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PAGE B1



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PAGE A3

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COMMUNITY



CHRISTINA LYONS PHOTOS, DAILY SUN

Campers navigated the water of the pond at Camp Jefferson with canoes.

Trump cancels strikes

PARISA HAFEZI AND SUSAN HEAVEY
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump called off new U.S. military strikes on Iran on Thursday, claiming “final points” of an initial peace deal were approved and details of a signing ceremony would be announced shortly.

Iran’s semiofficial Fars news agency reported that Tehran is likely to approve the agreement, though it had yet to give a formal response.

Trump’s announcement came hours after the president said the U.S. military would attack Iran for a third consecutive night.

Since mid-March, Trump repeatedly claimed that a deal with Iran to end the war is close.

The two sides traded strikes throughout the week. Still, Iranian and Western sources said earlier Thursday that efforts to reach an interim deal to end hostilities intensified.

Three Iranian sources said a political understanding was reached, but some issues remained to be discussed in detail, including a mechanism for the release of tens of billions of dollars of Iranian oil revenues frozen in foreign banks.

The deal would temporarily ease Iran’s grip on the Strait of Hormuz and end a U.S. blockade on Iranian ports, the sources said. Unresolved questions over Tehran’s nuclear development program and its stockpile of highly enriched uranium would be left for future talks.

It was unclear whether such a deal would satisfy critics within Trump’s Republican Party who say any agreement must close Tehran’s path to developing a nuclear weapon.

Analysts say Trump is concerned that any deal will be compared with a 2015 agreement that he criticized as overly lenient. Trump pulled the U.S. out of that accord in 2018 during his first term in office.

“Discussions and final points have been, in both concept and great detail, approved by all parties involved,” Trump claimed on social media.

“The Naval Blockade will remain in full force and effect until this Transaction is finalized — Time and place of the signing to be announced shortly,” he added. Since mid-April, the U.S. has been blocking ships entering or leaving Iranian ports.

Please see IRAN, Page A2

LEARNING SKILLS

4-H Camp offers something for everyone to get excited about

CHRISTINA LYONS
Daily Sun staff writer

Camp Jefferson near Fairbury hosted almost 80 young campers early this week for Camp Renegade.

The camp is a long-standing tradition dating back to around 1979 with the 4-H program in Gage, Jefferson and Saline counties. This year children also came from Thayer, Pawnee, Nuckolls and Lancaster counties. A day camp on either or both Tuesday and Wednesday was added for children 8 to 12 years of age. About a third of the campers were not 4-H members this year.

Gage County Extension Educator Jacie Milius said for a lot of the youths, it is their first overnight camp.

“We hope it’s a good experience for the campers,” she said. “We focus on learning different life skills and some



Please see CAMP, Page A2

Strong breezes made archery a challenge at Camp Jefferson on Tuesday afternoon.

October trial date scheduled in death of child

ROB SCHLOTTERBECK
Daily Sun editor

Timothy Erks had his trial date set for Oct. 26 during a preliminary hearing Wednesday in Gage County District Court for charges related to the June 2025 death of a 5-year-old boy.

Erks, 31, of Liberty is charged with committing child abuse intentionally resulting in death, committing intentional child abuse causing injury, committing intentional child abuse/no injury and false imprisonment stemming from the death of Felix Reyna.

All the charges are felonies, with the first one carrying a minimum sentence of 20 years up to life in prison if he is found

guilty. He’s being held on a \$10 million, 10% bond, with \$1 million required to secure his release.

Heather Peterson of Liberty, Felix’s mother, faces felony charges of committing intentional child abuse resulting in death and intentional child abuse causing injury. She also faces two misdemeanor charges of failing to report child abuse and one of committing child abuse negligently without injury.

At Wednesday’s hearing, District Court Judge Rick Schreiner considered a variety of motions filed by the defense and the prosecution in the case.

Schreiner granted a defense motion to prohibit memorial displays or clothing

from the courthouse during the trial. He had previously granted a defense request that Erks be allowed to wear civilian clothing with no visible shackles or restraints during the trial. Erks will, however, wear restraints that are designed to not be visible in response to concerns raised by the state.

“It’s the state’s understanding that Mr. Erks has made a number of statements in various jail calls that he’s made that give the state some concern with respect to why restraints might be necessary,” said Mary Marcum, an attorney with the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office acting as a special prosecutor for the county in the case, along with William Tangeman.

Schreiner granted motions by the state, with no objections from the defense, to amend its witness list and endorse additional witnesses.

Left for later were motions to sequester potential witnesses, creating supplemental questions for potential jurors, a defense request that the state disclose if it intends to offer evidence of confessions or admissions by Erks to law enforcement officers, and a state request on the admissibility of evidence, along with other matters.

Up next is another preliminary hearing scheduled for July 9.

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TV	B3	Local	A4
Nation	A3	Sports	B1

