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THE OKLAHOMAN

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Construction is seen on July 8 on the Toby Keith Expressway in Norman. BRYAN TERRY/THE OKLAHOMAN

Military launches new air strikes on Iran

NATO chief backs Trump's prior action

Francesca Chambers, Erin Mansfield, Zac Anderson, Bart Jansen, Chris Cann, Joey Garrison and Rachel Barber

USA TODAY

The United States said on July 8 that, at President Donald Trump's direction, it launched a new round of air strikes on Iran, marking a second consecutive night of attacks and raising fresh doubts about the prospects for a long-term peace deal with Tehran.

The attacks, confirmed by the U.S. Central Command in a statement, came after Trump warned of more powerful strikes to come at the NATO summit in Ankara after the two sides traded attacks the previous day.

The U.S. did not immediately disclose the targets of the new attacks, but said the operation would "further degrade [Iran's] ability to threaten freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz."

See WAR WITH IRAN, Page 2A

THE ROAD AHEAD

Toby Keith Expressway construction pushes forward

Steve Lackmeyer
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is moving forward with spending \$75 million on construction of a junction that will be key to the Toby Keith Expressway linking two major interstates.

The expressway, previously referred to as the "east-west connector turnpike," is part of the \$8.2 billion, 15-year ACCESS Oklahoma toll road expansion program that started in 2022. The expressway is named after the late country music star Toby Keith, who was born in Clinton, lived in Moore and was based in Norman.

The new expressway is designed to begin at Interstate 44 and State Highway 37, cross the South Canadian River east to Interstate 35, and then continue

See EXPRESSWAY, Page 3A



Family members from left, daughter Shelley Covell, wife Tricia Covell, son Stelen Covell and daughter Krystal Keith hold a mock up of the expressway sign as the crowd raises a red cup in celebration of Toby Keith. The family of the late Toby Keith was honored at the meeting of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority Board of Directors, after the Oklahoma Legislature adopted a resolution last week that will name the planned east-west connector turnpike in the Norman area the Toby Keith Expressway. The OTA meeting was held at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation building March 3. DOUG HOKE/THE OKLAHOMAN

El Niño could bring a 'mini Dust Bowl'

Meteorologists cite conditions in Oklahoma

Josh Kelly
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

An unusually early start to summer heat in Oklahoma may be more than just a seasonal anomaly.

According to a recent report from AccuWeather meteorologists, a rapidly developing El Niño is already reshaping weather patterns, and if it continues, it could set the stage for dry conditions reminiscent of a "mini Dust Bowl."

The state entered its summer pattern in May instead of June, National Weather Service officials state, which cut short the typical storm season and instead brought more heat. That shift, combined with warming Pacific Ocean temperatures, is raising concern about reduced rainfall and longer stretches of heat heading into late summer and beyond.

While El Niño is often associated with wetter conditions across parts of

See EL NIÑO, Page 3A

World absorbs historic wartime oil disruptions

Dmitry Zhdannikov, Robert Harvey and Ahmad Ghaddar
REUTERS

LONDON – The world has absorbed with surprising ease the loss of over a billion barrels of oil supply since the Iran war began, but, with long-term peace elusive and buffer reserves now drained, it still faces the looming risk of future price spikes.

Tehran's throttling of the Strait of Hormuz in response to the U.S. and Israeli attacks launched on Feb. 28 fed fears of a catastrophic global energy

crunch. The ensuing four-month conflict did, indeed, create the biggest energy disruption in history, according to the International Energy Agency. At its worst, the headline supply loss was 14 million barrels per day.

But worries that Asia and Europe would run out of gasoline, diesel or jet fuel never materialized. And after peaking around \$126 per barrel in April – still some \$20 below the 2008 record – benchmark Brent oil prices are now lower than they were when the conflict began.

"This suggests traders viewed the

disruption as serious but manageable, reflecting confidence in today's more resilient energy and economic systems," said John Baffes, senior economist at the World Bank.

Since the oil crisis of the 1970s, World Bank data shows that oil intensity – a measure of the role oil plays in economic activity – has fallen by more than half in most advanced economies and roughly 20% in emerging and developing countries. Beyond that structural shift, however, three specific

See GLOBAL OIL, Page 2A

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6 57942 11111 2