

Constable could see \$394K from ICE contract

BY JULES FEENEY
STAFF WRITER

A constable from Bradley County, Tennessee, could receive as much as \$394,000 over the three-year term of his contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to internal documents and email exchanges obtained exclusively by the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

The potential payments would

be a windfall for the constable, Daren Brantley, whose elected, unsalaried position normally offers few opportunities for pay.

In Bradley County, for example, constables can collect an \$85 fee for executing an eviction or \$1 for issuing a speeding ticket, among other fees courts pay for serving process documents. By comparison, his agreement with immigration authorities allows him to receive \$15,000 or more to verify the safety and living conditions of

an unaccompanied minor child.

Brantley signed a task force model agreement with ICE in September under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. It authorizes him to perform some federal enforcement activities under the agency's supervision and after a virtual training.

Amendments to the agreement allow Brantley to receive up to \$82,100 for salary, benefits and overtime for the work he completes on the federal govern-

ment's behalf, \$204,375 in incentives for completing certain tasks for ICE and \$107,525 for vehicles and tactical equipment.

Brantley is eligible for payments up to those amounts during the three-year term of the contract, which became operational Oct. 3, 2025, the day Brantley notified ICE he had made his first immigration arrest — a milestone ICE uses for its local task force partner agencies across the country. Brantley's

contract expires in 2028 and can be amended and extended.

The constable's federal immigration enforcement work comes as more than 1,400 local agencies have signed task force model agreements with ICE, part of a broader push by the second administration of President Donald Trump to shift more of its immigration crack-down efforts to local agencies.

See **CONTRACT** › **A6**



EMILE DUCKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

People mourn in Mashhad, Iran, during Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral Thursday. With much of their leadership killed in the war, Iran's conservatives have sought to fill the void and intensify the fight against the United States.

Hard-liners in Iran want to keep fighting America

BY NEIL MACFARQUHAR
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

The striking prominence of red flags — a Shiite Muslim symbol for vengeance — among the sea of mourners attending the weeklong funeral of Iran's late supreme leader was considered a none-too-subtle statement that the country should continue the war

with the United States.

That is a demand of the ultra-hard-liners in the Islamic republic, who want to maintain its 47-year confrontation with Washington. Analysts saw the flags as a telling example of the jockeying for position amid the newly fluid politics in Iran, ever since the war launched by the United States and Israel in February ushered

in political uncertainty in Tehran by decapitating the leadership.

The hard-liners "are attempting to use the atmosphere of mourning, national insecurity and opposition to negotiations to narrow the range of politically acceptable debate and to portray compromise as both

See **IRAN** › **A5**

With deal, Iran gets control of strait

BY EDWARD WONG,
MICHAEL CROWLEY
AND ERIC SCHMITT
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — For two months, under a quiet arrangement with the U.S. Navy, commercial tankers turned off their transponders to avoid detection by Iran as they crossed the perilous Strait of Hormuz to carry oil and gas out to the world.

The military offered some air cover in case Iran attacked, as naval officers directed the vessels over the radio to hug Oman's coast, opposite Iran's shore. That enabled a steady increase in traffic through the strait from May to June, during a tentative ceasefire in the war.

But a framework deal that President Donald Trump signed with Iran last month helped bring that effort to a fiery end because of its language giving Iran official power in the strait and its vagueness in important phrases.

Trump celebrated the agreement, reached on June 14, as the reopening of the strait. "Ships of the World, start your engines," he wrote on social media. "Let the oil flow!"

But critics say it actually formalized a reality that Iranian officials have made clear throughout the war: They now control the strait.

Iran's missile and drone attacks on commercial ships in the strait essentially shut it down soon after the United States and Israel started the war.

See **DEAL** › **A5**

Graham, Republican senator and staunch Trump ally, dies at 71

BY ROBERT JIMISON
AND AMELIA NIERENBERG
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican and stalwart ally of President Donald Trump who was a forceful advocate for an interventionist U.S. foreign policy, died Saturday evening. He was 71.

He died from "a brief and sudden illness," his office said in a statement early Sunday. No further details were provided. After recently returning from a trip to Ukraine, Graham had been scheduled to appear on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday morning.

A former Air Force lawyer who served in the Air Force Reserve while in Congress and was briefly

Inside

Graham was facing reelection. What happens now?, **A5**

ers to win the Republican primary in his bid for a fifth term.

Trump offered his condolences on social media early Sunday, calling Graham "one of the greatest people and Senators I have ever known."

"He was always working, and was a true American Patriot," Trump added. "Lindsey will be

deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan as a senator, Graham was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, before winning his Senate seat in 2002. Last month, he fended off five challengers to win the Republican primary in his bid for a fifth term.

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greatly missed!!!"

Gov. Henry McMaster of South Carolina, a Republican, can immediately appoint a temporary replacement to fill Graham's Senate seat. Graham was set to face Annie Andrews, a Democrat and a pediatrician, in the general election in November.

Graham's death comes as another influential Republican senator, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, has spent several weeks in the hospital for undisclosed reasons. It leaves Senate Republicans without a senior lawmaker and reliable vote as they face pressure from Trump to continue advancing his legislative agenda.

See **GRAHAM** › **A6**

DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES/FILE

President Donald Trump, left, greets Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., during a campaign rally in Charlotte, N.C.

Advice

B3

Classified

C4

Comics & Puzzles

A8-9

Editorials

B6-7

Entertainment

A2

Nation

A3

Obituaries

B2

Politics

A4

Public Notices

C4

Region

B1

Sports

C1

Sports Agate

C2

Television

A10

World

A4

TODAY

HIGH 83
LOW 70
Thunderstorms likely

TUESDAY

HIGH 82
LOW 71
Showers likely

WEDNESDAY

HIGH 87
LOW 72
Chance of thunderstorms

See B5 for full weather reports

Source: WRCB-TV Channel 3

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