

The Minnesota Star Tribune

2026 PULITZER PRIZE



FOR BREAKING NEWS

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H: 87° L: 69° | HEATING UP

U.S., Iran exchange Mideast attacks

Two days of American airstrikes kill at least 14, while Tehran missiles target Kuwait and Qatar.

By JON GAMBRELL
The Associated Press

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - The United States launched new airstrikes against Iran early Thursday, and Tehran responded by targeting U.S.-allied Mideast countries in an exchange of fire that threatened an interim deal intended to help end the war in the Middle East.

Back-and-forth attacks, including a day earlier, have repeatedly threatened the ceasefire. But Thursday's appeared bigger all around, with sirens sounding at least three times in Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters, and missiles targeting Kuwait and Qatar.

Sirens sounded Thursday afternoon in Jordan as well,

where the U.S. has stationed troops and aircraft.

An Iranian official accused the U.S. of launching an airstrike later Thursday targeting the area around Iran's sole nuclear power plant, and other explosions were reported elsewhere in the country during the afternoon.

The strikes came hours after U.S. President Donald Trump said recent Iranian attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz signaled the end of a fragile ceasefire and threatened to escalate

the conflict if they didn't stop. That raised concerns that the region could tip back into a war that would engulf several countries and could halt energy shipments through the strait that are crucial for the global economy.

In Iran, the two days of American airstrikes have killed at least 14 people and wounded another 78, Iran's Health Ministry said Thursday. Most were reportedly members of the armed forces.

In Kuwait, the military said falling debris wounded one person as the nation shot down

three ballistic missiles, a cruise missile and 10 drones. Bahrain said it shot down incoming fire, without elaborating, and Jordanian government spokesman Mohammad al-Momani said all incoming fire from Iran had been intercepted. Iranian state TV said the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard fired missiles at a U.S. base in Jordan.

There was no immediate word of damage in Qatar.

The U.S. military's Central Command said it hit 90 targets across Iran, releasing black-and-

white footage of what appeared to be strikes on an airport runway and missile launchers.

The U.S. said the strikes were intended to "further degrade" Iran's ability "to threaten freedom of navigation" in the strait, through which a fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas passed before the war began with U.S. and Israeli attacks on Feb. 28.

Traffic has picked up somewhat since a tentative deal last month included opening the

SEE CEASEFIRE ON A5 »

Security concerns prompt Trump to switch planes



Photos by DOUG MILLS • The New York Times

He left Turkey in old Air Force One instead of new Qatari jet he arrived on.

By TYLER PAGER, JULIAN E. BARNES, ERIC SCHMITT and ERIC LIPTON • The New York Times

President Donald Trump flew out of Turkey on Wednesday night on the old Air Force One instead of his new Qatari-donated Boeing 747-8 as a security precaution related to the resumption of hostilities with Iran, according to people briefed on the plans, who said the change came at the urging of the Secret Service.

The swap deepens questions about whether the new plane, which the president had pressed to be ready as soon as possible, was retrofitted with sufficient security measures over the last year. Lawmakers and some officials have raised concerns about whether the expedited timeline allowed for

the addition of an advanced missile defense system and other modifications used to protect the president.

In a statement, Steven Cheung, the White House communications director, said that "the new Air Force One is a state-of-the-art aircraft that has been fitted with high-level security protocols that ensure the safety of the president and his staff."

"As the president has said recently, there are many enemies of America who have their sights on him, and we use every tool at our disposal - including distraction and misdirection - to address those threats," he added.

But people briefed on the new plane's capabilities, who spoke on the condition of

SEE AIR FORCE ONE ON A5 »



AIRCRAFT SWAP

At top, President Donald Trump disembarks from the old Air Force One to board his newer plane in the U.K. on Wednesday. Above, Trump speaks to reporters aboard the new Qatari-donated Air Force One en route to the U.S.

Suit: Target knew risk of toy in baby's death

It alleges the retailer didn't warn customers about "hidden dangers."

By JEFF DAY
and CARSON HARTZOG
The Minnesota Star Tribune

A failure by Target to inform consumers of a known, life-threatening risk to children from a toy sold exclusively in its stores led to the death of a baby in Wisconsin, according to a lawsuit filed this week in Hennepin County District Court.

The allegations were made by the parents of Esther Jo Bethard, who was 10 months old when she died in 2023 after allegedly swallowing a single water bead from a Chuckle & Roar Ultimate Water Beads Activity Kit.

The toy was sold for \$15 at Target stores across the country for nine months in 2022.

Two other young children in different states also nearly died from ingesting a water bead from the same toy kit. The parents of those children had informed Target of the risk it posed in an effort to protect other families.

The lawsuit alleges that almost immediately after the second incident, Target removed the water bead kit from its shelves but did not warn customers who had previously purchased the toy about the "serious and hidden dangers associated with the product."

Seven months after Target stopped selling the water bead kit, Esther Jo was found dead in her crib by two of her older siblings.

The family was told the cause of death was "consistent with complications from ingestion of a single water bead."

In direct response to Esther Jo's death, two months later the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced a nationwide recall of 52,000 of the water bead kits citing "ingestion, choking and obstruction hazards."

Target declined to comment on the lawsuit, citing active litigation, and has not yet filed a formal response in court. The lawsuit claims Target made the CPSC and Buffalo Games, the manufacturer of the toy, aware of the injuries to the two

SEE LAWSUIT ON A5 »

Undeniable data trend was key to TCM switch

Hotter temperatures led leaders to move race ahead, starting in 2027.

By BOB TIMMONS
The Minnesota Star Tribune

In 2023, the Twin Cities Marathon was abruptly canceled for the first time in the race's history. The reason: record-setting heat that shot the day's high temperature into the low 90s.

The marathon's unraveling - and with it the dreams of tens of thousands of runners - was a dramatic, singular example of a broader climate trend on the minds of race organizers at Twin Cities in Motion.

TCM leaders say they knew they needed to consider moving the marathon further into autumn to improve odds of cooler, runner-friendly conditions, but when was the right

time? And how far should they move it?

The "heat challenge" had become undeniable, said TCM President Dean Orton. Two of the Twin Cities' hottest October days ever recorded, for example, have occurred in the last five years.

Orton and race director Ed Whetham said an analysis of historical weather data over those years drove the unprecedented move the organization announced Tuesday morning: The marathon connected to the first weekend in October for 45 years would move into mid-October, beginning in 2027.

"The data doesn't lie to me," Whetham said. "It's just stating, like, we're just not getting those ideal conditions anymore."

Runners' safety is a priority, Orton added. "There are meaningful gains to going deeper

SEE MARATHON ON A7 »

His random acts of kindness help raise millions

WALKER, MINN. - To his millions of followers online, he's known as Jimmy Darts. But back home in northern Minnesota, he's James Kellogg.

The social media influencer creates viral random acts of kindness videos that have helped raise \$6 million for strangers he's met across the country, often at a Walmart or laundromat, where he asks someone to spot him a dollar or do some small favor. When they extend kindness to him, Kellogg surprises them with hundreds, sometimes thousands of dollars.

Kellogg, 30, creates

Minn. native amasses huge following with his method of helping people in need.

Story and photo by KIM HYATT • The Minnesota Star Tribune

GoFundMe campaigns to help people who can't afford a medical procedure or to pay their rent to avoid eviction. Donations pour in within minutes of him sharing their story with his 28 million followers on his Facebook, Instagram and TikTok platforms. A man in Nashville received \$50,000 for his son's leg surgery. When donations fell short, Vander-

bilt University covered the rest of the bill. Kellogg once raised \$750,000 overnight for a family facing homelessness and a brain tumor diagnosis.

Kellogg is one of the biggest creators of kindness content who has made crowdfunding his full-time career. This style of influencer philanthropy grew in popularity in the mid-2010s with the onset of digital giving

platforms and influencers like MrBeast. But the practice drew criticism, too, with some arguing it can be exploitative and performative.

Kellogg's videos began as pranks, stunts and parties. He started uploading videos to YouTube while growing up in Walker, Minn., a small tourist town on the shores of Leech Lake where he worked at his dad's restaurant, Jimmy's, named after his grandfather.

He then pivoted to a faith-based approach that he describes as undercover kindness

SEE JIMMY DARTS ON A7 »



James Kellogg, a social media influencer known as Jimmy Darts, is pictured in his hometown of Walker, Minn., on Monday.

