

NATION

Experts: Alaska might have been spared

Damage from quake lessened by codes to beef up structures

By Rachel D’Oro and Mark Thiessen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The magnitude 7.0 earthquake rattled Alaska’s largest city, cracked roads and collapsed highway ramps, but there were no reports of widespread catastrophic damage or collapsed buildings.

There’s a good reason for that. A devastating 1964 Alaska earthquake – the most powerful on record in the United States – led to stricter building codes that helped structures withstand the shifting earth Friday.

“Congratulations to the people of Alaska for being really prepared for this earthquake,” U.S. Geological Survey geophysicist Paul Caruso said Saturday. “Because a magnitude 7.0 in a city like that, you know, it could have been significantly worse.”

Gov. Bill Walker said sometimes people, including himself, grouse about stringent building codes. But he’s “really glad” they were in place as he only had minor water

damage at his home.

“Building codes mean something,” he said Friday.

The quake was centered about 7 miles north of Anchorage, which has a population of about 300,000. People ran from their offices or took cover under desks. A 5.7 aftershock arrived within minutes, followed by a series of smaller quakes.

The two big back-to-back quakes knocked items off shelves, disrupted power, broke store windows and briefly triggered a tsunami warning for islands and coastal areas south of the city. Walker issued a disaster declaration, and President Donald Trump declared an emergency, allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief.

There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries.

Still, aftershocks Saturday continued to fray nerves, with people worrying about being caught in more massive shakers.

“They’re disturbing, and I’m not putting anything away that could fall until they calm down,” Randall Cavanugh, an Anchorage attorney, said following a restless night at home. “I kept waking up.”

By midmorning, there had



Joshua Corbett / New York Times

An Anchorage resident carries water home from a store after a precautionary boil-water advisory went out following Friday’s quake. There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries.

been about 550 aftershocks, including 11 with magnitudes of 4.5 or greater, Caruso said.

The aftershocks should be weaker and less frequent in the coming days, but officials can’t say for sure when they’ll stop, he said.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz said the extent of damage was “relatively small” considering the scale of Friday’s earthquake. He also credited building codes for

minimizing structure damage.

“In terms of a disaster, I think it says more about who we are than what we suffered,” he said Saturday at a news briefing, adding Anchorage was prepared for such an emergency. “People pulled together. We followed the plans that were in place. We looked after one another. And when people around the country and around the world look at this, they’re going to say, ‘We want to do things in

the Anchorage way because Anchorage did this right.’ ”

Roads didn’t fare well, as reports of extensive damage came in. The Alaska Department of Transportation counted about 50 sites with damage, including eight considered major. Most of the damage was to highways north of Anchorage. The agency also was planning to conduct bridge inspections Saturday.

Transportation officials said in a release that the aftershocks continue to contribute to settling and additional cracking. Rock falls exacerbated by the aftershocks were causing some problems on the Seward Highway south of Anchorage.

Normal operations resumed at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport after flight operations were suspended Friday, Transportation Department spokesman Meadow Bailey told The Associated Press.

The state averages 40,000 earthquakes a year, with more large quakes than the 49 other states combined. Southern Alaska has a high risk of earthquakes because the Earth’s plates slide past each other under the region, but it is rare for major quakes to strike so close heavily populated areas.

Illinois becomes a haven for women seeking abortions

Tight restrictions in Midwest cause migration to area

By Angie Leventis Lourgos

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO – One woman came to Chicago by bus from Indianapolis in mid-2017, pregnant but with medical complications that would have made labor and delivery potentially dangerous. Another woman traveled here from Wisconsin in March because she didn’t have the financial means or will to have a baby.

Although they were strangers, 28-year-old Timna Axel hosted them in her Uptown neighborhood apartment for a few nights before and after their abortions at local clinics. Axel is a volunteer with Midwest Access Coalition, a Chicago nonprofit that helps defray the costs associated with traveling to terminate a pregnancy, including lodging, food and transportation.

“It seems like a lot of these (nearby) states have increased the barriers to abortion and other health care for women in recent years,” she said. “It doesn’t seem right there should be this island of health care access in Chicago.”

More women are crossing state lines to have abortions in Illinois, according to the latest statistics from the Illinois Department of Public Health, which were released this week.

‘An outlier’

Last year, 5,528 women traveled to Illinois from other states to terminate pregnancies, almost a thousand more than the 4,543 women who came from out of state in 2016. The number of abortions statewide increased slightly, from 38,382 in 2016 to 39,329 in 2017, according to annual state reports. Of those, about 1,000 abortions each year were provided to women whose home states were marked “unknown.”

While the data doesn’t indicate the reason for out-of-state travel, Illinois is generally considered a reproductive rights haven in the more restrictive broader Midwest, where women often face waiting periods, gestational limits, fewer clinics and other hurdles.

To Mary Kate Knorr, executive director of Illinois Right to Life, this status is a badge of dishonor.

“The increase in abortions performed on out-of-state women is indicative of how truly regressive we are when it comes to protecting pre-born children in our state,” she said. “Illinois is an



Erin Hooley / TNS

Timna Axel hosts women traveling from out of state for abortions at her home in Uptown Chicago.

outlier amongst our neighbors, whose legislatures have consulted science and found that discouraging abortions is in the best interest of their residents.”

But Terry Cosgrove, president and CEO of the abortion rights advocacy group Personal PAC, praised Illinois as one of the few states in the middle of the country where women have access to the safe and legal medical procedure.

“So many states around us are enacting dangerous restrictions that put the health and lives of women at risk, so women have no choice really but to come to Illinois,” he said. “It isn’t anything but pure misogyny.”

Across the country, 19 states adopted 63 new abortion restrictions in 2017, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

Some of the biggest shifts have recently been in Iowa, which last year passed a 20-week limit on the procedure as well as a 72-hour waiting period, though the waiting period portion of the law was immediately blocked by the courts.

“When access to abortion is politically restricted, those who have the means to travel will do so, and those without means are left most vulnerable,” said Becca Lee, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. “If someone can travel, they may be forced to take time from work, incur additional expenses, take time from family and make other sacrifices in order to access a safe, legal abortion procedure – and they shouldn’t have to.”

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland also had to close four clinics in Iowa last year because of state defunding. Three of the clinics were in the eastern side of the state, near the Illinois border.

Caitlyn Dixson, executive director of Iowa Right to Life, said Iowa abortion numbers have been at “historic lows” the past few years, and she attributes the decrease in part to some of

these recent anti-abortion measures. While she acknowledged that some women might be heading to other states, she doesn’t believe travel accounts for the entire drop.

“I think women are simply choosing not to terminate,” she said. “I believe that this decline goes hand in hand with the climate in Iowa, particularly after seeing the results of this last election,” including a Republican incumbent governor staving off a pro-abortion rights Democratic challenger.

Low numbers

A recent study from the University of California, San Francisco found that, compared with other regions of the U.S., the Midwest had the fewest number of abortion clinics based on the population of women of childbearing age.

Even in the Midwest, the availability of abortion providers differed significantly state by state. For example, Illinois had about two dozen clinics, roughly one for every 120,135 women of reproductive age. Whereas in neighboring Wisconsin, researchers found three facilities providing abortions, about one for every 423,590 women, according to data collected in early 2017.

Abortion laws continued to fluctuate in many Midwestern states in 2018, though those changes wouldn’t have had an effect on the most recent figures in Illinois.

As of October, Missouri was down to one abortion clinic statewide because of requirements that abortion providers have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

Houston Classical, Inc.

Board of Directors will host public meetings on December 6th at 6PM and December 11th at 5PM at the Henington-Alief Public Library (7979 South Kirkwood). This meeting will provide information about our proposed-public charter school. Houston Classical Charter School will educate students in grades K-8 in southwest Houston. Participants will be introduced to the proposed school and will be able to ask questions. If approved, we will begin classes on August 2020. Members of the school board include, Adrienne Amin, Christopher Smith, Mira K. Shah, Nory Angel, and Fred Barrera.



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<h2>Notice To Creditors Ad</h2> <p>\$74.00*</p> <p>Call the Legals Team 713-224-6868 Ext. 6435 or 4204</p> <p>*\$74.00 includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication</p> <p>*\$1.92 per line over 36 lines</p>				
<h3>NOTICE TO BIDDERS</h3> <p>The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.</p> <p>IFB No. 4019000024: Bus Stop Improvements. Solicitation will be available on or about 11/27/2018.</p> <p>Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/</p> <p>If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.</p>				
<p>Gamla Construction invites you to propose on the Alvin Independent School District New Junior High School # 8 - Phase II Building Package. The proposals are due on Friday, December 14, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Please have your proposal either emailed (phaynes@gamlaconst.com), faxed, hand delivered or called in by 2:00 p.m. to Gamla Construction attention Pam Haynes. There will be a pre-proposal meeting Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Alvin Independent School District, 301 E. House Street, Board Room, Alvin, Texas 77511. This is not mandatory but highly encouraged. All plans are available at Houston AGC, ABC, Dodge, ISQFT and Gamla's FTP site. 713-963-0086, fax # 713-963-0961. Alvin Independent School District and Gamla Construction reserves the right to waive any informality and to reject any or all Proposals.</p> <p>Sealed Bid Solicitation #EM06-19 Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program Earth Moving & Construction Equipment</p> <p>Pre-Bid Conference: 12/03/18 @ 9 am Response Deadline: 01/31/19 @ 1pm Public Opening: 01/31/19 @ 2pm 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX. Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24-hour prior notice. 713- 499-6693 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.</p>				
<h3>ADVERTISEMENT FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS</h3> <p>Brookstone, L.P., acting as Construction Manager-At-Risk on behalf of Spring Independent School District, will receive proposals from subcontractors and suppliers.</p> <p>PROJECT: New 9th Grade Center at Spring High School Package A (Earthwork, Building Pad, Site & Underground Utilities, Foundation & Slab)</p> <p>OWNER: Spring Independent School District</p> <p>SEALED PROPOSAL TIME & DATE : Monday, December 17, 2018 @ 2:00pm Late proposals will not be accepted or acted upon.</p> <p>QUESTIONS: Written questions should be addressed to Karli Atkinson, katkinson@brookstone-tx.com</p> <p>LOCATION AND PROPOSAL OPENING: Construction Manager Brookstone, L.P. 3715 Dacoma Street Houston, TX 77092 Phone: 713.425.0751 Fax: 713.680.0088 Attention: Karli Atkinson Email: katkinson@brookstone-tx.com</p> <p>Proposal documents will be available Wednesday, December 5, 2018 and may be obtained from the following address:</p> <p>Brookstone, L.P. 3715 Dacoma Street Houston, TX 77092 Phone: 713.683.8800 Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm</p> <p>The Construction Manager and Owner reserve the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities in the Proposal process.</p>				
<p>BIDS & PROPOSALS</p> <p>San Jacinto College (SJC) Invitation for Bid SJC is soliciting sealed bids from qualified firms to provide the following: ●IFB 19-09 Steel Supplies; Due date December 13, 2018, 1:00 p.m. The solicitation documents are available and bids may be submitted at https://sanjac.iowave.net. Direct inquiries to patsy.aredo@sjcd.edu/281-998-6106.</p>				
<p>BIDS & PROPOSALS</p> <p>COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON DECEMBER 19, 2018 FOR THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p>REPAIR SERVICES FOR RADIATORS, AIR & FUEL COOLERS FOR RTG CRANES AT BARBOURS CUT TERMINAL AND BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL - CSB-941</p> <p>A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE BARBOURS CUT TERMINAL ADM. BLDG., 1 819 E. BARBOURS CUT BLVD., LA PORTE, TEXAS 7 7571 ON DECEMBER 6, 2018, 10:00 AM SO THAT THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROJECT.</p> <p>FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR THIS PURCHASE MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE RFP FROM THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE, http://buyspeed.poha.com/bso WHERE VENDOR REGISTRATION AND "PROCUREMENT PACKAGE" DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.</p>				
<p>BIDS & PROPOSALS</p> <p>LEGAL NOTICES</p> <p>Texas Southern Land Title will cease operations as of December 31, 2018. Any interested parties please contact Jaclyn Hall at (281)994-5100.</p> <p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING</p> <p>To Discuss Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. State Financial Accountability Rating</p> <p>Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. will hold a public meeting at 4:00 pm, December 2018 at 6025 Chimney Rock Rd., Houston, TX 77081. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the 2017-2018 Financial Accountability Rating. Complete written copies of the prepared financial management report will be disseminated to parents and attendees. The written financial management report will also be available upon request.</p>				

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<h3>ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS</h3> <p>TOMBALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (TISD) JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, A DISTRICT ATHLETIC COMPLEX AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>Gilbane Building Company as Construction Manager-at-Risk for TISD, in accordance with Texas Government Code 2269, will receive proposals from all qualified subcontractors for the Phase 1 Package - Clearing and Grubbing, SWPPP, Temporary Fencing.</p> <p>A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Tuesday December 4, 2018 at 1:30 pm at the Tomball ISD Ancillary Services, 1110 Baker Dr, Tomball TX, 77375.</p> <p>Bids or proposals are due Tuesday December 18, 2018 at 2:00pm. Proposals should be e-mailed to swprocuring@gilbaneco.com or mailed/delivered to Gilbane Building Company, Attn: David Walker, 811 Main Street, Suite 2450, Houston, TX 77002.</p> <p>Gilbane Building Company is committed to M/WBE participation for this project. Proposals submitted should include the anticipated percentage of subcontractor, sub-tier contractor, or material supplier participation.</p> <p>All Proposals should be submitted on the Bid Package Forms provided with the Bid Documents (see website address below).</p> <p>TISD, the Owner, reserves the right to waive any informality and/or to reject any, or all bids, or proposals.</p> <p>Contact David Walker at swprocuring@gilbaneco.com for additional information on this project.</p> <p>Bid Documents will be available at: http://bit.ly/Tomball-ISD-Phase-1-Bid-Documents</p>		

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