

L.P. FRANS STADIUM

CLUBHOUSE FIRE



COURTESY OF SHANE BOSTIC

Firetrucks illuminate rising smoke at L.P. Frans Stadium on Saturday.

Scouts report blaze at home of Hickory Crawdads; electrical issues to blame

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The visitors' clubhouse at L.P. Frans Stadium in Hickory was heavily damaged by an electrical fire on Saturday morning.

The fire was reported shortly before 5:30 a.m. on Saturday. Hickory firefighters were sent to 2500 Clement Blvd. NW, Hickory Fire Department Education Coordinator Terri Byers said in a news release.

An electrical issue started the fire, Byers said.

L.P. Frans Stadium is home to the Hickory Crawdads minor league baseball team.

Firefighters reported seeing smoke coming from the visitors' clubhouse when they arrived. The fire was extinguished at 5:55 a.m., Byers said.

The contents of the clubhouse were heavily damaged. No injuries were reported, Byers said.

The games for May 9 and May 10 have been canceled due to the fire, the Hickory Crawdads said in a Facebook post.

Several scout groups were sleeping on the field. The scouts smelled smoke and heard an alarm sounding. The scouts called 911 to report the fire, Byers said.

Hickory Fire Department responded with two engines, one ladder truck, a rescue truck and two command units. Once on the scene, firefighters called an additional engine and crew, Byers said.

Sarah Johnson is the courts and breaking news reporter for the Hickory Daily Record.

US, Iran appear no closer to ending war

IDREES ALI, ERIN BANCO AND HATEM MAHER
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A state of relative calm prevailed around the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, after days of sporadic flare-ups, as the United States waited for Iran's response to its latest proposals to end more than two months of fighting and begin peace talks.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday that Washington expected a response within hours. A day later, there was no sign of movement from Tehran on the proposal, which would formally end the war before talks on more contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear program.

Rubio and White House envoy Steve Witkoff met with Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani

of mediator Qatar in Miami on Saturday to work on a deal to end the war, Axios reported, citing two sources.

With U.S. President Donald Trump due to begin a long-awaited visit to China this week, there was mounting pressure to draw a line under the conflict, which threw energy markets into turmoil and posed a growing threat to the world economy.

A Qatari tanker carrying liquid natural gas sailed toward the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday en route to Pakistan, according to LSEG shipping data.

If it successfully transits the strait, it would be the first Qatari LNG vessel to do so since the conflict started.



REUTERS

Please see IRAN, Page A2 Vessels are seen Friday in the Strait of Hormuz off Musandam, Oman.