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A light that brings joy and guides our path.
Look inside and you'll find protection.
A bond that holds us together and cares for us.
Embrace it and you'll find strength.
A force that moves us through anything.
And whether shared with another
or with ourselves,
love, in all its facets,
is the most precious gift of all.

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"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

THE WEATHER
Today, mostly cloudy, high 41. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy, turning colder, low 28. **TOMORROW**, sunshine and a few clouds, colder and blustery, high 31. Weather map, Page 20.

The New York Times

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00

NEWS ANALYSIS
Second Strike Not Key Issue In Boat Shots

Invoking Rules of War For Criminal Question

By CHARLIE SAVAGE and JULIAN E. BARNES
WASHINGTON — As Congress parses the details of a follow-on strike that killed initial survivors of President Trump's first boat attack on Sept. 2, a much larger issue risks getting lost: whether Mr. Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have caused the military to commit crimes in a score of attacks.

Adm. Frank M. Bradley, who commanded the Sept. 2 operation, on Thursday showed lawmakers a video of the attack. The briefing was part of a congressional effort to understand his decision to order a second strike and determine whether the survivors of the first one remained "in the fight" or were technically shipwrecked, making it a war crime to kill them.

There have been shifting narratives emerging from the Pentagon, and the video showing the minutes before the second strike has been interpreted several ways. But each interpretation entails analogizing the actions of suspected drug runners to actual combat activities. The comparisons are strained at best, legal experts say, because the laws of war were not written for and do not fit a drug smuggling situation.

"Debate over when a shipwrecked crew member loses protection from attack misses the point," said Geoffrey S. Corn, who was formerly the Army's senior adviser for law-of-war issues. "The real problem here is the dubious and legally overbroad assertion that the United States is justified in using wartime authority against a criminal problem."

As a matter of plain reality, an unarmed speedboat, even if it is carrying cocaine, is not a warship. And none of the 11 people aboard — not merely the two initial survivors, but also the nine people the U.S. military killed in its first strike — were fighting any enemy.

The Sept. 2 boat attack was the first in Mr. Trump's policy of directing the military to summarily kill people who are suspected of smuggling drugs at sea as if they are enemy soldiers on a

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IVAN PIERRE AGURRI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



TODD HEISLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES



ERIN SCHAFER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Clockwise from top: migrants waiting to be processed at the border in El Paso in 2023 as Title 42, a public health rule, was expiring; Border Patrol trucks in Arivaca, Ariz., in 2024; and detentions in Sunland Park, N.M., in 2023.

Inside Biden's Losing Bets on Immigration

By CHRISTOPHER FLAVELLE

WASHINGTON — In the weeks after Joseph R. Biden Jr. was elected president, advisers delivered a warning: His approach to immigration could prove disastrous.

Mr. Biden had pledged to treat unauthorized immigrants more humanely than President Donald J. Trump, who generated widespread backlash by separating migrant children from their parents.

But Mr. Biden was now president-elect, and his positions threatened to drastically increase border crossings, experts advising his transition team warned in a video call briefing in the final weeks of 2020, according to people with direct knowledge of that briefing. That jump, they said, could provoke a political crisis.

"Chaos" was the word the advisers had used in a memo during the campaign.

They offered a range of options to avert that crisis, by better deterring migrants.

Mr. Biden seemed to grasp the risk. But he and his top aides failed to act on those recommendations.

Not Heeding Warnings, and Giving Trump an Opening

The warnings came true, and then some. After Mr. Biden became president, migrant encounters at the southern border quickly doubled, then kept rising. New arrivals overwhelmed border stations, then border towns, and eventually major cities like New York and Denver.

Anger over illegal migration helped return Mr. Trump to the presidency, and he has enacted even more aggressive policies than those Mr. Biden first campaigned against. Mr. Trump has drawn outrage from Democrats by sending masked agents to target immigrants, often aided by National Guard soldiers.

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He Sued Disney for 'Zootopia' And Thinks Viper in '2' Is Him

By BROOKS BARNES

LOS ANGELES — Gary Goldman raced to see "Zootopia 2" as soon as it arrived in theaters just before Thanksgiving. He loved the first installment, especially its exploration of whether a meritocracy is attainable. And the critics were cut.

But Mr. Goldman, 72, left the theater deeply unsettled — feeling that a major new character, a venomous pit viper named Gary De'Snake, had been based on him.

"It's virtually impossible for me to interpret it any other way," he said.

Even after spending his entire working life in Hollywood, Mr. Goldman has never met any of the people at Disney who made

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ESTHER HORVATH FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Hunt for an Ocean Tipping Point

Scientists fear warming is driving a collapse in the currents that shape climate. The waters off Greenland might be a key. *Page 14*

METROPOLITAN

Painter Faces Nazi Trauma

Cornelia Foss, better known as a confidante to artists than as an artist herself, puts aside landscape painting for something far more visceral.

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ARTS & LEISURE

A.I. Video Tools Pose Threat

A combination of technological developments and market forces is undermining a social contract between viewers and filmmakers.

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SUNDAY STYLES

The Best Clothes Shopping

Our list of the 50 top stores in America salutes businesses that keep alive the thrill of in-person browsing in this age of e-commerce.

PAGES 12-15

SUNDAY BUSINESS

A \$165 Billion Sales Pitch

Officials in a New Mexico county were eager for a proposed 1,400-acre A.I. data center in the desert, even if they didn't quite know the details.

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SUNDAY OPINION

Ben Rhodes

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