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Nebraska softball captures its second Big Ten tournament title. Sports

Sunday World-Herald

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OMAHA.COM

US, Iran appear no closer to deal

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 met with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani in Miami on Saturday and discussed the need to continue working together "to deter threats and promote stability and security across the Middle East," U.S. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott said in a statement. The statement did not specifically mention Iran.

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.

Qatar will sell the LNG to Pakistan, a mediator in the war, according to two people familiar with the matter. They said Iran approved the shipment to help build confidence with Qatar and Pakistan.

Tehran largely blocked non-Iranian shipping through the strait since the war began Feb. 28 with U.S.-Israeli airstrikes across Iran. Before the war, one-fifth of the world's oil supply passed through the narrow waterway.

Speaking in Stockholm, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said European countries shared the U.S.-Israeli aim of stopping Iran from getting nuclear weapons and said they were working to bridge differences with Washington.

Britain said Saturday it deployed a warship to the Middle East in preparation for a potential multinational effort to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz once conditions allow.

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Suspect identified

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office identified the suspect who died in a shootout on Friday in South Omaha, where a deputy was injured.

Midlands, Page C13

Weather

High: 74 Low: 49
Mostly cloudy Details: A16

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CHRIS MACHIAN PHOTOS, THE WORLD-HERALD

David Utterback at Yoshitomo, one of his three restaurants in Omaha. He tries to give his guests an amazing experience each time they visit.

Chef behind sushi empire never cooks at home

David Utterback is a finalist for a James Beard Award for the third time

MARJIE DUCEY
World-Herald Staff Writer

David Utterback, a James Beard Award finalist and one of the most innovative chefs in Omaha, never cooks at home.

So he, wife Leah and children Koji, 10, and Eisley, 7, dine out often. Their preferred establishments may surprise you.

"We only get to eat chicken-nugget-based cuisine," Utterback said. His kids are super picky eaters. "If they don't serve chicken tenders, we can't go to that restaurant."

When he and Leah squeeze in a date night a few times a year, they might try dishes at three or four restaurants in a night. That sampling is the whole show, with no movie or theater to follow, Utterback said.

That's what he seeks for each of his three restaurants: Yoshitomo and Ota at 60th and Maple Streets and Koji in Countryside Village at



Utterback works on a sushi dish. On a busy Friday, Yoshitomo can serve about 140 people.

87th and Pacific Streets.

"We really try to think about your experience," he said. "We're trying to be more hospitable. We're trying to be more thoughtful in the preparation, in our food, in our service. Give you more than you were probably expecting walking into a restaurant."

His method is working. For the third time, he is a finalist for a James Beard Award in the "Best

Chef: Midwest" category. Five chefs from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin are on the list for what is seen as the restaurant industry's Oscar.

It's a run of recognition that started when Utterback was named a James Beard Award semi-finalist in 2020.

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Utterback says the attention he has drawn for his food has been unexpected. "Restaurants don't really open here with those kinds of ambitions."