



A BOY passes a senior center in Richmond, Calif. The main information source in the city is a news website funded by Chevron, its top employer. One local official says the lack of coverage harms the city's reputation.

A NEWS CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA

In this Bay Area city, what they don't know can hurt civic life

Lack of newspapers leaves Richmond in the dark about stories good and bad.

By JESSICA GARRISON

RICHMOND, Calif. — For years Richmond City Councilmember Cesar Zepeda has been on an unsuccessful crusade to persuade the grocery store chains of America — or at least one of them — to bring a supermarket back to his industrial city on the edge of San Francisco Bay. He's persistent. He's



RICHMOND RESIDENTS will vote in November on whether to levy a new tax on Chevron's refinery.

called corporate headquarters. He's emailed customer relations. Occasionally, he's gotten executives on the phone and listened to them stammer on about why Richmond isn't the right place for them to locate a store, despite its population of 117,000 in the heart of the Bay Area. After years of disappointing conversations, Zepeda has concluded something basic about his city: It is paying a big price by not being able to tell its own story. Richmond has not had its own daily newspaper for years. The loss came during a period of profound struggle.

Pelosi walked a fine line as Biden weighed his candidacy

Former speaker put no public pressure on president, now leads support for Harris.

By SEEMA MEHTA

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democratic juggernaut, navigated a careful, respectful line in her public approach to President Biden's decision about whether to seek reelection. The San Francisco congresswoman, known for her ruthlessly effective political instincts, never overtly called for the president to bow out of the 2024 campaign after a disastrous debate performance that solidified concerns about his cognitive and mental fortitude. However, once Biden withdrew from the race on Sunday, Pelosi wholeheartedly backed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democrats' White House nominee. "We should be so proud of our accomplishments, of the Biden-Harris administration and the Democrats in Congress," Pelosi told California's Democratic National Convention delegates Monday night as she made a motion to select Harris as the party's presidential nominee. "I make a motion tonight, recognizing the excellence, the determination, the patriotism, the prospects for the future, the pride we take and the joy we have, and the

candidacy of Kamala Harris," Pelosi said, according to a recording of the Zoom meeting of delegates. "I make a motion for our members to support VP Kamala Harris for president of the United States." The California delegation — with nearly 500 members, the largest of any state — unanimously voted for Harris, a major step toward the vice president appearing to clinch the number of delegates necessary to secure the party's nomination. The official party nod will be formalized at the Democratic National [See Pelosi, A9]

Harris courts swing state's voters

Her presidential bid begins with Wisconsin rally as endorsements and delegates pile up.

By FAITH E. PINHO

Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential campaign is off to a roaring start, after she appeared to clinch enough delegates Monday night to secure the Democratic nomination and hit the campaign trail Tuesday. "I am so very honored, and I pledge to you, I will spend the coming weeks continuing to unite our party so that we are ready to win in November," Harris said at her first political rally as a 2024 presidential candidate in Milwaukee on Tuesday afternoon. The Milwaukee crowd broke into chants of "Ka-ma-la" and roared with cheers as Harris told them, "The path to the White House goes through Wisconsin." The campaign reportedly had to switch venues at the last minute to accommodate a bigger crowd, as more than 3,000 people responded to the event. Supporters greeted Harris in Milwaukee with hand-painted signs, including one that said "Kamala Harris changes lives. Watch her change the world." President Biden won the crucial battleground state [See Harris, A9]

Secret Service chief resigns over lapses in Trump shooting

By NATHAN SOLIS AND RICHARD WINTON

The director of the Secret Service resigned Tuesday amid growing criticism over security lapses during the assassination attempt against former President Trump. Kimberly Cheatle had faced calls to step down from both Democrats and Republicans. "I take full responsibility for the security lapse," she said in an email to staff Tuesday. "In light of recent events, it is with a heavy heart that I have made the difficult decision to step down as your director." In a stunning admission Monday, she said that local authorities had observed and photographed the man who would shoot at Trump

18 minutes before the former president took the stage at a rally in Pennsylvania. It was one of several security lapses revealed at a congressional committee hearing into what Cheatle described as the agency's "most significant operational failure" in decades. In her letter to Secret Service staff, Cheatle said the series of failures that led to the shooting "does not define us." "As I've stated, the Secret Service will move forward with our investigatory and protective mission in a steadfast manner. We do not retreat from challenge," she wrote. "However, I do not want my calls for resignation to be a distraction from the great work each and every one of you do towards our vital mission." [See Secret Service, A14]



ELON MUSK, head of Tesla and SpaceX, has benefited from California's green policies, tax incentives and workforce. Above, he speaks in Austin, Texas, in 2022.

Musk's messy divorce with state leaves ugly grievances

He plans to move two firms' headquarters from California. Some call him ungrateful.

By JAMES RAINEY

Like many before him, Elon Musk came to California to make his name and fortune. He hit Silicon Valley during the 1990s and the first internet boom, and began building his fortune with startups such as the information network Zip2 and the payments site PayPal. Then it was on to new

frontiers — space and electric cars. His Tesla electric cars benefited from California's consumer subsidies, while SpaceX thrived in the growing space technology hub in Southern California. No problem seemed beyond Musk's belief that technology could overcome it. Frustrated by the long commute from his Bel-Air home to SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, the entrepreneur proposed building an underground tunnel that would whisk commuters on underground electric platforms that would reach speeds of up to 130 mph. (Boring Co. dropped that plan in 2018, though tunnel

construction in other American cities continued.) But in recent years, Musk's California dreaming has been clouded with his dark view of a state that he accuses of "overregulation, overlitigation, overtaxation." "The final straw," the billionaire said, came in the form of a law that prohibits school districts from requiring teachers to notify families about their children's gender identity changes. Emphasizing his disdain, Musk announced this month that he planned to move the headquarters of two of his companies — [See Musk, A11]

Where does this leave Newsom?

Biden's decision puts any White House ambitions on indefinite hold for the governor. NATION, A9

Hope for another White House first

Harris must counter voter bias against women of color, Anita Chabria writes. CALIFORNIA, B1

Menendez to yield Senate seat

His upcoming resignation in wake of conviction allows New Jersey's Democratic governor to fill the post. NATION, A6

Plan for new city pulled off ballot

Billionaire backers say they'll go through the normal environmental process. CALIFORNIA, B1

New bid for NBA media rights

Parent of Turner networks submits matching offer for multiyear deal. BUSINESS, A10

Weather Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 90/67. B6



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