

Tyler Morning Telegraph

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NATION/WORLD

Iran, U.S. trade tanker attacks

Iran and the U.S. carried out what appeared to be their largest tit-for-tat tanker strikes yet over the weekend, pushing oil prices higher as both nations continue to escalate a six-month war that has disrupted shipping and stoked global inflation. **Page 2A**



SPORTS

Ole Miss wins on game-ending FG

Lucas Carneiro drilled a 48-yard field goal as time expired for ninth-ranked Mississippi, which escaped Music City with a 41-38 victory over No. 24 Louisville on Sunday night. **Page 5A**

Today's weather

Hot with plenty of sunshine.
High of 97.



THREE-DAY FORECAST, PAGE 3A

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Bible verse

"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we present everyone perfect in Christ."
(Colossians 1:28)

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Senate fight moves to Dallas convention

GROMER JEFFERS JR.
The Dallas Morning News

Ken Paxton has spent much of the Texas Senate campaign telling voters what he thinks is wrong with James Talarico.

Talarico has spent more time telling them what he wants to do in Washington.

Both pitches come with a promise and a warning.

Paxton points to Texas' economic growth and conservative values, saying Democrats could put both at

risk. Talarico says he would make life more affordable for working Texans while warning that billionaires and powerful interests have gained too much influence.

Now, with the election two months away, Talarico is going harder at Paxton just as Republicans prepare to give the attorney general a lift at their convention-style rally this week in Dallas.

The event, headlined by President Donald Trump, comes as

CONVENTION >> PAGE 3A



Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, left, and Democratic state Rep. James Talarico. (Tribune News Service File)



Traffic on North Broadway Avenue in downtown Tyler will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Erwin and Line streets beginning this week. (Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

Shifting Landscape

Downtown Improvement Project work shifts to Broadway Avenue

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Traffic on North Broadway Avenue in downtown Tyler will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Erwin and Line streets beginning this week.

The traffic shift comes as part of the ongoing Downtown Improvement Project. The City of Tyler said infrastructure, sidewalk and roadway work will be ongoing on Broadway for the next phase of the project.

Traffic will shift to the east side of North Broadway Avenue during this phase.

Drivers should use caution and watch for changing traffic patterns while traveling through the area.

The construction is part of the Downtown Improvement Project – a three-year revitalization effort to transform the heart of the city. The ultimate goal is for downtown Tyler to become a more vibrant, walkable, and welcoming place. The project is the result of a partnership between the City of Tyler and Smith County. The entities say they are working together to create a downtown that



Infrastructure, sidewalk and roadway work will be ongoing on Broadway for the next phase of the project. (Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

connects people, supports businesses, and reflects the future of our growing community.

At the center of this project is the complete redesign of the square, which is currently going on now. The new square will feature a community green space, places to sit, public restrooms, and a small area for food trucks.

The new area will offer open space designed to host large events, festivals, and community gatherings throughout the year.

Additionally, major upgrades are coming to the streets and sidewalks surrounding downtown – some of which have already been completed. Streets are being converted back to two-way traffic, and soon the

addition of roundabouts will help slow down traffic without stopping the flow. Once fully completed, sidewalks will be wider to give pedestrians more space, and new landscaping, lighting, benches, and outdoor dining areas will make downtown more inviting. The city said improvements will make it easier and safer to walk, shop, dine, and

enjoy downtown.

The project also includes a major investment in parking, mobility, and future growth. Smith County has already completed a new parking garage with 500 spaces, and construction is nearly complete for the new Smith County Courthouse.

The city and county are also working with private partners to bring new businesses, restaurants, and residential spaces to downtown. Several historic buildings are being renovated, and plans are underway for a new boutique hotel on Ferguson Street, The Blackstone by Valencia Hotel Group, which will bring visitors and new energy to the area.

This revitalization project is being conducted in phases to "minimize disruption while moving the work forward," the city said. Phase I focused on improvements along Erwin Street, Broadway Avenue, Ferguson Street, and College Avenue and was completed in May.

Upcoming milestones in the project include construction beginning to

DOWNTOWN >> PAGE 3A

School librarians hesitant to discuss, order books amid restriction battles

COLLEEN DEGUZMAN
The Texas Tribune

Seven years ago, Frank Strong stocked 20 copies of the book "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" in his classroom library.

Then, one by one, the coming-of-age novel about a Mexican immigrant girl started disappearing from his shelves. Just two remain, and it makes him chuckle.

It's a sign, he said, that Erika Sánchez's book about grief, loss and young love resonates so much

with his students that they keep it.

"This happens when you're a teacher," said Strong, who recently began his 12th year teaching English at an Austin charter school. "Students borrow the book. They get so attached to it. They can't bear to return it. So you lose books and, to me, that's a tax I'm willing to pay."

Now Strong worries that soon, he won't be able to keep any copies of the beloved book in his classroom



Frank Strong, an English teacher at a charter school in Austin, poses with books Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick recently urged Texas public schools to remove from libraries. on Aug. 31. (Jacob Lujan/The Texas Tribune)

LIBRARIANS >> PAGE 2A