

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Trump gets breaks in New York fraud case

Appeals court cuts bond, OKs pause in collection of assets

By Jennifer Peltz and Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York appeals court agreed Monday to hold off collection of former President Donald Trump's more than \$454 million civil fraud judgment if he puts up \$175 million within 10 days.

If Trump does, it will stop the clock on collection and prevent the state from seizing the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's assets while he appeals. The appeals court also halted other aspects of a trial judge's ruling that had barred Trump and his sons Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr., the family company's executive vice presidents, from serving in corporate leadership for several years.

In all, the order was a significant victory for the Republican ex-president as he defends the real estate empire that vaulted him into public life. The development came just before New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, was expected to initiate efforts to collect the judgment.

Trump, who was attending a separate hearing in his criminal hush-money case in New York, hailed the ruling and said he would post a bond, securities or cash to cover the \$175 million sum in the civil case. Speaking in a courthouse hallway, Trump revisited his oft-stated complaints about civil trial Judge Arthur Engoron and the penalty he imposed.

"What he's done is such a disservice and should never be allowed to happen again," said Trump, who argues that the fraud case is discouraging business in New York.

James' office noted that the judgment still stands, even if collection is paused.

"Donald Trump is still facing accountability for his staggering fraud," the office said in a statement.

Trump's lawyers had pleaded for a state appeals court to halt collection, claiming it was "a practical impossibility" to get an underwriter to sign off on a bond for such a large sum, which grows daily because of interest. The Trump attorneys had earlier proposed a \$100 million bond, but an appellate judge had said no late last month.

Monday's ruling came from a five-judge panel in the state's intermediate appeals court, called the Appellate Division, where Trump is fighting to overturn Engoron's Feb. 16 decision. Trump attorneys Alina Habba and Christopher Kise characterized Monday's ruling as a key first step.

Siding with the attorney general after a monthslong civil trial, Engoron found that Trump,

Turn to Trump, Page 9

Illinois' top parole official quits

Donald Shelton resigns from his post after his board allowed a parolee to be released from state custody before, authorities say, he attacked a pregnant woman and killed her 11-year-old son.
Chicagoland, Page 3

Boeing CEO plans to step down

A leadership shake-up at Boeing highlights the difficult path facing the iconic aircraft manufacturer as it tries to navigate through yet another safety crisis. **Business**



Anyeli Carvojal, 21, from Venezuela, stands on the sidewalk with her 8-month-old, Santiago Rodriguez, outside a migrant shelter at the Broadway Armory in Chicago on Monday. Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration announced it will begin removing nearly 800 migrants from five Chicago Park District facilities across the city, including the Broadway Armory. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Migrants to be moved from Chicago Park District facilities

Johnson administration says measure to start Saturday; field houses to reopen

By Nell Salzman, Alice Yin and Olivia Stevens
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration announced that on Saturday it will begin removing about 800 migrants who have been housed inside five Chicago Park District facilities across the city, opening up the last of the field houses to the public again.

The use of the five sites where

migrants will be cleared — Gage Park and Piotrowski Park, both on the Southwest Side, the Broadway Armory Park and Leone Park, both on the Far North Side, and Brands Park on the Northwest Side — has generated significant controversy in the neighborhoods where they are located. The city was placing migrants in Park District space that is traditionally used for athletic and enrichment activities.

In announcing the decision Monday, city officials said they anticipate full summer programming to return to those Park District locations while the hundreds of migrants affected will be relocated to shelter spaces across the city that have become more open as overall migrant arrivals have declined.

Migrants, most sent on buses from Texas, will be "transitioned to nearby shelters, minimizing disruptions with schooling and work," according to a news release from Johnson's administration. City agencies will prior-

itize moving migrants to shelters that are close by and children are expected to remain in the same schools.

"I am proud of the efforts of my administration, our partners, and the many Chicagoans who stepped up to welcome new arrivals by providing shelter in our Park District field houses at a time when this was clearly needed," Johnson said in a statement.

The most recent city census of where migrants are being housed show that as of Friday there were

Turn to Migrants, Page 4



An election judge opens and processes mail-in ballots Monday at the Chicago Board of Elections. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

"As the votes are processed and the margin in this race continues to shrink, we are watching closely and evaluating our options. We will determine our next steps when appropriate."

— Alaina Hampton, campaign manager for Clayton Harris III in a statement Monday

O'Neill Burke's state's attorney lead shrinks again

As number of mail-in ballots dwindles, so does lead over Harris

By A.D. Quig and Claire Malon
Chicago Tribune

With the universe of returning mail-in ballots from the city and suburbs slowing considerably, retired Appellate Judge Eileen O'Neill Burke's lead over university lecturer and government official Clayton Harris III dipped below 1,700 votes on Monday in the Democratic primary for Cook County state's attorney.

Harris on Monday was just 1,643 votes behind O'Neill Burke

as a wave of nearly 5,300 Democratic mail-in ballots from both the city and suburbs were tallied by the Chicago Board of Elections and Cook County clerk's office.

Harris won a majority of those votes in both the city and suburbs — though it was at a lower percentage than he'd been getting from city mail-in ballots tallied over the weekend. Since the end of last week, Harris cut the margin of votes by almost 80%.

The counting has continued for nearly a week since Election Day when neither of the candidates declared victory or conceded defeat in their effort to replace outgoing two-term

Turn to Ballots, Page 2

Charges dropped in juice loan extortion case

Action, with ties to larger Chicago mob probe, had earlier mistrial

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

After a chaotic mistrial earlier this month, a federal juice loan extortion case with ties to a larger probe of the Chicago Outfit ended Monday when prosecutors announced they were dropping all charges.

Gene "Gino" Cassano, 55, and Gioacchino "Jack" Galione, 47, were indicted in 2021 on charges of conspiring to collect a debt by extortionate means. Galione was also charged with using violence to collect a debt.

The case focused on the Aug. 1, 2016, assault of Luigi Mucerino inside Galione's garage in Addi-

son, which prosecutors allege was over a \$10,000 juice loan Mucerino had taken out from Cassano and failed to pay back.

Defense attorneys admitted to the jury that Galione punched Mucerino in the face that night, breaking his nose and shattering more than a dozen bones in his face. But they denied the

assault had anything to do with the collection of the loan — an element that prosecutors had to prove beyond a reasonable doubt.

The madcap trial abruptly ended March 9 after three days of testimony when an FBI agent testified he was assigned to investigate "organized crime," a term U.S. District Judge Sharon

Turn to Charges, Page 5

