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# TIMES RECORDER

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Les Wexner testifies on Epstein ties

Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

New Albany billionaire Les Wexner testified to a congressional committee from his New Albany home for nearly five hours on Feb. 18 about his relationship with disgraced and now deceased financier Jeffrey Epstein.

Epstein, a convicted sex offender, died in 2019 in what New York City's chief medical examiner ruled a suicide in a New York jail cell awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charges. He was Wexner's former financial adviser, and the two had a close relationship for years.

The House Committee on Oversight

and Government Reform released its full deposition video of Wexner on Feb. 19.

A spokesperson for Wexner declined to comment for this story.

Here are key takeaways from the interview with the committee.

### Wexner answers questions about Ohio State OB-GYN Mark Landon

Wexner told questioners that he was not aware of payments made to Dr. Mark Landon, an OB-GYN at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and who documents show was being paid by Epstein.

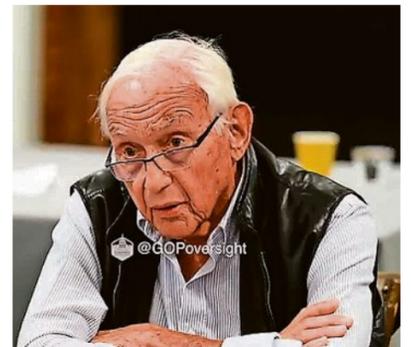
Landon has said he did not provide

medical care to Epstein but was a consultant on bio-tech investments from 2001 to 2005. Records released by the Justice Department suggest Landon was being paid \$25,000 to \$30,000 at a time.

A memo left for Epstein on April 11, 2005, stated: "Dr. Landon's \$25k quarterly payment is due, please approve." Later that day, the same individual followed up with an additional memo making reference to Wexner and his wife, Abigail.

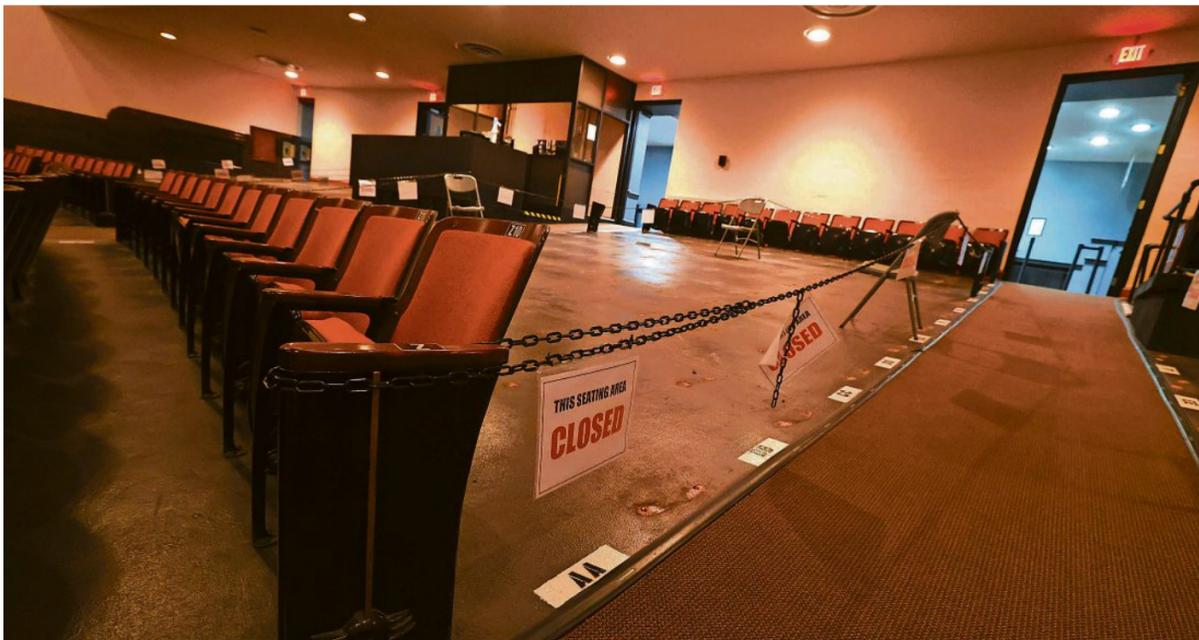
"FYI: on the Dr. Landon quarterly payments, we (NYSG) billed LHW/Abigail in advance as we have in prior

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The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released its full deposition video of Les Wexner. PROVIDED BY THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## 'We're making really good progress'



Part of the renovations at Secret Auditorium includes new seating. Some of the seating from the back auditorium and those in the balcony were removed in January. The remaining seats will stay for the next several weeks to accommodate those attending shows in the auditorium. PHOTOS BY SHAWN DIGITY/ZANESVILLE TIMES RECORDER

### Secret shows will temporarily pause as interior renovations ramp up

Shawn Digity  
Zanesville Times Recorder  
USA TODAY NETWORK

ZANESVILLE – Shows at Secret Auditorium will be suspended beginning mid-June until its renovations are completed in October.

The project, estimated to cost between \$9 and \$10 million, is part of the Gateway project to enrich the downtown Zanesville experience, which also includes the Welcome Center's future pavilions.

Renovations began in March 2025, with the demolition of the exterior stairs.

The seats in the balcony and some in the back of the auditorium were removed in January, but around 1,000 will

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The Secret Auditorium renovations are happening in two parts, exterior and interior. The outdoor portion will include a new entrance on the southeast corner. The work is assisted through a \$6.5 million Appalachian community grant.

## Ohio native McLaughlin plans to exit DHS post

### Trump spokesperson: 'Job is a meat grinder'

Erin Glynn and David Ferrara  
Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cincinnati-area native Tricia McLaughlin is stepping down from her role as the chief mouthpiece for President Donald Trump's immigration agenda within the Department of Homeland Security.



McLaughlin told The Enquirer on Feb. 17 that her last day with the agency will be Feb. 27. Neither McLaughlin nor the Trump administration gave a reason for her departure. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem commended McLaughlin's work and said she served with "exceptional dedication, tenacity, and professionalism."

"While we are sad to see her leave, we are grateful for her service and wish Tricia nothing but success," Noem said.

McLaughlin told The Enquirer in December that the job consumes much of her time and she considered it a privilege but also a sacrifice to do the work.

She said she and her husband, political consultant Ben Yoho, planned to move back to Cincinnati at some point to start a family.

"Obviously this job is a meat grinder and, as I told you guys before, a sacrifice," she said in February.

McLaughlin said her stepping down has been in the works since December but was delayed because of the shootings in Minneapolis.

During McLaughlin's tenure, she has defended Trump's immigration policies in the face of mounting criticism. ICE agents have detained children, including 5-year-old Liam Ramos; they have shot and killed at least

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