

Chicago Tribune

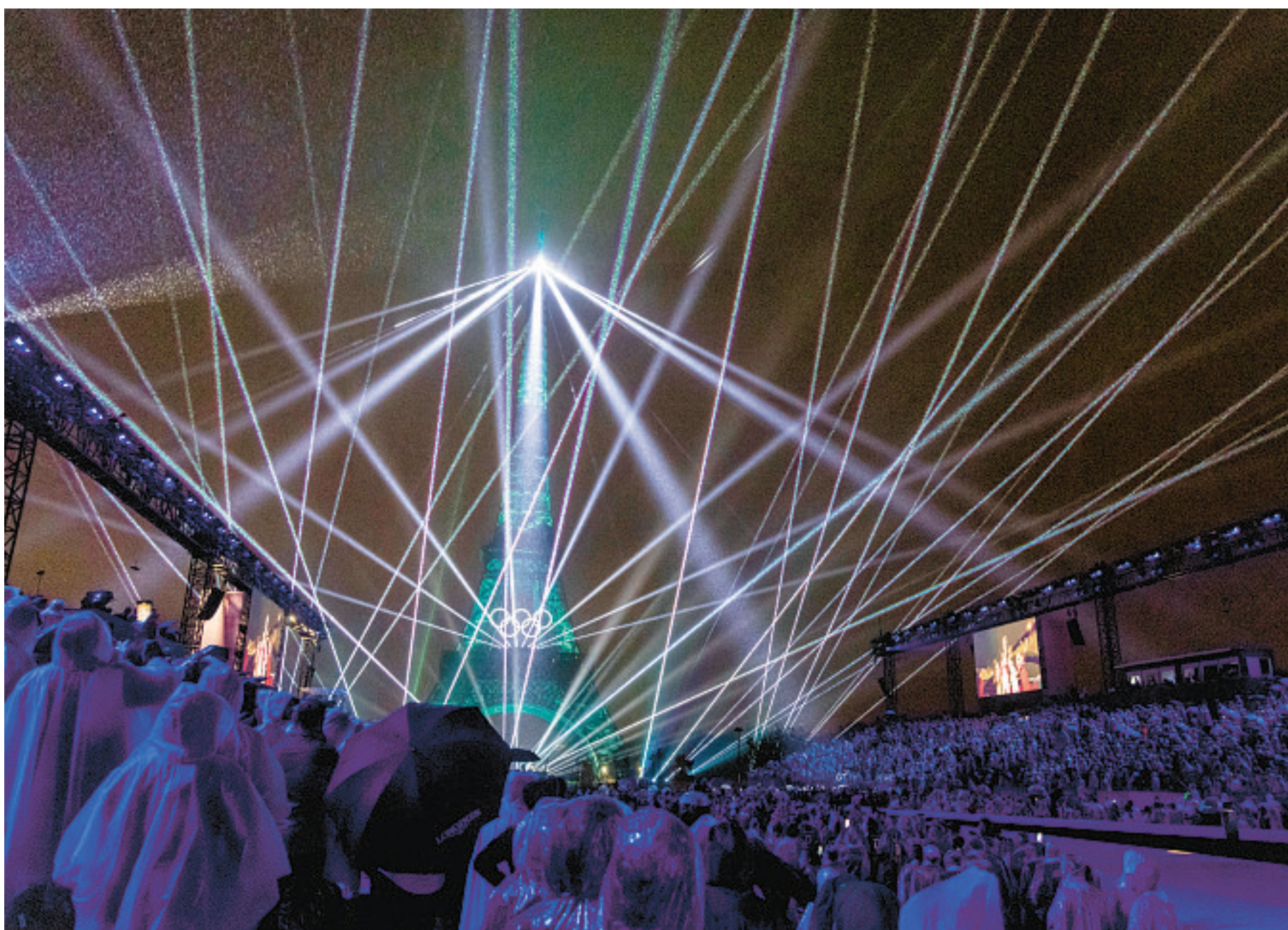


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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

"We have been bold, doing things that have never been done before, like having this opening ceremony in the city, for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games. Like every host country our ambition has been to help the Games grow stronger. And in the end, it is the Games that have helped us to grow." — Paris 2024 President Tony Estanguet



A laser show lights the Eiffel Tower as rain falls during the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics on Friday. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Seine spectacular

Arsonists attack French rail system ahead of ceremony

By Thomas Adamson and Jeffrey Schaeffer
Associated Press

PARIS — Arsonists attacked France's high-speed rail network early Friday, setting fires that paralyzed train travel to Paris for some 800,000 people across Europe, including athletes heading to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Targeting remote locations far from the capital, the apparently coordinated attacks sought to cut off rail routes into the city from all directions. The fires were predominantly set in pipes containing critical signaling cables for the system known as the TGV. There were no reports of injuries. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said the damage did

Turn to Attack, Page 6



A traveler waits inside the Gare du Nord train station in Paris on Friday following an arson attack that disrupted travel across Europe. **MARK BAKER/AP**

Event pushes limits, sets bar for future Olympic Games

By Stacy St. Clair
Chicago Tribune

PARIS — The 2024 Summer Games began Friday night, with a groundbreaking opening ceremony that sent athletes sailing down the Seine River so an entire city could welcome them.

Marking the first time in modern Olympic history that the parade of nations took place outside a stadium, an estimated 320,000 people lined the riverbanks to see the barges carrying the athletes float past. Even more watched from rooftops and apartment balconies, turning the city into the world's biggest outdoor theater.

Striking a balance between breathtaking and bawdy, the ceremony broke rules,

Turn to Ceremony, Page 2

49%

MOST INCLUSIVE OLYMPICS YET: Female athletes represent 49% of all competitors at these Games. Though it fell just short of the International Olympic Committee's goal of full gender parity, it's the closest any Games, winter or summer, has come. IOC President Thomas Bach decided to declare it a total victory anyway. "You are bringing our Olympic Agenda reforms to life by making these Games wide open," Bach said in his remarks.

A dance party for ladies who wind down before midnight

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

As dozens of women crowd the dance floor at Color Club in Irving Park, many wearing fancy dresses and surrounded by disco lights, the DJ starts playing "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls.

Cheers go up during the lyric, "Make it last forever," before the room belts, "Friendship never ends!"

In fact, enjoying a fun night with friends — at a reasonable hour — is what brought many to the Earlybirds Club's latest event this month, themed as a throwback to 1990s prom. Friends Susie Lee and Laura Baginski created the club for

middle-aged women and nonbinary folks who want to let loose, but no later than 10 p.m.

Fittingly, it's billed as "a dance party for ladies who got s— to do in the morning," a popular refrain among other groups geared toward women popping up in Chicago and around the world. After last year's summer of girl power, fueled by the trifecta of "Barbie," Beyoncé and Taylor Swift, women are seeking out spaces that embrace their femininity, from ladies-only gyms to bars featuring only women's sports and dance parties at nightclubs.

"It's just like this woman energy," Lee, 48, of Logan Square, said.

Turn to Dance, Page 4

INSIDE Netanyahu mends rift with Trump

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu worked to mend ties with presidential candidate Donald Trump on Friday and offered measured optimism about progress toward a cease-fire deal for Gaza, nearing the end of a contentious U.S. visit that put on display the growing American divisions over support for the Israel-Hamas war. **Page 8**

COVID-19 cases back on upswing in Chicago

Another summer surge, but few hospitalizations

By Lisa Schencker
Chicago Tribune

If it seems like you suddenly know a lot of people with COVID-19 this summer, it's not just you.

COVID-19 is again on the rise in the Chicago area and across the country — the fourth consecutive summer the nation has experienced an upswing.

"It hasn't gone away," said Dr. Robert Murphy, executive director of the Havey Institute for Global Health and a professor of

medicine in infectious diseases at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "We are personally seeing a large jump in the number of cases, and the number of prescriptions we're calling in for Paxlovid, the treatment that's available."

COVID-19 test positivity was up to 9.8% in Chicago for the week that ended July 13, compared with 2.5% for the week that ended June 1, according to the Chicago Department of Public Health. And over the past three weeks, COVID-19 viral levels in wastewater have been increasing at eight of 11

Turn to COVID-19, Page 4

TODAY'S WEATHER



High **88** Low **69**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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