



## Shipley Child Health Clinic celebrates 55 years

COMMUNITY, 4A

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MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026 | BEACONJOURNAL.COM

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The war in the Middle East has caused gas prices to surge across the U.S. ALYSSA POINTER/REUTERS

## War's impact forces world to pay up

### Rising prices could reduce consumption, threaten food supply

Alex Lawler and Arathy Somasekhar  
REUTERS

The war in the Middle East has triggered a nightmare scenario for the glob-

al 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

See WAR, Page 3A

## DFA hires Mark Greer for 2 leading agency roles

Patrick Williams  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mark Greer has taken on a new senior management role at the Development Finance Authority of Summit County: chief development and engagement officer.

Greer has joined DFA to head up development, engage community members and stakeholders and build relationships with partners and policymakers across the state and region, according to a news release from DFA.



He joined the position March 11, DFA President Rachel Bridenstine said via email.

Greer most recently served as executive director of Akron 200. Before that, he was small business manager and Great Streets administrator for the city of Akron.

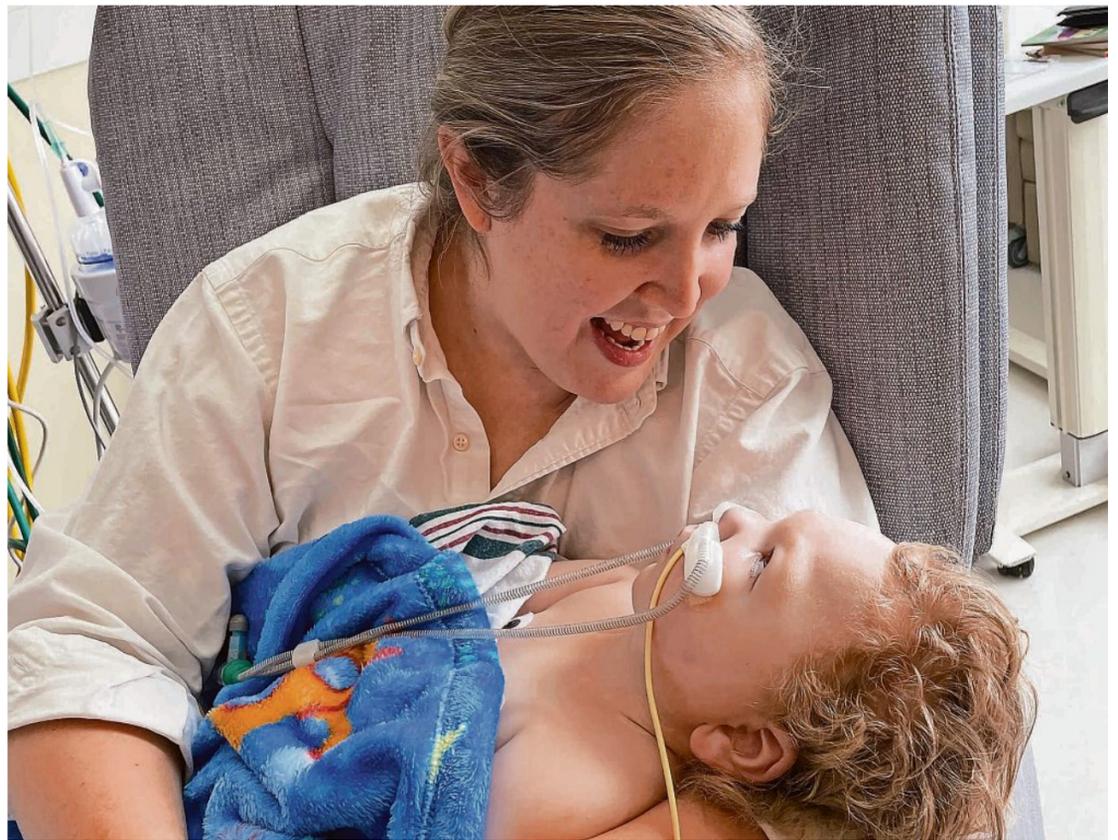
He was in a field of seven Democratic candidates in the May 2023 primary election for Akron mayor, which Shamas Malik won. Malik was the presumptive nominee for mayor until he was officially elected in November 2023.

Greer has more than 10 years working in community and economic development and worked as an educator for 10 years.

"This is a new senior management position that will be integral to our sustainability and growth, and we are thrilled to have Mark join us as we foster broader engagement to further advance our service to our community," Bridenstine said in a prepared statement.

Patrick Williams covers growth and development for the Akron Beacon Journal. He can be reached by email at [pwilliams@gannett.com](mailto:pwilliams@gannett.com) or on X @pwilliamsOH. Sign up for the Beacon Journal's business and consumer newsletter, "What's The Deal?"

## 'Carrying his light and joy forward'



Staci Howley holding her son, George Howley. PHOTO PROVIDED BY STACI AND KEVIN HOWLEY

## Parents who lost son start nonprofit to spread kindness

Lauren Cohen  
Akron Beacon Journal/Signal Akron | USA TODAY NETWORK

George Howley was never one to stay quiet when his family needed him.

The first time he and his parents were in the intensive care unit due to George's rare genetic mitochondrial disorder, his temperature was bottoming out, and he was showing signs of an infection.

As his parents panicked and prodded the doctor, trying to figure out what to do, George, with his big hair and even bigger smile, shut the whole room down with one

loud, happy yell.

"WAA-OOO!" he shouted, and at once, everyone in the room — the doctors, nurses and his parents — burst into laughter.

"He took this serious moment, and through his joy, it was like, 'It's OK, Dad, it's going to be OK,'" said Kevin Howley, his father.

George was never able to walk or talk, and he was completely tube-fed. He dealt with seizures, cerebral palsy, low muscle tone and microcephaly, a birth defect

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