

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, less humid, sunshine and some clouds, high 84. **Tonight**, clear to partly cloudy, low 70. **Tomorrow**, plenty of sunshine, low humidity, high 87. Weather map, Page A22.

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GUERCHOM NDEBO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Repose in Nation Riven by Violence**  
Quiet pause in Burkina Faso, a country torn apart by Islamist extremists and a brutal government effort to drive them out. Page A9.

## Out of Isolation Ward, Olympics Regain Fervor

By **ANDREW KEH**

PARIS — Tara Davis-Woodhall, a long jumper by trade and an entertainer at heart, gazed into the stands at Tokyo’s 68,000-seat Olympic stadium and decided she needed some noise. In a quixotic bid to inject even a small dose of spirit into a pandemic-stricken Summer Games, she began clapping her hands theatrically.

Tens of people, give or take, clapped back.

“It was awful,” Davis-Woodhall said last month about the enforced emptiness of the Olympics three summers ago. “It was my first Olympics, and I was like, ‘What the heck? This is weird!’ I’m glad it’s over, and I’m glad that I’m going to Paris to actually experience an Olympics.”

Countless athletes like Davis-Woodhall — those who have competed in an Olympics but not truly experienced one — have arrived in Paris this month in search of the same thing: normal Games.

Because normalcy, at the Olympics, is grandeur. It is the distinct cocktail of sound and color produced by the gathering of more than 200 national teams and millions of fans. It is athletes climbing into the stands to celebrate with family and friends, or to be consoled by them. It is crowds cheering for sports they do not typically watch.

All of this was missing at the coronavirus-delayed Summer Games in Tokyo in 2021 and the Winter Games in Beijing a year later. Both were sequestered from society and almost entirely denuded of life and fervor.

The International Olympic Committee and its member nations keenly understood all that was lost. They have sensed an opportunity in Paris to restore that Olympic feeling, to re-establish how the Games should look and feel and to welcome back commercial partners and fans.

“The tone is completely different,” said Sarah Hirshland, the chief executive of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee. “We now have permission to have fun.”

The merrymaking had a head start on Wednesday, two days before the opening ceremony, with the Games’ soft opening: a small slate of soccer and rugby matches around the country.

It was merely an appetizer, but in a single sun-splashed afternoon at the Stade de France, just north of the capital, the Paris Games became everything the Tokyo Olympics were not.

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GABRIELA BHASKAR FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The stands at the Stade de France were jammed with fans for an early round of rugby sevens on Wednesday at the Paris Games.

## Newsom Orders State to Sweep Homeless Sites

By **SHAWN HUBLER**

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered California state officials on Thursday to begin dismantling thousands of homeless encampments, the nation’s most sweeping response to a recent Supreme Court ruling that gave governments greater authority to remove homeless people from their streets.

More than in any other state, homeless encampments have been a wrenching issue in California, where housing costs are among the nation’s highest, complicating the many other factors that contribute to homelessness. An estimated 180,000 people were homeless last year in California, and most of them were unsheltered. Unlike New York City, most jurisdictions in California do not guarantee a right to housing.

Mr. Newsom, a Democrat, called on state officials and local leaders to “humanely remove encampments from public spaces” and act “with urgency,” prioritizing those that most threaten health and safety.

Some of his own agencies are expected to take action immediately on state property. He cannot force local governments to sweep encampments, but can exert political pressure through the billions of dollars that the state controls for municipalities to address homelessness.

His executive order could divide Democratic local leaders in California. Some have already begun to clear encampments, while others have denounced the decision from the majority conservative Supreme Court as opening

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## Major Donors Leap to Fund Vice President

‘Obama-Like Moment’ After a Rapid Ascent

By **THEODORE SCHLEIFER**

WASHINGTON — The high-dollar fund-raising world is whirring to life for Vice President Kamala Harris after weeks in which Democratic donors were dejected, demoralized and utterly battered.

Since the announcement of her presidential campaign, Ms. Harris has not only raked in \$130 million primarily from small donors, but also gathered big check after big check from billionaires and millionaires as they stockpile money into the newly renamed Harris Victory Fund. Her fund-raisers, armed with a new Harris logo, went to work.

Major fund-raisers — one of whom told President Biden’s campaign just days ago that he thought the campaign could count on only about 25 percent of its allied donors to support Mr. Biden — are now swamped with a flood of interest from donors.

Ms. Harris has no time to waste, having taken over the top of the Democratic ticket with just over 100 days to go and without the years of lead time that Mr. Biden had to cultivate major donors, soothe them and coax them to hand over their money.

Harris campaign officials spent Tuesday and Wednesday energizing their supporters from Beverly Hills to the Hamptons.

On Wednesday, about 40 high-powered finance and Big Law executives joined a Zoom call organized by the superlawyer Brad Karp, the former New York City mayoral candidate Ray McGuire and a few others to discuss how Wall Street could best support a Harris ticket. Speakers included Rufus Gifford, the campaign’s finance chair, and donors inquired about Ms. Harris’s position on Israel, her posture on the economy and her selection of a running mate, according to two people on the call.

In Hollywood, Harris campaign officials joined calls on Tuesday and Wednesday with people from across the creative and entertainment industry to talk about fund-raising and organize celebrities on behalf of the Harris campaign, according to two people with knowledge of the outreach.

“Donors are calling asking how and where can I contribute to Harris for President,” said Andy Spahn, a top fund-raiser in Hollywood. He added that there was “tremendous excitement and enthusiasm for Kamala’s candidacy here.”

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## HARRIS NARROWS GAP WITH TRUMP, NEW POLL SHOWS

A VIRTUAL DEAD HEAT

Big Gains for Democrats From Nonwhite and Younger Voters

This article is by **Shane Goldmacher, Ruth Igielnik and Camille Baker.**

Vice President Kamala Harris begins a 103-day sprint for the presidency in a virtual tie with former President Donald J. Trump, according to the latest New York Times/Siena College poll, as her fresh candidacy was quickly reuniting a Democratic Party that had been deeply fractured over President Biden.

Just days after the president abandoned his campaign under pressure from party leaders, the poll showed Democrats rallying behind Ms. Harris as the presumptive nominee, with only 14 percent saying they would prefer another option. An overwhelming 70 percent of Democratic voters said they wanted the party to speedily consolidate behind her rather than engage in a more competitive and drawn-out process.

Her swift reassembling of the Democratic coalition appeared to help narrow Mr. Trump’s significant advantage over Mr. Biden of only a few weeks ago. Ms. Harris was receiving 93 percent support from Democrats, the same share that Mr. Trump was getting from Republicans.

Overall, Mr. Trump leads Ms. Harris 48 percent to 47 percent among likely voters in a head-to-head match. That is a marked improvement for Democrats when compared to the Times/Siena poll in early July that showed Mr. Biden behind by six percentage points, in the aftermath of the poor debate performance that eventually drove him from the race.

Mr. Trump leads Ms. Harris 48 percent to 46 percent among registered voters. He had led among registered voters by nine percentage points over Mr. Biden in the post-debate poll.

The survey provides a snapshot of the presidential race in the middle of one of the most volatile and unpredictable periods in modern American history. Democrats suddenly have a new nominee. And, less than two weeks after Mr. Trump survived an assassination attempt, his favorability rating rose to the highest level it has ever been in a national New York Times survey.

In some ways, the poll showed a

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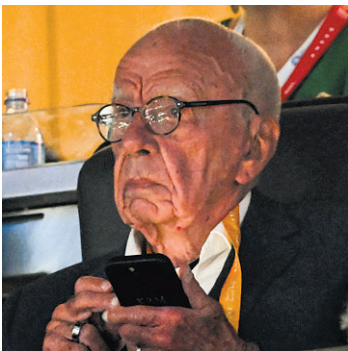
## Murdoch Family Secretly Fights Over Future of Its Media Empire

By **JIM RUTENBERG and JONATHAN MAHLER**

Rupert Murdoch is locked in a secret legal battle against three of his children over the future of the family’s media empire, as he moves to preserve it as a conservative political force after his death, according to a sealed court document obtained by The New York Times.

Mr. Murdoch, 93, set the drama in motion late last year, when he made a surprise move to change the terms of the Murdochs’ irrevocable family trust to ensure that his eldest son and chosen successor, Lachlan, would remain in charge of his vast collection of television networks and newspapers.

The trust currently hands control of the family business to the four oldest children when Mr. Murdoch dies. But he is arguing in court that only by empowering



LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES

Rupert Murdoch at the R.N.C.

## V.I.P. Real Estate Brothers Accused in String of Sexual Assaults

By **DEBRA KAMIN**

With a knack for brokering luxury properties, Tal and Oren Alexander, brothers who worked as real estate agents, rose as high as the New York City penthouses they sold.

They built an image as jet-setting bachelors, filling their social media feeds with photos from Wimbledon, Art Basel and the beach in Mykonos. They took calls in between ice baths after sessions with their personal trainers. Their traditional good looks and magnetism attracted ultrarich clients who propelled the brothers past thousands of other agents to the very top of the ranks at Douglas Elliman, one of the largest real estate brokerages in the country.

Allegations Outlined in Three New Lawsuits

But as the brothers partied and sold co-ops and condos from Manhattan to Miami, they were quietly earning another reputation: Accusations that they drugged and sexually assaulted women were spreading throughout the world of high-end real estate.

Still, Tal and Oren continued to climb. They secured rarefied status in 2019 when they helped broker the sale of a nearly \$240 million penthouse — at the time, the most expensive residential sale in United States history. By 2022,

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**Life Among Ukraine’s Ruins**  
A Kharkiv enclave started to rebuild after devastating bombings; then attacks resumed. A photo essay. Page A6

**Starmer’s Separate Path**  
Britain’s new leader is likely to differ from Washington over an arrest warrant for Benjamin Netanyahu. Page A4

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**Uvalde Officers in Court**  
Two men pleaded not guilty to charges of abandoning and endangering the children who were left holed up with a gunman at a school in Texas. Page A10

**Double Mastectomy Study**  
New research showed that for most women, having both breasts removed after cancer was detected in one breast made no difference. Page A11

**Park Fire Spreads in California**  
The authorities arrested a man believed to have started the blaze in the northern part of the state, which has burned more than 70,000 acres. Page A11

BUSINESS B1-5

**Lab-Grown Meat for Sale**  
Singapore, which subsists on imported food, is looking to secure its future with new ways of feeding its people. If the country succeeds, it could have global significance. Page B1

**U.S. Growth Exceeds Forecasts**  
Gross domestic product rose at a 2.8 percent annual rate in the second quarter, new evidence of the economy’s surprising resilience in the face of high interest rates. Page B1

OPINION A20-21  
**Jessica Grose** Page A20



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**On Reservations and Off**  
A Dakota Sioux artist whose life straddled Native and non-Native worlds is the focus of a New York show. Page C1

**Adolescence in the Aughts**  
Sean Wang’s semi-autobiographical film “Didi” is about a California teenager in the faraway year of 2008. Page C1

SPORTS B6-10

**Security Challenge in Paris**  
Even if the city wasn’t scarred by terrorist attacks, protecting the Olympic Games opening ceremony, which will float down the Seine River, offers a daunting challenge. Page B6

**Hockey Dispute, Over Taxes**  
The ruling on John Tavares’s signing bonus could have far-reaching implications for future pros contemplating a deal with a Canadian team. Page B10

