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CAPE CANAVERAL

Artemis II moon mission blasts off



NASA's Artemis II Space Launch System rocket carrying the Orion spacecraft lifts off from Launch Complex 39B at Kennedy Space Center on Wednesday in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Four astronauts will fly around the moon and back, traveling 230,000 miles out into space, the farthest any human has ever traveled from Earth. **CHIP SOMODEVILLA — GETTY IMAGES**

Astronauts embark on journey that could one day lead to Americans again setting foot on the lunar surface

By **Kenneth Chang** and **Katrina Miller**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A towering orange-and-white NASA rocket blasted off from Florida on Wednesday evening, lifting four astronauts toward space and transporting spectators' imaginations to a future in which Americans may again set foot on the moon.

As they did during the heyday of the Apollo program, which first put men on the lunar surface, spectators squeezed onto the beaches along Central Florida's Space Coast. The crowds cheered when the powerful vehicle launched into the clear,

twilight sky at 6:35 p.m. Eastern time. It traveled eastward, over the Atlantic Ocean, on a journey that is to go around the moon but not land there.

The flight aboard a spacecraft named Integrity is taking Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover of Pomona, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen on what is expected to be a round trip of more than 695,000 miles to clear a path for more exploration, and eventually a new lunar landing. **See story on page A8**

INSIDE: Families crowd Downey museum to watch Artemis II lift off on the big screen. **Page A8**



Mission specialist Jeremy Hansen, left, of the Canadian Space Agency, pilot Victor Glover, Cmdr. Reid Wiseman and mission specialist Christina Koch walk out of the Neil A. Armstrong Operations and Checkout Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center on Wednesday in Cape Canaveral, Fla. **JOE RAEDLE — GETTY IMAGES**

MIDDLE EAST WAR

Trump: U.S. forces will 'finish the job' soon

Iranian missile fire targeted Dubai in the UAE and Israel just before president's speech

By **Will Weissert, Jon Gambrell** and **David Rising**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said U.S. forces will "finish the job" in Iran soon as "core strategic objectives are nearing completion," offering a full-throated defense of the war Wednesday night in his first national address since the conflict began more than a month ago.



Trump

Trump got a wide audience and a chance to articulate clear objectives for the war after weeks of changing goals and often contradictory messages about whether he's winding down or ready to escalate military operations, even as Iran kept up its attacks on Israel and Persian Gulf neighbors and airstrikes pounded Tehran.

See **IRAN** on Page A6

INSIDE: Supreme Court casts doubt on Trump bid to limit birthright citizenship. **Page A6**

WALNUT CREEK

Slaying suspect accused in prior San Gabriel death

Police say man jailed in Bay Area stabbing conspired in 2024 slaying

By **Nate Gartrell**
BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Howard Wang has been stuck in jail since last year, when he allegedly killed his wife and mother-in-law inside their Walnut Creek home and then attempted to convince police an intruder was responsible.

But now police have brought forth a chilling allegation: that the brutal double killing wasn't Wang's first time taking a life. Prosecutors now allege that when Wang knifed his wife and mother-in-law to death, he had already killed once before — in San Gabriel — and up to this point had gotten away with it.

See **WANG** on Page A6

ONTARIO

New team, new stadium stepping up to the plate



A Fernando Valenzuela mural adorns ONT Field in Ontario. **PHOTO BY TERRY PIERSON**

The first pitch is set for tonight at sold-out ONT Field in Ontario, home of the Dodgers' new Single-A minor league baseball affiliate, the Ontario Tower Buzzers. **A9**

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