

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Tension amid unity



Gov. JB Pritzker visits the Democratic National Convention floor at the United Center in Chicago on Sunday. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

DNC opening in Chicago as party coalesces around Harris

By Rick Pearson and Jeremy Gerner
Chicago Tribune

The nation's Democratic leaders open their national party convention Monday with diverging themes as they receive a celebratory welcome to Chicago and offer a bitter-sweet farewell to President Joe Biden.

The call-to-order of the convention — the first in-person gathering of Democratic officials in eight years after the pandemic collapsed the 2020 event in Milwaukee — follows a series of dramatic events over the past two months that has culminated in Vice President Kamala Harris becoming the party's newly minted presidential nominee.

With delegates preparing to celebrate Harris' acceptance of her nomination as the nation's first Black and Asian American major party candidate, Biden is expected to take the stage on opening night for what figures to be a poignant sendoff as the party thanks him for his decades of service while swiftly moving ahead toward what has become a more energized and competitive Nov. 5 general election contest against former Republican President Donald Trump.

On Sunday, Gov. JB Pritzker told CNN's "State of the Union" that while there remains "an enormous amount of reverence for Joe Biden" among Democrats, the change at the top of the ticket has energized party officials and voters alike.

"There is a danger on the horizon here, and that is that Donald Trump might become president again, and it's a danger that a majority of Americans will reject, but they need to know that who they're voting for is somebody that they can be excited and electrified by," Pritzker said. "And I think they weren't feeling that about Joe Biden."

"Having said that, this is a man who's accomplished more in three and a half years than most presidents get done in eight. So we're going to see a celebration of him. We're also going to see how Kamala Harris has brought the party together," he said.

State Rep. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, who is also chair of the state Democratic Party, said she thinks Biden will one day be "viewed as one of the best presidents we ever had. So, it is like a farewell."

"He's been a man of just public service, but really

Turn to Convention, Page 4

New-fangled internet dazzled 1996 Chicago DNC

Today, experts debate benefits and dangers of online influence

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
Chicago Tribune

During the summer of 1996, Scott Albert Johnson was covering the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in a highly unconventional manner for the era on his website, Publius '96: A Virtual Walk Down the Campaign Trail.

The internet was just emerging as a political and media tool. The 26-year-old, who'd recently finished his journalism graduate degree at Columbia University, had no media credentials or steady funding. At night he often crashed on couches in the homes of friends.

Yet the site earned the acclaim of The New York Times, Wall Street Journal and other major media outlets, mainly for its novel approach to political coverage,

Turn to Internet, Page 6



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Protests begin in downtown Chicago

A crowd of hundreds called for abortion and LGBTQ+ rights Sunday downtown, getting a head start on a week of protests before the Democratic National Convention kickoff. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

PROTEST DISPUTE:

A coalition of pro-Palestine groups denounced the city's protest route and "unreasonable restrictions" ahead of the convention. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

A VOTE FOR SHOW:

It's been two weeks since Kamala Harris won the Democratic presidential nomination in an online vote. It will happen again in a ceremonial vote at the DNC. **Nation & World**

MOMENTUM:

Kamala Harris and running mate Tim Walz embarked on a bus tour Sunday in southwestern Pennsylvania, hoping to ride a wave of enthusiasm for her candidacy. **Nation & World**

Region sees drop in monarch butterfly numbers

Causes unclear, but loss of milkweed habitat an underlying problem

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

An expert has confirmed what backyard gardeners and amateur naturalists have been saying for weeks: There are fewer monarch butterflies in Illinois this summer.

At the national Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, which tracks the number of eggs the butterflies are laying, the counts are down, both in the Prairie State and the larger region, according to the project's founder and coordinator Karen Oberhauser.

"The numbers are low throughout the Upper Midwest," she said. Monarch butterflies, known for a jaw-dropping fall migration of up to 3,000 miles, have been in decline since the 1990s, due to factors such as loss of milkweed habitat.

The U.S. government has determined that the showy orange and black butterflies qualify for threatened or endangered species status, but has effectively waitlisted them.

Monarch Watch Director Kristen Baum said that reports of low summer monarch numbers in the Upper Midwest are "definitely concerning."

"Lots of people are reporting they haven't seen monarchs where

Turn to Monarchs, Page 4



A monarch butterfly drinks nectar in a pollinator garden near the Chicago Park District storehouse on Aug. 7. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

INSIDE

NAACP's 2026 convention to be held in Chicago

As the Democratic National Convention begins, Chicago is preparing for the return of another storied convention after decades in other cities. The NAACP will hold its 117th annual gathering in Chicago in July 2026. **Page 2**

'JACKPOT' A MIXED BAG:

The Prime Video movie manages a fair number of hit-and-run laughs amid a river of misses, and it has the stars it needs in Awkwafina and John Cena. **Arts & Living**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High **76** Low **61**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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