

DISASTERS IN TEXAS

46 minutes between alert, camp evacuation



Sam Owens/San Antonio Express-News

Crews sort through belongings at Camp Mystic, where 25 campers, two counselors and the camp's owner died in July 4 floods.

Eastland family representative says precise timeline still being determined

By Peggy O'Hare
STAFF WRITER

The owner of Camp Mystic received a National Weather Service alert on his phone warning of imminent "life threatening flash flooding" along the Guadalupe River, but camp personnel did not begin evacuating children until at least 46 minutes later.

Twenty-five campers and two counselors died early on the morning of July 4 when floodwaters barreled through the Christian girls' camp, a beloved, 99-year-old retreat in Kerr County. The camp's owner and executive director, Dick Eastland, 70, died while trying to rescue campers.

The weather service sent the flash flood warning at 1:14 a.m. that morning as torrential rains



Jim Vondruska/Getty Images

Crews dig through debris on July 6 near Camp Mystic. The camp's owner was alerted to "life threatening flooding" at 1:14 a.m.

pummeled the Texas Hill Country. Counselors and other camp personnel began evacuat-

ing campers between 2 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., said Jeff Carr, a spokesman for the Eastland family, whose members have run the camp for generations.

Carr said the time frame is an estimate offered by family members who were at the camp as the disaster unfolded. He said they confirmed that Dick Eastland received the NWS warning on his phone.

In the NWS lexicon, a warning means dangerous weather is happening or is extremely likely to happen soon. Warnings are delivered on social media, by email and directly to cellphones enabled to receive them.

The Washington Post was first to report on the gap between the flood warning and the evacuation.

Carr said camp officials are still putting together a precise, detailed timeline of how the

Camp continues on A4

SAISD deal clears way for Missions ballpark

District agrees to sell downtown property

By Madison Iszler
STAFF WRITER

To get a hit, you've got to take a swing.

The San Antonio Independent School District aimed for the fences in its negotiations with the leaders of the Missions, the city of San Antonio and Bexar County over a parking lot that sits within the footprint of a proposed ballpark downtown for the Double-A baseball team.

The SAISD board was the only public body to seek concessions in exchange for helping make way for the \$160 million project.

And after SAISD negotiators secured several benefits for the district, trustees on Monday voted unanimously to sell the parking lot. They also gave Superintendent Jaime Aquino and board president Alicia Sebastian the authority to finalize the deed and other documents.

"We could have easily said we're going to sell the land and we're going to walk away with these dollars. But we really have to be thinking about what the SAISD of tomorrow looks like," said Christina Martinez, vice president of the board of trustees. "The SAISD of tomorrow is an urban school district meeting the needs of all different kinds of students from all over the city, with state-of-the-art buildings, state-of-the-art programs."

"This was an opportunity to really say in a very public way that we are committed to making sure SAISD is the very best district to serve all students in San Antonio," Martinez added.

In exchange for selling the 2.3-acre property along Cameron Street, district officials initially asked for a \$45 million building for the Advanced Learning Academy; a parking garage; \$400,000 annually to make up for what SAISD said it could have earned if it had advertised the land for sale; seats on the Houston Street

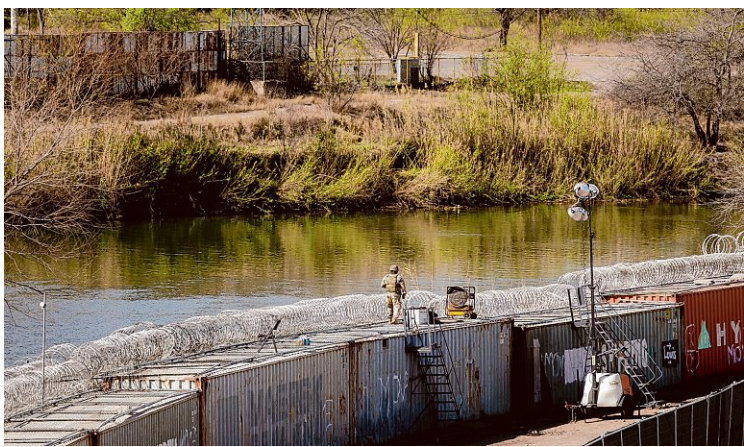
SAISD continues on A17

Border set for changes under megabill

By James Osborne and Benjamin Wermund
WASHINGTON BUREAU

Texas' border with Mexico is set for an historic transformation after Congress approved a federal budget with \$150 billion in additional funding for border security.

The bill marks an unprecedented investment in the country's capacity to capture and deport migrants. It makes ICE the highest-funded federal law en-



Christopher Lee/San Antonio Express-News

The legislation includes reimbursement for states, such as Texas, that spent on border crackdowns.

forcement agency, tripling its budget for hiring new agents and offering up to tens of billions of dollars for new detention space. And while experts say hiring ICE agents and con-

tractors to run detention facilities will take time, the bill nonetheless offers Trump the funding he needs to deliver on his campaign promise of mass

Border continues on A17

How Trump will undo Education Department

By Collin Binkley
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Linda McMahon is expected to move quickly now that the Supreme Court has cleared the way for the Trump administration to continue unwinding her department.

The justices on Monday paused a lower court order that had halted nearly 1,400 layoffs and had called into question the legality of President Donald Trump's plan to outsource the department's operations to other agencies.

Now, Trump and McMahon are free to execute the layoffs

and break up the department's work among other federal agencies. Trump had campaigned on closing the department, and McMahon has said the department has one "final mission" to turn over its power to the states.

"The Federal Government has been running our Education System into the ground, but we are going to turn it all around by giving the Power back to the PEOPLE," Trump said late Monday in a post on Truth Social. "Thank you to the

Education continues on A8



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