

BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

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MIDDLE EAST

TRUMP SAYS NO TALKS PLANNED WITH IRAN



AMIRHOSEIN KHORGOOI, WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY

A vessel is seen June 30 in the Strait of Hormuz near the beach of Bandar Abbas, Iran.

Tehran says Strait of Hormuz will remain closed to ship traffic

PARISA HAFEZI AND
KATHARINE JACKSON
Reuters

DUBAI/WASHINGTON — U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday no talks were taking place with Iran and none were scheduled, but he claimed the Strait of Hormuz was open, contradicting an earlier Iranian assertion that the critical waterway remained shut to shipping.

The receding prospects of a deal to end the nearly six-month conflict drove up oil prices again on Tuesday, while stock markets sagged and borrowing costs for major economies including the U.S. hit multi-decade highs amid concerns about the long-term

inflationary and fiscal effects of the crisis.

A temporary ceasefire agreement expired on Monday and a senior Iranian official told Reuters that his country was moving to a “fully offensive” military posture due to the diplomatic stalemate, though there were no reports of fresh strikes by either side on Tuesday.

“There are no talks or conversations going on, or scheduled, with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Trump said Tuesday on social media.

“The Naval Blockade remains in full force and effect. The Hormuz Strait is open and operating. All water mines have been removed or detonated,”

he added.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates’ defense ministry said Tuesday it detected two ballistic missiles launched from Iran, the first such incident reported since a May 4 strike on the Fujairah port.

It said one missile fell in territorial waters, while the other fell outside.

The UAE later reported on social media that the missiles targeted “maritime traffic” based on its assessments.

Iran’s foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei rejected the comments and said the UAE’s “accusations” were “baseless.”

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REUTERS

Ships are seen June 15 in the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Musandam, Oman.

SULLIVAN COUNTY STABBING

Blountville man faces three charges of attempted murder

DAVID MCGEE
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — A Blountville man faces felony charges after three women were hospitalized following a Tuesday stabbing incident at a residence on Highland Drive in Blountville.

Jonathan Clark, 24, of Highland Drive has been charged with three felony counts of aggravated domestic violence and three counts and attempted first-degree murder, said Capt. Matt Price of the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office criminal investigations division.

One victim was treated and released from the hospital. Two others were being treated Tuesday afternoon but their conditions were “improving,” he said.

The cause of the incident remains under investigation, he said.

The 911 call came in at 10:06 a.m., regarding a stabbing. Investigators remained on the scene until late Tuesday afternoon.

“Three victims were rescued from the house, but the suspect remained inside,” Price said. “He refused to comply with officers commands. Non-lethal chemical agents were put inside the house. He did eventually come out and was taken into custody.”

The suspect was also taken to the hospital.

No one else was inside the residence. No officers were injured in the incident.

SCSO and Sullivan County EMS responded to the scene.

Authorities took two dogs from the residence and they will be returned to the owners when they are able to care for them, he said.

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Sullivan sheriff suspends Flock camera use amid threats

Cassidy asks voters to decide future of devices

ROBERT SORRELL
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — Sullivan County Sheriff Jeff Cassidy said Monday that his office has suspended the use of its Flock license plate reader cameras amid what he described as ongoing threats against members of his staff, himself and his family.

Cassidy’s announcement comes as the Sullivan County Commission had planned to vote Thursday on whether to renew the Sheriff’s Office’s contract with Flock Safety.

Rather than simply asking commissioners to renew the contract, Cassidy is now asking the commission to consider putting the issue before voters through a referendum.

“I believe the people of Sullivan County deserve facts, transparency and ultimately, a voice in this decision,” Cassidy said in a statement.

Cassidy said the decision to suspend the cameras comes as the use of the technology has become increasingly controversial and politically charged.

“Given the ongoing threats directed toward members of my staff, myself and my family, this matter could and should have been addressed through a



Cassidy

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