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SPORTS, 1B

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U.S.-Iran ceasefire on tenuous ground



Rescuers search through wreckage in Beirut on April 8 after Israeli strikes killed and injured hundreds. MOHAMED AZAKIR/REUTERS

Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, Christopher Cann, Melina Khan and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's ceasefire with Iran was on tenuous ground on April 9 after Israel launched its deadliest day of strikes on Lebanon yet and Teh-

ran vowed not to desert its allies. A day after announcing the Iran war ceasefire, Trump took to social media to warn the country that if the "REAL AGREEMENT" was not complied with, all U.S. military assets would remain in place ready for a military response. He warned Iran to keep the Strait of Hormuz open and safe but did not ad-

dress the strikes in Lebanon in the post.

"If for any reason it is not, which is highly unlikely, then the "Shootin' Starts," bigger, and better, and stronger than anyone has ever seen before," he wrote.

Meanwhile, strikes on Lebanon, which borders Israel came on April 8, a day after United States and Iranian

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Chances of 'super' El Niño growing

Climate models point to possibility later this year

Brandi D. Addison and Kimberly Miller
USA TODAY NETWORK

Recently released climate models are pointing to what could be the most powerful El Niño event in recorded history – raising the possibility of a rare "super" episode developing later this year.

A "super" El Niño – also referred to as a "Jurassic El Niño" by Colorado State University hurricane expert Phil Klotzbach – typically refers to unusually strong warming of sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. That warming can disrupt global weather patterns, shifting storm tracks, rainfall and temperatures for months at a time.

Forecasters stress it's not a certainty yet. But multiple long-range models are now trending warmer, with some pushing into territory rarely seen in modern records – a signal that has caught scientists' attention.

El Niño occurs when Pacific Ocean waters in the central and eastern regions are warmer than average, according to NOAA. This warming changes global weather patterns in different ways than La Niña. In the United States, El Niño winters usually bring wetter, cooler conditions to the southern states and milder, drier weather to the Pacific Northwest.

Not all El Niño events are created equal. Some are mild and have only localized effects, while others can dramatically reshape weather patterns

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Artemis II crew spends final full day in space

Astronauts setting stage for future lunar missions

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY

After years of preparation and enormous galactic achievements, the Artemis II astronauts on April 9 marked their final full day in space.

As of that morning, the Orion spacecraft carrying the crew still had tens of thousands of miles to go ahead of a planned water landing April 10 off the California coast: It was about 160,000 miles from Earth, leaving the moon about 120,000 miles behind, according to NASA's online tracker.

That meant the astronauts were approaching the point where they were

closer to Earth than to the moon – a key point in their return journey signifying that the end of the historic mission was near.

The crew was due to spend the day working with flight control teams back on Earth to review landing procedures and prepare the Orion vehicle for reentering Earth's atmosphere, according to NASA.

About nine days into their journey, the astronauts – Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch of NASA, as well as the Canadian Space Agency's Jeremy Hansen – appeared to be in good spirits while taking questions during a news conference late on April 8.

And why wouldn't they be?

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The Artemis II crew of NASA astronauts Christina Koch, Reid Wiseman and Victor Glover and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen will return to Earth on April 10.

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