

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, humid, partly cloudy, light winds, high 81. Tonight, partly cloudy, humid, low 67. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, a touch warmer, high 83. Weather map is on Page 20.

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Prices in Canada may be higher \$6.00

NEWS ANALYSIS

Trump Rants Divide Court On Race Bias

Justices Spar Over His Slurs About Haitians

By ADAM LIPTAK

The Supreme Court on Thursday confronted two questions that have also confounded many Americans for the past decade: How seriously should people take President Trump's wild, coarse and ugly statements? And are some of them marred by racial animus?

Like the country itself, the court was deeply divided on both.

In ruling that President Trump could deport some 350,000 Haitians, the Supreme Court's conservative majority first had to determine whether race had played a role in his decision to remove the humanitarian protections that had shielded them. If discrimination was "a motivating factor" in Mr. Trump's determination, the leading precedent said, it would violate the Constitution's equal protection clause.

Writing for the majority, Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. concluded that Mr. Trump's many statements about Haitians were not "overtly racial," and that it was unlikely that race had been a motivating factor in the administration's decision to end the protections. He was joined by the court's five other Republican appointees.

What Justice Alito did not do was set out a single example of those statements.

In dissent, Justice Elena Kagan was incredulous.

"The statements fairly shout," she wrote, "in their racial undertones and overtones alike, that race entered into the president's resolve to remove Haitians from this country."

The clash was a vivid example of what critics say has been the court's tendency to give Mr. Trump the benefit of the doubt, interpreting even his most extreme remarks charitably.

The case concerned the Temporary Protected Status program, which was created by Congress in 1990 to allow people whose home countries are deemed unsafe because of war, natural disasters or other crises to live and work in the United States. Mr. Trump has long questioned the program.

Thursday's decision concerned people from Haiti and Syria, though only the Haitian plaintiffs challenged the termination of their status on equal protection

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JUAN PABLO ARRAEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GUAIRA Rescue workers on Friday in Venezuela, where the death toll surpassed 1,400 with more than 3,200 hurt on Saturday.

New Rounds Of Strikes Jolt A Brittle Truce

This article is by Pranav Baskar, Aaron Boxerman and Yeganeh Torbati.

JERUSALEM — The United States early on Sunday leveled retaliatory airstrikes on Iran for a second straight night, and less than two weeks after the countries agreed to a cease-fire that was already in danger of falling apart.

The American airstrikes came several hours after a ship carrying crude oil, named the Kiku, was struck in the Strait of Hormuz, which was supposed to be reopened for shipping under the cease-fire. The United States blamed Iran for the attack on the ship, which damaged the bridge but caused no injuries to the crew.

The round of strikes followed a similar sequence on Thursday and Friday, when an attack on a different ship, the Ever Lovely, near the strait was followed by U.S. airstrikes on Iran.

"After yesterday's U.S. strikes in response to the Iranian attack on M/V Ever Lovely, Iran was given a chance to honor the ceasefire agreement but elected not to when its forces launched a one-way attack drone," hitting the

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FALSEHOOD

"...Historic Victory in an Electoral College landslide..."



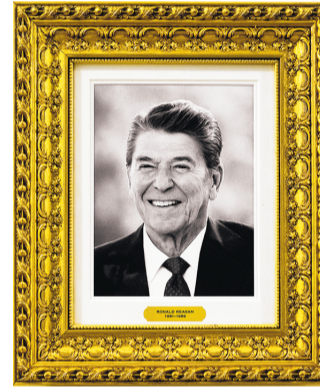
INSULT

"...the worst President in American History."



NOTEWORTHY

"He was a fan of President Donald J. Trump..."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

How Trump Skewed Presidential History

Gilded plaques lining a White House hallway show President Trump to be an unreliable narrator. The Times asked historians to weigh in. News Analysis. Page 21.

A 250th Party Takes All Year and Lots of Feathers

By JENNA RUSSELL

PRESQUE ISLE, Maine — Kim Smith, the grant writer and public information officer for Presque Isle, Maine, is not the kind of person to do anything halfway.

When she began leading themed tours of Presque Isle, a small city in the northeastern corner of Maine near the Canadian border, she did not offer one or two routes, but 15. When a team of ghost hunters came to town to evaluate a single city building, she

persuaded them to visit more than a dozen others.

So when it came time to plan America's 250th anniversary this year, Ms. Smith approached the assignment with a commitment that bordered on obsession. As other small municipalities around the country beefed up their July 4 celebrations, or cobbled together a weeklong jubilee, Ms. Smith, 68, set about organizing 12 full months of festivities.

"A quarter of a millennium felt

too significant to cram into a day or a week," she said.

Something in Ms. Smith's maximalist approach — her unflagging enthusiasm; her meticulous attention to detail; her refusal to be deterred by shrinking attention spans, budgets and population — feels unapologetically American. By sheer force of will and raw ambition, she believes she can prove Presque Isle capable of semi-quincentennial greatness.

At 7:30 one spring morning, as

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IN NEW DISASTER, VENEZUELA SEES SLIGHT HOPE DIM

OIL HAD BEEN FLOWING

Quakes Hobble Economy Hurt by High Inflation and by Misrule

By SIMON ROMERO and EMMA BUBOLA

The blows just keep coming. Venezuela's economy began crumbling so badly more than a decade ago that hospitals were hollowed out, blackouts were everywhere and even the most basic goods disappeared from store shelves.

Soon, millions of Venezuelans fled the country, often on foot, scattering across the hemisphere and beyond. Faced with the nation's steep decline, Venezuela's already repressive government clamped down even harder, stealing an election and people's hopes for change.

Next came American military strikes on boats off the nation's coasts, a partial blockade of its oil and a stunning intervention: The Trump administration raided the capital, seized Venezuela's authoritarian leader and declared that the United States would run the country, effectively turning it into a vassal state.

After all the head-spinning crises, Venezuela finally appeared to be on the cusp of an economic rebirth this year. Oil was flowing again, its leaders were mending ties with global lenders and energy executives were flocking to Caracas, the capital, to explore potential deals.

Then, the twin earthquakes last week upended everything.

The cash-starved Venezuelan government, already struggling to tame the world's highest inflation rate, must now somehow muster an enormous disaster response: clearing vast amounts of rubble; finding and caring for countless, newly-homeless survivors; and restoring basic services to a nation in crisis.

"This is a country that already had massive reconstruction needs," said Francisco Rodríguez, a prominent Venezuelan economist. "Now, on top of that, they need to rebuild without having ready access to resources."

The tragedy is likely to raise the expectations on the United States, especially since the Trump administration took control of Venezuela's oil industry after seizing Venezuela's leader, Nicolás Maduro, in January.

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As Vehicles in U.S. Got Bigger, More Pedestrians Were Killed

This article is by Michael H. Keller, Eli Murray, Danielle Ivory and Irineo Cabrerros.

For decades, American roads were steadily getting safer for pedestrians. But around 2009, the trend reversed. Since then, the number of pedestrians killed each year has risen by about 75 percent.

The surge in pedestrian deaths has baffled researchers. Most other wealthy countries haven't seen similar increases, suggesting that possible culprits like smartphones don't tell the whole story.

Other likely causes of deadly crashes, such as drunken and distracted driving, have attracted

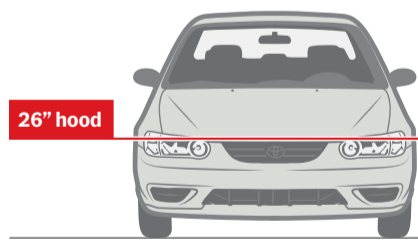
immense attention from the public and policymakers. But the trend toward ever-larger vehicles has received much less scrutiny, even after federal researchers in 2022 cautioned regulators that it was endangering pedestrians.

After analyzing federal and industry records, including never-before-examined data on vehicle dimensions, an investigation by The New York Times found that the rise of large pickups and S.U.V.s is an important factor.

Our estimate is that about 200 to 400 pedestrians a year would not have died if vehicles had remained approximately the same size over the past quarter-century. That represents about 10 percent of the recent increase in pe-

IN THE EARLY 2000s, more than half the passenger vehicles on American roads were traditional cars. Their hoods were low to the ground.

2002 TOYOTA COROLLA



destrian deaths.

There are two reasons bigger vehicles are deadlier: They have taller hoods. And they tend to have larger blind zones.

"We see a lot of devastating col-

IN THE 2010s, cars were eclipsed by larger vehicles like compact S.U.V.s.

2014 FORD ESCAPE



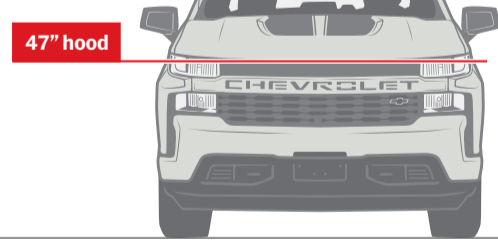
lisions even at lower speeds because the pedestrian gets punted forward," said Shawn Harrington, whose company, Forensic Rock, conducted crash tests for us. "Before the driver knows what's hap-

pened, the pedestrian's head is under the wheel."

More vehicles than ever have hoods that exceed the average American's center of gravity, which is generally around the

TODAY, S.U.V.s and pickup trucks dominate the roads. Many are bigger than ever. And they are far deadlier, killing thousands of pedestrians who might otherwise have survived a collision, a Times investigation found.

2022 CHEVROLET SILVERADO



belly button.

The hood of an average passenger vehicle today is about three feet high. Anyone shorter than 5-foot-6 — about half of

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INTERNATIONAL 4-12

Well-Placed D.E.A. Informants

Some elected officials from Mexico's governing party have sought to cooperate with U.S. investigations into fellow politicians, The Times was told. PAGE 6

NATIONAL 13-26

When the Pool Turned Green

The Trump administration removed water-purification machines ahead of an event at the Lincoln Memorial. Then the algae began to bloom. PAGE 24

ARTS & LEISURE

Christopher Nolan's Quest

Filming "The Odyssey" entirely in IMAX meant needing ingenuity from actors and engineers in order for the director to complete his epic. PAGE 6

SUNDAY BUSINESS

What's Fair? And What's True?

In the prediction markets, reality itself can be in dispute. At Polymarket, a bitter back-and-forth erupted in betting over a mere syllable: "Donk." PAGE 4

SUNDAY OPINION

America at 250



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