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ELECTION 2024

Trump, Biden already focusing on November

Both parties building political operations around the two candidates

By Steve Peoples
The Associated Press

NEW YORK» Barely 400,000 votes have been cast in two rural Republican primaries over the span of eight days. But both Donald Trump and Joe Biden are behaving like their parties' nominees already.

Tuesday in independent-minded New Hampshire, where he was considered more vulnerable than perhaps anywhere else, was a rhetorical tipping point for both Democrats and Republicans.

"It is now clear that Donald Trump will be the Republican nominee. And my message to the country is the stakes could not be higher," President Joe Biden said

hours after Trump's victory Tuesday night.

Trump's team largely agreed, even as he raged about former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley's unwillingness to leave the race altogether.

"I say the general election begins tonight," said Trump-adversary-turned-advocate Vivek Ramaswamy, who was standing at the former president's side during his New Hampshire victory speech. "And this man will win it in a landslide."

The bluster is just a sliver of

what's to come over the next 10 months. Both parties are building out sprawling political operations backed by billions of dollars in advertising to shape the all-but-certain general election rematch between the current president and his predecessor.

It is a matchup that many voters and some elected officials did not want. Both Biden and Trump have loud detractors within their parties and glaring political liabilities. Yet no other Republican presidential candidate in history has won the first two contests on

the primary calendar, as Trump polished off Tuesday night, and failed to clinch his party's nomination. And Biden, who won New Hampshire's Democratic primary without even appearing on the ballot, is facing only token opposition in his bid for the Democratic nomination.

Hours before Biden's New Hampshire win was official, the president shifted two key aides from the White House to his Delaware-based campaign. On Wednesday, Biden is serving as

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HEADWEAR

A TIP OF THE HAT



PHOTOS BY CLIFF GRASSMICK — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Carter, president and co-founder of Wallaroo Hat Company, holds one of the hats from the Carkella line on Friday.

Wallaroo Hats in Boulder celebrates 25 years

By Olivia Doak
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Wallaroo Hats, a Boulder-based and woman-owned company, is celebrating 25 years of selling sun-protective headwear.

President and co-founder Stephanie Carter said the company's goal is to combine fashion and function with more than 300 styles of hats.

Wallaroo makes hats with a UPF 50+ rating, which means it uses fabrics that are tested and proven to block 97.5% of the

sun's harmful UV rays.

"Skin cancer is a real threat," Carter said. "It's the number one fastest growing cancer, so it is important, and I think we really want to support people with fashion and function and make sure they know they need to wear sunscreen, they need to wear skin protective clothing and they need to wear sunglasses and hats."

A big part of Wallaroo's mission is skin cancer prevention and education.

"I connected with the mission

WALLAROO » PAGE 2



Employee Anthony Castaneda organizes headwear at Wallaroo Hats.

COLORADO HOUSE

Embattled GOP leader steps down

Lynch's resignation a result of fallout after DUI arrest revealed

By Seth Klamann
sklamann@denverpost.com

State Rep. Mike Lynch, the embattled top Colorado House Republican and congressional candidate whose 2022 drunken driving arrest was revealed last week, said Wednesday he was stepping down as minority leader.

Lynch made his announcement from the House floor, shortly after sending an email to the 18 other members of the Republican caucus. He is not resigning from the House overall. His decision came one week after The Denver Post first reported on his arrest, which hadn't been known among most — if not all — of his GOP colleagues.

He narrowly survived a first no-confidence vote Monday and was facing a second one Thursday. But in his speech, Lynch said that efforts to oust him did not influence his decision.

"I wanted to be clear that I'm not stepping down because I won a close vote of no confidence. I'm not stepping down because a failed state party chair tried to influence the actions in this House," he said from the House floor, referring to Colorado GOP chair Dave Williams, a former legislator who was present at a Tuesday meeting during which Republican legislators criticized Lynch.

"I am stepping down because it is the right thing to do," Lynch said. "Because I've become a distraction for my caucus and that is getting in the way of the hard work."

Lynch was not immediately available for an interview. A third-term Wellington legislator, he has served as minority leader since November 2022, taking over after the death of then-Minority Leader Hugh McKean.

He is also running in a crowded primary for the 4th Congressional District, a race that includes U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert.

Considered a relative moderate in a caucus that's long been split along ideological fault lines, Lynch's position as the top Republican in the House has been on the brink of collapse for several days amid fallout from the news about his arrest.

On Jan. 17, The Denver Post reported that Lynch had been arrested for drunken driving and for a weapons charge in September 2022. During that altercation, he briefly reached for a handgun

LYNCH » PAGE 5

CU BOULDER

Survey explores marijuana and opioid usage rate

By Olivia Doak
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More than half of students at the University of Colorado Boulder report not using marijuana, and more than 90% have never used opioids, according to 2023 survey data.

The survey, called the National College Health Assessment, is administered by the American College Health As-

sociation. It was most recently taken by CU Boulder students in the spring of 2023.

Wellness leaders from multiple CU campuses, including CU Boulder, presented the survey data at a University of Colorado Board of Regents committee meeting on Tuesday.

"Being in a state with marijuana being legalized, I do think we have a lot of students that come in, as well as families, with assumptions that all of our stu-

dents are using marijuana," Jessica Doty, CU Boulder's associate vice chancellor for health and wellness, said. "You can see by the data that actually less than half of our students do that."

More than 90% of CU Boulder students report never having used opioids or a pill not prescribed to them. However, Doty said students are most at risk for coming into contact with fentanyl through those types of

pill. "I appreciate the numbers showing that this doesn't cover a large percentage of our student population, but when it goes bad, it goes very bad," Regent Callie Rennison said.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that's 50 to 100 times more potent than heroin or morphine. Doty said drug traffickers will often mix fentanyl into other drugs because it's cheaper to

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Good morning!

TO-DO LIST

Submit event listings and see more events at dailycamera.com/calendar

TODAY

Open Mic Benefit with Fredo Smiles: 5 p.m., Trident Café, 940 Pearl St., Boulder. Come for an evening of music and poetry for the benefit of JoysKitchen.org, a food bank in Lakewood feeding 5,000 families a month. Hosted by Fredo Smiles, a hip-hop and funk artist from Denver, all genres are welcome to perform. Free, trident-cafe.com.

David Phipps & Alana Rocklin at Etown: 10:30 a.m., Etown, 1535 Spruce St., Boulder. David Phipps and Alana Rocklin are core members of instrumental electronic rock group STS9. The concert will benefit Conscious Alliance. \$58, etown.org.

“Performing Self” exhibition opening: 6 p.m., Boulder Museum Of Contemporary Art, 1750 13th St., Boulder. “Performing Self” is a look into how seven multidisciplinary artists celebrate the mutability of self-identity through the embodiment of alter egos or personae. There will be a short drag performance by Louis Trujillo and comments from curator Jane Burke. Free-\$50, 303-443-2122, bmoa.org.

Jeff & J.C. at BOCO Cider: 6 p.m., BOCO Cider, 1501 Lee Hill Drive, Unit 14, Boulder. Jeff and JC have created a beautiful acoustic fusion that has proven to energize and woo a crowd all at once. Mixing experimental sounds with funky blues riffs (and a side of rock ‘n’ roll), they provide something unique for listeners. Free, 720-938-7285, bococider.com.

“On the Same Team” book signing: 6:30 p.m., Boulder Book Store, 1107 Pearl St., Boulder. Ari Gerzon-Kessler will speak about and sign his new book “On the Same Team: Bringing Educators

Pick of the day



Head to Trident Booksellers and Cafe, 940 Pearl St. in Boulder, to participate in open mic night.

and Underrepresented Families Together”. \$5, boulderbookstore.net.

UPCOMING

Shakedown Street’s 37 Year Anniversary: 7 p.m. Friday, Boulder Theater, 2032 14th St., Boulder.

For over 30 years, Shakedown Street has been performing the immense catalog of the Grateful Dead. The ever-shifting repertoire draws from homegrown idioms steeped in traditional Americana, folk, blues, jazz and rock ‘n’ roll, with a healthy dose of the avant-garde. \$12-\$20, z2ent.com.

The Navajo Night Sky: 7 p.m. Friday, Fiske Planetarium, 2414 Regent Drive, Boulder. Enjoy a special presentation by Ravis Henry, a member of the Diné/Navajo

Tribe, for an evening of storytelling and observations of the night sky. Henry will share Navajo winter stories of creation and the stars, along with the Navajo perspective of various constellations. \$8-\$12, 303-492-1411, calendar.colorado.edu.

Northwoods and Blue Mesa at Roots Music Project: 8 p.m. Friday, Roots Music Project, 4747 Pearl, Suite V3A, Boulder. Northwoods and Blue Mesa bring over 15 years of high-octane performances at iconic venues to the stage. \$10, eventbrite.com.

Emo Night Brooklyn: 8 p.m. Friday, The Fox Theatre, 1135 13th St., Boulder. Welcome to Emo Night Brooklyn, a late night DJ based dance party blasting the best emo and pop punk jams. \$15-

\$20, z2ent.com.

Back to Bach children’s music show: 2 p.m. Saturday, Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder. The Boulder region of the Back to Bach Project is excited to present a fun, interactive and engaging music presentation. Throughout this enriching learning experience, there will be games, tasty prizes and solo and chamber music performances geared toward pre-K through fifth graders. calendar.boulderlibrary.org.

Dry January Party: 6 p.m. Saturday, Boulder Wine Bar, 2035 Broadway, Boulder. Savor a selection of beverages, including kombuchas on tap and unique mocktails. Get artistic at the mini-painting station. Supplies will be provided. Free, 33-444-4146, boulderwinebar.com.

Strangebyrds at BOCO Cider: 6 p.m. Saturday, BOCO Cider, 1501 Lee Hill Drive, Unit 14, Boulder. Strangebyrds are an award winning singer-songwriter duo comprised of Cari Minor and Ray Smith, crafting songs with a unique Americana sound they call blue collar folk. Free, 720-938-7285, bococider.com.

Lionel Young Duo at The Velvet Elk Lounge: 8 p.m. Saturday, The Velvet Elk Lounge, 2037 13th St., Boulder. Lionel Young is a high energy performer with a bent for the blues. His Lionel Young Band, winners of numerous awards for best in and around the Colorado region, have won the 2011 International Blues Challenge (IBC) band competition. His show features Young originals and interpretations of blues classics by Willie Dixon, Leadbelly and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Free, 303-993-8743.

Survey

FROM PAGE 1

manufacture. The most common way students would come into contact with fentanyl is if they unknowingly use a pill or powder that contains it.

The university is working to prevent accidental overdoses among students through education and awareness. The more they increase education, the more fentanyl use is declining, Doty said.

“The intentional use of fentanyl is incredibly, incredibly rare,” Doty said. The university uses various communications to help students understand how they might accidentally come in contact with fentanyl. For example, showing students how real pills and fake pills can look very similar.

“Since just a few years ago, (education and resources) have really ramped up on campuses and I’m very pleased to see that,” Regent Lesley Smith said.

Doty said students aren’t afraid to talk about opioids and that many students carry Narcan, even if they don’t use so they’re prepared if some-

thing happens to a friend. Narcan is a medicine that can quickly treat an opioid overdose in an emergency.

“I am absolutely thrilled that we are carrying Narcan everywhere, I carry it in my purse because I’m around young people and the fentanyl issue is befuddling and terrifying to me,” Regent Wanda James said. “I’m glad to see that we’re doing work on both sides because information is key for young people.”

The 2023 spring NCHA survey had an 11.5% response rate and is completely anonymous. The ACHA administers it, so the university doesn’t know who takes it or what their responses are. Students in their first year through master’s and doctorate students are included.

The university needs a certain amount of responses per demographic group for the data to be reported. Doty said the results are “pretty close” to being representative of the whole student population.

“A high response rate is a great thing, but what’s more important is if those who responded were representative of the population,” Renni-

son said.

CU Boulder has various resources and support systems to help combat substance abuse on campus. In the past year, the university has given students \$93,000 worth of Narcan and fentanyl strips it’s received from the state.

Doty said there’s been a lot of success with peer educators having brief conversations with students as they’re walking around campus. All students complete a new student orientation when they choose to attend CU Boulder, and a big part of it is geared toward educating about substances.

CU Boulder has multiple channels where it sends out information to students, and it has a recovery community with housing for sober students. SoberBuffs, a student organization that celebrates sober living, hosts substance-free social events on campus.

“We are seeing great engagement from our students in this space,” Doty said. “They are engaging with us at tabling events, they’re engaging with peer educators on the sidewalks, they want to learn about it, they want to be a responsible bystander.”

Wallaroo

FROM PAGE 1

of Wallaroo because I’ve actually had melanoma, so it was kismet for me to join the team because the mission was very important to me,” Hillary Fine, director of marketing, said.

Carter was inspired to start Wallaroo Hats through visits to her husband’s family in Australia. Sun protective hats and clothing were everywhere there, and she couldn’t find a similar product in the United States.

“We sort of pioneered that movement in the United States which I think is really cool,” Carter said. “At the beginning, in 1999, nobody was doing sun protectant clothing.”

Wallaroo is also a B Corp Certified company, meaning it proved it has sustainable manufacturing practices and financial transparency.

“We’ve been working really hard to try to create more environmentally friendly and sustainable practices for the business,” Carter said. “I’m proud to have a company that’s got people that are motivated and determined to help meet better standards and take care of the planet.”

Wallaroo earned about \$100,000 in sales in its first year. Now, Carter said, the company does closer to \$15 to \$16 million in sales. Her goal is to continue steadily growing every year while also keeping it manageable.

“You recognize the impact around your town,” Carter said. “You see it on people’s heads, you see your hat, you see your product. But what is amazing in 25 years is that I can travel internationally and everywhere I go — Europe, Japan, anywhere we supply these hats — I see them on people’s heads.”

Page Zarecki, director of operations, said there

were only three employees when she started working at Wallaroo.

As the company prepares to celebrate its 25th anniversary in April, it now employs about 20 people.

“I remember making our first million along the way, that was a huge deal, and now we’re here for 25 years and still growing and getting our name out there,” Zarecki said, adding, “We’re really proud we’ve gone this far and grown this much.”

The company introduced its Carkella line in 2019, a series of hats that have a magnetic strip inside them with customizable magnetic emblems that can be attached. Wallaroo sells the hats to clubs, hotels, amusement parks and sporting events, including the PGA Tour and U.S. Open.

“It feels really good to be part of a company that provides a product that can protect people,” Chief Financial Officer Darby Moore said.

Election

FROM PAGE 1

the keynote speaker at a United Auto Workers political convention as he works to win over blue-collar workers in critical Midwestern swing states.

Trump heads to Phoenix on Friday to address Republicans in a swing state that Biden won by 10,000 votes in 2020.

As much as Trump’s team would like to shift its full focus toward Biden, one Republican rival is still standing. And at least for now, Haley is still consuming a significant amount of Trump’s attention.

The former president’s campaign unveiled a new anti-Haley website on Wednesday as Trump railed against her repeatedly on social media.

“Could somebody please explain to Nikki that she lost — and lost really badly,” Trump wrote on his social media network. “She also lost Iowa, BIG, last week. They were, as certain non-fake media say, CRUSHING DEFEATS.”

Haley’s team vowed on Wednesday to continue fighting Trump for the GOP nomination, even with the prospect looming of an embarrassing home-state primary defeat in South Carolina on Feb. 24.

Haley’s campaign launched a new \$4 million advertising campaign in South Carolina on Wednesday, describing the prospect of a Biden-Trump general election as “a rematch no one wants.”

“Biden — too old. Trump — too much chaos,” the narrator says. “There’s a better choice for a better America.”

Haley was to campaign in Charleston on Wednesday evening in what her campaign said was the beginning of her “first-in-the-South swing.” She began Wednesday by addressing Republicans via Zoom in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where caucuses on Feb. 8 will decide nine Republican delegates.

“Nikki Haley is the happy warrior,” Mark Harris, who leads the major pro-Haley super PAC, said Wednesday.

Harris said his organization would join the campaign in running millions of dollars in TV ads in South Carolina over the next month in addition to sending out mailers, knocking on doors and doing other outreach. As Trump seeks to

expand his coalition among elected officials, Harris said Haley’s team is more focused on the voters.

“It will not be politicians, it won’t be party insiders,” Harris said. “Voters get to make this decision. That’s the beauty of American democracy.”

Early next week, Haley is scheduled to do a fundraising tour that includes stops in New York, Florida, California, Texas and South Carolina. She’s expected to continue to draw continued donor support, despite Trump’s grip on the nomination, because significant forces within the GOP do not want him to represent their party on the general election ballot.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she was glad Haley is staying in the race, but she’s not willing to endorse her.

“I think the more people see her particularly since she appears to be the only alternative to Donald Trump right now, the more impressed that they will be,” Collins said.

General election concerns Trump’s critics openly fear that he would struggle to win in November and would drag down Republican candidates in other elections. Republicans have struggled in every national election since Trump first captured the White House in 2016.

Indeed, there were new warning signs about Trump’s broader political standing tucked within New Hampshire’s results that raised questions about his strength in the general election.

Haley beat Trump on Tuesday among Republican primary voters who identified as either moderates or independents, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of the electorate. She also beat Trump among voters with college degrees.

About half of the state’s Republican primary voters also said they are very or somewhat concerned that Trump is too extreme to win the general election. And about one-third believe that Trump broke the law — in his alleged attempt to interfere in the vote count in the 2020 presidential election, his role in what happened at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, or with the classified documents found at his Florida home after he left the White House.

Trump flew back to his Florida estate late Tuesday as he prepared for another series of court appearances.