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Marshfield News Herald

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Charting his own path

1 year in, poll shows Catholics in U.S. approve of Leo XIV

Marc Ramirez, Phaedra Trethan, Mike Stunson, Bailey Allen, Liam Adams and Rachel Gow
 USA TODAY NETWORK

It's been nearly 1,000 years since King Henry IV stood barefoot in the Italian snow to beg forgiveness after clashes with Pope Gregory VII, and over two centuries since Napoleon imprisoned Pope Pius VII in France.

Now, a battle is underway between a pope and a world leader: the war of words between President Donald Trump and Pope Leo XIV. Their divide is believed to be the most contentious between the papacy and a secular leader since medieval times.

For dozens of U.S. Catholics interviewed by the USA TODAY Network across the nation, it's Leo who has the upper hand in the crusade. A year into his historic papacy, he has given them hope for the future of the Catholic Church.

Catholics nationwide feel overwhelmingly upbeat. Many say Leo is palpably different from Pope Francis, with an everyman affability they believe is helping fuel a global resurgence in Catholicism – especially among the young.

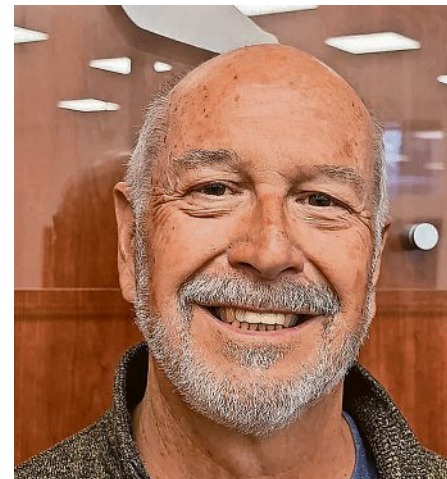
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Pope Leo XIV's firm push for peace amid the war with Iran has rankled President Donald Trump, igniting sparks at times that have tested the loyalties of conservative Catholics.

GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE/REUTERS FILE
 PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JUANITA LAGRONE/USA TODAY NETWORK



MARSHFIELD



Nick Poeschel was elected to his first term as Mayor of Marshfield on April 7. ERIK PFANTZ/MARSHFIELD NEWS HERALD

Poeschel wins mayoral race

Former officer outlines priorities, plans

Erik Pfantz
 Marshfield News-Herald
 USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Voters in Marshfield in April chose another familiar face to lead the city for the next two years.

Nick Poeschel was elected mayor of Marshfield on April 7 in an election that saw 4,456 voters participate. Poeschel overcame two-term incumbent Lois TeStrake, a longtime cosmetologist and small business owner, by nearly 300 votes, or a vote total of 2,372 to 2,084, to gain the seat.

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Man arrested after reported shooting and standoff

Karen Madden
 Marshfield News-Herald
 USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

A 32-year-old Marshfield man was arrested early May 6 after an hours-long standoff, during which police said he fired a gun at a woman.

At 7:39 p.m. May 5, a caller reported the man had fired a gun at a victim in the 1000 block of South Oak Avenue, Marshfield, according to the Marshfield Police Department. The victim wasn't hurt and was able to get herself and her family out of the house.

Officers arrived at the scene and gave the 32-year-old man orders to leave the house and surrender, but he refused to comply, according to police.

See STANDOFF, Page 2A

Rise in private payrolls shows stable labor market

Lucia Mutikani
 REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. private payrolls posted their largest increase in 15 months in April, pointing to continued labor market stability even as the conflict in the Middle East clouds the economy's outlook.

The labor market remains in a "low-hire, low-fire" state, though economists are warning of downside risks as the U.S.-Israel war with Iran fans inflation. The latest sign of labor market stability in the ADP's national employment report on May 6 bolsters financial market

expectations that the Federal Reserve would leave interest rates unchanged into 2027.

"The labor market has been on solid but precarious footing for some time, not exactly growing but also not significantly deteriorating," said Elizabeth Renter, senior economist at NerdWallet. "Amid ongoing global conflict, the fallout of a continuing oil shock and continued economic policy uncertainty, it would take more than one strong report on the labor market to signal we're facing a different labor environment."

See PAYROLLS, Page 2A



The latest Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey indicated that hiring jumped in March to its highest level since February 2024.

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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