

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, sunshine, some afternoon clouds, not as breezy, high 50. **Tonight**, mostly cloudy, low 39. **Tomorrow**, mainly cloudy, some afternoon rain, high 51. Weather map, Page B8.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00



Federal officers using pepper spray in the aftermath of the shooting. Local and federal accounts of what led to the shooting differed.

## WOMAN IS KILLED BY FEDERAL AGENT

Local Officials Urge ICE to Leave Minnesota

This article is by Julie Bosman, Mitch Smith and Dan Simmons.

A federal officer fatally shot a 37-year-old woman who was driving in Minneapolis on Wednesday, prompting state and local officials to demand an end to the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown in Minnesota.

President Trump said on social media that federal agents had acted in self-defense, while state and local officials described the Trump administration’s accounts of the shooting as “propaganda” and “garbage.”

Three videos of the shooting posted on social media and verified by The New York Times show a maroon Honda Pilot partially blocking a snowy residential street. The driver moves forward slightly, then stops and waves at approaching vehicles, signaling that they should drive past her.

When a truck with flashing lights approaches, she waves again, but the truck stops and federal agents emerge. Two agents move toward the driver’s side of the Honda. The agents tell the driver to get out. One agent tries to open the driver’s door and reaches through the driver’s side window. Another agent crosses in front of the Honda, as the driver begins to reverse.

The Honda then moves ahead, and the agent at the front of the vehicle, standing near the driver’s side headlight, produces a gun and aims at the driver. The Honda moves forward, turning to the right. The agent aiming the gun fires, and continues to shoot at the driver as the vehicle passes him.

The Honda accelerates and crashes into two parked vehicles and a light post. The agent who had fired approaches the vehicle, then walks away and tells the other agents to call 911.

The woman was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

Two officials in Minnesota with knowledge of the investigation who were not authorized to speak

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### Minnesota Fraud Scandal

As President Trump intensified scrutiny in the state, he saw a model for inquiries into other Democratic states. Page A13.

## U.S. Raid on Caracas Skirted on Edge of Disaster

By ERIC SCHMITT and GREG JAFFE

WASHINGTON — President Trump described the operation to capture President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela as a “perfectly executed” display of American military power.

But Mr. Trump’s account of the audacious raid left out key details that underscored the risks U.S. troops faced as they approached Mr. Maduro’s fortified compound and how close the high-stakes operation came to taking a turn for the worse.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, U.S. Army helicopters skimmed 100 feet above the sea

### Trump Is Emboldened by Serial Success of High-Risk Attacks

and then over Caracas, Venezuela’s capital, racing toward their target. Their stealthy pathway had been cleared by an American cyberattack that darkened the city, and by radar-evading U.S. fighter jets that pounded Venezuela’s Russian-built air defenses.

Initially, the helicopters, carrying dozens of Army Delta Force commandos, flew undetected.

But as they approached Mr. Ma-

duro’s lair, the aircraft came under fire and shot back. The first helicopter in the assault, a giant twin-rotor MH-47 Chinook, was hit but remained flyable. The flight leader, who also planned the mission and was piloting the Chinook, was struck three times in the leg, said current and former U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

As the damaged helicopter struggled to stay aloft and deliver its troops to their target, the success of the entire operation, called Absolute Resolve — involving more than 150 aircraft launched from 20 bases in the region —

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Zella Knight lost her home in Altadena, Calif., a year ago. The disaster remains a raw wound.

## Homes, Fury and Debt Rise From Ashes in L.A.

This article is by Shawn Hubler, Jill Cowan and Jesus Jiménez.

LOS ANGELES — In Pacific Palisades, schools in the burn scar have started to reopen. Debris by the ton has been trucked away. Where walls of flame reduced coastal mansions to ashes, morning carries the scent of lumber and the clatter of construction crews, hammering.

Thirty-five miles to the east in Altadena, the wooden frames of new homes have started to rise from among the weeds and wildflowers. There has been so much

### Healing After Fires Is Painful and Uneven

rain lately that you have to look hard for the spots where the San Gabriel foothills behind them were scorched black — the color has returned to a lush green.

It has been a year since wildfires erupted on Jan. 7, 2025, across the Los Angeles region, claiming at least 31 lives, destroying more than 16,000 buildings and obliterating almost every-

thing across nearly 80 square miles. Thousands of destroyed houses are being rebuilt or are in the planning stages. Los Angeles city and county officials have issued more than 2,600 building permits, more than five times the number issued at this point in the aftermath of the Camp fire, which destroyed a similar number of Northern California homes in 2018.

But 12 months later, the disaster remains a raw wound — economically, politically, geographically, environmentally and even psy-

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## SEIZING 2 TANKERS, U.S. TIGHTENS GRIP ON VENEZUELA OIL

### Maduro Is Gone, but Repression of His Critics Is Not

By JACK NICAS

Government officials led a large crowd of Venezuelans through Caracas, the capital, on Tuesday, marching to demand the release of Nicolás Maduro, the nation’s ousted president.

At the same time, the government was on the hunt for anyone celebrating his capture by the United States.

Over the past several days, security forces have interrogated people at checkpoints, boarded public buses and searched passengers’ phones, looking for evidence that they approved of Mr. Maduro’s removal, according to Venezuelans in the country and human rights groups. At least 14 journalists and six citizens were detained; most have been released.

The split screen of the government’s leading a show of support for an unpopular authoritarian leader while cracking down on his critics was especially striking because the United States is now supporting that government.

Four days after President Trump said the United States would “run” Venezuela, the sprawling political, security and intelligence apparatus that propped up Mr. Maduro’s strongman rule is still in place, and day-to-day life for many Venezuelans has worsened.

The interim leader, Delcy Rodríguez, who was Mr. Maduro’s vice president, has repeatedly demanded his release and condemned the Trump administration for the raid that captured him on Saturday.

“The government of Venezuela runs our country,” she said in a speech on Tuesday. “No one else.”

Despite Ms. Rodríguez’s public criticism, White House officials have expressed confidence that she will follow their orders, and there have been indications that

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### One Vessel, Carrying Russian Flag, Was Sought for Weeks

This article is by Nicholas Ne-  
hamas, Eric Schmitt, Julian E.  
Barnes and Michael Levenson.

The U.S. military seized two oil tankers on Wednesday, including a Russian-flagged ship that had been evading American forces for weeks, as the Trump administration moved aggressively to take control of Venezuela’s multi-billion-dollar oil industry.

The seizure of the Russian-flagged vessel in the North Atlantic, between Scotland and Iceland, escalated a confrontation with Moscow days after a U.S. military raid ousted a Russian ally, President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela. The U.S. military said it had seized the vessel for vio-



Marinera, once called Bella 1, last year. It was seized in the North Atlantic on Wednesday.

lating U.S. sanctions.

The military said that it had intercepted the second tanker in international waters in the Caribbean, where it was “conducting illicit activities,” and that it was escorting the “stateless” vessel to the United States.

The seizures came as senior Trump administration officials outlined plans to take control of Venezuela’s oil sales and impose their will on Venezuela’s leaders. The White House press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, told reporters in Washington that any actions taken by Venezuela’s interim govern-

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**IMPERIALISM** U.S. action in Venezuela and threats on Greenland have made Europeans increasingly wary of President Trump. PAGE A4

**GREENLAND ACCESS** Rather than buy or invade the island to protect national security, the U.S. could simply invoke a 1951 pact. PAGE A5

ALDRICH AMES, 1941-2026

## Greed of Brash Turncoat Sent Cold War C.I.A. Spies to Death

By TIM WEINER

Aldrich Ames, the most murderous turncoat in the history of the Central Intelligence Agency, whose betrayal in working for the Soviet Union went undetected for almost a decade, died on Monday. He was 84 and had been a federal prisoner, serving life without parole, since 1994.

The death was recorded in the federal Bureau of Prisons inmate database. A spokesman said he died at the Federal Correctional Institution in Cumberland, Md.

The son of an alcoholic C.I.A. officer, Mr. Ames failed upward through the agency ranks for 17 years until he attained a headquarters post of extraordinary sensitivity.

He became the chief of the counterintelligence branch of the C.I.A.’s Soviet division in September 1983. He had access to some of the nation’s deepest secrets: in particular, its clandestine liaisons with the Soviets, who worked in secret with American intelligence.



Aldrich Ames leaving court after pleading guilty in 1994.

These were a small cadre, barely a dozen all told, who were cultivated over the course of two decades and well-placed in Soviet government agencies and embassies around the world.

As the Cold War was cresting, Mr. Ames decided that he would

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NATIONAL A11-20

### A New Role for Robot Cars

Los Angeles families with busy schedules are summoning self-driving cars to cart their children around. PAGE A11

### Kennedy Flips Food Pyramid

New U.S. dietary guidelines recommend the consumption of more red meat, whole milk and cheese. PAGE A15

INTERNATIONAL A4-10

### Ukraine’s Allies Reach Accord

Britain and France firmed up a postwar troop commitment, hailed by President Volodymyr Zelensky as “a huge step forward.” PAGE A9

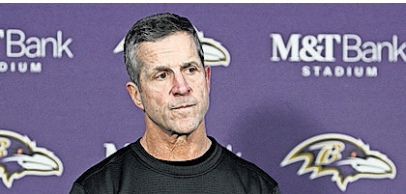
BUSINESS B1-6

### A.I. Here, There, Everywhere

From talking computers to self-driving cars, a look at the trends that could affect your daily life in 2026. PAGE B1

### Tests for Fed’s Independence

The central bank will soon face hurdles that will determine the extent to which it can avoid political meddling. PAGE B1



SPORTS B7-11

### Coaching Change in Baltimore

The Ravens fired their head coach, John Harbaugh, whose 18-season tenure included a Super Bowl title. PAGE B11

### Four Passers. One Trophy.

Coaches shared candid views of the quarterbacks in the college semifinals, which begin Thursday night. PAGE B7

ARTS C1-8

### Dispensing With Dialogue

The dreamlike play “Mami” from the Albanian Greek director Mario Banushi has no talking for a reason. “Words can limit things,” he says. The show leads the Under the Radar festival. PAGE C1

### What Hive Minds Reveal

From “Star Trek” to “Stranger Things,” it’s a classic storytelling device: a collective consciousness controlled by one powerful force. That plotline has been showing up a lot more lately. PAGE C1

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THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

### A Tailor in Big Demand

Ralph Fitzgerald, a Brit working in Manhattan, is among the millennial tailors continuing the craft of cutting and stitching a suit totally by hand. PAGE D1

