

LIFE+TRAVEL

‘REMIXING THE NARRATIVE’

Jurema Gorham founded the new Burst Into Books Community Arts Space and a South Side literary festival to promote reading and allow youths to see themselves reflected in literature.



EILEEN T. MESLAR/  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A+E

When is a band still a band?

Styx has few original members. Lynyrd Skynyrd has none. Should acts that are a shell of their old selves perform under famous names?

Trump rally photo: What’s present, and absent, in that hugely influential image, the Tribune’s Michael Phillips writes.

Johnson buoyed by union support

Over a year in office, fundraising sources still largely labor groups

By Alice Yin and A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

Since his election as mayor of Chicago in April last year, Brandon Johnson has raised \$2.6 million, nearly half of which has come from a variety of labor organizations — some of them key backers from his election campaign, others that came around afterward.

The progressive first-term mayor’s continued reliance on union support is no surprise after his campaign was mostly bankrolled by major labor groups, such as the Chicago Teachers Union and the Service Employees International Union — two organizations whose leaders retain close access to the mayor, per his public schedules and text records.

But an analysis of his political campaign’s receipts show increasing variety among his labor backers and an overall broadening of his political fundraising sources, including a large check from a Grammy-winning rapper with ties to Chicago.

Of the \$2.6 million in political contributions Johnson has pulled in since being elected mayor, \$1.2 million came from unions, according to quarterly filings due last week. He had about \$2 million on hand at the end of last month, compared with \$576,000 just before winning the April 4, 2023, runoff.

Johnson, who beat opponent Paul Vallas despite being outspent nearly 2-to-1, also raised more funds since he took office than his predecessors did in about the same time period.

Former Mayor Lori Lightfoot raised about \$2 million between winning the 2019 runoff election and a little more than a year after she was inaugurated. And Rahm Emanuel raised just \$360,000 in the year-plus after his 2011 victory, though he had a whopping \$2.7

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ELECTION 2024



People applaud as Peter Barca, left, running for a seat in Wisconsin’s 1st Congressional District, is introduced during a Democratic Party of Racine County monthly membership meeting Thursday in Racine. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Democrats fight to retain the ‘Blue Wall’

Party puts importance in Midwest states in bid to keep White House

By Dan Petrella  
Chicago Tribune

RACINE, Wis. — Just hours before former President Donald Trump accepted his party’s nomination Thursday for a third straight presidential election in front of thousands of Republicans on the final night of their national convention at Milwaukee’s Fiserv Forum, about two dozen Democrats convened in their storefront office in this city about 25 miles south.

Feeling more like a PTA meeting than a political strategy session, the Democratic Party of Racine County’s monthly gathering wrapped up quicker than Trump’s record-length speech. Chair Kelly Gallaher ran through the nuts and bolts of a local party operation, congratulating volunteers for knocking on nearly 1,000 doors the previous weekend and announcing the opening of a field office in the city of Burlington to reach more voters on the county’s Republican-leaning west side.

Elected to lead the local party

INSIDE: Leaving Milwaukee, Illinois RNC delegates say Trump’s economic message should sway voters. **Chicagoland, Page 11**

last year, Gallaher, who’s originally from Chicago’s Edgewater neighborhood, is clear-eyed about Democrats’ chances in this narrowly divided part of narrowly divided Wisconsin.

“It would be amazing to swing back to a blue county,” Gallaher said in an interview earlier this month, noting Racine County

flipped to Trump in the past two presidential elections after supporting Democrat Barack Obama in the previous two. “I’m not counting on that happening. But I would like to narrow that gap. And if we narrow that gap, we know that we’re actually doing the work that is helping the overall vote in the state. ... We take it really seriously because we have the votes here. We’ve just got to turn them out.”

Republicans have departed

Turn to Democrats, Page 4

# Chicago Olympians see Paris as second chance

Olympic triple jumper Tori Franklin is pictured with some of her medals and memorabilia at her mother’s home in the Ashburn neighborhood. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

After COVID-plagued Tokyo Games, they’re eager for traditions, fun

By Stacy St. Clair  
Chicago Tribune

Olympic triple jumper Tori Franklin hopes to ride a barge down the Seine River during the opening ceremony and venture outside the athletes village to watch a fencing competition.

Rhythmic gymnast Evita Grisenas is excited to share a meal with athletes from other sports without plexiglass separating them.

BMX racer Felicia Stancil looks forward to competing on a familiar track as she vies for the Olympic medal she so narrowly missed three years ago.

Sailor Maggie Shea intends to explore the host city and soak up the atmosphere of what she says could be her last Summer Games.

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INSIDE



TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rookie QB to keep it simple at first camp

What is on quarterback Caleb Williams’ checklist for his first Bears training camp? Maximize his ability. And lean on all the talent around him. **Chicago Sports**

Woodlawn rallies for family facing eviction

Neighbors, activists and community members gather to support family facing foreclosure and eviction from home that has been in family since 1950. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

TODAY’S WEATHER  High 83 Low 65 | Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16 | \$5.75 city and suburbs and elsewhere 177th year No. 203 © Chicago Tribune

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