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IRAN WAR

IRAN DIGS IN

Oil prices jump and markets slide as new supreme leader named



People gather in a rally to support Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, the successor to his late father Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as supreme leader, in Tehran, Iran, on Monday. VAHID SALEMI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Jon Gambrell, Jamey Keaten and Samy Magdy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Oil prices surged and stock markets slid Monday after hard-line Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei was chosen to succeed his late father as Iran's supreme leader. His appointment, and new strikes on regional oil infrastructure, signaled that Iran was digging in 10 days into the war launched by the United States and Israel.

The war has choked off major supplies of oil and gas to world markets, led foreigners to flee from business hubs and prompted millions to seek shelter as bombs hit sites including military bases, government buildings, oil and water installations, hotels and at least one school.

Khamenei, a secretive 56-year-old cleric, is only the third supreme leader in the history of the Islamic Republic. He has close ties to the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which has been firing missiles and drones at Israel and Gulf Arab states since his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had ruled since 1989, was killed during the war's opening salvo.

The appointment suggests Tehran is not close to giving up on what it considers a fight for the Islamic theocracy's survival.



This image taken from video provided by Iran state TV shows Mojtaba Khamenei, a son of Iran's slain supreme leader, who has been named as the Islamic Republic's next ruler, authorities announced Monday. IRAN STATE TV VIA AP

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS POUR INTO THE STREETS

Thousands poured into a central square in the capital, Tehran, and other locations in a show of allegiance to the new supreme leader, waving flags and shouting phrases like "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

"America and Israel: You've failed, and you will drown in the swamp you are stuck in," said Abbas Ali Saeedipoor,

one of the demonstrators.

Iranian authorities have long encouraged public shows of support for the Islamic Republic while violently cracking down on dissent. Earlier this year, thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands detained during mass protests against the elder Khamenei.

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Raising Cane's plans W-B Twp. location

Chain best known for its chicken tenders

By Bob Kalinowski
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WILKES-BARRE TWP. — Raising Cane's is rising in the township.

The rapidly growing chicken finger chain plans to open a restaurant in a new business strip on Mundy Street between the Orloski's Car Wash and Lube Shop and the Olive Garden and Outback Steakhouse restaurants.

Developers for Raising Cane's seek zoning variances regarding signage and building setbacks at 287-291 Mundy St., according to a Wilkes-Barre Twp. zoning hearing notice.

The restaurant is planned for a new development known as "The Spot on Mundy," which is being developed by TFP Limited, which has proposed to build a 3,400-square-foot fast food restaurant and a 6,000-square-foot retail center with four storefronts.

Other prospective tenants have not been identified.

Raising Cane's launched as a single restaurant in August 1996 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, near Louisiana State University. The franchise was named after the founder's dog, a yellow Labrador Retriever, a breed that continues to be the company's mascot.

The restaurant's menu is intentionally limited to chicken fingers with a special dipping sauce, French fries, Texas toast and coleslaw.

There are approximately 1,000 Raising Cane's locations in the United States and 17

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PENNSYLVANIA

State trooper shot and killed in a traffic stop, authorities say

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAOLI — A Pennsylvania State Police trooper was shot and killed by a man he had pulled over in a traffic stop Sunday night, authorities said.

Cpl. Tim O'Connor was killed as he approached the car when the driver fired from inside the vehicle, the state's acting police commissioner, Lt. Col. George Bivens, said at an early Monday morning news conference at Paoli Hospital in Chester County.

The shooter — identified by police as Jesse

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W-B/Scranton Penguins ask arena to consent to proposed ownership change

By Michael P. Buffer
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The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins franchise is asking the board in charge of Mohegan Arena to consent to a proposed change in ownership.

A resolution on the request is on the agenda of Wednesday's meeting of the Luzerne County Convention Center

Authority. WBS Hockey LLC, the legal name on the Penguins lease with the authority, requested consent to the proposed ownership change.

The proposed change is part of an agreement to sell the Pittsburgh Penguins, which owns the its American Hockey League affiliate in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Fenway Sports Group agreed to sell the National Hockey

League's Penguins to the Chicago-based Hoffmann family investment group for \$1.7 billion, according to reports in December.

The NHL Board of Governors has to vote to approve the Pittsburgh Penguins' sale.

Fenway Sports Group bought the Penguins from the former ownership group led by Mario Lemieux for \$900 million in 2021.

The Luzerne County

Convention Center Authority voted to approve a document that was presented when Fenway Sports Group bought the NHL Penguins, and it was similar to what is being requested for the proposed sale to the Hoffman family, Mohegan Arena General Manager Steve Poremba said.

Mohegan Arena's current lease with the Penguins began in 2019 and expires June 20, 2029.



Fans look on during a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins game on Jan. 21. FILE PHOTO

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