

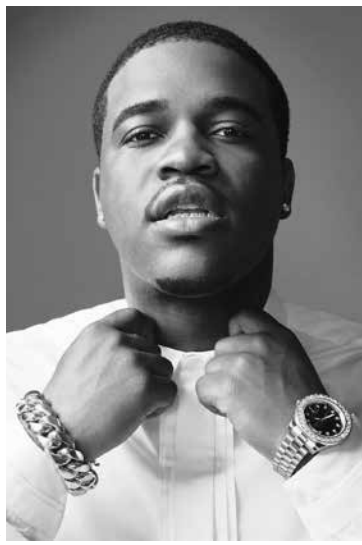
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What's on your list today?



Federal police officers stand guard after clearing a path to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holding facility on Southwest Macadam Avenue on Thursday, June 27. Nine protestors blocking the entrance of the building were arrested.

ICE Building Reopens

Path cleared; protest camp continues

A federal immigration building in southwest Portland reopened Monday as a protest against President Trump's immigration policies continues outside the building.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) holding facility on Southwest Macadam Avenue had been closed since June 20, after the protest group "Occupy ICE PDX" set up a camp with the goal

of shutting down the agency. The protests followed the separation of children from families trying to enter the U.S. at the Mexican border.

Federal police officers cleared a path to the building last Thursday and nine protestors blocking the entrance were arrested.

"Freedom of speech and peaceful assembly are sacred rights enjoyed by all Americans and the U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to protecting these rights. However, when individuals break the law by blocking employees and the public from accessing a

federal facility, federal law enforcement will respond to restore normal business operations," said Billy J. Williams, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon.

A spokesman for the protest group said their demands still stand. They want Portland to withdraw from the Joint Terrorism Task Force; end all cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security; and fund an office of immigrant rights to provide legal help to immigrants swept up in the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policies.

Gun Control Supporters Regroup

An effort led by Portland-area clergy to put a measure on the November ballot to ban the sale of certain semi-automatic guns and large capacity ammunition magazines has been postponed after legal maneuvers by opponents made it nearly impossible to gather enough signatures to meet a July 6 deadline.

Pastor W.J. Mark Knutson of Augustana Lutheran Church said the "Lift Every Voice" campaign will instead set its sights on the 2020 ballot.

Gun rights and hunting groups

had appealed the ballot title for the Initiative 43 Petition, and the Oregon Supreme Court last week ordered changes, giving additional time for the Oregon Attorney General to re-write the title, another period of days for additional appeals and then time for the court to rule again. That meant supporters did not have time to meet the deadline to gather the needed 88,184 signatures in order for the initiative to appear on the ballot in November.

The court said the measure's caption needed to describe more precisely what types of guns and

magazines would be banned under the measure.

Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson called out the developments as an example of how the state's initiative process makes it difficult for anyone other than well-funded groups and political pros to get their proposals before voters.

Pastor Knutson said supporters of the gun safety measure were hit with every legal maneuver they could imagine, but would be back.

"We are just getting going," he said.