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Iran issues warning to Persian Gulf states

Threatens attacks 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, refiner-

ies, 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 en-

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

See IRAN WAR, Page 6A



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi urged Washington's Persian Gulf allies to use their influence with President Donald Trump to dissuade him from launching renewed strikes. REUTERS



Florida Rep. Byron Donalds of Naples tells attendees why he should be Florida's next governor in New Smyrna Beach on July 29. Donalds leads the field in polling ahead of the Aug. 18 Republican primary election. NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

Trump endorsement steers GOP faithful

Donalds favored to win vote to run for governor

John Kennedy Capital Bureau | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Four prominent Florida Republicans are vying for their party's nomination for governor, but only one – Byron Donalds – has the endorsement of President Trump. That's made all the difference. Polls show that GOP voters in the Aug. 18 primary look certain to make the three-term Naples congressman their choice heading into the November contest against likely Democratic nominee David Jolly. Term-limited Gov. Ron DeSantis hasn't endorsed. But with Donalds wrapped in Trump's embrace, the primary hasn't been much of a contest. And yet it includes plenty of sniping.

See GOP PRIMARY, Page 7A



Collins



Fishback

91-year-old charged in mercy kill of ill wife

St. Johns man faces 1st-degree murder count

Scott Butler
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union
USA TODAY NETWORK

At 91 and the sole caretaker of his blind and dementia-stricken wife, William Lippold told St. Johns County detectives he promised he would never put her in a nursing home, so he views her death as keeping his word. On Aug. 1 he was charged with first-degree premeditated murder after deputies were called to their Como Court home in St. Augustine Shores and found 87-year-old Mary Lippold dead from a gunshot on their bed. As deputies were securing the scene armed with assault rifles, the 91-year-old told them, "it's not complicated, I shot my wife," according to the arrest report first obtained by The Florida Times-Union. He said he also intended to kill himself but failed. His 63-year-old son had called 911 that morning advising his father killed his mother. Afterward the son told detectives his father called him saying, "I did something bad, I need you to come over." When he arrived, his father met him in the living room and asked him to sit down and told him he had killed his mother, according to the report. The son proceeded into the bedroom and saw her on the bed, obviously deceased, with a gun and a note near her. The elder Lippold told him he tried to commit suicide by placing a plastic bag over his head, but he ultimately couldn't do it. The son confirmed his father was the main caretaker for his mother who had severe Alzheimer's disease "and that his dad has eluded to this outcome in the past."

See CHARGED, Page 7A

DeSantis says he's seen drafts of new property tax plan

Jim Rosica
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

The state isn't appealing a judge's ruling that the title and summary for the November ballot initiative to reduce homeowners' property tax is "clearly and conclusively defective," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested in remarks

Aug. 6. That means Attorney General James Uthmeier now must redraft the title and summary language for Amendment 3, which will need no less than 60% approval from voters statewide to be added to the Florida Constitution. DeSantis, appearing at an education-related event in Lehigh Acres, said he's

already read some of the rewrites coming out of Uthmeier's office. The governor had originally pushed the idea and called the special summer legislative session in which state lawmakers passed their version of DeSantis' amendment. They're "great drafts; it's going to be very good," DeSantis said. "It's going to

be very clear for voters what's on there. It addresses what the judge said, even though we don't necessarily agree with the legal analysis, it's fine. It's going to be a very good summary, very straightforward. "People are going to know you're

See PROPERTY TAX, Page 6A

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