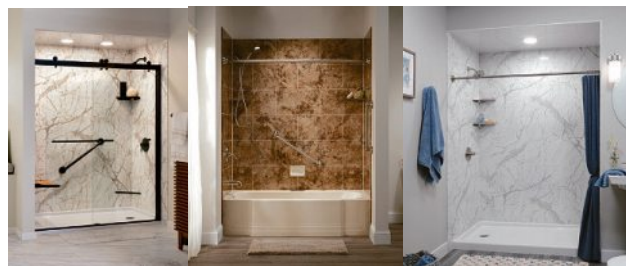


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# DAILY MESSENGER

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Artemis II crew members Jeremy Hansen, Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch, and Victor Glover answer questions from reporters during the first downlink event of their mission. PROVIDED BY NASA

## 1 rescued after U.S. jet downed over Iran

Law experts claim 'clear violation of the United Nations Charter'

**Thao Nguyen and Cybele Mayes-Osterman**  
USA TODAY

One crew member of a U.S. F-15E fighter jet that went down over Iran on April 3 has been rescued, according to a U.S. official.

President Donald Trump has been briefed on the jet, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement without providing details.

CBS News first reported the crew member's rescue.

The status of the other crew member from the two-seater fighter jet was unclear. News outlets including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported that a search and rescue operation was ongoing.

The regional governor promised a commendation for anyone who captured or killed the pilot, according to the semi-official Iranian news agency ISNA. Iranian news agencies said U.S. helicopters were flying low on apparent search missions and carried videos of residents shooting at them.

President Donald Trump vowed in an April 1 address to hit Iran "extremely hard" over the next two to three weeks.

As of April 2, 13 U.S. service members had died in the war and more than 300 had been wounded.

Trump proposed increasing defense spending to \$1.5 trillion – a 44% increase – in his 2027 budget, which was released on April 3.

"President Trump promised to reinvest in America's national security infrastructure, to make sure our Nation is safe in a dangerous world," wrote Russell Vought, the director of the Office and Budget Management, in a letter submitting the budget to Congress. "The 2027 Budget upholds this promise and would ensure that the United States continues to maintain the world's most powerful and capable military."

The investments include the "Golden Dome" missile defense system, a pay raise for the troops and "battle force ships."

The budget also proposes a \$73 billion cut, 10%, in nondefense spending.

**See IRAN, Page 2A**

## Crew maneuvers Orion out of Earth's orbit

Artemis II on track for historic Moon mission

**Eric Lagatta**  
USA TODAY

For the first time since 1972, humans are once again heading toward the moon.

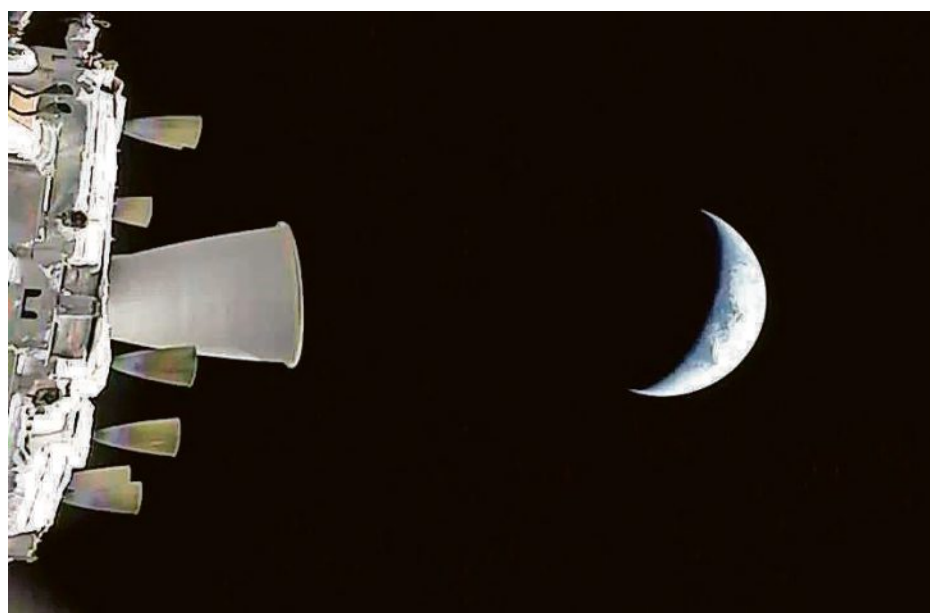
The Artemis II mission, which launched April 1 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, got the green light to begin its lunar journey after a day of orbiting high above Earth.

After getting approval from the mission management team late on April 2, the four astronauts ignited the Orion spacecraft's main engine for about six minutes, NASA said in a news release.

The maneuver helped to propel the vehicle on a path that will take it beyond the bounds of Earth's gravity to, in the days ahead, circle our celestial neighbor.

NASA's decision to give the go-ahead for a maneuver referred to in space industry parlance as a "translunar injection burn" was among the most significant calls of the mission.

Now that the Artemis II astronauts are leaving Earth behind, they'll soon fly farther in space than anyone else in human history. Aboard the spacecraft are NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch and Victor Glover, and the Canadian Space Agency's Jeremy Hansen.



NASA's Orion spacecraft orbits above Earth during the Artemis II test flight. PROVIDED BY NASA

The mission, NASA's second in the multibillion-dollar Artemis program, is intended to set the stage for a moon landing as early as 2028.

The translunar injection burn required the Orion capsule they're aboard to fire the engine on its service module located beneath the crew module for 5 minutes and 50 seconds at 7:49 p.m. ET on April 2, according to NASA.

Burning 1,000 pounds of fuel while firing the engine, Orion provided up to 6,000 pounds of thrust – enough to

accelerate a car from 0 to 60 mph in less than three seconds, according to NASA.

Functioning essentially as a deorbit burn, the move not only helped push the Orion vehicle beyond Earth's orbit toward the moon's orbit, but set it on a trajectory that will ultimately bring the crew back to Earth for a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean when the mission concludes.

**See ARTEMIS II, Page 2A**

## 3 names with NY ties floated as replacements for Bondi

**Alexandra Rivera and Victoria E. Freile**  
New York Connect Team  
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump fired U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi on Thursday, April 2, ending her 14-month tenure leading the Department of Justice. Trump announced her departure on social media, calling her a "Great Ameri-

can Patriot" and saying she would be transitioning to a job in the private sector.

Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, a former personal lawyer to Trump, was named acting attorney general while a permanent replacement is considered.

Bondi on April 2 posted on social media that she will help in the office's

transition "before moving to an important private sector role I am thrilled about," where she will "continue fighting" for the president.

Bondi's time as attorney general drew criticism from both sides of the political spectrum. Lawmakers faulted her for the Justice Department's handling of files related to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and for pursuing

high-profile investigations that did not result in major convictions. Advisers to the president reportedly grew frustrated with what they saw as slow progress on cases involving Trump's critics.

Several names have surfaced as possible successors to Bondi. Here are some with New York ties.

**See REPLACEMENTS, Page 2A**

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