

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, clouds and sunshine, humid, afternoon thunderstorm, high 85. **Tonight**, lingering clouds, low 71. **To-morrow**, less humid, sun and clouds, high 84. Weather map, Page B12.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

Taking In a Celestial Spectacle Across Europe



SPAIN A “diamond ring” effect, as seen from El Arenal beach in Mallorca on Wednesday, in Europe’s first total eclipse in decades.



ICELAND Hundreds gathered in a field as part of the Iceland Eclipse festival, hoping cloudy skies would not ruin the moment.



GERMANY A homemade eclipse-viewing panel used at the Halde Hoheward park in Herten, in the western part of the country.

Ellison Floating Hollywood Exit For Paramount

This article is by **Benjamin Mullin, Brooks Barnes and Lauren Hirsch**.
David Ellison is making it clear that he’ll do just about anything to close his deal to buy Warner Bros. Discovery.
Even if it means considering plans to take his company far from Hollywood.
Mr. Ellison, Paramount’s chief executive, told his senior leadership team last week that he would begin pulling the company out of California on Oct. 1 if there was no progress toward resolving a lawsuit by state attorneys general seeking to block the deal, according to three people with knowledge of his remarks.
It is unclear whether Mr. Ellison will follow through on the plan, which could put pressure on the California attorney general, one of the chief plaintiffs behind the suit, to come to the negotiating table. Losing a major Hollywood studio would be a blow to the state’s economy and self-identity.
Rob Bonta, the California attorney general, blasted Mr. Ellison on Tuesday for threatening to move. “It is an attempt to blackmail regulators who are daring to enforce the law,” Mr. Bonta said at a conference.
Even floating the idea of a move comes with political risks. Paramount has tried to position itself as a champion of Hollywood, and Mr. Ellison has personally pledged that a combined Paramount-Warner Bros. would re-

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Air Force One Was Decoy, With Dozens Aboard

By **PETER BAKER**
The threat to Air Force One was seen as so dire that they sneaked President Trump off the jet in a catering container to keep him safe. But the same dire threat did not stop them from then sending Air Force One into the skies anyway with a plane full of senior officials, government employees, reporters and military personnel serving as decoys, some unwittingly.
If the Iranians were trying to shoot down the presidential plane last month, as U.S. officials concluded at the time, then the subterfuge in Ankara, Turkey, that protected the president also may have made targets of dozens of others who flew aboard the jet, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and the senior aides Stephen Miller and Steven Cheung.
The government has on rare occasions engaged in sleight of hand to safeguard presidents from possible jeopardy, particularly for journeys to hazardous locations, such as when George W. Bush or Barack Obama flew to Iraq during days of war or when Bill Clinton made a brief visit to Pakistan with its history of terrorism.
The Trump team’s ruse in Ankara, however, stands out not only for its misdirection but also for the way it shifted the evident peril to others and was kept secret long after Mr. Trump was

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A scooter ride to a nearby park led to a criminal investigation of two parents in Atlanta.

‘Gringos’ Hit Fishing Craft Off Ecuador

U.S. Says It Has No Role in Mysterious Attacks

This article is by **Maria Abi-Habib, Riley Mellen, José María León Cabrera and Christian Triebert**.

Far out in the Pacific Ocean, Ecuadorean fishermen have been attacked by unidentified “gringos” using drones, survivors say, spurring a mystery over whether the American military, the armed forces of another country or private military contractors were behind the strikes.
One fishing boat has been lost at sea since January, the U.N. says, with eight people still missing and presumed dead. The survivors of two other vessels said they came under attack in March by English-speaking assailants wearing matching uniforms with American flag patches, but without any clear insignia to link them to an official government force.
Some of the surviving fishermen said they had been hauled out of the water, questioned and then handed over to El Salvador’s navy before being released. The Pentagon has denied involvement, as has the U.S. Coast Guard.
Survivors have also said that a plane followed and seemingly surveilled them before the strikes.
The New York Times analyzed flight data and found that a maritime patrol plane — based out of a military base in El Salvador — flew in the direction of all three boats in the days before they were attacked. The pilots onboard spoke English with American accents, according to air traffic control communication recordings.
And as the boats moved through the ocean, the plane’s course also shifted to remain pointed at each of them over several days, The Times analysis found. Flight tracking data shows that the plane flew toward the boat that went missing in January, the Fiorella, on four different days, including on the day it disappeared.
But the plane does not appear on the Pentagon’s lists of active aircraft. Instead, it was registered last October to a company that lists its address as a private mailbox in a UPS store in Richmond, Va., according to Federal Aviation Administration records.
Since the Pentagon started blowing up boats in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean last September, accusing them of being used for drug trafficking, dozens of vessels have been attacked, killing at least 221 people.
Washington has not been shy about claiming the strikes, often publishing footage on social media of tiny fishing boats cutting through the water before being

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HUNT INTENSIFIES FOR NONCITIZENS ON VOTING ROLLS

PUSHING DEPORTATIONS

An Effort to Fuel Baseless Claims of Rampant Election Fraud

This article is by **Madeleine Ngo, Nick Corasaniti and Hamed Aleaziz**.

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is making an intense push to identify and deport noncitizens who registered to vote, even if they did so inadvertently or never cast ballots — an unusually aggressive approach that is helping it promote baseless claims that voter fraud is rampant.
State audits and studies have repeatedly found that noncitizen voting is extremely rare, and there have been no instances in which their votes are known to have swayed an election. It is against federal law for noncitizens to register to vote or actually vote, and doing so can carry steep penalties, including jail time and deportation.
In the past, the Department of Homeland Security has not aggressively tried to deport the relatively small number of noncitizens who unlawfully registered to vote, especially if they mistakenly signed up, according to immigration policy experts. But the Trump administration is taking a harder line in hopes of increasing deportations while also building a case that illegal voting has been underestimated.
Homeland security agents are reopening voter fraud cases that had been closed and investigating voter registration efforts in major cities. Customs officers have detained immigrants suspected of being on the voter rolls at border checkpoints, according to immigration attorneys. And green card holders applying for citizenship have been placed in deportation proceedings for registering to vote.
The department’s efforts are part of the Trump administration’s extraordinary attempt to leverage federal agencies to promote the president’s long-running false claims about a broken election system rife with fraud. Those claims have been used by Mr. Trump to justify his push for federal legislation that would require that people show proof of U.S. citizenship to register to vote and severely restrict voting by mail.
The changes are upending the lives of some green card holders who have lived in the United States for years and maintain that they did not vote or even intend to

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Is Letting Children Out Alone A Rite of Passage or a Crime?

By **IAN FRISCH**
Mallerie Shirley knew something was wrong the second she saw her then-6-year-old son walk through the door. It was November 2025, and he had just returned from riding his scooter to a playground about a quarter of a mile from their home in Atlanta.
Ms. Shirley remembers how he looked: shoulders slouched, eyes cast downward. She asked him what happened. He explained that a woman stopped him on his way home and demanded to know his age, why he was alone and where he lived. Scared, he ignored the woman and continued on his way.
Ms. Shirley and her husband, Christopher Pleasants, believed in instilling a sense of independence in their two children, and they had recently started to give

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