

“All the News
That’s Fit to Print”

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
Today, cloudy, warmer and more humid, high 79. **Tonight**, cloudy, humid, showers and thunderstorms, low 70. **Tomorrow**, humid, thunderstorms, high 82. Weather map is on Page B5.

VOL. CLXXIII . . . No. 60,263 © 2024 The New York Times Company SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024 Prices in Canada may be higher \$4.00

Big Donors Ask Harris to Ditch Tax on Richest

Signs of Flexibility Ease Pushback for Some

By **ANDREW DUEHREN** and **THEODORE SCHLEIFER**
WASHINGTON — Donors to Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign are pushing her to reconsider supporting a proposed tax on the wealthiest Americans, as some Wall Street and Silicon Valley executives try to reshape the Democratic nominee's governing agenda.
Ms. Harris's campaign last week said she supported the tax increases included in President Biden's latest White House budget proposal. One of those plans would require Americans worth at least \$100 million to pay taxes on investment gains even if they have not sold the stocks, bonds or other assets that have appreciated.

Under the plan, those Americans would owe a 25 percent tax on a combination of their regular income, like wages, and so-called unrealized gains. The so-called billionaire minimum income tax could create hefty tax bills for wealthy individuals who derive much of their wealth from the stocks and other assets they own.

The proposal has hit a nerve with some of the donors who have flocked to supporting Ms. Harris after Mr. Biden dropped out of the presidential race, according to seven people familiar with the conversations.

Some have directed their complaints to the campaign's advisers and top allies in the business community who are perceived to be in her inner circle. At least one top donor close to Ms. Harris has raised the issue with her in a private conversation, encouraging her to instead tax the ability of the ultrawealthy to borrow against their wealth.

Allies and staff of Ms. Harris have defended the plan to business leaders in private conversations, explaining that the tax would apply to only a small slice of wealthy Americans and could be delayed for investments that are not easily sold, according to the people familiar with the conversations.

Still, some donors close to Ms. Harris do not believe she is that committed to the idea. “In my interactions with them, the key is she focuses on her values and is not an ideologue about any particular program,” Mark Cuban, a billionaire and the former principal owner of the Dallas Mavericks basketball team, said in an interview. “From what I’ve been told, everything is on the table, nothing’s been decided yet.”

A campaign adviser said Ms. Harris supported the billionaires minimum tax but was open to alternative ways for substantially raising taxes on ultrawealthy Americans. Charles Kretschmer Lutvak, a spokesman for the Har-

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TAYLOR GLASCOCK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Battle for Wisconsin Voters

Tim Walz’s regular-guy image, attractive to Democrats, is facing critics who find Donald J. Trump’s politics more relatable. Page A10.

Delicate Dance In Using Biden For Campaign

By **MICHAEL D. SHEAR**

WASHINGTON — As she abruptly went from No. 2 on the Democratic ticket to No. 1, Vice President Kamala Harris had a decision to make: How should she deploy President Biden on the campaign trail?
Given that Democrats had pushed Mr. Biden out because of concerns about his age, mental fitness and ability to defeat former President Donald J. Trump, would she be best off distancing herself from the 81-year-old president she had served for nearly four years and focus instead on establishing her own political identity? Or should she continue to embrace Mr. Biden and the more popular of his policies?

And on the most practical level: Where should Mr. Biden go to campaign for her? How often? And what should he say?

Her answers are now starting to emerge. Ms. Harris and the people running her campaign plan to use the president — but carefully, and in a targeted way. The president and vice president will campaign together some, but not too much. And Mr. Biden will travel mostly to the important swing states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan, where he still ap-

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A Quest for a Son Who Didn’t Want to Be Found

By **SHAWN HUBLER**

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — The trip had been a long shot. Bob Garrison reminded himself of that as he stood on a pier a thousand miles from home. Behind him lay the tile-roofed beach town of San Clemente, Calif., his last stop. Before him stretched the Pacific Ocean, immense and unbound.

Gulls cried. Surf broke. It was Monday, his last day. Mr. Garrison could afford only so much time off. And yet what if he was close?

He had spent the last two days following up on leads, scouring parks, passing out fliers. “MISSING,” they said, in block letters

Close Relationship Is Undone by Trauma and Homelessness

over photos of a 45-year-old man from Seattle, 6 feet, 6 inches tall with a beard to his chest, an ice-ax tattoo and a silver cross necklace.

Homeless, the fliers could have said, too, one of more than 180,000 homeless people in California. So many that if they all were to come inside, they would fill San Clemente several times over. But on this June day, Mr. Garrison, an en-

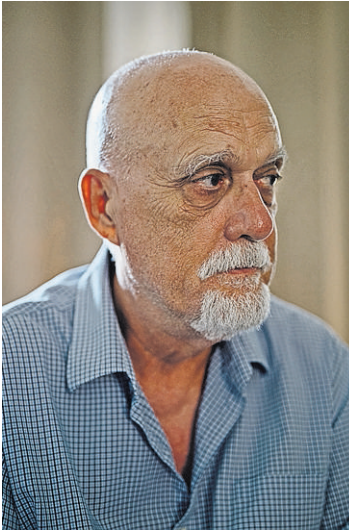
gineer from rural Ellensburg, Wash., was not thinking about California’s humanitarian crisis.

He was just a 70-year-old man on a pier gazing out at an ocean, trying — too late, he feared — to rescue his son.

“It wasn’t always like this,” Mr. Garrison said of his third child and namesake. Born in Southern California and raised in Seattle, his son, Robert Garrison, graduated from high school, had a career, supported a family.

Father and son once had been close. From the time Robert was small, Mr. Garrison said, they would camp under the stars, talk-

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Bob Garrison, left, traveled from his home in rural Washington State to California, center, where he was reunited with his son Robert, right. It was soon clear a celebration was premature.



PHILIP CHEUNG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



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LEONARD RIGGIO, 1941-2024

Transformed Publishing With Barnes & Noble

By **PENELOPE GREEN**

Leonard Riggio, the brash, charismatic and literary-minded businessman who, in founding the giant Barnes & Noble retail chain, transformed the business of selling books as thoroughly as the rise of the paperback once did — and who was cast as both a hero and a villain for doing so — died on Tuesday in Manhattan. He was 83.

His death, from Alzheimer’s disease, was announced by his family.

Mr. Riggio, a son of a cabdriver, was just 30 in 1971 when he bought a fusty half-century-old bookstore in Lower Manhattan called



LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

Leonard Riggio in 2013.

Barnes & Noble and began turning it into a literary behemoth. Within decades, it was the largest bookseller in the United States, with hundreds of superstores,

many of them in places that had formerly been book deserts, like malls.

The outlets more resembled department stores than your typical bookstore: Each one offered thousands of titles, along with cappuccino and snacks, stationery and desk tchotchkes, a bountiful array of magazines and newspapers, and a congenial policy of allowing browsers to linger for hours. (It helped that there were public bathrooms.) And each store was a welcoming, if monolithic, agora that also served as an oasis for parents and caregivers, who could spread out in the expansive aisles of the children’s

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Brazil Blocks X After Musk Ignores Court Orders

By **JACK NICAS** and **KATE CONGER**

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil blocked the social network X on Friday after its owner, Elon Musk, refused to comply with a Brazilian judge’s orders to suspend certain accounts, the biggest test yet of the billionaire’s efforts to transform the site into a digital town square where just about anything goes.

Alexandre de Moraes, a Brazilian Supreme Court justice, ordered Brazil’s telecom agency to block access to X across the nation of 200 million because the company lacked a necessary legal representative in Brazil.

Mr. Musk closed X’s office in Brazil last week after Justice Mo-

Result of a Battle Over What Can Be Said on the Internet

raes threatened arrests for ignoring his orders to remove X accounts that he said broke Brazilian laws.

X said that it viewed Justice Moraes’ sealed orders as illegal and that it planned to publish them. “Free speech is the bedrock of democracy and an unelected pseudo-judge in Brazil is destroying it for political purposes,” Mr. Musk said on Friday.

In an uncommon move, Justice Moraes froze the finances of a sec-

ond Musk business in Brazil, SpaceX’s Starlink satellite-internet service, to try to collect \$3 million in fines he has levied against X. Starlink — which has recently exploded in popularity in Brazil, with more than 250,000 customers — said that it planned to fight the order and would make its service free in Brazil if necessary.

Justice Moraes had also said that any person in Brazil who tried to still use X via common privacy software called a virtual private network, or VPN, could be fined nearly \$9,000 a day. But after swift backlash across Brazil, including from academics who have supported him, he reversed that move in an amended order late Friday.

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