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## What's News

### Business & Finance

◆ **The Trump family's** World Liberty Financial is launching a stablecoin, its latest bid to capitalize on a crypto-market revival kindled by the president's election. **A1**

◆ **Investors' hopes** for a moderate outcome on tariffs helped lift U.S. stocks, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq climbing 0.2% and 0.5%, respectively, and the Dow gaining less than 0.1%. **B11**

◆ **A key consumer survey** showed a fall in household sentiment in March, adding to evidence that people are taking a more negative view of the economy. **A2**

◆ **The Pentagon's award** to Boeing of a contract to build the next-generation jet fighter threw a lifeline to the beleaguered company in the form of a guaranteed profit through the development phase. **B1**

◆ **Samsung Electronics** co-CEO Jun Young-hyun will take over as the electronics company's sole leader following the sudden death of his counterpart, Jong-hee Han. **B1**

◆ **Tesla's sales in the** European Union plunged for the second consecutive month in February despite an overall increase in demand for electric vehicles. **B3**



### World-Wide

◆ **Trump and two of his** top intelligence officials denied that classified materials about military strikes in Yemen were shared by officials on a group chat on a nongovernment service, while Democrats denounced the security breach as reckless and dangerous. **A1, A4**

◆ **The U.S. said it would** help Russia boost agricultural exports and restore its access to payments systems after the Kremlin demanded the easing of Western sanctions in return for a cease-fire in the Black Sea. **A1**

◆ **Trump signed an order** that aims to reshape how elections are conducted by setting new voter-registration ID requirements and prohibiting the counting of absentee or mail-in ballots received after Election Day. **A3**

◆ **Trump signed an** executive order targeting Jenner & Block, expanding his campaign of retribution against law firms he perceives as enemies. **A4**

◆ **The Trump administration** plans to freeze tens of millions of dollars in family-planning grants to certain organizations while it investigates whether the money was used for diversity efforts. **A3**

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From left, FBI Director Kash Patel, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and CIA Director John Ratcliffe testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee Tuesday, a day after the report of a group chat that contained U.S. airstrike plans.

## Officials Minimize War-Plans Breach

Democrats challenge testimony that group chat on Yemen didn't share classified data

WASHINGTON—President Trump and two top intelligence officials denied on Tuesday that classified materials about military strikes in Yemen were shared by officials on a group chat on a nongovernment ser-

vice, while Democrats denounced the security breach as reckless and dangerous.

Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence, and John Ratcliffe, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told Congress Tuesday that the chat among senior officials over a pending military strike against Houthi militants earlier this month didn't include classified information.

The Atlantic on Monday re-

By **Michael R. Gordon,**  
**Tarini Parti**  
and **Alex Leary**

ported that the chat, on the platform Signal, included details of an imminent operation against the Houthis, including the targets to be hit and time they were to be struck.

Gabbard and Ratcliffe's claim, which was made in testimony to the Senate Intelli-

gence Committee, was challenged by several senators who said it wasn't plausible that a chat with such details could be unclassified.

"If that is the case, please release the whole text stream," said Sen. Angus King, a political

*Please turn to page A4*

◆ **Secret chat invite went to** object of Trump's ire..... **A4**

◆ **How Signal works and why** officials used it..... **A4**

## Trump Family Venture Deepens Crypto Push

By **VICKY GE HUANG**

The Trump family's World Liberty Financial is launching a stablecoin, its latest bid to capitalize on a crypto-market revival kindled by the president's election.

World Liberty's USD1 will be backed by short-term U.S. Treasuries, U.S. dollar deposits, and other cash equivalents, the company said Tuesday. The token will be issued on the Ethereum network and a blockchain created by Binance, the crypto exchange

that has sought to forge closer ties to the president's family.

Stablecoins provide the backbone to the decentralized web of digital networks that comprise the crypto markets, functioning as digital dollars used widely to store cash or pay for purchases of other tokens. They aim to maintain a 1:1 exchange ratio with government-issued currencies, and store reserves in cash or cash-like assets such as Treasuries to keep the peg in place.

World Liberty's stablecoin

*Please turn to page A6*

### INSIDE



#### JASON GAY

With no underdog team, March Madness surrenders to basketball powerhouses. **A12**

## Wary Europe Eyes Own Nuclear Force

Doubts about U.S. commitment spur countries to consider weapons sharing

PARIS—Two weeks after Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, French President

By **Daniel Michaels,**  
**Noemie Bisserbe** and  
**Michael R. Gordon**

Emmanuel Macron descended 20 stories beneath Paris to send a message to Moscow. He entered France's nu-

clear bunker deep under his regal presidential palace to lead an exercise dubbed Poker. Officials had chosen that night, in March 2022, for its clear skies. They wanted to respond to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who days earlier had made a thinly veiled threat to the West by putting his country's

*Please turn to page A8*

## Water Fight Captivates Class of '25

It's douse or die in Senior Assassin; mole in the choir

By **ROBERT McMILLAN**

SAN FRANCISCO —A black Volvo rolled slowly down a quiet street while passengers armed with waterguns scanned for their target. Then at two minutes before 5 p.m., high-school senior Gabriel Pardini emerged from a YMCA.

From his middle seat, Graham Iwanchuk raised his Nerf Super Soaker XP35 and fired through an open window. Pardini never stood a chance. He was out of the game.

They were playing Senior Assassin, a citywide game of water-pistol tag that's become a rite of passage for students

*Please turn to page A10*

## Office Downturn Leaves Park Avenue Unscathed

By **PETER GRANT**

The U.S.'s oldest and most venerable office districts are struggling to remain relevant during this period of changing work habits.

Then there's Park Avenue. The stately boulevard created in the late 1800s is still one of the hottest office markets in the country. Its towers, filled with white-shoe law firms, real-estate companies, insurers and giant money managers such as Blackstone, command some of the highest office rents anywhere.

The stretch of Park Avenue in Midtown Manhattan is the rare boulevard where companies are willing to pay up for a trophy address. Many CEOs still consider it as the premier location to call home.

"It's the best place you can be on the Monopoly board," said David Levinson, whose L&L Holding is the developer of the 47-story 425 Park Ave.,

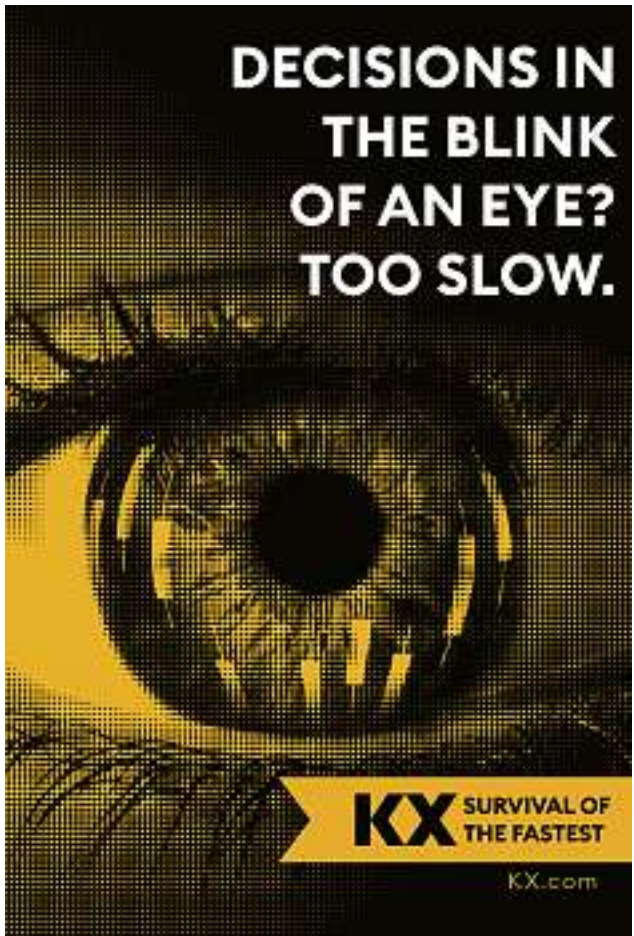
new home to investment powerhouse Citadel. He recently leased the remaining floors to the State Bank of India.

Just two blocks east, on Third Avenue, desperate landlords are offering 75% discounts to the going rates on Park Avenue. But tenants seeking the Park Avenue cachet aren't interested.

Financial firms are willing to pay in part because peers are based there. Churchill Asset Management was outgrowing its space in 430 Park Ave. Despite finding lower rents in the city's other business districts, the money manager signed a new lease at the Seagram Building, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's midcentury-modern classic at 375 Park Ave.

"We're in good company," said Shai Vichness, Churchill's chief financial officer. "It makes it easier for investors when they're coming to see us that they can go up and down

*Please turn to page A2*





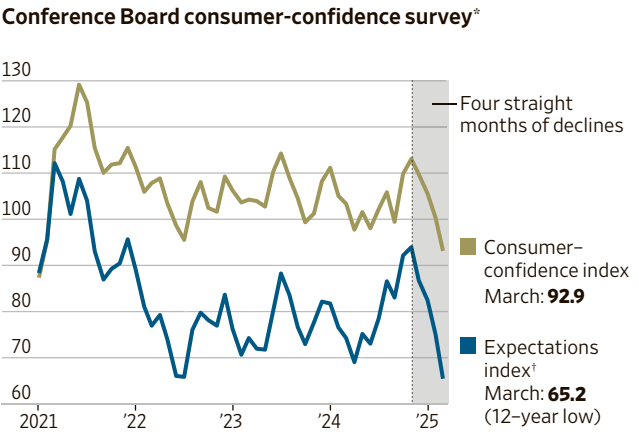
U.S. NEWS

U.S. Consumer Outlook Dims In Key Survey

By MATT GROSSMAN

A key consumer survey showed a fall in household sentiment in March, adding to evidence that people are taking a more negative view of the economy. The Conference Board's monthly survey showed that forward-looking expectations for income, business and labor-market conditions dropped to the lowest level in 12 years. Expectations fell to an index level of 65.2, below the threshold of

80 that often signals a recession, the Conference Board said. Meanwhile, the survey's broader headline index fell to 92.9, down 7.2 points from a month earlier, marking the fourth straight month of declines. Sentiment among businesses and households alike has darkened in recent months, with many respondents across recent surveys citing concerns that the Trump administration's fast-changing tariff plans could disrupt the



economy. Write-in responses to the March Conference Board survey "showed that inflation is still a major concern for consumers and that worries about the impact of trade policies and tariffs in particular are on the rise," the organization said. Analysts have been keeping

a close eye on consumer surveys because of fears that a gloomy mood could presage a real economic slowdown. So far, there has been scant sign of a downturn in backward-looking data such as the unemployment rate and gross domestic product figures that

show what has actually happened in the economy. "In a self-fulfilling process of sentiment and economic activity, you can think your way into a recession," said Jackson Garton, chief investment officer at Makena Capital Management, a Menlo Park, Calif., investment firm. "But sentiment can shift the other way quickly, too." Another closely watched consumer survey, run by the University of Michigan, has fallen precipitously, declining by 27% over the year through mid-March. The latest figures from the Michigan survey are due on Friday. Earlier Tuesday, a Philadelphia Fed survey of nonmanufacturing companies in the reserve bank's mid-Atlantic district showed sharply lower business activity in March. More data due from the Commerce Department on Friday will give an update on Americans' income and spending through February.

Businesses Bristle at a GOP Tax Proposal

By RICHARD RUBIN

WASHINGTON—Congressional Republicans may consider capping corporations' ability to deduct state and local taxes from federal taxable income, and business lobbyists are rallying to fight the potential change, which would raise hundreds of billions of dollars over a decade. Repealing or curbing the corporate state and local tax deduction (C-SALT, in tax shorthand) would parallel today's \$10,000 cap on SALT deductions for individuals and raise money to pay for tax cuts in the major legislation Congress is assembling this year. Ending deductions for state corporate income taxes would yield \$223 billion over a decade, and ending property-tax deductions would nearly double that, according to the Tax Foundation, which favors a system with lower rates and fewer breaks. That is easily enough to cover, for example, President Trump's no-tax-on-tips pledge or help offset changes to the individual SALT cap. "It might be something to consider as a pay-for for

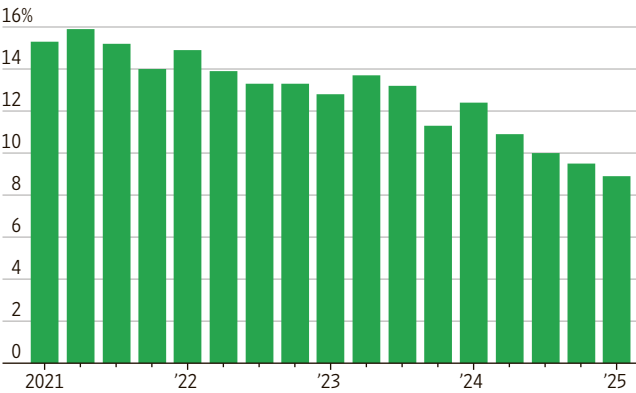
higher individual SALT, but we'll see," said Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R., Pa.), who is a member of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. Party leaders are still arguing about the broader fiscal framework and the scope of spending cuts. Even with that uncertainty, businesses see the C-SALT risk as real, and they are warning that a cap is a tax-rate increase by another name. "Retaining a 21% corporate rate is by far the No. 1 issue of our members, and we see this as a threat to that," said Catherine Schultz, vice president for tax and fiscal policy at the Business Roundtable, which represents large-company chief executives. This isn't 2017, when corporate pressure to lower the 35% tax rate and lighten taxes on foreign profits motivated Trump's first-term tax law. Then, Republicans made corporate changes largely permanent and set individuals' tax cuts to expire after 2025. This time, with those individual expirations looming, large U.S.-based companies are mostly playing defense,

trying to preserve 2017's wins. Companies want extensions of some international rates and restoration of lapsed tax provisions on capital investment, research costs and interest expenses. Trump's promised tax break for domestic manufacturers would be welcome, too. Most congressional action, however, is focused elsewhere, on continuing expiring tax cuts for individuals, estates and closely held businesses. Republicans are seeking ways to include Trump's promises to eliminate taxes on tips, overtime pay and Social Security benefits, and that has them considering spending cuts, changes to clean-energy tax credits and ideas like the C-SALT cap that otherwise might be unpalatable. Republicans also are re-examining the 2017 SALT cap they imposed on individuals. There, they are likely to lower the tax burden by raising the \$10,000 cap. That

change would respond to concerns from GOP House members from New York, New Jersey and California. Like the original \$10,000 cap on individual deductions, a C-SALT cap raises significant money but isn't technically a rate increase. It is ultimately paid by higher-income people because much of the burden would be felt by corporate shareholders. And it creates incentives for state and local governments to lower their taxes. If they pursue a C-SALT cap, lawmakers will encounter several crucial choices. An income-tax deduction limit would be less far-reaching than one that also applies to property taxes. But because corporate income taxes are calculated largely based on the location of a company's sales, not its headquarters, companies can't avoid them by moving. In that sense, it is quite different from the individual cap. Congress would also need

Repealing or curbing the C-SALT would raise money to pay for cuts.

Park Avenue office vacancy rate, quarterly



Park Avenue Retains Its Mystique

Continued from Page One that stretch of Park Avenue." Park Avenue has also been a big beneficiary of the recent extension of Long Island Rail Road service to Grand Central Terminal, which brings tens of thousands of daily commuters closer to its office towers. The city's major rezoning of a 73-block area in Midtown to encourage new development gave another boost. The real-estate community is responding. New York began last week its public review process to approve construction of 350 Park Ave., a 1.8 million-square-foot tower. Developer Scott Rechler and his partners announced plans for 175 Park Ave., a \$6 billion tower near Grand Central that is slated to be the tallest commercial building in the Western Hemisphere when completed in 2032. "There's not that much availability around Park Avenue," Rechler said. That is true even during one of the worst office downturns since World War II, when remote work and a glut of supply have upended the office business. Park Avenue's vacancy rate has fallen to 8.9%, its lowest rate since the end of 2018,

according to data firm CoStar. Manhattan and U.S. office vacancy overall sits at 16.1%. Park Avenue's retailers are also cashing in. One Thursday the line for lunch at NAYA, a Middle Eastern restaurant, stretched down the block. Next door, at Joe & The Juice, midday orders have doubled from a year ago, to 200. The staff can barely keep up. "We definitely will be hiring," store manager Josefien Planckaert said. Park Avenue's history dates back to the expansion of commuter-rail traffic to New York at the end of the 19th century. Railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt led an effort to move tracks underground to speed the passage of trains, creating a grand boulevard. Starting in the 1950s, companies from around the U.S. were uprooting their headquarters and moving to iconic Park Avenue addresses such as Lever House, Seagram Building and the Pan Am Building, now known as the MetLife Building. More recently, Park Avenue took a hit when some big companies relocated to shiny new towers—with elaborate fitness centers, soaring rooftop views and plenty of natural light—in the Hudson Yards development on Manhattan's west side. But now owners of older Park Avenue buildings are splurging on expensive upgrades to remain competitive. Since the pandemic, at least three tenants have relocated from Hudson Yards to Park Avenue, according to



Above, JPMorgan Chase's new \$3 billion headquarters will provide up to 10,000 workers with two outdoor gardens, a 19-restaurant food hall, fitness and wellness centers and spaces for prayer and meditation; below, Park Avenue around 1934.



real-estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield. Developer Aby Rosen, owner of the Seagram Building, opted for a \$30 million upgrade after Wells Fargo left for Hudson Yards. He added an outdoor terrace and a climbing wall, boxing ring, basketball courts, yoga and a spinning studio. Seagram is now close to 100% leased at rents that exceed an average of \$200 a

square foot. Its tenants include Centerbridge Partners, Advent International and Blue Owl Capital. In the biggest addition to Park Avenue in many years, JPMorgan Chase plans this summer to open its new 60-story headquarters. The \$3 billion tower will house up to 10,000 workers and offer 2.5 times the ground-level outdoor space of JPMorgan's old 1950s-era headquarters at the site.

The tower will include a food hall with 19 different restaurants, fitness and wellness centers, spaces for prayer and meditation and two outdoor gardens. New York's zoning change enabled JPMorgan Chase to add one million square feet to make it a 2.5 million-square-foot building. "It's a great example of urban renewal," said David Arena, the bank's head of global corporate real estate.

GSA's List Of Federal Buildings For Sale Is Slashed

By PETER GRANT

The Trump administration is preparing to sell eight federal office buildings, shrinking considerably a previous effort to offload hundreds of buildings after it faced widespread criticism. The General Services Administration said it was accepting nonbinding bids on the eight federal office buildings with a combined 2 million square feet. The buildings are in Chicago, Atlanta, Kansas City, Houston and four other cities. The GSA said it chose these properties in part because they have a high cost to operate. The agency earlier this month published a list of 440 federal buildings with 80 million square feet as part of the Trump administration's effort to downsize the federal government and save money. But in an extraordinary reversal, the GSA backtracked within hours and took down the list after the process came under fire for being too hasty and disorganized. The GSA said it was planning to put numerous other properties out for bidding in the months to come.

GSA had identified the eight buildings and numerous others as surplus before President Trump was elected for the second time. But the government has been reluctant to put office buildings on the market because office values have plummeted since the pandemic. Now, the GSA is determined to get surplus office buildings off the government books—even at a discounted price—to save the costs of operations and maintenance. The GSA said it could save \$430 million annually through asset sales. Such savings would justify selling the buildings at "reasonable offers" that "are not the pinnacle of what others think we should get for a building," a GSA spokesman said. The office market has been showing signs of rebounding as more companies require employees to show up in offices more frequently. The GSA also selected the eight buildings because they are among those furthest along in the process that the federal government undertakes before putting a building up for sale.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

**Signal** is a nonprofit messaging service. In some editions Tuesday, a U.S. News article about national-security officials' use of Signal incorrectly called it a commercial messaging service.

Readers can alert The Wall Street Journal to any errors in news articles by emailing [wsjcontact@wsj.com](mailto:wsjcontact@wsj.com) or by calling 888-410-2667.

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U.S. NEWS

# Trump Order Aims to Overhaul Voting

By Joseph De Avila  
And Mariah Timms

President Trump signed an executive order on Tuesday that aims to reshape how elections are carried out in the U.S. by setting new identification requirements for voter registration and prohibiting the counting of absentee or mail-in ballots received after Election Day.

The order marks a significant push to increase the executive branch's influence over elections, which are administered by the states. Trump's latest action threatens to pull the small amount earmarked by Congress for elections from states that fail to meet its provisions. It will likely be challenged in court.

The order creates new proof-of-citizenship requirements for people attempting to register to vote through federal forms. Most people register to vote via their state. The requirements include providing documentary proof of citizenship like a passport or a Real ID compliant driver's license for national mail voter registration. The order also enlists the Justice Department and the commissioner of Social Security in efforts to find ineligible voters.

Trump tapped Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency to wade into sensitive voter registration data to look for inaccuracies. Earlier this month several federal judges blocked DOGE members from accessing other federal databases that contain Americans' personal information.

## Congressional effort

Portions of Tuesday's order mirror the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, which was supported by House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), and was reintroduced this year after failing to make it out of the Senate in 2024. Critics of the bill say implementing it could block U.S. citizens who have changed their names or haven't updated their passports from registering. They say it would also place unwieldy burdens on state administrators to create policies and access to sensitive information databases.

President Trump doesn't have the authority to issue an executive order establishing new identification requirements to register to vote, said Wendy Weiser, vice president for democracy at the Brennan Center for Justice, a left-leaning advocacy organization.

"This would actually harm eligible American citizens," Weiser said. "This would be tens of millions of American citizens who could be excluded from registering from voting."

Michael Whatley, chairman of the Republican National Committee, applauded the order. "Requiring proof of citizenship, paper ballot trails, and investigating fraud are all commonsense steps to protect the vote," Whatley said.

## Misleading claims

Trump and fellow Republicans have repeated misleading claims that large numbers of noncitizens have voted in elections. It is illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal elections and states have layers of protection to verify that those casting ballots are eligible. Studies by groups across the political spectrum have found no evidence of ineligible immigrants ever voting in sufficient numbers to affect an election outcome.

All states regularly audit their voter rolls, removing outdated registrations when voters move or become ineligible to vote. The majority of votes in the U.S. are already cast with a paper record.

Several states operate their elections almost entirely by mail, and report no significant numbers of fraudulent votes.

The Trump order directs the Justice Department to take "all necessary action" against states that count mail-in or absentee ballots received after Election Day. Noncompliant states will have federal election funding withheld, the order said.

# Cherry Blossoms Begin to Bloom in Washington, D.C.



ANDREW LITVINZMA PRESS

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT:** National Park Service officials predict the cherry trees will reach peak bloom in the next few days. A festival runs until April 13.

# Family-Planning Grants Set to Be Frozen

By Laura Kusisto  
And Liz Essley Whyte

The Trump administration is moving to freeze tens of millions of dollars in federal family-planning grants to certain organizations while it investigates whether the money was used for diversity efforts, people familiar with the matter said.

The Health and Human Services Department is weighing an immediate freeze of \$27.5 million in grants, an agency spokesman said after The Wall Street Journal re-

ported the plans.

The groups that would be subject to the freeze include Planned Parenthood affiliates, the people familiar with the matter said. Altogether, the groups were set to get a total of about \$120 million this year.

The freeze would suspend funding meant to support, in the U.S., pregnancy testing, provision of contraception, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and evaluation and counseling for infertility.

An HHS spokesman said the department was reviewing

grant recipients to make sure they comply with President Trump's executive orders and federal law.

Alexis McGill Johnson, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said: "The Trump-Vance-Musk administration wants to shut down Planned Parenthood health centers by any means necessary, and they'll end people's access to birth control, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment and more to do it."

The Department of Health and Human Services distrib-

utes the funds under its program known as Title X. The \$120 million is roughly half the money available for the program for the year, according to the HHS website. The program gives free or discounted services to about four million people annually through a network of roughly 4,000 clinics.

Planned Parenthood clinics in about a dozen states were set to receive roughly \$20 million in family-planning grants this year.

During the freeze, the department plans to examine whether the funds were used

for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, the people said.

Trump issued an executive order on his first day in office directing his administration to scrub DEI efforts from all corners of the federal government.

HHS could later decide to fully rescind the grants or reallocate the money to other organizations.

The freeze would partially fulfill a longtime conservative goal of defunding Planned Parenthood because it provides abortions and advocates for abortion rights.

# Judge Tells Authorities Not to Detain Columbia Student

A federal judge ordered immigration authorities to stop attempting to detain a Columbia University junior who participated in pro-Palestinian protests until further notice from the court.

By Jenna Telesca,  
Joseph Pisani  
and Jennifer Calfas

Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald on Tuesday issued a temporary restraining order a day after Yunseo Chung sued the Trump administration to prevent her deportation. The judge, appointed by President Bill Clinton, scheduled a hearing for May 20.

The Department of Homeland Security issued an arrest warrant for the 21-year-old student on March 8, according to court records. Chung, a permanent resident, moved to the U.S. at age 7 from South Korea.

Her lawyers say she has broken no laws and that the Trump administration seeks to strip her green card because of her advocacy work. "Simply put, immigration enforcement—here, immigration detention and threatened deportation—may not be used as a tool to punish noncitizen speakers who express political views disfavored by the current administration," they wrote.

The Department of Homeland Security said it was seeking Chung's deportation in line with immigration law. "Yunseo Chung has engaged in concerning conduct, including when she was arrested by NYPD during a pro-Hamas protest at Barnard College," a spokesperson for the department said. Columbia declined to comment.

Columbia, in New York City, has become ground zero for the Trump administration's campaign to dismantle what it calls antisemitism on campuses during pro-Palestinian protests. Federal agencies threatened to cancel roughly \$400 million of Columbia's funding before the school caved to its far-reaching demands.

On Tuesday, at the request of the Trump administration, Columbia University interim President Katrina Armstrong publicly reiterated her commitment to implementing



DANA EDWARDS/REUTERS

**Students from across New York City marched outside Columbia University's Manhattan campus on Monday.**

changes the school agreed to in negotiations with the federal government.

Armstrong released a statement emphasizing her support for the changes after holding weekend meetings with anxious faculty about the deal the school made in government talks over federal funding. Some faculty said they were concerned that Armstrong was playing down the changes, and presenting mixed messages.

"I regret any confusion and inconsistent statements and want to make sure our position is clear as we go forward," Armstrong said in a statement Tuesday. "Let there be no confusion: I commit to seeing these changes implemented, with the full support of Columbia's senior leadership team and the Board of Trustees."

Armstrong put out the statement after the Trump administration asked the school to clarify its commitment to the deal it made Friday with the government, according to people familiar with the matter. The agreement included restricting masks, empowering campus police and appointing a senior vice provost with broad authority to oversee the department of Middle East, South Asian and African

Studies.

Chung attended Columbia student demonstrations last year that criticized the Israel-Hamas war's toll on civilians in Gaza. The university investigated her for vandalism for posting fliers on campus with pictures of the board of trustees and the words, "Wanted for Complicity in Genocide," her lawyers said in court documents. The school determined she hadn't violated any policies.

On March 5 this year, Chung went to a sit-in at sister college Barnard in support of students disciplined for their participation in advocacy events. The New York Police Department arrested Chung and released her with a desk appearance ticket for obstruction of governmental administration. The university temporarily suspended her a couple of days later.

Immigration agents appeared at Chung's parents' home on the evening of March 9, asking to speak with her.

She received a text message around the same time, according to court documents, that

said, "Hi, Yunseo. This is Audrey from the police. My job is to reach out to you and see if you have any questions about your recent arrest and the process going forward. When are [sic] available for a phone call?"

Chung's lawyer called the number, and Audrey identified herself as an agent with Homeland Security Investigations, part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She told Chung's lawyer that

there was an administrative warrant for Chung's arrest and "due to the situation with the protesting, the State Department was at liberty to revoke" her legal permanent resident status.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Perry Carbone told Chung's lawyer that the secretary of state had revoked her visa. When Chung's lawyer explained that Chung had a green card and not a visa, Carbone said "the secretary of state has revoked that," too.

Earlier this month, immigration agents detained graduate student Mahmoud Khalil, another permanent resident

and pro-Palestinian demonstrator, saying they were acting on orders by the State Department. President Trump said Khalil's arrest would be the first of many.

Homeland Security has cited a seldom-used provision of immigration law that allows the secretary of state to remove a green card holder from the country if he has reasonable grounds to believe that person's presence or activities "would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences" for the U.S.

The targeting of student activists and Columbia leadership's decision to cede to the Trump administration's demands has sparked outrage and protests on the Ivy League university's campus.

"It's time for all of us—faculty, students, alumni, elected officials and the public—to lead the defense of universities," Michael Thaddeus, a Columbia mathematics professor, said Monday at a protest.

Professors and faculty said the attack on Columbia threatens academic freedom and free thought.

"We know this has nothing to do with opposing antisemitism," said Kimberly Phillips-Fein, a Columbia history professor. "We know that this is about control."



# Secret Chat Invite Went To Object of Trump’s Ire

By MELISSA KORN

The journalist the Trump administration inadvertently included in a secret chat about military plans happens to be a familiar target of President Trump’s ire.

Trump has long criticized Jeffrey Goldberg, the editor in chief of the Atlantic, at times referring to him in rallies and on social media as a “sleaze-bag,” “con man” and “slime-ball reporter.” And that was before Goldberg published an article Monday saying that he had been invited to a group chat for senior national-security officials that included detailed discussions of airstrikes against Houthi militants in Yemen.

National Security Council spokesman Brian Hughes confirmed the authenticity of the chat. While lawmakers grapple with questions about the legality and security of the

Signal communications, Trump’s team has focused its attention on Goldberg.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters Monday that Goldberg was “a deceitful and highly discredited so-called journalist who’s made a profession of peddling hoaxes time and time again.” He added, “This is a guy that peddles in garbage.”

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Tuesday, Trump said of Goldberg, “He’s made up a lot of stories and I think he’s basically bad for the country.”

A spokeswoman for the Atlantic said, “Attempts to disparage and discredit The Atlantic, our editor, and our reporting follow an obvious

playbook by elected officials and others in power who are hostile to journalists and the First Amendment rights of all Americans.”

Goldberg joined the Atlantic as a national correspondent in 2007 and became its editor in 2016, writing frequently about foreign affairs and domestic politics. Under him, the magazine has won multiple Pulitzer Prizes and boosted its audience dramatically. It has also repeatedly raised concerns about Trump’s fitness to lead, saying he has autocratic tendencies and a disregard for democratic norms.

In September 2020, Goldberg reported that Trump referred to soldiers killed in bat-

The Atlantic editor reported Trump called slain veterans ‘suckers.’



Jeffrey Goldberg spoke last September in Washington, D.C.

tle during World War I as “losers” and “suckers,” citing multiple anonymous sources who said they heard the remarks. Trump contested the reporting, though his chief of staff at the time confirmed he used those words.

Soon after, Trump posted on social media that the Atlantic was “a failing Radical Left Magazine” and said Goldberg was a “con man.” (The Wall Street Journal reported last year that the magazine is

profitable, with revenue and subscriptions both growing.)

Goldberg said on MSNBC that he was initially surprised, but pleased, to receive a message on Signal from national security adviser Michael Waltz.

“It struck me as somewhat unusual because we all, and I in particular, have a somewhat contentious relationship with some people in the Trump administration—namely, Trump,” Goldberg said.

# President Goes After Another Law Firm

By C. RYAN BARBER AND ERIN MULVANEY

President Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order targeting **Jenner & Block**, expanding his campaign of retribution against law firms he perceives as enemies.

Trump cited the firm’s ties to Andrew Weissmann, who previously served as a top member of former special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. “He’s a bad guy,” Trump said after signing the order.

The order strips security clearances from lawyers at the firm, restricts their access to federal buildings, and directs agencies to end any federal contracts with the firm and its clients.

Tuesday’s order also targets pro bono work the firm has taken on to challenge the administration’s policies, saying it “abused its pro bono practice to engage in activities that undermine justice and the interests of the United States.” Jenner has touted its pro bono work in the past, and this year has backed lawsuits challenging the administration’s policies, including on behalf of transgender individuals.

The executive order comes after previous ones meant to punish law firms, including Perkins Coie and Paul Weiss, over their ties to lawyers who have worked on investigations or cases adverse to Trump. The order against Paul Weiss was rescinded after the firm cut a deal with the White House.

Jenner said: “Today, we have been named in an Executive Order similar to one which has already been declared unconstitutional by a federal court. We remain focused on serving and safeguarding our clients’ interests with the dedication, integrity, and expertise that has defined our firm for more than one hundred years and will pursue all appropriate remedies.”

# How Signal Works and Why Officials Used Chat App

By SAM SCHECHNER AND DUSTIN VOLZ

Signal, the favorite chat app for spies and journalists, got an unusual kind of endorsement this week after U.S. national-security officials were revealed to be using Signal to share information about a pending U.S. military strike and mistakenly included a journalist in the chat.

Here’s what to know about Signal and the rules governing how federal officials communicate:

## Officials Play Down Breach

*Continued from Page One*

cal independent from Maine, echoing concerns of his Democratic colleagues.

“If this was the case of a military officer or an intelligence officer and they had this kind of behavior, they would be fired,” said Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat who serves as the vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee. “This is one more example of the kind of sloppy, careless, incompetent behavior, particularly towards classified information.”

Kash Patel, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, declined to say in the hearing whether his agency would investigate whether security procedures were violated by the discussion on the chat, saying he was briefed on the chat Monday night and had no updates to provide.

The disclosure that top administration officials had conducted several days of discussion about the military operation over Signal, which was revealed in the Atlantic’s report, has also put a spotlight on national security adviser Mike Waltz, who organized the group thread about U.S. plans to launch airstrikes against Yemen’s Houthi militants and included the magazine’s editor in chief, Jeffrey Goldberg.

The incident has prompted widespread concern about the administration’s procedures for protecting sensitive defense information.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump, a Republican, signaled his support for Waltz, who had privately come under criticism from some administration officials in the aftermath of the incident. Later, at a meeting, the president called Waltz “a very good man.”

He then asked Waltz to speak, and the national security adviser attacked what he

theory, this protects messages against anyone being able to understand them as they pass through the internet.

Top Trump administration officials, including Vice President JD Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, used Signal to hold detailed discussions of plans to launch airstrikes against Yemen’s Houthi militants this month, according to the Atlantic magazine, whose editor was inadvertently included in the Signal chat.

Speaking to reporters at the White House Tuesday, President Trump suggested the administration would limit its use of Signal in the future. “Generally speaking, I think we probably won’t be using it very much,” he said.

National-security experts say discussing classified information on an app designed for use on consumer phones would be a serious breach of security procedures and create a big risk for leaks.

**Communicating securely**

Normally, conversations concerning classified military plans to strike foreign targets would be expected to occur solely in secure compartmented information facilities, or SCIFs—rooms that are specifically designed to prevent conversations from being spied on. Cellphones, which can be hacked, are typically banned from SCIFs, as are other electronic devices.

While most SCIFs are housed within government offices, there are overseas secure facilities in embassies, and very senior national-security officials often have personal SCIFs built into their private homes.

**Who owns Signal?**

Signal is owned by a Mountain View, Calif.-based nonprofit organization called the Signal Technology Foundation, which is largely financed by donations and grants. That structure was set up by the

app’s founder, cryptographer and entrepreneur Moxie Marlinspike, with an initial \$50 million from WhatsApp co-founder Brian Acton.

Acton left WhatsApp owner Meta Platforms in 2017, but remains on Signal’s board. The app is now run by Meredith Whittaker, who previously worked at Google and co-founded the AI Now Institute.

The foundation paid more than \$5.5 million in 2023 for cloud-hosting services from Amazon Web Services, Google and Microsoft, according to a federal filing.

**Signal vs. WhatsApp**

WhatsApp actually uses Signal’s open-source encryption protocol to power its end-to-end encryption, making the level of encryption between the two apps similar. Because the algorithm is open-source, anyone can try to break it, but no one has succeeded.

Signal, in addition to being encrypted, also says it keeps

almost no data about how its users use the app. That means that even if it were hacked, or if the government came with a subpoena to ask for information about a user, it would only be able to provide two kinds of what is called metadata: the date an account was created and the last time it was used, but not when messages were sent or to whom.

**Could Signal be hacked?**

So far, there is no evidence Signal’s open-source encryption algorithm has been broken—and indeed intelligence officials sometimes use the app on their personal smartphones or computers. Following revelations reported by The Wall Street Journal last fall about the deep compromise of U.S. telecommunications firms by Chinese state-backed hackers, Signal grew even more in demand as cybersecurity officials urged everyone to move to encrypted apps.



People gathered on the rubble of a house hit by a U.S. strike in Saada, Yemen, on March 16.

said were “a lot of journalists in this city who have made big names for themselves making up lies about this president.” A spokesman for the White House National Security Council previously confirmed the authenticity of the chat reported by the Atlantic.

The White House’s defense didn’t satisfy Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee, who engaged in a contentious exchange with the intelligence chiefs that lasted several hours.

Gabbard initially declined to acknowledge that she had participated in the Signal chat, saying that the NSC was reviewing the episode. She later acknowledged that she was traveling abroad during the period in which the chat occurred but declined to say if she participated using her personal or government phone, saying that would be part of the NSC assessment.

Ratcliffe confirmed that he had participated but then said he didn’t remember any discussion of “weapon packages” or other operational details that the Atlantic reported had been mentioned.

As the hearing continued, Ratcliffe was pressed on his contention there was no classified information in the chat. He said that nothing that he or his agency had shared had been classified, adding that there was no reason for the name of a CIA official who had been part of the chat group to be withheld, as the Atlantic did when it reported on the Signal discussion.

As for information shared by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, Ratcliffe said that shouldn’t be considered to be secret because Hegseth has the authority to determine whether Defense Department information is classified and has insisted it wasn’t.

That raised the question of whether and when Hegseth had formally declassified the Pentagon information on the pending military operation.

“What you are saying doesn’t make sense on the face of it,” Warner said. The Democratic senator said that the committee would seek access to the texts so it could make its own determination.

There were early signs Tuesday that many Republicans would go along with the

White House’s defiant message. A White House rapid response account circulated a clip of Sen. Tom Cotton (R., Ark.) appearing on Fox News and commending the Trump administration for focusing on worldwide threats.

The text thread over the encrypted Signal app, which is a nongovernmental messaging service established by a nonprofit, lasted days and included specific information about timing, weapons and targets, including people to be attacked in the strike, Goldberg reported on Monday, adding that he had withheld sensitive details that he presumed to be highly classified. That information was discussed before the attack on the Houthis.

Goldberg said in a statement: “The information I received on this Signal chat included the full name of an active CIA officer; human targeting information that could affect an adversary’s understanding of U.S. intelligence sources and methods; the sequencing of upcoming attacks; the weapons used in forthcoming attacks; the exact times attacks were supposed to start

(information I received before attacks were launched); and real-time damage assessments that, again, could compromise sources and methods.”

The statement continued: “Any responsible national security expert would consider the information contained in this Signal chat to be of the greatest sensitivity, and would agree that this information should never be shared on non-government messaging apps.”

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt also said the NSC was looking into how Goldberg was added to the group thread.

Former government officials have said the use of Signal for conducting discussions about military plans was a serious breach of security procedure, which require that classified information be conveyed on secure government systems. Phones are banned from many Pentagon offices, and employees and visitors are required to leave them in the corridors outside.

Trump indicated he would look into how the chat was used. “Certainly we’ll look at

this,” he said. He also suggested the administration would limit its use of Signal.

In an interview on Fox News Tuesday night, Waltz said he didn’t know how the journalist was added to the chat, even though Goldberg in his article said that the invitation came from a user bearing Waltz’s name. “That’s what we’re trying to figure out,” Waltz said. He called the incident “embarrassing” and said “we have the best technical minds looking at how this happened.”

Asked by Laura Ingraham if a staffer was responsible for Goldberg being added to the chat, Waltz said: “A staffer wasn’t responsible. Look, I take full responsibility. I built the group. My job is to make sure everything’s coordinated.”

Hegseth, who was among 18 users in the Signal group, on Monday criticized Goldberg and said that “nobody was texting war plans and that’s all I have to say about that.”

In an interview with CNN, Goldberg said about Hegseth’s comments: “That’s a lie. He was texting war plans, he was texting attack plans.”

When Patel was asked during the intelligence committee hearing if Goldberg could release the texts the Trump administration said are unclassified without fear of being prosecuted, the FBI chief said that would be a decision for the Justice Department.

The Signal chat group that discussed the planned strikes against the Houthis also listed as members Vice President JD Vance, Ratcliffe, Gabbard, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, and special envoy Steve Witkoff, who was visiting Moscow to meet with President Vladimir Putin of Russia at the time. Other users were identified as “MAR,” which appeared to be Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and “S.M.,” a reference to Stephen Miller, a top Trump domestic adviser.

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U.S. NEWS

U.S. WATCH



An empty space was left on the wall of the Colorado Capitol's rotunda, next to President Barack Obama, on Tuesday. A portrait of President Trump had hung there since 2019, but it was removed soon after he expressed his dislike for it, calling it 'purposefully distorted.'

COLORADO

Trump Portrait at Capitol Removed

A portrait of Donald Trump that he said was “purposefully distorted” was removed from a wall at the Colorado state Capitol where it had been since 2019. After Trump posted complaints about the painting, Colorado Senate Minority Leader Paul Lundeen, a Republican, asked that it be taken down and replaced with one that “depicts his contemporary likeness.” Colorado Republicans had raised more than \$10,000 to commission the oil painting. By Tuesday morning, the portrait was no longer hanging next to those of other U.S. presidents. Democrats in the Legislature didn’t object to the painting’s removal. “If the GOP wants to spend time and money on which portrait of Trump hangs in the Capitol, then that’s up to them,” they said in a statement.

—Associated Press

ALASKA

Good Samaritan Saves 3 in Crash

A pilot and two children survived on the wing of a plane for about 12 hours after it crashed and was partially submerged in an icy Alaska lake, then were saved by a Good Samaritan. Terry Godes said he saw a Facebook post Sunday night calling for people to help search for the missing plane. On Monday morning, he headed toward Tustumena Lake near the toe of a glacier and spotted what he thought was wreckage. “It kind of broke my heart to see that, but as I got closer down and lower, I could see that there’s three people on top of the wing,” he said Tuesday. The three were rescued on the eastern edge of Tustumena Lake on Monday by the Alaska National Guard after Godes alerted other pilots searching for the plane that he had found it.

—Associated Press

ECONOMY

Home Prices Rose 4.1% Over a Year

U.S. home prices accelerated but at a slower pace in the first month of the year, as continued high mortgage rates dug into buyer demand and market activity, according to a monthly indicator. The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller National Home Price Index, which measures home prices across the country, rose 4.1% on year in January, higher than the 4.0% rise in December, a monthly indicator said Tuesday. A measure of 20 cities gained 4.7%, a little higher than consensus expectations of 4.6%. Despite the increase, growth has continued to moderate, with most of the annual gain taking place in the first six months of the past year, said Nicholas Godec, head of fixed income tradables and commodities at S&P Dow Jones Indices.

—Ed Frankl

Trump Family Sets Crypto Bid

Continued from Page One project marks the Trump family’s latest push into crypto, and comes as the president’s administration has sought to make the U.S. a more-welcoming market for digital assets. Earlier this month, President Trump, a Republican, pledged to make the U.S. the “undisputed bitcoin superpower and the crypto capital of the world.”

The Trumps launched World Liberty in October, billing the entity as a decentralized finance, or DeFi, project that would help match crypto investors eager to borrow and lend from, and trade with, one another.

Critics said World Liberty’s stablecoin launch poses a major conflict of interest for Trump, who has said he hoped to see stablecoin legislation on his desk before Congress’s August recess.

“We haven’t had a president in recent memory ever sign legislation that could directly affect his financial interest,” said Kedric Payne, senior director of ethics at the Campaign Legal Center, an ethics watchdog group. “It is a clear violation of the ethics norm.”

The measure that is gaining momentum in Congress now intends to give issuers of stablecoins a regulatory framework, specifying rules on reserves and customer protections. The Trump family’s foray into stablecoins through World Liberty could derail those efforts, according to TD Cowen’s Washington Research Group analyst Jaret Seiberg. Democrats might now press for stronger investor protections and question whether the Securities and Exchange Commission could be trusted as the lead regulator on the stablecoin, Seiberg said.

DeFi users transact with each other without the usual banks and other intermediar-



The family’s World Liberty Financial is launching a stablecoin.

ies that dominate traditional finance, with terms written directly into the software code. And by swapping stablecoins to complete those transactions, users don’t have to worry about price volatility. The most popular stablecoin is Tether, which traders have widely used to stash their cash, invest in other tokens and swap for traditional currencies. It has also been heavily used for illicit activities, including terrorism financing and drug trafficking.

World Liberty said recently it had raised \$550 million from more than 85,000 U.S. and non-U.S. investors—including its largest investor Justin Sun, the founder of Tron—by selling a token called WLFI. Earlier this year, Trump and first lady Melania Trump also launched a pair of meme coins, a type of cryptocurrency with no intrinsic value. DT Marks DEFI, an entity affiliated with Trump and certain members of his family, owns approximately 60% of the equity interests in WLF Holdco, the parent company of World Liberty Financial.

News about the USD1 stablecoin spread on social media on Monday when Changpeng Zhao, the founder of Binance, welcomed the token to the Binance Smart Chain in a post on X. Zhao later said in another post that scammers created coins with the same name since his initial post, warning that “the official USD1 isn’t tradable yet.”

Representatives of the Trumps have held talks to

take a financial stake in Binance’s U.S. arm, The Wall Street Journal reported, and Zhao has been pushing for the Trump administration to grant him a pardon.

World Liberty Financial said it is taking a conservative approach in ensuring its token maintains its stability. TerraUSD, a so-called algorithmic stablecoin, used financial engineering to maintain price stability. The token, which generated yields as high as 20%, crashed in May 2022, wiping out \$40 billion and causing financial ruin for investors worldwide.

“USD1 provides what algorithmic and anonymous crypto projects cannot—access to the power of DeFi underpinned by the credibility and safeguards of the most respected names in traditional finance,” Zach Witkoff, a co-founder of World Liberty Financial, said in a statement.

Witkoff didn’t identify those respected names in the statement, and he and other company executives weren’t made available for comment.

Witkoff, the son of Trump’s Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, was among two dozen crypto executives who attended the first-ever White House Crypto Summit earlier this month.

USD1’s reserves will be safeguarded by crypto custodian BitGo and audited regularly by an unspecified third-party accounting firm, World Liberty said. BitGo’s prime brokerage business also agreed to facilitate clients’ USD1 trades.

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WORLD NEWS

Allies Split on Approach to U.S. Tariffs

Canada and the EU fight back, U.K. and Mexico don't. No one knows what is best.

President Trump's trade war is forcing America's closest allies to choose between fighting back, or acquiescing. The trouble is, nobody has figured out which is the best way to get Trump to do what they want.

By Vipal Monga, Kim Mackrael and Santiago Pérez

The European Union and Canada have led the charge against Trump's tariffs, threatening their own duties on tens of billions of dollars of American goods after the U.S. leveled blanket tariffs on steel and aluminum, and on imports in North America. Officials in both regions have calculated there is value in showing strength.

"Of course, we have to retaliate," said Anna Cavazzini, a member of the European Parliament from Germany. She said the European Commission wants a deal, but: "We also have to show our teeth because it's the only language that this Trump administration is basically understanding."

On the other side are the U.K. and Mexico, among others, which have decided to hold fire in hopes of striking a deal. Some countries also are loath to disrupt their security alliances with the U.S., which are viewed as increasingly fragile under Trump.

"Who is going to do better: The people that poke the bear in the eye, or those who wait for the people who are poking to be eaten first?" said Barry Appleton, an international trade lawyer and co-director of the New York Law School's Center for International Law.

The decision is going to be even more tricky on April 2, when the Trump administration plans to move forward with a list of so-called reciprocal tariffs that aim to match the duties and nontariff trade barriers that other countries impose on American products—an act that would rewire global trade.

So far choosing between retaliation and compliance hasn't mattered at all for Canada and Mexico, which have used different tactics—Canada being more aggressive with retaliation and Mexico taking a firm but cooperative approach. Both countries were still hit with a 25% duty on many of their exports in March.

Trump suggested the tariff

EU to Limit Tariff-Free Steel Imports to Protect Sector

The European Union said it is limiting the amount of tariff-free steel its member states can import, as part of the bloc's efforts to protect its steel industry from high exports and U.S. trade barriers.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, said it is curbing imports of tariff-free steel by cutting its so-called liberalization rate to 0.1% from 1%, and did away with the so-called carry-over mechanism, which enabled

countries to roll over unused quotas to the next quarter.

The mechanism is being eliminated for categories confronted with high import pressure and low consumption, it said. The elimination of the mechanism and the stricter limits on tariff-free steel imports are set to take effect July 1.

The measures aim to help European steelmakers boost production and regain lost market share, as well as increase employ-

ment and investment in low-carbon steel, the commission said Tuesday.

The EU last week said it plans to reduce its steel imports by 15% from April, and vowed to introduce further long-term measures to preserve the competitiveness of its steel industry.

Last month, President Trump announced 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, prompting the EU to say it would retaliate with tariffs of its own.

—Pierre Bertrand

policies were evolving, adding to the confusion.

So far, the U.S. has put 25% duties on many products from Canada and Mexico, citing concerns about border security and upending the three countries' free-trade agreement. On March 12, Trump levied 25% tariffs on global imports of steel and aluminum, citing a need to protect domestic industries. China already faced steep tariffs in the U.S., and Trump raised them even higher in the past two months.

Among the governments that have pushed back, Canada, China and the EU feel they have enough leverage to hurt the U.S. economy.

Canada, the EU and China are among the top importers of U.S. goods, and Canada is a major supplier of energy to the U.S. The size of the EU's market, which includes 27 member states, means that tariffs it imposes on American products will have a noticeable impact on U.S. companies, officials said. In Canada, there is the

added element of Trump's stated desire to make the country the 51st state, a proposition that Canadian leaders first saw as a joke but now view as a serious threat. Adding to the fervor to hit back: Canada is in the midst of a national election that revolves around which political party is best positioned to manage Trump.

"I think you have to hit back. I don't think Trump respects rolling over," said David MacNaughton, a former Canadian ambassador to the U.S.

But when countries fight back, Trump has struck back much harder.

Earlier this month, Canada's Doug Ford, leader of the province of Ontario, said he would punish the U.S. for tariffs by slapping a 25% export tax on electricity that goes to 1.5 million American homes. Two days later, the EU also threatened to hit the U.S. for its tariffs on steel and aluminum, unveiling duties of up to 50% on whiskey, motorcycles and motorboats, among other American products. Then Trump threatened to double the 25% steel and aluminum tariffs on Canada and slam the EU with a 200% duty on Champagne and other alcoholic products. Canada and the EU tapped the brakes, showing the limits of an aggressive retaliatory strategy.

China's retaliatory measures—new tariffs on U.S. agriculture and livestock, a World Trade Organization lawsuit, and probing U.S. firms for potentially "dumping" fiber-optic products—are seen as muted and symbolic. Analysts say it is likely looking for leverage to make a deal.

Others with less leverage have decided to swallow tariffs in the short term, gambling that it is safer to stay in Trump's good graces.

U.S. Set to Aid Russia For Truce

Continued from Page One

fits the deal confers on Ukraine. Ukrainian strikes with missiles and sea drones have long forced the Russian navy to withdraw from large parts of the Black Sea, facilitating an increase in Ukrainian grain exports. Kyiv's defense minister said after the deal was reached on Tuesday that Ukraine had the right to self-defense if Russian warships left the eastern Black Sea.

It couldn't be established whether the agreement meant that Russia would curtail its missile and drone strikes on infrastructure in Ukrainian Black Sea ports, which officials in Kyiv had said they wanted to be part of any deal.

Moscow said major Russian banks involved in the food and fertilizer trade would need to be reconnected to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, or SWIFT, payment network, singling out Rosselkhozbank, a state-owned bank that deals with Russian agribusiness, but suggesting that other banks should also have their access restored.

Western sanctions never targeted Russian grain or agricultural exports directly because that is largely prohibited under international law and out of concern that such sanctions would raise food prices and increase global hunger. But Russia said its agricultural exports were affected by the European port and banking sanctions.

The Kremlin has long sought the lifting of financial restrictions, which lie at the



Ukrainian strikes with missiles and sea drones have long forced the Russian navy to withdraw from large parts of the Black Sea.

heart of the Western sanctions regime. The European Union has always said its banking sanctions allow exemptions for payments to Russia for permitted trade, such as in grain and fertilizers. Among the banks on which the EU didn't impose sanctions, for instance, is Gazprombank, one of Russia's largest, and a key conduit for payments for Russian natural-gas sales.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia has in the past complained that his country was cheated by the West's failure to remove impediments to Russian grain exports, including obstacles to insuring cargo ships and SWIFT's blacklisting of Rosselkhozbank.

"Putin's endgame is clear—he wants to coax Trump into lifting sanctions on Russian

banks and energy companies to enable the Kremlin to pull in the hard currency it desperately needs," said Edward Fishman, senior research scholar at Columbia University and a former senior U.S. sanctions official. "But there appears to be daylight between Moscow and Washington. The Russian statement goes much further on sanctions relief than the U.S. statement."

The European Commission, which manages EU sanctions policy, declined to comment. A senior EU official said Europeans remain determined to keep up the pressure on the Russian economy. EU countries would need to agree to reinstate Russian banks to SWIFT, which is based in Belgium.

Zelensky said in a post on social media that the next few

days would show whether the Kremlin was serious about reaching a peace deal.

"We need results from Russia. We don't believe them," Zelensky wrote. "They must prove that they are ready to end the war and are ready not to lie to the world, not to lie to Trump, not to lie to America."

Ukrainian officials said they wanted to work toward a lasting peace—but also pushed Western countries to be ready to respond if Moscow didn't abide by the agreement.

"Unfortunately, we can already see Russia attempting to manipulate and condition agreements on sanctions relief," said Andriy Sybiha, Ukraine's foreign minister. "Moscow must face appropriate consequences for any manipulation or breach of agreements," he wrote on X.

with Russia and Ukraine to take steps to implement a previously agreed cease-fire on attacks on energy facilities in both countries. It also reiterated the U.S.'s commitment to seeking the return of Ukrainian children forcibly moved to Russia.

The U.S.-Russian agreement points to one of the many challenges a peace process will pose for both sides. While imposing sanctions on a rogue regime is relatively straightforward, Western countries have repeatedly found that reversing some restrictions often has little impact on the ground.

In the first year of the conflict, Russian food and fertilizer exports were hampered by international sanctions. In December 2022, the EU adjusted its own sanctions regime under international pressure to make it clear to customs and port authorities in member states that they could receive fees from Russian vessels that were stuck in European ports carrying goods not under sanction.

However in the past two years, Russian agricultural exports and fertilizer sales have been robust. Even in Europe, Russian fertilizer exports have taken up an increasingly big share of the market, with the EU importing several billion euros of the product from Russia annually.

Palestinians Protest Against Hamas in Gaza

By SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN

In a rare protest against Hamas, hundreds of Palestinians took to the streets in a northern Gazan town on Tuesday, venting their frustrations openly for the first time since the start of the 17-month war that has left much of the enclave in ruins.

"Out, Out, Out, Hamas out," the crowd of mostly young men chanted, some waving white flags, in a video posted on social media.

The demonstrations began spontaneously in Beit Lahia during a funeral and spread to the nearby Jabalia refugee camp. By nightfall, Palestinians in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza, had also taken to the streets to denounce Hamas.

While their size was limited, they were a notable sign of discontent with Hamas, which led the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks that left around 1,200

dead, another roughly 250 taken hostage and sparked the war that has devastated Gaza.

Hamas, which governed Gaza for almost two decades before the war left many of its leaders dead and others on the run, had long squelched public displays of anger at its authority.

While the militant group still retains control, Tuesday's demonstrations showed how its hold on at least some parts of the population of more than two million people has weakened as the war's costs add up.

"Hamas is demanding our people to remain steadfast," said one man filming the protest and posting the video he narrated on X. "But how can

we remain steadfast when we're dying and bleeding? Hamas must stop what is happening in Gaza."

"We're sending a message to the entire world: We reject the rule of Hamas," he added.

Shortly after the demonstrations began, residents in Gaza received text messages from Israeli authorities saying that "the solution is in your hands, and Hamas is insisting on taking you to hell."

Not everyone supported the protesters. Some people in Gaza took to social media to criticize the gatherings and said they served Israeli interests.

In Khan Younis, in southern Gaza, people chanted, "Shame, shame—you sold Gaza for dollars," according to video

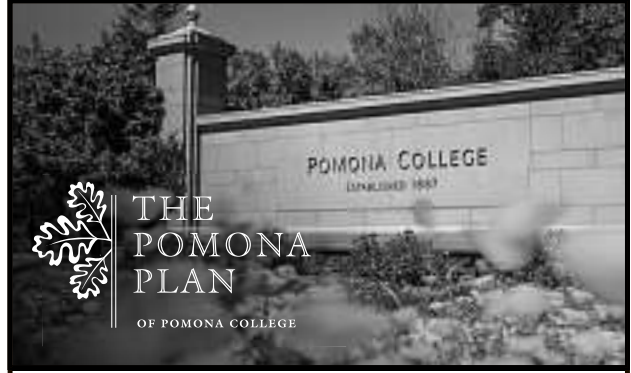
posted on social media. "Hamas is a terrorist (group)."

Some protesters in Beit Lahia also openly criticized the Qatari network, Al Jazeera, saying its reports were too favorable toward Hamas and didn't showcase Palestinians in Gaza who were critical of Hamas and wanted the war to end.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in Gaza during the war, according to Palestinian health authorities, who don't say how many were combatants. Most of those who survived have been displaced repeatedly by the fighting.

Israel shattered a two-month cease-fire last week by returning to fighting with waves of airstrikes and incursions by ground troops, saying Hamas had failed to release hostages remaining in Gaza. Hamas in turn accused Israel of failing to uphold commitments to begin talks on a permanent end to the war.

Militants had long squelched public displays of anger at its authority.



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WORLD NEWS

Oscar-Winning Palestinian Freed From Custody

By ANAT PELED  
And OMAR ABDEL-BAQUI

TEL AVIV—A Palestinian co-director of an Oscar-winning film was released from Israeli custody on Tuesday after he was attacked by Israeli settlers in the West Bank and then detained and blindfolded by Israeli forces, his lawyer said. Settlers on Monday descended on the West Bank village of Susiya, the hometown of Hamdan Ballal, a co-director of “No Other Land,” according to witnesses and footage. Ballal, who was breaking the Ramadan fast at the time, was beaten by settlers and injured,

said his lawyer, Lea Tsemel. Ballal spent the night blindfolded and bound on the floor of a military camp and was beaten, Tsemel said. The military said he was transferred to police custody and didn’t respond to the beating allegations. The film, which was created by an Israeli-Palestinian collective, documents life under Israeli occupation. It won the 2025 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature Film. The Israeli military said several Palestinians “hurled rocks” at Israeli civilians, leading to a violent confrontation. The military and police arrived to disperse the con-

frontation and detained three Palestinian suspects for further questioning after they threw rocks at security forces and an Israeli citizen, the military said. It said an Israeli civilian also was injured. Ballal and two other Palestinians were transferred by the military to police Tuesday morning for investigation on suspicion of throwing rocks, harm to property and endangering regional security, police said. They were released after questioning. Police said the investigation is continuing. Tsemel denied Ballal threw rocks. She said he saw settlers throwing rocks at his neigh-

bors and tried to film the damage. He tried to lock up his house to protect his family before a settler arrived and punched him in the head, causing him to fall. The settler, who was accompanied by two soldiers, then kicked and beat him, badly injuring him. She said he was denied adequate medical treatment in custody. Raviv Rose, an activist from the Center for Jewish Nonviolence, said about 15 settlers attacked a car the activists were riding in. The center, which promotes peaceful resistance to occupation, provided video that backed up the account to The Wall Street Journal.



Hamdan Ballal’s ‘No Other Land’ was named best documentary.

FROM PAGE ONE

Europe Eyes Nuclear Umbrella

Continued from Page One nuclear forces on high alert. Commanders waited for a Russian spy satellite to pass over their distant airfield and launched drills they were confident the Kremlin would watch, according to French officials. Rafale fighter jets took off carrying dummy weapons to simulate attacks on an unnamed country—part of a high-stakes pantomime that strategists call nuclear signaling. France is unusual in its ability to send such signals. Of the world’s eight declared nuclear powers, France and Britain are the only ones in Europe. The biggest nuclear power in the region is the U.S.—North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Turkey host American nuclear weapons on bases within their borders. Now U.S. protection is looking increasingly shaky after President Trump’s diplomatic opening to Russia, temporary halt of aid to Ukraine and antagonism toward Europe. That’s led to growing calls for a European nuclear umbrella tapping the arsenals of France and Britain, independent of the U.S. “Sharing nuclear weapons is an issue that we need to talk about,” German Chancellor-designate Friedrich Merz said recently, referring to other European countries. Merz and Macron have met at least three times since Merz won elections in November, though neither side has said if they discussed nuclear weapons.

Years of scorn

Creating a European nuclear capability would upend decades-old systems and procedures established by the U.S. within NATO during the Cold War. It would be expensive and technically demanding, take years to fully implement and require a delicate navigation of nuclear-arms treaties already battered by upstart powers including North Korea and Iran. The Trump administration shows no sign of wanting to relinquish its dominance of Europe’s nuclear posture. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said at NATO headquarters earlier this year that Europe must “take ownership of conventional security on the continent”—with “conventional security” meaning nonnuclear arms. As Hegseth visited Brussels, two U.S. B-52 Stratofortress heavy bombers—America’s most iconic hydrogen-bomb carrier—arrived at a British airfield to conduct training runs with allied fighter jets as far away as Turkey. “It’s nice to see B-52s flying over Stockholm, but that alone isn’t nuclear deterrence,” said Minna Alander, an associate fellow at British think tank Chatham House. “Deterrence depends on the political commitment of the U.S. president,” said Alander, a Finn who lives in Stockholm and noted an upsurge in talk of nuclear deterrence and even the concept of a Nordic atomic bomb. At a recent meeting at NATO headquarters, Polish President Andrzej Duda said that “any nuclear umbrella will benefit Polish security.” Cooperating with NATO ally France on the issues is “absolutely obvious and natural,” he said. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen also refused to exclude European nuclear-arms



Top, a Rafale fighter jet in France. Left, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Defense Secretary John Healey looked at a submarine model on March 20.

cooperation when asked about it by reporters. Germany since the 1950s has allowed the U.S. to base nuclear weapons on its territory and German officials have said they want to maintain that protection as long as possible, even if similar arrangements were made with France or the U.K. The American nuclear arms in Europe remain under U.S. control and are carried on U.S. planes by U.S. crews under U.S. command, though they could be provided to non-nuclear allies for use during time of war under NATO oversight. For Macron and his compatriots, who have long urged Europe to develop security options independent of the U.S., the shift comes as a vindication after years of scorn. “Until now, French proposals were met with little response, except for the occasional amused sigh that said: There go those French again, feeling indispensable,” said Jean-Louis Lozier, a former French Navy officer who commanded two ballistic missile submarines and headed the army’s nuclear forces division. Swapping nuclear protector states wouldn’t be easy, even within NATO. Britain can launch nuclear weapons only from submarines. French nuclear arms would need extensive redesigning to be launched from non-French planes or subs, say specialists—if France were to even allow such an arrangement. To stay compliant with international agreements including the 1970 Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons—through which 191 countries have pledged to prevent the spread of nuclear arms—command and control over French or British nukes

would need to remain with Paris or London, even on allies’ territory. It was one thing for Europeans to accept Washington’s nuclear control during the Cold War, but ceding a degree of sovereignty to a neighboring European peer today could prove politically fraught. And all those complexities presume France and Britain have nuclear weapons to spare—which they don’t. Failed tests Britain relies solely on four submarines to carry its nuclear warheads. It has the smallest nuclear arsenal of the major nuclear nations, with around 250 warheads. The British government says its aim is to maintain “a minimum, credible, independent nuclear deterrent.” Yet London struggles to manage its nuclear force. Britain’s top military brass last year gathered on a subma-

rine to watch a nuclear-missile test-firing. The Trident was supposed to soar several thousand miles into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Instead, it splashed straight into the sea. In the test before that, in 2016, an unarmed missile launched off the coast of Florida and programmed to fly toward Africa instead headed toward the U.S., veering so dangerously off course that commanders triggered its self-destruct mechanism. A close alliance with the U.S. has allowed Britain to run its nuclear deterrent as cheaply as possible. Britain leases from the U.S. the ballistic missiles that carry its nuclear warheads. Those Trident missiles are test-fired from British submarines near Cape Canaveral under American supervision and are serviced at a base in Georgia. Many of the components inside U.K. nuclear submarines carrying its bombs are



A Russian Iskander-K missile launched during a military exercise in February 2022.

at any given time as the rest of the submarine fleet undergoes maintenance or training. France reminds Russia of its power by conducting its Poker nuclear exercises every few months, dispatching Rafale jets with dummy hydrogen bombs strapped under their wings. Britain, though, can’t engage in nuclear signaling like France because each time one of its submarines surfaces, its location is disclosed, making it a potential target. Unlike the vast nuclear arsenals that Washington and Moscow developed, those in France and Britain were supplemental to America’s nuclear umbrella over Europe. “The U.K. and France nuclear strategy was always predicated on a U.S. nuclear backstop,” said Pranay Vaddi, who served as the top nuclear expert on former President Joe Biden’s National Security Council. “They’ve built forces with the assumption that the U.S. strategic arsenal is committed to their defense as well, and U.S. conventional and nuclear forces in Europe would be engaged in defense of NATO from Russian attack.”

Expensive upgrades

Some former Pentagon officials say that the French and British nuclear arsenals would need to undergo an extensive multibillion-dollar upgrade if the Europeans’ goal was to match the flexibility of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. A particular concern, they say, is that the British and French nuclear forces currently have few, if any, low-yield weapons that could be used to deter or respond to a small Russian nuclear attack in the hope of avoiding further escalation. Other experts say that their current forces may suffice, especially if France and Britain make explicit that they’re being committed to NATO’s defense. “A couple of hundred nuclear weapons is a greater destructive force than the planet has ever seen,” said Jon Wolfsthal of the Federation of American Scientists, who served as a

senior official on former President Barack Obama’s National Security Council. Whether the U.S. would launch nuclear weapons in response to a Russian nuclear strike on Europe has always been an unknown, because it could prompt Moscow to strike America, said James Davis, chair of international relations at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. Would the U.S. risk sacrificing New York as revenge for the nuking of London or Paris? Perhaps not, Europeans have quietly worried. With European nuclear sharing, the question becomes: Would France sacrifice Paris as revenge for a Russian strike on Prague? “In a way it’s easier for the Europeans,” said Davis, because a nuclear strike on a European target could irradiate much of the continent. What a purely European nuclear deterrent might look like is only now coming under discussion. Whether the U.S. would accept it is uncertain. Discussions won’t move quickly. French Senator Cédric Perrin, who heads the chamber’s foreign and defense committee, said European countries could help pay for France’s nuclear force, which last year cost roughly \$6.6 billion in upkeep. French nuclear protection, Perrin said, “comes at a cost.”

‘Sharing nuclear weapons is an issue that we need to talk about.’

particularly in the U.S.’s case to compensate for the perceived Soviet-bloc advantage in conventional forces—and as retribution for an attack. Building systems that could deliver a second strike demanded increasingly resilient and undetectable platforms including rockets, submarines and stealth aircraft. European countries don’t want first-strike capabilities. What they seek from nuclear weapons is the deterrence that comes from the Kremlin knowing that Europeans could inflict horrific damage if Russia launched a nuclear first-strike. When France developed its nuclear weapons in the 1950s—in defiance of the U.S.—President Charles de Gaulle was quoted as saying the bombs only needed to “tear the arm off the Russian bear,” not destroy it. France has continued to invest billions of dollars annually to maintain a nuclear arsenal estimated at 290 warheads, operated independently of the U.S. France produces all necessary components domestically. As with the British, only a portion of the French sea-based nuclear force is deployed



By ALICIA McELHANEY  
AND ALEXANDER GLADSTONE

**23ANDME** filed for bankruptcy, proposing to try to sell all of its assets. For consumers who have provided genetic data to the company for testing purposes, here's what to know:

**What happened to 23andMe?**

The DNA-testing company was a hit with consumers who bought its DNA testing kits but it never managed to turn that success into a viable business model. Efforts to use DNA to develop pharmaceutical drugs ran into costly delays and an attempt to move to subscription-based services failed to draw enough interest.

**What has the company said about its plans?**

In an open letter to its customers, 23andMe said there will be no changes to how it stores, manages and protects customer data. "Any buyer of 23andMe will be required to comply with applicable law with respect to the treatment of customer data," the company said. For the time being, 23andMe plans to continue operations, and consumers can continue to order test kits, which the company will process.

In court documents, 23andMe said it plans to try to sell all of its assets. It has already received early interest from certain potential buyers, including former chief executive and co-founder Anne Wojcicki. The company says those offers are "not actionable."

**How do I delete my 23andMe account data?**

Log in to your 23andMe account and go to the "Settings" section of your profile.

Then scroll to a section labeled "23andMe Data" at the bottom of the page. Click "View" next to "23andMe Data." You can download your genetic data if you want a copy for personal storage.

After that, scroll to the "Delete Data" section and click "Permanently Delete Data." You will receive an email from 23andMe. Follow the link in the data to confirm your deletion request.

Some customers who tried to delete their data after the bankruptcy announcement said they received error messages, and the login portal of the company's website went down Monday evening.

Certain state authorities are encouraging 23andMe customers to delete any personal information that may be held by the company.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said this month that in light of 23andMe's financial distress, his agency urged consumers



How to Protect Genetic Data  
As 23andMe Goes Bankrupt

DNA-testing company holds biological information on millions and plans to try to sell all of its assets



A 23andMe DNA kit, above. The DNA-testing company and its co-founder, Anne Wojcicki, left, aimed to revolutionize healthcare, bringing genetic tests into homes with just a tube of spit.

using customer data to develop drugs with pharmaceutical company GSK, so a new buyer could seek to make use of it for similar development possibilities.

23andMe has said it found more than 50 "drug candidates." So far, two have made it to early stage human trials. Later this year, data could be released that will show whether one of them works.

**What are the legal protections and guardrails for my data?**

A patchwork of state consumer privacy laws, as well as 23andMe's original privacy statement, will play a role in governing how customer data is used. The company says its privacy policy will continue to apply in the event of a sale.

But a new buyer could choose to immediately change the privacy policy, said Sara Gerke, associate professor of law at the University

of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Customers would have to sign off, something many people often do without reviewing carefully, she said.

Although 23andMe deals with genetic information, saliva samples, and self-reported health and family information from its customers, it isn't subject to HIPAA, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, according to Shannon Hartsfield, partner at Holland & Knight who specializes in health data privacy.

A bankruptcy judge can appoint a consumer privacy ombudsman, who makes a recommendation on whether a bankrupt company should be allowed to sell consumers' private information.

When lab testing startup uBiome filed for bankruptcy in 2019, the court appointed one such ombudsman, who ultimately recommended approval of the sale of personal data, pending certain restrictions.

**Watch a Video**



Scan the code for a video on how 23andMe went from a \$6 billion valuation to a penny stock.

Customers Struggle To Delete Accounts

By ALICIA McELHANEY

The login portal of 23andMe's website went down Monday evening as customers of the DNA-testing company rushed to delete their genetic data after it filed for bankruptcy.

Earlier in the day, people trying to log in faced long wait times or error messages and had to make repeated attempts to receive confirmation that their requests had been received. By Monday evening, consumers said the customer-service chatbot gave a message that read the company was receiving a "high volume of inquiries and increased web traffic." The chatbot directed customers to try reaching out again later.

Some 23andMe users have sought unsuccessfully to delete the data of a deceased family member, and many expressed uncertainty about whether or how they would receive confirmation that the data had been deleted. Several also said they have a heightened interest in what happens to their data because of a password hack at the company in 2023 that exposed information belonging to 6.9 million people. Those whose requests for dele-

tion were processed received an email from the company that said: "Your data is being deleted," followed by an added detail: "Your account will no longer be accessible, and will be deleted per your request."

Once a buzzy consumer startup, 23andMe filed for chapter 11 on Sunday and announced the resignation of its chief executive officer, Anne Wojcicki. Facing inflationary pressures and challenges in its efforts to use DNA data to help develop pharmaceutical medicines, the company is now trying to sell itself through bankruptcy.

Its customers, more than 15 million of whom provided 23andMe with their genetic information, saliva samples, and family and personal health history, are worried about what will happen to their data under a new owner. 23andMe has a standard process for data deletion, which requires users to confirm they have made a request after receiving an email confirmation. Some customers said that the process appeared straightforward, but they lost confidence in it when they faced delays on Monday.

Some customers reported that 23andMe asked them to reset their



passwords, requiring them to complete the process via email using two-factor authentication to verify their identities. These customers said they never received verification emails, or received them so late that the link expired.

Amit Jani, a New Jersey resident, began trying to delete his account on Monday. As of Tuesday midday, Jani still hadn't been able to delete his account. He ran into the two-factor verification issue, along with the website's Monday evening crash.

"The fact that consumers cannot sign in to access their information to even request the deletion of personal data creates a perception that the company may be trying to limit their exposure in losing valu-

**More than 15 million people provided the company with their DNA samples.**

able assets," Jani said.

Ted Weidner, an Indiana resident who has been a 23andMe customer for four years, said that he decided to delete his data on Monday. The deletion process was slow, but he managed to get through it with little issue. "I'm trying to audit the process because there's some sensitive information in there," he said.

23andMe's privacy policy, which shields customer data from employers, insurance companies, public databases and law enforcement, will continue to apply after it is sold, the company said in its open

letter to customers Monday.

Given that customers agreed to the policy when they signed up for the service, the customer data isn't subject to HIPAA, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which protects personal health data, according to legal experts.

Instead, state laws in Illinois and California will govern data uses after a potential sale.

A new buyer could choose to change 23andMe's privacy policy, Sara Gerke, associate pro-

fessor of law at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, told The Wall Street Journal. Customers would still need to sign off on the changes, she said.

Don Bieber, an 88-year-old New York resident, spent three hours on Monday trying to delete his data, as well as that of two now-adult children he had guardianship over.

Over the course of three hours, he received several error messages before being able to successfully begin the deletion process.

Customers who had more complicated situations, including those who accidentally sent 23andMe emails to their spam folders or who couldn't remember their passwords, said they faced hourslong customer service queues on Monday.

FROM TOP: TIFFANY HAGLER/GEOGRAPHIC NEWS; JORDAN VONERHAR/BLOOMBERG NEWS

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES



PERSONAL JOURNAL.

# Education Department Order Stands to Impact Student Loans

Federal agency manages roughly \$1.7 trillion disbursed to 45 million borrowers—here’s what to know



By OYIN ADEDOYIN AND DALVIN BROWN

Student loan borrowers were already facing a host of challenges. Now President Trump is moving to dismantle the agency that manages the loans.

The executive order Trump signed Thursday directs Education Secretary Linda McMahon to facilitate the closure of the Education Department to the maximum extent possible and permitted by law. The department also cut nearly half its workforce earlier this month.

Here’s what student loan borrowers should know:

**What is the connection to student loans?**

One of the Education Department’s key responsibilities is to disburse student financial aid to colleges and universities. The agency’s Federal Student Aid office manages roughly \$1.7 trillion in outstanding student loans to nearly 45 million borrowers.

“FSA is now de facto the largest consumer bank in the country,” said Scott Buchanan, executive director of the Student Loan Servicing Alliance.

The department administers forms like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid that families fill out when applying to college. It also oversees repayment and forgiveness programs.

**Will the executive order change how loans work?**

Right now, the Education Department typically disburses money directly to a student’s school. When it is time for borrowers to start repaying, they make payments to a student loan servicer, which collects on behalf of the government.

The terms and conditions of loans aren’t likely to change. But the executive order suggested FSA is too small to handle such a large portfolio of student loans, and that the department “must return bank functions to an entity equipped to serve America’s students.”

Trump said Friday in the Oval

**▲ One of the Education Department’s key responsibilities is to disburse student financial aid to colleges and universities.**

Office that the Small Business Administration would “handle all of the student loan portfolio” currently administered by the Education Department.

That could mean changes to the contracts between loan servicers and the government, said Dominique Baker, associate professor of education and public policy at the University of Delaware.

With servicing changes, there can be headaches and delays. Last year, the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, or Mohela, a student loan servicer, transitioned record-keeping for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to the Education Department. While the transition was happening, processing of forms and other information was paused, frustrating borrowers.

“The number one thing I would expect from that type of move is

chaos,” Baker said. She said she could see a scenario where people are making payments but nobody is tracking how many they have made.

**Do I still have to pay my student loans?**

Yes. But there is bound to be confusion about this, given the Education Department changes.

“If they’re going to dissolve it, then essentially my bill no longer exists,” said Olivia Hardy, a 26-year-old Brooklyn performer with nearly \$10,000 in federal student loans remaining. She said she questions how the government would enforce repayment.

**Will the government get out of student lending?**

McMahon said Thursday that the department would still provide funds and support to college student borrowers.

The Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025 suggests the Trump administration consider privatizing all student lending programs. Such a move could make col-

lege more expensive for borrowers, student loan advisers say, and some borrowers are factoring it into their planning.

David Taylor, a 39-year-old Kentucky sales manager, began theological studies at Liberty University in January. Now he is questioning whether to enroll in summer classes. He is concerned about access to federal loans, which typically offer more favorable terms than private loans.

“Will federal loans be available, or will I need private financing?” said Taylor, who borrows \$2,500 per semester.

**What else is happening with student loans?**

Trump signed an executive order on March 7 that says individuals employed by organizations that engage in illegal activities won’t be eligible for student loan forgiveness. The order says it is trying to crack down on illegal immigration and child trafficking, among other things.

The past few years have been turbulent times for student loan borrowers. Applicants had been struggling with the botched rollout of the Fafsa form. Borrowers had forgiveness programs expanded and then frozen. Plus some 43% of borrowers haven’t restarted payments after the end of a pandemic payment pause.

**What’s the status of student loan forgiveness?**

Last month, a federal court upheld an injunction preventing the Education Department from implementing the Biden administration’s Saving on a Valuable Education Plan, a plan to shrink monthly bills for more people in lower-paying jobs. That also blocked parts of other income-driven repayment plans.

Income-driven repayment applications and loan consolidation applications were temporarily removed from the department’s website. They are expected to return soon, student loan advisers say.

Borrowers who are part of the SAVE program remain unable to apply and transfer to another income-driven repayment plan.

**What about income-driven repayment plans?**

Borrowers should stay up-to-date on emails or letters from student loan servicers, and independently track how many payments they have made toward student loans, advisers say.

They should also make sure their current student loan servicer has their most up-to-date contact information, Buchanan said.

**Watch a Video**

Scan the code for a video on the potential impact of Trump's plan to end the Education Department.

KEVIN LAJARQUE/REUTERS

## Water Fight Whips Teens Into a Frenzy

*Continued from Page One*

across the country—and a major headache for school administrators.

Variations of the game date back to the 1980s, but today it is played with an app called Splashin. Each week the app gives every five-person team a squad to target. Their assignment: take them out with a splash of water. Iwanchuk’s team, the Last Troll, is part of a game that involves 250 other seniors at their school. Every hit is recorded on video and uploaded on the app, where they are widely shared and dissected.

Teenagers sneak into bedrooms, get younger siblings to knock on doors while they hide in the bushes and enlist spies to give up a target’s location. Players can use pretty much anything that gets you wet, from a water balloon to a hose. But water pistols are the weapon of choice.

Students can make themselves untouchable by wearing a goofy item like goggles or swim floaties, though the game’s administrator sometimes turns off these protections to liven things up. Pardini was hit during one of these periods, so there was no power in the pink swim floaty he was clutching.

Schools and police are warning parents about the game. Despite rules barring play on school property or school events, teachers and administrators say players are consumed. Last Troll team member Clinton Higginbotham and a friend were recently cautioned by his marine biology teacher not to talk about the game in class because it was too much of a distraction.



Days before the YMCA hit, the students’ school, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, sent parents a letter expressing concerns, including the water guns’ resemblance to real guns and the possible adverse effects on learning.

The game has at times taken a darker turn. Last month, a Senior Assassin player in Florida was shot in the arm by an off-duty police officer who thought he saw gun-toting prowlers outside his home. Police say the 18-year-old senior will be fine and no charges have been filed.

Players say the game helps the class bond. Some parents say they are just happy that their seniors—who spent much of middle school in Covid lockdown—are out in the real world having fun, and they trust their children won’t take extreme risks.

Kara Burrell, the mother of the Last Troll Volvo driver, says she likes the strategy, bonding and adventure, and that she’s more worried about her son riding a skate-

board. She says the game pales in comparison to what she and her peers got into as teenagers in the 1980s. “They roped me to a flagpole,” she said.

Quinn Middleton and two members of his Orgasmic Osmosis team recently drove to San Francisco International Airport to carry out a hit. Two members of their target team, Trouble on the High Seas, were flying to New York on a school choir trip. Quinn and his crew had a mole in the choir who sang like a canary, giving them both the time and rendezvous point.

They pulled into the short-term parking garage and sneaked into the airport, their faces obscured by hoodies. After a brief chase, they water-pistoled one of the Troubles in the United Terminal. The second mark was wearing her protection gear and boarded the flight dry.

Betrays like this aren’t uncommon. Players pay \$5 each to participate, meaning the last team standing gets to share a pot that’s over



**High school seniors Clinton Higginbotham, Graham Iwanchuk and Owen Burrell are part of a team called the Last Troll. Iwanchuk, left, and Higginbotham aim their waterguns at their target while Burrell drives.**

\$1,000.

“We have a truce within our friend group, as of now,” Middleton said. “We don’t know if anybody’s going to actually hold it.”

The Last Troll’s hit involved a mole, too. After tracking down Pardini’s location using their phones, the squad exited their car at the YMCA in San Francisco’s Richmond neighborhood, pulled out a white 5-gallon bucket containing 60 water balloons, and immediately began a water fight among themselves. Then they remembered why they were there and hatched a plan. They sent their friend Conor, who had tagged along with them, into the gym to scope out where in the building Pardini was working on his triceps.

When Conor confirmed that their mark was inside, they rushed into the gym only to find the door to the workout room locked.

The Troll’s driver, Owen Burrell,

desperately tried to talk a gym rat into opening the door. On the other side, Pardini begged him to leave it closed.

“Get out of here,” a Y staffer yelled at the would-be assassins. They walked out, dejected, and piled into Burrell’s mom’s Volvo.

Then, minutes later, Conor called. Pardini was leaving!

The Y staffer seemed to be mad at Pardini too, so the teen said he decided to walk out and accept his fate before anyone called authorities. Pardini still hasn’t returned to the gym. “That was my local gym and this guy was pretty mad at me,” he said later.

From down the block, he heard the ominous sounds of the Volvo. Pardini looked back, waiting for the inevitable. A water balloon whizzed by him and hit his friend on the neck.

Then came the water pistol shot to his head.

The Last Trolls drove away, ecstatic. In the back seats they played and replayed the video. After seven blocks, Graham Iwanchuk noticed something wasn’t right.

“Hey. We’ve got to pick up Conor.”

MARCO LENTINI FOR WSJ (2)





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If you believe you’ve experienced housing discrimination, please contact **[hud.gov/fairhousing](https://www.hud.gov/fairhousing)** or call **1-800-669-9777**



**50 YEARS OF OPENING DOORS.**

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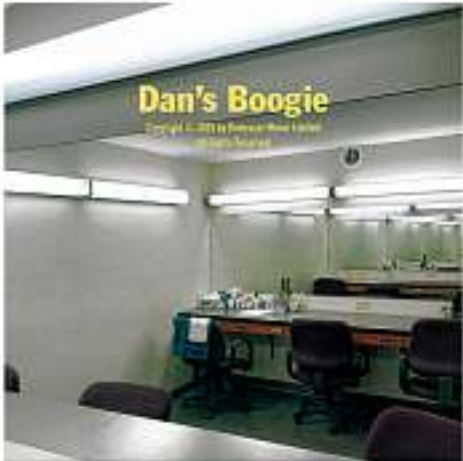
# ARTS IN REVIEW

Canadian singer-songwriter Dan Bejar has been sharing thoughts about the world outside his window for 30 years. Early on as the frontman of Destroyer, which oscillates between a solo project and a band, he wrote songs that touched on the Vancouver music scene, politics and the perils of romance, spicing up his stories with literary and musical allusions and quirky diction. As he's aged, Mr. Bejar's wry observations have grown broader, and details from his life often serve as punchlines to his setups. He's found a comfortable place as an indie-rock institution. His audience is modest but loyal, and they love hearing from him on new records every couple of years.

Mr. Bejar's songwriting voice is specific to him and doesn't change much from one LP to the next—he strings one funny line after another about the people and places he encounters, and these lines almost magically assemble into complete statements that are both clever and touching. What varies is Destroyer's musical setting. Early on, the project was rooted in folk, with Mr. Bejar frequently delivering his lyrics over acoustic guitars. More recently, he's experimented with a sax-driven ambience that dances between early-'80s yacht rock and the new romantic balladeers who followed in the wake of Roxy Music. The title of the new Destroyer album "Dan's Boogie" (Merge), out Friday, is characteristically self-referential and suggests we could be in for a bluesy, hip-shaking record. But this time, Mr. Bejar opts for a survey of favored styles from the past, while his writing remains as sharp as ever.

The fake-out of the title sets the stage for an album that creates expectations and then subverts them. Once again working with producer and multi-instrumentalist John Collins, Mr. Bejar indulges his fascination with artifice, experimenting with how a song's arrangement can convey gnawing disappointment and puncture pretension with wit. "The Same Thing as Nothing at All" opens like a rapidly rising curtain, as a wall of synthesized strings and horns delivers a cheap, knock-off version of grandeur. The singer's voice is processed to sound like it's echoing upward from the bottom of a well, and he sounds exhausted and slightly irritated as he delivers lines like "The chandelier struggles to light / Up the night."

The following "Hydroplaning off the Edge of the World" is a huge, electrifying buzz of a song, with "ba-di-ba" backing vocals and a rush of synth drone. It's an oddly catchy and even hypnotic number that instantly ranks with Mr. Bejar's finest creations. He delivers a cluster of images and sensations detailing a world that's gone mad—as he wanders the streets,



MUSIC REVIEW | MARK RICHARDSON

## Destroyer's Dry Wit

The band's latest album offers wry lyrics and subversive arrangements

he encounters a priest who mistakes him for a fellow man of the cloth, and then bumps into someone who wonders if Mr. Bejar might be a professional basketball player. Such cases of mistaken identity are common in his music, where all and sundry are trying desperately to know themselves and figure out their place in the universe.

After that jittery and pumped-up diptych, Mr. Bejar slows down with "The Ignoramus of Love," a pretty slice of electro-kissed chamber pop driven by piano, nocturnal synths and slide guitar. He sings a

couplet like "The sun mostly rises / A great golden spike through the heart of the world" as if it's cheerful, and then partway through the song threatens to evaporate into nothingness, a quiet twinkly keyboard line being the only thing holding silence at bay.

The skip through genres continues with "Bologna," a duet with Simone Schmidt of Fiver, who sings with the cracked urgency of Marianne Faithfull. Its groove has the loping shuffle of dub reggae, with heavy use of echo and reverb and a hypnotic bassline pitched low enough that it seems to burrow

into the earth. "I Materialize" is a stately piano-led waltz that terminates abruptly after barely a minute, as Mr. Bejar howls "N-n-n never stop!" and "Sun Meet Snow" builds from a gently percolating synth part to a dense production with huge, crashing drums. "I used to clog the world with dreams / Like a dog bearing a litter," he sings as the track kicks into gear, perhaps remembering the word-drunk writing of Destroyer's earliest days.

The penultimate song, "Cata-ract Time," is a gorgeous eight-minute epic built around a se-

Dan Bejar, Destroyer's frontman, above; its new record, 'Dan's Boogie,' is out Friday.

quenced part that sounds like a sampled harp, and it concludes with a smoky saxophone solo that perfectly reflects Mr. Bejar's essential bearing—charming, sophisticated, weary and alive. "Wastrels look at you sideways / As if to say, 'What happened?'" he offers at one point. His songwriting consistency, both on this record and throughout his career, is admirable. After more than a dozen Destroyer albums, he's still finding new ways to explore old ideas, helping those who have never quite figured out their own place in the world to feel less alone.

Mr. Richardson is the Journal's rock and pop music critic. Follow him on X @MarkRichardson.

TELEVISION REVIEW | JOHN ANDERSON

## 'The Studio': A Streaming-Era Satire

Kicking an industry when it's down, "The Studio" operates on the assumption that Hollywood runs on equal parts cynicism, vulgarity, careerism and cowardice. It is not a documentary. But where it really goes wrong is supposing that someone like Seth Rogen's Matt Remick—who has absorbed almost nothing on his way to the top—could have so little sense of self-preservation in a pool full of sharks. He can be funny. He'd be funnier if he made sense.

The hook to this 10-part comedy series—created and directed (mostly) by Mr. Rogen and his frequent collaborator Evan Goldberg—is the very strong suggestion that this is how the movie industry works; a parody, but not by much. It isn't an unreasonable inference to draw, given the parade of all-stars—Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Anthony Mackie, Sarah Polley, Zac Efron, Olivia Wilde, Charlize Theron, David Krumholtz—burlesquing the industry, and even themselves. And it might not even be an exaggeration. Too often, though, "The Studio" feels like it was made by film people strictly for film people. Inside baseball? You can smell the cork.

In the first episode, we find the head of Continental Studios, Patty Leigh (the beloved Catherine O'Hara), on the chopping block:

An insider's comedic take on the state of Hollywood today.

She's delivered "10 straight bombs" and spent \$30 million refurbishing the company's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed (not really) headquarters. Women execs being fired in Hollywood is hardly science fiction. What rings equally true is Matt's bravado-cum-cravenness. "If it was up to me," he tells his assistant, Quinn (Chase Sui Wonders)—while en route to a meeting about a proposed Jenga film—they'd be making "great" movies. Once he gets Patty's job, though, he agrees wholeheartedly with Continental's wiggy owner, Griffin Mill (a wild Bryan Cranston), that what they should be producing is . . . a Kool-Aid movie. Griffin is about to sew up the rights. If "Barbie" could make \$1 billion, Griffin reasons, why can't he make \$2 billion with a red beverage that bursts

through walls bellowing "Oh yeah!?" As Matt says, "Oh yeah!" At this point, I should probably admit to watching all 10 episodes fairly enthusiastically, though not without wondering what people thought they were doing. If Mr. Rogen were playing Matt as an impostor, or some crazily eccentric choice of Griffin's, or an identical twin in a dream sequence, it would have been less puzzling. Instead, the wacky situations, slapstick comedy and excruciating mishaps make Matt taking over Continental



feel like Lucy Ricardo taking over Club Babalu. And if that seems anachronistic, the present tense isn't all that clear, not at first: The cars are all vintage; Griffin dresses like Robert Evans; Matt thinks movies matter; and if someone hadn't mentioned "Barbie" the time frame would be anyone's guess.

There are good ideas, but they manage to cancel themselves out. Mr. Scorsese, playing himself, comes to Matt with a script—one about the Jonestown massacre, which is exactly the road Continental is *not* going down. But Matt thinks he can turn the Jonestown idea into the Kool-Aid movie that Griffin wants to make. For what-

Seth Rogen and Catherine O'Hara in the 10-part series, which also features a host of celebrity cameos.

ever reason, Matt doesn't see that Kool-Aid plus Jonestown equals Floppenheimer.

In another episode, he makes a set visit during a film being directed by Ms. Polley that is to include a single, uncut camera shot that Matt thinks is destined to be the equal of the classic "oners" in "Touch of Evil," "Children of Men," "Goodfellas" and "Soy Cuba" (he's that kind of film nerd). Matt wants to watch it happen. "I've done a thousand set visits," he tells his sidekick, Sal Saperstein (Ike Barin-

holtz). "I know how to play it cool." (Asked by a production assistant if he needs anything, Matt, not wanting to be a bother, says "a cold brew with some oat milk and just a little bit of agave.") The set visit, and the shot, go off just as badly as one anticipates, and one can't wait for either to end.

The virtue of "The Studio"—aside from some cheap jokes in questionable taste—is the torrent of gags that don't need a context beyond show business and/or human nature. An episode devoted largely to Quinn and Sal warring over a parking spot at Continental transcends California and is one of the funnier chapters in a show that sometimes has no much-needed boundaries at all: When Matt attends an auction-gala with the pediatric oncologist he's dating (Rebecca Hall) he argues with a table full of cancer doctors that his job is just as important as theirs—while fielding calls from the office regarding how much scatological content Continental can include in a trailer for a new movie. It is a moment in the show when Matt needs as much sympathy as he can get, and he gets none at all.

The Studio Begins Wednesday, Apple TV+

Mr. Anderson is the Journal's TV critic.





Can it be a Sweet 16 without a Cinderella?Behold the existential panic currently tormenting the 2025 NCAA men's basketball tournament: There's no small-time underdog darling left to delight viewers, frighten the blue bloods, and supply the media with florid "David vs. Goliath" metaphors.

Beefy Goliath has prevailed. After two rounds, there's not a single remaining team from a small or mid-major conference. The 16 entrants who will play Thursday and Friday hail from just four swanky power conferences: the SEC (7 remaining teams), Big Ten (4 teams), Big 12 (4 teams), and the ACC (one team, which sadly is Duke).

That's the fewest number of conferences represented in modern tournament history. The lowest seed to make it through this year is 10th-seeded Arkansas, a very known program coached by very known human, John Calipari.

In other words: it's big dogs, everywhere. Or what the bracketeers call "chalk," the term used to describe the dull betting favorites.

This final 16 is so chalky, Warren Buffett's finally been forced to dig up the Chock full 'o Nuts tins buried in his Omaha backyard and reward contestants for picking near-pristine opening weekend brackets (though his decision to loosen his rules may have something to do with that, too.)

Poor Warren! He'll make his money back somehow, I trust.

Now everyone's wondering: Is this March Madness power flex a disaster? (This is the required dramatic framing for all debates in the social media era; events can no longer be described as "mildly bad" or "pretty good," or heaven forbid, *nuanced*, they have to be brightly marked as BRILLIANT or DISASTER, or no one's going to bother clicking.)

Personally, I would refrain from calling this tournament a wreck, because we're barely started. It's certainly less *interesting*: There's no Florida Gulf Coast, no St. Peter's, no Sister Jean and Loyola Chicago to beguile basketball hearts.

It's hard to argue that a Cinderella isn't an atmospheric advantage. Even if they never actually win the whole thing (the lowest seed to ever win the NCAA men's title is 8th-seeded Villanova in

JASON GAY

# Farewell, Cinderella: March Madness Surrenders to Basketball Powerhouses

There's not a true outsider left in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA men's basketball tournament



Duke and freshman sensation Cooper Flagg rolled into the Sweet 16 after beating Baylor in the second round.

1985), having party crashers reach the later rounds gives the tournament a soulful ballast, providing at least the impression that anyone can beat anyone, no matter the name stitched on the front of the jersey.

So what's happened? It's possible this Cinderella drought is a one-season anomaly—but it's hard not to suspect a bigger trend from the continued tumult across college sports. The rearrangement of conferences; the infusion of name, image and likeness money and "collective" conclaves;

the ability of the transfer portal to drain (and rebuild) rosters has created havoc in tournament basketball and everywhere else.

Let's start with the "conference rearrangement." This is a polite euphemism for "breaking away into what is effectively a super-league and sorry to the rest of you suckers." The SEC, Big Ten and Big 12 have cherry-picked America's hubs and hinterlands to the point each conference now has 300 members each.

(OK: It's 16 members, 18 members and 16 members, but how an

18-member Big Ten can continue to call itself the Big Ten with a straight face is beyond me. Of course, the Big 12 calls itself the Big 12 with 16 teams, and gets away with it, because everyone is too tired to do math.)

NIL and the portal, meanwhile, have further weaponized big programs with free-spending boosters and other resources. With men's college basketball effectively professionalized, and no waiting period for players wishing to transfer, it's become tantamount to annual free agency—with the big fish ea-

ger to poach the minnows.

Sports Illustrated's Pat Forde offered the cautionary example of Florida Atlantic, a Cinderella of March Madness 2023: Its coach, Dustin May, is now at Michigan, along with star Vlad Goldin. Two other Owl players, Alijah Martin and Johnell Davis, are now at Florida and Arkansas, respectively. They have reassembled at this Sweet 16—on other teams.

Of course, the lords of college sports brought this chaos on themselves, thinking they could hoard a

7

Number of SEC teams in the Sweet 16, including No. 1 seeds Auburn and Florida

multibillion-dollar economy while offering no compensation or workplace mobility to players. The courts disagreed, the NCAA grudgingly got on board, and here we are. The pie is getting sliced more evenly, but the sport is messier than ever.

Here's another truth: It might not matter in the end. We can howl about Cinderellas and the soul of the sport, but the reality is that college basketball audiences love (and watch!) brand names, and this 16 is full of them, from Michigan and Michigan State, to Florida and Kentucky, to Alabama and Auburn, to yes, Duke, which remains favored to win it all.

If you're looking for crowd-pleasing stories, there are still eight teams left that haven't won a men's title: Houston, Purdue, Ole Miss, BYU, Texas Tech, Tennessee, and the aforementioned Tide and Tigers.

Cinderellas? Not really. But college basketball is changing, and if the shoe fits, why not.

STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## The WSJ Daily Crossword | Edited by Mike Shenk

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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|    | 13 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |
| 16 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |
| 19 |    |    |    |    | 20 | 21 |    |    | 22 | 23 |    |    |    |    |
| 24 |    |    |    | 25 |    |    |    | 26 |    | 27 |    |    |    |    |
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| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 | 61 |    |    | 62 | 63 |    |    |    |    |
| 64 |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 67 |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |    |    |

- 10 Midas's weakness
- 11 Thigh-related
- 12 Goes places
- 16 Fractional factions
- 21 Pureed
- 23 Jan. holiday honoree
- 25 Truck type
- 26 Claim again
- 29 Make sound
- 31 Rep.
- 35 Trade show
- 37 Victory gesture
- 38 Bygone times
- 39 Strong proponent
- 40 Absolutely necessary
- 41 Rhetorical substitution, like "Wall Street" for the financial sector

## WHEN IN ROME... | By David Alfred Bywaters

| Across                                                       | Down                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Soup supplier                                              | 1 Class act                                                                         |
| 6 Minister to King David                                     | 2 Walker Cup golfer, e.g.                                                           |
| 9 Only president to serve on the Supreme Court               | 3 Iris Murdoch or Agatha Christie                                                   |
| 13 It may be written on a tablet                             | 4 Insolent answers                                                                  |
| 14 "Bambi" villain                                           | 5 "Middlemarch" author                                                              |
| 15 At least one time                                         | 6 What ends each of five answers in this puzzle, in a way?                          |
| 16 Top of an old Roman most-wanted list?                     | 7 Bled or fled                                                                      |
| 17 Grasshopper's fabled foil                                 | 8 Saying nay                                                                        |
| 18 Infant's cry                                              | 9 Pace for playing                                                                  |
| 19 Diminutive ending                                         |                                                                                     |
| 20 Texter's "wow!"                                           |                                                                                     |
| 22 Declaration of support for Proposition Five, in old Rome? |                                                                                     |
| 24 Pool need                                                 | 50 Eclipse                                                                          |
| 25 Flight strip                                              | 52 Money bag                                                                        |
| 27 Tours sight                                               | 54 "___ all good"                                                                   |
| 28 Cessation of hostilities                                  | 55 Perform miserably on the old Roman SAT?                                          |
| 30 Furtive fellow                                            | 57 NYC ride provider                                                                |
| 32 Ore. neighbor                                             | 58 Where most people live                                                           |
| 33 Syringe filler                                            | 59 Fork feature                                                                     |
| 34 Den ___ (Netherlands seat of government, to natives)      | 60 Lessen                                                                           |
| 35 Slithery fish                                             | 62 Resolved not to cash out at the old Roman casino before winning a cool thousand? |
| 36 Tenth in a series of old Roman waterfront pens?           | 64 Puts on the floor                                                                |
| 39 Summit                                                    | 65 Hostile party                                                                    |
| 42 Brand in the freezer                                      | 66 "Royals" singer                                                                  |
| 43 Librettist's assignment                                   | 67 Shade sources                                                                    |
| 47 Post counterpart                                          | 68 Roofing supply                                                                   |
| 48 Get together again, briefly                               | 69 Functioned as a farrier                                                          |
| 49 Ring borders                                              |                                                                                     |

► Solve this puzzle online and discuss it at [WSJ.com/Puzzles](https://www.wsj.com/puzzles).

| Previous Puzzle's Solution |        |        |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| NITTE                      | MANUP  | GAS    |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EBAY                       | IMAGE  | PONE   |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| WATER                      | TIGHT  | LOGE   |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BRACER                     | RAILED |        |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                            | REEF   | FIRE   | FLY   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ACTED                      | ABO    | ASOF   |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| HAHA                       | SCARAB | RAH    |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ELEMENT                    | SOF    | STYLE  |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MAT                        | FLUENT | WOLF   |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                            | MUIR   | ARC    | ROUST |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AIRC                       | COOL   | EMIT   |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ATTEND                     |        | MAITAI |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NILE                       | EARTH  | SMART  |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DEES                       | SPASM  | EXEC   |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ESS                        | ATE    | TEAM   | DISH  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# The Elite Skater Who Rewired Her Mind

By LOUISE RADNOFSKY

**FOR YEARS, AMBER GLENN** was one of the top figure skaters in the U. S.—and also its most inconsistent. She was the popular and prodigious talent who could sail through her practices and charge out of the gate, only to stumble when it really counted.

Then, at 25, Glenn did what few athletes with a reputation for crumbling under pressure ever manage. She figured it out.

This time last March, Glenn was crashing and burning on her way to a 10th-place finish in the world championships. One year on, she will take the ice in Boston this week as a favorite to win the world title for one simple reason: She hasn't lost a single competition this season.

Glenn credits her stunning turnaround to a technique called neurotherapy, in which she literally trains her body for high-stakes situations, rather than hoping to push through with mantras. Willing herself to calm down wasn't cutting it. Learning to manage her nervous system under competition conditions has worked out far better.

"I was thinking all the right things and doing my best, but I was still faltering at competition," Glenn said. The new approach, she added, "helped me feel more in control of my own brain than I ever was before."

When she skates her short program on Wednesday, Glenn will help to answer one of the most-discussed and least-understood questions in sports: can choking be cured?

It turns out that Glenn's problem was never all in her head—and nor was the solution. "Her heart rate would get so high during the event, she would get gassed out,"

said Damon Allen, who has coached her since 2022.

Allen knew that she couldn't just snap out of it. And he could see in real time how the stress of competition would torpedo his skater's technical abilities. The adrenaline of landing a triple axel could literally throw her off her next jump. A single fall would leave her shaky and visibly losing focus.

"It would snowball," he said. "Last year at worlds, she

So, twice a week, Glenn has been hooked up to sensors at a clinic called Neurotherapy of Colorado Springs, while she listens to her program music, or watches videos of herself skating.

The sensors on her head monitor electrical activity in her brain, and another on her finger keeps track of her heart rate and heart rate variability.

"She looks like quite the science experiment when she's sitting here," said Chris Edwards, Glenn's neurotherapist. "We're able to provide them feedback, this is what you want to be, the zone you want to be in... as quantified by your heart rate and brain activity."

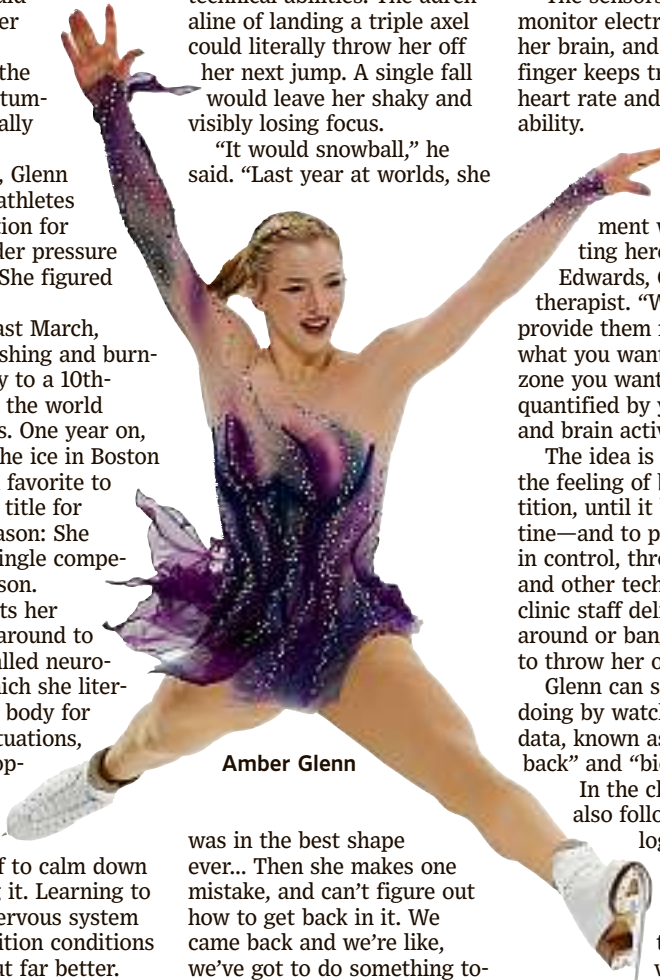
The idea is to get used to the feeling of being in competition, until it becomes routine—and to practice staying in control, through breathing and other techniques, even as clinic staff deliberately move around or bang doors to try to throw her off.

Glenn can see how she's doing by watching the raw data, known as "neuro feedback" and "bio feedback."

In the clinic she can also follow her physiological markers in the form of a low-tech videogame in which the data is converted into an image, which she tries to control by keeping her heart rate as even as possible.

In one game, the image is of a car and the goal is to keep it moving around the track with even speed. ("The way you are controlling that car is by controlling your brain," Edwards says.) If she gets out of "the zone" then the car swerves. In another game, she has to move an elephant trunk up and down.

"It's literally like training a dog with a clicker, 'Good job, good job brain,'" said Glenn. "It is so basic, but also so intricate."



Amber Glenn

was in the best shape ever... Then she makes one mistake, and can't figure out how to get back in it. We came back and we're like, we've got to do something totally different here."

That something different turned out to be physically preparing for what would happen under the bright lights, and then learning to respond differently.

Glenn's longtime sports psychologist, Caroline Silby, says that they looked to neurotherapy after years of work to embrace discomfort rather than judge it, and shift from seeking perfection into a problem-solving mindset.

For any of that to help in competition, they realized, Glenn needed to be able to regulate her physiological responses first.

AURELIEN MORISSARD/ASSOCIATED PRESS



# OPINION

## A ‘Signal’ for Trump to Calm Down?



**BUSINESS WORLD**  
*By William W. Jenkins, Jr.*

In a different political universe Elon Musk’s DOGE wouldn’t be needed. A competent media would be flogging the public sector to provide taxpayers with effective, cost-efficient service. Programs would be examined for their usefulness. It wouldn’t qualify as wanton cruelty if one were determined to be obsolete, as happens in the private sector every day.

This week the chaos and disruption the administration has been intentionally exporting to the rest of the government came back home, thanks to the Signal snafu.

On the messaging app, an outside journalist was accidentally included in a discussion of Yemen war plans, raising two questions: How did the snafu happen? And why were officials using a private app for a top-secret discussion?

If I had to guess, this may be the episode that causes the administration to pull in its horns. Republicans in Congress may threaten investigations to gain leverage over a Trump team that has discomfited GOPers as well as Democrats in some of their cherished programs and prerogatives.

And that will be a cause for mixed feelings.

Donald Trump is a different political animal from Mitt

Romney or Mr. Musk. But all three are products of the private sector. Millions of Americans are also products of the private sector. They instinctively realize that a dynamic economy produces setbacks as well as advances. They roll with it.

Who of a certain age hasn’t experienced working for a business that was struggling, that lost a big customer, saw its product go out of favor, engaged in layoffs? Who hasn’t found himself perhaps even beavering away at a job though unsure the paycheck would clear? On an average day 66,000 Americans lose their jobs; 82 businesses file for bankruptcy.

But Mr. Romney committed a major error in 2012 when he told an off-the-record group he didn’t expect the votes of the 47% who pay no income tax or consume public benefits.

The comment leaked in time to echo an Obama ad campaign focused not on his Massachusetts governorship or the Salt Lake City Olympics. The ads focused on his years at Bain Capital, a private-equity firm, which the ads portrayed not as investing in growth but taking things away—jobs, benefits, healthcare.

This was the beginning of the end of Mr. Romney’s presidential hopes; also a fight that effectively removed spending control from the national agenda and ushered in the greatest period of debt expansion the U.S. has known since it paid for World War II.

Recall the Romney-Obama battle coincided with the U.S. and California doubling down on an already troubled and failing state bullet train project. Thirteen years later, the train still hasn’t carried a passenger and possibly never will. Intact, though, is the message to the Democratic Party’s myriad spending interests: Always more, never less.

### The intel snafu is leverage if a GOP Congress wants to start setting bounds.

Mr. Musk’s chaos would be the worst possible solution to this spending chaos if not for the fact that more-orderly reforms are all but out of reach, thanks the iron law of concentrated benefits and diffused costs.

There ought to be a better way, you keep thinking. Unfortunately it’s probably DOGE or nothing until we’re faced with a pell-mell retreat from government spending because the market will no longer buy U.S. government bonds at any price.

All this has been a shot of rejuvenation for one person, the human embodiment of the tax, tax, spend, spend, elect, elect school of Democratic politics, namely Chuck Schumer. Alas, nothing done by Messrs. Trump and Musk should have you thinking Washington will avoid the greater reckoning when (to

predict an early harbinger) waiting lists for Medicare, Medicaid and veterans care suddenly balloon to rival those of Britain’s National Health Service.

The saddest part of the present moment is a reactionary press’s forgetting that politics still continues. If a program was genuinely useful, well, tomorrow’s another day. Activists and legislators can try reinventing it to better serve taxpayers. Take Voice of America, born in a completely different era technologically and geopolitically. The U.S. government still has messaging needs.

Most of the press, though, couldn’t even say what the Education Department does and yet all know, in its exact present form, we can’t live without it.

Sadly, if it were sincere about spending, which is uncertain, the Trump administration lacks legislative tools to address the morass. The DOGE effort could never be more than fiscally symbolic, however useful nonetheless. But the administration can still boost growth, and therefore tax revenues, with deregulation and investments that make America and the world more secure places to do business (which less trade warfare would also do).

Thus an irony: The Signal snafu arises over something actually useful in this regard, a Trump initiative to reclaim freedom of the seas from Yemeni insurgents who’ve largely shut down the Suez Canal.

**BOOKSHELF** | By Howard Schneider

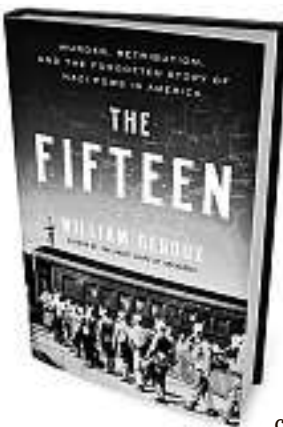
## Lives In Captivity

### The Fifteen

By William Geroux  
*Crown, 400 pages, \$33*

During World War II, the U.S. began amassing huge numbers of German prisoners when the Afrika Korps, the Wehrmacht’s elite desert troops, surrendered to the Allied forces at Tunisia in May 1943. As William Geroux, a veteran journalist and the author of “The Ghost Ships of Archangel” (2019), tells us in his excellent and insightful “The Fifteen,” some 135,000 of these POWs would end up in U.S. prison camps because “there was nowhere else to put the Germans but in America.” Britain didn’t have enough space or food, or the manpower necessary for the guard duty required. The story of German POWs in America speaks highly (for the most part) of their American captors, but is an indictment of many hardcore Nazi prisoners.

“Given America’s scant experience with POWs in World War I,” Mr. Geroux writes, “the U.S. government had no blueprint for handling an influx of prisoners in World War II.” American know-how came to the rescue in the rapid



construction of the camps. At its height, the American POW system, which was administered by the military, comprised more than 600 camps scattered across the country. By the end of the war the Army had interned nearly 400,000 Germans “without a single act of sabotage or violent crime against an American citizen.” German-on-German violence in the camps, however, was another matter.

The German POW experience was far from excruciating, especially by Nazi standards. The U.S.

government was determined to treat the Germans well, Mr. Geroux maintains, “for reasons both moral and calculating.” America was a party to the 1929 Geneva Convention, which outlined, in part, how POWs were to be held. Prisoners, the author reminds us, could retain “their military ranks and their chains of command. They were to be housed and fed just like American soldiers based in the United States. They were allowed regular contact with their families, the German government, the Swiss—a neutral nation—the International Red Cross, and other agencies.” The U.S. hoped that if German POWs were treated humanely, Germany would reciprocate in its treatment of American prisoners. (Not surprisingly, this wouldn’t be the case.)

Wartime imperatives—namely, the military’s need for men to join the service—created a worker shortage in America. Fortunately for employers, the Geneva Convention also allowed for enlisted-rank prisoners to be “compelled to work.” German POWs performed a multitude of tasks, from emptying bedpans to herding cattle to translating documents; “they cut timber in New Hampshire and Maine, packed kosher meat in New Jersey, and stuffed olives in Texas.” They harvested crops, from Kansas wheat to North Carolina tobacco. Throughout the country, POWs were treated decently. German prisoners in the Jim Crow South observed that they had more privileges than blacks did. Employers and most of the prisoners were content with the system. Indeed, thousands of German prisoners wanted to stay in the country after the war.

Not all POWs were ready to abandon their Nazi indoctrination. While the average German soldier, Mr. Geroux tells us, “was not a Nazi fanatic,” zealots, including “numerous SS men and Gestapo agents,” could be found among the POWs. “At the height of the war, the army concluded that” roughly 15% of the 371,000 German prisoners in the United States were either “rabid Nazis” or “deeply sympathetic” to the Nazi cause. Some of these true believers sought to exert their authority over the other German prisoners. “To bring a prisoner back into line,” for instance, these Nazis might “threaten to send coded messages to Germany, either in letters or inside the bandages of wounded German POWs being sent home, to sic the SS or Gestapo on their families.” Other offenses might be dealt with in “clandestine ‘courts of honor,’ convened at night.” Prisoners might be sentenced to confinement, or fellow prisoners might be ordered to shun him (“a severe penalty in a place so far from home”)—or worse.

### The U.S. hoped that if German POWs were treated humanely, Germany would reciprocate in its treatment of American prisoners.

“A postwar army survey listed 211 violent incidents” committed by Germans against fellow inmates at the POW camps, we are told. These included the murder—hangings or gang beatings conducted by the *Rollkommando*, or beating squad—of those prisoners suspected of spying for the Americans or considered insufficiently devoted to the Third Reich. Mr. Geroux graphically describes the horrifying murder of Johann Kunze in Oklahoma’s Camp Tonkawa. Kunze was beaten to death by a mob of his fellow POWs for allegedly passing information to the American authorities.

The U.S. military would arrest and court martial those POWs suspected of murder once the authorities believed they had enough evidence. (One of the prosecutors, Leon Jaworski, would later become the special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal.) In total, 15 German POWs would be condemned to death.

When the Third Reich learned of these sentences, they in turn sentenced to death (on fraudulent charges) 15 American POWs and sought to trade, via the Swiss, the 15 Americans for the 15 condemned German POWs. The negotiations could verge on the bizarre: One of the Americans may not even have existed. Mr. Geroux’s account of the bureaucratic dueling that ensues is absorbing.

Ultimately, 14 German prisoners would be executed for murder, five of them for the killing of Kunze. (The 15th, initially condemned to death, would eventually have his sentence commuted, to 20 years’ hard labor, by President Truman.) The American prisoners, meanwhile, would escape their executions thanks to the end of the war.

More than a well-crafted history, “The Fifteen” raises questions worth considering today. Was the U.S. too lenient with German POWs? (The columnists Walter Winchell and Drew Pearson thought so.) Was the military justified in sometimes cutting corners to prosecute German POWs? (At least once, German suspects were tortured.) And what was—is—the responsibility of POWs, of any nationality, to their fellow prisoners and their captors? Those reading “The Fifteen” will be motivated to make up their own minds.

*Mr. Schneider reviews books for newspapers and magazines.*

## Trump’s Dangerous Disregard for the Courts



**POLITICS & IDEAS**  
*By William A. Galston*

As an old-fashioned liberal (a shrinking tribe, I fear), I believe checks and balances and the rule of law are the surest institutional protections for liberty and against tyranny. I wish I could be confident that President Trump and his administration share these commitments. But their recent statements suggest that they don’t.

After Judge James Boasberg of the U.S. District Court issued an order temporarily blocking the deportation of alleged members of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua gang, Tom Homan, the president’s border czar, told a Fox interviewer, “We’re not stopping. I don’t care what the judges think.”

Nearly two centuries ago, Alexis de Tocqueville noted a distinctive feature of America’s civic life: “There is almost no political question in the United States that is not resolved sooner or later into a judicial question.” Little has changed.

When legitimate questions about the meaning of a law and its application to specific cases are raised, the judiciary often steps in to answer them. This is how our system works, and Mr. Homan doesn’t have the authority to disregard it. As a government official, he has a duty to care what judges think, however emphatically

he may disagree with them.

This is Civics 101. But it seems Mr. Trump skipped that class. “We have rogue judges that are destroying our country,” he said in a recent Fox News interview. On Truth Social, the president denounced Judge Boasberg as a “Radical Left Lunatic” who should be impeached. This prompted Chief Justice John Roberts to remind Mr. Trump that “for more than two centuries, it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision.”

Earlier this year, Vice President JD Vance tweeted that “judges aren’t allowed to control the executive’s legitimate power.” But who determines the limits of the president’s constitutional powers and decides when he has exceeded them? Americans throughout history have generally agreed on the answer—the judicial branch.

In *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), Chief Justice John Marshall declared that “it is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is”—and, he might have added, for the other branches of government to accept the court’s judgment as authoritative, even when they disagree with it.

This doesn’t mean that the courts never err. President Abraham Lincoln loathed the *Dred Scott* decision, which ruled that African-Americans weren’t U.S. citizens, but he accepted it as the law of the

land while vowing to reverse it through peaceful and legal means. In a speech after the decision, Lincoln said that while he would offer “no resistance” to it, he would do whatever he could to get the Court to overrule it. “More than this would be revolution,” he said. (The alternative mode of redress, he recognized, would be a constitutional amendment, but only a civil war eventually made that possible.)

### ‘I have an Article II,’ he once said, ‘where I have the right to do whatever I want.’

President Andrew Jackson took a different view of the judicial branch’s power. A proponent of states’ rights, Jackson thought the idea of a national bank was unconstitutional and vetoed a law to recharter the Second Bank of the United States. Jackson asserted in an 1832 message that even if Marshall’s opinion upholding the constitutionality of this bank was correct, that ruling wouldn’t control the entire government. “The Congress, the Executive and the Court must each for itself be guided by its own opinion of the Constitution,” he said. “Each public officer who takes an oath to support the Constitution swears that he will support it as he understands it, and not as it is understood by others.” This stance may be viable

## Loose Texts Can Cost Lives

By Bob Greene

A soldier sits on a park bench, his arm around an attractive blonde. He appears to be bragging to her about something. Next to them on the bench is a man in a business suit who bears a remarkable resemblance to Adolf Hitler. He is listening intently to the soldier’s every word. The caption on the poster that contains this tableau:

“Loose Talk Can Cost Lives.”

Homefront posters like that one were everywhere during the terrible years of World War II, and the message to Americans was consistent: Keep your mouth shut. You never know who may be listening.

There was no internet, no social media, no television, no email, no text messaging, no group-chat apps back then. Still, the government understood that if war strategy was

overheard by the wrong people, disastrous consequences could follow.

This week it was reported that the highest level of the U.S. government’s military and intelligence officialdom conducted battle-planning conversations on an unauthorized group-chat app, and that they

### The administration’s Signal foul-up calls to mind warnings from World War II.

inadvertently included the editor of the Atlantic magazine, who at first thought he was being pranked. They evidently had no idea an outsider had been given access to their real-time words.

It brings to mind those ubiquitous posters during the years when people were constantly being cautioned about

the perils of discussing military information in front of unintended listeners. On one poster a white-bearded Uncle Sam held a finger to his lips. “I’m Counting On You!” his printed words proclaimed. “Don’t Discuss: Troop Movements. Ship Sailings. War Equipment.”

On another was a cocker spaniel, its head resting mournfully atop part of a Navy uniform, while in the background a gold star flag hung on a wall. The caption: “. . . because somebody talked!”

And a wanted poster with a black-and-white photo of a stony-faced woman: “Wanted! For Murder. Her Careless Talk Costs Lives.”

Today the definition of “talk” has changed. Literal lips are but a small part of it. Press the wrong button on a keyboard, and the most sensitive information can fly unguarded into the ether.

In the war years of the

1940s, some posters admonishing against such leaks were basic as could be. A man with two strips of tape crisscrossing his mouth: “Closed for the Duration.” A newspaper headline about lives lost aboard a warship sunk at sea, with a large finger on the poster pointing accusingly at a civilian strolling along blissfully: “Someone Talked!” A painting of a dead American paratrooper, bleeding beneath his helmet, his chute still attached to his body: “Careless Talk . . . Got There First.”

The posters, in those pre-high-tech times, did their best to warn about what was at stake. The artists who drew them could scarcely have imagined an era when an errant tap on a phone screen could potentially have a greater impact than millions of pairs of the loosest of lips.

*Mr. Greene’s books include “Duty: A Father, His Son, and the Man Who Won the War.”*



OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Lessons From the Signal Affair

Democrats had fun pounding away at the Trump Administration Tuesday over a security leak to a journalist on the Sig-

The leak furor will fade but not JD Vance’s contempt for allies.

The White House is insisting that no classified information appeared on the now infamous group chat about the Houthis, and Mr. Trump’s chief spooks Tulsi Gabbard and John Ratcliffe said as much at a Capitol Hill hearing on Tuesday. It was nonetheless notable to watch Ms. Gabbard, the supposed enemy of the intelligence deep state before she became director of national intelligence, obfuscate about the thread’s contents. What you admit apparently depends on where you sit.

President Trump reacted to the blunder better than anyone. He defended as “a good man” his national security adviser Mike Waltz, who may have been the one to add the Atlantic editor to the group chat. Democrats want heads to roll. Mr. Waltz appears to have been defending the President’s decision to protect freedom of navigation from the Houthis, and telling his colleagues they could find classified information on the usual secure channels.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s behavior looks less defensible a day later, as he may have been cavalier about the details of incoming military strikes. He also tried to shift the blame for the fiasco on the journalist who was put on the chat, which is silly given that the Atlantic editor did nothing but listen and says he declined to publish information he said might jeopardize U.S. troops.

A real security scandal is that the Signal chat apparently included Steve Witkoff, Mr. Trump’s

envoy to wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. Press reports say Mr. Witkoff was receiving these messages on the commercial app while in Moscow. This is security malpractice. Russian intelligence services must be listening to Mr. Witkoff’s every eyebrow flutter. This adds to the building perception that Mr. Witkoff, the President’s friend from New York, is out of his depth in dealing with world crises.

The security breach will fade as a story, but we can’t say the same about what the chat said about the views that Trump officials hold about our allies in Europe. The President had decided to strike the Houthis in Yemen by the time of the leaked Signal chat.

That was a good decision by the Commander in Chief. The Houthis are terrorizing global shipping and taking shots at U.S. military ships and planes, which nobody should be allowed to do without paying a price. Mr. Trump understands that element of deterrence.

Yet Vice President JD Vance second-guessed the President’s strikes on the chat because he said only “3 percent of US trade runs through the suez” canal, while “40 percent of European trade does.” That understates the U.S. interest in freedom of navigation. Mr. Vance even suggested his boss didn’t understand that striking the Houthis was at odds with Mr. Trump’s “message on Europe right now.” He added that “I just hate bailing Europe out again.” So the Vice President is willing to let the Houthis shut down shipping to spite the Europeans?

The lesson Europeans—and many friends elsewhere—will take from this episode is that officials at the top of the Trump Administration think the U.S. relationship isn’t based on common interests or values. It’s closer to a protection racket (see nearby). It’s another reason many of America’s allies may conclude they can no longer trust the U.S. in a crisis.

The Marijuana Laffer Curve

What does it take to persuade a progressive to cut tax rates? Answer: Make sure the tax cut applies to the “cannabis industry.” We kid you not, as Democrats in Sacramento are discovering that high tax rates on hooch harm the legal version of their favorite recreational drug. Art Laffer must be on a high.

The California left demands tax-rate relief for the high and flighty.

This delightful discovery of the marijuana Laffer Curve comes from Assemblyman Matt Haney of San Francisco—where else?—as he unveiled legislation to prevent a looming tax increase on legal cannabis in California. “If you keep on taxing and taxing a set of businesses that are already competing with folks who are paying no taxes, eventually those folks are going to go out of business entirely, and you’re not going to get anything,” Mr. Haney said this week. Now, where have we heard that logic before?

Progressives sold voters in 2016 on legalizing marijuana for recreational use. They used the usual arguments that legal pot would reduce drug trafficking and raise tax revenue. But the state imposed taxes that are so high and regulation so burdensome that the illegal marijuana growers and sellers are crowding out the folks who follow the rules.

Marijuana is subject to a 7.75% state sales tax, 15% state excise tax and various local taxes, which have been increasing as cities try to plug budget holes. The 15% excise tax is set to rise to 19% in July, which has pot businesses begging Sacramento for tax relief.

Enter Mr. Haney, a Bernie Sanders acolyte

who is proposing to suspend the tax increase to save what he calls California’s “dying” cannabis industry. “We can either support this legal industry, these small businesses, to be able to build the thriving cannabis industry that we know California can grow, or we can tax or over-regulate this industry to death,” Mr. Haney says.

He frets that “California is being outpaced in cannabis sales by states like Michigan, which has demonstrated steady growth due to lower taxes and fewer barriers to access the legal industry for both businesses and consumers.” The result, he says, is “plummeting sales and tax revenue.”

What’s sad about this Laffer Curve epiphany is that Mr. Haney thinks it only applies to pot. He and his Sacramento friends keep piling taxes and regulation on every other business and industry, driving many out of the state.

In 2023 Mr. Haney co-sponsored legislation to establish a state wealth tax. As a San Francisco supervisor in 2020, he crafted an “Overpaid Executive Tax” that charged companies a 0.1% surtax on their gross receipts in the city if their CEO earned more than 100 times the median San Francisco worker. San Franciscans voted to reduce the tax in November after it accelerated an exodus of jobs and businesses from the city.

It will be fun to watch the progress of Mr. Haney’s bill through the Legislature as he seeks to explain why marijuana deserves a tax break but no one else does.

Europe Arms for the Tariff War

Trade wars are easy to win, President Trump once opined. Until, that is, the other side starts fighting back. That’s the message from a thinly veiled European threat to impose steep retaliation on the U.S. if Mr. Trump slaps tariffs on Europe.

The U.S. also has much to lose in a dumb-and-dumber trade brawl.

Some European governments, notably France, want to invoke a relatively new “anti-coercion instrument” against America if Mr. Trump opens a trade war with the European Union, Bloomberg reports. This legal tool, originally created with China in mind, allows the European Union to impose trade sanctions on foreign countries that try to bully Europeans into changing their economic policies.

The specific bullying the Europeans have in mind concerns Mr. Trump’s complaints about Europe’s value-added taxes (VATs) on final consumption. Mr. Trump believes these taxes are protectionist because European companies don’t pay them on exports but some imported goods are taxed. Mr. Trump is threatening to impose “reciprocal” tariffs on European countries that charge VATs. But these VATs end up hitting U.S. exporters with the same tax rate they do domestic European producers.

There’s less and more than meets the eye to the European retaliation threat. The “anti-coercion” policy is a political gimmick that doesn’t create any new trade enforcement policies for the EU or its member countries. But by the same token, the EU or its member countries could impose many of the same penalties—already available under EU law—even without formally invoking the anti-coercion provision.

Those penalties start with the retaliatory tariffs the EU is likely to impose in April on American motorcycles, beef and whiskey in response to the Trump steel and aluminum tariffs. Stepping up a notch, the EU and its member countries could ban specific imports from the U.S., or block American companies from bidding for public procurement contracts. The nuclear option is the ability to stop enforcing intellectual-property protections for American companies in Europe, such as the trademarks for large U.S. companies.

This is on top of all the other indignities to which Brussels mandarins can subject American companies virtually at will. U.S. companies wishing to merge might find their deals tied up for years by European antitrust regulators. Brussels already files corporate-tax litigation against American companies for sport, and expect any last vestiges of tax restraint to fade amid a trade war.

The danger is that a trade war unleashes Europe’s worst instincts. It’s not an accident that France seems to be the ringleader agitating for tougher retaliation—especially measures such as the intellectual-property provisions that would put brute force behind Paris’s longstanding resentment over U.S. tech companies.

None of this would be smart for Europe’s economy. Think of it as the dumb-and-dumber trade war. Still, if Mr. Trump is going to sabotage America with protectionism, he can’t be surprised if other governments are willing to hurt themselves to retaliate. And the truth is, they can do a lot of damage to the U.S. in the process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Case for Green Energy Hasn’t Aged Well

According to Al Gore and David Blood, “extreme weather events fueled by the warming planet . . . have cost the global economy more than \$3.5 trillion” during the past decade (“The Business Case for Green Energy,” op-ed, March 18). That sounds alarming, but \$3.5 trillion was only 0.4% of total global gross domestic product between 2014 and 2023, based on World Bank estimates.

Worldwide, people have turned against government-mandated green-energy policies, which have raised energy costs, fueled inflation and reduced living standards. The unsustainable sacrifices made by citizens in developed nations have been nullified by the energy gluttony of China, the world’s largest CO2 emitter.

The world’s “poor and powerless” aren’t suffering primarily due to climate change; they’re suffering because they lack energy for everyday needs such as cooking and transportation. Businesses, investors and asset managers would do well to deploy capital for energy security in the Global South, not for questionable “climate projects” concocted by global elites.

CHARLES D. EDEN  
Atlanta

Messrs. Gore and Blood began their latest piece with the perfect metaphor: Unlike today, four years ago sustainability-economy advocates “had the wind in our sails.” Welcome to wind-power reality. Investors in wind-power projects know that sometimes the wind dies and nongreen power sources are needed to keep the lights on. The

same dynamic applies to solar power. Messrs. Gore and Blood were cockier during President Obama’s first term in the White House when their op-ed “A Manifesto for Sustainable Capitalism” (op-ed, Dec. 14, 2011) was published. They set forth a list of ESG actions that corporations must take to produce long-term value and save the planet.

Red-state pension plan sponsors, treasurers and governors eventually started to challenge the wisdom of ESG funds that were producing subpar results. Messrs. Gore and Blood responded with “ESG Investing Is Consistent With Fiduciary Duty” (op-ed, Nov. 9, 2022). ESG was the necessary elixir to “deliver the world we need.” That pitch came as President Biden was drawing down more than 30% of America’s strategic petroleum reserve to keep oil prices from soaring. An emergency boost from wind and solar wasn’t an option.

Messrs. Gore and Blood talk a good game about “long-term” investing, but investors generally measure results over a span of five years or so. Social-justice zealots tout diversity, equity and inclusion as part of ESG’s investment criteria. In recent years, a portfolio that included oil and gas stocks and other “undesirables” was more diversified and produced greater long-term financial equity than did a pure ESG play. DEI and ESG had their day in the sun. A strategy producing poor-to-mediocre results isn’t sustainable.

P.D. GRANT  
Palm Coast, Fla.

Albany Doesn’t Overlook Chronic Absenteeism

We can all agree that students belong in school and that they do better academically and socially when they attend regularly. Contrary to Jason Riley’s column “Long Past the Pandemic, Kids Skip School in New York” (Upward Mobility, March 12), New York state’s policy reflects these realities.

Mr. Riley quotes a critic who claims that the state eliminated chronic absenteeism as a measure of school quality, “which means that this will not be one of the measures by which the state evaluates the performance of school districts.” This is only half the story. New York’s Education Depart-

ment is shifting from a narrow measure of chronic absenteeism to a more comprehensive one that includes the attendance of all students. The state will continue to measure and report chronic absenteeism data online to ensure transparency and public accountability.

Mr. Riley adds that “the most effective way to address the problem in the short run would be to re-emphasize the importance of school attendance.” This is precisely what the department’s new attendance indicator does.

JP O’HARE  
N.Y. State Education Department  
Albany, N.Y.

Congress Can Clean Up the Cannabis Industry

“Location, Low Taxes Boost Weed Industry in Missouri” (U.S. News, March 17) highlights the Missouri cannabis industry’s rapid rise to one of the largest markets in the country, but it also underscores the glaring problem plaguing the U.S. cannabis industry: an unstable, state-by-state patchwork of laws that is failing businesses and consumers alike. While Missouri has navigated legalization better than some states, long-term success hinges on a consistent federal framework—something the Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States (STATES) Act aims to provide.

Legal cannabis businesses currently operate under an unpredictable regulatory landscape, competing with illicit markets fueled by federal prohibition. High tax burdens, banking restrictions and varying state policies create unnecessary barriers to economic growth and public safety. The STATES Act offers a pragmatic solution by aligning federal cannabis policy with state decisions, ensuring

businesses can operate with certainty while states retain control over legalization or some form of prohibition, like seven of the eight states that border the Show Me State.

Missouri’s experience proves that well-structured regulation can fuel economic opportunity. However, its market’s continued success—and that of the broader U.S. cannabis industry—depends on Congress’s acting to eliminate the uncertainty that stifles investment, access and safety. Without federal action, the disparities between state markets will persist, leaving states like Missouri vulnerable to the same instability that has disrupted other markets.

GREG WALDEN  
Hood River, Ore.

Mr. Walden is co-chairman of the Coalition for Cannabis Policy, Education and Regulation. A Republican, he was a U.S. representative (1999-2021).

‘Be Creative’ Is Cold Comfort

Jack Hudson puts on a brave face with his call to be creative to survive the coming artificial-intelligence onslaught (“How to Live in the Age of AI,” Letters, March 19). That works for the top 10% in any industry. But simple observation shows that most of us are implementers of a few people’s creativity. Change happens at the median. Every company smells the bait of wholesale employee replacement. This won’t end well for a broad swath of knowledge workers.

MARK MAISONNEUVE  
Berkley, Mich.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



“I advise a slow, steady stream of lawsuits. We call it time-release litigation.”

RICK RICHMAN  
Los Angeles

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OPINION

A Remedy for Nationwide Injunctions

By Elizabeth Price Foley

Federal trial judges blocking presidential acts via nationwide injunctions are creating a serious conflict between the executive and judicial branches. The flood of such injunctions provoked President Trump to take to social media and call for the impeachment of a judge who issued a temporary restraining order. Chief Justice John Roberts responded in a statement to reporters that impeachment is inappropriate and the administration should rely on “the normal appellate review process.” Unsatisfied, Mr. Trump wrote on Thursday: “Unlawful Nationwide Injunctions by Radical Left Judges could very well lead to the destruction of our Country! . . . If Justice Roberts and the United States Supreme Court do not fix this toxic and unprecedented situation IMMEDIATELY, our Country is in very serious trouble!”

Congress gave the Supreme Court the authority to curb them by clarifying the Rules of Civil Procedure.

There is something the justices can do to rein in nationwide injunctions: exercise their authority under the Rules Enabling Act of 1934 to amend the federal rule on injunctions. The recent outbreak of nationwide injunctions damages our constitutional system. They were almost unheard of before the 1960s.



President Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts.



CARLOS BARRA/REUTERS, ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Only 12 were issued against George W. Bush and 19 against Barack Obama during each of their two terms. Joe Biden faced 28. Mr. Trump faced 86 during his first term, almost all issued by Democrat-appointed judges. Two months into his second term, more than 15 have already been issued.

Because nationwide injunctions often appear politically motivated, they create cynicism about the courts and the law. Worse, they enable lower-court judges to thwart the president’s Article II authority even in national security and defense. Lawmakers have introduced bills to halt nationwide injunctions. One recently passed the House Judiciary Committee and will likely pass the full House—then go to the Senate to die in a filibuster.

Nationwide injunctions are is-

sued under Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which was promulgated under the REA. Rule 65 authorizes district courts to issue preliminary injunctions but is silent as to whether they have nationwide effect or apply only to parties before the court. This ambiguity can be eliminated by an amendment to Rule 65, without the need for new legislation.

The REA empowers the Supreme Court to “prescribe general rules of practice and procedure” such as the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Supreme Court can prescribe them on its own under Section 2072. Any rule prescribed must be submitted to Congress by May 1 and “shall take effect no earlier than December 1” of the same year, “unless otherwise provided by law.” If Congress does nothing, the rule stands.

The REA respects the separation of powers between Congress and the Supreme Court by granting final prescription authority to the high court, the only federal court established by the Constitution. Lower federal courts are created by Congress. By acknowledging the justices’ power to prescribe, the REA respects their unique constitutional status, while retaining Congress’s ability to review and reject any rule they prescribe.

The question is whether the Supreme Court is willing to forgo the process under Section 2073 of the REA, which dates to 1988. Critics will note that Section 2073, which involves input from advisory committees, the Judicial Conference and the public, has been routinely employed and become the usual way of developing rules.

But the Section 2073 process often takes years, and federal courts are in crisis. Nationwide injunctions are frustrating the presidency, eroding the separation of powers, and threatening judicial legitimacy. The justices’ authority as well as the president’s is under assault by rogue judges claiming national power using nationwide injunctions. Such national power must be reserved to the only court with constitutional authority to bind the entire nation: the Supreme Court.

An amendment to Rule 65 couldn’t take effect until Dec. 1. But once proposed—by May 1, as required—it would likely have an immediate, beneficial chilling effect on rogue judges. For the sake of the Constitution, the court should act quickly.

Ms. Foley is a law professor at Florida International University.

Ukraine Has A Trump Strategy

By Maksym Skrypchenko

Kyiv, Ukraine  
Ukraine has navigated a turbulent political landscape since Russia’s 2022 invasion. Its strategy has shifted among direct negotiations, military offensives and increasingly complex diplomatic back channels.

Under President Biden, the U.S. pledged support for Ukraine for “as long as it takes,” and it seemed that military aid and assistance from North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies would guarantee Ukraine’s resilience. But Donald Trump’s 2024 victory left Ukrainian officials guessing about his next steps. They had to come to terms with the danger that the aid they received from the Biden administration might not be continued under the new president.

The U.S. wants a quick end to the war with Russia, and Kyiv can’t be seen as an impediment to peace.

Initially, Ukrainian diplomats were slow to adapt to Mr. Trump. His foreign-policy platform seemed at odds with Ukraine’s ambitions. It took months for Kyiv to understand that the president wasn’t particularly concerned with the intricacies of Russian aggression—he was wholly focused on achieving a peace agreement.

This realization was difficult for many in Ukraine, but as time passed, their strategy evolved. With advice from British and French diplomats, Ukrainian officials came to a critical understanding: They needed to engage with Mr. Trump’s diplomacy, demonstrate their willingness to cooperate, and wait for Russia to be the first to reject any potential cease-fire or peace talks. This approach allows Ukraine to avoid blame when talks inevitably fall apart.

The strategy, however, is dependent on Mr. Trump. In his efforts to position himself as a peacemaker, the president faces two paths forward—neither of which are simple. The first is to push for a quick settlement within strict parameters, face opposition from one of the warring parties, and blame that party for the plan’s failure.

The second, more prolonged route involves pushing both sides for concessions. This presents challenges. The U.S. holds some leverage over Russia, but it needs Moscow’s cooperation for crucial nuclear talks about the impending expiration of the New Start Treaty, as well as for the effort to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Applying pressure on Ukraine is easier but likely to backfire, especially ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. A March 9 poll from the research nonprofit More in Common found that 67% of Americans, including 65% of Republicans, believe the U.S. should continue sending aid to Ukraine until the end of the war.

The sense among Ukraine’s leadership is that the U.S. will push for a rapid resolution to the war with little room for deviation. One side will be labeled as a hurdle to peace the moment it refuses to make concessions. This would place Ukraine in the untenable position of desperately needing support from the U.S. while facing pressure to deliver results in negotiations that are moving far more quickly than Kyiv can accommodate.

Adding to Ukraine’s anxiety is the understanding that while European backing remains steadfast, it can’t replace the American military and intelligence support that has kept Ukraine in the fight. European leaders privately advise Ukraine to avoid provoking the U.S. or becoming an obstacle in Mr. Trump’s peace efforts, especially when the Trump administration’s demands are still forming. The goal for Kyiv is clear: Don’t become the problem.

Ukraine is caught between a rock and a hard place. The pace of diplomacy with Mr. Trump is fast, and the risk of falling behind is high. The Europeans are asking Kyiv to move quickly, but Mr. Trump’s strategy leaves little room for error. The more hesitant Ukraine is, the more it risks being seen as an impediment.

Mr. Trump, for his part, is playing his cards cautiously. On recent calls with both Volodymyr Zelensky and Vladimir Putin, he seemed to be trying to act as an unprejudiced mediator. This means Ukraine has to adjust to Washington’s ever-shifting priorities. The struggle is less about military might and more about diplomatic agility. The key for Kyiv is not to fall into the trap of becoming the obstacle to peace.

Mr. Skrypchenko is president of the Transatlantic Dialogue Center.

The Teachers Unions Sue Trump for Control



UPWARD MOBILITY  
By Jason L. Riley

agenda of more spending and less accountability.

Federal education policy used to be handled by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In exchange for a presidential endorsement in 1976, Jimmy Carter promised the National Education Association a stand-alone cabinet department. Joseph Califano, Carter’s HEW secretary, opposed the move, predicting in his memoir that it would be “virtually impossible for the Education Secretary to run the new department efficiently.”

Mr. Califano noted that his skepticism was shared by others at the time, including the press. “The editorial content across the nation was scathing,” he wrote, “and even included the liberal New York Times and Washington Post which said, ‘The bill is the inspiration of the NEA, an organization that has much the same relation to the public schools as the plumbers union has to the plumbing business.’ ”

Last week, Mr. Trump issued an executive order instructing Education Secretary Linda McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the department and return authority over education to the States and local communities.” Although it will take an act of Congress to wind the department down officially, the administration believes, with logic on its side, that certain tasks would be handled more efficiently by other agencies.

Among the chief duties of the Education Department are administering the federal student-loan program and enforcing civil-rights laws. But why is the government’s \$1.6 trillion student-loan portfolio being managed by the Education Department instead of by the Small Business Administration or the Treasury? And isn’t it redundant to have a separate Office for Civil Rights inside the Education Department when we already have a Justice Department responsible for protecting civil rights?

The Education Department is also responsible for distributing money that has been appropriated by Congress, mainly to low-income school districts through the so-called Title I program. These federal funds amount to only about 10% of all education spending, which is mostly the province of state and local government. But as Ms. McMahon explained during a recent appearance on CNN, “a lot of the funding that goes into states now goes with a lot of red tape, a lot of strings attached to it.” The Trump administration, she added, wants to make sure that “the funding continues, but that the states are allowed to spend the money where they need to spend it,” instead of where the federal government says they must spend it.

The bigger problem might be that the federal funding program for disadvantaged students has a near-perfect record of being ineffective in improving outcomes. It’s a problem that predates the birth of the Education Department. In 1966, a year after the Title I program was created, a frustrated Sen. Robert F.

Kennedy exclaimed: “What happened to the children? Do you mean you spent a billion dollars, and you don’t know whether they can read or not?” Thirty-five years later Education Secretary Rod Paige, who

The guardians of the status quo seek judicial intervention to save the Education Department.

served under President George W. Bush, would echo that sentiment. “After spending \$125 billion of Title I money over 25 years,” he said, “we have virtually nothing to show for it.”

Mr. Trump will have performed a much-needed public service if his efforts to reorganize and dismantle the Education Department lead to a serious reassessment of how federal dollars are spent. It isn’t an exercise that the teachers unions that control public education welcome, but it’s long overdue. Spending has

Josh Hawley Smears a Pro-Life Lawyer

By Hilary Perkins

I wanted to serve in President Trump’s new administration. I voted for him and admire his resilience in the face of adversity from politicized prosecutions to assassination attempts. So when Marty Makary asked me to join his team as chief counsel for the Food and Drug Administration, I jumped at the chance. For years I had defended the FDA as a career Justice Department attorney.

A few days after I started the job, Sen. Josh Hawley (R., Mo.) tweeted an Axios article about me and commented: “This can’t be right. This report says Marty Makary is trying to sneak a Biden abortion lawyer into a top leadership position at FDA.” It wasn’t right, but Mr. Hawley escalated the accusation, later citing two cases of the many I supervised as evidence I had argued “for Joe Biden’s pro-abortion policies and draconian vaccine mandates.”

In most of the cases I handled involving the abortion drug mifepristone, I defended the FDA’s restrictions against challenges by pro-

abortion groups. In the one case brought by pro-life groups, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in the government’s favor. In the vaccine-mandate case, the government prevailed for lack of jurisdiction. I didn’t set these policies or argue for them. My job was to defend the U.S. government’s legal position regardless of my personal views.

I tried to reach Mr. Hawley the day he first tweeted, but he refused to speak with me. I hoped the issue would blow over and I would have a chance to prove myself to him and the rest of the pro-life community. Instead, he issued an ultimatum: Unless I resigned, he would vote against Dr. Makary in committee.

It was a gut punch. But our nation needed Dr. Makary at the FDA. So the next morning I resigned, and Mr. Hawley voted in favor of Dr. Makary.

I don’t know how I became the target of a U.S. senator. But I am certain he made a terrible mistake. Instead of pushing out a “Biden abortion lawyer,” he forced out an experienced conservative pro-life attorney who supports the Trump administration.

After law school, I served as a clerk on the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. I worked in corporate litigation at Jones Day, where I first became interested in politics. Defending Gov. Bob McDonnell in his public corruption trial, I found myself agreeing with his views and appreciating the dangers of a weaponized justice system. That prosecution was led by Jack Smith, who years later would spearhead the politicized prosecutions of President Trump.

After seven years at Jones Day, I moved into public service at the Justice Department. Initially I investigated pill mills fueling the opioid epidemic, but soon began defending the FDA, including its in-person dispensing requirement for the abortion drug mifepristone. The first Trump administration rewarded my success

by promoting me to a management position, in which I led a team of attorneys defending the FDA.

As a career attorney, my job wasn’t tied to a political party or administration. So although I voted for Mr. Trump in 2020, it never crossed my mind to quit after Joe Biden came into office. Sometimes my professional responsibilities conflicted with my personal views, such as when I had to defend the legality of the Biden administration’s removal of the in-person dispensing requirement I’d previously argued to keep.

I had to quit the FDA after he falsely accused me of supporting abortion.

I’ve always considered myself pro-life, but losing a baby early in pregnancy led me to a deeper conviction that all life is precious and deserves protection. Those are my deeply held personal beliefs. My job as a career attorney was to represent the U.S. regardless of those beliefs.

Mr. Hawley misjudged me. I am a committed Christian and a common-sense pro-life conservative. I’m a mom of three beautiful girls, and my family’s life centers on our church community and our girls’ Catholic school. Nothing I did as a career attorney negates who I am or what I believe. I simply followed my oath to defend the legality of the government’s actions.

Mr. Trump needs competent and experienced attorneys who share the conservative values of his administration. I am one. All of us, including Mr. Hawley, owe it to the president to honor his staffing decisions so that we can focus on achieving his agenda.

Ms. Perkins is a former government lawyer.

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WORLD NEWS

# U.S. Missile Launcher Enrages Beijing

Land-based Typhon Weapons System is able to strike key targets on mainland

By GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

A new U.S. missile system deployed in the Philippines puts key Chinese military and commercial hubs within striking distance, and hands President Trump an early test of his commitment to deterring Chinese aggression against American allies in Asia.

Last year, the U.S. Army moved the Typhon Missile System, which can fire missiles as far as 1,200 miles, to a base on Luzon Island in the northern Philippines. It is the first time since the Cold War that the U.S. military has deployed a land-based launching system with such a long range outside its borders.

The Typhon, military experts say, is part of a broader strategic repositioning by the American military as it seeks to counter Beijing's huge buildup of intermediate- and long-range missiles in the Pacific.

In the event of a conflict with China, land-based missile systems like the Typhon could be central to defending key U.S. allies such as the Philippines, which has clashed with China over Beijing's claims to nearly all of the South China Sea, and Taiwan, which Beijing has threatened to take, by force if necessary.

The Chinese government has responded to the Typhon's deployment with alarm, rebuking the U.S. and the Philippines for fueling what it called an arms race.

Now, the Typhon, which was moved to the Philippines during the Biden administration, has emerged as an important litmus test amid concerns among American allies over the Trump administration's willingness to come to their defense in a conflict with China. A visit to the Philippines and Japan by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth this week could provide more clarity on the administration's Indo-Pacific strategy.



Philippine and U.S. soldiers handle a Typhon Missile System during an exercise in Northern Luzon, Philippines.

The Typhon can fire two types of missiles. Tomahawk missiles bearing conventional warheads have a range of around 1,200 miles, putting into reach much of southeastern China along with the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. In the case of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, such missiles could target air-defense and radar systems on the Chinese coast as well as the Chinese military's control-and-command centers in Guangzhou and Nanjing.

The shorter-range Standard Missile 6, or SM-6, could target Chinese or other enemy ships and aircraft, and intercept cruise missiles and ballistic missiles fired at U.S. interests. Army officials have said it is the only missile in the U.S. arsenal capable of intercepting, at least in late flight, the hypersonic missiles that both China and Russia have been testing.

The U.S. Army first moved two Typhon launchers, an operations center and support vehicles to Luzon Island for

Tomahawk and SM-6 ranges



\*The SM-6's range is estimated to be between 150-290 miles. Sources: Congressional Budget Office (Tomahawk, SM-6 lower estimate); Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (SM-6 upper estimate); Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (Chinese-occupied islands) EMMA BROWN/WSJ

joint military exercises between the two countries a year ago. The Army, which first took delivery of the sys-

tem in late 2022, said it wanted to test it in the hot and humid climate of the Indo-Pacific region.

The Army later agreed to extend the deployment indefinitely. Since then, Philippine commanders have said they would like to buy the Typhon for their own military, and the country's troops are now being trained on using the system.

Despite the limited immediate military value of the deployment—a full Typhon battery has four launchers and it didn't come with any missiles—Beijing's reaction was forceful.

China's Foreign Ministry demanded the Typhon's removal and threatened retaliatory action. "China will not sit idly by when its security interests are harmed or threatened," the ministry said in February.

Russia, a close ally of China, also denounced the move.

Mounted in trailers on the back of trucks, the Typhon is relatively easy to move, including on military transport planes. Compared with ship-based missile launchers, land-

based missile systems are harder to spot and take out early on in a conflict. In the future, the U.S. could deploy the Typhon in locations across the Indo-Pacific region or sell it to allies there. That would leave adversaries guessing from where they could be hit.

"The U.S. is shifting away from a reliance on big centralized bases, towards a more dispersed resilient force posture," said Shawn Rostker, a research analyst with the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

The Typhon's deployment in the Philippines was a recognition of the increasingly strategic importance of the Philippines under the Biden administration. The country's president, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., has expanded access to military bases for U.S. forces, and Philippine vessels and airplanes have pushed back against Chinese forces in the South China Sea, a thoroughfare for nearly one-third of global maritime trade.

Other American allies in Asia, including Japan, have so far balked at hosting U.S. missiles capable of striking China, but are developing their own comparable capabilities.

There have been some signs that the Trump administration also sees the Typhon as key to its strategy in the Indo-Pacific. Others, however, have warned that moving such powerful U.S. missile systems close to China risks a spiral of escalation and, perhaps by accident, a war between two nuclear superpowers.

In the wake of Trump's talks with Putin over Ukraine, there are also concerns in the Philippines that Typhon could become part of a deal between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping that might sacrifice the interests of the smaller American ally, said Richard Heydarian, a lecturer in international studies at the University of the Philippines's Asian Center.

"What the Philippines does with [the Typhon] and what the Trump administration will do about it," he said, "determines how the game of deterrence will play out in the coming months and years."

## China Releases U.S. Firm's Staffers

By LIZA LIN

SINGAPORE—China has released all detained employees of U.S. due-diligence firm Mintz Group, the company said, marking the end of a two-year saga that unnerved American businesses operating in the country.

New York-based Mintz said all five of its Beijing employees—Chinese nationals who were taken in after a raid in March 2023—have been released. "We are grateful to the Chinese authorities that our former colleagues can now be home with their families," a spokesperson for the company said.

The detention of Mintz employees after a raid of its offices in Beijing in March 2023 sent shock waves across foreign businesses in the country.

China had been tightening its laws concerning national secrets and data management, and Mintz, a firm offering ser-

vices such as corporate investigations and background checks on new partners and hires, became the prime example of the heightened risks from Beijing's new rules.

The release of the detainees comes as China looks to encourage more foreign investment to help lift its sagging economy. At an annual forum in Beijing this week attended by prominent foreign executives, Chinese leaders touted their country as a force for stability and open trade.

Chinese authorities accused Mintz of conducting unapproved statistical work and eventually imposed more than \$2 million in financial penalties on the company. The five staffers were never publicly charged in the case.

Mintz didn't comment on the accusations, but has previously said that it operated transparently and within the law and was licensed to do business in China.

## Canadians Shun America as Ties Go South

By ALLISON POHLE

Canadians have long been the top international travelers to the U.S. Now, they are staying home.

After President Trump said he would impose tariffs on Canada, then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau encouraged Canadians to change their vacation plans to focus on exploring sites within the country. It worked.

Canadian residents returned from 13% fewer trips by air to the U.S. in February than they did a year ago, according to preliminary data from Statistics Canada. Land-border crossings fell, too, with Statistics Canada reporting February's Canadian-resident return trips from the U.S. were down 23% from a year earlier.

More than the tariff threats, Canadians say Trump's threats of annexation have infuriated and scared them, so much so that they won't cross the border to spend time or money. Recent news about lengthy deten-

tions for tourists and green-card holders has further deterred would-be travelers.

A boycott by the top international visitor threatens to upend local economies across the U.S. Canadians made about 20.2 million visits to the U.S. in 2024. Even a 10% reduction in Canadian travel could mean \$2 billion in lost spending and 14,000 job losses, according to the U.S. Travel Association trade group.

Craig Treulieb, a 34-year-old senior software developer from Ontario, and his wife had planned to go to Arizona in May to celebrate her completing a career change. They spent about \$3,500 on flights, hotels, an Airbnb booking and a rental car.

On Feb. 8, the day after Trudeau told business leaders that Trump might be seri-

ous about annexing Canada, they canceled the trip. They lost about \$500 on hotels, but were able to get credits or refunds on the other purchases and will instead travel to British Columbia.

"I don't feel right spending my money there," he said of the U.S., noting the annexation threats from Trump feel very serious to Canadians.

The full effects might not become apparent for months. While some travelers have canceled U.S. bookings, many say they hadn't yet booked stateside travel but have now chosen other destinations.

The strong U.S. dollar, which reduces Canadians' purchasing power, is also playing a role in helping Canadians reconsider. In Whitefish, Mont., which is 60 miles from the border of British Columbia,

spending by Canadians was down 14% in January compared with a year ago, said Brian Schott, a communications contractor for the Whitefish Convention & Visitors Bureau.

He said that in recent weeks, Canadians have cited the rhetoric out of Washington as part of their reason for canceling.

Benoit Demeule, a 53-year-old branch manager for a sealing company, lives about an hour from the U.S. border on the south shore of Montréal. He regularly traveled to Vermont, Maine and New York, and has ridden his motorcycle extensively across the U.S.

He says he won't be back anytime soon. He canceled plans to ride to New Brunswick from Boston this summer, primarily because he feels a violation of trust, security and values.

His shift isn't about tariffs, Demeule said. "It's as if a longtime friend suddenly stabbed us in the back for no reason."

### SUDAN

#### Dozens Are Killed In Strike on Market

At least 54 people were killed in a military airstrike on the weekly market in Tora, a village in western Sudan, aid groups said Tuesday. Support Darfur Victims, a local organization, shared video footage appearing to show burned structures and charred bodies.

The Sudanese military said civilians hadn't been targeted and called the allegations "incorrect."

Since open warfare between the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces began in April of 2023, it has killed more than 28,000 people, forced millions to flee their homes and spread famine. The fighting has been marked by atrocities including mass rape.

—Associated Press

### ISRAEL

#### Passing of Budget Boosts Netanyahu

Israel's parliament on Tuesday passed a state budget, shoring up the governing coalition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, under public pressure over the war in Gaza and the hostage crisis.

The coalition is made up of ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties that had demanded and largely received hefty allocations for their constituents. Critics say the budget lacks much-needed wartime funding for secular education, health and welfare.

Failure to pass a budget by March 31 would have triggered early elections. With its passing, Netanyahu's government is more likely to survive to the end of its term in October 2026, a rarity in Israel.

—Associated Press

### JAPAN

#### Unification Church Dissolved by Court

The Unification Church in Japan was ordered dissolved by a court Tuesday after a government request spurred by the investigation into the 2022 assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The 2023 request cited fundraising and recruitment tactics that it said sowed fear among followers and harmed their families. Tomihiro Tanaka, president of the church's Japanese branch, accused the government of "fabricating damages."

The assassination investigation revealed links between the church and the governing Liberal Democratic Party. The man accused of killing Abe blamed the church for his family's financial troubles.

—Associated Press

## WORLDWATCH



WILDFIRE: A church burned in southeastern South Korea, 110 miles from Seoul, on Tuesday.

YONHAP/EPA SHUTTERSTOCK



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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## Pentagon Throws Boeing Lifeline

Contract for most expensive jet-fighter program yet means a guaranteed profit

By Sharon Terlep

The U.S. is entrusting its most expensive jet-fighter program in history to a company that hasn't successfully launched a commercial or military aircraft in a decade.

Boeing was selected last week by the Pentagon to build the Air Force's next-generation manned jet fighter, beating out Lockheed Martin in a move that surprised Wall Street and left Lockheed disappointed.

The Pentagon's decision couldn't come at a more crucial time for Boeing, which is trying to pull itself out of a nose dive after a series of safety problems with its 737 MAX jet, a crippling strike and six straight annual losses. Not only did Boeing lock down a contract that could top \$50 billion, the deal is structured to guarantee a profit through the development stage of the project—something Boeing sorely needs. Boeing's defense business represents around one-third of the company's revenue but has lost billions of dollars over the past several years, while Boeing says it has been locked into money-losing Pentagon contracts.

The new manned fighter, dubbed the F-47, is designed to fight with semiautonomous drones and will have new stealth and long-range strike capabilities. It is the type of sophisticated air-to-air warplane the Air Force says is vital to deterring China's military in the decades ahead.

Boeing wasn't the obvious



The aerospace company spent \$2 billion to expand its St. Louis complex where the F-47 is expected to be built.

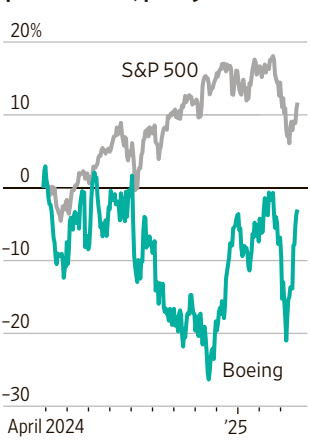
DAVID GARNOST/LOUIS POST-DESPATCH/ZUMA PRESS

choice to build the next-generation jet fighter. "It's not the fighter central that it once was," Bank of America analyst Ron Epstein said of Boeing, adding that the company would need to hire engineers capable of pulling off the project.

The Boeing jet fighters currently in flight were developed and launched before the company's 1997 merger with rival McDonnell Douglas. Lockheed and Northrop Grumman make the Air Force's mainstay F-35 jet fighter and B-21 bomber, respectively. Unlike Lockheed, Boeing has never before built a stealth aircraft. Boeing's T-7

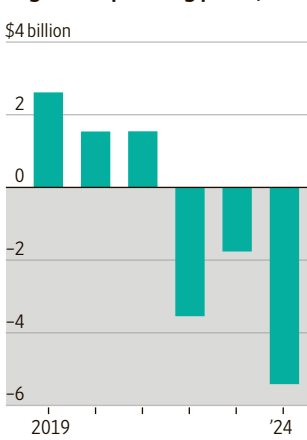
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Share-price and index performance, past year

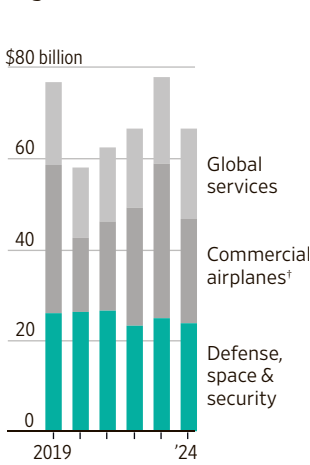


\*Excludes unallocated items, eliminations and other \*Includes Boeing capital Sources: FactSet (share performance); S&P Capital IQ (defense segment, revenue)

Defense, space & security segment operating profit/loss



Segment revenue\*



## Small Investors Get Access to Pre-IPO Shares

By Imani Moise

It is getting easier to invest in high-risk, high-reward private companies.

Now, all it takes is \$5,000 to buy a stake in a firm that has not yet gone public. EquityZen and Forge Global, which are marketplaces for trading shares of private companies, are lowering the minimum investment from tens of

thousands of dollars, the companies said.

The two marketplaces are also launching a partnership Tuesday with Yahoo Finance, in which they share their data on roughly 100 pre-IPO companies on the website.

This is the investment industry's latest play to put nonpublic companies in the hands of individual investors. Until recently, investing in pri-

vate companies was the domain of institutional investors and ultrawealthy with the capital and connections to participate in fundraising rounds. Those often require seven-figure minimum investments and decadelong lock-ups.

Private-equity firms also are trying to attract some of the estimated \$30 trillion held by U.S. individual investors.

Many nonpublic companies grow faster than publicly listed ones, which can mean higher returns. They also have limited transparency and less liquidity. They can have less stringent financial reporting requirements.

They are "secretive and opaque," said Jeff Hooke, a senior lecturer at Johns Hopkins University's Carey Business School, a critic of private mar-

kets.

Employees and early investors in startups are often looking to cash out, but they can't just turn around and sell their shares into an open market. Firms like EquityZen and Forge have built marketplaces that find individual investors to buy these shares.

The shares are often illiquid, and individual investors

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## Death of Co-CEO Worsens Samsung's 'Crisis'

By Timothy W. Martin and Yang Jie

SEOUL—Jong-Hee Han, the head of Samsung Electronics' smartphone and consumer electronics business, died from cardiac arrest on Tuesday, jolting the South Korean technology company during a business slide that leaders have called a crisis.

The 63-year-old executive was appointed co-CEO of Samsung Electronics in December 2021. The company's other CEO, Jun Young-hyun, oversaw the unit making semiconductors and other tech components.

Jun will lead Samsung as solo CEO effective immediately following Han's death, the company said in a Tuesday filing. It isn't clear if a direct replacement to Han will be named. "Our deepest condolences are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time," the company said.

Samsung has traditionally used a co-CEO system because it makes myriad electronic gadgets and appliances, from smartphones to washing machines to televisions. It is also a major components supplier to other tech companies that often sell products that compete with Samsung. But the Suwon, South Korea-based company has stumbled in recent years, as the tech industry has undergone an artificial-intelligence boom.

Rival SK Hynix outmaneuvered Samsung to become the early supplier to Nvidia, providing the niche type of memory needed for AI chips and other related technologies. In

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The late Jong-hee Han.

BRIDGET BENNETT/BLOOMBERG NEWS

## Forever 21's Bankruptcy Offers Opportunities for Mall Owners

By Kate King

Forever 21's bankruptcy promises to deliver the biggest raft of store closures that enclosed malls have seen in years.

Mall owners are looking forward to it.

The fast-fashion retailer is closing all its roughly 350 U.S. stores after entering bankruptcy this month for the second time in six years. This time, many owners and analysts say Forever 21's demise is an opportunity to bring in stronger retailers that will pay higher rent and attract more shoppers.

"We are highly confident that we will release those spaces," said Steve Plenge,



The fast-fashion retailer is closing its roughly 350 U.S. stores.

chief executive officer of Pacific Retail Capital Partners, which has Forever 21 stores at 10 of its malls.

That optimism reflects a

surprisingly strong landscape for the mall industry. High-end malls are nearly fully occupied and rents are rising.

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Japan's sake makers are swimming against the rising tide of whisky. B12

## Kroger Says Grocer Undermined Merger

By Patrick Thomas

The bitter fallout from the failed tie-up of two grocery giants continues.

Three months after Albertsons sued Kroger over their collapsed deal, Kroger has hit back in court.

Kroger denied Albertsons' claims that it didn't do enough to secure regulatory approval for their failed \$20 billion deal and accused its former merger partner of undermining its efforts.

In a Delaware state court filing unsealed Tuesday, Kroger said Albertsons improperly worked with C&S Wholesale Grocers to inflate the number of stores that needed to be divested.

Kroger alleged that an Albertsons executive and others coaxed C&S to make statements to regulators that would ratchet up the pressure on it to divest more stores.

"Albertsons began a surreptitious process of working to implement its preferred regulatory strategy behind Kroger's back," said the filing from Kroger.

Kroger also said that Albertsons developed a "Plan B" to sue Kroger in the event the merger failed to close.

An Albertsons spokeswoman said Kroger's "weak" claims are a tactic to distract from Kroger's own ongoing executive leadership issues and that the latter company's conduct doomed their merger.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

U.K. Warns Ticketmaster On Possible Law Violation

By EDITH HANCOCK

Ticketmaster may have broken U.K. consumer law in the way it sold certain tickets for rock band Oasis's 2025 tour, the country's competition regulator said.

The Competition and Markets Authority said on Tuesday that Ticketmaster could have violated U.K. law by labeling certain seated tickets as "platinum" and selling them for nearly 2½ times the price of a standard ticket without sufficiently explaining that they didn't offer additional benefits, and by not letting customers know there were two categories of standing tickets at different prices. The CMA said that many Oasis fans were left waiting in a long queue online and then had to decide whether to pay a higher price than they originally expected.

"We're concerned that Oasis fans didn't get the information they needed or may have been misled into buying tickets they thought were better than they were," Hayley Fletcher, the CMA's interim director of consumer protection, said in a statement, adding that the watchdog expects Ticketmaster to address its



A 'platinum' label on Oasis concert tickets may have misled buyers, a regulatory agency said.

concerns.

English band Oasis said last year they would reunite for a tour in 2025, sending fans racing to get their hands on tickets. The watchdog said that some customers reported issues with Ticketmaster, saying they believed the company used a dynamic pricing model to sell the tickets, adjusting their price when demand was high.

The CMA said it didn't find evidence the company used algorithmic pricing, but said that the company instead released standing tickets at a lower price and, once they ran out, released remaining standing tickets at a higher price.

"All ticketing websites should check they are complying with the law and treat-

ing their customers fairly," she said.

The CMA said it has told Ticketmaster to make changes to the information it provides customers, when that information is given and how it labels some tickets.

Ticketmaster, which is owned by **Live Nation Entertainment**, didn't respond to a request for comment.

U.S. Gives Boeing A Lifeline

Continued from page B1

trainer was developed and manufactured jointly with **Saab**.

Boeing has faced delays and glitches on many programs, including its Air Force One replacement and its 777X wide-body jet.

Delivery on the new Air Force One is so far behind that Boeing told the Air Force last year that it would likely happen after President Trump's second term. The initial contract, struck with Trump during his first term, called for delivery in 2023. Frustrated with the delays, Trump has been pushing for a faster timeline, which Boeing Chief Executive Kelly Ortberg has said the company is trying to meet.

Delays also plague Boeing's commercial business. The 777X, designed to connect the globe's major cities, was initially set to begin deliveries in 2020 and now might not fly until next year or later.

Two new 737 MAX variants also are behind schedule because of issues with an anticipating system and heightened regulatory scrutiny following last year's fuselage-panel blowout on an Alaska Airlines flight.

Lockheed's own woes with the F-35 program—including delays, cost overruns and design and software challenges—probably didn't help its case with the Pentagon, either.

Boeing's storied military past includes a raft of jet fighters, bombers, helicopters, transport planes and missiles. But in recent years, Boeing has been beaten out by rivals in several high-profile competitions for U.S. government programs.

The latest deal was a con-



Boeing employees build 777 aircraft in Everett, Wash. The 777X wide-body jet has faced production delays.

Judge Orders Plane Maker to Trial in 737 MAX Case

The federal judge overseeing the criminal case against Boeing has ordered a trial, increasing the chances the aerospace giant will have to plead guilty or defend against a charge it already said it committed.

The order came a day after The Wall Street Journal reported that Boeing had been seeking to withdraw an earlier agreement to plead guilty for deceiving regulators before two deadly crashes of 737 MAX jetliners.

Boeing and the Justice Department were expected

to propose changes to the settlement by April 11. One possible change that had been under discussion was whether Boeing could forgo hiring an outside monitor, the Journal reported.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor on Tuesday scrapped that deadline and ordered the two parties to prepare to appear for trial on June 23. He had earlier rejected the proposed plea deal over his concerns about diversity considerations for the outside monitor that would oversee Boeing.

Boeing admitted in 2021

that it misled air-safety regulators about an aspect of the 737 MAX that was implicated in the disasters, which killed 346 people. Prosecutors would rely on that statement to try the company, said Paul Cassell, an attorney for families whose relatives perished in the crashes. "The judge is saying why are we haggling over things that were resolved long ago," Cassell said.

Boeing said in a statement that it continues good-faith discussions with the Justice Department. A spokesperson for the Department declined to comment. —*Dave Michaels*

test Boeing couldn't afford to lose. The company spent \$2 billion to expand its St. Louis complex where the F-47 is expected to be built, and Boeing has been flying an experimental version of the jet fighter for years. The company's de-

fense arm made the biggest investment in its history to prepare for the F-47 bid, Boeing's interim defense chief Steve Parker said.

Neither Boeing nor the Trump administration released cost estimates for the

entire program. The development phase, in which the company will develop and test the aircraft, is covered by a so-called cost-plus agreement, meaning that the Pentagon will cover Boeing's expenses, as well as other fees.

That is a change from some of Boeing's previous Pentagon deals—fixed-price agreements in which the company had to swallow unexpected costs. Ortberg, Boeing's CEO, has vowed to avoid such deals going forward.

The stakes for Boeing are high.

The jet fighter's name appears to be a homage to Trump, who is now serving as the 47th U.S. president. And Trump has made the F-47 a personal priority.

The president—who in news conferences and on social media has questioned Boeing's competence—took the unusual step of announcing the F-47 contract in an Oval Office news conference, marveling at the technology involved in Boeing's experimental version of the aircraft.

"There's never been anything even close to it from speed to maneuverability to what it can have to payload," Trump said. The aircraft is the "most advanced, most capable, most lethal aircraft ever built."

Founder of Kind Seeks To Invest In Startups

By BRIAN GORMLEY

Daniel Lubetzky is searching for the next Kind.

Lubetzky, founder of Kind, the maker of the hugely popular bars and snacks, sold a controlling stake in the business to food and pet-care company Mars in 2020.

Kind and Mars didn't disclose the price, but the New York Times in 2020 reported that the sale valued Kind at about \$5 billion.

Now, after selling his remaining interests in Kind to Mars in December, Lubetzky is seeking to finance startups with similar growth potential. Through New York-based Camino Partners, a platform that deploys his capital, and funds from other members of his team, Lubetzky plans to invest \$350 million in consumer-health and longevity companies over the next five years. Camino may invest a higher amount if it locates the right opportunity, Lubetzky said. "If we do find that superstar investment, then we will commit significantly more resources," he said.

Several venture firms focus partly or entirely on longevity, a broad category that includes products or services designed to help people remain healthy longer or to slow the aging process. Camino formed in 2023 and originally focused on consumer-packaged goods. The company has more recently widened its strategy to longevity, including consumer-packaged goods, Lubetzky said.

The change came as the team recognized the widening opportunity in consumer health to back companies seeking to help people eat better, exercise better and take other measures to improve their health, said Elle Lanning, president of Camino Partners and a former Kind executive.

Camino's investments include fitness boutique Barry's, home-healthcare provider LiveWell and medical-spa company Well Labs+. The amounts Camino invested are undisclosed, but Camino said its average check size is between \$20 million and \$80 million.

One key to success, Lanning said, is distinguishing sustainable trends from fads.

Camino approaches investments with a long-term focus, Lubetzky said.

LiveWell and Well Labs+ were formed in 2023 by Encore Management Group, which launches consumer-services businesses around a theme and builds them through acquisitions and organic growth.

Pre-IPO Access Goes Mainstream

Continued from page B1

often expect to quickly trade in and out of investments. To address this, companies like EquityZen and Forge have created single-company funds that investors can buy into at smaller amounts.

Still, the process isn't as seamless as trading ETFs on apps like Robinhood. Trades can take days to finalize, and buyers are generally required to hold their stake for a minimum of six months. Forge and EquityZen charge commis-

sions between 2% and 5% on each transaction.

Most data on how valuable private companies are is incomplete because it relies on fundraising data that can be years old. Forge says it has compiled bid-ask data from across its platform to calculate a daily price that reflects what firms are actually worth.

For example, Forge recently valued **CoreWeave** at \$29 billion despite the company's recent pre-IPO filings signaling a valuation north of \$30 billion.

Originally, Forge sold this data as part of a subscription. Chief Executive Kelly Rodrigues said partnering with **Yahoo** to put some of it in front of the website's 100 million users adds more value to private markets than keeping it behind its own payroll.

"We're at a tipping point right now," he said. "Increased participation leads to greater liquidity."

The companies declined to comment on the financial structure of the partnership.

As companies remain private for longer in the moribund IPO market, more investors are worried about leaving potential returns on the table. The average company goes public today at 10.7 years old, compared with 6.9 years in 2015, according to Morningstar.

"A lot of the risk-return opportunity has been pushed

into the private markets," said Christian Chan, chief investment officer of AssetMark, a technology platform for independent financial advisers.

Investing in private markets isn't always what it is cracked up to be.

Private-equity investments underperformed public markets last year for the third time in four years, according to a McKinsey report.

Investors must be "accredited" to participate in private-market deals such as through EquityZen and Forge, per Securities and Exchange Commission requirements. That

Investors must be 'accredited' to participate in private-market deals.



BUSINESS NEWS

Activist to Join Illumina’s Board

Meister’s hedge fund has 2.5% stake in maker of gene-sequencing machines

By JARED S. HOPKINS

Activist investor Keith Meister will join the board of directors of troubled gene-sequencing maker **Illumina**, and current board member Scott Gottlieb will become chairman.

The moves, which the company announced Tuesday after The Wall Street Journal

reported they were coming, will take effect Friday.

Meister’s hedge fund, **Corvex Management**, first invested in Illumina in 2023 and has a stake of about 2.5% of the company’s shares, people familiar with the matter said.

He serves on the board of **GeneDx**, a gene-testing company and Illumina customer.

“I’m a big believer in the long-term growth of the genomics market, and I believe Illumina is the enabling technology for that market,” Meister said in an interview. “I’m excited to work with

management to execute against their plan.”

Gottlieb, a former Food and Drug Administration commissioner, will succeed current chairman Stephen MacMillan, who will retire from the board.

Illumina, of San Diego, is a world leader in the manufacture and sale of genetic-sequencing machines and the chemicals the machines use. It has been buffeted in recent years by tougher antitrust enforcement, a proxy fight with Carl Icahn and most recently geopolitics.

Meister had worked for

Icahn, serving as a top executive for Icahn’s company, before striking out on his own and building Corvex into a multibillion-dollar activist hedge fund.

Icahn ran the Illumina proxy fight in 2023, after antitrust regulators in the U.S., as well as in Europe, challenged the company’s agreement to buy cancer blood-test maker **Grail**.

MacMillan, one of two Icahn allies who joined the board, was named nonexecutive chairman.

Francis deSouza, Illumina’s CEO who championed the Grail

deal, left the company, and Jacob Thaysen was eventually picked to run it.

In recent months, Illumina has been caught up in the tariff fight between the U.S. and China.

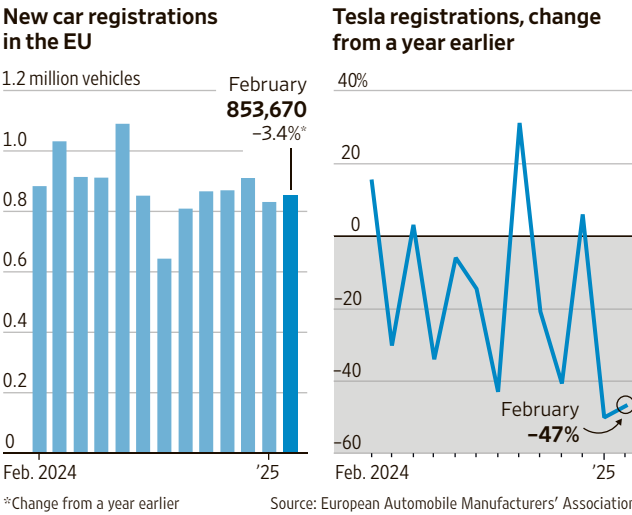
After the Trump administration imposed extra tariffs on Chinese imports, Beijing added Illumina to a list of “unreliable entities” and then barred sales of Illumina gene-sequencing machines.

Earlier this month, the company reduced its forecast for this year’s financial performance and said it would cut \$100 million in spending.



Corvex’s Keith Meister.

Shares of Illumina have fallen about 34% this year to date.



Tesla EU Sales Dive for Second Straight Month

By DOMINIC CHOPPING

**Tesla**’s sales in the European Union plunged for the second consecutive month in February, despite an overall increase in demand for electric vehicles at other carmakers.

New car registrations for Tesla models, a mirror of sales, fell 47% in February to 11,743 cars, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association. That decline contrasts with a 24% surge in EU battery-electric vehicle sales across the industry in February, buoyed by car buyers in Germany in particular, said the trade group, which is known as ACEA.

The latest data follows the U.S. carmaker’s 50% sales drop across the EU in January, which triggered a slump in its shares last month. Shares have fallen further in the month since then.

Tesla’s stuttering sales across Europe come as it has been retooling its production lines in Berlin to manufacture a refreshed version of its Model Y sport-utility vehicle. The switch-over may have limited supplies of the vehicle or made

customers wait for the updated model.

Overall, EU passenger-car registrations fell 3.4% to 853,670 vehicles across the bloc in February year over year. Sales in all major EU markets fell in the month, with the exception of Spain. Germany led the declines as a strong jump in sales of electric and hybrid cars failed to offset tumbling sales of gasoline and diesel cars.

Gasoline car registrations fell by more than 22% and diesel car registrations by nearly 29% across the EU in February.

The combined market share of gasoline and diesel cars fell to 38.8% across the first two months of the year, down from 48.5% in the comparative two months of 2024. Battery-electric vehicles now make up 15.2% of the EU market across the first two months of the year compared with 11.5% in the year-ago period, according to the ACEA.

**Volkswagen** and **Renault** logged some of the biggest increases in car registrations in February by number of units, while **Stellantis** recorded the biggest fall.

Shell Lifts Production, Returns Targets

By ADAM WHITTAKER

**Shell** said it is targeting hydrocarbon production growth and plans to further increase shareholder returns as the energy giant outlined its strategy for the next five years at its capital markets day.

The London-listed company said Tuesday that its new strategy will deliver more value with less emissions and includes increased cost-reduction target and lower capital expenditure.

Its update comes weeks after British peer **BP** jettisoned its low-carbon strategy and cut spending on energy-transition assets in favor of core oil-and-gas production.

Shell said it would grow top-line production across its upstream and integrated gas business by 1% a year through 2030. This will sustain its 1.4 million barrels a day of liquids production through 2030, it said.

The oil major will also target sales growth of 4% to 5% a year through to 2030 in its liquefied natural gas business. Chief Executive Officer Wael Sawan said he wants to position Shell as the world’s leading integrated gas and liquefied natural gas business.

Diversified oil companies have pivoted back to hydrocarbon assets and the lack of visibility in Shell’s upstream portfolio beyond 2030 has been a key concern amongst investors, analysts at RBC Capital Markets wrote in a note last week.

Its 2023 strategy abandoned a previous target of letting oil production decline by 1% to 2% a year by 2030 versus 2019.

Shell said it would also increase shareholder distributions to 40% to 50% of cash flow from operations, or CFFO, from a previous target of 30% to 40%. The company will continue to prioritize share buybacks and said it will maintain its progressive dividend policy



Shell said it would raise shareholder distributions to 40% to 50% of cash flow from operations.

of 4% a year. At its 2023 capital markets day, Shell increased its shareholder returns ratio to 30% to 40% of CFFO from a previous target of 20% to 30%.

Meanwhile, Shell increased its structural cost-reduction target to a range of \$5 billion to \$7 billion by the end of 2028, compared to 2022. It had met an original target of \$2 billion to \$3 billion by the end of 2025 a year early.

The company is aiming for capital expenditure of \$20 billion to \$22 billion a year com-

pared with the \$21.1 billion it posted in 2024. HSBC analysts wrote in note ahead of the strategy release that it expected capex guidance of between \$22 billion to \$23 billion.

Shell also said that it expects to have up to 10% of capital employed in lower-carbon platforms by 2030.

The business will seek to unlock more value from its chemicals assets and will explore partnership opportunities in the U.S., and the selective closure of European

assets, Shell said.

The company will maintain the climate targets and ambition it set out in its energy transition strategy in 2024, it said.

Analysts hadn’t expected Shell to make major changes to the strategy it set out in June 2023 which increased shareholder returns, set cost-reduction targets and sought to stabilize oil production.

Its previous “sprint through to 2025” plan also set the goal of simplifying its organization and portfolio of assets.

7-Eleven Owner Says Bidder Misjudges Antitrust Hurdles

By ADRIANO MARCHESE

Japan’s **Seven & i** said that **Alimentation Couche-Tard** has underestimated antitrust hurdles facing their proposed \$47 billion deal and hasn’t made concessions to protect shareholders should the deal fall apart.

The operator of the 7-Eleven convenience store chain said that Canada’s Couche-Tard hasn’t gone far enough in addressing the regulatory risks tied to their proposed deal, particularly in the U.S., where the Federal Trade Commission has taken a harder stance on larger mergers.

“We have been insistent on ensuring a clear path to antitrust regulatory approval as a first step for one reason: a

deal that doesn’t close is not a deal, and it will destroy shareholder value,” Seven & i said in company documents posted online Tuesday.

“The board will not blindly enter into a transaction with no clear path to closing that could leave the company in a value destructive limbo for multiple years,” it added.

A Couche-Tard spokesperson declined to comment on the latest statement. Last week, Couche-Tard Chief Executive Alex Miller said during an earnings call that “our focus remains on a friendly approach on engaging with Seven & i, highlighting the benefits that we see to both groups of shareholders and all stakeholders.”

Seven & i noted that the proposed deal with Couche-

Tard has already faced early scrutiny. After Couche-Tard’s offer was reported in August, Seven & i said it received an unsolicited notice from the U.S. regulator suggesting that it would begin an investigation, even before a deal was agreed.

Seven & i said that despite acknowledging the likelihood of divestitures, Couche-Tard hasn’t offered to fully assume the risk of potential regulatory roadblocks, leaving its own shareholders at risk of holding the bag if the transaction failed. Couche-Tard has said the company believed there was a clear path to obtaining regulatory approvals.

Couche-Tard “is understating the risk here,” Seven & i said.

Elliott Seeks to Name Phillips 66 Directors

By COLIN KELLAHER

Activist investor **Elliott Investment Management**, which has built a more than \$2.5 billion stake in **Phillips 66** and is pushing for a streamlining of the oil refiner, is seeking more representation on the company’s board.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Phillips 66 said it received a notice from Elliott

that the investor plans to nominate candidates for election to the board at this year’s annual meeting.

Elliott also plans to submit a nonbinding proposal to be made at the meeting requesting that the board adopt an annual election policy for directors.

Phillips 66 said the board’s nominating-and-governance committee will review Elliott’s notice.

Elliott wants Phillips 66 to consider operational changes to boost its stagnant stock price, most notably a sale or spinoff of its big midstream business.

Phillips 66 on Tuesday said Gary Adams and Denise Ramos, board members since 2016, won’t stand for re-election at this year’s annual meeting, and that it plans to reduce the size of the board to 12 from the current 14.

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# An AI Innovator Turns to Private Credit

Clearview AI's co-founder joins Architect Capital as its technology chief

By Marc Vartabedian

As the co-founder and former chief of facial-recognition startup Clearview AI, Hoan Ton-That pushed the boundaries of artificial intelligence and privacy. For his next act, he is jumping into the world of private credit.

After resigning from Clearview this year, Ton-That said he has joined **Architect Capital** as head of technology to help the San Francisco investment firm develop a financial strategy that will allow it to increase leverage in lending to tech startups.

The firm issues loans, largely to tech startups, against customer contracts they hold, rather than against the business as a whole. If one of those software companies

folds, Ton-That's team will take over the contracts and build the necessary tech and support team to continue meeting the contracts' obligation with customers, allowing Architect to get the revenue stream. Architect will collect on the contract until the firm is made whole on the loan.

The assurance of being able to assume a contract's revenue in the event a company goes under will allow Architect to take on more risk, Ton-That said. Architect will be able to offer companies larger loans with more lenient covenants and be able to lend to companies at up to five times their annual recurring revenue—more than could be done via a standard corporate loan, he added.

"We have to do this in order to convince our investors that we can take on this much credit risk," Ton-That said. "My job is to be able to, in these downside scenarios, service a lot of different types of software to build. I have that



Hoan Ton-That, right, left Clearview this year and joined James Sagan's investment firm.

background building tech companies, running servers and building databases."

The strategy is a fresh spin on asset-backed finance and venture debt, both part of a

broad area of finance known as private credit that has surged in popularity in recent years. In essence, private credit refers to nonbank lenders providing loans to compa-

nies outside the traditional banking system.

Last year, private credit direct lending in the U.S. surged 83% from the prior year to roughly \$274 billion, accord-

ing to a report by analytics firm PitchBook Data.

As new entrants jumped into the sector, new strategies sprang up in its riskier corners. For instance, venture debt, or lending to startups, has become a more common financing option for young companies, some of which have scant revenue.

In his role as chief technology officer, Ton-That will identify business contracts that Architect could realistically maintain the tech for on its own. Architect wouldn't rebuild the tech from scratch, but would need coders to fix bugs, as well as customer-support workers, he said. Companies would keep their intellectual property rights, even if Architect took over a contract.

In addition to issuing loans, Architect has made equity investments and other types of deals. Architect has cut checks ranging from \$5 million to \$100 million, founder and Chief Executive James Sagan said.

## Samsung's 'Crisis' Worsens

*Continued from page B1*

2024, for the second straight year, **Apple** shipped more smartphones than Samsung, which had long held the No. 1 spot. **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing**, known as TSMC, has extended its dominance in advanced chipmaking and recently unveiled plans to spend at least \$100 billion more in U.S. production.

Spurred by incentives offered by the Biden administration, Samsung said it would invest tens of billions of dollars to expand chip production in Texas. But those bets now can be seen as liabilities, as Presi-

dent Trump rolls back Biden-era policies. Samsung also has a significant production base in Mexico, which now faces a 25% import tariff, prompting the South Korean firm to consider relocating more manufacturing to the U.S.

Samsung Electronics' share price has tumbled more than 23% over the past year. That stands in contrast with Apple, SK Hynix and TSMC, which have each surged more than 22%.

The company's circumstances were highlighted in a recent message to executives delivered from Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong. In an education-seminar video, Lee was quoted as saying the company faced a "do-or-die survival" moment. Participants received an engraved plaque that declared Samsung employees are "strong in crisis, good at reversals and fierce in competition."



Samsung has lost the No. 1 spot in smartphones to Apple.

Han joined Samsung in 1988. During his 37-year career, he was credited with helping the company become the top player in TVs and other consumer-electronics businesses.

Speaking at the company's annual shareholder meeting last week, Han acknowledged Samsung's struggles and

vowed a turnaround. "I sincerely offer an apology to our shareholders for disappointing stock prices," Han said.

Samsung also issued an apology last fall for falling behind in the AI chip race. It came a few months after the company removed the co-CEO overseeing the semiconductor business, who was succeeded

by Jun in November.

Of particular concern is Samsung's narrowing technological advantage over Chinese upstarts. For instance, Samsung accounted for 40% of the global AMOLED smartphone display market in 2024, a 20-percentage-point drop in two years as Chinese brands turned to domestic manufacturers, according to CINNO Research, a Shanghai-based data firm.

Samsung, the world's largest chip maker by revenue, is also contending with Chinese leaps in semiconductors, as Beijing gives priority to cultivating a homegrown supply chain. China-based **Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp.**, or SMIC, is now the world's No. 3 contract-chip manufacturer and has closed the gap with Samsung. China's memory makers could capture 10% of the global memory market this year, after

representing virtually nothing five years ago, according to TrendForce, a market researcher.

In 2024, Samsung reported a 16% increase in annual revenue to roughly 301 trillion South Korean won, or the equivalent of about \$205 billion. Operating profit for its components unit, which includes semiconductors, hit 15.1 trillion won, which reversed a prior-year loss but stood at about one-third of its prepan-demic peak.

But Liu Yushi, a senior analyst at CINNO Research, said Samsung still has the most chip-making capacity of any company in the world and has the financial strength to continue investing in key technologies. "The current narrative of a 'do-or-die' crisis is more a reflection of Samsung's internal sense of urgency than an immediate threat to its survival," Liu said.

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# Landlords See Benefit In Closures

Continued from page B1

Leasing is even starting to pick up in second-tier properties, as expanding retailers jockey for limited available space.

Business is so good at Westfield malls that its European owner, **Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield**, has decided to stick around the U.S. The Paris-headquartered company said in 2022 that it would move quickly to unload most of its American portfolio, which included about two dozen malls.

The company now plans to keep about a dozen U.S. properties, where tenant sales well outpaced inflation last year and vacancy is at the lowest level since URW acquired Westfield in 2018.

“The mall industry right now, in terms of supply and demand, is in the best shape that it’s been in probably 20 years,” said Floris van Dijkum, managing director at the investment firm Compass Point Research & Trading, which advises institutional clients on investing in malls.

Rent prices look poised to rise further. Mall owner **Macerich** said net operating income, a key industry metric that measures profitability, is at or above 2019 levels across much of its portfolio despite



Forever 21’s demise is an opportunity to bring in stronger retailers that will pay higher rent and attract more shoppers.

rising expenses.

“That means rent is going up,” CEO Jack Hsieh said in an interview.

The mall industry is still far from its recent heyday of packed parking lots and overflowing food courts.

Mall values remain far below the peak of 2016. Closing department stores leaves large vacancies that are difficult and expensive to fill. And hundreds of low-end malls across the U.S. have either closed or are slowly dying.

Malls recovered from the pandemic much more slowly than other types of retail, and if nervous consumers pull back on spending this year, recent gains could easily come undone.

But the survivors’ prospects are brightening, in part because no one is building enclosed malls anymore.

“There’s no new supply, in fact there’s negative supply growth because there are still crappy malls that are closing every day,” said van Dijkum.

Forever 21 first filed for bankruptcy in 2019. A group that included its two largest landlords, mall giants **Simon Property Group** and **Brookfield Property Partners**, bought the struggling retailer’s operating company in February 2020. **Authentic Brands Group**, which acquires distressed retail brands, bought the Forever 21 brand and still owns the intellectual property associated with it.

Once the go-to spot for young shoppers looking to

snag the latest styles on a budget, Forever 21 has been in decline for years due in part to competition from discount and online retailers like **Shein** and **Temu**.

The new owners closed several dozen lower-performing Forever 21 stores but kept hundreds others open, buoying malls as the pandemic hit. The brand generated about \$2 billion in revenue in fiscal 2021 as cash-flush shoppers flocked back to stores.

The company’s perfor-

mance—and its value to its host malls—has deteriorated over the past several years. Now, unless another group buys it out of bankruptcy, mall owners will likely be saddled with closing Forever 21 stores. Many welcome that outcome.

“It’s pretty simple,” Simon Property Group CEO David Simon said in an email. “Demand for space is strong, we lease to a better retailer at higher rents.”

At Bridgewater Commons in New Jersey, Plenge wants to subdivide the 5,000-square-foot Forever 21 store and lease it to two better-performing apparel tenants he says will generate six times the sales volume as the fast-fashion retailer. At other malls, he expects tenants ranging from **Dave & Buster’s** to **TJ Maxx** and local restaurateurs to fill the vacancies.

“There’s a wide spectrum of folks to look at right now,” he said.

At the Westchester, a mall owned by Simon in White Plains, N.Y., the small Forever 21 store is surrounded by higher-end retailers, from athleisure darling Alo Yoga to Louis Vuitton.

Liquidation signs are already hanging in the windows, and 25-year-old Sabrina Biagini stopped in with her mother to browse the T-shirt selection.

Biagini said she often shopped at Forever 21 in high school, but now buys her clothes at more expensive brands like Anthropologie.

“I just kind of grew out of it,” she said.

## TECHNOLOGY

# OpenAI Claims an Image-Creation Breakthrough for ChatGPT

By Belle Lin

**OpenAI** unveiled an updated version of its artificial-intelligence system GPT-4o that can generate more-realistic images, the result of a yearlong effort with human trainers.

GPT-4o replaces DALL-E 3 as the default image-generation model behind OpenAI’s ChatGPT, and the ability to use it is now available to ChatGPT Free, Plus, Team and Pro users, the company said.

Billed as a less-expensive

version of its most-advanced AI model at the time, GPT-4o was unveiled last year as a multimodal model capable of creating and understanding text, video, audio and images.

Today’s refined GPT-4o model makes it easier to create

more-lifelike images and paragraphs of comprehensible text—and even company logos and slide decks, OpenAI said.

With the improvements in research made to GPT-4o, ChatGPT’s image generation is a lot more useful for consumers and

businesses, **OpenAI** said. Whereas prior iterations of its AI systems weren’t able to generate paragraphs of readable text with images, GPT-4o is capable of doing so, it said.

The model is able to create transparent backgrounds, mak-

ing it possible for businesses to create logos or other iconography, said Jackie Shannon, an OpenAI product lead for ChatGPT multimodal.

Wall Street Journal owner **News Corp** has a content-licensing partnership with OpenAI.

## Biggest 1,000 Stocks | WSJ.com/stocks

| How to Read the Stock Tables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| The following explanations apply to NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market listed securities. Prices are consolidated from trades reported by various market centers, including securities exchanges, Finra, electronic communications networks and other broker-dealers. The list comprises the 1,000 largest companies based on market capitalization. |  |  |
| <b>Underlined quotations</b> are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with the issue’s average trading volume.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |
| <b>Boldfaced quotations</b> highlight those issues whose price changed by 5% or more if their previous closing price was \$2 or higher.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |
| <b>Footnotes:</b><br>†-New 52-week high; †-New 52-week low; dd-Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |
| <b>Stock tables reflect composite regular trading as of 4 p.m. ET and changes in the official closing prices from 4 p.m. ET the previous day.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |  |

| Tuesday, March 25, 2025 |             |        | Stock | Sym                 | Close       | Net Chg      |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------|-------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| A                       | B           | C      |       |                     |             |              |
| AECOM                   | <b>ACM</b>  | 94.76  | -1.06 | AB InBev            | <b>BUD</b>  | 61.70 0.17   |
| AES                     | <b>AES</b>  | 12.66  | -0.22 | Abbott Labs         | <b>ABT</b>  | 125.60 0.22  |
| Aflac                   | <b>FLC</b>  | 109.73 | 0.08  | Arista Networks     | <b>ANET</b> | 18.04 0.05   |
| AGNC Invst              | <b>AGNC</b> | 9.93   | -0.20 | Antares Resources   | <b>AR</b>   | 41.42 0.21   |
| Ansys                   | <b>ANSI</b> | 326.67 | 0.94  | Aon                 | <b>AON</b>  | 396.14 2.99  |
| ASE Tech                | <b>ASX</b>  | 9.76   | -0.12 | API Group           | <b>APG</b>  | 37.97 -0.43  |
| ASML                    | <b>ASML</b> | 726.74 | -1.10 | Apollo Global Mgmt  | <b>APO</b>  | 147.90 -0.50 |
| AST Space               | <b>ASTS</b> | 28.55  | -0.75 | AppFolio            | <b>APPF</b> | 230.33 9.73  |
| AT&T                    | <b>T</b>    | 27.31  | 0.35  | Apple               | <b>AAPL</b> | 223.75 3.02  |
| AXIS Capital            | <b>AXS</b>  | 98.63  | 0.39  | Applied Int’l Techs | <b>AIT</b>  | 237.41 2.83  |
| Abbott Labs             | <b>ABT</b>  | 125.60 | 0.22  | Applied Materials   | <b>AMAT</b> | 153.64 -1.31 |
| AbbVie                  | <b>ABBV</b> | 201.34 | -7.83 | AppLovin            | <b>APP</b>  | 346.29 6.57  |
| Accenture               | <b>ACN</b>  | 308.90 | 1.72  | Artgroup            | <b>ART</b>  | 147.21 -0.78 |
| Acuity Brands           | <b>AYI</b>  | 275.44 | 0.06  | Aptiv               | <b>APTV</b> | 64.49 0.58   |
| Adobe                   | <b>ADBE</b> | 403.64 | 9.17  | Aramark             | <b>ARMK</b> | 34.13 -0.23  |
| AdvDrainageSys          | <b>WMS</b>  | 111.25 | 0.16  | ArchCapital         | <b>ACGL</b> | 94.08 0.57   |
| AdvMicroDevices         | <b>AMD</b>  | 114.81 | 0.96  | ADAM                | <b>ADM</b>  | 46.05 -0.14  |
| Aegion                  | <b>AEG</b>  | 6.74   | 0.06  | Ares Mgmt           | <b>ARES</b> | 155.63 1.88  |
| AerCap                  | <b>ACR</b>  | 102.94 | -0.69 | argenx              | <b>ARGX</b> | 605.52 -0.47 |
| Affirma                 | <b>AFRM</b> | 50.93  | -1.61 | Arista Networks     | <b>ANET</b> | 86.94 -0.57  |
| Agilent Techs           | <b>A</b>    | 120.51 | 1.46  | Arm                 | <b>ARM</b>  | 124.28 -0.57 |
| AgriCo Mines            | <b>AGM</b>  | 105.45 | 1.27  | Ascendix Pharma     | <b>AXON</b> | 577.18 4.66  |
| Agree Realty            | <b>ADC</b>  | 75.13  | -0.58 | Assurant            | <b>AIZ</b>  | 210.83 1.39  |
| AirProducts             | <b>APD</b>  | 293.16 | -0.29 | Astera Labs         | <b>ALAB</b> | 72.19 -1.59  |
| Airbnb                  | <b>ABNB</b> | 129.88 | 0.06  | AstraZeneca         | <b>AZN</b>  | 73.05 -1.04  |
| Akamai Tech             | <b>AKAM</b> | 81.85  | -0.92 | Atlasian            | <b>TEAM</b> | 236.22 1.60  |
| Alamos Gold             | <b>AGI</b>  | 26.20  | 0.53  | Atmos Energy        | <b>ATO</b>  | 148.34 -1.30 |
| Albemarle               | <b>ALB</b>  | 77.67  | 0.12  | Aurora Innov        | <b>AUR</b>  | 7.83 0.19    |
| Albertsons              | <b>ACI</b>  | 20.81  | 0.01  | Autodesk            | <b>ADSK</b> | 273.08 3.89  |
| Alcoa                   | <b>AA</b>   | 33.71  | 0.24  | ADP                 | <b>ADP</b>  | 299.38 0.49  |
| Alcon                   | <b>ALC</b>  | 92.80  | 0.45  | AutoZone            | <b>AZO</b>  | 367.23 14.41 |
| Alexandria REIT         | <b>ARE</b>  | 95.98  | -1.57 | AvalonBay           | <b>AVB</b>  | 212.66 -1.70 |
| Alibaba                 | <b>BABA</b> | 132.75 | -1.73 | Avantor             | <b>AVTR</b> | 16.35 -0.14  |
| Ally Financial          | <b>ALLY</b> | 170.00 | -0.37 | Avery Dennison      | <b>AVY</b>  | 175.69 -1.32 |
| Ally Bancorp            | <b>ALNY</b> | 280.96 | -9.74 | Axon Enterprise     | <b>AXON</b> | 577.18 4.66  |
| Alpha Architect         | <b>GOOG</b> | 170.56 | 2.88  | BCE                 | <b>BCE</b>  | 22.53 0.01   |
| Alpha Engg              | <b>ALTR</b> | 269.11 | 0.16  | BHP Group           | <b>BHP</b>  | 49.45 0.28   |
| Altria                  | <b>MO</b>   | 56.71  | 0.08  | BJS Wholesale       | <b>BJS</b>  | 10.48 -1.35  |
| Amazon.com              | <b>AMZN</b> | 205.71 | 2.45  | BP                  | <b>BP</b>   | 34.29 0.18   |
| Ambev                   | <b>ABEV</b> | 2.33   | 0.03  | BWV Tech            | <b>BWXT</b> | 104.74 0.66  |
| Ammco                   | <b>AMC</b>  | 9.44   | -0.11 | BXP                 | <b>BXP</b>  | 68.51 -0.97  |
| Ammodex                 | <b>DOX</b>  | 90.42  | 0.64  | Baidu               | <b>BIDU</b> | 95.38 -0.49  |
| Amer Sports             | <b>ASX</b>  | 28.80  | -0.67 | Baker Hughes        | <b>BKR</b>  | 45.18 0.58   |
| Ameren                  | <b>AME</b>  | 97.18  | -1.63 | Ball                | <b>BALL</b> | 50.38 -0.40  |
| America’s Mov           | <b>AMX</b>  | 14.29  | 0.11  | BBVA                | <b>BBVA</b> | 14.49 0.33   |
| AEP                     | <b>AEP</b>  | 102.50 | -1.68 | Banco Bradesco      | <b>BBD</b>  | 2.09 0.06    |
| Amer Express            | <b>AXP</b>  | 279.28 | 1.42  | Banco de Chile      | <b>BCH</b>  | 27.08 0.07   |
| American Fin            | <b>AFG</b>  | 128.06 | 0.14  | Banco San Brasil    | <b>BSBR</b> | 4.81 0.14    |
| Allstate                | <b>ALLS</b> | 36.87  | -0.22 | Banco Santander     | <b>BAN</b>  | 23.57 0.43   |
| AIG                     | <b>AIG</b>  | 83.92  | -0.28 | Banco Santander     | <b>BAN</b>  | 7.10 0.11    |
| Amer Tower REIT         | <b>AMT</b>  | 209.50 | -3.30 | BanColombia         | <b>CIB</b>  | 43.88 0.65   |
| Amer Water Works        | <b>AWK</b>  | 139.16 | -0.54 | Bank of America     | <b>BAC</b>  | 43.28 0.21   |
| Ametek                  | <b>AME</b>  | 510.57 | 2.42  | Bank of Montreal    | <b>BMO</b>  | 98.15 0.68   |
| Amgen                   | <b>AMGN</b> | 306.86 | -7.52 | Bank of New York    | <b>BNK</b>  | 85.25 0.55   |
| Amphenol                | <b>APH</b>  | 69.49  | 0.19  | Bank Nova Scotia    | <b>BNS</b>  | 48.75 0.41   |
| Analog Devices          | <b>ADI</b>  | 213.58 | 1.24  | Barclays            | <b>BKS</b>  | 16.25 0.26   |
| AngloGold Ash           | <b>AU</b>   | 35.62  | 0.76  | Barrick Gold        | <b>BOLD</b> | 19.35 0.46   |

| Stock              | Sym  | Close  | Net Chg | Stock            | Sym  | Close  | Net Chg | Stock               | Sym   | Close   | Net Chg |
|--------------------|------|--------|---------|------------------|------|--------|---------|---------------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Cemex              | CMX  | 6.28   | 0.22    | Cullen/Frost     | CFR  | 125.34 | -0.64   | EmersonElec         | EMR   | 115.30  | -0.40   |
| Cencora            | COR  | 268.48 | 0.98    | Cummins          | CM   | 330.87 | -0.21   | Enbridge            | ENB   | 44.42   | 0.11    |
| CenovusEnergy      | CVE  | 14.36  | 0.06    | Curtiss-Wright   | CW   | 339.49 | 3.25    | EncompassHealth     | EH    | 100.87  | 0.91    |
| Centene            | CNC  | 58.94  | -0.40   | CyberArkSoftware | CYBR | 358.28 | 7.28    | EnergyTransfer      | ET    | 18.88   | -0.15   |
| CheckPointEnter    | CNP  | 35.23  | -0.49   | D E F            |      |        |         | EnphaseEnergy       | ENPH  | 62.77   | 0.66    |
| CentraisElBrais    | EBR  | 7.33   | 0.12    | DTE Energy       | DTE  | 134.50 | -1.65   | Entegris            | ENTG  | 94.22   | -4.10   |
| CharlesRiverLabs   | CRL  | 161.35 | -5.63   | DT Midstream     | DTM  | 100.52 | -0.48   | Entergy             | ETR   | 82.92   | -1.09   |
| CharterComms       | CHTR | 375.01 | 7.51    | Danaher          | DHR  | 212.40 | -0.40   | EnterpriseProd      | EPD   | 33.50   | -0.18   |
| CheckPoint         | CHKP | 230.58 | 2.53    | Darden           | DRI  | 207.17 | -1.39   | Equifax             | EFX   | 243.22  | -2.04   |
| Chemered           | CHG  | 60.29  | 2.40    | Datadog          | DDOG | 110.58 | 0.41    | Equinix             | EQIX  | 841.22  | -11.22  |
| CheniereEnergy     | LNG  | 232.00 | -1.59   | DaVita           | DVA  | 150.78 | 0.37    | Equinor             | EQNR  | 25.62   | 0.00    |
| CheniereEnergyPtns | CQP  | 62.71  | 0.23    | Dayforce         | DYA  | 60.20  | 0.04    | Equitable           | EQH   | 54.30   | 0.71    |
| Chevron            | CVX  | 165.94 | 0.92    | Deere            | DE   | 478.93 | -1.03   | EquityLife          | ELS   | 66.85   | -1.05   |
| Chewy              | CHWY | 33.61  | -0.41   | DeckersOutdoor   | DECK | 122.97 | -1.71   | EquityResdntl       | EQRR  | 71.03   | -0.33   |
| Chipotle           | CMG  | 49.51  | -0.09   | Dicks            | D    | 207.94 | 2.38    | ErieIndemnity       | ERIE  | 414.74  | 2.62    |
| Chubb              | CB   | 291.40 | -0.04   | DellTechC        | DEL  | 48.67  | -0.05   | EssentialUtil       | WTRG  | 37.90   | -0.25   |
| ChungHwaTel        | CHT  | 39.10  | 0.11    | DellTechA        | DAL  | 48.67  | -0.21   | EssexProp           | ESS   | 303.01  | -2.21   |
| Church&Dwight      | CHD  | 104.73 | -2.17   | DescartesSystem  | DSGX | 105.54 | 2.62    | EsteeLauder         | EL    | 66.08   | -1.37   |
| Church&Dwight      | CHD  | 104.73 | -2.17   | DeutscheBank     | DB   | 25.25  | 0.09    | EvercoreA           | EV    | 217.19  | 0.35    |
| Church&Dwight      | CHD  | 104.73 | -2.17   | DevonEnergy      | DVN  | 36.97  | 0.01    | Everest             | EG    | 362.25  | 3.12    |
| Ciena              | CIEN | 69.42  | -0.11   | DexCom           | DXCM | 73.55  | -1.77   | Eversource          | ES    | 66.17   | -1.34   |
| Cigna              | CI   | 316.84 | -3.56   | Diageo           | DEO  | 105.20 | -0.99   | ExactSciences       | EXAS  | 45.67   | -1.42   |
| CincinnatiFin      | CINF | 145.80 | 0.13    | DiamondbackEner  | FANG | 161.60 | 0.59    | Exelixis            | EXEL  | 37.71   | -0.01   |
| Cintas             | CTAS | 193.46 | -1.11   | Dicks            | DKS  | 207.94 | 2.38    | Exelon              | EXC   | 42.76   | -0.82   |
| CiscoSystems       | CSCO | 60.99  | 0.02    | DigitalRealty    | DLR  | 151.42 | -0.07   | ExpandEnergy        | EXE   | 109.81  | 0.71    |
| Citigroup          | C    | 74.47  | 0.43    | DiscoverFinSvcs  | DFS  | 169.66 | -0.47   | Expedia             | EXPE  | 176.86  | -1.43   |
| CitizensFin        | CFG  | 42.27  | 0.03    | Disney           | D    | 101.61 | 1.43    | ExpeditorIntl       | EXP   | 118.32  | 0.45    |
| CleanHarbors       | CLH  | 200.74 | 0.44    | DocuSign         | DOCU | 89.39  | 0.39    | ExtraSpaceSt        | EXR   | 144.59  | -1.40   |
| Clorox             | CLX  | 141.76 | -2.15   | Dorlab           | DLB  | 81.50  | -0.12   | ExxonMobil          | XOM   | 116.59  | 0.79    |
| Cloudflare         | NET  | 127.50 | 3.57    | DollarGeneral    | DG   | 82.58  | -0.58   | F5                  | FFIV  | 275.05  | 0.74    |
| Coca-Cola          | KO   | 68.81  | -0.14   | DollarTree       | DLTR | 67.14  | -2.60   | FTAI Aviation       | FTAI  | 116.94  | 2.03    |
| Coca-ColaCon       | CCO  | 129.18 | 12.18   | DominationEner   | D    | 52.85  | -1.48   | Fabrinet            | FN    | 222.62  | -8.77   |
| Coca-ColaEuropac   | CCEP | 84.14  | -0.35   | Domino's         | DPZ  | 460.27 | -5.77   | FactSet             | FDS   | 439.40  | 7.29    |
| CognizantTech      | CTSH | 78.82  | 0.88    | Donaldson        | DO   | 68.29  | 0.16    | FairIsaac           | FIS   | 1919.64 | 21.98   |
| Coherent           | COHR | 75.64  | -1.07   | DoverDash        | DASH | 199.72 | 0.74    | Fastenal            | FAST  | 77.09   | 0.15    |
| ColombesGbl        | COIN | 204.23 | 1.19    | Dover            | DOV  | 185.74 | 0.23    | FederalRealty       | FRT   | 97.73   | -0.53   |
| ColgatePalm        | CL   | 89.59  | -1.31   | Dow              | DOW  | 35.32  | -0.97   | FedEx               | FDX   | 241.07  | -1.25   |
| Comcast A          | CMCA | 36.94  | 0.34    | Doximity         | DOCS | 66.07  | -0.27   | FergusonEnts        | FER   | 164.99  | 0.52    |
| Comerica           | CMA  | 60.77  | 0.29    | DrReddy'sLab     | RDY  | 13.45  | -0.26   | Ferrari             | RACE  | 433.98  | -1.85   |
| ComfortSystems     | FIX  | 373.06 | -6.18   | DraftKings       | DKNG | 38.95  | -1.57   | Ferrari             | RACE  | 433.98  | -1.85   |
| CommerceBchs       | CBSH | 62.85  | 0.22    | Dropbox          | DBX  | 27.24  | 0.11    | Ferrovial           | FER   | 47.74   | 0.33    |
| SABESP             | SBS  | 17.86  | 0.64    | DuPont           | DUP  | 76.45  | -0.67   | FiidNatFinl         | FINF  | 65.27   | 0.03    |
| CompanysBrands     | CAG  | 25.35  | -0.38   | DuPont           | DUP  | 76.45  | -0.67   | FiidNatFinl         | FINF  | 65.27   | 0.03    |
| Confluent          | CFLT | 26.89  | -0.41   | DuPont           | DUP  | 76.45  | -0.67   | FifthThirdBncP      | FTB   | 40.17   | -0.01   |
| ComstockPhillis    | COP  | 102.55 | 0.36    | DutchBros        | BROS | 69.89  | -0.56   | FirstCitizBschF     | FCFSA | 1892.90 | 20.90   |
| ComEd              | ED   | 105.55 | -1.28   | Dynatrace        | DT   | 51.18  | 0.51    | FirstHorizon        | FHN   | 19.77   | 0.11    |
| ConstBrands A      | STZ  | 178.36 | -1.92   | EMCOR            | EME  | 412.28 | -0.57   | FirstSolar          | FSLR  | 131.46  | -2.66   |
| ConstellationEner  | CEC  | 62.87  | -1.75   | EOG              | E    | 30.79  | 0.26    | FirstEnergy         | FE    | 37.95   | -1.00   |
| Cooper             | COO  | 83.70  | -0.37   | EOG Rscs         | EOG  | 127.38 | -0.89   | FirstService        | FSV   | 171.21  | -0.88   |
| Copart             | CPRT | 55.59  | 0.53    | EPAM Systems     | EPAM | 178.99 | 0.68    | Fiserv              | FIS   | 222.62  | 0.18    |
| CoreMain           | CNM  | 49.52  | -0.12   | EQAT             | EQAT | 54.25  | 0.25    | Flex                | FLEX  | 36.80   | -0.66   |
| Core&Field         | CRBG | 33.24  | -0.21   | EastWestBnc      | EWBC | 93.03  | -0.23   | Flex&Decor          | FND   | 82.98   | -2.26   |
| Corning            | GLW  | 48.99  | -0.90   | EastGroup        | EG   | 175.20 | -1.16   | FlutterInt          | FLUT  | 241.12  | -5.53   |
| Corpay             | CPAY | 358.66 | 0.71    | EastmanChem      | EMN  | 89.34  | -0.75   | FomentoConMex       | FMX   | 97.10   | 0.44    |
| Corteva            | CTVA | 61.85  | -0.22   | Eaton            | ETN  | 300.00 | -2.84   | FordMotorCo         | F     | 10.29   | 0.00    |
| CoStar             | CSPG | 80.23  | 0.09    | Ecobab           | ECL  | 251.20 | -1.42   | Fortinet            | FTNT  | 102.09  | 2.23    |
| Costco             | COST | 930.26 | 4.22    | Ecopetrol        | EC   | 10.31  | 0.23    | Fortis              | FTS   | 44.40   | -0.35   |
| CoterraEnergy      | CTRA | 29.31  | -0.05   | EdisonIntl       | EIX  | 57.25  | -1.34   | Fortive             | FTV   | 75.97   | 0.00    |
| Coupage            | CPNG | 23.40  | -0.19   | EdwardsLife      | EW   | 71.24  | -0.11   | FoxB                | FOX   | 50.86   | 1.11    |
| Crane              | CR   | 163.90 | 1.70    | Elastic          | ESTC | 102.42 | 0.81    | FoxA                | FOXA  | 54.96   | 1.51    |
| Credecorp          | BAP  | 197.40 | 5.24    | ElbitSystems     | ESLT | 404.01 | 9.51    | IF FrancoNevada     | FMV   | 155.82  | 0.00    |
| Credotek           | CRDO | 49.18  | -1.35   | ElectronicArts   | EA   | 44.55  | 0.01    | FranklinRscs        | BN    | 20.03   | -0.40   |
| CredoStrike        | CWD  | 384.95 | 12.31   | ElevenHealth     | ELV  | 423.47 | -3.76   | FreedomHoldng       | FRHC  | 141.39  | 2.94    |
| CrownCastle        | CCI  | 100.45 | -3.86   | Embraer          | ERJ  | 48.89  | -0.60   | FreepportMcM        | FCM   | 43.01   | 1.44    |
| Crown Holdings     | CHD  | 87.15  | -1.24   |                  |      |        |         | FreseniusMedCar     | MSC   | 24.45   | 0.11    |
| CubeSmart          | CUBE | 41.07  | -0.66   |                  |      |        |         | Continued on Page B |       |         |         |





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# COMMODITIES

wsj.com/market-data/commodities

## Futures Contracts

| Metal & Petroleum Futures                                     |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|--------|------------------|
|                                                               | Open    | Contract<br>High hi lo | Low     | Settle  | Chg    | Open<br>interest |
| <b>Copper-High (CMX)</b> -25,000 lbs.; \$ per lb.             |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| March                                                         | 5.0715  | 5.1885 ▲               | 5.0715  | 5.1830  | 0.1190 | 1,162            |
| May                                                           | 5.0860  | 5.2285 ▲               | 5.0765  | 5.2105  | 0.1180 | 137,209          |
| <b>Gold (CMX)</b> -100 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.              |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| March                                                         | 3026.40 | 3028.80                | 3024.00 | 3023.70 | 10.60  | 397              |
| April                                                         | 3017.50 | 3042.40                | 3010.80 | 3025.90 | 10.30  | 164,807          |
| May                                                           | 3030.60 | 3055.40 ▲              | 3025.70 | 3039.60 | 10.30  | 1,764            |
| June                                                          | 3046.00 | 3070.70 ▲              | 3039.20 | 3054.30 | 10.50  | 277,245          |
| July                                                          | 3069.70 | 3069.70 ▲              | 3069.70 | 3064.30 | 10.50  | 126              |
| Aug                                                           | 3069.80 | 3094.60                | 3066.00 | 3079.30 | 10.70  | 35,826           |
| <b>Palladium (NYM)</b> -50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.          |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| March                                                         | 961.50  | 961.50                 | 948.50  | 953.80  | 6.10   | 1                |
| June                                                          | 958.00  | 971.00                 | 956.50  | 962.70  | 5.80   | 19,992           |
| <b>Platinum (NYM)</b> -50 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.           |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| March                                                         | 976.50  | 976.50                 | 976.40  | 973.10  | 10.50  | 496              |
| July                                                          | 980.80  | 996.60                 | 977.90  | 987.60  | 10.00  | 53,753           |
| <b>Silver (CMX)</b> -5,000 troy oz.; \$ per troy oz.          |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| March                                                         | 33.460  | 34.090                 | 33.460  | 34.002  | 0.737  | 906              |
| May                                                           | 33.530  | 34.365                 | 33.430  | 34.187  | 0.737  | 124,649          |
| <b>Crude Oil, Light Sweet (NYM)</b> -1,000 bbls.; \$ per bbl. |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                           | 69.16   | 69.68                  | 68.52   | 69.00   | -0.11  | 331,185          |
| June                                                          | 68.74   | 69.21                  | 68.12   | 68.60   | -0.06  | 202,307          |
| July                                                          | 68.27   | 68.71                  | 67.70   | 68.17   | -0.04  | 132,672          |
| Sept                                                          | 67.31   | 67.62                  | 66.73   | 67.17   | -0.02  | 119,660          |
| Dec                                                           | 66.01   | 66.29                  | 65.48   | 65.91   | ...    | 169,047          |
| June*26                                                       | 64.80   | 65.02                  | 64.32   | 64.71   | 0.02   | 103,942          |
| <b>NY Harbor ULSD (NYM)</b> -42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.         |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| April                                                         | 2.2592  | 2.2920                 | 2.2512  | 2.2859  | 0.288  | 30,360           |
| May                                                           | 2.2217  | 2.2507                 | 2.2139  | 2.2433  | 0.237  | 94,478           |
| <b>Gasoline-NY RBOB (NYM)</b> -42,000 gal.; \$ per gal.       |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| April                                                         | 2.2080  | 2.2241                 | 2.1948  | 2.2087  | 0.021  | 37,649           |
| May                                                           | 2.2094  | 2.2277                 | 2.1992  | 2.2141  | 0.048  | 136,499          |
| <b>Natural Gas (NYM)</b> -10,000 MMBtu; \$ per MMBtu.         |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| April                                                         | 3.909   | 3.990                  | 3.796   | 3.840   | -0.074 | 25,088           |
| May                                                           | 3.947   | 4.020                  | 3.827   | 3.877   | -0.077 | 289,960          |
| July                                                          | 4.368   | 4.445                  | 4.280   | 4.317   | -0.061 | 112,999          |
| Sept                                                          | 4.427   | 4.482                  | 4.319   | 4.358   | -0.064 | 123,433          |
| Oct                                                           | 4.455   | 4.515                  | 4.354   | 4.392   | -0.063 | 128,286          |

|                                                           | Open    | Contract<br>High hi lo | Low     | Settle  | Chg    | Open<br>interest |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|--------|------------------|
| Jan*26                                                    | 5.438   | 5.487                  | 5.340   | 5.374   | -0.058 | 127,052          |
| <b>Agriculture Futures</b>                                |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| <b>Corn (CBT)</b> -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.               |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 464.50  | 464.75                 | 457.00  | 457.75  | -6.75  | 650,835          |
| July                                                      | 471.50  | 472.00                 | 464.75  | 465.25  | -6.75  | 484,235          |
| <b>Oats (CBT)</b> -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.               |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 372.00  | 372.00                 | 365.75  | 367.50  | -6.00  | 2,201            |
| July                                                      | 370.00  | 370.25                 | 365.25  | 367.00  | -5.00  | 586              |
| <b>Soybeans (CBT)</b> -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.           |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 1007.00 | 1007.75                | 998.25  | 1001.75 | -5.50  | 378,001          |
| July                                                      | 1019.50 | 1020.50                | 1012.00 | 1015.50 | -4.00  | 216,538          |
| <b>Soybean Meal (CBT)</b> -100 tons; \$ per ton.          |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 297.30  | 298.10                 | 294.30  | 295.10  | -2.50  | 233,270          |
| July                                                      | 304.40  | 305.30                 | 302.20  | 302.90  | -2.00  | 163,394          |
| <b>Soybean Oil (CBT)</b> -60,000 lbs.; cents per lb.      |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 42.12   | 42.58                  | 41.79   | 42.30   | .15    | 232,354          |
| July                                                      | 42.63   | 43.09                  | 42.30   | 42.85   | .18    | 164,224          |
| <b>Rough Rice (CBT)</b> -2,000 cwt.; \$ per cwt.          |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 13.37   | 13.37                  | 13.12   | 13.19   | -.18   | 10,496           |
| July                                                      | 13.54   | 13.63                  | 13.40   | 13.46   | -.16   | 895              |
| <b>Wheat (CBT)</b> -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.              |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 548.00  | 549.50                 | 541.00  | 543.25  | -5.00  | 224,088          |
| July                                                      | 565.25  | 566.25                 | 557.50  | 559.75  | -5.50  | 120,795          |
| <b>Wheat (KC)</b> -5,000 bu.; cents per bu.               |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 576.25  | 577.00                 | 567.00  | 569.25  | -8.75  | 121,908          |
| July                                                      | 591.00  | 591.75                 | 583.00  | 584.75  | -8.25  | 71,555           |
| <b>Cattle-Feeder (CME)</b> -50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.    |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| March                                                     | 286.550 | 287.350                | 285.775 | 286.975 | .375   | 3,775            |
| June                                                      | 284.800 | 285.450                | 280.675 | 284.125 | -.725  | 32,902           |
| <b>Cattle-Live (CME)</b> -40,000 lbs.; cents per lb.      |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| April                                                     | 205.925 | 207.025                | 203.775 | 206.375 | .475   | 67,465           |
| June                                                      | 202.025 | 203.450                | 199.600 | 202.325 | .175   | 155,421          |
| <b>Hogs-Lean (CME)</b> -40,000 lbs.; cents per lb.        |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| April                                                     | 86.300  | 87.100                 | 86.300  | 86.650  | .950   | 36,262           |
| June                                                      | 96.075  | 98.550                 | 96.050  | 96.250  | .450   | 89,590           |
| <b>Lumber (CME)</b> -27,500 bd. ft.; \$ per 1,000 bd. ft. |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| May                                                       | 685.00  | 687.00                 | 677.00  | 685.50  | -.50   | 5,445            |
| July                                                      | 700.00  | 701.00                 | 693.00  | 700.00  | ...    | 1,633            |
| <b>Milk (CME)</b> -200,000 lbs.; cents per lb.            |         |                        |         |         |        |                  |
| March                                                     | 18.52   | 18.54                  | 18.50   | 18.52   | .03    | 4,467            |

|                                                             | Open   | Contract<br>High hi lo | Low    | Settle | Chg   | Open<br>interest |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------------------|
| May                                                         | 17.46  | 17.67                  | 17.25  | 17.52  | .20   | 5,576            |
| <b>Cocoa (ICE-US)</b> -10 metric tons; \$ per ton.          |        |                        |        |        |       |                  |
| May                                                         | 8,075  | 8,147                  | 7,912  | 7,995  | -84   | 39,580           |
| July                                                        | 8,088  | 8,139                  | 7,920  | 7,981  | -101  | 25,862           |
| <b>Coffee (ICE-US)</b> -37,500 lbs.; cents per lb.          |        |                        |        |        |       |                  |
| May                                                         | 393.45 | 401.00                 | 392.10 | 398.55 | 5.15  | 72,227           |
| July                                                        | 387.20 | 394.65                 | 386.40 | 392.65 | 5.25  | 44,481           |
| <b>Sugar-World (ICE-US)</b> -112,000 lbs.; cents per lb.    |        |                        |        |        |       |                  |
| May                                                         | 19.31  | 19.60                  | 19.20  | 19.51  | .25   | 305,986          |
| July                                                        | 19.00  | 19.26                  | 18.90  | 19.19  | .23   | 205,915          |
| <b>Sugar-Domestic (ICE-US)</b> -112,000 lbs.; cents per lb. |        |                        |        |        |       |                  |
| May                                                         | 38.00  | 38.00                  | 38.00  | 38.00  | ...   | 1,158            |
| <b>Cotton (ICE-US)</b> -50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.          |        |                        |        |        |       |                  |
| May                                                         | 65.44  | 65.87                  | 64.87  | 65.14  | -.28  | 131,627          |
| July                                                        | 67.03  | 67.44                  | 66.56  | 66.75  | -.28  | 74,830           |
| <b>Orange Juice (ICE-US)</b> -15,000 lbs.; cents per lb.    |        |                        |        |        |       |                  |
| May                                                         | 268.50 | 274.00                 | 259.75 | 264.85 | -3.70 | 6,493            |
| July                                                        | 263.90 | 269.00                 | 256.70 | 260.35 | -3.50 | 1,497            |

| Interest Rate Futures                                            |         |         |         |         |        |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|
| <b>Ultra Treasury Bonds (CBT)</b> - \$100,000; pts 32nds of 100% |         |         |         |         |        |           |
| June                                                             | 121-040 | 121-220 | 120-130 | 121-120 | 1.0    | 1,780,378 |
| <b>Treasury Bonds (CBT)</b> -\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%        |         |         |         |         |        |           |
| June                                                             | 116-110 | 116-250 | 115-270 | 116-190 | 6.0    | 1,809,925 |
| Sept                                                             | 116-030 | 116-140 | 115-190 | 116-100 | 6.0    | 2,405     |
| <b>Treasury Notes (CBT)</b> -\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%        |         |         |         |         |        |           |
| June                                                             | 110-170 | 110-260 | 110-100 | 110-240 | 6.5    | 4,877,908 |
| Sept                                                             | 110-195 | 110-270 | 110-120 | 110-255 | 6.0    | 1,330     |
| <b>5 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)</b> -\$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%  |         |         |         |         |        |           |
| March                                                            | 107-132 | 107-202 | 107-132 | 107-205 | 5.5    | 14,846    |
| June                                                             | 107-202 | 107-262 | 107-162 | 107-255 | 5.5    | 6,336,253 |
| <b>2 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)</b> -\$200,000; pts 32nds of 100%  |         |         |         |         |        |           |
| March                                                            | 103-086 | 103-107 | 103-086 | 103-118 | 2.1    | 511       |
| June                                                             | 103-121 | 103-145 | 103-107 | 103-142 | 2.1    | 3,847,819 |
| <b>30 Day Federal Funds (CBT)</b> -\$5,000,000; 100 - daily avg. |         |         |         |         |        |           |
| March                                                            | 95.6700 | 95.6725 | 95.6700 | 95.6675 | -.0050 | 259,816   |
| April                                                            | 95.6750 | 95.6750 | 95.6700 | 95.6700 | -.0050 | 541,118   |
| <b>Three-month SOFR (CME)</b> -\$1,000,000; 100 - daily avg.     |         |         |         |         |        |           |
| Jan                                                              | 95.6475 | 95.6500 | 95.6475 | 95.6500 | .0025  | 9,101     |
| June                                                             | 95.8700 | 95.8850 | 95.8550 | 95.8800 | .0050  | 1,264,746 |

| Currency Futures                                    |       |       |       |       |       |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| <b>Japanese Yen (CME)</b> -¥12,500,000; \$ per 100¥ |       |       |       |       |       |     |
| April                                               | .6650 | .6702 | .6641 | .6689 | .0031 | 983 |

Source: FactSet

## Cash Prices | wsj.com/market-data/commodities

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

These prices reflect buying and selling of a variety of actual or "physical" commodities in the marketplace—separate from the futures price on an exchange, which reflects what the commodity might be worth in future months.

| Tuesday                            |          |  | Tuesday                                             |        |  | Tuesday                                |        |  |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|--|----------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Energy                             |          |  | Wheat                                               |        |  | Food                                   |        |  |
| Coal,C.Aplc,12500Btu,1.2502-r,w    | 78.000   |  | Copper,Cornex spot                                  | 5.1830 |  | Wheat,No.2 soft red,St.Louis-u         | 5.3525 |  |
| Coal,PwdrRvrBsn,8800Btu,0.8502-r,w | 14.200   |  | Iron Ore, 62% Fe,CFB China steel                    | *103.2 |  | Wheat - Hard - KC (USDA) \$ per bu-u   | 5.7425 |  |
| Metals                             |          |  | Steel, HRC USA, FOB Midwest Mill-s                  | *945.0 |  | Wheat,No.1 soft white,Portld,OR-u      | 6.2000 |  |
| Gold, per troy oz                  |          |  | Battery/EV metals                                   |        |  | Food                                   |        |  |
| Engelhard industrial               | 3026.00  |  | BMI Lithium Carbonate, EXW China -99.5%-v,w         | 10375  |  | Beef,carcass equiv. index              |        |  |
| Handy & Harman base                | 3025.20  |  | BMI Lithium Hydroxide, EXW China -56.5%-v,w         | 9525   |  | choice 1-3,600-900 lbs.-u              | 321.49 |  |
| Handy & Harman fabricated          | 3357.97  |  | BMI Cobalt sulfate, EXW China ->20.5%-v,w           | 6693   |  | select 1-3,600-900 lbs.-u              | 303.09 |  |
| LBMA Gold Price AM                 | *3030.25 |  | BMI Nickel Sulphate, EXW China ->22%-v,w            | 3590   |  | Broilers, National comp wtd. avg.-u,w  | 2.3175 |  |
| LBMA Gold Price PM                 | *3007.75 |  | BMI Flake Graphite, FOB China -100 Mesh, 94.95%-v,w | 435    |  | Butter,AA Chicago-d                    | 1.3343 |  |
| Kruggerand,wholesale-e             | 3140.75  |  | Fibers and Textiles                                 |        |  | Cheddar cheese,bbl,Chicago-d           | 163.50 |  |
| Maple Leaf-e                       | 3170.95  |  | Burlap,10-oz,40-inch NY yd-n,w                      | 0.8825 |  | Cheddar cheese,blk,Chicago-d           | 164.00 |  |
| American Eagle-e                   | 3170.95  |  | Cotton,11/16 std lw-mdMphs-u                        | 0.6264 |  | Milk,Nonfat dry,Chicago lb.-d          | 1.6400 |  |
| Mexican peso-e                     | 3649.15  |  | Cotolac 'A' Index-t                                 | *67.50 |  | Coffee,Brazilian,Comp-y                | 3.9405 |  |
| Austria crown-e                    | 2963.15  |  | Hides,hvy native steers piece fob-u                 | n.a.   |  | Coffee,Colombian, NY-y                 | 4.0700 |  |
| Austria phil-e                     | 3170.95  |  | Wool,64s, staple,Terr del-u,w                       | n.a.   |  | Eggs,large white,Chicago-u,w           | 3.8650 |  |
| Silver, troy oz.                   |          |  | Grains and Feeds                                    |        |  | Flour,hard winter KC-p                 | 15.90  |  |
| Engelhard industrial               | 33.7500  |  | Bran,wheat middlings, KC-u,w                        | 91     |  | Hams,17-20 lbs,Mid-US fob-u            | n.a.   |  |
| Handy & Harman base                | 33.6640  |  | Corn,No.2 yellow,Cent ll.-bp,u                      | 4.2900 |  | Hogs,Iowa-So. Minnesota-u              | 87.30  |  |
| Handy & Harman fabricated          | 42.0800  |  | Corn gluten feed,Midwest-u,w                        | 121.3  |  | Pork bellies,12-14 lb MidUS-u          | 1.6864 |  |
| LBMA spot price                    | *25.5500 |  | Corn gluten meal,Midwest-u,w                        | 436.7  |  | Pork loins,13-19 lb MidUS-u            | 1.0271 |  |
| (U.S.\$ equivalent)                | *33.0850 |  | Cottonseed meal-u,w                                 | n.a.   |  | Steers,Tex.-Okla. Choice-u             | n.a.   |  |
| Coins,wholesale \$1,000 face-a     | 25855    |  | Hominy feed,Cent ll.-u,w                            | 115    |  | Steers,feeder,Okla. City-u,w           | 358.50 |  |
| Other metals                       |          |  | Fats and Oils                                       |        |  |                                        |        |  |
| LBMA Platinum Price PM             | *973.0   |  | Meat-bonemeal,50% pro Mnpls-u,w                     | 275    |  | Degummed corn oil, crude wtd. avg.-u,w | n.a.   |  |
| LBMA Palladium Price PM            | *955.0   |  | Oats,No.2 milling,Mnpls-u                           | 4.0750 |  | Grease,choice white,Chicago-h          | n.a.   |  |
| Platinum,Engelhard industrial      | 988.0    |  | Rice, Long Grain Milled, No. 2 AR-u,w               | 34.88  |  | Lard,Chicago-u                         | n.a.   |  |
| Palladium,Engelhard industrial     | 976.0    |  | Sorghum,(Milo) No.2 Gulf-u                          | n.a.   |  | Soybean oil,crude,Cent ll.-u,w         | 0.4146 |  |
| Aluminum, LME, \$ per metric ton   | *2640.5  |  | SoybeanMeal,Cent ll,rail ton48%-u,w                 | n.a.   |  | Tallow,bleach,Chicago-h                | n.a.   |  |
|                                    |          |  | Soybeans,No.1 yllw ll.-bp,u                         | 9.7100 |  | Tallow,edible,Chicago-u                | n.a.   |  |
|                                    |          |  | Wheat,Spring14%-pro Mnpls-u                         | 7.8850 |  |                                        |        |  |



BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

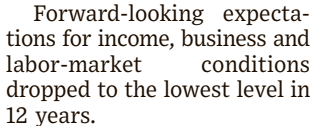
| Continued From Page B6 |  |                |          |         |               |       |                |        |         |                   |       |               |        |         |               |       |                |        |         |             |       |              |        |         |            |       |                |        |         |                |       |                |        |         |              |       |                 |        |           |        |       |       |      |
|------------------------|--|----------------|----------|---------|---------------|-------|----------------|--------|---------|-------------------|-------|---------------|--------|---------|---------------|-------|----------------|--------|---------|-------------|-------|--------------|--------|---------|------------|-------|----------------|--------|---------|----------------|-------|----------------|--------|---------|--------------|-------|-----------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Stock                  |  | Sym            | Close    | Net Chg | Stock         |       | Sym            | Close  | Net Chg | Stock             |       | Sym           | Close  | Net Chg | Stock         |       | Sym            | Close  | Net Chg | Stock       |       | Sym          | Close  | Net Chg | Stock      |       | Sym            | Close  | Net Chg | Stock          |       | Sym            | Close  | Net Chg |              |       |                 |        |           |        |       |       |      |
| FrontierComms          |  | FYBR           | 35.75    | -0.01   | HarmonyGold   |       | HYM            | 12.64  | -0.02   | InterContHtIs     |       | HIG           | 111.44 | 0.56    | LatamAirlines |       | LTM            | 32.01  | 0.12    | MarketAxess |       | MTX          | 213.42 | 1.64    | Nasdaq     |       | NDQA           | 77.67  | 0.26    | PG&E           |       | PCG            | 17.06  | -0.06   | PulteGroup   |       | PHM             | 105.32 | -0.53     |        |       |       |      |
| FullTruck              |  | YMM            | 12.99    | -0.35   | HartfordIns   |       | HIG            | 121.46 | 0.38    | IBM               |       | IBM           | 249.90 | 1.45    | LQJ           |       | LQJ            | 40.78  | -0.13   | Marriott    |       | MAR          | 246.48 | 3.56    | Natera     |       | NTRA           | 154.58 | 0.75    | PNC Finl       |       | PNC            | 176.88 | 0.34    | PureStorage  |       | PSTG            | 52.97  | 0.09      |        |       |       |      |
| G H I                  |  | Hasbro         |          | HAS     | 61.04         | -0.56 | InttFlavors    |        | IFF     | 76.92             | -0.61 | LFL Financial |        | LFLA    | 342.54        | 0.80  | MarshMcLen     |        | MMC     | 246.62      | 2.00  | NationalGrid |        | NNG     | 62.99      | 0.15  | POSCO          |        | PKX     | 51.73          | -0.31 | Qiagen         |        | QGEN    | 69.67        | -0.13 | SAP             |        | SAP       | 45.20  | 0.40  |       |      |
|                        |  | HealthpeakProp |          | DOC     | 20.16         | -0.29 | InttPaper      |        | IP      | 56.26             | 3.43  | L3HarrisTech  |        | LHX     | 212.56        | 1.85  | MartinMarietta |        | MLM     | 488.30      | -2.39 | NatWest      |        | NWG     | 12.17      | 0.06  | PPG Ind        |        | PPG     | 111.74         | -1.24 | Quantcom       |        | QCOM    | 160.15       | 0.07  | SG&P Global     |        | SPGI      | 513.16 | 9.22  |       |      |
|                        |  | HeicoA         |          | HEICA   | 215.51        | 2.34  | InterPublic    |        | IPG     | 26.29             | 0.36  | Labcorp       |        | LH      | 234.45        | -1.99 | MarvellTech    |        | MVRL    | 71.67       | -1.09 | NetApp       |        | NTAP    | 94.39      | -0.73 | PPL Inc        |        | PLK     | 34.08          | -0.77 | QuantaServices |        | PWR     | 276.25       | -2.15 | SBA Comm        |        | SBAC      | 214.31 | -4.38 |       |      |
|                        |  | Heico          |          | HEI     | 270.85        | 2.97  | Intra-Cellular |        | ITCI    | 131.70            | ...   | LamarAd       |        | LARC    | 77.67         | -0.32 | Masco          |        | MAS     | 70.39       | -0.39 | NetEase      |        | NTES    | 99.74      | -0.19 | PCC            |        | PTC     | 162.80         | 1.35  | QuestDdiag     |        | QDQ     | 165.66       | -1.67 | SEI Investments |        | SEI       | 78.27  | 0.84  |       |      |
| GE Aerospace           |  | GE             | 212.13   | 1.90    | HenrySchein   |       | HSIC           | 69.38  | -1.78   | Intuit            |       | INTU          | 618.72 | 5.63    | LasVegasSands |       | LVS            | 40.27  | -1.23   | MasTec      |       | MTZ          | 128.69 | -0.97   | Neurocrine |       | NBIX           | 116.18 | 0.58    | PackagingCdm   |       | PKG            | 198.76 | -2.05   | R S          |       |                 |        | SS&C Tech |        | SSNC  | 83.31 | 0.56 |
| GE HealthCare          |  | GEHC           | 82.46    | 0.76    | Hershey       |       | HSY            | 165.23 | -1.38   | IntuitiveSurgical |       | ISRG          | 619.81 | 11.23   | LattisSemi    |       | LSSC           | 62.76  | -0.64   | Mastercard  |       | MA           | 545.16 | 1.49    | NewTimes   |       | NYT            | 49.14  | 0.52    | PalantirTech   |       | PLTR           | 96.50  | -0.25   | RBC Bearings |       | RBC             | 333.41 | -1.70     |        |       |       |      |
| GE Vernova             |  | GEV            | 336.20   | -7.37   | Hess          |       | HES            | 158.29 | 0.94    | InvitaeHomes      |       | INVH          | 34.07  | -0.17   | Lectides      |       | LDS            | 136.25 | 0.46    | McComickVtg |       | MCV          | 80.03  | -0.31   | Newmont    |       | NEM            | 47.55  | 0.73    | PaloAltoNtwks  |       | PANW           | 189.95 | 5.16    | RBL Global   |       | RBA             | 100.52 | 0.42      |        |       |       |      |
| GLFEnvironmetl         |  | GFL            | 48.62    | 0.48    | HessMidstream |       | HESM           | 42.91  | -0.07   | IronMountain      |       | IRM           | 87.87  | -2.22   | Lennar A      |       | LEN            | 117.74 | 0.18    | McDonalds   |       | MCD          | 306.92 | 1.25    | NewsCorp B |       | NWSA           | 30.88  | 0.13    | PanAmerSilver  |       | PAAS           | 25.67  | 0.10    | RELM         |       | RELX            | 50.40  | 0.59      |        |       |       |      |
| J K L                  |  | GSK            |          | GSK     | 38.58         | 0.01  | HewlettPackard |        | HPE     | 16.52             | 0.04  | Lennar B      |        | LENB    | 112.22        | 0.50  | McCormick      |        | MCK     | 60.23       | -0.11 | NextEnergy   |        | NEE     | 68.59      | -1.48 | NewsCorp A     |        | NWSA    | 27.46          | 0.16  | ParamountB     |        | PARA    | 11.61        | -0.03 | RPM             |        | RPM       | 115.77 | -0.89 |       |      |
|                        |  | Gallagher      |          | AJG     | 337.36        | -0.31 | Hilton         |        | HLT     | 234.67            | 2.11  | Lexnottix     |        | LI      | 587.91        | 1.66  | Medtronic      |        | MDT     | 88.59       | -1.54 | Nikkei       |        | NKE     | 66.54      | -0.85 | NextEnergy     |        | NEE     | 68.59          | -1.48 | ParamountA     |        | PARA    | 22.53        | -0.13 | RTX             |        | RTX       | 135.67 | 0.97  |       |      |
|                        |  | GameStop       |          | GME     | 25.40         | -0.21 | Hims&HerHealth |        | HIMS    | 37.04             | -0.37 | LeonardoDRS   |        | DRS     | 34.35         | 0.40  | Meadpac        |        | MDP     | 324.61      | -6.08 | Nisource     |        | NI      | 39.61      | -0.23 | ParkerHannifin |        | PH      | 65.36          | 8.78  | Parsippany     |        | PAS     | 61.36        | 8.78  | RalphLauren     |        | RL        | 231.73 | -4.31 |       |      |
|                        |  | Gaming&Leisure |          | GLPI    | 50.72         | -0.40 | Hologic        |        | HOLX    | 60.80             | -1.09 | LibertyBio    |        | LB      | 26.04         | 0.14  | Merck          |        | MRK     | 87.87       | -2.44 | Nomura       |        | NMR     | 6.66       | 0.01  | Paycom         |        | PAYX    | 144.13         | -0.77 | Parsippany     |        | PAS     | 61.36        | 8.78  | RangeResources  |        | RRC       | 40.14  | -0.53 |       |      |
| Gap                    |  | GAP            | 21.56    | -0.11   | HomeDepot     |       | HD             | 360.99 | -2.78   | LibertyBroadband  |       | LBDD          | 86.31  | 1.50    | Medtronic     |       | MDT            | 88.59  | -1.54   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paychex    |       | PAYX           | 144.13 | -0.77   | PaycomSoftware |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames |       | RJF             | 145.71 | 0.75      |        |       |       |      |
| Garmin                 |  | GRMN           | 218.57   | 4.10    | HondaMotor    |       | HMC            | 20.13  | 0.08    | LibertyBroadband  |       | LBDD          | 86.31  | 1.50    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | Sea          |       | SE              | 80.70  | 0.82      |        |       |       |      |
| Gartner                |  | IT             | 421.76   | -8.03   | Honeywell     |       | HON            | 212.12 | 0.27    | LibertyFormOne A  |       | FWON          | 81.78  | 0.80    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | Seagate      |       | STX             | 87.96  | -0.83     |        |       |       |      |
| GenDigital             |  | GEN            | 27.66    | 0.04    | HormelFoods   |       | HRL            | 28.81  | -0.45   | LibertyFormOne A  |       | FWON          | 81.78  | 0.80    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | Sempra       |       | SRE             | 69.11  | -1.15     |        |       |       |      |
| Generac                |  | GNRC           | 136.17   | -1.50   | HostHotels    |       | HST            | 14.80  | -0.22   | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceNow   |       | SNOW            | 861.38 | 11.65     |        |       |       |      |
| GeneralDynamics        |  | GD             | 267.54   | 1.66    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GeneralMills           |  | GIS            | 57.79    | -0.38   | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GeneralMotors          |  | GM             | 52.59    | 1.13    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| Genmab                 |  | GNAB           | 19.06    | -0.23   | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| Genpact                |  | G              | 50.58    | 0.65    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GenuineParts           |  | GPC            | 117.89   | -2.78   | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GileadSciences         |  | GLD            | 107.89   | 1.15    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GitLab                 |  | GTLB           | 53.13    | 0.01    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GlobalPayments         |  | GPN            | 98.91    | -0.10   | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GlobalFoundries        |  | GFS            | 39.01    | -0.71   | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GlobeLife              |  | GL             | 129.90   | 0.11    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GlobusMedical          |  | GMD            | 76.63    | 0.57    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GoDaddy                |  | GDDY           | 184.19   | 0.69    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GoldFields             |  | GFI            | 20.65    | 0.08    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| GoldmanSachs           |  | GS             | 585.94   | 5.84    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| Grab                   |  | GRAB           | 4.54     | -0.08   | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| Graco                  |  | G              | 84.25    | 0.39    | HoulihanLokey |       | HLI            | 167.94 | 1.14    | LibertyLife       |       | LYVA          | 68.15  | 0.29    | Merck         |       | MRK            | 87.87  | -2.44   | Nordson     |       | NSDN         | 205.93 | -1.65   | Paycom     |       | PAYC           | 223.44 | -0.23   | RaymondJames   |       | RJF            | 145.71 | 0.75    | ServiceTitan |       | TTAN            | 96.67  | 1.91      |        |       |       |      |
| Grainger               |  | GWV            | 990.2.00 |         |               |       |                |        |         |                   |       |               |        |         |               |       |                |        |         |             |       |              |        |         |            |       |                |        |         |                |       |                |        |         |              |       |                 |        |           |        |       |       |      |







In the latest of those, the



"The data today add evidence to the case that the economy has cooled from the torrid pace of consumer-driven growth of the past 18 months," Thomas Simons,

Dow Jones Industrial Average

chief U.S. economist at Jefferies, wrote in a note to clients. "Some kind of pullback was inevitable, though souring sentiment may lead to a steeper slowdown than we anticipated."

Among individual stocks, **International Paper** rose 6.5% after targeting a jump in earnings. A 3.1% decline in **Walmart** shares weighed on the Dow industrials.

New data showed **Tesla** sales plunged 47% in the European Union in February. Tesla shares still rose 3.5%, after a big rally on Monday.

## Elsewhere:

◆ Treasury yields slipped after getting a big lift Monday from the uptick in economic optimism. The yield on the 10-year note settled at 4.307%.

◆ The Stoxx Europe 600 and Japan's Nikkei 225 rose. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell more than 2%, while the Shanghai Composite ended the day flat.

◆ Gold rose to nearly \$3,030 a troy ounce.  
—Sam Goldfarb  
and Angus Berwick

## AUCTION RESULTS

Here are the results of Tuesday's Treasury auctions. All bids are awarded at a single price at the market-clearing yield. Rates are determined by the difference between that price and the face value.

### SIX-WEEK BILLS

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Applications                    | \$205,433,577,200     |
| Accepted bids                   | \$70,816,327,200      |
| "noncompetitively"              | \$727,193,200         |
| "foreign noncompetitively"      | \$100,000,000         |
| Auction price (rate)            | 99.506500<br>(4.230%) |
| Coupon equivalent               | 4.310%                |
| Bids at clearing yield accepted | 97.50%                |
| Cusip number                    | 912797NE3             |

The bills, dated March 27, 2025, mature on May 8, 2025.

### TWO-YEAR NOTES

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Applications                    | \$185,324,132,000     |
| Accepted bids                   | \$71,038,027,300      |
| "noncompetitively"              | \$415,389,200         |
| "foreign noncompetitively"      | \$100,000,000         |
| Auction price (rate)            | 99.792438<br>(3.984%) |
| Interest rate                   | 3.975%                |
| Bids at clearing yield accepted | 39.21%                |
| Cusip number                    | 91282CWC3             |

The notes, dated March 31, 2025, mature on March 31, 2027.

THE NOTES, DATED MARCH 31, 2025, MATURE ON MARCH 31, 2027.

**Carvana**  
The online car seller's shares ticked up 3.8% to about \$220 after Morgan Stanley upgraded its price target for the company to \$280 from \$260.

**Cloudflare**  
Shares of the cloud-services provider rose 2.9% after Bank of America raised its rating on the stock to buy from underperform, citing artificial-intelligence and security momentum.

**Samsung Electronics**  
The head of Samsung's smartphone and consumer-electronics business died from cardiac arrest, jolting the company during a business slide that leaders have called a crisis. Shares fell 1.2% in Seoul.

**Tesla**  
The electric-vehicle maker's sales in the European Union plunged for the second consecutive month in February, despite an overall increase in demand for EVs. Shares advanced 3.5% after rising sharply Monday.

**Smithfield Foods**  
Shares ticked down 2.4%

**Boeing**  
The jet maker is seeking to withdraw an agreement to plead guilty in a long-running criminal case that blamed Boeing for deceiving regulators before two deadly crashes, The Wall Street Journal reported. The company's shares edged higher by 0.9%.

**Shell**  
The oil-and-gas company said it will explore strategic and partnership opportunities for its chemicals operations in the U.S. Shell's shares gained 1.5%.

**WEDNESDAY'S EVENTS:**

- ◆ Durable-goods orders data are expected at 10 a.m.
- ◆ St. Louis Fed President Alberto Musalem, a member of the rate-setting FOMC, speaks on the economy.

**EARNINGS EXPECTED:**  
Before the bell:  
Chewy  
Cintas  
Dollar Tree

After the bell:  
Petco  
Jefferies

The following explanations apply to the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market stocks that hit a new 52-week intraday high or low in the latest session. % **CHG**-Daily percentage change from the previous trading session.

[illegible]

| Largest 100 exchange-traded funds. Preliminary close data as of 4:30 p.m. ET |        |               |         |         |                     |               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------------|
| Tuesday, March 25, 2025                                                      |        |               |         |         |                     |               |
| ETF                                                                          | Symbol | Closing Price | Chg (%) | YTD (%) | ETF                 | Closing Price |
| CommsVnSPDR                                                                  | XLC    | 99.94         | 1.27    | 3.2     | iShareMSCITotIntl   | IXUS 71.79    |
| CnsmrDiscSel                                                                 | XLY    | 205.92        | 0.80    | -8.2    | iShareCoreSP500     | IIV 577.96    |
| DimenUSCoreEq2                                                               | DFAC   | 33.89         | 0.04    | -2.0    | iShareCoreSP MC     | IVH 60.11     |
| EnSelSectorSPDR                                                              | XLE    | 92.83         | 0.41    | 8.8     | iShareCoreSP SC     | IJR 107.36    |
| FinlSecSelSPDR                                                               | XLF    | 50.43         | 0.56    | 4.3     | iShareCoreSPToTus   | ITOT 125.87   |
| HealthCrsSelSel                                                              | XLI    | 145.27        | 1.28    | 5.6     | iShareCoreSPSPGrw   | IUSG 133.90   |
| IndSelSectorSPDR                                                             | XIS    | 134.49        | 0.15    | 2.1     | iShareCoreSPUSVal   | IUSV 92.86    |
| InvsncNas100                                                                 | QQQM   | 203.13        | 0.62    | 3.5     | iShareCoreSPToTUSdb | IUSG 45.88    |
| InvsncQQQ                                                                    | QQQ    | 493.46        | 0.57    | 3.5     | iShareCoreSPAggdb   | AGG 98.45     |
| InvsncSP500EW                                                                | RSP    | 175.27        | -0.24   | 0.0     | iShareEdgeMSCIAsia  | USM 92.85     |
| iShareBitcoin                                                                | IBIT   | 50.14         | -0.08   | 0.5     | iShareEdgeMSCIUSAQ  | QUAL 174.84   |
| iShareDivGrowth                                                              | DGRO   | 61.92         | -0.39   | -0.9    | iShareGoldTr        | IAU 56.99     |
| iShareCoreMSCIEAFE                                                           | IEFA   | 77.57         | 0.19    | 10.9    | iShareHoltXIGcpdb   | LQD 108.40    |
| iShareCoreMSCIEM                                                             | IEMG   | 55.16         | -0.16   | 5.6     | iShareHMSB          | MBS 93.25     |
|                                                                              |        |               |         |         | iShareMSCI EAFE     | EAF 84.11     |

|      | ETF               | Symbol | Closing Price | Chg (%) | YTD (%) | ETF              | Symbol | Closing Price | Chg (%) | YTD (%) |
|------|-------------------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|------------------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
|      | iSharesIEAFEValue | EFV    | 60.32         | 0.73    | 15.0    | JPMNasdEqmPrem   | JEPM   | 54.01         | 0.47    | -4.2    |
|      | iSharesNatMuniBd  | MUB    | 105.35        | -1.18   | -1.1    | JennHendersonAAA | JAAA   | 50.65         | 0.02    | -0.3    |
| 8.5  | iShi-5YIGCpBd     | IGSB   | 52.24         | 0.06    | 1.0     | JPM CPm Eqm      | JEPI   | 57.65         | -0.26   | 0.2     |
| -1.8 | iShi-3YrTreataBd  | ISHT   | 82.50         | 0.04    | 0.6     | JPM US HlthIncM  | JPST   | 50.05         | 0.06    | 0.4     |
| -3.5 | iShRussMc         | IWR    | 87.23         | -0.19   | -1.3    | PacerUSCashCov   | COWZ   | 55.38         | -0.34   | -1.9    |
| -6.1 | iShRuss1000       | IWF    | 316.23        | 0.21    | -1.8    | ProShJHPrpQQQ    | TOQQ   | 67.31         | -1.78   | -14.9   |
| -2.8 | iShRuss1000Gral   | IWF    | 380.26        | 0.61    | -5.3    | SPDRB3I-3MTB     | BIL    | 91.67         | 0.01    | 0.3     |
| -0.9 | iShRuss1000Val    | IWD    | 189.34        | -0.22   | 2.3     | SPDR DJIA Tr     | DIA    | 425.82        | 0.08    | 0.1     |
| -3.9 | iShRuss2000       | IWM    | 207.70        | -0.56   | -6.0    | SPDR Gold        | GLD    | 278.47        | 0.44    | 15.0    |
| 1.6  | iShSP6500Grw      | IWG    | 97.62         | 0.53    | -3.9    | SPDRPtDevxUS     | SPDW   | 57.57         | 0.54    | 10.1    |
| 1.5  | iShSP6500Value    | IVE    | 191.71        | -0.06   | 0.4     | SPDRSP6500Value  | SPVY   | 51.41         | -0.04   | 0.5     |
| 4.6  | iShSelectDiv      | DVY    | 133.12        | -0.56   | 1.4     | SPDRSP6500       | SPY    | 68.88         | 0.22    | -1.5    |
| -4.8 | iSh1-10YrTreataBd | IEF    | 94.63         | 0.17    | 2.4     | SPDRSP6500Growth | SPYG   | 54.50         | 0.44    | -3.9    |
| 15.1 | iShShortTreataBd  | SHF    | 110.39        | 0.01    | 0.3     | SPDR S&P 500     | SPY    | 87.46         | 0.24    | -1.8    |
| 15.1 | iSh20+YrTreataBd  | TLT    | 89.76         | -0.01   | 2.8     | SchwabIntlEq     | SCIF   | 20.29         | 0.64    | 10.2    |
| 1.5  | iShUSTech         | IYW    | 150.11        | 0.50    | -5.9    | SchwabUS BrdMkt  | SCNB   | 22.37         | 0.23    | -1.9    |
| 1.7  | iSh3MSTreasuryBd  | GOVT   | 22.84         | 0.09    | -0.6    | SchwabUS Divd    | SDCH   | 27.84         | -0.89   | 1.9     |
| 11.2 | iSh0-3MTreataBd   | SGOV   | 106.61        | 0.01    | 0.3     | SchwabUSLC       | SCNX   | 22.83         | 0.18    | -1.5    |

| ETF                  | Symbol | Closing Price | Chg (%) | YTD (%) |
|----------------------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| SchwabUSLC Grw       | SCHE   | 26.46         | 0.65    | -5.1    |
| SPDR S&P600CpTr      | MDY    | 54.96         | -0.29   | -3.5    |
| SPDR S&P Div         | SDY    | 133.68        | -0.52   | 1.2     |
| TrackSelectSector    | XLK    | 218.33        | 0.33    | -6.1    |
| VanEck Semiconductor | SMH    | 229.65        | -0.42   | -5.2    |
| VangdSC Val          | VBR    | 191.57        | -0.45   | -3.3    |
| VangdExtIntl         | VXF    | 181.08        | -0.24   | -4.7    |
| VangdDivApp          | VIG    | 195.98        | -0.26   | 0.1     |
| VangdFTSEAwkUS       | VEU    | 62.29         | 0.39    | 8.5     |
| VangdFTSEDevMk       | VEA    | 52.40         | 0.54    | 9.6     |
| VangdFTSEEM          | VWO    | 46.07         | -0.11   | 4.6     |
| VangdGrowth          | VUG    | 391.70        | 0.64    | -4.6    |
| VangdHDiv            | VYM    | 129.18        | -0.43   | 1.2     |
| VangdIntofTech       | VGT    | 577.08        | -0.42   | -7.2    |
| VangdIntmBnd         | BIV    | 76.14         | 0.16    | 1.9     |
| VangdIntmCorpBd      | VCIT   | 81.47         | 0.16    | 1.5     |
| VangdIntmTreas       | VGIT   | 59.04         | 0.17    | 1.8     |
| VangdLTC             | VTCX   | 10.00         | -0.05   | -1.0    |
| VangdMegaGrwth       | MGV    | 265.86        | 0.26    | -1.4    |
| VangdMDC             | WDG    | 326.17        | 0.68    | -5.0    |
| VangdMBS             | VMBS   | 46.07         | 0.17    | 1.6     |
| VangdRealEstate      | VNQ    | 89.71         | -1.12   | 0.7     |
| VangdRuss1000Grw     | VONG   | 87.84         | 0.56    | -5.3    |
| VangdSTP00ETF        | VWO    | 530.65        | 0.24    | -1.5    |
| VangdS&P Bond        | BSV    | 78.03         | 0.09    | 1.0     |
| VangdSTCpBd          | VCSH   | 78.78         | 0.09    | 1.0     |
| VangdShortHrea       | VGSH   | 58.55         | 0.07    | 0.6     |
| VangdSCS             | VB     | 230.26        | -0.32   | -4.2    |
| VangdTxEmpmtBd       | VTB    | 49.59         | -0.18   | -1.1    |
| VangdTTotalBd        | BND    | 73.09         | 0.12    | 1.6     |
| VangdTTotalHd        | BNDX   | 48.62         | 0.02    | -0.9    |
| VangdTTotalIntStk    | VXUS   | 63.77         | 0.33    | 8.2     |
| VangdTTotalStk       | VTI    | 284.49        | 0.17    | -1.8    |
| VangdTotWrldStk      | VTV    | 119.32        | 0.19    | 1.6     |
| VangdValue           | VTW    | 174.03        | -0.30   | 2.8     |

| Continued From Page B9 |                    |         | Net Chg         |                    |         | Net Chg          |                    |         |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Stock                  | Sym Close          | Net Chg | Stock           | Sym Close          | Net Chg | Stock            | Sym Close          | Net Chg |
| Standard Aero          | <b>SARO</b> 29.32  | 0.58    | Suzano          | <b>SUZ</b> 9.42    | -0.01   | TakeTwoPharm     | <b>TWTO</b> 21.95  | 4.00    |
| StanleyB&D             | <b>SWK</b> 8.47    | -1.53   | Symbolic        | <b>SYM</b> 23.38   | -0.12   | TakedaTSP        | <b>TAK</b> 15.04   | 0.00    |
| Stantec                | <b>STN</b> 83.87   | 0.43    | SynchronyFinl   | <b>SYF</b> 55.85   | 0.03    | TalenEnergy      | <b>TLN</b> 217.73  | -1.00   |
| Starbucks              | <b>SBUX</b> 95.88  | 0.43    | Synopsis        | <b>SNY</b> 457.23  | -0.54   | Tapestry         | <b>TPR</b> 74.72   | -1.00   |
| StateStreet            | <b>STT</b> 92.52   | -0.34   | Sysco           | <b>SYP</b> 70.39   | -1.04   | TargaResources   | <b>TRGP</b> 205.57 | 0.00    |
| SteelDynamics          | <b>STLD</b> 128.00 | 1.34    | <b>T U V</b>    |                    |         | Target           | <b>TGT</b> 105.40  | 0.00    |
| Stellantis             | <b>STLA</b> 12.40  | 0.12    | TAL Education   | <b>TAL</b> 13.03   | -0.07   | TargetFMC        | <b>FTI</b> 30.39   | 0.00    |
| Steris                 | <b>STE</b> 221.78  | -1.23   | TC Energy       | <b>TRP</b> 48.86   | -0.41   | TeledyneRes      | <b>TECK</b> 42.73  | 0.00    |
| StifelFinancial        | <b>SF</b> 101.88   | -0.30   | TD Synnex       | <b>SNX</b> 126.60  | 0.30    | Tercon           | <b>ERIC</b> 8.24   | 0.00    |
| STMicrolife            | <b>SLM</b> 24.04   | -0.19   | TE Connectivity | <b>TEC</b> 150.80  | 1.82    | TelefonicaBras   | <b>VIV</b> 8.60    | 0.00    |
| Stryker                | <b>SYK</b> 372.87  | -0.41   | Telus           | <b>TU</b> 13.92    | 0.13    | Telefonika       | <b>TEF</b> 4.56    | 0.00    |
| SumitomoMits           | <b>SMFG</b> 16.25  | -0.11   | TJX             | <b>TJX</b> 119.88  | 0.28    | TelekomIndonesia | <b>TLK</b> 14.08   | 0.00    |
| SummitComm             | <b>SMMT</b> 20.24  | -0.45   | TKO             | <b>TKO</b> 154.60  | 1.69    | TempusAI         | <b>TEM</b> 58.57   | -0.00   |
| SunComm                | <b>SUN</b> 128.17  | -2.19   | T-MobileUS      | <b>TMUS</b> 258.75 | -0.21   | Tenaris          | <b>TS</b> 40.28    | 0.00    |
| SunLifeFinancial       | <b>SLF</b> 57.62   | 0.24    | T-MobileUS      | <b>TMUS</b> 258.75 | -0.21   | TencentMusic     | <b>TME</b> 14.25   | 0.00    |
| SunEnergy              | <b>SUN</b> 38.48   | 0.07    | T-Ping          | <b>TPG</b> 52.55   | 0.31    | TenetHealthcare  | <b>THC</b> 130.78  | 1.00    |
| Supco                  | <b>SUN</b> 57.39   | 0.39    | T.RowePrice     | <b>TRP</b> 95.47   | -0.51   | Tieradeyne       | <b>TER</b> 89.95   | -1.00   |
| SuperMicroComp         | <b>SMCI</b> 40.64  | -1.08   | TaiwanSemi      | <b>TSM</b> 180.90  | -0.26   | Tesla            | <b>TSLA</b> 288.14 | 0.00    |

| Stock            | Sym  | Close   | Net Chg | Stock          | Sym   | Close  | Net Chg | Stock           | Sym  | Close  | Net Chg |
|------------------|------|---------|---------|----------------|-------|--------|---------|-----------------|------|--------|---------|
| TetraTech        | TTK  | 29.44   | 0.07    | Travelers      | TRV   | 259.45 | 0.01    | UPS B           | UPS  | 109.95 | -5.82   |
| YevaPharm        | TEVA | 15.70   | -0.48   | Trimble        | TRMB  | 70.48  | -1.59   | UnitedRentals   | URI  | 653.39 | 6.30    |
| TexasInstruments | TXN  | 183.97  | -1.54   | Trip.com       | TCOM  | 63.67  | -0.24   | US Bancorp      | USB  | 43.70  | -0.07   |
| TexasPacLand     | TPL  | 1362.36 | 17.38   | TrustFirst     | TFC   | 42.00  | -0.15   | US Steel        | X    | 43.00  | -1.18   |
| TexasRoadhouse   | TXRH | 177.50  | 1.63    | Twilio         | TWLO  | 105.89 | -0.38   | UnitedHealth    | UNH  | 316.73 | -3.11   |
| Textron          | TXT  | 74.64   | 0.36    | TylerTech      | TYL   | 580.30 | 5.91    | UnitedHealth    | UNH  | 513.43 | -3.01   |
| ThermoFisher     | TMO  | 514.34  | -0.56   | TysonFoods     | TSN   | 59.95  | -0.42   | UnitySoftware U | U    | 22.89  | 0.31    |
| ThomsonReuters   | TRI  | 172.45  | 0.88    | UBS Group      | UBS   | 33.67  | 0.71    | UniversalHealth | UHS  | 185.91 | 4.33    |
| 3M               | MMM  | 153.50  | 0.35    | UDR            | UDR   | 44.08  | -0.23   | i Unum Group    | UNI  | 83.04  | -0.43   |
| Toast            | TTM  | 36.35   | 0.20    | U-Haul         | UHAL  | 65.20  | 0.48    | Unicor          | UNIC | 31.64  | -0.43   |
| TollBro          | TOL  | 110.92  | 0.70    | U-Haul N       | UHALB | 58.94  | 0.64    | Valero          | VALE | 10.09  | 0.11    |
| TopBuild         | BLD  | 313.21  | -1.89   | UL Solutions   | ULS   | 54.75  | 0.96    | ValeoEnergy     | VLO  | 132.00 | 0.06    |
| TorontoDombk     | TD   | 60.95   | 0.42    | US Foods       | USFD  | 65.20  | -0.37   | Vaxcyte         | PCVY | 71.90  | -1.95   |
| TotalEnergies    | TE   | 63.52   | 1.40    | UWM            | UWMC  | 5.67   | -0.11   | VeevaSystems    | VVEV | 240.61 | 1.95    |
| ToyotaMotor      | TM   | 193.01  | 0.54    | Uber           | UBER  | 75.61  | -0.90   | Ventas          | VTR  | 67.63  | -0.55   |
| Transocean       | TSCO | 52.83   | -0.70   | Ubiquiti       | UI    | 322.62 | -10.34  | VentureGlobal   | VGT  | 11.47  | -0.11   |
| TradeDesk        | TTD  | 62.00   | 2.66    | UltraBeauty    | ULTA  | 370.75 | 4.59    | Veralto         | VLTO | 9.75   | -0.55   |
| TraneTech        | TW   | 145.54  | 1.46    | Unilever       | UL    | 58.09  | -0.05   | i Verisign      | VRSN | 245.81 | 0.14    |
| Travere          | TR   | 364.00  | 6.40    | Unipacific     | UNP   | 235.79 | 0.59    | VersiaAnalytics | VRSA | 28.76  | 2.33    |
| TransDigm        | TDG  | 1394.11 | 13.76   | UnitedAirlines | UAL   | 78.90  | -1.32   | Verizon         | VZ   | 43.49  | -0.40   |
| TransUnion       | TU   | 87.66   | -0.13   | UnitedMicro    | UMC   | 6.72   | -0.07   | Vertex          | VRTX | 450.04 | -2.74   |

| Stock          | Sym  | Close  | Net Chg | Stock            | Sym  | Close  | Net Chg | Stock         | Sym  | Close  | Net Chg |
|----------------|------|--------|---------|------------------|------|--------|---------|---------------|------|--------|---------|
| Vertiv         | VRT  | 91.58  | -2.11   | WasteConnections | WCN  | 192.90 | 1.97    | Woodward      | WWD  | 193.08 | 0.96    |
| Viatrias       | VTRS | 8.95   | -0.35   | WasteMgt         | WM   | 227.07 | 0.83    | Woodfinl      | WF   | 24.44  | 0.83    |
| Viking         | VIKS | 41.28  | -0.14   | Waters           | WAT  | 368.57 | -4.77   | Workday       | WAD  | 35.82  | 2.92    |
| VinFastAuto    | VFS  | 3.31   | -0.07   | Watsoo           | WSO  | 517.94 | 5.42    | WynnResorts   | WYN  | 86.03  | 1.16    |
| Vipshop        | VIPS | 16.06  | -0.35   | WebsterFin       | WBS  | 52.67  | XP      | XPO           | XP   | 14.65  | -0.19   |
| Visa           | V    | 344.62 | 0.75    | WellsFargo       | WFC  | 74.24  | -0.04   | XPO           | XPO  | 111.02 | -1.48   |
| Vistra         | VST  | 131.61 | -0.13   | Welltower        | WELL | 148.17 | -1.67   | XcelEnergy    | XEL  | 67.87  | -0.93   |
| Vodafone       | VOD  | 9.35   | 0.06    | WestcoInt        | WCC  | 167.01 | -1.63   | XchangeTECInc | XHG  | 68.2   | -0.91   |
| VornadoRealty  | VNO  | 39.32  | -0.09   | WestPharmSvc     | WTS  | 225.80 | -6.10   | XPeng         | XPEV | 21.01  | -0.28   |
| VulcanMatls    | VXC  | 240.98 | 0.17    | WestAllianceBcp  | WAL  | 85.06  | 0.05    | Xylem         | XYL  | 123.09 | 2.39    |
| W X Y Z        |      |        |         | WesternDigital   | WD   | 43.39  | -0.92   | YPF           | YPF  | 37.67  | 1.50    |
|                |      |        |         | WesternMidst     | WES  | 41.19  | -0.18   | YumBrands     | YUM  | 155.80 | -0.02   |
| WECC Energy    | WEC  | 104.31 | -1.47   | Westermask       | WLK  | 100.68 | -1.97   | YumaChina     | YUMC | 51.25  | -0.56   |
| WP Carey       | WPC  | 61.62  | 0.21    | Weyerhaeuser     | WY   | 29.20  | -0.36   | ZTO Express   | ZTC  | 19.82  | -0.15   |
| WPP            | WPP  | 39.89  | 0.25    | WhartonPrcdMts   | WPM  | 75.94  | 0.13    | ZebraTech     | ZBRA | 199.02 | -6.39   |
| Wabtec         | WAB  | 189.60 | 0.74    | Williams-Sonoma  | WBM  | 60.91  | -0.18   | Zillow C      | Z    | 73.56  | -0.05   |
| WalgreensBoots | WBA  | 11.12  | -0.03   | Williams-War     | WSM  | 169.17 | -1.13   | Zillow A      | ZG   | 72.07  | -0.23   |
| Walmart        | WMT  | 84.76  | -0.73   | WillisTowers     | WTW  | 337.93 | 0.71    | ZimmerBiomet  | ZBH  | 110.38 | -0.86   |
| WarnerBroksA   | WBD  | 10.98  | 0.01    | Wipro            | WIT  | 3.14   | 0.01    | Zoetis        | ZTS  | 161.30 | -1.87   |
| WarnerMedia    | WMG  | 32.49  | 0.16    | Wirecom          | WIX  | 173.31 | 0.56    | ZoomComms     | ZM   | 78.13  | -0.87   |
|                |      |        |         | WorldwideEnergy  | WDS  | 14.57  | 0.04    | Zscaler       | ZS   | 215.73 | 5.70    |

Top 250 mutual-funds listings for Nasdaq-published share classes by net assets.

**e**-eX-distribution. **f**-Previous day's quotation. **g**-Footnotes x and s apply. **j**-Footnotes e and s apply. **k**-Recalculated by LSEIG, using updated data. **p**-Distribution costs apply, 12b-1. **r**-Redemption charge may apply. **s**-Stock split or dividend. **t**-Footnotes p and r apply. **v**-Footnotes x and e apply. **x**-E-dividend. **z**-Footnote x, e and s apply. **NA**-Not available due to incomplete price, performance or cost data. **NE**-Not released by LSEIG; data under review. **NN**-Fund not tracked. **NS**-Fund didn't exist at start of period.

| Fund              | NAV    | Net Chg | % Ret | YTD % | Fund                 | NAV    | Net Chg | % Ret | YTD % | Fund                 | NAV    | Net Chg | % Ret | YTD % |
|-------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|----------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|----------------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|
| iDroZLgCplx       | 20.59  | +0.03   | -1.6  |       | SrsBChGroRetail      | 18.43  | +0.07   | -7.1  |       | CorePlusBd           | 7.24   | +0.01   | 2.1   |       |
| USdXslnstPret     | 15.72  | 0.04    |       |       | SrsEmrgMkt           | 19.59  | -0.05   | 0.9   |       | Lord Abbett I        |        |         |       |       |
| BrownComPret      | 28.46  | +0.04   | -6.4  |       | GrSGlobal            | 15.46  | +0.04   | 6.9   |       | StrtDnrncP           | 3.87   |         | ...   | 1     |
| GrdVldInstPret    | 52.78  | +0.16   | -5.2  |       | GrSIntGrw            | 22.42  | +0.04   | -6.5  |       | Metropolitan West    |        |         |       |       |
| GrVldInstPret     | 15.15  | +16.5   | -5.2  |       | SrsIntGrw            | 18.43  | +0.09   |       |       | Metropolitan         | 9.03   | +0.01   | 2.1   |       |
| GrVldInstPret     | 18.65  | +0.04   | -2.8  |       | SrsIntVld            | 13.99  | +0.10   | 17.4  |       | MFS Funds            |        |         |       |       |
| MLCplndInstPret   | 33.44  | -0.09   | -1.0  |       | TotalBond            | 9.52   | +0.01   | 2.3   |       | IEE                  | 37.02  | +0.20   | 9.1   |       |
| AIUSLGCplxHdF     | 22.89  | +0.03   | -1.5  |       | Fidelity SAI         |        |         |       |       | MFS Funds Class I    |        |         |       |       |
| SeriesBondF       | 8.99   | +0.01   | 2.2   |       | FidSalIntflFnd       | 10.14  | +0.02   | 3.2   |       | GrowthI              | 193.71 | +1.05   | -4.4  |       |
| SeriesOverseas    | 14.79  | +0.09   | 10.0  |       | TotalBond            | 9.02   | +0.01   | 2.3   |       | ValueU               | 50.35  | -0.35   | -3.5  |       |
| serLTREtBdDlx     | 5.45   | +0.01   | 3.5   |       | Fidelity Selects     |        |         |       |       | Natixis Funds        |        |         |       |       |
| smCplndInstPret   | 26.09  | -0.17   | -5.7  |       | Semiconductors r     | 30.34  | -0.27   | -9.4  |       | InvGradeBDY          | 9.85   | +0.01   | 0.1   |       |
| MLCplndInstPret   | 158.30 | +0.16   | -1.8  |       | Tech                 | 33.88  | +0.01   | -8.1  |       | LSGrowthY            | 28.46  | +0.19   | -3.4  |       |
| GrdVldInstPret    | 20.00  | -0.02   | -1.8  |       | Fidelity Strategic A |        |         |       |       | Northern Funds       |        |         |       |       |
| GrdVldInstPret    | 17.00  | +0.01   | 2.2   |       | StratAdmGrMkt        | NA     |         | ...   |       | Stkldx               | 58.53  | +0.09   | -1.4  |       |
| USBdInstPret      | 10.36  | +0.01   | 2.2   |       | First Eagle Funds    |        |         |       |       | Old Westbury Funds   |        |         |       |       |
| Fidelity Freedom  |        |         |       |       | GlbA                 | 72.24  | +0.17   | 7.8   |       | LGPCF                | NA     |         | ...   | N     |
| Freedom2030C      | 18.06  | +0.03   | 2.9   |       | Franklin AI          |        |         |       |       | Parnassus Funds      |        |         |       |       |
| Freedom2030NS     | 20.64  | +0.03   | 2.9   |       | IncomeA1             | 2.39   | -0.01   | -2.1  |       | ParnEqFnd            | 59.75  | -0.09   | 0.0   |       |
| Freedom2030NSPret | 23.86  | +0.04   | 2.3   |       | FrankTemp/Frank Adv  |        |         |       |       | PGIM Funds CI Z      |        |         |       |       |
| Freedom2040NSPret | 25.20  | +0.04   | 2.4   |       | IncomeAdv            | 2.37   |         | ...   | 2.7   | TotalReturnBd        | NA     |         | ...   | N     |
| Freedom2040NSPret | 26.55  | +0.05   | 2.4   |       | FrankTemp/Frank Adv  |        |         |       |       | PIMCO Fds Instl      |        |         |       |       |
| Freedom2040NSPret | 26.59  | +0.04   | 2.4   |       | DynasTech A          | 164.86 | +1.06   | -5.6  |       | TotRet               | NA     |         | ...   | N     |
| Fidelity Invest   |        |         |       |       | Growth A             | 130.39 | -0.29   | -2.1  |       | PIMCO Funds A        |        |         |       |       |
| BalCh             | 29.30  | +0.04   | -0.9  |       | RISdvA               | 88.35  | -0.37   | -0.8  |       | IncomeF              |        |         |       |       |
| BalCh             | 21.14  | +0.72   | -7.1  |       | Guggenheim Funds Tru |        |         |       |       | PIMCO Funds IZ       |        |         |       |       |
| BalChCP Gr K6     | 34.40  | +0.07   | -6.6  |       | TotRtnBdFidInst      | 23.77  | +0.03   | 2.5   |       | Income               | NA     |         | ...   | N     |
| Contra            | 21.00  | +0.09   | -0.9  |       | Harbor Funds         |        |         |       |       | PIMCO Funds Instl    |        |         |       |       |
| ContraK           | 21.08  | -0.10   | -0.7  |       | CapApInst            | 108.54 | -0.60   | -4.5  |       | IncomeFnd            | NA     |         | ...   | N     |
| Cplnc             | 10.09  | -0.01   | 0.4   |       | JHF II DispVd        |        |         |       |       | Price Funds          |        |         |       |       |
| GrCo              | 37.67  | +0.07   | -6.6  |       | DispValMCCI          | 26.79  | -0.05   | -0.6  |       | BICIn                | 178.49 | -1.19   | -4.4  |       |
| InvGrdB           | 10.02  | +0.01   | 2.4   |       | John Hancock         |        |         |       |       | DlyGrw               | 79.10  | -0.02   | -0.2  |       |
| LowP              | 41.14  | +0.01   | 1.0   |       | BondR6               | 13.51  | +0.02   | 2.3   |       | Growth               | 100.91 | +0.61   | -3.4  |       |
| Magin             | 14.61  | -0.06   | -1.5  |       | PIMCO I Class        |        |         |       |       | LgCapGow I           | 79.84  | -0.39   | -4.2  |       |
| SDAQ              | 231.92 | +1.05   | -0.5  |       | CoreBond             | 10.28  | +0.01   | 0.4   |       | MidCap               | 95.43  | -0.32   | -4.4  |       |
| QDVC              | 20.18  | +0.07   | -0.2  |       | Ealnc                | 24.61  | -0.01   | -0.1  |       | Putnam Funds Class A |        |         |       |       |
| PortC             | 24.46  | +0.06   | -1.6  |       | LgCPGwth             | 77.19  | +0.43   | -3.2  |       | PutLargCap P         | 35.49  | -0.09   | 0.3   |       |
| AIUSMNVnlndFid    | 21.18  | -0.04   | 2.3   |       | JPMorgan R Class     |        |         |       |       | Putnam Funds Class Y |        |         |       |       |
| AIUSGXTdydx       | 21.18  | +0.03   | 0.5   |       | CoreBond             | 10.30  | +0.02   | 2.5   |       |                      |        |         |       |       |

| Fund               | NAV    | Net Chg | YTD % Ret | Fund        | NAV    | Net Chg | YTD % Ret | Fund               | NAV    | Net Chg | YTD % Ret |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------|-------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| utLutGrCap         | 35.50  | -0.08   | 3.3       | MuHYAdml    | 10.56  | -0.03   | ...       | TgtRe2060          | 52.27  | +0.07   | 2.0       |
| chwInvB            |        |         |           | MultAdmL    | 13.51  | -0.02   | ...       | TgtRet2055         | 56.71  | +0.07   | 2.0       |
| 000 Inv r          | 123.87 | +0.17   | -1.6      | MuLTAdml    | 10.71  | -0.03   | 0.3       | TgtRetInc          | 13.34  | +0.01   | 1.8       |
| 000 Inv r          | 88.94  | +0.15   | -1.5      | MuLTAdml    | 10.86  | -0.01   | 0.0       | Wellsr             | 42.27  | +0.07   | 2.0       |
| 000 Sel r          | 97.27  | +0.10   | -1.8      | MuLTAdml    | 15.79  | -0.01   | 0.9       | Windsrl            | 44.92  | +0.07   | 1.4       |
| strategic Adm      |        |         |           |             |        |         |           |                    |        |         |           |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | PrmcpAdm r  | 170.24 | -0.58   | 2.3       | VANGUARD INDEX FDS |        |         |           |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | RealEstAdmL | 117.13 | -2.77   | 1.7       | ExtndtIslxP        | 339.07 | -2.29   | -4.3      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | ScApAdmL    | 120.30 | -4.02   | -4.2      | IdxtIntl           | 20.44  | +0.04   | 8.2       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | StBthAdmL   | 93.16  | -0.26   | -5.4      | MdCpGrAdmL         | 109.49 | +0.02   | 0.2       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | SmGAdmL     | 10.21  | ...     | ...       | MdCpVAdmL          | 84.18  | -0.30   | 0.5       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | STGrAdmL    | 10.38  | +0.01   | 1.7       | SmvValAdmL         | 82.32  | -0.37   | -3.3      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | STIPSLAdmL  | 24.88  | +0.03   | 2.5       | TotBd2             | 4.99   | +0.01   | 2.3       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 9.61   | +0.01   | 2.3       | TotIntlnstlxd      | 136.74 | +0.31   | 3.2       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 19.44  | -0.02   | -0.6      | TotIntlnstPLd      | 136.77 | +0.31   | 8.2       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 34.19  | +0.07   | 8.2       | TotIntlnstPLd      | 136.78 | +0.31   | -1.6      |
| VANGUARD INSTL FDS |        |         |           |             |        |         |           |                    |        |         |           |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 138.45 | -0.14   | ...       | Ballnst            | 48.39  | +0.05   | -0.2      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 296.78 | -0.39   | -1.6      | DveMktsIndxnl      | 16.83  | +0.08   | 9.9       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 16.80  | -0.02   | 9.9       | DveMktsIndxnl      | 26.30  | +0.11   | 9.9       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 16.80  | -0.02   | 9.9       | ExtndtIslxP        | 137.40 | -0.92   | -4.3      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 67.89  | -0.23   | 2.8       | FTCstnt            | 39.39  | +0.10   | -2.7      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 79.69  | +0.13   | ...       | Gwlnthstnt         | 269.36 | -1.67   | -1.4      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 61.11  | -0.06   | 2.8       | Instxd             | 40.60  | +1.74   | -4.3      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 73.50  | -0.11   | ...       | Instxd             | 46.69  | +1.70   | -4.3      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TotBdAdmL   | 71.63  | -0.06   | 1.4       | STIPSLxP           | 72.28  | -0.10   | -1.0      |
| VANGUARD FDS       |        |         |           |             |        |         |           |                    |        |         |           |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | DivtGr      | 36.27  | -0.02   | 0.2       | MidCpnt            | 97.44  | -0.14   | 0.3       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | IntvLvl     | 40.56  | +0.55   | 8.0       | MidCpntSLP         | 357.28 | -0.69   | 0.3       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | LifeGr      | 45.01  | +0.06   | 1.9       | SmCapSLP           | 110.30 | -0.42   | -4.2      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | LifeMod     | 31.89  | +0.03   | 0.9       | SmCapSLP           | 110.38 | -1.19   | -4.2      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | PrmcpCp r   | 34.04  | -1.84   | ...       | STGrAdmSLP         | 10.38  | +0.01   | 1.7       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | STAR        | 28.02  | +0.03   | 2.0       | STIPSLxins         | 24.90  | +0.03   | 2.5       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TgtRe2020   | 24.02  | -0.05   | 1.9       | TotBdXinsl         | 9.61   | +0.01   | 2.3       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TgtRe2025   | 19.04  | -0.02   | 1.8       | TotBdlnst2         | 4.99   | +0.01   | 2.3       |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TgtRe2030   | 38.55  | +0.04   | 1.8       | TotBdlnst3         | 29.17  | +0.03   | -0.4      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TgtRe2035   | 24.42  | -0.03   | 1.8       | TotBdlnst4         | 29.17  | +0.03   | -0.4      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TgtRe2040   | 44.02  | +0.05   | 1.9       | ValuStnt           | 138.49 | -0.14   | -1.8      |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TgtRe2045   | 30.24  | +0.04   | 1.9       | WCM FCM Focus      |        |         |           |
| 000 Inv r          |        |         |           | TgtRe2050   | 50.83  | +0.07   | 2.0       | WCMFntdGrwnls      | 23.83  | -0.05   | 9.5       |



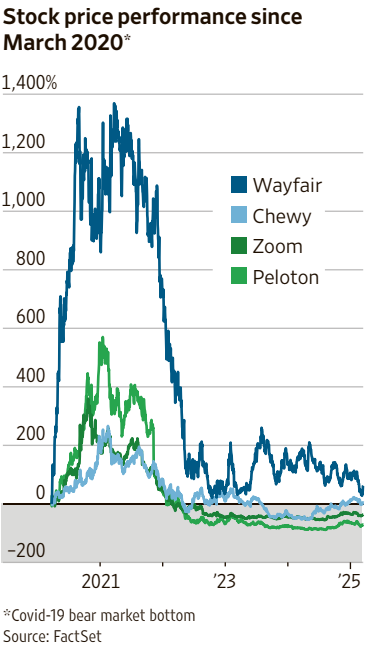
# HEARD ON THE STREET

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

## What Covid Should Have Taught Us

Pandemic darlings had a lot in common with AI, quantum computing and 3-D printing

Where are they now? Nearly every American stock rebounded after the bottom of the Covid-19 bear market five years ago—a rally that made picking winners like shooting fish in a barrel. A tsunami of government stimulus and a realization that the world wasn't ending were responsible for much of that. But some companies' shares did especially well precisely because of the pandemic. While that didn't last, their lessons about Wall Street's hype machine should. Breakthroughs like artificial intelligence, quantum computers and 3-D printing induce a fear of missing out, sending too many stocks rocketing higher. They give pundits something to talk about, brokers the next thing to sell and asset managers an excuse to launch new funds. Covid beneficiaries were like those thematic stocks on steroids, jumping at the same time in a way that looks silly with the benefit of hindsight. Investors treated their sales gains in 2020 and 2021 as if they would keep going. Even if that were possible, competitors pounced on the same opportunities. Companies that sold in-demand physical goods during the emergency even cannibalized their own future demand. Take **Wayfair**: As people found themselves spending far more time at home with enforced savings and stimulus checks, the online furniture retailer experienced more demand than it could handle. A year after the Covid bottom, its stock had surged 1,367%. But Wayfair's sales per share in 2024 were lower than during the year before



**Peloton's shares jumped during the Covid-19 pandemic, but they erased all of those gains.**

the pandemic. Exercise-equipment maker **Peloton's** shares jumped 758% as demand for home-exercise equipment exploded, lifting its market value to nearly \$50 billion. They have erased all of those gains, dropping 96% from their peak as social distancing has become a thing of the past and other fitness brands have launched online offerings. Peloton's new equipment now also has to compete with plenty of its own lightly used machines for sale online. It has never earned an annual profit and analysts polled by FactSet see sales falling for a



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

fourth consecutive fiscal year. Online pet-goods retailer **Chewy's** rise and fall were slightly less extreme, and the boost to its business less fleeting, too. After all, most of those pets adopted during the pandemic are still alive. But Chewy's flatlining sales make its trailing price/earnings ratio of more than 4,000 times back in 2021 look insane in retrospect. **Zoom** became a verb and its stock surged more than 700%, giving it a market value of more than \$160 billion. Yet the company's multiple of 3,000 times trailing earnings implied it had some sort

of permanent monopoly on video-conferencing—a service others offer free of charge. Some other companies benefited beyond a temporary sales surge. Online crafts marketplace **Etsy** was one of the few sources of face masks for a while. After demand for them plummeted, the company still had gained name recognition and new customers. Likewise, software company **Docusign's** benefit from social distancing and a mortgage boom are over, but the public got comfortable with electronic signatures. Sales are higher for both compa-

nies—just not that much higher. Shares of Etsy and Docusign are down by 85% and 71%, respectively, from their Covid-19 pandemic peaks. Sometimes a company's fortunes really do change overnight. Investors lucky enough to own their shares still need to go back to the basics of what gives them value—decades of future cash flows. If it is hard to argue that the price gain reflects a business opportunity that is big and sustainable enough, then the next step is clear: Take the money and run before others figure it out, too. —*Spencer Jakab*

## Bank's Reporting Delay Has Investors Wondering

The Bancorp Inc. jumped the gun with its annual report. Now it's behind schedule filing the new version. The Delaware-based bank-holding company on March 4 cautioned investors not to rely on its 2024 annual report—which it had just filed one day earlier. The company said at the time it expected to file a new report within 15 calendar days, in line

with an extension period under the securities rules. Three weeks have passed since then. Bancorp hasn't filed the report or explained the delay. Bancorp said the original report was "inappropriately filed," because its outside accounting firm, Crowe, didn't provide final approval to include its audit opinion for 2024. In addition, Bancorp said its

prior auditor, Grant Thornton, "also did not provide approval to include its audit opinion" covering 2023 and 2022. Investors don't seem bothered for now. Bancorp's stock price is up 2% since March 3, the day it filed its original annual report. In a March 10 update, Bancorp said it expected to revise its credit losses for "consumer fintech loans" and make an offsetting ad-

justment on its balance sheet, resulting in "no net income impact." It also said there was no impact to its 2022 and 2023 numbers. Bancorp hasn't filed any disclosures since then. If the fix is that simple, one has to wonder what is taking so long. When Bancorp files its amended annual report, it also will have business matters to update. In its original annual report, Bancorp

said March 21 was the date it expected to close the sale of an apartment complex underlying a delinquent loan with a \$41 million balance. The closing date was extended once before. Bancorp, which has about \$9 billion of assets, hasn't said if the sale closed this time. A Bancorp spokesman didn't respond to requests for comment. —*Jonathan Weil*

### BUSINESS NEWS

## Japan's Sake Masters Resist a Rising Tide of Whisky

By DON NICO FORBES

OSAKA, Japan—The Japanese have been drinking sake since the eighth century. Back then, the rice-based liquor was believed to ward off ghosts. Today, it has a stronger spirit to contend with: whisky—spelled the Scottish way here. Enter Nishiya, a bar in downtown Osaka, and regulars will insist you try a highball. "It was invented in the U.K.," says the bartender, mixing whisky, ice and soda. "But it was perfected in Japan." The cocktail has been gaining ground since the late 2000s. It pairs well with the local cuisine, and provides momentary relief in neighborhood taverns, or *izakaya*, during the country's hot and humid summers. Between 2015 and 2020, domestic whisky sales increased 50%. Contrast that with sake consumption, which by some measures has fallen by more than 75% since the 1970s, and 30% in the past decade, displaced in part by invasive species—sometimes beer, but especially whisky. The government in Tokyo has stepped in, introducing brand ambassadors—"sake samurai"—to promote the industry. Last year, the beverage obtained Unesco world heritage status, like French Champagne or Belgian beer. But resistance to whisky also is coming from the factory floor. Sake brewers have begun experimenting with new "craft" recipes, adding



**A whisky-tasting course and lecture at the Suntory Yamazaki Distillery in Japan.**

unusual ingredients to hit hoppy, beer-inspired flavors and floral, gin-like notes. One brewery has developed an Italian-inspired "margherita" sake, blending the umami of sun-dried tomatoes with the amino acids produced during sake's traditional brewing process. All this to make the whisky-and-soda brigade look a little staid. "We want to honor tradition but also create things no one has ever seen before," said Shuhei Okazumi, founder of the Japan Craft Sake Brewers Association. This community of young, entrepreneurial *toji* want to upend sake's image as the drink of a bygone era. Dedicated craft sake bars

are now popping up around Tokyo. Festivals debuting new and unusual varieties from around the country are sold-out events. "They're like the young, punk-rock generation of sake brewing," said Monica Samuels, one of roughly a hundred government-certified sake samurai. "For so long, mainstream Japanese culture has told people to blend in. You're not supposed to be outrageous. The craft sake movement wants to change that." They could be in for a long, thirsty fight. Whisky is now deeply entrenched in Japanese drinking culture. The country's taste for the amber nectar can be traced back to Masataka Ta-

ketsuru, revered as the godfather of Japanese whisky, who traveled to Scotland in 1919 to serve an apprenticeship before returning to help found Japan's first distilleries. The spirit has had its ups and downs since then, but consumption really took off when people began adding soda and ice. Takeshi Niinami, chief executive of **Suntory**, Japan's largest distillery, says shifting consumption patterns are partly demographic. Japan's rapidly aging population means health considerations are at the fore of many drinkers' minds, he says. Sake tends to have a high sugar content. "When I go out for sushi,

I'll go for a highball. Because sake might be delicious, but I can't afford the sugar. Sure I can have maybe just one glass, that's fine. But sake is too good—you can rarely just have one," Niinami says. But it also speaks to a turn in local production. Many traditional sake brewers are now pivoting to whisky, attracted not only by strong domestic demand but the high prices premium varieties can command overseas. International awards, marketing campaigns and Bill Murray's turn in the movie "Lost in Translation" have whetted appetites for Japanese whisky to such an extent that a bottle of Suntory's Yamazaki whisky, aged for 55 years, can set a buyer back close to \$1 million. Yoichiro Nishi, an eighth-generation sake and shochu producer, opened **Ontake Distillery** in 2019. Nestled in the foothills of Mount Ontake, Japan's second-largest volcano after Fuji, the distillery strikes a blend between old and new. Dark timber panels, autumnal maple trees and natural springs recall the traditional tea houses of Kyoto, or the temples of Koyasan, but an angular, concrete walkway, echoing the masters of Japanese brutalism, suggests tradition might be taking a turn. Inside, burnt-black sherry casks carry a single-malt whisky, now five years old. A first edition was released in 2023, taking gold at the San Francisco Wine & Spirits Competition.

Nishi acknowledges the jump from sake to whisky was far from straightforward. He recalls his fascination with the idea that a drink could improve over time, maturing for five, 10, or 20-plus years. "As a brewer of sake, a drink best consumed fresh, this was an intriguing concept," he says. But time is money, and whisky is by nature a waiting game. To get around this, Nishi sells casks before they have matured. While waiting, customers are invited to stay in the distillery, sample a few drams and sink a few holes in Ontake's on-site golf course. The distillery is open to everyone—everyone who can shell out \$50,000 for a cask, that is. Nishi is one of many newcomers to the industry. In 2016, there were 10 whisky distilleries in Japan. Today there are nearly 130. But an increasingly vibrant market has come at a cost. From records in 2022, exports of Japanese whisky have started falling. Many are worried that an explosion of distilleries is diluting authenticity, with blends of local and overseas whiskies commonly sold under the Japanese whisky brand. Some are calling for tighter industry regulations. Others insist the rules are made to be broken. "Creativity has always been vital to the Japanese spirit," says Brian Ashcraft, an author who has written extensively on Japanese drinking culture. "Any regulation shouldn't come at the expense of that."

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