

OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

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MIDDLE EAST

US, IRAN DIG IN



BILAL HUSSEIN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut's southern suburbs, Tuesday in Lebanon.

Threats ramp up as war rages with no end in sight

JON GAMBRELL, JAMEY KEATEN AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's attacks on oil infrastructure and pledges to choke off a vital waterway left markets on edge Tuesday as the United States promised blistering new strikes. The war entered its 11th day with no end in sight as its effects were felt across the Middle East and beyond.

Both sides sharpened their rhetoric as they dug in, with U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth again promising the most intense strikes yet, while Iran's leaders ruled out talks and threatened U.S. President Donald Trump.

Iran launched new attacks against Israel and Gulf Arab countries, while Israel carried out waves of airstrikes on Iran and Lebanon, where it is battling Hezbollah militants.

Residents of Tehran said they experienced some of the heaviest strikes of the war, leading to electricity cuts in many neighborhoods of the capital.

One resident said his area shook for a half-hour from strikes overnight and into Tuesday.



VAHID SALEMI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman carries her groceries Tuesday along the mostly empty Tehran traditional main bazaar, where most shops are closed, in Tehran, Iran.

Please see **MIDDLE EAST**, Page A2

Trump's claim of 'roaring' US economy not backed by data

2026 has kicked off with job losses, rising gasoline prices

JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump promised that 2026 would be a bumper year for economic growth, but instead it has kicked off with job losses, rising gasoline prices and more uncertainty about America's future.

In his State of the Union address less than two weeks ago, the Republican president confidently told the country: "The roaring economy is roaring like never before." The latest batch of data on jobs, pump prices and the stock market suggests that Trump's roar has started to sound more like a whimper.

There is a gap between the boom that Trump predicted and the volatile results he produced — one that could set the tone in this year's midterm elections as he tries to defend his party's majorities in the House and Senate. With Trump's tariffs drama ongoing, the war in Iran has suddenly created inflationary concerns regarding oil and natural gas. To the White House, it is still early in the year and stronger growth is coming.

No signs of a jobs boom

"WOW! The Golden Age of America is upon us!!!" Trump posted on social media Feb. 11 after the monthly jobs report showed gains of 130,000 jobs in January.

Please see **ECOMONY**, Page A2



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

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