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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

ELECTION 2024



David Cortes watches as a plane lands over his hot dog stand next to the airport as he waits for customers Monday in Nashua, New Hampshire. Cortes is hoping to see a bump in customers as people head to the polls Tuesday. "Every little bit helps," he said. **DAVID GOLDMAN/AP**

Haley not giving in to Trump in NH

'America does not do coronations,' she says to voters

By Steve Peoples, Michelle L. Price and Holly Ramer
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — As the last major challenger in Donald Trump's way to the Republican nomination, Nikki Haley is hoping New Hampshire voters feel so strongly about keeping the former president away from the White House that they turn out to support her in large numbers.

"America does not do coronations," Haley said Monday at a VFW hall in Franklin, joined by her daughter and son-in-law. "Let's show all of the media class and the political class that we've got

a different plan in mind, and let's show the country what we can do."

It's an uphill battle for Trump's former U.N. ambassador and South Carolina governor. Most conservatives want to give Trump another chance at beating President Joe Biden despite Trump's 2020 election loss and the 91 felony charges he faces in four separate cases.

With voting about to begin in New Hampshire, almost every top Republican has lined up behind Trump. Polls in New Hampshire suggest he leads Haley in a state uniquely suited to her strengths, though his lead is narrower than the 30-point blowout he scored in the Iowa caucuses.

Haley told reporters Monday she expects a stronger outcome than Iowa.

"This is a building game for us. This has always been that," she said. "We feel very good about it."

Trump planned to hold his last rally before the election Monday night. He started the day in New York for his defamation trial after an earlier jury determined he had sexually abused a columnist in the 1990s, but the session was canceled due to a juror's illness.

Trump was being joined on stage Monday night by three of his former opponents who have now endorsed him:

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Former President Donald Trump leaves Trump Tower for federal court in New York for the second defamation trial against him on Monday. **CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/GETTY-AFP**



Republican presidential candidate former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley walks to the stage as she is introduced at a campaign event in Salem, New Hampshire, on Monday. **JOE RAEDLE/GETTY**

NASCAR sweetens deal by \$2 million

Additional payment comes as part of verbal commitment with city

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

When Mayor Brandon Johnson announced NASCAR would be returning to the streets of downtown Chicago this summer, he touted that he got a "better deal for the people in Chicago" by reducing setup and takedown time and securing extra money to "give us the ability to pay for some of the cost that occurs as a result" of the race.

Such a deal has not been codified between the city and NASCAR, according to an open records request received by the Tribune earlier this month. Rather, NASCAR and the city have so far only reached a verbal commitment in which NASCAR said it will chip in an extra \$2 million payment this year and next that the Johnson administration said it hopes will help the city turn a profit on the event.

The additional \$2 million is still short of the more than \$3.5 million in overtime and construction costs various city departments spent on the inaugural race last summer. Those costs included \$2.16 million from the city's Transportation Department on road improvements and extra pay, \$1.4 million in police OT and \$50,000 in OT for city emergency management workers.

For the 2023 race, NASCAR paid \$620,000 to the Chicago Park District, which included a base \$500,000 fee to transform the streets around Grant Park into a 2.2-mile racetrack and \$120,000 for the district's cut of ticket, food, beverage and merchandise sales. On top of it, NASCAR said it paid \$1.8 million in amusement taxes to the city and county for tickets sold.

While a study released by the

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Changes coming for riders of Metra

New fare structure, low-income program, bike policy are on tap

By Sarah Freishtat
Chicago Tribune

Metra riders are in for a slew of changes in February.

New fares will be taking effect, along with changes to the way riders can buy tickets. A program that cut fares on lines to the south and southwest suburbs will end, replaced with a new program for low-income riders. New policies will guide riders who want to bring bikes on trains.

The changes are coming as the commuter rail agency faces ridership that has continued to lag since the pandemic upended traditional commuting patterns. In November, before the end-of-the-year-holidays, the average number of weekday riders reached 57% of pre-pandemic levels. Like the region's other transit agencies, Metra faces a looming financial cliff when federal pandemic aid runs out, which the agency has projected will be in 2026.

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Gaza cease-fire resolution delayed

A vote on a Chicago City Council resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza will be postponed after aldermen petitioned for a delay. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Chicago tech CEO dies in accident

Sanjay Shah, CEO of suburban Chicago tech firm Vistex, died in a shocking fall during the company's 25th anniversary celebration. **Business**

Police hunt for armed suspect after 8 found dead in Joliet area since Sunday

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune
and Alexandra Kukulka
Daily Southtown

Law enforcement officials have launched a manhunt after eight people were found shot to death at three locations in the Joliet area since Sunday.

Authorities are searching for Romeo Nance, who they believe is driving a red Toyota Camry with Illinois license plate Q730412. Nance should be

considered armed and dangerous, police say.

According to Joliet police, Nance, 23, is 6-foot-2 and weighs 160 pounds. Anyone with information should call the Joliet Police Department or their local law enforcement agency.

One of the people killed was found Sunday in a home in Will County. Seven others were found Monday at two homes in the 2200 block of West Acres Road of Joliet.

"I've been a policeman 29

years and this is probably the worst crime scene I've ever been associated with," Joliet police Chief Williams Evans said during a news conference outside the homes Monday evening.

Dan Jungles, deputy chief with the Will County sheriff's office said at the news conference that authorities have been investigating since Sunday when a shooting occurred at a

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