

SPORTS C4
WHEELER ON HIS RECOVERY FROM SURGERY AND HIS SOUVENIR RIB



SPORTS C1
THE 16-YEAR-OLD PITCHER WHO CAN THROW 101.7 MPH



LET'S EAT, PHILLY D1
12 ROMANTIC, UNDER-THE-RADAR RESTAURANTS

PHILLY & REGION B1
ACTIVISTS DEMAND RETURN OF PRESIDENT'S HOUSE SLAVERY EXHIBITS

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ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



Attorney General Pam Bondi testifies Wednesday before a House Judiciary Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal asked victims of Jeffrey Epstein to raise their hands if they had been unable to meet with the Justice Department. Tom Brenner / AP

U.S. Rep. Houlahan calls failed indictment 'abuse'

Lawmakers targeted for their video to "refuse illegal orders" suggested legal action against the Trump administration.

By Aliya Schneider
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan said it's unclear what crime the Department of Justice was trying to charge her with when a grand jury refused an indictment over a video in which she, with five other Democratic colleagues, called on service members to "refuse illegal orders."

"The regular American people that comprised the grand jury saw this for what it was, which was kind of a spurious misuse, abuse of the power of the federal government against the people," Houlahan, of Chester, said in an interview Wednesday.

"It's not about me or my colleagues," continued Houlahan, a former Air Force officer. "It's about the fact that the Constitution allows for all of us to be treated as equals, and all of us to have the freedom to speak with freedom."

The Justice Department investigated the six Democratic lawmakers who made the video, all of whom previously served in the military or intelligence agencies. But a Washington grand jury would not sign off on charges on Tuesday, The Associated Press reported.

It's a setback for President Donald Trump's administration, which has targeted the lawmakers in a variety of ways since November, when the president claimed the video was an act of sedition.

Houlahan said none of the Democrats' lawyers could identify what charges could have legitimately been brought against them.

"Collectively, we all, of course, have unfortunately had to secure lawyers in this process," she said.

→ SEE VIDEO ON A9

Bondi, Democrats clash in furious back-and-forth over Epstein saga

The attorney general's responses often strayed from lawmakers' questions, as she praised Trump and defended her handling of the case.

By Alanna Durkin Richer, Eric Tucker, and Stephen Groves
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Pam Bondi launched into a wide-ranging, passionate defense of President Donald Trump, repeatedly shouting at Democrats during a combative hearing in which she postured herself as

the Republican's chief protector and tried to turn the page from persistent criticism of the Justice Department's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files.

Besieged by questions over Epstein and accusations of a weaponized Justice Department, Bondi aggressively pivoted in an extraordinary speech in which she mocked her Democratic questioners, praised Trump over the performance of the stock market and openly aligned herself as in sync with a president whom she painted as a victim of past impeachments and investigations.

"You sit here and you attack the president and I'm not going to have it," Bondi said. "I am not going to put up with it."

With victims of Epstein sitting behind her in the hearing room,

Bondi defended the department's handling of the files related to the wealthy financier's sex trafficking investigation that have dogged her tenure. But she repeatedly refused to directly answer questions from Democrats who have accused her of perpetuating a coverup and ignoring victims.

In her opening remarks, Bondi told the victims to come forward to law enforcement with any information and about her abuse and said she "deeply sorry" for what they had suffered.

"Any accusations of criminal wrongdoing will be taken seriously and investigated," Bondi said.

Bondi's appearance before the House Judiciary Committee comes a year into her tumultuous tenure that has amplified concerns that the Justice Department is using its

law enforcement powers to target political foes of the president.

Just a day earlier, the department had sought to secure charges against Democratic lawmakers who produced a video urging military service members not to follow "illegal orders." But in an extraordinary rebuke of prosecutors, a grand jury in Washington refused to return an indictment.

The committee chairman, Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, opened the hearing by repeating talking points that the Justice Department, under Democratic President Joe Biden, was weaponized against Donald Trump and conservatives. Democrats and many good government advocates say it is Trump's own administration that has politicized law enforcement.

→ SEE BONDI ON A6

Disturbing details emerge in recent arrests of ICE agents

At least two dozen ICE employees and contractors have been charged with crimes since 2020, and violations include violence and corruption.

By Ryan J. Foley
Associated Press

Investigators said one immigration enforcement official got away with physically assaulting his girlfriend for years. Another admitted he repeatedly sexually abused a woman in his custody. A third is charged with taking bribes to remove detention orders on people targeted for deportation.

At least two dozen U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees and contractors have been charged with crimes since 2020, and their documented wrongdoing includes patterns of physical and sexual abuse, corruption, and other abuses of authority, a review by The Associated Press found.

While most of the cases happened before Congress voted last year to give ICE \$75 billion to hire more agents and detain more people, experts say these kinds of crimes could accelerate given the sheer volume of new employees and their empowerment to use aggressive tactics to arrest and deport people.

The Trump administration has emboldened agents by arguing they have "absolute immunity" for their actions on duty and by weakening oversight. One judge recently suggested that ICE was developing a troubling culture of lawlessness, while experts have questioned whether job applicants are getting enough vetting and training.

"Once a person is hired, brought on, goes through the training and they are not the right person, it is difficult to get rid of them and there will be a price to be paid later down the road by everyone," said Gil Kerlikowske, who served as commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection from 2014 to 2017.

Almost every law enforcement agency contends with bad employees and crimes related to domestic

→ SEE ICE ON A9

Joe Frazier statue to replace Rocky at the base of the Art Museum steps

The city's art commission approved the move, with the fictional fighter ultimately going to the top of the steps. Some bristled at the symbolism.

By Nick Vadala
Staff Writer

"Smokin'" Joe Frazier is heading to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Philly's statue of the famed heavyweight boxing champion is slated to be installed at the base of the museum's steps later this year following a Philadelphia Art Commission vote Wednesday that approved the move. All five commissioners present Wednesday voted in favor of the statue's relocation from its longtime home at the sports complex in South Philadelphia.

The proposal, presented by



The 12-foot-tall, 1,800-pound bronze statue of Joe Frazier is unveiled in the South Philadelphia sports complex in 2015. At the lectern are Frazier's son Marvis (right) and the Rev. Blane Newberry. David Swanson / Staff Photographer

Creative Philadelphia, the city's office for the creative sector, will see the Frazier statue installed where Philly's original Rocky statue

stands today. The Rocky statue, meanwhile, will be installed at the top of the museum's steps.

→ SEE FRAZIER ON A10

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