

THE MORNING CALL

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Trump: Iran ceasefire on 'life support'

Diplomacy stalls with plan rejected as 'piece of garbage'

By Jon Gambrell, Samy Magdy and Seung Min Kim
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — President Donald Trump on Monday said the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" after rejecting Tehran's latest proposal, which officials said included some nuclear concessions. Trump also proposed suspending the federal gas tax to help with higher fuel prices caused by the war.

The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip the Middle East back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict.

Iran still has a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global oil and gas shipments, and America is blockading Iranian ports.

Asked at the White House if the ceasefire was still in effect, Trump said it's on "life support."

"I would call it the weakest right now after reading that piece of garbage they sent us," Trump added. "I didn't even finish reading it."

Trump also said he supported a suspen-

sion of the federal tax on gasoline — just over 18 cents per gallon and 24 cents for diesel. Congress, which is controlled by Republicans, would have to approve. The tax brings in more than \$23 billion each year.

His pledge came after fuel prices surged past \$4.50 a gallon last week. Trump predicted that the price of oil and gas would drop "like a rock" as soon as hostilities are over.

Trump has demanded a major rollback of Iran's nuclear activities, while Iran is pushing for a more limited agreement that would reopen the strait and lift the blockade ahead of further negotiations.

On Monday, Trump claimed that Iran had

said it would allow the U.S. to come in and help extract its highly enriched uranium but went back on that in its latest ceasefire proposal. "They changed their mind because they didn't put it in the paper," he said.

Iran has not publicly agreed to give up its uranium, saying it has a right to enrich and that its nuclear program is entirely peaceful.

Two regional officials told The Associated Press that Iran has offered to dilute part of its highly enriched uranium and transport the rest to a third country. Russia has previously offered to take it. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the

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Charlie Mallon, from left, Annette Minar and Noelle Labar converse Wednesday at the Nazareth Senior Center at the Oliver C. Border House in Nazareth. Due to a \$400,000 cut in state funding for the Area Agency on Aging, Northampton County said it plans to close the Lower Nazareth and Northampton Borough senior centers effective June 30.
JONATHAN BROADY/SPECIAL TO THE MORNING CALL

SPOTLIGHT PA

Court ruling on election data creates uncertainty for counties

State Supreme Court ruled that public should have access

By Carter Walker
VOTEBEAT

In a rare unanimous decision last month, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that the public should have access to super-granular election results data, making it easier for researchers to analyze electoral patterns and for those concerned about voter fraud to inspect the results.

But it's unclear how many counties will be able to release the data due to unanswered technological questions and concern about keeping ballots secret in some jurisdictions.

The data, known as a cast vote record or CVR, is essentially a log of each ballot cast in an election and what candidates it voted for. It does not reveal the names of the voters who cast those ballots (election officials don't even keep that data), but it does include the precinct where the vote was cast.

"Disclosure of CVRs allows the public to 'check the math' of (Lycoming County) Voter Services to ensure the number of reported votes match the number of recorded votes," Justice Daniel McCaffery wrote for the majority. "Such disclosure promotes fair, honest, and transparent elections, which strikes to the heart of 'trust but verify.'"

In October 2021, conservative activist Heather Honey, who is now the Trump administration's deputy assistant secretary of homeland security for election integrity, requested Lycoming County's cast vote record for the 2020 election. The county initially denied her request — a decision upheld by the state's Office of Open Records. But a local court overturned that ruling, only to be overturned itself by the state's Commonwealth Court, a decision that was then overturned by the state Supreme Court in late April.

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Northampton County to close 2 senior centers

Members aren't ready to give up the fight

By Brian Myszkowski
SPECIAL TO THE MORNING CALL

A sizable budget reduction will force Northampton County to shutter two senior centers this summer, much to the dismay of those who have come to rely on the facilities for support and community.

County officials said the Area Agency on Aging had seen a nearly \$400,000 budget cut, forcing it to shut down the Lower Nazareth Township and Northampton Borough senior centers on June 30.

Seniors who attend those centers

are being directed to other nearby locations, but many worry they will lose an important part of their daily lives.

"For some of them, this is a big deal for them. ... It's their socialization," said MaryAnne Steinert, 74, a volunteer at the Northampton Senior Center, located in the Grace United Church of Christ. "They come there, they see people they know. They hang out, they do a little bit of everything. They play cards, they talk, whatever, for four hours, and then they then they can go and do whatever they want with the rest of their lives. And it makes their day. It's a reason to get

out of bed, you know?"

According to the county, Northampton's Area Agency on Aging lost an important revenue source when the state discontinued what's known as "desk reviews," which were assessments the agency was paid to conduct to determine eligibility for long-term care facilities. In 2025, Northampton's AAA completed 1,440 reviews, generating \$373,464 in revenue which went to supporting seniors in the community.

Northampton County Executive Tara Zrinski said the discontinuation

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Route 22 exit in Lehigh Valley is one of worst in Pennsylvania

Airport Road interchange voted 2nd most stressful in recent survey

By Evan Jones
THE MORNING CALL

As many already know, Route 22 can be anxiety inducing for motorists driving through the Lehigh Valley.

According to a survey conducted by a personal injury law firm, the Airport Road exit in Hanover Township, Lehigh County, is the second most stressful in Pennsylvania. Regan Zambri Long polled more than 3,000 motorists across the country and compiled a list for each state.

"These exits aren't just frustrating — they're where a lot of collisions happen," said Patrick Regan of Regan Zambri Long. "When traffic compresses, and drivers are forced to react quickly, it increases the likelihood of rear-end crashes and sudden lane conflicts. From

a legal perspective, we see how often these moments escalate."

The study found that vehicles exiting Route 22 to Airport Road "slow as they approach nearby intersections and turning traffic. When demand increases, the ramp fills and speeds drop.

"Drivers often adjust their pace more than once while approaching the junction. The transition from highway travel to local streets happens within a short distance, and the flow tends to remain uneven as vehicles line up."

Traffic exiting at Airport Road is likely going to several nearby destinations, including Lehigh Valley International Airport, several industrial buildings and warehouses, and the Airport Shopping Center along with other nearby stores, restaurants and hotels. During the spring and summer, fans heading to Coca-Cola Park use the corridor.

That section of Route 22 is also the busiest highway

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Traffic on Route 22 approaches the Airport Road exit in Hanover Township, Lehigh County. A law firm survey found that the off ramps to Airport Road are among the most stressful for drivers. **APRIL GAMIZ/THE MORNING CALL**

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