

# OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

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MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

# Trump invokes Jan. 6 at Waco rally

JILL COLVIN AND MICHELLE L. PRICE  
Associated Press

WACO, Texas — A defiant and incendiary Donald Trump, facing a potential indictment, held the first rally of his 2024 presidential campaign Saturday in Waco, Texas, a city made famous by deadly resistance against law enforcement.

In an extraordinary display, he opened his rally by playing a song,

“Justice for All,” that features a choir of men imprisoned for their role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol singing the national anthem and a recording of Trump reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Some footage from the insurrection was shown on screens.

Trump, in a speech brimming with resentments, defended the insurrectionists and berated

prosecutors overseeing multiple investigations of the Republican former president, which he framed as political attacks on him and his followers.

“You will be vindicated and proud,” Trump said. “The thugs and criminals who are corrupting our justice system will be defeated, discredited and totally disgraced.”

Trump’s rally Saturday at the

airport grounds in Waco came after Trump berated prosecutors, encouraged protests and raised the prospect of violence should he become the first former president in U.S. history to face criminal charges.

Some of his recent rhetoric, including at the rally, echoed language he used before the Capitol insurrection by a mob of his sup-

porters seeking to stop the transfer of power to Democrat Joe Biden, who won the 2020 presidential election.

Trump declared Saturday his “enemies are desperate to stop us,” and “our opponents have done everything they can to crush our spirit and to break our will.”

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## SCENE FROM THE WEEKEND

Fans reach for a T-shirt tossed into the crowd between the sixth and seventh innings during the Auburn baseball game against Georgia on Saturday at Plainsman Park. **VIEW:** For more photos from the Auburn baseball series with Georgia, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. [NEWSVU](#)

# Ukraine demands emergency UN meeting

KARL RITTER  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine’s government on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to “counter the Kremlin’s nuclear blackmail” after Russian Pres-

ident Vladimir Putin revealed plans to station tactical atomic weapons in Belarus.

One Ukrainian official said Russia “took Belarus as a nuclear hostage.”

Further heightening tensions, an explosion deep inside Russia

wounded three people Sunday. Russian authorities blamed a Ukrainian drone for the blast, which damaged residential buildings in a town just 110 miles south of Moscow.

Russia has said the plan to station tactical nuclear weapons

in Belarus comes in response to the West’s increasing military support for Ukraine. Putin announced the plan in a TV interview that aired Saturday, saying it was triggered by a U.K. decision

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# Republican bills push cash bail

HARM VENHUIZEN  
Associated Press/Report for America

MADISON, Wis. — Just two days before he drove his SUV through a Christmas parade in suburban Milwaukee, killing six people and injuring more than 60, Darrell Brooks Jr. posted bail for charges of domestic violence.

He had been accused of using his SUV to run over the mother of his child, and a pretrial assessment found Brooks was at high risk of reoffending. But a court official set that bail at a mere \$1,000 cash at the request of prosecutors, who later called their recommendation a mistake. For the parade killings, Brooks was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Brooks quickly became the poster child for a Republican-backed push to enact tougher bail policies. The Republican-controlled Wisconsin Legislature is asking voters to ratify a constitutional amendment that would make it harder for violent criminals to get out of jail on bail.

GOP lawmakers in other states also are scrambling to make it harder for defendants to get out of jail before trial after branding themselves as tough on crime in the 2022 midterm elections. Their efforts led to a fierce fight with Democrats over public safety and the rights of criminal defendants.

Recent Democratic overhaul measures in states such as Illinois and New York have sought to eliminate cash bail and lessen pretrial detention on the premise they do more harm than good, especially to marginalized groups.

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# Work in Machining

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