

MATTOON | PETERSON PARK



SCOTT PERRY PHOTOS, JG-TC

A crowd member expresses love for MercyMe on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Harvest of Hope 2026 at Peterson Park in Mattoon.

HARVEST OF HOPE

Concert spreads message of love, community



Fans of all ages were on hand Saturday, Sept. 12, for Harvest of Hope 2026 at Peterson Park in Mattoon.



A large crowd enjoys the performance by MercyMe on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Harvest of Hope 2026 at Peterson Park in Mattoon.



The crowd responds to Tasha Layton's performance Saturday, Sept. 12, at Harvest of Hope 2026 at Peterson Park in Mattoon.

MIDDLE EAST

Hopes
fade for
diplomatic
resolution

Meeting over Strait of Hormuz postponed amid fresh attacks

MOHAMMED GHOBARI, NAYERA ABDALLAH
AND BO ERICKSON
Reuters

DUBAI — Middle East diplomacy appeared to falter heading into Monday with the postponement of a meeting between Iran and other Persian Gulf powers, while fresh attacks around the region's two most important oil transit routes deepened concern over global energy supplies.

Oil prices jumped as markets reopened on Monday, following developments that threaten supplies from the world's biggest exporter, Saudi Arabia, which kept a key 745-mile east-west pipeline closed throughout the weekend after it was damaged in drone strikes Friday.

Hopes for a diplomatic breakthrough in the near term faded when Oman's foreign minister, Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, posted late Sunday that a regional meeting scheduled for Monday was postponed "in the interests of consensus."

Iranian officials said they would attend that gathering with Gulf Arab states to present an agreement with Oman on governing shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Fars news agency cited an Iranian foreign ministry official as saying that the Oman meeting was postponed at the request of some regional countries in a decision jointly made by Tehran and Muscat. The official said Iran would coordinate with Oman to determine a suitable date for holding the meeting.

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US | ENERGY

Power use
continuing at
record pace

SCOTT DISAVINO
Reuters

NEW YORK — U.S. power consumption will rise to record highs in 2026 and 2027, driven by AI-hungry data centers and electrification, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said in its Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) on Wednesday.

The EIA projected power demand will rise from a record 4,195 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) in 2025 to 4,270 billion kWh in 2026 and 4,349 billion kWh in 2027.

Demand is surging in large part due to data centers dedicated to artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency, and as homes and businesses use more electricity and less fossil fuels for heat and transportation.

"Despite a pause in connecting new data center projects in Texas to the grid, the West South Central region accounts for the largest share of total electricity

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