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MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL INCREASES STRIKES IN TEHRAN

Meanwhile, Iran widens its response across the Gulf



A group of men on Tuesday inspects the ruins of a police station struck Monday during the United States-Israeli military campaign in Tehran, Iran. VAHID SALEMI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Jon Gambrell, Elena Becatoros and Samy Magdy
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Israel said it launched airstrikes against Iranian missile launchers and a nuclear research site Tuesday, and Iran struck back against Israel and across the Gulf region, targeting U.S. embassies and disrupting energy supplies and travel.

Four days into a war that President Donald Trump suggested would last several weeks but perhaps longer, nearly 800 people have been killed in Iran, including some Trump said he had considered as possible future leaders of the country.

Explosions rang out Tuesday in Tehran and in Lebanon — where Israel said it retaliated against Hezbollah militants — and the American embassy in Saudi Arabia came under drone attack. Iran has fired dozens of ballistic missiles at Israel, though most of the incoming fire has been intercepted. Eleven people in Israel have been killed

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A firefighter extinguishes fire Tuesday at a building hit by an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, a southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon. HUSSEIN MALLA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

DICKSON CITY

Borough ICE pact in 'holding pattern'

Town's mayor walks back a Monday claim that the controversial deal was rescinded

By Jeff Horvath
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Dickson City Mayor Bob MacCallum walked back his Monday claim that borough police Chief William Bilinski is rescinding a recent agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement allowing borough police to perform certain functions of federal immigration officers.

Pressed on that point Tuesday morning, MacCallum said the controversial agreement between the Dickson City Police Department and ICE was "basically in a holding pattern right now" but would not say the agreement is being rescinded.

It comes a day after the mayor said he didn't realize Bilinski had signed the 287(g) agreement with ICE — making Dickson City police the first law enforcement agency in Lackawanna County to do so — and that the chief was pulling the department out of the pact pending additional discussion and a legal review.

"Unfortunately he recently signed it and I didn't realize," MacCallum said Monday. "I thought we were going to discuss it and then get some legal advice to look at it, so I just called him now ... and he's calling them up to rescind it."

Reached after, Bilinski said the agreement is "paused" but noted he wanted to speak with MacCallum again before commenting further.

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TAYLOR

Town officials ask court to handle plaza's \$60K escrow

By Frank Wilkes Lesnefsky
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Taylor Borough wants the court to decide how to pay out a \$60,000 escrow account from the bankrupt developer of the Taylor Commons.

Borough solicitor Bill Jones petitioned the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas on Thursday to determine where the borough should direct \$60,310.70 in a nearly 20-year-old escrow account — minus filing and attorney's fees — originally put up by Taylor Associates L.P. when it developed the Taylor Commons shopping plaza on South Main Avenue.

The petition names four parties:
 ■ K and J Real Estate, 1170 Highway 315, Suite 1, Plains Twp., which is the current owner of the shopping plaza.
 ■ Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati, Ohio, which sold the plaza in 2015 after taking ownership from Taylor Associates L.P. during bankruptcy.
 ■ Taylor Associates L.P., 1219 Scalp Ave., Johnstown, the developer

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IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Noem backs her portrayal of killed Minneapolis protesters as agitators during a Senate hearing

By Rebecca Santana
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem defended her department's immigration enforcement tactics in front of a Senate committee on Tuesday and pushed back against criticism from Democrats who say she wrongly disparaged two protesters killed by federal officers in Minneapolis earlier this year.

It was Noem's first congressional appearance since the shooting deaths of the two protesters galvanized widespread opposition to how the Trump administration is executing its mass deportation agenda, a centerpiece policy

of President Donald Trump's second term. At the time, Noem portrayed the protesters, two U.S. citizens, as agitators, although accounts from local officials and bystander video contradicted assertions from her and other administration officials.

In one exchange, retiring Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina called her leadership a "disaster" and skewered her handling of the immigration crackdown and her management of emergency response.

In the hearing, which stretched nearly five hours, Noem defended her agency's treatment of immigrants caught up in

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Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem is sworn in Tuesday before appearing for an oversight hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the Capitol in Washington. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

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