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ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026 | ONLINEATHENS.COM

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ROCKIN' AT THE ROLLER RINK



Classic City Roller Derby faces off against Peach State Roller Derby (Marietta) at Fun Galaxy in Athens on May 18, 2025. ANDREW SHEARER/ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

Classic City Roller Derby marks 20th anniversary

Andrew Shearer Athens Banner-Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

When it comes to rock 'n' roll in Athens, one group has scored more hits than all of the others combined, and they did it without playing a single note. Classic City Roller Derby (CCRD) will be celebrating two decades on eight wheels with a 20th anniversary season opening bout scheduled to take place at the Classic Center on Sunday, March 8.

Founded in 2006 by Dayna "Zomberella" Noffke, CCRD has a grassroots origin story that has a lot in common with how bands get started.

Noffke and friend Matt "Sarcastro" Kirkland drove to Atlanta to watch roller derby and left the bout inspired to bring the exciting spectacle home to Athens.

See ROLLER DERBY, Page 3A

"We could barely skate when we started. I had no idea if the team would last one year, so I'm absolutely delighted that it's still going today."

Dayna "Zomberella" Noffke



This undated archive photo shows Classic City Roller Derby skater Rachel "Mosh-Ya Brady" Burnham on the track at Fun Galaxy in Athens. PROVIDED BY RACHEL BURNHAM



Foreign workers look at a plume of black smoke after an explosion in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, on March 3. The war is expected to mean higher gas prices. FADEL SENNA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Iran war could impact U.S. economy

Oil prices rise, but Fed is likely to hold rates

Rachel Barber and Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Oil prices jumped and global stocks stumbled immediately following U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation, but economists say the war will likely not have much impact on the Federal Reserve's upcoming interest rate decision.

For now, the war that killed Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and led to disrupted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is expected to mean higher gas prices for American consumers and potential increased volatility in financial markets.

Although analysts are watching for signs that high energy costs could mean heightened inflation, Wells Fargo Chief Economist Tom Porcelli said the war presents a supply-driven oil price shock, exactly the kind of spike Federal Reserve officials aim to "look through" when setting interest rates.

"Absent a prolonged war and major long-term disruptions to key shipping routes in the Strait of Hormuz, the impact on U.S. economic growth, inflation and monetary policy should remain modest," Porcelli said in a March 2 special commentary, adding the situation is fluid. "Of course, the opposite also could be true."

U.S. consumers may have been hoping for potentially cheaper gas given recent activity in Venezuela, but are now drawing the natural conclusion that prices could go up, according to

See IRAN, Page 2A

Dad of accused Georgia school shooter found guilty

Landmark case convicts Gray of murder, manslaughter

N'dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

A father whose son is accused of fatally shooting two teachers and two classmates at a Georgia high school in 2024 was found guilty of murder, manslaughter and other charges after providing the gun allegedly used in the shooting.

Colin Gray, 55, testified during the 11-day trial that he gave his son, Colt Gray,

the rifle prosecutors say was used in the attack at Apalachee High School as a Christmas present.

Mason Schermerhorn and Christian Angulo, both 14, and teachers Richard Aspinwall and Christina Irimie were killed in the shooting, which shocked the tight-knit, rural community. Seven others were wounded.

Prosecutors argued that the father should have known the danger his son posed.

The case was "about who armed Colt and who enabled him to do what he did," prosecutor Patricia Brooks told jurors in her closing arguments.

Colin Gray had pleaded not guilty. He took the stand in his own defense saying that he was trying to be a good father in a broken home and had no idea his son was capable of carrying out a mass shooting.

"I struggle with it everyday," he said during the emotional testimony.

See SHOOTING, Page 2A



Colin Gray, the father of accused Apalachee High School shooter Colt Gray was convicted on 29 counts.

BRYNN ANDERSON/VIA REUTERS

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Volume 243 | No. 46
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