**The Monroe News**

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"The American people are tired of hearing about the problems. They want solutions. And they want them now."

**By Richard Witter**

President Barack Obama was sure to have the audience’s attention last week when he addressed the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

The crowds were huge and the political atmosphere was electric as the president took the stage at the Time Warner Cable Arena.

"The American people are tired of hearing about the problems. They want solutions. And they want them now," Obama said. "What this campaign is about is the choice before us.

'The choice between exclusive and inclusive; between concentrations of power and those who are empowered to act; the choice between those who think that the government and our government is there to serve the people of America and those who think the government and its power is there to serve the special interests of the very wealthy.

"The choice is whether we continue emptying our pockets to pay for a broken health care system or whether we’re going to invest in a health care system that doesn’t just save you money, it’s going to create millions of jobs and provide health care for all Americans.

"The choice is whether we’re going to let one insurance company hold the power over your life or whether we’re going to create a health care system that rewards prevention instead of punishment.

"The choice is whether we’re going to be a nation that predator hunts abroad and preys on the middle class at home or one that believes that we can create an economy that has good jobs and a middle class and a strong manufacturing sector.

"The choice is whether we’re going to stick with the ‘For Sale’ sign that’s in the window of our economy or whether we’re going to invest in our country again with real money for real solutions.

"The choice is whether we’re going to risk the American Dream for another American failure or whether we’re going to keep America’s promise for every American family, for every American child.

"The choice is whether we’re going to be a country where kids grow up healthy and educated, and their parents have a shot at a good job, or whether we’re going to let our children inherit a country that no longer has a future.

"The choice is whether we’re going to have an economy that works for the middle class, or one that just works for the wealthy and the well-connected.

"And the choice is whether we’re going to fight for the American people or whether we’re going to let the American people fight for us.

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One of the highlights of the night was the appearance of "The Boss," Bruce Springsteen, who sang during the president's acceptance speech.

"We can’t change history. We can’t stop events. But we can make them mean something. And tonight we’re making them mean something for those who worked so hard and paid such a high price that the American Dream can happen for all of us."

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