

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

PARIS OLYMPICS



Athletes rush the stage as the band Phoenix performs during the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

OLYMPIANS BID ADIEU TO PARIS GAMES

Team USA finishes on top with 126 medals, many won by Illinois athletes

By Stacy St. Clair
Chicago Tribune

PARIS — The 2024 Olympic Games came to a close Sunday, ending more than a fortnight of memorable performances and stunning accomplishments.

And that was true even before Snoop Dogg — who'd seemingly become the world's favorite American since the cauldron was lit — appeared via satellite as part of the handoff ceremony with the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

But Snoop, a rapper and NBC roving correspondent who appeared in more athlete selfies here than the Olympic rings, wasn't America's only contribution to these Games.

The United States finished atop the medal table, winning 40 gold medals and 126 medals overall. China won 40 gold medals as well, but claimed far fewer silver or bronze spots.

Paris marked Team USA's greatest medal haul in a nonboycotted Games, besting the previous high



The Olympic rings are raised during the closing ceremony Sunday at the Stade de France.

■ Chicago wrestler Kennedy Blades wins a silver medal to finish a remarkable Olympic debut. **Chicago Sports**

Turn to Olympics, Page 3

After a failure, workers in limbo

When companies file for bankruptcy, employees left with unpaid wage claims

By Talia Soglin
Chicago Tribune

Irene Luna, a former pastry cook at The Signature Room, had worked at the restaurant near the top of the former John Hancock Center for nearly 30 years.

She was out of a job, along with the rest of her coworkers, when the restaurant shuttered abruptly last fall. Luna was preparing to head to work that September morning, she said, when she received an email stating The Signature Room was closing down.

"It's not professional," Luna said, "(to) close to like that."

After Luna and her coworkers were suddenly laid off, her union, Unite Here Local 1, filed a lawsuit alleging violations of the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act. The law, also known as the WARN Act, requires businesses to give 60 days' advance notice of certain mass layoffs and closures. If companies are found to have violated the act, they can be required to pay workers back for the wages and benefits they would have received during those 60 days.

The Signature Room's owners did file a WARN Act notice with the state, but they did so days after the layoffs took place, rather than 60 days prior.

In March, a federal judge ruled that Luna and her former coworkers were owed \$1.52 million in back pay and benefits under the WARN Act, an amount which would work out to an average of about \$11,500 per former staffer. The ruling was a default judgment because The Signature Room's parent company, Infusion Management Group, never responded to the workers' lawsuit.

But Luna and her coworkers haven't seen a penny. Just weeks after Unite Here filed its WARN lawsuit, Infusion Management filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Bankruptcy law dictates that secured creditors — those whose claims are backed by collateral — get paid first. Unsecured creditors who are also owed money — a category that includes employees — are paid out afterward, but there isn't always money left to

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Got milkweed?

Field Museum study shows how gardeners can help monarch butterflies

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

When Lorraine Kells first came upon two sprawling Chicago Park District flower beds near Diversey Harbor, she saw weeds and cigarette butts.

But eight years later, a dazzling array of wildflowers grows there: coneflower, black-eyed Susan, bee balm, spiderwort, milkweed, goldenrod, blazing star and joe-pye weed.

During a recent visit, Kells, who started the garden and now tends it with a crew of volunteers, gently turned over milkweed leaves, finally revealing a pale monarch butterfly egg — so small it was barely visible — and then a tiny black and gold caterpillar. Later, a flutter of big orange

and black wings announced a more mature visitor.

"Oh! There's our monarch again!" Kells said. "Here she comes."

Such gardens are at the heart of a new Field Museum study, which draws on the work of Chicago-area citizen scientists such as Kells to determine how to maximize the success of imperiled monarch butterflies in small urban and suburban gardens.

The study of 450 local milkweed patches found that several strategies were associated with finding more monarch eggs: planting common milkweed, having milkweed that's at least 5 years old, having more milkweed plants, planting swamp milk-

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INSIDE

Parking meter deal could be even more costly to Chicago

The city's much-maligned parking meter privatization deal could soon be costing the city even more money. Chicago may have to pay more than \$100 million under a panel's ruling. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Gangs still terrorize Haiti, despite UN intervention

Weeks after the arrival of a United Nations-backed security force, the gangs that have brought the capital and other regions to their knees show no signs of letting up. **Nation & World**

Gaza residents 'don't know where to go'

Israel orders more evacuations from Khan Younis area

By Wafaa Shurafa and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday, a day after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. The airstrike was one of the deadliest attacks in the 10-month war.

Hamas appeared to push back against resuming negotiations in pursuit of a cease-fire. In a statement, it urged mediators United States, Egypt and Qatar to submit a plan to implement what was agreed on last month, based

on U.S. President Joe Biden's proposal, "instead of going to more rounds of negotiations or new proposals that provide cover for the occupation's aggression."

Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops return to heavily destroyed areas where they previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced, often multiple times, in the besieged territory 25 miles long by about 7 miles wide.

The latest evacuation orders apply to areas of Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians and

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High **80** Low **63**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 18

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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