

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Trump lashes out at judge in NY trial



Attorney warned to ‘control your client’ in closing arguments

By Michael R. Sisak and Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Barred from giving a formal closing argument, Donald Trump still seized an opportunity to speak in court at the conclusion of his New York civil fraud trial Thursday, unleashing a barrage of attacks in a six-minute diatribe before being cut off by

the judge.

Trump spoke as the judge was trying to find out if the former president would follow rules requiring him to keep his remarks focused on matters related to the trial. Asked whether he would comply with the guidelines, Trump defied the judge and simply launched into his speech.

“I am an innocent man,” Trump protested. “I’m being persecuted

by someone running for office.”

Judge Arthur Engoron — who on Wednesday denied Trump’s extraordinary request to give his own closing statement — let him continue almost uninterrupted for what amounted to a brief personal summation, then cut him off for a scheduled lunch break.

Trump’s in-court remarks,

Turn to Trump, Page 10

Former President Donald Trump speaks to the media as he departs the New York State Supreme Court during the civil fraud trial against the Trump Organization in New York City on Thursday. **TIMOTHY A. CLARY/GETTY-APP**



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

READY TO GO WITH THE SNOW

Caitlin Ryder, of Chicago’s Ravenswood neighborhood, picks out new sleds for her 3-year-old twin sons, Carson, left, and Charlie, on Thursday at an Ace Hardware on Lincoln Avenue. A snowstorm is expected to roll into Chicago on Friday, and weather forecasters expect the snow and wind to abate and temperatures to plummet as early as Saturday night. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Friday
High 36
Low 22

Saturday
High 24
Low -1

Sunday
COLD
High 2
Low -7

Monday
COLD
High 4
Low -7

Feds seeking 28 years for Mack in mother’s murder

Penalty requested due to lack of remorse for 2014 slaying in Bali

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

Heather Mack and her mother were all smiles in August 2014 as they posed for a photograph in the first-class cabin on a flight to Indonesia, a trip that was supposed to rekindle their fractured relationship. Five days later Sheila von Wiese-Mack was found slain and stuffed in a suitcase at the Bali resort where they’d been staying, the victim of a “vicious” and premeditated plot by her daughter and her daughter’s boyfriend to kill her and live lavishly off the inheritance, federal prosecutors say.

Now, a decade after the gruesome crime that sparked international media attention and led police on a trail back to suburban Chicago, the Mack

case is approaching a closing chapter as she faces another sentencing hearing — this one in the U.S.

Federal prosecutors have asked for 28 years in prison for Mack, writing in a filing late Wednesday that she has shown little remorse and has continued to try to capitalize on her own infamy through tell-all book and entertainment deals.

“Mack’s income potential is quite high,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann Marie Ursini and Frank Rangoussis, a special prosecutor with the Department of Justice, wrote in the 47-page filing. “The story of her crime is world famous, and she has likely already entered into a media contract that is expected to earn Mack a significant amount of money. The money generated as a result of this heinous crime should go to the victim’s estate rather than the defendant.”

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Workers pre-roll flower products on Wednesday in the packaging room of 1937 Group, a cultivation cannabis manufacturing facility in Broadview. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Change may offer too little for craft cannabis growers

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

A long-awaited change to allow craft cannabis growers to expand should bring consumers more choice, but may still not be enough for businesses to open or make a profit.

A rule change in December by the Illinois Department of Agriculture allows craft growers to immediately expand from the current limit of 5,000 square feet of flowering plant space to 14,000 square feet.

“It helps,” said Scott Redman,

INSIDE: Illinois sets another record for recreational cannabis sales in 2023, but purchases by out-of-staters decline. **Business**

president of the Illinois Independent Craft Growers Association. “But it doesn’t really solve the financial hurdles craft growers are facing. 14,000 square feet is really a minimum they need to have any kind of chance.”

By expanding capacity,

Turn to Cannabis, Page 2

INSIDE

Officials: Airstrikes hit Houthi sites

The U.S. and British militaries bombed more than a dozen sites used by Houthis in Yemen. **Nation & World inside Business, Page 7**

Choose Chicago CEO stepping down

Lynn Osmond is leaving the tourism role to focus on a family health matter as city prepares for the DNC and return of NASCAR. **Business**

A pretty-good-time karaoke track

“Mean Girls” was a hit movie in 2004. The Broadway adaptation came along in 2018. Now the stage musical is on screen. **A+E**

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