

# THE MORNING CALL

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## Trump: US, Iran reach peace deal

Details still emerging, but Friday signing set

By Julia Frankel, Abby Sewell, Samy Magdy and Will Weissert  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD — The United States and Iran have reached a deal to end the war and open the Strait of Hormuz, offering relief to the global economy more than three months since fighting began. Full details of the deal were not

immediately available Sunday. The signing will be Friday in Switzerland. Key issues like Iran's nuclear program are expected to be addressed later.

President Donald Trump confirmed a deal had been reached and said he had authorized an end to the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports in the Strait of Hormuz. "Congratulations to all!" he wrote

on social media, without providing details. He added, "Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!"

The U.S. has said it would ease its blockade of Iranian ports as the strait reopens, and would agree to relax sanctions to allow Iran to sell more oil and strengthen its battered economy.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Kazem Gharibabadi, confirmed the deal on state TV but said Iran would

not start implementing it until it was signed Friday.

Iranian state media reported key mediator Pakistan's announcement of the deal, after a day in which Israel, sidelined from the negotiations, attacked Beirut's southern suburbs while pursuing the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and posed a threat to the discussions nearing an end.

"Both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on

all fronts, including in Lebanon," Pakistan said, adding that mediators this week will facilitate meetings to "lay the foundation for the technical talks."

The deal likely returns to a status that existed before the war, but with thousands of people dead and Iran wielding a new source of negotiating pressure with its ability to influence transits of the strait.

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Paige Shickel, social media editor for The Stinger, Emmaus High School's student newspaper, smiles while working on the senior issue during one of The Stinger's final production days of the school year May 28 in the high school newsroom. **AVERY FOLMAR/THE MORNING CALL**

**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT**

## Emmaus student persists through brain surgery

Paige Shickel excelled in sports, academics and as student newspaper editor

By Elizabeth DeOrnellas  
THE MORNING CALL

Student-led publications are the proving ground for the next generation of communication professionals, and The Stinger's social media editor has already shown she can execute a digital marketing strategy, a skill set she'll continue to hone in Villanova business courses.

In addition to marketing work for the school newspaper and yearbook, Paige Shickel's senior year included varsity lacrosse, volunteering, academic honors and time off for brain surgery.

Shelby Ramirez, one of The Stinger's faculty advisers, said Shickel carried out her editorial duties "with class, poise and innovation."

Beyond taking the publication's

social media "to the next level," Ramirez said Shickel's perseverance through personal struggles inspired the rest of the staff.

"Through all her work inside the classroom, extracurriculars, and the (lacrosse) field, she remained a pleasant, kind and caring individual — most importantly," Ramirez said. "She took a major life challenge, faced it, and came out even stronger. Her

incredible story and incredible self will be missed next year."

Shickel underwent brain surgery to have a cerebral cavernous malformation — a cluster of irregularly formed blood vessels that can lead to headaches, stroke or other issues — removed.

"I found out that I had it in January right when I expected my

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## Group says Lafayette violated rights

Free speech foundation raises questions about suspension of Greek Life

By Jon Chiu  
THE MORNING CALL

A national free speech group says Lafayette College violated students' free speech rights after the Easton institution suspended fraternity and sorority activities due to what's been described as antisemitic and sexist remarks during a seminar.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education said that even though activities were recently restored after students completed anti-bias training, the university still needs to be held accountable.

"It's still problematic that this happened to begin with. These groups were suspended for several months and that means this could happen again if the college believes its response was correct," said Zach Greenberg, FIRE's director of faculty legal defense. "We're still pursuing this case. We're trying to hold the college accountable. We're trying to get them to admit what they did was wrong and uphold student speech rights going forward."

According to a letter FIRE sent to the college, which referenced reporting by campus newspaper The Lafayette, the suspension occurred after anonymous antisemitic and sexist responses were made during a Wellness 101 seminar Nov. 12 attended by about 600 fraternity and sorority members.

Lafayette suspended all Greek life social events amongst its 13 fraternities and sororities until all organizations completed anti-bias training developed by the college, which began to be distributed in February.

A fraternity member, who requested anonymity to avoid retaliation from Lafayette, told The Morning Call he did not recall any such Wellness 101 sessions occurring in his prior years in Greek life and felt that attendance for this session was being heavily pushed by the college.

"I don't remember if there was

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## Lawmakers look to taxes on Big Tech to help cover state spending needs

By Stephen Caruso  
SPOTLIGHT PA

HARRISBURG — Taxes aimed at the tech industry are on the table as Pennsylvania lawmakers negotiate the upcoming budget and look for ways to help balance the commonwealth's shaky books.

Two options have been floated, including eliminating the state's sales tax exemption for purchases related to building and maintaining data centers. The commonwealth is projected to miss out on \$2 billion in accumulated tax revenue by 2031.

The other proposal would extend the state's 5% gross receipts tax to firms that sell digital ads. That tax

**SPOTLIGHT PA**

could bring in hundreds of millions of dollars a year in new revenue, although estimates vary.

Such a fiscal shot in the arm would aid policymakers as they tackle Pennsylvania's longstanding budgetary woes. The commonwealth is on track to spend around \$5 billion more than it makes in revenue for this fiscal year. That kind of deficit spending has become routine in recent budgets, and led to cash reserves being halved from \$14 billion two years ago to roughly \$7 billion today.

Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro has pitched a \$53.3 billion budget that would send more money to the state's poorest schools and bump funding for struggling public transit systems. Although the proposal doesn't include any major new programs, it would still require the state to dip into its rainy day fund.

Tech taxes are a new direction for lawmakers stymied by partisan and ideological differences when trying to find new revenue — a dynamic exacerbated by special interests. Efforts to regulate and tax recreational marijuana and slot-like skill games have foundered in recent years.

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Gov. Josh Shapiro announces that Amazon is planning to invest at least \$20 billion to establish multiple high-tech cloud computing and artificial intelligence innovation campuses across Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania lawmakers are considering taxes that would target the tech industry as a way to help balance the state's books. Tech taxes would be a new direction for legislators who haven't been able to agree on ways to raise new revenue. **COMMONWEALTH MEDIA SERVICES**

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