



# 'It's very powerful'

## Why Dvdaya Swimmer's voice means so much to Cherokee basketball

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# CITIZEN TIMES

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Nex Miller, a board member of the YMI Cultural Center in Asheville, right, works to distribute supplies to help Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts after the storm hit Sept. 27, 2024. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

## Oil prices soaring as Iran names leader

### 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 seventh 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 DIFFERENTLY!"

The increase in price comes as the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas typically passes, is virtually shut.

It also occurred after Mojtaba Khamenei was named as his father Ali Khamenei's successor as supreme leader, ignoring Trump's warnings

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# Asheville plans to map Helene resilience hubs

Sarah Honosky  
Asheville Citizen Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

ASHEVILLE – The city has contracted with local nonprofit Thrive Asheville to conduct a Resilience Hub Mapping Project, a community-supported effort to document and analyze the network of supportive spaces that emerged during Tropical Storm Helene in September 2024.

A "resilience hub" is any location, formal or informal, that provided critical services, resources or coordination during the storm. This includes organizations that quickly pivoted and emergent

efforts by community members, faith-based organizations, neighborhood gathering spaces and more.

Facing unprecedented flooding and damage during Helene, community spaces transformed into distribution centers:

The bay of an old fire station. School buildings. Downtown's historic Black cultural center. Churches, darkened restaurants and community centers.

"These spontaneous resilience hubs became lifelines for thousands of residents when traditional systems were unavailable or overwhelmed," the city's project page said.

"Now, we have an opportunity to

learn from this organic response and learn from community and city-led storm response initiatives to build a more resilient future."

The project aims to find out what worked well in response to Helene at the neighborhood level, and where there are critical geographic or service gaps that need to be addressed to support the community in non-emergency times, as well as in preparation for the next disruption, according to a March 4 news release.

The \$70,000 contract with Thrive will result in a digital and network map

See RESILIENCE, Page 2A

# States consider cutting aid to HIV patients

Ken Alltucker  
USA TODAY

A cornerstone of the effort to combat the nation's HIV epidemic is beginning to show fiscal cracks.

The Ryan White AIDS Drug Assistance Program has helped more than a

quarter-million Americans living with HIV to get life-saving medications, health insurance or both. But funding pressure has prompted 18 states to cut costs, jeopardizing care for thousands of Americans living with HIV, according to an analysis by the health policy nonprofit KFF.

Another five states are considering changes to stretch out limited funding for Ryan White assistance programs, known as ADAPs, KFF said.

As these states have enacted or are considering changes, some experts worry more states could follow. Not only do program cuts harm a portion of the

1.2 million Americans living with HIV, people could get sicker without the viral-suppressing medications and transmit the virus to others.

"We're worried about all states," said Tim Horn, director of medication access

See HIV, Page 4A

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