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SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

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Warrant sweep nets 85 indictments

Marta Mieze
Springfield News-Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

Federal and local law enforcement agencies in southwest Missouri conducted Operation Spring Cleaning this week to go after those involved in violent crimes. The coordinated effort re-

sulted in 85 federal indictments that charged 101 individuals.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri convened more than 100 law enforcement officers through the Violent Crime Abatement Team, or VCAT, a coalition of agencies to respond to violence and gun crimes. The total 18 partnering agencies included

the Missouri State Highway Patrol, sheriff's offices and police departments in the surrounding area, including the Springfield Police Department and Greene County Sheriff's Office, as well as federal agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Administration.

The operation spanned two days,

from March 17 through March 19. U.S. Attorney Matt Price said at a news conference Friday, March 20, this time was specifically picked to align with spring break for Missouri State University as those are times when law enforcement resources tend to be more free.

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Renderings revealed for convention center



Springfield officials show firm's conceptual designs

Marta Mieze
Springfield News-Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

After some delay, but still in time for the April election, Springfield city officials shared a conceptual design for what could be a new convention and event center. At an unveiling event Thursday, March 19, city officials revealed a conceptual design proposal produced by Populous, a Kansas City-based global architecture firm known best for its work on the Las Vegas Sphere, in partnership with local Sapp Design and incorporating

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A rendering shows a possible interior space in the proposed Expo Center expansion.

RENDERINGS BY POPULOUS, PROVIDED BY CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

AT TOP: A rendering shows what the exterior of the proposed expansion of the Expo Center could look like.

Iran war spikes energy prices

Experts: Reducing demand is only solution

Alex Lawler and Arathy Somasekhar
REUTERS

The war in the Middle East has triggered a nightmare scenario for the global energy system, slashing so much supply that consumers around the world must both pay up big and lower consumption.

The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow channel along the Iranian coast, has stopped the passage of 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas since the United States and Israel began air strikes on Iran on Feb. 28.

Meanwhile, ongoing strikes by Iran and Israel have targeted Middle East energy infrastructure, doing damage to gas fields, oil refineries and terminals that industry representatives say will take years to repair.

All of that adds up to what the International Energy Agency has already called the worst global energy disruption in history, eclipsing even the Arab oil embargo of 1973 that caused fuel shortages and triggered widespread economic damage.

"You're not going to conserve your way around this. What it's going to translate to is price rises high enough that people stop consuming," said Dan Pickering, chief investment officer for Pickering Energy Partners.

So far, the crisis has removed about 400 million barrels – about four days of world supply – from the market,

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