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THE ST. AUGUSTINE RECORD

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Oil prices soar as Iran names leader



Smoke billows after an Israeli air strike in the southern suburbs of Beirut on March 9. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Pentagon identifies 7th service member killed

Thao Nguyen, Christopher Cann, Kim Hjelmgard and Dan Morrison
USA TODAY

As the U.S.-Israel war with Iran entered its 10th day on March 9, oil prices soared over fears of a prolonged conflict, President Donald Trump demanded "unconditional surrender" and the Pentagon made public the name of the sev-

enth U.S. service member to die in the conflict.

Oil prices jumped above \$110 a barrel, reaching its highest prices since 2022 as fears grow over prolonged shipping disruptions due to war throughout the Middle East.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, jumped to \$119.50 a barrel before retreating to around \$103. Trump called

that "a small price to pay."

"Short term oil prices, which will drop rapidly when the destruction of the Iran nuclear threat is over, is a very small price to pay for U.S.A., and World, Safety and Peace," Trump said in a social media post, adding, "ONLY FOOLS WOULD THINK DIFFERENT-

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Shore Drive Trail project is dead, again

Lucia Viti
St. Augustine Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

St. Augustine's Shore Drive Trail project is dead, again.

After a series of meetings with local residents, the St. Johns County Commission ended the two-year debate

about whether to create a five-foot-wide, multi-use pedestrian path between the Doug Crane Boat Ramp and the Moultrie Boat Ramp to improve pedestrian safety, provide ADA accessibility and enhance access to waterfront views.

Because there is no sidewalk along Shore Drive, the path was proposed as a

safety measure to move pedestrians and cyclists out of the winding, busy, two-lane road. The initiative, which was introduced in March 2024, was credited to former Commissioner Paul Waldron's advocacy for equal access, safety and ensuring ADA accessibility.

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State workers rallied outside the Florida House of Representatives to demand higher pay in 2020.
ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Florida is targeting public sector unions

James Call
USA TODAY NETWORK - Florida

The Florida Senate on March 6 passed a public sector labor bill supported by the Trump Administration that union advocates said will cripple government workers' ability to organize.

The measure (SB 1296) by Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, is backed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon. It makes it more difficult for unions to recruit, communicate and collect dues from members and requires local chapters to get 60% of the vote in an election to be certified.

The House companion (HB 995) cleared its three committees and is waiting to be considered on the House floor. The session is set to end March 13.

The measure originally required a 50%-plus-one vote of all workers in a bargaining unit, which would have counted a non-vote as a "no" vote. But Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, amended the bill in committee to require a supermajority of those who voted for a chapter to be recertified.

At the time, Simon told Martin his bill needed "more work" and he hoped it would "become more sensible." But when the Senate approved the measure on a 20-14 vote, Simon - who represents about 30,000 government sector workers in his 13-county north Florida district - was among the no votes.

The Freedom Foundation free-market think tank consulted with Martin

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