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REPUBLICAN HERALD

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TENSION ON THE WATER

US fights to reopen the Strait of Hormuz as UAE comes under attack in test of Iran truce



A container ship sits at anchor as a small motorboat passes in the foreground in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, Iran, on Saturday. PHOTOS BY AMIRHOSEIN KHORGHOOL/ISNA VIA AP

By Adam Schreck, Ben Finley and Sam Metz ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. military said it battled Iranian forces and sank six small boats as it moved to reopen the Strait of Hormuz on Monday. The United Arab Emirates, a key American ally, said it had come under attack from Iran for the first time since a fragile ceasefire took hold in early April.

The attacks appeared to be in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's latest efforts to reopen the strait, a critical waterway for global energy. The U.S. military said two American-flagged merchant ships had successfully transited the strait on Monday as part of a new initiative.

The UAE Defense Ministry said Iran had launched four cruise missiles, with three shot down and one falling into the sea. Authorities in the eastern emirate of Fujairah said an Iranian drone sparked a fire at a key oil facility, wounding three Indian nationals. The British military reported two cargo vessels ablaze off



An Iranian tugboat floats in the foreground as cargo ships sit at anchor in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, Iran, on Monday.

the UAE.

Breaking Iran's chokehold on the strait would ease global economic concerns and deny Tehran a major source of leverage. But such efforts also risk reigniting the full-scale fighting that erupted when the U.S. and Israel first attacked Iran on Feb. 28, prompting it

to close the strait.

Reports of new attacks raised doubts as to whether shipping companies, and their insurers, would take such a risk given that Iran has fired on ships in the waterway and vowed to keep doing so.

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Scholastic Superstars honored in ceremony

Event at Penn State Schuylkill honored area's brightest students

STAFF REPORT

The Republican Herald's 2026 Scholastic Superstars were honored in a ceremony in Morgan Auditorium at Penn State Schuylkill on Wednesday evening.

Twenty-five students from Schuylkill County were recognized at the event, which was sponsored by Lehigh Valley Hospital — Schuylkill.

All of them were honor students who have made significant contributions to their schools and communities.

"I have never seen a group of students so committed to making their communities a better place like the ones we're honoring tonight," Republican Herald Content Editor and master of ceremonies Ryan Sharp said. "All of them have good grades and have undoubtedly set themselves up for success, but they have also worked incredibly hard to create an environment where their peers can be just as successful."

THE 2026 SCHOLASTIC SUPERSTARS ARE:

- Abby Bassininsky — Blue Mountain
Megan Bassininsky — Blue Mountain
William Behun — Tamaqua
Caroline Breslin — Panther Valley
Felicia Bro — Mahanoy Area
Madeline Daynorowicz — Nativity BVM
Myla Fasnacht — Pine Grove
Dylan Foose — Blue Mountain
Gianna Giannelli — Marian Catholic
Ryan Grabowski — Nativity BVM
Olivia Greblich — North Schuylkill
Lyza Holmes — North Schuylkill
Jourdin Karvois — Shenandoah Valley
Alexander Krapf — Marian Catholic
Hope Motuk — Minersville
Ava Orlowsky — Pottsville
Lucero Zavala Perez — Shenandoah Valley
John Rautzahn — Williams Valley
Destiny Steinmetz — Tamaqua
Grace Sterner — Minersville
Mya Williams — Pine Grove
Marley Zimmerman — Minersville
Chloe Zulick — Nativity BVM

Full coverage and photos of the ceremony will be online Tuesday and in print Wednesday. A 25-part series that profiles the Superstars will begin Wednesday and appear alphabetically. They will not appear in the e-edition on Mondays.

Supreme Court restores access to abortion pill

By Mark Sherman and Geoff Mulvihill ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday restored broad access to the abortion pill mifepristone, blocking a ruling that had threatened to upend one of the main ways abortions are

provided across the nation.

The order signed by Justice Samuel Alito temporarily allows women seeking abortions to obtain the pill at pharmacies or through the mail, without an in-person visit to a doctor.

Those rules had been in effect for several years until a federal appeals court imposed

new restrictions last week.

The majority of abortions in the U.S. are obtained through medications, usually a combination of mifepristone and a second drug, misoprostol. The availability of those drugs has blunted the impact of abortion bans that most Republican-led states have sought to enforce since a 2022 Supreme Court

ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade.

Louisiana sued to restrict access to mifepristone, asserting that its availability undermined the ban there.

Some Democratic-led states have laws that seek to give legal protection to those who

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Mifepristone tablets sit on a table at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Ames, Iowa, on July 18, 2024. CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS. Group 1: 10:00-11:00 A.M. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group. Group 2: 11:30-12:30 P.M. Caregivers* Support Group. WHEN: 7-week Sessions Every Friday Starting April 10 thru Last Session May 29. TO REGISTER, CALL: 1-800-832-3313. FACILITATED BY: Kelly Reno, DSW, LCSW. WHERE: Schuylkill County Office Of Senior Services, 110 E. Laurel Blvd., Pottsville 17901.

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