

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER

Today, a shower and thunderstorm, high 84. **Tonight**, heavy thunderstorms, ponding on roads, low 72. **Tomorrow**, humid, a late storm, high 81. Weather map is on Page B7.

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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

STARTING 15-WEEK DASH, HARRIS PRESSES CASE



ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Vice President Kamala Harris raised \$81 million in her first 24 hours as a candidate to lead the Democratic Party’s presidential ticket.

Emphasizes Past as Prosecutor and Collects Endorsements

By ERICA L. GREEN and ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS

WILMINGTON, Del. — Vice President Kamala Harris drew on her past as a prosecutor on Monday in her first campaign appearance since President Biden dropped his re-election bid, saying her law enforcement background would help her defeat a rival who is a convicted criminal.

Speaking from what had been the Biden-Harris campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Del., Ms. Harris said her experience as a prosecutor in California gave her insight into former President Donald J. Trump.

“I took on perpetrators of all kinds,” Ms. Harris told a crowd of campaign staff members. “Predators who abused women. Fraudsters who ripped off consumers. Cheaters who broke the rules for their own gain. So hear me when I say: I know Donald Trump’s type.”

Ms. Harris made a point to praise Mr. Biden, even as she tried to reintroduce herself to Americans on her own terms. The president, who has been recovering from Covid at his vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Del., called in to the event at campaign headquarters, which featured “Kamala” and “Harris for President” posters.

“I’m hoping you’ll give every bit of your heart and soul that you gave to me to Kamala,” Mr. Biden told the staff before Ms. Harris spoke. At one point, Mr. Biden spoke to his vice president directly. “I’m watching you, kid,” Mr. Biden said. “I love you.”

Before she previewed her campaign in Wilmington, Ms. Harris paid tribute to Mr. Biden during an event honoring college athletes at the White House. She talked

about her friendship with Mr. Biden’s son Beau Biden, who died of brain cancer in 2015, and commended the president’s “deep love of our country.”

But she wasted no time in starting to build her new profile as the presumptive nominee and the new hope among Democrats for defeating Mr. Trump. Ms. Harris raised \$81 million in her first 24 hours as a presidential candidate, began an effort to engage delegates and scooped up key endorsements.

In the three and a half months until Election Day, Ms. Harris still needs to define herself for the American people before Republicans do it for her. She also needs to quickly take over the campaign apparatus that Mr. Biden had spent more than a year building.

Stefanie Brown James, a co-founder of the Collective PAC, an organization that supports Black candidates at all levels of government, quoted the rapper Jay-Z when describing the current moment for Ms. Harris.

“Allow me to reintroduce myself,” Ms. James said. “She has to in this moment define who she is, explain her record.”

But Ms. James also said Ms. Harris would need to form an effective message that used her work as a vice president and prosecutor to energize voters, some-

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LOOKING BACK Some say the president’s decision will enhance his role in posterity. PAGE A18

LOOKING AHEAD Kamala Harris’s first big decision is choosing a potential running mate. PAGE A14

Promise and Peril Grow Out Of Shift in Standard-Bearers

By SHANE GOLDMACHER

Vice President Kamala Harris swiftly established herself as the Democratic front-runner to take on Donald J. Trump within hours of President Biden’s exit on Sunday, fundamentally rewiring the presidential contest at warp speed.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Now the race has been transformed into an abbreviated 106-day sprint that more closely resembles the snap elections of Europe than the drawn-out American contests.

The tight timeline will magnify any missteps Ms. Harris might make but also minimize the chances for a stumble.

And in a race that Mr. Trump had been on a trajectory to win, Ms. Harris immediately becomes

Injecting New Dynamic on Issues Like Age, Gender and Crime

the ultimate X-factor.

Mr. Biden quickly endorsed Ms. Harris, who would be a barrier-breaking nominee as the first woman, the first Black woman and the first person of South Asian descent ever to serve as president.

As the Democratic Party rallies behind her — the loudest voices of dissent were simply those not publicly endorsing her — here are six ways her candidacy holds both promise and peril.

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Defending Biden Legacy Abroad Now Falls to Another Candidate

By DAVID E. SANGER

ASPEN, Colo. — As President Biden greeted the leaders of his 31 allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization a week ago, he described in vivid terms how he thought history would treat his first term in office.

He was the American president who had restored and then expanded NATO, the world’s biggest military alliance, saving it from his predecessor’s threats to withdraw from it. He organized the West to push back against President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, and in so doing deterred Moscow from direct attacks on European nations beyond Ukraine’s borders. And he became the architect of a new American plan to contain China, though he never calls it that: cutting off sophisticated technology to Beijing while pour-

Parties Diverge Sharply in Confronting Grave Global Threats

ing billions of federal dollars into producing advanced chips at home.

But Mr. Biden’s defense of his record came too late, after his shocking debate performance that led to his withdrawal from the race on Sunday. And now it will fall to a different nominee — probably but not certainly Vice President Kamala Harris — to defend that record from a radically different interpretation of the past four years promoted by former President Donald J. Trump.

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Inside the President’s Reversal That Surprised Even His Allies

This article is by Katie Rogers, Michael D. Shear, Peter Baker and Zolan Kanno-Youngs.

WASHINGTON — “I need you and Mike at the house,” President Biden said Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Biden was on the phone from his vacation home in Rehoboth, Del., with Steve Ricchetti, a counselor to the president and one of his closest advisers. He was referring to Mike Donilon, his chief strategist and longtime speechwriter. Soon, both men were in Rehoboth, socially distanced from the president, who was recovering from Covid.

From that afternoon and far into the night, the three worked on one of the most important and historic letters of Mr. Biden’s presidency — the announcement of his decision to withdraw from his reelection campaign after top Dem-

Harris Learned of His Endorsement of Her on Sunday, Too

ocrats, donors, close allies and friends had pressured him relentlessly to get out.

He would not tell most of his staff until a minute before making the announcement to the world on social media on Sunday. Vice President Kamala Harris, whom Mr. Biden went on to endorse, spoke to him earlier on Sunday morning, as did Jeff Zients, his chief of staff, and Jen O’Malley Dillon, his campaign chair. Senior advisers at the White House heard directly from the president

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Wealthy Women Stockpile Donations for Harris

By THEODORE SCHLEIFER

For decades, Kamala Harris has been bolstered by a tight-knit group of female donors who rose up with her in Democratic politics. And for weeks, even when she was still insisting that President Biden would be the party’s nominee, these allies began to make moves to make sure her historic campaign would not be built on the fly.

Quickly and quietly, her biggest supporters worked to rally support around her, creating enough momentum to effectively stamp out any opposition. They collected money, cut ads in advance and worked their networks to monitor the moves of other hopefuls.

Allies Acted in Advance in Effort to Outflank Any Opposition

On Sunday, when Mr. Biden announced his exit from the race and endorsed Vice President Harris, all the behind-the-scenes maneuvering appeared to pay off. The nation’s highest-ranking female officeholder, Ms. Harris rapidly picked up pivotal endorsements without attracting a single serious challenger. Money started flooding in. Ads began moving. And while some major Democratic donors remained on the hunt for a

non-Harris candidate on Monday, their efforts were appearing increasingly futile by the hour.

Some Democratic donors who are not immediately supporting Ms. Harris — including former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York and Silicon Valley leaders such as Reed Hastings and Vinod Khosla — called for a competitive process, which Democratic donors and fund-raisers have been interpreting as something of a code to say they are not eager to support Ms. Harris against former President Donald J. Trump.

“The decision is too important to rush because the election is too important to lose,” Mr. Bloomberg said on Monday.

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KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Secret Service Director Pressed to Quit

Kimberly Cheatle couldn’t explain the failure to protect former President Donald Trump. Page A11.

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State Weighs Laws on Crime

Theft and drug use have tested the patience of Californians, who will decide whether to impose stricter penalties that would increase incarceration. PAGE A9

Memoir Contains Multitudes

Even before JD Vance aligned with Donald J. Trump, contradictions were evident in “Hillbilly Elegy.” PAGE A17

OBITUARIES A22

A Founder of the Four Tops

Duke Fakir, who sang tenor on several of the group’s hits, was the last surviving original member. He was 88.

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Israel’s War to the North

After months of low-level conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, a cease-fire in Gaza would provide an off-ramp for both sides, diplomats say. PAGE A4



Hong Kong’s Bouncy Art

Inflatable replicas of famous monuments have popped up in a park, raising questions about what even counts as art and the city’s changing place in the world. PAGE A8

BUSINESS B1-5

A.I. Has a Math Problem

The world’s smartest computer scientists have created artificial intelligence that is more liberal arts major than numbers whiz. PAGE B1

Delta Flails After Tech Outage

The airline was the only one still canceling hundreds of flights Monday as it raced to update its systems. PAGE B1

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Swimming Supremacy at Risk

U.S. swimmers have long won the overall Olympics medal count. But Australia poses a threat in Paris. PAGE B6

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Change Atop Ford Foundation

Darren Walker, who as the organization’s leader oversaw billions in grants, plans to leave at the end of 2025. PAGE C1

Where ‘The Blob’ Still Oozes

Much of the 1958 sci-fi horror film was shot in Phoenixville, Pa. The locals still have a soft spot for the movie. PAGE C1



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A Distressing Timeline

Millions of malaria vaccines are being supplied to children in Africa. Tens of thousands died waiting. PAGE D5

The Flip-Side Solution

Scientists could never explain how a fossil might have been a jellyfish. Then they turned it upside-down. PAGE D8

OPINION A20-21

Jon Meacham

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