

# Chicago Tribune



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## THE REV. JESSE JACKSON 1941-2026



# One last goodbye

Service the culmination of nine days of funerals, celebrations for civil rights icon

By **Darcel Rockett and Andrew Carter**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

They sent the Rev. Jesse Jackson home Saturday the only way it could have been done: with Gospel music, testimony that often brought people to their feet and story after story about a man who rose from humble beginnings to become one of America's most influential Civil Rights leaders.

The final service in Jackson's honor, in a packed chapel at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, proved befitting of a human rights advocate who came to be known, simply, as the "country preacher." Jackson earned that nickname in the years after leaving the



Chicago Theological Seminary, while he marched from Selma to Montgomery and through streets in Chicago and far beyond.

Like any good country preacher, Jackson could move people to tears and move them to act. Speakers and performers at his funeral Saturday — a group that included his children, singer Stevie Wonder and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa — came to do both.

At times, it had the feel of a Sunday morning service at a Baptist church, the kind Jackson might have attended growing up in Greenville, S.C., in a country that did not welcome people who looked like him.

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**Top:** Jackie Jackson, Ashley Jackson, Santita Jackson, and Yusef Jackson stand behind Jesse Jackson Jr. as he cries during his speech during a funeral service for their father, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, at Rainbow PUSH Coalition headquarters in Chicago on Saturday. **JOSH BOLAND/TRIBUNE** | **Above:** The Rev. Jesse Jackson in 2021. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE**

## ELECTION 2026 GOP GOVERNOR PRIMARY

# 4 running, 1 familiar face, 0 big donors

All pledge allegiance to Trump, though none have his endorsement

By **Rick Pearson**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Four years ago, the six-way Republican primary for governor was impossible to miss. More than \$100 million was spent largely on TV ads, including \$35 million from Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker, who not-so-subtly steered GOP voters toward the candidate he deemed easiest to defeat that fall: Darren Bailey.

A downstate farmer and former state lawmaker who leaned heavily on his evangelical Christian faith, Bailey won that primary — then lost to Pritzker in November by nearly 13 percentage points. Now, he's back, seeking a general election rematch in a GOP primary field of four.

Almost nothing else from 2022 has returned with him.

Gone are the multimillion-dollar budgets, such as the \$50 million Citadel founder Ken Griffin poured into the campaign of then-Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin, who finished third in the primary and then lost reelection for his municipal office a year later. Shortly before Irvin's collapse at the ballot box, Griffin announced he and Citadel were packing up and leaving Illinois for Florida.

Gone, too, is the \$18 million ultra-conservative megadonor Richard Uihlein, founder of the Uline office supply business, directed toward Bailey's effort and into an allied political action committee that opposed Irvin in the primary. This cycle, Uihlein has contributed a comparatively modest \$250,000 to one of Bailey's rivals, Ted Dabrowski, a right-wing policy analyst.

And Pritzker, seeking a third

See **ELECTION** on Page A4

## New limits on PFAS in water costly for towns

Residents may be on the hook for removal of forever chemicals

By **Christiana Freitag**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Sitting on the Mississippi River flood plains, Collinsville is among a handful of Illinois communities that draw drinking water from the American Bottoms aquifer.

The Metro East town of 30,000 is also one of 21 communities, covering 47 water systems, that contain levels of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances or PFAS that exceed state and federal standards, according to a state-wide investigation by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. From small towns along



Michael Crawford, the Collinsville water plant's chief operator, inspects a clarifier tank at the facility on Feb. 11. The Metro East town is one where contains levels of PFAS that exceed state and federal standards. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

the Mississippi to suburban cities like Crest Hill, the drinking water of more than 400,000 Illinoisans is at risk of contamination.

"Our aquifer is at the mercy of the Mississippi River," said Michael Crawford, chief operator of Collinsville's water department. "So anybody dumping anything into that river all the way up to Minnesota could just

start happening at any time, and then suddenly PFAS is coming down the river that recharges our aquifer."

PFAS, known as forever chemicals, can take years to leave the human body and cause serious health issues, including cancers and other diseases.

See **PFAS** on Page A10

## New strikes light up night sky in Tehran

Conflict has rattled global markets, left leadership weakened

By **Jon Gambrell, Sam Mednick and Samy Magdy**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The Iran war exploded further late Saturday as pillars of flame rose above an oil storage facility in Tehran and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised "many surprises" for the next phase of the week-old conflict.

Iranian state media confirmed the strike. Israel's military

confirmed a new wave of strikes that shook neighborhoods in Tehran's east and south but did not immediately comment on targets.

It appeared to be the first time a civil industrial facility has been targeted in the war.

Earlier, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian apologized for attacks on "neighboring countries," even as its missiles and drones flew toward Gulf Arab states and hard-liners asserted that Tehran's war strategy wouldn't budge.

A rift between more pragmatic politicians looking to de-escalate the week-old war and others

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## Northwestern's winning way

**N** What has led to the university's success in women's sports, according to three national champion coaches. **Sports**

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