



Monday, April 20, 2026

**1. President Donald Trump said the U.S. military seized an Iranian cargo ship.**

**Why?** Trump said it tried to bypass the U.S. blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, so the Navy stopped it by “blowing a hole in the engine room.” Iran described it as an act of “piracy.”

**The war is having major economic impacts:** Millions of households across the U.S. are being hit by rising gas prices. The issue threatens Republicans in a key midterm race.

**Stocks soared last week:** Experts say investors are misunderstanding the war.

**2. Eight children were killed in a shooting in Louisiana, police said.**

**It was the deadliest mass killing in the U.S. in two years:** The children ranged in age from 1 to about 14, police said. Seven of them are believed to be the gunman’s children.

**The investigation:** The shooter was identified as 31-year-old Shamar Elkins, who died after a car chase with police. Elkins’s wife recently sought a divorce, his brother-in-law said.

**3. Trump’s fixation on the White House ballroom is increasing, a Post analysis found.**

**The numbers:** Trump has publicly mentioned the ballroom on about a third of the days this year. The pace of his references has increased as the project has faced legal challenges.

**Digging deeper:** Trump’s mentions of the ballroom project (which is widely unpopular) have rivaled or exceeded his mentions of policy priorities such as his TrumpRx website.

**4. The Justice Department demanded all Detroit-area ballots from the 2024 election.**

**Why?** It’s part of an effort by Trump officials to scrutinize elections in swing states. Democrats said the request is an attempt to undermine public confidence in elections.

**Inside the Justice Department:** A competition is underway to succeed Pam Bondi as attorney general, sparking concerns about how far contenders might go to impress Trump.

**5. We calculated how much Nick Fuentes earns from live-streaming hate.**

**Who is Fuentes?** A white-supremacist influencer who courts disaffected young men. He’s banned from most mainstream social media for viral provocations and extreme bigotry.

**But he’s raking in cash:** He pocketed about \$900,000 from “fanatical” donors since the start of 2025, our analysis shows.

**6. Students are completing online degrees in weeks.**

**It takes most students years to earn a bachelor’s degree:** But online courses have allowed some to rapidly speed up the process. The breakneck pace is alarming academics.

**In other education news:** A teaching method known as classical education is on the rise. It is being pushed by conservatives, who say it celebrates America and Western thought.

**7. Just two minutes of the right exercise could boost your longevity.**

**A new twist:** For decades, doctors have said that moving more is key to better health. But that’s only part of the story — how you move matters nearly as much as how often.

**According to recent research:** Brief bursts of higher-intensity activity can have an outsize impact on your fitness.



Vocabulary 20/04/26

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | to seize -<br>to take in custody -         | to take using sudden force<br>to arrest (in Gewahrsam nehmen)   |
| 2. | Shamar Elkins                              |   |
| 3. | fixation -                                 | (here) an unnaturally strong interest   |
| 4. | ballot -<br>to scrutinize -<br>DoJ -       | a piece of paper on which you write your vote<br>to examine something very carefully<br>Department of Justice |
| 5. | Nick Fuentes<br>bigotry -<br>to alienate - | Fanatismus<br>to cause someone to stop supporting and agreeing with you                                       |
| 6. | breakneck -                                | carelessly fast and dangerous   |

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