

# Chicago Tribune



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MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Laike Glesne, 7, right, plays with pretend money in his playroom while his mom, Marissa Lichwick-Glesne, looks on at their Chicago home. Last year, they traveled 21 miles each way to a selective enrollment school after Chicago Public Schools reduced busing. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Johnson hoping for DNC boost

Mayor sought to burnish brand, progressive agenda in national spotlight

By Alice Yin and Molly Morrow  
Chicago Tribune

The morning after his “Welcome to Chicago” speech in front of a national audience at the Democratic National Convention, Mayor Brandon Johnson greeted a scene that could not have been more different from the towering stage and crush of TV cameras during his United Center spotlight.

Strolling into a gray-walled underground hotel room where the delegation of Mississippi Democrats had gathered for their Tuesday breakfast, the mayor hugged their chair, Cheikh Taylor, and murmured, “We are learning the muscle memory of our elders,” in a reference to him tapping into the strength of his ancestors, who hailed from the Southern state’s town of Sallis.

Johnson would reference his lineage throughout the DNC as he sought to establish his stake in the rich fabric of African American history that led to Vice President Kamala Harris becoming the first Black woman to be nominated for president by a major party.

“I couldn’t think of a better place for something of this magnitude to happen than Chicago,” Johnson said at the breakfast. “This country will be electrified once again out of the city of Chicago by way of Sallis, Mississippi, when we elect Vice President Kamala Harris.”

Now with the convention over, Johnson can hope Chicago’s smooth, successful turn as the host city will burnish his political

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## Trying to get to class

Some CPS parents take transportation into their own hands, as busing woes set to continue for 2024-25 school year

By Molly Morrow | Chicago Tribune

Every school day last year, Marissa Lichwick-Glesne and her son took a bus and two trains to make the 21-mile commute from their home in Norwood Park to Ted Lenart Regional Gifted Center in Chatham on the South Side.

Since busing was not provided for selective enrollment CPS students last year, the two-hour commute each way on public transit was the best option for Lichwick-Glesne, who has epilepsy and cannot drive her 7-year-old son Laike to school. Midway through the school year, a carpool relieved some of the stress.

But, a year later, Lichwick-Glesne’s family found themselves in the same position. Still not guaranteed busing for this school year, the family

was scared to repeat the same routine. After spending months on the waitlists of selective schools closer to home, Laike is switching to a new school this year, Beaubien Elementary School’s Regional Gifted Center in Jefferson Park, just a 12-minute CTA bus ride or 10-minute drive from home.

Despite a new plan from Chicago Public Schools promising to boost transportation services for qualifying students, students at selective enrollment and magnet schools will not be guaranteed busing again this year, leaving Lichwick-Glesne and throngs of other parents searching for transportation solutions to get their children to and from selective enrollment and magnet schools which draw

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**Heat warning:** As Chicago Public Schools students return to class, the National Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning from Monday afternoon to Tuesday evening. CPS said it has canceled outdoor activities and assured parents that all classrooms have air conditioning.

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**Summer vacation ends:** Students and their families made the most of their final weekend of vacation at various neighborhood gatherings and back-to-school bashes, many of which offered free school supplies and backpacks.

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## Israel, Hezbollah trade intense fire, then pause

High-level talks end with no set deal for hostages, cease-fire

By Josef Federman, Abby Sewell and Kareem Chehayeb  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah traded heavy fire early Sunday but backed off from sparking a widely feared all-out war as both sides signaled that their most intense exchange in months was over.

The cross-border attacks came as high-level talks went on in Egypt. But the talks in Cairo meant to bring about a cease-fire and hostage deal to at least temporarily end the 10-month Israel-Hamas war in Gaza ended Sunday without a final agreement, a U.S. official said, but talks will continue at lower levels in the coming days in an effort to bridge remaining gaps.

Hezbollah claimed to hit an Israeli military intelligence site near Tel Aviv in a barrage of hundreds of rockets and drones, and Israel claimed that its strikes had been preemptive to avert a larger attack. Neither offered evidence.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said the attack, a response to Israel’s killing of a top commander in Beirut last month, was delayed to give Gaza cease-fire talks a chance, and so fellow Iran-backed groups could discuss with Iran whether to attack Israel at once. Israeli and U.S. military deployment also played a role.

“We will now reserve the right to respond at a later time” if the results of Sunday’s attack aren’t sufficient, Nasrallah said, adding that allied Houthi rebels in Yemen — and in Iran — had yet to respond. But he told Lebanon: “At this current stage, the country can take a breath and relax.”

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Ben Derminer, of South Elgin, fishes in the Fox River below the dam at Panton Mill Park in South Elgin on Aug. 8. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Environmental groups, residents take sides on dam removal plans

Proposal meant to help Fox River; some worry about local impact

By Robert McCoppin  
Chicago Tribune

Paddling the length of the Fox River, Jenni Kempf was struck by the wildness of it. She marveled at scores of turtles, great blue herons and fish the size of her arm living freely in the morning mist.

“The river stays wild,” she said. “To be able to feel that, of being

wildlife myself, is hard to come by.”

On her 200-mile trip in 2022 to promote taking care of the river, Kempf was repeatedly forced to stop and carry her canoe around hazardous dams that halted the flow of water and wildlife.

To improve water quality and habitat by restoring the river of its natural state, while lowering the risk of flooding, the state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have recommended removing nine dams along the Fox River through the far western suburbs.

But residents who want to keep the river the way it is have pushed back against the Army Corps plan. Local officials have raised concerns about how it would affect drinking water, sewage treatment and recreation.

“It’s a terrible thing to be doing,” Geneva resident Steve Bertheau said.

So now the corps has agreed to further study the impacts of dam removal, including how it would affect water levels and

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### INSIDE

#### Pink wows crowd with high-flying celebration

Two days removed from an appearance at the Democratic National Convention, the pop singer blew into Soldier Field on Saturday with an explosive, inclusive and acrobatic stadium show. **Arts & Living**

#### White Sox reach 100 losses in fall to Tigers

The Sox became just the second team in the modern era of Major League Baseball history to lose 100 or more times over the first 131 games of a season after falling 9-4 on Sunday. **Chicago Sports**

