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WASHINGTON

Trump fires Bondi as attorney general

ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO AND MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that Pam Bondi is out as his attorney general, ending the contentious tenure of a loyalist who upended the Justice Department's culture of independence from the White House, oversaw large-scale firings of career employees and moved aggressively to investigate the Republican president's perceived enemies. The announcement follows months of

scrutiny over the Justice Department's handling of files related to Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking investigation that made Bondi the target of angry conservatives even with her close relationship with Trump.

She also struggled to satisfy Trump's demands to prosecute his political rivals, with multiple investigations rejected by judges or grand juries or



Bondi

yet to produce charges.

Trump named Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche as the acting attorney general, though three people familiar with the matter have said he has privately discussed Lee Zeldin, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, as a permanent pick.

Bondi, a former Florida attorney general, came into office last year pledging that she would not play politics with the Justice Department, but she quickly started investigations of Trump foes, sparking an outcry that the law enforcement agency was being

wielded as a tool of revenge to advance the president's political and personal agenda.

She ushered in a period of intense turmoil at the department that included the firings of career prosecutors deemed insufficiently loyal to Trump and the resignations of hundreds of other employees. Her departure continues a trend of Justice Department upheaval that defined Trump's presidency as attorneys general across his two terms either were pushed out or

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THEY HAVE THE MEATS



USA TODAY NETWORK

Louis Bruno Jr., left, and his father Louis Bruno Sr. hold two tomahawk steaks at their shop on North Main Street in Manahawkin. Bruno's Meat Market is a family-owned butcher shop in business since 1993.

Customers drive for miles to buy from this Manahawkin butcher shop

USA TODAY NETWORK

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP — Growing up in Staten Island within a family of butchers, Louie Bruno Sr. came to know and love the meat market and knew he'd be in that line of work someday.

As an adult, he fulfilled that destiny by launching Bruno's Meat Market, a family-owned butcher shop in Manahawkin that's been offering a full line of premium fresh beef, veal, lamb, chicken and Boar's Head quality meats — along with a generous helping of camaraderie — since 1993.

"Beginning in 1960, my grandfather owned a store on Staten Island and all of his kids worked there," recalled Louie Sr., 55, a Manahawkin resident. "There were butchers on both sides of my family, including my dad Saverio Bruno, who was a butcher at Pathmark, and I always knew I would go into the business, too."

"Other kids used to laugh at me when I told them that I wanted to be a successful butcher and own my own business someday, but I knew that was what I wanted to do since the eighth grade," he said.

He worked at his uncle's butcher shop throughout his high school years and after

graduation, but after marrying his wife Francine in 1993, his father suggested he take a slightly different path.

"My father was in the union at a supermarket and wanted me to join the union too because he felt that it was more secure, so I did," Louie Sr. said. "A Finast supermarket had just opened in Brooklyn, but after working there for three weeks I realized that it just wasn't for me."

Instead, Louie Sr. and Francine opened Bruno's Meat Market in Manahawkin.

How he found the place

"I looked all over Staten Island for space, but my father-in-law had a summer house in Beach Haven West and suggested that I look in Manahawkin," Louie Sr. said of the 5,000-square-foot retail space he and Francine ultimately found there. "I visualized exactly what I wanted to do with it and then told my mom I was going to move to New Jersey and open a store. My father took a week off from work with my mom to help get me started and load up our meat case for our grand opening."

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EHT sets land swap hearing for horse center

DAN GROTE
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — The Township Committee will hold a public hearing next month on a plan to swap open space with the state so a local horse-riding center can build an indoor riding arena.

The township has submitted a request to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to divert nearly an acre of parkland on Leap Street to allow for the construction of the indoor space by Hearts Therapeutic Riding Center, which leases its property from the township.

In exchange, the township would dedicate nearly 2.1 acres of open space at 6653 West Jersey Ave., near the Great Egg Harbour Township Historical Society museum, for conservation and recreation.

The project will help expand year-round programming and services for the community, the township said in a public notice.

The hearing will take place during the committee's May 6 meeting at the Municipal Building at 3515 Bargaintown Road. Meetings start at 5 p.m.

The application to the DEP can be reviewed at the Township Clerk's Office, the township branch of the Atlantic County Library and the DEP Office of Transactions & Public Land Administration in Trenton.

Comments on the application can be

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Donohue Jr. takes AD job at St. Joseph

MICHAEL MCGARRY
Staff Writer

HAMMONTON — Chuck Donohue Jr. is headed back to his roots.

Donohue will step down as Southern Regional High School's athletic director July 31 and become athletic director at St. Joseph Academy in Hammonton, St. Joe announced Thursday.

Donohue, 55, is a 1989 St. Joe graduate. He played football for the Wildcats.

He became Southern's athletic director in 2010. His dad, Chuck Donohue Sr., is one of the most accomplished football coaches in the state's history. The elder Donohue, whose first head football coaching job was at St. Joe in the 1970s, announced his retirement as Southern's head coach last month.

Southern is a Group IV school with numerous sports teams. The school is known for the quality of its programs.

Donohue Jr. is also an experienced football, basketball and track and field coach.

"While his resume, leadership, and accomplishments are significant, the most impressive quality of Mr. Donohue is his commitment to the success

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