

What's News

Business & Finance

Consumer-goods companies are under growing pressure from politicians, investors, activists and consumers urging them to further curtail sales and manufacturing in Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. **A1**

◆ **The U.S. and U.K.** struck a trade accord that will remove U.S. tariffs on British steel and aluminum, while the U.K. will lift levies on American whiskey, motorcycles and tobacco. **A2**

◆ **China Evergrande** said it was working to raise fresh funds after it disclosed that banks had taken control of more than \$2 billion held by a subsidiary. **B1**

◆ **U.S. stocks rose**, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow gaining 1.1%, 2% and 0.7%, respectively. Government bond yields jumped. **B12**

◆ **A Koch Industries unit** has made at least 10 investments worth at least \$750 million in the U.S. battery supply chain and electric vehicles in the past 18 months. **B1**

◆ **Small groups of Disney employees** across the U.S. took off from work and gathered to protest what they described as the company's continued failure to support LGBT employees. **B3**

◆ **The criminal-fraud trial** began for Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, former president of the defunct blood-testing company TheraNas. **B5**

◆ **Canadian Pacific Railway** and the union representing its conductors and engineers agreed to shift stalled contract negotiations to binding arbitration. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **The battle for Ukraine's** southern port city of Mariupol intensified, with fleeing civilians describing Russian and Ukrainian forces locked in street-by-street warfare through the city's downtown as Moscow's airstrikes gutted entire neighborhoods. **A1, A6-8**

◆ **Russian opposition figure** Navalny was sentenced to nine more years in prison on fraud and contempt of court charges, in a case his supporters say was brought against him on Putin's orders. **A7**

◆ **Supreme Court nominee** Ketanji Brown Jackson parried suggestions from Republican senators that she was soft on crime or would seek to impose her personal preferences through judicial opinions. **A1**

◆ **An easily transmitted** version of the Omicron variant known as BA.2 represents a growing share of Covid-19 cases in the U.S., including a majority in parts of the Northeast, CDC estimates show. **A3**

◆ **Some people** without health insurance will begin getting bills for Covid-19 treatment and testing after the Biden administration began winding down a reimbursement program for providers. **A3**

◆ **Rescuers in southern** China found no sign of survivors after combing through wreckage at the site where a China Eastern Boeing 737 crashed a day earlier. **A9**

◆ **A tornado tore** through parts of New Orleans and its suburbs Tuesday night. Other tornadoes spawned by the same storm system hit parts of Texas and Oklahoma. **A4**

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Flood of Refugees Strains European Neighbors



ON THE MOVE: Clockwise from top, a Ukrainian evacuee hugs a child in the train station in Przemysl, Poland, on Tuesday; refugees wait to apply for aid in Prague; and women from Kharkiv are reunited with a friend from Chernihiv in Siret, Romania. **A7**

Ukrainians Escape as Barrage Intensifies

Residents describe fighting in the streets as Russian attacks devastate Mariupol

By Isabel Coles

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine—The battle for the southern port city of Mariupol intensified with fleeing civilians describing Russian and Ukrainian forces locked in street-by-street warfare through the city's downtown as Moscow's airstrikes gutted entire neighborhoods.

Nearly a month since Russia invaded Ukraine, it is on the verge of taking Mariupol in what would be the first major city to fall under its control. But Mariupol is a shattered prize.

"Everything fell apart," Natalia Poluiko said on Tuesday, hours after arriving in Zaporizhzhia, about 150 miles west, with her 8-year-old daughter and five other relatives. "We had a choice to wait there until a bomb fell on our building, or risk trying to get out."

The family fled Mariupol in two vehicles with belongings strapped to the roof and a religious icon on the dashboard, praying for safe passage on

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Firms Wrestle With Essential Label in Russia

By Saabira Chaudhuri and Sharon Terlep

The world's biggest makers of household staples have vowed to stop selling all but the bare essentials in Russia.

Companies are grappling, though, with what counts as

essential.

Lay's potato chips, Gillette razors and Air Wick home fragrances are still on sale in Russia, along with several brands of ice cream, a line of children's cosmetics and natural facial cleansers. Parent companies PepsiCo Inc., Procter &

Gamble Co., Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC and Unilever PLC have said they suspended sales of all but essential food and other products in Russia.

Consumer-goods companies are under pressure from politicians, investors, activists and consumers urging them to fur-

ther curtail sales and manufacturing in the country after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine last week publicly named Unilever and Nestlé SA in calling out "large corporations that still sponsor Rus-

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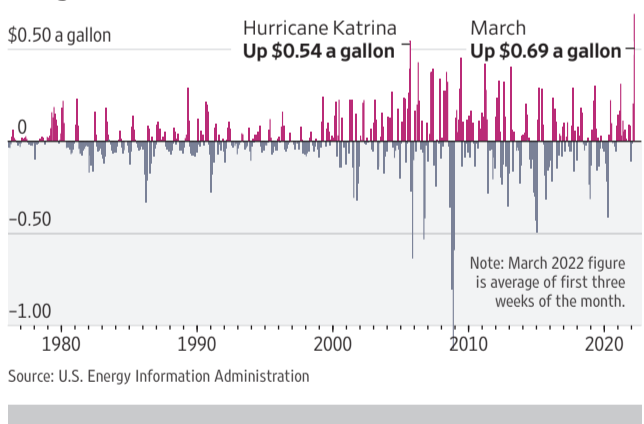
Navalny Faces New Sentence

Russian opposition leader sentenced to nine additional years in prison..... **A7**

Gasoline Prices Near Milestone

Inflation-adjusted gasoline prices are at their highest levels since 2014, though recent increases vary across the U.S. **A2**

Inflation-adjusted retail price for regular gas, change from a month earlier



Invasion's Spillover Swamps Poor Countries

Conflict spurs price shocks in nations still reeling from Covid-19

Over the past 120 years, a Beirut bakery has survived civil war, Lebanon's financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. Fighting in

By Saeed Shah, Nazih Osseiran and Nicholas Bariyo

Ukraine, disrupting food and energy supplies world-wide, may soon put it out of business.

Zouhair Khafiyeh's storefront is empty of the pastries and meat-stuffed pies he has sold for years, which helped put his children

through college. The cost of a bag of flour on the black market has gone up more than 1,000% since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. Mr. Khafiyeh has raised his prices by 50%, he said, and now bakes only when customers order and pay up front.

"We cannot continue like this," said Mr. Khafiyeh, 54 years old. He fears he may have to close his bakery within a month.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has spread pain across the developing world. It has

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Ukrainian defense forces adopt ambush tactics **A6**

Russian air power is stymied by Kyiv's missiles **A6**

U.S. rethinks uranium supply for nuclear plants **A6**

Chevron lobbies U.S. to add more Venezuelan oil **A8**

Personal Journal: Age changes lens on war **A13**

Americans Learn Cartoon Japanese

Anime fans sprinkle Nihongo into their speech; how kawaii!

By Stephanie Lai

Kristin Hart was surprised when her daughter started calling her *Okaa-san*.

That's "Mother" in Japanese, and it's among the words Aimee, 12, has been increasingly using at home since she started watching anime—Japanese cartoon shows—including "My Hero Academia," a TV series about superheroes in training.

Aimee says she got hooked on the series and used YouTube to learn more about anime and Japanese culture and language. "I would remember the sounds and the subtitles and I'd start speaking it to my

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Court Nominee Replies To Sharp GOP Queries

By Siobhan Hughes

WASHINGTON—Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson negotiated her first day of questioning by senators without seeming to cloud her prospects of confirmation by a Senate narrowly controlled by Democrats, parrying suggestions from Republicans that she was soft on crime or would seek to impose her personal preferences through judicial opinions.

"I think I have a good appreciation of what it means to be a judge and the limitations on my own authority," she said Tuesday.

Questioning from the Senate Judiciary Committee was set to continue Wednesday.

Topics aired Tuesday included Judge Jackson's decisions on child-pornography cases, her work representing Guantanamo Bay detainees, and the abortion-rights precedent in *Roe v. Wade*, her sentiment

on the academic concept known as critical race theory, and whether her judicial philosophy reflected a will to remake the law in ways that go beyond the Constitution as understood when drafted.

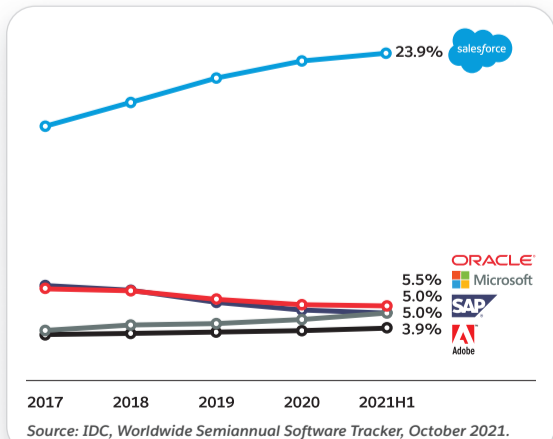
Barring unforeseen revelations, little stands in the way of confirmation for Judge Jackson, the first Black woman to be nominated to serve on the Supreme Court. The Senate's composition is unchanged since last year, when three Republicans joined all 50 Democrats and independents to confirm her to the D.C. Circuit. "They are grasping at straws," said Sen. Mazie Hirono (D., Hawaii), who sits on the committee, referring to Republican challenges to the nominee.

Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, chairman of the Senate Republican conference, said: "It remains like a fair and thorough hearing. There are a lot of questions that need to be

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Salesforce. #1 CRM.

Ranked #1 for CRM Applications based on IDC 2021 H1 Revenue Market Share Worldwide.



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U.S. NEWS

U.S., U.K. Strike Trade Deal on Tariffs

Levies on British steel and retaliation on American whiskey, motorcycles to end

By YUKA HAYASHI

WASHINGTON—The U.S. and U.K. struck a trade accord Tuesday that will remove U.S. tariffs on British steel and aluminum, while the U.K. will lift levies on American whiskey,

motorcycles and tobacco.

Biden administration officials said the agreement with the U.K. would allow the U.K. to ship “historically-based sustainable volumes” of steel and aluminum products to the U.S. without levies imposed under the former Trump administration.

In exchange, the U.K. will lift retaliatory tariffs on more than \$500 million worth of U.S. exports to the U.K., including distilled spirits, farm products and consumer goods.

The deal also requires any U.K. steel company owned by a Chinese entity to audit their financial records to assess possible influence from China, and share the results with the U.S., according to a statement from Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

Tuesday’s agreement follows similar deals the Biden administration signed with the European Union and Japan in recent months as part of its

effort to mend trade ties with friendly nations strained during former President Donald Trump’s trade war.

Officials said the deal would help lower the costs for U.S. companies that buy imported steel, while discouraging steep increases in imports by maintaining tariffs on shipments beyond the agreed-upon level.

The Steel Manufacturers Association, a trade group for companies that make steel in electric furnaces by melting

scrap steel, applauded the pact, with President Philip K. Bell saying it would help with the problems of global excess steel capacity and illegal steel dumping by foreign entities.

The accord was announced during a visit to the U.S. by U.K. Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan to launch new trade dialogues to enhance bilateral cooperation.

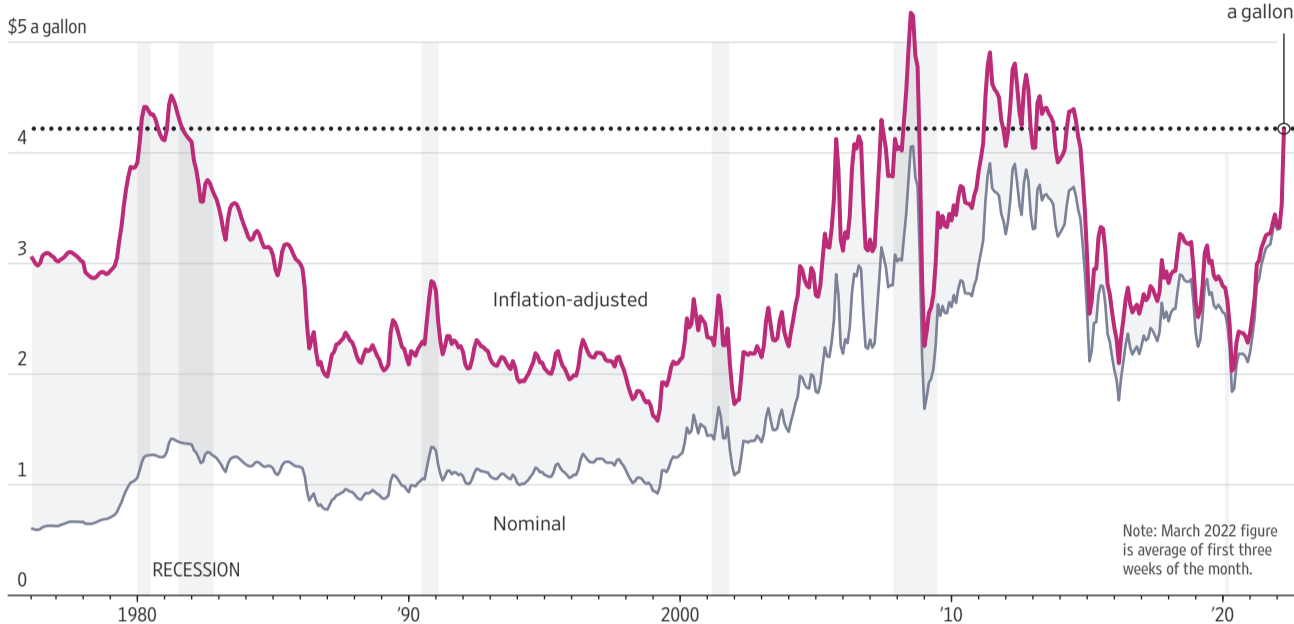
The import duty of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum

from various countries were imposed in 2018 by Mr. Trump, who said that protecting the U.S. steel industry from low-priced imports was a matter of national security. The tariffs succeeded in pushing down steel imports but didn’t lead to the steelmaking renaissance that Mr. Trump promised.

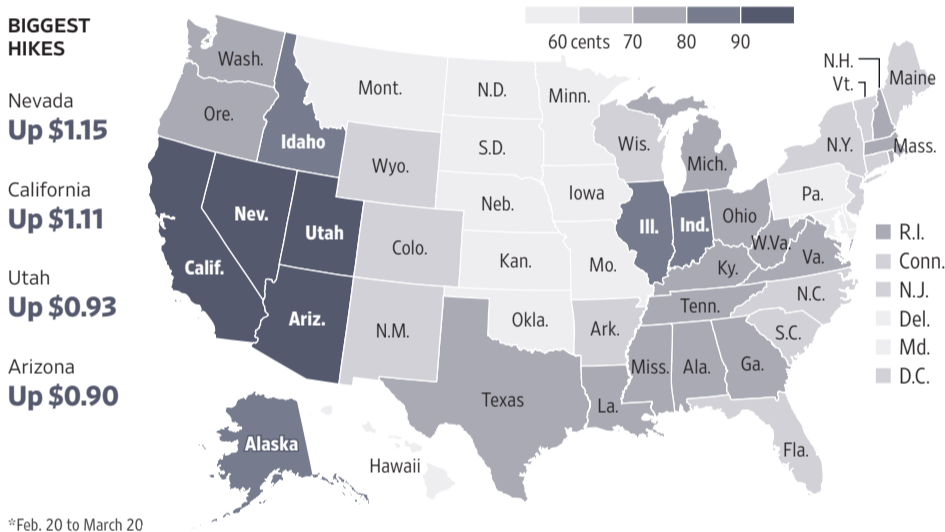
Under the agreement, the U.K. will be allowed to ship up to an annual 500,000 metric tons of steel duty free, divided among 54 products.

The Rising Cost of Filling Up

U.S. monthly average retail price for regular gasoline

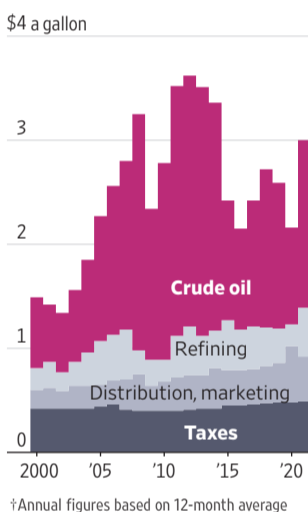


How much more a gallon of regular gas costs now than a month ago*

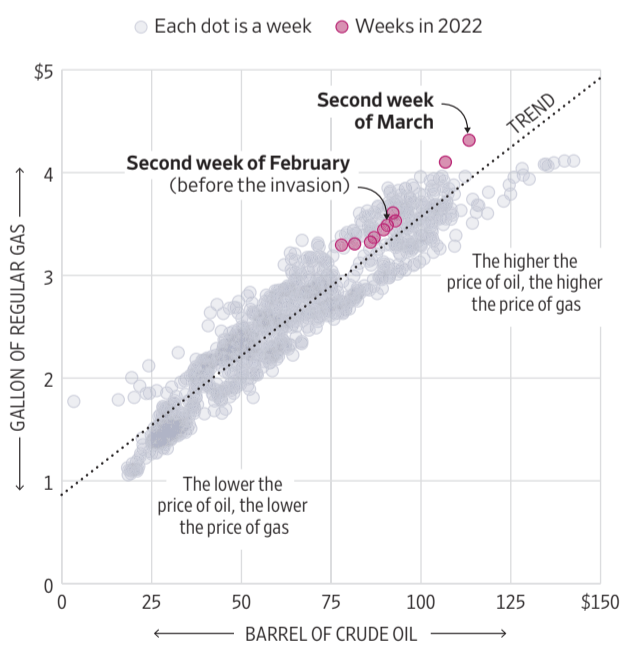


*Feb. 20 to March 20

Components of a gallon of regular retail gasoline†

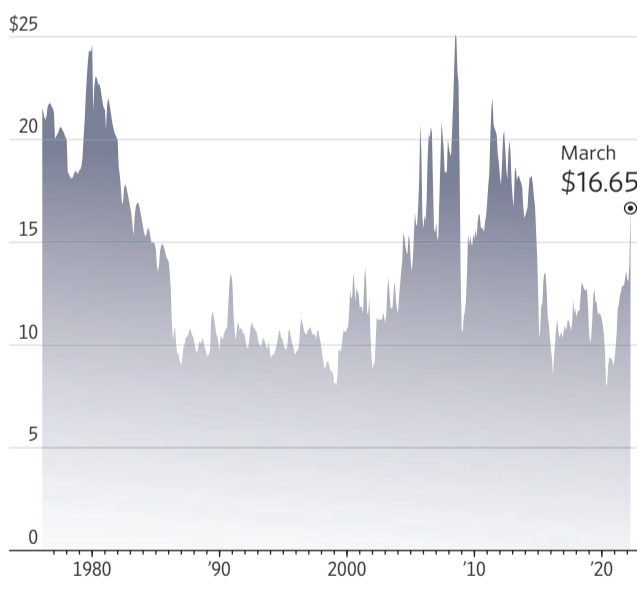


Weekly prices‡ since 2000



‡Spot price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil and retail price of regular grade gasoline. Oil weeks end on Fridays and gasoline weeks end the following Monday. **March 2022 gas price is average of first three weeks of the month. Fuel economy based on real-world miles per gallon for the model year. MPG for 2021 and 2022 are 2021 preliminary figure. Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration; AAA (state and D.C. prices); Environmental Protection Agency (miles per gallon) Angela Calderon and Erik Brynildsen/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Inflation-adjusted cost of gas to go 100 miles after factoring in fuel efficiency**



Gasoline Prices Near New Milestone

By KARA DAPENA

As summer driving season approaches, average prices for regular gasoline have been at record highs the past two weeks after rising 11 straight weeks. Prices reached \$4.32 a gallon on March 14, according to weekly figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. They were \$4.24 this past week, according to figures released Monday.

Those prices at the pump don’t factor in inflation, though, which reached its highest rate in four decades last month. Inflation-adjusted gas prices are at their highest since 2014 and similar to what drivers saw in the early 1980s.

Inflation-adjusted gasoline prices aren’t at record highs. But if March prices average \$4.22 a gallon, as they have so far, they show motorists will have been saddled with the biggest month-over-month

price increase since EIA records began in the mid-’70s. The next-highest increase was after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Some regions have seen greater price increases than others. Nevada saw the biggest increase, with prices up \$1.15 a gallon over the past month, according to AAA, much higher than the national average of 72 cents. The smallest change was in Maryland, where prices rose 28 cents.

A number of factors can contribute to these regional differences, including gasoline specifications, which switch to summer-grade earlier in some parts of the country, like California. “Summer grade gasoline is more expensive to produce and may have contributed to a larger price response recently,” according to the EIA.

Supply-and-demand dynamics also play a part. Gasoline inventories are below their

five-year historic range in the West Coast and above average for this time of year in the Midwest, according to the EIA.

Some of the main ingredients that make up the retail price for regular gas include costs and profits of refining, distribution and marketing. Taxes are another component, and some lawmakers have proposed or enacted a halt on gas taxes amid high inflation.

The cost of crude oil accounts for the most of what drivers pay at the pump. This means gasoline prices generally follow crude-oil prices, which have been increasing as U.S. demand returns to pre-pandemic levels faster than production. More recently, Russia’s Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine has caused crude-oil prices to sharply increase over the prospect of tighter global supplies as sanctions mount on a major crude oil exporter.

The daily spot price for the

U.S. benchmark crude oil topped \$100 a barrel for the first time in nearly eight years on March 1. When oil prices rose above \$125 in 2008, gas prices barely broke \$4.

These elevated gasoline prices sting a little less than they did in the early ’80s, when inflation-adjusted prices were similar, because vehicles have become more fuel efficient. In 1980, new passenger vehicles got an average estimated 19 miles to the gallon, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. New vehicles today get about 25 miles to the gallon.

So, while prices in 1980 and in March of this year are similar after adjusting for inflation, drivers need 25% less gas to travel the same distance today as was needed then.

If oil prices remain at their current levels, any summer road trips might cost more than they have in years.

Billionaire Scott Gives Habitat \$436 Million

By GINGER ADAMS OTIS

MacKenzie Scott, one of the richest women in the world, has donated \$436 million to Habitat for Humanity, the organization said on Tuesday, in one of the billionaire philanthropist’s largest publicly disclosed donations.

Ms. Scott, who was formerly married to Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos, has a net worth of about \$54.4 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a ranking updated daily of the richest people in the world.

Jonathan Reckford, chief executive for Habitat for Humanity International, said the organization received \$25 million from Ms. Scott and her husband, Dan Jewett, while the remaining \$411 million will be shared among 84 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates.

Much of the \$25 million will be used to increase the supply of affordable housing, particularly in communities of color, Habitat said.

Founded in 1976, the nonprofit partners with communities in all 50 states and 70 countries around the world to address housing shortages. Habitat’s local affiliates will also use the gift to contribute to the organization’s global ministry, which has already committed \$200,000 to offer housing support to refugees fleeing Ukraine.

Ms. Scott, who divorced Mr. Bezos in 2019, signed the Giving Pledge later that year. Started in 2010 by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates, his now ex-wife Melinda French Gates and Berkshire Hathaway Chief Executive Warren Buffett, the initiative encourages the world’s richest individuals and couples to give more than half of their wealth to philanthropy or charitable causes, either during their lifetime or in their wills.

Ms. Scott, who was instrumental in helping Mr. Bezos create Amazon, received 4% of

the company’s shares as part of their divorce settlement, although Mr. Bezos retained voting rights for those shares.

Ms. Scott said in June 2021 that she would donate \$2.7 billion to 286 organizations. Ms. Scott and Mr. Jewett worked with researchers, administrators and advisers to identify historically underfunded nonprofits that work in neglected areas, she wrote in a Medium post.

“We chose to make relatively large gifts to the organizations...both to enable their work, and as a signal of trust and encouragement, to them and to others,” Ms. Scott said.

In July 2020, Ms. Scott gave \$1.7 billion to an array of causes and organizations, including historically Black colleges and universities as well as groups that support

Boys & Girls Clubs disclosed a \$281 million gift from Ms. Scott last week.

women’s rights, LGBT rights and efforts to fight climate change. Later that year, she said on Medium that she had donated just over \$4 billion over four months to 384 groups focusing on food insecurity and systemic inequality.

In December, Ms. Scott said she would stop going public about her philanthropic gifts and let recipients decide if and when they want to announce the donations, as Habitat for Humanity did on Tuesday.

Last week, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, one of the country’s largest youth-serving organizations, said it received \$281 million from Ms. Scott. On Monday, the Fortune Society, a New York-based group offering support to formerly incarcerated people, said Ms. Scott had donated \$10 million to the organization.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

Yan Xiong, a Democrat, is running for the congressional seat in New York’s 10th District. A U.S. News article Thursday about the arrests of alleged Chinese agents accused of harassing dissidents living in the U.S. incorrectly said that Mr. Xiong is running for the congressional seat in New York’s First District. Mr. Xiong registered last year to run in the First District but switched to the race in the 10th District in February.

chart omitted a label specifying billions.

Cult Wine Investment is the name of a wine-investment platform. The “On Wine” column in Saturday’s Off Duty section incorrectly gave the name as Cult Wines. Also, CultX will provide customers access to retail-pricing data for wine. The column incorrectly said that CultX also will provide auction-pricing data to customers.

A chart with a Business & Finance article on Monday about green startups showed amounts in billions of dollars that climate and sustainability startups raised since 2012. The

chart omitted a label specifying billions.

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

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U.S. NEWS

Growing Share of Cases Tied To BA.2 Variant

By JON KAMP

An easily transmitted version of the Omicron coronavirus variant known as BA.2 represents a growing share of Covid-19 cases in the U.S., including a majority in parts of the Northeast, new federal estimates show.

New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates released Tuesday put BA.2 at about 35% of U.S. cases as of the week ending March 19. The numbers top 50% in New England and a region that includes New York and New Jersey, the CDC sequencing estimates show.

Reaching more than half of cases is an important juncture, after which the U.S. should soon know whether BA.2 will touch off a new surge, said Katelyn Jetelina, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center's School of Public Health. Whether this happens is uncertain due to a range of factors, including the high level of people infected during the winter's Omicron wave, which added to the population's immune protection, she said.

"I'm holding my breath to see what this looks like," Dr. Jetelina said.

BA.2's increasing prevalence comes as the seven-day average for cases in the U.S. has recently hovered around 30,000,

35%

U.S. cases tied to new Omicron variant as of March 19

according to data collected by Johns Hopkins University, down from January's record peak above 800,000. Case counting has become difficult as states dial back on reporting and more people test at home.

The number of hospitalized Covid-19 patients is nearing the lowest level following a surge since the pandemic began. The CDC has folded hospitalization data into its recently recalibrated risk-assessment tool, which puts nearly all of the U.S. below levels that would lead to recommendations for masks in indoor, public settings.

These trends led states that had rules intended to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, such as mask mandates, to drop them in recent weeks.

Physicians and epidemiologists have said they are concerned that stopping efforts to slow viral transmission could help enable a new surge caused by BA.2, a version of Omicron believed to spread more easily than the version that tore through the U.S. in December and January.

Higher BA.2 levels are causing Covid-19 to spread more quickly in European countries such as the U.K., where pandemic trends tend to develop a few weeks ahead of the U.S.

Research has suggested BA.2 is similar to an earlier Omicron version when it comes to the risk of hospitalizations and developing severe disease. But research also indicates BA.2 spreads more easily.

Wastewater Watched for a Virus Uptick

By BRIANNA ABBOTT AND JON KAMP

BOSTON—At a sewage treatment plant on a sliver of land in Boston Harbor, trickles of wastewater are pumped into a plastic jug every 15 minutes. Samples from the jugs, analyzed at a lab in nearby Cambridge, are part of the growing effort to monitor the Covid-19 virus in wastewater across the U.S.

On Deer Island in Boston, readings from the system covering 2.4 million people have recently shown virus readings leveling off after a steep decline from this winter's Omicron-driven rise. In some areas, levels of the virus may be edging higher.

"The last few days have been a little worrisome," Larry Madoff, medical director of the bureau of infectious disease and laboratory sciences at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, said late last week. "It certainly bears careful watching."

Wastewater sampling here and at hundreds of sites nationwide is once more drawing closer scrutiny from epidemiologists worried the spread of what appears to be a yet-more-contagious version of Omicron, known as BA.2, and rising cases in Europe could soon spoil the latest U.S. recovery. The number of wastewater sites indicating virus increases on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dashboard has risen in recent weeks, though the majority of sites still show declining levels.

In Boston and beyond, these systems during the Omicron wave helped quickly detect virus-concentration surges, declines and circulating variants, often before testing and case data. Health authorities believe it will become an increasingly important early-warning tool that can help guide public messaging and other responses, like marshaling resources to surging areas.

But the technique is also suffering some growing pains from a mix of technological, data-interpretation and logistical challenges as U.S. authorities try to build out a national system.

"We're trying to figure out how you can take that data and turn it into public-health action and how that can be incorporated into a surveillance system," said Kelly Wroblewski, director of infectious-disease programs at the Association of



A wastewater treatment plant in Boston Harbor is one of hundreds of sites nationwide that test for evidence of the coronavirus. Recent samples at the Boston plant have been 'a little worrisome,' said Larry Madoff, a public-health official in Massachusetts.

Public Health Laboratories.

Researchers determined early in the pandemic they could track the new coronavirus through the sewers. The low-cost technique has speed and coverage benefits: People can shed virus in their waste before they feel sick enough to get tested. Many never get tests that generate results that can be tallied by public-health officials, especially now that people are self-testing more at home. States have also started closing testing sites and dialing back daily data reporting, making a passive data source like the sewers increasingly important.

"We are really relying more and more on wastewater as testing goes down," said Loren Hopkins, chief environmental science officer with the Houston Health Department, which detected Omicron's presence via wastewater before it confirmed a case in the city.

The CDC established a wastewater surveillance network in late 2020 and added wastewater data to its public Covid-19 dashboard in February. The system currently includes data from more than 700 sampling sites that cover roughly one-quarter of the U.S. population. The agency

has a contract with a testing company to provide twice-weekly testing to more sites and is aiming to expand its network into all 50 states within the next few years.

Still, some places aren't well-suited to wastewater monitoring. Roughly one in five households, concentrated in rural areas, use septic systems that don't feed into sewers or wastewater treatment plants, federal officials estimate.

"We will have a challenge bringing wastewater surveillance to all communities, particularly those that are very rural," said Amy Kirby, team lead

on the National Wastewater Surveillance System at the CDC.

The CDC's network has hit some challenges in its expansion. The well-established testing program on Boston's Deer Island is working through some data-collection hurdles before it can submit numbers to the CDC, said Steve Rhode, a laboratory director for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

At low levels of virus, data gathered from wastewater can be noisy, and the CDC's current wastewater dashboard can show some confusing readings. It lists percent changes in virus concentrations at individual sites over 15-day periods, but not the virus levels themselves or the trends over time. This can lead to what look like huge increases—some recently topped 2 billion percent—likely in instances where there are changes from low virus levels, agency scientists say. The CDC is working on new ways to standardize and display its data, they say.

U.S. to End Covid-19 Reimbursement Program

By STEPHANIE ARMOUR AND SABRINA SIDDIQUI

WASHINGTON—Some people without health insurance will begin getting bills for Covid-19 treatment and testing after the Biden administration on Tuesday started to wind down a federal program that reimburses providers for virus-related care for the uninsured and that officials say is running out of funds.

The White House said it will end the reimbursement program, which started under the Trump administration and also pays hospitals and other healthcare providers for things such as administering Covid-19 vaccines to the uninsured, by the end of April because it is running out of money. The administration and hospitals are urging lawmakers to approve more funding for the program.

The White House earlier this month pushed for \$22.5 billion in Covid-19 funding to pay for a range of programs, including the provider relief

funds and replenishing supplies of vaccines and antibody drugs. Congressional Republicans have called to repurpose Covid-19 money that states haven't yet spent, but a number of House Democrats have balked at using money promised to states.

The provider relief fund, which was created to help hospitals and community health centers seeing decreased revenue or increased expenses because of the pandemic, was launched with more than \$100 billion in 2020, and later legislation added about \$78 billion. All of the money in the provider relief fund has been allocated, though it has not all been paid out, according to an official with the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration.

About 50,000 hospitals, doctors and other providers have submitted claims requesting funding from the uninsured program since April 2020, the federal official said.

New York City to Lift Under-5 Mask Rule

Masks will be optional for children under the age of 5 in New York City schools and day-care facilities starting early next month if the city's Covid-19 numbers keep showing a low-risk level, Mayor Eric Adams said Tuesday.

The guideline for children 2 to 4 will take effect April 4.

Mr. Adams said there are large numbers of parents on both sides of the issue and emphasized the need to follow the science.

Earlier this month, New York City dropped its requirement that students and teachers in K-12 public schools wear masks inside. The city also ended the requirement that patrons show proof of vaccination to enter bars, restaurants and other businesses. Mr. Adams said the positivity rate has stayed low since it removed the mask mandate for K-12 students.

New York's seven-day average of total cases was 726 as of March 21, up from the 28-day average of 646. The seven-day average positivity rate was 1.66%, down from the 28-day average of 1.89%.

—Allison Prang

The program bars providers who receive the funding from billing the uninsured for the difference between the money they get and the costs of treatment, a practice known as balance billing.

In total, about \$20 billion from the relief fund has

helped cover providers' costs for administering vaccines, testing and treatment for people without health coverage.

The administration said it would stop accepting claims for treatment and testing for uninsured people Tuesday, and the deadline for claims for ad-

ministering vaccines was in two weeks.

Hospitals that have relied on the funding say they are still feeling the financial squeeze of the pandemic and that more funding is needed for the uninsured program.

An estimated 9.6% of the population, or 31.1 million people, lacked health insurance in the first six months of 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Biden administration has said while Covid-19 cases have sharply declined, funding is needed to prepare for future variants and continue with vaccination campaigns and other programs to protect the public. The White House says the lack of new congressional funding means it won't be able to purchase a second round of boosters for the general public, should federal regulators authorize another dose of the vaccine.

—Melanie Evans contributed to this article.

Two GOP Governors Veto Sports Bans for Transgender Girls

By JENNIFER CALFAS

Republican governors in Indiana and Utah vetoed bills that would have barred transgender girls from competing in female sports at school, differing from GOP leaders in other states who have signed similar rules into law.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and Utah Gov. Spencer Cox struck down similar bills this week as the debate over whether transgender athletes—particularly those competing in girls' and women's sports—can compete in sports leagues that differ from their biological sex at birth has become a contentious battle in

some state legislatures.

Leaders in both GOP-led state legislatures on Tuesday said they intend to hold votes to override these vetoes.

In a letter to lawmakers Monday, Mr. Holcomb questioned whether issues of fairness in school sports currently existed in the state and said the legislation could be targeted in lawsuits. The bill "leaves too many unanswered questions," he said.

"It implies that the goals of consistency and fairness in competitive female sports are not currently being met," Mr. Holcomb wrote in the letter. "After thorough review, I find no evidence to support either

claim even if I support the overall goal."

Mr. Cox vetoed Utah's legislation Tuesday, criticizing the process of how the bill was considered, raising concerns about potential lawsuits and clarifying current rules regarding how transgender athletes have been able to compete in sports.

In a letter to legislative leaders, Mr. Cox said out of 75,000 students participating in high-school sports in the state, four are transgender and one is participating in girls sports. He pointed to research showing 56% of transgender youth have attempted suicide. "Rarely has so much fear

Indiana and Utah Republican state lawmakers aim to override the vetoes.

and anger been directed at so few," Mr. Cox wrote. "I don't understand what they are going through or why they feel the way they do. But I want them to live."

Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston and Rep. Michelle Davis, who wrote the legislation in Indiana, said they hope to override the veto

when lawmakers meet again in May.

In Indiana, the state's House and Senate can override a governor's veto with a majority vote in both chambers.

"Hoosier girls deserve better and that's why I look forward to taking action to override this veto," Ms. Davis said.

In Utah, legislative leaders said they would meet Friday to vote to override the veto, which requires a constitutional two-thirds majority of each chamber of the legislature.

Some state lawmakers across the nation have introduced and passed measures banning student athletes from participating in categories dif-

ferent from their biological sex at birth in recent years. Supporters of these bills say transgender female athletes have a natural physical advantage. Opponents say the legislation isn't needed, denies transgender students the opportunity to play school sports and is unconstitutional.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, signed legislation this month barring transgender girls from competing in female sports.

Ten other states have enacted similar restrictions in recent years, according to transathlete.com, which tracks athletics policies around the country.

U.S. NEWS

Student-Loan Borrowers Face Hurdles

Fed finds 37 million spared \$195 billion in payments, warns of hardship if pause ends

By GABRIEL T. RUBIN

Around 37 million federal student-loan borrowers were spared \$195 billion in loan payments since the government froze their payments at the onset of the pandemic, and many of them are likely to struggle with their debts when the moratorium is lifted, according to a report released Tuesday by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Borrowers haven't been required to make payments on so-called direct federal student loans, and interest rates on those loans have been set at zero, since Congress passed emergency legislation in March 2020, a pause that has since

been extended through May 1 and could be extended further. The bank found borrowers with a certain type of federal loan that is held privately, who didn't have their payments frozen or had it frozen only briefly by their banks, had a 33% higher delinquency rate on their nonstudent, nonmortgage debt since late 2020, compared with the direct federal borrowers who remained in forbearance.

The authors said they expected federal borrowers who had their payments frozen to have similar trouble managing their debts when the freeze ends. "We believe that Direct borrowers are likely to experience a meaningful rise in delinquencies, both for student loans and for other debt, once forbearance ends," the New York Fed researchers wrote.

The analysis comes as the Biden administration considers its next steps for dealing with the roughly \$1.6 trillion federal

student-loan portfolio. The administration is under pressure from many congressional Democrats and supporters who want the freeze extended beyond May 1 for what would be the fourth time under President Biden, and the sixth time since it was adopted.

Many of those lawmakers, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, also want the administration to move forward with plans to cancel tens of thousands of dollars worth of debt per borrower, though Mr. Biden has been reluctant to pursue that policy in the belief that it would be more appropriate for Congress to settle the issue of debt cancellation.

Sen. Patty Murray (D., Wash.), who leads the Senate's education panel, has pushed for a renewed pause into next year to give the administration time to come up with a plan to over-

haul the student-loan payment system, including some debt forgiveness.

Top Republicans oppose another extension, and earlier this month two GOP representatives introduced a bill to prevent another pause, though it isn't expected to gain traction in the Democratic-controlled House.

There have been signs that the Education Department is preparing for a possible extension of the moratorium. Earlier in March, the Education Department told companies that service student loans on behalf of the federal government to hold off on telling borrowers that loan repayments would be restarting soon, according to people familiar with the matter, a message that was interpreted by many observers as a precursor to another extension. Politico earlier reported that the department did this.

"The department will continue communicating directly

with borrowers about federal student-loan repayment by providing clear and timely updates," an Education Department spokesperson said.

Speaking on a podcast in early March, Mr. Biden's chief of staff, Ron Klain, said the president would make a decision about using executive authority for debt forgiveness "before the pause expires, or he'll extend the pause."

More than 40 million people owe around \$1.6 trillion in federal student debt, a sum bigger than credit-card or auto debt. Federal loans make up more than 90% of outstanding student debt. Borrowers with private loans aren't eligible for the pause in payments, although some lenders and servicers have offered flexibility to borrowers who asked to suspend payments.

Jesse Wilburn, a 27-year-old electrical engineer in Philadelphia, said that while his

\$30,000 in student debt is relatively manageable, he is considering forgoing payments in solidarity with those who can't pay back their loans if the freeze on payments ends in May. "I try to be empathetic to the people whose lives are basically on pause until they can get this debt out from under them," he said.

The pause on student-loan payments has lasted longer than most other economic relief measures instituted in the early days of the pandemic by Congress and the White House, such as a ban on evictions and enhanced unemployment benefits, both of which expired last year.

The WSJ Guide To Student Loans



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Jackson Faces GOP Queries

Continued from Page One asked, and it seems like they're asking them."

The judge rebutted GOP suggestions that she was too easy on accused criminals, saying she had been acting primarily as a public defender in representing Guantanamo defendants and had later been assigned by her law firm to write a brief defending their rights.

She treaded carefully around attempts by Sen. John Cornyn (R., Texas) to pin her down on whether she would seek to expand existing federal rights by deciding that some rights were implied in the Constitution.

She said that under Supreme Court precedents, "the kinds of things that qualify are implicit in the concept of ordered liberty or are deeply rooted in our country's history and tradition."

Mr. Cornyn said: "I wish we had a more candid conversation about the source of the power that unelected lifetime-tenure judges have to basically rule America."

One of President Biden's stated criteria for any nominee was that she hold an expansive view of individual rights that extends beyond those specifically listed in the Constitution, a stance that has repercussions on topics like abortion and same-sex marriage.

Responding to Sen. Mike Lee (R., Utah), the judge said she hadn't discussed with Mr. Biden the Ninth Amendment, which states that people may retain rights beyond those



Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson, testifying before a Senate committee, rebutted Republican allegations that she was too easy on accused criminals.

specifically enumerated. Democrats' first order of business Tuesday was to give Judge Jackson a platform to rebut allegations first made by Sen. Josh Hawley (R., Mo.), who on Monday criticized her for imposing what he said was a series of lenient criminal sentences against child-pornography offenders—citing seven such cases in which he said she handed down sentences below what U.S. sentencing guidelines suggested.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," said Judge Jackson in response to initial questions on the matter from Sen. Dick Durbin (D., Ill.), chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

The judge, a mother of two daughters, said she had prop-

erly applied the relevant statute. "That statute doesn't say 'impose the highest possible penalty for this sickening and egregious crime,'" she said.

When Mr. Hawley asked her about sentencing on Tuesday evening, Judge Jackson said she had been "attempting to take into account all of the relevant factors and do justice individually in each case." Mr. Hawley responded: "I'm not questioning you as a person. I'm not questioning your excellence as a judge....I'm questioning how you used your discretion in these cases."

Sen. Cory Booker (D., N.J.) said it was wrong to imply that Judge Jackson doesn't take public safety seriously.

"I sat here and was a little insulted about the accusation"

that her sentences were too lenient, he said of some of his GOP colleagues' comments.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R., Texas) pressed the judge on critical race theory, which argues the legacy of white supremacy remains embedded in modern-day society through laws and institutions that were fundamental in shaping American society. He noted that the judge sits on the board of Georgetown Day School, a private school whose recommended reading list includes "Race Cars," a book about white privilege, and Ibram X. Kendi's "Antiracist Baby."

The judge said she wasn't aware of the book recommendations. "I do not believe that any child should be made to feel as though they are racist

or though they are not valued, or though they are less than; that they are victims, they are oppressors," Judge Jackson said. School spokespeople didn't respond to emails.

On *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that established a constitutional right to an abortion, Judge Jackson said the decision was settled law and that courts, when revisiting past precedents, should consider how those rulings had been relied upon. The high court is now considering whether to narrow or abolish constitutional protections for abortion rights, a decision expected by the end of June.

Other Republicans' questions centered not only on her judicial philosophy, but also on past fights over judicial nomi-

nees that are the source of bitterness on both sides.

Judge Jackson, 51 years old, who was nominated to succeed Justice Stephen Breyer, referred to her personal history. She mentioned that her experience growing up had been different from that of her parents, who attended racially segregated schools.

Some Republicans struck a conciliatory tone. The committee's top Republican, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, told the nominee that when he got home on Monday, "The first thing I heard was my wife's opinion that you did very good in your opening statement. She didn't have anything to say about my statement."

—Jess Bravin contributed to this article.

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U.S. WATCH

NEW ORLEANS Tornado Hits City as Texas Twisters Kill 1

A tornado tore through parts of New Orleans and its suburbs Tuesday night, ripping down power lines and scattering debris in a part of the city that had been heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina 17 years ago.

Other tornadoes spawned by the same storm system hit parts of Texas and Oklahoma, killing one person and causing multiple injuries and widespread damage.

A video taken by a local television station showed a large black funnel visible in the darkened sky looming among the buildings in the eastern part of New Orleans.

The tornado appeared to start in a New Orleans suburb and then move east across the Mississippi River into the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans and parts of St. Bernard Parish—both of which were badly damaged by Katrina—before moving northeast.

Debris was spread across an area covering multiple blocks east of New Orleans.

About 13,000 homes and businesses were without power in the three parishes around New Orleans after the storm.

It wasn't immediately known whether anyone was injured.

In Texas, several tornadoes were reported Monday along the Interstate 35 corridor.

The Grayson County Emergency Management Office said a 73-year-old woman was killed in the community of Sherwood



People surveyed damage in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward after a tornado struck Tuesday night.

Shores, about 60 miles north of Dallas, but provided no details.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced a disaster declaration for 16 hard-hit counties. He said 10 people were injured by storms in the Crockett area, while more than a dozen were reportedly hurt elsewhere.

—Associated Press

FEDERAL RESERVE Bullard Presses for Bigger Rate Increases

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis President James Bullard reiterated his belief that the U.S. central bank needs to move "aggressively" with rate increases to help bring inflationary pressures back under control.

"We need to get to neutral at least so that we're not putting upward pressure on inflation during this period when we have much higher inflation than we're used to in the U.S. economy," Mr. Bullard said in a Bloomberg television interview Tuesday.

Mr. Bullard was the sole dissenting voice at last week's Federal Open Market Committee meeting. The Fed lifted its overnight target rate by a quarter percentage point and said more increases are coming, but Mr. Bullard voted in favor of a half percentage-point increase. Mr. Bullard's comments Tuesday followed remarks Monday from Fed chief Jerome Powell, which suggested aggressive action from the central bank going forward.

—Michael S. Derby

WASHINGTON Hillary Clinton Tests Positive for Covid-19

Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that she tested positive for Covid-19. "I've got some mild cold symptoms but am feeling fine," Mrs. Clinton, former secretary of state and presidential candidate, wrote on Twitter.

Mrs. Clinton said her husband, former President Bill Clinton, tested negative.

Earlier Tuesday, White House press secretary Jen Psaki also said she tested positive for Covid-19, her second time contracting the virus. Ms. Psaki said she wouldn't travel to Europe with President Biden this week.

—Talat Ansari

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THE UKRAINE CRISIS

Russian Air Power Stymied By Kyiv's Missiles

BY BRETT FORREST

Russia invaded Ukraine in February with an arsenal of advanced fighter planes, bombers and guided missiles, but significant combat losses in more than three weeks of fighting raise questions whether Moscow will ever fully dominate the skies.

The Ukrainian military is using a patchwork of Soviet-era air-defense batteries dating to the 1980s and modern, shoulder-launched missiles supplied by the U.S. and others in the West to inflict heavy losses on Russian combat planes and helicopters. The U.S. and others are rushing in extra anti-air systems to help restock Ukraine's arsenal to punish Russia further.

The effort has led, at least temporarily, to a moderate lull in Russia air operations, Ukrainian military officials said. Russian officials in recent days have increasingly emphasized their use of cruise missiles and ballistic missiles to attack targets in Ukraine.

The scale of Russian air losses is difficult to determine. Ukraine's General Staff said

Soviet-era batteries, Western missiles inflict severe losses on Moscow's forces.

Monday it had shot down or otherwise destroyed 97 Russian planes since the war started, along with 121 helicopters and 24 aerial drones. Oryx Blog, an open-source site that tracks military-equipment losses, says Russia has lost 15 planes, 34 helicopters, and 13 drones. Among the systems shot down are Russia's advanced Su-34 strike fighters and Ka-52 attack helicopters, Oryx says.

Western deliveries of shorter-range, modern anti-air systems have been vital to Kyiv's ability to defend itself. Ukraine's defense minister Oleksii Reznikov pressed Washington for air-defense systems, including sophisticated Patriot antimissile systems, during a November visit to the U.S.

The U.S. declined to transfer Patriots, instead sending shoulder-fired Stinger missiles that Ukrainian infantry units quickly integrated, according to former Ukrainian defense officials.

Last week, as part of an \$800 million military aid package, the U.S. said it would deliver Ukraine an additional 800 Stinger systems, replenishing Ukraine's stocks.

The arms inflow has helped Ukraine shore up defenses but not stave off substantial losses by Russian airstrikes on military and civilian targets. Russia in recent days has struck targets in eastern Ukraine and as far west as near the Ukrainian border with Poland.

Russia's inability to establish air dominance over Ukraine, defense analysts say, is linked to costly errors in the opening days of the fighting.

Russia launched ballistic and cruise missile strikes on military installations, ripping apart airport runways and destroying early-warning radar systems. But it failed to knock out a plurality of Ukraine's surface-to-air missile batteries.

Ukraine's long-range anti-air batteries also drove Russian pilots to fly lower to escape those systems, but that put them within range of the shoulder-fired weapons, defense analysts said. That put Russian aircraft in the crosshairs of shorter-range, heat-seeking missiles in what became a shooting gallery for Ukrainian air defenses in some parts of the country.

In the eight years since Russia backed separatists in Ukraine's Donbas region, leading to fighting there, Kyiv has strategized about how to combat its more powerful foe. "We have developed different techniques to give the enemy a punch in the teeth," said Yuriy Ignat, a Ukrainian Air Force spokesman.



A Ukrainian soldier holds a Next Generation Light Anti-tank Weapon that was used to destroy a Russian armored personal carrier north of Kyiv earlier this month.

Defense Forces Adopt Ambush Tactics

Using NATO weapons, outgunned Ukrainians target Russia's weak spots and supply lines

BY JAMES MARSON AND DANIEL MICHAELS

BRUSSELS—Ukrainian forces have inflicted significant losses on Russia's larger and better-armed military—blunting advances by Moscow on several fronts—using insurgency-style tactics that take advantage of their grab bag of available weapons, say military officers from NATO countries.

In a war of ambushes and skirmishes, mobile Ukrainian units have used their knowledge of the local battlefield and sought to hit Russian forces at their weak points, striking armored columns on main roads and undermining their ability to fight by disrupting supplies, say Western observers.

But the Ukrainians' approach is more suited to choking the invading Russians in places they overextended than to mounting a major counter-offensive against massed forces, they say. That raises questions about Kyiv's ability to dislodge Russian forces from territory they have occupied in the country's south and east.

Ukrainians' greatest hope of success against larger Russian forces, Western observers say, is in crimping the flow of Russian supplies of ammunition, fuel and food, which would limit Moscow's ability to fight or hold ground.

"The Ukrainians are fight-



Footage released by Ukraine's army shows an ambush on Russian tanks in Brovary, near Kyiv.

ing a smart fight with a force that is far less well equipped" than the Russians, said retired Gen. Philip Breedlove, a former supreme allied commander in Europe for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. "They are fighting a skirmishing and rear-attack fight that is just bleeding the Russian army."

NATO leaders, including President Biden, are set to meet in Brussels on Thursday and are expected to discuss how to boost support for Ukraine. Mr. Biden recently approved \$1 billion in new military aid to Kyiv. Ukrainian fighters say they need a constant flow of anti-tank weapons, also included in the new package, to continue to inflict losses on Russian forces.

"The Russian tanks are like cockroaches. They keep coming," said Sr. Lt. Myroslav Hai, a filmmaker-turned-army officer who also runs a charity that for years has provided equipment to the Ukrainian

army. "We keep hitting and hitting them."

Further needs to sustain their fighting capacity range from protective gear to vehicles to air-defense systems. Tens of thousands of ordinary citizens recently have joined territorial battalions and need body armor, helmets, and armored and unarmored pickup trucks, Lt. Hai said.

Ukrainian officials and soldiers also say they need more air-defense systems. The U.S. and its allies are seeking to provide Ukraine with Soviet-designed systems that they are familiar with.

While the ambush tactics are having success in the north of the country and largely have halted Russian advances around Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, Russia is having more success in the south and southeast, where it is more easily able to resupply large forces. Ukrainian officers and Western offi-

cials say Russian forces have sought to dig in around Kyiv waiting for fresh supplies.

Ukrainian troops are using a mix of arms from NATO countries and equipment from the arms industry that Kyiv amassed before Russia invaded on Feb. 24, including the tripod-mounted Stugna antitank missile system and the light, portable Corsar missile system. The Ukrainians also have deployed modern Turkish attack drones to target armored columns, as well as large, Soviet-designed artillery.

The newer, man-portable systems allow Ukrainians to attack in small, nimble units from various sides and swiftly evade an enemy counterattack. Shoulder-fired antitank weapons—particularly U.S.-made Javelins and British-made NLAWs—have helped Ukrainian troops pull off some highly publicized attacks on Russian armored vehicles.

Ukrainian troops are plan-

ning attacks in part based on the weapons at hand, say Ukrainian fighters and NATO military officials who have observed their tactics. Gen. Breedlove noted one open-source video of an ambush on a Russian column in which the Ukrainians appear to attack armored vehicles from the side with NLAWs, which lack the punch to penetrate tanks' reinforced front and rear armor.

"They're being very creative, very nimble. They're using the security assistance that gets to them," a senior U.S. defense official said Monday.

The Ukrainians are capitalizing on Russia's problems supplying forces deep inside Ukraine, particularly those attempting to besiege Kyiv. Ukrainian forces early in the war halted and then began attacking a long supply convoy composed largely of unarmored vehicles.

Attacks elsewhere have hit supplies of fuel and ammunition, while Russian troops in many places have looted stores and homes for food, according to Ukrainian authorities and accounts from witnesses.

Nick Reynolds, a research analyst in land warfare at the Royal United Services Institute, a London think tank, described Ukraine's tactics as "a desperate defense," and said its forces will struggle to regain ground. Russian troops, particularly in Ukraine's east and southeast, have more direct supply lines from Russian-controlled areas.

For Ukraine to make big gains, Russian forces would need to lose the ability or will to fight, Mr. Reynolds said.

U.S. Rethinks Uranium Supply for Nuclear Plants

BY JENNIFER HILLER

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shaken the global market for uranium, a critical fuel for nuclear-power plants, prompting some in the U.S. to propose reviving domestic production.

Russia enriches more uranium for use in nuclear plants than any other country in the world. Its increasing economic isolation following its attack on Ukraine—and talk of potential added sanctions on Russian uranium—have exposed the fragility of global nuclear-fuel supplies, which are controlled by a handful of countries.

Republican Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming—one of the main U.S. uranium-producing states—filed legislation Thursday to ban Russian imports, calling the dependence on foreign uranium "simply unacceptable."

Uranium prices have jumped more than 30% since the start of the war as a price hike hits commodities broadly, and utilities try to lock down supplies on fears that sanctions could pinch some part of the specialized fuel cycle. A trade agreement limits U.S. dependence on Russian uranium to no more than about 20% of what domestic reactors need, but no other country could quickly fill Russia's role in a complex supply chain that

could take years to rejigger.

"U.S. utilities rely on Russia enough that you can't replace Russia overnight," said Jonathan Hinze, president of UxC LLC, a nuclear-industry market-research and analysis firm.

The Nuclear Energy Institute, a Washington, D.C., trade group, said it was assessing "the potential impacts of fuel disruption on the U.S. nuclear fleet." But U.S. plants typically refuel every 18 to 24 months, and plan refueling at least two to three years in advance, so

'U.S. utilities rely on Russia enough that you can't replace Russia overnight.'

there is little immediate concern of a short-term fuel shortage for existing plants, according to the group.

Still, uncertainty over securing future nuclear-fuel supplies raises questions for developers designing small modular reactors, or SMRs. Though none are under construction yet in the U.S., many proponents of nuclear generation consider SMRs the future of the industry. Russia was considered the

chief supplier for those projects before the war.

The U.S. has met Russia's assault on Ukraine with economic penalties targeting Russia's financial sector and a ban on oil imports into the U.S., but so far, uranium has avoided sanctions. The U.S. relied on Russia and its allies Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for about 46% of its needs in 2020, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Nick Akins, chief executive of the utility American Electric Power Co., which operates the Cook Nuclear Plant in Michigan, said the war has prompted talk of onshoring uranium production and enrichment. "I think things like this are going to change that discussion, and they should," Mr. Akins said. The Cook plant doesn't use Russian uranium, he said.

Nuclear power provides about 20% of U.S. electricity generation and 10% of the global total, according to the World Nuclear Association.

While uranium can be mined in many parts of the world, the multistep processing that turns the heavy metal into a fuel is concentrated in a handful of places globally.

Russian uranium enrichment accounts for about 35% of the global market, according to UxC.

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THE UKRAINE CRISIS

EU Pressed to Provide Haven for Refugees

By MATTHEW DALTON

PARIS—Olga Nychyporenko and her two children lived for five days in a basement in Bucha, a town on the front lines of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as bombs and tanks destroyed the streets above her.

A week later, the 48-year-old schoolteacher and her family were at a refugee center in Paris, exhausted but safe, and awaiting temporary housing. They escaped during a lull in the fighting, traveled for days to Poland and then caught a free flight to the French capital. She is now eligible to live and work in France for at least a year, with free medical care and schooling for her children.

"Poland is overflowing," Ms. Nychyporenko said. "Now we are here, but then we'll see. I have nowhere to go back to."

European Union governments have pledged unprecedented support for the more than 3.5 million refugees who have fled Ukraine, the largest movement of people on the continent since World War II. The deployment of those resources, however, is testing the EU's capacity to cooperate on a continentwide humanitarian response. The goal is to prevent the influx of people from overwhelming the bloc's countries in the East that find themselves on the front lines of Europe's conflict with Russia.

Pressure is building, with the war in Ukraine in its fourth week. Refugees who fled early in the invasion often were those who had family or friends in the EU who would help support them. Those now arriving are more likely to be fleeing conflict areas in Ukraine, dealing with more trauma and lacking connections in Europe, said officials and refugee organizations. That means they will lean more on government support.

Helping the Eastern European countries deal with the influx is shaping up to be a fundamental test for the EU, said Thomas Graham, senior lecturer on Russian and European Studies at Yale University. "They have to handle this properly in the interest of their own future as a socioeconomic and political bloc."

The EU has given Ukrainians the right to live and work any-



Ukrainian refugees arrive at a Paris train station. Below, refugees work with staff at a center in Paris to arrange for lodging.

where in the 27-nation bloc for at least a year, under a law that was passed two decades ago during the Balkan wars but had never before been activated. The bloc is moving to set aside tens of billions of dollars from its budget for member states to house the refugees, provide medical care, pay for their children to go to school and provide other support.

Airline, train and bus companies are giving free tickets for Ukrainians to settle around the bloc, away from Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia, the countries bordering Ukraine where millions of refugees are staying. The EU has set up a system to transfer up to 10,000 people who need medical care away from refugee centers in the East. Tens of thousands of Ukrainians are arriving daily in Western Europe.

Still, of the 2.1 million refugees who have entered Poland, most remain there. European officials are discussing how to ensure that those who want to travel West can safely make the trip, to achieve a more equitable distribution of refugees across the EU. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock



called on Monday for governments to fly refugees from the bloc's borders near Ukraine for resettlement across the EU and even in the U.S.

"We not only need local corridors out of Ukraine, we need an airlift," Ms. Baerbock said. "Everyone has to take in refugees and it's not about a few

thousand, it's about millions."

Poland's welcome of Ukrainians is becoming increasingly challenging, said Agnieszka Kosowicz, president of the Polish Migration Forum, a nonprofit group. Many of the refugees are living with families who have taken them in, but Ms. Kosowicz said such arrangements

aren't a sustainable solution.

Poland's healthcare system, already under strain from the Covid-19 pandemic, is ill-equipped to care for at least hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who might stay in the country, said refugee advocates. The Polish government is asking the EU to cover the

cost of treating Ukrainian refugees and to accept transfers of Ukrainian patients.

Western European governments should also do more to supervise the westward migration of Ukrainians by reaching out to refugees in Poland, Ms. Kosowicz said.

"It would be safer and better monitored," she said. "It would also make perfect sense to profile people in terms of language. If you have a French speaker, it would make sense to send them to France rather than Germany."

Diana Vitrychenko, a veterinarian who worked in a clinic in Odessa, drove five days across Europe with her son and mother to reach France, fleeing Russian forces amid fears of an attack on her hometown. Ms. Vitrychenko, who speaks French, expects to be able to work as a veterinarian in France.

"I feel lost," Ms. Vitrychenko said. "We're getting a place to live, then look for work, French courses for those who can't speak it. And then when all this is over, we want to return to our country."

Europe's stance on Ukrainian refugees is a departure from its policies on migration in recent years. During the refugee crisis of 2015, Germany initially welcomed Syrian refugees, sowing divisions with neighboring countries who didn't want to share the burden. A plan to distribute Syrian refugees among the member states backed by Germany and France failed largely due to opposition from countries in Eastern Europe that are at the center of this crisis. Since then, the EU has worked hard to stop Syrians and people from other war-torn countries from pouring over its borders.

The refugee crisis, fueled by a war on the doorstep of the EU, is far larger than in the Syrian crisis, with 3.5 million people fleeing Ukraine in under a month, compared with the 1.3 million from Syria and other countries who entered the bloc throughout 2015.

The influx is already testing countries such as France and Belgium, where Ukrainians are waiting in long lines for housing and residence permits. France has opened a larger facility in the south of Paris to register refugees, along with several other centers across the country.

Russian Opposition Leader Gets More Prison Time

By EVAN GERSHKOVICH

Russia's leading opposition figure, Alexei Navalny, was sentenced to nine more years in prison on charges of fraud and contempt of court, in a case his supporters say was brought against him on the orders of President Vladimir Putin.

The fresh sentence comes as Russian authorities seek to quell dissent against Mr. Putin's war against Ukraine, which has stalled in the face of stiff Ukrainian resistance. Russian authorities have detained more than 15,000 people in antiwar rallies since the invasion

began on Feb. 24, according to OVD-Info, an independent organization which monitors detentions at protests. They also passed a law earlier this month that imposes a penalty of up to 15 years in prison on anyone who criticizes the Russian army or refers to its offensive as an invasion or a war.

Mr. Navalny, who has from behind bars called on his supporters to protest the war, was serving a prison sentence that began in February 2021, for violating parole relating to an earlier fraud conviction that he and his supporters say also was politically motivated.

A judge Tuesday ruled that Mr. Navalny stole donations from the Anti-Corruption Foundation, a nonprofit he founded that worked to investigate official corruption in Russia before it was banned as an "extremist" organization last year, according to a video stream from a courtroom at his penal colony 85 miles east of Moscow.

According to prosecutors, Mr. Navalny stole about 350 million rubles, roughly \$3.4 million, from the foundation. The opposition politician denied the charges.

Russian security forces detained Mr. Navalny on his re-

turn to Russia in January 2021, after he had spent five months recovering in Germany from a poisoning attack that German scientists said used Novichok, a Soviet-era nerve agent. Mr. Navalny accuses Mr. Putin of ordering the attack, a claim the Kremlin has repeatedly denied. The Kremlin also denies targeting Mr. Navalny for his criticism of Mr. Putin.

"There is no doubt that the decision to arrest Navalny was made by Putin personally," Mr. Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, said from Vilnius, Lithuania, where many of his aides are now based. "At first

he tried to kill Alexei, and when he failed, he decided to keep him in prison forever."

Mr. Navalny, 45 years old, also was fined 1.2 million rubles on Tuesday.

The U.S. State Department called the sentencing "another example of the Russian government's widening crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression."

Mr. Putin's most prominent critic, who appeared gaunt in the court inside his maximum-security prison, was typically defiant after the ruling.

"9 years. Well, as the characters of my favorite TV series

'The Wire' used to say: 'You only do two days. That's the day you go in and the day you come out,'" said his Twitter account, which is handled by his team, referring to the HBO series. Mr. Navalny often relays social-media messages through his legal team.

Mr. Navalny urged his supporters to continue taking action "against the deceitful and thievish Putin's regime. Any opposition to these war criminals."

Antiwar rallies, which gathered thousands of Russians across dozens of cities, have dwindled in recent days, as many Russians leave the country.

Essential Takes New Meaning

Continued from Page One

asia's military machine and have not left the Russian market."

On Thursday, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal of Ukraine tweeted that he had talked with Nestlé Chief Executive Mark Schneider, who he said showed no understanding of the side effect of continuing to sell in Russia. A Nestlé spokeswoman said the company considers conversations with governmental authorities to be private.

New York's state pension fund recently called on consumer-goods companies including PepsiCo, Mondelez International Inc. and Kimberly-Clark Corp. to consider the risks of continuing to do business in Russia. Kimberly-Clark declined to comment, and Mondelez didn't respond to a request to comment.

Some companies said they are keeping plants operating as a way to support the livelihoods of workers. Others declined to discuss their reason-

ing. Other businesses have said they are staying because their hands are tied by joint-venture or franchise agreements. Russian prosecutors have warned some companies of asset seizures if they withdraw from the country and threatened to arrest employees.

Makers of drugs, vaccines and medical equipment continue to do business in Russia, saying they have an ethical responsibility to do so.

Industrial conglomerate Koch Industries Inc., one of the world's largest private companies, defended last week its decision to remain in Russia. "We will not walk away from our employees there or hand over these manufacturing facilities to the Russian government so it can operate and benefit from them," Koch's operating chief, Dave Robertson, said in a statement posted on the company's website.

PepsiCo, which has a large dairy business in Russia, said earlier this month it would stop selling Pepsi and 7UP there but would continue making milk, cheese, yogurt, baby formula, baby food and potato chips. The company drew criticism last week for a deal in which PepsiCo agreed to purchase 2,200 tons of seed potatoes in Scotland for export to Russia. "We must stay true to the



Lay's potato chips are still in Russian stores despite PepsiCo curbs.

humanitarian aspect of our business," PepsiCo Chief Executive Ramon Laguarta wrote in a memo to staff published on the company's website. "That means we have a responsibility to continue to offer our other products in Russia, including daily essentials such as milk."

He said the company would also continue to support the livelihoods of its 20,000 Russian employees and the 40,000 agricultural workers who supply the company with milk and potatoes.

Unilever said earlier this month it would supply "everyday essential food and hygiene products made in Russia to people in the country." Unilever

products made—and currently sold—in Russia include ice-cream brands such as Inmarko; cosmetics brand Black Pearl; Pure Line, a cleansing brand based on natural ingredients; and hand-cream brand Silky Hands, according to a review of Russian retailer websites on Monday. Unilever is also selling the Little Fairy brand, which makes children's cosmetics, including raspberry-cocktail lip gloss and nail polish.

P&G said it would sell only products that focus on "basic health, hygiene and personal care items needed by the many Russian families who depend on them in their daily lives." Gillette, which before the war

supplied about 70% of Russia's shaving market, has continued making and selling razors there. A P&G spokesman said the company scaled back the variety of items it sells in each category, including razors, to focus on basic products.

P&G has factories in St. Petersburg and outside Moscow. The company declined to comment on which products it continues to sell or has pulled. The consumer-products giant has raised prices on staples in Russia by nearly 50% to cover added materials and logistics costs and the sinking value of Russian currency, according to people familiar with the moves. Prices are up 25% for laundry detergent, more than 30% for feminine-hygiene products and nearly 50% for baby diapers, the people said.

Reckitt Benckiser is continuing to sell its Veet hair-removal cream for women and Air Wick home-fragrance products in Russia. Reckitt, which has 1,300 employees in Russia, said it is "meeting the needs of ordinary Russians who rely on our basic hygiene and health products for their everyday needs."

Nestlé, the world's largest maker of packaged foods, has six factories in Russia making goods including candy brands Kamilfo and Sudarushka. The company spokeswoman said all

six factories are operational and 90% of what Nestlé sells in Russia is produced locally. The company earlier this month said it had a responsibility to its more than 7,000 employees in Russia and would continue to "ensure a reliable supply of safe and essential food products for the local people."

Companies, faced with vague sanctions, are balancing the benefits of maintaining business relationships with Russian partners against reputational damage of continuing operations, said University of Michigan finance professor Paolo Pasquariello. He said labeling any products as essential when it doesn't directly serve a clear medical need, "seems to me an attempt to window-wash their choice in order to mitigate the reputational loss that they will suffer," he said. "Sanctions are a form of economic warfare. Companies deeming their cheeseburgers, shoes or equipment essential are ultimately undermining the premise of the sanctions."

While the ruble's slide means a chunk of short-term profits will evaporate, Russia has been a key market in recent years for many of the companies still operating there.

—Jennifer Maloney, Yuliya Chernova and Georgi Kantchev contributed to this article.

THE UKRAINE CRISIS

Chevron Lobbies U.S. to Add More Venezuelan Oil

By Christopher M. Matthews and José de Córdoba

HOUSTON—For months, Biden administration officials snubbed top executives and lobbyists for Chevron Corp. who had pressed officials in Washington to ease sanctions so the company could boost production in Venezuela, where the U.S. has banned such activities since 2019.

Then Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine.

Now the Biden administration is listening closely to Chevron, said people familiar with the conversations, which says it can help double Venezuela's 800,000 barrels-a-day production within months. That could replace the loss of roughly 700,000 barrels a day the U.S. was importing from Russia before it attacked Ukraine. And it could help lower gasoline prices—a major concern for the Biden administration in a tough election year.

"Chevron came in November, they pitched it around, but got laughed out of town," said Juan Cruz, a former National Security Council official in charge of the Western Hemisphere who has closely followed the Biden administra-

tion's policy toward Venezuela. "But what was really funny in November is a plan today."

Since the Russians invaded on Feb. 24 and President Biden canceled Russian oil imports, Chevron Chief Executive Officer Mike Wirth has offered the company's help to Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm in shoring up U.S. energy supplies by ramping up production in Venezuela, people briefed on the talks said. Chevron is the only major U.S. producer to retain assets in Venezuela following nationalizations by the Socialist government and, much later, U.S. sanctions.

Granting the San Ramon, Calif., company and other U.S. producers permits to operate could boost Venezuelan production while keeping other sanctions in effect. Broadly easing sanctions on Venezuela faces stiff opposition in the U.S. over concerns it would prop up the country's autocratic regime. U.S. officials are divided over the issue, people familiar with the situation said.

Asked recently by CNN about the outreach to Venezuela and Saudi Arabia for more oil, Ms. Granholm, said, "I think Americans should see the administration calling



An oil refinery in El Palito, Venezuela. The U.S. has banned American oil companies from operating in Venezuela since 2019.

right now for an increase in supply as something that helps them," naming the benefit of reducing costs at the pump.

Shortly after Mr. Wirth talked to the energy secretary, three senior U.S. officials—Juan Gonzalez, the senior National Security Council official in charge of Latin America; James Story, the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela; and Roger D. Carstens, a special envoy—flew to Caracas on March 5 and met with President Nicolás Maduro and other top Venezuelan officials.

Another person who spoke

with senior Venezuelan officials after the invasion was Ali Moshiri, a charismatic Iranian-American who had headed Chevron's Latin America division and was considered a "dear friend" by the late Hugo Chávez, the founder of the political movement now led by Mr. Maduro, with whom Mr. Moshiri also has close a relationship. Mr. Moshiri retired from Chevron in 2017 but now consults for the company in Venezuela, where he has deep ties with senior officials, people familiar with the matter said.

Many oil industry executives

said Mr. Moshiri was essential to Chevron's controversial decision to stay in the country even as other Western oil companies exited after the Venezuelan government in 2007 nationalized billions of dollars of assets owned by ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil Corp. and others. He has also lobbied Biden officials to loosen sanctions on Venezuela, where Chevron has operated for nearly a century.

"You cannot ignore Venezuela," Mr. Moshiri said in an interview last week. "Venezuela will always be part of our energy security."

The White House declined to comment about Chevron's possible role or its own talks in Venezuela. The Energy Department declined to comment.

People briefed on the talks said Mr. Moshiri has argued to U.S. officials that the U.S. can't cede influence of Venezuelan energy to rivals like China and Russia, which have increased activities in the country in recent years.

A Chevron spokesman said Mr. Moshiri isn't representing the company. Mr. Moshiri declined to provide details about his contract with Chevron.

Mariupol Barrage Intensifies

Continued from Page One

the approach to each Russian checkpoint. Hundreds of people from Mariupol now arrive daily in Zaporizhzhia in a grim procession of cars, with shattered windshields and shrapnel

damage speaking to the ordeal endured by their passengers.

Those left behind—about 100,000 people—are under constant shelling, "in a complete blockade" without food, water or medicine, said Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The wider battle lines across Ukraine have shifted little in recent days. Ukrainian forces said they were regaining ground in some areas. Russia's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that its troops had made progress battling for towns along its lines of attack.

Mr. Zelensky, meanwhile,

continued his efforts to rally international support on Tuesday, speaking with Pope Francis and, separately, the Italian Parliament.

President Biden is scheduled to head to Europe on Wednesday for talks with allies about the war and is preparing to roll out new sanctions on most members of Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, U.S. officials said.

The fighting around Mariupol has been under way since the opening days of Russia's assault that began Feb. 24. The city has seen stepped-up

levels of attack for about the past two weeks and as the battle moved closer.

Mariupol has been a focus of the Russian offensive because it is a strategically important city linking Russian-controlled parts of eastern Ukraine with a swath of territory Moscow has captured in the south, and creating an arc containing much of the country's Russian-speaking population.

Streams of cars from Mariupol pull into the parking lot of a hardware store on the outskirts of Zaporizhzhia—now a way station for people fleeing to safety farther west, or abroad—part of the more than 10 million people uprooted by the fighting.

Taped to the windows are homemade signs reading "children" in Russian, and strips of white material tied to the door handles, scant protection from the war raging in their city.

More than a dozen residents who fled since last week described a desperate struggle to stay alive in a city where venturing outside meant exposure to being shot, shredded by artillery fire or obliterated in an airstrike.

"They are basically wiping the city from the face of the earth," said Andriy, 37, who took his chances during a lull in the bombardment on Monday and fled Mariupol with his wife and two children. Andriy, who declined to give his full name, said his ears had yet to adjust to the absence of constant shelling in the city he left behind. "It's as though I've come back to life."

Although Mariupol was always likely to be a target, many residents stayed because they didn't believe the situation would get so bad. By the time they realized what was unfolding, it was too late.

The bombardment of the city of between 350,000 and 400,000 people was growing heavier and closer by the day. Local officials said Russia has rained 50 to 100 bombs a day on Mariupol, destroying between 80% and 90% of the city. Ukraine rejected a Russian ultimatum to surrender the city this week.

Ukrainian military officials on Tuesday said those defending the town were able to destroy a Russian patrol boat operating close to the city, as well as a Russian radio complex.

Inside the city, a focal point of fighting has been two massive steel plants, Azovstal and Ilich Iron and Steel Works, that have employed about 40,000 people. The owner of the plants, steel magnate Rinat Akhmetov, told The Wall Street Journal that both plants are under Ukrainian control, but that the plants were temporarily shut.

"Russian troops are turning Mariupol into rubble, killing Mariupol residents and bombing the plants," he said. "Under no circumstances will these plants operate under Russian occupation."

Russian attacks flattened a maternity hospital in the city this month. Attacks on a the-

ater and an art school trapped hundreds of people sheltering from the fighting, local officials have said. The total number of fatalities at the sites remains uncertain.

As residents realized they were being encircled, panic set in. Store shelves emptied. Bread grew scarce. Desperate residents broke into supermarkets to get food and take anything else they could carry home. At first, security forces tried to stop them, but soon gave up trying to maintain law and order, and even helped distribute food from looted shops.

Toward the end of February, the power was cut. On March 2, internet connection was lost, then the phone network, then cooking gas and running water.

From the window of their fifth-floor apartment, Edgar Gevorgian and his wife could see jets tearing through the sky overhead and hear loud explosions. They decided to move to his parents' house in another district of Mariupol where the shelling was less intense.

Days later, an explosive de-

wave lifted him off his feet. Since then, he said, the bombardment has been relentless.

As the bombing intensified, basements and bomb shelters filled up as people whose homes had been destroyed sought shelter in the shrinking area of the city controlled by Ukrainian forces.

In the cold and dark of basements under the city, with no connection to the outside world, residents waited for a breakthrough. They had expected a formal evacuation to be organized, but as the days went by their hopes dimmed.

After Russian forces took control of the main intensive-care hospital, there was nowhere to treat the wounded, nor any medicine, people who fled the city said. The director of the heart-disease center told Mykola Trofymenko he had been forced to amputate the mangled leg of a patient using a kitchen knife without anesthetic.

"The bombings and airstrikes and grad missile strikes were constant," said Mr. Trofymenko, the head of Mariupol State University. "I have a Ph.D. in political science and I can't understand how one country can do this to another."

The university has been destroyed and Mr. Trofymenko doesn't know whether his professors and students are alive. He also has no word of his sister or grandmother.

The city council dug ditches in the park for people to dispose of the dead, Mr. Trofymenko said, but most people buried bodies wherever they could, marking the graves with crosses made out of sticks.

Supermarket carts were used to carry bodies strewn in the streets, said Dima Shvets, 28, a customs worker who fled the city several days ago. His parents stayed in Mariupol and managed to contact him on Tuesday, saying Ukrainian forces had been pushed into the last district of the city and fighting was raging around them.

There were so many dead in Ms. Poluiko's district that people no longer bothered to bury them, she said. "It's hard to even imagine how many people died."

Ms. Poluiko and her family emerged from Mariupol to find friends and relatives who were searching for them, or had given them up for dead. Now that they have internet access, they have been going through their contacts from the city to see whether they were recently online, hoping to find clues about their fate.

The family said they didn't know where they would go next, but didn't want to move too far away from their hometown. "We will never return there if Russia takes it, but we are prepared to live in the ruins if it remains Ukrainian," Ms. Poluiko said. "My soul stayed in Mariupol."

—Thomas Grove and Alan Cullison contributed to this article.



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WORLD NEWS

No Survivors Found at China Plane Crash

Investigators want to learn why jet with 132 on board plummeted so quickly from sky

By ELAINE YU

HONG KONG—An army of rescuers in southern China found no sign of survivors after spending Tuesday combing through wreckage at the site where a **China Eastern Airlines Corp. Boeing 737** carrying 132 people plummeted to the ground a day earlier.

More than 2,500 rescuers had descended on the scene of the crash by Tuesday evening, local officials told reporters at a live-streamed press briefing. They collected identification cards, a wallet and the shredded remains of a school textbook, among other items that may have belonged to the passengers, according to footage and photos published by state media.

Scraps and broken components from the plane lay scattered on dirt paths and amid fallen branches, according to a video by the Chinese Communist Party's flagship publication, *People's Daily*. China's state broadcaster streamed footage online Tuesday night that showed People's Liberation Army soldiers digging up plane debris that had wiped out trees and stands of bamboo before becoming lodged deep in the



More than 2,500 rescuers were sifting through debris Tuesday at the site where a passenger plane crashed in a mountainous region.

One question for investigators is why the jet plummeted so quickly from the sky, reaching vertical speeds of 31,000 feet a minute, or more than 350 miles an hour. It initially fell to an altitude of 7,425 feet and briefly managed to gain about 1,200 feet in altitude before again diving toward the mountain, data from aircraft-tracking service Flightradar24 show. The aircraft stopped transmitting at 3,225 feet.

The plane "met airworthiness requirements before take-off, its technical condition was stable, and the nine aircrew members on the flight were in good health conditions and their experience in flying meets official requirements," Sun Shiying, chairman of China Eastern's subsidiary branch based in southwestern China's Yunnan province, said at the press briefing Tuesday night.

China's Vice Premier Liu He and an official in Beijing's cabinet led a team to Wuzhou, a city in Guangxi near the crash site, on Monday night to oversee the rescue efforts and investigation, Xinhua reported.

Preliminary findings showed no foreign nationals were on the plane, said Wang Wenbin, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman.

—Qianwei Zhang and Rachel Liang contributed to this article.

◆ Crash complicates Boeing's China relationship..... B1

earth by the force of impact.

A spokesman for China's airline regulator, the Civil Aviation Administration of China, told reporters at the press briefing that air-traffic controllers tried several times to hail the jet after they saw its altitude drop sharply but got no response.

The spokesman, Zhu Tao, said the plane was at a cruise altitude of 8,900 meters, or about 29,000 feet, at 2:17 p.m.

local time Monday and that a controller noticed a sharp drop at 2:20 p.m. At 2:23 p.m., the radar signal of the aircraft disappeared, he said.

"With the information we currently have, we have no way of coming to a clear view of the reasons," Mr. Zhu said, confirming earlier state-media reports that no survivors had been found.

If all 132 people on board Monday's flight died, it would

be China's deadliest air crash in almost three decades.

Mr. Zhu's account is in line with flight-tracking data that showed the **Boeing Co. 737-800** flying from Kunming to the southern metropolis of Guangzhou was at cruising altitude on Monday before nosediving at 2:20 p.m. local time, a trajectory some air safety experts said was extremely unusual. The plane was transporting nine crew members

and 123 passengers.

The plane wreckage was strewn across a forested mountainous area in the Guangxi region, which makes the search for the aircraft's black box more difficult, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing rescuers. Investigators typically analyze the plane's flight-data recorder and cockpit voice recorder to help gain insight into a flight's final moments

Chinese Airline Grew Fast, Largely Without Incidents

By TREFOR MOSS

China Eastern Airlines Corp. has grown over the past three decades to become one of the world's biggest carriers by catering to a vast new market of Chinese travelers.

Until this week, its rapid rise—like that of China's broader aviation industry—had been largely without safety incidents.

That record was challenged

Monday when Flight 5735 crashed with 132 people on board. The crash was China Eastern's first since 2004 and ends the country's record of 12 years without a deadly disaster.

Founded in 1988, China Eastern is one of three big state-owned airlines, together with Air China Ltd. and China Southern Airlines Co., which dominate Chinese air travel.

Based in Shanghai, China

Eastern is the main link between China's financial capital and other cities both inside and outside the country—a role that has made it a key beneficiary from a sharp rise in air-travel demand in the country.

Growing from a low base of about 62 million in 2000, China logged 660 million air passenger trips in 2019, as millions of Chinese embraced travel for the first time. That growth rate

put the country on track to overtake the U.S. as the world's biggest aviation market by as early as 2022, the International Air Transport Association forecast, before the pandemic hit travel demand globally.

China Eastern carried 130.3 million passengers in 2019, making it the world's eighth-busiest airline that year, just behind Germany's Lufthansa AG and ahead of the parent

company of British Airways. A decade earlier, China Eastern carried 44 million passengers.

Still, passenger numbers dropped in the past two years amid the pandemic, with China Eastern logging 78.5 million passenger journeys in last year. The company said it likely would report a loss of about \$2 billion for 2021 because of the slump in demand.

Any rebound in passenger

numbers could be hindered by the airline's decision to ground its fleet of 737-800 aircraft in the wake of the crash.

China Eastern operated a fleet of 734 aircraft in 2020, its most recent annual report said.

While Monday's crash is China Eastern's first in nearly two decades, the airline reported several accidents in its early years, with four fatal crashes occurring between 1989 and 2004.



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WORLD NEWS



People lined up this month to register to get the Sinovac vaccine in Hong Kong, which has seen Covid-19 cases skyrocket.

Study Touts China Vaccine Booster

By NATASHA KHAN

HONG KONG—Scientists at the University of Hong Kong found that three doses of China’s Sinovac vaccine had a clear benefit over two in preventing severe illness or death in people over the age of 60, underscoring the importance of boosters for those who have received that Covid-19 shot. The study—which analyzed patients hospitalized during the city’s continuing Omicron wave and was funded by China’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention—showed three shots of the vaccine were 98% effective in preventing the worst outcomes, while two shots were 72.2% effective against severe illness and 77.4% effective against death.

The findings have implications for Covid strategies in mainland China, which uses Sinovac as one of its primary vaccines, as well as the dozens of countries that have relied on the injections.

Mainland officials on Tuesday said 88% of the country’s

population had received at least two shots and that 659 million people had received a booster.

Official data show about half of the country’s 35.8 million citizens over the age of 80 haven’t been vaccinated.

Hong Kong offers two vac-

Three Sinovac shots were found to be 98% effective against the worst outcomes.

cines to its residents: one co-developed by **BioNTech SE** and **Pfizer Inc.** and the other **CoronaVac** from China’s **Sinovac Biotech Ltd.** The data presented on Tuesday showed three shots of either offered more than 98% protection against death or severe illness in those over 60 years old.

“If you are triple jabbed with either vaccine, you are very, very, very well protected,” said Gabriel Leung,

the dean of the University of Hong Kong’s Faculty of Medicine.

The findings show that for recipients of only two doses of a vaccine, the shot made by **BioNTech** was 89.6% and 92.3% protective against severe illness and death in those over 60.

The data come with some caveats, Prof. Leung said. For example, the team was still researching what impact waning immunity over time would have, while it is also possible the data reflected a “healthy vaccinee” effect, where people who opted for three jabs might have been healthier to begin with, which could insert some bias into the data.

The University of Hong Kong team will be publishing a preprint of its findings in the coming days and have submitted the paper to a medical journal.

Across age groups in Hong Kong, almost all severe or fatal cases in this wave have involved people who weren’t vaccinated, the researchers said. More than 90% of people

who died in the current outbreak were unvaccinated, health officials said this month.

The city of 7.4 million had for the most part held off Covid-19 during the first two years of the pandemic, but it has seen cases skyrocket during the Omicron-driven outbreak, which has caused more than a million confirmed cases and 6,151 deaths as of Tuesday. The death rate has been driven to the world’s highest largely because half of the city’s residents over the age of 70 weren’t vaccinated when the outbreak began.

In October, the World Health Organization recommended a third dose of **CoronaVac** to people age 60 who had received the Sinovac shot.

The Chinese CDC funded the study to learn more about the comparative efficacy of vaccines, Prof. Leung said. Since the outbreak more than two years ago in Wuhan, the country has tamped down infections quickly, leaving few clusters of serious cases to study.

Trudeau Strikes Deal Securing Liberal Rule

By PAUL VIEIRA

OTTAWA—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau struck a formal deal with a smaller left-wing rival to ensure his minority Liberal government can rule for the next three years without fearing defeat in Parliament and a snap election.

Mr. Trudeau on Tuesday said the pact with the **New Democratic Party** is designed to bring stability amid a minority Parliament and turbulence on the economic and geopolitical front. He said the two parties would cooperate in implementing a progressive agenda that focuses on climate change, expanding medical and dental coverage for lower-income Canadians, and delivering more affordable homes to Canadians. Combined, the two parties hold a majority of the seats in Canada’s lower house.

The agreement, six months after the most recent election, also gives time for Mr. Trudeau to regroup after a tumultuous start to 2022. His popularity recently dropped to a one-year low following a weeklong trucker-led protest that in February paralyzed the country’s capital and blocked some crucial U.S.-Canada border cross-

ings. The Liberal Party’s main rival, the **Conservatives**, are holding a campaign to elect a new leader this fall with the aim of defeating Mr. Trudeau.

Mr. Trudeau said he plans to serve as prime minister and lead the Liberal Party “through and beyond the next election” in 2025.

The pact with the **NDP** doesn’t represent a formal coalition, as **NDP** members won’t serve in Mr. Trudeau’s cabinet. Instead, the **New Democrats** agreed to support the Liberal budgetary measures and to refrain from voting against the Liberals on crucial votes in the legislature until June 2025—or around the same time the next Canadian election is scheduled to take place.

Mr. Trudeau said both parties identified core policy areas where they share policy objectives, such as expanding coverage for drugs and dental care for lower-income Canadians.

NDP leader **Jagmeet Singh** said his party entered into the agreement to help Canadians nervous about a post-pandemic world, higher inflation, and geopolitical unrest in Ukraine. There has been no discussion about forming a coalition government, Mr. Singh said.

Assailant Kills Four in Israel

By DOV LIEBER

TEL AVIV, Israel—An assailant killed four people and seriously injured two others in southern Israel on Tuesday, stabbing several people and ramming his car into a cyclist in one of the deadliest suspected terrorist attacks against Israelis in recent years.

The assailant, who was identified as an Arab Bedouin in his 30s from a town in southern Israel, was known to security services, said Israeli police. The attacker was imprisoned in 2015 for supporting Islamic State and was arrested before trying to join the Islamist mili-

tant group in Syria.

“To the best of our knowledge, he operated alone,” said Israel’s police commissioner **Kobi Shabtai**.

The assailant first fatally stabbed a woman at a gas station in Beersheba, police said. He then got in his car and rammed a cyclist before driving to a shopping center where he stabbed several other people.

The assailant was shot and killed by a bystander, police said.

The attack was praised by the Palestinian militant group **Hamas**, which controls the Gaza Strip, but it didn’t claim responsibility.



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WORLD WATCH

CHINA

Beijing Defends Use Of Man-Made Islands

China said it has the right to develop South China Sea islands as it sees fit after U.S. accusations that it has fully militarized at least three of several islands it built in the disputed waterway in violation of a previous commitment.

China's deployment of "necessary national defense facilities on its own territory is a right entitled to every sovereign country and is in line with international law, which is beyond reproach," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters on Tuesday.

On Sunday, U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. John C. Aquilino said China had armed the islands with antiship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment, and jet fighters, in an increasingly aggressive move that threatens all nations operating nearby.

—Associated Press

JAPAN

Blackout Warning Is Issued for Tokyo

Japanese were urged to conserve energy as the government warned of potential blackouts in the Tokyo region because of a shortfall in power generation after several coal-fired plants temporarily stopped generating electricity following an earthquake last week.

The rare alert Tuesday came as people were using more heat than usual amid snow and unusually cold weather for the early spring.

—Associated Press

MALI

Ex-Prime Minister Dies in Detention

Mali's former Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga died on Monday in the capital, Bamako, a close relative of his family announced. Mr. Maïga, who served as prime minister of Mali from 2017 until 2019, was 67 years old. He had been detained since August when the country was taken over by a military junta.

—Associated Press

WORLD NEWS

Shipwreck's Identity Fuels a Spat

Researchers struggle to verify if remains found off Rhode Island are Cook's Endeavour

By Mike Cherney

SYDNEY—When researchers using submersibles saw Ernest Shackleton's long-lost ship *Endurance* under nearly 10,000 feet of Antarctic seawater this month, there was no question what they had found. The ship's name, in gold lettering, was visible across the stern.

On the other side of the world, the remains of what could be another famous ship are less clear-cut. Australian researchers in February said they had identified Capt. James Cook's *Endeavour* off Rhode Island, based on what they called a preponderance of evidence. But in an unusual spat between academic partners, U.S. researchers who were also investigating the wreck disputed the finding.

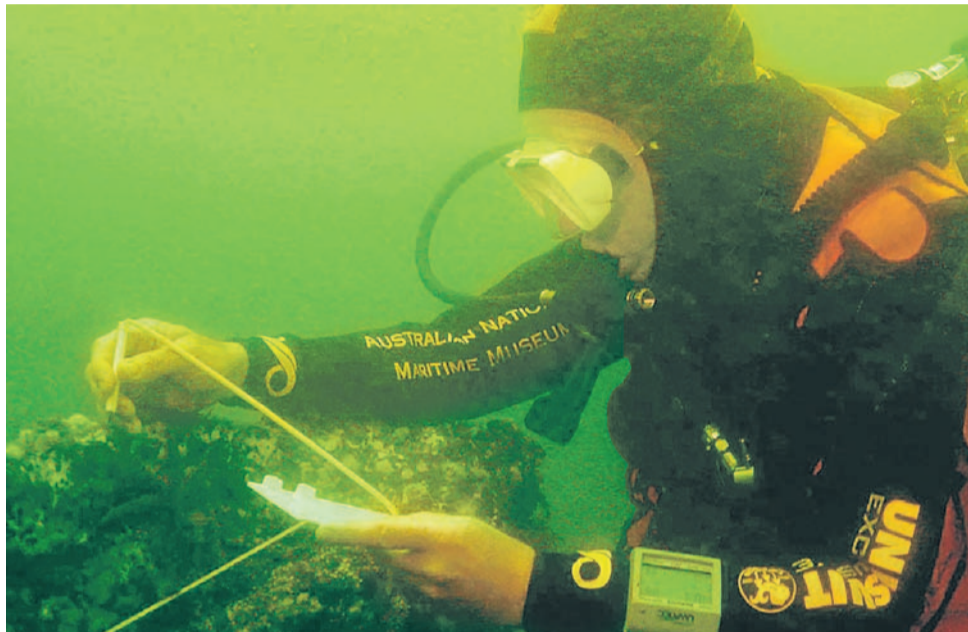
The debate over the *Endeavour*, which voyaged to Australia's east coast and led to the British colonization of the continent, offers a look into the scientific challenges of identifying a shipwreck and how it can take years for researchers to find proof. Locating a largely intact wreck like the *Endurance* is rare, maritime archaeologists say, and making a definitive identification is often difficult, if not impossible.

Clues to a shipwreck's identity can be found in the timber itself, samples of which can be sent to a lab to determine the type of wood used to build the ship. Divers can find artifacts at the site, like crockery and cannon, that sometimes have names on them and can date a wreck. But many ships shared similar characteristics.

"With the *Endurance*, that ship has the name in gold letters in perfect preservation. The ship looks like it was built yesterday," said John McCarthy, a lecturer in maritime archaeology at Australia's Flinders University who wasn't



The *Endurance* was discovered more than a century after it disappeared under Antarctic sea ice. Below, a diver examines the seabed of an area off the Rhode Island coast where some researchers believe remnants of Capt. James Cook's *Endeavour* have been found.



it to the front of the ship. Those discoveries enabled the Australian researchers to measure a large part of the hull, which closely matched plans of the ship that scholars had found in historical archives. The joint, the researchers said, was unusual for shipbuilding at the time and matched the joint in *Endeavour's* plans. Researchers also collected timber samples and determined that the timber was consistent with a European-built ship like the *Endeavour*. Previous work had excluded other shipwrecks nearby. "The length of the surviving segments of the hull and that scarf joint really just pushed us over," said Peter Hobbins, a historian who serves as director of knowledge at the museum. U.S. researchers at the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, which has been studying the site with the Australians, are compiling their own report. The deadline is August, said Kathy Abbass, executive director and principal investigator of the group. She previously said no indisputable data had been found to prove the *Endeavour's* identity.

directly involved in efforts to find the two ships. "With the *Endeavour*, there's very little of that ship left."

The *Endeavour* was scuttled off Newport, R.I., in 1778 by the British during the Revolutionary War, in a busy harbor and at a shallow depth of around 50 feet. Just 15% of the ship ap-

pears to remain, much of it covered in sediment. The timber is in a degraded state, having been eaten by shipworms, a type of mollusk.

Researchers at the Australian National Maritime Museum, which announced its identification of the *Endeavour* in February, said the most re-

cent expedition to the site in September provided additional clues that convinced them that it was Cook's ship. Underwater archaeologists located the end of the keel—the backbone of the ship that runs along the length of its bottom—and a wooden joint, called a scarf joint, that would have attached

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FROM PAGE ONE

Americans Learn From Anime

Continued from Page One
 friends,” she says. “They wouldn’t understand, but I thought it was really funny.”
 Then Okaa-san got hooked, too. Mrs. Hart, a 39-year-old New York office manager, says she finds herself exchanging words with Aimee such as *sumimasen* (“excuse me”) and *musume* (“daughter”).
 A growing fringe of Americans like Aimee and her mother are sprinkling *Nihongo* into conversations, inspired in part by the popularity of anime and *manga*, Japanese comics. Many are finding the language more difficult to learn than they expected, and some of the slang they pick up in cartoons isn’t always appro-

appropriate for polite conversation.
 One incentive for Mrs. Hart to keep up on her Japanese is knowing when Aimee is trying to pull a fast one. Mother now understands when daughter says things like *urusai*—roughly, “shut up.”
 Japanese was the fastest-growing language in the U.S. and U.K. last year among Duolingo’s users, according to the language-learning company’s 2021 Language Report. Duolingo credits younger generations’ interest in anime and, more broadly, in Japanese pop culture through fashion, food, music and travel.
 Cindy Blanco, a senior learning scientist at the company, says many of the new Japanese-language learners are age 13 to 17. For the 18-to-29 group, Japanese trails Spanish, English and French.
 Andrew Li, a Georgia Institute of Technology senior studying chemical engineering, started learning Japanese after watching “Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba,” an anime

TV show about teenagers who fight demons with swords, during the pandemic. “I thought it would be great to know what they’re saying,” he says.
 The 22-year-old found learning the language helped him to understand Japanese pop music better and to find more-authentic recipes for ramen using a broth based on *tonkotsu*, or pork bone. A Japanese-language recipe put his skills to the test when it appeared to instruct him to grind pork bones with a blender.
 Worried his fledgling Japanese might be leading him astray, he checked a ramen channel on the Discord messaging platform. The noodle-dish recipe did, indeed, call for grinding softened bones.
 The enthusiasm is particularly strong among young people, says Ramona Handel-Bajema, chief program officer at the Japan Society, which aims to connect American and Japanese people through culture.
 She attributes her students’ Japanese pronunciation to

their knowing the names of the cartoon characters and their catchphrases. “All of these kids love anime and manga,” she says. “We don’t need to convince them to learn.”
 Colloquial Japanese words making their way from cartoons into American adolescent usage range from *kawaii*, or “cute,” to *baka*, which means “idiot.”

Some Japanese from cartoons isn’t always appropriate for polite conversation.

Eddie Stenkowski, a 42-year-old stepfather of two who says he began watching anime at age 13, started studying the language in college. He says he realized that some words he often heard protagonists shouting in action anime were largely meaningless outside the show.

Characters in the anime series “Dragon Ball Z”—about a young monkey-tailed boy and a teenage girl who are in search of mystical dragon balls that grant any wish when brought together—yell “*genki-dama!*” when using a technique to generate a powerful sphere of energy. Outside the show, *genki-dama* means, roughly, “energy ball,” a phrase not often used in real-life Japan. That hasn’t stopped Mr. Stenkowski, a digital marketing manager in New York, from shouting it to his Japanese friends.
 One challenge is navigating real-life Japanese with words from cartoons, as 17-year-old Andy Puebla of New Jersey found. He thought *doki-doki* meant simply “heartbeat” when he heard it in a Japanese animated romantic TV comedy, “Girlfriend, Girlfriend.”
 He was close. *Doki-doki* is onomatopoeia for a heart pounding—with anticipation, say, or fear. The technical term for heartbeat, he found, was the less-fun *shinpaku*.

Julian Murray, 24, started learning Japanese two years ago hoping to understand what happened in an anime show, “Vivy -Fluorite Eye’s Song-,” even if he missed a subtitle. Mr. Murray says he thinks the jokes and puns in the subtitles of the show—in which a singing autonomous artificial intelligence tries to save the world—and anime in general make more sense if one understands the language.
 Mr. Murray, a package handler in Maryland, found Japanese harder than anticipated because some phrases he picked up watching anime weren’t appropriate in polite conversation. *Kuso* was a word he heard anime characters using often. He looked it up and found it translated as “crap” and an expletive of the same meaning. He saw in YouTube videos that the word was rude if directed at others and that characters often muttered it under their breaths in frustration. He decided not to use *kuso* with other people.

Invasion Hurts Poor Countries

Continued from Page One
 spurred the biggest price shock in decades and choked imports of basic commodities, triggering shortages especially tough for poorer nations that were already far behind in their economic recovery from the pandemic.
 In Kenya, bread prices recently jumped by 40% in some areas. In Indonesia, the government has imposed price controls on cooking oil. In Brazil, the state-owned energy-giant Petrobras said earlier this month it couldn’t hold off inflationary pressures and raised gasoline prices to distributors by 19%.

In Turkey, a sharp increase in the price of sunflower oil sparked panic buying. People climbed supermarket shelves and clambered over other shoppers to grab what remained. Street protesters in Iraq, angry over rising food prices, called themselves the “revolution of the starving.”
 Some 50 countries, mostly poorer nations, import 30% or more of their wheat supply from Russia and Ukraine. The two countries combined provide a third of global cereal exports and 52% of the sunflower oil export market, according to the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization.
 “If this conflict continues, the impact will probably be more consequential than the coronavirus crisis,” said Indermit Gill, a World Bank vice president, who oversees economic policy. “Lockdowns were a deliberate policy decision, which could be reversed. There are not so many easily reversible policy options with this.”
 By the end of 2022, economic output in most advanced economies will likely reach their pre-pandemic forecasts, he said. For developing nations, GDP will still be 4% below those forecasts by the end of 2023. With debt levels in developing countries at a 50-year high, price increases driven by the war in Ukraine could scare off investment in emerging markets, Mr. Gill said.

The Russian attack on Ukraine delivered the biggest disruption to global grain markets since a Soviet crop failure in 1973, according to Goldman Sachs, and it has the potential to deliver the biggest disruption to oil markets since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The bank is forecasting oil to average \$130 a barrel for the rest of the year, nearly double the \$71 a barrel average in 2021, when global inflation took off.
 Russia is the world’s second-largest exporter of crude oil behind Saudi Arabia, making up 12% of global supply, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency. It is also the world’s largest exporter of natural gas and the biggest producer of fertilizer. Higher fertilizer costs mean farmers will likely use less, reducing harvest yields and pushing up food prices around the globe, but hitting hardest in countries that can least afford it.
 Like elsewhere around the globe, parts of Africa were already struggling with inflation



UGANDA



YEMEN



PHILIPPINES

Clockwise from above left: Rising wheat and cooking-oil prices are putting pressure on small businesses like this stall in Kampala; freshly baked bread in Yemen, which depends on Ukraine and Russia for over 40% of its wheat imports; store shelves in Turkey, where a sharp increase in the price of sunflower oil sparked panic buying; a gas station in the Philippines, which is heavily dependent on energy imports and vulnerable to big price swings.



TURKEY

before the war in Ukraine. In 2021, Uganda’s wheat import bill rose to \$391 million, up 62% over the previous year.
 In the capital city of Kampala, grocery store owner Everest Tagobya struggles to keep his business afloat. In recent months, he paid more for everything from pasta to vegetable oil to wheat. Since the war started, he said, the price of vegetable oil has doubled and a carton of wheat is up by more than 25%.
 “I am finding it very hard to replenish stock since prices are going up every day,” said Mr. Tagobya, 44, pointing to empty store shelves.

‘Too much’

The Middle East and North Africa are particularly dependent on wheat from Ukraine and Russia. Egypt, the world’s largest importer of wheat, gets more than 70% of its wheat supplies from the two countries, as does Lebanon. For Turkey, it is over 80%. An increase in bread prices helped fuel the region’s 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.
 In Egypt, the government said the Ukraine crisis would add about \$1 billion to the cost of subsidizing bread, and it is seeking new suppliers. The government introduced price controls on unsubsidized bread to halt a sharp increase.
 “Rising prices are scaring me,” said Sara Ali, 38, a translator in Cairo. “It’s affecting our basic commodities, not the luxuries I already cut back on.”
 Such inflation heightens the likelihood of popular unrest in Egypt, said Timothy Kaldas, an expert on Egyptian political economy with the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington. Years of govern-

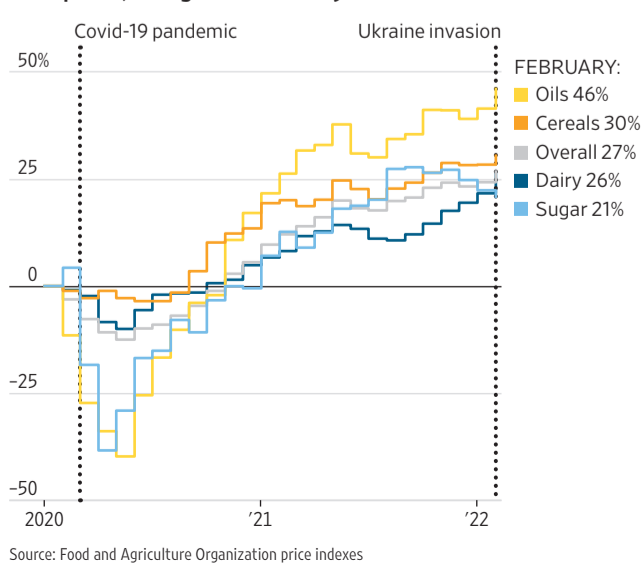
ment austerity have already eroded the purchasing power of Egyptians, he said.
 Lebanon has only a month of wheat supply, said Amin Salam, the economy minister. The country’s economic crisis has left almost a quarter of households uncertain about having enough to eat. “We are now reaching out to friendly nations to see how we can procure more wheat on good terms,” he said.
 In 2008, a spike in food prices caused riots in 48 countries. Since then, the burden of feeding needy populations has only grown, weighted by the pandemic and wars in Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia and elsewhere, said Arif Husain, chief economist at the World Food Program, or WFP, an arm of the United Nations.
 In Ukraine, shortages of fuel, fertilizer and workers are curtailing the planting of corn and the early summer harvest of wheat, pointing to longer-term food shortages.
 Higher costs are putting pressure on the WFP’s ability

to feed people in danger of starvation, including more than three million in Ukraine. The war has added another \$29 million to the program’s monthly food and fuel bills, said Mr. Husain. Since 2019, its food and fuel costs have gone up 44%, to an extra \$852 million a year.
 WFP said it reduced rations in recent days for refugees and others across East Africa and the Middle East because of rising prices and limited funds.
 Somalia, which faces a crippling combination of drought, widespread militant violence and political stalemate, suffered a spike in near-starvation cases before Russia invaded Ukraine. Kismayo General Hospital, in southern Somalia, treated 207 children under the age of 5 in February for severe acute malnutrition with complications, double the number from a year earlier.
 “In countries like Somalia that are extremely vulnerable because of the protracted armed conflicts and increasing

impact of climate shocks, even a slight fluctuation in food prices could have a dramatic impact,” said Alyona Synenko, Africa spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross. “It’s just going to be too much for the people.”
 Economies heavily dependent on energy imports are particularly in danger, including India, Thailand, Turkey, Chile and the Philippines, according to S&P, a credit-ratings firm. India imports nearly 85% of its oil. Thailand has the highest energy import bill among major emerging markets, totaling 6% of GDP.
 The price shock is enough to knock a percentage point off growth forecasts for many developing countries, including India, according to S&P.

for us where the purchasing power of customers is already falling and sales have significantly dipped in the recent weeks and months,” said Shahid Ali, sales manager of a supermarket in Islamabad.
 Benson Kisa, who works at a labor recruitment firm in Kampala, is now skipping the restaurant where he used to eat breakfast. Prices for coffee and a snack known as rolex, made with an omelet, tomatoes and wheat flour, rose by nearly a third in recent days.
 “My salary hasn’t changed but I am paying more money for almost everything,” Mr. Kisa said.
 In India, farmers who can afford it are buying and storing large amounts of fertilizer for fear of future shortages and price increases. Most of India’s farmers own small plots and can’t afford to do that.
 “If I don’t get adequate supplies on time, my output will likely drop,” said Satnam Singh, a 42-year-old wheat farmer with an acre and a half of land in India’s northern state of Punjab.
 Tanzania, a net oil importer and heavily reliant on Russian wheat, scrapped its fuel import tax this month, but the regulator increased prices by 5%.
 Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan warned citizens to brace for more. “All goods will rise in price, all fares will rise, and everything will go up in price because of the war in Ukraine,” she said. “This isn’t being caused by the government. It is the state of the world.”

Food prices, change since January 2020



Cutting back

For nations with already anemic growth prospects, such as South Africa and Turkey, that could mean a halving of growth this year, said the World Bank’s Mr. Gill. Oil prices of \$115 a barrel would cut as much as 3.6 percentage points from Thailand’s growth this year, according to S&P.
 In Pakistan, which has had persistent inflation, the government announced \$1.5 billion in subsidies at the end of February to try to keep gasoline prices down through the Ukraine crisis. In recent days, cooking oil rose another 10% in the market, shopkeepers said. The holy month of Ramadan is coming, which usually spurs rising prices. Criticism that the government can’t tame inflation has propelled efforts by opposition parties to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan.
 “It is an alarming situation

—Jared Malsin in Istanbul, Michael M. Phillips in Nairobi, Amira El-Fekki in Cairo and Vibhuti Agarwal in New Delhi contributed to this article.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ESTHER RUTH MUBAZI FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; YAHYA ARHAB/EPAS/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHA DAT/XINHUA/ZUMA PRESS; VEJAY VILLAFRANCA/REUTERS; VEEJAY VILLAFRANCA/REUTERS



Denis Andros, 74, shows a photograph of himself from his time in the Army during the Vietnam War.

Age Changes the Lens on War

Earlier experiences with global conflict alter emotional response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine



TURNING POINTS
CLARE ANSBERRY

Americans are watching the unfolding war in Ukraine through the lens of their generation, revealing differences shaped in part by history and military experience.

For Denis Andros, a boomer-generation Vietnam vet, the scenes of the invasion trigger his deep mistrust of Russia. His millennial daughter-in-law, Megan Andros, a West Point grad with two young kids, identifies with the young mothers trying to protect their children. Her 92-year-old silent-generation grandmother, Gwyneth Noble, whose husband served in postwar Germany, is saddened to witness yet another devastating war break out in her lifetime.

"It's hard seeing things unravel again," says Ms. Noble.

The reactions belong to one family but represent some of the perspectives being echoed across the U.S., reflecting how world views are often shaped by eras and experience. Each generation has its own historical backdrop, which can shape collective attitudes, even when those within a generation vary socially and economically.

Younger people, for the most part, have had less personal connection to armed conflicts, without a draft pulling millions into com-



Gwyneth Noble, 92, lived through WWII. Megan Andros and her grandfather at her West Point graduation.



bat overseas, but are now watching horrifying scenes in Ukraine unfold on social media. Even before the Ukrainian invasion, younger adults expressed significant concerns about global conflict.

Nearly half of adults aged 20 to 35 think a world war is likely to occur in their lifetime, while a majority believes there will be a nuclear attack in the next decade, according to a 2020 "Millennials on War" report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which surveyed more than 16,000 people in 16 countries.

Many people in the silent (born 1928 to 1945) and boomer (1946-64) generations, as well as the "greatest generation" before

them, have lived through a series of wars, including some in WWII, the Cold War, Korean War and Vietnam. "They are more inured to the idea that things are going to happen," says Jean Twenge, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University and author of several books on generations, including the most recent "iGen."

Historian Todd DePastino, 56, says those who grew up during the Cold War lived in fear of Russia dropping bombs in the U.S. His daughters, both in their 20s, follow young Russian YouTubers. "The younger generation is more connected globally to each other because of social media," says Dr. DePastino, who taught American

history and started a nonprofit Veterans Breakfast Club.

Younger generations, too, never experienced a war in which the global order appeared to be threatened, while older generations did. "With the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as awful as they were, the global stakes were lower," he says. "The world order was not necessarily at stake. I think it is now."

Those themes are sounding within the extended Andros family and friends circle in western Pennsylvania. Older generations, who have long viewed Russia as a historic aggressor, are less surprised by the invasion, while younger people can be more shocked by

scenes on social media. Regardless of age or generation, they see the invasion as unprovoked and are concerned about innocent civilians and escalation.

Denis Andros, 74, grew up in a small coal-mining town in western Pennsylvania during the Cold War. As a child, he hid under his school desk during duck-and-cover drills to prepare for Russian planes flying overhead and dropping atomic bombs. Families built bomb shelters in basements.

After graduating from high school and facing the draft, Mr. Andros joined the Army and was fighting in Vietnam. He says his unit was hit by Soviet-made rockets, the Russian markings on pieces they found around them.

Mr. Andros says he wasn't surprised by the Russian invasion, although he doesn't think American troops should get involved. "I honestly don't know what the solution in Ukraine is," says Mr. Andros, who retired from a compressor manufacturer and lives in Latrobe, Pa.

His 40-year-old son, Dave Andros, graduated from West Point and served in Iraq. He remembers seeing little kids in towns, caught in crossfires, injured, hurt and scared. Now, with two young children, the images of Ukrainian mothers and children huddling in subways and fleeing on streets bothers him and his wife more than combat scenes.

"I can't imagine how terrified the mothers and children are," says his wife, Megan Andros.

Ms. Andros, 38, belongs to a generation for which war, for the most part, was distant, impersonal and vague. Growing up, the only person she knew in the military was her grandfather, Edgar Noble, who served in Germany in 1946 as part of the Army of occupation.

But she ended up at West Point after being recruited to play tennis, graduated in 2006 and went into basic training before being deployed to Iraq.

The military experience has given her a different perspective than most of her peers, she says. Watching the Ukraine invasion on social media makes younger people more aware, but not necessarily more informed, says Ms. Andros, who is responsible for veterans programs for a private Pittsburgh foundation.

"A lot of people throw things out on social media like 'Send in American troops' without understanding what that means," she says. "Are they willing to go themselves? Are they ready to spend years over there?"

Megan talks with her grandmother, Gwyneth Noble, for her perspective.

Ms. Noble keeps her late husband's corporal military shirt hanging in the closet of their home in Hendersonville, N.C. Seeing the destruction and poverty left by the war made a lasting impact on her husband.

It is troubling, she says, to see cities once again crumbling and people being wrenched from their homes.

"The older generation has experienced so much war and knows it never really settles anything forever," she says.

Fallen Tech Titans Evolve Into Their Own TV Genre

By JOHN JURGENSEN

IF YOU HEAR characters spouting off about funding rounds and burn rates to a soundtrack of songs from the 2010s, you're being set up for a story about a tech mogul's rise and fall.

"WeCrashed," a series following the trajectory of former WeWork CEO Adam Neumann (played by Jared Leto) and his wife, Rebekah Neumann (Anne Hathaway), launched Friday on Apple TV+. It's the third drama about Icarus-like tech founders to debut in the space of a month. Hulu's "The Dropout" (starring Amanda Seyfried as Theranos's Elizabeth Holmes) and Showtime's "Super Pumped: The Battle for Uber" (with Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Uber founder Travis Kalanick) are already unspooling with weekly episodes.

It's the latest iteration of Hollywood's appraisal of the tech industry. The 2010 movie "The Social Network" formed the blueprint for startup entrepreneurs as antiheroes in hoodies, and the HBO comedy "Silicon Valley" added scathing satire when it premiered in 2014.

Only one of the tech founders portrayed in the new rise-and-fall dramas has been convicted of a crime: Ms. Holmes, who is awaiting sentencing for deceiving Theranos



investors. All the founders share traits as TV characters, including mammoth levels of ambition and drive that audiences are led to admire—to an extent.

"Until the greed or hubris reaches a point that we want to see a comeuppance. It's a combination of envy and schadenfreude," says Drew Crevello, who created "WeCrashed" with Lee Eisenberg. (Representatives for Mr. and Ms. Neumann and Ms. Holmes didn't respond to requests for comment. A spokeswoman for Mr. Kalanick declined to comment.)

To retool the sometimes dry world of tech into juicy television, here are some of the narrative devices that "The Dropout," "WeCrashed" and "Super Pumped" all used.



Joseph Gordon-Levitt, left, stars as Travis Kalanick in 'Super Pumped.' Jared Leto, far right, portrays Adam Neumann in the 'WeCrashed.'

Follow the funding

The typical life cycle of tech startups makes certain narrative milestones inevitable, like funding deals with venture capitalists, high net-worth clients and bankers. The shows make these potentially dull business meetings dramatic. In a scene from "The Dropout" set on Larry Ellison's yacht, the Oracle mogul (played by Hart Bochner) pushes Ms. Holmes to "G.T.F.M." Translation: "Get the f—ing money," a chant she screams while wearing a life preserver.

Characters get ghosted

On their ascent to wealth, power and fame, all the founders leave scorched relationships with friends, family members and business partners in their wake. In "Super

Pumped," a girlfriend of Mr. Kalanick boosts his confidence for pitch meetings, but gets brushed aside after Uber gets funded. "I guess I was just your seed round," she says.

Translate the Techspeak

To translate the computer code, algorithms and V.C. funding strategies into digestible dialogue, the shows count on punchy descriptions and analogies. In "WeCrashed," a character pokes a hole in Mr. Neumann's cup to unleash a stream of water representing the millions WeWork is losing daily. "Super Pumped" uses narration by Quentin Tarantino to break down some business moves. "Just because they hide it in the fine print of an app don't mean it ain't a scam," the narrator says.

All work, plus play

The on-screen startups expect cult-like loyalty from employees, and use parties as a perk. A Las Vegas bacchanal in "Super Pumped" results in a bill for \$25 million in fees and damages. Tequila shots and employee hookups are recurring motifs in "WeCrashed," which also features a summer camp retreat where WeWork staffers disco with their boss.

Get inside the moguls' heads

Longform podcasts and books were the source material for TV writers who needed to create characters whom viewers would want to study over the course of a miniseries.

"We remain completely fascinated by the person who thinks the world must change and that he can change it," says "Super Pumped" co-creator Brian Koppelman, also a creator of "Billions." In one scene, Mr. Kalanick describes Uber as a higher form of life, compared with the taxi industry. "This must have been what it was like when Homo sapiens were running around together with Neanderthals."

For "WeCrashed," which was adapted from a Wondery podcast, researchers examined the personal lives of Adam and Rebekah Neumann. In the show, the real-estate entrepreneur who styled himself as a tech wizard has a strained relationship with his father; his wife struggles with a failed acting career. Their mystical agenda for WeWork leads Mr. Leto's character to say things like, "Our mission is to elevate the world's consciousness. Period."

—Chris Kornelis
contributed to this article.

PERSONAL JOURNAL.

MY RIDE | A.J. BAIME

Two Muscle Cars Sport Their American Heritage



TOM FOMVILKS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3)

Dave Battle, 57, an insurance agent living in Santa Clarita, Calif., on his 1970 AMC Rebel Machine and 2017 Dodge Viper Dealer Edition ACR, as told to A.J. Baime.

I have always been into unique, special-edition cars. I had seen pictures of this AMC Rebel Machine from 1970 in a red, white and blue paint scheme. Founded in the 1950s, AMC was for years a big independent car manufacturer, and its name stood for American Motors Corp. Red, white and blue were the corporate colors, and only in 1970 did the company put out the Rebel Machine with this paint scheme.

It had the most powerful engine ever in an AMC car (a 340-horsepower, 390 cubic inch V-8). About 1,000 were made in red, white and blue, so I knew finding one wouldn't be easy.



The AMC Rebel Machine features a tachometer on the hood.

In 2012, I found my car for sale in New York state. I bought it for \$31,000, had it shipped to California, and I spent five years restoring it. I use it mainly to take to car shows, and it has won all kinds of trophies. Young people love it because they've never heard of AMC. Older people often say, "I've seen pictures of one of those Rebel Machines. But I've never seen one in person."

Years later, I happened upon a

photograph of the 2017 Dodge Viper Dealer Edition ACR, with what is called the Extreme Aero Package (referring to the big wing on the back and other aerodynamic features). The model was a rare special edition, just like my Rebel Machine. But the paint job! I couldn't believe my eyes. The color scheme was almost identical. I thought, "Wouldn't those two cars look dynamite next to each other?"

I began my search. But again, it was not going to be easy. Dodge built only 22 Viper Dealer Edition ACRs in red, white and blue. I found my car at a Ferrari dealership in Florida, bought it off the internet and had it shipped to California. I never saw it in person before it got here. It was more expensive than the Rebel Machine was.

In 2017, when this Viper was built, it was the most extreme American performance car you could buy, with 645 horsepower and

an all-aluminum, hand-built V-10 engine. The year 2017 was also the last for the Dodge Viper, which made it even more rare and desirable. If you know about cars, then you know that the Viper was for years (arguably) the wildest American car in existence, and the ACR edition, standing for American Club



With its giant rear wing, this Viper ACR is a street-legal race car.

▲ Dave Battle of Santa Clarita, Calif., with his rarities: a 1970 AMC Rebel Machine, left, and a 2017 Dodge Viper Dealer Edition ACR.

Racer, held 13 racetrack-lap records at the time my car was built.

When I finally got these two cars together, I was so excited because this had been my vision. These days, I take them to car shows and put them next to each other. My son, Ben Battle, drives one, and I drive the other. The Viper Dealer Edition ACR gets the same reaction that the Rebel Machine does: "I've seen one in a picture, but I've never seen one in person."

We live on the outskirts of Los Angeles, and so we see supercars like Ferraris and Lamborghinis all the time. But if you see a 1970 Rebel Machine, or a 2017 Viper Dealer Edition ACR, around where we live? You can bet it's mine.



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Generous Tipping Slips Back

By J.J. McCorvey

Consumers started tipping more during the Covid-19 pandemic, but that generosity may be slowing.

Earlier in the pandemic, Americans—many of whom were cooped up and saving money while their local restaurants were losing business—were willing to tip as much as 30%.

Now, data suggest that with life getting back to normal and rising inflation, tipping habits are changing once again. Among purchases made by phone or online, the share receiving a tip across all types of businesses had declined to 84.4% on Feb. 28 from 85.7% back in March 2021, according to Block Inc.'s payments unit Square.

Nearly a full year before, that number had jumped to almost 90% from pre-pandemic levels below 50%.

At Chilo's, a Brooklyn bar and taco truck, general manager Carlos Cruz has noticed a slight drop in generosity over the past several months. What used to be 20% tips have decreased by \$1 or \$2, he said, and customers don't leave a tip for pickup orders at all.

"There has been a shift of gears," said Mr. Cruz, 41 years old. "Now that the business is going back to quote-unquote normal, we have noticed that people are not tipping as well as before."

One place where gratuities are staying the same, and in some cases improving: full-service dining. Square's data show that the average tip amount remained around 16% for remote transactions, and rose on average to 21.2% from 20.6% for purchases made in person during the same 12-month period.

The increase in tips during the height of the pandemic is in line with existing research focused on how people show monetary appreciation under different circumstances, said Kwabena Donkor, a behav-

ioral economist and marketing professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

A recent study by Federal Reserve Board research assistant Sarah Conlisk of taxi rides taken in Chicago suggested that people offer more gratuity when they perceive some sort of hazard involved with the service.

"That should be consistent with the case where if people go in-person to a restaurant, they would be more likely to give a tip that's higher than pre-pandemic time," said Mr. Donkor.

Things are starting to shift in other types of business as well, the data show, suggesting people are less inclined to leave a tip when there is no waiter or waitress service. Among remote transactions at quick-service restaurants, the average tip amount declined to 15.2% at the end of February 17.2% back in March 2021.

Steven Garrett, 37, who owns Resurrection Cuts bar-

ber and left a \$5 tip on a \$25 haircut, he said.

"I was like, man, if this was cash, this would have been a \$15 tip," said Mr. Garrett, who added that his barbershop has seen around an average 15% price increase on haircutting necessities such as razors, neck strips and nitrile gloves. Mr. Garrett has been hesitant to raise prices.

16%

Average tip on remote transactions using Square.

Mr. Donkor said there is research that suggests overall gratuity rates could decline if inflation continues to rise.

Kashena Sampson, 39, a singer-songwriter who tends bar at the Basement East in



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAISY KOPKIS/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, ISTOCK

bershop in Tuskegee, Ala., said he has noticed tips go down by about \$25 a day since he started using an appointment-based app that allows customers to book, pay and tip from their phones to avoid crowding in the shop post-lockdown. One of his regular customers who usually tips generously used the app for the first time re-

Nashville, Tenn., said tips vary based on the show and crowd, but specific price also matters. When a beer cost \$6, people would generally leave at least a dollar. When the price rose to \$6.50, some people only leave 50 cents while others might leave \$1.50.

—Allison Pohle
contributed to this article.

ARTS IN REVIEW

TELEVISION REVIEW | JOHN ANDERSON

Brits Behaving Badly (Again)

'Bridgerton' returns with a second season and remains refreshingly humorous and self-aware



Ruth Gemmell, Adjoa Andoh and Golda Rosheuvel, left and Kathryn Drysdale and Nicola Coughlan, below, in the new season

and is now a married mother. Fortunately for the show, which has reportedly been extended through at least a fourth season, the Dowager Viscountess Bridgerton (Ruth Gemmell) has eight children.

The one who's actually eager to wed is son Anthony (Jonathan Bailey), the largely insufferable head of the Bridgerton household and a man who approaches the marriage market as if it were a used-car lot. He doesn't actually ask about trunk space, but few other questions are off the table as he makes the rounds, looking for that special someone worthy of himself. He is one confident viscount. Still, he's brought up short one morning, encountering on horseback the startling, scandalously unchaperoned Kate Sharma (Simone Ashley), who has recently arrived in town with the mission of making a match for her younger sister, Edwina (Charithra Chandran). Kate is more accomplished than Anthony. She speaks more languages. She's a better shot. And she treats him with contempt. ("Your character is as deficient as your horsemanship.") He's smitten—which is going to be a problem since everyone, including the queen's scheming confidante, Mrs. Danbury (Adjoa Andoh), concludes that the obvious bride for the viscount is Edwina.

"Bridgerton" certainly presents an alternative history and, like other Rhimes productions, features what's commonly called color-blind casting. It isn't really. Blind, that is. Kate, listing her sister's languages, includes French, Latin, Greek "and of course Hindustani." Back in season 1, the dying Duke of Hastings (Richard Pepple) warned his son (Mr. Page) about the difficulties that being black had presented their family. The series is not quite fact, but it's not entirely detached from the realities of Regency England—unlike Eloise, who seems to have dropped in from a fancy-dress ball circa 2022 and really wants to have a smoke and get out of her heels.

The casting overall is clever, especially among the second-tier Featherington family, whose color choices in clothing and décor—a mustard-and-lime catastrophe in season 1—have been toned down (or up), mercifully. Many things in the series are like that, played for benign provocation or playfulness: A grand ball our heroes attend in an early episode features a string orchestra playing a Mozartian "Material Girl." This is no more or less an exercise of poetic license than Eloise, who may get the vapors when having to face the queen, but is as alien to this early 19th-century English countryside as a solar-powered spaceship.

Bridgerton, season 2
Friday, Netflix

The Regency-era, American-produced, British-accented "Bridgerton" was the second most-watched series on Netflix last year. No. 1 was "Squid Game," which says something about something. What the popularity of "Bridgerton" seems to say is that audiences suffer an incurable weakness for lavishly produced, "Down-ton Abbey"-adjacent soap operas that provide luxurious, vicarious immersions into the kind obscenely wealthy environs from which many of their ancestors would have either been tossed out on their ear, or offered employment emptying chamber pots.

And yet: While the privileged atmosphere, back-stabbing, rampant rutting and frocks are certainly part of the "Bridgerton" allure, so is the refreshing acknowledgment of how dumb it all is. Even the carriage horses seem to be in on the joke. So, like its predecessor, season 2 is a guilty pleasure without much guilt.

"Dearest gentle reader," asks Lady Whistledown (narrator Julie Andrews) at the outset of season 2, episode 1, "did you miss me?" Well, naturally, you whiskey-throated thrush. Especially now that we know who you really are: Penelope Featherington (Nicola Coughlan), the sweet-faced, acid-penned, one-woman Page Six

whose uncannily well-informed scandal pamphlet is terrorizing the court of Queen Charlotte (a delightfully vinegary Golda Rosheuvel). Waiting for her mad husband, George III, to expire while her son runs the country, Charlotte amuses herself by torturing her most immediate constituency—the high-born and marriageable girls of London, all yearning to be named the social season's "diamond" and thus the most eligible marital prospect. The only people would tighter than the girls are their mothers. Pen, as she's known (the humor is like that), is not really in the running. But in her subversive way, she manipulates the race.

Created by Chris Van Dusen, based on the Julia Quinn novels and produced by Shondaland (as in Shonda Rhimes), "Bridgerton" ended last season very smartly with the reveal of Lady Whistledown's identity: By not prolonging the anonymous-narrator shtick, à la "Gossip Girl," it suggested that things could, and would, happen all of a sudden. It begins this season just as wisely by devoting much more time to Eloise Bridgerton (Claudia Jessie), who was sardonically hilarious last time around as the next in line among the Bridgerton girls for possible anointing by her queen and subsequent dragooning into the marital sweepstakes.



Eloise, who regards Mary Wollstonecraft with reverence and most of what goes on around her with disdain, presents something slightly paradoxical for "Bridgerton." Unlike, say, "The Gilded Age," a costume drama that takes itself so seriously it's laughable, "Bridgerton" lampoons its genre and is actual fun. At the same time, the earthy Eloise, who is more of a Jane Austen-style heroine than

any of the powdered debutantes gliding about her, is a reminder that very little of what went on between the sexes, circa 1813, was the least bit fair. She's the conscience of the piece. Who wants a conscience? It's far more comfortable to be all in with the program—like Bridgerton sister Daphne (Phoebe Dynevor) who was last season's diamond, wed a duke (Regé-Jean Page, MIA this season)

ART REVIEW

An Experiment in Enlightenment Creativity

BY EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

San Marino, Calif.

The scientist in the remarkable painting "An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump" (1768)—which is now the focus of an exhibition, "Science and the Sublime: A Masterpiece by Joseph Wright of Derby," at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens—is the only figure whose gaze is open, forthright, undistracted. His face is framed by voluminous gray locks; his loose robes recall those of a medieval magus. And he seems to be appealing to us. Ignoring the figures gathered around, he gazes out beyond the painting's frame, his right hand extended in an expectant gesture, his brows raised, as if awaiting a decision. About what?

Well, his other hand is at the top of a giant bell jar where he lightly grasps a stopcock. If he turns it, air will rush in and an exotic white cockatoo—now lying prone at the bottom of the jar—will revive. But if the valve remains closed, the pump will do its work and the experiment will make its point: Without air, there is no life.

The painting is on a short-term loan from London's National Gallery in exchange for the Huntington's loan of Thomas Gainsborough's "The Blue Boy" (c. 1770). It is worth seeking out. Wright's "Experiment" is familiar enough in reproductions; it is, the exhibition notes, "one of the key images of the Enlightenment," illustrating how experimentation and reason were redefining European

culture and (as we see) private life. But here, in its painterly flesh, with its exquisite shadings and imposing size (6 feet by 8 feet), it becomes both powerful and disquieting. The onlookers, illuminated by a single, unseen candle, become distinctive characters, each preoccupied with different thoughts. The experimenter looms above, directly challenging us. We become implicated in the experiment's outcome, forced to tangle with its unsettling drama.

The Huntington has gathered 15 works from its collection as companions to that painting, including two other paintings by Wright along with rare books and artifacts related to the history of the air-pump experiment. We see a 1672 volume by the German scientist Otto von Guericke showing his 1654 demonstration, in which teams of horses were unable to pull apart the halves of a copper sphere held together by a vacuum (a domestic version of that sphere sits on the painting's table). Robert Boyle's "New

Experiments Physico-Mechanicall, Touching the Spring of the Air, and Its Effects" (1662) includes an early version of the bird experiment. And a 1729 edition of the poem "The Wanderer" by Richard Savage (c. 1697-1743) describes the pump's effects: "So in some Engine, that denies a Vent,/ If unrespiring is some Creature pent,/ It sickens, droops, and pants, and gasps for Breath,/ Sad o'er the Sight swim shad'wy Mists of Death."

There is nothing new, then, in the

who industrialized pottery manufacture, and Erasmus Darwin (Charles's grandfather), whose portrait was painted by Wright and is represented here by a volume of horticultural inventions. These men participated in the Lunar Society of Birmingham, which met on nights close to the full moon, allowing members easier travel after an evening of scientific talk and experiment; it is no accident that a full moon shines in Wright's painting.

But why the sublime? As we

challenging the Enlightenment's embrace of logic and clarity. One of Wright's other paintings here, "Vesuvius From Portici" (c. 1774-76), fits that model: A volcanic eruption creates a roiling landscape of clouds, fire and smoke.

Wright's air-pump painting, seems very far from the sublime with its intimate, domestic interior, but not in its invocations of bewilderment, awe, and even a hint of terror. One girl half averts her head while compelled to peek at the threatened bird. Her sister shields her eyes. A compelling figure in a brown habit of sorts stares into the candlelight, seeking interior illumination—a man of religious temperament, perhaps, trying to assess this brave new world. The Enlightenment suffuses the painting, but so do opposing sentiments: bewilderment about an altered landscape; concern about moral issues and the costs of pursuing reason. We are meant to experience similar tensions as we consider our own verdict.

The exhibition ends with an emphasis on creaturely sympathy, offering William Hogarth's series "The Four Stages of Cruelty" (1751), which show a child's grotesque violence against animals guaranteeing a vile human destiny. Also shown is an 1879 pamphlet by Isabel Burton (1831-1896): "Prevention of Cruelty, and Anti-vivisection." Even Wright's painting may weigh the balance in favor of the opposition. But nothing is settled. Now, some 250 years later, debates about the glories and failings of the Enlightenment continue, as if the painting's magus were still awaiting our response.

Science and the Sublime: A Masterpiece by Joseph Wright of Derby
Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, through May 30

Mr. Rothstein is the Journal's Critic at Large.



'An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump' (1768), by Joseph Wright of Derby

painting, but the demonstration still creates a sensation. Such was the Enlightenment's impact—not just to elevate reason, but to shift understanding of ordinary phenomena. Wright associated with major inventors, including Josiah Wedgwood,

know from Edmund Burke's "A Philosophical Enquiry Into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful" (1757) on display, the sublime is associated with awe-inspiring landscapes that stymie reason's effort to comprehend them, implicitly

SPORTS

There's Still Tanking in Baseball

Players hoped provisions in the new labor contract would end the practice. So far, that hasn't happened.

By JARED DIAMOND

Baseball players hoped that provisions in their new collective bargaining agreement would stop team owners from engaging in what they see as one of the game's biggest problems: tanking.

Less than two weeks later, however, it's clear that the controversial strategy—in which teams intentionally gut their rosters to cut costs and build for the future—is still very much alive.

The Cincinnati Reds welcomed the start of spring training by promptly trading many of the players their fans might actually be interested in watching. First they sent two-time All-Star Sonny Gray to the Minnesota Twins for a prospect whose entire pro career consists of five innings in rookie ball.

About 24 hours later, they dumped outfielder Jesse Winker and infielder Eugenio Suárez—who combined to hit 55 home runs in 2021—on the Seattle Mariners. Rival executives now believe the Reds could look to move at least one of their best remaining pitchers, Luis Castillo and Tyler Mahle, leaving longtime first baseman Joey Votto with little more than a glorified Triple-A squad around him.

What's most remarkable about the Reds giving up is that they didn't seem particularly far away from contending. They finished with a winning record during the pandemic-shortened 2020 campaign and went 83-79 in 2021. If this season's 12-team playoff format had been in existence last year, the Reds would've been in.

Now, the Reds bear little resemblance to a team that will contend for the playoffs, and it's unclear when that will change—even as they deny that they gave away three of their top contributors to save money. "This wasn't just a payroll move," general manager Nick Krall told reporters at the Reds' facility in Goodyear, Ariz.

Yet the fact remains: The Reds owed Gray, Suárez and Winker upward of \$50 million. They no longer have to pay that—but their team is considerably worse than it was earlier this month.

And they aren't the only ones. The Oakland Athletics, who have the fifth-most wins in baseball since 2018, appear to be taking the same approach. They have dealt star first baseman Matt Olson, third baseman Matt Chapman and pitcher Chris Bassitt in recent days, and players like Sean Manaea and Frankie Montas might not be far behind.

Players hate tanking because they argue that it suppresses demand for free agents and violates the spirit of fair competition. They become especially enraged at the argument that teams can't afford to pay top players: Just this past weekend, the small-market Twins agreed to pay



The Athletics sent Matt Chapman, above, to the Blue Jays for prospects. Below, the Reds traded Eugenio Suárez and Jesse Winker to the Mariners.

free-agent shortstop Carlos Correa an average salary of \$35.1 million over the next three seasons—the highest ever for an infielder.

MLB has long tried to reject the notion that tanking is a problem.

"I think, almost without exception, that clubs try to do the right thing. They want to win," commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Different people may have different views as to how you should be trying to win and on what time frame."

Teams choose this path because it often works. The Chicago Cubs and Houston Astros tanked their way to consecutive championships in 2016 and 2017. Their success inspired so many copycats that Mariners general manager Jerry Dipoto said in 2018 that more teams were vying for the first pick in the draft than the World Series.

Comments like that galvanized the players and made anti-tanking measures a major priority in the recent negotiations. Throughout the process, the union proposed many different ideas aimed at improving the competitive landscape, a person familiar with the matter said. These included changes to the revenue-sharing system, an incentive plan that would have rewarded small-market teams that increased their revenues and significant tweaks to



the draft order. The thought behind all of these concepts was to give teams a reason to try each season. Management rejected almost all of them.

Instead, the new CBA includes a draft lottery for the first six picks, a departure from the previous system, where teams with the worst record automatically got the first selection. All 18 teams that miss the playoffs will be eligible, with the odds of receiving the top selection assigned in reverse order of win-

ning percentage. Bruce Meyer, the attorney who served as the union's lead negotiator in the labor talks, said that players believe the creation of the lottery will be an improvement.

"Obviously we wanted more dramatic changes to address those issues. The league resisted us on that," Meyer said. "We don't expect that that problem is going to be completely eliminated, but we're hopeful that it's going to be significantly better than it is now."

The players hope gains on the other end of the spectrum will help offset teams continuing to tank. The new collective bargaining agreement also includes a less onerous "luxury tax," which is meant to stop teams from engaging in rampant spending sprees by taxing them when their team payroll exceeds certain limits, which last season started at \$210 million.

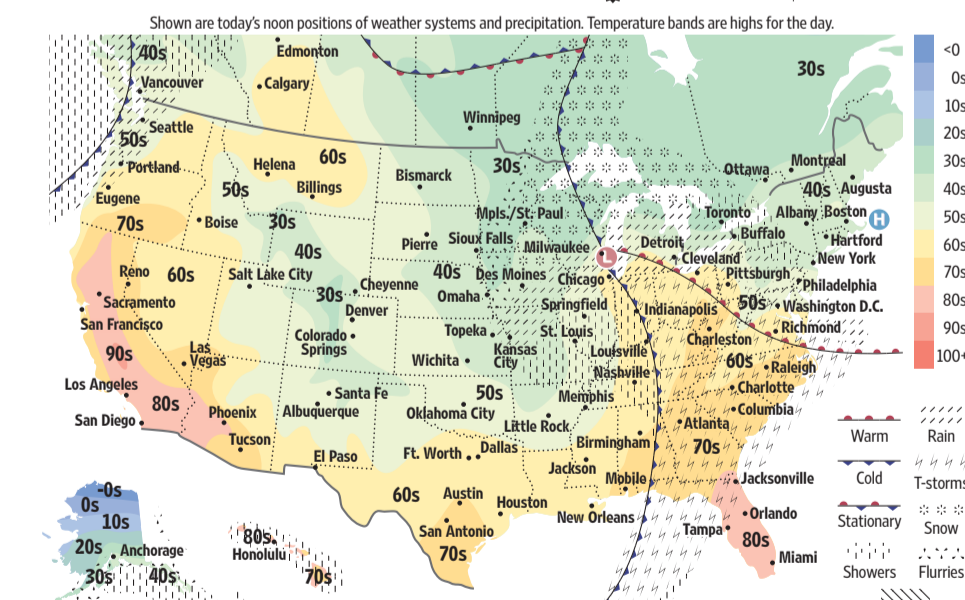
Players complain that the luxury tax has been used as a de facto salary cap. In the new agreement, the first tax threshold will be set at \$230 million in 2022, with additional taxes levied at \$250 million, \$270 million and \$290 million.

That final surcharge level is a new addition to the CBA, and it is widely seen as being aimed at one person: New York Mets owner Steve Cohen, the wealthiest owner in baseball. Before the lockout, Cohen gave Max Scherzer a three-year contract with a record average annual value of \$43.3 million.

Speaking with reporters in Port St. Lucie, Fla., Cohen said he wouldn't be surprised if the Mets' payroll surpassed \$290 million—even if it means paying what people in the game are already calling the "Cohen Tax."

"It's better than a bridge being named after you," Cohen said.

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U.S. Forecasts

s. sunny; p.c. partly cloudy; c. cloudy; sh. showers; t. t-storms; r. rain; sf. snow flurries; sn. snow; l. ice

Table with columns for City, Today (Hi, Lo, W), and Tomorrow (Hi, Lo, W). Lists major US cities like Anchorage, Atlanta, Austin, etc.

International

City Today (Hi, Lo, W) Tomorrow (Hi, Lo, W)

Table with columns for City, Today (Hi, Lo, W), and Tomorrow (Hi, Lo, W). Lists international cities like Amsterdam, Athens, Baghdad, etc.

U.S. Forecasts (Continued)

City Today (Hi, Lo, W) Tomorrow (Hi, Lo, W)

Table with columns for City, Today (Hi, Lo, W), and Tomorrow (Hi, Lo, W). Lists international cities like Frankfurt, Geneva, Havana, etc.

The WSJ Daily Crossword | Edited by Mike Shenk

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and clues. Includes 'Across' and 'Down' sections.

EPIC FAILS | By Gary Larson

- List of humorous words and phrases: 1 Piddling, 5 Take for a ride, 9 Sykes of 'The Other Two', etc.

Down

- List of crossword clues: 1 Scrip listing, 2 Word on an illuminated sign, 3 Major party, etc.

Previous Puzzle's Solution

A grid showing the solution to the previous crossword puzzle, with words filled in.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

A Chinese Nickel Market Mystery

Market ructions amid war aren't unusual. But the London Metal Exchange's retroactive cancellation of nickel trades this month appears to be unprecedented. One question is whether the Hong Kong-owned exchange intervened to rescue a Chinese nickel tycoon.

Nickel prices were climbing for the better part of a year prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, amid rising demand for electric-vehicle batteries and stainless steel. Russia supplies about 20% of the world's high-grade nickel, and worries about sanctions sent prices higher. This threatened the Tsingshan Holding Group, which had built a large short position.

Tsingshan is one of the world's largest nickel and stainless steel producers. It is also a cornerstone of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks closer ties with poorer countries by developing their natural resources.

Tsingshan Chairman Xiang Guangda also has a history of moving markets. Nickel prices dropped last year after he announced that Tsingshan had developed a game-changing technology that would enable cheaper intermediate grade nickel to be used for batteries. This could expand the nickel supply available for batteries and push down prices.

Many investors suspect that Mr. Xiang had built a short position with plans to flood the market with his nickel. But then as prices climbed amid Russia's invasion, his brokers struggled to meet margin calls, and bullish investors took advantage. Nickel prices surged 250% amid the short squeeze before the LME suspended trading and cancelled trades.

The Journal reported that Tsingshan would have owed \$15 billion if not for LME's intervention. Tsingshan could cover its short position by delivering high-quality nickel to the ex-

change, but this would probably require the Chinese government to swap its high-grade reserves for Tsingshan's low-grade nickel.

By cancelling trades, LME effectively rescued Tsingshan and Beijing. Exchanges sometimes halt trading when prices are volatile, but they don't invalidate contracts. Some traders are speculating that LME's owners at the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. felt pressure from Beijing, even if not explicit, to do so.

LME has blamed a lack of visibility in over-the-counter agreements and described the market moves as unprecedented. LME CEO Matthew Chamberlain denies Chinese pressure and said this week that the exchange intervened "because of the size and the systemic impact of the client and we would have done that whatever their nationality."

This explanation is hard to credit. Tsingshan may have lost billions of dollars, but it wouldn't have taken down the nickel market. There were some worries when the Hong Kong exchange bought LME in 2012 that it might be vulnerable to China's political influence. LME has sought Chinese approval to open a metals warehouse in the mainland.

Nickel trading resumed on the LME last week with circuit-breakers to prevent large price swings, but technical glitches abounded. The fiasco has caused some traders to exit positions, reducing market liquidity, and it has damaged the LME's reputation. AQR Capital Management founder Cliff Asness tweeted: "I've been doing this for a wee bit of time. This is one of the worst things I've ever seen."

Markets can't function efficiently without investor confidence. If LME doesn't restore cancelled trades, U.K. regulators ought to investigate what happened and why.

Putin Uses Refugees as a Weapon

As Vladimir Putin's Ukraine invasion bogs down, he's trying to break Kyiv's resistance by targeting civilians with missiles and artillery. He also hopes to break European support for Ukraine by using the country's refugees as a political weapon. The U.S. can help Europe share this refugee burden.

That's the horrible state of war as more than 3.5 million Ukrainians have fled the country since the invasion began, according to the United Nations refugee agency. Another six million or so have left their homes but remain in Ukraine, though they may eventually have to leave too.

Tiny Moldova has accepted nearly 400,000, while Russia and Belarus together have absorbed about a quarter-million. The remaining refugees have gone to countries in the European Union, more than two million to Poland alone. Many of these arrivals will soon move on to other parts of the EU where friends or family already live.

"We can see solidarity from all member states," said Ylva Johansson, EU home affairs commissioner, on Monday. "This is a new way of doing it without mandatory quotas and instead of working together within the solidarity platform." She's right about the EU's impressive unity and generosity.

Brussels also wisely decided to give Ukrainian refugees the ability to live and work in the bloc for three years. This should ease the financial stress on Europe's welfare systems, but there could soon be acrimonious fights about how to share the burden that is falling mostly

on Ukraine's nearest neighbors. Poland and Hungary could be overwhelmed if millions more arrive and the rest of the Continent becomes hesitant to take more.

The Biden Administration has given temporary protected status to some 75,000 Ukrainians already in the U.S., and it could simplify requirements for those Ukrainians who haven't come to America yet but have family in the U.S. Mr. Biden's visit to Warsaw on Friday presents an opportunity to go bigger: Why not offer to resettle 200,000 or 300,000 Ukrainians currently in Poland? A bipartisan bill in Congress could shape up differently, but setting ambitious terms of the political debate would be morally just and strategically prudent.

The offer would counter Mr. Putin's transparent strategy to bomb Ukrainians out of their homes and add to their suffering. Easing the refugee crisis in Europe will help women and children as well as the soldiers who stayed behind to defend their country.

As the war drags on, the Russian dictator also wants to burden the European nations whose military and humanitarian support is crucial to President Volodymyr Zelensky's resistance. He wants France and Germany in particular to pressure Mr. Zelensky into a settlement on the Kremlin's terms.

The West needs to continue to provide Ukraine with whatever it needs to win a peace it can live with. To that end the West can shelter the country's women, children and elderly as a defining contrast to Mr. Putin's barbarism.

A GOP Specialty: Bad Candidates

The importance of a U.S. Senate majority is on display this week as Democrats rally to confirm Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee. Perhaps Republicans should consider the point before nominating another lousy Senate candidate in a race they should win.

Witness Eric Greitens, who is running for the open Senate seat in Missouri. In 2018 he resigned as Governor amid allegations he'd sexually coerced a hairdresser and photographed her bound and nude as blackmail if she divulged the affair. Mr. Greitens's ex-wife, Sheena Greitens, has alleged in court documents that Mr. Greitens physically abused her and their sons, in addition to isolating them in a lake house, and repeatedly threatening suicide to force Ms. Greitens to publicly support him.

Mr. Greitens denies the allegations, and child-custody fights aren't known for factual restraint. His supporters note that the St. Louis Circuit Attorney who filed a criminal charge against him in February 2018 over the photograph was a Democrat—and that she later dropped the charge. They say proof of the photo never materialized; the hairdresser testified that Mr. Greitens told her he'd erased it.

But Mr. Greitens created the circumstances of this mess. In January 2018 he admitted the affair with the hairdresser, even as he rejected her blackmail claims. In her court filing, Ms. Greitens says Mr. Greitens told her that he'd taken the photo. This backs up the hairdresser's claim that was made under oath.

A Republican Missouri House led the investigation into the allegations and found Mr. Greitens's behavior disturbing enough to threaten

impeachment. Republican Senator Josh Hawley, then Missouri's Attorney General, separately accused Mr. Greitens of using a donor list for his veteran's charity to raise money for his gubernatorial bid.

That led to a charge of felony computer-tampering, which was dismissed as part of Mr. Greitens's agreement with St. Louis prosecutors to leave office. Perhaps Mr. Greitens is the target of some vast conspiracy, but this truck load of baggage would follow him if he wins the party nomination.

The Greitens problem is a reminder that Republicans have a special talent for nominating bad Senate candidates. Recall Delaware's Christine O'Donnell ("I'm not a witch") in 2010; Missouri's Todd Akin and Indiana's Richard Mourdock (both with incendiary comments on rape) in 2012; and Alabama's Roy Moore, who lost a special election in 2017 after accusations of inappropriate sexual contact with underage girls.

Mr. Greitens is seeking an endorsement from Donald Trump to provide an edge in a crowded GOP primary field. Don Jr.'s fiancée Kimberly Guilfoyle is backing Mr. Greitens. The former President has been known to pick some turkeys, such as Pennsylvania's Sean Parnell, who ended his Senate campaign last year amid allegations of spousal abuse.

The Senate election stakes are high this year, with a 50-50 split, and an urgent need for Republicans to lead the Biden Administration on defense spending and energy security. This should be a good GOP year, but bad candidates could cost them dearly.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

So Much for Climate Activism at Exxon Mobil

Many readers may have been surprised to see Christopher James, the founder of Engine No. 1 and guiding force behind its successful proxy contest at Exxon Mobil, calling for increased production of U.S. shale oil ("U.S. Shale Is the Key to a Renewable Future," op-ed, March 18). However, I am not one of them. As I've argued in the Harvard Business Law Review, Engine No. 1's activism at Exxon wasn't really about mitigating climate change. It was a clever way to generate investor interest in the launch of two Engine No. 1-sponsored ETFs.

Engine No. 1 did not provide Exxon Mobil with any guidance on how it could transition from a global leader in oil and gas production to one focused on the production of clean energy. If it truly wanted to mitigate climate change by changing Exxon

Mobil's business strategy, Engine No. 1 would have provided the company with such guidance.

Mr. James is correct that increased production of U.S. shale oil is the way to go for the world to become less dependent on Russian oil. But his op-ed also appears to confirm something about the intent of Engine No. 1's hedge-fund activism: It has little to do with mitigating climate change and a lot to do with making money. Shareholders need to understand this before deciding to support Engine No. 1's next installment of feel-good-without-doing-good activism.

BERNARD S. SHARFMAN
Bethesda, Md.

Mr. Sharfman is a research fellow with the Law & Economics Center at George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School.

Ukraine Fights On Despite Biden's Bungling

Despite listing several errors by President Biden in "Zelensky Defines Courage in Our Time" (op-ed, March 17), Karl Rove concludes that "Mr. Biden has handled the crisis well." I disagree. Mr. Rove neglects to mention the press conferences where Mr. Biden intimated that a minor incursion by Russia would be OK, that we should wait a month to see how the initial set of sanctions go and that sanctions were never intended to deter Russia from an invasion, even though that was his administration's position for months on end.

Mr. Biden has been behind Europe and Congress in sanctioning Russia, cutting off oil purchases, etc. His handling of the potential delivery of MiG-29s to assist Ukraine in air defense has been weak and confusing. A better approach would have been to keep that discussion classified and make the decision without broadcasting it to the world.

Worse yet are the negotiations with Iran on its nuclear systems while using Moscow as the broker. Fi-

nally, despite every opportunity, Mr. Biden refuses to do a reset on domestic energy policy.

JEFF CARLSON
Rocky Hill, Conn.

The gritty, heroic resistance of the Ukrainians, along with the sanctions, are soon enough going to visit on the average Russian an observation of Arthur Schlesinger Jr.: "All wars are popular for the first 30 days."

NEIL GAFFNEY
Chicago

President Volodymyr Zelensky's speech before Congress recalls to mind the speech by Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie before the League of Nations in 1936. He was pleading for support for his country's fight against the devastating Italian invasion. At the conclusion of the dramatic plea for support, he paused and then quietly said: "It is us today. It will be you tomorrow."

ALFRED J. ZACHER
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Fed Action on Inflation Is Too Little, Too Late

Mickey Levy's op-ed "Let's Start Getting Interest Rates Up" (March 15) is right on point. The Federal Reserve Board's bias toward keeping interest rates obscenely low has fueled high inflation and a bubble in the capital markets, putting the economy at risk.

Savers have been slammed; drivers, consumers and businesses whacked with price increases; and the middle class and less fortunate see their pay and pension checks devalued every day. Everybody in America knew inflation was raging even before Russia invaded Ukraine, but the slow-moving Fed was unwilling to fight it by raising rates or cutting its purchases of Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities. If Fed Chairman Jerome Powell and his predecessor Janet Yellen—now Treasury secretary—were any more dovish, their mugs could be on the cover of "The Book of Birds."

Mr. Levy's Shadow Open Market

Imagine What the Warthog Could Do Today in Ukraine

Regarding Kate Bachelder Odell's op-ed "What to Do With Those Polish MiGs" (March 21): The extensive deployment of Russian artillery and tanks in Ukraine should make the U.S. reconsider the retirement of the A-10 Warthog close-support aircraft. Although the Ukrainians have done a remarkable job destroying many of those tanks and artillery pieces, the A-10 could have helped even more. A couple of squadrons of A-10s, with Ukraine's MiGs flying top cover, would have been a huge help in securing Ukrainian cities.

Over the past few years, pressure from the military-industrial complex has pushed the A-10 into retirement, in favor of the F-35 Lightning II, a much more expensive and complex aircraft. It's time to rethink that decision before the remaining A-10s are scrapped.

JOHN JACHMAN
Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Better Red Than Leg, Right?

A side note to Bob Greene's op-ed ("The Commies Step Up to the Plate," March 16) about the problems the Decatur Commodores faced during the Cold War: In 1953, at the height of the McCarthy era, the venerable Cincinnati Reds, with a name stretching back to the 19th century, were renamed the Cincinnati Redlegs. A local protested: "We were Reds before they were." The traditional name was restored a few years later.

HENRY D. FETTER
Los Angeles

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Committee should emerge from the shadows and sing its truths all over America so that everyone understands what's really happening behind the timid Fed's closed doors.

STEVEN GUYEVAN
Waltham, Mass.

Happy days are here again! Mr. Powell has seen fit to raise the federal-funds rate by a whopping 25 basis points. When my wife asked what that means in plain English, I told her the taxable return on a one-year jumbo CD will increase from about \$35 a month to \$45, reducing the principal loss to inflation from 8% to 7%.

Seeing the bewildered look on her face, I explained that the Fed had also "penciled in" future rate increases, a move that, in Fed-speak, should elevate our "expectations" for future returns on savings. Her response was: "Can I write a check on expectations?"

"No," I said, "but you're free to 'pencil in' a new Tesla for 2028 . . . as long as I have the eraser."

MIKE SMITH
Sugar Land, Texas

How Long Can Americans Take the Heat at the Pump?

U.S. gas prices have hit a record high ("Gasoline Prices Climb Above \$4 a Gallon," The Ukraine Crisis, March 8) and are likely to climb. We may be close to an inflection point where public support for Russia sanctions is sorely challenged. It is one thing to support President Biden's actions with no skin in the game and quite another to support them when the financial pain escalates.

To Americans' credit, most continue to support Ukraine even as the pinch on our wallets grows. But how long can we sustain our goodwill amid rising prices? Even now, while Republican leaders support increasing sanctions, they lambast Mr. Biden for the rising price of gasoline, a natural byproduct of the sanctions.

KEN DEROW
Swarthmore, Pa.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"I can assure you, nobody's mining your data."

OPINION

Mob Rule At Hastings Law School

By Ilya Shapiro

I've given more than 1,000 speeches in my career, and I'd never been protested—until March 1, when dozens of students shut down my event at San Francisco's UC Hastings College of the Law. In January the school's Federalist Society chapter invited me to talk about my recent book on the politics of judicial nominations, a subject that became timelier with Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement.

On Jan. 26 I tweeted in opposition to President Biden's decision to limit his nominee pool by race and sex. I argued that Judge Sri Srinivasan was the best candidate, meaning that everyone else was less qualified, so if Mr. Biden kept his promise, he would pick what, given Twitter's character limit, I characterized as a “lesser black woman.” I deleted the tweet and apologized for my inartful choice of words, but I stand by my view that Mr. Biden should have considered “all possible nominees,” as 76% of Americans agreed in an ABC News poll.

Will the students who screamed obscenities and physically confronted me face any discipline?

I was about to start a new job as a senior lecturer at Georgetown and executive director of its law school's Center for the Constitution. Georgetown placed me on paid leave pending an investigation into whether I violated any university policy. I can't comment on that investigation because eight weeks later it's still in process.

It's clear that a vocal minority of Hastings students wanted to hear neither my reasoning about Mr. Biden's selection criteria nor my broader analysis now that there is a nominee. They screamed obscenities and physically confronted me, several times getting in my face or blocking my access to the lectern, and they shouted down a dean.

They also castigated their school for allowing me to speak and circulated a letter demanding “a committee of diverse student representatives” to approve speakers as well as mandatory training in critical race theory for students and faculty. Never mind that Hastings, a public institution, would be violating the First Amendment if it disapproved speakers based on their viewpoints.

And never mind that preventing a duly invited speaker from speaking is against UC Hastings's rules. The school's chancellor wrote in a communitywide email the next day: “Disrupting an event to prevent a speaker from being heard is a violation of our policies and norms . . . which the College will—indeed, must—enforce.”

But don't hold your breath for anybody to be disciplined there or at Yale Law School, where an event was similarly disrupted the next week. Too few administrators follow the example of the University of Chicago's Robert Zimmer. In response to pressure to punish Prof. Dorian Abbot for criticizing affirmative action, Mr. Zimmer reaffirmed his commitment to faculty members' freedom to “disagree with any policy or approach of the University . . . without being subject to discipline, reprimand or other form of punishment.”

You'd think that law students should have a particular appreciation for spirited and open engagement with provocative ideas. They've chosen a career that centers on argument and persuasion.

But alas a heckler's veto prevailed. I'd welcome the opportunity to return to Hastings—or anywhere—to discuss the Supreme Court. It's even more important to have a national reckoning about our inability to discuss controversial issues without canceling our opponents.

Mr. Shapiro is author of “Supreme Disorder: Judicial Nominations and the Politics of America's Highest Court.”

By Reuel Marc Gerecht
And Ray Takeyh

Seldom has a diplomatic phrase been more reckless than the Obama administration's “pivot to Asia.” The U.S. has never been able to disentangle itself from key regions of the world, as the war in Ukraine demonstrates. But the notion that a new “Pacific century” should become the nation's defining priority surely has emboldened adversaries elsewhere and called into question other alliances, including the most indispensable, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The question that ought to haunt the White House today is whether its ignominious retreat from Afghanistan in the name of ending so-called forever wars, and its stream of press releases insisting that China is the only rival worthy of attention, prompted an impetuous Vladimir Putin to undertake the largest land invasion in Europe since World War II.

In January 1950, Secretary of State Dean Acheson gave a speech placing Korea outside America's defense perimeter, thus inviting aggression from North Korea. Often overlooked in that speech is Mr. Acheson's insistence that “it is a mistake . . . to become obsessed with military invasions” when thinking strategically about Asia and the Pacific. Acheson seemed to assume that the dilemmas of newly independent Asian states came from internal subversion stemming from economic stagnation. To be fair, the Truman administration didn't shrink from its responsibilities in Europe when war broke out in the Korean Peninsula.

The U.S. has been a global power for a century and has always given some regions and countries priority over others. Early in the Cold War, Europe's economic rehabilitation and its military defense preoccupied America's politicians and strategists. In the 1960s, as the Cold War stabi-



lized in Europe, the U.S. turned its gaze toward Asia, where a truculent China and an eastward-looking Soviet Union were both bent on exporting revolution. With 500,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam, the Far East became a priority. And in the aftermath of 9/11, the Middle East took on importance as Washington hunted down terrorists and sought, however haphazardly, to refashion a political culture that had generated so much hate.

China is a rising challenge, but neglecting Europe and the Middle East won't help America confront it.

Before Barack Obama, no president had insisted that the exigencies of one region mandated ignoring others. The U.S. fought prolonged wars in East Asia, yet Washington didn't claim that these conflicts meant that it had to pivot from Eu-

rope or Latin America. Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon were beset by Vietnam; they didn't complain about “forever wars” and the need to leave the Far East. When George W. Bush found himself mired in Iraq, he didn't proclaim that Europe and Asia no longer mattered. Burden sharing has been an objective of all U.S. presidents. The strategic neglect of Asia-firsters is new.

Joe Biden must be considered the least authentic of China hawks. Much more than Mr. Obama, he has brandished the China threat as cover for isolationism. Even the hasty departure from Afghanistan was in part justified as a means of focusing on China. Leaving Afghanistan would somehow, Secretary of State Antony Blinken told us, make the U.S. stronger vis-à-vis Xi Jinping.

At home Democrats partly justified exorbitant domestic spending as a means of rebuilding an America better able to resist China. Yet Mr. Biden hasn't taken any serious military measures, or reinitiated a free-trading alliance, to confront Beijing. This disconnect between words and

How Putin Exploits America's Fear of Nuclear War

By David C. Gompert

Americans shudder at the mention of nuclear war, especially by Vladimir Putin. This reaction is understandable—civilization is at stake—but it can obscure thinking about whether and how nuclear war between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization might begin and proceed. Absent an informed assessment of this grave matter, U.S. policy makers likely would be gripped by visceral fear and avoid any action that could heighten the risk of nuclear war. Mr. Putin is showing he can manipulate these fears and thus avoid strong Western responses to his war crimes.

Russian doctrine on nuclear war is clear: Moscow has said it would consider initiating nuclear hostilities if Russian soil is attacked by nonnuclear weapons or the existence of the Russian state is in danger. Mr. Putin's public statements since Russia's invasion of Ukraine confirm this. He hasn't said Russia would resort to nuclear weapons if NATO were to intervene in defense of Ukraine. Rather, he has restated that the threshold for Russian use of nuclear weapons would be “threats to our country.” Mr. Putin says NATO intervention in Ukraine could escalate to nuclear war, but not that Russia would use nuclear weapons in reaction to such intervention.

A NATO attack on Russian territory in the course of intervention in Ukraine could trigger Russian use of nuclear weapons. But NATO has sufficient military superiority that it doesn't need to attack Russian territory to help Ukraine defeat Russia. This isn't to recommend such intervention; rather, it is to question the logic that such intervention would set off a nuclear conflict.

Yet voices of authority have reinforced the perception that direct NATO-Russia hostilities would result in Russian use of nuclear weapons. The U.N. secretary-general has said as much. In recent congressional testimony, U.S. intelligence bosses said the danger of nuclear war would increase if NATO forces en-

tered Ukraine yet failed to explain that Russian doctrine regarding attacks on Russia itself as the threshold to initiate nuclear war.

This doesn't mean that Mr. Putin can't use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. He has a numerical advantage over NATO in tactical nuclear weapons. Yet there are three powerful inhibitions against doing so. First, as we see daily, Russian forces are capable of leveling Ukrainian cities with nonnuclear weapons, though it would take longer. Second, Russia would become a permanent global outcast if it used nuclear weapons against Ukrainian cities. Third and most important, if Russia used nuclear weapons against NATO forces in Ukraine or against NATO members, it could face nuclear retaliation by the U.S. as well as the U.K. and France.

The point isn't that the U.S. can ignore the danger of nuclear war, but rather that Russia has at least as much to fear as NATO does—a reality that is clouded by Mr. Putin's brazen threats and Washington's palpable fear. Russian military strategists believe the U.S. has exceptional, multilayered capabilities for

such a contingency. U.S. global intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities are far better than Russia's. These could be used to direct nonnuclear strikes with global reach and pinpoint accuracy against Russia's retaliatory (“second strike”)

The U.S. has better global intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities than Russia.

nuclear forces. The U.S. also has more survivable, accurate and reliable offensive nuclear forces that could further decimate Russia's strategic deterrent on the ground. Whatever Russian missiles survive such disarming strikes would be picked off by U.S. missile defense systems, or so the Russians believe.

Western hysteria about Mr. Putin's willingness to use nuclear weapons has been compounded by the suspicion that he has a screw loose. Yet there has been no authoritative diagnosis that Mr. Putin's psy-

chiatric state would cause him to use nuclear weapons despite the danger of Russia's annihilation in retaliation. When U.S. intelligence chiefs testify that Mr. Putin is mad, they mean angry, not insane. There is also an impression in the West that Mr. Putin has complete control over the release of nuclear weapons. He doesn't. While his approval to launch is required, he has no way to act over the opposition of his top generals.

This isn't to say that U.S. policy makers and intelligence chiefs should ignore the possibility that any direct hostilities between the U.S. and Russia could increase the risk of nuclear war. Rather, it is to say that Russia should be at least as fearful as America is. The more the U.S. falls for Mr. Putin's nuclear messaging, and the more we signal that the U.S. dreads nuclear war more than Russia does, the less restrained Mr. Putin will be in Ukraine, and the more Ukrainian lives will be lost.

Mr. Gerecht, a former Middle Eastern targets officer in the Central Intelligence Agency, is a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. Mr. Takeyh is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Gompert served as acting director of national intelligence, 2009-10.

No More IMF Subsidies for Dictators

By John Kennedy

U.S. European Command warned a year ago that a crisis could be imminent in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin had set up more than 100,000 members of his military to breathe down Ukraine's neck—the biggest mobilization since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. As Mr. Putin prepared to invade a sovereign democracy, the Biden administration continued pushing for more than \$17 billion in International Monetary Fund allocations for Moscow.

President Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen ultimately got what they wanted in August, when the IMF doled out more money in one general allocation than ever before. The \$650 billion outlay of IMF IOUs backed by the U.S. Treasury—called special drawing rights—sent money to Moscow while the world watched Mr. Biden abandon Bagram Air Base to the Taliban. Iran gained access to about \$4.5 billion through the IMF deal, and China had a windfall of \$40 billion.

In this case, there were no sanctions to evade because the Biden administration simply handed Vladimir Putin, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Xi Jinping the money. The IMF special drawing rights function as subsidies, since countries awarded these tokens can exchange them for hard currency like dollars and euros on demand without having to repay the principal. Immediately after the White House finalized these subsidies, Russia's foreign reserves hit a new high.

To further put that \$17 billion in perspective, Mr. Biden asked Congress for only \$10 billion in Ukraine aid after Russia's violent invasion began leading every newscast.

The White House's most egregious move may be yet to come. The Biden administration purposefully structured the 2021 allocation as a down payment on another flood of special drawing rights this year, totaling \$350 billion. Some Democrats

Biden and Yellen pushed to give Russia \$17 billion while troops gathered on Ukraine's border.

asked Ms. Yellen in November to back a tranche of about \$2 trillion. In either case, Treasury would again lay tens of billions of dollars at the feet of dictators and terror states. But more free money won't beget better behavior.

As the new axis of evil grew richer last fall, it grew markedly more belligerent. Russia invaded Ukraine, Iran became more incorrigible in its nuclear-deal demands, and China signaled recently it believes its claim to Taiwan is even stronger than Russia thinks it has to Ukraine.

Mr. Biden and Ms. Yellen can't say they weren't warned. I started imploring Ms. Yellen not to subsidize our enemies in the name of Covid relief last March, as did the Journal's editorial board.

The Biden administration also

can't claim it was forced into the deal by the IMF, given that the U.S. has the largest voting share in the fund. The allocation that lined the pockets of Messrs. Putin and Xi had to have U.S. approval because the world's largest economy can veto major IMF decisions.

Treasury can't claim it had no other options. The IMF could have avoided spending the bulk of the \$650 billion general allocation on dictators and countries that didn't need the aid by making the special allocation for the poorest nations. Again, these pages pointed out that Mr. Biden's objection to a tailored approach was that it would require him to submit to Congress—which he seems generally reluctant to do.

The White House's eyes were wide open, and its hands weren't tied. Team Biden knew Mr. Putin was mobilizing against Ukraine and greenlit \$17 billion for Russia anyway, while slowing military aid for Ukraine.

China and Iran have been taking notes at every turn. Mr. Biden's end-run around Congress left rogue leaders emboldened and enriched. His task now is to get America out of Iran-deal negotiations, force Russia out of Ukraine, and keep China out of Taiwan.

He needs to demonstrate resolve. He can start by disavowing future IMF allocations that would pour money into Russia, China, Iran and their like. Let's shut off the IMF spigot to communists and terrorists and make sure it stays shut.

Mr. Kennedy a Republican, is a U.S. senator from Louisiana.

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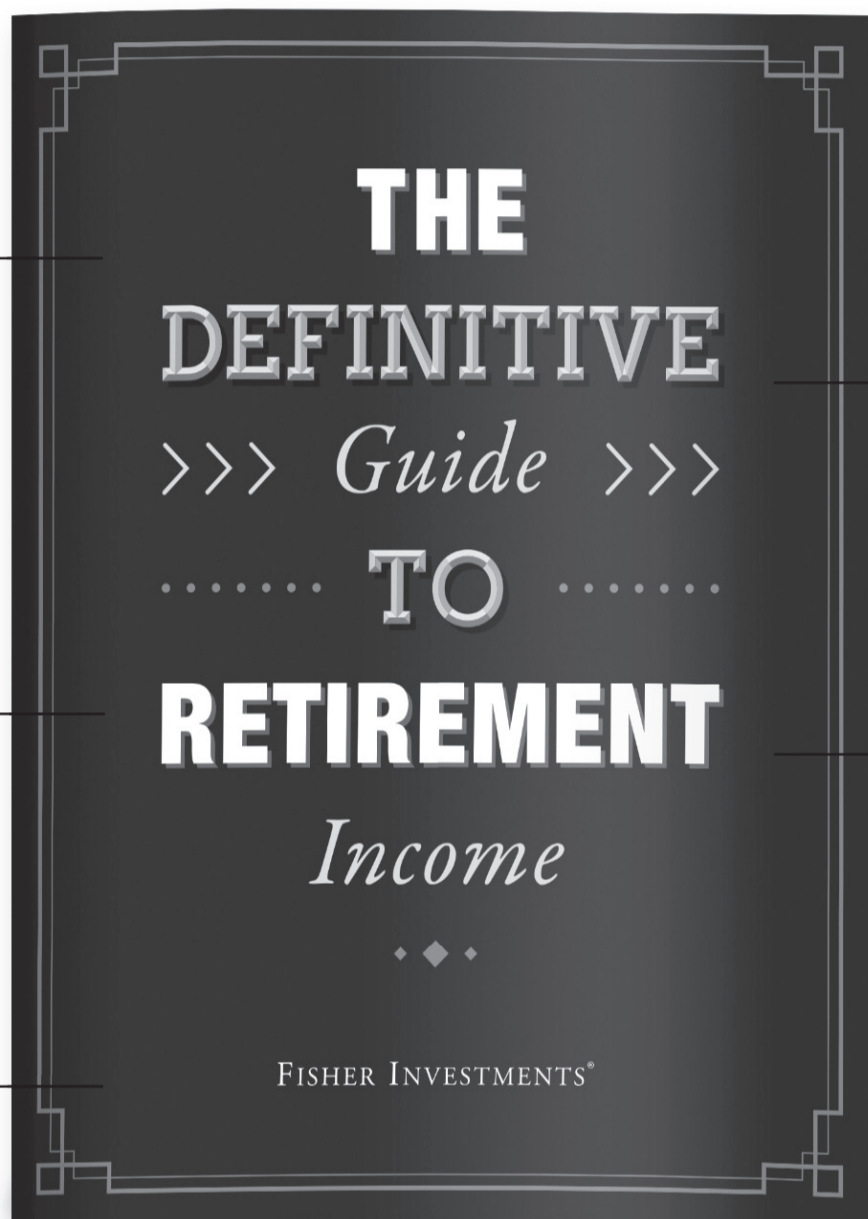
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Boeing China Ties Tested by Crash

By Benjamin Katz and Trefor Moss

The crash of a China Eastern Airlines Corp. 737-800 comes as Boeing Co. is working in China to revive its standing in the key aviation market after years navigating the fallout of the MAX crisis and Beijing's trade war with the U.S.

On Monday, a Boeing aircraft carrying 132 people suddenly fell from the sky, and rescuers on scene have yet to find any survivors among the plane's debris.

China Eastern Airlines grounded its entire fleet of 737-800 aircraft in response affecting some 224 in-service aircraft across the airline group, according to aviation consulting firm Cirium.

For Boeing, the crash comes as it was closing in on the return to service in China of the 737 MAX—a model different from the aircraft in Monday's crash. The aircraft's fixes had been approved by China's regulator with Boeing saying in January it was prepared to resume deliveries of the aircraft as early as the

first quarter of this year. Boeing shares rose 2.6% Tuesday to \$190.66 after falling 3.6% Monday following news of the crash.

China has been an increasingly important market for Boeing as the country rapidly built up its aviation industry over the past three decades. The company has delivered 1,736 jets to China, according to Boeing's own data, with 143 more on order. Boeing believes there is far more to come. It forecasts that China will buy 8,700 new jetliners—from all suppliers, but chiefly from

Boeing and Airbus SE—over the next two decades, accounting for nearly a fifth of global demand.

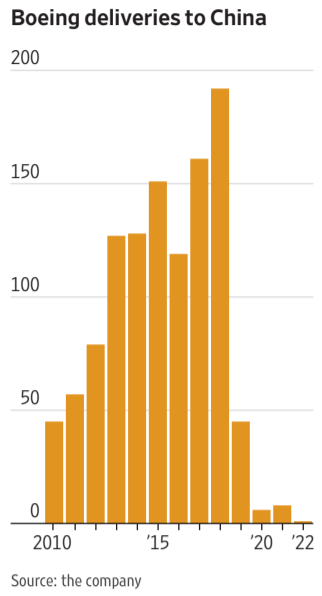
The key to realizing that potential, however, will likely be Boeing's ability to restore Chinese confidence in its aircraft.

Boeing canceled a senior executive meeting due to take place this week in Miami in response to the crash, according to a person familiar with the matter, while representatives from the company will serve as technical advisers to the investigation being led by the

Civil Aviation Administration of China, the country's safety regulator.

It can typically take months or more for investigators to determine the cause of an air crash. The reasons for the crash will likely play a large role in determining the length of China Eastern's 737-800 grounding and any delay in the MAX's return to flying, analysts said.

Boeing Chief Executive David Calhoun last year said the company needed new orders from China's airlines, the big-
Please turn to page B5



Midtown Manhattan Imagines Life With Fewer Office Workers

People want to live in Manhattan as much as they ever have. The problem is that not enough people want to work there.

By Kate King, Roque Ruiz and Konrad Putzier

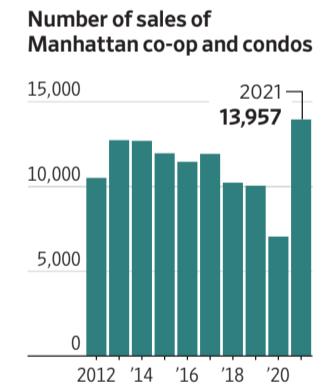
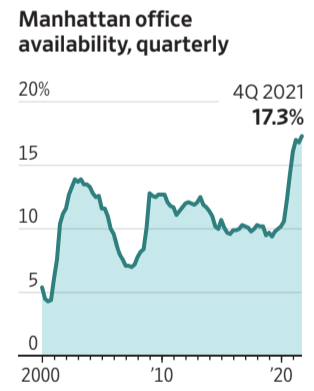
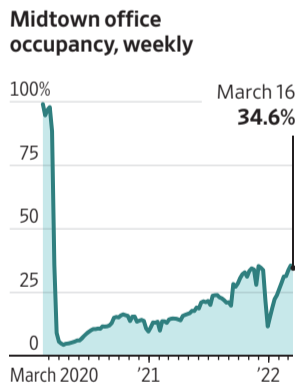
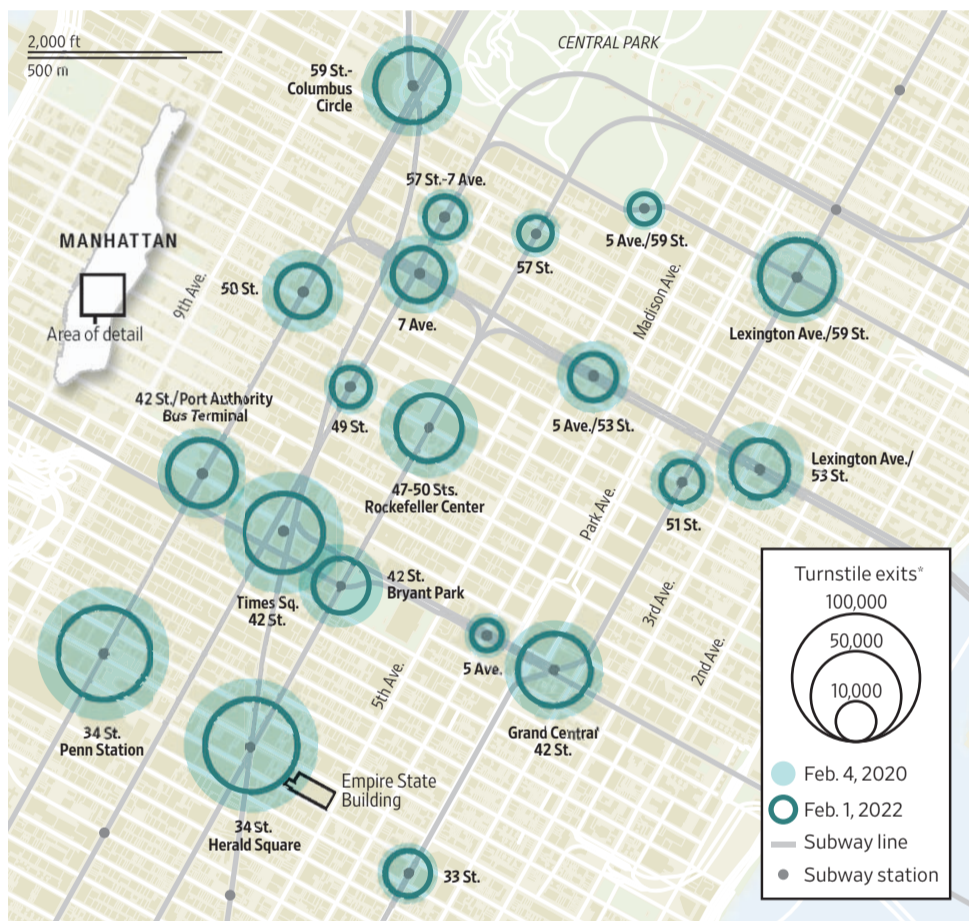
And for Midtown Manhattan, a neighborhood built on the five-day-a-week commuter, that is a problem so momentous that after decades as the dominant office district in the country, real-estate developers and city planners are trying to imagine what else it can offer.

On the residential side, Manhattan apartment rentals are booming and sales are reaching record levels. But offices in Midtown are attracting barely one-third of their pre-pandemic workforces.

"There's no question that Midtown is going to have to reinvent itself," said Chris Jones, senior research fellow at the Regional Plan Association, an urban-planning group.

Tourism, upgrades to public transit and more dynamic, pedestrian-centered streets would help Midtown attract the people it needs, Mr. Jones said. "The transition is going to be hard. It's going to be hard on small businesses and low-wage workers that don't have the resources to adapt," he said.

With offices struggling, city and state officials are discussing revamping New York City zoning to allow for more housing, including in Midtown. After Sept. 11, 2001, government subsidies helped lure people to lower Manhattan, where officials had moved to convert unused office space into apartments even before the
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*A 24-hour period was used for each station, from either 8 p.m. or 11 p.m. of the previous day based on the latest data available. Sources: MTA (turnstile exits); Kastle Systems (occupancy); Colliers (availability); Miller Samuel/Douglas Elliman (Sales)

Yield-Curve Trend Fuels a Debate About Recession

By Sam Goldfarb

Yields on shorter-term and longer-term U.S. government bonds have been converging rapidly, stirring fears—along with skepticism—that the bond market is close to signaling a looming recession.

Yields, which fall when bond prices rise, have been climbing all year based on expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates. They got another big boost Monday, after Fed Chairman Jerome Powell emphasized that the central bank was prepared to raise rates in half-percentage steps to fight inflation.

But yields have climbed particularly sharply on shorter-term Treasuries, drawing almost as much attention to differences between yields as to their absolute levels.

Yields on U.S. Treasuries

largely reflect investors' expectations for short-term interest rates set by the Fed over the life of a bond. At the start of an economic expansion, short-term interest rates are typically low. But investors expect them to rise eventually, creating steady upward gaps between short- and long-term yields, or what investors call steep yield curve.

Even if short-term rates are seemingly stable, investors have typically demanded higher yields on longer-term bonds as compensation for the risk of unexpected inflation and corresponding rate increases.

Downward-sloping yield curves—in which short-term yields exceed longer-term yields—are rarer, reflecting expectations that slowing growth will prompt the Fed to cut rates. Known as inverted yield curves, they have a decidedly
Please turn to page B12

New Rules Put Pledges For Net Zero in Focus

By Jean Eaglesham

Hundreds of companies have pledged to cut their carbon footprints to help limit climate change. Under new regulations proposed Monday, many of these companies will now have to disclose their emissions, including hard-to-measure data from their suppliers and customers.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said its sweeping plans are designed to allow investors to better compare the impact of climate

change on companies. But the greenhouse-gas data companies would have to disclose won't necessarily be on a like-for-like basis, the details of the SEC proposals show. And only some of the data will have to be verified independently, under the SEC's plans.

The landmark SEC proposals add a dense layer of climate reporting require-
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Canadian Pacific and the Teamsters agree to arbitration, end work stoppage. **B3**



PHARMACEUTICALS
Trial begins for former Theranos President Ramesh 'Sunny' Balwani. **B5**

Koch Industries Makes Big Bets on Batteries

By Amrith Ramkumar

Koch Industries Inc., built on oil, has emerged as one of the biggest financial backers of the battery industry.

A Koch Industries unit has made at least 10 investments worth at least \$750 million in

the U.S. battery supply chain and electric vehicles in the past 18 months, regulatory filings, news releases and FactSet data show. Koch's battery investments are among the biggest from outside the auto industry, analysts say.

Koch's chief executive officer, Charles Koch, and his late brother, David, donated billions of dollars to conservative and libertarian political causes, including some that opposed environmental regulation and questioned whether climate change is a problem.

Founded more than 80 years ago as an oil refiner, Koch Industries is the most diversified U.S. battery investor, said Vivas Kumar, a former Tesla Inc. senior manager and industry analyst who last year launched a battery-parts startup. "It's stunning just how many different battery supply chain play-

ers they've taken a stake in," he said.

Koch Industries is now a top shareholder in startups such as Freyr Battery SA, Aspen Aerogels Inc. and Standard Lithium Ltd. The money comes at a crucial time for many of
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Banks Seize \$2 Billion At Unit of Evergrande

China Evergrande Group said Tuesday that it was working to raise fresh funds after it disclosed that banks had taken control of more than \$2 billion held by a subsidiary.

By Alexander Saeedy, Clarence Leong and Quentin Webb

The surprise announcement came two months after Evergrande kicked off restructuring talks with creditors, who had threatened to sue the company for failing to disclose adequate information to them after the company defaulted on offshore debts in December.

During its second official call with offshore creditors, Evergrande warned Tuesday that there may be additional pledges and guarantees made from the company's offshore subsidiaries to onshore entities, which may ultimately erode how much creditors will recover from their investments in Evergrande.

Still, the company urged foreign creditors to hold tight as it completes a global restructuring plan, which it said is on track to be delivered by July.

◆ Heard on the Street: Hidden debt pile keeps growing... B13



The company urged creditors to hold tight as it restructures. An Evergrande property in Beijing.

"The company is compiling information for its contingent liabilities and will continue to maintain communication with investors," said Liang Senlin, a

recently appointed Evergrande executive who also works for Chinese bad-debt manager China Cinda Asset Management Co., in translated re-

marks during a scripted Q&A session on Tuesday's call with creditors.

The move by banks to seize
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New Rules Put Pledges In Focus

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ments to the existing bedrock of mandatory financial disclosures.

Companies would have to report on the greenhouse gases created by their operations and use of energy, known as Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Some larger companies would also have to disclose the carbon created by their supply chain and customers. These so-called Scope 3 emissions would have to be reported if they are part of a carbon-cutting target or information a typical shareholder would want to know.

The proposed rules allow companies to choose how they work out the Scope 3 emissions, as long as that methodology is disclosed. That flexibility eases the reporting burden on companies but could allow for some marked differences in approach.

Amazon.com Inc. reports voluntarily on its Scope 3 emissions, which form part of its 2040 net-zero target for greenhouse gas emissions.

The e-commerce giant counts in its Scope 3 the greenhouse gases from the manufacturing, use and disposal of its own-brand products, such as Kindle e-readers and Amazon Basics. These account for about 1% of sales, according to Amazon.

The company doesn't count the emissions from making, using or disposing of anything else it sells, such as products it buys from manufacturers or from products sold by third parties.

That is a different approach from some rival retailers. **Target** Corp. for example includes emissions from non-Target branded products it sells in stores and online, according to its climate disclosures.

An Amazon spokesman said in a statement that Amazon is an "online marketplace where many products sold are from third-party sellers, who control their own carbon emissions accounting." Amazon's emissions disclosures are verified by an independent third party and follow the guidance of a widely used standard known as the GHG protocol, the statement added.

Scope 3 emissions can be hard for companies to measure accurately or to control, according to some business groups and academics.

"The quality, provenance, methodologies and content of Scope 3 reporting leave a lot to be desired among even sophisticated companies, even in advanced economies such as in the U.S.," said Anant Sundaram, a finance professor at Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business.

The SEC proposals give businesses protection against being taken to court for inaccurate Scope 3 disclosures, provided the information is reasonable and given in good faith.

The agency has also decided not to require Scope 3 numbers to be audited. That contrasts with the planned requirement for Scope 1 and 2 disclosures by larger companies to be verified independently. Hester Peirce, a Republican SEC commissioner who voted against the proposals, said this difference in approach reflected the flaws in Scope 3 data. "Nobody can credibly provide assurance for numbers that are inherently unreliable," she said.

Kristina Wyatt, a former SEC official, said the proposals would make it much easier for investors to compare companies' carbon footprints, even if different methodologies are used. "Maybe it's not entirely perfect, but it's certainly a huge leap forward from where we are right now," said Ms. Wyatt, deputy general counsel at Persefoni Inc., a carbon-accounting startup.

The SEC said Monday the current system of voluntary disclosure makes it hard for investors to compare carbon-cutting pledges. Two-thirds of S&P 500 companies by the end of last year had set a carbon target, up from less than half at the end of 2017, according to data provider Refinitiv. But many companies don't give investors enough information to judge if their commitments have substance or are likely to be met, the SEC said.

Despite mushrooming net-zero targets, carbon emissions at many big companies have gone up in recent years. Between 2015 and 2020, the combined Scope 1 and 2 emissions increased at 71 of 252, or more than a quarter, of the S&P 500 companies reporting these numbers, the latest Refinitiv data show. Scope 3 emissions increased over the same period at 90 of the 154 companies reporting this data, according to Refinitiv.

Gary Gensler, the SEC chair, said Monday the agency isn't trying to push more companies into setting climate goals. "This is a disclosure rule," he told reporters. "Whether or not a company [has] a target...that's up to them."

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Firms Face Costs in Climate Rule

By MARK MAURER AND KRISTIN BROUGHTON

Companies will likely face higher compliance costs and disclosure challenges stemming from a new proposal requiring firms to provide estimates of their greenhouse-gas emissions and risks to their businesses from climate change, finance chiefs said.

Many companies provide details on climate risks when disclosing information they deem material, but investors often find it hard to make comparisons. The Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday sought to remedy that by compelling companies to report greenhouse-gas emissions from their own operations as well as from the energy they consume, and to obtain independent certification of their estimates. The proposal will be open for public feedback for at least 60 days, after which the SEC will start crafting a final rule.

Office-products maker **Acco Brands** Corp. expects the potential additional disclosure will increase its costs, though not as much as the roughly \$3 million it pays annually to comply with internal controls requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, said Chief Financial Officer Neal



Office-products maker Acco Brands is preparing for potential disclosure changes related to climate change.

thing on data quality if they are putting that data in their [annual filings]," he said. Agilent said it will assess the potential costs as part of a broader review.

Under the proposal, companies must disclose Scope 3 emissions, which includes those from suppliers, only if they deem the output of greenhouse gases significant to investors or if they outline specific targets for them. Scope 3 emissions from companies' supply chain are particularly hard to measure.

Disclosure of Scope 3 emissions would have to be included in SEC filings starting in 2025 for large firms that meet the above criteria. Small public companies with less than \$250 million in publicly traded shares would be exempt. Companies that would be required to disclose Scope 3 details wouldn't be held liable for the estimates if they were provided in good faith.

The proposal marks a step toward creating unified and organized policies and guidance for corporate climate disclosures, said Rachel Glaser, CFO at Etsy Inc. The Brooklyn, N.Y.-based online marketplace in recent years has voluntarily provided disclosure on three sets of emissions.

Fenwick. "The bottom line is we're going to need to spend a great deal of time, effort and money," Mr. Fenwick said.

The proposal would force the company to provide more details about its carbon emissions, which would involve better understanding where its electricity providers source their power from, Mr. Fenwick said. In some countries, that information isn't readily available, said Mr. Fenwick.

Companies will likely have to hire more people to assist with the work and tap an engineering or audit firm to attest to the accuracy of their estimates, said Julie Mediamolle, a

partner at law firm Alston & Bird LLP who is focused on corporate governance and securities compliance.

Under the proposal, companies would be required to include independent assurance—typically from a consulting or audit firm—that the emissions details from their own operations and from electricity, steam, heating or cooling are accurate.

That assurance requirement adds a layer of complexity and expense that appears unnecessary, said Robert McMahon, CFO of laboratory-supply firm **Agilent Technologies** Inc. "Companies will do the right

Seattle Starbucks Votes to Unionize

By HEATHER HADDON

A **Starbucks** Corp. store in Seattle voted to unionize, the first in the coffee chain's hometown to seek representation from a growing union of chain baristas.

Chain workers at a Seattle location voted 9-0 to be represented by the Starbucks Workers United union. Starbucks had petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to review that vote's structure ahead of Tuesday's tally. The agency denied the appeal, as it did in response to other review requests by the company so far.

Pro-union workers at the store—a roughly 10-minute drive from the company's headquarters—said they wanted management to allow workers to unionize, and take care of its baristas better.

Starbucks said during its annual investor meeting last week that it aimed to do more to improve the work environment for baristas and to listen to its employees. Howard Schultz, chairman emeritus and previous chief executive, will return next month as an interim CEO as part of a reset.

Starbucks said Tuesday that it would follow the NLRB vote-certification process. Overall, the company said it believes in the relationship it has with its employees, and will respect the unionizing process. In a letter to workers last week, Mr. Schultz said Starbucks needed to take a hard look at itself.

Since the union drive began in the Buffalo, N.Y., area last year, nearly 150 U.S. Starbucks cafes petitioned to hold votes on whether workers should be represented by Starbucks Workers United. Workers in seven out of eight of the stores to count ballots so far voted to unionize. Starbucks owns and operates about 9,000 U.S. stores.

Starbucks Workers United filed a number of complaints against Starbucks over practices they alleged are interfering in their ability to organize at stores. Last week, the NLRB alleged the chain retaliated against two employees seeking to unionize their store in Phoenix. The NLRB wrote in a complaint that Starbucks engaged in surveillance and other conduct that interfered with the workers' rights to organize. The NLRB asked the company to respond to the accusations by the end of the month.

A Starbucks spokesman said an employee's interest in a union doesn't prevent the company from applying long-held standards pertaining to its workers. "We will continue enforcing our policies consistently for all partners, and we will follow the NLRB's process to resolve this complaint," the spokesman said.



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BUSINESS NEWS

Railway and Union Bring In Arbitrator

By JACQUIE McNISH

Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. and the union representing its conductors and engineers agreed to shift stalled contract negotiations to binding arbitration, freeing the railway to resume freight shipments after a two-day work stoppage.

The agreement follows six months of contract negotiations and mediation with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, which represents more than 3,000 conductors, engineers and yard workers at the railway. The union, which seeks increased wages and pension benefits and more rest times, ceased negotiations before its strike deadline Saturday night, prompting the railway to halt shipments of large volumes of manufacturing goods, natural resources and agricultural products.

By Tuesday afternoon, the railway's trains were moving freight, a spokesman for Canadian Pacific said.

Details of the agreement weren't disclosed. Binding arbitration typically allows an employer and union representatives to present their contract demands to an independent arbitrator, who then can decide on such terms as wage increases and benefits. In some cases, certain contract terms can be subject to a vote by union members.

The work stoppage at Canadian Pacific threatened to exacer-

berate delays that are squeezing supplies and raising prices of commodities—including the fertilizer potash ahead of the spring planting season. Canada is a major producer of potash, and the railway transports the bulk of the commodity to ships destined for foreign buyers. Global potash supplies have declined since producers in Russia and Belarus effectively stopped exporting the commodity following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The railway also ships large volumes of Canadian oil, manufactured goods and wheat to the U.S. and other countries. Canadian cattle farmers rely on the Calgary, Alberta, railway for shipments of cattle feed from U.S. suppliers, a drought in Western Canada last year having reduced domestic supplies.

A number of businesses, customers and politicians have publicly urge the Canadian government to introduce back-to-work legislation that would force striking workers to return to their jobs.

Canadian Labor Minister Seamus O'Regan said he traveled Saturday to Calgary, where he spent much of his time urging union officials to reach an agreement. By Sunday afternoon representatives from Canadian Pacific and the union were discussing potential terms of binding arbitration, people familiar with the matter said.

Canadian Pacific is the sixth-largest freight railway in North America.

Disney Staff Protest LGBT Stand

By ROBBIE WHELAN AND KATHERINE SAYRE

Small groups of **Walt Disney Co.** employees across the U.S. took Tuesday off from work and gathered to protest what they described as the company's continued failure to support LGBT employees.

The walkouts mark the beginning of a third week of turmoil inside the company, as its leadership struggles to contain fallout from its response to a Florida education bill that many employees said targeted the LGBT community.

The Parental Rights in Education bill, passed March 8 by the Florida Senate, prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity or sexual orientation for children in the third grade or lower and limits such instruction for older students.

The issue has emerged as a challenge for Disney Chief Executive Bob Chapek as he enters the third and final year of his contract. Employees, fans, shareholders and elected officials from both sides of the political spectrum have slammed Disney first for failing to take a public stance on the bill, then for opposing it only after it had passed and while the company was under heavy public pressure to do so.

Disney sought to head off the protests at a virtual town-hall meeting held Monday, where Mr. Chapek assured employees that the company would use its experience with the Florida bill "as a catalyst for more meaningful and lasting change." The company would oppose a recent Texas executive order cracking down on parents who provide gender-transitioning medical



Disney employees stage a walkout and demonstration on Tuesday in California.

care for young children and form a companywide task force to develop ways to be a positive force in the LGBT community, Mr. Chapek said.

Earlier, Mr. Chapek had apologized for letting his employees down by not taking a public stance before the bill passed and said the company would pause political giving in Florida and do more to advocate against bills across the nation that it views as harmful to the LGBT community. But some employees still feel the company isn't doing enough.

"The response internally at the highest levels of the company was not appropriate and completely shortsighted, as well as tone deaf," said Kate Bustamante, senior manager of original documentaries at Disney's Hulu streaming service. "I think we need to speak up against those things, because if Disney wants to

continue to be a relevant media company, then they need to get with the program."

Ms. Bustamante was among about 50 Disney employees who gathered Tuesday at Bette Davis Picnic Area in Griffith Park in Glendale, Calif., a short drive from both Disney's animation studios and its Burbank headquarters.

Some carried signs calling on the company to do more to oppose the Florida bill. Several workers who walked off the job said while they have received support from co-workers at the division and team level, they felt corporate leadership has failed them.

A Disney spokesman said Tuesday that the company had sought to address some of these concerns in Monday's internal meeting. "We know how important this issue is for our LGBTQ+ employees, their families and allies, we respect our colleagues' right

to express their views," the spokesman said.

Several protesters called on Disney to indefinitely stop, not temporarily pause, political contributions to elected officials involved in the Florida legislation.

They also called on the company not to require employees to move. Mr. Chapek was criticized last year for ordering thousands of employees, including the elite group of theme-park engineers known as Imagineers, to relocate from Southern California to Florida to save the company money.

"People shouldn't be forced to live in a place that they're fearful of," said Shannon Cheung, who does shipping and logistics for TV shows at ABC Signature, a Disney-owned studio.

—Patience Haggin and Anne Steele contributed to this article.

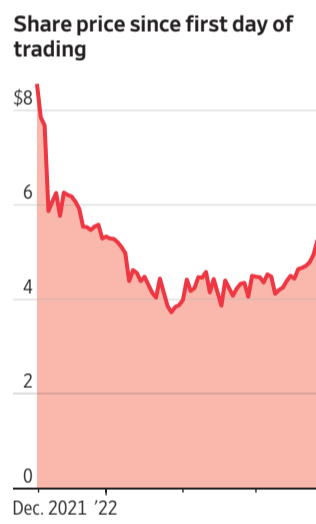
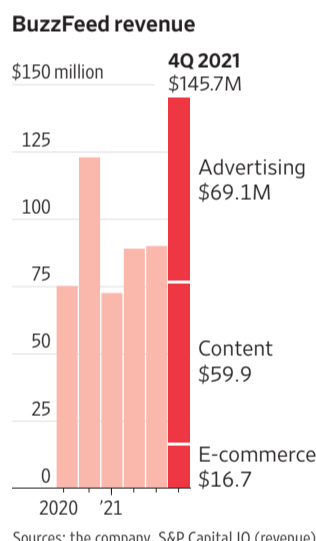
BuzzFeed News Leaders Step Down as It Trims Jobs

By ALEXANDRA BRUELL

BuzzFeed Inc., in its first earnings report as a public company, said it expected revenue to decline in the current quarter and announced staff cuts, as the top two leaders of its news division resigned.

BuzzFeed founder and Chief Executive Jonah Peretti said on an earnings call Tuesday that the company was looking to boost profitability at its news division by reducing head count and giving priority to "coverage of the biggest news of the day, culture and entertainment, celebrity and life on the internet."

BuzzFeed News Editor in Chief Mark Schoofs said in a note to staff that he was leaving the company, as was his deputy, Tom Namako. Mr. Namako in a tweet said he was joining Comcast Corp.'s NBC News Digital



once again shrink in size." He said the company was looking to reduce head count through voluntary buyouts, not layoffs.

A BuzzFeed spokesman said that on top of the buyouts at its news division, the company is cutting approximately 25 jobs elsewhere, or 1.7% of BuzzFeed's workforce.

BuzzFeed, which beyond its namesake site houses the Tasty, Complex and HuffPost brands, said it expected a low-single-digit percentage decline in first-quarter revenue compared with a year earlier as its audiences spend less time on Meta Platforms Inc.'s Facebook. It said advertising spending from customers is off to a slower start this quarter.

The prospect of declining revenue comes after BuzzFeed last year said it expected sales to rise about 25% annually through 2024. For all of 2021,

BuzzFeed posted revenue of \$397.5 million, up 24% from 2020.

Fourth-quarter revenue rose 18% to \$145.7 million, and net profit grew 25% to \$40.4 million, boosted by a \$21.4 million tax benefit.

BuzzFeed's stock rose 6.5% Tuesday. Shares are down by nearly half since their first day of trading in early December, after BuzzFeed merged with a special-purpose acquisition company.

In June BuzzFeed announced plans to go public by merging with 890 5th Avenue Partners Inc., a SPAC. The deal gave Mr. Peretti voting control of the company and cash to fuel additional deal making.

The largest part of BuzzFeed's fourth-quarter revenue came from advertising, which accounted for \$69.1 million, a 24% rise from a year earlier.

The fastest-growing segment was content revenue, which the company describes as payments it gets from clients for products such as branded quizzes and sponsored content.

The segment, which includes revenue from film and television projects, brought in \$59.9 million, up 33% from a year earlier.

BuzzFeed's e-commerce business, which generates revenue by recommending and selling products online, declined 26% to \$16.7 million.

The company last year had warned that slowing commerce growth would continue in the fourth quarter, as a jump in online shopping during the coronavirus pandemic lets up and commerce partners grapple with labor shortages and global supply-chain challenges.



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TECHNOLOGY

Tesla's First European Factory Opens

The plant in Germany aims to make up to 500,000 vehicles a year eventually

By WILLIAM BOSTON

BERLIN—Elon Musk formally kicked off customer deliveries at Tesla Inc.'s first European factory outside Berlin, marking a milestone in the electric-car maker's international expansion.

Speaking Tuesday as he handed the first Tesla Model Y vehicles built at the plant to their new owners, the chief executive said the factory would create a foundation for both electric vehicles and the batteries that would store energy from wind and the sun. Mr. Musk called that a big step in the fight against global warming.

"Every vehicle that we make will be another step in the direction of a sustainable energy future," he said. "You should have hope in the future. This problem will be solved."

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz welcomed the plant as an economic boost for eastern Germany, which is still catching up with the country's wealthier west more than three decades after reunification.

Tesla shares rose 7.9% Tuesday to \$993.98.

Two years in the making, the factory will allow Tesla to build



Tesla CEO Elon Musk attended the official opening of the new Tesla electric car manufacturing plant on Tuesday in Germany.

bottlenecks," said Stefan Bratzel, director of the Center of Automotive Management, a research institute in Germany.

Ferdinand Dudenhöffer, director of the CAR Center Automotive Research in Duisburg, Germany, said the new plant in Europe would likely help Tesla become even more competitive against German rivals such as BMW as it continues to lower costs.

"We assume that Grünheide will produce at least 100,000 new Tesla models this year, and in 2023 the curve will rise sharply," he said.

Tesla has faced opposition to the Grünheide factory from environmental groups concerned about the amount of water the plant would require, and activists staged a protest on the sidelines of Tuesday's opening. Still, Germany has generally welcomed Tesla as a sign that the country, which has high labor costs and strong unions, has remained an attractive place to invest.

Robert Habeck, Germany's economic minister and a leader of the environmentalist Greens, praised Tesla's "audacious corporate culture" for taking the risk to start building the factory before official approval had been completed. If final approval hadn't been granted, the company would have had to take down the buildings and return the land to its original state.

cars for European markets, which currently rely on expensive imports from the U.S. and China, and to tailor vehicles to local tastes, analysts said. The plant aims to eventually employ up to 12,000 people and make up to 500,000 vehicles a year, starting with the Model Y, a sporty crossover.

One the eve of the plant's opening, Mr. Musk tweeted: "Makes a huge difference to capital efficiency to localize

production within a continent."

In 2019, the state of Brandenburg competed with other locations in Germany and Europe to host the Tesla plant. Its proposed location, in Grünheide, a town surrounded by forests and lakes, won the bid thanks to its proximity to the German capital and the regional government's pledge to achieve quick approvals for the plant. As part of the contest, German officials even hosted flights for

Tesla executives in an Antonov plane called "Anushka" to survey the land where the factory was to be built.

At the time, Mr. Musk was in Berlin to accept the "Golden Steering Wheel" award from a German automotive industry group. He unveiled the news and said, "Everyone knows German engineering is outstanding for sure. You know that is part of the reason why we are locating Gigafactory Eu-

rope in Germany."

The wait to start producing in Europe is over, but Tesla's drive into the region could be slowed by Russia's war on Ukraine, which has caused new shortages for car makers in the region. While Tesla has better managed the chip crisis than most of its rivals, it uses many of the same suppliers as German manufacturers.

"Tesla cannot fundamentally detach itself from the delivery

Okta Says Probe Found No Evidence of New Breach

By DAN STRUMPF AND BEN OTTO

Identity-management provider Okta Inc. said Tuesday that a preliminary investigation found no evidence of any continuing malicious activity after hackers posted images they said were of the company's internal systems.

The screenshots most likely related to an earlier security incident in January, which was resolved, the San

Francisco company said on its website.

More than 15,000 customers world-wide—including multinational companies, universities and governments—rely on Okta's software to securely manage access to their systems and verify users' identities, according to a recent filing.

Okta investigated after the hacking group LAPSUS\$ posted screenshots on Telegram, an instant messaging

service, purporting to show that it had gained access to Okta.com's administrator and other systems. The images were circulated on other forums, including Twitter.

The group said it didn't access or steal any data from Okta itself and that its focus was on the software company's customers.

Okta said it believed the shared screenshots were tied to an attempt in January to compromise the account of a

third-party customer-support engineer working for a subprocessor. The company said the matter was investigated and contained by the subprocessor.

"Based on our investigation to date, there is no evidence of ongoing malicious activity beyond the activity detected in January," Okta said.

One Okta customer whose information was included in a screenshot posted by LAPSUS\$ was Cloudflare Inc., an

internet-infrastructure and security company. In a tweet, Cloudflare CEO Matthew Prince said the company was aware of the breach claim, but he said there was no evidence that its systems were compromised. Cloudflare said it was resetting the credentials of employees who changed their passwords in the previous four months.

"Okta is one layer of security. Given they may have an issue, we're evaluating alter-

natives for that layer," Mr. Prince wrote before Okta published its statement.

Mr. Prince later wrote that he hadn't received a satisfactory answer to concerns over a previous Okta vulnerability incident discovered in December. In January, Okta said it was still investigating that vulnerability, known as "Log4Shell," which concerned a Java-based logging utility found in a number of software products.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Trial for Theranos Ex-President Starts

By HEATHER SOMERVILLE

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Ramesh “Sunny” Balwani wasn’t in charge at Theranos Inc., and the blood-testing company was neither his idea nor his creation, his attorney told a jury Tuesday as the second criminal-fraud trial involving the defunct Silicon Valley startup got under way.

The responsibility for the rise and fall of Theranos rests on founder and Chief Executive Elizabeth Holmes, attorney Stephen Cazares said in opening statements as he outlined the main points of Mr. Balwani’s defense.

“Sunny Balwani did not start Theranos, he did not control Theranos,” said Mr. Cazares. “Elizabeth Holmes, not Sunny, founded Theranos and built Theranos.”

By the time Mr. Balwani joined Theranos in 2009 as president and chief operating officer, Ms. Holmes had spent six years building “a small but sophisticated company,” said Mr. Cazares. His knowledge of the company was largely based on what Ms. Holmes, who was also his girlfriend, and Thera-

nos scientists told him, Mr. Cazares said.

Mr. Balwani, 56 years old, the former president and chief operating officer at Theranos, faces a dozen counts of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud for allegedly lying to investors and patients about the blood-testing startup’s technology. Mr. Balwani helped run the company from 2009 to 2016 alongside Ms. Holmes, and helped finance it by underwriting a \$13 million loan and buying \$5 million in stock. The two

The ex-boyfriend of Elizabeth Holmes is accused of being her partner in fraud.

had a romantic relationship that spanned more than a decade and was intertwined with their co-leadership of the company, according to evidence in the case.

Ms. Holmes was found guilty of wire fraud and conspiracy in January in a separate criminal

trial.

The government has accused Mr. Balwani, like Ms. Holmes, of misleading investors, business partners and patients about the capabilities of Theranos’s technology and its finances. Theranos claimed it could test for more than 200 health conditions using just a few drops of blood from a finger prick. Prosecutors have alleged and witnesses in Ms. Holmes’s trial testified that the company used its proprietary device for just 12 types of patient tests, and those tests could be inaccurate. Theranos relied on commercial blood analyzers for the majority of its tests, lawyers for both sides have said.

The government’s indictment against Mr. Balwani alleges fraud spanning from 2010 to 2016, during which Mr. Balwani was at the company. In Ms. Holmes’s trial, she described Mr. Balwani as her closest business mentor who had influence over how she ran the business, although he wasn’t the ultimate decision maker.

“This is a case about fraud. About lying and cheating to obtain money and property,” said



Ramesh ‘Sunny’ Balwani faces a dozen counts of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit fraud.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Leach. Mr. Balwani “did this to get money from investors and he did this to get money and business from paying patients who were counting on Theranos to deliver accurate and reliable blood tests so that they could make important medical decisions.”

Mr. Leach said Mr. Balwani was responsible for what he described as false financial projections that were given to investors. Mr. Leach said Mr. Balwani told investors to expect Theranos would have \$990 million in revenue in 2015,

when in fact the company had less than \$2 million in sales, among other projections Mr. Leach said were misleading.

Mr. Cazares countered that allegation, saying Mr. Balwani accurately portrayed the company’s expected revenue growth based on an agreement from Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. to put Theranos blood-testing devices in thousands of retail pharmacies.

Mr. Balwani is an entrepreneur and immigrant from a family of farmers, who became wealthy from his own success in tech startups before going to

work at Theranos, Mr. Cazares said. Mr. Balwani had worked as a software engineer and had a business degree when he went to the blood-testing company, where he was put in charge of the lab despite having no medical or lab experience.

Before Mr. Balwani’s lawyers outlined the broad strokes of his defense, prosecutors Tuesday described Mr. Balwani as one-half of a business duo that lied to cheat investors and patients out of money. “They were partners in everything, including their crimes,” said Mr. Leach.

China Poses Test For Boeing

Continued from page B1

gest buyer of aircraft in the world, to compete as air travel recovers quickly from the pandemic. The U.S. plane maker hasn’t secured a new jetliner order from China in over four years.

Mr. Calhoun, in a message to staff on Monday evening, said the company is closely communicating with China

Eastern and regulatory authorities following the crash. “Trust that we will be doing everything we can to support our customer and the accident investigation during this difficult time,” he said.

China Eastern’s rapid reaction to Monday’s disaster calls back China’s response in the wake of the Ethiopian Airlines tragedy in March 2019, which led to the world-wide grounding of the 737 MAX, a later generation model to the 737-800 involved in Monday’s crash. China’s aviation authority was the first to ground the MAX, with Western safety officials initially expressing concern that it had acted prematurely and without sufficient

evidence before they ultimately followed suit.

Boeing’s business in China has been buffeted over the past few years by the souring of U.S.-China relations, the grounding of the 737 MAX and the coronavirus pandemic, which continues to depress Chinese travel demand and with it demand for new jetliners.

“We would now expect further delays to Chinese reinstatement of the 737 MAX while this accident is investigated, at least until a likely cause is identified,” Robert Spingarn, an equity analyst with Melius Research said in a note to clients. He added that investors are watching to see

if the cause is attributed to an aircraft fault, pilot error, a maintenance issue, or to an external event—such as weather.

A rupture with Boeing would have severe costs for China, too, given its reliance on the company’s aircraft.

Boeing’s importance was illustrated by Beijing’s response to President Donald Trump’s tariffs. As the U.S.’s biggest exporter, Boeing was an obvious target for Chinese reprisals. Instead, Beijing in 2018 slapped a 5% levy on small U.S.-built aircraft, while leaving the larger jets which Boeing produces unscathed—a sign, analysts said, that China had decided against disrupting the supply of Boeing

airplanes to protect the growth of its aviation sector.

China is also a major customer for Boeing’s rival Airbus, but Airbus’s huge order backlog makes it hard for Beijing to shift orders to the European company and expect an uptick in Airbus deliveries.

The state-run Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China, or Comac, has been developing a 737 rival, which, after years of delays, will be ready to enter service in 2022, the company has said. China Eastern will be the first customer for the new C919 jet.

In China’s centrally planned system, Beijing can force China Eastern and other state-owned airlines to buy the

C919, potentially depriving Boeing of some new orders. Yet while some analysts believe that Comac will eventually become a serious rival for Airbus and Boeing, most play down the homegrown plane’s chances of challenging the established duo soon.

Boeing opened its first production facility outside the U.S. near Shanghai in 2018. However, the so-called finishing center only fits and paints 737 jets built at Boeing’s factories in Renton, Wash., and—unlike Airbus, which manufactures jets in Tianjin—the company has said it has no plans to make aircraft in China or anywhere else outside the U.S.

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THE PROPERTY REPORT

Luxury Senior Housing Grows

Developers bet baby boomers will pay rents of over \$25,000 for projects with extras

By Peter Grant

Developers are making bets that as baby boomers age, demand will soar for ultraluxury senior-housing projects with rents that can exceed \$25,000 a month.

A venture of developer Related Cos. and Atria Senior Living, one of the largest U.S. senior-housing operators, this month opened the first of its Coterie line of senior-housing projects in San Francisco's Cathedral Hill neighborhood. Amenities at the 208-unit project include five dining options, a rooftop terrace, an outdoor pool and a garden with bocce ball courts.

Monthly rents range between \$8,000 and over \$25,000 a month including meals, housekeeping, concierge services and cultural programming. Like many of the new luxury projects, Coterie Cathedral Hill can support seniors whose needs range from no special care to assisted living and memory care.

Other developers that have targeted the luxury senior-housing niche include private-



A rendering of a Coterie Cathedral Hill residence, which can support seniors with a range of needs.

equity firm Kayne Anderson Real Estate, which opened 13 properties with about 2,800 units and has one in development, a repurposed 1855 Greek revival structure in New Orleans. Average units in the firm's Brooklyn project rent for \$13,000 a month and include meals and housekeeping.

Developers are focusing on upscale senior-housing development because some baby boomers—people born between 1946 and 1964—are approaching the age that people typically enter senior housing, according to industry participants.

"Between 2005 and 2018, the over-80 population grew by 200,000 or less per year," said John Moore, Atria chief executive. "Last year it grew by 325,000. This year, probably 450,000. Next year over 600,000."

Most private senior-housing operators target the middle market and charge average rents of about \$5,500 a month for assisted living including food, housekeeping and activities. In recent years, developers and operators started to focus on more upscale niches similar to the way lodging companies created new up-

scale brands.

"You're starting to see segmentation in the industry," said Beth Mace, chief economist for the National Investment Center for Seniors Housing & Care, an industry organization.

One of the pioneers of the luxury end of the business was Vi Living, a company controlled by Chicago's Pritzker family, which is a major shareholder of Hyatt Hotels Corp., according to Randy Richardson, Vi's president. Founded in 1987, Vi Living is planning to launch a new rental brand with a 320-unit development

in Scottsdale, Ariz., Mr. Richardson said.

Groundbreaking is expected early next year, Mr. Richardson said. "Over the next five to six years, we could have 10 of these communities open or under development," he said.

Senior housing was one of the hardest hit commercial property types by the pandemic. Many people didn't want to move into facilities because they feared infection and being cut off from their families by health protocols.

Conditions have steadily improved since vaccinations became widespread. The average senior-housing occupancy rate in the 31 primary markets was 81% in the fourth quarter of 2021, up from a pandemic low of 78.7%, but still off the pre-pandemic rate of 87.6% in the fourth quarter of 2019, Ms. Mace said.

Many of the new luxury senior developments are in downtowns, which have added to their rents because land prices and construction expenses are high. The Related-Atria venture is planning to open a 120-unit facility under the Coterie brand later this year in Related's sprawling Hudson Yards development on Manhattan's west side.

"Seniors who are urbanites want to remain urbanites," said Mr. Moore of Atria.

Home-Building Training Expands

By Nicole Friedman

A nonprofit organization called BuildStrong Academy that trains construction workers is expanding nationally, in response to a labor shortage that is preventing home builders from meeting demand.

Home-building activity rose in the past two years as low mortgage-interest rates and a rise in remote work fueled home-buying demand. Housing starts rose in February to the highest level since 2006, according to the Commerce Department.

But builders are struggling to produce homes fast enough because of a shortage of construction workers and tradespeople, supply-chain issues, volatile material costs and a limited supply of ready-to-build land. Many builders restricted sales last year to make sure they didn't sell more homes than they could build.

About 90% of home builders surveyed by research firm Zonda in March said labor disruptions were limiting how much they could build, up from 42% in March 2021.

BuildStrong Academy, an industry-funded nonprofit, plans to open schools to train workers in the home-building industry in 20 cities in the next 15 years.

"In every major market, there's far more demand than there is supply," said Pat Hamill, chief executive of builder Oakwood Homes, which is owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Mr. Hamill founded the Colorado Homebuilding Academy, which is now called BuildStrong Academy of Colorado, in 2017.

The industry needs 740,000 new workers a year for the next three years.

BuildStrong Academy opened an Orlando school in September and plans to open a chapter in the New Orleans area next month. It expects to launch chapters in Charlotte, Phoenix and Houston by 2024.

The schools will all use the same curriculum developed by the Home Builders Institute, a nonprofit that trains veterans, at-risk youth and others to work in construction. BuildStrong Academy and HBI are working with Franchise for Good, the nonprofit arm of franchising company Fran-**worth**, to expand the schools to new locations. New chapters will be funded by private donors, local builders and nonprofits such as HBI.

Each school will offer an initial course focused on safety, construction basics and workplace skills, which is free for students. Following that, students can get entry-level construction jobs, take more specialized courses or enter apprenticeship programs, said Ed Brady, chief executive of HBI. "We have lost generations of skilled labor" because of workers leaving the field following the housing crash and schools providing less technical education, he said.

The construction industry needs 740,000 new workers a year for the next three years to account for retirements and demand growth, according to the National Association of Home Builders and HBI.

There were 380,000 job openings in the construction sector as of January, up from 299,000 a year earlier, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Despite strong demand from home buyers, "we're actually having to turn down some work," said James McVay, chief operating officer at home builder Leary & Brown Inc. in Columbus, Ga. "There's only so much that we can do with the amount of people we have."

About 500 workers graduated from BuildStrong Academy of Colorado in 2021, and 114 were placed in construction jobs, said Amy Schwartz, executive director of BuildStrong Education, which operates the Colorado academy.

Midtown Manhattan Struggles

Continued from page B1

Planners, however, are skeptical Midtown could or should look to housing to save the neighborhood. Many Midtown buildings have large footprints and can't be converted into apartments as easily as the narrower buildings downtown were starting in the 1990s.

In some ways, Midtown is already looking a little bit different. Pebble Bar opened a few weeks ago in Rockefeller Center and was designed to be more upscale and intimate than other Midtown happy-hour spots, said managing partner Julian Brizzi. The bar serves seafood, not Buffalo wings, and aims to be a place where people come to linger rather than gulp down a beer on their way to catch the train, he said.

"We always envisioned that it would be a hedge against any sort of fluctuations in volume between in-office or remote work," Mr. Brizzi said. "It was always our intention to operate a business in Midtown that wasn't reliant on the fact that people were forced to go there to work."

Midtown's survival is critical for Manhattan, which was home to nearly 11% of all office inventory in the U.S. last year, according to an October report by New York state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. In 2019, the office sector employed 1.6 million people—a third of all New York City jobs—and contributed two-thirds of the city's gross product.

Office availability in Manhattan, a measure of vacancy and space about to be vacated, reached a record-high 17.4% in February, according to real-estate firm Colliers. Manhattan offices are currently less in demand than they were after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, when some wondered whether people would ever feel safe working in skyscrapers again.

Manhattan was home to one of the world's biggest and busiest office districts before the pandemic, with a daytime workforce larger than the entire population of Houston. An estimated 2.6 million people worked in the borough three years ago, 70% of whom commuted in from other parts of the city or its suburbs, according to the Department of City Planning.

Now, after two years of remote work, the formerly bustling Midtown office district feels more than a little hollowed out. A peek inside office towers reveals floors of vacant cubicles. Once-packed commuter trains arrive at Grand Central Terminal and New York Penn Station with ridership at less than half of pre-



Once-packed commuter trains arrive at Grand Central Terminal, seen last week, with ridership at less than half of pre-pandemic levels.

pandemic levels. Restaurants, bars and shops that depended on heavy foot traffic have gone out of business.

In New York, and other cities across the country, it is becoming clear that even when people feel safe going out to eat or shop, most don't want to return to their daily commutes.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul have prodded employers to bring their workers back, but to little effect. Keycard swipes tracked by security company Kastle Systems show that Midtown offices barely cracked one-third of their pre-pandemic workforces in the first two weeks of March, despite falling Covid-19 infection rates.

Even as more companies announce return-to-office dates, many are adopting a hybrid model that will allow employees to work remotely part of the week.

At the same time, co-op and condo sales in Manhattan reached record levels last year, in part due to pent-up demand following limited activity in 2020. The median sales price for all apartments in the borough topped \$1.1 million, the second-highest level of the past decade after 2017, according to the Douglas Elliman Rental Report prepared by Miller Samuel.

After plummeting in 2020, Manhattan rental costs are surging as tenants compete for a limited number of available properties. The net-effective median rental price climbed to \$3,630 a month in February, 7% higher than two years earlier, according to the Elliman Report.

James Patchett, the former head of New York City's Economic Development Corporation and current chief executive of multifamily owner A&E

Real Estate, said people will still go to the office, just not as often, and they will need more incentives to trek to their desks.

More developers and landlords will increasingly view high-end restaurants as amenities for their buildings rather than just tenants, he said. One example is Le Pavillon, the Daniel Boulud restaurant on the second floor of SL Green's new office building One Vanderbilt, next to Grand Central.

On many streets near Grand Central, however, empty storefronts and struggling businesses show the impact of two years of significantly reduced foot traffic.

Retail vacancy around Grand Central doubled during the pandemic, with about one-fifth of storefronts now vacant, compared with 10% in 2019, according to the Grand Central Partnership, a business-improvement district that covers over 900 retail spaces

across 70 square blocks.

Phil's Stationery, an office-supply store on East 47th Street that has been in business since 1973, is seeing about 80% fewer customers compared with two years ago, said owner Samuel Podemski. Before the pandemic, people would queue up to buy notebooks, pens or ink cartridges. Now the store can go an hour without a single customer.

The shop has been able to stay open thanks to Mr. Podemski's savings and rent relief from the landlord.

"We rely on the office workers," he said.

New York City suffered steep job losses during the pandemic, and employment there is recovering more slowly than other areas.

The Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ said employment among its members who work in office buildings in Manhattan is still down 15% compared with be-



Even as people feel safe going out to eat or shop, most don't want to return to their daily commutes.

BUSINESS NEWS

GameStop Chairman Buys Stock, Lifts Price

By ROBERT BARBA

Shares of **GameStop** Corp. rose 16% in after-hours trading after the videogame retailer's chairman disclosed his firm bought 100,000 shares of the company's stock on Tuesday.

Ryan Cohen's RC Ventures LLC said it paid between \$96.81 and \$108.82 for the shares it purchased Tuesday. Mr. Cohen owns an 11.9% stake in the retailer, or 9.1 million shares.

"I put my money where my mouth is," Mr. Cohen tweeted on Tuesday evening.

GameStop's stock closed Tuesday at \$123.14, up 31% for the day. The company's share price has been on a roller-coaster ride since early last year when it was one of the first companies to be targeted by a monthslong, social-media-fueled trading frenzy. It peaked at around \$350 last year.

Last week, the company reported an unexpected loss but better-than-expected revenue of \$2.25 billion.

Mr. Cohen built a big GameStop stake and in 2020 criticized the company for moving too slowly on e-commerce. He joined GameStop's board in January 2021.

Nvidia Targets Auto-Chip Growth

By ASA FITCH

Chip maker **Nvidia** Corp. predicts an inflection point in its auto sales later this year, suggesting demand for greater automation in cars will outpace near-term challenges posed by a chip shortage and supply-chain disruptions.

The biggest U.S. chip company by market value says its pipeline of deals with auto customers jumped by more than a third within a year to \$11 billion, covering business that should be booked over the next six years, Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress said during an investor conference Tuesday. Its auto division reported sales of \$125 million in its most recent fiscal quarter.

Nvidia is a leading maker of graphics chips and supplies hardware to run infotainment systems in cars. The company is betting on software and chips that underpin sophisticated driver-assistance systems.

Ali Kani, Nvidia's vice president of automotive, said the car industry was at the beginning of a shift toward electric vehicles that rely on sophisticated software to drive. That means cars need more advanced artificial intelligence, he said. Nvidia chips are widely used in AI calculations.

Koch Invests in Batteries

Continued from page B1

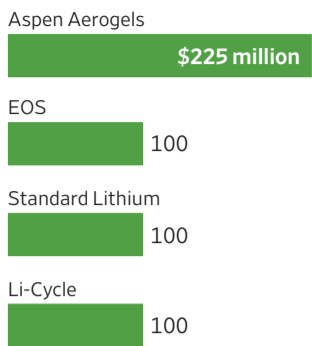
these companies, which need to spend heavily to commercialize their products. Koch appears to be focused on building up the battery industry in the U.S.

"The speed of the energy transition is directly correlated with companies like Koch participating in it," said Tom Jensen, CEO of Freyr, a Norway-based company working to make low-cost, sustainable batteries. Koch Industries has a 10% stake in Freyr, which was valued at about \$120 million as of the end of last year, according to FactSet. The companies have a joint venture to make batteries in the U.S.

Koch Industries, based in Wichita, Kan., declined to comment about its battery investments. It has said little publicly about its battery strategy.

Koch Industries invested heavily in the battery industry, becoming a top shareholder in several startups.

Koch Industries investments in battery startups since 2021*

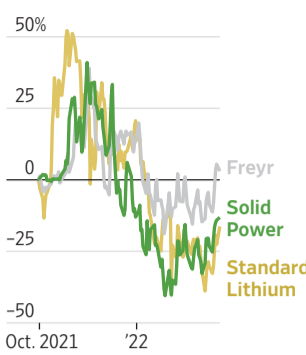


*Includes equity and convertible debt investments; doesn't include other Koch battery investments Sources: Company announcements (investments); FactSet (stock performance)

The company has made the investments through Koch Strategic Platforms, a subsidiary of its investment group that it launched in late 2020 to invest in the energy transition, computing, automation and health-care.

Koch Industries operates thousands of miles of pipelines that move oil and gas around the country and several large

Stock-price performance since end of September



refineries. The company posts annual sales of about \$120 billion through brands such as Brawny paper towels and Dixie cups, fertilizers and fabrics.

One of the groups they have backed, Americans for Prosperity, has fought efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate carbon emissions. They have donated to the Competitive Enterprise

Institute and the CO2 Coalition, both of which also supported former President Donald Trump's 2017 withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, argue against the benefits of electric vehicles and question whether global warming caused by the burning of fossil fuels is a major issue.

In late 2020, Charles Koch, then 85 years old, wrote in a book that his partisanship was a mistake and said he hoped to address societal problems. His company's political-action committee has continued donating heavily to Republican candidates.

Koch Industries has targeted companies that aim to provide raw materials for batteries, including lithium producer Standard Lithium and battery recycling company **Li-Cycle Holdings** Corp. Most battery materials are produced overseas, often in China, and shortages have driven up prices.

The company has also backed startups out to make better batteries, such as **Solid Power** Inc., a maker of solid-state batteries that is backed by **Ford Motor** Co. and **Bay-erische Motoren Werke** AG.

Koch has made the wagers through a combination of equity stakes and convertible debt that would become equity if share prices rise.

Shares of many of the companies have been volatile, with many clean-tech startups down recently on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, interest-rate increases and supply-chain disruptions swinging markets.

Short sellers, who wager on share-price declines, have bet against Standard Lithium, arguing that the company's technology doesn't work. Koch has said it conducted extensive due diligence before investing and is excited about Standard's potential. Standard has called the accusations false and misleading.

Some analysts expect Koch Industries' investments will spur others to follow them.

"When you see these large players jumping in the pool, you have to wonder, 'What do they see that I don't?'" said Chris Berry, founder of House Mountain Partners LLC, an adviser to battery-metals companies and investors.

—Ben Foldy contributed to this article.

Billions Seized at Evergrande

Continued from page B1

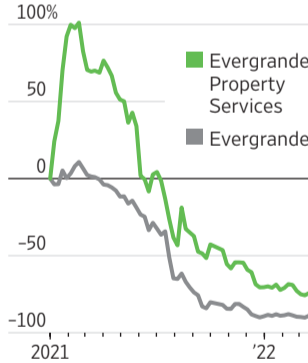
the \$2 billion adds fresh uncertainty to Evergrande's restructuring. Global bondholders view its two big Hong Kong-listed subsidiaries, which focus on property management and car making, as important sources of potential value for international creditors.

Evergrande said this was a "major incident" that came to light during a review of the property-services subsidiary's annual financial report, and it would be probed by independent committees at both companies. The sum is close to the entire 14 billion yuan, equivalent today to about \$2.2 billion, of total bank deposits and cash that the subsidiary reported as of the end of June 2021.

On the call, Evergrande attempted to convey an upbeat tone about the rest of its business lines. The company had resumed construction on

Evergrande's property-services unit went public in late 2020. Its stock soared soon after, only to fall sharply.

Share-price performance since start of 2021, weekly



Source: FactSet

about 80% of its projects as of February and had announced 353 new projects since the beginning of 2022, executives said. It also had reached agreements with around 70% of its contractors to keep working on existing and new real-estate projects.

Evergrande also noted it was working to bring in third-party investors to buttress the finances of the property-management group, even though it reported the basic operations of the subsidiary were "generally stable."

It also said it was seeking third-party financing to support its electric-vehicle unit, which plans to start mass production of its Hengchi 5 SUV in late June.

Hidden debt has proved a problem for China's property sector. Investors have been caught out by off-balance-sheet liabilities that weren't previously disclosed to investors or credit-rating companies, such as guarantees on wealth-management products or private loans.

A \$2.6 billion deal to sell a majority stake in **Evergrande Property Services** to a rival fell apart in October.

Evergrande, Evergrande Property Services and **China Evergrande New Energy Vehicle Group** Ltd. all said Tuesday that "a large number of additional audit procedures" and the pandemic meant they couldn't publish annual audited results by March 31, as required in Hong Kong.

All three companies had halted trading in their shares before the market opened on Monday. Exchange rules meant their stock would likely remain suspended until the results were published, the three said Tuesday.

Evergrande executives said on Tuesday's call that the company's auditors need more time "to confirm the financial situation at the three firms" following news about the guarantees at the property-management arm.

Evergrande is China's most-indebted property developer, with the equivalent of more than \$300 billion in liabilities as of June 2021.

With the broader property industry in crisis, other developers have also delayed the release of financial information. Ronshine China Holdings Ltd. said Monday the audit work for its annual results wouldn't be completed on time after its auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers, resigned.

Shimao Group Holdings Ltd. said Monday it expects a delay because of disruptions caused by Covid-19 and slowness in obtaining third-party confirmations for its audit.

Auditors have become more cautious because they might be held responsible if property companies default after releasing audited annual results, said an analyst at a Singapore-based brokerage. They could be questioned by authorities if debt disclosures prove inaccurate or incomplete, he said.

PricewaterhouseCoopers is also Evergrande's auditor. In October, Hong Kong's Financial Reporting Council said it had begun an investigation of PwC's audit and an inquiry into Evergrande's recent accounts.

Separately Tuesday, Evergrande said it had hired the law firm King & Wood Malleson to bolster its advisory team. It is already working with institutions including Houlihan Lokey Inc., Hong Kong-based Admiralty Harbour Capital Ltd., China International Capital Corp., BOCI Asia Ltd. and Zhong Lun Law Firm LLP.

The company fully understands concerns about the property-management business," said Xiao En, executive director at China Evergrande Group. "We sincerely request creditors' support...not to take any aggressive actions in the near term, so the company can have [the] necessary time to progress our holistic debt restructuring plan."

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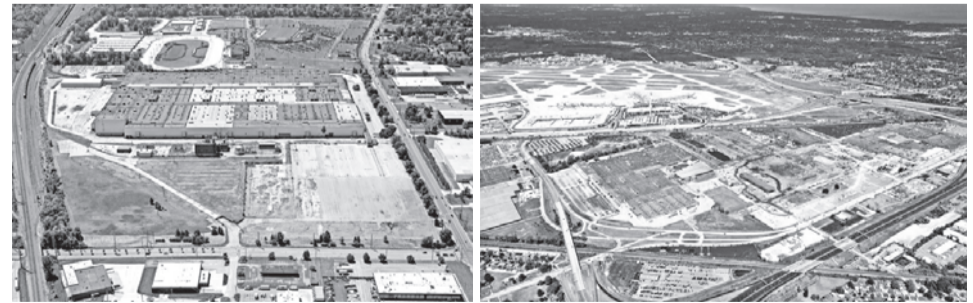
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COMMODITIES

wsj.com/market-data/commodities

Futures Contracts

Table of Metal & Petroleum Futures, Agriculture Futures, and Natural Gas. Columns include contract name, price, change, and open interest.

Table of Interest Rate Futures, including Treasury Bonds, Treasury Notes, and various other interest rate contracts.

Table of Commodity Futures, including Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and other agricultural products.

Table of 30 Day Federal Funds, Currency Futures (Japanese Yen, Canadian Dollar, British Pound, Swiss Franc, Australian Dollar, Mexican Peso), and other financial instruments.

Table of Index Futures, including Mini DJ Industrial Average, Mini S&P 500, Mini S&P Midcap 400, and various other market indices.

Dividend Changes

Table of Dividend announcements from March 22, listing company names, symbols, and dividend amounts.

Table of Dividend announcements from March 22, listing company names, symbols, and dividend amounts.

Bonds | wsj.com/market-data/bonds/benchmarks

Tracking Bond Benchmarks

Return on investment and spreads over Treasuries and/or yields paid to investors compared with 52-week highs and lows for different types of bonds

Table of Bond Benchmarks, comparing Total return, YTD total return, and Index for various bond categories like Broad Market, Mortgage-Backed, U.S. Corporate, and High Yield.

Bonds | wsj.com/market-data/bonds/benchmarks

Global Government Bonds: Mapping Yields

Yields and spreads over or under U.S. Treasuries on benchmark two-year and 10-year government bonds in selected other countries; arrows indicate whether the yield rose (▲) or fell (▼) in the latest session

Table of Global Government Bonds, showing yields and spreads for various countries like U.S., Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, and U.K.

Cash Prices | wsj.com/market-data/commodities

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.

Table of Cash Prices for Energy, Metals, and Other metals, listing commodity names and current prices.

Cash Prices | wsj.com/market-data/commodities

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.

Table of Cash Prices for Food and Fats and Oils, listing commodity names and current prices.

Corporate Debt

Prices of firms' bonds reflect factors including investors' economic, sectoral and company-specific expectations

Investment-grade spreads that tightened the most...

Table of Corporate Debt, showing investment-grade spreads that tightened the most for various issuers like Toronto-Dominion Bank, John Deere Capital, Westpac Banking, etc.

Corporate Debt

Prices of firms' bonds reflect factors including investors' economic, sectoral and company-specific expectations

Investment-grade spreads that widened the most

Table of Corporate Debt, showing investment-grade spreads that widened the most for various issuers like Bank of America, Credit Agricole, Barclays, etc.

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High-yield issues with the biggest price increases...

Table of High-yield issues with the biggest price increases, listing issuer names, symbols, coupon rates, yields, and bond prices.

High-yield issues with the biggest price decreases

Table of High-yield issues with the biggest price decreases, listing issuer names, symbols, coupon rates, yields, and bond prices.

Estimated spread over 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year or 30-year hot-run Treasury; 100 basis points=one percentage pt; change in spread shown is for Z-spread. Note: Data are for the most active issue of bonds with maturities of two years or more

BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

How to Read the Stock Tables
The following explanations apply to NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market listed securities.

Undelimited quotations are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with the issue's average trading volume.

Boldfaced quotations highlight those issues whose price changed by 5% or more if their previous closing price was \$2 or higher.

Wall Street Journal stock tables reflect composite regular trading as of 4 p.m. and changes in the closing prices from 4 p.m. the previous day.

Table of stock prices for Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Columns include Stock, Sym, Close, Net Chg, and Net Chg %.

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Table of stock prices for Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Columns include Stock, Sym, Close, Net Chg, and Net Chg %.

Exchange-Traded Portfolios

Largest 100 exchange-traded funds, latest session

Table of Exchange-Traded Portfolios (ETF) with columns for Symbol, Price, Chg YTD, and (%)

BANKRATE.COM MMA, Savings and CDs

Table of Average Yields of Major Banks for Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Includes National average, Weekly change, Consumer Savings Rates, Money market and savings account, High yield jumbos, and High yield savings.

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NEW HIGHS AND LOWS

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.

Table with columns for Stock, 52-Wk % High/Low, and % Change. Includes sections for 'Highs' and 'Lows' with various stock tickers and their performance metrics.

Biggest 1,000 Stocks | WSJ.com/stocks

Large table listing the top 1,000 stocks by market cap, organized into columns with stock symbols, names, and market cap values.



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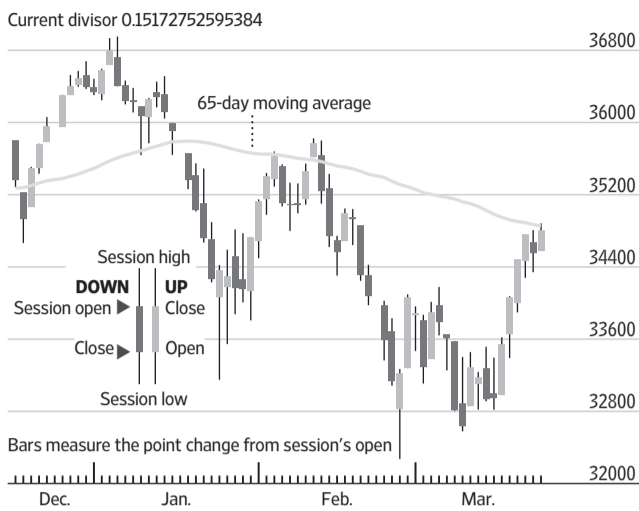
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MARKETS DIGEST

EQUITIES

Dow Jones Industrial Average

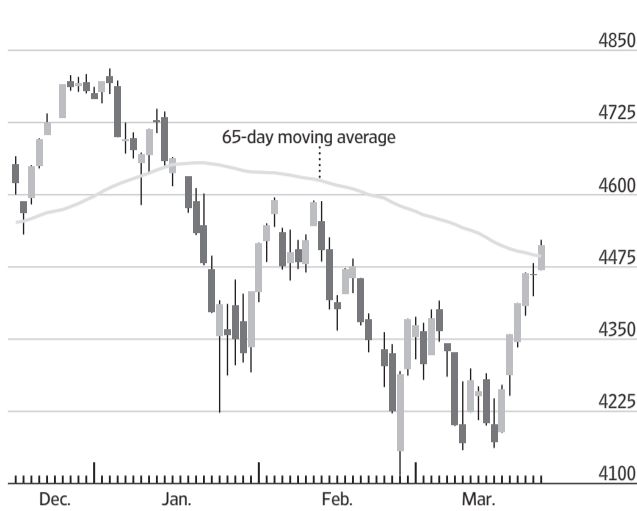
34807.46 ▲254.47, or 0.74%
Trailing P/E ratio 19.33 32.91
P/E estimate * 18.00 21.38
Dividend yield 2.03 1.84
All-time high 36799.65, 01/04/22



*Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Birliny Associates Inc.; *Based on Nasdaq-100 Index

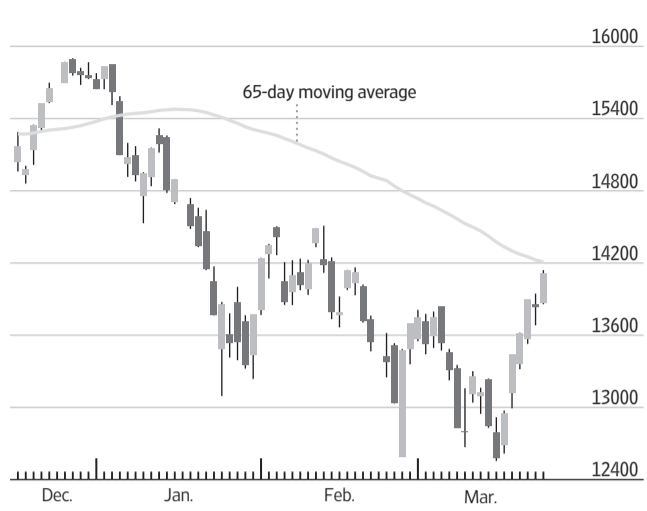
S&P 500 Index

4511.61 ▲50.43, or 1.13%
Trailing P/E ratio * 24.53 44.63
P/E estimate * 16.52 22.42
Dividend yield * 1.42 1.49
All-time high 4796.56, 01/03/22



Nasdaq Composite Index

14108.82 ▲270.36, or 1.95%
Trailing P/E ratio ** 32.75 37.27
P/E estimate ** 24.97 27.97
Dividend yield ** 0.71 0.78
All-time high: 16057.44, 11/19/21



Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

Table with columns: Index, High, Low, Latest Close, Net chg, % chg, 52-Week High, 52-Week Low, % chg YTD, % chg 3-yr. ann. Includes Dow Jones, Nasdaq Stock Market, and S&P.

Table with columns: Index, High, Low, Latest Close, Net chg, % chg, 52-Week High, 52-Week Low, % chg YTD, % chg 3-yr. ann. Includes S&P 500, MidCap 400, SmallCap 600.

Table with columns: Index, High, Low, Latest Close, Net chg, % chg, 52-Week High, 52-Week Low, % chg YTD, % chg 3-yr. ann. Includes Other Indexes like Russell 2000, NYSE Composite, Value Line, etc.

\$ Nasdaq PHLX

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Late Trading

Most-active and biggest movers among NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE Amer. and Nasdaq issues from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. ET as reported by electronic trading services, securities dealers and regional exchanges.

Most-active issues in late trading

Table with columns: Company, Symbol, Volume (000), Last, Net chg, After-Hours % chg, High, Low. Lists companies like Invesco, iShares, SPDR, etc.

Percentage gainers...

Table with columns: Company, Symbol, Last, Net chg, % chg, High, Low. Lists companies like UMH Properties, Allego, NexImmune, etc.

Percentage Losers

Table with columns: Company, Symbol, Last, Net chg, % chg, High, Low. Lists companies like Oric Pharmaceuticals, Sky Harbour Group, etc.

International Stock Indexes

Table with columns: Region/Country, Index, Close, Net chg, Latest % chg, YTD % chg. Lists indices like MSCI ACWI, Euro STOXX, Nikkei 225, etc.

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Percentage Gainers...

Table with columns: Company, Symbol, Close, Net chg, % chg, High, Low. Lists companies like JX Luxventure, Forge Global, etc.

Most Active Stocks

Table with columns: Company, Symbol, Volume (000), % chg from 65-day avg, Latest Session Close, % chg, 52-Week High, 52-Week Low. Lists companies like Mullen Automotive, Draganfly, etc.

* Volumes of 100,000 shares or more are rounded to the nearest thousand

QR code and text: Scan this code to get real-time U.S. stock quotes and track most-active stocks, new highs/lows and mutual funds.

QR code and text: Track the Markets. Compare the performance of selected global stock indexes, bond ETFs, currencies and commodities at wsj.com/graphics/track-the-markets

Percentage Losers

Table with columns: Company, Symbol, Close, Net chg, % chg, High, Low. Lists companies like Oric Pharmaceuticals, Sky Harbour Group, etc.

Volume Movers

Table with columns: Company, Symbol, Volume (000), % chg from 65-day avg, Latest Session Close, % chg, 52-Week High, 52-Week Low. Lists companies like Thunder Bridge IV CI A, INSU Acqn III CI A, etc.

* Common stocks priced at \$2 a share or more with an average volume over 65 trading days of at least 5,000 shares. *Has traded fewer than 65 days

CURRENCIES & COMMODITIES

Currencies

Table with columns: Country/currency, U.S. vs. in US\$, U.S. vs. per US\$, U.S. vs. YTD chg per US\$. Lists currencies like Euro, Yen, Pound, etc.

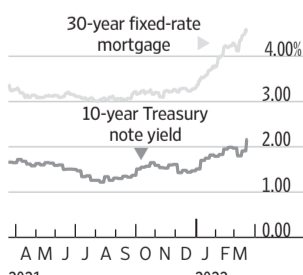
Table with columns: Commodity, Close, Tuesday Net chg, % Chg, High, 52-Week Low, % Chg, YTD % chg. Lists commodities like DJ Commodity, Crude oil, Gold, etc.

CREDIT MARKETS

Consumer Rates and Returns to Investor

U.S. consumer rates

A consumer rate against its benchmark over the past year



Selected rates

30-year mortgage, Rate

Table with columns: Bankrate.com avg, Rockland Federal Credit Union, Star One Credit Union, etc.

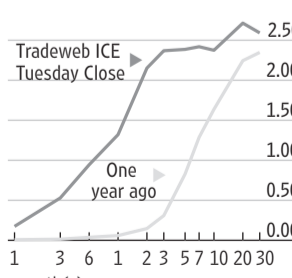
Table with columns: Interest rate, Last (●) Week ago, 52-Week Range (%), 3-yr chg (pct pts). Includes Federal-funds rate target, Prime rate, etc.

Bankrate.com rates based on survey of over 4,800 online banks. *Base rate posted by 70% of the nation's largest banks. † Excludes closing costs.

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data; Bankrate.com

Treasury yield curve

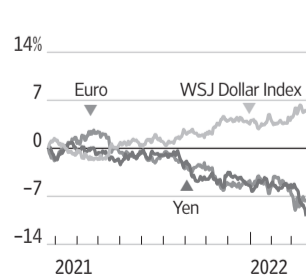
Yield to maturity of current bills, notes and bonds



Sources: Tradeweb ICE U.S. Treasury Close; Tullett Prebon; Dow Jones Market Data

Forex Race

Yen, euro vs. dollar; dollar vs. major U.S. trading partners



Sources: J.P. Morgan; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; ICE Data Services

Corporate Borrowing Rates and Yields

Table with columns: Bond total return index, Close, Yield (%), 52-Week High, 52-Week Low, Total Return (%). Includes U.S. Treasury, Aggregate, etc.

MARKETS

Stocks Rise as Fears of Recession Ease

Yield on 10-year Treasury note jumps after Powell signals quicker rate moves

BY JUSTIN BAER AND CAITLIN MCCABE

Stocks rose and government-bond yields jumped, as investors shook off concerns that rising inflation will drag the economy into a recession.

Tuesday's moves had all three U.S. indexes up at least 2.6% for the month, building on last week's gains. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 254.47 points, or 0.7%, to 34807.46.

The S&P 500 climbed 50.43, or 1.1%, to 4511.61. The Nasdaq Composite closed at 14108.82, up 270.36, or 2%.

Nike advanced after the apparel maker reported revenue that beat analysts' expectations. Technology stocks also rose, as investors returned to faster-growing companies whose shares were battered earlier this year.

"You're beginning to see a little bit of the revenge of growth stocks," said Wayne Wilbanks, co-founder and chief investment officer of Wilbanks

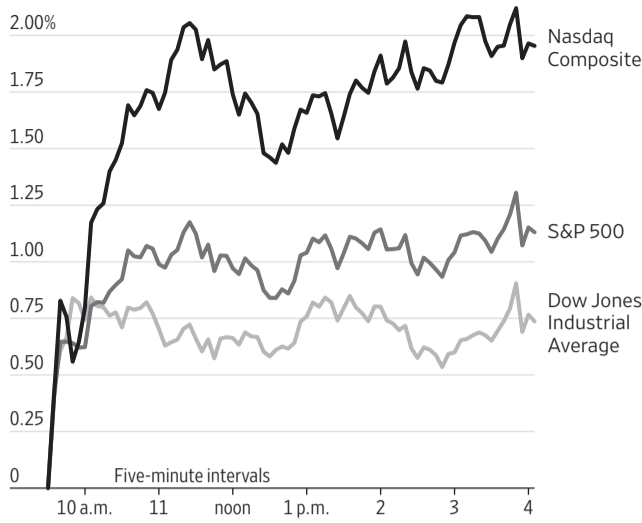
Smith & Thomas Asset Management LLC. "Prices have collapsed, so valuations have gotten much better, to the point where that outweighs interest-rate concerns."

The stock benchmarks closed lower on Monday after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the central bank was prepared to raise interest rates in half-percentage-point steps if needed to tamp down inflation. By Tuesday morning, though, investors were interpreting Mr. Powell's comments as a vote of confidence in the economy.

"The message that came out of the [Fed] meeting last week is that they are going to be tightening [monetary policy] but the U.S. economy is resilient enough to withstand that," said Huw Roberts, head of analytics at Quant Insight. "The equity market chose to emphasize the economic resilience portion."

A selloff in government bonds intensified, sending the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note to 2.375% from 2.315% Monday. The yield on the benchmark note is now around its highest level since May 2019, before the pandemic upended financial markets. Yields rise when bond prices decline.

Index performance Tuesday



Source: FactSet

"Looking at the market's leadership today, it's a mixed bag," said John Lynch, chief investment officer for Comerica Wealth Management. "The equity market appears tame, but the bond market doesn't."

Stocks, bonds, commodities and currencies have been whipped by volatility for the past month as investors have tried to assess the economic fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine. For the 39th time this year, the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite closed with a move of 1% or

more, representing its most-volatile quarter since the first three months of 2009.

Many investors have feared that the war could keep inflation sustained and stunt economic growth in the U.S. and Europe.

Investors are keeping a close watch on the yield curve, which measures the spread between short- and long-term rates and is often seen as an indicator of sentiment about the prospects for economic growth.

Recently, the gap between

yields on shorter-term and longer-term U.S. Treasury bonds has been shrinking, stirring anxieties that the bond market is close to signaling a potential recession.

The two-year Treasury yield, which is especially sensitive to changes in monetary policy, climbed to 2.152% from 2.132% Monday.

Shares of banks rose. Financial stocks helped lead the S&P 500's gains, with the sector rising about 1.6%. Wells Fargo jumped \$2.25, or 4.4%, to \$53.39, while Signature Bank rose \$10.30, or 3.3%, to \$321.18.

Nike rose \$2.90, or 2.2%, to close at \$133.09.

"Nike is the ultimate global company, as they sell and source all over the world," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Cresset Capital. "It's a great barometer, and they assured a lot of investors' concerns."

Communications and technology stocks also gained. Etsy rose \$5.98, or 4.2%, to \$148.25, while Match Group jumped \$4.28, or 4.3%, to \$104.31. Amazon.com climbed for a sixth consecutive day, according to Dow Jones Market Data. The stock closed at \$3,297.78, up \$67.95, or 2.1%.

Okta fell \$2.98, or 1.8%, to \$166.43 after a hacking group

posted screenshots purporting to show that it had gained access to Okta.com's administrator and other systems. The company said that a preliminary investigation found no evidence of any malicious activity, adding that the screenshots were most likely related to a January security incident.

Bitcoin rose about 3.5% from its 5 p.m. level Monday to trade at \$42,611. The price of the cryptocurrency has swung sharply within the past month but has largely traded above \$40,000 since the middle of last week.

The Stoxx Europe 600 increased 0.9%, rising for a fifth consecutive session. Early Wednesday, Japan's Nikkei 225 was up 2.7%, Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 1.7% and South Korea's Kospi was up 0.8%. S&P 500 futures were up 0.1%.

AUCTION RESULTS

Here are the results of Tuesday's Treasury auction. 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.

Table with 2 columns: Bid type and Amount. Includes 52-WEEK YIELD, Applications (\$113,105,060,800), Accepted bids (\$35,303,663,300), etc.

Energy Sector Is Year's Hot Trade, With 17 of S&P's Top 25 Performers

BY HARDIKA SINGH

Energy stocks are leading the pack in the stock market in 2022.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sent crude-oil prices on a tear—and energy stocks along for the ride—as investors monitor looming supply threats and rapidly evolving geopolitical tensions. Gasoline prices, meanwhile, have risen to record levels, punishing consumers at the pump and lifting already high inflation.

Energy is one of the two sectors in the S&P 500 in the green for 2022, up 37%. The benchmark itself is down 5.3% with investors worried about the pace of the Federal Reserve's plan to increase interest rates to curb inflation. Financials are up a modest 1%.

Of the 25 best-performing stocks in the index this year, 17 sit in the energy sector. Occidental Petroleum Corp. has more than doubled, Halliburton Co. has surged 62% and Chevron Corp. is up 40%.

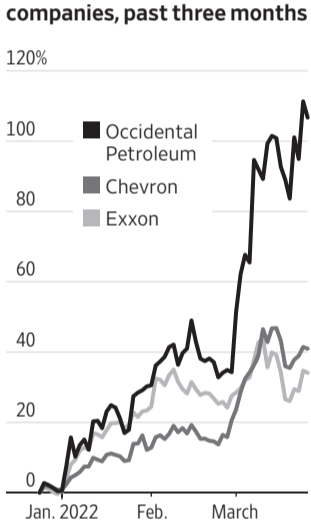
The gains in the stocks track the climb in oil prices. Brent crude, the international benchmark, has risen 48% this year to \$115.48 a barrel and briefly eclipsed \$130 this month. U.S. crude is at \$111.76.

The rally has also coincided with a decline in the big technology shares that powered the market for much of the past decade. Investors have sold shares of tech and other growth companies with lofty valuations, concerned about how they will fare in a rising-rate environment. The S&P 500's tech sector is down 9.8% this year.

"The new FANG is going to be fuel, agriculture, natural resources and gold," said Nick Giacomakis, president and founder of NEIRG Wealth Management, referring to the popular acronym for Facebook, Amazon.com Inc., Netflix Inc. and Google.

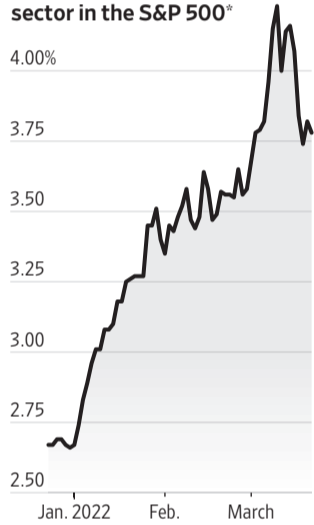
The ripple effects from higher energy prices and concerns about potential short-

Performance of energy companies, past three months

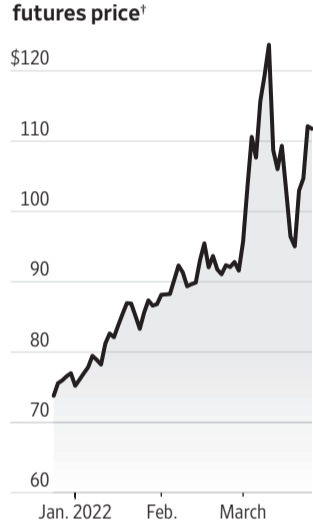


*As of Friday †Front-month contract

Weighting of energy sector in the S&P 500*



U.S. crude-oil futures price*



Yield Curve Stirs Talk Of a Slump

Continued from page B1 bad reputation on Wall Street, having frequently preceded recessions in recent decades.

Today's yield curve isn't exactly downward sloping, but it has been heading in that direction. The gap between two- and 10-year yields has shrunk to around 0.2 percentage point from 0.9 percentage point in early January.

CREDIT MARKETS Yields on three-, five-, and 10-year notes are all now just under 2.4%.

This trend has set off alarms in some quarters. In a March 16 tweet, former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers—who has been arguing that the Fed was raising risks of a recession by not tackling inflation more aggressively—said he was "not surprised that yield curve shape is increasingly pointing towards recession."

Others, including some bond investors, have voiced similar concerns. Still, most on Wall Street seem more sanguine. Stock indexes surged last week at the same time that some shorter-term yields poked above longer-term yields, heightening inversion fears.

Some investors and analysts say there are reasons not to worry too much about the yield

curve. For one thing, they note, it isn't really telling investors much that they haven't heard from Fed officials already.

Faced with the highest inflation in decades, the central bank last week raised its benchmark federal-funds rate by a quarter of a percentage point to a range between 0.25% and 0.5%. Based on the median of officials' estimates, the Fed further indicated that it could raise the fed-funds rate to about 1.9% at the end of this year and 2.8% at the end of 2023 before it settles over the long run at around 2.4%.

The basic message from both the Fed and the market is that the central bank might need to lift rates temporarily above their expected resting level, analysts said. That could lead to rate cuts later but doesn't necessarily spell a recession, they added.

In the last economic expansion, the Fed raised the fed-funds rate to between 2.25% and 2.5%. Confronted with a slowing economy, it then cut rates in the second half of 2019 by three quarters of a percentage point. At that point, some longer-term yields had dropped below some short-term yields. Nevertheless, the economy appeared to be in good shape—with subdued inflation and extremely low unemployment—when the pandemic hit in early 2020.

Watch a Video



U.S. Treasury yields



Sources: Ryan ALM; Tradeweb ICE Clones

Mutual Funds

Table with 5 columns: Fund, NAV, Net YTD Chg, and %Ret. Lists various mutual funds like American Century Fund, Calamos Funds, Vanguard Admiral, etc.

HEARD ON THE STREET

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

Cloud Shoppers Find Deals In Buyers' Market

Anaplan wasn't the cheapest cloud stock—nor the most beaten down. Both points should help buoy a battered sector.

The maker of cloud-based software used for business planning and analytics said late Sunday it struck a deal to be acquired by private-equity player **Thoma Bravo** for \$10.7 billion in cash. The per-share price tag of \$66 represents a 40% premium to the price Anaplan was fetching late last week, before a pair of activist investors reported sizable stakes in the company. It is also roughly on par with the stock's price in early November, before market sentiment began to turn against cloud companies and other richly valued sectors.

Anaplan's case wasn't helped by a poorly received third-quarter report later that month. Billings for the quarter narrowly exceeded Wall Street's forecast by 1.5% after averaging an 8% beat over the previous five quarters, according to FactSet. The stock sank 15% after that report. Still, Anaplan had been faring better than many of its cloud-software peers. Before last week's lift, the shares were down only 28% over the preceding six months, compared with a 35% drop for the BVP Nasdaq Emerging Cloud Index in that time. Anaplan's multiple of around 8 times forward sales last week was also around the peer index's median.

In other words, Anaplan's buyers weren't just shopping in the bargain basement. The harsh re-rating over the past few months has taken down even the most popular names—**Snowflake** has gone from trading around 70 times forward sales in mid-November to just around 32 times now. But most aren't in that echelon; the median multiple on the BVP index is now about 8 times forward sales compared with 14 times six months ago.

Hence, the Anaplan deal "should provide support for software valuations that have been hit hard this year due to fears around a rising rate environment and macroeconomic uncertainty," Brent Thill of Jefferies wrote on Monday. Brad Reback of Stifel also projected "takeout to remain robust in coming quarters"—especially for companies with enterprise values under \$15 billion still growing at more than 15% annually. Investors haven't gotten the message yet; the BVP index slipped more than 1% Monday following news of the deal.

In cloud software, it is still a buyer's market. —Dan Gallagher

Anaplan's share price, past 12 months



Governments Can Avoid Debt Crisis

Countries racked up IOUs, but worries they will be crushed by interest payments are overblown

Low interest rates have made the staggering amounts of debt that the U.S. and other countries have issued in recent years easy to bear.

So what will happen when interest rates go up?

Ten years ago, in the wake of the massive spending that governments unleashed in their attempts to contain the global financial crisis and European debt crisis, many were convinced that government IOUs were stacked too high. Looking back, the worries seem overwrought—and the debt levels everybody was concerned about seem quaint.

At the end of 2011, the U.S. public sector had \$15 trillion in debt, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, equal to 99% of gross domestic product, a post-World War II record.

By last year, that debt had swelled to \$30 trillion, or 131% of GDP. In Japan, anemic growth has pushed public debt to a whopping 242% of GDP. In Europe, Britain's debt load is 156%, and Italy's is 183%.

Yet the amount of money required to pay interest on this massive pile has fallen across the board.

In the U.S., it went from 4.4% of GDP in 2011 to only 3.6% a decade later. Subtracting some types of interest that the government receives, the net figure is an even smaller 2.5% of GDP.

With central banks across advanced economies now pushing up rates—the Federal Reserve projects the midpoint of its range on overnight rates will hit 2.75% by the end of next year—servicing costs are set to grow again.

Will it matter? One worry is that governments, if they have to cover interest payments with more debt, will either stoke inflation or be forced to raise taxes, placing a drag on the economy.

But there is no reason to panic: The latest OECD projections underscore that the interest burden



isn't about to skyrocket over the next two years. For one, increases in benchmark interest rates take a while to translate into higher borrowing costs for governments.

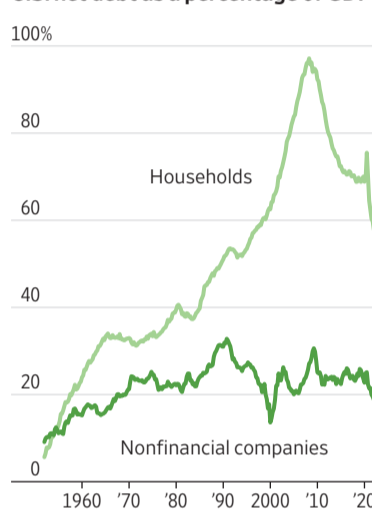
Of course, the upside surprises that inflation keeps delivering—due to post-pandemic shortages and a war in Ukraine—means that these forecasts are at risk, and a 4% Treasury yield no longer sounds so ludicrous.

Furthermore, rate increases by the European Central Bank could bring particular scrutiny on heavily indebted nations that don't issue their own currencies, such as Italy and Spain.

On the other hand, government largess has helped households and nonfinancial companies accumulate cash and reduce their own, arguably more dangerous, net debt piles. This has been the case particularly in the U.S. after the pandemic.

Before launching into predictions that the developed world is about to enter a debt spiral, however, it is important to remember that a world of higher rates can be

U.S. net debt as a percentage of GDP



different in other ways, too.

The higher inflation that is pushing rates higher will also translate into higher tax receipts, making it easier for governments to pay off past debt.

The era of extremely low rates

of the past decade came about, in part, because weak productivity was sapping economic growth. If productivity improves alongside rising interest rates, then faster economic growth will make it easier for governments to pay for their debt.

Finally, the long period of declining interest rates that began in the 1980s was associated with increases in economic inequality. If in a rising-rate environment the opposite turns out to be true, the amount of money governments spend on welfare programs might lessen.

It is, of course, possible to imagine a worst-case scenario of a stagflationary environment, in which inflation remains high, economic growth is weak and unemployment is rising. In that case, high interest rates would force countries to spend a larger share of their budgets paying bondholders.

It is the type of economy that accompanies those higher rates, though, that will determine just how hard the government's job will be.

—Justin Lahart and Jon Sindreu

Nike Has a Rare Moment in the Bargain Bin

Between inventory snags, inflation and a soured customer base in China, **Nike** faced some obstacles last quarter. It dashed right past them.

The sneaker company sold 8% more in its third quarter ended Feb. 28 compared with a year earlier on a constant-currency basis, the company reported on Monday evening. That was much better than the 3.5% growth that analysts polled by Visible Alpha had been expecting.

Despite higher freight and logistics costs, Nike's gross margins increased slightly. Profitability was helped by higher full-price sales and healthy growth in the direct-to-consumer business, which yields higher margins than selling wholesale. Its shares, which had been off by more than a fifth year-to-date as investors fretted about slowing sales in China, inflation and supply-chain issues, rose by 2.2% on Tuesday.

Investors had many reasons to feel reassured. For example, Chief Financial Officer Matthew Friend said all its factories in Vietnam are now operational and are producing volume in line with pre-pandemic levels. Some bottlenecks still remain, however: Transit times in North America actually worsened in the third quarter and are now more than six weeks longer than pre-pandemic



The sneaker company's profitability was helped by higher full-price sales.

demographic levels. Nike plans to move forward its buying schedule to account for those delays.

Another positive development was improving sales in Greater China, Nike's most profitable market, which had been hit by a social-media backlash starting last year. Nike was among Western apparel brands that released statements expressing concern about reports of forced labor in Xinjiang. Revenue in the region declined 8% excluding currency impacts—better than the 12% drop analysts had been expecting on the same basis. In the pre-

ceding quarter, sales in that region had declined 24%.

There are still possible curveballs ahead. Nike said it expects year-over-year sales to improve in the Greater China region compared with last quarter, but that is far from certain given new Covid-19-related lockdowns. Although Nike said that business in Russia and Ukraine combined represents less than 1% of total revenue, the conflict still could hit consumers by fueling inflation in other goods, making them less likely to spend on its products.

However much such factors

weigh on Nike, it is better equipped—through scale and an \$8.7 billion cash cushion—to weather them compared with peers.

Indeed, it has a record of gaining share during sector disruptions. Aneasha Sherman, equity analyst at Bernstein, wrote in a recent report that strong brands such as Nike emerged with greater market share coming out of previous crises, including the 2000 dot-com crisis, the 2008-09 recession and the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. Nike increased its market share in apparel and footwear in the U.S. by 1.2 percentage points between 2019 and 2021, according to data from Euromonitor analyzed by Bernstein. That compares favorably to 0.3 point gains seen by **Under Armour** and **Lululemon** and no gains by **Adidas** over the same time frame.

Nike—whether its shoes or its shares—rarely lands in the bargain bin, but the stock now fetches about 29 times forward-12-month earnings, a modest discount compared with its five-year average of 31 times. Put another way, its shares trade at a 51% premium to the S&P 500 on that basis, while over the past five years it has commanded a 62% premium on average. Investors should snatch a good deal when they see one.

—Jinjo Lee

Evergrande's Hidden Debt Sinkhole Just Keeps Growing

Evergrande's latest announcement is raising more questions about how much it really owes. Investors may not like the answers: especially since Chinese property developers' hidden debt problem isn't confined to Evergrande alone.

The beleaguered Chinese developer said Tuesday that more than \$2 billion of cash held by its separately listed property-service unit has been seized by banks as security for third-party pledge guarantees. The subsidiary said it discovered this during the preparation of its 2021 financial report. Both Evergrande and the unit won't be able to meet the deadline to publish their annual results before the

end of March.

Evergrande hasn't said what those guarantees are for, or when the banks seized the cash. But it is likely they are linked to the parent company. Lenders seem to be holding on to whatever assets they can still recoup from Evergrande. That presumably leaves fewer assets remaining on the table for other creditors—such as offshore bondholders.

And investors have been largely kept in the dark about such hidden liabilities.

Evergrande Property Services, which generates fees from managing apartment complexes, was assumed to be a relatively solid business with recurring revenue and

holding net cash. That assumption turned out to be rather rosy: the cash seized by banks comprises nearly all of the cash on its books.

Indeed, the unit was considered one of Evergrande's more attractive assets. Evergrande tried to sell its 50.1% stake in the unit for \$2.6 billion to its peer **Hopson Development** in October. That stake was valued at \$1.6 billion on Friday. Trading in both stocks have been suspended since Monday.

It is now clear that the way that deal broke down was a big red flag. Hopson said it wanted to deposit the proceeds from the sale with Evergrande Property Services itself—as it would be easier to recover any

monies owed by the parent to its subsidiary that way. But Evergrande asked Hopson to send the payment directly to it: a request the buyer turned down. That appeared to be indicative of potential problems arising from related-party transactions or obligations that would weigh on the asset's real value even after the sale. These latest revelations lend further weight to that interpretation.

The hidden debt problem probably isn't unique to Evergrande. **Kaisa**, for example, surprised the market last year by saying that it had guaranteed some wealth-management products. More similar incidents may come to light as audi-

tors have now been clued in to the problem. Evergrande said its auditor has added a large number of additional procedures this year. Partly blaming Covid-19, a number of other developers such as **Sunac** and **Ronshine** have also said they can't publish their audited annual results on time. Some have changed their auditors recently.

The Evergrande saga has gone on for months, but investors are still none the wiser on how much value, if any, the company still has. And worryingly, several other important developers may have similar problems—if not quite as large. China's real-estate debt woes are far from over.

—Jacky Wong

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Metaverse Calling

The metaverse is springing up all around us — growing as rapidly as innovative coders can piece their ideas together and back them up with computing power. Avatars are already thronging into virtual public squares and marketplaces.

Pixelated buildings, forests, and vast oceans brim with possibility. The metaverse is a potentially ever-expanding digital universe — we’re discovering more every day — a space limited only by our willingness to stake a claim. These virtual worlds are separated by chasms of distributed ledger technology, where avatars and their pioneering humans have already plunked down currencies and laid claim to offices, swag, even art. But, innovation-focused communication staples could change all that by connecting these seemingly disconnected virtual worlds. Two popular metaverses, Decentraland and Pavia, share a conceptual space but don’t overlap with Decentraland based on the Ethereum blockchain and Pavia based on the Cardano...Continued under ‘Metaverse Calling’ **page 13.**

New Science Suggests Caesar Escaped Assassination After Tip-off

Researchers at Oxford have discovered a cache of correspondences between Caesar and Brutus — reversing the popular consensus that the ruler was assassinated. The correspondence was discovered thanks to a recently unearthed giant Roman Mosaic that dates to 300 AD and is situated nearby the London Shard.

The mosaic, while established long after the death of the actual emperor, indicates that the emperor (once foisted from power) turned to his conquered Gaul (now modern-day France) to live out his life in relative anonymity — and also quite possibly relative luxury. Researchers are carbon dating the covered communication to determine their authenticity and, if authentic, would re-write quite a bit of Roman-era history. Communications go into great detail...Continued under ‘New Science Suggests...’ **page 42.**

The world’s a complicated place.

At least staying connected is simple.



Twinning. The Science of Shared Connections in Fraternal and Identical Twins

Most twins have never experienced the “twin connection,” a rare (and purportedly telepathic) psychological bond. But sources at RingCentral confirm that 100% of twins that use the communication platform have experienced the phenomenon. In one case, twins Rina and Ravi Kray, discovered an even deeper connection. “Ravi and I live in different coun-

tries, so we’ve always been disconnected, which is — or was — awesome. But, it all changed after we started using [RingCentral].” It turns out this wasn’t just a series of coincidences, as these transcontinental twins discovered they had melded minds across time and space. Rina explained, “All of

a sudden, we were freakishly connected. It was like having to share the womb with him again — and yes, I was there first.” Ravi fired back, “[Rina] doesn’t respect that I’m a unique individual. It’s not my fault that I’m Arnold Schwarzenegger, and she’s Danny DeVito — and now she’s reminded of that every day.” A representative



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A Lockdown Romance: Video Calls Are the New Love Letter

When Nia Elba and Takeshi Byrne’s lockdown romance blossomed across continents, little did they know that the technology that enabled their relationship — RingCentral — after meeting each other more lockdown, the man texting each other, popped right into video chat. Nia explained, “It was so great that we were able to

connect deeply, despite the fact that I’m in Arlington, and he’s in London.” But when Takeshi began writing physical letters to Nia, things took an unexpected turn: he insisted on keeping his correspondence to physical letters only. While lifting several bundles of letters as Nia sighed, “It was lovely at the beginning, but there was so much snail

mail I can handle.” It turns out love letters were not the love language of a digital native like Nia, who continued to respond through video calls. “Conversations” — she paused to emphasize the word with air quotes — “were really just me talking while watching [Takeshi] write his responses on paper.” An ultimatum followed suit. “We were on different

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OPINION: My Work-From-Home Zen

At the outset of a global pandemic that shook the world, I chose to shake up my personal life. I purchased an idyllic farm in Woodstock. Luckily, it was a planned move... My family and I were well-positioned for the news that swept the papers — having already put in an offer — so we packed up the station wagon and stepped into our new-found country life.

When the world re-emerged, I re-evaluated my priorities. I had traded in my brownstone for more space to reconnect with nature, my subway commute for a telecommute, and proximity to Brooklyn nightlife for the possibility of getting a dog. I live the zen life now — beginning each day with a walk through the woods, harvesting honey from the beehive in my yard...Continued under ‘My Work-From-Home Zen’ **page 54.**

OPINION: A Return to Office Lunches

I appreciate being able to work from home. But I can no longer spend my feeding hours within a studio apartment that’s haunted by ghosts of dal-gona coffee experiments and sad attempts at trendy recipes screencapped by my friends. Folks, I’ve hit a new glycemic low and am truly fed up with feeding myself.

For me, return-to-office has everything to do with the often derided Midtown lunch. There was a time I’d stand in line for chopped salads while fantasizing about baking my own focaccia. No more. I’ve stared into the abyss of my oven, and it has stared back at me, and in this time away from good-food-fast lunch...Continued under ‘A Return to Office Lunches’ **page 12.**

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