

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Oak Park native Heather Mack apologized to her family before being sentenced Wednesday for her mother's murder. **FIRDIA LISNAWATI/AP 2015**

Mack gets 26 years for mom's murder

Ill. native helped to stuff body in suitcase at Bali resort hotel

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

For four hours Wednesday, Heather Mack sat nearly expressionless in a Chicago federal courtroom as her relatives called her a cold, calculating sociopath who plotted the murder of her own mother at a Bali resort and tried to cover it up by stuffing the body into a suitcase.

But when it was her turn to speak, Mack, dressed in orange jail clothes and wearing dark eyeglasses, approached the lectern slowly, unfolded a sheet of paper and said something her family has waited a decade to hear.

I'm sorry.
"From the bottom of my heart, I'm sorry," Mack said, her voice cracking a bit with emotion as she turned slightly to face her mother's siblings and other relatives in the gallery. "I know that words are not enough for the damage I have caused. It breaks my heart. If I could take my pain away, I would."

Turn to Mack, Page 4

'Justice has been served'

6 O-Block gang members convicted in brazen '20 killing of rapper FBG Duck in Gold Coast

Guilty verdicts on murder charges in aid of racketeering carry mandatory life sentences



The family of Carlton Weekly, known as drill rapper FBG Duck, leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on Wednesday after a federal jury found six purported gang members guilty in the murder of the rapper in the Gold Coast neighborhood in 2020. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

By Sam Charles and Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

A federal jury Wednesday found six purported gang members guilty of carrying out the brazen 2020 murder of drill rapper FBG Duck in the city's posh Gold Coast neighborhood.
The jury of five men and seven women, who remained anonymous due to security concerns surrounding the case, deliberated for about 16 hours over three days before announcing it had reached

a verdict, finding the group guilty of murder in furtherance of a racketeering scheme.
FBG Duck was killed in a hail of bullets as he was shopping for his son along the ritzy Oak Street shopping corridor on Aug. 4, 2020.
Prosecutors said the rapper — born Carlton Weekly — was killed as part of a yearslong gang conflict between factions of the Black Disciples and Gangster Disciples on the South Side.
FBG Duck's mother, LaSheena Weekly, wept as she listened to

the jury verdicts in an overflow courtroom at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse.
"When I go home and tell my grandkids that their father's justice has been served, that's going to be a big burden lifted off my shoulders," Weekly told reporters after the verdicts were announced. "I just want to thank the United States government for doing a very good job in making sure that these guys will never hurt another mom and another child again."
Convicted of murder in the aid

of racketeering and conspiracy to commit murder were: Charles Liggins, 32; Kenneth Roberson, 30; Christopher Thomas, 24; Marcus Smart, 25; Tacarlos Offerd, 32; and Ralph Turpin, 34.
Liggins, Roberson, Thomas, Smart and Offerd were also found guilty of using a firearm in Weekly's murder. The verdicts were mixed in the four other counts, which stemmed from wounds suffered by two bystanders also injured in Weekly's killing.
Turn to Guilty, Page 2

INSIDE



EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

For owners of electric vehicles, wind chill takes charge

A worker from 1st Class Towing tows a disabled Tesla from a charging station near the Meijer parking lot in Evergreen Park on Wednesday. Electric vehicles' increased energy consumption left many drivers with dying batteries and longer waits at charging stations during Chicagoland's recent cold snap. On Wednesday afternoon, a dozen Teslas lined a South Loop parking garage equipped with chargers. While most drivers didn't have to wait in line, many say they remained frustrated after a weekend of freezing temperatures. **Page 2**

ELECTION 2024 COOK CO. STATE'S ATTORNEY

Democratic candidates ramping up fundraising

O'Neill Burke's war chest carries nearly \$100K more than Harris', but margin has narrowed

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

With the March 19 primary a little over two months away, Judge Eileen O'Neill Burke has nearly \$250,000 ready to spend and almost \$100,000 more than opponent Clayton Harris III as the Democrats vie to succeed Kim Foxx as Cook County state's attorney.
Harris and O'Neill Burke were roughly neck-and-neck in fundraising during the final three months of 2023, with Harris raising \$200,000 during the final quarter of the year — about \$15,000 more than O'Neill Burke, the latest campaign finance reports released Tuesday show.
But Harris raised less money at the start of the campaign and has spent more, mostly on political consulting, campaign staffing and polling, meaning O'Neill

Burke began 2024 with about \$247,000 in her campaign fund compared with Harris' roughly \$155,000, campaign finance reports show.
The disclosures were among the highlights of campaign finance reports filed by politicians across Illinois that also showed Mayor Brandon Johnson returning more than \$55,000 in contributions he wasn't allowed to accept under a mayoral executive order.
In the race to succeed Foxx, the outgoing state's attorney who chose not to run for a third term, Harris has gained an organizational upper hand. He was endorsed by the Cook County Democratic Party led by County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and many of its leaders, as well as the Chicago Teachers Union.
Turn to Campaign, Page 6

House Republicans dig in on border demands that block aid to Ukraine, Israel

By Lisa Mascaro and Seung Min Kim
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden convened top congressional leaders at the White House to underscore Ukraine's security needs, a meeting that comes at a

pivotal time as senators narrow on a landmark immigration deal that could unlock \$110 billion in stalled aid to Ukraine, Israel and other U.S. allies.
But House Speaker Mike Johnson and other Republicans used the face-to-face moment with Biden to push him for tougher

border security measures, with the speaker telling the president that GOP lawmakers were demanding "substantive policy change" and insisting that the White House's executive actions on immigration had weakened the border.
"We understand that there's concern about the safety, secu-

riety and sovereignty of Ukraine," Johnson told reporters after the meeting, which ran for more than an hour. "But the American people have those same concerns about our own domestic sovereignty and our safety and our security."
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., also speaking

to reporters after the meeting, emphasized that Biden has repeatedly said he is willing to compromise on certain border measures and that any effort in a divided Congress must be bipartisan. House Republicans have insisted

Turn to Border, Page 6

