



LOCAL | A2

Happy birthday, Charlotte Agness!

STATE | A3

Indy airport opens state fair exhibit

WORLD | A8

Israel steps up airstrikes in Tehran

KOKOMO TRIBUNE

KokomoTribune.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

\$2.50

Hegseth asserts air dominance over Iran

Admits the US 'can't stop everything'

KONSTANTIN TOROPIN AND DAVID KLEPPER ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth acknowledged Wednesday that some Iranian air attacks may still hit their targets even as he asserted that U.S. military superiority is quickly giving it

control of the Islamic Republic's airspace.

The U.S. has spared "no expense or capability" to enhance air defense systems to protect American forces and allies in the Middle East, Hegseth told reporters at the Pentagon days after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in a conflict that has widened throughout the region.

"This does not mean we can stop everything, but we ensured that the maximum possible defense and maximum possible force protection was

set up before we went on offense," he said.

The acknowledgement that additional drone or missile strikes in the region could cause damage and harm to troops comes as President Donald Trump and top defense leaders have warned that additional American casualties were expected in a conflict that could last months.

U.S. service members "remain in harm's way, and we must be clear-eyed that the risk is still high," Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, said at the same press conference.

Six soldiers were killed when an Iranian drone strike hit an operations center Sunday in the heart of a civilian port in Kuwait, miles away from the main Army base. The husband of one of the slain soldiers, who was part of a supply and logistics unit based in Iowa, says the center was a shipping container-style building and had no defenses.

Caine declined to answer a reporter's question about the possibility of

deploying ground troops in Iran, something that President Donald Trump has not ruled out.

"I'm not going to comment on U.S. boots on the ground," Caine said. "I think that's a question for policymakers. And I don't make policy, I execute policy."

Hegseth also signaled a possible longer time frame for the conflict than has previously been floated, saying it could last eight weeks but

See IRAN on A2

HEART HEALTH



Photos by Kaitlynn Myers | Kokomo Tribune

Kokomo Family YMCA members utilize the new rehab and recovery studio.

YMCA introduces new cardiac rehab program

KAITLYNN MYERS KOKOMO TRIBUNE

The Kokomo Family YMCA is partnering with Community Health Network to offer a new cardiac rehab program focused on people who are in Phase 3 of their rehabilitation journey.

"People that have had a cardiac event go through rehab, though the hospitals and under a doctor's care," explained Tony Budenz, director of marketing and communications for the YMCA. "When they get to Phase 3, they can go seek out places to continue their rehab on their own. Now we have a rehab and recovery studio upstairs that's built perfect for that."

The studio offers a quieter environment, away from the clanking and noise from the other side of the gym, for patrons to focus on their cardiac rehab journey.

Budenz said the main idea behind the cardiac rehab pro-



The YMCA has a Pilates studio just behind the Rehab and Rehabilitation studio.

gram is to give people a place to go to continue their rehab, as other options can be quite costly.

"We're kind of going for the total

health, and you can mentally relax in there, spiritually connect to what you're doing," he said.

He said the focus is on "prehab,"

which serves as preventive maintenance on one's body to avoid health issues later on.

"The rehab center is free to all of our members, and it's not just for rehab," he added.

Kokomo Family YMCA decided to open the cardiac rehab program because it has been focusing on improving the health outcomes of Howard County as a whole.

"We've tried to pioneer different programs, introduce different things to offer the community, and a new way to get healthy," Budenz said.

The YMCA currently serves about 15,000 Howard County residents varying in age, occupation and economic status. It offers a variety of programs — both on land and aquatic — to the residents of Howard County.

"It's a gathering space," Budenz said. "There are a lot of active older

See YMCA on A2

Iran conflict drives gas prices up

DAVID LIGHTMAN INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

The national average price of a gallon of regular gasoline topped \$3 Tuesday for the first time this year, and is expected to keep going up.

The average price Tuesday was \$3.11, up about 11 cents from Monday, according to AAA.

"The pump reaction is not only underway — it's accelerating," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy, which tracks prices.

Increases were already on tap even before Saturday's U.S.-Israel strikes at Iran, as warmer weather usually means more demand and refiners start producing a summer-blend product.

But the attack adds new, powerful momentum to the price surge. The conflict makes it tough to forecast how long any increases will last or how big they could be. Recent experience does offer some hope that any big spike won't last.

"While oil markets continue to react to potential tensions in the Middle East, history has shown that the price increases are temporary and quickly fall back," said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist and principal at the consulting firm RSM US, on his Real Economy Blog.

President Donald Trump, speaking at a news conference with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Tuesday, sought to justify the strikes and said any price hikes would be temporary.

"People felt it's something that had to be done," he said. "So we have a little high oil prices for a little while, but as soon as this ends, those prices are going to drop. I believe, lower than even before."

IMMEDIATE MARKET REACTION

The market reaction to the Iran conflict so far has been swift.

Brent crude oil, considered the global standard, topped \$80 a barrel early Monday, up from the low 70s last week.

Some analysts saw prices having the potential to go as high as \$100 a barrel.

"The forecasts are wide-ranging from over \$100/barrel to lower prices this week on new Iraqi oil hitting the market," said Matt McCall, founder of NXT Wave Research, an investment and market analysis firm, in a tweet. "I see a spike to

See GAS on A2

WEATHER



Rain, clouds and fog.

65 | 53

Full forecast on A8.

INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDB4-B6 OBITUARIES..... A2
COMICS.....A6 OPINION A4
LOCAL A3 SPORTS..... B1-B3

Vol. 175, No. 128

THANK YOU

Our subscribers are special to us:

- Robin Love
- Melanie Kiefer



Subscribe: 765-456-3821 or 765-459-3121 Advertise: 765-459-3121 Classified: 1-888-663-1063 Office hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



CHOOSE KOKOMO TRIBUNE EZ PAY FOR THE BEST RATE!

Call us today! 765-456-3821 | 800-382-0696
kokomotribune.com/subscribe