

The Fresno Bee



Iran delivers new proposal to US as Hormuz remains shut

BY PATRICK SYKES AND ELTAF NAJAFIZADA
Bloomberg News

Iran delivered a new proposal to the U.S. and President Donald Trump vowed to maintain a naval blockade, as the two sides pursue behind-the-scenes diplomacy to turn a fragile ceasefire into a lasting peace.

Tehran relayed its latest position to Washington via Pakistan, which mediated a first round of direct negotiations last month, Iran's state-run Islamic Republic News Agency said on Friday.

The fate of the Strait of Hormuz — through which about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas flowed before the war — lies at the heart of the current stalemate. Both Iran and the U.S. have signaled they are waiting for the other to move first before they agree to ease restrictions on traffic.

IRNA didn't elaborate on what the Iranian proposal entailed on key issues such as Hormuz or Iran's nuclear activities.

Trump said on Thursday that the blockade of Iranian ports is depriving the Islamic Republic of much-needed oil revenue, claiming the pressure would force Tehran back to the negotiating table.

"Good luck blockading a country with those borders," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on X, referring to his country's large size. He and other Iranian officials say the blockade, which they insist must be lifted for the sides to go to new talks and for Hormuz to be reopened, will further push up oil prices.

Brent traded 3% lower at around \$110 a barrel on Friday, trimming this week's gains to just over 5%.

Trump was briefed at the White House on Thursday by the head of U.S. Central Command, which oversees American forces in the Middle East, and Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, according

SEE HORMUZ, 4A



CRAIG KOHLRUSS ckohlru@fresnobee.com

Valley Children's Hospital appears in the background with part of the 277 additional acres of land it purchased in the foreground just below Children's Boulevard in Madera County on Monday.

Valley Children's spends \$107M to expand Madera campus

BY ERIK GALICIA
egalicia@fresnobee.com

In its latest expansion move, Valley Children's Hospital says it spent \$107 million from its reserves to add another 277 acres of land already approved for residential and commercial development.

The recent acquisition, made through the nonprofit hospital's purchase of the corporation that owns the land, brings Valley Children's campus up to more than 700 acres along Highway 41 in Madera County. The hospital's leadership described the move in an announcement last month as

another long-term investment intended to generate extra revenue streams to pay for healthcare.

In an interview with The Fresno Bee, hospital spokesperson Zara Arboleda said such moves are necessary because of the uncertain future of state and federal funding for Medicaid, which pays for the treatment of 74% of Valley Children's patients.

"We have got to diversify revenue in order to protect our ability to provide patient care," she said.

The latest land addition — which includes open space bounded by Highway 41, Children's Boulevard, Road 40 1/2

and Ave 10 — positions Valley Children's as the main landowner today along the freeway between the Riverstone community and the Fresno-Madera county line. For decades, Richard Gunner, a developer and the land's previous owner, planned it as the future site of residential and commercial development anchored by Valley Children's campus.

It's not yet clear whether Valley Children's will be the entity that builds on the 277 acres. But Arboleda said whatever revenue the hospital makes from the land, "we're going to reinvest all of that back into pediatric care."

The purchase comes two

years after financial decisions at Valley Children's, long considered a top pediatric facility and trustworthy institution, came under public scrutiny in the Fresno area.

Nonprofit tax filings showed CEO Todd Suntrapak was assigned a total compensation of more than \$5 million annually near the start of the decade — a pay level that has since decreased but at the time was blasted as exorbitant by Fresno-area politicians. The hospital then revealed its plans to build apartments, hotel space and retail shops on its campus, which was approaching 500

SEE CAMPUS, 3A

Three vie for California Assembly 27th District seat

BY MELISSA MONTALVO
mmontalvo@fresnobee.com

Three candidates — two Democrats and one Republican — are running to represent a district that encompasses parts of Fresno, Madera and Merced counties in the California State Assembly.

The seat is currently represented by Esmeralda Soria (D-Fresno), a former Fresno City Councilmember, who will term out of her 27th district seat. Soria serves as chair of the Agriculture Committee, as well as on the Governmental Organization, Banking & Finance and

the Economic Development, Growth & Household Impact committees. She is currently a frontrunner in a bid for the 14th State Senate District seat, currently held by Democratic Sen. Anna Caballero.

Candidate filings, candidate websites and campaign finance records show former Merced Mayor Mike Murphy, Fresno Board of Supervisor Brian Pacheco and Livingston City Councilmember Japjeet Singh Uppal are on the June 2 primary ballot to represent the district.

WHERE IS THE DISTRICT?

The 27th district encompasses parts the western side of



SPECIAL TO THE BEE

Candidates for California's 27th Assembly District representing parts of Fresno, Madera and Merced counties are: from left, Livingston Councilmember Japjeet Singh Uppal, former mayor of Merced and small business owner Mike Murphy, and Fresno County District 1 Supervisor Brian Pacheco

Fresno and Madera counties, as well as much of Merced County, including the city of Merced. Other cities and communities within the district include: Biola, Cantua Creek, Caruthers, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Mendota,

Chowchilla, Madera, Madera Acres, Atwater, Delhi, Dos Palos, Le Grand, Livingston, Los Banos and Planada, among others.

Out of more than 500,000

SEE ASSEMBLY, 3A



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