

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Groups exchange barbs before convention

Warnings of possible violence draw claims of baseless fearmongering

By Megan Crepeau and A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

Less than two weeks before protesters are expected to march on the Democratic National Convention, pro-Israel advocates gathered in Chicago to warn that demonstrations could lead to violence and “anti-American”

acts, an allegation one pro-Palestine group characterized as baseless fearmongering as the event approaches.

The Israel’s ongoing invasion of Gaza, triggered by Hamas’ Oct. 7 terror attack, has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and led to widespread destruction and starvation in Gaza, accusations of detainee abuse and ongoing fears of a wider war in the Middle East. Protesters around the country have heavily criticized the Biden administration’s response to the conflict and Democratic politi-

cians’ support of Israel, including during a wave of unrest at college campuses across the country.

Protests have persisted nationally and here in Chicago, said David Goldenberg of the Anti-Defamation League, citing demonstrations in Washington, D.C., at which flags were burned and landmarks defaced. Their fear, speakers said at a Thursday news conference at the Jewish United Fund, is that outside protesters would escalate an already tense convention

Turn to Protests, Page 2



David Goldenberg of the Anti-Defamation League answers questions Thursday during a news conference at the Jewish United Fund. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Aerial maneuvers

Pilot Robert Johnson, foreground, with the Trojan Phlyers Flight Demonstration Team, flies the wing position in a North American T-28 Trojan as Chip Lamb flies the lead position in a similar aircraft in the airspace above Gary on Thursday ahead of the Chicago Air and Water Show. The two-day event takes place 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday along the Chicago lakefront. Another rehearsal is scheduled for Friday.

Swifties make most of canceled concert

Beauty of Vienna helps ease sisters’ disappointment

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

Belem Werderich’s family wanted to celebrate her 50th birthday in a big way.

They bounced around ideas, like throwing a party or planning a family vacation. But for the longtime Taylor Swift fan and elementary school teacher, there was one special trip — or concert — that would top the list.

Werderich’s sister, Lulu Laughlin, managed to find two coveted tickets to the Eras Tour in Vienna for Friday night, after missing out on the Chicago dates last summer. But, because the concert was canceled due to threats of a terrorist attack, the duo won’t get to see their favorite singer perform after all.

“I’m a crier, so I did cry a bit,” Werderich, a Yorkville resident, told the Tribune from Austria. “Nowhere in my wildest dreams did I think this would happen, and I thought this just isn’t for me, it’s not in the cards for me.”

Turn to Sisters, Page 4



Evita Griskenas competes on the ribbon in the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around on Thursday at La Chapelle Arena during the Paris Olympics. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

‘An answered prayer’

Orland Park’s Griskenas commuted between Chicago and New York for three years to reach the Olympics

By Stacy St. Clair | Chicago Tribune

PARIS — As U.S. rhythmic gymnast Evita Griskenas finished her final routine at the 2024 Olympics on Thursday, her emotions rushed to the surface.

The gratitude. The relief. The pride. The exhaustion.

It has been a difficult journey for the 23-year-old Orland Park resident, the only American competing in rhythmic gymnastics at these Games. In the past year alone, she has nursed a

broken foot, earned an Ivy League degree and become a two-time Olympian.

“It means I’m living in an answered prayer,” Griskenas said through tears after the competition. “Many answered prayers.”

Griskenas finished 18th in the individual all-around qualifying round and did not make the cut for Friday’s final. Her results, however, don’t reflect the arduous route — or, more accurately, flight path — she took to get here.

Turn to Griskenas, Page 8

ELECTION 2024

ABC: Trump, Harris agree to debate

Ex-president makes his first appearance since Walz selection

By Jill Colvin, Michelle L. Price and Adriana Gomez Licon
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Donald Trump recommitted to debating Vice President Kamala Harris after recently backing out, holding a lengthy news conference Thursday in which he taunted his new rival, boasted of his crowd on Jan. 6, 2021, and lashed out at questions about the enthusiasm her campaign has been generating.

As the Republican presidential nominee addressed reporters at his Mar-a-Lago estate, ABC announced that Trump and Harris, the Democratic nominee, have agreed to a Sept. 10 debate, setting up a widely anticipated face-off in an already unparalleled election.

Trump said he had proposed three debates with three television networks in September.

Trump again insisted there had been a “peaceful transfer” of power in 2021 and

Turn to Trump, Page 4

Lightfoot to join CBS 2 Chicago as TV analyst at DNC

Former Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a key architect in promoting and bringing the Democratic National Convention back to Chicago, has been hired by CBS 2 to provide analysis of the four-day event, where Kamala Harris is expected to formally accept her nomination as the Democratic presidential nominee. Chicagoland, Page 3

Chicago closer to city-owned grocery

Nearly a year after Mayor Brandon Johnson’s administration floated the possibility of opening a municipally owned grocery store, a study created for the city describes a municipal grocery model as “necessary, feasible and implementable.” Business

White Sox fire Grifol as manager

Real change for the White Sox can’t happen until there’s a real change at the top, writes Paul Sullivan. Chicago Sports

