narrow buffer zone along the Gaza-Egypt border it calls the Philadelphi corridor and in an area it carved out that cuts off northern Gaza from the south, known as the Netzarim corridor.

It's unclear if Israeli control of these corridors is included in a U.S.-backed proposal that Secretary of State Antony Blinken has called on Hamas to accept to break an impasse in cease-fire talks. Blinken, who is back in the region this week, said Monday that Israel had agreed to the proposal without saying what it entails.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says control of the Egyptian border area is needed to prevent Hamas from replenishing its arsenal through smuggling tunnels and that Israel needs a "mechanism" to prevent militants from returning to the north, which has been largely isolated since October.

Hamas has rejected those demands, which were only made public in recent weeks. There was no mention of Israel retaining control of the corridors in earlier drafts of an evolving cease-fire proposal seen by The Associated Press.

Hamas says any lasting Israeli presence in Gaza would amount to military occupation. Egypt, which has served as a key mediator in the monthslong talks, is also staunchly opposed to an Israeli presence on the other side of its border with Gaza.

What are the corridors and why does Israel want them?

The Philadelphi corridor is a narrow strip — about 100 meters (yards) wide in parts — running the 14-kilometer (8.6-mile) length of the Gaza side of the border with Egypt. It includes the Rafah Crossing, which until May was Gaza's only outlet to the outside world not controlled by Israel.

Israel says Hamas used a vast network of tunnels beneath the border to import arms, allowing it to build up the military machine it used in the Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war. The military says it has found and destroyed dozens of tunnels since seizing the corridor in May.

Egypt rejects those allegations, saying it destroyed hundreds of tunnels on its side of the border years ago and set up a military buffer zone of its own that prevents smuggling.

The roughly 4-mile (6-kilometer) Netzarim Corridor runs from the Israeli border to the coast just south of Gaza City, severing the territory's largest metropolitan area and the rest of the north from the south.

Hamas has demanded that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled the north be allowed to return to their homes. Israel has agreed to their return but wants to ensure they are not armed.

Why are Hamas and Egypt opposed to Israeli control?

Israeli control over either corridor would require closed roads, fences, guard towers and other military installations. Checkpoints are among the most visible manifestations of Israel's open-ended military rule over the West Bank, and over Gaza prior to its 2005 withdrawal.

Israel says such checkpoints are needed for security, but Palestinians view them as a humiliating infringement on their daily life. They would also be seen by many Palestinians as a prelude to a lasting military occupation and the return of Jewish settlements — something Netanyahu's far-right coalition partners have openly called for.

Hamas has demanded a total Israeli withdrawal and accuses Netanyahu of setting new conditions in order to sabotage the talks.

Egypt says Israel's operations along the border threaten the landmark 1979 peace treaty between the two countries. It has refused to open its side of the Rafah crossing until Israel returns the Gaza side to Palestinian control.

Are these new demands by Israel?

Israel insists they are not, referring to them as "clarifications" to an earlier proposal endorsed by President Joe Biden in a May 31 speech and by the U.N. Security Council in a rare cease-fire resolution. Israel also accuses Hamas of making new demands since then that it cannot accept.

But neither the speech nor the Security Council resolution made any reference to Israel's demands re-

garding the corridors — which were only made public in recent weeks — and both referred to a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces. The U.S. has also said it is against any reoccupation of Gaza or reduction of its territory.

Previous written drafts of the cease-fire proposal stipulate an initial Israeli withdrawal from populated and central areas during the first phase of the agreement, when the most vulnerable hostages would be freed and displaced Palestinians allowed to return to the north.

During the second phase, the specifics of which would be negotiated during the first, Israeli forces would withdraw completely and Hamas would release all remaining living hostages, including male soldiers.

The most recent drafts of the proposal — including one that Hamas approved in principle on July 2 — contain language specifying that displaced residents returning in the first phase must not carry weapons. But they do not specify a mechanism for searching them.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt, which have spent months trying to broker an agreement, have not weighed in publicly on Israel's demands regarding the corridors.

An Israeli delegation held talks with Egyptian officials in Cairo on Sunday focused on the Philadelphia corridor but did not achieve a breakthrough, according to an Egyptian official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door meeting.

What happens if the talks fail?

Failure to reach a cease-fire deal would prolong a war in which Israel's offensive has already killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, displaced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million residents and destroyed much of the impoverished territory.

Palestinian militants are still holding some 110 hostages captured in the Oct. 7 attack that started the war, in which they killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians. Israel has only rescued seven hostages through military operations. Around a third of the 110 are already dead, according to Israeli authorities, and the rest are at risk as the war grinds on.

A cease-fire deal also offers the best chance of averting — or at least delaying — an Iranian or Hezbollah strike on Israel over last month's targeted killing of a Hezbollah commander in Beirut and a Hamas leader in Tehran.

Israel has vowed to respond to any attack, and the United States has rushed military assets to the region, raising the prospect of an even wider and more devastating war.

Obama made his DNC debut 20 years ago. He's returning to make the case for Kamala Harris

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

Barack Obama was days shy of his 43rd birthday and months from being elected to the U.S. Senate when he stepped onto a Boston stage at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

A state lawmaker from Illinois, he had an unusual profile to be a headline speaker at a presidential convention. But the self-declared "skinny kid with a funny name" captivated Democrats that night, going beyond a requisite pitch for nominee John Kerry instead to introduce the nation to his "politics of hope" and vision of "one United States of America" not defined or defeated by its differences.

Kerry lost that November to Republican President George W. Bush. But Obama etched himself into the national consciousness, beginning a remarkable rise that put him in the Oval Office barely four years later. And now, eight years removed from the presidency, Obama returns Tuesday night to the DNC as the elder statesman with a different task.

Speaking in his political hometown of Chicago, the nation's first Black president will honor President Joe Biden's legacy after his exit from the campaign while making the case for another historic figure, Vice President Kamala Harris. It's poised to be a significant moment as she takes on former President Donald Trump in a matchup that features the same cultural and ideological fissures Obama warned against two decades ago.

"President Obama is still a north star in the party," said Illinois Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, who credits the

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44th president with helping her become her state's first Black woman lieutenant governor.

Besides Harris herself on Thursday, Stratton said, no voice this week is more integral to stirring Democrats, reaching independents and cajoling moderate Republicans than Obama.

"He knows how to get across the finish line," she said.

Laying the groundwork

Obama's two decades in public life have been defined by seminal speeches. His body of work features a range of tone and purpose — an array of choices as he seeks to strike the right balance for Harris as she tries to become the first woman, second Black person and first person of South Asian descent to reach the presidency.

In 2004, Obama used his invitation from Kerry and then-Democratic Chairman Terry McAuliffe to mix lofty themes with storytelling, humor and his biography as the son of a Black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas.

"Let's face it, my presence on this stage is pretty unlikely," Obama told delegates and a national television audience.

McAuliffe, however, remembered Obama as an obvious rising star. "I'd known him ... done events for him" as he ran for U.S. Senate, McAuliffe said in an interview. Still, no one could have foreseen Obama's performance and the reaction — because he'd never been on such a stage.

"It was an electrifying moment," McAuliffe recalled. "It obviously laid the groundwork for him to be successful, the nominee and candidate in 2008."

In 16 minutes — shorter than a typical nomination acceptance, inaugural address or State of the Union — Obama told his origin story, framed the 2004 election and talked up Kerry and his running mate, John Edwards. Obama was short on policy, but his sweeping indictment of divisive politics struck a chord.

"There is not a liberal America and a conservative America; there is the United States of America. There is not a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America," he said in perhaps the most well-remembered passage. "Do we participate in a politics of cynicism or do we participate in a politics of hope?"

Two-and-a-half-years later, Obama reprised that theme when he launched his presidential campaign before thousands of supporters gathered outside the Illinois capital of Springfield. His campaign motto: Hope and Change.

Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, the first Black person to occupy his office in the commonwealth, recalled watching that winter scene as a high school student. "That was the moment that clicked with me," Davis said and, later on, "helped me to believe that I could achieve these things that I've achieved."

A different tone

If idealistic, even nebulous themes brought Obama to the White House door, it was bare-knuckled politics and ice-water realism that got him through it.

In March 2008, then-candidate Obama was being pilloried for his friendship with his Black pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, who had a record of critiquing the nation's history of white supremacy. At issue, in part, was a video clip of Wright declaring "God, Damn America" from the pulpit of Obama's home church.

This time, soaring rhetoric wouldn't do. Obama hand wrote a nearly 38-minute address explaining his relationship with Wright, with the context of U.S. history and race relations in the early 21st century.

"I can no more disown him than I can disown the Black community," Obama said, while rejecting Wright's "view that sees white racism as endemic and that elevates what is wrong with America above all that we know is right with America."

The speech, titled "A More Perfect Union," was rife with nuance — a risk in presidential politics. But it worked.

Obama's convention address that August certainly featured his characteristic promises of hope and change. The venue and crowd — 84,000 people in the Denver Broncos' football stadium — affirmed his celebrity status. Another takeaway, though, was Obama's blitz on Republican nominee John McCain. Having spent weeks resisting calls from Democrats to go after the Vietnam war hero, Obama hammered the

Arizona senator as a rubber-stamp for the outgoing Bush administration, out-of-step with most Americans and weak on the world stage.

"You know, John McCain likes to say that he'll follow (9/11 mastermind Osama) bin Laden to the gates of Hell, but he won't even follow him to the cave where he lives," Obama said at one point.

It would preview Obama's most unsparing speech, his 2020 appearance at Democrats' virtual convention. Speaking on behalf of Biden, his onetime vice president, Obama framed Trump as fundamentally unfit for office. It was the most scathing indictment of a sitting president by one of his predecessors in modern U.S. history.

"This administration has shown it will tear our democracy down if that's what it takes to win," Obama said, almost five months before Trump's supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol in an effort to prevent Biden's certification as the 2020 election winner.

Weight of history

McAuliffe said Obama's role Tuesday, in part, is to reinforce the message of multiple presidents: Biden spoke Monday and President Bill Clinton speaks Wednesday.

"They're going to talk about what happens when you get a Democratic president," McAuliffe said, especially on the economy. It's Obama's turn, McAuliffe said, to join Clinton as "explainer in chief" — a nod to Clinton's 2012 convention speech when Obama was seeking reelection. The idea, McAuliffe said, is to set up Harris as the natural Democratic successor.

For her part, Stratton said she expects to see the man she has seen connect with voters individually and en masse. A volunteer on Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, she remembers the then-president visiting his campaign's Hyde Park office in Chicago on Election Day.

"He was funny and down to earth" as he shook hands with volunteers and then began calling voters himself, she recalled.

Four years earlier, Stratton and her four daughters were among the throngs in Chicago's Grant Park for Obama's first presidential victory speech. "Strangers were hugging and crying," she said. "We saw this Black family come out, knowing they were headed to the White House. It was a remarkable moment."

On Tuesday, she said, there is space for Obama to bring heat on Trump, talk directly to American voters and honor the magnitude of Harris' moment.

"He was a historic candidate and president. He knows what this is like," Stratton said. "There will be this sweet moment of the first Black president passing the baton."

In Uganda's chaotic capital, boda-boda motorcycle taxis are a source of life and death

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — The young men perched on motorcycles looked dazed in the morning heat. But at the sight of a potential passenger, they furiously kick-started their machines and tried to outrace each other for the business.

For tens of thousands of men in Uganda's capital, Kampala, this is how to make a living. For others, the speeding motorcycles embody the city's chaos as an essential but menacing means of transport.

The motorcycle taxis, known locally as boda-bodas, are ubiquitous in East African capitals like Nairobi and Kigali. But nowhere in the region have boda-boda numbers been surging more dramatically than in Kampala, a city of 3 million people, no mass transit system and rampant unemployment.

An estimated 350,000 boda-bodas operate in Kampala, driven by men who come from all parts of Uganda and say there are no other jobs for them.

"We just do this one because we have nothing to do," said one driver, Zubairi Idi Nyakuni. "All of us here, other people even, they have their degrees, they have their master's (degrees), but they are just here. They have nothing to do."

The boda-boda men, who operate mostly unregulated, have resisted recent attempts to dislodge them

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from the narrow streets of Kampala's central business district, frustrating city authorities and underscoring the government's fears over the consequences of angering a horde of jobless men.

"We must appreciate where the boda-boda comes from, how this whole phenomenon grew," said Charles M. Mpagi, spokesman for Tugende, a Kampala-based company that specializes in financing boda-boda purchases. "You have quite a large number of people that are young, who can't find jobs to do, whether in the public sector or the private sector, and they do not have significant alternative income to get into other enterprises."

About 76% of Uganda's 43 million people are under 35, according to government figures. Jobs are scarce in an economy where just 1% of 22.8 million employees make \$270 or more in monthly pay, according to central bank figures released earlier this year.

Uganda's unemployment rate — as a proportion of unemployed people to the total labor force — grew from 9% in 2019 to 12% in 2021, according to the most recent survey by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. The unemployment rate for people between 18 and 30 was even higher, at 17%. For young people in urban areas, it was 19%.

President Yoweri Museveni, an authoritarian who has held power since 1986, has long embraced boda-boda men as mobilizers of political support. Political rallies come alive with the hooting from their motorcycles, whose commotion can bring communities to a standstill.

Motorcycles as a means of transport first emerged on the Uganda-Kenya border during political instability in the 1970s, with the term "boda-boda" traced to drivers who shouted "border, border" at potential customers.

At the time, they were also a quick way to transport smugglers and their merchandise.

Now they are everywhere in Uganda, taking children to school, people to offices, the sick to clinics and even the dead to their graves.

When Uganda's transport minister was wounded by gunmen who killed his daughter in 2021, a boda-boda man rushed him to the hospital. But the attackers also drove motorcycles and fled.

Annual police reports cite motorcycle taxis in abetting violent crime, and the number of fatal accidents related to motorcycles across Uganda grew from 621 in 2014 to 1,404 in 2021, according to the Ministry of Works and Transport.

"We've been struggling with these motorcycles," said Winstone Katushabe, a government commissioner in charge of transport regulation. "It is not a good situation."

A culture of non-compliance with traffic and road safety rules has proliferated among boda-boda men, he said, adding that establishing official motorcycle taxi stands in Kampala would help bring order.

Road safety regulations for motorcycles, first approved in 2004, are difficult to enforce because of the overwhelming number of boda-bodas. Traffic police look on as boda-boda men zip through traffic lights and overtake dangerously. They are often unable to make arrests because of the risk to public order as drivers quickly stand up for one another, causing a crowd.

The boda-boda phenomenon has grown as Uganda's president has stayed in power. In recent years, trying to weaken support among unemployed people for his opponents, Museveni has gifted boda-bodas to supporters and pledged to reduce the three-year licensing fee from nearly \$100.

The fee will drop to about \$35 under new rules announced earlier this month, according to the Transport Licensing Board. That would make it even easier to become a boda-boda man.

The other entry price is about \$1,500 for a new motorcycle, often the Indian-made Bajaj.

Many boda-boda men acquire equipment on credit through companies such as Tugende. Others work for businesspeople who buy motorcycles in bulk and distribute them among drivers but can repossess them if drivers behind on payments.

Boda-boda men who lack driving licenses and crash helmets risk having their motorcycle impounded by police. Some drivers told the AP their aggressive behavior on the roads is driven by that fear of arrest or seizure.

Innocent Awita, a boda-boda man who dropped out of school in 2008, said there was "too much pressure" to keep his motorcycle. He's required to pay his employer the equivalent of \$4 a day in addition to

fueling and maintaining it. A falling-out with his employer could render him jobless.

Some days are better than others, but Awita said he sometimes goes without enough earnings to make the daily payment.

"I can work for three days without getting anything. But if I get something the next day, that can save my life," he said.

The Latest: Biden headlines Night 1 of the DNC

By The Associated Press undefined

The Democratic National Convention began on Monday in Chicago, with roughly 50,000 people expected to arrive in the Windy City. That includes thousands of anti-war activists demonstrating near the United Center.

President Joe Biden is the headline speaker for the first evening. Later this week, Vice President Kamala Harris will officially accept the party's nomination.

Follow the AP's Election 2024 coverage at: <https://apnews.com/hub/election-2024>.

Here's the Latest:

Harris joins Biden onstage after DNC speech in which he says she'll be a 'historic president'

Moments after Biden finished his speech, Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff walked on stage to hug the president and first lady Jill Biden. Other relatives soon followed, including Biden's son Hunter. Harris hugged Biden and said something that made both react in a way that looked very personal.

The convention is running so long that officials put off a performance by James Taylor

In a statement, convention organizers said that lengthy applause was "interrupting speaker after speaker" and that they'd "ultimately skipped elements of our program to ensure we could get to President Biden as quickly as possible so that he could speak directly to the American people."

Musician James Taylor had been scheduled to perform before Biden but didn't.

The convention started late and ran more than an hour behind schedule, stretching past midnight on the East Coast. Still, organizers insisted, "We are proud of the electric atmosphere in our convention hall and proud that our convention is showcasing the broad and diverse coalition behind the Harris-Walz ticket throughout the week on and off the stage."

Some attendees are starting to file out

There are some heading out of the United Center as Biden's remarks near an hour. But many in the floor section and the first tier have been on their feet for the duration of his speech.

Biden: 'Those protestors out in the street have a point'

Biden acknowledged the protests outside the convention and inside the arena as he spoke, saying, "Those protestors out in the street have a point. A lot of innocent people are being killed on both sides."

He reiterated his push to get Israel and Hamas to agree to a cease-fire deal that would also see the release of hostages taken by Hamas on Oct. 7 in the attack that sparked the 10-month war.

A handful of delegates are quietly protesting during Biden's speech

Some delegates have been quietly showing their disagreement with Biden during his remarks.

Between eight and 10 delegates in the back of the Minnesota floor section have been holding up buttons reading "not another bomb" and some have shawls reading "Democrats for Palestinian rights." About 40 minutes into Biden's remarks, the delegates turned their backs to Biden but kept their buttons held aloft.

Biden recaps his White House accomplishments

President Biden went through his White House highlights at the Democratic convention, trying to make the case for the lasting impact of his time in office.

Many of his comments were familiar to those who have listened to past Biden remarks. He talked about more than 16 million jobs added under his watch, the investments in computer chip manufacturing, the bipartisan infrastructure law and the greater access to health care resources. Biden noted that investments made in new computer chip factories would enable workers to make six-figure salaries without needing a college degree.

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His goal had been to reframe people's perspectives of his presidency, but those achievements that were supposed to anchor his reelection campaign never fully resonated with voters.

Abandon Biden protesters unveil banner, only to have it wrestled away

A couple of protesters from the Abandon Biden movement unfurled a protest sign late Monday that read "STOP ARMING ISRAEL" in the Florida delegation section a few minutes after Biden began his speech. The group, which is pushing for third-party candidates, has been campaigning against Biden's reelection campaign since the start of the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel's counterattack in Gaza has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, and devastated much of the territory. The war has plunged the territory of 2.3 million people into a humanitarian catastrophe, with aid groups now fearing an outbreak of polio.

The sign was quickly wrestled away from the protesters and the lights in that section of the convention were turned off. Other convention goers responded to the protest by chanting "We love Joe" and holding up their banners in support of the president.

Ashley Biden heralded her father's entrance

Ashley Biden, President Joe Biden's youngest child, introduced her "best friend" during an impassioned speech for her father ahead of his speech at the Democratic National Convention.

"Dad always told me that I was no better than anybody else and nobody was better than me. He taught me that everybody deserves a fair shot and that we shouldn't leave anyone behind," said the younger Biden, who is a social worker in Philadelphia. "That's what you learn from a fighter who has been underestimated his entire life."

"When I look at Dad, I see grace, strength and humility. I see one of the most consequential leaders ever in history," Biden said to a round of applause.

"This is the fight of our lifetime," the younger Biden said of the election looming ahead. "All of this, all of it is on the ballot. And I know that we can do this together because my dad helped show us the way."

Jill Biden: 'There are moments when I fall in love with him all over again'

Before her husband spoke, Jill Biden used her speech to pay tribute to her husband President Joe Biden as a man who has repeatedly moved her over their decades of marriage.

"Joe and I have been together for almost 50 years and still there are moments when I fall in love with him all over again," the first lady said, recalling how he held their daughter Ashley after her birth and again "just weeks ago, when I saw him dig deep into his soul and decide to no longer seek reelection and endorse Kamala Harris."

She also praised Vice President Harris' courage and urged Americans to get behind her.

"We are all a part of something bigger than ourselves and we are stronger than we know," Jill Biden said. "It's going to take all of us and we can't afford to lose."

President Biden soon after taking the stage to deliver his address called the first lady his family's "rock" and said she still makes his heart go "boom, boom, boom."

President Biden welcomed to the stage with a five-minute standing ovation

President Joe Biden came out to give his convention speech — only to be greeted with roughly five minutes worth of cheers, applause and chants of "Thank You, Joe."

"Thank you," the president said repeatedly, as he took in the moment. The crowd in Chicago's United Center held up signs with heart signs that said they loved him.

"I love you all," Biden said to a party that weeks earlier had worried about his ability to beat Donald Trump, causing the tough choice by him to forgo the nomination for Vice President Kamala Harris.

Sen. Warnock recalls his 2020 election and the Jan. 6 riot

Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock combined the passion of his Sunday morning sermons with often repeated refrains from his campaign stump during an impassioned speech at the Democratic convention.

Warnock drew sharp contrasts between his 2020 election and the riot that ransacked the U.S. Capitol the following day to paint a picture of a broader struggle for democracy over "the forces that seek to divide us."

"We must remain vigilant tonight because these antidemocratic forces are at work right now in Georgia

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and all across our country," Warnock said, arguing that the election denialism on display during the Capitol riot "metastasized into dozens of voter suppression laws all across our country."

Warnock, who pastors the church over which Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once presided, critiqued Trump for posing with a Bible in the summer of 2020. "He should try reading it," Warnock quipped.

Were Democrats long-winded on the first night of the convention, or was it a plot against President Joe Biden?

On Fox News Channel, pundits kept a close eye on the clock Monday night, wondering how late Biden would come to the podium to deliver his keynote address. They noted how the convention was running well behind schedule.

"You get the sense that this convention doesn't care if they put Joe Biden close to midnight," Fox's Bill Hemmer said.

As the hour approached 10 p.m. local time, Fox's Brit Hume took offense at how scheduled speakers who discussed abortion did not cut their time short. "What does it say about the modern state of the Democratic party that it could not ask these abortion speakers to stand aside to make room for the president of the United States to speak at a reasonable hour of the night?" Hume wondered.

Former President Trump's acceptance speech at the Republican convention last month stretched past midnight.

Democrats highlight stories of dangerous pregnancy, miscarriage and sexual abuse

Democrats made an emotional appeal to voters on the need for abortion rights, having people talk about their first-hand experiences with complicated pregnancies.

Amanda and Josh Zurawski of Texas spoke about a tortured pregnancy in which there was a choice between the life of their daughter, Willow, and that of the mother. Kaitlyn Joshua of Louisiana said her state's abortion restrictions meant she could not get the emergency room care she needed when she ultimately miscarried.

And in a moment that left the convention room quiet, Hadley Duvall of Kentucky spoke openly about the sexual abuse that left her pregnant at 12, when she said she learned she had options other than keeping the pregnancy.

Former President Trump calls the abortion bans "a beautiful thing," Duvall said. "What is so beautiful about a child having to carry her parent's child?"

The convention gave Duvall a standing ovation for having survived the ordeal.

Rep. Crockett: Harris is 'the only candidate in this race who is capable of empathy'

Texas Rep. Jasmine Crockett, one of the Democrats' most ardent firebrands in Congress, delivered a moment of vulnerability during her speech.

"She's the only candidate in this race who is capable of empathy," Crockett said. Crockett recounted her early days in Congress when she said she was grappling with doubt and dissolution at the state of the House and the prospects of the job.

"I was going through all of this when I visited the vice president's residence for the first time," Crockett recounted, when Harris, upon first meeting the freshman representative, asked, "What's wrong?"

Crockett said that she "immediately began crying" in front of the vice president, before she then had to hold back tears live on stage. "And the most powerful woman in the world wiped my tears and listened," Crockett said to applause from the audience.

"She then said among other things, 'You are exactly where God wants you. Your district chose you because they believe in you and so do I,'" Crockett said.

Rep. Jasmine Crockett draws a snarky contrast between Harris and Trump

The first-term Texan cheered Harris as a career prosecutor while declaring that the former president "became a career criminal, with 34 felonies, two impeachments and one porn star."

As the crowd roared, Crockett kept going. She said that the vice president has "lived the American Dream while he's been America's nightmare."

In another zinger, Crockett added that Harris "has a resume" while her opponent "has a rap sheet."

Rep. Clyburn heaps praise on Biden's record and calls Project 2025 'Jim Crow 2.0'

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Rep. Jim Clyburn, the influential South Carolinian, received an enthusiastic welcome and chants of "Clyburn" at the Democrats' convention before tallying through President Biden's legislative record.

Clyburn, a close Biden ally, said that the country owes the president "a great debt of gratitude."

But he took special praise for "one of the best decisions he made: selecting Kamala Harris as his vice president and endorsing her to succeed him."

Clyburn also singled out Project 2025, calling it "Jim Crow 2.0."

"Our great democracy has been tested and so has the basic goodness of the American people. But our resolve to remain a great country with freedom and justice for all will not falter," said Clyburn, a veteran of the civil rights movement.

Clinton appearance recalls the musical stylings of 2016

When Hilary Clinton took the stage, she walked onto Sara Bareilles' "Brave," the same song that preceded her entrance at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

And when she left the stage, it was to the tune of Rachel Platten's "Fight Song," the ubiquitous and catchy anthem of her 2016 campaign.

The DNC that year included a compilation of celebrities singing the song.

Clinton: 'When a barrier falls for one of us, it clears the way for all of us'

Former Secretary of State Clinton saluted Harris for possibly breaking the "highest, hardest glass ceiling" to become America's first woman president.

Clinton was the Democratic nominee in 2016, but she lost that election to Trump. The former New York senator said it was "the honor of my life" to be the party's nominee.

"Together, we've put a lot of cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling," Clinton said. "On the other side of that glass ceiling is Kamala Harris raising her hand and taking the oath of office as our 47th president of the United States. Folks, my friends, when a barrier falls for one of us, it clears the way for all of us."

The focus on the nature of Harris' historic candidacy could be key for turning out more women in key states that Democrats need if they hope to win in November.

Convention chants 'lock him up' during Hilary Clinton speech

Hillary Clinton had a slam on Donald Trump that prompted the crowd at the Democratic convention to chant, "Lock him up," a sly reference to the chorus of "Lock her up" that was repeated at Trump rallies about Clinton back in 2016.

Clinton smiled at the irony that her remarks had prodded.

"Donald Trump fell asleep at his own trial," she said. "When he woke up, he'd made his own kind of history: the first person to run for president with 34 felony convictions."

Hillary Clinton arrives to thunderous applause

Hillary Clinton received an immediate standing ovation upon entering the stage on the Democratic convention's first night. Clinton spent several moments waving at those assembled as cheers of "Hillary" echoed through the arena.

"Wow, there's a lot of energy in this room just like there is across the country. Something, something is happening in America. You can feel it," Clinton said to cheers.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says Harris 'is working tirelessly to secure a cease-fire in Gaza'

New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez delivered the first mention of the war in Gaza from the DNC stage.

"And she is working tirelessly to secure a cease-fire in Gaza and bringing the hostages home," Ocasio-Cortez said to cheers in the crowd.

Ocasio-Cortez has been one of the most critical voices in Congress of the Biden administration's policy on Israel-Palestine and has called for greater restrictions on military aid to Israel. But she and other progressives have also been in dialogue with the administration on its policy, which has caused her to face pushback from some on the hard left.

Steve Kerr returns to the arena where he clinched the 1997 Chicago Bulls championship

Golden State Warriors and Team USA coach Steve Kerr received arguably the second loudest applause of the night Monday, behind Harris, when he appeared on the convention stage.

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Kerr returned to the United Center where nearly 30 years ago he made the winning shot to clinch the Chicago Bulls another championship. "As you know, a lot of good stuff has happened in this building, especially in the '90s," Kerr told conventiongoers.

Harris is from Oakland, California, where the Warriors played for decades until moving their arena to San Francisco.

Harris to meet with Teamsters, but union president isn't invited to speak at Democratic convention

Members of the Teamsters will host Vice President Harris for a roundtable discussion in the near future, but union President Sean O'Brien has yet to get an invitation to speak at next week's Democratic National Convention.

Kara Deniz, a spokeswoman for the 1.3 million member union, said in an email Friday that the Teamsters are working with Harris' campaign on dates for the roundtable.

But O'Brien, who angered some Democrats by speaking at the GOP convention last month, has not received a reply to his request to speak at the Democratic National Convention, which begins Monday in Chicago, Deniz said Friday night.

O'Brien made the request to the Democrats at the same time he asked Republicans, she said.

A person briefed on convention planning said Saturday that O'Brien will not speak, but the Teamsters will have a presence on the convention stage. The person, who requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly about the schedule, would not give further details.

□ Read more about the convention's labor politics

United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain reveals 'Trump is a scab' T-shirt

United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain called Kamala Harris a "fighter" for the working class and denounced Donald Trump as a "scab," a term that applies to workers who cross picket lines and defy union actions.

Fain's remarks led to chants of "Trump's a scab" by the crowd at the Democratic convention.

"It's getting hot in here, folks," Fain said, referencing a song by musician Nelly, before removing his suit jacket to show a T-shirt that read, "Trump is a scab. Vote Harris."

The backing of the UAW could be crucial for Democrats seeking to erode Trump's superior margins among white voters without college degrees who identify as blue-collar.

Harris honors President Biden during surprise DNC appearance

Harris' first words at the convention focused on the legacy of the man she has stood behind for the last three and a half years. Mirroring other Democrats Monday, Harris used her first moment on stage to thank Joe Biden for what she called his historic legacy.

"Thank you for your historic leadership, for your lifetime of service to our nation and for all you will continue to do," Harris said, addressing Biden. "We are forever grateful to you."

Latino leaders celebrate representation on the DNC stage

Latino leaders took note of the number of Latinos who took the stage to promote Vice President Harris.

"I am very happy to see as many Latinas on the stage this evening. I think I've seen five already," said Juan Proaño, chief executive officer of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"We've actually seen some really great Latinas in leadership positions from around the country being highlighted and having an equal time and platform as other elected officials," Proaño added. He added that, while immigration has emerged as a top issue in the election, he was glad that the Latino speakers were not pigeonholed and discussed "wages and salaries, things that every other American wants."

Jason Isbell serenades the DNC with a pro-labor tune

Wearing a tuxedo in a hue of Democratic blue, country and Americana singer-songwriter Jason Isbell sang his labor-celebrating "Something More Than Free" on the convention stage.

Backed by the house band, Isbell took the stage with his Telecaster guitar, singing lyrics that included, "Sunday morning I'm too tired to go to church. I just thank God for the work," in front of an image of a barn with an American flag painted on it.

He ended with a shoutout to the delegation from his native Alabama.

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The 45-year-old singer and sometime actor — he had a major supporting role in Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" last year — is from the community of Green Hill. He's known for speaking out about liberal causes, and his willingness to spar with commenters, on social media.

Prop comedy comes to the DNC

Michigan state Sen. Mallory McMorrow tried to throw the book at Donald Trump — literally hoisting an oversized copy of "Project 2025" onto the lectern and quoting from portions of it.

It was prop comedy on one of the highest political stages.

"So we read it," McMorrow said. "Whatever you think it might be, it is so much worse."

Trump, the former president, has publicly disavowed any interest in the policies outlined in Project 2025, but it's a blueprint for a second Trump term that was put together by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

McMorrow said the ideas in the text would enable Trump to be a dictator who could fire civil servants and use the Justice Department to investigate political opponents.

Mickey Guyton performs 'All-American' anthem

Mickey Guyton sang her 2021 song "All-American" at the Democratic convention on a night when the entertainment will have a country-and-folk feel.

Guyton took the stage alone with a microphone in a white spangled gown and a greeting of "How y'all doing?" before belting the chorus, "Ain't we all all-American?" in front of a backdrop showing rural highways and classrooms as some in the audience shone the lights on their cell phones and waved them.

The Texan Guyton has been among country music's elite in recent years, performing the national anthem at the Super Bowl in 2022, hosting the Academy of Country Music Awards and becoming the first Black woman to be nominated for a Grammy in a country category.

Singer-songwriters from different generations — Gen X's Jason Isbell and Baby Boomer James Taylor — are each set to perform later in the evening.

Senator Schumer says he received 'hundreds' of calls saying Biden should step down

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said that he received calls from "hundreds" of people telling him that Joe Biden should step down after the presidential debate in June.

"I thought we ought to do it privately if people wanted to do it," Schumer said at a Politico event about Democrats' calls for him to step down. "I thought it would be both more effective and more honorable."

Union leaders line up behind Harris

Democrats want to show voters that they're with workers, drawing on labor union support for the opening night of the convention.

"We are all in for Kamala Harris because Kamala Harris has always been all in for us," said April Verrett, president of the Service Employees International Union, or SEIU.

Verrett was among the group of union leaders who took to the stage to counter the courting of blue-collar workers by Trump, who invited the head of the Teamsters to speak at the Republican National Convention. Teamsters President Sean O'Brien was not among the union leaders speaking at the Democratic convention on Monday.

The crowd waved "UNION YES!" signs as the leaders spoke. Most union households have backed Democrats, helping the party win in key states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin in 2020.

Liz Shuler, head of the AFL-CIO, said that Trump's plans were "a CEO's dream, but a worker's nightmare."

Rep. Robert Garcia shares his family's immigration story

California Rep. Robert Garcia delivered his family story of immigrating to the U.S. and becoming a citizen, seeking to paint a different vision of patriotism to that touted by the GOP.

"I am a proud immigrant who came to the United States as a young child. We grew up poor, English was our second language and we often, like many immigrant families, struggled to get by," Garcia said.

Garcia called the day he became a citizen "the proudest day of my life." He recounted his upbringing, which was at times characterized by hardship.

"She believed in the American Dream," Garcia said of his mother, who Garcia said "taught me to love

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this country.”

“She taught me that real American patriotism is not about screaming and yelling ‘America First,’” but instead, “loving your country so much that you want to help the people in your country,” Garcia told the crowd.

FACT CHECK: Trump, COVID-19 and bleach injections

Rep. Robert Garcia, of California, claimed that former President Trump “told us to inject bleach into our bodies” during the COVID-19 pandemic.

That’s an overstatement. Rather, Trump asked whether it would be possible to inject disinfectant into the lungs.

“And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in one minute,” he said at an April 2020 press conference. “And is there a way we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning, because you see it gets in the lungs and it does a tremendous number on the lungs, so it’d be interesting to check that, so that you’re going to have to use medical doctors with, but it sounds interesting to me. So, we’ll see, but the whole concept of the light, the way it kills it in one minute. That’s pretty powerful.”

Democrats want to remind voters that the COVID-19 pandemic began during Trump’s presidency

It’s been four years since the pandemic shut down the United States — and Democrats are trying to tie the crisis to Trump’s presidency.

The convention showed a video montage of Trump commenting on the coronavirus pandemic as president, as the hall echoed with boos. It included a separate video featuring Rich Logis, a former Trump voter who rejected Trump over his handling of the pandemic. The Democrats noted that the economy recovered under President Biden as vaccinations allowed offices, schools and public spaces to reopen.

“He took the COVID crisis and turned it into a catastrophe,” said Rep. Lauren Underwood, D-Ill. “We can never let him be our president again.”

Last month’s Republican convention largely eschewed mention of the pandemic, framing Trump’s presidency as a period of prosperity that was subsequently undone by the Biden administration.

Peggy Flanagan could be the first Native woman governor — if Harris is elected

The Democratic convention’s co-chair, Minnesota’s Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, could soon make history as the first Native woman to govern a state. The prospect led to cheers among the crowd, as it would depend on Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz winning the vice presidency as Kamala Harris’ running mate.

Flanagan is a citizen of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

She focused her remarks on electing Harris and Walz, saying, “He and Harris have spent their lives fighting for you, for your family, for your future.”

Who’s speaking tonight?

Biden has the top billing Monday night, but there are other big names on the speakers list.

Also expected is Hillary Clinton, who was her party’s first woman nominee in 2016. Harris is the second.

Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, one of Biden’s top congressional allies is also expected, as is New York Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Another name of note among Monday night’s speakers is Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a progressive Democrat in the House who was supportive of Sanders’ candidacy in 2020 but has since backed Biden, even arguing against him departing the race earlier this year.

Who is Fannie Lou Hamer?

Multiple speakers have mentioned Fannie Lou Hamer, a civil rights activist who gave a landmark speech at the Democratic Convention in 1964.

Hamer was a former sharecropper and a leader of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, a racially integrated group that challenged the seating of an all-white Mississippi delegation at the 1964 DNC.

Her televised testimony to the credentials committee in Atlantic City, New Jersey, mesmerized the nation and shone light on the violence inflicted on Hamer and others as they worked to secure rights that were supposed to be guaranteed by the Constitution.

Hamer spoke on Aug. 22, 1964 — exactly 60 years before Kamala Harris is scheduled to accept the

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Democratic nomination and become the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to be the presidential nominee of a major party.

Sen. Sanders defends his support for Biden's presidential candidacy

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who stood by President Biden over the summer even as many Democrats called for him to step aside, defended his support for the president at a Politico event Monday.

"Did I think (Biden) was a great campaigner? No. But I think he was an excellent president," the Vermont lawmaker said.

He added that while Vice President Harris is "not his best friend," he sees his former colleague as a strong campaigner and the "potential to be an excellent president."

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson honored

The opening of the Democratic convention recognized Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist and Democratic presidential candidate in 1984 and 1988.

Jackson, 82, entered the stage in a wheelchair, holding up both thumbs up in triumph to a cheering crowd. The ordained Baptist pastor did not speak to the convention.

Multiple speakers gave shoutouts to Jackson, who was also the subject of a video broadcast at the event's hall. The video noted that Vice President Harris was "standing on the shoulder of giants" such as Jackson.

Both the Democratic and Republican national conventions recognized America's native peoples

Both the DNC and RNC included what's known as a "land acknowledgment" that recognized the stewardship of the land by indigenous peoples and tribes.

At the Democratic convention in Chicago, the acknowledgment was delivered by Zach Pahmahmie and Lorrie Melchior, who are both part of the tribal council of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

At the Republican convention last month in Milwaukee, James Crawford of the Forest County Potawatomi Executive Council gave the land acknowledgment.

Party activists held a forum on the plight of the Palestinian people

With Vice President Harris now leading the party, there are some indicators at the DNC that Harris is taking assertive steps to ease the tension between the party and the protest movement in support of the Palestinian people.

In what organizers called a first, party activists were given space at the convention to hold a forum to discuss the plight of the Palestinian people, who have been under Israeli bombardment for months, as well as share deeply personal — and often heartrending stories — about family members lost in the conflict.

Though their core demands — a dramatic change in U.S. foreign policy over the war — remain unmet, the decision to allow activists to hold a forum amounted to the offering of an olive branch by Harris. And it's one that many doubted Biden would have extended if he were still the nominee.

James Zogby, a panelist and the founder of the Arab American Institute, acknowledged that there was still discontent over the Democratic Party's handling of the war in Gaza. But he said the forum was nonetheless a first.

"It is not the prize. The prize is a change in policy," Zogby said. "But what is historic here is we are having an officially sanctioned panel to talk about it."

Night 1 of the DNC has begun

The Democratic National Convention has started with delegates still filtering into Chicago's United Center.

The gathering opened with remarks shortly after 6:30 p.m. central time by Minyon Moore, chair of the convention committee. Moore called President Biden, the evening's main speaker, a true patriot.

Jaime Harrison, the chair of the Democratic National Committee, noted to applause the historical moment in that he and Moore are both Black, as is the party's nominee, Vice President Harris.

Several protesters have been detained

A group of several dozen activists, who had separated from a larger march advocating for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas conflict, were removed from a restricted area by police, including those led by Superintendent Larry Snelling.

Police wearing helmets with masks attached formed a line along a fence, which had been previously breached and still had several panels missing, while some activists shouted at them. Several protesters

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who had managed to get through the fence were detained and handcuffed by the police.

'When this over, the work begins'

Johnson of the NAACP expressed concern at rhetoric from former President Trump and other Republicans calling into question the security or legitimacy of the country's election security, noting that the attacks are often aimed at election systems serving communities of color.

"If there are legitimate concerns around election integrity, let's address them," Johnson said. "But to continue to repeat something that is neither factual or misleading is only furthering the goal of eroding trust in the system, and that's a strategy."

Campbell from the NCBCP believes that the energy, which she found especially pronounced among young activists, was only the start of a broader engagement effort for communities of color.

"When this over, the work begins," Campbell said.

Civil rights leaders praise 'high energy' while awaiting concrete policy steps during DNC

Civil rights leaders speaking at the DNC's first night are expecting to hear concrete plans for racial and economic justice from their fellow speakers from the podium this week.

"I will be listening to determine whether they are speaking to the needs and interests of African American communities across this country," said Derrick Johnson, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"I'll be expecting her to lay out the foundation for where she will want to take the country," said Melanie Campbell, CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, a civil rights group that works to enfranchise Black Americans.

Johnson and Campbell are both speaking tonight. Campbell noted that the event has had "a high level of energy," largely drawn from renewed optimism among liberals and progressives at the ascension of Vice President Harris.

"It was not something we were expecting. It is a humbling moment we are witnessing. Our ancestors' wildest dreams," said Campbell.

Campbell, who called on Biden to select a Black woman as his vice president during the 2020 election, said she had always been sure that Harris was prepared to serve from the Oval Office. "We knew she had to be ready to be president, as with any previous vice president," Campbell said of her and her allies thinking in 2020.

'The whole world is watching'

Dozens of activists chanting, "End the occupation now," are facing off with police just a few blocks from the United Center. As tensions rose, many officers put on gas masks, and the situation intensified when some activists tried to bring down a second fence set up in front of the police.

Some protesters began chanting, "The whole world is watching!" just as anti-Vietnam War protesters did in 1968 when police clashed with protesters on live television.

Demonstrators break through fence

Dozens of activists taking part in the Coalition to March on the DNC broke through a fence set up outside the United Center.

The fence lining Park 578 was torn down as protesters broke through. A second fence was in place in front of dozens of police officers. Activists banged on the fence in front of officers, who yelled at them not to touch it.

Harris campaign manager says more policy proposals are forthcoming

The Harris campaign's principal deputy manager, Quentin Fulks, pushed back against criticism that the vice president hasn't shared many policy proposals since launching her campaign about a month ago.

Onstage at the CNN-Politico Grill at the convention, he pointed to her proposals to give \$25,000 in down payment help to first-time homebuyers, to expand the child tax credit and to build more affordable housing units.

"I think that she has rolled out policy and I think any qualms with sort of what's on the website is just a matter of literally switching the top of the ticket in a presidential campaign," he said.

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"You're going to continue to see more policy proposals from her. But the important thing is that the vice president isn't just saying things to get votes. These policies are being developed based on her worldviews, her values, her vision set. And so, it's really important to her that she gets it right."

Michigan senator believes authenticity will help Harris win the Great Lake state

Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, the chair of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, said that Harris' authenticity will be key to her winning his state this fall.

"We're a midwestern state, people like to know folks are speaking from the heart," the Michigan Democrat said onstage at the conventions CNN-Politico Grill. "She needs to show how she cares, which she does. I know that."

Peters said he's seen a surge of enthusiasm and energy among Democratic voters who had been looking for a fresh face with new ideas.

But he said he's looking forward to honoring Biden's decades of public service in Monday's evening programming, lauding the president as a "man of incredible character."

"Just imagine that. A president that puts himself second to what's good for the country," Peters said of Biden. "I can think of a recent president that probably that wouldn't apply to."

Peters was optimistic about battleground state Senate races in this fall's election, saying Democrats are running strong candidates against flawed Republicans.

Thousands of protestors march outside DNC

Several thousand protesters marched in the demonstration snaking through residential areas around the United Center, but the numbers fell short of the "tens of thousands" organizers had predicted in their legal battle for a longer route. "We're proud of the turnout, especially considering the degree of the repression from the city," said organizer Faayani Aboma Mijana.

Police presence was heavy along the march route but organizers of the march also provided their own marshals to provide security, hand out water bottles and keep people on the city-approved route.

Among the sea of delegates, an 'honest weirdo'

Long before the Democrats started using the "weird" label for Republican policies and statements, one DNC delegate has been describing himself as an "honest weirdo."

Dakota Adams, the estranged son of Oath Keepers founder and convicted insurrectionist Stewart Rhodes, is one of Montana's delegates. Adams is the goth-looking one with the long hair, black leather jacket, black fingernail polish and mostly progressive political ideas.

Adams is running an uphill race as a Democrat for a state House seat in the very Republican northwestern corner of Montana.

He says his clothing is authentic to himself and says he believes voters prefer an "honest weirdo" to other candidates who dress as what he calls "Spirit Halloween cowboys" to curry favor with constituents.

Adams says the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection — which his father is serving 18 years in prison for helping to plan — served as a "sobering wake-up call in terms of ... how the Republican Party enabled a president to become an active danger to this republic." It also spurred Adams' run for office.

Biden arrives at the DNC

President Joe Biden is doing a walkthrough at the United Center in Chicago ahead of his keynote speech this evening. During his remarks on the event's opening night, he's expected to hand off leadership of his party to Vice President Harris.

When asked by reporters if he was ready to pass the torch, Biden responded, "I am."

James Taylor among the musicians readying to take the stage at the DNC

The singer-songwriter did a soundcheck on stage in Chicago on Monday afternoon, ahead of an expected evening performance.

Taylor also performed at the 2012 DNC in North Carolina, where President Barack Obama was nominated for a second term.

Trump closes Pennsylvania campaign event with jabs toward Harris

In his visit to a factory plant in York, Pennsylvania, former President Donald Trump mostly stuck to the

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script, as he talked to workers and business people about his proposals to boost energy production. But toward the end he veered back to personal attacks against Harris that had more to do with her father's work.

"Her father is a Marxist professor," Trump said, before questioning what Democrats were thinking when uniting behind Harris.

"I wonder if they knew where she comes from, where she came from, what her ideology is," he said.

He took issue with Harris and her allies calling him and his running mate JD Vance "weird."

"I think we're extremely normal people," he said.

Protesters calling for ceasefire between Israel and Hamas march toward DNC site

Thousands of activists calling for ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war have begun their march towards the United Center, where the Democratic National Convention is taking place.

The activists are participating in the Coalition to March on the DNC, an alliance of over 200 organizations. The activists waved Palestinian flags while chants and drumbeats reverberated through the crowd.

The route is approximately a mile long and will conclude at a park near the arena. Police have lined the streets where the march is taking place.

Trump says if elected he wants to rapidly approve new energy infrastructure

At a campaign event, Former President Donald Trump said that if he is elected he wants to issue rapid approvals of new energy infrastructure and do away with the Biden administration's "power plant rule."

He said he will commit to bringing "advanced small modular nuclear reactors," adding they can be built at a very low cost and are "absolutely safe."

"I stand for American energy independence and manufacturing dominance," Trump said.

The Environmental Protection Agency issued a rule earlier this year to put limits on greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric plants as an effort to roll back pollution.

The United States is speeding up efforts to license and build a new generation of nuclear reactors to supply carbon-free electricity.

Faster development is one thing Congress and the administration agree on. President Joe Biden signed legislation in July to modernize the licensing of new reactor technologies so they can be built faster. Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate environment and House energy committees praised the enactment.

Democratic state legislators say they are more confident with Harris as party's presidential nominee

Democrats in state houses are feeling more confident about their chances of defending their control of state legislative chambers and potentially flipping some chambers in November's elections with Vice President Kamala Harris at the top of the ticket.

"We now have energy and excitement that is at a greater level than it has been," said Heather Williams, president of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, which works to elect Democrats to state legislatures. "Our battleground states align really nicely with key presidential battlegrounds. I think in places like Michigan and Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and Arizona there's good overlap."

Williams said that the Harris campaign had also brought in a new wave of volunteers who could also aid candidates campaigning for local and state office. She added that the DLCC is focused on tailoring Democrats' national message on issues like abortion, inflation and climate to specific, local interests.

Williams also said that the DLCC candidates running are often more women and people of color than in previous years. Taken together, state and local Democrats are hoping newfound energy within the party that's on display in Chicago redounds to their races.

"I think that is our challenge: making sure that people feel good and educated and ready to vote down ballot," Williams said.

On Air Force One headed to the DNC

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Chicago that President Joe Biden "looks forward to addressing his party and the nation" as DNC's keynote speaker Monday evening.

"He's going to make the case of the moment that we're in," she said. "This is a fulfilling moment for him."

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Protesters gather in Union Park ahead of a planned march
Protesters gathered in Union Park as a series of speakers addressed the crowd Monday afternoon ahead of a planned march.

In between chants of "free free Palestine" and "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," protest leaders condemned American politicians across the political spectrum and listed their demands.

"The leading Democrats say a lot of nice words about the communities who helped them get elected," organizer Kobi Guillory yelled into a microphone. "But they prove through their actions that they serve the same corporate interests as the Republicans."

Andrew Josefchak told the crowd their movement must continue growing and building upon the momentum from widespread protests on college campuses in the spring.

"We should not have to choose whose lives we value in an election. And taking a stand against genocide should not be treated like a fringe issue, and we are going to make sure it is not treated like a fringe issue," he said. "Some people think social change is made by delegates in the DNC, but in reality it is made by us and it is made in the streets."

"We make it clear that we will not be casting any ballots for anybody who oversees the genocide, the indiscriminate murder of Palestinian children, families and futures," Sara Mahmoud with the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression told the group of protesters.

At a Trump campaign event in Pennsylvania

Several dozen supporters were arriving at a factory plant in York, Pennsylvania, to hear former President Donald Trump speak.

A sign behind the podium where he will speak reads "Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!"

The business Precision Custom Components makes pressure valves, reactors and other parts for military and nuclear purposes. The crowd of supporters includes people who work at the plant and other residents from the area.

It's Trump's second campaign stop in the battleground state of Pennsylvania in less than two days.

Rep. Frost: Harris' run for president has re-energized young people

Florida Democratic Rep. Maxwell Frost, the first Gen Z member of Congress, says that Vice President Kamala Harris now running at the top of the party's ticket has meant "a renewed energy with young people that I haven't seen."

Frost, 27, was a leading voice for President Joe Biden when he was seeking reelection. But with Biden dropping out of the race last month and endorsing Harris, Frost is now campaigning for the vice president.

In an interview on the sidelines of the Democratic National Convention on Monday, Frost said the change is "not just because of President Biden, I've not seen with a lot of candidates before."

"I think it's less about the president and more about the vice president, something that she's brought to the table," Frost said. "I think it has to do with her authenticity, her ability to go viral online."

The stage is set but no one's shown up

Not a single speaker or spectator showed up by early Monday afternoon to a speakers' stage in Chicago set up by city officials near the United Center as crowds of anti-war activists preparing to march began filling a park a few blocks away.

Eight groups with progressive agendas had signed up for 45-minute speaking slots Monday. On other days, some conservative groups including the Illinois Policy Institute have plans to speak.

Sen. Schumer regaled boisterous gathering of union members with the tale of his political origin

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was a young man in his early 20s and said he was working at a "big fancy law firm" – a job he hated.

"I was pushing a pencil for some ... rich guy who I knew I wouldn't like if I ever met him," Schumer said.

So he decided to run for the New York Assembly and told his barber — also a local bookie — who gave him 50-to-1 odds of winning.

Schumer went on to win and the reason, he said, was because of his supporters in the labor movement who campaigned for him.

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"You men and women of labor were there when I needed you," Schumer said to raucous applause. "As long as I'm in office, I will always be there when you need me."

Israel supporters at park as pro-Palestinian rally took place to 'make our presence felt'

Around 40 pro-Israel supporters walked around a park where a pro-Palestinian rally was taking place, and later marching towards the United Center.

The pro-Israel counter-protesters, who mainly remained silent while waving Israeli flags, were accompanied by approximately 20 Chicago police officers on bicycles. Although tensions flared at times, no physical altercations occurred during the park walk.

Josh Weiner, co-founder of Chicago Jewish Alliance and walking with the pro-Israel group, said their intent was to "make our presence felt."

Weiner said the group had applied for permits that were not approved by the city.

"The pro-Palestine protesters have gotten multiple permits, including a march, which seems to be a little bit weighted on one side," Weiner said.

Biden's daughter Ashley will introduce him before his DNC speech Monday night

The speech, which will follow remarks by first lady Jill Biden, is expected to serve as a sort of political farewell for the president, who abandoned his bid for a second term amid concerns about his age.

The rest of the speaking program, which is scheduled to last about five hours, will include a mix of Democratic Party stars and union leaders. Rep. James Clyburn and Sen. Chris Coons, two of Biden's closest allies, are slated to deliver remarks. So is Hillary Clinton, the former first lady and secretary of state who fell short in her own campaign for president.

United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain will make a solo appearance while other labor chiefs will share the stage earlier in the evening.

As with any convention, there's the potential for lesser known politicians to seize their speaking slot to make a name for themselves. The line up includes California Rep. Robert Garcia, Michigan State Sen. Mallory McMorrow, Texas Rep. Jasmine Crockett, New York Rep. Grace Meng and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear.

Green Party candidate Jill Stein: Don't vote for Harris until she supports swift ceasefire in Gaza

Green Party candidate Jill Stein on Monday urged Democrats to withhold their vote from Harris until she supports a swift ceasefire in Gaza.

"We must vote against genocide," Stein said during an Abandon Harris news conference. "In fact, there is no lesser evil. We have two greater evils: One conducting genocide now, the other saying to finish the job right now."

Stein is on the ballot in several key states for Democrats this year. She ran in 2016, gaining tens of thousands of votes in battleground states, including Wisconsin where her vote count was more than Donald Trump's winning margin in the state. Some Democrats have blamed her for helping Trump win the state and the presidency that year.

DNC's party platform still names Biden as the candidate for president

DNC delegates are set to vote Monday night on a 2024 party platform that wrongly names Biden as the candidate running for reelection.

The party said the document outlining a progressive vision for the next four years was approved by its platform committee on July 16, days before Biden bowed out and endorsed Harris for president. As a result, the platform repeatedly refers to Biden's second term and his administration's accomplishments. It mentions Harris' work as vice president but doesn't describe her candidacy or go into detail on her views on key issues.

Harris has talked generally about supporting the Biden administration's key goals, which are more or less endorsed in the platform as written. She has outlined a string of new economic proposals but otherwise hasn't released a detailed list of her policy positions since launching her campaign.

The DNC said its platform makes "a strong statement about the historic work that President Biden and Vice President Harris have accomplished hand-in-hand."

Citing the Israel-Hamas war, the Abandon Biden movement shifts its focus to Harris

A group that has spent the months since the Israel-Hamas war pursuing a campaign for Democrats to

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push Biden out as their presidential candidate shifted its focus Monday to the new presumptive nominee: Kamala Harris.

The Abandon Biden movement has focused on the president's handling of the deadly war in Gaza and the flow of U.S. military aid to Israel as it responds to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. But at an event Monday, the group rebranded to Abandon Harris, saying the vice president's inability to differentiate herself from Biden's handling of the war is not acceptable.

The group has demanded that Harris support an unconditional and permanent ceasefire in Gaza in addition to a full U.S. arms embargo on Israel.

As an alternative to Harris, the group has been pushing for third party candidates like progressive Cornel West and Green Party candidate Jill Stein.

"We ask the American people to vote for these third party candidates that are part of a broader movement to end a system that claims that the only rational thing is to select the lesser of two evils," Hassan Abdel Salam, founder of Abandon Biden, said at a news conference Monday.

Chicago leaders say they're committed to keeping protests peaceful during the DNC

"The city of Chicago is really good at things like this," Mayor Brandon Johnson said at a Monday news conference. "We are ready."

Police Superintendent Larry Snelling praised police and march organizers for a peaceful Sunday night protest he said went off without any problems. He said officers stood ready to ensure the demonstrations stay peaceful throughout the week.

"Listen, it's this simple. The Chicago Police Department is here to protect everyone in this city," Snelling said. "What we will not tolerate is intimidation. We we will not tolerate violence."

Protester issues include climate change, abortion rights and racial equality, to name a few. But many agree that pressing for an immediate cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war is the top message of the demonstrations. They have likened it to the Vietnam War of their generation.

Walz responds to GOP criticism of how Harris laughs

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz is responding to some in the GOP mocking the way his running mate, Vice President Kamala Harris, laughs.

"They're on her because she laughs," Walz, the Minnesota governor, told a meeting of the Hispanic Caucus during Monday's first day of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. "My god. I'll take someone who laughs any damn day of the week."

He continued of Harris, "She has a joy emanating out of her."

Former Republican President Donald Trump has frequently criticized Harris for her laugh, and online videos of Harris laughing over and over through the years have become common.

As hundreds of the people in the crowd hoisted their cellphones to film and take selfies while he spoke from the nearby podium, Walz suggested Harris had reset the race since President Joe Biden gave up his reelection bid and endorsed her last month.

"People don't to just want to vote against something. They want to vote for something," Walz said. "Kamala Harris has given you something to vote for."

Harris campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez addresses the Hispanic Caucus

Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign manager says "we know that Latino voters are critical to our pathway to victory" in November.

Julie Chavez Rodriguez told members of the Democratic National Convention's Hispanic Caucus that the campaign sees Hispanic voters as a large enough voting bloc to make up the margin of victory in critical swing states, including Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania.

Chavez Rodriguez pointed to an ad in English and Spanish that the campaign has produced promoting Harris' background and upbringing.

"We're going to do it in English. We're going to do it in Spanish. We're going to do it in Spanglish," Rodriguez said to cheers, referencing Hispanics that are bilingual or mostly speak one or the other.

Meanwhile, the battle for control of the House sends GOP Speaker Mike Johnson on western state

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campaign swing

While Democrats open their convention in Chicago, House Speaker Mike Johnson is keeping a robust August campaign schedule as he fights to hold his slim Republican majority this election.

Johnson is scheduled to be out West in Arizona and New Mexico this week fundraising and rallying with Republican House candidates. He had earlier stops in Montana and Washington state, including an event for Republican Joe Kent.

Democrats posted record online House fundraising in the immediate aftermath of Harris' rise to the top of ticket. But Johnson told House Republicans in a private call last week he was transferring \$4 million he had raised to their own campaign committee, according to a person familiar with the situation and granted anonymity to discuss the private talk.

All told, the Republican speaker has traveled to more than 40 cities in 20 states this month, the person said.

— Lisa Mascaro

What channel is carrying the convention?

The DNC will livestream on more than a dozen platforms, including the convention website, YouTube and X. For the first time in convention history, organizers say, they will also host vertical streams across TikTok, Instagram and YouTube to make the proceedings more accessible on mobile devices.

Convention officials say there will be English and Spanish versions, as well as American Sign Language interpretation and an audio description service.

A number of network and cable news outlets have announced special programming for the prime-time portions of the convention, when Harris and others will give speeches from the hall where delegates are convening.

Other media outlets, both local and national, will stream whatever is happening on the floor. The actual space itself is closed to the public, behind several layers of security accessible only to delegates, officials, volunteers and credentialed media.

[Read more about how, and when, to watch the action at the DNC](#)

[More details on Monday's DNC speakers](#)

On day one of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, organizers of the event say viewers will hear from "everyday people" as well as a slate of elected officials, including a headlining appearance by President Joe Biden that will serve as a celebration of his record in office.

Among the speakers: United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain; Hillary Clinton; Reps. Grace Meng, Jamie Raskin and Jasmine Crockett; as well as Sens. Chris Coons and Raphael Warnock; and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear.

Much of the programming will focus on Biden's record of achievements during his time in the White House, which includes passing major pieces of legislation that included policies Democrats had dreamed of enacting for a generation.

"I think it's important for him to answer those age-old questions: what have you done for me lately and why bother to go out and vote?" said former Louisiana Rep. Cedric Richmond, a Biden advisor.

"Politicians worry about the next election. Statesmen worry about the next generation," said Richmond, who called Biden "a statesman who will pass the baton on to Kamala Harris to continue to put this country first."

— An earlier version of this item had an incorrect spelling of Rep. Grace Meng's last name and incorrect wording in Rep. Cedric Richmond's quote.

[The signs of a post-Biden Democratic party](#)

The scene at the opening events of the Democratic National Convention would have been unrecognizable a few months ago. Delegates dressed head to toe in Harris-Walz merch, some wearing the vice president's face on their scarf or her euphemisms on graphic tees.

A new generation of Democratic leaders, including Michigan Gov. Gretchen Witmer and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, spoke about the new "infusion" of energy at various delegation breakfasts. But even as Democrats kicked off a week dedicated to ushering in their new presumptive nominee, there were still

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remnants of the man who was leading the party and the presidential ticket just a short while ago.

At the Florida delegation breakfast, speakers made mentions about the "ultimate sacrifice" President Joe Biden made last month to step aside, saying that without that decision, the idea that the Sunshine State could potentially be in play for Democrats would be mere fantasy.

"Joe Biden made a selfless, heroic decision, and it'll be awesome to celebrate him tonight," Democratic Rep. Kathy Castor of Florida told The Associated Press. "And then we're going to look to the future and pivot."

Shortly before Castor took the stage to speak, a DNC volunteer pulled out a suitcase and began to hand out replicas of Joe Biden's infamous aviators to the dozens of attendees.

Why was the official nomination vote held before the convention this year?

DNC officials first indicated in May that they would conduct a virtual roll call before the convention to clear a potential hurdle in getting the Democratic nominee on the ballot in Ohio. Ohio's deadline to file for the general election ballot was Aug. 7. Although the deadline had been modified in previous presidential election years to accommodate late-summer conventions of both parties, this year state Republicans initially planned to enforce the existing deadline, with one GOP lawmaker calling the scheduling bind "a Democratic problem."

The Republican-controlled Legislature did eventually make an accommodation for the convention at the behest of Republican Gov. Mike DeWine, but the law doesn't go into effect until Aug. 31. Citing concerns that Ohio Republicans could still try to block their candidate from getting on the ballot despite the legislative fix, DNC officials moved forward with their virtual roll call as originally planned.

After addressing DNC, Joe and Jill Biden will take a vacation in southern California

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will head directly to southern California's Santa Ynez Valley on Monday for a vacation after they address the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, according to the White House.

The trip to the stunning valley known for its wineries — the Oscar-winning film "Sideways" was filmed there — could give Biden a chance to lay low during a week when Democrats want the focus to be on Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, as they make their pitch to many Americans who are just beginning to tune in to the 2024 presidential election.

Pro-Palestinian supporters to hold a rally and march

Pro-Palestinian supporters from across the nation descended on Chicago's Union Park early Monday in anticipation of a rally and march to near the United Center, where the Democratic National Convention is taking place.

Taylor Cook, an organizer with the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, traveled from Atlanta for the Chicago march. Cook said the group was pushing all Democrats to call for an end to aid to Israel, with a particular focus on Vice President Kamala Harris.

"We're saying to Kamala, she has been complicit in this. People think it's just Joe Biden, but she is vice president," Cook said. "So we're saying, you need to stop if you want our vote."

Cook also anticipated that the march would be "incredibly historic."

"I've been an organizer for a few years now, and I have never been to a march that is predicted to be this big," Cook added.

Walz appears at the Wisconsin delegation's breakfast

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz appeared at the breakfast of the Wisconsin delegation, declaring to cheers, "I can't say enough about my neighbors."

Walz, who's governor of Minnesota, was set to make the rounds at key early meetings on the sidelines of the Democratic National Convention, which opened Monday in Chicago.

Returning to a theme he's frequently used throughout the campaign, Walz promised that he and Vice President Kamala Harris would hustle through the race's remaining weeks, saying hard work will take precedence over personal comforts and that the Democratic ticket can "sleep when we're dead."

The governors of Illinois, Pennsylvania and Michigan hopped from one delegate breakfast to another

Which resulted in roaring crowds of Democrats vying for selfies and handshakes from the Democratic

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leaders.

"We are on the cusp of electing an administration that will take us the next step forward," Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer told Florida delegates Monday morning.

Will there be any suspense in the roll vote?

Convention roll call votes haven't had much drama in more than 40 years. Since then, a single candidate has always emerged in each party as the presumptive nominee well before the convention, making the vote itself a foregone conclusion.

That's especially true in the 2024 Democratic convention, since the ceremonial vote is non-binding and cannot undo or modify the results of the earlier, official vote to nominate Harris held over five days in the first week of August. That's not to say there can't be some attempt to stage a protest vote from the convention floor, but it won't have any effect on the outcome.

The result from the official nomination vote from early August was 4,563 votes for Harris and 52 for "present," the only other option on the ballot. An additional 79 delegates did not cast votes.

Convention delegates will nominate Harris, again. Here's how it works

It's been nearly two weeks since Vice President Kamala Harris officially won the Democratic presidential nomination in an online vote, the first time a nominee was named prior to a party's convention. But the approximately 4,700 delegates charged with picking a nominee to lead the ticket did so from locations around the globe on their laptops and devices in relative isolation from one other. There was none of the pomp and fanfare that usually accompany the process of selecting the party's standard-bearer. In other words, it wasn't very fun.

Democratic party leaders hope to make up for that by holding a ceremonial vote at the Democratic National Convention, which begins Monday in Chicago. Among the major agenda items will be what's essentially a re-staging of the official presidential nomination vote from early August, mirroring the sometimes-festive, sometimes-raucous roll call votes that have been a staple of in-person party conventions for nearly 200 years.

The Democratic National Committee calls it a "celebratory Roll Call" and said in a statement the event would give delegates the opportunity to "celebrate the nomination" of Harris, who's the first woman of color to lead a major party presidential ticket.

Chicago mayor urges Harris to embrace agenda that would 'push for economic stability and growth for working people'

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson urged Vice President Kamala Harris to embrace an agenda that would "push for economic stability and growth for working people."

"She's off to a great start already," Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson said of Vice President Kamala Harris' emerging economic platform during an interview with The Associated Press.

Johnson, who's emerged as a surrogate for Harris among progressives and at events for Black male outreach in cities like Detroit, emphasized Harris' upbringing and record as attorney general as potential strengths on the campaign trail.

"Showing up for working people is what the vice president has done her entire career," Johnson said.

"The economic stability of our country really requires someone who understands the interests of working people," he contended.

"She knows what it is like to struggle, along with Governor Walz. Like myself, he is a former social studies teacher," Johnson said of the Minnesota governor.

Johnson, who on Sunday described Chicago as "one of the most diverse communities in the country," defended the city's record on race and inclusion as it grapples with historic challenges like the migrant crisis and debates over racial equity.

Democrats kicked off their convention Monday morning with a series of delegate breakfasts

At the Florida delegation breakfast, Democrats started the session by making note of the turmoil that rocked their party in the last few months leading up to the convention.

"We are here today, in this moment, because President Joe Biden made one of the greatest sacrifices

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to save this nation," Nikki Fried, the state Democratic party chair, told delegates.

Democrats in Florida have recently become bullish about their chances in the Sunshine State despite serious doubts among some national operatives.

Democrats open convention transformed by Harris' ascendance but facing lingering questions

A refreshed Democratic Party reintroduces itself to a divided nation this week, having been transformed by the money, momentum, relief and even joy that followed Vice President Kamala Harris' rise to the top of its ticket.

The whiplash of the last month culminates in a convention that begins Monday in Chicago. Above all, the four-day gathering of thousands of activists and party leaders from across the nation is designed to celebrate and strengthen Harris as President Joe Biden's replacement and boost her campaign to defeat Republican Donald Trump in November.

Just beneath the surface, real questions loom about the depth of Harris' newfound support, the breadth of her coalition and the strength of her movement. Not even a month ago, Democrats were deeply divided over foreign policy, political strategy and Biden himself, who was holding on after his disastrous debate by suggesting he had a better chance than any Democrat — including Harris — of beating Trump.

Trump will campaign across the country this week as he struggles to adjust to Harris

As Democrats kick off their convention in Chicago, Donald Trump's campaign is trying to regain its footing after weeks of struggling to adjust to Vice President Kamala Harris at the top of the opposing ticket.

Trump will attempt to undercut the Democratic celebration with a jam-packed schedule that includes daily events in battleground states tied to subjects where Republicans think they hold an advantage. It's his busiest campaign week since the winter, when he faced challengers in the Republican primary.

But when Trump has held events billed as policy speeches throughout the campaign, they have often resembled his usual, rambling rally remarks. And as has long been the case during his political career, Trump has undercut his own message with outbursts and attacks that drown out anything else.

Protesters plan large marches and rallies as DNC kicks off

Crowds of activists are expected to gather in Chicago for protests outside the Democratic National Convention this week, hoping to call attention to such issues as economic injustice, reproductive rights and the war in Gaza.

While Vice President Kamala Harris has galvanized the party as she gears up to accept the Democratic nomination, activists say their plans to demonstrate haven't changed. They're ready to amplify their progressive message before the nation's top Democratic leaders.

Their issues cover climate change, abortion rights and racial equality, to name a few, but many activists agree an immediate cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war is the overarching message of the demonstrations. They've likened it to the Vietnam War of their generation. The Chicago area has one of the largest Palestinian communities in the nation and buses are bringing activists to Chicago from all over the country.

After months of intense hearings, final report on Lewiston mass shooting to be released

By PATRICK WHITTLE and DAVID SHARP Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — After more than a dozen public meetings, scores of witnesses and thousands of pages of evidence, a special commission created to investigate the deadliest shooting in Maine history is ready to issue its final report on Tuesday.

The independent commission began its work a month after the Oct. 25 mass shooting by an Army reservist that killed 18 people at a bowling alley and a bar and grill in Lewiston. Over nine months, there has been emotional testimony from family members and survivors of the shooting, law enforcement officials and U.S. Army Reserves personnel, and others.

The commission created by Gov. Janet Mills will hold a news conference to release the full report at Lewiston City Hall — less than 3 miles from (5 kilometers) from the two sites where the shootings took place.

It's unclear if the report will contain any surprises. An interim report released in March said law enforcement should have seized the shooter's guns and put him in protective custody weeks before the shootings.

The commission's public hearings revealed the swift response by police to the shootings, but also the ensuing chaos during the massive search for the gunman. Also revealed were missed opportunities to stop the shooter, 40-year-old Robert Card, an Army Reservist whose mental health was spiraling.

Card's sister testified at a hearing, her hand resting on his military helmet as she spoke.

Kathleen Walker, whose husband Jason was killed while rushing at Card to try to stop him, also testified, and said: "The system failed, and we can't allow this to happen again."

Family members and fellow reservists said Card had exhibited delusional and paranoid behavior months before the shootings. He was hospitalized by the Army during training in July 2023, but a commanding officer acknowledged not checking to ensure compliance on follow-up care.

The starkest warning came in September when a fellow reservist texted an Army supervisor, saying, "I believe he's going to snap and do a mass shooting." Card was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after a search that followed the shootings.

Army officials conducted their own investigation after the shootings that Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, then the chief of the Army Reserves, said found "a series of failures by unit leadership." Three Army Reserve officers were disciplined for dereliction of duty, according to the report, which noted communication failures within the chain of command and between military and civilian hospitals.

Maine's legislature passed new guns laws for the state, which has a tradition of firearms ownership, in the wake of the shootings. A three-day waiting period for gun purchases went into effect earlier this month.

The Lewiston commission is chaired by Daniel Wathen, a former chief justice of Maine's highest court. The seven-member commission also included two former federal prosecutors, two additional former judges, a psychiatrist and executive at a psychiatric hospital, and the state's former chief forensic psychologist.

Phil Donahue, who ruled daytime talk for years until Oprah overtook him, left a lasting imprint

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For nearly two decades, Phil Donahue was virtually the only TV talk show host to roam his audience with microphone and make them an essential part of his show.

His huge cultural influence — especially with the women who tended to watch television during the day in his era — finally led to a flock of cultural imitators in the 1980s, including one who would eventually knock him off his perch.

"For a long time I wondered why it took so long for someone to copy us," Donahue told the Archive of American Television in 2001. "Then along came Oprah Winfrey. It is not possible to overstate the enormity of her impact on the daytime television game."

Donahue died Sunday at age 88 after a long illness.

"I lost my sweetheart last night," Donahue's wife, the actor Marlo Thomas, wrote on Instagram Monday, saying she would be stepping away from social media "to take care of myself and the many people who took care of Phil, and held him close to their hearts."

Winfrey, among those paying him tribute after his death, was always first to acknowledge his importance.

"There wouldn't have been an Oprah Show without Phil Donahue being the first to prove that daytime talk and women watching should be taken seriously," she posted on Instagram on Monday along with a photo of the two embracing. "He was a pioneer. I'm glad I got to thank him for it. Rest in peace Phil."

By the time "Donahue" went off the air in 1996 after 29 years, nearly 7,000 episodes and 20 Emmy Awards, the daytime television landscape was littered with lookalikes.

Winfrey, based in Chicago like Donahue, premiered in 1985 and overtook him for good in the ratings starting in the 1986-87 season, though Donahue often pointed out that she "raised all boats," lifting his ratings even while passing him.

Later the floodgates truly opened to imitators, most of them far trashier, including "The Jerry Springer

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Show "Geraldo" and "Jenny Jones."

It was enough to make Donahue feel like he no longer belonged.

"The daytime arena changed, the ground moved under my feet," Donahue told The Associated Press in 2002, "and I was glad to leave."

Both before-and-after Oprah, the prematurely gray and always animated Donahue (Phil Hartman sent up his dramatic body language in a recurring "Saturday Night Live" impression,) wielded enormous clout, making daytime at once more serious, more newsy and more salacious as he emerged in the late 1960s amid a sea of game shows, soap operas, and more frivolous talk shows.

He demonstrated that daytime viewers, long before cable news, cared about world leaders, cultural figures and the debates of the day. He gave many Americans their first real exposure to issues like sexual harassment and abuse, gay marriage and AIDS.

"We're very, very proud of the way in which our program has reflected our culture since 1967," Donahue said at the taping of his final show in 1996. "In 1967, we never thought we would lose a war. In 1967, AIDS was a verb, or a plural noun. In 1967, you could harass your secretary and there was nothing she could do about it."

When "The Phil Donahue Show" debuted on WLWD-TV in Dayton, Ohio, it was not supposed to have an audience at all, but a crowd appeared expecting to see the variety show he was replacing, and producers decided to let them stay. During commercials, he opened the floor up to questions for his first guest, the atheist activist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, and soon decided the audience's questions were better than his.

"Sometime during that first week, I jumped off my chair and ran into the audience," he told The AP in 1996.

The program moved to Chicago in 1974, shortened its name to "Donahue" and was syndicated across the United States.

He took chances and welcomed controversy. He aired a birth in his first week. He televised an abortion in a later episode. He hosted a show on sexual abuse and Catholic priests decades before the topic rocked the church worldwide. He broadcast one episode from inside New York's Attica State Prison, and later fought in court to air an execution, but was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Memorable "Donahue" guests included feminist activist Gloria Steinem, leftist provocateur Jerry Ruben of the Chicago Seven, Muhammad Ali and Ryan White, the boy who contracted AIDS at age 13 in 1984 and became one of the faces of the disease due in large part to his appearances on "Donahue."

The shows weren't always highbrow, though. He had episodes devoted to male strippers and female wrestlers when both were rare.

Phillip John Donahue was born on Dec. 21, 1935 in Cleveland, the son of an Irish Catholic furniture seller who said he had a Norman Rockwell youth of front lawns, baseball and church dances.

He had an entirely Catholic education through his 1957 graduation from the University of Notre Dame.

He married Margaret Cooney in 1958 and had five kids — Michael, Kevin, Daniel, Mary Rose and James — before they divorced in 1975. He met actor Marlo Thomas, the "That Girl" star of the 1960s who was a household name at the time and would later become a regular on "Friends," when she appeared on his show in 1977.

He later said it was love at first sight, and they did a poor job of hiding it on the air.

"You are really fascinating," Donahue told Thomas, grasping her hand. "You are wonderful," Thomas said back. "You are loving and generous, and you like women and it's a pleasure, and whoever the woman in your life is, is very lucky."

They married in 1980.

After years of lying low, he returned to television to be among the first hosts on MSNBC, who traded heavily on his name in its early promotion. His show premiered in July 2002 and lasted just seven months.

The network had yet to become the liberal counterpoint to Fox News' conservatism, and the left-leaning Donahue never felt supported.

"It took almost three years for Fox to overtake CNN," Donahue said in a statement after the show's

cancellation. "We had six months."

He stayed semi-retired after leaving MSNBC, his media appearances mostly one-offs on talk shows and TV documentaries. His voice appeared as a caller needing psychologist's help on "Frazier" three times in 1999.

Some protesters tear down security fence as thousands march outside Democratic National Convention

By SOPHIA TAREEN, JOEY CAPPELLETTI and LEA SKENE Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Dozens of protesters broke through a security fence near the site of the Democratic National Convention on its opening day Monday as thousands took to the streets to voice their opposition to the war in Gaza.

Families with babies in strollers, students, elected leaders and others holding signs and flags joined the march to the United Center, where the convention is being held, to call for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. As the larger group marched peacefully, a few dozen who broke away tore down pieces of the security fence.

Several protesters who had managed to get through the fence were detained and handcuffed by the police. Officers put on gas masks as some protesters tried to bring down a second fence set up in front of police. Authorities said the inner security perimeter surrounding convention site was not breached and there was no threat to those attending the convention.

Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling said some of the protesters who took down the fence threw water bottles and other items at police. Police de-escalated the situation without using their batons or chemicals, he said.

"When you have people infiltrate a crowd and they want to commit acts of violence, vandalism we are going to stop them," said Snelling, who walked in a group of officers ahead of the protesters Monday. "We are not going to tolerate anyone who is going to vandalize things in our city."

Members of the crowd chanted "End the occupation now" and then "The whole world is watching!" just as anti-Vietnam War protesters did during the infamous 1968 convention in Chicago when police clashed with protesters on live television. Families gathered on their porches and outside their doors as protesters marched by. Some children wore keffiyeh, blew bubbles or held "free fist bumps" signs.

The march happened just as President Joe Biden, who has been the target of intense criticism from pro-Palestinian groups, including the marchers, was doing a walk-through of the largely empty United Center. Biden was scheduled to address the party in the evening.

"Biden, you can't hide. We charge you with genocide," the marchers chanted amid the beating of drums. They also referred to him as "Genocide Joe" and lodged similar chants at Vice President Kamala Harris.

Protesters said their plans have not changed since Biden left the race and the party quickly rallied behind Harris, who will formally accept the Democratic nomination this week. Activists said they were ready to amplify their progressive message before the nation's top Democratic leaders.

"People are dying," said Cameron Benrud, a 25-year-old high school special education teacher from Minneapolis. He drove five hours to attend the rally at Union Park to call on Democratic officials to halt funding to Israel.

"I'm from little old Minnesota, and you feel kind of powerless... You gotta do something," he said.

Mayor Brandon Johnson said authorities were well prepared. "The city of Chicago is really good at things like this," he told a news conference. "We are ready."

Organizers had hoped at least 20,000 people would take part in Monday's rally and march, but it appeared that only a few thousand were present, though city officials declined to give a crowd estimate.

"We're proud of the turnout, especially considering the degree of the repression from the city," said organizer Faayani Aboma Mijana.

The Chicago area has one of the largest Palestinian communities in the nation, and buses were bringing activists from all over the country.

Taylor Cook, an organizer with the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, traveled from Atlanta for the

march. Cook said the group was pushing all Democrats to call for an end to aid to Israel, with a particular focus on Harris.

"We're saying to Kamala, she has been complicit in this. People think it's just Joe Biden, but she is vice president," Cook said. "So we're saying, you need to stop if you want our vote."

Medea Benjamin, who traveled to Chicago from Washington, D.C., with a women-led group of protesters calling for peace, said she was shocked that the Biden administration recently approved an additional \$20 billion in weapons sales to Israel.

"There's an incredible discrepancy in what people are calling for in this country and what the administration is doing," she said ahead of the rally in Union Park. "We're so disgusted by this."

Pro-Palestinian supporters descended on the park, west of the Loop business district, for the rally.

Prior to the march, independent presidential candidate Cornel West addressed the crowd, which welcomed him with cheers.

"This is not about some Machiavellian politics or some utilitarian calculation about an election," he yelled into a microphone. "This is about morality. This is about spirituality."

Around 40 pro-Israel supporters walked around the park during the rally. Remaining mostly silent while waving Israeli flags, they were accompanied by about 20 police officers on bicycles. Although tensions flared at times, there were no physical altercations.

Josh Weiner, co-founder of Chicago Jewish Alliance who walked with the pro-Israel group, said their intent was to "make our presence felt." He said the group applied for permits that were not approved by the city.

"The pro-Palestine protesters have gotten multiple permits, including a march, which seems to be a little bit weighted on one side," Weiner said.

Coalition activists and the city have been at odds over the location of the protests and other logistics. A judge sided with the city over an approximately 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) march route, which organizers argued was not big enough for the expected crowds.

Not a single speaker or spectator showed up to a speakers' stage offered by city officials near the United Center. Eight groups with progressive agendas had signed up for 45-minute speaking slots on Monday. On other days, some conservative groups, including the Illinois Policy Institute think tank, have plans to speak.

Roughly 100 demonstrators with the Philadelphia-based Poor People's Army, which advocates for economic justice, set up in Humboldt Park on the city's West Side Monday afternoon before marching more than 3 miles (5 kilometers) to the United Center. Many held Palestinian flags and chanted "money for jobs and education, not for war and occupation."

"They have the power to take those trillions of dollars we put into war and put them into things that actually matter to the poor," organizer Tara Colon said.

The group said they planned to deliver a "citizens arrest warrant" to the Democratic Party for "crimes against humanity." Among the marchers was Jill Stein, a perennial presidential candidate for the Green Party.

Jury hears ex-politician on trial for murder amassed photos, ID records about slain Vegas reporter

By KEN RITTER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Hundreds of photos of a slain investigative journalist's home and neighborhood were found on the cellphone and computer of a local Democratic politician accused of "lying in wait" and killing the reporter, who had written several articles critical of the official, a Nevada jury was told Monday.

Other photos taken from Robert Telles' devices included an image of a single gray athletic shoe with a distinctive black pattern and a shot of Telles' work computer at the Clark County Public Administrator and Guardian office with results of internet searches through a password-protected site that retrieved slain reporter Jeff German's name, home address, vehicle registration and date of birth.

Prosecutor Christopher Hamner noted for jurors that photo was taken Aug. 23, 2022 — less than two weeks before German was slashed and stabbed to death in a side yard of his home.

"This image came out of Mr. Telles' phone?" Hamner asked Matthew Hovanec, a Las Vegas digital fo-

rensis supervisor who testified Monday about “extracting” the data from Telles’ devices.

“It did,” Hovanec responded.

Detective Justine Gatus, the primary Las Vegas police homicide investigator of German’s death, was the main — and final — witness called Monday as prosecutors rested their case after four days of testimony from more than two dozen witnesses.

Telles has pleaded not guilty to murder and faces the possibility of life in prison if the jury finds him guilty. Prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty.

Telles insists he didn’t kill German and was framed for the crime. He intends to testify, defense lawyer Robert Draskovich said Monday, and is expected to take the witness stand to cap his own defense case, possibly Tuesday afternoon.

Gatus cited Las Vegas Review-Journal articles about Telles and the county office that German wrote, published in May and June 2022, about a county office in turmoil.

“They weren’t flattering,” the detective observed.

Social media posts by Telles at the same time derided German and the articles as false depictions of his efforts to fight corruption amid a political and social “old guard” real estate network.

Gatus testified that the gray sneaker with a Nike logo and four black marks on the sole was “identical” to one jurors saw earlier in neighbors’ security camera images of a figure wearing orange who slipped into a side yard of German’s home where German was later found dead on Labor Day weekend 2022.

Neither an orange shirt nor a murder weapon was entered as evidence in the case. But one of those shoes, cut to pieces and bearing spots of blood from an unidentified source, was found in plastic shopping bag in Telles’ home following his arrest.

German’s killing in September 2022, at age 69, made him the the only reporter killed in the U.S. among 69 news media workers killed worldwide that year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. German spent 44 years covering Las Vegas mobsters and public officials at the Las Vegas Sun and then at the rival Review-Journal.

About 10 of his family members and friends have attended each day of Telles’ trial, but have not spoken publicly about the killing. They declined as a group on Monday to comment.

Jurors last week heard from forensic scientists who said Telles’ DNA was found beneath German’s fingernails, and saw security video of the suspect driving through German’s neighborhood.

Blinken says Israel OKs a plan to break the cease-fire impasse and urges Hamas to do the same

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday that Israel has accepted a proposal to bridge differences holding up a cease-fire and hostage release in Gaza, and he called on Hamas to do the same, without saying whether concerns cited by the militant group had been addressed.

The high-stakes negotiations have gained urgency in recent days as diplomats hope an agreement will deter Iran and Lebanon’s Hezbollah from avenging the targeted killings of two top militants that were blamed on Israel. The escalating tensions have raised fears of an even more destructive regional war.

Blinken spoke after holding a 2 1/2 hour meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier in the day, and will travel to Egypt and Qatar for further negotiations. The three mediators have spent months trying to end the war in Gaza, with the talks repeatedly stalling.

“In a very constructive meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu today, he confirmed to me that Israel supports the bridging proposal,” Blinken told reporters, without saying what the proposal entails. “The next important step is for Hamas to say ‘yes.’”

He added, however, that even if Hamas accepts the proposal, negotiators will spend the coming days working on “clear understandings on implementing the agreement.” He said there are still “complex issues” requiring “hard decisions by the leaders,” without offering specifics.

Hamas has said it is losing faith in the U.S. as a mediator, accusing American negotiators of siding with

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Israel as it makes new demands that the militant group rejects. Blinken did not say whether the proposal addressed Israel's demand for control over two strategic corridors inside Gaza — which Hamas has said is a nonstarter — or other issues that have long bedeviled the negotiations.

Netanyahu said that he had a "good and important meeting" with Blinken and appreciated the "understanding that the United States has shown to our vital security interests, along with our shared efforts to release our hostages." He added that efforts are being made to release the maximum number of hostages in the first stage of a the cease-fire deal.

Blinken's ninth mission to the Middle East since the conflict began came days after mediators, including the United States, expressed renewed optimism that a deal was near. But Hamas has expressed deep dissatisfaction with the latest proposal, and Israel has said there were points on which it was unwilling to compromise.

Earlier on Monday, Blinken said it was a "decisive moment," and "maybe the last" opportunity to free the hostages and secure a cease-fire.

"It's also time to make sure that no one takes any steps that could derail this process," he said in a veiled reference to Iran. "And so we're working to make sure that there is no escalation, that there are no provocations, that there are no actions that in any way move us away from getting this deal over the line, or for that matter, escalating the conflict to other places and to greater intensity."

Mediators will meet again this week to try to cement a cease-fire. Blinken will travel Tuesday to Egypt and Qatar, where Hamas maintains a political office.

The war began on Oct. 7 when thousands of Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 others. Of those, about 110 are still believed to be in Gaza, though Israeli authorities say around a third are dead. More than 100 hostages were released in November during a weeklong cease-fire.

Dozens of Israelis demonstrated outside of the Tel Aviv hotel where Blinken was staying, holding photos of the hostages and demanding an immediate cease-fire.

"We know that only with vast help of the American administration a deal will come," said Yehuda Cohen, whose 20-year-old son, Nimrod, is being held hostage in Gaza. "We are here to say it out loud: Blinken, Antony Blinken, please push Netanyahu for a deal at any price because I want my son to be free."

Israel's counterattack in Gaza has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, and devastated much of the territory. The war has plunged the territory of 2.3 million people into a humanitarian catastrophe, with aid groups now fearing an outbreak of polio.

Blinken said the United States shares those concerns and is working on a plan with Israel to ensure vaccines are made available "in the coming weeks," saying "it is urgent, it is vital."

Late last week, the three countries mediating the proposed cease-fire — Egypt, Qatar and the U.S. — reported progress on a deal under which Israel would halt most military operations in Gaza and release a number of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the release of hostages.

The evolving proposal calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all hostages abducted during its Oct. 7 attack. In exchange, Israel would withdraw its forces from Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.

Hamas accuses Israel of adding new demands that it maintain a military presence along the Gaza-Egypt border to prevent arms smuggling and along a line bisecting the territory so it can search Palestinians returning to their homes in the north to prevent militants from slipping in. Israel said those weren't new demands, but clarifications of a previous proposal.

Late Sunday, Hamas said in a statement that Netanyahu has continued to set obstacles to a deal by demanding new conditions, accusing him of wanting to prolong the war. It said the mediators' latest offer was a capitulation to Israel.

"The new proposal responds to Netanyahu's conditions," Hamas said.

Jury finds parents of Texas student accused in 2018 deadly school shooting not negligent

By PAUL J. WEBER and RIO YAMAT Associated Press

The parents of a former student accused of killing 10 people at a high school near Houston in 2018 do not bear financial responsibility for the shooting, a jury decided Monday.

A lawsuit brought by victims and their families sought to hold Dimitrios Pagourtzis and his parents, Antonios Pagourtzis and Rose Marie Kosmetatos, accountable for the shooting at Santa Fe High School in 2018. During a three-week trial, attorneys for the families argued the parents failed to provide necessary support for their son's mental health and didn't do enough to prevent him from accessing their guns.

Jurors instead put the responsibility with Dimitrios Pagourtzis and a firearms ammunition retailer in a verdict that awarded families more than \$300 million total in damages, including for pain and mental anguish.

Attorneys for the families said they were disappointed in the outcome.

"We've would've liked to have the parents share in their responsibility for this," said Clint McGuire, who represented several of the families.

Authorities say Pagourtzis fatally shot eight students and two teachers. Pagourtzis, now 23, has been charged with capital murder, but the criminal case has been on hold since November 2019, when he was declared incompetent to stand trial. He is being held at a state mental health facility.

In April, Jennifer and James Crumbley were sentenced to at least 10 years in prison by a Michigan judge after becoming the first parents convicted in a U.S. mass school shooting. Pagourtzis' parents are not accused of any crime.

The lawsuit was filed by relatives of seven of the people killed and four of the 13 who were wounded in the Santa Fe attack.

The jury also assigned some responsibility to Lucky Gunner, a Tennessee-based online retailer that sold Dimitrios Pagourtzis more than 100 rounds of ammunition without verifying his age and reached a settlement with the families last year. The company had previously been a defendant in the lawsuit.

Jake Felde, CEO of Lucky Gunner, said in a statement that the company isn't responsible for any of the damages awarded by the jury because it was dismissed from the lawsuit.

"Lucky Gunner wasn't a party to the trial, so it was easy for the jury to place some of the blame on us because we weren't there to defend ourselves," Felde said.

The attorney representing Pagourtzis told jurors that while his client did plan the shooting, he was never in control of his actions because of his severe mental illness.

McGuire said the parents knew their son was depressed, receiving bad grades, isolating himself, and had taken weapons from their gun cabinet and safe. McGuire said Pagourtzis also wrote disturbing Facebook posts and ordered ammunition and other items online, such as a knife with a Nazi symbol and a T-shirt that said, "Born To Kill."

But Lori Laird, an attorney for Pagourtzis' parents, told jurors that the couple hadn't seen any red flags, knew nothing of his online purchases and didn't know any of their weapons were missing.

"We need to protect our children. They need to feel safe when they go to school," Galveston County Court at Law Judge Jack Ewing said after the verdict was delivered. "They need to feel safe at home. And that message will carry even outside of the walls and the doors of this courtroom. And hopefully it will follow into the ears of our legislators."

Both parents testified during the trial. Antonios Pagourtzis is retired but worked for years in ship maintenance and repair. Kosmetatos works as an executive assistant at an academic health science center in Galveston.

Kosmetatos told jurors that while her son became more introverted as he grew older, he was a bright and normal child with no significant issues. She acknowledged that he "wasn't himself" in the months leading up to the shooting but she had hoped it would pass.

Antonios Pagourtzis testified that he wasn't aware that his son was feeling rejected and ostracized at school, or that he might have been depressed.

The family stored firearms in a gun safe in the garage and a display cabinet in the living room. Dimitrios Pagourtzis used his mother's .38 caliber handgun and one of his father's shotguns during the shooting. Whether he got the weapons from the safe or cabinet, and where he found the keys, were among points debated during the trial.

"You can't secure anything 100%," Antonios Pagourtzis said.

Similar lawsuits have been filed following other mass shootings.

In 2022, a jury awarded over \$200 million to the mother of one of four people killed in a shooting at a Waffle House in Nashville, Tennessee. The lawsuit was filed against the shooter and his father, who was accused of returning a rifle to his son before the shooting despite the son's mental health issues.

US intelligence officials say Iran is to blame for hacks targeting Trump, Biden-Harris campaigns

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence officials said Monday they were confident that Iran was responsible for the hack of Donald Trump's presidential campaign, casting the cyber intrusion as part of a brazen and broader effort by Tehran to interfere in American politics and potentially shape the outcome of the election.

The assessment from the FBI and other federal agencies was the first time the U.S. government has assigned blame for hacks that have raised anew the threat of foreign election interference and underscored how Iran, in addition to more sophisticated adversaries like Russia and China, remains a top concern. Besides breaching the Trump campaign, officials also believe that Iran tried to hack into the presidential campaign of Kamala Harris.

The hacking and similar activities, federal officials said, are meant to sow discord, exploit divisions within American society and possibly to influence the outcome of elections that Iran perceives to be "particularly consequential in terms of the impact they could have on its national security interests," officials said.

"We have observed increasingly aggressive Iranian activity during this election cycle, specifically involving influence operations targeting the American public and cyber operations targeting Presidential campaigns," said the statement released by the FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Iran's mission to the United Nations denied the allegations as "unsubstantiated and devoid of any standing," saying that Iran had neither the motive nor intention to interfere with the election. It challenged the U.S. to provide evidence and said if the U.S. does so, "we will respond accordingly."

The FBI statement was released at a time of significant tensions between Washington and Tehran as the U.S. hopes to halt or limit a threatened retaliatory strike on Israel over the assassination of Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh in Iran. In addition, an Israeli strike last month in southern Beirut killed Hezbollah's top commander, but while Tehran and Iran-backed Hezbollah have vowed to retaliate, they have not yet launched strikes as diplomatic endeavors and Gaza cease-fire talks continue in Qatar.

The U.S. did not detail how it reached the conclusion that Iran was responsible, nor did it describe the nature of any information that may have been stolen from the Trump campaign. But it said the intelligence community was confident "the Iranians have through social engineering and other efforts sought access to individuals with direct access to the Presidential campaigns of both political parties."

At least three staffers in the Biden-Harris campaign were targeted with phishing emails, but investigators have uncovered no evidence the attempt was successful, The Associated Press reported last week.

"Such activity, including thefts and disclosures, are intended to influence the U.S. election process. It is important to note that this approach is not new. Iran and Russia have employed these tactics not only in the United States during this and prior federal election cycles but also in other countries around the world," the statement said.

U.S. officials have been on high alert in recent election cycles for foreign influence campaigns and outright interference as in 2016, when Russian military intelligence operatives hacked the campaign of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and orchestrated the release of politically damaging emails through the website

WikiLeaks.

Iran has more recently emerged as an aggressive threat to American elections. In 2020, U.S. intelligence officials say, Iran carried out an influence campaign aimed at harming Trump's reelection bid that was probably approved by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and was the subject of an unusual evening news conference featuring FBI Director Christopher Wray and other officials.

U.S. officials also have expressed alarm about Tehran's efforts to seek retaliation for a 2020 strike on an Iranian general that was ordered by Trump.

The Trump campaign disclosed on Aug. 10 that it had been hacked and said Iranian actors had stolen and distributed sensitive internal documents. At least three news outlets — Politico, The New York Times and The Washington Post — were leaked confidential material from inside the Trump campaign. So far, each has refused to reveal any details about what it received.

Politico reported that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source — an AOL email account identified only as "Robert" — passed along what appeared to be a research dossier the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Sen. JD Vance. The document was dated Feb. 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate.

The U.S. government's assessment aligns with the findings of private companies.

Earlier this month, Microsoft issued a report on Iranian agents' attempts to interfere in this year's election. It said Iran had impersonated activists and created fake news targeted to voters on opposite sides of the political spectrum. The report also cited an instance of an Iranian military intelligence unit in June sending "a spear-phishing email to a high-ranking official of a presidential campaign from a compromised email account of a former senior advisor."

In a separate report, Google said an Iranian group linked to the country's Revolutionary Guard has tried to infiltrate the personal email accounts of roughly a dozen people linked to President Joe Biden and Trump since May.

Authors sue Claude AI chatbot creator Anthropic for copyright infringement

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

A group of authors is suing artificial intelligence startup Anthropic, alleging it committed "large-scale theft" in training its popular chatbot Claude on pirated copies of copyrighted books.

While similar lawsuits have piled up for more than a year against competitor OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, this is the first from writers to target Anthropic and its Claude chatbot.

The smaller San Francisco-based company — founded by ex-OpenAI leaders — has marketed itself as the more responsible and safety-focused developer of generative AI models that can compose emails, summarize documents and interact with people in a natural way.

But the lawsuit filed Monday in a federal court in San Francisco alleges that Anthropic's actions "have made a mockery of its lofty goals" by tapping into repositories of pirated writings to build its AI product.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Anthropic's model seeks to profit from strip-mining the human expression and ingenuity behind each one of those works," the lawsuit says.

Anthropic didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

The lawsuit was brought by a trio of writers — Andrea Bartz, Charles Graeber and Kirk Wallace Johnson — who are seeking to represent a class of similarly situated authors of fiction and nonfiction.

While it's the first case against Anthropic from book authors, the company is also fighting a lawsuit by major music publishers alleging that Claude regurgitates the lyrics of copyrighted songs.

The authors' case joins a growing number of lawsuits filed against developers of AI large language models in San Francisco and New York.

OpenAI and its business partner Microsoft are already battling a group of copyright infringement cases led by household names like John Grisham, Jodi Picoult and "Game of Thrones" novelist George R. R. Martin; and another set of lawsuits from media outlets such as The New York Times, Chicago Tribune and

Mother Jones.

What links all the cases is the claim that tech companies ingested huge troves of human writings to train AI chatbots to produce human-like passages of text, without getting permission or compensating the people who wrote the original works. The legal challenges are coming not just from writers but visual artists, music labels and other creators who allege that generative AI profits have been built on misappropriation.

Anthropic and other tech companies have argued that training of AI models fits into the "fair use" doctrine of U.S. laws that allows for limited uses of copyrighted materials such as for teaching, research or transforming the copyrighted work into something different.

But the lawsuit against Anthropic accuses it of using a dataset called The Pile that included a trove of pirated books. It also disputes the idea that AI systems are learning the way humans do.

"Humans who learn from books buy lawful copies of them, or borrow them from libraries that buy them, providing at least some measure of compensation to authors and creators," the lawsuit says.

Civilians flee Pokrovsk as Russia's army bears down on the key eastern Ukraine city

By ALEX BABENKO Associated Press

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP) — Civilians with small children in their arms and lugging heavy suitcases fled Monday from Ukraine's eastern city of Pokrovsk, where the Russian army was bearing down fast despite a lightning Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

Local authorities said Russian forces were advancing so quickly that families were under orders to leave the city and other nearby towns and villages starting Tuesday. Around 53,000 people still live in Pokrovsk, officials said, and some of them decided to get out immediately.

People of all ages boarded trains and buses with the belongings they could carry. Some wept as they waited to depart. Soldiers helped the elderly with their bags, and volunteers helped people with disabilities. Rail workers wore bulletproof vests.

Natalya Ivaniuk said the noise of explosions from Russian bombardments filled the air while she and her daughters, age 7 and 9, fled their home in the nearby village of Myrnohrad, which is less than 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the front line.

"It was terrifyingly scary," she told The Associated Press. "We barely got out."

Pokrovsk is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated aim of capturing the entire Donetsk region.

One of Kyiv's attempts to ease the pressure on its eastern front was the unexpected Aug. 6 incursion into Russia's Kursk region, which among other goals aimed to unnerve the Kremlin and compel it to split its military resources.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday the daring incursion is trying to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border, especially with long-range artillery, missiles and glide bombs.

In a social media statement, Zelenskyy said Monday evening that Ukraine currently controlled 1,250 square kilometers (about 480 square miles) and 92 settlements inside the Kursk region.

"The Russian border area opposite our Sumy region has been mostly cleared of Russian military presence," he said. "Now, our warriors' real success speaks for itself. Our defensive actions across the border, as well as Putin's inability to defend his territory, are telling. Our proactive defense is the most effective counter to Russian terror, causing significant difficulties for the aggressor."

Russia's relentless six-month slog across Ukraine's Donetsk region following the capture of Avdiivka has cost it heavily in troops and armor. However, the onslaught has gradually paid dividends as Ukrainian defenders have no choice but to pull back from positions blown to pieces by Russian artillery, missiles and bombs.

"There is a lot of destruction around us, so it becomes more and more scary to stay," said Tetiana My-

ronenko, 57, who came from Selydove just 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the front line.

She sat next to her husband in the car of a train waiting to leave Pokrovsk. It was bound for Lviv, hundreds of kilometers (miles) away in western Ukraine.

Russia wants control of all parts of Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk, which together make up the Donbas industrial region.

Officials warned last week that Russian forces were rapidly advancing and were just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the outskirts of Pokrovsk.

Oleksandr Syrskyi, Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief, said Monday that "heavy battles" were taking place in the Pokrovsk area.

The nearby town of Toretsk, whose capture would open the door for a Russian advance on the key stronghold of Chasiv Yar from the south, is also under heavy pressure, he said.

The Institute for the Study of War said Russian forces have been advancing roughly two square kilometers (0.8 square miles) per day in the Pokrovsk region over the past six months.

They have relied on frontal infantry assaults from village to village, notching incremental progress as they make their manpower and materiel advantages tell, the Washington-based think tank said late Sunday.

Pokrovsk officials were meeting with residents to provide them with logistical details on the evacuation. People were offered shelter in western Ukraine, where they will be hosted in dormitories and separate houses prepared for them.

In other developments:

A pregnant woman was killed and 10 others were wounded by Ukrainian shelling in the Russian-occupied city of Donetsk, the region's Moscow-installed head Denis Pushilin said on social media. Two children were among the injured, he said.

In the Russian city of Proletarsk, about 270 kilometers (170 miles) from the Ukraine border, 41 firefighters needed medical attention, and 18 of them were hospitalized, in a fire at a warehouse that was started by debris from an intercepted drone, regional Gov. Vasily Golubev said.

Democrats approve a platform that mentions Biden's 'second term' despite his making way for Harris

By WILL WEISSERT and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Delegates at the Democratic National Convention voted Monday night to approve their 2024 party platform, which lays out familiar priorities for the party but wasn't updated to reflect that President Joe Biden is no longer running for reelection.

The largely ceremonial vote at Chicago's convention signaled the party coalescing around a singular vision for the next four years — though a somewhat outdated one, as Vice President Kamala Harris has only outlined a few of her own specific policy positions since she took over the Democratic presidential ticket last month. The platform makes repeated reference to Biden's "second term" despite the president's decision a month ago to no longer seek one.

The Democratic National Committee said the more than 90-page document "makes a strong statement about the historic work that President Biden and Vice President Harris have accomplished hand-in-hand, and offers a vision for a progressive agenda that we can build on as a nation and as a Party as we head into the next four years."

Regina Romero, the mayor of Tucson, Arizona, and co-chair of the convention platform committee, told delegates that the platform was passed "prior to the president passing the torch in an act of love and patriotism." She said that the platform nonetheless included input from all corners of the party and has a "forward-looking vision for our party that echoes the voice of all."

"Vice President Harris is now carrying the torch," Romero said.

Mitch Landrieu, a former Biden senior adviser for infrastructure projects and another platform committee co-chair, said it "makes a strong statement about the historic work that President Biden and Vice President Harris have accomplished" while also representing "a bold vision for our future."

The platform was approved on the floor by a voice vote.

The convention's platform committee voted to approve the platform on July 16, days before Biden bowed out of the race and endorsed Harris on July 21. As a result, the document repeatedly refers to Biden's second term and his administration's accomplishments. It mentions Harris' work as vice president but does not describe her candidacy or go into detail on her views on key issues.

"President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Democrats are running to finish the job," it states, a sentiment that is now out of date.

Republican former President Donald Trump's campaign has sought to tie Harris to Biden, arguing that his policies on the economy and other key issues are deeply unpopular. In a statement released shortly before the convention vote, it said, "There is no daylight between Kamala Harris and Joe Biden. The proof? The DNC just released Kamala's party platform, and it includes at least (asterisk)nineteen(asterisk) mentions of 'Biden's second term.'"

Harris has indeed talked generally about supporting the Biden administration's key goals, which are more or less endorsed in the platform as written. It calls for restoring abortion rights nationwide, continuing to advance green energy initiatives that can create jobs and help slow climate change, capping low-income families' child care costs and urging Congress to approve a pathway to U.S. citizenship for "long-term" people in the country illegally.

The platform also says Israel's right to defend itself is "ironclad" while endorsing the Biden administration's efforts to broker a lasting cease-fire deal that could suspend the fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

Harris laid out a string of new economic proposals last week but otherwise hasn't released a detailed list of her policy positions since taking over the top of the Democratic ticket. Her campaign aides have suggested she no longer adheres to some of the more liberal positions she took during her first run for president in 2020, including endorsing a ban on hydraulic fracturing.

In any event, candidates are not bound to adhere to their party's platform and often don't. What the platforms spell out usually has little effect on the race and is unlikely to have much impact on Election Day this cycle.

Missouri now requires proof of surgery or court order for gender changes on IDs

By SUMMER BALLENTINE Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri residents now must provide proof of gender-affirmation surgery or a court order to update their gender on driver's licenses following a Revenue Department policy change.

Previously, Missouri required doctor approval, but not surgery, to change the gender listed on state-issued identification.

Missouri's Revenue Department on Monday did not comment on what prompted the change but explained the new rules in a statement provided to The Associated Press.

"Customers are required to provide either medical documentation that they have undergone gender reassignment surgery, or a court order declaring gender designation to obtain a driver license or nondriver ID card denoting gender other than their biological gender assigned at birth," spokesperson Anne Marie Moy said in the statement.

LGBTQ+ rights advocacy group PROMO on Monday criticized the policy shift as having been done "secretly."

"We demand Director Wayne Wallingford explain to the public why the sudden shift in a policy that has stood since at least 2016," PROMO Executive Director Katy Erker-Lynch said in a statement. "When we've asked department representatives about why, they stated it was 'following an incident.'"

According to PROMO, the Revenue Department adopted the previous policy in 2016 with input from transgender leaders in the state.

Some Republican state lawmakers had questioned the old policy on gender identifications following protests, and counterprotests, earlier this month over a transgender woman's use of women's changing rooms at a suburban St. Louis gym.

"I didn't even know this form existed that you can (use to) change your gender, which frankly is physically impossible genetically," Republican state Rep. Justin Sparks said in a video posted on Facebook earlier this month. "I have assurances from the Department of Revenue that they are going to immediately change their policy."

Life Time gym spokesperson Natalie Bushaw previously said the woman showed staff a copy of her driver's license, which identified her as female.

It is unclear if Missouri's new policy would have prevented the former Life Time gym member from accessing women's locker rooms at the fitness center. The woman previously told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that she has had several gender-affirming surgeries.

Life Time revoked the woman's membership after the protests, citing "publicly available statements from this former member impacting safety and security at the club."

The former member declined to comment Monday to The Associated Press.

"This action was taken solely due to safety concerns," spokesperson Dan DeBaun said in a statement. "Life Time will continue to operate our clubs in a safe and secure manner while also following the Missouri laws in place to protect the human rights of individuals."

Missouri does not have laws dictating transgender people's bathroom use. But Missouri is among at least 24 states that have adopted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming medical care for minors.

"Missouri continues to prove it is a state committed to fostering the erasure of transgender, gender expansive, and nonbinary Missourians," Erker-Lynch said.

George Santos pleads guilty, acknowledging lies and blaming ambition for conning his way to Congress

By PHILIP MARCELO and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP) — George Santos, who spun lies about his life into an 11-month stint in Congress, pleaded guilty Monday to wire fraud and aggravated identity theft in a case that led to his expulsion from office. He blamed his ambition for clouding his judgment and said he was "flooded with deep regret."

Santos, 36, is likely to spend at least six years in prison and owes more than \$570,000 in restitution and forfeiture after tearfully admitting that he duped voters, deceived donors and stole the identities of 11 people, including his own family members, to make donations to his campaign.

Santos' guilty plea in federal court on Long Island came weeks before the case was to go to trial, punctuating one of the more bizarre stories in modern political lore. He remains free on bond awaiting sentencing Feb. 7.

"I betrayed the trust of my constituents and supporters. I deeply regret my conduct," the former New York representative said, his voice trembling as he entered the plea.

Santos was elected in 2022 after bandying stories — later proven false — about his wealth and background, including a lie that his mother perished in the 9/11 attacks. As his biography unraveled, Santos went to great lengths to defend himself, once saying he was "Jew-ish," not Jewish, when confronted about his campaign claim that his grandparents had fled the Holocaust.

Once regarded as a rising Republican star after flipping a district covering parts of Queens and Long Island's Gold Coast, Santos faced scrutiny even before taking office. Reports he lied about having a career at top Wall Street firms and a college degree were followed by questions about how he funded his campaign.

Outside court, Santos told reporters Monday his political ambitions led him "to make decisions that were unethical."

"Pleading guilty is a step I never imagined I'd take, but it is a necessary one because it is the right thing to do," Santos said. "It's not only a recognition of my misrepresentation to others, but more profoundly,

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it is my own recognition of the lies I told myself over these past years.”

U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said Santos, in pleading guilty, told the truth “after years of telling lies.”

“And that truth is he is a criminal,” Peace said.

Santos was indicted last year on felony charges he stole from political donors, used campaign contributions to pay for personal expenses, lied to Congress about his wealth and collected unemployment benefits while working.

Additionally, Santos also admitted to “a litany of other crimes for which the court will hold him accountable at sentencing,” Peace said.

Among them: stealing multiple people’s credit card numbers and charging them for his campaign, tricking donors into giving money to a bogus nonprofit and using the cash to buy designer clothing and fabricating his personal wealth in a financial disclosure report to Congress.

A House Ethics Committee investigation last year found money Santos diverted to his personal bank accounts was used to pay credit card bills and make purchases at luxury retailer Hermes, beauty retailer Sephora and the adult content website OnlyFans.

Peace said Santos “badly deceived” his constituents, who “came to learn that they were victims of a fraud of unprecedented proportions.”

“They had to watch helplessly while Santos rode into Congress on a campaign of lies,” Peace said.

Santos was expelled from the U.S. House last December after the ethics committee investigation found “overwhelming evidence” he had broken the law and exploited his public position for personal profit. He’d refused to resign, maintaining his innocence in the face of his May 2023 indictment and additional charges months later.

The case had been scheduled for trial in early September. Prosecutors said they were prepared to call some 40 witnesses, including members of Santos’ family, campaign and former employers, and wanted to show jurors evidence of Santos’ myriad falsehoods, including claims he’d worked at Citigroup and Goldman Sachs.

After his ouster from Congress, Santos said in an interview that he’d be open to a plea deal. Asked if he was afraid of going to prison, he told WCBS-TV at the time: “I think everybody should be afraid of going to jail, it’s not a pretty place and uh, I definitely want to work very hard to avoid that as best as possible.”

Separately Monday, Manhattan Federal Judge Denise Cote tossed out Santos’ lawsuit alleging that Jimmy Kimmel, ABC and Disney committed copyright infringement and unjustly enriched themselves by using videos he made on the Cameo app for a segment on Kimmel’s late-night talk show. Cote said it was clear Kimmel used the clips for criticism and commentary, which is fair use.

Santos began selling personalized videos on Cameo after leaving Congress. He subsequently launched, then quickly abandoned, a longshot independent bid to return to Congress.

In an interview that aired Sunday on WABC Radio, Santos said he has taken comfort in a “somewhat private civilian” again, with little wistfulness for the “rubber chicken dinners and the rah-rah-rah parties and fundraisers” of his former life.

Santos said he was “terrified” of his then-looming trial, telling host Cindy Adams: “This is not absolutely an easy process to go through. It really hurts and it really messes with your psychological health.”

In the days leading to his guilty plea, the ever-online Santos appeared to signal his decision – even as he chided followers for speculating and mixed in a disappointed review of the latest installment in the “Alien” movie series.

After losing a bid to have prospective jurors fill out written questionnaires, Santos cryptically wrote on X last week: “I’m done,” adding an emoji of a hand holding up a peace sign.

Two Santos campaign aides pleaded guilty last year to crimes related to his campaign, complicating his defense.

Ex-treasurer Nancy Marks pleaded guilty to fraud conspiracy, implicating Santos in a scheme to embellish his campaign finance reports with a fake loan and fake donors. Her lawyer said she was willing to testify against him.

Ex-fundraiser Sam Miele copped to wire fraud, admitting he impersonated a congressional aide while raising money for Santos' campaign.

Phil Donahue, whose pioneering daytime talk show launched an indelible television genre, has died

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

Phil Donahue, whose pioneering daytime talk show launched an indelible television genre that brought success to Oprah Winfrey, Montel Williams, Ellen DeGeneres and many others, has died. He was 88.

NBC's "Today" show, citing family members, said Donahue died Sunday after a long illness.

Dubbed "the king of daytime talk," Donahue was the first to incorporate audience participation in a talk show, typically during a full hour with a single guest.

"Just one guest per show? No band?" he remembered being routinely asked in his 1979 memoir, "Donahue, My Own Story."

The format set "The Phil Donahue Show" apart from other interview shows of the 1960s and made it a trendsetter in daytime television, where it was particularly popular with female audiences.

Later renamed "Donahue," the program launched in Dayton, Ohio, in 1967. Donahue's willingness to explore the hot-button social issues of the day emerged immediately, when he featured atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair as his first guest. He would later air shows on feminism, homosexuality, consumer protection and civil rights, among hundreds of other topics.

The show was syndicated in 1970 and ran on national television for the next 26 years, racking up 20 Emmy Awards for the show and for Donahue as host, as well as a Peabody for Donahue in 1980. In May, President Joe Biden awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom to Donahue, who was cited as a pioneer of the daytime talk show.

The show included radio-style call-ins, which Donahue greeted with his signature, "Is the caller there?" Donahue once told Ohio radio broadcaster Scott Spears that he would like the phrase as his epitaph.

The show's last episode aired in 1996 in New York, where Donahue was living with his wife, actor Marlo Thomas. He met Thomas, the "That Girl" star of the 1960s who was a household name at the time and would later become a regular on "Friends," when she appeared on his show in 1977.

He later said it was love at first sight, and they did a poor job of hiding it on the air.

"You are really fascinating," Donahue told Thomas, grasping her hand. "You are wonderful," Thomas said back. "You are loving and generous, and you like women and it's a pleasure, and whoever the woman in your life is, is very lucky."

The two had been married since 1980. Donahue had five children, four sons and a daughter, from a previous marriage. She posted on Instagram Monday that she had "lost my sweetheart" and shared a photo of the couple on vacation, saying it was one of her favorite photos of them together.

"As a man who spent his career loving his audiences, Phil got such a kick out of our cozy little community here, and I know he would be very touched by the heartwarming thoughts and memories you've been sharing," Thomas wrote in the post.

Donahue returned briefly to television in 2002, hosting another "Donahue" show on MSNBC. The network canceled it after six months, citing ratings — although internal memos would later reveal that it was about politics.

He was born Phillip John Donahue on Dec. 21, 1935, part of a middle-class Irish Catholic family in Cleveland.

Donahue was in the first graduating class of St. Edward High School, a Catholic all-boys preparatory school in the Cleveland suburb of Lakewood, in 1953. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in business administration in 1957. He later rebelled against, and left, the church, though he poignantly recalled in his book that "a little piece" of his faith would always be with him.

After a series of early jobs in radio and TV, Donahue was invited to move an earlier radio talk show to

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Dayton's WLWD television station in 1967. It moved in 1974 to Chicago, where it stayed for years, then ended its run in New York.

The show featured discussions with spiritual leaders, doctors, homemakers, activists and entertainers or politicians who might be passing through town. A frequent guest was his Centerville, Ohio, neighbor Erma Bombeck, the humorist and syndicated columnist.

Donahue said striking upon the show's winning formula was a happy accident.

"It may have been a full three years before any of us began to understand that our program was something special," Donahue wrote. "The show's style had developed not by genius but by necessity. The familiar talk-show heads were not available to us in Dayton, Ohio. ... The result was improvisation."

That lent a freedom to the show that persisted as it grew to No. 1 status in its class.

With an amiable style and a head of salt-and-pepper hair, Donahue boxed with Muhammad Ali. He played football with Alice Cooper. His guests gave cooking lessons, taught break dancing and, more controversially, described "mansharing," being a mistress, lesbian motherhood or — with the help of gathered video that got shows banned in certain cities — how natural childbirth, abortion or reverse vasectomies worked.

Citing the diversity of Donahue's subjects and guests, consumer rights activist Ralph Nader called him in a statement Monday "the greatest defender and enabler of our Constitution's First Amendment right of free speech in 20th century America."

A stop on "Donahue" became a must for important politicians, activists, athletes, business leaders and entertainers, from Hubert Humphrey to Ronald Reagan, Gloria Steinem to Anita Bryant, Lee Iacocca to Ray Kroc, John Wayne to Farrah Fawcett.

Outside of his famous talk show, Donahue pursued several other projects.

He partnered with Soviet journalist Vladimir Posner for a groundbreaking television discussion series during the Cold War in the 1980s. The U.S.-Soviet Bridge featured simultaneous broadcasts from the United States and the Soviet Union, where studio audiences could ask questions of one another. Donahue and Posner also co-hosted a weekly issues roundtable, Posner/Donahue, on CNBC in the 1990s.

Donahue also co-directed the 2006 documentary "Body of War," which was nominated for an Oscar.

Floods from 'training thunderstorms' lead to dramatic rescues and 2 deaths in Connecticut

By DAVE COLLINS, MICHAEL R. SISAK and KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press

OXFORD, Conn. (AP) — Torrential rains turned streets into raging rivers in parts of Connecticut and New York's Long Island, trapping people in cars and a restaurant, covering vehicles in mud, and sweeping two women to their deaths, authorities said.

Dramatic rescues unfolded as a foot (30 centimeters) of rain fell on some parts of western Connecticut late Sunday and early Monday, coming down so fast that it caught drivers unaware. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, who declared a state of emergency, said more than 100 people were evacuated by search and rescue teams Sunday evening.

The bodies of two women who had been in separate cars were recovered Monday in Oxford, a town of 13,000 about 35 miles (56 kilometers) southwest of Hartford, officials said. State police identified them Monday afternoon as Ethelyn Joiner, 65, and Audrey Rostkowski, 71, both of Oxford.

Firefighters were trying to get one of the women to safety when the flooded Little River swept her away, Oxford Fire Chief Scott Pelletier said at a news conference with other Connecticut officials. The second woman got out of her car and tried to cling to a sign, but "the racing water was too much" and swept her away, too, he said.

"This is a tragic and devastating day for Oxford," the town's first selectman, George Temple, said.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal added, "Who would have thought the Little River would turn into a gushing torrent of destruction, which is what happened."

Numerous roads were closed in the area, many because of washed-out bridges, including parts of routes

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34 and 67. As of Monday afternoon, 27 state roads were closed but no interstates were affected, said Garrett Eucalitto, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The Waterbury branch of the commuter Metro-North Railroad remained closed due to flooding and damage from a mudslide, officials said.

"It's going to be a long recovery," Eucalitto said. "We're still inspecting all the state roadways today."

In nearby Southbury, Lucas Barber used wilderness first responder techniques he learned as a back-packer and rock climber to wade through chest-high water to save Patrick Jennings, who has a prosthetic leg, and Jennings' dog from a car outside the Southbury Plaza mall.

Barber, 30, said he drove to higher ground and grabbed rope he keeps in his car for emergencies. Jennings' car, he said, looked like it was "turning in the tide and seemed to be sinking."

Barber said he first tried to throw his rope to the car, but then waded and swam to the vehicle once he realized Jennings had a prosthetic leg. He saw Jennings' golden retriever, Stanley, in the back.

"Your dog is coming with us, but also I need to get you out right now," Barber said he told Jennings.

Jennings took off his prosthesis and Barber wrapped his rope around the man's waist and chest. Barber tried tying the rope around the dog's collar, but it came undone. Once he got Jennings to safety, he went back for Stanley. Halfway back, Barber said, the dog got excited to see Jennings and swam the rest of the way to his owner.

Barber said he went back a third time to fetch Jennings' prosthetic leg, which was bobbing next to his car.

In Oxford, rushing waters surrounded the Brookside Inn, trapping 18 people. Firefighters stretched a long ladder like a bridge across the floodwaters to reach them as cars and other large debris carried by the torrent smashed into the building, said Jeremy Rodorigo, a firefighter from neighboring Beacon Falls. One by one, people crawled across the ladder to safety.

The firefighters also rescued a woman and a small dog from an apartment next door, Rodorigo said.

In Southbury, a mudslide destroyed several structures at a poultry farm and killed more than 100 chickens, the owner said on social media.

The storm system that hit Connecticut and then moved on to Long Island was separate from Hurricane Ernesto, which on Monday was over the open Atlantic Ocean but still expected to cause powerful swells, dangerous surf and rip currents along the U.S. East Coast.

William Syrett, a professor of meteorology and atmospheric science at Penn State University, referred to the Connecticut-New York system as "training thunderstorms."

"It's like each thunderstorm is a car on a train track, and so they just keep going over the same place," he said. He cited "perfect conditions" for the storms, thanks to the amount of moisture in the air and a slow weather system.

The unusual part was the amount of rain that fell over several hours, Syrett said, not the thunderstorms themselves.

Jennifer Santos, 17, said Sunday had seemed like a normal day at her parents' newly opened restaurant in Oxford, La Terraza Mexican Grill. Then the river began to swell, flooding the area around the building and eventually destroying the driveway.

"The water rose really quickly, to the point that it started getting up to knee level," she said. "One of our customers almost got dragged off. Thank God she's safe."

"I was kind of just shocked," she said. "I didn't really think it would happen, not as quickly as I had thought."

Ed Romaine, the executive of Long Island's Suffolk County, said that hundreds of homes were affected by flooding and that mudslides covered the roofs of cars in some areas. He joined other officials at a news conference near a pond in Stony Brook where a dam breached and destroyed a section of a road and flooded homes.

Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Dan Panico called the flooding "an environmental and economic disaster."

"Millions of gallons of water, turtles, fish, everything is downstream along with the personal belongings of many of the houses that were flooded," Panico said.

The storms canceled more than 450 flights at Newark Liberty, LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports, officials said.

The storms dropped about 2 to 4 inches of rain on most of northern New Jersey, causing minor to moderate flooding on roads including the Garden State Parkway and other major highways that left some motorists stranded. No deaths, injuries or property damage were reported in New Jersey. Amtrak halted service between Philadelphia and New York's Penn Station for several hours Sunday evening because of flooding on the tracks.

University of Missouri student group 'heartbroken' after it was told to rename its Welcome Black BBQ

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A Black student group at a flagship Missouri university that was roiled by protests over race nearly a decade ago said it was forced to rename an upcoming barbecue the Welcome Black and Gold BBQ instead of the Welcome Black BBQ.

The Legion of Black Collegians at the University of Missouri said in a post on Instagram that it spent months fighting the decision and was "heartbroken." But the university defended the change in a statement, saying the modification was made to reflect that the campus is "welcoming to all."

"In striving for an inclusive university, we must not exclude (or give impressions that we are excluding) individuals with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives," university spokesperson Christopher Ave said in the statement.

The Legion of Black Collegians started in 1968 after the song "Dixie" was played at a football game while students waved a Confederate flag, the group explained on its website. "Dixie" celebrates life in the old South and originated in blackface minstrel shows. Critics have said the term is racially insensitive.

The group describes itself as "the only Black Student Government in the Nation." It said all other schools have a Black Student Union or a Black Student Alliance.

The group said in the Instagram post that the barbecue is a staple for incoming and returning Black students. At one point it considered canceling the event, but now is encouraging members to attend on Friday and resist "any further changes to our fundamental programming."

"We are looking into all avenues to NEVER allow this to happen again. If it does, rest assured the Legion will have nothing to do with it," the post said. "The erasure of the names and visibility of our events will continue to erode our presence on this campus, and we plan to do everything we can to divest from that."

The name-change dustup comes after massive protests erupted in 2015 on the Columbia campus over the administration's handling of racial slurs and other racist acts. More than 30 Black football team members said they wouldn't play until the university's president was removed and one student went on a hunger strike.

Haitian police tear-gas peaceful protesters as they demand help in stopping gangs

By EVENS SANON The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Police in Haiti's capital tear-gassed hundreds of peaceful protesters Monday as they called on law enforcement to help them stop the gangs that have been violently seizing control of their neighborhoods.

Protesters burned tires to show their anger over the police action and express their frustration as recent moves to quell rampant gang violence in Port-au-Prince have largely been unsuccessful.

Protesters like 24-year-old phone repairman Marclin Jean-Pierre said he took to the streets "to express my anger towards the government, who isn't listening."

"We're vulnerable to the bullets being fired day and night. Everyone is scared to walk outside because we'll be the next victims," he said. "We're asking them for help and they're not coming."

Jean-Pierre lives in the hillside neighborhood of Solino, which since last year has become a battleground for gangs seeking to take over the area.

Local media reported that the attacks were carried out by a coalition of gangs led by Kempes Sanon, a convicted kidnapper who escaped from prison in 2021, and notorious gang leader Jimmy Cherizier, also known as "Barbecue".

Since the killing of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, gangs have consumed much of the country and currently control about 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

In Solino, the gangs sought to seize control of a strategic route, including the road leading to the capital's international airport. Families in the area have been left terrorized and with few options left.

Despite promises to prioritize security by recently appointed Prime Minister Garry Conille and the arrival of around 400 Kenyan police officers, part of a UN-backed mission, many in Haiti say they've felt no respite to the bloodshed.

Just last week, another violent prison break left a dozen dead and hundreds of thousands have had to flee their homes over the years.

Residents of the Solino neighborhood protested in hopes that their plight would be heard by officials and police would be sent to take on the gangs. Instead, marchers were blocked with barricades and sprayed with tear gas.

It left many men and women running from the same forces they had hoped would protect them, and some like Jean-Pierre with a bitter taste in his mouth.

"The international community is not pushing hard enough to stop the violence," Jean-Pierre said.

Trump is visiting battleground states this week as he struggles to adjust to Harris as his new rival

By JILL COLVIN and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

YORK, Pa. (AP) — As Democrats kick off their convention in Chicago, Donald Trump is trying to regain his footing after weeks of struggling to adjust to Vice President Kamala Harris as his rival.

The former president and GOP nominee delivered a speech at a factory in Pennsylvania on Monday as he attempts to undercut the Democratic celebration with a jam-packed schedule. He is holding daily events in battleground states tied to subjects where Republicans think they hold an advantage, including the economy, crime and safety, national security and the border.

"Kamala Harris is an economy wrecker and a country destroyer," Trump told factory workers and supporters gathered at Precision Custom Components, a company that makes components for military and nuclear use.

It is Trump's busiest week of campaigning since the winter, when he faced a large field of challengers in the Republican primary. And his focus on policy in battleground states reflects the concerns of Trump allies, who have urged him to try to broaden his appeal with swing voters as they grow more nervous about Harris' competitiveness.

In the weeks since President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid, Trump has appeared at times in denial and has launched a series of deeply personal attacks on Harris. He has lied about her crowds by claiming images of them were generated by AI, talked about her looks, and played on racist tropes by questioning her racial identity as she runs to become the first woman, the first Black woman and the first person of South Asian descent to reach the Oval Office.

The outbursts have raised concerns among allies that Trump is damaging his chance in what they believe is an eminently winnable race.

"If you have a policy debate for president, he wins. Donald Trump the provocateur, the showman, may not win this election," South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," echoing others' concerns.

Graham said he wanted Trump to focus on his plans for the economy and the U.S.-Mexico border. "Policy is the key to the White House," he said.

Some supporters at his rallies agree with that advice.

"He needs to quit talking about Biden other than Harris piggybacking on those policies," said Kory Jenó,

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a 53-year-old from Swannanoa, North Carolina, who was waiting to see Trump speak last week in nearby Asheville. "He needs to keep the conversation on the issues and what he's going to do for Americans instead of running off on tangents where he's just bashing her and that sort of thing.

Trump "needs to stop the personal attacks," echoed 75-year-old Mary Ray, who advised him to "be discreet when you're talking."

Asked whether she was thinking about Trump's most incendiary personal attacks — calling Harris a "nasty woman" and questioning how she discusses her biracial heritage — Ray furrowed her brow and pursed her lips.

"It hurts him with other voters," Ray said.

Others have urged him to ramp up his schedule and to pivot away from rallies, where large crowds of his most ardent supporters cheer on his most incendiary rhetoric.

"The big rallies are fine, but I like him when he goes to a restaurant or just talks to anybody off the street," said Bruce Fields, 70, who works in commercial real estate in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. "When he is talking to ordinary people, it adds a personal touch."

An economy news conference ends with talk of injured veterans

But even at events billed as policy speeches, Trump often gets sidetracked and undercuts his own message with remarks that drown out anything else.

The challenge for Republicans was on display last week, when Trump invited reporters to his golf course in Bedminster, New Jersey, to talk about the economy. As he stood before an assortment of grocery store items, Trump largely stuck to his intended message, talking about rising prices and blaming Biden and Harris for enacting policies he blamed for spiking inflation.

But later that night, he gave Democrats new fodder when he hosted an event about antisemitism with billionaire Republican donor Miriam Adelson. He said receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, was "much better" than receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor, because recipients of the nation's highest military honor are often badly injured or dead.

On Saturday at a rally in Pennsylvania, Trump repeatedly swerved from a message focused on the economy to personal attacks against Harris, including a declaration that he is "much better looking" than she is.

On Monday, he largely stuck to his prepared remarks as he slammed Harris' approach to the economy and energy and pledged major new investments in power plants and energy infrastructure if he wins, including small nuclear plants.

Still, he veered into the personal, attacking Harris' father, a Stanford University economics professor born in Jamaica, as a "Marxist," and calling her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a "whack job."

"Between his movement and her laugh, there's a lot of craziness," he said.

His campaign rejects the idea that he is trying to reset

Trump aides deny they are engaged in any kind of effort to reset the campaign, even as they bring in new hires, including veterans of Trump's 2016 and 2020 runs.

The former president's advisers remain bullish about his chances. They insist that Harris and Democrats are caught up in a fleeting moment of excitement with their new nominee, and are confident voters will sour on the vice president as they learn more about her past comments and positions.

They intend to spend the race's final stretch painting her as a liberal extremist and contrasting the candidates' differing approaches on the economy, crime and immigration.

"President Trump has continued to speak about sky-high inflation that has crushed American families, an out-of-control border that threatens every community, and rampant crime while Kamala Harris continues to hide from the press," said Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung, adding that Trump "will be barnstorming battleground states all across the country to prosecute the case against a weak, failed and dangerously liberal Kamala Harris."

Some polls show Harris performing better than Biden in battleground states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, though most still suggest a tight race.

About half of U.S. adults — 48% — have a very or somewhat favorable view of Harris, according to a

new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's somewhat better than the 41% of adults who say they have a favorable opinion of Trump.

Biden takes inaugural flight in long-delayed new 'Marine One' helicopter

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday took his first flight aboard the modern VH-92A helicopter that serves as Marine One after years of delays to the program to replace the aging aircraft that carry the president and vice president.

Biden boarded the Sikorsky-made helicopter after arriving on Air Force One in Chicago where he is speaking Monday evening at the Democratic National Convention. The maiden presidential voyage carried him from O'Hare International Airport to the parking lot of Chicago's Soldier Field, often used as a landing zone for presidential travel.

It marked a crucial milestone in a two-decade-long process to replace the Vietnam-era helicopters that have been in use carrying presidents, in some cases, since the 1970s.

An initial effort to purchase new helicopters was kicked off by the Bush administration in an effort to improve communications and mission capabilities in the post-September 11, 2001 environment, but it was scrapped by President Barack Obama after rampant cost overruns.

The new program was started by the Obama administration, and the helicopter, branded the "Patriot" by its manufacturer, made its public debut during the Trump administration. But issues with the secure communications system on board — required so that the president can carry out classified conversations and make military decisions in an emergency — as well as a tendency to scorch the White House South Lawn led to years of delays to the program.

The Marine Corps reported last year that the communications issues had been resolved, but it was not clear whether modifications to the exhaust system have eliminated the threat to the White House grass.

Marine Helicopter Squadron One, which operates the aircraft, has been using the VH-92 helicopters for several years in regular service, including test flights around Washington, D.C. and to carry White House staff and security personnel. The final VH-92A helicopter was delivered earlier this month, giving the USMC 21 operational aircraft and two for testing. The total program cost for the 23 aircraft was about \$5 billion.

The new helicopters are based on the commercially-available Sikorsky S-92 and are larger and have longer range than the older VH-3D and VH-60N models.

DC councilmember known for pushing antisemitic conspiracy theories is arrested on bribery charge

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A District of Columbia councilmember known for promoting antisemitic conspiracy theories accepted over \$150,000 in bribes in exchange for pressuring D.C. employees to extend city contracts for violence intervention services, authorities alleged in court records unsealed Monday.

Trayon White Sr., a Democrat who ran an unsuccessful mayoral campaign in 2022, was arrested Sunday on a federal bribery charge and released from custody after a brief court appearance Monday. His attorney declined to comment on the allegations against him.

White agreed in June to accept roughly \$156,000 in kickbacks and cash payments in exchange for pressuring government agency employees to extend two companies' contracts worth over \$5 million, prosecutors said.

Authorities say they have secretly recorded conversations between White and an FBI informant who gave White \$35,000 in cash on four occasions between June and August. A photo included in court papers shows White stuffing what the FBI says is an envelope filled with \$15,000 in cash in his jacket pocket.

The informant — who operated businesses that contracted with the D.C. government — also reported

giving White gifts including travel to the Dominican Republic and Las Vegas along with paying him bribes, the FBI said. The informant agreed to cooperate with the FBI as part of an agreement to plead guilty to fraud and bribery charges .

In one secretly recorded meeting detailed in court papers, authorities say the informant gave White \$5,000 in cash and told the councilmember that the money was in exchange for reaching out to two government employees. White responded: "I am on top of all of that. ... Once you and I lock eyes and gets to an understanding, I gets to work. I can start making some (expletive) happen."

The informant told authorities that White, 40, also accepted a \$20,000 bribe payment to help resolve a contract dispute for one of the companies by pressuring high-level district officials, the affidavit alleges,

White's chief of staff and spokesperson didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

White put his hand to his heart as he entered the courtroom and acknowledged his supporters who attended the hearing. One supporter held her hand to her mouth and sobbed from the gallery. The magistrate judge warned White he could be jailed before trial if he violates any conditions of his release.

White didn't stop to speak to reporters as he left the courthouse and headed to a waiting vehicle. His supporters shouted, "We love you, Trayon!" and "Ward 8!" as he departed.

White, who has served on the D.C. council since 2017, represents a predominantly Black ward where the poverty rate is nearly twice as high as the overall district. He is running for re-election in November against a Republican challenger.

White was one of two D.C. council members whom Mayor Muriel Bower defeated two years ago in the Democratic primary. White, a former grassroots community activist, was a protégé of former Mayor Marion Barry, who also represented the same ward as White on the council.

In March 2018, White posted a video on his Facebook page claiming that an unexpected snowfall was because of "the Rothschilds controlling the climate to create natural disasters." The Rothschilds, a Jewish family that was prominent in the banking industry, are a frequent subject of conspiracy theories.

At the time, White said he was unaware that the weather-related conspiracy theory is antisemitic. A video later surfaced of White pushing a similar conspiracy theory during a meeting of top city officials. He posed a question based on the stereotypical premise that the Rothschilds controlled the World Bank and the federal government.

Biden's offer of a path to US citizenship for spouses leaves some out

By GISELA SALOMON AND ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — As registration opened Monday for an estimated 500,000 spouses of U.S. citizens to gain legal status without having to first leave the country, Karen and Xavier Chavarria had nothing to celebrate.

Like many others, Karen left the United States voluntarily — in her case, for Nicaragua — as the price of living in the country illegally, planning to accumulate enough time away to be able reenter and reunite with her husband, Xavier, on a path to citizenship.

Joe Biden's offer of a path to citizenship without having to first leave the country for up to 10 years is one of the biggest presidential orders to ease entry for immigrants since 2012, when the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program allowed temporary but renewable stays for hundreds of thousands of people who came to the United States as young children with their parents.

To be eligible, spouses must have lived in the United States continuously for 10 years as of June 17, 2024, and been married by then. The Biden administration estimates 500,000 spouses could benefit, plus 50,000 stepchildren of U.S. citizens.

"Without this process, hundreds of thousands of noncitizen spouses of U.S. citizens are likely to instead remain in the United States without lawful status, causing these families to live in fear and with uncertainty about their futures," the Homeland Security Department said Monday in a document that details the policy. Forcing spouses to leave the country "is disruptive to the family's economic and emotional wellbeing."

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Spouses who fall outside the prescribed dates and other eligibility criteria face an agonizing choice: leave the country voluntarily for years for the right to reenter or remain in the United States without legal status.

Karen Chavarria returned to Nicaragua in 2017 and reported to a U.S. consulate for an interview as part of her petition to reunite with her husband in the United States. She crossed the border from Mexico in 2002 and applied for legal status after marrying Xavier, 57, who works a building maintenance job in New York and lives in Garfield, New Jersey. They have two children, both U.S. citizens.

Xavier travels at least twice a year to see Karen, 41, and their 12-year-old son, who live in Jinotega, north of Nicaragua's capital city of Managua. Xavier said he can't live in Nicaragua because he can't find work there, lacks treatment options for diabetes and fears for his safety because his family has been in the political opposition there for years. Their 20-year-old daughter lives in the U.S.

Karen has missed big moments, including her daughter's high school graduation and birthdays. The Biden administration's offer to spouses who chose to remain in the U.S. filled her with despair.

"It is something that we have been fighting for and after so much struggle, to get here without giving ourselves any hope," she said while crying in a video interview from Nicaragua.

It is unclear how many spouses left the U.S. voluntarily. But Eric Lee, an immigration attorney with offices in Michigan and California, said it is a "massive" number. Immigrants and advocacy groups have urged the White House to include them in the new policy.

"The only reason why so many are being punished is because they tried to step out of the shadow, they tried to follow the law," Lee said.

Homeland Security did not respond to questions about whether people who left the country voluntarily will qualify, saying only that they "may be eligible for continued processing abroad."

Groups favoring restrictions on immigration consider the policy overly generous. The Federation for American Immigration Reform said Monday that it is a disservice to those waiting to legally immigrate and that Biden is "clearly in a hurry" to enroll people before he leaves office, making it harder for a court to overturn their benefits once they are granted.

The department said Monday that 64% of potential beneficiaries are from Mexico and 20% are from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. They become eligible to remain in the United States for three years under presidential authority known as parole for a \$580 fee, which includes ability to apply for work authorization, a green card and, eventually, citizenship.

People deemed national security or public safety threats and those convicted of what are considered serious crimes, including felonies for driving under the influence, are disqualified, as are those found to belong to a gang.

Juan Enrique Saucedo 47, is biding time in Piedras Negras, Mexico, across the border from Eagle Pass, Texas. He was deported in 2019 while married to a U.S. citizen and applied to reenter. His wife and two children live in Houston.

"I want to return to the United States because I grew up there, I have my wife, my children, everything," Saucedo said. "I don't fit in here."

Heavy rains hit Pakistan's south as this monsoon's death toll rises to 209

By MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Flash floods triggered by monsoon rains swept through streets in southern Pakistan and blocked a key highway in the north, officials said Monday, as the death toll from rain-related incidents rose to 209 since July 1.

Fourteen people died across Punjab province in the past 24 hours, said Irfan Ali, an official at the provincial disaster management authority. Most of the other deaths have occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces.

Pakistan's annual monsoon season runs from July through September. Scientists and weather forecast-

ers have blamed climate change for heavier rains in recent years. In 2022, climate-induced downpours inundated one-third of the country, killing 1,739 people and causing \$30 billion in damage.

Zaheer Ahmed Babar, a senior official with the Pakistan Meteorological Department, said the latest spell of heavy rains will continue this week in parts of the country. The downpour in southern Pakistan has flooded streets in Sukkur district of Sindh province.

Authorities said efforts were underway to clear the key Karakorum highway in the north of landslides. Flash floods have also damaged some bridges in the north, disrupting traffic.

The government advised tourists to avoid affected areas.

More than 2,200 homes have been damaged across Pakistan since July 1, when the monsoon rains began, the National Disaster Management Authority said.

Neighboring Afghanistan also has had rains and flood-related damage since May, with more than 80 people killed. On Sunday, three people died when their vehicle was washed away by floods in Ghazni, according to provincial police.

Caleb Downs leads 4 Ohio State players selected to Associated Press preseason All-America first team

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Ohio State safety Caleb Downs, one of the second-ranked Buckeyes' high-profile transfers, and three of his new teammates were selected for the preseason Associated Press All-America team announced Monday.

Downs, who was a second-team All-American as a freshman for Alabama last season, was joined by guard Donovan Jackson, receiver Emeka Egbuka and cornerback Denzel Burke to give Ohio State the most first-team selections. Running back TreVeyon Henderson and defensive lineman Tyleik Williams made the second team to give the Buckeyes six total selections, also the most of any team.

No. 1 Georgia and No. 9 Michigan each had three players picked for the first team. Quarterback Carson Beck was joined by fellow Bulldogs guard Tate Ratledge and defensive back Malaki Starks, a first-team All-American last year.

The defending national champion Wolverines are represented by tight end Colston Loveland, defensive tackle Mason Graham and cornerback Will Johnson.

No. 5 Alabama put two transfers on the first team in center Parker Brailsford (Washington) and kicker Graham Nicholson (Miami, Ohio).

No. 7 Notre Dame and No. 13 LSU also had two first-team selections.

The Fighting Irish had defensive tackle Howard Cross III and safety Xavier Watts selected. Watts was an All-American last season and Cross made the second team. The Tigers were represented by tackle Will Campbell and linebacker Harold Perkins Jr. on the first team.

No. 3 Oregon placed three players on the second team, including quarterback Dillon Gabriel, a sixth-year player who transferred from Oklahoma after starting his career at UCF.

First-team by conference

SEC - 10.

Big Ten - 8.

ACC - 4.

Big 12 - 3.

Independent - 2.

First teamoffense

Quarterback — Carson Beck, fifth year, Georgia.

Running backs — Ollie Gordon II, third year, Oklahoma State; Omarion Hampton, third year, North Carolina.

Tackles — Will Campbell, third year, LSU; Kelvin Banks Jr., third year, Texas.

Guards — Donovan Jackson, fourth year, Ohio State; Tate Ratledge, fifth year, Georgia.

Center — Parker Brailsford, third year, Alabama.

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Tight end — Colston Loveland, third year, Michigan.
Wide receivers — Luther Burden III, third year, Missouri; Tetairoa McMillan, third year, Arizona; Emeka Egbuka, fourth year, Ohio State.
All-purpose player — Travis Hunter, third year, Colorado.
Kicker — Graham Nicholson, fourth year, Alabama.
First team defense
Edge — James Pearce Jr., third year, Tennessee; Ashton Gillotte, fourth year, Louisville.
Tackles — Mason Graham, third year, Michigan; Howard Cross III, sixth year, Notre Dame.
Linebackers — Harold Perkins Jr., third year, LSU; Jay Higgins, fifth year, Iowa; Barrett Carter, fourth year, Clemson.
Cornerbacks — Will Johnson, third year, Michigan; Denzel Burke, fourth year, Ohio State.
Safeties — Malaki Starks, third year, Georgia; Caleb Downs, second year, Ohio State.
Defensive back — Xavier Watts, fifth year, Notre Dame.
Punter — Alex Mastromanno, fifth year, Florida State.
Second team offense
Quarterback — Dillon Gabriel, sixth year, Oregon.
Running backs — TreVeyon Henderson, fourth year, Ohio State; Ashton Jeanty, third year, Boise State
Tackles — Ajani Cornelius, fifth year, Oregon; Aireontae Ersery, fifth year, Minnesota.
Guards — Tyler Booker, third year, Alabama; Dylan Fairchild, fourth year, Georgia.
Center — Cooper Mays, fifth year, Tennessee.
Tight end — Mitchell Evans, fourth year, Notre Dame.
Wide receivers — Tez Johnson, fifth year, Oregon; Tre Harris, fifth year, Mississippi; Ricky White III, fifth year, UNLV.
All-purpose player — Zachariah Branch, second year, Southern California.
Kicker — Andres Borregales, fourth year, Miami.
Second team defense
Edge — Nic Scourton, third year, Texas A&M; Abdul Carter, third year, Penn State.
Tackles — Tyleik Williams, fourth year, Ohio State; Deone Walker, third year, Kentucky.
Linebackers — Danny Stutsman, fourth year, Oklahoma; Jason Henderson, fourth year, Old Dominion; Nick Martin, fourth year, Oklahoma State.
Cornerbacks — Benjamin Morrison, third year, Notre Dame; Sebastian Castro, sixth year, Iowa.
Safeties — Dillon Thieneman, second year, Purdue; Billy Bowman, fourth year, Oklahoma.
Defensive back — Ricardo Hallman, fourth year, Wisconsin.
Punter — James Ferguson-Reynolds, third year, Boise State.

House Republicans release their impeachment report on Biden but the next steps are uncertain

By LISA MASCARO and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans have released their initial impeachment inquiry report on President Joe Biden, alleging an abuse of power and obstruction of justice in the financial dealings of his son Hunter Biden and family associates.

The nearly yearlong investigation by Republicans stops short of alleging any criminal wrongdoing by the president. Instead, the almost 300-page report out Monday, the opening day of the Democratic National Convention, covers familiar ground, asserting the Biden family traded on its “brand” in business ventures in corrupt ways that rise to the Constitution’s high bar for impeachment.

With Biden no longer running for reelection, next steps are highly uncertain. House Republicans have not had support from their own ranks to actually impeach the president, and removal by the Senate is even further afield. Many Republicans prefer to focus attention on the Democratic Party’s presumptive presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, with some probes getting underway.

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The White House has dismissed the House impeachment inquiry as a "stunt" and encouraged House Republicans to "move on."

"The totality of the corrupt conduct uncovered by the Committees is egregious," wrote the House Oversight and Accountability, Judiciary and Ways & Means panels leading the inquiry.

The report said the Constitution's "remedy for a President's flagrant abuse of office is clear: impeachment by the House of Representatives and removal by the Senate."

Republicans have spent the better part of their time in the House majority with a hyper focus on Biden and his family's businesses, encouraged by Donald Trump as the twice impeached and indicted former president makes a comeback bid for the White House.

The impeachment inquiry has been a cornerstone of the House GOP's effort, launched by former Speaker Kevin McCarthy shortly before he was booted from leadership and formalized in December under new Speaker Mike Johnson. Republicans are investigating many aspects of Biden family finances going back to 2009 when he was vice president to Barack Obama.

In a statement Monday, Johnson was non-committal on what the House will do with the findings. "We encourage all Americans to read this report," he said.

Through bank records, interviews from some 30 witnesses, whistleblower accounts and millions of documents, House Republicans allege a years-long practice by Hunter Biden and his associates to solicit foreign business deals using the family's proximity to power in Washington.

Much of the focus of the report is not on Biden's time as president, but on the years when the Biden family was in turmoil after the 2015 death of his oldest son, Beau, and as the vice president was bowing out of elected office, declining to run for president in 2016.

Hunter Biden has acknowledged a serious addiction to crack in these years. He was convicted in June of felony gun charges and is set to stand trial next month on federal tax charges.

Former Hunter Biden associate Devon Archer, who was sentenced to a year in prison in 2022 in another matter, told the committee, "At the end of the day, part of what was delivered is the brand."

To tie the elder Biden to his son's actions, the Republicans rely on a series of phone calls and pop-by dinner meeting visits Joe Biden made while Hunter was conducting business. At times, Hunter would put his dad on speakerphone for his guests as the father and son exchanged pleasantries.

The Bidens are a famously tight-knit family and acknowledge they speak almost daily, including during this time, with the father checking on his son's well-being.

In his own defiant closed-door deposition to House investigators, Hunter Biden insisted he did not involve his father in his business.

All told, the House Republicans allege the Biden family and its associates received some \$27 million in business payments from partners or clients in Russia, China and other countries. They allege an additional \$8 million in loans, including some from Hunter Biden benefactor Kevin Morris, a Hollywood attorney, and question the purchases of the son's artwork.

The report said it is "inconceivable" that President Biden did not understand what was going on.

"President Biden participated in a conspiracy to monetize his office of public trust to enrich his family," the report claims.

Biden himself declined a request to testify before the House.

Touchbacks to Trump's impeachments at the hands of Democrats run throughout the report's pages as Republicans work to contrast his grounds for removal to Biden family's dealings and "grift."

But the difference are stark, as the indicted Trump faces actual criminal charges, including in the conspiracy to overturn Biden's 2020 election and draw supporters to Washington on the day of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack.

The report also accuses Biden of obstructing justice in the probe, revisiting previously aired complaints about the Justice Department's handling of the investigation into Hunter Biden. Attorney General Merrick Garland has forcefully denied those accusations, defending the department against claims of political influence.

The report focuses heavily on what Republicans have long alleged was a pattern of "slow-walking" in-

investigative steps and delaying enforcement actions to the benefit of the president's son.

But the report provides no evidence that Biden had any involvement in his son's investigation, which was launched under Trump's presidency and has been led by a Delaware U.S. attorney appointed by Trump. The U.S. attorney, David Weiss, was kept on by Garland to insulate the probe from claims of political interference.

Garland has insisted that no one at the White House gave him or other senior officials at the Justice Department direction about the handling of the Hunter Biden investigation.

Beyond Hunter Biden, the report includes details of the involvement of Joe Biden's brother, James, in the various family businesses.

Republicans have pointed to a series of payments that they claim show the president benefited from his brother's work. They point to a \$200,000 personal check from James Biden to Joe Biden on the same day in 2018 that James Biden received an equal amount from Americore, a healthcare company.

House Democrats have defended the transaction, pointing to bank records they say indicate James Biden was repaying a loan provided by his brother, who had wire transferred \$200,000 to him about six weeks earlier. The money changed hands while Joe Biden was a private citizen.

Short of impeaching Biden, the House Republicans have issued criminal referrals recommending the Justice Department prosecute Hunter Biden and James Biden, accusing them of making false statements to Congress as part of the GOP investigation. Attorneys for those men have argued those claims are baseless or a distraction.

Until recently, the president had been a focal point for Republicans in Congress, but his decision last month to drop out of the presidential race and Harris' ascent to the top of the ticket have forced GOP leaders to reevaluate their marquee investigation.

A year ago, GOP lawmakers had hoped the Biden inquiry would build a strong enough case for impeachment's "high crimes and misdemeanors." But the longer the inquiry dragged and the little direct evidence against Biden investigators were able to produce in public hearings or even in closed-door sessions, the more concerns grew from moderate Republicans wary of a vote on the matter.

The report released Monday makes more than 20 mentions of the "Biden-Harris administration," while previous releases from the committees investigating Biden typically only made direct references to him.

And while Harris is not mentioned on her own in the report, the same committees leading the inquiry have begun to open new probes into her and her vice presidential pick, Tim Walz.

Floor fights, boos and a too-long kiss. How the dramatic and the bizarre define convention history

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — In 1948, the Republican and Democratic parties did something unthinkable in today's climate of ferocious political animosity: They not only held their national conventions in the same city but also shared some of the props.

Both gathered in Philadelphia, largely because its Municipal Auditorium had already been fitted with the wiring needed for then-groundbreaking live convention coverage on national television.

To save money, Democrats asked Republicans to leave the American flags and bunting up to be reused at their event 17 days later. The GOP complied, though some items became faded and worn in the interval.

Like party camaraderie, the more informal way conventions were staged has evaporated. Once bare-knuckled showdowns to hammer out presidential nominees, modern gatherings have evolved into carefully scripted, made-for-TV events meant to showcase party unity.

High political drama is behind the Democrats when their convention opens Monday in Chicago, after President Joe Biden succumbed to mounting pressure from many in his own party and abandoned his reelection bid last month. There is still the potential for protests at the convention, but Democrats have coalesced with surprising speed and new energy around Vice President Kamala Harris at the top of the party's ticket. Republicans displayed similarly strong unity in nominating former President Donald Trump

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during the GOP convention in Milwaukee last month.

But even with conventions now choreographed down to tiny details, the unexpected can still happen. Here's a look at a few soaring scenes, floor fights, street battles and other memorable convention moments that were uplifting, outlandish or just plain awkward:

Trump's triumphant return

Trump made a dramatic entrance on the first night of last month's Republican convention, striding into the arena to wild cheers with a bandage over his right ear, just two days after surviving an attempted assassination.

The moment led to speculation that the former president might emerge from the attack changed, ready to embrace a more optimistic outlook and perhaps stop leaning into the political divisions he has thrived on throughout his political career.

During his convention speech three nights later — with his ear still bandaged — the former president seemed to be doing just that, at first. He said early on that he sought to "launch a new era of safety, prosperity and freedom for citizens of every race, religion, color and creed." But, by the end, Trump had returned to predictions of doom and division, warning, "Bad things are going to happen."

Cruz's non-endorsement

As the last candidate Donald Trump defeated during the 2016 GOP primary, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz amassed enough delegates to address the party's convention in Cleveland — but balked at endorsing his ex-rival.

Still smarting over Trump calling him "Lyin' Ted," mocking his wife's appearance and suggesting the senator's Cuba-born father was involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Cruz implored delegates to "vote your conscience." That drew prolonged boos.

Cruz reversed himself and endorsed Trump that fall, and today he's among his staunchest defenders. But at the time, the vitriol was high enough that Cruz's wife, Heidi, was led from the convention floor, just in case.

Clint Eastwood's empty chair

A head-scratching moment came in 2012, when Clint Eastwood addressed the Republican gathering in Tampa, Florida, with an empty chair standing in for then-President Barack Obama.

The actor and director spent 12 minutes conversing with the piece of furniture, and even dodging barages of imaginary obscenities from it.

"What do you mean shut up?" Eastwood crowed.

He also joked about then-Vice President Biden's reputation for gaffes — launching criticisms that may have proven prescient, given the questions that arose following his disastrous debate performance in June.

"Of course, we all know Biden is the intellect of the Democratic Party," Eastwood told the chair. "Just kind of a grin, with a body behind it."

'Audacity of hope'

The year 2004 was otherwise terrible for Democrats, President George W. Bush won reelection and Republicans retained control of Congress. But one bright spot came from Obama, then a little-known Illinois state senator, electrifying his party's Boston convention.

Obama dubbed himself "a skinny kid with a funny name who believes that America has a place for him, too" and summed up his political philosophy as being built around "the audacity of hope."

Gore's extra-long kiss

As he stepped onstage to deliver a speech accepting his party's 2000 presidential nomination in Los Angeles, Al Gore embraced his wife, Tipper, and gave her a full-mouthed kiss, hanging on much longer than usual for a display of passion in public.

The crowd cheered, but the kiss eventually encompassed an uncomfortable three seconds of screen time.

Gore had been battling criticisms that he was too stiff during public appearances, which may have explained how hard he leaned in. Regardless, the smooch was remembered more than Gore's speech.

He went on to narrowly lose that November to Bush. A decade later, the Gores separated after 40 years of marriage.

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Women on the ticket

At the Democrats' 1984 convention in San Francisco, presidential nominee Walter Mondale announced Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate, making her the first woman on a major presidential ticket. Ferraro declared, "America is the land where dreams can come true for all of us," though she and Mondale went on to win just 13 electoral votes compared to President Ronald Reagan's 525.

More than 20 years later, Sen. John McCain chose Sarah Palin as his vice presidential candidate, and her speech at the Republican convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, was a hit, mixing the then-Alaska governor's compelling personal story with humor and political punch. It gave McCain a boost, but he still lost to Obama.

At the 2016 Democratic convention in Philadelphia, Hillary Clinton became the first major-party female presidential nominee, declaring, "When any barrier falls in America, for anyone, it clears the way for everyone." She eventually lost to Trump.

Kamala Harris was the first woman on a winning ticket, accepting her role as Biden's running mate during a mostly virtual convention last cycle. Now, having replaced Biden as the Democratic nominee, she's seeking to become the nation's first woman to serve as president.

Opposing the incumbent

In 1976, Reagan, then California's governor, challenged President Gerald Ford from the right and touched off a bitter struggle at the GOP's convention in Kansas City. Ford narrowly prevailed with 1,187 votes to 1,070, but lost that November to Democrat Jimmy Carter.

Four years later, at the Democratic convention in New York, Carter himself faced a floor challenge from Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy, who badly trailed the president in delegates but tried to loosen rules on how they were pledged to vote. Tensions ran high and, though the change was defeated, Carter later lost to Reagan.

Eagleton's 18-day vice presidential candidacy

The pressure on Biden to leave the race was without modern precedent at the top of a presidential ticket — but not when it comes to a nominee's running mate.

Shortly after the 1972 Democratic convention in Miami, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern's vice presidential pick, Missouri Sen. Thomas Eagleton, had previously undergone electroshock therapy to treat depression.

A divided convention had prompted McGovern to tap Eagleton on its final day, after he was turned down by several alternatives. Eagleton therefore didn't receive much vetting of his record, which might have surfaced the medical disclosures earlier.

Eagleton resigned after 18 days on the ticket and was replaced by Sargent Shriver. Incumbent Republican President Richard Nixon went on to win 49 out of 50 states that November.

Chaos in Chicago

After President Lyndon B. Johnson opted not to seek reelection and Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, Vice President Hubert Humphrey secured the 1968 Democratic nomination at the party's convention. But that was only after a raucous floor fight that ended with delegates defeating a peace platform seeking an end to the Vietnam War.

What happened at the convention was overshadowed by thousands of antiwar protesters who marched in the streets. Demonstrators were attacked by police, sparking such turmoil that the tear gas fired reached the 25th floor suite where Humphrey was preparing for his appearance at a hotel 5 miles from the convention site.

The Democratic convention returns to Chicago this week, and widespread demonstrations are being planned to oppose the Biden administration's support for Israel in its war with Hamas — leaving some to wonder whether a 1968 redux could be coming.

Leaders of China and Vietnam pledge to strengthen political and economic ties

By EMILY WANG FUJIYAMA and SIMINA MISTREANU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The leaders of China and Vietnam pledged to further their economic ties and gave a nod to their shared communist ideology during the first visit by Vietnam's new president to Beijing on Monday.

To Lam, who took office in May, made China the destination of his first state visit, signaling the continuing importance the Southeast Asian nation places on its giant neighbor despite ongoing territorial frictions in the South China Sea.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Li Yuan, hosted a ceremony for Lam and his wife, Ngo Phuong Ly, at Beijing's vast Great Hall of the People, replete with flags, flowers and a marching band.

Xi remarked on the "deep friendship" between Vietnam and China and said Vietnam was a priority for Beijing's "neighborhood diplomacy."

"As two ruling Communist parties in the world today, the two parties of China and Vietnam should ... continue their traditional friendship ... and jointly promote the development of the world's socialist cause," Xi said. "I believe that our road will expand wider as we walk further."

Lam's three-day visit to China comes about two weeks after he was confirmed as general secretary of Vietnam's Communist Party, the country's top political position. He succeeded Nguyen Phu Trong, who died last month after 13 years as leader.

Lam told Xi the relationship with China was the top priority of Vietnam's foreign policy.

"As a brother, we always observe every step of China's development, and we are happy for the achievement that the party and the government and the people of China have made under your leadership," Lam said in his opening remarks before meeting with Xi.

The two leaders oversaw the signing of 14 cooperation agreements in areas such as political education, infrastructure, health care and banking. China is Vietnam's largest trading partner, with total bilateral trade of \$172 billion last year.

Lam said Vietnam supported China's claim over self-ruled Taiwan, known as the "One China" principle, and that any issues pertaining to Hong Kong and the regions of Tibet and Xinjiang constitute China's internal affairs.

Lam is expected to continue his predecessor's strategy of balancing ties with China, the United States, Russia and others.

The U.S. and its ally Japan have been developing closer ties with Vietnam's communist government — America's former foe in the Vietnam War — as they seek partners in a growing economic and strategic rivalry with China.

When Xi visited Vietnam in December, the two countries announced they would build "a shared future that carries strategic significance." The agreement, which Chinese state media has described as an elevation of ties, was seen as a concession by Vietnam, which had resisted using that wording in the past.

Russian President Vladimir Putin met Lam in Vietnam in June after visiting North Korea on a rare overseas trip for the Russian leader, who has been ostracized by many countries because of the 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Lam began his China trip on Sunday in Guangzhou, a major manufacturing and export hub near Hong Kong. He also visited sites in the southern city where Vietnam's former communist leader Ho Chi Minh spent time in the 1920s and '30s.

Although both are one-party communist states, Vietnam and China have sparred repeatedly over territory that both claim in the South China Sea. China also briefly invaded parts of northern Vietnam in 1979.

A Vietnamese coast guard ship recently took part in joint drills in the Philippines, which has had a series of violent encounters with China over contested territory in the South China Sea.

Still, Vietnam has benefited economically from investment by Chinese manufacturers, which have moved production to the Southeast Asian country in part to skirt U.S. restrictions on solar panels and other exports from China.

Harris and Trump offer worlds-apart contrasts on top issues in presidential race

By WILL WEISSERT, JILL COLVIN and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris has replaced President Joe Biden atop the presidential ticket, but his “finish the job” campaign mantra can still largely apply to her top policy goals. She’s promising to continue a lot of what Biden was doing during the past four years if she’s elected to four of her own.

Former President Donald Trump, for his part, is itching to get back to the White House and accomplish what he didn’t during his first term.

Since Biden stepped down last month, the vice president has announced few major policy proposals beyond a new push to prevent price gouging by food producers and grocers and plans to cut taxes for families, attempt to bring down homebuying and rental prices and reduce medical debt. Harris also used a recent rally in Las Vegas, where the economy runs on the hospitality industry, to call for ending taxes on tips paid to restaurant, hotel and other service employees. That came more than a month after Trump used his own Las Vegas rally to promise the same on tips.

Despite her lack of specifics on policy, the vice president has committed generally to some major policy positions on various matters, promising to sign sweeping legislation that’s unlikely to clear Congress.

Those include measures codifying the federal right to an abortion, increasing the federal minimum wage, imposing an assault weapons ban, requiring universal background checks for firearm purchases and advancing several long-stalled voting rights measures.

While details are still rather vague, there’s no doubt that whoever prevails in November will seek to shape the landscape of American life in ways wholly distinct from their opponent.

On nearly every issue, the choices — if the winner gets his or her way — are sharply defined.

The onward march of regulation and incentives to restrain climate change, or a slow walk if not an about-face. Higher taxes on the super rich, or cuts to benefit high-wage earners. Abortion rights reaffirmed, or left to states to restrict or allow as each decides. Another attempt to legislate border security and orderly entry into the country, or massive deportations. A commitment to stand with Ukraine or let go.

Here’s where each candidate stands on 10 top issues:

Abortion

HARRIS: The vice president has called on Congress to pass legislation guaranteeing in federal law abortion access, a right that stood for nearly 50 years before being overturned by the Supreme Court. Like Biden, Harris has criticized bans on abortion in Republican-controlled states and promised as president to block any potential nationwide ban should one clear a future GOP-run Congress. Harris was the Democrats’ most visible champion of abortion rights even while Biden was still in the race. She has promoted the administration’s efforts short of federal law — including steps to protect women who travel to obtain abortions and limit how law enforcement collects medical records.

TRUMP: The former president often brags about appointing the Supreme Court justices who overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ending the constitutional right to an abortion. After dodging questions about when in pregnancy he believes the procedure should be restricted, Trump announced last spring that decisions on access and cutoffs should be left to the states. He said he would not sign a national abortion ban into law. But he’s declined to say whether he would try to limit access to the abortion pill mifepristone. He told *Time* magazine that it should also be left up to states to determine whether to prosecute women for abortions or to monitor their pregnancies.

Climate/Energy

HARRIS: As a senator from California, the vice president was an early sponsor of the Green New Deal, a sweeping series of proposals meant to swiftly move the U.S. to fully green energy that is championed by the Democratic Party’s most progressive wing. Harris also said during her short-lived 2020 presidential campaign that she opposed offshore drilling for oil and hydraulic fracturing. But during her three and a half

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years as vice president, Harris has adopted more moderate positions, focusing instead on implementing the climate provisions of the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act. That provided nearly \$375 billion for things like financial incentives for electric cars and clean energy projects. The Biden administration has also enlisted more than 20,000 young people in a national "Climate Corps," a Peace Corps-like program to promote conservation through tasks such as weatherizing homes and repairing wetlands. Despite that, it's unlikely that the U.S. will be on track to meet Biden's goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 — a benchmark that Harris hasn't talked about in the early part of her own White House bid.

TRUMP: His mantra for one of his top policy priorities: "DRILL, BABY, DRILL." Trump, who in the past cast climate change as a "hoax" and harbors a particular disdain for wind power, says it's his goal for the U.S. to have the cheapest energy and electricity in the world. He'd increase oil drilling on public lands, offer tax breaks to oil, gas and coal producers, speed the approval of natural gas pipelines and roll back the Biden administration's aggressive efforts to get people to switch to electric cars, which he argues have a place but shouldn't be forced on consumers. He has also pledged to re-exit the Paris Climate Accords, end wind subsidies and eliminate regulations imposed and proposed by the Biden administration targeting energy-inefficient kinds of lightbulbs, stoves, dishwashers and shower heads.

Democracy/Rule of Law

HARRIS: Like Biden, Harris has decried Trump as a threat to the nation's democracy. But, in attacking her opponent, the vice president has leaned more heavily into her personal background as a prosecutor and contrasted that with Trump being found guilty of 34 felony counts in a New York hush money case and in being found liable for fraudulent business practices and sexual abuse in civil court. The vice president has also talked less frequently than Biden did about Trump's denial that he lost the 2020 presidential election and his spurring on the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol. When she's interrupted during rallies with supporters' "lock him up" chants directed at Trump, Harris responds that the courts can "handle that" and "our job is to beat him in November."

TRUMP: After refusing to accept his loss to Biden in 2020, Trump hasn't committed to accepting the results this time. He's repeatedly promised to pardon the Jan. 6 defendants jailed for assaulting police officers and other crimes during the attack on the Capitol. He vows to overhaul the Justice Department and FBI "from the ground up," aggrieved by the criminal charges the department has brought against him. He also promises to deploy the National Guard to cities such as Chicago that are struggling with violent crime, and in response to protests, and has also vowed to appoint a special prosecutor to go after Biden.

Federal government

HARRIS: Like Biden, Harris has campaigned hard against "Project 2025," a plan authored by leading conservatives to move as swiftly as possible to dramatically remake the federal government and push it to the right if Trump wins back the White House. She is also part of an administration that is already taking steps to make it harder for any mass firings of civil servants to occur. In April, the Office of Personnel Management issued a new rule that would ban federal workers from being reclassified as political appointees or other at-will employees, thus making them easier to dismiss. That was in response to Schedule F, a 2020 executive order from Trump that reclassified tens of thousands of federal workers to make firing them easier.

TRUMP: The former president has sought to distance himself from "Project 2025," despite his close ties to many of its key architects. He has nonetheless vowed an overhaul of the federal bureaucracy, which he has long blamed for blocking his first term agenda, saying: "I will totally obliterate the deep state." The former president plans to reissue the Schedule F order stripping civil service protections. He says he'd then move to fire "rogue bureaucrats," including those who "weaponized our justice system," and the "warmongers and America-Last globalists in the Deep State, the Pentagon, the State Department, and the national security industrial complex." Trump has also pledged to terminate the Education Department and wants to curtail the independence of regulatory agencies like the Federal Communications Commission.

Immigration

HARRIS: Attempting to defuse a GOP line of political attack, the vice president has talked up her experience as California attorney general, saying she walked drug smuggler tunnels and successfully pros-

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ecuted gangs that moved narcotics and people across the border. Early in his term, Biden made Harris his administration's point person on the root causes of migration. Trump and top Republicans now blame Harris for a situation at the U.S.-Mexico border that they say is out of control due to policies that were too lenient. Harris has attempted to counter that by arguing that a bipartisan Senate compromise that would have included tougher asylum standards and hiring more border agents, immigration judges and asylum officers was poised to clear Congress before Trump came out in opposition to it. Harris now says that Trump "talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk" on immigration. The vice president has endorsed comprehensive immigration reform, seeking pathways to citizenship for immigrants in the U.S. without legal status, with a faster track for young immigrants living in the country illegally who arrived as children.

TRUMP: The former president promises to mount the largest domestic deportation in U.S. history — an operation that could involve detention camps and the National Guard. He'd bring back policies he put in place during his first term, like the Remain in Mexico program and Title 42, which placed curbs on migrants on public health grounds. And he'd revive and expand the travel ban that originally targeted citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries. After the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, he pledged new "ideological screening" for immigrants to bar "dangerous lunatics, haters, bigots, and maniacs." He'd also try to deport people who are in the U.S. legally but harbor "jihadist sympathies." He'd seek to end birthright citizenship for people born in the U.S. whose parents are both in the country illegally.

Israel/Gaza

HARRIS: Harris says Israel has a right to defend itself, and she's repeatedly decried Hamas as a terrorist organization. But the vice president might also have helped defuse some backlash from progressives by being more vocal about the need to better protect civilians during fighting in Gaza.

More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, the territory's Hamas-controlled Health Ministry says, but how many are civilians is unknown. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and militants in its count. Israel says it has killed more than 17,000 militants in the war.

Like Biden, Harris supports a proposed hostage for extended cease-fire deal that aims to bring all remaining hostages and Israeli dead home. Biden and Harris say the deal could lead to a permanent end to the grinding nine-month war and they have endorsed a two-state solution, which would have Israel existing alongside an independent Palestinian state.

TRUMP: The former president has expressed support for Israel's efforts to "destroy" Hamas, but he's also been critical of some of Israel's tactics. He says the country must finish the job quickly and get back to peace. He has called for more aggressive responses to pro-Palestinian protests at college campuses and applauded police efforts to clear encampments. Trump also proposes to revoke the student visas of those who espouse antisemitic or anti-American views.

LGBTQ+ issues

HARRIS: During her rallies, Harris accuses Trump and his party of seeking to roll back a long list of freedoms including the ability "to love who you love openly and with pride." She leads audiences in chants of "We're not going back." While her campaign has yet to produce specifics on its plans, she's been part of a Biden administration that regularly denounces discrimination and attacks against the LGBTQ+ community. Early in Biden's term, his administration reversed an executive order from Trump that had largely banned transgender people from military service, and his Education Department issued a rule that says Title IX, the 1972 law that was passed to protect women's rights, also bars discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. That rule was silent on the issue of transgender athletes.

TRUMP: The former president has pledged to keep transgender women out of women's sports and says he will ask Congress to pass a bill establishing that "only two genders," as determined at birth, are recognized by the United States. He promises to "defeat the toxic poison of gender ideology." As part of his crackdown on gender-affirming care, he would declare that any health care provider that participates in the "chemical or physical mutilation of minor youth" no longer meets federal health and safety standards and won't get federal money. He'd take similarly punitive steps in schools against any teacher or school official who "suggests to a child that they could be trapped in the wrong body." Trump would support a national prohibition of hormonal or surgical intervention for transgender minors and bar transgender

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people from military service.

NATO/Ukraine

HARRIS: The vice president has yet to specify how her positions on Russia's war with Ukraine might differ from Biden's, other than to praise the president's efforts to rebuild alliances unraveled by Trump, particularly NATO, a critical bulwark against Russian aggression. The Biden administration has pledged unceasing support for Ukraine against Russia's invasion. The government has sent tens of billions of dollars in military and other aid to Ukraine, including a tranche of aid that totaled \$61 billion in weapons, ammunition and other assistance that is expected to last through the end of this year. The administration has maintained that continuing U.S. assistance is critical because Russian leader Vladimir Putin will not stop at invading Ukraine. Harris has said previously that it would be foolish to risk global alliances the U.S. has established and decried Putin's "brutality."

TRUMP: The former president has repeatedly taken issue with U.S. aid to Ukraine and says he will continue to "fundamentally reevaluate" the mission and purpose of the NATO alliance if he returns to office. He has claimed, without explanation, that he will be able to end the war before his inauguration by bringing both sides to the negotiating table. (His approach seems to hinge on Ukraine giving up at least some of its Russian-occupied territory in exchange for a cease-fire.) On NATO, he has assailed member nations for years for failing to hit agreed-upon military spending targets. Trump drew alarms this year when he said that, as president, he had warned leaders that he would not only refuse to defend nations that don't hit those targets, but "would encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to countries that are "delinquent."

Tariffs/Trade

HARRIS: Though she was critical of free trade deals before becoming vice president, Harris has more recently offered no signs that she'll oppose Biden's policies. That might mean adhering to some protectionist practices that offer similarities with Trump. Biden, for instance, endorsed a tripling of tariffs on Chinese steel, a move that would shield U.S. producers from cheaper imports. In May, the Biden-Harris administration said it would raise the tariff rate on steel and aluminum to 25% from 7.5%. Biden has also said he opposes the proposed acquisition of U.S. Steel by Japan's Nippon Steel, because it is "vital for it to remain an American steel company that is domestically owned and operated."

TRUMP: The former president wants a dramatic expansion of tariffs on nearly all imported foreign goods, saying that "we're going to have 10% to 20% tariffs on foreign countries that have been ripping us off for years." Penalties would increase if trade partners manipulate their currencies or engage in other unfair trading practices. He would also urge Congress to pass legislation giving the president authority to impose a reciprocal tariff on any country that imposes one on the U.S. Much of his trade agenda has focused on China. Trump has proposed phasing out Chinese imports of essential goods including electronics, steel and pharmaceuticals and wants to ban Chinese companies from owning U.S. infrastructure in sectors such as energy, technology and farmland. Whether higher tariffs come from a Biden administration or a Trump one, they are likely to raise prices for consumers who have already faced higher costs from inflation.

Taxes

HARRIS: The vice president has promised to work with state entities to cancel \$7 billion of medical debt for up to 3 million qualifying Americans and plans to push Congress to make permanent a \$3,600 per child tax credit approved through 2025 for eligible families. She also wants to offer a new \$6,000 tax credit for those with newborn children, and cut taxes for frontline workers and on healthcare plans offered on the marketplace created by the Affordable Care Act. Harris says her administration will expand tax credits for first-time homebuyers and push to build 3 million new housing units in four years, while wiping out taxes on tips and endorsing steeper taxes on corporations. That last part mirrors Biden, who proposed raising the corporate tax rate to 28% and the corporate minimum tax to 21% as a matter of "fundamental fairness" that will bring in more money to invest in Americans. The current corporate rate is 21% and the corporate minimum, raised under the Inflation Reduction Act, is at 15% for companies making more than \$1 billion a year. Harris has called for restoring the child tax credit that was enacted under the 2021

COVID-19 relief package, but has since expired.

TRUMP: The former president has promised to extend the 2017 tax cuts that he signed into law and are set to expire at the end of 2025. That package cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% and roughly doubled the standard deduction and child tax credit. Those elements will remain until and unless a new law changes them, but many other tax cuts in Trump's package will lapse without further action by Congress. Trump says he wants to trim the corporate tax rate further — to as low as 15% — and repeal any tax increases that occurred under Biden. Trump also promised to eliminate taxes on tipped income — though doing so would probably require congressional approval.

Indian doctors demand tougher laws after a colleague was raped and killed at a hospital

NEW DELHI (AP) — Hundreds of doctors protested near India's Health Ministry on Monday to demand stringent laws to protect health care workers from violence and to seek justice for their colleague who was raped and killed at a state-run hospital.

The protesting doctors, holding up placards like "Justice delayed is justice denied," were stopped by police as they tried to set up free outpatient services outside the ministry in New Delhi.

Doctors and medics across India have held protests, candlelight marches and temporarily refused care for non-emergency patients after the rape and killing of the 31-year-old trainee on Aug. 9 in the eastern city of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state.

The doctors say the assault highlights the vulnerability of health care workers in hospitals and medical campuses across India. They are demanding stronger laws, including making any attack on on-duty medics an offense without the possibility of bail, increase in security at hospitals and safe spaces for them to rest.

"If a lady is not safe at a workplace, at a hospital ... then I wonder which lady in this country is safe?" said Daisy Singh, a protesting doctor.

The government has asked the doctors to return to work and said it will set up a committee to look into their demands.

The rape and killing of the trainee doctor at Kolkata city's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital has also focused rage on the chronic issue of violence against women.

A police volunteer working at the hospital has been arrested and charged with the crime, but the family of the victim alleges it was a gang rape and more people were involved. Federal investigators were handling the case.

Thousands of people, particularly women, have marched in the streets of Kolkata demanding justice for the doctor. They say women in India continue to face rising violence despite tough laws that were implemented following the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in Delhi in 2012.

That attack had inspired lawmakers to order harsher penalties for such crimes and set up fast-track courts dedicated to rape cases. The government also introduced the death penalty for repeat offenders.

Despite tougher legislation, sexual violence against women has remained a widespread problem in India. In 2022, police recorded 31,516 reports of rape — a 20% jump from 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

Today in History: August 20, Soviets invade Czechoslovakia

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 20, the 233rd day of 2024. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 20, 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization movement.

Also on this date:

In 1858, Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was first published, in the "Journal of the Proceedings of

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the Linnean Society”.

In 1862, the New York Tribune published an open letter by editor Horace Greeley calling on President Abraham Lincoln to take more aggressive measures to free enslaved people and end the South’s rebellion.

In 1866, President Andrew Johnson declared the official end of the Civil War.

In 1882, Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture” had its premiere in Moscow.

In 1910, a series of wildfires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1920, the American Professional Football Conference was established by representatives of four professional football teams; two years later, with 18 teams, it would be renamed the National Football League.

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky was attacked in Coyoacan, Mexico by assassin Ramon Mercader. (Trotsky died the next day.)

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

In 1986, postal employee Patrick Henry Sherrill went on a deadly rampage at a post office in Edmond, Oklahoma, shooting 14 fellow workers to death before killing himself.

In 1989, 51 people died when the pleasure boat Marchioness sank in the River Thames (tehms) in London after being struck by a dredger.

In 2012, after 80 years in existence, Georgia’s Augusta National golf club (home to the Masters Tournament) invited former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and South Carolina financier Darla Moore to become its first female members; both accepted.

In 2023, Tropical Storm Hilary struck Baja California, killing three and causing \$15 million in damage.

Today’s Birthdays: Boxing promoter Don King is 93. Former U.S. Senator and diplomat George Mitchell is 91. Former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 89. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 78. Rock singer Robert Plant is 76. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 72. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 72. Actor-director Peter Horton is 71. TV weather presenter Al Roker is 70. Actor Joan Allen is 68. Movie director David O. Russell is 66. Rapper KRS-One (Boogie Down Productions) is 59. Actor Colin Cunningham is 57. Actor Billy Gardell is 55. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 54. Actor Ke Huy Quan is 53. Baseball Hall of Famer Todd Helton is 51. Actor Amy Adams is 50. Actor Misha Collins (TV: “Supernatural”) is 50. Actor Ben Barnes is 43. Actor Andrew Garfield is 41. Actor-singer Demi Lovato is 32.