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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Chicago convention loses some of its luster

Democrats plan to virtually nominate Biden to meet Ohio ballot deadline

By Rick Pearson
Chicago Tribune

Less than three months before the Democratic National Convention comes to Chicago, the event is already losing a significant portion of its celebratory luster as national Democrats on Tuesday said they plan to virtually nominate President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris before the convention to comply with ballot access

laws in the crucial swing state of Ohio.

Jaime Harrison, chair of the Democratic National Committee, said Tuesday that state delegations will convene virtually before Ohio's Aug. 7 deadline for presidential candidates to be certified for that state's ballot.

The Ohio deadline is 12 days before the DNC is scheduled to open its doors on Aug. 19 at the United Center and McCormick

Place for its quadrennial convention, leading up to what was to have been the traditional roll call of the states and the celebratory renomination of the president.

Chicago convention organizers said Biden and Harris will still attend the event to "celebrate" and accept their nominations before thousands of delegates at the United Center who will be attending their first in-person political convention in eight years.

The new virtual nomination, a remote process used to nominate Biden during the COVID-19 attendance-restricted 2020 convention,

will be held after meetings of the DNC's rules and bylaws committee to implement the change. The committee's vote is scheduled for June 4.

The national Democrats' decision to move ahead with the pre-convention nomination came after Republican state lawmakers in Ohio repeatedly failed to shift the ballot access date, as has been done in the past for both parties. Republican Gov. Mike DeWine had called the Republican-dominated legislature into special session to address the issue, but Democrats said GOP state lawmakers have

impeded the process by trying to attach other measures that would make it more difficult to advance citizen-driven initiatives onto the state ballot.

Former President Donald Trump's ballot access in Ohio was not in jeopardy since his anticipated nomination is set for the July 15-18 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, well in advance of the Ohio ballot deadline.

"Joe Biden will be on the ballot in Ohio and all 50 states, and Ohio Republicans agree. But when the

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ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CLASSICAL DISTRACTION

Civic Orchestra of Chicago musician Lina Yamin, left, from Venezuela, speaks with a child after members of the orchestra performed in a shelter at the American Islamic College on Monday in Chicago. **Page 2**

Israeli strikes kill 37 more in Rafah

Secondary blast may have lit earlier blaze in area, military says

By Wafaa Shurafa
and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli shelling and airstrikes killed at least 37 people, most of them sheltering in tents, outside the southern Gaza city of Rafah overnight and Tuesday — pummeling the same area where strikes triggered a deadly fire days earlier in a camp for displaced Palestinians — according to witnesses, emergency workers and hospital officials.

The tent camp inferno has drawn widespread international outrage, including from some of Israel's closest allies, over the military's expanding offensive into Rafah. And in a sign of Israel's growing isolation, Ireland, Norway and Spain formally recognized a Palestinian state Tuesday.

The Israeli military suggested Sunday's blaze in the tent camp may have been caused by a secondary explosion, possibly from Palestinian combatants' weapons. The results of Israel's initial probe into the fire were

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Mary Beth McCarthy, center, holds a Cicadapalooza shirt sold by Trayce Zimmermann at her "cicada chic" apparel booth Saturday at the Randolph Street Market in Chicago. **VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Artists, entrepreneurs transform cicadas from 'ick' to in demand

'It's an experience, and it's an opportunity to join a community'

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

Cicadas seem to be everywhere these days.

They're crawling up from the ground and will soon be singing from the treetops all over Illinois as the life cycles of two broods coincide for the first time in more than two centuries. But they're also on stickers, wall art

and graphic novels, on witty Tees and Taylor Swift shirts, on sculptures and even dinner plates.

Going from bug to fad, cicadas have been embraced by artists and entrepreneurs showcasing products that celebrate this rare, shared event.

"It's more than just an item," said Nina Salem, founder of The Insect Asylum, an Avondale-based museum of zoology leading a citywide effort for amateur and expert artists to buy or sponsor over 1,000 giant plaster cicada sculptures to be decorated and placed around

Chicago. "It's an experience, and it's an opportunity to join a community."

Some entrepreneurs, including Salem, are longtime insect enthusiasts who love cicadas in their rough, natural beauty and want to share that love. Others, trying to overcome their own aversions, are making less realistic, more appealing merchandise.

"I took the Chicago flag and desecrated it with cute little happy cicadas," said Trayce

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O'Hare satellite designs unveiled

Questions remain about timeline, cost of concourse project

By Jake Sheridan
and Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

The sprawling expansion of O'Hare International Airport's terminals took a step forward Tuesday as Mayor Brandon Johnson shared new plans for the project's first satellite concourse.

The announcement shows growing momentum on the long-awaited rebuild, which calls for replacing Terminal 2 with a new Global Terminal and adding two satellite concourses. But many questions remain about the timeline, cost and design of the delayed expansion project.

"This is a once in a generation expansion, the modernization of O'Hare," Johnson said at a news conference. "Investing in our airports is an investment in all of our communities."

The satellite's designs include tall, rounded ceilings, garden rest spaces and tree-like support columns designed to make visitors feel like they are "moving through an orchard," a nod to the airport's original name, Orchard Field, said Ryan Culligan, design principal at architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

The project was designed with tones "inspired by midwestern landscapes" and is "beautiful, impactful and practical," he added.

Early work began on the satellite last year, Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner Jamie Rhee said. Design is around 30% done on both planned satellites, the new Global Terminal and the underground tunnels that connect them with the rest of the airport, she said.

Rhee declined to share estimates on when the

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Accepting pledge to not close schools

Illinois Senate President Don Harmon says he accepts Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's pledge to not close schools: "This is a business based on trust." **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Trump jury hears final arguments

Donald Trump engaged in "a conspiracy and a cover-up," a prosecutor tells jurors during closing arguments, while a defense lawyer brands the star witness as the "greatest liar of all time" **Nation & World**

