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The Gaston Gazette

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Fighting escalates in Persian Gulf



Smoke rises from an explosion at an unknown location during what U.S. Central Command said were strikes on Iran in this screengrab taken from a handout video released July 15. PROVIDED BY U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND VIA REUTERS

Trump hails Tehran’s release of U.S. citizen

Nayera Abdallah and Jana Choukeir
REUTERS

DUBAI – Iran and the United States exchanged intensified fire on July 16 in a weeklong escalation that has all but torn up last month’s truce, but Iran’s release of a U.S. citizen was seen as signaling a path to avert the resumption of all-out war.

For the first time since a memorandum of understanding paused fighting last month, the United States launched two big waves of airstrikes in one day on July 15, mostly on targets near the coast in southern Iran.

See PERSIAN GULF, Page 2A



Iran triggered the renewed fighting last week by striking ships using a corridor in the Strait of Hormuz outside its control. REUTERS FILE

Belmont leaders plan for future data center proposals

Chloe Collins
Gaston Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

As communities across North Carolina grapple with proposed data centers, Belmont Mayor Joe Jordan said June 14 residents won’t have to worry about one coming here — at least for now.

Even so, a recent presentation on data centers gave the Belmont City Council some things to consider if a proposal were to come along.

At a July 6 meeting, Ted McGavran, who works with Fundamental Data, which is building a data center in West Virginia, spoke to the council about the different types of centers and what to expect from each. McGavran is also a member of Belmont’s Environmental Sustainability Board.

The council asked several questions and then discussed next steps. Here’s a closer look at the conversation.

The three types of data centers

During his presentation, McGavran said there are three types of data centers, including “hyperscaler” centers, “edge” data centers and crypto centers.

“Hyperscaler” centers, he said, require large transmission lines, gas turbines, upwards of 100 acres of land, and a lot of water up front.

“In Belmont, we do not have that infrastructure available,” he said.

The edge data centers generally require less generation and transmission infrastructure and are best suited for repurposed industrial facilities, according to McGavran.

He added that the edge centers usually require just 1-5 acres of land.

Crypto centers are also generally smaller and require less extensive infrastructure, but they can be loud and tend to close down quickly, according to McGavran.

“Those things are noisy, they do not stay around for a long time and they are just kind of painful to have around,” he said.

What Belmont can expect

McGavran said he believes Belmont

See DATA CENTER, Page 2A

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