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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Trump: Rules on abortion should be issue for states

Former president, GOP candidate declines to endorse national ban

By Jill Colvin and Meg Kinnard
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump said Monday he believes abortion limits should be left to the states,

outlining his position in a video in which he declined to endorse a national ban after months of mixed messages and speculation.

“Many people have asked me what my position is on abortion and abortion rights,” Trump said in the video posted on his Truth Social site.

“My view is now that we have abortion where everybody wanted it from a legal standpoint, the states

will determine by vote or legislation or perhaps both. And whatever they decide must be the law of the land — in this case, the law of the state.”

Trump, in the video, did not say when in pregnancy he believes abortion should be banned — declining to endorse a national cutoff that would have been used as a cudgel by Democrats ahead of the November election.

But his endorsement of the patchwork approach leaves him open to being attached to the strictest proposed state legislation, which President Joe Biden and his reelection campaign have already been working to do.

Anti-abortion activists expressed keen disappointment that Trump didn’t go further.

In the video, he again took credit for the U.S. Supreme Court’s deci-

sion to end Roe v. Wade, saying that he was “proudly the person responsible for the ending” of the constitutional right to an abortion and thanking the conservative justices who overturned it by name.

While Trump again articulated his support for three exceptions — in cases of rape, incest and when

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Tamara Crain, of Carterville, Ill., and her daughter, Ko-Ko Crain, 17, view the solar eclipse just before totality on Monday at Crab Orchard Lake in Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge near Carbondale in southern Illinois. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

CHASING SHADOWS

Solar eclipse thrills onlookers, lives up to its hype in Illinois

By Adriana Pérez, Avani Kalra and Kate Armanini
Chicago Tribune

CARBONDALE — A few beads of sunlight slipped past the rugged surface of the moon, and then southern Illinois plunged into darkness.

A collective, excited gasp rippled through the crowd as people stood agape with their heads tilted back.

A ring of blinding white light from the giant fireball delineated the moon’s shadow, and the horizon took on a yellow-orange glow just before the moon completely blocked the sun.

“That’s so, so cool,” said Lynn Harden,



The total solar eclipse as seen Monday from Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

who was lounging on one of two beach chairs she and her husband, Gary, brought from Mount Sterling, a small village in southwest Wisconsin. They were looking up from a grassy expanse overlooking a vast, tranquil lake in the 43,000-acre Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge near Carbondale.

To the sun and moon’s lower right, Venus, and to the top left, Jupiter, shared in a bit of the spotlight with rare daytime appearances. Viewers later noted that insects, which had been chirping all day by the lakeside, grew louder when the sky turned dark.

In just over four minutes, the main show was over, and with hoots and hollers, over a hundred onlookers offered a standing ovation for the last total solar eclipse the contiguous United States will see for the next two decades.

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In Chicago, Biden raises millions

President Joe Biden came to Chicago for a big-money Gold Coast fundraiser where he assailed former President Donald Trump for curbing abortion rights and said the “chaos” it has caused symbolized Trump’s presidency. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Zombie malls getting extreme makeovers

Conversions include housing in move to keep up with times

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

Denise Richardson took her kids to Spring Hill Mall so often that at Christmas time, the Santa Claus there recognized them by name. She remembers when department stores moved out of downtown Elgin to the mall when it opened in West Dundee in 1980, and it was the place to be.

But the mall closed last month, the victim of trends that have

been reshaping retail for years. Online shopping. The growth of so-called lifestyle centers in new growth corridors. The COVID pandemic and working from home.

Richardson, who was general manager of the mall, hates to see it go. But as a trustee for the village of Carpentersville, where part of the mall lies, she accepted its fate.

“I fought for this mall,” she said. “It’s a beautiful mall. But things happen for a reason.”

Stratford Square in west suburban Bloomingdale also is set to close this month. Like Spring Hill, it was a zombie mall,

lurching along with progressively fewer stores and customers, until it was an empty shell of itself.

In both cases, villages took the extraordinary step of buying the malls, with plans to bulldoze the sites and start anew. Those are the most extreme cases, but across Chicago’s suburbs, at centers such as Westfield Old Orchard, Northbrook Court, and Chicago Ridge, managers are trying to replace closed department stores and reinvent the retail experience.

Nationwide, the number of malls declined about 17% per year from 2017 to 2022 and many more are expected to close in

the next 10 years, according to a report by Capitol One bank.

“Malls are no longer seen as desirable places for retailers,” the analysis found, reporting that mall vacancies are three times higher than for general retail.

But managers believe they can save malls with makeovers that often involve adding entertainment and dining, with a new twist: making malls a place where people cannot just shop, but live.

Builders have built or plan to add hundreds of apartments at malls in Vernon Hills, Skokie and Aurora. The idea is that residents

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