



Senate panel votes to hold Fauci in contempt

INSIDE, 4A

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE FOR LAKE AND SUMTER COUNTIES

DAILY COMMERCIAL

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026 | DAILYCOMMERCIAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



People walk past an anti-U.S. billboard Aug. 3 on a street in Tehran, Iran. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

Iran issues warning to Persian Gulf states

Threatens attacks on infrastructure if nations don't pressure Trump

Parisa Hafezi and Samia Nakhoul
REUTERS

Iran has made a concerted diplomatic push with Persian Gulf states, warning them explicitly that Tehran will hit their oil, power and water plants unless they convince President Donald Trump to end U.S. strikes on Iran and instead seek a negotiated end to the war.

The warning envisaged attacks on the energy facilities, oil fields, refineries, electricity grids, water infrastructure, transportation networks and other strategic assets of Washington's closest Arab allies, according to a senior Iranian official.

The message, part of a broader Iranian effort to deter further U.S. military action by raising the prospect of severe economic disruption across the Gulf, was delivered through a flurry of high-level diplomatic contacts after Trump threatened on July 28 to strike Iran's energy network and infrastructure, the sources said.

Two senior Iranian officials, two Gulf sources and a senior regional diplomat with knowledge of the discussions said

The message was delivered through a flurry of high-level diplomatic contacts after Trump threatened on July 28 to strike Iran's energy network and infrastructure, sources said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi spoke with his Saudi, Turkish and Qatari counterparts, as well as Pakistan's army chief. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Araqchi urged Washington's Gulf allies to use their influence with Trump to dissuade him from launching renewed strikes, the senior diplomat said, warning that any attack on Iran would prompt retaliation against U.S. assets and critical infrastructure across the Gulf.

His message was consistent in every conversation, the diplomat said: "We're ready to retaliate, but finding a diplomatic solution is the best way to avoid wider escalation and destruction across the region."

"The Iranian warning was unequivocal: If America targeted Iran's infrastructure, they would retaliate by striking Gulf energy facilities and other regional targets," one Gulf source said.

The diplomatic campaign underscores how Iran is seeking to turn Gulf vulnerability into leverage, confronting regional governments with the prospect that any renewed U.S.-Iran confrontation could place the infrastructure underpinning their economies directly in the firing line.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman subsequently spoke with Trump, urging him to delay military action, return to negotiations, secure a ceasefire and pursue a diplomatic settlement, the senior diplomat and Gulf sources said.

The warning was intended for every Gulf state, another Gulf source said, but was conveyed primarily through Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Iran has in recent years repaired ties with

See IRAN WAR, Page 5A

YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE

Bourbon St. Brass Band, arm wrestling and more

Julie Garisto
Leesburg Daily Commercial
USA TODAY NETWORK

While it may be raining and hot during the day, Lake and Sumter has plenty of nighttime and indoor entertainment to help you retreat from the heat, and some free outdoor New Orleans-jazzy fun in the Villages later in the day when it gets a little milder and fresh-air friendly.

Plus biker arm wrestling, if you think you can muster the strength.

Bring the pup to Eustis First Friday

Head to downtown Eustis on Friday, Aug. 7, for the monthly **First Friday dog-themed street party**, where you can celebrate the dog days of August in the most literal fashion: It's a "dog-friendly cooldown," the city says. The event will feature a free dog photo-booth, free pup cups (while supplies last), and free face painting (dog designs only). The band Superstatic will rock the crowd, and a cool-off zone will be set up to help furbabies beat the heat. More live entertainment includes the Soccer Collies Interactive Shows at 6:15, 7 and 8 p.m., and circus-style dog shows will take place at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:15 p.m.

Held on the first Friday of every month, this family-friendly block party takes over Historic Downtown Eustis with a wide variety of food, local vendors, and live music. The party

See WEEKEND, Page 2A



Taylor Pannett, seen here as Audrey in Bay Street Players' "Little Shop of Horrors," is one of the nominees for a Dolly award. PROVIDED BY BAY STREET PLAYERS

Learn if a Reverse Mortgage Is Right for You

Scan to Read the Full Article

Call to Find Out What Your Home Is Worth
866-602-2574

