

The Minnesota Star Tribune

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

H: 61" L: 43" | SUNNY AND MILD

Trump says U.S. has seized Iranian-flagged cargo ship

He earlier said new talks were planned, without Tehran's confirmation.

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, SAMY MAGDY and SAM METZ
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump said the U.S. forcibly seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship that tried to get

around a naval blockade near the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday, the first such interception since the blockade of Iranian ports began last week.

Trump on social media said the ship was warned by a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer in the Gulf of Oman to stop, but it did not. He said the Navy "stopped them right in their tracks by blowing a hole in the engineroom" and that U.S.

Marines had custody of the vessel, named Touska, and were "seeing what's on board!"

There was no immediate Iranian comment. The news threw into question Trump's earlier announcement that U.S. negotiators would head to Pakistan on Monday for another round of talks with Iran.

That had raised hopes of extending a fragile ceasefire set to expire by Wednesday, even as

Washington and Tehran remain in a standoff over the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has not confirmed it would attend. While its chief negotiator, parliament speaker Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf, said in an interview aired on state television late Saturday that "there will be no retreat in the field of diplomacy," he acknowledged a wide gap remained between the sides.

Host Pakistan also did not confirm a second round, but authorities began tightening security in Islamabad. A regional official involved in the efforts said mediators were finalizing preparations and U.S. advance security teams were on the ground. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss preparations with the media.

The White House said Vice President JD Vance, who led the first round of historic face-to-face talks over 21 hours last weekend, would lead the U.S. delegation to Pakistan with envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

Iran on Saturday said it had received new proposals from the United States. It was unclear whether either side had shifted

SEE IRAN ON A3 »

AS FLANAGAN SEEKS SENATE, RIFT WITH WALZ REMAINS



BRIAN PETERSON • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, left, and Gov. Tim Walz in May 2023 after he signed the paid family leave bill. The two have rarely been seen together in the past year and a half.

Lieutenant governor mostly absent from governor's circle since 2024 split

By RYAN FAIRCLOTH
The Minnesota Star Tribune

When Tim Walz announced Jan. 5 that he was dropping out of the governor's race, his second-in-command, Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, was not in the room.

Flanagan also wasn't present at a meeting earlier that morning where Walz shared the news

with staff and members of his Cabinet. In fact, Walz did not speak with Flanagan about his decision before going public, according to multiple people close to the governor's office, who were granted anonymity to speak candidly with the Minnesota Star Tribune.

The episode underscored an ongoing rift between Walz and Flanagan that has reshaped

one of Minnesota's most prominent political partnerships and already spilled into a high-profile U.S. Senate race.

Over the past year and a half, the two Democrats have rarely appeared together in public. It's a striking shift from their first six years in office, when Walz and Flanagan billed themselves as governing partners and regularly shared the stage.

The awkward dynamic has been widely noticed at the Minnesota Capitol and is well-known in DFL circles.

The relationship began to fray after Walz returned home from his failed run for vice president. Walz and his team were upset with some of the steps Flanagan had taken to assume the governorship, conferring with potential key hires and prepar-

ing to run herself in 2026.

They were particularly irked that Flanagan tapped his gubernatorial campaign fund without authorization, multiple people familiar with the dispute told the Minnesota Star Tribune in late 2024.

Flanagan would have faced an avalanche of work had she ascended to the role of governor

SEE FLANAGAN ON A5 »

\$2M loan, then business just goes up in smoke

Tribal regulation derails cannabis entrepreneur cleared by state.

By KIM HYATT and MATT DELONG
The Minnesota Star Tribune

LAPORTE, MINN. - After Minnesota legalized recreational marijuana in 2023, Therese Haugen set out to realize her dream of becoming a cannabis entrepreneur.

She was among the first applicants approved to move forward with licensing by the state's Office of Cannabis Management (OCM). She secured a \$2 million loan and broke ground in the spring of 2025 on her family's privately owned land on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's reservation.

After the 11,000-square-foot growing facility was nearly complete this fall, tribal officials notified Haugen that there was no pathway for her to cultivate on the reservation because she's not a tribal member.

Minnesota's 2023 cannabis law required the consent of a tribe for any marijuana business to be licensed within the borders of its reservation. Then in October of that year, the Leech Lake Band signed a cannabis compact with the state that made clear the tribe would only grant licenses to tribal members.

As the state's budding cannabis industry takes shape more than two years into its rocky rollout, the case illustrates the hazards that can arise when an

SEE HAUGEN ON A5 »



KIM HYATT • The Minnesota Star Tribune

"I've dreamt of having a cultivation [business] all my life, but I don't know if it's meant to be right now."

Therese Haugen, who was denied a license because she is not a member of the Leech Lake Band

Downtown reset has arrived for Moorhead

New \$40M city center with library anchors redevelopment hopes.

By REID FORGRAVE
The Minnesota Star Tribune

For a half century, downtown Moorhead was dominated by Moorhead Center Mall – and not in a good way. It was seen as a sin of urban renewal, with federal money used in the 1970s to tear down the aging buildings of a historic downtown and start anew.

At the time, malls seemed the latest, greatest thing, so Moorhead built one near the banks of the Red River. When the struggling mall's anchor tenant, Herberger's department store, finally shuttered in 2018, the city had a black hole on prime land.

Now the city on the Minnesota-North Dakota border is stepping out with its newest makeover. This weekend, on April 18, the city will celebrate the grand opening of the Loop, a \$40 million library, community center and entrepreneurship center where the old mall used to stand.

It's not just a ribbon-cutting; it's a rare opportunity for an entire downtown to hit the reset button.

"We needed to do something radical," said Matt Leiseth, president and CEO of Downtown Moorhead Inc., a downtown economic development group.

Anchored by the library and community center – funded by a half-cent sales tax overwhelmingly approved by voters – the 12-square-block redevelopment aspires to become a \$300 million public and private investment.

Plans call for a refurbished city hall, more than 1,000 units of downtown housing in mixed-used buildings, a renovation of a beloved 1940s-era hotel, including a rebirth of the beloved Tree Top Restaurant on the top floor, a public plaza to host community events, and a cultural mall with dozens of restaurants and immigrant-owned businesses.

The city platted out two new downtown streets, including a "festival street" that's easy to close off for community events. Essentia Health donated \$1 million for an indoor walking loop – a necessity for frigid, wind-swept winters – and purchased the old Wells Fargo building a couple blocks away to open a clinic.

"We didn't really have a downtown, no real heart of the community where people could go and be in the mix," said Shelly Carlson, Moorhead's mayor. "This will be the heart of our community."

Once a Wild West railroad town at the edge of Dakota Territory, Moorhead later became a saloon city, spurred by the fact that just across the river was the dry state of North Dakota. In 1900, Moorhead had 47 saloons

SEE MOORHEAD ON A5 »

TOP NEWS

Eight children fatally shot in Louisiana in what police say was domestic violence. **A3**

NATION & WORLD

Center-left coalition led by former leader Radev on track to win Bulgaria election. **A3**

STATE & REGION

Amtrak ridership in Minnesota is swelling, prompting a bill to study new rail lines. **A4**

SPORTS

The Wild make a serious statement in their Game 1 rout of the Stars, Chip Scoggins writes. **C1**

BUSINESS

Interest in state's paid leave plan is higher than expected at its three-month mark. **D1**

VARIETY

A decade after its founder's death, what is it like at Prince's Paisley Park estate? **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The late Hüsker Dü drummer and co-lead vocalist Grant Hart was also an avid collage artist, and many of his works are now for sale. **E1**

THE HEART AND VOICE OF THE NORTH

Online: startribune.com • News tips: 612-673-4414 • Comments: 612-673-4000
Subscriptions: 612-673-4343 or go to startribune.com/subscribe

THE MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE

Minneapolis, St. Paul MN • Volume XLV • No. 16
April 20, 2026

